

# Skills forecast

trends and challenges to 2030





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CEDEFOP

# Skills forecast

trends and challenges to 2030

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A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu>).

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**The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training** (Cedefop) is the European Union's reference centre for vocational education and training. We provide information on and analyses of vocational education and training systems, policies, research and practice. Cedefop was established in 1975 by Council Regulation (EEC) No 337/75.

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# Foreword

In highly dynamic and competitive labour markets, investing in people's skills and competences is key. But which skills and for which jobs? This question is central to national, European and international debate. If education and training throughout their lives is to be a smart choice for people, it needs to be relevant: it needs to adjust to, and anticipate, changes that affect our economies and societies and, therefore the labour market. This applies particularly to vocational education and training (VET).

But how to foretell future skill needs, especially if the impact of the fourth industrial revolution is not yet clear. As Paul Saffo pointed out: 'The goal of forecasting is not to predict the future; but to tell you what you need to know to take meaningful action in the present' (Saffo, 2007, p. 1). Cedefop's new European skills forecast up to 2030 serves this very purpose. It helps us to make informed choices to avoid deciding on education and training investments in the dark. Awareness of skills and qualification needs and job prospects can assist young people and adults in their education and career choices or encourage further learning.

Education and training investments take years to yield results and return. Acting as an early warning system, the forecast allows policy-makers to take decisions in time. Anticipating potential future challenges allows us to design better informed policies now. Working at the interface between education and training and the labour market, informing VET policy has been at the heart of Cedefop's work. Cedefop pioneered the first pan-European forecast of skill needs 10 years ago. Acknowledging the benefit of this initiative, the Council entrusted Cedefop with regular EU-wide skill supply and demand projections – the only comparable outlook of future labour market trends across countries, sectors and occupations. The European Commission's continued political interest and financial support allowed Cedefop to develop a sound methodology using harmonised data for all Member States. Today Cedefop's forecast is well-known and widely used by policy-makers, international institutions, analysts and journalists. It has also inspired several countries in their endeavour to set up or improve their own skills projection systems.

Learning and use of skills at the workplace are also key to job quality, an area widely researched by Eurofound. With its European jobs monitor,



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Eurofound examines the kind of jobs that are created and destroyed in the labour market and assesses these shifts in terms of wages, skill levels and other features to understand job quality. In this report Cedefop and Eurofound joined forces. The European job monitor approach has been applied to the Cedefop baseline scenario to identify how wage structure and job tasks are changing.

With the skills forecast, the European jobs monitor, and other skills anticipation activities, Cedefop and Eurofound aim to encourage proactive policy approaches and informed decision-making. Acting proactively is more effective, and often cheaper, than fixing adverse effects at a later stage. Taking informed decisions is the best way for stakeholders and citizens to prepare themselves for the future.

**Mara Brugia**  
*Acting Director*

**Juan Menendez-Valdes**  
*Eurofound Director*



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## Executive summary

Cedefop's skill supply and demand projections provide comprehensive information about the current structure of Europe's labour market and potential future trends. This report presents the results and findings from the most recent update to the projections along with Eurofound's analysis on the task content of employment, using the jobs monitor approach.

Following the deep recession of the financial crisis, 2017 saw the fifth year of recovery in EU GDP growth. A modest recovery is expected to continue in the near term with GDP growth for the 28 European Union Member States (EU-28) plus three associate countries – Norway, Switzerland and Iceland – (EU-28+3) averaging around 1.8% until 2020 and slowing to 1.4% from 2021 onwards.

The working age population is expected to increase, but there is much variation in trends across countries. At aggregate level, the working age population is expected to increase by 3.7% between 2016 and 2030, while the labour force increases by 1%. At individual country level, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway and Switzerland are projected to experience strong increase in working age population and labour supply, while Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania undergo sharp decreases.

Modest employment growth is projected overall but a decline is expected in some countries. In the medium term, total employment is projected to grow by around 0.5% per annum over 2020-25 and then to slow down as long-term demographic trends constrain growth. Employment reduction is expected in Bulgaria, Germany, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia and Lithuania, driven by an aging population and/or outward migration. Service sectors are expected to be the main drivers of employment growth over 2016-30, while basic manufacturing employment is expected to decline. This trend highlights the shift towards a more service-based economy. Legal and accounting, R&D, advertising and market research, other professional and administrative services, and support service activities are the sectors expected to see the fastest employment growth.

Predicted employment trends will drive continued polarisation within the labour market. Significant growth in employment for high-skill occupations (managers, professionals and associate professionals) is expected, together with some growth for less skilled jobs related to sales, security, cleaning,

catering and caring occupations. Job losses are projected in medium-skill occupations, such as skilled manual workers (especially in agriculture), and for clerks.

These changes in occupational employment patterns result from a combination of two main factors:

- (a) continuing structural change in the economy in terms of its sectoral mix;
- (b) technological and other changes that influence the patterns of skill demand within sectors.

These two factors are characterised as ‘industry’ and ‘occupational’ effects respectively. For most occupations the occupational effects are much more significant than the industry effects, although the latter remain significant in many cases. The continuing decline of employment in primary and manufacturing industries has an impact on many manual occupations, while the growth in employment in many parts of the service sector continues to benefit a number of non-manual occupations.

The Eurofound analysis confirms the indications of the main results with regard to job polarisation, suggesting an increasingly polarised occupational structure in the EU, driven by strong growth at the bottom of the wage distribution. The analysis also highlights a shift towards more autonomy, less routine, more information and communication technology (ICT), fewer physical tasks, and more social and intellectual tasks over the forecast period to 2030.

Medium-skill occupations are projected to see slow growth or even decline in the number of jobs, as automation and offshoring take their toll. But new workers will still be needed in these occupations to replace those who leave or retire. Replacement demand (RD) rates (job openings arising from a worker leaving a job) average 3.7% each year across all countries, though this varies by country and occupation. Average national RD ranges from 2.6% per annum in Hungary to 5.0% in Iceland. The highest rates throughout the EU are in occupations with more seniority (such as managers and senior officials), and in sectors such as agriculture and fishery, with their aged workforces. Summing expansion demand and RD gives a total requirement of 158 million job openings to be filled between 2016 and 2030.

There is considerable interest and concern in many countries about possible imbalances and mismatches between the demand for and supply of skills. The analysis highlights tensions between demand and supply trends. While the problem of overqualification of young graduates may be resolved



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in the long term, as the effects of the crisis unwind, the immediate prospects are for overqualification for many people employed in both high and low-skill occupations. However, it is not easy to develop robust measurements of such phenomena. Overall, there are indications that the supply of those with higher-level qualifications may be growing faster than demand and of those with few or lower-level qualifications.



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CHAPTER 1.

# Introduction

## 1.1. Cedefop's skill supply and demand projections

Cedefop's skill supply and demand projections provide comprehensive information about the current structure, and future trends, in the labour market. This report reflects the findings of the 2018 update to the projections in which Cedefop and Eurofound collaborated to identify changes in the occupational wage structure and the task content of jobs to up to 2030 (Chapter 5).

## 1.2. General approach

The methodology <sup>(1)</sup> uses a modular approach, with the following main elements:

- (a) the demand side (skill needs), focusing on employment (jobs);
- (b) the supply side, focusing on available skills, the number of people economically active and the qualifications they hold;
- (c) imbalances, comparing the demand and supply side modules.

All modules adopt common data, methods and models for all countries (EU + former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey <sup>(2)</sup>) to produce a comprehensive and consistent set of skill projections. The database draws primarily on Eurostat sources, including demographic data, national accounts (NA) and the labour force survey (LFS).

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(1) For a more detailed description of the forecasting methodology, assumptions and the process of incorporating ICE comments, see the detailed methodology note (Cedefop, 2012); some improvements with respect to that description have been made in the recent forecast.

(2) Data for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, due to various data issues, are considered experimental and are therefore not part of this publication. Detailed data are available on request from Cedefop.

Individual country experts <sup>(3)</sup> (ICEs) are involved in peer review and results validation. However, the use of common models and assumptions does not always allow incorporation of local data and factors that may affect skill supply and demand. Therefore, other country-specific information might be needed to complement the results.

Module 1 of the methodology contains the E3ME (macroeconomic) model. This is used to form projections of labour demand (employment) at sectoral level and labour supply (the economically active labour force) by demographic group.

Modules 2 and 3 cover employment levels and expansion demand for occupations and qualifications. Module 4 covers RD and looks at qualification supply model (stocks). Modules 5 and 5\* focus on the supply of skills as measured by the highest qualification held, analysing stocks and flows, respectively. Module 6 reconciles skill demand and supply (Figure 1).

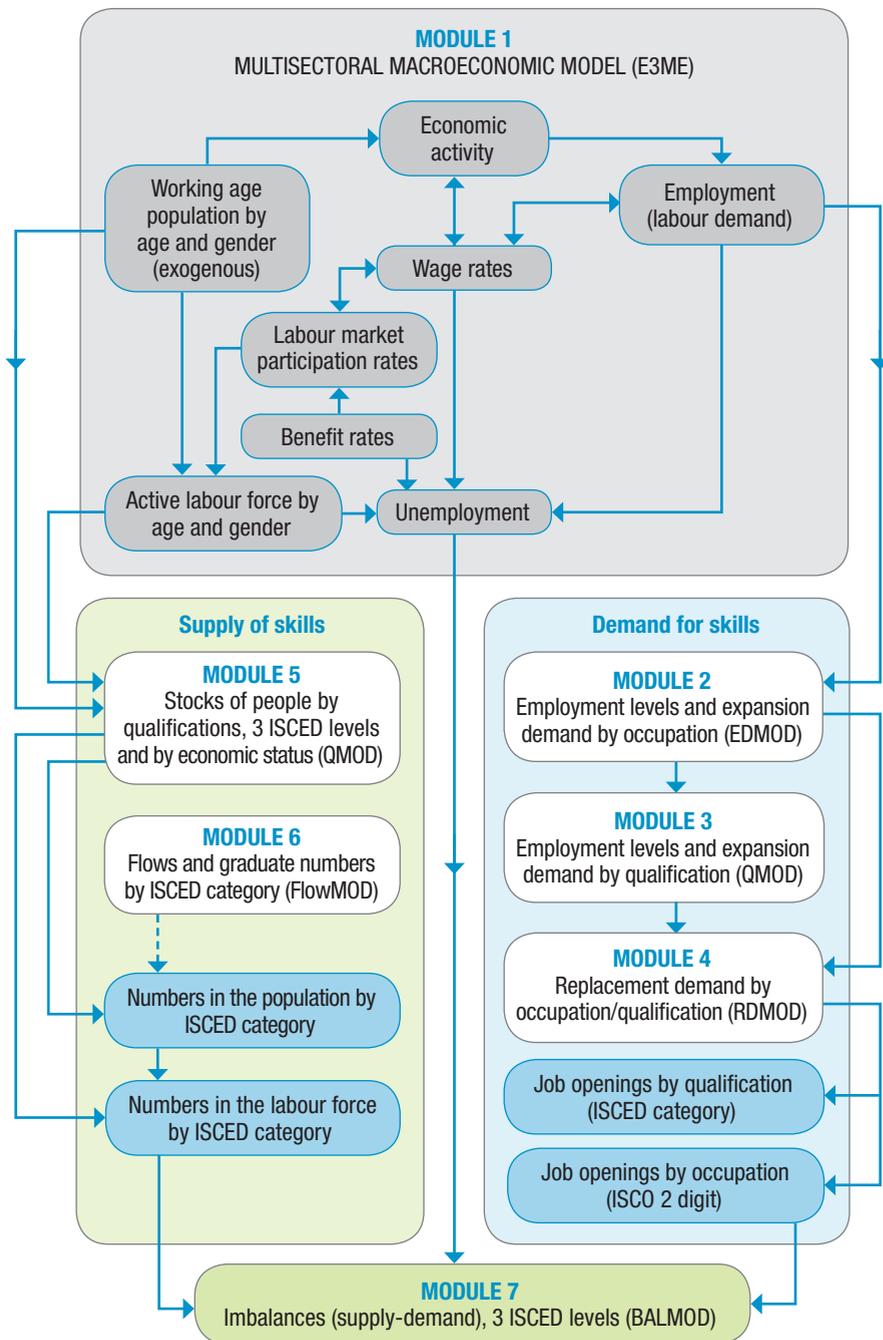
### 1.3. Publication structure

The structure of this publication is as follows. Chapter 2 summarises the overall macroeconomic forecast for Europe, and the implications for employment by sector, labour force trends and unemployment. From the economic and sectoral prospects described in Chapter 2, Chapter 3 summarises the implications for future skills as described by occupations, including replacement demand. Chapter 4 summarises the trends in future skill supply and demand (as described by broad levels of qualification), and implications for skill mismatch. Chapter 5 includes a special feature examining the tasks and skills content of the current and future employment structure of Europe. Chapter 6 concludes, discussing the results and posing some questions for policy intervention.

---

<sup>(3)</sup> The list of contributing ICEs is available in Annex 1.

Figure 1. **Modelling skill supply and demand**



## CHAPTER 2.

# Prospects for employment and labour force trends in Europe

### Key messages

Employment growth is expected to be moderate over the medium term, slowing down considerably after 2025.

Service sectors and some advanced manufacturing sectors are expected to see large increases in employment over the projection period in most Member States.

Average labour participation rates are expected to decrease over the projection period as a result of the aging labour force.

### 2.1. Introduction

This chapter summarises the overall macroeconomic forecast for Europe, and the implications for employment by sector, labour force trends and unemployment. The final section summarises a sensitivity analysis that explores the extent to which the labour market outlook is affected by alternative macroeconomic assumptions.

### 2.2. Economic growth

To generate the employment and labour market projections, Cedefop uses external information to form a view on economic and population growth patterns across different Member States.

It is a substantial exercise to develop a sufficiently detailed set of population projections that use a consistent methodology and assumptions (such as on migration) across all countries modelled. This is done by Eurostat, and the approach draws on these official projections. Baseline assumptions

for population growth match the most recent Eurostat baseline projections as shown in *Europop 2015* <sup>(4)</sup>. The Eurostat projection also includes explicit quantitative assumptions about migration patterns.

The approach for GDP growth assumptions similarly seeks to make best use of official and consistent data sources. Our assumptions for long-term GDP growth draw on official projections published by the European Commission. They are based on the latest ageing report of the European Commission (European Commission, 2017a), making them consistent with the published population projections.

The May 2017 GDP projections of the AMECO database <sup>(5)</sup> were used for the short-term GDP outlook. Figure 2 summarises the overall GDP growth trend used over the projection period.

**Figure 2. GDP annual growth rate (%), EU-28+3**



Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast) based on official GDP projections.

<sup>(4)</sup> Eurostat population projection, data 2015. <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/population-demography-migration-projections/population-projections-data>

<sup>(5)</sup> European Commission's annual macroeconomic database (AMECO). [https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/indicators-statistics/economic-databases/macro-economic-database-ameco\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/indicators-statistics/economic-databases/macro-economic-database-ameco_en)



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Projections for EU GDP show relatively low growth rates in the short to medium term, averaging 1.9% per annum over 2015-20 and decreasing to 1.4% per annum over 2020-30. At the start of the projection period, EU Member States will continue to recover from the crisis and its legacy, in some cases delivering and adjusting to economic imbalances, but supported by higher global growth, particularly in China. Over the medium term, GDP growth is expected to stabilise at a lower rate, mainly because of aging and declining population. Population trends are expected to lead to a reduction in the share of consumer expenditure in 2030 compared to 2015. Consumers across countries shift spending patterns as they age, notably towards greater consumption of health-related services and goods, and less on leisure activities (with travel being the exception). This will result in a slowdown in growth and employment in consumer service sectors, such as wholesale and retail, hotel and restaurants and other entertainment sectors.

The share of government expenditure in GDP is expected to increase between 2015 and 2030, driven by increased expenditure in health and social care. We would expect to see increased employment in this sector.

Employment in the EU manufacturing sector is decreasing, despite relatively stable growth in production. The increase in production is supported by increased industrial investment, particularly in machinery and equipment and R&D, supporting the drive in robotisation. Although the increased focus on automation means that fewer new jobs are expected to be created in manufacturing sectors, it is also expected to lead in new jobs opening in the supporting service industries. Current robotisation trends in the EU are not expected to lead to job destruction on a large scale, although they are expected to result in new jobs not being created. The current assumption is that existing workers in automation-prone sectors are likely to keep their jobs when robots are brought in, though they may see a role change or accept lower wages.

The baseline developed for the 2018 forecasting exercise does not include any particular assumptions on the impacts of Brexit; for the time being the projections assumes a business-as-usual, with no immediate impacts felt. Making assumptions about the Brexit impact on macroeconomic trends is difficult and will depend on the outcome of the terms negotiated. It was suggested that this could be developed as a sensitivity to the main projection work.

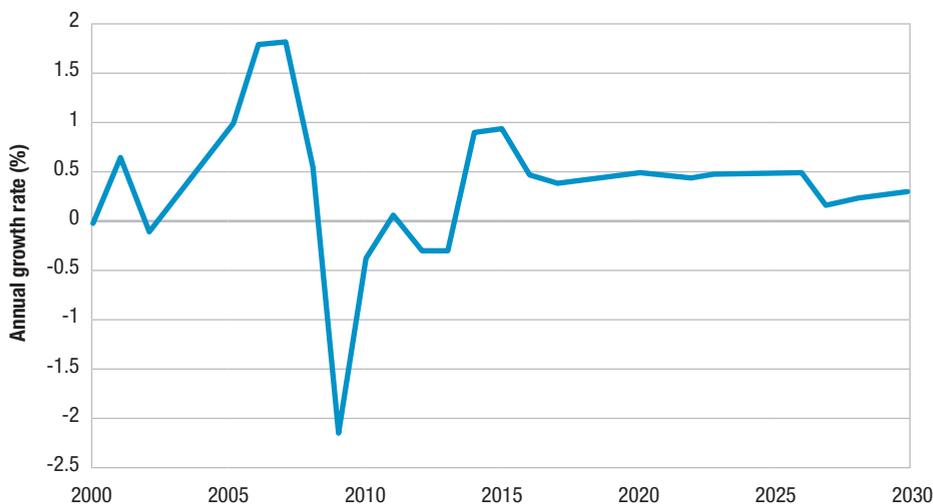
- Other macroeconomic issues taken into consideration were:
- (a) international trade, impact of Brexit but also looking more broadly at tendencies towards increased protectionism and higher trade tariffs;
  - (b) migration;
  - (c) technological change;
  - (d) volume of remittances.

Sensitivities are being designed to look at these issues in more detail (see Section 2.6).

### 2.3. Prospects for employment in Europe

Figure 3 summarises the annual rate of employment growth 2000-30 for the EU-28+3. Modest growth is expected, with total employment rising by around 0.5% per annum between 2020 and 2025 but slowing after that.

Figure 3. **Employment annual growth rate, EU-28+3**



Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).



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Following the crisis, most countries experienced a negative effect on employment; while employment is expected to recover over the forecast period, this growth is likely to be dampened by increased economic uncertainty in the short term and by demographic trends in the longer term. In the short term, GDP growth is dampened by expected low wage growth in the EU and external geopolitical risks. In the longer term, the EU's aging population is likely to lead to slower economic growth, as employers increasingly struggle to fill available positions. Expected growth 2020-30 will be weaker than it was in pre-crisis. This finding needs to be interpreted in a context where rising participation rates and net migration will not be sufficient to reverse the declining trend.

While modest employment growth is projected for the EU-28+Norway and Switzerland, some decline is expected in some countries, such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania (Annex 2). This is mainly linked to the decline in working age population, either as a result of aging population or because of increased outward migration.

The heavy job losses caused by the various debt crises in countries such as Greece, Spain, Lithuania and Cyprus are reflected in the average rate of growth over the period 2010-15, characterised by increased volatility (see Figure 3). Over the period 2016-20 a modest recovery is expected for most countries.

Table 1 summarises average annual employment growth across the EU-28+3 for 10 broad industry sectors. The numbers capture the decline in employment in primary industries and basic manufacturing. Service sectors are expected to be the main drivers of employment growth over 2016-30, although the pace of growth slows after 2025. The decline in basic manufacturing is expected to slow somewhat in the medium term, supported by increased activity in other sectors (such as construction), but the sector is not expected to bounce back to historical employment levels. The general trend for the region as a whole captured by these data is a transition towards a more service-based economy.

**Table 1. Baseline employment by broad industry (% pa), EU-28+3**

	2010-15	2016-20	2021-25	2026-30
Agriculture	-2.6	-1.1	-0.8	-0.9
Extraction Industries	-0.3	-1.5	-2.0	-1.4
Basic manufacturing	-0.9	-0.2	0.0	-0.1
Engineering and transport equipment	0.6	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1
Utilities	-0.4	0.4	0.1	0.4
Construction	-1.7	-0.2	0.4	0.5
Distribution and retail	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.4
Transport and communications	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4
Business services	1.7	1.2	1.1	0.9
Public services	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.0

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Legal and accounting, R&D, advertising and market research, and other professional administrative and support service activities are among those expected to see the fastest employment growth among service sectors (Table A2 in Annex 2). Growth in these sectors is supported by interlinkages with manufacturing sectors and the increased drive for digitisation in manufacturing. Other sectors expected to experience rapid growth include more consumer-oriented ones, such as wholesale and retail trade, accommodation and food service activities, and arts, entertainment and recreation, supported by increasing consumer expenditure and tourism. The air transport sector is also expected to see significant employment growth over the projection period.

The increase in public sector employment is expected to be driven mainly by greater demand for health services, as expected from the increasingly aging population. Limited employment growth would be expected in public education, and a small reduction in employment is expected in government administration and other services, given how austerity measures will affect coming years.

A similar sector trend can be seen at regional level (Figure 4), with large increases in employment expected in service sectors, particularly among the new Member States. Employment in real estate activities, legal, accounting and consulting services, and architectural services are expected to increase

significantly in most new Member States, particularly in Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and Romania. Employment in R&D is expected to increase significantly across most EU countries, highlighting the leading position of the EU in R&D activity <sup>(6)</sup>. Employment increases in the wholesale and retail sectors are more muted, as activity is more dependent on consumer activity, which is in turn affected by long-term declining population trends. Accommodation and food services activities is a more leisure and tourist-oriented sector, so larger employment increases are expected where tourism plays an important role in the economy (such as Greece, Spain and Portugal).

Some high value-added manufacturing sectors are also expected to see substantial employment growth in certain countries: examples are electrical equipment in France, and other machinery and equipment manufacturing and motor vehicles in Spain and France. Employment in the motor vehicles sector is expected to increase significantly in several EU countries, such as Ireland, France, Romania and some of the Baltic States. The increase in motor vehicles activity is not so much driven by internal demand – as the EU is a mature market – but by the prospect of increased exports to rapidly growing markets, such as China and countries in Latin America. Employment increases in computer, optical and electronic equipment are also expected in most countries, although the rates of increase are smaller than those in motor vehicles. Employment in basic manufacturing sectors (such as textiles, clothing and leather, wood, paper, printing and publishing, or basic metals and metal products) is expected to decrease by 2030 in almost all Member States. The trend is for increased focus on advanced manufacturing and high value-added activities, while more basic manufacturing activities remain in decline.

The analysis undertaken by Eurofound (see Chapter 5) looked at the future of manufacturing in Europe and discovered that, under certain circumstances, advanced manufacturing sectors are expected to benefit more when compared to current baseline trends.

Employment in public administration and defence is expected to see a reduction in almost all EU countries. Declining employment is also

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<sup>(6)</sup> Some 30 EU companies are among the world's top 100 R&D investors. In the fiscal year 2015/16 the EU saw an annual increase in R&D expenditure of 7.5%, which puts EU companies ahead of the global (6.6%) and US (5.9%) trends:  
<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/eu-companies-rd-investment-grows-faster-global-and-us-trends>

expected in agriculture, and mining and quarrying sectors, but this varies across countries.

### Box 1. **Featured sector: automotive**

The automotive sector represents a significant share of the EU economy: it accounts for almost 7% of GDP and 5.7% of total employment, or 12.6 million workers (ACEA, 2017). Manufacturing accounts for 3 million jobs, sales and maintenance for 4.3 million, and transport for 5 million. The EU is one of the world's biggest producers, with the sector gathering the largest amount of funds from private investors in R&D and accounting for 20% of Europe's industrial research funding; see the European Commission's *Blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills* (European Commission, 2017b). The automotive sector generates positive spill-overs for upstream industries, such as steel, chemicals, and textiles, as well as downstream industries, such as ICT, repair, and mobility services. It positively contributes to the EU's overall balance of payments, especially with increasing exports to key markets in Asia. As an essential component of the EU trade agenda, it accounts for EU exports of EUR 135.4 billion in 2016, a positive trade balance of EUR 89.7 billion (ACEA, 2017).

The automotive sector is undergoing significant structural changes in its workforce requirements, due mainly to advancements in technology (digitalisation and automation) and the shift towards the production of clean vehicles. According to EU Skills Panorama focus on the automotive sector, an increase in the production of electric vehicles is likely to reduce the number of assembly line jobs. Electric vehicles are less labour-intensive to produce because they have fewer parts. Growing use of electric components will also increase safety risks, leading to the production process becoming further automated. The increase in demand for clean vehicles will lead to new jobs in R&D, design and senior roles in the manufacturing process. There will be particular demand for: material scientists; computer analysts; and chemical, electrical, industrial, material and mechanical engineers. Similarly, the need to have connected vehicles with advanced electronic information and entertainment features will require new skills and new technologies. New areas of expertise, including those that result from the ongoing shift to highly sophisticated, digital manufacturing (Industry 4.0) will need to be added to bridge the existing knowledge gap between the automotive and the ICT sector (European Commission, 2017b). Consequently, the number of low- and medium-skilled jobs will decline.





PREVIOUS

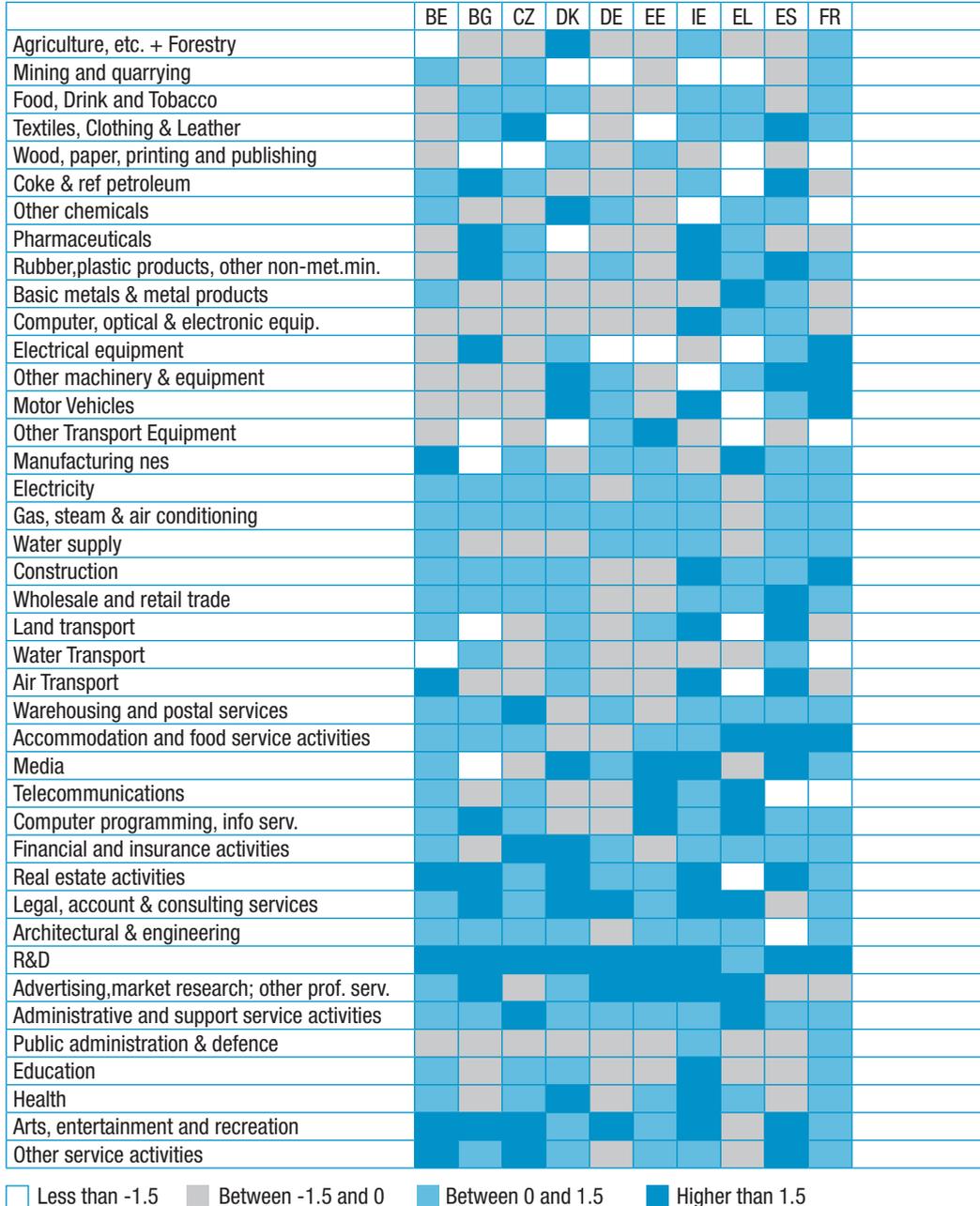


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Figure 4. **Baseline employment growth by detailed sector 2016-30**  
 (% pa), EU-28+3







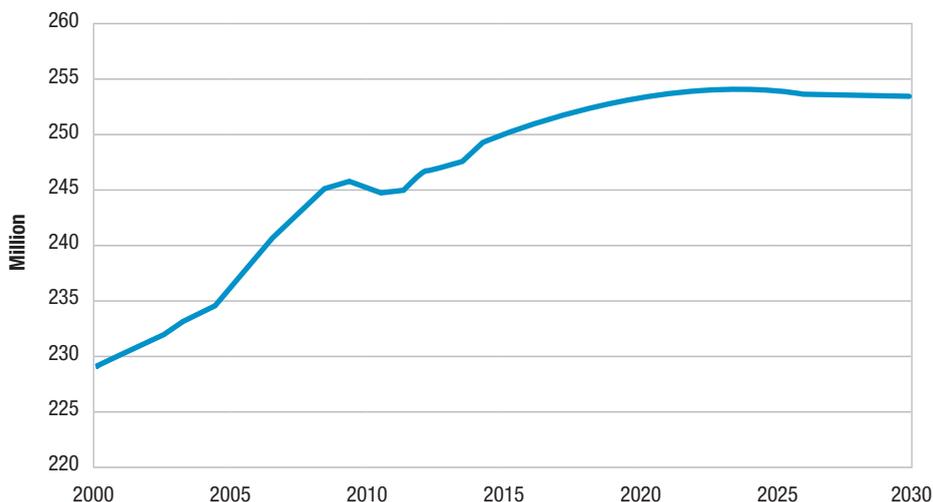
Recognising the strategic importance of the automotive sector, the European Commission increased the funds available for cooperative research and innovation in the sector for 2014-20. In 2012, it launched the CARS 2020 action plan to steer the development of the sector, which was then facing hardship. The plan laid out a common view of the automotive sector focusing on four areas: financing innovations, improving market conditions, facilitating internationalisation and responding to change (European Commission, 2012; European Commission, 2014; European Commission, 2017c). Analysis of key automotive trends was deepened in 2015, with the launch of the high-level group GEAR 2030, bringing together public and private stakeholders to reflect on the competitiveness of the sector amid changes in value chains and advancements in technology. GEAR 2030 resulted in a series of policy recommendations to regulate, foster investments, accommodate structural changes brought by digitalisation and manage international trade. See GEAR 2030 final report (European Commission, 2017c).

The key challenges and opportunities for this sector are rapid policy and technology changes that have started to take place: demand for clean vehicles, sustainability and the potential for self-driving cars. These changes are expected to lead to a substantial shift in the skill requirement of this sector, which may need support from policy-makers.

## 2.4. Labour force trends

Figure 5 shows the projected path for the labour force in the EU-28+3. As can be seen from the figure, total labour force shows an upward trend following the modest economic growth after the crisis. This path stabilises from 2020 onwards, although a slow decline is expected to take place closer to 2030. The increase in the labour force in the aftermath of the economic crisis is partly explained by an increase in participation of the oldest cohorts; changes in regulations to extend working life and the unsustainable burden of public pension systems, seen in countries such as Spain, are contributory factors. The slow decline of the labour force in the medium term highlights the need for public intervention to encourage participation in the labour market.

Figure 5. **Labour force, EU-28+3**



Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Table A3 in Annex 2 provides a summary of the projected trends for the working age population, participation rates and the corresponding labour supply for each of the countries under consideration. The table shows expected labour supply for the region (EU-28+3) increasing by 1% between 2016 and 2030.

