

Census 2016: Where do People in the Western Region Work?

Census 2016 provides data on where people live and work. This *WDC Insights* is a summary examination of the place of work of workers living in the Western Region. Individual Western Region county data is available [here](#).

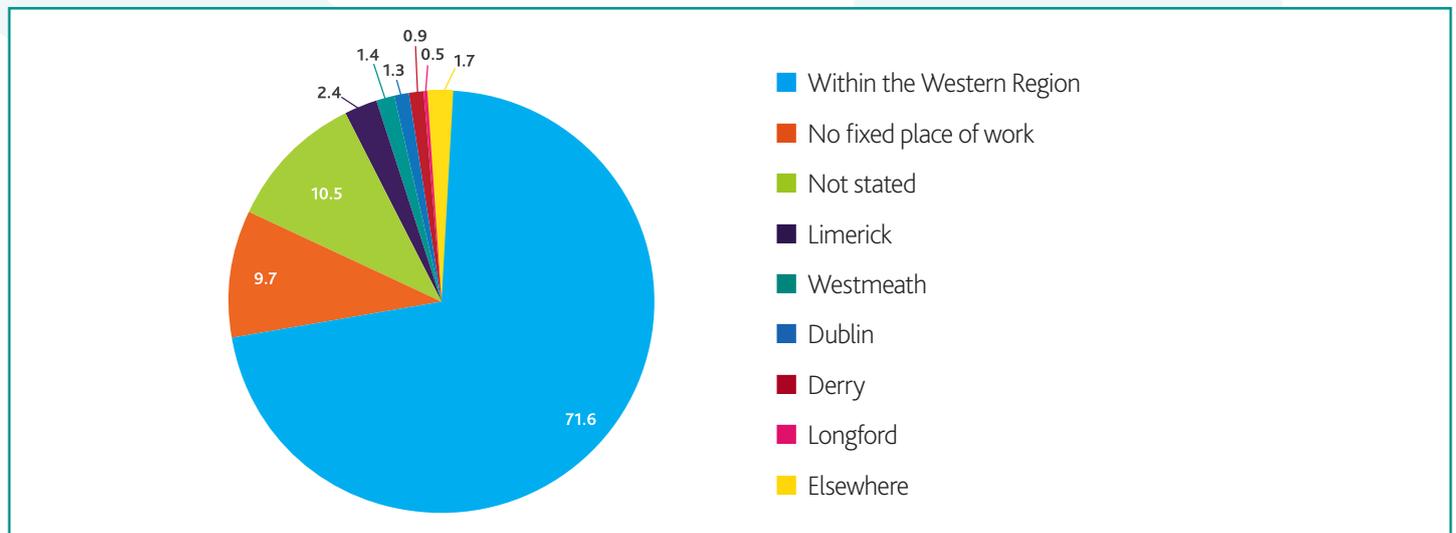
Western Region residents - Where do they work?

In 2016, there were 326,131 workers living in the Western Region, an increase of over 23,000 or 7.7% since 2011. The majority of workers living in the Western Region work within the Region (71.6%), though compared to 2011 this is a decline from 73.2%. In 2016, a greater number and a higher share of residents are working outside the Western Region.

Fig. 1 below illustrates most workers (71.6%) living in the Western Region, work within the Region. A significant number – 34,310 (10.5%) did not answer the question while a further 31,560 (9.7%), report 'no fixed place of work' ¹. Since 2011, there was an increase in the numbers of 'not stated' and 'no fixed place of work' and this trend is evident across the country. A further 1.4% (4,661) of workers resident in the Western Region work abroad.

In total, 79.8% (260,261) of residents in the Western Region stated a fixed place of work ². Of the workplace destinations outside the Western Region, the five counties of Limerick, Westmeath, Dublin, Derry and Longford are the most significant workplaces. These locations (apart from Dublin) border the Western Region, with Limerick city, Athlone, Derry city and Longford town all likely to be important employment centres.

Fig. 1. Workers resident in the Western region by Place of work, %, 2016



Source: StatBank Ireland / Profile 6 - Commuting in Ireland E6045

Of those with a fixed place of work, the number actually working within the Western Region in 2016 was 242,712. This includes those commuting into the Western Region to work from elsewhere ³. Therefore there is a net loss of 17,551 workers who leave the Region to work elsewhere. Compared to 2011, this is an increase in the number of workers leaving the Region to work, when there was a net loss of

1. Nationally the sector with the highest share of workers in the 'no fixed place of work' category is Construction (27%).
 2. This includes those working mainly at or from home discussed below.
 3. Detailed analysis of travel to work patterns and the labour catchments in the Western Region will be published in 2018.

