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# Travel to Work and Labour Catchments in the Western Region



## Castlebar Labour Catchment



## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

1. A graphical illustration of travel to work patterns and commuting flows (Section 7.5) and the overall labour catchment of the town (Section 7.6);
2. A detailed discussion of the labour market characteristics of all the people at work who are living in the labour catchment – place of work, industry of employment, socio-economic group, education attainment, age, gender, means of travel and time of departure (Section 7.7); and
3. Summary graphics that detail the labour catchment changes that have taken place since 2016 (both geographical and socio-economic) and socio-economic comparisons with the State and the other six key towns/city in the Western Region (Carrick-on-Shannon, Ennis, Galway City, Letterkenny, Roscommon town and Sligo town) (Section 7.8-7.12).

### 7.3 The importance of Castlebar as a place of work

The official CSO settlement of Castlebar had a population of 13,054 persons recorded in the 2022 Census. Castlebar is the fifth largest urban centre within the Western Region (Galway City is the largest) and the 39th largest in the State. Since 2006, the population residing within the town of Castlebar has increased by +9.8% (+1,163)<sup>2</sup>.

#### Population

In the most recent intercensal period 2016 to 2022, the population of Castlebar has increased by +8.2% (+986). This rate of growth is slightly higher than that of the State (+8.1%) and higher than the Western Region (+7%) between 2016 and 2022. A number of other towns across Mayo have seen significant population growth since 2016 with the highest rates in Ballyhaunis (+17%), Kiltimagh (15%) and Ballinrobe (13%).

#### Labour Force

Since Census 2016 there has been an increase in the numbers living in Castlebar that are in the labour force (those at work and unemployed) and those classed as being at work. Between 2016 and 2022, the labour force in Castlebar has increased by +9.4% (from 5,852 to 6,403). The number of residents at work has increased by +17.4% (from 4,847 to 5,692). Conversely, the number classed as unemployed has decreased by -29.3% (from 1,005 to 711). The +9.4% increase in those at work in Castlebar has been significantly lower than in the State (+15.6%), the Western Region (+14.6%) and County Mayo (+13.4%).

#### Daytime Working Population

According to POWSCCAR 2022, the total number of jobs located within the Castlebar boundary was 9,911 and accounted for 3.6% of all jobs located within the Western Region (272,860)<sup>3</sup>. Of all cities and towns in Ireland, Castlebar has the 17th highest number of jobs located within the town boundary and accounted for 23.3% of all jobs located within County Mayo (42,475). Relative to the six other main towns/city in this report, Castlebar has the third lowest number of jobs with higher numbers in Galway City (51,211), Sligo town (13,562), Letterkenny (13,109) and Ennis (10,628) and lower numbers in Roscommon town (4,315) and Carrick-on-Shannon (3,145). The ratio of local jobs (9,911) to resident workers (5,623) in the town is 1.76 indicating that the employment catchment stretches beyond the town boundary and that Castlebar is an important economic destination for the wider region.

<sup>2</sup> Demographic comparisons between urban centres tend to be difficult due to intercensal boundary changes. In preparation for Census 2022 the CSO developed a new settlement (town) geography for Ireland called Built Up Area (BUAs) - these geographies are slightly different from the town boundaries used in the enumeration of Census 2016. As such, the new boundaries in 2022 can include additional residential areas and employment locations (local jobs) that were not part of the boundary area in 2016.

<sup>3</sup> This is called 'the daytime working population', (the number of jobs in an area) and represents the number of people working and residing in an area plus the number of workers commuting into the area of work, in this case the town of Castlebar.

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

Between 2016 and 2022, there was an increase of +9.6% (+866) jobs located in Castlebar. This was the third lowest increase of the seven main towns/city within this report with the highest rate of jobs growth in Galway City (+15.4%), Letterkenny (+15%), Roscommon town (+10.2%) and Carrick-on-Shannon (+9.7%)<sup>4</sup>. Only Ennis (+4.5%) and Sligo town (+4.1%) had lower proportional increases in local jobs. Over the same period, the number of jobs in County Mayo increased by +10.7% (+4,106) and the Western Region as a whole by +12.4% (+30,148) from 242,712 to 272,860. Castlebar accounted for 21.1% of the job growth in County Mayo.

### 7.4 The impact of Working from Home on labour catchments

Since COVID-19, remote and hybrid working practices are much more extensive and this has reshaped the landscape of labour markets. With a substantial increase in individuals now working wholly or partly from home, the traditional concept of labour catchments centred around towns has undergone a notable transformation compared to previous analyses. In Census 2022, the CSO captured more data on working from home.

Remote work practice, wholly or partly, has been supported by government, through legislation<sup>5</sup>. This paradigm shift allows individuals to work from home locations while mitigating traditional constraints associated with commuting to employment locations typically in urban centres. This has resulted in large numbers of the workforce working from home and not commuting as was the traditional practice. Remote and hybrid work practices may also enable more longer distance commuting, where people commute further distances to their place of work but on a more infrequent basis.

The impact of the widespread adoption of working from home is clearly identified in the results from Census POWSCCAR 2022 and 2016. The number of people who recorded that they worked mainly from home in Ireland increased by +133%, from 111,744 workers in 2016 (5.7%) to 260,821 in 2022 (11.4%)<sup>6</sup>. Working **mainly** from home is considered 3+ days out of a typical 5 day week. Within the Western Region, the number who worked mainly from home in 2022 was recorded at 40,461, an increase of +75.6% (+17,420) since Census 2016. As such, the proportion of Western Region resident workers who work mainly from home has increased from 7.1% in 2016 to 10.7% in 2022. This does not capture those working from home in hybrid patterns, for example 1-2 days per week.

In County Mayo a total of 4,910 (8.6%) resident workers were recorded as mainly working from home in Census 2022. This represents a +32.4% (+1,202) increase from the number in 2016 (3,708 or 7.4% of resident workers).

Resulting from the increased incidence in working from home, the employment base in Mayo is now characterised by a more dispersed and decentralised workforce. This, in turn, will have implications for urban planning, infrastructure development and policymaking aimed at supporting economic growth and workforce mobility.

4 | It should be noted that the above job numbers relate to those within the town boundary as defined by the CSO and do not include jobs located outside the town boundary.

5 | The Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provision Act 2023 provides for all employees the right to request remote working arrangements.

6 | In April 2022, government COVID work from home guidelines had been lifted but many still continued the practice.

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

### 7.5 Employment based commuting patterns to Castlebar

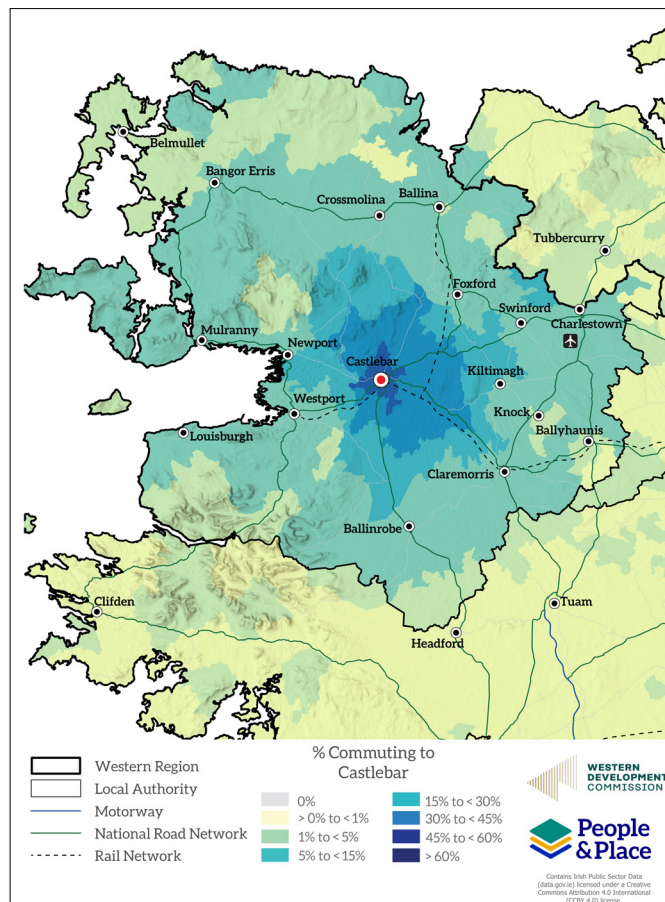
Map 7.2 shows the extent of commuting flows to Castlebar for work opportunities. The colours represent the proportions of people at work who live in each ED and travel to work in Castlebar.

#### Definition - Commuting Flows

Commuting flows are expressed as the percentage of resident workers in an Electoral Division (ED) that commute to a particular destination (i.e. Castlebar, Galway City etc.) for employment.

A high commuting rate (i.e., > 60%) means that the town is a work destination for > 60% of residents in that ED.

Map 7.2: Commuting Flows into Castlebar, 2022



Source: CSO POWSCCAR

As expected, the EDs closest to Castlebar have the highest proportion working in the town and this is indicated by the darker shades of blue in and around the perimeter (30% to >60%). Beyond these areas, the proportion travelling to the town gradually declines and is illustrated on the map; graduating from the darker green areas (Newport and areas just to the west of Kiltimagh) where between 15% and 30% of resident workers in those EDs work in Castlebar, through to medium green (Mulranny, Achill Island, Bangor Erris, Crossmolina, Foxford, Swinford, Charlestown, Knock, Claremorris, Ballinrobe, Louisburgh and Westport) where between 5% and 15% of resident workers in those EDs commute to work in Castlebar. The remainder of Mayo and some nearby areas in the surrounding counties of Galway, Roscommon and Sligo have relatively low rates (<5%) of commuting to Castlebar.

