

Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region

A Profile of the Ballaghaderreen Labour Catchment



Introduction

The Western Development Commission (WDC) commissioned All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) at Maynooth University to undertake an analysis of the Census 2016 Place of Work Census of Anonymised Records (POWCAR) dataset. This was to provide a detailed understanding of the travel to work patterns of workers living in the Western Region. The study was also asked to examine the changes in the travel to work patterns that have occurred since the WDC produced the original report based on Census 2006 data.

Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region, published in 2018, identified 42 labour catchments in the Western Region (Census 2016). These are illustrated on Map 1 on page 5. The geographic size of the labour catchments varies considerably, ranging from Galway city with over 70,000 resident workers, to centres with fewer than 1,000 resident workers. Map 1 illustrates the labour catchments of all towns with a population greater than 1,000 in the Western Region as of April 2016. The travel to work patterns of seven towns: Galway, Sligo, Ennis, Letterkenny, Castlebar, Carrick-on-Shannon and Roscommon were examined in the main report and this is available for download on the WDC website¹.

To complement the existing labour catchment analysis the WDC has now produced reports for all other labour catchments associated with towns that are located entirely within the Western Region; 26 in total. This report on the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment, will identify where the residents of the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment work and provide a summary of the socio-economic characteristics of all those living in this labour catchment and at work as of April 2016.

Ballaghaderreen

The Ballaghaderreen settlement had a population of 1,808 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Ballaghaderreen is the 32nd largest settlement within the Western Region and the 173rd largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Ballaghaderreen has increased by 5.1% (88). In the five years since Census 2011, the population of the town has decreased by -0.8% (-14). Demographic comparisons between urban centres tend to be difficult due to intercensal boundary changes. For instance, in 2014 all legal town boundaries were abolished under the Local Government Act 2014. Accordingly, the population of these former legal towns have been newly defined using the standard census town criteria². For some towns, the impact of this has been to lose area and population, compared with previous computations, though this is not the case for Ballaghaderreen.

¹ <https://www.wdc.ie/publications/reports-and-papers/>

² <https://wdcinsights.wordpress.com/2017/06/22/regional-towns-growth-or-decline-can-we-tell/>

Ballaghaderreen Labour Catchment

The analysis in this series of reports aims to identify labour catchments which are based on travel to work patterns. Each of the 42 labour catchments identified in the main *Labour Catchments in the Western Region* report, of which Ballaghaderreen is one, are not based on town or county administrative boundaries, but on people's travel to work patterns. The analysis followed the same methodology for assigning EDs to towns that was used in the previous research carried out in 2009 based on Census 2006. Each electoral division (ED) is examined and the place of work of all those who live in that ED is identified (either town, Northern Ireland or rural destination). Each ED is then allocated to a specific town's catchment on the basis of the town to which the highest numbers of its residents travel to work. The full methodology for this is outlined in detail in the Appendix of the main report (see footnote 1).

According to POWCAR 2016, the total number of jobs located within Ballaghaderreen was 807 and accounts for 0.3% of all jobs located within the Western Region (242,712). It should be noted that the above job numbers relate to those within the town boundary as defined by the CSO and do not include jobs located outside the town boundary or nearby employment concentrations (industrial parks, local factories etc).

In the following section we provide a summary of the socio-economic characteristics of all those living in this labour catchment and at work, even though they may not all have been working in Ballaghaderreen in April 2016. We do this because although some may not be working in Ballaghaderreen they are living in the catchment from which the Ballaghaderreen labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Ballaghaderreen. The Ballaghaderreen labour catchment is therefore separated into those who live in the catchment and are employed 'Inside' the town or 'Outside' the town i.e. beyond the town boundary and elsewhere in the Ballaghaderreen catchment or locations such as Sligo, Carrick-on-Shannon and Castlebar etc.

This profile is further supported by an analysis of changes in the catchment between 2006 and 2016, both in terms of geography and socio-economic characteristics, a graphical comparison with regional and State trends and an overall interpretative analysis of the performance of Ballaghaderreen compared to the Western Region.

Profile of the Ballaghaderreen Labour Catchment

The Ballaghaderreen labour catchment is the 30th largest labour catchment in the Western Region with a resident 'at work' population of 1,632 which accounts for 0.6% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).

