

Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region

A Profile of the Castlerea Labour Catchment



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

Castlerea

The Castlerea settlement had a population of 1,992 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Castlerea is the 30th largest settlement within the Western Region and the 161st largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Castlerea has increased by 6.4% (119). In the five years since Census 2011, the population of the town has increased by 0.4% (7). 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 Castlerea.

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/>

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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 Castlerea 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 Castlerea was 918 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 Castlerea in April 2016. We do this because although some may not be working in Castlerea they are living in the catchment from which the Castlerea labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Castlerea. The Castlerea 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 Castlerea catchment or locations such as Carrick-on-Shannon and Roscommon 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 Castlerea compared to the Western Region.

Profile of the Castlerea Labour Catchment

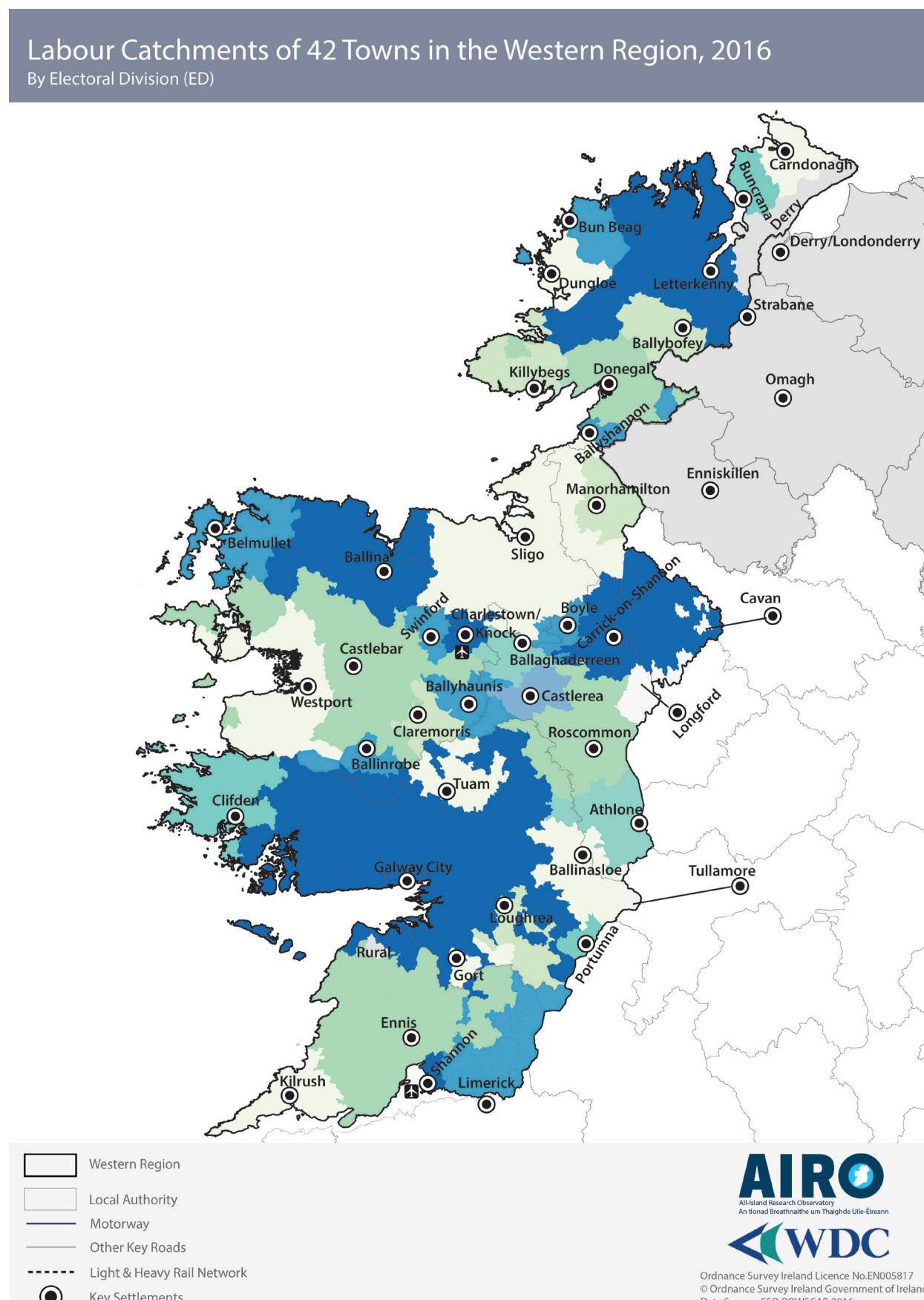
The Castlerea labour catchment is the 33rd largest labour catchment in the Western Region with a resident 'at work' population of 1,448 which accounts for 0.6% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).

