Migration in Ireland

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Migration in Ireland in 2000s

The phenomenon of migration has always been present in our world. By the term migration we refer to a movement of people from a Country A (so called origin/native country) to a destination B (so called destination country), at the same time B could not be the destination, but just a temporary settlement, in this case, C became the destination country, and B is the transit country.

Having done this brief introduction about the definition of migration, in this technical essay we would like to focus on the empirical data collected on the migration's phenomenon in a determinate European country: Ireland.

## Dimension and characteristics of Ireland's immigration flow

Table 1

	Immigrants	Emigrants	Net Migration	Population
2011	53,3	80,6	-27,4	4574,9
2012	57,3	83,0	-25,7	4593,7
2013	62,7	81,3	-18,7	4614,7
2014	66,5	75,0	-8,5	4645,4
2015	75,9	70,0	5,9	4687,8
2016	82,3	66,2	16,2	4739,6
2017	84,6	64,8	19,8	4792,5

Source: Central Statistics Office (CSO) Ireland
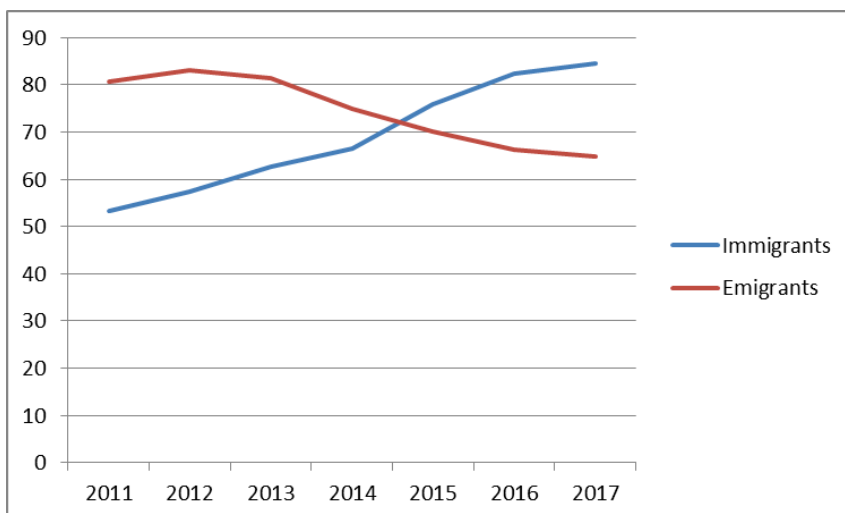
Before 2011, Ireland was a country of emigration. Since then, immigration has started to grow until 2015, as the number of immigrants has become bigger than the number of emigrants. In 2017 the number of immigrants was 84.6 million while the number of emigrants was around 64.8 million.

The net migration, the difference between inflows and outflows, from 2011 to 2017 has changed: in 2015 we can observe a shift from a negative trend to a positive trend. This is due to the growth of immigrants added to a decrease in the number of emigrants.

Net Migration
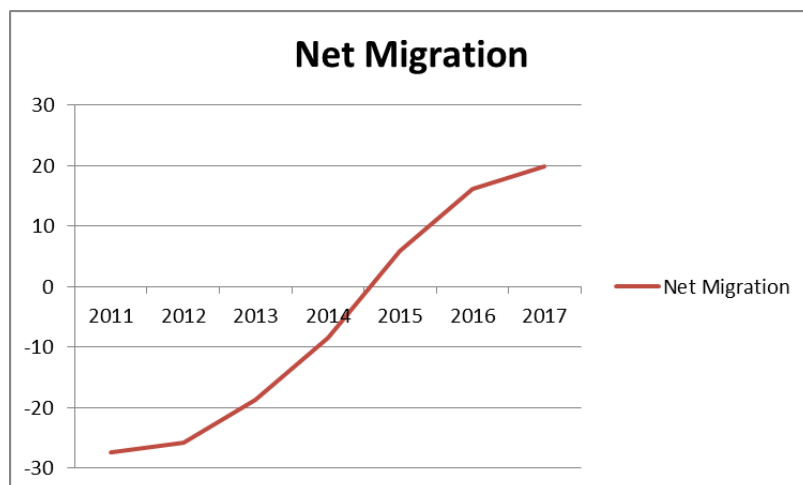
Gender and age

Table 2

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	122.415	82.592	50.604	52.339	57.292	61.324	65.539	73.519	80.792	85.18
Female	62.251	42.049	25.374	26.431	29.744	30.239	34.298	39.025	40.948	42.61
Male	60.164	40.543	25.230	25.908	27.548	31.085	31.241	34.494	39.844	42.57

Source: Eurostat [migr_imm8]

In the period we analysed (2011-2017), women migrants are generally more than men migrants except for 2013 and 2017, in which the number of men overcame the number of women. Interesting is the case of 2016 in which the number of women and the number of men is exactly the same: 41.2
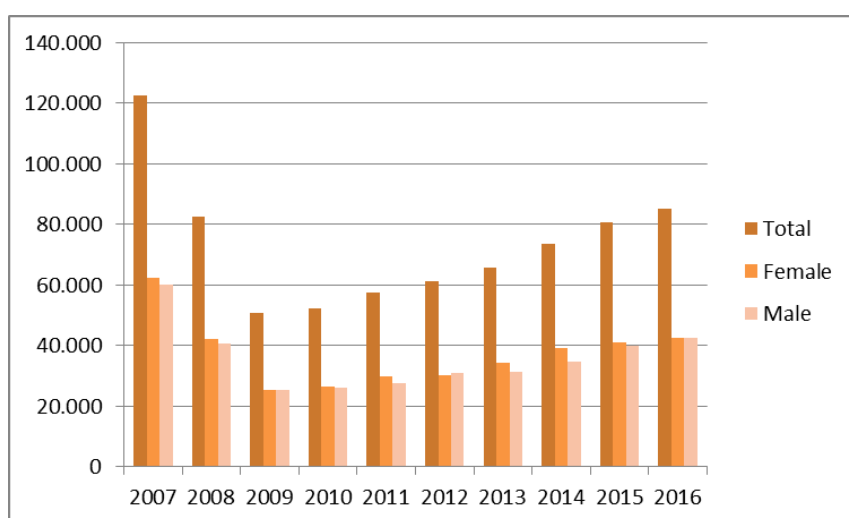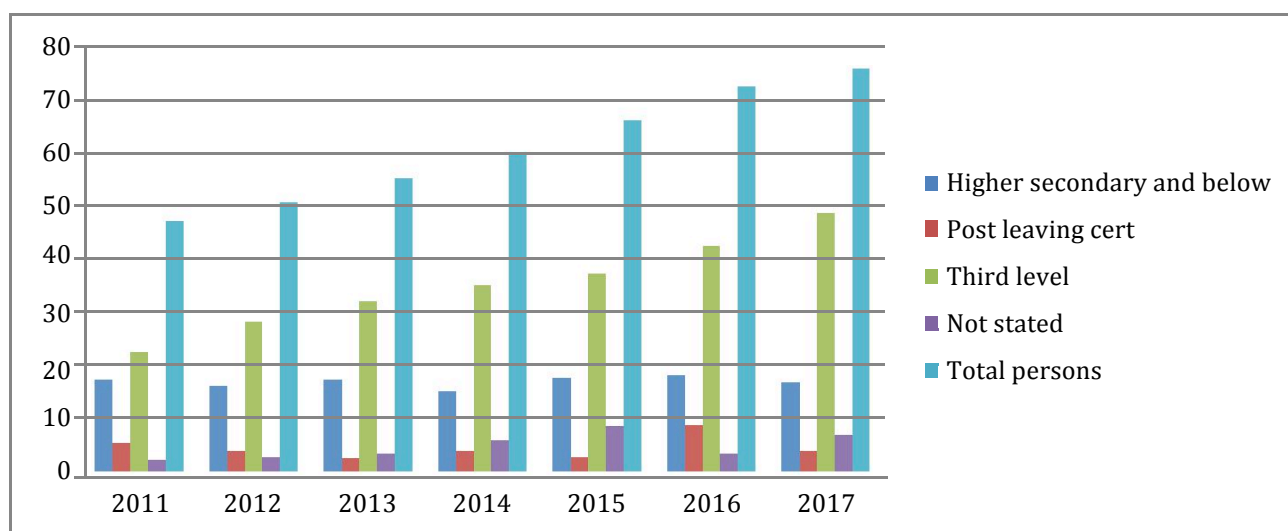