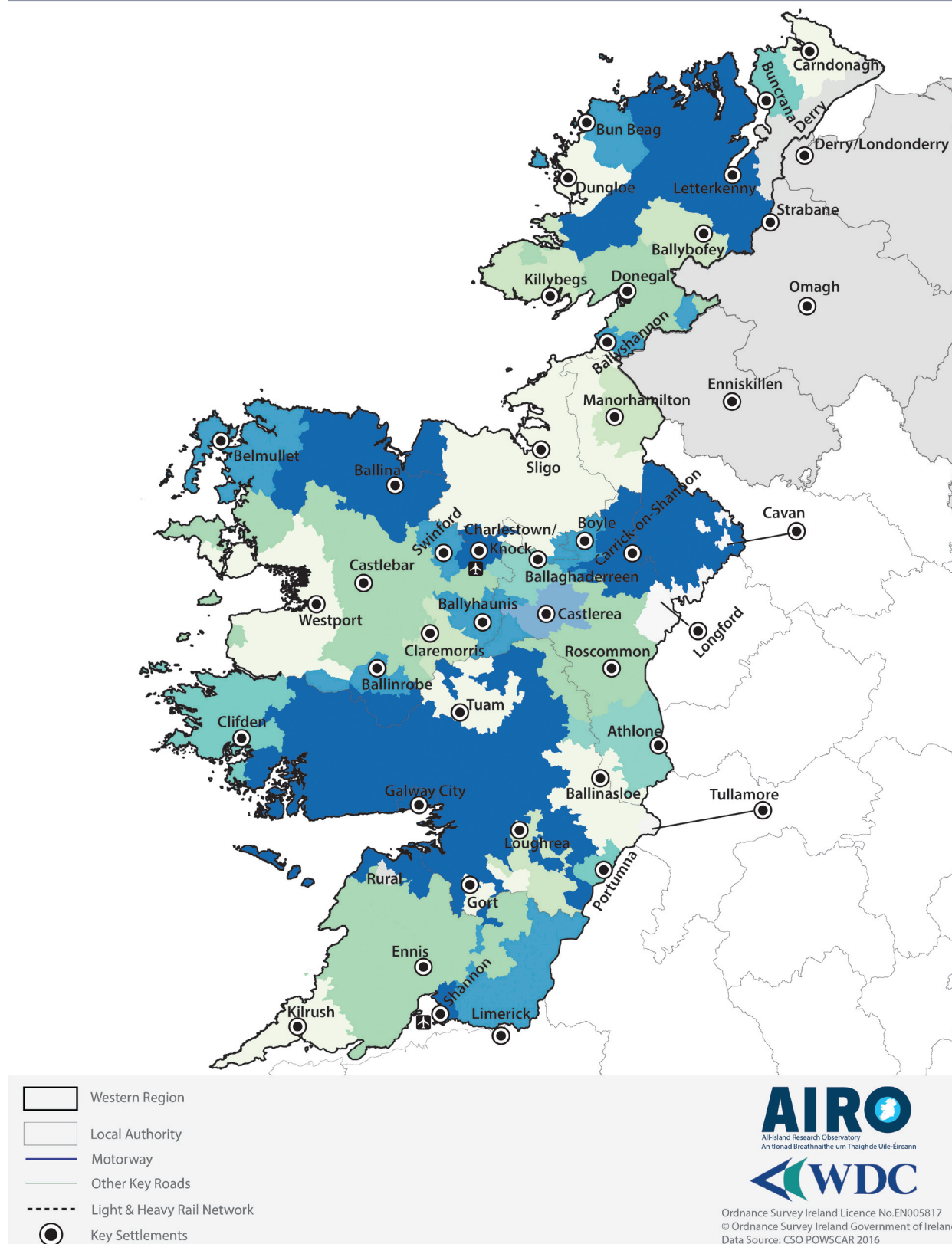
The Ballaghaderreen labour catchment covers a relatively small area in north-west Roscommon (See Map 1 and 2). In 2016, there were 1,632 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is 183.3% more than the resident 'at work' population within the town boundary (576). The 2016 total is -4.4% lower than the 2006 total of 1,707.