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

### 7.6 Identifying the Castlebar labour catchment

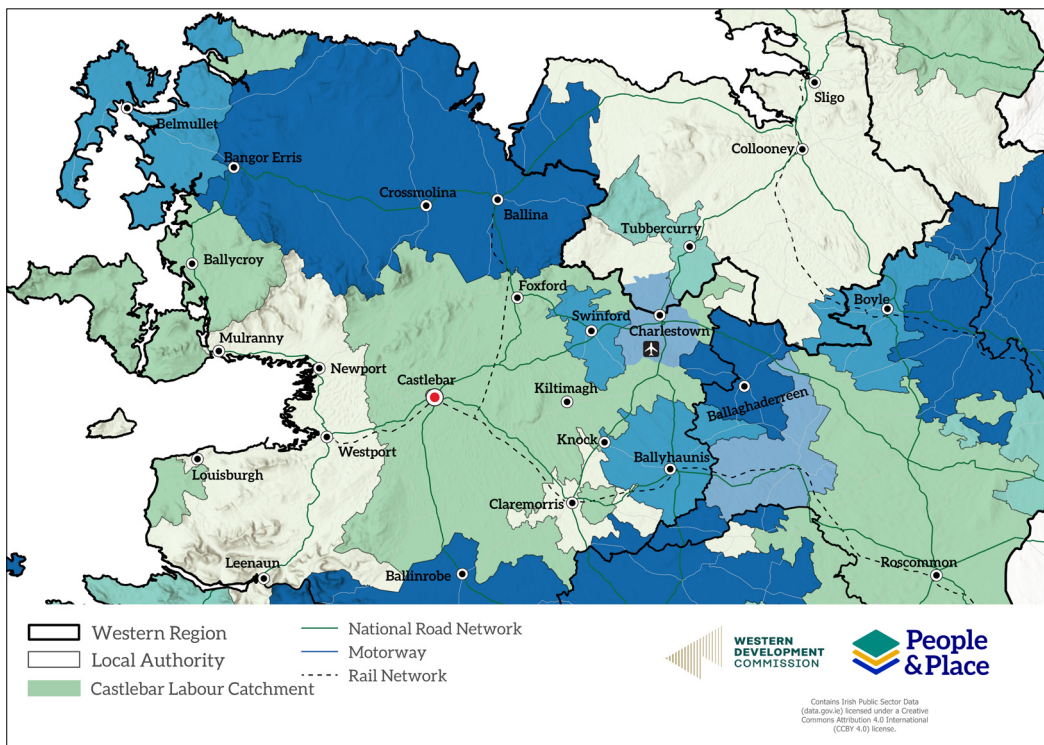
While Map 7.2 shows EDs from where even one person commuted to Castlebar, all of these EDs are not included in the Castlebar labour catchment. The Castlebar labour catchment is based on only those EDs for which Castlebar is the most popular work destination for resident workers. Other EDs, whose commuters travel in greater numbers to other towns, are assigned to the labour catchments of those towns.

#### Definition - Labour Catchments

The town labour catchment is the area from which a town draws most of its labour supply. Each catchment is based on the inclusion of Electoral Divisions (EDs) that are assigned to the town. An ED is assigned to the town's labour catchment if it is the most popular work destination for the resident workers in the ED<sup>7</sup>.

Map 7.2 shows the Castlebar labour catchment as depicted by the green colour. While the labour catchment extends to large parts of the county, it excludes areas in the north of Mayo which form part of the Belmullet and Ballina labour catchments. The Castlebar labour catchment also extends to the areas west of Mulranny and the Westport labour catchment. Due to the extensive spatial distribution of medium-sized settlements across Mayo (population > 1,000), the east of the county is comprised of the individual labour markets of Swinford, Charlestown/Knock, Ballaghaderreen, Ballyhaunis, Claremorris and parts of the Sligo town labour catchment. The influence of Galway City as a competing employment destination for Mayo resident workers is evident by the allocation of many EDs in south Mayo to the Galway City labour catchment.

Map 7.3: Castlebar labour catchment, 2022



Source: CSO POWSCCAR

7 | For a more detailed explanation of the methodology, see Appendix.

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

Since 2016, the neighbouring labour catchment of Ballina in north Mayo has extended and this has resulted in a contraction of the Castlebar labour catchment. In the east of the county, the labour catchment has become slightly more dominant in areas close to Foxford, Knock, Ballyhaunis and Claremorris (see Section 7.9).

In summary, Castlebar acts as the key economic driver for the county but is supported by numerous other strong and growing regional economic centres such as Ballina (5,049 jobs) and Westport (4,539 jobs) – both higher in employment opportunities than Roscommon and Carrick-on-Shannon (both of which are county towns).

In 2022, there were 16,992 people classified as at work and living within the Castlebar labour catchment (5.8% of all Western Region resident workers). Interestingly, this is the fifth largest in the Western Region, behind Galway City (88,253), Sligo town (24,382), Letterkenny (23,503) and Ennis (22,342) with the nearby settlement of Ballina in seventh place at 9,875 resident workers. The Castlebar labour catchment has a population at work 3 times larger than the town of Castlebar (16,992 to 5,623 respectively). The geographical size of the Castlebar labour catchment has changed since 2016 (contracted in the north and extended in the southeast) and the total resident workers residing in the labour catchment has increased by +22% since 2016 (from 13,931) and by +23.5% since 2006 (from 13,757).

### 7.7 Profile of the Castlebar labour catchment

Map 7.3 above identified the Castlebar labour catchment (in green). 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 Castlebar town in April 2022. This is important as including those who live in the labour catchment and work elsewhere provides a more complete assessment of the potential labour supply for Castlebar.

The Castlebar labour catchment is therefore composed of those who live in and are employed within the town (**Working in Castlebar**) and those who live in the labour catchment but work outside the town e.g. other towns such as Westport, rural areas and locations outside the Western Region such as Dublin City etc. (**Working elsewhere in Ireland**)<sup>8</sup>.

This profile is further supported by an analysis of changes in the labour catchment between 2016 and 2022 (Section 7.8 and Section 7.9), both in terms of geography and socio-economic characteristics, a comparison profile of the Castlebar labour catchment relative to the State (Section 7.10), a comparison profile of those 'Working in Castlebar' and 'Working elsewhere in Ireland' (Section 7.11) and a comparison profile of the Castlebar labour catchment and the six other main towns/city within the Western Region (Section 7.12).

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<sup>8</sup> | Note: 'Working elsewhere in Ireland' refers to working anywhere beyond the town boundary, which could include suburbs outside the town boundary to more distant locations such as Dublin City.

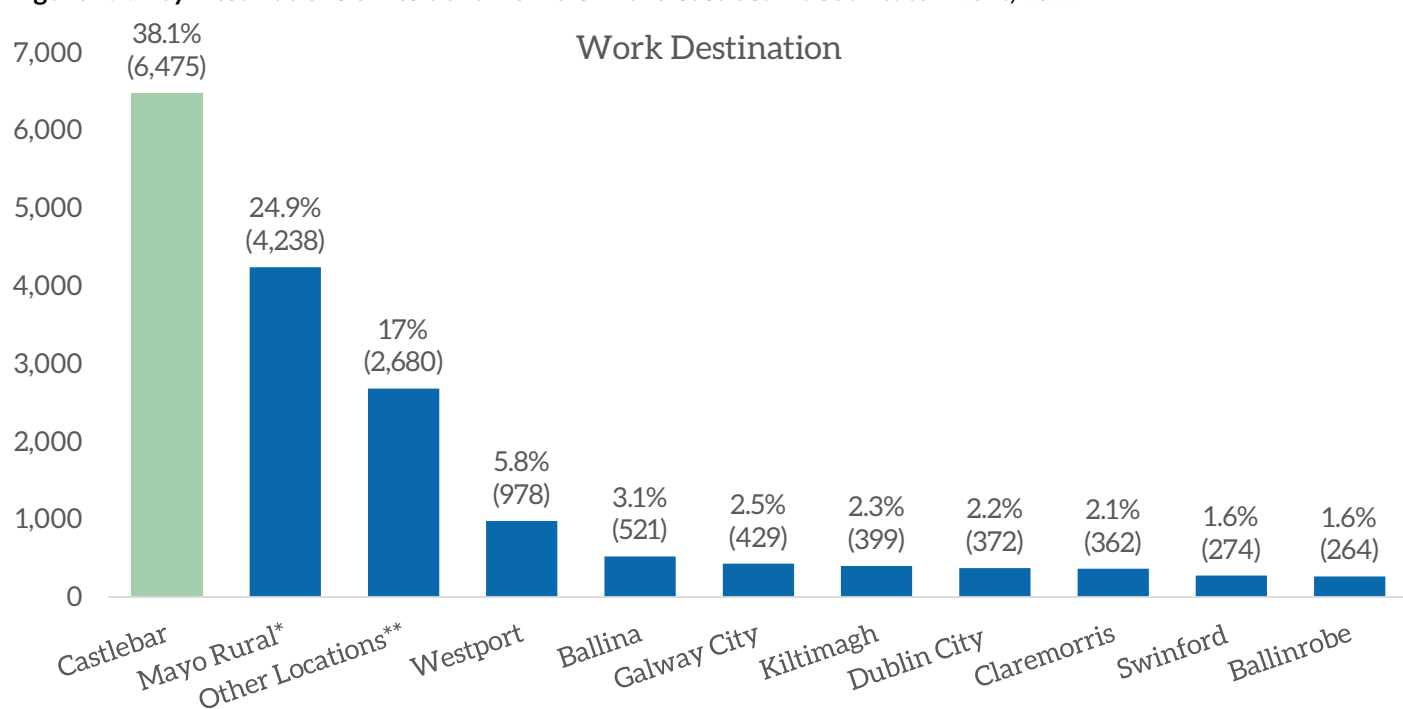
## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

### 7.7.1 Place of Work

The Castlebar labour catchment can be seen to include most of County Mayo, but is mainly contained within central areas and the midwest. In Figures 7.1 and 7.2 the main work locations for those who live in the Castlebar labour catchment are set out. Those who work mainly from home in the Castlebar labour catchment (n=1,873)<sup>9</sup> are coded with their home location as their place of work i.e., a resident worker from Castlebar who works mainly from home is coded with their place of work as Castlebar.

As expected, Castlebar town is the principal place of employment for those living in the labour catchment, accounting for 6,475 (38.1%) of all employment - although this share has declined since 2016 (43.1%). Of the seven labour catchments reviewed here, the Castlebar labour catchment has the fourth lowest proportion of resident workers commuting to its' centre, with only Ennis, Roscommon town and Carrick-on-Shannon lower at 37.2%, 29.9% and 29.5% respectively. Higher rates indicate that the town/city is a particularly attractive employment centre to the resident workers in the labour catchment. Conversely, lower rates suggest that alternative employment locations play a more important role than the key town/city (i.e., Castlebar). Employment in rural parts of County Mayo (destination outside any defined CSO settlement) is the next most popular destination and accounted for just under a quarter of all resident workers (24.9% or 4,238). Since 2016, flows to 'Rural' areas has increased by +1.2% (see Figure 7.2).

