

**Decent work
Decent wages
Better future**

(MANDATE BDC 27 April 2014)

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Research for new economic policies

An Chéad Dáil 1919 – Democratic Programme



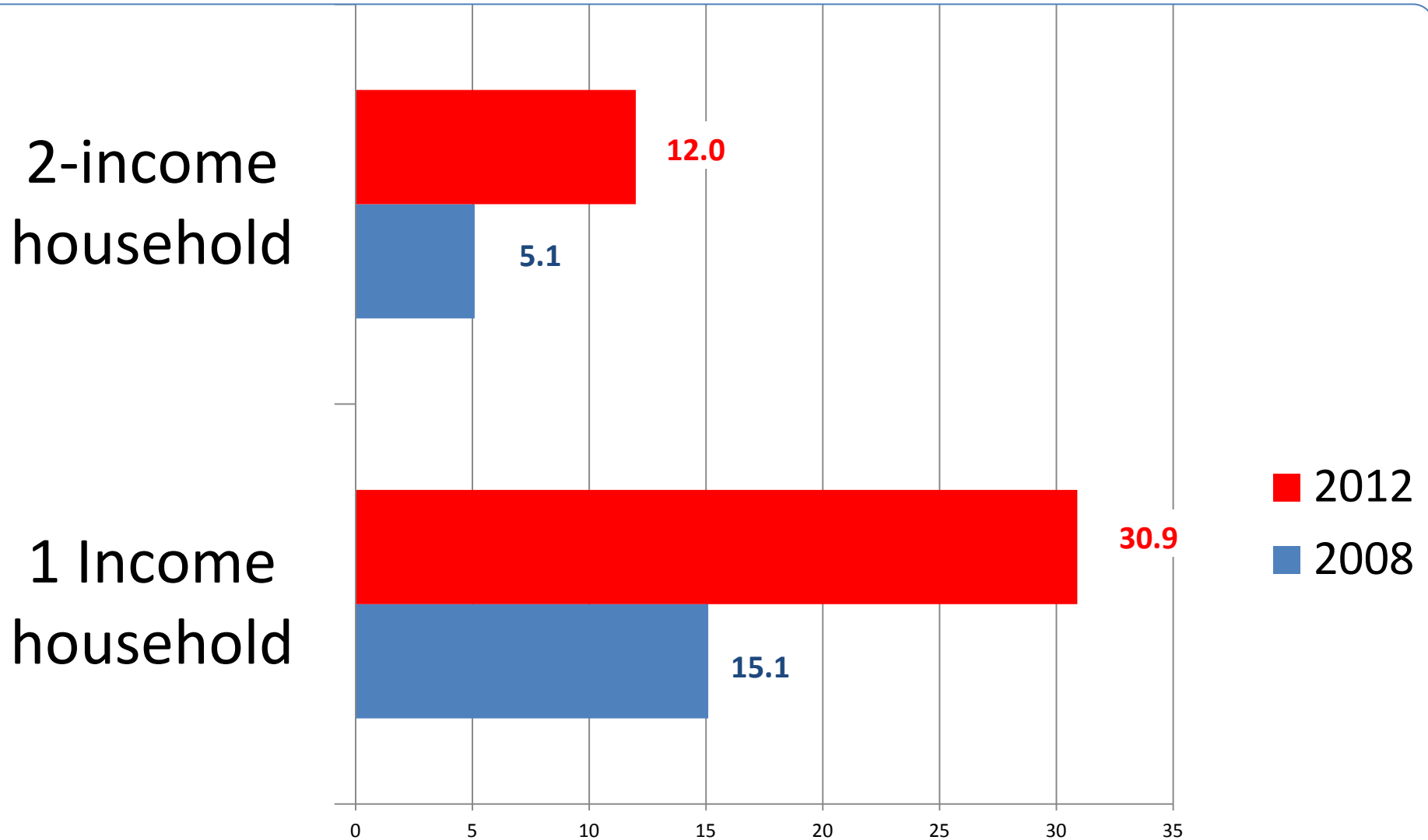
An Chéad Dáil 1919 – Democratic Programme

“It shall be the first duty of the Government of the Republic to make provision for the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training .”

