

Results of Training Survey for South Dublin 2015

During April – June 2015, a focussed survey of 200 local business owners and managers was carried out across South Dublin County, following on from the Economic Profile Survey carried out across 4500 business premises in South Dublin during 2014. These businesses then went on to complete a detailed series of questions looking at:

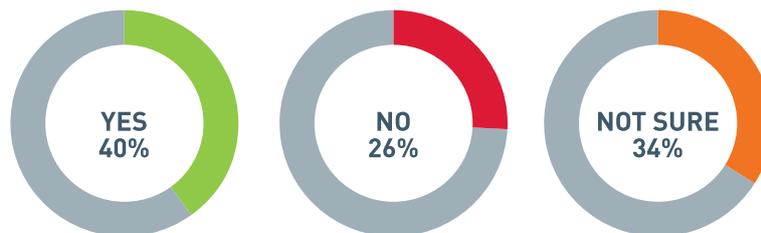
- Their current business operations and situation
- The likelihood that they will expand their business by increasing employment, and the level of education that they look for in employees
- Their current and future plans for exporting
- Their experience with apprenticeships in Ireland
- Their attitude to continued professional development and training
- Their expectations and desires for training of staff

The information following gives a summary of the responses that were given to a sample of the questions posed to respondents. In cases where questions were open ended these are not included here but will be included in future analysis and research.

Employment Outlook

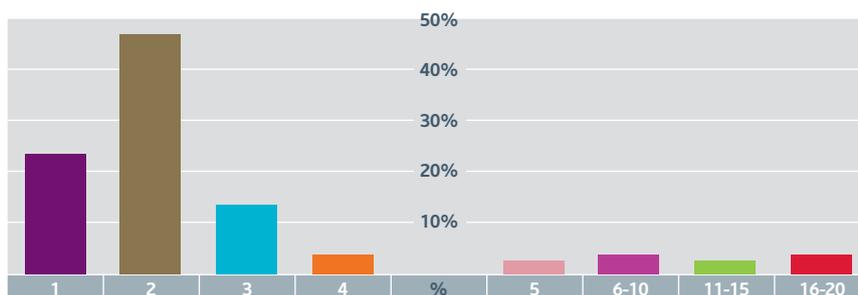
Do you intend to take on new staff in coming months?

40% of business owners were sure that they would be recruiting in coming months, with only 26% saying that it looked unlikely.



If Yes, how many staff do you intend on recruiting?

47% of business owners indicated that they would be taking on 2 staff during the coming year. This is a very positive indicator of growth in the county. Over 30% of businesses indicated that they would be taking on between 3-20 staff.



Breakdown of Respondents

Sectors of Business Identified

The chart below shows the business sectors that were identified as part of this survey. These sectors were self-identified by the business owners / managers. The biggest sectors identified were **Construction (18%)**, **Professional Services (15%)** and **Distribution (15%)**. The smallest sectors identified were Energy (1%), Tourism and Travel (1%) and Pharmaceutical (1%).

Medical & Healthcare	9.0%
Pharmaceutical	1.0%
Professional Services	15.2%
Recreation	3.3%
Retail	13.3%
Science & Technology	1.9%
Tourism & Travel	1.0%
Transportation	4.8%



Agriculture & Fishing	1.9%
Construction	18.1%
Distribution	15.2%
Education	8.1%
Energy	0.5%
Financial Services	1.4%
ICT	3.8%
Industrial & Manufacturing	11.9%

Number of Employees

In order to get a representative sample of the businesses across the county, **businesses of varied size** (identified as the largest sectors / employers) were sampled.

21-40 Employees	11%
41-60 Employees	4%
61-100 Employees	4%
101-250 Employees	2%
251+ Employees	2%



Sole Trader	3%
1 Employee	2%
2-5 Employees	29%
6-10 Employees	21%
11-20 Employees	23%

Training

Do you see a value in continued professional development?

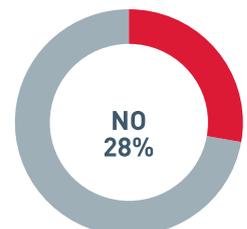
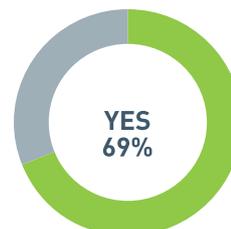
Over **95%** of respondents identified Continued Professional Development as **valuable or extremely valuable**.

How important is staff / management training to your operation?

Over **90%** of respondents identified training as **important or extremely important** to their operation.

In the past year, have you or your staff undertaken any (organisation/job) relevant training?

