



Census 2016: What do people in the Western Region work at?

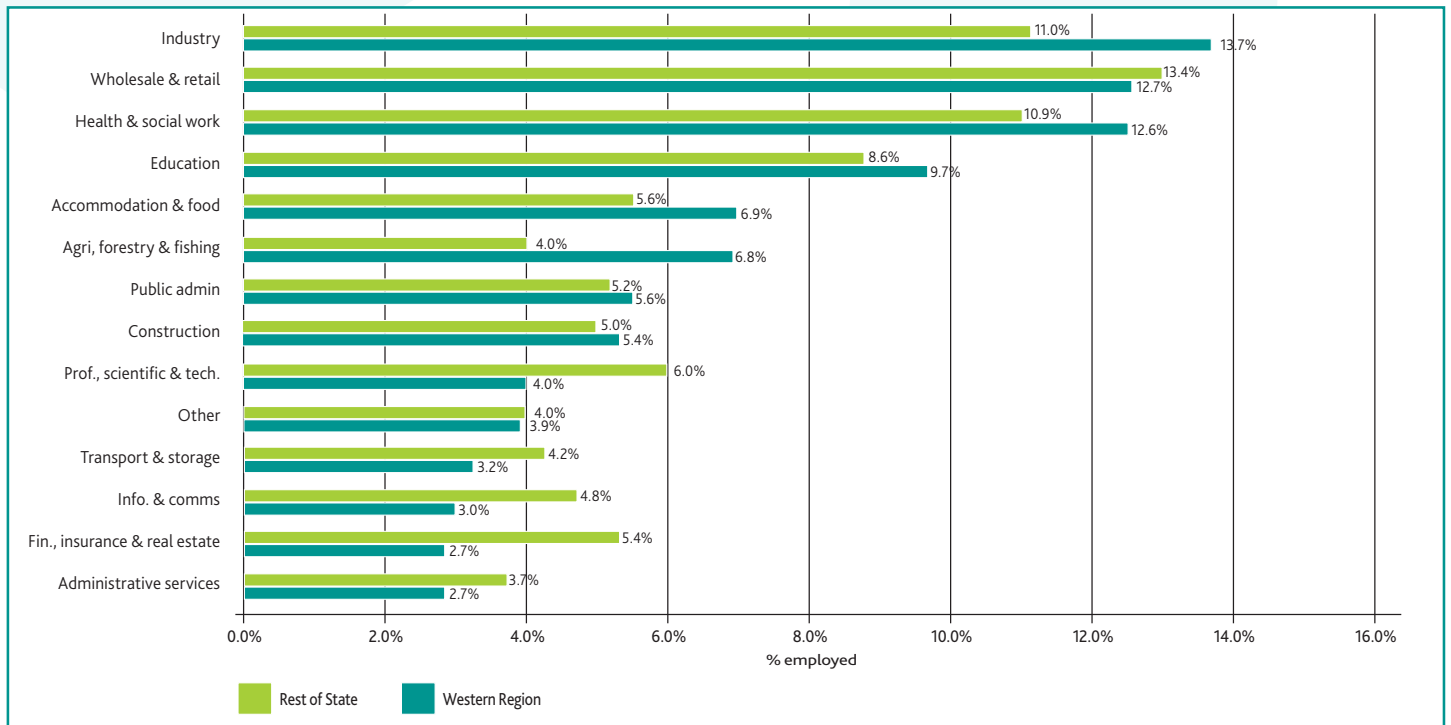
In this *WDC Insights* we examine the sectoral pattern of employment in the Western Region of Ireland¹ based on results from Census 2016.² In 2016, 333,919 people living in the Western Region were in employment; up 7.5% since 2011. While the increase in the region was positive, this growth was considerably below the 11.8% increase experienced by the rest of the state.³

Sectoral profile of employment in the Western Region

The two long established patterns of greater concentration of employment and more reliance on traditional and public service sectors in the Western Region are still evident in 2016 (Fig. 1). In the Western Region 55.6% of all jobs were in the five largest sectors, while in the rest of the state the top five only accounted for 49.9% of jobs. The four largest sectors are common to both areas, while the fifth largest in the region is Accommodation & Food service, but Professional services in the rest of the state.

The region's largest sector is Industry (largely manufacturing), employing 45,754 people. Industry's share of total employment in the Western Region (13.7%) is considerably higher than in the rest of the state (11%). Manufacturing has consistently played a greater role in the Western Region's jobs market and this intensified between 2011 and 2016. While Industry's share of all jobs in the rest of state fell from 11.3% in 2011 to 11% in 2016; in the Western Region it increased from 13% to 13.7%. Agriculture, Health, Education and Accommodation & Food service are other sectors that are more important in the region.

Fig. 1: Percentage of total employment in each broad sector in Western Region and Rest of State, 2016



1. Counties Donegal, Sligo, Roscommon, Leitrim, Mayo, Galway and Clare. Employment in individual counties is examined in, WDC (2017) *WDC Insights Census 2016: What do people in the western counties work at?*
2. CSO, *Census 2016 Summary Results – Part 2*. Table EZ011
3. Rest of state refers to all counties in the Republic of Ireland except for the seven counties of the Western Region.



