



SOCIO- ECONOMIC TRENDS & REGIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

Compiled in 2010 by
Dr Ruth Kelly, Research Officer
Community & Enterprise Directorate
Clare County Council

Socio-Economic Trends and Regional Quality of Life Indicators

Introduction

This chapter presents some significant demographic and socio-economic trends to emerge from Census 2006 as well key indicators from more current data sources such as the Quarterly National Household Surveys, Live Register figures, the Regional Quality of Life in Ireland report (CSO, 2008) and various Western Development Commission research publications in order to inform the development of the County Clare Social Inclusion Strategy. Some of the key trends observed include:

- In 2006, the population of County Clare was counted as 110,950 (56,048 males and 54,902 females) indicating a 7.4% increase on the previous Census year, 2002. The population density of County Clare is 32.23 persons per sq km.
- Key centres with a population over 1,000 are shown below:

Key centre	2006 Population
Ennis	24,253
Shannon	9,222
Kilrush	2,694
Newmarket on Fergus	1,542
Sixmilebridge	1,659
Kilkee	1,325
Ardnacrusha (Castlebank)	1,169
Killaloe	1,035

- In 2006, a total of 50,607 were employed in the county, indicating an employment growth between 2002-2006 of 15.9%. Of those at work in Clare, 14.6% were employed in the manufacturing industry with 12% employed in the construction industry. However, given the significant economic downturn post 2006, it is reasonable to assume that these figures have changed significantly as is reflected in the most recently published Live Register figures for November 2009.
- The live register figures show an increase in the numbers signing on from 6932 in November 2008 to 10,065 in November 2009, an increase of 45%. Similar increases are evident in some of the larger towns with Ennis showing an increase over the same time frame of 43% in the numbers signing on, Ennistymon showing an increase of 42% with increases of 46.8% and 56.5% for Kilrush and Tulla respectively.
- Of those persons in County Clare aged 15 years and over, just 14% had been educated to primary level only, 43% had been educated to second level (including both lower and upper levels), 9.5% had been educated to third level (non-degree) with 14% being educated to third level or higher.
- There are a total of 4,389 lone parent family units in County Clare, 3,671 headed by a female and 718 headed by a male. Of the total lone parent households in County Clare, 83% were headed by lone mothers while 17% were headed by lone fathers.

These and other key trends are explored in greater detail here.

1.0 Population

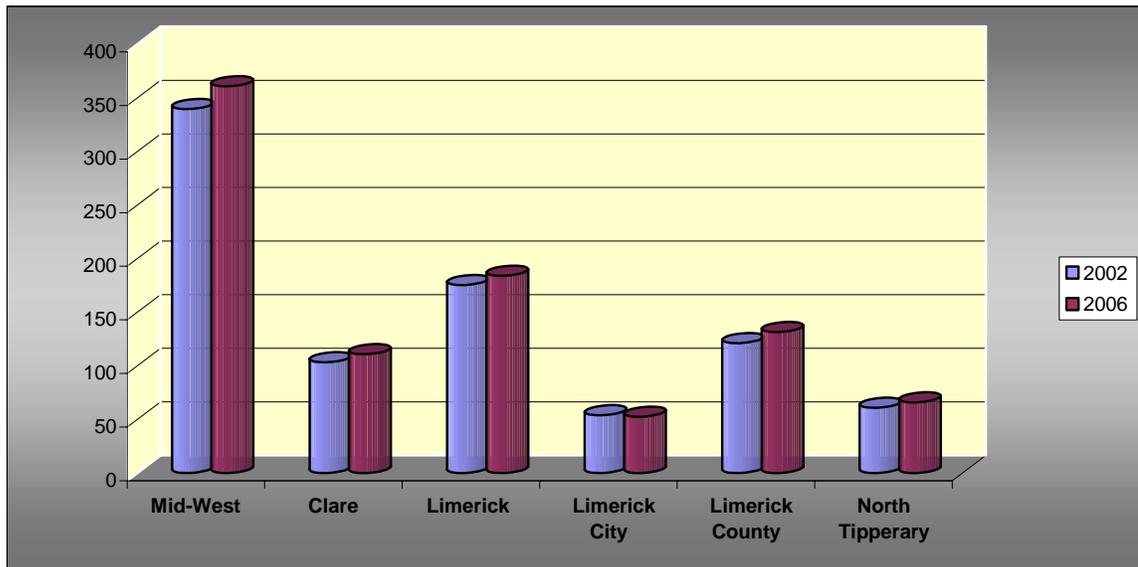


Figure 1.1 Population of the Mid-West, 2002 & 2006

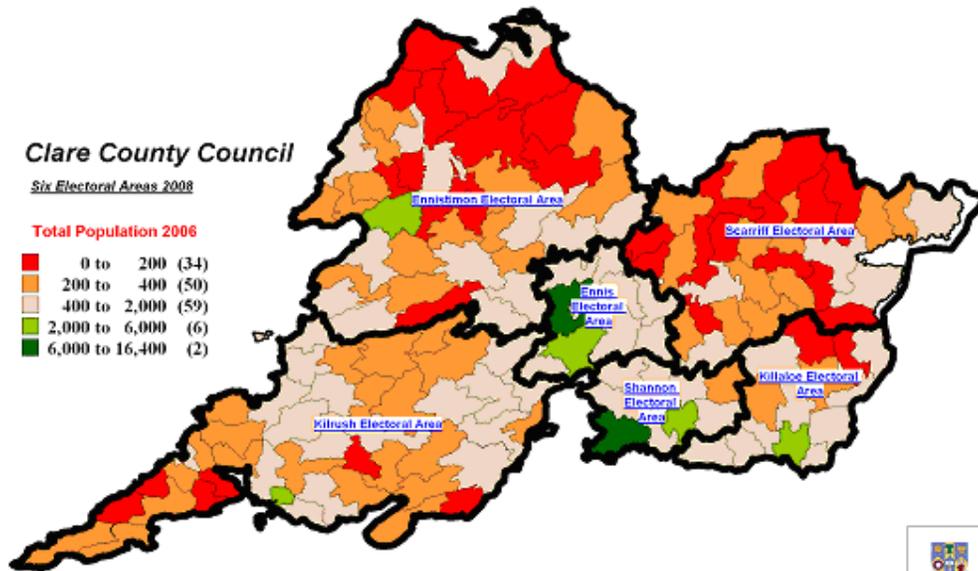
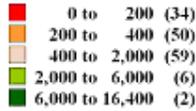
<u>Urban and Rural District</u>	2006 Population			Actual Change			Percentage Change		
	Males	Females	Total	1991-1996	1996-2002	2002-2006	1991-1996	1996-2002	2002-2006
Clare County	56048	54902	110950	3088	9271	7673	3.4	9.9	7.4
Ennis UD	9877	10265	20142	1603	3497	1312	11.7	22.8	7.0
Kilrush UD	1352	1305	2657	-146	105	-42	-5.3	4.0	-1.6
Ballyvaughan RD	1267	1423	2690	159	-27	68	6.4	-1.0	2.6
Corofin RD	1712	1597	3309	73	4	207	2.4	0.1	6.7
Ennis RD	14519	14103	28622	653	2482	2579	2.9	10.5	9.9
Ennistimon RD	4968	4824	9792	128	633	310	1.5	7.2	3.3
Kildysert RD	2343	2159	4502	-79	-143	309	-1.8	-3.3	7.4
Kilrush RD	5674	5065	10739	-225	-337	395	-2.1	-3.2	3.8
Meelick RD	7545	7524	15069	698	1955	1521	6.4	16.9	11.2
Scarriff RD	3415	3332	6747	79	569	147	1.3	9.4	2.2
Tulla RD	3376	3305	6681	145	533	867	2.8	10.1	14.9

Table 1.1 Actual and Percentage Change in Population at County, UD and RD Level

Clare County Council

Six Electoral Areas 2008

Total Population 2006

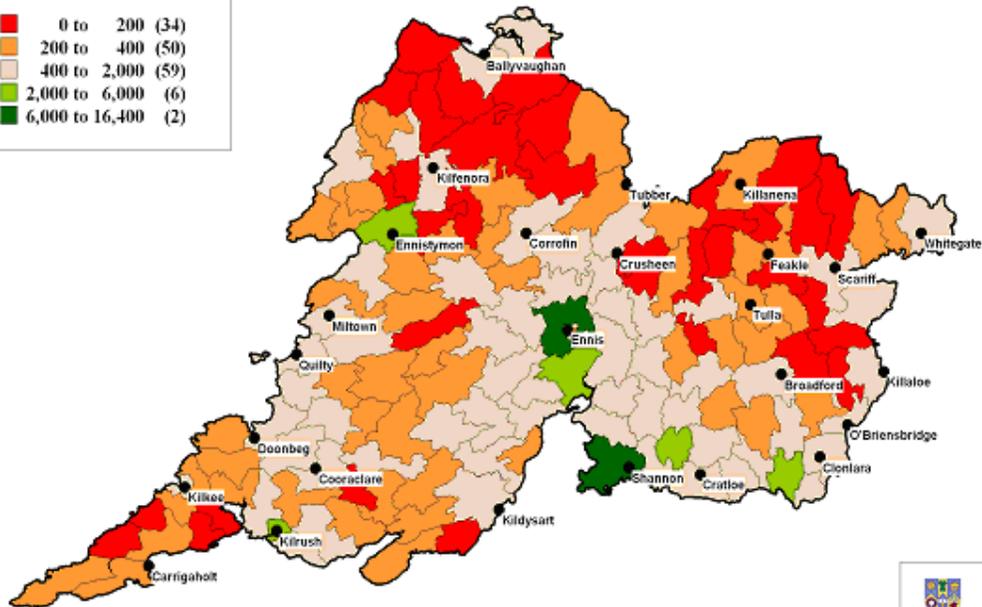
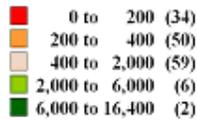


*Includes OSI data reproduced under OSI Licence no. 2003/07/CCMA/Clare County Council. Unauthorised reproduction infringes OSI & Government of Ireland copyright.



Population of District Electoral Divisions highlighting Electoral Areas

Total Population 2006



*Includes OSI data reproduced under OSI Licence no. 2003/07/CCMA/Clare County Council. Unauthorised reproduction infringes OSI & Government of Ireland copyright.



Population of District Electoral Divisions highlighting Key Towns

The population of County Clare has increased consistently from 1991 to 2006, with a 3.4% (3088 persons) increase in the 1991-1996 period, a 9.9% (9271 persons) increase in the 1996-2002 period and a 7.4% (7673 persons) increase in the 2002 to 2006 period. This gives a total population of 110,950 persons.

County Clare can be disaggregated into Urban and Rural Districts (11). There are two Urban Districts, namely Ennis and Kilrush, and nine Rural Districts, namely Ballyvaughan, Ennistymon, Corofin, Kildysart, Kilrush, Ennis, Meelick, Scarriff and Tulla.

Focusing on the 2002-2006 period at Urban and Rural District levels, the most noticeable population changes occur in the Meelick and Tulla Rural Areas, which display population increases of 11.2% and 14.9% respectively. However, Kilrush Urban District displayed a population decrease of -1.6%, while the Scarriff and Ballyvaughan Rural Districts displayed increases of only 2.2% and 2.6% respectively, which are well below the county average.

According to the Western Development Commission (WDC) report examining key demographic and socio-economic trends (2007), the Western Region in general is predominantly rural, with two thirds of the population (68.3%) living outside of towns with a population of 1,500 or more. In County Clare approximately 35.5% of the population live in centres of 1,500+ with the remaining 64.5% living outside centres of 1,500+ population.

Of the six major towns in County Clare, only Kilrush displayed a decrease in population of -0.2%, with Ennis showing an increase of 10% and the population of Shannon increasing by 7.7% on the previous Census year. Sixmilebridge shows the most significant increase in population at 25%.

Location	Total Population 2002	Males 2006	Females 2006	Total Population 2006	Percentage change in total population 2002-2006
State	3917203	2121171	2118677	4239848	8.2
Mid-West	339591	182296	178732	361028	6.3
Clare	103277	56048	54902	110950	7.4
Ennis	22051	11918	12335	24253	10
Shannon	8561	4680	4542	9222	7.7
Kilrush	2699	1352	1305	2694	-0.2
Sixmilebridge	1327	834	825	1659	25
Newmarket-on-Fergus	1496	791	751	1542	3.1

Table 1.2 Population and percentage change of Key Towns in County Clare

The components of population increase in County Clare are identified by distinguishing between growth attributed to natural increases and growth attributed to migration.

In the four-year period from 2002 to 2006, County Clare's birth rate of 10.5 exceeded the national average of 10.0 per 1000 population, while Clare's death rate (5.0) also marginally exceeded the national average of 4.7 per 1000 population. The figures above also show that in Clare, net migration outweighed natural increase as a contributor to population growth.

	County Clare	State
Population change 2002-2006	7,673	322,645
Natural Increase (births minus deaths)	3,504	31,314
Total Estimated Net Migration (1)	1,469	191,331
Average annual birth rates per 1000 population	10.5	10.0
Annual average death rates per 1000 population	5.0	4.7
Average annual estimated net migration rates per 1000 of average population	6.5	7.8

Table 1.3 Contributing factors to population change

(1) Net migration refers to the difference between in migration and out-migration. It includes migration to and from other counties within Ireland as well as abroad.

2.0 Age Profile of County Clare

The population has been broken down by age group to reflect different life-stages, namely primary school age, secondary school age, college age, younger family age, older family age and retirement age. Almost one in every five persons (19.2%) in County Clare is under twelve years of age. This percentage increases for Sixmilebridge (21.5%) but decreases in Kilrush (16%) and Newmarket-on-Fergus (15.8%). With the exception of Kilrush (6.4%), all the major towns have a higher percentage of persons of college-going age (19-24) than the county as a whole (7.4%).

In County Clare, 31.6% of the population are aged between 25 and 45 years old. This figure decreases to 25.4% in Kilrush and peaks in Sixmilebridge at 40.2%. Persons of retirement age (65 years and over) make up 11.5% of the population in Co. Clare. This rises to 18.8% in Kilrush but falls to 5.9% in Sixmilebridge.

Location	0-12 Years	13-18 Years	19-24 Years	25-45 Years	46-64 Years	65+ Years	Total
Clare	20,758	9,002	8,040	34,267	23,810	12,454	108331
%	19.2	8.3	7.4	31.6	22.0	11.5	100
Ennis	4,534	1,648	2,045	8,807	4,291	2,408	23733
%	19.1	6.9	8.6	37.1	18.1	10.1	100
Shannon	1,685	710	978	3,217	1,821	663	9074
%	18.6	7.8	10.8	35.5	20.1	7.3	100
Kilrush	420	217	169	668	662	493	2629
%	16.0	8.3	6.4	25.4	25.2	18.8	100
Sixmilebridge	352	125	122	660	285	97	1641
%	21.5	7.6	7.4	40.2	17.4	5.9	100
Newmarket-on-Fergus	242	126	158	454	384	169	1533
%	15.8	8.2	10.3	29.6	25.0	11.0	100

Table 1.4 Population breakdown by Age in Clare and key towns

Note: Totals relate to usually resident population.

