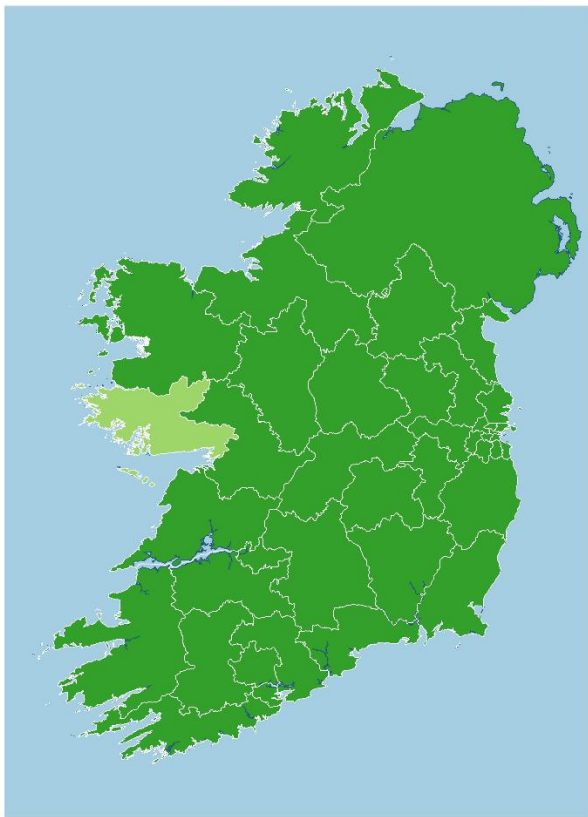


Dáil Éireann Constituency Profile

Galway West



Demographics



**Economic status
and work**



**Households and
housing**



Transport



Education



Families

January 2020

**Oireachtas Library
& Research Service**

Seirbhís Leabharlainne & Taighde an Oireachtais



Houses of the Oireachtas
Tithe an Oireachtais



Contents

Introduction to the Constituency Profile series.....	1
Introduction to Profile	1
Demographics	2
Population	2
Age cohorts	3
Nationality	4
Ethnicity.....	5
Religion	5
General Health	5
Social class	6
Economic Status and Work	7
Principal economic status.....	7
Industry	8
Occupation types.....	8
Households and Housing	9
Accommodation type	9
Occupancy type	9
PC and broadband	10
Central heating.....	11
Vacant dwellings.....	11
Transport	12
Mode to work, school, etc.....	12
Journey time to work, school, etc.	13
Car access	13
Education.....	14
Highest education level completed/achieved.....	14
Age at which education ceased	15
Families	16
Family cycle	16
Families with or without children	16
Family type	17

Legal Disclaimer

No liability is accepted to any person arising out of any reliance on the contents of this paper. Nothing herein constitutes professional advice of any kind. This document contains a general summary of developments and is not complete or definitive. It has been prepared for distribution to Members to aid them in their parliamentary duties. Some papers, such as Bill Digests are prepared at very short notice. They are produced in the time available between the publication of a Bill and its scheduling for second stage debate. Authors are available to discuss the contents of these papers with Members and their staff but not with members of the general public

Notes

1. The L&RS Constituency Profiles are based on the dataset derived, and adapted, from the CSO's Small Area Population Statistics for Census 2016. The dataset used for the Oireachtas Library & Research Service (L&RS) Constituency Profiles is also used as the basis for the L&RS Constituency Dashboards, available at dashboards.oireachtas.ie. The Constituency Profiles, as well as the sum of the Electoral Divisions (ED) that comprise each constituency, is based on the Schedule of the [Electoral \(Amendment\) \(Dáil Constituencies\) Act 2017](#).
2. Based on the Act's provisions, it should be noted that some constituencies include EDs from neighbouring counties.
3. In some instances - in line with the protocols used for the L&RS Constituency Dashboards - where EDs are split across two constituencies (e.g. EDs bisected by the M50 in Dublin), the data for the full ED is allocated to just one constituency, typically the constituency in which the majority of a specific ED's population and/or geographic area is located.
4. Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the separate figures.

