

# Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region

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

## **Kilrush**

The Kilrush settlement had a population of 2,719 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Kilrush is the 20th largest settlement within the Western Region and the 129th largest in the State. According to the results from Census 2006 and 2011, the population residing within the town of Kilrush has only witnessed a marginal increase over the last decade. The population of the town has increased by 0.9% (25) between 2006 and 2016 and by 0.9% (24) between 2011 and 2016, as such most of the population increase over the decade was between 2006 and 2011. However, it should be noted that 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 and this is particularly the case for Kilrush.

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/>

## **Kilrush 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 Kilrush 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 Kilrush was 1,198 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 Kilrush in April 2016. We do this because although some may not be working in Kilrush they are living in the catchment from which the Kilrush labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Kilrush. The Kilrush 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 Kilrush catchment or locations such as Ennis and Limerick 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 Kilrush compared to the Western Region.

## **Profile of the Kilrush Labour Catchment**

The Kilrush labour catchment is the 20th largest labour catchment in the Western Region with a resident 'at work' population of 2,750 which accounts for 1.1% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).

The Kilrush labour catchment covers a relatively small area in south-west Clare (See Map 1 and 2). In 2016, there were 2,750 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is 242.9% more than the resident 'at work' population within the town boundary (802). The 2016 total is 43.9% higher than the 2006 total of 1,911. It should be noted that the 2016 analysis of labour catchments does not include the town of Kilkee as the town recorded a population below 1,000. As such, the Kilrush labour catchment now includes areas that were previously within the Kilkee labour catchment in 2006<sup>3</sup>.

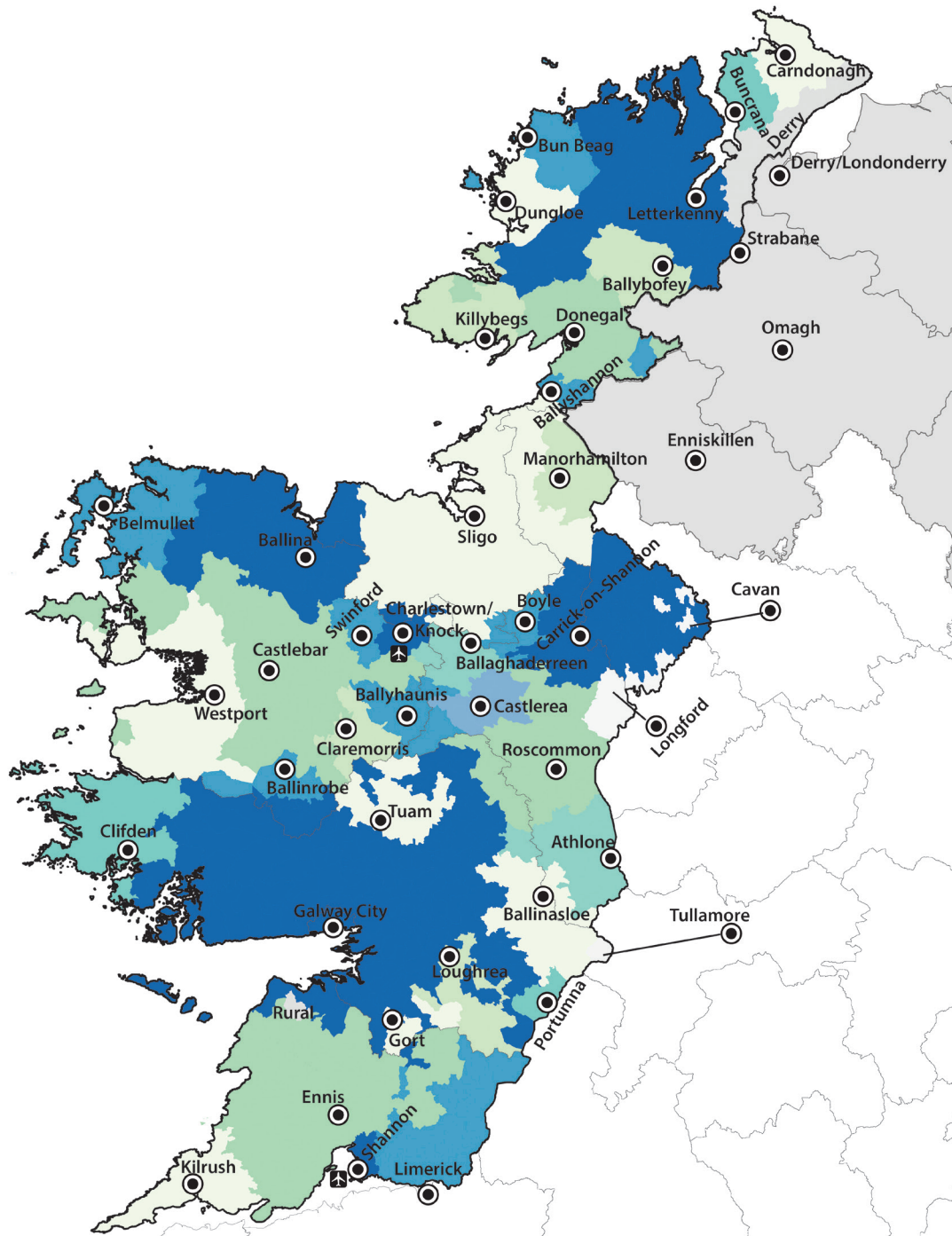
The Kilrush labour catchment is completely constrained by the Ennis labour catchment to the east and north. The Ennis town labour catchment is the most important place for employment for those living in their immediate hinterlands, and therefore constitutes a separate and very large labour catchment within the county boundary of Clare.

