



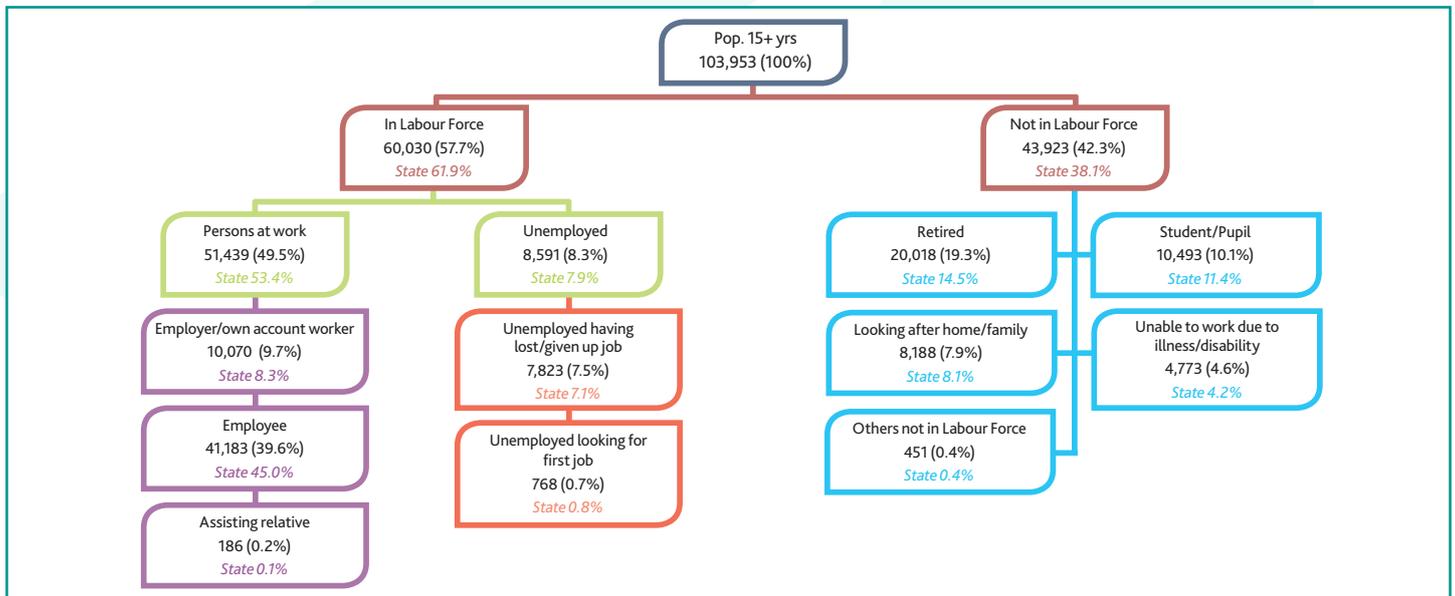
County Mayo's Labour Market – Census 2016

In this *WDC Insights* we provide an overview of the labour market in county Mayo based on data from the Census of Population 2016.¹ The county had a total population of 130,507 in 2016, 0.1% lower than at the last Census (2011). Mayo was one of only two counties nationally where population declined. Mayo's population was 5.4% higher than a decade earlier (2006). Total employment in Mayo grew 4.8% between 2011 and 2016; below the 11% national growth and second lowest in the State.

Principal Economic Status of Mayo's population

Principal Economic Status (PES) measures the economic status e.g. at work, student, of the population aged 15 years and over. This status is self-assigned and is different from the definition used in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) and official employment and unemployment figures.² Fig. 1 shows Mayo's adult population by principal economic status compared with the State average.

Fig. 1: Population of county Mayo aged 15 years and over by principal and labour force status, 2016



Some 57.7% of the county's adults are in the labour force, either working or looking for work, notably below the national average (61.9%). The 60,030 people who are in Mayo's labour force represents a 1.5% decline on the 2011 figure (compared with 3.2% growth nationally); Mayo is one of only six counties where the labour force shrank. Just under half (49.5%) of the county's adults are 'at work', below the 53.4% national average. The share unemployed is somewhat above average. The county differs from the national pattern in terms of self-employment (employer/own account worker); 9.7% in Mayo compared with 8.3% nationally.

The share of Mayo's adults who are outside the labour force (42.3%) is substantially above the national average (38.1%). 'Retired' is the largest group and accounts for a considerably higher share than nationally (19.3% v 14.5%). The share of adults in county Mayo who are retired is the highest in the State, reflecting its older age profile. Mayo also has a higher share unable to work due to disability/illness, however its share of students/pupils is below the national average; 10.1% compared with 11.4%.

