

Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region

A Profile of the Shannon 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 website¹.

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 Shannon labour catchment, will identify where the residents of the Shannon 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.

Shannon

The Shannon settlement had a population of 9,729 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Shannon is the 7th largest settlement within the Western Region and the 49th largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Shannon has increased by 5.5% (507). In the five years since Census 2011, the population of the town has increased by 0.6% (56). 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 criteria². 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 Shannon.

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/>

Shannon 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 Shannon 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 Shannon was 4,484 and accounts for 1.8% 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 case of Shannon, the Airport and parts of the Free Zone are excluded from the town and are within Clare Rural (east Free Zone i.e., Smithfield are included).

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

Profile of the Shannon Labour Catchment

The Shannon labour catchment is the 15th largest labour catchment in the Western Region with a resident 'at work' population of 4,718 which accounts for 1.8% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).

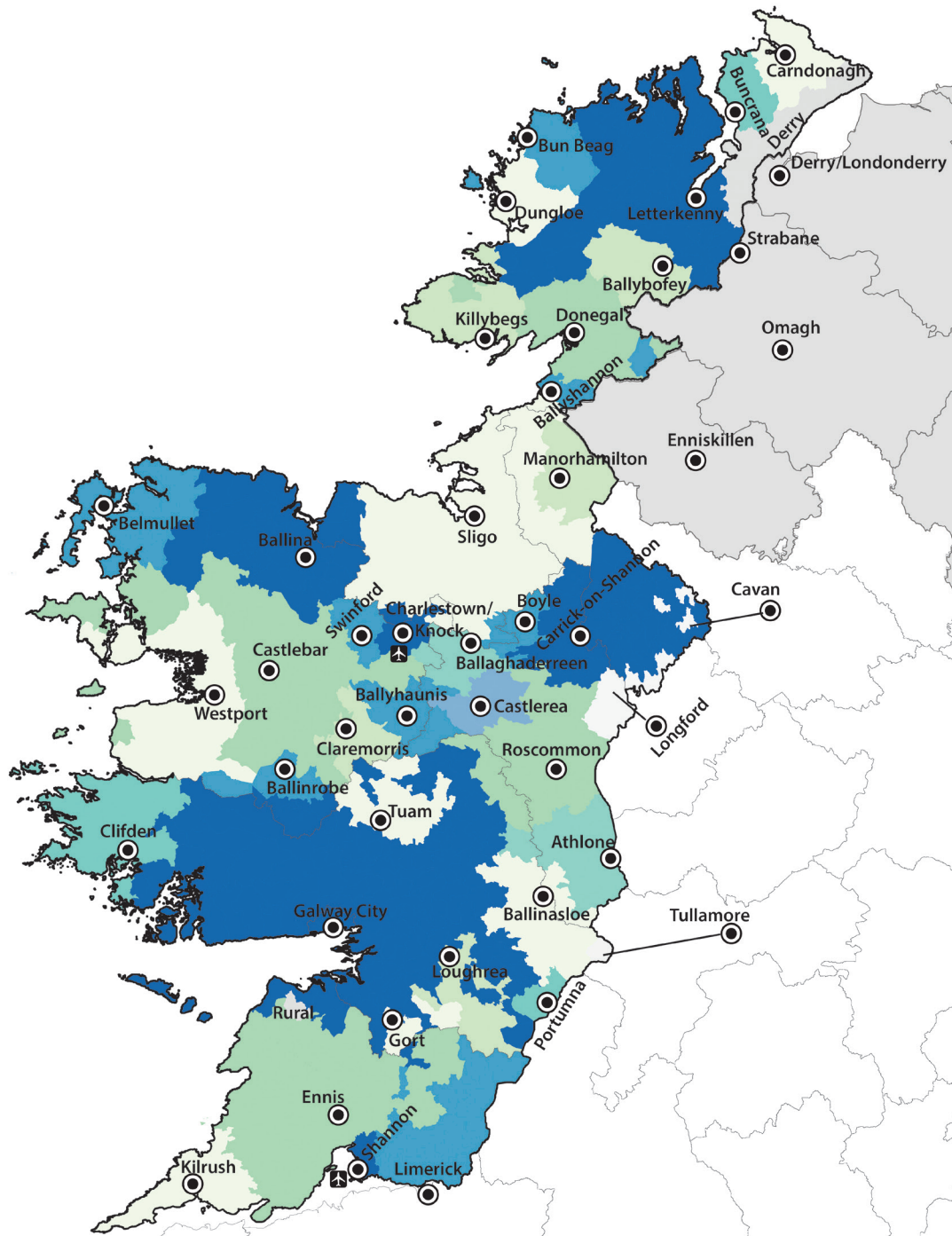
The Shannon labour catchment covers a very small part of south Clare and is primarily located just to the north of the airport and Shannon town (See Map 1 and 2). In 2016, there were 4,718 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is 14.2% more than the resident 'at work' population within the town boundary (4,132). The 2016 total is 5.5% higher than the 2006 total of 4,470.

