



WDC Census 2022 Summary Report- Highlights for Western Region

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The CSO [Census of Population 2022 -Summary Results](#) were published on 30 May 2023. The WDC Policy Analysis team has prepared this short report highlighting key statistics for the Western Region and its counties in this first overview Census publication. Our report focuses on indicators of most relevance to the Western Region and WDC work. These include population, gender, age, dependency ratios, health, economic status and labour characteristics, remote working and connectivity along with a number of sustainability indicators. We have also included some information on town population from the more recently published [Profile 1 - Population Distribution and Movements](#).

Data is analysed for the seven county Western Region (Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, Galway and Clare) and the situation in the region is compared with that in the rest of the state (all other counties excluding the Western Region) or the state average, depending on how the data was produced.

The summary report provides an overview of the current status of the Western Region in a number of areas, but there will be more detail in the forthcoming publications which the Policy Analysis team will continue to analyse this data and will use it to provide insights on the Western Region.

The wealth of data means that to ensure the report is a manageable length (20 pages) key points are highlighted in the summary and graphics and statistics are provided in the following pages. We hope this will be a useful reference of key Western Region statistics over the next few years.

Summary

Population and population growth

- In 2022, the **total population of the Western Region was 886,385** (up from 828,697 in 2016), an increase of 7.0%. This is slightly less than the state average increase of 8.1%. The State population is 5,149,139. Since 2016 the population of all Western counties has increased with the highest growth rate in Leitrim (9.8%) and the lowest growth rate in Donegal (5.0%). **Figures 1&2, (also showing county populations)**
- In the twenty years **between 2002 and 2022 the population of the Western Region grew by 25.7%** while the population of the Rest of the State (excluding Western Region) grew by 32.7% **Figure 3**
- The **share of population** living in the Western Region as a percentage of the state's population has declined from 30.7% in 1841 to 18.2% in 1991 and to 17.2% in 2022. **Figure 4**

Components of Growth

- In Galway City 53.3% of the population growth was from natural increase (births-deaths), in Leitrim only 24.4% of population growth was from natural increase. **Figure 5**
- More than three quarters of the population growth in Leitrim (75.6%) was as a result of migration (75.2% in Roscommon). In the Western Region 37.9% of the growth was 'natural increase' and 62.1% from migration. In the Rest of State 44.2% of growth was natural increase, and 55.8% was from migration.

Figure 5

Gender

- In the Western Region, **50.55% of the population is female** indicating that women outnumber men, similar to the picture nationally. In the Western Region only in county Roscommon do males outnumber females (49.9% female), one of six counties in the state with more males than females. **Figure 6**

Rurality¹

- Almost two thirds (63%) of people in the Western Region live in **rural areas** (outside towns of 1,500+). In the rest of the state only 31% of the population live in rural areas. For the state as a whole (including Western Region counties) 36.3% live in rural areas. **Figure 7**
- Leitrim is the **most rural county** (84.1% living in rural areas), Sligo is the least rural (57% rural). When Galway city and county are taken together 52.6% live in rural areas, but if only Galway county is considered, with the city excluded, 75.6% are rural dwellers. **Figure 7**
- Nationally 52% live in towns with a population of more than 10,000, but in the Western Region only 22.6% do. **Figure 8**

Average age and Age dependency ratios

- Mayo has the highest **average age** nationally (41.6 years), with Roscommon (40.8 years) third highest in the country and Leitrim (40.7 years) fourth highest. Galway city has the lowest average age in the Western Region (37.4 years) but Fingal is the youngest county in Ireland (average age 36.2 years). **Figure 9**
- Age dependency is a ratio calculated by comparing the proportion of people both under 15 and over 64 years with the working age population, which is defined here as those between 15 and 64 years of age. The highest **age dependency ratio** in the Western Region is in Leitrim (64.0) and the lowest is in Galway city (39.2) as a result of the very high numbers of working age in that city. It is 53.2 for the state as a whole. **Figure 10**
- Looking only at the '**Young dependency**' (a ratio of the number of people aged under 15 compared with the working age population), it is 30.1 in the State, highest in the Western Region is Galway county (33.6) and lowest is in Galway city (21.5%) **Figure 11**
- The **old dependency ratio** compares the number of people aged over 64 with the working age population. In the Western Region it is highest in Mayo (32.4) and lowest in Galway city (17.7). **Figure 12**

Health, Disability and Caring

- **General Health** in the Western Region is similar to that in the Rest of State, 83.0% (88.0% when not stated are excluded) said they were in good or very good health (Rest of State 82.9% (89.1% excl. not stated)). The proportion where General Health is not stated has increased since 2011 affecting the percentages **Figure 13**
- There has been a fall in the proportion in Good or Very Good health since 2011, from 87.5% in the Western Region in 2011 (89.1% when not stated excluded) and in Rest of State from 88.5% (90.5% excluding not stated). **Figure 13**
- In the Western Region Leitrim has the highest **rate of disability** (22.4%, made up of 8.5% with a disability to a great extent and a further 13.9% with some extent of disability). The lowest rate of disability in the Western Region is in Galway county (20.0% with a disability of which 7.4% are disabled to a great extent). This compares to a disability rate of 21.5% nationally, with 7.9% disabled to a great extent. **Figure 14**
- In Mayo 6.9% of the population are **carers**, the highest in the Western Region, while only 5% in Galway city are carers. The state average is 5.8% but all counties in the Western Region have a range of 6.4% to 6.9% of the population. **Figure 15**

¹ These figures were calculated using the Profile 1 Census report Population Distribution and Movements .Published 29 June 2023

Economic Status and Labour characteristics

- **Principal Economic Status (PES)** information on the population aged 15 years shows that in all Western Region counties the majority of this group are at work. This ranges from 51.1% in Donegal to 56.2% in Galway County. The state average is 56.1%. **Figure 16**
- In the Western Region, Roscommon (7.2%) and Donegal (7.1%) have the highest proportion in the **PES** category 'Looking after home and Family'. This compares to 5.1% in Sligo and 4.7% in Galway city. The state average is 6.6%. **Figure 16**
- The student or pupil **PES** category is, not surprisingly highest in Galway city (16%) and is lowest in Mayo (9.7%). **Figure 16**
- The highest **unemployment rate** nationally is in Louth (10.9%) followed by Donegal (10.6%). The lowest nationally is in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (6.2%) and the lowest rate in the Western Region is in Galway County at 7.2%. **Figure 17.**
- Nationally the **Long Term Unemployment Rate** is 60.2%. In the Western Region both Clare (59.8%) and Galway City (56.6%) are below this. Donegal (64.0%) has the highest long term unemployment rate in the Western Region, followed by Mayo (63.2%) and Leitrim (63.1%). **Figure 18**
- The overall **labour force participation rate** in all Western Region counties is lower than the State average (61.2%). It is lowest in Donegal (57.2%) and highest in Galway County (60.6%) and Galway city (61.2%). **Figure 19**
- The female **labour force participation rate** in the Western Region is lowest in Roscommon (51.7%) and highest in Galway County (55.7) and Galway city (56.4%), which is higher than the state average (55.6%). **Figure 19**
- In the Western Region male **labour force participation** is again highest in Galway both city (66.5%) and Galway County (65.7). These are both lower than the state average (67.0%). Donegal and Mayo have the lowest male rates (62.6). **Figure 19**

Connectivity and Working From Home

- More than 14% of households in Leitrim do not have an internet connection, which is the highest in the State (8.7% average). Mayo (13.4%) and Roscommon (13.3%) are second and third highest in the Western Region. Galway city has the lowest level without internet (5.6%) with Clare next lowest (10.6%). **Figure 20**
- In the Western Region, Leitrim (73.4%) has the lowest **level of broadband** as a proportion of internet connections, while Galway city has the highest and, aside from that city, no county in the Western Region is higher than the 79.4% state average. **Figure 20**
- Nationally, 53.6% of those who **work from home**, do so between 3 and 5 days a week. In the Western Region Galway city is above this rate (56.4%) with Clare at 47.9%. Mayo (44.0%), Sligo (45.8%) and Roscommon (43.8%) have the lowest rate of majority time working from home. **Figure 21**
- Donegal (22.6%) has the lowest overall **percentage working from home** in the Western Region, followed by Roscommon (26.5%). The highest level of working from home is in Galway city (31.1%) and Galway County (29.8%). This compares to 32.2% for the State. **Figure 22**

