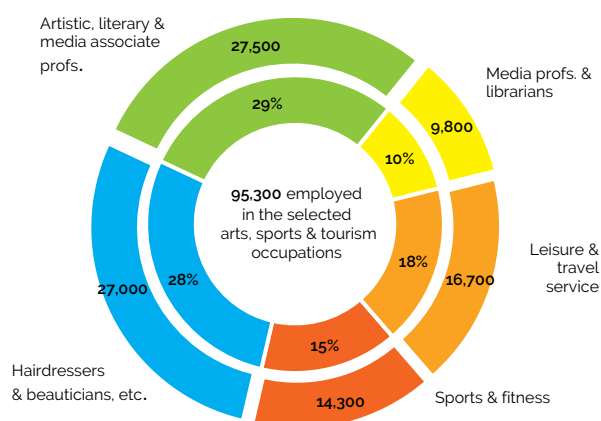


9.12 Arts, Sports & Tourism Occupations

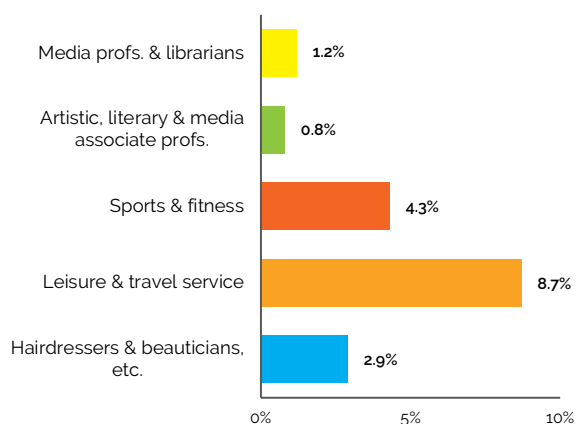
Overall employment: Approximately 95,000 persons (60% female) were employed in the selected arts, sports and tourism occupations, representing 4.2% of the national workforce.

- **Sector:** 52% of overall employment was concentrated in the arts and entertainment sector
- **Employment growth (5-year):** Between 2014 and 2019, overall employment increased by 13,600 (3.1% on average annually compared to 3.2% nationally). The strongest rate of employment growth was observed for leisure and travel service occupations (8.7%) during the period
- **Age:** The 25-54-year age group accounted for the majority of persons employed, at 70%. The share of employees aged 55 years and over was 13%, well below the national average of 19%
- **Education:** The share of persons employed in the selected arts, sports and tourism occupations who had attained higher secondary/FET qualifications was in line with the national average share of 38%. Those who had attained third level qualifications (50%) was slightly above the national average share (48%)
- **Full-time/part-time:** Over 69% of arts, sports and tourism workers were in full-time employment
- **Nationality:** The share of non-Irish workers was in line with the national average of 17%, while 82% of workers were Irish nationals.

Numbers employed, 2019 (annual average)



Average growth rates (%) 2014-2019



Between 2014 and 2019, overall employment increased by 13,600 (3.1% on average annually compared to 3.2% nationally).

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO data

Overall Outlook for these Occupations

Employment in arts, sports and tourism occupations was growing in line with the national average by the end of 2019. COVID-19 restrictions have had a significant impact on employment in these occupations. As such, a decline of 17.6%, or 16,000 persons, in employment is forecast for 2020 (annual average) when compared to 2019. A partial recovery in employment numbers is expected with the lifting of restrictions, although a full recovery will be dependent on the lifting of restrictions on overseas travel, along with consumer confidence and the disposable income levels of individuals in Ireland.

Occupation	Economic summary
Media profs. & librarians	Employment growth in the five-year period was below the national average. The decline in business activity as a result of COVID-19 would have resulted in a drop in advertising revenue which is likely to have had a knock-on effect on employment for journalists and other media professionals.
Artistic, literary & media associate profs.	Employment growth in the five-year period was below the national average. A number of new employment permits were issued in 2019, primarily related to animators. With the exception of those involved in animation and games, remote and socially distancing work practices are difficult to maintain. As a result, the outlook for these occupations, in light of COVID-19, is dependent on an almost full recovery of economic and social activity.
Sports & fitness occupations	Employment growth for this occupation in the five-year period was above the national average. Almost 40% of those employed were in part-time positions. The closure of fitness centres and the restriction on sporting events as a result of COVID-19 will have had an impact on employment levels and as such employment in these roles is unlikely to see a full recovery in the short-term.
Leisure & travel service occupations	This occupation experienced strong five-year employment growth, particularly between 2018 and 2019. However, recent job hires outweighed employment growth in 2019 indicating that a level of job churn occurs for this occupation. These occupations have been significantly impacted by COVID-19, particularly air travel assistants and those directly employed in the travel and leisure industry. Employment recovery will be slow and dependent on the lifting of restrictions both nationally and internationally.
Hairdressers & beauticians, etc.	Employment growth was below the national average over the five-year period. Those employed in these occupations had a higher share in part-time positions than the national share. A relatively high share of recent job hires, without signs of strong employment growth since 2018, suggest that job churn is an issue for this occupation. COVID-19 is likely to have had a significant impact on these occupations although it is also likely that most have returned to employment with the easing of restrictions. Physical distancing requirements will have led to reduced capacity in some businesses, which will have a knock-on effect for employment.

**For detailed table see Appendix A*