

# Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region

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

## **Gort**

The Gort settlement had a population of 2,994 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Gort is the 31st largest settlement within the Western Region and the 120th largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Gort has increased by 9.5% (260). In the five years since Census 2011, the population of the town has increased by 13.2% (350). 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 Gort.

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/>

## **Gort 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 Gort 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 Gort was 1,127 and accounts for 0.5% 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 Gort in April 2016. We do this because although some may not be working in Gort they are living in the catchment from which the Gort labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Gort. The Gort 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 Gort catchment or locations such as Ennis 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 Gort compared to the Western Region.

### **Profile of the Gort Labour Catchment**

The Gort labour catchment is the 35th largest labour catchment in the Western Region with a resident 'at work' population of 1,270 which accounts for 0.5% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).

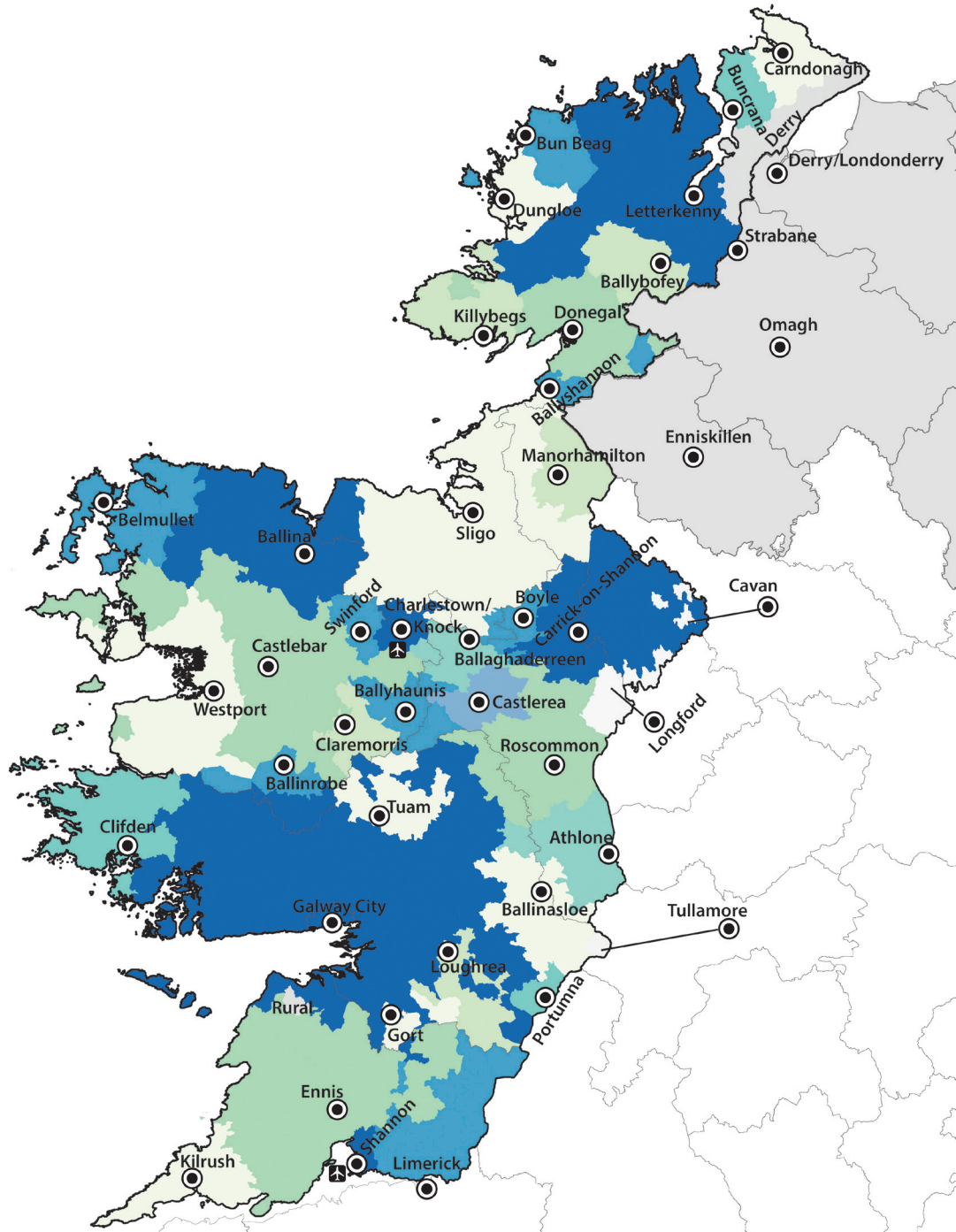
The Gort labour catchment covers a relatively small area in south Galway (See Map 1 and 2). In 2016, there were 1,270 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is 4.8% more than the resident 'at work' population within the town boundary (1,212). The 2016 total is -15.6% lower than the 2006 total of 1,505.







