



SECTION 25A REPORT

REPORT DATE	PUBLIC BODY	PREPARED BY
30/01/2024	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	Marc McEntegart, Regional Enterprise Plans, Funding and Infrastructure Unit

The purpose of the table below is to assist the public body in completing the Section 25A (1) report to the Southern Regional Assembly. This report will be used by the Regional Assembly to complete the Section 25A (2) Monitoring Report to be submitted to NOAC and which will focus on progress made in securing the overall objectives of the RSES.

It is intended that the Monitoring Report will be succinct, covering the 2-year period 2022-2024, and therefore we would ask that the response to the questions are as short as possible and for example we do not need the full detail of each policy or programme outlined.

For further information, please contact Brigh Ryan at bryan@southernassembly.ie or Claire Breen at cbreen@southernassembly.ie

Please return the report to this office by **Friday, 2nd February 2024**.

This can be submitted by email to: cbreen@southernassembly.ie

PLEASE OUTLINE ANY PROGRESS MADE IN SUPPORTING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RSES WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO YOUR DEPARTMENT-

In framing your response please provide a short overview of key public investment mechanisms and proposals by reference to:

1. Key mechanisms the Department has put in place to ensure that investment decisions are aligned with the NPF and Southern Region RSES

Future employment growth and sustainability requires a major focus on boosting regional growth potential. This necessitates the promotion of growth that is sustainable, driven by exports, and underpinned by innovation and competitiveness across all regions.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment's (DETE) capital spending is set out at a high level as part of Project Ireland 2040. The National Strategic Outcome (NSO) of "A Strong Economy Supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills" drives much of the Department's activity. The National Planning Framework (NPF) aims to achieve balanced regional development, matching employment growth in the Eastern and Midland Region with that in the Northern and Western and Southern Regions.

White Paper on Enterprise 2022-2030

This is complemented by the Department's White Paper on Enterprise 2022-2030, which identifies balanced regional economic and enterprise development as central component of our enterprise policy. To that end, the Department's enterprise development agencies, Local Enterprise Offices and Regional Enterprise Plans play a significant role in strengthening the enterprise ecosystem right across Ireland. This enables entrepreneurs, microenterprises, SMEs and FDI to prosper in all regions.

Smart Specialisation Strategy

In July 2022, DETE published the National Smart Specialisation Strategy for Innovation 2022-2027 (S3). The preparation of the S3 allowed for the assessment of Ireland's regional competitive advantages, future market opportunities, solutions to societal challenges, as well as the effectiveness of the current suite of enterprise innovation supports.

Accordingly, the S3 builds on identified regional and national strengths to ensure the creation of a supportive environment for innovation to flourish, new start-ups to emerge and businesses to scale. It puts a focus on the twin green and digital transformations needed across the enterprise sector, while aligning our national innovation system to engage with this challenge. It embraces a regional approach to addressing Ireland's research, development and innovation (RD&I) challenge, providing an important 'bridge' between regional and national innovation strategy-building and decision-making.

Smart Specialisation is a key principle underpinning the European Commission's Cohesion Policy for the period 2021-2027 in the Research, Technology, Development and Innovation (RTDI) priority. The existence of an S3 is an enabling condition for EU Member States to access structural funding under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in this field, the programmes for which are aligned with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES).

Beyond this, the Regional Enterprise Plans are driven by regional stakeholders and complement the work of the enterprise agencies in championing initiatives where a region has a competitive advantage consistent with Smart Specialisation principles.

IDA Ireland

IDA Ireland continues to progress delivery of its targets and strategic objectives as outlined in its strategy, Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth 2021-2024, which focuses on five pillars: Growth, Transformation, Regions, Sustainability and Impact.

The national context for IDA's approach to winning investment across Ireland's regions is set by Project Ireland 2040 and the associated National Planning Framework (NPF), National Development Plan (NDP) and RSES. Its "Regions" pillar also aligns with the objectives of the Programme for Government in relation to regional

development. The overarching ambition of national policy on regions is to promote balanced, compact and sustainable growth outside of Dublin. The realisation of the strategic outcomes of the NPF, through the growth and development of regional cities and towns, would significantly enhance Ireland's value proposition to FDI and support emerging urban locations of scale to become future FDI growth drivers.

2. Progress in enhancing overall economic performance, job creation and enterprise development having regard to the Regions' Cities and economic drivers

SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan

The SME and Entrepreneurship Taskforce Report: "National SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan" was published in January 2021 and an Implementation Group was established in February 2021. The Implementation Group agreed ten priority areas where significant progress could be made in the short term. An eleventh priority area around Ireland's climate ambitions was added in 2023. In 2023, the SME and Entrepreneurship Taskforce met four times to review the progress made across the following eleven priority areas:

1. Access to finance
2. Digital transformation
3. Increasing first-time exporters
4. Enhanced assistance for high-potential businesses
5. Clustering and networks
6. SME management skills
7. Reducing the regulatory burden on SMEs
8. Delivery of a single portal for business information and assistance
9. Ensuring comprehensive agency coverage for SMEs and
10. Promoting SME participation in public procurement
11. Ireland's climate ambitions.

To date the taskforce has presented progress reports to Government on its priorities at the end of 2022 and 2023.

Enterprise Ireland

Employment in client companies of Enterprise Ireland increased to a total of 74,428 in 2023 in the Southern Region, the highest ever recorded. The total number of jobs created was 5,022. When job losses are considered, there was a positive net jobs result of 1,551 in a very challenging year for businesses.

Just over 32%, or almost one third, of new jobs created in 2023 in companies supported by Enterprise Ireland were in the Southern Region.

Enterprise Ireland supported companies recorded jobs growth for the third year in a row. 2023 was a particularly challenging year for exporting Irish businesses with rising input costs, high interest rates and international instability among the issues that impacted business performance. Enterprise Ireland remains determined to help businesses face these challenges and continue to create high-quality employment across every region in Ireland. In addition to direct financial support, Enterprise Ireland is working to ensure an increased focus on innovation, digitalisation and sustainability so that Irish companies can continue to compete and win in global markets.

Export-focused companies are continuing to create quality employment across the Southern Region, despite a challenging business environment. Employment in companies supported by Enterprise Ireland is now at its highest ever level.

Enterprise Ireland is determined to support both the start-up sector and established companies to increase sales and exports in global markets which results in increased employment. Business sentiment among Enterprise Ireland's client companies remains very high and they are continuing to innovate to ensure they are competitive in global markets that remain turbulent.

Local Enterprise Offices Annual Employment Results 2023

The results of this year's Annual Employment Survey are extremely positive, with Local Enterprise Office (LEO) client companies creating 6,640 new jobs in 2023. These new figures show a tenth consecutive year of jobs

growth since the LEOs were established in 2014. The figures show that the network of LEOs now has a portfolio of 7,167 small businesses that account for 38,726 jobs across the country.

The 38,726 jobs that have been financially supported by the LEOs is the highest number on record since the LEOs began. The figures also show that 82% of the new jobs created by LEO client companies in 2023 were outside of Dublin. When this is measured against job losses in the portfolio, this represents a net gain of 2,131 jobs across the country.

Figures for the Southern Region are laid out below:

LEO	No. of Client Companies	Net Jobs
Carlow	208	1
Clare	229	62
Cork City	183	77
Cork South	163	120
Cork W / N	284	47
Kerry	242	65
Kilkenny	188	53
Limerick	313	238
Tipperary	266	96
Waterford	280	47
Wexford	234	177
Southern Region Total	2590	983

These job numbers refer only to jobs recorded by those businesses that received LEO grant aid.

