

## 9.16 Operatives & Elementary Occupations n.e.c.

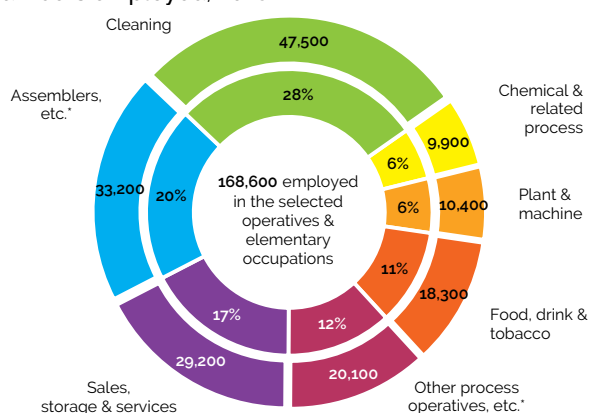
Overall employment: Approximately 168,600 persons (61% male) were employed in the selected operatives & elementary occupations n.e.c., representing 7.5% of the national workforce

- **Sector:** 51% of overall employment was concentrated in the industry sector, with administrative services and wholesale/retail combined accounting for a further 26%
- **Employment growth (5-year):** Between 2013 and 2018, overall employment increased by 23,100 (3.0% on average annually compared to 3.1% nationally). The strongest rate of employment growth was observed for chemical & related process occupations (11.1%) during the period.
- **Age:** The 25-54 age group accounted for the majority of persons employed, at 72%. The share of employees aged 55 and over was 15%, below the national average of 17%.
- **Education:** The share of persons employed in the selected operatives & elementary occupations n.e.c. who had attained higher secondary/FET qualifications was 51%, well above the national average share of 37%. Almost one quarter of persons had a lower secondary education qualification or less.
- **Full-time/part-time:** Over 75% of operatives & elementary occupations n.e.c. workers were in full-time employment
- **Nationality:** The share of non-Irish workers was well above the national average of 16%, while 68% of workers were Irish nationals

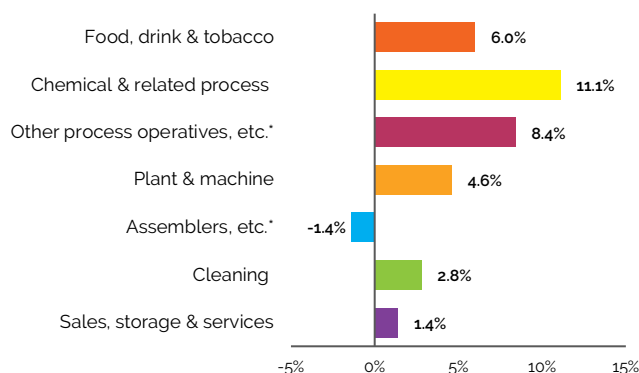
### Overall outlook for these occupations:

Many of these occupations are particularly likely to be impacted by the automation of manufacturing processes. Job churn is a significant factor, as evidenced by the high number of recent job hires. There also remains a ready supply with a high number of available job seekers who were previously employed in these occupations.

Numbers employed, 2018



Average growth rates (%) 2013-2018



Between 2013 and 2018, overall employment increased by 23,100 (3.0% on average annually compared to 3.1% nationally).

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO data

\*See detailed occupation description in table overleaf

Occupation	Economic summary	Shortage	Occupation shortage details
Food, drink & tobacco	There is demand for operatives in the food processing sector, with a large number of employment permits issued in 2018. However, there is no indication of shortage, as job churn and attractiveness of the occupation remain issues.	●	
Chemical & related process	Employment opportunities in this occupation are driven by both high-tech manufacturing and the food industry. Although the employment growth rate is strong, automation may have an impact on this occupation in the medium term.	●	
Other process operatives & process plant occupations (e.g. packers, bottlers and elementary process plant ops.)	Although employment growth has been strong, there is a high number of job ready job seekers who had previously been employed in this occupation. Recent job hires also outweigh job growth, indicating that job churn is a significant factor.	●	
Plant & machine operatives (e.g. quarry workers, energy and sewerage plant operatives)	No indication of shortages was evident for this occupation.	●	
Assemblers & routine operatives	Employment declined for this occupation, with no evidence of shortages emerging.	●	
Cleaning	The majority of those employed in this occupation were female and in part-time roles; over a quarter were aged 55 years or older. Recent job hires analysis shows that job churn is a feature for this occupation.	●	
Sales, storage & services	Employment in this group refers primarily to those in elementary storage roles; no difficulty in sourcing personnel has been observed, with job churn a factor.	●	

\*For detailed table see Appendix A