



# Saolta



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  
Global Goal 8

“Through hard WORK  
and EDUCATION,  
we can deliver a  
strong economy and  
**OPPORTUNITY**  
= for **ALL**.” =

Julia Gillard

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH  
Global Goal 8

“Economic growth  
doesn't mean  
**ANYTHING**  
if it leaves  
people **OUT**.”

Jack Kemp

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8>



This programme is funded by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Irish Aid is the Government's overseas development programme which supports partners working in some of the world's poorest countries. Irish Aid also supports global citizenship education in Ireland to encourage learning and public engagement with global issues. The content of this communication represents the views of the author only and does not necessarily represent or reflect DFA policy.



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## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**TARGET 8-1**



**SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**TARGET 8-2**



**DIVERSIFY, INNOVATE AND UPGRADE FOR ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY**

**TARGET 8-3**




**PROMOTE POLICIES TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND GROWING ENTERPRISES**

**TARGET 8-4**



**IMPROVE RESOURCE EFFICIENCY IN CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

**TARGET 8-5**



**FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK WITH EQUAL PAY**

**TARGET 8-6**



**PROMOTE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**TARGET 8-7**



**END MODERN SLAVERY, TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOUR**

**TARGET 8-B**



**DEVELOP A GLOBAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY**

**TARGET 8-8**



**PROTECT LABOUR RIGHTS AND PROMOTE SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENTS**

**TARGET 8-A**



**INCREASE AID FOR TRADE SUPPORT**

**TARGET 8-9**



**PROMOTE BENEFICIAL AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

**TARGET 8-10**



**UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO BANKING, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Targets and Indicators  
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8>



## Challenges to Employment and Economic Growth

The implications of Brexit are still playing out for Irish firms;

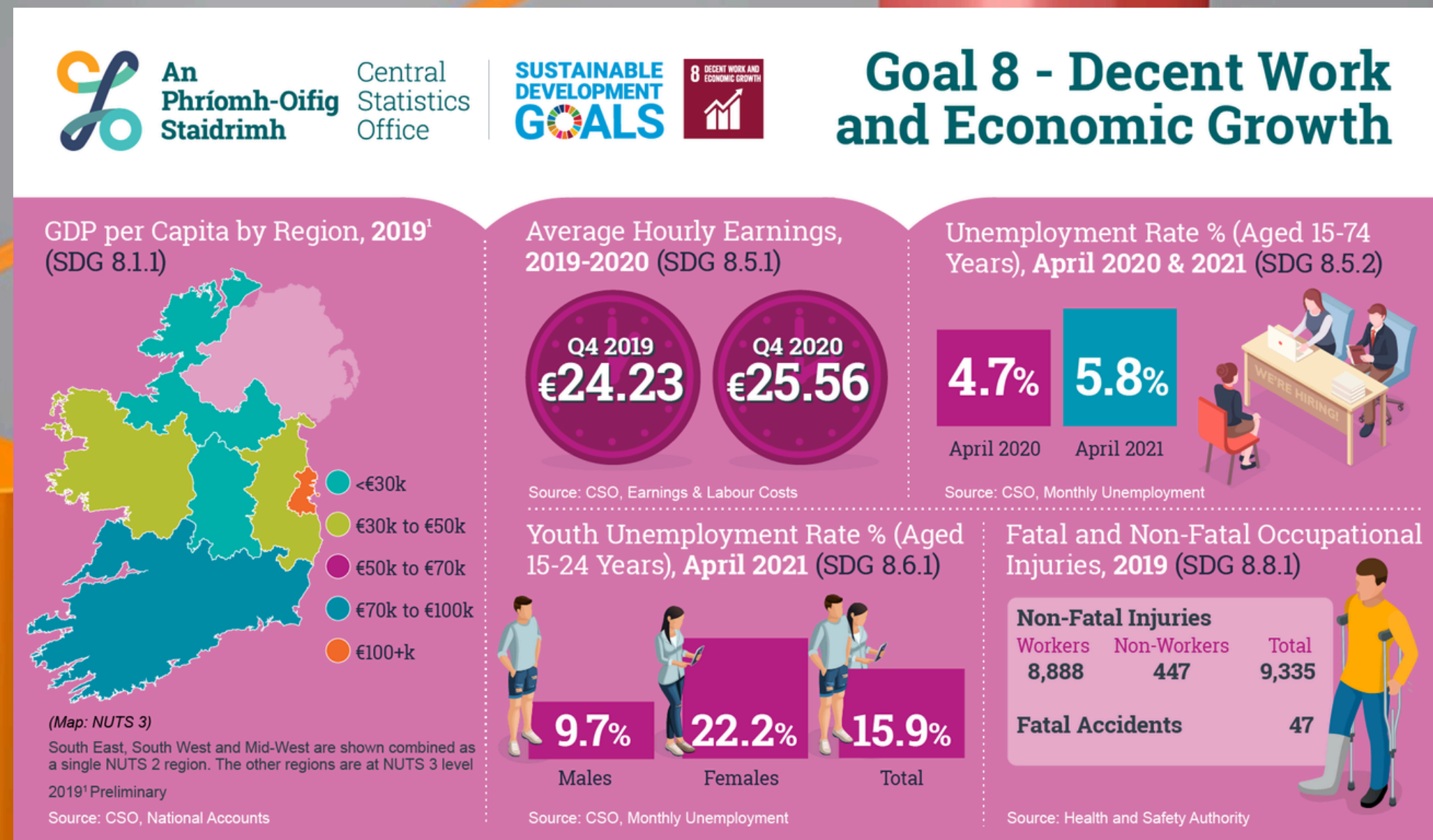
The pace of technological change and its adaptation by society is ever-quickenning;

