



Profile of Enterprise in Roscommon 2017

Indicator	Roscommon	State*
Total Enterprises¹		
Total No. of Enterprises	3,983 1.2% of State	338,729
Total Persons Engaged (owners + employees) in Enterprises	14,007 0.7% of State	2,045,843
Change in Total Enterprises		
2008-2012	-2.9%	0.1%
2012-2017	4.1%	11.0%
2015-2017	7.9%	9.0%
% of all Enterprises		
% of all Enterprises	94.7%	92.1%
% of all Persons Engaged in Enterprises		
% of all Persons Engaged in Enterprises	46.8%	26.5%
% of all Persons Engaged in Enterprises by Sector		
% of all Enterprises	5.3%	7.9%
% of all Persons Engaged in Enterprises	53.2%	73.5%
By No. of Enterprises		
By No. of Enterprises	1. Construction (22.7%) 2. Wholesale & Retail (17.3%) 3. Professional, Scientific & Technical (8.5%)	1. Construction (16.9%) 2. Wholesale & Retail (14.3%) 3. Professional, Scientific & Technical (12.9%)
By No. of Persons Engaged		
By No. of Persons Engaged	1. Wholesale & Retail (22.0%) 2. Health & Care (15.0%) 3. Accommodation & Food Service (12.7%)	1. Wholesale & Retail (18.0%) 2. Industry (11.9%) 3. Health & Care (11.0%)

Source: CSO, Business Demography 2017, Table BRA08 and Table BRA18

Each enterprise is counted where it is registered for Revenue purposes. All employees are included in the county where the 'head office' of the business is registered, even if many work elsewhere.

* Business Demography data provides a figure for 'All Counties' which here is called State. This excludes enterprises whose location is classified as 'Unknown'.

¹ 'Total Enterprises' includes all economic sectors except Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, Public Administration & Defence, Households as Employers and Extraterritorial Organisations (that is NACE Rev 2 sectors B to N(-642) and P-S).

² This data only refers to 'Business Economy' sectors which is all economic sectors except Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, Public Administration & Defence, Households as Employers, Extraterritorial Organisations, Education, Human Health & Social Work, Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Other Services (that is NACE Rev 2 sectors B to N(-642)).

1.0 Introduction

The CSO recently published Business Demography data for 2017.¹ This is the most comprehensive source of data on enterprises in Ireland at a county level. The data covers all active enterprises in Ireland that are registered with Revenue.² This Western Development Commission (WDC) report provides an overview of Business Demography data for county Roscommon in 2017, as well as examining recent trends.

1.1 Note on Data

It is important to note that Business Demography data assigns each enterprise based on its address as registered with Revenue. This means that a company with multiple locations e.g. a bank, is only counted once where its head office is registered e.g. Dublin, and individual branches in other areas are not included. All employees are assigned to the county where an enterprise's head office is located, even if many are working in other areas. In the case of a franchise model however, as the individual branches are independent they would likely be registered in the county where they are located.

Therefore the geographic breakdown of Business Demography data is an approximation and it is important to use caution when interpreting this data. It should be taken as indicative of the general pattern within the county. Nonetheless this is the most comprehensive source of data on enterprises at a county level in Ireland and, as these enterprises are registered within the county, they may be more strongly embedded in the local economy.

2.0 Total Enterprises in Roscommon

In 2017 in County Roscommon there were:

- 3,983 total active enterprises
- 14,007 persons engaged in these enterprises (owners, relatives, employees)
 - 11,184 of these were employees
 - Employees accounted for 79.8% of all persons engaged (national average³ is 90%)

¹ CSO (2019), [Business Demography 2017](#). Note that county data is only available in the Statbank data files, Tables BRA08 and BRA18.

² It does not include the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing or Public Administration and Defence sectors, however public sector entities in Education and Health & Care are included.

³ In Business Demography county data, a figure is given for 'All Counties' which we will refer to here as the national or State figure. However it should be noted that this excludes enterprises whose location is classified as 'Unknown', these generally have Revenue registered addresses outside of the Republic of Ireland. However, the employees registered with these addresses are working in the Republic of Ireland. In 2017, there were 3,575 'Unknown' enterprises in the state compared with 338,729 enterprises in 'All Counties'.

3.0 Enterprise Trends in Roscommon 2008-2017: Active Enterprises and Persons Engaged

When looking at trends over time, we can only examine ‘business economy’ enterprises⁴ as data for some sectors is only available from 2015 onwards. ‘Business economy’ enterprises accounted for 76.2% of total enterprises in Roscommon in 2017, so trends in these enterprises can be considered to be quite representative of total enterprises.