Thousands more jobs are created by businesses which have received non-financial LEO supports including expert advice, one-to-one mentoring, targeted training, or supports addressing the strategic priorities of Exporting, Decarbonisation and Digital Transformation with the Green for Business, Energy Efficiency Grant, Exporter Development and Digital for Business initiatives.

IDA Ireland

The Southern Region is home to three Regional Cities: Cork, Limerick, and Waterford. IDA Ireland has Regional Development teams supporting the implementation of IDA Strategy at the regional level based in three regional offices across the Southern Region, namely Limerick, Waterford and Cork.

Over the period 2021-2024, IDA Ireland is targeting 800 client investments with 400 targeted for regions outside Dublin (50%). IDA Ireland has also published investment targets for every region over the four years of its current strategy. The combined target for the Southern Region over the period 2021-2024 is 234 investments.

FDI Base in the Southern Region

There are 478 IDA client operations in the Southern Region employing 93,854 directly in 2023. This represents 31% of total IDA client employment nationally. Including indirect employment estimated at 75,084 supported by FDI, the total number of jobs supported both directly and indirectly by FDI in the Southern Region is estimated at 168,938 jobs.

2023 Total FDI Base/Employment	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	Southern Region
Number of client operations	159	86	233	478
FDI Employment - Direct	27,257	15,301	51,296	93,854
FDI Employment - Indirect	21,806	12,241	41,037	75,084
FDI Employment - Combined	49,063	27,542	92,333	168,938
% Growth	3%	1%	1%	

Source: AES 2023

FDI Employment Growth

Since 2021, FDI direct employment in the Southern Region has increased by 4,433 jobs or 5%

Southern Region FDI Base	2021	2022	2023
Number of client operations:			
Mid-West	158	158	159
South-East	86	85	86
South-West	229	236	233
Southern Region	473	479	478
Total Jobs:			
Mid-West	25,279	26,559	27,257
South-East	15,062	15,084	15,301
South-West	49,080	50,707	51,296
Southern Region	89,421	92,350	93,854

Source: AES 2023

FDI Economic Impact in the Region

The impact of FDI across the Southern Region is significant with an estimated €9.97bn spend in 2022 which is an increase of 9% on 2021. The 2022 spend is comprised of Payroll €6.48bn and purchase of Irish Materials and Services. In addition, an estimated €1.5bn was invested by client companies on Inhouse R&D in 2022.

	Mid West	South East	South West	Southern Region
2022 ABSEI Results €m				
Payroll	1,991	1,100	3,389	6,480
Irish Materials & Services	753	557	2181	3,491
FDI Economic Impact	2,744	1,657	5,570	9,971
Inhouse R&D	616	100	538	1,254
2021 ABSEI Results €m				
Payroll	1,754	909	3,228	5,891
Irish Materials & Services	535	500	2181	3,216
FDI Economic Impact	2,289	1,409	5,409	9,107
Inhouse R&D	415	119	538	1,072

Source: ABSEI 2022

IDA Property

In addition to private sector property solutions, IDA Ireland has an extensive property portfolio including Strategic sites, Business and Technology Parks and buildings located across the Southern Region to support the winning of FDI. IDA Ireland also has an ambitious Property Investment programme to support the ambition of winning new FDI across the wider region. Under its current strategy, IDA Ireland has developed new Advanced Building Solutions in Carlow, Waterford and Limerick to support the winning of new client investments.

Areas of Competitiveness for Regional Development

IDA Ireland's primary focus is to support its client companies and ensure that Ireland and its regions continue to be fit for purpose to support the continued attraction, growth, and expansion of FDI. A key ingredient of our success to date has been in ensuring that Ireland continues to provide a proactive business environment both nationally and regionally and is responsive to the needs of our client companies.

Key to our success in the past and essential to our success in the future is strategic collaboration with national and local stakeholders on the enhancement of the regional value proposition for FDI and to harness the strengths and address the weaknesses of Ireland's regions.

Several stakeholders at both local, regional, and national level have a key role to play in supporting IDA in winning FDI for Ireland and all its regions.

The delivery of necessary infrastructure, utilities and property solutions, the availability of a skilled and future ready workforce, and an emphasis on quality of life and placemaking in each region are pre-requisites to winning continued investment from MNCs.

Areas of focus for enhanced competitiveness of regional locations include:

- Talent & Skills
- Planning
- Housing
- Property Solutions
- Utilities
- Sustainable Transport
- Placemaking

The above are vital to ensure regions are attractive places to live which is the fundamental bedrock to having the talent and skills base that can subsequently enable FDI attraction. IDA Ireland, together with local authorities, academia, business associations and industry can act on placemaking to give Ireland's regions a competitive edge internationally, supporting smart-city technologies and ensuring Ireland is positioned as one of the best places in the world both to do business and to live.

IDA Client Company Announcements

A summary of IDA client company announcements across the Southern Region over the period 2021-2023 is detailed in Appendix 2. This is a sample of some, but not all, IDA Ireland client activity in the region.

3. Progress on delivering the Regional Enterprise Plans (REPs)

Nine Regional Enterprise Plans (REPs) to 2024 were launched in early 2022 and are now in the final year of implementation.

At a regional level, delivery of each REP is led by a Steering Committee of regional stakeholders and chaired by a senior private sector businessperson, supported by a full-time REP Programme Manager (PM).

- Mid-West Steering Committee Chair is Professor Eamonn Murphy and PM is Dr. Paraic Rattigan
- South-West Steering Committee Chair is Patricia Quane and PM is Aileen Hurley
- South-East Steering Committee Chair is Patsy Carney and (interim) PM is Richard Hickey

The role of the PM is critical to the successful implementation of the REPs as they are chiefly responsible for driving implementation and stakeholder engagement on the ground in each region.

The Department is responsible for monitoring implementation of the Plans at a national level through the National Oversight Group (NOG), chaired by the Department's Ministers. The last meeting of the NOG took place on 26 October 2023 and implementation was considered to be progressing well overall across the Southern Region.

The Regional Assembly will be familiar with the Smart Regions Enterprise Innovation Scheme (SREIS), which is co-funded under the European Regional Development Fund. This scheme supports projects aligned to the REPs. The first call of €35 million was announced in October 2023 with subsequent calls in the coming years.

Nine mid-term progress reports are currently being prepared and will include a comprehensive action-by-action update on the implementation of each of the Plans up to Q3 2023.

4. Progress made by the Department in developing sectoral supports

Ukraine Credit Guarantee Scheme

The Ukraine Credit Guarantee Scheme was launched on 30 January 2023, with a total available ceiling for lending of €1.2 billion. The Scheme is available to SMEs, primary producers and small mid-caps that have seen their costs increase by at least 10% since 2020 as a result of the impact of the conflict in Ukraine. Loans under the scheme range from €10,000 to €1 million and are available to eligible businesses at interest rates below market rates, with no requirement for collateral or personal guarantees for loans of up to €250,000. The Scheme will run until 31 December 2024.

These loans provide funding for working capital and medium-term investment purposes. A total of 681 loans for a value of €58 million were taken out by business in the Southern Region from the launch of the Scheme until 30 November 2023. This represents 38% of all loans drawn under the Scheme up to that point.

Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme

The €500 million Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme launched in September 2023 provides loans between €25,000 and €3 million, with terms of up to 10 years to SMEs, including farmers and fishers and small mid-caps. The scheme will target a minimum of 30% of the lending volume towards environmental sustainability purposes with the aim of encouraging SMEs to take positive actions in support of the climate change agenda. Loans for climate action and environmental sustainability purposes will also benefit from an additional interest rate discount.

Up to 70% of lending will be for strategic investments with a view to increasing productivity and competitiveness and thus underpinning future business sustainability and growth. The Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme will operate until 30 June 2026 or until the scheme has been fully subscribed (whichever is earlier).

Smart Specialisation

The National Smart Specialisation Strategy for Innovation 2022-2027 sets out a number of sectoral priorities which underpin ERDF programmatic investment in the region. These were derived from extensive stakeholder consultation and analysis. These sectors are:

- Financial Services/FinTech
- ICT
- Bioeconomy/Renewable Energy
- Food/Agritech
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Marine
- Biopharma/Life Sciences
- Climate Action/Sustainability
- Automotive/Aerospace
- Design
- MedTech
- Audiovisual/Creative
- Transport

Construct Innovate

On 9 December 2022, the Department (with Enterprise Ireland) launched Construct Innovate, a construction-specific and industry-led research and development centre, which represents the latest addition to the joint Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland “Technology Centre” Programme. The Centre will be focused on key industry challenges and innovation in residential construction in its first three years of operation. Construct Innovate has initial funding of €5 million over five years, and is a consortium hosted by the University of Galway that also includes Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, University College Cork, and the Irish Green Building Council.

Built to Innovate

Under the Government’s Housing for All plan, Enterprise Ireland has expanded its remit to work with the domestic housebuilding sector for the first time. Through the Built to Innovate programme, Enterprise Ireland is focused on driving productivity and innovation in housebuilding, including increased use of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), and has opened up lean and digital grants and funding for research and innovation projects in the domestic residential construction sector (previously these were only made available to exporting firms).

Digital Transition Fund

To boost the uptake of digital technology in enterprises Government established the Digital Transition Fund as part of Ireland’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) in 2022. This is an €85 million multi-annual fund which will run until 2026. The Digital Transition Fund will increase digitalisation of all businesses across products, processes, supply chains and business models. This will bring about productivity gains, access to new markets, increased innovation and improved competitiveness.

This funding, managed via schemes run by Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and Udarás na Gaeltachta, will help companies at all stages of their digital journey – from the early days of simply going online to digitalisation of products and business processes, to facilitating exporting and using digital technologies to develop new markets and business models. €16 million was allocated to the DTF in Budget 2023 and €10 million has provisionally been allocated for 2024, subject to approval by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.

Green Transition Fund

The Green Transition Fund, launched in June 2022, is also part of Ireland’s NRRP and contains a range of supports for businesses to make the green transition. These range from vouchers to help companies prepare a plan for the low-carbon and resource efficient economy of the future, capital support for companies to invest in decarbonising their manufacturing processes; and grants to explore the development of new or improved products, services or processes in the areas of sustainability and decarbonisation.

Companies eligible for assistance under the Green Transition Fund are manufacturing clients, or potential clients, of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland and Udarás na Gaeltachta, subject to the prevailing policies and eligibility criteria of those agencies. The LEOs also offer a variety of the supports under the fund and are crucial in accelerating the green transition in local and regional areas, especially towards locally-trading micro-firms and SMEs. Some more detail of these schemes is included in the sections below.

Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland’s Strategy for 2022-2024 is titled Leading in a Changing World; Enterprise Ireland’s mission, as set out at the start of 2022, is to accelerate the development of world-class Irish companies to achieve leading positions in global markets. EI also works with the network of 31 Local Enterprise Offices through the Centre of Excellence to support the growth of micro-enterprises across the country.

Ireland has committed to reducing emissions by 51% across all sectors of the economy by 2030 and to become climate neutral by 2050 with legally binding sectoral emissions targets established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

Looking at the Enterprise Sector, Government has established a commitment to delivering a 35% reduction from on-site industrial emissions by 2030. The Climate Action Plan 2023 and the White Paper on Enterprise 2022-2030 confirm Government’s commitment to supporting the decarbonisation of industry through its Agencies, including Enterprise Ireland. The White Paper on Enterprise sees Government committing to placing decarbonisation on equal footing with job creation and value creation for the enterprise agencies.

Total Enterprise Ireland client emissions in 2022 are approximately 4.4Mt CO₂, this estimate includes client ETS emissions and an estimate of non-ETS client emissions. From the baseline of 2018 gross Enterprise Ireland client emissions have fluctuated within a relatively modest band, with overall emissions remaining stable.

For large emitters and companies embarking on major transformative projects Enterprise Ireland provides support through the Energy and Environmental Aid measure. This has enabled Enterprise Ireland to aid new capital projects that are designed to the highest environmental standard within EU State Aid rules.

As noted above, Enterprise Ireland also has a broad suite of practical measures under the Green Transition Fund to help small to medium sized firms to develop and fund their sustainability plans and stay competitive in the market. There are two main areas of support – firstly consultancy advice to enable planning and capacity building to begin and continue a green transition; then capital support to back projects, with up to €1 million available, to assist with carbon reduction for instance. For firms looking to exploit the opportunities of a low carbon future, EI has measures to support their research and innovation into new or improved products, services, or processes in the areas of sustainability and decarbonisation.

Sustainability can no longer be seen as a something extraneous to core business strategy. The message to all Enterprise Ireland clients is that for a business to be resilient and ready to scale, domestically and internationally, sustainability must be at the heart of a company's growth strategy. Enterprise Ireland also works closely with other agencies in the industrial development field, including colleagues in the LEOs, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Údaras na Gaeltachta and IDA Ireland, to ensure there is alignment between all offers to business and that clients have a clear pathway in terms of supports.

Green supports provided by LEOs

The LEOs provide assistance to small businesses in understanding and addressing their carbon footprint through the Green for Business programme. This is an initiative from the LEOs that helps to prepare small businesses for the low-carbon, more resource-efficient economy of the future. This programme offers free advice and technical support on resource efficiency, how to better understand their carbon footprint and how to implement an environmental management system to reduce costs and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2023 the Local Enterprise Offices also launched the Energy Efficiency Grant, to provide capital for businesses to invest in low carbon technologies or processes identified in a Green for Business or Green Start consultancy programme, or an SEAI Energy Audit.

The LEO LEAN for Business Programme is available to clients to help build resilience within small companies. This programme provides consultancy support with a LEAN Expert (a qualified practitioner), who will work with the company to introduce lean principles, undertake a specific cost savings project and assist the company in benchmarking its performance.

5. Progress made by the Department relating to the enhancement of skills, talent and innovation.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment is aware that it is essential that the Irish enterprise base has access to an adequate pool of high quality, adaptable and flexible talent. In order to meet this demand, the Department works collaboratively with other Departments and State Agencies to build and retain a highly skilled workforce to serve the needs of the economy.

Ireland operates a sophisticated skills architecture, which includes the National Skills Council, Expert Group on Future Skills Needs and Regional Skills Fora. In working closely with enterprise, this architecture is key to identifying skills gaps across the economy, and through collaboration with education and training providers, ensuring that these skills needs are quickly addressed through the education and training system.

