



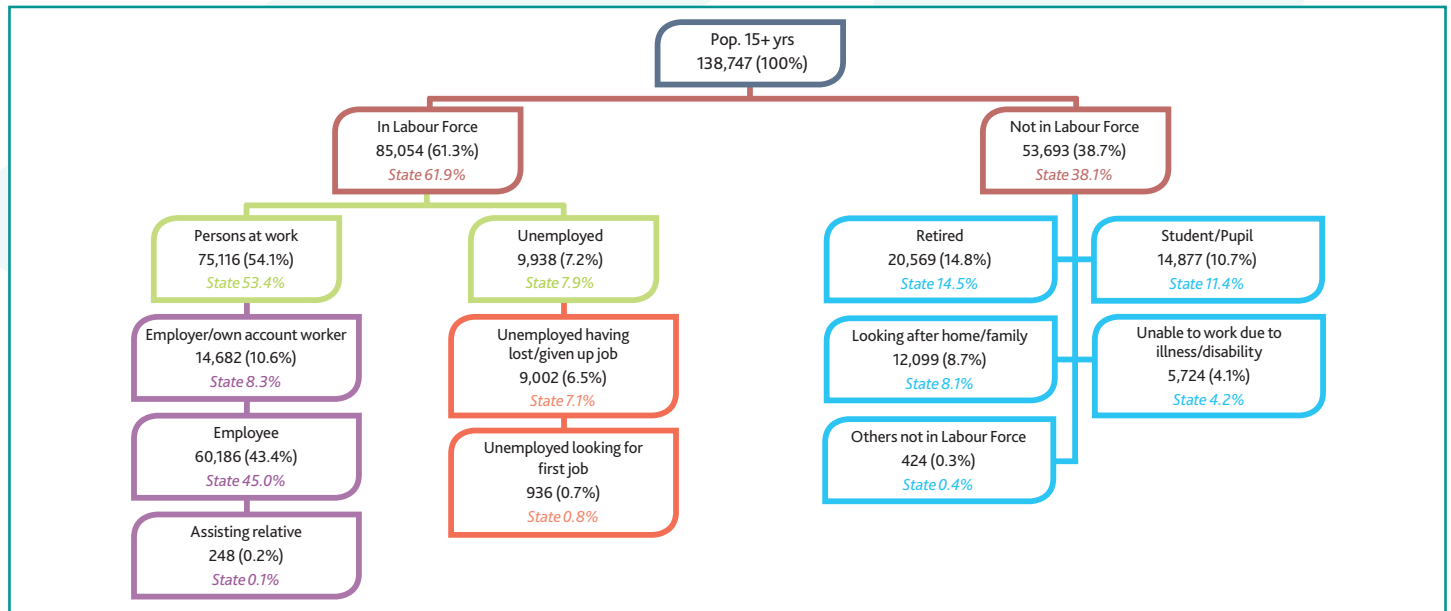
## Galway County's Labour Market – Census 2016

In this *WDC Insights* we provide an overview of the labour market in Galway County based on data from the Census of Population 2016.<sup>1</sup> This excludes Galway City, which is examined in a separate *WDC Insights*. Galway County had a total population of 179,390 in 2016, 2.4% higher than at the last Census (2011). Galway County's population was 12.6% higher than a decade earlier (2006), a greater increase than occurred nationally (12.3%). Total employment in Galway County grew 8.5% between 2011 and 2016; below the 11% national growth.

### Principal Economic Status of Galway County'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.<sup>2</sup> Fig. 1 shows Galway County's adult population by principal economic status compared with the State average.

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



Some 61.3% of Galway County's adults are in the labour force, either working or looking for work, close to the national average (61.9%). The 85,054 people who are in the county's labour force represents a 0.6% increase on the 2011 figure, compared with 3.2% growth nationally. The share of Galway County's adults who are 'at work' (54.1%) is above the national average, while the share unemployed is somewhat lower. The county differs strongly from the national pattern in terms of self-employment (employer/own account worker); 10.6% in Galway County compared with 8.3% nationally.

The share of Galway County's adults who are outside the labour force (38.7%) is slightly higher than nationally (38.1%). 'Retired' is the largest group and accounts for a similar share as in the State (14.8% v 14.5%). The county's share of students/pupils is below average; 10.7% compared with 11.4%.

