

MONITORING REPORT ON INTEGRATION 2022

Frances McGinnity, Stefanie Sprong, Emma Quinn,
James Laurence, Keire Murphy, Sarah Curristan

DATE

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EVENT

EMN conference: *New
Insights on Migrant
Integration in Ireland*

AUTHORS

Frances McGinnity, Stefanie
Sprong, Emma Quinn, James
Laurence, Keire Murphy and
Sarah Curristan



Aims and Scope I

- How are migrants faring in key areas of their lives in Ireland ('integration domains')?
- Integration - 'the process of *becoming* an accepted part of society' - has important consequences for migrants and their host society
- Ongoing monitoring - 8th in series of monitors - provides policymakers and the general public with facts to assess integration and respond to policy challenges.
- Focus is on integration outcomes, though policy included, i.e. *the Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2021*

Aims and Scope II

- Migrants = those born abroad (18% of the population in 2021)
- Comparing outcomes of the foreign- and Irish-born population in four key domains:

I Employment

II Education

III Social
Inclusion

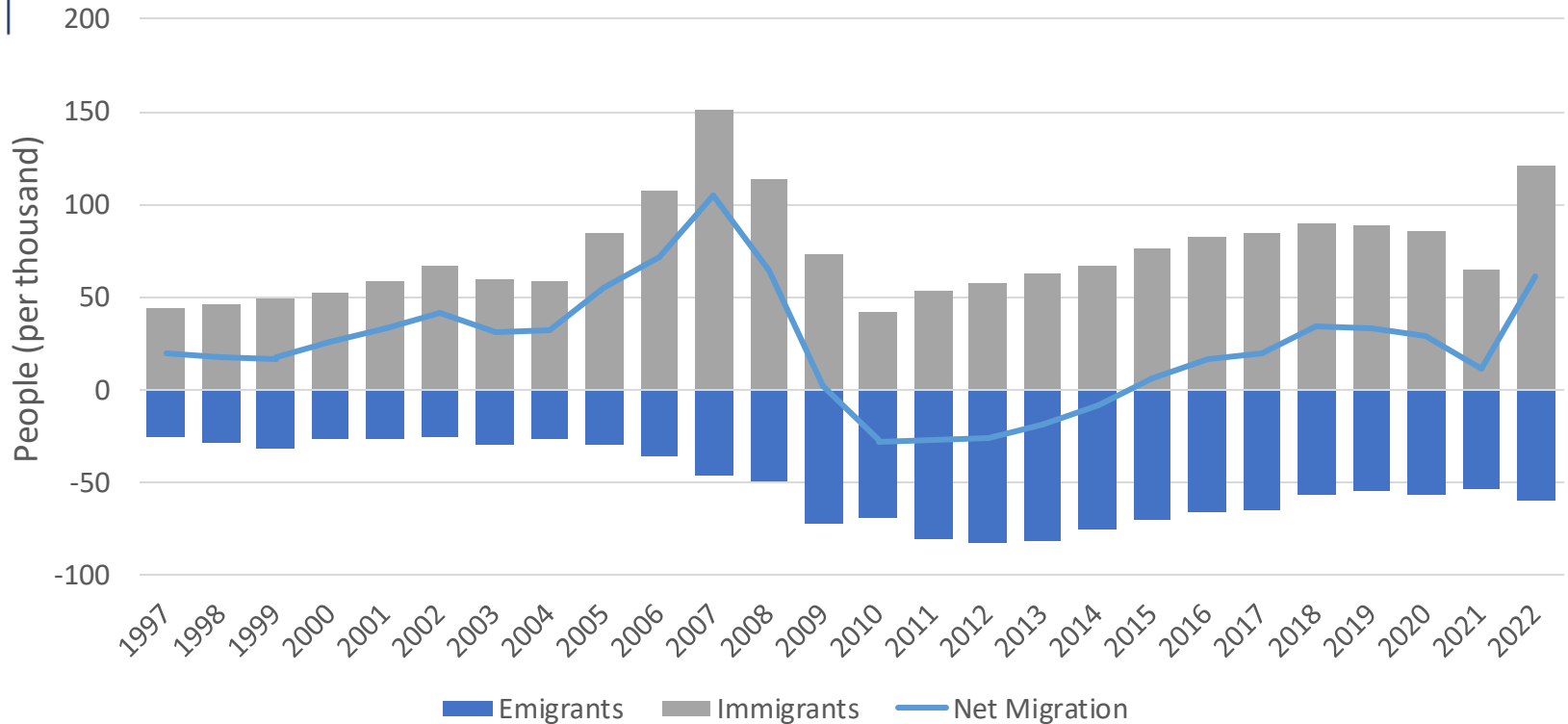
IV Active
Citizenship

- Migrant population is diverse: where possible, further distinctions by region of origin