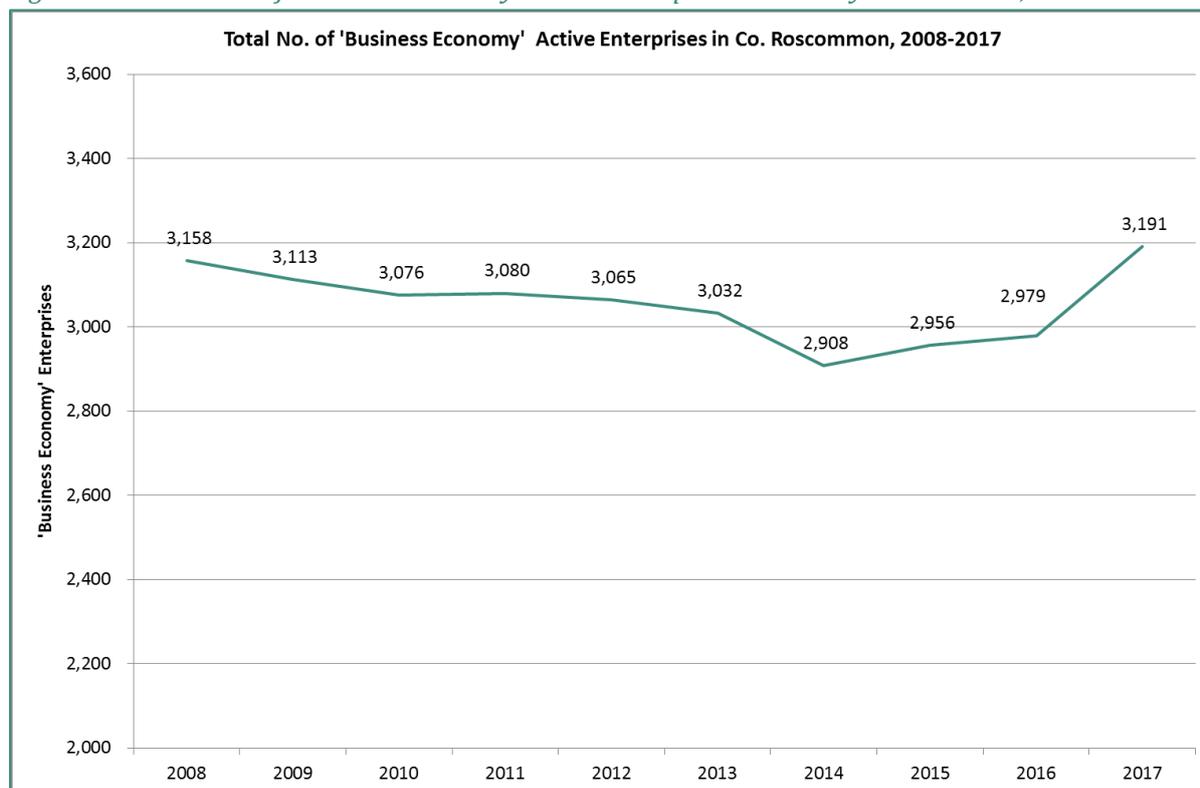
3.1 Active Enterprises in Roscommon 2008-2017

Fig. 1 shows the total number of ‘business economy’ enterprises registered in county Roscommon in the ten years 2008 to 2017.

As would be expected, numbers declined from the onset of the recession in 2008. They reached a low point in 2014 that was 7.9% lower than 2008 (nationally enterprise numbers in 2014 were 2.4% lower than 2008).

Since 2014, there has been strong recovery and this was particularly the case in the most recent year with a 7.1% increase between 2016 and 2017 (national average increase was 8.5%).

Fig. 1: Total number of ‘business economy’ active enterprises in county Roscommon, 2008-2017



Source: CSO, *Business Demography 2017*, Table BRA08
To ease interpretation, the vertical axis begins at 2,000.

⁴ ‘Business economy’ enterprises cover NACE Rev 2 sectors B to N(-642). That is every economic sector except Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, Education, Public Administration & Defence, Health & Social Work, Arts/Entertainment/Recreation and Other Services, as well as the activities of holding companies.

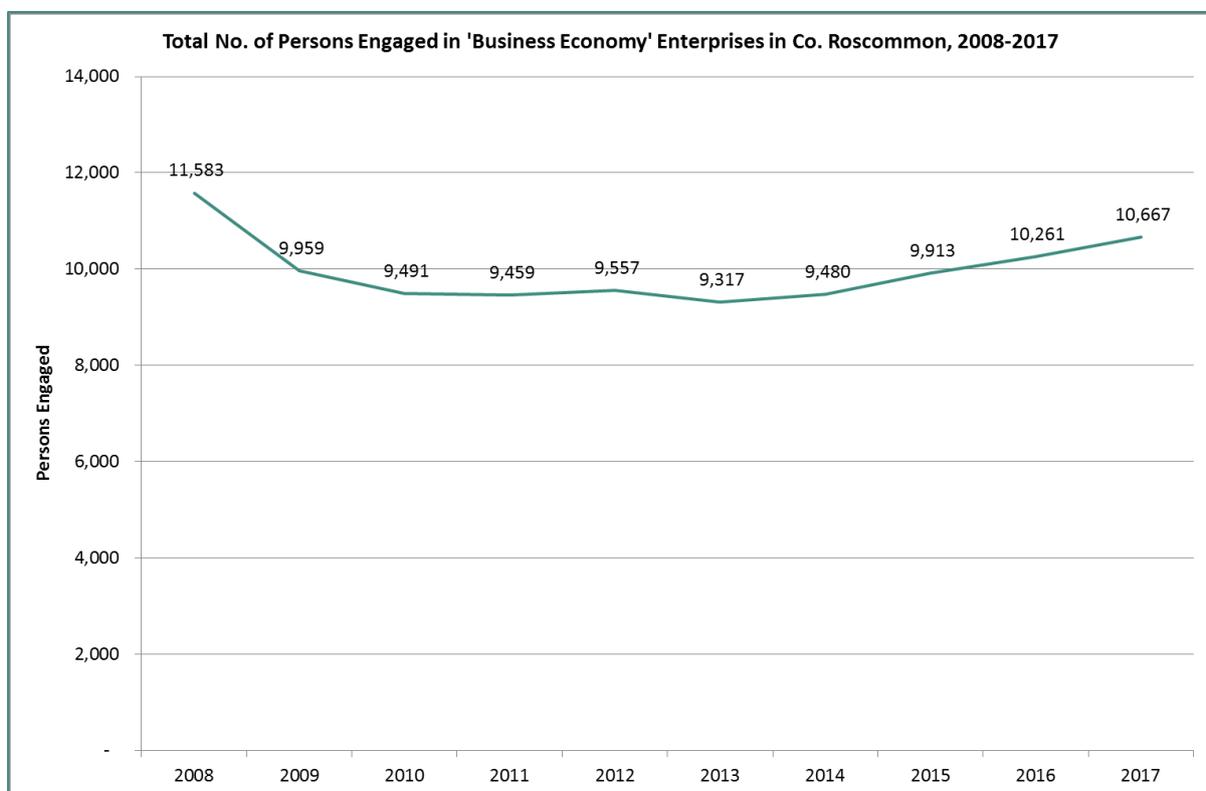
3.2 Persons Engaged in Enterprises in Roscommon 2008-2017

