

**IRISHJOBS.IE**

# Jobs Index - Q2 2020



---

# IrishJobs.ie Job Index Q2 2020

Analysis of jobs during the Covid Months March to June 2020

---

## Reopening rebound for jobs as lockdown lifts

- 26 of 31 job categories analysed posted an increase in jobs from May to June
- Jobs increased by 14% from May to June, however they remain 54% below February's pre-COVID level.
- Regional vacancy indices show jobs returning in the cities, beginning with Limerick and Cork, and followed in June by Dublin and Galway
- Internationally traded sectors, such as Science, Pharmaceutical & Food, have displayed resilience in face of COVID-19.
- Banking, Finance and Insurance and property-related sectors have also been relatively resilient.
- Tourism, Travel & Airlines and Hotel & Catering among the sectors hardest hit by COVID-19 over the March to June period.

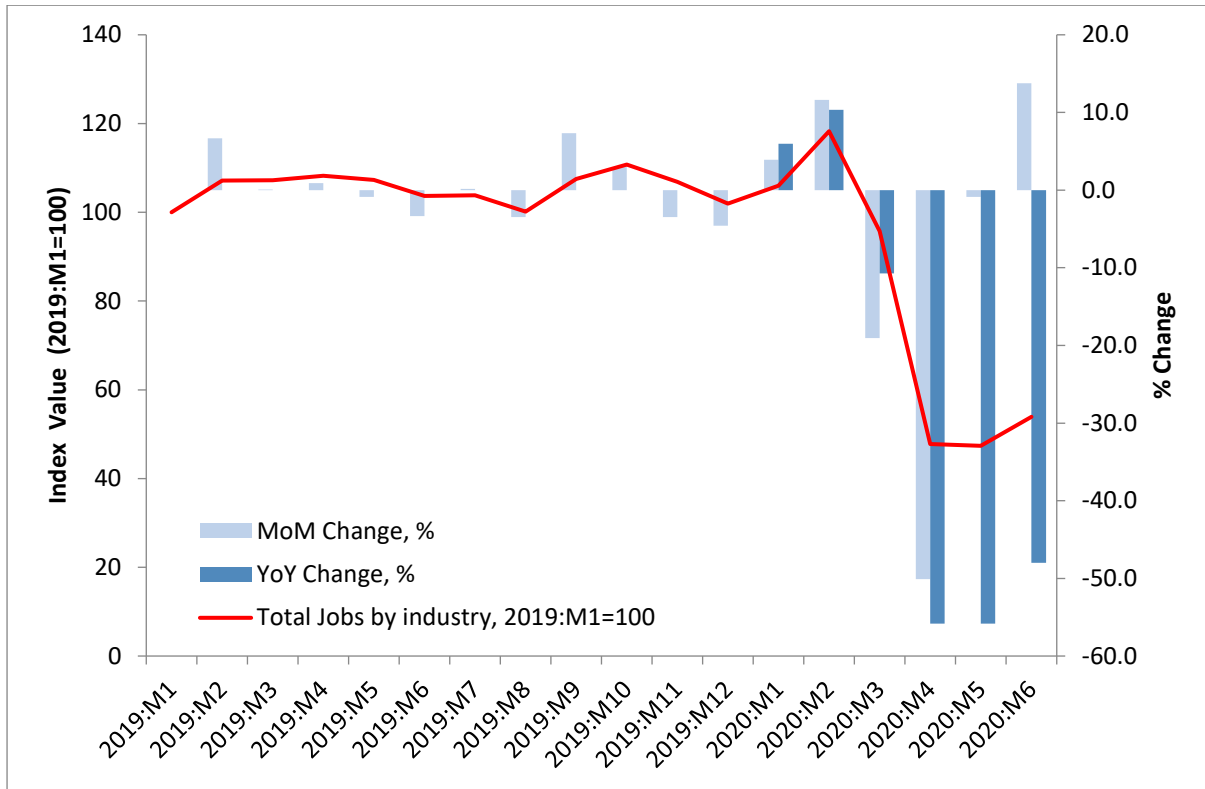
## Job vacancies increase by 14% in June 2020, but remain 54% below February's pre-Covid levels

