

DUBLIN ROUND TABLE

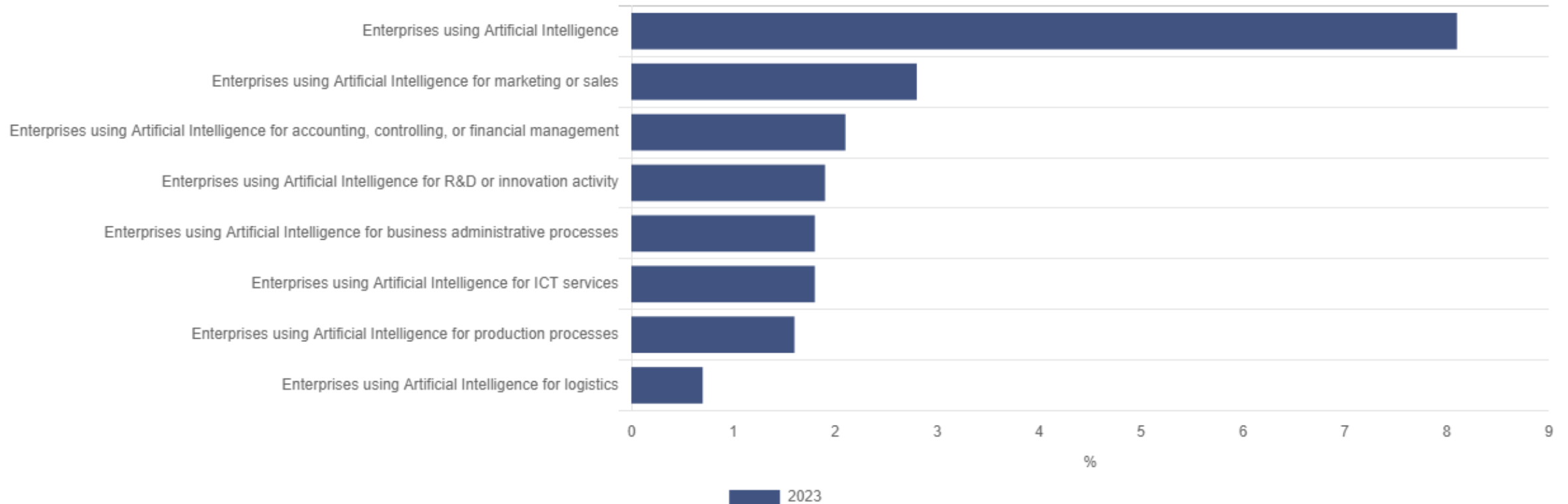
15TH OCTOBER 2024

Summary of Ireland Desk Research

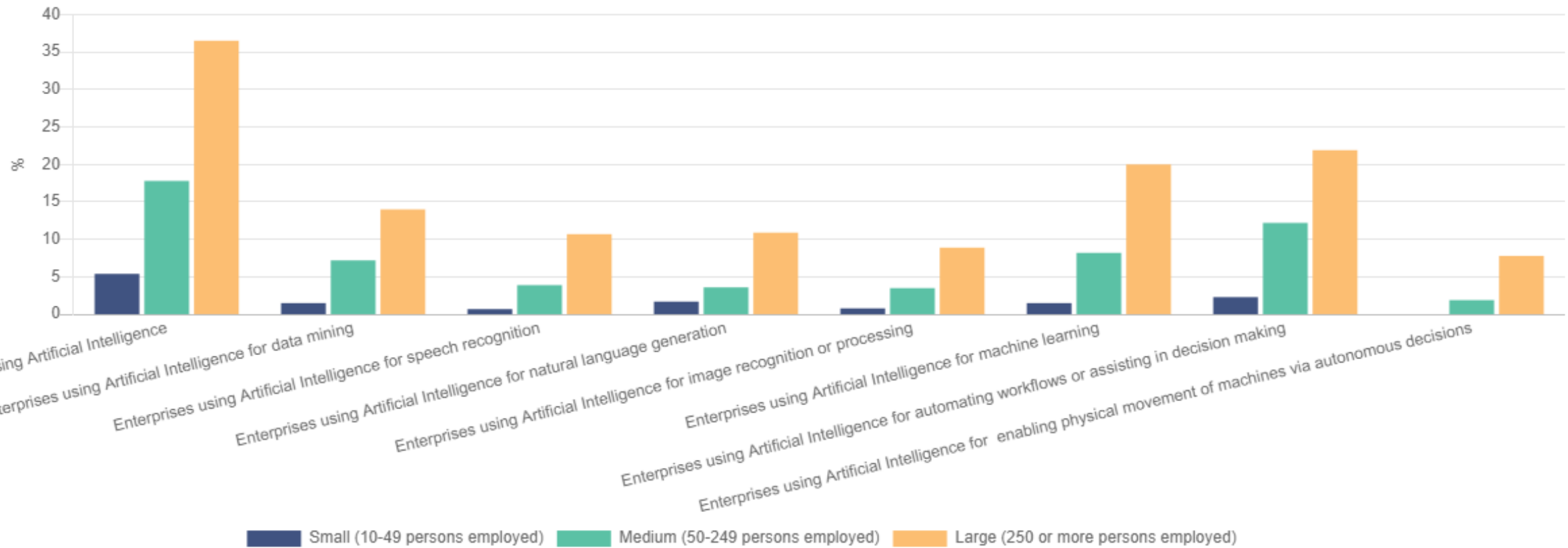
ECONOMIC BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- Development of the Irish Economy
- Celtic Tiger
 - Corporate tax rates, educational levels, English language, access to EU markets, social partnership, stable political situation.
- Proactive courting of “new” industries in ICT, pharma, biotech, fintech etc.
- Business-friendly governments. “Best small country in the world to do business”
- Ireland is now a major AI hub. Many influential AI giants, including Google, Meta, Apple, Microsoft, and OpenAI have their European headquarters in Ireland

