

Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region

A Profile of the Tuam Labour Catchment



Introduction

The Western Development Commission (WDC) commissioned All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) at Maynooth University to undertake an analysis of the Census 2016 Place of Work Census of Anonymised Records (POWCAR) dataset. This was to provide a detailed understanding of the travel to work patterns of workers living in the Western Region. The study was also asked to examine the changes in the travel to work patterns that have occurred since the WDC produced the original report based on Census 2006 data.

Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region, published in 2018, identified 42 labour catchments in the Western Region (Census 2016). These are illustrated on Map 1 on page 5. The geographic size of the labour catchments varies considerably, ranging from Galway city with over 70,000 resident workers, to centres with fewer than 1,000 resident workers. Map 1 illustrates the labour catchments of all towns with a population greater than 1,000 in the Western Region as of April 2016. The travel to work patterns of seven towns: Galway, Sligo, Ennis, Letterkenny, Castlebar, Carrick-on-Shannon and Roscommon were examined in the main report and this is available for download on the WDC website¹.

To complement the existing labour catchment analysis the WDC has now produced reports for all other labour catchments associated with towns that are located entirely within the Western Region; 26 in total. This report on the Tuam labour catchment, will identify where the residents of the Tuam labour catchment work and provide a summary of the socio-economic characteristics of all those living in this labour catchment and at work as of April 2016.

Tuam

The Tuam settlement had a population of 8,767 persons recorded in the 2016 Census. Tuam is the 8th largest settlement within the Western Region and the 56th largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Tuam has increased by 27.3% (1882). In the five years since Census 2011, the population of the town has increased by 6.4% (525). Demographic comparisons between urban centres tend to be difficult due to intercensal boundary changes. For instance, in 2014 all legal town boundaries 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 criteria². For some towns, the impact of this has been to lose area, compared with previous computations and this is particularly the case for Tuam.

1 <https://www.wdc.ie/publications/reports-and-papers/>

2 <https://wdcinsights.wordpress.com/2017/06/22/regional-towns-growth-or-decline-can-we-tell/>

Tuam Labour Catchment

The analysis in this series of reports aims to identify labour catchments which are based on travel to work patterns. Each of the 42 labour catchments identified in the main *Labour Catchments in the Western Region* report, of which Tuam is one, are not based on town or county administrative boundaries, but on people's travel to work patterns. The analysis followed the same methodology for assigning EDs to towns that was used in the previous research carried out in 2009 based on Census 2006. Each electoral division (ED) is examined and the place of work of all those who live in that ED is identified (either town, Northern Ireland or rural destination). Each ED is then allocated to a specific town's catchment on the basis of the town to which the highest numbers of its residents travel to work. The full methodology for this is outlined in detail in the Appendix of the main report (see footnote 1).

According to POWCAR 2016, the total number of jobs located within Tuam was 3,700 and accounts for 1.5% of all jobs located within the Western Region (242,712). 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).

In the following section we provide a summary of 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 Tuam in April 2016. We do this because although some may not be working in Tuam they are living in the catchment from which the Tuam labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Tuam. The Tuam labour catchment is therefore separated into those who live in the catchment and are employed 'Inside' the town or 'Outside' the town i.e. beyond the town boundary and elsewhere in the Tuam catchment or locations such as Galway City and Castlebar 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, a graphical comparison with regional and State trends and an overall interpretative analysis of the performance of Tuam compared to the Western Region.

Profile of the Tuam Labour Catchment

The Tuam labour catchment is the 12th largest labour catchment in the Western Region with a resident 'at work' population of 5,454 which accounts for 2.1% of the total resident 'at work' population within the Western Region (260,261).