Library and Research Service
Houses of the Oireachtas



Introduction to the Constituency Profile series

The Constituency Profiles are based on the [Small Area Population Statistics \(SAPS\)](#) from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) [Census 2016](#) releases.¹ The Oireachtas Library and Research Service (L&RS) Constituency Profiles series is a complementary publication to, and shares a similar structure of, the online interactive Constituency Dashboards (available at dashboards.oireachtas.ie). Each Constituency Profile reflects the Dáil constituencies as set out in the [Electoral \(Amendment\) \(Dáil Constituencies\) Act 2017](#).

In keeping with the L&RS Constituency Dashboards, each Constituency Profile is structured under the following **6 themes**:

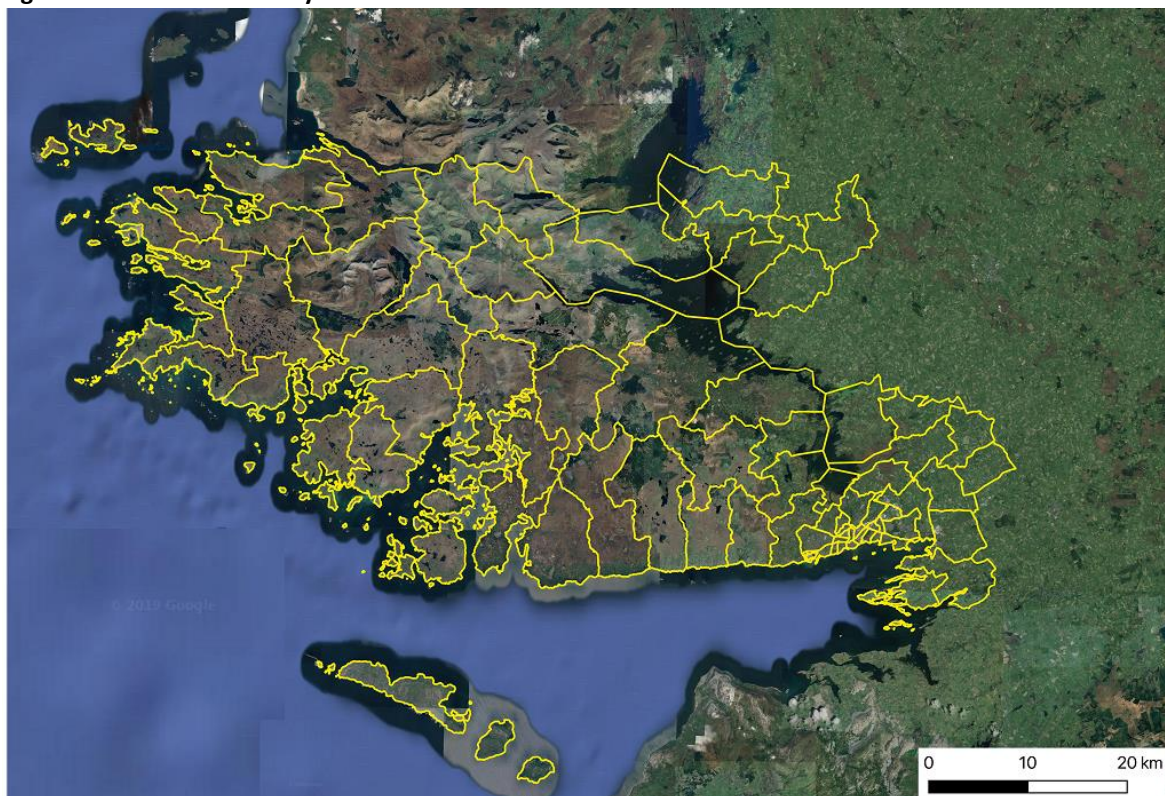


The Themes and Indicators included in this Profile reflect a selection of those used in the interactive Constituency Dashboards. A description of terms used by the CSO in the Census is set out in footnotes where relevant.

