

## **Report on JOBS VACANCIES IN CLARE in 2013**

### Rationale

The information officer with Clare Adult Educational Guidance and Information Service maintains a database of jobs advertised in the Appointments section of the Clare Champion newspaper. The database can be searched at <http://www.clareguidance.ie/jobs/index.php> and is updated each week. The database provides a historical record of jobs advertised in the main local paper in Co. Clare. This can be useful for a number of reasons.

- Learners can use it as a job seeking resource.
- Learners can use it as a source of labour market information to help inform their course/subject choice.
- Management can use it as a course planning tool to see where progression opportunities exist locally and plan courses and training programmes accordingly.
- It can be used to identify local employers with whom we can seek to engage with for employer visits, lectures, work placement, programme and curriculum design etc.

### Sample

The sample contains jobs advertised in the 'Appointments' section of the Clare Champion newspaper every Thursday. It does not contain those advertised in the small ads in the 'situations vacant' column. Sometimes there was more than one job listing per advertisement. Data was captured for 542 vacancies in 2013. This represents a small increase on 2012 where 521 vacancies were recorded.

### Method

Each advertisement in the database was examined and jobs recorded according to broad occupational area and more specific job type. Where available the area of the county in which the job was located was recorded (Ennis, North Clare, South Clare, East Clare, West Clare, Countywide and Other including Limerick). In cases where no job location was provided the location of the employer was used. Whether the job was part time or full time was also recorded where this information was available.

Occupations were broken down into 24 sectors according to a slightly modified version of the Careers Information Index, a classification system used in careers libraries e.g. Jobfile.

## Results

**Table 1 Breakdown of Job Vacancies by Sector\***

Job Sector	Types of Job Advertised	%age of vacancies in 2013 (change in %age share)
Catering & Hospitality	Chefs (all grades), Waiting staff, bar staff, kitchen staff, deli staff, bar and restaurant managers.	21% (↓3%)
Healthcare, Community Care, Social Care	Nurses, Carers, Support Workers.	17% (↑6%)
Retail Sales & Customer Services	Sales Assistants, Shop Managers, Customer Service Agents, Butchers, Fresh Food Managers, Pharmacy Staff, Field Sales, Car Sales.	13% (↓5%)
Administration, Business & Office Work	Legal Secretaries, Medical Receptionists, School Secretaries, Administrators, Co-ordinators, Managers	11% (↑3%)
Engineering	CNC toolmakers and milling and turning operatives, Car and HGV mechanics, various engineering roles (quality, manufacturing, electrical, systems)	9% (↑5.4%)
Personal & Other Services	Barbers and Hairdressers, Stylists, Beauty Therapists, Nail Technician, Cleaners, Porters, Caretakers	5% (↓2%)
Childcare	Childcare Assistants, Preschool staff, Montessori Teachers, Managerial staff	4.5% (=)
Financial Services	Accounts Assistants, Insurance Administrators and brokers, Account relationship managers (mortgages)	3% (↓1%)
Leisure Sport & Tourism	Fitness Instructors, Life Guards, GAA promotion officer.	2.5% (↓1.3%)
Manufacturing & Production	CNC machinist/ operator, planner, regulatory affairs specialist, manufacturing engineer.	2% (=)

\*Table only includes sectors with at least 2% share of total job vacancies (10+ job vacancies)

The top 3 employment sectors in which vacancies were advertised in the Clare Champion was the same as in 2012 and 2011. Catering & Hospitality, Healthcare, Community Care and Social Care and Retail Sales and Customer Services were the sectors with the most jobs advertised in 2013. Just as in 2012 these sectors combined accounted for over half of all job vacancies.

There was a notable increase in the amount of vacancies advertised in the engineering sector during 2013 with 50 vacancies recorded as opposed to just 19 in 2012. There was also

a large increase in Healthcare, Community Care and Social Care vacancies and a smaller increase in vacancies in Administration, Business and Office Work.

**Table 2: The 5 most advertised occupations in Clare Champion in 2013.**

Occupation	Percentage of Total Vacancies
Chef (all grades)	9%
Care Assistants/ Support Workers	8.5%
Sales Assistants (shop, field, telesales, office)	8.3%
Registered Nurse	6%
Bar Staff/Waiting Staff	4.6%

The 5 most advertised occupations in the Clare Champion are the same as last year though the order in which they appear has changed somewhat with increased vacancies targeted at healthcare workers. All these occupations, with the exception of nursing, have low barriers to entry and high turnover of staff.

**Table 3: Distribution of Job Vacancies in Clare in 2013.**

	Ennis	North Clare	South Clare	West Clare	East Clare	Countywide	Other Incl Unspecified
%age of vacancies advertised	40% (216 jobs)	14.4% (78 jobs)	14.2% (77 jobs)	9.2% (50 jobs)	2% (11 jobs)	5.2% (28 jobs)	15% (82 jobs)

The distribution of job vacancies in Clare in 2013 shows a decrease in job vacancies in Ennis and North Clare and small increases in South Clare and West Clare. The number of vacancies in East Clare advertised in the Clare Champion remains very small at just 11 jobs for the whole year. The number of jobs in the Other category increased significantly mainly due to an increased number of employers in Limerick advertising in the Champion.

### Points to Note

Only a subset of the total jobs advertised in Co. Clare are included (i.e. those on the job vacancies page in the Clare Champion). Obviously there are many other possible sources of vacancies. On the one hand this limits the accuracy of the report somewhat however it also means that the same jobs advertised in multiple places won't be counted more than once.

Certain sectors may be more likely to advertise jobs in a local paper than others. Employers in the local services sectors are more likely to advertise in the Clare Champion than those for example in the local IT sector. This may mean the report underestimates job availability in certain sectors. Jobseekers looking for a comprehensive source of job vacancies should use other resources also for example [www.indeed.ie](http://www.indeed.ie)

It is important to realise that even during times of economic fragility there is always demand for recruits in occupations which employ large numbers of people and are marked by higher turnover of staff for example sales, clerical, caring and catering (Fox, 2009). From this viewpoint it is probably not surprising that these are the sectors in which the most number of vacancies have occurred in Clare over the last 3 years. In essence the high level of vacancies in these areas may reflect the larger numbers of people employed in them and the high level of turnover of staff rather than any shortage of skilled candidates.

Some of the trends indicated in the report from this small sample have been seen in recent reports with much larger samples for example the Irishjobs.ie index recorded an increase of 5% in jobs posted online during 2013 (4% increase in jobs advertised in Clare Champion). This growth has been driven by increases in annual vacancies in the following sectors: Construction and Architecture, Customer Service and Languages, Medical Professionals, Engineering and Hotel and Catering (Kinsella, 2013).

Students using the database as a job seeking aid should bear in mind that many job vacancies are never advertised at all, being filled from within organisations, through word of mouth, networking etc. Thus jobseekers should bear in mind the importance of staying close to the jobs market e.g. through internships, volunteer work, using existing contacts etc. See the "Looking for Work" factsheet developed by Clare Adult Guidance and Information Service which is available at <http://www.clareguidance.ie/resources.php>

## References

Fox, R. (2009) *Job Opportunities in the DownTurn* FAS planning and Research Unit Available at <http://www.fas.ie/NR/rdonlyres/9ABC5EE1-CF20-4AA5-ACA4-C5B81DD9FE5E/793/jobsdownturn97.pdf>

Kinsella, S. (2013) *The Irishjobs.ie Index Report Q4 2013* Available at <http://www.irishjobs.ie/careeradvice/wp-content/uploads/IrishJobs-Jobs-Report-Q4-2013-final.pdf>