

8.7 Trends in Agency Assisted Employment: Leitrim¹

Summary

- In 2013 there were 1,311 people working in assisted companies in county Leitrim, 11% of total employment. This is the second lowest share in the region and sixth lowest nationally.
- Only 7.6% of assisted jobs were temporary/part-time, the lowest share in the region. Leitrim's assisted employment is predominantly permanent full-time.
- Over the 2004-2013 period, assisted employment was at its highest in 2004 and has declined in almost every year since. There was a decline of -43.5% between the highest (2004) and lowest (2013) year, the largest decline among the western counties. Similar to Clare, there has been no resumption of assisted employment growth.
- In 2013, 62.9% of assisted employment in county Leitrim was foreign owned, largely due to a single sector. This is the highest share in the Western Region and third highest nationally. However for Leitrim it is the lowest of the period. Foreign owned assisted employment has fallen in every year from 2004 to 2013. In contrast, there has been quite steady growth in Irish owned employment since 2010, growing by +8.4% in the most recent year.
- International services was county Leitrim's largest assisted sector for most of the ten year period. It declined from 2009 to reach its lowest point in 2012 when it dropped below traditional manufacturing. Following substantial decline from 2005 to 2009, traditional manufacturing has remained stable. Modern manufacturing has grown strongly and steadily since 2009 and permanent employment increased by +8.3% in the most recent year.

8.7.1 Assisted jobs in county Leitrim

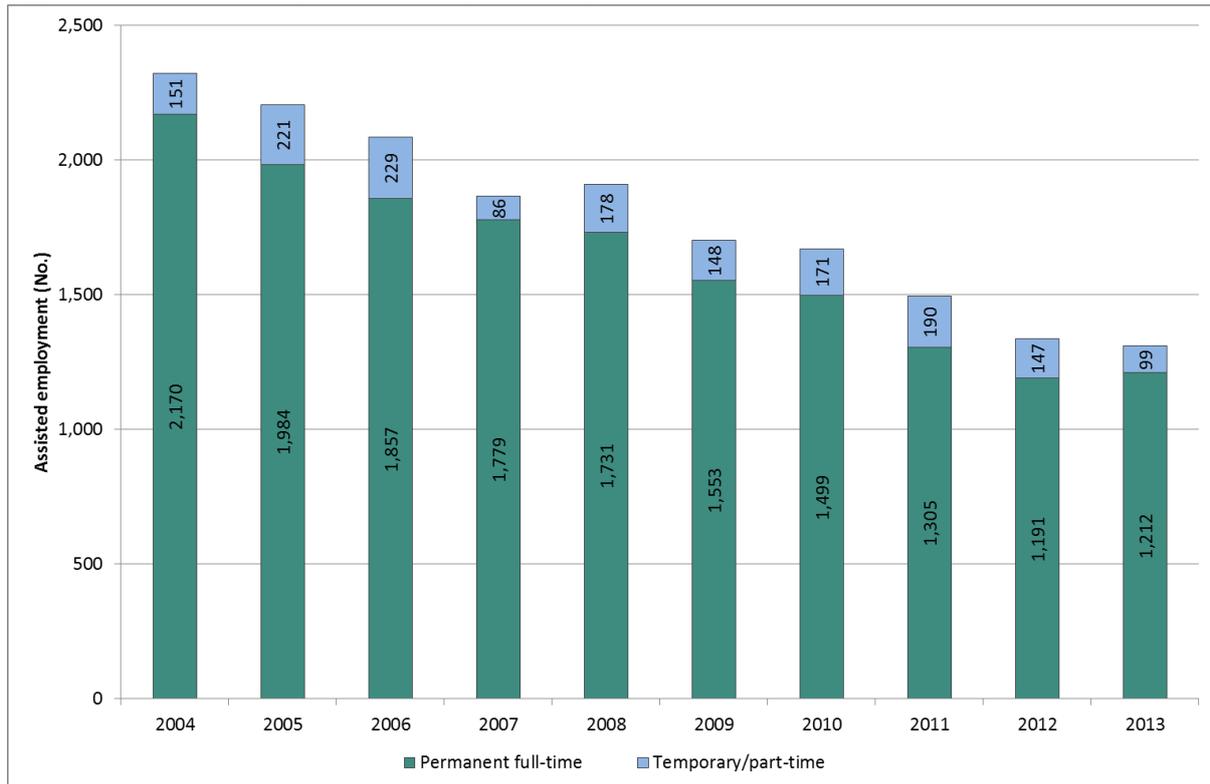
Assisted employment accounts for 11% of total employment in county Leitrim.² This is the second lowest share in the region and is sixth lowest nationally.

