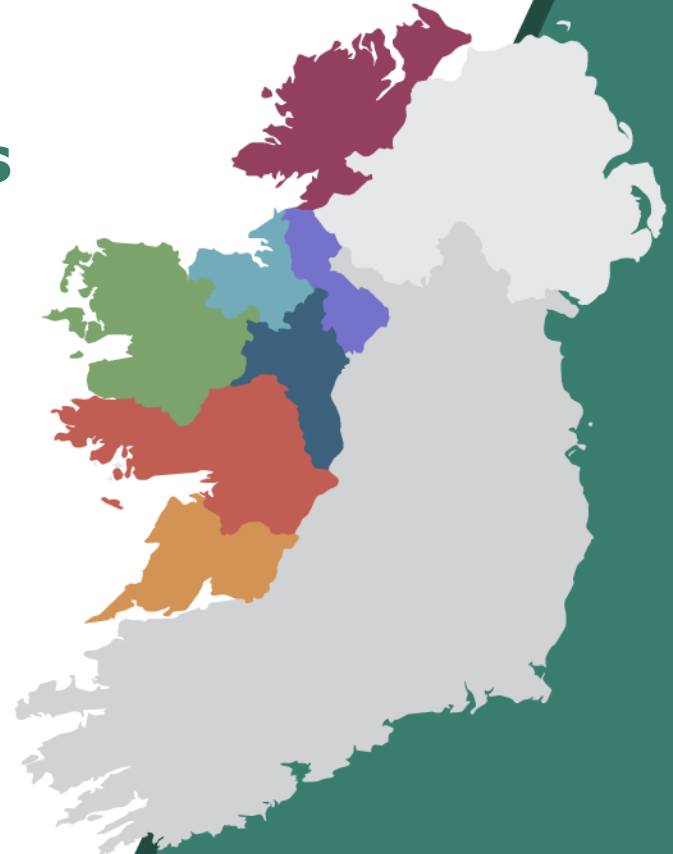


Meeting local needs: priorities for planning, housing and economic development

Deirdre Frost
WDC

31 May 2018



Western Development Commission (WDC)

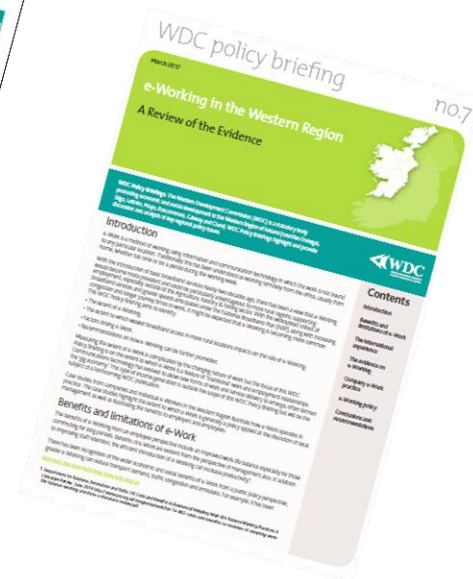
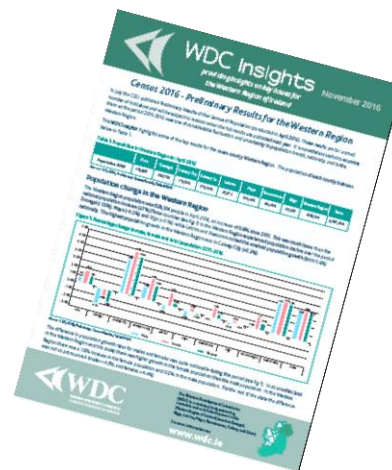
- 7 county Western Region
- State body – Department of Rural and Community Development
- WDC Act 1998

'....foster and promote the economic and social development of the Western Region'



WDC – What we do

- Inform policy-making through analysis of Region's issues & needs (e.g. infrastructure, labour market)
- Promotion – www.lookwest.ie
- Development of region's resources e.g. Creative sector, Tourism, Renewable energy
- WDC Investment Fund – Risk capital to SMEs