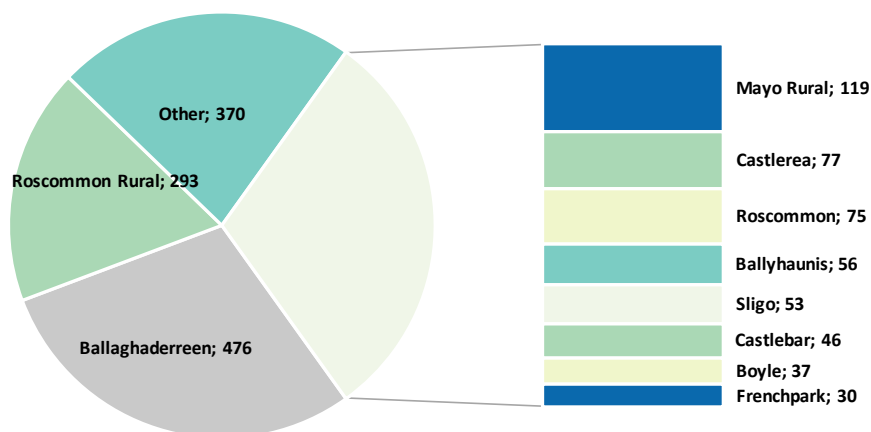
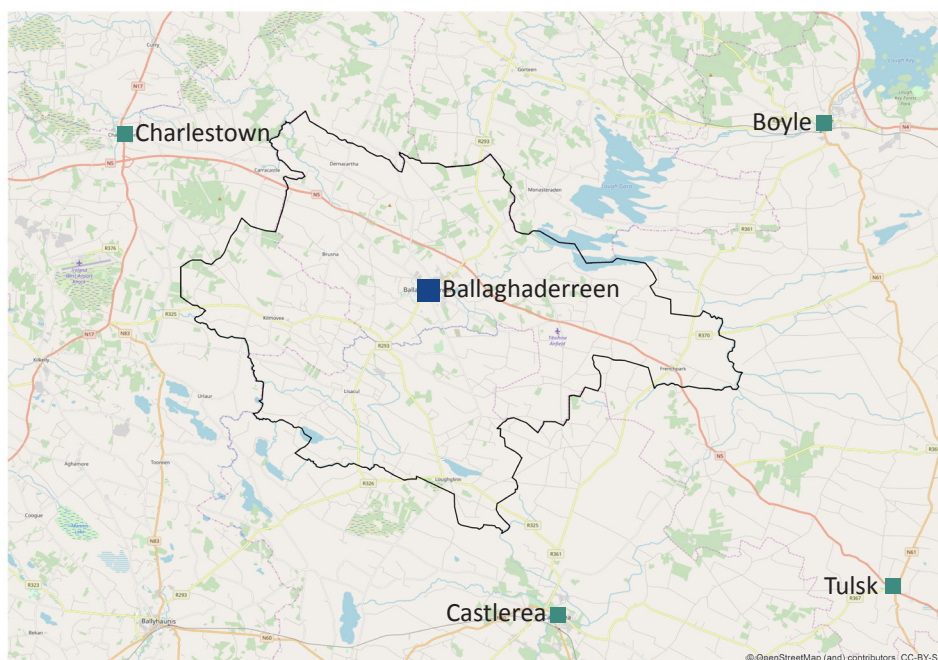
The Ballaghaderreen labour catchment is constrained by the Sligo labour catchment to the north, the Castlebar labour catchment to the west and then the Castlerea labour catchment to the east. These towns are themselves the most important places for employment for those living in their immediate hinterlands, and therefore constitute separate and quite large labour catchments within the county boundaries of Sligo, Mayo and Roscommon.

