The Socio-Economic Profile of Clare 2022

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With the Support of
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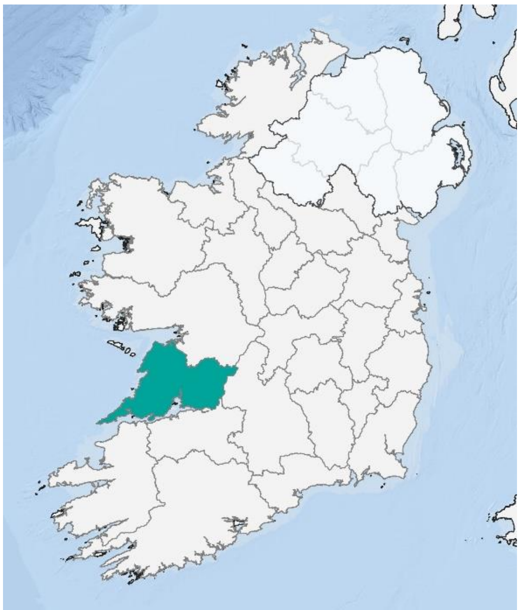
1. Introduction

County Clare is the 7th largest county by land mass in the State. It is a rural County with a one dominant town (Ennis) and close proximity to Limerick City to its Southeast, Galway city to its Northwest and bordered on its West and East, respectively, by the Atlantic Ocean and Shannon River and basin and to its South by the deep-water Shannon Estuary. Ennis is designated as a "Key Town" in the National Planning Framework and the Shannon-Limerick hub is also another vital urban centre.



In other parts of the County a network of smaller towns such as Kilrush, Ennistymon and Scariff face more remote rural hinterlands, areas where access to public transport and services, to economic opportunities and to social amenities and infrastructure remain both a continuing need for local citizenry as well as an issue to be addressed in the context of attracting investment and helping to retain young people and attract talent and returning migrants to live and work in the County. The County's relatively narrow range of economic activities can make it more vulnerable to an economic downturn and, similarly, more able to benefit from upswings. However, replacing this volatility with more long-term resilience may be a key to addressing some of the County's key challenges and releasing its very significant potential in the future.

The County has an attractive blend of both natural physical assets including the Burren, Cliffs of Moher, Lough Derg, River Shannon and Wild Atlantic Way but also a strong nearby industrial hub (Shannon-Limerick) and good road and rail connections to Dublin and to its surrounding economic hinterland.

The county also has a history of being a location for the development of significant energy generation infrastructure (Ardnacrusha, Moneypoint), a point of significance given the county's renewable energy potential in wind and sea power and solar.

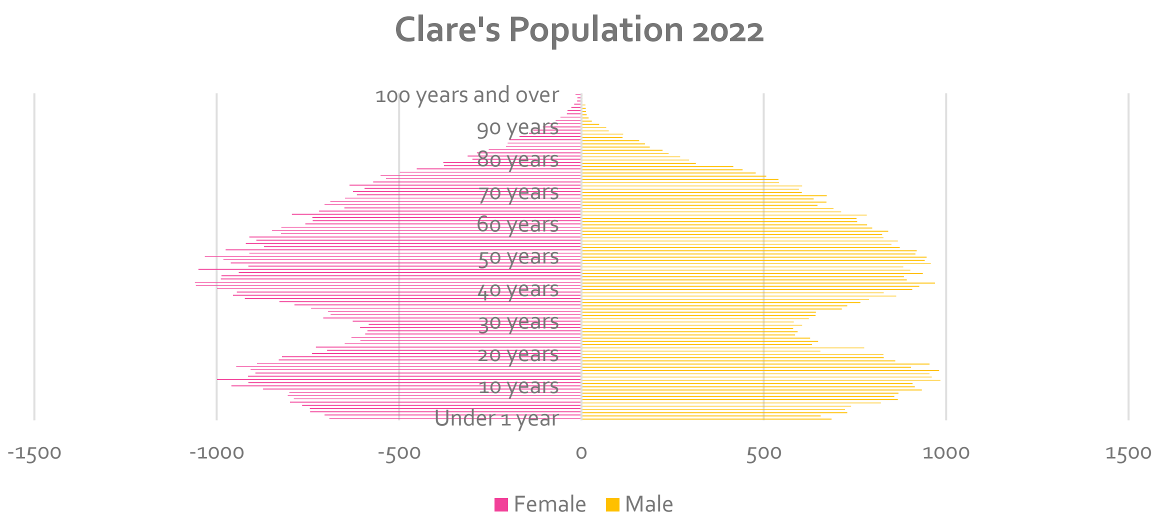
In the following socio-economic profile, the broad social, economic and environmental conditions pertaining in the County and within its Municipal Districts are set out. These have been based on the CSO Census 2022 data along with the Pobal Deprivation Profile which is itself based upon the Census 2022.

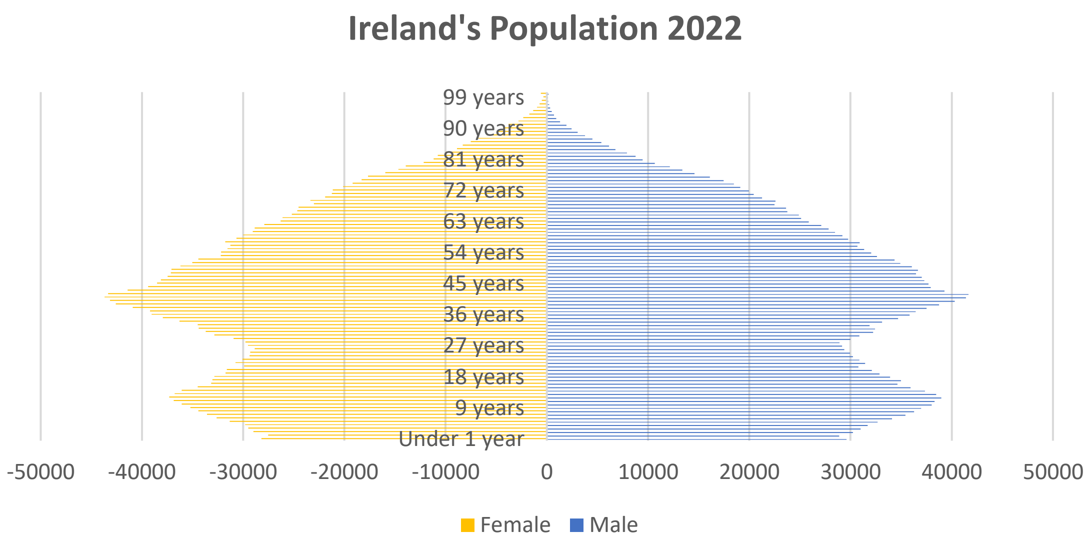
2. The People of Clare - Overview

2.1 Demography of Clare

The County of Clare covers 3,450 sq. km of land. It is a low-density county with according to Census 2022, 34 people per sq. km living in it. This compares to a national average of 78 per sq. km. Clare is therefore a largely rural county. In 2022, there were 127,938 people living in Clare, making up 2.5% of Ireland's population and making it the 14th largest county in Ireland. The population is split almost equally between males (49%) and females (51%), largely similar to Ireland.

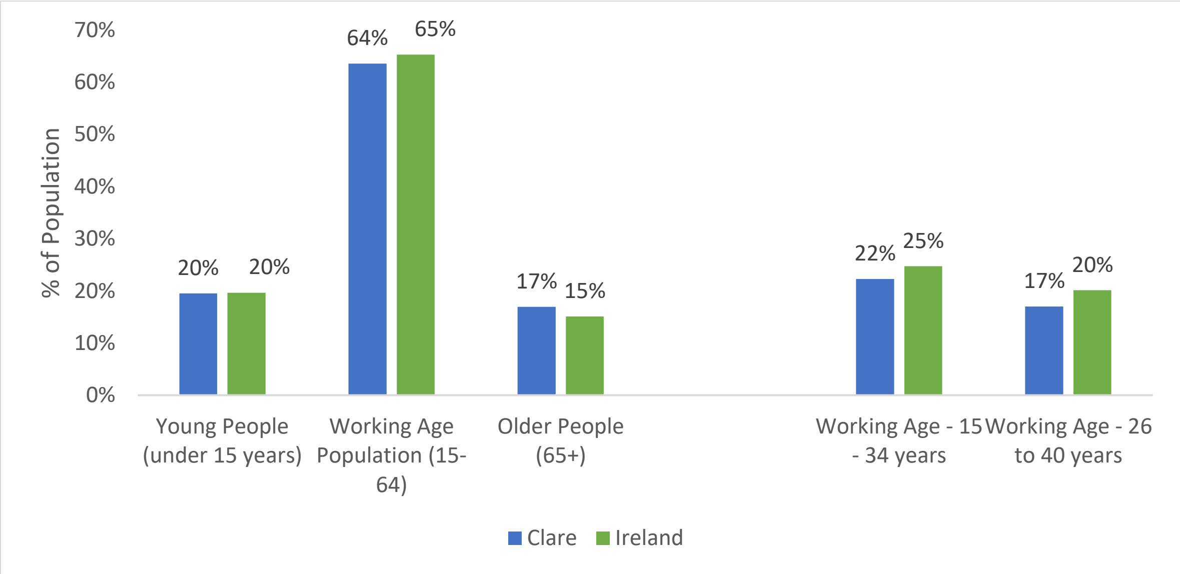
Clare has a slightly older population than the national average. The average age of a person living in Clare is 40.1 years compared to 38.8 for Ireland. Some 17% of the population are aged 65+ compared to 15% in Ireland.





Clare’s population is split, 20% young people (under 15), 64% working age (15-64), and 17% older people (65+). Clare has a lower share of younger people of working age, with 22% of the population aged 15 to 34 years compared to 25% for Ireland.

Population by Age (2022)



The consequence of this aged population is that the old age dependency ratio is higher in Clare than the national average. The ratio of the population aged 65 and over as a % of the population aged 15 to 64 years is 26.6 compared to 23.1 for Ireland. It is only slightly higher in terms of the young people’s dependency ration at 30.8 for Clare compared to 30.1 nationally.

Age Dependency Ratio (2022)

	Clare	Ireland
All Ages	57.4	53.2
Persons Aged 0-14	30.8	30.1
Persons Aged 65+	26.6	23.1

Source: CSO Census 2022

2.2 Nationality and Ethnicity

Almost half, 47% of Clare's usual residents (56,686 people) were born in the County. A further 36% (45,214) were born elsewhere in the State. The remaining 17% (21,887) were born outside the State, which was up from 15% in 2016. Nationally, 20% of the usually resident population in April 2022 was born outside of the State.

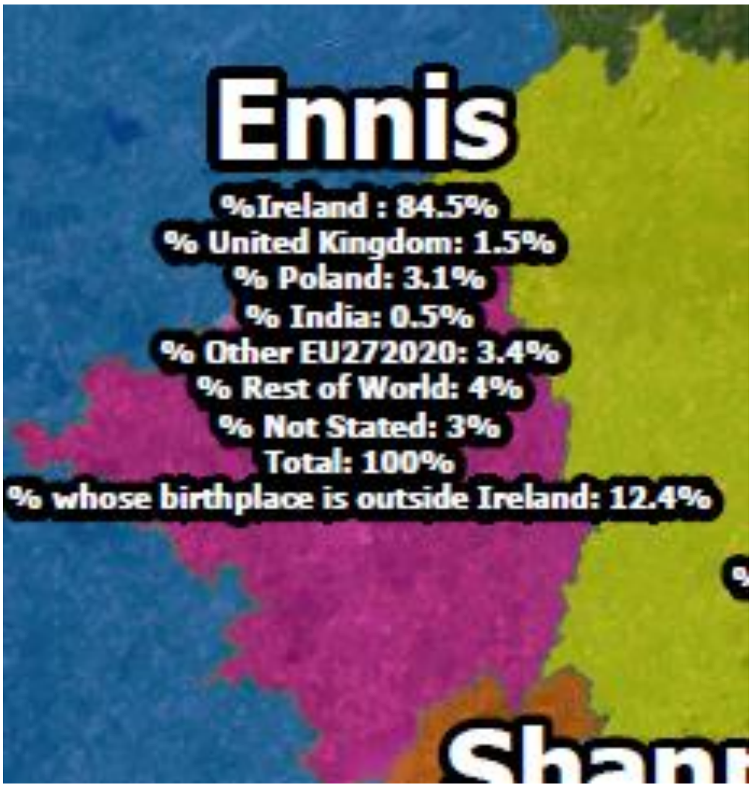
While Clare has become more multi-cultural and ethnically diverse, it does have a higher share of adult (15+) residents who identify as 'Ireland only' compared to the national average. 86% identify as coming from Ireland only (83% Ireland), 0.2% as dual Irish (0.3% Ireland) and 10.5% non-Irish/other countries (13.4% Ireland). The highest share of non-Irish people living in Clare come from the UK 22% and Poland 21%. 5% of the adult population (aged 15+) are from Ukraine compared to 0.2% for Ireland generally.

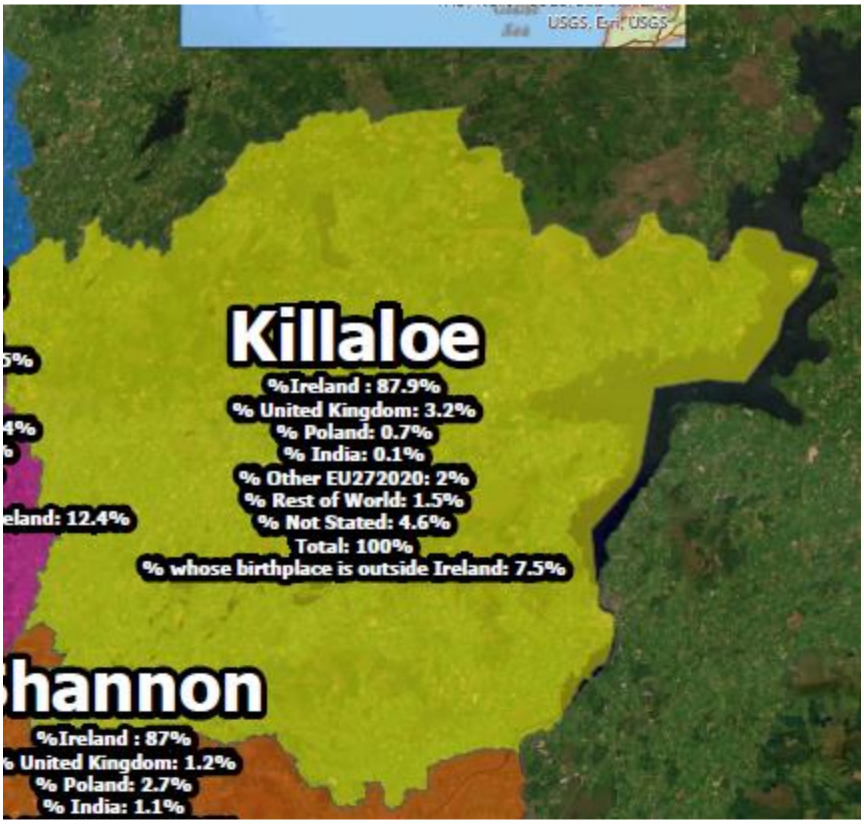
Citizenship of Residents Aged 15+

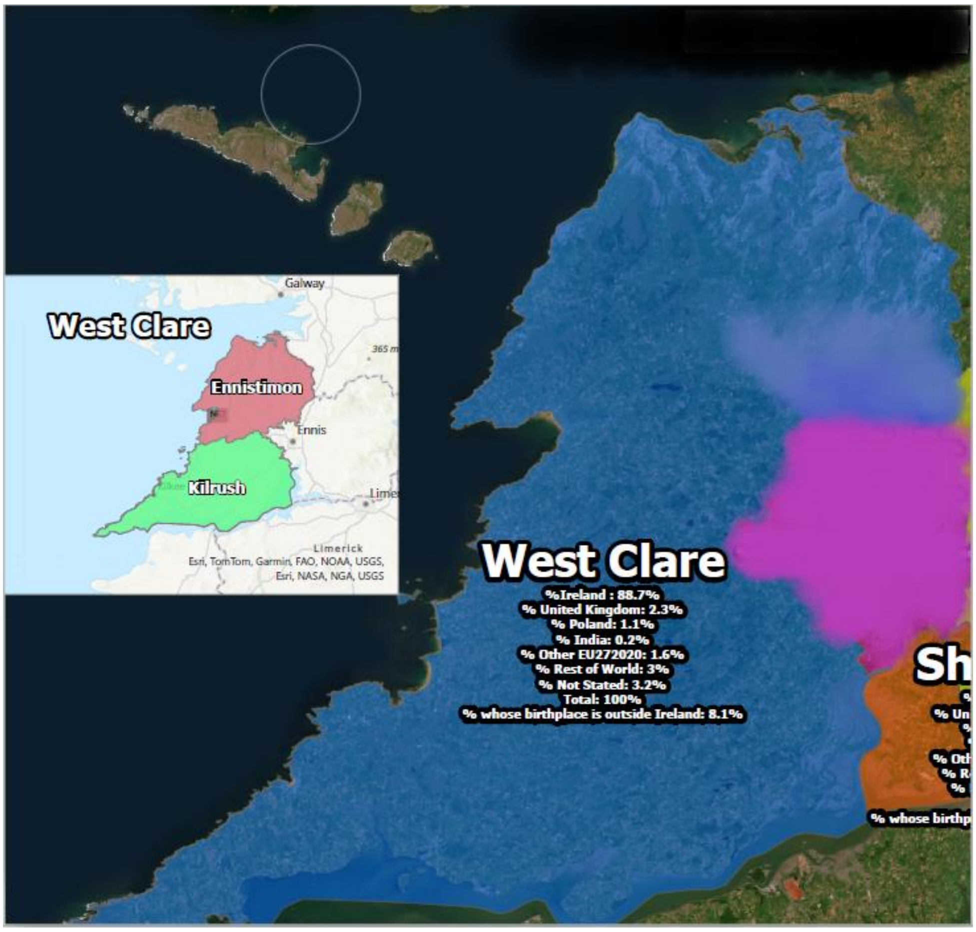
Citizenship	Clare Residents aged 15+	% Share	Ireland % Share
Ireland Only	87,387	86.3%	83.1%
Dual Citizenship	156	0.2%	0.3%
Other Countries	10,646	10.5%	13.4%
None/Not Stated	3,047	3.0%	3.2%
All Citizens	101,236	100%	100%

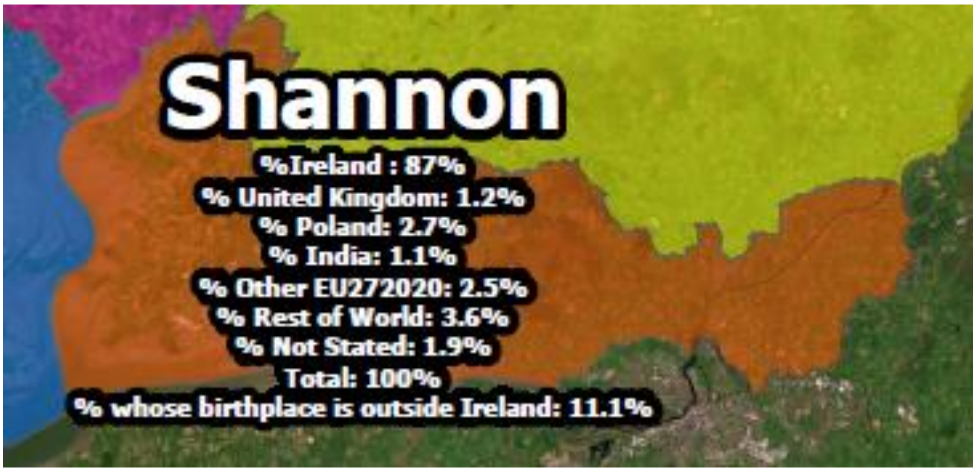
Source: CSO Census 2022

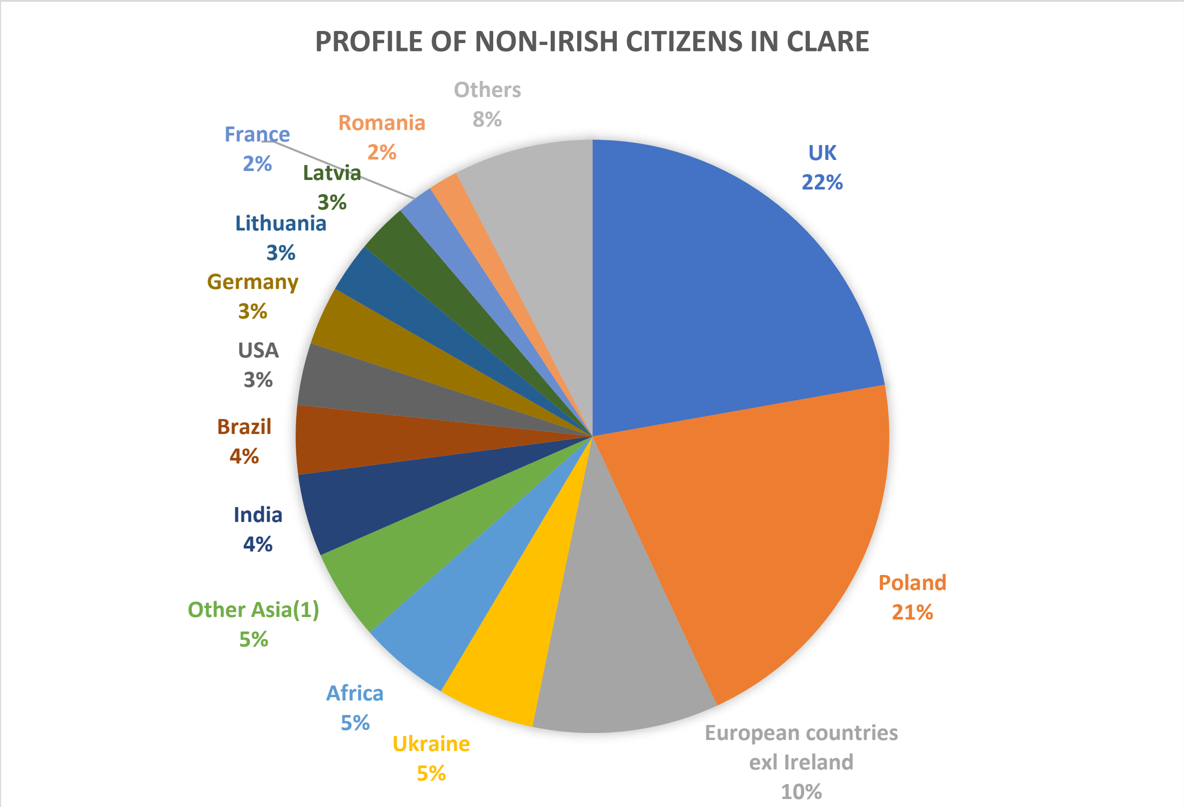
Breakdown of Citizenship By MD






Galway
West Clare
Ennistimon
Ennis
Kilrush
Limerick
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS,
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS
West Clare
%Ireland : 88.7%
% United Kingdom: 2.3%
% Poland: 1.1%
% India: 0.2%
% Other EU272020: 1.6%
% Rest of World: 3%
% Not Stated: 3.2%
Total: 100%
% whose birthplace is outside Ireland: 8.1%


Shannon
%Ireland : 87%
% United Kingdom: 1.2%
% Poland: 2.7%
% India: 1.1%
% Other EU272020: 2.5%
% Rest of World: 3.6%
% Not Stated: 1.9%
Total: 100%
% whose birthplace is outside Ireland: 11.1%



There were 80,417 Personal Public Service Numbers (PPSNs) given to arrivals from Ukraine to Ireland by June 2023, under the Temporary Protection Directive according to the CSO. The number based on PPSN allocations data of arrivals from Ukraine registered in Clare amounts to 4,625 by June 2023, so Clare accounts for 5.7% of the national total. Of these, 1,896 are located in Ennistymon. In fact, Ennistymon has one of the highest arrival rates (%) by LEA (per 100 of the preliminary Census 2022 de facto population) as of June 2023 across Ireland at 10.57%. The rate ranges from 0.17% to 10.58% in LEAs across the country. There were 349 Ukrainian children registered in Primary school and 166 in secondary in Clare.