1. CSO, Census 2016 Summary Results – Part 2. Table EZ011

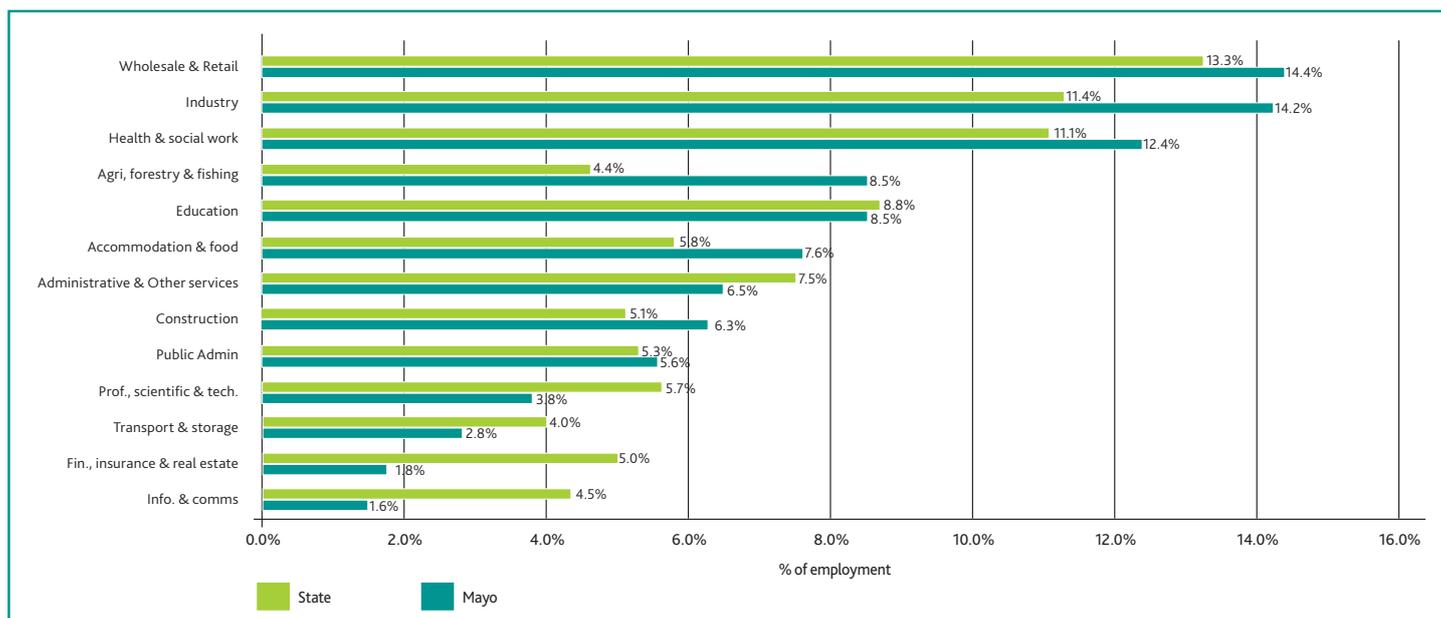
2. The ILO definition, used in the QNHS and official employment statistics, is that if a person has worked for payment or profit for 1 hour or more in the previous fortnight they are counted as employed. This results in a higher number being counted as employed than when people are asked to select their own economic status, as in the Census.



Sectoral pattern & recent changes in employment

Fig. 2 shows the sectors where the 51,439 Mayo residents who are 'at work' are employed. Commuting is an important factor and the 4,948 people living in county Mayo who travel outside of the county for work are counted here, but the 3,479 people living outside the county who travel into it for work are not.³

Fig. 2: Percentage of total employment in each broad sector in county Mayo and State, 2016



Mayo's largest employers are Wholesale & Retail, Industry and Health, all of which are considerably more important to the county than elsewhere. Wholesale & Retail has performed poorly, with employment declining 2.7% since 2011 compared with 1.7% growth nationally. In contrast, Industry grew strongly in Mayo, increasing employment by 14% since 2011, above the 9.4% national growth. Industry's growth was second only to Health, which increased 15.7% in Mayo compared with 13.4% nationally. As well as hospitals, Health includes elder and child care.

Agriculture's share of employment in Mayo is close to double the national average. However it performed very poorly since 2011; down 17.9% compared with a State average decline of 2.6%. Accommodation & Food service is also more important than average in Mayo; 7.6% of employment compared with 5.8%. It has performed well since 2011, up 11.7%, though lagging somewhat the 12.9% national growth.

Construction in Mayo experienced lower than average growth (8.4% v 16.6%) but remains a more important employer for the county. As does Public Administration, which performed worse in Mayo than elsewhere; declining 10.1% compared with a 6.3% decline nationally.

Knowledge intensive services (Professional, Scientific & Technical activities, Financial, Insurance & Real Estate and Information & Communications) are among the smallest employers in Mayo and less important than nationally. Though both grew, Information & Communications (6.2%) and Professional services (7.7%), both performed far below the State average (31.4% and 22.2% respectively). Financial services experienced the county's largest employment decline, down 18.8% compared with a 1.3% decline nationally. This is linked to closures of local bank and insurance branches.

It is important that we more fully understand why some of the sectoral changes in employment are taking place in county Mayo, and its wider region, and the impact that these are having on the county's economy and its residents.

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All data from CSO, Census 2016 Summary Results – Part 2. Table EZ011

³ Detailed analysis of commuting patterns in the Western Region will be published by the WDC in future.