Fig. 2 shows the total number of persons engaged (owners and employees) in 'business economy' enterprises registered in county Roscommon in the ten years 2008 to 2017.⁵

The number of persons engaged in enterprises registered in Roscommon declined very sharply at the beginning of the period. There were large job losses during 2008 and 2009 (14% decline 2008-2009, 11% decline nationally). The number of persons engaged remained quite stable during the recession until 2015 when it began to recover.

During the most recent year (2016-2017) there was 4% growth in the number of persons engaged, lower than growth in enterprise numbers (7.1%, see Fig. 1). This may be due to many of the new enterprises being very small (1-2 persons). Growth in the number of persons engaged in Roscommon 2016-2017 was lower than in the state (4% v 5.2%).

Fig. 2: Total number of persons engaged in 'business economy' enterprises in county Roscommon, 2008-2017



Source: CSO, *Business Demography 2017*, Table BRA08

⁵ Note that this includes all those working for enterprises registered in county Roscommon. It does not include people working in Roscommon but for a business registered elsewhere e.g. branch of a fast food chain, but does include people working in another county for a company which is registered in county Roscommon.

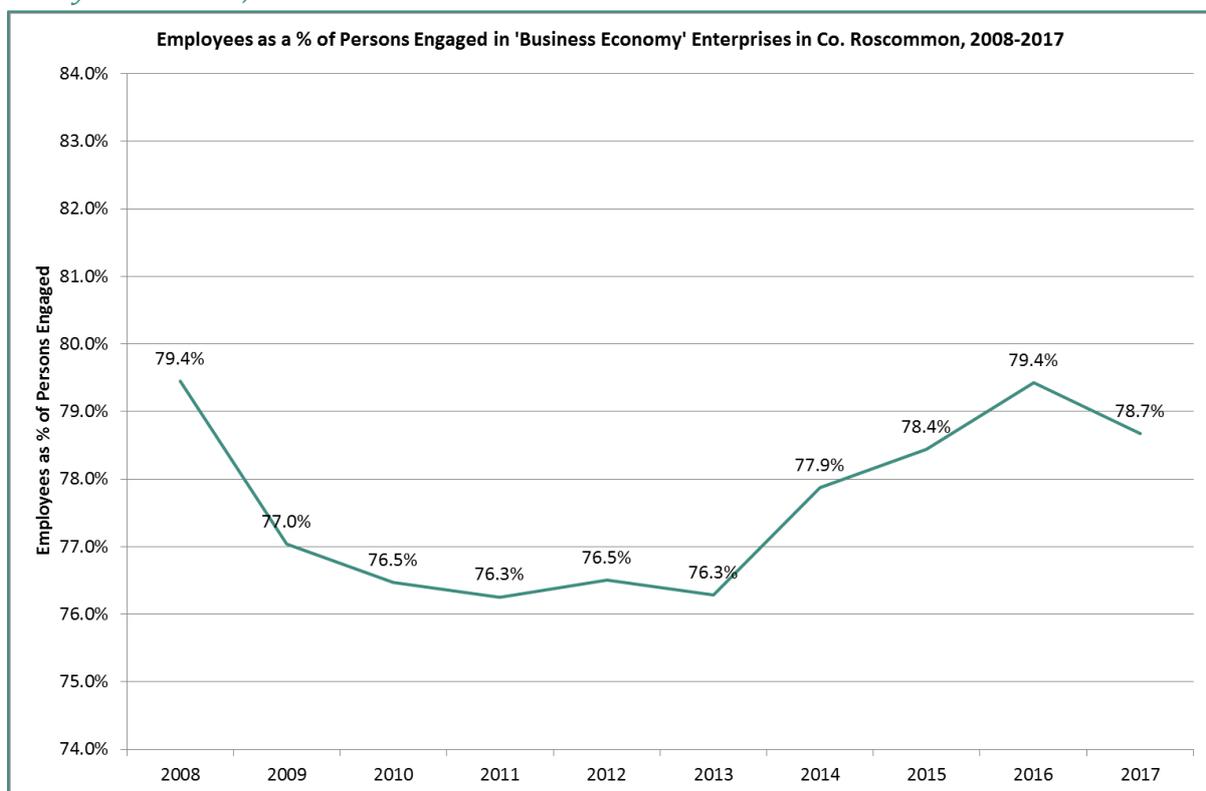
3.3 Employees as a % of Persons Engaged in Roscommon 2008-2017

Fig. 3 shows the percentage of all persons engaged in 'business economy' enterprises registered in county Roscommon who are employees, between 2008 and 2017.

Employees as a share of all persons engaged in Roscommon fell from 79.4% in 2008 to a low point of 76.3% in 2013. This was because of greater job losses among employees than among owners which increased the share of owners in the total workforce.

From 2013 the share of employees began to grow as expansion and recruitment of employees increased. The share rose to 79.4% by 2016, falling back somewhat in 2017. This decline in 2017 may point to an increasing number of people setting up new businesses (as owner-managers) as economic conditions improve.

Fig. 3: Employees as a percentage of total persons engaged in 'business economy' enterprises in county Roscommon, 2008-2017



Source: CSO, *Business Demography 2017*, Table BRA08

To ease interpretation, the vertical axis begins at 74%.