The Shannon labour catchment is constrained by the coastal boundary of the Shannon Estuary to the south and west, by the dominance of the Limerick City catchment to the east and finally the Ennis catchment to the north. Both Limerick City and Ennis town 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 Clare and Limerick.

Shannon 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)



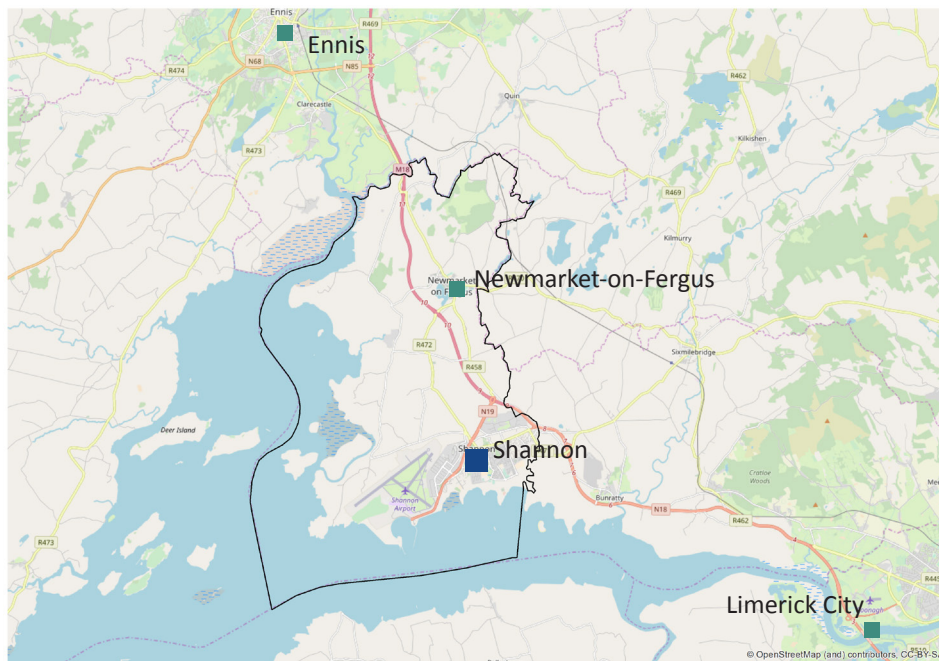
- Western Region
- Local Authority
- Motorway
- Other Key Roads
- Light & Heavy Rail Network
- Key Settlements



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Data Source: CSO POWSCAR 2016

