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The economic opportunity of AI in Ireland

Capturing the next wave of benefits from *generative* AI

An Implement Consulting Group study commissioned by Google

May 2024

The economic potential of AI can be boosted further by generative AI

To capture the next wave of AI benefits across society, Ireland needs to promote commercialisation and secure widespread AI knowledge.

The economic opportunity

Generative AI technology is developing faster than previously anticipated, and the peak economic contribution could come sooner than expected, in as little as ten years.

At the peak of adoption, in around ten years from now, generative AI alone could boost Ireland's GDP by

€40-45 billion

+8% GDP
annual contribution in the peak year if Ireland achieves widespread adoption.

Gains come from three sources …

Productivity boost from people working with generative AI.

Freed-up time when generative AI helps to automate our work.

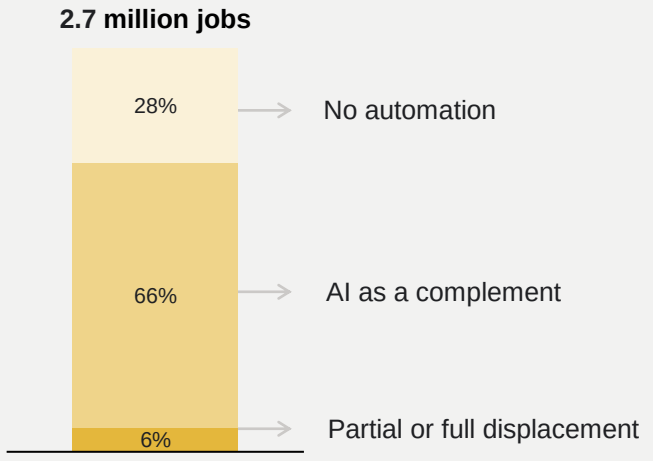
Re-prioritised and re-employed time for other value-creating activities.

The job implications

66% of jobs in Ireland are estimated to work **together with** generative AI.

34% of Irish companies expect **significant productivity impacts** from generative AI in the next five years.

Share of jobs exposed to automation by generative AI
% of total employment in Ireland



Ireland is well placed to manage the job changes from generative AI.

New jobs in the AI-powered economy are expected to replace those lost due to automation, resulting in unchanged employment levels. The highly exposed jobs represent less than 15% of the historical level of job changes in Ireland.

The transition is expected to be gradual, allowing workers time to adapt to new tasks and develop new skills.

SUMMARY

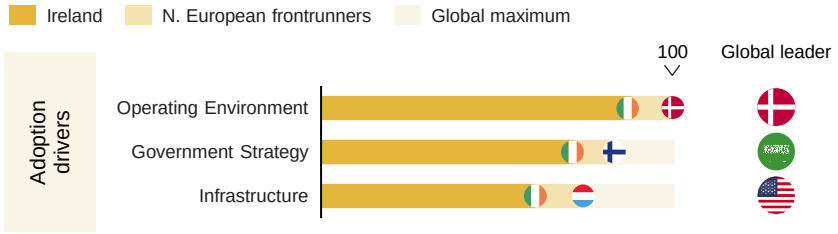
Ireland should leverage its strong tech environment and promote upskilling and commercialisation to maximise the benefits of AI

AI readiness in Ireland

Ireland is doing well on the basics like other small, digitally advanced European economies ...

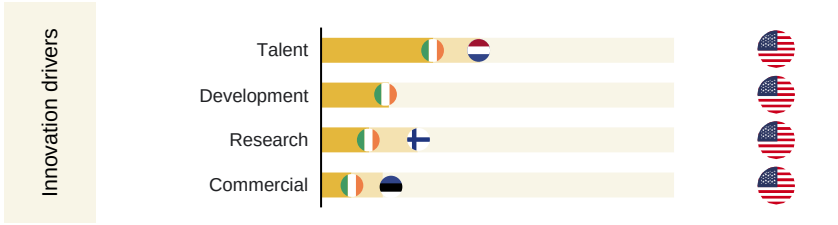
Ireland's AI capacity according to the Tortoise Global AI Index

Global AI Index, score out of 100 (global leader)



Ireland scores high on operating environment for AI (e.g. trust, data governance), government strategy and infrastructure.

… but lags behind on several innovation drivers



Ireland lags behind global leaders on AI-related talent, commercial ventures and other innovation drivers.

Conclusions and policy implications

Ireland's future economic growth could exceed current long-term GDP forecasts. Leading banks are raising growth forecasts from as early as 2028.

The 8% boost to annual GDP at peak assumes that Ireland achieves widespread adoption in line with leading countries.

A five-year delay in adoption will reduce the annual GDP potential of generative AI in Ireland from 8% to 2% of GDP, i.e. from €40-45 billion to €8-10 billion.

Capturing the full economic gains requires skills, innovation and a conducive regulatory framework.

Retrain and upskill workforce

Grow R&D by local innovators

Accelerate commercial uptake

Note: The Tortoise Global AI Index is underpinned by 111 indicators collected from 28 different public and private data sources and 62 governments. Northern European frontrunners refers to nine European countries comparable to Ireland in terms of size and level of digitalisation.

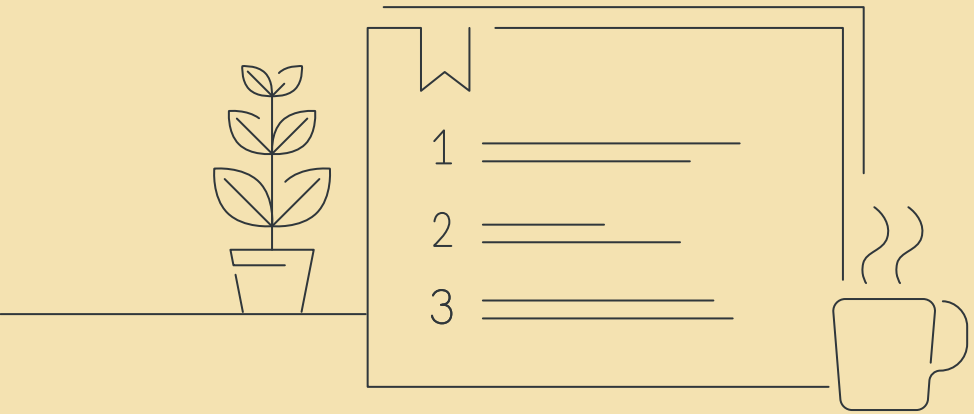
Foreword

Making AI benefit society as a whole requires an adaptive, human-centric and trustworthy approach

AI and the next wave of generative AI have the potential to be the most powerful technology in decades. Responsible AI can help solve global challenges like climate change and access to quality medical care.

AI can make countries more prosperous, productive, innovative, creative and secure. At the same time, there are plenty of pitfalls, paradoxes and tensions that decision-makers will need to navigate.

AI has evolved rapidly with the breakthrough of generative AI in 2022 and its fast adoption in 2023. This report estimates the economic potential of generative AI in Ireland while recognising the significant economic potential of other types of AI.



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Introduction to AI

This report covers all types of AI with a particular focus on generative AI.

AI can help humans solve tasks faster and better – and with generative AI, machines can now understand and interact in language, sound and images

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- AI is a general term for anything that allows computers to carry out human-like behaviours, including rule-based programmes.

Machine Learning (ML)

- ML is a subset of AI where machines do not need to be explicitly programmed. They use algorithms to identify and learn patterns in data, apply that learning and improve themselves to make better and better decisions.

Deep Learning (DL)

- DL is a subset of ML where computers learn in a way that mimics the human brain. In deep learning, machines build layers of knowledge that are increasingly complex.
- These AI models are typically trained on specific data sets and used within a given field or industry.

Capabilities include:

Forecasting and prediction

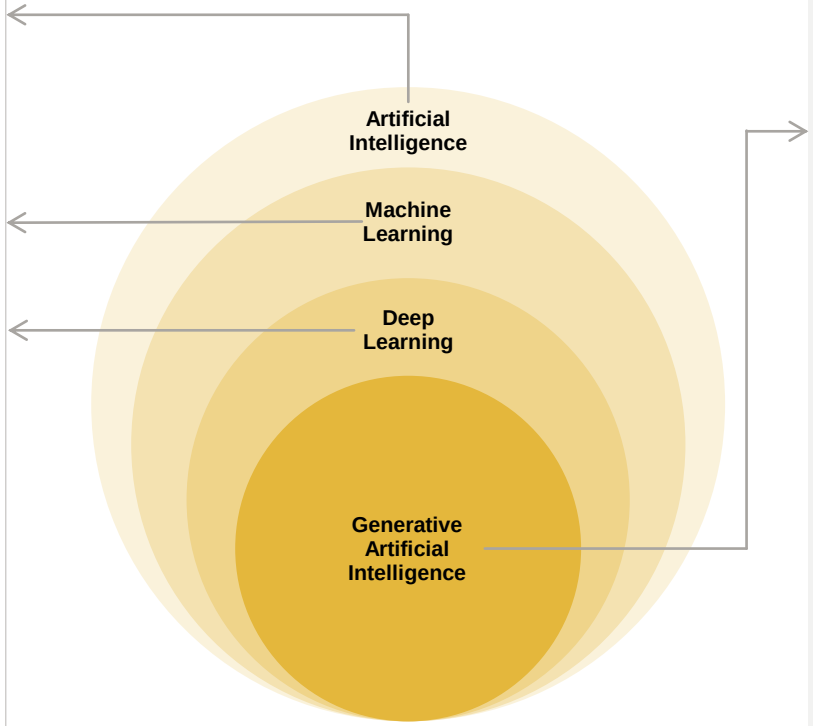
In addition to weather forecasting, similar predictive models are employed in managing warehouse inventories.

Categorisation and recognition

In addition to email spam filtering, AI can be utilised to categorise and recognise patterns in legislative documents.

Optimisation

When it comes to optimisation, AI not only aids navigation via GPS but also plays a crucial role in enhancing the efficiency of energy consumption in data centres.



Generative AI

- Generative AI is a new form of AI made publicly available in 2022. It can analyse text, code, images, sound and video and use it to generate or synthesise new content.
- Generative AI models are trained on huge general data sets to gain a general comprehension of text, visuals, code and sound.
- Generative AI can be used generally across almost any field or industry.

New capabilities include:

Create new unique images

For example, generating an image of a product that does not yet exist based on user input in natural language.

Interact with voice and sound

For example, translating a doctor's memo into a structured text or following up with a customer in writing based on a phone conversation.

Analyse and revise text and code

For example, translating text and adapting it to a different target group or translating code between programming languages.

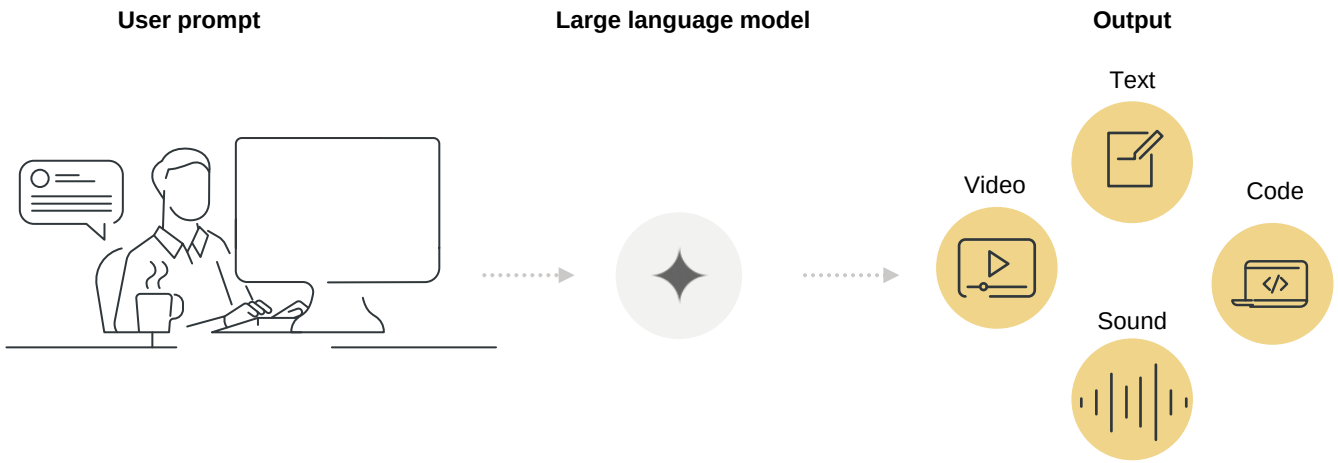
Do research and analyse data

For example, searching the web for relevant information and synthesising conclusions from large data sets.

Note: An algorithm is a detailed set of instructions that a computer follows to carry out a task or solve a problem.
Source: Implement Economics based on expert interviews.

Recent developments have increased the capabilities and availability of AI models and have accelerated uptake

Generative AI models have strong built-in capabilities and are easy to work with …



No or low data requirements

Generative AI models are already trained on huge data sets. This makes them readily available for many tasks without any further data needed.

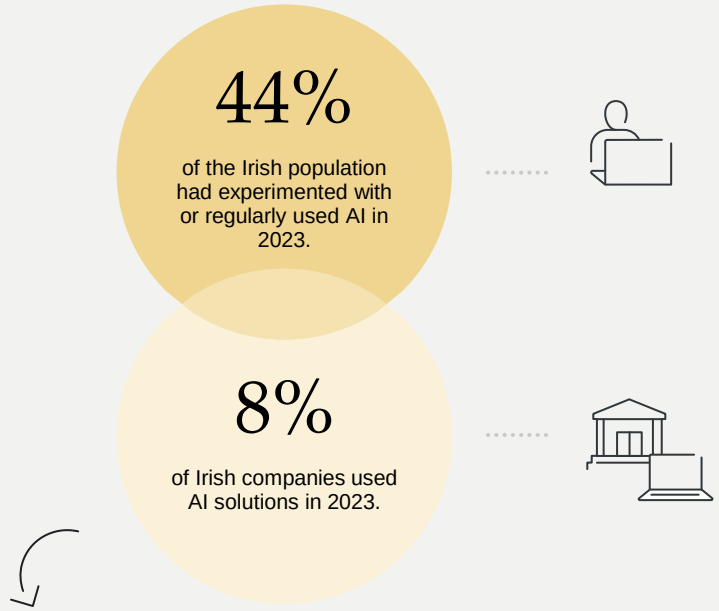
Easy to use in plain language

Generative AI models can be operated using ordinary language and do not require any specific coding skills to use.

Many models are online and free of charge

Several high-performing generative AI models are available online and do not require local ML setups or infrastructure to use.

… and many users have already adopted the technology



Solutions adopted at a company level are driven by non-generative solutions today.

Generative AI is still at an early stage and is yet to be widely adopted at a company or institution level.

Source: Implement Economics based on the European Commission and survey by Dye & Durham.

Leveraging the full potential of AI will require further research, development and innovation

AI capabilities and requirements by level of development

	Organisational ML-based AI	Generic pre-trained models used online	Adaption of pre-trained models using APIs	Specialised fine-tuned models	Foundation models
Solvable tasks	Specific	General	General and moderately specialised	General and specialised	Most
Example	*E.g. detection of flawed products in manufacturing*	*Online chatbots, e.g. Gemini or ChatGPT*	*Organisation-level automation solution, e.g. auto-replies*	*Pre-trained model like Llama trained further on context-specific data*	*Model trained from the ground on new data, e.g. gaBERT*
Requirements					
Competences for use	●	○	◔	◔	◔
Competences for integrating solution	◕	◔	◔	◕	●
Data and infrastructure	◑	○	◔	◕	●
	Pre-2022	Current fast-adopting models	Next level of adoption	Only adopted by few frontrunner organisations	New frontier of AI

- Generative AI is still in its early phase using generic pre-trained models.
- Future value creation from AI requires more advanced models than the pre-trained models that are available online today.
- Leveraging the full potential of AI technology requires more advanced and specialised models.
- This requires new organisational skills, more data, more computing power and better infrastructure.