4.0 Enterprises by Size in Roscommon

Data on the number of enterprises by size is also based on ‘business economy’ enterprises, rather than total enterprises. The size categories are based on the number of persons engaged.

Table 1 gives the number of ‘business economy’ active enterprises, persons engaged and employees in each enterprise size category in county Roscommon in 2017.

In 2017 there were 3,191 ‘business economy’ enterprises registered in Roscommon, of these 3,023 (94.7%) were micro-enterprises (fewer than 10 people). Nationally 92.1% are micro-enterprises and Roscommon has the joint highest (with Leitrim) share of micro-enterprises in Ireland. Small, medium and large enterprises combined only account for 5.3% of all enterprises registered in Roscommon.

4,989 people worked in micro-enterprises registered in the county. As micro-enterprises employ fewer people each, their share of all persons engaged (46.8%) is considerably smaller than their share of enterprises (94.7%). Micro-enterprises share of all persons engaged in enterprises in Roscommon (46.8%) is among the highest in Ireland.

As many micro-enterprises are run by an owner/manager, owners account for a larger share of the total workforce of micro-enterprises. Employees account for 55.1% of total persons engaged in micro-enterprises which means 44.9% are owners. This results in micro-enterprises accounting for only 32.7% of all employees in ‘business economy’ enterprises. In total, 67.3% of all employees work in the 168 enterprises with 10 or more staff.

Table 1: Number of ‘business economy’ active enterprises, persons engaged and employees in each enterprise size category in county Roscommon, 2017

Enterprise Size category	Active Enterprises	Persons Engaged	Employees	Employees as % Persons Engaged
Under 10	3,023	4,989	2,748	55.1%
10 - 19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
20 - 49	49	1,373	1,364	99.3%
50 - 249	31	2,831	2,830	100.0%
250 and over	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	3,191	10,667	8,392	78.7%
% in Micro-Enterprises	94.7%	46.8%	32.7%	
% in Enterprises 10+	5.3%	53.2%	67.3%	

Source: CSO, Business Demography 2017, Table BRA08

For confidentiality reasons, data for enterprises in the 10-19 and 250+ size categories is not available for Roscommon in 2017. Calculations for ‘Enterprises 10+’ are based on the total figure minus the number Under 10, so enterprises in these size categories are included.

4.1 Change in Enterprises by Size in Roscommon 2008-2017

Table 2 shows the percentage change in the number of active enterprises and the number of persons engaged in each enterprise size category during a number of periods.

The total number of ‘business economy’ enterprises registered in Roscommon declined by 2.9% between 2008 and 2012 (recession) and grew by 4.1% between 2012 and 2017 (recovery). The most recent year for the data (2016-2017) saw strong growth (7.1%). In each period, the performance in Roscommon was weaker than nationally.

When considering the performance of the different size categories it must be remembered that there are very low numbers involved in some of the larger categories (see Table 1) so even a small change (1 or 2 enterprises) would show as a large percentage change. During 2008-2012, enterprises with ten or more people saw the largest decline (18.9%) and also the strongest recovery during 2012-2017 (18.3%). As these had lower growth in the most recent year (2016-2017) it indicates that recovery in enterprise numbers began earlier for larger firms.

The number of micro-enterprises registered in Roscommon fell by 2% between 2008 and 2012 before growing by 3.4% between then and 2017. Much of this growth has occurred in the 2016-2017 period which may indicate that recovery among micro-enterprises began more recently than among larger firms.

Table 2: Percentage change in ‘business economy’ active enterprises and persons engaged in each enterprise size category in county Roscommon

Enterprise Size category	Active Enterprises			Persons Engaged		
	% Change 2008-2012	% Change 2012-2017	% Change 2016-2017	% Change 2008-2012	% Change 2012-2017	% Change 2016-2017
Under 10	-2.0%	3.4%	7.3%	-17.9%	8.4%	5.3%
10 - 19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
20 - 49	-11.6%	28.9%	6.5%	-19.3%	21.2%	-3.1%
50 - 249	-16.7%	24.0%	10.7%	-22.9%	29.9%	-2.6%
250 and over	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Total of 10+</i>	-18.9%	18.3%	4.3%	-17.1%	14.6%	2.8%
Total	-2.9%	4.1%	7.1%	-17.5%	11.6%	4.0%
Total (State)	0.1%	11.0%	8.5%	-16.3%	23.0%	5.2%

Source: CSO, Business Demography 2017, Table BRA08

For confidentiality reasons, data for enterprises in the 10-19 and 250+ size categories is not available for Roscommon for all years. Calculations for ‘Enterprises 10+’ are based on the total figure minus the number Under 10, so enterprises in these size categories are included.

The total number of persons engaged in ‘business economy’ enterprises in Roscommon fell by 17.5% between 2008 and 2012 and increased by 11.6% between 2012 and 2017. As the growth in the most recent year (2016-2017) was relatively low (4%), the recovery in employment began earlier. This was likely influenced by larger firms, which have a greater employment impact, recovering earlier. The decline in persons engaged in Roscommon in 2008-2012 was somewhat greater than nationally however the growth since 2012 was about half that occurring in the state.

All size categories experienced large declines in persons engaged during 2008-2012. Micro-enterprises had lower growth during 2012-2017 than larger firms. Micro-enterprises however had stronger growth during 2016-2017 than firms with 10 or more people (5.3% v 2.8%) showing a strengthening of the employment performance of micro-enterprises.

5.0 Enterprises by Sector in Roscommon 2017: Active Enterprises and Persons Engaged

When examining enterprises by sector in 2017 we use ‘total enterprises’.