Table 3

	Age 0-14	Age 15-24	Age 25-44	Age 45-64	Age 65 and over	Total persons
2011	6,1	14,6	26,9	4,3	1,3	53,3
2012	6,6	16,9	26,4	4,5	2,9	57,3
2013	7,6	20,0	27,7	4,4	3,0	62,7
2014	6,5	21,8	31,6	3,2	3,4	66,5
2015	9,8	18,3	40,0	4,1	3,6	75,9
2016	9,9	18,2	44,7	7,1	2,4	82,3
2017	8,8	18,6	47,1	7,8	2,3	84,6

Source CSO Ireland

The majority of immigrants has an age between 25-44, followed by the group aged 15- 24. The smallest group is represented by immigrants who have an age over 65.

Country of origin

Table 4

Origin country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
UK	11,9	10,1	11,7	13,5	16,4	18,2	18,7
Rest of EU 15[1]	9,7	10,2	11,6	11,7	11,9	14,7	15,1
EU 13[2]	9,8	10,1	10,7	10,8	11,9	11,9	12,2
Australia	4,5	5,4	6,0	5,4	5,8	6,9	7,1
Canada	1,3	1,7	1,9	2,2	2,7	3,1	3,2
USA	3,3	5,3	4,0	4,4	4,4	5,3	5,4
Rest of world	12,9	14,5	16,7	18,6	22,8	22,2	22,8
Total persons	53,3	57,3	62,7	66,5	75,9	82,3	84,6

Source CSO Ireland

[1] Rest of EU 15: countries before enlargement on 1 May 2004, (i.e. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Portugal).
[2] EU13: defined as 10 countries that joined the EU on 1 May 2004 (i.e. Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia),
along with Bulgaria and Romania who joined on 1 January 2007 and Croatia who joined on the 1 July 2013.

From this graph we can understand that an important number of immigrants gets to Ireland coming UK and other European Countries, but as we can easily see the majority comes from the rest of the world. There is a minority of immigrants coming from Australia, Canada and USA
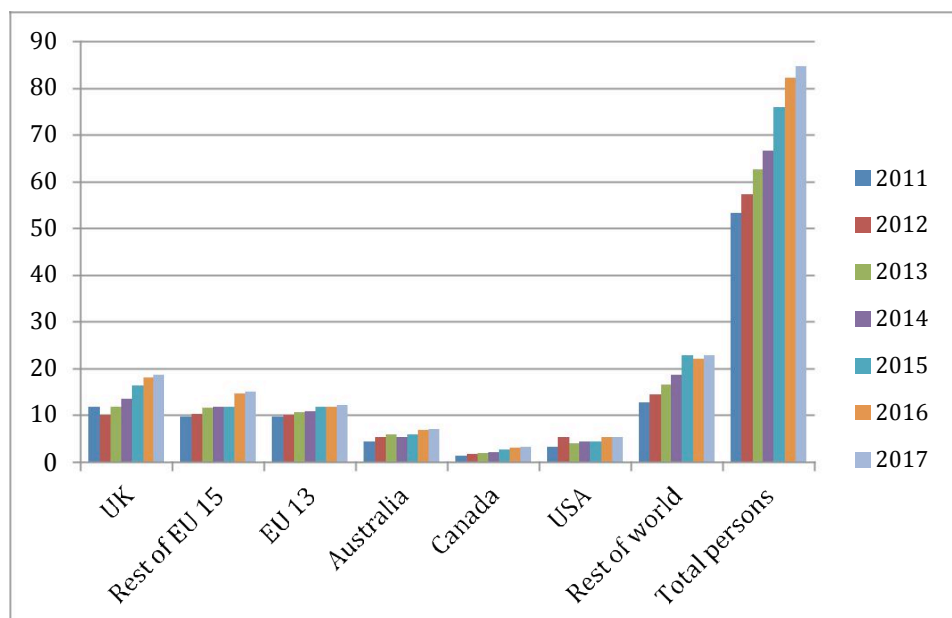

Education

Table 5

Education Attainment	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Higher secondary and below	17,3	16,1	17,2	15,1	17,7	18,0	16,8
Post leaving cert3	5,3	3,7	2,4	3,9	2,7	8,7	3,7
Third level4	22,4	28,2	32,0	35,1	37,2	42,4	48,6
Not stated	2,1	2,7	3,4	5,8	8,6	3,4	6,8
Total persons	47,1	50,6	55,1	60,0	66,1	72,4	75,8

Source CSO Ireland

The majority of immigrants has an education attainment of third level, followed by people who have an higher secondary and below level. We can resume saying that generally immigrants are well educated.