Sustainability and Environment

- In the Western Region 11% of households **do not have a car**. The proportion of households without a car is highest in Galway city (18%) and Sligo (12%) and lowest in Galway county (7%), Clare and Roscommon (both 9%). **Figure 23**
- In Clare 47% of households have **more than one car**, in Galway county the rate is 52%. In Galway City only 29% have more than one car. This compares to 45% for the Western Region overall. **Figure 23**

- The pattern of **fuel usage in central heating** is very different in the Western Region and the rest of the state primarily because of the lack of access to natural gas across most of the region. Only 5% of households in the Western Region use natural gas to heat their home compared with 39% in the rest of the state. This means the Western Region is far more reliant on other fuels, many with higher carbon emissions. **Figure 24**
- In the Western Region 59% of households use oil as their **main heating fuel** (compared to 34% in the Rest of the state). The highest level of oil use is in Donegal (67%) and the lowest is in Galway city. **Figure 24**
- Peat is a more common **home heating fuel** in the Western Region (11%) than the rest of the state (2%). Its use varies significantly by county (20% of heating in Roscommon and 18% in Galway county but only 5% in Clare and 1% in Galway city). **Figure 24**
- In Leitrim 4% of households use wood for central heating and 3% of households in Clare do, but the average for the Western Region is 2% which is the same as the rest of the state. **Figure 24**
- A new question in the census asked about **renewable energy sources for heating** (not necessarily as the main energy source). 28% of households in the Western Region had a renewable energy source compared to 25% in the rest of state. The highest rate was in Galway county and Clare (34% in both) and the lowest in Galway city (17%). **Figure 25**
- In the Western Region, 71% of households are connected to the **public mains for water supply**, compared to 82% in the rest of the state. In Galway county 57% are connected to public mains, and in Mayo 61% are. These are the lowest in the Western Region. **Figure 26**
- Twenty percent of Western Region households are connected to a **group scheme for water supply**, compared to 5% in the Rest of State. In Leitrim 25% are, with 29% in Galway County and 32% in Mayo. **Figure 26**
- In Galway county 61% of households have an **individual septic tank** for sewerage treatment, 52% of households in Roscommon, and in the Western Region as a whole 46% do. This compares to 21% in the Rest of State. **Figure 27**

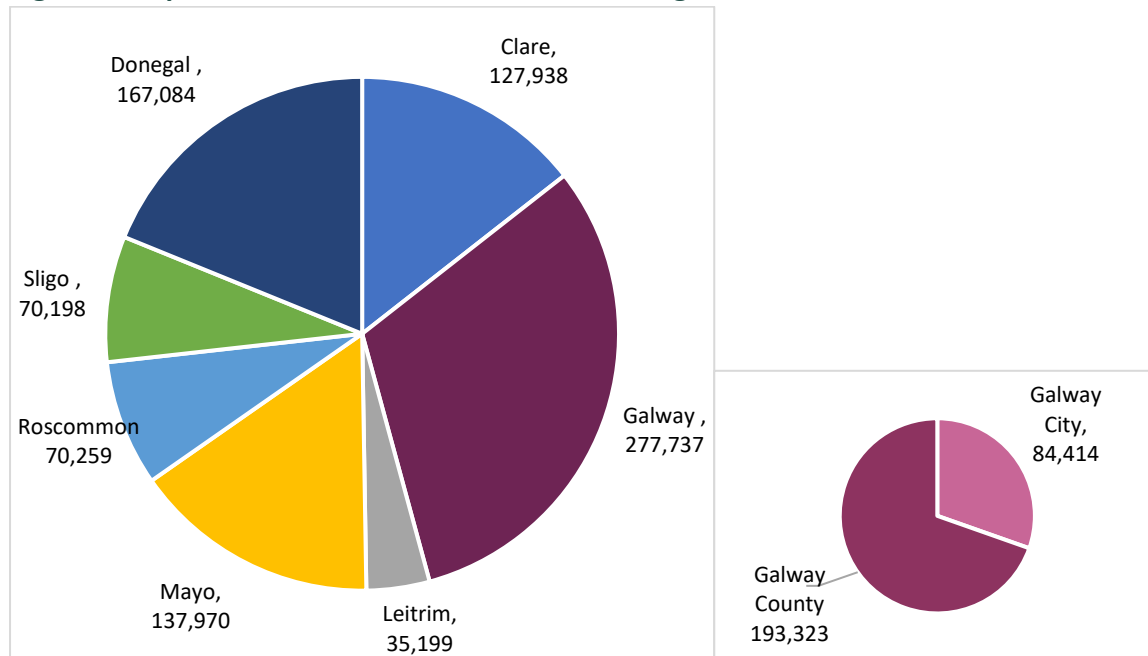
Town populations

- A **new method of defining urban areas** has been introduced by the CSO (Built Up Urban Area (BUA)). This definition will be used to officially define town populations. It is not directly comparable with the town populations from the previous censuses. Some of the towns most affected are Clifden (size decrease), Oughterard (size increase). An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga (Bunbeg-Derrybeg) has been split into two separate towns. **Figure 28**
- In addition to Galway city (85,910 incl. suburbs) there are **six Western Region towns with a population of more than 10,000**. Shannon (10,256) has just moved into this category. Ennis is the biggest town (27,923). The gap between population in Letterkenny (22,549) and Sligo (20,608) continues to widen, as does the gap between Castlebar (13,054) and Ballina (10,556) **Figure 28**.
- There are now **38 Western Region towns with population between 1,500 and 10,000** up from 34 in 2016. Six towns have entered this size category (Ballysadare, Oughterard, Portumna, Manorhamilton, Killaloe and Baile Chláir (Claregalway)) and Clifden has fallen out of it. **Figure 28**
- The CSO provided the 2022 population using the same boundaries as 2016. These are not the official population statistics but can be used to show population change. **Three towns showed population decline** (Ballyshannon (-1.5%); Lifford (-1.2%) and Clifden (-6.2%). Five towns grew by more than 25% (Baile Chláir (32.5%); Ballisodare (30.3%); Ballaghaderreen (29.4%); Maigh Cuilinn (28.0%) and Bundoran (26.5%). **Figure 29**
- Comparing the BUA populations for towns with the 2022 population data provided for the previous settlement boundaries shows the significant differences (especially in Ballinasloe (-11%), Claremorris (-

10%) Gort (-9%), Kilrush (-10%) and Clifden (-16%). In contrast Oughterard population increased by almost 25% compared to the old boundaries, and Bearna grew by 16%. **Figure 30**

Charts and Tables of Data

Figure 1: Population of counties in the Western Region



Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results Table FY003A

Figure 2: Population growth 2016-2022

County	2016	2022	% change 2016-2022
Clare	118,817	127,938	7.7%
Galway	258,058	277,737	7.6%
Leitrim	32,044	35,199	9.8%
Mayo	130,507	137,970	5.7%
Roscommon	64,544	70,259	8.9%
Sligo	65,535	70,198	7.1%
Donegal	159,192	167,084	5.0%
Western Region	828,697	886,385	7.0%
State	4,761,865	5,149,139	8.1%
Rest of State	3,933,168	4,262,754	8.4%

Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results Table FY001

Figure 3: Population growth 2002-2022

	% change 2002-2022
Clare	23.9%
Donegal	21.4%
Galway	32.8%
Leitrim	36.4%
Mayo	17.5%
Roscommon	30.7%
Sligo	20.6%
Western Region	25.7%
State	31.4%
Rest of State	32.7%

Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results Table FY001

Figure 4: Western Region as % of State Population

	1841	1991	2022
State	6,528,799	3,525,719	5,149,139
Western Region	2,001,701	642,066	886,385
Western Region as % State	30.7%	18.2%	17.2%

Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results Table FY001

Figure 5: Components of Growth

County and City	Population 2022	Total increase Since 2016	% Increase Natural	% Increase from Migration
State	5,149,139	387,274	43.2%	56.8%
Clare	127,938	9,121	33.9%	66.1%
Galway City	84,414	5,746	53.3%	46.7%
Galway County	193,323	13,933	46.0%	54.0%
Leitrim	35,199	3,155	24.4%	75.6%
Mayo	137,970	7,463	29.5%	70.5%
Roscommon	70,259	5,715	24.8%	75.2%
Sligo	70,198	4,663	29.4%	70.6%
Donegal	167,084	7,892	44.8%	55.2%
Western Region	886,385	57,688	37.9%	62.1%
Rest of State	4,262,754	329,586	44.2%	55.8%

Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results Table FY001

*Natural Increase = Births – Deaths

Figure 6: Females as a percentage of the population

County and City	Females as % Population 2022	Females as % Population 2016
State	50.58%	50.56%
Clare	50.82%	50.52%
Galway City	52.12%	51.95%
Galway County	50.07%	49.91%
Leitrim	50.13%	49.87%
Mayo	50.43%	50.16%
Roscommon	49.94%	49.84%
Sligo	50.81%	50.61%
Donegal	50.45%	50.36%
Western Region	50.55%	50.37%
Rest of State	50.59%	50.60%

Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results Table FY104

Figure 7: Rurality

	Rurality
Clare	59.6%
Donegal	70.9%
Galway city and county	52.6%
Leitrim	84.1%
Mayo	70.8%
Roscommon	71.0%
Sligo	57.0%
Western Region	63.0%
Rest of state	30.8%
State	36.3%

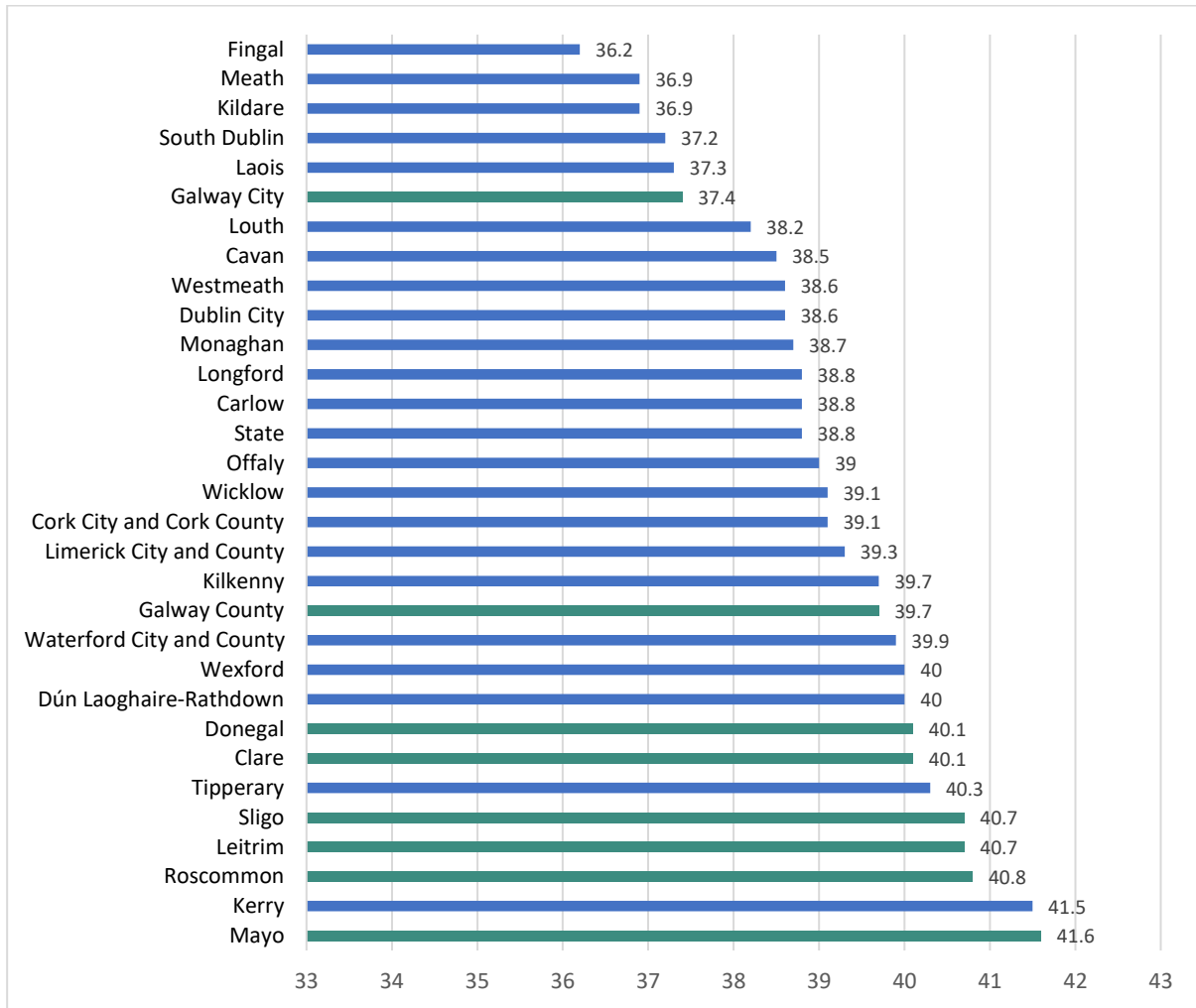
Census of Population 2022 – Profile 1 Table F1010

Figure 8: Population living in cities and towns >10,000

Living in Settlements > 10,000 population	%
Western Region	22.6%
State	51.9%
Rest of State	58.0%

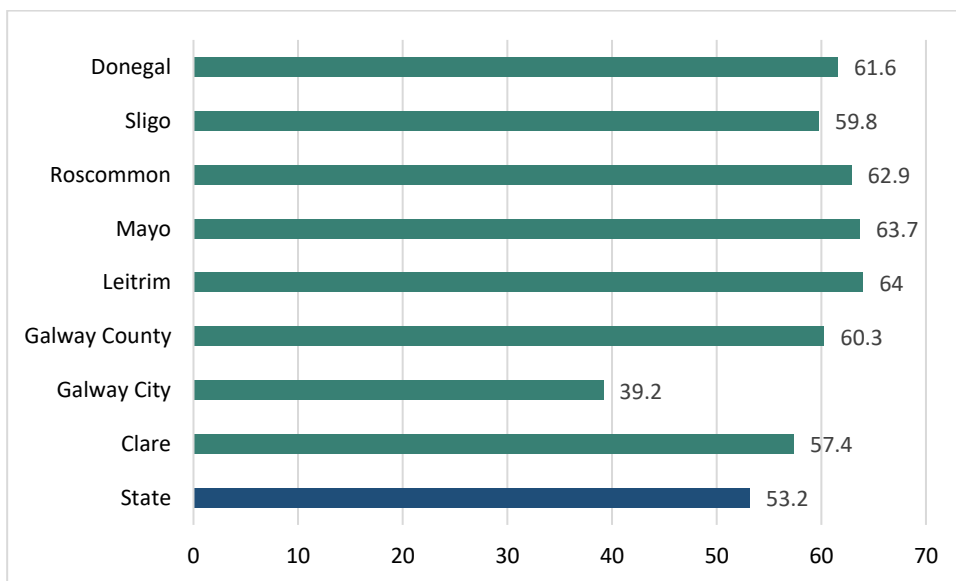
Census of Population 2022 - Profile 1 Table F1010

Figure 9: Average Age by county



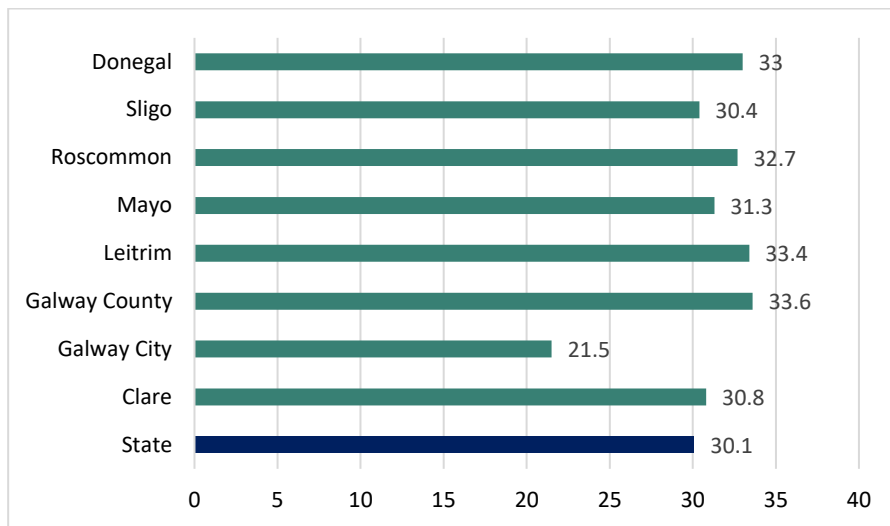
Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY051B