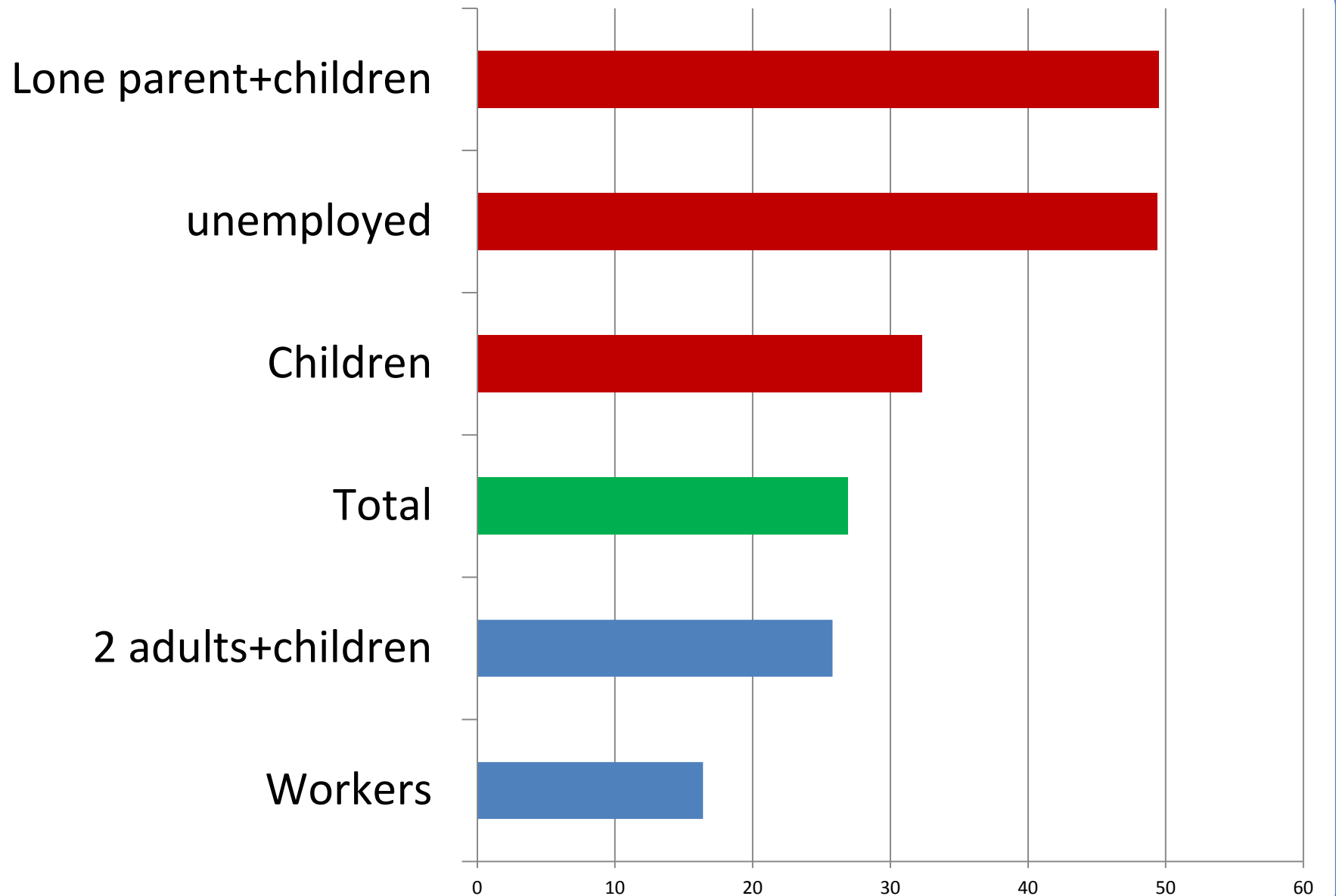
CSO measures of deprivation – unable to afford:

- *heating at some stage in the last year*
- *a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight*
- *2 pairs of strong shoes*
- *a roast once a week*
- *a meal with meat, chicken or fish every second day*
- *new (not second-hand) clothes*
- *a warm waterproof coat*
- *to keep the home adequately warm*
- *to replace any worn out furniture Unable to afford to have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month*
- *to buy presents for family or friends at least once a year*

Deprivation % in working households



Deprivation % different households



But we need to talk more about the 'social wage'

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Early care
- ✓ Elder care
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Community services
- ✓ Pensions

The human cost of rising poverty and homelessness....