Aims and Scope III

- Based on the best available repeated representative data and indicators, yet, to have consistent indicators:
 - Several important areas are not considered (e.g. job quality and English language skills – but see (Laurence et al 2023; McGinnity et al 2020))
 - No sense of the lived experience of integration
 - Certain groups underrepresented and broad place-of-birth categories used (Africans, Asians)
 - Different data sources/years for different indicators/sometimes years combined

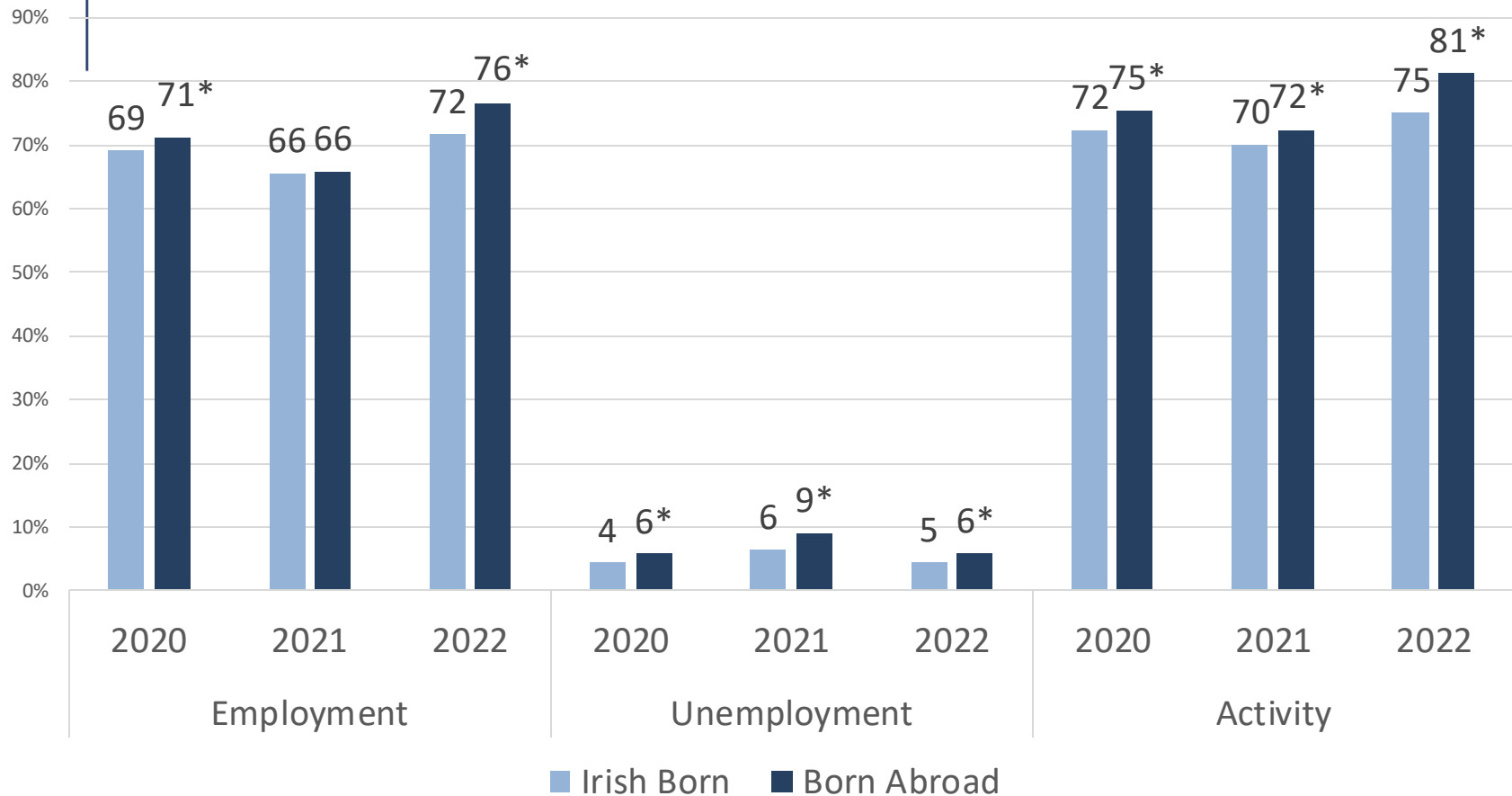
Context: Migration Trends (Ireland)



Source: CSO 'Population and Migration Estimates', various releases.