Introduction to Profile

Galway West is a 5-seat constituency located in the West of Ireland. It includes, among others, the following locations: An Spidéal, Bearna, Galway City, Clifden, Oranmore, Oughterard, and the Aran Islands. Galway West is comprised of 81 Electoral Divisions (EDs).

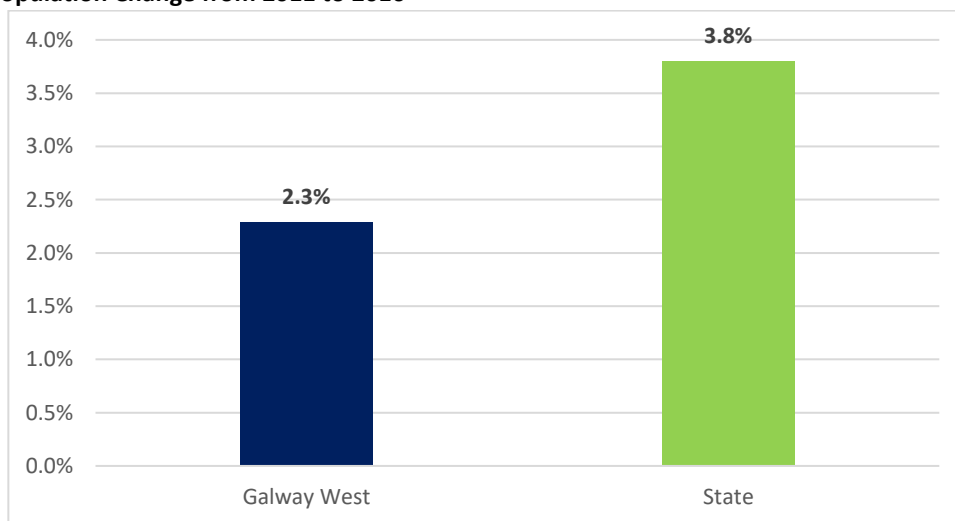
¹ The maps in this publication were produced in cooperation with the School of Geography, University College Dublin.