Meeting Local Needs: Priorities for Planning, Housing & Economic Development - Travel to Work Analysis

- WDC report 2018 – Census 2016 POWCSAR data
- Travel to work patterns in pop. centres in Western Region greater than 1,000
- Profile of Labour catchments in 7 principal county towns; Galway, Sligo, Ennis, Letterkenny, Castlebar, Roscommon, Carrick-on-Shannon
- Insight into labour catchments in smaller centers in West; 42 labour catchments in total



Key findings I: Travel to Work Report 2018

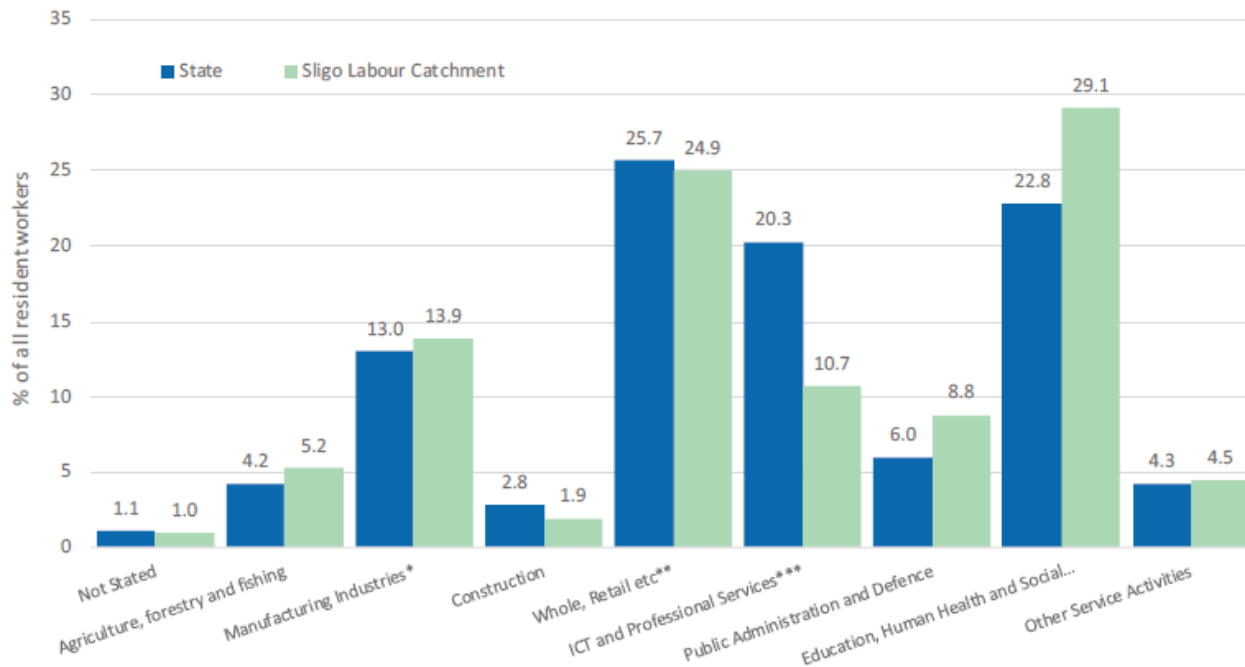
- The 7 principal catchments have a **significantly larger labour supply available than Census town population (up to 4.6 times)** – a more accurate measure of labour supply – centres for employment growth
- The numbers of resident workers in Region increased by 5.9% in last 10 years.
- No. of resident workers in 7 labour catchments increased by 6.8%.
- Project Ireland 2014 – population increase requires jobs growth.
Issues for RSES – how to align population, housing and employment growth

Key findings II: Travel to Work Report 2018

- Rural Employment important (centres less than 1,000) – Over one-fifth are employed in rural areas.
- Rural dwellers a key element of labour supply of FDI – *WDC Policy briefing No.6* .over 1/4 of rural dwellers commuting to work in Galway city work in IDA business parks in East of Galway city.
- Sectoral profile

