

# Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region

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

## **Clifden**

The Clifden settlement had a population of 1,597 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Clifden is the 29th largest settlement within the Western Region and the 192nd largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Clifden has increased by 6.7% (100). In the five years since Census 2011, the population of the town has decreased by -22.3% (-459). 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 Clifden.

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

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

### **Clifden 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 Clifden 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 above).

According to POWCAR 2016, the total number of jobs located within Clifden was 856 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 Clifden in April 2016. We do this because although some may not be working in Clifden they are living in the catchment from which the Clifden labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Clifden. The Clifden 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 Clifden catchment or locations such as Westport, Ballinrobe and Galway 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 Clifden compared to the Western Region.

### **Profile of the Clifden Labour Catchment**

The Clifden labour catchment is the 25th largest labour catchment in the Western Region with a resident 'at work' population of 2,100 which accounts for 0.8% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).

The Clifden labour catchment covers a relatively small area in west Galway (See Map 1 and 2). In 2016, there were 2,100 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is 253.5% more than the resident 'at work' population within the town boundary (594). The 2016 total is 13.8% higher than the 2006 total of 1,845.

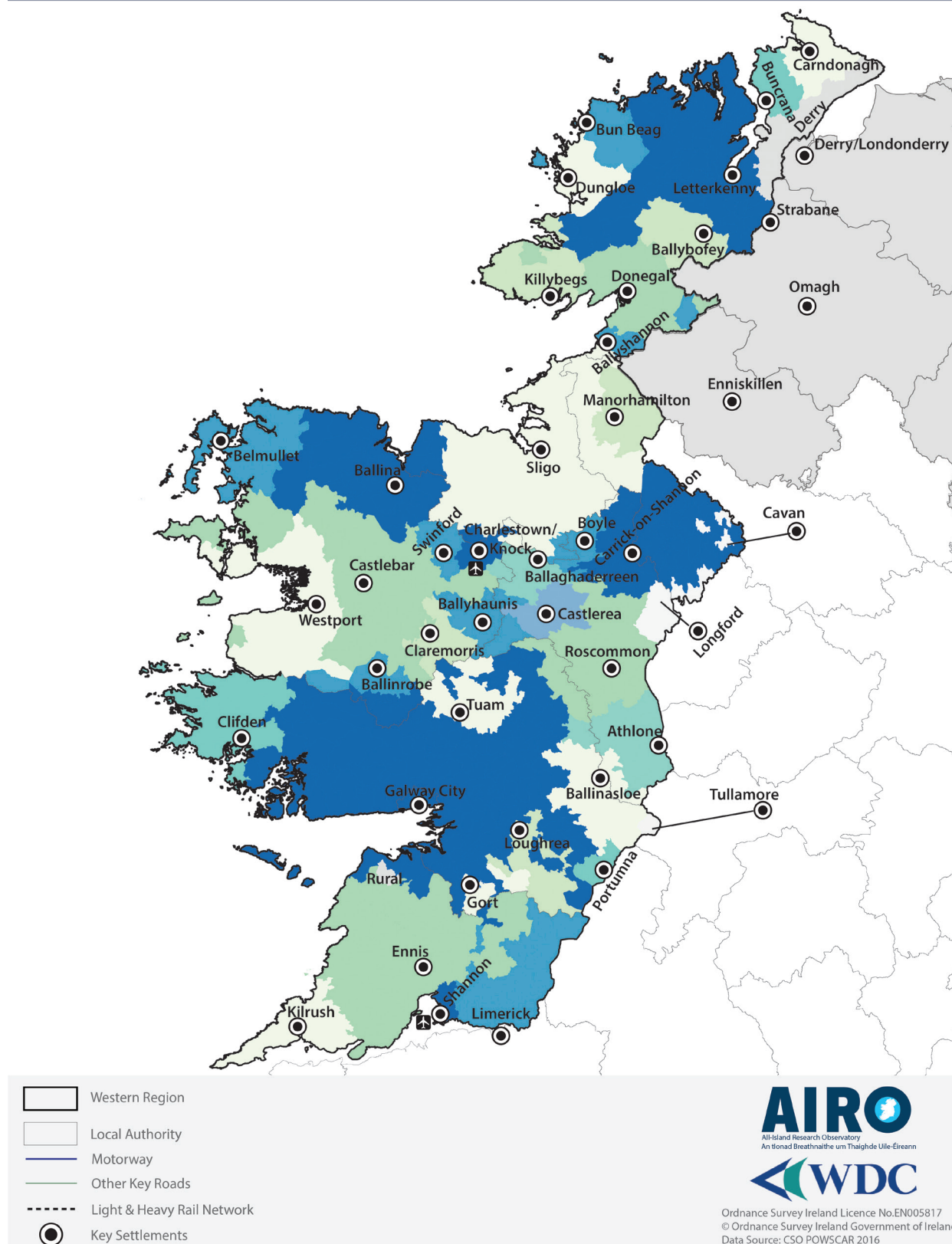
The Clifden labour catchment is constrained by the dominance of the Galway City catchment to the east and the Westport catchment to the north. These towns are themselves the most important places for employment for those living in their immediate hinterlands, and therefore constitute separate and quite large labour catchments within the county boundaries of Galway and Mayo.