5.1 Active Enterprises by Sector in Roscommon 2017

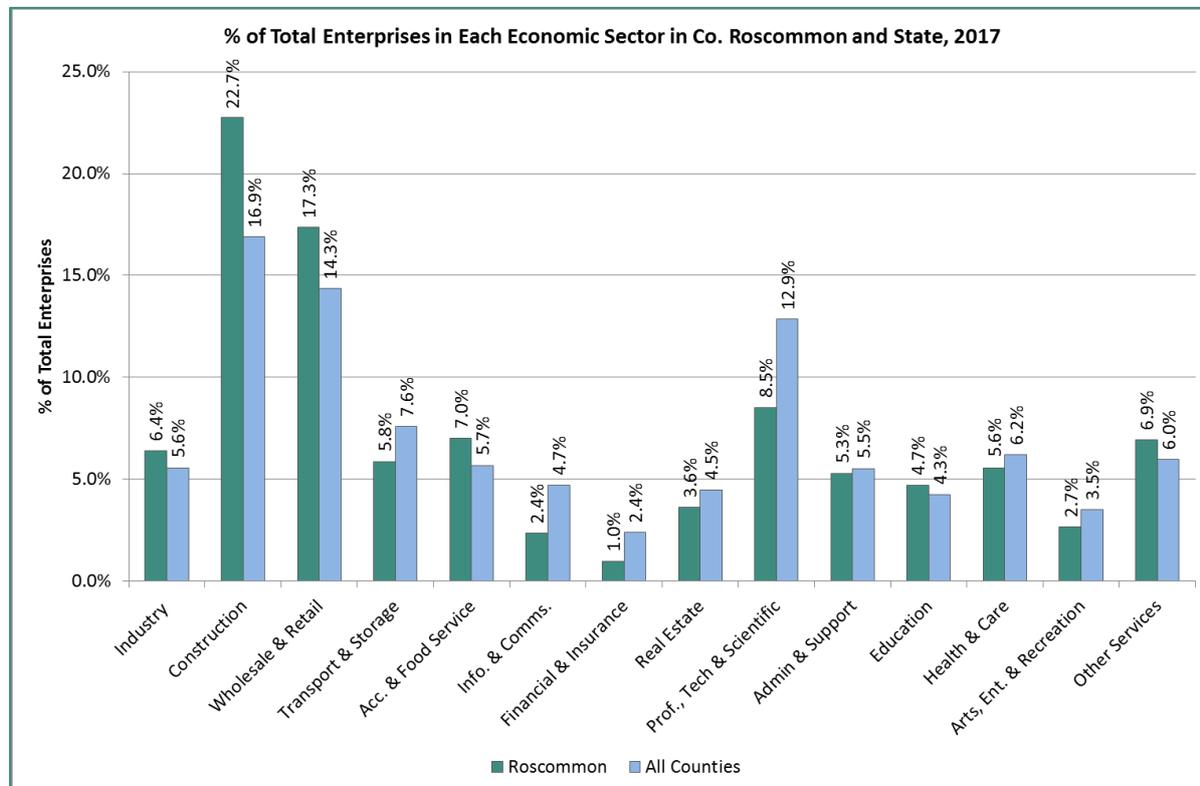
Fig. 4 shows the percentage of total enterprises that are in each economic sector in county Roscommon and the state in 2017.

In Roscommon, Construction (22.7%) is the sector which accounts for the largest share of total enterprises, followed by Wholesale & Retail (17.3%), Professional, Technical & Scientific (8.5%) and Accommodation & Food Service (7%). While data is not provided on enterprise size by sector, it is known that these sectors are characterised by a large number of small operations in comparison with, say, Industry which has a small number of larger enterprises.

There are a number of notable differences between Roscommon’s enterprise profile and the national enterprise profile:

- Construction dominates the enterprise profile in Roscommon to a greater extent than nationally (22.7% v 16.9%).
- Higher shares of enterprises in local services sectors Wholesale & Retail, Accommodation & Food Service and Other Services reflecting the importance of local demand and spending.
- The knowledge intensive services sectors (Professional, ICT and Financial) all account for a lower share of Roscommon’s total enterprises than nationally.

Fig. 4: Percentage of total enterprises in each economic sector in county Roscommon and state, 2017