Figure 7.1: Key Destinations of resident workers in the Castlebar labour catchment, 2022



\*'Mayo Rural' - destination outside any defined CSO settlement  
 \*\*'Other Locations' - Less than 264 commuters

The other large employment destinations for residents within the Castlebar labour catchment are important towns in close proximity to Castlebar; Westport, Ballina, Kiltimagh, Claremorris, Swinford and Ballinrobe.

<sup>9</sup> Of the 1,873 coded as working from home in the Castlebar labour catchment, 398 are coded as both living in and working in the Castlebar settlement.



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Both Galway City (429 or 2.5%) and Dublin City (372 or 2.2%) are also highlighted as key destinations for Castlebar labour catchment residents. Both destinations have increased in prominence as employment destinations since 2016 with recent changes to road networks, reduced travel times and more flexible working from home arrangements contributory factors to this.

In summary, the Castlebar labour catchment comprises just over a third (38.1% or 6,475) of resident workers who are employed in Castlebar town with the remaining almost two thirds (61.9%) employed in locations outside of the town.

Figure 7.2: Key Destinations in 2022 and change since 2016

Work Destination	Resident Workers	Change 2016-2022	% Change 2016-2022	Proportional Share 2022	Proportional Share Change 2016-2022
Castlebar	6,475	475	7.9%	38.1%	-5.0%
Mayo Rural*	4,238	924	27.9%	24.9%	1.2%
Other Locations**	2,680	771	N/A	17.0%	N/A
Westport	978	138	16.4%	5.8%	-0.3%
Ballina	521	112	27.4%	3.1%	0.1%
Galway City	429	99	30.0%	2.5%	0.2%
Kiltimagh	399	78	24.3%	2.3%	0.0%
Dublin City	372	199	115.0%	2.2%	0.9%
Claremorris	362	61	20.3%	2.1%	0.0%
Swinford	274	-11	-3.9%	1.6%	-0.4%
Ballinrobe	264	42	18.9%	1.6%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,992</b>	<b>3,061</b>	<b>22.0%</b>		

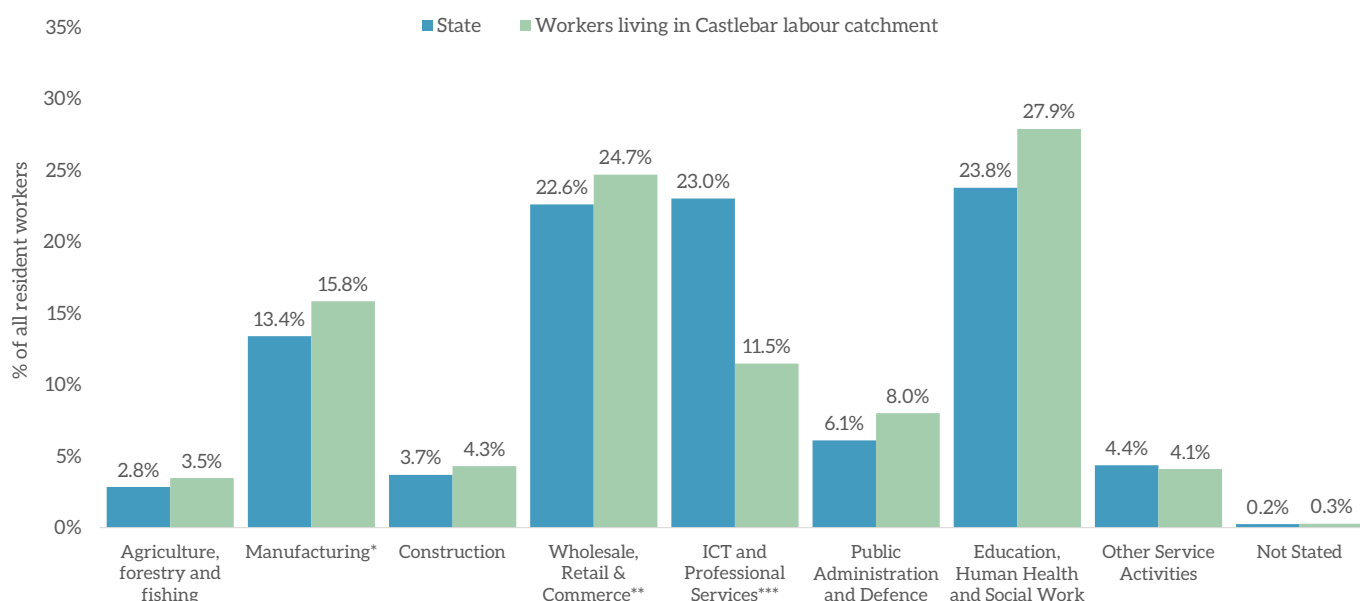
### 7.7.2 Employment by Industrial Group

An analysis of the profile of employment by industrial group provides an indication of the structure of the local economy and the type of employment that it sustains, as well as the skills profile of the labour catchment. 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 as well as strengths and weaknesses of the local economic base.

Employment by industrial group for all those living in the Castlebar labour catchment is shown in Figure 7.3. The 'Education, Human Health and Social Work' sector is the most important employer and accounted for over a quarter of all resident workers (27.9%). The 'Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transportation and Storage, Accommodation and Food Service Activities' sector accounted for nearly a quarter of resident workers (24.7%) in the Castlebar labour catchment. The 'Manufacturing, mining and quarrying, Electricity, Gas, Water supply and Waste Management' sector (15.8%) and 'Information and Communication, Financial, Real Estate, Professional, administration and support service activities' sector (11.5%) are the next biggest sectors in the labour catchment with all other sectors accounting for 8% or less.

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**Figure 7.3: Industrial Profile of the Castlebar labour catchment and the State, 2022**



Relative to the national picture, the ‘Education, Human Health and Social Work’ and ‘Manufacturing’ sectors play a more important role in the overall employment base. The ‘Education, Human Health and Social Work’ sector’s share of employment (27.9%) is 4.1 percentage points higher than the State average (23.8%) and the ‘Manufacturing’ sector (15.8%) is 2.4 percentage points higher than the State average (13.4%). The ‘ICT and Professional Services’ sector recorded a rate of 11.5% whereas the State average was 23%<sup>10</sup>.

Across the seven labour force catchments, the Castlebar labour catchment recorded the third highest proportion employed in the ‘Manufacturing’ sector, the lowest in the ‘ICT and Professional Services’ sector and the third highest proportion in the ‘Education, Human Health and Social Work’ sector.

As seen in Figure 7.4 below, the industrial groups which saw the largest proportional increases between 2016 and 2022 were the ‘ICT and Professional Services’ (+2.3 percentage points), ‘Manufacturing’ (+1.2 percentage points) and the ‘Education, Human Health and Social Work’ (+1.0 percentage points) sectors. In contrast, the largest proportionate declines have been in the ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ sector (-2.8 percentage points) and the ‘Wholesale, Retail & Commerce’ sector (-2.2 percentage points). These declines also occurred nationally with Agriculture, Retail and Wholesale sectors all witnessing the largest declines in employment share.

<sup>10</sup> | Note: with only nine classifications available, industrial classifications in POWSCCAR are less detailed than normal classifications in other Census outputs.

\*Manufacturing = Manufacturing, mining and quarrying, Electricity, Gas, Water supply and Waste Management

\*\*Wholesale, Retail etc. = Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transportation and Storage, Accommodation and Food Service Activities

\*\*\*ICT and Professional Services = Information and Communication, Financial, Real Estate, Professional, administration and support service activities.

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

Figure 7.4: Industrial Profile of the Castlebar labour catchment in 2016 and 2022

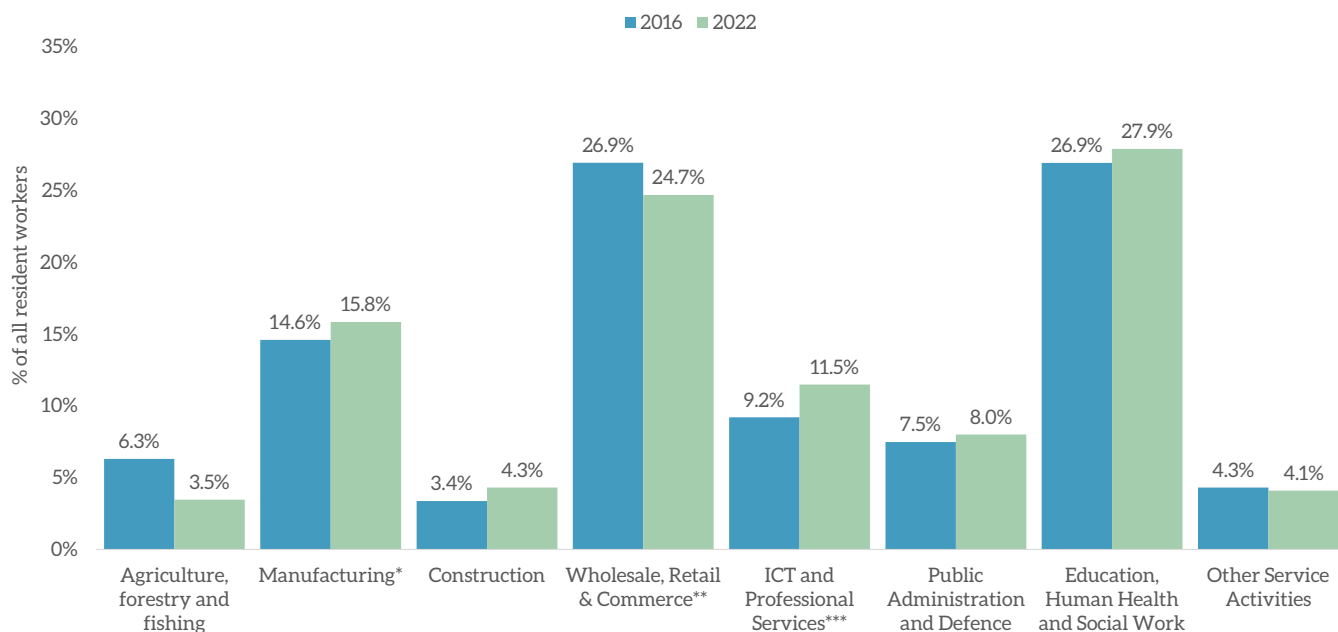


Figure 7.5 below details the industry of employment of the Castlebar labour catchment by the location of employment – working within Castlebar town or working elsewhere. Employment in the ‘Education, Human Health and Social Work’ (34.1%) and ‘Wholesale, Retail and Commerce’ (25.1%) sectors are more dominant among those employed within Castlebar town. The ‘ICT and Professional Services’ (13%), ‘Manufacturing’ (16.8%) and ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ (5.4%) sectors have a higher share of employment outside the town than within.

