

# The Irish labour market for young people; employment and precariousness

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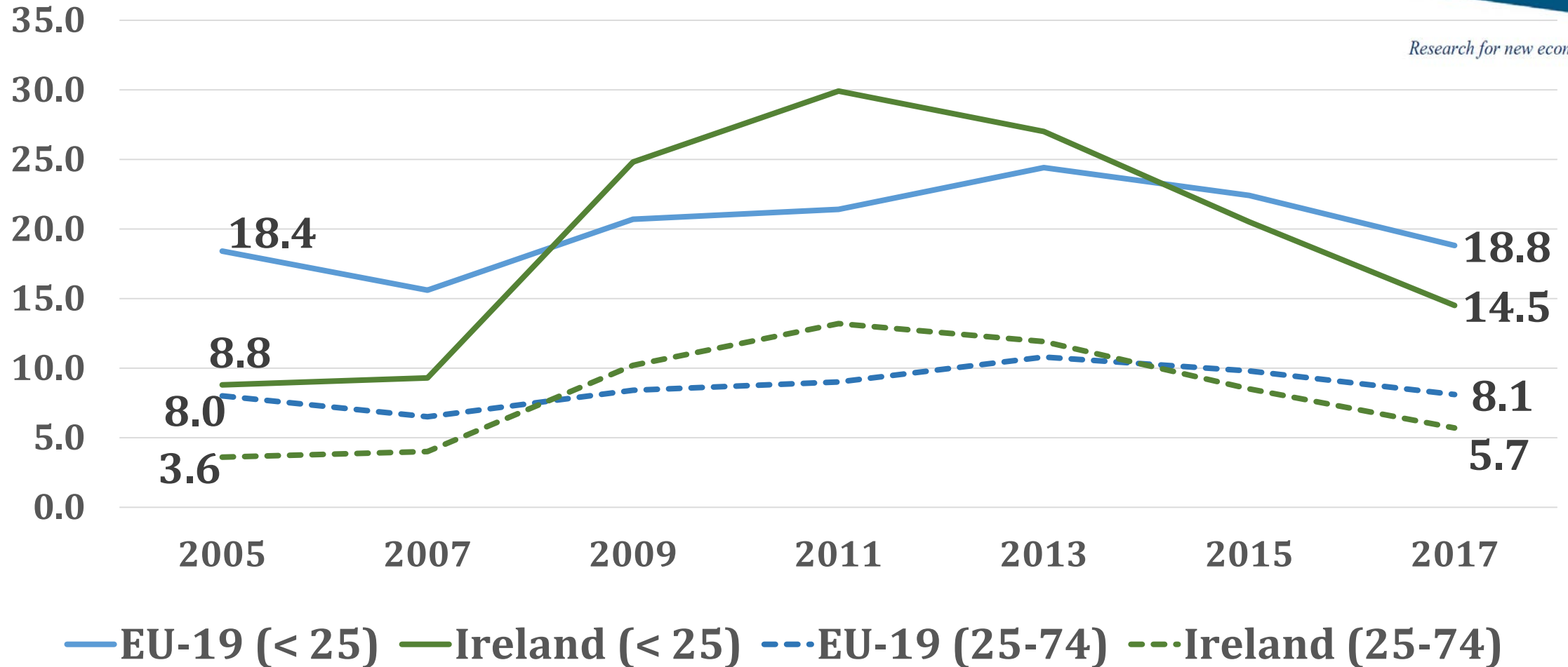


*Research for new economic policies*

Some of the findings of:

- McDonnell, T & Nugent, C. (2018). Labour Market Trends in the Republic of Ireland, NERI Working Paper Series No. 53
- Nugent, C. (2017). A time-series analysis of precarious work in the elementary professions in Ireland, NERI Working Paper Series No. 43
- Nugent, C. (2018). Wages in Ireland 2008-2016, NERI Research inBrief.
- Nugent, C. (2017). Intergenerational Inequality In Ireland, NERI Research inBrief .