Source: CSO, *Business Demography 2017*, Table BRA18

5.1.1 Change in Active Enterprises by Sector in Roscommon 2015-2017

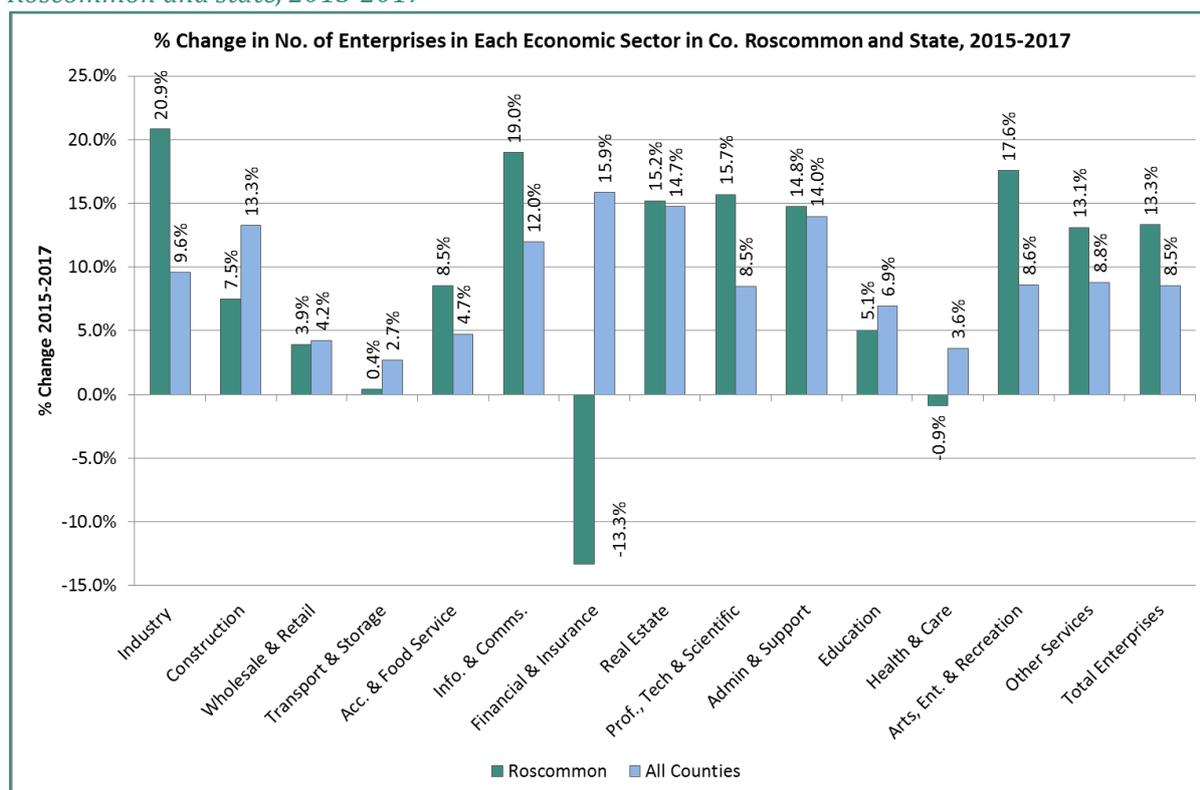
As noted above, data for some economic sectors is only available from 2015. Because of this and the fact that considering change over two years is more meaningful than change in a single year, we will consider the percentage change in enterprises between 2015 and 2017. Fig. 5 shows the percentage change in the number of active enterprises registered in county Roscommon and in the state in each economic sector between 2015 and 2017.

The largest growth in enterprise numbers in Roscommon was in Industry (20.9%) and Information & Communications (19%). Strong growth in these sectors is a positive indication of strengthening economic activity as many enterprises in these sectors are trading internationally.

Other areas with strong growth were Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (17.6%), Professional Services (15.7%) and Real Estate⁶ (15.2%). Roscommon had stronger growth than nationally in first two sectors, showing the growing importance of the creative hospitality sectors in the county, as well as strengthening business and economic activity driving demand for professional services.

There was a very large decline in the number of Financial & Insurance firms registered in Roscommon (13.3%). In general, recent growth in this sector has been in international financial services which are concentrated in Dublin, while there has been a decline in local consumer activity in this sector with a move to more online provision of services.

Fig. 5: Percentage change in the number of active enterprises in economic sectors in county Roscommon and state, 2015-2017



Source: CSO, Business Demography 2017, Table BRA18. As data for the Education sector for Roscommon in 2015 is not available, the % change for Education refers to 2014-2017

⁶ Caution is required with this sector as it not only includes estate agents/auctioneers but also the letting and management of property (either your own property or on behalf of the owners). A feature of the recession was that many construction firms (property development) were re-designated as Real Estate companies as they were managing their property on behalf of e.g. a bank, NAMA. The Real Estate sector would also include property investment companies which may register a number of separate companies to manage different properties.

5.2 Persons Engaged by Sector in Roscommon 2017

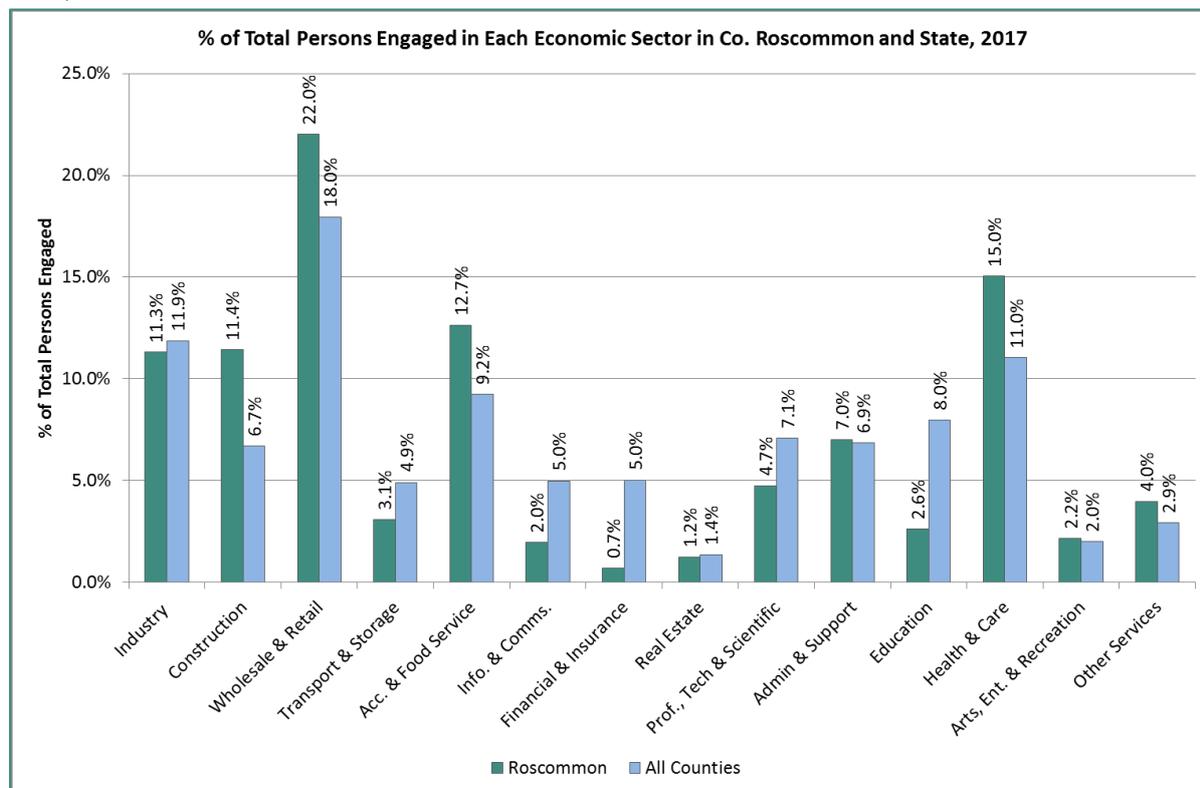
Fig. 6 shows the percentage of total persons engaged who are working in each economic sector in county Roscommon and the state in 2017.