The imperatives of climate action mean we must accelerate the decarbonisation of our economy;

The demographics of our society, and an aging population, put pressures on welfare, pensions and services, and on a generation coming forward whose jobs do not yet exist;

The productivity of our domestically owned small and medium enterprises lags far behind the foreign owned firms.

(cso.ie, 2023)



(cso.ie, 2023)



There were 131,200 unemployed people aged 15-74 years in Q2 2024

The number of persons aged 15-89 years in employment increased by 71,500 or 2.7%

Employment rate for persons aged 15-64 years was 74.4%

### The economic sectors that saw the largest year-on-year growth in Q2 2024

Professional, Scientific & Technical activities, which increased by 22,700 or 12.7%

Industry, which increased by 21,100 or 6.6%

Information & Communication, which increased by 11,500 or 6.5%

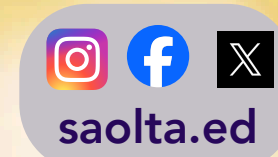
### The largest decreases by economic sector in Q2 2024 were observed in:

Wholesale & Retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles sector – 24,900 or -7.3%

Construction, which decreased by 11,700 or -6.8%

Financial, Insurance & Real Estate Activities – down 4,100 persons or -3.0%

(cso.ie, 2024)



## Other interconnected Government Departments

### Department of Finance

Minister of Finance  
Paschal Donohoe

Minister of State with  
responsibility for Financial  
Services, Credit Unions  
and Insurance  
Robert Troy

Irish Government  
Economic and Evaluation  
Service (IGEES)

(Department of Finance, 2025)

## Government Departments with responsibility for Decent work and Economic Growth

### Government Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) 2025

#### Ministers with responsibilities

Peter Burke

**Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment**

Niamh Smyth

**Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Artificial Intelligence  
and Digital Transformation**

Alan Dillon

**Minister of State for Small Businesses and Retail**

## Sample publications

Employment Permit  
Statistics 2025

Recent Trends in  
Migration Flows  
Impacting the Irish Labour  
Market

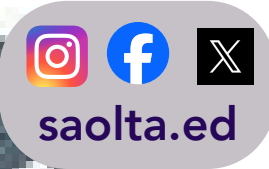
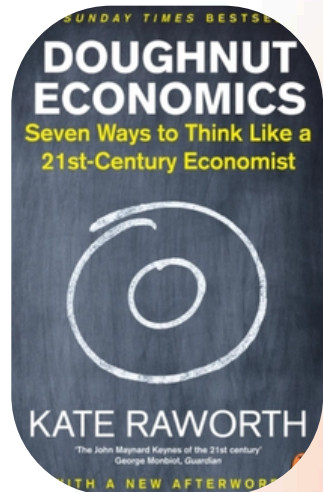
Equality and Human  
Rights Assessment

Annual Business Survey of  
Economic Impact 2023

(DETE, 2025)



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# Doughnut Economics And Sustainable Development Goal 8

Inclusive and sustainable economic growth that meets the social foundation without exceeding planetary boundaries

The Doughnut Economics: definition and critical analysis

A DOUGHNUT? ARE WE REALLY TALKING ABOUT ECONOMICS ?  
(Wagner, 2022).

