

8.2 Trends in Agency Assisted Employment: Clare¹

Summary

- With 9,250 total assisted jobs, Clare has the second highest assisted employment in the region. It is also the second highest in the region as a proportion of total employment (20.3%) and is fifth highest nationally, above Limerick. Assisted employment in the county has a high share of permanent employment.
- The trend of assisted employment in Clare is quite different to most other western counties as it has continued to decline since 2010 and not shown any resumption of growth.
- In 2013, 41.6% of permanent assisted employment in county Clare was foreign owned which is a significant decline from the situation in 2004. Since 2010 Irish assisted employment has remained relatively stable while foreign owned employment has continued to decline, showing some slight recovery in 2013.
- Traditional manufacturing is Clare's largest assisted sector accounting for 43.2% of all permanent assisted jobs. Employment declined strongly between 2008 and 2011 but has shown signs of growth since then. Modern manufacturing is now Clare's second largest assisted sector and has been growing since 2007.
- Clare has the fifth highest share working in business, financial and other services nationally, though employment in the sector has been declining in the county since 2008. Information and communication employment has also performed poorly in recent years.

8.2.1 Assisted jobs in county Clare

With 9,250 total assisted jobs, Clare has the second largest assisted employment in the region, though less than half that of Galway. As a percentage of total employment, Clare is also second highest with assisted employment accounting for 1 in 5 (20.3%) jobs in the county.² This is the fifth highest share in the country and above Limerick, although commuting flows between those two counties is likely to be a factor.

There were 8,308 permanent and 946 temporary/part-time assisted jobs in Clare in 2013 (Fig. 37). The 10.2% share of temporary/part-time jobs in the county is considerably below the Western Region's average of 13.1%, showing a relatively high proportion of permanent full-time jobs.

The trend of assisted employment in Clare is quite different to the other western counties. Assisted employment reached its highest point in 2007-2008 with 10,500 jobs. As with other counties it then declined sharply in 2009, but unlike most other counties it has continued to decline since, with both permanent and temporary/part-time employment continuing to decline year on year. Leitrim is the only other western county with has shown no indication of growth in assisted employment since 2010.

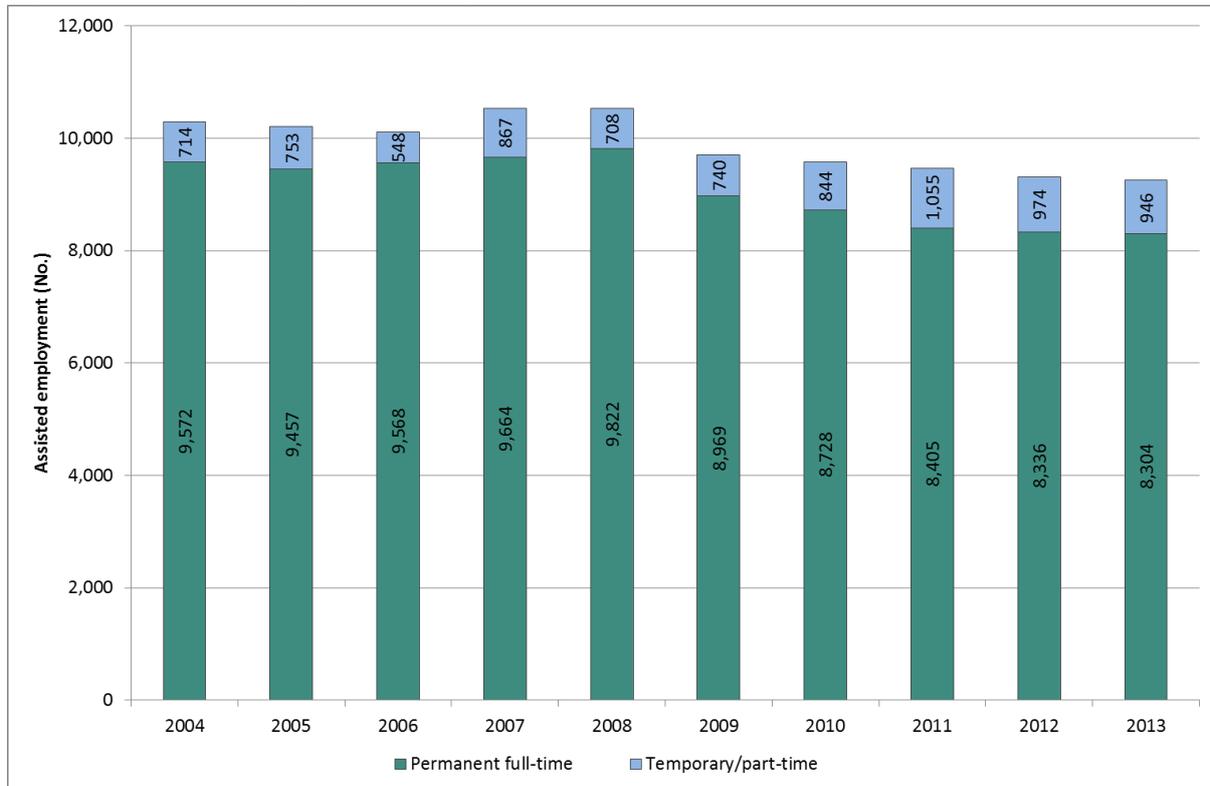
¹ Agency assisted employment is employment in companies which have received assistance from IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland or Údarás na Gaeltachta. This county profile is an extract from the Western Development Commission (WDC) report [Trends in Agency Assisted Employment in the Western Region](#), January 2015.