Ennis was the largest town, with a population of 27,923 in April 2022. Shannon is classified a 'Built Up Area' with a population of 10,256. The most densely populated towns include Crusheen and Ballycannon.

3. Clare and its Municipal Districts

There are four Municipal Districts in County Clare – West Clare, Killaloe, Shannon and Ennis. The CSO Census 2022 is not reporting its data at Municipal District level. Therefore Killaloe, Shannon and Ennis Electoral areas have been used in this socio-economic profile while West Clare has been provided by amalgamating two Local Electoral Areas – Ennistymon and Kilrush. These two electoral areas are also presented separately for ease of reference.

3.1 Key indicators

The themes from the Census data available to date are outlined in more detail below and include population, educational attainment, principle economic status, industry of work, general health and disability along with housing.

Key Municipal District Indicators

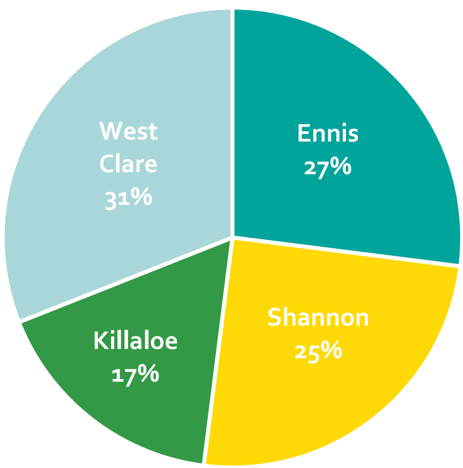
	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
POPULATION							
Population (2022)	40,341	21,871	31,774	33,952	127,938	18,052	22,289
% Share of Clare's pop	31%	17%	25%	27%	100%	14%	17%
Pop change 2016-2022	+7.9%	+8.8%	+4.5%	+9.8%	+7.7%	+10.0%	+6.2%
% aged under 15	19%	20%	20%	20%	20%	19%	19%
% aged 75 plus	9%	7%	6%	7%	7%	8%	9%
White Irish Travellers – Number	191	16	156	626	989	142	49
% White Irish Traveller	0.5%	0.1%	0.5%	1.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.2%
% Black/Black Irish/Asian/Asian Irish	1.0%	0.8%	5.0%	4.8%	3.0%	1.2%	0.8%
% whose birthplace is outside Ireland	15%	14%	20%	20%	17%	18%	12%
% whose citizenship is outside Ireland	8%	8%	11%	12%	10%	10%	6%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT							
% No formal education	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%
% Technical /Vocational /Certificate/Apprenticeship	20%	20%	21%	20%	20%	19%	21%
% Degree or higher	27%	35%	30%	35%	31%	31%	24%
% 3rd level qualification	40%	48%	43%	47%	44%	43%	37%
PRINCIPLE ECONOMIC STATUS							
% at work	53%	57%	54%	56%	55%	54%	51%
% students	10%	12%	14%	11%	11%	10%	10%
% retired	21%	16%	16%	17%	18%	20%	21%

INDUSTRY OF WORK							
% Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	10%	7%	1%	1%	5%	9%	11%
% Manufacturing	11%	17%	24%	17%	17%	9%	12%
% Professional Services	23%	26%	22%	25%	24%	22%	24%
GENERAL HEALTH & DISABILITY							
% Rating health as good/very good	82%	82%	85%	82%	83%	81%	83%
% with a disability to a greater extent	8%	6%	8%	8%	8%	7%	9%
HOUSING							
Housing Stock	22,418	9,295	11,999	13,953	57,665	9,957	12,461
% of Clare's Housing Stock	39%	16%	21%	24%	100%	17%	22%
% Vacant (in 2016 & 2022)	4.6%	3.6%	1.4%	1.9%	3.1%	4.1%	5.1%
% Owned	76%	75%	72%	65%	72%	74%	77%
% Rented	17%	14%	24%	29%	21%	18%	17%
New Dwelling Completions 2012-22	1023	636	553	861	3073	485	538
New Dwelling Completions - 5 years from 2018-2022 per 1,000 population	40	22	32	34	128	18	22

3.2 Population of the Districts

In 2022 West Clare accounted for 31% of Clare's population, Ennis 27%, Shannon 25% and Killaloe 17%.

Clare Municipal District Population Share (2022)



Source: CSO Census 2022

Population changes over the 6-year Census period between the 2016 and 2022 ranged from growth of 9.8% in Ennis to 4.5% in Shannon. Clare county's overall population grew by 7.7% over that time. West Clare grew at a similar rate to the County, but this is reflected in much stronger population growth in Ennistymon at 10% compared to 6.2% in Kilrush.

MD Population Change 2016 - 2022

	2022	2016	% Change
West Clare	40,341	37,402	7.9%
Killaloe	21,871	20,108	8.8%
Shannon	31,774	30,397	4.5%
Ennis	33,952	30,910	9.8%
Clare Total	127,938	118,817	7.7%
Ennistymon	18,052	16408	10.0%
Kilrush	22,289	20994	6.2%

Source: CSO Census 2016 & 2022

The population distribution by age is largely similar across MDs although West Clare has the lowest share of young people (aged under 15) and the highest share of people in the older age categories (aged 55 plus).

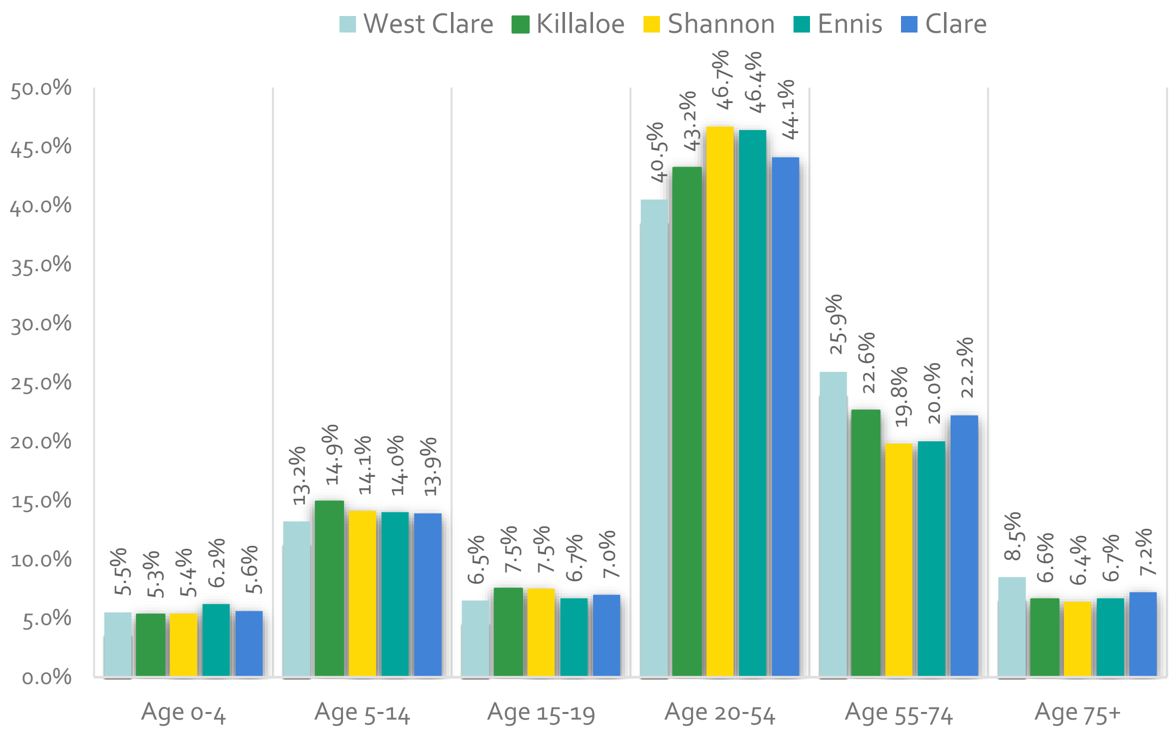
Population by Age (2022)

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Age 0-4	5.5%	5.3%	5.4%	6.2%	5.6%	5.6%	5.4%
Age 5 - 14	13.2%	14.9%	14.1%	14.0%	13.9%	13.1%	13.3%
Age 15-19	6.5%	7.5%	7.5%	6.7%	7.0%	6.3%	6.7%
Age 20-54	40.5%	43.2%	46.7%	46.4%	44.1%	41.6%	39.5%
Age 55-74	25.9%	22.6%	19.8%	20.0%	22.2%	25.3%	26.3%
Age 75 plus	8.5%	6.6%	6.4%	6.7%	7.2%	8.2%	8.8%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Under 15	18.6%	20.2%	19.5%	20.2%	19.5%	18.6%	18.7%
75 plus	8.5%	6.6%	6.4%	6.7%	7.2%	8.2%	8.8%

Source: CSO Census 2022

Shannon and Ennis have the highest share of people in the 20-to-54-year age group, which is a reflection of a higher share of the population of working age.

Age Distribution of Population 2022



Source: CSO Census 2022

3.3 Ethnicity and Cultural Background

The largest share and number of the Traveller community live in the Ennis Municipal District, making up 2% of its population or 626 people. The share of population who are Black (Irish)/Asian (Irish) is highest in Shannon and Ennis at 5% of the people living there.

Usually Resident Population by Ethnic or Cultural Background

	Municipal District					**West Clare**	
	West Clare	**Killaloe**	**Shannon**	**Ennis**	**Clare County**	**Ennistymon**	**Kilrush**
White Irish	85.2%	82.3%	80.0%	74.3%	80.5%	80.6%	88.9%
White Irish Traveller	0.5%	0.1%	0.5%	1.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.2%
Other White	6.7%	7.4%	9.0%	10.1%	8.3%	7.8%	5.8%
Black or Black Irish	0.3%	0.2%	1.1%	2.4%	1.0%	0.5%	0.2%
Asian or Asian Irish	0.7%	0.7%	3.9%	2.4%	1.9%	0.7%	0.6%
Other	1.1%	0.8%	1.7%	2.7%	1.6%	1.3%	0.8%
Not stated	5.5%	8.6%	3.8%	6.3%	5.8%	8.3%	3.3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

% White Irish Traveller	0.5%	0.1%	0.5%	1.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.2%
% Black/Black Irish/Asian/Asian Irish	1.0%	0.8%	5.0%	4.8%	3.0%	1.2%	0.8%

Source: CSO Census 2022

3.4 Place of Birth and Citizenship

The majority of residents across each Municipal District were born in Ireland. However, in Shannon and Ennistymon 1 in 5 residents (20%) were born outside Ireland compared to 15% in West Clare and 14% in Killaloe. In terms of citizenship, Ennis (12.4%) and Shannon (11.1%) have the highest shares of residents whose citizenship is outside Ireland. This compares to 8.1% in West Clare and 7.5% in Killaloe.

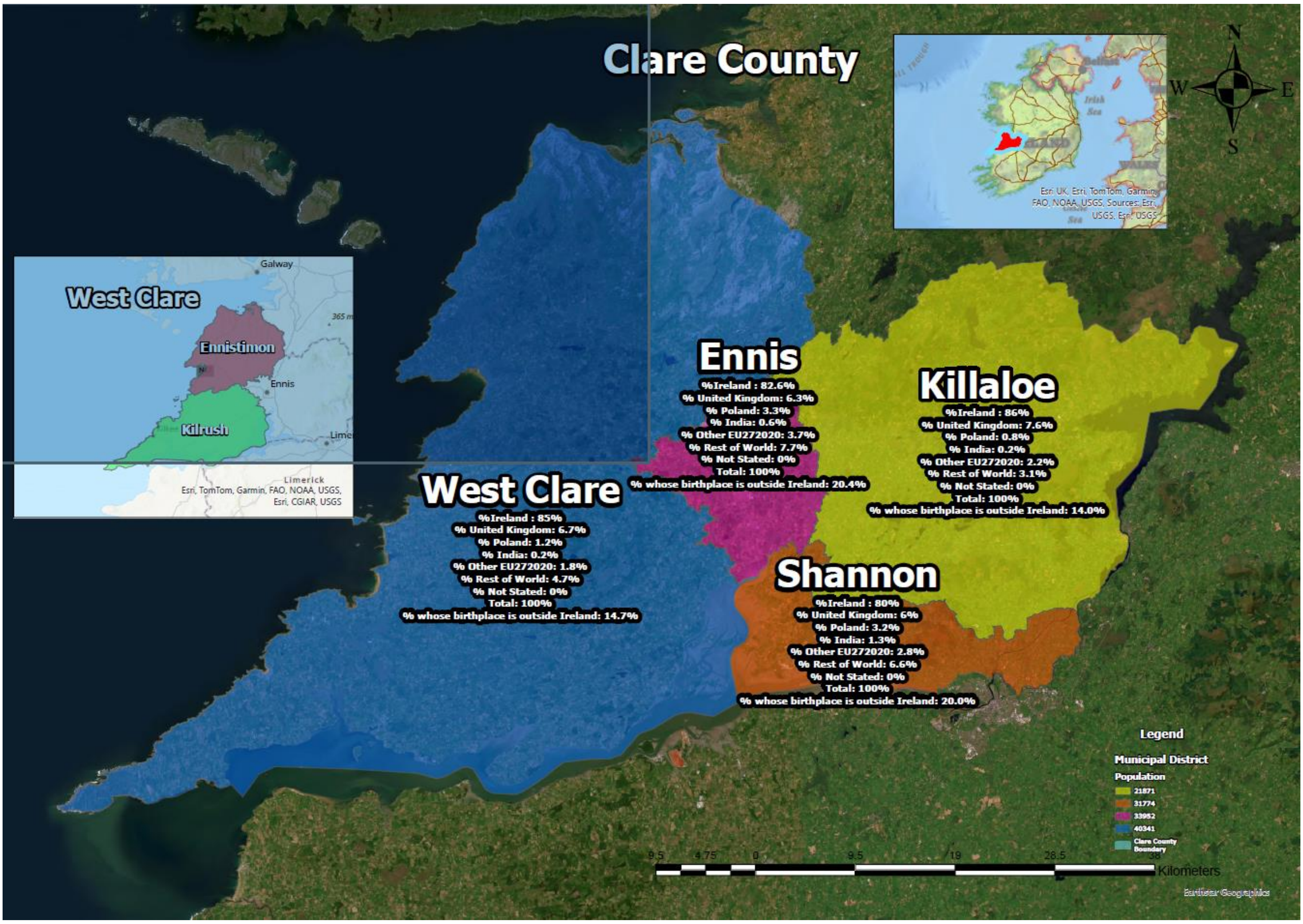
Usually resident population by birthplace

Source: CSO Census 2022

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Ireland	85.3%	86.0%	80.0%	79.6%	82.6%	82.3%	87.8%
United Kingdom	6.7%	7.6%	6.0%	5.2%	6.3%	7.0%	6.5%
Poland	1.2%	0.8%	3.2%	3.3%	2.2%	1.2%	1.1%
India	0.2%	0.2%	1.3%	0.6%	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%
Other EU272020 (Exec Ireland & Poland)	1.8%	2.2%	2.8%	3.7%	2.6%	2.3%	1.4%
Rest of World	4.7%	3.1%	6.6%	7.7%	5.7%	7.0%	2.9%
Not stated	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% whose birthplace is outside Ireland	14.7%	14.0%	20.0%	20.4%	17.4%	17.7%	12.2%

Usually resident population by citizenship

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Ireland	88.7%	87.9%	87.0%	84.5%	87.0%	85.4%	91.4%
United Kingdom	2.3%	3.2%	1.2%	1.5%	2.0%	2.2%	2.3%
Poland	1.1%	0.7%	2.7%	3.1%	2.0%	1.1%	1.0%
India	0.2%	0.1%	1.1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%
Other EU272020 (Exec Ireland & Poland)	1.6%	2.0%	2.5%	3.4%	2.4%	2.1%	1.2%
Rest of World	3.0%	1.5%	3.6%	4.0%	3.1%	4.9%	1.5%
Not stated	3.2%	4.6%	1.9%	3.0%	3.1%	4.3%	2.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% whose citizenship is outside Ireland	8.1%	7.5%	11.1%	12.4%	9.9%	10.4%	6.3%



3.5 Educational Attainment

Just over 1 in 3 of the population aged 15 or over in Killaloe (35%) and Ennis (34.9%) have a degree or higher. This falls to 30.3% for Shannon and is lowest in West Clare at 27.4% although there is a significant contrast within West Clare with the share of the population (15+) with a degree or higher at 31.3% in Ennistymon compared to 24.3% in Kilrush.

The share of the population (15+) with some form of post-secondary technical/vocational/certificate is largely similar across all 4 Municipal Districts. Around 1 in 5 of the population in each Municipal District is educated to this level according to Census 2022.

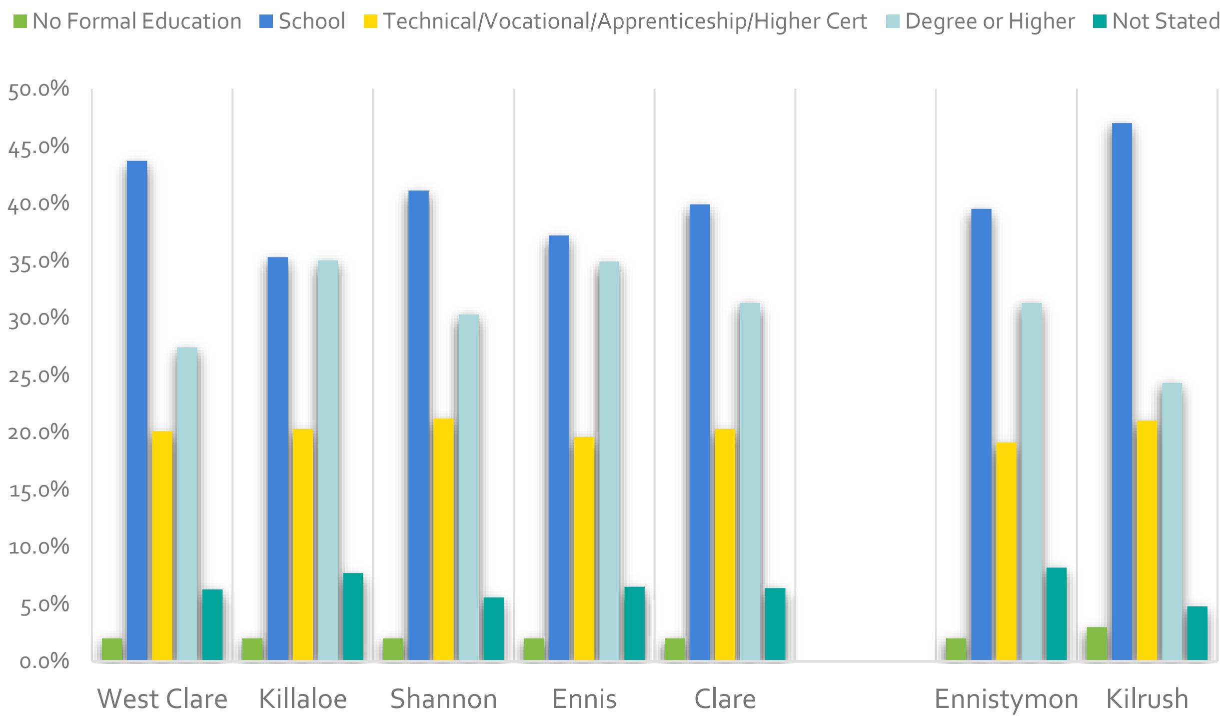
One in two (48%) people living in Killaloe has the highest share of people with a 3rd level qualification. The share is lowest in West Clare at 40% reflecting a significantly lower share of people with 3rd level qualifications in Kilrush at 37%. Relative to the other Municipal Districts, West Clare has a higher share of its population (15+) with no formal education (2.5%) and 8.8% have primary education only.