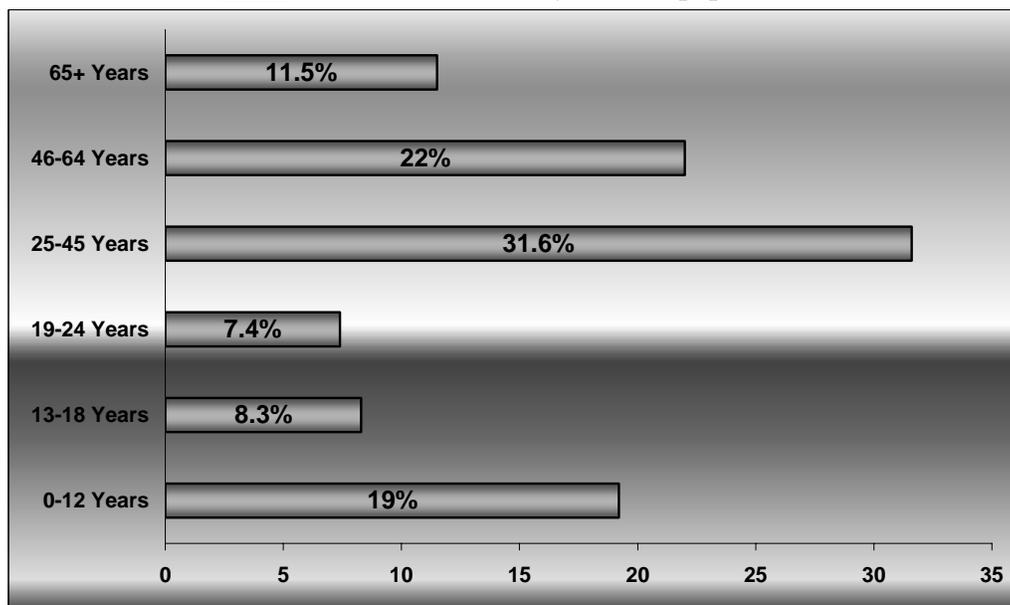
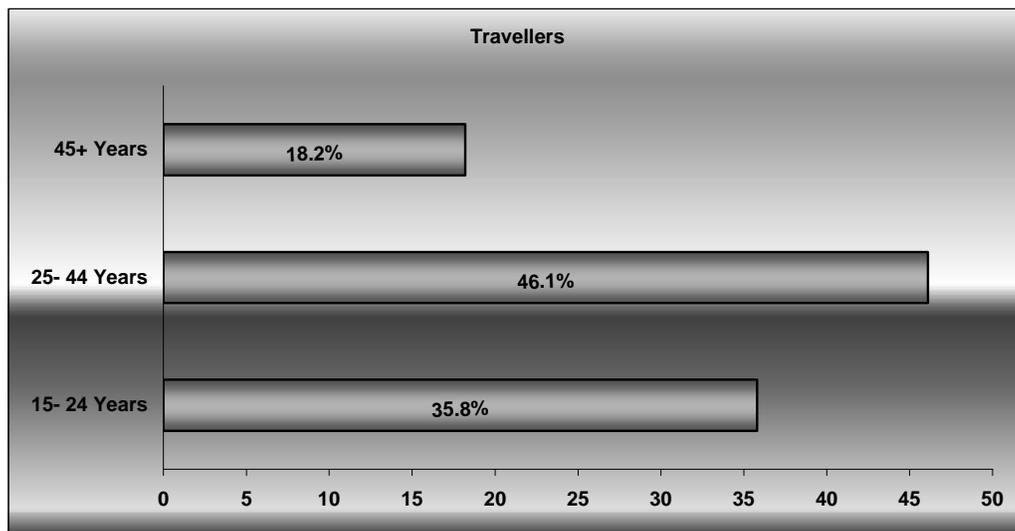
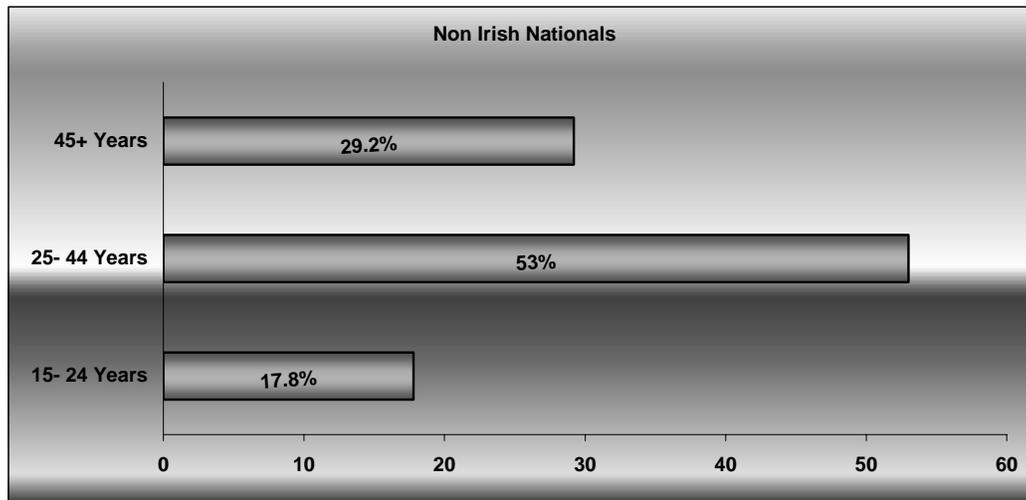


Figure 1.2 Population breakdown by Age in County Clare

In Ireland, children under 16 years cannot generally be employed in regular full-time jobs, however, between 15 and 16 years they can do light work up to eight hours a week during school term time. This means that socioeconomic status is only given for those aged 15 years and over, i.e. working age.

In County Clare, 16.5% of the working age population are between 15 and 24 years, however, this figure rises to 17.8% for Non-Irish Nationals and 35.8% for Travellers, but falls to 6% for Lone Parents.

In contrast, 44.9% are aged 45 years and over in County Clare, however, this rises to 34.9% for Lone Parents, and falls to 29.2% for Non-Irish Nationals and 18.2% for Travellers.



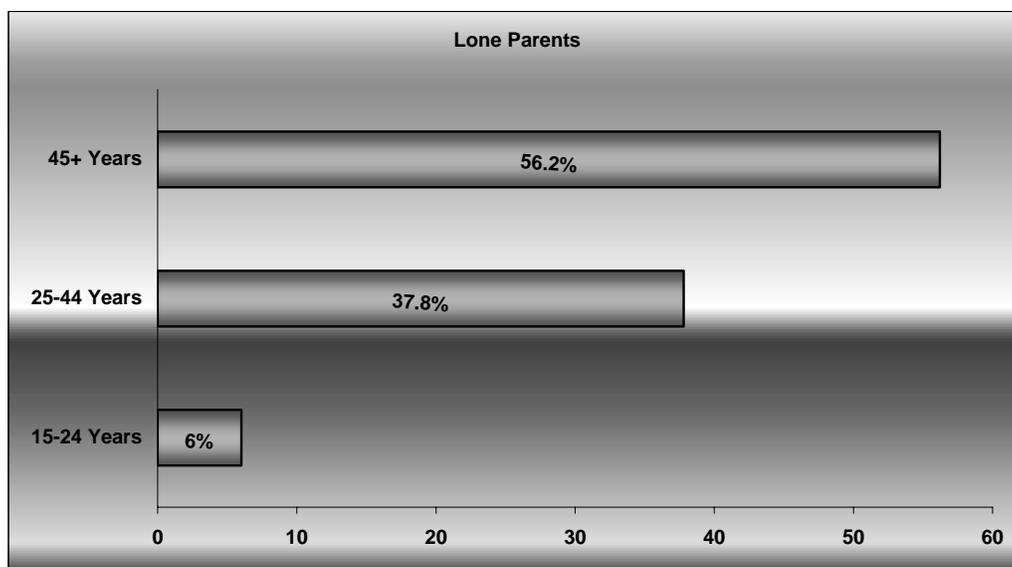


Figure 1.3 Population break down by age in different social groups in County Clare.

3.0 Socio-economic Status (SES)

Socio-economic status (SES) is a term that generally describes the position of the individual group in a population or society, reflecting the overall hierarchy. The most frequently used indicators of SES are employment and occupational categories.

Census 2006 provides data on the SES of the population classifying individuals according to whether they are working, unemployed/ job seekers, looking for first regular job, students, working in the home, unable to work due to sickness or other disability or retired. To compare these across different regions, they can be calculated as a percentage of the total population aged 15 years and over.

County Clare's rate of employment (58.2%) compares favourably with the Mid-West region's rate of employment (55.9%), as do the five largest Clare towns with the exception of Kilrush (45.3%). Sixmilebridge is the most notable in this regard with an almost 10% higher employment rate than the Mid-West (65.3%).

While the rate of unemployment for County Clare (4%) is comparable with the Mid-West region (4.2%), all of the five main towns have higher rates of unemployment with Ennis (5.5%) and Kilrush (5.9%) being most notable. It must be stressed however, that these figures are based on Census 2006 data and given the recent economic downturn it is reasonable to assume that these figures have altered. For the most recent live register figures for Clare see section 12.0.

The percentage of retired persons in 2006 is interesting when compared across the different regions. Almost one in every five (19.2%) persons in Kilrush is retired, compared with almost one in every seventeen (5.7%) in Sixmilebridge and one in every twelve (8.2%) in Shannon. The figures for County Clare (12.1%), Ennis (10.9%) and Newmarket-on-Fergus (11.9%) fall roughly in line with the Mid-West region (11.6%).

The role of looking after the home or family is still dominated by females with more than one in five females falling into this category in the Mid-West region (22.4%) and County Clare (22.5%). The figure for Ennis is the lowest at 18.1%, while the figure for Kilrush is by far the highest with more than one in every four (26%) females in this role.

Looking at the proportion of the population unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability, County Clare (3.7%), Ennis (4.3%), Newmarket-on-Fergus (4.4%) and Shannon (4%) all compare favourably with the Mid-West region at 4.5%, however, almost one in every 12 (8.4%) persons fall into this category in Kilrush.

Town	Mid West			Clare			Ennis			Kilrush			Newmarket-on-Fergus			Shannon			Sixmilebridge		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Sex																					
At work	94026	66461	160487	29688	20919	50607	6319	5178	11497	586	395	981	442	298	740	2673	1919	4592	468	360	828
%	65.0	46.7	55.9	67.6	48.6	58.2	67.8	52.7	60.1	52.9	37.3	45.3	67.7	48.5	58.4	71.5	53.6	62.7	75.0	55.9	65.3
Looking for first regular job	1352	1062	2414	374	324	698	140	131	271	14	12	26	4	0	4	29	32	61	5	3	8
%	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.6
Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	7273	4900	12173	2025	1445	3470	606	441	1047	91	37	128	35	22	57	213	156	369	31	23	54
%	5.0	3.4	4.2	4.6	3.4	4.0	6.5	4.5	5.5	8.2	3.5	5.9	5.4	3.6	4.5	5.7	4.4	5.0	5.0	3.6	4.3
Student	14700	16577	31277	3764	4123	7887	652	810	1462	70	77	147	62	67	129	328	327	655	46	66	112
%	10.2	11.6	10.9	8.6	9.6	9.1	7.0	8.2	7.6	6.3	7.3	6.8	9.5	10.9	10.2	8.8	9.1	8.9	7.4	10.2	8.8
Looking after home/family	1445	31951	33396	529	9673	10202	85	1773	1858	5	275	280	4	122	126	27	699	726	7	126	133
%	1.0	22.4	11.6	1.2	22.5	11.7	0.9	18.1	9.7	0.5	26.0	12.9	0.6	19.9	9.9	0.7	19.5	9.9	1.1	19.6	10.5
Retired	18540	14653	33193	5823	4699	10522	1083	994	2077	229	188	417	81	70	151	339	262	601	36	36	72
%	12.8	10.3	11.6	13.3	10.9	12.1	11.6	10.1	10.9	20.7	17.8	19.2	12.4	11.4	11.9	9.1	7.3	8.2	5.8	5.6	5.7
Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	6567	6269	12836	1591	1666	3257	385	443	828	110	73	183	25	31	56	119	173	292	30	30	60
%	4.5	4.4	4.5	3.6	3.9	3.7	4.1	4.5	4.3	9.9	6.9	8.4	3.8	5.0	4.4	3.2	4.8	4.0	4.8	4.7	4.7
Other	676	558	1234	134	200	334	44	51	95	3	2	5	0	4	4	9	14	23	1	0	1
%	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1
Total aged 15 years and over	144579	142431	287010	43928	43049	86977	9314	9821	19135	1108	1059	2167	653	614	1267	3737	3582	7319	624	644	1268
%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 1.5 Persons aged 15 years and over by principal economic status and sex, 2006

Industry	Total	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Mining, quarrying and turf production.	Manufacturing industry	Electricity gas and water supply	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade	Hotels and restaurants	Transport, storage and communications	Banking and financial services	Real estate, renting and business activities	Public administration and defence	Education.	Health and social work	Other community, social and personal service activities	Industry not stated
State	1930042 (100)	89277 (4.6)	7751 (0.4)	243182 (12.6)	11290 (0.6)	21518 4 (11.1)	25730 9 (13.3)	10073 1 (5.2)	10570 5 (5.5)	85413 (4.4)	18097 3 (9.4)	10126 4 (5.2)	12747 6 (6.6)	19121 9 (9.9)	80358 (4.2)	13291 0 (6.9)
Mid-West	160487 (100)	10196 (6.4)	853 (0.5)	27324 (17.0)	1226 (0.8)	17728 (11.0)	20358 (12.7)	8447 (5.3)	9409 (5.9)	4095 (2.6)	11783 (7.3)	7592 (4.7)	11525 (7.2)	14773 (9.2)	5813 (3.6)	9365 (5.8)
Clare	50607 (100)	3213 (6.3)	261 (0.5)	7364 (14.6)	636 (1.3)	6071 (12.0)	5636 (11.1)	3102 (6.1)	3408 (6.7)	1406 (2.8)	3747 (7.4)	2539 (5.0)	3465 (6.8)	4128 (8.2)	1877 (3.7)	3754 (7.4)
Ennis	11497 (100)	94 (0.8)	60 (0.5)	1657 (14.4)	102 (0.9)	1355 (11.8)	1492 (13.0)	869 (7.6)	712 (6.2)	386 (3.4)	963 (8.4)	746 (6.5)	811 (7.1)	1019 (8.9)	482 (4.2)	749 (6.5)
Shannon	4592 (100)	31 (0.7)	7 (0.2)	1330 (29.0)	8 (0.2)	267 (5.8)	419 (9.1)	300 (6.5)	585 (12.7)	197 (4.3)	542 (11.8)	115 (2.5)	158 (3.4)	133 (2.9)	127 (2.8)	373 (8.1)
Kilrush	999 (100)	13 (1.3)	1 (0.1)	85 (8.5)	83 (8.3)	147 (14.7)	170 (17.0)	63 (6.3)	33 (3.3)	18 (1.8)	54 (5.4)	29 (2.9)	72 (7.2)	104 (10.4)	31 (3.1)	96 (9.6)
Sixmilebridge	828 (100)	11 (1.3)	2 (0.2)	178 (21.5)	3 (0.4)	88 (10.6)	90 (10.9)	59 (7.1)	98 (11.8)	28 (3.4)	85 (10.3)	30 (3.6)	33 (4.0)	42 (5.1)	21 (2.5)	60 (7.2)
Newmarket-on-Fergus	740 (100)	10 (1.4)	4 (0.5)	139 (18.8)	1 (0.1)	71 (9.6)	62 (8.4)	90 (12.2)	94 (12.7)	19 (2.6)	50 (6.8)	23 (3.1)	36 (4.9)	49 (6.6)	31 (4.2)	61 (8.2)