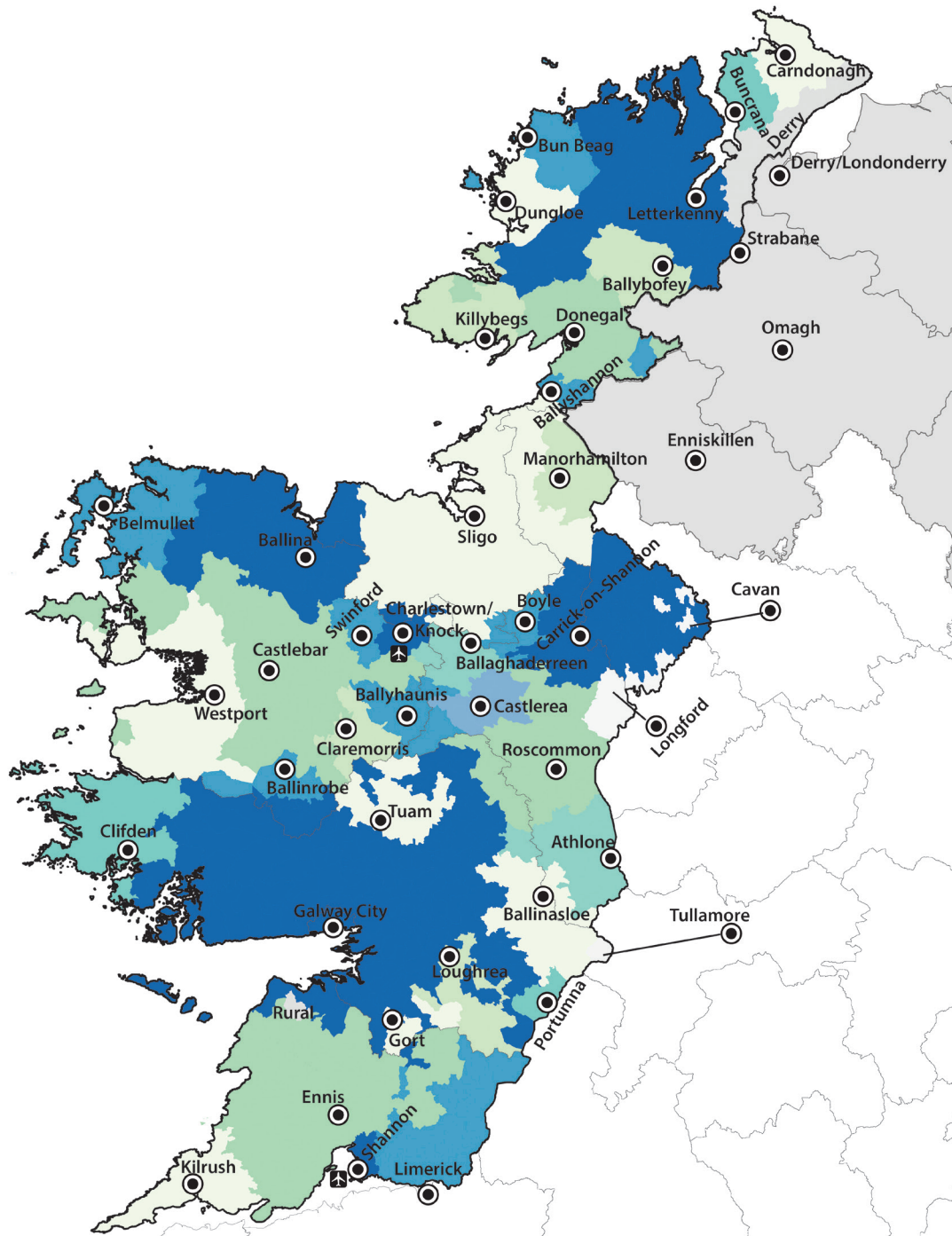
The Tuam labour catchment covers a relatively small area in north Galway (See Map 1 and 2). In 2016, there were 5,454 people classified as at work and living within the labour catchment. This figure is 66.8% more than the resident 'at work' population within the town boundary (3,270). The 2016 total is 80.9% higher than the 2006 total of 3,015 and reflects the large increase in the Tuam labour catchment to the north of the town since 2006.







The Tuam labour catchment is constrained by the Galway City labour catchment to the south and east and then the Claremorris and Castlebar labour catchments to the north. These towns are themselves the most important places for employment for those living in their immediate hinterlands, and therefore constitute separate and quite large labour catchments within the county boundaries of Galway and Mayo.