² Caution is required in interpreting the assisted employment as a percentage of total employment figure. Assisted employment refers to 2013 and relates to jobs located in the county. Total employment refers to 2011 (latest data at county level) and refers to employed people living in the county. This figure should be used as indicative of relative positions rather than as an absolute figure. See Section 7.2 for more detail.

The decline from Clare's highest year (2007) to its lowest (2013) was -12.2%. This was considerably greater than the -7.5% change the Western Region experienced between these two years.

In the most recent year there was a decline of -0.6% in total assisted jobs in Clare. Only Leitrim had a larger decline that year, with Sligo the only other western county with any decline.

Fig. 37: Total assisted jobs in county Clare, 2004-2013



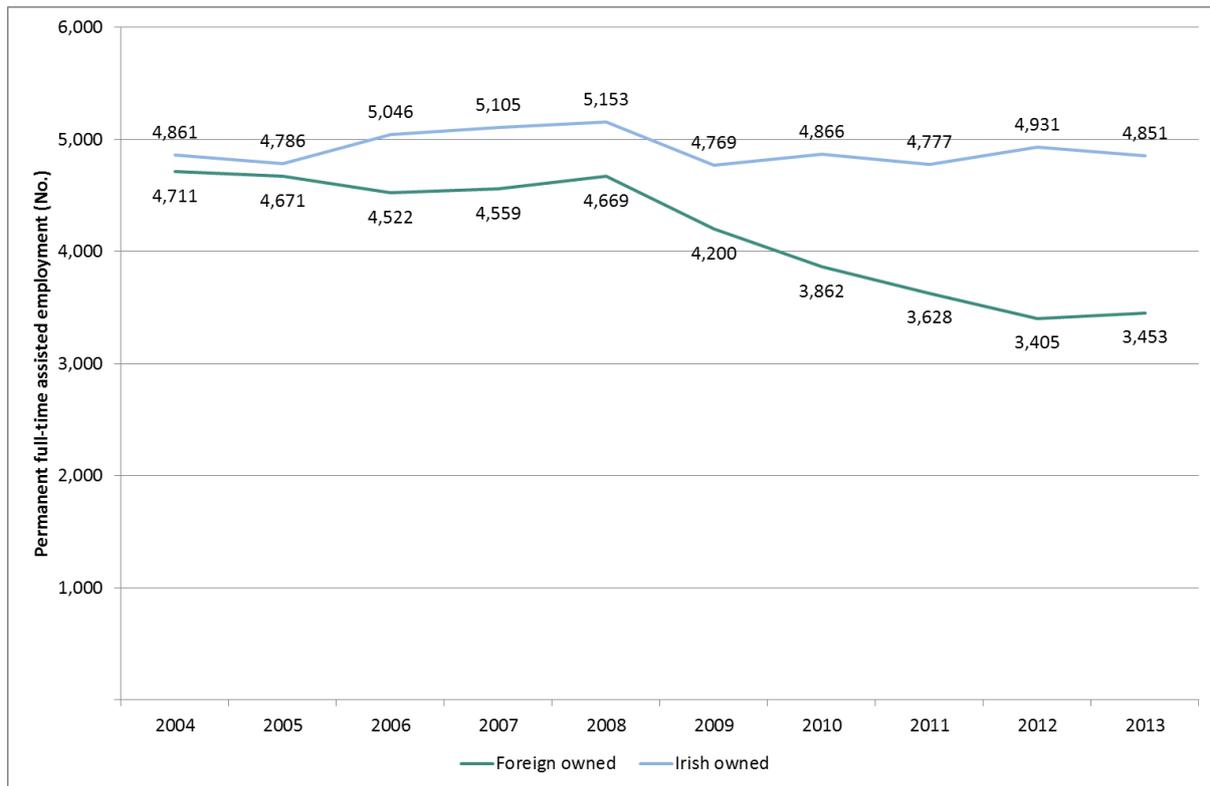
Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

8.2.2 Ownership of assisted jobs in county Clare

In 2013, 41.6% of permanent assisted employment in county Clare was foreign owned. This is the third smallest share of foreign ownership in the region after Donegal and Roscommon. It represents a significant decline from the situation in 2004 when foreign employment accounted for almost half of the total (Fig. 38). Irish and foreign owned employment began to diverge in 2006 when Irish owned assisted employment increased while foreign declined, both fell in 2009.

