

Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region



Roscommon Town Labour Catchment



May 2018



9. Roscommon Town Labour Catchment

Introduction

Roscommon town had a population of 5,876 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Roscommon is the 12th largest settlement within the Western Region and the 77th largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Roscommon has increased by +17.1% (+859). In the five years since Census 2011, the population of the town increased by +3.2% (+183). Demographic comparisons between urban centres tend to be difficult due to intercensal boundary changes. For instance, in 2014 all legal town boundaries (Roscommon included) 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. For some towns, the impact of this has been to lose area and population, compared with previous computations.

According to POWCAR 2016, the total number of jobs located within Roscommon town was 3,917 and accounts for 1.6% of all jobs located within the Western Region (242,712). Of all cities and towns in Ireland, Roscommon has the 36th highest number of jobs located within the town boundary and accounts for 26.4% of all jobs located within County Roscommon – a moderate rate and possibly reflects the importance of other settlements such as Athlone as economic drivers for the local authority area. Relative to the six other main settlements in this report, Roscommon has the second lowest number of jobs within the town with higher numbers in Galway City (44,376), Letterkenny (11,395), Ennis (10,172), Castlebar (9,045) and then lower in Carrick-on-Shannon (2,868). 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).

9.1 The importance of Roscommon as a place of work

Map 9.1 shows the extent of commuting flows to Roscommon for employment opportunities. The colours represent the different proportions of people who live in each ED and travel to work in Roscommon. The map shows every ED (within the frame) by commuting flow to Roscommon. EDs with commuters numbers linked to Roscommon town of between one and four (trips) have been set to a value of one¹.

As would be expected, the EDs closest to Roscommon have the highest proportion working in the town, and this is indicated by the darker shades of blue in and around the town perimeter. Beyond these areas, the proportion travelling to the town gradually decreases. The map shows the declining proportion of those living in each ED and commuting to Roscommon, graduating from the dark blue where in excess of 60% of people living in those EDs work in Roscommon, through to light green where between 5 and 15% living in those EDs commute to work in Roscommon. The main commuting flows into Roscommon town mainly originate within the central parts of the county with some external commuters from neighbouring county Galway – such as Mountbellew and Glenamaddy and then Ballaghderreen and Rooskey in Roscommon. There are very low levels of interaction from the south of Roscommon and north Roscommon which are under the influence from Athlone and Carrick-on-Shannon, respectively. Low levels of interaction (0.1% to 5%) are visible in locations outside the Roscommon border although the actual number of trips within these locations would be extremely low in most cases (less than 5).

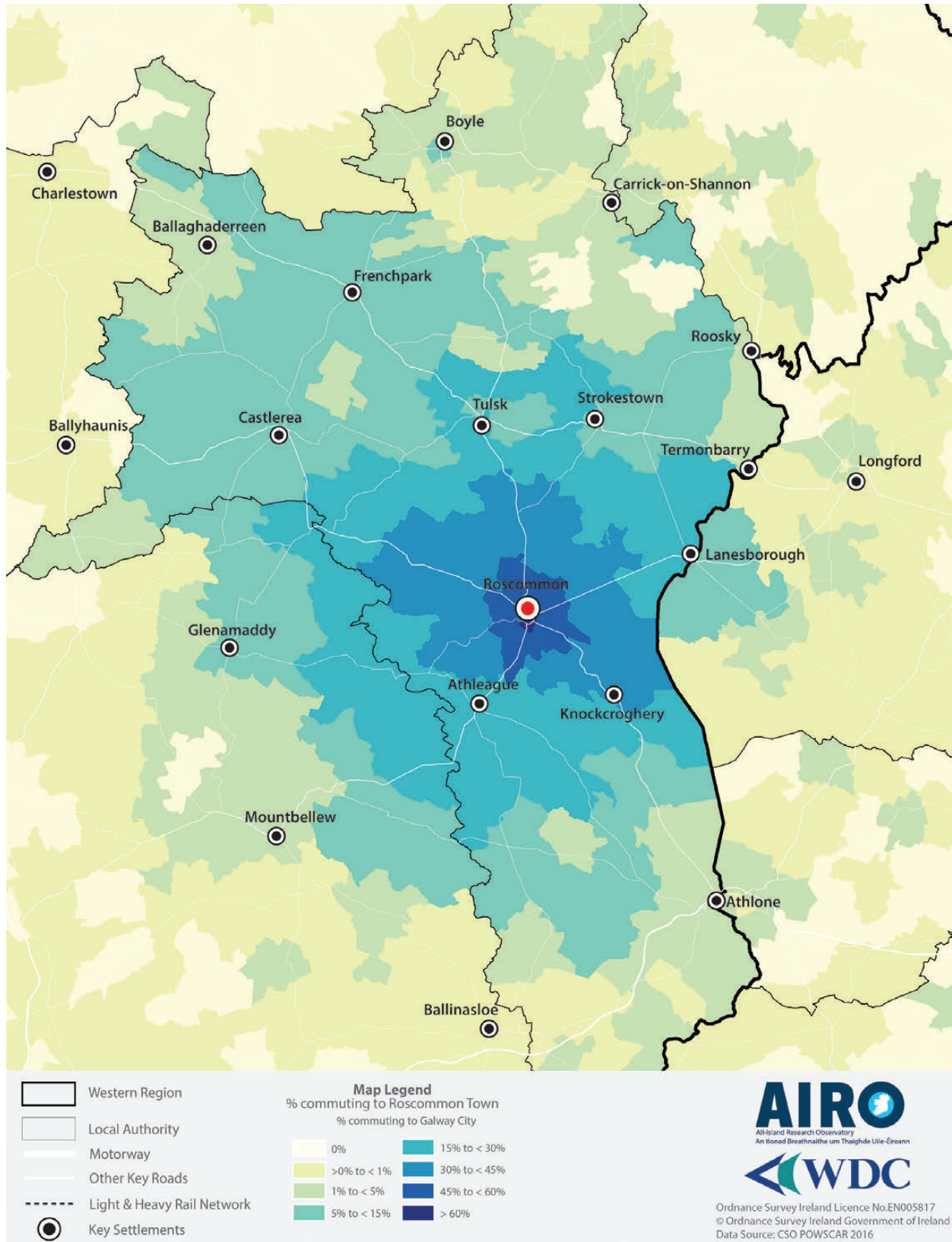
9.2 The Roscommon Labour Catchment

While Map 9.1 showed every ED from where even one person commuted to Roscommon, all of these EDs are not included in the Roscommon labour catchment. The Roscommon town labour catchment, is made

¹ This is due to data confidentiality protocols related to access to the POWCAR 2016 dataset.