Tuam Labour Catchment

Map 1: Labour Catchments of 42 Towns in the Western Region, 2016 (WDC & CSO POWCAR)

Labour Catchments of 42 Towns in the Western Region, 2016
By Electoral Division (ED)



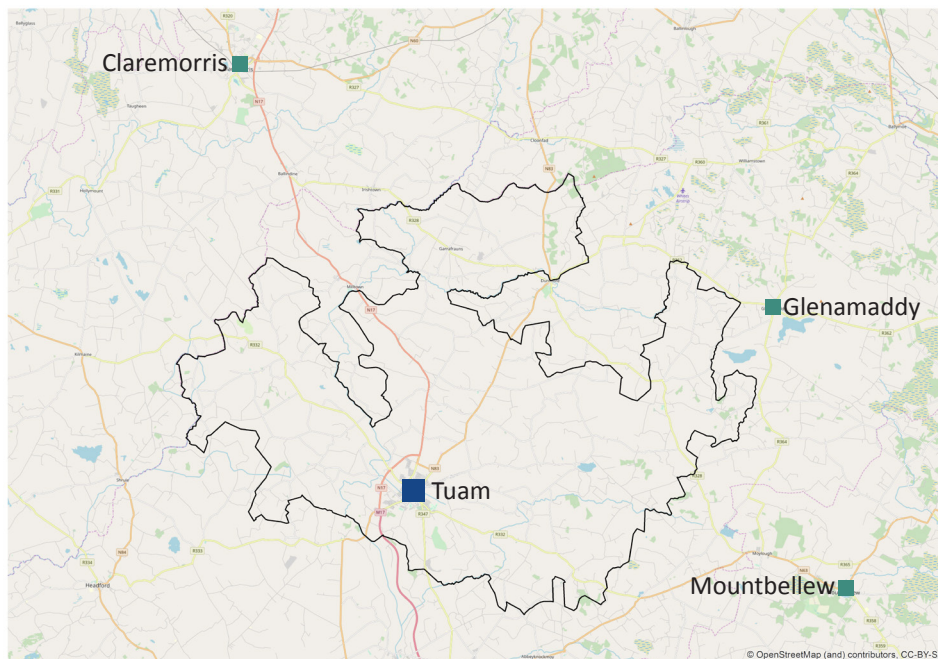
-  Western Region
-  Local Authority
-  Motorway
-  Other Key Roads
-  Light & Heavy Rail Network
-  Key Settlements



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Data Source: CSO POWSCAR 2016

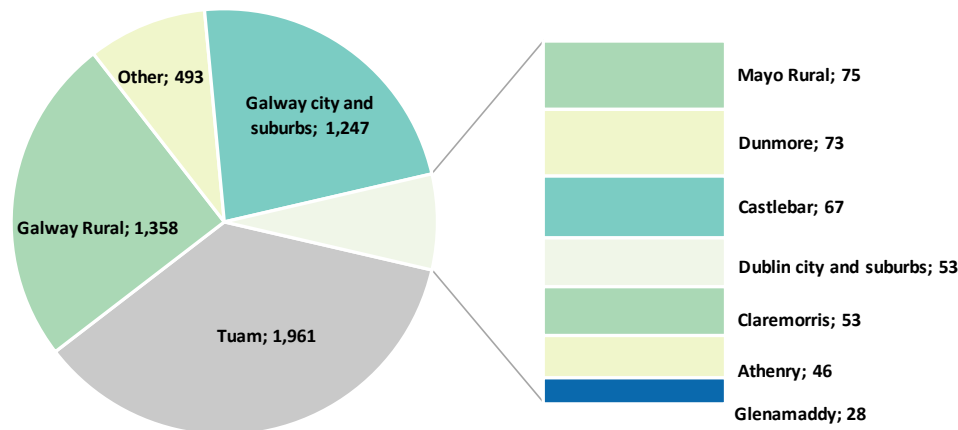
Tuam Labour Catchment

Map 2: Tuam Labour Catchment, 2016 (WDC & CSO POWCAR)



Of those living in the Tuam labour catchment (total = 5,454), 36% (1,961) are employed within Tuam town and 64% (3,493) are employed outside the town. Key destinations outside the town are Galway Rural (24.9% or 1,358), Galway city and suburbs (22.9% or 1,247) and Mayo Rural (1.4% or 75) – see Figure 1³ for more details.

Figure 1: Place of work of those living in the Tuam Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: CSO POWCAR)



The graphics on the following pages provide further detail on the socio-economic characteristics of the workers who live in the Tuam labour catchment. The characteristics of resident workers in the Tuam labour catchment who are employed in the town of Tuam are compared with those working elsewhere. Following this, there is a comparison between the Tuam labour catchment in 2006 and 2016. Finally, there is comparison between the Tuam labour catchment and the State, and the Tuam labour catchment and the Western Region.