Since 2009 they have experienced very different trends. Irish assisted employment has remained relatively stable while foreign owned employment has declined strongly. Between 2008 and 2012 foreign owned employment in Clare declined by -27%. 2013 has seen some recovery.

Fig. 38: Permanent full-time assisted jobs in foreign and Irish owned companies in county Clare, 2004-2013



Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

8.2.3 Assisted jobs by sector³ in county Clare

Traditional manufacturing is Clare's largest sector accounting for 43.2% of all permanent assisted employment in the county in 2013 (Fig. 39). Though it remains the largest sector, employment has declined very substantially over the ten year period, declining by close to a quarter between 2004 and 2011. It has shown signs of recovery and growth since and in the most recent year employment increased by +3.4%, above the Western Region average but below that achieved by Roscommon, Galway and Sligo.

Modern manufacturing is now Clare's second largest assisted sector accounting for 25.9% of permanent assisted employment. This sector has grown since 2007 and increased by +1.2% in the most recent year. In 2010 it surpassed business, financial and other services as the county's second largest sector.

After strong growth from 2004 to 2008, business, financial and other services declined substantially, with employment falling by almost a third between 2008 and 2013. In 2013 it declined by -6.3% and Clare had the worst employment performance in this sector in the region. Clare however continues to have the fifth highest share of employment in this sector nationally.

