

# Writers' Earnings in Ireland: 2024 Analysis and Trends

## Overview

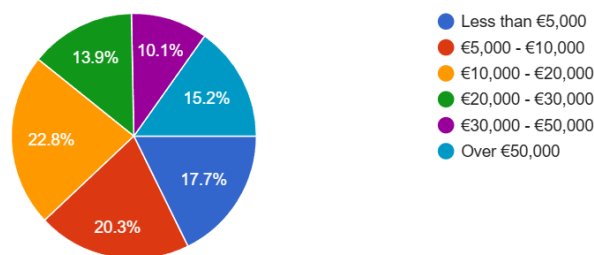
This report analyses the earnings of WGI members in Ireland in 2024, identifying member's key income sources, challenges, and expectations for 2025.

Overall, 60.8% of you earned less than €20,000 from your writing with 38% earning less than €10,000, 22.8% earned between €10,000 and €20,000, 13.9% earned €20,000 - €30,000 and 10% - €30,000 - €50,000, 15.2% earned over €50,000.

## Demographic Breakdown:

The majority of contributors were female with 58.8%, 37.5% were male and 3.7% were non binary. 50% had been writing for 11+ years, 22.5% for 6-10 years, 22.5% for 3-5 years and 5% under two years. Most write for a mix of formats with TV being number one at 52.5%, Film at 50% and theatre with 25%.

## Income



38% of you earned less than €10,000, 22.8% earned between €10,000 and €20,000 that is a total of 60.8% earning less than €20,000. 13.9% earned €20,000 - €30,000 and 10.1% - €30,000 - €50,000. 15.2% earned over €50,000.

## Primary Sources of Income

The most common sources of income were:

- Development: 17.5%
- Theatre: 11.3%
- TV Continuing Drama: 11.2%
- TV: 10%
- Film (Feature): 10%
- Radio: 3.7%
- Animation: 2.5%
- BIA 3.7%

Other included:

- Copywriting
- Writing Corporate Training Videos
- Teaching
- Community Film Maker
- Documentary

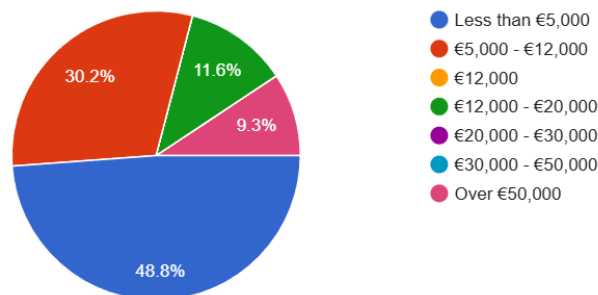
The majority 41.3% wrote less than two projects, with 37.5% writing 3-5, 12.5% 6-10 1.2% wrote more than 11.

Overall 60.8% of you feel your rates have remained the same, 23% worsened and 16.2% reported an improvement.

### Funding and Support

58% received some funding, the majority 48.9% received less than €5,000 and two people received more than €50,000. However, 42% reported receiving no financial support.

## Film



55% of the respondents wrote for film, with 59% writing or contributing to one film and 41% 2-3, of these 79% earned less than €12,000.

90.7% of these earned less than €20,000 from a film project. Over 48.8% received less than €5,000 for a feature, 30.2% earned €5-12,000 and 11.6% €12-20,000.

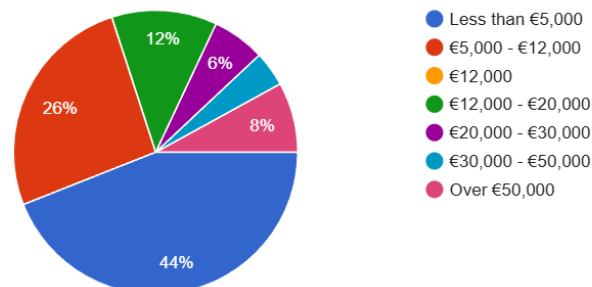
### Short Film

28% of respondents wrote a short film, 74% writing one, 26 writing 2 -3, all earned less than €5,000.