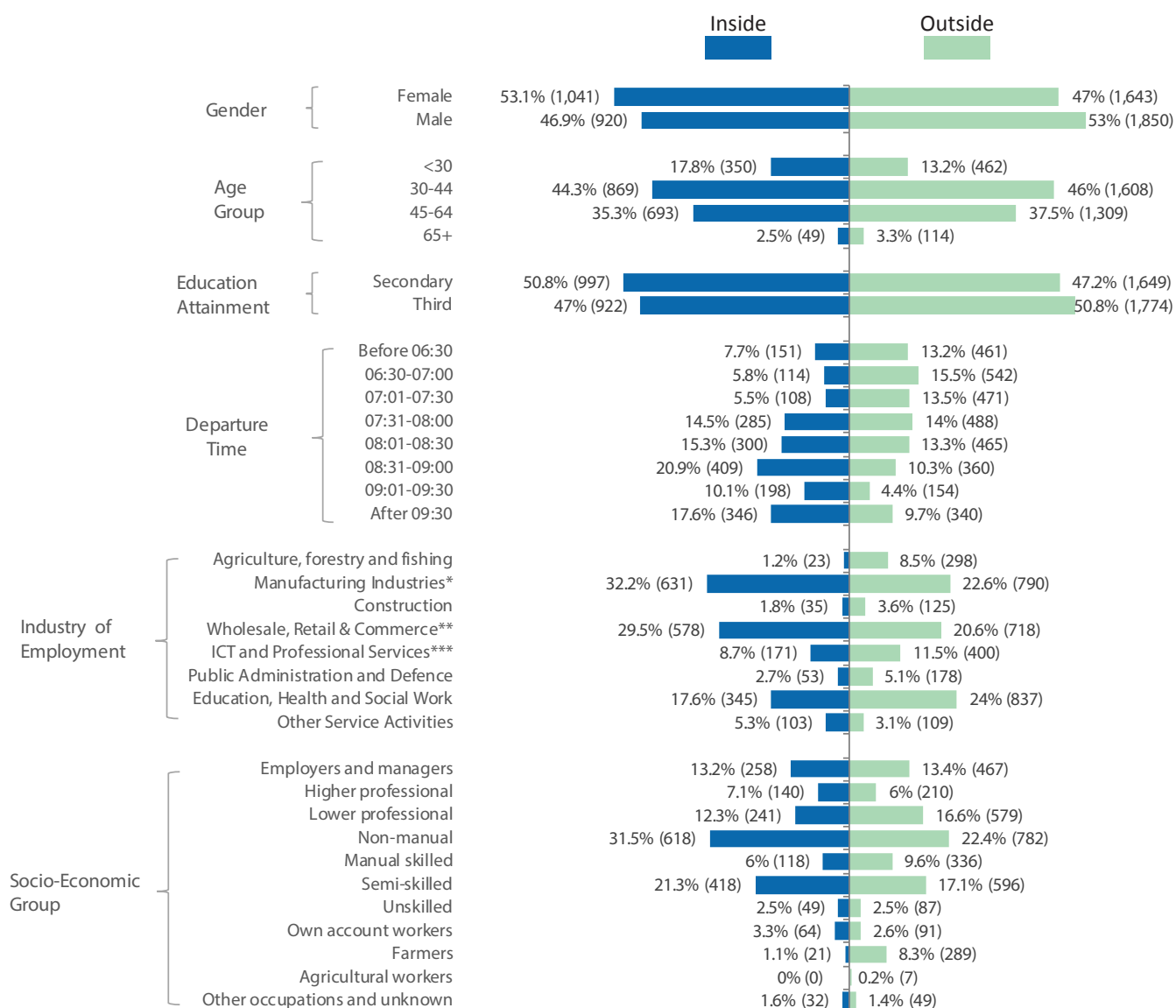
³ The analysis of the labour catchments in the Western Region has highlighted the importance of rural areas as employment locations. Depending on the location of the catchment and the proximity of nearby towns, a large proportion of the labour catchment residents are in fact employed in rural areas. For the purposes of this destination analysis (see Figure 1 above), the CSO define towns as locations with more than 50 inhabited dwellings and areas outside of this as the rural areas of the county i.e., Galway Rural, Mayo Rural, Sligo Rural. In the graphic above, 'Other' refer to all other employment destinations (settlements) of those living in the labour catchment.