Highest Level of Education Completed (aged 15+) 2022

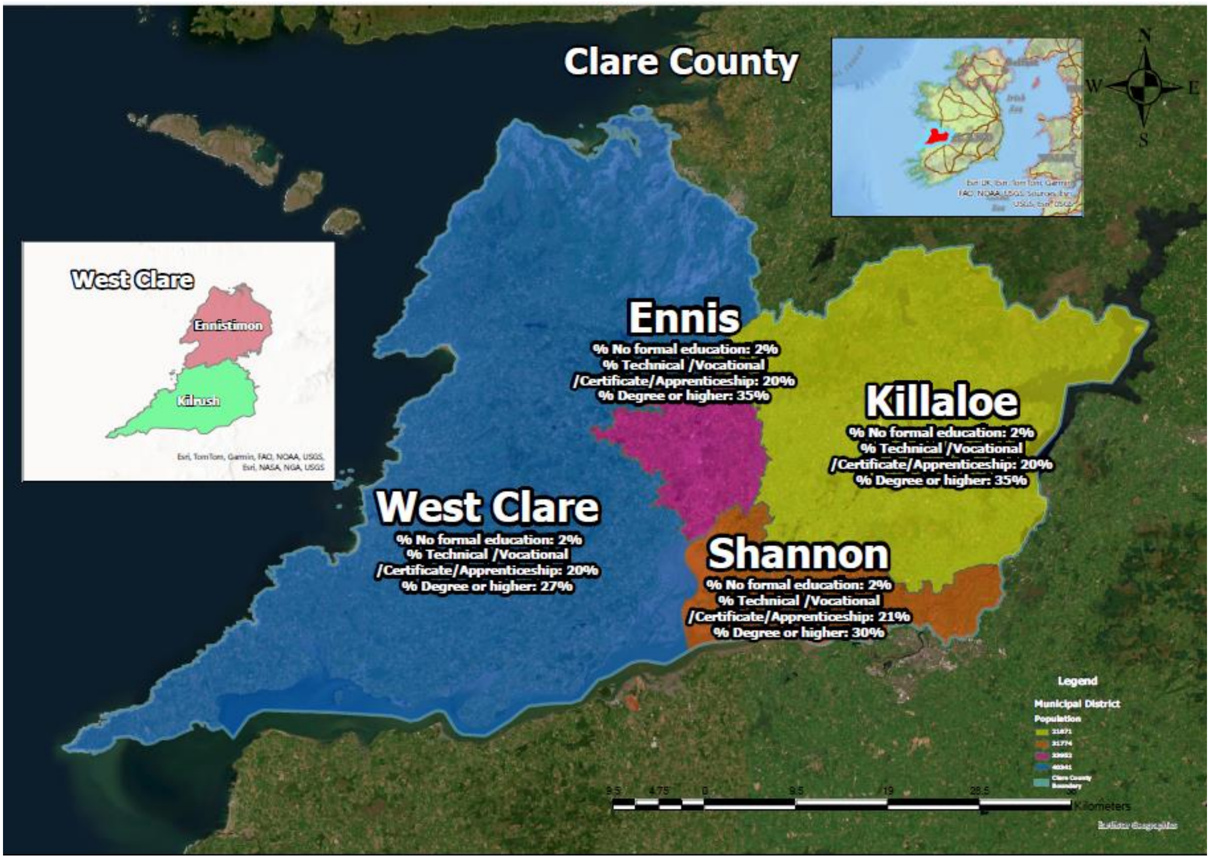
	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
No formal education	2.5%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	2.0%	2.0%	2.8%
Primary education	8.8%	6.2%	6.2%	5.9%	7.0%	7.4%	10.0%
Lower secondary	15.0%	11.5%	13.0%	11.8%	13.1%	13.4%	16.4%
Upper secondary	19.8%	17.5%	21.9%	19.5%	19.8%	18.7%	20.7%
Technical or vocational qualification	7.9%	7.2%	8.3%	7.8%	7.9%	7.2%	8.5%
Advanced certificate/ Completed apprenticeship	6.6%	7.2%	6.5%	6.0%	6.5%	6.2%	7.0%
Higher certificate	5.6%	5.9%	6.4%	5.8%	5.9%	5.7%	5.4%
Ordinary bachelor's degree or national diploma	7.8%	9.3%	8.3%	8.7%	8.4%	8.2%	7.4%
Honours bachelor's degree, professional qualification or both	10.8%	13.5%	12.2%	13.9%	12.4%	11.9%	9.8%
Postgraduate diploma or degree	8.3%	10.9%	8.8%	11.4%	9.7%	10.2%	6.7%
Doctorate (Ph.D.) or higher	0.6%	1.3%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.4%
Not stated	6.3%	7.7%	5.6%	6.5%	6.4%	8.2%	4.8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: CSO Census 2022

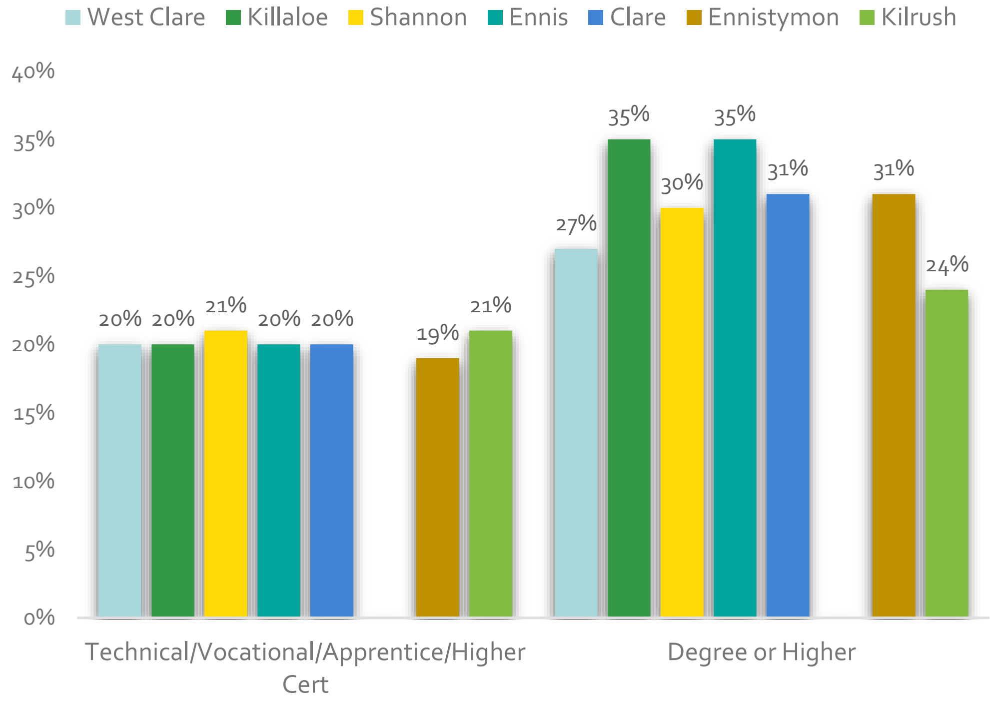
Highest Level of Education Completed (aged 15+) 2022



Source: CSO Census 2022



% with Post Schooling Qualifications (aged 15+) 2022

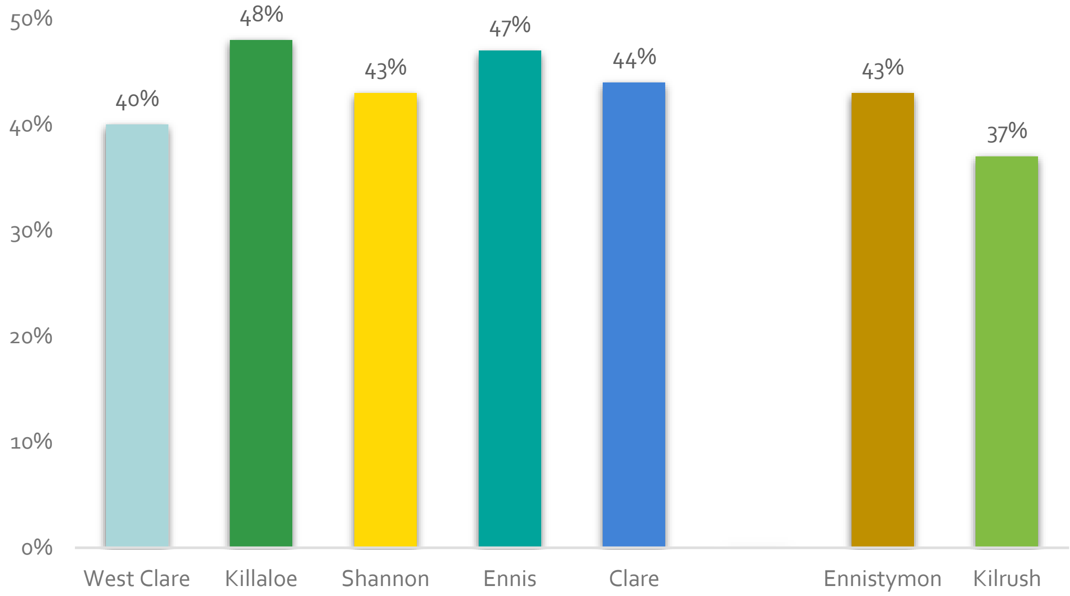


Source: CSO Census 2022

'3rd level' refers to the following qualifications, as outlined by the CSO:

- Advanced certificate/Completed apprenticeship
- Higher certificate
- Ordinary bachelor's degree or national diploma
- Honours bachelor's degree, professional qualification or both
- Postgraduate diploma or degree
- Doctorate (Ph.D.) or higher

% with a 3rd Level Qualifications (aged 15+)



Source: CSO Census 2022

4. Principle Economic Status-Overview

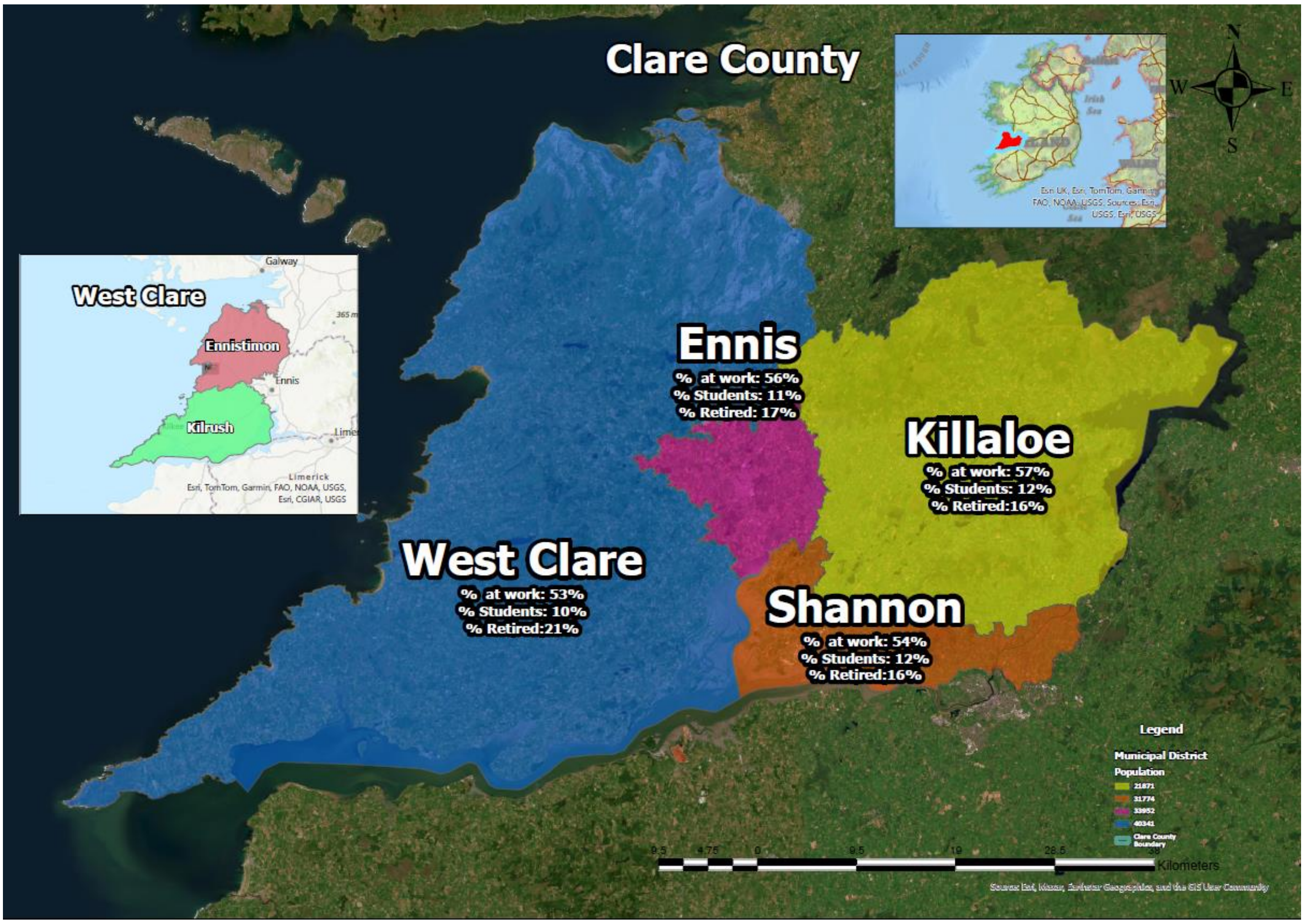
Killaloe has the highest share of its adult population (aged 15+) at work at 57.1% falling to 52.6% in West Clare. Shannon has the largest share of students in its adult population (14.1%) while West Clare has the highest share of people who are retired (20.6%). Unemployment is relatively low across all Municipal Districts.

Principle Economic Status (15+ years)

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	**Killaloe**	**Shannon**	**Ennis**	**Clare County**	**Ennistymon**	**Kilrush**
At work	52.6%	57.1%	54.0%	55.8%	54.5%	54.2%	51.2%
Looking for first regular job	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.6%	0.9%
Short term unemployed	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	1.5%
Long term unemployed	2.5%	2.0%	2.2%	2.8%	2.4%	2.3%	2.7%
Student	9.7%	11.8%	14.1%	10.7%	11.4%	9.8%	9.5%
Looking after home/family	7.1%	6.0%	5.9%	6.1%	6.4%	6.9%	7.3%
Retired	20.6%	16.5%	16.4%	16.6%	17.8%	20.1%	21.0%
Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	4.4%	3.7%	4.3%	4.6%	4.3%	3.7%	5.1%
Other	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: CSO Census 2022

The CSO Census report notes that Kilrush had one of the highest rates of unemployment (among towns with a population of at least 1,500 people), at 20%.



4.1 Industry of Work[1]

The industry profile of people at work across the Municipal Districts highlights that Professional Services is one of the largest employers across each area accounting for 26% of jobs in Killaloe and Ennis, 23% in West Clare and 22% in Shannon. Commerce & Trade and Manufacturing are also important employers.

There are some notable differences across Municipal Districts:

- West Clare has a greater share of workers in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing making up 1 in 10 (10.2%) of those at work, twice the Clare county average share. It has fewer people working in Manufacturing (10.8% vs. Clare 16.7%)

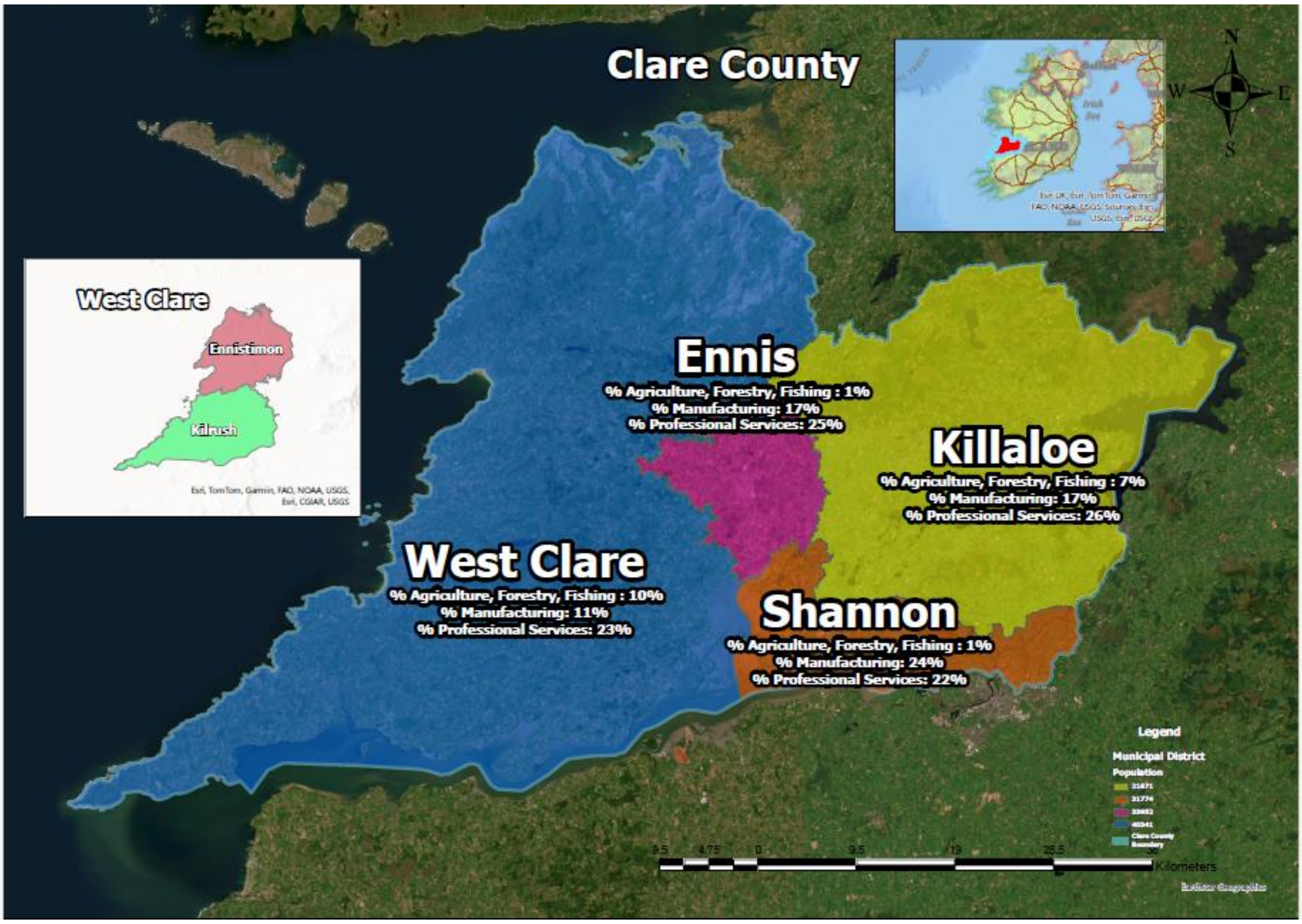
[1] *These figures reported are based on persons in each LEA on the night of the Census (The overall figures are based on persons usually resident in the County). The data reflects broad industries.*

- Killaloe's industry base is largely similar to the County average with 25.6% working in Professional Services and around 17% working in Commerce and Trade and Manufacturing
- Manufacturing is more important in Shannon, accounting for 24% of people at work (17% Clare)
- Commerce and trade are more important in Ennis accounting for 20% of people at work (18.3% Ennis)

Persons at Work by Industry

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	**Killaloe**	**Shanno n**	**Ennis**	**Clare Count y**	**Ennistymon**	**Kilrush**
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	10.2%	7.4%	1.4%	1.4%	5.2%	9.1%	11.0%
Building and construction	7.1%	5.9%	3.9%	5.5%	5.7%	6.4%	7.7%
Manufacturing industries	10.8%	16.5%	24.2%	16.8%	16.7%	9.0%	12.3%
Commerce and trade	17.3%	16.9%	18.7%	20.0%	18.3%	16.9%	17.7%
Transport and communications	5.7%	7.0%	11.7%	7.4%	7.9%	6.0%	5.5%
Public administration	6.5%	6.4%	4.5%	6.7%	6.1%	6.5%	6.5%
Professional services	23.0%	25.6%	22.3%	25.5%	24.0%	21.8%	24.1%
Other	19.3%	14.3%	13.4%	16.7%	16.2%	24.2%	15.0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: CSO Census 2022


Clare County
West Clare
Ennistimon
Kilrush
Ennis
% Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing : 1%
% Manufacturing: 17%
% Professional Services: 25%
Killaloe
% Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing : 7%
% Manufacturing: 17%
% Professional Services: 26%
West Clare
% Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing : 10%
% Manufacturing: 11%
% Professional Services: 23%
Shannon
% Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing : 1%
% Manufacturing: 24%
% Professional Services: 22%
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Municipal District
Population
Kilometers

5. General Health and Disability

5.1 Overview

Most people, around 4 in 5, across each of the Municipal Districts rate their health as good or very good while only 1% to 2% rate it as bad.

General Health of the Population

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Very Good	49.4%	54.1%	53.2%	51.1%	51.6%	49.0%	49.7%
Good	32.7%	28.2%	31.4%	30.4%	31.0%	31.8%	33.4%
Fair	9.7%	7.5%	8.9%	9.4%	9.0%	8.9%	10.4%
Bad	1.4%	1.1%	1.6%	1.6%	1.4%	1.2%	1.6%
Very Bad	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Not Stated	6.5%	8.8%	4.7%	7.1%	6.6%	8.8%	4.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
% Good or Better	82%	82%	85%	82%	83%	81%	83%
% Bad/Very Bad	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%

Source: CSO Census 2022

Around 1 in 5 of the population in each Municipal District have some form of disability. For West Clare, Shannon and Ennis 8% suggest that this disability is significant and 6% in Killaloe.

% of Population with a Disability

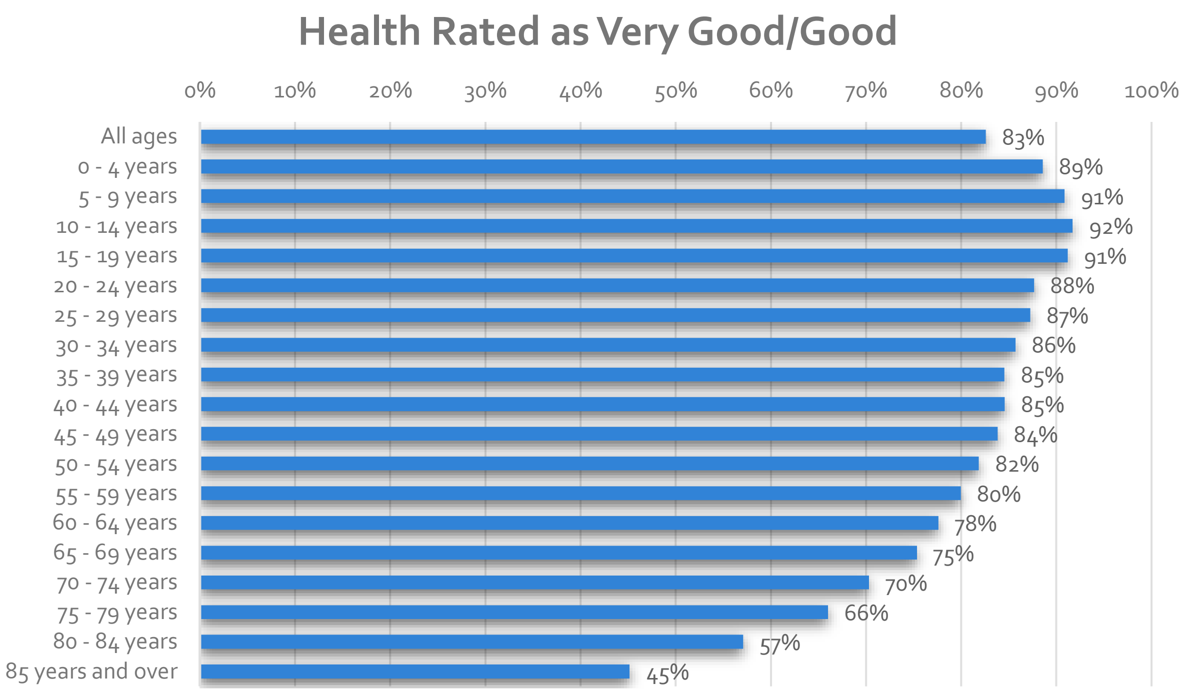
	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
% of population with any disability	22%	19%	22%	22%	21%	21%	22%
% of population with a disability to a greater extent	8%	6%	8%	8%	8%	7%	9%
% of population with a disability to some extent	14%	13%	14%	13%	13%	13%	14%

Source: CSO Census 2022

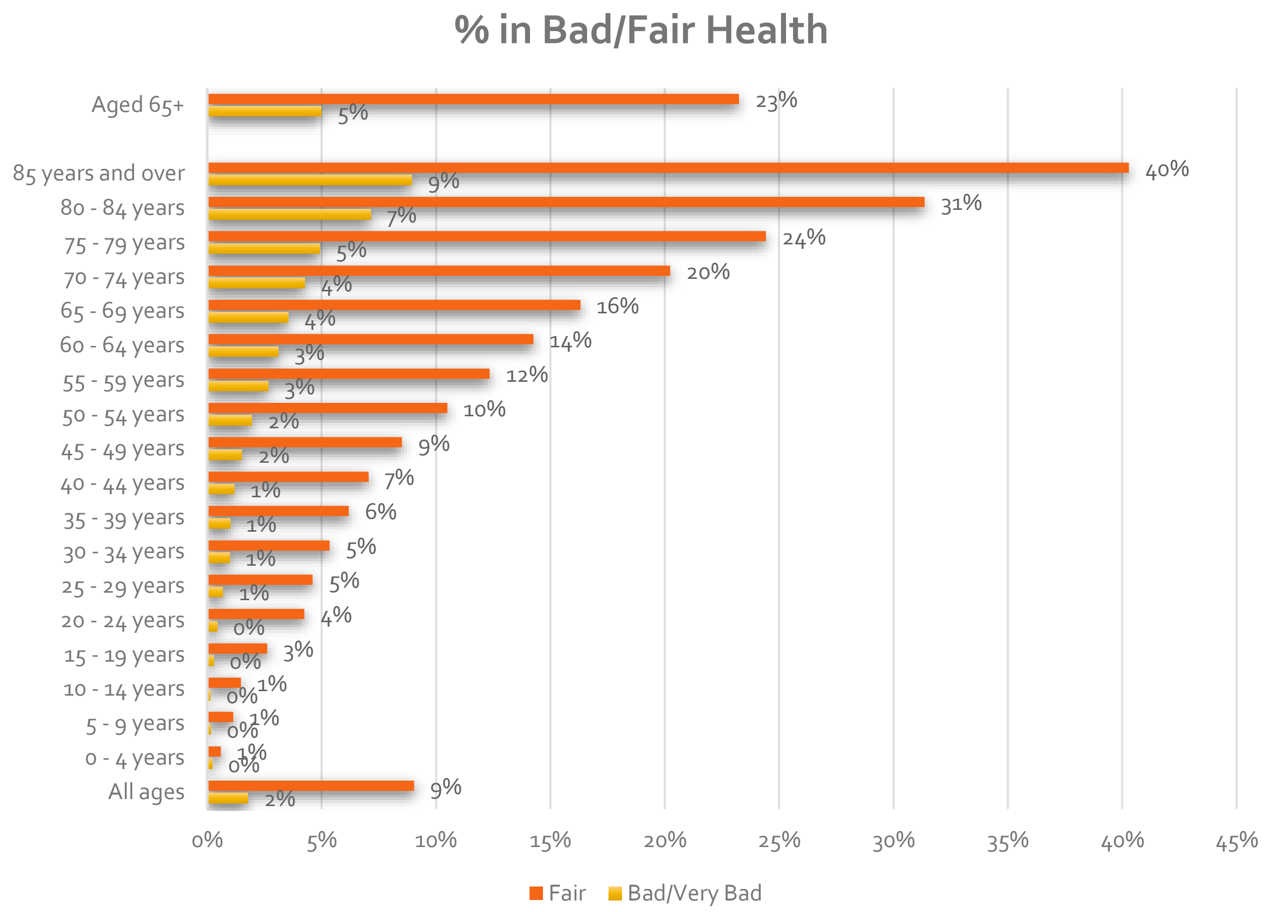
Kilrush had one of the highest rates nationally of people unable to work because of permanent sickness or disability, at 12%.