Map 1: Labour Catchments of 42 Towns in the Western Region, 2016 (WDC & CSO POWCAR)

Labour Catchments of 42 Towns in the Western Region, 2016

By Electoral Division (ED)



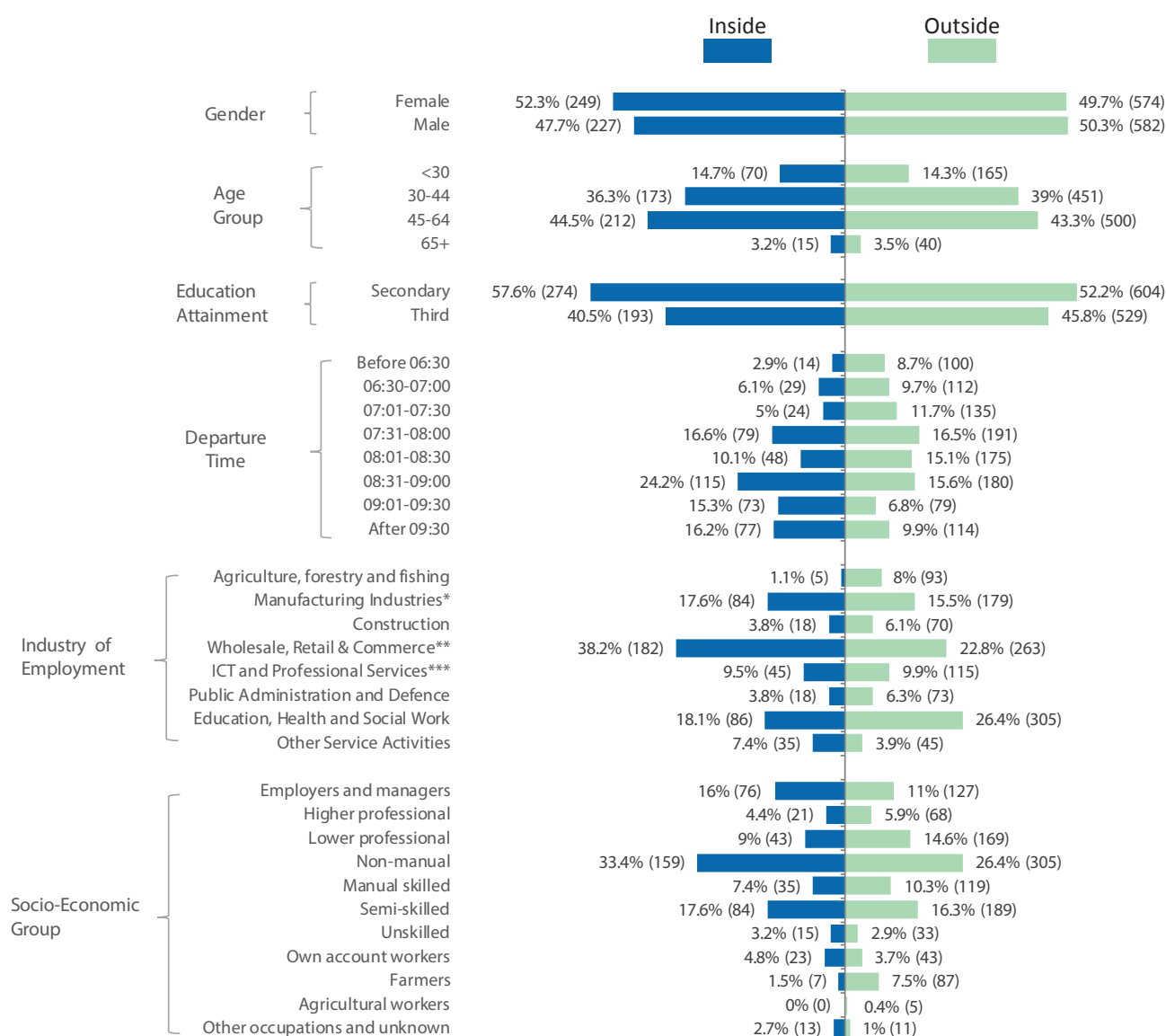


Ballaghaderreen Labour Catchment

Socio-economic comparison of those employed 'Inside' and 'Outside' Ballaghaderreen town, 2016

The graphic below details the socio-economic characteristics of resident workers living within the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment who are employed within Ballaghaderreen town (Inside) and those that are employed outside Ballaghaderreen town (Outside). This profile, as with all other profiles in the report, are based on the following themes: gender, age cohorts, levels of education attainment, departure time to work, industry of employment and socio-economic group.

