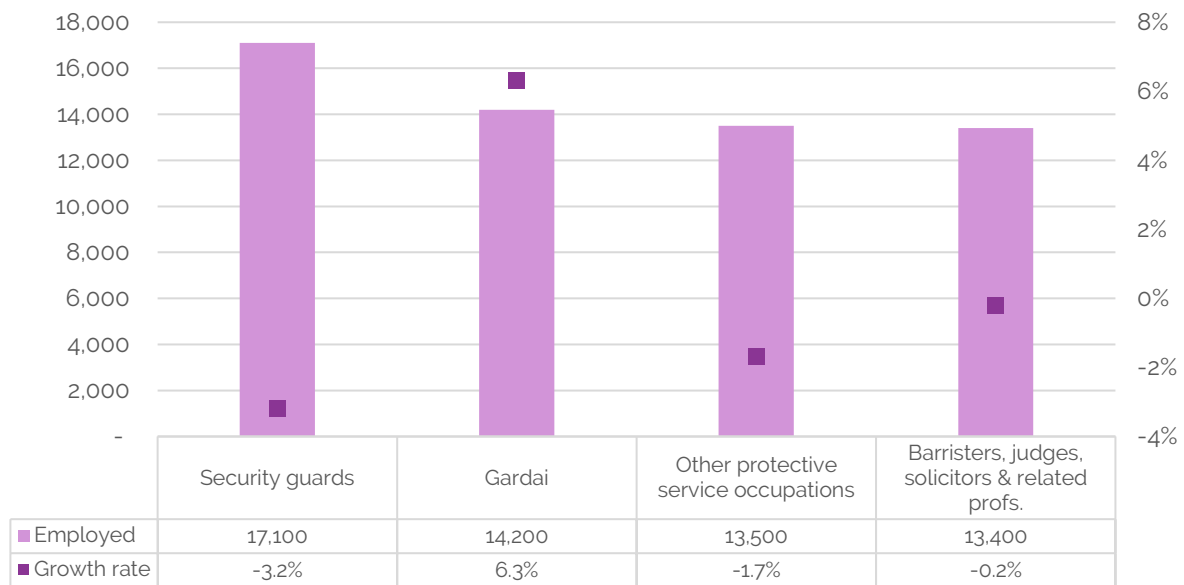


10.7 Legal & Security Occupations

Figure 10.7 Annual Average Employment (2022) & Annual Average Growth Rates (2017-2022)



Overall employment	58,100
Share of total workforce	2.3%
Main sectors of employment	47% - Public administration and defence 20% - Administrative and support services 18% - Professional activities
Employment growth	Marginal decline between 2017 and 2022 -0.2% on average annually (compared to +3.0% for total workforce)

2022	% Female Q4	% Full-time Q4	% Aged 55 years & over Q4	% Irish citizens Q4	% Third level graduates Q4	Number of new employment permits	Recruitment Agency Survey
Barristers, judges, solicitors & related profs.	[41%]	90%	...	98%	99%	26	
Gardai	...	99%	...	100%	90%		
Other protective service occupations	...	97%	...	90%	...		
Security guards	...	72%	...	70%	...		
Overall total	27%	88%	16%	88%	59%	26	

Source: SLMRU (SOLAS) analysis of CSO (LFS) data, DETE, and SLMRU Recruitment Agency Survey (RAS)
Numbers in square brackets should be treated with caution; an ellipsis (...) denotes numbers too small to report

Overall Outlook for these Occupations

The annual average employment growth for this occupational group over the five-year period was negative, with overall employment declining between 2021 and 2022. Future growth for these occupations will depend on Government policies for those reliant on public sector funding; for security guards, demand will depend on the level of public consumption in the areas of hospitality and entertainment along with occupancy levels in offices post-COVID.

Occupation	Economic summary
Barristers, judges, solicitors & related profs.	Employment levels have declined annually since 2020 for this occupation, resulting in a negative growth rate for the five-year annual average. There were a small number of employment permits issued for legal counsel across a number of sectors including ICT and the financial sector. However, the professional, scientific and technical activities sector accounts for the majority of employment in this occupation.
Police officers (e.g. Gardai)	Although employment growth was above average for this occupation, employment levels declined in the year since 2021. Department of Justice workforce data ¹ also indicates that the number of gardai declined since 2021; in 2022, their data shows a total workforce of 17,382 which includes 3,126 civilian garda staff and 375 reserves. Budget 2023 announced plans for 1,000 new Gardai and 430 Garda staff. Issues in relation to a high rate of attrition in Gardai training along with staff retiring early have been highlighted as explanations of the fall in numbers. ² Although issues exist with retention, the data does not indicate that a shortage exists.
Other protective service occupations (e.g. army personnel, fire/prison service officers)	Employment in this occupation has been declining annually since 2020. Those working in this occupation are primarily employed within the public sector and, as such, any employment growth will be dependent on future Government funding. Budget 2023 allocated funding for an additional 100 prison service officers.
Security guards	Employment levels in this occupation dipped during 2020, most likely related to the closure of offices, bars and retail premises during the COVID-19 pandemic along with the cancellation of events. Employment has since returned to pre-COVID-19 levels with a high volume of vacancies advertised with DSP Jobs Ireland (including event and retail security). Although the number of online adverts for security guards in the OVATE data declined overall, the number of skill mentions increased for health/safety skills, monitoring & planning skills, and an ability to work in teams. This occupation has a higher-than-average share of non-Irish citizens employed, at 30% (compared to 19% nationally). Future demand for these roles will be particularly dependent on the occupancy levels in offices, where the majority of security guards are employed.

¹https://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/An_Garda_Siochana_facts_and_figures

² Garda numbers drop below 14,000 for the first time in years – The Irish Times