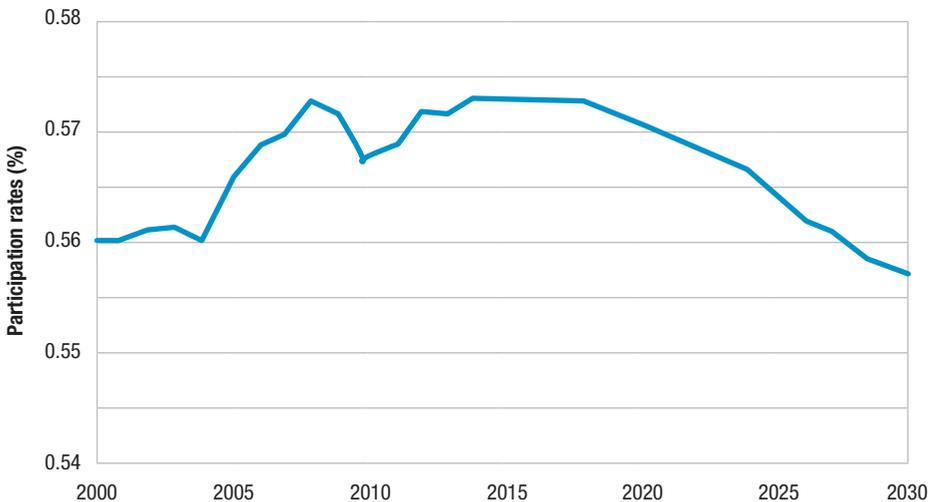
The numbers in the table also highlight an increase in the working age population over 2016-30 in 22 of the economies under consideration. The largest increases in the working age population are expected in Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway and Switzerland. Other economies, where labour supply will also increase substantially, are Belgium, Denmark and Sweden. In some countries, such as Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania, the projected fall in working age population, arising from slow population growth and high outward migration, will be so large that, despite a projected rise in activity rates for some of these countries, labour supply will shrink. At European level, a 3.7% increase in the working age population will lead to a 1% increase in the labour supply.

The overall increase in the absolute levels of labour supply shown in Table A4 of Annex 2 is, therefore, due to the lower participation rates being more than offset by an increase in the working age population. The decline in the participation

rate does not particularly reflect changes in the willingness of any particular age group to seek employment; it is related to changes in the relative sizes of the labour groups. The share of older (55+) workers in particular is increasing while the respective share of the ‘core’ workforce (25 to 54) is declining.

Figure 6 highlights the baseline projection for average labour participation rates in the EU-28+3; a steady decline can be observed from 2020 onwards. Although some countries (Denmark, Hungary) experience increases in average participation rates between 2016 and 2030, a reduction could be expected for most of the countries under scrutiny.

**Figure 6. Labour participation rates, EU-28+3**



Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

For a better understanding of the projected dynamics in each demographic group, Table A4 in Annex 2 provides a detailed breakdown by gender and age group. The figures show that the population in younger age groups is expected to fall substantially, while in the older age groups it will rise. This results in an ageing population, as both birth and death rates decline and more people enter into groups with lower participation rates. Participation rates among the older age groups, however, are expected to increase (from a low base), as general health and fitness improvements enable people to work longer and retirement ages rise along with pressure to continue working to

top up pensions. Increases in the participation rate are observed particularly in the 55 to 64 age group.

However, the increases in participation rates among the older age groups do not offset the large decreases in population (and, in some cases, participation rates) of the younger age groups. Participation of younger people is also declining in some cases because of the increasing trend to remain in education past the compulsory stage, as access to education and training becomes easier and the labour market becomes more competitive. This results in a decline in participation rates for the youngest age group.

For males, the age group that is expected to contribute substantially to the increase in labour supply is 65+ (2.7 million), while for females the main contribution is expected to come from those aged 60 to 64 (1.7 million). This is followed closely by the 60 to 64 age group (2.5 million) for males and the 65+ group for females (1.2 million).

Figure 7 shows clearly the general pattern of increased participation among older age groups alongside the fall among younger age groups. There are important differences in each country: for example, Cyprus, Latvia, Romania and Finland show a reduction in the average labour supply within older age groups, in contrast with the general trend.

## 2.5. Imbalances between labour supply and demand

This section focuses on the scale of differences between aggregate labour demand and supply. For a more detailed analysis of labour market imbalances and mismatches, please refer to Section 4.3.

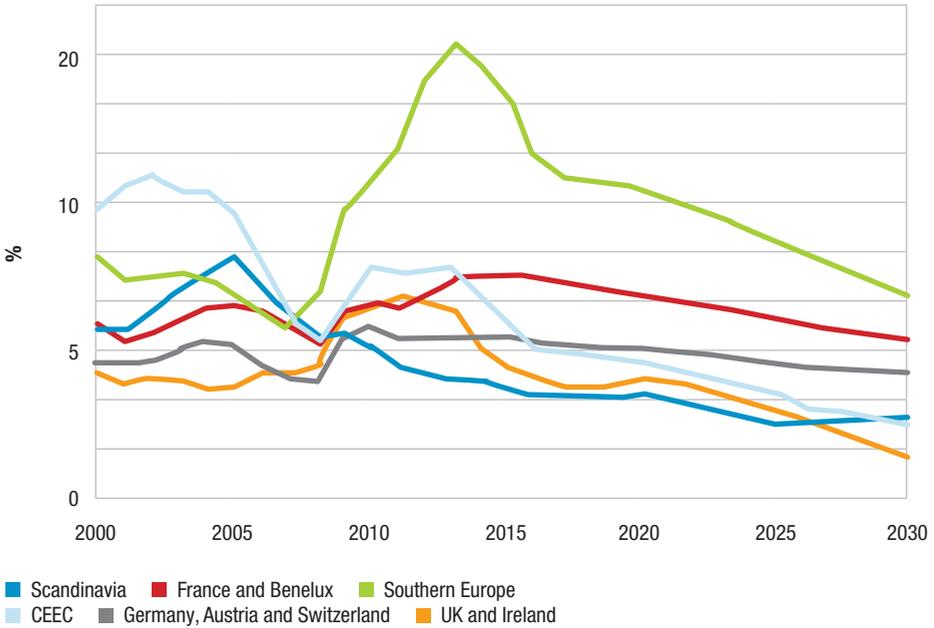
Figure 8 summarises the expected unemployment rates that accompany the baseline projections of labour supply and demand. The figure reports the unemployment rate over the period 2000-30 by six broad European regions. An increase is observed in all regions in 2009, following the financial and economic crisis, although the group comprising Austria, Germany and Switzerland quickly returns to its long-term downward trend. The fact that UK and Ireland (combined) and the central and eastern European countries peaked in 2011 can be interpreted as a lagged response to the economic downturn. Many countries are forecast to return to pre-crisis unemployment levels by 2030, although the recovery in Southern Europe is much slower compared to the other groups.





The fall in unemployment rates should be considered in the context of a shrinking population and labour force. In most cases it may be more driven by a rapidly shrinking labour force rather than increased economic activity.

Figure 8. **Baseline unemployment rate (%), in EU regions**



Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

## 2.6. Dealing with uncertainty

As with any modelling, the projections are subject to a degree of uncertainty. This can be linked, for example, to the type of model used, model parameters and baseline, and to assumptions.

As part of the work to prepare the sectoral employment and labour force projections, a sensitivity analysis was carried out to explore the extent to which the labour market outlook is affected by alternative macroeconomic assumptions such as GDP growth. This section presents an analysis.

The current short-term GDP trends were taken from the AMECO <sup>(7)</sup> May 2017 release, while the long-term projections were taken from the ageing report consistent with the Europop 2015 population projections <sup>(8)</sup>.

There is still much uncertainty over the pace and sustainability of economic growth, given recent political and economic developments. While previous analyses focused on the impact of the external shock on EU economic growth, this sensitivity analysis offers alternative macroeconomic scenarios depending on the extent to which governments in Europe pursue policies that help to promote growth <sup>(9)</sup>. Two scenarios are developed: ‘EU revival’ and ‘EU stagnation’. Under EU revival, governments take additional action to support research and innovation activities, and infrastructure projects, and to mitigate the skills gap. In the EU stagnation variant, support for innovation projects is reduced and limited infrastructure investment occurs, while the skill mismatch gap widens.

In what follows, the economic impacts of the scenarios are first summarised, providing an overall context for the more detailed labour market impacts. Then the results for employment demand are presented.

Figure 9 shows the evolution of GDP over time under the different sensitivities. In the EU revival sensitivity, increased support for innovation and skills leads to acceleration in growth, amounting to about an additional 1 percentage point, to the annual growth rate each year until 2030. The EU stagnation case makes a similar difference in the opposite direction.

Table A5 in Annex 2 summarises the employment results in 2030 at Member State level. On average, employment in the EU in 2030 is 1.9% lower than the main projection in the EU stagnation case and 2.1% higher in the EU revival case.

There are large differences in employment impacts between the Member States, even though the sensitivity inputs for each Member State are broadly similar. The differences reflect the relative sectoral structure and trade patterns of each country. For example, output and employment in Germany are particularly affected in these sensitivities because its economy

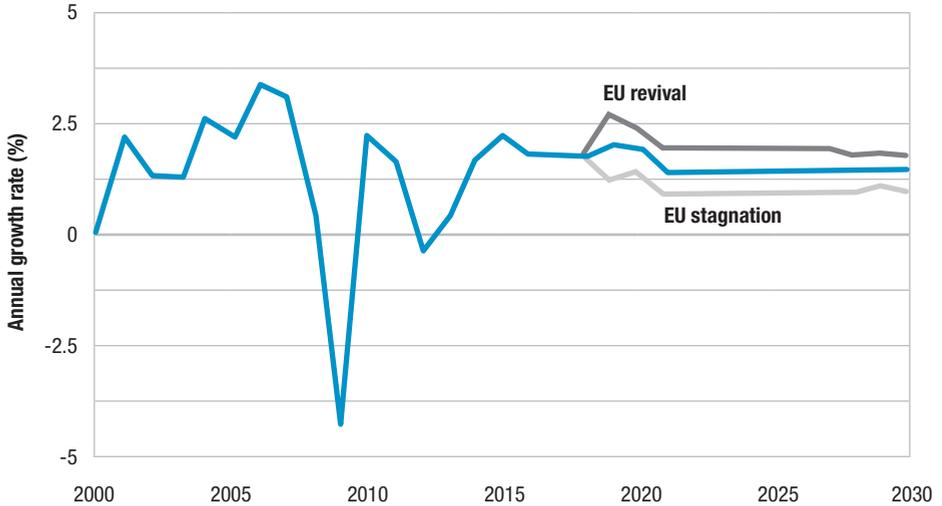
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<sup>(7)</sup> European Commission’s annual macroeconomic database (AMECO). [https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/indicators-statistics/economic-databases/macro-economic-database-ameco\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/indicators-statistics/economic-databases/macro-economic-database-ameco_en)

<sup>(8)</sup> Eurostat population projections 2015. <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/population-demography-migration-projections/population-projections-data>

<sup>(9)</sup> This analysis is more stylised compared to the work undertaken for the Eurofound project *The future of manufacturing in Europe*, which is presented in Chapter 5.

Figure 9. **GDP growth (%), in EU-28+3**



Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

is more sensitive to differences in investment and R&D spending (both within Germany and in the rest of the EU).

Figure 10 and Figure 11 present the sectoral impacts by Member State. Employment is typically most affected (in Figure 10, darker shades indicate positive effects; in Figure 11, lighter shades indicate a more negative impact) in the sectors that are most closely associated with investment and R&D activities. These are:

- (a) R&D, consulting services, computer programming and advanced manufacturing;
- (b) sectors that form part of the supply chain for these.

Some sectors, such as agriculture, have results that go against the main trends in employment. In agriculture, there is little change in economic output as demand for food (agricultural products) is less affected during an economic downturn. Wages in the agricultural sector are more flexible, falling in the EU stagnation sensitivity and allowing for employment in this sector to be maintained.

## 2.7. Concluding remarks

Employment growth in the EU is expected to be moderate over the projection period to 2030. Aging or declining populations in the larger EU economies mean that employers are likely to have difficulty filling existing and new jobs.

Most of the employment growth over the projection period is expected to be in service sectors, along with some advanced manufacturing sectors. The fastest growing service sectors are expected to be: legal and accounting; R&D; advertising and market research; other professional; and administrative and support service activities. Among manufacturing sectors, electrical equipment, other machinery and equipment, manufacturing, and motor vehicles are expected to see strong employment growth in some countries.

The European labour force is expected to continue to expand in the coming years, although the pace of increase will slow after 2020 when the labour force level is expected to remain stable. The increase in labour supply is caused by gradually rising participation rates, particularly among older workers, in part because of increases in the statutory retirement age and because of the unsustainable burden of public pension systems in some EU countries.



PREVIOUS



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Figure 10. EU revival: percentage differences from baseline in 2030

	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR
Agriculture, etc. + Forestry	Blue	Blue	Grey	Blue	White	Blue	White	White	Blue	Blue
Mining and quarrying	Grey	Grey	Grey	White	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Food, Drink and Tobacco	Blue	White	White	Blue	White	White	White	Blue	White	White
Textiles, Clothing & Leather	Grey	Blue	Grey	Blue	Blue	Grey	Grey	White	Blue	Blue
Wood, paper, printing and publishing	Grey	Grey	Grey	Blue	White	Blue	Blue	Blue	White	White
Coke & ref petroleum	Blue	Grey	Grey	Blue	Blue	Blue	White	Blue	Grey	White
Other chemicals	Blue	Grey	Blue	Blue	Grey	White	White	Blue	Blue	Blue
Pharmaceuticals	Blue	Grey	Grey	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Grey
Rubber,plastic products, other non-met.min.	Blue	Grey	Blue							
Basic metals & metal products	Blue	Blue	Grey	Blue	Blue	Grey	Blue	Grey	Blue	Blue
Computer, optical & electronic equip.	Blue	Grey	Blue	Blue	Blue	White	White	Grey	Blue	Grey
Electrical equipment	Blue	Grey								
Other machinery & equipment	Blue	Grey	Blue							
Motor Vehicles	Blue	Grey	Grey	Blue						
Other Transport Equipment	Blue	Grey	Blue							
Manufacturing nes	Blue	Grey	Blue							
Electricity	Blue	White	Blue	Blue	White	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Gas, steam & air conditioning	White	Blue	Blue	Blue	White	White	White	White	White	Grey
Water supply	Grey									
Construction	Blue									
Wholesale and retail trade	Blue									
Land transport	Grey	Blue	Blue	Blue	Grey	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Water Transport	White	Grey	Grey	White	White	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Air Transport	Blue	Grey	Blue	Blue	White	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Warehousing and postal services	White	Blue								
Accommodation and food service activities	Blue	Blue	Grey	Blue						
Media	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	White	White	Blue	Blue	Blue
Telecommunications	Grey	Blue	White							
Computer programming, info serv.	Blue									
Financial and insurance activities	Grey	Blue	Grey	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Grey
Real estate activities	Blue	White	Blue	Blue						
Legal, account & consulting services	Blue	Grey	Blue	Grey						
Architectural & engineering	Blue	Grey	Blue							
R&D	Grey	Grey	Blue							
Advertising,market research; other prof. serv.	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	White	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue
Administrative and support service activities	Blue	Grey	Blue							
Public administration & defence	Blue									
Education	Blue									
Health	Blue	Grey	Blue	Grey						
Arts, entertainment and recreation	Blue									
Other service activities	Blue	Grey	Blue							

Less than -1.5
  Between -1.5 and 0
  Between 0 and 1.5
  Higher than 1.5





PREVIOUS



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Figure 11. **EU stagnation: percentage differences from baseline in 2030**

	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EN	IE	EL	ES	FR
Agriculture, etc. + Forestry	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Mining and quarrying	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Food, Drink and Tobacco	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Textiles, Clothing & Leather	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Wood, paper, printing and publishing	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Coke & ref petroleum	Light Blue	Dark Blue								
Other chemicals	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Pharmaceuticals	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue				
Rubber,plastic products, other non-met.min.	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Basic metals & metal products	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Computer, optical & electronic equip.	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue
Electrical equipment	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue					
Other machinery & equipment	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue					
Motor Vehicles	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue							
Other Transport Equipment	Light Blue									
Manufacturing nes	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Electricity	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue
Gas, steam & air conditioning	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue
Water supply	Light Blue									
Construction	Light Blue									
Wholesale and retail trade	Light Blue									
Land transport	Light Blue									
Water Transport	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Air Transport	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue				
Warehousing and postal services	Light Blue									
Accommodation and food service activities	Light Blue									
Media	Light Blue									
Telecommunications	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue				
Computer programming, info serv.	Light Blue									
Financial and insurance activities	Light Blue									
Real estate activities	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue						
Legal, account & consulting services	Light Blue									
Architectural & engineering	Light Blue									
R&D	Light Blue									
Advertising,market research; other prof. serv.	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
Administrative and support service activities	Light Blue									
Public administration & defence	Light Blue									
Education	Light Blue									
Health	Light Blue	Dark Blue								
Arts, entertainment and recreation	Light Blue									
Other service activities	Light Blue	Dark Blue								

Less than -1.5
  Between -1.5 and 0
  Between 0 and 1.5
  Higher than 1.5



## CHAPTER 3.

# The implications for occupations

### Key messages

Occupational employment trends will continue to be driven primarily by changes in sectoral employment patterns and (more importantly) by changes in occupational patterns within sectors driven by technological and other changes.

There is expected to be continued polarisation within the labour market, with growth forecast in both high- and low-skill occupations.

Replacement needs will outweigh expansion demands for most occupations and account for the bulk of new job openings.

There remains a degree of uncertainty about occupational trends because of the short time series of data available on a consistent basis.

### 3.1. Introduction

Given the economic and sectoral prospects described in Chapter 2, this chapter summarises the implications for future skills. Skills are defined here by the occupation people are employed in. The way jobs are classified by occupation (using the international standard ISCO-08) provides a natural hierarchy, with some jobs being inherently more skilled than others. Demand for skills is measured by the levels of employment in different occupations. Skills can also be measured by the formal qualifications people hold or that are required in their jobs. This aspect is considered in Chapter 4.

### 3.2. Factors influencing occupational employment

The two main factors influencing the demand for skills in general are the changing sectoral structure of employment in the economy, and the impact of technological and other changes on the pattern of demand for skills within sectors.

The sectoral projections drive the demands both for different occupations (the jobs people do) and for formal qualifications. Trends in occupational patterns (as a share of total employment) are expected to be less affected by the recession than sectoral trends. For many occupations, structural change at sectoral level is expected to be reinforced by changes within sectors, which affect the way goods and services are produced and delivered. These two factors are projected to produce a general increase in the demand for skills over the medium term (as measured by both occupation and qualification), as the economy recovers from recession.

Most of the increases in employment in recent years have been concentrated in higher skill level occupations, typically requiring higher-level formal qualifications, such as a university degree. These include areas such as management, professional and associate professional jobs. This pattern is expected to continue.

However, growth has also occurred in lower-level occupations (which do not normally require high-level formal qualifications), especially in parts of the service sector where it is difficult to automate tasks. This is also projected to continue.

There have been significant job losses for many traditional (especially manual) skills linked to the sectors where employment is in long-term decline. In many areas of manufacturing and primary industries, as well as some services, technology has enabled automation of production processes. These trends are expected to continue to 2030 and beyond. In many of these sectors output will continue to grow but growth will be ‘jobless’ (or even showing continued job losses).

Given the short time series of currently available consistent data, occupational trends are difficult to discern over recent years. Data are now available using the new ISCO-08 system of classifying occupations. However, projected trends are still largely reliant on the assumption of a continuation of past trends based on the nearest equivalent ISCO-88 category.

The main trends and key features of the changing occupational patterns of employment are illustrated in Table 2 <sup>(10)</sup>. These results focus on the EU-28+3 countries. In most countries sectoral employment changes in favour of the

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<sup>(10)</sup> The tables and graphs on occupations in this report do not include estimations for the armed forces. Therefore, the totals of occupational employment may differ from those presented elsewhere, for example on total sectoral employment where armed forces are implicitly included. The purpose of this estimation is to show trends in occupations rather than provide indications of total future employment.

service sector, and away from primary and manufacturing industries, are being reinforced by changes in the way work is organised and jobs are performed within sectors. In combination, these result in strong increases in demand for many high- and medium-skilled jobs, as well as for some lower-skilled occupations (especially those working in parts of the service sector) <sup>(1)</sup>.

The fastest rates of growth at the one-digit level are projected for managerial professional, and associate professional and technical jobs (Table 2). These patterns are common to most countries and, rates of increases of above 10% are projected for these three categories between 2016 and 2030 across the EU-28+3. Some employment growth is also projected for some lower-level occupations, especially elementary ones, which form the least-skilled occupational group. This is also projected to see employment growth of over 10% between 2016 and 2030.

Table A6 in Annex 3 shows the results at the two-digit level, revealing a more complex picture. Rapid rates of growth are projected for occupations such as business and administration professionals and legal professionals; both are projected to grow by over 20% between 2016 and 2030. The fastest increases are projected for legal, social, cultural and related associate professionals. The fastest rates of job losses over the same period are projected for lower skill level clerical workers and for various occupations associated with manual work in manufacturing. These are categories where technological changes are continuing to result in job losses due to automation of many routine tasks.

Table 2 shows the net changes in numbers in employment, at the one-digit and two-digit level of ISCO-08, respectively. Such changes are often referred to as expansion demand, although they may be negative; the term distinguishes such demand from replacement needs. The latter term refers to the number of job openings arising because of people leaving the employed workforce for retirement or other reasons. Table 2 distinguishes both elements. Total requirements are the sum of the net change (or expansion demands) and replacement demands. Together these represent the total number of job openings (net of any general labour turnover).

The results emphasise that replacement needs are generally much more significant than expansion demand. For all occupations, employment is projected to increase by around 6% between 2016 and 2030 (around 14

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<sup>(1)</sup> High-skilled occupations are considered those in ISCO 1-3. Medium-skilled are considered those in ISCO 4-8, and low-skilled those in ISCO 9.

million jobs for the EU-28+3 as a whole). Replacement needs are projected to be almost 10 times as large over the same period, as employers need to replace those leaving the workforce due to retirement and other factors. These issues are discussed in more detail in Section 3.3.

The results suggest significant growth in employment levels for higher skill level occupations (managers, professionals and associate professionals) with some growth also expected for less-skilled jobs: sales, security, cleaning, catering and caring occupations. Job losses are projected for many skilled manual workers (especially in agriculture) and for clerks. This can be characterised as a continuation of the trends towards a polarisation of skill demand, with hollowing out of many of the jobs at the middle skill level.

Figure 12 illustrates this graphically, focusing on the nine one-digit occupational categories. Positive trends are expected in management, professional and associate professional occupations, as well as for many service workers, especially in retail and distribution, and restaurants and hotels. There will be many extra jobs for occupations requiring few or no formal skills. Polarisation is a key feature of the results.

Table A6 in Annex 3 presents similar information at the two-digit level. The picture here is more complex but the general picture remains of some job growth at both high- and low-skill levels, and job losses among many middle-skilled jobs, especially those involved in more routine physical and non-manual tasks. The negative bars in the middle section of the figure indicate the hollowing out of many routine clerical and manual jobs.

A significant part of the changes in occupational employment levels projected can be attributed to changes in the sectoral structure of the economy, notably the continuing shift towards services and away from primary and manufacturing industries.

Because reliable information on trends on occupational employment patterns within industries is sparse, an initial projection is made on the assumption of fixed occupational shares: this means holding the occupational employment shares within industries fixed at their present values for all future years. In this case, changes in the mix of employment by occupation would entirely reflect changes in the mix of employment by sector.

Figure 13 and Table A7 in Annex 3 provide a formal analysis of historical experiences, using shift-share techniques. The part of the overall change in employment levels that is attributable to shifts in occupational employment structure within industries is set out for the 41 two-digit occupational

categories. Figure 13 and Table A7 illustrate this with bar charts that separate out the three main elements: scale, industry and occupational effects.

The employment level is projected to increase across all industries and services by about 6.4% between 2016 and 2030. For the EU-28+3 this represents about 15 million jobs. This is the so-called scale effect. If nothing else were to change, each occupation might be expected to grow by a similar percentage.

The second aspect identified is the so-called industry effect. This shows for each occupation how much employment would change if occupational employment patterns remained fixed over the projection period. This benefits those occupations in industries or sectors that are growing, at the expense of occupations concentrated in declining sectors. For example, the agriculture and fisheries sector is in long-term decline in terms of employment in many countries, reducing demand for occupations specific to that sector. By contrast, the health care sector has undergone rapid employment growth in most countries, resulting in more job opportunities for occupations such as doctor and nurse.

The ‘occupational effect’ is the residual. This shows those occupations projected to gain or lose from the assumption of changes in occupational employment patterns within industries based on the old ISCO-88 trends. It reflects technological changes, such as the impact of information and communications technology and artificial intelligence. These and other technological changes are leading to the automation of many routine jobs. Changes to the way work is organised and other working practices will also affect the mix of jobs by occupation within sectors.

By combining the scale and industry effects it is possible to produce an alternative projection for 2030 based on the assumption that occupational patterns within industries do not change from their 2016 values. From this comparison it is clear that occupational effects (technological change and other factors influencing the patterns of occupational employment within sectors) will be a key factor driving skill demand over the next decade or so.

Figure 13 and Figure A2 in Annex 3 illustrate this graphically. In Figure 13 the bars indicating the occupational effect (in grey) show that a large part of the polarisation phenomenon discussed above (for the one-digit level occupations) results from the assumed changes in employment shares of occupations within industries, rather than scale or industry effects.

For managerial, professional, associate professional and technical occupations, and elementary occupations, these effects are all strongly

positive; for clerks, service workers, shop and market sales workers, and craft and related trades workers they are all strongly negative. These patterns are also observable at the two-digit occupational level in Figure A2.

Figure 14 to Figure 16 provide further illustration of the main features of the occupational projections. Figure 14 groups the occupations into four broad skill categories. It highlights that it is the high-skilled, non-manual category that is projected to increase its share of total employment over 2016-30. The skilled non-manual and skilled manual categories are both projected to see their employment shares decline, while the elementary occupations category maintains its share. In all cases the changes in shares are slow but, apparently, inexorable and common to most countries.

Figure 15 also shows the slow but steady patterns of change in occupational employment structure, this time focusing on the one-digit level categories. Figure 16 illustrates what this means for the overall structure of employment, highlighting the importance of occupations such as professionals, technicians and associate professionals, as well as service workers and shop and market sales workers. These three groups account for the lion's share of employment in most countries but it is the first two categories that are continuing to increase their employment shares.

Figure 17 provides a 'heat map' illustrating how these patterns vary across countries within the EU-28+3. The diagram shows how rates of change in occupational employment at the two-digit level vary by country. Darker cells indicate faster growth; lighter shades a more rapid employment decline. The most-rapid growth is projected in the top part of the diagram: managerial, professional and associate professional technical occupations. Growth is also expected for some lower-level skilled occupations in the bottom part of the diagram. It is in the middle area that the main job losses are expected to occur, with focus on lower-skilled, non-manual workers, especially clerks and higher- and semi-skilled manual workers.

However, the situation in each country is dependent on a whole range of national factors, including its existing sectoral employment structure and general economic situation. The patterns, therefore, are complex and the heat map shows that the patterns of change are far from uniform. The broad picture sketched out above for the EU-28+3 as a whole can be observed in most individual countries.

Table 2. Projected change by broad occupation, 2011-30 (EU-28+3)

Levels (000s)	thousands				
	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030
Legislators, senior officials and managers	14 239	14 992	15 712	16 502	17 038
Professionals	39 335	41 947	43 690	45 647	46 849
Technicians and associate professionals	36 572	38 757	40 766	42 980	44 520
Clerks	24 755	24 281	24 114	23 975	23 592
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	39 254	40 354	41 357	42 067	42 011
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	9 840	8 855	8 552	8 326	8 090
Craft and related trades workers	28 511	26 898	26 266	25 947	25 563
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	16 830	16 584	16 732	16 945	17 007
Elementary occupations	21 900	23 144	24 250	25 394	26 020
<b>All occupations</b>	<b>231 237</b>	<b>235 812</b>	<b>241 438</b>	<b>247 782</b>	<b>250 691</b>

Shares (per cent)	per cent				
	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030
Legislators, senior officials and managers	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.7	6.8
Professionals	17.0	17.8	18.1	18.4	18.7
Technicians and associate professionals	15.8	16.4	16.9	17.3	17.8
Clerks	10.7	10.3	10.0	9.7	9.4
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	17.0	17.1	17.1	17.0	16.8
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	4.3	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.2
Craft and related trades workers	12.3	11.4	10.9	10.5	10.2
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8
Elementary occupations	9.5	9.8	10.0	10.2	10.4
<b>All occupations</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



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	2016-30	Replacement demand	thousands
	Net change		Total requirement
	2 046	11 097	13 143
	4 902	25 834	30 736
	5 763	22 844	28 607
	-689	13 578	12 889
	1 657	23 067	24 724
	-765	7 545	6 780
	-1 335	13 711	12 376
	423	9 566	9 989
	2 876	15 626	18 501
	14 879	142 867	157 746

	2016-30	Replacement demand	per cent
	Net change		Total requirement
	13.6	74.0	87.7
	11.7	61.6	73.3
	14.9	58.9	73.8
	-2.8	55.9	53.1
	4.1	57.2	61.3
	-8.6	85.2	76.6
	-5.0	51.0	46.0
	2.6	57.7	60.2
	12.4	67.5	79.9
	6.3	60.6	66.9



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Growth	% per annum				
	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	2026-30	2016-30
Legislators, senior officials and managers	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9
Professionals	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8
Technicians and associate professionals	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0
Clerks	-0.4	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.3
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	-2.1	-0.7	-0.5	-0.7	-0.6
Craft and related trades workers	-1.2	-0.5	-0.2	-0.4	-0.4
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	-0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2
Elementary occupations	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.8
<b>All occupations</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>

Change	thousands				
	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	2026-30	2016-30
Legislators, senior officials and managers	753	720	790	536	2 046
Professionals	2 612	1 742	1 957	1 202	4 902
Technicians and associate professionals	2 185	2 009	2 214	1 540	5 763
Clerks	-474	-167	-139	-383	-689
Service workers and shop and market sales workers	1 100	1 002	710	-56	1 657
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	-985	-303	-226	-235	-765
Craft and related trades workers	-1 613	-632	-319	-384	-1 335
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	-246	148	213	62	423
Elementary occupations	1 244	1 106	1 144	626	2 876
<b>All occupations</b>	<b>4 575</b>	<b>5 626</b>	<b>6 344</b>	<b>2 909</b>	<b>14 879</b>

NB: Categories shown are one-digit ISCO-08.

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).