The Department also operates an employment permit system which is highly responsive to areas of identified skills needs and labour shortages across the economy. There is continual engagement with employers and if strong evidence is presented, the rules are adjusted to ensure that skilled people from non-EEA countries can be recruited to help address skills and labour market shortages.

On 20 December 2023, Minister Richmond announced the largest ever expansion of the employment permits system, with 32 roles becoming eligible for General Employment Permits, and an additional 11 roles becoming eligible for a Critical Skills Employment Permit. A roadmap for increasing salary thresholds for all types of employment permits was also announced.

Smart Specialisation

As noted above, the National Smart Specialisation Strategy for Innovation 2022-2027 (S3) is focused on building the framework for a bottom-up and spatial approach to research and innovation in each region. To do this it focuses on areas such as innovation diffusion, international RD&I collaboration and improving the national and regional research and innovation system.

Additionally, by supporting ERDF programmes, including Technology Centres and the Innovator's initiative, S3 supports regional skills development by creating training initiatives aligned with S3's sectoral, digital and green goals.

European Digital Innovation Hubs

European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) are one-stop shops for companies and public sector organisations to access, for little or low cost, expertise, advice, and opportunities to deploy digital technologies or to test technologies before investing. One of these, ENTIRE, is based in the Southern Region, led by Tyndall National Institute Cork. Funded under Ireland's NRRP, its primary focus is to help SMEs and start-ups to become more competitive in their business/production processes using digital technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT) and sensors.

Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund and Innovation

The Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF) was established in 2018 as part of the NDP and has committed to €500 million in funding over the period to 2027 for co-funded collaborative projects involving the enterprise and research sectors. DTIF projects focus on the development and deployment of disruptive technologies to deliver new solutions through investment in the development and implementation of innovative products and services that will alter markets or the way business operates.

Since 2018, the DTIF has invested €371 million in 104 collaborative disruptive innovation projects with strong commercialisation potential under the first six Calls of the Fund. Of these, 49 projects with one or more partners located in the Southern Region were awarded over €184 million. These projects cover areas such as life sciences, medical devices, ICT, artificial intelligence, manufacturing and environmental sustainability.

LEO training/mentoring supports

To assist the small business community in meeting the challenges of the business world, the LEOs provide a wide range of training support and mentoring tailored to meet specific business requirements.

The network of LEOs promotes local enterprise culture and entrepreneurship through initiatives such as their Start-Your-Own-Business training courses, provision of business information and advisory services, schools enterprise programmes and its Management Development programme. The management development programmes provide owners/managers with the management, leadership, business skills and knowledge to achieve sustainability and growth in their business.

6. Please outline any progress made by agencies that operate under the aegis of your Department, in supporting the objectives of the RSES which are relevant to that agency.

Given the Department's remit, much of the material supplied in response to section two, relating to enhancing overall economic performance and job creation, is also applicable to this section. However, further relevant information is supplied below.

Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland saw exports by companies it supports increase by 19% to a record €32.1 billion in 2022. This is the highest ever level of growth for Enterprise Ireland-backed companies in export value. Growth occurred across all overseas regions and in individual industry sectors. Exports to the Eurozone increased by 28% in 2022, with

the Eurozone now representing 25% of all exports by Enterprise Ireland backed companies. Expansion in trade with the Eurozone has taken place in tandem with strong Irish exports to the UK post-Brexit:

- Exports to the UK increased by 13%, reaching €9.2 billion. The UK now accounts for 29% of all exports by Enterprise Ireland backed companies
- Exports to the Eurozone increased by 28%, reaching €7.9 billion
- Exports to North America increased by 13%, reaching €5.5 billion. North America now accounts for 17% of all exports by Enterprise Ireland backed companies
- Increases in exports were recorded across all sectors with Food and Sustainability increasing by 23%
- Technology and Services increasing by 18% and Industrial and Life Sciences increasing by 14%.

44 entities across Munster and the South-East were funded under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) with total approved funding for projects of €41.1 million.

23 entities across Munster and the South-East were funded under the Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme (RETS) with total approved funding for projects of €2.6 million.

The Pre-Seed Start Fund (PSSF) provides up to €100,000 in the form of a Convertible Loan Note (CLN) and is open to innovative start-ups in all sectors, with a focus on manufacturing, life sciences, food, and renewables. Since it was launched in 2022 there have been 34 start-up companies supported in Munster and the South-East with €2.9 million committed to those companies.

200 senior leaders from the food sector and key industry stakeholders attended Enterprise Ireland's flagship Food Innovation Summit in May 2023 at Pairc Ui Chaoimh, Cork. The event was the first dedicated Food Innovation Summit to take place in Ireland and turned the spotlight on the innovation capability within the Irish food industry and the strength of Ireland's food research ecosystem.

FinalBend was announced as the winner of Enterprise Ireland's Student Entrepreneur of the year Award. FinalBend is an innovative, sustainable, affordable, sportswear company, based in Cork. FinalBend was founded by University College Cork student and Quercus Scholar Emma Coffey.

Sixteen companies with important capital projects in primary food plants across Munster and the South-East have been awarded funding by Enterprise Ireland. This funding was provided under the Capital Investment Scheme for the Processing and Marketing of Agriculture Products. The successful companies in the region were approved €61.4 million in support from Enterprise Ireland.

Local Enterprise Offices

Specific data relating to the uptake of individual LEO grants and supports is not currently available but will be later in February when the verification process for performance statistics is complete.

Microfinance Ireland

Microfinance Ireland (MFI) lends to viable microenterprises that do not meet the conventional risk criteria applied by commercial lenders. It provides loans from €2,000 to €25,000 to businesses and applies interest rate charges for its lending which are not reflective of its credit risk. MFI also provides post approval mentoring services to its borrowers through the Local Enterprise Office Network.

In October 2023 MFI launched loans for microenterprises impacted by the recent extreme weather events. This scheme is available by way of low-cost loans to small businesses that cannot get loan financing from other lenders. Loan options include cashflow loans of up to €25,000, at a fixed interest rate of 5.5% APR with up to six months' full repayment moratorium. Loans can be used for general business purposes including restocking and other business costs. Loans for capital expenditure are also available which could fund the refurbishment of premises or the replacement of equipment.

(Please note that Microfinance Ireland does not operate under the aegis of DETE, however its work may be relevant in this instance.)

7. Please provide details of any policy initiatives/developments that have been finalised or are in preparatory stages that support the objectives of the RSES

National Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy

The Department is currently developing a National Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy (NOWIS) to be published in 2024, which will set out how Ireland can maximise the economic opportunity arising from the production of offshore wind energy (OWE). The Strategy's primary objectives will be to ensure that Ireland fully captures the value of the supply chain to deliver an offshore wind sector at scale, to boost Ireland's strong RD&I pedigree in the sector, and to examine the routes to market for this renewable energy.

Rural coastal communities and their hinterlands are expected to benefit from the development of an indigenous OWE industry, and the Strategy will seek to maximise that potential benefit. Throughout 2023, the Department's Offshore Wind Strategy Unit engaged in extensive stakeholder consultation to inform the development of NOWIS. Engagement has been positive and constructive across the Government system and with industry.

The ambition for 2024 is to:

- Finalise the first iteration of the overall Strategy in Q1 2024
- Align NOWIS with the Department of the Environment, Climate Action and Communication's 'Offshore Renewable Energy Future Framework Policy Statement'
- Implement actions outlined in NOWIS and pursue longer-term aspects of Strategy to the end of 2024 and beyond.

