

# Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region

## A Profile of the Boyle 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 website<sup>1</sup>.

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 Boyle labour catchment, will identify where the residents of the Boyle 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.

## **Boyle**

The Boyle settlement had a population of 2,568 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Boyle is the 23rd largest settlement within the Western Region and the 138th largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Boyle has increased by 1.8% (46). In the five years since Census 2011, the population of the town has decreased by -0.8% (-20). 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 criteria<sup>2</sup>. For some towns, the impact of this has been to lose area and population, compared with previous computations and this is particularly the case for Boyle.

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/>

## **Boyle 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 Boyle 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 Boyle was 1,049 and accounts for 0.4% 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 Boyle in April 2016. We do this because although some may not be working in Boyle they are living in the catchment from which the Boyle labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Boyle. The Boyle 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 Boyle catchment or locations such as Carrick-on-Shannon and Sligo town 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 Boyle compared to the Western Region.

## **Profile of the Boyle Labour Catchment**

The Boyle labour catchment is the 32nd largest labour catchment in the Western Region with a resident 'at work' population of 1,452 which accounts for 0.6% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).

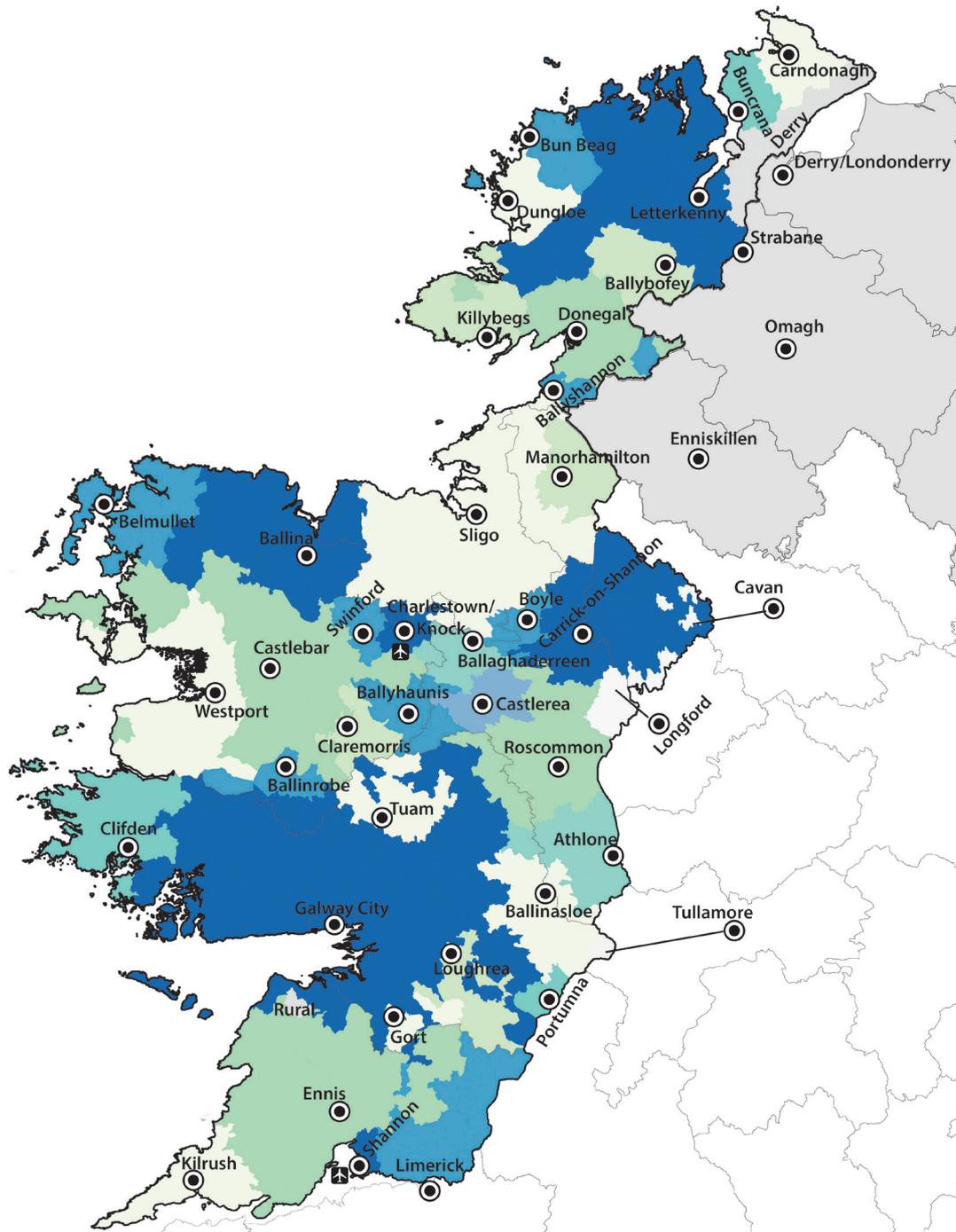
The Boyle labour catchment covers a relatively small area in north-west Roscommon and extends slightly into counties Sligo and Leitrim (See Map 1 and 2). In 2016, there were 1,452 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is 77.3% more than the resident 'at work' population within the town boundary (819). The 2016 total is -26.1% lower than the 2006 total of 1,964.