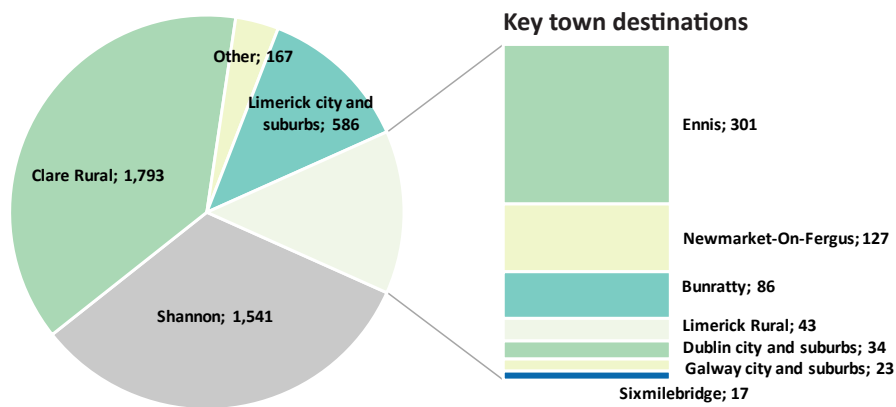
Shannon Labour Catchment

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



Of those living in the Shannon labour catchment (total = 4,718), 32.7% (1,541) are employed within Shannon town and 67.3% (3,177) are employed outside the town. Key destinations outside the town are Clare Rural (38% or 1793), Limerick city and suburbs (12.4% or 586) and Ennis (6.4% or 301) – see Figure 1³ for more details.

