



Employment Trends in the Western Region
Roscommon Education & Training Fair, 13 Jan 2012

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WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



- ▶ 7-county Western Region
- ▶ State body under the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government
- ▶ WDC Act 1998

'... foster and promote the economic and social development of the Western Region'

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What do we do?

1. Inform **policy**-making through data analysis (e.g. employment, infrastructure)
2. Support sustainable **development** based on region's resources (e.g. wood heat, creative)
3. Promote benefits of living, working & doing business in Western Region – **LookWest.ie**
4. Provide risk capital to SMEs & social enterprises through WDC Investment **Fund**



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LookWest.ie



The screenshot shows the LookWest.ie website interface. At the top, it features the LookWest.ie logo, navigation links (Home, West Living, West Enterprise, Case Studies, Counties, Jobs & Property Search, Skills Register, News), and a search bar. Below the navigation is a banner with two main sections: 'West Living' (We've got a lower cost of living, affordable property prices and great career options...) and 'West Enterprise' (A flexible and highly skilled local workforce with strong business links to 3rd level institutions...). To the right is a map of the Western Region with a 'Select a County' dropdown menu listing Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, Galway, and Clare. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Watch Case Studies' with video thumbnails for Donegal, Sligo, and Roscommon; 'Jobs & Property Search' with a 'Click Here' button; 'Register Your Skills' with a 'Help Us' button; 'Company Directory' with a 'Click Here' button; 'Newsletter Signup' with an email input field and a 'GO' button; 'Upcoming Events' listing events like 'January's Mayo Open Coffee Club' and 'Shannonside Winter Music Weekend'; 'About LookWest' with a trophy image and text stating it's an initiative of the WDC and a 2010 e-Government Award winner; 'Latest News' with a headline about being shortlisted for Eircom Spiders Awards; and 'Latest Tweets from LOOKWESTIE' with several tweets from users like @ISpaces and @cronaester.

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

- 1. Skill Shortages** – current & future vacancies that not enough people in Ireland have the skills / qualifications to fill
- 2. New FDI Jobs 2011** – skills needed for new FDI jobs created last year
- 3. Forecasts for Jobs Growth** – sectors predicted to increase employment in the longer term

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National Skill Shortages 2011

- ▶ **Information Technology:** software developers, network & security experts, web developers
- ▶ **Engineering:** mechanical (e.g. renewable energy), chemical, design (e.g. medical devices)
- ▶ **Science:** manufacturing technicians, laboratory analysts, chemists, nutritionists
- ▶ **Health & Social care:** care assistants, specialist nurses, senior therapists
- ▶ **Clerical:** multilingual debt collectors & accounts

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National Skill Shortages 2011

- ▶ **Sales & Marketing:** technical sales reps, telesales with foreign languages (German, Nordic), customer care & support
- ▶ **Craft:** meat cutters/de-boners
- ▶ **Transport & Logistics:** supply chain managers with foreign languages
- ▶ **Financial:** risk analysis, management & cost accounting, regulatory standards, financial software

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New FDI Jobs 2011

- ▶ **New FDI jobs in 2011** mainly in: ICT, life sciences, financial services, business services & digital media
- ▶ **Skills** needed for new FDI jobs in 2011
 - ▶ ICT, science & engineering skills (47%)
 - ▶ Business, financial & accounting skills (19%)
 - ▶ Manufacturing, distribution & logistics skills (14%)
 - ▶ Sales & marketing skills including languages (12%)

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Future Predicted Jobs Growth

▶ Sectors predicted to have **higher employment by 2015**

- ▶ Business services (e.g. legal, translation, ICT)
- ▶ Market services (e.g. personal services, arts)
- ▶ Chemicals manufacturing
- ▶ Machinery & equipment manufacturing
- ▶ Metals manufacturing
- ▶ Finance & insurance
- ▶ Transport & communications

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WESTERN REGION EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

1. A Few Employment Facts

2. **Employment by sector** – sectors people work in & sectors that are growing jobs

3. **Employment in exporting sectors** – exporting sectors people work in & exporting sectors that are growing jobs

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Western Region 2011: A Few Key Employment Facts

- ▶ 324,000 people working
 - ▶ 1 in 5 self-employed
 - ▶ 1 in 4 working part-time
- ▶ 55,000 people unemployed
- ▶ 80,352 on the Live Register (Dec 2011)
- ▶ 19% increase in no. of students (over 15 years) between 2007 & 2011

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What sectors employ people in the Western Region?

- ▶ The **biggest employment sectors** in the Western Region (2011)
 1. Industry (manufacturing)
 2. Wholesale & retail
 3. Health
 4. Education
 5. Agriculture, forestry & fishing
 6. Accommodation & food service
 7. Construction

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What sectors are growing employment in the Western Region?

