

# Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region

## A Profile of the Carndonagh 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 Carndonagh labour catchment, will identify where the residents of the Carndonagh 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.

## **Carndonagh**

The Carndonagh settlement had a population of 2,471 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Carndonagh is the 50th largest settlement within the Western Region and the 238th largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Carndonagh has increased by 28.5% (548). In the five years since Census 2011, the population of the town has decreased by -2.5% (-63). 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, though this is not the case for Carndonagh.

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/>

### **Carndonagh 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 Carndonagh 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 Carndonagh was 1,062 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 Carndonagh in April 2016. We do this because although some may not be working in Carndonagh they are living in the catchment from which the Carndonagh labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Carndonagh. The Carndonagh 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 Carndonagh catchment or locations such as Letterkeny, Derry City, Lifford and Strabane 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 Carndonagh compared to the Western Region.

### **Profile of the Carndonagh Labour Catchment**

The Carndonagh labour catchment is the 24th largest labour catchment in the Western Region with a resident 'at work' population of 2,299 which accounts for 0.9% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).

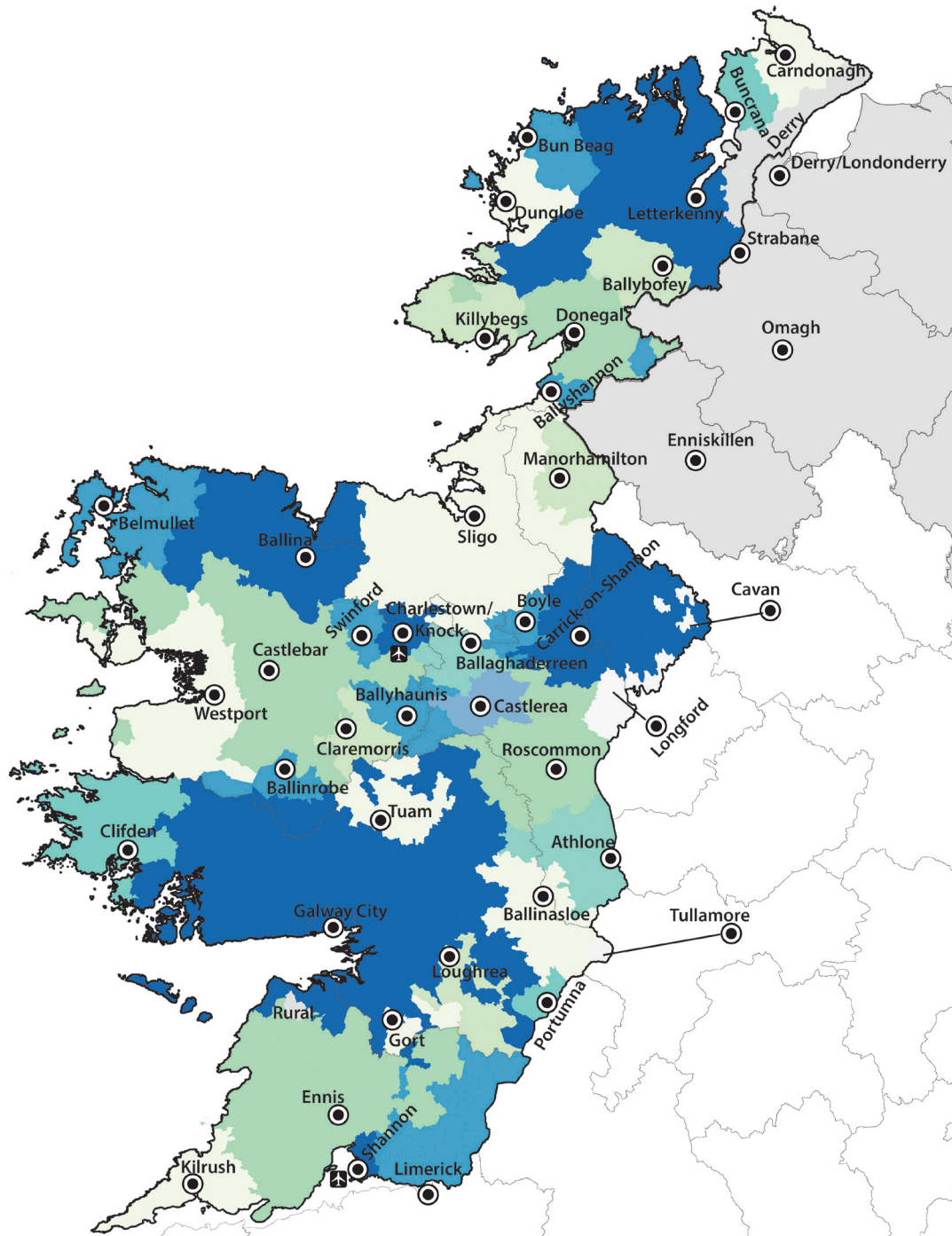
The Carndonagh labour catchment covers a relatively small area in north-east Donegal within the Inishowen peninsula (See Map 1 and 2). In 2016, there were 2,299 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is 190.6% more than the resident 'at work' population within the town boundary (791). The 2016 total is 32.4% higher than the 2006 total of 1,737.