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

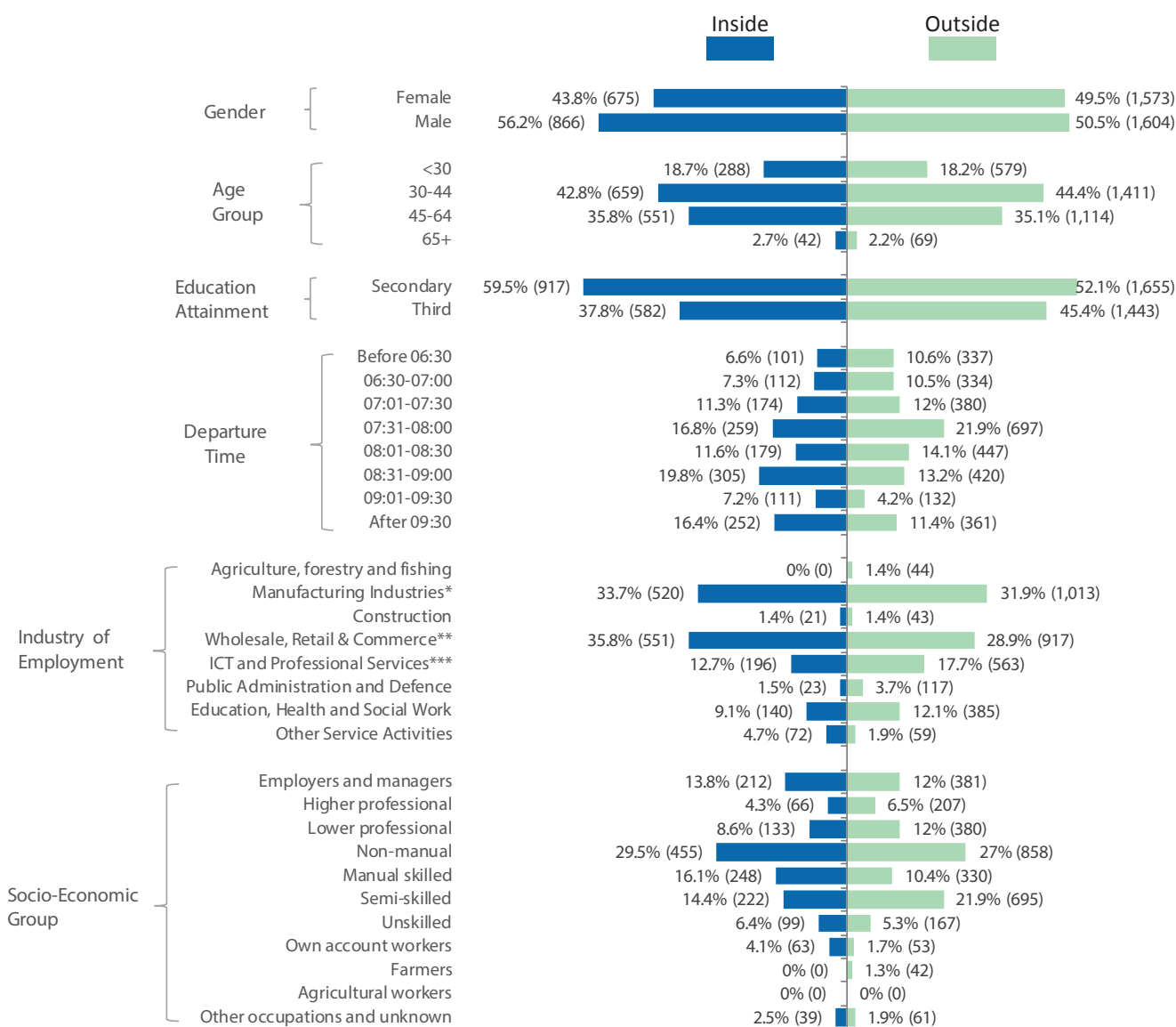
3 The analysis of the labour catchments in the Western Region has highlighted the importance of rural areas as employment locations. Depending on the location of the catchment and the proximity of nearby towns, a large proportion of the labour catchment residents are in fact employed in rural areas.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