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Map 9.1: Percentage of persons commuting to Roscommon Town, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)



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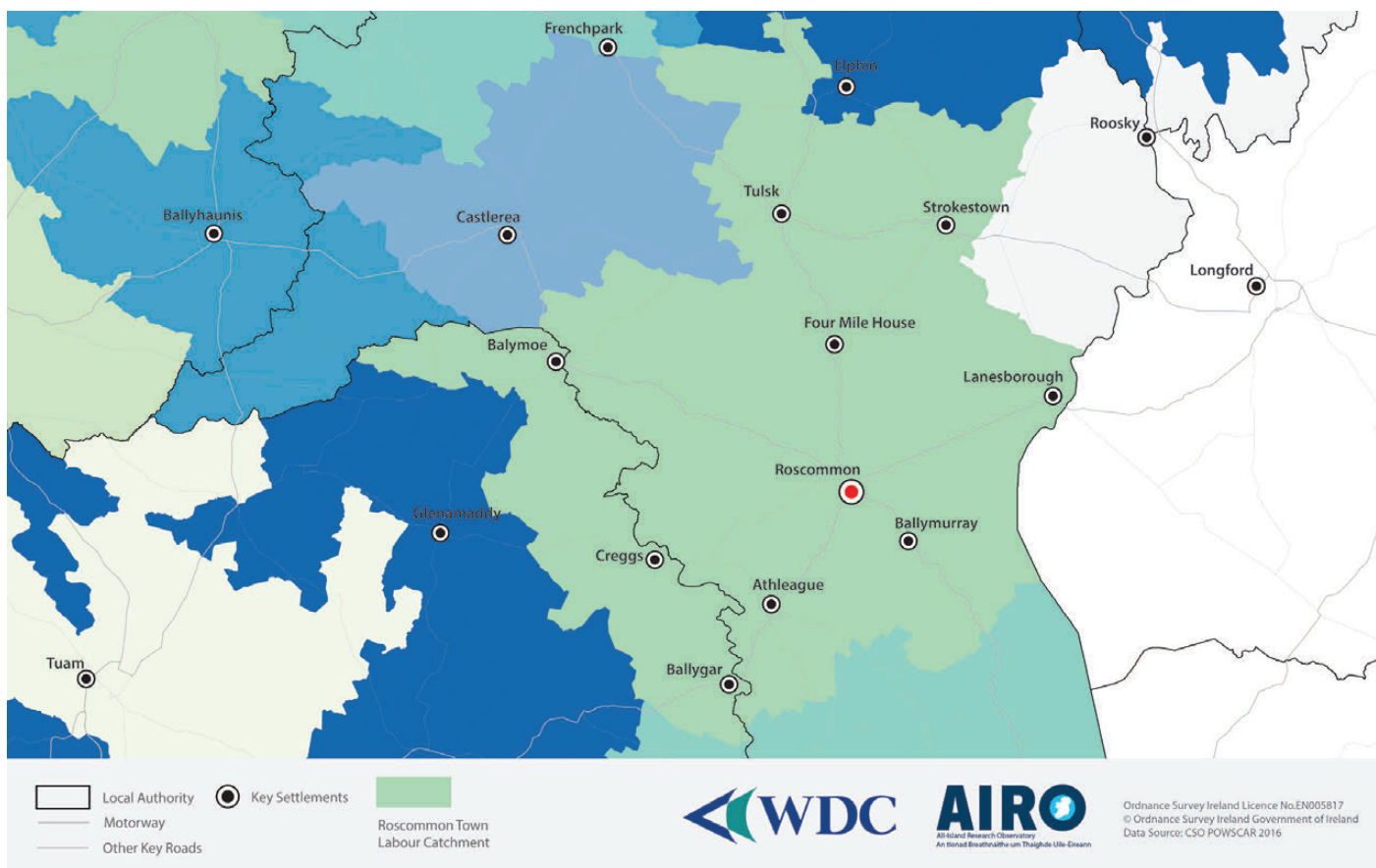
up only of those EDs for which Roscommon is the most popular work destination for those living there. Other EDs, whose commuters travel in greater numbers to other towns are assigned to the catchments of these other towns. Map 9.2 shows the Roscommon town labour catchment, depicted by the green colour.

The data presented in Map 9.2 show that Roscommon’s influence as a place of work extends over a relatively small area with some additional assignment to eastern EDs in county Galway. The strong influence of Athlone, Carrick-on-Shannon, Castlerea and Longford town (external to the Western Region) all have an impact on the overall size of Roscommon town labour catchment. Due its relative size, the total resident and ‘at work’ population within the Roscommon labour catchment is 7,235 (2.8% of Western Region) and is the ninth largest in terms of population size. Interestingly, the labour catchment of two non-county towns are larger than that of Roscommon town – Ballina (9,034) and Limerick City* (9,647).

Regardless of this, the entire Roscommon town labour catchment is far larger than the number of resident workers in the town at its core. Roscommon town labour catchment has a population at work approximately 3.3 times the census population of resident workers in Roscommon Town (7,235 and 2,210 (including blank and mobile workers) respectively).

*Note: This is the portion of the Limerick City labour catchment that is within the Western Region only.

Map 9.2: Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)



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9.3 Profile of the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment

Map 9.2 identified (in dark blue) the Roscommon town labour catchment. In the following section we examine 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 Roscommon town in April 2016. We do this because although some may not be working in Roscommon town they are living in the catchment from which Roscommon town's labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Roscommon town. The Roscommon labour catchment is therefore separated into those who live in the catchment and are employed in the following; 'Inside' the town or 'Outside' the town i.e., elsewhere in the catchment or locations such as Athlone, Galway City, Dublin 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 (9.4), a comparison matrix of town and non-town workers (9.5) and an overall comparison matrix for all seven labour catchments (10.1).