# Youth Unemployment (EUROSTAT)



- The national figure peaked at 15.9% in 2012

# Not in employment, education or training (NEET), 20-34 yrs (EUROSTAT)

GEO/TIME	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
EU	16.5	18.5	19.1	19.3	19.9	20.1	19.4	18.9	18.3	17.2
Euro area (19)	16.6	18.9	19.3	19.4	20.2	20.5	20.2	19.7	19.1	18.0
Belgium	14.8	16.3	16.3	16.9	17.3	18.2	17.3	18.1	17.2	16.5
Denmark	6.7	8.3	9.5	10.0	10.4	9.9	9.8	10.2	10.0	11.8
Germany	15.6	15.8	15.0	13.5	13.0	12.6	12.5	12.2	12.4	11.9
Ireland	17.7	23.0	24.6	26.0	25.0	22.5	21.0	19.5	17.7	16.1
Greece	19.2	20.2	23.7	29.5	34.4	36.7	34.9	32.4	30.5	28.8
Spain	17.0	22.5	23.0	24.2	26.7	27.4	25.9	24.2	22.8	20.8
France	15.8	18.2	18.3	18.6	19.1	17.4	18.0	19.0	18.9	18.2
Italy	22.7	24.8	26.5	27.1	28.5	31.7	32.0	31.6	30.7	29.5
Luxembourg	12.2	10.1	9.0	9.1	10.0	10.2	9.6	9.7	9.9	9.1
Netherlands	6.8	7.5	8.2	8.6	9.5	10.8	11.0	10.1	9.7	9.0
Austria	11.3	11.9	11.8	10.8	10.4	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.0	10.6
Portugal	13.5	14.9	16.2	16.0	19.3	20.0	18.1	16.1	16.2	13.5
Finland	11.2	13.8	13.7	13.3	13.7	14.2	15.1	15.5	15.0	14.5
Sweden	9.2	11.3	9.8	9.2	9.6	9.0	8.8	8.5	8.3	7.8
UK	15.5	17.1	17.2	17.9	17.8	17.1	15.8	15.1	14.8	13.7

# Precariousness

- **Context**

- An international rise in non-standard employment (NSE)
- Increasing attention in the policy sphere to precarious work with globalization and automation; the future of work, decent work, job quality.
- The share of working-poor has also been rising for decades- continued to rise in Ireland until 2014 with a slight dip in 2015.
- Broad consensus on the impact of precarious work on health and well-being.

# Literature

- **Conceptualizing precarious work**
  - In a general sense it marks a shift in entrepreneurial risks and responsibilities on to workers (and the state).
- **Different aspects**
  - Income, insecurity of contract, insecurity of supports
- **At-risk categories**
  - Low-paid, marginal/involuntary part-time, involuntarily temporary, agency work, dependent self-employed (deliveroo) ...
- **Drivers**
  - Development models, institutional historical context, union density, austerity
- **Sectors**

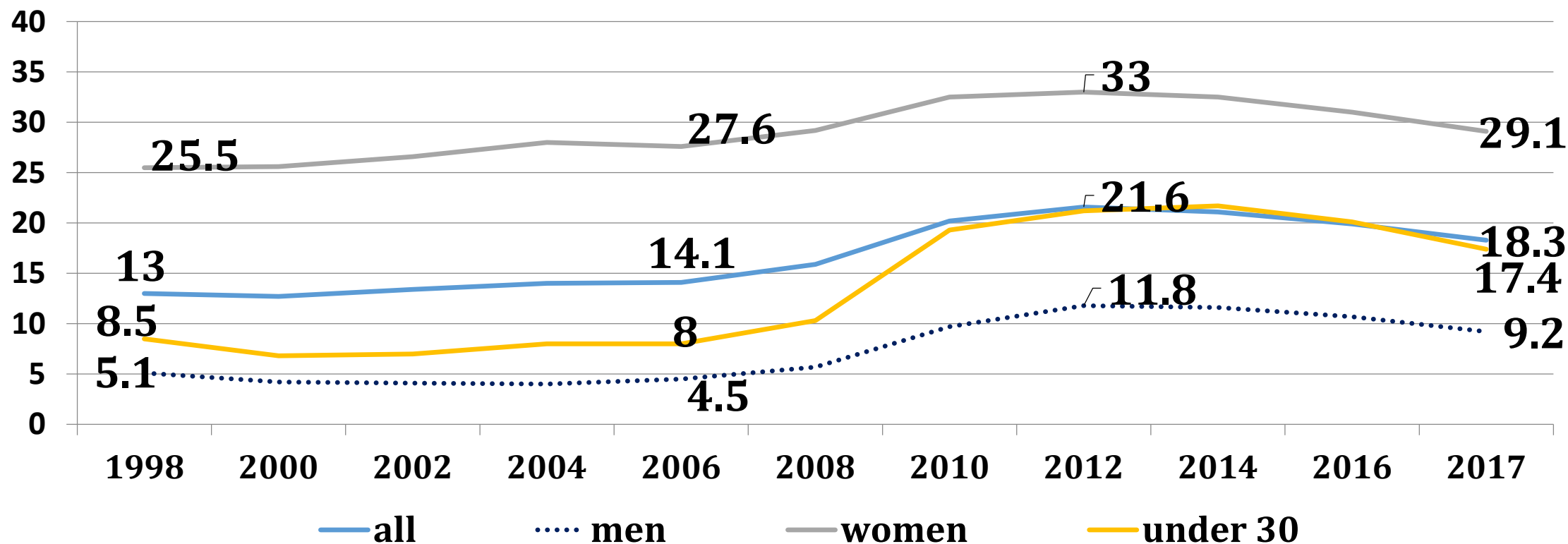
# **Precariousness**

**Focus here is on involuntary employment contracts:**

- **The involuntarily underemployed**
- **Involuntarily on fixed-term contracts**