Figure 1: Location of Galway West

Demographics

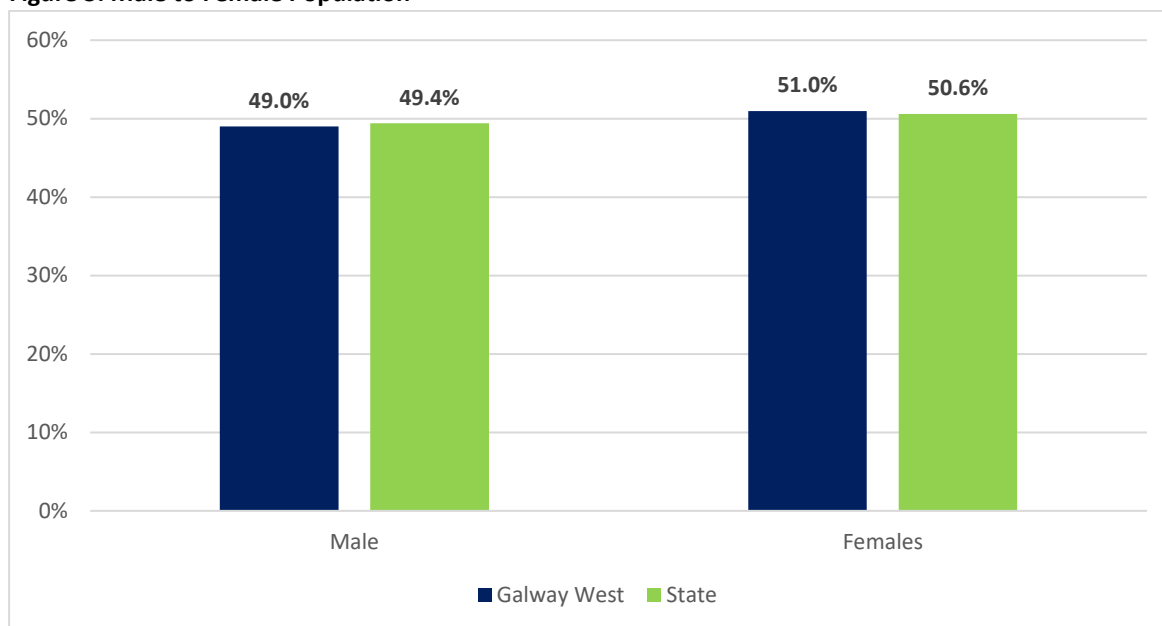
Population

The population of the constituency at the time of the 2016 Census was **143,954**. This represents a 2.3% increase from 2011. As shown in Figure 2, this rate of increase compares to the corresponding State population increase of 3.8% over the same period.

Figure 2: Population Change from 2011 to 2016

In 2016, 51% (73,384) of the constituency's population was female and 49% (70,570) was male. The corresponding proportions in the State for 2016 was 50.6% female and 49.4% male.

Figure 3: Male to Female Population



Age cohorts

Figure 4 below shows the distribution of the female and male population of the constituency according to five-year age bands. In Galway West, 22.5% of population was aged under 18 and 12.8% were aged 65 or over in 2016. As shown in Figure 5 (overleaf), the corresponding State measures were 25% aged under 18 and 13.4% aged 65 or older.

Figure 4: Male/Female Age Cohorts, shown as an age pyramid

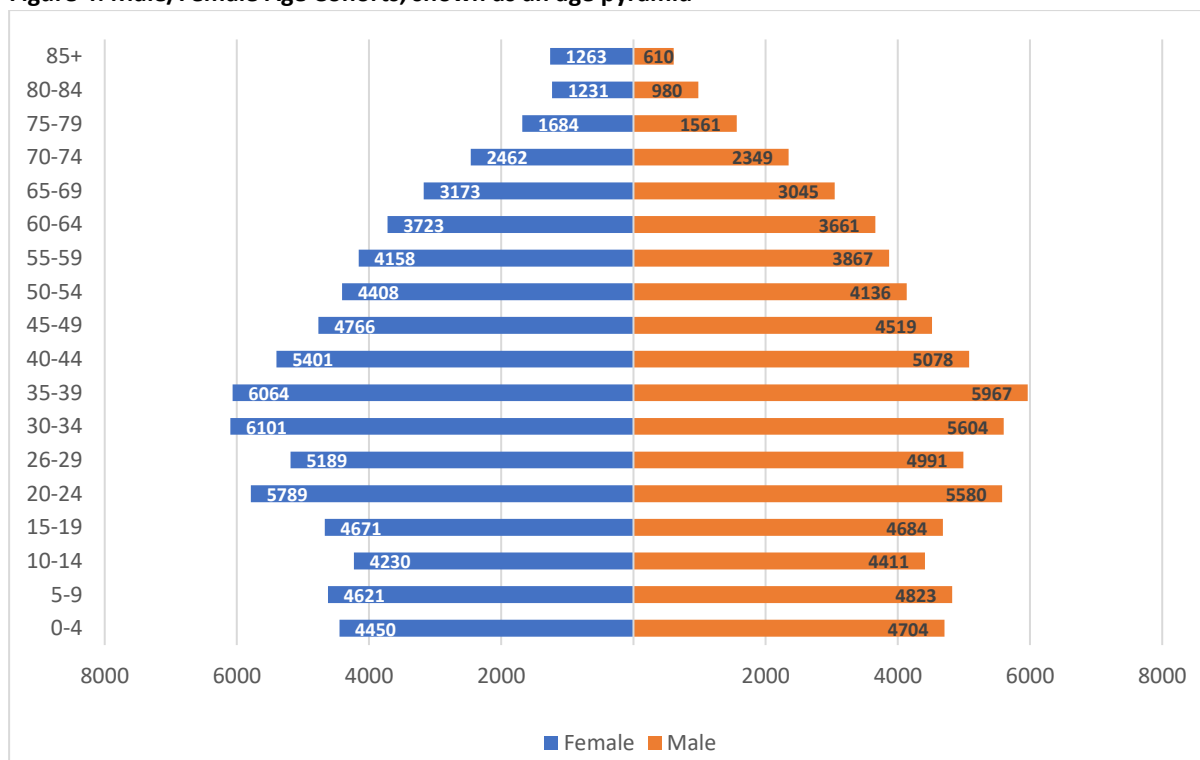
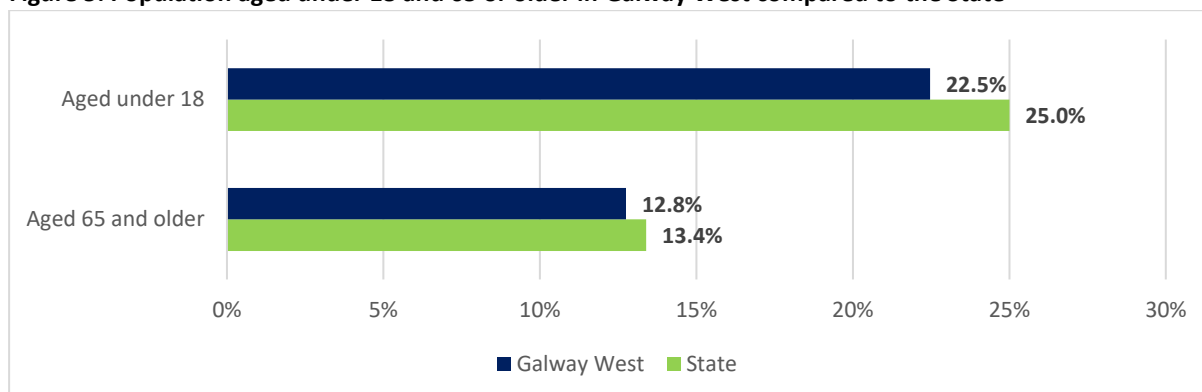