In 2013 there were 1,311 people working in assisted companies in county Leitrim (Fig. 52). Of these only 7.6% were working on a temporary/part-time basis. This is the lowest share of this type of employment in the region showing that Leitrim's assisted employment is predominantly permanent full-time.

Total assisted employment in Leitrim was at its highest of the period in 2004 and has declined in almost every year since then. It fell by -43.5% between the highest (2004) and lowest (2013) year in the county, the largest such decline among the western counties. In the most recent year, Leitrim experienced the largest decline (-2.0%) in total assisted employment, with Sligo and Clare the only other western counties with any decline in that year.

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.

Fig. 52: Total assisted jobs in county Leitrim, 2004-2013

Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

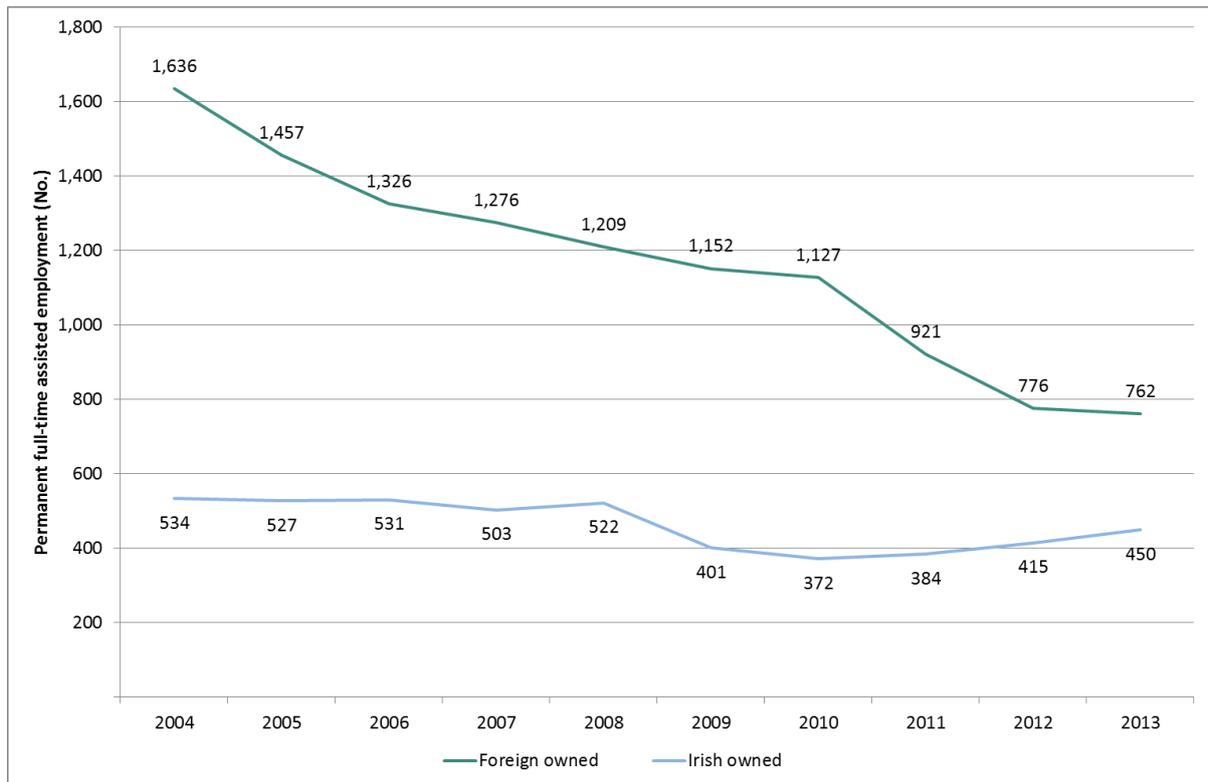
8.7.2 Ownership of assisted jobs in county Leitrim

In 2013, 62.9% of assisted employment in county Leitrim was in foreign owned companies. This was the highest share of foreign ownership in the Western Region and considerably above the region's average of 50.4%. In fact Leitrim has the third highest share of foreign ownership nationally (after Kildare and Tipperary South). However the share in county Leitrim in 2013 is in fact its lowest of the ten year period. At the start of the decade 75.4% of assisted employment in the county was foreign owned.

Fig. 53 clearly shows the dominance of foreign owned assisted employment in county Leitrim at the start of the decade and its steady decline. It fell gradually from 2004 to 2009 before a very sharp decline to 2012.

Irish owned assisted employment remained extremely stable from 2004 to 2008. Following a recession-related decline to 2010, there has been quite steady growth, increasing by +8.4% in the most recent year.