Creating a safe and just space for human thriving

Promoting a more equitable and sustainable economy

Avoiding social deficits and environmental overshoot

**Inclusive and Sustainable Growth:**  
Economic development should be designed to avoid both social deficits (falling short on life's essentials) and ecological overshoot (exceeding planetary boundaries).

**SDG 8 and Doughnut Economics:**  
Doughnut Economics provides a framework for achieving this goal by ensuring that economic growth happens within a sustainable and equitable space.

(EEB, 2024)

**The Doughnut Model:**  
Safe and just space for human prosperity, with an inner ring representing the social foundation (meeting basic human needs) and an outer ring representing the ecological ceiling (planetary boundaries).

(EPA, 2016)



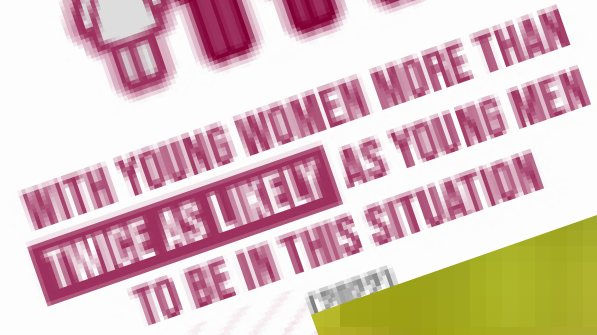
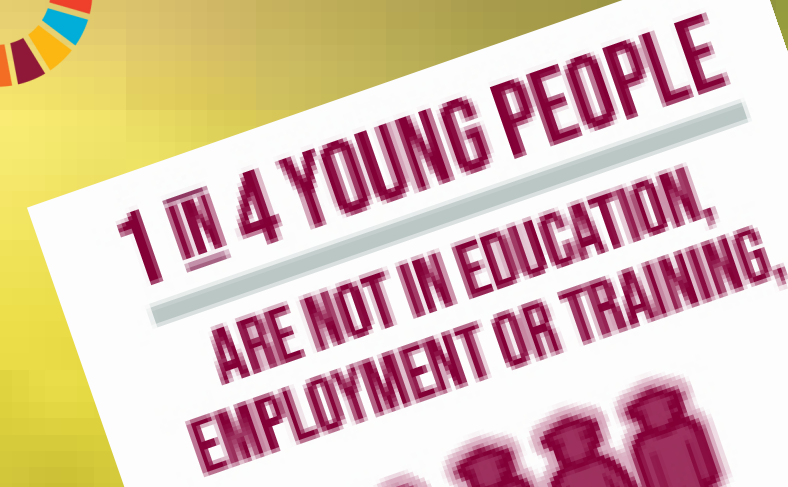
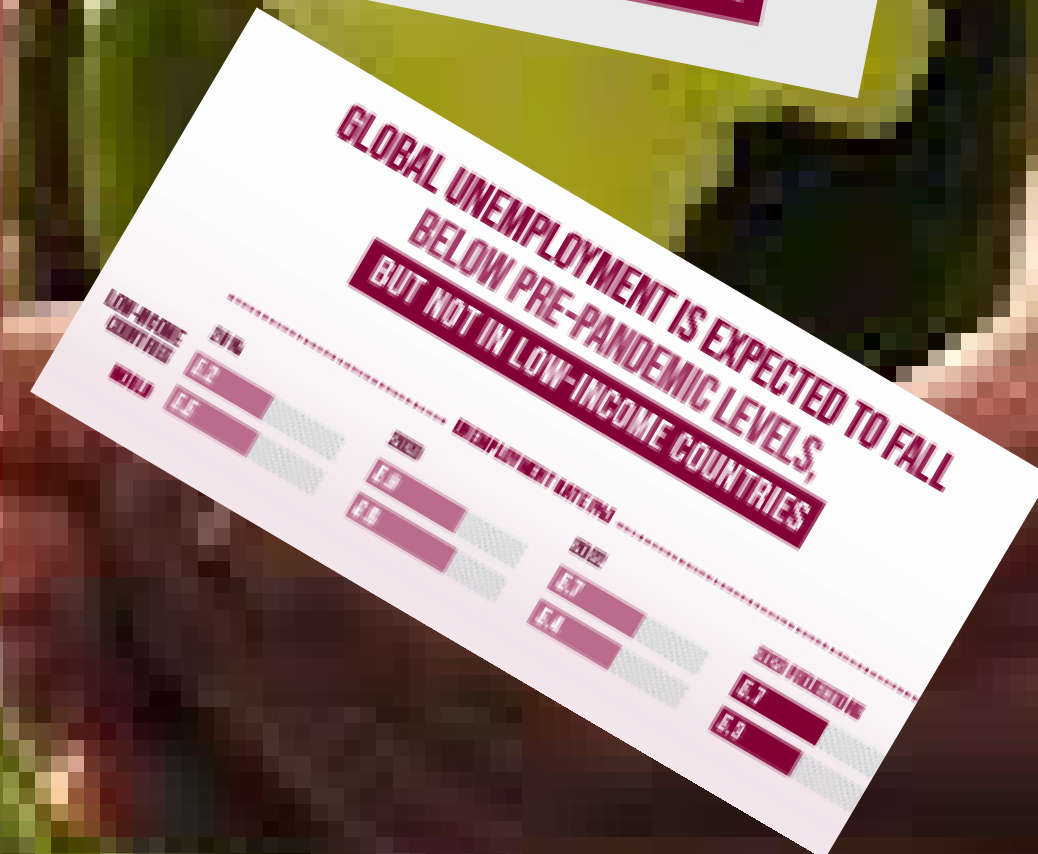
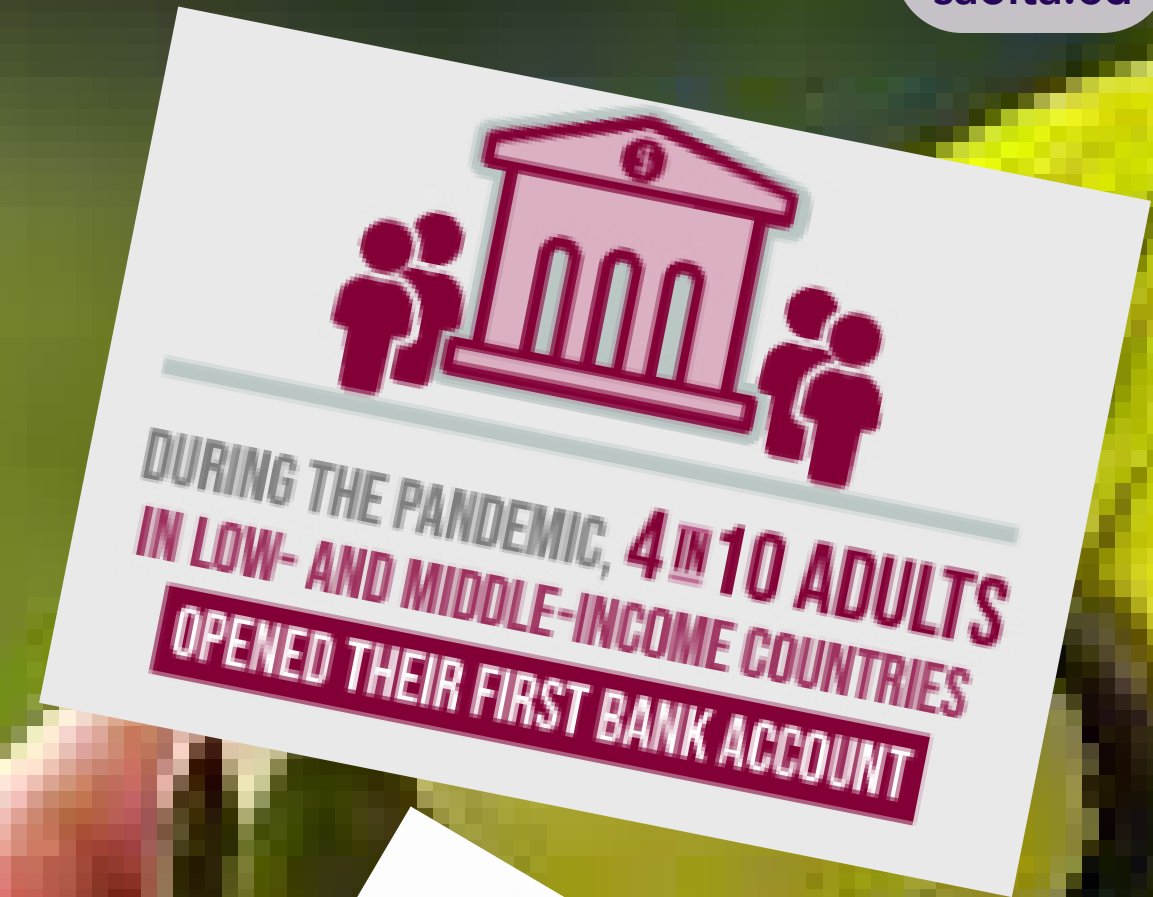
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## Global Statistics SDG 8