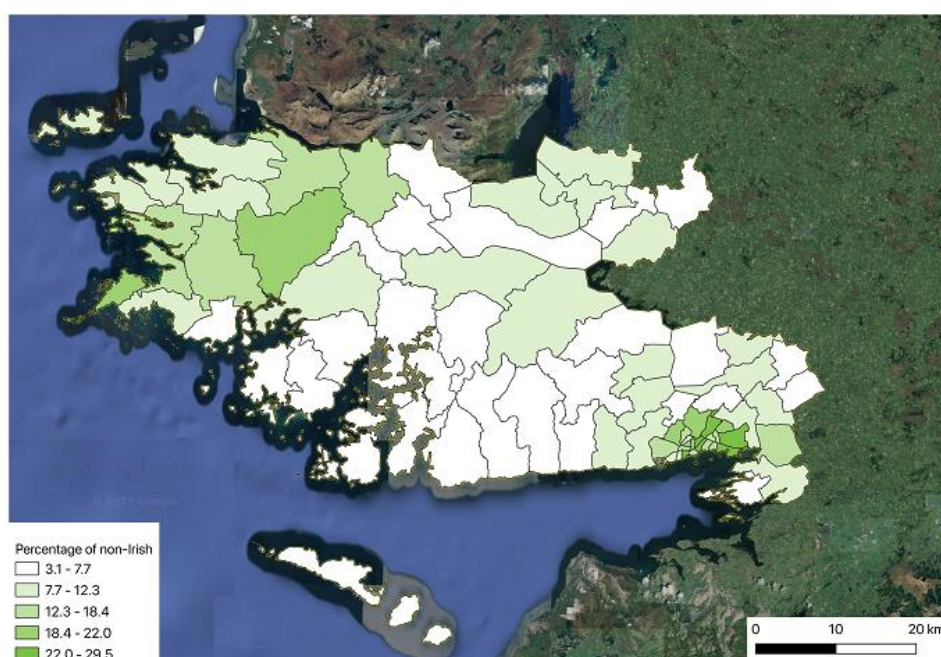
Figure 5: Population aged under 18 and 65 or older in Galway West compared to the State

