



# LOGISTICS & SUPPLY CHAIN SKILLS WEEK

## Fact Sheet



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

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## Logistics Week Key Messages

### Irish Trade is Growing

In 2022, Ireland's export of goods reached a record level of €208 billion, an increase of more than €42 billion compared with 2021. Imports also reached a record level of €140 billion in 2022, up 35% compared with 2021. To handle this increase in the traffic of goods and to support future growth, Ireland needs resilient and future-proof supply chains. Logistics Week aims to promote awareness and recognition of the importance of the logistics and supply chain sector to the Irish economy.

Source: [Goods Exports and Imports December 2022 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

### Logistics and Supply Chain Staff Shortages

From Q4 2019 to Q4 2022, employment in the Transport and Logistics sector grew by 5% to 113,100 persons employed, representing 4.4% of the national workforce. However, this increase was below the national average growth figure of 9% across the economy for this period. Logistics Week aims to promote careers in this economically vital sector.

Source: [Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Q4 2022 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

### Need for Greater Diversity in the Sector

Approximately 80% of employees in the transportation and storage sector, which includes logistics and supply chain, are male. This percentage is even higher in the sub-sector of commercial driving, where only 2.2% of qualified HGV drivers are female\*. Furthermore, the share of workers aged 55 years and over was 27%, well above the national average of 19%. Logistics Week aims to encourage more women and young people to join the logistics and supply chain sector.

Source: [Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Q4 2022 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

\* [LR-FTAI-Managers-Guide-to-Distribution-Costs-Report-2022.pdf](#)

### Education

The share of persons employed in the sector whose highest educational attainment is the Leaving Certificate or an FET qualification is currently 50%, above the national average share of 35%. The sector also had the second highest share of persons with a lower secondary education qualification or less, at 27%. One of the key aims of Logistics Week is to promote education and training opportunities for current and prospective logistics and supply chain workers.

Source: [national-skills-bulletin-2022.pdf \(solas.ie\)](#)

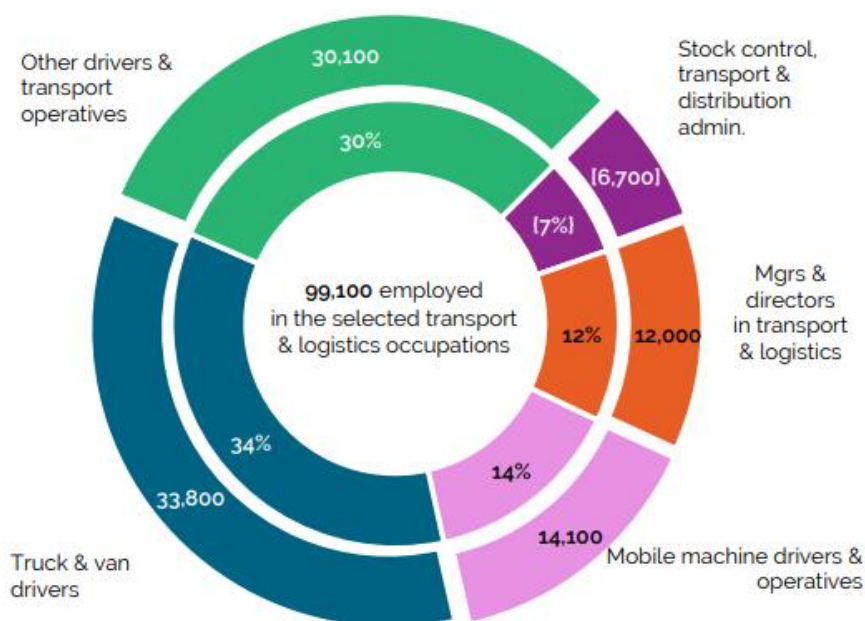
### Changing Skills Needs

Emerging factors such as technological change, and automation and the central importance of sustainability, will require upskilling and reskilling requirements across many existing logistics and supply chain roles. Logistics Week aims to provide a forum for businesses and stakeholders to discuss these new skills needs and how best to address them.

## 2022 National Skills Bulletin

The 2022 National Skills Bulletin reported that during 2021 approximately 99,100 persons were employed in the selected transport and logistics occupations, representing 4.1% of the 2021 national workforce.

Numbers employed, 2021 (annual average)



### Sector:

54% of overall employment was concentrated in the transport sector with industry and wholesale/retail combined accounting for a further 27%.

### Full-time/part-time:

82% of transport & logistics workers were in full-time employment.

### Nationality:

The share of Irish nationals was 81%, slightly below the national average of 83%.

