



“Skilling up for a regionally balanced economy: Challenges and opportunities for border counties”

24th June 2020, 10am – 11.30am



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Anthony Soares, Centre for Cross Border Studies - Q & A and close





Centre for Cross Border Studies



www.scotens.org

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www.universitiesireland.ie



www.borderpeople.info



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Ireland and Northern Ireland

- Combined population 6.8m+
- Northern Ireland – 1,893,700
- Republic of Ireland – 4,921,500
- 20% live in the border region
- North has a slightly older population, but both jurisdictions are younger than the EU average



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Qualifications

The majority hold medium level qualifications (NISRA & CSO)

NISRA - in Northern Ireland 2018, 16-64 year olds

- 14.7% had no qualification
- **50.4% had qualifications below degree level**
- **34.9% had degree level and above**

Data captured by the 2016 Irish Census tells us that **42%** of the population aged over 15 had a third level qualification

Early leavers from school and education

Euro Stat -2019, 18 – 24 year olds

Early leavers from education and training by sex and NUTS 1 regions

Source of data: Eurostat

 **Table**

 Line

 Bar

 Map

↕	TIME	2019 ↕
GEO	↕	
Éire/Ireland		5.1
Northern Ireland (UK)		8.8



Student flows

In 2015/16 academic year almost 3,400 HE students crossed the border

- 1,200 NI students to ROI HEIs
- 2,195 ROI students to NI HEIs

An Analysis of Existing Statistics on Student Flows Between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in Higher Education

DECEMBER 2018



HEA | HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
AN tSúil Páiríse um Ard-Oideachas

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Department for the Economy

FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATIONS TO ROI HEIs FROM 2012/13-2016/17

ALL APPLICANTS

77,000 to
81,000

NI APPLICANTS

1,300 to
1,900

FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATIONS TO NI HEIs FROM 2012/13-2016/17

ALL APPLICANTS

22,000 to
25,000

ROI APPLICANTS

1,800 to
1,400



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Border Region Businesses

- 20% of registered businesses are located in the border region

Key sectors:

- By no of businesses >> Construction, manufacturing, transport and storage
- By no of employees >> Services sector



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No of cross-border employees

- CCBS uses estimates of 23 - 29,000
- Department for the Economy, 2018 considers estimates of 25,000 for workers and students reasonable
- Lower and higher estimates can be found
- Thousands of people cross the border everyday for work



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Unemployment, Qtr 1

- NISRA's Labour Market Report May 2020
- In Northern Ireland - 2.6%, 16-64 year olds were registered unemployed
- In Ireland 5.4% - 15-74 year olds were registered unemployed
- While the EU average stood at 6.5%



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Matching skills and business needs

- Challenge throughout EU border regions
- New and emerging skills sets
- Policies implemented in Ireland and Northern Ireland
- Focus on border counties and the requirements of businesses trading cross-border
- Potential areas for future collaboration