Figure 10: Age Dependency Ratio



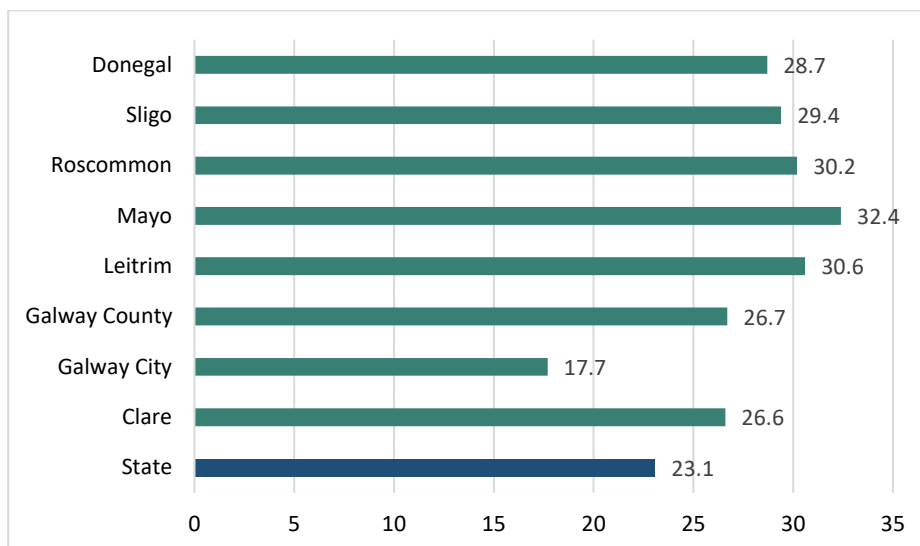
Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY083B

Figure 11: Young dependency ratio (Dependency Ratio Persons aged 0-14)



Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY083B

Figure 12: Old age dependency ratio (Dependency Ratio Persons aged 65+)



Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY083B

Figure 13: General Health*

General Health- Very good +Good	Clare	Donegal	Galway City	Galway County	Leitrim	Mayo	Roscommon	Sligo	Western Region	Rest of State
2011	88.3%	86.9%	88.0%	88.7%	86.7%	86.5%	86.6%	86.5%	87.5%	88.5%
2016	87.3%	85.6%	86.1%	87.8%	85.8%	86.2%	86.6%	86.2%	86.6%	87.1%
2022	82.6%	82.8%	78.4%	84.9%	83.4%	83.5%	83.5%	82.8%	83.0%	82.9%

*Change in good and very good health between 2022 and 2016 affected by much higher levels of 'not stated' in 2022.

Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY092B

Figure 14: Disability level by Western Region county



Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY084

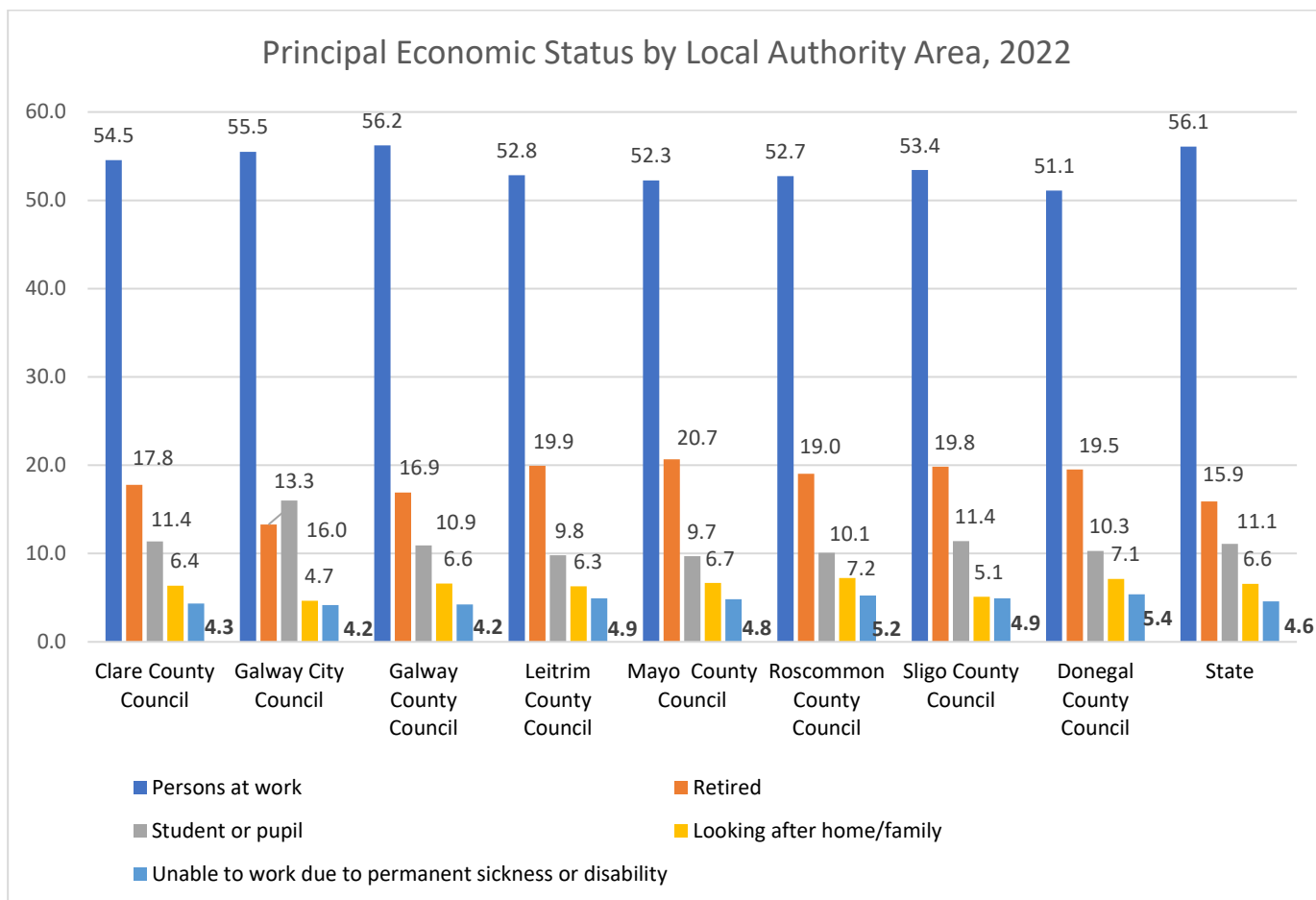
Figure 15: Carers as % of population*

Carers (% Total Population)	2011	2016	2022	Change 2011-22
State	4.1	4.1	5.8	1.7
Clare	4.5	4.6	6.4	1.9
Donegal	4.6	4.5	6.4	1.8
Galway City	3.5	3.7	5	1.5
Galway County	4.5	4.4	6.5	2
Leitrim	4.6	4.5	6.6	2
Mayo	5	4.7	6.9	1.9
Roscommon	4.7	4.5	6.5	1.8
Sligo	4.8	4.7	6.5	1.7

*A change in wording may have influenced the increase in 2022.

Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY088

Figure 16: Principal Economic Status 2022, selected categories



Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY048

Figure 17: Unemployment by county 2022

Unemployment rate (PES)	2011	2016	2022
Clare	18.8	12.4	8.1
Galway City	18.6	12.9	9.3
Galway County	18.1	11.7	7.2
Leitrim	20.3	14.5	9.3
Mayo	19.5	14.3	8.9
Roscommon	19.4	13	8.4
Sligo	18.1	14	8.4
Donegal	26.2	18	10.6
State	19	12.9	8.3

Self-declared principal economic status the number of people looking for their first job or unemployed, as a proportion of people aged 15 and over who were at work, looking for their first job or unemployed. This differs from the official definition (derived from the quarterly labour force survey with different criteria).

Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY056B

Figure 18: Percentage of unemployment that is long term

% unemployment that is long term	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Ireland	60.2	61.1	59.0
Clare County Council	59.8	60.9	58.5
Galway City Council	56.6	56.6	56.5
Galway County Council	60.9	62.7	58.8
Leitrim County Council	63.1	64.6	61.0
Mayo County Council	63.2	64.0	62.2
Roscommon County Council	62.3	62.9	61.4
Sligo County Council	61.1	62.0	59.9
Donegal County Council	64.0	65.2	62.4

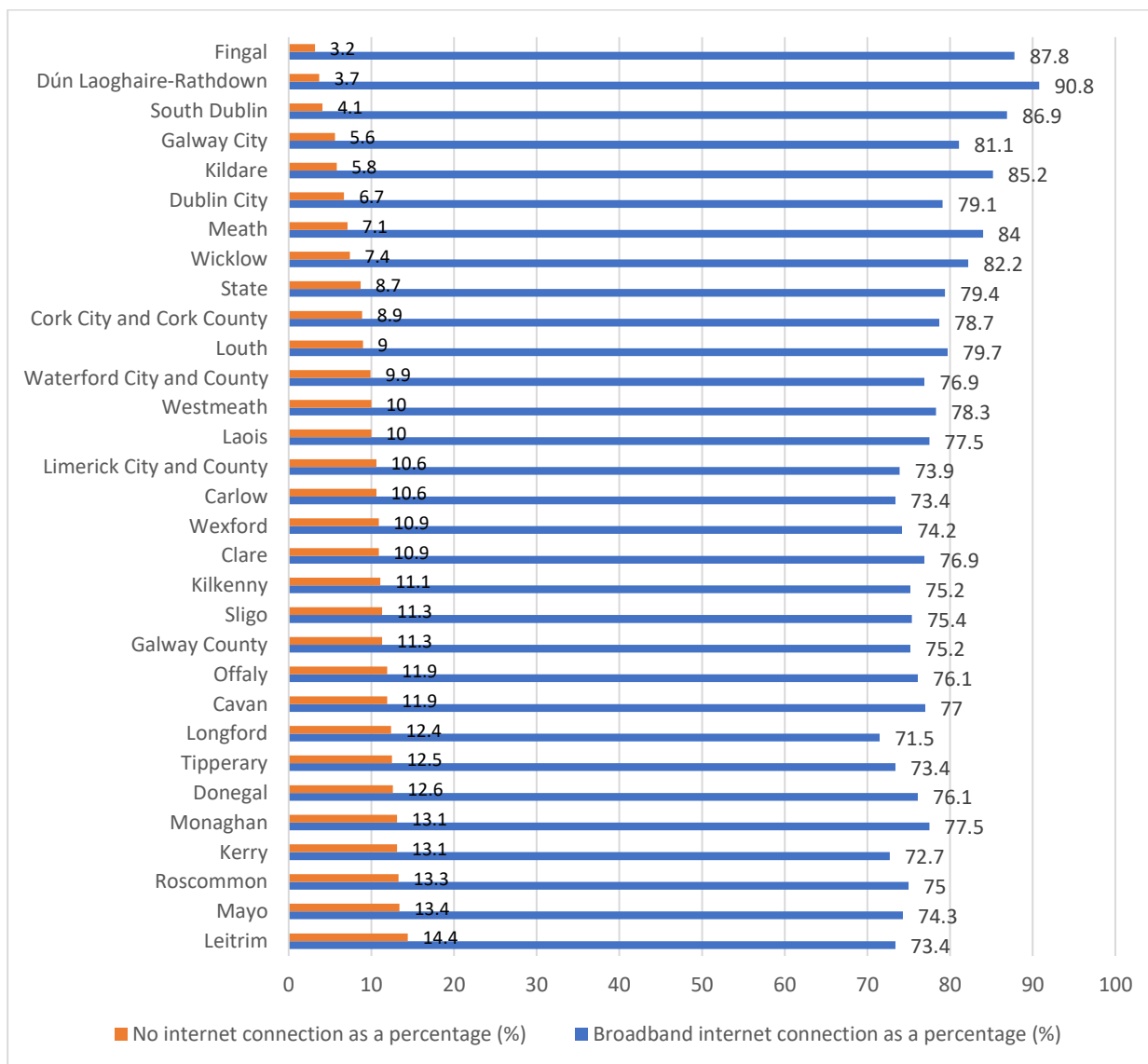
For the census long-term unemployment is a period of 12 months or more unemployment. Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY048

Figure 19: Labour force participation rate

	Labour Force Participation Rate (both sexes)	Female	Male
2022			
State	61.2	55.6	67
Clare	59.4	54.4	64.6
Galway City	61.2	56.4	66.5
Galway County	60.6	55.7	65.7
Leitrim	58.2	53.5	63.1
Mayo	57.4	52.3	62.6
Roscommon	57.6	51.7	63.5
Sligo	58.3	53.8	63.2
Donegal	57.2	52	62.6

Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY056B

Figure 20: Type of Internet Connection by County and City 2022



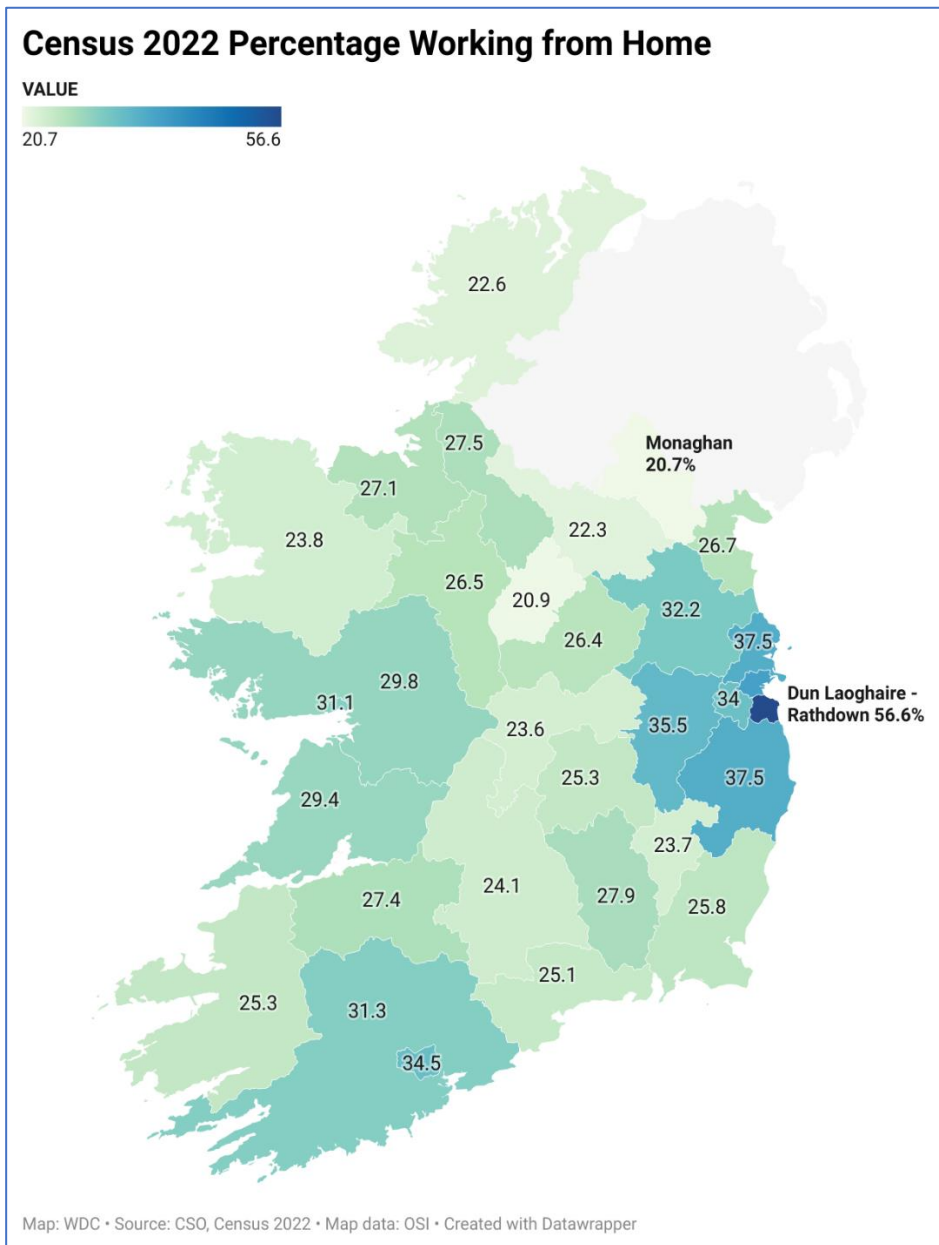
Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY102

Figure 21: Working from Home – three or more days per week

	Working from Home 3-5 days
Clare	47.9
Donegal	46.1
Galway City	56.4
Galway County	47.9
Leitrim	46.2
Mayo	44.0
Roscommon	43.8
Sligo	45.8
Ireland	53.6

