

## 8.6 Trends in Agency Assisted Employment: Roscommon<sup>1</sup>

### Summary

- In 2013 there were 2,360 people employed in assisted companies located in county Roscommon. This was 9.7% of total employment, the lowest share in the region and second lowest nationally.
- Fewer than 1 in 10 assisted jobs in the county are temporary/part-time, second lowest share in the region. The numbers working in non-permanent jobs however are at their highest level of the ten year period.
- From its highest level in 2007 to its 2010 low, there was a reduction of -28.9% in assisted employment in the county, the second largest decline in the region. 2013 has seen the first sign of growth in assisted employment in the county and Roscommon had the largest percentage increase (+6.0%) in the region in that year.
- 39% of assisted employment in county Roscommon is in foreign owned companies, the second lowest share in the region. It is however among the county's highest over the ten year period. Following strong growth to 2007, the collapse in Irish owned employment was very substantial with recovery only beginning in 2013 (+10.6%). Foreign owned employment declined gradually until 2010 and has not increased strongly since.
- Roscommon has the second highest share of assisted employment in the modern manufacturing sector in the country and it accounts for 1.5% of all modern manufacturing employment in Ireland, far higher than its 0.7% share of total assisted employment. Since 2011 there has been relatively strong growth in the sector especially in the most recent year.
- Agri-food was Roscommon's largest sector at the start of the period but it experienced very dramatic employment declines throughout the decade, with some slight growth in 2011. It remains the county's second largest sector. Following strong growth up to 2007, traditional manufacturing declined sharply. It began to show some recovery in 2013.

### 8.6.1 Assisted jobs in county Roscommon

In 2013 there were 2,360 people employed in assisted companies located in county Roscommon (Fig. 49). Of these, 9.4% were working on a temporary/part-time basis, this is the second lowest share of this type of employment in the region. While assisted employment may be relatively small in the county, this employment is predominantly permanent full-time. From Fig. 49 it is clear however that the numbers working on a temporary/part-time basis are at their highest over the ten years.

In county Roscommon, assisted employment accounts for 9.7% of total employment.<sup>2</sup> This is the second lowest share nationally and the lowest in the region. Total assisted employment in Roscommon was at its highest in 2005-2007 with over 3,000 jobs. From 2007 onwards it declined to