Figure 7.5: Industrial Profile of the Castlebar labour catchment, 2022

Industry	Workers living in the Castlebar labour catchment							
	Total		Working in Castlebar town		Working elsewhere in Ireland			
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	589	3.5%	50	0.7%	539	5.4%		
Manufacturing*	2,690	15.8%	1,029	14.5%	1,661	16.8%		
Construction	731	4.3%	132	1.9%	599	6.0%		
Wholesale, Retail & Commerce**	4,193	24.7%	1,779	25.1%	2,414	24.4%		
ICT and Professional Services***	1,949	11.5%	666	9.4%	1,283	13.0%		
Public Administration and Defence	1,360	8.0%	769	10.8%	591	6.0%		
Education, Human Health & Social Work	4,737	27.9%	2,415	34.1%	2,322	23.5%		
Other Service Activities	696	4.1%	243	3.4%	453	4.6%		
Not Stated	47	0.3%	8	0.1%	39	0.4%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,992</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,091</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9,901</b>	<b>100%</b>		

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### 7.7.3 Socio-Economic Group

The socio-economic structure of employment in the Castlebar labour catchment is set out in Figure 7.6. The socio-economic group (SEG) is determined by occupation and employment status and aims to classify those on the basis of comparable skill and education levels. Occupational categories are not available in POWSCCAR. Socio-economic group is 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<sup>11</sup>.

The socio-economic structure of the labour catchment of Castlebar is broadly similar to that of the State with the largest group by far being ‘Non-manual’<sup>12</sup> (50%) similar to the State average at 49.5%. As with the State, the next largest category in the Castlebar labour catchment is ‘Employers and Managers’ at 12%. Relative to the other six key labour catchments, the Castlebar labour catchment recorded the fourth largest proportion of resident workers classed as ‘Employers and Managers’ (Galway City, Ennis and Carrick-on-Shannon labour catchments recorded highest at 13.3%, 13% and 12.1% respectively). Following these, the three categories of ‘Semi-skilled’, ‘Manual-skilled’ and ‘Lower Professional’ all account for approximately 8-11% of the resident workforce. ‘Farmers and Agricultural Workers’ account for 3.5% of all resident workers in the labour catchment.

Figure 7.6: Socio-Economic Group (SEG) Profile of the Castlebar labour catchment and the State, 2022

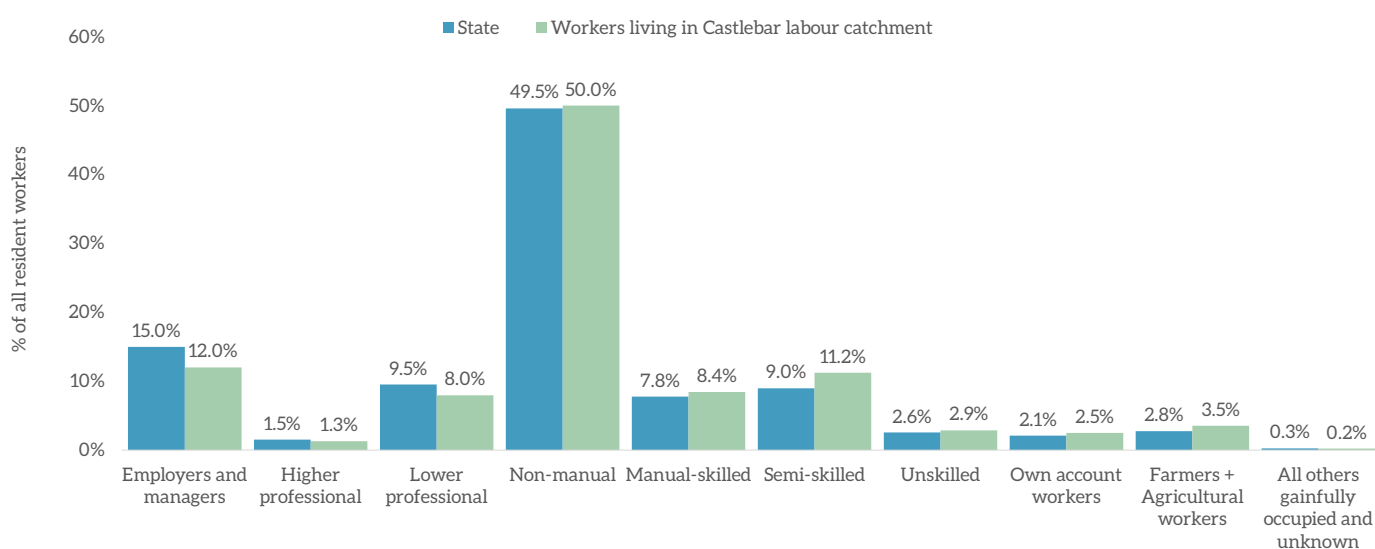


Figure 7.7 below details the socio-economic structure breakdown for those working within Castlebar town and those working outside Castlebar town.

The largest difference between the ‘town’ and ‘elsewhere’ group is within the ‘Non Manual’ group (55.5% in Castlebar town vs 46% in job locations outside Castlebar town) which relates to persons working in retail, government, banking and other areas fulfilling administrative roles.

11 | A break in the time series from the CSO has occurred for socio-economic group between Census 2022 and previous census results. Although the categories remain the same, it is important to note the break in time series when comparing historical tables to Census 2022 results. The biggest change that occurred across the State was the shift between the ‘Higher Professional’ and ‘Lower professional’ groups to ‘Non-manual’. For instance, in 2011 and 2016 the proportion of the workforce with SEG classed as ‘Non-manual’ was approximately 25% and in the 2022 this proportion was 43.2%. In contrast, ‘Higher Professional’ groupings declined from approximately 8% in 2011 and 2016 to 1.5% in 2022 (based on full Census results including both Mobile and Uncodable workers).

12 | The ‘Non-manual’ sector is a diverse group which relates to persons working in retail, government, banking and other areas fulfilling administrative roles.

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As a follow on to previous indicators on the high level of external commuting to employment opportunities (i.e., beyond the labour catchment such as Ballina, Westport, 'Rural Mayo', Galway City), there are somewhat notable differences in rates with a higher proportion of those employed outside Castlebar town classed as 'Employers and Managers' - the majority of these jobs being located in other urban centres and distant locations such as Galway or Dublin City. Those working outside Castlebar town, in mostly rural areas, also have a higher proportion of workers as part of the 'Farmers and Agricultural workers' grouping (5.4% working outside the town vs 0.9% working in the town).

Figure 7.7: Socio-Economic Group (SEG) Profile of the Castlebar labour catchment, 2022

Socio-Economic Group (SEG)	Workers living in the Castlebar labour catchment							
	Total		Working in Castlebar town		Working elsewhere in Ireland			
Employers and managers	2,038	12.0%	744	10.5%	1,294	13.1%		
Higher professional	220	1.3%	90	1.3%	130	1.3%		
Lower professional	1,352	8.0%	643	9.1%	709	7.2%		
Non-manual	8,490	50.0%	3,935	55.5%	4,555	46.0%		
Manual-skilled	1,432	8.4%	430	6.1%	1,002	10.1%		
Semi-skilled	1,907	11.2%	894	12.6%	1,013	10.2%		
Unskilled	488	2.9%	182	2.6%	306	3.1%		
Own account workers	426	2.5%	94	1.3%	332	3.4%		
Farmers + Agricultural workers	600	3.5%	61	0.9%	539	5.4%		
All others gainfully occupied and unknown	39	0.2%	18	0.3%	21	0.2%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,992</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,091</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9,901</b>	<b>100%</b>		

### 7.7.4 Education

As a whole, overall education levels in Ireland for those at work have increased dramatically since 2006 with the proportion of the national population at work having completed education with a third level qualification (excludes those with a mobile or blank destination) increasing from 43% in 2006 to 56.1% in 2016 to 63.1% in 2022.

Figure 7.8 details the average education profile among those resident workers in the Castlebar labour catchment with 58.1% having completed third level education - this is lower than the rate of 63.1% for workers nationally. The rate for the Western Region was recorded at 61%. Relative to all seven labour catchments, Castlebar has the fifth most educated workforce with Galway City (67.6%), Sligo town (63.2%), Ennis (62.5%) and Carrick-on-Shannon (62.2%) having higher rates of third level education<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> At the local authority level, Galway City recorded the second highest rate in the State at 72%. The rate for County Mayo resident workers was recorded at 56.4%. It is important to note that this is based on workers with a known work destination only and excludes those with Blank or Mobile work destination (only 32% of those coded blank or mobile in the State have third level qualifications).

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Figure 7.8 below details the education attainment levels for all workers, those employed within the town and those employed elsewhere. There are similar education attainment levels of those who are employed within Castlebar town (58.1% with third level) and those employed elsewhere (58% with third level).

Figure 7.8: Education Attainment Profile of the Castlebar labour catchment, 2022

Education Attainment	Workers living in the Castlebar labour catchment								
	Total			Working in Castlebar town			Working elsewhere in Ireland		
Secondary	7,005	41.2%		2,914	41.1%		4,091	41.3%	
Third	9,866	58.1%		4,120	58.1%		5,746	58.0%	
Not Stated	121	0.7%		57	0.8%		64	0.6%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,992</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>7,091</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>9,901</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Relative to the other main labour catchments, Castlebar has the third lowest level of third level attainment of those employed within the town. With a recorded rate of 58.1% with third level education employed in Castlebar, Galway City (71.1%), Sligo town (65.6%), Letterkenny (61.1%) and Carrick-on-Shannon (59.6%) have higher rates of highly educated workers. Only Ennis (57.4%) and Roscommon town (55.1%) labour catchments have lower rates. This reflects the type of local employment opportunities in these towns (Castlebar, Ennis and Roscommon), compared to larger centres with employers such as third level institutes and large multinational employers.