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in mid-March, the Irish economy has endured an unprecedented contraction. The latest ESRI *Spring Quarterly Economic Commentary* depicts a baseline scenario that assumes continued physical distancing and containment measures to the end of 2020. Under this scenario, economic output would decline by 12.4 per cent in 2020. Consumption would decline by 13.3 per cent, while investment would fall by over 27 per cent this year. Irish exports of goods and services are set to fall by over 8 per cent. The impact of the crisis on the Irish labour market has also been unprecedented. In April, the unemployment rate increased to 28.2 per cent, up from 4.8 per cent in February. Job losses are concentrated in the Accommodation and Food Services, Retail, and Construction sectors.

IrishJobs.ie data job vacancy advertisements offer a timely indicator of Irish job vacancy generation, through which the impact of the COVID-19 on Irish economic activity can be tracked. The IrishJobs.ie data has been utilised in this report to construct a monthly Jobs Index.

In this report, the IrishJobs.ie Jobs Index illustrates the extent of the impact of COVID on economic activity from March to June 2020 in terms of job vacancy generation. The IrishJobs.ie Jobs Index reveals a 14% increase in vacancies generated from May to June (see Figure 1 below). However, the index remains 54% below its February pre-COVID level. While the index stood at 118 in February, it had fallen to a low of 47 by May. The 14% increase recorded in June brings the overall index to a level of 54.

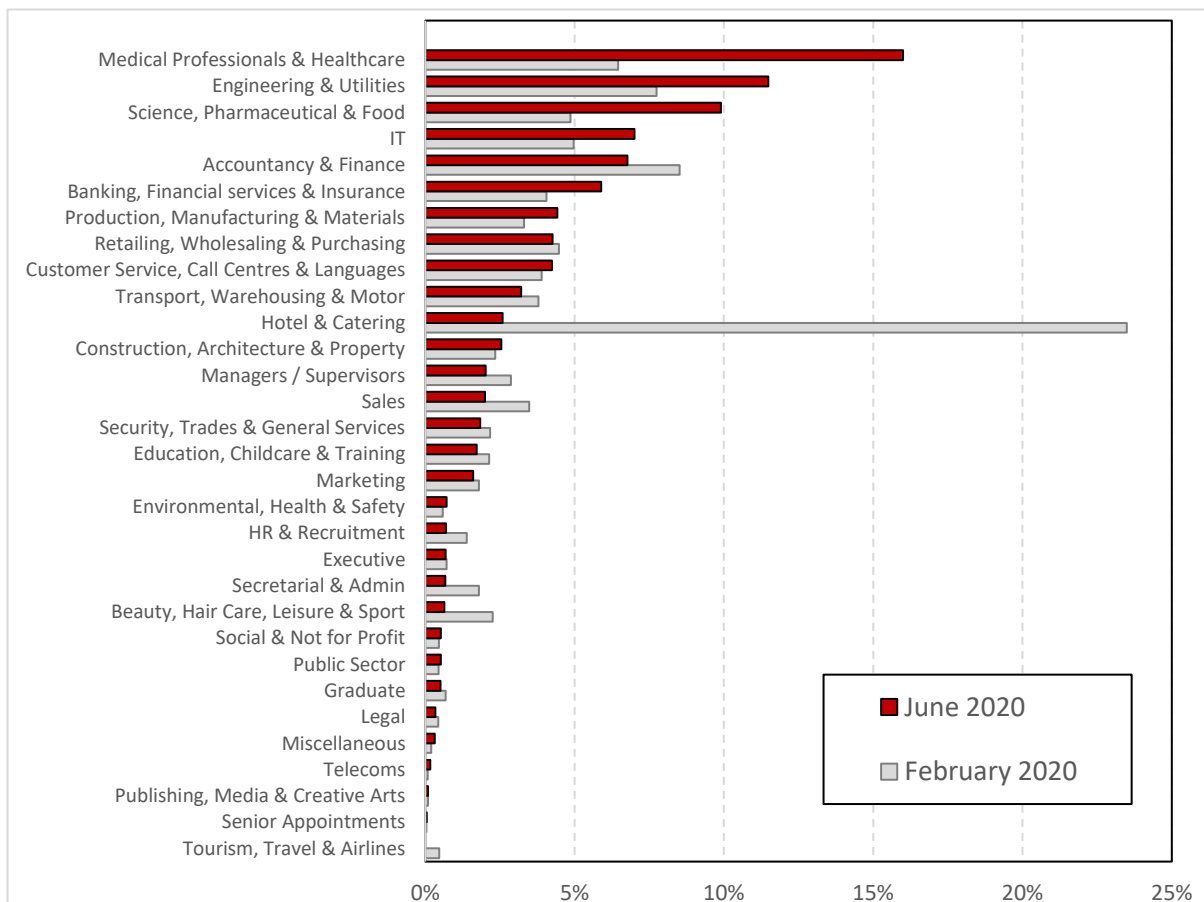
Figure 1: Total Job Vacancies (2019:M1=100)