# Structure of the workforce

## Part-time rate ('at work')



- (21.2% of employment in 2017, 19.2% of employees)
- 28.4% of employees under 30

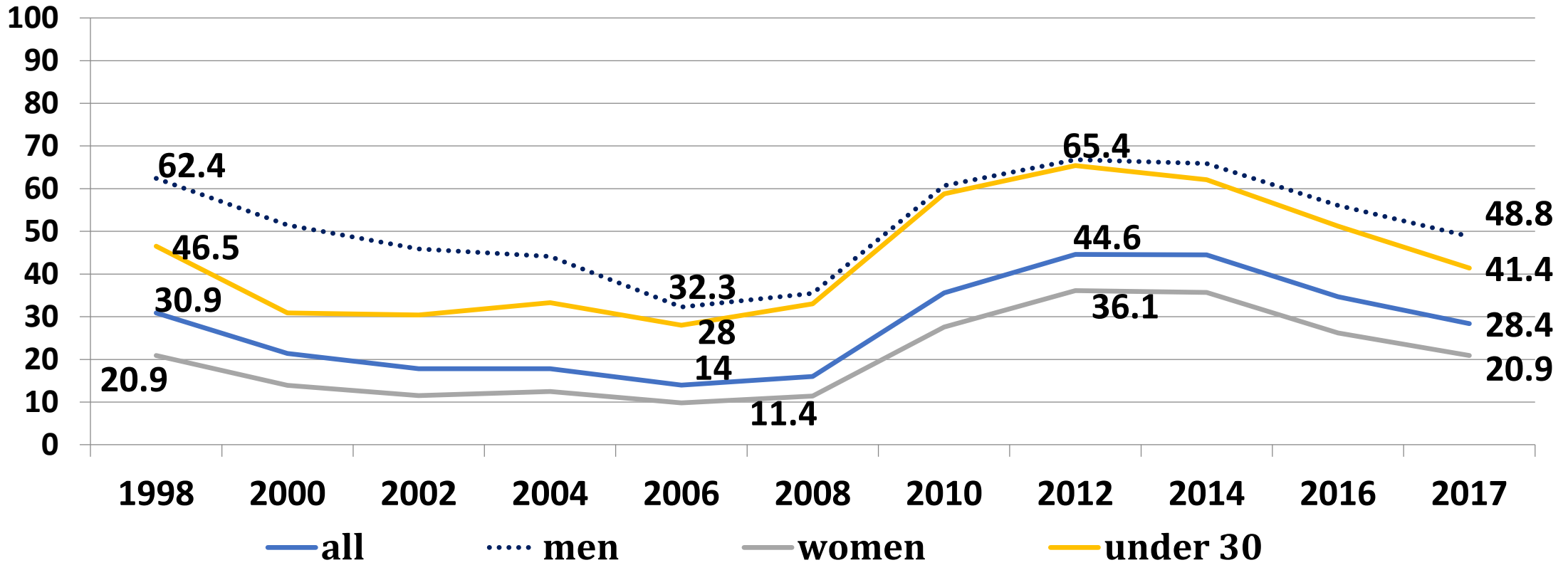
Source: CSO (2018) Labour Force Survey and author calculations.

Note: Part-time and 'at work'. (students not included)