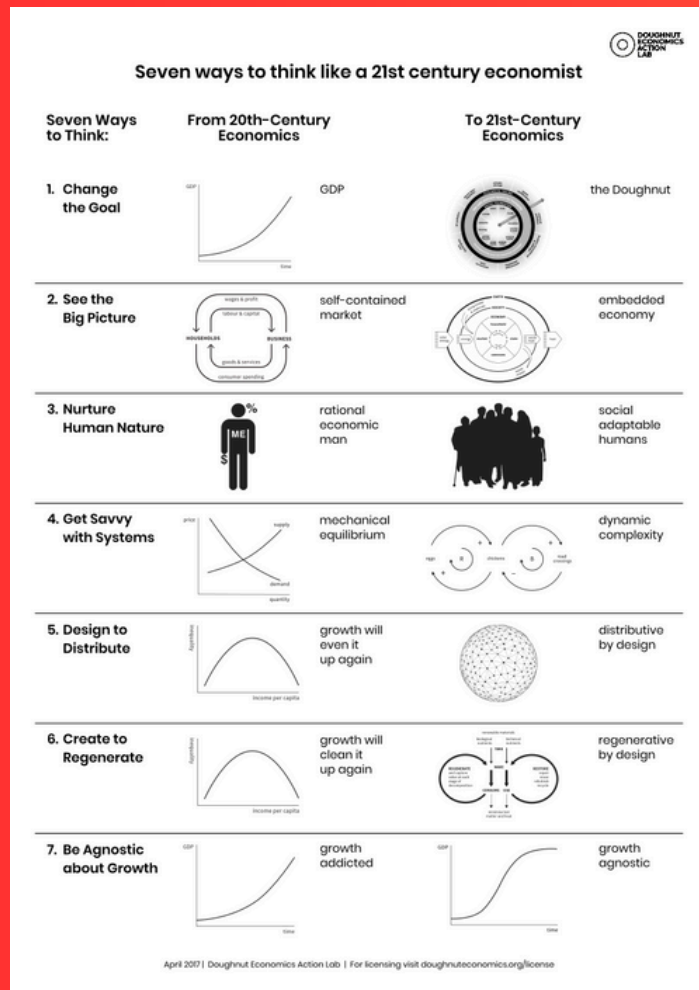
(unstats\_report, 2024)



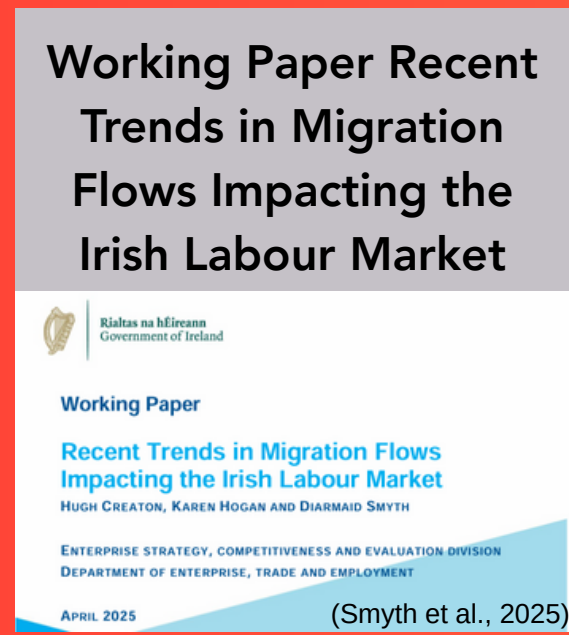


## Development Education 58 Resources found for SDG 8

([DevelopmentEducation.ie](https://DevelopmentEducation.ie), 2018).



(DEAL, 2025)



(Smyth et al., 2025)



(Fuller et al., 2024)

SDG 8 Embedding GCE in ACE



## Resources



([Worlds Largest Lesson](https://www.worldslargestlesson.org), 2022).

Transformative change and  
SDG 8 : The critical role of  
collective capabilities and  
societal learning

(ILO, 2024)

## SDG Knowledge Hub

141 Guest Articles  
89 Policy Briefs  
2154 News  
574 Events  
22 Generation 2030

### Goal 8 - Decent Work & Economic Growth

(IISD, 2025)



EU trend of SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=SDG\\_8\\_-\\_Decent\\_work\\_and\\_economic\\_growth](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=SDG_8_-_Decent_work_and_economic_growth)

(Eurostat, 2024)



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