9.3.1 Place of Work

The Roscommon labour catchment can be seen to include most of county Roscommon but mainly contained within central areas and southern and northern parts of the county under the influence from Athlone, Carrick-on-Shannon, Castlerea and Boyle. In 2016, there were 7,234 people classified as at work, living within the Roscommon labour catchment (-1% from 7,306 in 2006). In Figure 9.1 and Table 9.1 the main work locations for those who live in the Roscommon town labour catchment are set out.

Figure 9.1: Place of work of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

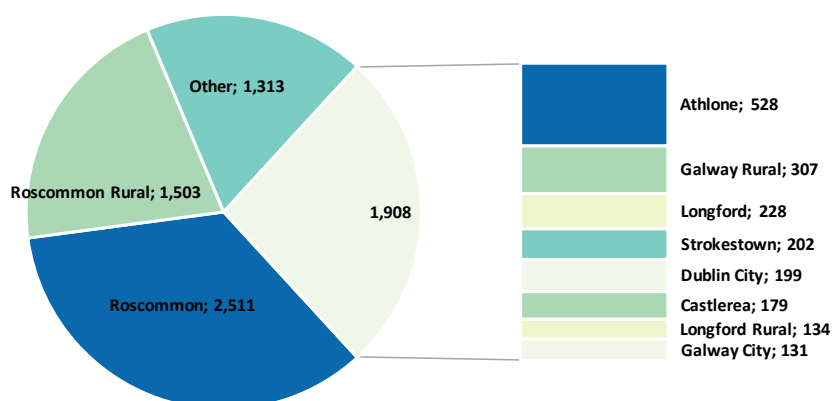


Table 9.1: Place of work of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

| Labour Catchment | Number | % |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Roscommon | 2,511 | 34.7% |
| Roscommon Rural | 1,503 | 20.8% |
| Other | 1,313 | 18.1% |
| Athlone | 528 | 7.3% |
| Galway Rural | 307 | 4.2% |
| Longford | 228 | 3.2% |
| Strokestown | 202 | 2.8% |
| Dublin City | 199 | 2.8% |
| Castlerea | 179 | 2.5% |
| Longford Rural | 134 | 1.9% |
| Galway City | 131 | 1.8% |
| Total | 7,235 | 100% |

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As expected, Roscommon is the principal place of employment, accounting for 2,511 (34.7%) of all employment. Employment in rural areas, accounting for 26.9%, is more dominant in the Roscommon town labour catchment than any of the other main county town catchments with extensive flows to job destinations in Roscommon Rural County (1,503 or 20.8%), Galway Rural County (307 or 4.2%) and Longford Rural County (134 or 1.9%).

The other large employment destinations for residents within the Roscommon town labour catchment are primarily towns in close proximity to Roscommon (Athlone, Longford Town, Strokestown and Castlerea). Both Galway City (131 or 1.8%) and Dublin City (199 or 2.8%) are also highlighted as key destinations for Roscommon labour catchment residents. Recent changes to the motorway network, reduced travel times and more flexible working arrangements are certainly contributory factors to this. It should also be noted that the travel to work data from the CSO do not necessarily mean that commuters make daily trips and is more an identification of the main place and location of employment.

9.3.2 Travel Departure Times

In a change from the previous two POWCAR publications (2006 and 2011), the latest results from the 2016 Census only provide commuting details on the travel time departure of resident workers and not distance travelled. Results from distance travelled variables have included a large element of 'noise' with a documented low level of correlation between recorded 'distance travelled' and actual physical home to work distances. As such, the new travel indicator is based on the travel departure times of resident workers. Figure 9.2 below details the overall 'travel time departure' distribution of all Roscommon town labour catchment resident workers.

The most common travel time departures are within '08:01-08:30' and '08:31-09:00' band with both accounting for 35.8% of all resident workers. In comparison to the State average, Roscommon town labour catchment resident workers have a lower proportion leaving for work in the three early bands pre '07:30' with rates of 31.3% and 23.9%, respectively. Relative to the other six county town labour catchments, Roscommon town has the fourth lowest rate of workers departing for work pre 7.30am with only Castlebar (23.5%), Sligo (20.6%) and Letterkenny (19.1%) with lower rates.

A comparison of the 'travel-time departures' of those working in Roscommon town and those working elsewhere shows that Roscommon town bound workers tend to have later departure times than other worker residing with the overall labour catchment. This is as expected due to the wide spatial commuting pattern that is evident for non-Roscommon town based workers – with employment destinations in Athlone, Dublin City and Galway City. A total of 15.5% of Roscommon town bound workers residing in the labour catchment depart for work pre '07:30' and is much lower than the rate for workers travelling to other destinations with a rate of 28.4%.

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Figure 9.2: Time of Departure of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

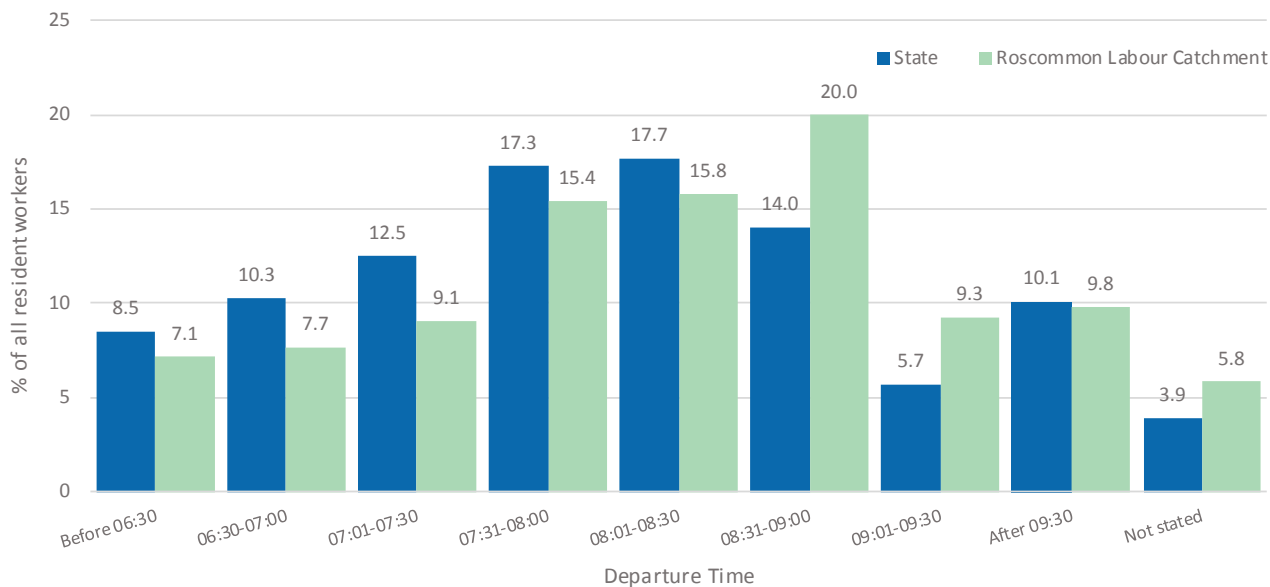


Table 9.2: Time of Departure of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