LEO Policy Statement

Work commenced in September 2023 on a LEO Policy Statement. This statement will capture the roles and responsibilities of the Local Enterprise Network and set the future strategic direction of the network to 2030, in line with the Department's White Paper on Enterprise 2022-2030. It is expected that the LEO Policy Statement will be published in May 2024.

National Clustering Programme

The White Paper for Enterprise 2020-2030 recognises clustering as a key tool for achieving enterprise policy objectives, including driving innovation, attracting and embedding FDI and developing linkages between multinationals and indigenous firms. It also notes the role which clustering can play in the green and digital transitions. It proposes the establishment of a National Clustering Programme (NCP), with a target to fund five national cluster organisations by 2025, and the establishment of a central coordination entity to bring coherence to the current ad hoc landscape around clustering in Ireland.

Grant Thornton was commissioned to undertake research to develop an evidence base to support the development of a National Clustering Policy. The Grant Thornton report, published in March 2023, advises that there would be "significant merit in establishing an open and multi-layer cluster programme" which encourages collaboration between Industry, Academia and Government in a triple-helix model. The definition of clusters used was: "Clusters are geographic interactive alliances of interconnected enterprises, research centres and associated institutions in particular fields that compete, cooperate and face common challenges and opportunities".

The Department is progressing work on a multi-layer NCP in line with the Grant Thornton recommendations.

8. Please provide a summary of the funding programmes administered by your Department (or agency under the aegis of your Department), over the last two years, which have been awarded within the Southern Region with the following details requested:¹

- **Funding Programme**
- **County Project Name and Description**
- **Amount Awarded (€)**

¹ Southern Region comprises 10 local authorities: Cork City, Cork County, Clare, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford.

- **Stage of Project**

This section provides an overview of the relevant funding programmes administered by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and its enterprise development agencies. For more granular breakdowns of the volumes of funding awarded under the relevant programmes, please see Appendix 1: Section 8 – Summary of Relevant Funding Programmes.

Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund

As described above, the DTIF supports co-funded collaborative projects involving the enterprise and research sectors. DTIF projects focus on the development and deployment of innovative products and services that will alter markets or the way business operates.

A total of 14 projects with one or more partners located in the Southern Region have been awarded over €55 million in DTIF funding since 2022.

Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme

The Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme (REISS) supports the development of potential innovative regional projects aligned with the objectives of the nine Regional Enterprise Plans. The REISS offers feasibility and priming grants to help create a strong pipeline of projects for future funding calls

Capital Investment Scheme Agricultural Products

This scheme will assist companies to strengthen their operational capability and pursue product and market diversification strategies and will support the long-term future of our vital agri-food sector.

Our agri-food sector employs 165,000 people in every county in Ireland and is a key driver of local economic prosperity. Enterprise Ireland is determined to support the long-term, sustainable future of the sector as it responds to consumer demand and seeks to diversify both its products and its markets.

Innovative High Potential Start Ups

Enterprise Ireland partners with high potential start-ups (HPSUs) on their journey to international growth, offering an ecosystem of funding and support for expansion into untapped global markets. These projects must involve the resolution of some technical challenge, be non-routine, or represent a 'step-up' for the company in terms of the level of RD&I capability. Applicants must be able to show adequate cash resources to implement the proposed project.

Online Retail Scheme 4

The Online Retail Scheme was created to support Irish retailers in developing a more competitive online offer, that will enable an increase in their customer base and build a more resilient business in the domestic and global marketplace both online and offline. Successful applicants were awarded funding to support a maximum grant of €25,000 (up to 50% of the projects eligible costs of €50,000)

R&D Fund

R&D drives economic growth and progress, spurs innovation and is critical for companies to stay competitive. With R&D funding, Enterprise Ireland supports innovation that helps to grow sales and employment for Irish business. The project must involve the resolution of some technical challenge, be non-routine or represent a 'step-up' for the company in terms of the level of RD&I capability. Applicants must be able to show adequate cash resources to implement the proposed project.

Regional Enterprise Development Fund 2017-2020

The Department has, through Enterprise Ireland, provided funding to assist regions to support enterprise activity, promote regional growth and create jobs. These funds enable significant collaborative and innovative regional projects and complement the Regional Enterprise Plans where they have served as an enabler for projects emerging from that regional collaborative process.

Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Department (including any agencies under the aegis of your Department) in implementing the RSES and addressing the issue of balanced regional growth, to fully realise the ambition and targets set out for the Southern

Region under *Project Ireland 2040- National Planning Framework* and the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would improve the implementation process and provide a greater focus on addressing regional imbalance.

REPM Unit would welcome commentary from all units

PLEASE PROVIDE A CONTACT POINT IN THE EVENT THAT WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT THIS FORM.

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Appendix 1: Section 8 – Summary of Relevant Funding Programmes

Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF)

Location	Description	Funding	Status
Dublin, Clare, Galway	PumpinHeart will develop a miniaturised smart pump for Heart Failure with preserved Ejection Fraction (HFpEF)	€3.1m	Pre-Contract
Dublin, Cork	EncOVac is an encapsulated Oral Vaccine Platform for Melioidosis & Enteric Pathogens	€2.3m	Commenced
Galway, Meath, Cork	NutriLoop - Closed-loop, whole-cycle approach to reducing the carbon footprint of livestock	€2.8m	Pre-Contract
Limerick, Cork, Clare	xBat+ - Advanced Robotics & Artificial Intelligence for Critical Raw Materials Recycling in the Circular Economy	€3.6m	Pre-Contract
Galway, Clare, Dublin	LILAC is a Breakthrough Platform Technology to Detect and Prevent Peripheral Neuropathy Caused by Chemotherapy	€4.4m	Commenced
Dublin, Cork	Project Athena - develop a treatment for chronic migraines	€7.5m	Commenced
Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Westmeath	The SPRINT mission is to develop and deploy novel intelligent tooling solutions in Irish based precision manufacturing.	€1.6m	Pre-Contract
Dublin, Cork, Kildare	Energise - Energy efficient and sustainable Open RAN enabling 6G evolution by introducing new technology capable of making mobile networks greener.	€2.3m	Pre-Contract
Dublin, Cork	CergenX will develop the Newborn Brain Screener (NBS), a novel platform to detect abnormal brain activity in infants at birth.	€6.7m	Pre-Contract
Galway, Cork, Clare	The PRETA project, Endowave will develop a novel robotic enabled microwave ablation catheter with integrated position sensing and ablation imaging technology to provide a new minimally invasive and targeted treatment for metastatic lung cancer.	€5.4m	Pre-Contract
Cork, Tipperary, Wexford, Westmeath, Dublin	The NATIVE project will develop the world's first commercially available, validated Additive Manufacturing process for Nitinol alloys.	€1.7m	Pre-Contract
Dublin, Galway, Limerick	Selio System is a pre-biopsy intervention device which prevents haemorrhage occurring before kidney or liver biopsy even takes place.	€4.1m	Pre-Contract
Galway, Dublin, Cork	EPICS is a Nature inspired and privacy aware, low cost, low power, intelligent in cabin neuromorphic sensing platform capable to perform all analytics required for many after-market automotive specific applications.	€6.4m	Pre-Contract
Dublin, Limerick	BioBridge will seek to make biopharmaceutical manufacturing vastly more efficient by building new laboratory methods and computer models to design better manufacturing processes.	€3.2m	Pre-Contract

Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme – Priming projects			
County	Project description	Grant amount	Status (complete/in progress)
Kerry	AGRITECH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE Priming for an AgriTech Centre of Excellence Innovation Incubator facility at MTU to support industry, college and community collaboration on new sustainable AgriTech engineering projects.	€39,516	Complete
Limerick	BNEST SOCIAL INITIATIVE Bridging the 'Impact Space' between traditional and social businesses to further advance financial return & investment for enterprise.	€119,880	Complete
Limerick	LIMERICK ENTERPRISE NETWORK The creation of a multi-functional Creative Industries Centre of scale at LEDP with a virtual production studio and space to encourage indigenous SME sub suppliers to the Film Industry	€125,360	Did not proceed
Carlow	CARLOW COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRES Further develop plans for the Technical Export & Innovation Centre (TEIC), offering applied supports across logistics, innovation, technology and scaled expansion for product development enterprises with a focus on export capability.	€72,422	Complete
Clare	FUTURE MOBILITY CAMPUS IRELAND To scope out a project to expand on its initial Vertiport test bed with a large-scale Research, Development and Innovation Hub for Advanced Air Mobility	€184,800	Complete
Wexford	HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDING ALLIANCE Development at Enniscorthy Technology Park of an innovation hub and centre of excellence focused on Green Technologies.	€148,064	Complete
Waterford	INCUPHARM To scope and prepare an ecosystem for the formation of a Life Science cluster.	€97,280	In progress
Waterford	SOUTH EAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE The development of a FinTech Centre of Excellence in conjunction with colleges and company cluster activity in the region.	€149,600	In progress
Waterford	THREED (DESIGN DEVELOP DISSEMINATE) Scoping and preparation of plans for a world-class purpose-built 3D metal printing facility to support technological development in the South East and support enterprise incubation and job creation.	€189,452	In progress
	TOTAL	€1,126,374	

Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme – Feasibility study projects			
County	Project description	Grant amount	Status (complete/in progress)
Cork	ENERGY CHAMPION Study to determine the best way to expand the SME Energy Champion Initiative to support SMEs to better manage their energy use and foster environmental sustainability.	€42,480	Complete
Cork	MUNSTER TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY Examining the prospect of a National Space Industry Cluster	€38,880	Complete
Cork City	RECREATE SHANDON Feasibility Study to examine the sectors and emerging technologies around which to develop a new urban enterprise centre in the Northside of Cork to drive sustainable enterprise creation and engagement in conjunction with local stakeholders.	€46,800	In progress
Limerick	LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL (1) Investigating the feasibility of developing of a Life Sciences Innovation Hub for Limerick.	€45,728	Complete
Limerick	LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL (2) Study to map the regional food and drink ecosystem identifying strategic opportunities for the sector.	€39,600	Complete
Limerick	UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK Feasibility study for an unmanned aerial systems flight and testing hub for the Mid West region.	€25,200	Complete
Kerry	RDI HUB The development of SME Scaling Programs focusing on education, research, and enterprise development.	€49,589	Complete
Waterford	SOUTH EAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE To explore the potential of a South East IT Academy acceleration program for ICT professionals centred on real-world projects	€31,680	Complete
Waterford	SOUTH EAST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY Feasibility study into the development of an Agro-Systems innovation and growth lighthouse project in the South East..	€46,973	Complete
Waterford	WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL To study the potential of creating Waterford City as an incubator for Smart-City initiatives.	€49,800	Complete
Tipperary	TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL To study and establish the possible solutions to progress an Enterprise Development Hub in Thurles.	€39,000	Complete
Tipperary	TIPPERARY TOWN REVITALISATION Feasibility study to further develop plans for the establishment of a Food Enterprise Hub in Tipperary Town.	€50,000	Complete
Clare	ZE-AVIATION ALLIANCE Feasibility study to scope out the opportunities in the development of zero-emission aviation technologies from the Mid-West.	€50,000	Complete
	Total	€555,730	

Capital Investment Scheme Agricultural Products

Capital Investment Scheme Agricultural Products	EI Payments 2022-2023
Cork County	€3,561,568
Kerry	€154,307
Kilkenny	€2,020,268
Tipperary	€477,102
Total	€6,213,244

Innovative High Potential Start Ups (HPSU)

Innovative HPSU 2014-2020	EI Payments 2022-2023
Carlow	€450,000
Cork City	€650,000
Cork County	€500,000
Kerry	€500,000
Kilkenny	€150,000
Limerick	€600,000
Tipperary	€522,083
Waterford	€750,000
Total	€4,122,083

Online Retail Scheme 4

Online Retail Scheme 4	EI Payments 2022-2023
Carlow	€89,140
Clare	€224,522
Cork City	€597,644
Cork County	€324,910
Kerry	€367,178
Kilkenny	€171,098
Limerick	€284,809
Tipperary	€142,294
Waterford	€295,993
Wexford	€182,985
Total	€2,680,573

R&D Fund

R&D Fund	EI Payments 2022-2023
Clare	€167,975
Cork City	€1,163,419
Cork County	€1,108,651
Kerry	€539,792
Kilkenny	€676,657
Tipperary	€209,152
Wexford	€359,181
Total	€4,224,827

Regional Enterprise Development Fund 2017-2020

Regional Enterprise Development Fund 2017-2020	EI Payments 2022-2023
Clare	€1,579,096
Cork City	€257,479
Cork County	€246,480
Kerry	€1,004,710
Limerick	€1,291,150
Tipperary	€240,004
Waterford	€269,496
Total	€4,888,415

Appendix 2: Summary of recent IDA client announcements (2021-2023) across the Southern Region

County Limerick

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
WP Engine	Dec 2023	Further expansion at Limerick office.	20	Limerick
Verizon	Dec 2023	Taken 10,000sqm at the new 1BQ riverside development in Limerick city for its global centre of excellence.	400	Limerick
Apex	May 2023	Announced opening of new office and intention to double workforce from 100 to 200	100	Limerick City
Analog Devices	May 2023	Announced €630m investment plan in a new research and development facility at its Limerick plant.	600	Raheen
Digital Manufacturing Ireland	Mar 2023	€40m digital manufacturing centre official opening, National Technology Park in Limerick		Castletroy
Eli Lilly	Mar 2023	€1bn investment launch	300	Raheen
Johnson & Johnson	Sept 2022	Expansion of its existing facility in Plassey, Limerick. With a 100m investment	80	Castletroy
Ortec Inc	Sept 2022	Officially opened its manufacturing and operations centre in Limerick, as its European Headquarters	100	Newcastle West
WP Engine	July 2022	Opening of New Offices at Henry St Limerick and increasing its workforce	20	Limerick
File Cloud	July 2022	Creation of jobs in Limerick by 2024	50	Limerick City
Three Ireland	June 2022	Expansion of workforce in Limerick	175	Castletroy
Legato Technologies	May 2022	Expansion of R&D Hub	80	Castletroy
Transact	May 2022	Opening of R&D Global Expansion		Limerick City
Johnson and Johnson	Mar 2022	35m investment in Limerick	120	Castletroy
Analog Devices	Mar 2022	100m investment in Limerick	250	Raheen
Stats Perform	Feb 2022	Expansion of workforce at Limerick announcement of new Global Rugby Ctr of Excellence	340	Limerick City
Eli Lilly	Jan 2022	R& D Investment €400m to create new jobs	300	Raheen
Becton Dickinson	Dec 2021	R&D Investment €70m to create new jobs	130	Castletroy
ITW Filtrertek	Nov 2021	R&D investment, €1.9m in NPD program		Newcastle West
Legato	Nov 2021	Opening on new office and doubling of workforce from 60 to 120	60	Castletroy
Edwards Lifesciences	Oct 2021	Opening of a new manufacturing centre in the NTP.	250	Castletroy