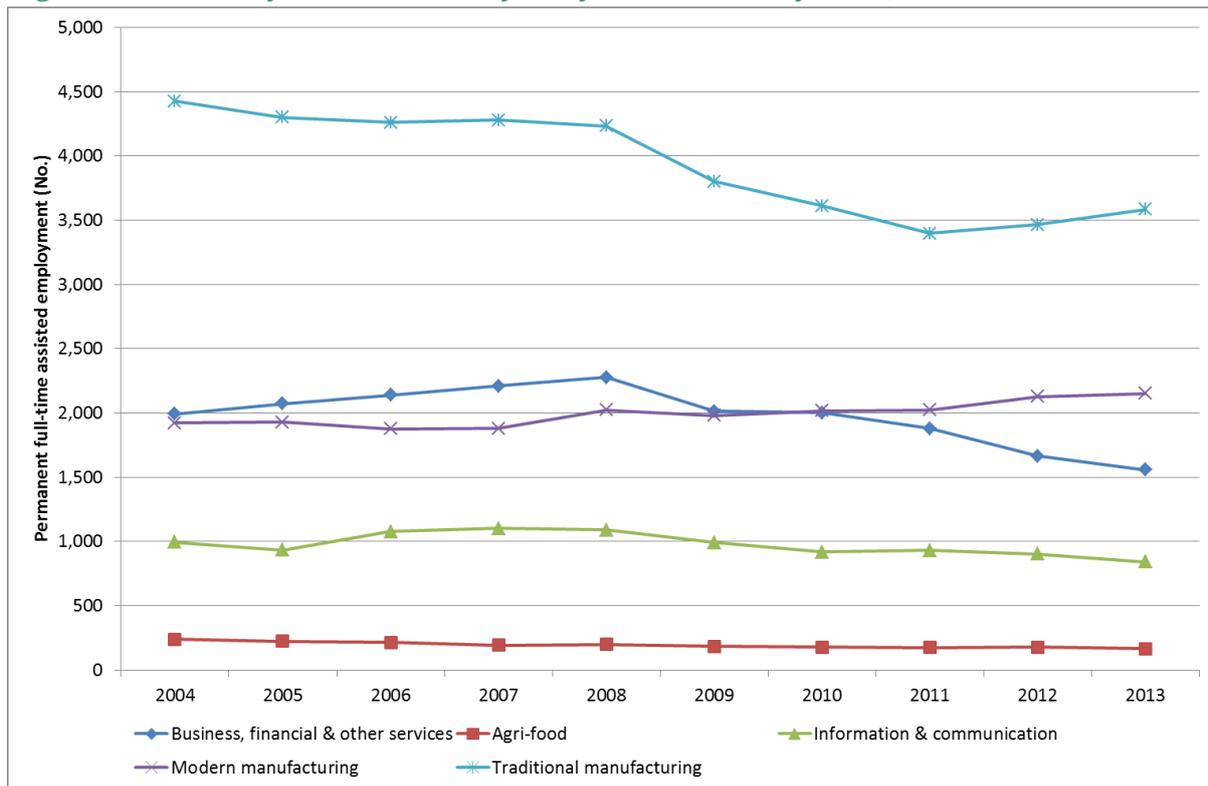
After some growth in 2005-2006, information and communication employment has declined since then and fell by -6.5% in 2013. Again Clare had the worst performance in the region in this sector in 2013 with Sligo the only other county to have any decline in information and communication

³ Data by broad sector is available at county level but not data by detailed sector.

services in 2013. Clare's experience in the two international services sectors has been poor in recent years, contributing to its overall weaker performance compared with other western counties.

Agri-food is Clare's smallest sector and it has among the lowest shares working in the sector nationally. This employment has shown a steady and gradual decline over the period. Employment in 2013 was -30% below 2004. In the most recent year Clare had the second highest decline in this employment in the region at -6.2%.

Fig. 39: Permanent full-time assisted jobs by sector in county Clare, 2004-2013



Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

In total 2.7% of permanent full-time jobs in assisted companies in Ireland are based in Clare. This is similar to the county's 2.5% share of total employment in the state in 2011. The county's largest assisted sector, traditional manufacturing, is where Clare plays its most important national role with 6.1% of employment in the state. Business, financial and other services is the other sector where the county has a higher than average share at 3.2% of national employment, though as this employment is declining steadily this role is likely to diminish in the future.