

Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region



Sligo Town Labour Catchment



May 2018



4. Sligo Town Labour Catchment

Introduction

Sligo town had a population of 19,199 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Sligo is the 4th largest town within the Western Region and the 24th largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Sligo has decreased by -1% (+203). In the five years since Census 2011, the population of the town also decreased by -1.3% (-253). Demographic comparisons between urban centres tend to be difficult due to intercensal boundary changes. For instance, in 2014 all legal town boundaries (Sligo 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 POWSCAR 2016, the total number of jobs located within Sligo was 13,024 and accounts for 5.4% of all jobs located within the Western Region (242,712). Of all cities and towns in Ireland, Sligo has the 10th highest number of jobs located within the town boundary and accounts for 61.8% of all jobs located within County Sligo – by far the highest rate within the Western Region counties. Relative to the six other main settlements in this report, Sligo has the 2nd highest number of jobs within the town with only higher numbers in Galway City (44,376) and then lower numbers in Letterkenny (11,395), Ennis (10,172), Castlebar (9,045), Roscommon (3,917) and 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).

4.1 The importance of Sligo as a place of work

Map 4.1 shows the extent of commuting flows to Sligo for employment opportunities. The colours represent the different proportions of people who live in each ED and travel to work in Sligo. The map shows every ED (within the frame) by commuting flow to Sligo. EDs with commuter numbers linked to Sligo town between one and four (trips) have been set to a value of one¹.

As would be expected, the EDs closest to Sligo town 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 Sligo, graduating from the dark blue where in excess of 60% of people living in those EDs work in Sligo town, through to medium green where between 5 and 15% living in those EDs commute to work in Sligo town – this stretches across all of Sligo local authority and into large parts of north Leitrim, parts of south Donegal and north Roscommon. Key settlements on the extreme of the commuting catchment (>5%) are Enniscrone, Tubbercurry, Boyle, Carrick-on-Shannon, Drumkeeran, Belcoo, Manorhamilton, Bundoran and Ballyshannon. With 13,024 jobs located within Sligo it acts as a key economic driver within the north-west region of Ireland and is a very important employment hub within the wider Western Region.

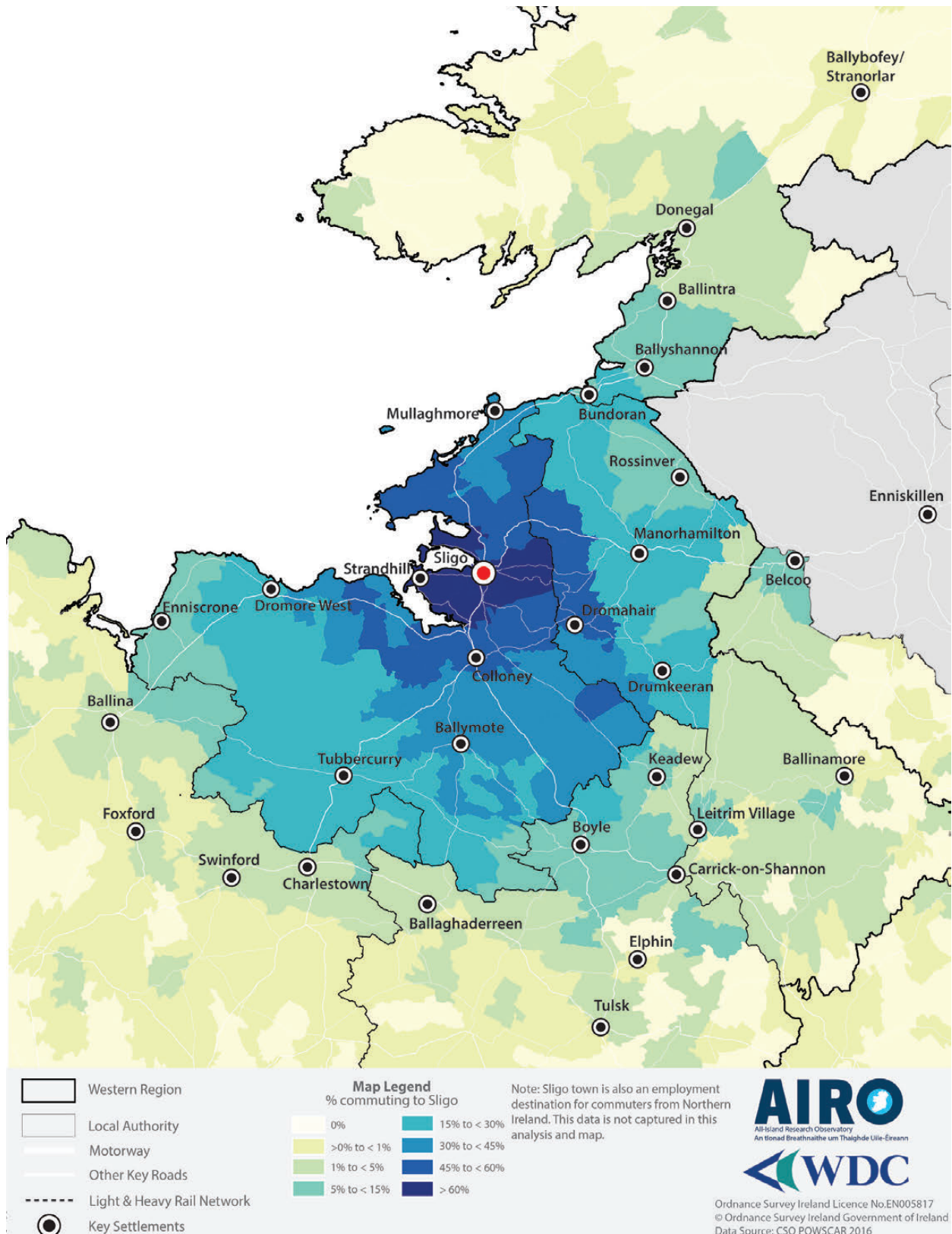
4.2 The Sligo Labour Catchment

While Map 4.1 shows every ED from where even one person commuted to Sligo, all of these EDs are not included in the Sligo labour catchment. The Sligo labour catchment, is made up only of those EDs for which Sligo town 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 4.2 shows the Sligo labour catchment, depicted by the light green colour.