# Involuntarily part-time (Underemployed)

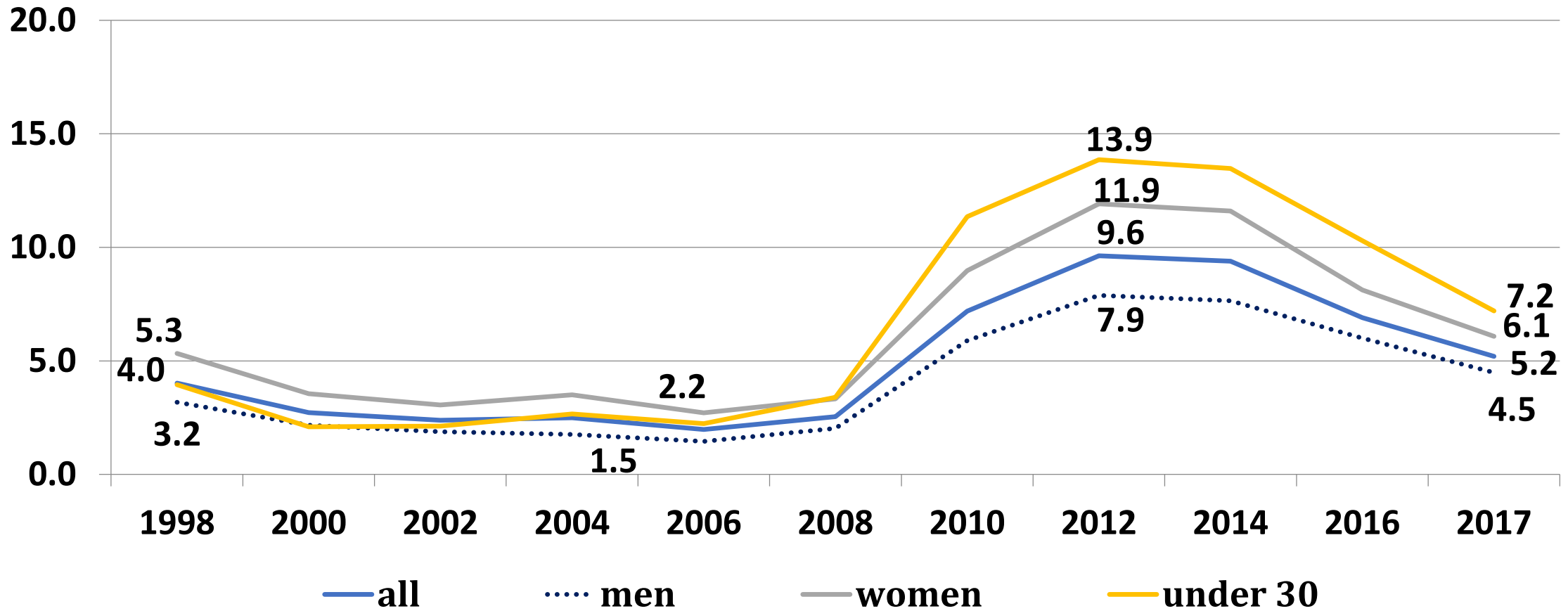
(Q: Why are you working part-time? Ans: I can't find a full-time job.)



Source: CSO (2018a) Labour Force Survey and authors calculations

Notes: Rates are for those who identify as 'at work' as their principal status and 'could not find a full-time job'.

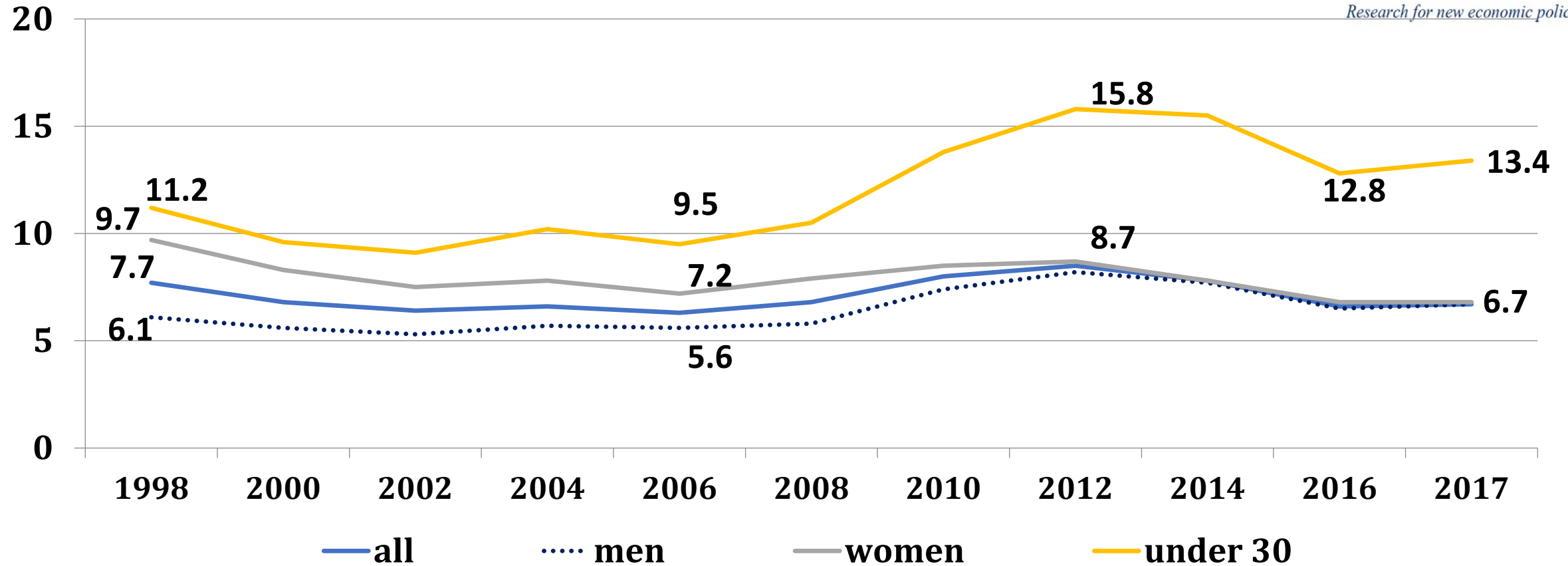
# Underemployed (% of those 'at work'), ROI, 1998-2017



