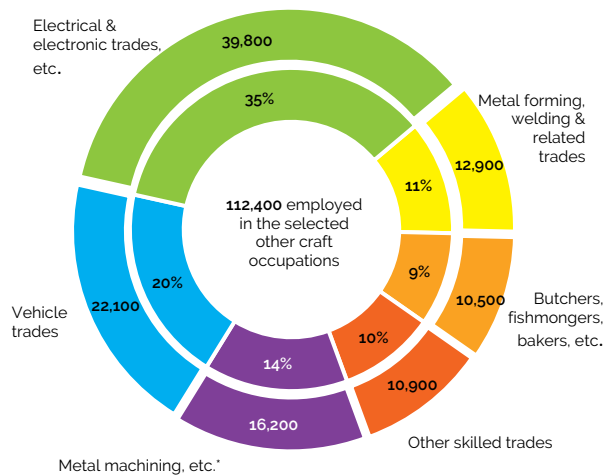


9.9 Other Craft Occupations n.e.c.

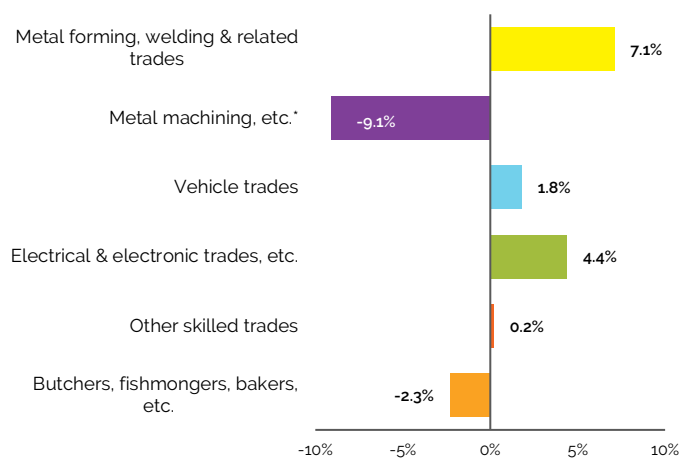
Overall employment: Approximately 112,000 persons (94% male) were employed in the selected other craft occupations n.e.c., representing 4.9% of the national workforce.

- **Sector:** 35% of overall employment was concentrated in the industry sector, followed by the wholesale/retail and construction sectors, which combined accounted for a further 36%
- **Employment growth (5-year):** Between 2014 and 2019, overall employment increased by 2,300 (0.4% on average annually compared to 3.2% nationally). The strongest rate of employment growth was observed for metal forming, welding & related trades (7.1%) during the period
- **Age:** The 25-54-year age group accounted for the majority of persons employed, at 73%. The share of employees aged 55 years and over, at 15%, was below the national average of 19%
- **Education:** The share of persons employed in the selected other craft occupations n.e.c. who had attained higher secondary/FET qualifications was 59%, was well above the national average share of 38%. Those who had attained third level qualifications (25%) was well below the national average share (48%)
- **Full-time/part-time:** Over 94% of other craft workers were in full-time employment
- **Nationality:** The share of non-Irish workers was broadly in line with the national average of 17%, while 84% of workers were Irish nationals.

Numbers employed, 2019 (annual average)



Average growth rates (%) 2014-2019



Between 2014 and 2019, overall employment increased by 2,300 (0.4% on average annually compared to 3.2% nationally).

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO data

*See detailed occupation description in table below

Overall Outlook for these Occupations

Employment numbers for this occupational group have remained relatively unchanged over the five-year period. The impact of COVID-19 restrictions, and the subsequent reopening of the economy, on employment numbers may vary depending on the sector of employment, with employment in these occupations primarily in industry, wholesale/retail and construction. A decline of approximately 6%, or 7,000 persons, is forecast for employment in other craft occupations on average annually between 2019 and 2020; this is driven by an expected fall in employment across industry, construction and the wholesale & retail sectors, particularly in relation to those employed as motor mechanics, electricians and other skilled trades (such as butchers/deboners). Other craft occupations have a low score in relation to exposure to diseases in their work but tend to have a higher score in relation to working in close proximity to others. This was particularly the case for metal machining, fitting and instrument making trades, electrical trades and butchers.

Occupation	Economic summary
Metal forming, welding & related trades	There was strong employment growth in this occupation in the previous five years, with evidence of demand for welders due to the mentions in the vacancy analysis (including Recruitment Agency Survey and Skills for Growth) and new employment permits in 2019. Most of those in this occupation in 2019 were employed in manufacturing. The supply from the FET sector has grown to reach 1,200 awards in 2019. During the height of the restrictions as a result of COVID-19 these occupations would have been impacted by reduced manufacturing activity, although this is now thought to have been reversed with the easing of restrictions.
Metal machining, fitting & instrument making trades	The five-year decline in employment in this occupation may relate to changes that occurred on the introduction of the new Labour Force Survey in 2017; employment levels remained relatively unchanged between 2018 and 2019. Despite this fall in employment, demand continued in 2019 for CNC programmers. Any impact as a result of COVID-19 for these occupations would have related to changes in manufacturing activities.
Vehicle trades	Employment growth in this occupation was below the national average. There has been a 20% increase in the number of new apprenticeship registrations for HGV mechanics in the last five years and a 26% increase for motor mechanics. The closure of garages and reduced movements on the part of the public as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions is likely to have impacted the demand for this occupation.
Electrical & electronic trades, etc.	The five-year employment growth in this occupation was above the national average. There was some evidence of job churn as recent job hires outweighed employment growth in 2019, although there were indicators of demand from the Skills for Growth data and the Recruitment Agency Survey. There was a strong supply from the education and training system with almost 2,000 new apprenticeship registrations in 2019. Restrictions as a result of COVID-19 are likely to have had a significant impact for these occupations, although demand for services may still have been required for essential works during the lockdown both in residential and business properties.
Other skilled trades (e.g. printers, furniture makers, and textile trades)	The five-year employment growth for this occupation was below the national average. With most employment in industry, these occupations were likely to have been impacted by an overall fall in industrial activity during the COVID-19 restrictions.
Butchers, fishmongers, bakers etc.	Over the five-year period, this occupation experienced a decline in employment numbers. Employers have experienced difficulty in finding suitable candidates for this job, with over 200 new employment permits issued for meat deboners in 2019. As such, at 38%, the share of non-Irish in this occupation is more than double the national average. COVID-19 restrictions have resulted in a decline in the demand for meat products in the food services sector which may in turn have an impact on employment in this occupation.

**For detailed table see Appendix A*