

Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region

A Profile of Seven Town Labour Catchments



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Preface

The Western Development Commission (WDC) is a statutory body promoting economic and social development in the Western Region (counties Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway and Clare). To ensure that the Western Region maximises its full potential, the WDC

- analyses economic and social trends and makes policy recommendations;
- promotes the Western Region through the LookWest.ie campaign;
- supports the rural economy through facilitating strategic initiatives; and
- provides risk capital to businesses through the WDC Investment Fund.

The WDC publishes reports and commentary relevant to its remit, particularly on issues which identify and explore barriers to further economic and social development, and provide a sound foundation for evidence-based policy formulation (see www.wdc.ie).

Given the geography of the Western Region – predominantly rural, with relatively few sizeable urban centres and many small market towns and villages, travel to work patterns and the identification of labour markets are issues of considerable relevance to its sustainable development. For this reason, the WDC welcomed the Central Statistics Office (CSO) decision to compile a subset from the Census of Population 2006 on where people live and work, and what they work at, at a detailed geographic level (electoral division, ED). These data provide for a much better understanding of what work people do and where they do it, at a level that can better inform policy for enterprise, education, training and transport.

The WDC commissioned the National Institute for Spatial and Regional Analysis (NIRSA) at NUI Maynooth to examine in detail the commuting patterns of those at work in the Western Region. In this publication, *Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region: A Profile of Seven Town Labour Catchments*, the WDC draws on the NIRSA report to compile an examination of the travel to work patterns in each of the principal towns in the seven counties of the Western Region. The intention here is to identify and illustrate travel to work patterns and the consequent labour catchments of some of the main towns in the Western Region and provide a synopsis of their labour market characteristics. We hope that this will provide useful information for prospective employers, the development agencies, local authorities and transport providers. It will also inform the WDC's LookWest.ie campaign.

This report was written by Deirdre Frost, with the support of the WDC policy team. The Western Development Commission wishes to thank Ronan Foley, David Meredith and Justin Gleeson who worked with us in undertaking this original research. The WDC is grateful to Raef Mac Giollarnáth who helped prepare the research for publication. Finally, we are grateful to the Central Statistics Office for making the data available and for providing insights and advice at all stages.

Western Development Commission

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Executive Summary

Why this report?

In the last decade, travel to work patterns have changed considerably. There is now a much larger labour force than before and there is also more extensive commuting. While there has been a lot of public debate on commuting patterns, particularly in the Greater Dublin Area, we have relatively little knowledge of local and regional commuting patterns in the West of Ireland.

In 2007, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) made available a subset of data from the Census of Population 2006 (POWCAR¹), which contains detailed information on workers' place of residence and place of work. These data allow analysis of commuting patterns at regional and local levels.

Analysis of travel to work data can identify the geographic catchment from which a town draws its workforce; namely a town's labour catchment. These data show that a town has access to a larger labour supply than the census measure of a town's working population. This greatly enhances the labour supply information available to businesses making location decisions.

The WDC commissioned the National Institute for Spatial and Regional Analysis (NIRSA) at NUI Maynooth to examine in detail the commuting patterns of those at work in the Western Region. This research, in a study entitled *Local and Regional Labour Markets in the Western Region: Spatial Analysis of Daily Mobility Patterns, 2006*, contains extensive data from which this report is based.

Key findings

This present report identifies 45 labour catchments in the Western Region. These are shown on the following map. The report then provides a detailed labour market profile for seven towns; the largest town in each of the seven counties which comprise the Western Region²; Galway, Ennis, Sligo, Letterkenny, Castlebar, Roscommon and Carrick-on-Shannon. This will provide information on labour supply for prospective employers and the development agencies. These data can also be used in determining catchments for various services including transport, which will be of interest to transport providers, planners and local authorities. The main conclusions and implications from this analysis are set out in this summary.

¹ Place of Work Census of Anonymised Records.

² Counties Galway, Clare, Sligo, Donegal, Mayo, Roscommon and Leitrim.



Labour Supply

- A town's labour catchment is that area from which a town draws most of its' workforce. All the town labour catchments reviewed in this report have significantly more people at work than the census population at work³ for that town. The difference can be by up to 4 times as much, for example the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment has a population at work four times the census population at work in Carrick-on-Shannon town. This is because the town population reported in the census is based on individuals' home (rather than work location) and therefore will not capture all those people travelling into the town to work. This highlights the importance of a town's labour catchment as a measure of labour supply.
- Therefore in terms of population at work, all of these towns have access to a much greater labour supply than the town population. This information, along with the labour market profiles of those living there, will help inform development agencies, employers and local authorities on employment and enterprise in the region.
- The labour forces residing within the larger labour catchments travel to work in just a few locations. In most labour catchments, the majority of the labour force, approximately 90%, work in just five to seven different locations.

Age Profile

- Generally the labour catchments of larger towns and cities have younger workforces. The age profile of the Galway city and Letterkenny labour catchments are relatively young compared to those of Carrick-on-Shannon, Castlebar and Roscommon.
- The age profile of each labour catchment is also likely to be influenced by the occupational profile of the catchment. It is interesting that the age profile of the Castlebar and Sligo labour catchments are relatively old despite the presence of Institutes of Technology in these towns which would attract a younger population. There are a number of possible explanations, for example the economic base may not support the attraction or retention of younger workers or younger workers may be choosing to live in other areas.

Education

- Labour catchments close to or having third level institutions tend to have a much higher proportion of people with a third level degree or higher. In the Galway, Sligo and Ennis labour catchments, 40% or more of those employed had a third level degree or higher. However, the presence of a higher education institution does not necessarily lead to a high proportion with a third level qualification as is the case for Castlebar.
- Nationally, 43% of the population at work have attained a third level degree or higher. This proportion is notably lower in many of the labour catchments in the Western Region and may be in part due to a poor supply of employment opportunities requiring such skills, particularly in the knowledge economy⁴. This indicates a brain drain from some parts of the Western Region, to larger centres such as Galway or centres outside the Region.
- The particular characteristics of employment in the labour catchments in the Western Region can provide a useful input to education and training policy, aimed at equipping the labour force to participate effectively in the knowledge economy. Important requirements will be the re-skilling of those who had been engaged in construction and unskilled occupations as well as ensuring that the overall labour force in the Western Region is at least as educated and skilled as elsewhere in Ireland.

³ Census of Population 2006. Volume 7 – Principal Economic Status and Industries, Table 7.

⁴ Higher Education Authority statistics on admissions to third level education show that the Western counties have higher than average admission rates to third level education institutions. HEA, 2006.



Employment Profile

- An examination of employment by industrial group in each of the seven labour catchments shows some similarities and differences compared with the national picture. Nationally the most important sectors in terms of the share employed are the commerce sector, followed by education, health and social work, and manufacturing industries. These sectors are also the first, second and third most important sectors in the Galway, Ennis, Letterkenny, Roscommon and Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchments. Though the commerce sector is the most important in employment terms, its employment share is not as large in each of these catchments as it is nationally. In most of the catchments reviewed here, education, health and social work, which is primarily public sector employment, is a more important sector in employment terms than it is nationally.
- The two exceptions to the employment pattern described above are the Sligo and Castlebar labour catchments where the most important employment sector is education, health and social work, followed by the commerce and manufacturing sectors. This is in part due to the presence of third level institutions and hospitals in each of these towns, but may also reflect the relative weakness of the commerce and manufacturing sectors in terms of employment. It also highlights the relative importance of public sector employment.
- The employer, manager and professional socio-economic groups are the most widely represented socio-economic groups in the labour catchments reviewed. This reflects the composition of employment, with the sectors of commerce, education, health, social work and manufacturing being particularly important. The specific socio-economic group of employers and managers, though important, accounts for proportionately fewer than nationally, even in the larger catchments of Galway and Ennis. The socio-economic profile in each labour catchment is reflected in the education and skills profile.
- In most of the labour catchments in the Western Region, the proportion engaged in both the construction and agriculture sectors is higher than the national average. There is some evidence of interdependence between these two sectors as, along with the significant decline in construction employment since 2007, there has been an increase in those classifying themselves as employed in agriculture⁵. This reflects those who previously worked part-time on the farm but full-time in construction and have now lost their construction jobs. Many of these are now significantly under-employed.

Spatial patterns

- As the WDC has frequently pointed out in analyses of the Western Region, a north/south pattern is often evident in the enterprise and employment profile of the Region, which is again evident in some of the characteristics of the labour catchments profiled here. For example as a general rule the labour catchments with younger age profiles are located in the south of the region and those with a relatively older age profile are located to the north of the region.
- The analysis of the seven labour catchments in the Western Region has highlighted the importance of rural areas (centres with less than 1,000 persons) as employment locations. Within some catchments, more people are employed in rural areas than the number employed in the town at the centre of the catchment. For example, in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, significantly more are employed in rural areas of county Leitrim than the number employed in Carrick-on-Shannon itself.
- The analysis of places of work highlights important observations in the context of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS). In the NSS one of the roles of gateways and hubs is to act as drivers for development in their respective regions. This research has shown that rural areas do not necessarily have much engagement with their nearest gateway, for example just 3.3% of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment commute to work in Sligo borough, its nearest gateway. Similarly just 6.3% of those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment work in a gateway, of which Athlone is the most important, where 4% travel to work. These findings, among others have important implications for the 2009 Update and Outlook of the National Spatial Strategy.

⁵ This is discussed in detail in *Employment and Unemployment in the Western Region 2000-2008*, available at www.wdc.ie



Transport

- The travel to work data contains important information for transport policy-makers, service providers, planners, regional and local authorities. Apart from highlighting the complexity and range of labour market flows, the data can also show the relative importance of different places from a labour supply perspective. For example in the case of Galway city, the number of people commuting from the north of the city, the Tuam labour catchment, is greater than from the east, the Loughrea labour catchment, which in turn is greater than the number commuting from the south, the Gort labour catchment. This has important implications for the provision of transport infrastructure and services to and from the city.

These data provide us with a much greater understanding of travel to work patterns in the Western Region and the various labour catchments to which they give rise. This provides policy-makers with robust empirical data with which to inform their decisions. These findings will be very useful to all the relevant State agencies as well as employers, regional and local authorities. The analysis undertaken here demonstrates the value in releasing the POWCAR data and also provides a baseline for future work.



1.0 Travel to Work and Labour Market Analysis

1.1 Introduction

As part of its remit in promoting the economic and social development of the Western Region⁶, the WDC is interested in examining the nature and extent of economic and labour market activity at the regional and sub-regional level.

In 2007, the CSO released data from the Census of Population 2006 on where people live and work, and what they work at, at a detailed geographic level (electoral division, ED). Known as the Place of Work Census of Anonymised Records (POWCAR), this dataset allows for analysis of commuting patterns and other labour market characteristics. These data provide for a much better understanding of what work people do and where they do it, at a level that can better inform policy for enterprise, education, training and transport.

The WDC commissioned the National Institute for Spatial and Regional Analysis (NIRSA) at NUI Maynooth to examine in detail the commuting patterns of those at work in the Western Region. This research, in a study entitled *Local and Regional Labour Markets in the Western Region: Spatial Analysis of Daily Mobility Patterns, 2006*, contains extensive data from which this present report is based. The WDC will publish further material from this NIRSA report later in 2009.

This research was conceived at a time of very different economic circumstances. In 2007 economic growth was at its peak and the country was close to or at full employment. Since then Ireland has experienced rapidly rising unemployment across all regions. Despite the changing circumstances the WDC considers that this research is still important as it:

1. shows where people were employed, the profile of employment as it existed in April 2006 and provides a baseline for future research;
2. illustrates the possible likely geographic spread of future employment activity, though the sectoral composition is likely to be somewhat different;
3. highlights the various policy implications of where people live and work, from transport to employment and education.

In the following sections the context for this research is set out, noting the relationship between enterprise policy and labour markets at a regional level. This is followed by a discussion of travel to work and labour market analysis, and the census data on which this report is based.

⁶ The Western Region comprises the counties of Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal and Clare.



1.2 Enterprise policy and labour markets

Government policy objectives include economic growth and employment creation. Government policy also aims to ensure a better regional balance in the spatial distribution of growth and jobs. International research suggests that regions rather than countries are important focal points for economic development and this is reflected in Irish Government policy, as set out in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and the National Development Plan 2007-2013 (NDP).

At a regional level, the attraction and retention of investment, both indigenous and foreign, is very important for the future growth of the Western Region. Indeed, the need for a regional focus has been emphasised by those involved in attracting investment.

“Leading corporations require a significant talent pool of highly qualified people, effective physical and digital infrastructure... In future, both thinking and action must be aligned and focused on a regional rather than a local basis”⁷

The importance of a skilled labour force at regional level in ensuring more regional balance is also recognised.

“The challenge in achieving an even [regional] spread of investment is intensified as the sophistication of investments increase. They require a concentration of highly qualified and educated workers...”⁸

A key aim of enterprise development policy is to promote participation in the knowledge economy. Government policy identifies a well educated labour force as a critical factor in promoting economic growth.

“One of the significant factors behind Ireland’s economic success is the country’s highly valuable human capital base, that is to say, its young, well educated and talented population..... Building the stock of knowledge and know-how in the economy is critical to Ireland’s future economic development”⁹

One of the key determinants therefore of enterprise location decisions is a quality labour supply. This not only refers to the size of the available workforce but also to their skill and education levels. The size of the available labour force is important in determining the scale of enterprise it can support, while the skill and education levels of the labour force will help determine the appropriate type or sector of investment.

At a regional level, growth of the knowledge sector enhances the skill levels in a region by attracting more people with higher skills which in turn, can attract further investment.

There has been limited analysis undertaken on the size and quality of the labour supply at a regional level in Ireland. Availability of labour to support new enterprise investment is difficult to determine without accurate data. Hubs and large towns are perceived as locations for foreign direct investment (FDI) and for an indigenous industrial and service base in the NDP¹⁰ and elsewhere, but there is little research on the available labour supply in these centres. Analysis of detailed data on travel to work and characteristics of workers in labour catchments from the 2006 Census can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the operation of labour markets at a sub-national level.

1.3 Travel to work, labour market analysis and labour catchments

In the last decade working patterns and travel to work patterns have changed considerably. There is now a much larger labour force than before and there is also more extensive commuting to work. Travel time is an important determinant in the distance people will consider travelling to work and travel times have been increasing¹¹. Longer commuting

⁷ IDA Annual Report 2007, p12

⁸ IDA Annual Report 2008, p8

⁹ Building Ireland’s Smart Economy, A Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal, p.60.

¹⁰ National Development Plan, 2007-2013, p.84.

¹¹ Analysis of 2002 and 2006 Census data shows that travel times have increased. In 2006, 6.3% of those in the Western Region had journeys in excess of 1 hour, compared with 4.8% in 2002. The comparable national figures were 10.4% and 9.4% respectively.



times have led to concerns about the sustainability of the transport modes involved, and the impact on quality of life and productivity.

While there has been a lot of debate on commuting patterns, and some research at a national level, until recently we have had relatively little knowledge of local and regional commuting patterns particularly in the West of Ireland¹². For example, outside of Dublin, there is little known about the implications that the growth of the labour catchment of a town, resulting from more extensive commuting, may have for enterprise location.

The labour catchment of a town is that area from which a town draws most of its workforce. Analysis of travel to work data shows that a town has access to a far larger labour catchment than the census measure of a town's working population. This is because the town population as reported in the census is based on individuals' home (rather than work location) and therefore will not capture all those people travelling into the town to work.

With travel to work data we can identify the catchment from which a town draws its workers, because the data are based on where people work as well as their home location. Therefore because many people cross town and county boundaries to work, labour market analyses based on where people actually live **and** work are more comprehensive than those based on residence only. This greatly enhances the labour supply information available to businesses making location decisions.

These data also enable us to examine the extent to which commuting is an important feature of the labour supply in smaller towns as well as in the larger towns and cities, and help us to understand the relationship between towns and rural areas and the extent to which people move between these areas to work. This information is important as a basis for transport planning and sustainable transport policy.

1.4 The Census POWCAR dataset

In 2007, the CSO compiled and made available a dataset from the 2006 Census of Population, which is referred to as the Place of Work Census of Anonymised Records (POWCAR)¹³. This dataset contains a complete count of all residents over the age of 15 years who travelled to work in April 2006, along with details of their place of residence and place of work at ED level¹⁴.

The analysis of data from POWCAR in this report identifies the geographic extent of travel to work patterns for various towns which allows us to build a picture of each town's labour catchment. With these data we can identify the numbers commuting to and from various destinations as well as key characteristics such as their age, education and employment profile.

¹² The CSO in collaboration with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) has recently published *Census 2006, A Profile of the Working Population of Large Towns* (April 2009). The CSO report focuses on the actual working population of large towns, whereas this report examines the labour catchments of towns and the profile of **all** workers living in these catchments in order to identify the labour **supply** available. There has also been some research on commuting patterns and Census 2002 data. See for example Keane, M., 2003. *Census Commuting Data and Travel to Work Areas: An Exploratory Analysis*. Chapter 11 in E. O' Leary ed. Irish Regional Development, Dublin: The Liffey Press., and Keane, M. and Lennon, J. 2005 *Delineating Daily Activity Spaces in Rural Areas*, Working Paper No.104, Department of Economics, National University of Ireland, Galway.

¹³ In 2002 the CSO released a more limited sample of this dataset named the Place of Work Sample of Anonymised Records (POWSAR) which provided the data on a small sample of workers drawn from the Census.

¹⁴ An electoral division (ED) is a local administrative unit used for electoral purposes and is the lowest geographic level of detail for which full national Census data has traditionally been available. The country is divided into over 3,400 EDs. It should be noted that the Census records made available to users have been anonymised, so that at all times the privacy of the individuals that constitute the dataset has been protected.



1.5 Method, scope and use of the report

The POWCAR data and maps used to create the town labour catchments presented in this report are from a study commissioned by the WDC and undertaken by NIRSA¹⁵. Here we draw on the study to examine in detail the travel to work patterns of seven towns; Galway, Ennis, Sligo, Letterkenny, Castlebar, Roscommon and Carrick-on-Shannon. Except for Letterkenny¹⁶, each are the administrative centres of the seven counties in the Western Region. The methodology employed to define the town labour catchments is detailed in the Appendix.

Scope

The labour catchments defined in this report are based on information on the place of work and place of residence for each individual in the census. Workers with 'no fixed place of work' have therefore not been included. Construction and transport workers are strongly represented within the 'no fixed place of work' category, therefore such workers are under-represented in this report. Farmers too are under-represented as many did not specify a place of work. These and other qualifications attached to the data are discussed in more detail in the Appendix.

Use of this report

This report provides a profile of the labour catchment of the largest town in each of the seven counties which comprise the Western Region. The commissioned research, on which this report is based, contains further extensive data and the WDC plans to publish more of this analysis later in 2009.

Here, we identify the labour catchments of the seven towns and provide a synopsis of the labour market characteristics of each of these catchments. This will provide information for prospective employers and development agencies. These data can also be used in determining catchments for various services including transport, which will be of interest to transport providers, planners and local authorities.

1.6 Structure and layout

In Section 2, we present an overview of all 45 labour catchments in the Western Region. In Sections 3 through to 9 we discuss each of the seven towns' labour catchments separately. The layout of each of these sections is as follows:

1. The travel to work patterns to the town are presented.
2. Based on these travel patterns and application of the methodology, the boundaries of each town's labour catchment are defined and illustrated.
3. Once the spatial extent of each labour catchment is defined, there is then a detailed discussion of the labour market characteristics of all the people at work who are **living** in that labour catchment.
4. Each town labour catchment profile concludes with a summary of key points.

In Section 10 we set out some conclusions and implications. Finally, the Appendix provides detail on the methodology used and notes some qualifications attached to the data.

It is assumed that many readers will only consult particular sections as they may have an interest in a particular town, rather than read the entire report. Therefore it was considered important to explain each section in full. As a result, there may be some repetition for those reading the full report.

¹⁵ Meredith, D. and Foley, R. (2008) *Local and Regional Labour Markets in the Western Region: Spatial Analysis of Daily Mobility Patterns, 2006*; RERC, Teagasc, NIRSA and Geography Department, NUI Maynooth.

¹⁶ The administrative capital of County Donegal is Lifford. However Letterkenny is the largest town in the county and is an NSS designated gateway.



2.0 Labour Catchments in the Western Region

2.1 Introduction

In this section, 45 labour catchments across the Western Region are identified and considered. Employment in each of the town's labour catchments is reviewed and recent population trends in the seven labour catchments profiled in this report, are examined.

Map 2.1 shows the 45 labour catchments within the Western Region; 44 urban centres and a residual rural catchment¹⁷. These are the labour catchments of towns in the Western Region with a population greater than 1,000 persons in 2006. The town labour catchments show the geographical area from which a town draws most of its labour supply. The black lines depict the administrative county and city boundaries.

The geographic scale of each of the labour catchments varies enormously, with the Galway city labour catchment by far the largest. Other geographically large catchments are Ennis, Castlebar, Ballina, Sligo and Letterkenny. The centre of the region - east Mayo and west Roscommon has many small towns and this is reflected in the many smaller labour catchments.

The map shows that the vast majority of EDs in the Western Region were linked to towns within the Western Region with the exception of a number of EDs along the eastern border of the Western Region. These were linked to Limerick City, Tullamore, Athlone, Longford and the Northern Ireland counties of Derry and Fermanagh. For example, the arrows from Fermanagh, Longford and Tullamore are directed to those EDs located within the Western Region but allocated to town labour catchments which are outside the Region.

Seven of these 45 labour catchments are examined in detail in this report. These are the catchments of the largest town in each of the seven counties which comprise the Western Region.

¹⁷ This residual rural catchment comprises those living in 2 EDs, one in county Mayo and one in county Galway which were assigned to a 'rural' catchment because all those working there, worked in rural places (with a population less than 1,000).



2.2 Employment in each labour catchment

Table 2.1 shows the number employed and living each of the 45 labour catchments. Each labour catchment includes **all** those living in the catchment and at work, regardless of where they work¹⁸. As discussed in Section 1.3, the labour catchment of a town is that area from which a town draws most of its workforce.

Galway city labour catchment is by far the largest with 64,455 people living within the labour catchment and at work in April 2006. Of course, they may not all be at work within this labour catchment though most are¹⁹. Galway city labour catchment is discussed further in Section 3.

Table 2.1 Population at work and living in each labour catchment in the Western Region, 2006

Labour Catchment	Total at work and living in each labour catchment	
	Number	%
Galway (Section 3)	64,455	26.25
Ennis (Section 4)	21,333	8.69
Sligo (Section 5)	20,321	8.28
Letterkenny* (Section 6)	17,886	7.28
Castlebar (Section 7)	13,757	5.60
Limerick*	8,866	3.61
Ballina	8,823	3.59
Roscommon* (Section 8)	7,306	2.98
Carrick-on-Shannon* (Section 9)	6,632	2.70
Ballinasloe*	5,135	2.09
Westport	4,854	1.98
Athlone*	4,584	1.87
Derry	4,581	1.87
Shannon	4,470	1.82
Ballybofey-Stranorlar*	3,520	1.43
Donegal*	3,487	1.42
Tuam	3,015	1.23
Buncrana	2,995	1.22
Killybegs	2,653	1.08
Claremorris	2,553	1.04
Loughrea	2,311	0.94
Ballyhaunis	2,227	0.91
Boyle	1,964	0.80
Bunbeg	1,939	0.79
Belmullet	1,924	0.78

¹⁸ The place of work may be either (i) in the town, (ii) outside the town, but within the catchment or (iii) outside the catchment.

¹⁹ In the case of Galway city, in excess of 85% of those living in the catchment work within the catchment.



Continued...