## SECTORAL ANALYSIS

The IrishJobs.ie job vacancy data also offers insights into sectoral trends over the period from March to June. In Figure 2 (below), the overall index is disaggregated into 31 sectors. A comparison of those sectors which generated the largest share of job vacancies in the preCovid month of February and the opening in June can be gleaned from Figure 2 (below). The largest sectors, in terms of proportion of vacancies generated in June 2020, were: Medical Professionals & Healthcare (16%); Engineering & Utilities (11%); Science, Pharmaceutical & Food (10%); IT (7%); and Accountancy & Finance (7%). In contrast, the largest sectors in February 2020, prior to the impact of COVID-19 on the Irish economy, were: Hotel & Catering (23%); Accountancy & Finance (9%); Engineering & Utilities (8%); Medical Professionals & Healthcare (6%); and IT (5%). While a more detailed sectoral analysis is presented below, the standout features of Figure 2 is the disappearance of the Hotel & Catering Sector, with the COVID-19 outbreak bringing the Medical Professionals & Healthcare sector to the fore in terms of job vacancy generation.

**Figure 2: Sectoral vacancies as % of total vacancies – February and June 2020**



---

At the sectoral level, a number of distinct job vacancy trends are evident. These sectoral trends are presented in detail in Table 1 (below), which provides a breakdown of June 2020 job vacancy rates across 31 sectors. As well as detailing monthly changes across sectors, we also present the change in job vacancies since February in order to capture the full COVID-19 impact to date. This sectoral analysis provides a snapshot of those sectors hardest hit by the COVID-19 shock, as well as those sectors which have proved to be most resilient to the shock thus far.

The average percentage decline in job vacancies across the sectors analyzed here from March to June was -51%. A number of sectors proved to be relatively resilient across the March to June period: Telecoms (-1%); Science, Pharmaceutical & Food (-7%) and, to a lesser extent, Banking, Financial services & Insurance (-34%) and Production, Manufacturing & Materials (-39%). The performance of the Science, Pharmaceutical & Food sector in particular illustrates the resilience of the Internationally traded goods and services segment of the Irish economy. The Medical Professionals & Healthcare sector, was of course, at the frontline of the COVID-19 response. Job vacancies in this sector increased by 16% over the February to June period.

Hardest hit over the course of the COVID-19 outbreak have been those sectors which are most exposed to travel and social distancing restrictions: Tourism, Travel & Airlines (-100%); Hotel & Catering (-95%). Other sectors that were particularly hard hit by COVID-19 restrictions were Beauty, Hair Care, Leisure & Sport (-87%); HR & Recruitment (-77%); and Sales (-74%).