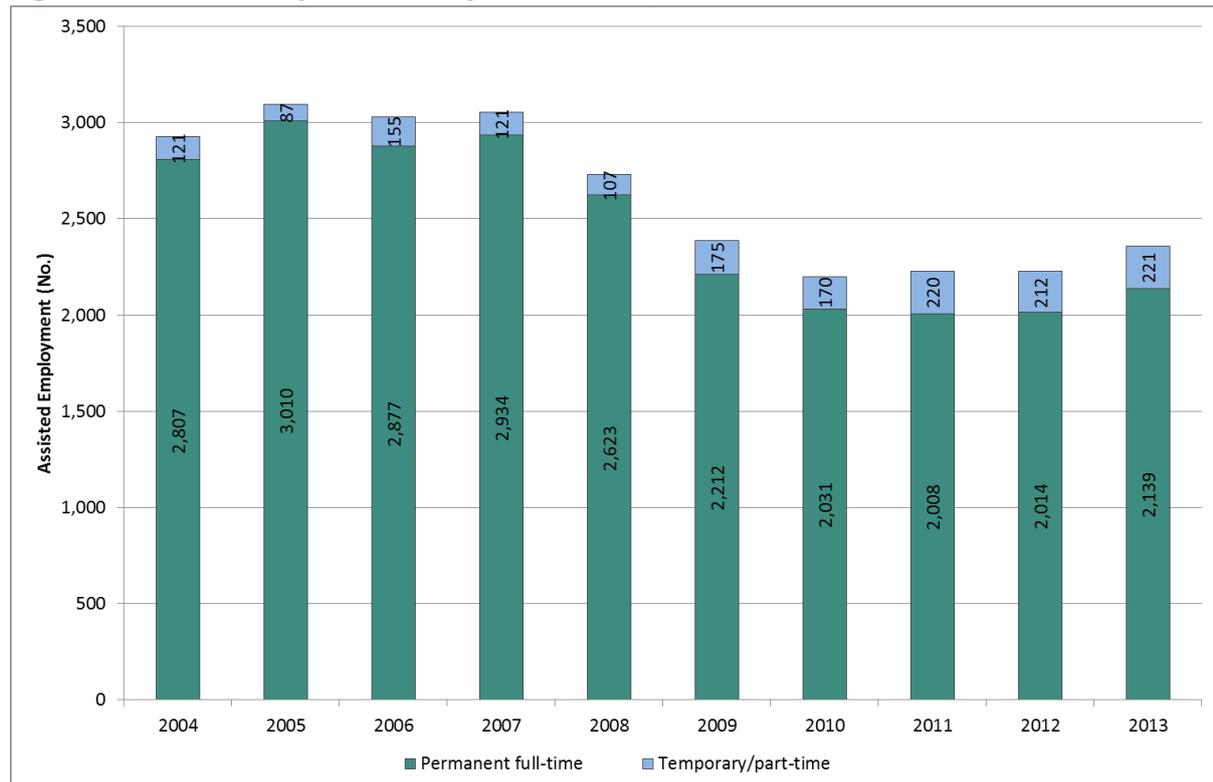
<sup>1</sup> Agency assisted employment is employment in companies which have received assistance from IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland or Údarás na Gaeltachta. This county profile is an extract from the Western Development Commission (WDC) report [Trends in Agency Assisted Employment in the Western Region](#),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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

its 2010 low point, a decline of -28.9%. This was the second largest decline in the region between a county's highest and lowest year (only Leitrim was higher).

From 2010 to 2012 assisted employment remained largely unchanged but increased by +6.0% in 2013, the highest percentage growth in the Western Region in that year. This seems to point to the beginning of some recovery in assisted jobs in county Roscommon. Although this is later than experienced in several other western counties, Clare and Leitrim have not experienced any growth since 2010.

**Fig. 49: Total assisted jobs in county Roscommon, 2004-2013**



Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

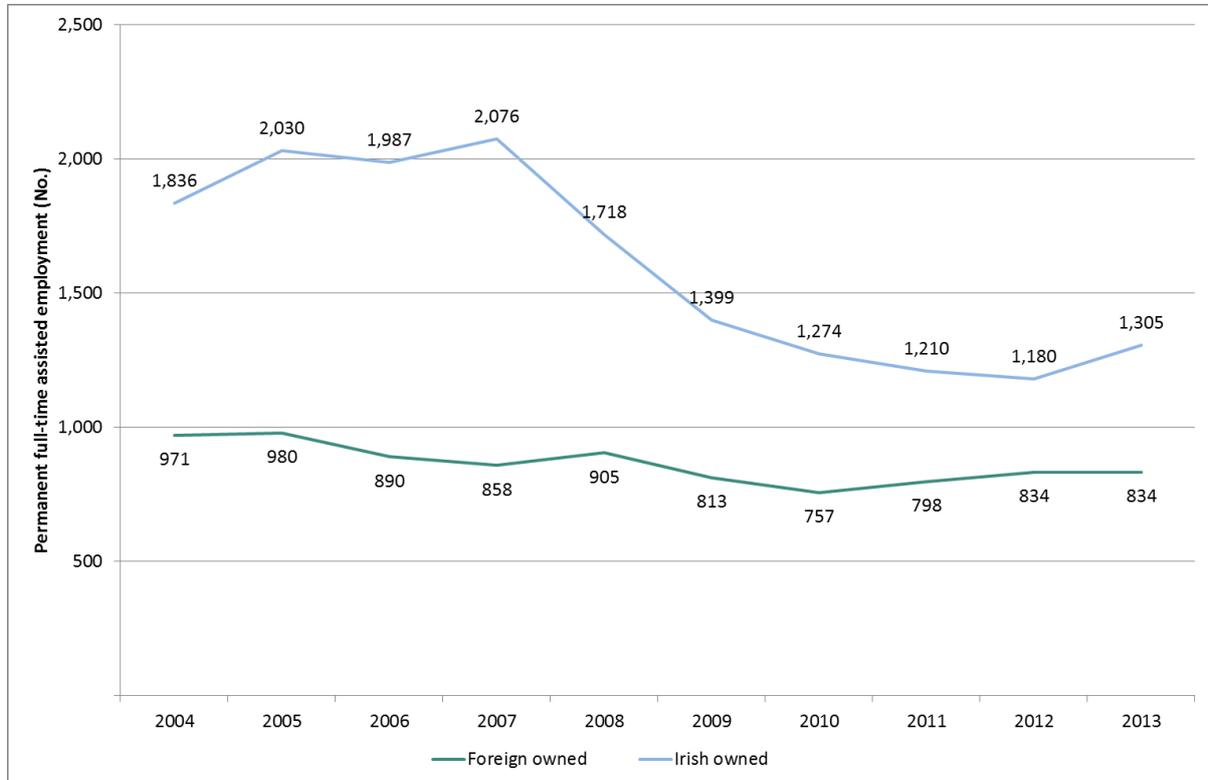
### 8.6.2 Ownership of assisted jobs in county Roscommon