The Castlerea labour catchment covers a relatively small area in north-west Roscommon (See Map 1 and 2). In 2016, there were 1,448 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is 114.8% more than the resident 'at work' population within the town boundary (674). The 2016 total is -8.8% lower than the 2006 total of 1,587.

The Castlerea labour catchment is constrained by the Ballyhaunis labour catchment to the west, the Ballaghaderreen labour catchment to the north and the Roscommon 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 boundaries of Mayo and Roscommon.

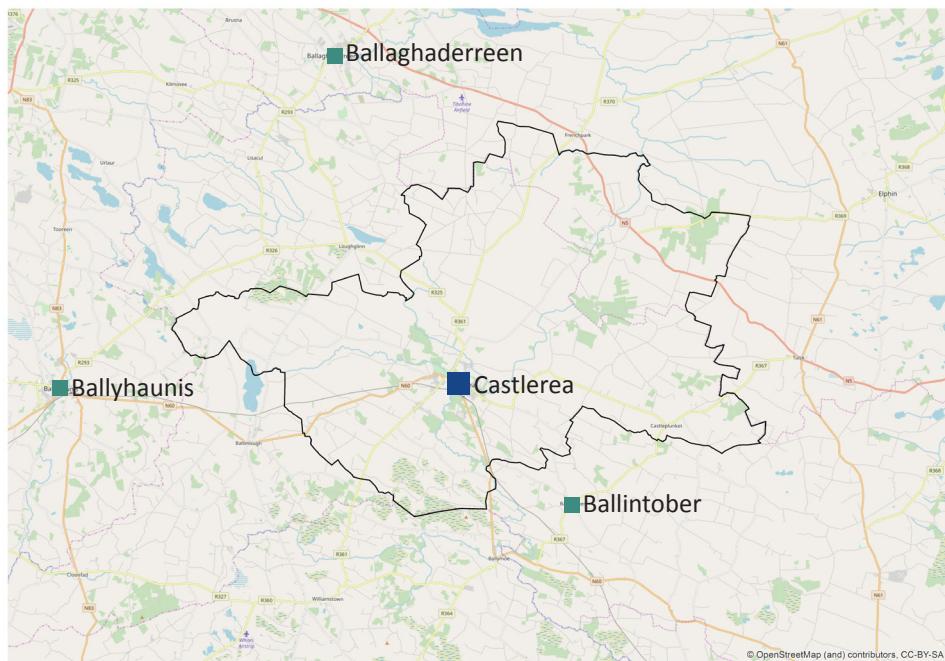
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Map 1: Labour Catchments of 42 Towns in the Western Region, 2016 (WDC & CSO POWCAR)