Labour Catchment	Total at work and living in each labour catchment	
	Number	%
Kilrush	1,911	0.78
Longford*	1,897	0.77
Clifden	1,845	0.75
Carndonagh	1,737	0.71
Ballaghaderreen	1,707	0.70
Ballinrobe	1,593	0.65
Castlerea	1,587	0.65
Gort	1,505	0.61
Ballyshannon*	1,409	0.57
Tubbercurry	1,327	0.54
Manorhamilton*	1,234	0.50
Dungloe	1,210	0.49
Charlestown	1,100	0.45
Portumna*	1,090	0.44
Swinford	1,085	0.44
Bundoran*	822	0.33
Kilkee	543	0.22
Fermanagh*	254	0.10
Tullamore*	77	0.03
Residual rural catchment	25	0.01
Total at work (POWCAR)	245,549	100.00

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

*Note: The labour catchments measured here are composed of the EDs that are located within the Western Region only, as depicted in Map 2.1. Those labour catchments which are partly located outside the border of the Western Region are highlighted in the Table 2.1 with an asterisk, for example the labour catchments of Athlone and Derry, only capture those EDs that fall within the Western Region. Likewise the labour catchments of some towns in the Western Region which are at its boundaries e.g. Roscommon and Portumna may actually extend beyond the boundaries of the Region, but the EDs outside of the Region are not included in the analysis here.

A number of general observations can be made in relation to the town labour catchments in the Western Region.

1. Travel distances are an important determinant of commuting patterns. As would be expected, the extent of commuting declines the further the distance, so that places far away from a town will have fewer residents commuting to that town to work.
2. The size of a particular labour catchment is determined by its population and settlement characteristics. The employment opportunities in other centres within commuting distance may also have an impact. For example, more people living in Achill work in Castlebar than in Westport, and so Achill is part of the Castlebar labour catchment rather than the Westport labour catchment, even though Achill is further away from Castlebar.



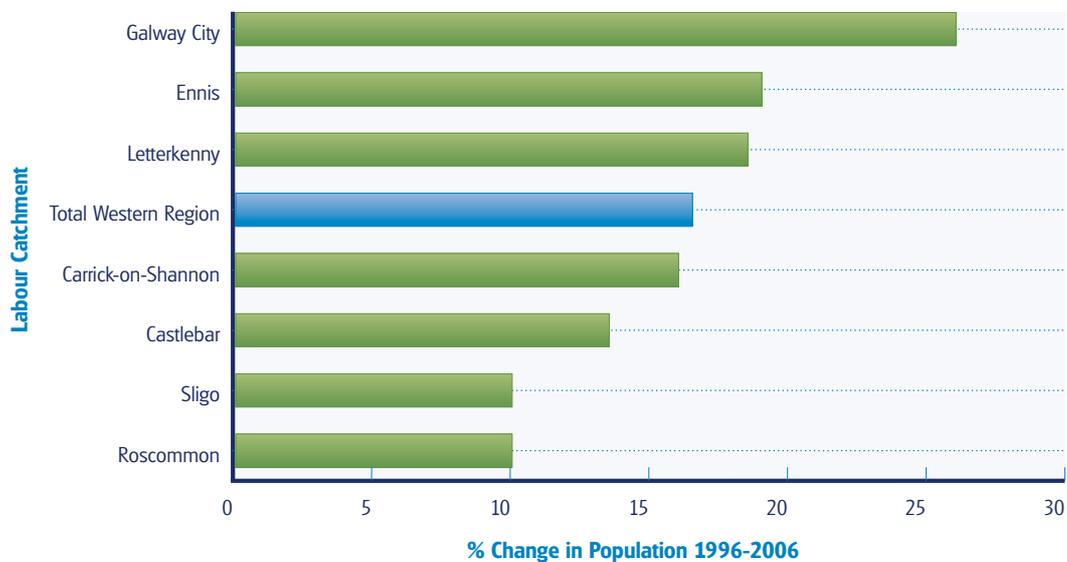
3. The geographic spread of each of the labour catchments varies enormously, as shown in Map 2.1. There is also a wide variation in the numbers of people at work in each labour catchment, as shown in Table 2.1. The Galway city labour catchment accounts for 26.2% of all workers within the Western Region – and the next four largest labour catchments (Ennis, Sligo, Letterkenny and Castlebar) account for a further 30% combined. Some other labour catchments cover geographically large areas, but have relatively small working populations, e.g. Westport.
4. Generally, the larger the town and its catchment, the greater the proportion of residents who work within the catchment. Larger urban centres can be described as self-contained or highly contained labour markets as most workers living there also work in the same area, and most people who work there also live there²⁰. This is discussed in later sections.
5. The relative proximity of some of the selected towns also plays a role in determining the spatial extent of a labour catchment. For example, Castlebar, Westport and Ballina are relatively close to each other and so limit the geographic extent of their respective labour catchments. Therefore, the closer a town is to another, the less extensive its labour catchment will be, as one town’s labour catchment will provide the boundary for the other.

2.3 Population growth

Before examining in detail each of the seven labour catchments, it is worth noting the recent population trends in each. It should be noted that this section refers to *total populations* and **not** the working populations aged 15 years and over.

The total population of the Western Region increased from 657,231 to 762,335 or by 15.9% between 1996 and 2006²¹. Figure 2.2 shows the percentage change in total population (all ages) in the seven town labour catchments profiled in this report between 1996 and 2006.

Figure 2.2 Population change in labour catchments in the Western Region 1996-2006



Source: POWCAR dataset (2006), Census of Population (2006 and 1996), CSO

²⁰ A self-contained or a highly contained labour catchment is one in which most workers living there also work in the same area, and most people who work there also live there. In the UK, ‘Travel to Work Areas’ (TTWAs) were introduced to define areas which have self-contained labour markets, the self-containment criteria are that 70 or 75 per cent of the residents work in the area, and that 70 or 75 per cent of those working in the area also live there. As the UK has a much higher population density than Ireland, lower containment criteria are more relevant in an Irish context.

²¹ Nationally the population increased by 16.9% between 1996 and 2006.



The labour catchments of the larger centres experienced the greatest population growth. Galway City (+25.7%), Ennis (+19.3%) and Letterkenny (+18.9%) have all experienced population growth rates higher than the Western Region average (+15.9%). Population growth in the labour catchment of Carrick-on-Shannon (+15.4%) is just below the Western Region average. The labour catchments of Castlebar (+13.1%), Sligo (+10.1%), and Roscommon (+10.1%), have all experienced population increases below the average for the Western Region (+15.9%) between 1996 and 2006. There is a north-south pattern evident, where, with the exception of Letterkenny, those labour catchments with above average population growth are in the south of the region and those with below average growth are located towards the north of the region.

The town labour catchment profiles in the following sections are based on data on persons aged 15 years and over and in employment in 2006.



3.0 Galway

Galway city had a total population of 72,729 persons recorded in the 2006 Census²². It has been a designated Gateway since 1999, (NDP 2000-2006). Between 2002 and 2006 it experienced the highest population growth rate of any Irish city.

3.1 The importance of Galway city as a place of work

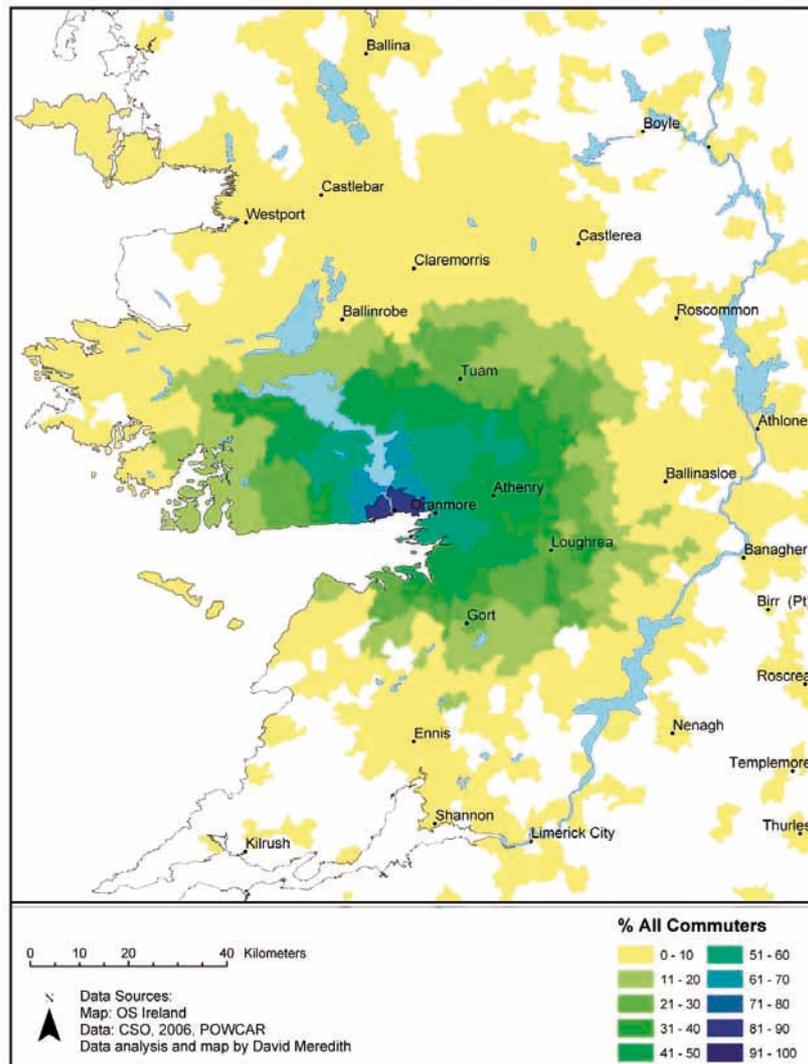
Map 3.1 shows the extent of travel to Galway city for work. The colours represent the different proportions of people who live in each ED and travel to work in Galway city. The map shows every ED (within the frame) from where even one person commutes to Galway city to work.

As would be expected, the EDs closest to Galway city have the highest proportion working in the city, and this is indicated by the darker shades of blue in and around the city perimeter. Beyond these areas, the proportion travelling to the city gradually decreases. The map shows the declining proportion of those living in each ED and commuting to Galway city, graduating from the dark blue where in excess of 70% of people living in those EDs work in Galway city, through to light yellow where less than 10% living in those EDs commute to work in Galway city.

The data from which Map 3.1 is drawn form the basis for the concept of the Galway city labour catchment which we discuss in the next section.

²² Census of Population 2006. Volume 1, Table 7.



Map 3.1 The percentage of persons commuting to Galway city, 2006

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

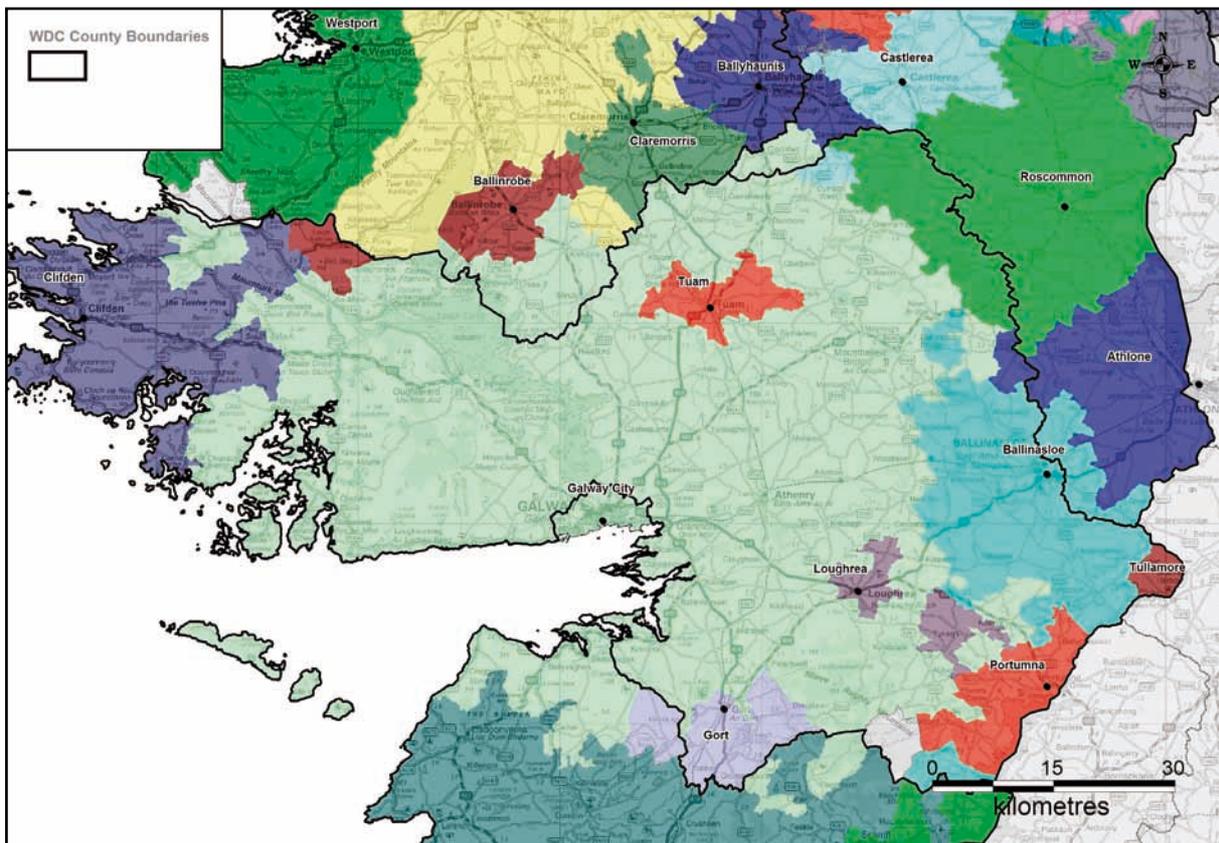
3.2 The Galway city labour catchment

While Map 3.1 showed **every** ED from where even one person commuted to Galway city, all of these EDs are **not** included in the Galway city labour catchment. The Galway city labour catchment, is made up only of those EDs for which Galway city is **the most popular work destination** for those living there. Other EDs, whose commuters travel in greater numbers to other towns are assigned to the catchments of these other towns. Map 3.2 shows the Galway city labour catchment, depicted by the light green colour.

The profile of the Galway city labour catchment is considered below. This will show the extent of the Galway city labour catchment and will set out the key labour market characteristics of those living there. The profile will also examine the travel patterns to several towns often considered to be Galway city commuter towns, for example Gort, Loughrea and Tuam.

The data presented in Map 3.2 show that Galway city's influence as a place of work extends over a very large area, and into other counties, for example into county Clare to the south and into county Mayo to the north. The labour market for Galway city extends to most of county Galway. In fact, the entire Galway city labour catchment is far larger than the



Map 3.2 Spatial extent of the Galway city labour catchment, 2006

Source: Gleeson, J. NIRSA, 2009. Map extracted from Map 2.1.

number working in the city at its core. Galway city labour catchment has a population at work 1.9 times the census population at work²³ in Galway city, (64,455 and 34,023 respectively).

Map 3.2 clearly shows the smaller labour catchments embedded within or adjacent to the larger Galway city labour catchment. The towns of Tuam, Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Gort have their own labour catchments, though they are relatively small. For residents of these four smaller labour catchments, Galway city is an important, but secondary employment destination. This is discussed in more detail in Section 3.4.

3.3 Profile of the Galway city labour catchment

Map 3.2 identified (in light green) the Galway city labour catchment. In the following section we examine 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 Galway city in April 2006. We do this because although some may not be working in Galway city they are living in the catchment from which Galway city's labour supply is drawn and including them provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Galway city.

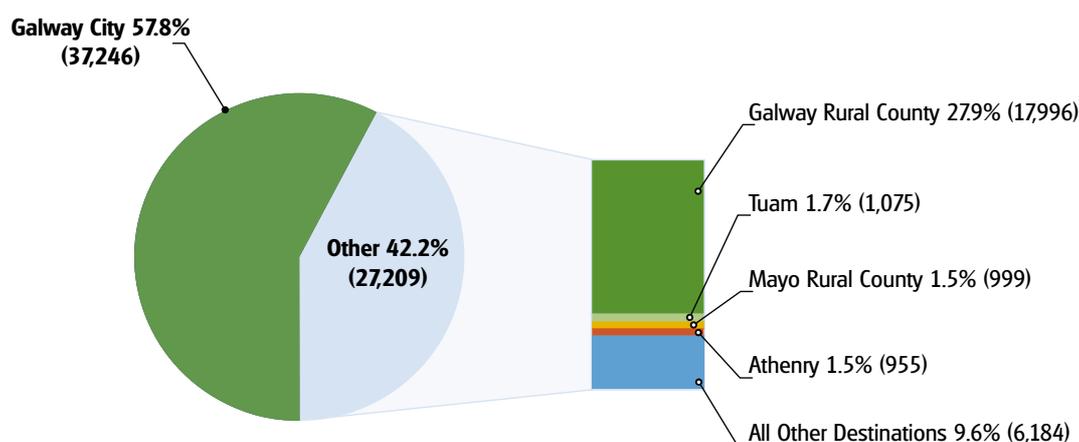
3.3.1 Place of work

The Galway city labour catchment can be seen to include most of county Galway and to extend beyond the county boundary, to the north and south as depicted in Map 3.2. In 2006, there were 64,455 people classified as at work²⁴, living within the Galway city labour catchment. In Figure 3.1 and Table 3.1 the five main work locations for those who live in Galway city labour catchment are set out.

²³ Census of Population 2006. Volume 7 – Principal Economic Status and Industries, Table 7. Population aged 15 years and over in each town with a population of 1,500 or more, classified by principal economic status.

²⁴ Aged 15 years or over and who had provided detail on their place of work.



Figure 3.1 Place of work of those living in the Galway city labour catchment, 2006**Table 3.1 Place of work of those living in the Galway city labour catchment, 2006**

Place of work	Number	%
Galway City	37,246	57.8
Galway Rural County	17,996	27.9
Tuam	1,075	1.7
Mayo Rural County	999	1.5
Athenry	955	1.5
All Other Destinations	6,184	9.6
Galway city labour catchment	64,455	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

Not surprisingly, Galway city is the principal place of employment, accounting for 37,246 (57.8%) of all employment. Galway Rural County²⁵ is the next most popular destination, being the work location for 27.9% of all those living in Galway city labour catchment. The city's outer suburbs (outside of the city boundaries and therefore categorised as being in Galway Rural County) host large industrial parks with major employers and it is likely that many of those categorised as working in Galway Rural County are actually working on the fringes of the city. The large proportion of residents who find work within the city is consistent with the pattern in other large urban centres and can be described as a self-contained or highly contained labour market.

3.3.2 Travel distances

The distances travelled by those living in the Galway city labour catchment are shown in Table 3.2. Close to one third of those living in the Galway city labour catchment travel less than 4km, a distance which could typically be taken by bus, bicycle or on foot. Another 20% travel 5-9km and many of these would be travelling from the residential areas on the outskirts of the city to the city centre. Over 28% travel 10-24km which is slightly below the national average. The relatively large proportion who travel 25-49km partly reflects the significant commuting from the towns of Tuam, Loughrea and Gort into Galway city.

²⁵ Rural County, for example Galway Rural County are work places that are not within the legally defined boundaries of towns of population of 1,000 persons or more at the time of the last Census of Population (2006).



Table 3.2 Travel distances of those living in the Galway city labour catchment and the State, 2006

Labour catchment	0-4 km %	5-9 km %	10-24 km %	25-49 km %	50+ km %
Galway City	32.2	19.8	28.7	14.3	5.0
State (POWCAR)	31.3	20.3	30.2	12.6	5.7

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

Travel to work to Galway city

Further analysis of travel to work data²⁶ shows that a considerable number of people commute to work in Galway city from smaller towns in county Galway, as well as from counties Mayo, Roscommon and Clare. This underlines the importance of Galway city as an employment location for those who live over 30km away. So for example 833 workers who actually live in the Tuam labour catchment commute to Galway city, while 517 commute from the Loughrea labour catchment to Galway city, and 288 people commute from the Gort labour catchment to Galway city.

The data also show the relative importance of each centre. The number of people commuting from Tuam labour catchment, north of the city, is greater than from Loughrea labour catchment to the east, which in turn is greater than the number commuting from Gort labour catchment, to the south. This has important implications for the provision of transport infrastructure and services.

There is also considerable commuting from centres further afield to Galway city, for example 230 people commuted from the Castlebar labour catchment to Galway city, a distance of about 75km. There is also commuting from further centres, albeit on a smaller scale for example, 40 people commuted from both Ballina and Westport labour catchments while 34 people commuted from the Sligo borough labour catchment to Galway city to work.

Travel to work to other centres

While commuting patterns around a large city most often involve flows into the city, there are quite substantial flows from Galway city labour catchment to centres outside of the city. Data on those travelling from anywhere within the Galway city labour catchment show that 1,075 people commute to work in Tuam, 616 commute to Loughrea and 388 commute to Gort.

These commuting patterns have important implications for public transport policy.

1. There is considerable daily movement between smaller towns in the county and Galway city.
2. The data highlight the importance of travel from centres along key routes, specifically the N17 from the north (Tuam, Claremorris), the N6 from the east (Loughrea, Ballinalsoe) and the N18 from the south (Gort, Ennis).
3. The data show much greater movement from the north (specifically Tuam) to Galway city, than from the east (Loughrea) and from the south (Gort). This probably reflects the stronger alternative employment centres in the south, for example Ennis and Shannon, compared to in the north of the region.
4. These data highlight the importance of the transport network for travel to work. There is significant congestion on the current primary road network into Galway city, particularly the N17 and N18, suggesting latent demand for commuter rail services. Additionally, the data indicate that there maybe greater demand for commuter rail services from the north, Tuam, than from the route to the south, on which services are planned first (Gort).

3.3.3 Gender

The gender composition of residents in the Galway city labour catchment is shown below. There are close to an equal number of men and women at work there, in contrast to the national situation where men accounted for 52.1% of those at work.

²⁶ Meredith and Foley (2008).



There is a variation between men and women in terms of the location of their work. More women than men work in the city, 54.3% and 45.7% respectively. Outside the city male employment is higher than female employment; 56.5% of those employed outside the city itself are male. This reflects traditional employment patterns where agricultural employment in rural areas in part accounts for a higher male employment rate there. The relatively high rate of construction employment, much of which was located outside the city, also reflects this. In contrast, employment sectors which are perceived as traditionally female are concentrated in the city, for example retail, banking, finance, public administration and tourism.

Table 3.3 Population living in the Galway city labour catchment by gender and place of work 2006

Galway city labour catchment	Males	Females	Total	Males %	Females %	Total %
Working in Galway city	17,016	20,230	37,246	45.7	54.3	100.0
Working outside Galway city	15,371	11,838	27,209	56.5	43.5	100.0
Total	32,387	32,068	64,455	50.2	49.8	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population, 2006, CSO

3.3.4 Age

The age profile of those at work and over 15 years who live in the Galway city labour catchment is shown in Table 3.4. The age profile is one of the youngest of all the labour catchments in the Western Region. Furthermore, the workforce within the city itself is far younger than those working outside of it. This is not surprising, given that cities often have a younger workforce than smaller towns and rural areas. This relates to life-cycle choices and employment opportunities. Out-migration of younger people from rural areas to participate in third-level education and to take up employment opportunities leads to a younger age profile within larger centres, while at the same time resulting in an older age profile in rural areas.

Table 3.4 Age profile of population living in the Galway city labour catchment by place of work 2006

Galway city labour catchment	< 30 years	30-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	Total over 15 years
Working in Galway City	31.8%	41.3%	26.1%	0.8%	100% (N=37,246)
Working outside Galway city	22.8%	39.3%	34.9%	3.0%	100% (N=27,209)
Total	28.0%	40.5%	29.8%	1.7%	100% (N=64,455)

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

3.3.5 Education

Table 3.5 shows a higher than average educational profile among those living in the Galway city labour catchment. Nearly half (49%) have completed third level education compared to 43% nationally. Those living in the Galway city labour catchment are also considerably better educated than other nearby labour catchments reflecting good employment opportunities for graduates within industry in the area, as well as the presence of two third level education institutions, NUIG and GMIT, which themselves are significant employers of graduates.

