



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Spending Review 2021 – An Analysis of the Distribution of Enterprise Supports

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Spending Review 2021 – Overview, Aims & Objectives



Overview

- The Department of Enterprise received €1.7 billion in expenditure in 2020. In the years 2015-2019 they received an average €857 million per annum.
- Given the level of expenditure the department receives and the importance of the department to the economic development of the country, it is of policy importance to have a clear understanding where this expenditure goes in the economy.

Aims and Objectives

- This paper carries out a descriptive analysis on the distribution of enterprise supports from the enterprise agencies under the aegis of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for the years 2015-2020.
- The distribution of supports are analysed at a firm, regional and sectoral level. The paper primarily focuses on Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, and Local Enterprise Offices.

Spending Review 2021 – Key Findings



Key Policy Relevant Findings

- Over 2015-2020 a total of €1.6bn of payments and €2.4bn of approvals were made.
- A higher number of approvals and payments are made to smaller firms compared to larger firms. In value terms the percentage allocated across firms increases with firm size.
- 92% of firms who receive a payment are Irish owned. However, non-Irish owned firms receive a higher allocation in value terms on a proportionate basis.
- Dublin (32%), Cork (13%) and Galway (8%) are the counties which receive the greatest level of support when you combine the supports of all agencies.
- Manufacturing sector receives most payments for the agencies combined (47%). Next is information and communication (21%) and then finance and insurance (21%).
- Within manufacturing, Enterprise Ireland has a strong focus on food products and beverages. IDA Ireland focuses support on medical devices and pharmaceuticals.
- Policy considerations include how the distribution of supports aligns with balanced development, the need to monitor the level of approvals made and reviewing data systems.