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

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Map 4.1: Percentage of persons commuting to Sligo Town, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

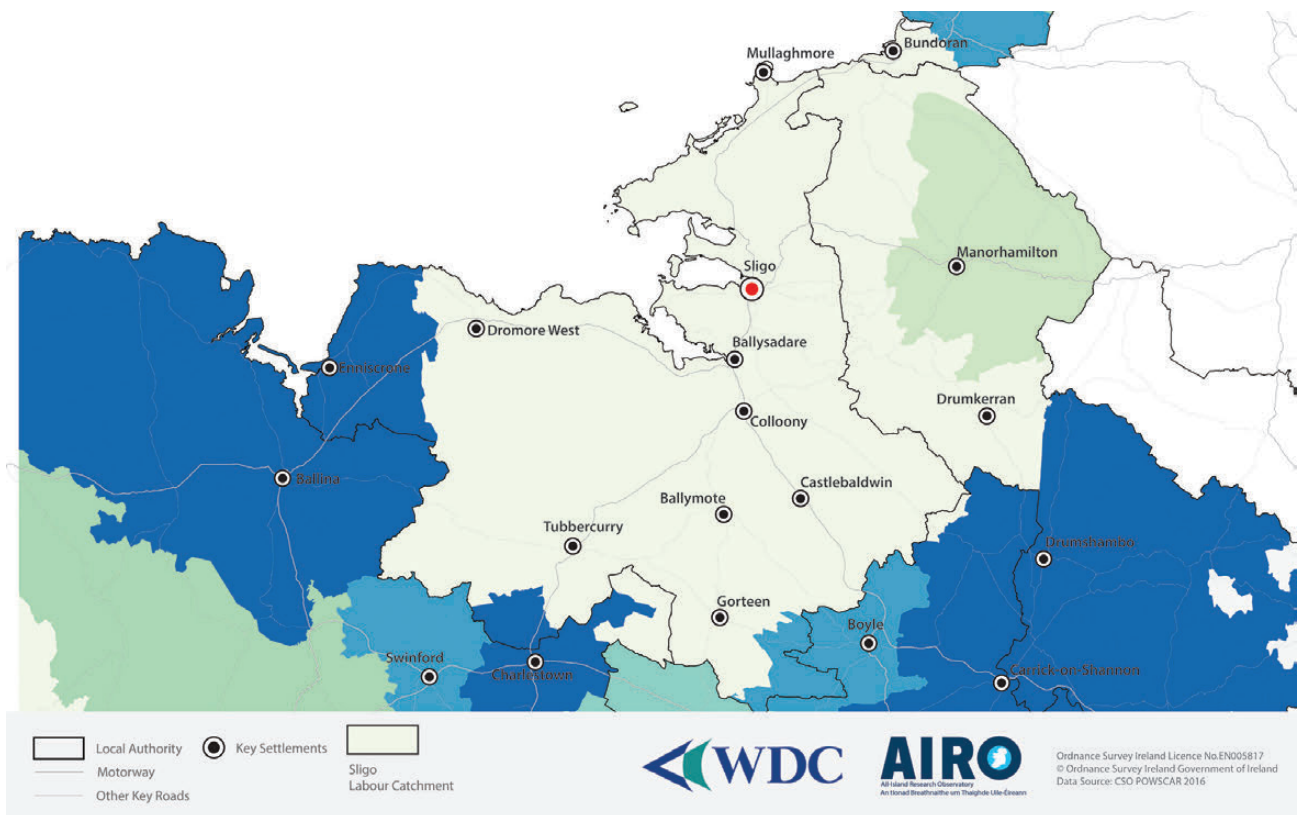


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The data presented in Map 4.2 show that Sligo town’s influence as a place of work extends over a large area and extends into parts of north Leitrim and the very southern portion of Donegal. The total resident and ‘at work’ population residing within the Sligo town labour catchment is 21,834 and it is the second largest labour catchment within the Western Region. In fact, the entire Sligo town labour catchment is far larger than the number of resident workers in the town at its core. Sligo town labour catchment has a population at work more than three times the census population of resident workers in Sligo town itself, (21,834 and 6,878 (including blank and mobile workers) respectively).

The labour catchment for Sligo town extends throughout most of county Sligo with the exception of two small areas in the west and south west that are linked to the labour catchments of Ballina and Charlestown, respectively.

Map 4.2: Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)



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4.3 Profile of the Sligo Town Labour Catchment

Map 4.2 identified (in beige) the Sligo 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 Sligo town in April 2016. We do this because although some may not be working in Sligo town they are living in the catchment from which Sligo town's labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Sligo town. The Sligo 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 Galway City, Ballina, 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 (4.4), a comparison matrix of town and non-town workers (4.6) and an overall comparison matrix for all seven labour catchments (10.1).

