



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release

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## **Near Two Thirds Increase in Youth Unemployment in 2025 Labour Force Survey a canary in the economic coalmine and cannot be ignored” says Leading Youth Organisation**

Youth Work Ireland has said that today’s Labour Force Survey revelation that youth unemployment has increased by almost two thirds in 2025 means there will be a need for a major youth unemployment initiative and that these figures may be a “canary in the coalmine” in terms of the economy. The organisation, which runs several employment programmes for disadvantaged young people around the country, believes the CSO figures illustrate that young people may be the first to suffer in an economic slowdown and that generally this type of unemployment is harder to combat and more long lasting. The group now believes that a specific and dedicated programme focussed on the needs of young people will be needed to avert the obvious problems associated with growing youth unemployment. The organisation has said that the upward trend in youth unemployment cannot be ignored as it is a well-recognised indicator of the health of the economy overall.

*“We have seen previously how young people can be the first to suffer when there is an increase in unemployment and how stubborn such an increase can be. In previous recessions we saw that young people were the worst affected by the recession and the responses were less than ideal. We also saw a huge exodus of young people to emigration as a traditional safety valve. We are approaching the time when a major dedicated employment programme for young people to ensure they do not drift into unemployment and disconnection. It will be crucial to ensure that there is an offer of a quality job, education, or training for all young people in the months and years ahead”* said Michael Mc Loughlin from Youth Work Ireland

*“The deteriorating figures illustrate there will be many challenges to be faced. Clearly the overall economic situation must be top of the agenda and jobs and employment must be central. In considering this the impact of unemployment on young people must feature. Young people who suffer unemployment younger in life are usually impacted longer term and have significantly reduced opportunities. There is still potential in the public finances to head of these problems, but youth unemployment needs to move up the political agenda before it is too late. There is clearly a need to ensure that the*

*political rhetoric of commitment to young people is now matched by concrete measures. The underlying economic situation is better than previous recessions and young people's needs have to be prioritised to prevent higher youth unemployment" Mc Loughlin added*

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