Figure 2: Socio-economic comparison of resident workers employed 'Inside' and 'Outside' Ballaghaderreen



Within the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment, female workers account for 50.4% and male workers account for 49.6%, see Figure 3. Of those working inside Ballaghaderreen, 52.3% are females whereas 49.7% of those working outside Ballaghaderreen are females, see Figure 2. In comparison, the national picture (Figure 4) shows that 49.9% of all workers are female and 50.1% are male.

The age profile of those living in the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment and working inside Ballaghaderreen is as follows: <30 years (70 or 14.7%), 30 to 44 years (173 or 36.3%), 45 to 64 years (212 or 44.5%) and 65 years plus (15 or 3.2%).

Ballaghaderreen Labour Catchment

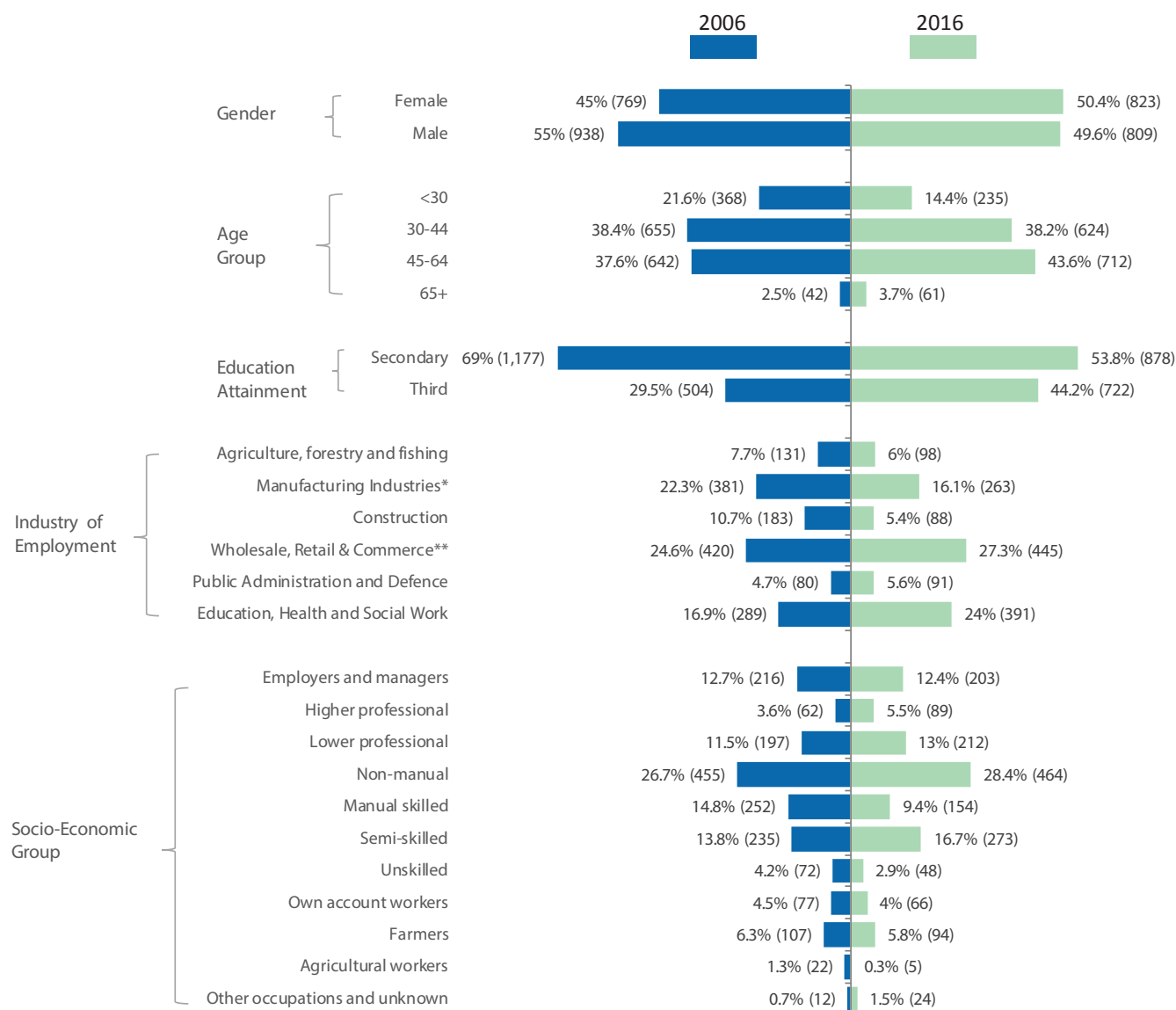
The age profile of those living in the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment and working outside Ballaghaderreen is as follows: <30 years (165 or 14.3%), 30 to 44 years (451 or 39%), 45 to 64 years (500 or 43.3%) and 65 years plus (40 or 3.5%).