4.3.1 Place of Work

The Sligo labour catchment can be seen to include most of county Sligo and parts of north-east Leitrim and south Donegal. In 2016, there were 21,834 people classified as at work, living within the Sligo labour catchment (+7.45% from 20,321 in 2006). In Figure 4.1 and Table 4.1 the main work locations for those who live in the Sligo labour catchment are set out.

Figure 4.1: Place of work of those living in the Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

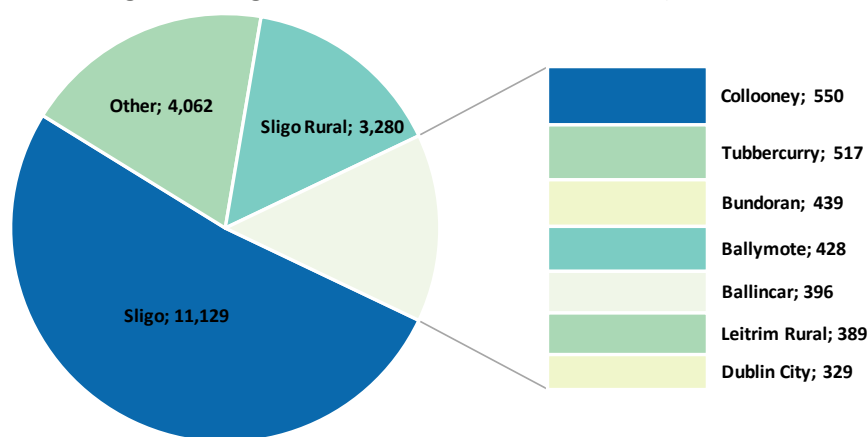


Table 4.1: Place of work of those living in the Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

Labour Catchment	Number	%
Sligo	11,129	51%
Other	4,062	18.6%
Sligo Rural	3,280	15%
Collooney	550	2.5%
Tubbercurry	517	2.4%
Bundoran	439	2%
Ballymote	428	2%
Ballinacar	396	1.8%
Leitrim Rural	389	1.8%
Dublin City	329	1.5%
Manorhamilton	315	1.4%
Total	21,834	100%

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As expected, Sligo is the principal place of employment, accounting for 11,129 (51%) of all employment. Sligo Rural County (3,280) is the next most popular destination, being the work location for 15% of all those living in the Sligo labour catchment.

The other large employment destinations for residents within the Sligo town labour catchment are primarily towns in close proximity to Sligo (Collooney, Tubbercurry, Bundoran, Ballymote, Ballincar and Manorhamilton etc). Dublin City (329 or 1.5%) is also highlighted as key a destination for Sligo 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. There is also a considerable number of destinations located within and across other small settlements (>1,000 population) in the Western Region (Rest, 4,062 or 18.6%).

4.3.2 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 4.2 below details the overall 'travel time departure' distribution of all Sligo 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 37% of all resident workers. In comparison to the State average, Sligo 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 20.6%, respectively. Relative to the six other county towns, Sligo (20.6%) has the second lowest rate of early commuters (pre 7.30am) with only Letterkenny labour catchment workers with a lower rate at 19.1%. Highest rates are recorded by the Galway City (28.8%) and Ennis (26.3%) labour catchment workers.

A comparison of the 'travel-time departures' of those working in Sligo town and those working elsewhere shows that Sligo town bound workers tend to have later departure times than other workers residing within the overall labour catchment. A total of 19.7% of Sligo town bound workers residing in the labour catchment depart for work pre '07:30' and this is marginally lower than the rate for workers travelling to other destinations (21.5%).

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Figure 4.2: Time of Departure of those living in the Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

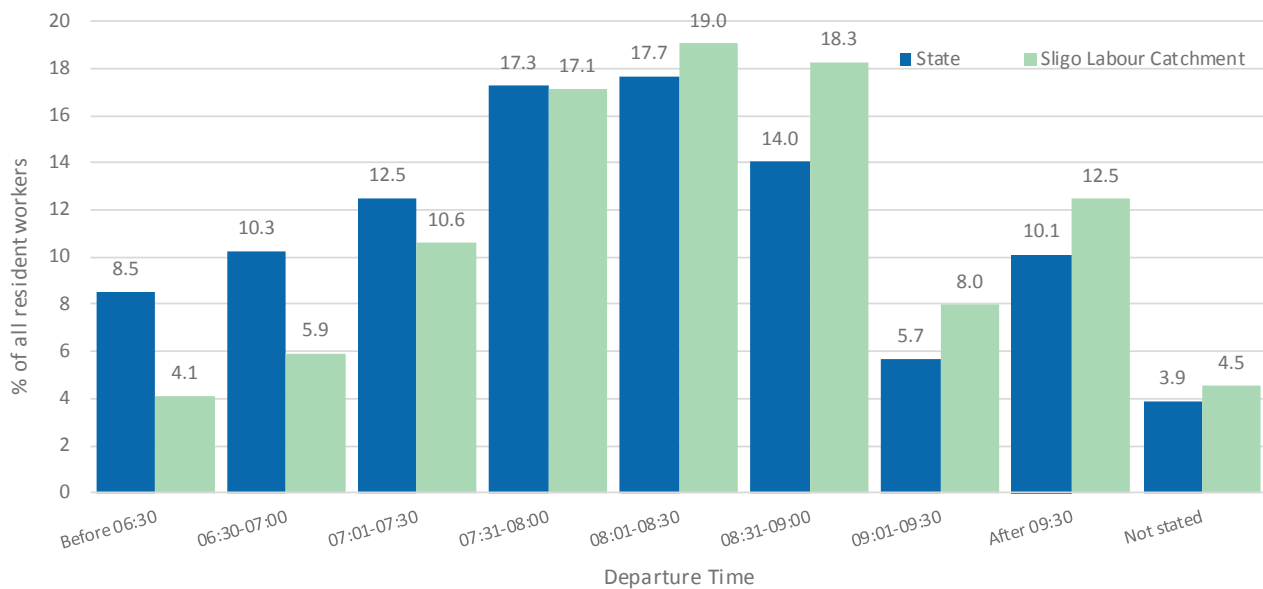


Table 4.2: Time of Departure of those living in the Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