Source: CSO (2018) Labour Force Survey and authors calculations

Notes: Rates are for those who identify as 'at work' as their principal status and 'could not find a full-time job'.

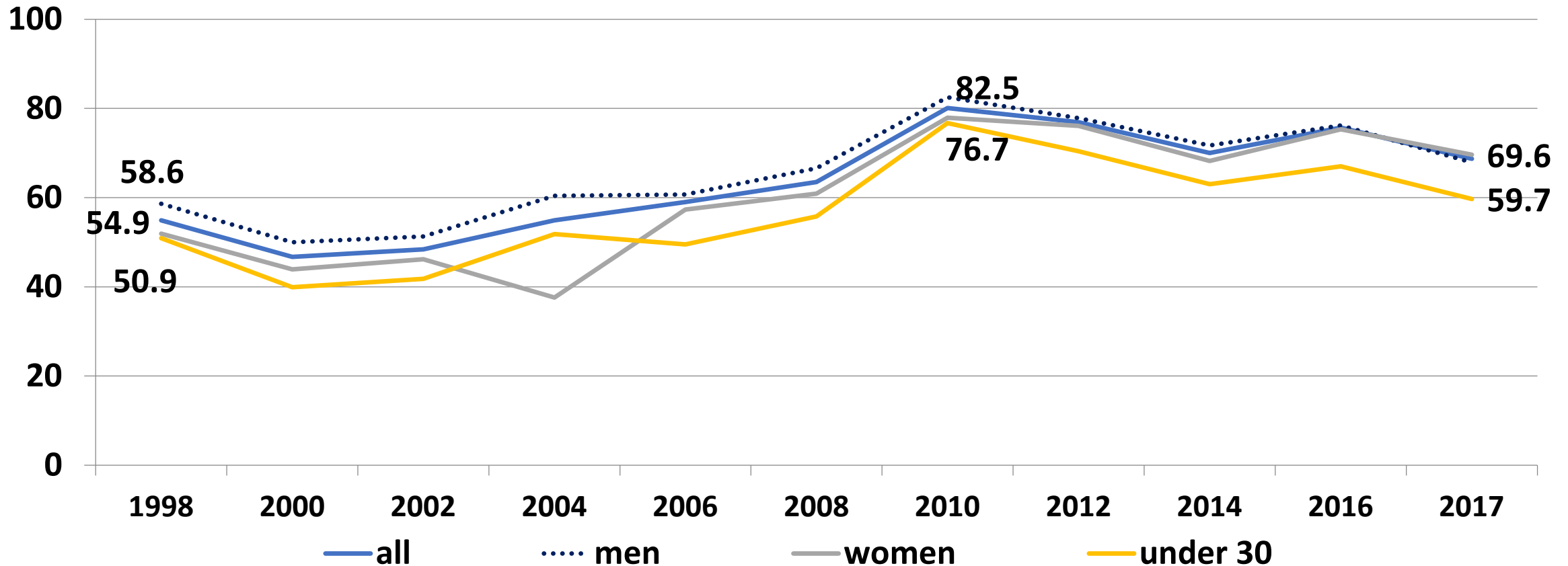
# Temporary Contract Rate, ROI, 1998-2017



**Notes:** These figures include only those who self-identify as 'at work'. See also blog on temporary contracts at: <https://www.nerinstitute.net/blog/2018/04/30/temporary-contracts-what-we-might-not-know-from-su/>