3 *'Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region: A Profile of Seven Town Labour Catchments'*  
<https://www.wdc.ie/publications/reports-and-papers/#toggle-id-10>

### Kilrush 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

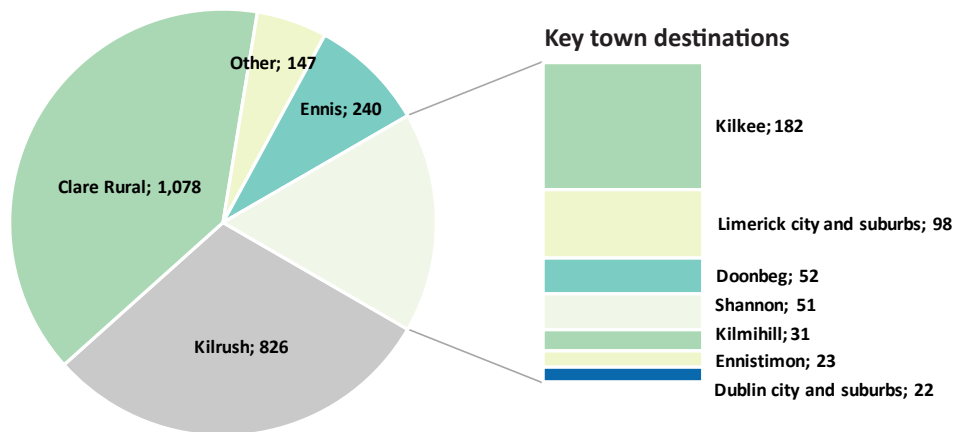
**Kilrush Labour Catchment**

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



Of those living in the Kilrush labour catchment (total = 2,750), 30% (826) are employed within Kilrush town and 70% (1,924) are employed outside the town. Key destinations outside the town are Clare Rural (39.2% or 1078), Ennis (8.7% or 240) and Kilkee (6.6% or 182) – see Figure 1<sup>4</sup> for more details.