	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
Sligo Labour Catchment (Total)	896	1,290	2,310	3,744	4,158	3,986	1,738	2,719	993	21,834
Working inside Sligo	390	547	1,255	2,016	2,454	2,139	839	1,290	199	11,129
Working outside Sligo	506	743	1,055	1,728	1,704	1,847	899	1,429	794	10,705
State	135,187	163,290	199,035	274,425	281,003	223,164	90,521	160,901	62,111	1,589,637
Sligo Labour Catchment (Total)	4.1%	5.9%	10.6%	17.1%	19%	18%	8%	12.5%	4.5%	100%
Working inside Sligo	3.5%	4.9%	11.3%	18.1%	22.1%	19.2%	7.5%	11.6%	1.8%	100%
Working outside Sligo	4.7%	6.9%	9.9%	16.1%	15.9%	17.3%	8.4%	13.3%	7.4%	100%
State	8.5%	10.3%	12.5%	17.3%	17.7%	14%	5.7%	10.1%	3.9%	100%

4.3.3 Gender

The gender composition of residents in the Sligo town labour catchment is shown below. Within the Sligo town labour catchment, female workers account for a larger proportion of the total workforce than their male counterparts with rates of 52.4% and 47.6% respectively – this is the highest female proportion of all seven county town labour catchments within the Western Region. The national picture is slightly different with

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males (50.1%) accounting for a marginally higher rate than females (49.9%). There is a variation between men and women in terms of the location of their work. More women than men work in Sligo town, 58.1% and 41.9% respectively. Outside of Sligo town destinations, male employment is higher than female employment with 53.6% 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 4.3: Gender Profile of those living in the Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

	Female	Male	Total
Sligo Labour Catchment (Total)	11,437	10,397	21,834
Working inside Sligo	6,470	4,659	11,129
Working outside Sligo	4,967	5,738	10,705
State	793,196	796,441	1,589,637
Sligo Labour Catchment (Total)	52.4%	47.6%	100%
Working inside Sligo	58.1%	41.9%	100%
Working outside Sligo	46.4%	53.6%	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-codable 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 rates 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.

4.3.4 Age

The age profile of those at work and over 15 years who live in the Sligo town labour catchment is shown in Table 4.4. The age profile of the Sligo town labour catchment has the 3rd highest proportion of <30 years (14.5%) residing in the Western Region with only higher rates in the Letterkenny (17%) and Galway City (16.8%) labour catchments. Relative to the State average, the Sligo town labour catchment age profile has a much lower rate of young workers (less than 30 years) than the State average of 17.5%.

This may be explained by the fact that many young people migrate to other destinations for education and do not return to Sligo Town for immediate employment opportunities afterwards. With the exception of Galway City, this phenomenon is valid for all other areas, both urban and rural, within the Western Region.

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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 4.4. A total of 13.9% of all Sligo town's workers are aged 'less than 30 years' whereas the rate for non-Sligo town workers is 15.1%. This rate is different to both the Galway City and Ennis labour catchments where the urban based workers have a younger age profile. 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 rates of young workers (less than 30 years) in excess of 24% whereas the average rate for Sligo County is 14.4%. At 13%, Galway County has the lowest rate of all local authorities in the State.

Table 4.4: Age Profile of those living in the Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

	<30 years	30 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65+ years	Total
Sligo Labour Catchment (Total)	3,161	8,884	9,183	606	21,834
Working inside Sligo	1,545	4,713	4,703	168	11,129
Working outside Sligo	1,616	4,171	4,480	438	10,705
State	278,647	694,783	575,181	41,026	1,589,637
Sligo Labour Catchment (Total)	14.5%	40.7%	42.1%	2.8%	100%
Working inside Sligo	13.9%	42.3%	42.3%	1.5%	100%
Working outside Sligo	15.1%	39%	41.8%	4.1%	100%
State	17.5%	43.7%	36.2%	2.6%	100%

4.3.5 Education

Table 4.5.1 shows a lower than average educational profile among those living in the Sligo town labour catchment with 55.5% having completed third level education compared to 56.1% nationally. However, relative to the other six towns included in this analysis Sligo town has the second most educated workforce with only Galway City (61.3%) having a higher rate. 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 large difference between the education attainment of those who are employed within Sligo town (59.2% with 3rd level) and those employed outside the town (51.7% with 3rd level). This relates to a higher calibre of employment opportunities being located within the town – this is further detailed in the follow on sections on Industry of Employment and Socio-Economic Group.

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Table 5.5.2 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 Sligo has the second highest level of overall education of those employed within the town. With a recorded rate of only 59.2% with 3rd level education employed in Sligo, only the settlement of Galway City (65.3%) has a higher rate of highly educated workers and is perhaps reflective of the level of high calibre jobs within the settlement in 3rd level institutes of education (Sligo IT), hospitals (Sligo General) and FDI companies such as Abbott, Abbvie, Bruss and GSK.