### 7.7.5 Age

In general, there is a major difference in the age of the resident workforce in urban and rural areas across the State. For instance, the urban local authorities of Galway City (25%), Dublin City (24.4%) and Cork City (21.6%) all have a resident workforce where more than a fifth are aged less than 30 years. In contrast, more rural and peripheral local authorities have a much older resident workforce. This is indeed the case for Western Region local authorities with the average rate for the region at 17.3%, aged under 30 years. Five of the ten local authorities with the lowest rates of young resident workers are Western Region local authorities - Galway County recorded the lowest rate across the State at 13.2%, Mayo recorded a rate of 13.9% with other local authorities as follows: Roscommon County (13.7%), Leitrim (13.9%), Clare (15%), Sligo County (15.3%) and Donegal (16%).













The age profile of those at work and over 15 years who live in the Castlebar labour catchment is shown in Figure 7.9. The proportion of young workers (<30 years) residing within the Castlebar labour catchment (13.5%) is lower than the overall State average of 17.6%. Relative to other towns in this analysis, the age profile of the Castlebar labour catchment is the oldest of the other larger labour catchments. Within the Castlebar labour catchment, 13.5% of resident workers are aged <30 years whereas the rate is higher in the Galway City (17.2%), Letterkenny (16.4%), Sligo town (15.5%), Ennis (14.1%) and Carrick-on-Shannon (13.9%) labour catchments.

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

The slightly older age profile in Castlebar may be explained by a number of factors. While Castlebar has the MSLETB Campus - full-time courses cover topics in Health Science, Well-being and Society at levels 6-8 and Atlantic Technological University Mayo Campus - offering courses in Outdoor Education, Nursing, History & Geography, Early Childhood Education & Care and Social Care, many may still go to other universities for a wider range of third level education. As with other smaller labour catchments, many may choose employment in larger urban centres following completion of education.

The age profile is broadly similar to those employed within Castlebar town and those employed elsewhere as presented in Figure 7.9 below. A total of 13.6% (up from 12.8% in 2016) of all Castlebar labour catchment workers employed in Castlebar town are aged 'less than 30 years' whereas the rate for workers elsewhere is 13.3% (down from 14% in 2016).







Figure 7.9: Age Profile of the Castlebar labour catchment, 2022

Age	Workers living in the Castlebar labour catchment								
	Total			Working in Castlebar town			Working elsewhere in Ireland		
<30	2,287	13.5%		967	13.6%		1,320	13.3%	
30-45	6,377	37.5%		2,715	38.3%		3,662	37.0%	
45-64	7,714	45.4%		3,222	45.4%		4,492	45.4%	
65+	614	3.6%		187	2.6%		427	4.3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,992</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>7,091</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>9,901</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## 7.7.6 Gender

The gender composition of residents in the Castlebar labour catchment is shown below. Within the Castlebar labour catchment, female workers account for a larger proportion of the total workforce than their male counterparts with rates of 51.1% and 48.9% respectively. The rates in the Western Region are broadly similar with males accounting for 49% and females accounting for 51% of all workers. The national picture is slightly different with males (50.3%) accounting for a marginally higher rate than females (49.7%).

Figure 7.10: Gender Profile of the Castlebar labour catchment, 2022

Gender	Workers living in the Castlebar labour catchment								
	Total			Working in Castlebar town			Working elsewhere in Ireland		
Female	8,680	51.1%		4,038	56.9%		4,642	46.9%	
Male	8,312	48.9%		3,053	43.1%		5,259	53.1%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,992</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>7,091</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>9,901</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

There is a variation between males and females in terms of the location of their work. A larger proportion of those residing in the Castlebar labour catchment and employed in Castlebar town are female and account for 56.9% of all resident workers (Figure 7.10). In contrast to this, those residing in the Castlebar labour catchment and employed elsewhere are more likely to be males - accounting for 53.1% of all resident workers. This, in part, reflects traditional employment patterns where agricultural employment in rural areas accounted for a higher male employment rate outside of the town. In addition, employment sectors which are traditionally female sectors are concentrated in the town, for example retail, banking, finance, public administration and tourism.

An important point to note here is the fact that this analysis excludes all workers who reported not having a fixed place of employment i.e., those with a blank or uncodable place of work and those with a place of work classed as 'mobile' (81,661 Blank and Mobile workers in the Western Region or 21.7% of all resident workers).

### 7.7.7 Means of Travel

Nationally in 2022, commuting to work by car in Ireland was still the most popular means of travel, with 59% driving and a further 4% travelling as a passenger in a car. The proportion commuting by car did however fall slightly from 66% in 2016 to 63% in 2022. The second most popular way of getting to work was on foot, with 8.8% of commuters walking in 2022, down from 9.3% in 2016 and 11.5% in 2006. Commuting by bike remained at the same level as in 2016 (3%). The proportion of workers travelling by train, DART or LUAS remained at the same level as in 2011 (3%). Commuting by bus was at a similar level as in 2016 (6%), down from 6.4% in 2006.

As with the State trend, commuting to work by car (driver and car passenger) is by far the most dominant means of travel across the Western Region (71%). In fact, six of the eight Western Region local authorities are within the top ten highest rates across the State - Galway County (74.8%), Roscommon (74.3%), Clare (73.8%), Leitrim (73.2%), Mayo (72.6%) and Donegal (71.5%). This is unsurprising given the relative lack of public transport choices. The rate in Sligo is marginally lower at 69.8% with Galway City recording the third lowest rate in the State at 52.7%.

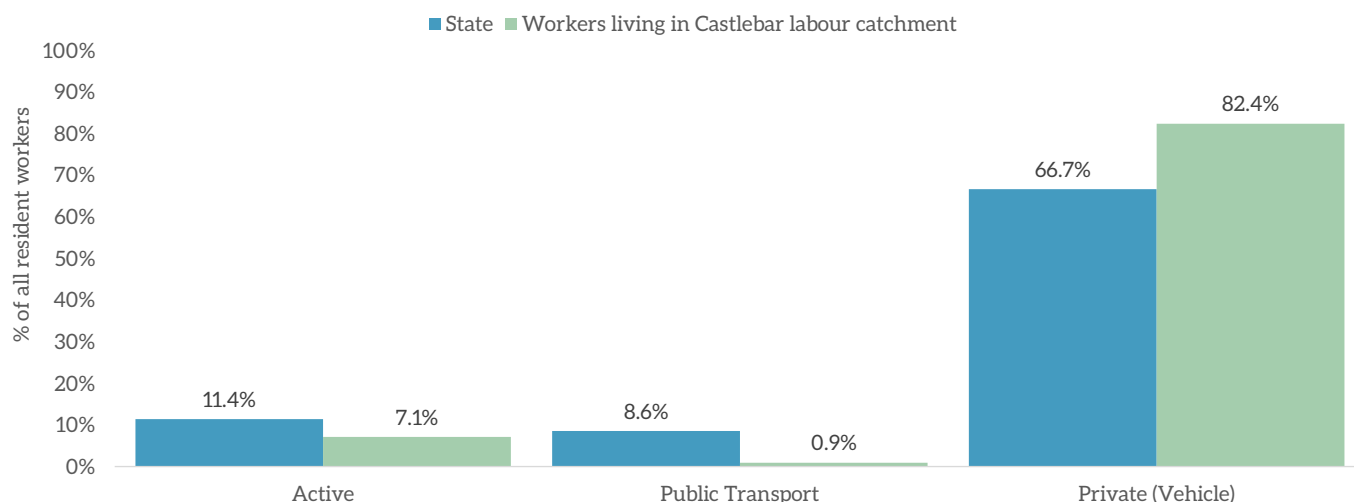
By grouping the modes of transport to work into three categories of 'Active' (walking and cycling), 'Public' (bus, train, DART/LUAS) and 'Private' (Car driver and passenger etc.) it is possible to develop a simple overview of the main modes of transport within and across the seven labour catchments (excluding Mobile and Uncodable workers).

Within the Castlebar labour catchment, a total of 7.1% (1,210) used 'Active' modes, 0.9% (157) used 'Public' modes (lowest rate amongst seven key towns/city) and 82.4% (13,993) used 'Private' modes of transport to employment destinations. This is the second highest rate amongst the seven labour catchments, see Figures 7.11 and 7.12 below.



## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

**Figure 7.11: Means of Travel for Resident Workers, 2022**



As expected, there is a big variation in the modes used by resident workers who are employed in Castlebar town and those employed elsewhere. Those employed in Castlebar town have a much higher propensity to use ‘Active’ modes (11.4%) as opposed to those employed elsewhere (4.1%).

**Figure 7.12: Means of Travel for Resident Workers - Working in the town vs elsewhere, 2022**

Means of Travel	Workers living in the Castlebar labour catchment								
	Total			Working in Castlebar town			Working elsewhere in Ireland		
Active	1,210	7.1%		805	11.4%		405	4.1%	
Public Transport	157	0.9%		41	0.6%		116	1.2%	
Private (Vehicle)	13,993	82.4%		5,898	83.2%		8,095	81.8%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,360</b>	<b>90.4%</b>		<b>6,744</b>	<b>95.1%</b>		<b>8,616</b>	<b>87.0%</b>	

Note: The percent columns above do not sum to 100% as the data only relates to Active, Public and Private modes of transport and excludes figures on those Working from Home or Not Stated.

### 7.7.8 Travel Departure Times

In a change from the previous POWSCCAR publications since the 2016 Census, only the commuting details on the travel time departure of resident workers are provided and not distance travelled<sup>14</sup>. Figure 7.13 below details the overall ‘travel time departure’ distribution of all Castlebar labour catchment resident workers.

The most common travel time departures are within the ‘07:31-08:30’ band and accounted for 47.9% of all resident workers in the labour catchment. The next most popular departure time is ‘Before 07:00’ - recorded at under one in four of all workers, 23% in the Castlebar labour catchment and just over one in four 25.8%, for the State.

<sup>14</sup> | Results from distance travelled variables have included a large element of ‘noise’ with a documented low level of correlation between recorded ‘distance travelled’ and actual physical home to work distances. As such, the travel indicator is based on the travel departure times of resident workers.