| | Before 06:30 | 06:30-07:00 | 07:01-07:30 | 07:31-08:00 | 08:01-08:30 | 08:31-09:00 | 09:01-09:30 | After 09:30 | Not stated | Total |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Roscommon Town Labour Catchment (Total) | 517 | 554 | 657 | 1,114 | 1,144 | 1,446 | 670 | 711 | 422 | 7,235 |
| Working inside Roscommon Town | 88 | 137 | 162 | 344 | 392 | 679 | 331 | 325 | 53 | 2,511 |
| Working outside Roscommon Town | 429 | 417 | 495 | 770 | 752 | 767 | 339 | 386 | 369 | 4,724 |
| State | 135,187 | 163,290 | 199,035 | 274,425 | 281,003 | 223,164 | 90,521 | 160,901 | 62,111 | 1,589,637 |
| Roscommon Town Labour Catchment (Total) | 7.1% | 7.7% | 9.1% | 15.4% | 15.8% | 20% | 9.3% | 9.8% | 5.8% | 100% |
| Working inside Roscommon Town | 3.5% | 5.5% | 6.5% | 13.7% | 15.6% | 27% | 13.2% | 12.9% | 2.1% | 100% |
| Working outside Roscommon Town | 9.1% | 8.8% | 10.5% | 16.3% | 15.9% | 16.2% | 7.2% | 8.2% | 7.8% | 100% |
| State | 8.5% | 10.3% | 12.5% | 17.3% | 17.7% | 14% | 5.7% | 10.1% | 3.9% | 100% |

9.3.3 Gender

The gender composition of residents in the Roscommon town labour catchment is shown below. Within the Roscommon town labour catchment, male workers account for a larger proportion of the total workforce than their male counterparts with rates of 50.2% and 49.8% respectively. This is similar to national picture, with males (50.1%) also accounting for a marginally higher rate than females (49.9%).

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There is wide variation between men and women in terms of the location of their work. Far more women than men work in Roscommon town, 61.1% and 38.9% respectively. With the exception of Carrick-on-Shannon, this is the highest rate of female employment in any of the seven county towns. Outside of Roscommon town destinations, male employment is higher than female employment with 56.2% of those employed outside the town being males. This reflects traditional employment patterns where agricultural employment in rural areas in part accounts for a higher male employment rate outside of the town. In contrast, employment sectors which are perceived as traditionally female are concentrated in the town, for example retail, banking, finance, public administration and tourism.

Table 9.3: Gender Profile of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

| | Female | Male | Total |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Roscommon Town Labour Catchment (Total) | 3,603 | 3,632 | 7,235 |
| Working inside Roscommon Town | 1,534 | 977 | 2,511 |
| Working outside Roscommon Town | 2,069 | 2,655 | 4,724 |
| State | 793,196 | 796,441 | 1,589,637 |
| Roscommon Town Labour Catchment (Total) | 49.8% | 50.2% | 100% |
| Working inside Roscommon Town | 61.1% | 38.9% | 100% |
| Working outside Roscommon Town | 43.8% | 56.2% | 100% |
| State | 49.9% | 50.1% | 100% |

An important point to note here is the fact that this analysis excludes all workers who do not have a fixed place of employment i.e., those with a blank or un-codeable place of work and those with a place of work classed as 'mobile' (See Appendix I). For instance, an analysis of the gender balance of all workers (including blank and mobile) reveals that 53.7% of all workers are male and 46.3% are female (State average). The rate in the Western Region are broadly similar with males accounting for 53.3% and females accounting for 46.7% of all workers. As such, the gender figures detailed and discussed in the above section should be treated with caution as the underlying worker population does not represent the complete population.

9.3.4 Age

The age profile of those at work and over 15 years who live in the Roscommon town labour catchment is shown in Table 9.4. Relative to other towns in this analysis, the age profile of the Roscommon town labour catchment (13.7%) has the fourth lowest rate of workers aged less than 30 residing within the catchment with lower rates in Castlebar (13.5%), Ennis (13.3%) and Carrick-on-Shannon (12.8%).

The overall age profile of the Roscommon town labour catchment resident workforce (13.6% aged under 30) combined with high levels of out-migration of younger people from rural areas within Roscommon to participate in third-level education and to take up employment opportunities elsewhere is certainly a contributory factor to this trend.

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The rate of young workers is marginally lower for those employed within the town than those employed outside and is evident in the data presented in Table 9.4. A total of 12.3% of all of Roscommon town's workers are aged 'less than 30 years' whereas the rate for non-Roscommon town workers is 14.4%. This rate is different to both the Galway City and Ennis labour catchments where the urban based workers have a younger age profile. This is evident in the data presented in Table 9.4 below.

In general, there is a major difference in the age of resident workforce in urban and rural areas. For instance, the cities (CSO Settlements) of Dublin, Cork and Galway all have rate in excess of 24% whereas the average rate in Roscommon is 13.6%. At 13%, Galway County has the lowest rate of all local authorities in the State.