## Clifden Labour Catchment

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

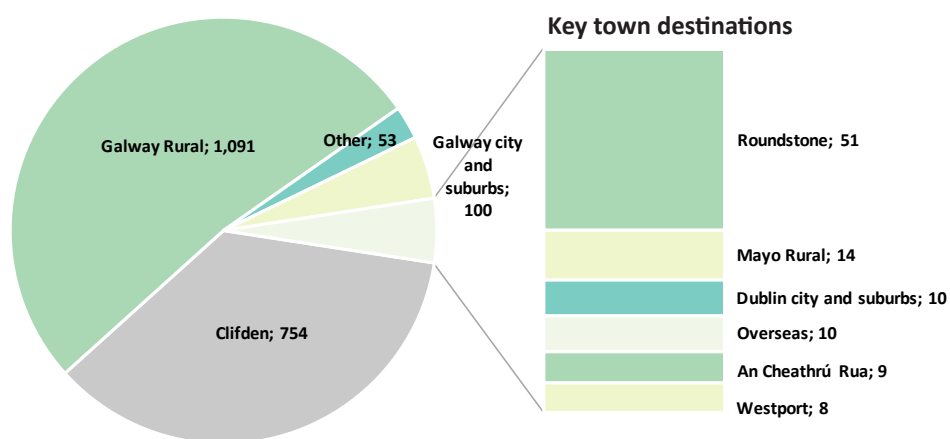
### Labour Catchments of 42 Towns in the Western Region, 2016

By Electoral Division (ED)



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

Of those living in the Clifden labour catchment (total = 2,100), 35.9% (754) are employed within Clifden town and 64.1% (1,346) are employed outside the town. Key destinations outside the town are Galway Rural (52% or 1,091), Galway city and suburbs (4.8% or 100) and Roundstone (2.4% or 51) – see Figure 1<sup>3</sup> for more details.

**Figure 1: Place of work of those living in the Clifden 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 Clifden labour catchment. The characteristics of resident workers in the Clifden labour catchment who are employed in the town of Clifden are compared with those working elsewhere. Following this, there is a comparison between the Clifden labour catchment in 2006 and 2016. Finally, there is comparison between the Clifden labour catchment and the State, and the Clifden 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., Mayo Rural, Sligo Rural, Galway Rural. In the graphic above, 'Other' refer to all other employment destinations (settlements) of those living in the labour catchment.