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

Figure 7.13: Departure Times for Resident Workers, 2022<sup>15</sup>

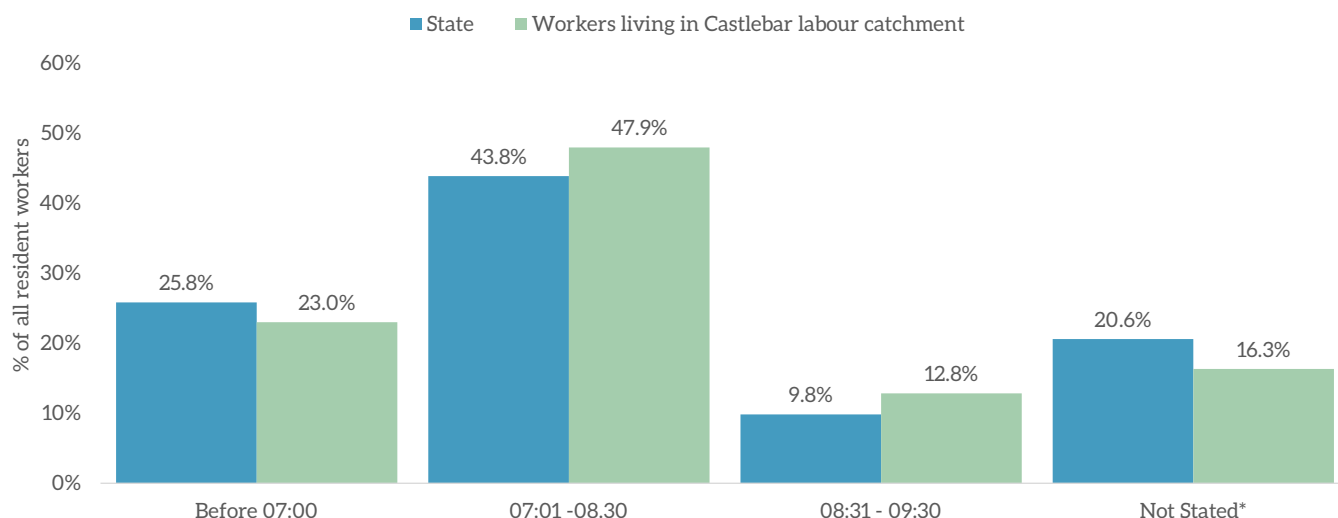


Figure 7.14 below shows a comparison of the ‘travel-time departures’ of those working in Castlebar town and those working elsewhere. Comparing these two groups there are some differences across the departure times. There is a higher share commuting to Castlebar between ‘08:31-09:30’ than those commuting elsewhere. A total of 22.6% of Castlebar town bound workers residing in the labour catchment depart for work ‘Before 07:00’, somewhat lower than the rate for workers travelling to other destinations (23.3%). This is as a result of the multiple commuting destinations within the overall Castlebar labour catchment where a total of 61.9% commute to destinations other than Castlebar town - rural locations, towns across Mayo and more distant locations such as Galway City.

Figure 7.14: Departure Times for Resident Workers - Working in the town vs elsewhere, 2022

Departure Time	Workers living in the Castlebar labour catchment								
	Total			Working in Castlebar town		Working elsewhere in Ireland			
Before 07:00	3,905	23.0%	<div style="width: 23.0%;"></div>	1,601	22.6%	<div style="width: 22.6%;"></div>	2,304	23.3%	<div style="width: 23.3%;"></div>
07:01-08:30	8,138	47.9%	<div style="width: 47.9%;"></div>	3,505	49.4%	<div style="width: 49.4%;"></div>	4,633	46.8%	<div style="width: 46.8%;"></div>
08:31-09:30	2,179	12.8%	<div style="width: 12.8%;"></div>	1,112	15.7%	<div style="width: 15.7%;"></div>	1,067	10.8%	<div style="width: 10.8%;"></div>
Not Stated*	2,770	16.3%	<div style="width: 16.3%;"></div>	873	12.3%	<div style="width: 12.3%;"></div>	1,897	19.2%	<div style="width: 19.2%;"></div>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,992</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>7,091</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>9,901</b>	<b>100%</b>	

When viewing this table, caution should be advised as there is a high number included in the Not Stated category which includes those travelling after 9:30 (see Figure 7.14 above).

15 | \*In POWSCCAR 2022, those travelling after 09:30 are included within the Not Stated category. This differs from previous reports in this series and in the full Census dataset where they are categorised separately.

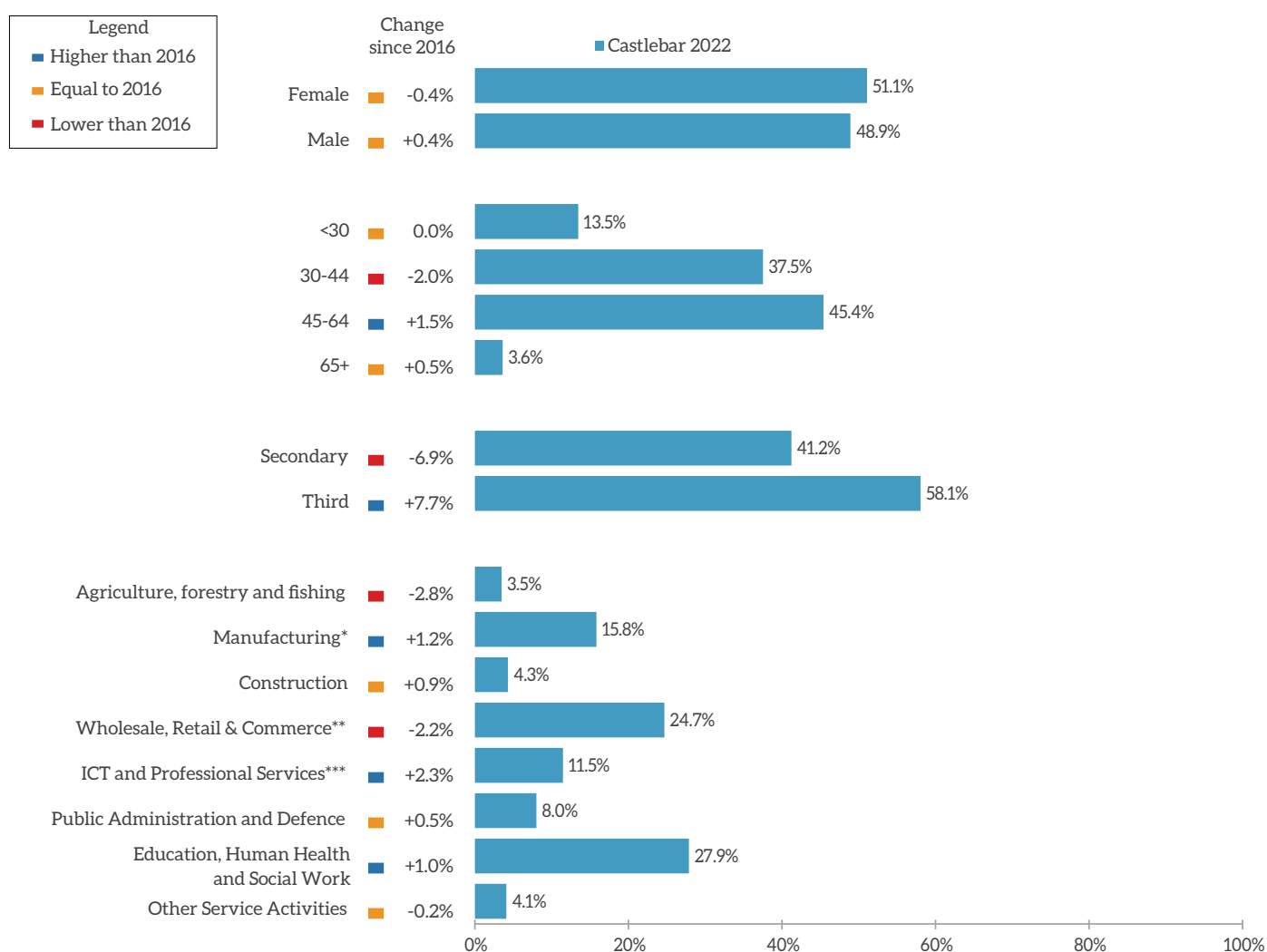
## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

### 7.8 Analysis of change between 2016 and 2022

The graphic below details the change that has occurred across the Castlebar labour catchment between 2016 and 2022. This is reviewed in the context of geographical changes and the socio-economic characteristics of those residing within the overall labour catchment. As already noted, the Castlebar labour catchment is still the dominant labour catchment for large parts of central and southeast County Mayo, see maps in Section 7.9. The geographical size of the Castlebar labour catchment has changed since 2016 (contracted in the north and extended in the southeast) and the total resident workers residing in the labour catchment has increased to 16,922 from 13,931 in 2016 (+22% or +3,061) and from 13,757 in 2006 (+23.5% or +3,235).

Most notable changes in terms of socio-economic characteristics relate to the age of resident workers (increase in age 45-64), a more educated workforce (increase in third level attainment) a higher share engaged in the 'Manufacturing', 'Education, Human Health and Social Work' and 'ICT and Professional Services' related industries. As with the changing State profile, the Castlebar labour catchment has also seen a decline in employment in 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' and 'Wholesale, Retail & Commerce'.

**Figure 7.15: 2022 Profile indication of change in key indicators since 2016 (comparison of % rates)**



Note: with only nine classifications available, industrial classifications in POWSCCAR are less detailed than normal classifications in other Census outputs.

\*Manufacturing\* = Manufacturing, mining and quarrying, Electricity, Gas, Water supply and Waste Management

\*\*Wholesale, Retail etc. = Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transportation and Storage, Accommodation and Food Service Activities

\*\*\*ICT and Professional Services\* = Information and Communication, Financial, Real Estate, Professional, administration and support service activities.