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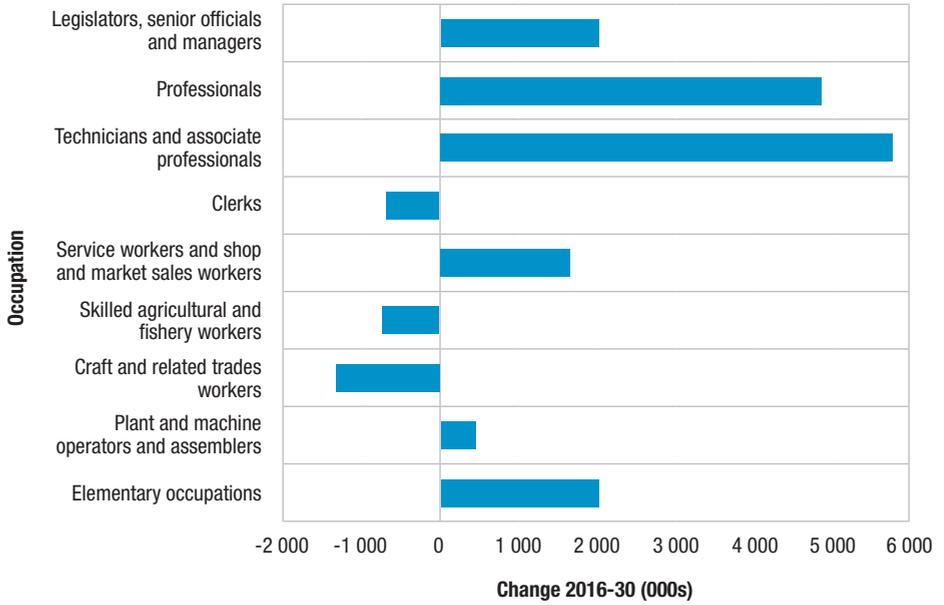
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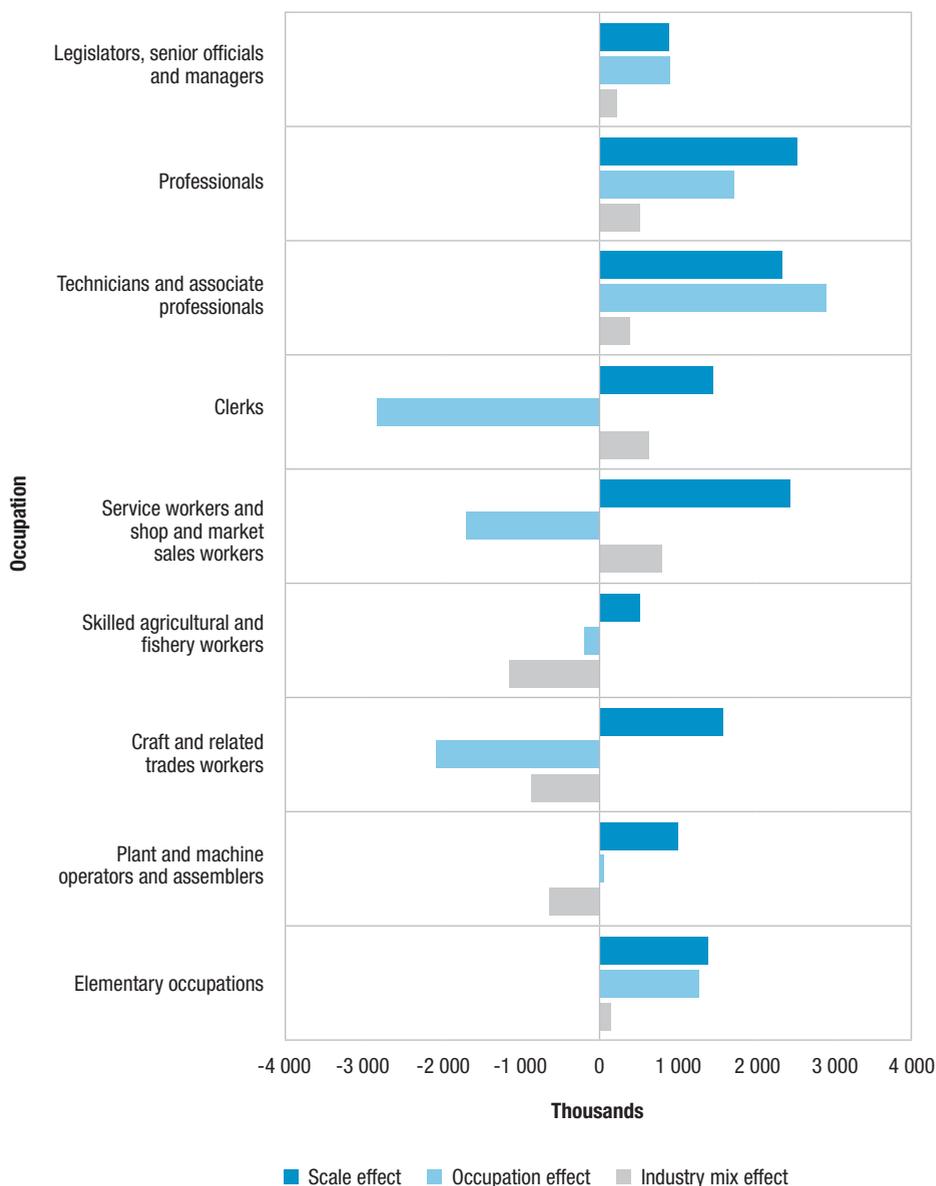
	2016-30	Replacement demand	% per annum
	Net change		Total requirement
	0.9	4.0	4.6
	0.8	3.5	4.0
	1.0	3.4	4.0
	-0.2	3.2	3.1
	0.3	3.3	3.5
	-0.6	4.5	4.1
	-0.4	3.0	2.7
	0.2	3.3	3.4
	0.8	3.8	4.3
	0.4	3.4	3.7

**Figure 12. Projected change by broad occupation, 2016-30 (EU-28+3)**



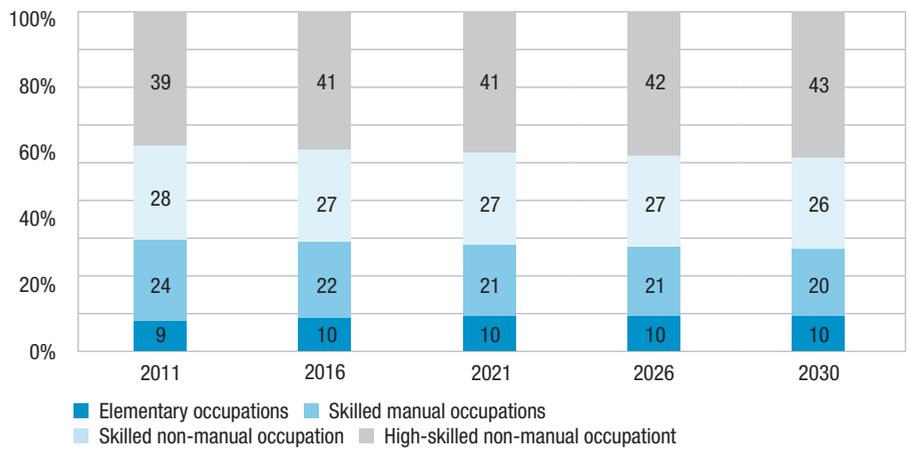
Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Figure 13. **Projected change, shift-share analysis, 2016-30 (EU-28+3)**



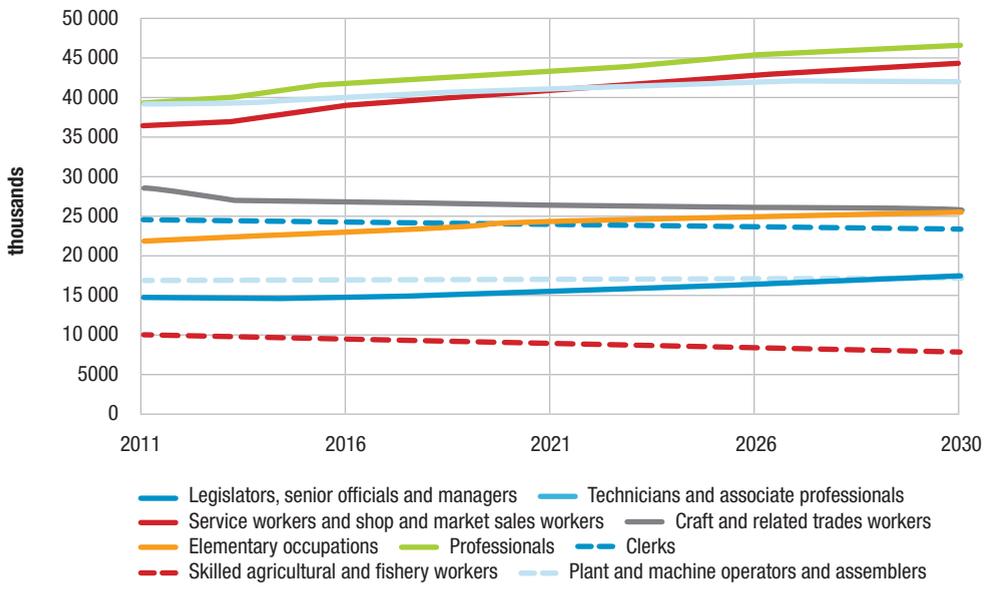
Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

**Figure 14. Past and likely future occupational employment structure (EU-28+3)**



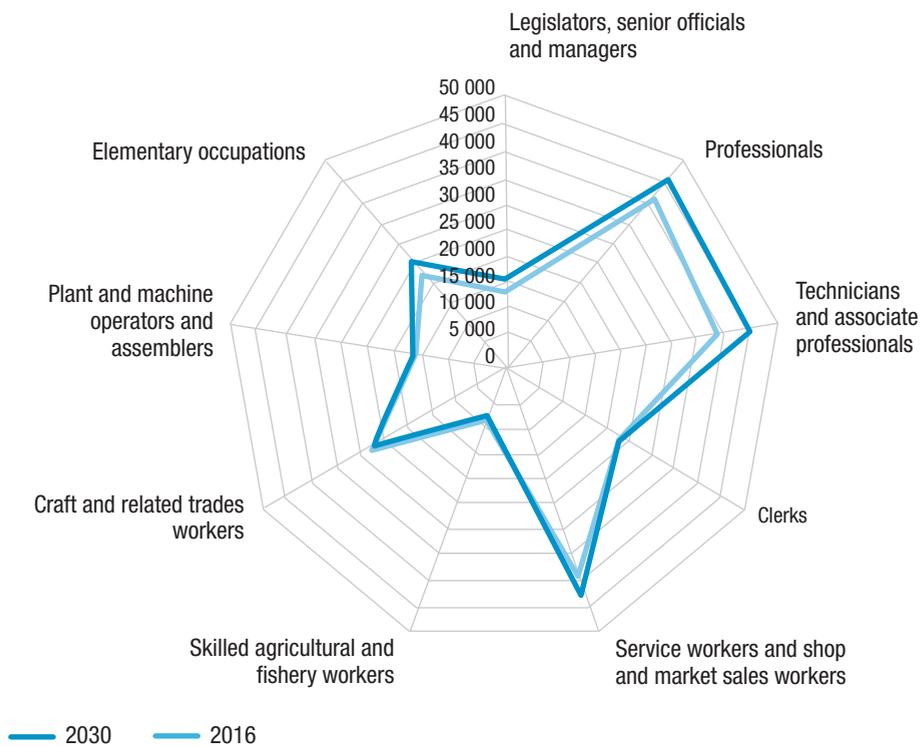
NB: Numbers in employment (estimates based on national accounts).  
 Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

**Figure 15. Broad trends in occupational employment (EU-28+3)**



NB: Numbers in employment (estimates based on national accounts).  
 Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Figure 16. **Changing occupational structure of employment (EU-28+3)**



NB: Based on numbers in employment (estimates based on national accounts).  
 Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).



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Figure 17. **Occupational change (%), two-digit ISCO-08 categories, 2016-30**

	BE	BG	CZ	DK	DE	EE	IE	EL	ES	FR	HR	IT	CY
Chief executives, senior offic.	Dark Blue												
Administrative and commercial .	Dark Blue												
Production and specialised ser.	Dark Blue												
Hospitality, retail and other .	Dark Blue												
Science and engineering profes.	Dark Blue												
Health professionals	Dark Blue												
Teaching professionals	Dark Blue												
Business and administration pr.	Dark Blue												
Information and communications.	Dark Blue												
Legal, social and cultural pro.	Dark Blue												
Science and engineering associ.	Dark Blue												
Health associate professionals	Dark Blue												
Business and administration as.	Dark Blue												
Legal, social, cultural and re.	Dark Blue												
Information and communications.	Dark Blue												
General and keyboard clerks	Dark Blue												
Customer services clerks	Dark Blue												
Numerical and material recordi.	Dark Blue												
Other clerical support workers	Dark Blue												
Personal service workers	Dark Blue												
Sales workers	Dark Blue												
Personal care workers	Dark Blue												
Protective services workers	Dark Blue												
Market-oriented skilled agricu.	Dark Blue												
Market-oriented skilled forest.	Dark Blue												
Subsistence farmers, fishers, .	Dark Blue												
Building and related trades wo.	Dark Blue												
Metal, machinery and related t.	Dark Blue												
Handicraft and printing worker.	Dark Blue												
Electrical and electronic trad.	Dark Blue												
Food processing, wood working, .	Dark Blue												
Stationary plant and machine o.	Dark Blue												
Assemblers	Dark Blue												
Drivers and mobile plant opera.	Dark Blue												
Cleaners and helpers	Dark Blue												
Agricultural, forestry and fis.	Dark Blue												
Labourers in mining, construct.	Dark Blue												
Food preparation assistants	Dark Blue												
Street and related sales and s.	Dark Blue												
Refuse workers and other eleme.	Dark Blue												

Less than -1.5
  Between -1.5 and -0.5
  Between -0.5 and 0.5



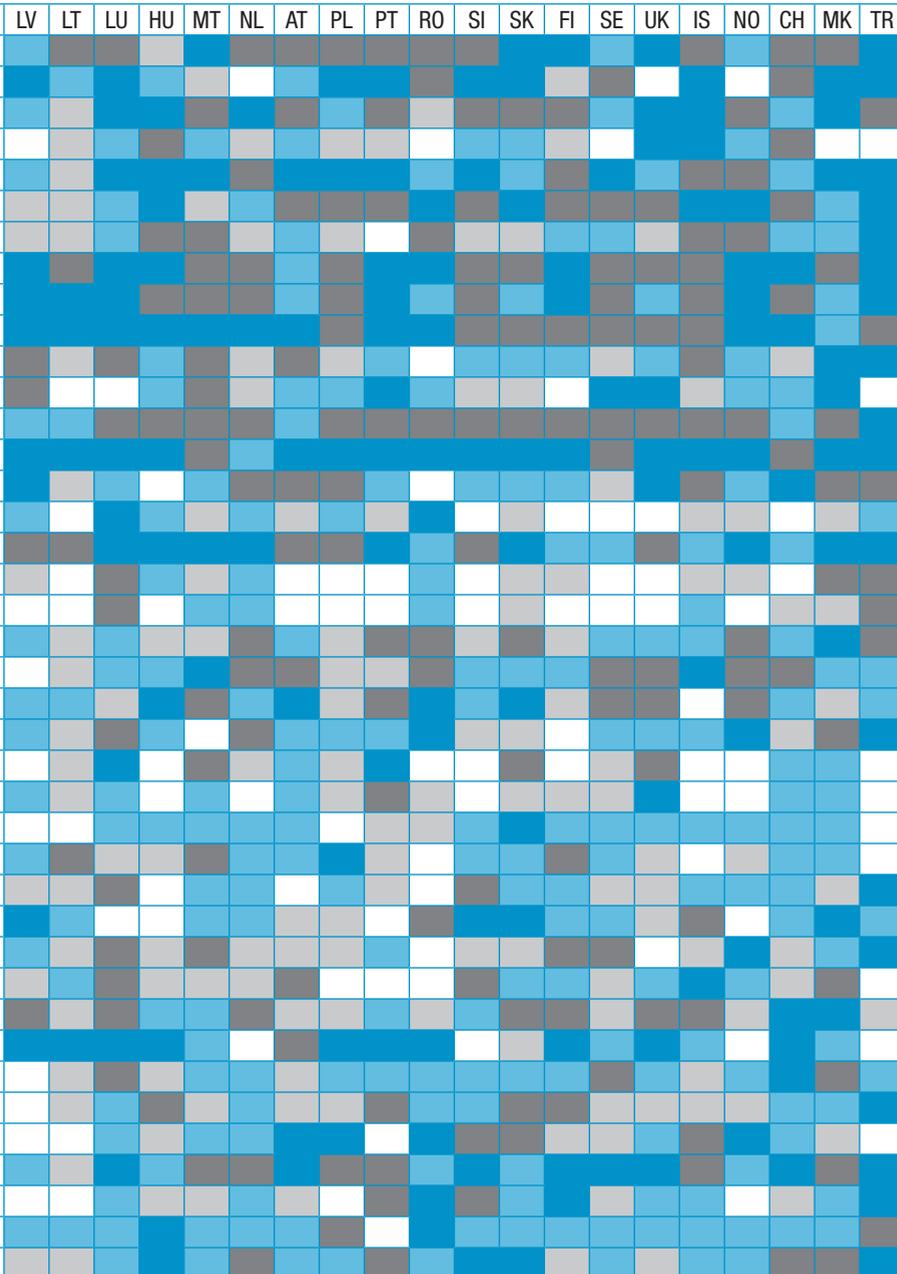
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Between 0.5 and 1.5 Higher than 1.5

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

### 3.3. Replacement demand

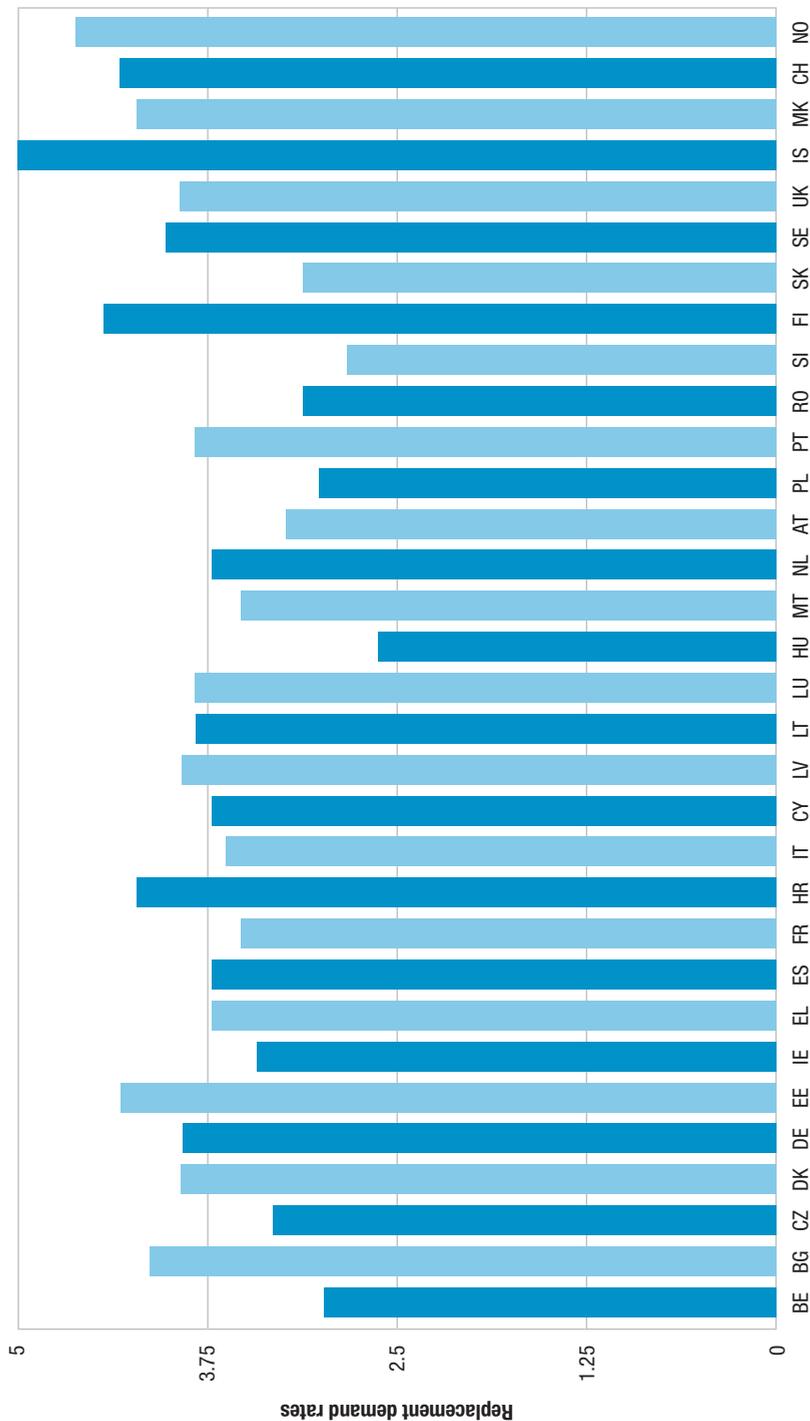
In addition to focusing on trends in employment patterns by occupation and qualification (net changes in employment levels or so-called expansion demands), it is also important to take account of replacement needs. A significant part of the demand for skills in Europe is replacement demand (RD). In general terms, RD can be seen as job openings arising from a worker leaving a job, temporarily or permanently. The main cause of permanent separations is due to retirement, but other reasons for withdrawal from the labour force are emigration, sickness and, especially for women, family formation. However, RD also includes movements of workers from one occupation to another. These movements create a vacancy for the occupation left and demand for a worker to fill that vacancy. More details on the replacement demand methodology can be found in Cedefop (2012).

Average RD rates across all countries are about 3.7% each year. This varies from 2.6% (Hungary) to 5.0% (Iceland), as shown in Figure 18. Variation between countries can arise for a number of reasons: different retirement ages, a higher share of elderly workers that will soon reach pension age, or different outflow coefficients for younger workers.

RD rates by occupation are shown in Figure 19. As the RD rates by occupation may differ substantially between countries, they are given in a box-whisker plot to show this dispersion. Most EU country RD rates for each occupation lie within the dark shaded box (with the median as the white line). The black line on the left of the box indicates the minimum observed value of the RD rate of that occupation, while the black line on the right indicates the maximum observed value. Higher RD rates are generally related to the age structure in the occupational groups. Occupations with a higher share of older or senior workers, including senior officials and managers, have higher RD rates, while rates for occupations with a younger workforce are lower. Low RD rates can also be related to a structural decline in demand for certain occupations.

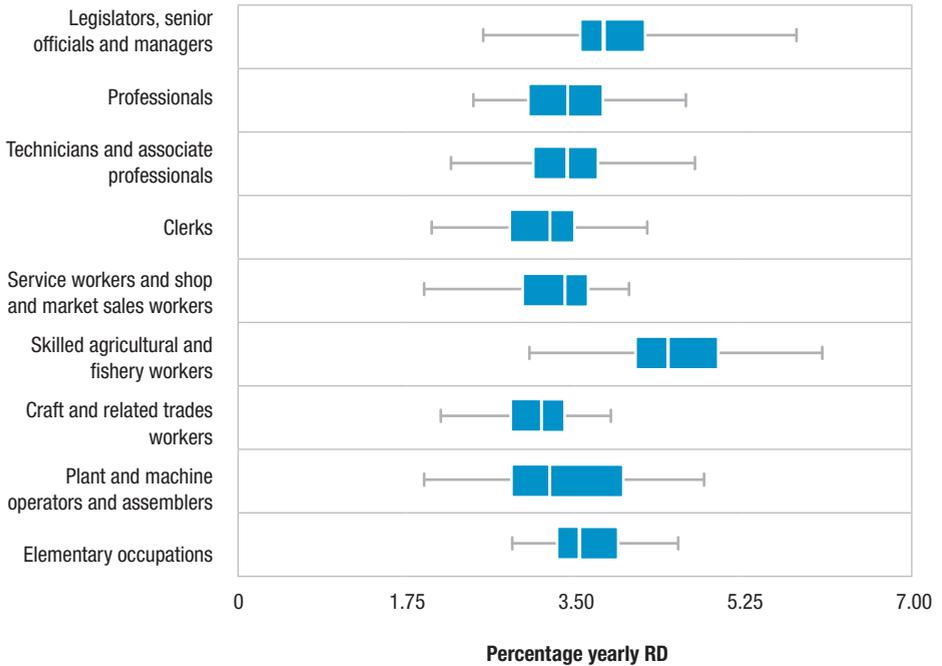
Figure 20 distinguishes RD rates by level of qualification, with a considerable variation between countries. Higher qualified workers generally experience greater replacement demand, with most demand coming from countries with an aging population (such as Germany). RD for low- and medium-educated workers also shows considerable variation across countries, being highest in countries where such workers are older (as in Italy, Romania and Spain).

Figure 18. Replacement demand rates (% pa): overview by country



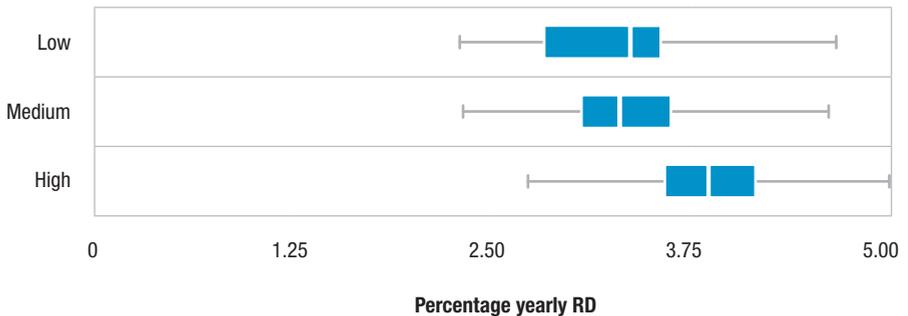
Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

**Figure 19. Replacement demand rates (% pa) per ISCO one-digit level: overview by occupation**



Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

**Figure 20. Replacement demand rates (% pa) per ISCED one-digit level: overview by education level**



Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Replacement needs reinforce the projected positive changes in expansion demands, and also serve to offset any negative changes. Total job openings or total requirements are the sum of expansion and replacement demands.

The results of applying the rates summarised above are shown in Figure 21, which illustrates the total requirements or number of job openings at the one-digit level of occupation and at the more detailed two-digit level. They show that replacement needs are projected to be positive for all the nine main occupational groups distinguished (compare grey and blue bars). Even for occupations with significant decline in long-term employment, such as skilled agricultural and fishery workers, this results in some job openings between 2016 and 2030.

This affects both sectors and occupations, and the results emphasise that primary and manufacturing sectors will remain significant employers despite declining projected employment levels. These sectors are crucial components of the economy and meeting replacement needs will be essential if activity in these areas is to be sustained <sup>(12)</sup>.

### 3.4. Concluding remarks

The occupational structure of employment is one of the main ways to measure changing skill demand. There remains a degree of uncertainty about occupational trends because of the short time series of available consistent data. This makes producing occupational employment projections at pan-European level especially difficult.

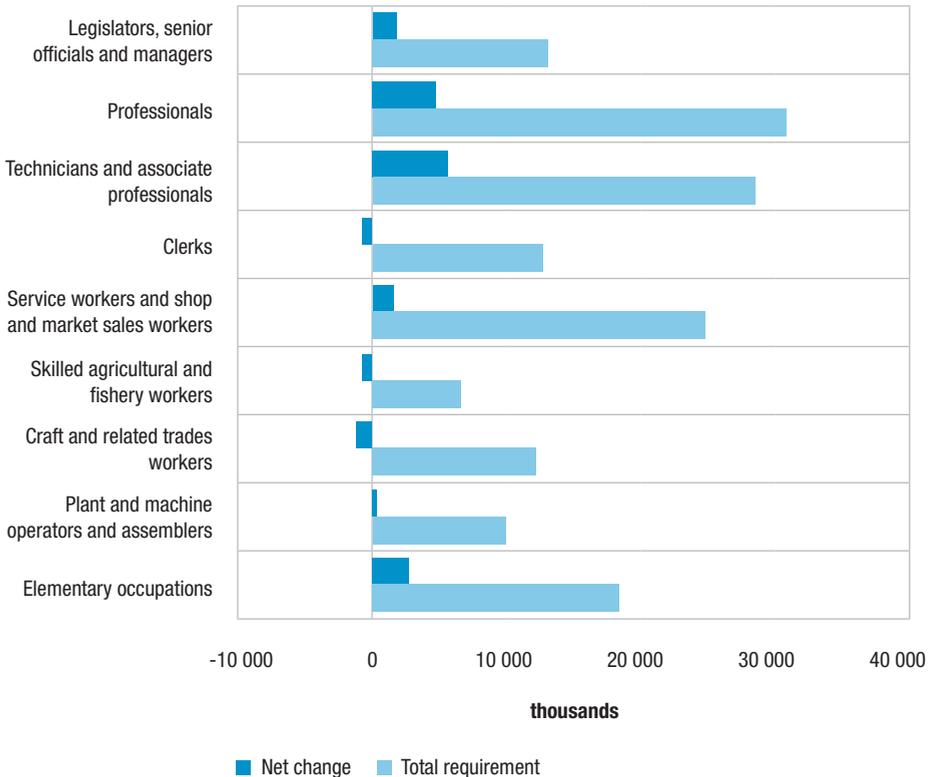
The two main factors influencing this are the changing sectoral structure of employment in the economy, and the impact of technological and other changes on the pattern of skill demand within sectors.

The occupational employment structure of the economy is projected to change slowly but inexorably in favour of skilled non-manual occupations, and against medium- and low-skill manual work. This will be primarily driven by occupational effects related to technological and other changes in the way work is organised. However, industry effects caused by the changes in the sectoral structure of employment in the economy will also remain significant.

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<sup>(12)</sup> Detailed estimates of replacement demands by industry as well as occupation can be found on Cedefop's website: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/forecasting-skill-demand-and-supply/detailed-forecasting-data>

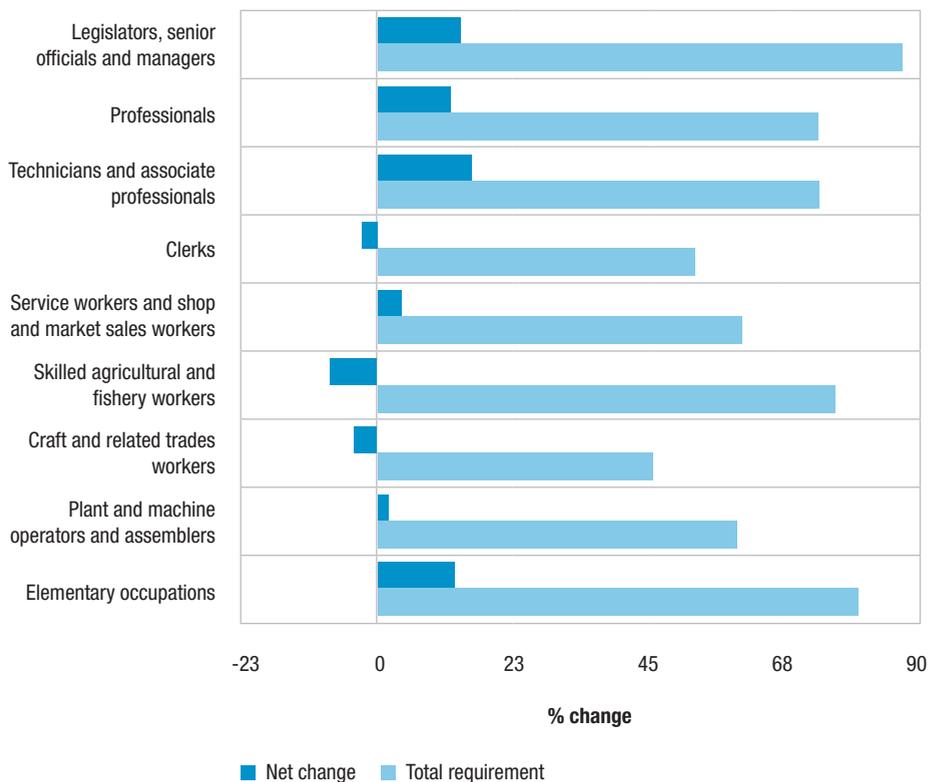
**Figure 21. Replacement demand (total requirements and net changes) by broad occupations, 2016-30 (EU-28+3)**



There will also be some growth in employment opportunities for low-skill level occupations. This will be partly due to polarisation of skill demand linked to skill-biased technological change but it also reflects the importance of RDs.

RDs will later reflect the need to replace those leaving the workforce (primarily because of retirement). Even those occupations where employment is projected to decline will experience significant replacement needs. Such needs will generally outweigh expansion demands for most occupations and account for the bulk of new job openings.

Although there will be many variations in detail across countries, these broad patterns of change are common to most.



NB: (a) This figure distinguishes expansion demand (the projected net change in employment levels by occupation) and replacement demand (the number of job opening arising because of people leaving the employed workforce for retirement or other reasons). Total requirements are the sum of these (the total number of job openings (net of any general labour turnover)).

(b) Numbers in employment (estimates based on national accounts).

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

## CHAPTER 4.

# Qualifications and skill mismatch

### Key messages

The demand for high-skilled workers (qualified at ISCED 5-8) will continue to grow rapidly, driven by changes in sectoral employment structure and skill-biased technological change.

The supply of those qualified at ISCED 5-8 will probably rise even more rapidly and many occupations will see the average level of qualification of those employed in those jobs rise.

The share and numbers of jobs for those with low or no qualifications will continue to fall.

### 4.1. Introduction

This chapter summarises the trends in the supply of and demand for future skills (as described by broad levels of qualification), and implications for skills imbalances.

### 4.2. Implications for qualifications

The changes in sectoral and occupational employment presented in Chapters 2 and 3 will have a strong influence on the demand for formal qualifications. But the number of people in employment holding different qualifications also depends on supply side developments. In most EU countries, government policy over the past few decades has encouraged investment in human capital, especially young people staying on in education beyond compulsory schooling to continue their studies at tertiary level. Skills are regarded as a key element in policies to maintain economic growth and productivity, as well as helping to address a range of other social and economic issues.

The projections focus first on developments on the supply side before turning to demand and the reconciliation of the two (imbalances and mismatches).

Developments in skill supply (as measured by the number holding formal qualifications) are driven by general demographic and labour market trends described in Chapter 2. Government policies have also encouraged many individuals to invest in further and higher education and training.