The Gort labour catchment is constrained by the Ennis labour market to the south, the Galway City labour catchment to the north and the Loughrea labour catchment to the east. 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 Clare.

Gort 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

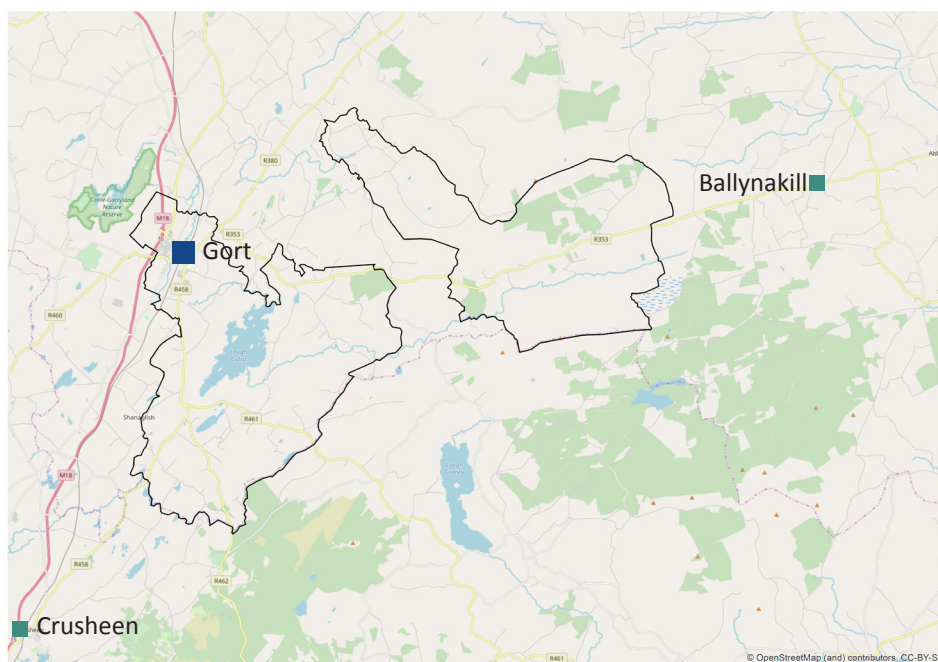
**AIRO**  
All-Ireland Research Observatory  
An tIonad Breathnaithe um Thaighde Uile-Eireann

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Data Source: CSO POWSCAR 2016