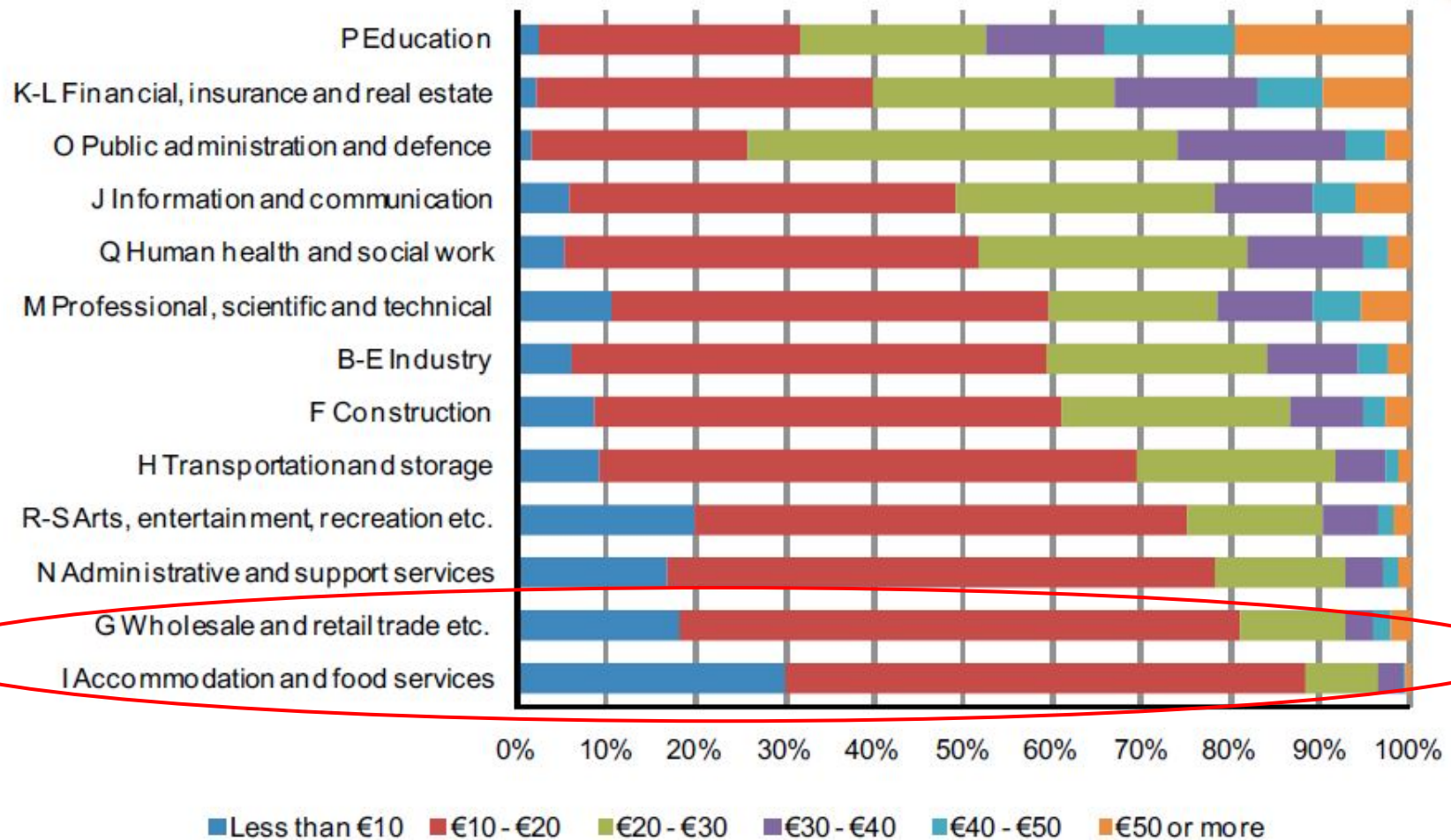
The human cost of rising poverty and homelessness....