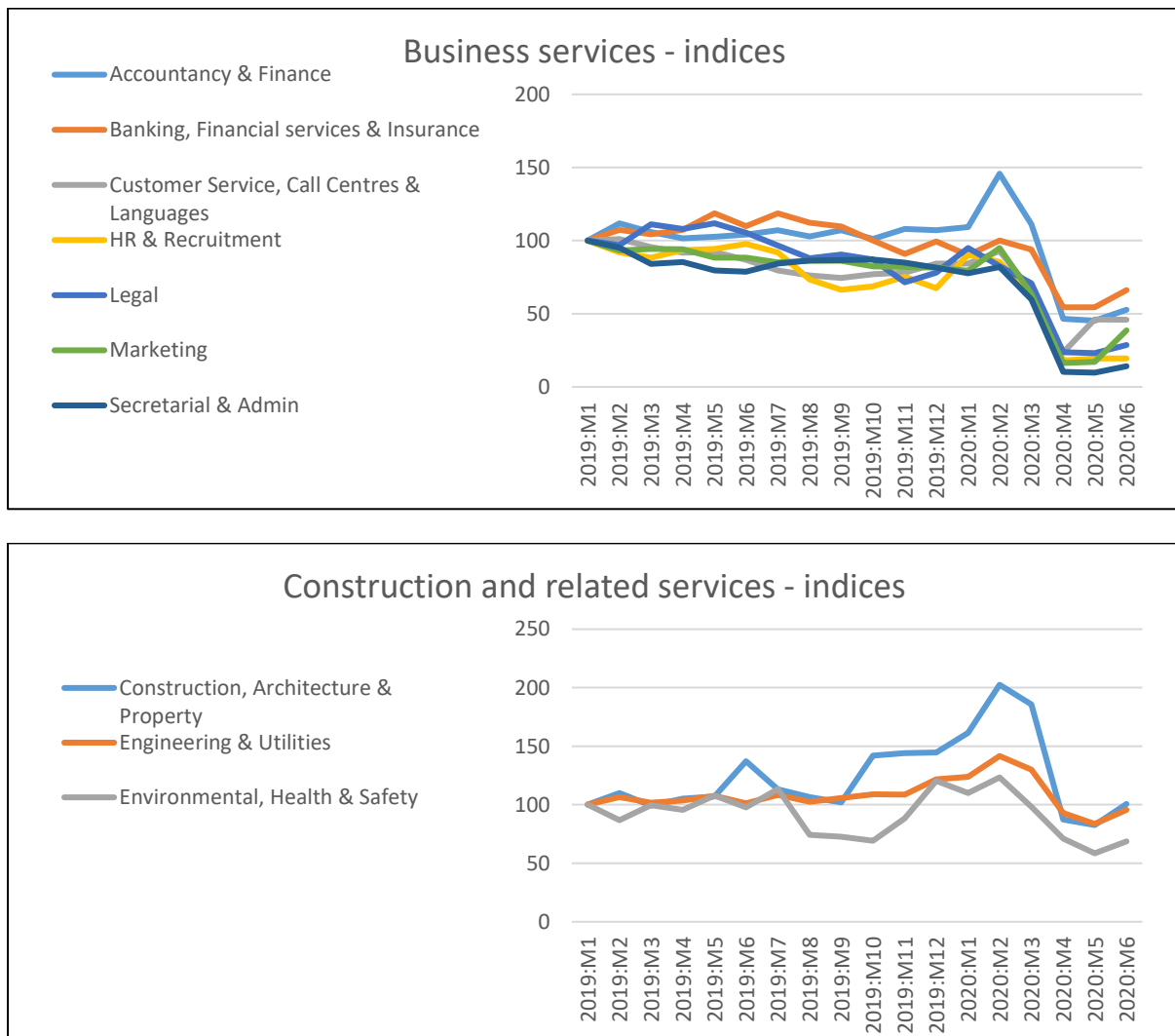
In terms of a June monthly upturn in job vacancies, in some instances this trend appears to be a “re-opening rebound”. For example, the Beauty, Haircare, Leisure & Sport sector recorded the largest increase in job vacancies for June subsequent to a heavy decrease in job vacancies over the March to June period. Sectors such as Hotel & Catering, Transport, Warehousing & Motors; Publishing, Media & Creative Arts; and Marketing also posted positive job vacancy rates in June subsequent to large decreases in the preceding months. On the other hand, relatively modest vacancy rate increases can be found in those sectors whose vacancy rates declined by less than the average rate (-51%) over the March to June period: for example, Construction, Architecture & Property (+22%); Environmental, Health & Safety (+18%), and Engineering & Utilities (+14%). In all, 26 of 31 sectors posted an increase in their monthly vacancy rate in June. However, in light of existing restrictions, the Tourism, Travel & Airlines is an example of a sector that has yet to experience a post-lockdown rebound.

