



# IRISH MOVING TO AUSTRALIA

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2024 SURVEY





## Rationale

From April 2024 to December 2024 an estimated 12,600 Irish people left home shores to relocate to Australia.

Much is said in the news about how many people are leaving, and the appeal of Australia, however there has been no formal research into why they are leaving, and what the Irish government could do to entice people to stay.

## Methodology

An Online survey was conducted from April to November 2024. The questionnaire was distributed widely to Irish candidates moving to Australia or planning to move, as well as Irish expats already in Australia.



## Key findings



### WORK INDUSTRIES

37% of Irish who have moved or are moving to Australia work in construction, 18% work in healthcare and 12% work in education. The remaining careers are diverse but include 12% in HR, 10% in pharmacy and 8% in accounting & finance.

### WORK-LIFE BALANCE

The perception that the Australian lifestyle and working culture offers a better work-life balance than in Ireland is highly compelling. The majority of respondents (53%) said that they were in search of a better work-life balance in Australia.

### SALARIES

A major draw card for moving to Australia is that salaries are generally better than in Ireland, particularly in healthcare, education and construction. 30% state this as the main reason for relocating. 33% of respondents believe that increasing salaries in Ireland will encourage people to stay.

### HOUSING

47% of respondents believe that the Irish government should be doing more to solve the housing crisis and 25% cite the housing crisis as the main reason for leaving Ireland.

### COST OF LIVING

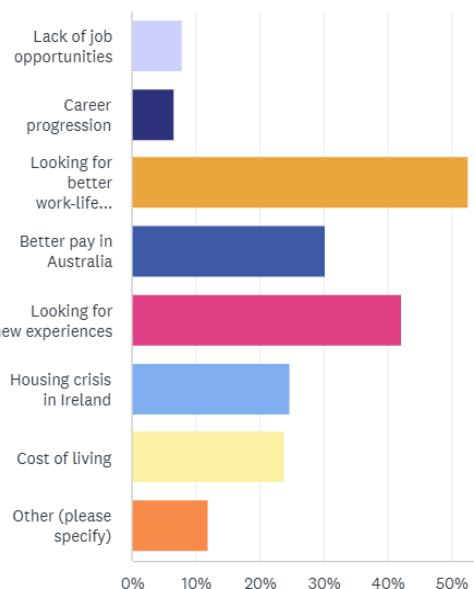
24% of Irish migrating to Australia are doing so because of the high cost of living in Ireland. Similarly 25% of respondents say that if the Irish government addresses the high cost of living, more people will remain in Ireland.

### LENGTH OF STAY

45% of Irish leaving home plan to stay 4 or more years in Australia and 74% have permanently left their jobs in Ireland.



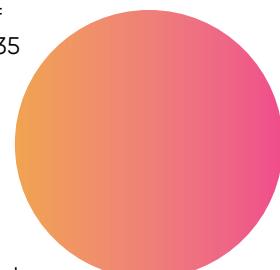
## What are your top 2 reasons for leaving Ireland?



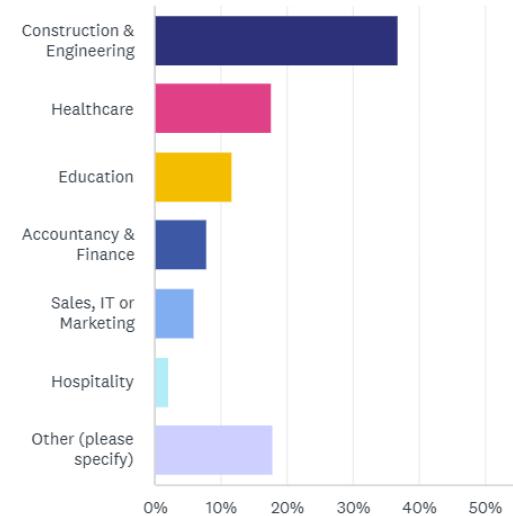
### Work-life balance and new adventures

The top reason for leaving Ireland for Australia is for better work-life balance. The desire for new life experiences was second-most popular at 42% and fits with the age demographic. 62% of respondents are age 26-35 years.

Other popular reasons to leave are the belief that the pay is better in Australia (30%) the Irish housing crisis (25%) and high cost of living in Ireland (24%).



## Which industry do you work in?



Employers in Ireland need to understand nine to five is business hours and unrealistic deadlines/pressures don't need to be added to an employee. I find in Australia they understand the human is more important than the job/task at hand.

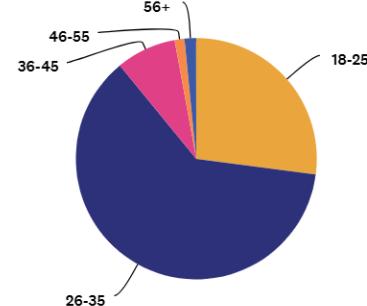


### CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONAL

AGE 25-36, PLANNING TO STAY 3 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA

### Young professionals are most drawn to Australia

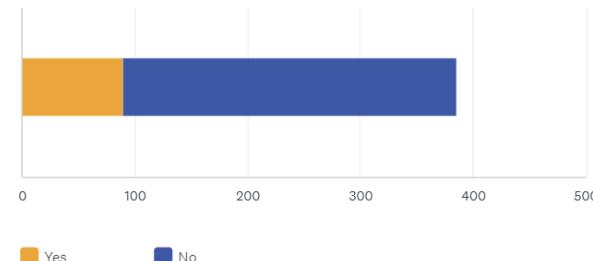
26 to 35 year olds make up the majority (62%) of respondents who have either moved or plan to move to Australia. This corresponds with the cut-off age for the Working Holiday Visa, which remains the top visa pathway for Irish citizens to enter into the country.