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

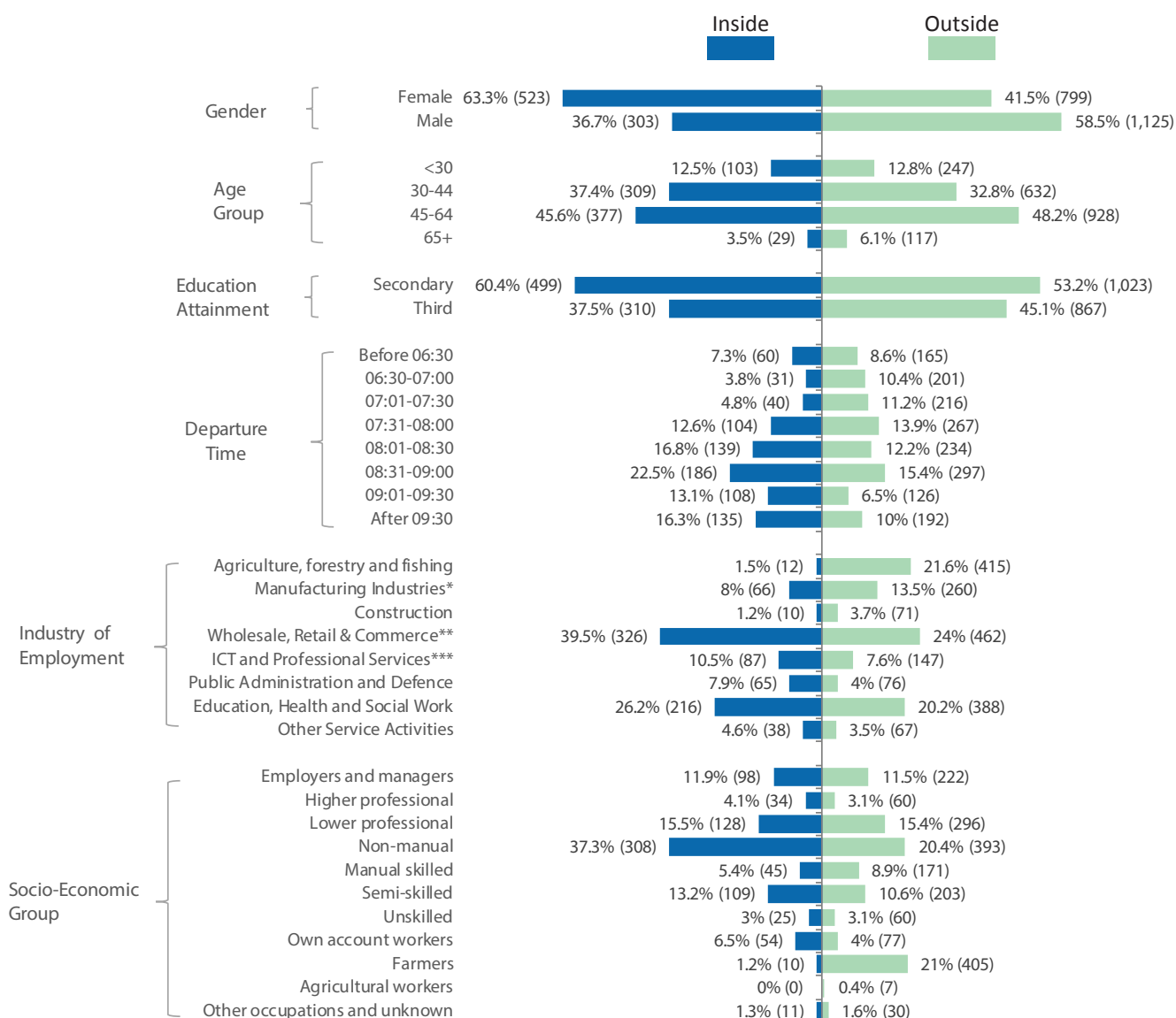
<sup>4</sup> The analysis of the labour catchments in the Western Region has highlighted the importance of rural areas as employment locations. Depending on the location of the catchment and the proximity of nearby towns, a large proportion of the labour catchment residents are in fact employed in rural 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., Clare Rural, Galway Rural. In the graphic above, ‘Other’ refer to all other employment destinations (settlements) of those living in the labour catchment.

**Kilrush Labour Catchment**

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

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



Within the Kilrush labour catchment, female workers account for 48.1% and male workers account for 51.9%, see Figure 3. Of those working inside Kilrush, 63.3% are females whereas 41.5% of those working outside Kilrush 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 Kilrush labour catchment and working inside Kilrush is as follows: <30 years (103 or 12.5%), 30 to 44 years (309 or 37.4%), 45 to 64 years (377 or 45.6%) and 65 years plus (29 or 3.5%).