Source: [national-skills-bulletin-2022.pdf \(solas.ie\)](#)

## Road Freight Transport



**In Q3 2022, a total of 43.4 million tonnes of goods was transported by road, compared with 43.2 million tonnes carried in Q3 2021.**

- In Q3 2022, the total distance covered by road freight transport was 422 million kilometres, a decrease of 7% when compared with Q3 2021.
- The total distance covered by road freight transport in Q3 2022 was 422 million kilometres, down 7% compared with Q3 2021. The commodity groups that were contributing most to vehicle kilometres were Foodstuffs, and the miscellaneous category Other Goods.
- The largest amount of work undertaken by goods vehicles in Q3 2022 was the Delivery of Goods to Road Works or Building Sites at 16,723 thousand tonnes, followed by the miscellaneous category Other Goods at 4,807 thousand tonnes.
- The commodity group Quarry Products, Metal Ores & Peat represented nearly a third (29%) of all tonnes carried by road in Q3 2022.

Source [Road Freight Transport Survey Quarter 3 2022 - CSO](#)

## Maritime Freight



**In Q3 2022, Irish ports handled 12.3 million tonnes of goods**

- Total tonnes of goods handled by Irish ports in Q3 2022 increased by 4% compared with Q3 2021.
- During Q3 2022, 3,202 vessels arrived in the seven main Irish ports.
- Dublin port accounted for 62% of all vessel arrivals in Irish ports.
- Goods forwarded from Irish ports amounted to 4,145 thousand tonnes in Q3 2022.
- Goods received amounted to 8,174 thousand tonnes in Q3 2022.

Source: [Statistics of Port Traffic Quarter 3 2022 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

## Air Freight



In Q3 2022 Air freight handled by Irish airports was 40,549 tonnes, up by 3% compared with Q3 2021.

### Air freight classified by national and international traffic handled by main airports, Q3 2022

Traffic	Cork	Dublin	Knock	Shannon	Total
National freight traffic	0	1,298	0	672	1,970
International freight traffic	10	34,471	1	4,097	38,579
<b>All freight</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>35,769</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4,769</b>	<b>40,549</b>

Source: [Aviation Statistics Quarter 3 2022 - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)

## Transport and Storage Sector average earnings

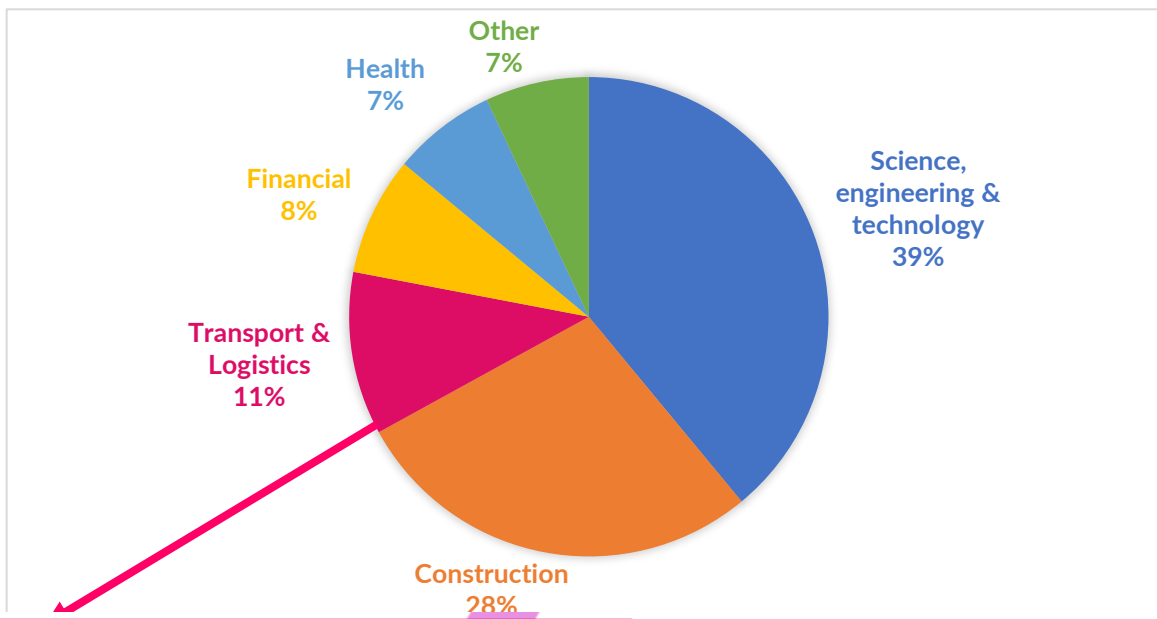


Average weekly earnings at the end of 2022 were €886.40 for persons employed in transport and storage sector. 7% more than earned in both 2021 and 2019.