The Carndonagh labour catchment is constrained by the Buncrana labour catchment to the west and the Derry City catchment to the south and east. These locations 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.

### Carndonagh 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)

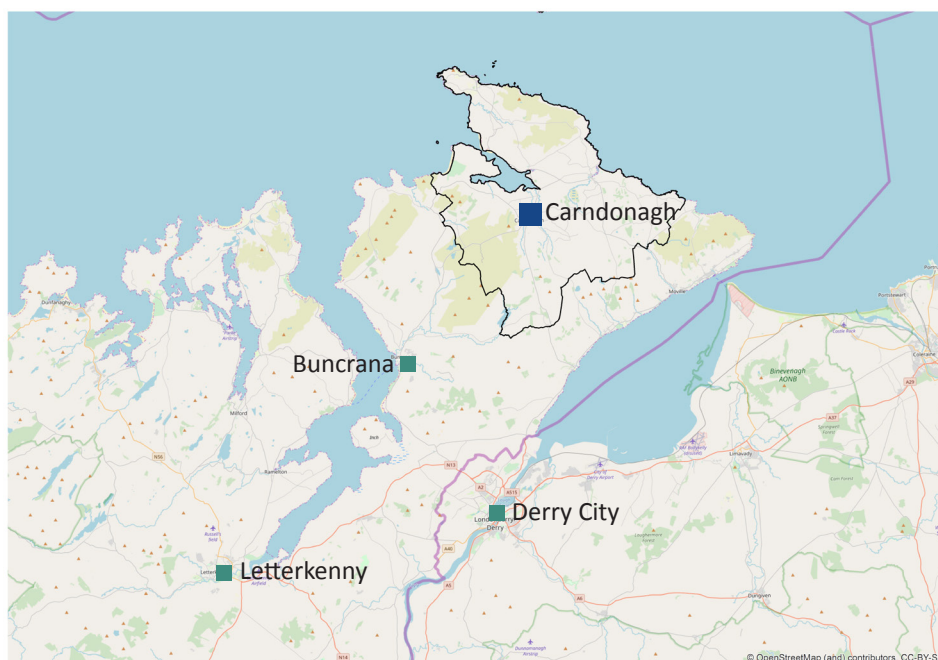


- Western Region
- Local Authority
- Motorway
- Other Key Roads
- Light & Heavy Rail Network
- Key Settlements