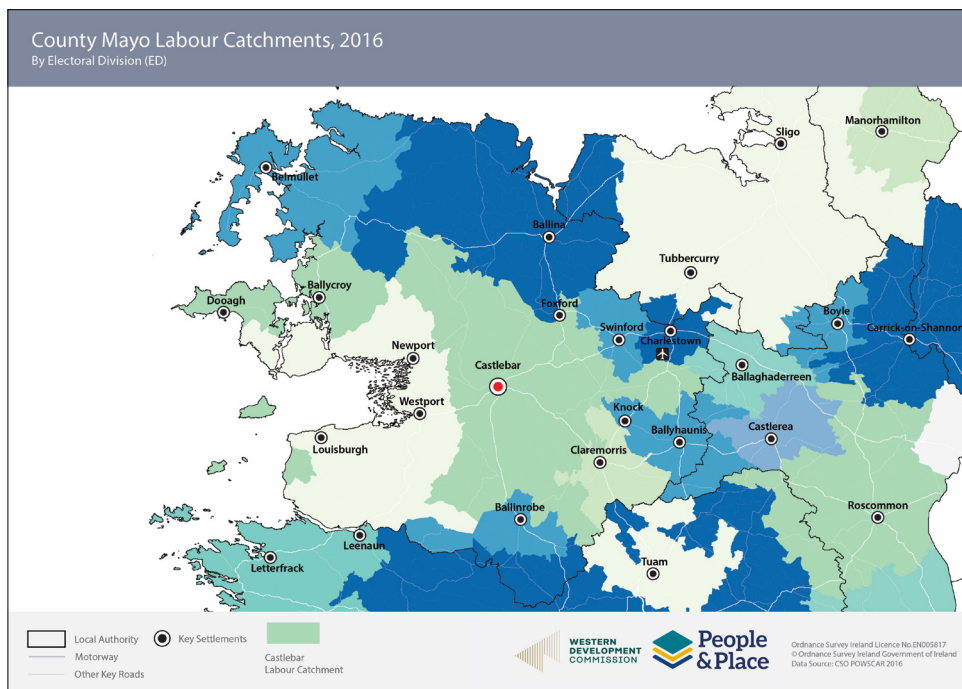
\*For some percentage change figures there may be very minor rounding issues (0.1%) due to the fact that the graphic displays data at one decimal point only.

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

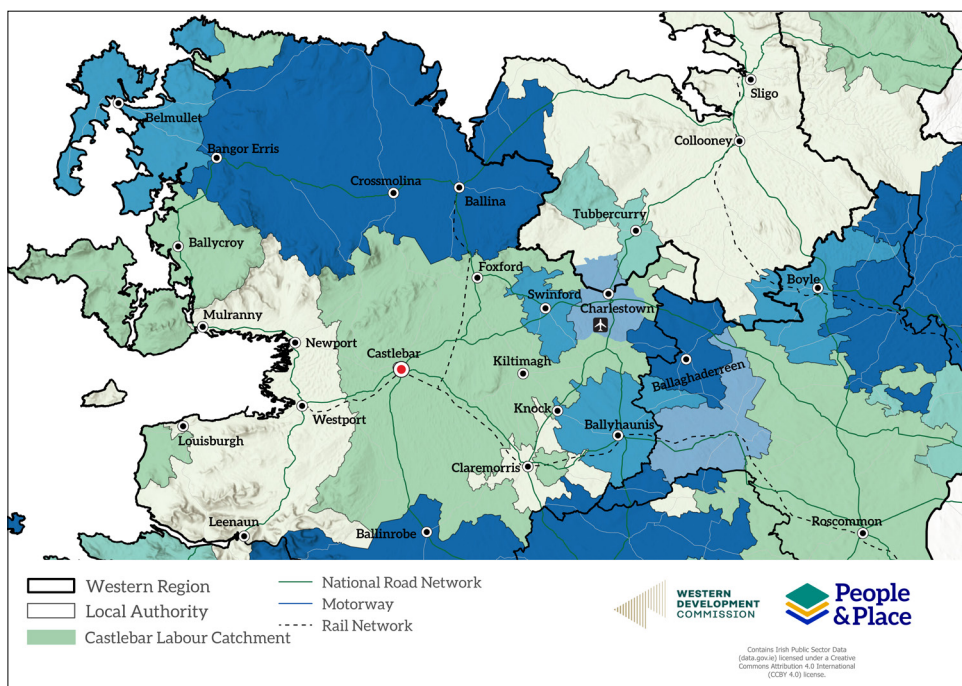
### 7.9 Analysis of labour catchment change between 2016 and 2022

The maps below detail the geographical changes that have taken place within the Castlebar labour catchment and neighbouring labour catchments between 2016 and 2022. Due to the extensive spatial distribution of medium-sized settlements across Mayo, the east of the county is comprised of the individual labour markets of Swinford, Charlestown/Knock, Ballaghaderreen, Ballyhaunis, Claremorris and parts of the Sligo town labour catchment. The influence of Galway City as a competing employment destination for Mayo resident workers is evident by the allocation of many EDs in south Mayo to the Galway City labour catchment.

Map 7.4: Castlebar labour catchment, 2016



Map 7.5: Castlebar labour catchment, 2022

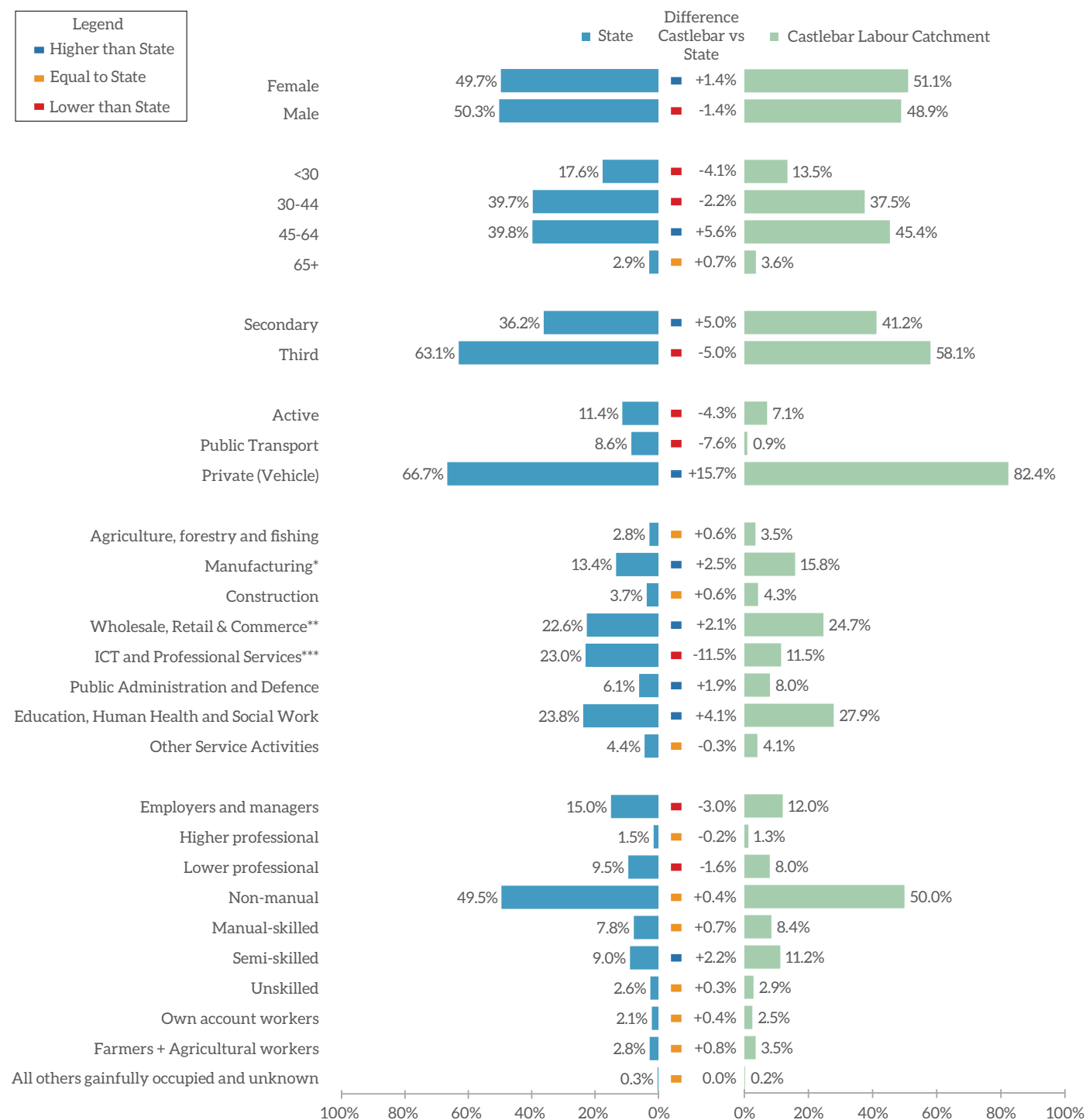


## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

### 7.10 Castlebar labour catchment comparison with the State, 2022

The graphic below details the socio-economic characteristics of resident workers within the Castlebar labour catchment and provides a comparison with resident workers in the State (excludes those with a mobile or blank destination).

Figure 7.16: Comparison between State and Castlebar labour catchment data for selected indicators



Note: with only nine classifications available, industrial classifications in POWSCCAR are less detailed than normal classifications in other Census outputs.

\*Manufacturing\* = Manufacturing, mining and quarrying, Electricity, Gas, Water supply and Waste Management

\*\*Wholesale, Retail etc. = Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transportation and Storage, Accommodation and Food Service Activities

\*\*\*ICT and Professional Services\* = Information and Communication, Financial, Real Estate, Professional, administration and support service activities.