Table 9.4: Age Profile of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

| | <30 years | 30 to 44 years | 45 to 64 years | 65+ years | Total |
|--|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Roscommon Town Labour Catchment (Total) | 988 | 2,945 | 3,022 | 280 | 7,235 |
| Working inside Roscommon Town | 310 | 1,021 | 1,120 | 60 | 2,511 |
| Working outside Roscommon Town | 678 | 1,924 | 1,902 | 220 | 4,724 |
| State | 278,647 | 694,783 | 575,181 | 41,026 | 1,589,637 |
| Roscommon Town Labour Catchment (Total) | 13.7% | 40.7% | 41.8% | 3.9% | 100% |
| Working inside Roscommon Town | 12.3% | 40.7% | 44.6% | 2.4% | 100% |
| Working outside Roscommon Town | 14.4% | 40.7% | 40.3% | 4.7% | 100% |
| State | 17.5% | 43.7% | 36.2% | 2.6% | 100% |

9.3.5 Education

Table 9.5.1 shows a lower than average educational profile among those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment with 49% having completed third level education compared to 56.1% nationally. Relative to the other six towns included in this analysis, Roscommon town labour catchment has the least educated workforce. Again, it is important to note that this is based on workers with a known work destination only and excludes those with Blank or Mobile work destination (32.4% of those coded blank or mobile in the State have third level qualifications). As a whole, overall education levels in Ireland have increased dramatically since the early 'nineties with the proportion of the population with a third level qualification increasing from 13.6% in 1991 to 42% in 2016.

There is also a modest difference between the education attainment of those who are employed within Roscommon Town (46.5% with 3rd level) and those employed outside the town (50.3% with 3rd level). The relates to some commuting from within the labour catchment to employment opportunities requiring higher education levels outside the town – Athlone, Galway City etc.

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Table 9.5.2 below details the education attainment levels within each of the seven labour catchments for all workers, those employed within the city/town and those employed elsewhere. Relative to the other main settlements Roscommon town has the lowest level of overall education of those employed within the town. With a recorded rate of only 46.5% with 3rd level education employed in Roscommon the overall education rate of those employed in the town is drastically different from Galway City where the rate is almost 20 percentage points higher with a rate of 65.3%. This is a clear indication of the lower level of employment opportunities that are available within Roscommon town.

Table 9.5.1: Education Profile of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

| | Secondary Level | Third Level | Not Stated | Total |
|--|-----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Roscommon Town Labour Catchment (Total) | 3,573 | 3,545 | 117 | 7,235 |
| Working inside Roscommon Town | 1,300 | 1,167 | 44 | 2,511 |
| Working outside Roscommon Town | 2,273 | 2,378 | 73 | 4,724 |
| State | 670,114 | 891,660 | 27,863 | 1,589,637 |
| Roscommon Town Labour Catchment (Total) | 49.4% | 49% | 1.6% | 100% |
| Working inside Roscommon Town | 51.8% | 46.5% | 1.8% | 100% |
| Working outside Roscommon Town | 48.1% | 50.3% | 1.5% | 100% |
| State | 42.2% | 56.1% | 1.8% | 100% |

Table 9.5.2: % of Labour Catchment by Destination with 3rd Level Education, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

| | Working in Town | Working outside Town | Total |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Galway | 65.3% | 56.4% | 61.3% |
| Ennis | 50.3% | 57.2% | 54.5% |
| Sligo | 59.2% | 51.7% | 55.5% |
| Letterkenny | 57.3% | 46.4% | 51.6% |
| Castlebar | 50.3% | 50.4% | 50.4% |
| Roscommon | 46.5% | 50.3% | 49% |
| Carrick-on-Shannon | 47.8% | 53.4% | 51.9% |
| State | | | 56.1% |

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9.3.6 Employment by Industrial Group

Analysis of the profile of employment by industry group provides an indication of the structure of the local economy and the type of employment it sustains as well as the skills profile of the area. It is particularly instructive to compare the profile of a region or local area to that of the State average as it can highlight differences at the local level. Employment by industrial group of all those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment is shown in Figure 9.6. The 'Education, Human Health and Social Work' sector is the most important employer (26.4%) and along with 'Wholesale, Retail Trade and Commerce' (23.5%) account for half of all employment of those residing within the Roscommon labour catchment. 'Manufacturing Industries' (13.7%), 'Public Administration and Defence' (10.5%) and 'ICT and Professional Services' (9.5%) are the next biggest employers for the labour catchment with all other sectors accounting for less than 10% each.

Relative to the national picture, 'Education, Human Health and Social Work', 'Public Administration and Defence' and then 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' sectors play a more important role in the overall employment base – the 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' rate (8.8%) is almost three times higher than the State average at 4.2%, 'Public Administration and Defence' share of employment (10.5%) is 4.5 percentage points higher than the State average (6%) and 'Education, Human Health and Social Work' sector is 3.6 percentage points higher than the State average (22.8%). The 'ICT and Professional Services' sector has the lowest performance relative to the State average with the Roscommon labour catchment recording a rate of 9.5% whereas the State average was 20.3%.

Figure 9.6: Industry Profile of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

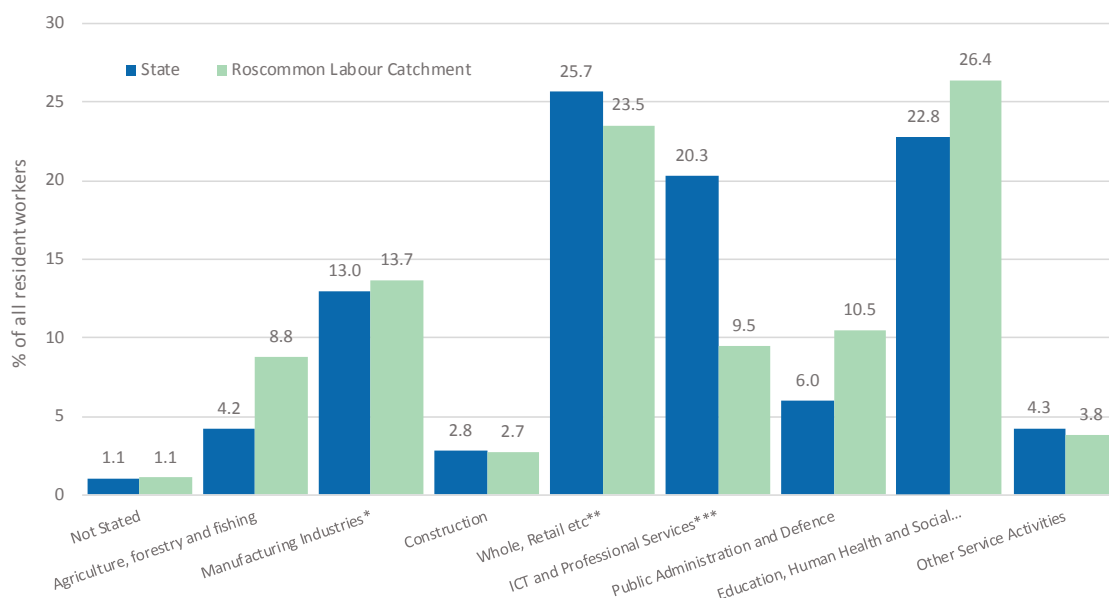


Table 9.6 details the industry of employment of the Roscommon town labour catchment by the location of employment – within Roscommon or outside the town. Employment in 'Education, Human Health and Social Work Activities', 'Wholesale, Retail & Commerce', 'Public Administration and Defence' and 'ICT and Professional Services' are more dominant in those employed within Roscommon town, whereas 'Agricultural, Forestry and Fishing', 'Manufacturing Industries' and 'Construction' are higher outside the town – within the wider catchment and beyond.

