Trends in Regional Output

County level data on regional GDP is released every year by the CSO\(^1\) alongside data on household disposable income. The data for 2012 is the most recent available and was published in 2015. While the data is not current, it is still useful to look at the trends over time and at the situation in 2012, the point in time when recovery was beginning in some regions.

Regional GDP

Gross Value Added (GVA, and the related regional GDP \(^2\)), provides a measure of the output, the value creating performance and economic activity of each region. It also provides a basis for comparison among regions within Ireland and internationally. It is useful for tracking regional output levels and trends as well as changes among regions but there are limitations to this indicator, in particular because of the impacts on the data of commuting, transfer pricing and profit repatriation. This data is published for regions and is not available by county.

In 2012 the GVA\(^3\) per person in the West region was €28,256 and €19,016 in the Border region. These compare with a State average of €34,308. GVA per person was highest in the South West at €44,391, Dublin and Mid East combined was €43,306 per person. It was lowest in the Midlands at €18,638 (down from a peak of €27,097 in 2006).

### Key Regional GDP (GVA) Statistics, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CVA per person</th>
<th>Border</th>
<th>Midland</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>Dublin &amp; Mid East</th>
<th>Mid West</th>
<th>South East</th>
<th>South West</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>€19,016</td>
<td>€18,636</td>
<td>€28,256</td>
<td>€43,306</td>
<td>€27,464</td>
<td>€23,588</td>
<td>€44,391</td>
<td>€34,308</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Index of GVA per Person (State=100) | 55.4 | 54.3 | 82.4 | 126.2 | 80.1 | 68.8 | 129.4 | 100 |
| Index of GVA per Person (EU28=100) | 72.1 | 70.6 | 107.1 | 164.1 | 104.1 | 89.4 | 168.2 | EU28=100 |
| % national GVA | 6.2% | 3.3% | 8.0% | 49.6% | 6.6% | 7.5% | 18.7% | 100.0% |

Source: CSO, 2015, County Incomes and Regional GDP, various tables

In considering the impact of the economic crisis it is interesting to compare the GVA in each region in 2003, 2007 and 2012 (Figure 1); 2007 was the peak GVA year for all regions except Border and Midland (which had their highest GVA levels in 2006), perhaps indicating an earlier onset of the recession. GVA per person in 2012 was still below that of 2007 in all regions except the West, where recovery has been strong. Both Dublin and Mid East, and the South West also showed strong signs of recovery by 2012 and their GVA for 2012 was close to that in 2007\(^4\). In four of the seven regions the GVA for 2012 is still significantly below that of 2003, as well as below that of 2007.

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2. GDP is Gross Domestic Product, GDP and GVA both measure the value of the goods and services which are produced within a region or country. See background notes on County Incomes and Regional GDP. See footnote 1.
3. Note that GVA figures are not available at county level, so the NUTS3 regions have been used.
4. It should be noted that GVA levels can be affected by the presence of multinationals in a region and transfer pricing of products which will increase the levels of GVA.
5. Dublin alone produced almost 42% of national GDP. However, given the importance of commuting to this region we have used Dublin and Mid East combined.