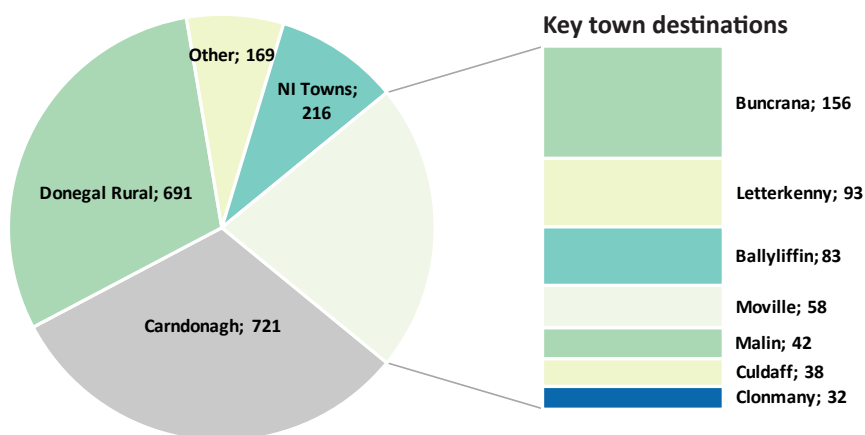
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Data Source: CSO POWSCAR 2016

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



Of those living in the Carndonagh labour catchment (total = 2,299), 31.4% (721) are employed within Carndonagh town and 68.6% (1,578) are employed outside the town. Key destinations outside the town are Donegal Rural (30.1% or 691), NI (8.7% or 216) and Buncrana (6.8% or 156) – see Figure 1<sup>3</sup> for more details.