In Roscommon, Wholesale & Retail (22%) is the sector which accounts for the largest share of persons engaged. Health & Care (15%) is next largest and accounts for a much higher share of persons engaged than of enterprises (5.6%, see Fig. 4) as it is quite labour intensive and includes some larger operations e.g. hospitals, nursing homes. Accommodation & Food Service is next, again accounting for a higher share of persons engaged (12.7%) than enterprises (7%, see Fig. 4) as it is quite labour intensive. In contrast, Construction only accounts for 11.4% of all persons engaged, whereas it was the largest sector in terms of enterprise numbers, as many businesses are sole traders or micro-enterprises.

There are a number of notable differences between the profile of persons engaged in Roscommon and nationally:

- Construction (11.4% v 6.7%) and Health & Care (15% v 11%) are both substantially more important to the profile of people working in enterprises in Roscommon than nationally.
- Accommodation & Food Service (12.7% v 9.2%) also accounts for higher share of persons engaged in enterprises in Roscommon, showing the importance of the hospitality sector.
- As with enterprises, Financial, Professional and ICT Services account for a lower share of persons engaged in Roscommon.
- Roscommon has a significantly lower share engaged in Education enterprises (2.6% v 8%).

Fig. 6: Percentage of total persons engaged in each economic sector in county Roscommon and state, 2017



Source: CSO, Business Demography 2017, Table BRA18

5.2.1 Change in Persons Engaged by Sector in Roscommon 2015-2017

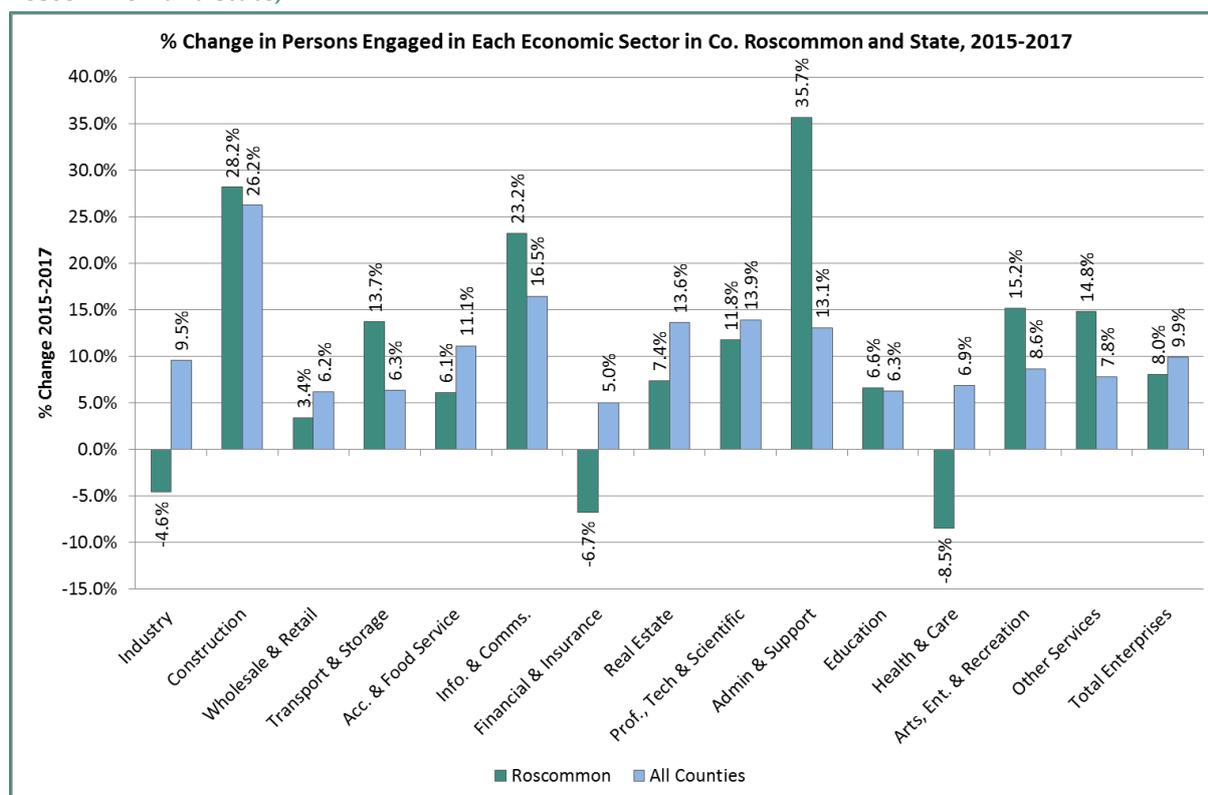
Fig. 7 shows the percentage change in the number of persons engaged in enterprises registered in county Roscommon and in the state in each economic sector between 2015 and 2017.