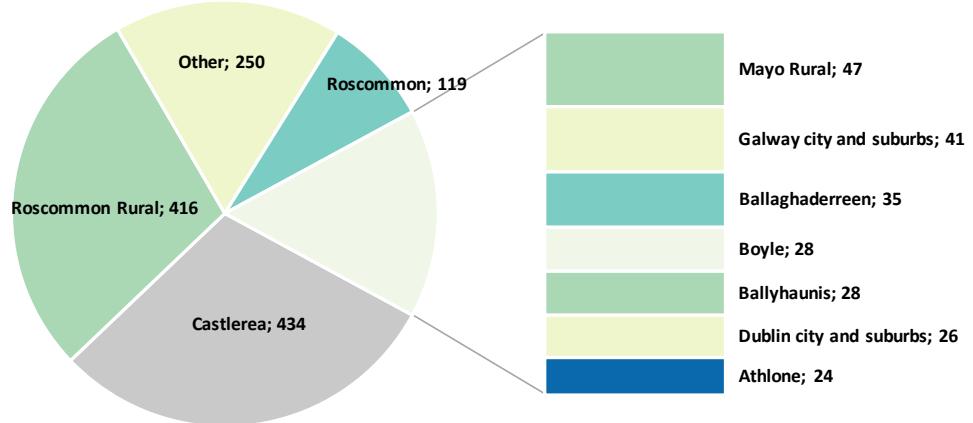
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Map 2: Castlerea Labour Catchment, 2016 (WDC & CSO POWCAR)



Of those living in the Castlerea labour catchment (total = 1,448), 30% (434) are employed within Castlerea town and 70% (1,014) are employed outside the town. Key destinations outside the town are Roscommon Rural (28.7% or 416), Roscommon (8.2% or 119) and Mayo Rural (3.2% or 47) – see Figure 1³ for more details.