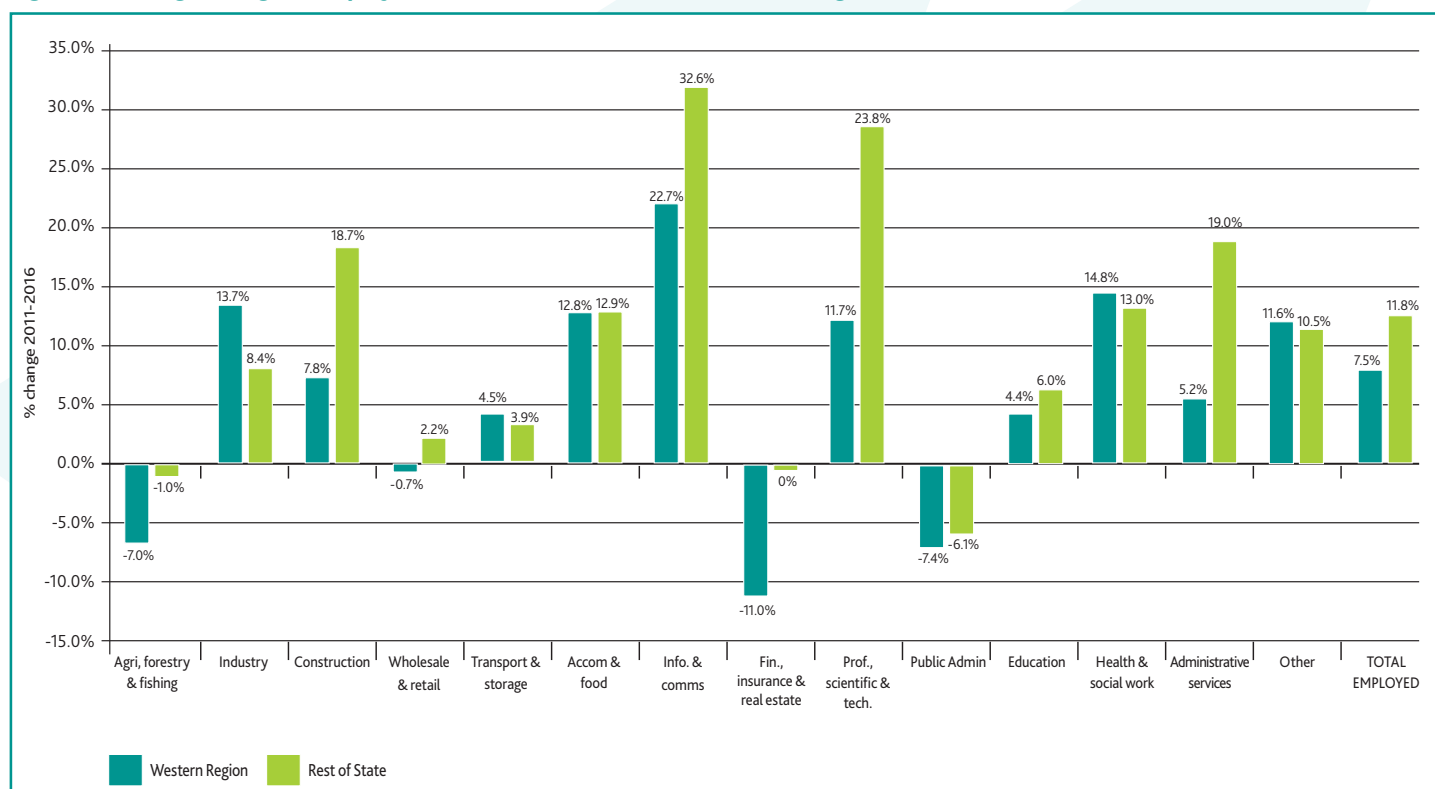
The knowledge intensive services sectors of Financial, Insurance & Real Estate, Information & Communications, and Professional, Scientific & Technical activities are all considerably larger employers elsewhere. Combined, they employ 9.7% of workers in the Western Region, but 16.2% in the rest of the state. Since 2011 the share of jobs in these sectors in the region remained unchanged at 9.7%, while they grew in importance elsewhere (from 15.5% up to 16.2%).

Change in employment since 2011

Between 2011 and 2016 employment in four of the 14 sectors declined in the Western Region (Fig. 2). Except for Wholesale & Retail, the rest of the state also experienced a decline, though smaller, in the same sectors. The 11% decline in Financial, Insurance & Real Estate in the region is notable, primarily caused by a fall in financial services such as bank branch closures.

Of the Western Region's growth sectors, Information & Communications grew very strongly, by 22.7%, with Health, Industry and Accommodation & Food service the next best performers. The region had stronger growth than elsewhere in Industry, Health, Transport & Storage and Other, but in all other sectors the region performed less well than the rest of the state.

Fig. 2: Percentage change in employment in each broad sector in Western Region and Rest of State, 2011-2016



Conclusion

The Western Region's jobs profile continues to rely more on traditional sectors and public services. Since 2011 employment has grown in most sectors, however the region has performed less well than the rest of the state in 10 out of 14 sectors, either experiencing lower growth or a greater decline. The weaker performance was particularly evident in knowledge intensive and administrative services, and Construction. The region's Industry sector has performed very strongly and it plays a significant role. The high-tech medical devices cluster is a major influence, employing 28% of everyone working in Industry in the region and growing by 30% since 2011.

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