The number of persons engaged in enterprises registered in Roscommon grew by 8% between 2015 and 2017. This compared with 13.3% growth in the number of enterprises (see Fig. 5) as many of the new firms are likely to be very small. The increase in persons engaged in Roscommon (8%) was lower than the growth nationally (9.9%).

The sector with the largest growth in the number of persons engaged in Roscommon was Administrative & Support (35.7%) which is a sector that mainly depends on demand from business clients for out-sourced services e.g. maintenance, security, leasing, and therefore responds to growing business activity. This was followed by Construction (28.2%) clearly reflecting growing activity in the building industry. Information & Communications (23.2%) had the next highest growth in persons engaged in Roscommon, showing a growing role for this sector in the county, though it is important to note that this is a very small sector.

Health & Care (-8.5%), Financial & Insurance (-6.7%) and Industry (-4.6%) saw a decline in the number of persons engaged in enterprises, in contrast to growth nationally. For the first two sectors, they also experienced a decline in enterprise numbers, however there was strong growth in the number of Industry enterprises registered in Roscommon (see Fig. 5), so the decline in persons engaged may indicate scaling back of employment in some firms and may also indicate some of the new Industry enterprise are very small scale.

Fig. 7: Percentage change in the number of persons engaged in each economic sector in county Roscommon and state, 2015-2017



Source: CSO, Business Demography 2017, Table BRA18. As data for the Education sector for Roscommon in 2015 is not available, the % change for Education refers to 2014-2017.

5.3 Employees as a % of Persons Engaged by Sector in Roscommon 2017

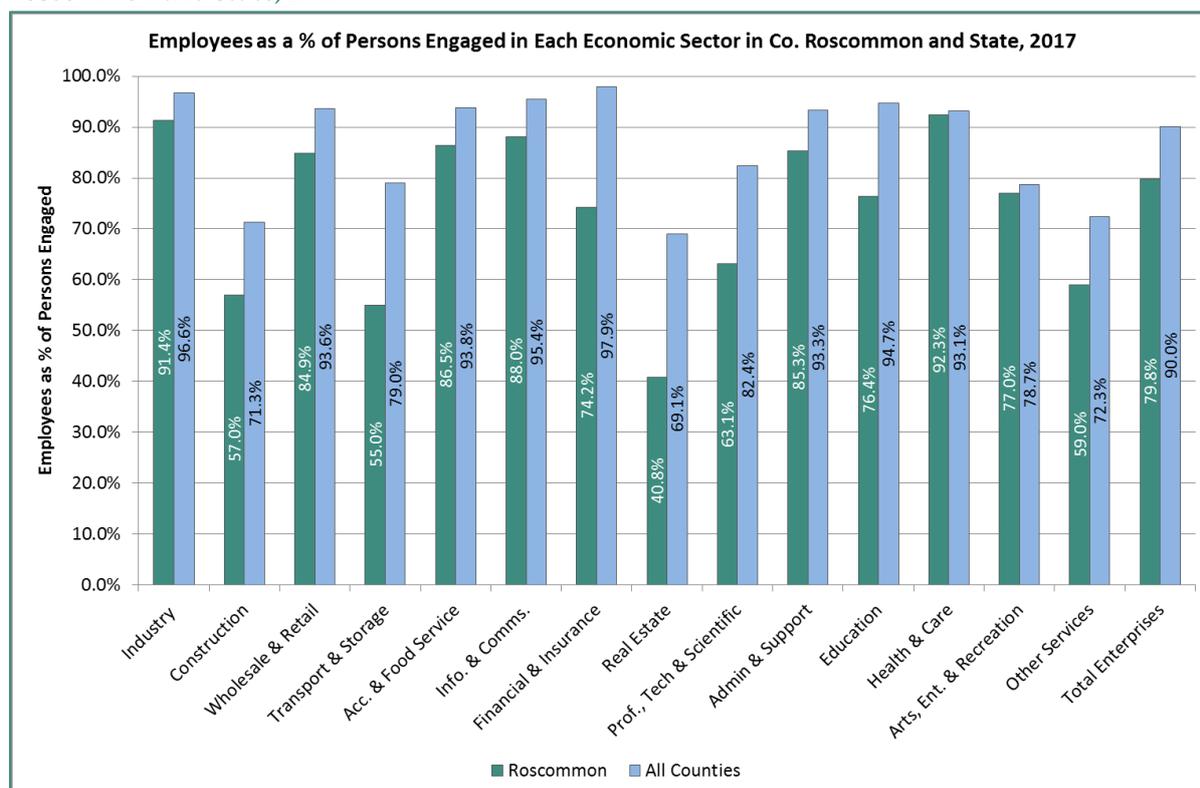
Fig. 8 shows the percentage of all persons engaged in each economic sector who are employees in Roscommon and in the state in 2017.

For total enterprises in Roscommon, 79.8% of all persons engaged are employees.⁷ This was considerably lower than the 90% share nationally, again showing the greater involvement of owners in enterprises registered in Roscommon and the high share of micro-enterprises. It should be remembered that the national figure is influenced by all employees of companies with multiple locations being assigned to the county where their head office is registered, often Dublin.

In Health & Care and Industry over 90% of persons engaged are employees as these are characterised by large employers e.g. hospitals, factories. In contrast, Real Estate (40.8%), Transport & Storage (55%), Construction (57%) and Other Services (59%) have a high share of business owners, indicating these sectors have smaller operations.

The share of persons engaged who are employees in Roscommon is lower than the national average in every sector.

Fig. 8: Employees as a percentage of persons engaged in each economic sector in county Roscommon and state, 2017



Source: CSO, Business Demography 2017, Table BRA18

Western Development Commission
August 2019

⁷ Note, the share given for Roscommon in Fig. 3 (78.7%) only referred to 'business economy' enterprises (as it was showing the trend over time), whereas Fig. 8 refers to total enterprises.