

# Challenges in Achieving Balanced Regional Development: Discussion



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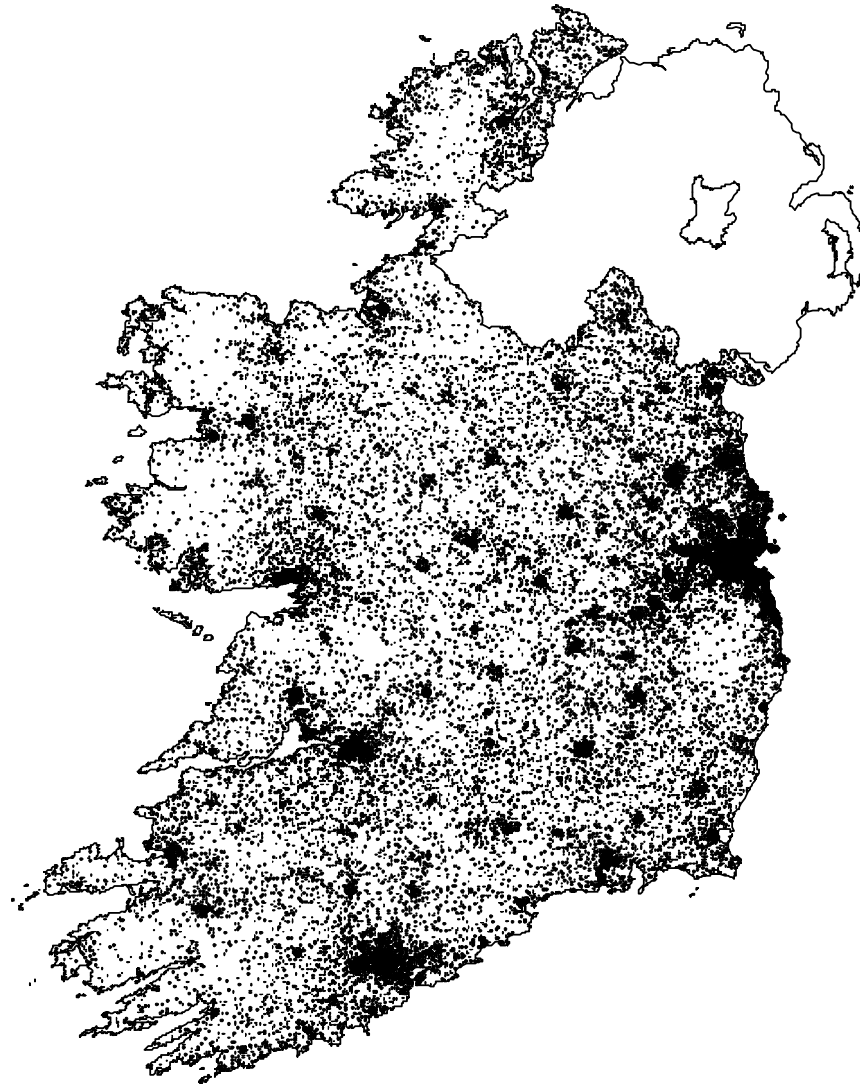
# Rationale for Regional Balance

- Should every region have the same GVA/Income/Unemployment rate/ Population Density?
- From an economic point of view regional imbalance is only an issue if it results in inefficiencies. Too much balance could actually be inefficient!
- Some models show that regional imbalance can be self sustaining and thus lock regions into a low growth path – inefficient imbalance!
- It is important to consider the costs and benefits.

