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Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin
für Sozialforschung



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Atypical Employment in Ireland

Discussion Paper

P 2013-003

www.wzb.eu/atypical

August 2013

Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB)

Research Area

President's Project Group

Project

The Institutional Determinants of Atypical Employment and Social Inequality in Europe, founded by the Hans Böckler Foundation and supervised by Jutta Allmendinger, Johannes Giesecke, and Kathrin Leuze



Citation:

Allmendinger, J., Hipp, L., Stuth, S. (2013): Atypical Employment in Ireland, *Atypical Employment in Europe 1996–2011*, Discussion Paper P 2013-003, Berlin: WZB, pp. 41-43, www.wzb.eu/atypical.

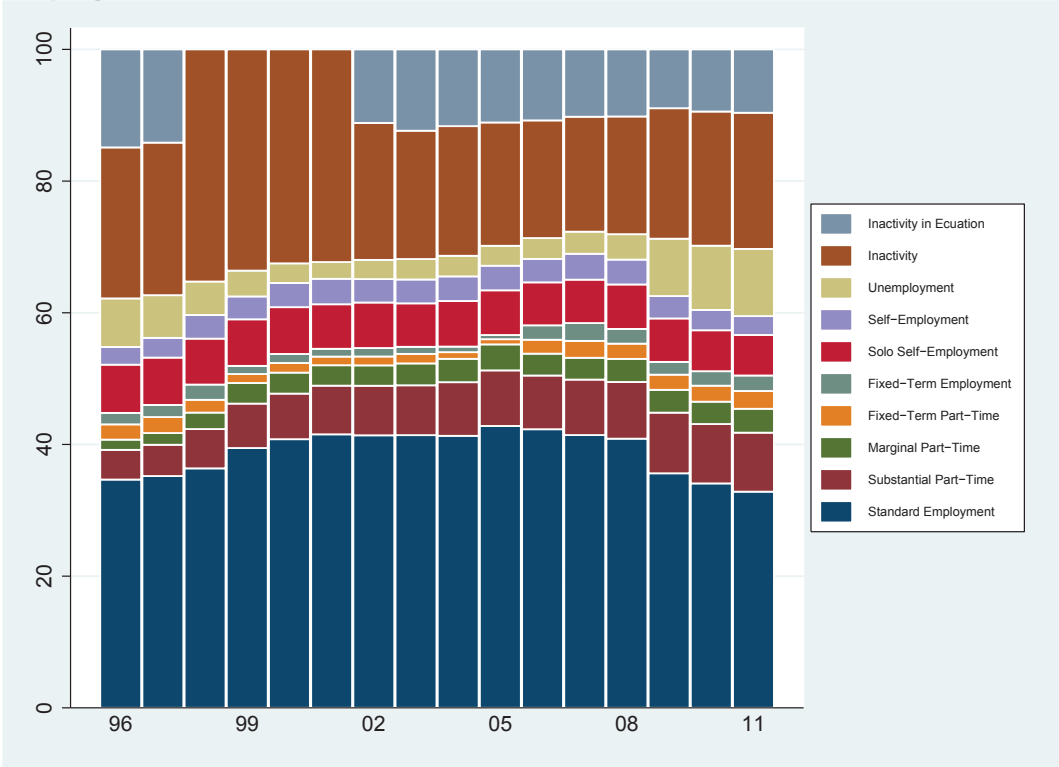
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Ireland

Employment in Ireland expanded and unemployment fell from the middle of the 1990s onwards. Nonstandard employment increased, above all among women, older people, and moderately qualified individuals. In addition to part-time employment, solo self-employment and fixed-term employment played an important role.

However, growth had already begun to drop dramatically in the year before the crisis. The economic crisis of 2009 left clear marks: Employment fell in all the groups investigated. Men, the under-30s, and low- and medium-skilled workers were especially badly affected. Inactivity fell in the period under consideration and rose slightly among all groups in the crisis year of 2009, particularly among low-skilled workers and young people. Since the beginning of the economic crisis, employment in Ireland has dropped by 8.6 percentage points. This drop has affected standard employment relationships above all; other forms of employment have remained stable. The greatest job losses in standard employment were experienced by men (-11.3 percentage points), the under-30s (-16.2 percentage points), and individuals with mid-level qualifications (-12.9 percentage points). In comparison to this, the proportion of atypical employment has remained relatively stable since 2009.