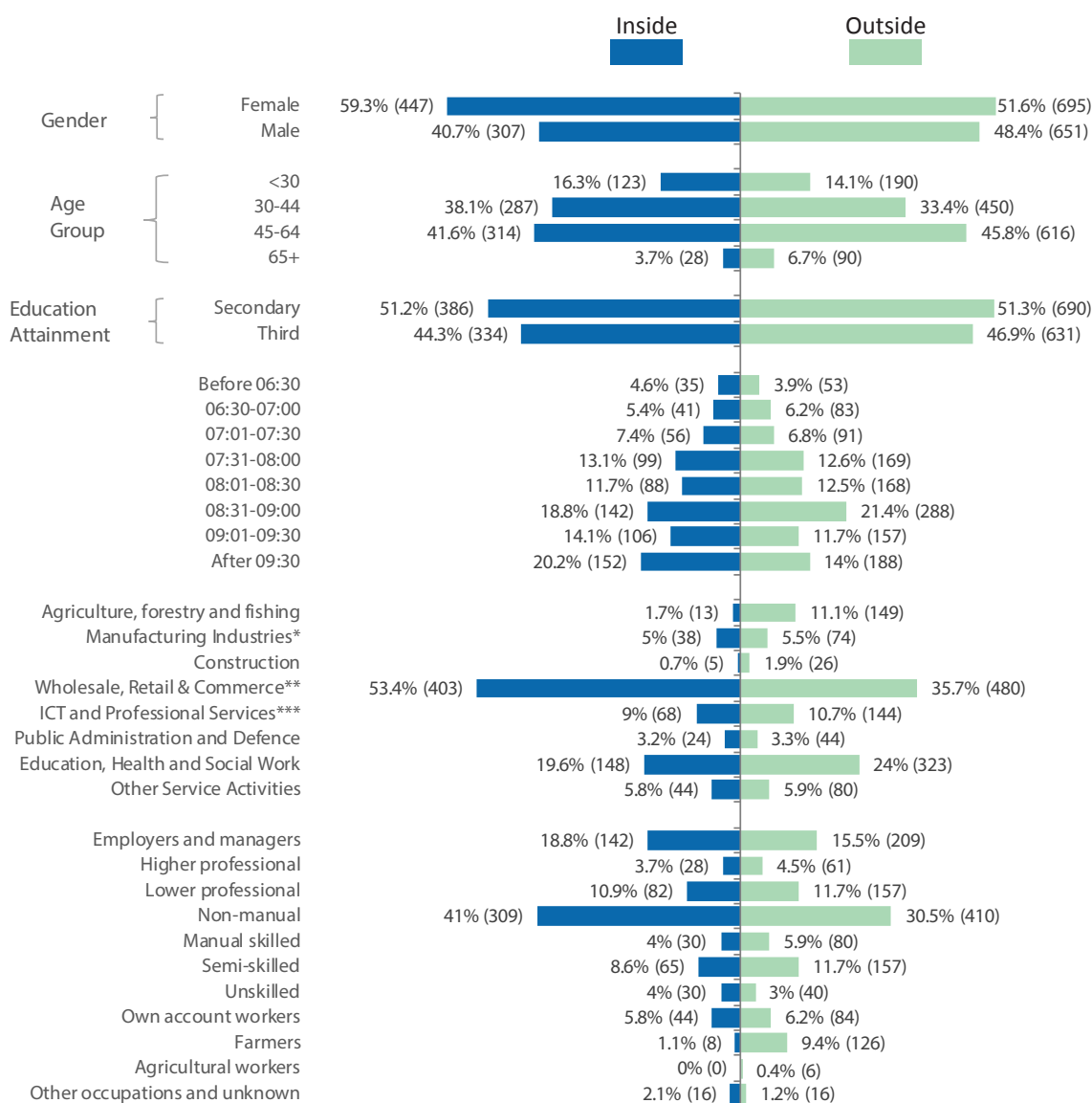


## Clifden Labour Catchment

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

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



Within the Clifden labour catchment, female workers account for 54.4% and male workers account for 45.6%, see Figure 3. Of those working inside Clifden, 59.3% are females whereas 51.6% of those working outside Clifden 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 Clifden labour catchment and working inside Clifden is as follows: <30 years (123 or 16.3%), 30 to 44 years (287 or 38.1%), 45 to 64 years (314 or 41.6%) and 65 years plus (28 or 3.7%).