The Boyle labour catchment is constrained by the Sligo town labour catchment to the north, the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment to the east and then the Ballaghaderreen and Charlestown/Knock catchment to the west. 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 Roscommon, Sligo and Mayo.

### Boyle 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)



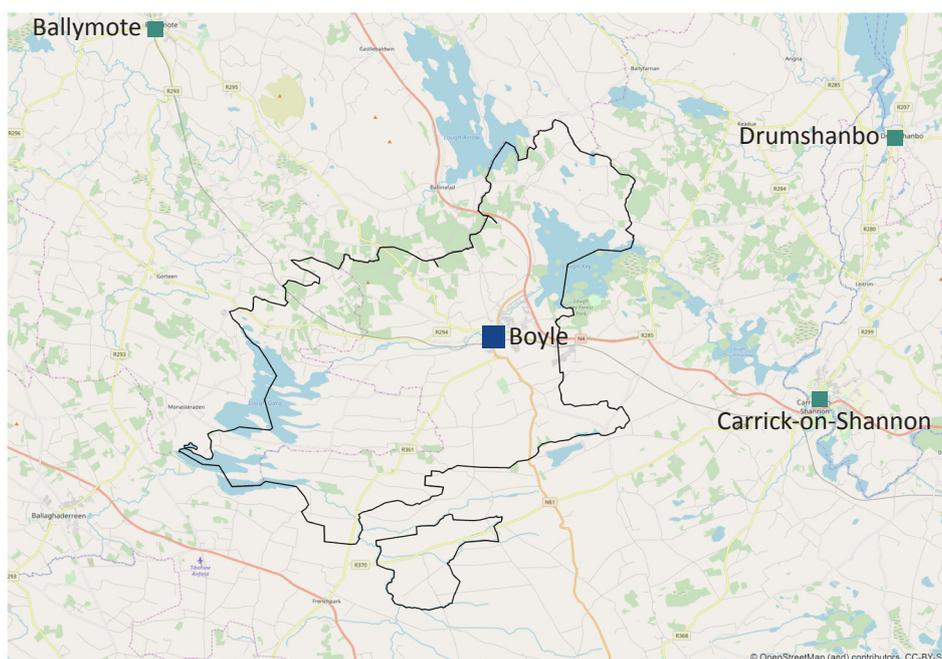
- Western Region
- Local Authority
- Motorway
- Other Key Roads
- Light & Heavy Rail Network
- Key Settlements



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Data Source: CSO POWSCAR 2016