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Table 9.6: Industry Profile of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

| | Roscommon Town Labour Catchment | Working inside Roscommon Town | Working outside Roscommon Town | State |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Agricultural, Forestry and Fishing | 8.8% | 1.2% | 12.8% | 4.2% |
| Manufacturing Industries* | 13.7% | 5.9% | 17.8% | 13% |
| Construction | 2.7% | 2% | 3.1% | 2.8% |
| Wholesale, Retail & Commerce** | 23.5% | 29.7% | 20.2% | 25.7% |
| ICT and Professional Services*** | 9.5% | 10% | 9.3% | 20.3% |
| Public Administration and Defence | 10.5% | 14.8% | 8.2% | 6% |
| Education, Human Health and Social Work Activities | 26.4% | 30.4% | 24.3% | 22.8% |
| Other Services | 3.8% | 5.3% | 3.0% | 4.3% |
| Not Stated | 1.1% | 0.8% | 1.3% | 1.1% |
| Total | 100% (7,235) | 100% (2,511) | 100% (4,724) | 100% (1.59m) |

Note: with only nine classifications available, industrial classifications in POWCAR are less detailed than normal classifications in regular Census.

*Manufacturing Industries = Manufacturing, mining and quarrying, Electricity, Gas, Water supply and Waste Management

**Wholesale, Retail etc = Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transportation and Storage, Accommodation and Food Service Activities

***ICT and Professional Services = Information and Communication, Financial, Real Estate, Professional, administration and support service activities

9.3.7 Socio-Economic Structure

The socio-economic structure of employment in the Roscommon town labour catchment is set out in Figure 9.7. The socio-economic group (SEG) is determined by occupation and employment status and aims to classify those on the basis of comparable skill and educational levels. This is also a useful indicator of the type of employment and skills available within labour catchments and is particularly informative when compared to the national socio-economic structure.

While the socio-economic structure of the labour catchment of Roscommon follows the overall State trends it shows some marked differences, with 'Farmers' (8.1% v 3.4%) having a considerably greater proportion than the State average while both 'Employers and Managers' (13.2%) and 'Higher Professionals' (5.9%) have lower proportions than the State average.

Table 9.7 details the socio-economic structure breakdown for those working within Roscommon and those working outside Roscommon. There are notable differences in rates with a higher proportion of those employed inside Roscommon town classed as 'Non-manual' which relates to persons working in retail, government, banking and other areas fulfilling administrative roles. The remaining largest differences between town and non-town employment relates to those classed as 'Manual-skilled' (5.4% v 9.9%) and 'Farmers' where the rate is only 0.7% in the town and 12% outside the town.

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Figure 9.7: SEG Profile of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