Table 4.5.1: Education Profile of those living in the seven Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

	Secondary Level	Third Level	Not Stated	Total
Sligo Labour Catchment (Total)	9,362	12,127	345	21,834
Working inside Sligo	4,389	6,591	149	11,129
Working outside Sligo	4,973	5,536	196	10,705
State	670,114	891,660	27,863	1,589,637
Sligo Labour Catchment (Total)	42.9%	55.5%	1.6%	100%
Working inside Sligo	39.4%	59.2%	1.3%	100%
Working outside Sligo	46.5%	51.7%	1.8%	100%
State	42.2%	56.1%	1.8%	100%

Table 4.5.2: % 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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4.3.6 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 Sligo town labour catchment is shown in Figure 4.6. 'Education, Human Health and Social Work' (29.1%) and 'Wholesale, Retail Trade and Commerce' are the most important sectors (24.9%) and account for over half of all employment of those residing within the Sligo town labour catchment. 'Manufacturing Industries' (13.9%) and 'ICT, Professional Services' (10.7%) and 'Public Administration and Defence' (8.8%) are the next biggest employers for the labour catchment with all other sectors accounting for less than 6% each.

Relative to the national picture, 'Education, Human Health and Social Work' and 'Public Administration and Defence' sectors play a more important role in the overall employment base – the 'Education, Human Health and Social Work' share of employment (29.1%) is 6.3 percentage points higher than the State average (22.8%) and the 'Public Administration and Defence' sector is 2.8 percentage points higher. With the exception of 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' (5.2% v 4.2%) and 'Construction' (1.9% v 2.8%), all other sectors of employment for Sligo town labour catchment residents are similar to or below the State average. The 'ICT and Professional Services' sector has the worst performance relative to the State average with the Sligo Labour Catchment recording a rate of 10.7% whereas the State average was 20.3%.

Figure 4.6: Industry Profile of those living in the Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

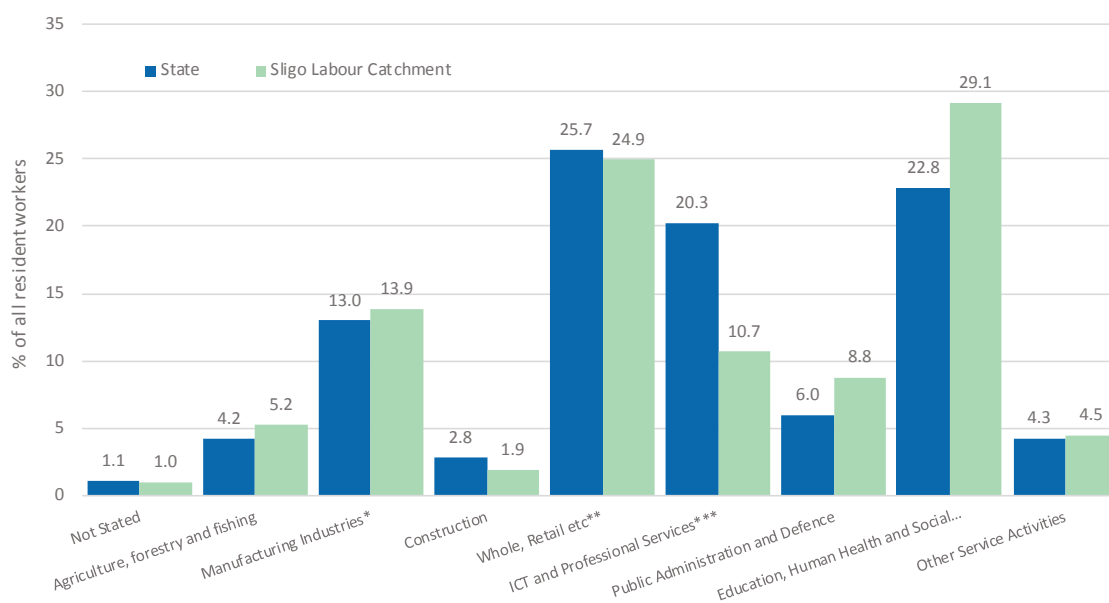


Table 4.6 details the industry of employment of the Sligo town labour catchment by the location of employment – within Sligo town and outside the town. Employment in 'Education, Human Health and Social' (33.1% v 25%), 'Manufacturing Industries' (16.1% v 11.6%) and 'Public Administration and Defence' (11.5% v 6%) are more dominant in those employed within Sligo town whereas 'Wholesale, Retail and Commerce' (21.9% v 28.1%), 'ICT and Professional Services' (10.5% v 10.9%) and 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' (1% v 9.6%) are higher outside the town – within the wider catchment and beyond. Interestingly, of all the county towns within the Western Region, only Sligo town catchment has a higher proportion of non-town workers employed in the 'Wholesale, Retail and Commerce' sector than town worker counterparts.