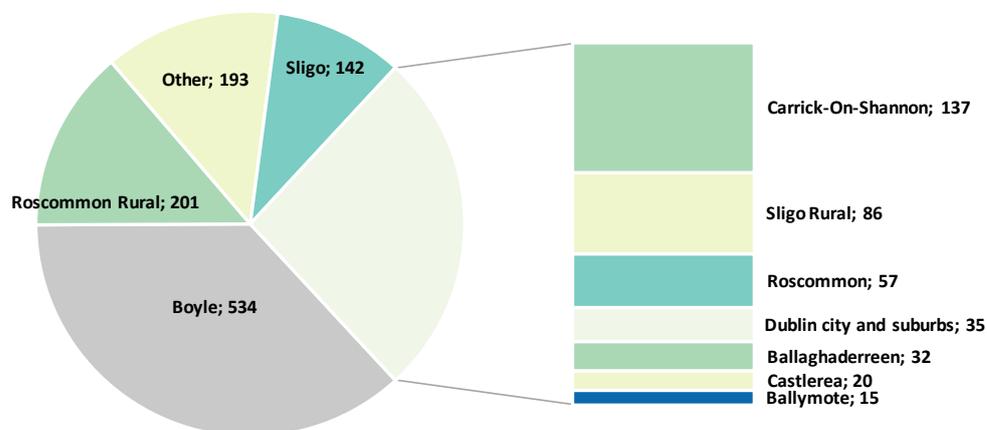
Boyle Labour Catchment

Map 2: Boyle Labour Catchment, 2016 (WDC & CSO POWCAR)



Of those living in the Boyle labour catchment (total = 1,452), 36.8% (534) are employed within Boyle town and 63.2% (918) are employed outside the town. Key destinations outside the town are Roscommon Rural (13.8% or 201), Sligo (9.8% or 142) and Carrick-On-Shannon (9.4% or 137) – see Figure 1<sup>3</sup> for more details.

Figure 1: Place of work of those living in the Boyle 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 Boyle labour catchment. The characteristics of resident workers in the Boyle labour catchment who are employed in the town of Boyle are compared with those working elsewhere. Following this, there is a comparison