Modelling these developments at a pan-European level is difficult owing to problems in obtaining consistent and relevant data. The approach adopted here is based on analysis of stocks and flows using EU-LFS data. This analysis suggests that there will be significant further increases in the number of people participating in further and higher education beyond minimum school leaving age and going on to acquire formal qualifications at medium and higher level. For more details on the methodology please see Cedefop (2012).

Figures 22 and 23 and Tables 3 and 4 illustrate the main features of the results for the total population and the labour force between 2011 and 2030 for the EU-28+3.

The population aged 15+ holding high-level qualifications (i.e. ISCED 5 and 6, university degree, master, doctorate or equivalents) is projected to increase by around 43 million between 2016 and 2030. The numbers of those whose highest qualification is at medium level is also expected to increase but at a more modest rate (by around 11 million). In sharp contrast, the proportions and numbers of those with low-level or no qualifications are projected to continue their historical downward trend. Between 2016 and 2030 the population of Europe (EU-28+3) aged 15+ with low-level or no qualifications is projected to fall by about 37 million.

Substantial increases are projected for the overall numbers of those economically active and qualified at ISCED 5-8. Some increase is also expected for those whose highest qualification is at intermediate level. The former are now projected to increase by some 24 million between 2016 and 2030, while the numbers of those whose highest qualification is at intermediate level are projected to decrease by about 6 million. The number aged 15+ acquiring intermediate level qualifications will likely be much higher, but many of those will then go on to obtain even higher-level qualifications. The number of economically active 15+ workforce with no or low qualifications is projected to fall by about 14 million. About 25% of the labour force will be qualified to intermediate level (as their highest qualification) by 2030, a slight fall compared to their share of 27% in 2016.



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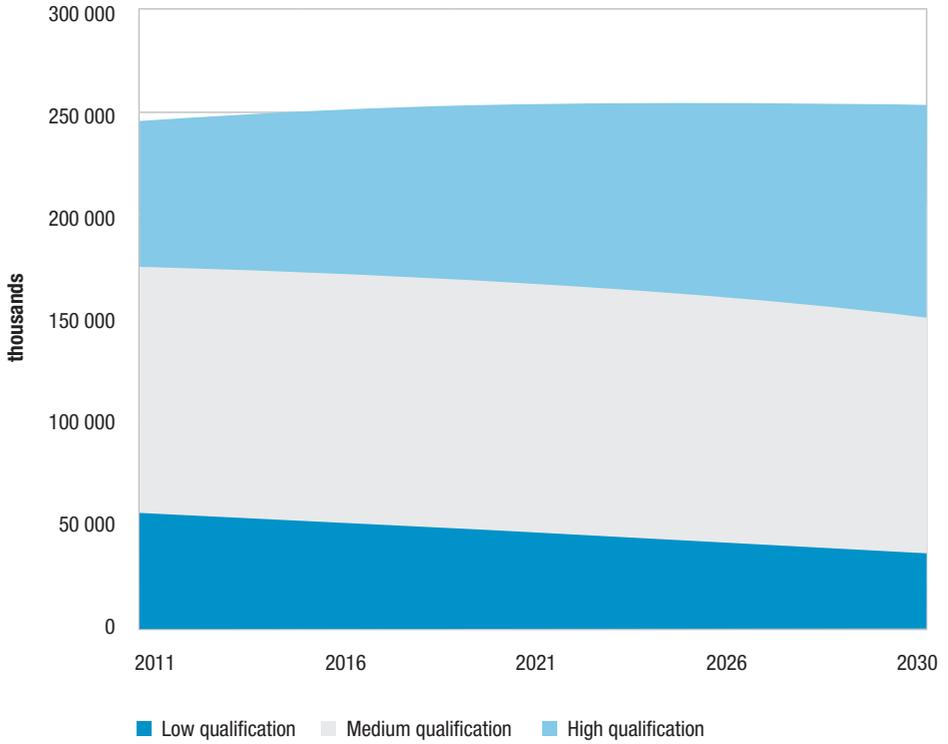


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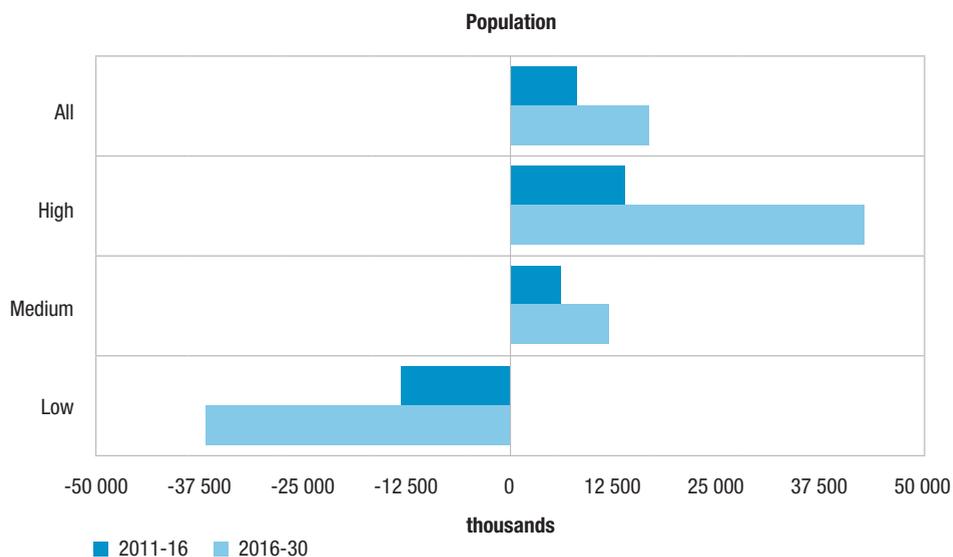
Figure 22. **Supply of qualified people (EU-28+3)**



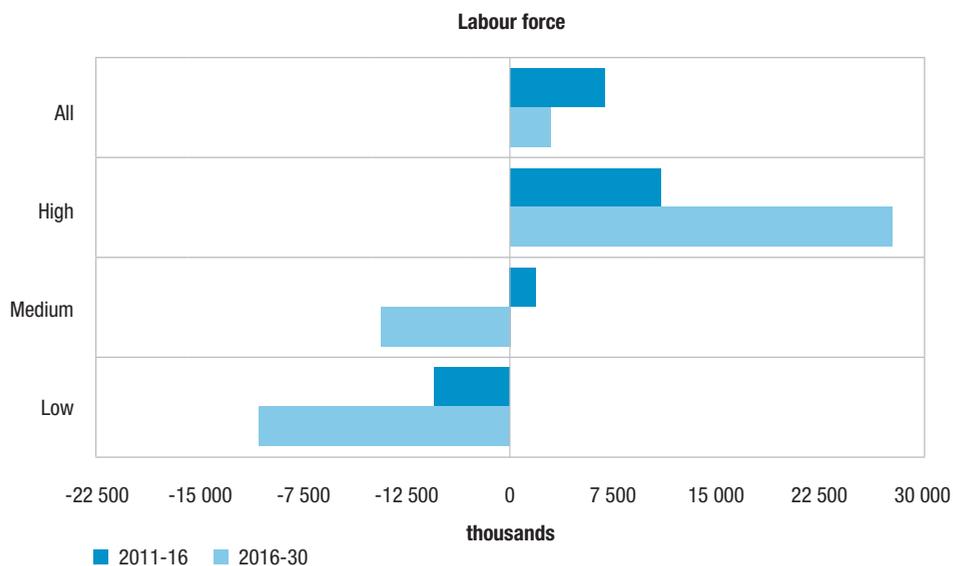
NB: Numbers in the economically active labour force.

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Figure 23. **Past and likely future supply of qualifications (EU-28+3)**



NB: Numbers in the population aged 15+.  
Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).



NB: Numbers in the economically active labour force aged 15+.  
Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).



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Table 3. Supply trends, stocks: population (EU-28+3, aged 15+)

Population by qualification					
Levels (000s)	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030
Low	147 664	134 034	119 627	106 976	96 577
Medium	192 534	200 104	206 194	209 765	211 268
High	94 660	108 328	123 373	138 646	151 168
<b>Total</b>	<b>434 859</b>	<b>442 466</b>	<b>449 194</b>	<b>455 386</b>	<b>459 012</b>

Shares (per cent)	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030
Low	34.0	30.3	26.6	23.5	21.0
Medium	44.3	45.2	45.9	46.1	46.0
High	21.8	24.5	27.5	30.4	32.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Growth (% per annum)	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	2026-30	2016-30
Low	-1.9	-2.2	-2.2	-2.5	-2.3
Medium	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4
High	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>

Change (000s)	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	2026-30	2016-30
Low	-13 630	-14 407	-12 652	-10 399	-37 458
Medium	7 569	6 091	3 570	1 503	11 164
High	13 668	15 045	15 273	12 522	42 840
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 607</b>	<b>6 728</b>	<b>6 192</b>	<b>3 626</b>	<b>16 546</b>

NB: Numbers in the population aged 15+.

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Table 4. Supply trends: labour force (EU-28+3, aged 15+)

Labour force by qualification					
Levels (000s)	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030
Low	57 007	51 956	46 690	41 483	37 477
Medium	119 617	121 406	120 373	117 571	114 632
High	69 919	79 432	88 247	96 432	103 124
<b>Total</b>	<b>246 543</b>	<b>252 793</b>	<b>255 310</b>	<b>255 486</b>	<b>255 232</b>

Shares (per cent)	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030
Low	13.1	11.7	10.4	9.1	8.2
Medium	27.5	27.4	26.8	25.8	25.0
High	16.1	18.0	19.6	21.2	22.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>55.6</b>

Growth (% per annum)	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	2026-30	2016-30
Low	-1.8	-2.1	-2.3	-2.5	-2.3
Medium	0.3	-0.2	-0.5	-0.6	-0.4
High	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.7	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>

Change (000s)	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	2026-30	2016-30
Low	-5 051	-5 266	-5 206	-4 007	-14 479
Medium	1 789	-1 033	-2 803	-2 939	-6 774
High	9 513	8 816	8 184	6 692	23 692
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 250</b>	<b>2 517</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>-253</b>	<b>2 439</b>

Activity Rate	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030
Low	38.6	38.6	39.0	38.8	38.8
Medium	62.1	62.1	58.4	56.0	54.3
High	73.9	73.9	71.5	69.6	68.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>55.6</b>

Note: Activity rate is the proportion of the population aged 15 and above that is in the labour force.

NB: Numbers in the economically active labour force aged 15+.

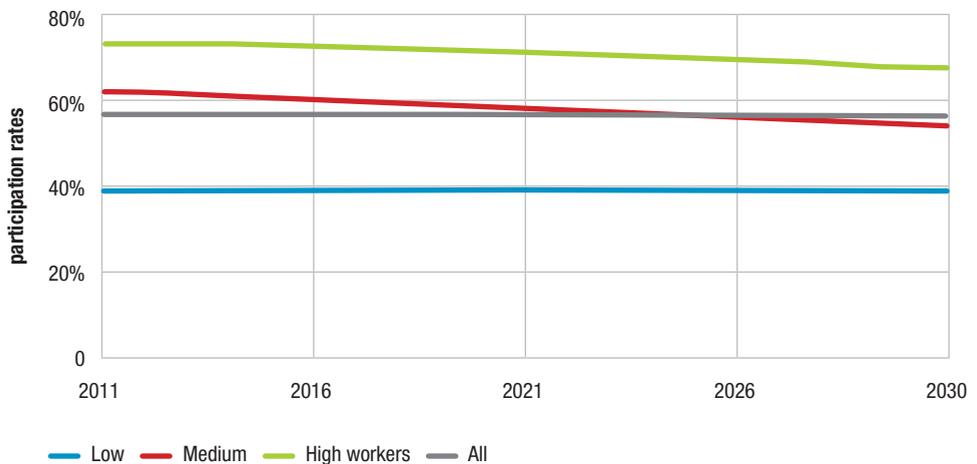
Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Figure 24 shows the implications for labour market participation (or activity) rates. These vary significantly between qualification categories, with the better qualified much more likely to be economically active and in employment in the formal economy. Overall labour market participation for all categories is stable. This is result of the increase in the share of better qualified people in the population just offsetting a combination of the increasing average age of most populations (resulting in more retirements) and increasing educational participation rates (lower participation in the labour market) for many younger people.

There are significant differences by gender. Female activity rates are generally lower than those for males, but they are rising for many age groups, while those for males are declining. The hierarchy between the qualification categories is common to both genders <sup>(13)</sup>.

Figure 25 shows how the absolute changes compare across countries, showing that large countries dominate the picture in terms of overall numbers. Germany, France, Italy, Poland and the UK all exhibit broadly similar patterns of change to those described for Europe as a whole.

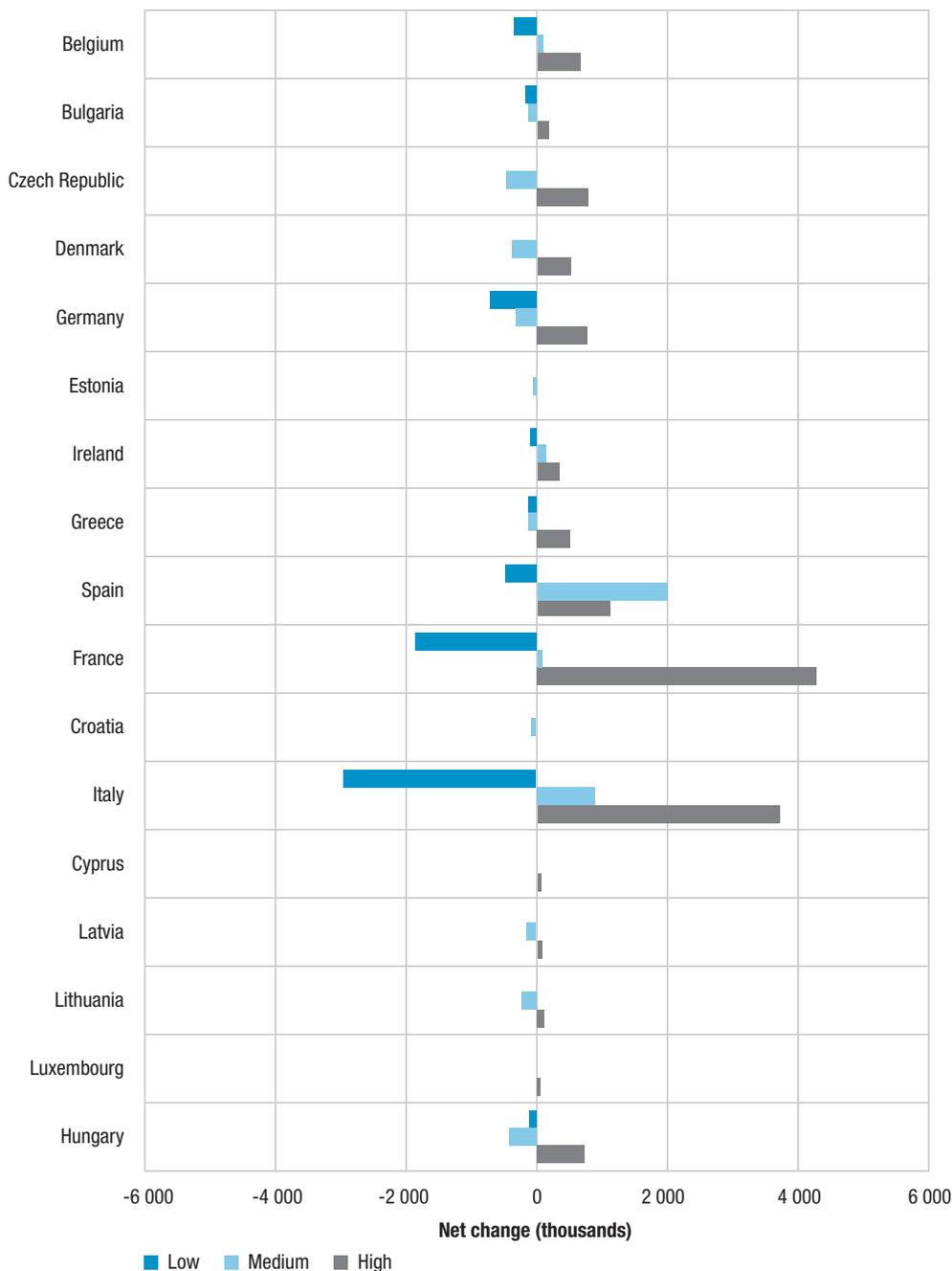
Figure 24. **Labour market participation rates by qualification category**

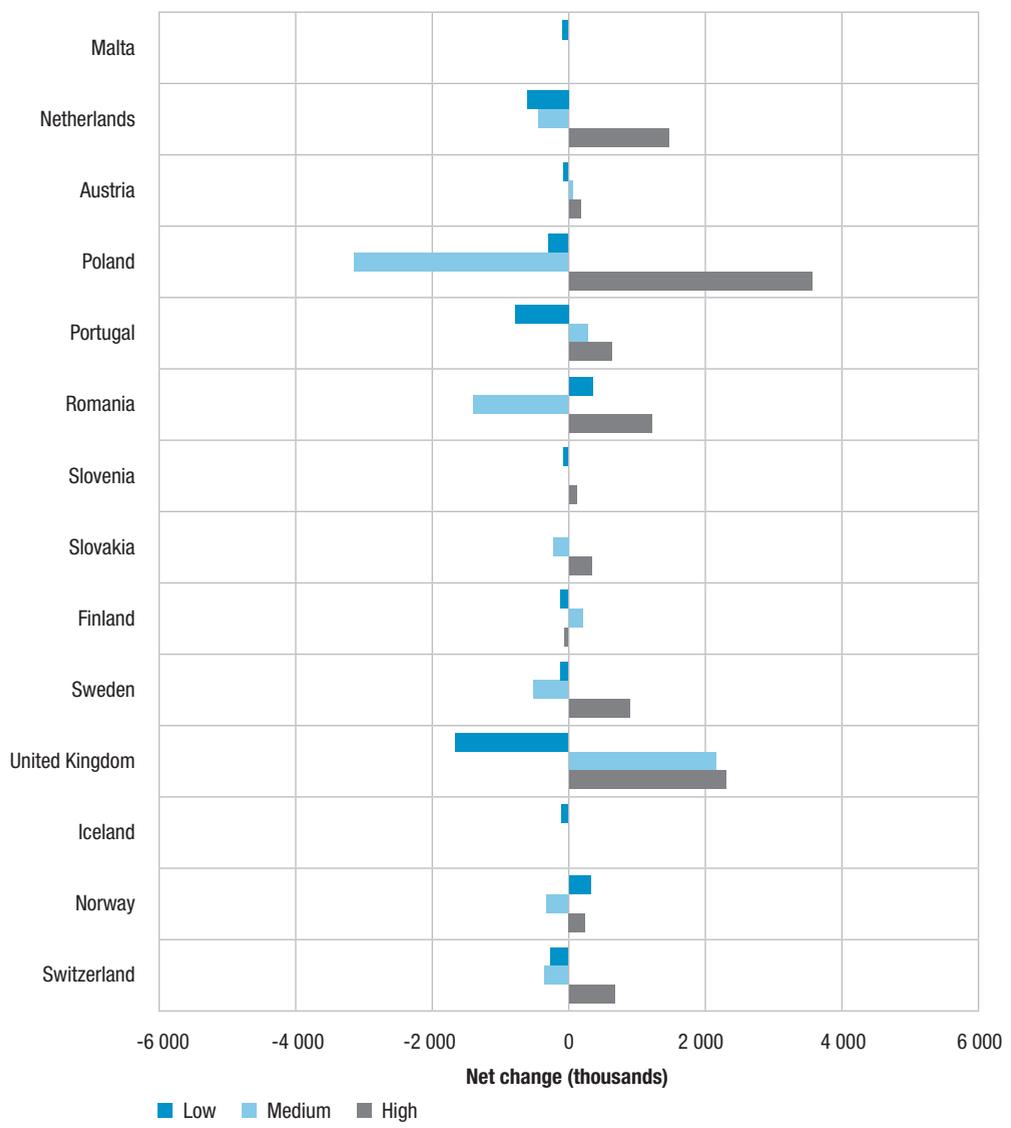


NB: Based on numbers in the economically active labour force aged 15+.  
 Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

<sup>(13)</sup> Full details are available on Cedefop’s website: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/forecasting-skill-demand-and-supply/data-visualisations>

Figure 25. Projected net change, labour force by education level, 2016-30





NB: Numbers in the economically active labour force aged 15+.  
 Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Measuring and projecting the demand for formal qualifications is more complex than measuring supply. The problem is interpreting what part of the change in employment is due to demand as opposed to supply influences. Observed employment levels by qualification level are the result of a combination of both supply and demand factors.

The observed increases in employment may exaggerate the increase in demand for some higher qualification categories. Often this is happening not because the job strictly requires that level of qualification but simply because better qualified people apply for the job. People qualified at higher level may secure jobs in preference to less well-qualified people although the job does not strictly require higher level qualifications. This may give a misleading impression of demand pressures. This is often referred to as ‘qualifications inflation’.

Nevertheless, the general demand for skills (as measured by formal qualifications) is likely to continue to rise. Changes in industrial structure are combining with skill-biased technological change to increase the demand for those occupations that typically require intermediate or higher level educational qualifications. Qualification requirements within most occupations are also rising due to regulatory changes and other factors.

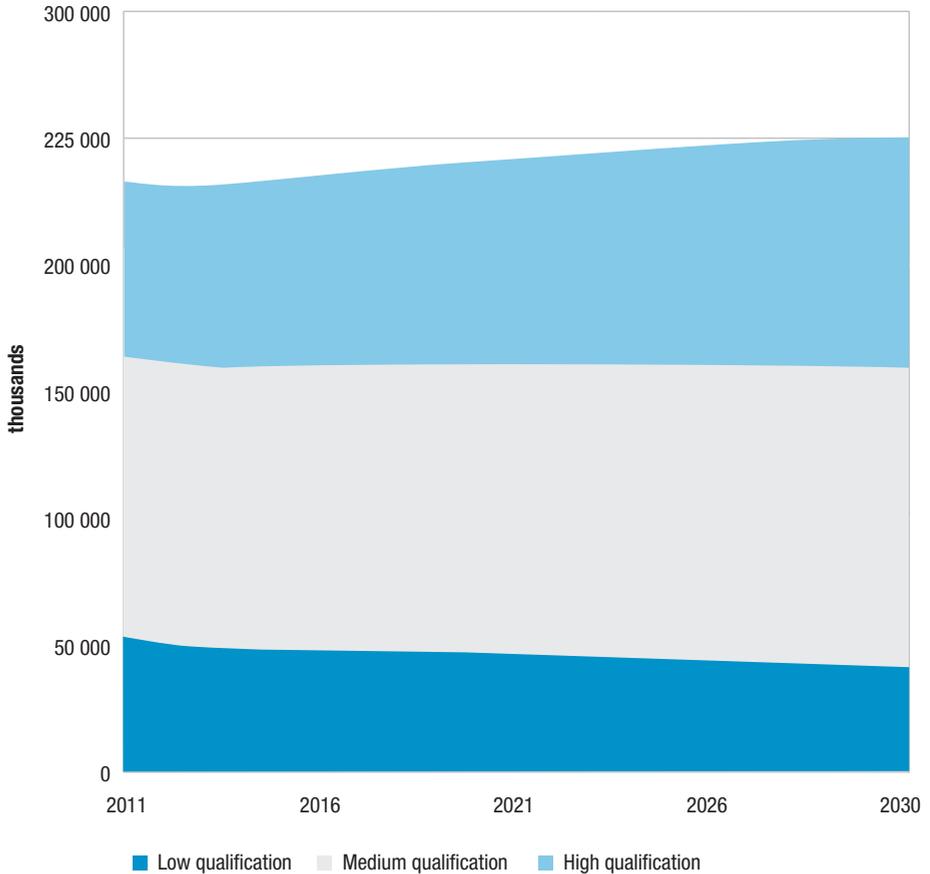
Employment levels for those with high-level qualifications have risen as a consequence of both demand and supply trends, while employment levels for those with low-level qualifications have declined.

Temporarily ignoring the supply side, in Europe as a whole (EU-28+3), the demand for people employed with qualifications at ISCED 5-8 is projected to rise modestly between 2016 and 2030. This is shown in Figure 26. This presents the projected changes in notional demand for formal qualifications, unconstrained by possible supply developments. The trends are based on a continuation of past patterns of employment shares in the three broad qualification categories within both occupations and sectors. These are referred to as the ‘unconstrained’ results.

The position for those with intermediate level qualifications is one of even less rapid increases. The demand for those with low (or no) qualifications is projected to fall.

In practice, the future patterns of employment observed will reflect both demand and supply factors and the labour market will adjust in various ways to accommodate those offering themselves for work. This is reflected in the projections of ‘constrained’ demand shown in Figures 27 and 28 and in Table 5.

Figure 26. **Demand by qualification: unconstrained, 2011-30 (EU-28+3)**



NB: Unconstrained estimates. The estimates in this figure are the notional demand for formal qualifications, unconstrained by likely supply developments. For constrained estimates see the next figure.  
 Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

The unconstrained results show the notional demand in the absence of supply constraints. The constrained estimates reflect the realities of the skills actually likely to be available. The differences between the constrained and unconstrained figures, as well as more general implications for imbalances and mismatches, are discussed in more detail in the section below.



The constrained results show an increase in the number of highly qualified people in employment between 2016 and 2030 of around 26 million. There is a small decline of about 2 million for those in employment whose highest qualification is at intermediate level and a decline of around 10 million for the employed with low-level or no formal qualifications.

The skill mix projected for 2030 for the unconstrained demand shares are 14%, 45% and 41% for low, medium, and high qualifications respectively, compared to 19%, 48% and 32% in 2016.

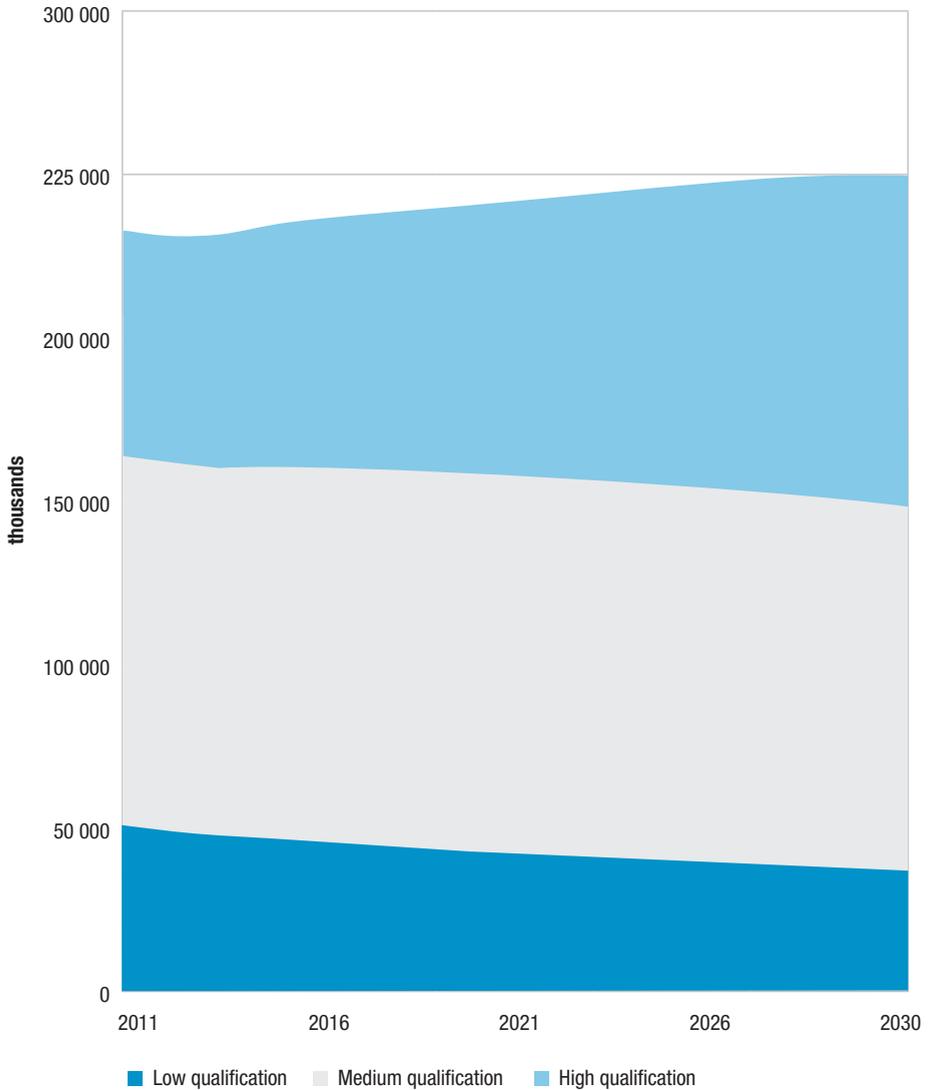
The broad patterns of change have been consistent throughout the various series of Cedefop projections. The workforce is becoming increasingly well qualified, but supply may outpace demand for higher levels of qualification.

The results depend on assumptions about the division of unemployment between the three qualification levels. Total unemployment projected in E3ME is divided while maintaining the hierarchy of unemployment rates over the projection period. As a result, those qualified at ISCED 5-8 are projected to account for an increasing share of total unemployment, but their rates of unemployment remain lower than those qualified at intermediate or low level. These results are summarised in Table 6.

### 4.3. Concluding remarks

This chapter on qualifications and skill mismatch brings together the projected changes in occupational employment structure, and their implications for skill demand, with the projections of the numbers expected to be available by broad levels of qualification. Overall labour supply over the projection period is driven by the general demographic trend of an ageing population, although with an increase in overall activity rates. The other principal element in the skill supply projections is the change in the mix of qualification levels (which is the main measure of skills available other than occupation). The proportion of those with only lower levels of qualification is projected to continue its historical downward trend, with a slight increase at intermediate level. By contrast, the policy in most EU countries has been to support education, leading to an increase in the proportion of the population and labour force attaining higher level qualifications, especially among the young population. Consequently, the qualification mix of the economically active labour force is projected to shift significantly towards those educated to the highest level (ISCED 5-8) and away from those with only low or no formal qualifications.

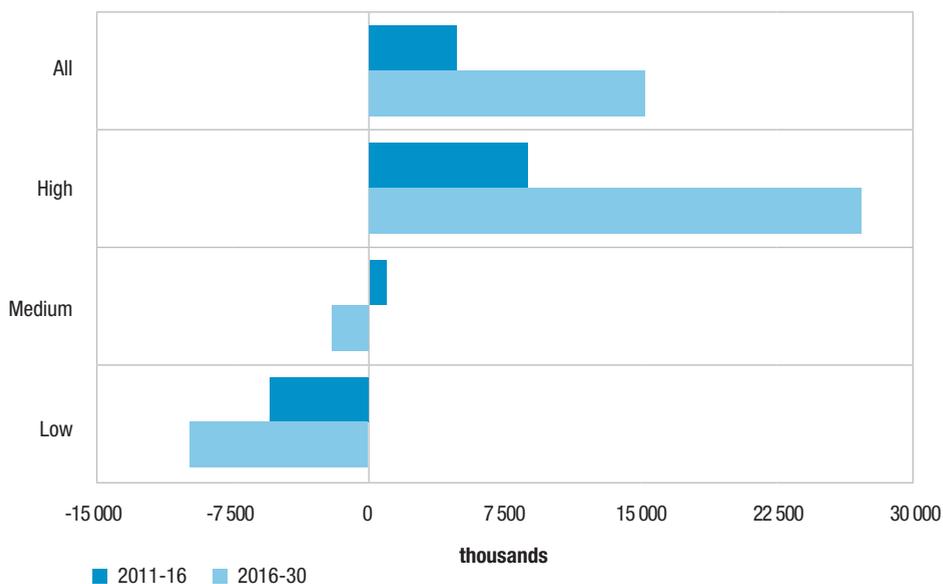
Figure 27. **Demand by qualification: constrained, 2011-30 (EU-28+3)**



NB: Constrained estimates. The estimates in this figure are constrained to match the supply available and scaled to match E3ME employment figures (i.e. taking into account the so called labour market accounts residual (LMAR), which measures the difference between employment (workplace jobs) and labour supply net of unemployment (residence, people/ heads). They are therefore consistent with, and match, the employment estimates for sectors and occupations presented elsewhere in this report.

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Figure 28. **Past and projected demand for qualifications: constrained (EU-28+3)**



NB: Changes in numbers in employment, constrained to match E3ME total and to reconcile demand with available supply.  
 Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).