In 2013, 39% of assisted employment in county Roscommon was in foreign owned companies. This was the second lowest share of foreign owned employment in the region after Donegal. For Roscommon, this share of foreign ownership is among the highest over the ten year period and in 2006-2007 only around 30% of assisted employment was in foreign companies.

From Fig. 50 the dominance of Irish owned assisted employment in the county is very clear. It grew extremely strongly from 2004 to its peak in 2007; related to the construction sector and the supply of building activity. Irish owned assisted employment collapsed from 2007 to only about half that number by 2012. This was driven by declines in construction-related manufacturing as well as continued decline in the meat processing sector. In 2013 however there has been some recovery in Irish owned employment (+10.6%) and the overall growth in assisted employment in county Roscommon in 2013 is due to growth in the Irish owned sector. This differs from most other western counties except Sligo.

Foreign owned employment in the county declined up to 2010. In common with most other western counties there has been some growth since then, however this has not been particularly strong and foreign owned employment in 2013 is below that at the start of the ten year period.

**Fig. 50: Permanent full-time assisted jobs in foreign and Irish owned companies in county Roscommon, 2004-2013**



Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

### 8.6.3 Assisted jobs by sector<sup>3</sup> in county Roscommon

Roscommon is the western county with the highest dependence on manufacturing activities with 94% of its assisted employment in modern and traditional manufacturing and agri-food.

The largest sector in county Roscommon is modern manufacturing which provides over half of all permanent full-time assisted jobs in the county (Fig. 51). Roscommon has the second highest share of its assisted employment in this sector in the country. Employment in modern manufacturing increased in 2005 and remained stable to 2008, before declining sharply until 2010. Growth has resumed and in 2013 there was a +6.6% increase in modern manufacturing employment. Given the pattern in the previous graph this is likely to have been in Irish owned companies.