**Table 1: Changes (%) in sectoral job vacancies for June 2020****Jobs Index by sector - June 2020**

Sector	February 2020 to June 2020	May 2020 to June 2020
	% change	% Change
Accountancy & Finance	-64	17
Banking, Financial services & Insurance	-34	22
Beauty, Hair Care, Leisure & Sport	-87	206
Construction, Architecture & Property	-50	22
Customer Service, Call Centres & Languages	-50	0
Education, Childcare & Training	-63	38
Engineering & Utilities	-32	14
Environmental, Health & Safety	-44	18
Executive	-57	12
Graduate	-65	20
Hotel & Catering	-95	91
HR & Recruitment	-77	-1
IT	-36	2
Legal	-65	24
Managers / Supervisors	-68	91
Marketing	-59	125
Medical Professionals & Healthcare	16	8
Miscellaneous	-27	92
Production, Manufacturing & Materials	-39	3
Public Sector	-47	-10
Publishing, Media & Creative Arts	-58	86
Retailing, Wholesaling & Purchasing	-57	12
Sales	-74	20
Science, Pharmaceutical & Food	-7	-6
Secretarial & Admin	-83	44
Security, Trades & General Services	-61	22
Senior Appointments	-34	1
Social & Not for Profit	-47	-6
Telecoms	-1	17
Tourism, Travel & Airlines	-100	-100
Transport, Warehousing & Motor	-61	68

These sectoral trends are further explored in Figures 3-5, which brings together related sectors and graphs their daily sectoral indices over the March to June period.

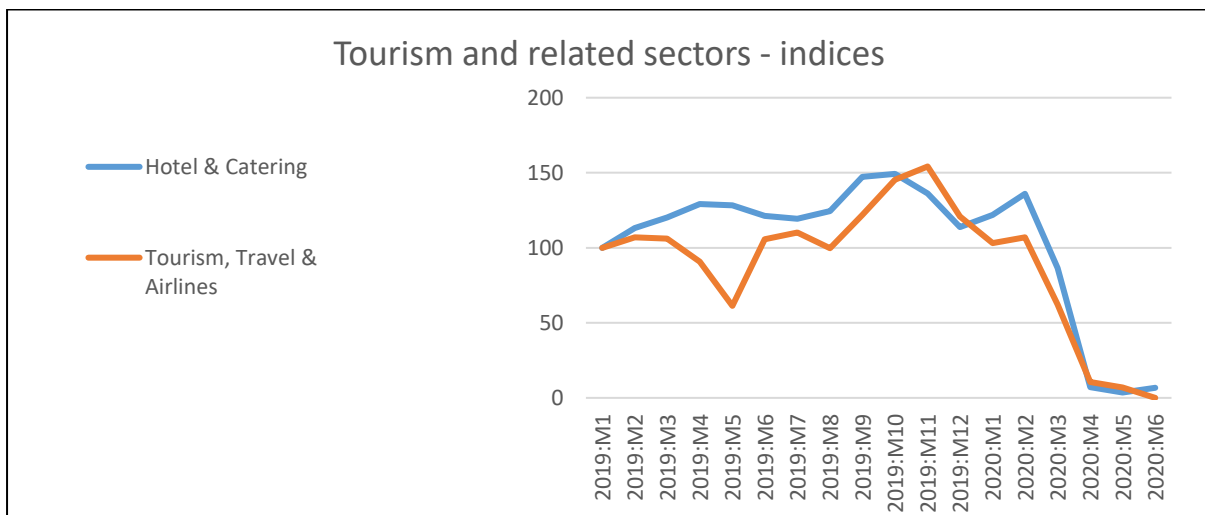
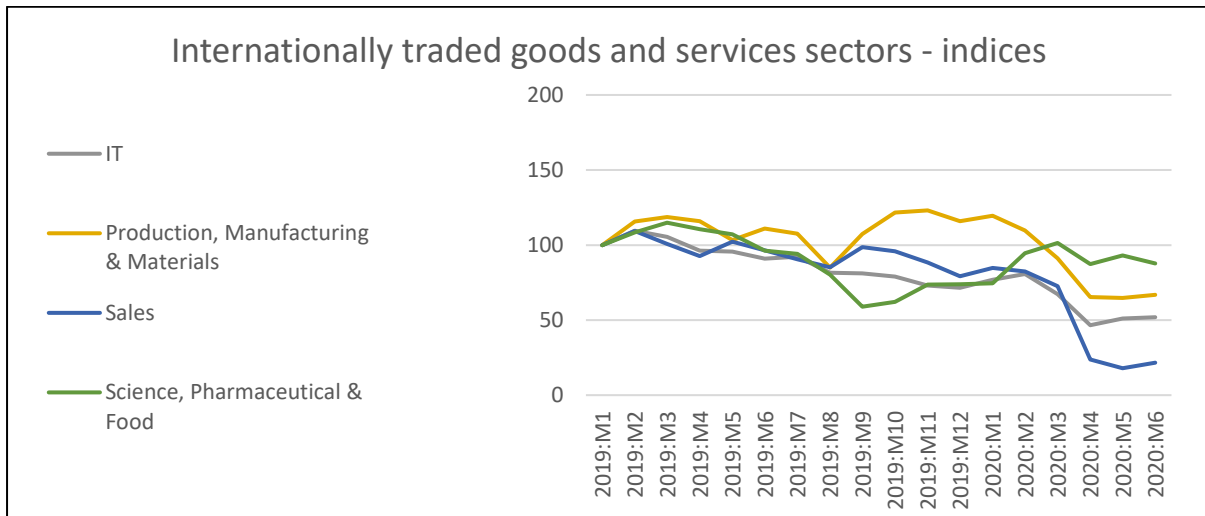
**Figure 3: Jobs indices of Business Services sectors (upper panel) and Construction and related services (lower panel)**



