

Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region

A Profile of the Ballybofey-Stranorlar 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 Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment, will identify where the residents of the Ballybofey-Stranorlar 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

Ballybofey-Stranorlar

The Ballybofey-Stranorlar settlement had a population of 4,852 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Ballybofey-Stranorlar is the 14th largest settlement within the Western Region and the 90th largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Ballybofey-Stranorlar has increased by 16.2% (676). In the five years since Census 2011, the population of the town has remained the same. 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 Ballybofey-Stranorlar.

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/>

Ballybofey-Stranorlar 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 Ballybofey-Stranorlar 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 Ballybofey-Stranorlar was 1,878 and accounts for 0.8% 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 Ballybofey-Stranorlar in April 2016. We do this because although some may not be working in Ballybofey-Stranorlar they are living in the catchment from which the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Ballybofey-Stranorlar. The Ballybofey-Stranorlar 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 Ballybofey-Stranorlar catchment or locations such as Letterkenny and Derry City 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 Ballybofey-Stranorlar compared to the Western Region.

Profile of the Ballybofey-Stranorlar Labour Catchment

The Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment is the 17th largest labour catchment in the Western Region with a resident 'at work' population of 2,969 which accounts for 1.1% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).

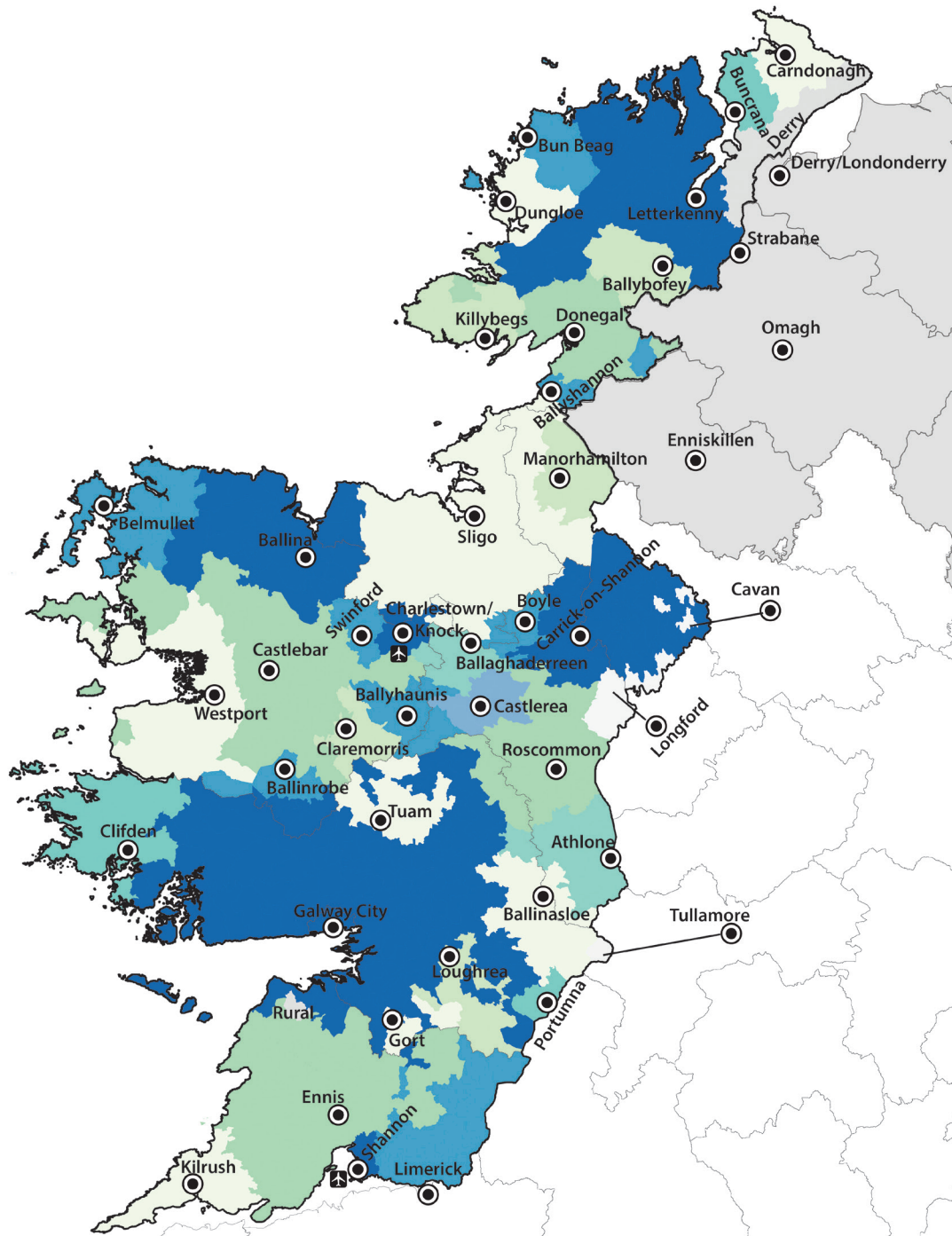
The Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment covers a relatively small area in central Donegal (See Map 1 and 2). In 2016, there were 2,969 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is 94.1% more than the resident 'at work' population within the town boundary (1,530). The 2016 total is -15.7% lower than the 2006 total of 3,520.

The Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment is constrained by the Letterkenny labour catchment to the north and east and the Donegal town labour catchment to the south. 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 boundary of Donegal.

Ballybofey-Stranorlar Labour Catchment

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)



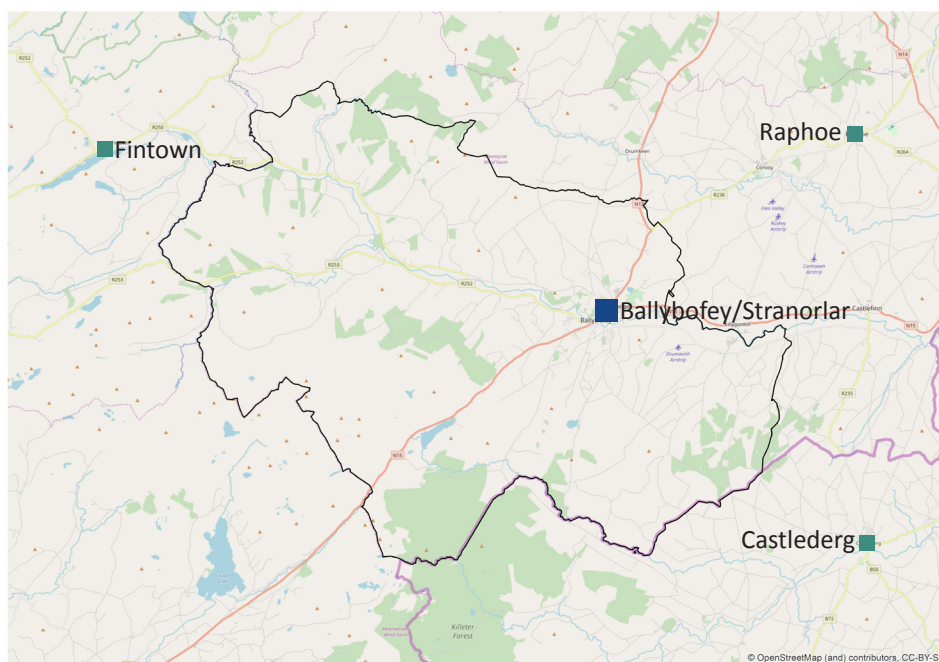
- Western Region
- Local Authority
- Motorway
- Other Key Roads
- Light & Heavy Rail Network
- Key Settlements

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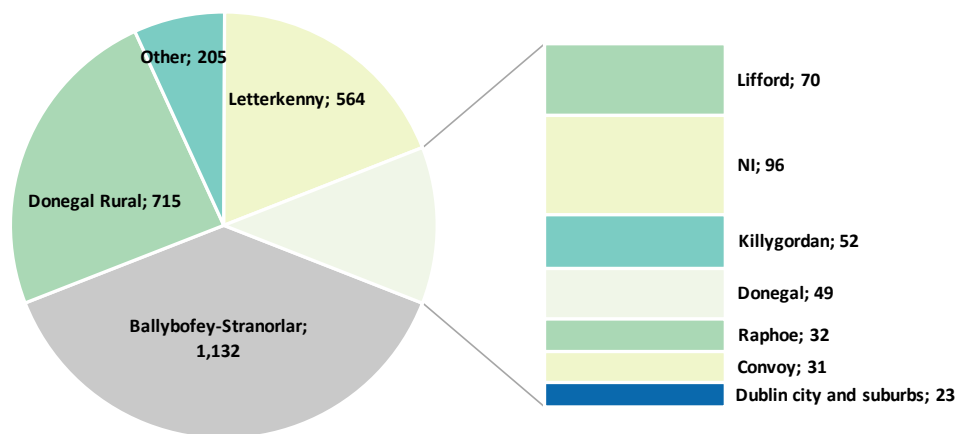
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Data Source: CSO POWSCAR 2016