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

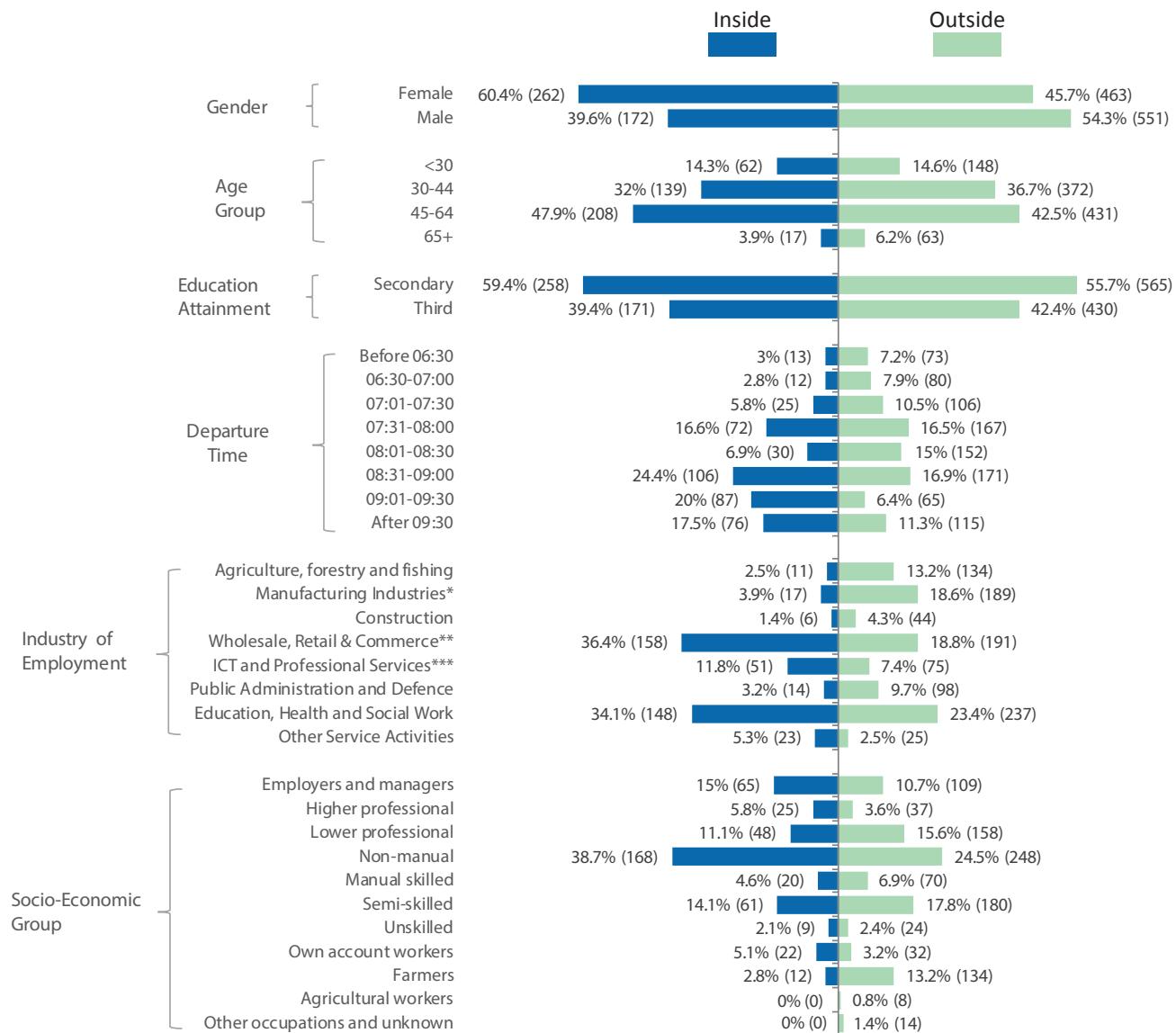
³ The analysis of the labour catchments in the Western Region has highlighted the importance of rural areas as employment locations. Depending on the location of the catchment and the proximity of nearby towns, a large proportion of the labour catchment residents are in fact employed in rural areas.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