Shannon Labour Catchment

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

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



Within the Shannon labour catchment, female workers account for 47.6% and male workers account for 52.4%, see Figure 3. Of those working inside Shannon, 43.8% are females whereas 49.5% of those working outside Shannon 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 Shannon labour catchment and working inside Shannon is as follows: <30 years (288 or 18.7%), 30 to 44 years (659 or 42.8%), 45 to 64 years (551 or 35.8%) and 65 years plus (42 or 2.7%).

Shannon Labour Catchment

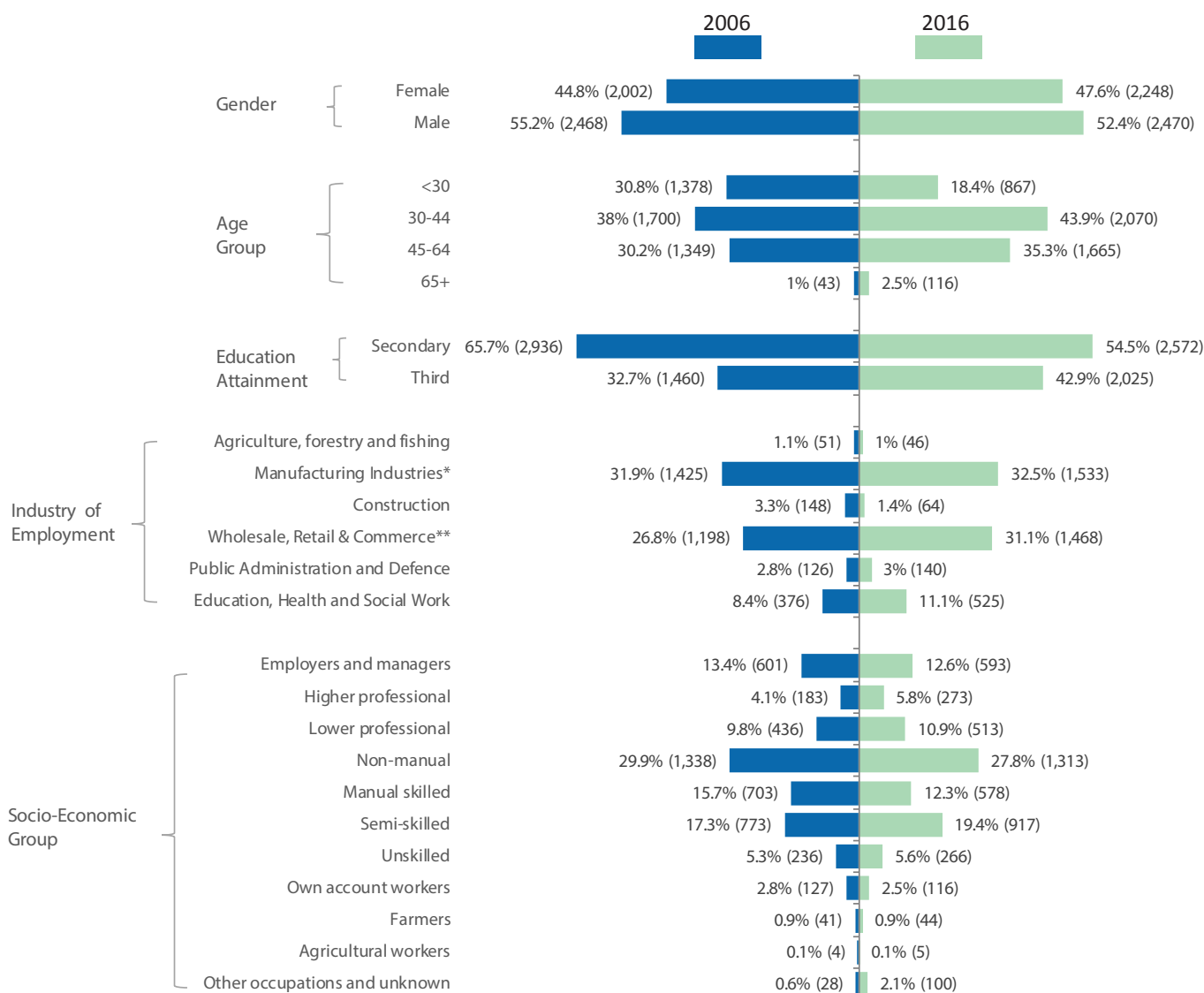
The age profile of those living in the Shannon labour catchment and working outside Shannon is as follows: <30 years (579 or 18.2%), 30 to 44 years (1,411 or 44.5%), 45 to 64 years (1,114 or 35.1%) and 65 years plus (69 or 2.2%).