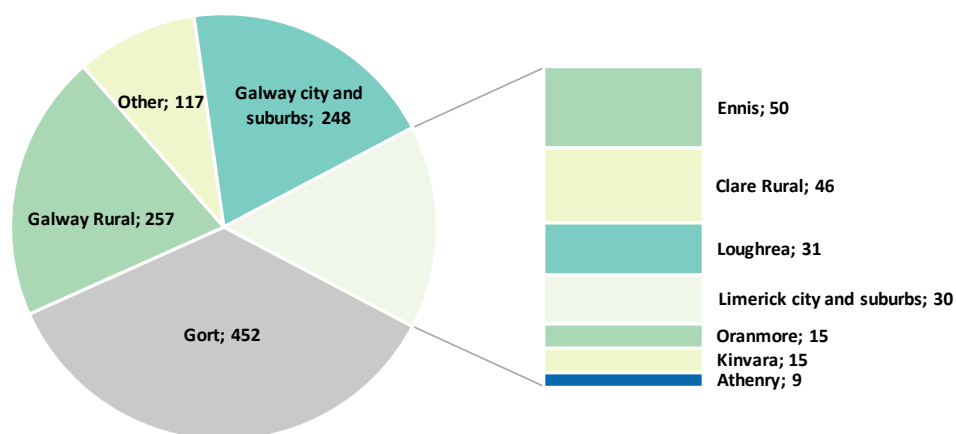
## Gort Labour Catchment

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



Of those living in the Gort labour catchment (total = 1,270), 35.6% (452) are employed within Gort town and 64.4% (803) are employed outside the town. Key destinations outside the town are Galway Rural (20.2% or 257), Galway city and suburbs (19.5% or 248) and Ennis (3.9% or 50) – see Figure 1<sup>3</sup> for more