Figure explanation

○ No requirements

● Highest requirements

Note: Training or fine-tuning generative AI models generally requires significantly more computational resources compared to classic machine learning training.
Source: Implement Economics based on OECD.

02

Economic opportunities from AI

The main economic opportunity in Ireland arises from humans working together with generative AI.

AI has great economic potential which can be further boosted by generative AI

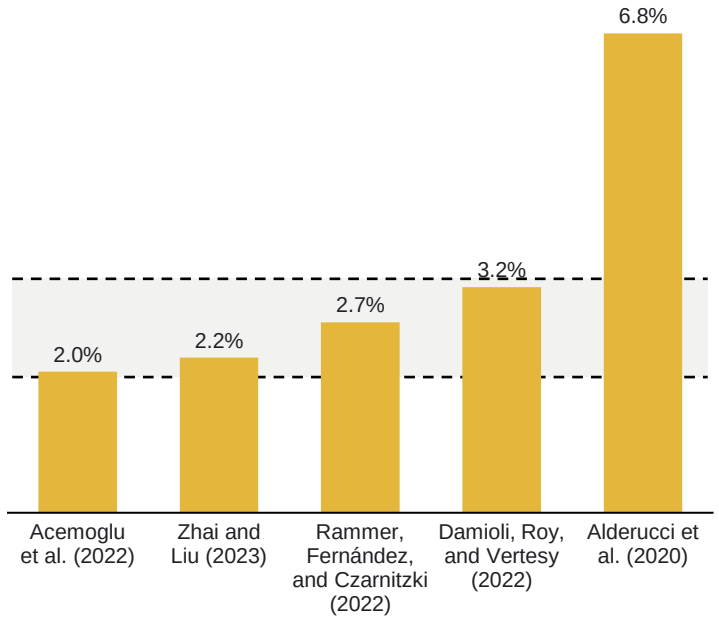
How to think about generative AI:

"What would you do if you had 1,000 well-trained interns ready to work for you day and night?"

AI can increase productivity

Academic studies conclude that labour productivity typically increases by 2-3 percentage points per year after firm-level AI adoption. The studies have been carried out on early adopters of AI technology and, as such, cannot be extrapolated to the general effects of AI on productivity.

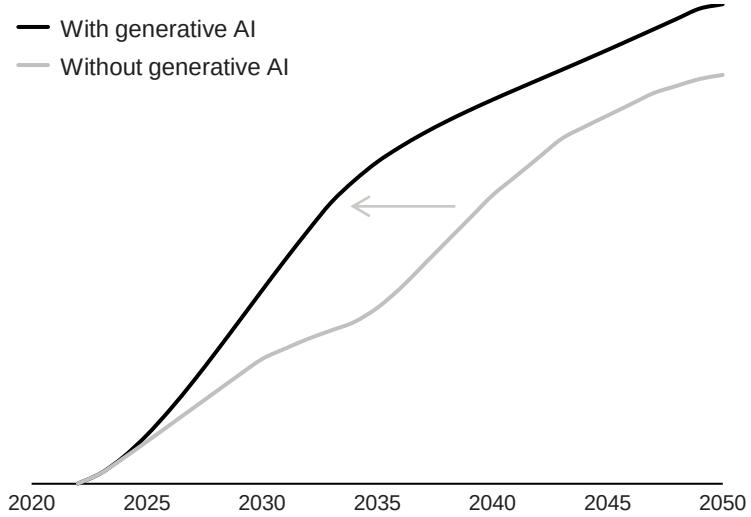
Growth in labour productivity from AI adoption
Percentage points



Generative AI advances automation

Generative AI can advance automation by nearly a decade because it is easier to use for individuals and organisations. However, significant uncertainty about adoption rates and speed of realisation of its benefits remain.

Automation potential
Adoption of AI technology



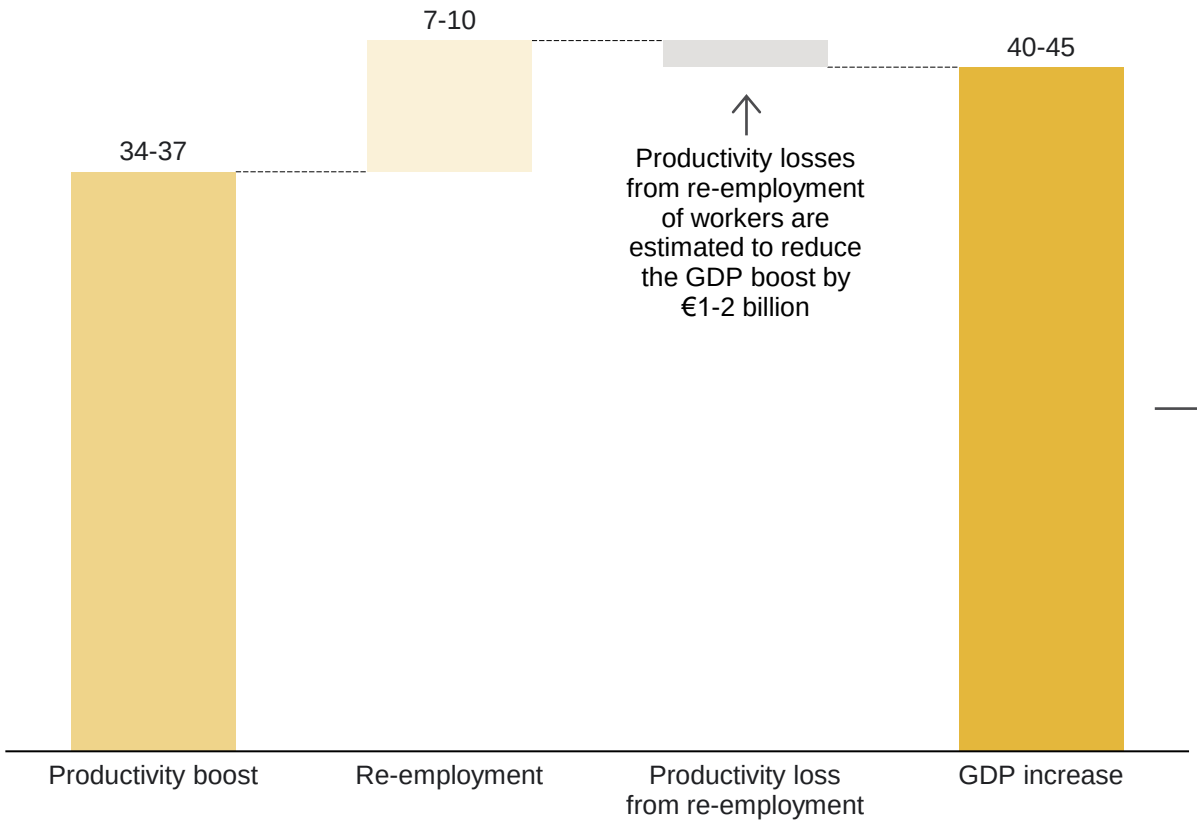
- AI has evolved rapidly with the recent breakthrough of generative AI. Due to its user-friendly nature, generative AI is expected to greatly accelerate the potential of AI to create economic impacts.
- Generative AI is only a part of AI's overall economic potential. Some studies estimate with some uncertainty that generative AI accounts for around one-third of the total effect of AI.
- This report estimates the macroeconomic potential of generative AI while recognising the significant economic potential of other types of AI.

Source: Implement Economics based on Brynjolfsson et al. (2019), Acemoglu et al. (2022), Andersen et al. (2023), Alderucci et al. (2022), Rammer, Czarnitziki, and Fernández (2022), Damioli, Roy, and Vertesy (2022), Zhai and Liu (2023).

Generative AI could increase Ireland's GDP by 8% in ten years

GDP potential of generative AI in Ireland

€ billion annual increase from baseline GDP after ten-year adoption period



+8% GDP

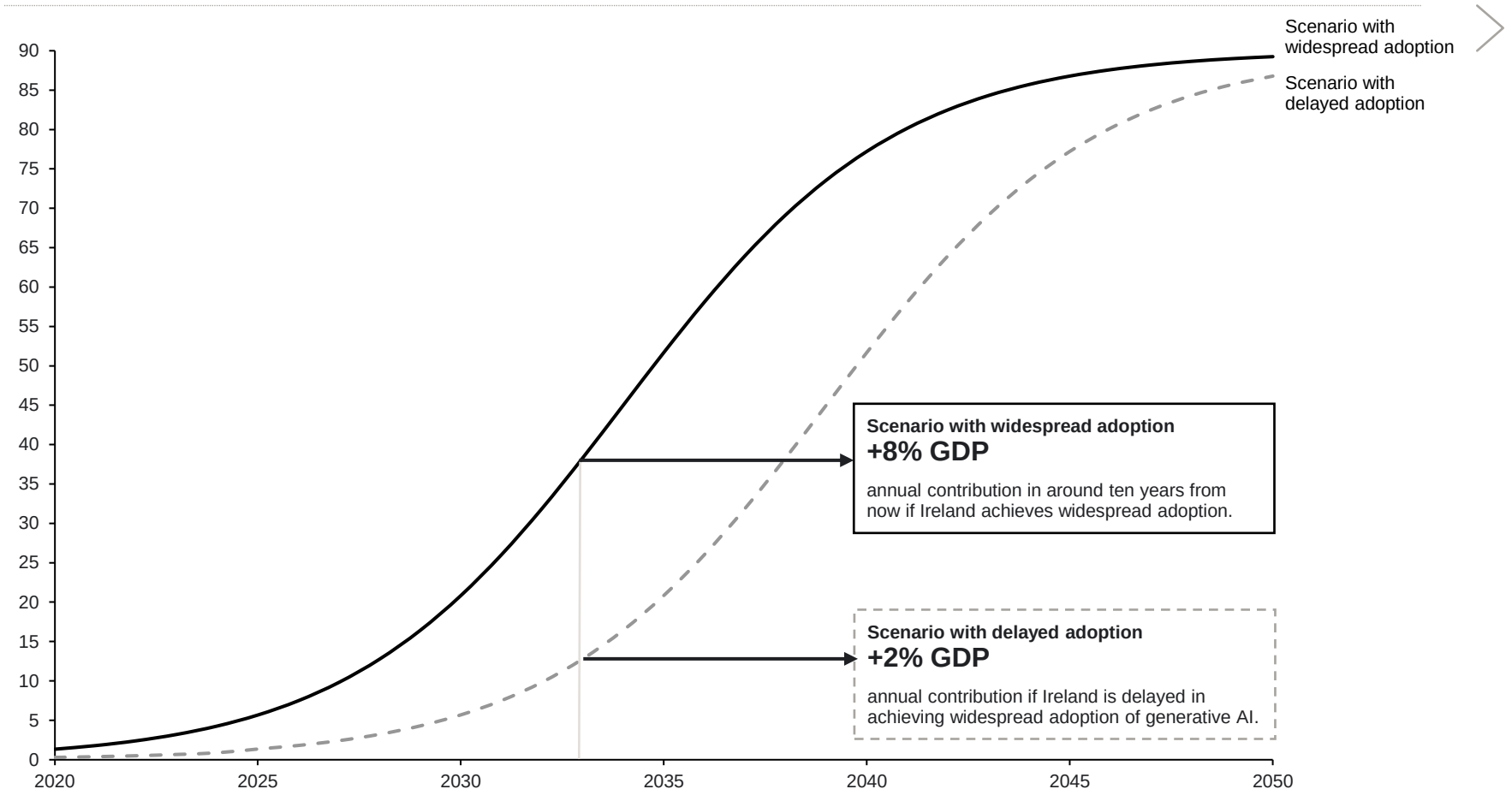
annual contribution in the peak year if Ireland achieves widespread adoption.

- If Ireland achieves widespread adoption of generative AI, we estimate an annual GDP potential of €40-45 billion in the peak year, which could be as early as ten years from now.
- The dominant impact of generative AI is a productivity boost to the majority of workers (66%) by augmenting their capabilities, quality and efficiency, which is estimated at €34-37 billion for Ireland.
- The estimate includes impacts of re-employment of a small share of workers (6%), where generative AI is freeing up a significant share of work for other tasks. This is estimated at €7-10 billion for Ireland.
- The estimate accounts for the possible productivity loss associated with re-employment to other occupations. This reduces the estimate for Ireland by €1-2 billion.
- At its peak, the productivity effect of generative AI in Ireland is estimated to be equivalent to 1.4% annually.
- Generative AI is so powerful that Ireland's future economic growth could exceed current long-term GDP forecasts, and leading banks are raising growth forecasts from as early as 2028.

Note: GDP figures are expressed in 2022 levels. The estimate assumes widespread adoption of generative AI over a ten-year period. There is much uncertainty around the capability and adoption timeline of generative AI. The size of the productivity boost depends on the difficulty level of tasks that generative AI will be able to complete and the number of jobs it can automate. The average number of work activities that potentially can be performed by generative AI across all types of tasks for both complemented and highly exposed workers corresponds to 20-25%. Our estimate is the isolated potential of generative AI around ten years from now when the impact is assumed to peak in the widespread adoption scenario (see next page). The estimated boost from generative AI may not be fully additive to GDP trends, as the GDP forecast already assumes a growth contribution from new technologies and generative AI may substitute some of that. Also, the boost from generative AI may be partially offset by an underlying growth slowdown.
Source: Implement Economics based on Eurostat, O*Net, Briggs and Kodnani (2023a), BNP Paribas (2023), and Dell'Acqua et al. (2023).

A five-year delay in the adoption of generative AI could reduce Ireland's potential GDP gains from 8% to 2%

Adoption of generative AI



- Generative AI is a new general-purpose technology and will take time to adopt.
- Our estimate of Ireland's GDP potential from generative AI is reliant on the widespread adoption and development of the new AI technology within the next ten years.
- A five-year delay in capturing the benefits of generative AI is estimated to reduce the annual potential at peak from 8% (€40-45 billion) to only 2% (€8-10 billion).
- Ireland can enhance the welfare and GDP contribution from generative AI by ensuring that policies are in place to capture the benefits as assumed in the widespread adoption scenario.

Note: GDP figures are expressed in 2022 levels. The figure shows generative AI adoption as a share of economywide companies exposed to AI automation. The estimate is made for a ten-year adoption period to align with the time horizon for widespread adoption by the most advanced countries apart from the US. The "widespread adoption" scenario assumes adoption in line with "other developed markets" in Briggs and Kodnani (2023b).
Source: Implement Economics based on Eurostat, O*Net and Briggs and Kodnani (2023a&b) .

Generative AI models have the potential to boost SME AI adoption to new levels, but regulatory uncertainty and lack of skills can stand in the way

SMEs lag behind larger corporations on AI adoption

Irish SMEs account for
~67% of total employment

Like other European countries, Irish SMEs are slower to adopt AI compared to large enterprises.

36%
of large Irish enterprises adopted AI in 2023.

7%
of Irish SMEs adopted AI in 2023.

The gap in AI adoption between SMEs and large enterprises reflects a **general challenge** among EU countries:

30%
of large enterprises in the EU had adopted AI in 2023.

7%
of SMEs in the EU had adopted AI in 2023.

Generative AI could boost SME AI adoption …

No or low data requirements for pre-trained public models such as Gemini and ChatGPT means that SMEs can readily use generative AI for many tasks without any further work needed.

Ease of use in plain language means that SMEs can use many generative AI models without the need for coding skills.

