



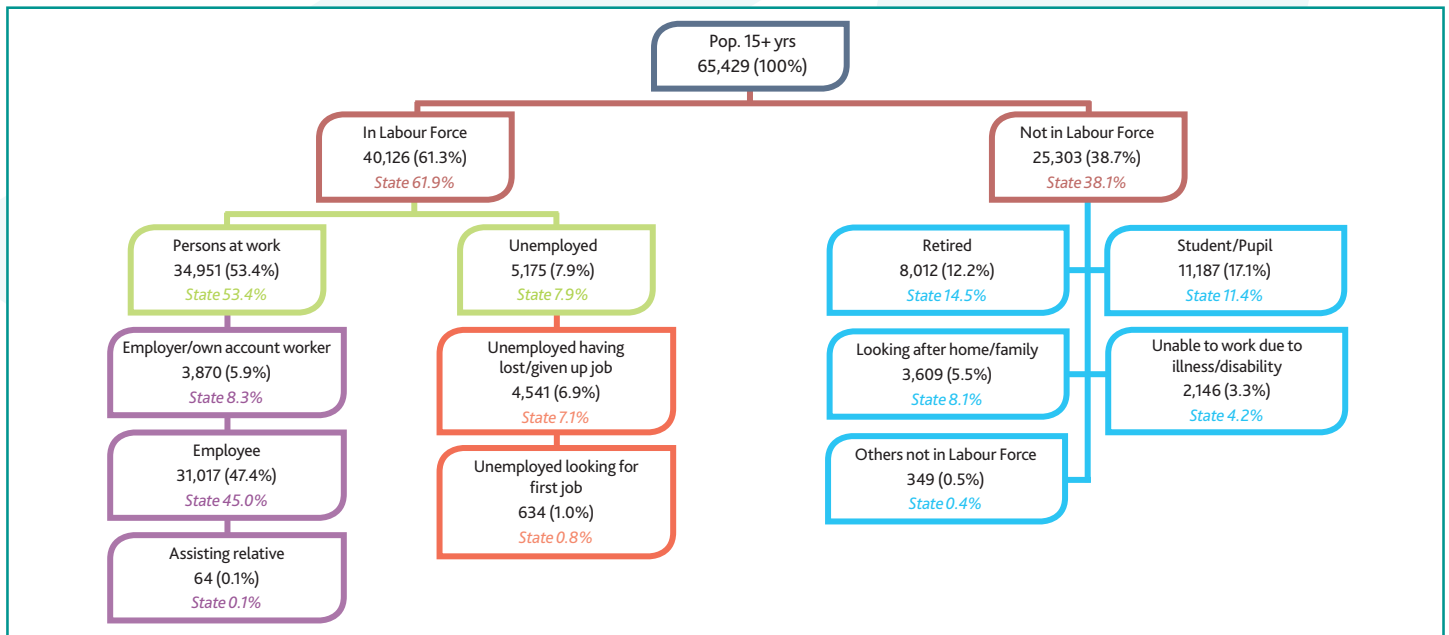
## Galway City's Labour Market – Census 2016

In this *WDC Insights* we provide an overview of the labour market in Galway City based on data from the Census of Population 2016.<sup>1</sup> Galway County is examined in a separate *WDC Insights*. Galway City had a total population of 78,668 in 2016, 4.2% higher than at the last Census (2011). Galway City's population was 8.6% higher than a decade earlier (2006). Total employment among Galway City residents grew 10.8% between 2011 and 2016, similar to national growth (11%).

### Principal Economic Status of Galway City's population

Principal Economic Status (PES) measures the economic status e.g. at work, student, of the population aged 15 years and over. This status is self-assigned and is different from the definition used in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) and official employment and unemployment figures.<sup>2</sup> Fig. 1 shows Galway City's adult population by principal economic status compared with the State average.

Fig. 1: Population of Galway City aged 15 years and over by principal and labour force status, 2016



Some 61.3% of Galway City's adults are in the labour force, either working or looking for work, close to the national average (61.9%). The 40,126 people in the city's resident labour force represent a 3.4% increase on the 2011 figure. The share of Galway City's adults who are 'at work' and who are unemployed is the same as the national average. The city has a lower than average level of self-employment (employer/own account worker) (5.9% v 8.3%), a pattern common in cities.

The share of Galway City's adults who are outside the labour force (38.7%) is slightly higher than nationally (38.1%). Student/Pupil is the largest group. Galway City is the only local authority area in the Western Region where this is the case. Student/Pupil accounts for a far higher share than in the State (17.1% v 11.4%), while the share who are retired or who are unable to work due to illness/disability is below average, illustrating the city's young age profile.