Nationality

The ratio of Irish to non-Irish nationals residing in Galway West is lower than seen in the State as a whole in 2016. Of the usually resident population of Galway West, 84.7% stated their nationality as Irish in the 2016 Census. Nationalities other than Irish comprised 13.5% of the population of the constituency, with 1.8% 'not stated'. Non-Irish nationals usually resident in the constituency included those who stated their nationality as British (2.3%), Polish (3.6%), Lithuanian (0.7%), from another EU country (3.6%) or from the rest of the world (3.3%). Table 1 below shows the comparison in the profile of nationality in the constituency of Galway West with that seen in the State in 2016.

Table 1: Nationalities in Galway West compared to the State

Nationality	Galway West	State
Irish	84.7%	87.0%
British	2.3%	2.2%
Polish	3.6%	2.6%
Lithuanian	0.7%	0.8%
Other EU	3.6%	3.1%
Rest of the World	3.3%	2.7%
Not Stated	1.8%	1.5%

Figure 6: Map showing the percentage of non-Irish nationals

Ethnicity

Table 2 shows that 78.9% of people usually residing in Galway West identified their ethnicity as White Irish, which is a lower proportion than in the State overall (82.2%). Other White Ethnicity accounted for 11.3% of people, this compares with a State share of 9.5%. The population in Galway West who stated their ethnicity as Asian or Asian Irish was the same as the State share (2.1%). The population in the constituency who stated their ethnicity as Black or Black Irish was higher than the State share (1.9% compared to 1.4%). Travellers accounted for 1.3% of the constituency's population compared to the State share of 0.7%.

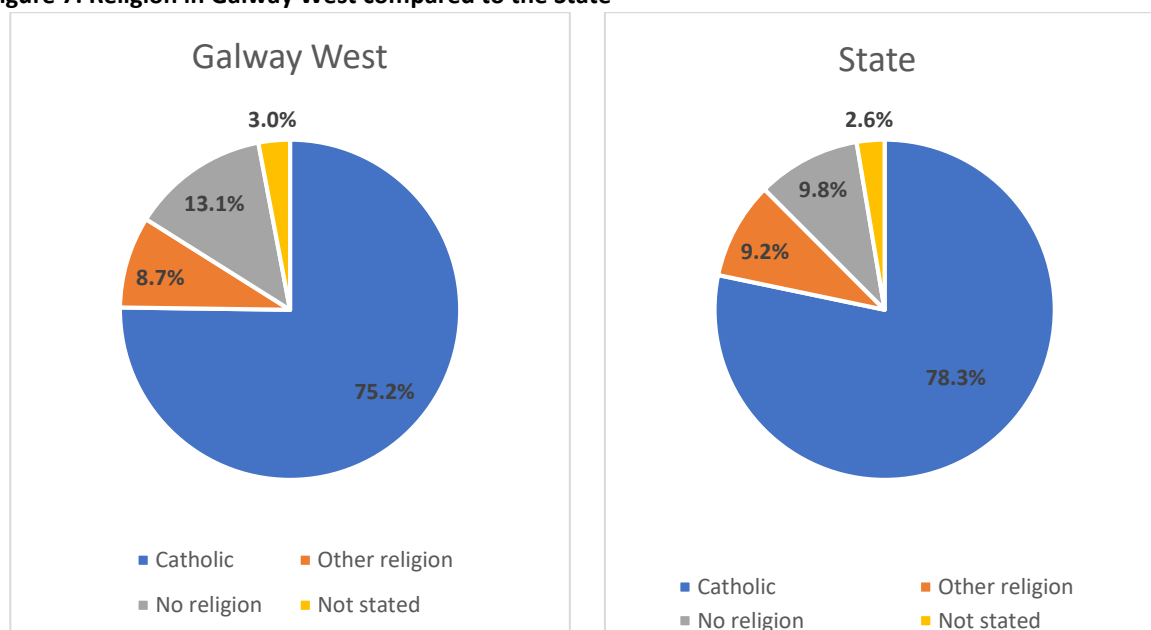
Table 2: Ethnicity in Galway West compared to the State