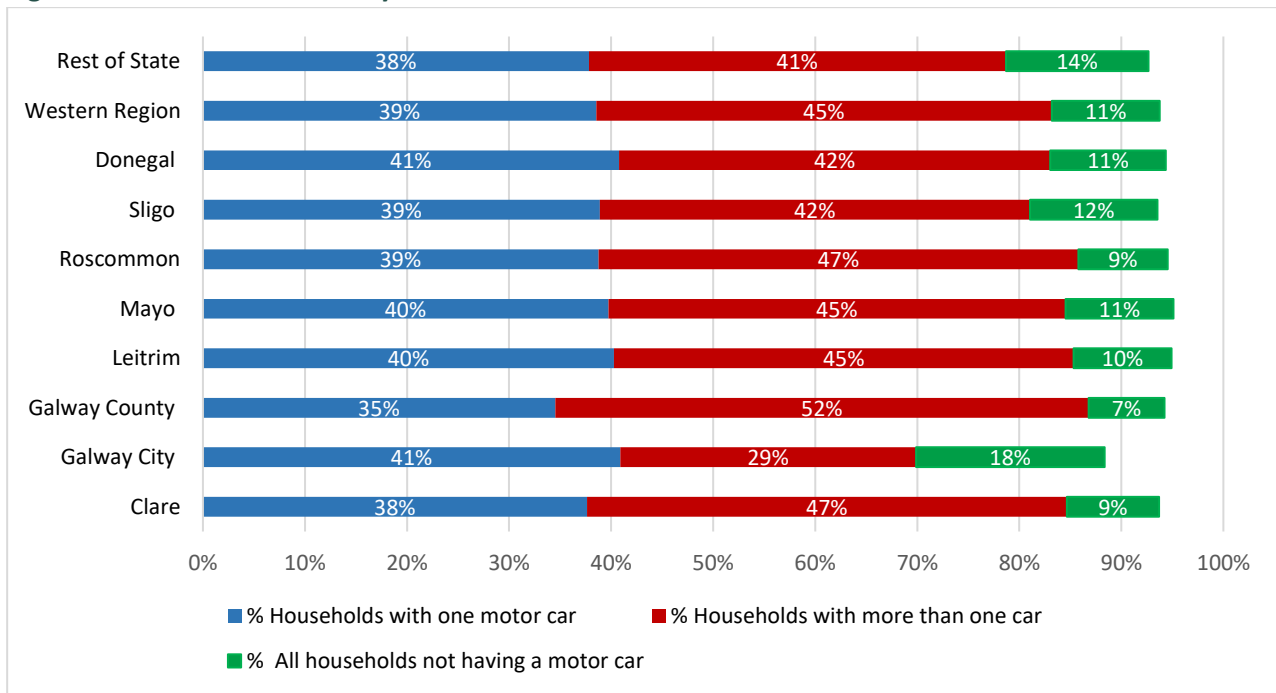
Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY099

Figure 22: Percentage of Workers availing of Working from Home by County



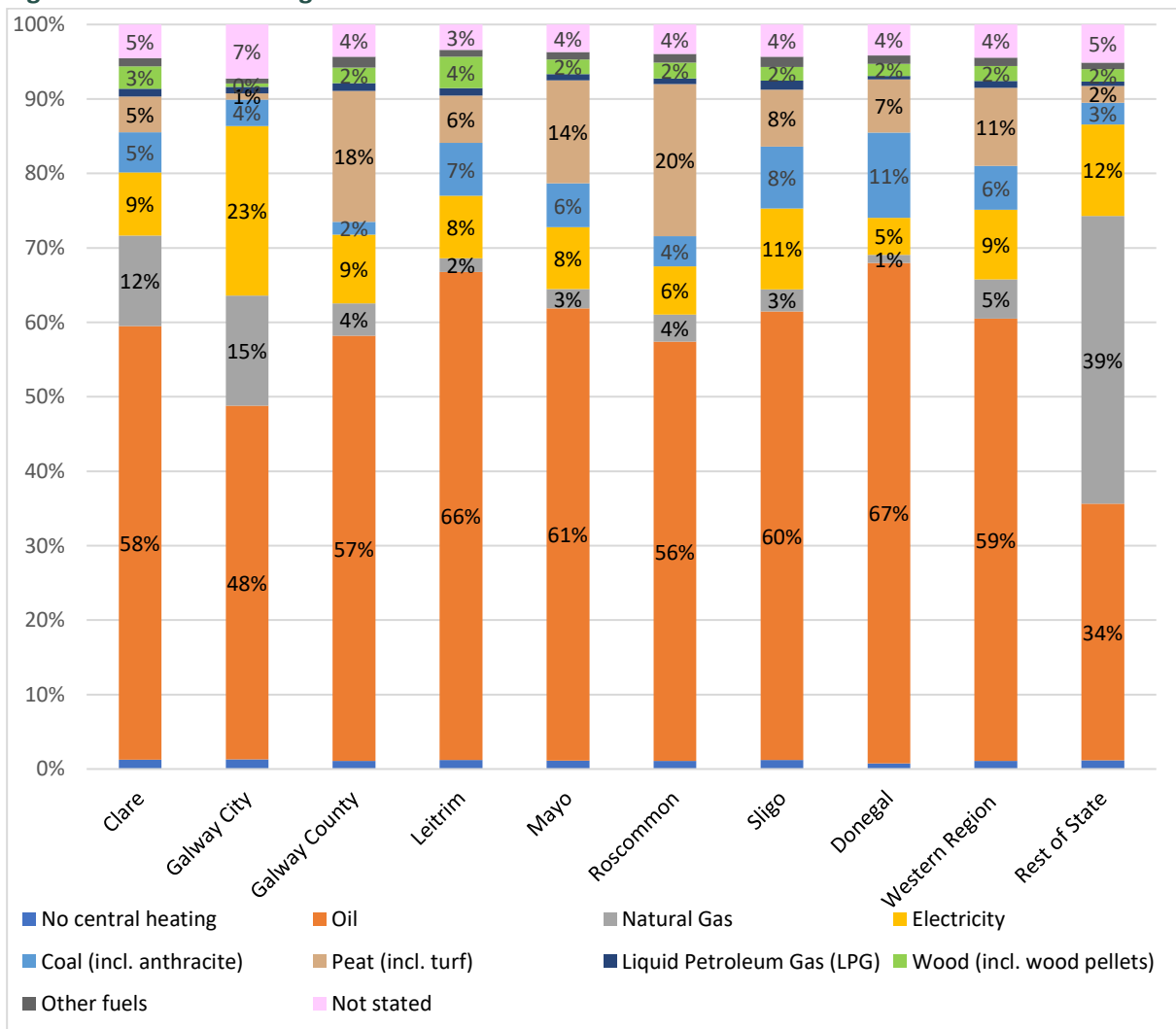
Census of Population 2022 -
Summary Results FY049

Figure 23: Motor car availability



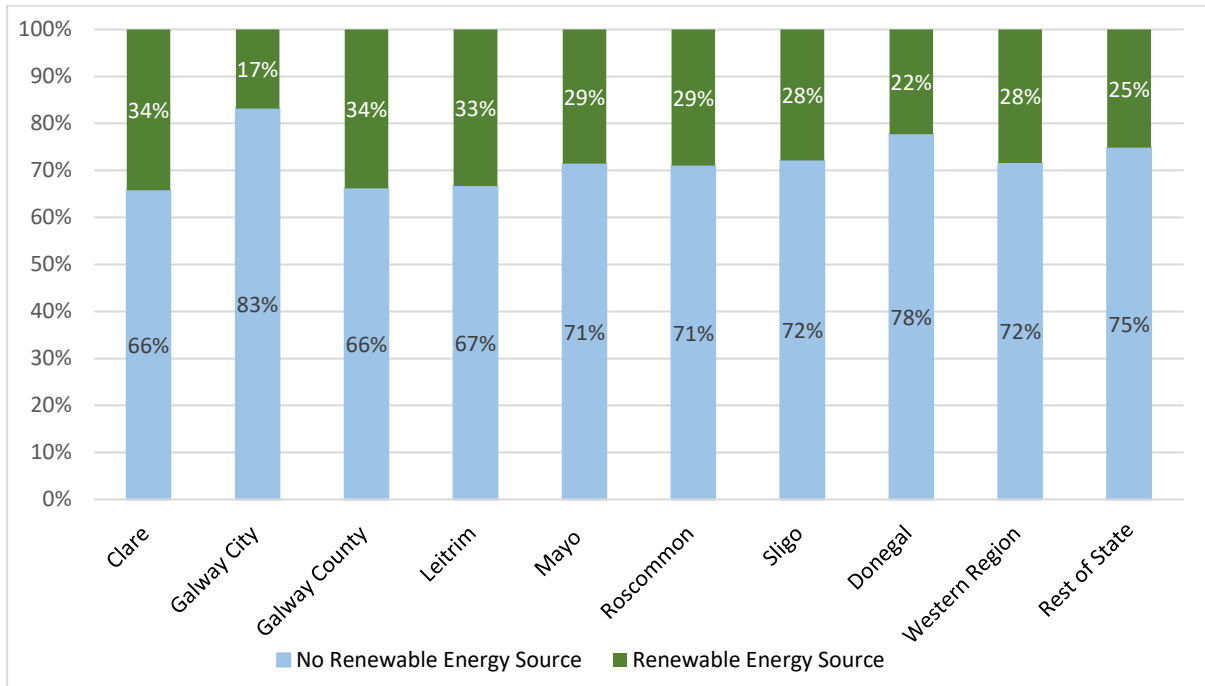
Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY091