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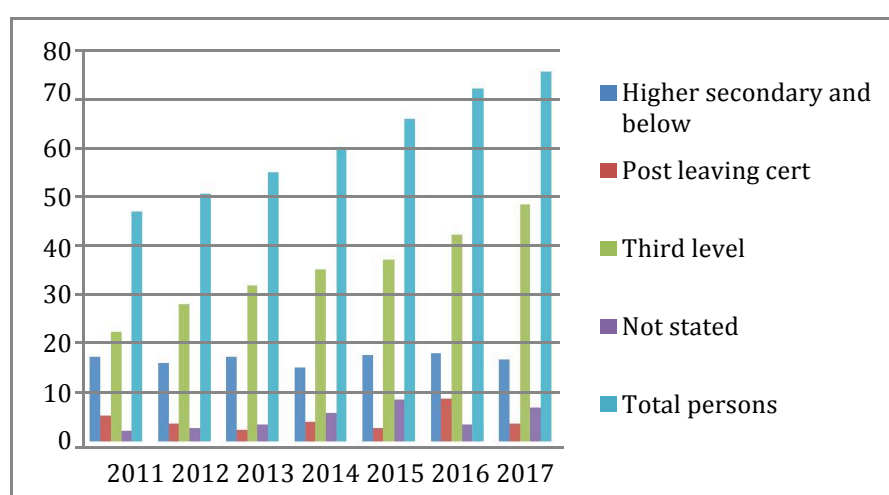
3 Technical or Vocational, Advanced Certificate or Diploma.

4 Third level degree or above.

Flow of migrants by channel of entrance from 2008 to 2016

The graphs below represent the flow of migrants by channel of entrance. The channels are grouped by three period of duration: from 3 to 5 months; from 6 to 11 months; 12 months or over. Picking a determinate range of time, from 2008 to 2016. The most important elements of these graphs is represented by the division of migration between the different channel of entrance; however, we can report that the most important channel of entrance is represented by education, with a peak in 2014. The channel of education has always prevailed irrespective of the duration,

First permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship [**migr_resfirst**]
Source of data: Eurostat

CITIZEN: Total
DURATION: Total
UNIT: Person

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Family reasons	3.409	2.608	2.030	1.994	1.894	2.042	2.526	3.444	4.100
Education reasons	12.538	12.263	13.653	15.131	16.828	21.394	23.730	22.075	21.421
Remunerated activities reasons	5.808	4.827	3.208	3.425	3.720	4.018	5.139	6.073	7.842
Other	7.171	5.811	3.344	4.020	4.376	5.326	5.333	6.841	7.916
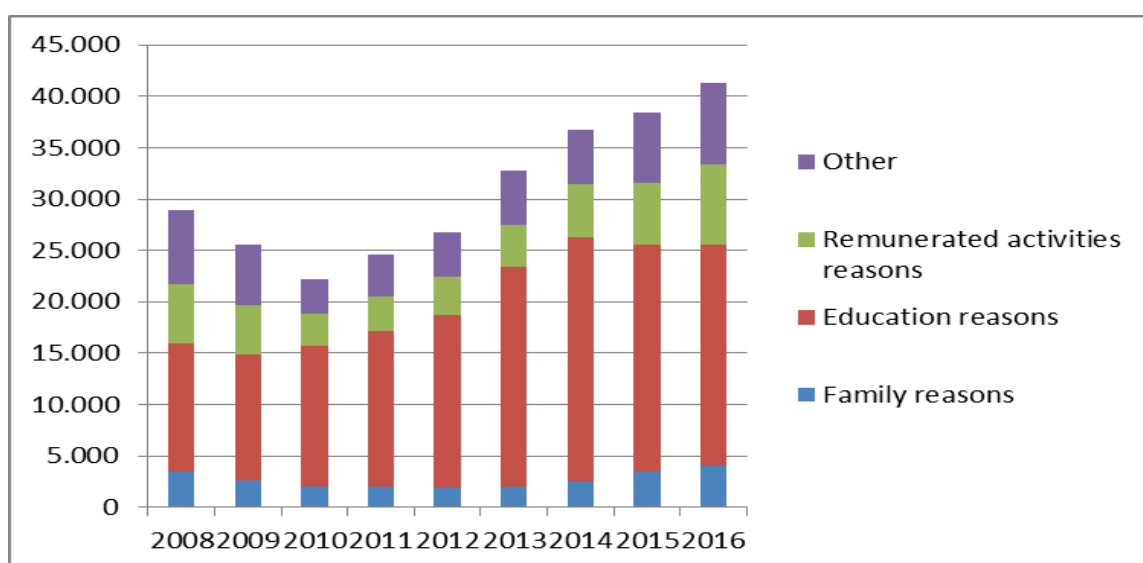
CITIZEN: Total
DURATION: from 3 to 5 months
UNIT: person

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Family reasons	0	77	82	84	68	80	136	66	176
Education reasons	2.676	2.587	2.914	3.152	3.106	2.876	3.186	596	5.358
Remunerated activities reasons	636	664	316	287	298	234	426	376	809
Other	0	727	553	563	594	622	757	1.027	689
Total	3.312	4.055	3.865	4.086	4.066	3.812	4.505	2.065	7.032
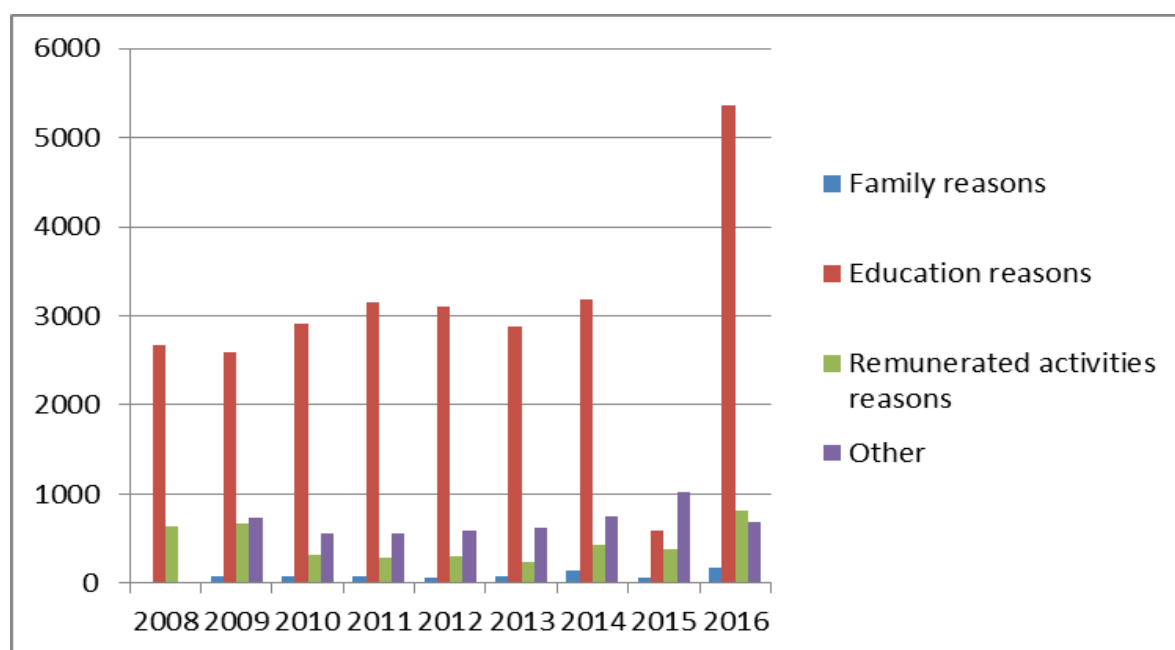
CITIZEN: Total
DURATION: from 6 to 11 months
UNIT: person

