

## 8.5 Trends in Agency Assisted Employment: Sligo<sup>1</sup>

### Summary

- In 2013 there were 3,882 people employed in assisted companies located in county Sligo which was 15.3% of total employment. This is the fourth highest share in the region.
- Of the total, 12.5% were working on a temporary/part-time basis. This is below the Western Region average, but Sligo's highest level over the ten year period.
- Total assisted employment in Sligo was at its highest in 2006 and reached its lowest level in 2010. There has been some recovery since, however it declined marginally in 2013 with a large decline in permanent full-time jobs, partly offset by increasing temporary/part-time employment.
- 55.6% of assisted employment in county Sligo is in foreign owned companies, third highest share in the region. This is notably below the share in 2004 and over the ten year period foreign employment fell by almost a quarter. In contrast, following decline in 2008-2009, Irish owned employment has shown sustained growth.
- Modern manufacturing is Sligo's largest assisted employment sector, however it has been declining since 2009 and Sligo was the only western county with a drop in employment in this sector in 2013. The county's second largest sector, traditional manufacturing, is showing strong growth and employment rose by a fifth between 2010 and 2013.

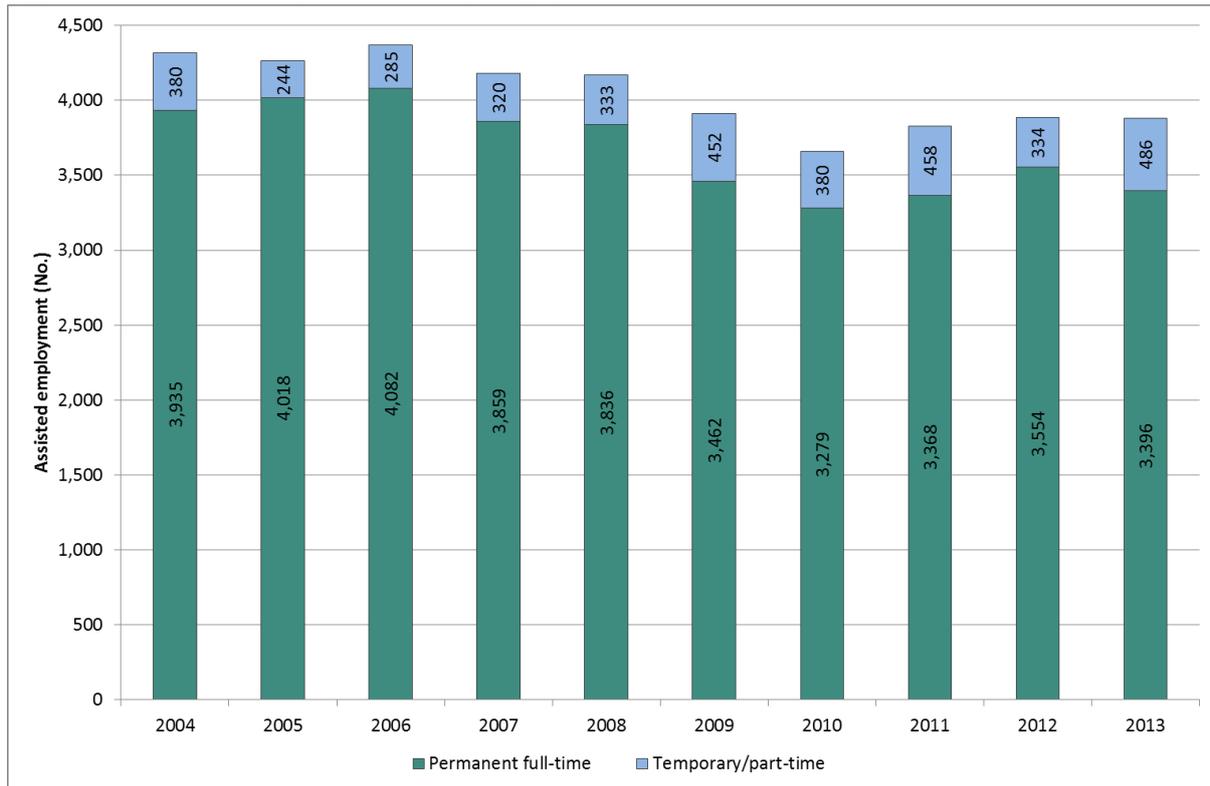
### 8.5.1 Assisted jobs in county Sligo

Assisted employment in county Sligo makes up 15.3% of total employment.<sup>2</sup> This is the fourth largest share in the region, just above Donegal. In 2013 there were 3,882 people employed in assisted companies located in county Sligo (Fig. 46). Of these, 12.5% were working on a temporary/part-time basis, lower than the Western Region average. The number working on a non-permanent basis in Sligo however is at its highest level over the ten year period.