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

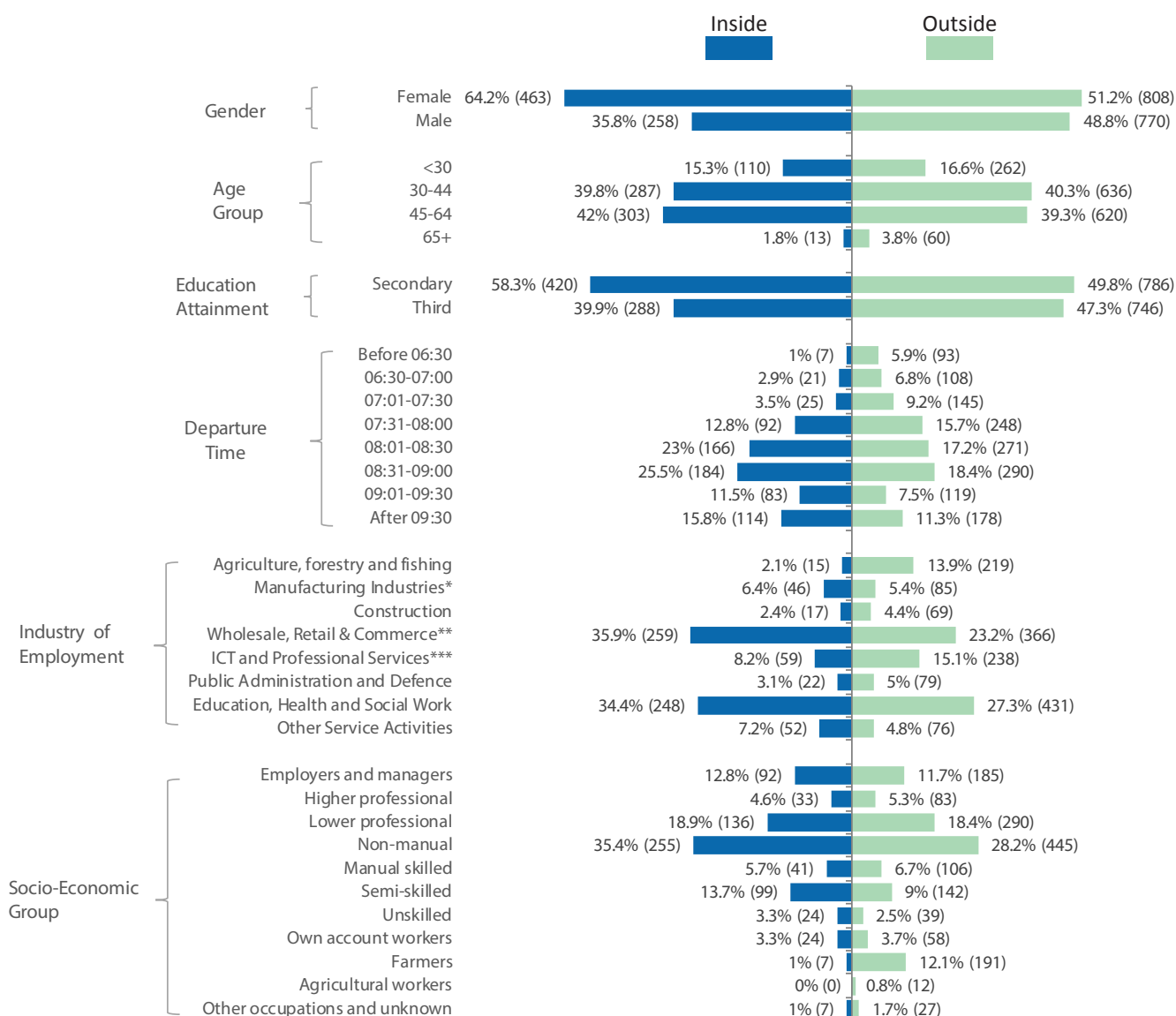
<sup>3</sup> The analysis of the labour catchments in the Western Region has highlighted the importance of rural areas as employment locations. Depending on the location of the catchment and the proximity of nearby towns, a large proportion of the labour catchment residents are in fact employed in rural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