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Family reunification	0	593	489	511	489	435	485	504	63!
Education reasons	7.700	7.176	8.278	9.374	10.821	14.859	16.630	16.939	12.42:
Remunerated activities reasons	3.617	2.384	1.743	1.565	1.881	1.807	2.387	2.631	3.56(
Other	0	1.678	985	1.128	1.257	1.768	1.730	1.674	3.46:
Total	11.317	11.831	11.495	12.578	14.448	18.869	21.232	21.748	20.08(
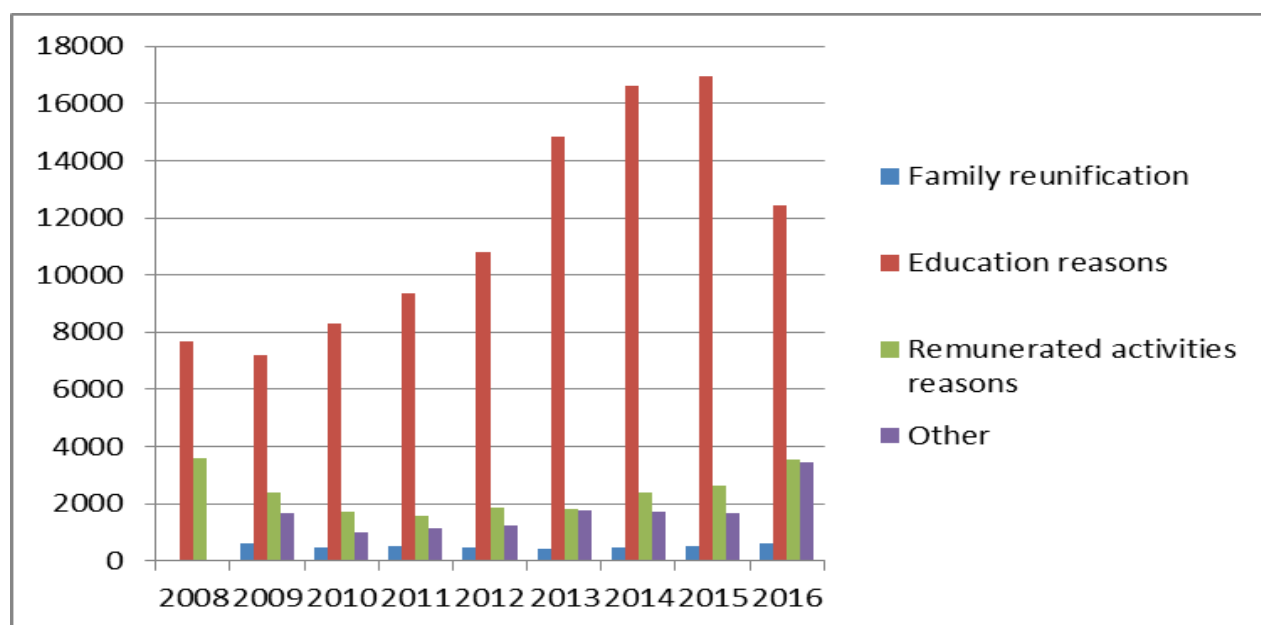
CITIZEN: Total
DURATION: 12 months or over
UNIT: person

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Family reasons	3.409	1.938	1.459	1.399	1.337	1.527	1.905	2.874	3.28
Education reasons	2.162	2.500	2.461	2.605	2.901	3.659	3.914	4.540	3.64
Remunerated activities reasons	1.555	1.779	1.149	1.573	1.541	1.977	2.326	3.066	3.46
Other	7.171	3.406	1.806	2.329	2.525	2.936	2.846	4.140	3.76
Total	14.297	9.623	6.875	7.906	8.304	10.099	10.991	14.620	14.16
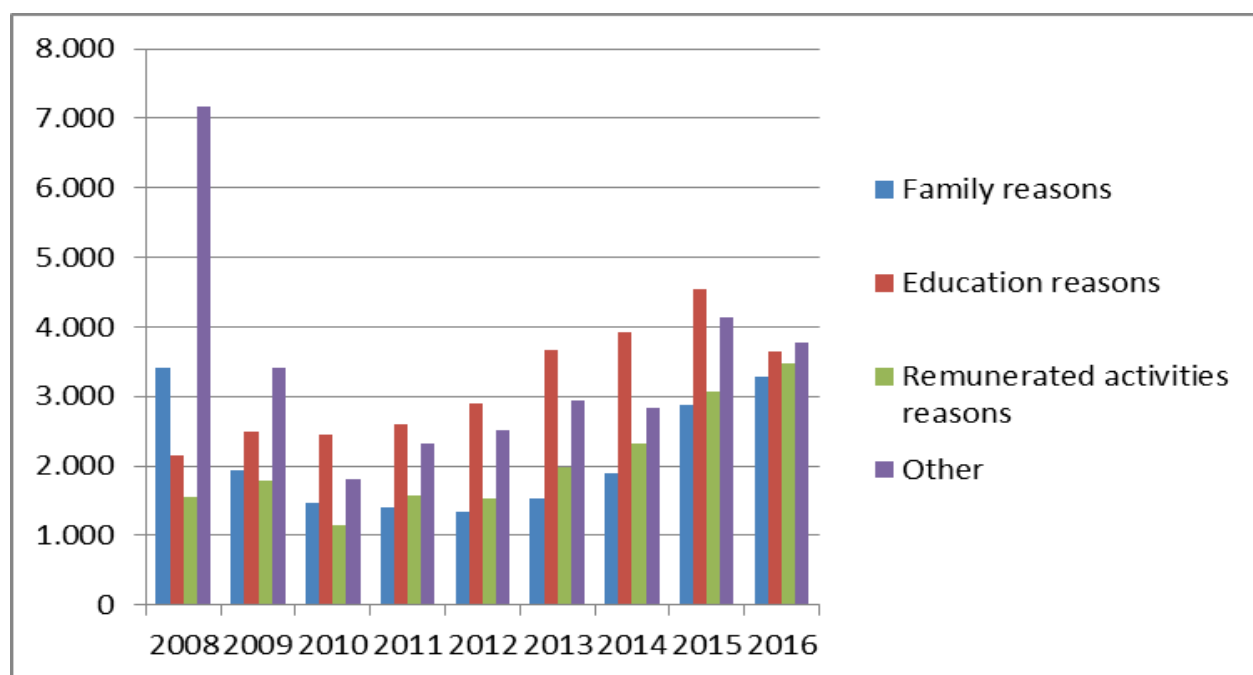
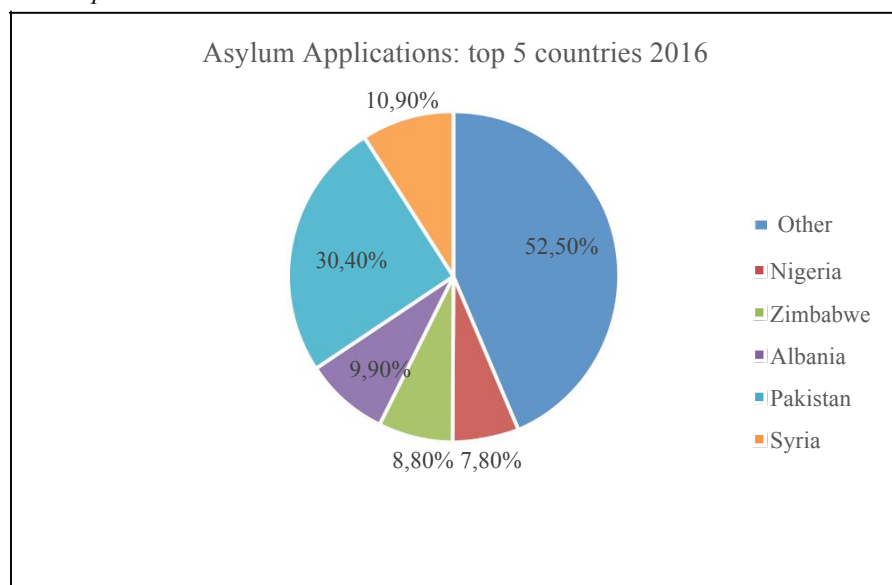# Composition of the inflow of immigration in Ireland