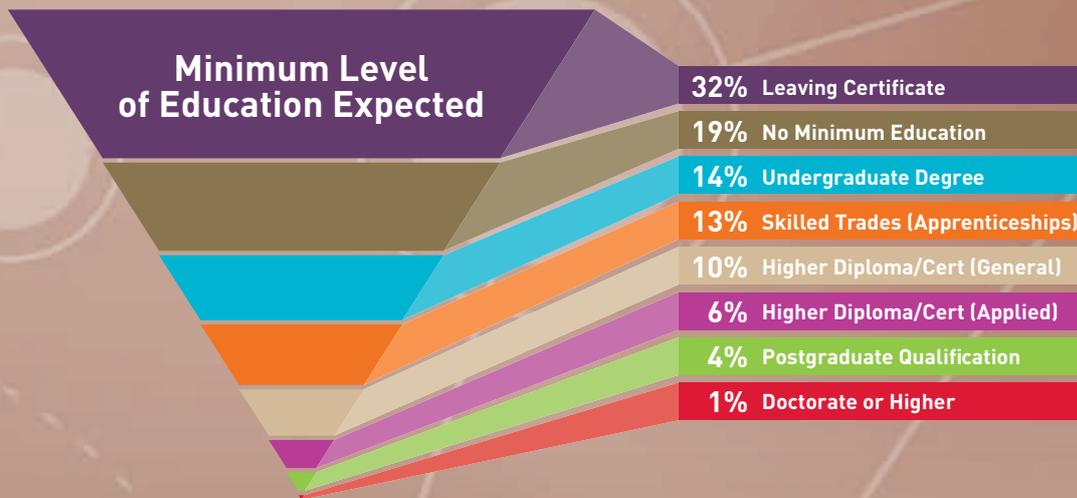
Almost **70%** of respondent businesses have carried out some relevant training within the past year.



Training (continued)

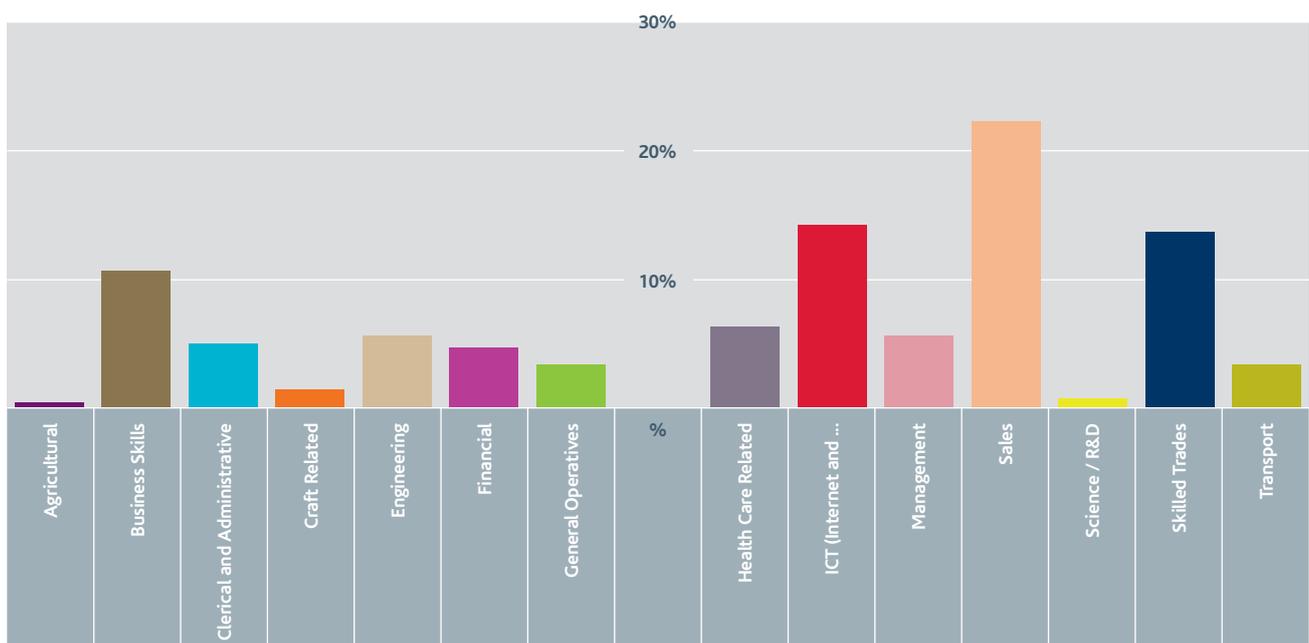
Was this training Internally or Externally Sourced?

Most training was sourced externally (using consultants / trainers or other experts).



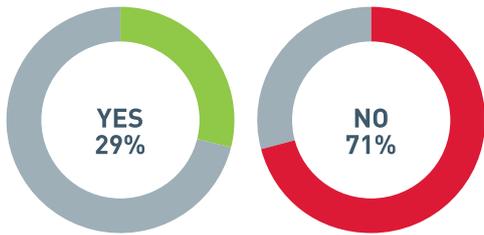
Identify your Number One training Priority?

Sales were identified as the highest priority area for training needs in business, closely followed by Internet Communications and Technology, Business Skills and Skilled Trades also being very important.