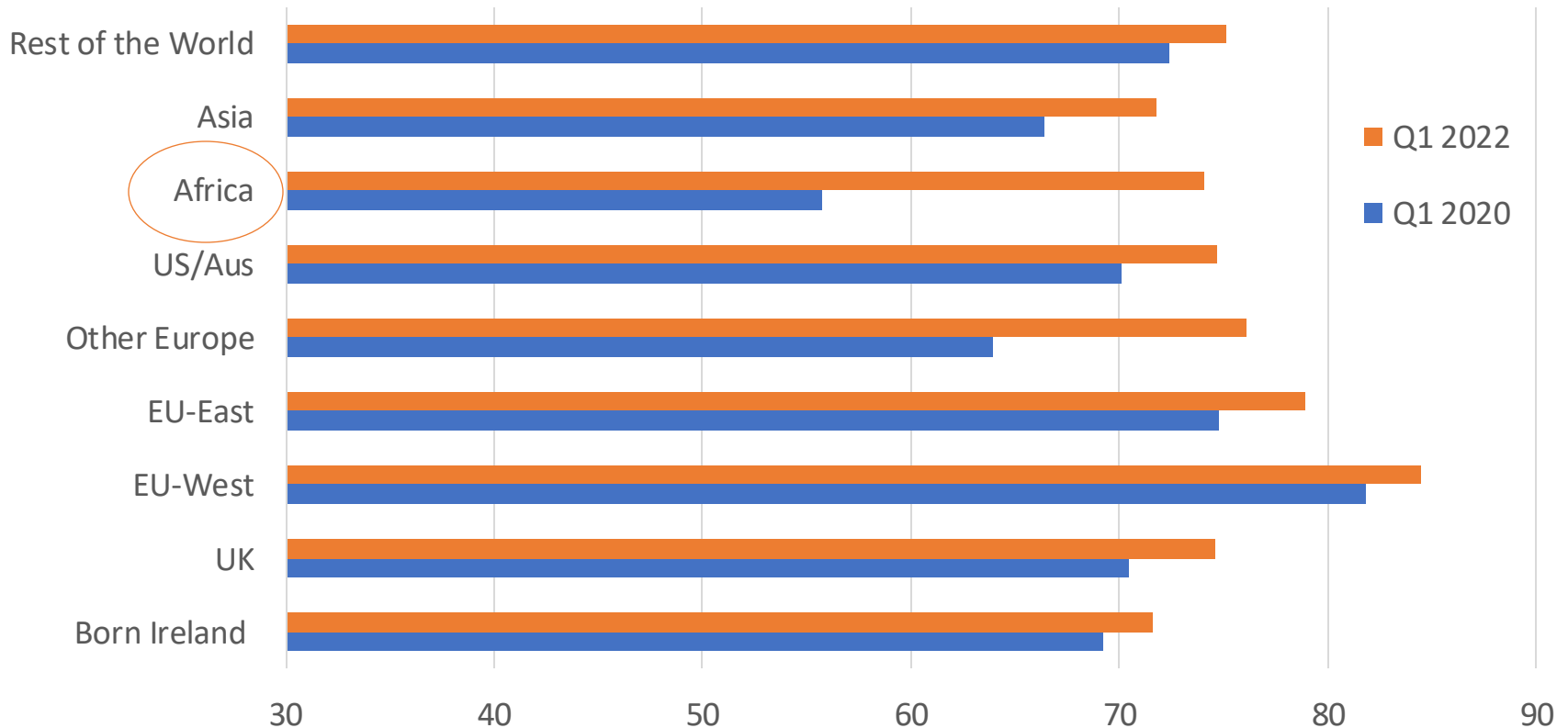
Note: The reference period for the population estimates is the end of April of each year, so 2022 estimates include the first wave of arrivals from Ukraine.

Key domain I: Labour market (LFS data, Q1)



Notes: Q1 of LFS 2020, 2021, 2022, working-age population (15–64). Employment, unemployment and economic activity are defined using the ILO definitions. *denotes where migrants significantly differ from Irish-born.