Map 2: Ballybofey-Stranorlar Labour Catchment, 2016 (WDC & CSO POWCAR)



Of those living in the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment (total = 2,969), 38.1% (1,132) are employed within Ballybofey-Stranorlar town and 61.9% (1,837) are employed outside the town. Key destinations outside the town are Donegal Rural (24.1% or 715), Letterkenny (19% or 564) and Lifford (2.4% or 70) – see Figure 1³ for more details.

Figure 1: Place of work of those living in the Ballybofey-Stranorlar Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: CSO POWCAR)



The graphics on the following pages provide further detail on the socio-economic characteristics of the workers who live in the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment. The characteristics of resident workers in the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment who are employed in the town of Ballybofey-Stranorlar are compared with those working elsewhere. Following this, there is a comparison between the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment in 2006 and 2016. Finally, there is comparison between the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment and the State, and the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment and the Western Region.

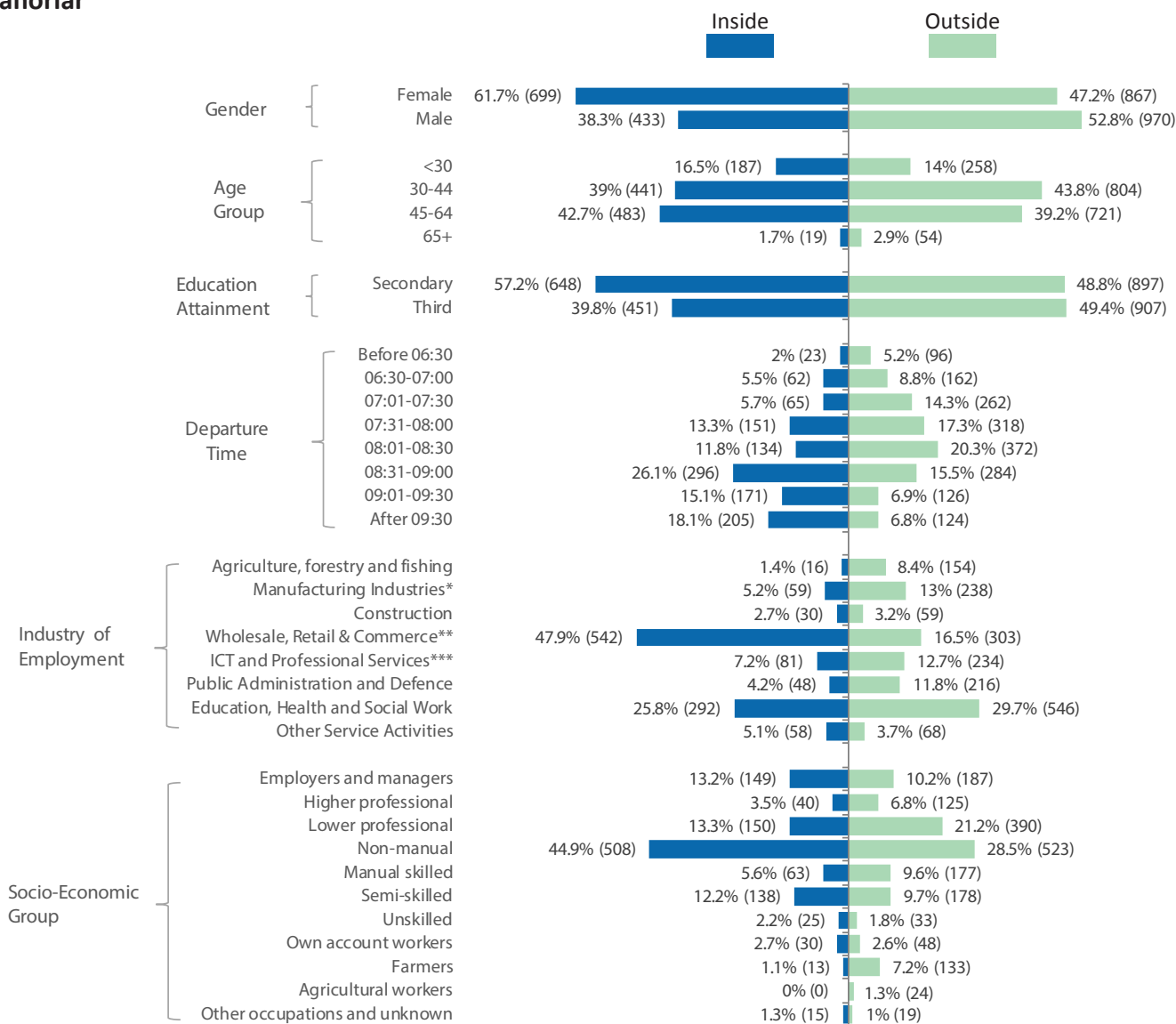
³ The analysis of the labour catchments in the Western Region has highlighted the importance of rural areas as employment locations. Depending on the location of the catchment and the proximity of nearby towns, a large proportion of the labour catchment residents are in fact employed in rural areas. For the purposes of this destination analysis (see Figure 1 above), the CSO define towns as locations with more than 50 inhabited dwellings and areas outside of this as the rural areas of the county i.e., Donegal Rural, Sligo Rural. In the graphic above, 'Other' refer to all other employment destinations (settlements) of those living in the labour catchment.

