Labour market and skills information systems in a changing socio-economic context

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Overview

- Ireland’s labour market in context
- Labour market intelligence challenges in a pandemic
- Understanding the impact on the labour market
- Identifying job opportunities
- Informing skills policy
- Success factors
Context

• Pre-COVID, Ireland was doing well
  • Employment levels
  • Unemployment declining
Onset of COVID-19

- 000s out of work...
  .... and no income

- Introduction of new income support payments by the Public Employment Services (PES)
Challenges for LMI: rapid pace of change
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Persons on Pandemic Unemployment Payments, March 2020 – Aug 2021

Thousands

Persons in receipt of the PUP
Challenges for LMI: data issues

- Time lag
- Definitions
- Variables
Understanding the impact

- Labour Force Survey Q4 2019
- Macro-Economic Forecasts
- PES Income Supports
- Other research
  - Automation risk
  - Remote working (OECD)
  - Brexit
Identifying job opportunities

- Job vacancy adverts
- Difficult-to-fill survey
- Employer engagement
- Government policy (e.g. Climate change agenda)
Informing policy: aligning skills provision with skills demand

Identify vulnerable cohorts
- Young people
- Lower skilled occupations
- Certain sectors

Identify skills demand
- Occupations in demand
- Skills shortages

Inform training provision
- Occupation-specific
- Transversal
Data-informed skills policy: example

Skills to Compete

Targeted training

Transversal & digital skills
Skills in areas of identified demand
Guidance & support

Oversight Group
Providers
Government Funders
Success factors for data-informed policy in the pandemic

- Combine new & existing data (inc qual & quant)
- Links with employers and employer representatives
- Cross departmental collaboration (Dept Social Protection, Dept Enterprise, Trade & Employment, Labour Market Advisory Council, etc)
Thank you

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