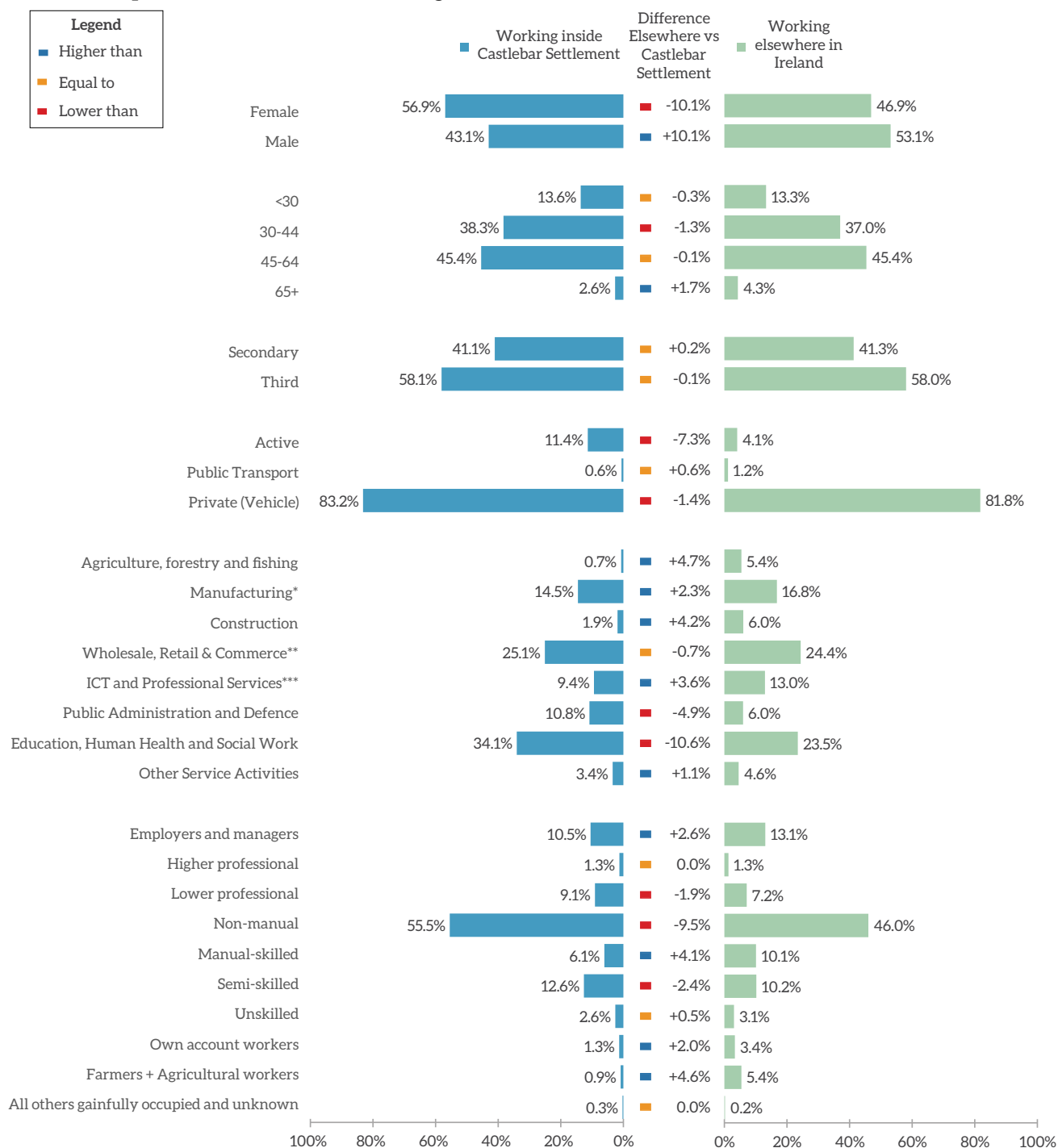
\*For some percentage change figures there may be very minor rounding issues (0.1%) due to the fact that the graphic displays data at one decimal point only.

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

### 7.11 Castlebar labour catchment - Employed within Castlebar town and elsewhere in Ireland comparison

The graphic below details the socio-economic characteristics of resident workers within the Castlebar labour catchment who are employed in Castlebar town and those that are resident within the Castlebar labour catchment but employed outside Castlebar town and elsewhere in Ireland.

**Figure 7.17: Comparison between those working within Castlebar town and elsewhere in Ireland, 2022**



Note: with only nine classifications available, industrial classifications in POWSCCAR are less detailed than normal classifications in other Census outputs.

\*Manufacturing\* = Manufacturing, mining and quarrying, Electricity, Gas, Water supply and Waste Management

\*\*Wholesale, Retail etc. = Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transportation and Storage, Accommodation and Food Service Activities

\*\*\*ICT and Professional Services\* = Information and Communication, Financial, Real Estate, Professional, administration and support service activities.

\*For some percentage change figures there may be very minor rounding issues (0.1%) due to the fact that the graphic displays data at one decimal point only.

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

## 7.12 Socio-Economic comparison of all seven labour catchments

The graphic below details the socio-economic characteristics of resident workers within the Castlebar labour catchment and the other six main labour catchments in the Western Region; Carrick-on-Shannon, Ennis, Galway City, Letterkenny, Roscommon town and Sligo town. These graphics allow comparisons of theme variables across all seven main labour catchments and the State. For instance, the graphic below on education attainment reveals that the Galway City labour catchment has the highest proportion of resident workers with a third level qualification (67.6%) whereas the rate within the Castlebar labour catchment is 58.1%.

## 7.12.1 Industry of Employment

Labour catchment	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Manufacturing*	Construction	Wholesale, Retail & Commerce**	ICT and Professional Services***
Carrick-on-Shannon	3.9%	14.9%	3.6%	22.7%	15.5%
<b>Castlebar</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>
Ennis	3.5%	17.6%	3.9%	22.2%	15.3%
Galway City	2.6%	19.2%	3.2%	21.0%	18.0%
Letterkenny	4.5%	8.7%	3.0%	23.6%	17.6%
Roscommon town	5.2%	13.8%	4.3%	21.7%	12.8%
Sligo town	3.5%	14.3%	2.7%	22.1%	13.5%
State	2.8%	13.4%	3.7%	22.6%	23.0%

Note: with only nine classifications available, industrial classifications in POWSCCAR are less detailed than normal classifications in other Census outputs.

\*Manufacturing = Manufacturing, mining and quarrying, Electricity, Gas, Water supply and Waste Management

\*\*Wholesale, Retail etc. = Wholesale, Retail Trade, Transportation and Storage, Accommodation and Food Service Activities

\*\*\*ICT and Professional Services = Information and Communication, Financial, Real Estate, Professional, administration and support service activities.

Labour catchment	Public Administration and Defence	Education, Human Health and Social Work	Other Service Activities	Not Stated
Carrick-on-Shannon	10.9%	23.9%	4.3%	0.3%
<b>Castlebar</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>27.9%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Ennis	8.1%	25.0%	4.0%	0.3%
Galway City	4.9%	27.3%	3.6%	0.2%
Letterkenny	7.9%	29.9%	4.4%	0.4%
Roscommon town	11.0%	27.2%	3.7%	0.2%
Sligo town	9.8%	29.6%	4.2%	0.4%
State	6.1%	23.8%	4.4%	0.2%

## 7.12.2 Education Attainment

Labour catchment	Secondary	Third
Carrick-on-Shannon	37.0%	62.2%
<b>Castlebar</b>	<b>41.2%</b>	<b>58.1%</b>
Ennis	37.0%	62.5%
Galway City	31.8%	67.6%
Letterkenny	42.2%	57.2%
Roscommon town	41.9%	57.0%
Sligo town	36.3%	63.2%
State	36.2%	63.1%

## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

## 7.12.3 Socio-Economic Group (SEG)

Labour catchment	Employers and managers	Higher professional	Lower professional	Non-manual	Manual-skilled
Carrick-on-Shannon	12.1%	1.5%	8.2%	51.6%	7.7%
<b>Castlebar</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
Ennis	13.0%	1.5%	8.5%	50.0%	8.3%
Galway City	13.3%	1.5%	11.7%	48.2%	6.4%
Letterkenny	10.7%	1.3%	7.0%	55.9%	7.0%
Roscommon town	11.3%	1.4%	6.4%	50.1%	10.4%
Sligo town	11.3%	1.6%	9.3%	53.6%	6.4%
State	15.0%	1.5%	9.5%	49.5%	7.8%

Labour catchment	Semi-skilled	Unskilled	Own account workers	Farmers + Agricultural workers	All others gainfully occupied and unknown
Carrick-on-Shannon	9.2%	2.4%	3.1%	4.0%	0.2%
<b>Castlebar</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Ennis	9.3%	2.7%	2.9%	3.7%	0.2%
Galway City	11.7%	2.3%	2.1%	2.6%	0.2%
Letterkenny	8.4%	2.8%	2.3%	4.2%	0.3%
Roscommon town	9.9%	2.4%	2.4%	5.4%	0.4%
Sligo town	9.2%	2.4%	2.5%	3.5%	0.2%
State	9.0%	2.6%	2.1%	2.8%	0.3%

## 7.12.4 Means of Travel

Labour catchment	Active	Public Transport	Private (Vehicle)
Carrick-on-Shannon	6.8%	1.4%	80.0%
<b>Castlebar</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>82.4%</b>
Ennis	6.1%	1.2%	80.8%
Galway City	10.1%	4.4%	72.0%
Letterkenny	6.4%	1.1%	77.2%
Roscommon town	5.8%	1.4%	83.7%
Sligo town	9.7%	1.5%	73.5%
State	11.4%	8.6%	66.7%



## 7. Castlebar Labour Catchment

### 7.12.5 Age Profile

Labour catchment	<30	30-44	45-64	65+
Carrick-on-Shannon	13.9%	39.1%	43.4%	3.6%
<b>Castlebar</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>37.5%</b>	<b>45.4%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
Ennis	14.1%	37.1%	45.6%	3.3%
Galway City	17.2%	39.1%	40.8%	2.9%
Letterkenny	16.4%	39.3%	41.7%	2.5%
Roscommon town	13.5%	38.4%	44.3%	3.8%
Sligo town	15.5%	37.0%	43.9%	3.5%
State	17.6%	39.7%	39.8%	2.9%

### 7.12.6 Gender Profile

Labour catchment	Female	Male
Carrick-on-Shannon	51.2%	48.8%
<b>Castlebar</b>	<b>51.1%</b>	<b>48.9%</b>
Ennis	51.4%	48.6%
Galway City	50.9%	49.1%
Letterkenny	51.4%	48.6%
Roscommon town	50.0%	50.0%
Sligo town	51.7%	48.3%
State	49.7%	50.3%

### 7.12.7 Time of Departure

Labour catchment	Before 07:00	07:01-08:30	08:31-09:30	Not Stated*
Carrick-on-Shannon	21.7%	48.8%	11.0%	18.4%
<b>Castlebar</b>	<b>23.0%</b>	<b>47.9%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>16.3%</b>
Ennis	24.6%	47.6%	9.9%	17.9%
Galway City	24.7%	43.4%	12.0%	19.9%
Letterkenny	19.6%	51.6%	11.8%	17.0%
Roscommon town	21.8%	50.1%	10.1%	17.9%
Sligo town	21.0%	49.8%	12.4%	16.8%
State	25.8%	43.8%	9.8%	20.6%

\*In POWSCCAR 2022, those travelling after 09:30 are included within the Not Stated category. This differs from previous reports in this series and in the full Census dataset where they are categorised separately.



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