Asylum application

Graph 7

Asylum applications presented to Ireland between 2012 and 2016, saw a peak in 2015. Since 2012 the number of applicants has been increasing.
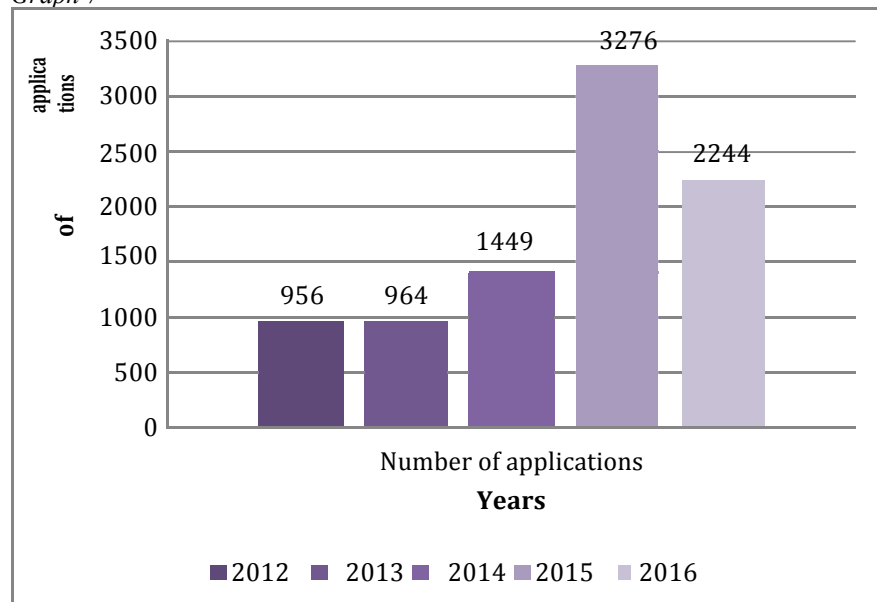
Source: Asylum Information Database (AIDA)

Graph 8

In 2016, the largest share of asylum applicants was from countries other than Syria, Pakistan, Albania, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria.

Source: AIDA
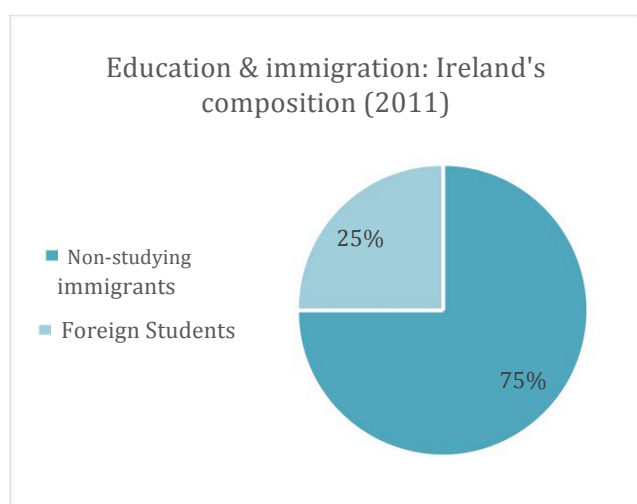
Gender/age breakdown of total number of asylum applicants

Table 6

	Number	Percentage
Total of Applicants	2,9010	100%
Men	1,840	63.2%
Women	1090	37.4%
Children	840	28.8%
Unaccompanied Children	--	--

Source: AIDA

Education & immigration in Ireland

Education & immigration: Ireland's composition (2011)

- Non-studying immigrants
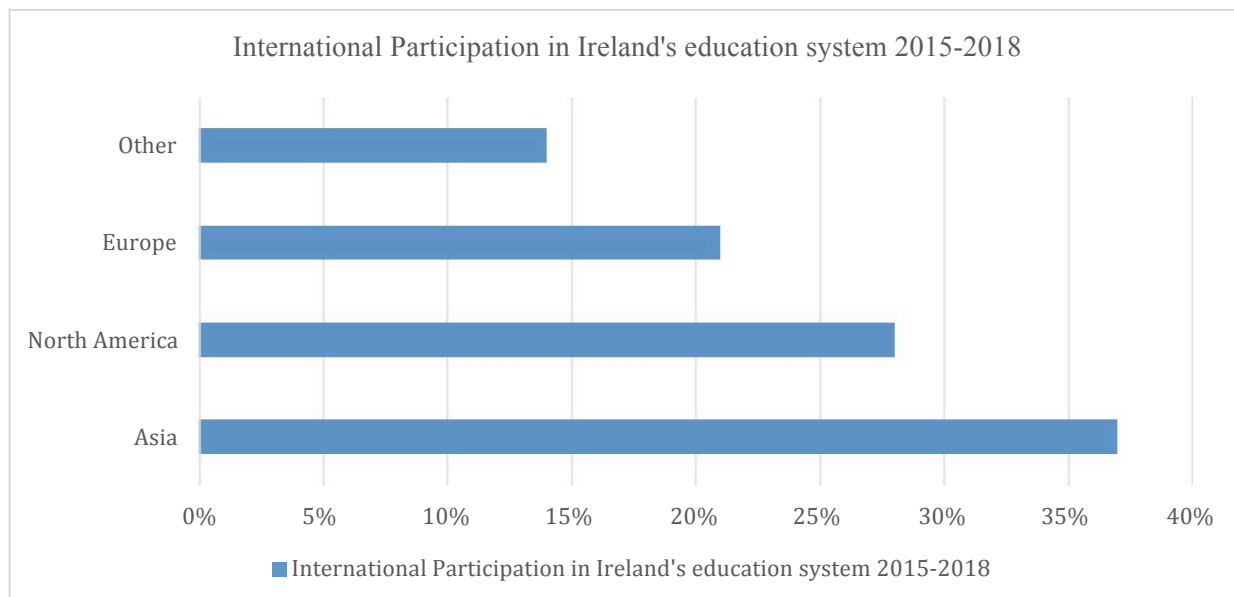- Foreign Students

25%

75%

Source: CSO Ireland

Analysing the relationship between education and immigration in Ireland in 2011, we can see that 25% of the total number of immigrants is represented by foreign students.