As illustrated in Figure 3 (above), sectors related to business support services are still far from returning to the index baseline (100). Apart from the Banking, Finance, and Insurance sector, these sectors fell to index levels of below 50 in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. While a June upturn is evident, it remains to be seen how quickly these sectors can return to pre-COVID vacancy generation rates.

Construction and related sectors, on the other hand, did not fall to index values as low as that seen among Business services sectors. While their rate of job vacancy generation fell by over 30%, both the Construction, Architecture, and Property sector and the Engineering and Utilities sector bottomed out at index levels circa 80 and have returned to the index baseline of 100.

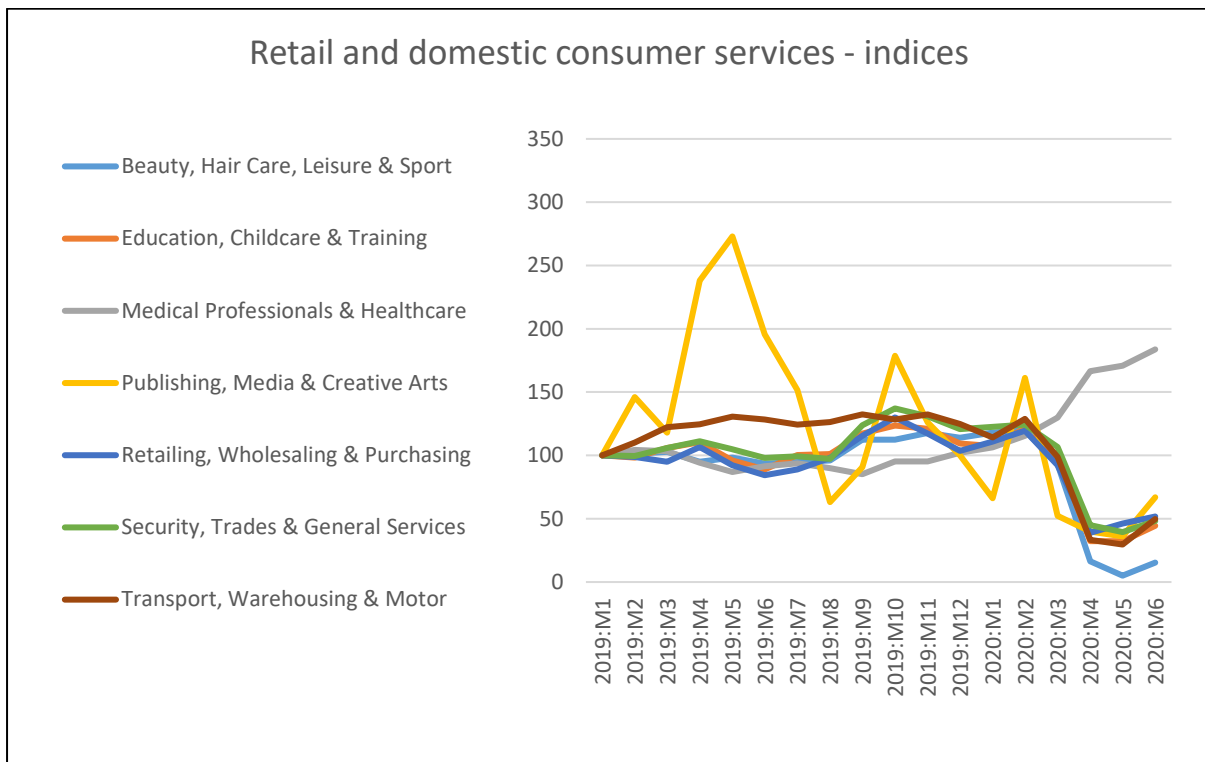
**Figures 4: Jobs indices of Internationally traded goods and services sectors (upper panel) and Tourism and related services (lower panel)**