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Table 5. **Projected demand for qualifications: constrained (EU-28+3)**

Levels (000s)	Base year 2016	Projected year 2030	Net change	Replacement demand 2016-30	Total requirement
Low qualification	45 747	36 079	-9 668	25 053	15 385
Medium qualification	114 429	112 360	-2 069	65 525	63 456
High qualification	76 871	103 299	26 428	52 289	78 717
All qualifications	237 047	251 738	14 691	142 867	157 558

Shares (per cent)			change (%)	as a proportion of base year (%)	
Low qualification	19.3	14.3	-21.1	54.8	33.6
Medium qualification	48.3	44.6	-1.8	57.3	55.5
High qualification	32.4	41.0	34.4	68.0	102.4
All qualifications	100.0	100.0	6.2	60.3	66.5

NB: Changes in numbers in employment, constrained to match E3ME total and to reconcile demand with available supply.

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Table 6. **Unemployment by qualification level (%), EU-28+3**

Males and females	2016	2021	2026	2030
<b>ILO unemployment rates (%)</b>				
Low	14.8	13.3	11.0	9.5
Medium	7.7	7.1	5.8	5.0
High	4.9	4.4	3.7	3.2
All qualifications	8.3	7.3	5.8	4.9

<b>Levels (000s)</b>				
Low	7 691	6 224	4 561	3 574
Medium	9 382	8 549	6 794	5 727
High	3 923	3 921	3 542	3 254
All qualifications	20 996	18 693	14 897	12 555

NB: EU labour force survey qualification patterns of unemployment by qualification category are applied to E3ME unemployment totals.

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

## CHAPTER 5.

# Examining the job task content

### Key messages

The model projects a more polarised occupational structure in the EU, due primarily to strong growth at the bottom of the wage distribution. However, many Member States are projected to upgrade towards more high-paying jobs, including the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Malta, Hungary, Slovenia and Finland.

The projections imply a fall in physical tasks and an increase in intellectual and social tasks, particularly business literacy, selling/persuading and serving/attending. They also project a large increase in the use of ICT skills with some increase in autonomy and a reduction in routine work.

The tendency towards upgrading the wage structure and the shift towards more autonomy, fewer routine tasks, more ICT, less physical and more social and intellectual tasks, is most prominent in the Member States that joined the EU after 2014. This suggests an upward convergence of the employment structure in Europe.

### 5.1. Introduction

This chapter has been produced by Eurofound whose European jobs monitor approach has been applied to the baseline Cedefop scenario to assess the tasks to be performed in jobs to 2030.

### 5.2. European jobs monitor framework

The current high interest in the future of work reflects recent perceptions and future expectations of radical change. Structural change in the economy is primarily driven by inter-sector productivity differentials; the structure of demand continually influences the distribution of employment throughout the economy. It has been argued that, not least due to innovations in the application of ICT, the pace of productivity-enhancing technological

change has speeded up and is expected to accelerate further in the forthcoming decades.

It has generally been assumed that new technology replaces low-skilled labour but complements high-skilled labour, so that it would lead to an upgrading of the skills structure. However, such ‘skills-biased technological change’ has not always been observed in the United States and Europe. It has often been found that much employment growth occurred at both the top and bottom end of the occupational distribution, with a relative decline in the middle. This led to a more nuanced hypothesis about how technology impacts the occupational structure, with a focus on the tasks that are actually performed at work. In the context of technological change, the contention was that the relevant focus should be not primarily on the skills required for jobs but, rather, the extent to which the tasks performed in jobs could be described as routine and, thereby, be profitably replaced by the emerging technologies. This hypothesis commonly referred to as ‘routine biased technological change’ (Autor, 2013), has largely been operationalised with the assumption that routine tasks are primarily located in the middle of the wage distribution. This may appear a crude assumption but it has some empirical validity; there are not just routine manufacturing jobs, but also many simpler information processing ones, such as administrative and clerical work, located in the middle of the wage distribution <sup>(14)</sup>.

Another main driver of recent and projected structural change is globalisation. Recent decades have seen significant changes in the global distribution of labour, and global competition and market opportunities are likely to continue to impact the structure of employment in Europe. Relative wages and productivity are the key determinant of which jobs will remain and grow in Europe and which will be lost to foreign competition. As manufacturing still dominates global trade it is the main sector impacted by globalisation.

Manufacturing jobs, predominately located in the middle of European wage distribution, face the twin threat of routinisation and globalisation. Consequently, much of the decline in the middle of the wage distribution is to be found in that sector. Globalisation and technology are not fully distinct

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<sup>(14)</sup> It should be emphasised, however, that claims in much of the literature of pervasive polarisation in Europe are not found to be the case in various publications of Eurofound’s European jobs monitor: <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/observatories/emcc/european-jobs-monitor> For a discussion of the empirical validity of the routine biased technological change argument in the European case, see Fernández-Macías and Hurley, 2017.

drivers of structural change, as seen when examining the reasons for the resilience of jobs at the bottom end of the wage distribution. Many of these jobs, such as those providing personal services in both the private (hotels and restaurants) and the public sector (various caring services), are not significantly vulnerable to trade as the provision and the use of these services is geographically fixed to a single location. The requirement for face-to-face interaction of provider and user is also one reason why these jobs are less routine and, so far, less susceptible to technological change.

The occupational wage structure is a useful metric for identifying the future impact of these two major drivers of structural change in the labour market. (Demographic change, which is arguably the other main driver, is explicitly modelled in the Cedefop occupational forecast). The focus on wages is also of obvious interest for distributional reasons. This chapter examines the projected forecasts in terms of their location in occupational wage distribution in the various Member States, using the framework developed over many years in Eurofound's European jobs monitor.

Eurofound also developed a comprehensive framework to measure the types of task currently performed in the European labour market (Eurofound, 2016). This framework is not exclusively focused on routine but captures, for example, the social and intellectual content of tasks and the use of ICT; this is obviously useful for a more nuanced analysis of the changes in the structure of employment in Europe but it is also highly relevant for skills forecasting. The identification of what is done at work can be seen as a logical first step in identifying what skills are required for jobs now and into the future.

The next section details the European jobs monitor framework and how it has been operationalised in terms of the wage and tasks structure of jobs in Europe. Section 5.3 presents the results of using this methodology to describe the implications of projected structural change for the wage and task structure of employment in Europe up to 2030. The final section summarises the main results.



### 5.3. Framework for analysing structural change in Europe

The methods applied in this chapter are those developed in various publications from Eurofound's European jobs monitor <sup>(15)</sup>. The basic methodology, with a wide range of applications, can be found in Fernandez-Macias, Hurley and Storrie (2012). In this framework a job is defined as an occupation in a sector, as in the standard international classifications of occupation (ISCO-08) and sector (NACE Rev 2.0) at two-digit level. The number of jobs so defined varies from around 400, in the smaller Member States, to just over 2 000 in the larger ones. As this framework of jobs is empirically defined by the standard statistical classification, a further description of these jobs can be added using data from a variety of sources that follow these standard classifications of occupations and sectors. Most of the previous Eurofound research focused on the average wage corresponding to these jobs, which is a useful metric for capturing some of the characteristics and drivers of recent and future structural change in Europe. More recently, Eurofound (2016) developed a detailed measurement of what types of task are performed in these jobs.

The wage data are compiled by combining data from the EU labour force survey <sup>(16)</sup> and from Eurostat's structure of earnings survey (SES) <sup>(17)</sup>. The jobs are ranked from the highest to the lowest wage in each Member State; they are then allocated to quintiles based on the job-wage ranking for that Member State. Each quintile in each country represents 20% of employment at the starting period (Figure 29). The job-to-quintile assignments remain fixed over time, so the charts in the next section that map the growth of employment in a particular quintile refer to the growth of jobs assigned to that quintile at the start of each period of observation.

One issue of note is the stability of the wage ranking. While nominal differences in wages occur over time, the ranking of jobs is quite stable. Trends in wage inequality are typically driven by well paid jobs getting better paid compared to the less well paid ones but without much change in the

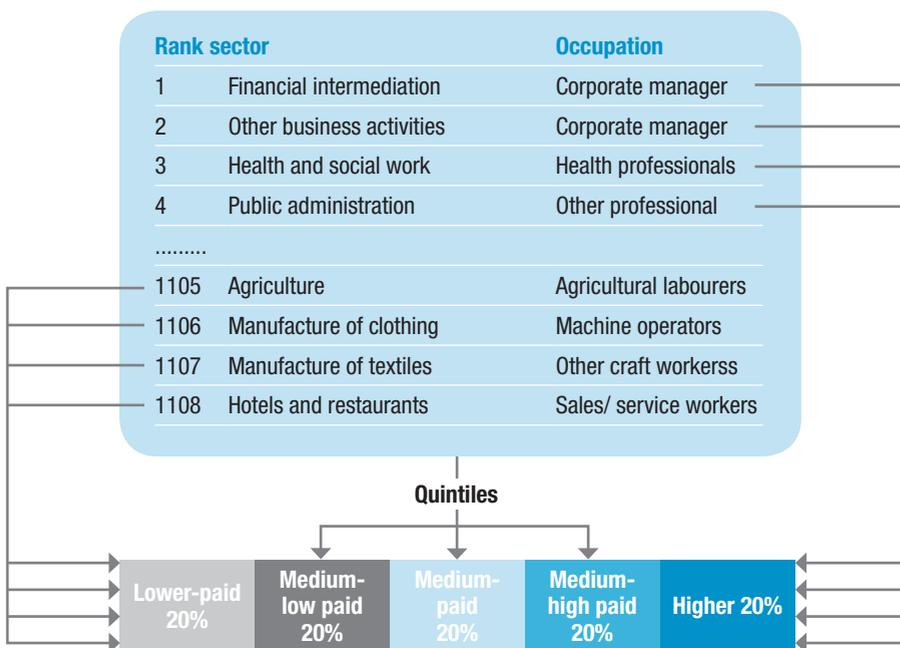
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<sup>(15)</sup> Eurofound, European jobs monitor (EJM):  
<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/observatories/emcc/european-jobs-monitor>

<sup>(16)</sup> Eurostat, European labour force survey (LFS):  
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-labour-force-survey>

<sup>(17)</sup> Eurostat, Structure of earning survey (SES):  
<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/structure-of-earnings-survey>

**Figure 29. Ranking of jobs (an occupation in a sector) by wages and assignment to employment quintiles**



Source: Eurofound (2017).

ranking. With all jobs being aggregated into the quintiles, most changes in the ranking will usually not lead to jobs being reassigned to a different quintile.

While the one-dimensional classification of jobs by wages is useful, it has obvious limitations. For example, as outlined above, previous research on job polarisation has essentially assumed that routine tasks are most frequently located in the middle of the wage structure. A more appropriate approach would be the direct identification and measurement of various tasks that are performed in jobs. A specification of the tasks actually performed at work can be viewed, as a necessary first step in the identification of skill needs, both present and future.

Eurofound (2016) developed a framework that classifies and measures tasks along two main dimensions: the content of the tasks themselves and the methods and tools used to perform them (Table 7).

Table 7. **Classification of tasks according to their content and methods**

A. In terms of the content	B. In terms of the methods and tools of work
<p><b>1. Physical tasks:</b> aimed at the physical manipulation and transformation of material things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Strength</i></li> <li>b. <i>Dexterity</i></li> </ul> <p><b>2. Intellectual tasks:</b> aimed at the manipulation and transformation of information and the active resolution of complex problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Information processing:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Literacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Business</li> <li>ii. Technical</li> <li>iii. Humanities</li> </ul> </li> <li>II. Numeracy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Accounting</li> <li>ii. Analytic</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>b. <i>Problem solving:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Information gathering and evaluation of complex information.</li> <li>II. Creativity and resolution.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>3. Social tasks:</b> whose primary aim is the interaction with other people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Serving/attending</i></li> <li>b. <i>Teaching/training/coaching</i></li> <li>c. <i>Selling/influencing</i></li> <li>d. <i>Managing/coordinating</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>1. Methods:</b> forms of work organisation used in performing the tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Autonomy</i></li> <li>b. <i>Teamwork</i></li> <li>c. <i>Routine</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Repetitiveness</li> <li>II. Standardisation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>2. Tools:</b> type of technology used at work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Machines (excluding ICT)</i></li> <li>b. <i>Information and communication technologies:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Basic ICT</li> <li>II. Programming</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Source: Eurofound (2016).

The content part of the task framework is mainly related to what is being produced and varies by economic sector. It identifies three main classifications of task content: physical, intellectual, and social. Each has various sub-indicators. The methods and tools of work are determined more by the technology and social organisation of production and may be more dependent on institutional and historical factors.

Using data from various international sources – Eurofound’s European working conditions survey (EWCS) <sup>(18)</sup>, the OECD survey of adult skills PIAAC <sup>(19)</sup>, the American O\*NET database <sup>(20)</sup> and the European labour force survey <sup>(21)</sup> – Eurofound constructed a database of scores for all the elements listed in Table 1 for all jobs (all two-digit occupation-by-sector combinations in Europe (Eurofound, 2016)). Such detailed data are not available for all Member States, or only of small sample sizes insufficient for reliable measurement of tasks at country level. For this reason the task indices are an aggregate measure based on data from 15 Member States (EU15). This was not the case with the wage data, which were country-specific. While country-specific data would be preferable, it is expected that many jobs cover similar tasks in all European countries.

#### 5.4. Projected structural change, wage distribution and tasks

The fact that the Cedefop skills forecasting model projects future employment by occupation and sector allows for the integration of these projections into the jobs-based framework of the European jobs monitor. The first section in this chapter summarises some of the results of previous jobs monitor analysis, considering how recent structural change has impacted on the employment growth of the five job-wage quintiles in Europe; it then extends the analysis to future developments over the forecasting period up to 2030. The next section examines how the task indices develop over the forecasting period in light of the projected change in employment. It should be emphasised that both the wage and task assignment are fixed at the beginning of the forecasting period, so the reported changes are only attributable to the compositional changes in employment by occupation and sector.

Before examining the projections, it is useful first to show how employment growth has been distributed among the five wage quintiles in the recent past. The first panel in Figure 30 shows that the long boom period that preceded the recession of 2008 can be characterised as upgrading with polarisation,

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<sup>(18)</sup> <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/european-working-conditions-surveys>

<sup>(19)</sup> PIAAC: <http://www.oecd.org/skills/piaac/>

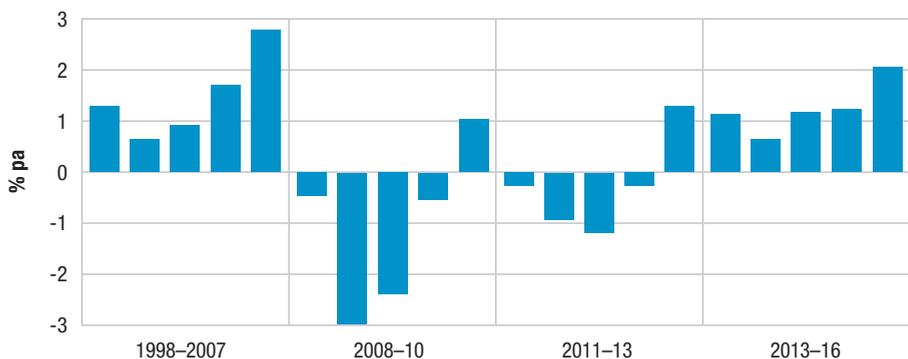
<sup>(20)</sup> Occupational information network (O\*NET database): <https://www.onetcenter.org/database.html>

<sup>(21)</sup> European labour force survey (LFS): <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-labour-force-survey>

in that there was appreciable growth in the top two wage quintiles, more modest growth in the next two, but with substantial growth in the lowest quintile. While the second panel, covering the first few years of the recession (2008-10), appears different in terms of upgrading and polarisation, it tells a similar story to the preceding period. Most jobs are lost in the middle of the wage distribution with relatively minor job loss in the bottom and growth at the top. With the first tendency to recovery, between 2011 and 2013, the overall picture is less negative but the pattern of continued job loss in the middle, relatively modest job loss at the bottom and growth at the top, is similar to the preceding period. Finally, from 2013 onwards with net employment growth in all wage quintiles, the picture is similar to the period before the recession. However, compared to the pre-recession period, job growth in the top is appreciably slower relative to the bottom quintile.

Although these aggregate EU level patterns show some consistency over time, essentially owing to some combination of upgrading and polarisation, a much more heterogeneous picture is found among Member States. For example, in the Nordic countries upgrading generally predominates, while the Netherlands and France reveal a high degree of polarisation, and Hungary has experienced strong growth in the bottom quintile. From a policy perspective this heterogeneity is very important point, as it indicates that polarisation or upgrading are neither technologically nor otherwise exogenously determined and that various national specificities, not least policies and institutions, can influence the outcome of structural change on the labour market.

Figure 30. **Employment change (% pa) by job-wage quintile, 1998-2016 (EU)**



Source: EU-LFS, SES, as calculated in Eurofound (2017).

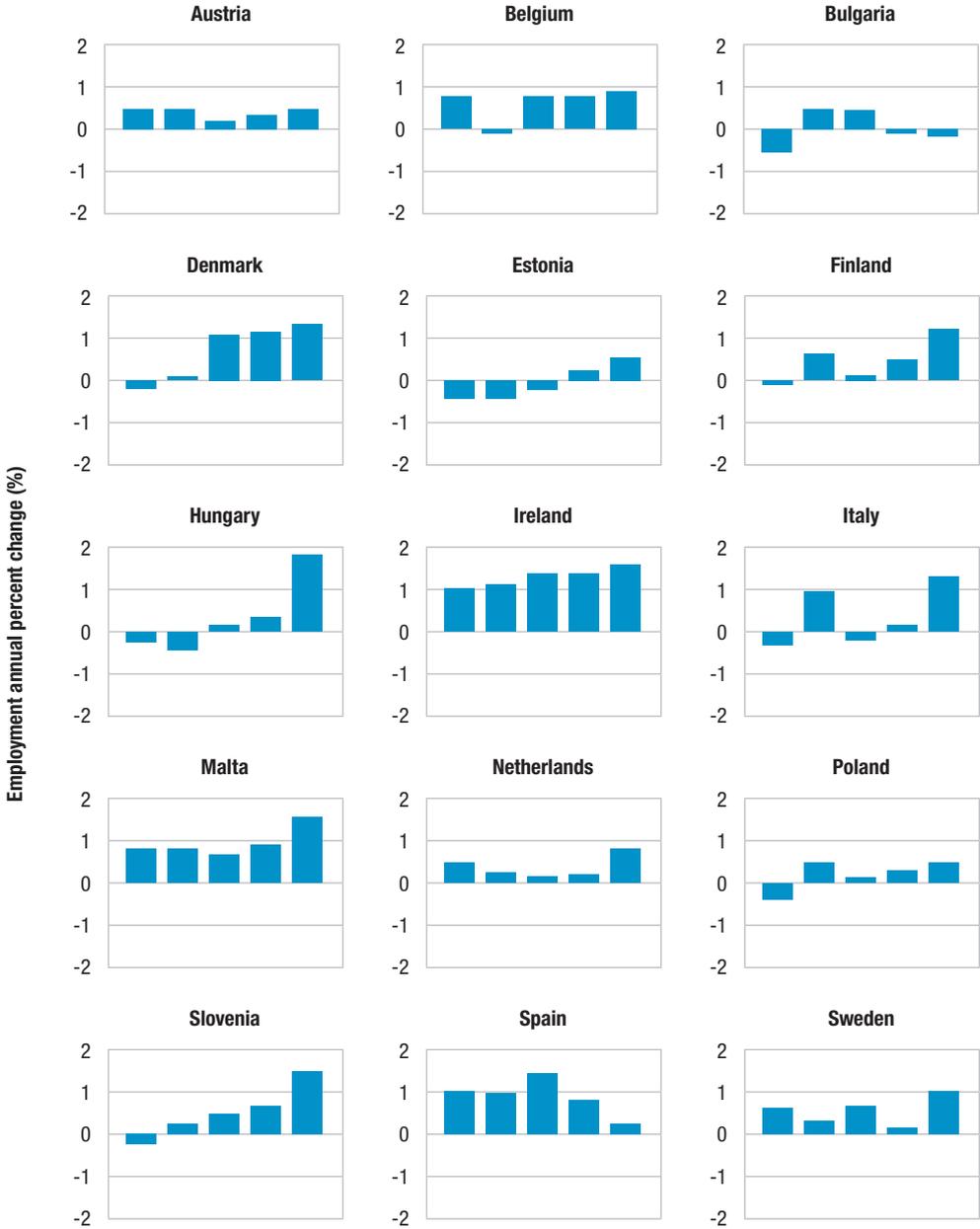
For the projected developments of the job-wage quintiles, Figure 31 shows the annual percentage change in the Member States over the forecasting period 2015-30. The aggregate EU chart, in the bottom right-hand corner, reveals a more strongly polarised picture than any of the historical charts, as presented in Figure 31. The top wage quintile, while still (just) showing the strongest growth, is now of a similar magnitude to the lowest. As the three middle quintiles show more weight at the higher of these, there is still, overall, some tendency to upgrading, but this is much less prominent than before, particularly compared with pre-2008.

As in previous periods, there is appreciable diversity in the projections among Member States but they fall into relatively distinct clusters. The Baltics show quite clear upgrading, as do several other Member States in central and eastern Europe, such as, the Czech Republic, Hungary and, most strongly, Croatia and Slovenia. The Nordic States continue to upgrade, although less so in Sweden. Polarisation is dominant in Germany, France and the Netherlands and, to a lesser extent in Austria and the UK. While Greece, and especially Spain, are projected to create much new employment, most of this is located in the lower wage quintiles.

Compared to the previous periods, the most striking difference is that growth in the bottom quintile is projected to be much stronger relative to the top one. France, the UK and Spain account for most of this growth, with each projected to increase employment in the bottom quintile by more than 500 000. Other Member States contributing significantly to overall EU growth at the bottom are Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands, each by over 100 000 jobs.

Figure 32 disaggregates projected job wage quintile growth by qualifications, occupations and economic sector at EU aggregate level. It shows net employment growth in services for all five wage quintiles. This is also the case in most Member States. There is a significant projected increase in industrial jobs in the top wage quintile, together with a decline in the middle. This is primarily attributable to a large increase in that quintile in German (followed by Polish) industry. However, the net projection of industrial employment in Germany is negative, with significant declines in the middle three wage quintiles. Other Member States contributing to the growth of industrial employment at the top and decline elsewhere are Czech Republic, Spain, Portugal and Sweden. Although Latvia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland are also to show growth at the top, they experience net job growth in the other wage quintiles. The high growth of services at the very

Figure 31. **Employment change (% pa) by job-wage quintile, 2015-30**





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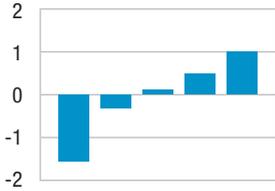


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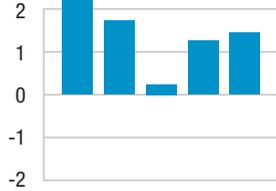


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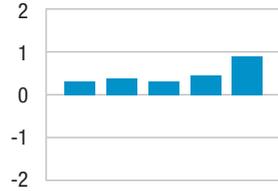
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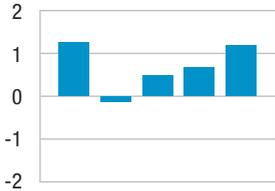
**Cyprus**



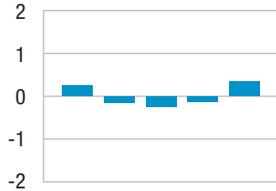
**Czech Republic**



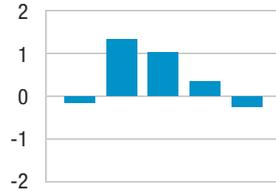
**France**



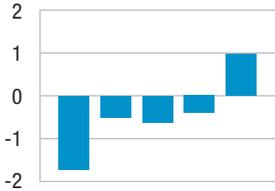
**Germany**



**Greece**



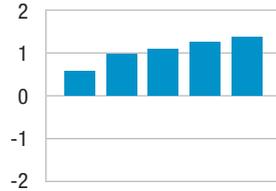
**Latvia**



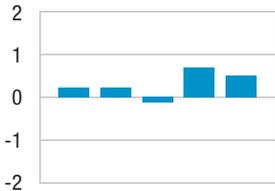
**Lithuania**



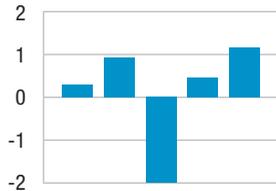
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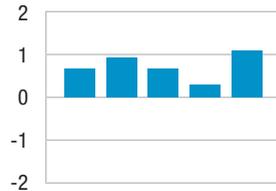
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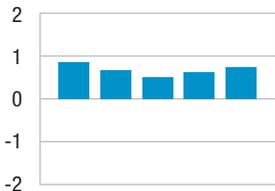
**Romania**



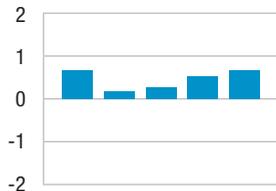
**Slovakia**



**United Kingdom**



**European Union**

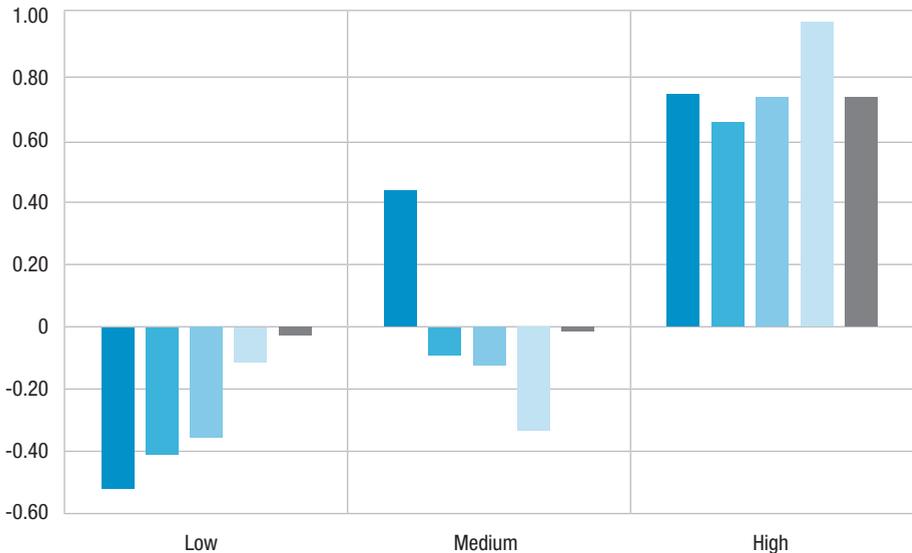


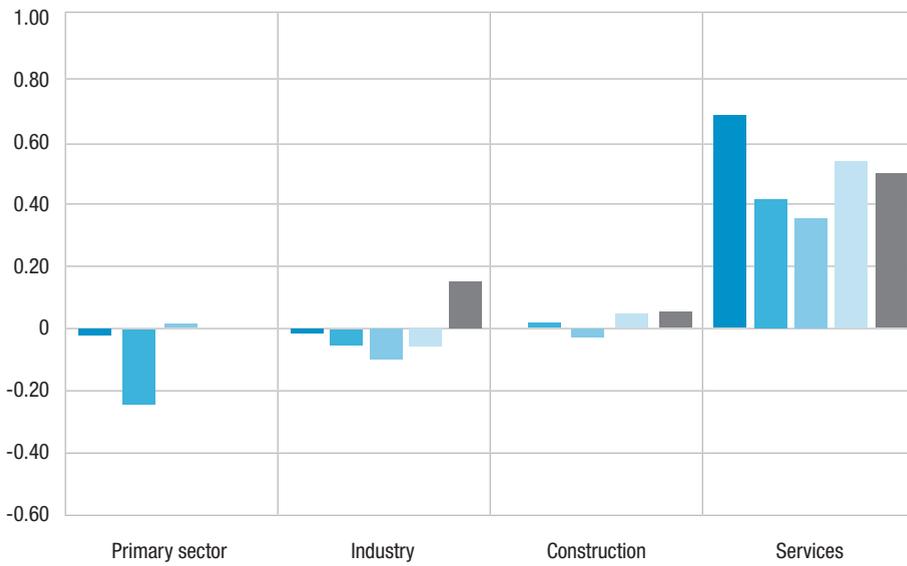
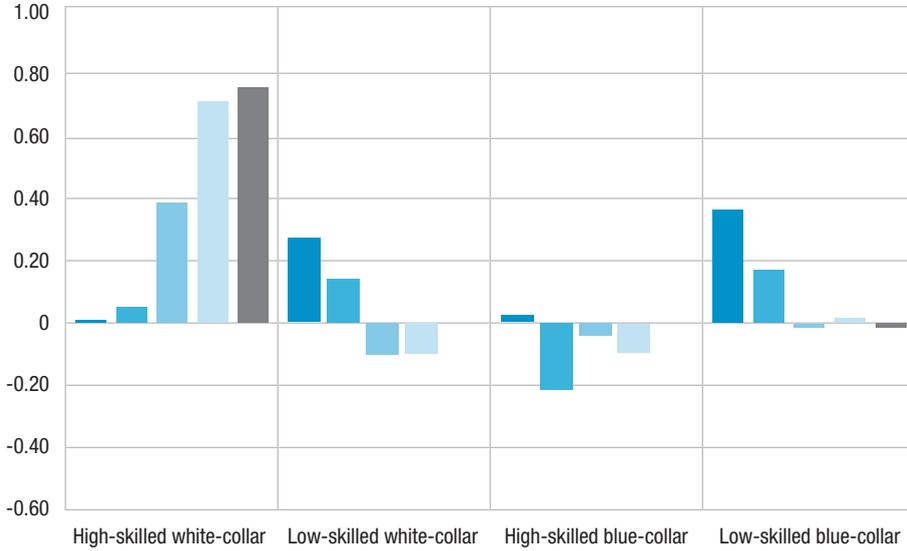
Source: Eurofound (2018).

top and bottom of the wage distribution confirms the role of this sector in the polarisation of net employment growth.

At EU aggregate level, net projected employment growth occurs mostly at the high-level of qualifications in all wage quintiles; the only exception is some growth in medium qualification level in the bottom quintile. Among Member States, only Romania shows employment growth for the lowest qualifications level, in the bottom two wage quintiles. The occupation data reflect the qualifications data. All net employment growth in the top three wage quintiles is among high-skilled white-collared employees. Net growth in the bottom wage quintile is almost entirely due to increases in low-skilled white- and blue-collared employees.

**Figure 32. Employment change (% pa) by job-wage quintile, 2015-30: EU, by qualifications, occupation and economic sector**





Source: Eurofound (2018).

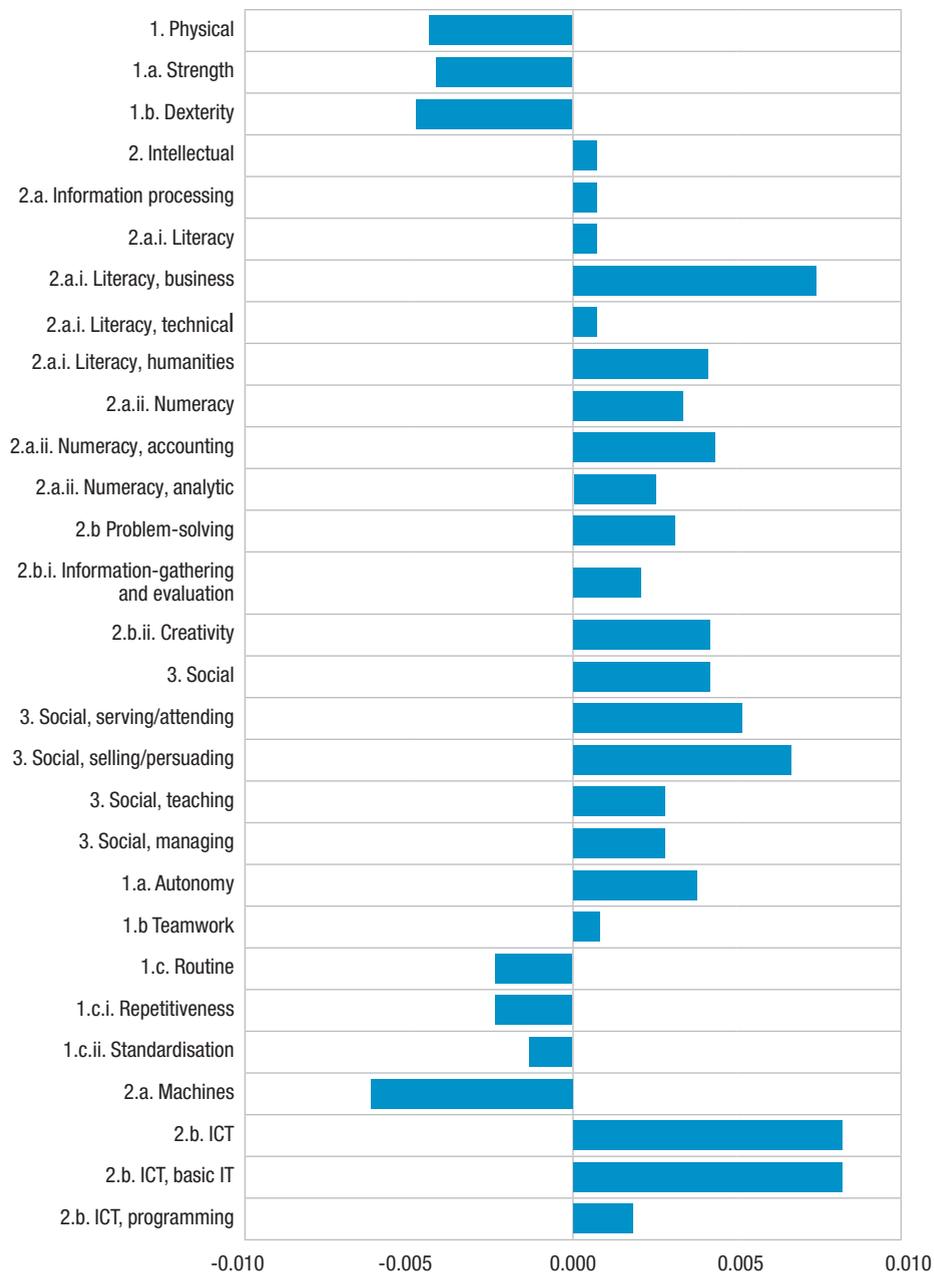
The headline result of this section is the forecast of a more polarised labour market in the EU. This compares with the long boom before the recession of 2008, which was mainly characterised as upgrading, with higher growth at the top of the wage distribution. Tendencies towards a more polarised labour market appeared in the recession, with massive job loss in the middle, small declines at the bottom and growth at the top. But compared to the short period of recovery since 2013, the forecast for 2015 to 2030 clearly shows stronger polarisation. It is mainly Spain, France and the UK that account for the strong growth at the bottom.