**Carndonagh Labour Catchment**

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

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



Within the Carndonagh labour catchment, female workers account for 55.3% and male workers account for 44.7%, see Figure 3. Of those working inside Carndonagh, 64.2% are females whereas 51.2% of those working outside Carndonagh 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 Carndonagh labour catchment and working inside Carndonagh is as follows: <30 years (110 or 15.3%), 30 to 44 years (287 or 39.8%), 45 to 64 years (303 or 42%) and 65 years plus (13 or 1.8%).

## Carndonagh Labour Catchment

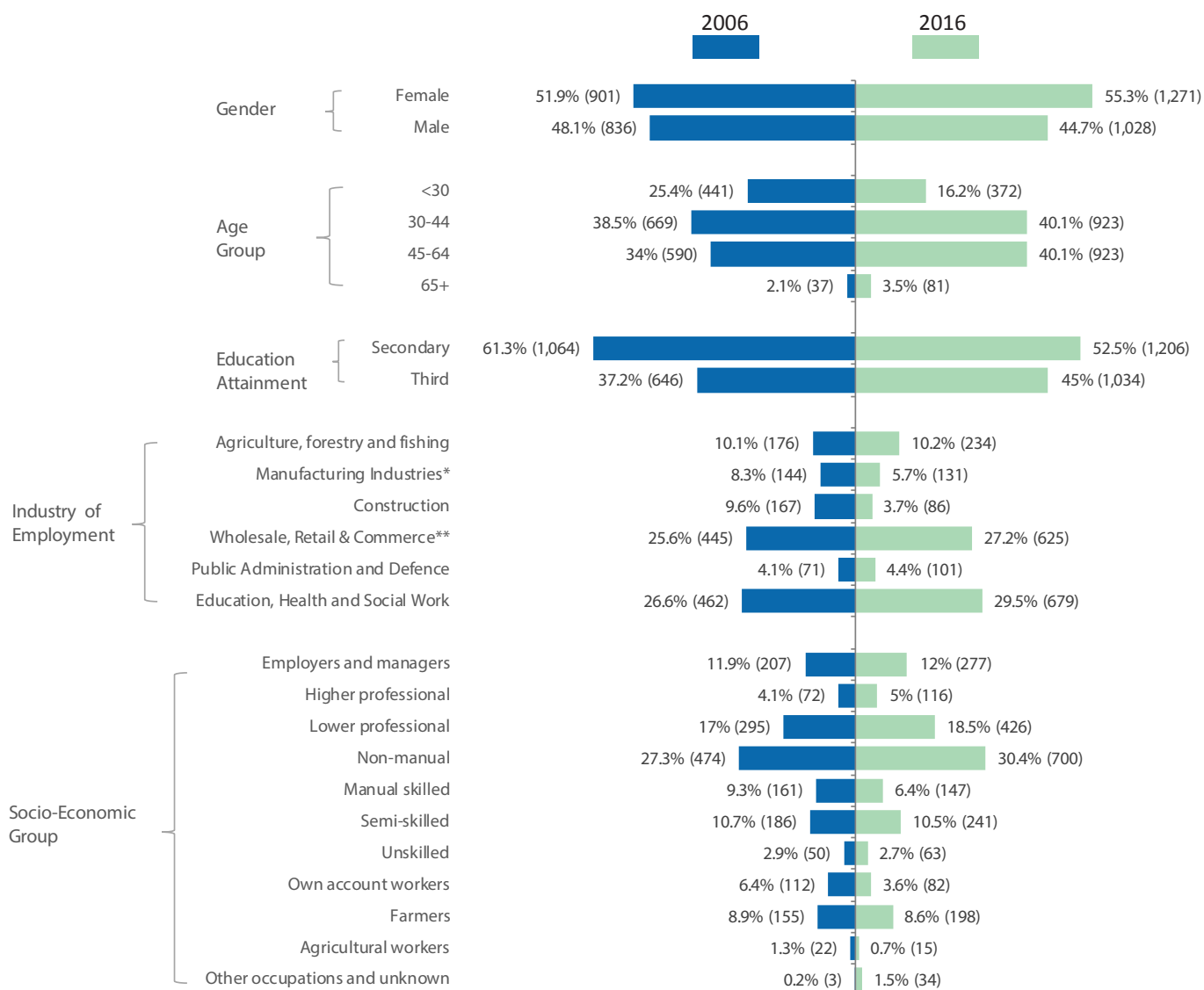
The age profile of those living in the Carndonagh labour catchment and working outside Carndonagh is as follows: <30 years (262 or 16.6%), 30 to 44 years (636 or 40.3%), 45 to 64 years (620 or 39.3%) and 65 years plus (60 or 3.8%).