between the Boyle labour catchment in 2006 and 2016. Finally, there is comparison between the Boyle labour catchment and the State, and the Boyle labour catchment and the Western Region.

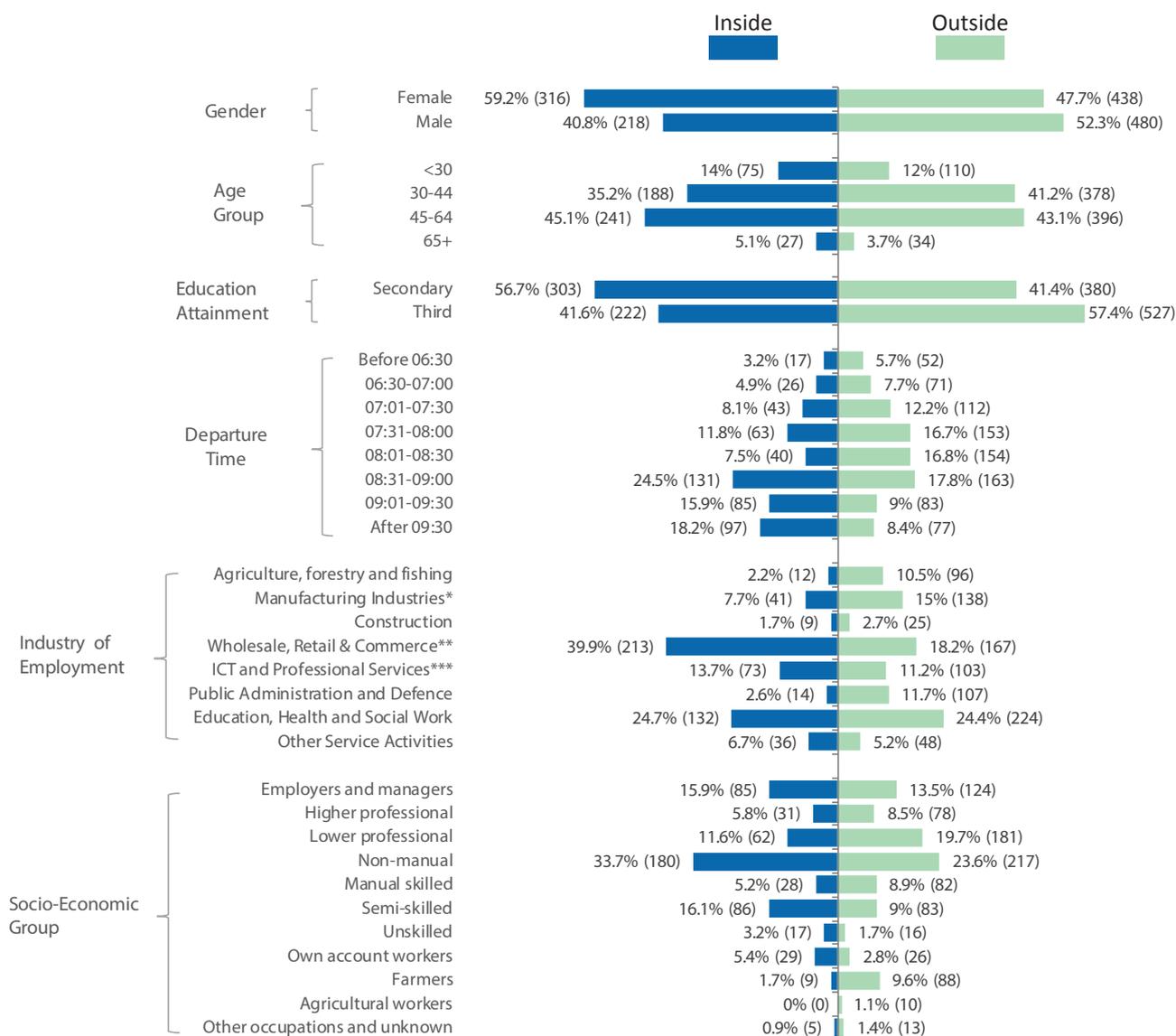
<sup>3</sup> The analysis of the labour catchments in the Western Region has highlighted the importance of rural areas as employment locations. Depending on the location of the catchment and the proximity of nearby towns, a large proportion of the labour catchment residents are in fact employed in rural 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., Roscommon Rural, Mayo Rural, Galway Rural. In the graphic above, 'Other' refer to all other employment destinations (settlements) of those living in the labour catchment.