### The construction brain drain

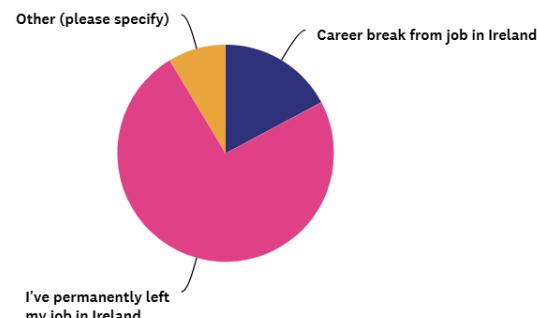
The biggest drains on the Irish talent pool are in the Construction and Healthcare industries. 37% of respondents work in construction and engineering, while 18% are in healthcare. Other areas for concern are the migration of teachers (12%) and pharmacists (12% in 'Other').

## Are you looking to change your career in Australia?

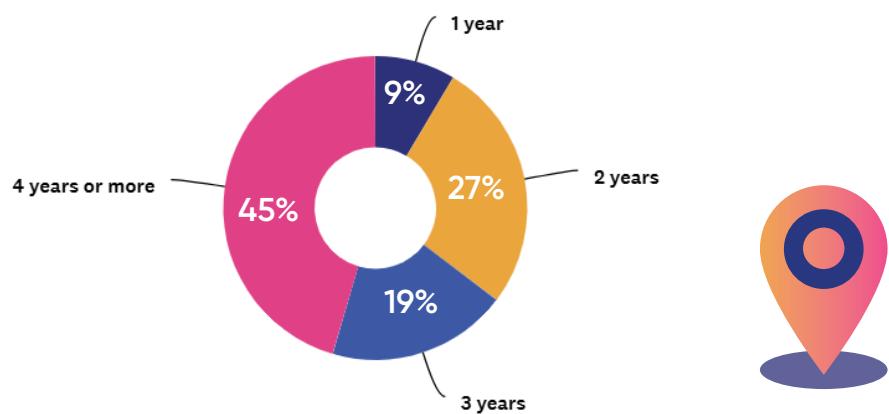


### Career break or a change on the horizon...

74% of respondents have permanently resigned from their jobs in Ireland. 77% plan to stay in the same line of work, while 23% see a move to Australia as an opportunity to take a new career path.



## How long do you plan to stay in Australia?



### Long term stays and permanent residency

Most Irish who have moved or are moving to Australia have a long-term plan that extends beyond the one- to two-year Working Holiday Visa. With three and four-plus years in the country they will be seeking sponsorships from employers and a pathway to permanent residency.

**I never thought at 28 I would still be living with parents. I'm paying cheaper rent to live in the middle of Melbourne, 10 minutes from the beach, than I would be paying to live in my local town located half an hour from Galway. Here I have a life. At home I don't. Lifestyle is amazing here and I'm earning way more as a teacher here than I would be at home. I was feeling like a second class citizen in Ireland with housing prioritised to refugees and non-nationals. They were given €800 a month towards rent. So immediately they were in a better financial situation than any person on a low salary trying to start out. The young people in Ireland are part of the hidden homeless. We're just lucky to have had our parents' homes to stay in.**

TEACHER

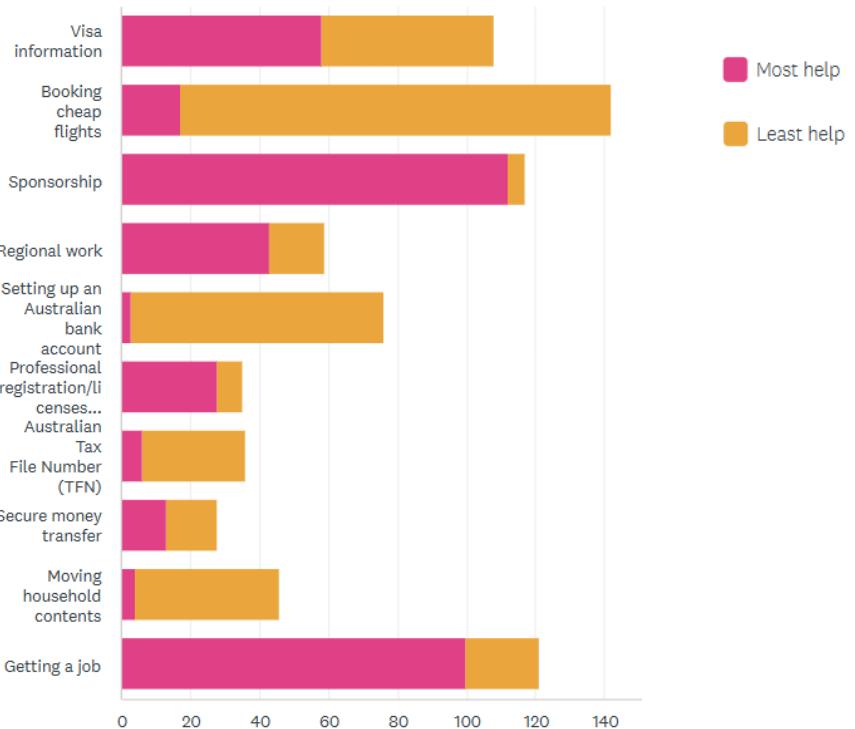
AGE 25-36, PLANNING TO STAY 3 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA

Improved healthcare system to work in. It's a mess currently. In Australia I an iPad, laptop, mobile and amazing electronic systems to work on in my job. Relocation bonus of \$5000 for relocation and \$2000 towards flights. Flexible working in healthcare.

NURSE

AGE 25-36, PLANNING TO STAY 4+ YEARS IN AUSTRALIA

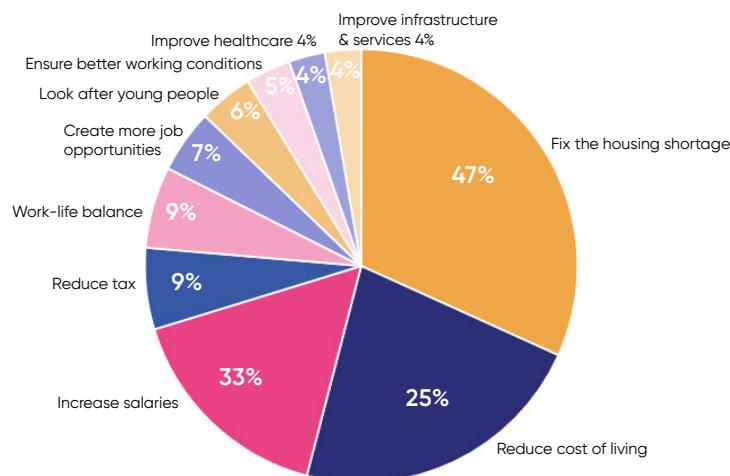
### Which of these do you need help with?



### Sponsorship for long-term relocation and second-timers

96% of respondents are looking for assistance with sponsorships, which speaks to the high number of Irish looking to remain in Australia long-term. Employer sponsorship is also a requirement when people have used their working holiday visa and wish to return to Australia a second time. 83% responded that they need help in securing a job. Visa information and finding regional work are also high on the list for Irish moving to Australia.

## What could the Irish government do differently to make you stay in Ireland/return home?



### Housing shortages, cost of living and wages are the government's biggest challenge

From rental prices to buying a home, getting a mortgage and building on family land, housing is the biggest issue that people moving to Australia feel the Irish government needs to solve. In addition to the 47% who listed the housing crisis as a government responsibility, other common themes were to reduce red tape to make rural self-build homes easier and make mortgages more accessible.

Many of the categories, such as reduced tax rates, reducing rental costs and increasing wages speak to the pressure people are under to meet the high cost of living. They contribute significantly to people's desire to move to Australia as evidenced by answers in other parts of the survey, however, they are also cited as issues that the government needs to resolve.

Create a better pay scale, raise minimum wage. More help is needed in the housing sector for people on the lower pay bracket to get mortgages.

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE PROFESSIONAL

AGE 18-25, PLANNING TO STAY 2 YEARS IN AUSTRALIA



All my life I've wanted to build my own house beside my parents' house on land gifted to me by my father. I have been unsuccessful three times in applying for planning permission due to ridiculous rules! I come from a small village where all adults my age have moved away as they either can't afford to rent or are not being granted planning permission. There is no one my age left in my village.

TEACHER

AGE 25-36, IN AUSTRALIA ON WORKING HOLIDAY VISA

### Financial pressures remain the biggest reason for Irish migration

Housing shortages, high tax rates and excessively high costs of living combined with the appeal of higher salaries in Australia, financial pressures are the driving force of Irish migration to Australia. The Irish Construction and Healthcare industries are the most affected by the current exodus.



Better wages. In Australia you can claim nearly all your tax back. Here in Ireland you get hardly anything back. Taxes are high in Australia but the wages reflect that. There's lots the government could do to keep people here.

HAIR & BEAUTY PROFESSIONAL

AGE 26-35, PLANNING TO STAY 4+ YEARS IN AUSTRALIA



# CONTACT US



## Phone

Ireland: +353 87 108 5537  
Australia: +61 481 952 253



## Email

Office: [hello@nexventur.com](mailto:hello@nexventur.com)



## Address

Unit 15 Block A, Roscommon Business Park West, Golf Links Road,  
Roscommon, F42TD98, Republic of Ireland

Suite 103/757 Bourke Street, Docklands, Melbourne, 3008, Australia



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