Fig. 53: Permanent full-time assisted jobs in foreign and Irish owned companies in county Leitrim, 2004-2013



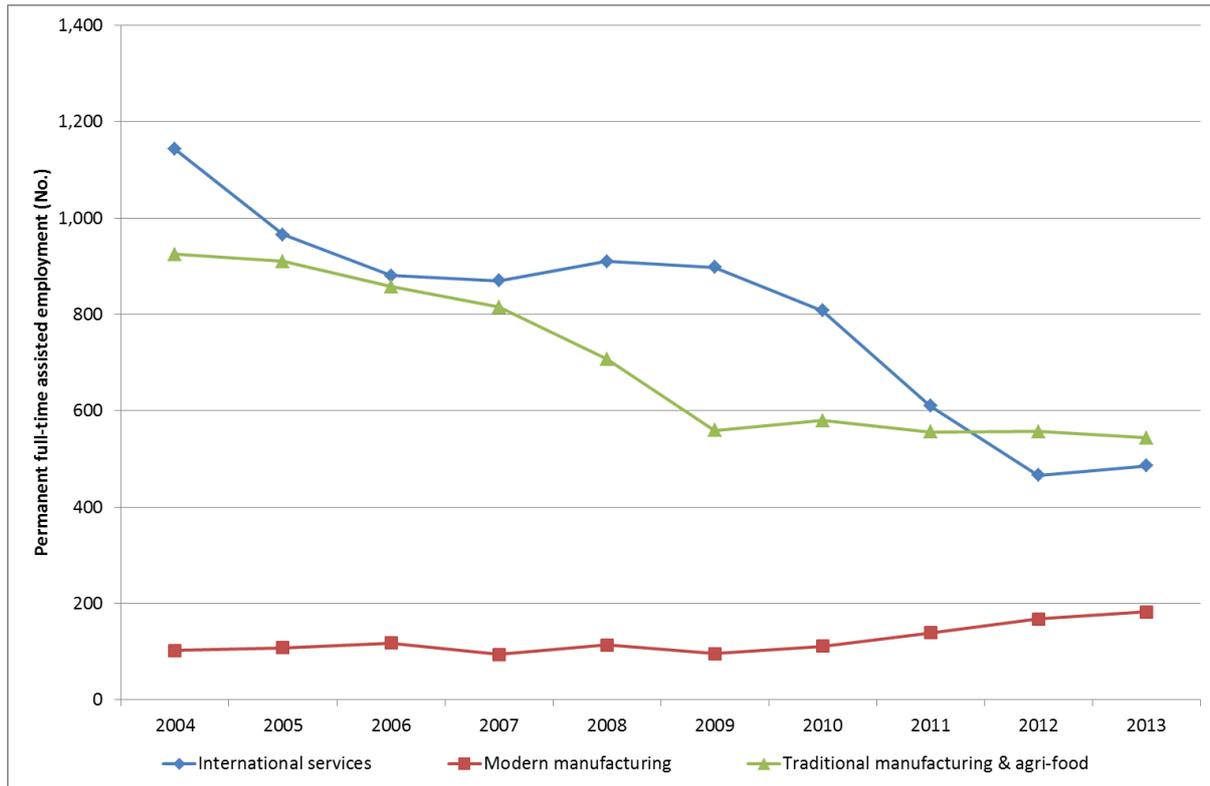
Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

8.7.3 Assisted jobs by sector³ in county Leitrim

Unlike any other western county, international services (information and communication, and business, financial and other services) was county Leitrim's largest assisted sector for most of the ten year period (Fig. 54). This sector experienced decline from 2004 to 2007, followed by some recovery. However it began to decline again from 2009 to reach its lowest point in 2012 when it dropped below traditional manufacturing to become Leitrim's second largest sector. The sector showed some recovery in 2013 however, increasing by +4.3%.

Following very substantial decline from 2005 to its lowest level in 2009, traditional manufacturing (including agri-food) has remained stable since to become the county's largest assisted sector. Modern manufacturing, following stability at a low level from 2004 to 2009, has grown strongly since. Permanent employment in modern manufacturing in the county increased by +8.3% in the most recent year.

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

Fig. 54: Permanent full-time assisted jobs by sector in county Leitrim, 2004-2013

Note: Due to small numbers and the need to maintain confidentiality the information and communication, and business, financial and other services sectors have been combined under international services and the traditional manufacturing and agri-food sectors have also been combined.

Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

Leitrim accounts for 0.4% of assisted employment in Ireland. This is below its 0.7% of the state's total employment in 2011. This reflects both low levels of assisted employment in the county as well as substantial outward commuting, with Leitrim residents commuting to work in Sligo and other larger employment centres with their jobs counted in those counties.

Leitrim has its highest share of national assisted employment in the traditional manufacturing sector where it has 0.9% of employment. At 0.6%, information and communication is the other sector where it has a higher than average share.