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

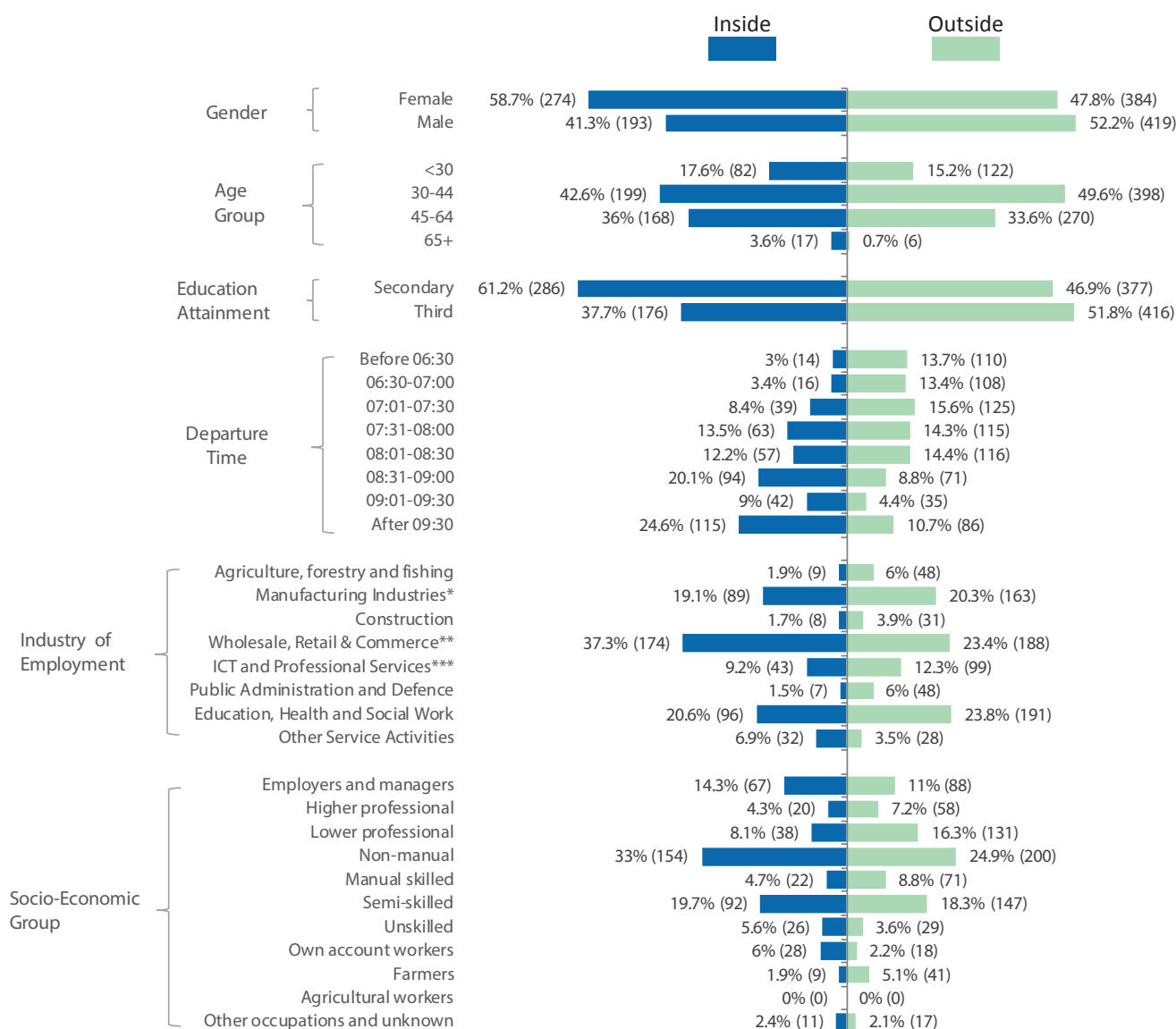


Gort Labour Catchment

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

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



Within the Gort labour catchment, female workers account for 51.8% and male workers account for 48.2%, see Figure 3. Of those working inside Gort, 58.7% are females whereas 47.8% of those working outside Gort 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 