Tuam Labour Catchment

Socio-economic comparison of those employed 'Inside' and 'Outside' Tuam town, 2016

The graphic below details the socio-economic characteristics of resident workers living within the Tuam labour catchment who are employed within Tuam town (Inside) and those that are employed outside Tuam town (Outside). This profile, as with all other profiles in the report, are based on the following themes: gender, age cohorts, levels of education attainment, departure time to work, industry of employment and socio-economic group.

Figure 2: Socio-economic comparison of resident workers employed 'Inside' and 'Outside' Tuam



Within the Tuam labour catchment, female workers account for 49.2% and male workers account for 50.8%, see Figure 3. Of those working inside Tuam, 53.1% are females whereas 47% of those working outside Tuam are females, see Figure 2. In comparison, the national picture (Figure 4) shows that 49.9% of all workers are female and 50.1% are male.

The age profile of those living in the Tuam labour catchment and working inside Tuam is as follows: <30 years (350 or 17.8%), 30 to 44 years (869 or 44.3%), 45 to 64 years (693 or 35.3%) and 65 years plus (49 or 2.5%).

Tuam Labour Catchment

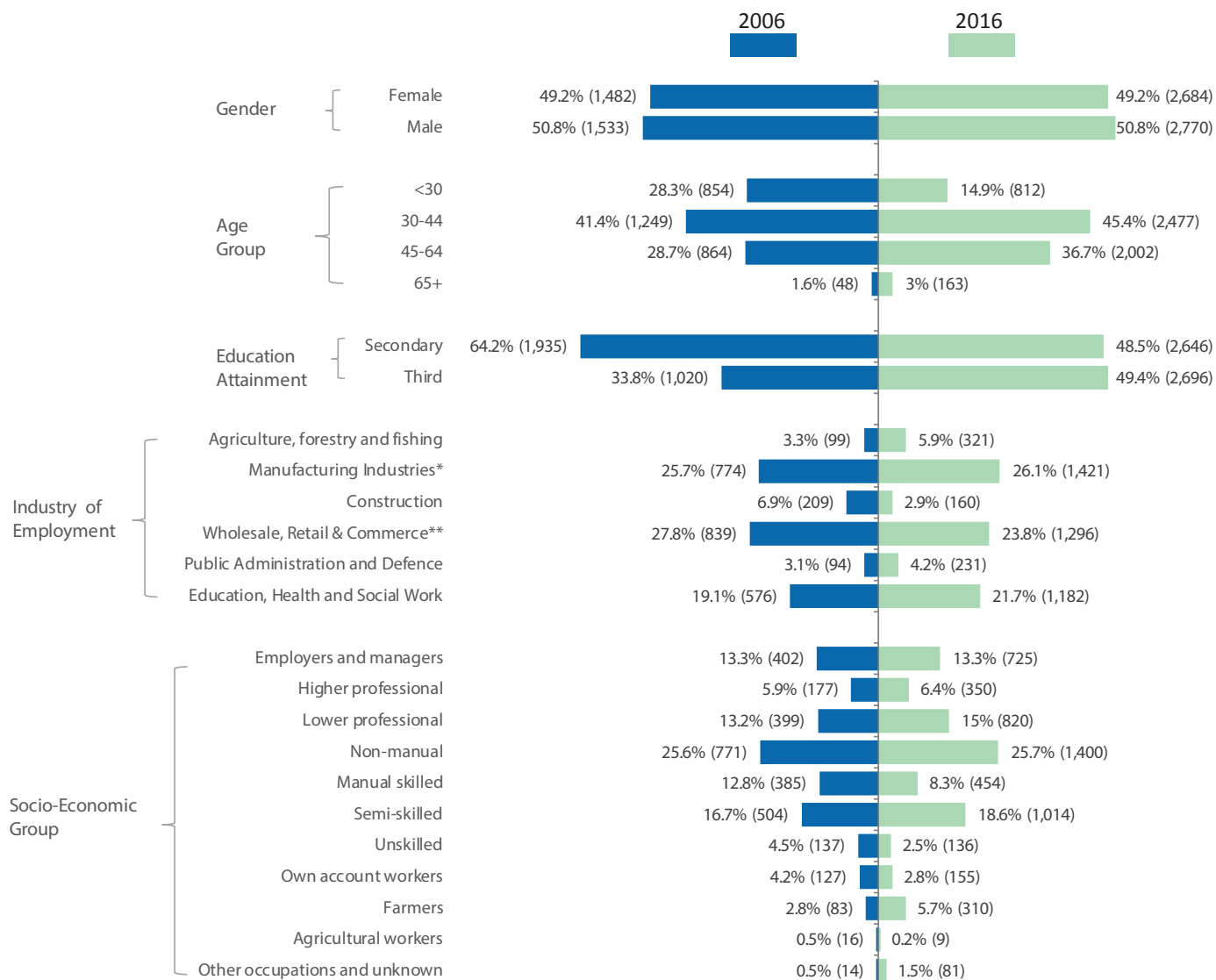
The age profile of those living in the Tuam labour catchment and working outside Tuam is as follows: <30 years (462 or 13.2%), 30 to 44 years (1,608 or 46%), 45 to 64 years (1,309 or 37.5%) and 65 years plus (114 or 3.3%).