Some relatively positive signs emerge from the data relating to the Internationally traded sectors (Figure 4). As noted above, the Science, Pharmaceutical and Food sector in particular appears to have bottomed out at an index value above 80. In contrast, as noted above, sectors related to tourism and travel have borne the brunt of COVID-19 restrictions and have yet to experience a rebound in job vacancy rates.



**Figures 5: Jobs indices of Retail and domestic consumer services sectors**



**Note:** vertical axis scale in Figure 5 runs from 0-350.

Recent trends in retail and domestic consumer services paint something of a mixed picture. While the Medical professionals and healthcare sector has understandably sought to expand its workforce during the COVID-19 outbreak, a cluster of sectors, including retail activities, have bottomed out below an index level of 50 and have posted an upturn in job vacancy generation in June.

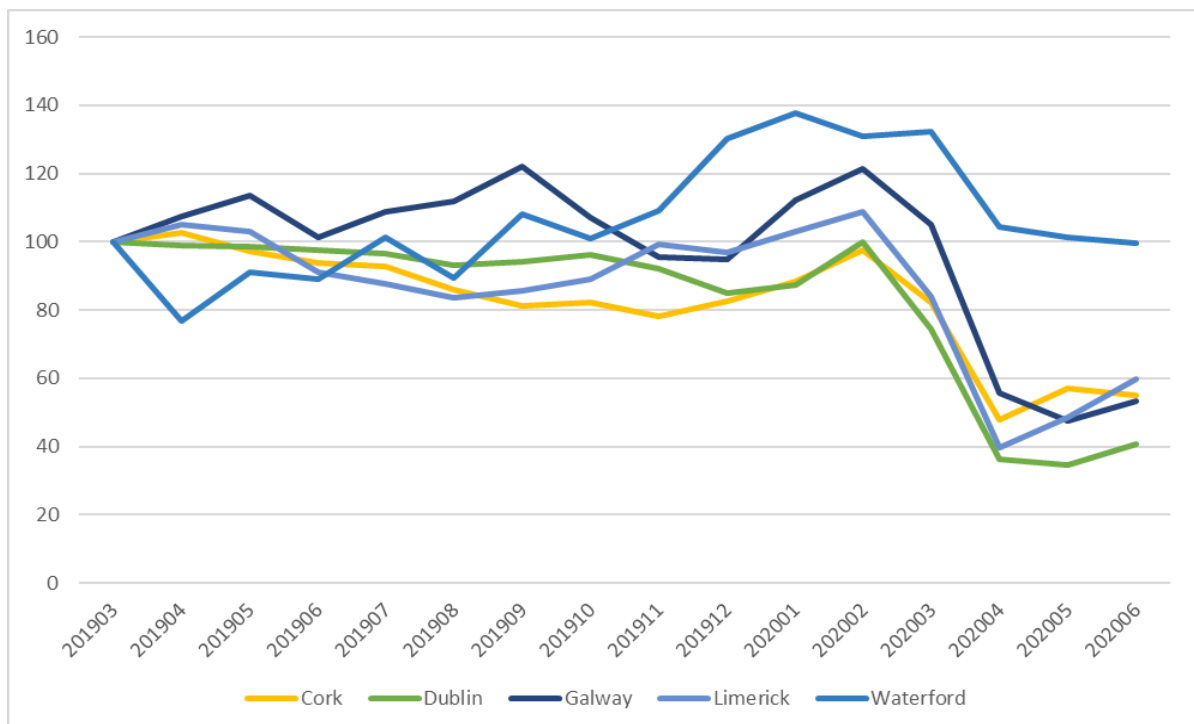
## LOCATION ANALYSIS – COVID AND IRELAND’S CITIES

As regards vacancy generation by location, the year-on-year changes in vacancies at the national level are underpinned by a range of experiences at city level.

Figure 6 updates the monthly vacancy indices since March 2019 for those counties that include the five main cities. Most of the dynamic is concentrated in the period since February when job vacancies were initially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Until February 2020, four of these counties (Dublin, Galway, Limerick, and Waterford) had experienced an increase in vacancy numbers compared to March 2019, while county Cork’s vacancy index had not increased from March 2019 levels. Between February and April, all five counties experienced a significant decrease in the index. The largest decreases in the vacancy index during these two months were experienced in Limerick (-69 points), Galway (-65 points) and Dublin (-64 points). Waterford was the least affected, with a relatively small decrease of -27 points in the index.

Since May, the indices have been rebounding albeit in a hesitant manner - beginning with counties Limerick and Cork and followed in June by Dublin and Galway. Table 3 presents the regional changes in the vacancy index in June. Limerick recorded the strongest gain (+11 points), followed by Dublin and Galway (both +6 points). County Waterford continued to experience a modest fall in the vacancy index.