Free online availability means that SMEs do not need to invest in new computing power or new infrastructure to use generative AI.

… but SME uptake can be slowed down because …

Lack of both soft and digital skills required to fully leverage the potential of new generative AI technologies can hamper uptake.

Regulatory uncertainty around generative AI can increase implementation risks and compliance costs, notably for SMEs lacking in-house legal capabilities.

Note: According to the classification by the European Commission, SMEs are defined as enterprises with 1-249 employees, and large enterprises are defined as enterprises with 250+ employees.
The percentage of total employment accounted for by SMEs is based on 2022 data.
Source: Implement Economics based on the European Commission and OECD (2024).

03

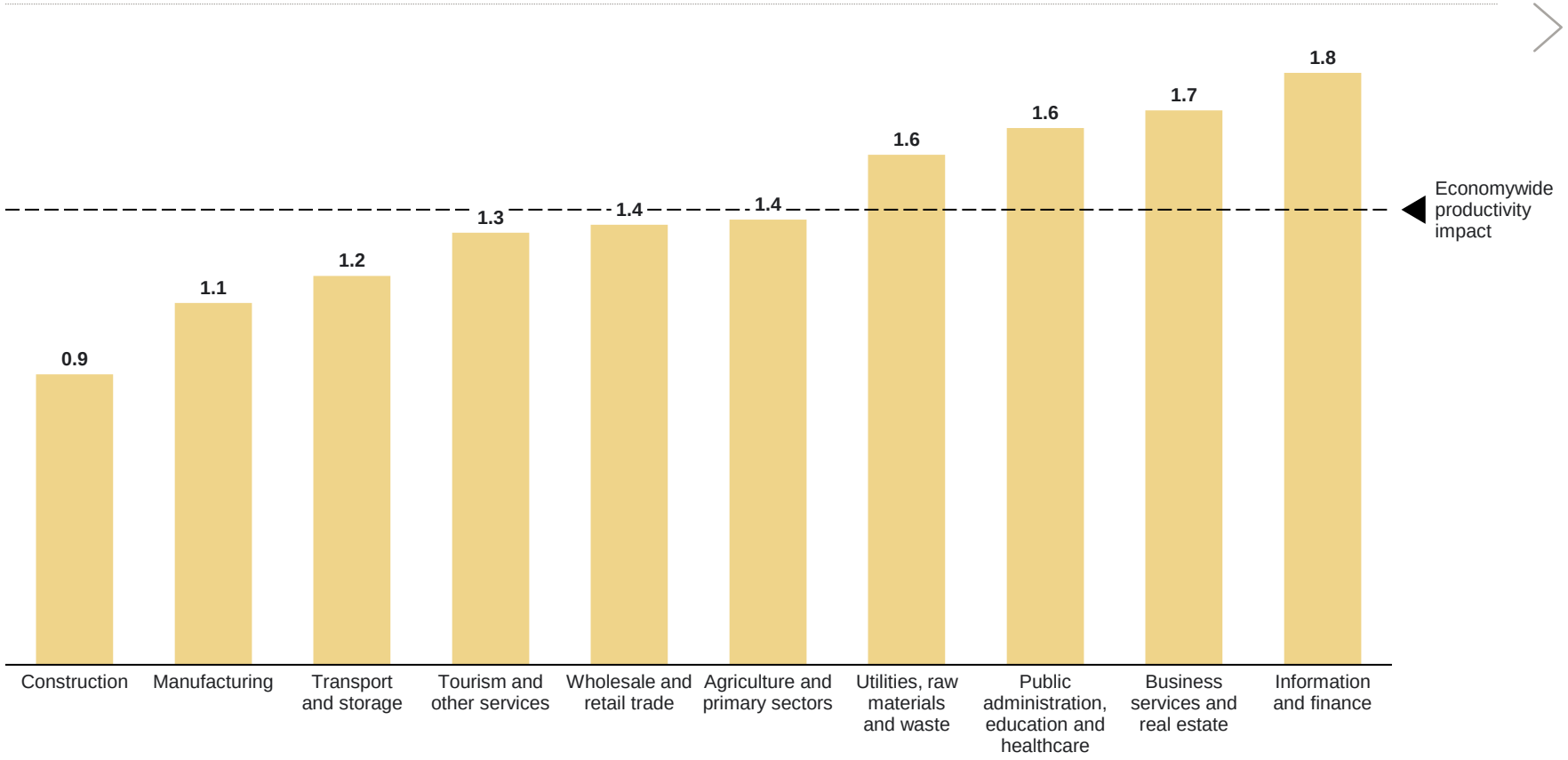
Key sectors benefitting from AI

Some sectors are expected to gain more from generative AI, mostly owing to the types of tasks performed.

AI can boost productivity across all sectors

Productivity boost from generative AI after a ten-year adoption period

Percentage points productivity growth p.a.

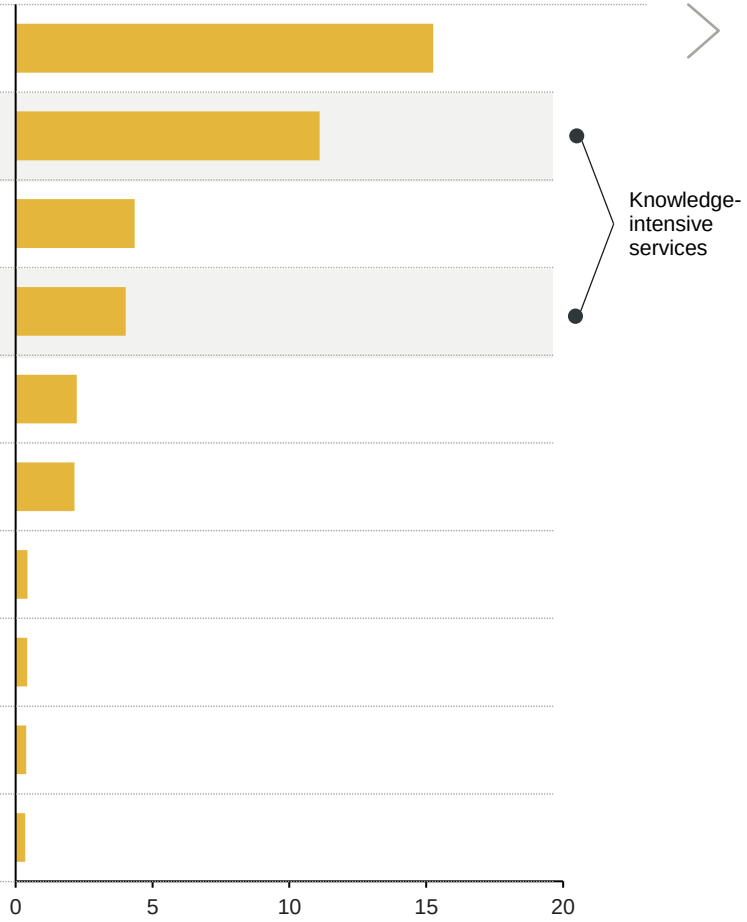


- The complementary role of generative AI prevails in most industries, meaning that most occupations are estimated to use AI to augment and improve human capabilities.
- In contrast to past automation, such as robots, generative AI has the ability to boost productivity in the service sector.
- Displacement mainly occurs where administrative and repetitive knowledge-based tasks make up a large part of the work activities.
- Irish productivity growth has historically been high, driven in large part by large foreign-owned multinational enterprises.
- In the period 1998-2020, overall real productivity growth in Ireland was 2.9%. However, real productivity growth, excluding foreign-owned multinationals, is estimated at 0.2% for the same period.
- Generative AI will play a key role in raising productivity growth across all sectors.

Note: Sectors are aggregated according to NACE categorisation. “Information and finance” is a combination of information, communication, financial and insurance activities. "Tourism and other services” comprises accommodation, food and other services. Gains in labour productivity are mapped one to one to GDP if total employment (as here) is assumed constant and the capital stock increases to match productivity improvements. The estimates take into account that the growth impact of generative AI may not be fully additive to the current GDP trend. First, AI-related gains may substitute for growth that would otherwise occur in a non-AI baseline. Second, underlying productivity growth has slowed over the past decades. The estimated boost from generative AI may be partially offset by an underlying growth slowdown.
Source: Implement Economics based on Eurostat, Economic & Social Research Institute, OECD, O*Net and Briggs and Kodnani (2023a).

Generative AI holds great economic potential in Ireland's vast manufacturing sector

	Sector gross value added (GVA) % of total baseline GVA	Peak productivity boost Percentage points annual productivity growth	GVA contribution from generative AI in ten years € billion
Manufacturing	45%	1.2%	
Information and finance	21%	1.8%	
Public sector	9%	1.7%	
Business services and real estate	8%	1.7%	
Tourism and other services	6%	1.4%	
Wholesale and retail trade	6%	1.3%	
Transport and storage	1%	1.1%	
Utilities, raw materials and waste	6%	1.6%	
Construction	2%	0.9%	
Agriculture and primary sectors	1%	1.4%	



- Generative AI is most effective in automating knowledge-intensive tasks, such as those carried out in IT services, finance and business services.
- However, due to the vast size of Ireland's manufacturing sector (45% of Irish GVA), this sector holds the largest economic potential, whereby generative AI is estimated to boost annual productivity growth by 1.2% at peak and increase value added by around €15-16 billion.
- Although a smaller percentage of workers are exposed to automation in manufacturing, these workers are, on average, also more productive than in other sectors, thus enhancing the absolute gains from generative AI.
- The annual peak productivity potential is larger in knowledge-intensive sectors (1.8% in information and finance and 1.6% in business services) and public administration (1.7%). Within these sectors, the collective increase in value added is estimated to be €18-20 billion.

Note: Sectors are aggregated according to NACE categorisation. "Information and Finance" is a combination of information, communication, financial and insurance activities. Labour productivity gains are mapped one to one to GDP if total employment (as here) is assumed constant and the capital stock increases to match productivity improvements. The estimates take into account that the growth impact of generative AI may not be fully additive to the current GDP trend. First, AI-related gains may substitute for growth that would otherwise occur in a non-AI baseline. Second, underlying productivity growth has slowed over the past decades. The estimated boost from generative AI may be partially offset by an underlying growth slowdown.
Source: Implement Economics based on Eurostat, O*Net and Briggs and Kodnani (2023a).

04

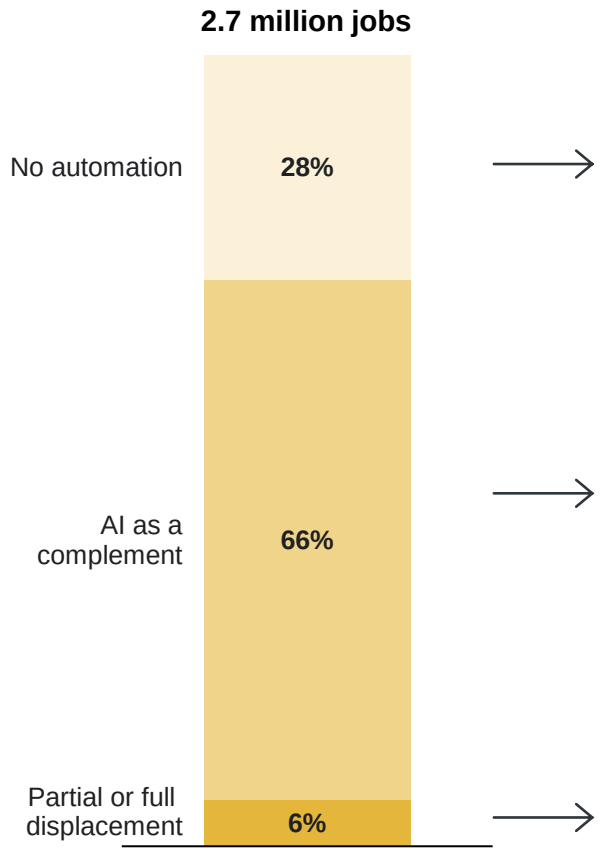
Job implications of AI

Generative AI will introduce job changes in Ireland – the nature and degree of which depend on economic and demographic factors.

Generative AI augments most jobs

Share of jobs exposed to automation by generative AI

% of total employment in Ireland



~ 0.8 million jobs are unlikely to be exposed to automation

An estimated 28% of jobs in Ireland are likely to remain largely unaffected by generative AI. These jobs include manual labour, outdoor tasks, such as construction and cleaning, and human-to-human tasks, such as personal care and food services.

~ 1.7 million jobs are likely to be augmented by generative AI

Most jobs (66%) are expected to be assisted by generative AI by automating a limited share of their tasks and helping to create content (text, code and images), collaborating with workers on complex problems and contributing to product design.

Unlike previous waves of automation that mainly impacted manual workers, generative AI is expected to primarily affect office-based professionals.

~ 0.15 million jobs are likely to be fully or partially displaced

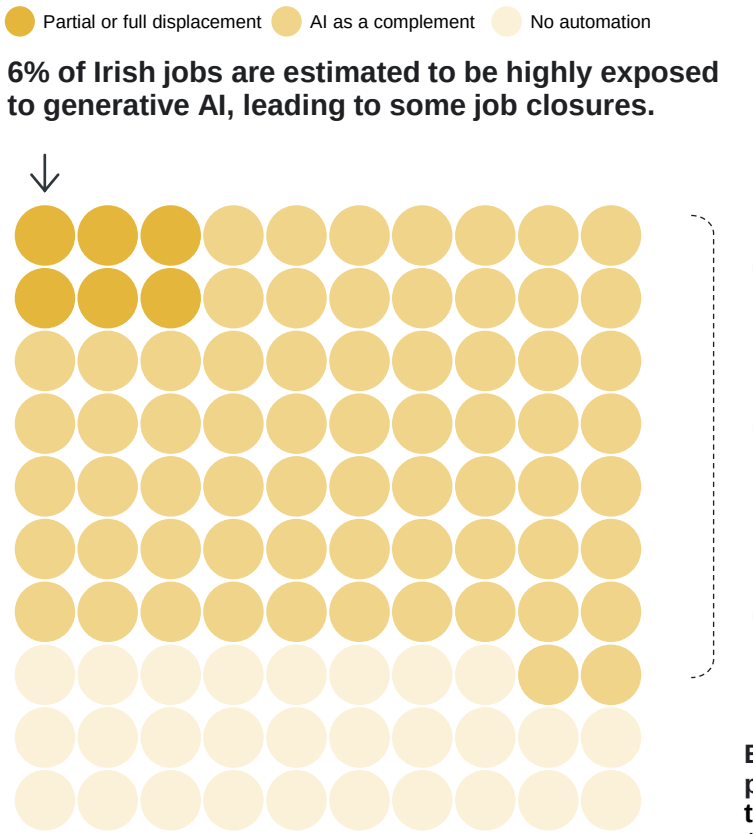
A small share of jobs (6%) are expected to have over half of their work activities exposed to automation by generative AI, e.g. in occupations such as clerical support workers, contact centre salespersons and translators. These workers are likely to see their jobs fundamentally change and may need to be re-employed in new occupations.

Note: Based on Q3 2023 employment data. In accordance with Briggs and Kodnani (2023a), "No automation" are occupations with less than 10% exposure, "AI as a complement" are occupations with 10-49% exposure and "partial or full displacement" are occupations with exposure of or above 50%. Note that percentages and absolute numbers are rounded.
Source: Implement Economics based on Eurostat, O*Net and Briggs and Kodnani (2023a).

The AI-powered economy is expected to create new jobs and ensure full re-employment of potentially displaced workers

Share of jobs exposed to automation by generative AI

% of total employment in Ireland



6% of Irish jobs are estimated to be highly exposed to generative AI, leading to some job closures.