An education profile of the Carndonagh labour catchment shows the following: Of those working inside Carndonagh town, 39.9% (288) have 3rd level qualifications compared to 47.3% (746) of those working outside (Figure 2).

### Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Carndonagh 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.

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



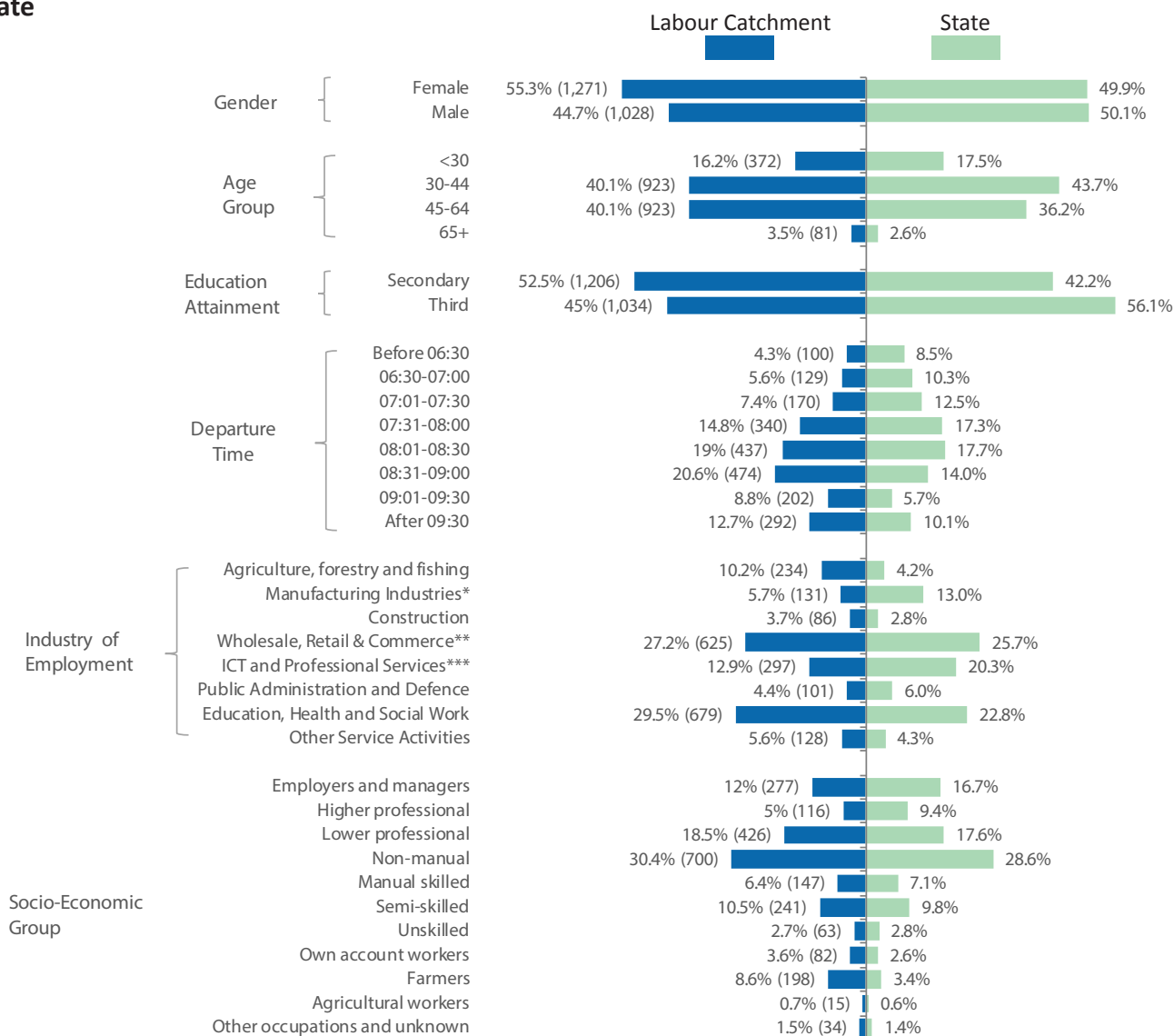


**Carndonagh Labour Catchment**

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

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

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



An age profile of the Carndonagh labour catchment details the following: Labour Catchment (Total): <30 years (372 or 16.2%), 30 to 44 years (923 or 40.1%), 45 to 64 years (923 or 40.1%) and 65 years plus (81 or 3.5%). In contrast to this, the national average (Figure 4) is as follows: <30 year (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 Carndonagh labour catchment shows the following: Those at work and residing in the Carndonagh labour catchment recorded a third level attainment rate of 45% (1,034). In contrast to this, the national average is 56.1% (Figure 4).