The data in Table 3.5 also show differences in the educational profile of those employed inside and outside the town. In Galway 55% of those working in the town have attained a third level education compared with 40.9% of those working outside the town. This reflects the type of employment, with more graduate employment located in the city centre.

This pattern is different in Ennis, Shannon and Gort, where a lower share of those in the town has completed third level education compared with those working outside the town. In the case of Shannon and Gort particularly, a higher



dependence on particular sectors such as transport and manufacturing in Shannon, and meat processing in Gort, sectors which do not require a high level of graduate employment, is a factor in this pattern.

Table 3.5 Population living in Galway city labour catchment and adjacent labour catchments that has completed third level education or higher, 2006

Labour Catchment	Working in the town %	Working outside the town ²⁷ %	Total %
Galway	55.0	40.9	49.0
Ennis	40.1	41.4	41.2
Shannon	27.7	35.3	33.2
Gort	24.6	39.5	34.1
Ballinasloe	36.1	32.7	34.1
State (POWCAR)			43.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

3.3.6 Employment by industrial group

Analysis of the profile of employment by industry group provides an indication of the structure of the local economy and the type of employment it sustains as well as the skills profile of the area. It is particularly instructive to compare the profile of a region or local area to that of the State average as it can highlight differences at the local level. Employment by industrial group of all those living in the Galway city labour catchment is shown in Table 3.6. The commerce sector²⁸ is the most important employer (27.1%), but represents a smaller proportion of employment than nationally (31.8%). Education, health and social work account for 22.7% of employment, and manufacturing industries²⁹ account for 19.1% of employment both of which are greater proportions than the national average. The higher proportion engaged in education and health is primarily public sector employment in the two third level institutions and the various hospitals in the city. The higher than average share engaged in manufacturing highlights that sector's relative importance, some of which includes the medical devices sector. There is a higher than average share engaged in the other industrial group category, which includes the hotels and restaurants and reflects the importance of the tourism sector. Construction accounts for 5.8% of employment, the same as the national figure³⁰.

²⁷ This column refers to those working outside the town's boundary but within the labour catchment of that town.

²⁸ This includes wholesale and retail trade, banking and financial services and real estate, renting and business activities.

²⁹ Including mining, quarrying and turf production, electricity, gas and water supply and manufacturing industries.

³⁰ As discussed in Section 1.5, those who reported 'no fixed place of work' are excluded from the POWCAR dataset. There is a higher proportion of construction and transport workers within this category, therefore the data reported here understates the actual figures.



Table 3.6 Employment by industrial group in the Galway city labour catchment, 2006

Industrial group	Total Galway city labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4.7	4.5
Manufacturing industries	19.1	15.9
Construction	5.8	5.8
Commerce	27.1	31.8
Transport, storage and communications	3.8	5.4
Public administration and defence	4.5	6.1
Education, health and social work	22.7	19.5
Other	12.4	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

3.3.7 Socio-economic structure

The socio-economic structure of employment in the Galway city labour catchment is set out in Table 3.7. The socio-economic group is determined by occupation and employment status and aims to classify those on the basis of comparable skill and educational levels³¹. This is also a useful indicator of the type of employment and skills available within labour catchments and is particularly informative when compared to the national socio-economic structure.

There are proportionately more people employed as professionals in the Galway city labour catchment than the State average, 25.9% compared with 22.9% respectively. This correlates with the relatively high levels of employment in education and health noted in Table 3.6. Of those living in the Galway city labour catchment, there are proportionately fewer manual skilled workers but more semi-skilled workers than the State average. The higher share of semi-skilled employment reflects the type of manufacturing engaged in by workers living within the catchment.

³¹ The socio-economic group is reported here in place of the occupational classification which was not included in the POWCAR dataset for confidentiality reasons.



Table 3.7 Socio-economic structure of people living in Galway city labour catchment, 2006

Socio-economic structure	Galway city labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Employers and managers	15.1	16.4
Higher professional	9.6	7.9
Lower professional	16.3	15.0
Non manual	26.2	28.8
Manual skilled	8.5	10.1
Semi-skilled	13.2	11.1
Unskilled	2.9	3.2
Own account workers	3.2	2.9
Farmers	4.3	3.6
Agricultural workers	0.4	0.7
All others gainfully occupied and unknown	0.3	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

3.4 Other town labour catchments within Galway county

Map 3.2 which we show again on the right, identifies the larger Galway city labour catchment but also shows four smaller town labour catchments contained within it, or are substantially surrounded by it, namely, Tuam, Loughrea, Gort and Ballinasloe³². These are important employment centres locally and in this section we will examine the employment destinations of people living in each of these areas.

Ballinasloe labour catchment

The Ballinasloe labour catchment (depicted in blue in Map 3.2), is the most significant in number, with 5,135 people living there and at work, in 2006. The most important employment destination for those living there is Ballinasloe town, where 39.0%, or just over 2,000 people work. The second most important employment destination for those living in the Ballinasloe labour catchment is Galway Rural County where 30% of the total or 1,580 people work. Following this, the most popular employment destination is Galway city where 330 people or 6.4% of those living in the Ballinasloe labour catchment commuted to work in 2006.

Tuam labour catchment

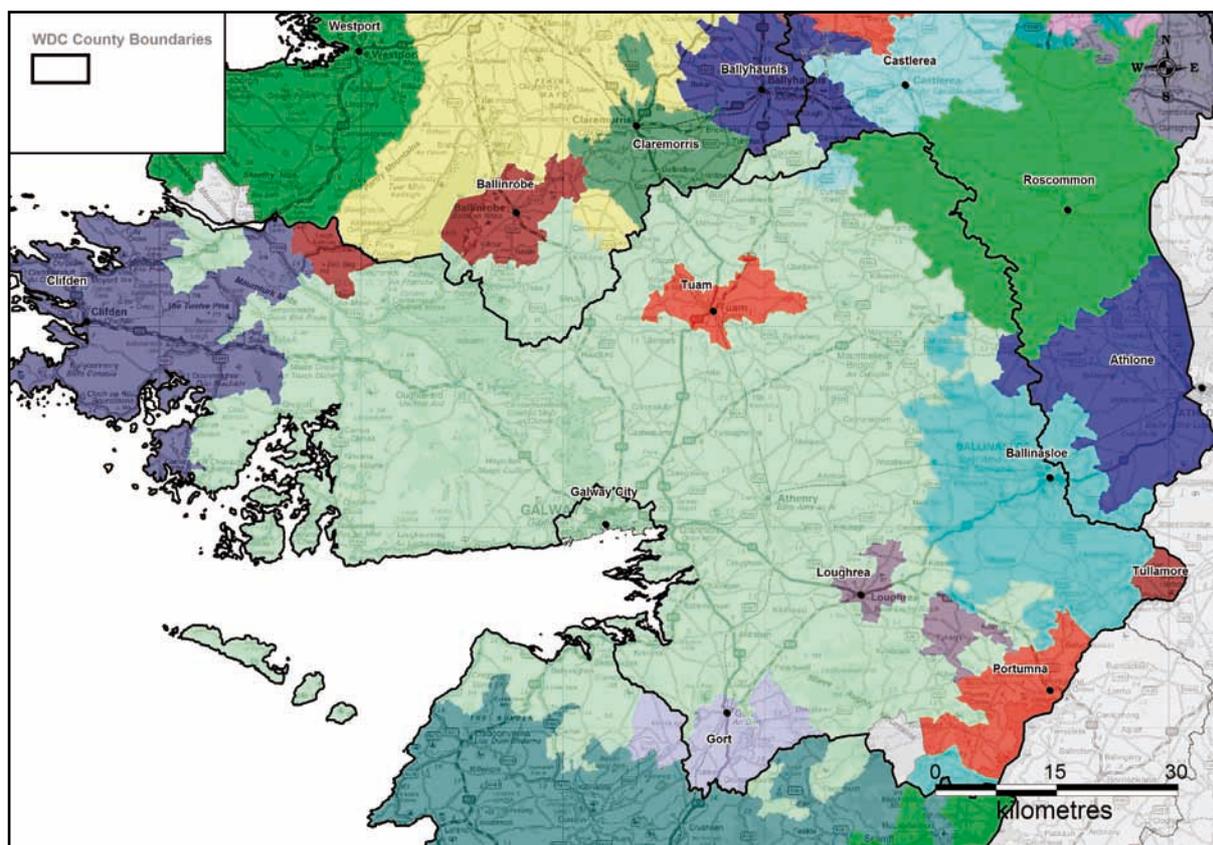
There are just over 3,000 people living in the Tuam labour catchment (shown in red in Map 3.2). Tuam town is the most important employment destination and 35.1% (1,058) of those living in the Tuam labour catchment work there. The next most important employment destination for those living in the Tuam labour catchment is Galway Rural County where 31.1% or 939 people worked in 2006. Of those living in the Tuam labour catchment, the third most popular place of work is Galway city, to which 27.6% (833 people) travel to work.

Loughrea labour catchment

There are 2,300 people living in the Loughrea labour catchment (shown in dark grey in Map 3.2). For these people, Loughrea town is the most important employment destination where just over 32.8% (757) work. The second most important employment centre for those living in the Loughrea labour catchment is Galway Rural County where 32.6%

³² The Portumna labour catchment has been excluded from this analysis as much of it extends beyond the Western Region boundary and the Clifden town labour catchment has been excluded as it is relatively remote.



Map 3.2 Spatial extent of the Galway city labour catchment, 2006

Source: Gleeson, J. NIRSA, 2009. Map extracted from Map 2.1.

work. The third most important employment location for those living in the Loughrea labour catchment is Galway city to which 22.4% of people (517) commute to work.

Gort labour catchment

The Gort labour catchment (illustrated in light blue in Map 3.2), is the smallest of the four examined, with just over 1,500 people living there. Of these, 35.9% work in Gort town itself, followed by Galway Rural County where 26.9% (405) work. The third most important employment destination for those living in the Gort labour catchment is Galway city where 19.1% or 288 people travel to work.

There is a pattern common to all four labour catchments, Ballinasloe, Tuam, Loughrea and Gort.

1. The most important employment destination in each catchment is the named town.
2. The second most important employment destination is a rural location somewhere within county Galway (named Galway Rural County³³). While some of this employment is rurally generated, for example, agriculture, in actual employment terms, there are other more important sectors. For example the sectors of education and health, manufacturing and commerce are the most important employment sectors for those living in the Ballinasloe labour catchment but working in Galway Rural County.
3. The third most important employment destination for those living in each of the four catchments is Galway city.

The importance of rural areas as locations for employment, much of which is not agriculturally based, and the relative importance of rural areas compared to the town centre or Galway city is evident from the discussion above.

³³ Rural County, for example Galway Rural County are work places that are not within the legally defined boundaries of towns of population of 1,000 persons or more at the time of the last Census of Population (2006).

This highlights the human resource base employed outside of the city and also shows the diversity of employment location and travel patterns to work. As discussed in Section 3.3.2 some of these travel to work patterns have implications for transport provision and public investment in transport infrastructure.

3.5 Galway city labour catchment summary

- The Galway city labour catchment is the largest labour catchment in the Western Region (Map 2.1).
- The labour catchment of Galway city covers an area approximately equivalent to the county area, but excludes the towns and surrounding areas of Tuam, Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Gort. These towns are themselves the most important places of employment for those living in their immediate hinterlands, and therefore constitute separate, but small, labour catchments.
- Of those living in the Galway city labour catchment, 57.8% work within Galway city and 27.9% work outside of the city but within the Galway city labour catchment.
- There is evidence that people are willing to drive lengthy distances to access employment in the city. This is not surprising given the greater number and quality of jobs within the city, compared to the surrounding area.
- A demographic profile of the Galway labour catchment shows the following:
 - The city is a particularly important place of employment for females and the young.
 - Those at work in the Galway city labour catchment, and in the city in particular, have a higher level of education than average.
 - The proportions at work in the various sectors of employment are broadly equivalent to the national average – though education, health and social work, much of which is in the state sector, are particularly important.
 - There is a higher share of professional employment for residents of the Galway city labour catchment than the State average: 25.9% are professionals, compared to 22.9% nationally.
- There are four smaller labour catchments located within or overlapping with Galway city labour catchment. These are Ballinasloe, Tuam, Loughrea and Gort.
- The second most important employment location for those living in the Ballinasloe, Tuam, Loughrea and Gort labour catchments is Galway Rural County³⁴. This highlights the significance of rural centres as employment locations in the region.
- Travel patterns show that for each of these smaller labour catchments, Galway city is the third most important employment destination and this has important implications for transport investment.
- More generally, these travel to work patterns show that enterprises and new investments do not have to be located within the city boundaries to tap into the extensive labour force in its catchment.

³⁴ These are work places that are not within the legally defined boundaries of towns of population of 1,000 persons or more at the time of the last Census of Population (2006).



4.0 Ennis

Ennis is the administrative capital of county Clare and is designated a hub town under the NSS. It is the second largest urban centre in the Western Region. It is located between two NSS Gateways, Galway to the north and Shannon-Limerick to the south.

4.1 The importance of Ennis as a place of work

Map 4.1 shows the extent of travel to Ennis for work. The colours represent the different proportions of people who live in each ED and travel to work in Ennis. The map shows every ED (within the frame) from where even one person commutes to Ennis to work.

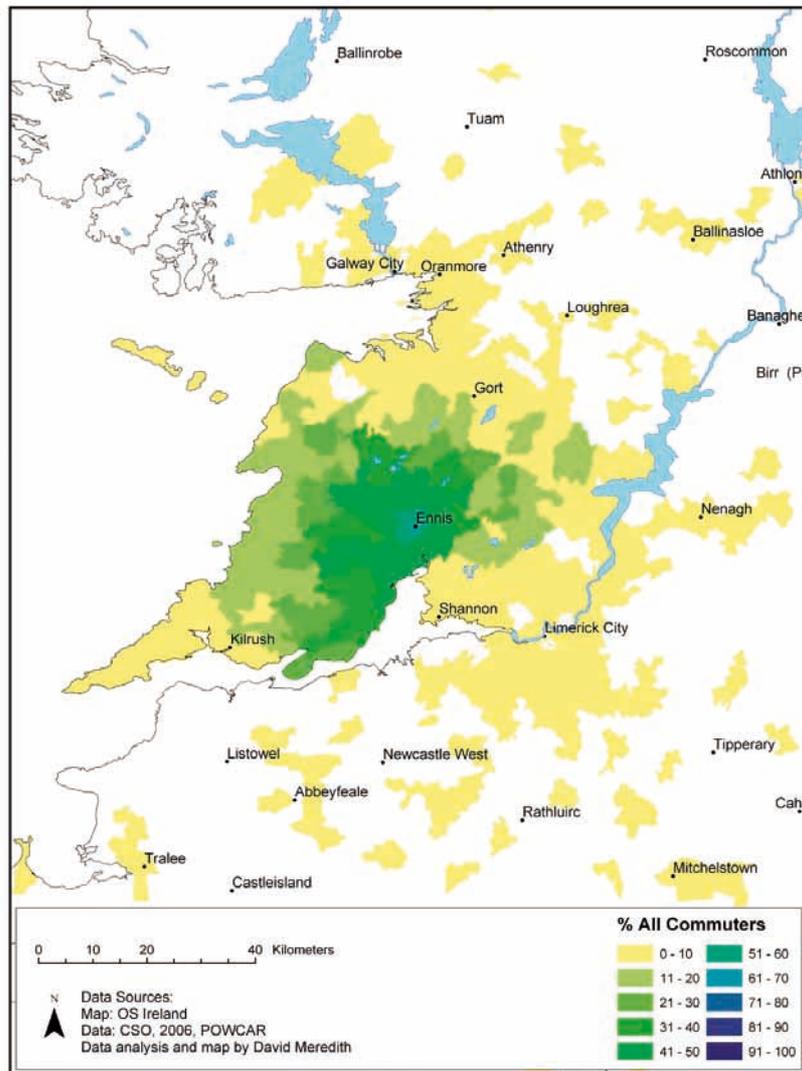
As would be expected, the EDs closest to Ennis have the highest proportion working in the town. Beyond these areas, the proportion travelling to the town gradually declines with distance, graduating from the darkest green (51% to 60% of people living in those EDs commute to work in Ennis), through to the lightest yellow (less than 10% of people living in those EDs commute to work in Ennis). At further distances from the town, the proportions commuting to Ennis fall, but not uniformly.

The map shading clearly shows that Ennis is a far more important employment destination for those living in west Clare, than for those living in the east or south-east of the county. This is not surprising as those living in the south and east have far greater access to employment in the urban centres of Shannon and Limerick city.

The data from which Map 4.1 is drawn form the basis for the concept of the Ennis labour catchment which we will discuss in the next section.



Map 4.1 The percentage of persons commuting to Ennis, 2006



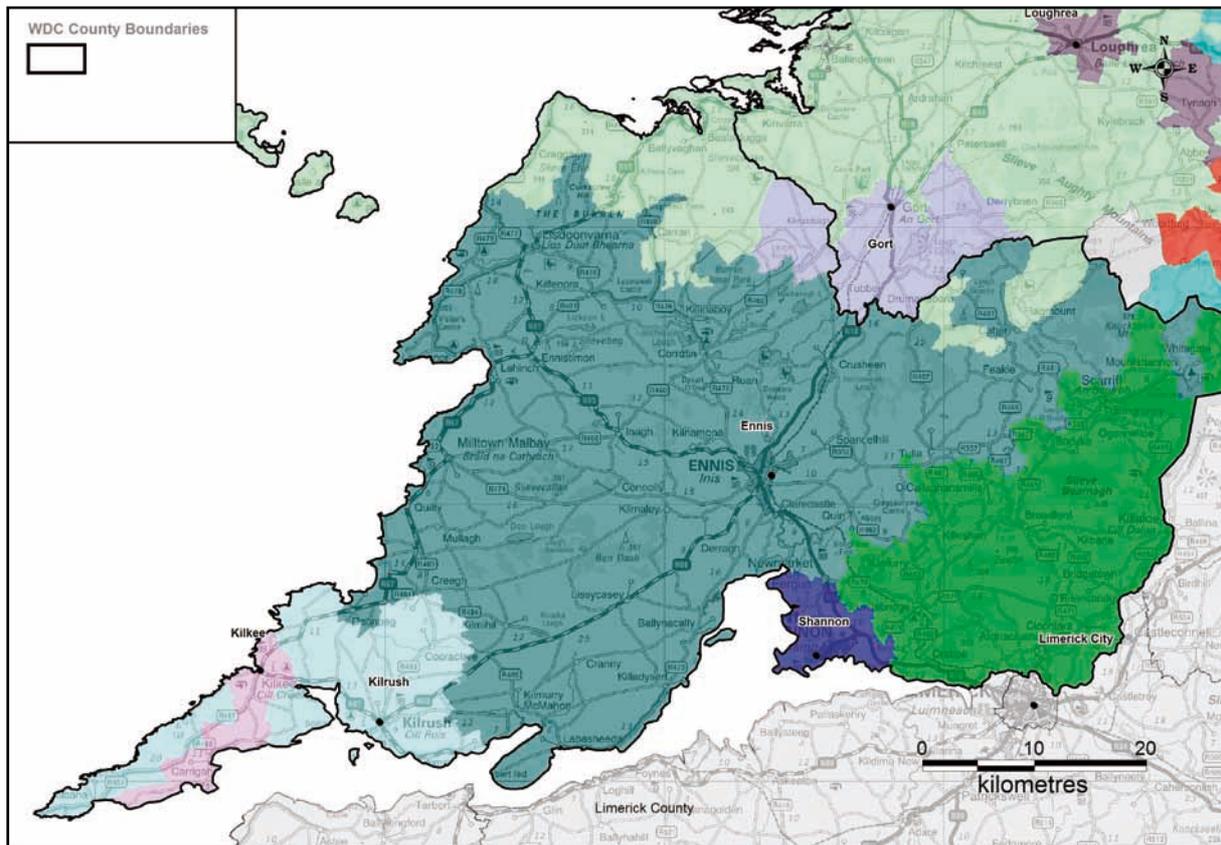
Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

4.2 The Ennis labour catchment

While Map 4.1 showed **every** ED from where even one person commuted to Ennis, all of these EDs are **not** included in the Ennis labour catchment. The Ennis labour catchment, is made up only of those EDs for which Ennis is **the most popular work destination** for those living there. Map 4.2 shows that the Ennis labour catchment (depicted in dark grey) extends over much of the county. It is not surprising that it includes west Clare, and excludes areas around Shannon and Limerick city, which are more important centres of employment for residents of those areas.



Map 4.2 Spatial extent of the Ennis labour catchment, 2006



Source: Gleeson, J., NIRSA 2009. Map extracted from Map 2.1.

4.3 Profile of the Ennis labour catchment

The data presented in this section provides a socio-economic profile of 21,333 persons at work who live within the Ennis labour catchment. Additional reference is also made to the adjacent labour catchments of Galway city, Ballinasloe, Gort and Shannon.

4.3.1 Place of work

Figure 4.1 and Table 4.1 shows the location of individuals' place of work in 2006.

Figure 4.1 Place of work of those living in the Ennis labour catchment, 2006

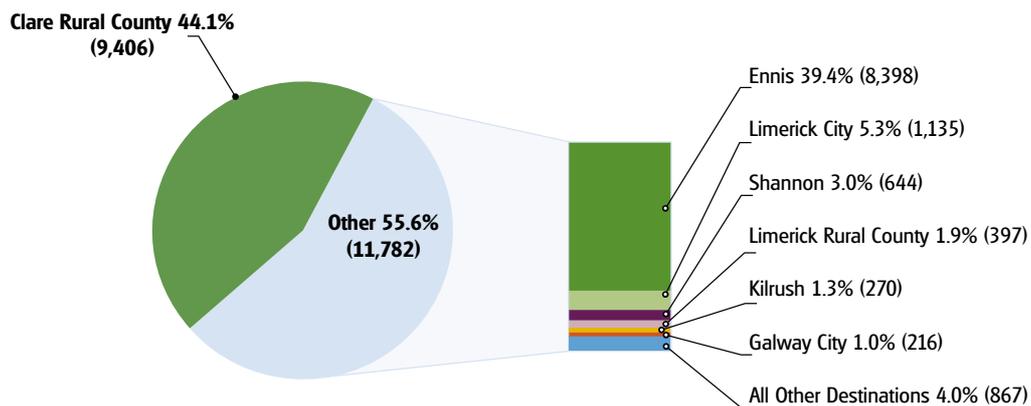


Table 4.1 Place of work of those living in the Ennis labour catchment, 2006

Place of work	Number	%
Clare Rural County	9,406	44.1
Ennis	8,398	39.4
Limerick city	1,135	5.3
Shannon	644	3.0
Limerick Rural County	397	1.9
Kilrush	270	1.3
Galway city	216	1.0
All other destinations	867	4.0
Total	21,333	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

Generally the urban centre that defines the labour catchment is the primary location of employment, however in the case of the Ennis labour catchment, the highest proportion (44.1%) are working somewhere in Clare Rural County. The data show that 39.4% of workers resident in the Ennis labour catchment work within the town. A further 48.4% work in other parts of county Clare, (Clare Rural County, Shannon and Kilrush). The proportion travelling to work in Shannon is 3.0% and to Limerick city is 5.3%. Ennis labour catchment has a population at work 1.85 times the census population at work³⁵ in Ennis town (21,333 and 11,497 respectively), which highlights the more extensive labour force available to the town.