Level of education of Ireland's immigrants (2011)

- Degree
- Language Course
- Further Education
- Other

37%

29%

1,2

23%
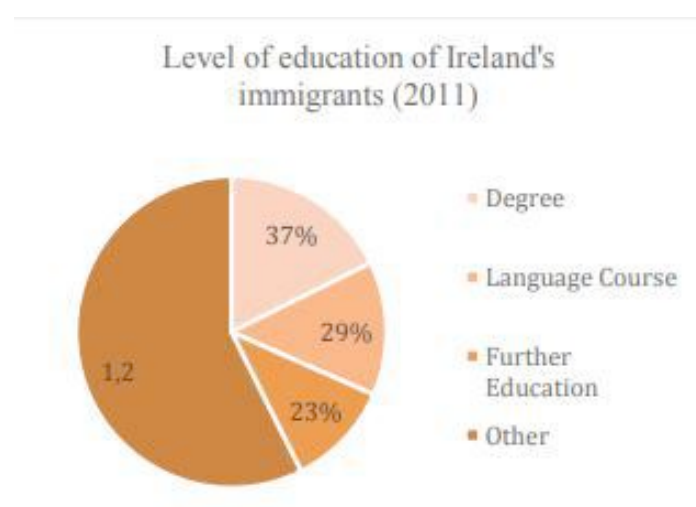
Source: CSO Ireland

In 2011, Ireland's foreign students were seeking different levels of education. The major share was seeking a Degree (37%), followed by 29% attending a language course, 23% was furthering their education, and 11% was made up by other kinds of educational paths.

International Participation in Ireland's education system 2015-2018

Graph 11
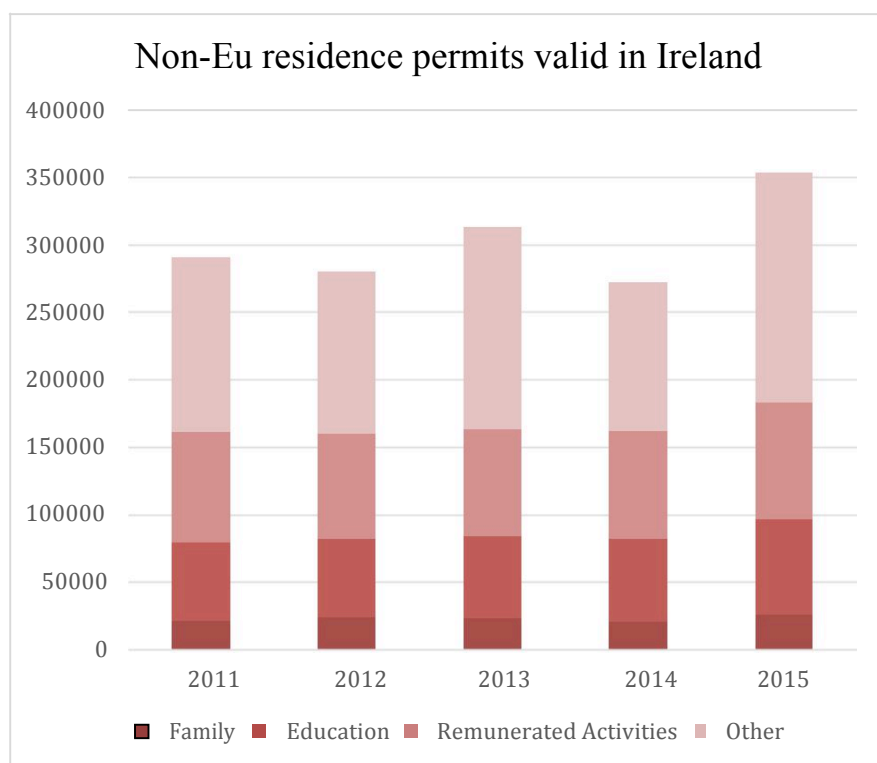**Source: Higher Education Authority (HEA)**

International participation in Ireland's education system in 2015-2016, saw a large share of Asian foreign students, a smaller share of North Americans and Europeans.

Family reunification & immigration in Ireland

Graph 12

Visa application for family reasons in Ireland

Source: Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service

Non-Eu residence permits valid in Ireland

As we may note from the histograms, in 2015, family reunification was one of the main channels of entrance for immigrants wishing to reach Ireland.

Graph 13
Source: Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service

Integration in the labour market

Table 7

	Native %	All Immigrants %
Managers/administrators	**19,2**	**9,5**
Professional	**12,1**	**13**
Associate professional/technical	**9,5**	**12,4**
Clerical & secretarial	**13,9**	**10,1**
Craft & related	**15,2**	**16,8**
Personal & Protective service	**11,1**	**17,4**
Sales	**9,5**	**10,8**

As seen in the table, the integration in Ireland's integration in the labour market varies between immigrants and natives; anyway nearly 10% of immigrants happen to be employed as a manager or in a high position. We may see that normally only the 11% of natives work in the protective service, while instead it is a valid employment for immigrants (17%).

Unemployment and Employment rate

An important tool that helps us to understand the migration in Ireland is offered by the calculation of the unemployment and employment rates. In fact, how is supported in the economic thesis that explain the choice to migrate as a rational choice, migrants will be more incline to migrate if there is an higher possibility to access into the labour market.

The first graph represents the unemployment rate in a range time that goes from 2008 to 2017 and refers to following variables: sex, age and nationality. The range of age goes from 15 to 74 years. The most significant data shows us that the unemployment rate of males is always higher than the unemployment rate of females.