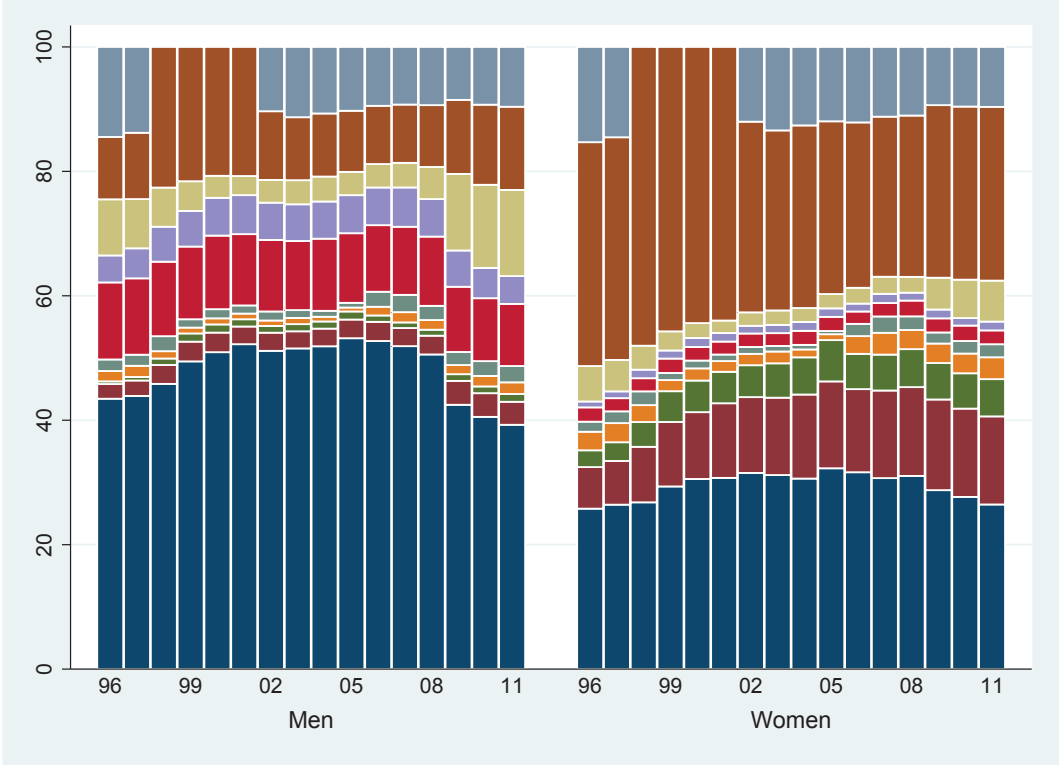
Employment in Ireland (1996–2011).



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).¹¹

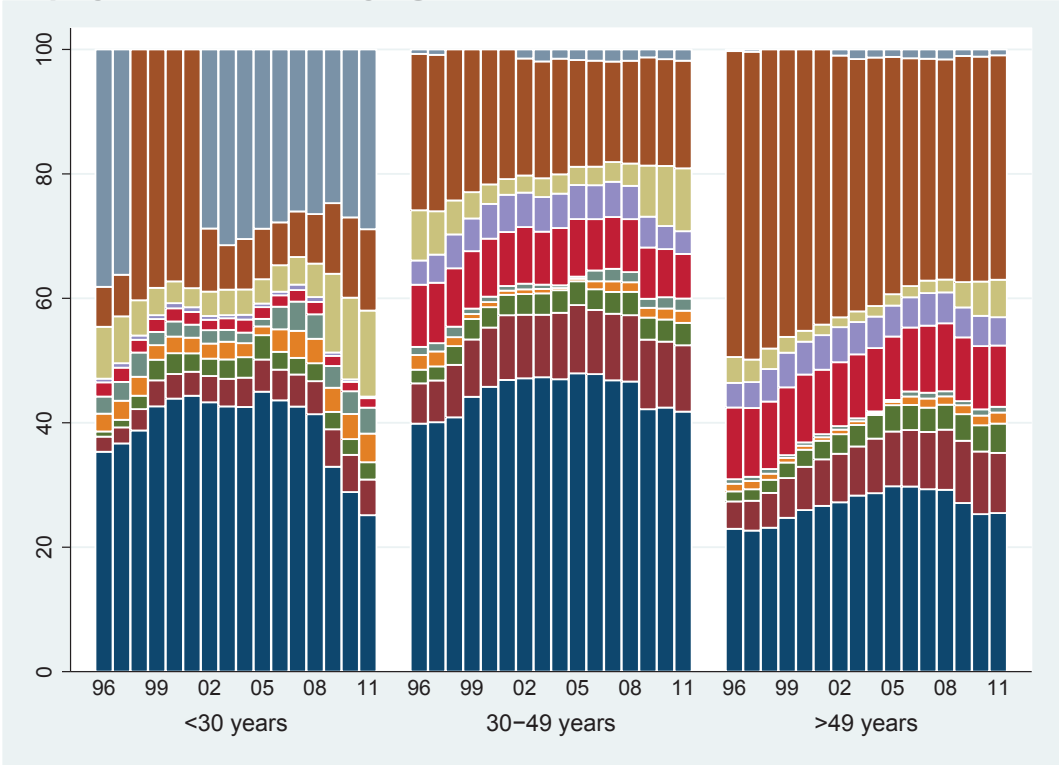
¹¹ No information was available on education and training for Ireland from 1998 to 2001. However, the age category chosen (15 to 64 years of age) includes all people attending school and those in education or training. Between 1998 and 2001, the group of people who were in education or training cannot be clearly identified. Therefore, people who were in education or training between 1998 and 2001 are in the “inactive” category.