- ▶ Employment has mainly grown in **smaller sectors** & those requiring **higher levels of education/skills**
- ▶ 2009-2011 employment grew in
 - ▶ Other activities (+4,000)
 - ▶ Education (+3,000)
 - ▶ Professional, scientific & technical activities (+2,300)
 - ▶ Information & communications (+1,700)
 - ▶ Transportation & storage (+900)
 - ▶ Health (+500)
 - ▶ Administrative & support services (+400)

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How many work in exporting sectors in the Western Region?

- ▶ A lot of focus on **growing exporting businesses**
- ▶ 45,666 permanent full-time jobs in assisted exporting companies in Western Region (2010)
- ▶ **Biggest employers in exporting sector (2010)**
 1. Medical devices
 2. ICT services
 3. Agri-food
 4. Metals, machinery & equipment manufacturing
 5. Wood, rubber, plastics & minerals manufacturing
 6. Chemicals

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What exporting sectors are growing employment in the Western Region?

- ▶ Growth in **high value manufacturing & ICT services**
- ▶ 2009-2010 employment in assisted companies grew in
 - ▶ Transport equipment (+158)
 - ▶ Computer programming activities (+144)
 - ▶ Medical devices (+85)
 - ▶ Rubber & plastics (+62)
 - ▶ Computer facilities management (+57)

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CO ROSCOMMON EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

- ▶ **9,319 people working in businesses** (exc. farming & public sector) in Co Roscommon (2009)
 1. Wholesale & Retail – 2,659
 2. Construction – 1,764
 3. Industry – 1,746
 4. Accommodation & Food Service – 1,326
 5. Administrative & Support service – 678
 6. Professional, Scientific & Technical – 591
 7. Transport & Storage – 259
 8. Financial, Insurance & Real Estate – 193
 9. Information & Communication – 103

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Employment in Exporting Companies & Unemployment in Co Roscommon

- ▶ **1,788 employed in exporting companies** in Co Roscommon (2010)
 1. Modern Manufacturing – 889
 2. Food – 497
 3. Traditional Manufacturing – 348
 4. Services – 54
- ▶ Large job losses in traditional manufacturing & food, but modern manufacturing performed better
- ▶ 3,980 on Live Register in Co Roscommon (Dec 2011)
 - ▶ 17.5% under 25 years – this is declining
 - ▶ 35.6% women – this is increasing

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WESTERN REGION GROWTH SECTORS

- ▶ **Green economy**
- ▶ **Food**
- ▶ **Tourism**
- ▶ **Caring**
- ▶ **Life Sciences**
- ▶ **Software, Financial & International services**
- ▶ **Creative sector**

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Western Region Growth Sectors (Companies in Co Roscommon)

- ▶ **Green economy** – wood energy, wind & ocean energy, retro-fitting, energy efficiency
 - ▶ Green Grove Wood Energy, Eco Smart Designs, Beirne's Bins
- ▶ **Food** – higher value-added, organic, artisan, functional, marine, R&D
 - ▶ Connacht Gold, Oliver Carty, Roscommon Chocolate, Hooker Brewery, Hillcrest bakery
- ▶ **Tourism** – outdoor & adventure, cultural, festivals, events (e.g. triathlons), water-based
 - ▶ Lough Key Forest Park, Cruachan Ai, Hodson Bay Water Sports, Abbey Hotel, Shannon River Boat Hire
- ▶ **Caring** – elder care, residential & home care
 - ▶ Roscommon Home Services

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Western Region Growth Sectors (Companies in Co Roscommon)

- ▶ **Life Sciences (medical devices & pharmaceuticals)** – R&D, product development, 'super-operatives'
 - ▶ Ansamed, Harmac Medical, Athlone Pharmaceuticals, Alkermes, Innocoll Technologies
- ▶ **Software, Financial & International services** – call centres, back office, software development, computer programming
 - ▶ Flexible Contact Solutions, Trojan IT, myITDepartment, TMG Translation, Penta Networks
- ▶ **Creative sector** – gaming, digital media, film & TV, arts, crafts, increasing exports
 - ▶ Willow Design & Publishing, Creative Freedom Design, Bog Buddies

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FURTHER INFORMATION

- ▶ Expert Group on Future Skills Needs
www.skillsireland.ie
- ▶ Enterprise Ireland www.enterprise-ireland.com
- ▶ IDA Ireland www.idaireland.com
- ▶ Roscommon County Enterprise Board
www.roscommon.ie
- ▶ Roscommon Business Network
www.roscommonbusinessnetwork.ie
- ▶ LookWest www.lookwest.ie

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Thank You

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