Total assisted employment in Sligo was at its highest in 2006 at 4,367. From then it declined to its 2010 low point (-16.2%) with some recovery since. Total assisted employment declined marginally in 2013 with a large fall (-4.4%) in permanent jobs partly offset by an increase in temporary/part-time jobs. Sligo had the largest decline in permanent assisted jobs in the region in 2013, with Clare the only other county to have a decline in this type of job.

<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.

**Fig. 46: Total assisted jobs in county Sligo, 2004-2013**

Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

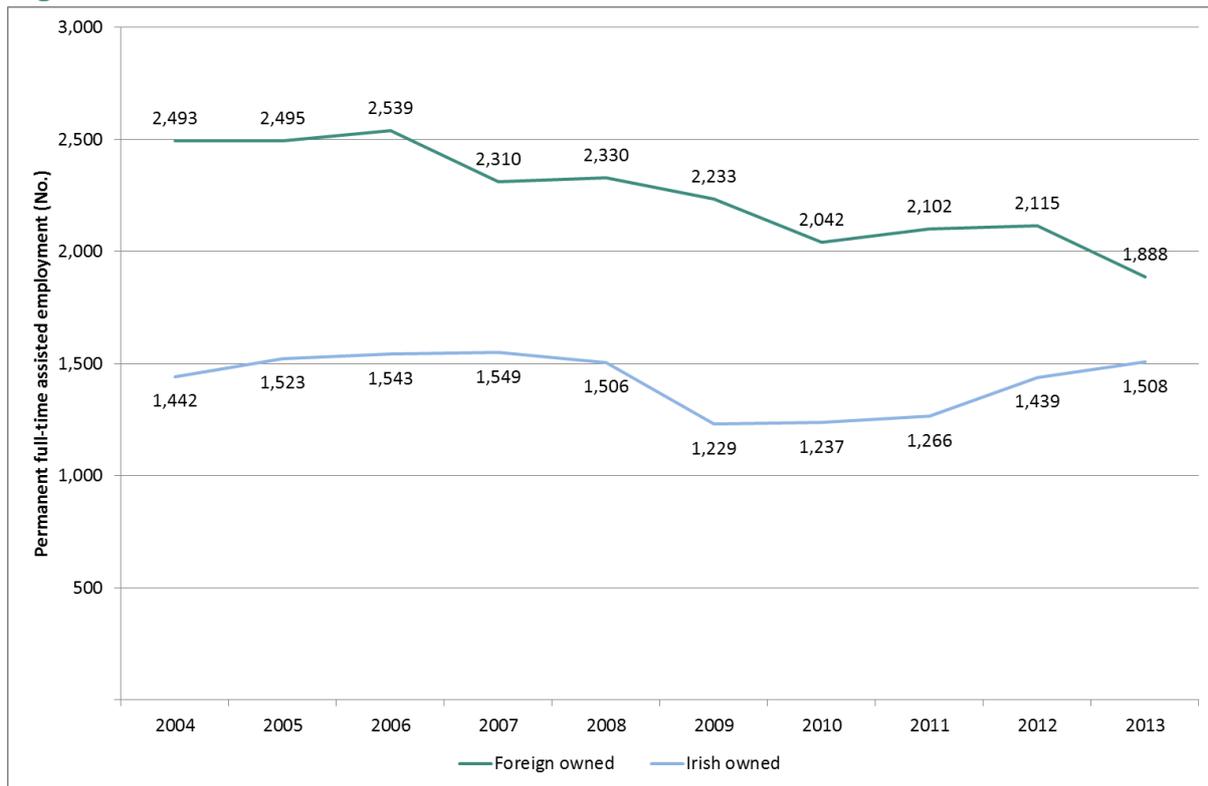
### 8.5.2 Ownership of assisted jobs in county Sligo

In 2013, 55.6% of assisted employment in county Sligo was in foreign owned companies. This is considerably below the 63.4% share at the start of the ten year period when Sligo had the second highest share of foreign employment in the region. Sligo now has the third highest share, exceeded by Leitrim and Galway.

From Fig. 47 it is clear that both types of employment have had different experiences. After minimal growth up to 2006, foreign owned employment declined substantially until 2010. Then, in common with other counties, employment recovered somewhat. However 2013 saw a substantial drop. Over the full ten year period, foreign employment declined by almost a quarter.

Irish owned employment in contrast increased gradually from 2004 to 2007 but then declined sharply. This employment has shown sustained growth since 2011 and increased by +4.8% in 2013. As Irish assisted employment is strengthening, its importance to overall employment in the county has increased. The role of foreign owned employment is declining.

**Fig. 47: Permanent full-time assisted jobs in foreign and Irish owned companies in county Sligo, 2004-2013**



Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

### 8.5.3 Assisted jobs by sector<sup>3</sup> in county Sligo

Sligo has the second highest share among western counties (after Roscommon) of assisted jobs in manufacturing activities with 92.6% of permanent full-time employment in modern and traditional manufacturing and agri-food.