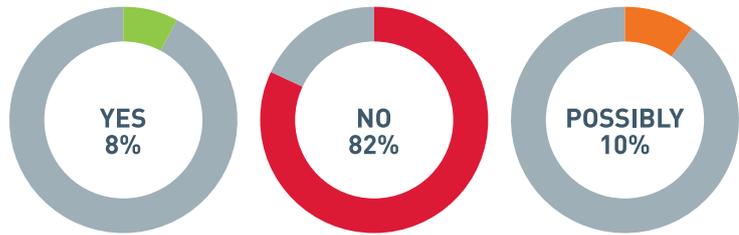


Exporting

Does your company export?



If no, does your company have plans to export

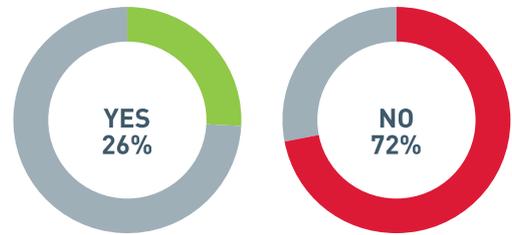


Almost 30% of businesses who responded are currently exporting, with 18% of those not currently exporting expecting that they may export in future

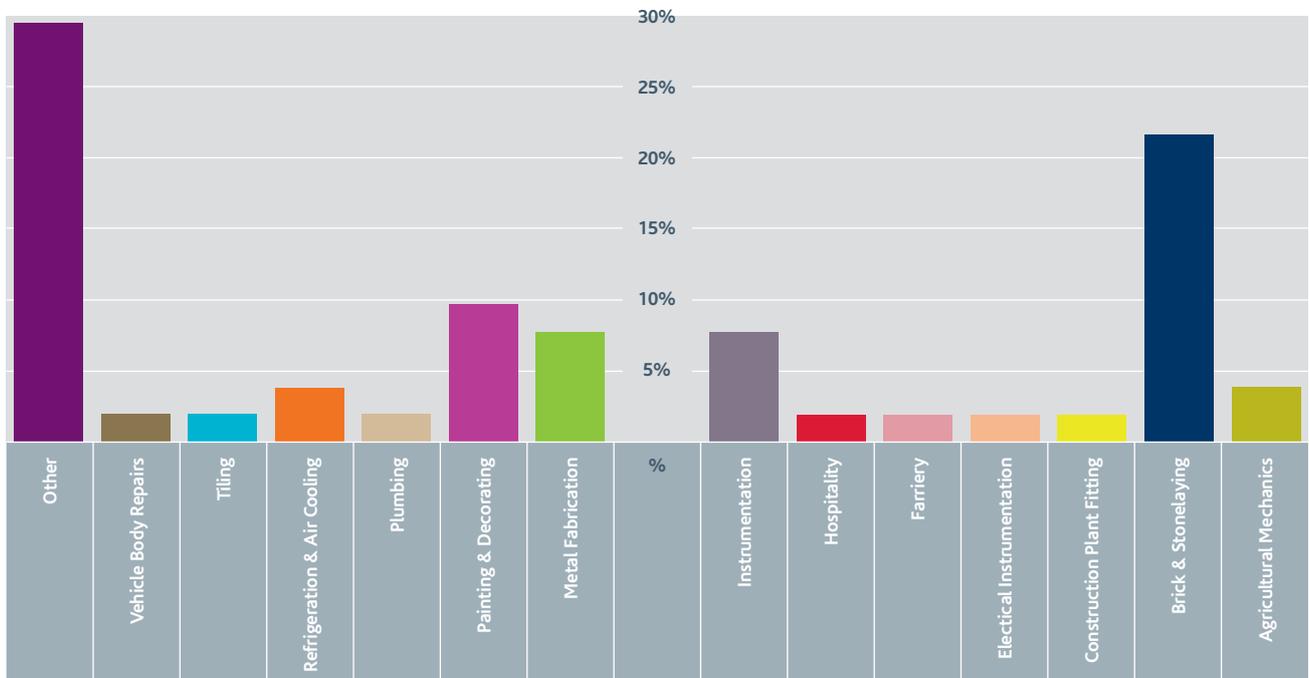
Apprenticeships

Are apprenticeships relevant to your organisation?

Skilled trades were identified by respondents as a priority training areas, with over a quarter of businesses recognising that apprenticeships were particularly relevant to the operation of their business.



Which types of Apprenticeships are relevant?



Other apprenticeship types identified included: Hairdressing, Barbering, Printing, Accountancy, Green Keeping and the Arts.

Download the full report and view updates at www.sdcc.ie or www.localenterprise.ie/SouthDublin or www.sdchamber.ie

For further details contact Andrea Carroll, Sustainable Business Executive, South Dublin Chamber on 01 462 2100 or the South Dublin Local Enterprise Office at 01 4057073