Gort labour catchment and working inside Gort is as follows: <30 years (82 or 17.6%), 30 to 44 years (199 or 42.6%), 45 to 64 years (168 or 36%) and 65 years plus (17 or 3.6%).

**Gort Labour Catchment**

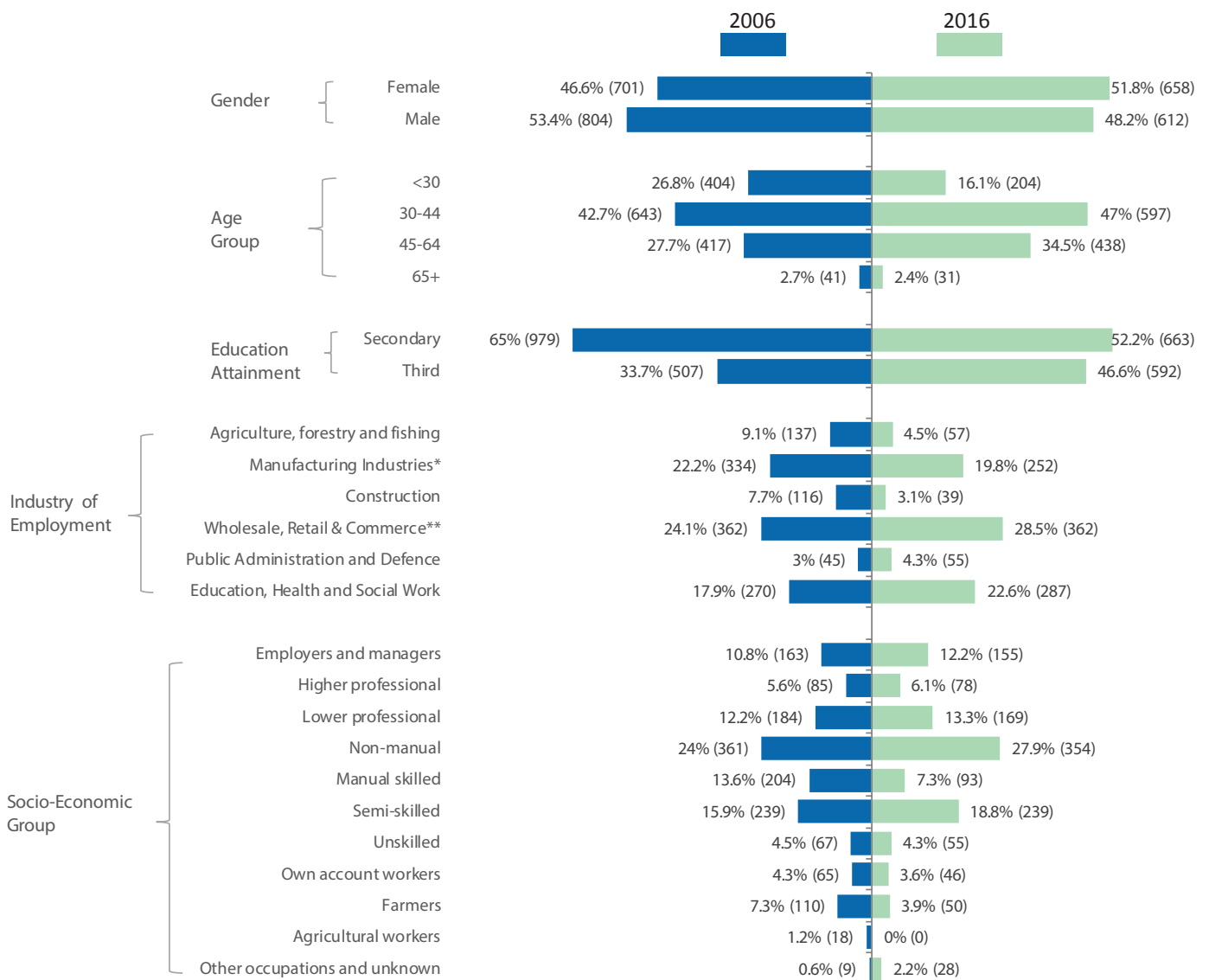
The age profile of those living in the Gort labour catchment and working outside Gort is as follows: <30 years (122 or 15.2%), 30 to 44 years (398 or 49.6%), 45 to 64 years (270 or 33.6%) and 65 years plus (6 or 0.7%).