At the same time, 66% of jobs are expected to see a boost in productivity. This will create new jobs due to:

I

Increase in general demand for goods and services

With higher GDP growth, the AI-powered economy will demand more labour across a wide range of occupations and skill levels.

II

Creation of new AI-related tasks

Widespread use of AI will also create new jobs such as AI prompt engineers, AI content creators and data trainers – and create jobs we cannot preconceive.

III

Demand within occupation

Generative AI will also make highly exposed occupations, such as translators, more efficient and therefore cheaper, which in turn can increase the demand for those occupations.

Even with accelerated and broad adoption of generative AI over a ten-year period, only around 8,000-15,000 people in highly exposed jobs are estimated to need re-employment per year, which is low compared to historical averages (see page 22). **Jobs and wages could come under pressure if Ireland is slower to adopt generative AI than competing countries.**

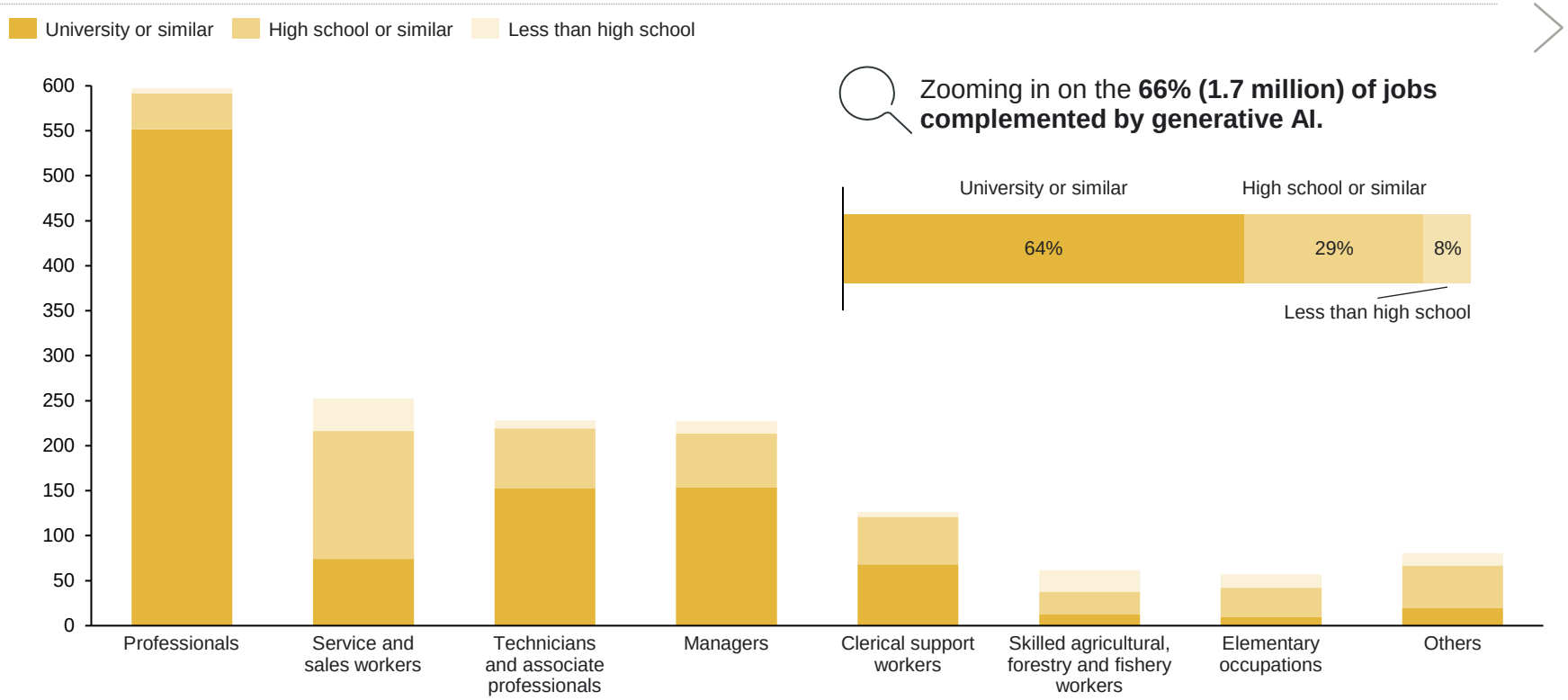
- The job development in Ireland over the next decades will depend on a range of factors.
- The isolated impact of generative AI depends on the speed of adoption and size of the productivity boost relative to the size of the displacement effect for the jobs that are highly exposed to generative AI.
- This report assumes full re-employment of displaced workers over a ten-year period. This means no net change in total employment or unemployment.
- The assumption builds on the large size of the productivity boost compared to the relatively small share of displaced jobs. This suggests that the demand for new jobs will be sufficiently strong to create jobs for those exposed.
- Furthermore, economic theory suggests that long-term employment is determined by the labour supply and skill mix of the workforce.
- The short-term job impacts will depend, among other things, on the flexibility of the labour market as well as re-training and skilling opportunities for workers.

Note: The assumption that labour supply predetermines employment is widely applied by economists, see, for example, *Principles Of Economics* by N. Gregory Mankiw (2020).
Source: Implement Economics based on based on Eurostat, O*Net and Briggs and Kodnani (2023a).

1.7 million jobs are expected to be complemented by AI – mainly highly educated professionals and technicians

Jobs complemented by generative AI

1,000 jobs



Examples of jobs include:	Research, analysis, creative services and advising services (including legal)	Caterers, travel attendants, teachers' aides and personal care workers	Engineering technicians, robot controllers and air traffic safety technicians	Executives, senior officials and general managers	Secretaries, record keepers and information suppliers	Livestock and farm workers, fishery and forestry workers	Transport and storage workers, food preparation assistants	Fashion designers and jewellery makers

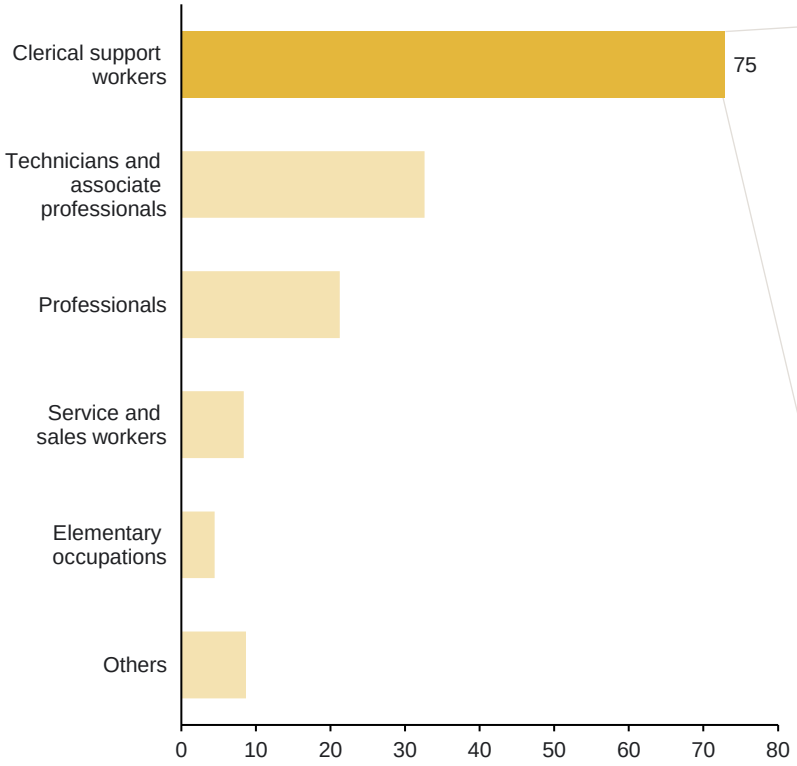
- Generative AI is estimated to augment the capabilities of around 1.7 million jobs in Ireland at full adoption and around half of these over a ten-year period.
- Of the estimated complemented workers, 64% hold higher educational attainment, such as lawyers, scientists and engineers.
- Generative AI can perform complex cognitive tasks and complement human abilities, creating opportunities for individuals to work with generative AI to create new content and free up time for other tasks.
- Unlike previous waves of automation, generative AI is less relevant in jobs carried out by those with lower levels of educational attainment.

Note: Based on 2023Q3 employment data.
Source: Implement Economics based on Eurostat, O*Net and Briggs and Kodnani (2023a).

Around 150,000 Irish jobs are highly exposed to generative AI, but the AI-powered economy will help create new types of jobs and new demand

Jobs highly exposed to generative AI

1,000 jobs



Highly exposed jobs in total ~ 155,000

Example: Irish clerical support workers and job transition

Of the 75,000 highly exposed clerical support workers, only around half are assumed to be affected by generative AI over ten years, and all of these are assumed to be employed either outside or within the occupation.

Most are expected to be re-employed in other occupations due to:

I **Increase in general demand for goods and services** due to increased income in the AI-powered economy leading to job opportunities in other sectors.

II **New types of AI-related tasks created** arising from the introduction of generative AI such as AI prompt engineers, AI-assisted creative professionals and AI application specialists.

A smaller share is expected to be employed *within* occupation because:

III **Not all highly exposed workers will be displaced.** Some will continue to hold employment with new tasks replacing the exposed tasks.

Increased demand within occupation due to the increase in productivity and lower costs.

The proportions of employment within occupations and in new occupations are uncertain.

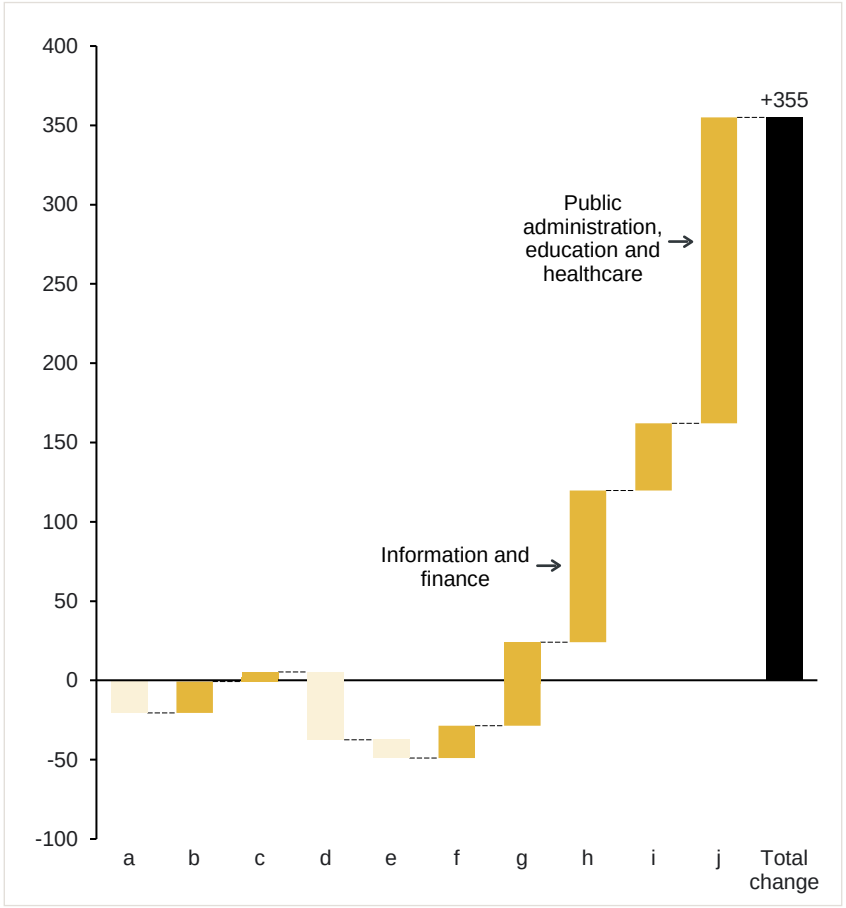
- Around 150,000 jobs in Ireland are estimated to be highly exposed to generative AI at full adoption, and around half of these are expected to be affected over a ten-year period.
- This report assumes full re-employment of displaced workers. This means no net change in total employment or unemployment.
- The Irish economy is thus assumed to be able to sustain at least the current level of employment in the coming 10-15 years as also predicted by EU forecasts from CEDEFOP.
- Clerical support workers, technicians and service and sales workers are highly exposed to generative AI and up to a third of these jobs are expected to see significant change.
- The transition is likely to be gradual, allowing workers time to adapt to new tasks and skills.
- The AI-powered economy will gradually lead to new jobs through three channels and support employment within the occupation or re-employment in other sectors.
- Historically, worker displacement from automation has been offset by the creation of new jobs, and the emergence of new occupations following technological innovations accounts for the vast majority of long-run employment growth.

Note: Based on 2023Q3 employment data. High exposure to AI does not automatically imply full displacement of all workers in that occupation. In the GDP estimates, we conservatively assume low automation to avoid overestimating GDP impacts. In the job exposure and potential displacement assessment, we show the full size of the potential displacement to avoid underestimating the job implications. The size of each re-employment channel is uncertain and depends on how the technology is adopted and the interplay between increased efficiency and how unmet demand translates into increased or decreased employment in various occupations.
Source: Implement Economics based on Eurostat, O*Net, CEDEFOP and Briggs and Kodnani (2023a).

Job changes from generative AI are small compared to historical averages

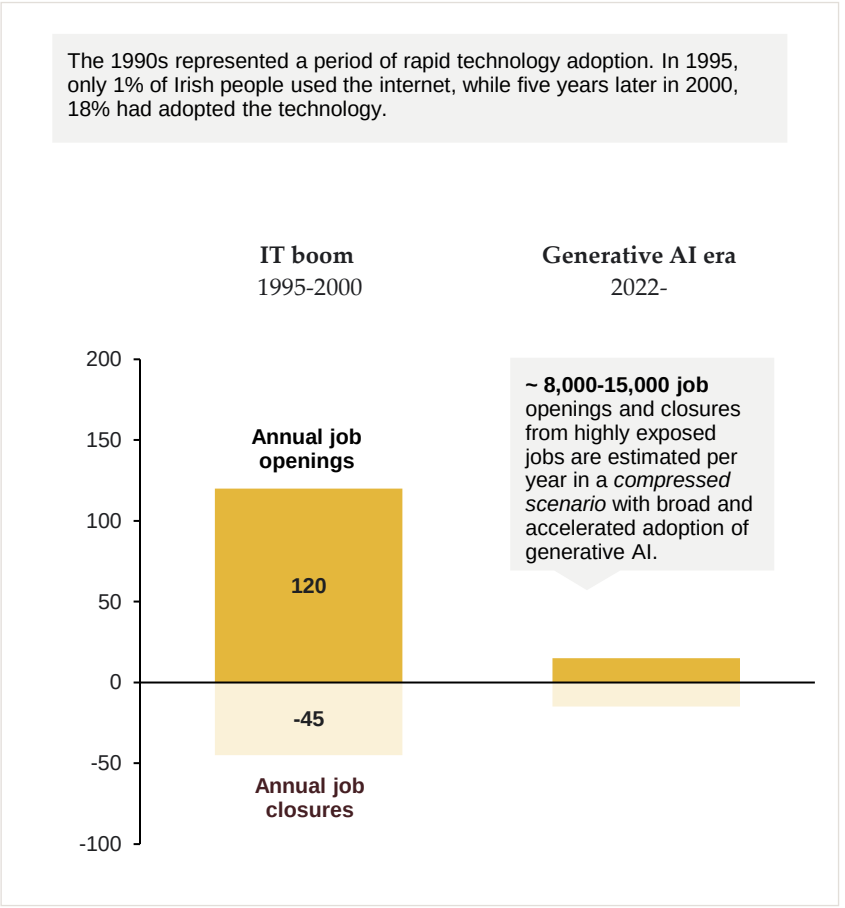
Change in employment across Irish sectors, 2008-2022