**Source:** CSO (2018) and authors calculations.

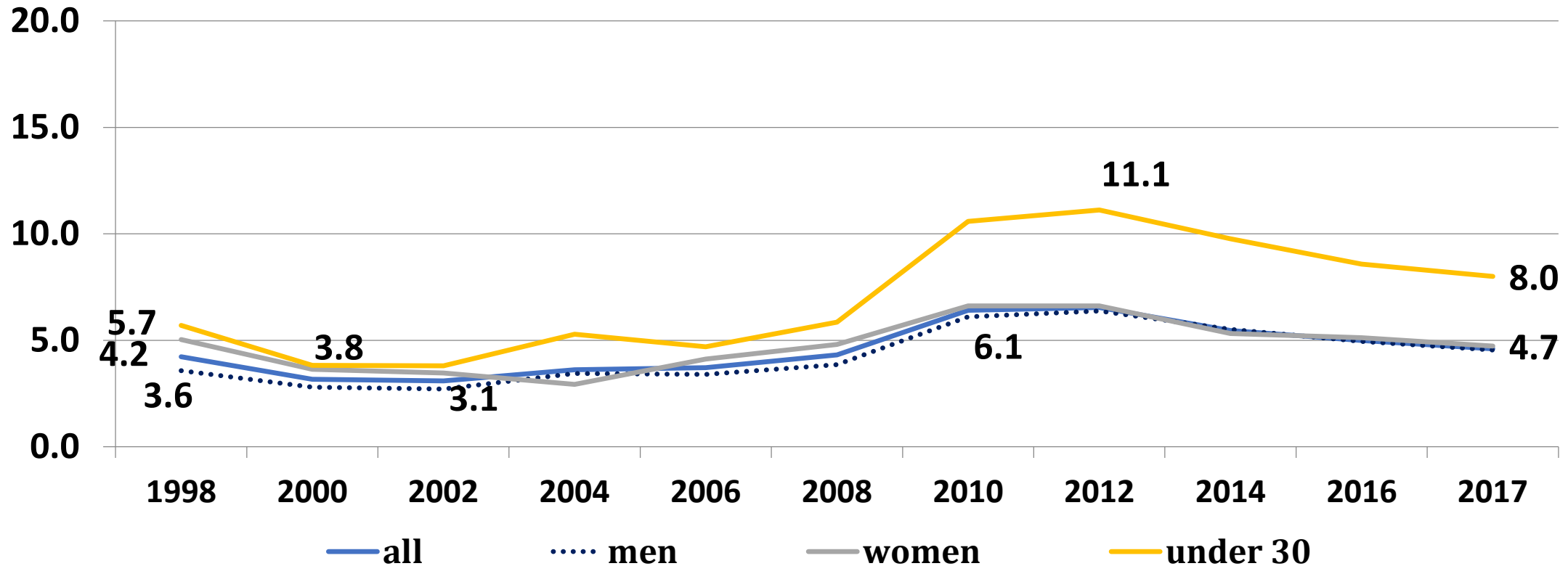
# Involuntary Temporary Contract (% of temporary workers), ROI, 1998-2017



**Notes:** These figures include only those who self-identify as 'at work'. Students, the unemployed and retirees are therefore not included.

**Source:** CSO (2018) and authors calculations.

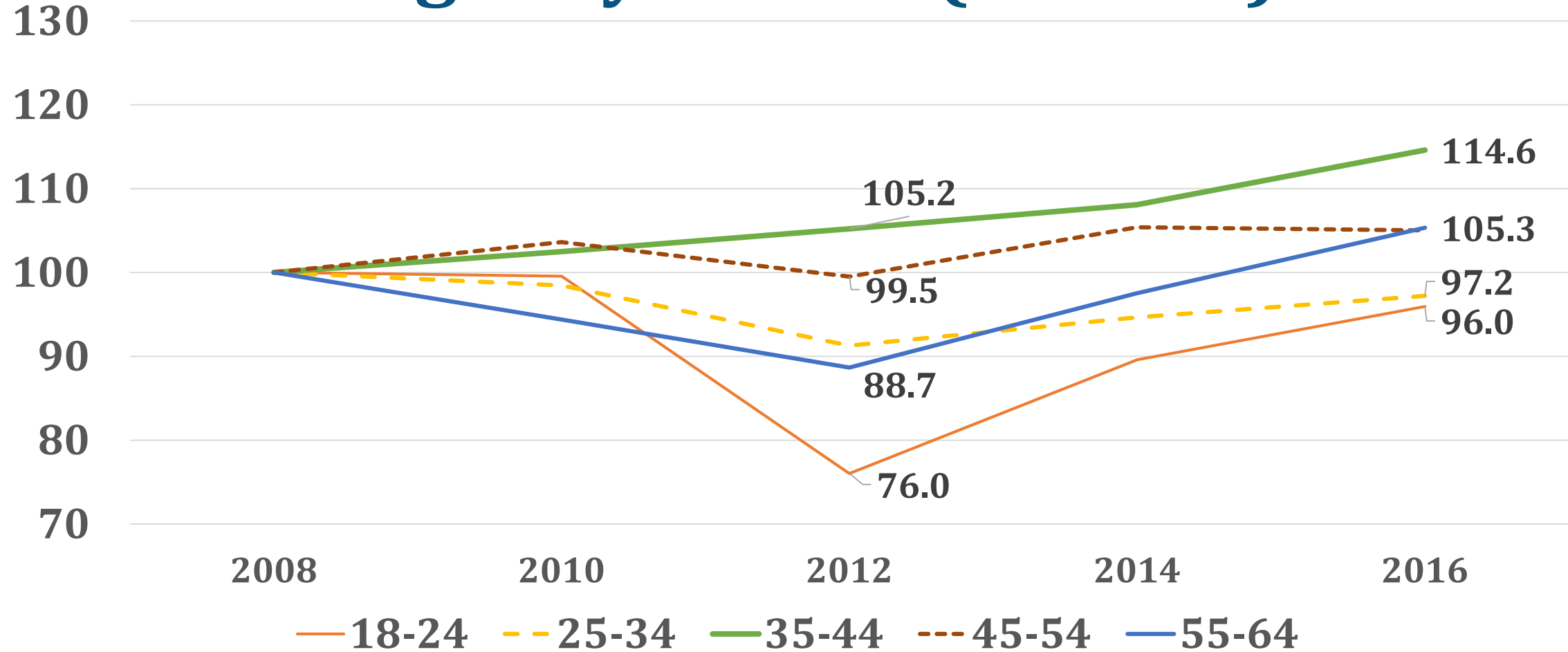
# Involuntary Temporary Contracts (% of those at work), ROI, 1998-2017