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

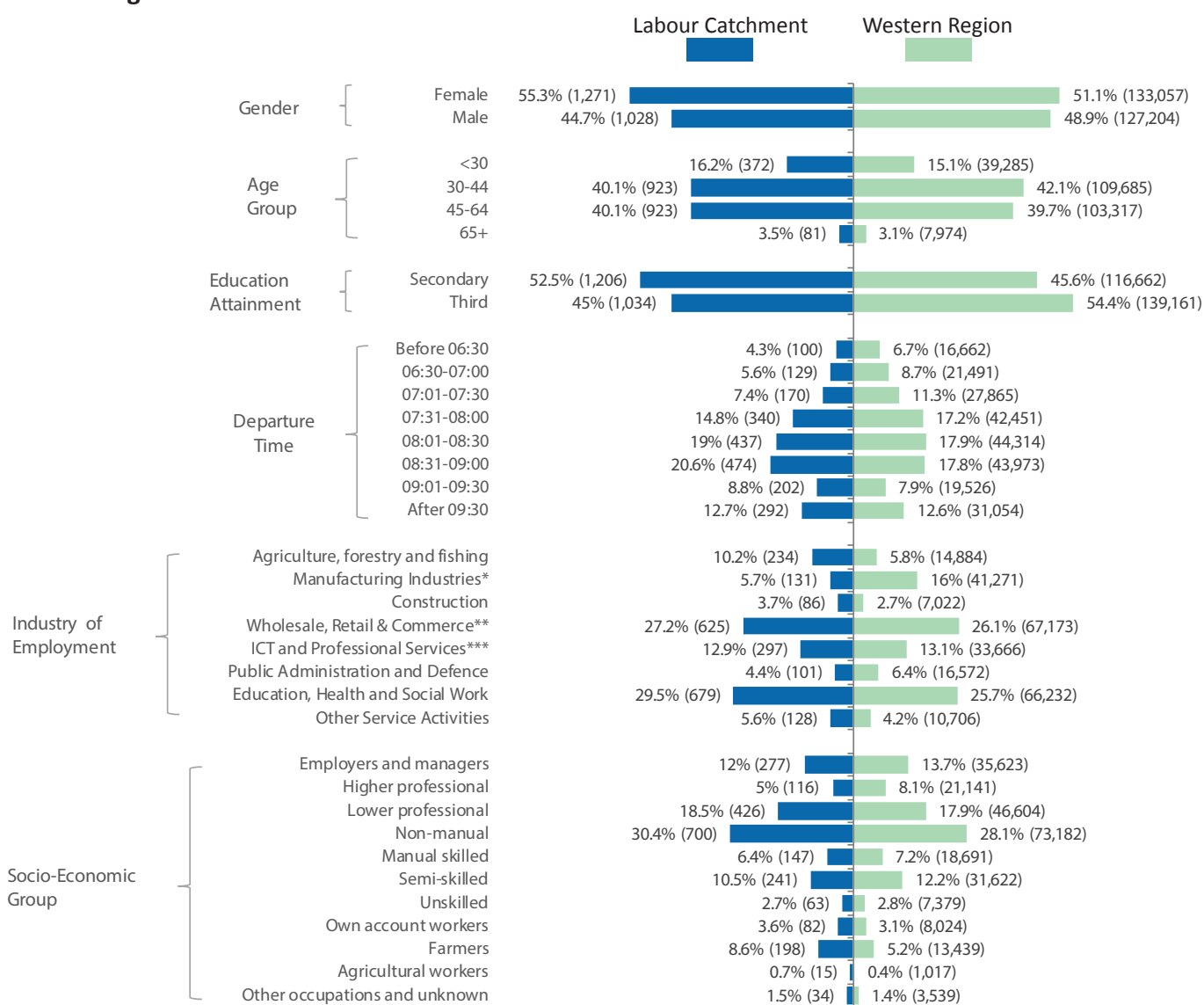
### Carndonagh Labour Catchment

- The single largest employer is the ‘Education, Health and Social work’ sector and accounts for 29.5% (679) which is higher than the State average (22.8%) (Figure 4).
- The ‘Wholesale, Retail and Commerce’ sector (27.2% or 625) is also an important employment sector with a marginally higher proportional share than the State average (25.7%) (Figure 4).
- ‘ICT and Professional Services’ (12.9% or 297) is the third most important sector although much lower than the State average of 20.3% (Figure 4).

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

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

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

## Carndonagh Labour Catchment

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

### Conclusion

Carndonagh is one of the 21 labour catchments (of a total of 33) which had an increase in population size in the decade between 2006 and 2016, up by 32.4% (+562 resident workers). This is the fifth largest increase and the geographic size of the labour catchment increased slightly over the period.

Carndonagh itself increased in importance as a place of work over the period, with over 100 extra workers there. Employment in rural parts of County Donegal decreased over the period. All other key employment centres, such as Northern Ireland, Buncrana, Letterkenny, Ballyliffen and Moville have increased in importance as a place of employment for workers living in the Carndonagh labour catchment.

The single largest employer is the Education, Health and Social work sector and accounts for 29.5% (679) which is higher than the State average. The Wholesale, Retail and Commerce sector (27.2% or 625) is also an important employment sector with a marginally higher proportional share than the State average.

The Carndonagh labour catchment is unusual in the high proportion of females within the working population. Resident workers in the Carndonagh catchment have a similar age profile to the Western Region average.

## Notes

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ISBN: 978-0-9576640-3-6