25% of workers in Northern Ireland earn less than the 'Living Wage' with young people, women and those in part-time work at most risk.

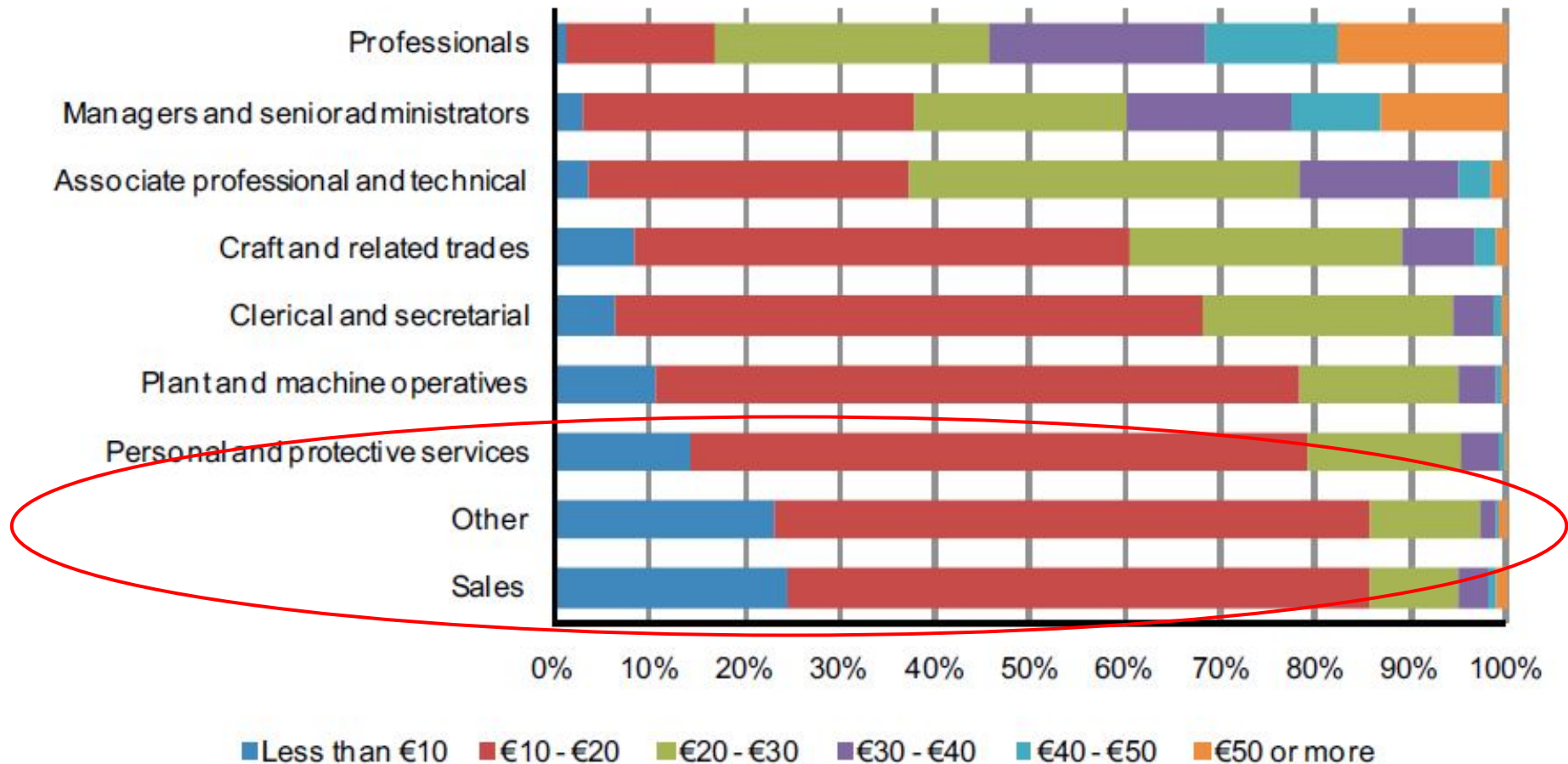
YOUNG
WORKERS
NETWORK
Building a future
that works