4.3.2 Travel distances

The distances travelled by those working in the Ennis labour catchment are shown in Table 4.2, along with similar data for the State as a whole. 30% of those travelling to work in the Ennis labour catchment travel less than 4km. A further 29% travel 10-24km which would include for example journeys from Shannon to Ennis. Of those living in the Ennis labour catchment, 20.4% travel distances of 25-49km which would include travel from the suburbs of Limerick to Ennis. This is a much higher proportion than those travelling similar distances nationally. A slightly larger proportion than the State average travel in excess of 50km (6.4% and 5.7% respectively).

Table 4.2 Travel distances of those living in the Ennis labour catchment and the State, 2006

Labour catchment	0-4 km %	5-9 km %	10-24 km %	25-49 km %	50+ km %
Ennis	30.0	14.2	29.0	20.4	6.4
State (POWCAR)	31.3	20.3	30.2	12.6	5.7

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

4.3.3 Gender

The gender composition of workers in the Ennis labour catchment is shown below. Women account for 48.2% of those at work there. The analysis shows that women constitute a higher proportion of the workforce in the town than men, 59.4% compared with 40.6%. Along with the towns of Roscommon and Carrick-on-Shannon, Ennis town has the highest proportion of females in the town's workforce of all the seven labour catchments reviewed in this report.

³⁵ Census of Population 2006. Volume 7 – Principal Economic Status and Industries, Table 7.



Conversely, men account for a higher share of those working outside of the town, accounting for 59.0% of the workforce there. This is related to the sectoral employment structure, where sectors with high shares of female employment e.g. health and commerce are important in the town, whereas in areas outside of the town, sectors with high shares of male employment e.g. agriculture, construction and traditional manufacturing are important employers.

Table 4.3 Population living in the Ennis labour catchment by gender and place of work, 2006

Ennis labour catchment	Males	Females	Total	Males %	Females %	Total %
Working in Ennis	3,409	4,989	8,398	40.6	59.4	100.0
Working outside Ennis	7,637	5,298	12,935	59.0	41.0	100.0
Total	11,046	10,287	21,333	51.8	48.2	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

4.3.4 Age

The age profile of those at work and over 15 years who live in the Ennis labour catchment is shown in Table 4.4. The age profile of the Ennis labour catchment is older than many of the other labour catchments in the Western Region, for example Letterkenny, Galway, Sligo and Carrick-on-Shannon. It has a slightly younger profile than the catchments of Castlebar and Roscommon.

Comparing the age profile of those working in Ennis town to those working outside the town, there is a higher proportion of those under 30 years of age working in Ennis town. The age profile of those working outside the town is slightly older, for example those aged between 30-44 years comprised 44.2% of the workforce there, compared with 41.4% of those working in the town.

Table 4.4 Age profile of population living in the Ennis labour catchment by place of work, 2006

Ennis labour catchment	< 30 years	30-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	Total over 15 years
Working in Ennis	24.4%	41.4%	33.5%	1.1%	100% (N=8,398)
Working outside Ennis	20.2%	44.2%	33.2%	2.4%	100% (N=12,935)
Total	21.9%	43.0%	33.3%	1.9%	100% (N=21,333)

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

4.3.5 Education

Table 4.5 shows the labour catchments of Ennis and neighbouring labour catchments of Galway, Shannon, Gort and Ballinasloe, in terms of those who have completed a third level education or higher. The proportion with a third level education or higher in the Ennis labour catchment (41.2%) is lower than the average for the State but is higher than some other labour catchments in the Western Region.



Table 4.5 Population living in Ennis labour catchment and adjacent labour catchments that has completed third level education or higher, 2006

Labour Catchment	Working in the town %	Working outside the town %	Total %
Ennis	40.1	41.4	41.2
Galway	55.0	40.9	49.0
Shannon	27.7	35.3	33.2
Gort	24.6	39.5	34.1
Ballinasloe	36.1	32.7	34.1
State (POWCAR)			43.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

The data in Table 4.5 also show differences in the educational profile of those employed inside and outside the town. In Ennis a greater proportion of those working outside the town (41.4%) have attained a third level education compared with 40.1% of those working inside the town. This suggests that more graduate employment is located outside the town centre unlike Galway for example where there is a much higher share of graduate employment within the centre.

In the case of Shannon and Gort, a higher dependence on particular sectors such as transport and manufacturing in Shannon and meat processing in Gort may explain the relatively low educational profile of the workforce engaged in each town centre.

4.3.6 Employment by industrial group

Employment by industrial group is shown in Table 4.6. Commerce is the most important sector for employment accounting for 25% of the workforce in the Ennis labour catchment, but this proportion is well below the average of 31.8% for the State.

Education, health and social work is a major sector of employment accounting for 19.4% of employment, similar to the share nationally. Those working in the manufacturing sectors make up a larger proportion of employment than in other areas.

Table 4.6 Employment by industrial group in the Ennis labour catchment, 2006

Industrial group	Ennis labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	6.1	4.5
Manufacturing industries	17.3	15.9
Construction	6.1	5.8
Commerce	25.0	31.8
Transport, storage and communications	6.1	5.4
Public administration and defence	7.2	6.1
Education, health and social work	19.4	19.5
Other	12.7	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO



4.3.7 Socio-economic structure

The socio-economic structure of employment for Ennis labour catchment is presented in Table 4.7. Those living in the Ennis labour catchment have a slightly different employment profile than the national average. For example, 38% of those living in the Ennis labour catchment are employers, managers or professionals, compared to 39.3% nationally.

Table 4.7 Socio-economic group of people living in Ennis labour catchment, 2006

Socio-economic structure	Ennis labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Employers and managers	14.9	16.4
Higher professional	6.7	7.9
Lower professional	16.4	15.0
Non manual	28.4	28.8
Manual skilled	10.4	10.1
Semi-skilled	10.2	11.1
Unskilled	3.1	3.2
Own account workers	3.6	2.9
Farmers	5.6	3.6
Agricultural workers	0.4	0.7
All others gainfully occupied and unknown	0.3	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

Additional data show that employment among higher socio-economic groups is only slightly more common among those working in the town, 39.3% are employers, managers or professional workers, compared to those working outside the town (where the proportion is 37.1%). The data on educational attainment (Table 4.5) indicate that there is a slightly higher proportion of graduate employment outside Ennis town than within. Both these patterns suggest that places of work outside of Ennis town are important centres for professional and graduate employment.



4.4 Ennis labour catchment summary

- Ennis's influence as a place of work extends over much of county Clare. The town is a far more important source of employment for those living in the west of the county than those living to the south and east. This is not surprising because those living in the south and east of the county have far greater access to employment in the urban areas of Shannon and Limerick city.
- The data shows that 39.4% of workers resident in the Ennis labour catchment work within the town. A further 44.1% work in Clare rural county.
- The proportion of residents in the Ennis labour catchment commuting long distances is relatively high compared to the national average.
- A demographic profile of the Ennis labour catchment shows the following:
 - Women account for 48.2% of workers living in the Ennis labour catchment. However, Ennis town itself is a far more important employment centre for women where they make up 59.4% of the workforce there.
 - The age profile in the Ennis labour catchment is older than in the labour catchments of Letterkenny, Galway, Sligo and Carrick-on-Shannon.
 - The proportion of residents with a third level education in the Ennis labour catchment is lower than the State average but is higher than some other labour catchments in the Western Region. Galway and Sligo have a higher proportion of resident workers with a third level qualification.
- Analysis of the profile of employment within the Ennis labour catchment shows the following:
 - The single largest employment category is commerce, which accounts for 25% of jobs, but this proportion is below the average for the State.
 - Education, health and social work is an important sector accounting for 19.4% of employment in the Ennis labour catchment, similar to the figure nationally.
 - Manufacturing industries account for 12.1% of employment within the town and 20.7% outside the town.
 - There are proportionately fewer engaged as employer, manager or professional workers in Ennis labour catchment than nationally, 38.0% compared to 39.3%.



5.0 Sligo

Sligo borough³⁶ is the administrative capital of county Sligo and was designated a Gateway in the NSS in 2002. It is the third largest urban centre in the Western Region, after Galway and Ennis. It is the only centre examined here which recorded a population decline between 2002 and 2006³⁷.

5.1 The importance of Sligo as a place of work

Map 5.1 shows the extent of travel to Sligo borough for work. The colours represent the different proportions of people who live in each ED and travel to work in Sligo borough. The map shows every ED (within the frame) from where even one person commutes to Sligo borough to work.

As would be expected, the EDs closest to Sligo borough have the highest proportion working in the borough. Beyond these areas, the proportion travelling to the borough gradually declines with distance graduating from the darkest green (51% to 60% of people living in those EDs commute to work in Sligo borough) through to the lightest yellow shading, those with less than 10% of workers resident in that ED (perhaps as few as one individual) commuting to work in Sligo borough.

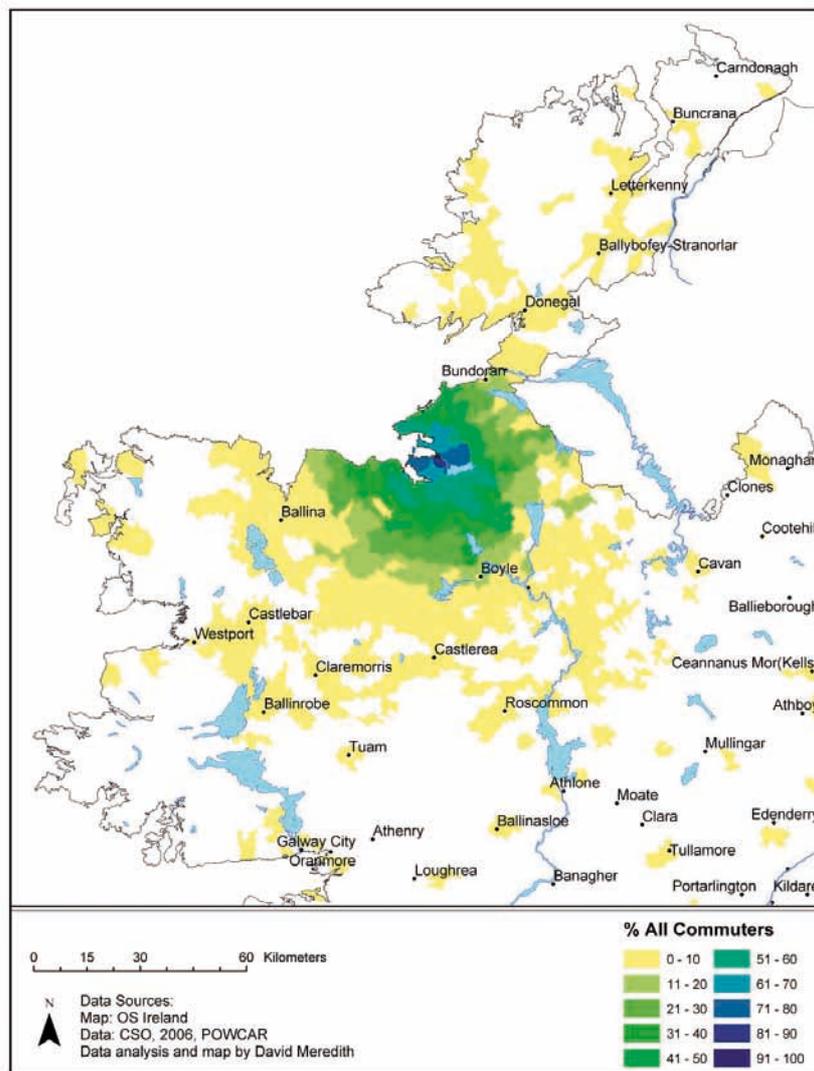
The data from which Map 5.1 is drawn form the basis for the concept of the Sligo borough labour catchment which we will discuss in the next section.

³⁶ The Central Statistics Office classifies Sligo as a borough, in accordance with the Local Government Act, 2001. As this report is based on CSO data, the term Sligo borough is used here to distinguish it from Sligo county.

³⁷ In 2006 the population of Sligo borough and environs was 19,402 a decrease of 1.7% on 2002, though many of the towns and villages surrounding Sligo experienced population growth between 2002 and 2006.



Map 5.1 The percentage of persons commuting to Sligo borough, 2006



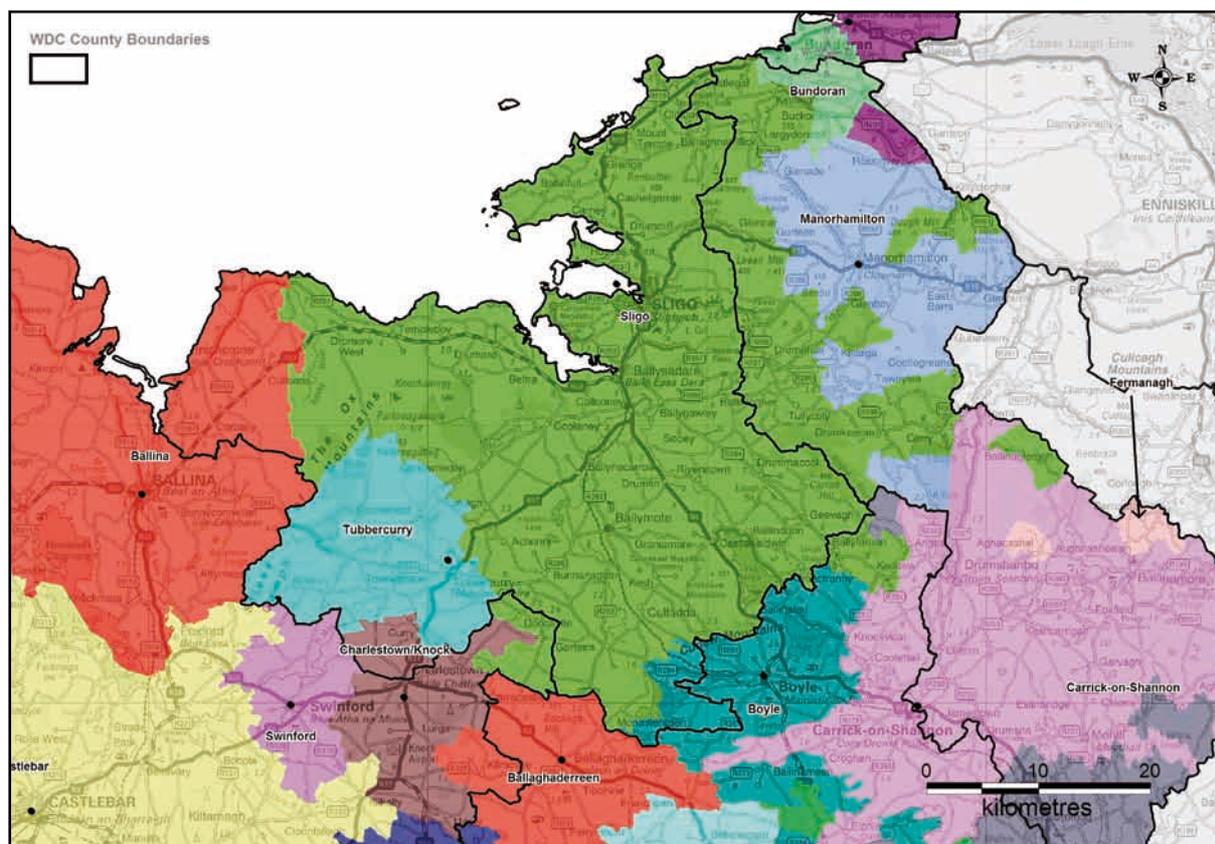
Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

5.2 The Sligo borough labour catchment

While Map 5.1 showed **every** ED from where even one person commuted to Sligo borough, all of these EDs are **not** included in the Sligo borough labour catchment. The Sligo borough labour catchment, is made up only of those EDs for which Sligo borough is **the most popular work destination** for those living there. The data presented in Map 5.2 show the Sligo borough labour catchment which extends over almost the entire county (with the exception of the western boundary adjacent to the Ballina catchment). It also extends into north Leitrim and into parts of counties Mayo and Roscommon.



Map 5.2 Spatial extent of the Sligo borough labour catchment, 2006



Source: Gleeson, J., NIRSA 2009. Map extracted from Map 2.1

5.3 Profile of the Sligo borough labour catchment

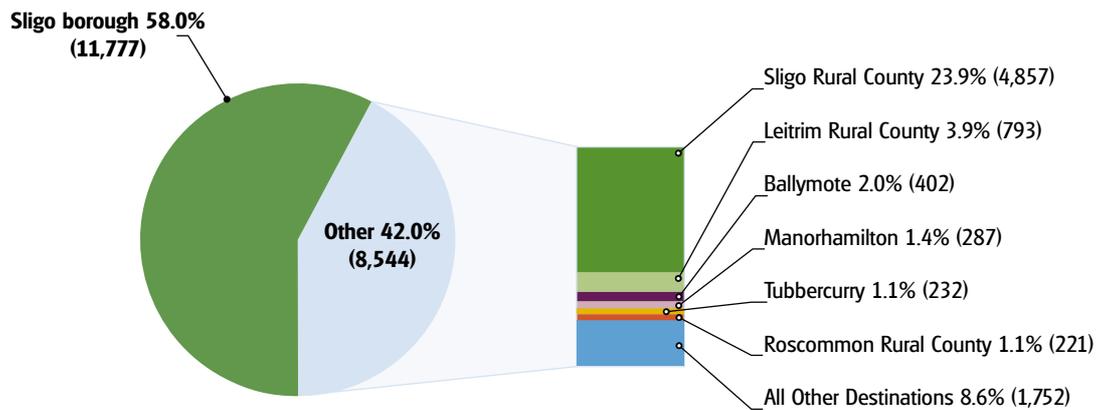
The data presented in this section provide a socio-economic profile of those at work who live within the Sligo borough labour catchment. The analysis presented is based on 20,321 workers living in the Sligo borough labour catchment. Additional reference is made to some of the other labour catchments reviewed in this report.

5.3.1 Place of work

Figure 5.1 and Table 5.1 shows the location of individuals' place of work in 2006. Sligo borough labour catchment has a population at work 2.3 times the census population at work³⁸ in Sligo borough and environs, (20,321 and 8,670 respectively). This highlights the importance of the borough as a centre of employment for people living within the Sligo borough labour catchment.

³⁸ Census of Population 2006. Volume 7 – Principal Economic Status and Industries, Table 7.



Figure 5.1 Place of work for those living in the Sligo borough labour catchment, 2006**Table 5.1 Place of work for those living in the Sligo borough labour catchment, 2006**

Place of work	Number	%
Sligo borough	11,777	58.0
Sligo Rural County	4,857	23.9
Leitrim Rural County	793	3.9
Ballymote	402	2.0
Manorhamilton	287	1.4
Tubbercurry	232	1.1
Roscommon Rural County	221	1.1
All other destinations	1,752	8.6
Total	20,321	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

The data show that 58.0% of workers resident in the Sligo borough labour catchment work within Sligo borough, which similar to the Galway city labour catchment, indicates a contained labour catchment, that is one in which a majority of workers living there also work there. A further 23.9% work in rural parts of county Sligo. Of the remainder, most travel to work in rural parts of Leitrim and the smaller towns of Ballymote, Manorhamilton, Tubbercurry.

5.3.2 Travel distances

The distances travelled by those working in the Sligo borough labour catchment are shown in Table 5.2, along with similar data for the State. Of those travelling to work in Sligo borough labour catchment, 35.3% travel less than 4km. The proportion travelling in excess of 50kms is less than most other labour catchments, which again illustrates the importance of Sligo borough as an employment centre and the limited commuting to more distant centres.



Table 5.2 Travel distances of those living in the Sligo borough labour catchment and the State, 2006

Labour catchment	0-4 km %	5-9 km %	10-24 km %	25-49 km %	50+ km %
Sligo	35.3	19.6	29.2	11.9	4.1
State (POWCAR)	31.3	20.3	30.2	12.6	5.7

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

5.3.3 Gender

The gender composition of workers in the Sligo borough labour catchment is shown below. It shows that women account for 50.6% of those at work there. Similar to the Castlebar labour catchment, women account for a greater proportion of total employment in the Sligo borough labour catchment than in any other catchments reviewed here.

Analysis shows that within the town, female workers outnumber male workers (57.1% and 42.9%), reflecting the type of employment there, for example sectors with traditionally high female participation are located in the town e.g. public administration, health, education and retail sectors.

Table 5.3 Population living in the Sligo borough labour catchment by gender and place of work, 2006

Sligo borough labour catchment	Males	Females	Total	Males %	Females %	Total %
Working in Sligo borough	5,055	6,722	11,777	42.9	57.1	100.0
Working outside Sligo borough	4,974	3,570	8,544	58.2	41.8	100.0
Total	10,029	10,292	20,321	49.4	50.6	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

5.3.4 Age

The age profile of those at work and over 15 years who live in the Sligo borough labour catchment is shown in the Table 5.4. The age profile is one of the oldest in the Western Region. Furthermore, the workforce within the borough itself is only slightly younger than those working outside the borough, compared to other catchments. The absence of a relatively young workforce in Sligo, given the presence of an Institute of Technology there is surprising and may reflect more limited new employment opportunities compared to other centres.

Table 5.4 Age profile of population living in the Sligo borough labour catchment by place of work, 2006

Sligo borough labour catchment	< 30 years	30-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	Total over 15 years
Working in Sligo borough	24.1%	39.7%	35.0%	1.1%	100% (N=11,777)
Working outside Sligo borough	19.8%	38.1%	38.9%	3.2%	100% (N=8,544)
Total	22.3%	39.0%	36.6%	2.0%	100% (N=20,321)

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

5.3.5 Education

Table 5.5 shows the proportion of those who have a third level education or higher in each of the labour catchments of Sligo, Letterkenny, Castlebar, Carrick-on-Shannon and Roscommon.



Table 5.5 Population living in Sligo borough and adjacent labour catchments that has completed third level education or higher, 2006

Labour Catchment	Working in the borough %	Working outside the borough %	Total %
Sligo	46.0	36.7	42.1
Letterkenny	45.7	34.9	40.1
Castlebar	40.7	36.8	38.6
Carrick-on-Shannon	35.3	36.5	36.3
Roscommon	35.8	32.0	32.9
State (POWCAR)			43.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

The proportion who have a third level education or higher in the Sligo borough labour catchment is slightly less than the average for the State but is higher than the surrounding labour catchments. This reflects the relative importance of some sectors employing graduates, for example health - Sligo General Hospital, education - Institute of Technology Sligo and St. Angela's College, and public administration, for example Government departments. However as noted in Section 5.3.4, the higher educational profile is not reflected in the age profile of the workforce suggesting that many young educated people leave the area.

The data in Table 5.5 also show differences in the educational profile of those employed inside and outside the borough. In Sligo a greater proportion of those working in the borough (46%) have attained a third level education or higher compared with 36.7% of those working outside the borough. This is typical of larger centres where there is more graduate employment located in the centre. Table 5.5 shows that overall there is a lower level of graduate employment in the smaller catchments of Carrick-on-Shannon and Roscommon.

5.3.6 Employment by industrial group

Employment by industrial group is shown in Table 5.6. Education, health and social work is the most important employment sector and is due to the strong influence of the third level institutions and Sligo General Hospital. This sector accounts for 27.2% of employment compared to 19.5% nationally and much of this employment is within the public sector.

The other important employment sector is commerce where 23.7% of the workforce is engaged, though this proportion is far below the State average and below that of most of the other labour catchments reviewed in this report. Commerce includes a range of activities for example; wholesale and retail trade, banking, financial services and real estate, renting and business activities. It is likely that employment in the banking and financial services subsector in particular is underrepresented in the Sligo borough labour catchment. This is in part due to the absence of many firms in this subsector in Sligo and in part because a significant proportion of all banking and financial services employment nationally is located within the Internationally Traded Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Dublin. The proportion engaged in public administration and defence is higher than the national average and reflects employment in the offices of some Government departments located there.