1,000 jobs



Job development during the 1990s IT boom in Ireland

1,000 jobs



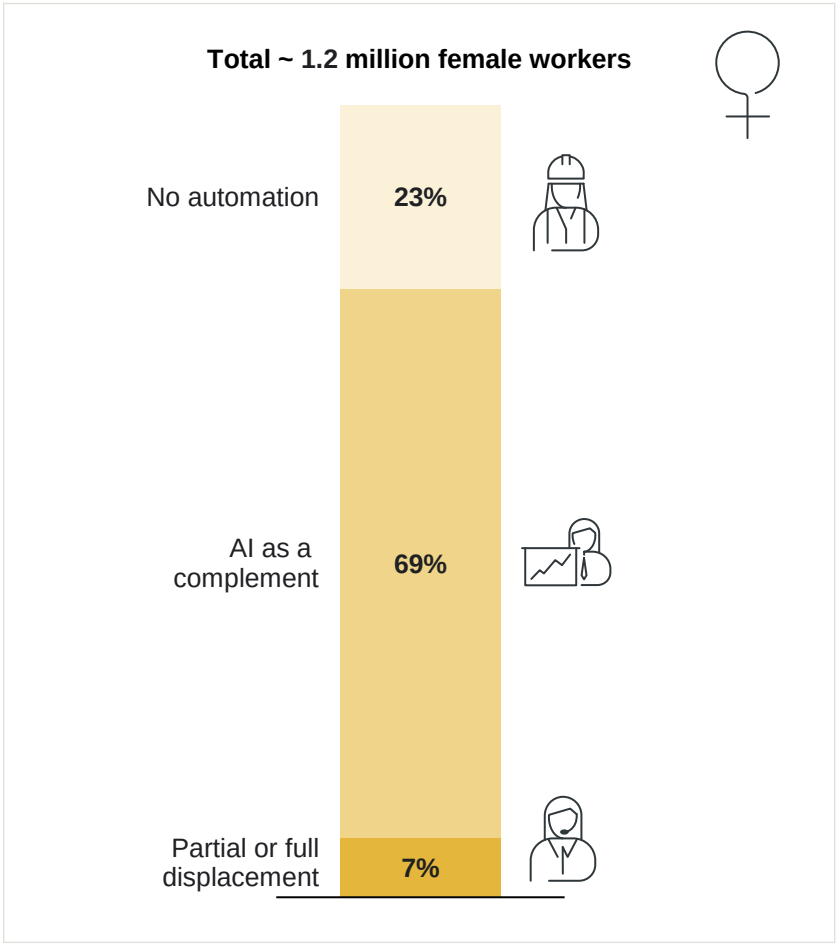
- The Irish economy has added more than 350,000 jobs over the last 15 years. A few sectors, such as construction and agriculture, have contracted, while most other sectors have added significant amounts of new jobs, e.g. information and finance and the public sector.
- In addition, numerous new jobs are being created and closed each year *within* each sector to adapt to changing needs and demands.
- During the rapid IT adoption in the 1990s, the Irish economy created around 120,000 new jobs each year and closed only 45,000 jobs annually during the same period.
- We estimate that the jobs that are highly exposed to generative AI can lead to 8,000-15,000 annual job openings and closures over the coming ten years. This is less than 15% of the historical average number of job openings in Ireland.
- The labour market effects stemming from generative AI's impact on highly exposed jobs are thus small compared to historical levels of job changes.
- To avoid underestimating the possible job impacts of generative AI, these estimates are in a *compressed scenario* with broader and more accelerated adoption of generative AI than in our estimates of the GDP impacts.

Note: a. Agriculture and primary sectors; b. Manufacturing; c. Utilities, raw materials and waste; d. Construction; e. Wholesale and retail trade; f. Transport and storage; g. Tourism and other services; h. Information and finance; i. Business services and real estate; j. Public administration, education and healthcare. Our GDP estimate makes conservative assumptions around the scope of tasks for generative AI and the speed of adoption as in the base scenario in Briggs-Kodnani (2023a). The *compressed scenario* used to gauge the potential job market implications assumes faster adoption (full adoption over ten years) and/or more broad application of generative AI (as in the Briggs-Kodnani scenario with "more labour displacement").
Source: Implement Economics based on Eurostat, World Bank and ECB.

A higher share of female workers are estimated to be affected by generative AI – both in terms of potentially positive and negative impacts

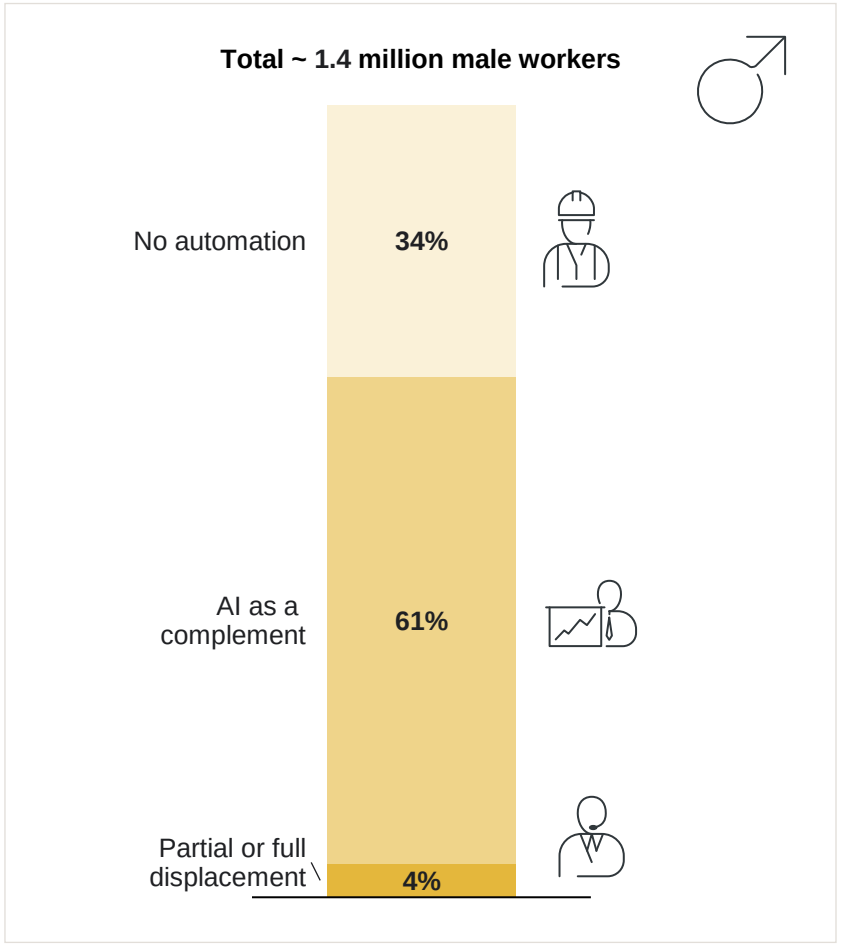
Share of female jobs exposed to automation by generative AI

% of total employment among female workers



Share of male jobs exposed to automation by generative AI

% of total employment among male workers



No automation

- 23% of female workers and 34% of male Irish workers are in jobs with limited exposure to generative AI. These are, for example, manual, outdoor and human-to-human jobs.

Complemented jobs

- 69% of female workers are expected to see generative AI complement their current job, whereas the share is only 61% for male workers. Female workers are, to a higher degree than men, employed in jobs such as teachers and lawyers, where generative AI is expected to augment human capabilities and make workers more productive.

Potentially displaced jobs

- 7% of female workers and 4% of male workers in Ireland are currently in jobs such as clerical work, call centres and technician work that are likely to be highly exposed to automation by generative AI and hence are more at risk of seeing their current jobs being fully or partially displaced by the new technology.

Note: Based on 2022 employment data. In accordance with Briggs and Kodnani (2023), "No automation" are occupations with less than 10% exposure, "AI as a complement" are occupations with 10-49% exposure, "Partial or full displacement" are occupations with exposure of or above 50%. Note that percentages and absolute numbers are rounded.
Source: Implement Economics based on Eurostat, O*Net and Briggs and Kodnani (2023a).

Workers need a broad set of skills to effectively use generative AI

Skill needs in the age of AI (incl. both generative and traditional), OECD

Skills …	*Type of skills*	*Examples*
… for developing and maintaining AI systems.	Specialised AI skills	Machine learning capabilities and knowledge
	Data science skills	Data analysis and visualisation, cloud computing and programming
	Other cognitive skills	Creating problem-solving
	Transversal skills	Social skills and management skills
… for adopting, using and interacting with AI applications.	Elementary AI knowledge	Principles of machine learning
	Digital skills	Ability to use computer/smartphone
	Other cognitive skills	Analytical skills, critical thinking and problem-solving
	Transversal skills	Creativity, communication, teamwork and multitasking

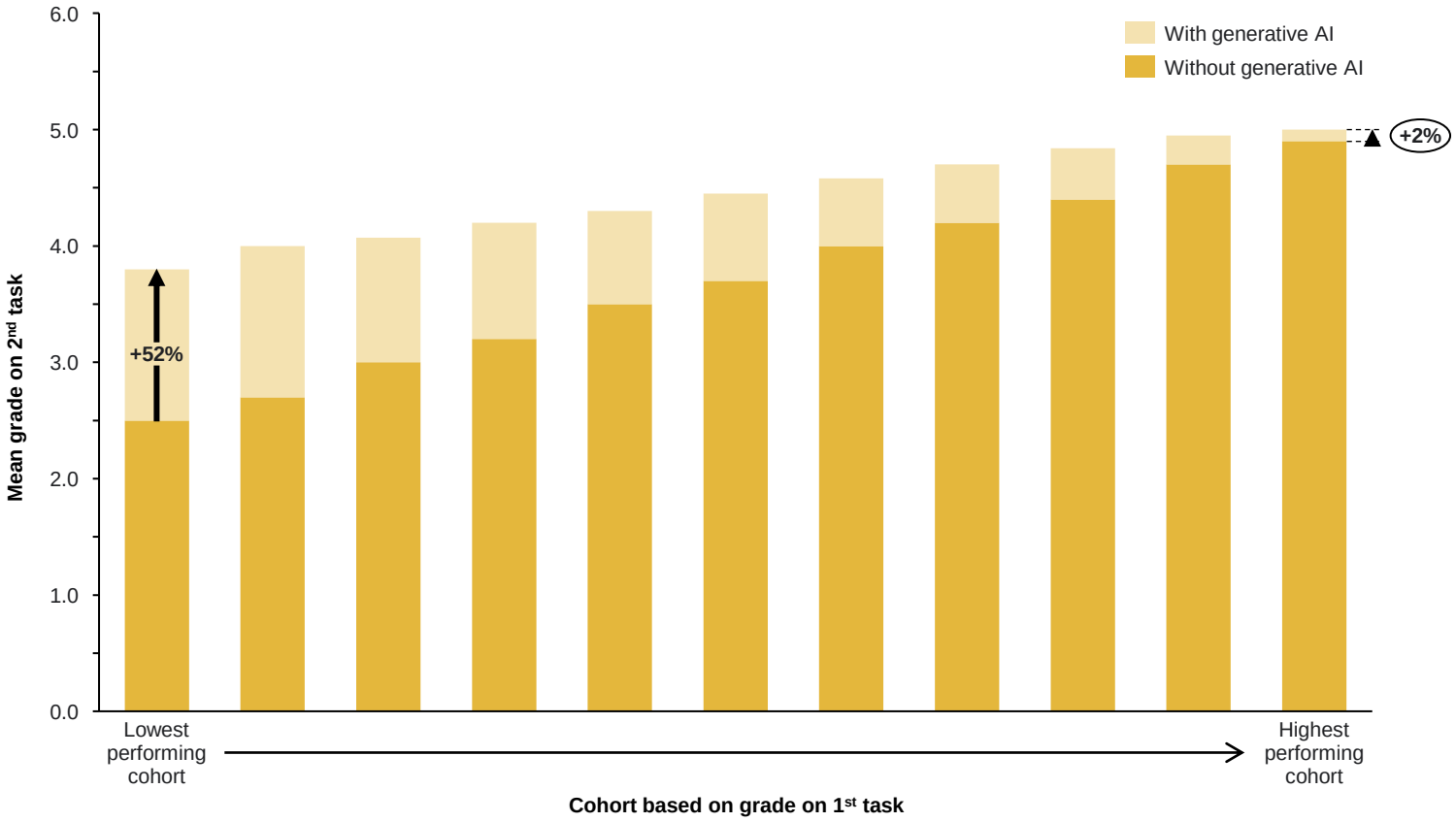
- Generative AI adoption and usage requires limited digital skills relative to earlier advancements in information and communication technology (ICT) due to its ease of use via normal language prompts.
- However, fully leveraging generative AI requires skills beyond basic digital skills, i.e. creative, managerial and analytical skills.
- OECD studies suggest that companies that provide ICT training for their employees on average have 3-5% higher growth in their annual labour productivity.
- The literature highlights that companies that combine technology/ICT adoption with employee training have higher implementation and financial success.

Note: "Nordic countries" refers to Denmark, Sweden, Portugal and Finland.
Source: Implement Economics based on OECD, Eurostat, Mosiashvili and Pareliussen (2020), Borowiecki et al. (2021), Gal et al. (2019), Andrews et al. (2016), Jiang et al. (2020) and Ouyang et al. (2022).