5.2 Health across the County

In 2022, 83% of people in Clare stated that their health was good or very good compared with 87% in 2016 and 88% in 2011, suggesting a growing share who do not rate their health well. This is a similar trend to the national figures, which also showed a 4% decrease in the good/very good categories, from 87% to 83% between 2016 and 2022.



Health obviously deteriorates with age. In 2022 28% of people in Clare aged 65+ rate their health as very bad/bad or fair. This deterioration of health with age is very significant at the age of 85 and over where only 45% rate their health as very good/good.


% in Bad/Fair Health
Aged 65+
85 years and over
80 - 84 years
75 - 79 years
70 - 74 years
65 - 69 years
60 - 64 years
55 - 59 years
50 - 54 years
45 - 49 years
40 - 44 years
35 - 39 years
30 - 34 years
25 - 29 years
20 - 24 years
15 - 19 years
10 - 14 years
5 - 9 years
0 - 4 years
All ages
23%
5%
40%
9%
31%
7%
24%
5%
20%
4%
16%
4%
14%
3%
12%
3%
10%
2%
9%
2%
7%
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4%
0%
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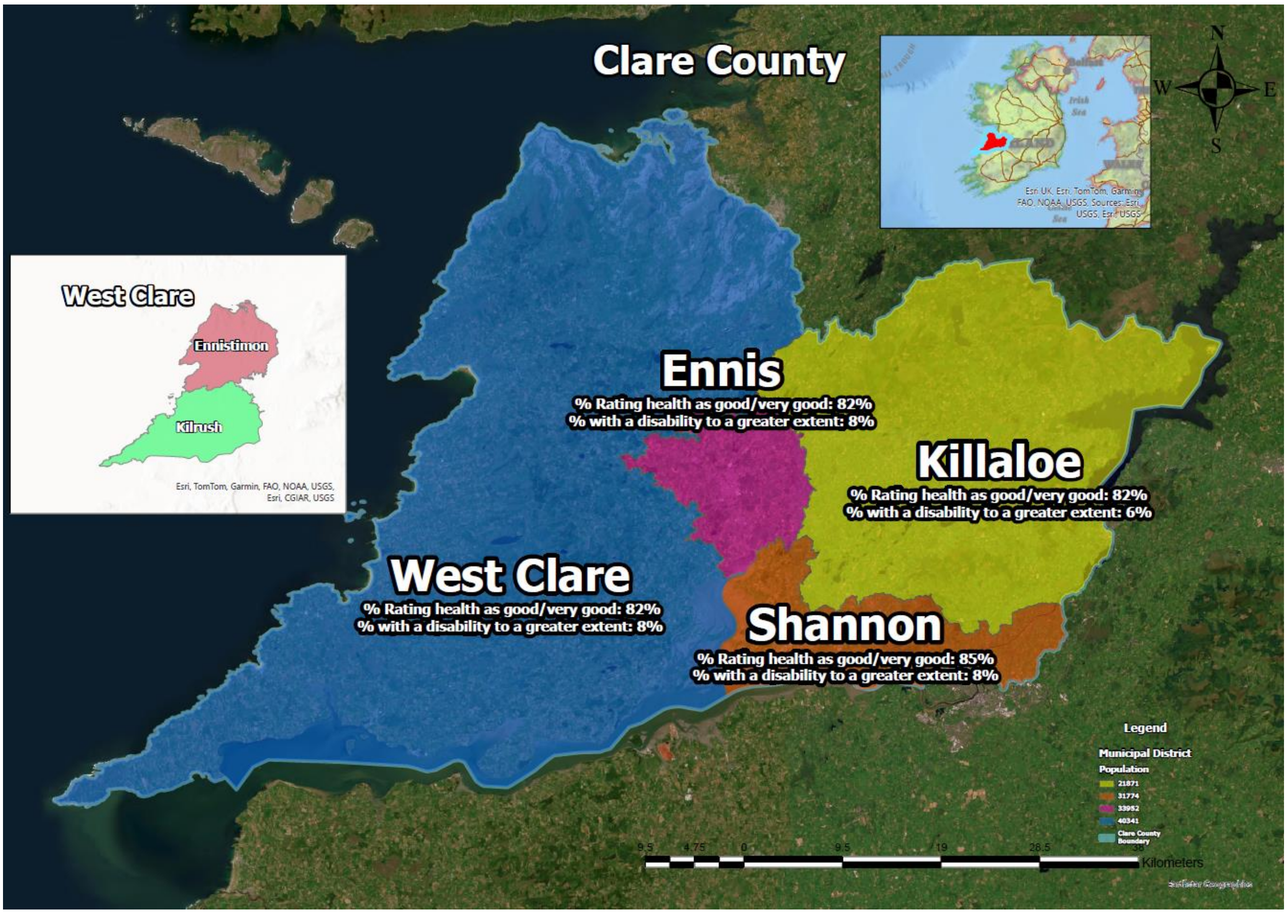
0%
1%
0%
1%
0%
9%
2%
0%
5%
10%
15%
20%
25%
30%
35%
40%
45%
Fair
Bad/Very Bad


Clare County
West Clare
Ennistimon
Kilrush
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS
Ennis
% Rating health as good/very good: 82%
% with a disability to a greater extent: 8%
Killaloe
% Rating health as good/very good: 82%
% with a disability to a greater extent: 6%
West Clare
% Rating health as good/very good: 82%
% with a disability to a greater extent: 8%
Shannon
% Rating health as good/very good: 85%
% with a disability to a greater extent: 8%
N
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Legend
Municipal District
Population
Kilometers

5.3 Disability in Clare

In 2022 there were 3,855 people in receipt of Disability Allowance. There were also 1,407 in receipt of illness benefit.

The Census suggests that around 1 in 5 (21%) of Clare's population has some form of disability. Some 8% state that they have a disability to a great extent. These figures are similar to the national average.

% of Population with a Disability

	Clare	Ireland
To any extent	21%	22%
To a great extent	8%	8%
To some extent	13%	14%

Source: CSO Census 2022

Looking at the self-reporting of disability by age, a high share of younger people suggest that they have some form of disability, which suggests an on-going need to have targeted actions to support such impacted young people. For example, almost 18% of those aged 20 to 24 years noted in the Census that they had some form of disability.

Share of Young People with a Disability

	Clare			Ireland		
Age Band	To Any Extent	To Some Extent	To A Large Extent	To Any Extent	To Some Extent	To A Large Extent
0 - 4 years	4.1	2.0	2.1	4.3	2.2	2.1
10 - 14 years	12.7	8.5	4.2	13.6	9.2	4.5
15 - 19 years	15.7	10.1	5.6	17.1	11.6	5.5
20 - 24 years	17.9	12.6	5.3	19.4	13.5	5.9

Source: CSO Census 2022

6. Housing

West Clare accounts for the largest share of Clare's housing stock in 2022, 39% or almost two-fifths of the total. Killaloe accounts for 16% of the county's housing stock.

The share of vacant housing recorded by the Census ranges from 4.6% of houses in West Clare (5.1% in Kilrush) to 1.4% in Shannon. In West Clare and Killaloe the largest share of vacant properties is farmhouses while in Ennis and Shannon they are rental properties.

Housing Stock & Vacant Housing

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Housing Stock	22,418	9,295	11,999	13,953	57,665	9,957	12,461
% of Clare Housing Stock	39%	16%	21%	24%	100%	17%	22%
Vacant Houses/Apartments as defined by the CSO in 2016 and 2022	1,040	332	173	269	1,814	409	631
Vacant Houses /Apartments in 2016 and 2022	4.6%	3.6%	1.4%	1.9%	3.1%	4.1%	5.1%

Source: CSO Census 2022

Home ownership is highest in Killaloe at 75% and lowest in Ennis (65%). Just over half of homeowners in West Clare own their own home outright. Ennis MD has the highest share of households who rent at 29%.

Type of Occupancy of Permanent Private Households

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
Owned with mortgage or loan	*24%*	*31%*	*33%*	*29%*	*28%*	*24%*	*23%*
Owned outright	*52%*	*44%*	*39%*	*36%*	*43%*	*51%*	*54%*
Rented from private landlord	*10%*	*10%*	*16%*	*19%*	*14%*	*12%*	*10%*
Rented from Local Authority	*6%*	*4%*	*6%*	*9%*	*6%*	*6%*	*6%*
Rented from voluntary/co-operative housing body	*1%*	*0%*	*2%*	*2%*	*1%*	*0%*	*1%*
Occupied free of rent	*3%*	*2%*	*1%*	*1%*	*2%*	*3%*	*3%*
Not stated	*4%*	*9%*	*3%*	*4%*	*5%*	*5%*	*4%*
Total	*100%*	*100%*	*100%*	*100%*	*100%*	*100%*	*100%*
% Owned	*76%*	*75%*	*72%*	*65%*	*72%*	*74%*	*77%*
% Rented	*17%*	*14%*	*24%*	*29%*	*21%*	*18%*	*17%*

Source: CSO Census 2022

Between 2012 and 2022 there have been 3,073 new dwelling completions in Clare. One in 3 of these (33%) have been built in West Clare, 28% in Ennis, 21% in Killaloe and 18% in Shannon. In 2022, 40% of new dwelling completions were in Ennis and 32% in West Clare.

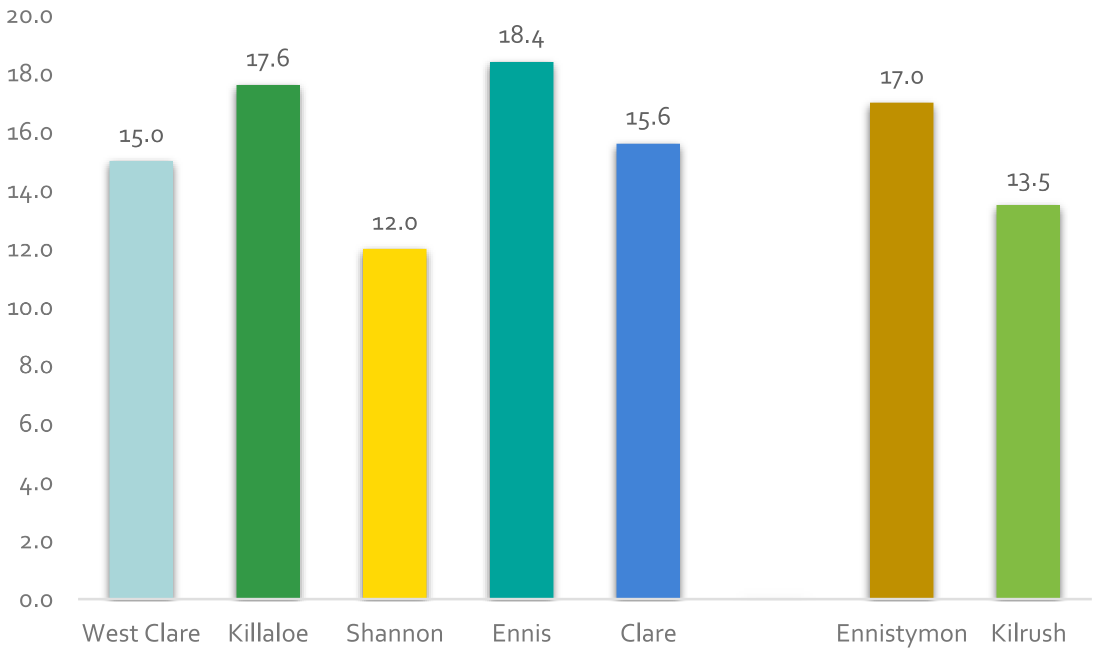
New Dwelling Completions

	Municipal District					West Clare	
	West Clare	Killaloe	Shannon	Ennis	Clare County	Ennistymon	Kilrush
2012	62	52	37	15	166	26	36
2013	63	33	14	14	124	29	34
2014	74	29	27	32	162	25	49
2015	50	51	16	29	146	18	32
2016	78	40	30	77	225	45	33
2017	89	47	47	70	253	35	54
2018	94	42	36	72	244	50	44
2019	111	89	94	91	385	64	47
2020	115	70	86	122	393	44	71
2021	107	86	103	115	411	50	57
2022	180	97	63	224	564	99	81
All New Housing Completions 2012 to 2022	1,023	636	553	861	3,073	485	538
MD % Share of Clare's New Housing Completions 2012 to 2022	33.3%	20.7%	18.0%	28.0%	100%	15.8%	17.5%

Source: CSO

During the 5 years from 2018 to 2022 the number of new housing completions per 1,000 population (2022) ranged from 18.4 new dwellings per 1,000 population in Ennis to 12 per 1,000 population in Shannon.

New Dwelling Completions - 5 years from 2018 to 2022 per 1,000 population (2022)



Source: CSO

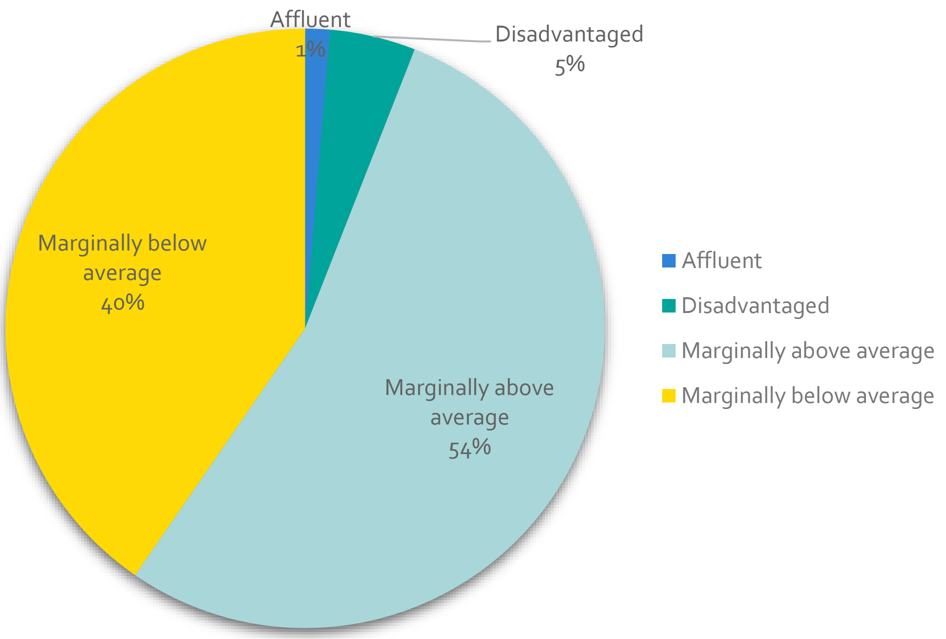
7. Deprivation in Clare

Based upon the Census 2022, the Pobal HP Deprivation Index for County Clare is 0.11 which is marginally above the national average. County Donegal scored lowest on the index (-5.6), meaning it is most disadvantaged, while County Kildare scored the highest (3.11), meaning it is the most affluent.

Out of the 151 Electoral Districts in Clare, 5% (7 EDs) are classified as Disadvantaged with a further 54% marginally above the national deprivation average meaning around 6 in 10 EDs in Clare are more disadvantaged than the national average. There are no EDs in Clare that are assessed as extremely or very disadvantaged.

Two EDs in Clare are considered 'affluent' – Carrowbaun (Killaloe LEA) and Rathborney (Ennistymon).

Clare Electoral Districts Deprivation Levels (2022)



Source: Pobal Deprivation 2022

In terms of the 7 EDs that are classified as Disadvantaged, 2 are in Ennis and 5 in Kilrush LEAs. Kilrush Urban and Mullagh rank in the Top 100 most deprived EDs across Ireland.

Disadvantaged Electoral Districts in Clare (2022)

LEA	ED	Pobal HP Index 2022 (Relative Scores)	Rank - Most Deprived (Ireland EDs=3,417)[2]
Kilrush	Kilrush Urban	-15.85	74
Kilrush	Mullagh	-15.50	83
Kilrush	Rahona	-12.78	129
Kilrush	Moyarta	-12.56	134
Ennis	Ennis No. 2 Urban	-12.39	138
Ennis	Ennis No. 1 Urban	-10.97	198
Kilrush	Kilkee	-10.51	217

Source: Pobal Deprivation 2022

Disadvantaged Electoral Districts in Clare by population

Electoral District	2022 Population	2016 Population	% Change 2016 - 2022
Ennis No. 2 URBAN	2,116	1,810	17%
Kilkee	1,214	917	32%
Kilrush URBAN	2,790	2,571	9%
Moyarta	234	223	5%
Mullagh	194	193	1%
Rahona	338	327	3%
Ennis No. 1 URBAN	1,562	1,452	8%
	8,448	7,493	13%
% of Clare's Population	6.6%		
Population Clare 2022	127,938		

Source: Pobal Index 2022

[2] There are 3,440 EDs in Ireland. The Pobal dataset provides data for 3,417

8. Carers

8.1 Overview

The number of people in receipt of Carer's Allowance in Clare is 2,311 with 3,105 in receipt of Carer's Support Grant according to DSP statistics for 2022. In addition, 1,158 were in receipt of Domiciliary Care Allowance.

The share of Clare's population who are carers has risen, up from 4.5% in 2011 to 6.4% in 2022. This is higher for women in that 7.5% of the female population in Clare in 2022 were carers. This suggests that there will be on-going need to expand support services, especially considering the increasing recognition of home-based care/community centred care which is a priority for national policy.

% of population who are Carers

	Male	Female	All
2011	3.5	5.5	4.5
2016	3.6	5.6	4.6
2022	5.3	7.5	6.4

Source: Department of Social Protection

8.2 Childcare

There were 24,998 children aged 15 and under in Clare in April 2022. Of these, 8,447 (34%) were in childcare, compared with 33% nationally. More children in Clare are likely to be looked after in a childminder's home compared to the national average (7.8% vs. Ireland 5.2%), with slightly fewer looked after by someone in their own home (1.1% vs. Ireland 2%) although this is very small.

Caring for Children (% children aged 15 and under)

	Clare	Ireland
Not in childcare	66.2%	67.2%
Unpaid relative or family member	8.6%	9.1%
Paid relative or family member	1.8%	1.8%
Childminder (in childminder's home)	7.8%	5.2%
Au pair/nanny/childminder (in child's home)	1.1%	2.0%
Creche/Montessori/playgroup/after school	13.6%	13.8%
Other (including special needs facility, breakfast club)	0.5%	0.5%
Type of childcare not stated	0.4%	0.3%
	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Department of Social Protection

8.2.1 Childcare Services

Clare has 140 childcare services out of a national total of 4,653. The average distance to travel to those childcare services is 2.1km compared to 1.6km nationally. Clare has a higher share of residential dwellings located further away from childcare with 11% located 5km or more from childcare services compared to 7% nationally.

Percentage of Residential Dwellings by Distance to Childcare Services

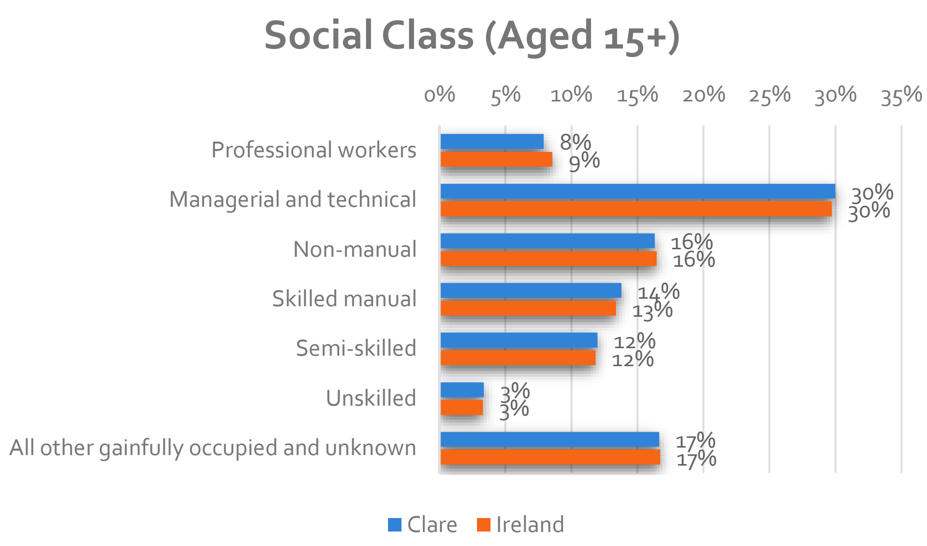
	Clare	Ireland
Less than 500 metres	24.1	32.6
500m - Less than 1km	24.2	25.6
1- Less than 2km	16.3	15.3
2- Less than 5km	24.4	19.5
5- Less than 10km	9.6	6.4
10km or more	1.4	0.6
	100	100

Source: Department of Social Protection

9. Other social points of interest

- In terms of marital status, almost 60% (aged 25+) are married while 29% are single. The share of population who are single is up from 27% in 2016 and 2011. In Ireland 32% of the population aged 25+ are single.
- The number of people (aged three and over) who stated, or have had stated on their behalf, that they could speak Irish in Clare was 54,437 compared with 52,482 in 2016. Within this figure 1,415 said they spoke Irish daily while 3,142 spoke Irish weekly. Nationally 1,873,997 people stated they were able to speak Irish, with 71,968 speaking Irish daily and 115,065 speaking it weekly.
- Clare had 2,216 homes with no smoke alarms.
- 9% of Clare households do not have a car. 47% have more than one car.