Table 5.6 Employment by industrial group in the Sligo borough labour catchment, 2006

Industrial group	Sligo borough labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5.7	4.5
Manufacturing industries	16.2	15.9
Construction	4.9	5.8
Commerce	23.7	31.8
Transport, storage and communications	3.6	5.4
Public administration and defence	7.8	6.1
Education, health and social work	27.2	19.5
Other	11.0	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

5.3.7 Socio-economic structure

The socio economic structure of employment in the Sligo borough labour catchment is presented in Table 5.7. In the Sligo borough labour catchment there are proportionately fewer engaged as employers, managers and professionals, 37.3%, compared to 39.3% nationally. There is a higher share of non-manual and semi-skilled employment in the Sligo borough labour catchment than the State average.

Table 5.7 Socio-economic group of people living in Sligo borough labour catchment, 2006

Socio-economic structure	Sligo borough labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Employers and managers	13.3	16.4
Higher professional	7.2	7.9
Lower professional	16.8	15.0
Non manual	29.6	28.8
Manual skilled	8.6	10.1
Semi-skilled	12.9	11.1
Unskilled	2.9	3.2
Own account workers	2.9	2.9
Farmers	5.0	3.6
Agricultural workers	0.4	0.7
All others gainfully occupied and unknown	0.3	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

Additional data also show that there is a greater share of employers, managers or professionals working in the borough (40%) than those outside of the borough (33.6%). This is consistent with other larger towns and cities, as professional



employment is concentrated in the urban areas. It also reflects the sectoral mix of employment in the Sligo borough labour catchment, where professional employment is a feature of the workforce in the education and health sectors, particularly third level institutions and the hospital.

5.4 Sligo borough labour catchment summary

- Sligo's influence as a place of work extends over almost the entire county (with the exception of the western boundary adjacent to Ballina). It also includes some of north Leitrim, parts of Roscommon and Mayo.
- The data show that 58.0% of workers resident in the Sligo borough labour catchment work within Sligo borough, while a further 23.9% work in rural parts of county Sligo. Based on this analysis it is evident that the Sligo borough labour catchment is quite contained with limited commuting to other towns and labour catchments.
- A demographic profile of the Sligo borough labour catchment shows the following:
 - Similar to the Castlebar labour catchment, in the Sligo labour catchment, females in employment outnumber males (50.6% and 49.4% respectively).
 - Analysis also shows that the borough itself is an even more important employment centre for women, who make up 57.1% of its workforce. This is consistent with the type of employment where health, education and public administration are particularly important sectors.
 - The age profile of workers living in the Sligo borough labour catchment is one of the oldest in all the catchments reviewed in this report.
 - The proportion who have a third level education in Sligo is lower than the State average, but higher than many nearby labour catchments. This may be due to the presence of two third level institutions in the area (Institute of Technology Sligo and St. Angela's College).
- The structure of employment within the Sligo borough labour catchment is not typical of the national average.
- Commerce accounts for 23.7% of employment compared to 31.8% nationally. Education, health and social work meanwhile accounts for 27.2% of employment compared to 19.5% nationally and this along with the higher proportion engaged in public administration indicate the importance of public sector employment.
- In the Sligo borough labour catchment there are proportionately fewer engaged as employers, managers and professionals (37.3 %) compared to the national average (39.3%).



6.0 Letterkenny

Letterkenny was designated a linked NSS Gateway with Derry in 2002. In 2006 Letterkenny had a total population of 17,586, an increase of 15.5% on the population in 2002, which was considerably greater than the population increase nationally (8.2%) or in the Western Region (8.1%).

6.1 The importance of Letterkenny as a place of work

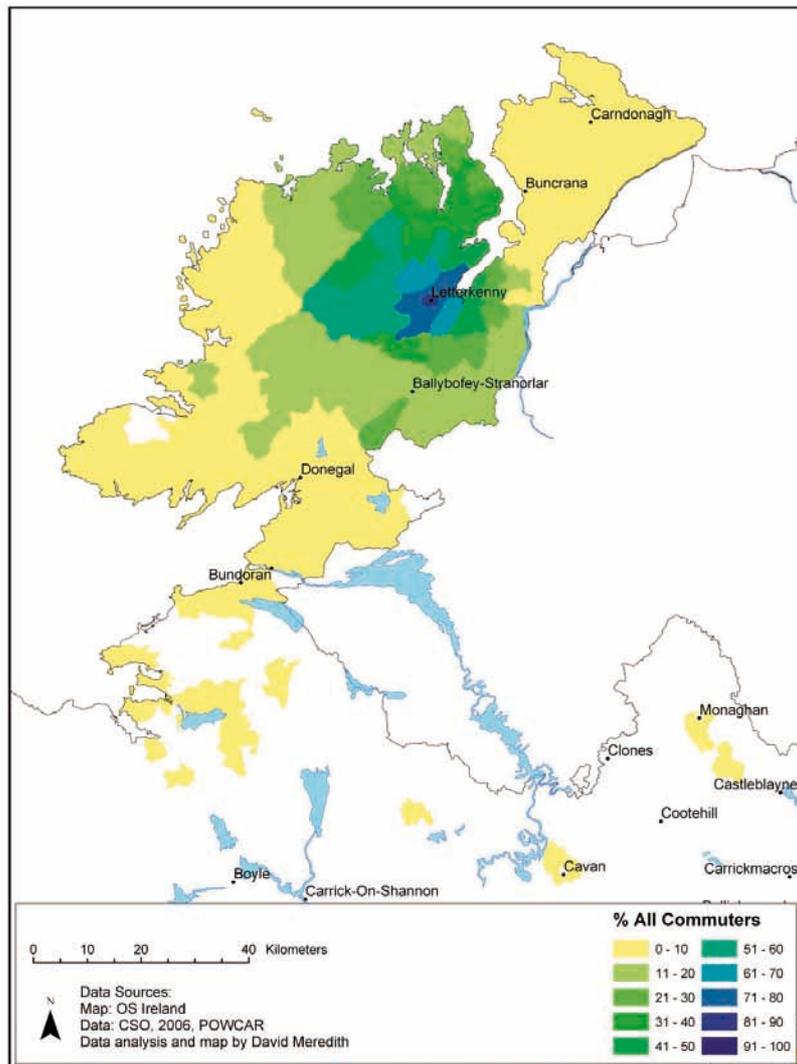
Map 6.1 shows the extent of travel to Letterkenny for work. The colours represent the different proportions of people who live in each ED and travel to work in Letterkenny. The map shows every ED (within the frame) from where even one person commutes to Letterkenny to work.

The map demonstrates that the areas closest to Letterkenny have the highest proportion working in the town, as indicated by various shadings of blue around the town's immediate hinterland. Beyond these areas, the proportion travelling to the town gradually declines with distance, but to varying degrees. For example, on the Inishowen Peninsula less than 10% of people living in those EDs commute to work in Letterkenny. A comparatively greater proportion of those living west and north of Letterkenny travel to that town to work. In the southern half of the county, Letterkenny is a less significant employer. Map 2.1 suggests that Letterkenny labour catchment does not extend across county Donegal to the same extent as the catchments of Galway city, Sligo or Ennis extend across their respective counties. This is in part due to geography but also relates to the relatively large number of sizable towns within county Donegal with their own labour catchments.

The data from which Map 6.1 is drawn form the basis for the concept of the Letterkenny labour catchment which we will discuss in the next section.



Map 6.1 The percentage of persons commuting to Letterkenny, 2006



Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

6.2 The labour catchment of Letterkenny

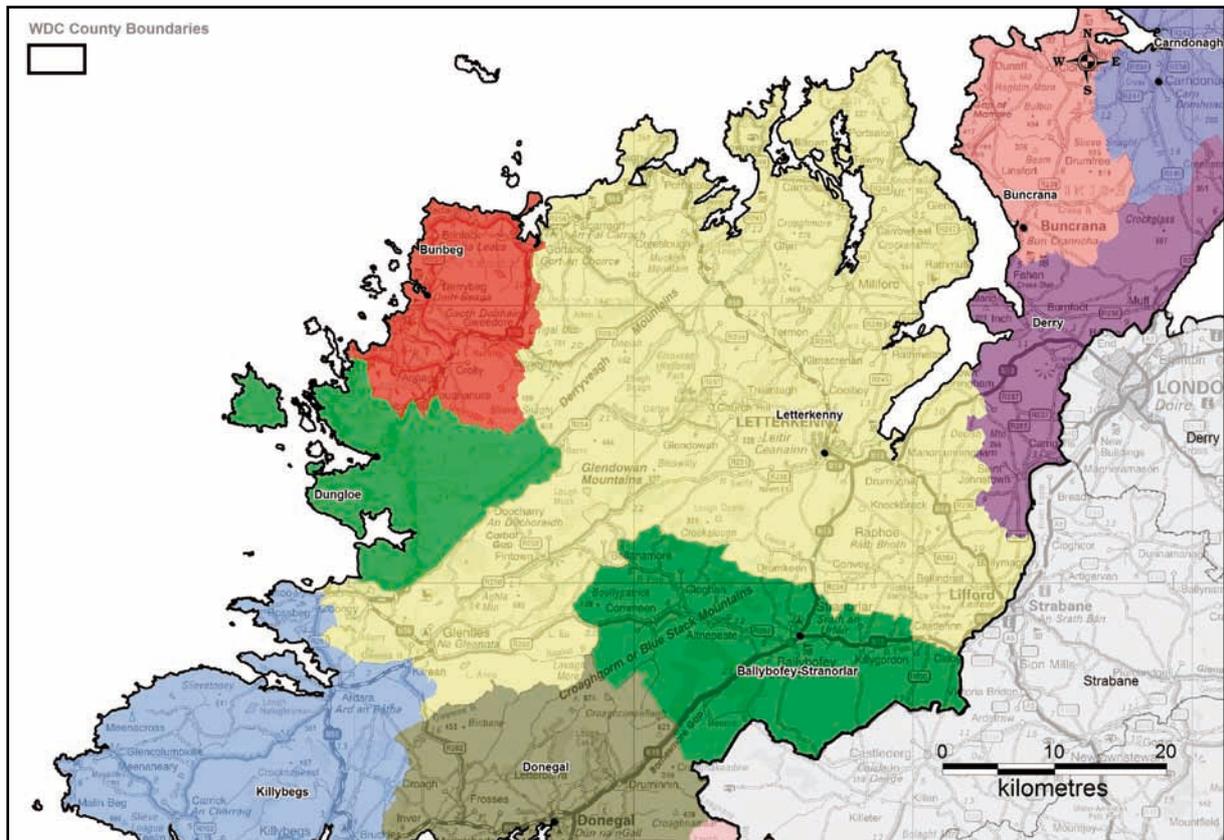
While Map 6.1 showed **every** ED from where even one person commuted to Letterkenny, all of these EDs are **not** included in the Letterkenny labour catchment. The Letterkenny labour catchment is made up only of those EDs for which Letterkenny is the **most popular work destination** for those living there. This is shown in Map 6.2 where the Letterkenny labour catchment is depicted in yellow.

Other EDs, whose commuters travel in greater numbers to other towns, are excluded from the Letterkenny labour catchment and assigned to the catchments of these alternative towns. In county Donegal, the other larger towns which would be most important are Derry and Donegal town. As a result, a separate labour catchment for Derry exists in the north of the county³⁹, and the labour catchments of Carndonagh and Buncrana extend over the Inishowen Peninsula. The Letterkenny catchment extends to the west and south west including the town of Glenties and to the east, to include Lifford. To the south of county Donegal, the catchments of Killybegs, Donegal town and Ballyshannon (not in view), are important.

³⁹ Data contained in Meredith and Foley, 2008.



Map 6.2 Spatial extent of the Letterkenny labour catchment, 2006



Source: Gleeson, J., NIRSA, 2009. Map extracted from Map 2.1.

6.3 Profile of the Letterkenny labour catchment

The Letterkenny labour catchment is the fourth most populous labour catchment identified within the Western Region, after Galway, Ennis and Sligo borough. The data presented in this section provides a socio-economic profile of those at work who live within the Letterkenny labour catchment. The analysis presented is based on 17,886 people living within the Letterkenny labour catchment and at work in 2006.

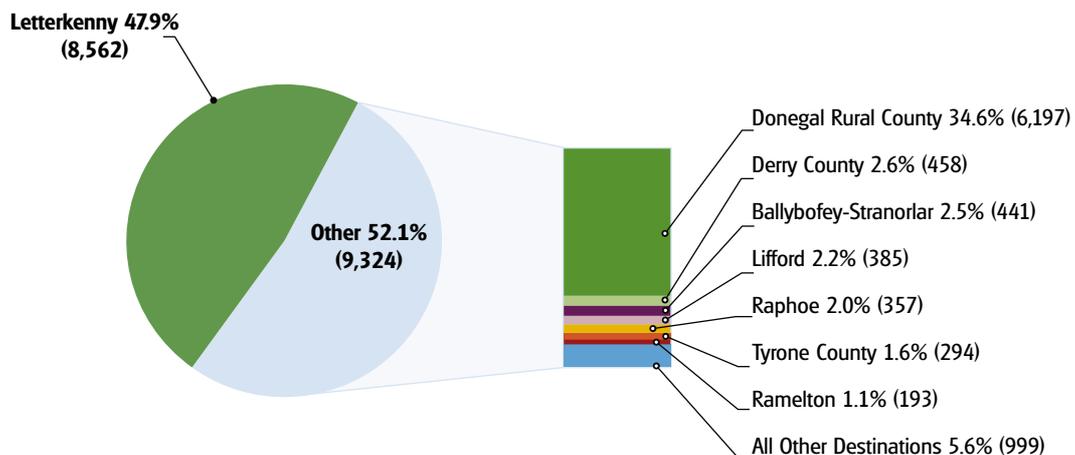
Letterkenny labour catchment has a population at work 2.3 times the census population at work⁴⁰ in Letterkenny (17,886 and 7,514 respectively), demonstrating the more extensive labour market there.

6.3.1 Place of work

Figure 6.1 and Table 6.1 show the location of those individuals' place of work who live within the Letterkenny labour catchment.

⁴⁰ Census of Population 2006. Volume 7 – Principal Economic Status and Industries, Table 7.



Figure 6.1 Place of work for those living in the Letterkenny labour catchment, 2006**Table 6.1 Place of work of those living within the Letterkenny labour catchment, 2006**

Place of work	Number	%
Letterkenny	8,562	47.9
Donegal Rural County	6,197	34.6
Derry county	458	2.6
Ballybofey-Stranorlar	441	2.5
Lifford	385	2.2
Raphoe	357	2.0
Tyrone county	294	1.6
Ramelton	193	1.1
All other destinations	999	5.6
Total	17,886	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

Letterkenny and rural parts of county Donegal are the places of employment for over 90% of those living within the Letterkenny labour catchment, a very high proportion when compared with other labour catchments. The number of people travelling to work elsewhere is very low with county Derry (2.6%) and county Tyrone (1.6%) being the most important alternative locations. In total, 4.3% of workers living in the Letterkenny labour catchment work somewhere in Northern Ireland.

The proportion of workers who work within Letterkenny itself, at 47.9%, is very high for the Western Region: only Galway city and Sligo borough account for a greater proportion of employment for those living within their labour catchments. This relatively high degree of containment is partly due to geography with relatively long distances to other labour catchments.

6.3.2 Travel distances

The distances travelled by those working in the Letterkenny labour catchment is presented in Table 6.2. A large proportion (38.2%) travel less than 4km to work. A relatively low proportion compared to the national average travel in excess of 50km to work (4.4% and 5.7% respectively).



Table 6.2 Travel distances of those living in Letterkenny labour catchment and the State, 2006

Labour catchment	0-4 km %	5-9 km %	10-24 km %	25-49 km %	50+ km %
Letterkenny	38.2	16.5	27.7	13.1	4.4
State (POWCAR)	31.3	20.3	30.2	12.6	5.7

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

6.3.3 Gender

The gender composition of workers in the Letterkenny labour catchment is shown in Table 6.3. It shows a similar number of men and women at work, though nationally men account for 52.1% of those at work.

The table also shows a variation in the gender balance of those working in the town compared with those working outside the town. Women constitute a higher proportion of the workforce in the town than men, 56.9% compared with 43.1%. Conversely, men account for a higher share of those working outside of the town, accounting for 56.6% of the workforce there. This is related to the sectoral employment structure, where sectors with high shares of female employment e.g. public sector and commerce are important in the town, whereas in areas outside of the town, sectors with high shares of male employment e.g. agriculture, construction and traditional manufacturing are more important employers.

Table 6.3 Population at work and resident in the Letterkenny labour catchment by gender and place of work, 2006

Letterkenny labour catchment	Males	Females	Total	Males %	Females %	Total %
Working in Letterkenny	3,690	4,872	8,562	43.1	56.9	100.0
Working outside Letterkenny	5,273	4,051	9,324	56.6	43.4	100.0
Total	8,963	8,923	17,886	50.1	49.9	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

6.3.4 Age

The age profile of those at work who live in the Letterkenny labour catchment is shown in Table 6.4. The age profile is one of the youngest in the Western Region, along with Shannon and Galway. Furthermore, the workforce within the town itself is younger than those working outside of it, particularly the under 30 years age group.

Table 6.4 Age profile of population living in Letterkenny labour catchment by place of work, 2006

Letterkenny labour catchment	< 30 years	30-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	Total over 15 years
Working in Letterkenny	29.9%	43.0%	26.4%	0.7%	100% (N=8,562)
Working outside Letterkenny	23.8%	41.8%	32.0%	2.3%	100% (N=9,324)
Total	26.7%	42.4%	29.3%	1.5%	100% (N=17,886)

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

6.3.5 Education

Table 6.5 shows the proportion of those at work who have a third level education or higher in the Letterkenny labour catchment and nearby labour catchments. The proportion with a third level education in the Letterkenny labour catchment, 40.1%, is below the State average (43%) but higher than other catchments, for example Castlebar.



As with other town labour catchments, in Letterkenny, a higher proportion of those working in the town have completed third level education compared to those working outside the town. This reflects the occupational profile of employment in the town centre with more graduate employment opportunities available there than outside the town.

Table 6.5 Population living in Letterkenny and adjacent labour catchments that has completed third level education or higher, 2006

Labour Catchment	Working in the town %	Working outside the town %	Total %
Letterkenny	45.7	34.9	40.1
Sligo	46.0	36.7	42.1
Castlebar	40.7	36.8	38.6
State (POWCAR)			43.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

6.3.6 Employment by industrial group

Employment by industrial group is shown in Table 6.6. Commerce is the most important sector (28.6%), though it accounts for a smaller proportion of employment than nationally (31.8%). Education, health and social work account for 27.3% of employment, and public administration and defence account for a further 7.3%. These proportions are in excess of the national average and highlight the importance of public sector employment in Letterkenny. Conversely, manufacturing industries account for 10.6% of employment, much less than the national average.

Table 6.6 Employment by industrial group in the Letterkenny labour catchment, 2006

Industrial group	Letterkenny labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	6.5	4.5
Manufacturing industries	10.6	15.9
Construction	4.8	5.8
Commerce	28.6	31.8
Transport, storage and communications	3.1	5.4
Public administration and defence	7.3	6.1
Education, health and social work	27.3	19.5
Other	11.7	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

6.3.7 Socio-economic structure

The socio-economic structure of employment is presented for Letterkenny's labour catchment in Table 6.7. Those living in the Letterkenny labour catchment have a different employment profile to the state average. For example, 36.4% of those living in the Letterkenny labour catchment are employers, managers and professionals, compared to 39.3% nationally. Non-manual labour forms 31.3% of employment compared to 28.8% nationally. A greater proportion of workers are farmers and agricultural workers than in the country as a whole, which is not surprising given the rural nature of much of Donegal.



Table 6.7 Socio-economic group of people living in Letterkenny labour catchment, 2006

Socio-economic structure	Letterkenny labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Employers and managers	12.3	16.4
Higher professional	5.9	7.9
Lower professional	18.2	15.0
Non manual	31.3	28.8
Manual skilled	8.8	10.1
Semi-skilled	10.6	11.1
Unskilled	3.5	3.2
Own account workers	3.3	2.9
Farmers	5.1	3.6
Agricultural workers	0.8	0.7
All others gainfully occupied and unknown	0.2	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

Additional data also show that managerial and professional employment is far more common amongst those working in Letterkenny town, so for example, 40.7% of employment in Letterkenny is composed of employers, managers and professionals, compared to 32.5% for those working outside of the town. This again reflects the sectoral profile of employment where for example, public sector and commerce are important in the town, and agriculture, construction, and traditional manufacturing are more important employers outside the town.



6.4 Letterkenny labour catchment summary

- Letterkenny's influence as a place of work extends over much of county Donegal, but it has negligible influence beyond this area. For residents of the Inishowen Peninsula, Derry, Carndonagh and Bunrana are more important centres of employment.
- The Letterkenny labour catchment is the fourth most populous centre identified within the Western Region, after Galway, Ennis and Sligo.
- Letterkenny and other parts of county Donegal are the places of employment for over 90% of those living within the Letterkenny labour catchment – a very high proportion when compared to other labour catchments. Less than half of the workers employed in the Letterkenny labour catchment work in the town itself.
- The numbers commuting lengthy distances is low by national standards.
- A demographic profile of the Letterkenny labour catchment shows the following:
 - Letterkenny town is a particularly important location for female employment and for younger workers.
 - Those at work in the Letterkenny labour catchment, and outside the town in particular, have a lower level of educational attainment than the State average.
 - The proportions at work in the various sectors of employment are not in line with the national average; education, health and social work and public administration and defence are relatively important sectors. Conversely, manufacturing industries account for a smaller proportion of employment than is the case nationally.
 - Those living in the Letterkenny labour catchment have a different socio-economic profile than the State average, for example 36.4% are engaged as employers, managers or professionals, compared to 39.3% nationally.



7.0 Castlebar

Castlebar is the administrative capital of county Mayo. In the NSS, it was designated a linked hub with Ballina. In 2006 Castlebar town and its environs had a total population of 11,891 while Ballina town and its environs had a total population of 10,409. The town of Castlebar experienced population growth of 4.6% between 2002 and 2006.

7.1 The importance of Castlebar as a place of work

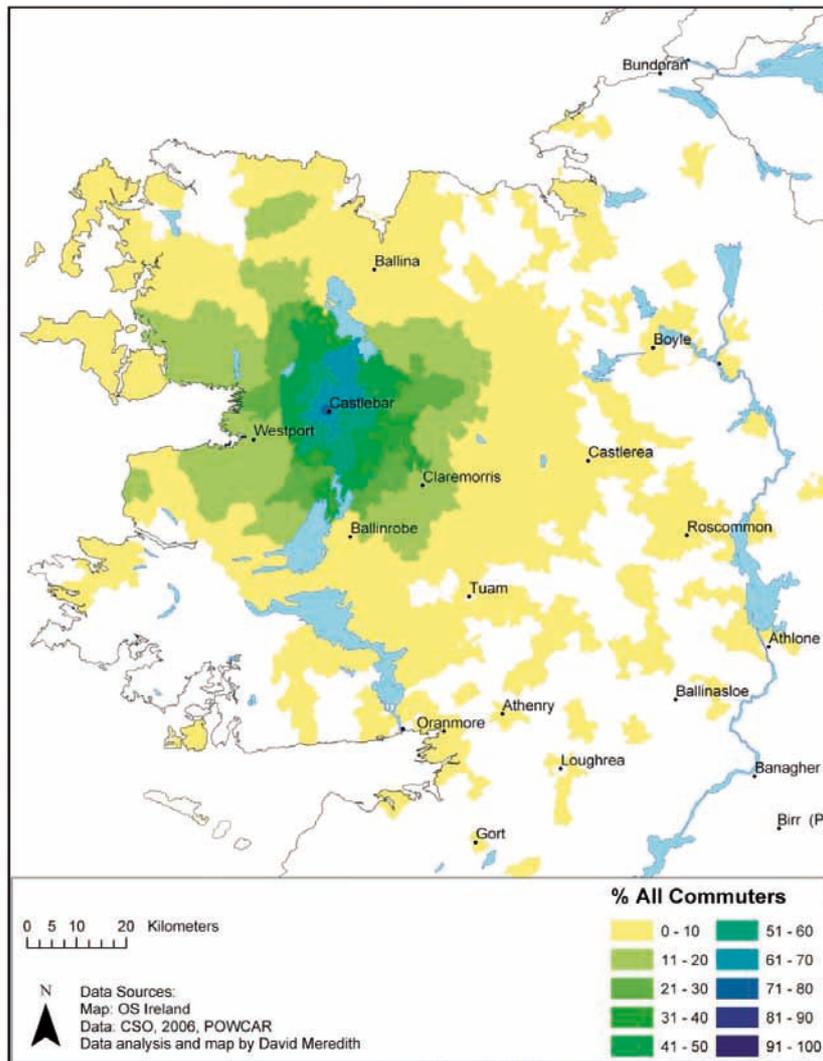
Map 7.1 shows the extent of travel to Castlebar for work. The colours represent the different proportions of people who live in each ED and travel to work in Castlebar. The map shows every ED (within the frame) from where even one person commutes to Castlebar to work.