Another significant data refers to the unemployment rate of non-EU and EU people: their decrease started in 2012 as well the total unemployment rate.
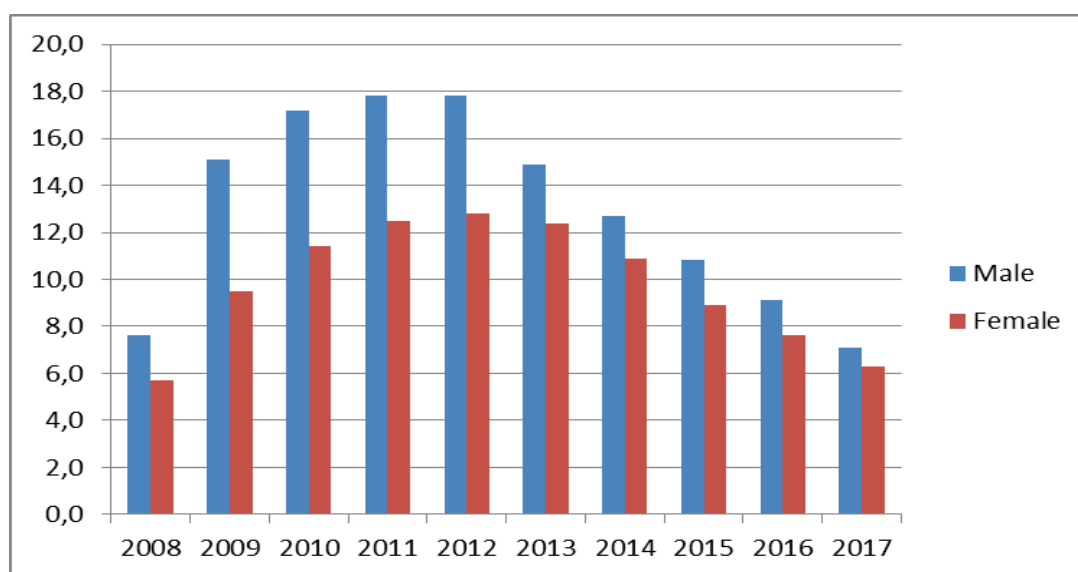
Unemployment from 2008 to 2017

Unemployment rates by sex, age and nationality (%) [**lfsa_urgan**]
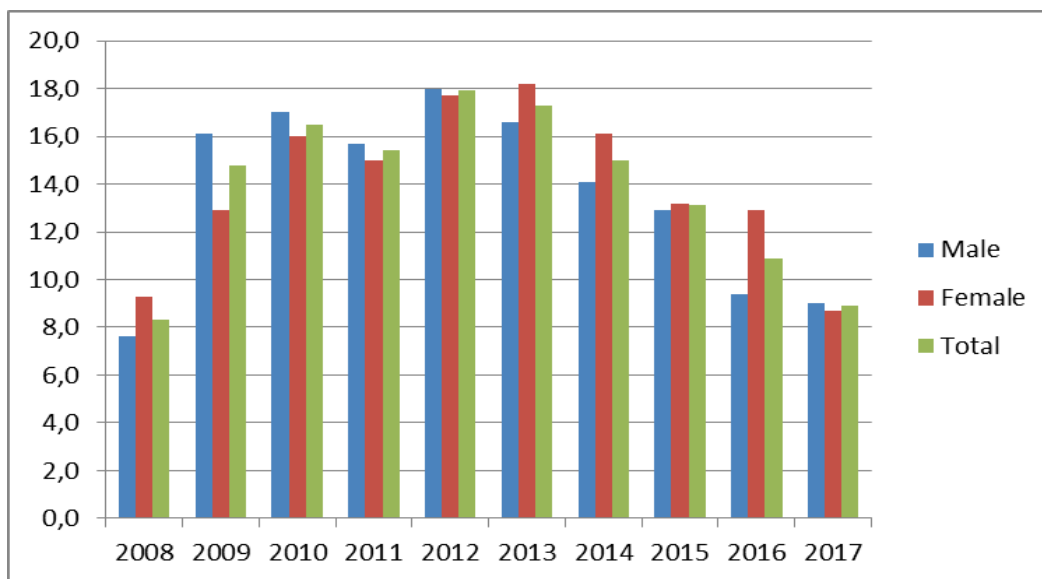Age: from 15 to 74 years
Unit: Percentage
Source of data: Eurostat

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
ales	7,6	15,1	17,2	17,8	17,8	14,9	12,7	10,8	9,1	7,1
males	5,7	9,5	11,4	12,5	12,8	12,4	10,9	8,9	7,6	6,3

- Unemployment NON-EU

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Males	7,6	16,1	17,0	15,7	18,0	16,6	14,1	12,9	9,4	9
Females	9,3	12,9	16,0	15,0	17,7	18,2	16,1	13,2	12,9	8
Total	8,3	14,8	16,5	15,4	17,9	17,3	15,0	13,1	10,9	8

- Unemployment EU

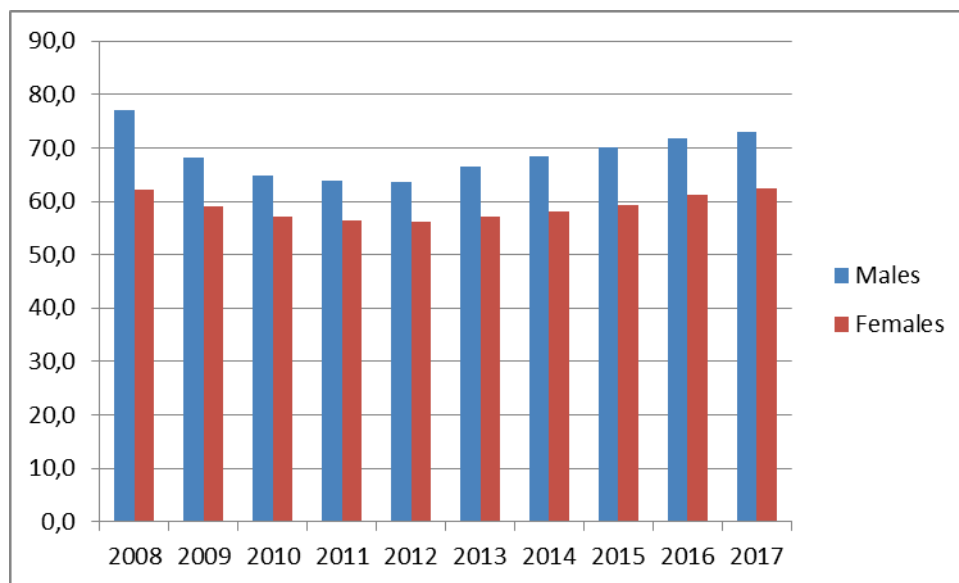|	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Males	8,7	18,3	20,2	19,6	19,3	16,1	13,1	10,9	8,3	
Females	7,8	14,6	15,4	18,0	16,8	17,2	14,0	10,9	9,6	
Total	8,3	16,7	18,0	18,9	18,2	16,6	13,5	10,9	8,9	
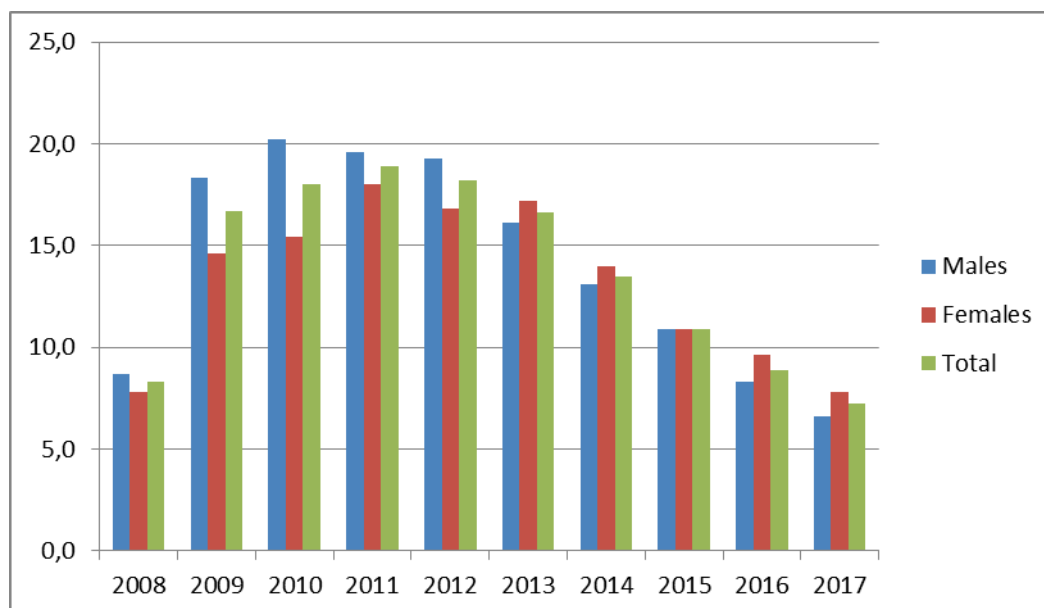
Employment from 2008 to 2017