Notes: These figures include only those who self-identify as 'at work'. Students, the unemployed and retirees are therefore not included.

Source: CSO (2018) and authors calculations.

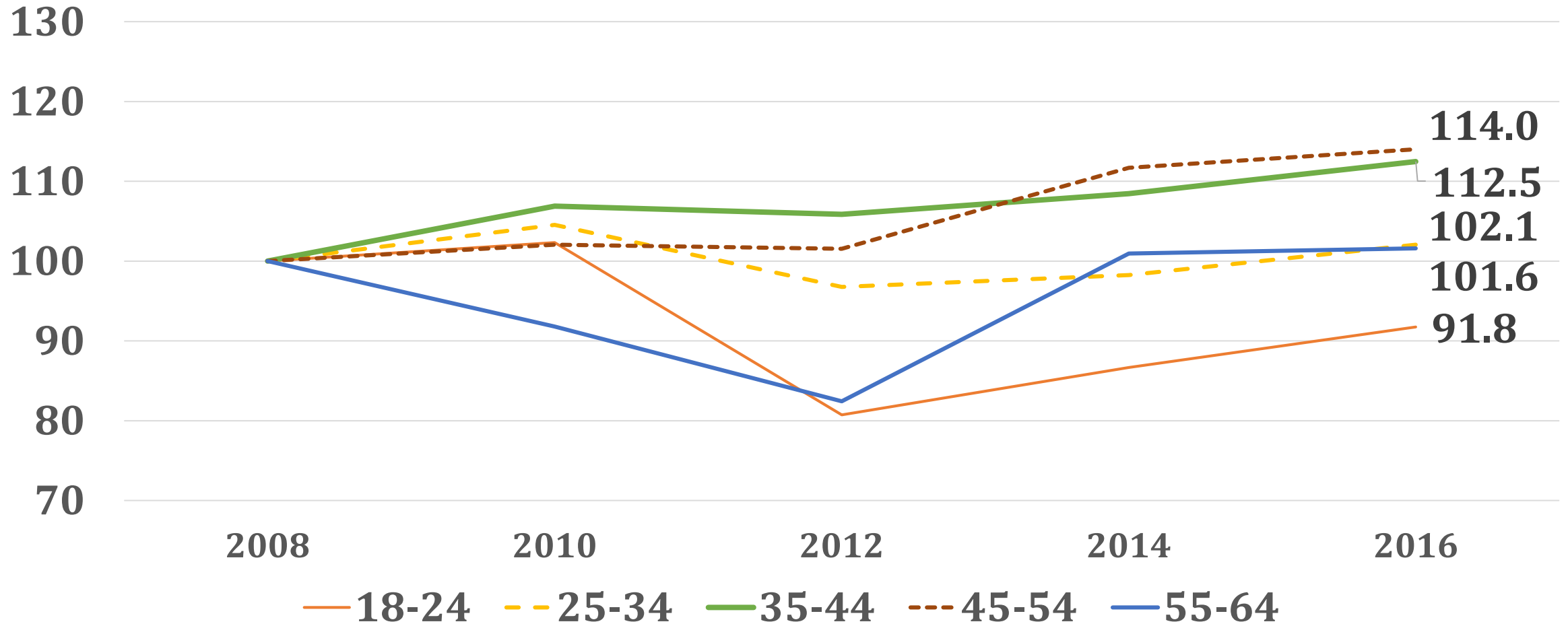
# Annual Wages by Cohort (Median)



**Notes:** These figures include only those who self-identify as 'at work'. Students, the unemployed and retirees are therefore not included.