- Nevin Economic Research Institute

Distribution of workers by hourly rate of pay 2009



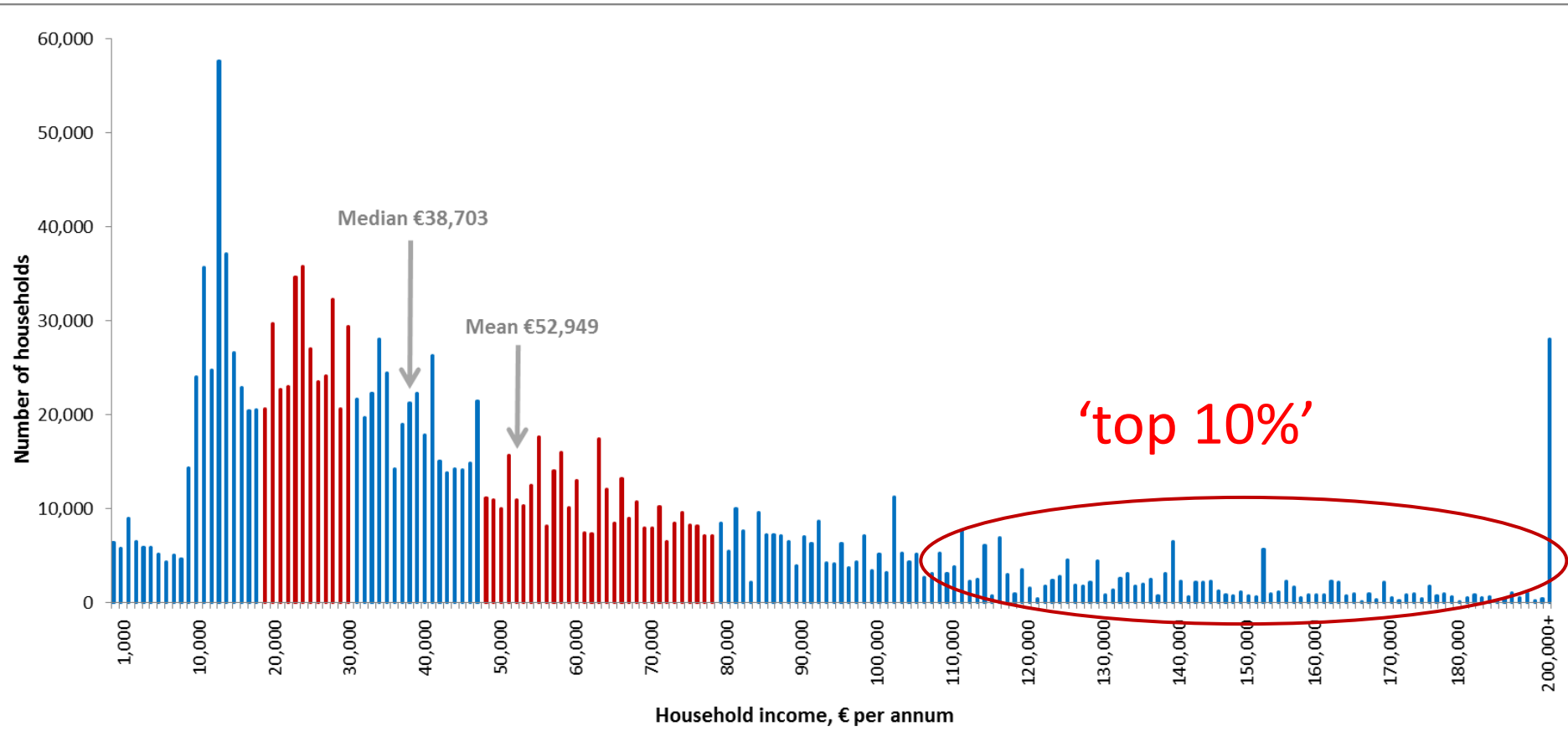
Distribution of workers by hourly rate of pay 2009