## Clifden Labour Catchment

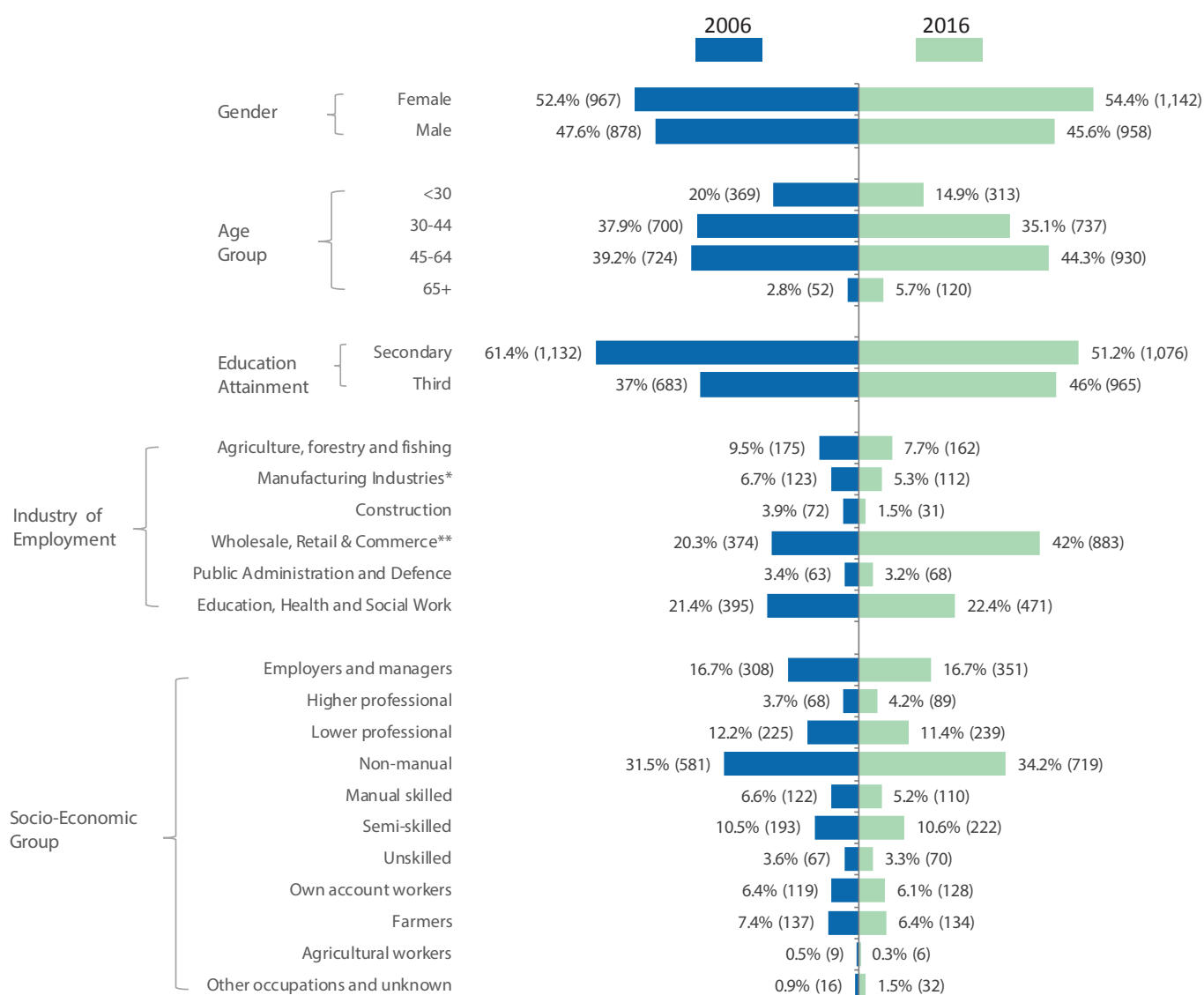
The age profile of those living in the Clifden labour catchment and working outside Clifden is as follows: <30 years (190 or 14.1%), 30 to 44 years (450 or 33.4%), 45 to 64 years (616 or 45.8%) and 65 years plus (90 or 6.7%).

An education profile of the Clifden labour catchment shows the following: Of those working inside Clifden town, 44.3% (334) have 3rd level qualifications compared to 46.9% (631) of those working outside (Figure 2).

## Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Clifden 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 the major increase in those employed in the 'Wholesale, Retail and Commerce' sector.