Figure 24: Central Heating Fuel



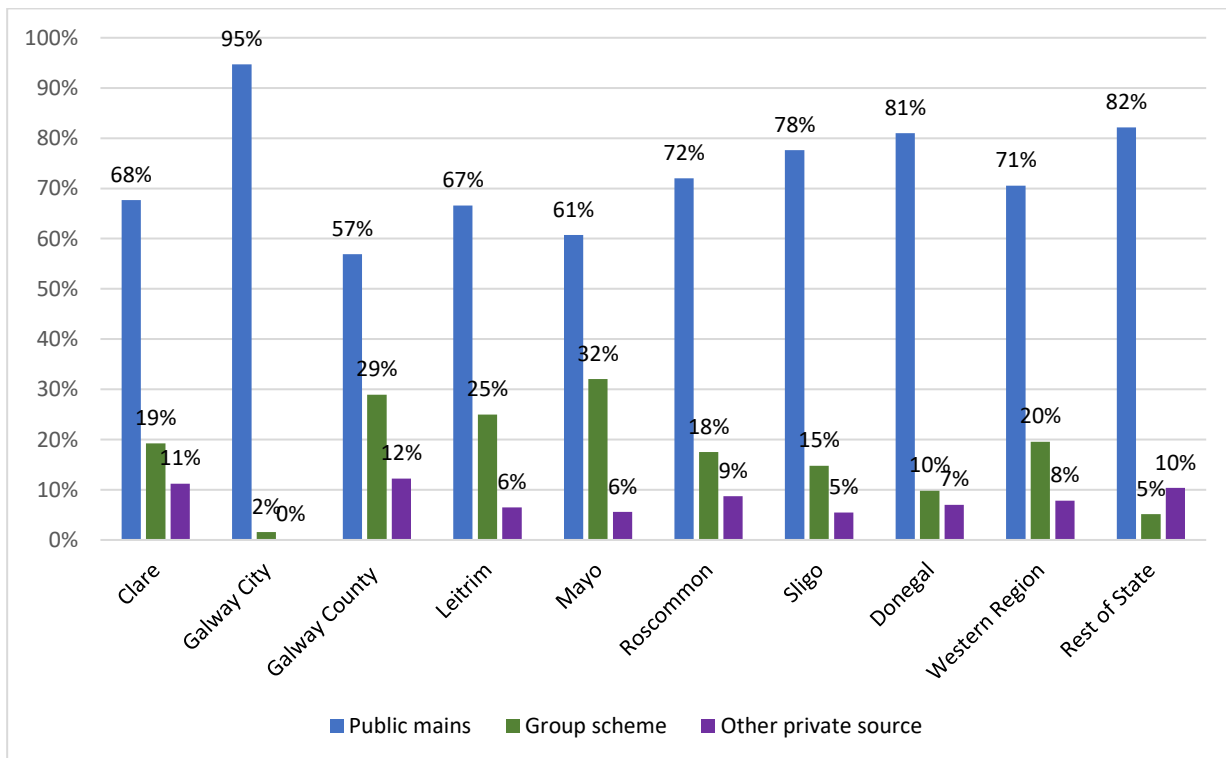
Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY037

Figure 25: Availability of a renewable energy source of heating (not necessarily the main source).



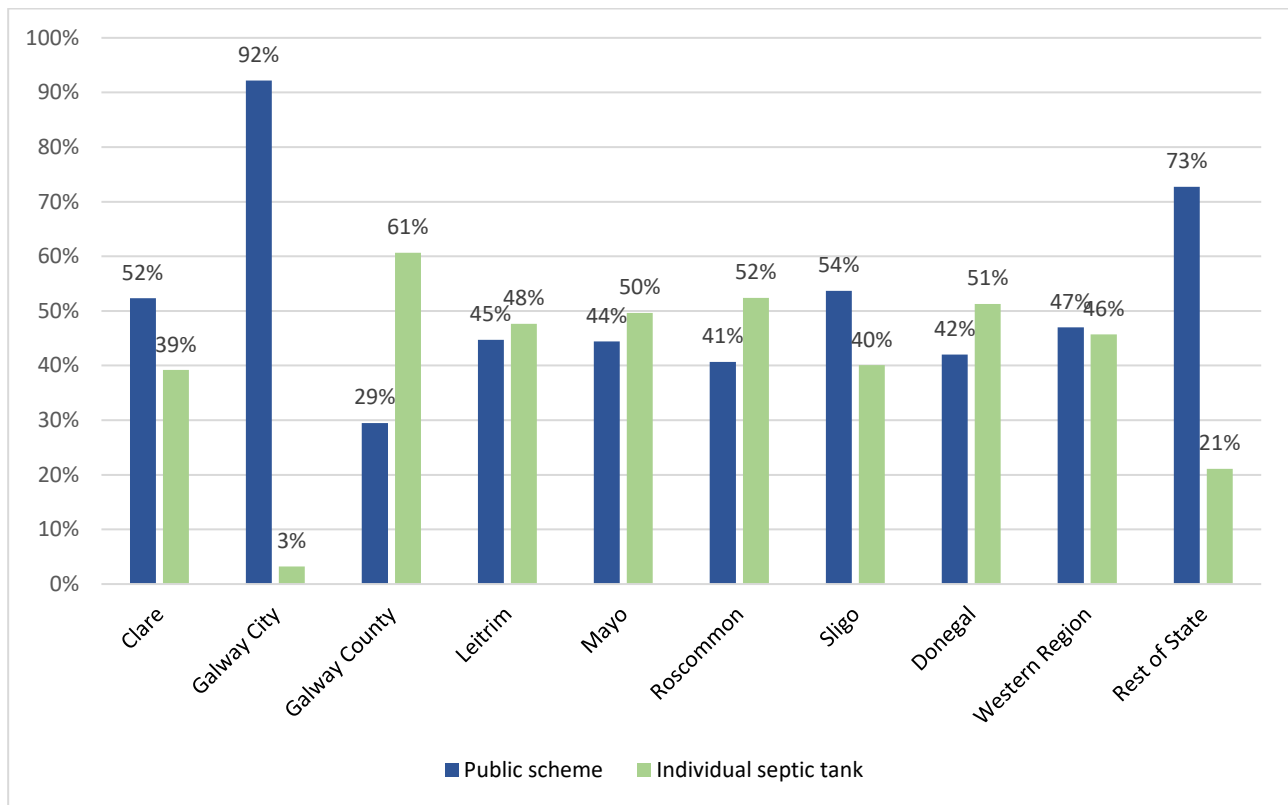
Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY042

Figure 26: Type of Water Supply



Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY038

Figure 27: Wastewater Treatment Type (main categories)