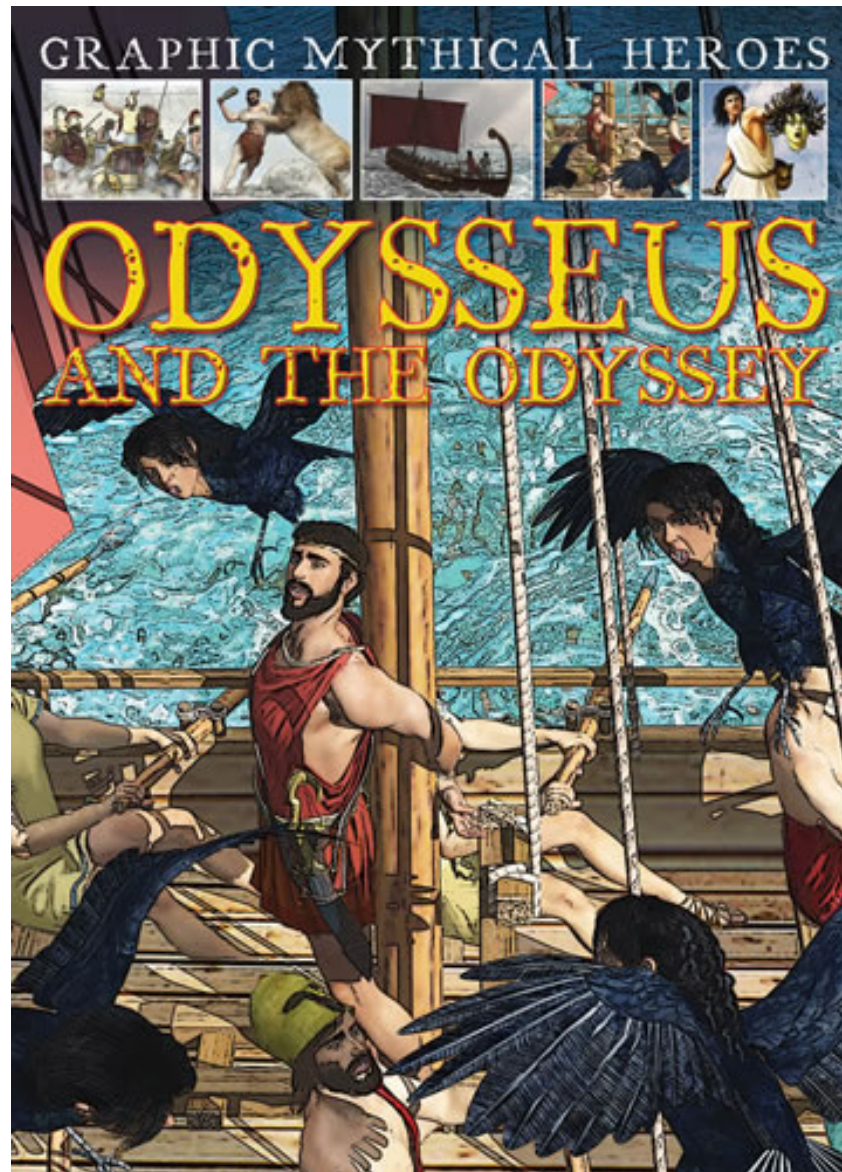
A vision of Ireland 2030

- Living income for all
- Thriving enterprise sector
- Full employment
- Decent work
- Excellent public services

Distribution of Gross Income by households, 2011



The temptation of Odysseus....



Unite's Notes On The Front

Commentary on Irish Political Economy by Michael Taft, Research Officer, UNITE the Union



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APRIL 24, 2014

Flying Pigs and the End of Austerity



Do you really believe that 2015 is the last year of austerity? If you believe that fiscal pigs will fly, then, yes, 2015 will be the last year of austerity. However, if you are even just a tad sceptical then read on. For 2015 is not the end - it is just the end of the beginning. After 2015 we will be into a new phase

of real austerity.

The Government has produced a [budgetary scenario up to 2019](#). They emphasise that this is just a scenario. They even underline it.

'Again it must be stressed that this is purely an illustrative scenario.'

So this is one possible future that the Government is considering. However, given that they have published it twice means that this scenario is being seriously considered - especially as they have not produced any other scenario.

The key to understanding why real austerity will continue up to the end of the decade is the premise of this scenario:

'Expenditure is assumed to increase by 1 per cent per annum.'