Clare's economic population profile is similar to the national average. For example, 30% of the population aged 15+ are classed by the CSO as managerial/technical (30% Ireland) while 16% are non-manual (16% Ireland) and 14% semi-skilled (13% Ireland). A further 8% are professional workers compared to 9% nationally.



10. The Clare Economy

10.1 Income overview[3]

According to the CSO, Clare, in summary, has the following income environment:

- Personal and disposable incomes are lower in Clare relative to the national average
- The average total income of a person in Clare is just over €31,000 (2021) compared to a national average of almost €36,000
- After taxes, people in Clare have €21,835 to spend over the year in disposable income, falling to €20,589 excluding rent
- Disposable income per head in Clare is 90% of the National average and 94% excluding rent
- Clare is one of the lowest ranking Counties across Ireland in terms of disposable income relative to the State average. Clare ranks 17th lowest out of the 26 Counties of the Republic of Ireland in terms of disposable income per person (with and excluding rent)
- Since 2018/19 disposable income per head in Clare has been rising at a slower rate than the national average and did not increase at all between 2020 and 2021 during the COVID pandemic. Preliminary figures suggest growth of 5% between 2021 and 2022. Consumer prices rose by +8.2% during 2022 (CSO CPI) highlighting that incomes have not risen in line with inflation
- Clare has one of the lowest average Social Benefits Per Person at €6,674 compared to the State average of €7,039

10.1.1 Disposable Incomes

The latest figures (CSO: February 2024) highlight that total income per person in Clare was just over €31,00 in 2021. This is 87% of the State average which is almost €36,000 per person. Disposable income

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[3] **Definition of Disposable Income (CSO)**

The components of disposable household income are gross household income less:

- Employer's social insurance contributions and pension contributions
- Regular inter-household cash transfer paid
- Tax (including USC) on employment income and social insurance contributions
- Tax on pension income
- Tax on retirement and redundancy lump sums
- Tax on rental income
- Tax on interest, dividends, profit from capital investments in unincorporated business
- Personal pension contributions to private and occupational pensions
- Local property tax

(income after taxes – see below) is €21,835 or 70% of total income. This is 90% of the State average. After rent, this falls to €20,589, 94% of the State average.

Total & Disposable Income Per Person (2021)

	Clare	Ireland	Clare as a % of Ireland
Total Income per Person	€31,143	€35,878	87%
Disposable Income per Person	€21,835	€24,376	90%
Disposable income as a % of total Income per Person	70%	68%	
Disposable Income per Person (excluding rent)	€20,589	€21,824	94%
Disposable income (excluding rent) as a % of total Income per Person	66%	61%	

Source: CSO

Clare is one of the lowest ranking Counties across Ireland in terms of disposable income relative to the State average. Clare ranks 17th lowest out of the 26 Counties in terms disposable income person (with and excluding rent). It ranks 13th in terms of total income. There are only 6 Counties with above average disposable income per head, rising to 11 when rent is excluded.

Total & Disposable Income Per Person (2021)

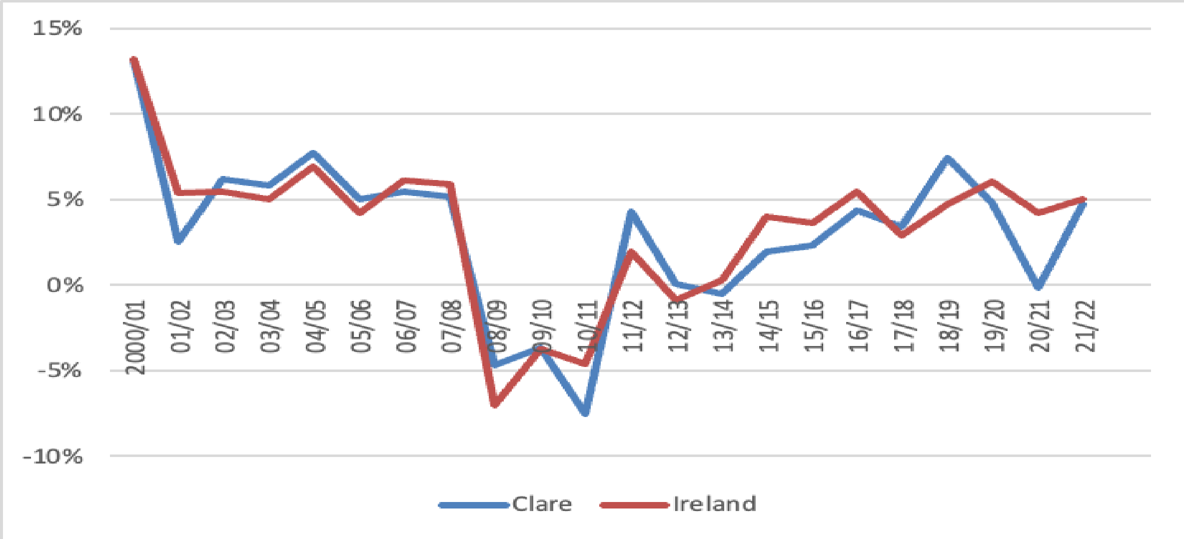
County	Disposable Income Per Person (State=100)	Disposable Income per Person (excluding rent) (State=100)	Total Income Per Person (State=100)
Co. Dublin	114.7	106.7	121.6
Co. Limerick	103.3	105.7	99.8
Co. Wicklow	101.3	104.2	103.8
Co. Carlow	101.0	105.1	94.3
Co. Cork	100.9	102.1	101.1
Ireland	100.0	100.0	100.0
Co. Kildare	99.7	101.7	103.3
Co. Louth	99.1	102.3	94.6
Co. Westmeath	99.0	102.4	95.6
Co. Galway	96.4	95.6	94.3
Co. Waterford	96.3	100.1	91.7
Co. Tipperary	96.3	102.5	90.8
Co. Meath	92.8	96.3	94.4

Co. Longford	92.5	97.1	84.6
Co. Wexford	92.4	97.4	85.6
Co. Kerry	90.0	94.5	84.1
Co. Mayo	89.6	94.4	84.2
Co. Clare	89.6	94.3	86.8
Co. Monaghan	88.3	93.5	82.0
Co. Sligo	87.0	90.2	83.3
Co. Leitrim	86.8	92.0	80.8
Co. Cavan	86.6	91.1	81.2
Co. Offaly	85.4	90.0	80.2
Co. Roscommon	84.0	88.7	79.3
Co. Kilkenny	80.8	84.9	78.6
Co. Laois	80.7	84.5	77.3
Co. Donegal	79.0	83.9	71.1
Clare Rank (1=Highest, 26=lowest)	**17**	**17**	**13**

Source: CSO

Changes in Clare's disposable income per head has largely mirrored the overall State performance until recently. There was a period of relative stability before the 2008/09 Financial Crash, but its scarring effects are clear to see as disposable income per head fell and then struggled to recover. Recovery only really began to happen around 2014/15. It is notable that Clare's disposable income per head had been rising at a slower rate since 2018/19 in nominal terms which is significant given that this is before the real cost of living crisis started to emerge in 2022/23. Between 2020 and 2021, during the COVID pandemic, there was no increase in disposable income per head in Clare while it increased by 4% for the State suggesting a greater fall out on living standards for the County. However, preliminary figures for 2022 suggests that disposable income per person is €22,870, up by 4.7% from 2021 against a State increase of 5%. Consumer prices rose by +8.2% during 2022 (CSO CPI).

Change in Disposable Income Per Head (Nominal) – 2000 to 2022 (Preliminary)

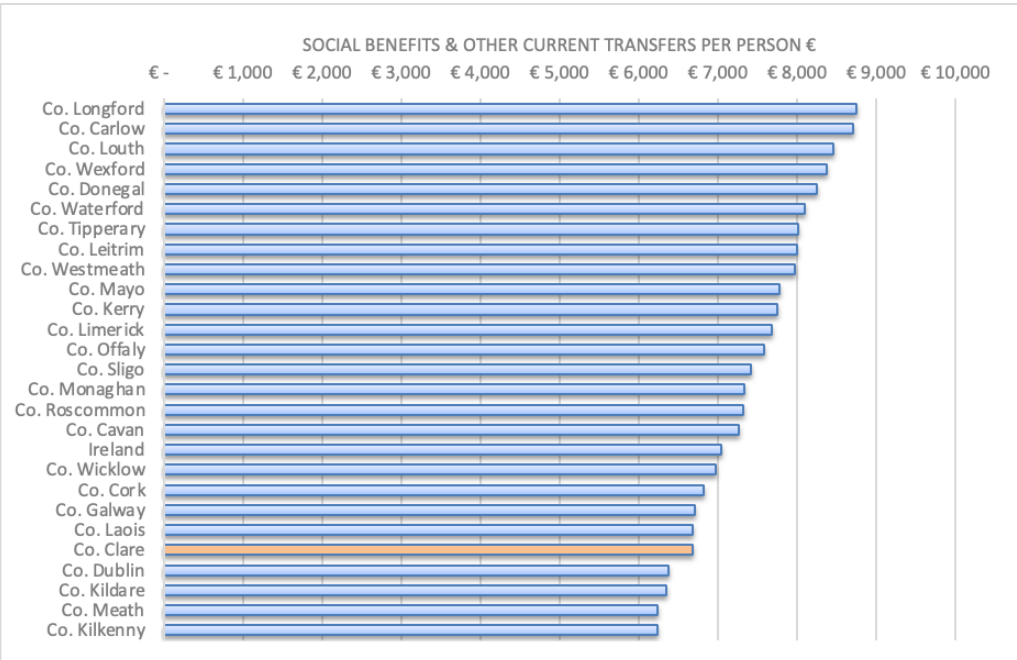


Source: CSO

10.1.2 Social Benefits

Social benefits and other transfers are the social transfers to households made by the State, either in cash or in kind, intended to relieve households of certain financial risks or burdens. After wages and salaries, social benefits are the largest contributor towards disposable income and have a significant bearing how counties rank on a per person basis with respect to disposable income. Clare has one of the lowest average Social Benefits per Person at €6,674 compared to the State average of €7,039.

Social Benefits & Other Current Transfers Per Person, 2021

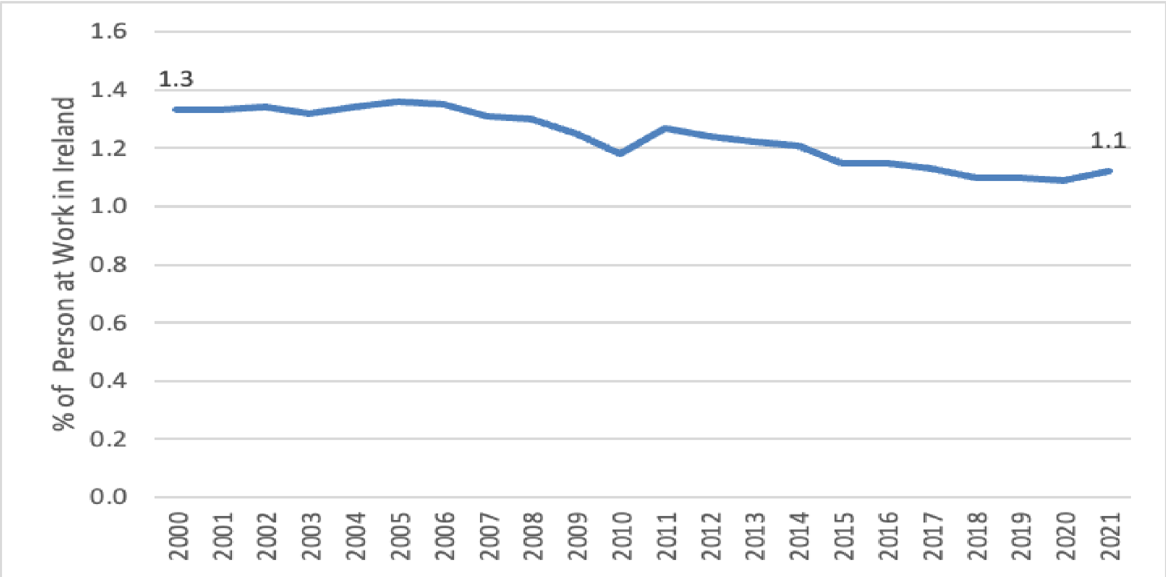


Source: CSO

10.1.3 Persons at Work

There is an important correlation between disposable income and people in work. Clare currently accounts for 1.1% of those in work in Ireland. This has fallen from 1.3% in 2000.

Persons at Work, Clare as a % of Ireland



Source: CSO

10.2 Key Employment Sectors

Key sectors in County Clare are focused on the public sector e.g., public administration, primary education, health care, along with farming and residential care/social work. In terms of the private sector, key areas are medical and dental instruments and construction. Retail and hotels are also among Clare's top employers.

Key Sectors in Clare

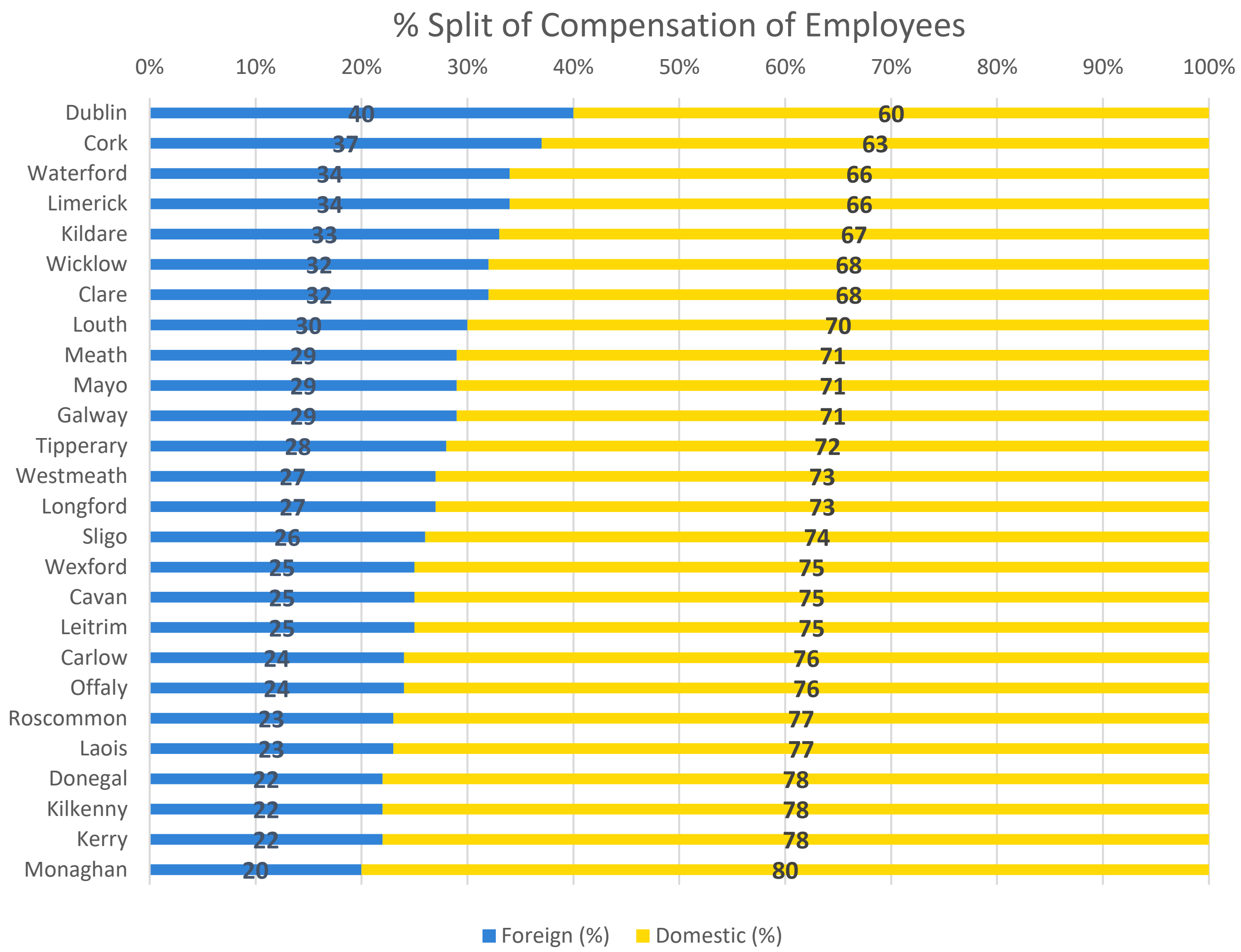
	Number	% of Labour Force
Total in labour force	61,111	
Public administration; compulsory social security activities (841,8421 to 8423,8425,843)	2,836	4.6%
Farming of animals; mixed farming (0141, 0142, 0144 to 0150)	2,652	4.3%
Residential care and social work activities (87,88)	2,539	4.2%
Primary education (852)	1,931	3.2%
Other human health activities (869)	1,704	2.8%
Medical and dental instruments and supplies (325)	1,584	2.6%
Construction of buildings (41)	1,449	2.4%
Secondary education (853)	1,436	2.3%
Retail sale in non-specialised stores with food, beverages or tobacco predominating (4711)	1,364	2.2%
Hotels and similar accommodation (551)	1,355	2.2%
Other electronic and optical products (263 to 268)	1,285	2.1%
Computer programming, consultancy and Information service activities (62,63)	1,229	2.0%
Hospital activities (861)	1,137	1.9%

Source: CSO

10.2.1 Persons at Work in Foreign Direct Investment Facilities

Clare ranks 7th across the counties in terms of the percentage of compensation of employees (COE) attributed to foreign enterprises. Almost one third (32%) of employee compensation in Clare can be attributed to foreign enterprises. The counties with the largest share of COE coming from foreign enterprises are cities and the surrounding counties. Foreign COE is at its highest in Dublin at 40% and Cork 37%. It is lowest in Monaghan at just 20%.

Compensation of Employees – Foreign & Domestic (2021)



Source: CSO 2021

10.3 Employees

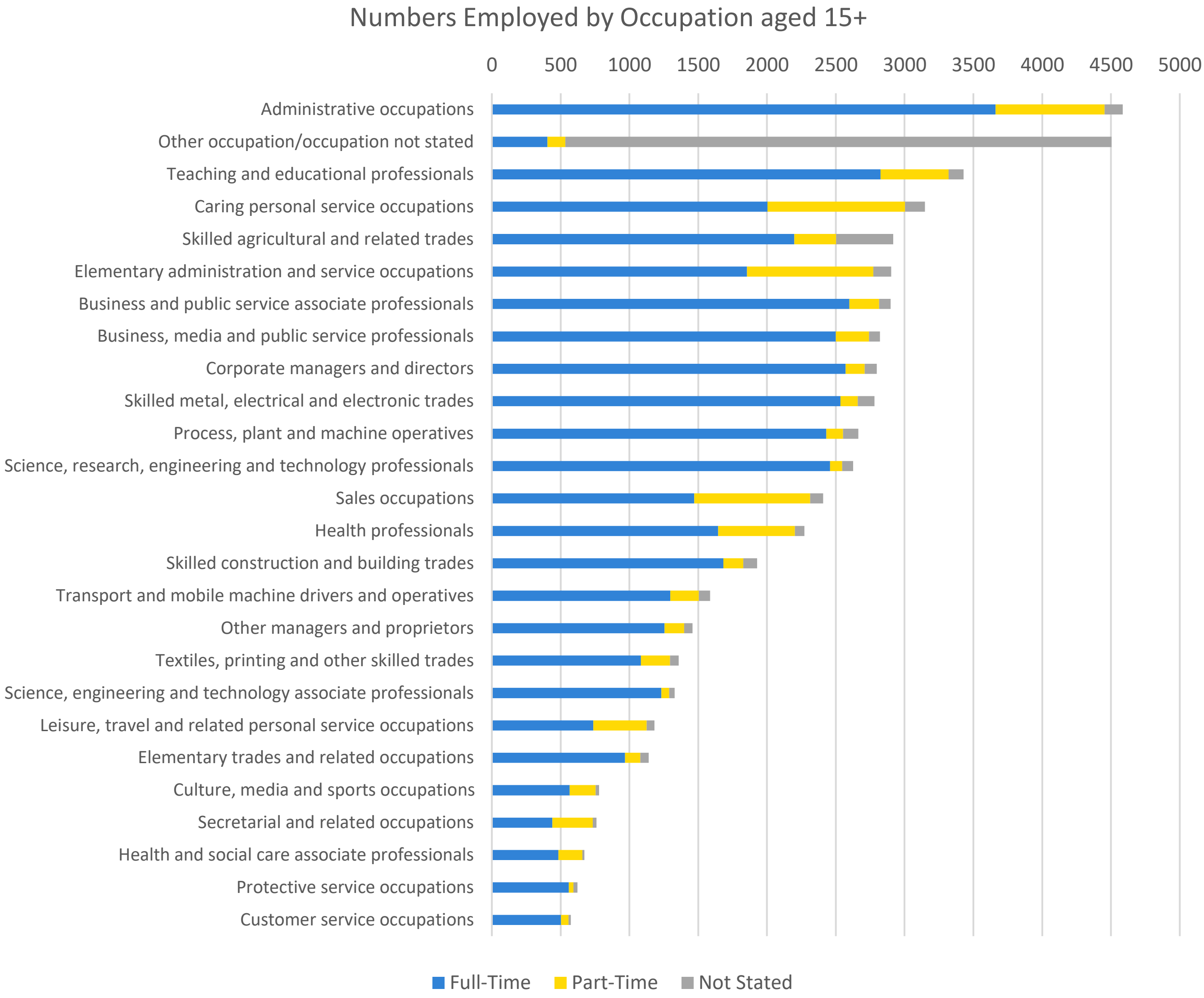
There were 56,144 people (aged 15 and over) at work in Clare, an increase of 6,633 people (+13%) between 2016 and 2022. Nationally, there were 313,656 additional people (+16%) at work.

Employment status by age cohort

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Not Stated
All	75%	14%	11%
15-24 years	67%	15%	18%
25-44 years	78%	11%	11%
45-64 years	74%	16%	10%
65+	61%	26%	13%

Source: CSO

The largest full-time occupations are administration, teaching, caring and farming. The largest numbers employed part-time are in caring, elementary administration, sales and administrative occupations.



10.4 Connectivity and Working from Home

Some 5,070 households in Clare have no internet connection. This represents a higher share of private households compared to the national average, 10.6% for Clare compared to 8.7% nationally. Clare households are also less likely to have fixed broadband, 59.5% compared to 66.1% nationally.

Almost all private households have some form of internet device. Most common are mobile phones, laptops, smart TVs and tablets. Slightly fewer households are likely to have access to some of these devices.

Connectivity and IT capabilities as % share of Households

	Clare	Ireland	% Point difference
All internet devices	99.8%	99.8%	0.0%
Desktop PC	22.0%	22.1%	-0.2%
Laptop PC	55.5%	57.6%	-2.1%
Tablet	41.4%	42.8%	-1.4%
Mobile phone	73.0%	74.6%	-1.6%
Smart TV	47.2%	49.8%	-2.5%
Video game console	21.1%	23.6%	-2.5%
Smart domestic appliance	9.6%	11.2%	-1.6%
Other internet devices	2.1%	2.3%	-0.2%
Type of internet device not stated	16.3%	15.3%	0.9%

Source: CSO

In Clare, 16,510 people (aged 15 and over) worked from home at least one day a week in 2022. This represented 29% of the workforce. The national figure is 32%. 47.9% of people work from home between 3 to 5 days a week. Sectors most likely to be working from home include administrative occupations and business/public sector services professionals.