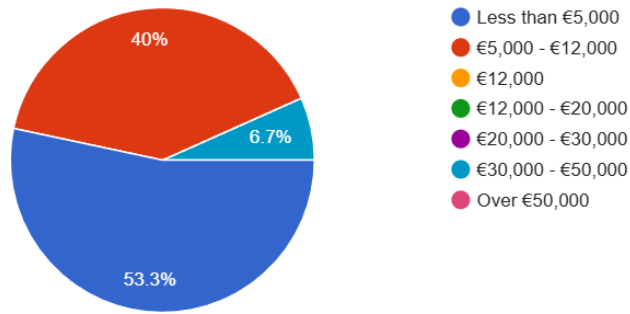
## TV

The majority of respondents or 62.5% of you write for TV.

58% wrote or contributed to one project, 24% 2-3, 12% 4-5 and 6% more than 5.



44% earned less than €5,000 per TV project, 26% €5-12,000, 12% €12-20,000 and overall 82% earning less than €20,000 per TV project.



Continuing Drama saw 53.3% earn less than €5,000 per episode, 40% €5-12,000 per episode and 6.7% earn between €30-50,000 per episode.

## Animation

12.5% of respondents write for animation.

60% wrote one project, 30% 2-3 and 10% wrote more than five. 50% worked in features, 8.3% shorts and 91.7% in TV.

The earnings are substantially lower here with all earning less than €20,000 per project and 62.5% earning less than €5,000.

## Radio

10% of respondents worked in radio, with 62.5% writing one project and 37.5% 2-3. 87.5% earned less than €5,000 with the rest earning between €5,000 and €12,000.

## Theatre

33.75% of respondents write for Theatre, 37% wrote one project, 48.1% 2-3, 11.1% 4-5 and 3.7% more than 5. 96.2% earned €12,000 or less. 61.5% had performances in multiple venues or festivals.

## Challenges Faced

The biggest challenges reported by writers in order:

1. Difficulty in securing funding
2. Lack of opportunities in their genre
3. Low pay rates
4. Competition from other writers
5. Unrealistic expectations from producers/studios

Other challenges were:

- Networking
- Accessing finance
- Scarcity of projects being produced

Comments on the economic climate/industry trends and their impact on you as a writer made for quite sobering reading. There were no positive comments in this section with many writers struggling. A selection of the comments are below:

“Global animation slow down has impacted my earnings.”

“There were times in 2024 I could not afford my rent or enough food. The financial precariousness of this career negatively impacted my mental health.”

“I’ve been badly hit by the downturn in the TV industry. I have become more reliant on development work.”

“It seems harder to get funding from Screen Ireland or Arts Council.”

“Screen Ireland have eliminated writers as the creative force behind projects and treat us with utter disrespect.”

“My international work has dried up since Covid. Domestic opportunities very limited.”

“Definitely more competition yet the market remains the same.”

“There was a lot of support during and directly after Covid, now this seems to be tightening up and funding pots for theatre are very competitive.”

## Expectations for 2025

You have mixed expectations for 2025:

- Expect income to remain the same: 17.5%
- Expect a significant increase: 20%
- Expect a slight increase: 33.8%
- Expect a decrease: 21.3%
- Don’t know: 7.5%

When questioned if you were exploring any new sectors or opportunities answers ranged from international co-productions, VR and XR storytelling, gaming, digital platforms, move into production, move to literature, leaving writing and emigrating.

## Conclusion

This survey highlights the financial realities faced by our members, with most earning under €20,000 annually and limited funding opportunities. Key issues include low pay, difficulty securing funding, and a lack of opportunities, worsened by an industry slowdown. While some writers anticipate income growth in 2025, the majority remain uncertain or expect declines, with many exploring new sectors and emerging storytelling formats.

These findings emphasise the need for greater support, fairer pay structures, and transparency to ensure the sustainability of writing as a profession in Ireland. They also help to clarify the need for the WGI to continue to represent writer’s interests to Screen Ireland, drive for implementation of the ECD and fairer pay for writers. If you have any questions about the survey or any suggestions of where you’d like to see us at the WGI focus our energies please email me at [Sharon.McGarry@Script.ie](mailto:Sharon.McGarry@Script.ie).