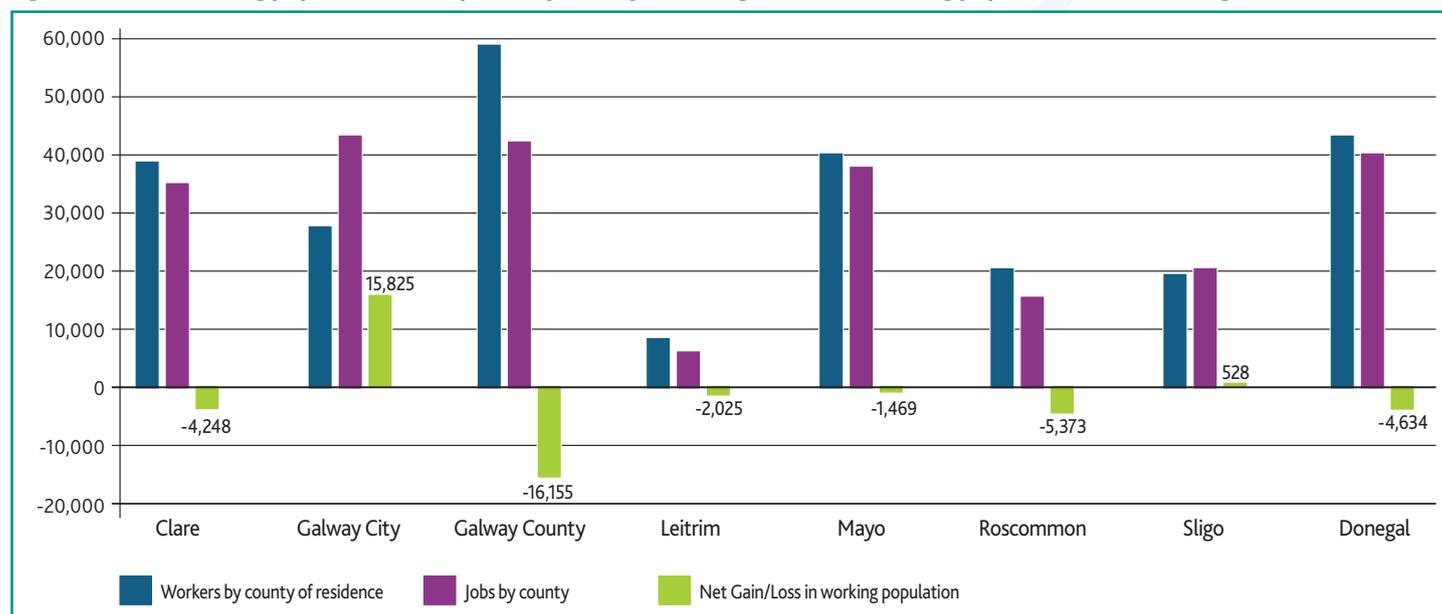


-14,939 residents working outside of the Region. Between 2011 and 2016 the number of Western Region residents working in Dublin has increased by 16.9% to 4,258.

Working in the Western Region

The distribution of the resident working population by county, the workplaces by county and net gain/loss in working population in 2016 is presented in Fig. 2.

Fig. 2. Resident working population, workplaces by county and net gain/loss in working population, Western Region counties, 2016



Source: StatBank Ireland / Profile 6 - Commuting in Ireland E6036

Only Galway city and Sligo have a net gain in working population, Galway city has a net gain of nearly 16,000 people, of which a large proportion are likely to come from county Galway where there was a net loss of just over 16,000. County Sligo had a more marginal gain in working population of over 500 people. County Galway had the largest net loss with many of these likely to travel to Galway city to work. Roscommon had the next largest net loss of over 5,300 workers, followed by Donegal and Clare. The specific county work locations of each of the Western county residents are presented in the individual county profiles available [here](#).

Work mainly at or from Home

Of those workers resident in the Western Region, 6.1% report working mainly at or from home, higher than the national average of 4.8%. Within the Western Region all areas have higher than the national average apart from Galway city where just 2.7% report working mainly at or from home. The highest rates within the Western Region occur in Clare where 7.1% report working mainly at or from home. This is followed by Leitrim and Roscommon both with 7.0% and County Galway 6.9%.

Working from home is becoming more popular with an increase of 14% (11,600) nationally between 2011 and 2016. The largest share of those working mainly at or from home (40.2%) are working within the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing sectors, though this is a decline in share since 2011 (43.4%). After Agriculture the sector in which working mainly at or from home is most prevalent is 'Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities' accounting for 9% of the total, Wholesale and Retail Trade (6.6%) and Manufacturing (5.3%) are next highest.

Understanding where people work and where they live provides a more thorough understanding of the labour market and the choices people make. The trends suggest that while there is an increase in the number of Western Region residents in work, a greater number are commuting to work to places beyond the Western Region.

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