Table 1.6 Persons, males and females aged 15 years and over at work, classified by broad industrial group

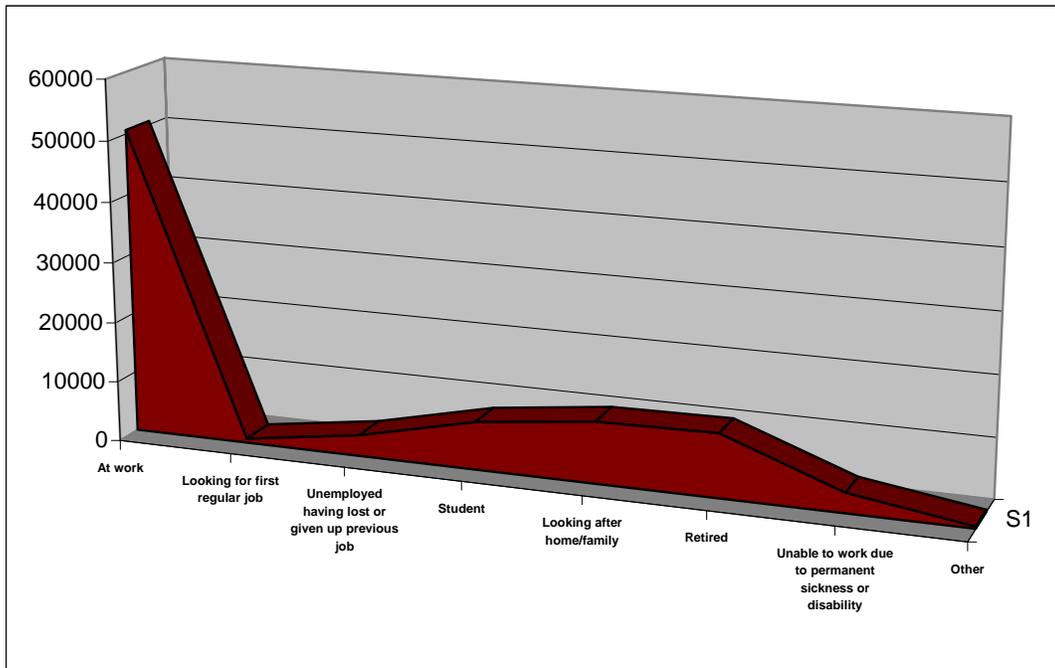


Figure 1.4 Persons aged 15 years and over in Clare by principal economic status and sex

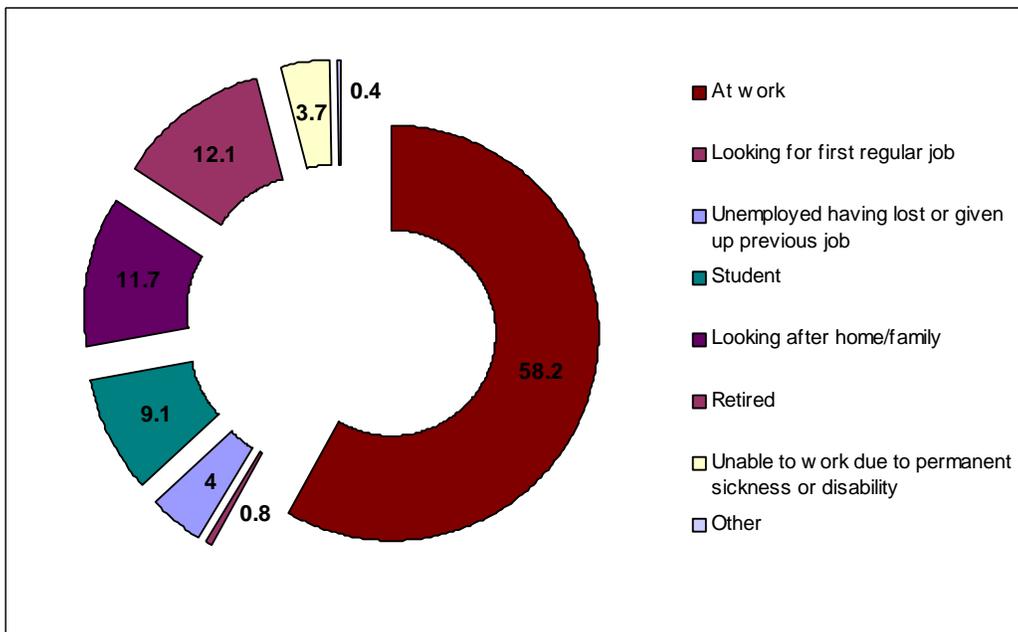


Figure 1.5 Principal socio-economic status of those 15 years and over in Clare by percentage

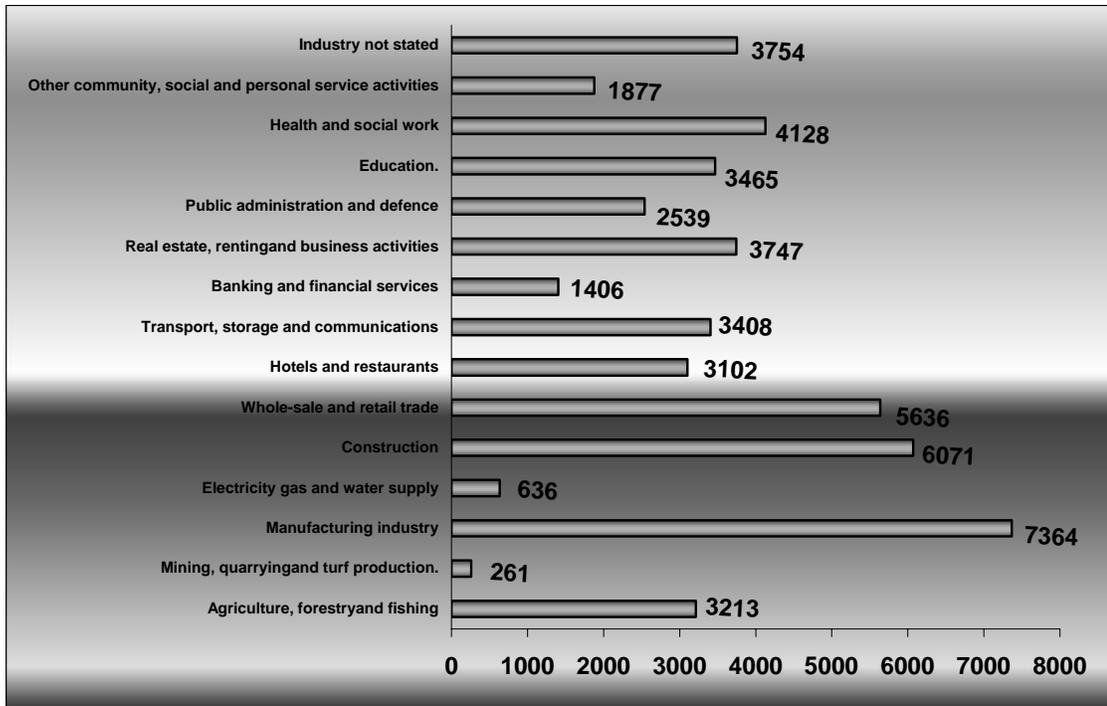


Figure 1.6 Persons aged 15 years and over by broad industrial group

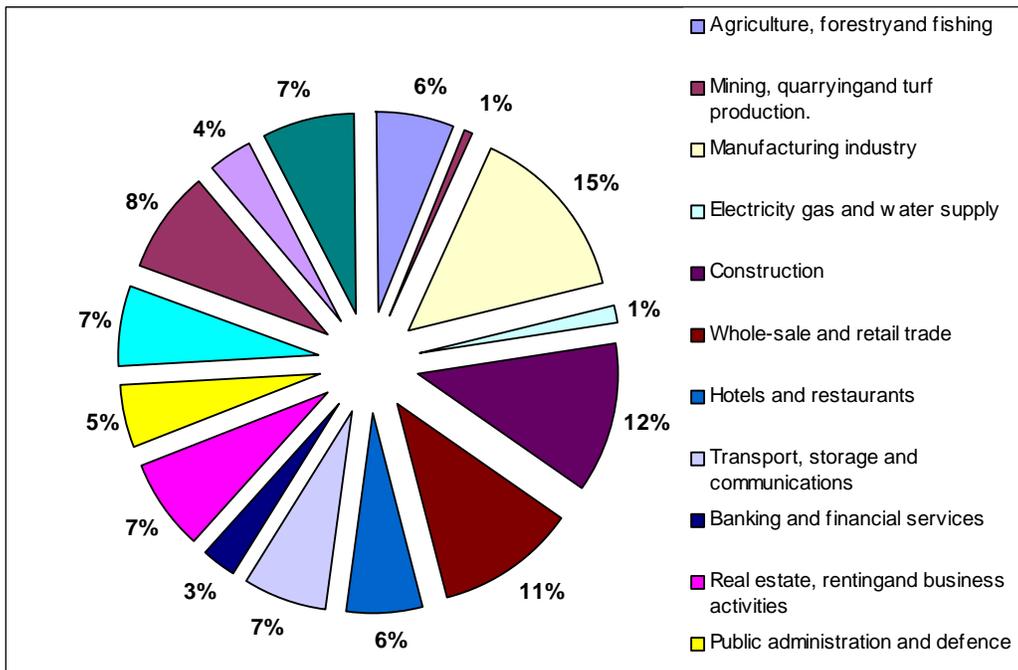


Figure 1.7 Persons aged 15 years and over by broad industrial group as percentage

4.0 Education

	Total	Total whose full-time education has ceased	Primary (incl. no formal education)	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Third level : non-degree	Third level : Degree or Higher	Not stated	Total whose full-time education not ceased	Total at school, university, etc	Other
Clare	86977	74967	12402	14598	23001	8330	12272	4364	12010	7887	4123
Ennis	19135	16334	2177	2763	5179	1954	3390	871	2801	1462	1339
Shannon	7319	6162	805	1314	2314	644	791	294	1157	655	502
Kilrush	2192	1934	460	362	538	131	194	249	258	148	110
Sixmilebridge	1268	1091	179	253	334	137	154	34	177	112	65
Newmarket-on-Fergus	1267	1093	210	292	321	97	107	66	174	129	45

Table 1.7 Persons aged 15 years and over in Clare and major towns classified by highest level of education completed, 2006

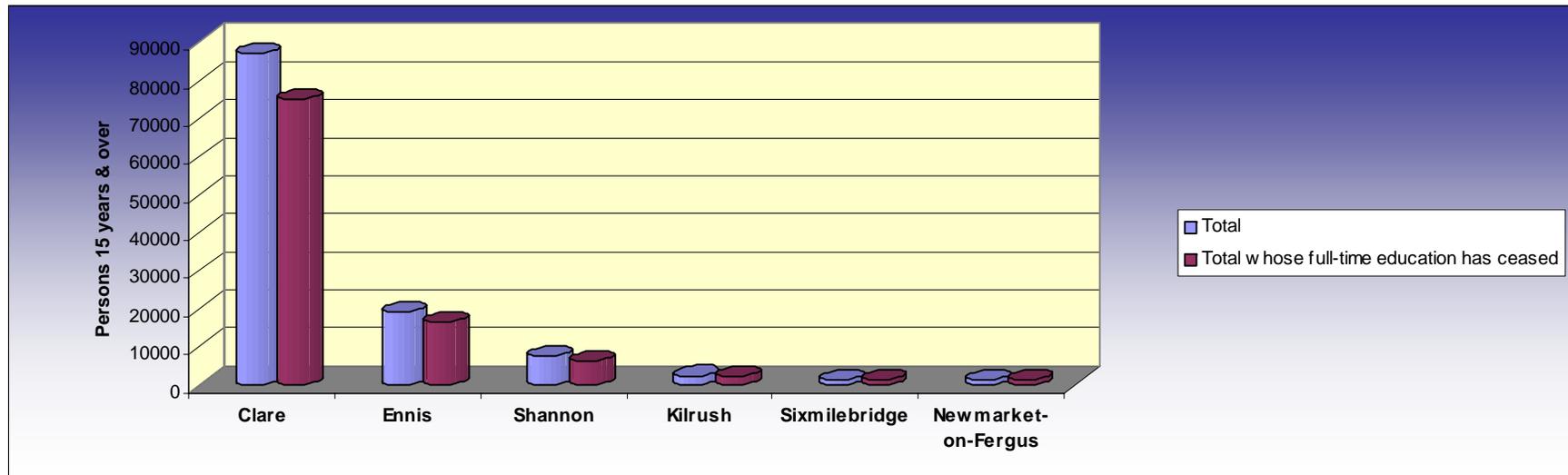


Figure 1.8 Persons aged 15 years and over in Clare and major towns whose education has ceased

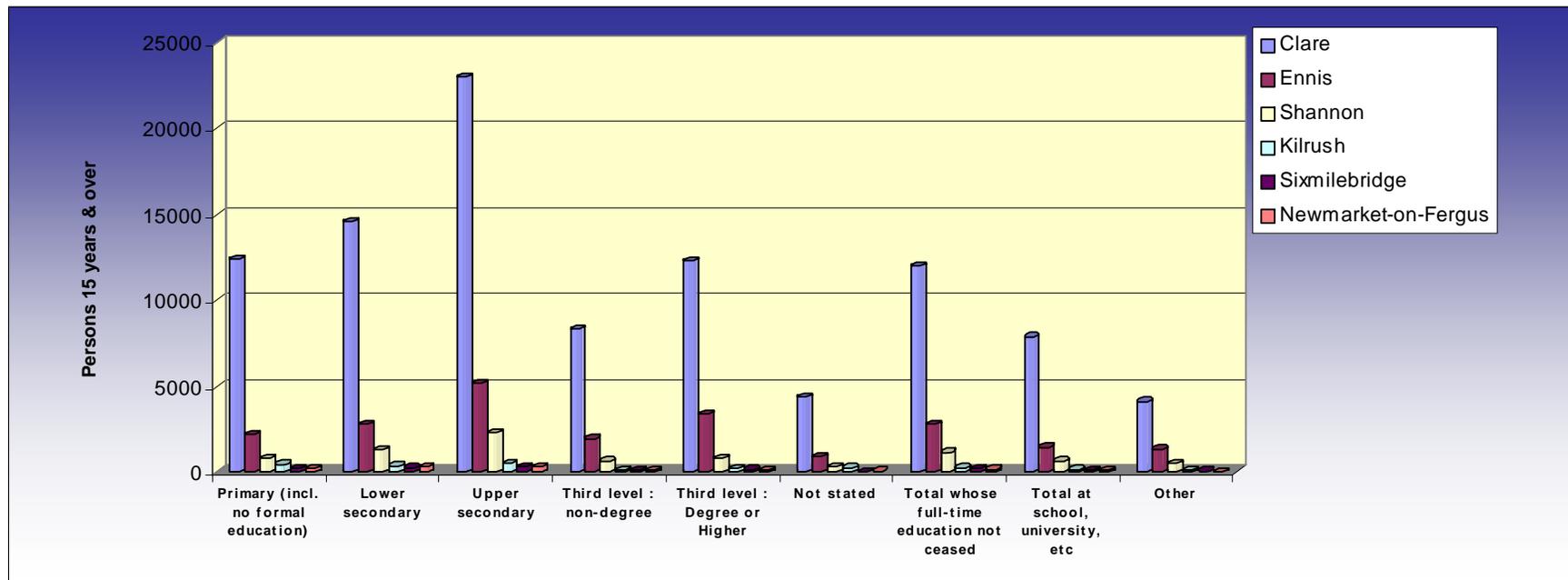


Figure 1.9 Persons aged 15 years and over in Clare and major towns classified by highest level of education completed

Of those persons in County Clare aged 15 years and over, just 14% had been educated to primary level only, 43% had been educated to second level (including both lower and upper levels), 9.5% had been educated to third level (non-degree) with 14% being educated to third level or higher. The remainder was either still in education or did not state. For the larger towns, Ennis showed that 11% are educated to primary level only, with 41.5% educated to second level, 10% to third level (non-degree) and 17.7% to third level degree or higher. Shannon shows that almost 11% were educated to primary level only while almost 50% of the population over 15 had second level education with 8.7% educated to third level (non-degree) and 10.8% educated to third level degree or higher.