Ballybofey-Stranorlar Labour Catchment

Socio-economic comparison of those employed ‘Inside’ and ‘Outside’ Ballybofey-Stranorlar town, 2016

The graphic below details the socio-economic characteristics of resident workers living within the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment who are employed within Ballybofey-Stranorlar town (Inside) and those that are employed outside Ballybofey-Stranorlar 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’ Ballybofey-Stranorlar



Within the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment, female workers account for 52.7% and male workers account for 47.3%, see Figure 3. Of those working inside Ballybofey-Stranorlar, 61.7% are females whereas 47.2% of those working outside Ballybofey-Stranorlar 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 Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment and working inside Ballybofey-Stranorlar is as follows: <30 years (187 or 16.5%), 30 to 44 years (441 or 39%), 45 to 64 years (483 or 42.7%) and 65 years plus (19 or 1.7%).

Ballybofey-Stranorlar Labour Catchment

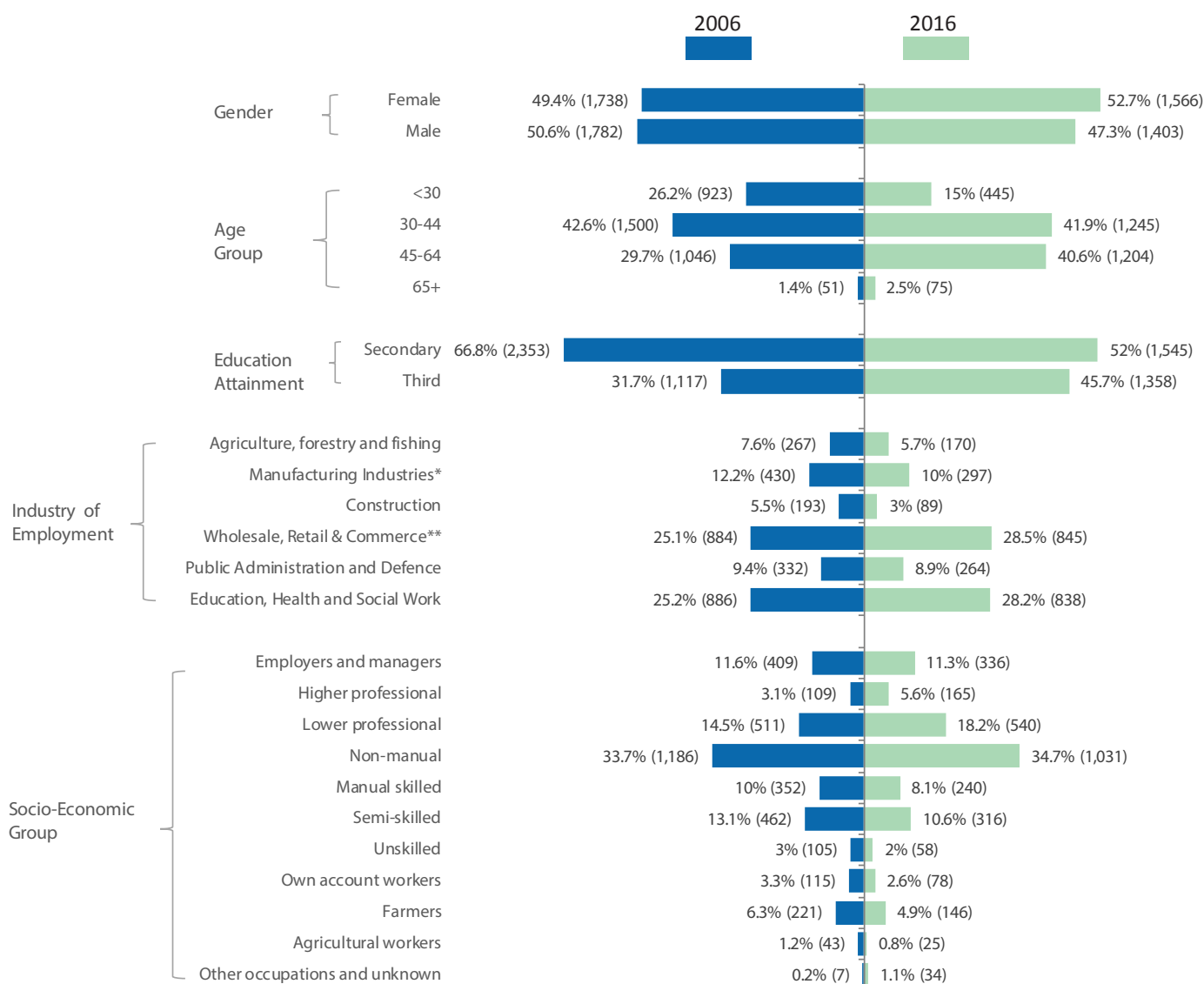
The age profile of those living in the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment and working outside Ballybofey-Stranorlar is as follows: <30 years (258 or 14%), 30 to 44 years (804 or 43.8%), 45 to 64 years (721 or 39.2%) and 65 years plus (54 or 2.9%).

An education profile of the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment shows the following: Of those working inside Ballybofey-Stranorlar town, 39.8% (451) have 3rd level qualifications compared to 49.4% (907) of those working outside (Figure 2)

Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Ballybofey-Stranorlar 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' sector and the increased importance of the 'Wholesale, Retail & Commerce' and 'Education, Health and Social Work' sectors. However, it is important to note that the numbers for all three sectors have declined.