**Boyle Labour Catchment**

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

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



Within the Boyle labour catchment, female workers account for 51.9% and male workers account for 48.1%, see Figure 3. Of those working inside Boyle, 59.2% are females whereas 47.7% of those working outside Boyle 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 Boyle labour catchment and working inside Boyle is as follows: <30 years (75 or 14%), 30 to 44 years (188 or 35.2%), 45 to 64 years (241 or 45.1%) and 65 years plus (27 or 5.1%).

## Boyle Labour Catchment

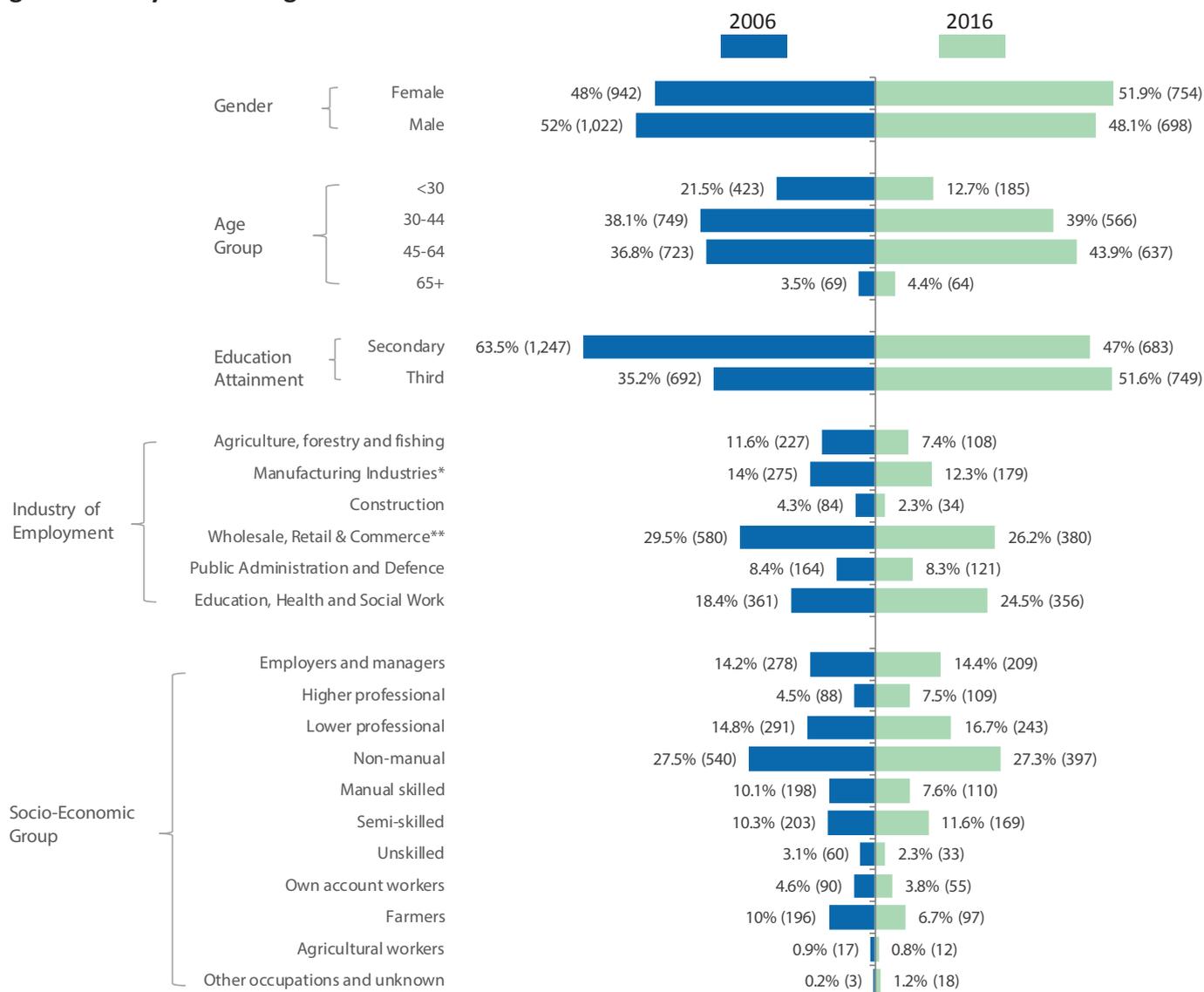
The age profile of those living in the Boyle labour catchment and working outside Boyle is as follows: <30 years (110 or 12%), 30 to 44 years (378 or 41.2%), 45 to 64 years (396 or 43.1%) and 65 years plus (34 or 3.7%).

An education profile of the Boyle labour catchment shows the following: Of those working inside Boyle town, 41.6% (222) have 3rd level qualifications compared to 57.4% (527) of those working outside (Figure 2).

### Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Boyle 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 'Wholesale, Retail & Commerce' sectors and an increase in dependence on the 'Education, Health and Social Work' sector although the actual numbers have decreased.