Ok. And how much do they expect inflation (GDP deflator) to increase by? 1.4 percent per annum. So each year the increase government expenditure will not match the increase in inflation. Therefore, each year it will be cut in *real* terms - that is, after inflation.

Let's run through some basic numbers - focusing on primary expenditure, which



#newcourse....#cruthnua

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« April 2014 »						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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A New Course for Better Times: Conference Report

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11 April 2014, 08:30am - 01:30pm



The conference took place on April 11, in the Round Room, the Mansion House. [The full programme is available here](#) and a selection of conference images [is available to view here](#). Edited video footage of the conference will be posted in the coming days.

A number of keynote speeches and presentations can be found at the links below:

[Presentation by Reiner Hoffmann, DGB](#)

[Speech by Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton TD](#)

[Presentation by Prof. Sean O'Riain \(NUIM\)](#)

[Presentation by Prof. David Jacobson \(DCU\)](#)

[Speech by Tom Healy \(NERI\)](#)

Supporting Documents:

You can read or download [a summary of the DBG Marshall Plan document](#), or download [the original version of the plan here](#).

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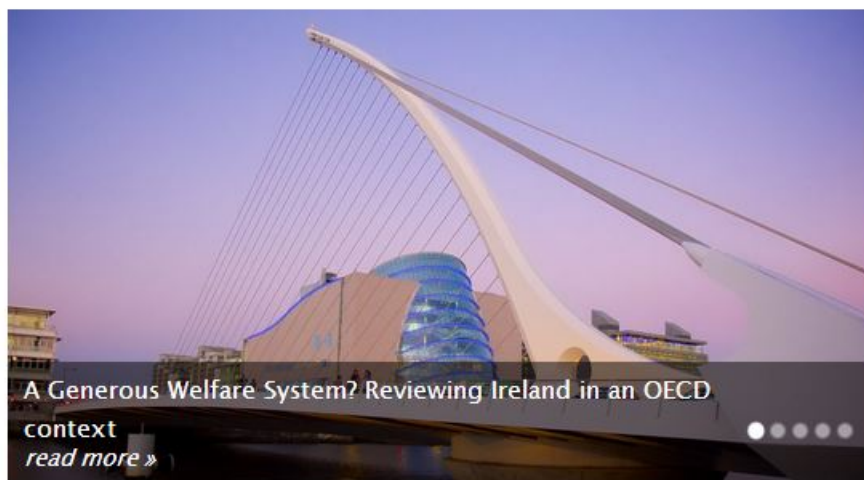
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NERI Research Seminars & Events

1 May 2014

NERI Conference: 2nd Annual NERI Labour Market Conference

[Click here for details »](#)

4 June 2014

NERI Seminar Dublin: Earnings and Low Pay in Northern Ireland

[Click here for details »](#)

Quarterly Economic Observer – Spring 2014



Issued : March 2014

 (2686k) Download now !

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This says it all....

Pay Increase Not Tax-Cut

Irish Workers Need a #PINT... or 3



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Julian O'Neill @julianoneill · Apr 17

Wondered the difference in various job stats? Worth a look MT
"@NERI_research: Unemployment in NI bit.ly/1gKntOY @PMacF_NERI's take"

🔄 3 ⭐ ⋮

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TomHealyNERI @TomHealyNERI · Apr 17

Output growth in NI still 11% below pre-crash level. Mixed labour market signals.
Blog by @PMacF_NERI nerinstitute.net/blog/2014/04/1... @NERI_research

To sum up ...

- ✓ The best way to reward work is to pay decent living wages.
- ✓ The best relief to give hard-pressed working families is to stop cutting further into education, health and welfare.
- ✓ The best way to ensure greater social equality is to increase Ireland's 'social wage'
- ✓ The best way to tackle poverty is to create decent jobs that pay, not welfare-dependent households which must rely on a fragmented combination of tax reliefs and welfare payments.
- ✓ The best way to create employment is through enterprise – public, private and voluntary/not-for-profit.
- ✓ The best way to fix our public finances is to grow the economy – not to continue cutting our way out of a deficit.
- ✓ And the best way to raise levels of happiness and well-being is by economically empowering individuals and communities so that they can live lives of worth and mutual support and caring.