**Kilrush Labour Catchment**

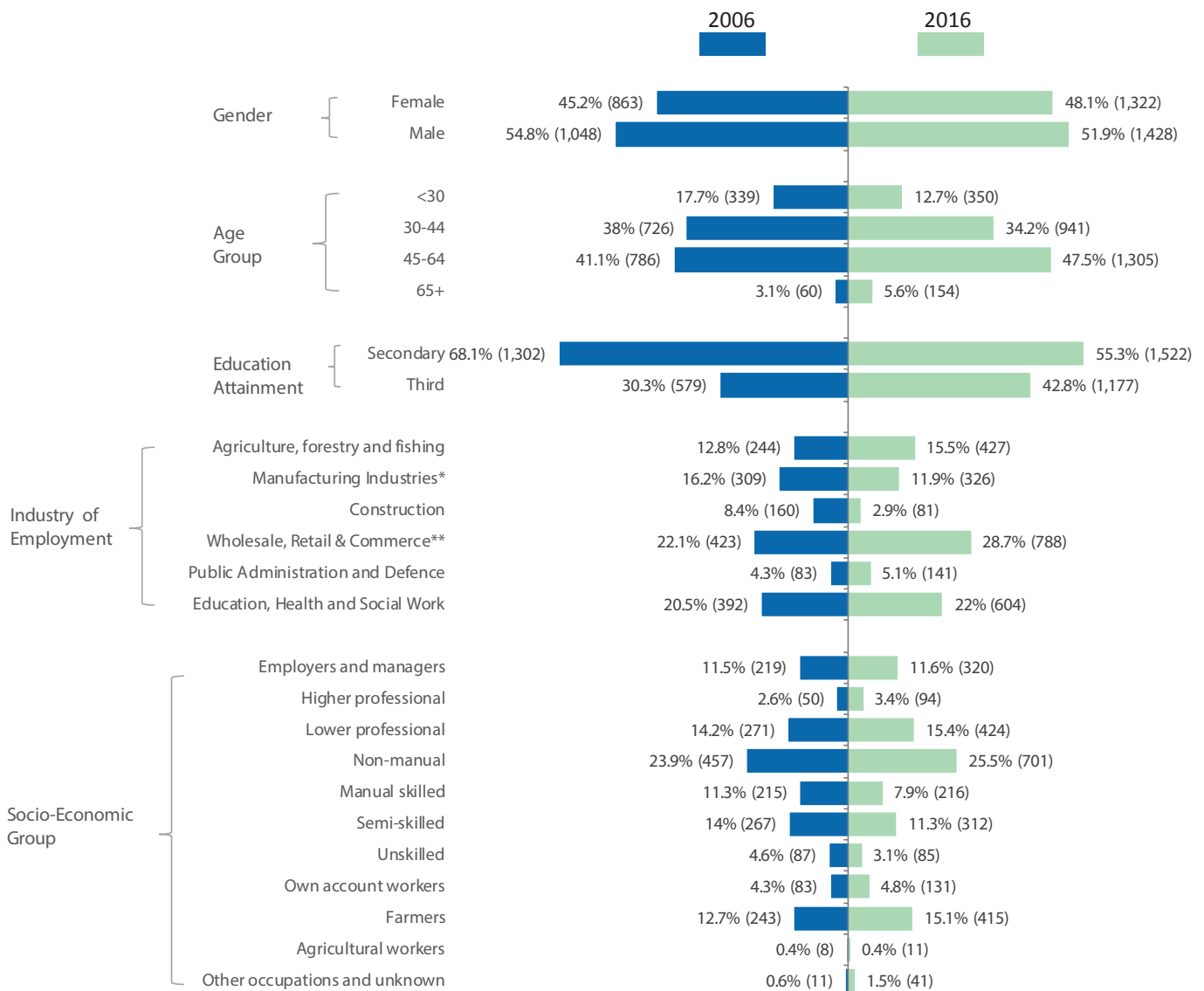
The age profile of those living in the Kilrush labour catchment and working outside Kilrush is as follows: <30 years (247 or 12.8%), 30 to 44 years (632 or 32.8%), 45 to 64 years (928 or 48.2%) and 65 years plus (117 or 6.1%).

An education profile of the Kilrush labour catchment shows the following: Of those working inside Kilrush town, 37.5% (310) have 3rd level qualifications compared to 45.1% (867) of those working outside (Figure 2).

**Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016**

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Kilrush 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 and a significant increase in dependence in the ‘Wholesale, Retail and Commerce’ sector.