An education profile of the Shannon labour catchment shows the following: Of those working inside Shannon, 37.8% (582) have 3rd level qualifications compared to 45.4% (1,443) of those working outside (Figure 2).

Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Shannon 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 as well as increased employment within the 'Wholesale, Retail & Commerce' and 'Education, Health and Social Work' sectors.

Figure 3: Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

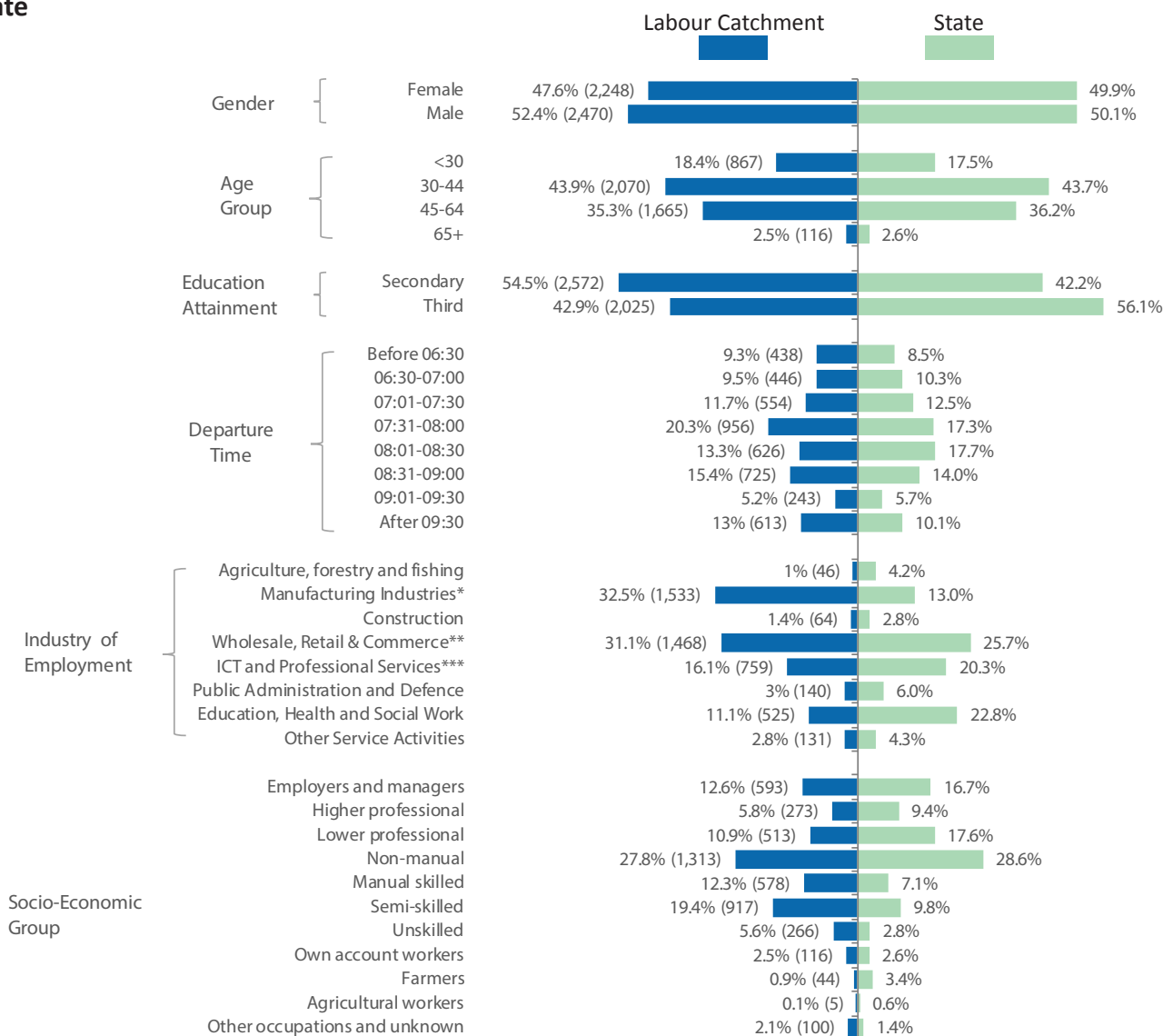


Shannon Labour Catchment

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

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

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



An age profile of the Shannon labour catchment details the following: Labour Catchment (Total): <30 years (867 or 18.4%), 30 to 44 years (2,070 or 43.9%), 45 to 64 years (1,665 or 35.3%) and 65 years plus (116 or 2.5%). 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 Shannon labour catchment shows the following: Those at work and residing in the Shannon labour catchment recorded a third level attainment rate of 42.9% (2,025). In contrast to this, the national average is 56.1% (Figure 4).

Analysis of the profile of the industry of employment within the Shannon labour catchment shows the following⁴:

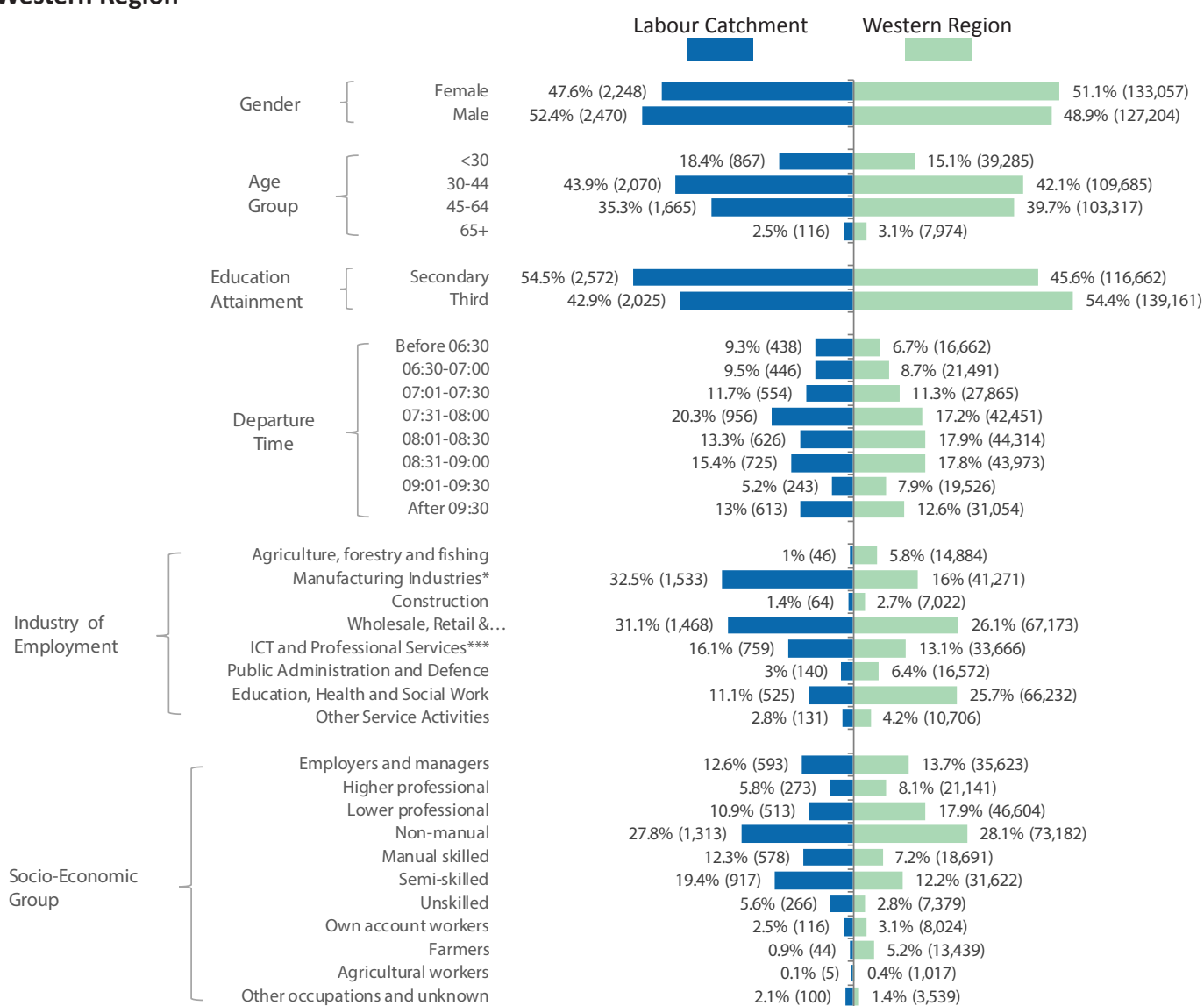
Shannon Labour Catchment

- The single largest employer is the ‘Manufacturing Industries’ sector and accounts for 32.5% (1,533) which is far higher than the State average (13%) (Figure 4).
- The ‘Wholesale, Retail and Commerce’ sector is the second largest employers and accounts for 31.1% (1,468) which is again higher than the State average (25.7%) (Figure 4).
- Interestingly, both the ‘Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing’ and ‘Construction’ sectors account for only 2.4% of all employment with corresponding rates much lower than the State averages (Figure 4).

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

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

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

Shannon Labour Catchment

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

Conclusion

Shannon 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, an additional 248 resident workers or by 5.5%.

The Shannon labour catchment includes much of the Shannon Free Zone, though the Airport and parts of the Free Zone are located within Clare Rural.

Shannon is the next most important place of employment after Clare Rural, followed by Limerick and Ennis. Interestingly Dublin city and suburbs (34) up from 12 in 2006 is a more important place of employment than Galway city and suburbs (23), up from 6 in 2006.

The single largest employer is the Manufacturing Industries sector and accounts for 32.5% (1,533) which is far higher than the State average (13%). This is in part accounted for the significant cluster within the Shannon Free Zone.

The Wholesale, Retail and Commerce sector is the second largest employer and accounts for 31.1% (1,468) which is again higher than the State average (25.7%). This includes the transport sector of which some employment in Shannon airport will be classified as well as the Tourism and Accommodation sectors.

Unsurprisingly given the concentration of industrial employment, the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing and Construction sectors account for only 2.4% of all employment with corresponding rates much lower than the State averages. Similarly, in contrast to other more rural labour catchments, the proportion engaged in Public Administration and Education, Health and Social work is much less. The age profile in the Shannon labour catchment is also younger than the Western Region average.

Notes

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