Figure 3: Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016



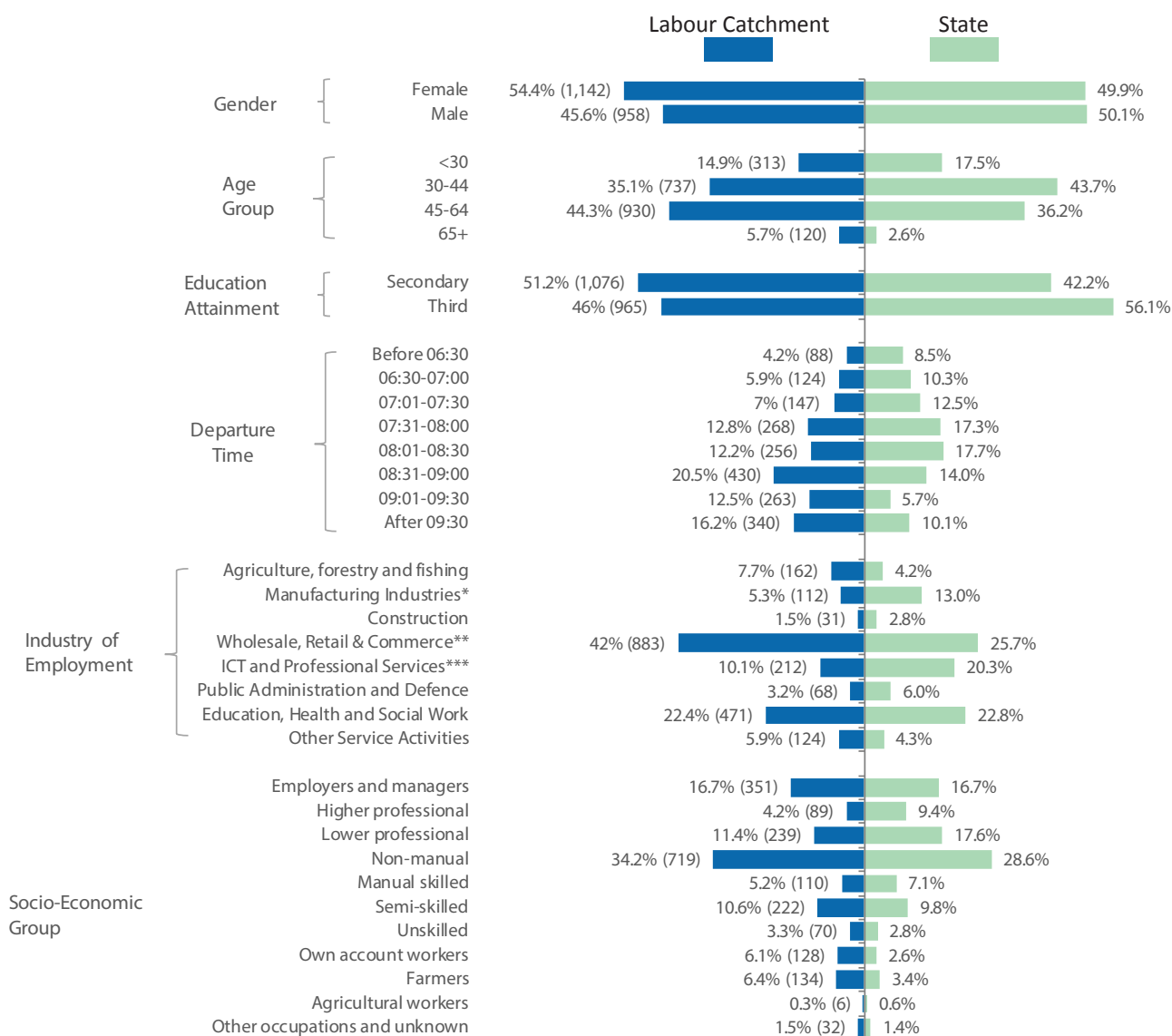


## Clifden Labour Catchment

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

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

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



An age profile of the Clifden labour catchment details the following: Labour Catchment (Total): <30 years (313 or 14.9%), 30 to 44 years (737 or 35.1%), 45 to 64 years (930 or 44.3%) and 65 years plus (120 or 5.7%). 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 Clifden labour catchment shows the following: Those at work and residing in the Clifden labour catchment recorded a third level attainment rate of 46% (965). In contrast to this, the national average is 56.1% (Figure 4).