The strong growth in the bottom quintile in the aggregate EU figure, attributable to a few large Member States, tends to conceal the fact that upgrading predominates in many Member States. Those with the strongest upgrading patterns are Slovenia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Hungary, Malta and Finland. The most pronounced polarisation pattern is found in Germany, France and the Netherlands. Polarisation is also visible in Italy and Romania. Tendencies to increased downgrading in the occupational structure are found in Greece and Spain and, to a lesser extent, in Cyprus, Austria and the UK.

It is important to emphasise that the measurement of the various types of task, as outlined in Table 7, is taken at the start of forecasting period and remains constant up to 2030. Changes in tasks reported in this section are only due to compositional changes in the structure of employment by sector and occupation; it does not measure how tasks that are performed in specific jobs change over time. In a forecasting period of 15 years and when there is some expectation of significant technological change, this is an obvious limitation. However, data on the future change in the task content of jobs can never be available, so the compositional change is the best that can be done. Figure 33 shows the change in the measures of various tasks in jobs in across the EU between 2015 and 2030.

The figure shows that the projected structural change will lead to a decline in tasks requiring both physical strength and dexterity, as measured by data from the European working conditions survey. There is a long history of machines replacing the physical tasks performed by human labour. These tasks are primarily located in agricultural and industrial occupations, and the projected decline in physical tasks is particularly prominent in central and eastern Europe, but even Italy and the Netherlands show appreciable decline. The only other bars in Figure 5 that show a fall in the task indices refer to how tasks are performed; they are those that measure routine (both

**Figure 33. Task indices change, 2015-30 (EU)**



Source: Eurofound (2018).

Change (indices go from 0 to 1)



repetitiveness and standardisation) as well as work with machines. This is not to say that tasks in the existing jobs may not become more routine: there is some evidence in Eurofound (2016), using various waves of the EWCS, that many jobs have become more routine and standardised. The projected decline in routine tasks is almost fully accounted for by developments in the middle wage quintile, which adds some credence to the assumption in the research literature that routine jobs are mainly to be found in the middle of the occupational structure. However, the largest decline in these indicators is in working with machines, which may appear puzzling. However, this excludes working with ICT-related machinery and may also reflect the shifting global division of labour, where work with less advanced machinery moves to lower wage countries. Eurofound found a strong correlation between the occurrence of physical tasks, working with machines and routine tasks (Eurofound, 2016).

The projected structural change will lead to an increase in the two other major classifications of what is done at work, intellectual and social tasks; each of the various subcategories of these will increase. The increase in intellectual and social tasks is strongest in eastern and central European countries. Such a clustering of Member States can also be seen in the decline in physical tasks. It is highly likely that the more rapid projected structural change in the more recent Member States is what is driving such a result. Both the social and intellectual task indicators grow most slowly (or declined slightly) in the lowest wage quintile. The increase in numerical tasks is particularly prominent in the top wage quintile. These figures are added in Annex 4.

In terms of the tasks performed, two task subcategories stand out for rapid growth projection. Business literacy (from the intellectual category) and selling/persuading (from the social category) are projected to be the two most rapidly increasing tasks in terms of what work is done. Business literacy is the processing of verbal business information, and is based on PIAAC data. It includes measurements for tasks such as reading and writing letters and financial statements. These tasks are projected to increase in every Member State, with projected growth prominent in central and eastern Europe as well as Italy. Selling/persuading is the second most rapidly growing task category. It would appear to be conceptually related to business literacy, in that it refers to commercial activity with a correlation between these two indices reported as 0.64 in Eurofound (2016).

The third most rapidly increasing task, in terms of what is to be done at work, is serving/attending in the social category. It would have been useful to have a measurement for caring tasks as this could be considered a highly relevant category for possible future employment growth; it not only responds to future demand but also is not easily routinised or is susceptible to offshoring. It was not possible to measure the caring task specifically and it may be that the serving/attending task is picking up some caring.

Autonomy shows an appreciable increase and is the means of working that varies most between the wage quintiles, appearing much more in the high wage ones. It is projected to grow in all Member States, with stronger growth in eastern and central European countries. ICT is to grow strongest of all indicators, increasing in all Member States with the exception of Greece. It is a common trend across all five wage quintiles but with stronger growth in the top two.

## 5.5. Concluding remarks

The most striking result of the job-wage quintile results is the projection of a more polarised labour market in the EU. This is driven mainly by the growth of jobs at the bottom of the wage distribution, with Spain, France and the UK accounting for much of the EU total growth. However, there is considerable heterogeneity in the patterns of structural change by job-wage quintile, with many Member States projected to upgrade their occupational structure towards higher paying jobs. Among these are Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Hungary, Malta, Slovenia and Finland. Projected polarisation is particularly strong in Germany, France and the Netherlands. Another striking result is that net change in industrial jobs is concentrated in the top three job wage quintiles, with no net change in the bottom two. Within the top three quintiles is a distinct pattern of upgrading, with significant employment growth at the top.

The implications of the projected structural change up to 2030 on tasks in European workplaces was analysed along two main dimensions: the content of the tasks, and the methods and tools with which tasks are performed. In terms of task content, there is a projected decline only in physical tasks, with an across-the-board increase in all the subcategories of intellectual and social tasks. Three types of task stand out in terms of their projected increase: business literacy, selling/persuading and serving/attending. The first two are



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related both statistically and conceptually, as both have a highly commercial nature. It was suggested that the observed increase in serving/attending might also be related to caring tasks, which was not directly measured in the otherwise comprehensive task framework. The biggest overall change in any of the indices was the use of basic ICT skills (one of the means of performing tasks). There was also a projected increase in autonomy and a decline in routine. A highly significant decline in work with machines (non-ICT) is correlated both with physical and routine tasks.

There are some highly relevant differences between the group of Member States that have joined the European Union since 2014 and the others. The countries showing strong upgrading tendencies include many of the more recent Member States. These countries also generally show much stronger than average projected decline in physical tasks, and increases in social and intellectual tasks. It was emphasised several times in this chapter that what is being measured, in both the wage and task analysis, are compositional changes. These results indicate that the higher rate of projected structural change in these Member States is positive, with upward convergence in the employment structure in Europe.

CHAPTER 6.

# Discussion and future challenges

This publication introduced the results from the 2018 skills forecast up to 2030. Cedefop skills forecast is a unique database <sup>(22)</sup> projecting future trends in skills and jobs across Europe. The provision of timely labour market intelligence is crucial for Europe's skills and labour market policies; the skills forecast plays an important role in implementing the EU *Skills agenda* <sup>(23)</sup> and the European pillar of social rights. Projections of employment are produced for all Member States, broken down by sector of economic activity and occupational group. Future labour force trends are produced by age, gender and highest level of qualification (ISCED 5-8).

Cedefop and Eurofound have collaborated on this publication, with the latter adopting the Cedefop baseline projections scenario to apply the Eurofound European jobs monitor approach to identifying changes in the occupational wage structure and the task content of jobs. This concluding section discusses the main results of the work and puts suggests questions calling for policy intervention.

Over the forecast period, the EU is expected to show relatively low growth rates, recovering from the legacy of the crisis but supported by global growth, particularly in China. Over the medium term, GDP will stabilise at lower levels, mainly because of the demographic trends. There are two main factors driving how GDP growth will be translated into sectoral employment. First, ageing of the population will lead to less consumer expenditure on goods and on leisure, and more on health-related services. At the same time, government expenditure is expected to increase to accommodate these needs. Second, the penetration of automation will lead to fewer jobs being created in manufacturing but new jobs in supporting sectors. However, the assumption is that workers will keep their jobs when robots are brought in. The above factors will lead to a changing GDP composition towards lower

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<sup>(22)</sup> <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/forecasting-skill-demand-and-supply/data-visualisations>

<sup>(23)</sup> New skills agenda for Europe: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223&langId=en>



consumption of goods and more government spending, which will impact employment patterns.

On the supply side, the skills forecast produces projections of participation rates by gender and age. In most cases, these are expected to grow though overall rates for both genders and all age groups will fall for most countries in the period up to 2030. This is mainly the outcome of a workforce that is ageing as the size of the older workers' group is increasing and that of prime-aged workers decreasing. Over the forecast period, this tendency is not expected to cause a decline in the workforce as population is increasing but it may be a matter of time before Europe's labour force will start declining.

This raises several questions. For example, are measures, such as the extension of working life, flexible forms of work, and support to female participation, which focus on specific groups of workers, enough to resolve the overall problem? Moreover, in such a situation we are faced with, will Europe be able to support high-value-added, knowledge-intensive growth? Will its workforce be adaptable to the changing world of work? From a policies perspective, will adult learning be sufficient to sustain upskilling and reskilling of the labour force in an age of accelerated technological change?

The skills forecast suggests that the orientation of employment towards the service sector will continue. Hotels and catering, health and social work are among the sectors where the most employment growth is expected. In contrast, manufacturing, public administration and agriculture are expected to decline. However, even though basic manufacturing is expected to decline in employment, some high value-added sectors will experience an increase, as with optical and electronic equipment and motor vehicles.

One question is what it will take for the EU to be ready to sustain the shift towards high value added sectors. Will, for example, employers manage to fill these vacancies? Evidence from the Cedefop skills and jobs survey <sup>(24)</sup> suggests that four out of 10 employers are already having problems filling their vacancies. This bottleneck could be intensified in high value-added sectors. A second question is probably rhetorical. Will automation mitigate job growth? We see that sectors that expected to grow are typically those where technology has relatively limited penetration: legal and accounting services, research and development, advertising and market research, administrative and support service activities. So the question is more how

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<sup>(24)</sup> Cedefop skills and jobs survey: <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/european-skills-and-jobs-esj-survey>

employment and education policies respond to this challenge and safeguard employment in sectors where technology has the highest penetration?

At the same time, how can demographic challenges be turned into employment opportunities? If demographic trends are taken for granted then how can we use this to our advantage? Can creation of new services and jobs be directed towards new service sectors, since a key finding is the increasing employment in these sectors? These are typically sectors where non-standard employment forms of work concentrate, and most likely where platform work also occurs. The question here is how this should be addressed to ensure decent work for everyone?

Shifting to occupational employment, job polarisation is expected to grow further. Jobs in the higher and lower skills spectrum are expected to grow in size, while mid-level jobs are expected to be hollowed out. Overall, four out of five new jobs will be in high-skilled occupations. This trend is driven mostly by sectoral changes (for instance service workers) but also technological change that makes some occupations more relevant than others. For instance, many clerks, such as general and keyboard clerks or numerical and material recording clerks, will lose a significant share in employment because they will become less relevant. In contrast, there will be strongest demand for difficult-to-automate occupations, such as legal, social and cultural occupations. The phenomenon of job polarisation is not new but we are at a stage where technological advances seem to be affecting routinised occupations the most. So the question is whether we are heading towards a fully polarised labour market and what are the implications of this?

However, when demand is discussed, there is also a need to include demand occurring due to replacement of the existing workforce. Such demand mostly arises due to retirement or career change and nine out of 10 job openings will be created by replacement. The replacement needs will be highest for older workers, such as in agriculture, and also for those with low-level qualifications and occupations, such as service workers. Even though we expect a decline in overall employment for some occupations, the need to replace existing workers will create numerous job openings. However, there is the question of whether the need to replace workers will materialise, especially at the middle and low levels.

Concluding with labour market imbalances, the skills forecast estimates that by 2030, the needs of the economy for workforce with high level of qualifications will account for about 36.5% of total employment. However, since the supply of highly qualified workforce is outpacing demand, it is more



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likely that the share of total employment with high level of qualifications will be 41%. From this it can be inferred that a non-trivial share of highly qualified employees will end up in jobs that do not match their level of education, meaning we are heading towards a highly skilled workforce, a significant part of which may not have the opportunity to use the skills accumulated. At the same time, there may be intensification of work at lower levels, rising skill needs and making mid-level occupations even more demanding. Eurofound's work on the content of jobs reveals that we are heading towards less routinised/more autonomous jobs tasks where interpersonal skills will play a key role for the future. Evidence from the Cedefop skills and jobs survey suggests that a significant part of European workforce found their skills, at the time of hiring, inferior to those required to perform the job sufficiently. Therefore, it is important that education policies work together with social partners in ensuring that workers are equipped with the right skills. Finally there is the question of how the low-skilled, that may be pushed to accept lower wages and work in inferior jobs, can escape the vicious circle of low productivity and low wages.

This publication has presented its main findings with a focus at EU level. More information on the skills forecast, and access to the summary and detailed data on countries, sectors, and occupations, can be found at Cedefop <sup>(25)</sup> and the Skills Panorama <sup>(26)</sup>. More on the European jobs monitor can be found at Eurofound <sup>(27)</sup>.

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<sup>(25)</sup> <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/events-and-projects/projects/forecasting-skill-demand-and-supply>

<sup>(26)</sup> <http://skillspanorama.cedefop.europa.eu/en>

<sup>(27)</sup> <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/el/observatories/emcc/european-jobs-monitor>

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# Acronyms

<b>CEEC</b>	central and eastern European countries
<b>EJM</b>	European jobs monitor
<b>ESA</b>	European system of national and regional accounts
<b>ESJ</b>	European skills and jobs survey
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EU-28+3</b>	28 European Union Member States plus three associate countries (Norway, Switzerland, Iceland)
<b>EU-LFS</b>	European Union labour force survey
<b>EWCS</b>	European working conditions survey
<b>E3ME</b>	macroeconomic model
<b>ICEs</b>	individual country experts
<b>ICT</b>	information and communication technology
<b>ISCED</b>	international standard classification of education
<b>ISCO</b>	international standard classification of occupations
<b>LMI</b>	labour market information
<b>LMII</b>	labour market information and intelligence
<b>LFS</b>	labour force survey
<b>MC</b>	measure of change indicator
<b>NA</b>	national accounts
<b>NACE</b>	statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community (from <i>nomenclature statistique des activités économiques dans la Communauté Européenne</i> )
<b>PIAAC</b>	programme for the international assessment of adult competencies
<b>PISA</b>	programme for international student assessment
<b>RD</b>	replacement demand
<b>SES</b>	structure of earnings survey



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## Glossary of definitions used

<b>expansion demand</b>	jobs to be created due to growth of sectors/occupations
<b>replacement demand</b>	jobs to be opened due to the need to replace existing workers
<b>total job opening</b>	expansion and replacement demand
<b>working age population</b>	persons 15+
<b>labour force</b>	persons 15+ that are employed or actively seeking work
<b>highly skilled occupations</b>	ISCO 1-3
<b>skilled non-manual occupations</b>	ISCO 4-5
<b>skilled manual occupations</b>	ISCO 6-8
<b>elementary occupations</b>	ISCO 9



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- Cedefop – Skills Panorama <http://skillspanorama.cedefop.europa.eu/en>
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- European Commission – Science hub <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/eu-companies-rd-investment-grows-faster-global-and-us-trends>
- Eurostat – European labour force survey (LFS) <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-labour-force-survey>



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Eurostat – Population projection data 2015 <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/population-demography-migration-projections/population-projections-data>

O\*NET database <https://www.onetcenter.org/database.html>

ANNEX 1.

# Contributing national experts

Country	Name	Organisation
Austria	Bock-Schappelwein Julia	Austrian Institute of Economic Research
	Horvath Thomas	Austrian Institute of Economic Research
Belgium	Hendrickx Koen	Federal Planning Bureau
Bulgaria	Dimitrova Elka	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
Croatia	Nestić Danijel	Institute of Economics, Zagreb
	Pavkov Marija	Ekopid d.o.o.
Cyprus	Mourouzides Yiannis	Human Resource Development Authority of Cyprus
Czech Republic	Janičko Michail	National Training Fund
	Lepič Martin	Charles University
Denmark	Lassen Morten	Aalborg University
Estonia	Lambing Mario	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
Finland	Tiainen Pekka	Ministry of Employment and the Economy
France	Brousse Cecilé	French Ministry of Labour
	Desjonquères Aurore	French Ministry of Labour
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Nikoloski Dimitar	University 'St. Kliment Ohridski'- Bitola
Germany	Maier Tobias	BIBB - Federal Institute for Vocational Training and Education
Greece	Chletsos Michael	University of Ioannina
Hungary	Bako Tamas	Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Iceland	Sigurdsson Karl	Directorate of Labour

Country	Name	Organisation
Ireland	McNaboe Joan	SOLAS – Irish Further Education and Training Authority
	Shally Caroline	SOLAS – Irish Further Education and Training Authority
	McGrath John	SOLAS – Irish Further Education and Training Authority
Italy	Colombo Emilio	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano
Latvia	Ozols Normunds	Ministry of Economics of Republic of Latvia
Lithuania	Beleckiene Giedre	Freelance expert
	Martinaitis Žilvinas	Visionary Analytics
Luxembourg	Clément Franz	LISER - Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research
Malta	Ellul Nicholas	Ministry of Education & Employment
Netherlands	Kuenn-Nelen Annemarie	University of Maastricht - ROA
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Poland	Sienkiewicz Łukasz	Institute for Labour Market Analyses
	Gajdos Artur	University of Lodz
Portugal	Valente Ana Cláudia	ANQEP - Agência Nacional para a Qualificação e o Ensino Profissional
Romania	Ghinararu Catalin Corneliu	National Labour Research Institute/INCSMPS
Slovakia	Radvansky Marek	Slovak Academy of Sciences
	Stefanik Miroslav	Slovak Academy of Sciences
Slovenia	Zupancic Magda	Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Spain	Caprile Eiola-Olaso Maria	NOTUS – applied social research
	Amor Bravo Elias Manuel	Fundacion Servicio Valenciano de Empleo
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	Schmieder Russell	Statistics Sweden
Switzerland	Babel Jacques	Swiss Federal Statistical Office
Turkey	Ercan Hakan	Middle East Technical University
United Kingdom	Wilson Robert	University of Warwick

ANNEX 2.

## Additional Chapter 2 tables

Table A1. Employment growth rates by country (% pa)

Country	2010-15	2016-20	2021-25	2026-30
Belgium	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.5
Bulgaria	-0.7	0.2	0.0	-0.1
Czech Republic	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.5
Denmark	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.6
Germany	0.7	0.2	0.0	-0.3
Estonia	2.7	0.1	0.0	-0.3
Ireland	1.6	1.1	1.4	1.4
Greece	-2.7	0.5	0.8	0.1
Spain	-1.0	1.1	1.2	0.6
France	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.6
Croatia	-1.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1
Italy	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.5
Cyprus	-1.3	1.3	2.1	1.0
Latvia	1.8	-0.7	-0.1	-0.4
Lithuania	1.5	0.4	0.0	-0.6
Luxembourg	2.8	1.4	1.0	0.9
Hungary	1.4	0.2	0.5	0.4
Malta	3.2	1.6	0.7	0.6
Netherlands	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.2
Austria	1.0	0.3	0.4	0.3
Poland	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Portugal	-0.4	0.1	0.5	0.3
Romania	-0.9	0.0	0.2	0.2
Slovenia	-0.5	1.0	0.4	0.2
Slovakia	0.9	1.2	0.7	0.2



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Country	2010-15	2016-20	2021-25	2026-30
Finland	-0.1	0.4	0.3	0.6
Sweden	1.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
UK	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.9
Norway	1.4	1.1	0.8	0.7
Switzerland	2.1	0.3	0.4	0.1
Iceland	2.5	-0.7	0.9	1.3
EU-28+3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).



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Table A2. **Baseline employment by detailed sector (% pa), EU-28+3**

	2010-15	2016-20	2021-25	2026-30
1 Agriculture, etc. + forestry	-2.6	-1.1	-0.8	-0.9
2 Mining and quarrying	-0.3	-1.5	-2.0	-1.4
3 Food, drink and tobacco	0.1	-0.8	-0.3	-0.3
4 Textiles, clothing & leather	-2.6	0.2	-0.2	-1.0
5 Wood, paper, printing and publishing	-2.0	-0.4	-0.4	0.1
6 Coke & refined petroleum	-0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4
7 Other chemicals	-0.9	0.1	0.4	0.6
8 Pharmaceuticals	1.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0
9 Rubber & plastic products and other non-metallic mineral products	-0.9	1.2	1.0	0.9
10 Basic metals & metal products	-0.7	-0.4	-0.2	-0.4
11 Computer, optical & electronic equipment	0.0	-0.7	0.6	0.0
12 Electrical equipment	1.2	-0.3	-0.9	-2.1
13 Other machinery & equipment	0.9	-1.1	-0.2	0.2
14 Motor vehicles	1.4	0.6	-0.1	0.2
15 Other transport equipment	0.3	-2.5	-1.5	-0.8
16 Manufacturing (rest)	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.3
17 Electricity	-1.1	0.9	0.6	0.5
18 Gas, steam & air conditioning	-2.7	1.3	1.0	0.9
19 Water supply	0.7	-0.1	-0.4	0.1
20 Construction	-1.7	-0.2	0.4	0.5
21 Wholesale and retail trade	0.0	1.0	0.7	0.4
22 Land transport	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0
23 Water transport	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.3
24 Air transport	0.4	1.1	0.8	1.4
25 Warehousing and postal services	0.0	0.3	0.6	1.0
26 Accommodation and food service activities	1.9	1.0	0.8	0.3
27 Media	0.1	0.4	1.2	1.6
28 Telecommunications	-1.0	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4
29 Computer programming, information services	3.6	-0.6	0.5	0.4
30 Financial and insurance activities	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.6



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	2010-15	2016-20	2021-25	2026-30
31 Real estate activities	2.8	1.1	1.0	0.1
32 Legal, accounting & consulting services	1.8	3.1	2.2	2.1
33 Architectural & engineering	2.5	0.5	0.4	0.5
34 R&D	1.5	2.0	2.7	2.7
35 Advertising and market research; other professional (rest)	3.8	0.9	1.5	1.4
36 Administrative and support service activities	2.5	1.6	1.1	0.8
37 Public administration & defence	-0.6	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
38 Education	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0
39 Health	1.5	0.8	0.7	0.2
40 Arts, entertainment and recreation	1.3	1.0	1.6	1.4
41 Other service activities	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.3
42 Unallocated + hydrogen	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).



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Table A3. Summary country results, 2030 compared to 2016

Country	Working age population, %	Average participation rate, pp	Labour force, %	Labour force, 000s
Belgium	9.3	-1.8	5.5	278.6
Bulgaria	-10.1	0.0	-10.2	-338.3
Czech Republic	1.8	-0.9	0.3	14.8
Denmark	10.7	0.3	11.2	333.2
Germany	2.0	-1.5	-0.5	-230.7
Estonia	0.1	-2.3	-3.5	-24.1
Ireland	15.3	-4.4	6.9	149.3
Greece	-4.8	-4.5	-13	-617.9
Spain	3.1	-5.4	-6.5	-1 478.6
France	6.9	-0.4	6.1	1 813
Italy	1.7	-1.7	-2.0	-503.3
Cyprus	11.4	0.0	11.5	48.6
Latvia	-12.4	-2.0	-15.4	-151.6
Lithuania	-17.2	-2.3	-20.4	-297.0
Luxembourg	31.0	-2.4	25.7	73.2
Hungary	-2.1	0.8	-0.6	-25.6
Malta	11.2	-3.8	3.9	8.2
Netherlands	8.9	0.2	9.2	826.3
Austria	10.7	-1.3	8.3	372.2
Poland	-0.9	-1.3	-3.4	-582.7
Portugal	-1.5	-2.9	-6.4	-332.8
Romania	-8.1	-1.1	-9.9	-902
Slovenia	1.9	-5.2	-7.3	-73.9
Slovakia	1.8	-2.6	-2.7	-73.9
Finland	4.9	0.1	5.0	136.1
Sweden	13.5	-1.3	11.2	591.8
UK	10.3	-1.5	7.6	2 546
Norway	14.1	1.6	16.8	471.6
Switzerland	14.0	-1.7	11.1	540.2
Iceland	11.7	-1.2	9.9	19.2



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Country	Working age population, %	Average participation rate, pp	Labour force, %	Labour force, 000s
Croatia	-3.1	-0.6	-4.1	-78.0
EU-28+3	3.7	-1.5	1.0	2 512.0

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).



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Table A4. Summary results by labour group, 2030 compared to 2016

	Population, %	Average participation rate, pp	Labour supply, %	Labour supply, 000s
1 Male 15-19	0.4	1.6	7.8	239.4
2 Male 20-24	-1.2	4.3	5.6	547.5
3 Male 25-29	-8.7	-0.2	-8.9	-1 290.7
4 Male 30-34	-7.5	1.0	-6.4	-1 020.5
5 Male 35-39	-6.2	0.8	-5.4	-902.2
6 Male 40-44	-6.8	1.7	-5.2	-890.4
7 Male 44-49	-9.4	2.3	-7.1	-1 238.1
8 Male 50-54	-6.1	2.3	-3.7	-622.0
9 Male 55-59	3.7	5.2	10.4	1 431.4
10 Male 60-64	16.5	6.8	32.4	2 480.3
11 Male 65+	32.7	2.8	76.5	2 746.0
12 Female 15-19	0.6	1.9	10.5	275.3
13 Female 20-24	-1.1	1.8	2.0	162.9
14 Female 25-29	-9.6	3.8	-5.0	-630.0
15 Female 30-34	-9.7	3.2	-6.0	-800.0
16 Female 35-39	-8.5	3.7	-4.3	-623.8
17 Female 40-44	-7.9	4.2	-3.1	-470.6
18 Female 45-49	-9.4	4.6	-4.2	-652.5
19 Female 50-54	-6.7	4.1	-1.8	-262.7
20 Female 55-59	1.9	5.0	9.5	1 134.4
21 Female 60-64	12.6	5.0	29.0	1 673.2
22 Female 65+	25.3	0.9	56.5	1 224.9
23 Total 15-19	0.5	1.7	9.0	514.7
24 Total 20-24	-1.2	3.1	3.9	710.4
25 Total 25-29	-9.1	1.8	-7.1	-1 920.7
26 Total 30-34	-8.6	2.2	-6.2	-1 820.5
27 Total 35-39	-7.3	2.3	-4.9	-1 526.0
28 Total 40-44	-7.4	3.0	-4.2	-1 361.0
29 Total 45-49	-9.4	3.5	-5.7	-1 890.6
30 Total 50-54	-6.4	3.2	-2.8	-884.6
31 Total 55-59	2.8	5.1	10.0	2 565.7
32 Total 60-64	14.5	6.0	30.9	4 153.5
33 Total 65+	28.5	1.8	69.0	3 971.0

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

**Table A5. Employment comparison between sensitivities  
(% difference from baseline), 2030**

	Revival	Baseline	Stagnation
Belgium	2.9	5 072	-3.6
Bulgaria	0.3	3 550	-0.6
Czech Republic	2.0	5 366	-2.1
Denmark	2.7	3 176	-2.1
Germany	4.6	42 057	-3.7
Estonia	1.1	626	-0.7
Ireland	0.4	2 443	-0.2
Greece	1.5	4 401	-1.8
Spain	2.3	21 614	-2.9
France	1.7	30 117	-1.0
Croatia	0.5	1 587	0.0
Italy	0.9	26 897	-1.1
Cyprus	0.8	462	-1.5
Latvia	1.3	898	-1.5
Lithuania	1.0	1 375	-1.0
Luxembourg	0.3	483	0.0
Hungary	1.5	4 476	-0.7
Malta	0.4	221	-0.6
Netherlands	1.3	9 326	-1.1
Austria	0.1	4 538	-0.4
Poland	1.3	15 921	-1.1
Portugal	1.8	5 124	-2.0
Romania	1.5	8 949	-1.8
Slovenia	0.2	1 007	-0.1
Slovakia	2.6	2 491	-2.2
Finland	3.8	2 604	-4.7
Sweden	4.8	5 259	-3.4
UK	1.4	33 200	-1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>243 239</b>	<b>-1.9</b>

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

ANNEX 3.

## Additional Chapter 3 figures

Table A6. **Employment change by detailed occupation, 2011-30 (EU-28+3)**

Levels	thousands					
	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030	
11. Chief executives, senior officials and legislators	1 776	1 879	1 971	2 063	2 119	
12. Administrative and commercial managers	3 701	3 901	4 133	4 374	4 547	
13. Production and specialised services managers	4 735	4 956	5 128	5 389	5 599	
14. Hospitality, retail and other services managers	4 028	4 256	4 481	4 676	4 774	
21. Science and engineering professionals	6 184	6 703	7 063	7 514	7 848	
22. Health professionals	5 862	6 099	6 299	6 491	6 549	
23. Teaching professionals	10 430	10 516	10 476	10 434	10 276	
24. Business and administration professionals	7 864	8 702	9 354	9 997	10 478	
25. Information and communications technology professionals	3 376	3 767	3 888	4 109	4 248	
26. Legal, social and cultural professionals	5 620	6 161	6 611	7 103	7 451	
31. Science and engineering associate professionals	8 206	8 301	8 399	8 555	8 657	
32. Health associate professionals	5 890	6 356	6 610	6 870	6 995	
33. Business and administration associate professionals	16 322	17 077	17 794	18 556	19 065	
34. Legal, social, cultural and related associate professionals	4 271	5 045	5 999	6 979	7 737	
35. Information and communications technicians	1 884	1 978	1 963	2 020	2 067	
41. General and keyboard clerks	7 713	7 323	7 028	6 732	6 404	
42. Customer services clerks	5 467	6 045	6 663	7 350	7 842	
43. Numerical and material recording clerks	8 407	7 964	7 680	7 344	6 972	



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	2016-30	thousands	
	Net change	Replacement demand	Total requirement
	239	1 818	2 057
	646	2 546	3 192
	643	3 602	4 245
	518	3 131	3 649
	1 145	3 986	5 131
	450	4 367	4 817
	-240	6 787	6 547
	1 776	4 953	6 729
	480	1 439	1 920
	1 290	4 302	5 592
	356	4 773	5 129
	639	3 529	4 168
	1 987	10 525	12 512
	2 692	3 317	6 009
	89	700	789
	-918	4 128	3 209
	1 796	3 679	5 475
	-991	4 170	3 178



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Levels	thousands				
	2011	2016	2021	2026	2030
44. Other clerical support workers	3 168	2 949	2 743	2 549	2 373
51. Personal service workers	11 465	11 951	12 229	12 409	12 308
52. Sales workers	16 158	16 327	16 798	17 116	17 187
53. Personal care workers	7 821	8 222	8 464	8 677	8 692
54. Protective services workers	3 810	3 855	3 866	3 865	3 824
61. Market-oriented skilled agricultural workers	8 788	7 942	7 674	7 473	7 264
62. Market-oriented skilled forestry, fishery and hunting workers	427	406	400	402	404
63. Subsistence farmers, fishers, hunters and gatherers	625	507	478	451	422
71. Building and related trades workers, excluding electricians	9 427	9 098	9 219	9 536	9 756
72. Metal, machinery and related trades workers	9 180	8 616	8 218	7 867	7 531
73. Handicraft and printing workers	1 418	1 293	1 259	1 233	1 216
74. Electrical and electronic trades workers	3 822	3 600	3 514	3 448	3 367
75. Food processing, wood working, garment and other craft and related trades	4 663	4 292	4 056	3 862	3 692
81. Stationary plant and machine operators	5 298	5 150	5 148	5 148	5 127
82. Assemblers	1 622	1 700	1 852	2 030	2 158
83. Drivers and mobile plant operators	9 909	9 734	9 732	9 768	9 723
91. Cleaners and helpers	9 375	9 951	10 470	10 900	11 013
92. Agricultural, forestry and fishery labourers	1 855	1 912	1 995	2 110	2 186
93. Labourers in mining, construction, manufacturing and transport	6 187	6 577	7 049	7 604	8 037
94. Food preparation assistants	1 794	1 891	1 912	1 919	1 895
95. Street and related sales and service workers	212	206	201	193	186
96. Refuse workers and other elementary workers	2 477	2 607	2 623	2 669	2 703
All occupations	231 237	235 812	241 438	247 782	250 691

NB: Categories shown are two-digit ISCO-08.  
Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).