**Figure 6: Vacancy indices for counties with main cities (March 2019 = 100)**



---

**Table 2: Point change in vacancy indices for counties with main cities (June 2020)**

<b>Index point change, June 2020</b>	
Cork	-2
Dublin	6
Galway	6
Limerick	11
Waterford	-2

## **CONCLUSION**

In light of the sudden shock to the Irish economy resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak, the need for up-to-date indicators of Irish economic activity has become all the more acute. The IrishJobs.ie Jobs Index, based on monthly job vacancy data, offers a means to provide such timely insights into the economic impact of the unfolding crisis. This report reveals that the IrishJobs.ie *Jobs Index* has posted a 14% monthly increase in June, though it still resides 54% below February's post-Covid index levels. Of 31 industry sectors analyzed, 26 have experienced an increase in vacancies in June. While some instances of vacancy generation (e.g. in sectors such as Beauty, Haircare, Leisure & Sport) take the form of a rebound subsequent to the easing of restrictions, a number of sectors – such as those related to construction and property - have managed to weather the worst effects of the recent COVID restrictions and have continued to post modest increases in job vacancies.

Over the March to June period, the resilience of the Science, Pharmaceutical & Food sector in particular offers some reassurance regarding the outlook for the internationally traded segments of the Irish economy. However, the ongoing negative impact of restrictions on the Tourism, Travel & Airlines sector serves as a reminder that the Irish economy remains exposed to any future COVID-19 spikes or clusters that may emerge in domestic and international settings.

As regards vacancy dynamics by location, all counties that incorporate one of the big cities record a significant drop between February and May 2020. Since then, the indices have been rebounding in a hesitant manner, beginning with counties Limerick and Cork, and followed in June by Dublin and Galway.

-Ends-

This IrishJobs.ie Job Index Report is authored by economist Dr Declan Curran of Dublin City University and economic geographer, Dr Chris Van Egeraat

**A note on the data:** The report utilises a dataset comprising of all corporate jobs advertised on *IrishJobs.ie* and *Jobs.ie* from 01/01/2020 to 30/06/2020. Revisions to the data-gathering process mean that the figures stated in this report are not directly comparable to previous reports.