1. CSO, Census 2016 Summary Results – Part 2. Table EZ011

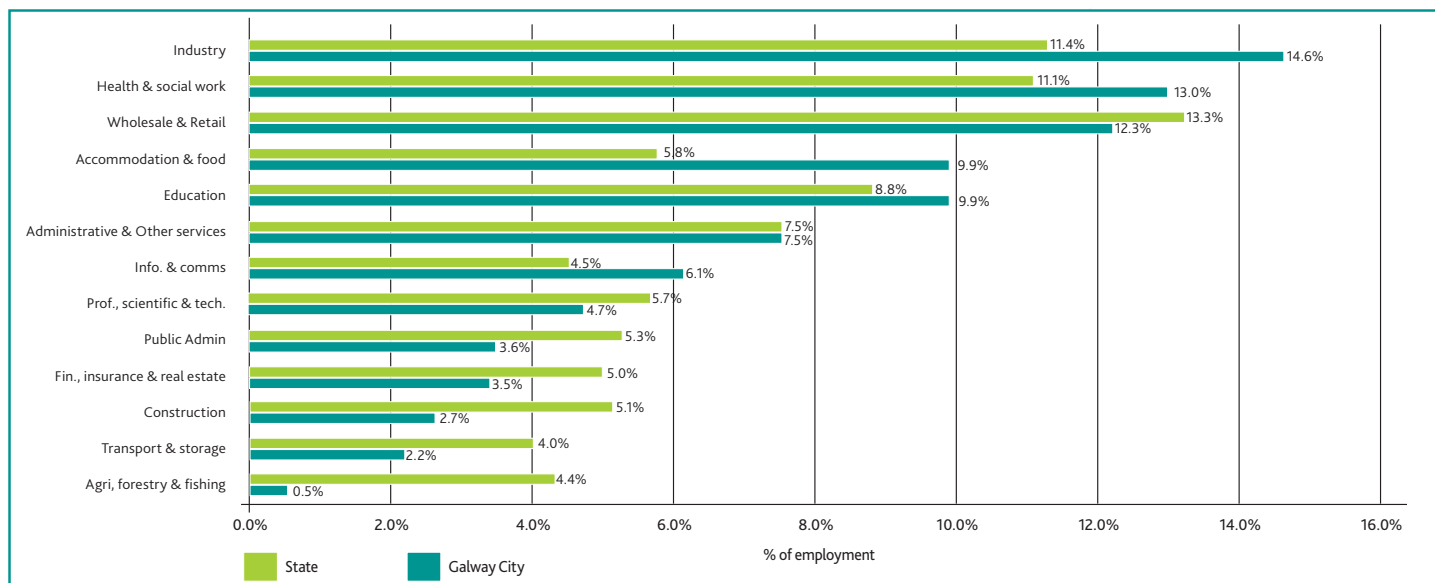
2. The ILO definition, used in the QNHS and official employment statistics, is that if a person has worked for payment or profit for 1 hour or more in the previous fortnight they are counted as employed. This results in a higher number being counted as employed than when people are asked to select their own economic status, as in the Census.



## Sectoral pattern & recent changes in employment

Fig. 2 shows the sectors where the 34,951 Galway City residents who are 'at work' are employed. Commuting is a very important factor and the 5,870 people living in Galway City who travel outside of the city for work are counted here, but the 21,693 people living outside Galway City who travel into it for work are not.<sup>3</sup> It is important to note that the figures here only refer to Galway City residents and not to total employment in the city.

**Fig. 2: Percentage of total employment in each broad sector in Galway City and State, 2016**



Industry and Health are significantly more important employers for Galway City residents than nationally. Growth in Industry since 2011 was substantially higher than the national average (15.4% v 9.4%), as was growth in Health (16.4% v 13.4%). As well as hospitals, Health includes child and residential care.

While Wholesale & Retail employs a somewhat smaller share of Galway City residents than nationally, its growth was stronger (2.4% v 1.7%). Accommodation & Food Service accounts for a substantially higher share of employment than nationally, 9.9% compared with 5.8%; only Kerry has a higher share. Growth in Accommodation & Food Service in Galway City was somewhat below average (11.1% v 12.9%) since 2011.

Unlike elsewhere in the Western Region, Information & Communications employs a higher share of Galway City's population than nationally and it experienced the city's strongest employment growth since 2011, up 36% compared with 31.4% nationally. The other knowledge intensive services are less important in Galway City and performed below average. Growth in Professional, Scientific & Technical was less than half the average (9.3% v 22.2%), while the 10.7% decline in Financial, Insurance & Real Estate in the city was far greater than the 1.3% decline nationally.

Public Administration accounts for a smaller than average share of employment for Galway City residents, linked to the greater diversity of job opportunities. The sector's performance since 2011 has been substantially worse than nationally, declining 12.5% compared with 6.3%. Construction and Transport & Storage are also less important. While Construction employment grew by 4.6% since 2011, this was significantly below the State average (16.6%). The Transport & Storage sector experienced a large employment decline (11.8%) compared with 4% growth nationally.

It is important that we more fully understand why some of the sectoral changes in employment are taking place in Galway City and the impact that these are having on the city's economy and its residents.

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All data from CSO, Census 2016 Summary Results – Part 2. Table EZ011

3. Detailed analysis of commuting patterns in the Western Region will be published by the WDC in future.