**Source:** CSO (2018). Survey on Income and Living Conditions

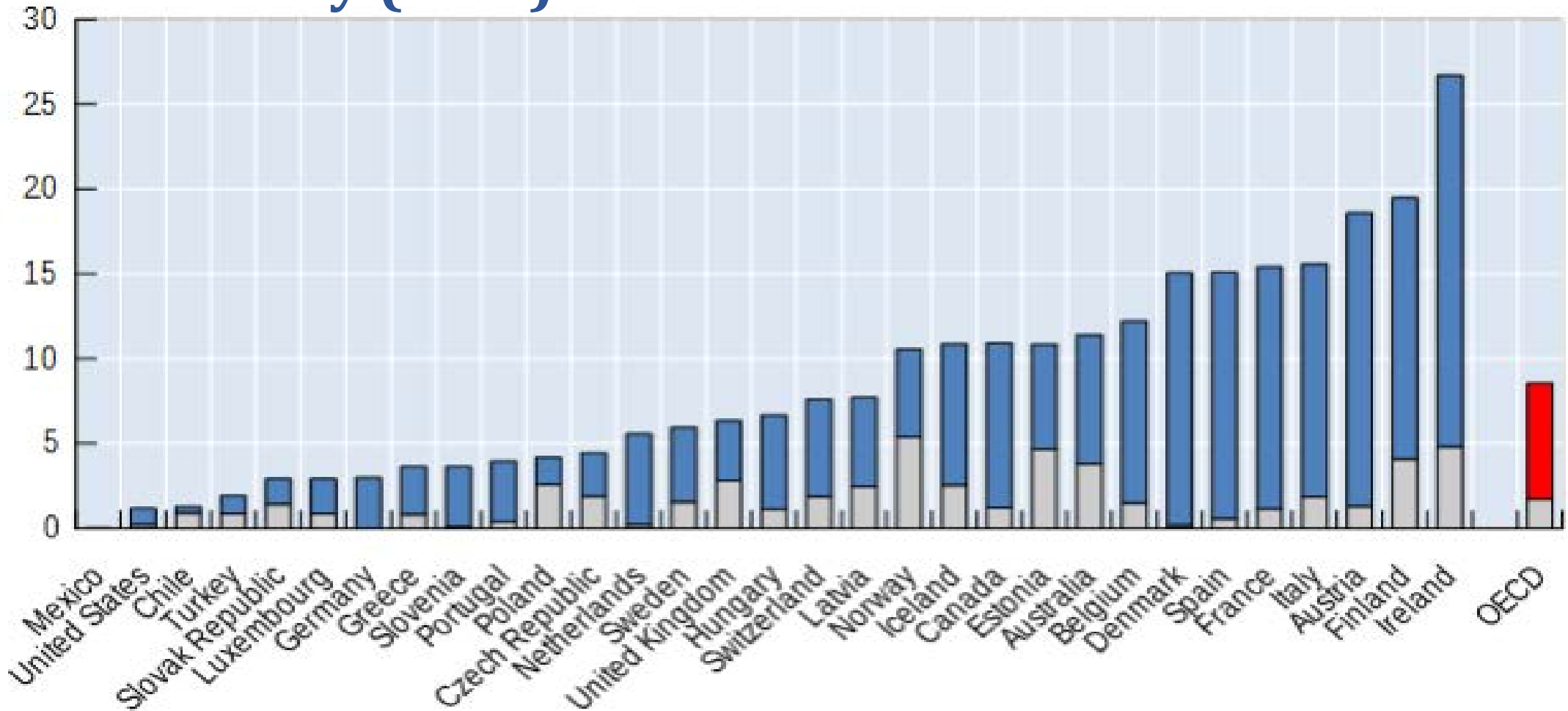
# Annual Wages by Cohort (Mean)



**Notes:** These figures include only those who self-identify as 'at work'. Students, the unemployed and retirees are therefore not included.

**Source:** CSO (2018). Survey on Income and Living Conditions

# Young people (16-29) in receipt of unemployment (grey) and disability (blue) benefits across the OECD in 2014.



(journal.ie, sourced from the OECD, Society at a glance 2016)



# Issues

- **Education profile of 25-34 year olds improved 2008-2016**  
⇒ **53.3%-65.4% with post leaving certificate qualifications.**  
⇒ **30.1%-36.2% with a third level degree or above**

**At the same time the occupational profile of the younger groups have changed.**

**Elementary workers (9.6% of 'at work' in 2008 – 24.1% in 2016 (18-24) and**

**8.7%-14.1% for (25-34). SILC 2018**

**Note: LFS figures don't match up. Further investigation required.**