Early studies suggest that generative AI can help close the skills gap for those with the lowest skill levels

Grades with and without generative AI

Estimated mean grade on 2nd task



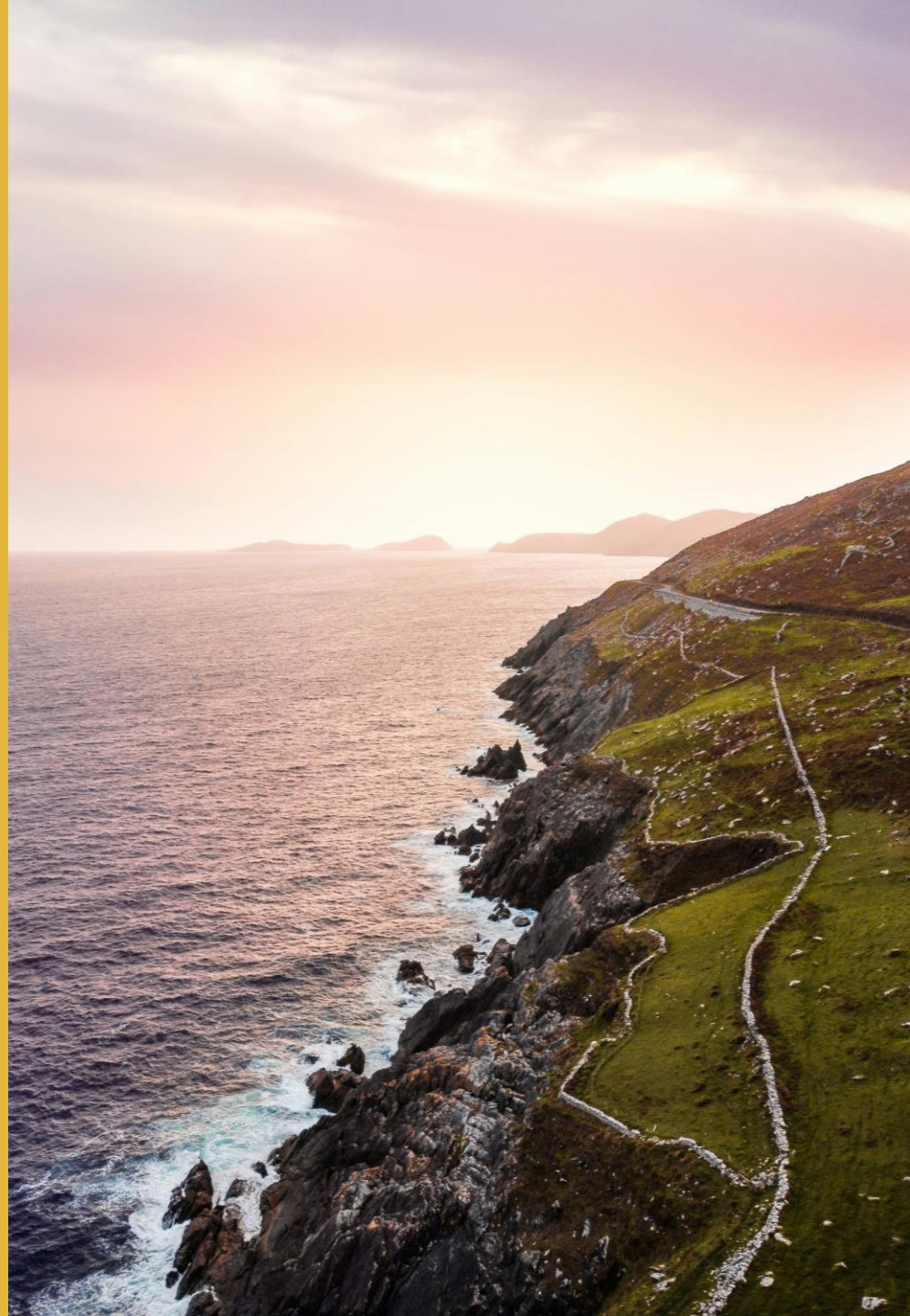
- AI requires a broad skill set to reap the benefits However, AI as a tool can itself augment the performance of human skills.
- Furthermore, generative AI can help close the skills gap by increasing the performance of those with the lowest skill levels.
- An experimental study by Noy and Zhang (2023) tested candidates' writing skills with and without access to generative AI.
- The results showed that, on average, all candidates were able to boost their grades on a written task with the use of generative AI – in this case, a large language model.
- The AI augmentation effect was highest among those with the lowest performance on the first task.
- The lowest-performing group increased their average grade by more than 50% when allowed to interact with a large language model, whereas the best-performing group increased performance by 2%.
- This study is an early indication that generative AI has the potential to boost skills for everyone *and* reduce skill inequalities in the labour market.

Note: The graph shows mean estimates for cohorts.
Source: Implement Economics based on Noy and Zhang (2023), Brynjolfsson et al. (2023) and Dell'Acqua et al. (2023).

05

AI’s impact on societal challenges

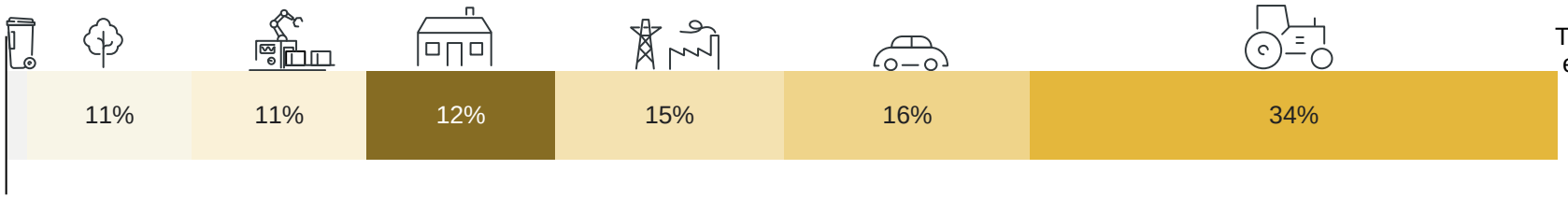
AI can help with some of Europe’s most pressing societal challenges.



AI can play a key role in addressing climate change

Ireland's net greenhouse gas emissions, 2021

$MtCO_2e$



Total GHG emissions

69

$MtCO_2e$

Decarbonisation initiatives enabled by AI and other digital technologies
(non-exhaustive)

Land use, land use change and forestry

- Advanced satellite imagery
- Remote sensing technologies
- Digital mapping and inventory systems

Manufacturing

- Smart factory with AI systems
- Efficiency improvements
- Electrification of lighter processes

Buildings

- Smart buildings
- Transition to heat pumps
- Improved energy efficiency

Energy supply

- Expansion of renewable energy
- Electrification
- Smart grid
- Flexible electricity demand

Domestic transport

- Electric cars, vans, buses and small trucks
- Efficient and eco-friendly driving
- Reduced travel by use of digital tools (working from home and video conferences)

Agriculture

- Efficiency improvements from precision farming
- Reduced food waste
- Changes in land use

- Artificial intelligence and other digital solutions are expected to play a key enabling role in reaching Ireland's climate goals of carbon neutrality by 2050.
- AI and other digital technologies can play a significant role in decarbonising the energy sector by supporting the transition to flexible energy utilisation and smart grids.
- Large gains also arise from facilitating the electrification of vehicles, where AI and other digital solutions are crucial to optimising the charging of EVs, providing a cleaner and cheaper solution for consumers.
- In manufacturing, AI and other digital solutions can help optimise energy efficiencies as well as reduce overproduction by more accurately forecasting demand.
- Agricultural emissions can also be reduced by AI and other digital solutions, where machine learning algorithms allow precision farming practices that are more eco-friendly and reduce consumption of, for example, fertilisers.

Note: Data on net greenhouse gas emissions and removals sent by countries to UNFCCC and the EU Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Mechanism (EU Member States). This data set reflects the GHG inventory data for 2021 as reported under the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change. CRF inventory categories: Energy supply: CRF 1A1 (energy industries) + 1B (fugitives); Industry and manufacturing: CRF 1A2 (manufacturing industries and construction) + CRF 2 (industrial processes and product use); Domestic transport: CRF 1.A.3; Residential and commercial: CRF 1A4a (commercial) + CRF 1A4b (residential); Agriculture: CRF 1A4c (agriculture, forestry and fishing) + CRF 3 (agriculture); Waste: CRF 5 (waste); LULUCF: CRF 4 (LULUCF); Other combustion (CRF1A5a + CRF1A5b + CRF indirect CO_2).
Source: Implement Economics based on the European Environment Agency (EEA).

AI can help optimise critical healthcare resources and improve patient care in Ireland

As part of a new healthcare reform, Ireland plans to establish six health regions in 2024 to provide more localised and responsive healthcare services tailored to the local community needs.

This reform comes at a time where Ireland is facing significant healthcare capacity constraints, especially related to inpatient care, as well as an increasing elderly population.

More hands are needed

- Despite a significant workforce expansion among doctors and nurses over the last five years, staff shortages remain a challenge, especially among general practitioners (GPs), with a growing and ageing population.
- In a system where GPs serve as gatekeepers to health services, a shortage of GPs leads to lower quality services, including longer waiting times, and overworked professionals.

Better treatment and care is required

- An ageing population requires more healthcare services and specialised care.
- Rising living standards drive up societal expectations for healthcare services.
- Chronic diseases are becoming more challenging and rare diseases more common.

Ireland has already integrated AI into the provision of public services and is piloting various AI applications in areas such as healthcare. Ireland's national AI Strategy sees great potential for AI in healthcare – from improving patient experiences to providing more accurate interventions for patients.

With high inpatient care capacity constraints in Ireland, AI holds particular promise in optimising services and cutting costs in hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

AI can help free up and optimise critical resources by …

- Automating tasks in healthcare administration, e.g. appointment scheduling.
- Recording and synthesising appointment notes, referral information and care plans.
- Enabling faster and more accurate screening and decision-making by physicians.
- Enabling physicians to undertake remote consultations.

AI can improve how we treat patients by …

- Analysing and enhancing medical images, enabling faster detection of diseases and injuries.
- Improving detection of complex and rare diseases with training data sets and smarter diagnostic tools.
- Predicting individual treatment responses by analysing different patient data.
- Enabling the development of targeted therapies.
- Tracking health issues and accidents through wearable devices and sensors.

Ireland is already utilising AI applications to improve patient care and alleviate workload pressures.

AI-based medical imaging at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

- The Mater hospital in Dublin became the first public hospital in Ireland to use AI in its radiology department.
- In 2023, the AI-based software had analysed over 15,000 scans, with over 700 pathologies being flagged within just a few minutes after scan completion.
- With an accuracy rate of 90 per cent, the hospital sees the software as a valuable tool to augment and expedite radiology capabilities.

Note: Hospital survey data is based on a survey conducted in April 2021 and priorities may have changed since then.
Source: Implement Economics based on Ireland's National AI Strategy, Public First and OECD/European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

06

AI readiness in Ireland

Ireland’s capacity to leverage the potential of AI can be evaluated based on several factors and compared to European and global frontrunners.

In assessing Ireland's AI readiness, we compare with other small digital frontrunner countries in Northern Europe

- In assessing Ireland's AI readiness, we can compare Ireland to a comparable group of small, digitally advanced and open European economies.
- Big economies, such as the United States, have an advantage when it comes to scale, i.e. absolute AI capacity, including the amount of commercial activity, availability of funding and volume of R&D.
- Common indicators, such as the Tortoise Global AI Index, compound both **scale** and **intensity** (AI capacity relative to population or GDP).
- As a small country, Ireland cannot compete on scale on, for example, the absolute amount of AI-related R&D investment. Ireland will be dependent on EU-wide initiatives.
- Therefore, Ireland should work for initiatives at EU level, especially in the areas of R&D investment, regulation and digital infrastructure.

The digital frontrunners of Northern Europe

Finland
#1 in DESI in 2022

Denmark
#2 in DESI in 2022

The Netherlands
#3 in DESI in 2022

Sweden
#4 in DESI in 2022

Norway
#5* in DESI in 2022

Ireland
#5 in DESI in 2022

Luxembourg
#8 in DESI in 2022

Estonia
#9 in DESI in 2022

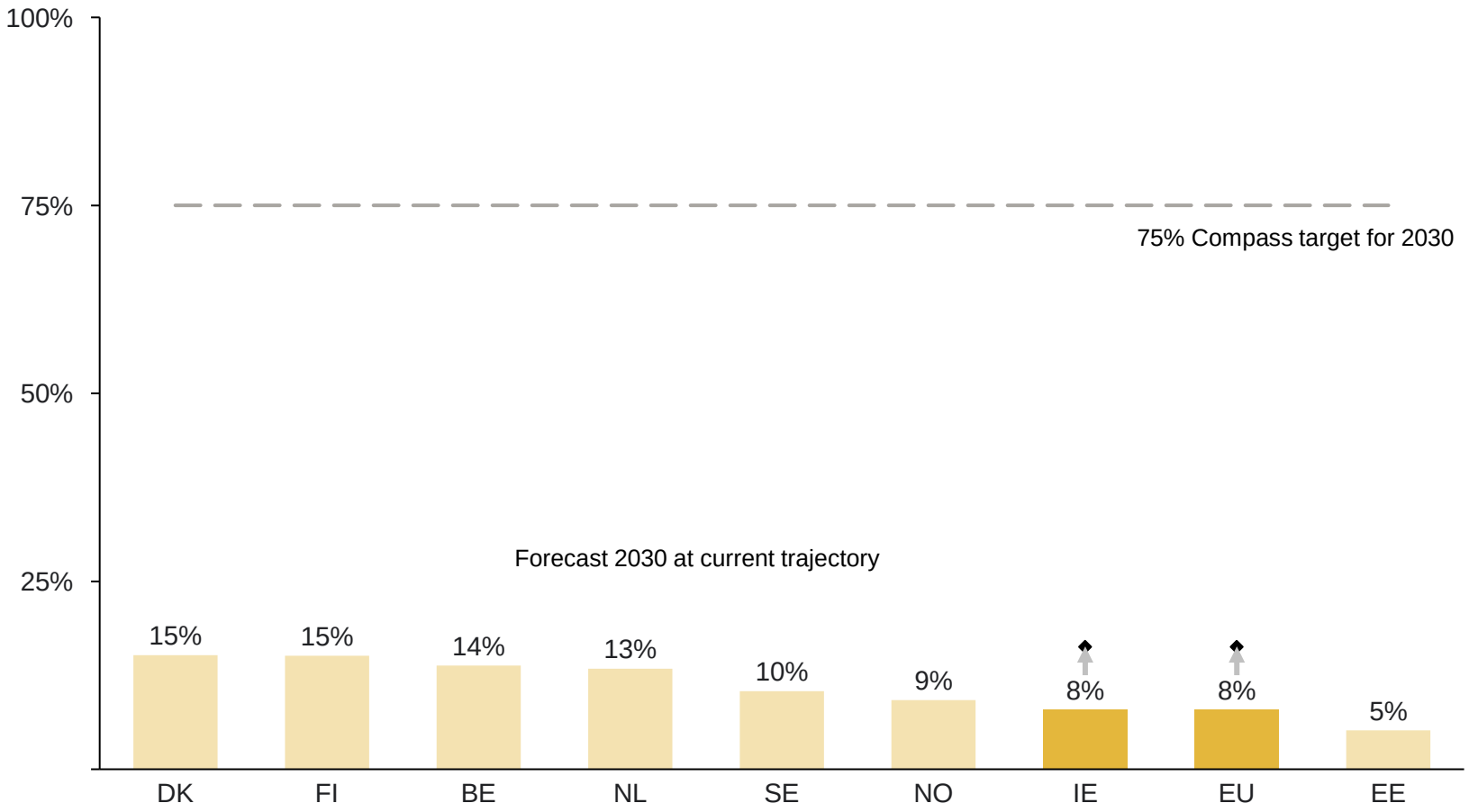
Belgium
#16 in DESI in 2022

Note: Ranking within the EU is shown. *) When we include Norway, it ranks #5 in DESI in the region.