Sectors most likely to be working from home

	Number of Persons working from home
Administrative occupations	2,392
Business, media and public service professionals	2,120
Business and public service associate professionals	1,943
Science, research, engineering and technology professionals	1,922
Corporate managers and directors	1,388
Skilled agricultural and related trades	1,312

Source: CSO

10.5 Employment and Unemployment

As measured by Census 2022, unemployment in County Clare stood at 8.1% in 2022 compared to a state average level of 8.3%[4]. The share of Unemployed in Long-term unemployment[5] in the county is similar (59.8%) to the State average (60.2%). The Labour Force participation rate (59.4%) is slightly lower than the State average (61.2%).

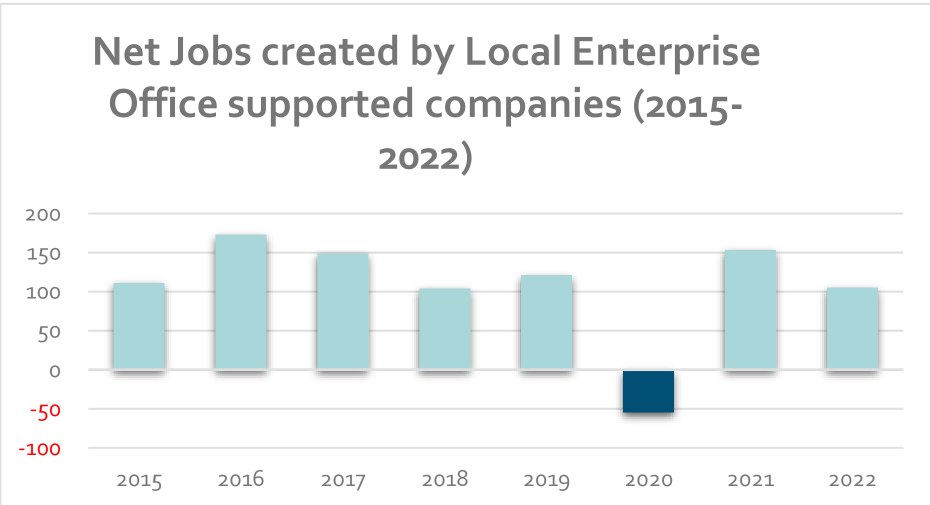
Recent Trends in the Live Register for County Clare & the State (June 2023)

	June 2022	June 2023	Year-on-year change
State (All Ages)	186,819	184,879	- 1.0%
County Clare (All Ages)	4,587	4,777	+ 4.1.%
State (Under 25 years)	19,299	19,799	+ 2.6 %
County Clare (Under 25 years)	437	490	+12.1%

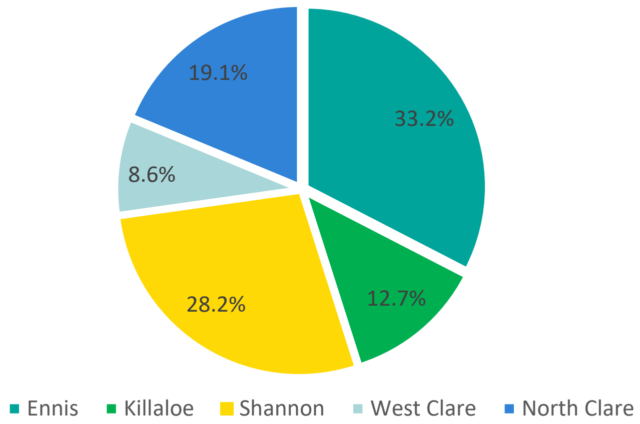
Source: CSO

10.6 Enterprise and Small Business

According to data collected by the Local Enterprise Office a total of 1,076 jobs were created between 2015 and 2022 inclusive, with the net job creation total only registering a negative value for the year 2020. The share of supported companies by Municipal District are set out in the following pie chart with West Clare having the lowest share of supported companies at just 8.6 % while Shannon has the largest share at 28.2%.



Share of Companies by Municipal Districts



Share of Jobs supported by Local Enterprise Office according to Municipal District

As noted above, two Municipal Districts exhibit higher than average shares for unemployment, educational under attainment and low incomes. The difference in enterprise intensity in the two areas should be used to help inform and tailor appropriate strategies for these two areas.

10.7 Enterprise sector developments

The Figure below shows the significant changes in business activity, employment and number of persons engaged by key business sectors according to the latest CSO Business Demography survey. This data is provided for 2021 (the latest available year) in absolute terms with a percentage change comparison with the per Covid-19 pandemic year, 2019.

The data shows an 11.6% rise in the number of active enterprises but, at the same time, a significant drop in the numbers of employees and the numbers engaged (11.5% and 8.6% respectively) due to very severe absolute and percentage declines in employment in Accommodation and Food Services, Wholesale and Retail and Real Estate, Administration and Support and Manufacturing sectors.

[4] This level of Unemployment is as measured by Census 2022 in April of that year. As measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey the level of unemployment stood at 4.8% in Q1 of 2022

[5] A period of 12 months or greater.

Active Enterprises, Employment and Persons Engaged in 2021 compared to 2019

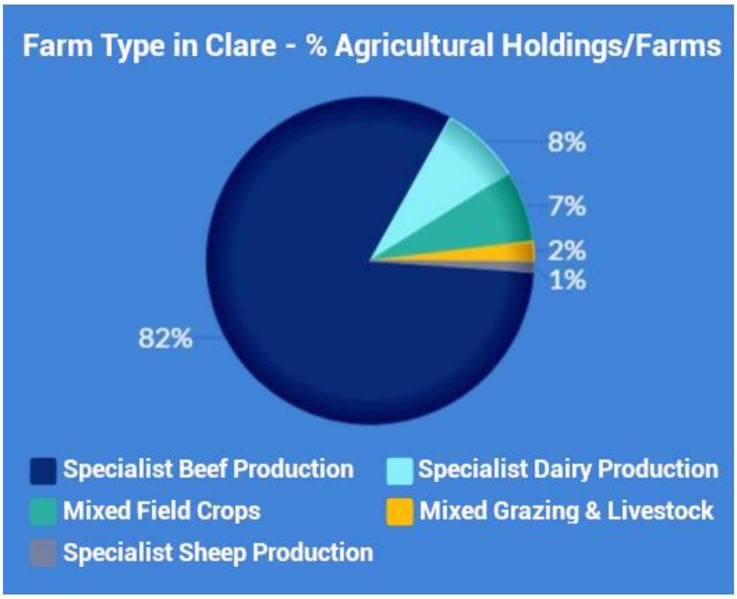
Activity	Active Enterprises	% change on 2019	Employees	% change on 2019	Persons Engaged	% change on 2019
Mining and Quarrying (B)	16		82	not available	87	not available
Manufacturing (C)	569	11.8%	6304	-7.8%	6601	-6.7%
Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply (D)	9	12.5%	3	not available	3	not available
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Mgt & Remediation (E)	23	9.5%	195	12.7%	204	13.3%
Construction (F)	1801	11.5%	2139	5.0%	3438	6.6%
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles & Motorcycles (G)	1244	4.9%	4704	-8.3%	5415	-6.6%
Transportation and Storage (H)	439	-3.7%	1177	-9.0%	1482	-9.1%
Accommodation and Food Service Activities (I)	659	0.9%	3564	-28.2%	3995	-26.2%
Information and Communication (J)	293	18.6%	848	16.6%	940	19.4%
Financial and Insurance Activities (K)	276	26.6%	703	-19.6%	737	-18.6%
Real Estate Activities (L)	363	32.5%	141	-31.9%	387	-1.5%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities (M)	986	15.7%	1759	-7.6%	2299	-3.4%
Administrative and Support Service Activities (N)	799	17.3%	3797	-20.1%	4104	-18.7%
Education (P)	473	9.7%	784	-1.3%	1065	3.1%
Human Health and Social Work Activities (Q)	464	16.6%	2708	-2.0%	3063	-0.1%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (R)	311	20.1%	447	-22.8%	681	-11.6%
Repair of Computers and Personal and Household Goods (S95)	48	9.1%	26	-3.7%	64	3.2%
Other Personal Service Activities (S96)	396	13.8%	374	-18.5%	741	-5.5%
Business Economy (excl. Sector O & Activities of Mem. Orgs (B to S-O-S94)	9169	11.6%	29755	-11.5%	35306	-8.6%

Source: CSO

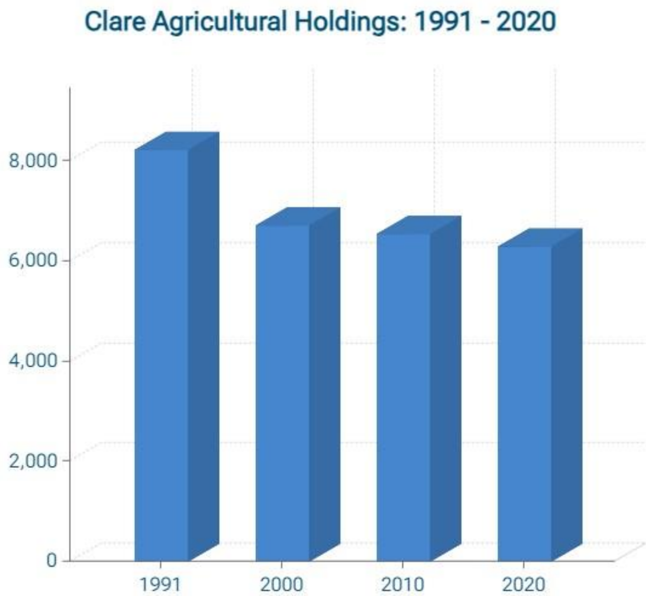
10.8 Clare's Farming Community

The 2022 Census highlighted that there are 6,297 agricultural holdings in County Clare, 4.7% of the State total. All agricultural holdings were classified as farms. The average area farmed was 32.1 hectares with 201,828.7 total hectares. Most farms are grassland, 52% pasture and 31% grass silage. Small percentages include crops, fruit and horticulture (0.4%) or cereals (.1%).

The vast majority, 82% of Clare's farms are specialist beef production followed by specialist dairy (8%) and mixed field crops (7%).



Source: CSO Census of Agriculture 2020

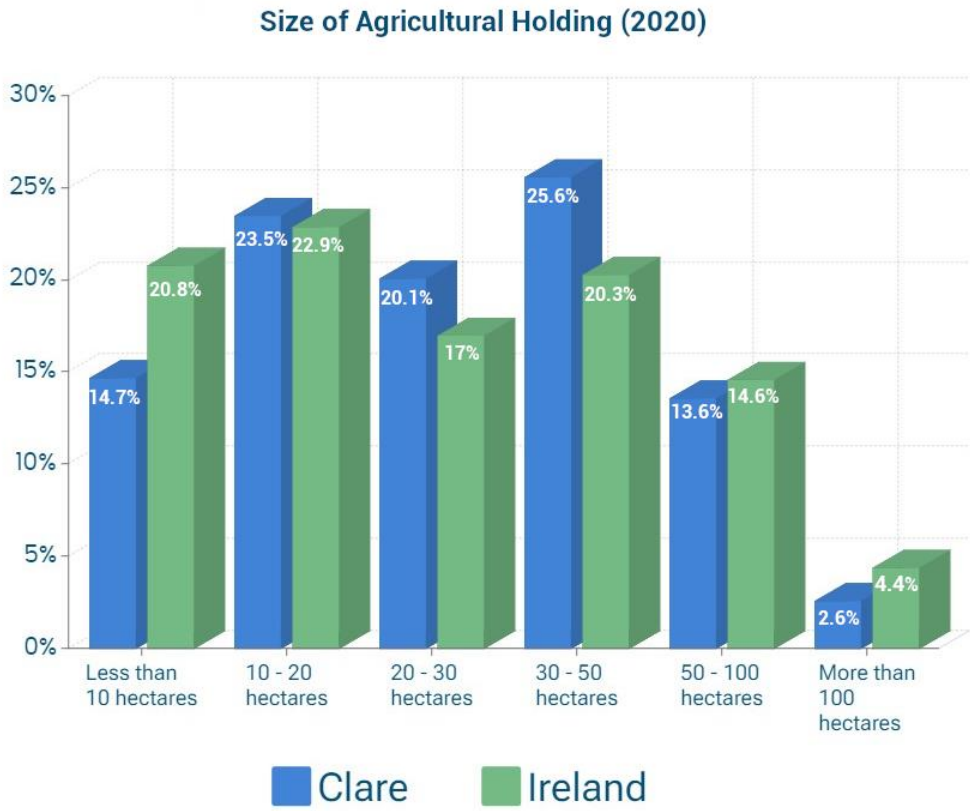


Source: CSO Census of Agriculture

There was a large decline in holdings recorded between the 1991 and 2000 Censuses, falling from 8,229 to 6,720 in less than a decade. In the two decades since, the decline has been much more modest, but it is still the case that the number of agricultural holdings in Clare continues to fall.

Clare has fewer exceedingly small holdings compared to the national average, 14.7% compared to 20.8%. One in four farm holdings are 30 to 50 hectares. Only 2.8% are 100 hectares or more, compared to 4.4% nationally.

The Census highlights that there were 2,892 people working in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, 91.8% of whom are men. The sector makes up 5.2% of the workforce in Clare compared to 3.5% nationally. Males working in that sector account for 8.9%, higher than the national average of 5.8%. Less than 1% of women in Clare work in this sector.



Source: CSO Census of Agriculture

There are 698 vacant farms recorded in the 2022 Census. Vacant farms accounted for 13% of vacant properties in Clare in that year.

The average age of a farm holder in Clare is 57.3 years of age.

Persons at Work - Agriculture & Forestry (2022)

	CLARE			IRELAND		
	Males	Females	Both	Males	Females	Both
Persons at Work	23.2%	31.4%	27.4%	21.3%	30.2%	25.9%
% of Persons in work	24%	35.1%	29.7%	22.7%	34.4%	28.9%

Source: Census 2022

10.9 Work Hubs

Clare has 18 remote work hubs out of a total for Ireland of 489 (2022). The average distance to travel to those hubs is 5.7km compared to 5.6km nationally. Some 44% of residential dwellings in Clare are located 5km or more away from Remote Work Hubs compared to 42.4% nationally.

Percentage of Residential Dwellings by Distance to Remote Work Hub

	Clare	Ireland
Less than 500 metres	6.7	4.1
500m - Less than 1km	9.1	7.8
1- Less than 2km	13.3	17.1
2- Less than 5km	26.9	28.6
5- Less than 10km	25.7	24.6
10km or more	18.3	17.8

Source: CSO

11. Sustainable Clare

Considering moves towards a decarbonised society, Clare households are much more like to use Oil for heating purposes, 58.2% compared to 38.9% nationally. Natural Gas usage is much lower at 12.2% compared to 32.7% nationally. Coal and Peat usage is also higher at 10.2% compared to 7.2% nationally. Such data indicates the challenge locally in achieving a decarbonised County, a critical feature of forthcoming plans on climate action.

Type of Heating Used by Households (2022)

	Clare	Ireland
No central heating	1.3%	1.2%
Oil	58.2%	38.9%
Natural Gas	12.2%	32.7%
Electricity	8.5%	11.8%
Coal (incl. anthracite)	5.4%	3.5%
Peat (incl. turf)	4.8%	3.7%
Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)	1.0%	0.6%
Wood (incl. wood pellets)	3.0%	1.7%
Other fuels	1.1%	0.9%
Not stated	4.5%	5.0%
	100%	100%

Source: CSO

In addition, the 2022 Census highlights that 59% of Clare households have no renewable energy sources, lower than Ireland at 66%. Clare households are much more likely to use wood, 21% compared to 13% nationally. 8% have solar panels, largely for water heating. Such data further underpins the challenges confronting the County as it transitions towards carbon neutrality.

Types of Renewable Energy Used by Households (2022)

	Clare	Ireland
No renewable energy sources	59%	66%
Solar panels for water heating	7%	5%
Solar panels for electricity	1%	2%
Wind turbine	0%	0%
Air source heat pump	3%	3%
Ground source heat pump	1%	1%
Wood	21%	13%
Other renewable energy sources	2%	1%
Renewable energy source not stated	10%	11%

Source: CSO

12. Environmental Sustainability and Transport

Interesting developments are occurring in relation to the take up of environmentally sustainable vehicles in Clare. From a share that was just 1.6% of the State total in 2019, the county's combined share of hybrid and electrical has risen to 2.1%, close to its share of the population. The implied year-on-year increase in licensing for the first six months of 2023 for the County is markedly faster than for the State as a whole.

However, the disparity in car ownership levels below implies that this may reflect demand from a wealthier section of the population living close to or working in the Limerick-Shannon hub.

Growth in licensing of Hybrid and Electronic (combined) vehicles

	Implied year-on-year increase*
State	+48.9%
County Clare	+66.1%
Share of State total Hybrid & Electrical vehicles licensed in county Clare	2.1%

Source: CSO

**The latest licensing figures for January-June 2023 are compared with half of the equivalent full year total for 2022. This may be affected by seasonal factors so constitutes a rough guide only.*

What the People of Clare Think...

1. Introduction

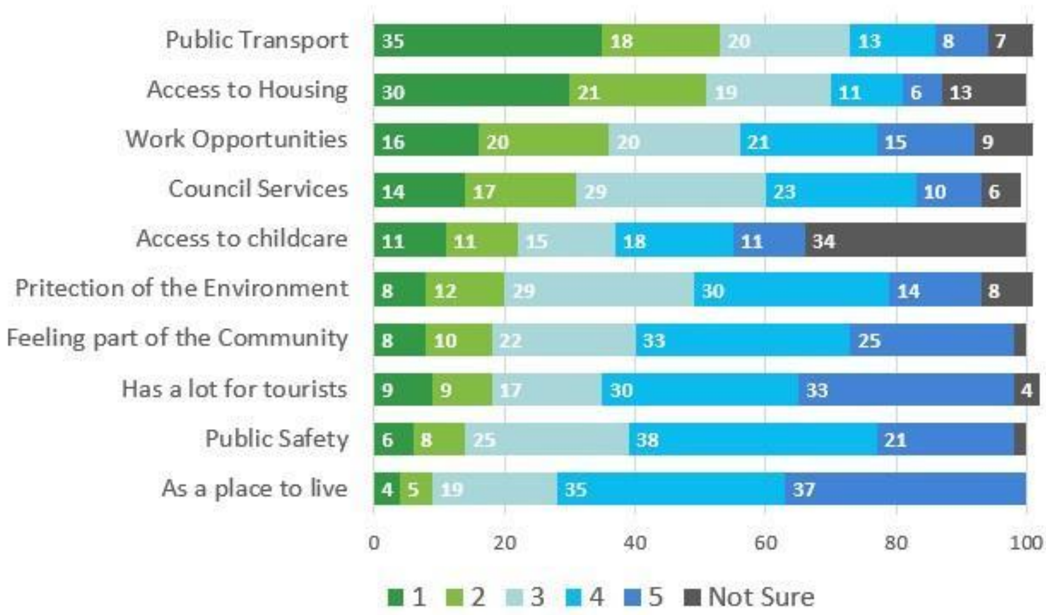
Clare County Council in association with Clare Limerick Education Board commissioned 'Ireland Thinks' to interview a representative body of residents to understand the views and perceptions of the people of Clare as the LECP was under preparation. 'Ireland Thinks' went to great lengths to ensure accurate representation. The team from 'Ireland Thinks' utilized a dual-method approach combining face-to-face interviews with an SMS-invite panel. This strategy addressed gaps in face-to-face samples, especially among younger demographics and residents of isolated homes and apartments, ensuring a more holistic representation. The sample covered participants from 37 towns and villages across Clare, reflecting their respective population sizes. Although the raw poll data closely mirrored Clare's demographics, the Team applied weighting to perfectly align the results. Weighting considers factors such as Age, Gender, the combined composition of age and gender, educational attainment, and the LEA. These demographic targets were based on the 2022 Census.

In addition, the Clare Team, with the support of consultants, Seán O Riordáin and Associates Ltd., prepared a series of targeted questionnaires which focused on key groups in and across the County. The preliminary results of these are also presented in this report.

2. The Clare Survey

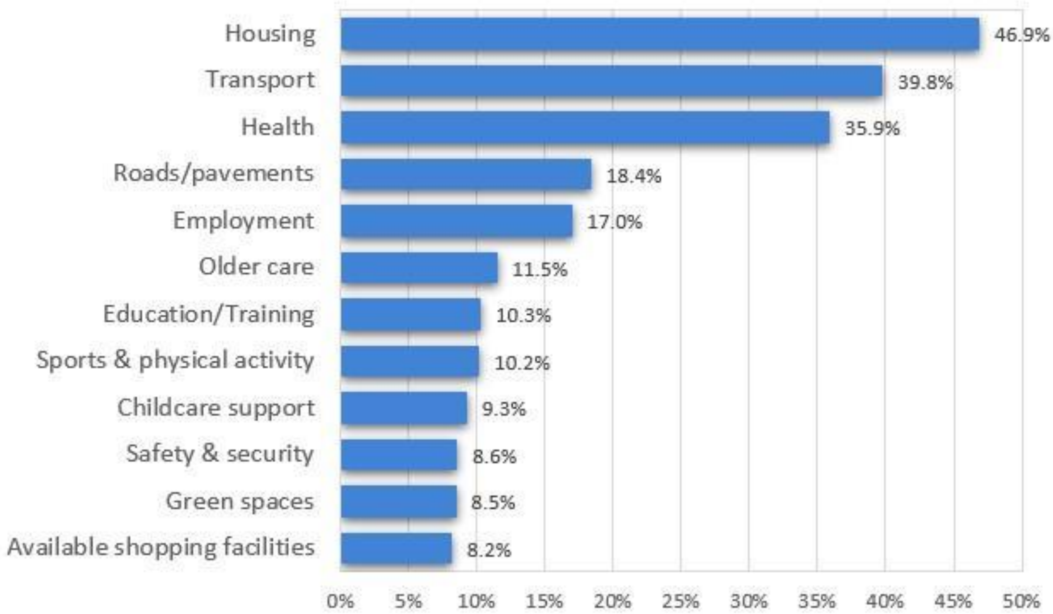
2.1 Public Rating of Clare

The first question assesses a variety of aspects of Clare. The public were asked to evaluate County Clare across a number of features. The question: "On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is 'poor' and 5 is 'excellent', how would you rate your locality?" is followed by a list of ten items. In the order of the lowest average rating to the highest average rating: Access to housing (2.3), Public Transport (2.4), Work opportunities (3.0), Council services (3.0), Access to childcare (3.1), Protection of the environment (3.3), Feeling part of the community (3.6), Has a lot for tourists (3.7), Public Safety (3.6), As a place to live (4.0).



The chart highlights the share of the population that score each item on a scale of 1 to 5 as well as those that are unsure. It is notable that for the most part there were relatively few people who were 'Not sure', aside from the topic of access to childcare, for which 34% stated that they were not sure.