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

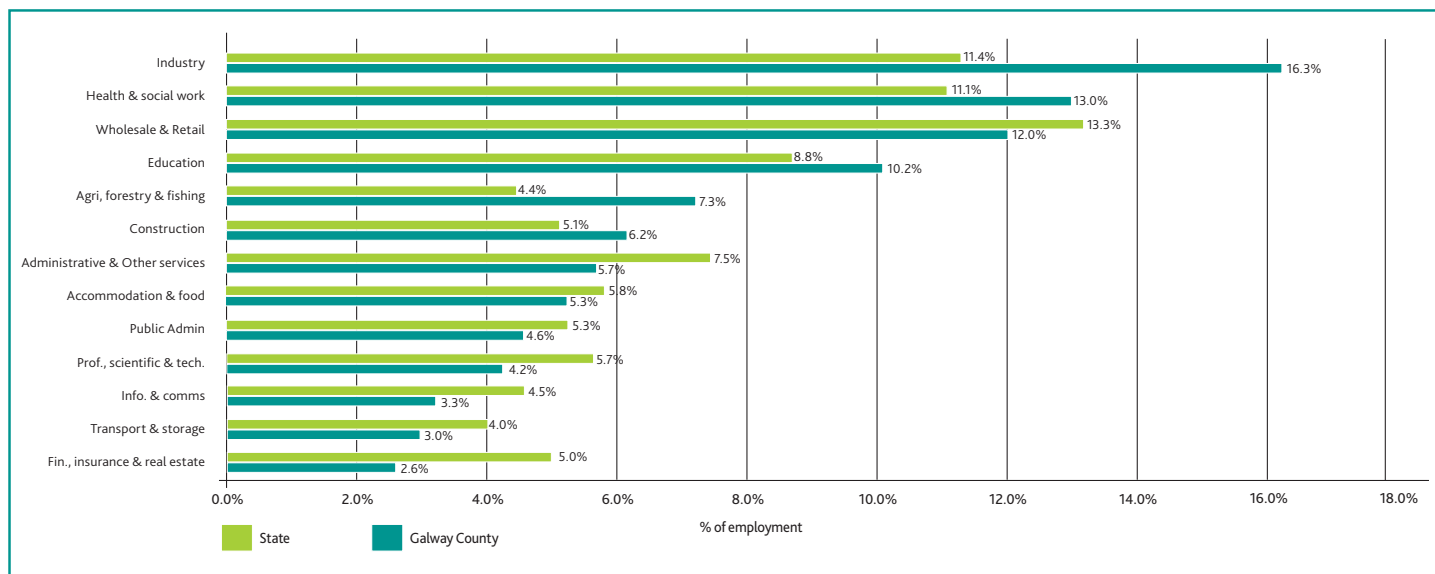
2. The ILO definition, used in the QNHS and official employment statistics, is that if a person has worked for payment or profit for 1 hour or more in the previous fortnight they are counted as employed. This results in a higher number being counted as employed than when people are asked to select their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



## Sectoral pattern & recent changes in employment

Fig. 2 shows the sectors where the 75,116 Galway County residents who are 'at work' are employed. Commuting is a very important factor and the 24,832 people living in Galway County who travel outside of the county for work, including into Galway City, are counted here, but the 8,676 people living outside Galway County who travel into it for work are not <sup>3</sup>

**Fig. 2: Percentage of total employment in each broad sector in Galway County and State, 2016**



Industry is very significantly more important to employment in Galway County than nationally, 16.3% of all employment compared with 11.4%; the fourth highest share working in Industry of all counties nationally. Growth in Industry in the county since 2011 was more than double the national average (20.7% v 9.4%) and it was the strongest growing sector in the county.

Health, Education, Agriculture and Construction are also more important to the county's employment than elsewhere. While Health, which includes child and elder care, grew far more than nationally (17.4% v 13.4%), the other sectors performed below average. Education employment grew by 5.1% compared with 5.7% nationally, while Agriculture fell 6.8% compared with a 2.6% national decline. Construction employment did grow, by 9.5%, but significantly below the State average (16.6%) showing the county has not benefitted to the same extent from the sector's recovery.

Wholesale & Retail, and all remaining sectors, are less important in Galway County than elsewhere. Employment in Wholesale & Retail declined 0.4% since 2011; compared with a slight increase nationally (1.7%). Accommodation & Food Service meanwhile enjoyed strong employment growth, up 13.3%, slightly above the 12.9% national growth, indicating strengthening tourism activity.

Knowledge intensive services (Professional, Scientific & Technical activities, Financial, Insurance & Real Estate and Information & Communications) are among the county's smallest employers. However Information & Communications had the county's second strongest employment growth (18.7%), while Professional services also increased (8.3%); though both below State average growth (31.4% and 22.2% respectively). Financial services in contrast saw employment decline by 7.7% 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 Galway County 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.