Figure 3: Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

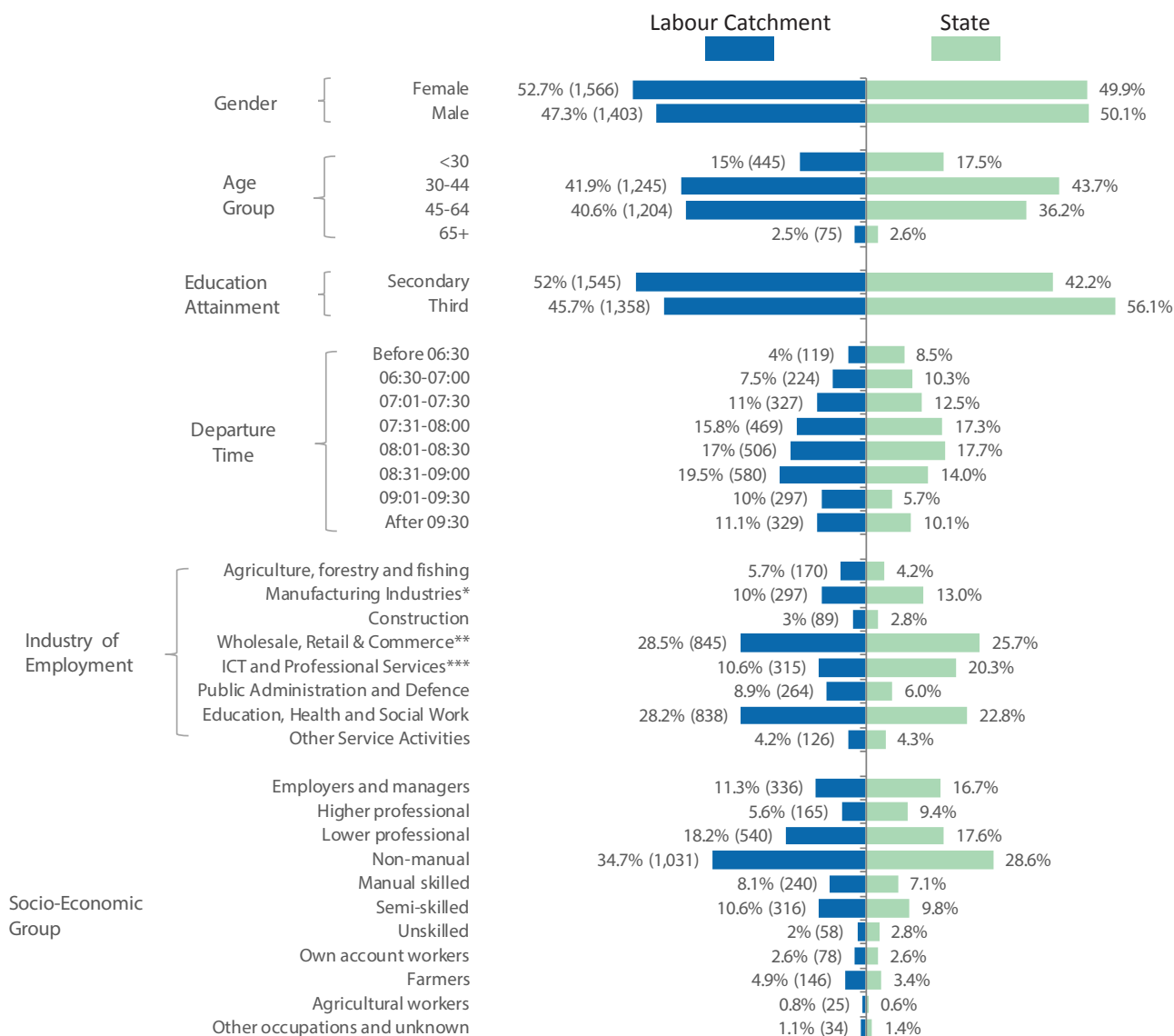


Ballybofey-Stranorlar Labour Catchment

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

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

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



An age profile of the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment details the following: Labour Catchment (Total): <30 years (445 or 15%), 30 to 44 years (1,245 or 41.9%), 45 to 64 years (1,204 or 40.6%) and 65 years plus (75 or 2.5%). 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 Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment shows the following: Those at work and residing in the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment recorded a third level attainment rate of 45.7% (1,358). In contrast to this, the national average is 56.1% (Figure 4).

Analysis of the profile of the industry of employment⁴ within the Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment shows the following:

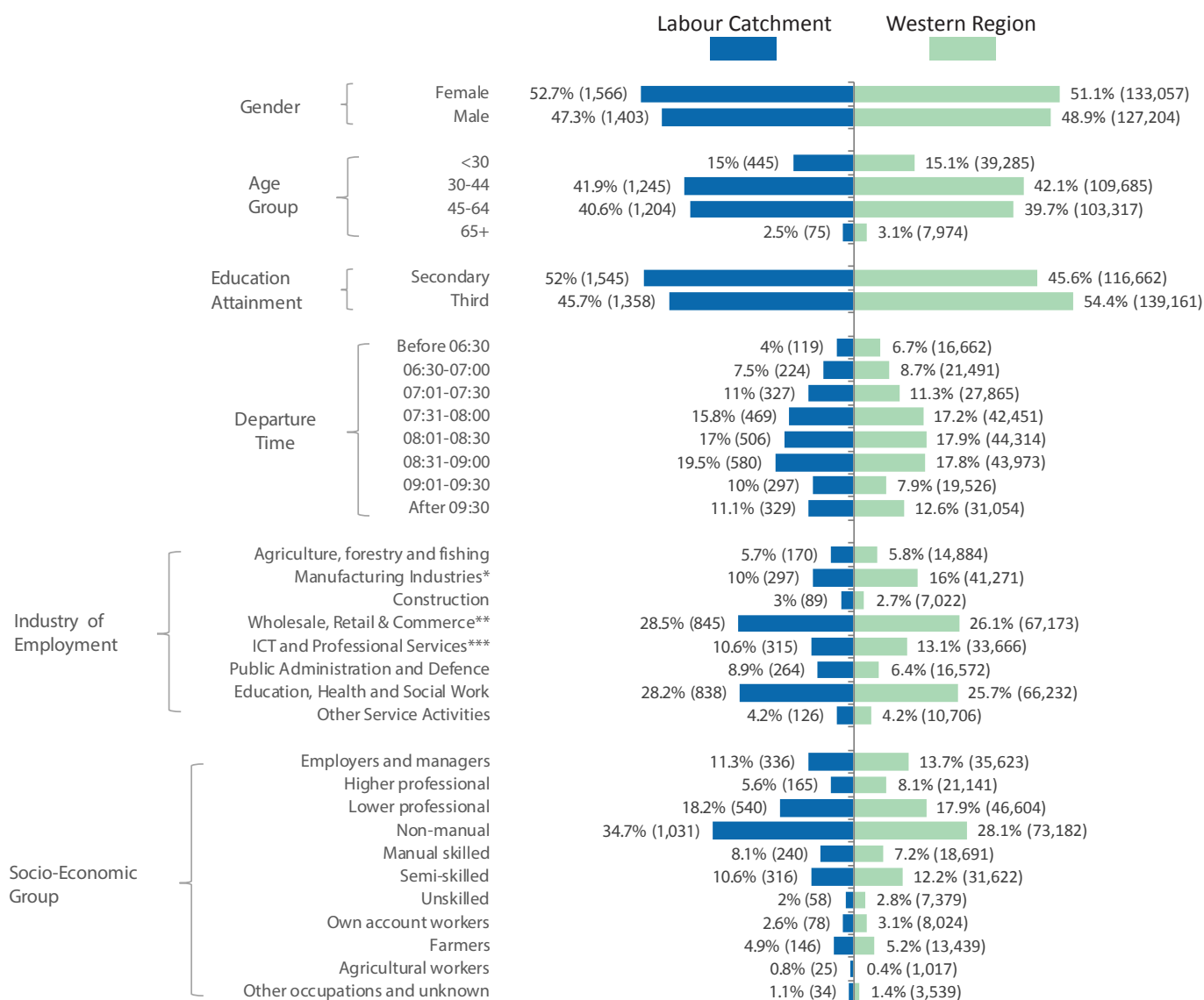
Ballybofey-Stranorlar Labour Catchment

- Both the 'Wholesale, Retail & Commerce' (28.5% or 845) and 'Education, Health and Social Work' (28.2% or 838) are the most important employment sectors with both sectors having a higher proportional share than the State average (25.7% and 22.8%, respectively) (Figure 4).
- The 'ICT and Professional Services' (10.6% or 315) is the third most important sector although much lower than the State average of 20.3% (Figure 4).
- 'Manufacturing Industries' (10% or 297) is the fourth most important sector and lower than the State average of 13% (Figure 4).

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

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

Figure 5: Socio-economic comparison of resident workers living in Ballybofey-Stranorlar 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)

Ballybofey-Stranorlar Labour Catchment

The most notable differences in terms of socio-economic characteristics certainly relate to the education levels amongst resident workers in the Ballybofey-Stranorlar catchment who have a lower rate of 3rd level education attainment than the Western Region. The Ballybofey-Stranorlar catchment also has a higher proportion of workers engaged in the 'Education, Health and Social Work' and 'Wholesale, Retail & Commerce' industries. Resident workers in the Ballybofey-Stranorlar catchment also have similar age profile than the Western Region average.

Conclusion

Ballybofey-Stranorlar labour catchment is one of the 12 (of a total of 33) that recorded a decrease in population size between 2006 and 2016, decreasing by -15.7% (-551). This is the third highest decrease of the 12. However Ballybofey-Stranorlar has lost some geography to the Letterkenny catchment in the last 10 years and this will account for some of the decrease in population size.

Ballybofey-Stranorlar is the most significant place of employment with a very marginal decrease since 2006. Rural parts of County Donegal are the next most significant place of work but the numbers are fewer (from 1125 in 2006 to 715 in 2016). Letterkenny accounts for a similar number of workers as in 2006. Both Lifford and Northern Ireland have become less significant as places of employment over the decade. Over the same period the numbers reporting their place of work in Dublin city and suburbs has over doubled.

Both the Wholesale, Retail & Commerce and Education, Health and Social Work sectors are proportionately more significant in 2016 than in 2006, however they both employ fewer in 2016 than they did in 2006.

Notes

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