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Table 4.6: Industry Profile of those living in the Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

	Sligo Labour Catchment	Working inside Sligo	Working outside Sligo	State
Agricultural, Forestry and Fishing	5.2%	1%	9.6%	4.2%
Manufacturing Industries*	13.9%	16.1%	11.6%	13%
Construction	1.9%	1%	2.8%	2.8%
Wholesale, Retail etc	24.9%	21.9%	28.1%	25.7%
ICT and Professional Services***	10.7%	10.5%	10.9%	20.3%
Public Administration and Defence	8.8%	11.5%	6%	6%
Education, Human Health and Social Work Activities	29.1%	33.1%	25%	22.8%
Other Services	4.5%	4.1%	4.9%	4.3%
Not Stated	1.0%	0.8%	1.2%	1.1%
Total	100% (21,834)	100% (11,129)	100% (10,705)	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

4.3.7 Socio-Economic Group (SEG)

The socio-economic structure of employment in the Sligo town labour catchment is set out in Figure 4.7. 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.

The socio-economic structure of the Sligo town labour catchment is broadly similar to that of the State with the largest groups being 'Non-Manual' (29.9%), 'Lower Professionals' (18.7%), 'Employers and Managers' (13.0%), 'Semi Skilled' (11.0%) and then 'Higher Professionals' (9.1%). Although following a similar trend the Sligo Town labour catchment has lower rates than the State average in the top tier SEG categories: 'Employers and Managers' (13.0% v 16.7%) and 'Higher Professionals' (9.1% v 9.4%). The Sligo Town labour catchment then has higher proportions within the socio-economic structure categories of 'Lower Professionals' (18.7% v 17.6%), 'Non-Manual' (29.9% v 28.6%), 'Semi-Skilled' (11% v 9.8%), 'Own Account Workers' (3.0% v 2.6%) and Farmers (4.9% v 3.4%).

Table 4.7 details the socio-economic structure breakdown for those working within Sligo town and those working outside the town. The largest difference between town and non-town based workers is within the 'Non Manual' and 'Higher and Lower professional' groups. Excluding these groups the largest difference between town and non-town employment relates to those classed as 'Farmers', where the rate is 0.8% in the town and 4.9% outside the town, followed by 'Manual-Skilled' (5.3% v 6.3%) and 'Own Account Workers' (1.7% v 3.0%).

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Figure 4.7: SEG Profile of those living in the Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

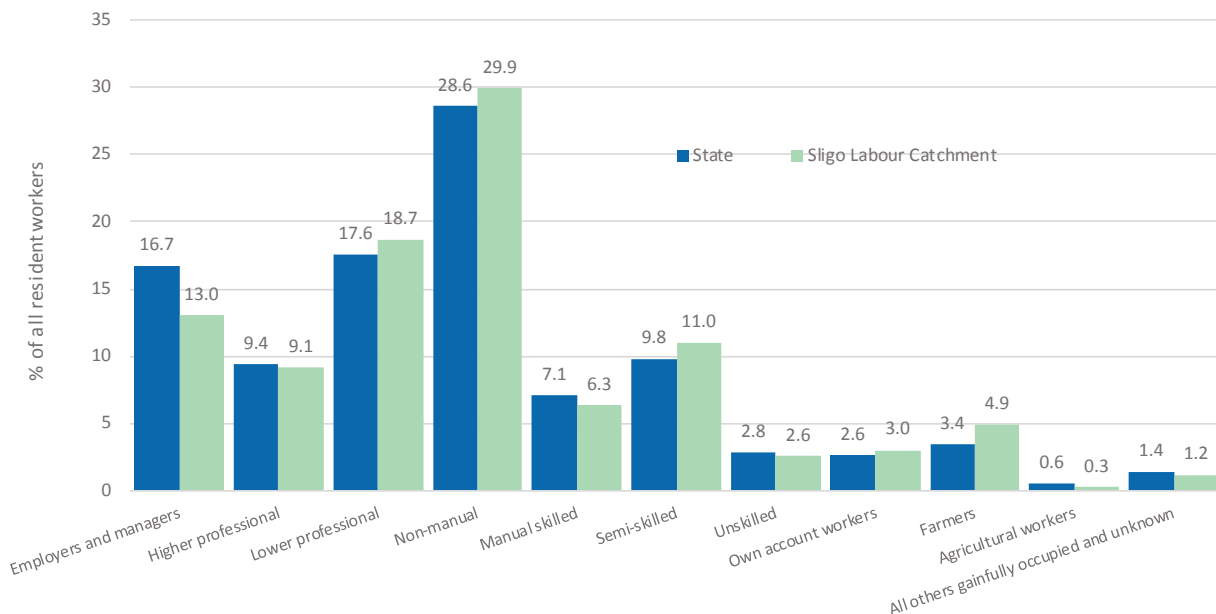


Table 4.7: SEG Profile of those living in the Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)