An education profile of the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment shows the following: Of those working inside Ballaghaderreen town, 40.5% (193) have 3rd level qualifications compared to 45.8% (529) of those working outside (Figure 2).

Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment between 2006 and 2016. The most notable changes in terms of socio-economic characteristics certainly relate to the age of resident workers, the rate of third level attainment and much lower dependence on employment within the 'Construction' and 'Education, Health and Social work' sectors.

Figure 3: Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

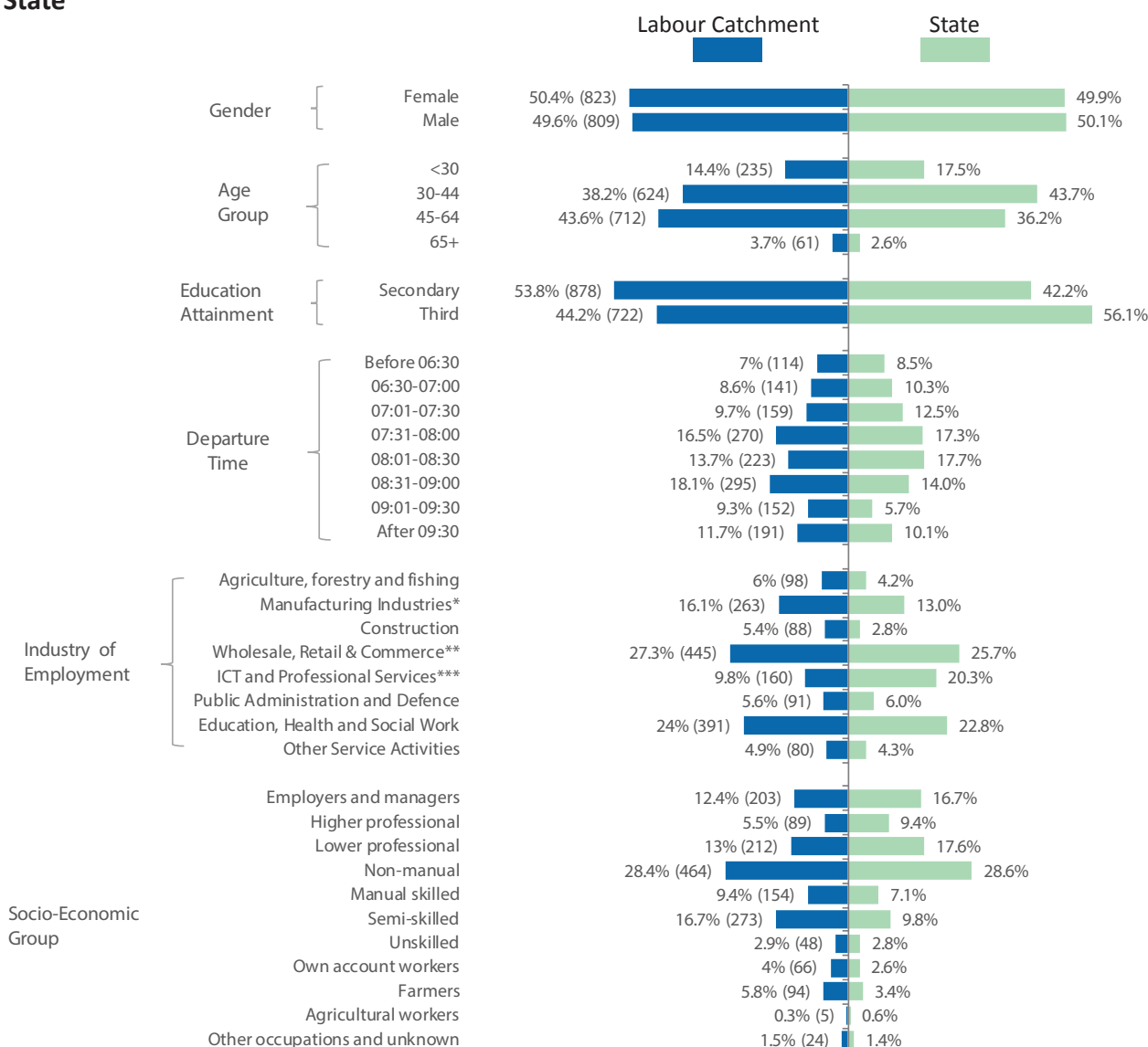


Ballaghaderreen Labour Catchment

Socio-economic comparison of the Ballaghaderreen Labour Catchment and the State, 2016

Figure 4 below provides a comparative analysis of the socio-economic results of the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment and the State average.

Figure 4: Socio-economic comparison of resident workers living in Ballaghaderreen labour catchment and the State



An age profile of the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment details the following: Labour Catchment (Total): <30 years (235 or 14.4%), 30 to 44 years (624 or 38.2%), 45 to 64 years (712 or 43.6%) and 65 years plus (61 or 3.7%). In contrast to this, the national average (Figure 4) is as follows: <30 years (17.5%), 30 to 44 years (43.7%), 45 to 64 years (36.2%) and 65 years plus (2.6%).

An education profile of the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment shows the following: Those at work and residing in the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment recorded a third level attainment rate of 44.2% (722). In contrast to this, the national average is 56.1% (Figure 4).

Analysis of the profile of the industry of employment⁴ within the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment shows the following:

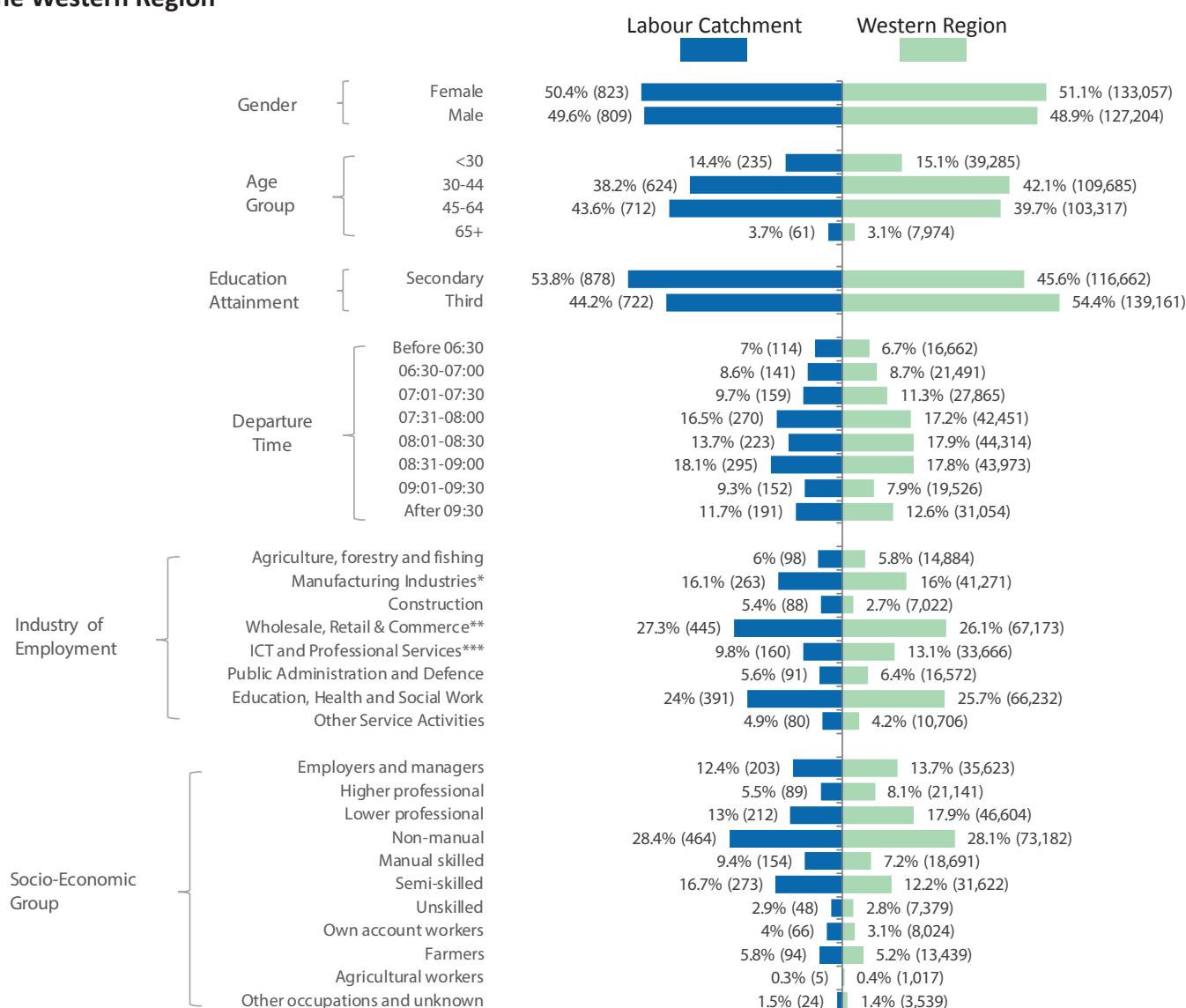
Ballaghaderreen Labour Catchment

- The single largest employer is the 'Wholesale, Retail and Commerce' sector and accounts for 27.3% (445) which is higher than the State average (25.7%) (Figure 4).
- Both the 'Education, Human Health and Social Work' (24% or 391) and 'Manufacturing Industries' (16.1% or 263) are also important employment sectors with 'Manufacturing Industries' having a higher proportional share than the State average (13%) (Figure 4).
- 'ICT and Professional Services' (9.8% or 160) is the fourth most important sector although much lower than the State average of 20.3% (Figure 4).

Socio-economic comparison of the Ballaghaderreen Labour Catchment and the Western Region, 2016

The graphic below provides a comparative analysis of the socio-economic results of the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment and the Western Region average.

Figure 5: Socio-economic comparison of resident workers living in Ballaghaderreen labour catchment and the Western Region



4 With only nine industrial classifications in POWCAR, the classifications are less detailed than in regular Census outputs and as such several industries are grouped together such as: 'Manufacturing Industries' (Manufacturing, mining and quarrying, Electricity, Gas, Water supply and Waste Management), 'Wholesale, Retail and Commerce etc' (Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transportation and Storage, Accommodation and Food Service Activities) and 'ICT & Professional Services' = (Information and Communication, Financial, Real Estate, Professional, admin and support service activities)

Ballaghaderreen Labour Catchment