Predictably, the areas closest to Castlebar have the highest proportion working in the town. Beyond these areas, the proportion travelling to the town gradually declines with distance graduating from the darkest green (51% to 60% of people living in those EDs commute to work in Castlebar) through to the lightest yellow (less than 10% of people living in those EDs commute to work in Castlebar). Closer examination of the map shows that, even in areas that lie west towards Westport or north towards Ballina, Castlebar continues to attract a considerable proportion of the resident workers. In these areas, both Castlebar and the other large towns are important employment locations.

The data from which Map 7.1 is drawn form the basis for the concept of the Castlebar labour catchment which we will discuss in the next section.



Map 7.1 The percentage of persons commuting to Castlebar, 2006



Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

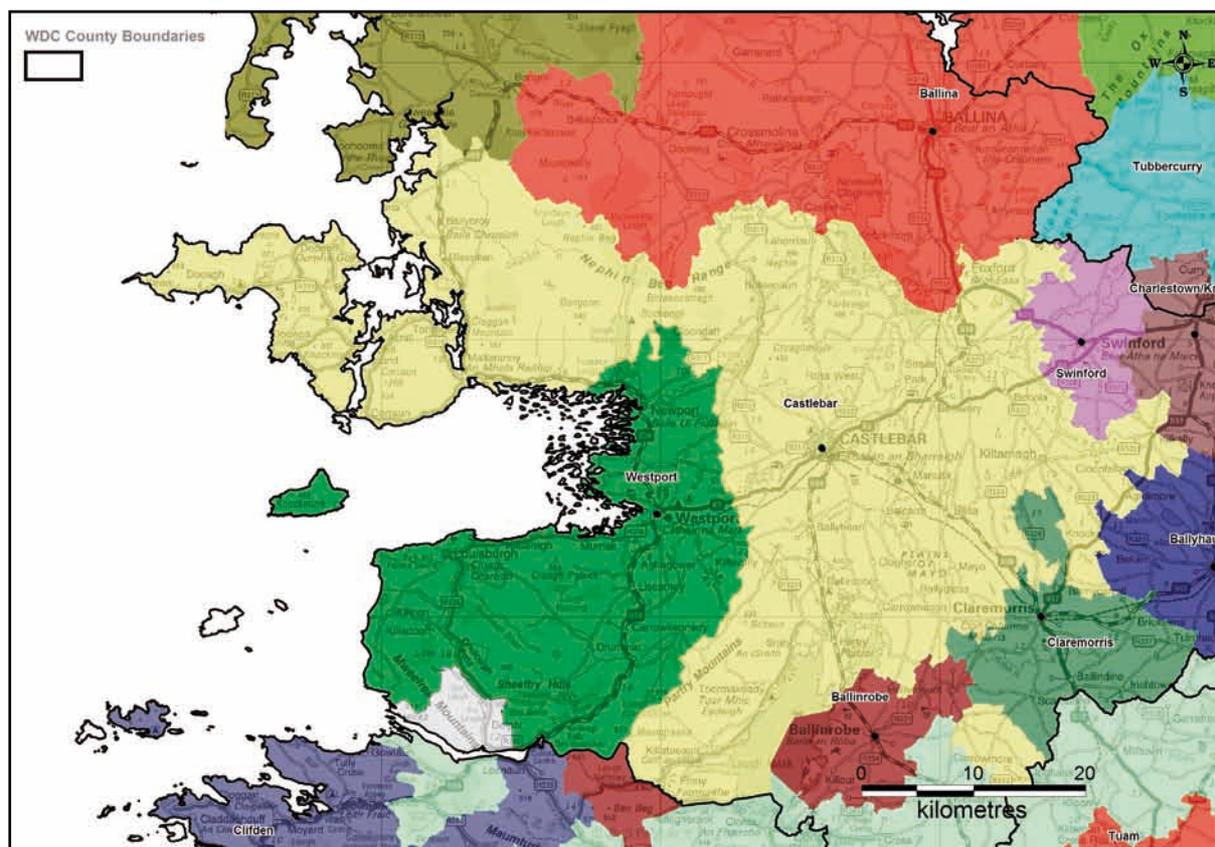
7.2 The Castlebar labour catchment

While Map 7.1 showed **every** ED from where even one person commuted to Castlebar, all of these EDs are **not** included in the Castlebar labour catchment. The Castlebar labour catchment is made up only of those EDs for which Castlebar is the **most popular work destination** for those living there. This is shown in Map 7.2, where the Castlebar labour catchment is depicted in yellow.

Other EDs, whose commuters travel in greater numbers to other towns, are excluded from the Castlebar labour catchment and assigned to these alternative towns. For example, to the west of the county, Westport (dark green), is a more important location of employment, and to the north, Ballina (shown in red) is a more important employment centre. The labour catchment of Galway city (light green) extends into county Mayo to border that of the Castlebar labour catchment.



Map 7.2 Spatial extent of the Castlebar labour catchment, 2006



Source: Gleeson, J., NIRSA, 2009. Map extracted from Map 2.1.

7.3 Profile of the Castlebar labour catchment

The data presented in this section provides a socio-economic profile of those at work who live within the Castlebar labour catchment. The analysis presented is based on 13,757 workers living within the Castlebar labour catchment and classified at work in 2006. Additional reference is also made to the adjacent labour catchments.

7.3.1 Place of work

Figure 7.1 and Table 7.1 show the place of work for those living in the Castlebar labour catchment in 2006.

Figure 7.1 Place of work for those living in the Castlebar labour catchment, 2006

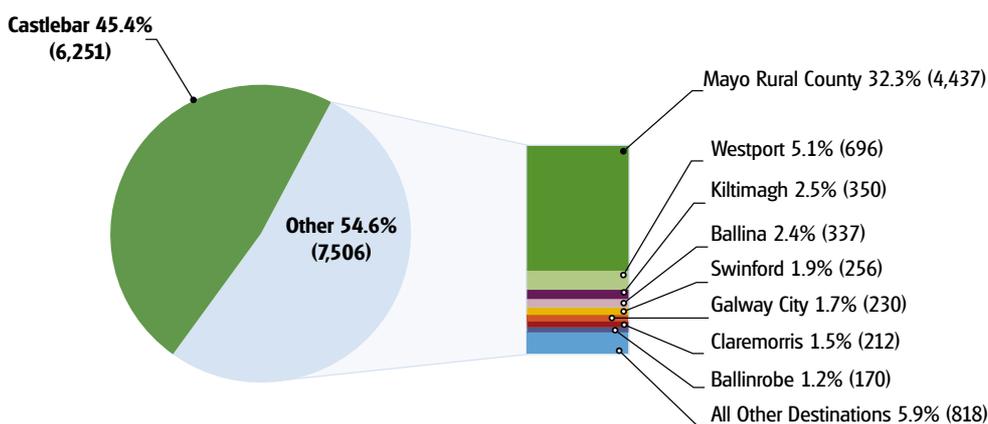


Table 7.1 Place of work of those living in the Castlebar labour catchment, 2006

Place of work	Number	%
Castlebar	6,251	45.4
Mayo Rural County	4,437	32.3
Westport	696	5.1
Kiltimagh	350	2.5
Ballina	337	2.4
Swinford	256	1.9
Galway city	230	1.7
Claremorris	212	1.5
Ballinrobe	170	1.2
All other destinations	818	5.9
Total	13,757	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

Castlebar labour catchment has a population at work 2.4 times the census population at work⁴¹ in Castlebar (13,757 and 5,586 respectively), which highlights the importance of the town as a place of work for those living in its catchment. Of those living in the Castlebar labour catchment, 94% of the population work in some part of county Mayo⁴². The data show that Castlebar is the location of employment for 45.4% of residents, and close to a third (32.3%) are employed in rural parts of the county. There is surprisingly little commuting between Castlebar and Ballina considering these towns are twinned hubs in the NSS; 2.4% of the residents of the Castlebar labour catchment (337 people) work in the Ballina labour catchment⁴³.

7.3.2 Travel distances

The distances travelled by those working in the Castlebar labour catchment is shown in Table 7.2. The proportion commuting distances in excess of 50km is higher than the State average and higher than any other labour catchment reviewed in this report, with the exception of Roscommon and Carrick-on-Shannon.

There is also a greater proportion commuting short distances (less than 4km) in the Castlebar labour catchment than nationally. Though over a third of those working in the Castlebar labour catchment travel less than 4km to work, the Castlebar town catchment also draws a proportionately large number of workers from longer distances and therefore has an extensive geographic reach as an employment centre.

Table 7.2 Travel distances of those living in Castlebar labour catchment and the State, 2006

Labour catchment	0-4 km %	5-9 km %	10-24 km %	25-49 km %	50+ km %
Castlebar	34.6	16.4	29.8	12.4	6.8
State (POWCAR)	31.3	20.3	30.2	12.6	5.7

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

⁴¹ Census of Population 2006. Volume 7 – Principal Economic Status and Industries, Table 7.

⁴² Other places not specified but also in county Mayo are classified in the ‘All Other Destinations’ category within Table 7.1 and include Foxford and Ballyhaunis.

⁴³ The corresponding figure of those living in the Ballina labour catchment that work in Castlebar is 5.2% or 455 people.



7.3.3 Gender

The gender composition of workers in the Castlebar labour catchment is shown in Table 7.3. Women account for 50.6% of all those at work (compared to 47.9% of females at work nationally). This is similar to the Sligo borough labour catchment, where female employment also outnumbers male employment. Castlebar and Sligo borough labour catchments are the exceptions to the other labour catchments reviewed here and this reflects the relative importance of sectors with high shares of female employment e.g. public administration, health, education and commerce.

The data in Table 7.3 also show a variation in the gender balance of those working in the town compared with those working outside the town. Women constitute a higher proportion of the workforce in the town than men, 58.8% compared with 41.2%. Conversely, men account for a higher share of those working outside of the town 56.3% of the workforce there. This is related to the sectoral employment structure, the sectors with high shares of male employment e.g. agriculture, construction and traditional manufacturing are more important employers outside the town.

Table 7.3 Population living in the Castlebar labour catchment by gender and place of work 2006

Castlebar labour catchment	Males	Females	Total	Males %	Females %	Total %
Working in Castlebar town	2,575	3,676	6,251	41.2	58.8	100.0
Working outside Castlebar town	4,224	3,282	7,506	56.3	43.7	100.0
Total	6,799	6,958	13,757	49.4	50.6	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

7.3.4 Age

The age profile of those at work who live in the Castlebar labour catchment is shown in Table 7.4. The age profile is one of the oldest of the catchments reviewed here. Other labour catchments, namely, Sligo, Roscommon and Carrick-on-Shannon also have a relatively older age profile compared to the Galway and Ennis labour catchments.

Table 7.4 Age profile of population living in the Castlebar labour catchment by place or work, 2006

Castlebar labour catchment	< 30 years	30-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	Total over 15 years
Working in Castlebar town	23.2%	38.8%	37.1%	0.9%	100% (N= 6,251)
Working outside Castlebar town	20.0%	39.1%	38.1%	2.8%	100% (N= 7,506)
Total	21.4%	39.0%	37.6%	1.9%	100% (N= 13,757)

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

7.3.5 Education

In Table 7.5 the proportion of those at work who have a third level education or higher in the Castlebar labour catchment and other nearby labour catchments is shown. The proportion with a third level education in Castlebar (38.6%) is lower than the State average (43%). It is also less than the share in the labour catchments of Galway, Sligo and Letterkenny but greater than the share in the Roscommon and Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchments.



Table 7.5 Population of those living in the Castlebar labour catchments and adjacent labour catchments that has completed third level education or higher, 2006

Labour Catchment	Working in the town %	Working outside the town %	Total %
Castlebar	40.7	36.8	38.6
Galway	55.0	40.9	49.0
Sligo	46.0	36.7	42.1
Westport	37.8	45.6	41.6
Letterkenny	45.7	34.9	40.1
Carrick-on-Shannon	46.0	36.5	36.3
Roscommon	35.8	32.0	32.9
State (POWCAR)			43.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

Similar to other larger catchments, those working in Castlebar town are more likely to have completed third level education than those working outside the town but within the Castlebar labour catchment. This is indicative of the type of employment there with more graduate employment e.g. health, education and some public administration located in the town. In the catchments of Westport and Carrick-on-Shannon, those working outside those towns have a higher education profile than those within the town. This partly reflects the relative importance of particular sectors there e.g. the retail and tourism sectors.

7.3.6 Employment by industrial group

Employment by industrial group is shown in Table 7.6. The Castlebar labour catchment exhibits similar characteristics to the Sligo borough labour catchment. Education, health and social work are the major sectors of employment which is due in part to the presence of Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology and Mayo General Hospital in Castlebar. The sector accounts for 25.5% of employment compared to 19.6% nationally. This is also linked to the relatively high level of female employment in the town (58.8%).

The second most important sector is commerce, accounting for 24.7% of employment. The manufacturing sector constitutes a larger proportion of employment than in other labour catchments in the region and is the third most important employment sector in the Castlebar labour catchment. This reflects the presence of some large employers in the area.



Table 7.6 Employment by industrial group in the Castlebar labour catchment, 2006

Industrial group	Castlebar labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	6.4	4.5
Manufacturing industries	15.4	15.9
Construction	6.4	5.8
Commerce	24.7	31.8
Transport, storage and communications	3.3	5.4
Public administration and defence	6.9	6.1
Education, health and social work	25.5	19.5
Other	11.4	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

7.3.7 Socio-economic structure

The socio-economic structure of employment is presented for Castlebar’s labour catchment in Table 7.7. Those living in the Castlebar labour catchment have a different employment profile compared with the State average. For example, 36.6% of those living in the Castlebar labour catchment are employers, managers or professionals, compared to 39.3% nationally. The proportion of semi-skilled (13.0%) and farmers (5.4%) is greater than the national average of 11.1% and 3.6% respectively.

Table 7.7 Socio-economic structure of people living in the Castlebar labour catchment, 2006

Socio-economic structure	Castlebar labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Employers and managers	13.2	16.4
Higher professional	6.4	7.9
Lower professional	17.0	15.0
Non manual	27.9	28.8
Manual skilled	9.4	10.1
Semi-skilled	13.0	11.1
Unskilled	3.4	3.2
Own account workers	3.4	2.9
Farmers	5.4	3.6
Agricultural workers	0.6	0.7
All others gainfully occupied and unknown	0.3	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO



Additional data also show that there is a different employment profile amongst those working in the town and outside the town. For example, employers, managers or professionals account for 39.5% of employment in Castlebar town compared to 34.2% engaged in employment outside the town.

7.4 Castlebar labour catchment summary

- Castlebar's influence as a place of work extends across much of central county Mayo. However, to the west of the county, Westport is a more important location of employment, and to the north, Ballina is the most important employment centre. The labour catchment of Galway city extends into south county Mayo to border that of the Castlebar labour catchment.
- Of those resident in the Castlebar labour catchment, 94.0% work in some part of county Mayo. The data show that Castlebar town is the primary location of employment for 45.4% of residents, but there is considerable employment in rural parts of the county.
- There is surprisingly little interaction between Castlebar and Ballina, linked hubs in the NSS; 2.4% of the residents of the Castlebar labour catchment work in Ballina. The corresponding proportion of those living in the Ballina labour catchment but working in Castlebar town is 5.2%.
- Castlebar draws a relatively high proportion of workers from distances in excess of 50km and therefore has an extensive geographic reach as an employment centre.
- A demographic profile of the Castlebar labour catchment shows the following:
 - Women account for 50.6% of those at work compared to 47.9% of those at work nationally. Analysis shows that the town itself is an even more important employment centre for women, who make up 58.8% of the workforce there.
 - The age profile of those working in the labour catchment is one of the oldest in the Western Region.
 - The proportion with a third level education or higher and living in the Castlebar labour catchment is lower than that of the State, 38.6% and 43% respectively. However, of those working in the town of Castlebar, 40.7% have completed third level education or higher.
 - The proportions at work in the various sectors of employment are not in line with the national average. Education, health and social work is the major sector of employment: it accounts for 25.5% of employment compared to 19.5% nationally. This is due in part to the presence of Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology and Mayo General Hospital in Castlebar. Furthermore, 24.7% of the workforce is engaged in commerce, lower than the State average.
 - There is a lower share employed as employers, managers or professional workers living in the Castlebar labour catchment compared to the State average, 36.6% and 39.3% respectively.



8.0 Roscommon

Roscommon town is the administrative capital of county Roscommon and, apart from the town of Athlone to the south-east of the county, is the most important urban centre there. The total population of Roscommon town and its environs was 5,017 in 2006, up 11.8% from the 2002 population.

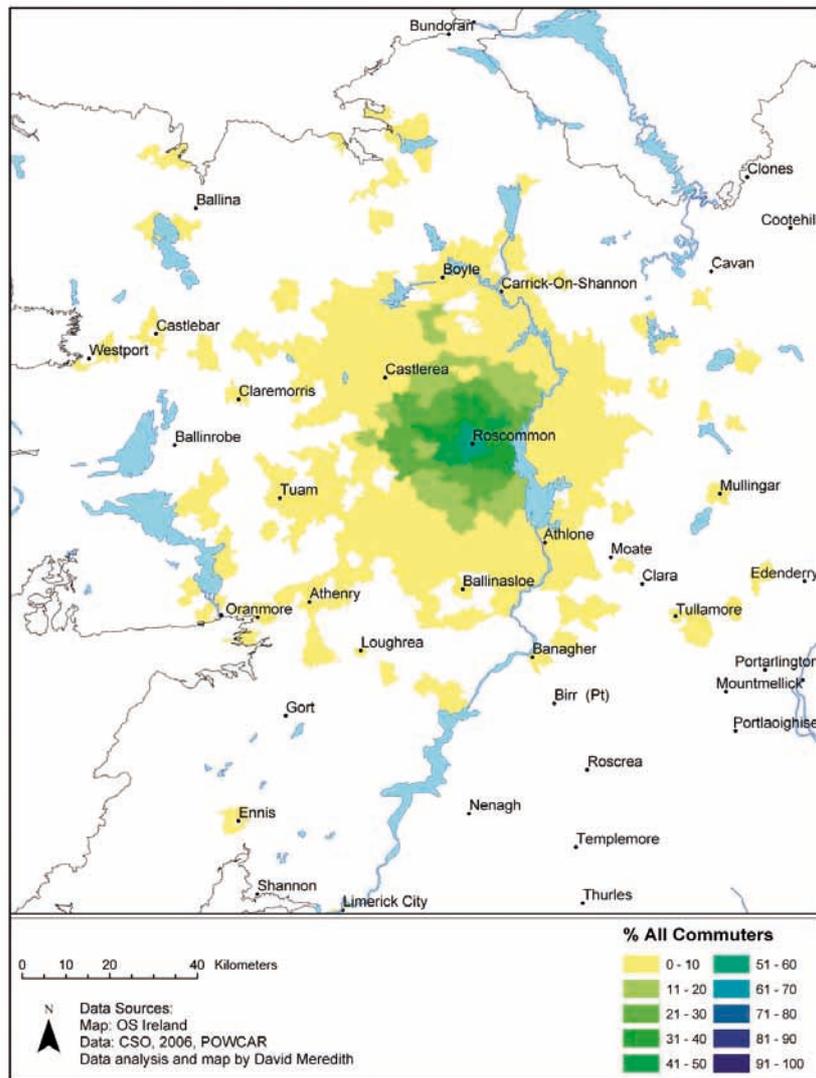
8.1 The importance of Roscommon town as a place of work

Map 8.1 shows the extent of travel to Roscommon town for work. The colours represent the different proportions of people who live in each ED and travel to work in Roscommon town. The map shows every ED (within the frame) from where even one person commutes to Roscommon town to work.

Only the areas closest to Roscommon town have more than 60% of people who live in each ED travelling to work in Roscommon town, as indicated by various shadings of blue around the town itself. Outside of these areas, the proportion travelling to the town gradually declines and beyond a distance of approximately 30km, the town attracts less than 10% of people living in those EDs, as indicated by yellow shading. The data presented in Map 8.1 show that Roscommon town's influence as a place of work is highly concentrated in mid-county Roscommon. This is in contrast to other centres such as Sligo, Letterkenny and Galway that attract more workers from a wider area.

The data from which Map 8.1 is drawn form the basis for the concept of the Roscommon town labour catchment which we will discuss in the next section.



Map 8.1 The percentage of persons commuting to Roscommon town, 2006

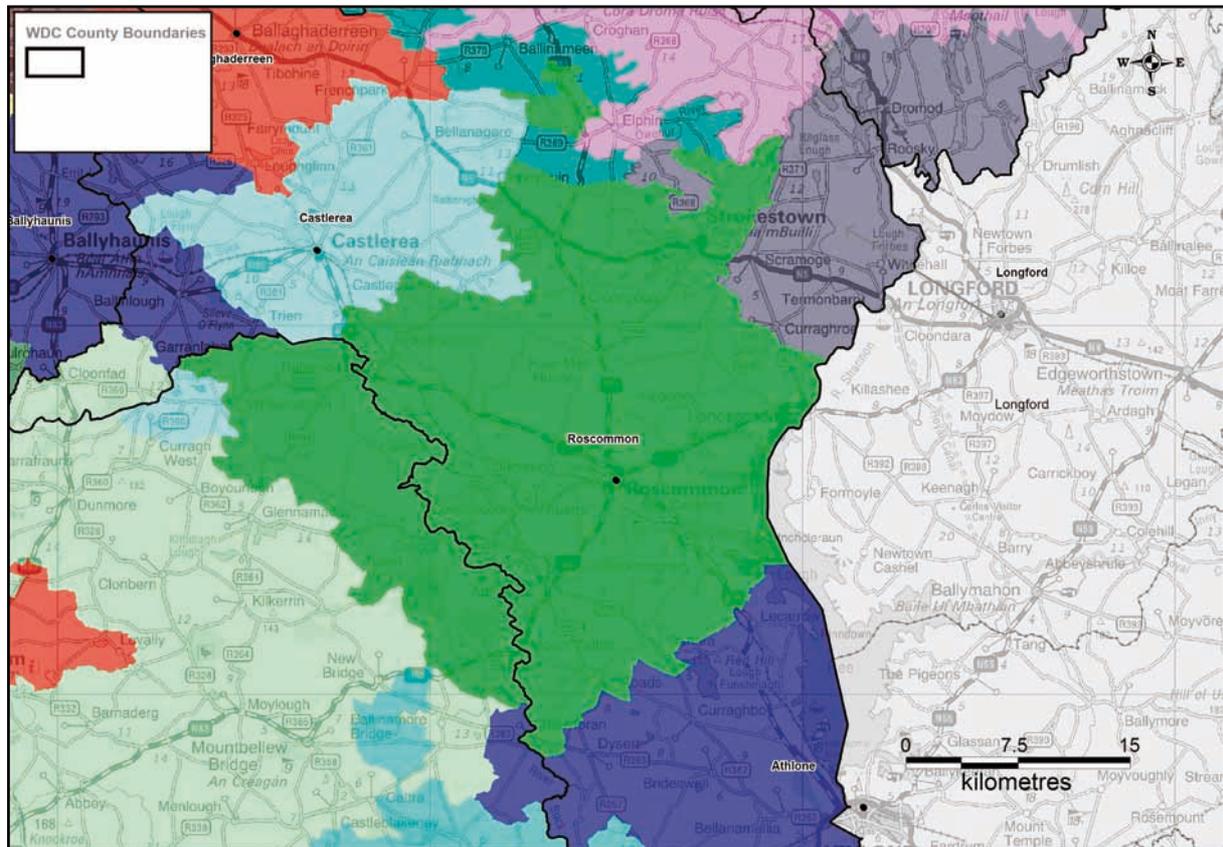
Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

8.2 The labour catchment of Roscommon town

While Map 8.1 showed **every** ED from where even one person commuted to Roscommon town, all of these EDs are **not** included in the Roscommon town labour catchment. The Roscommon labour catchment shown in green in Map 8.2 is made up only of those EDs for which Roscommon is **the most popular work destination** for those living there. Other EDs, whose commuters travel in greater numbers to other towns are excluded from the Roscommon town labour catchment and assigned to the catchments of these towns.