AI adoption in Irish enterprises is on par with the EU average and far from the EU 2030 target of 75% adoption

Adoption of AI 2023

% of enterprises using at least one type of AI technology



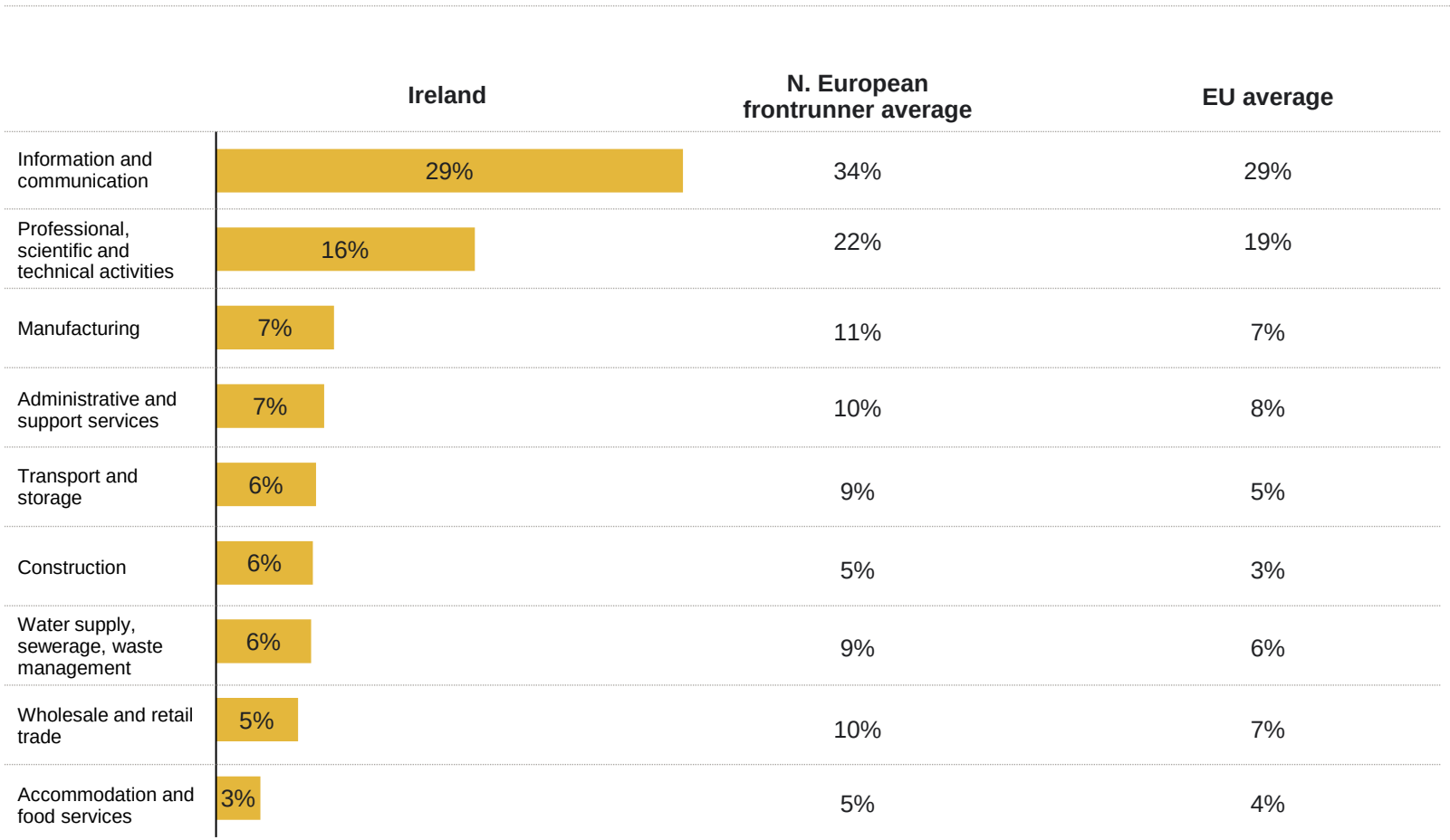
- Ireland ranks second to last among Northern European frontrunners and on par with the EU average in terms of AI adoption by enterprises. 8% of Irish companies had adopted at least one type of AI technology in 2023.
- There is a large gap in AI adoption between large enterprises and SMEs in Ireland: 36% and 7% had adopted AI in 2023, respectively. This gap is even larger than the average gap in EU countries.
- In its most recent assessment, the European Commission concludes that the EU is set to fall significantly short of its target on AI adoption for 2030.
- If we assume the same pace of adoption as the EU average, there is a risk that Ireland will fall short of the 2030 target.
- Firm-level adoption data underestimates actual use in business settings (see page 7) as many instances of individual-level AI use are not captured.
- According to a recent survey by Trinity College Dublin and Microsoft, 49% of organisations are using generative AI in some form. The survey finds that indigenous enterprises are lagging behind on adoption of generative AI compared to multinationals.

Note: Current adoption is from 2023 and includes enterprises with ten or more employees, excluding financial services. Forecast for 2030 is based on European Commission-forecasted AI adoption.
Source: Implement Economics based on Eurostat and the European Commission.

Ireland ranks below the Northern European frontrunner and EU average in terms of enterprise AI adoption across most sectors

Adoption of AI 2023 across sectors

% of enterprises using at least one type of AI technology



- Similar to other Northern European frontrunners and the EU average, companies in the information and communications sector were the most advanced in adopting AI technologies in Ireland. In this sector, 29% of Irish enterprises had adopted at least one type of AI technology in 2023. This was below the comparable frontrunner country average of 34%.
- Ireland lagged behind both the EU average and the Northern European frontrunner average in AI adoption across sectors – with significant potential to catch up, for example in professional, scientific and technical activities and wholesale and retail trade.
- In construction, more Irish companies had adopted AI technologies (6%) than the EU and frontrunner countries on average.
- The sector with the lowest level of AI adoption overall was the accommodation and food services sector.

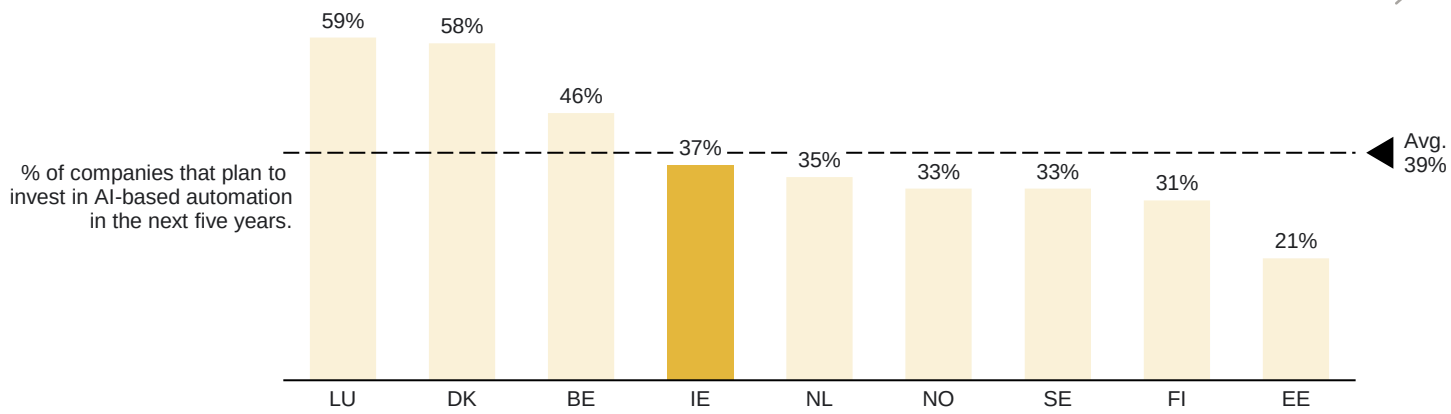
Note: Current adoption is from 2023 and includes enterprises with ten or more employees.
Source: Implement Economics based on Eurostat.

New survey data points to accelerated adoption but not enough to reach full potential

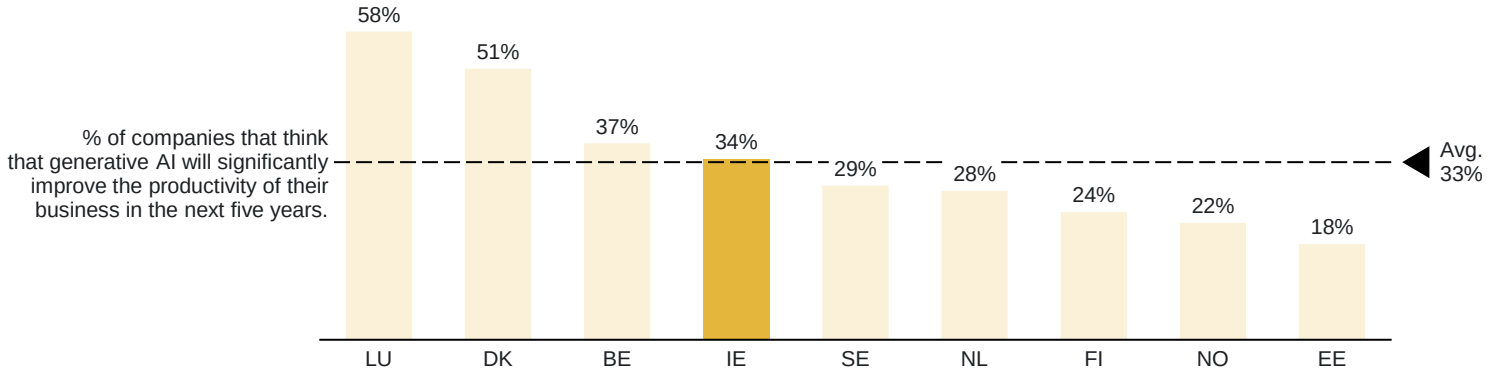
Survey responses from companies on their five-year outlook on generative AI

% weighted average of enterprises

Planned firm-level adoption of AI automation



Expected productivity boost from generative AI



- According to polling by Public First, 37% of companies in Ireland claim that they plan to invest in AI-based automation in the next five years. This is slightly lower than the Northern European frontrunner average of 39%.
- 34% of Irish companies anticipate a significant productivity impact from generative AI on their business in the next five years, which is on par with the Northern European frontrunner average.
- Additionally, 58% of Irish business leaders say that AI has already improved the productivity of their staff, and 52% say that AI has generated new ideas which have been implemented.
- While the five-year outlook generally suggests a fast pace of adoption, AI adoption is still in an early phase, and more complementary innovations, investments and commercial ventures in AI are needed to capture the full economic potential.

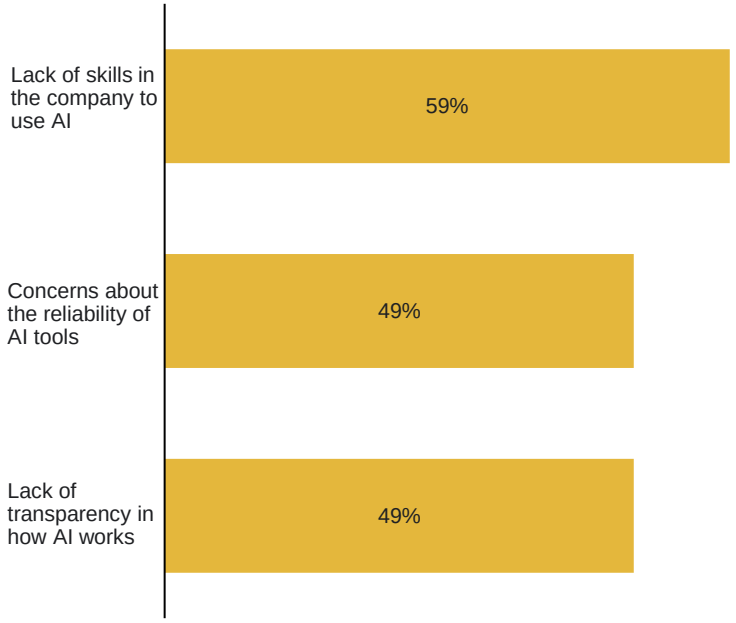
Note: Public First survey conducted in summer 2023 and Q1 2024 for Ireland and Estonia. Nationally representative consumer and business polling. Respondents of the survey include Ireland (IE), Sweden (SE), Denmark (DK), the Netherlands (NL), Belgium (BE), Luxemburg (LU), Finland (FI), Norway (NO) and Estonia (EE). Averages across countries are computed as arithmetic means.
Source: Implement Economics based on Public First country surveys.

59% of Irish companies point to a lack of internal skills as a barrier to AI adoption, and 41% believe they need enhanced cybersecurity skills to leverage the full potential of AI

A lack of skills is the most frequently cited barrier to AI adoption among Irish companies

What are the barriers to your business making more use of AI?

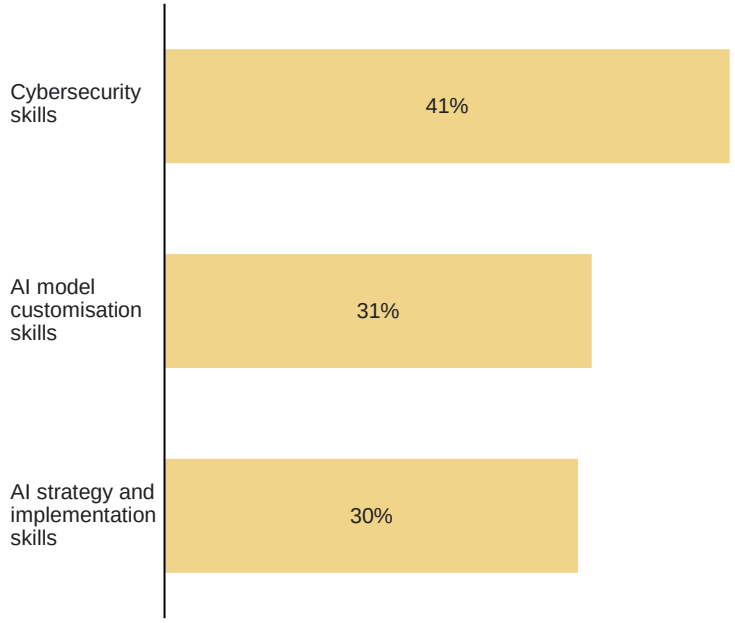
% weighted average of enterprises, 2024



Irish companies believe that they need more specific skills to fully leverage AI's potential

Which skills would you say your business needs more of to take full advantage of AI?

% weighted average of enterprises, 2024



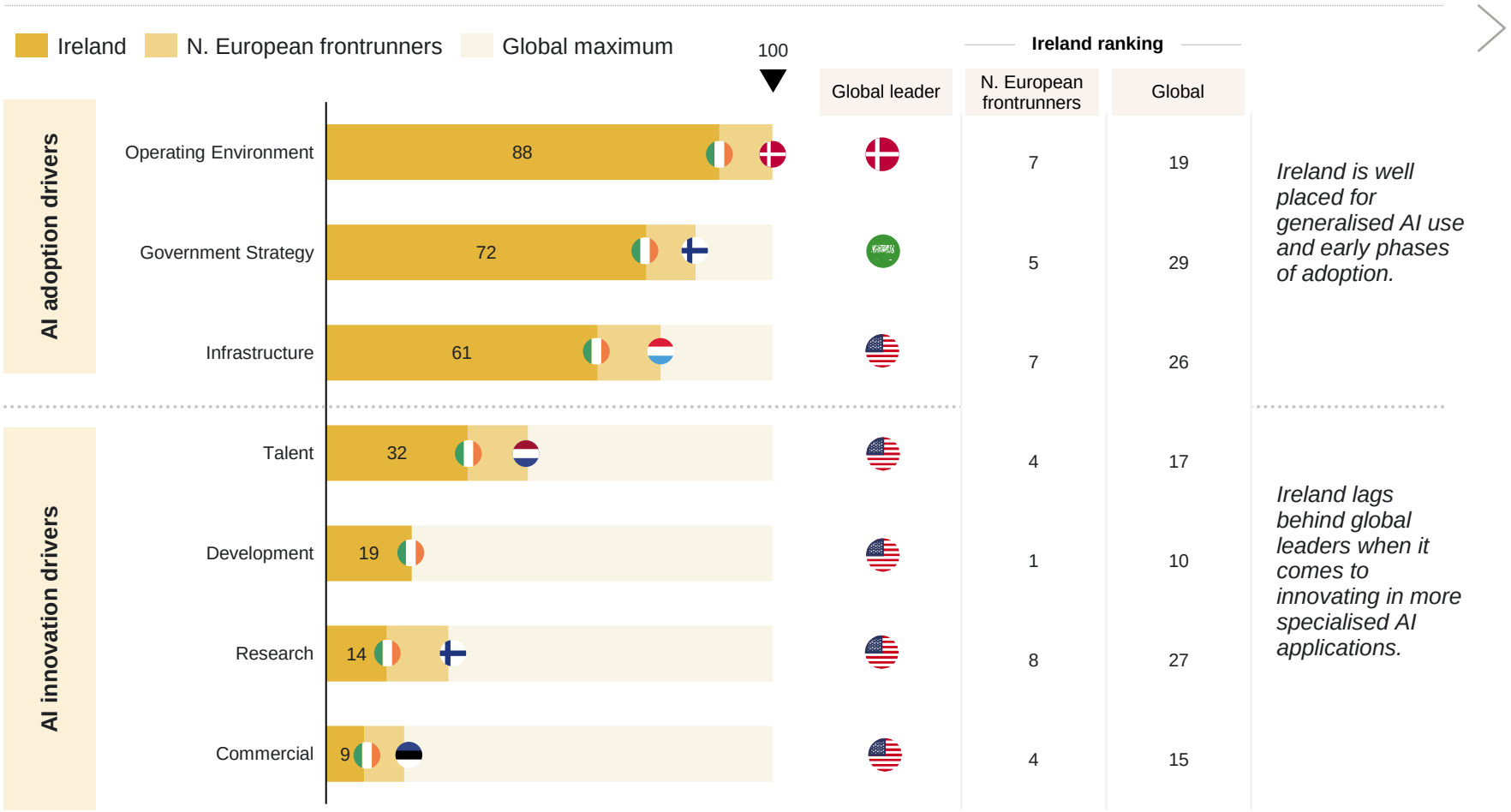
- Polling conducted by Public First reveals that 59% of Irish companies see a lack of internal skills as a barrier to AI adoption, while nearly half (49%) also point to the reliability and transparency of AI tools as further concerns.
- 41% of Irish companies recognise the need for enhanced cybersecurity skills to take full advantage of AI. Irish companies also cite a greater need for more specialised skills in AI customisation, strategy and implementation.