5.0 Nationality and Socio-economic Status

County	Irish	Non-Irish	UK	Other EU	Africa	Asia	Other
Mid-West	90.6	9.4	2.7	3.8	0.6	0.7	1.7
Clare	88.9	11.1	3.5	3.9	0.9	0.6	2.2
Limerick	91.1	8.9	2.0	4.0	0.6	0.9	1.4
Limerick City	88.7	11.3	1.4	6.4	0.8	1.3	1.4
Limerick County	92.1	7.9	2.3	3.0	0.5	0.7	1.5
North Tipperary	91.8	8.2	3.0	3.2	0.3	0.4	1.3

Table 1.8 Nationalities in the Mid-West Region (%)

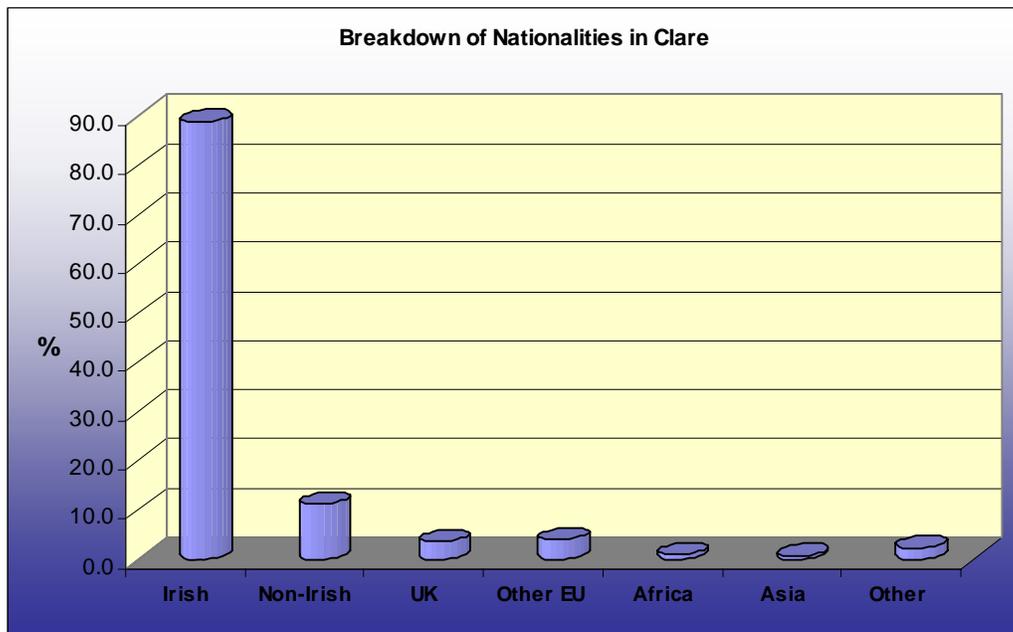


Figure 1.10 Population by Nationality in Clare

The Ireland of today is a diverse and multicultural country. The last decade has seen an increase in the number of people from the EU and other countries choosing to live and work here.

Of those at work in County Clare, 12.9% are non-Irish nationals, which increases to 18.4% in an amalgamation of the major towns. However, of those unemployed or looking for their first regular job in Clare, 22.6% are non-Irish nationals, which increases to 29.5% in an amalgamation of the major towns.

Looking solely at non-Irish nationals of working age however, there are 62% at work, with 9% unemployed or looking for their first regular job. Interestingly, 21.8% are categorised as all other, which means they are either looking after home/family, retired or unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability.

		County Clare	Amalgamated Towns*
At work	Irish	42,777	14,841
	Non Irish National	6,361	3,348
	% of Non Irish National	12.9	18.4
	Total	49,138	18,189
Unemployed*	Irish	3,140	1,394
	Non Irish National	919	584
	% of Non Irish National	22.6	29.5
	Total	4,059	1,978
Student	Irish	6,977	2,144
	Non Irish National	736	312
	% of Non Irish National	9.5	12.7
	Total	7,713	2,456
All Other**	Irish	21,351	7,060
	Non Irish National	2,235	773
	% of Non Irish National	9.5	9.9
	Total	23,586	7,833

Table 1.9 Socioeconomic status of Non Irish Nationals

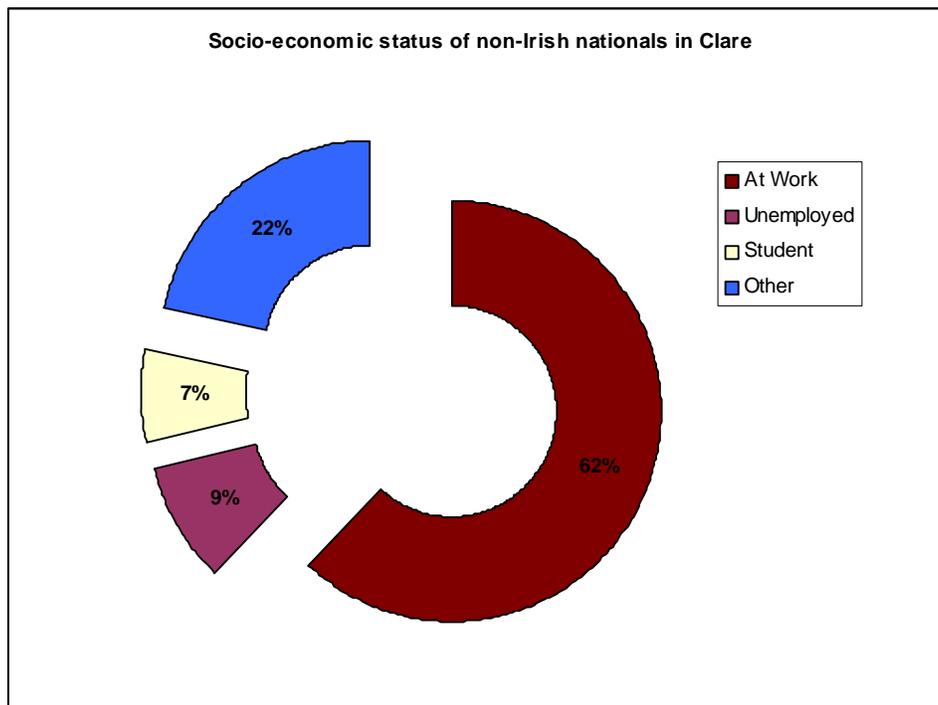


Figure 1.11 Socioeconomic status of Non Irish Nationals

* Amalgamated towns: Ennis, Shannon, Kilrush, Sixmilebridge, Newmarket-on-Fergus

* Unemployed = Looking for first regular job, Unemployed having lost or given up previous job

* All others = Looking after home/family, Retired, Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability

6.0 Lone Parents

There are a total of 4,389 lone parent family units in County Clare, 3,671 headed by a female and 718 headed by a male. Of the total lone parent households in County Clare, 83% were headed by lone mothers while 17% were headed by lone fathers. 11% of all households in County Clare are lone parent households (<http://www.oneparent.ie>). Of lone parents in County Clare, Census 2006 figures reveal that 47.7% are at work, while 6.6% are unemployed. The latter figure rises to 16.4% for those aged between 15 and 24 years. It is interesting to note that 43.6% of lone parents are categorised as 'all other', which means they are either looking after home/family, retired or unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability, and this figure is highest in those aged over 45 years (58.3%).

	At work	Unemployed*	Total in labour force	Student	All Other*	Total not in labour force	Total
15-24 Years	114	43	157	34	71	105	262
%	43.5	16.4	59.9	13	27.1	40.1	100
25-44 Years	1044	166	1210	47	402	449	1659
%	63	9.9	72.9	2.8	24.3	27.1	100
45+ Years	934	82	1016	12	1440	1452	2468
%	37.9	3.3	41.2	0.5	58.3	58.8	100

Table 1.10 Socioeconomic status of lone parents in Co. Clare (Source CSO, 2006)

- Unemployed = Looking for first regular job, Unemployed having lost or given up previous job
- All others = Looking after home/family, Retired, Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability

Note: Totals relate to usually resident population.

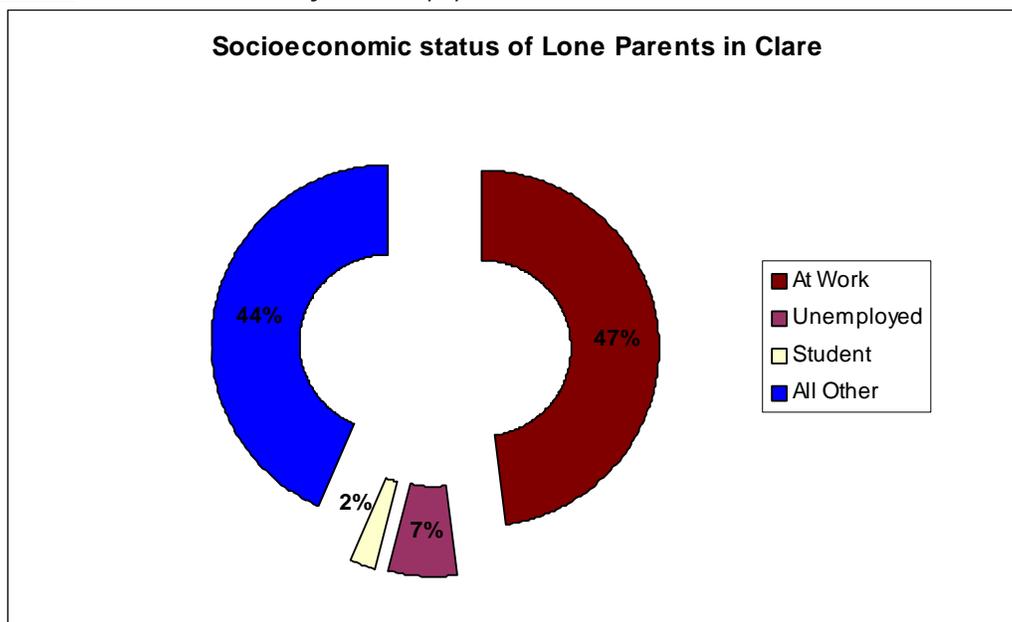


Figure 1.12 Socioeconomic status of lone parents in Co. Clare

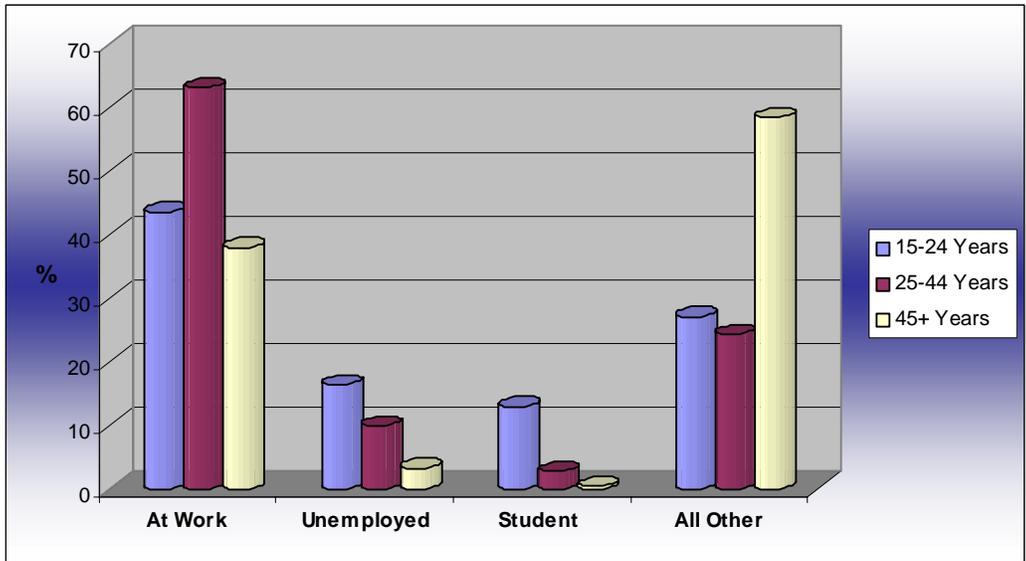


Figure 1.13 Socioeconomic status of lone parents by age in Co. Clare

LP Units	Ennis	Kilrush	N-o-F	Shannon	Sixmilebridge
Female	947	95	88	396	67
Male	140	28	13	58	16