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	2016-30	thousands	
	Net change	Replacement demand	Total requirement
	-576	1 601	1 026
	357	7 027	7 384
	860	8 814	9 674
	470	5 261	5 732
	-30	1 965	1 934
	-678	6 804	6 126
	-1	262	260
	-85	479	394
	658	4 690	5 349
	-1 084	4 431	3 347
	-77	758	680
	-233	1 795	1 563
	-599	2 037	1 438
	-23	2 484	2 461
	457	802	1 259
	-11	6 279	6 268
	1 062	7 757	8 819
	274	1 397	1 671
	1 461	3 413	4 874
	3	1 117	1 120
	-20	114	94
	96	1 828	1 924
	14 879	142 867	157 746



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**Table A7. Projected change by occupation, 2016-30: shift-share analysis (EU-28+3)**

All qualifications							
	Base year	2016	Target year	2030	Change	2016-30	
SOC2010 Sub-Major Groups	000s	% share	000s	% share	000s	%	
11. Chief executives, senior officials and legislators	1 879	0.8	2 119	0.8	239	12.7	
12. Administrative and commercial managers	3 901	1.7	4 547	1.8	646	16.6	
13. Production and specialised services managers	4 956	2.1	5 599	2.2	643	13.0	
14. Hospitality, retail and other services managers	4 256	1.8	4 774	1.9	518	12.2	
21. Science and engineering professionals	6 703	2.8	7 848	3.1	1 145	17.1	
22. Health professionals	6 099	2.6	6 549	2.6	450	7.4	
23. Teaching professionals	10 516	4.5	10 276	4.1	-240	-2.3	
24. Business and administration professionals	8 702	3.7	10 478	4.2	1 776	20.4	
25. Information and communications technology professionals	3 767	1.6	4 248	1.7	480	12.8	
26. Legal, social and cultural professionals	6 161	2.6	7 451	3.0	1 290	20.9	
31. Science and engineering associate professionals	8 301	3.5	8 657	3.5	356	4.3	
32. Health associate professionals	6 356	2.7	6 995	2.8	639	10.1	
33. Business and administration associate professionals	17 077	7.2	19 065	7.6	1 987	11.6	
34. Legal, social, cultural and related associate professionals	5 045	2.1	7 737	3.1	2 692	53.4	
35. Information and communications technicians	1 978	0.8	2 067	0.8	89	4.5	
41. General and keyboard clerks	7 323	3.1	6 404	2.6	-918	-12.5	
42. Customer services clerks	6 045	2.6	7 842	3.1	1 796	29.7	
43. Numerical and material recording clerks	7 964	3.4	6 972	2.8	-991	-12.4	
44. Other clerical support workers	2 949	1.3	2 373	0.9	-576	-19.5	
51. Personal service workers	11 951	5.1	12 308	4.9	357	3.0	



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	Components of change					
	Scale effect		Occupation effect		Industry mix effect	
	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%
	119	6.3	115	6.1	6	0.3
	246	6.3	286	7.3	114	2.9
	313	6.3	409	8.2	-78	-1.6
	269	6.3	83	1.9	167	3.9
	423	6.3	775	11.6	-53	-0.8
	385	6.3	-51	-0.8	116	1.9
	663	6.3	-586	-5.6	-318	-3.0
	549	6.3	847	9.7	380	4.4
	238	6.3	263	7.0	-20	-0.5
	389	6.3	471	7.6	430	7.0
	524	6.3	52	0.6	-220	-2.6
	401	6.3	124	2.0	114	1.8
	1 077	6.3	519	3.0	390	2.3
	318	6.3	2 231	44.2	143	2.8
	125	6.3	-26	-1.3	-10	-0.5
	462	6.3	-1 472	-20.1	91	1.2
	381	6.3	1 136	18.8	279	4.6
	502	6.3	-1 705	-21.4	211	2.7
	186	6.3	-839	-28.4	77	2.6
	754	6.3	-759	-6.4	363	3.0



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All qualifications							
	Base year	2016	Target year	2030	Change	2016-30	
SOC2010 Sub-Major Groups	000s	% share	000s	% share	000s	%	
52. Sales workers	16 327	6.9	17 187	6.9	860	5.3	
53. Personal care workers	8 222	3.5	8 692	3.5	470	5.7	
54. Protective services workers	3 855	1.6	3 824	1.5	-30	-0.8	
61. Market-oriented skilled agricultural workers	7 942	3.4	7 264	2.9	-678	-8.5	
62. Market-oriented skilled forestry, fishery and hunting workers	406	0.2	404	0.2	-1	-0.3	
63. Subsistence farmers, fishers, hunters and gatherers	507	0.2	422	0.2	-85	-16.7	
71. Building and related trades workers, excluding electricians	9 098	3.9	9 756	3.9	658	7.2	
72. Metal, machinery and related trades workers	8 616	3.7	7 531	3.0	-1 084	-12.6	
73. Handicraft and printing workers	1 293	0.5	1 216	0.5	-77	-6.0	
74. Electrical and electronic trades workers	3 600	1.5	3 367	1.3	-233	-6.5	
75. Food processing, wood working, garment and other craft and related trades	4 292	1.8	3 692	1.5	-599	-14.0	
81. Stationary plant and machine operators	5 150	2.2	5 127	2.0	-23	-0.5	
82. Assemblers	1 700	0.7	2 158	0.9	457	26.9	
83. Drivers and mobile plant operators	9 734	4.1	9 723	3.9	-11	-0.1	
91. Cleaners and helpers	9 951	4.2	11 013	4.4	1 062	10.7	
92. Agricultural, forestry and fishery labourers	1 912	0.8	2 186	0.9	274	14.3	
93. Labourers in mining, construction, manufacturing and transport	6 577	2.8	8 037	3.2	1 461	22.2	
94. Food preparation assistants	1 891	0.8	1 895	0.8	3	0.2	
95. Street and related sales and service workers	206	0.1	186	0.1	-20	-9.8	
96. Refuse workers and other elementary workers	2 607	1.1	2 703	1.1	96	3.7	
All occupations	235 812	100	250 691	100	14 879	6.3	

Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).



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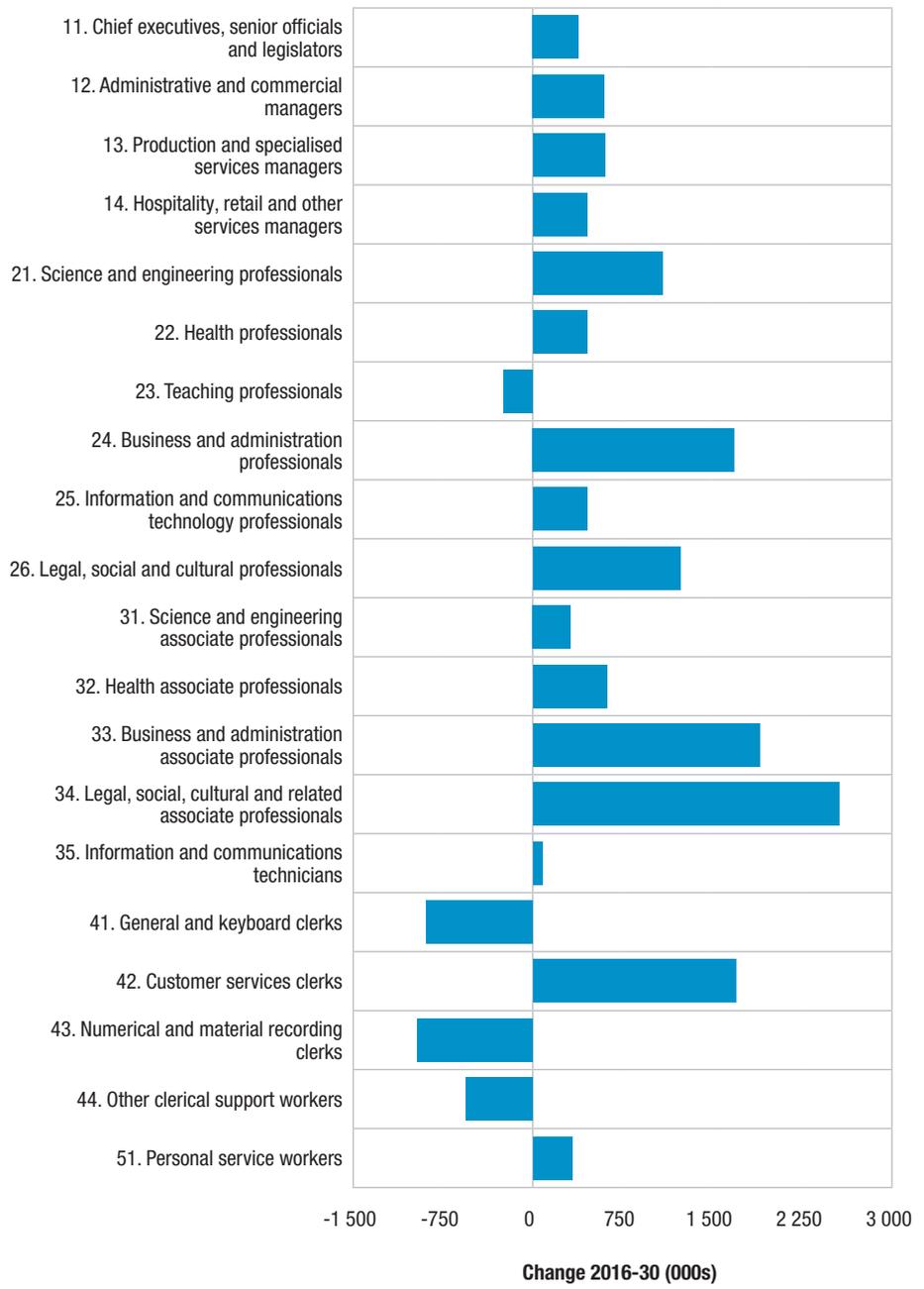
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	Components of change					
	Scale effect		Occupation effect		Industry mix effect	
	000s	%	000s	%	000s	%
	1 030	6.3	-603	-3.7	433	2.7
	519	6.3	-140	-1.7	91	1.1
	243	6.3	-254	-6.6	-20	-0.5
	501	6.3	-152	-1.9	-1 028	-12.9
	26	6.3	18	4.4	-45	-11.0
	32	6.3	-26	-5.1	-91	-18.0
	574	6.3	258	2.8	-173	-1.9
	544	6.3	-1 276	-14.8	-352	-4.1
	82	6.3	-124	-9.6	-35	-2.7
	227	6.3	-361	-10.0	-98	-2.7
	271	6.3	-644	-15.0	-226	-5.3
	325	6.3	-79	-1.5	-269	-5.2
	107	6.3	462	27.2	-112	-6.6
	614	6.3	-373	-3.8	-252	-2.6
	628	6.3	56	0.6	378	3.8
	121	6.3	410	21.5	-257	-13.5
	415	6.3	1 118	17.0	-72	-1.1
	119	6.3	-155	-8.2	39	2.1
	13	6.3	-40	-19.2	7	3.2
	164	6.3	-80	-3.1	12	0.4

**Figure A1. Projected change by two-digit occupations, 2016-30 (EU-28+3)**





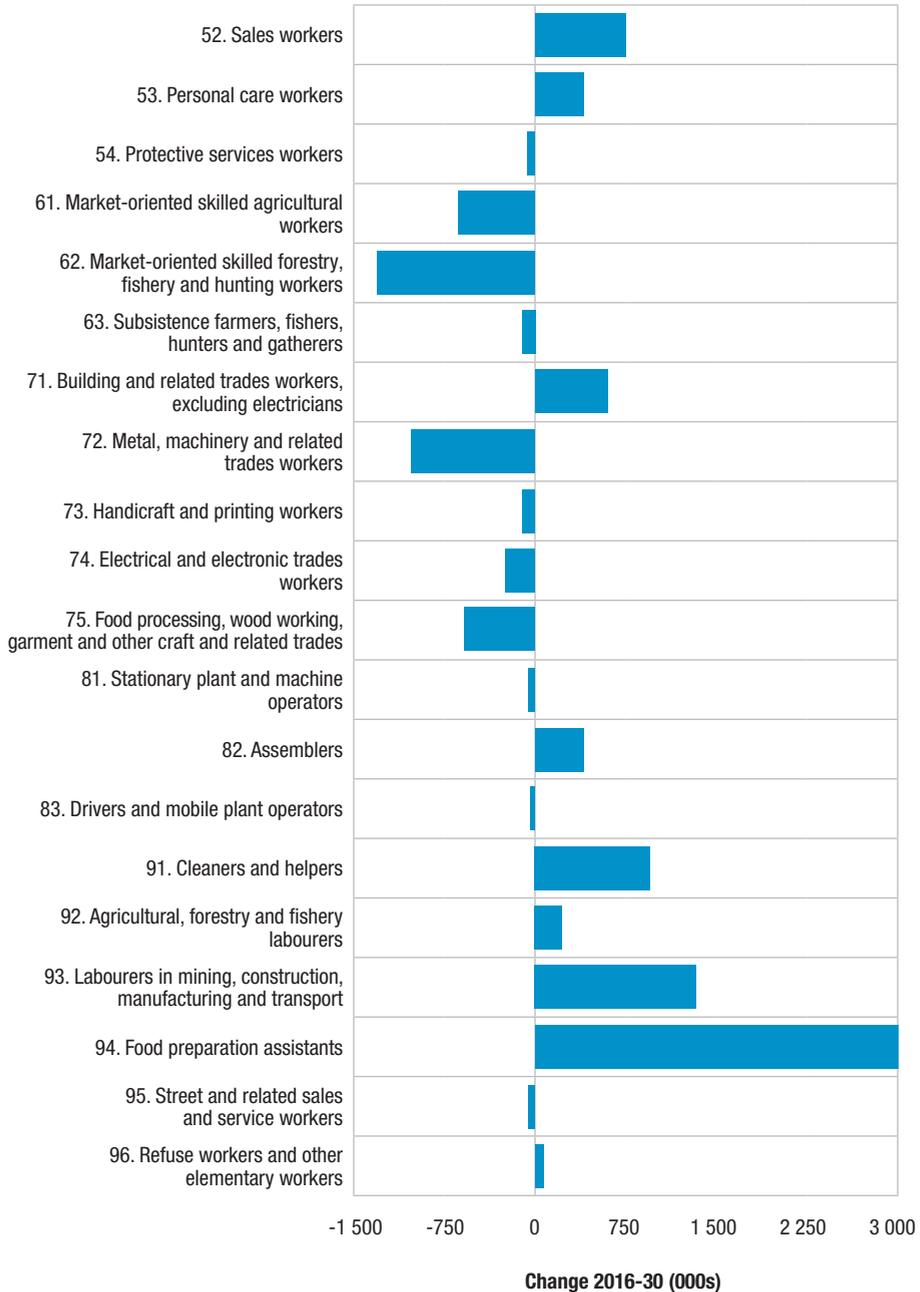
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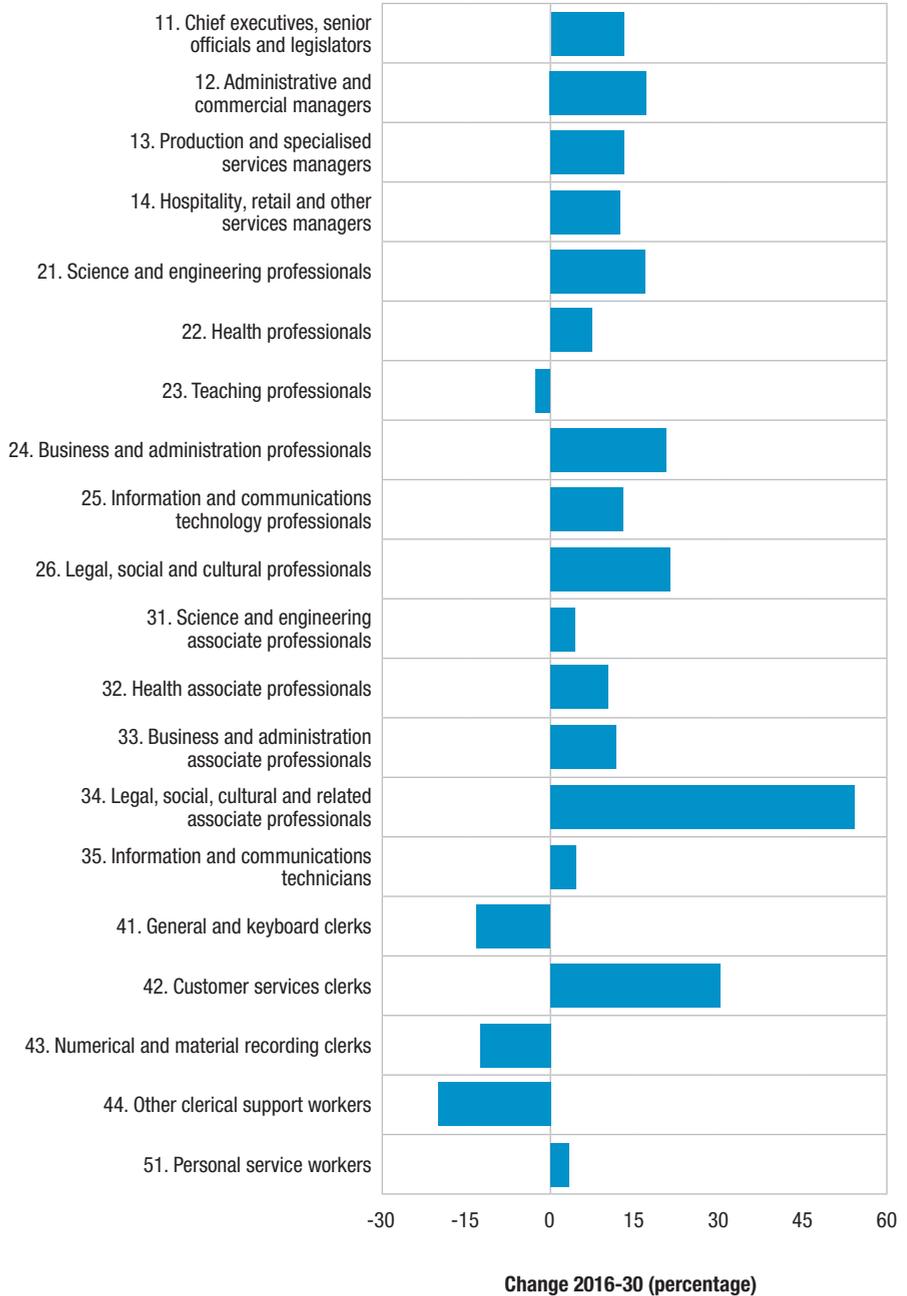
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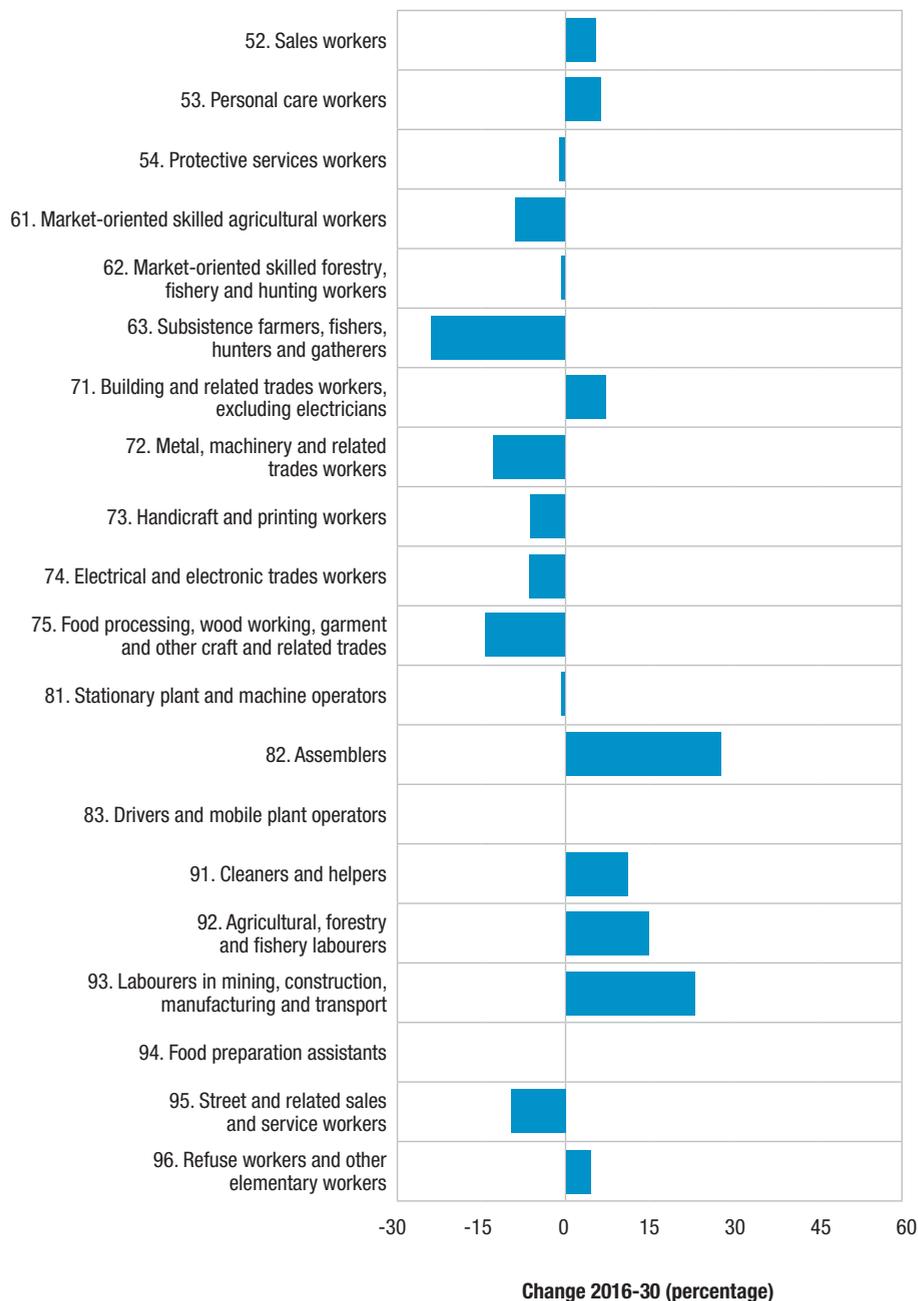


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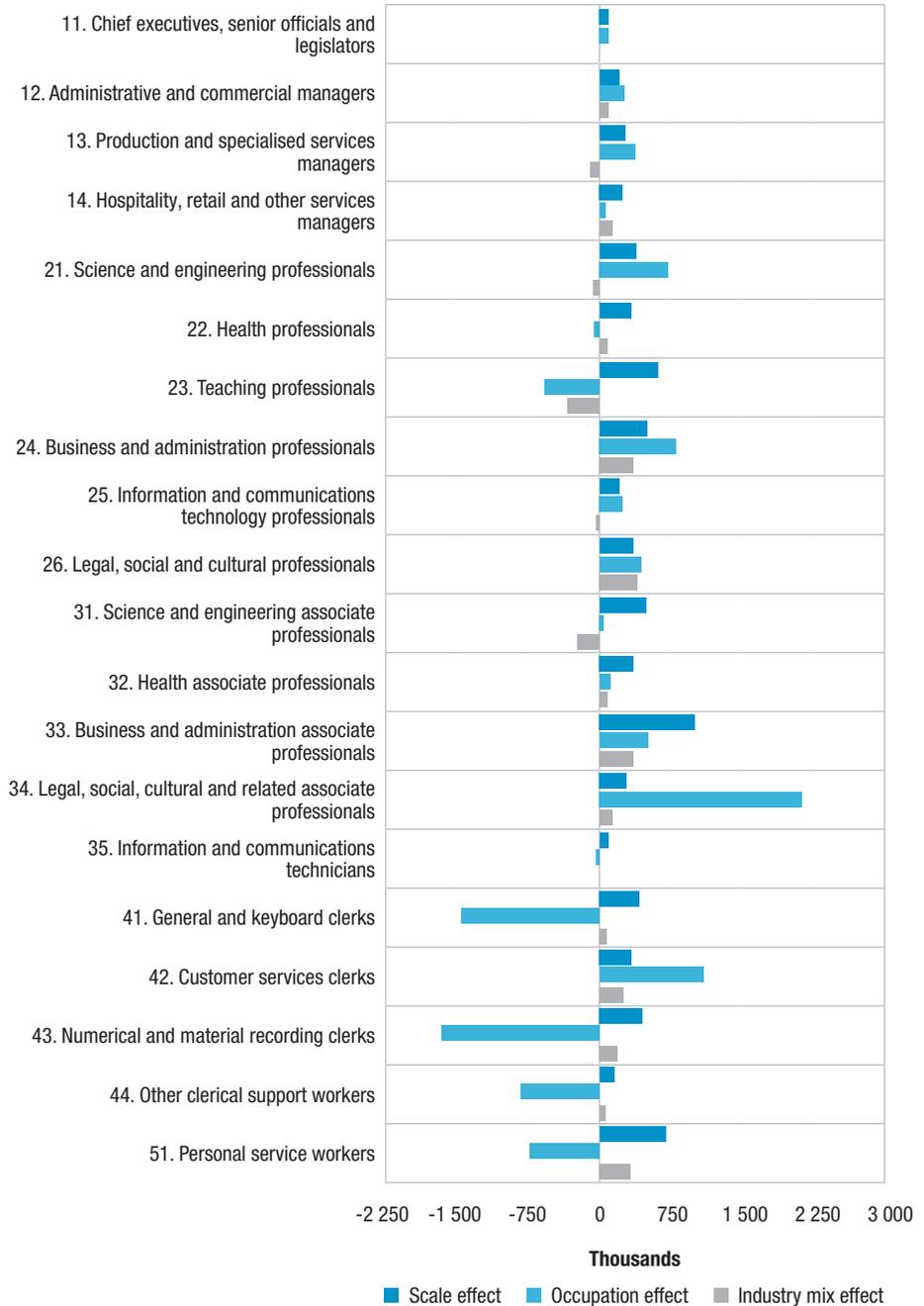
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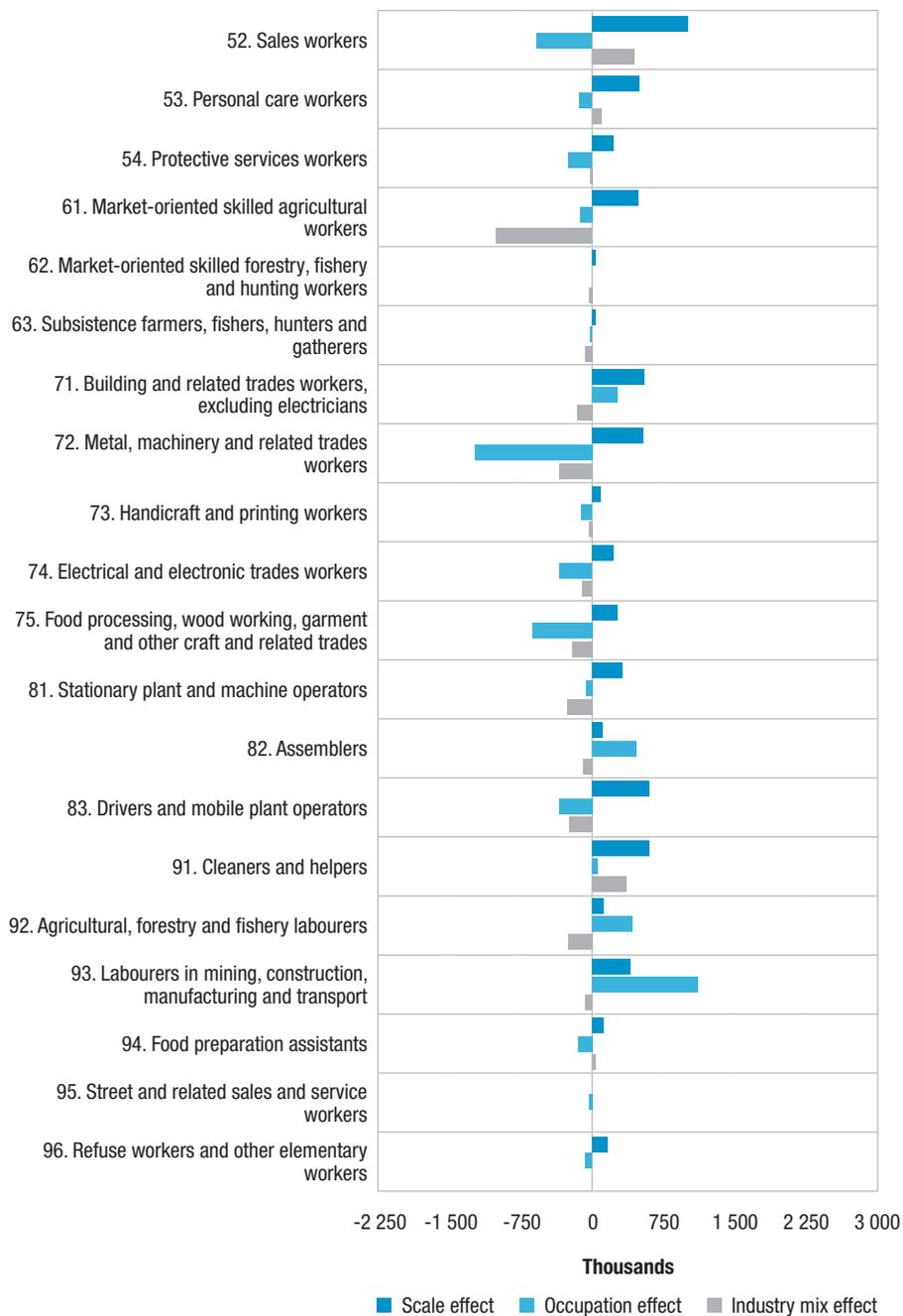