The most notable differences in terms of socio-economic characteristics certainly relate to the education levels amongst resident workers in the Ballaghaderreen catchment who have a lower rate of 3rd level education attainment than the Western Region. The Ballaghaderreen catchment also has a higher proportion of workers engaged in the 'Construction' sector. Resident workers in the Ballaghaderreen catchment also have an older age profile than the Western Region average.

Conclusion

Ballaghaderreen labour catchment is one of the 12 labour catchments (of a total of 33) which recorded a decrease in the number of workers living there, down from 1,707 to 1,632 people in 2016, a decline of -4.4%. The geographic area of the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment decreased slightly.

Ballaghaderreen is a significant employment centre even though it is relatively small and has a large rural hinterland. In the decade between 2006 and 2016 employment in the town has decreased from 511 to 476. Employment in rural parts of Co Roscommon has decreased by nearly half from 566 to 293. Interestingly the employment numbers in each of the other main centres such as Castlerea and Sligo has not changed markedly. There has been a decrease in the numbers travelling to work in Roscommon town.

The single largest employer is the Wholesale, Retail and Commerce sector and accounts for 27.3% (445) which is higher than the State average (25.7%).

Both the Education, Human Health and Social Work (24% or 391) and Manufacturing Industries (16.1% or 263) are also important employment sectors with Manufacturing Industries having a higher proportional share than the State average (13%) reflecting the presence of several small manufacturing employers along with the large Aurivo dairy products plant in the town which is undergoing expansion.

Notes

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ISBN: 978-0-9576640-3-6