Table 1.11 Lone Parent Family Units in Clare and Major Towns

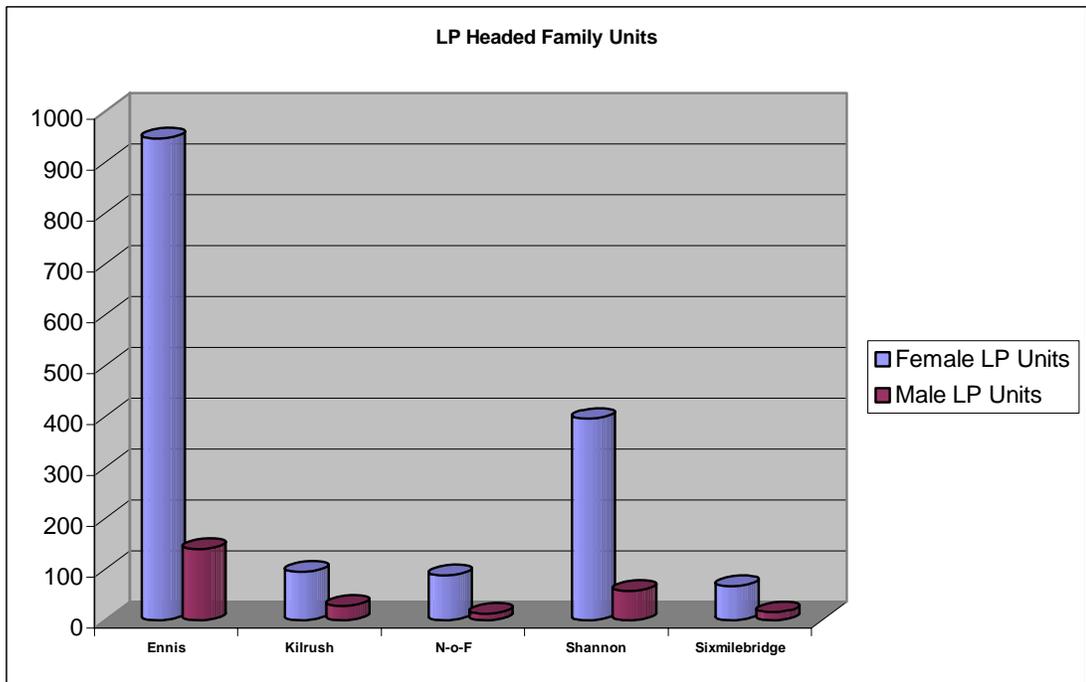


Figure 1.14 LP Headed Family Units in Major Towns in Clare

7.0 Socio-economic Status of those aged 65+

Clare County	Age Group	Male Total	Male Single	Male Married	Male Separated	Male Divorced	Male Widowed	Female Total	Female Single	Female Married	Female Separated
	65-69	2026	379	1404	71	31	141	1958	202	1207	54
	70-74	1559	350	981	39	19	170	1611	189	750	20
	75-79	1140	278	689	9	7	157	1385	173	460	8
	80-84	690	199	355	9	1	126	1082	166	221	4
	85+	479	143	171	2	0	163	991	167	88	1
	Total 65+	5894	1349	3600	130	58	757	7027	897	2726	87
	Total Population	56048	30772	22304	1119	725	1128	54902	26722	21638	1453

Table 1.12 Marital Status of those aged 65 plus in County Clare

Of the total population of County Clare (110,950) 12,921 of them are aged over 65, which is approximately 11.6% of the population. The highest proportion of those aged 65+ are in the 65-69 age group accounting for just 3.5% of the total population. The next highest proportion falls into the 70-74 bracket at 2.8% followed by the 75-79 age bracket at 2.2%. Those persons aged between 80-84 account for just 1.6% of the population while those aged 85+ account for just 1.3%. Of those aged over 65 in County Clare 5.3% are male while 6.3% are female.

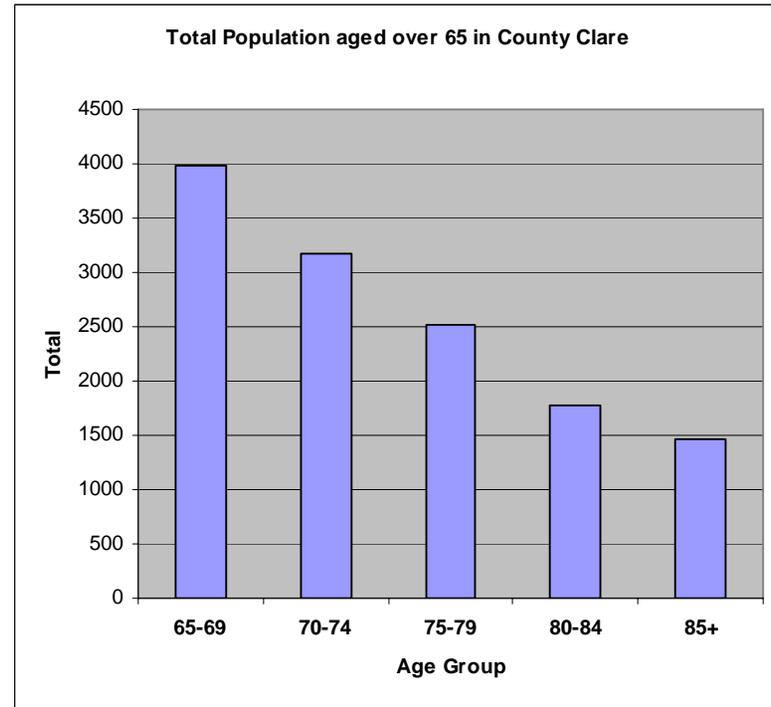
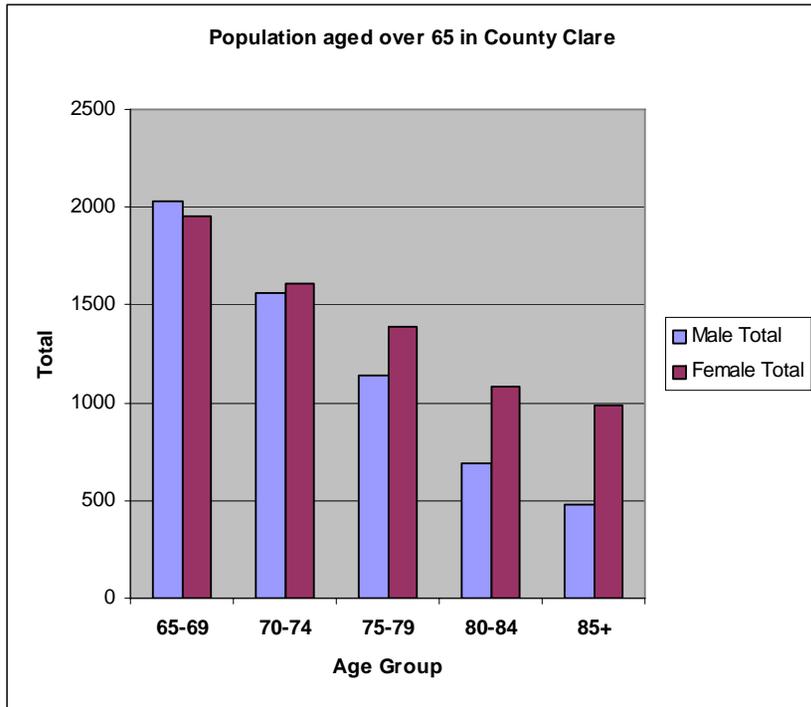


Figure 1.15 Population, males and females, aged 65 years and over in County Clare

8.0 Living Alone in the County

Age Group	25-44	45-64	65 & over	% of cohort	000
	(%)	(%)	(%)	25 & over	Persons
Mid-West	6.8	11.1	26.3	11.8	27.5
Clare	6.8	11.1	26.3	11.8	8.6
Limerick	6.9	11.2	26.3	11.8	13.8
Limerick City	9.0	14.8	28.8	14.7	4.9
Limerick County	6.1	9.9	25.2	10.6	8.8
North Tipperary	6.5	11.0	25.9	11.9	5.1

Table 1.13 Living Alone by Age Group in the Mid-West Region

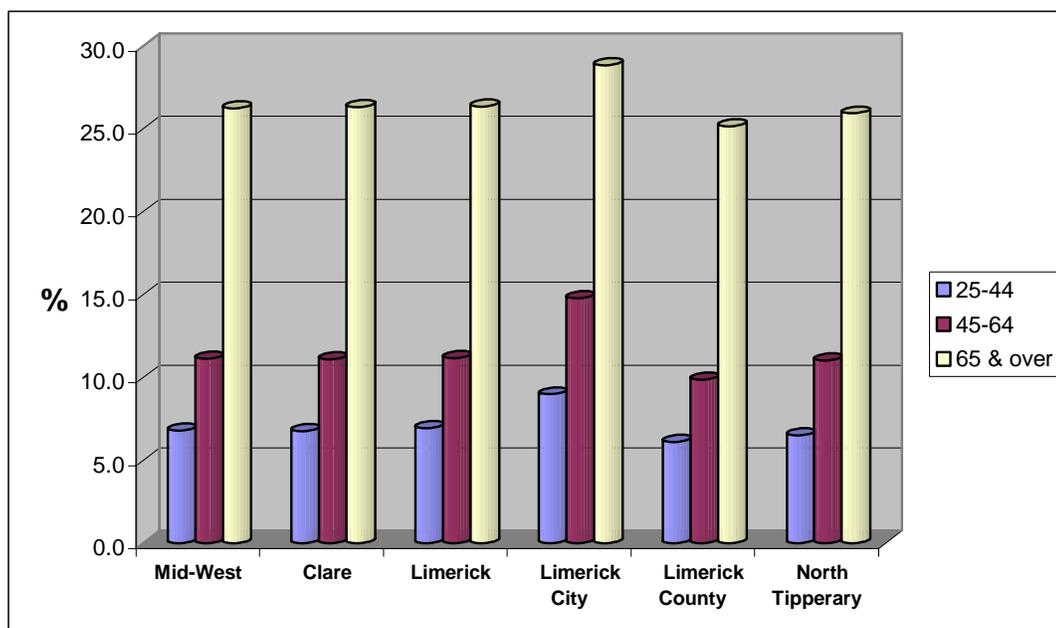


Figure 1.16 Living Alone by Age Group in the Mid-West Region

These data were obtained from the *Regional Quality of Life in Ireland* report published by the CSO in 2008 and indicate that the highest proportion of persons living alone in Clare (26.3%) and the Mid-West region (26.3%) fall into the 65 and over age category. The next highest proportion of those living alone in Clare falls into the 45-64 age category (11.1%) with just 6.8% of those between 25-44 years living on their own. The overall average of persons living alone in Clare is 11.8% which falls just over the national average of 11.6%.

9.0 Carers

	hours			Persons	% of total population Carers
	1-14	15-42	43 or more		
Mid-West	55.7	16	25.3	14400	5.0
Clare	60.0	16.3	23.7	4507	5.2
Limerick City	52.3	16.2	31.5	2074	4.8
Limerick County	60.2	16.0	23.9	5114	4.9
North Tipperary	58.7	15.3	26.0	2705	5.2

Table 1.14 Carers in the Mid-West region by hours worked

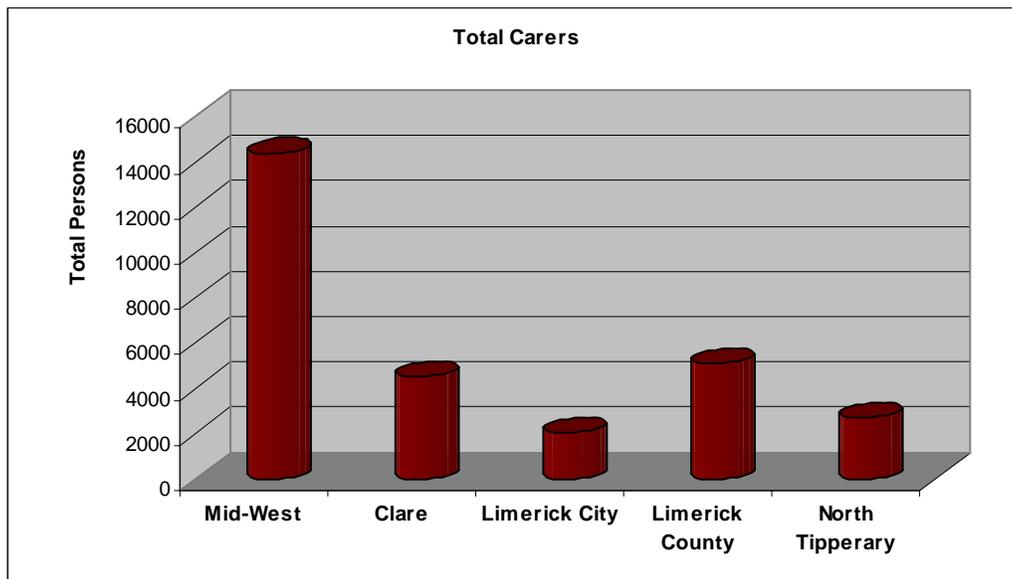


Figure 1.17 Total Number of Carers in the Mid-West region

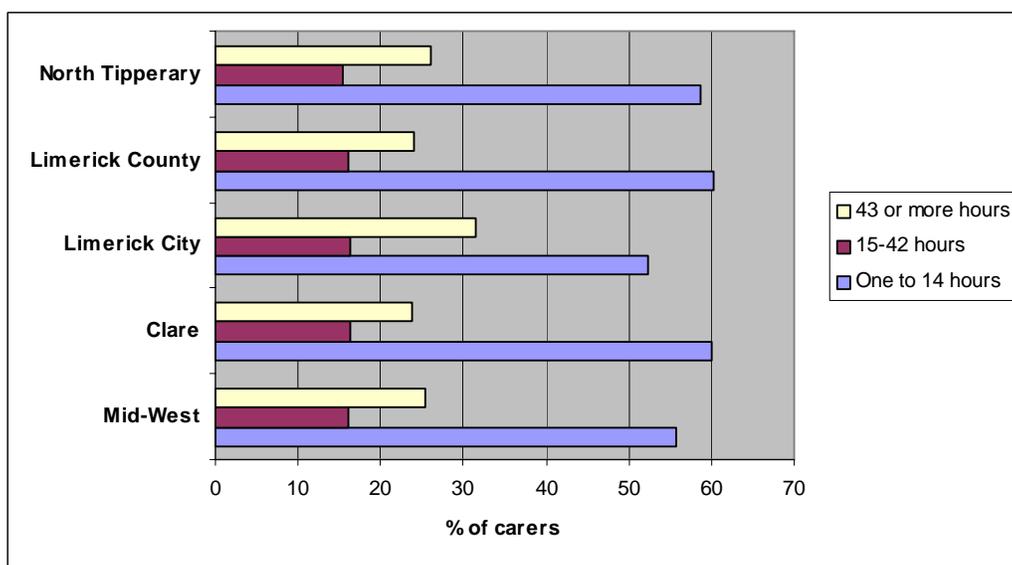


Figure 1.18 Carers in the Mid-West region by hours of unpaid work

In 2006 in Ireland, 4.8% of persons aged 15 and over were categorised as carers. The West region had the highest percentage of carers at 5.2%, while the Dublin (4.4%) and Mid-East (4.4%) regions had the lowest. Across the regions, between 56% and 60% of carers did 1-14 hours of unpaid work per week in 2006. Between 23.5% (Dublin) and 27.3% (Midland) of carers did 43 hours or more of unpaid work per week. The percentage of carers in the Mid-West region stands at 5.0% which is just marginally above the national average. County Clare along with Tipperary North has the highest percentage of carers in the region at 5.2% respectively, with Limerick city standing at 4.8% and Limerick county at 4.9%.

10.0 People with Disabilities

County Clare (8.9%) has a slightly lower percentage of persons with a disability compared with the Mid-West average of 9.5%. With the exception of Kilrush (17.7%), the other major towns in Clare fall approximately around the county or regional average. The percentage of persons under fourteen years with a disability in Clare is 9.4%, which is higher than regional average of 8.7%. This trend is repeated in the major towns with the exception of Ennis (7.5%) and Kilrush (5.7%).

