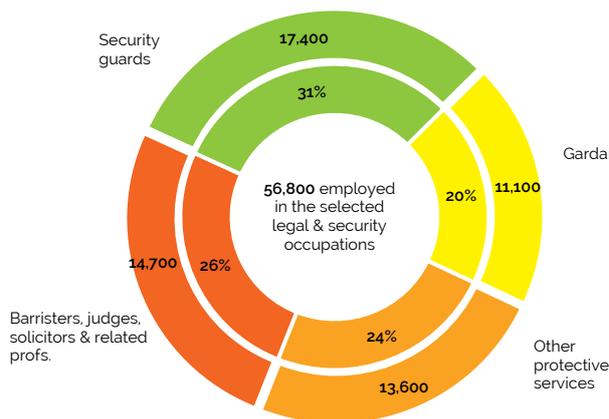


## 9.7 Legal & Security Occupations

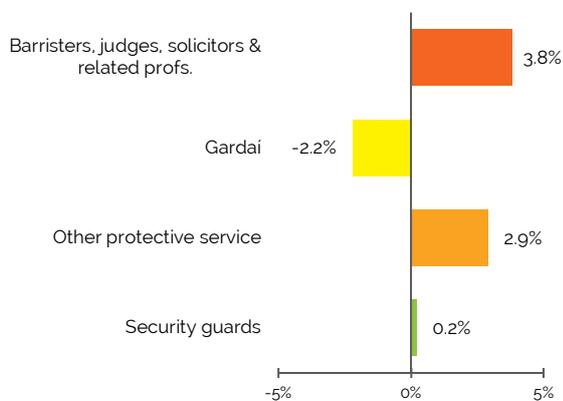
Overall employment: Approximately 57,000 persons (75% male) were employed in the selected legal and security occupations, representing 2.6% of the national workforce.

- **Sector:** 42% of overall employment was concentrated in the public administration and defence (PAD) sector, while administrative services and professional activities combined accounted for a further 43%
- **Employment growth (5-year):** Between 2014 and 2019, overall employment increased by 3,100 (1.1% on average annually compared to 3.2% nationally); the strongest employment growth rate was observed for barristers, judges, solicitors & related professionals (3.8%) over this period
- **Age:** The 25-54-year age group accounted for the majority of persons employed, at 77%. The share of employees aged 55 years and over was 17%, below the national average of 19%
- **Education:** The share of persons employed in the selected legal & security occupations who had attained higher secondary/FET qualifications was 27%, below the national average share of 38%. Those who had attained third level qualifications (62%) was above the national average share (48%)
- **Full-time/part-time:** Over 93% of legal & security workers were in full-time employment
- **Nationality:** The share of non-Irish workers was below the national average of 17%, while 85% of workers were Irish nationals.

Numbers employed, 2019 (annual average)



Average growth rate (%) 2014-2019



Between 2014 and 2019, overall employment increased by 3,100 (1.1% on average annually compared to 3.2% nationally).

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO data

## Overall Outlook for these Occupations

Employment growth was low in these occupations and there was no evidence in the analysis for 2019 of difficulties sourcing candidates. The declines forecast for these occupations as a result of COVID-19 are small (-0.3% for the year 2020). While gardai continue to be in significant demand, it is likely that security guards will experience the most significant falls in employment in absolute terms, due to the continued closure of a number of businesses and retail services.

Those working in protective services occupations (e.g. gardai) had high scores in relation to exposure to diseases. Most of the occupations in this group are likely to work in close proximity to others.

Occupation	Economic summary
Barristers, judges, solicitors & related profs.	Employment growth for this occupation was broadly in line with the five-year national average. Those employed in these occupations may have been impacted by the lack of commercial activity during COVID-19-related restrictions.
Gardai	Although employment numbers in this occupation declined over the five-year period, employment has remained relatively unchanged in the previous two years. The onset of COVID-19 led to an accelerated progression of student gardai to employment, with demand for increased garda presence.
Other protective service occupations (e.g. army personnel, fire/prison service officers)	Employment growth was just below the five-year national average. The impact on employment numbers in these occupations as a result of COVID-19 is expected to have been minimal.
Security guards	There was no overall employment growth for this occupation over the five-year period. At 35%, security guards had a higher share of non-Irish nationals in employment than the national average. Those employed in this occupation were likely to have been affected by the closure of businesses, shops, bars and nightclubs as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

*\*For detailed table see Appendix A*