It is worth noting that there is a considerable labour catchment for Athlone that covers the south of county Roscommon, and this is a subset of a larger labour catchment for Athlone that includes areas outside of the Western Region (e.g. within county Westmeath). This situation is evident from Map 8.2.



Map 8.2 Spatial Extent of the Roscommon town labour catchment, 2006

Source: Gleeson, J., NIRSA, 2009. Map extracted from Map 2.1.

8.3 Profile of the Roscommon town labour catchment

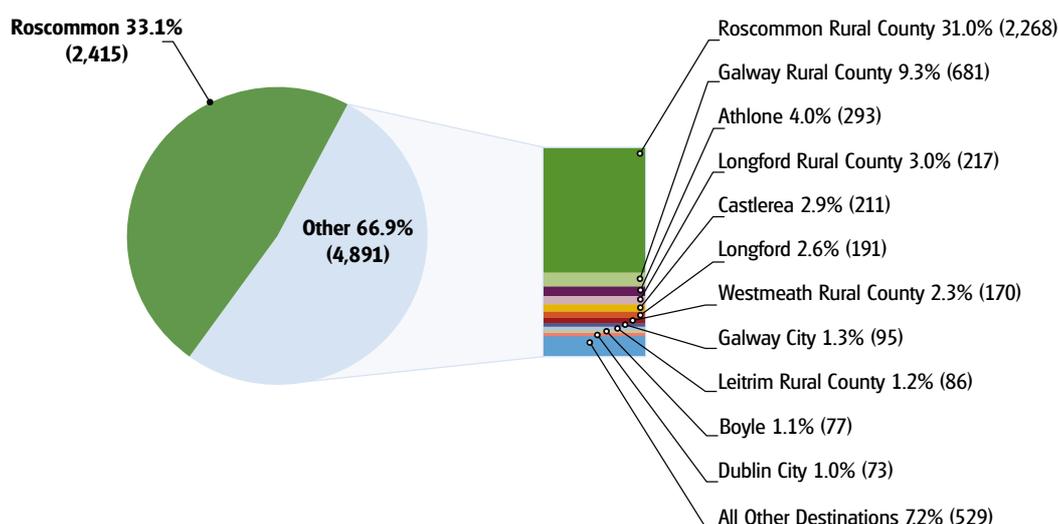
The data presented in this section provides a socio-economic profile of those at work who live within the Roscommon town labour catchment. The analysis presented is based on 7,306 persons living within the Roscommon town labour catchment and at work in 2006.

8.3.1 Place of work

Figure 8.1 and Table 8.1 show the workplace locations of those who live within the Roscommon town labour catchment. Roscommon town labour catchment has a population at work 3.1 times the census population at work⁴⁴ in Roscommon town (7,306 and 2,290 respectively). This is a much higher ratio than most of the other labour catchments considered in this report and shows the extent of dispersal of employment in the Roscommon labour catchment. The specific work locations set out in Figure 8.1 and Table 8.1 demonstrate this further.

⁴⁴ Census of Population 2006. Volume 7 – Principal Economic Status and Industries, Table 7.



Figure 8.1 Place of work of those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment, 2006**Table 8.1 Place of work of those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment, 2006**

Place of work	Number	%
Roscommon	2,415	33.1
Roscommon Rural County	2,268	31.0
Galway Rural County	681	9.3
Athlone	293	4.0
Longford Rural County	217	3.0
Castlerea	211	2.9
Longford	191	2.6
Westmeath Rural County	170	2.3
Galway city	95	1.3
Leitrim Rural County	86	1.2
Boyle	77	1.1
Dublin City	73	1.0
All other destinations	529	7.2
Total	7,306	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

The travel patterns associated with the labour force residing in the Roscommon labour catchment are very diffuse. Twelve different work destinations account for 92.8% of the labour force residing within this labour catchment. While Roscommon town predominated amongst these destinations, only 33.1% of its catchment's labour force works there. This is low by comparison to most other labour catchments in the Western Region, although not as low as the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment (see Section 9). Employment in rural areas, (places with less than 1,000 persons) in counties Roscommon and Galway account for a further 40% of workers living in the Roscommon town labour catchment (Table 8.1).



8.3.2 Travel distances

The travel to work distances of those workers living in the Roscommon town labour catchment is shown in Table 8.2. Only 27.7% of those working in Roscommon labour catchment travel less than 4km, which is much lower than other labour catchments and confirms the more geographically dispersed labour market referenced to above and more typical of a rural area. The proportion commuting long distances is high (78%) compared to nationally and the patterns in other labour catchments.

Table 8.2 Travel distances of those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment and the State, 2006

Labour catchment	0-4 km %	5-9 km %	10-24 km %	25-49 km %	50+ km %
Roscommon	27.7	16.0	31.3	17.1	7.8
State (POWCAR)	31.3	20.3	30.2	12.6	5.7

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

8.3.3 Gender

The gender composition of workers in the Roscommon town labour catchment is shown in Table 8.3. It shows that men make up 53.5% of those at work and living in the Roscommon town labour catchment. This is compared with 52.1% of those at work nationally.

It also shows a variation in the gender balance of those working in the town compared with those working outside the town. Women constitute a higher proportion of the workforce in the town than men, 59.5% compared with 40.5%. Conversely, men account for a higher share of those working outside of the town constituting 59.9% of the workforce there. This is related to the sectoral employment structure, where sectors with high shares of female employment e.g. public sector and commerce are important in the town, whereas in areas outside of the town, sectors with high shares of male employment e.g. agriculture, construction and traditional manufacturing are important employers.

Table 8.3 Population living in the Roscommon town labour catchment by gender and place of work, 2006

Roscommon labour catchment	Males	Females	Total	Males %	Females %	Total %
Working in Roscommon town	978	1,437	2,415	40.5	59.5	100.0
Working outside Roscommon town	2,930	1,961	4,891	59.9	40.1	100.0
Total	3,908	3,398	7,306	53.5	46.5	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

8.3.4 Age

The age profile of those at work and over 15 years who live in the Roscommon town labour catchment is shown in Table 8.4. The Roscommon town labour catchment has one of the oldest age profiles of the catchments examined in this report. In particular, workers under 30 years of age are under-represented compared to other catchments in the Western Region. For example those aged less than 30 years of age account for just one fifth (20.2%) of the workforce in the Roscommon labour catchment, compared with 28% in the Galway city catchment, 26.7% in the Letterkenny catchment and 22.3% in the Sligo catchment.



Table 8.4 Age profile of population living in the Roscommon town labour catchment by place of work, 2006

Roscommon town labour catchment	< 30 years	30-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	Total over 15 years
Working in Roscommon town	23.7%	38.7%	36.4%	1.2%	100% (N= 2,415)
Working outside Roscommon town	18.5%	39.5%	38.0%	4.1%	100% (N= 4,891)
Total	20.2%	39.2%	37.5%	3.1%	100% (N=7,306)

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

8.3.5 Education

Table 8.5 shows the proportion of those at work who have a third level education or higher in the Roscommon town labour catchment and neighbouring labour catchments. A smaller proportion of those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment (32.9%) have completed a third level education compared to the State average (43%). The data in Table 8.5 demonstrate that, generally, graduate employment is highest within larger centres which have third level institutions, hospitals and other sectors which employ graduates such as Sligo, Galway and Castlebar.

There is a slightly higher level of graduate employment in Roscommon town compared to those working outside the town. This relative lack of graduate employment is consistent with the low proportion of younger workers in the labour catchment as well as the relatively few graduate employment opportunities.

Table 8.5 Population living in the Roscommon town labour catchments and adjacent labour catchments that has completed third level education or higher, 2006

Labour Catchment	Working in the town %	Working outside the town %	Total %
Roscommon town	35.8	32.0	32.9
Galway	55.0	40.9	49.0
Sligo	46.0	36.7	42.1
Castlebar	40.7	36.8	38.6
Carrick-on-Shannon	35.3	36.5	36.3
Ballinasloe	36.1	32.7	34.1
State (POWCAR)			43.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

8.3.6 Employment by industrial group

Employment by industrial group is shown in Table 8.6. Commerce is the most important sector (23.7%), but is much less important than it is nationally. Education, health and social work account for 22.9% of employment, and public administration and defence account for a further 9.6%, both of which are greater than the national average. Roscommon County Hospital and Castlerea Prison are two important centres of employment in these categories. Employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing is twice as important in the Roscommon labour catchment as it is in all the other catchments reviewed in this report with the exception of Carrick-on-Shannon.



Table 8.6 Employment by industrial group in the Roscommon town labour catchment, 2006

Industrial group	Roscommon labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	11.7	4.5
Manufacturing industries	13.9	15.9
Construction	6.5	5.8
Commerce	23.7	31.8
Transport, storage and communications	2.9	5.4
Public administration and defence	9.6	6.1
Education, health and social work	22.9	19.5
Other	8.8	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

8.3.7 Socio-economic structure

The socio-economic structure of employment is presented for Roscommon town's labour catchment in Table 8.7. Those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment have a different employment profile compared to the State average. For example, just under a third (32.1%) of those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment are employers, managers or professionals, compared to 39.3% nationally. Non-manual labour forms 27.9% of employment compared to 28.8% nationally. There is a greater proportion of farmers and agricultural workers, for example 11.8% are in agricultural employment in the Roscommon labour catchment compared to 4.4% nationally. This is not surprising given the rural nature of much of Roscommon.

Table 8.7 Socio-economic group of people living in Roscommon town labour catchment, 2006

Socio-economic structure	Roscommon labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Employers and managers	12.6	16.4
Higher professional	4.6	7.9
Lower professional	14.9	15.0
Non manual	27.9	28.8
Manual skilled	11.2	10.1
Semi-skilled	10.7	11.1
Unskilled	2.8	3.2
Own account workers	3.1	2.9
Farmers	11.0	3.6
Agricultural workers	0.8	0.7
All others gainfully occupied and unknown	0.3	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO



8.4 Roscommon town labour catchment summary

- Roscommon town's influence as a place of work is concentrated in mid-county Roscommon.
- The travel patterns associated with the labour force living in the Roscommon town labour catchment are diffuse. Twelve different work destinations account for 92.8% of the labour force residing within this labour catchment. This is in contrast to the larger centres reviewed where the majority work in five to seven different locations.
- While Roscommon town is the most important workplace, just one third (33.1%) of all those living in the Roscommon labour catchment work there. This is low by comparison to most other labour catchments reviewed in this report.
- The proportion of workers commuting distances greater than 25km in the Roscommon labour catchment is 24.9% which is high by national standards (18.3%), and by comparison with those living in nearby labour catchments. This is consistent with the dispersed and often rural locations of employment in the labour catchment.
- A demographic profile of the Roscommon town labour catchment shows the following:
 - Roscommon town hosts only one third of the jobs in the labour catchment, but it is a particularly important location for female employment as almost 60% of those working in the town are women.
 - In the Roscommon town labour catchment workers aged under 30 are underrepresented indicating a comparatively older workforce compared to most of the other catchments reviewed.
 - The proportion of those living in the Roscommon labour catchment with a third level education is lower than the State average. The level of graduate employment in the town is only slightly higher than outside the town.
 - The sectoral profile of those working in the Roscommon labour catchment differs considerably from the national profile – education, health, social work and public administration and defence are particularly important. Employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing is twice as important in the Roscommon labour catchment as it is in the other catchments in this report with the exception of Carrick-on-Shannon.
 - There is a lower share employed as employers, managers or professional workers living in the Roscommon labour catchment compared to the State average, 32.2% and 39.3% respectively.



9.0 Carrick-on-Shannon

Carrick-on-Shannon, located on the border of county Leitrim and county Roscommon is the administrative capital of county Leitrim. It is the smallest centre to be examined in this report and the town and its environs had a total population of 3,163 in 2006. This represented an increase of 41.4% on the town's population in 2002, one of the largest population increases of any town in the Western Region.

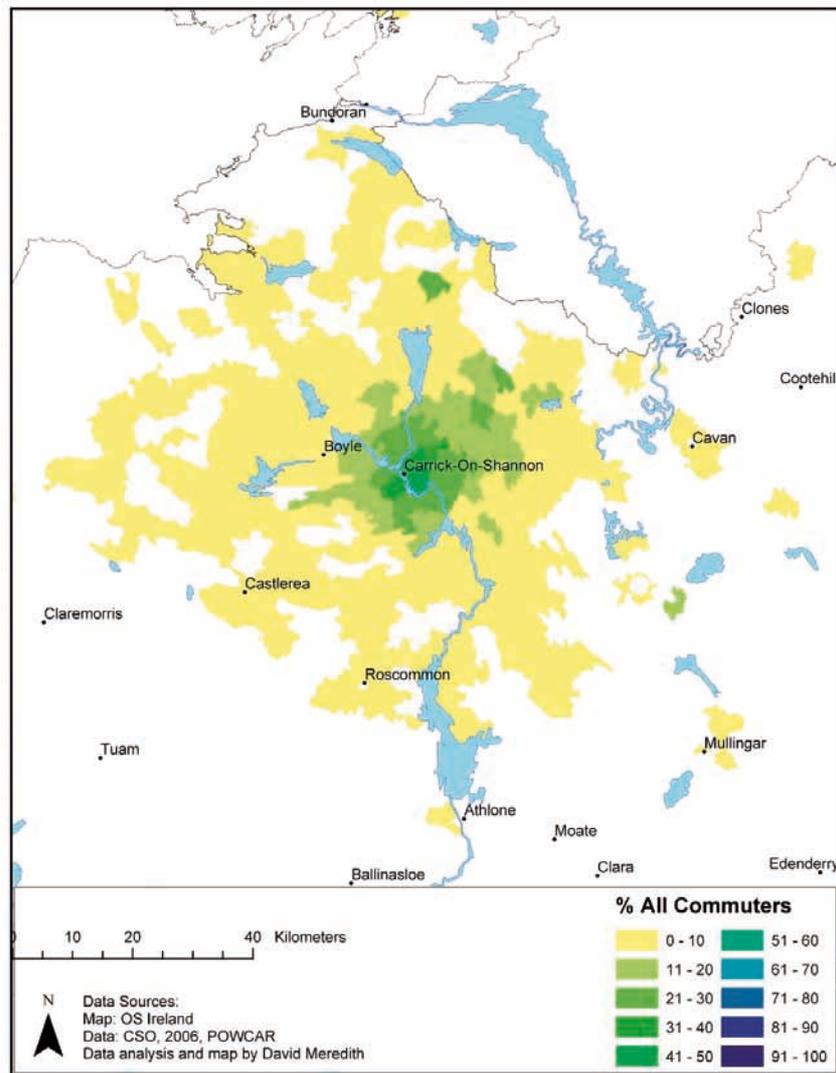
9.1 The importance of Carrick-on-Shannon as a place of work

Map 9.1 shows the extent of travel to Carrick-on-Shannon for work. The colours represent the different proportions of people who live in each ED and travel to work in Carrick-on-Shannon. The map shows every ED (within the frame) from where even one person commutes to Carrick-on-Shannon to work.

As would be expected, the areas closest to Carrick-on-Shannon have the highest proportion travelling to work in the town. However, even in its immediate hinterland, depicted by the darker colours, the town provides employment for less than half of the workers living in the area. Beyond 15-20km from the town of Carrick-on-Shannon, the proportion in each ED travelling to the town declines to less than 10%. The map demonstrates this as a series of shaded areas graduating from the darkest green to yellow, (areas where less than 10% of people commute to Carrick-on-Shannon).

The data from which Map 9.1 is drawn form the basis for the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment which we will discuss in the next section.



Map 9.1 The percentage of persons commuting to Carrick-on-Shannon, 2006

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

9.2 The Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment

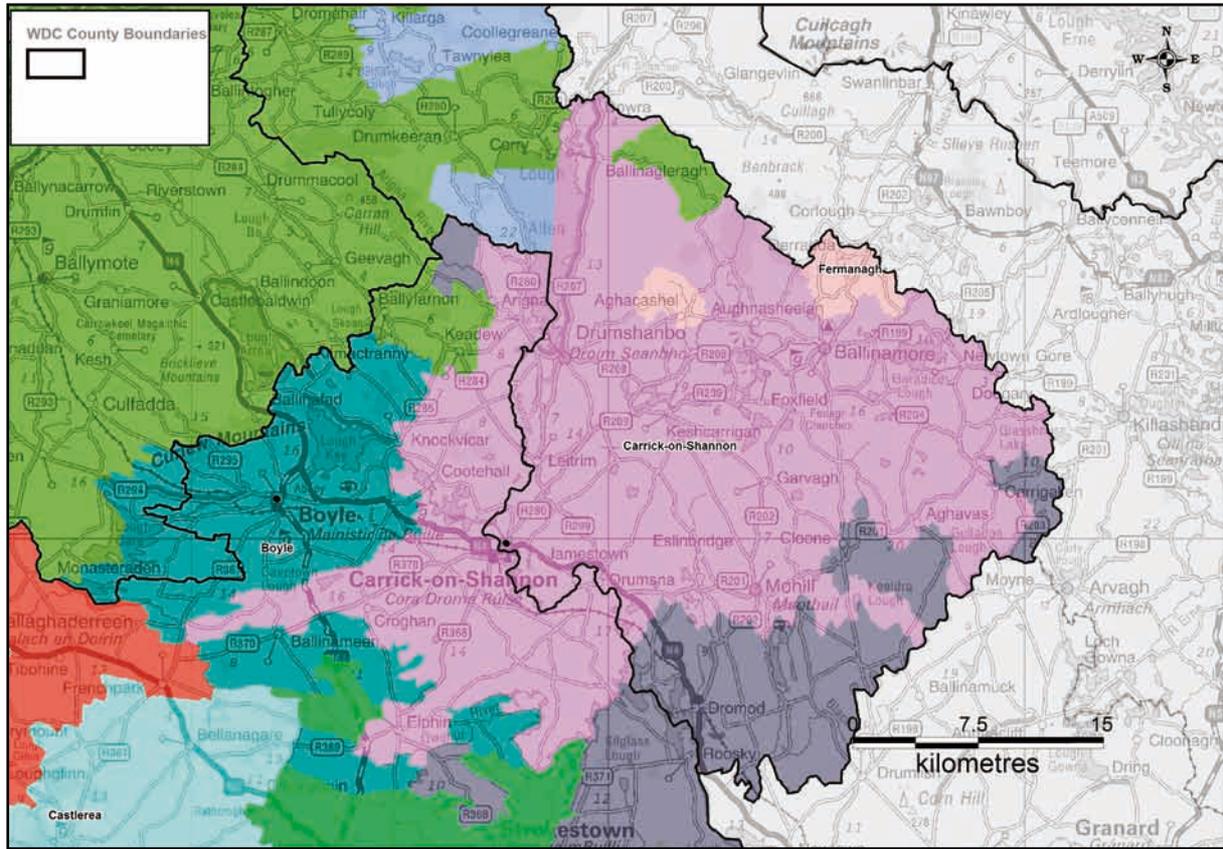
While Map 9.1 showed **every** ED from where even one person commuted to Carrick-on-Shannon, all of these EDs are **not** included in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment. The Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, is made up only of those EDs for which Carrick-on-Shannon is **the most popular work destination** for those living there. The data presented in Map 9.2 shows the extent of the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, depicted in purple, which excludes all of north county Leitrim (which is part of the Sligo borough labour catchment) and includes part of north-east county Roscommon. The data indicate that the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment also extends eastwards into Cavan.

Carrick-on-Shannon's influence as a place of work extends over a rather limited geographical area. This is not surprising, given the small size and limited employment opportunities in the town, as well as the rurality of the region where agriculture is a relatively important sector.

Furthermore, the relative proximity of larger employment centres, for example Sligo to the north and Roscommon to the south, impact upon the size of Carrick-on-Shannon's labour catchment. Beyond a distance of approximately 25km from the town, commuters travel in greater numbers to other towns, than they do to Carrick-on-Shannon.



Map 9.2 Spatial extent of the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, 2006



Source: Gleeson, J., NIRSA, 2009. Map extracted from Map 2.1.



9.3 Profile of the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment

The information presented in this section provides a socio-economic profile of persons living within the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment who are at work. The analysis presented is based on 6,632 people classified as at work in 2006. Additional reference is made to some of the neighbouring labour catchments.

9.3.1 Place of work

Figure 9.1 and Table 9.1 show the place of work of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment. In 2006, there were 6,632 people living there and at work.

Figure 9.1 Place of work of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, 2006

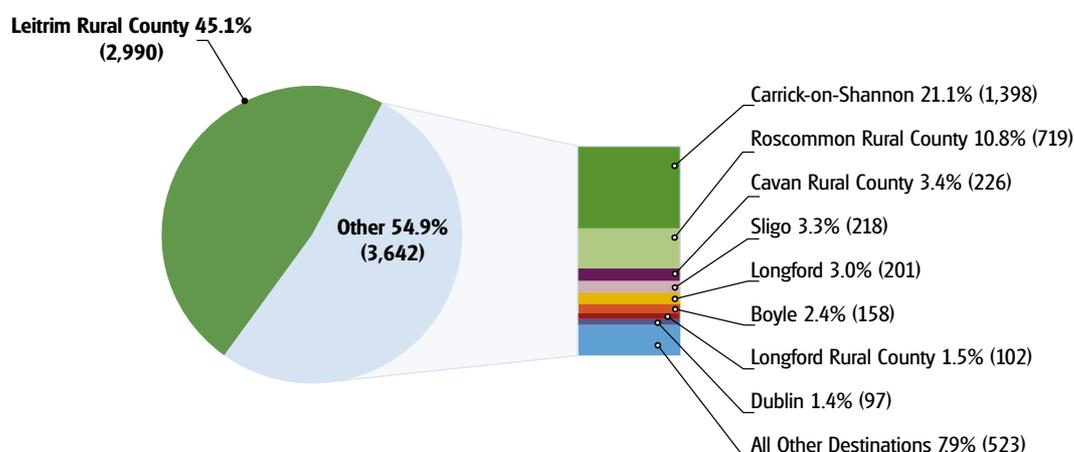


Table 9.1 Place of work of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, 2006

Place of work	Number	%
Leitrim Rural County	2,990	45.1
Carrick-on-Shannon	1,398	21.1
Roscommon Rural County	719	10.8
Cavan Rural County	226	3.4
Sligo	218	3.3
Longford	201	3.0
Boyle	158	2.4
Longford Rural County	102	1.5
Dublin City	97	1.4
Cavan	72	1.1
Sligo Rural County	68	1.0
All Other Destinations	383	5.8
Total	6,632	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO



The discussion in Section 1 highlighted the difference between the population size of a town as reported in the census and the population size of a town's labour catchment. Census figures are based on administrative boundaries whereas the labour catchment is based on people's travel to work patterns and identifies that area from which a town draws most of its workforce. The Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment has a population at work 4 times the census population at work⁴⁵ in Carrick-on-Shannon town (6,632 and 1,648 respectively). Similar to Roscommon, this demonstrates the extent of rural-based employment. As Table 9.1 shows, rural locations are the place of work for many of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment.