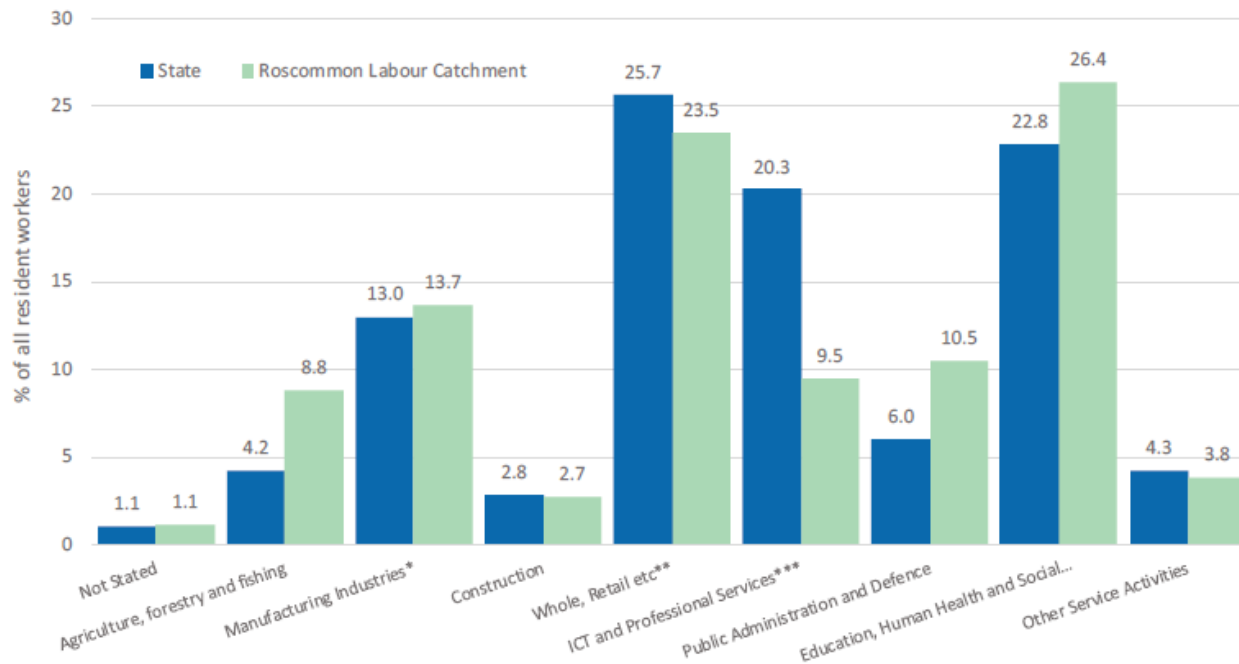
Sectoral employment in Sligo Town L. C.

Figure 4.6: Industry Profile of those living in the Sligo Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)



Sectoral employment Roscommon Town L.C.

Figure 9.6: Industry Profile of those living in the Roscommon Town Labour Catchment, 2016 (Source: AIRO & CSO POWCAR)



Policy Implications - WDC Submission to RSES

- The 5 cities serve the East, South, Mid-West & West.... driving development in their regions.
- The North West needs a stronger urban centre, Brexit an additional challenge. Sligo & Letterkenny.
- Importance of intra-regional commuting –improvements in key parts of transport network e.g. Ennis/Shannon/ Galway labour catchments and Letterkenny/Derry & Inishowen Peninsula
- Role of other towns – smaller towns in a largely rural Western Region perform functions of larger towns or cities in other regions.

Some other considerations

- Types of work – Self-employment (higher rates in WR), e-working, gig economy, contract work
- Is policy effective? UK Research - Policy can effectively influence the location of FDI in favour of the north of England.

Scale important

- Size: Not all centres can or should compete for very large scale investments.
- Smaller centres successful attracting FDI too. And Dublin competed successfully when it was much smaller
- Analysis of smaller labour catchments will provide further insights

Thank You

Q&A

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