At the outset this informs us as to which feature is in most need of improvement. In this case, access to housing and public transport are the two features with the lowest ratings. The data can also indicate who has rated these features relatively poorly.



2.2 The Priorities for Clare

The next question asked respondents to identify what they believed should be prioritised from a list of 13 items. Respondents were allowed to pick more than one item and therefore as a result the total % adds to more than 100%.

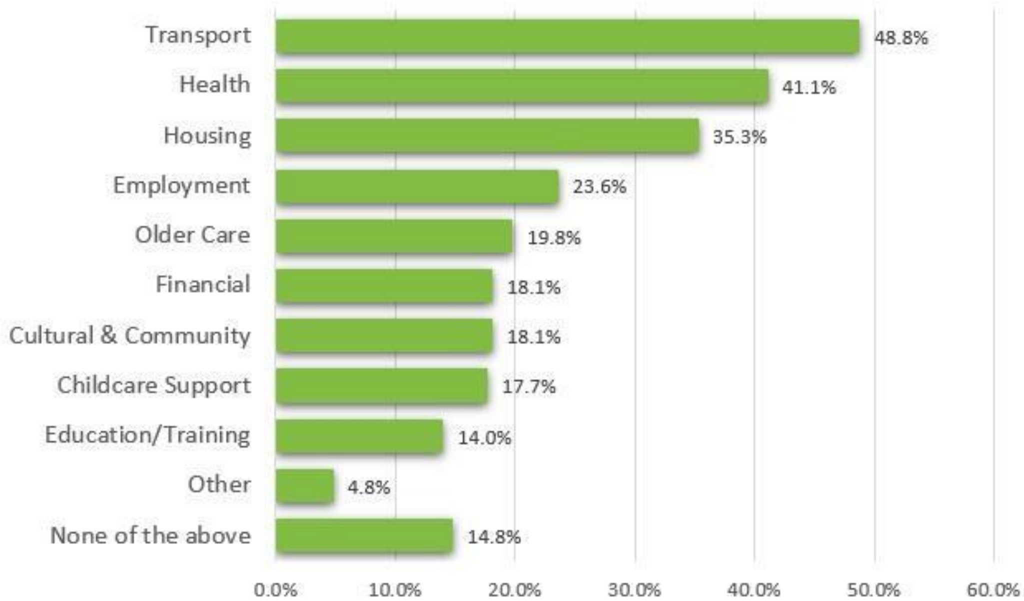
The number given tells us the % of respondents that highlighted a given item as a 'priority'. So, for example, the top three which had much higher %'s were 47% identifying Housing, and 40% identified Transport, followed by 36% who identified Health.

After these top three, there are two further issues that are prioritised – roads/pavements, 18% and Employment, 17%. Thereafter we have Education/Training (10%), Culture & Community (10%), Sports and Physical Activity (10%), Childcare Support (9%), Safety & Security (9%), Green Spaces (9%), and lastly, Available Shopping Spaces (8%).

It is equally important to identify the areas with the lowest priority, such as in this case further available shopping facilities which have the lowest priority.

2.3 Unmet Needs

A further question asked respondents from a shorter list is whether there are any needs they have that are not being met for them personally. Again, respondents were able to select more than one item and as a result the total across categories would add to over 100%.

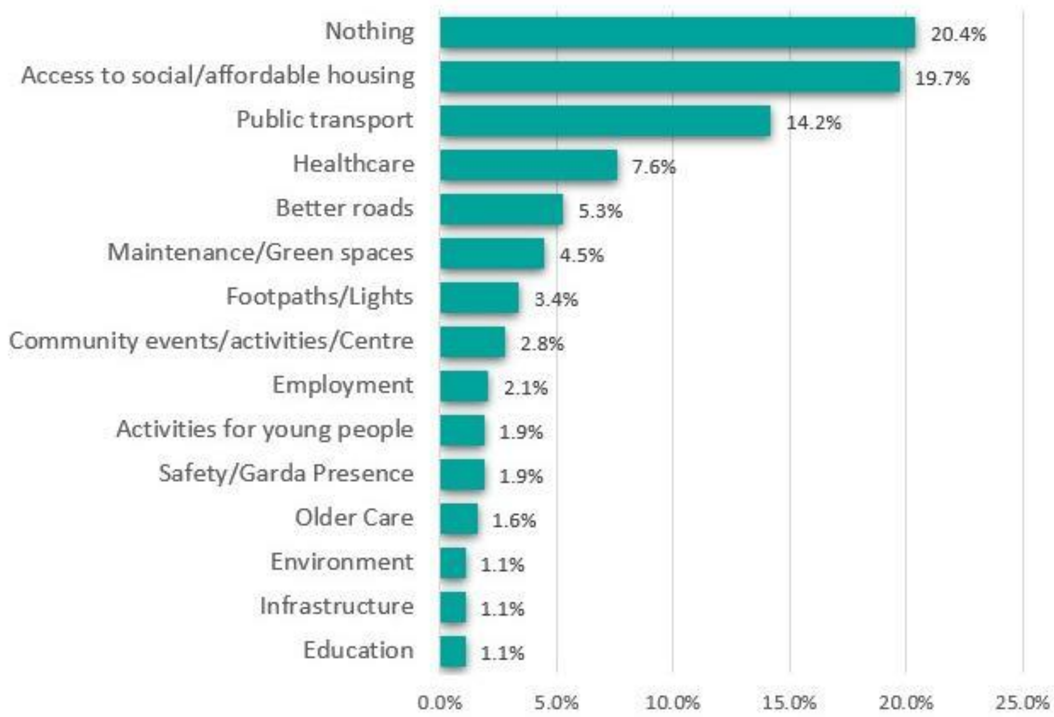


The numbers indicated reflect the % of the Clare population who believe a specified need is not being met for them personally. Here, the same three issues rank 1st, 2nd and 3rd albeit in a slightly different order. Transport (49%), Health (41%) and Housing (35%). Housing is deemed as a bigger priority overall, with a marginally smaller number of people personally affected.

This is perhaps because transport needs, which might affect more people, are not as acute a problem. The list of issues continues with 24% identifying Employment, 20% identifying Older Care, 18% identifying Financial Issues, 18% identifying Cultural and Community issues, 18% identifying Childcare Support, and 14% identifying Education and Training. Just 5% identified another issue and 15% stated 'None of the above'.

2.4 Specific Additional Needs

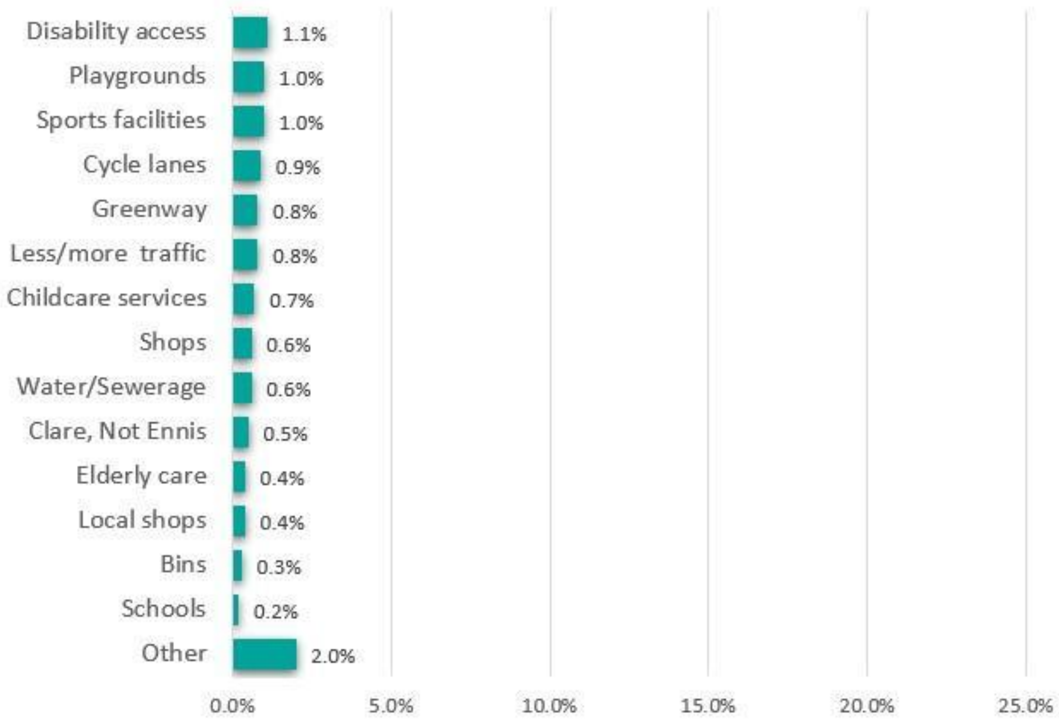
A further question allowed people to add any specific needs. In this case respondents were allowed to use an open-ended text field to identify any specific issues pertinent to them. Here, 20% stated 'Nothing' as there was nothing specific that they could identify. Thereafter there were many different answers. However, when classified, a similar picture was uncovered.



The primary issue identified was access to Social and Affordable Housing (19.7%). Immediately after that was Transport and after that Healthcare. This reflects a relatively consistent pattern in which, overall, housing is deemed to be the most important concern, followed very closely by transport.

In third position Healthcare is highlighted. Better roads are fourth with 5.3%, again this was the fourth biggest priority when we asked about overall investment. Maintenance and green spaces (4.5%) are fifth here, which was reflected albeit to a lesser extent in the other data.

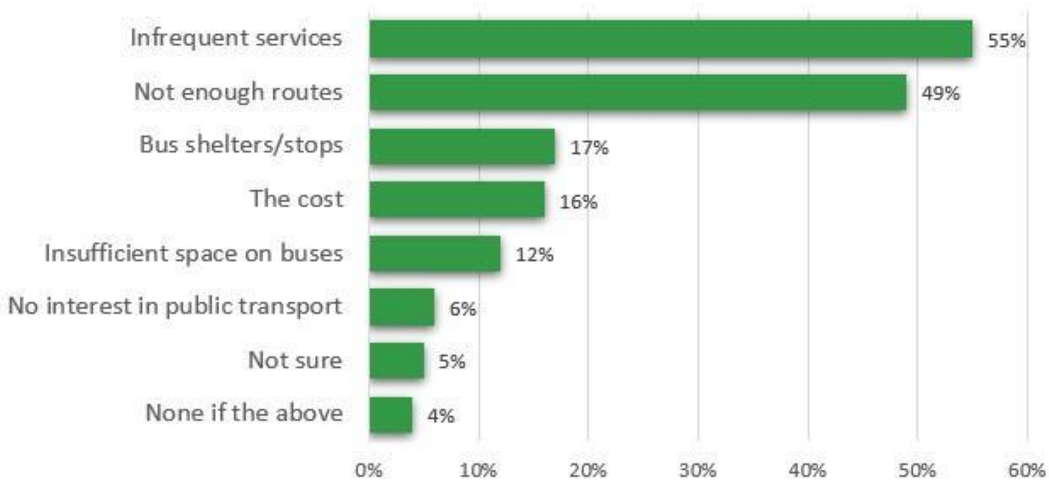
In addition, the aim of this question was to identify whether there were any issues which our initial lists had missed. In the broad sense that does not appear to be the case as, even after specifying their priority and personal priority still the same issues dominated the open-ended. The list continues as follows: Footpaths and lights (3.4%), Community events/activities/centre (2.8%), Employment (2.1%), Activities for young people (1.9%), Safety and Garda presence (1.9%), Older Care (1.6%).



2.5 Public Transport

2.5.1 Principal Concerns for Public Transport

Cognizant of the likelihood of transport and housing issues, emerging questions that dug into these topics were asked in greater detail. The next question asks: “Which of the following would be your principal concern in relation to public transport in your area?" and respondents were allowed to select a couple of options again here.



In this case, 55% selected infrequent services, the most popular choice, thereafter 45% selected 'Not enough routes', somewhat related to the first choice. The next set of demands were significantly lower than the two first demands. Bus shelters and stops (which could of course mean more stops on existing routes), 17%, The cost 16%, insufficient space on buses, 12%, no interest in public transport, 6%, not sure 5%, and none of the above, 4%. Overall, it seems that the frequency of the services and number of routes are in higher order of demand when it comes to this key issue.

2.5.2 Public Transport Service Provision

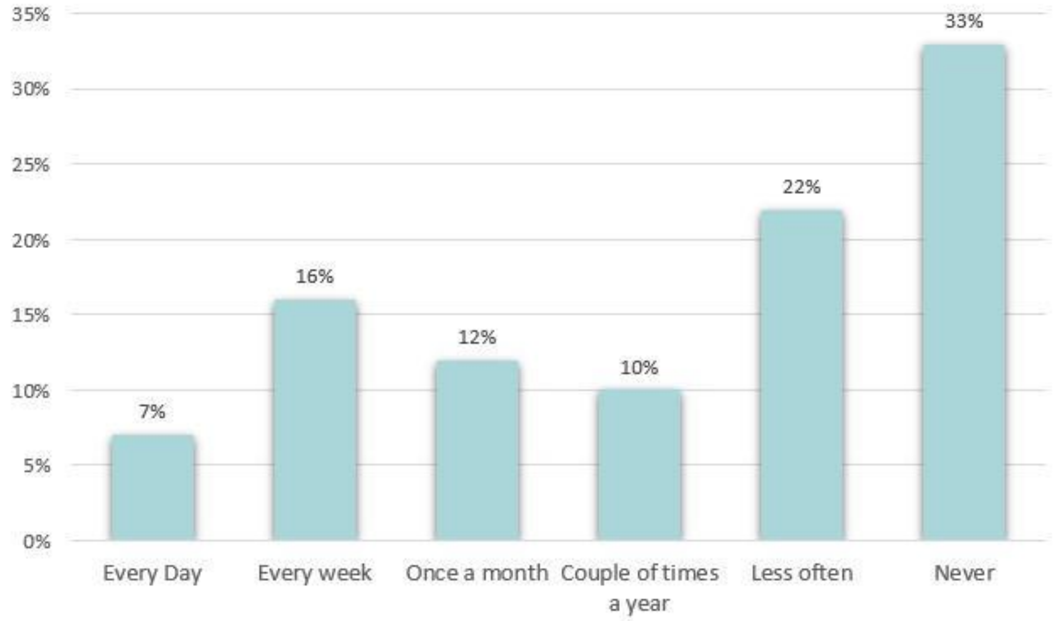
In the next table we split these results out according to the LEA. Here we highlight that in Killaloe LEA there is a significantly larger subset to emphasise the infrequent services and insufficient number of routes. 79% and 72% respectively identifying these issues in this LEA, in contrast to say Shannon where the corresponding figures are 48% and 34%. In Ennistymon there is a marginally greater concern for the infrequency of the services (62%) and in Ennis the lack of routes is highlighted (62%).

Public Transport Provision

	Infrequent Services	Not Enough Routes
Ennis LEA	48%	62%
Ennistymon LEA	62%	37%
Killaloe LEA	79%	72%
Kilrush LEA	45%	39%
Shannon LEA	48%	34%

2.5.3 Frequency of usage

The next chart asks respondents how often they take public transport. In this case it is clear that a large section of the Clare population rarely uses public transport. Just 7% report using it 'every day', a further 16% (23% total) 'every week', 12% 'once a month' (cumulatively 35%), 10% a 'couple of times a year' (cumulatively 45%) and then 22% 'less often' and 33% 'never'.



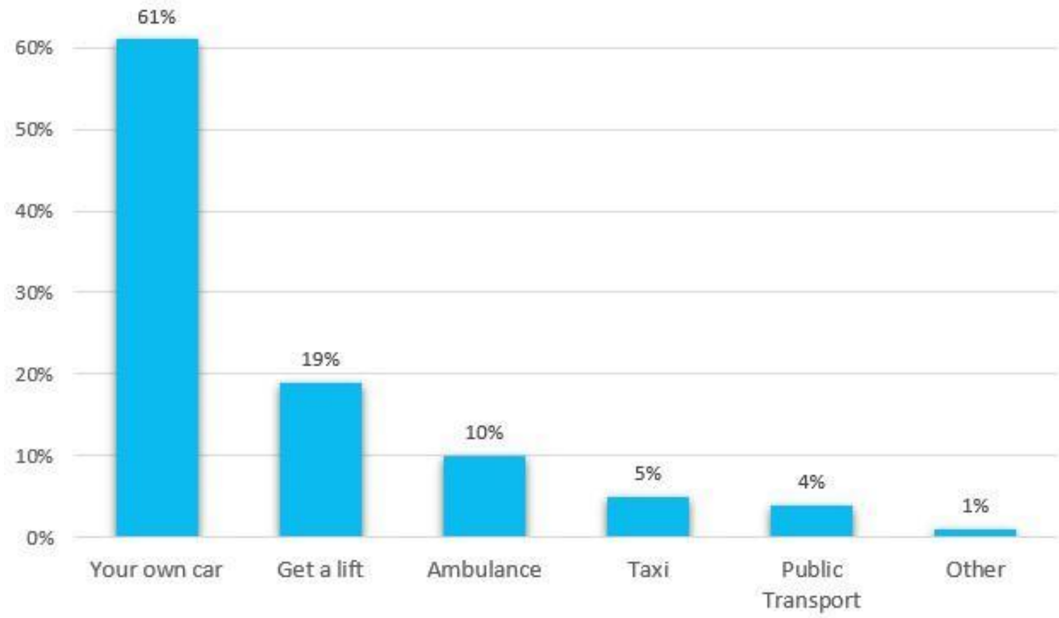
The next obvious question is whether people would use public transport if there was a moderate improvement. It is all well and good, highlighting the relative importance of public transport but who would see it if there was a significant improvement? To understand this, we asked the question: "Would you use it (public transport) more if there was a moderate improvement?" In response to this 47% said yes and 53% said no.

What is interesting is how we break this figure down. It would appear that those that already use public transport more often tend to be more likely to say that they would use it more if there was a moderate improvement. This stands to reason.

Typically, those without a car or other demographics already predisposed to public transport would use it more. 62% of those that use public transport on a weekly basis would use it more often, 56% of those that use it monthly would use it more often. Those that use it a couple of times a year (32%) and those that use it less often (45%) and never (39%) are again somewhat less likely to take it up although certainly non-negligible in their numbers. In terms of the demographics, the groups who state that they would use it more often are almost all aged *under* 65, peaking specifically at those aged 35-44.

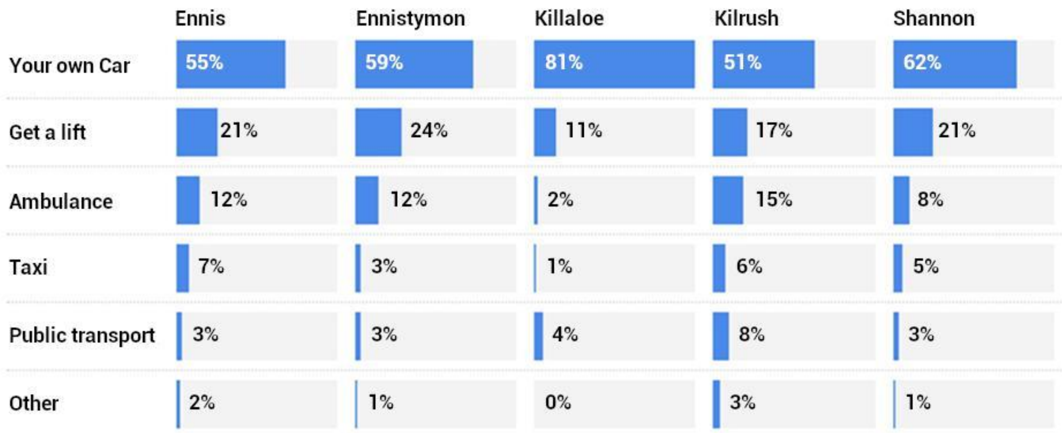
Those living in Kilrush LEA (54%) are the most likely, followed by Ennis (53%), Ennistymon (45%), Killaloe (44%), and lastly Shannon (37%).

The next question posed sought to explore the interlocking relationship between healthcare needs and transport needs. An issue that had been raised at our meeting at the outset. The question posed asked: “If you had to go to a hospital how would you get there (e.g., a minor emergency)?” In response to this 61% identified their car as the method through which they would get to hospital. 19% stated that they would get a lift, 10% stated that they would take an ambulance, 5% a taxi, 4% public transport and 1% other.

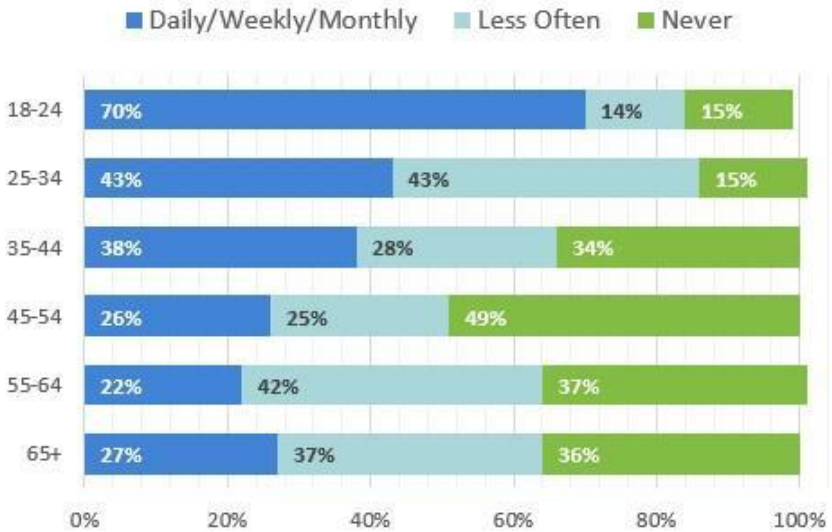


The share of people relying on transport other than their own car increases in some parts of Clare. In Kilrush LEA, 51% are using their own car, 55% of Ennis, 59% of Ennistymon, 62% of Shannon and 81% of Killaloe, which seems to be more oriented towards having a car.

The next image breaks down the frequency with which one takes public transport according to the respondent’s age. It shows how younger people are far more likely to take public transport on a regular

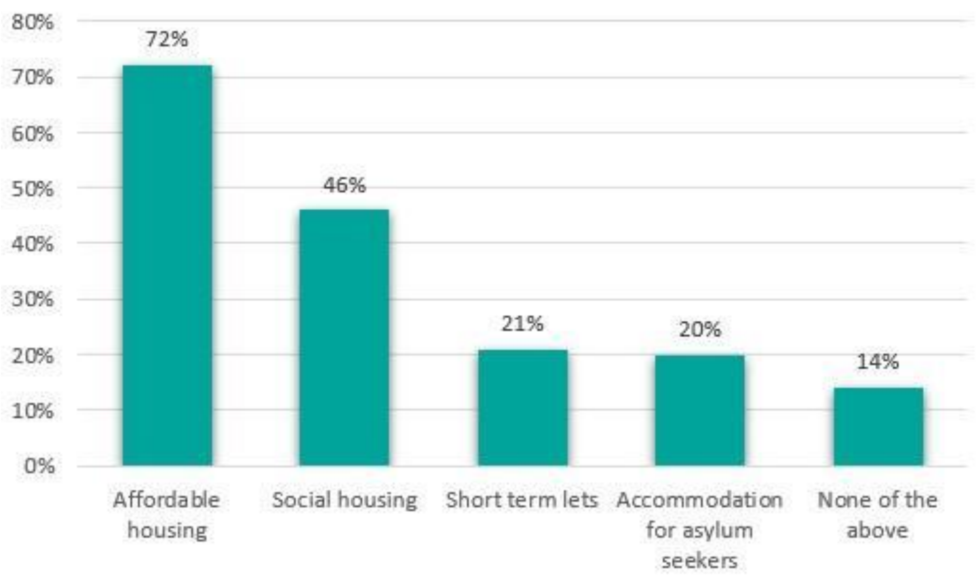


basis. Those aged 18-24 are far more likely to take public transport at least on a monthly basis with 70% reportedly doing so. This declines to 43% among those aged 25-34, 38% among those aged 35-44, 26% among those aged 45-54, 22% among those aged 55-64 and then slightly rising to 27% among those aged 65+.

