9.9 Other Craft Occupations n.e.c.

Overall employment: Approximately 111,700 persons (93% male) were employed in the selected other craft occupations n.e.c., representing 4.9% of the national workforce

- Sector: 40% of overall employment was concentrated in the industry sector, followed by the wholesale/retail and construction sectors combined accounting for a further 38%
- Employment growth (5-year): Between 2013 and 2018, overall employment increased by 10,900 (2.1% on average annually compared to 3.1% nationally). The strongest rate of employment growth was observed for metal forming, welding & related trades (9.8%) during the period.
- Age: The 25-54 age group accounted for the majority of persons employed, at 70%. The share of
 employees aged 55 and over, at 18%, was slightly above the national average of 17%.
- Education: The share of persons employed in the selected other craft occupations n.e.c. who had attained higher secondary/FET qualifications was 60%, well above the national average share of 37%. Those who had attained third level qualifications (25%) was well below the national average share (48%).
- Full-time/part-time: Over 93% of other craft workers were in full-time employment
- Nationality: The share of non-Irish workers was above the national average of 16%, while 81% of workers were Irish nationals

Overall outlook for these occupations:

While employment has been below average, shortages have been identified. With the exception of electricians, the demand for these skills relates to a small number of specific areas in manufacturing.



Numbers employed, 2018

Average growth rates (%) 2013-2018



Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO data *See detailed occupation description in table overleaf



Occupation	Economic summary	Shortage	Occupation shortage details
Metal forming, welding & related trades	This occupation continues to grow strongly. Employers have indicated a significant difficulty in sourcing suitably qualified welders.	•	— Welders (e.g. TIG/MIG)
Metal machining, fitting & instrument making trades	Employers have indicated a difficulty in sourcing skills in this area across numerous manufacturing sub-sectors, despite an overall decline in employment and increases in provision in the education/training system. Given the relatively small size of this occupation, the size of the shortage is unlikely to involve large numbers.	•	 Toolmakers CNC programmers Fitters (e.g. mechanical/ maintenance)
Vehicle trades	There is evidence of increased demand for heavy vehicle mechanics. Intake on the apprenticeship programme has increased in recent years to meet this demand.	•	
Electrical & electronic trades, etc.	Electricians are employed in both the construction sector and in industry. Employment growth is above the national average for this occupation. However, recent job hires exceed the level of growth in 2018, indicating some job churn is occurring. The number of registrations for apprenticeships has been increasing steadily in recent years, although it remains below the pre-recession level. As such, employers are indicating difficulties in filling vacancies which may lead to difficulties in the short-term issues.	•	— Electricians
Other skilled trades (e.g. printers, furniture makers, and textile trades)	Employment has remained relatively unchanged in recent years with no indication of shortages identified.	•	
Butchers, fishmongers, bakers etc.	Employment growth has been below the national average in this occupation. However, issues in attracting and retaining deboners for the meat processing sector persist.	e Labour	— Deboners

*For detailed table see Appendix A