WP Engine	Oct 2021	Expansion of workforce at Limerick office to mark 5 th anniversary.	25	Limerick City Centre
Legato	Sept 2021	Establishment of an R&D hub in Limerick.	60	Limerick
Bosch Group	Aug 2021	Establishment of an Automotive Research and Development Centre in Limerick, creating 30 jobs over the next two years.	30	Castletroy
Ortec Inc	May 2021	Ortec Inc. breaks ground at European HQ, in Newcastle West		Newcastle West
Indigo 4site	Jan 2021	International expansion with open-location and office-based roles across Ireland.	100	Limerick City

County Clare

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
OLED-PPG	May 2023	Opened new manufacturing site which will produce OLED materials. Initial investment of €10 million.	100	Shannon
Lufthansa	January 2023	Expansion of its business in Ireland with the opening of a new 2,000 M ² facility	25	Shannon
Meira GTX	Sept 2022	Opening of GMP manufacturing facility in Shannon, Clare	100	Shannon
Siemens Mentor Graphics	July 2022	Siemens Mentor Graphics announces, it is to establish a software research and development division in Shannon, Co. Clare. The multimillion-euro investment of €7m will help create 25 new R&D roles over the next three years.	25	Shannon
Element Six	October 2021	Element Six Limited celebrated 60 years of operations in Shannon, Ireland. Since 2017, the company has invested €16m on the Shannon site and has created 100 jobs in the area, bringing the total number of people employed to over 500.		Shannon
OLED and PPG	Jul 2021	OLED Material Manufacturing Ltd and PPG announced a multi-million-euro capital investment that is expected to create up to 100 high-tech jobs at a new Shannon manufacturing site.	100	Shannon
Renovo	May 2021	Renovo Motors Inc. creates 30 jobs with establishment of EMEA HQ in Shannon	30	Shannon
IQ-EQ	Mar 2021	Global investor services group IQ-EQ creates 45 jobs with launch of Funds business in Ireland	45	Shannon

County Tipperary

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
Boston Scientific	May 2023	€80 million investment to increase office and manufacturing space and transition the site to use over 90% renewable energy.	400	Clonmel
Integrity	May 2022	British firm expanding into Ireland, offering a range of support services to businesses, with the creation of up to 20 jobs as an initial target	20	Cashel
Waystone	May 2022	Expansion and creation of 100 jobs	100	Cashel
Abbott Vascular	Jul 2021	Over the next three years Abbott will invest €37.8 million in its cardiovascular R&D Centre based at its Vascular devices site in Clonmel	€37.8 MILLION	Clonmel
Fiserv	Jun 2021	Fiserv Continues to Invest in Digital Payments and Financial Services with Expansion of Nenagh Technology Centre	200	Nenagh

County Waterford

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
Sunlife	October 2023	Sunlife Celebrated their 25 th Anniversary in Waterford with an event including senior international staff attending		Waterford
Kargo	March 2023	10 million investment to develop new digital advertising solutions	25 jobs	Waterford
Sun Life	Sept 2022	€6 million in sustainable, state-of-the-art renovations that include the latest technology solutions, a focus on employee collaboration and a carbon neutral goal.		Waterford
Horizon Therapeutics	Aug 2022	Planning Application	350 Jobs	Waterford
Public Relay	May 2022	Establish Media Analytics Centre	40 Jobs	Waterford
Horizon Therapeutics	May 2022	Global biotech manufacturing operation with specialist roles in Science and Engineering	50 Jobs	Waterford
EirGen Pharma	April 2022	€12m investment and new facility: 3,500m ² of state-of-the-art manufacturing and packaging capabilities		Waterford
Infosys	Dec 2021	New State of the Art Delivery Centre	250 Jobs	Waterford
Tegus	Nov 2021	EMEA HQ	100 jobs	Waterford
Repligen	July 2021	Centre of Excellence for single-use consumable products used in Bioprocessing applications	90 Jobs	Waterford
Bausch + Lomb	July 2021	€90m Manufacturing Expansion	130 Jobs	Waterford
Horizon Therapeutics	June 2021	Global biotech manufacturing operation	90 Jobs	Waterford

County Wexford

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
BD Enniscorthy	June 2023	BD to invest €30 Million in Enniscorthy Plant creating 85 new jobs	85 jobs €30 Million	Enniscorthy
Reynars Aluminium	May 2023	Reynars officially opened their multi-million-euro expansion with an open day		Enniscorthy
Sulzer Pumps	March 2023	Leading Swiss Engineering firm Sulzer celebrated 50 years in Wexford this week with a special event to mark the occasion and honour the contribution of its workforce over three generations.		Wexford
Waters Corp.	Oct 2022	25-year Anniversary and €6m Investment for Clinical Diagnostic R&D Centre Expansion	€6m	Wexford

County Carlow

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
MSD	September 2023	MSD Announced an Expansion to the Carlow Site as well as opening their new Dunboyne County Meath site. Total Jobs across 2 sites 670	€1 Billion across both sites	Carlow
Unum	January 2023	Expansion announcement	50 Jobs	Carlow
MSD	August 2022	New State of the Art Facility	100 Jobs	Carlow

County Kilkenny

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/ Investment	Town
Security Risk Advisors (SRA)	June 2023	SRA Opened their new offices in Kilkenny		Kilkenny
Abbott	April 2023	Abbott Sod turning for their new Diabetes unit.	800 Jobs/ €440 M	Kilkenny
Aztec	March 2023	Aztec Group announces expansion into Ireland, creating 30 new jobs in Kilkenny City	30	Kilkenny
Abbott	Aug 2022	New Building	800 Jobs/ €440m	Kilkenny
Trilateral	Sept 2021	EU funded research in Cyber Security & Climate Change	10 jobs	Kilkenny
State Street	Sept 2021	Global Cyber Security & Tech Centre	400 jobs	Kilkenny

County Cork

Company Name	Month, Year		Jobs/ Investment	Town
Qualcomm	November 2023	The investment is expected to create more than 150 highly skilled engineering roles over the next four years.	\$127m R&D Facility in Cork	Cork
Netgear	October 2023	Opening of new facility in Cork	N/A	Cork
Thermo Fisher	October 2023	Opening of new expanded laboratory at the company's active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) facility. There's been a five-fold increase in clinical manufacturing capacity and the site has gained more than 20 global pharmaceutical and biotech customers in recent years.	N/A	Ringaskiddy Cork
PepsiCo	October 2023	Announced an expansion of its manufacturing facility in Little Island, Co. Cork	€39m	Cork
Rubrik	July 2023	Official opening of its new office in Ballincollig, Cork	N/A	Cork
Blink Parametric	July 2023	Official opening of its new EU HQ at City Quarter, Cork	Additional 30 jobs over the new two years	Cork
AMD	June 2023	Job announcement and investment	Creation of 290 jobs over four years and investment of €135m	Cork and Dublin
dóTERRA	May 2023	Official opening of its new Manufacturing Facility	€12 million was invested in the new facility with the creation of 65 jobs. With the ability to increase jobs numbers to 500 over time	Cork
Dell Technologies	May 2023	Launch of its Open Ecosystem Telecom Laboratory	€2 million investment	Cork
Bourns Inc	May 2023	Official opening of its new office and electrification lab at Penrose Dock Cork	Announced plans to create 35 jobs over 18 months	Cork
PepsiCo	May 2023	Announced it is nearing completion of a new facility which will allow for additional manufacturing capacity and further investment in its R&D campus.	€127 million investment at its Little Island manufacturing facility.	Cork