Note: Public First survey conducted in Q1 2024.
Source: Implement Economics based on Public First country survey.

Ireland is doing well on AI adoption drivers but lags behind globally on AI innovation capabilities

Ireland's AI capacity according to the Tortoise Global AI Index

Global AI Index, score out of 100 (global leader)



Ireland is well placed for generalised AI use and early phases of adoption.

Ireland lags behind global leaders when it comes to innovating in more specialised AI applications.

- Ireland is well positioned on the early foundational drivers of AI adoption that ensure a safe and reliable AI-ready environment: operating environment, government strategy and infrastructure.
- However, more specialised AI applications (e.g. foundational and fine-tuned models) and the realisation of full productivity gains will require a cohesive and competitive innovation ecosystem that is conducive to development and commercial uptake.
- Similar to the other Northern European frontrunners, Ireland lags behind globally on AI innovation drivers (talent, R&D and commercialisation). Here, the United States is far ahead globally, largely due to scale in AI capacity.
- Current gaps suggest that Ireland is at risk of losing its frontrunner position and needs to focus on strengthening AI-related innovation drivers, such as the build-up of AI-related talent and research.

Note: The Global AI Index looks at seven sub-pillars for AI capacity: talent (availability of skilled practitioners in AI solutions, including IT and STEM graduates, data scientists, AI professionals etc.), infrastructure (download speed, supercomputing capabilities etc.), operating environment (regulation, cybersecurity etc.), research (AI publications and citations etc.), development (fundamental platforms and algorithms etc.), government strategy (national funding commitments to AI etc.) and commercial ventures (AI start-up activity, investments etc.).
Source: Implement Economics based on Tortoise Media.

07

The way forward to capture the benefits of AI

Ireland can consider several choices to capture the benefits and navigate the dilemmas of AI.

Potentials, pitfalls and paradoxes

Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to be the most powerful technology in decades

- AI enables us to do things better and work more efficiently. It also enables us to do better things. With AI, we can focus on the best parts of our jobs and leave the rest to AI. Yet, AI is still in its infancy and how it is applied is highly uncertain.
- To make AI benefit humans and society as a whole will require pursuing the potentials, avoiding the pitfalls and navigating the paradoxes.
- The future of AI should *not* be reduced to a simple one-dimensional question: Should we have more AI or less AI – or even ban AI?
- AI is not a fixed thing with a predetermined future that can come quickly or slowly. AI is new, **uncertain** and malleable and will require wise choices by all stakeholders across business, governments and civil society.

Potentials

- The estimated economic potential assumes **widespread adoption** of generative AI within ten years.
- The estimate includes both narrow **labour-saving** impacts and broader **value-creating** impacts that enable workers to do something novel or powerful.
- It assumes that AI lives up to its promise of being the most radical **technological breakthrough** in decades.
- Moreover, we estimate that AI will **complement the majority of workers** and free up time to spend on non-routine, creative and inventive tasks.
- The result is an economy not simply at a higher level of productivity, but at a **permanently higher growth rate**.

Pitfalls

- Displaced workers might end up in **less productive jobs** (than already assumed).
- AI may end up being **less promising** or less ready to bring to market than initially hoped.
- Time to market may be **challenged by a legal regime** not designed for AI.
- Companies may **miss out on the benefits** of AI by lack of competences or failing to change organisations and habits.
- National regulators, driven by any number of concerns, may **impose strict regulations** that slow the speed of AI development.
- **Regulatory uncertainty** and lack of clarity on future rules may delay the uptake.

Paradoxes

- How can policies encourage the types of AI that complement human labour and best prepare those at risk of losing a job to AI?
- What choices will encourage the development of AI that companies of all sizes can access instead of just the largest ones?
- What kind of investment in AI research and development might unleash the most interesting new ideas, innovations and applications in support of overall societal value?
- What kind of high-performance computer infrastructure is needed to power the new technology, and how is that best provided?

Note: For more background AI policies and principles, see **OECD**, **IMF** and **Google**.

Unlocking the AI opportunity by creating trust *and* preserving the incentive to invest

Benefits from new waves of technology do not come automatically. As with past waves of technology, it takes time for people to trust the technology. Regulators across the world are set to ensure the safety of the technology while achieving its benefits. The EU's AI Act aims to lead on this. In the urgent efforts to achieve broad-based trust, regulators may create fragmentation, misalignment and uncertainty about future rules, which can hamper investment and adoption.

Developers and early technology adopters will need clarity on future rules. Clarity is needed regarding, for example, the requirements for transparency in the functioning of the generative AI models, the data used to train them, issues of bias and fairness, potential intellectual property issues, possible privacy violations as well as security concerns.

To navigate these choices, this report offers five perspectives:

Enable innovation and invest in AI research and development

- Invest in long-term public AI research and encourage private investment in basic and applied research at national and EU level.
- Foster industry, government and university innovation partnerships to undertake pre-commercial AI research projects.
- Support innovation on top of already developed foundational models and findings, e.g. by leveraging the new EU AI innovation package.
- Make AI tools available to entrepreneurs and scientists so they can use AI in support of other discoveries and innovations.
- Support international research collaboration, technology transfer and international movement of researchers.

Create a conducive and aligned AI regulation

- Avoid siloed approaches to AI regulation to minimise the risk of misalignment and fragmentation by increased international co-operation.
- Ensure copyright rules that support innovation and creativity and preserve the incentive to generate new content.
- Adopt a risk-based approach to AI regulation to provide clarity to developers, adopters and users about which uses are disallowed.
- Encourage privacy and security principles so that individuals' personal data is safeguarded.

Promote widespread adoption and universal accessibility

- Promote widespread adoption and universal accessibility by helping governments, small businesses and all sectors of the economy adopt and use AI.
- Lead with the public sector adoption of AI solutions, which may require overcoming procurement roadblocks that often appear when public entities aim to adopt new technologies.
- Create a national strategy to spur AI adoption across all industries and all sizes of businesses.
- Give small businesses an "AI jumpstart" through technical assistance, training and guidance to help them understand and leverage AI for their businesses.

Build human capital and an AI-empowered workforce

- Build an AI-empowered workforce by investing in human capital, education and training systems. This means treating AI as a core component of the education system.
- Focus training and upskilling on areas where AI enhances and augments the capabilities of workers so that workers are trained to work together with the new technology. The aim should be to improve the marginal productivity of workers rather than replace them.
- In those selected types of jobs where AI risks displacing workers, efforts should be devoted to reskilling workers for other jobs.
- Ensure a flexible labour market and continuous lifelong training enabling new opportunities in the labour market.

Invest in AI infrastructure and compute power

- Ensure the right incentive and regulation for public and private entities to invest in AI infrastructure and compute capacity such as graphics processing and supercomputers needed to drive the powerful AI models.
- Enable trusted cross-border data flows in trade agreements and ensure regulatory interoperability and non-discrimination in the EU.
- Support the building of cross-border AI infrastructure and subsea cables through initiatives such as the G7 partnership for global infrastructure and investment.
- Reduce electricity emissions from data centres by promoting ambitious decarbonisation strategies such as 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy.

Note: For more details on policies, see OECD AI principles, OECD AI Observatory, EU's ethic guidelines for trustworthy AI, EU's AI innovation package, Google's AI principles and paper on "An Opportunity Agenda for AI". For more details on carbon-free energy and digital decarbonisation, see European perspective and global perspective.

Ireland can draw on policy choices of other frontrunners

Ireland can draw on best practice initiatives from other Northern European frontrunners

Indicator	Operating environment	Infrastructure	Talent	Development	Research	Commercial
Northern European leaders						
Best practice	Denmark is a **pioneer in enforcing transparency and ethical use of AI** and has introduced principles and tools to ensure responsible AI deployment. The tools are aimed at building trust in AI technologies. **Example**: Guide for responsible use of generative AI • Formal ethics and safety guidelines for using and implementing AI publicly and privately. • *Datavejviseren:* A platform that provides access to all public data sources. • *Sprogteknologi:* Supports the development of AI solutions in Danish.	Finland is home to one of the **fastest supercomputers** in the world called LUMI. Up to 20% of the LUMI supercomputer's capacity has been reserved for European industry and SMEs, including access to the LUMI user support team, enabling companies to take advantage of high-performance computing for innovation and development activities. **Example:** Poro LLMs • A family of open LLMs built and trained on the LUMI supercomputer. • With its advanced capabilities with low-resource languages, Poro will be built to handle all 24 languages of the EU.	The Netherlands is nurturing and growing AI **talent through targeted and joint undertakings by industry and research institutions.** **Example:** Kickstart AI • Host AI superchallenges to solve societal issues and promote talent globally. • Create joint industry-academia appointments, adding 25 new positions to enhance education and training. • Promote a national AI course, aiming to reach 170,000 people.	The Dutch AI development efforts are centred on creating robust, innovative and commercially viable AI technologies through collaborative initiatives involving public-private partnerships. **Example:** AiNed • AiNed focusses on accelerating the application and integration of AI technologies to boost economic growth and address societal challenges. • It pools resources from over 250 entities, blending public funding and private sector expertise to propel the Netherlands into a leadership position in global AI markets.	Finland's long track record in AI research is a testament to its **world-renowned universities** offering a variety of AI courses/programmes, active industry-academic collaboration and innovative startups with roots in universities and research. **Example:** AI for Business program (2018-2021) • Funding targeted for all-sized companies and research institutions for AI R&D projects. • Aimed to increase AI expertise and build global ecosystems and research collaborations.	Estonia recognises itself as being an **implementation leader** for startups and AI applications. The national AI strategy (2019) outlines 12 initiatives to accelerate AI uptake in companies, including different funding measures and 9 initiatives to increase R&D. **Example:** AI & Robotics Estonia (AIRE) • Supports Estonian industrial companies in adopting smart digital solutions in the field of AI and robotics. • Provides funding and expertise through training and consulting as well as by connecting companies with service providers.

Note: Luxembourg scores highest among Northern European frontrunners in infrastructure, which is largely due to high per capita supercomputing capacity, but we find it more appropriate to refer to Finland (ranking second among its peers in infrastructure) for best practice.

Ireland can capture the AI potential with a balanced set of choices

Grow R&D by local innovators

Enable **innovation** and invest in AI **research and development**

Dilemma

Ensuring performance of AI technology in an Irish context

and

Driving application of leading global AI technology

Recommendation

- Ireland has attracted a range of global tech companies, bringing leading tech knowledge and innovation capabilities into the country. However, Ireland falls behind in AI-related research and application across sectors.
- Ireland should build on existing initiatives such as Impact 2030, the National AI Strategy and projects like gaBERT and establish a clear strategic direction across these initiatives. Another lever could be to foster public, private and academic partnerships inspired by, for example, the Dutch AiNed programme.

Accelerate commercial uptake

Promote widespread **adoption** and universal accessibility

Dilemma

Encouraging AI-based business models in tech-focused startups

and

Facilitating AI adoption in traditional, established companies

Recommendation

- Despite hosting some of the world's largest tech companies, showcasing a significant AI adoption in large enterprises, Ireland's SMEs lag behind in AI adoption compared to European peers.
- Ireland should seek to leverage the national presence of multinational tech giants by incentivising partnerships and mentorship programmes between these corporations and SMEs. This can facilitate knowledge transfer, provide access to advanced AI tools and resources and encourage the development of AI-based business models in the start-up ecosystem.

Retrain and upskill workforce

Build **human capital** and an AI-empowered workforce

Dilemma

General AI upskilling across population

and

Targeted reskilling of groups affected by AI

Recommendation

- Ireland has made significant advances in AI talent, fuelled by government initiatives as well as the presence of tech giants like Meta, Google and Apple. Yet, there is a prevailing need to secure AI knowledge and application capabilities among management and employees in non-tech sectors.
- Drawing inspiration from the European Year of Skills 2023 initiative, Ireland could develop similar national programmes to specifically target mid-career professionals in non-tech sectors for AI upskilling, ensuring a broadened AI fluency across all areas of the workforce, especially in SMEs.

Note: For more details on policies, OECD AI Observatory and Google's policy paper on "AI Opportunity".

08

Annex

Modelling the impacts of generative AI in Ireland.

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Modelling the economic opportunity for Ireland

Overview of the methodological approach to calculating economic growth and productivity impact from generative AI

The economic effects are calculated in the following steps

1. **Automation potential of work activities:** First, the exposure to generative AI is calculated by breaking down the automation potential of 39 different work activities/tasks in the occupational task database O*NET. The database includes an estimate of the share of each activity (e.g. getting information, performing administrative activities etc.) that can be automated by generative AI (if the activity is above level 4 on an O*NET-defined scale of difficulty 1-7, no automation potential is assumed).

2. **Mapping automation potential of work activities to occupations:** The automation potential of the work activities is mapped in ten European industry aggregates in two sub-steps. First, the 39 work activities for 900 US occupations are mapped using importance-average activities for each occupation, providing an estimate of the share of each occupation's total workload that AI has the potential to automate. Secondly, this number is projected from US to European occupations through the European Commission's crosswalk between ESCO and O*NET and finally compiled into aggregated occupations (using the sub-occupation employment). This leaves us with the three shares that describe how big a share of the work activates for each occupation is expected to see: No automation, AI complement and Likely replacement.

3. **Quantifying productivity gains in each sector:** Generative AI is assumed to affect the productivity of the work activities for each occupation as follows (see section 3 for further details). The "No automation" share of work activities is assumed to be unaffected by generative AI. "AI complement" work activities experience a productivity boost from automation. "Likely replacement" is the share of work activities in a sector that is expected to be entirely automated/replaced. These workers are expected to be re-employed in slightly less productive jobs. The three effects are calculated across sectors and scaled by each sector's value added to determine the full productivity potential/generation of new jobs from generative AI across the economy, once the technology adoption peaks.

4. **Aggregate GDP impact:** Based on the estimated increase in labour productivity resulting from AI adoption, the result is aggregated to an overall GDP. Only part of the total long-run productivity increases from generative AI is expected to materialise in the economy during the initial ten-year period of technology adoption following an S-curve adoption trajectory.

- The method used to calculate productivity and GDP effects of generative AI in this paper is in line with the methodology developed by Briggs and Kodnani (2023) in "The Potentially Large Effects of Artificial Intelligence on Economic Growth".

Note: Methodology is based on Briggs and Kodnani (2023a).
Source: Implement Economics based on the European Commission, Eurostat, O*Net and Briggs and Kodnani (2023a).

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