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

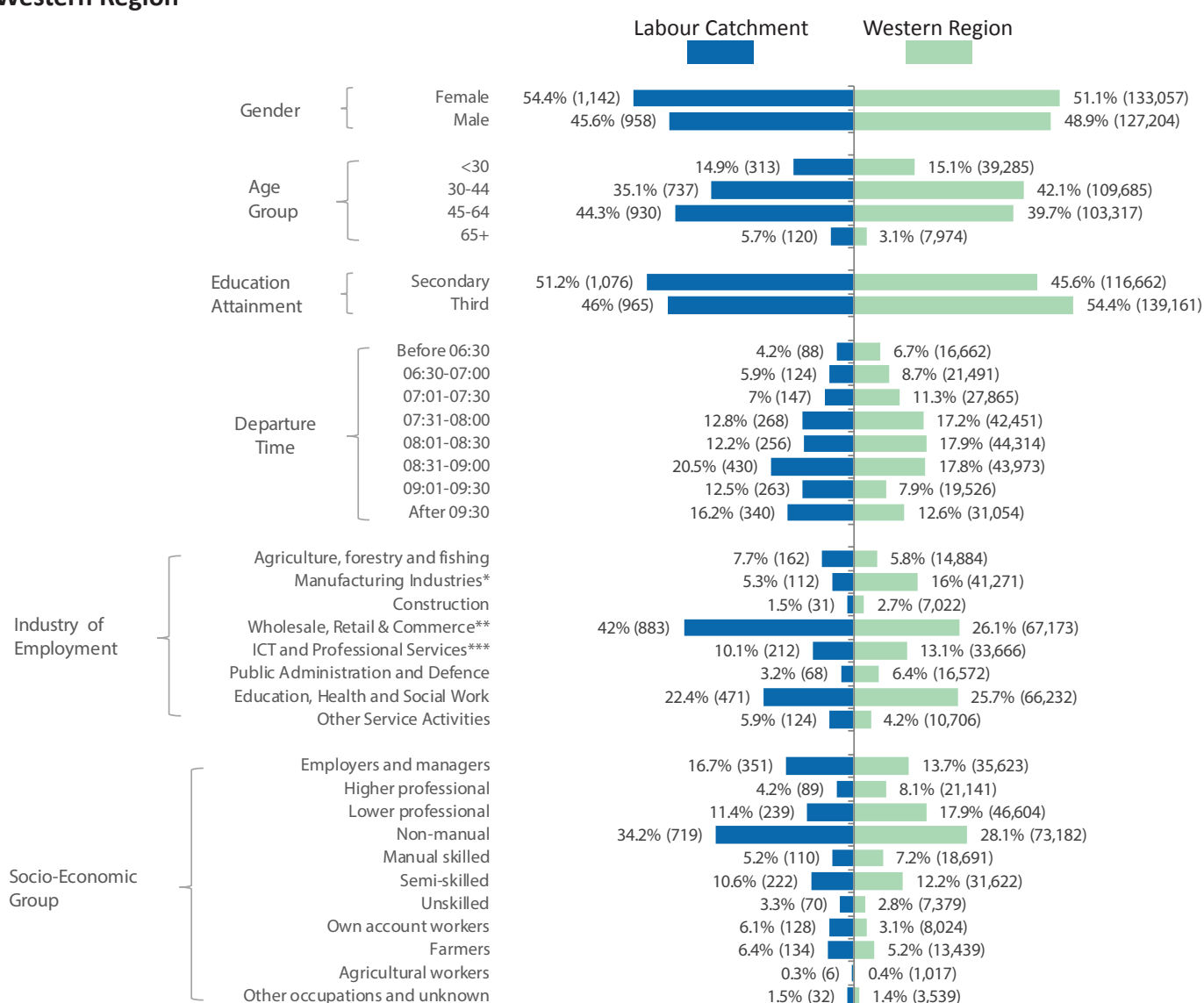
## Clifden Labour Catchment

- The single largest employer is the 'Wholesale, Retail and Commerce' sector and accounts for 42% (883) which is higher than the State average (25.7%) (Figure 4).
- The 'Education, Human Health and Social Work' (22.4% or 471) is also an important employment sector with a broadly similar proportional share to the State average (22.8%) (Figure 4).
- 'ICT and Professional Services' (10.1% or 212) is the third most important sector although much lower than the State average of 20.3% (Figure 4).

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

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

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

## Clifden Labour Catchment

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

### Conclusion

Clifden is one of the 21 labour catchments (of a total of 33) which had an increase in population size in the ten year period between 2006 and 2016, by 13.8%, an additional 255 resident workers. The Clifden labour catchment has increased in size slightly (taking an ED in the north west of the catchment from what was within the Galway city catchment in 2006).

Rural County Galway is the most significant place of work, followed by Clifden itself, reflecting the large rural hinterland. The next most significant employment destination is Galway city and suburbs which is the place of work for 100 residents and 10 residents report that their place of work is Dublin city and suburbs.

The single largest employer is the Wholesale, Retail and Commerce sector and accounts for 42% (883) which is higher than the State average (25.7%) This broad sector includes tourism and accommodation.

The Education, Human Health and Social Work (22.4% or 471) is also an important employment sector with a broadly similar proportional share to the State average (22.8%), highlighting the importance of employment which is largely public sector based.

## Notes

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