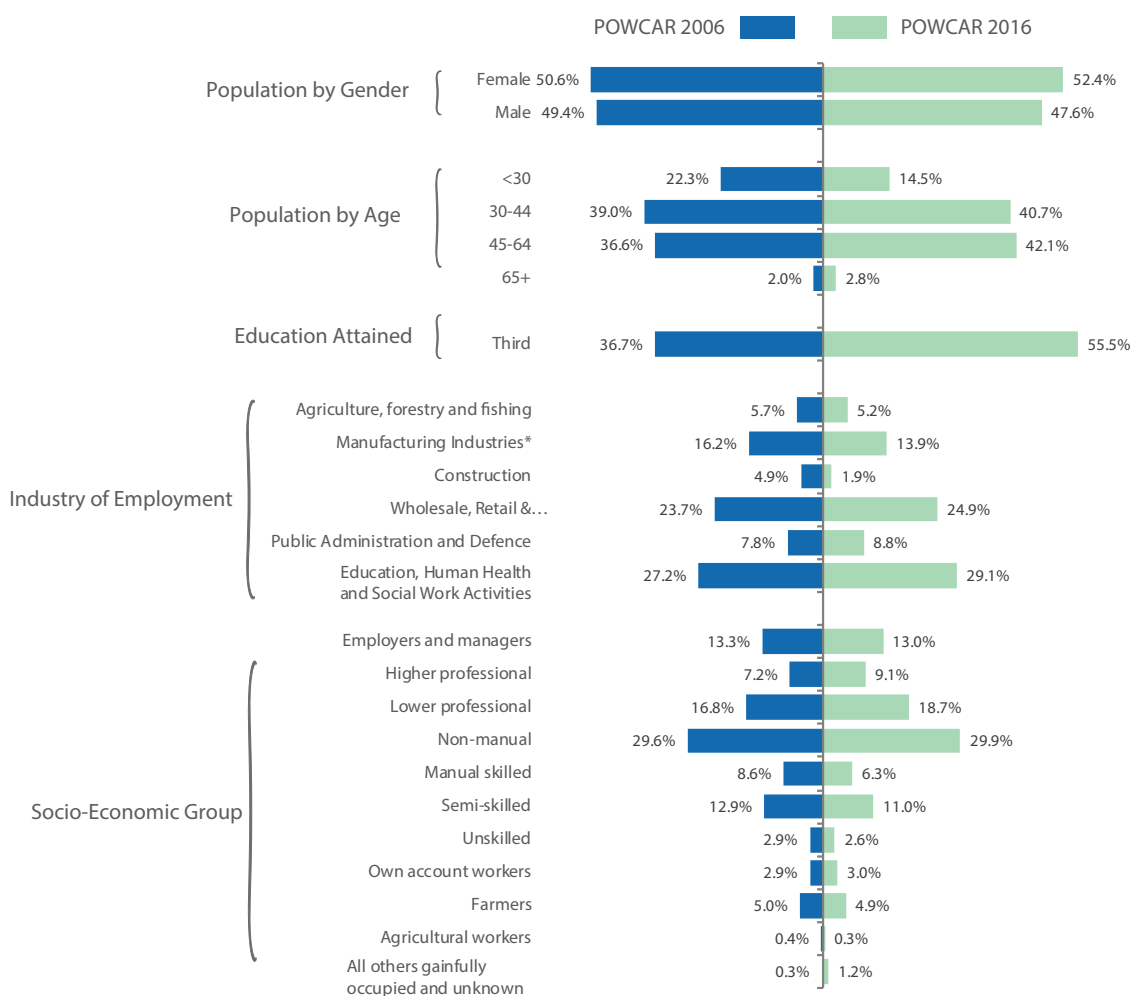
	Sligo Labour Catchment	Working inside Sligo	Working outside Sligo	State
Employers and managers	16.7%	13%	12.4%	16.7%
Higher professional	9.4%	9.1%	11.2%	9.4%
Lower professional	17.6%	18.7%	20.7%	17.6%
Non-manual	28.6%	29.9%	32.8%	28.6%
Manual skilled	7.1%	6.3%	5.3%	7.1%
Semi-skilled	9.8%	11%	11.1%	9.8%
Unskilled	2.8%	2.6%	2.7%	2.8%
Own account workers	2.6%	3%	1.7%	2.6%
Farmers	3.4%	4.9%	0.8%	3.4%
Agricultural workers	0.6%	0.3%	0.1%	0.6%
Others gainfully occupied and unknown	1.4%	1.2%	1.2%	1.4%
Total	100% (21,834)	100% (11,129)	100% (10,705)	100% (1.59m)

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4.4 Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Sligo 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 Sligo town labour catchment is a key labour catchment in the Western Region with its ranking increasing from the third largest to the second largest over the last ten years. It has a resident ‘at work’ population of 21,834 and accounts for 8.4% of the total resident workforce within the Western Region. This is an increase of 7.4% (1,513) from the 2006 figure of 20,321 when it represented a marginally smaller proportion of 8.3% of the total resident workforce within the Western Region.
- A review of the geographical extent of the labour catchments from the 2006 and 2016 POWCAR analysis reveals that the Sligo labour catchment is still the dominant catchment within county Sligo. Since the 2006 based analysis, the catchment has extended and now encompasses the previous labour catchments of both Tubbercurry and Bundoran – both excluded from the 2016 analysis as they only contained two EDs (see Appendix). The growth of Sligo town in terms of jobs and population between 2006 and 2016 is a major contributory factor to the expansion of the Sligo town labour catchment and its strengthening as a key regional centre in the north-west.