Of the persons with a disability in the Mid-West, 65.1% are over forty-five, with a similar figure for county Clare (65.9%). The percentage for Shannon is lower with 56.8% of those with a disability aged over 45, which increases to 79.2% for Kilrush.

Age Group	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	Total persons with disability	Total Population	Persons with disability as % of total persons
Mid-West (%)	2999 (8.7)	2508 (7.3)	6516 (18.9)	10216 (29.6)	12217 (35.5)	34456 (100)	361028	9.5
Clare (%)	933 (9.4)	665 (6.7)	1784 (18.0)	2827 (28.5)	3714 (37.4)	9923 (100)	110950	8.9
Ennis (%)	173 (7.5)	159 (6.9)	474 (20.5)	620 (26.8)	887 (38.3)	2313 (100)	24253	9.5
Kilrush (%)	27 (5.7)	16 (3.4)	56 (11.8)	131 (27.5)	246 (51.7)	476 (100)	2694	8.7
Newmarket-on-Fergus (%)	16 (11)	9 (6.2)	31 (21.4)	45 (31.0)	44 (30.3)	145 (100)	1542	17.7
Shannon (%)	77 (9.6)	53 (6.6)	215 (26.9)	267 (33.4)	187 (23.4)	799 (100)	9222	8
Sixmilebridge (%)	13 (9.8)	13 (9.8)	25 (18.9)	54 (40.9)	27 (20.5)	132 (100)	1659	9.4

Table 1.15 Persons with a disability by age group and % in the Mid-West, Clare and some major towns

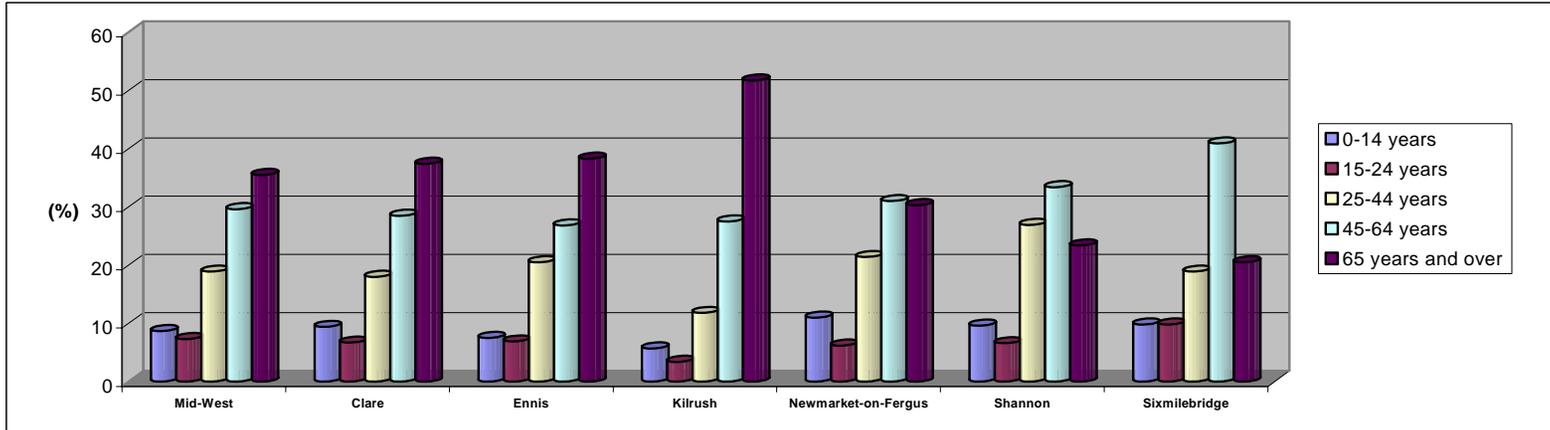


Figure 1.19 Percentage of persons with a disability by age group in the region, Clare & major towns

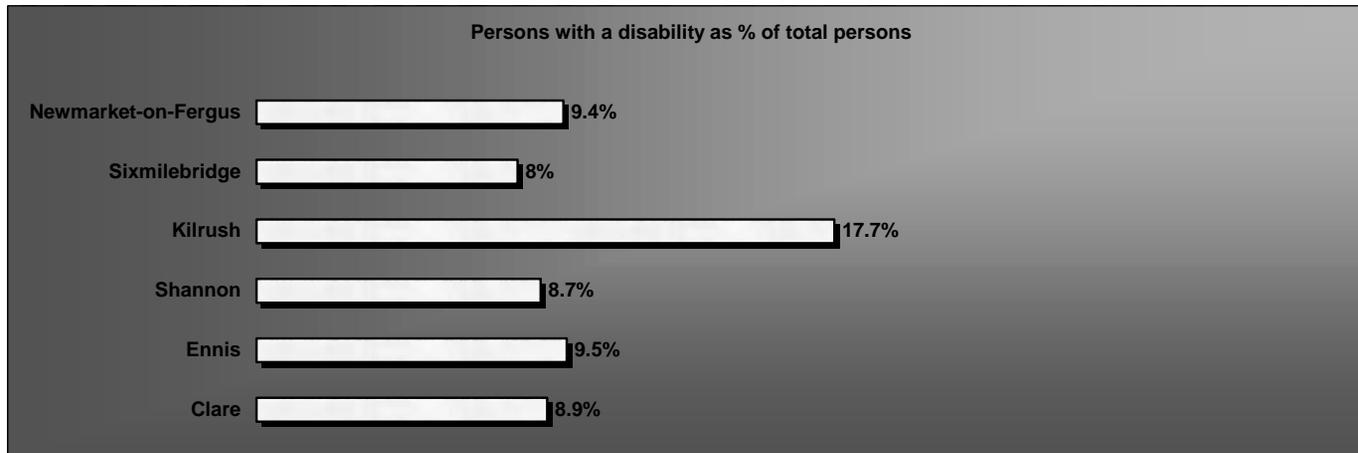


Figure 1.20 Persons with a disability as a % of total persons

	Total persons with a disability	Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment	A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities	Difficulty in learning, remembering or concentrating	Difficulty in dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home	Difficulty in going outside the home alone	Difficulty in working or attending school/college	Learning or intellectual disability	Psychological or emotional condition	Difficulty in participating in other activities	Other, including chronic illness	Total disabilities	Ratio of Disabilities to Persons with a disability
Clare	9923	1846	4562	2973	2350	3121	3641	1752	1566	3552	3531	28894	2.9:1
Ennis	2313	451	1054	753	610	813	961	436	547	933	915	7473	3.2:1
Shannon	799	126	342	192	128	169	243	109	139	236	287	1971	2.5:1
Kilrush	476	73	287	215	192	218	270	72	108	252	186	1873	3.9:1
Sixmilebridge	132	30	58	30	22	34	41	21	14	43	44	337	2.6:1
Newmarket-on-Fergus	145	34	60	34	23	25	41	20	14	37	49	337	2.3:1

Table 1.16 Population Classified by Disability in County Clare and major towns

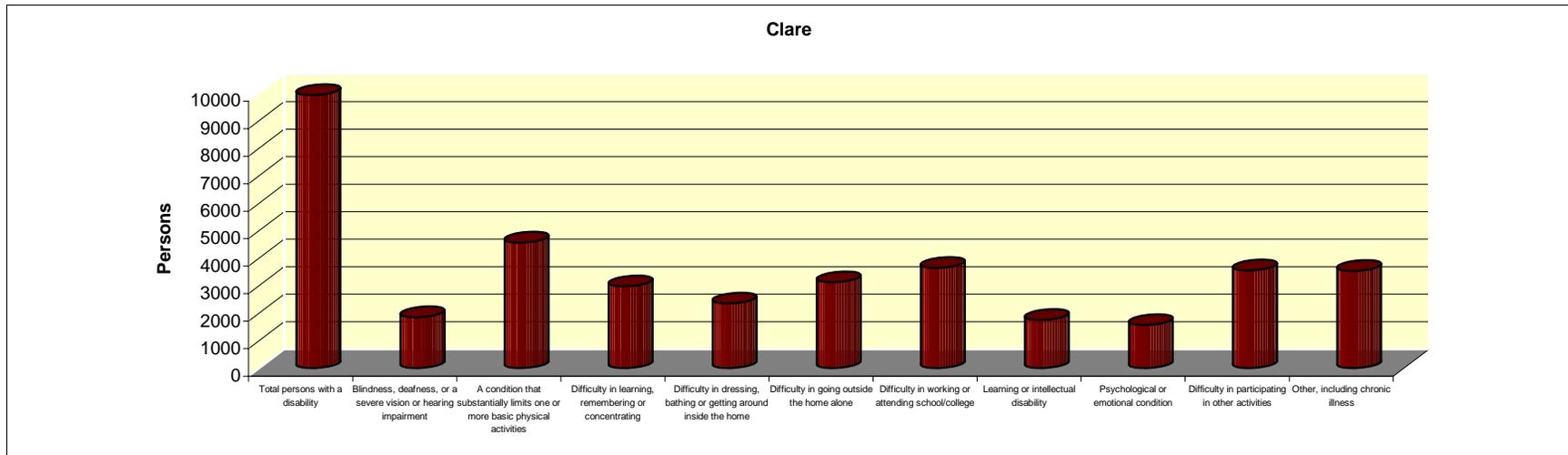


Figure 1.21 Total Persons by Type of Disability in County Clare

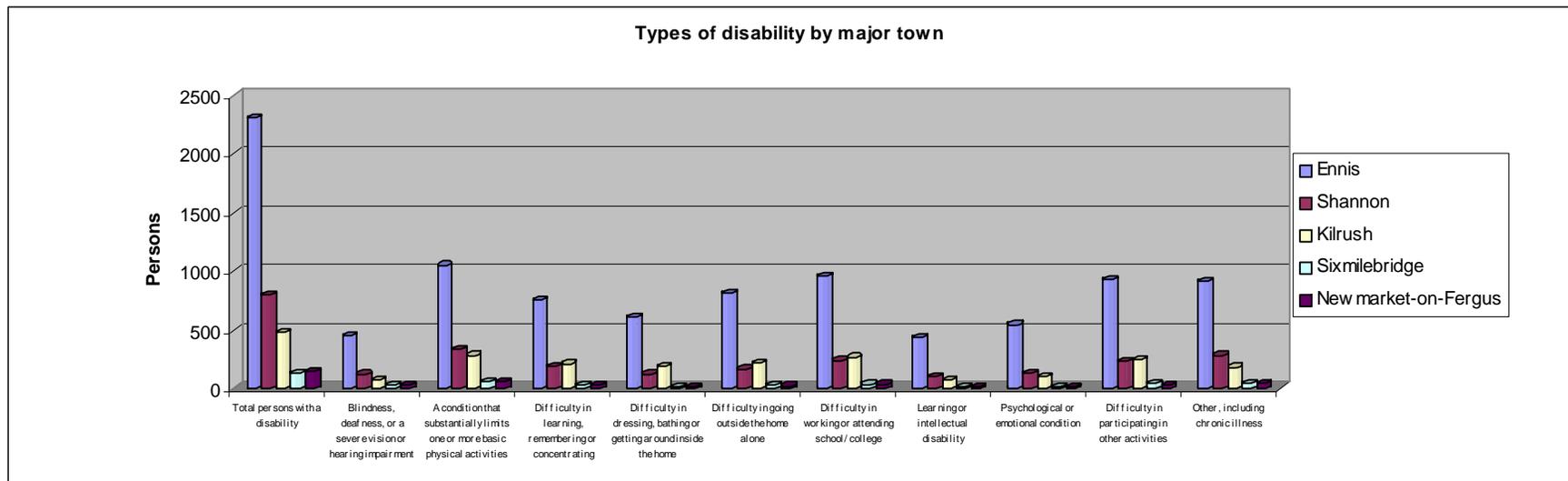


Figure 1.22 Total Persons by Type of Disability in Major Towns in County Clare

The data indicate that the most common type of disability affecting people in County Clare relates to any condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities.

11.0 The Traveller Community

Census 2006 counted a total of 660 travellers in County Clare; 344 males and 316 females making up just 0.6% of the total population of the county. Of those persons usually resident in towns with a population in excess of 5,000 in County Clare, the traveller community makes up just .02% of the population of Ennis and just .2% of the population of Shannon. In County Clare there are 5.9 travellers per 1,000 population. According to the Census data 665 of the total 660 travellers counted reside in Ennis (428) and Shannon (227).

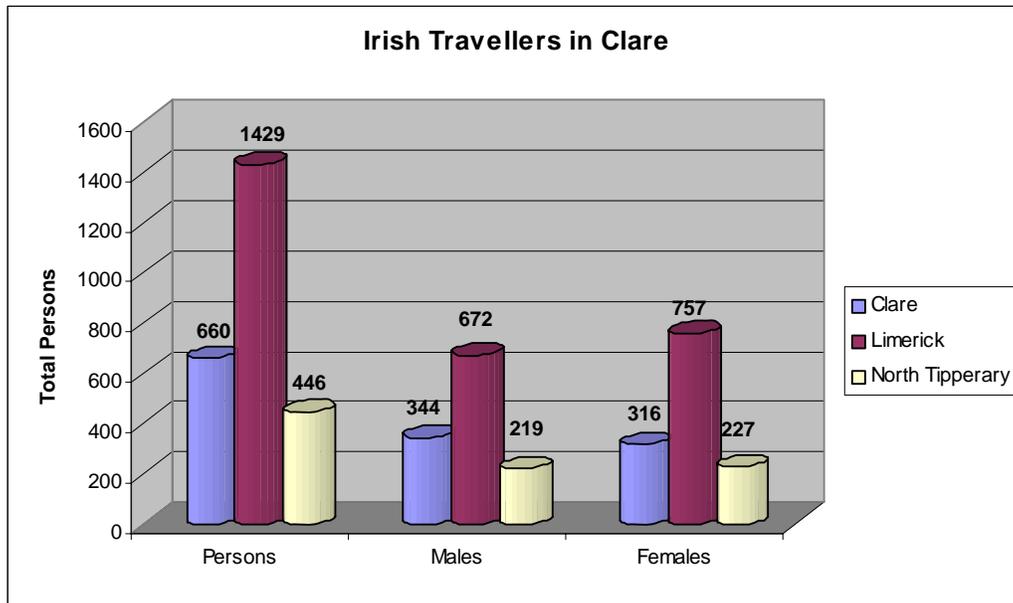


Figure 1.23 Irish Travellers in the Mid-West region

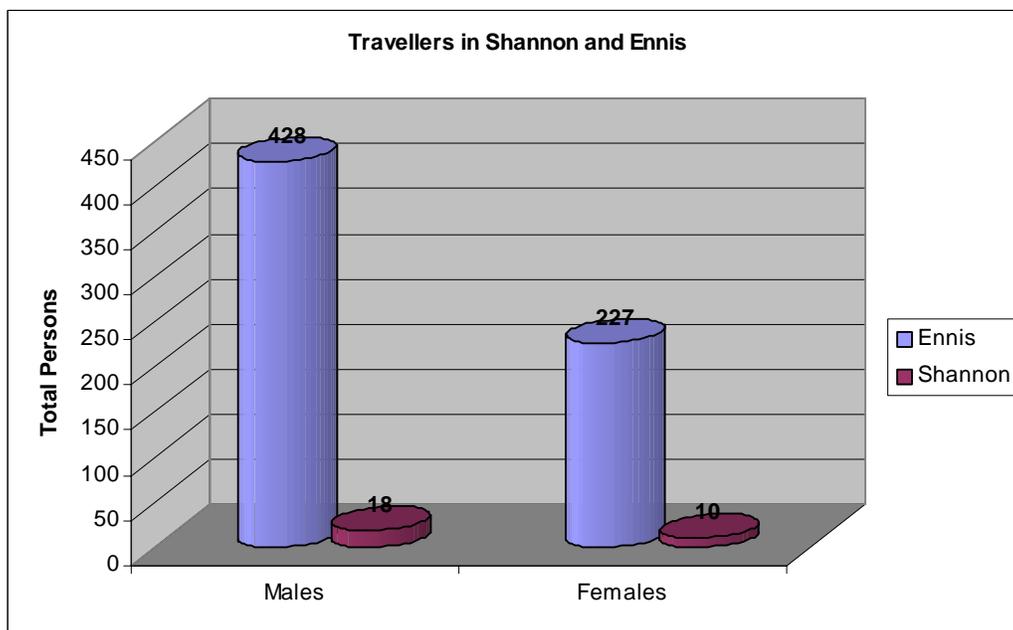


Figure 1.24 Travellers in Ennis and Shannon

12.0 Persons on the Live Register in Key Towns in Clare

				Males			Females		
	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	Under 25 yrs	25 yrs & over	Total	Under 25 yrs	25 yrs & over	Total
Clare	6932	9819	10065	1281	5273	6554	703	2808	3511
Ennis	3968	5576	5680	722	2959	3681	417	1582	1999
Ennistymon	1132	1496	1607	180	841	1021	105	481	586
Kilrush	934	1352	1372	206	708	914	102	356	458
Tulla	898	1395	1406	173	765	938	79	389	468