Ethnicity	Galway West	State
White Irish	78.9%	82.2%
White Irish Traveller	1.3%	0.7%
Other White Ethnicity	11.3%	9.5%
Black or Black Irish	1.9%	1.4%
Asian or Asian Irish	2.1%	2.1%
Other Ethnicity	1.7%	1.5%
Not Stated	2.8%	2.7%

Religion

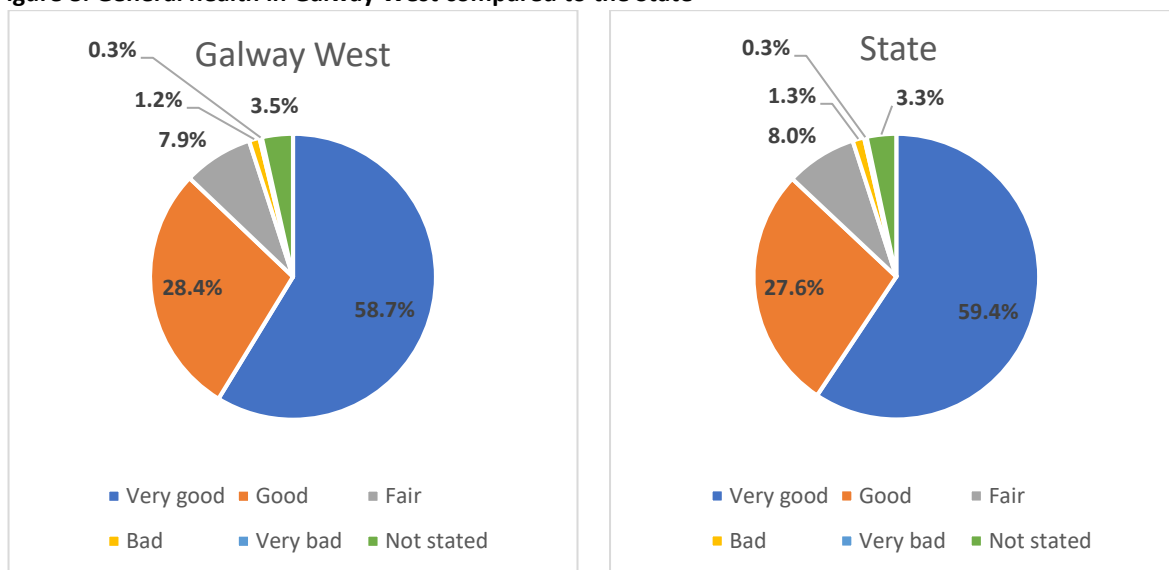
The share of Catholics in Galway West (75.2%) is lower than in the State as a whole (78.3%). A higher proportion of the usually resident population in Galway West have no religion than seen in the State overall (13.1% compared to 9.8%).

Figure 7: Religion in Galway West compared to the State



General Health

In Galway West, 58.7% of the population described their health as 'very good' in 2016, which is less than the State share of 59.4% - See Figure 8 overleaf.

Figure 8: General health in Galway West compared to the State

Social class²

Table 3 shows the social class makeup of Galway West in comparison with the State in 2016. Galway West has a higher proportion of professional workers (10.2% compared to 8.1%) but a smaller proportion of managerial and technical workers (27.7% compared to 28.1%) respectively than seen in the State as a whole. The proportions of the constituency's workers classed as non-manual (15.5%) and skilled-manual (11.5%) were slightly smaller than the State shares. In the constituency, the proportion of those classed as semi-skilled (10.9%) was marginally higher than the State share (10.5%).