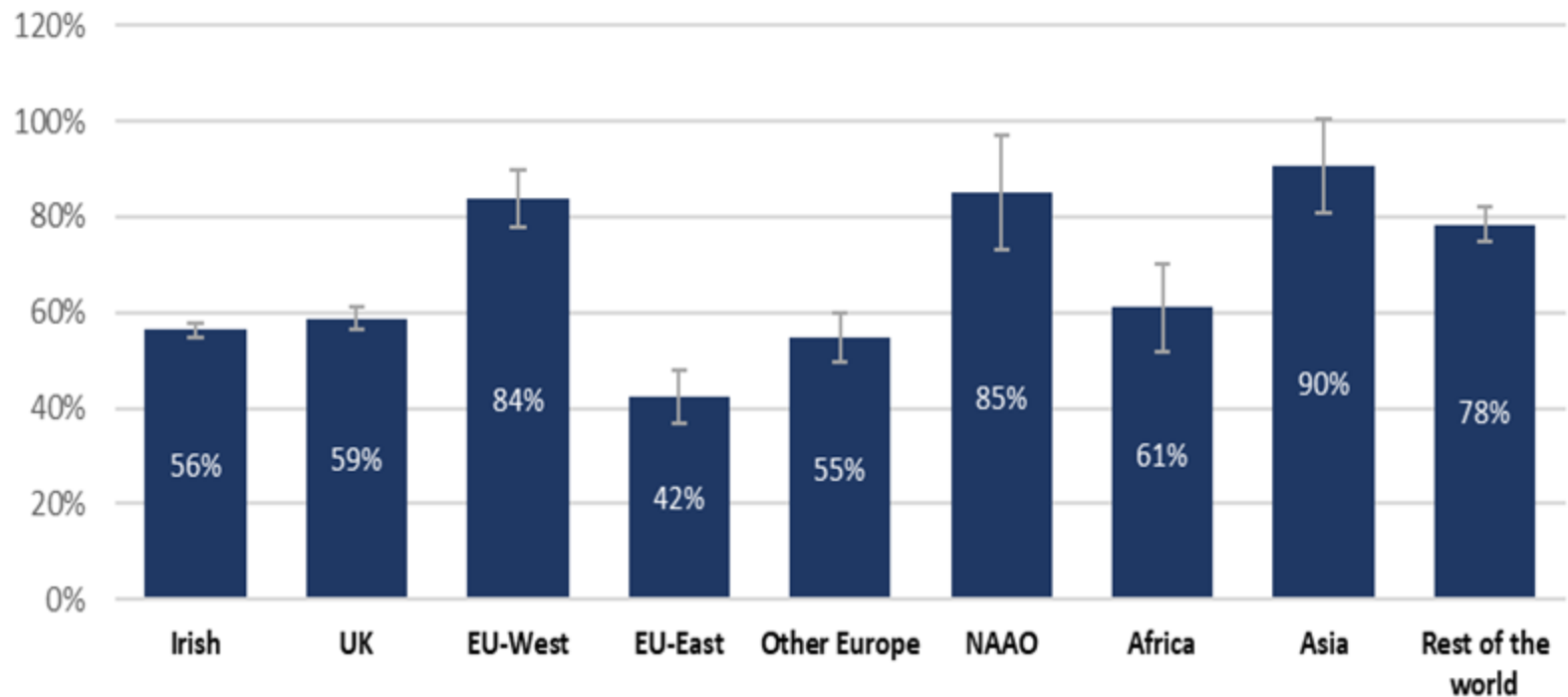
Employment rates by region of origin, Q1 2020 & Q1 2022



Notes: Q1 of LFS 2020, 2022, working-age population (15–64). Employment defined as proportion of age cohort in work (ILO definition)

Key domain II: Education (Adults, LFS)

People aged 25-34 with tertiary education by place of birth



Source: Labour Force Survey Q1 2020, Q1 2021 and Q1 2022 (pooled), weighted.