An education profile of the Tuam labour catchment shows the following: Of those working inside Tuam town, 47% (922) have 3rd level qualifications compared to 50.8% (1,774) of those working outside (Figure 2).

Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Tuam labour catchment between 2006 and 2016. The most notable changes in terms of socio-economic characteristics certainly relate to the age of resident workers, the rate of third level attainment and much lower dependence on employment within the 'Construction' and the 'Wholesale, Retail and Commerce' sector.

Figure 3: Analysis of change between 2006 and 2016

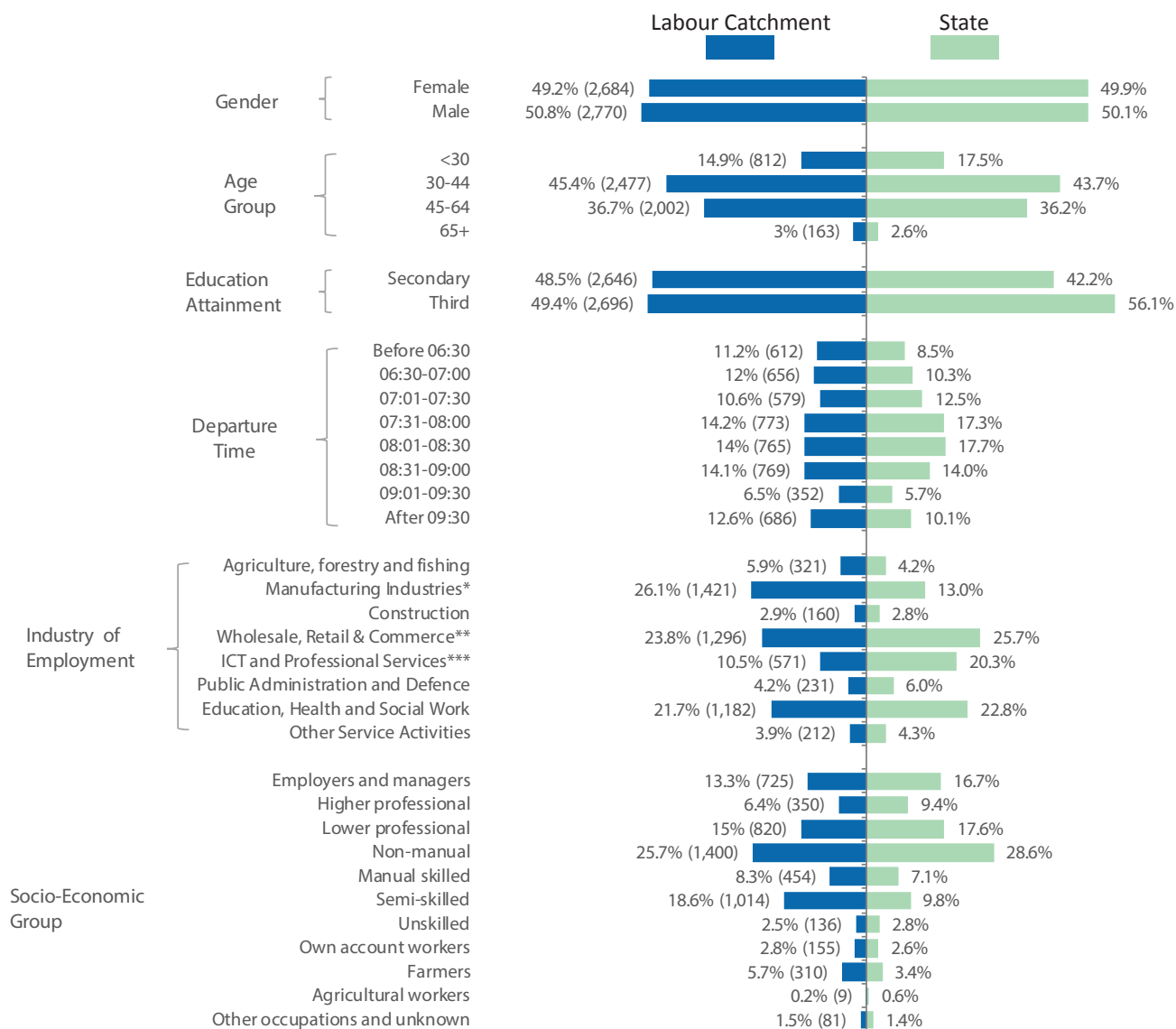


Tuam Labour Catchment

Socio-economic comparison of the Tuam Labour Catchment and the State, 2016

Figure 4 below provides a comparative analysis of the socio-economic results of the Tuam labour catchment and the State average.

Figure 4: Socio-economic comparison of resident workers living in Tuam labour catchment and the State



An age profile of the Tuam labour catchment details the following: Labour Catchment (Total): <30 years (812 or 14.9%), 30 to 44 years (2477 or 45.4%), 45 to 64 years (2,002 or 36.7%) and 65 years plus (163 or 3%). In contrast to this, the national average (Figure 4) is as follows: <30 years (17.5%), 30 to 44 years (43.7%), 45 to 64 years (36.2%) and 65 years plus (2.6%).

An education profile of the Tuam labour catchment shows the following: Those at work and residing in the Tuam labour catchment recorded a third level attainment rate of 49.4% (2,696). In contrast to this, the national average is 56.1% (Figure 4).

Analysis of the profile of the industry of employment⁴ within the Tuam labour catchment shows the following:

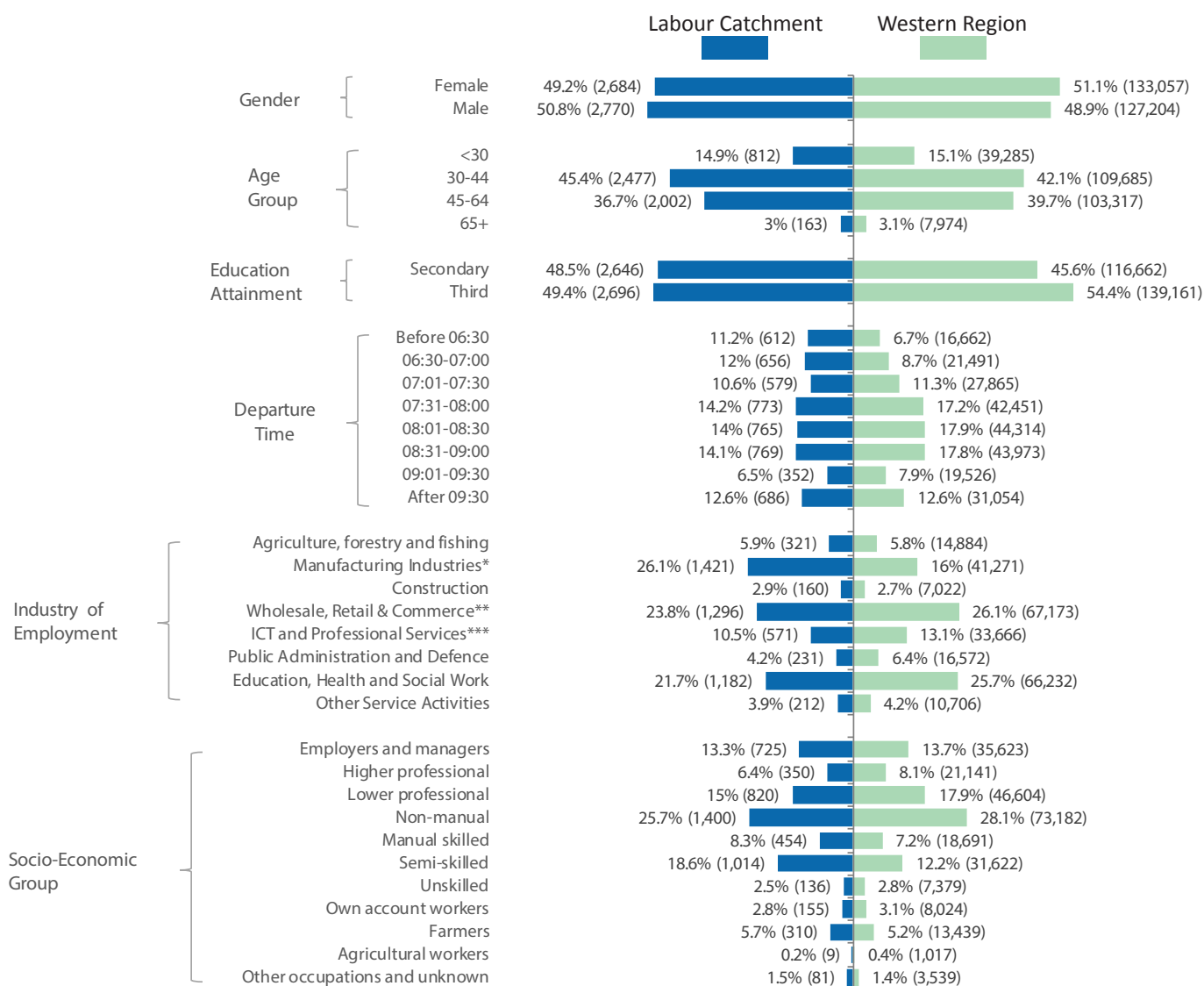
Tuam Labour Catchment

- The single largest employer is the ‘Manufacturing Industries’ sector and accounts for 26.1% (1,421) which is higher than the State average (13%) (Figure 4).
- Both the ‘Wholesale, Retail and Commerce’ (23.8% or 1,296) and ‘Education, Health and Social Work’ (21.7% or 1,182) are also important employment sectors (Figure 4).
- ‘ICT and Professional Services’ (10.5% or 571) is the fourth most important sector although much lower than the State average of 20.3% (Figure 4).

Socio-economic comparison of the Tuam Labour Catchment and the Western Region, 2016

The graphic below provides a comparative analysis of the socio-economic results of the Tuam labour catchment and the Western Region average.

Figure 5: Socio-economic comparison of resident workers living in Tuam labour catchment and the Western Region



4 With only nine industrial classifications in POWCAR, the classifications are less detailed than in regular Census outputs and as such several industries are grouped together such as: ‘Manufacturing Industries’ (Manufacturing, mining and quarrying, Electricity, Gas, Water supply and Waste Management), ‘Wholesale, Retail and Commerce etc’ (Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transportation and Storage, Accommodation and Food Service Activities) and ‘ICT & Professional Services’ = (Information and Communication, Financial, Real Estate, Professional, admin and support service activities)

Tuam Labour Catchment