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

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



Within the Castlerea labour catchment, female workers account for 50.1% and male workers account for 49.9%, see Figure 3. Of those working inside Castlerea, 60.4% are females whereas 45.7% of those working outside Castlerea 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 Castlerea labour catchment and working inside Castlerea is as follows: <30 years (62 or 14.3%), 30 to 44 years (139 or 32%), 45 to 64 years (208 or 47.9%) and 65 years plus (17 or 3.9%).

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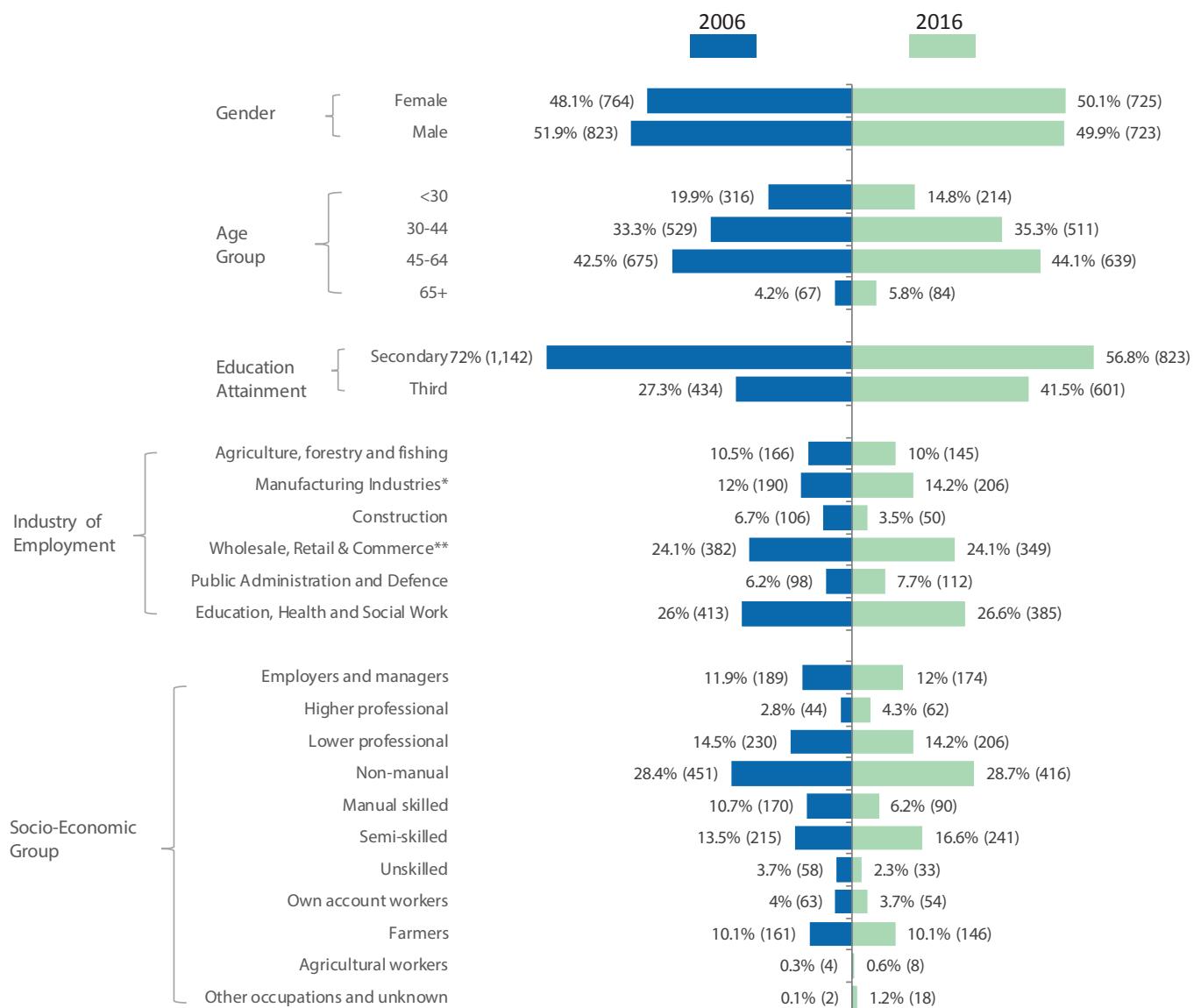
The age profile of those living in the Castlerea labour catchment and working outside Castlerea is as follows: <30 years (148 or 14.6%), 30 to 44 years (372 or 36.7%), 45 to 64 years (431 or 42.5%) and 65 years plus (63 or 6.2%).