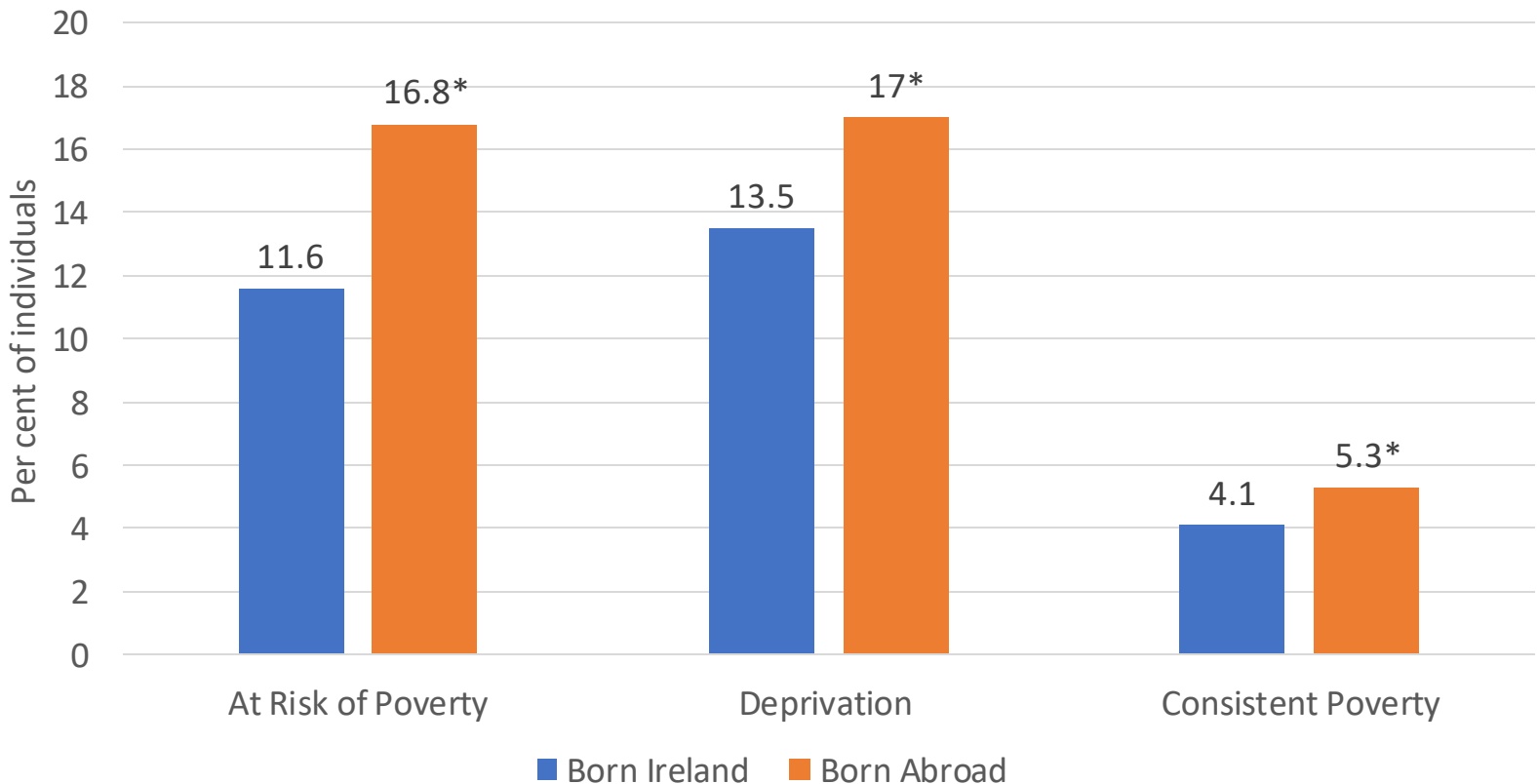
Note: Figure shows percentages and the 95 per cent confidence intervals by group.

NAAO – North America, Australia and Oceania.

II Education (Achievement at school)

- No updated OECD PISA data so use *Growing Up in Ireland '98* Cohort (first sampled in 2007/2008 at age 9)
- Compare Irish-origin to migrant-origin young people (those with one or more parents born abroad ~25%)
- Students of migrant origin in this cohort have similar Leaving Cert participation rates to Irish-origin peers (around 95%) and similar Leaving Certificate points to Irish-origin peers
- Consistent with other research using this cohort on educational expectations (Sprong and Devitt, 2022), and transitions to higher education (McGinnity, Darmody, Smyth, forthcoming 2023).