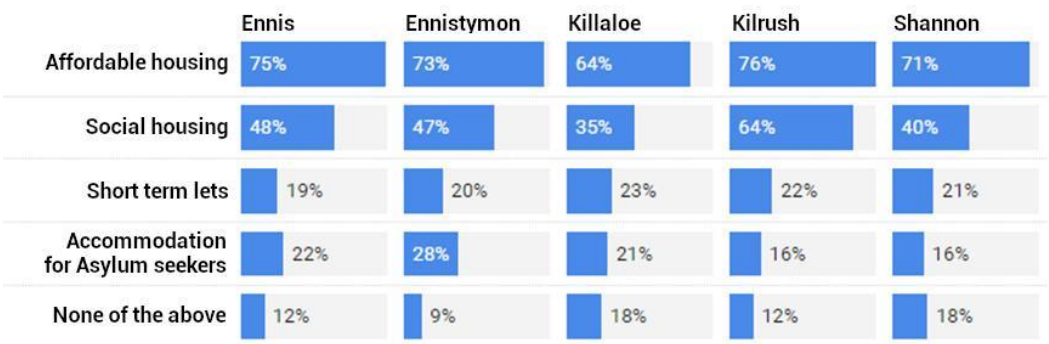


2.6 Housing

Firstly, in relation to housing, the team sought to understand what form of housing people would like to be built in their area. By focusing on their area, an understanding of both the priorities for housing in terms of its type and opposition to housing in specific areas was developed. Kilrush, for example, sees the largest number demanding further social housing. This was quite frequently people living in social housing looking for additional social housing due to relatives etc. The Ennistymon LEA saw the largest number of people looking for accommodation for asylum seekers, though it is worth highlighting that this amounted to a minority in Ennistymon as in everywhere else.



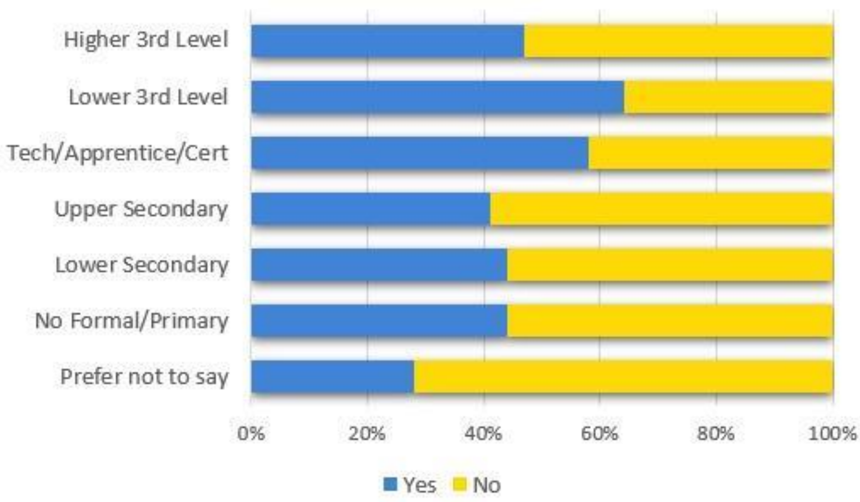
People were asked "Should any of the following be built in your locality?" In response 72% elected affordable housing, by far the most popular, followed by 44% including social housing, 21% short term lets, 20% accommodation for asylum seekers and 14% stating none of the above. It's worth highlighting that those opposed to the development of any housing are in the very small minority of residents.



2.7 Education

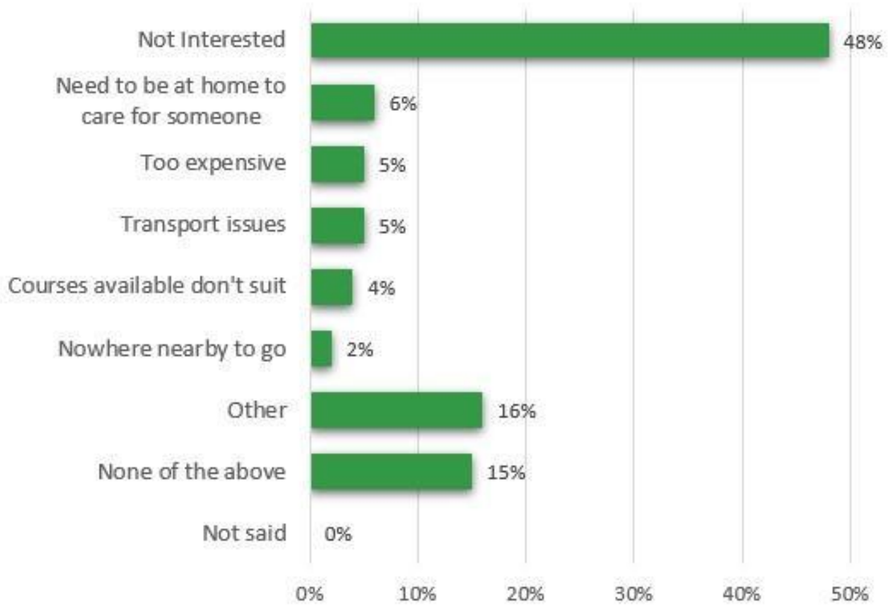
Moving onto educational requirements, respondents were first asked – "Would you like to take an education course?" for which 53% stated that 'Yes', they would like to. This desire was broken down according to existing levels of educational attainment. It is worth noting that those with higher levels of educational attainment are more interested in acquiring further education.

Those with a lower 3rd level, for example, being the most interested in acquiring further education, with 64% of these groups interested in further education.



Those with Technical qualifications are similarly interested in obtaining further qualifications (58% of this group). On the other hand, those with a leaving cert or less some 41-44% are interested in further education. While substantial in number this group is still less interested in acquiring further qualifications. From conversations on the door quite a number had little interest in returning to education as they were either quite settled in their careers heading towards retirement or indeed retired already.

2.7.1 Reasons for Not Accessing Education

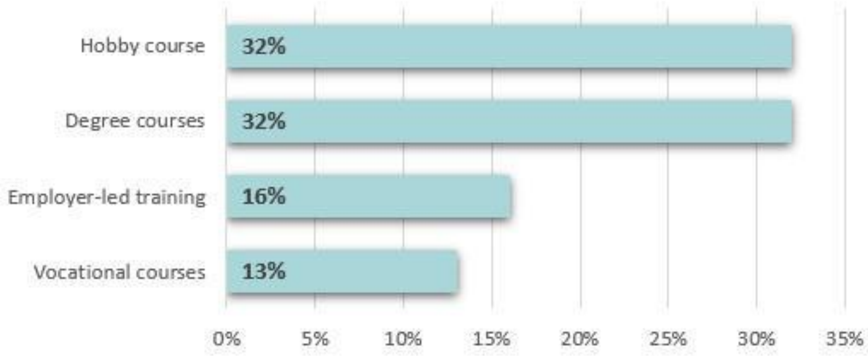


This diagram gives the full breakdown of the reasons why people would prefer not to take an educational course. The dominant reason being that people are simply not interested (48%) in taking a course. Second to this is that people state that they need to be at home to care for someone (cited by 6%) of those who are not interested, 5% state that they're too expensive, 5% cite transport issues, 4% that courses available don't suit and 2% that there is nowhere near to stay. Breaking this down into its demographic components, those in their late 20s and early 30s tend to cite the expense of courses while those with a post-leaving cert qualification tend to suggest that the courses available don't suit. Transport issues are highlighted by those living in Kilrush and Killaloe. However, these features are minor compared to the numbers that state that they are simply not interested (48%).

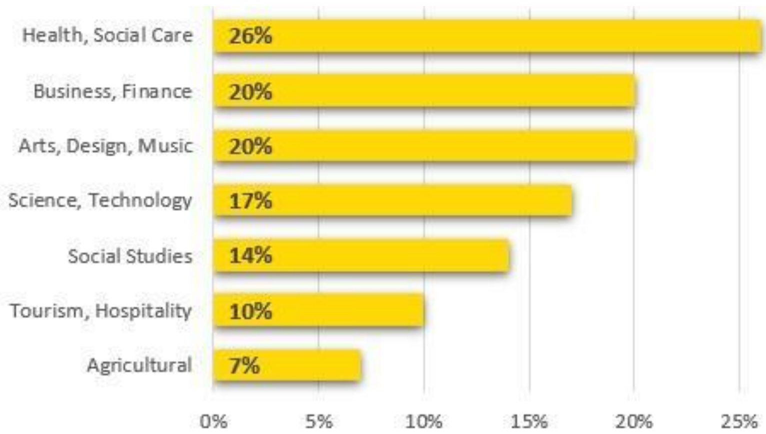
2.7.2 Education Course Types

Those that were interested in further education were subsequently asked what type of course they were interested in and what area they would like that course to be in. In relation to the former, Hobby courses and Degree courses were the most popular with less interest in employer-led or vocational courses.

When it came to the area people were interested in, Health and Social Care was marginally the most prominent with 26% identifying this area, followed by Business & Finance, and Arts, Design, Music. Both with 20% reporting an interest. Closely followed by Science and Technology (17%). Slightly lower on the



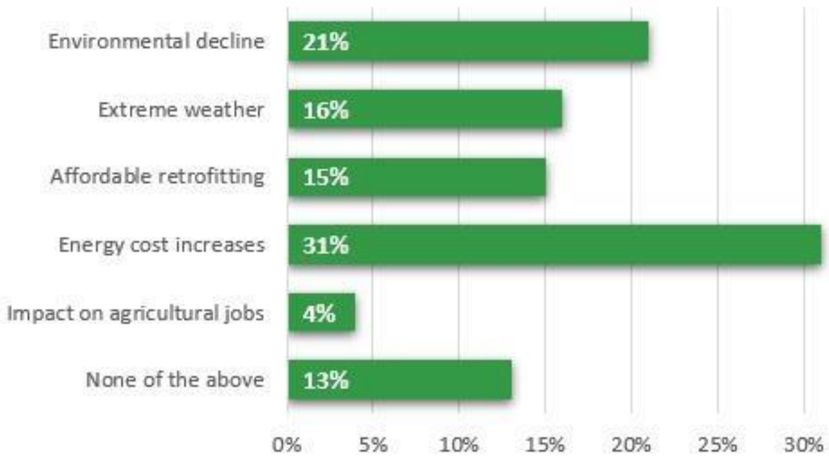
list is Social Studies (Political/Economic) (14%). The final two, for which there was less interest, were Tourism, Hospitality (10%) and Agricultural (7%), which was more of a niche interest.



On the next diagram these two questions are cross referenced, querying what sort of area is relevant for each type of course. When it comes to those interested in Degree courses their interests were Health & Social Care (33% of those that selected a degree course were interested in Health and Social Care), Science &Technology (20% of those interested in a degree), Social studies (18%) and Business & Finance (18%). In relation to those that picked Hobby-based courses their primary interest was Arts, Design & Music (38% of those that selected a hobby-based course selected this area). Of those interested in vocational training Health and Social Care was by far the most popular (50% of those that selected vocational training selected Health & Social Care), followed by Tourism & Hospitality. Of those that selected Employer-led training 49% identified Business & Finance as their preferred area.

2.8 Climate

Next, climate change was addressed and how people considered this issue. Respondents were asked: Which of the following would be your main concern regarding climate change / actions to address climate change?” Respondents were given a range of items to choose from. Here, 31% selected ‘Energy Cost Increases’ as the issue which concerned them the most. After this 21% selected ‘Environmental decline’, 16% selected ‘Extreme Weather’, 15% ‘Affordable retrofitting’ and finally just 4% selected ‘Impact on agricultural jobs. 13% selected ‘None of the above’. This gives a clear indication of Clare’s concerns.



If we combine the answers, on the one hand we have 37% concerned with the weather and 46% concerned with the implications for their own personal finances. Very few are concerned with the specific impact on agricultural jobs.

Next, the appetite for implementation of energy saving options was examined. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of interest (“‘what have you done, what would you like to do, and what have you no interest in?”) towards: Solar Panels, Retrofitting, Electric/Hybrid cars, and heat pumps. Solar panels were most popular with 65% stating that they would like to install solar panels at their house compared with 30% who have no interest and 6% who stated that they had this already. Next, retrofitting, a little more uncertain, but 59% stated that they would be interested in retrofitting their home, 30% were not interested and 11% had done so already. For electric cars/hybrids 48% wanted one, 44% had no interest and 8% stated they had purchased already. Finally, in relation to a heat pump it is also worth saying that respondents were not clear of what a heat pump was. In any case, 47% stated that they were interested, 45% stated that they were not interested and 8% stated that they have done this already.

2.9 Childcare

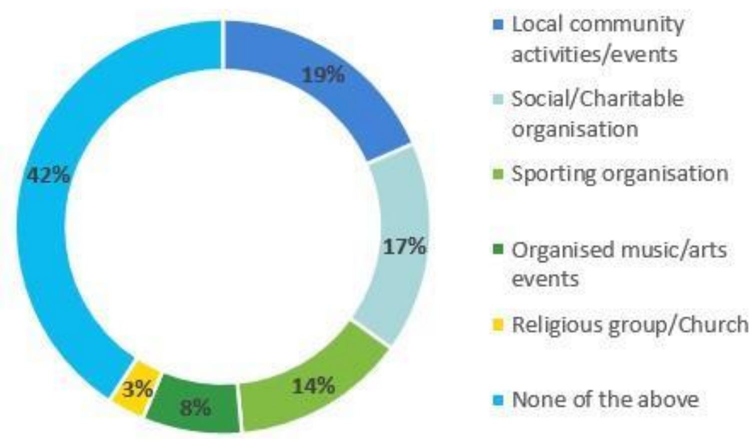
Next, we asked about the childcare needs of residents of Clare. Overall, 22% indicated that they had childcare needs. This, however, is a very broad term so the survey needed to examine more deeply what those interviewed are thinking of when they consider childcare needs. The charts consequently show that share of the population with childcare needs peaks among those aged between 25 and 44 with 42% of 25–34-year-olds indicating their need for childcare. Unsurprisingly 40% of 35–44-year-olds also indicate having childcare needs. This falls to 27% among those aged 45-54.

Arguably, those in the older groups might include grandparents who are often relied upon for childcare duties or living with children with childcare needs. In terms of the geographical demand, those living in Ennis and Kilrush tend to have greater Childcare needs. Those living in Ennistymon and Shannon had lower demands with 12% and 16% respectively.

2.10 Voluntary Work

The next set of charts checks the appetite for voluntary work in Clare. Respondents are asked: "Would you like to regularly do voluntary work for any of the following?" for which 19% identify local community activities/events, 17% Social or charitable organisations, 14% sporting organisations, 8% for organised music/arts events and 42% for none of the above. It is also noticeable the extent to which demographics influence preferences.

Those aged over 65 are far more likely to state that they are not interested, 63% overall. Males aged 35-64 are particularly predisposed towards being involved in sporting organisations with 25% indicating that they would volunteer with these organisations.



Younger women are more interested in volunteering with social and charitable organisations, with 22-23% of those aged under 64 interested here. Women aged 18-34 are particularly interested in volunteering in local music/arts events and then both men and women are interested in volunteering with local community activities and events.

	Female			Male		
	18-34	35-64	65+	18-34	35-64	65+
Local community activities/events	23%	22%	11%	21%	20%	10%
Social/Charitable org.	23%	22%	17%	14%	11%	12%
Sporting organisation	10%	11%	6%	17%	25%	7%
Organised music/arts events	15%	7%	3%	6%	7%	7%
Religious group/Church	4%	4%	2%	3%	2%	1%
None of the above	31%	37%	63%	38%	41%	62%

We can then compare this result against results from the census which asked about the extent to which members of the public had volunteered. This analysis helps us to identify whether there are differences between the intentions of the population to volunteer and the existing volunteering.

From this comparison we can see a clear gap in relation to the extent to which younger women would like to volunteer and the extent to which younger women currently volunteer particularly in relation to Community and Social/Charity volunteering. For example, among females aged 18-24 just 4% reported volunteering in the community, and yet, 25% state that they would like to. Similar figures for volunteering with charities, 4% volunteer compared with 22% who would like to. Obviously, this is a small demographic, but this feature does also extend to females aged 25-44 for which 23% would like to volunteer in the community 21% with charities and just 7% and 5% do so.

There are gaps across the board, but these gaps are particularly acute for this type of volunteering in the community and social/charitable sectors and specifically for younger women.

3. Key sectoral opinions in Clare

3.1 Introduction

As a separate exercise to the completion of the Clare Survey, the LCDC and ESPC agreed to the issue of questionnaires to key groups in the County and to the use of other questionnaires issued in respect of aligned policy initiatives by the Council. These were in addition to the preparation of the Clare PPN Pilot referred to in the Framework LECP. The objective was to cross reference the feedback from these sectoral and thematic questionnaires with the feedback from the Clare Survey. Over 200 completed questionnaires were received from:

- The Clare Business Sector
- The Agriculture Sector
- Youth and children
- Minority Ethnic Groups, and
- Older People

The broad findings of these are set out below and in order to meet confidence obligations all personal identity is excluded.

Business

The findings from the Sector indicate a marked similarity to those set out by the wider public in the Clare Survey with key concerns around the provision of housing, addressing transport requirements with a very high dependency on private car provision, and greater childcare provision. Broadly the respondents were satisfied with business support services and with services provided by the Council and other public bodies. General satisfaction with security and training/education delivery were positive but clear concern with local healthcare provision was also highlighted. Investment priorities for the sector, consequently, reflect the views expressed. Additional data from the questionnaire is being prepared and will separately follow publication of this Report.

How would you rate your locality?

	% VERY POOR	% POOR	% OK	% GOOD	% EXCELLENT	% UNSURE
A Place to Live	0	3	15	47	35	0
Public Transport	42.57	28.71	15.84	8.91	1.98	1.98
Public safety	2.94	13.73	32.35	39.22	9.80	1.96
Council Services	3	30	35	22	5	5
Services to support business	4.95	24.75	32.67	22.77	10.89	3.96
Access to housing	27.45	32.35	15.69	7.84	.98	15.69
Feeling part of the community	1.96	10.78	24.51	41.18	19.61	1.96
Access to childcare	11.76	20.59	17.65	9.80	2.94	37.25
Protection of environment	15.69	16.67	35.29	19.61	7.84	4.90
Work opportunities	8.91	15.84	35.64	24.75	8.91	5.94
Clare has a lot for tourist	0	2.94	14.71	34.31	47.06	.98

Which of these would you like to see prioritised for investment in Clare?

Transport	41.18%
Housing	38.24%
Business	26.47%
Health	26.47%
Green spaces	23.53%
Quality of Roads/pavements	22.55%
Cultural & Community	16.67%
Employment	15.69%
Older Person's Care	14.71%
Safety & Security	13.73%
Childcare Support	10.78%
Sports & Physical Activities	8.82%
Other (please specify)	21.57%

Agriculture

The survey was organized with the support of the representative organisations for farming in Clare. In several respects the agricultural sector is similar to business but there are notably different views on the levels and quality of council services as well as the supports available to those in agriculture generally. Housing and public transport also feature generally. Issues around the care of older people are also indicated with investment required directly in agriculture but also local roads and public transport and in facilities for older people. Local health care also features as needing additional investment.

How would you rate your locality?

	% VERY POOR	% POOR	% OK	% GOOD	% EXCELLENT	% UNSURE
A Place to Live	4	4	16	48	28	0
Public Transport	44	32	12	8	0	4
Public safety	12	16	32	24	12	4
Council Services	32	28	8	32	0	0
Services to support Agriculture business	44	36	8	12	0	0
Access to housing	28	20	44	8	0	0
Feeling part of the community	4	20	32	20	24	0
Access to childcare	16	24	44	12	4	0
Protection of environment	4	12	24	36	24	0
Work opportunities	12	26	28	24	16	0
Clare has a lot for tourist	4	0	28	40	28	0

Which of these would you like to see prioritised for investment in Clare?

Agriculture support	80%
Financial support	56%
Health	52%
Transport	48%
Housing	36%
Business support	32%
Education and training	28%
Childcare	28%
Employment	24%
Culture and Community	20%
Older Person's Care	44%
None of the above	4%
Other	4%

Minority Ethnic Communities

Questionnaires in the relevant languages of the minority ethnic communities in Clare were made available through the support of the Clare Refugee Support Centre to those communities. Generally, members of the Minority Ethnic Communities indicate that while they appreciate the positive aspects of living in a place like Clare there are concerns about transport, personal safety along with worries over long-term accommodation and access to the wider community in which they live. Concerns about the cost of living were also highlighted along with the need for training and education while access to employment opportunities were also highlighted.

Young People

The survey was organized with the support of Clare Youth Service. Young people see Clare as a great place to live with a clear understanding of the importance of their community in shaping the conditions in which they grow up. Those noted, clear concerns are expressed about access to better work opportunities in the County, housing and critically, public transport, suggesting clear and identifiable priorities for the LECP. In addition, the need for appropriate and timely communication/engagement with younger people are highlighted while issues concerning the use of drugs and access to leisure opportunities and facilities also are noteworthy. Continued investment in education, training, and leisure facilities and in particular in public transport would be among the priorities of younger people.

How would you rate your locality?

	% VERY POOR	% POOR	% OK	% GOOD	% EXCELLENT	% UNSURE
A Place to Live	0	10.45	22.39	50.75	16.42	0
Public Transport	22.39	38.81	28.36	10.45	0	0
Public safety	5.97	14.93	26.87	32.84	17.91	1.49
Council Services	8.96	20.90	43.28	16.42	0	10.45
Access to housing	28.36	22.39	34.33	13.43	0	1.49
Feeling part of the community	6.06	15.15	33.33	33.33	10.61	1.52
Access to childcare	7.46	22.39	26.87	29.85	4.48	8.96
Protection of environment	8.96	23.37	32.84	19.40	10.45	2.99
Work opportunitie s	19.40	23.88	34.33	19.40	1.49	1.49
Clare has a lot for tourist	7.46	10.45	19.4	31.34	26.87	4.48

Which of these would you like to see prioritised for investment in Clare?

Transport/mobility	62.12%

Health and drug awareness	51.52%
Leisure	50%
Financial support	48.48%
Housing	40.91%
Education and training	31.82%
Employment prospects	30.3%
Childcare	28.79%
Culture and Community	27.27%
Other	9.09%
None of the above	4.55%

Older people

Perhaps unsurprisingly issues around loneliness, access to healthcare via public transport, security and safety are raised regularly in the completed questionnaires for input into the Clare Age Friendly Plan from Older People across Clare. The need to engage more frequently at the local level with older people is also raised along with continued use of media with which older people are more familiar. Associated with this engagement are the provision of regular opportunities to engage within the local community itself as a means to address some of the concerns raised.