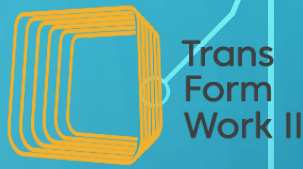
IRELAND AI USE (CSO 2023)



IRELAND AI USE BY SIZE (CSO 2023)



AI USE BY SECTOR



FINANCE AND BANKING

fraud detection, risk assessment, customer service automation

HEALTHCARE

medical image analysis, predictive analytics for patient care, drug discovery, diagnostics

RETAIL AND E-COMMERCE

customer segmentation, demand forecasting, personalised recommendations, and supply chain management

MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRY

predictive maintenance, quality control, and optimisation of production workflows

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

route optimisation, fleet management, and predictive maintenance

CYBERSECURITY

threat detection, anomaly detection, and real-time response

GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORK & PLANS

- “AI: Here for Good” [July 2021] (national AI Strategy). Three key principles:
 - Building public trust in AI,
 - Leveraging AI for economic and societal benefit, and
 - Enablers for AI
- “Harnessing Digital - The Digital Ireland Framework” [February 2022] (connectivity, digital skills, remote working hubs, cyber-security)
- “Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe” [June 2024]. Three separate publications:
 - Summary and Public Policy Considerations
 - Review of How AI Could Impact Ireland’s Economy
 - Analysis of How AI Could Impact Ireland’s Labour Market

GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORK & PLANS 2

- Appointment of AI Ambassador (Dr Patricia Scanlon) in May 2022.
- Enterprise Digital Advisory Forum [May 2022] - focusing on industry adoption of AI and other digital technologies
- AI Innovation Hub (CeADAR) to provide services such as specialist training to small and medium businesses
- Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council [January 2024] To provide independent expert advice to Government on artificial intelligence policy, with a specific focus on building public trust and promoting the development of trustworthy, person-centred AI

IRELAND AS A REGULATOR

- Regulatory framework for AI still under consideration
- The Data Protection Commission (DPC) is the Irish supervisory authority for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and has already intervened because of data privacy concerns about AI proposals
- The DPC has an important role at EU level, given the Irish headquarters of many large tech companies and is the lead EU regulator for Google, Meta, Microsoft, TikTok and OpenAI, among others.
- 85% of the GDPR-related fines issued across Europe last year - including the EU, EEA and UK - were issued by the DPC.
- Google, Meta, X and LinkedIn have paused or delayed AI projects in the European Union based on data privacy concerns

KEY PRINCIPLES FOR AI REGULATION IN IRELAND

- **Ethical AI:** Ensuring AI systems are transparent, accountable, and do not infringe on human rights.
- **Human-Centric Approach:** AI should augment human capabilities, with people remaining in control of critical decision-making processes.
- **Data Privacy:** AI systems must comply with strict privacy regulations, especially under GDPR.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** AI developers and users should be transparent about how AI systems make decisions, particularly in high-risk areas like healthcare or financial services.

SOCIAL PARTNER POLICIES

- Both ICTU and Ibec have made submissions to government
- Employers are strongly represented in the AI-related bodies established
- Trade unions are curious but cautious, many benefits but concerns also. Job displacement, dehumanisation of decision-making, lack of information and training are among the issues, as are the risks to workers' physical safety and mental health caused by algorithmic management
- Unions want to have full information, consultation and negotiation on the deployment of AI
- They see it as essential that the “human in control” principle is paramount, and call for a Just Transition so no-one is left behind.