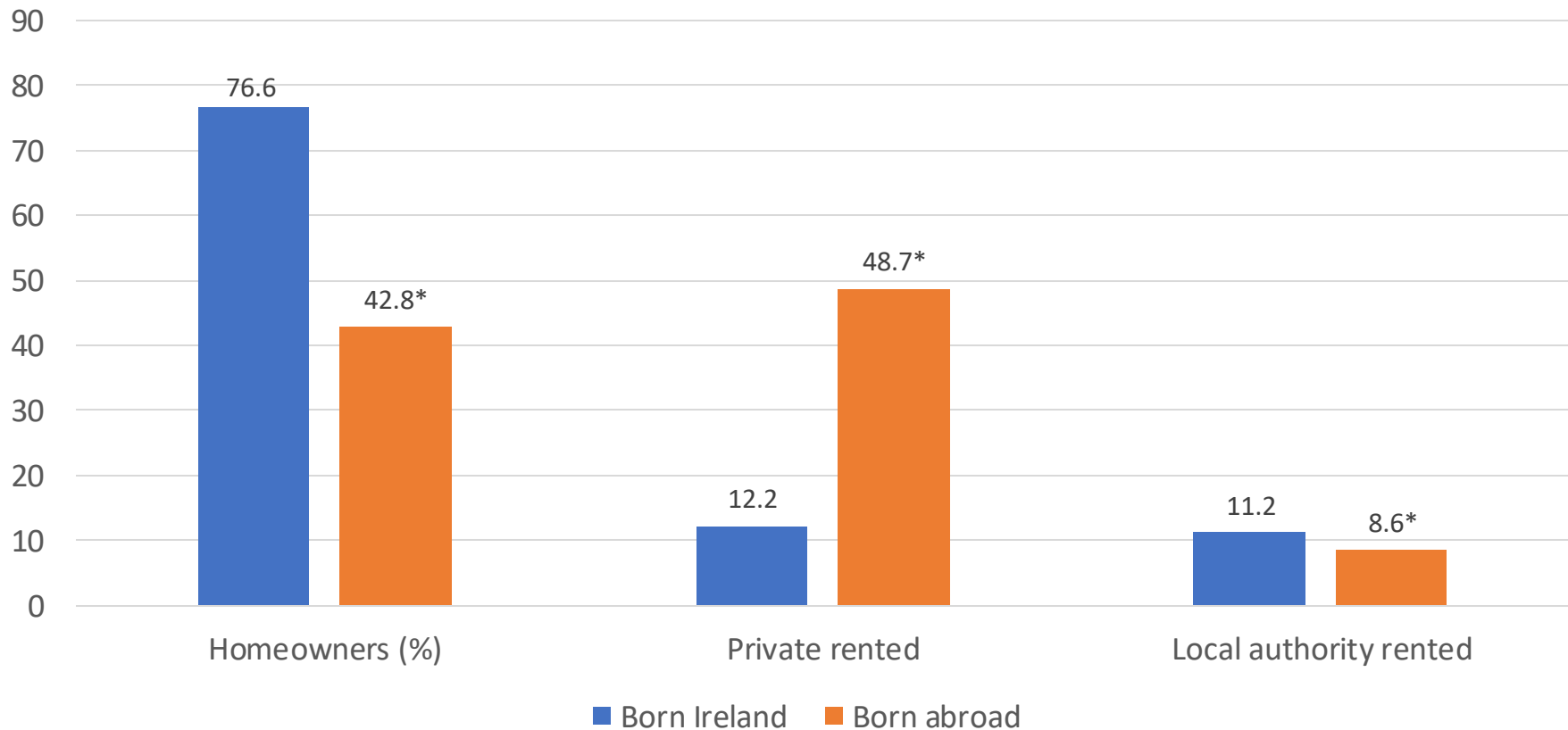
Key domain III: Social inclusion (Income & Poverty, 2020-2021 pooled)



Source: Own calculations from pooled SILC 2020 and 2021, weighted.

*denotes where migrants significantly differ from Irish-born.

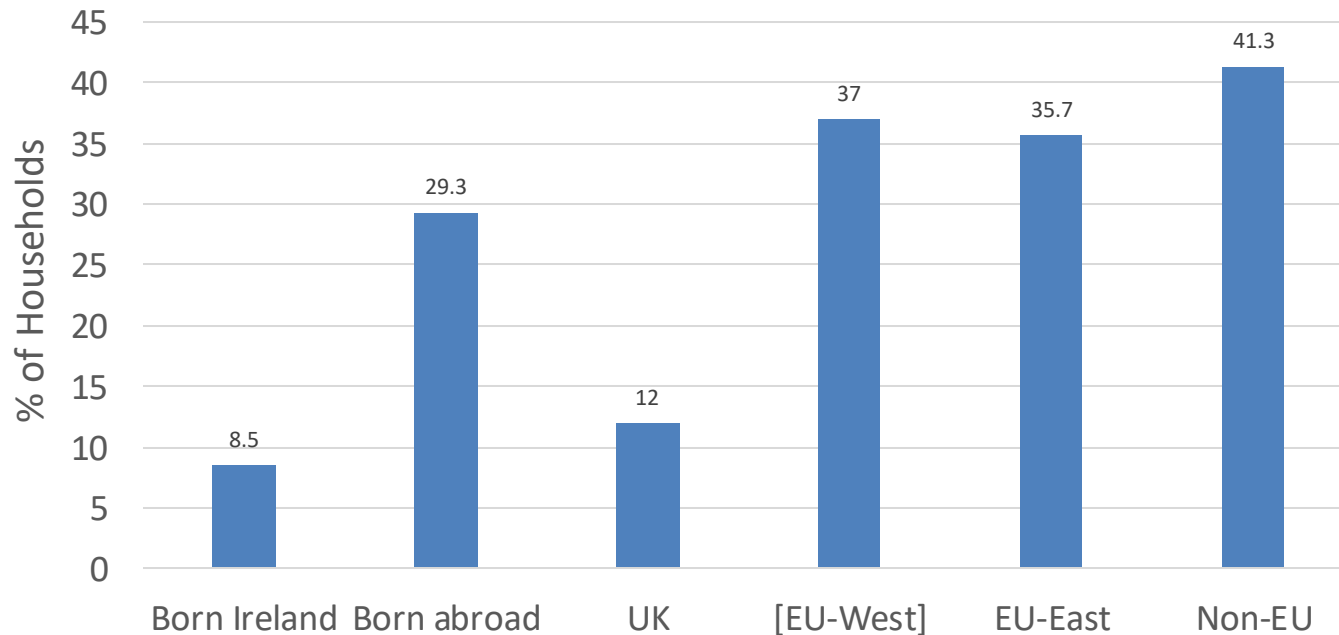
Housing tenure: Born Ireland v born Abroad (per cent of households)



Source: Own calculations from pooled SILC 2020 and 2021, weighted. Households are classified based on the place of birth of the household reference person. A small number of households living rent-free excluded analysis. *denotes where migrants significantly differ from Irish-born.