Census of Population 2022 - Summary Results FY039

Figure 28: Population of larger 'Built Up Areas' (BUA) in the Western Region

List of Towns	2022 Population (BUA)
Galway city and suburbs, Co Galway	85,910
Ennis, Co Clare	27,923
Letterkenny, Co Donegal	22,549
Sligo, Co Sligo	20,608
Castlebar, Co Mayo	13,054
Ballina, Co Mayo	10,556
Shannon, Co Clare	10,256
Tuam, Co Galway	9,647
Buncrana, Co Donegal	6,971
Westport, Co Mayo	6,872
Ballinasloe, Co Galway	6,597
Roscommon, Co Roscommon	6,555
Loughrea, Co Galway	6,322
Oranmore, Co Galway	5,819
Ballybofey-Stranorlar, Co Donegal	5,406
Carrick-On-Shannon, Co.s Leitrim & Roscommon	4,743
Athenry, Co Galway	4,603
Claremorris, Co Mayo	3,857
Ballinrobe, Co Mayo	3,148
Boyle, Co Roscommon	2,915
Gort, Co Galway	2,870
Sixmilebridge, Co Clare	2,832
Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo	2,773
Carndonagh, Co Donegal	2,768
Donegal, Co Donegal	2,749
Kilrush, Co Clare	2,649
Bundoran, Co Donegal	2,599
Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon	2,387
Castlerea, Co Roscommon	2,348
Bearna, Co Galway	2,336
Tubbercurry, Co Sligo	2,307
Maigh Cuilinn, Co Galway	2,279
Ballyshannon, Co Donegal	2,246
Strandhill, Co Sligo	1,982
Newmarket-On-Fergus, Co Clare	1,887
Oughterard, Co Galway	1,846
Collooney, Co Sligo	1,797
Ballysadare, Co Sligo	1,747
Ballymote, Co Sligo	1,711
Convoy, Co Donegal	1,702
Portumna, Co Galway	1,690
Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim	1,667
Killaloe, Co Clare	1,666
Baile Chláir, Co Galway	1,632
Lifford, Co Donegal	1,613
Clifden	1,259

Census of Population 2022 – Profile1 F1015. A new method of defining urban areas has been introduced (**Built Up Urban Area (BUA)**) This is to be used to officially define town populations in 2022 and in future.

Figure 29: Towns>1,500 2016 ((settlement) and 2022 (old settlement boundaries))

List of Towns	Population 2022 old settlement boundaries	Population 2016 old settlement boundaries	Difference	% Change
Galway City and Suburbs, Galway	85,856	79,934	5,922	7.4%
Ennis, Clare	27,504	25,276	2,228	8.8%
Letterkenny, Donegal	21,672	19,274	2,398	12.4%
Sligo, Sligo	20,777	19,199	1,578	8.2%
Castlebar, Mayo	13,132	12,068	1,064	8.8%
Ballina, Mayo	10,420	10,171	249	2.4%
Shannon, Clare	10,270	9,729	541	5.6%
Tuam, Galway	9,601	8,767	834	9.5%
Ballinasloe, Galway	7,378	6,662	716	10.7%
Buncrana, Donegal	6,899	6,785	114	1.7%
Westport, Mayo	6,774	6,198	576	9.3%
Roscommon, Roscommon	6,756	5,876	880	15.0%
Loughrea, Galway	6,397	5,556	841	15.1%
Oranmore, Galway	5,804	4,990	814	16.3%
Ballybofey-Stranorlar, Donegal	5,160	4,852	308	6.3%
Athenry, Galway	4,687	4,445	242	5.4%
Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim & Roscommon	4,581	4,062	519	12.8%
Claremorris, Mayo	4,294	3,687	607	16.5%
Gort, Galway	3,155	2,994	161	5.4%
Ballinrobe, Mayo	3,102	2,786	316	11.3%
Kilrush, Clare	2,940	2,719	221	8.1%
Sixmilebridge, Clare	2,856	2,625	231	8.8%
Ballyhaunis, Mayo	2,823	2,366	457	19.3%
Boyle, Roscommon	2,804	2,568	236	9.2%
Donegal, Donegal	2,751	2,618	133	5.1%
Carndonagh, Donegal	2,711	2,471	240	9.7%
Bundoran, Donegal	2,484	1,963	521	26.5%
Castlerea, Roscommon	2,344	1,992	352	17.7%
Ballaghaderreen, Roscommon	2,339	1,808	531	29.4%
Tubbercurry, Sligo	2,334	1,986	348	17.5%
Ballyshannon, Donegal	2,264	2,299	-35	-1.5%
Maigh Cuilinn, Galway	2,181	1,704	477	28.0%
Bearna, Galway	2,020	1,998	22	1.1%
Strandhill, Sligo	1,998	1,753	245	14.0%
Newmarket-on-Fergus, Clare	1,972	1,784	188	10.5%
Collooney, Sligo	1,807	1,610	197	12.2%
Ballisodare, Sligo	1,759	1,350	409	30.3%
Ballymote, Sligo	1,737	1,549	188	12.1%
Convoy, Donegal	1,662	1,526	136	8.9%
Manorhamilton, Leitrim	1,655	1,466	189	12.9%
Baile Chláir, Galway	1,654	1,248	406	32.5%
Killaloe, Clare	1,652	1,484	168	11.3%
An Bun Beag-Doirí Beaga, Donegal	1,620	1,491	129	8.7%
Lifford, Donegal	1,606	1,626	-20	-1.2%
Clifden, Galway	1,498	1,597	-99	-6.2%

Census of Population 2022 – Profile1. The introduction of BUAs for Census 2022 means that no direct comparison with Census 2016 town data is possible, but the CSO has released Census 2022 population figures for the Census 2016 town boundaries.

Figure 30: Census 2022 De Facto (BUA) Population Compared to Town population in Census 2016*

List of Towns	2022 Population (BUA)	2022 Population (old boundaries)	Difference	% Change
Galway city and suburbs, Co Galway	85,910	85,856	54	0.06%
Ennis, Co Clare	27,923	27,504	419	1.52%
Letterkenny, Co Donegal	22,549	21,672	877	4.05%
Sligo, Co Sligo	20,608	20,777	-169	-0.81%
Castlebar, Co Mayo	13,054	13,132	-78	-0.59%
Ballina, Co Mayo	10,556	10,420	136	1.31%
Shannon, Co Clare	10,256	10,270	-14	-0.14%
Tuam, Co Galway	9,647	9,601	46	0.48%
Buncrana, Co Donegal	6,971	6,899	72	1.04%
Westport, Co Mayo	6,872	6,774	98	1.45%
Ballinasloe, Co Galway	6,597	7,378	-781	-10.59%
Roscommon, Co Roscommon	6,555	6,756	-201	-2.98%
Loughrea, Co Galway	6,322	6,397	-75	-1.17%
Oranmore, Co Galway	5,819	5,804	15	0.26%
Ballybofey-Stranorlar, Co Donegal	5,406	5,160	246	4.77%
Carrick-On-Shannon, Counties Leitrim & Roscommon	4,743	4,581	162	3.54%
Athenry, Co Galway	4,603	4,687	-84	-1.79%
Claremorris, Co Mayo	3,857	4,294	-437	-10.18%
Ballinrobe, Co Mayo	3,148	3,102	46	1.48%
Boyle, Co Roscommon	2,915	2,804	111	3.96%
Gort, Co Galway	2,870	3,155	-285	-9.03%
Sixmilebridge, Co Clare	2,832	2,856	-24	-0.84%
Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo	2,773	2,823	-50	-1.77%
Carndonagh, Co Donegal	2,768	2,711	57	2.10%
Donegal, Co Donegal	2,749	2,751	-2	-0.07%
Kilrush, Co Clare	2,649	2,940	-291	-9.90%
Bundoran, Co Donegal	2,599	2,484	115	4.63%
Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon	2,387	2,339	48	2.05%
Castlerea, Co Roscommon	2,348	2,344	4	0.17%
Bearna, Co Galway	2,336	2,020	316	15.64%
Tubbercurry, Co Sligo	2,307	2,334	-27	-1.16%
Maigh Cuilinn, Co Galway	2,279	2,181	98	4.49%
Ballyshannon, Co Donegal	2,246	2,264	-18	-0.80%
Strandhill, Co Sligo	1,982	1,998	-16	-0.80%
Newmarket-On-Fergus, Co Clare	1,887	1,972	-85	-4.31%
Oughterard, Co Galway	1,846	1,480	366	24.73%
Collooney, Co Sligo	1,797	1,807	-10	-0.55%
Ballysadare, Co Sligo	1,747	1,759	-12	-0.68%
Ballymote, Co Sligo	1,711	1,737	-26	-1.50%
Convoy, Co Donegal	1,702	1,662	40	2.41%
Portumna, Co Galway	1,690	1,700	-10	-0.59%
Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim	1,667	1,655	12	0.73%
Killaloe, Co Clare	1,666	1,652	14	0.85%
Baile Chláir, Co Galway	1,632	1,654	-22	-1.33%
Lifford, Co Donegal	1,613	1,606	7	0.44%
Clifden, Co Galway	1,259	1,498	-239	-15.95%

Census of Population 2022 – Profile1 Comparison of 2022 Population for towns using new official Built Up Area and old settlement boundaries For information only. The 2022 population using old settlement definitions are not official statistics.