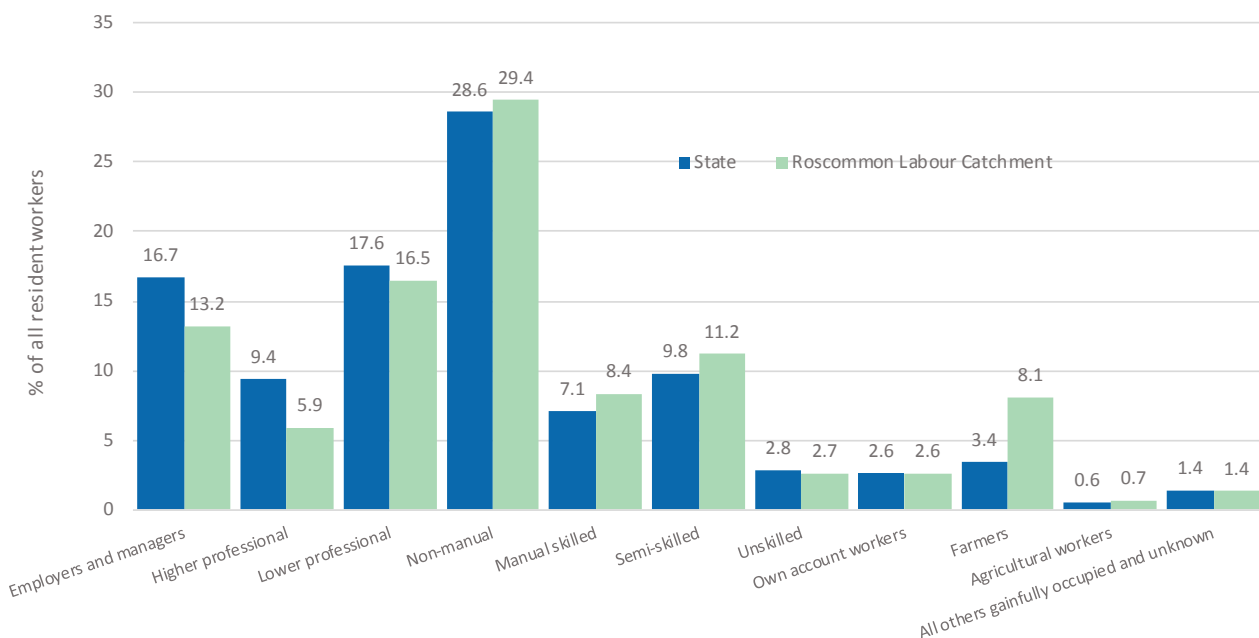


Table 9.7: SEG Profile of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

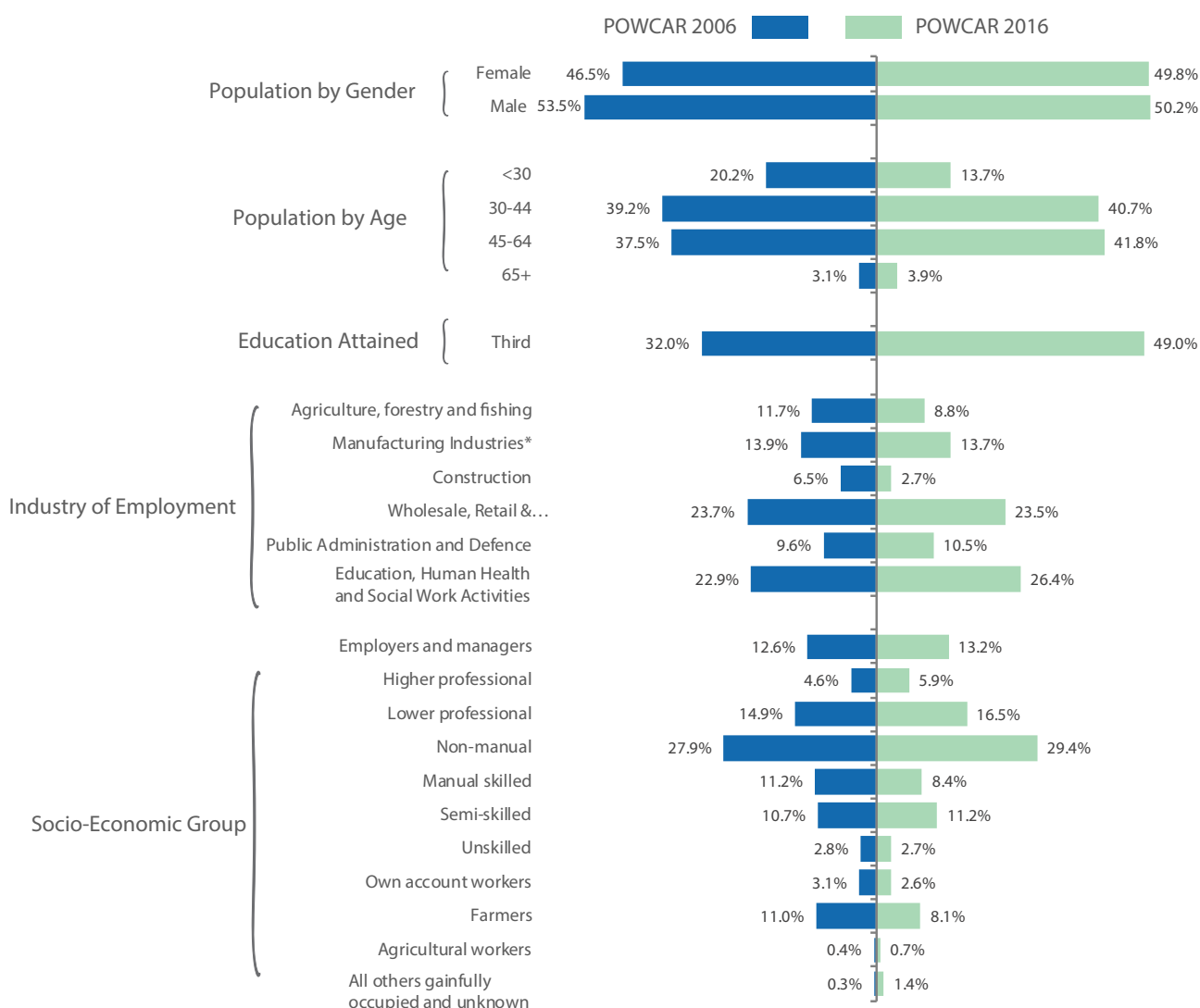
| | Roscommon Town Labour Catchment | Working inside Roscommon Town | Working outside Roscommon Town | State |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Employers and managers | 13.2% | 13.9% | 12.8% | 16.7% |
| Higher professional | 5.9% | 6.1% | 5.8% | 9.4% |
| Lower professional | 16.5% | 16.4% | 16.6% | 17.6% |
| Non-manual | 29.4% | 39.3% | 24.2% | 28.6% |
| Manual skilled | 8.4% | 5.4% | 9.9% | 7.1% |
| Semi-skilled | 11.2% | 11.2% | 11.2% | 9.8% |
| Unskilled | 2.7% | 3.5% | 2.2% | 2.8% |
| Own account workers | 2.6% | 2.2% | 2.9% | 2.6% |
| Farmers | 8.1% | 0.7% | 12% | 3.4% |
| Agricultural workers | 0.7% | 0.3% | 0.9% | 0.6% |
| Others gainfully occupied and unknown | 1.4% | 1.0% | 1.5% | 1.4% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

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9.4 Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Roscommon town Labour Catchment between 2006 and 2016. This is reviewed in the context of geographical changes and then the socio-economic characteristics of those residing within the overall catchment area. Most notable changes in terms of socio-economic characteristics certainly relate to the age of resident workers and the rate of third level attainment.

- As with the analysis based on the 2006 POWCAR results, the Roscommon town labour catchment is a key labour catchment in the Western Region however it decreased its ranking from the eighth to the ninth largest labour catchment in the Western Region. It has a resident 'at work' population of 7,235 and accounts for 2.8% of the total resident workforce within the Western Region. This is a decrease of -0.97% (-71) from the 2006 figure of 7,306 when it represented a marginally higher proportion of 2.99% of the total resident work force within the Western Region.
- A review of the geographical extent of the labour catchments from the 2006 and 2016 POWCAR analysis reveals that there has been very little change in the last ten years. The most notable difference is a slight contraction of the catchment in east Galway with areas in close proximity to Glenamaddy now more linked to Galway City than Roscommon town.