Employment in Ireland by Gender (1996–2011).



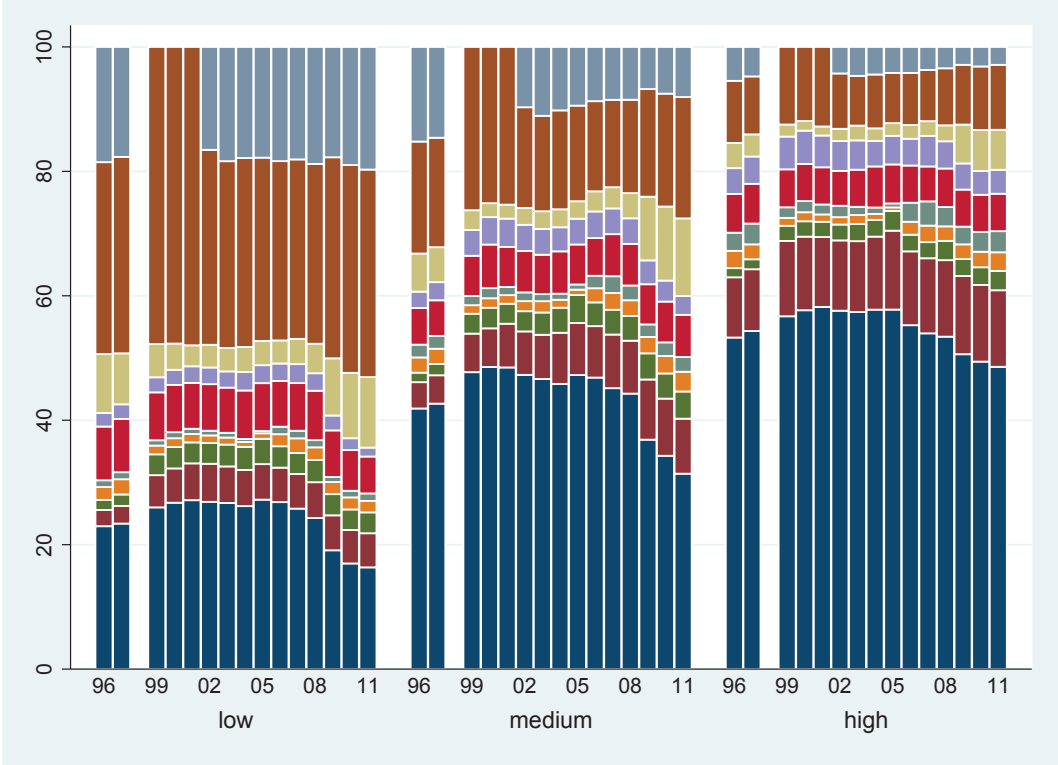
Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).¹¹

Employment in Ireland by Age (1996–2011)



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).¹¹

Employment in Ireland by Education (1996–2011).



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).^{11,12}

¹² There is no information on qualifications for the year 1998. Therefore, no results could be depicted for that year.

Important terms

The **population studied** includes all people who were of working age (between 15 and 64 years of age) at the time of the survey but excludes those living in collective living quarters (monasteries/convents, hospitals, etc.) and those doing military service.

A person was considered **employed** if they were working in the private or public sector, either in a dependent or self-employed capacity, for at least one hour a week and received a salary, wage, or other monetary remuneration for this.

Individuals were considered **unemployed** if they were not employed but were actively seeking work and were available to the labor market or if they were entering employment within the following three months.

Those who were neither employed nor unemployed were considered economically **inactive**. Inactive individuals who were in education or training were assigned to the inactive **in education or training** category.

A **standard employment relationship** exists when an individual is in a dependent employment relationship for at least 35 hours weekly and has a permanent employment contract.

Marginal part-time employment is employment with fewer than 20 hours a week.

Substantial part-time employment is employment with 20 hours and more a week but less than 35 hours a week.

Fixed-term employment exists when the period during which a contract is valid is limited. We differentiate between fixed-term employment (35 hours and more a week) and fixed-term part-time employment (less than 35 hours a week).

Self-employment exists when an individual's main economic activity is not dependent employment.

Solo self-employment refers to self-employment without employees.

The **educational/skill levels** "low," "medium," and "high" are based on the ISCED classification of qualifications developed by UNESCO.

The aggregated data used in our country profiles can be downloaded from the project's website (www.wzb.eu/atypical). Interested users can also find explanations regarding some of the methodological problems that exist for certain years or variables.