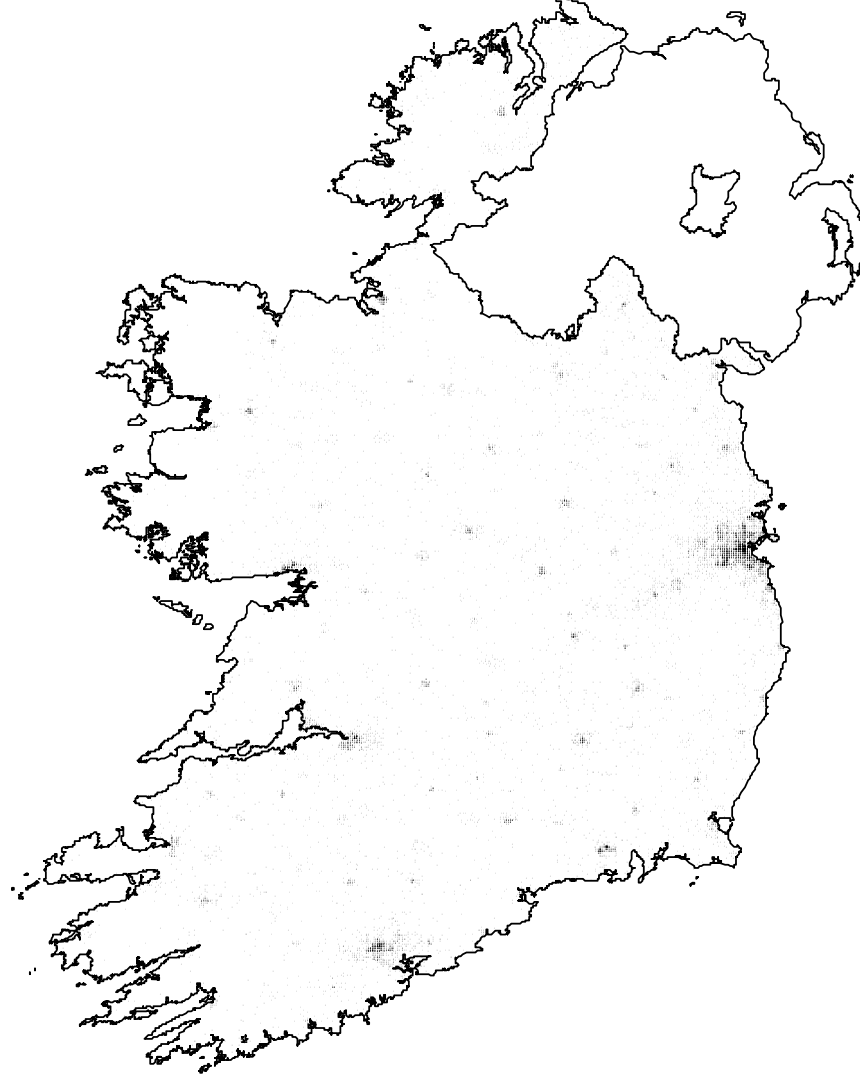
## More Even Distribution

- It is not straightforward to compare Ireland with other OECD countries (incl. Scandinavia)
- The scale of our urban centres is much much smaller – less than 40 over 10,000
- Ireland has a smaller proportion of traditional (heavy) industries – these are shrinking and deconcentrating
- Recent growth in non-urban employment is largely driven by construction – this will shrink!
- It is likely that future growth in Ireland will be more urban driven than it has been!