**Figure 3: Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016**

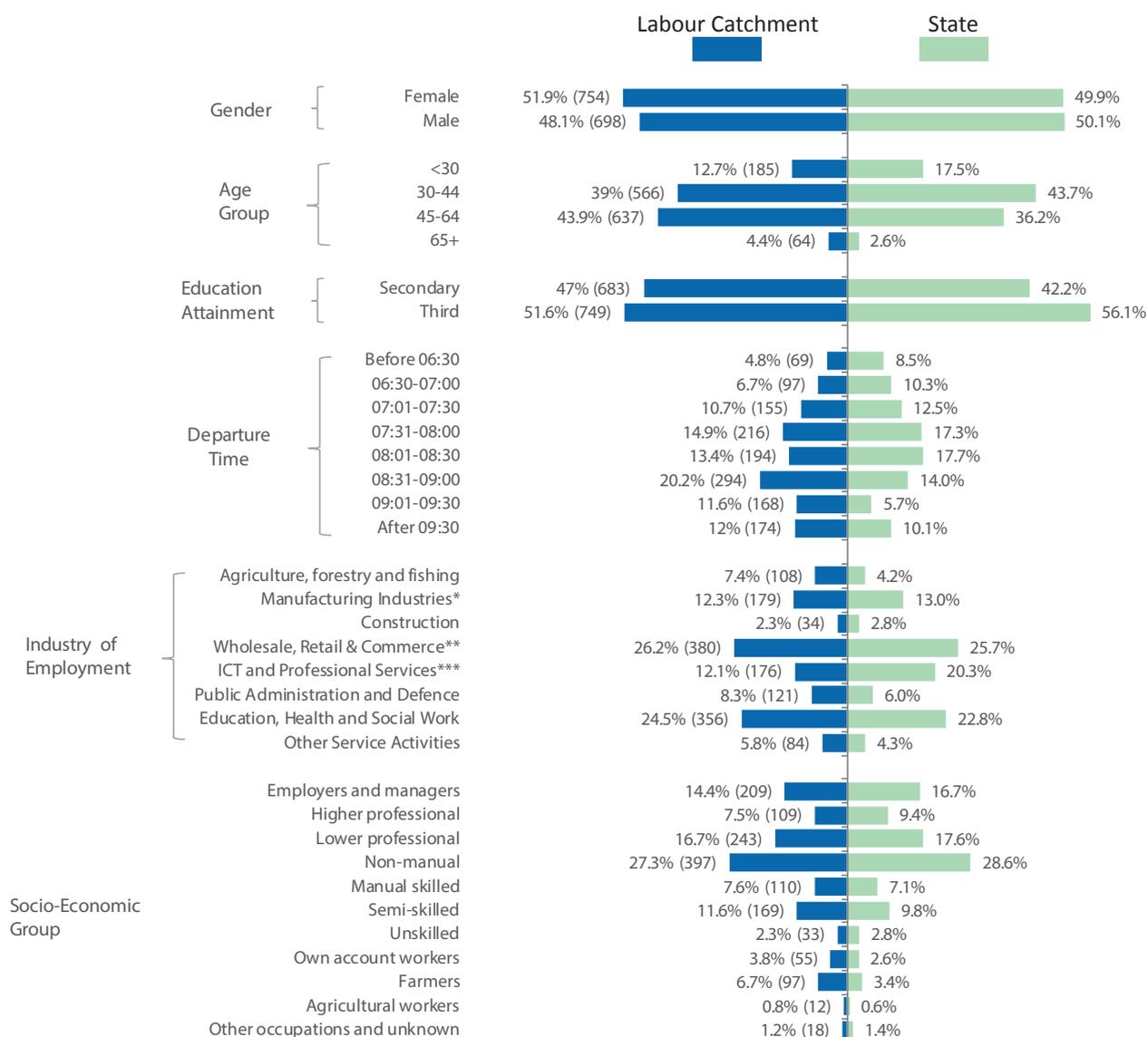


**Boyle Labour Catchment**

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

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

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



An age profile of the Boyle labour catchment details the following: Labour Catchment (Total): <30 years (185 or 12.7%), 30 to 44 years (566 or 39%), 45 to 64 years (637 or 43.9%) and 65 years plus (64 or 4.4%). 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 Boyle labour catchment shows the following: Those at work and residing in the Boyle labour catchment recorded a third level attainment rate of 51.6% (749). In contrast to this, the national average is 56.1% (Figure 4).

Analysis of the profile of the industry of employment<sup>4</sup> within the Boyle labour catchment shows the following:

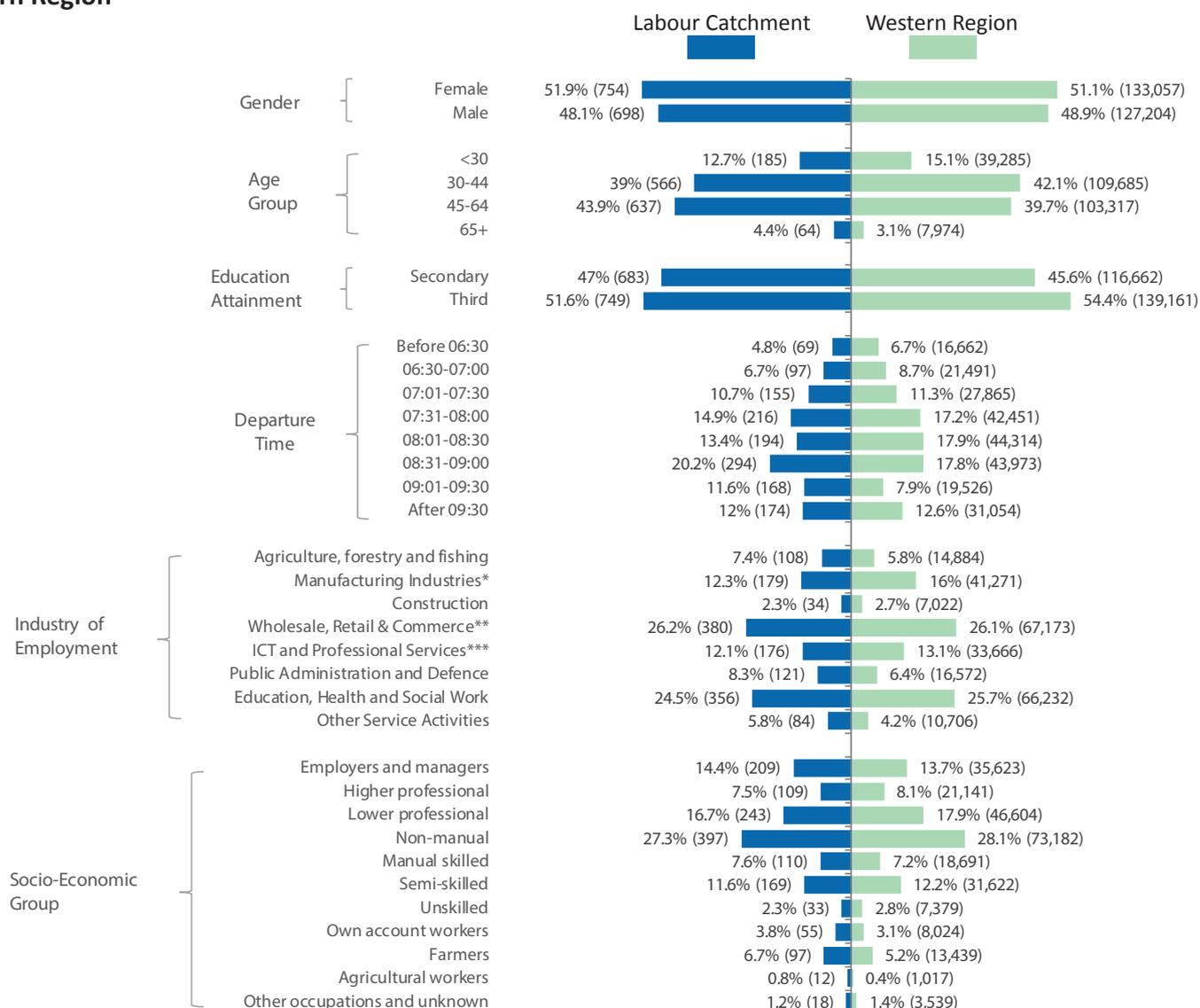
## Boyle Labour Catchment

- The single largest employer is the ‘Wholesale, Retail and Commerce’ sector and accounts for 26.2% (380) which is higher than the State average (25.7%) (Figure 4).
- The ‘Education, Human Health and Social Work’ (24.5% or 356) is also an important employment sector having a higher proportional share than the State average (22.8%) (Figure 4).
- The ‘Manufacturing Industries’ (12.3% or 179) and ICT and Professional Services’ (12.1% or 176) sectors are the third and fourth most important sectors, respectively. However, the ‘ICT and Professional Services’ sector has a much lower proportional share than the State average of 20.3% (Figure 4).

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

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

**Figure 5: Socio-economic comparison of resident workers living in Boyle 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)

## Boyle Labour Catchment

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

### Conclusion

One of the most important observations for the Boyle Labour Catchment is the decline in overall numbers within the catchment, one of 12 (of a total of 33). Boyle recorded the largest decrease of all, -26% (-512) down from 1,964 in 2006 to 1,452 in 2016. The Boyle labour catchment decreased slightly in size over the period.

Though the numbers are less, the relative importance of the main workplace destinations have not changed over the period. Boyle was the place of employment for over 750 workers in 2006, while in 2016 this had declined to 534 workers.

The sectors of Manufacturing and Wholesale, Retail and Commerce have shown the most significant employment declines over the ten year period. A few significant company closures over the decade account for much of the decline in employment in these two sectors.

While Boyle has a slightly lower level of third level educational attainment than the Western Region average, the cities and larger urban centres account for much higher rates and many small catchments have education attainment rates lower than Boyle.

## Notes

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