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9.5 Roscommon Town Labour Catchment Summary

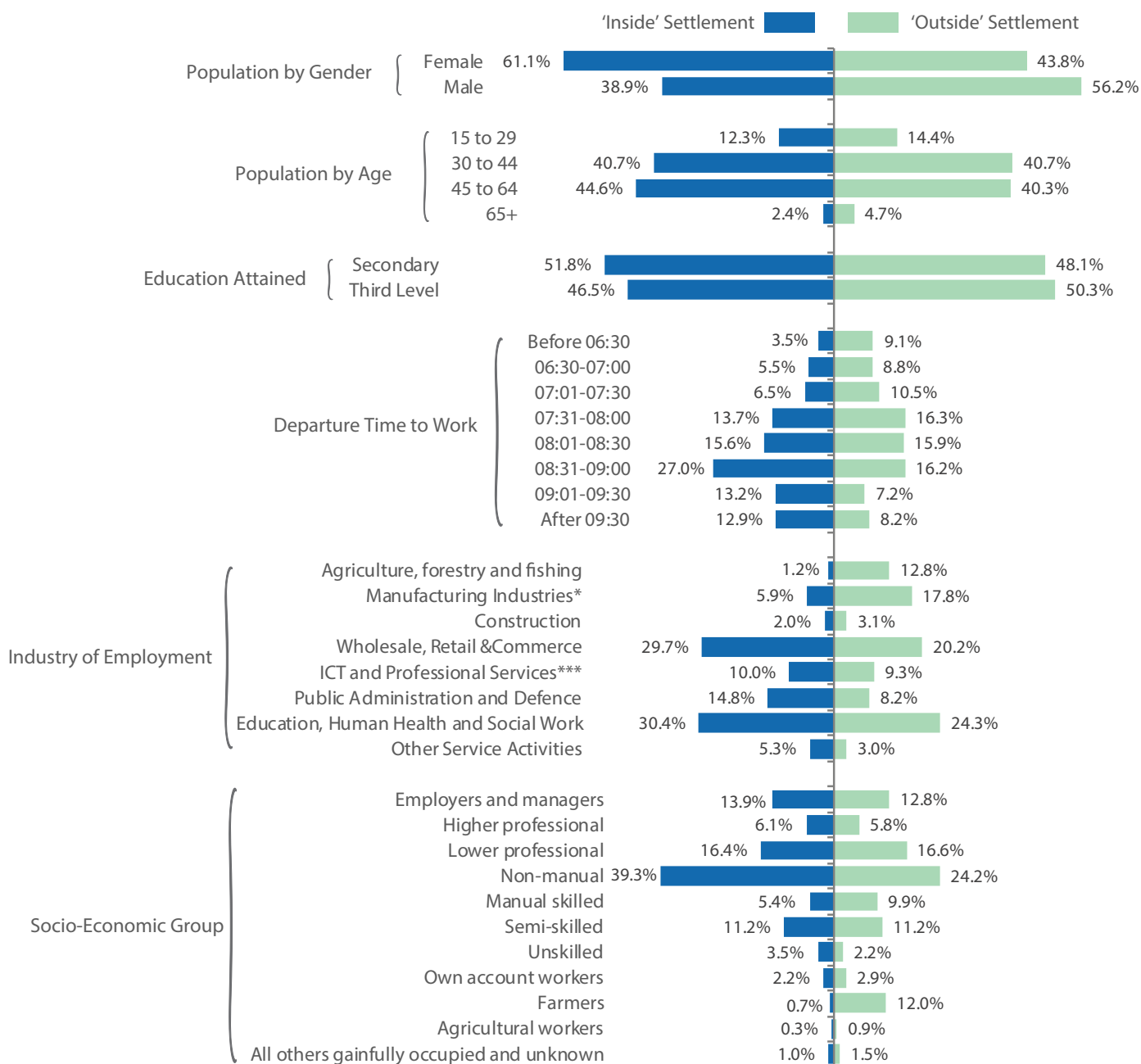
This section provides a summary of the key points of the Roscommon town Labour Catchment

- The Roscommon town labour catchment is the ninth largest labour catchment in the Western Region (Map 2.1) with a resident 'at work' population of 7,235 which accounts for 2.8% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).
- The Roscommon town labour catchment covers a relatively small area within central Roscommon with some additional EDs assigned in eastern parts of county Galway (Map 9.2). In 2016, there were 7,235 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is approximately 3.3 times the resident 'at work' population within the town at its core (2,210). The 2016 total is -1% lower than the 2006 total of 7,306. As such, this is the only labour catchment of the seven county towns in the Western Region that declined in 'at work' population between 2006 and 2016.
- The strong influence of Athlone, Carrick-on-Shannon, Castlerea and Longford town all have an impact on the overall size of the Roscommon town labour catchment. 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 boundary of Roscommon.
- Of those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment, 34.7% (2,511) are employed within Roscommon and 65.3% (4,724) are employed outside the town and in the rest of the catchment and beyond. Key destinations outside the town are Roscommon Rural (20.8% or 1,503), Athlone (7.3% or 528) and Galway Rural (4.2% or 307) – see Table 9.1 for more details.
- A demographic profile of the Roscommon town labour catchment shows the following:
 - The age profile of those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment is the third oldest of the catchments of the seven county towns in the Western Region.
 - Female workers account for a larger proportion of the workforce than their male counterparts with rates of 50.2% and 49.8% respectively. This gender gap is further extended when looking at those employed within the town where more women than men are employed, 61.1% and 38.9% respectively.
 - Those at work and residing in the Roscommon town labour catchment have a much lower level of education than the State average – with rates of 49% and 56.1% respectively (3rd level). In fact, the Roscommon town labour catchment has the lowest rate of 3rd level attainment of all seven county town labour catchments in the Western Region.
- Analysis of the profile of the industry of employment within the Roscommon town labour catchment shows the following:
 - The single largest employer is the 'Education, Health Care and Social Work' sector and accounts for 26.4% (1,901) which is higher than the State average (22.8%).
 - The 'Wholesale, Retail and Commerce' sector is the second most important employer with a rate of 23.5% (1,703) and is lower than the State average of 25.7%.
 - Both 'Manufacturing Industries' (13.7% or 988) and 'Public Administration and Defence' (10.5% or 758) are also key employers. Interestingly, 'Public Administration and Defence' is much higher than the State average of 6%.

9. Roscommon Town Labour Catchment

9.6 Socio-economic comparison of those employed 'Inside' and 'Outside' Roscommon town

The graphic below details the socio-economic characteristics of resident workers within the Roscommon town labour catchment who are employed within Roscommon town (Inside) and those that are employed outside Roscommon town – within the wider labour catchment and beyond (Outside).



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