Table 1.17 Persons on the live register in Clare and key towns between Nov 2008-2009

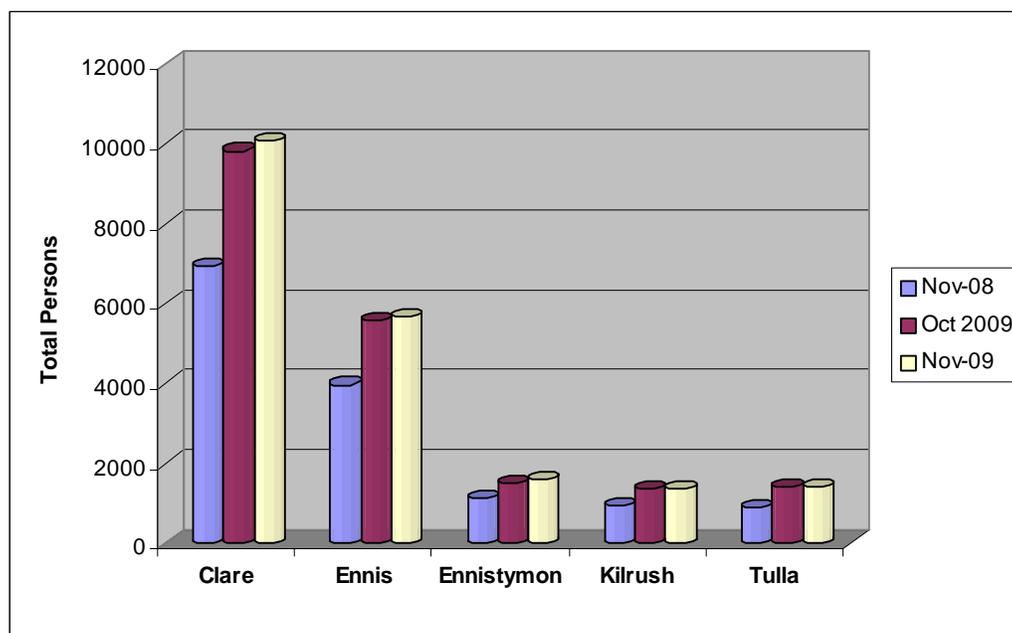


Figure 1.25 Persons on the live register in Clare and key towns from Nov '08 to Nov '09

Nationally

According to the *Quarterly National Household Survey for Quarter 3 2009* there were 192,000 males and 87,900 females unemployed in the third quarter of 2009 in Ireland, bringing the total number of unemployed up to 279,800, an increase of 120,400 (+75.5%) in the year. In the previous quarter an annual increase of 137,900 or 108.8% had been recorded. The number of unemployed males increased by 89,200 (+86.8%), with female unemployment increasing by 31,300 (+55.3%).

The seasonally adjusted Live Register total increased from 423,400 in November 2009 to 426,700 in December 2009, an increase of 3,300. In 2009 there was an unadjusted increase in the Live Register of 133,577 (+46.1%). This compares with an increase of 119,642 (+70.2%) in 2008. There was an annual increase of 88,273 (+45.4%) in the number of males on the Live Register in 2009 and a corresponding increase of 45,304 (+47.5%) in the number of females.

Clare

In County Clare, the live register figures show an increase in the numbers signing on from 6932 in November 2008 to 10,065 in November 2009, an increase of 45%. Similar increases are evident in some of the larger towns with Ennis showing an increase over the same time frame of 43% in the numbers signing on, Ennistymon showing an increase of 42% with increases of 46.8% and 56.5% for Kilrush and Tulla respectively.

13.0 Type of Accommodation and Nature of Occupancy

County	%					'000 Total
	Detached house	Semi-detached house	Terraced house	Flat, apartment, bedsit	Other/not stated	
Mid-West	52.8	23.2	14.6	6.9	2.5	125.4
Clare	59.9	20.6	12.0	5.1	2.4	38.2
Limerick	45.1	25.8	17.6	9.0	2.5	64.2
Limerick City	9.6	32.8	38.1	16.9	2.6	19.6
Limerick County	60.7	22.8	8.6	5.5	2.4	44.7
North Tipperary	62.7	20.0	10.5	4.1	2.7	23.0

Table 1.18 Type of Accommodation in the Mid-West region

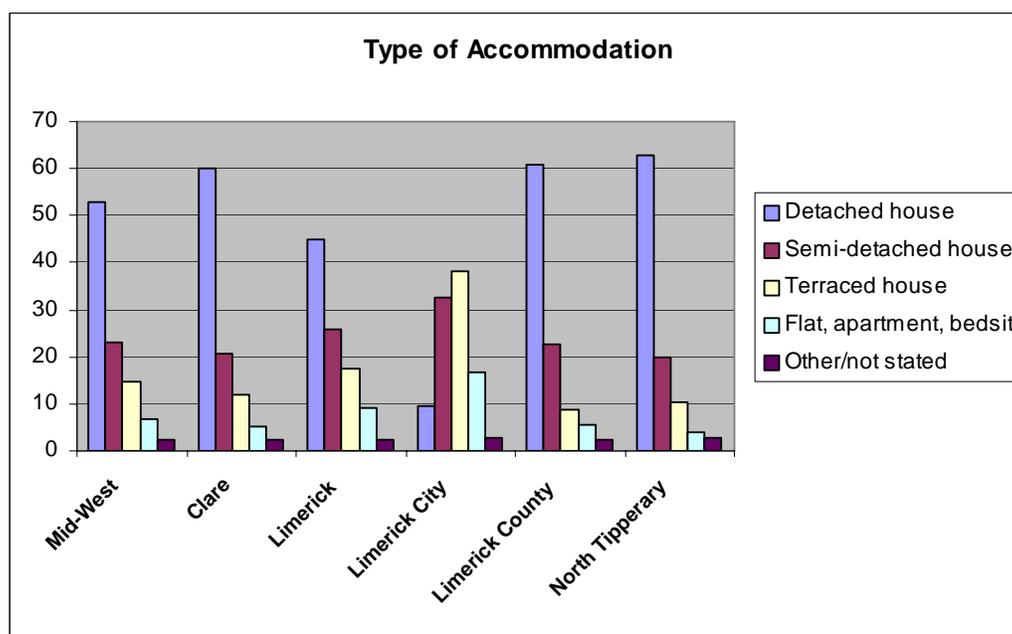


Figure 1.26 Population by type of Accommodation in the Mid-West region

County	Owner Occupied		% of row		'000
	With loan or mortgage	Without loan or mortgage	Rented	Other	
Mid-West	37.4	37.9	18.5	6.2	124.8
Clare	39.8	38.8	15.3	6.1	38.0
Limerick	36.1	36.3	21.3	6.2	64.0
Limerick City	28.5	31.8	32.4	7.4	19.5
Limerick County	39.5	38.3	16.5	5.7	44.4
North Tipperary	36.8	40.8	16.0	6.4	22.9
Mid-West	37.4	37.9	18.5	6.2	124.8

Table 1.19 Nature of Occupancy in the Mid-West

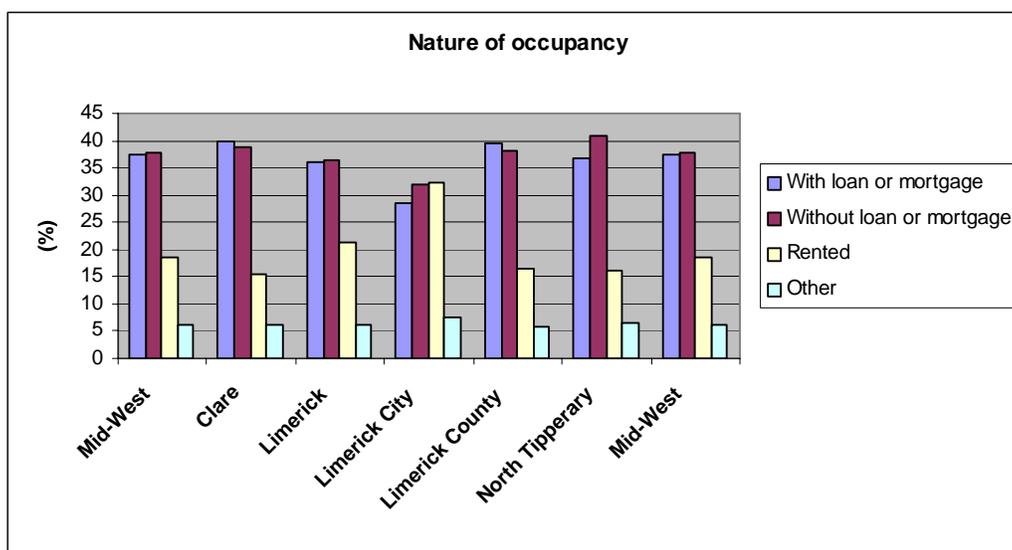


Figure 1.27 Population by Nature of occupancy in Clare and the Mid-West

The national average for owning a detached property is 42.6% with the exception of Dublin at only 11.8%. In County Clare 59.9% of the population is living in a detached property, much higher than that for Limerick city (9.6%) and just under the figures for Limerick county (60.7%) and Tipperary North Riding (62.7%). The second highest proportion of the population in Clare (20.6%) live in semi-detached homes with 12% living in terraced housing and 5.1% living in a flat, apartment or bedsit.

Although average house prices for all other areas with the exception of the larger cities (Dublin, Galway, Limerick, Cork and Waterford) increased from €179,936 to €296,605 for new builds between 2005-2007 (+13%) and from €192,301 to €313,487 for second hand houses (+12.6%), this trend is now reversing. In November 2009, outside Dublin the average house price was down 2.4% on the previous month, and 23.5% lower than the January 2007 peak price. According to the globalpropertyguide.com having contracted 3% in 2008, the Irish economy is likely to shrink by 2.5% in 2010. Economic growth is not expected to return until 2011 and the housing market is not expected to stabilise until then.

14.0 Voluntary and Community Work

County	Activity (%)					% of persons aged 15 & over	'000
	Sporting	Social / charitable	Religious group	Political / cultural	Other	Total	Persons
Mid-West	6.3	5.8	4.3	1.5	4.4	17.4	49.8
Clare	6.7	6.2	4.9	1.6	4.7	18.6	16.2
Limerick	5.9	5.3	3.6	1.4	4.2	16.0	23.6
Limerick City	3.7	4.8	3.2	1.3	3.8	13.1	5.7
Limerick County	6.8	5.5	3.8	1.4	4.4	17.1	18.0
North Tipperary	7.1	6.4	5.2	1.7	4.6	19.2	10.0

Table 1.20 Voluntary and Community Work in the Mid-West Region

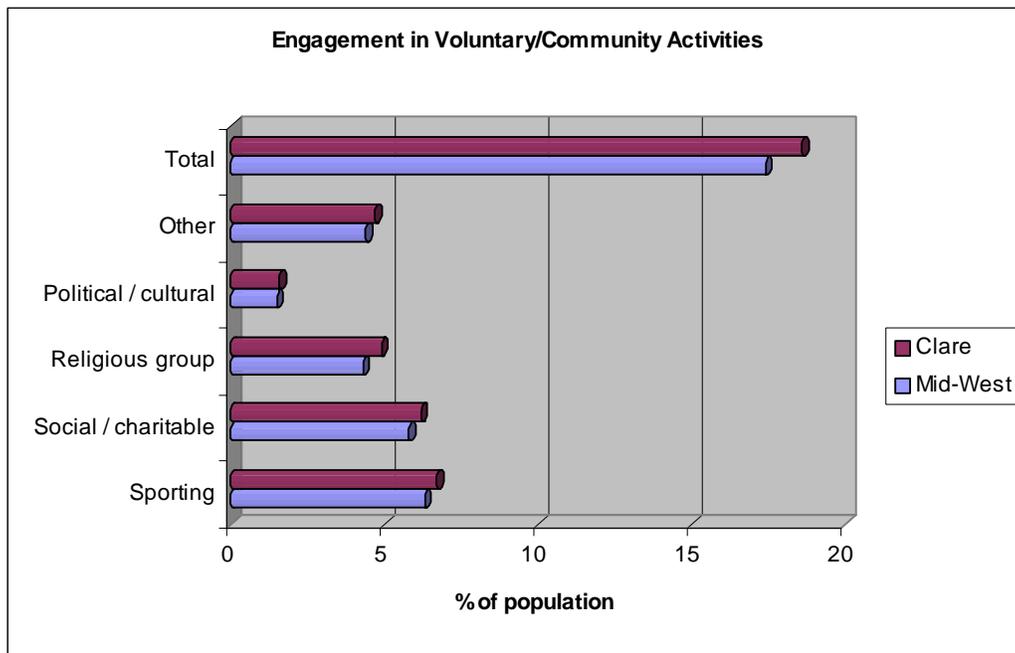


Figure 1.28 Engagement in Voluntary/Community Work in Clare and the Mid-West

The percentage of the population engaged in community and voluntary activities in County Clare is 18.6% which is just above the average for the Mid-west region at 17.4%. Of the active population in Clare 6.7% are engaged in sporting activities, 6.2% in charitable and social activities, 4.9% in religious work and 1.6% in political and cultural activities.

