

Jobs opportunities in the future

Get ready for the new economy



As the country is beginning to see the small green shoots of recovery from the harsh economic drought, it is an opportune time to consider which sectors of the economy will experience this growth. The move to a 'knowledge'/'smart' economy essentially means there will be a shift from land, tools and labour to the generation and exploitation of knowledge. Those with the 'know why' with regard to the sciences, society and the human mind in addition to the 'know who' of social relations will be best placed to take advantage of the future opportunities. The available jobs will be higher up a value chain, where qualifications and a commitment to lifelong learning are essential.

IT Services/Computer Software/Hardware

ICT is a key growth sector for Ireland and the availability of highly skilled IT professionals (hardware, software and database) here has attracted many high profile companies that continue to reinvest. In addition, the IT outsourcing market could boom as employers increasingly look to third-party providers in order to cut costs.

Accounting and Auditing

There is still some demand for qualified and part qualified accountants with the much greater emphasis on regulation, compliance and risk analysis. Qualified and newly qualified accountants are required within the

pharmaceutical, manufacturing and energy industries, as are professionals with insolvency and forensics experience.

Innovation and Intellectual Property Related Enterprises

Even in an economic downturn, businesses that are focused on innovation and niche product development can continue to grow. The introduction by the Government of a new tax relief on capital expenditure incurred in the acquisition of intellectual property (IP) should act as a catalyst to attract further inward investment into Ireland and ultimately lead to the creation of new jobs.

Financial Services Sector

The financial sector (including banking, insurance and other financial services), having endured rapid decline during the recession is expected to recover in the medium term. The Government has identified the international financial services industry as having the potential over the medium term to contribute significantly to the growth of output and employment in the Irish economy.

Other Market Services

Business support services, advertising, marketing, HR, legal and paralegal, personal services, entertainment and arts are all expected to recover in the medium term with employment rates expected to match, and in certain instances, increase. Indeed real estate

and architectural services are expected to recover some of the recession losses.

High Tech Manufacturing

While traditional manufacturing textiles, paper, transport equipment, mining etc will continue to experience relative decline, high tech manufacturing - notably in chemicals, machinery and equipment - will offer opportunities for science and associate professionals. Ireland is an important location for many of the largest international pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

Green Sector Jobs

Jobs in green areas such as renewable energy, environmental and energy-efficient technologies are forecast to continue to increase. The creation of more and more companies in the green sector, such as wind farms and waste-water specialists has led to a strong demand for energy consultants and electrical engineers. We are also likely to see a massive demand for qualifications in environmental biology, renewable and electrical energy systems, environmental management and specialist fields within science and engineering.

Sales

Technical and business sales agents will be continually required as the economy recovers.

Implications for roles

Given the shift to the knowledge economy and the emphasis on high end value added jobs there will be a demand for science and associate science professionals (technicians etc); business, finance and legal professionals; IT and associate IT professionals; personal services and sales agents. Given the state of the government's coffers, professionals in health, education and care areas will most likely not

experience the same level of demand for their services, however given the current demographics there should not be significant reduction in demand in the medium terms either.

Final words of wisdom

With media coverage about the tough job market invading our daily lives, it can be easy to lose confidence. Stay positive and work hard to get the best qualification you can. Companies are still recruiting graduates but it takes hard work to dig out the hidden opportunities. Keep a close eye on the daily newspapers and search their websites for job announcements. Be sure to check the IDA and Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment websites for government supported jobs initiatives. Talk to people in the sector in which you are interested; tell the world that you are job hunting and create a list of companies in your sector. The wider you spread your net the better the chances you have of getting a break. Be creative and versatile in how you search for jobs and consider diversifying and/or taking a stepping stone approach into the area you wish to work.

Don't let headline economic woes freeze you into inaction. You may not be able to control the economy, but you can control your response to the current situation. Finally, take heart — jobs are out there. This is not the first time the global economy has been hit with a downturn of this scale and our experience shows that businesses and employees come out of these situations far stronger and need skilled graduates to help them through. Be ready to take the opportunities when they arise.

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