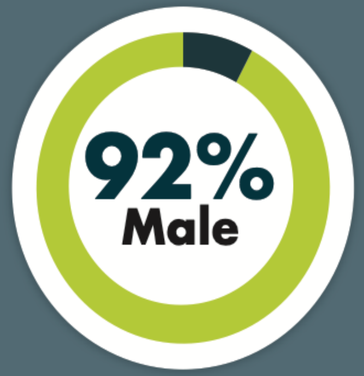
GENERATION APPRENTICESHIP
www.apprenticeship.ie

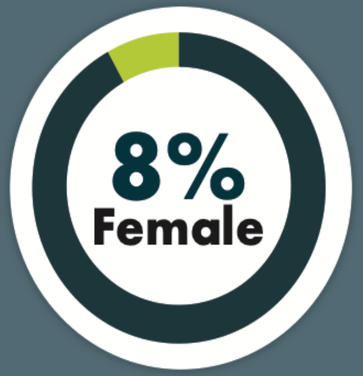
NATIONAL SURVEY OF APPRENTICES 2024-2025

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP OFFICE GENERATION APPRENTICESHIP

PROFILE OF APPRENTICES IN IRELAND*



of apprentices are male



of apprentices are female

9.5% 18 years or under

53.5% 19-22 years

24.1% 23-30 years

12.8% 31 years or over

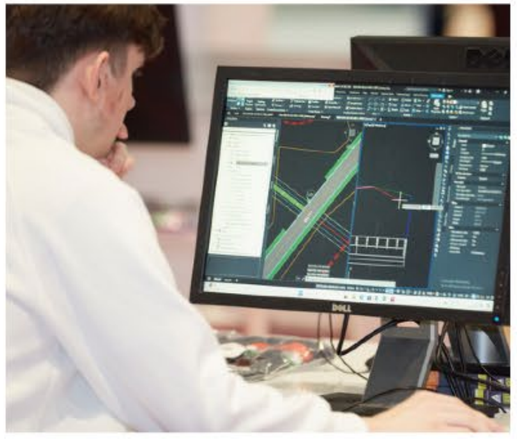
80% have completed the Leaving Certificate or a more advanced qualification

* Profile of apprentices in October 2024 at the time the survey took place

2024

28,434

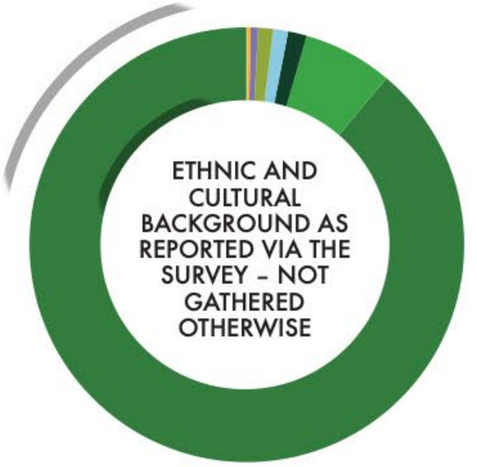
apprentices



5,578

responses

A national survey of apprentices was completed during October-November 2024. It built on the last survey which was carried out in 2020. The 2024 survey went to 28,434 apprentices and there were 5,578 responses. Those responding closely matched the apprentice population in terms of age, gender and apprenticeship type.



88.7% White Irish	**6.6%** Any other White background	**1.6%** Other mixed background	**1.1%** Black or Black Irish - African
1.0% Asian or Asian any other	**0.5%** White Irish Traveller	**0.3%** Asian or Asian Irish Chinese	**0.2%** Black or Black Irish - Other

SURVEY FINDINGS

16% have caring responsibilities (children, parents, other caring responsibilities)

5% reported a disability

68% of those with a disability reported it as a learning disability

89% of apprentices identify as white Irish

5% report being from another ethnic or cultural background

0.5% of apprentices responding are from the Traveller community

TOP 3 REASONS WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE THE APPRENTICESHIP ROUTE:

1. To get into a specific career
2. To be able to learn while earning
3. Gaining a major qualification

16% SAID THEY EXPERIENCED BARRIERS IN GETTING AN APPRENTICESHIP. THE TOP 3 BARRIERS ARE:

1. Finding an employer
2. Being able to afford to take this route
3. Accessing information about apprenticeships

APPRENTICES EXPERIENCE OF THEIR APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING OVERALL

76% said they their apprenticeship includes up-to-date and relevant skills for employment

80% of apprentices would recommend an apprenticeship to a friend or family member

94% reported that the apprenticeship provided them with good employment opportunities

84% said their apprenticeship gave them confidence in their ability to learn

85% said that they were pleased they chose the apprenticeship route over other study or work options

Apprentices reported a 7.5 out of 10 overall satisfaction rating with their apprenticeship

EXPERIENCE IN THE WORKPLACE

TOP 6 FINDINGS

1. **80%** are satisfied with their learning in the workplace
2. **89%** believe that mentoring in the workplace is an important part of their training and development
3. **85%** said their employer is supportive of their development as an apprentice
4. **85%** feel part of the organisation where they work
5. **94%** feel they positively contribute to the workplace
6. **38%** Were asked to complete work unrelated to their apprenticeship

EXPERIENCE IN COLLEGE

82% believe that skills learned in college are useful.

96% say they feel happy to ask questions in the learning environment

87% stated that teaching staff are supportive of their learning

30% indicated that they experienced learning challenges during their apprenticeship.

THE TOP 3 LEARNING CHALLENGES

1. Linking theory to practice
2. Feeling overwhelmed by the study component of their apprenticeship
3. Acquiring new information that was not already learned in the workplace.

NEXT STEPS

A detailed report on the findings from the survey of apprentices is being prepared and will be published during 2025. The findings will be compared with those from the 2020 national survey. In addition, the National Apprenticeship Office is following up on findings from the survey to ensure that the feedback from apprentices helps to continuously improve the system. Over 2,000 individual comments were received with very valuable insights into the experience of apprentices. All responses have been anonymised to ensure full confidentiality in the survey process.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP OFFICE GENERATION APPRENTICESHIP