An education profile of the Castlerea labour catchment shows the following: Of those working inside Castlerea town, 39.4% (171) have 3rd level qualifications compared to 42.4% (430) of those working outside (Figure 2).

Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Castlerea 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

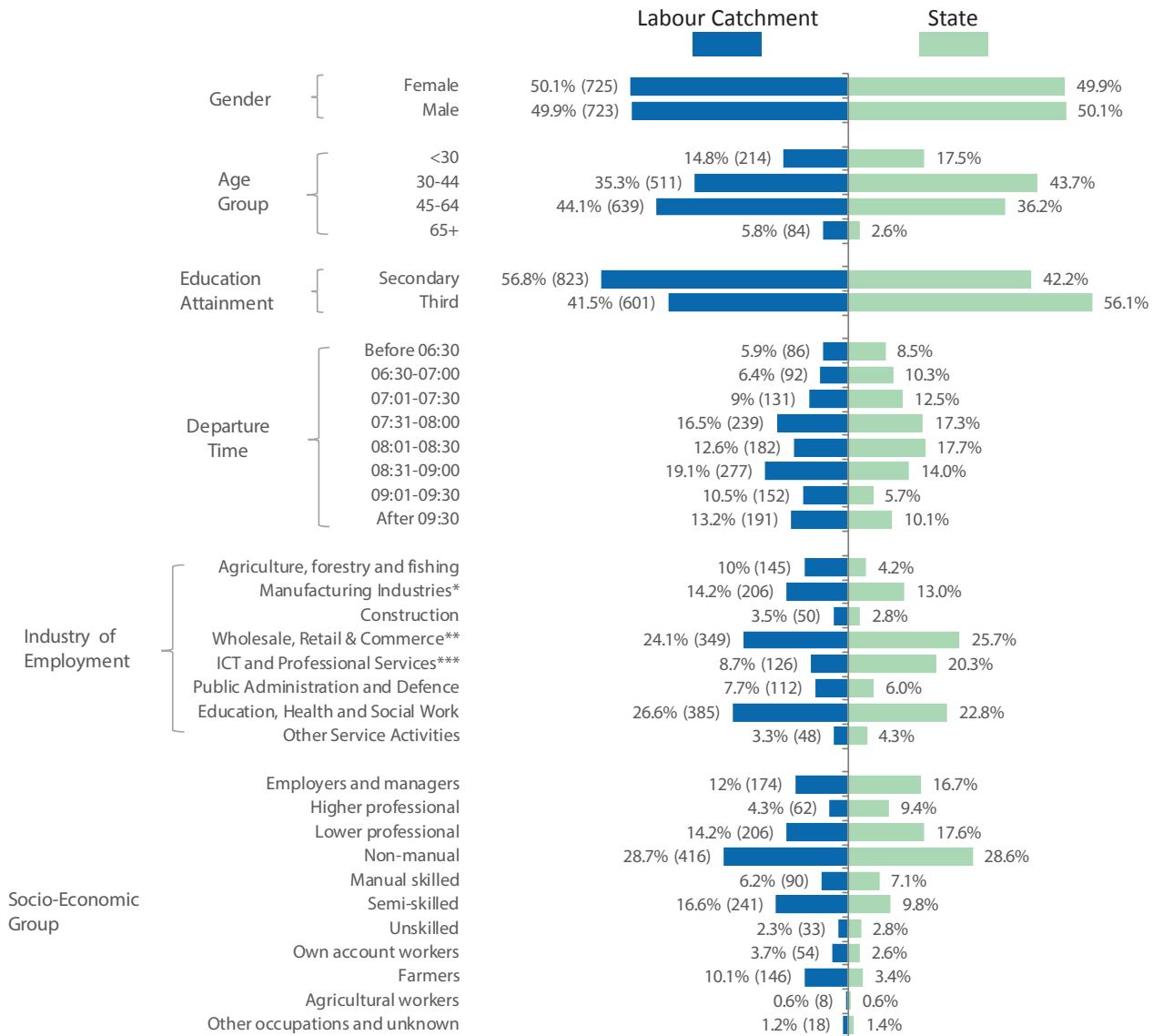


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Socio-economic comparison of the Castlerea Labour Catchment and the State, 2016

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

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



An age profile of the Castlerea labour catchment details the following: Labour Catchment (Total): <30 years (214 or 14.8%), 30 to 44 years (511 or 35.3%), 45 to 64 years (639 or 44.1%) and 65 years plus (84 or 5.8%). 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 Castlerea labour catchment shows the following: Those at work and residing in the Castlerea labour catchment recorded a third level attainment rate of 41.5% (601). In contrast to this, the national average is 56.1% (Figure 4).