4. Sligo Town Labour Catchment

4.5 Sligo Town Labour Catchment Summary

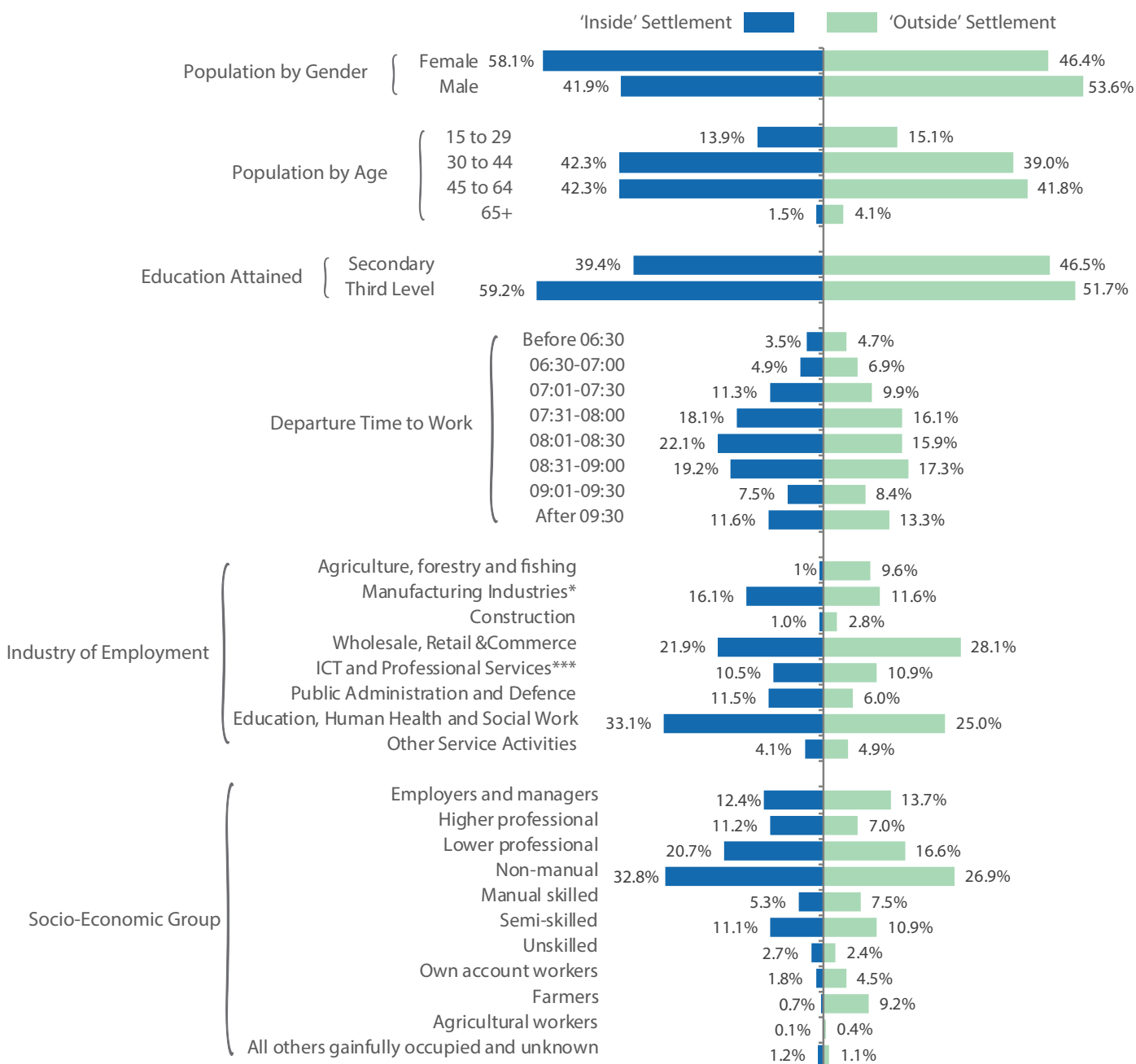
This section provides a summary of the key points of the Sligo Town Labour Catchment

- The Sligo town labour catchment is the second largest labour catchment in the Western Region (Map 2.1) with a resident 'at work' population of 21,834 which accounts for 8.4% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).
- The Sligo town labour catchment covers the vast majority of county Sligo and extends into parts of north Leitrim and the very southern portion of south Donegal (Map 4.2). In 2016, there were 21,834 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is more than three times the resident 'at work' population within the town at its core (6,878). The 2016 total is +7.5% higher than the 2006 total of 20,321.
- The towns of Ballina and Charlestown in Mayo and Boyle in Roscommon have labour catchments that extend into parts of west and south Sligo. These towns are themselves the most important places for employment for those living in their immediate hinterlands, and therefore constitute separate, but small, labour catchments within the county boundary of Sligo.
- Of those living in the Sligo town labour catchment, 51% (11,129) are employed within Sligo town and 49% (10,705) are employed outside the town and in the rest of the catchment and beyond. Key destinations outside the town are Sligo Rural (15% or 3,280), Collooney (2.5% or 550) and Tubbercurry (2.4% or 517) – see Table 4.1 for more details.
- A demographic profile of the Sligo town labour catchment shows the following:
 - The age profile of those living in the Sligo town labour catchment is quite young and third youngest 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 52.4% and 47.6% respectively. This gender gap is further extended when looking at those employed within the town where more women than men are employed, 58.1% and 41.9% respectively.
 - Those at work and residing in the Sligo town labour catchment have a marginally lower level of education than the State average – with rates of 55.5% and 56.1% respectively (3rd level). This is, however, the second highest rate amongst all other seven county town labour catchments in the Western Region. Those within the catchment and employed in Sligo town have a higher rate at 59.2%.
- Analysis of the profile of the industry of employment within the Sligo town labour catchment shows the following:
 - The single largest employer is the 'Education, Human Health and Social Work' sector and accounts for 29.1% (6,363) which is higher than the State average (22.8%).
 - Both the 'Wholesale, Retail and Commerce' (24.9% or 5,444) and 'ICT and Professional Services' (10.7% or 2,330) are important employment sectors although 'ICT and Professional Services' is much lower than the State average.
 - Manufacturing Industries (13.9% or 3,032) is the fourth most important sector and higher than the State average of 13%.

4. Sligo Town Labour Catchment

4.6 Socio-economic comparison of those employed 'Inside' and 'Outside' Sligo Town

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



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