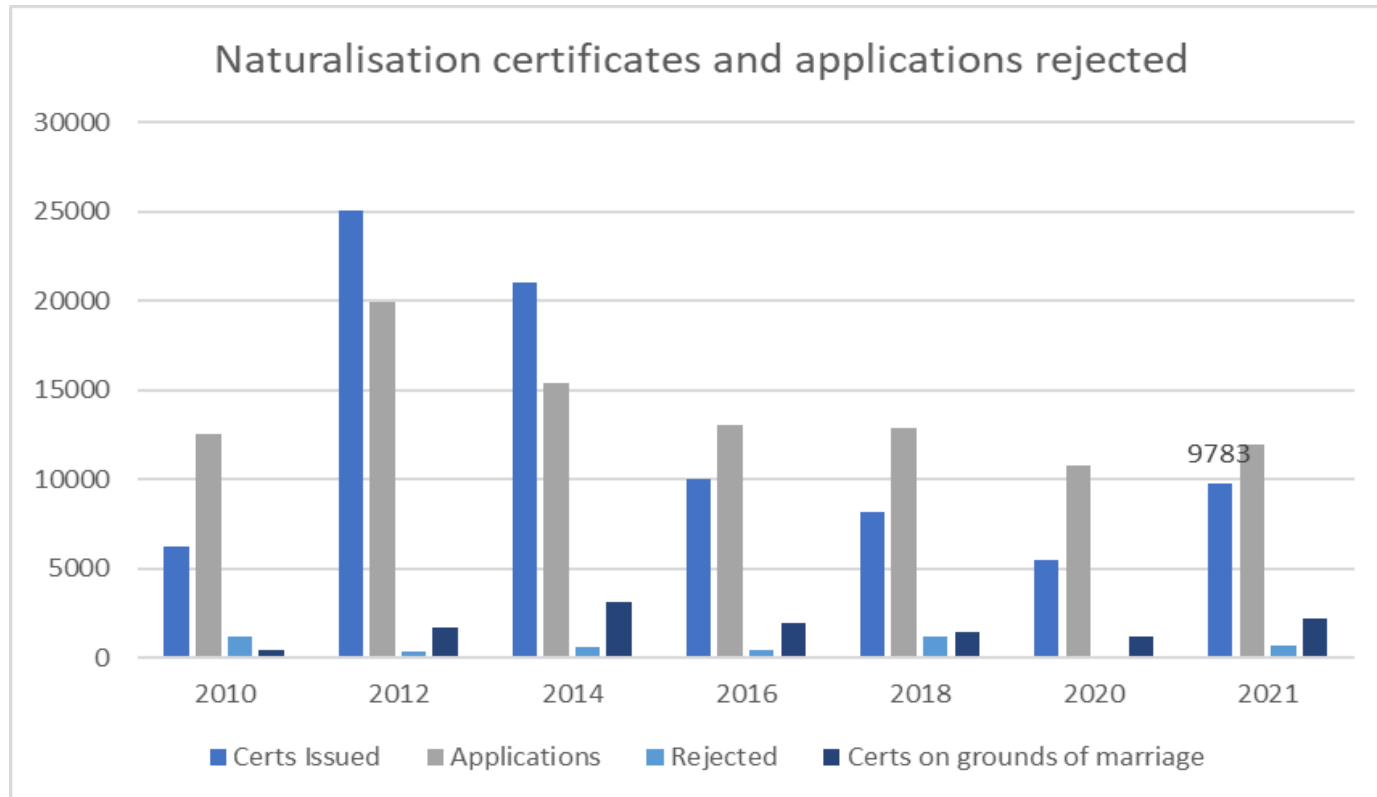
Key domain III Spotlight: Housing Affordability

Percent of households who spend >30% of income on housing costs by region of birth



Source: Pooled 2020 & 2021 SILC data (income reflecting 2019 and 2020), weighted.
Households are classified based on the place of birth of the household reference person.
EU-West estimate based on a small number of households, so no exact number presented.