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



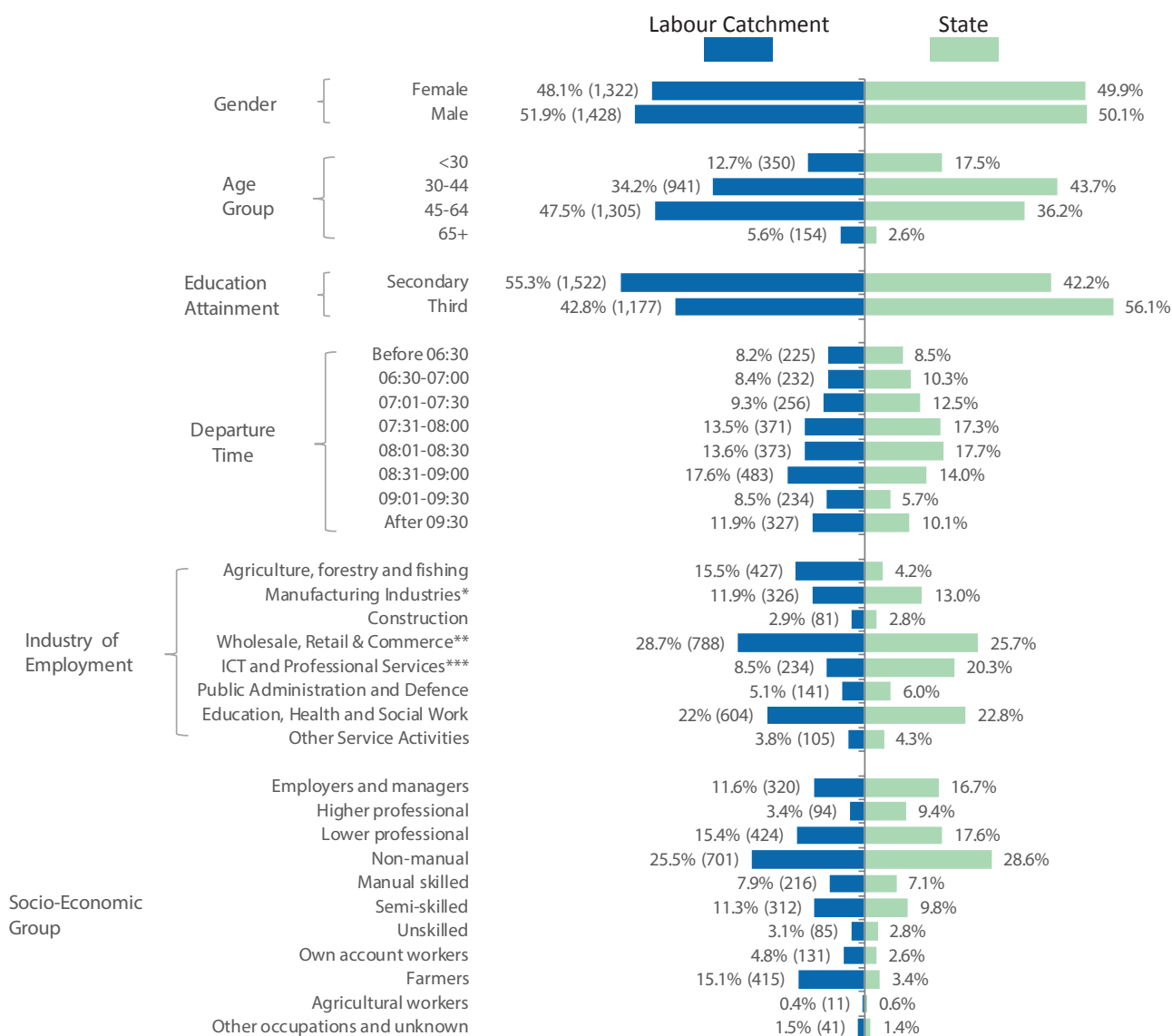


**Kilrush Labour Catchment**

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

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

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



An age profile of the Kilrush labour catchment details the following: Labour Catchment (Total): <30 years (350 or 12.7%), 30 to 44 years (941 or 34.2%), 45 to 64 years (1,305 or 47.5%) and 65 years plus (154 or 5.6%). 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 Kilrush labour catchment shows the following: Those at work and residing in the Kilrush labour catchment recorded a third level attainment rate of 42.8% (1,177). In contrast to this, the national average is 56.1% (Figure 4).

Analysis of the profile of the industry of employment within the Kilrush labour catchment shows the following<sup>5</sup>:

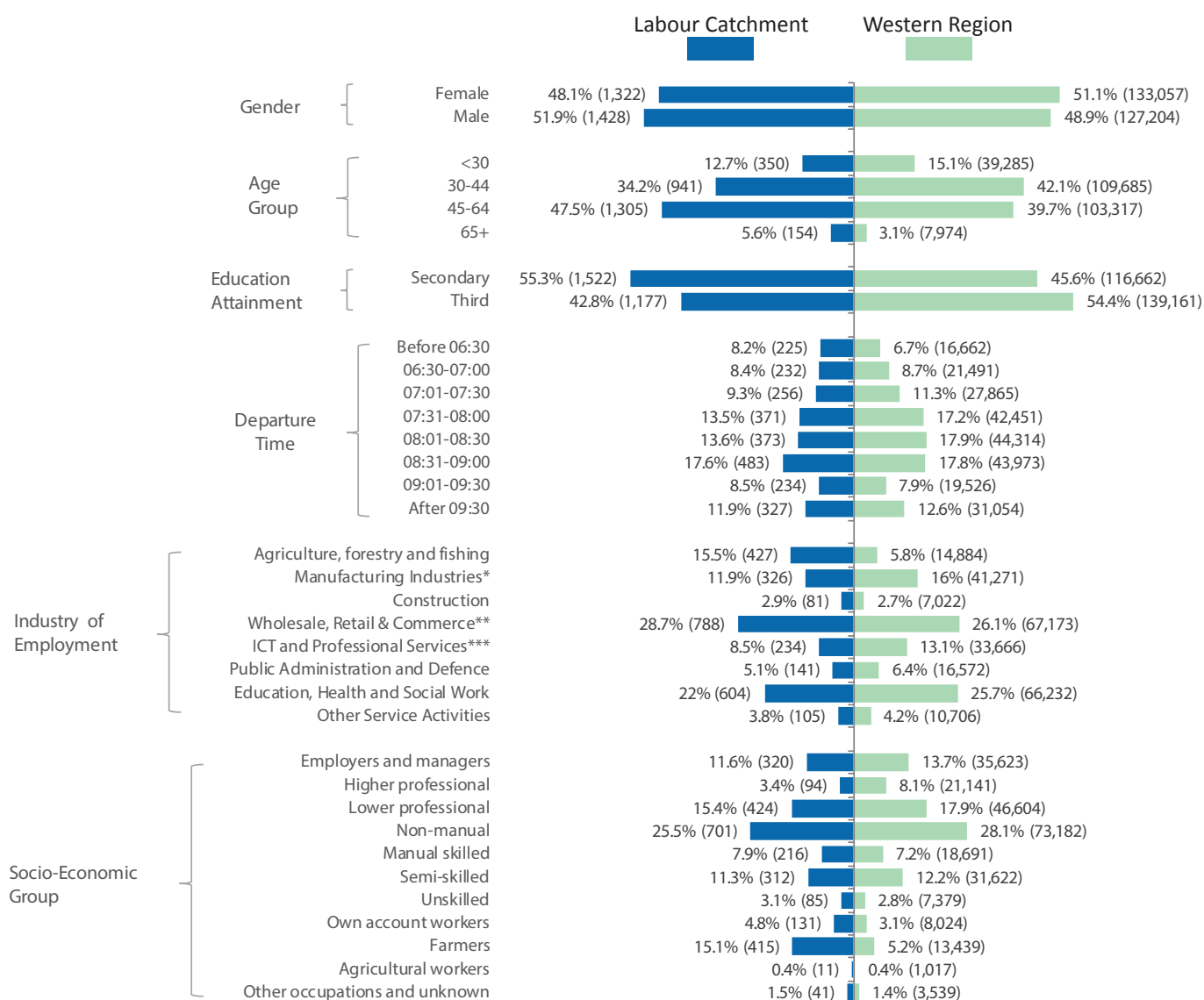
### Kilrush Labour Catchment

- The single largest employer is the ‘Wholesale, Retail and Commerce’ sector and accounts for 28.7% (788) which is higher than the State average (25.7%) (Figure 4).
- The ‘Education, Human Health and Social Work’ (22% or 604) is also an important employment sector although it has a marginally lower proportional share than the State average (22.8%) (Figure 4).
- ‘Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing’ (15.5% or 427) is the third most important sector and much lower than the State average of 4.2% (Figure 4).

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

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

**Figure 5: Socio-economic comparison of resident workers living in Kilrush labour catchment and the Western Region**



5 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)

## Kilrush Labour Catchment

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

### Conclusion

Kilrush 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 43.9% (+839 resident workers). However this includes the entire area which was the Kilkee labour catchment in 2006. In 2016, there were 2,750 people in the Kilrush labour catchment, in 2006 the combined Kilkee labour catchment (543) and Kilrush labour catchment (1,911) numbered 2,454.

Over the decade Kilrush has increased in importance as a place of work, while rural parts of Clare have decreased slightly. Kilkee has declined in its significance as a place of employment while Limerick city and suburbs, Doonbeg, Shannon and Dublin city and suburbs have all increased in importance as places of work.

Kilrush catchment also has a much higher proportion of workers engaged in the Agriculture and the Manufacturing sector. Resident workers in the Kilrush catchment also have a much older age profile than the Western Region average, reflecting the more rural parts of the catchment.

## Notes

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