Source: [Earnings and Labour Costs - CSO - Central Statistics Office](#)



## Difficult to fill vacancies



### Transport & Logistics

**11%** of reported difficult-to-fill vacancies in:

Transport management roles, warehouse operatives, drivers (rigid/artic, reach truck, forklift), freight forwarding, procurement/sales managers, customs clearance administrators, planners (junior roles), general operatives



### Roles mentioned as difficult to fill:

- Warehouse operatives with forklift skills
- HGV drivers with
  - mechanical skills
  - health & safety qualifications
  - relevant licences
  - digital skills
  - diagnostic skills

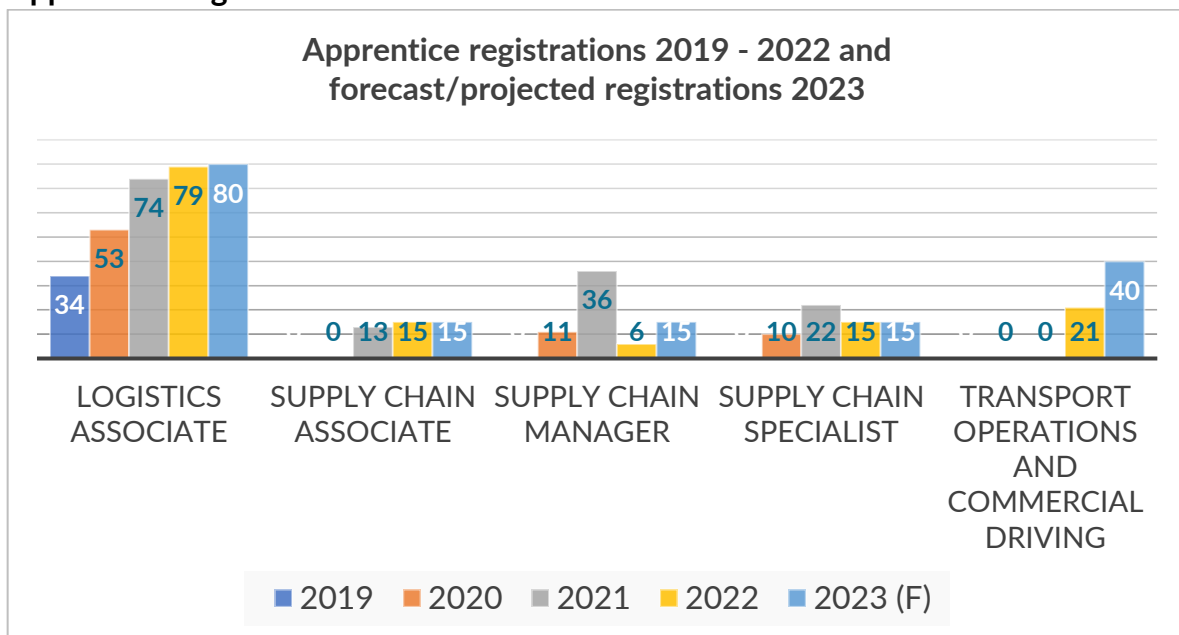
**Source:** Recruitment Agency Survey conducted in October 2022 by the Skills and Labour Market Research Unit in SOLAS [Difficult-to-fix vacancies survey October 2022 \(solas.ie\)](https://www.solas.ie/difficult-to-fix-vacancies-survey-october-2022)