Key domain IV: Citizenship (2010-2021)

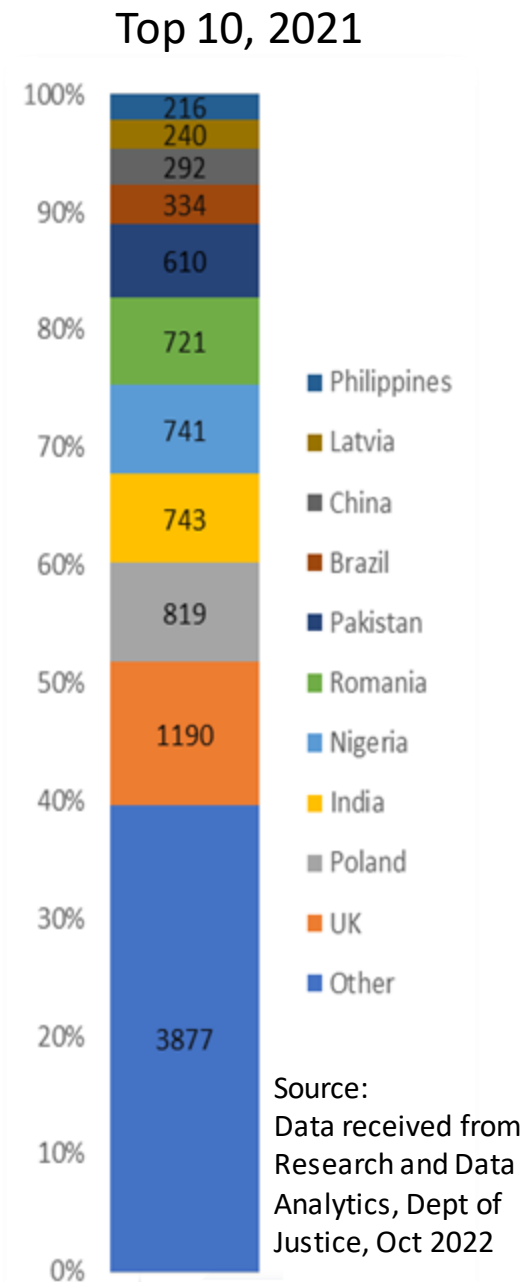


Source: Data received from Research and Data Analytics, Department of Justice, Oct 2022.

- In 2021, 0.7 per cent of non-EEA migrants aged 16+ holding live immigration permissions were long-term residents (v low)

Key domain IV: Citizenship (DoJ data, end 2021)

- Of the total 9783 people that acquired citizenship through naturalisation in 2021, most were (former) British, Polish, Indian and Nigerian nationals.
- In total 116,686 non-EEA (excluding UK) nationals (aged 16+) acquired Irish citizenship between 2005 and 2021
- Around 38% of the resident adult population of non-EEA origin has acquired citizenship between 2005 and 2021 (assuming most stayed)



Future monitoring and data

- Usefulness of monitoring integration outcomes depends on the quality and availability of data.
- There is a clear need for:
 - More/bigger migrant and ethnic minority samples, including harder to reach groups (e.g. international protections applicants)
 - Available administrative data e.g example with Ukrainians (CSO)
 - More indicators of integration and related factors (e.g. on language skills) as well as on ethnicity (NAPAR)
 - Supplement with research on the lived experiences of migrants/consult with groups affected

Policy issues – old and new

- Findings underscore **importance of renewing the MI Strategy (2017-2021)** – which has now expired
- **Housing and homelessness** - issues with housing crucial; need to make housing a priority in next *Migrant Integration Strategy*
- For disadvantaged/low-income migrants (& other disadvantaged groups) – increase provision of local authority/social housing so not competing for rented property
- For migrants who can afford it, reduce some barriers to accessing mortgage credit

Policy issues II

- **English language support and qualifications recognition** - persistent issues in labour market
- Important to consider the role of **discrimination** – the *National Action Plan Against Racism* represents a significant opportunity
- **Targeted supports for international protection applicants and Ukrainian refugees** important, given particular challenges

Key “take-home messages”

- **Labour market:** High overall employment rates among all migrant groups, remarkable recovery after COVID, including for African born
- **Education:** Foreign-born population (mostly) highly qualified and migrant-origin children in Irish schools are faring relatively well
- **Social inclusion:** Migrants are somewhat more exposed to poverty and social exclusion, and esp to housing challenges
- **Citizenship:** Estimate that at least than 1 in 3 migrants from non-EEA origin (excluding UK) is now an Irish citizen. More and more EU East and UK migrants are naturalising

Further reading

This report available for download:

<https://doi.org/10.26504/jr3>

It's part of a programme of research on equality and integration :

<https://www.esri.ie/current-research/integration-and-equality-research-programme>

Any questions or comments?

Research Programme on Equality and Integration

Some research programme publications:

- COVID and non-Irish nationals; measures to combat discrimination and promote diversity; housing and family among migrants in Ireland; wages and working conditions.