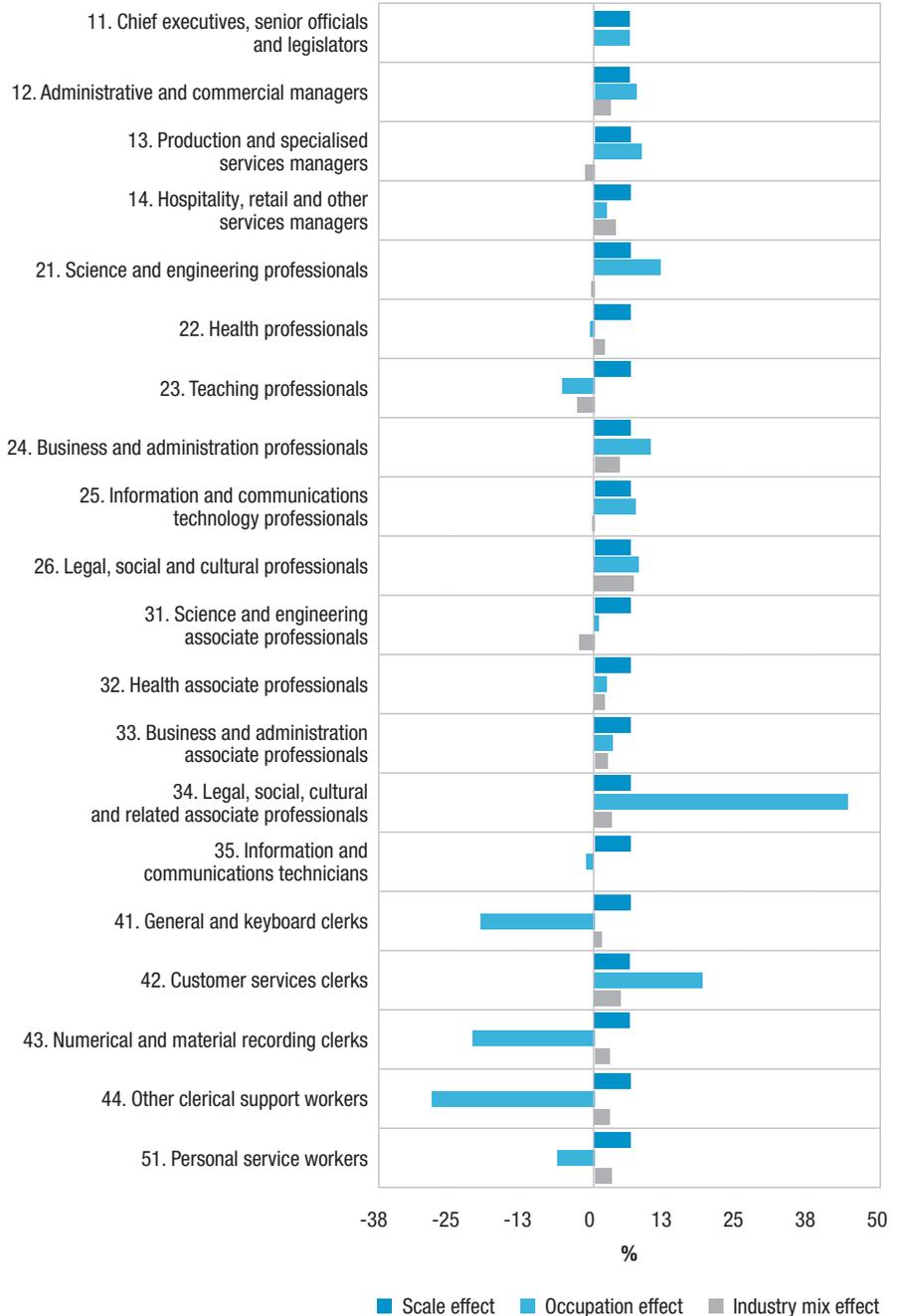


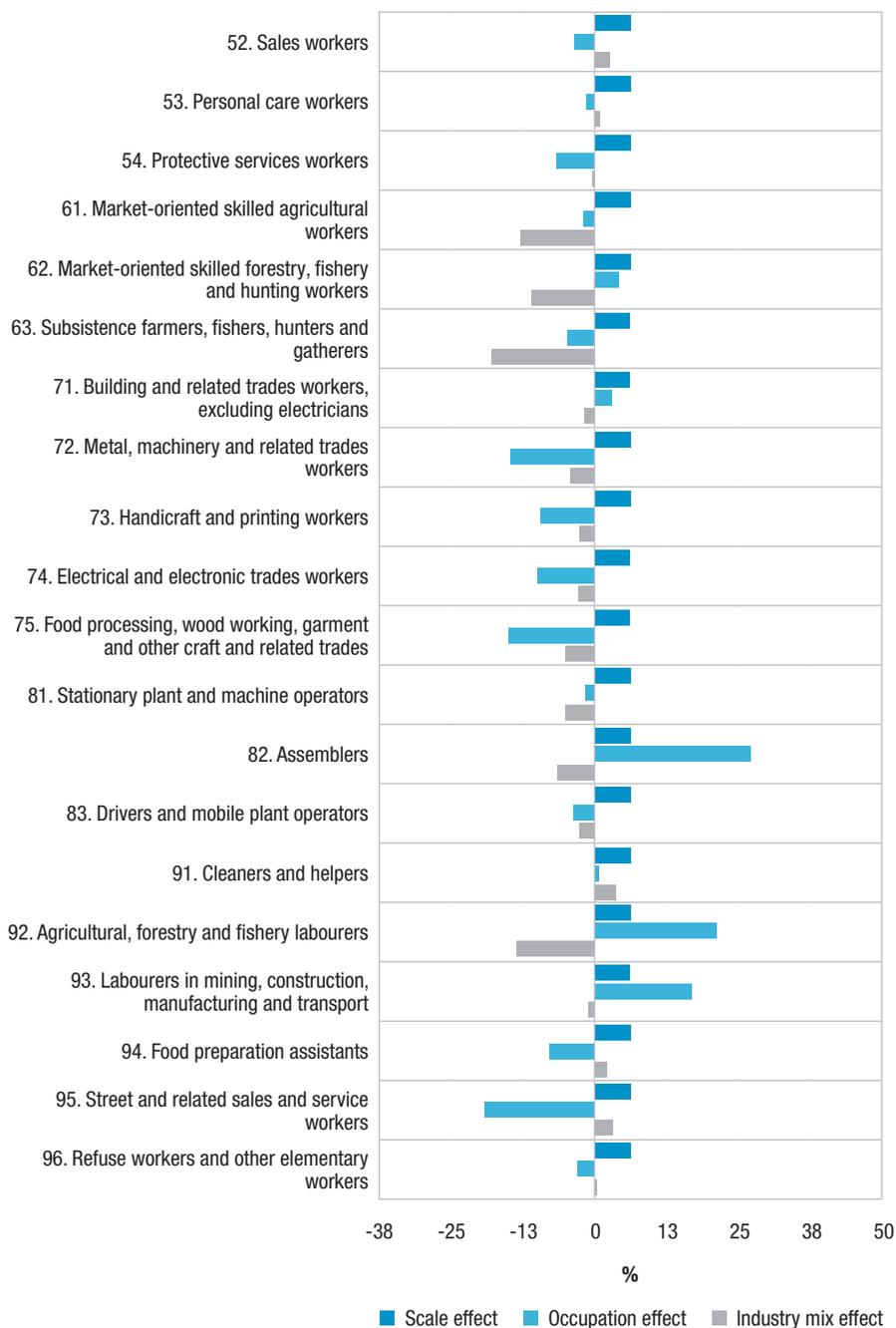
Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

Figure A2. **Projected change, shift-share analysis, two-digit occupations, 2016-30 (EU-28+3)**



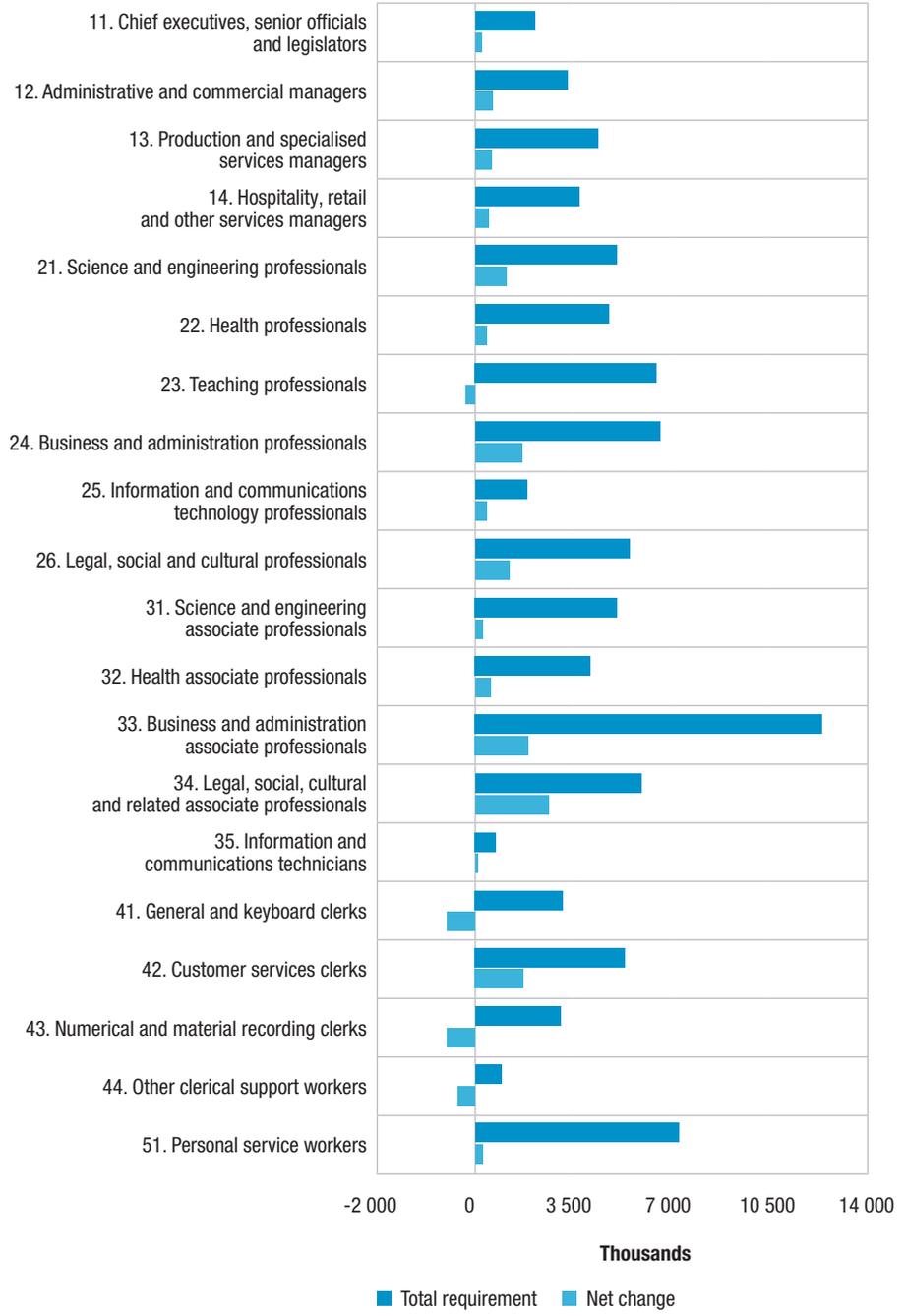


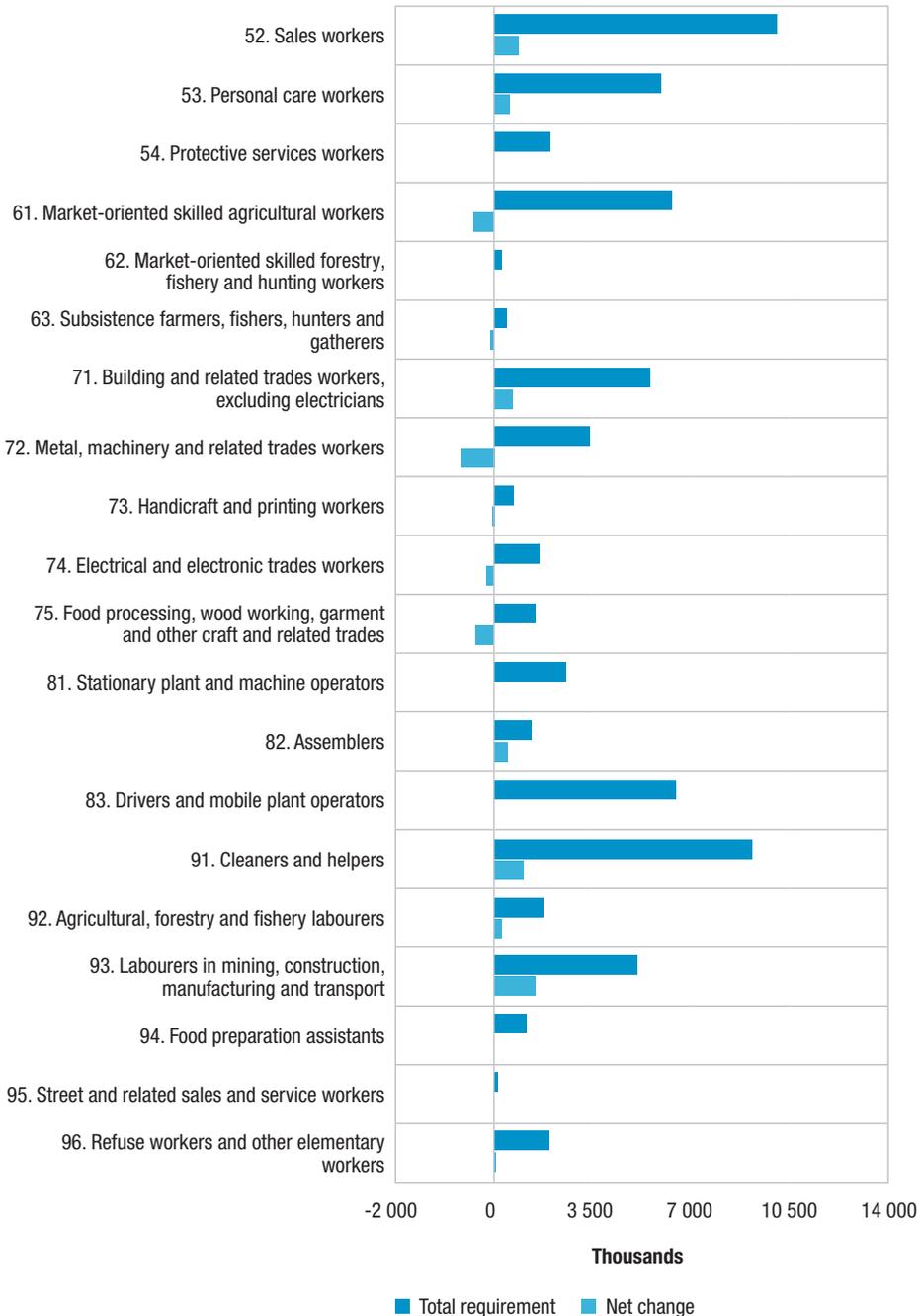




Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

**Figure A3. Total requirements and net changes detailed occupation, 2011-30 (EU-28+3)**







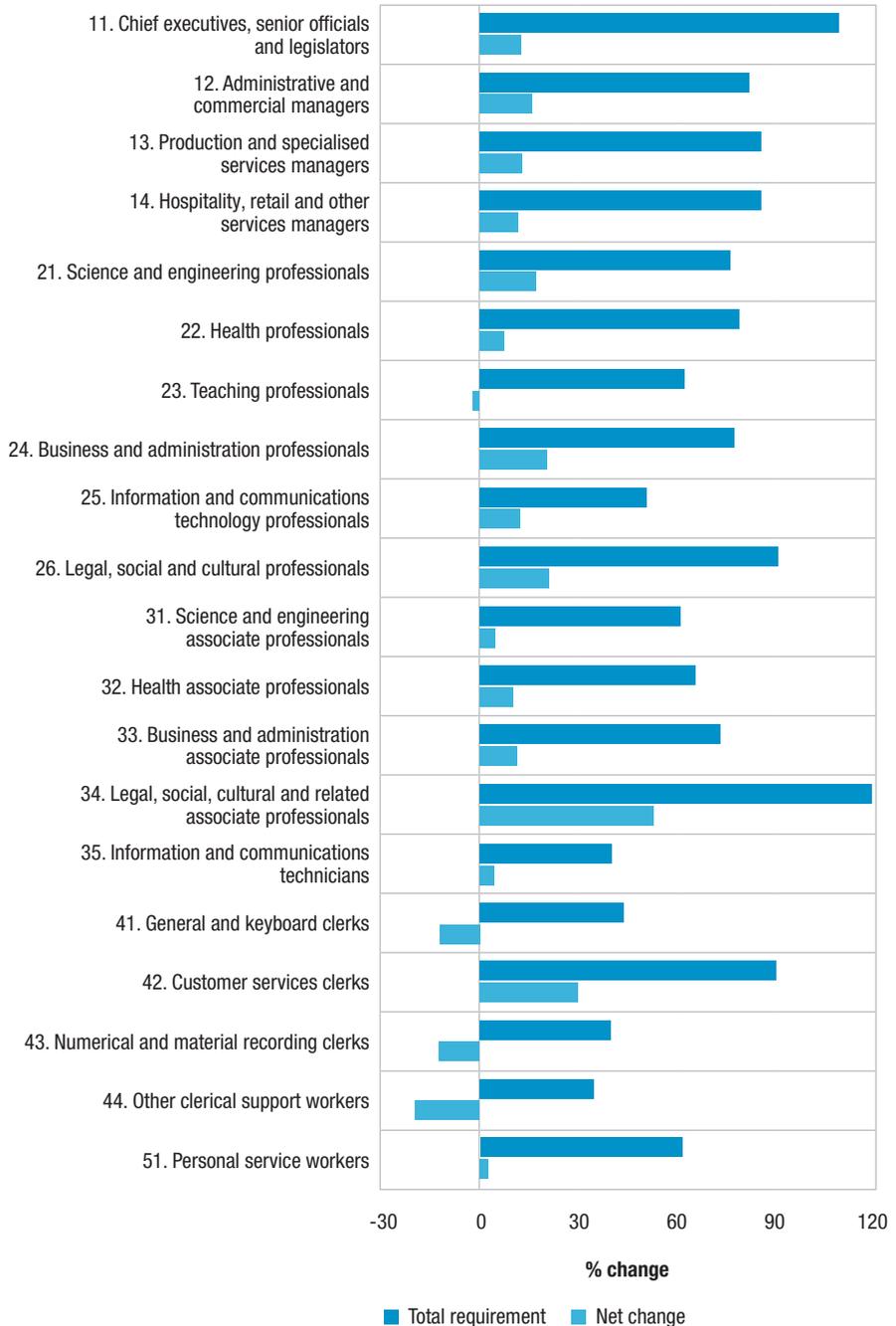
PREVIOUS

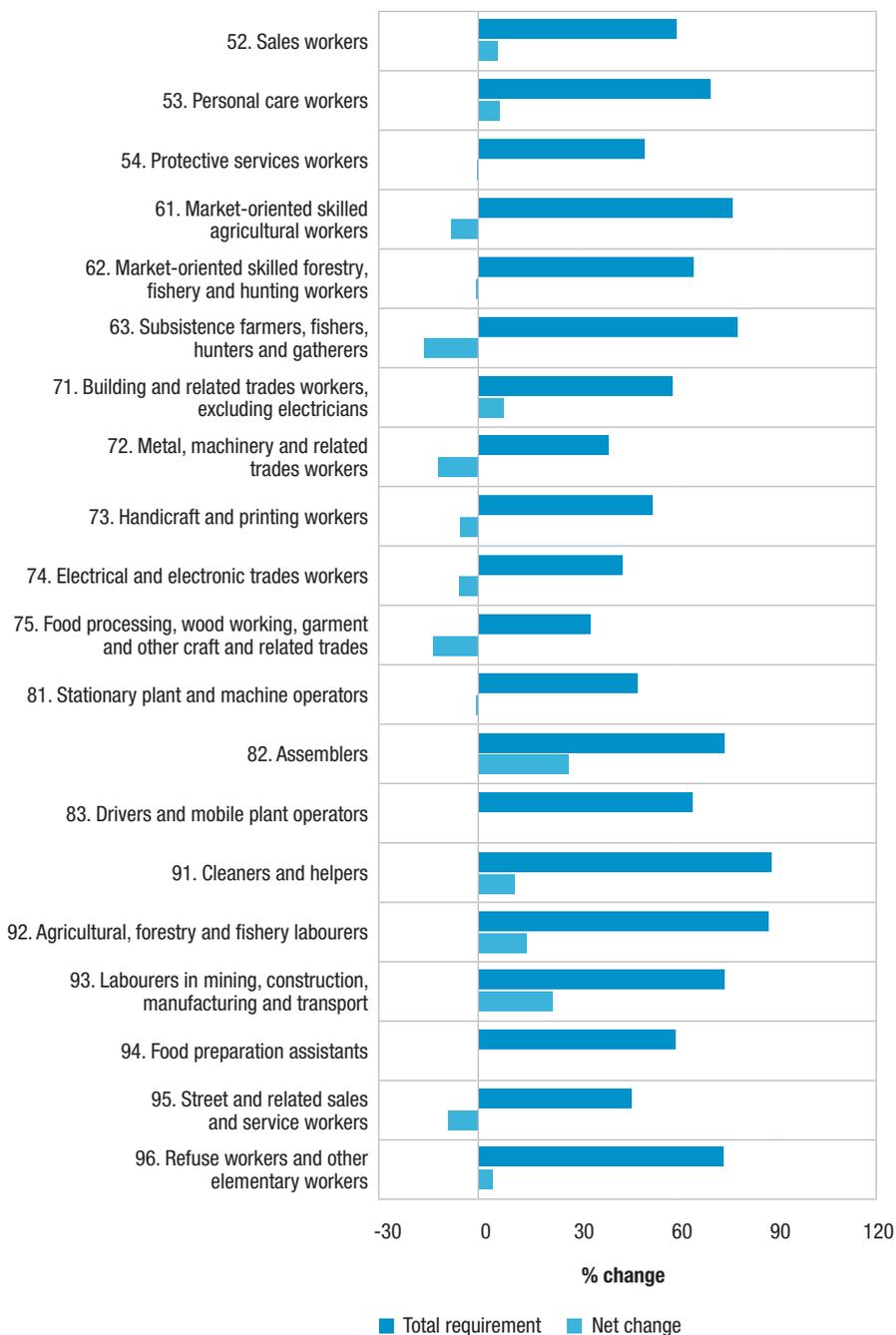


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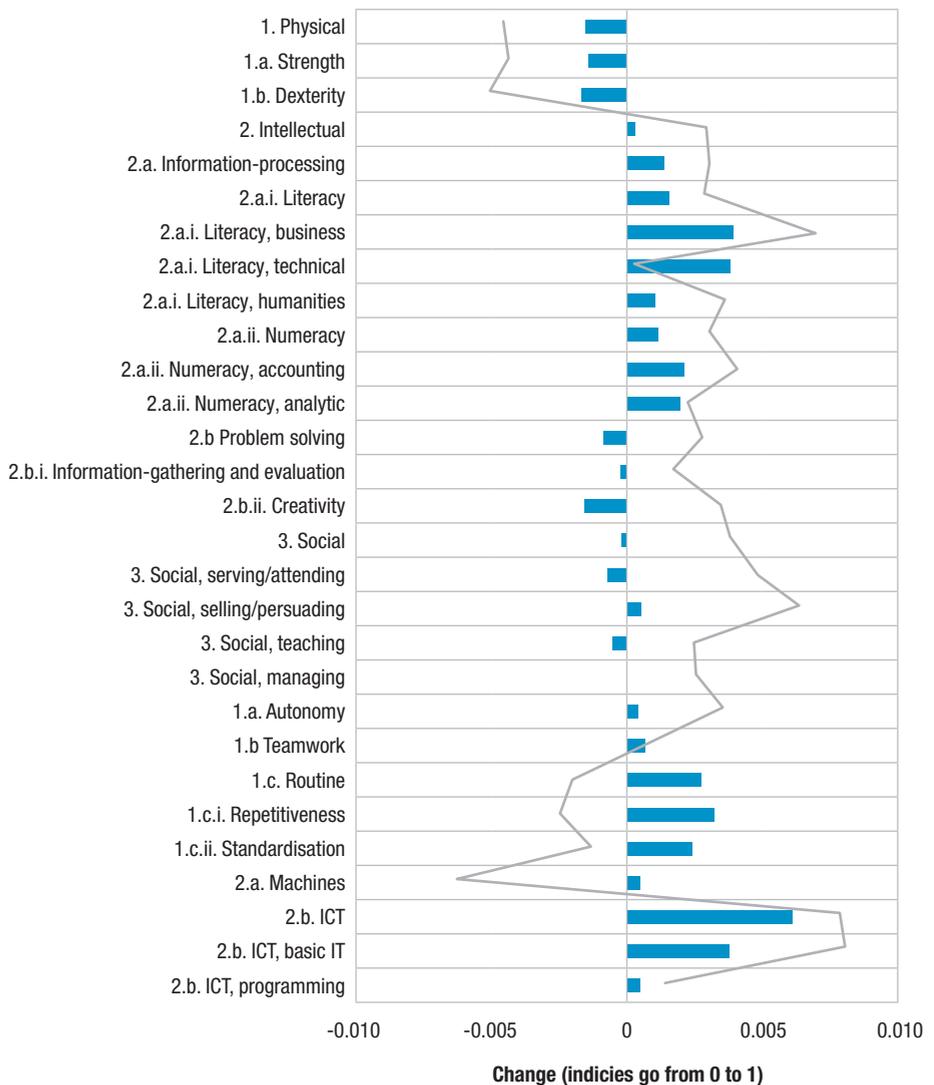


Source: Cedefop (2018 skills forecast).

ANNEX 4.

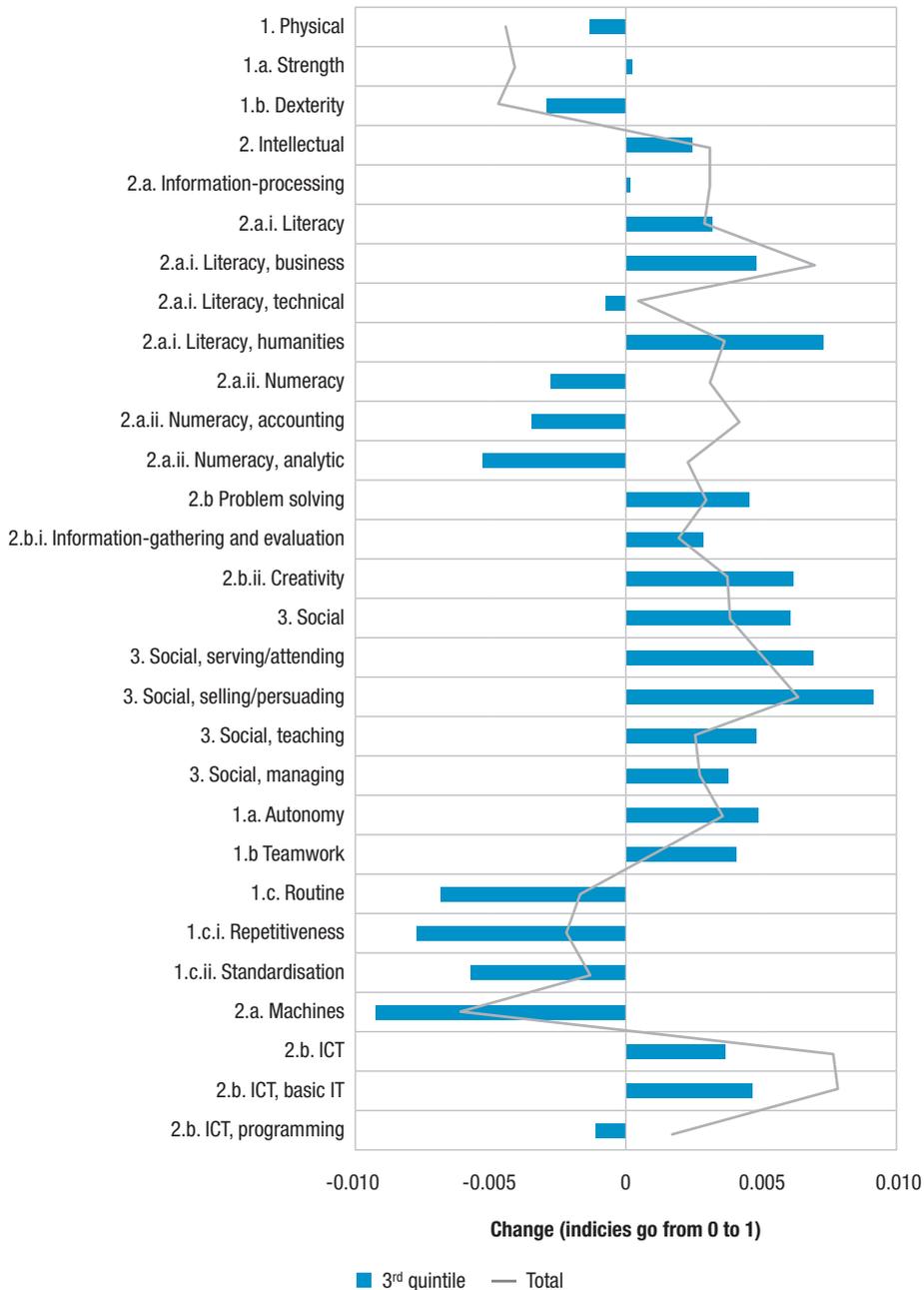
# Additional Chapter 5 figures

**Figure A4. Task indices change, 2015-30 (EU):  
total and for first (lowest) wage quintile**



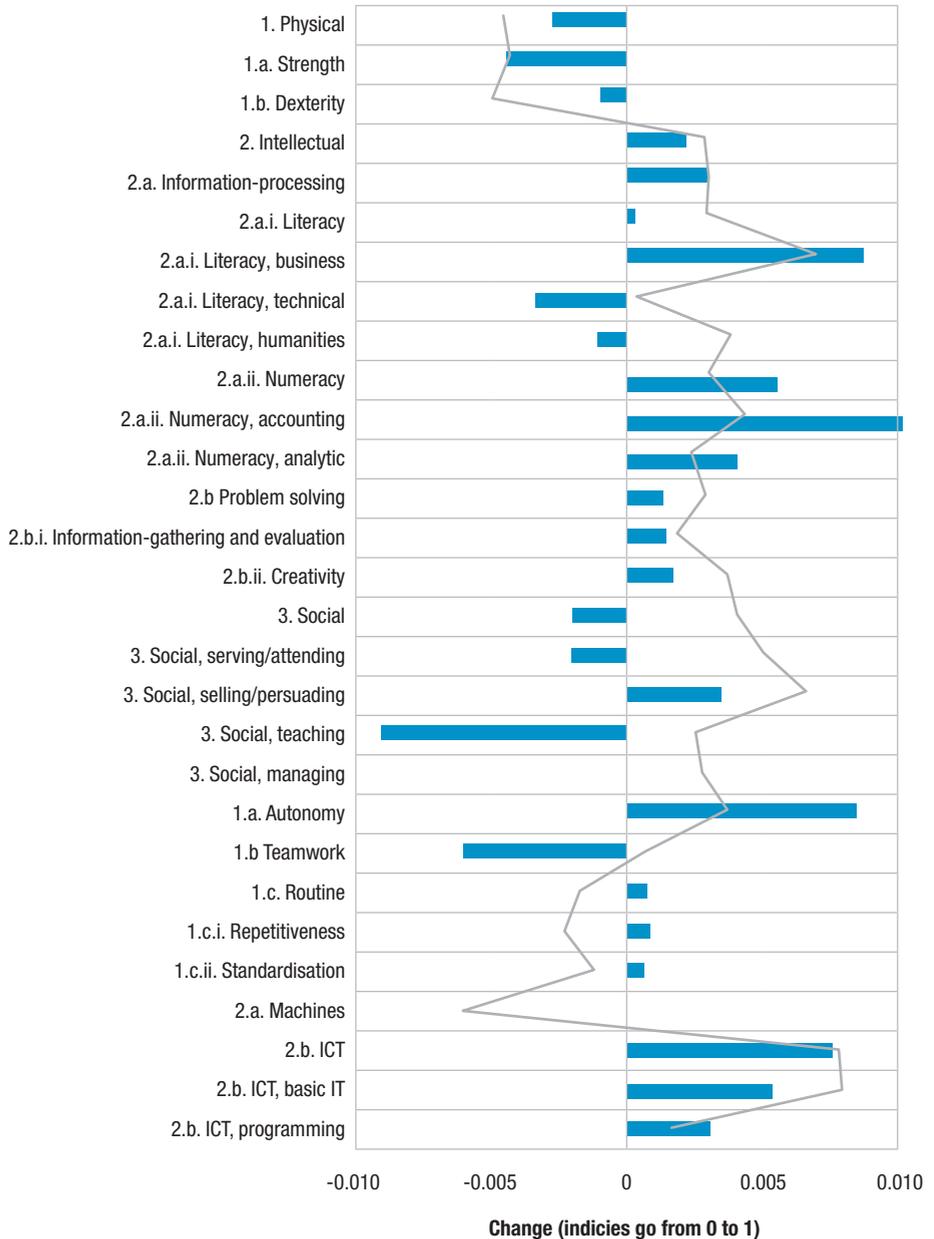
Source: Eurofound (2018).

Figure A5. **Task indices change, 2015-30 (EU): total and for third (middle) wage quintile**



Source: Eurofound (2018).

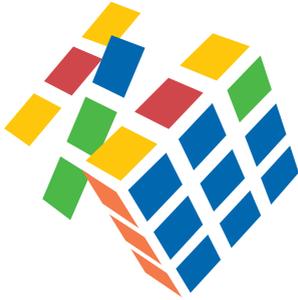
**Figure A6. Task indices change, 2015-30 (EU): total and for fifth (top) wage quintile**



Source: Eurofound (2018).

■ 5<sup>th</sup> quintile — Total





The European labour market is challenged by changes in the demographic composition of the labour force and by increasing work complexities and processes. Skills forecasting makes a useful contribution to decisions by policy-makers, experts and individuals. In this publication, Cedefop presents the latest results of skill supply and demand forecasts. Alongside the updated projections, collaboration between Cedefop and Eurofound has allowed examination of the tasks and skills content of the current and projected employment structure of Europe. This analysis confirms an increasingly more polarised occupational structure, a trend also highlighted by the main projections.

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