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

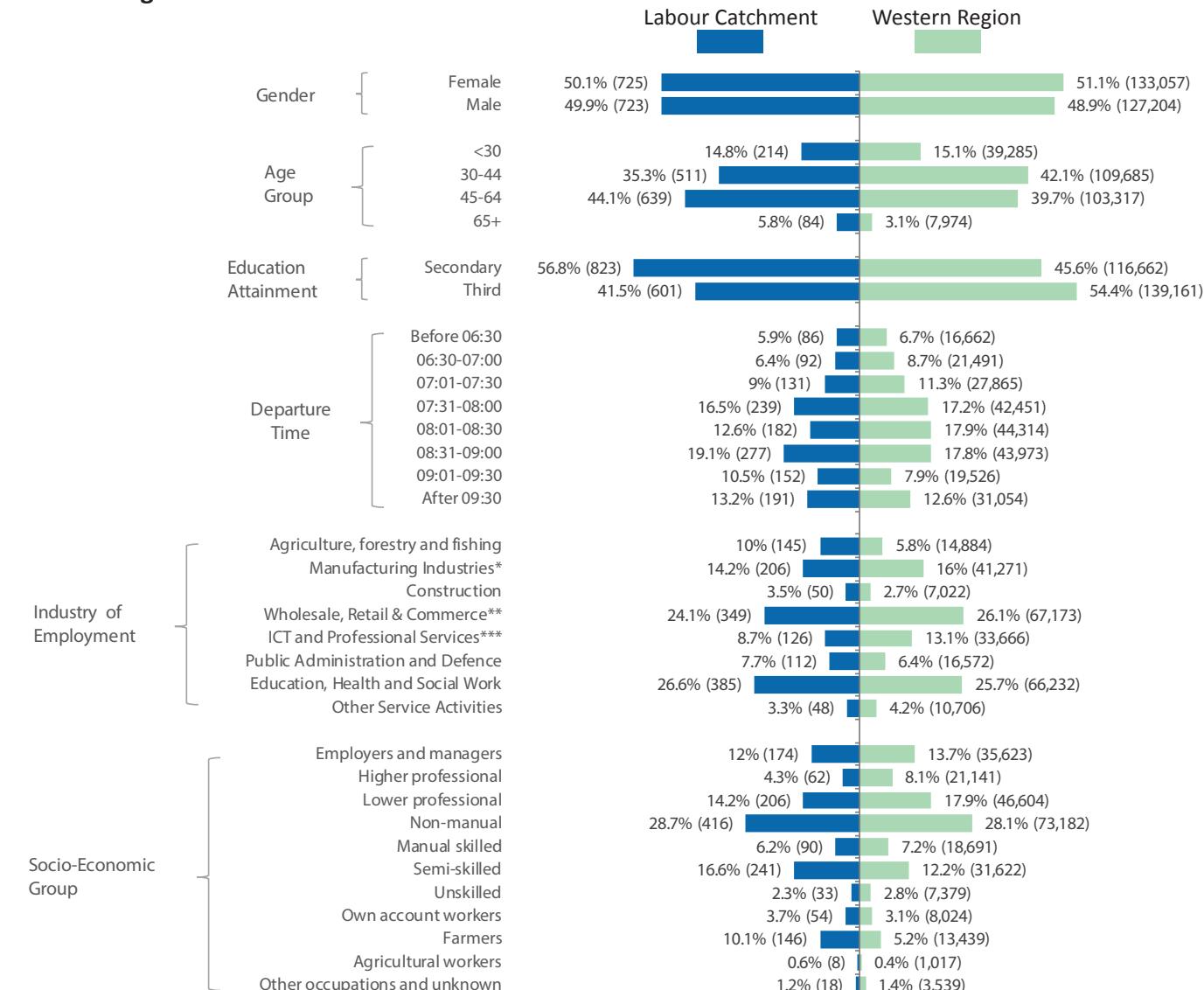
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- The single largest employer is the 'Education, Health and Social Work' sector and accounts for 26.6% (385) which is higher than the State average (22.8%) (Figure 4).
- Both the 'Wholesale, Retail and Commerce' (24.1% or 349) and 'Manufacturing Industries' (14.2% or 206) are also important employment sectors with 'Manufacturing Industries' having a higher proportional share than the State average (13%) (Figure 4).
- 'ICT and Professional Services' (8.7% or 126) is the fourth most important sector although much lower than the State average of 20.3% (Figure 4).

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

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

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

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The most notable differences in terms of socio-economic characteristics certainly relate to the education levels amongst resident workers in the Castlerea catchment who have a lower rate of 3rd level education attainment than the Western Region. The Castlerea catchment also has a higher proportion of workers engaged in the ‘Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing’ and ‘Construction’ industries. Resident workers in the Castlerea catchment also have a much older age profile than the Western Region average.

Conclusion

Castlerea was one of the 12 labour catchments (of a total of 33) that recorded a decrease in population between 2006 and 2016. There was a decline of is -8.8% (139 workers). The geographic size of the catchment decreased slightly.

Though Castlerea is still the most important place of employment, there are fewer working there now than in 2006 (a decrease of approximately 150). Rural parts of Co. Roscommon also showed a decline in importance as a place of employment. In contrast places such as Roscommon town, Galway city and rural Co Mayo are now more important places of employment for residents of the Castlerea labour catchment.

The single largest employer is the Education, Health and Social Work sector and accounts for 26.6% (385) which is higher than the State average. Employment in the sector of Public administration & defence is also higher than state average. Castlerea prison is likely to account for employment in both these broad sectors.

The share employed in Manufacturing is also higher than the state average and the medical device company, Harmac is an important employer within this sector.

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Notes

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