## Apprenticeships

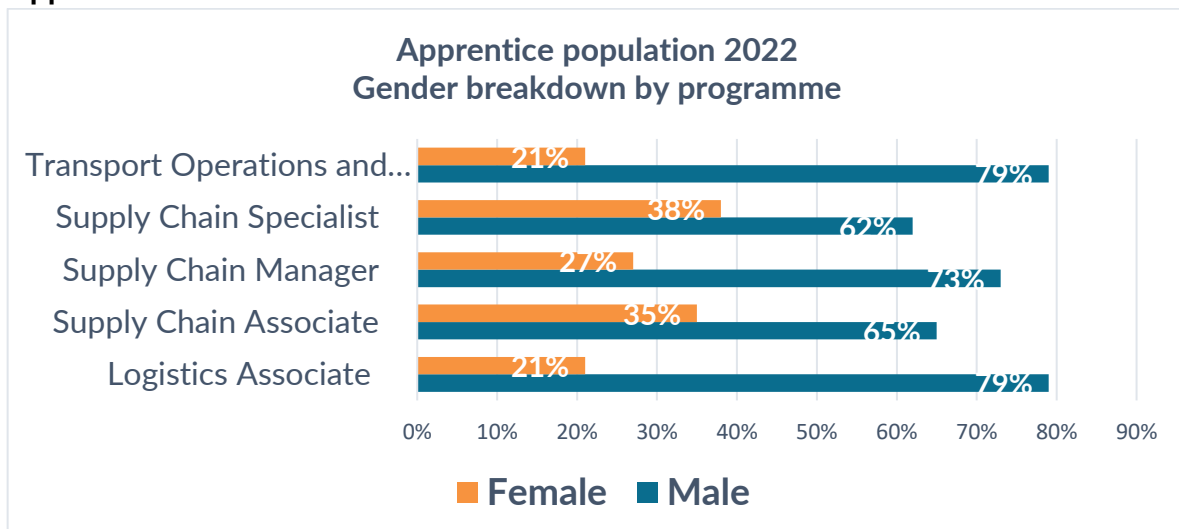
There are a number of logistics and supply chain apprenticeships available including.

- [Transport Operations and Commercial Driving \(NFQ Level 6\)](#)
- [Logistics Associate \(NFQ Level 6\)](#)
- [Supply Chain Associate \(NFQ Level 7\)](#)
- [Supply Chain Specialist \(NFQ Level 8\)](#)
- [Supply Chain Manager \(NFQ Level 9\)](#)

### Apprentice Registrations



### Apprentice Gender breakdown



Source: First annual report from the National Apprenticeship Office 2022 (p 18) [First annual report from the National Apprenticeship Office 2022](#)



## Additional Industry Data - LR-FTAI-Managers-Guide-to-Distribution-Costs-Report-2022.pdf

### Drivers' Age

Drivers' age	2022
30 or younger	6.6%
31-40	14.4%
41-50	37.9%
51-60	28.9%
60 or older	12.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Driver's gender

Drivers' gender	2022
Share of drivers that are female	2.2%

### Drivers' Employment Status

Drivers' Employment Status	2019	2020	2021	2022
Full-time	62.6%	76.4%	71.7%	72.7%
Part-time	4.2%	2.2%	3.4%	6.4%
Subcontractors	27.0%	9.1%	15.0%	8.6%
Agency	3.6%	4.1%	7.1%	6.5%
Seasonal	2.6%	8.0%	2.8%	5.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Drivers' Salaries

<b>Drivers' Salaries</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Average drivers' basic salary	€ 34,394	€ 35,839	€ 37,090	€ 41,395
Average annual change in drivers' basic salary	5.6%	4.2%	3.5%	11.6%

## Drivers' Nationality

<b>Drivers' Nationality</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Republic of Ireland	70.6%	65.6%	62.4%	65.6%
Poland	14.5%	14.7%	15.2%	15.5%
Lithuania	2.6%	6.4%	5.0%	5.8%
Czech Republic				2.7%
Latvia				2.1%
Other	5.4%	10.8%	14.2%	8.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Northern Ireland / UK	6.9%	2.5%	3.2%	0.3%
UK				2.4%

**Source:** Managers Guide to Distribution Costs 2022

[LR-FTAI-Managers-Guide-to-Distribution-Costs-Report-2022.pdf](#)

## Skills shortages

### Vacancies

Our respondents were asked to estimate costs to their company incurred in the last 12 months as a direct consequence of any skills shortages within their business. On average, it is costing companies almost €16,000 per year to try and overcome, or find alternative, more costly solutions, to their skills shortages.

It takes commercial vehicle fleet operators just under 20 days to fill driver vacancies within their business, noting that turnover rates for drivers increased this year after a decline in 2021.

Skills Shortages	2019	2020	2021	2022
Costs as a consequence of skills shortage	€ 14,857	€ 20,500	€ 20,000	€ 15,833
Time taken to recruit staff (Days to fill vacancy)	20.9	29.7	17.9	15.1
Time taken to recruit drivers (Days to fill vacancy)	22.2	24.2	20.4	19.1

Staff Turnover Rates	2019	2020	2021	2022
Drivers	7.9%	5.2%	3.8%	5.6%
All Staff	4.7%	5.2%	2.0%	2.8%

Source: Managers Guide to Distribution Costs 2022 (p. 53)