PepsiCo	May 2023	Official opening of its Solar Roof top Farm at its facility in Carrigaline, Co. Cork which is the largest in the county made up of 4,500 individual solar panel and coincided with its 20 th year anniversary the Carrigaline facility opening.	N/A	Cork
ProPhotonix (part of the Exaktera Group)	April 2023	Expansion of its production facility in Little Island, Co. Cork.	Investment of €500,000	Cork
BioMarin	April 2023	Opening of a new manufacturing plant at its site in Shanbally, Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork.	Investment of €38 million over four years to create a state-of-the-art aseptic production facility.	Cork
SupportNinja	March 2023	Opening of a new CX Centre of Excellence with plans to create 50 new jobs over the next three years.	Creation of 50 new jobs over the next three years	Cork
Novartis	January 2023	Sterling Pharma Solutions announced the acquisition of Novartis, Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork.	Acquisition by Sterling Pharm Solutions	Cork
Alcon	November 2022	Official opening of Alcon Customer Engagement Centre (ACE) which complements a recent expansion of its R&D facility.	Official opening of Alcon Customer Engagement Centre (ACE)	Cork
Logitech	November 2022	Official opening of new office Building 1, City Gate Plaza, Mahon, Cork	Official opening of new office	Cork
Net App	November 2022	Official opening of new Internation HQ Navigation Square, Cork Docklands	Ribbon cutting event	Cork
Dell Technologies	November 2022	Official opening of the newly redeveloped Customer Solution Centre.	€2 million investment	Cork
Oxford Global Resources Ltd	October 2022	Job announcement	Creation of 75 new jobs	Cork
GE Healthcare	October 2022	Opening of a new production line for pharmaceutical imaging agents	€30.5 million expansion with the creation of 140 new jobs	Cork
AbbVie	September 2022	Expansion and job announcement to mark its 20-year anniversary	€60m investment and the creation of approximately 70 new jobs	Cork

Stryker	July 2022	Opening of a high-tech facility at IDA Business & Technology Park, Carrigtwohill	600 new jobs	Cork
Park Place Technologies	June 2022	Opening a of new support and operations centre, Blarney Business Park	The new facility will allow employee expansion which is expected to double by 2024	Cork
Apple	May 2022	Expansion to its Cork operation	Development of a new campus building that will afford the extra capacity to accommodate 1300 employees	Cork
Merck	May 2022	A science and technology company located in Cork expanding its membrane and filtration manufacturing capabilities at its Carrigtwohill facility and to construction a purpose-built facility at Blarney Business Park	370 new roles to be created by 2027 and €440m investment in its Carrigtwohill facility	Cork
Johnson Controls	May 2022	Launch of their OpenBlue Innovation Centre	18 new R&D roles as well as securing 40 existing roles to work on the next generation solution for Johnson Controls	Cork
Blanco	May 2022	Official opening of new offices	CAPACITY FOR UP TO 34 EMPLOYEES	Cork
Apple	April 2022	New Engineering and Test Facility	680 JOBS SINCE 2019	Cork
Remitly Global	April 2022	Announced it will increase operations in Cork.	CREATING APPROXIMATELY 120 JOBS OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS	Cork
Biomarin	April	10-year anniversary	N/A	Ringaskiddy
NS1	April 2022	Announced it is to establish a presence in Cork.	CREATION OF 30 ENGINEERING JOBS.	Cork

Nasuni	March 2022	New Innovation Centre announced for Cork	55 NEW ENGINEERING JOBS OVER THREE YEARS	Cork
Janssen	March 2022	Expansion of its biopharmaceutical supply chain facility with an investment of €150m	POTENTIAL TO CREATE 180 NEW FULL-TIME JOBS	Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork
Convergint	November 2021	Convergint celebrated its 20th anniversary with the announcement of significant growth and business momentum reported throughout Ireland, including its most recent technology centre opening in Cork	50 JOBS OVER 24 MONTHS	Across all regions
Alter Domus	October 2021	Official opening of its new European Centre of Excellence	80 JOBS	Cork
Boston Scientific	September 2021	€30 million investment in R&D	EXPECTED TO GENERATE 70 JOBS OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS	Cork
Zazzle	September 2021	Expansion of its European HQ	50 JOBS OVER THREE YEARS	Cork
Eli Lilly	July 2021	Opened the largest Solar Farm in the Republic of Ireland. Developed in a joint venture by Eli Lilly and Company and Enerpower, the 16-acre facility will help power a significant proportion of the Lilly plant at its Dunderrow site (near Kinsale) with sustainable energy.	N/A	Cork
Qorvo	June 2021	Dublin IC Design Centre expansion and opening of a new IC Design Centre Cork	100 JOBS DUBLIN & CORK	Dublin and Cork
Accenture	June 2021	Expanding the innovation capability at the Accenture Labs to include quantum computing and adding new roles at The Dock, Accenture's flagship R&D and Innovation Centre, Cork	500 JOBS OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS	Cork and the wider Munster area
Varonis	June 2021	Official opening of its new office in Penrose Dock	60 JOBS OVER 3 YEARS	Cork
Tigera	May 2021	New EMEA HQ	35	Cork
Ellab	May 2021	Expansion and job announcement	20	Cork
Merck Millipore	April 2021	The investment is to enable to company to double its production of a key component in Covid-19 rapid diagnostic kits	€36M INVESTMENT	Cork
Innowatts	April 2021	Expansion and creation of European HQ	40	Cork

Microchip	February 2021	New development centre to open Q1 2021.	€20M/60 OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS AND APPROXIMATELY 200 JOBS WITHIN THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS	Cork
Huawei	February 2021	Job Announcement and Investment in R&D	€80M/110 JOBS	Cork and Athlone
Logitech	January 2021	New roles including design, engineering, IT and supply chain functions.	50	Cork
Medallia	January 2021	Expansion	100	Cork
SGS	January 2021	100 employees working in Novartis Laboratories will transfer to SGS	100	Cork
CH Robinson	January 2021	New Technology Centre	30	Cork
Alter Domus	January 2021	Job announcement	100	Cork

County Kerry

Company Name	Month, Year	Brief Description	Jobs/Investment	Town
Astellas Pharma Inc	September 2023	Intention to submit a planning application to build a new state-of-the-art facility, at an approximate cost of €330 million in Tralee, Co. Kerry.	€330 million 100 jobs	Tralee
Liebherr Container Cranes	May 2023	Launch of a major research partnership between Liebherr and LERO to further develop smart systems for the next generation of Container Cranes		Killarney
Astellas	September 2022	Opening of a new laboratory to celebrate 30 years located in Killorglin, Co. Kerry		Killorglin
MetPro	November 2021	Announced an expansion with the creation 15 jobs over three years.	15	Tralee