Leitrim Rural County was the primary location of employment for 45.1% of residents of the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment. Carrick-on-Shannon town was the location for only 21.1% of employment. However, as with all Irish towns, developments on the outskirts of the town (and therefore categorised as being located in either Leitrim or Roscommon Rural County) may account for substantial employment: as a result, it is possible that some of those categorised as working in Leitrim and Roscommon Rural County are actually working on the fringes of Carrick-on-Shannon. Nevertheless, it would appear that rural areas remain the most important locations of employment for the residents of the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment. This is consistent with employment in agriculture and forestry (as well as some construction and public sector employment) and with a range of enterprises widely dispersed throughout the area.

There is relatively little commuting to Sligo (the closest NSS Gateway), with just 3.3% of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment working in Sligo borough.

9.3.2 Travel distances

The distances travelled to work by those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment are shown in Table 9.2.

Just under 30 per cent (29.7%) of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment travel less than 4km which is lower than other labour catchments and suggests a much more dispersed labour market typical of a rural area. There is a relatively high proportion commuting distances in excess of 50km (8.6%) compared to nationally and compared to the level in other labour catchments.

Table 9.2 Travel distances of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment and the State, 2006

Labour catchment	0-4 km %	5-9 km %	10-24 km %	25-49 km %	50+ km %
Carrick-on-Shannon	29.7	16.3	29.1	16.1	8.6
State (POWCAR)	31.3	20.3	30.2	12.6	5.7

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

9.3.3 Gender

The gender composition of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment is shown in Table 9.3. It shows that men account for 52.8% of those at work in the labour catchment (compared to 52.1% nationally).

The data in Table 9.3 also show a variation in the gender balance of those working in the town compared with those working outside the town. Women constitute a much higher share of the workforce in the town than men, 61.1% compared with 38.9%. Conversely, men account for a higher share of those working outside of the town 56.5% of the workforce there. This is linked to the employment structure, where the sectors with high shares of male employment e.g. agriculture and forestry are relatively important in rural areas. Within the town, it is likely that tourism, along with retail and public administration account for a relatively high share of female employment.

⁴⁵ Census of Population 2006. Volume 7 – Principal Economic Status and Industries, Table 7.



Table 9.3 Population living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment by gender and place of work, 2006

Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment	Males	Females	Total	Males %	Females %	Total %
Working in Carrick-on-Shannon	544	854	1,398	38.9	61.1	100.0
Working outside Carrick-on-Shannon	2,957	2,277	5,234	56.5	43.5	100.0
Total	3,501	3,131	6,632	52.8	47.2	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

9.3.4 Age

The age profile of those at work, who live in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment is shown in Table 9.4. Similar to the Roscommon town labour catchment, the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment is comparatively older than the other catchments reviewed in this report. In particular, workers under 30 years of age are under-represented compared to some other catchments in the Western Region. For example those aged less than 30 years account for 23.9% of the workforce in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, compared with 28% in the Galway city catchment and 26.7% in the Letterkenny catchment. However there is a younger workforce in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment compared to the Sligo and Roscommon labour catchments (22.3% and 20.2% respectively in the category aged less than 30 years).

Those working within the town itself are only marginally younger than those working outside of it, in contrast to most other labour catchments discussed in this report where typically there is a considerably younger population at work in the urban centre compared to the surrounding hinterland.

Table 9.4 Age profile of population living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment by place of work, 2006

Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment	< 30 years	30-44 years	45-64 years	65+ years	Total over 15 years
Working in Carrick-on-Shannon	24.7%	37.5%	36.8%	1.1%	100% (N=1,398)
Working outside Carrick-on-Shannon	23.7%	37.2%	35.8%	3.2%	100% (N=5,234)
Total	23.9%	37.3%	36.0%	2.7%	100% (N=6,632)

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

9.3.5 Education

Table 9.5 shows the proportion of those at work who have a third level education or higher in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment and the nearby labour catchments of Sligo and Roscommon. The proportion with a third level education in Carrick-on-Shannon (36.3%) is below the average for the State (43%). Comparing Carrick-on-Shannon with neighbouring labour catchments shows that a greater proportion of those living in the Sligo labour catchment have completed a third level education, as would be expected in a larger urban area with an Institute of Technology. In contrast Carrick-on-Shannon has a higher proportion with third level education than those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment.

There is a slightly higher share of those employed outside Carrick-on-Shannon town with a third level education than those employed within the town. This reflects the relatively few opportunities for graduate employment within the town as well as the presence of some large employers outside the town which employ graduates.



Table 9.5 Population living in Carrick-on-Shannon and adjacent labour catchments that has completed third level education or higher, 2006

Labour Catchment	Working in the town %	Working outside the town %	Total %
Carrick-on-Shannon	35.3	36.5	36.3
Sligo	46.0	36.7	42.1
Roscommon	35.8	32.0	32.9
State			43.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

9.3.6 Employment by industrial group

Employment by industrial group is shown in Table 9.6. The commerce sector is the most important (27.3%), but is not as large proportionately as it is nationally (31.8%). Education, health and social work account for 19.4% of employment in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment and public administration and defence account for 8.3%, illustrating a high dependence on public sector employment. Manufacturing accounts for 13.7% of employment, less than the national average of 15.9%. Of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, construction accounts for 7.7% of employment, compared to 5.8% nationally; this suggests that the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment has a relatively high proportion of its workforce engaged in construction. It is likely that some of this is due to off-farm employment and highlights the importance of the construction sector in rural areas.

Table 9.6 Employment by industrial group in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, 2006

Industrial group	Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	9.7	4.5
Manufacturing industries	13.7	15.9
Construction	7.7	5.8
Commerce	27.3	31.8
Transport, storage and communications	3.3	5.4
Public administration and defence	8.3	6.1
Education, health and social work	19.4	19.6
Other	10.7	10.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO



9.3.7 Socio-economic structure

The socio-economic structure of employment is presented for Carrick-on-Shannon's labour catchment in Table 9.7. Those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment have a different socio-economic profile than the national average. For example, 32.5 % of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment are employers, managers or professionals compared to 39.3% nationally. As would be expected, the proportion of farmers (8.8%) is much higher than the national average (3.6%).

Table 9.7 Socio-economic group of people living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, 2006

Socio-economic structure	Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment %	State (POWCAR) %
Employers and managers	14.1	16.4
Higher professional	4.5	7.9
Lower professional	13.9	15.0
Non manual	28.9	28.8
Manual skilled	11.8	10.1
Semi-skilled	9.8	11.1
Unskilled	3.1	3.2
Own account workers	3.8	2.9
Farmers	8.8	3.6
Agricultural workers	0.8	0.7
All others gainfully occupied and unknown	0.3	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: POWCAR dataset, Census of Population 2006, CSO

Additional analysis also shows that there is little difference in the share of professional and managerial employment of those working in or outside the town of Carrick-on-Shannon. This concurs with the minimal difference in third level educational attainment of those working in and outside the town and indicates the relative absence of graduate employment opportunities within the town. This is in contrast to larger towns and cities, where there is a greater level of professional employment which tends to be concentrated in the centre.



9.4 Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment summary

- Employment in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment is very geographically dispersed compared to other catchments reviewed in this report. Within the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, Carrick-on-Shannon town itself was the location for just 21.1% of employment whereas rural places in county Leitrim accounted for 45.1% of employment. This reflects the small size and limited employment opportunities in Carrick-on-Shannon town, as well as the rurality of its hinterland.
- The proportion of workers commuting long distances (in excess of 50km) is the highest of all the labour catchments. Just under 30% commute less than 4km to work.
- A demographic profile of the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment shows the following:
 - Men account for 52.8% of those at work in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment, slightly higher than the proportion nationally (52.1%). Within the town women constitute a much higher proportion of the workforce than men, 61.1% and 38.9% respectively.
 - The age profile of those working in the labour catchment is one of the oldest of the labour catchments reviewed here.
 - The proportion with a third level education in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment is less than that nationally, 36.3% and 43% respectively.
 - There is a slightly higher share of those employed outside Carrick-on-Shannon town with a third level education than those employed within the town reflecting the relatively few opportunities for graduate employment within the town.
 - The proportions at work in the various sectors of employment are not in line with the national average though the profile is similar to other catchments such as Roscommon. Proportionately twice as many work in agriculture compared to the national average, while the high proportion engaged in public administration and defence suggest a relatively high dependence on this sector.
 - Those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment have a different socio-economic profile than the national average, for example only 32.5% are employers, professionals or managers, compared to 39.3% nationally.



10. Overall Conclusions and Implications

This report is based on the POWCAR dataset compiled from the Census of Population 2006, which is the first time that place of residence and place of work information for all workers has been made available for analysis. These data are very useful for researchers and policy-makers whose interest is data analysis at the regional or local level. The analysis allows for a greater understanding of travel to work patterns in the Western Region and the various labour catchments to which they give rise. The main conclusions and implications from this analysis are set out below.

1. The Galway city, Ennis and Letterkenny labour catchments had total population increases above the average for the Western Region between 1996 and 2006. The labour catchments with the highest population growth are (apart from Letterkenny) located in the south of the Western Region.
2. A town's labour catchment is that area from which a town draws most of its' workforce. All the town labour catchments reviewed in this report have significantly more people at work than the census population at work⁴⁶ for that town. The difference can be by up to 4 times as much, for example the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment has a population at work four times the census population at work in Carrick-on-Shannon town. This highlights the importance of a town's labour catchment as a measure of labour supply.
3. Therefore in terms of population at work, all of these towns have access to a much greater labour supply than the town population. This information, along with the labour market profiles of those living there, will help inform development agencies, employers and local authorities on employment and enterprise in the region.
4. The labour forces residing within the larger labour catchments are quite contained. In most labour catchments, the majority of the labour force, approximately 90%, work in just five to seven different locations.
5. Generally the labour catchments of larger towns and cities have younger workforces. The age profile of the Galway city and Letterkenny labour catchments are relatively young compared to those of Carrick-on-Shannon, Castlebar and Roscommon.

⁴⁶ Census of Population 2006. Volume 7 – Principal Economic Status and Industries, Table 7.



6. The age profile of each labour catchment is also likely to be influenced by the occupational profile of the catchment. It is interesting that the age profile of the Castlebar and Sligo labour catchments are relatively old despite the presence of Institutes of Technology in these towns which would attract a younger population. There are a number of possible explanations.
 - The economic base of these labour catchments may not support the attraction or retention of younger workers.
 - Younger workers are retained but choose to live in other areas, for example additional data show that many living in the Westport labour catchment, travel to work in Castlebar.
7. Areas close to or having third level institutions tend to have a much higher proportion of people with a third level degree or higher living there. In the Galway, Sligo and Ennis labour catchments 40% or more of those employed had a third level degree or higher. However, the presence of a higher education institution does not necessarily lead to a high proportion with a third level qualification as is the case for Castlebar.
8. Nationally, 43% of the population at work have attained a third level degree or higher. This proportion is notably lower in many of the labour catchments in the Western Region and may be in part due to a poor supply of employment opportunities requiring such skills, particularly in the knowledge economy⁴⁷. This indicates a brain drain from some parts of the Western Region, to larger centres such as Galway or outside the Region.
9. An examination of employment by industrial group in each of the seven labour catchments shows some similarities and differences compared with the national picture. Nationally the most important sectors in terms of the share employed are the commerce sector, followed by education, health and social work, and manufacturing industries. These sectors are also the first, second and third most important sectors in the Galway, Ennis, Letterkenny, Roscommon and Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchments. Though the commerce sector is the most important in employment terms, its employment share is not as large in each of these catchments as it is nationally. In most of the catchments reviewed here, education, health and social work, which are primarily public sector, is a more important sector in employment terms than it is nationally.
10. The two exceptions to the employment pattern described above are the Sligo and Castlebar labour catchments where the most important employment sector is education, health and social work, followed by the commerce and manufacturing sectors. This is in part due to the presence of third level institutions and hospitals in each of these towns, but may also reflect the relative weakness of the commerce and manufacturing sectors in terms of employment. It also highlights the relative importance of public sector employment.
11. The employer, manager and professional socio-economic groups are the most widely represented socio-economic groups in the labour catchments reviewed. This reflects the composition of employment, with the sectors of commerce, education, health, social work and manufacturing being particularly important. The specific socio-economic group of employers and managers, though important, accounts for proportionately fewer than nationally, even in the larger catchments of Galway and Ennis. The socio-economic profile in each labour catchment is reflected in the education and skills profile.

⁴⁷ Higher Education Authority statistics on admissions to third level education show that the Western counties have higher than average admission rates to third level education institutions. HEA, 2006.



- 12.** In most of the labour catchments in the Western Region, the proportion engaged in both the construction and agriculture sectors is higher than the national average. There is some evidence of interdependence between these two sectors as, along with the significant decline in construction employment since 2007, there has been an increase in those classifying themselves as employed in agriculture⁴⁸. This reflects those who previously worked part-time on the farm but full-time in construction and have now lost their construction jobs. Many of these are now significantly under-employed.
- 13.** The particular characteristics of employment in the labour catchments in the Western Region can provide a useful input to education and training policy, aimed at equipping the labour force to participate effectively in the knowledge economy. Important requirements will be the re-skilling of those who had been engaged in construction and unskilled occupations as well as ensuring that the overall labour force in the Western Region is at least as educated and skilled as elsewhere in Ireland.
- 14.** As the WDC has frequently pointed out in analyses of the Western Region, a north/south pattern is often evident in the enterprise and employment profile of the Region, which is again evident in some of the characteristics of the labour catchments profiled here. For example in general the labour catchments with younger age profiles are located in the south of the region and those with a relatively older age profile are located to the north of the region.
- 15.** The analysis of the seven labour catchments in the Western Region has highlighted the importance of rural areas (centres with less than 1,000 persons) as employment locations. In some of the smaller labour catchments such as Carrick-on-Shannon, significantly more people are employed in places outside the town, in rural areas of county Leitrim than the number employed in Carrick-on-Shannon itself, the town at the centre of the catchment.
- 16.** The analysis of places of work highlights important observations in the context of the NSS. In the NSS one of the roles of gateways and hubs is to act as drivers for development in their respective regions. This research has shown that rural areas do not necessarily have much engagement with their nearest gateway, for example just 3.3% of those living in the Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchment commute to work in Sligo, its nearest gateway. Similarly just 6.3% of those living in the Roscommon town labour catchment work in a gateway, of which Athlone is the most important, where 4% travel to work. These findings among others, have important implications for the 2009 Update and Outlook of the National Spatial Strategy.
- 17.** The travel to work data contains important information for transport policy-makers, service providers, planners, regional and local authorities. Apart from highlighting the complexity and range of labour market flows, the data can also show the relative importance of different places from a labour supply perspective. For example in the case of Galway city, the number of people commuting from the north of the city, the Tuam labour catchment, is greater than from the east, the Loughrea labour catchment, which in turn is greater than the number commuting from the south, the Gort labour catchment. This has important implications for the provision of transport infrastructure and services to and from the city.

These data provide us with a much greater understanding of travel to work patterns in the Western Region and the various labour catchments to which they give rise. This provides policy-makers with robust empirical data with which to inform their decisions. These findings will be very useful to all the relevant State agencies as well as employers, regional and local authorities. The analysis undertaken here demonstrates the value in releasing the POWCAR data and also provides a baseline for future work.

⁴⁸ This is discussed in detail in *Employment and Unemployment in the Western Region 2000-2008*, available at www.wdc.ie



Appendix: Methodology, Scope and National Comparisons

Methodology

The analysis in this report aims to identify labour catchments which are based on travel to work patterns. Each of the 45 labour catchments identified are not based on town or county administrative boundaries, but on people's travel to work patterns. The method used to define the labour catchments is as follows.

Town labour catchments are created by assigning EDs to a particular town's catchment based on the town in which the highest number of its residents work. All EDs are assigned to the catchment of a town⁴⁹ in Ireland with a resident population greater than 1,000. In total there were 241 possible destinations that any ED could be assigned to, categorised as follows:

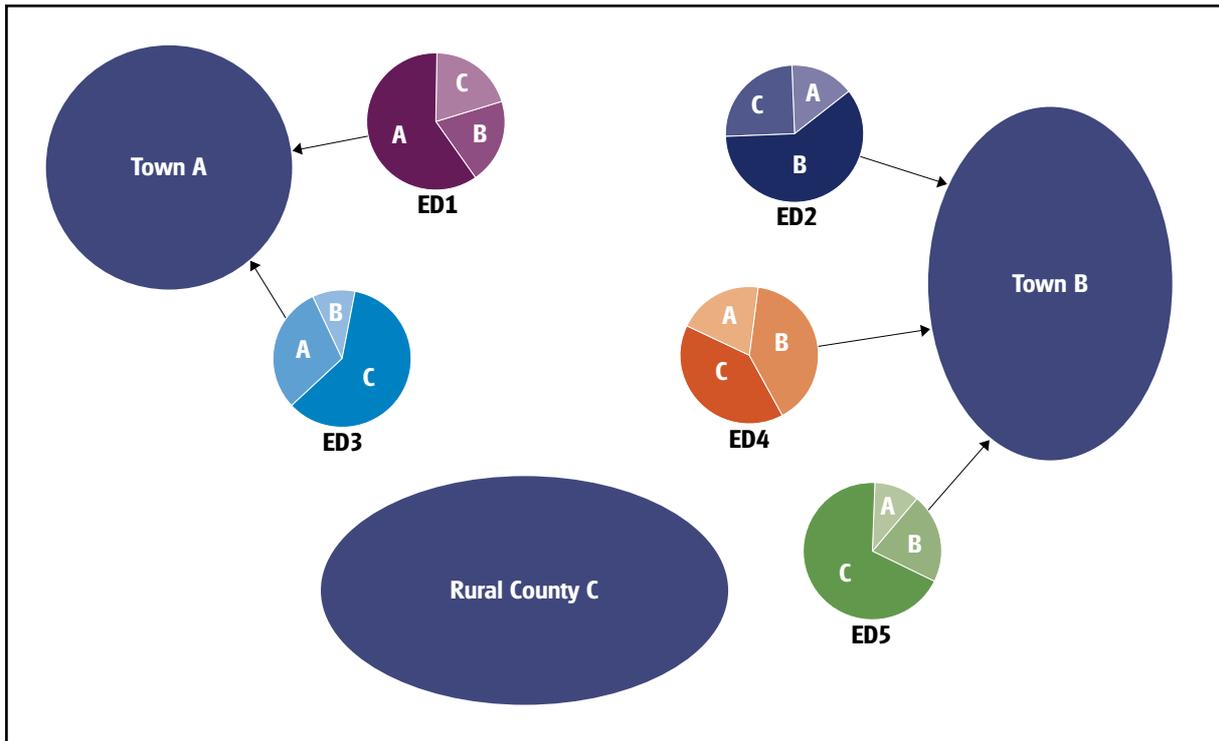
- towns with a population greater than 1,000 (233);
- six Northern Ireland county destinations;
- one residual rural catchment⁵⁰; and
- one additional town with a population less than 1,000 was also included in the analysis in order to incorporate the Knock/Charlestown area as an employment destination.

Each electoral division (ED) is examined and the place of work of all those who live in that ED is identified. 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. In other words, if we look at all those in a particular ED who work and identify in which town the highest number of those people work, then that ED will be included in the labour catchment of that town. Figure A1.1 illustrates how EDs are allocated to a particular town's catchment.

⁴⁹ The CSO use a definition of towns which includes suburbs and environs.

⁵⁰ This residual rural catchment comprises those living in 2 EDs, one in county Mayo and one in county Galway which were assigned to a 'rural' catchment because all those working there, worked in rural places (with a population less than 1,000).



Figure A1.1 Method of allocation of Electoral Divisions (EDs) to a town's labour catchment

For example ED1 is allocated to the catchment of town A on the basis that most of its residents travel there to work, rather than to Town B or Rural County C⁵¹. ED2 is allocated to Town B on the same basis. In ED3, the majority of its residents travel to Rural County C, but as Rural County C is not a town, ED3 is not allocated to it but is allocated to Town A as Town A is the next most popular destination and is also a town with a resident population greater than 1,000. In ED4, Town B and Rural County C are equally popular destinations but the ED is allocated to Town B as this is a town⁵², whereas Rural County C is not. ED5 is similar to ED3, it is allocated to the second most popular destination because the first, Rural County C is not a town.

In the Western Region, all 968 EDs were analysed to determine the number of their commuters travelling to work in each town with a population greater than 1,000 persons. Each ED was assigned to the labour catchment of one of these towns: namely, the one to which the highest number of its residents were travelling to work. The 968 EDs within the Western Region were finally allocated to 45 town catchments⁵³. These are identified in Map 2.1 and Table 2.1 (Section 2). The labour catchments of seven towns, the largest town in each of the seven counties which comprise the Western Region, are examined in detail in this report.

The vast majority of EDs in the Western Region were linked to destinations within the Western Region with the exception of a number of EDs being linked to towns such as Tullamore, Athlone, Longford, Limerick City and the Northern Ireland counties of Derry and Fermanagh. All of these 'external' destinations are just outside the Western Region boundary.

⁵¹ Rural County C, for example Galway Rural County are work places that are not within the legally defined boundaries of towns with population exceeding 1,000 persons at the time of the last Census of Population (2006).

⁵² With a resident population greater than 1,000.

⁵³ The 968 EDs within the Western Region were initially linked to 57 town catchments. Twelve of these towns were identified as having catchments consisting of less than 3 EDs and on the basis of size it was decided not to include these as individual catchments but to re-assign the EDs to the next dominant destination (with the exception of Shannon which is retained). A final total of 45 catchments account for the Western Region EDs.



Scope

The labour catchments defined in this report are based on information on the place of work and place of residence for each individual in the census. Workers with 'no fixed place of work' have therefore not been included. As a result the POWCAR dataset does not include the entire population at work. This has some implications for the research in terms of comparisons at a regional level and the representation of some occupational groups within the data.

Table A1.1 Response rates by region, POWCAR, 2006

Response	Mid-West	Border	West	State
No fixed place of work, mobile worker	11.2	13.7	14.4	11.4
Place of work address blank or uncodeable	7.3	6.7	7.2	7.5
Works mainly at or from home	7.4	7.1	7.9	5.8
Place of work coded	74.1	72.5	70.5	75.3
Total included responses	81.5	79.6	78.4	81.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total N	152,057	190,175	172,320	1,834,472

Table A1.1 shows the response rate for different place of work categories by region. The first two categories (shaded in dark blue) are those that are **excluded** from the POWCAR dataset. Construction and transport workers are strongly represented within the 'no fixed place of work' category. Therefore such workers are under-represented in this report. In addition, there are a high number of those categorised as farmers where the location of work was left blank, rather than providing a specific location or stating 'work from home'. As a result the occupational group of farmers is also under-represented.

Unless otherwise stated, the data and corresponding percentages listed in this report exclude the categories 'unknown', 'don't know' or 'not stated'. The numbers in these categories are generally very small and their exclusion has little if any effect. There is a more significant proportion (up to 20%) reporting 'unknown' to the distance travelled to work question and these are also excluded.

National comparisons

The national figures cited throughout the report are those based on the POWCAR dataset as described above. They are not necessarily the same as those reported in the full Census of Population 2006 as at work, because as shown in Table A1.1, the two categories of 'no fixed place of work' and 'place of work address blank or uncodeable', are excluded. The remaining data represent 81.1% of the total relevant census population.



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