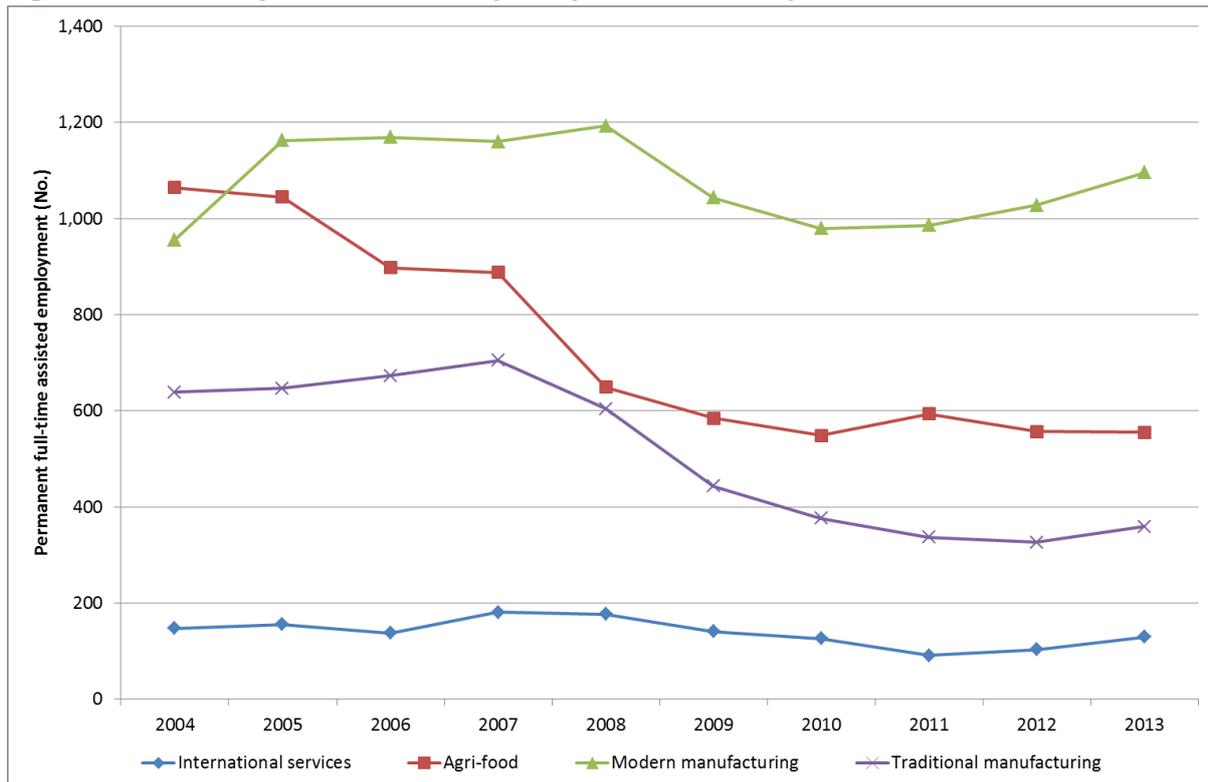
In 2004 agri-food was Roscommon's largest sector and it remains its second largest (25.9%). It experienced very dramatic employment declines to 2010 but has stabilised since. The decline was largely due to a reduction in the primary meat processing sector which dominated Roscommon's agri-food sector at the start of the period.

<sup>3</sup> Data by broad sector is available at county level but not data by detailed sector.

Traditional manufacturing saw strong employment growth up to 2007 linked with supplying the growing construction sector in the county. From 2007 onwards it experienced very sharp declines largely due to the collapse of the building sector. In the most recent year there has been a +10.1% increase in employment in traditional manufacturing pointing to some recovery.

The two international services sectors employ very few people in Roscommon, combined they only account for 6.1% of assisted employment. However international services have shown growth since 2011 and increased by a quarter in 2013.

**Fig. 51: Permanent full-time assisted jobs by sector in county Roscommon, 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.

Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

Roscommon is home to 0.7% of assisted employment in Ireland. This is just over half its 1.3% share of total employment in the state in 2011. This reflects a number of factors including low assisted employment in the county and the extent of outward commuting, as Roscommon residents are counted in the county's total employment figure even though they may be commuting to work in surrounding towns e.g. Athlone, Galway, Sligo, and their jobs would be counted in those counties.

Roscommon has its highest share of national employment in the modern manufacturing sector where it has 1.5% of all assisted employment. Agri-food is next most important with Roscommon home to 1.2% of assisted employment nationally.