Modern manufacturing is Sligo's largest assisted employment sector accounting for 43.4% of permanent full-time jobs in the county (Fig. 48). Employment in modern manufacturing increased from 2006 to 2009, however since then it has been declining and particularly sharply in the most recent year. Between 2012 and 2013 permanent full-time jobs in the sector fell by -11.2%. Sligo was the only western county with a drop in employment in this sector in 2013.

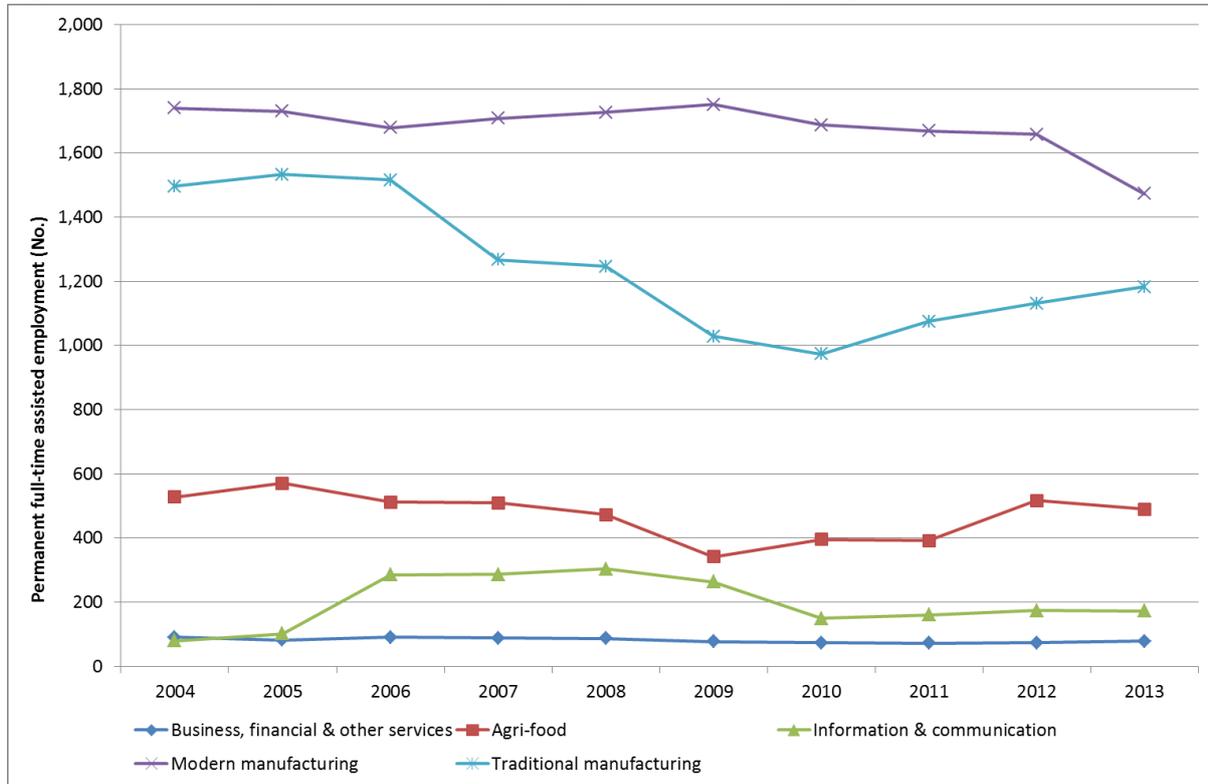
Traditional manufacturing is the county's second largest sector (34.8% in 2013). Following some growth to 2006, employment contracted sharply and reached its lowest level in 2010. Since that time it has shown very strong recovery and employment in the sector rose by a fifth (+21.5%) between 2010 and 2013. This was by far the strongest performance for the traditional manufacturing sector over that period in any western county. The adaptation of the county's traditional tool-making sector, including supplying precision engineering to the medical devices sector, may be contributing to this growth.

Agri-food is the next largest sector. Following declining employment from 2005 to a low point in 2009, there was quite strong growth up to 2012.

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

The two international services sectors employ very few people in Sligo. After growth in 2006, information and communication services remained quite stable to 2009 but then declined sharply. There has been gradual growth in its employment since but it still only accounts for 5.1% of Sligo's assisted employment. Business, financial and other services has remained quite stable throughout the ten years at a low level.

**Fig. 48: Permanent full-time assisted jobs by sector in county Sligo, 2004-2013**



Source: Forfás, Annual Employment Survey 2013

Sligo is home to 1.1% of assisted employment in Ireland. This is below its 1.4% share of total employment in the state in 2011. It has its highest shares in the modern and traditional manufacturing sectors where it has 2% of national employment in both. Manufacturing continues to dominate Sligo's agency assisted activity and it is where it plays its strongest national role.