15.0 Travel to Work Patterns

Distance Travelled	0 km	1 km	2 to 4 km	5 to 9 km	10 to 14 km	15 to 24 km	25 to 49 km	50 km	Not Stated	Total
Clare County	801	7421	13330	10479	6866	8620	7271	2713	15028	72529

Table 1.21 Persons aged 5 years+ by distance travelled to work, school or college

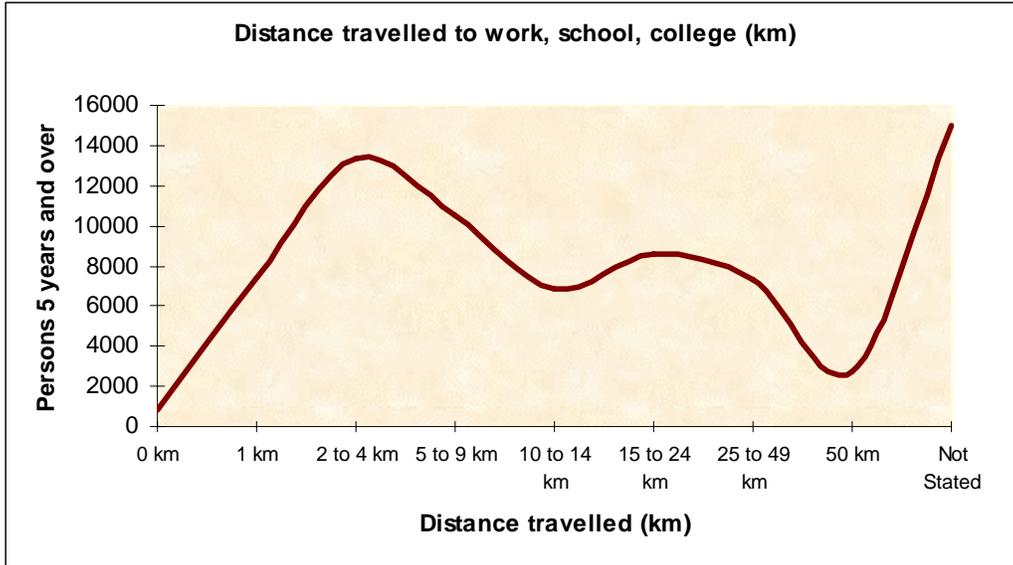


Figure 1.29 Persons 5 years+ by distance travelled to work, school or college

Time Travelling	Under ¼ hour	¼ hour - under ½ hour	½ hour - under ¾ hour	¾ hour - under 1 hour	1 hour - under 1½ hours	1½ hours and over	Not stated	Total
Clare County	27216	18205	10067	3211	2412	808	6668	68587

Table 1.22 Persons aged 5 years and over by journey time to work, school or college, 2006

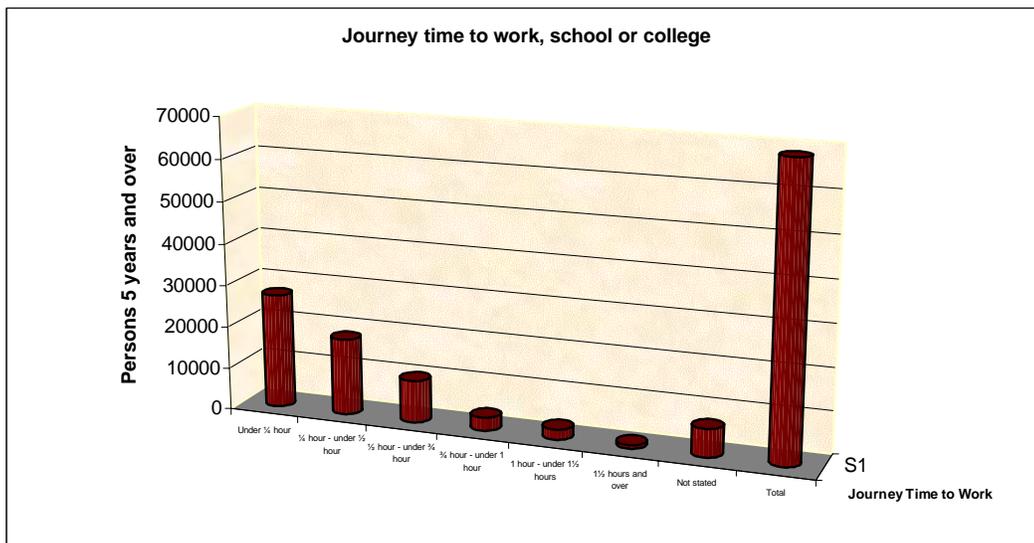


Figure 1.30 Journey time taken to work, school or college in Clare

Means of Travel	On foot	Bicycle	Bus, minibus or coach	Train, DART or LUAS	Motorcycle or scooter	Car driver	Car passenger	Other	Not stated	Total
Clare County	9128	817	5556	171	221	32259	14818	8234	1325	72529

Table 1.23 Persons aged 5 years and over by means of travel to work, school or college, 2006

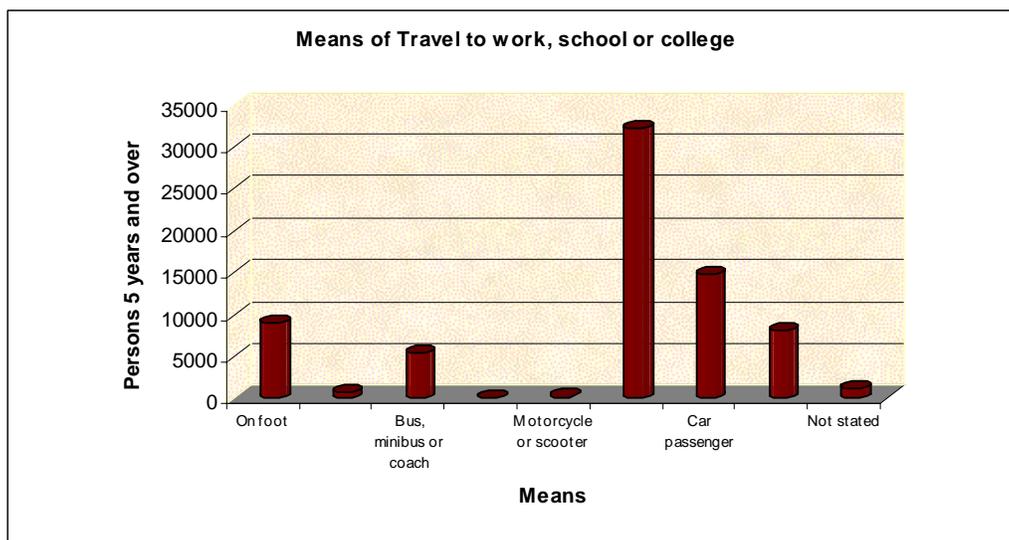


Figure 1.31 Means of Travel to work, school or college in Clare

15.A Travel to work in Ennis: A Case Study

In July 2009, the Western Development Commission (WDC) undertook a study of travel to work patterns in seven town labour catchments in the Western Region in order to provide information on labour supply for prospective employers and development agencies. Information for the town of Ennis is presented here.

Ennis is the administrative capital of county Clare and is designated a hub town under the National Spatial Strategy (NSS). It is the second largest urban centre in the Western Region. It is located between two NSS Gateways, Galway to the north and Shannon-Limerick to the south.

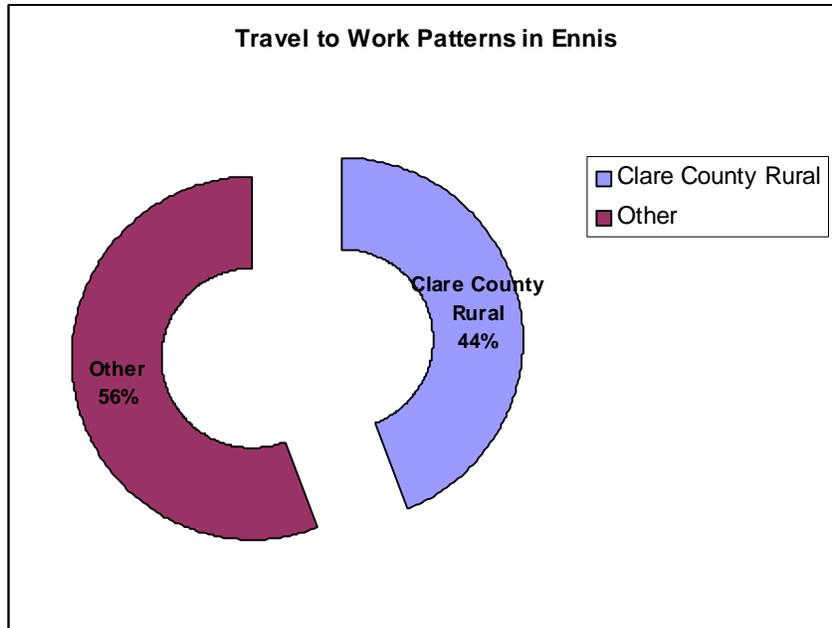


Figure 1.32 Place of Work for those living in the Ennis Catchment, 2006.

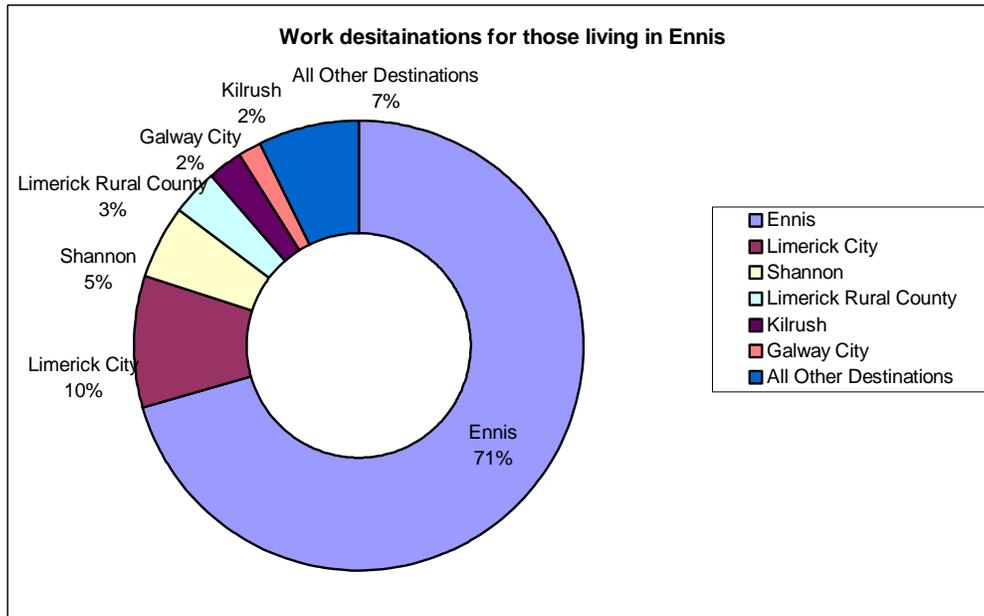


Figure 1.33 All Other Destinations outside of County Clare Rural

Travel Distances

Labour Catchment	0-4 km %	5-9 km %	10-24 km %	25-49 km %	50+ km
Ennis	30.0	14.2	29.0	20.4	6.4
State (POWCAR)	31.3	20.3	30.2	12.6	5.7

Table 1.24 Distance travelled to work by those living in Ennis

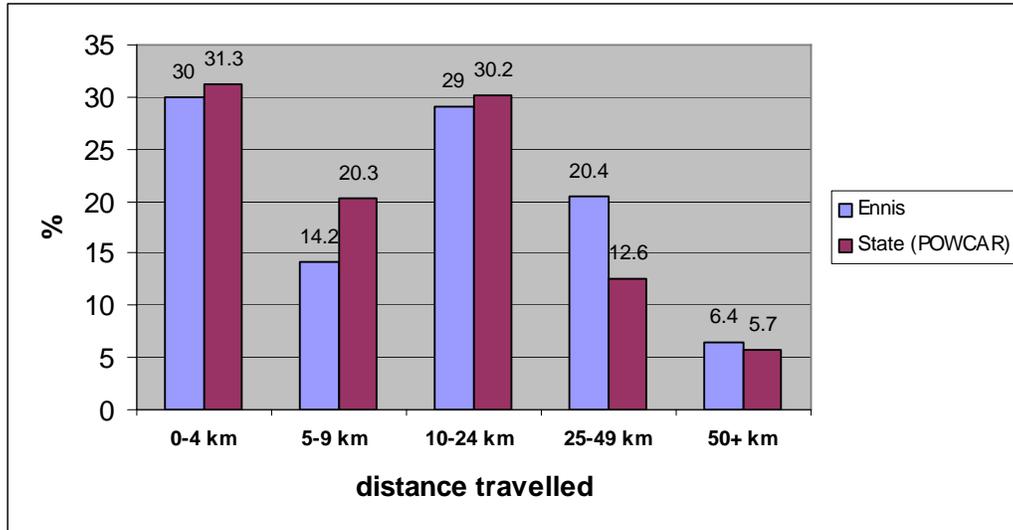


Figure 1.34 Distance travelled to Work by those living in Ennis compared to POWCAR average

The distances travelled by those working in the Ennis labour catchment are shown in Table 1.24, along with similar data from the national Place of Work Census of Anonymised Records (POWCAR). 30% of those travelling to work in the Ennis labour catchment travel less than 4km. A further 29% travel 10-24km which would include for example journeys from Shannon to Ennis. Of those living in the Ennis labour catchment, 20.4% travel distances of 25-49km which would include travel from the suburbs of Limerick to Ennis.

This is a much higher proportion than those travelling similar distances nationally. A slightly larger proportion than the State average travel in excess of 50km (6.4% and 5.7% respectively).

Ennis Labour Catchment Summary (from the WDC report)

Ennis's influence as a place of work extends over much of county Clare. The town is a far more important source of employment for those living in the west of the county than those living to the south and east. This is not surprising because those living in the south and east of the county have far greater access to employment in the urban areas of Shannon and Limerick city.

- The data shows that 39.4% of workers resident in the Ennis labour catchment work within the town. A further 44.1% work in Clare rural county.
- The proportion of residents in the Ennis labour catchment commuting long distances is relatively high compared to the national average.

A demographic profile of the Ennis labour catchment shows the following:

- Women account for 48.2% of workers living in the Ennis labour catchment. However, Ennis town itself is a far more important employment centre for women where they make up 59.4% of the workforce there.
- The age profile in the Ennis labour catchment is older than in the labour catchments of Letterkenny, Galway, Sligo and Carrick-on-Shannon.
- The proportion of residents with a third level education in the Ennis labour catchment is lower than the State average but is higher than some other labour catchments in the Western Region. Galway and Sligo have a higher proportion of resident workers with a third level qualification.

Analysis of the profile of employment within the Ennis labour catchment shows the following:

- The single largest employment category is commerce, which accounts for 25% of jobs, but this proportion is below the average for the State.
- Education, health and social work is an important sector accounting for 19.4% of employment in the Ennis labour catchment, similar to the figure nationally.
- Manufacturing industries account for 12.1% of employment within the town and 20.7% outside the town.
- There are proportionately fewer engaged as employer, manager or professional workers in Ennis labour catchment than nationally, 38.0% compared to 39.3%.