An education profile of the Gort labour catchment shows the following: Of those working inside Gort town, 37.7% (176) have 3rd level qualifications compared to 51.8% (416) of those working outside (Figure 2).

**Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016**

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Gort 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’, ‘Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing’ and ‘Manufacturing Industries’ sectors and an increase in dependence on the ‘Wholesale, Retail and Commerce’ and ‘Education, Health and Social work’ sectors.

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



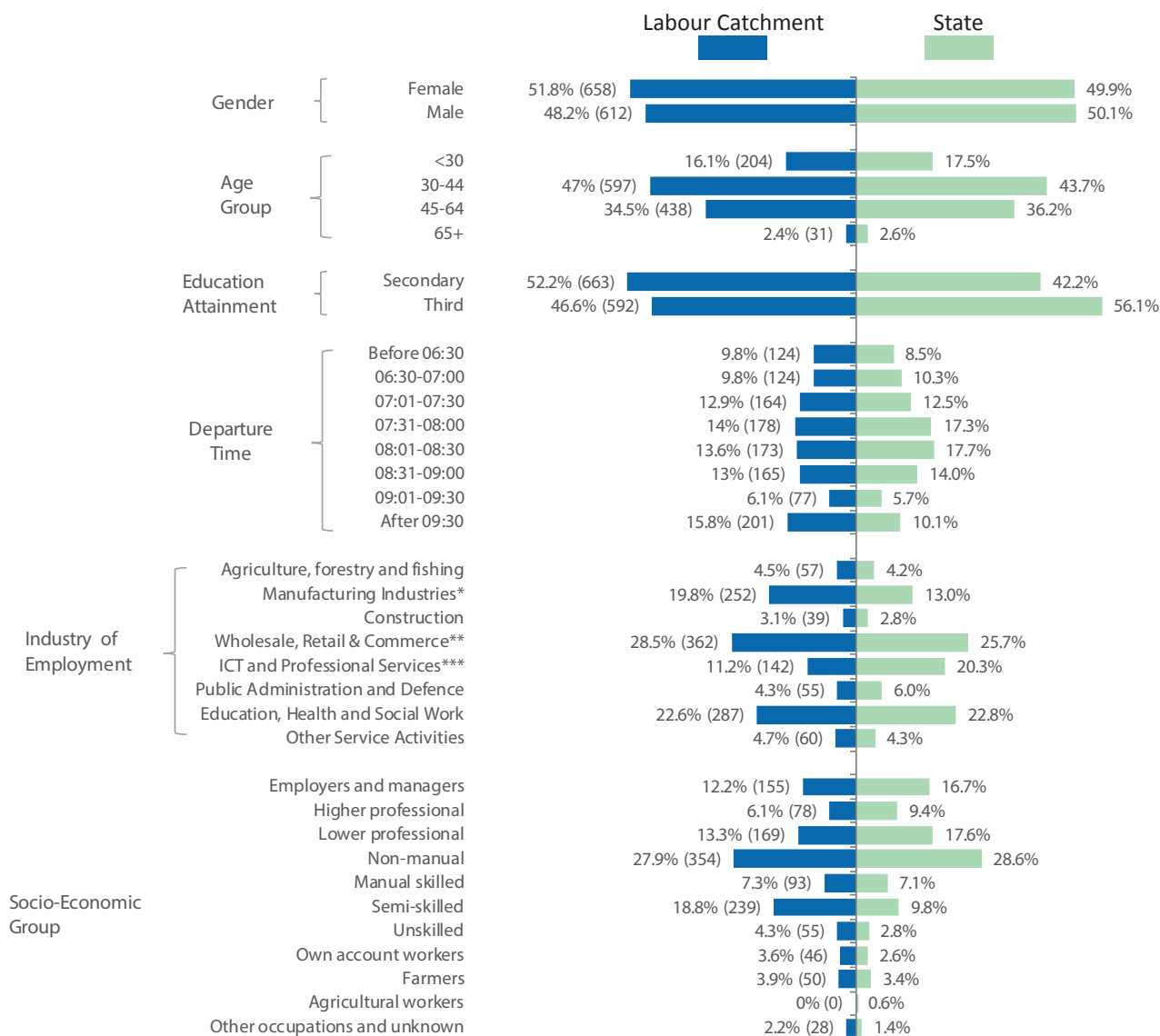


**Gort Labour Catchment**

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

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

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



An age profile of the Gort labour catchment details the following: Labour Catchment (Total): <30 years (204 or 16.1%), 30 to 44 years (597 or 47%), 45 to 64 years (438 or 34.5%) and 65 years plus (31 or 2.4%). 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 Gort labour catchment shows the following: Those at work and residing in the Gort labour catchment recorded a third level attainment rate of 46.6% (592). 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 Gort labour catchment shows the following:

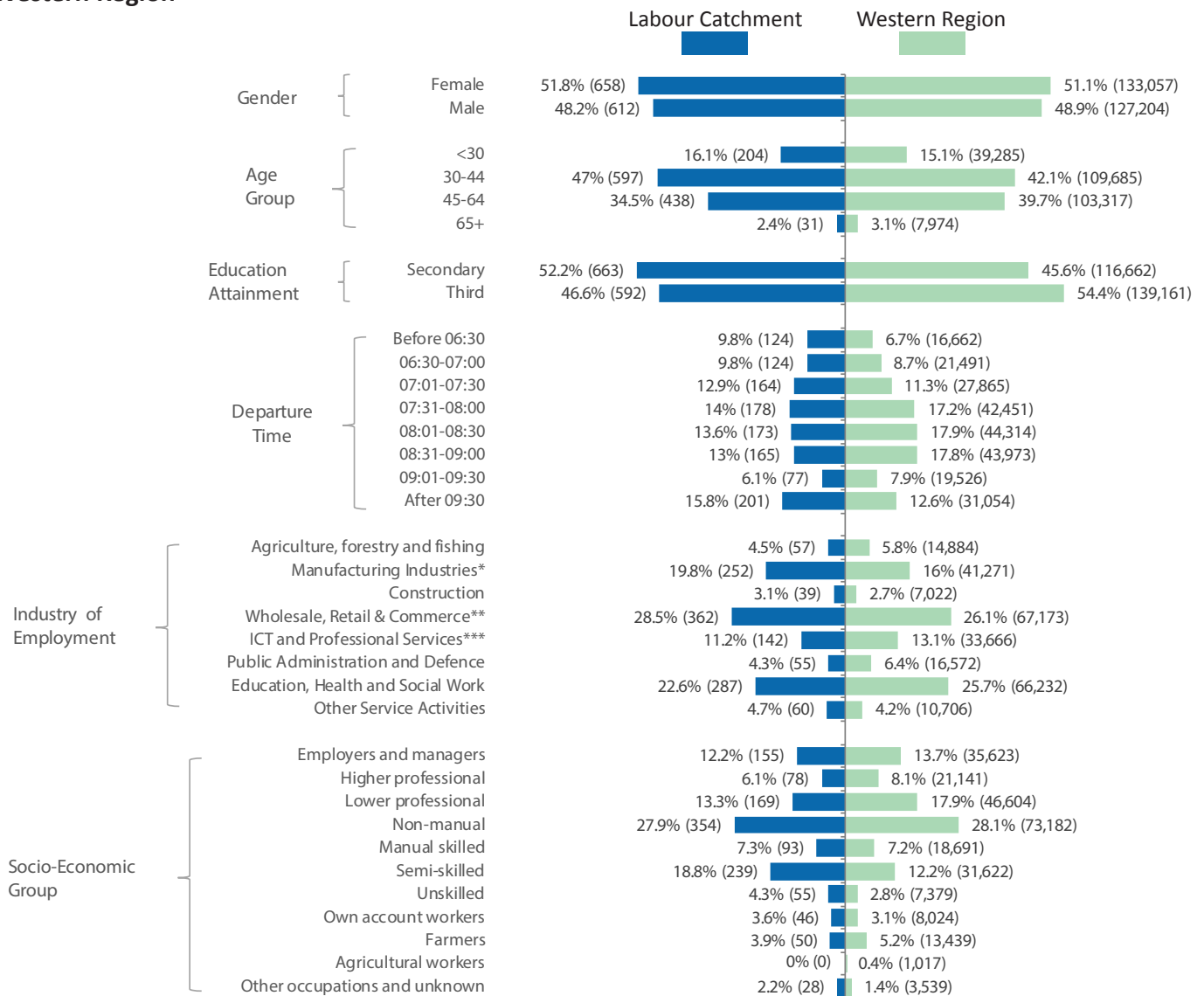
**Gort Labour Catchment**

- The single largest employer is the ‘Wholesale, Retail and Commerce’ sector and accounts for 28.5% (362) which is higher than the State average (25.7%) (Figure 4).
- Both the ‘Education, Human Health and Social Work’ (22.6% or 287) and ‘Manufacturing Industries’ (19.8% or 252) are also important employment sectors with ‘Manufacturing Industries’ having a higher proportional share than the State average (13%) (Figure 4).
- ‘ICT and Professional Services’ (11.2% or 142) is the fourth most important sector although much lower than the State average of 20.3% (Figure 4).

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

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

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

## Gort Labour Catchment

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

### Conclusion

Gort 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 -15.6% (-235 workers). The size of the catchment decreased with some EDs in 2016 now part of the Galway city labour catchment.

While Gort was the most significant place of employment in both 2006 and 2016, there was fewer employed there in 2016, down from 541 in 2006. The numbers engaged in all key destinations were fewer in 2016, but this is likely to be related to the smaller size of the catchment.

Over the ten year period the sectors of Wholesale, Retail and Commerce and the sector of Education and Health both accounted for a greater share of total employment, though the numbers did not change significantly.

The Manufacturing sector is particularly significant with close to one fifth of all workers engaged in the sector (19.8% or 252), much higher than the State average (13%). There are a few medical device manufacturing facilities located in the town which contribute to the higher share engaged in manufacturing. The Gort labour catchment has a younger age profile than the Western Region average.

## Notes

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ISBN: 978-0-9576640-3-6