Employment rates by sex, age and nationality (%) [**lfsa_ergan**]
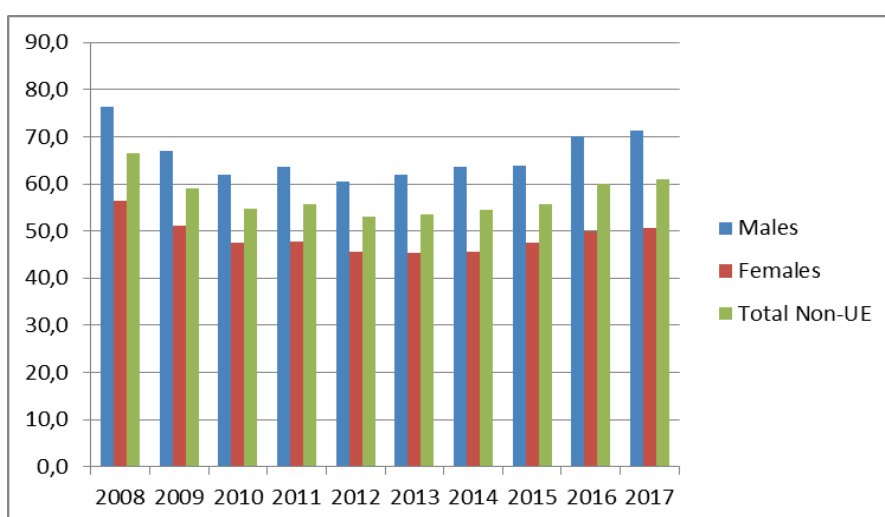Age: from 15 to 74 years
Unit: Percentage
Source of data: Eurostat

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Males	77,0	68,2	64,9	63,8	63,7	66,4	68,3	70,2	71,8	7
Females	62,2	59,0	57,1	56,3	56,2	57,1	58,0	59,3	61,2	6

➢ Employment Non-UE

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Males	76,4	67,0	62,0	63,5	60,5	62,0	63,6	63,8	70,0	71,
Females	56,4	51,1	47,6	47,8	45,7	45,3	45,7	47,5	49,8	50,
Total Non-UE	66,5	59,1	54,8	55,6	53,0	53,6	54,6	55,6	60,0	61,

➢ Employment UE

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Males	77,1	68,3	65,0	63,8	63,8	66,6	68,5	70,5	71,9	7
Females	62,5	59,4	57,5	56,7	56,6	57,6	58,4	59,8	61,6	6
Total UE	69,8	63,8	61,3	60,2	60,2	62,0	63,4	65,1	66,7	6
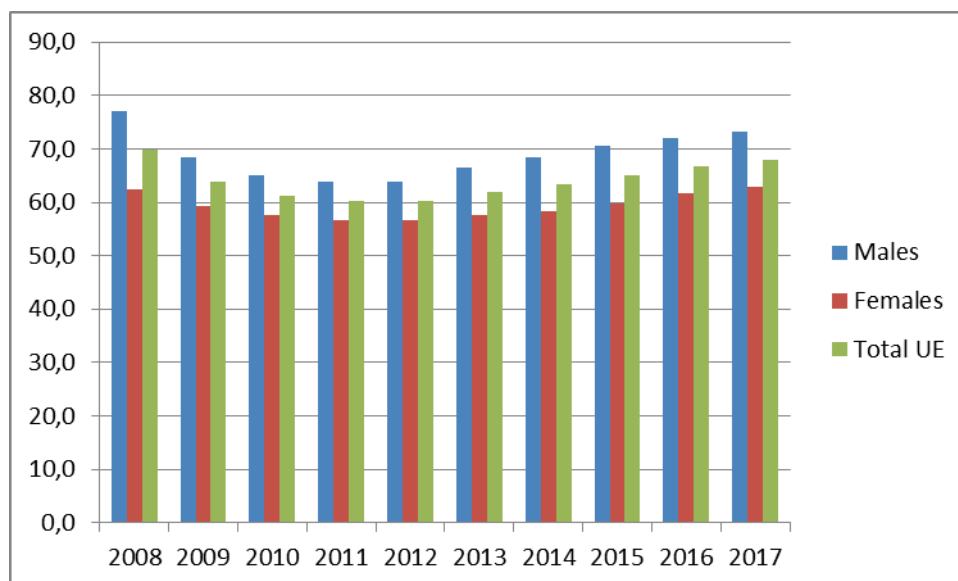
Activity rate (%) - [lfsa_argan]

Source of data: Eurostat
Age: from 15 to74 years
Unit: Percentage

To be able of understand if all thus migrants are effectively assimilated into the Irish society we need to look the activity rates of the County (in an age range of people from 15 to 74 years). The graph below is assembled by the variable of sex. As the rate of women is always stable, the rate of men is stable but higher.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
ales	78,6	75,7	73,6	72,7	72,4	72,6	72,7	73,0	73,1	72,7
males	61,1	60,4	59,5	59,3	59,2	59,8	59,5	59,4	60,3	60,4
tal	69,9	68,0	66,5	66,0	65,7	66,2	66,0	66,1	66,6	66,5