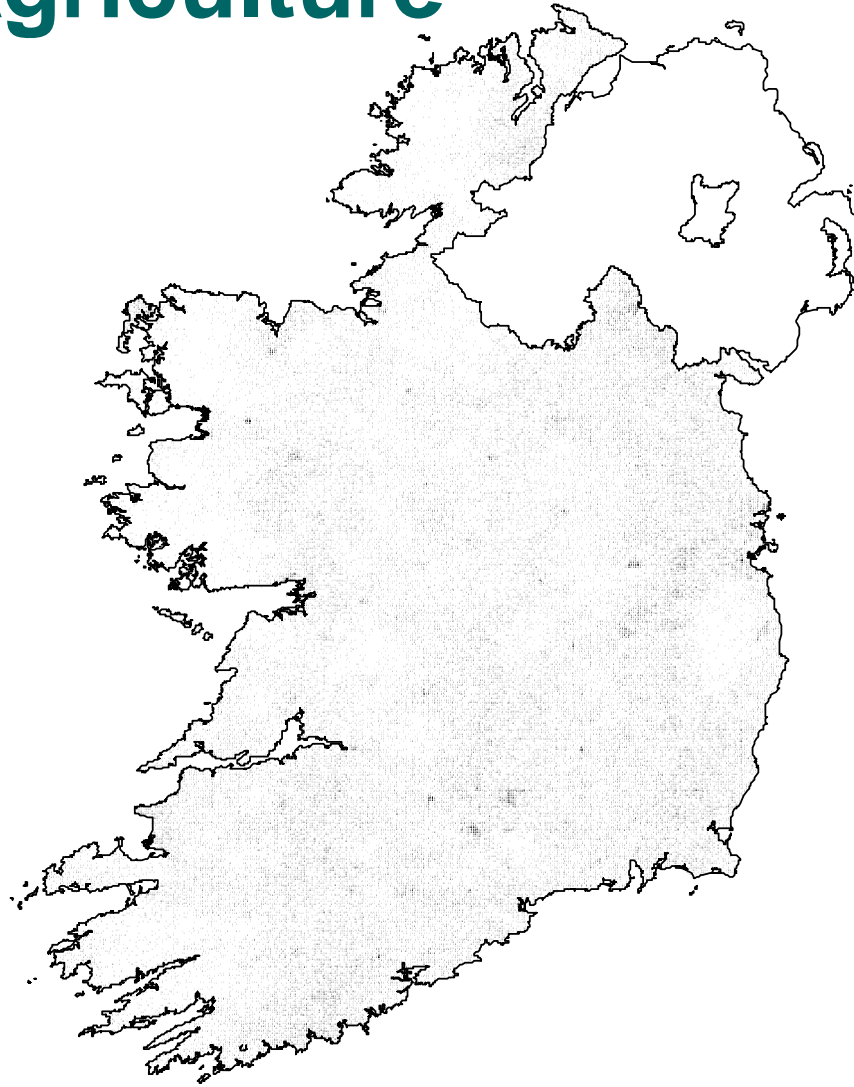
# Distribution of the Population



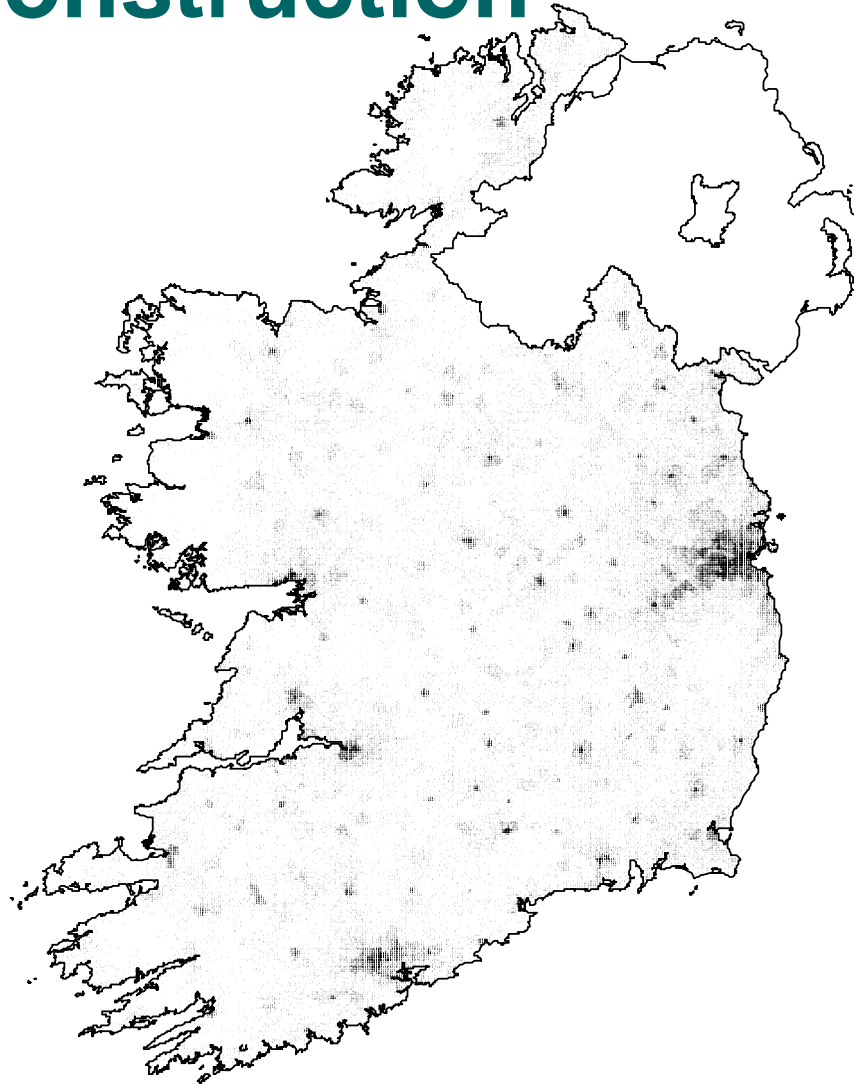
# Distribution of Jobs



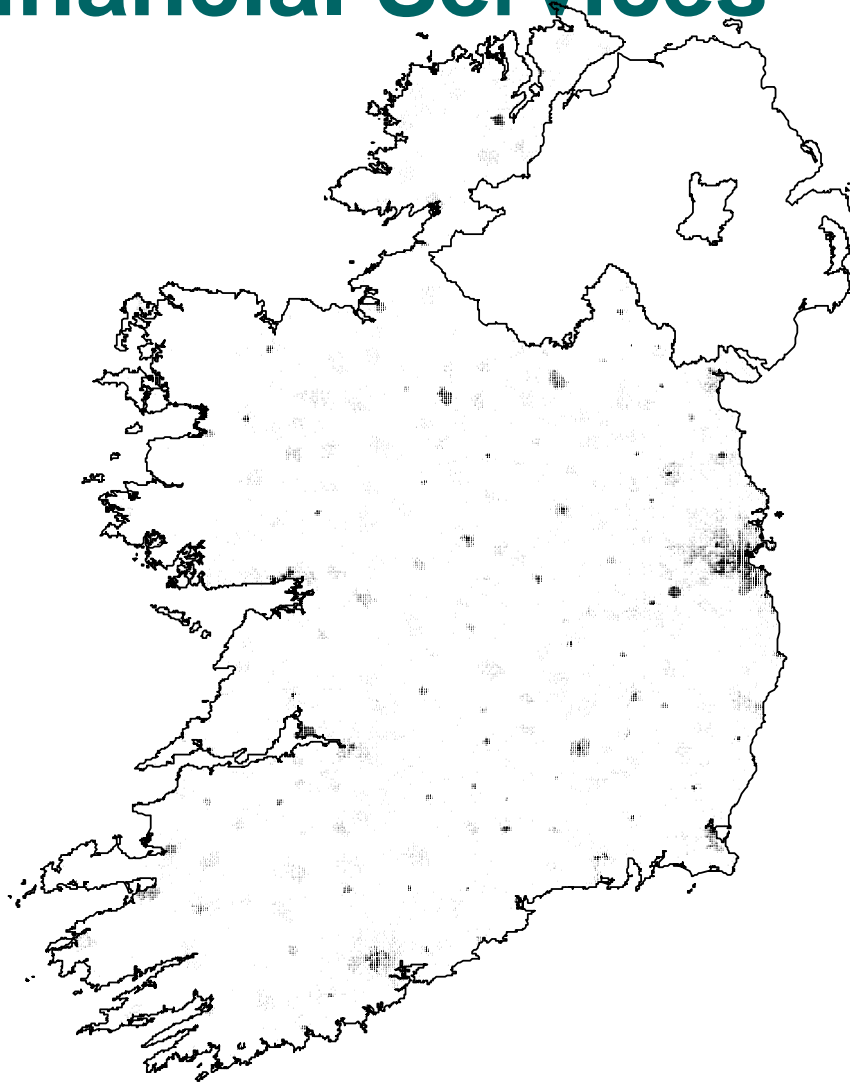
# Jobs in Agriculture



# Jobs in Construction



# Jobs in Financial Services







# Transport and Sustainability

- Good transport infrastructure is a necessary but not sufficient condition for regional growth
- Transport infrastructure can be a double edged sword!
- More even distribution of the population, which we have seen over the last decade, if not matched with a more even distribution of jobs will increase average commuting distance.
- This population will also be more difficult to reach with public transport.