The most notable differences in terms of socio-economic characteristics certainly relate to the education levels amongst resident workers in the Tuam catchment who have a lower rate of 3rd level education attainment than the Western Region. The Tuam catchment also has a higher proportion of workers engaged in the 'Manufacturing Industries'. Resident workers in the Tuam catchment also have a younger age profile than the Western Region average.

Conclusion

Tuam is one of the 21 labour catchments (of a total of 33) which had an increase in population size in the decade between 2006 and 2016, up by 80.9% (+2,439 resident workers). This is the largest increase and in part reflects the large geographic increase in the Tuam labour catchment to the north of the town since 2006, extending into what was previously part of the Galway city labour catchment.

Tuam as a place of work now accounts for nearly 2,000 workers, double that in 2006. Rural parts of County Galway is also more important as a place of work, likely to be explained by the increase in the size of the catchments. Galway city and suburbs has also increased in importance as a place of work to over 1,200 up from 833 in 2006.

All top 10 places of employment have greater numbers employed there in 2016 than in 2006.

Tuam is unusual compared to most other catchments in that the single largest employer is the Manufacturing sector and accounts for 26.1% (1,421) which is double the State average (13%). The company Valeo Vision accounts for a large element of this and some of this employment will be in R&D. The age profile of the Tuam labour catchment is not dissimilar to the state average and younger than the Western Region average.

Notes

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