Table 3: Social class in Galway West compared with the State

Social Class	Galway West	State
Professional workers	10.2%	8.1%
Managerial and technical	27.7%	28.1%
Non-manual	15.5%	17.6%
Skilled-manual	11.5%	14.1%
Semi-skilled	10.9%	10.5%
Unskilled	3.2%	3.6%
All other (gainfully employed and unknown)	21.0%	18.0%

² For a definition of social class as used by the CSO in the Census, see [here](#).



Economic Status and Work

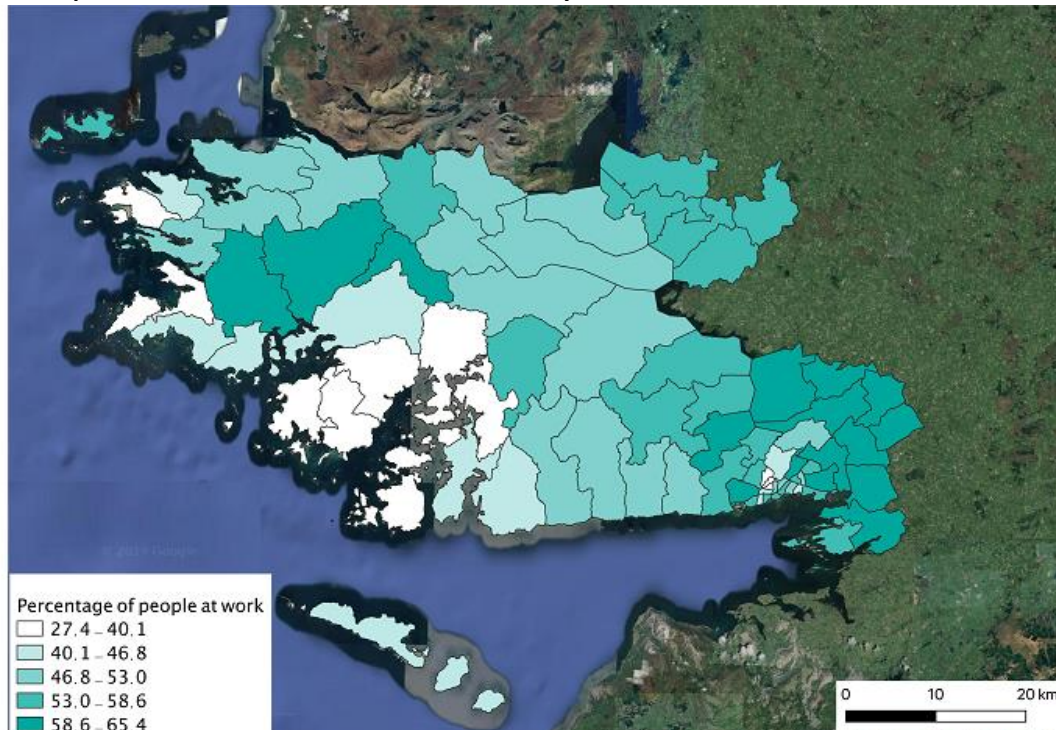
Principal economic status³

Table 4 below shows the employment status of Galway West compared to the State as a whole. The constituency has a similar proportion of usual residents at work when compared to the State share (53.7% compared to 53.5%). Galway West has a lower proportion of retired persons (13.7%) compared to the State share (14.5%) and has more students (14.5%) than the State as a whole (11.4%). Figure 9 maps the percentage of residents at work across the constituency of Galway West at the ED level.

Table 4: Principal economic status of Galway West compared to the State

Principal Economic Status	Galway West	State
At work	53.7%	53.5%
Looking for first job	0.8%	0.8%
Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	6.7%	7.1%
Student	14.5%	11.4%
Looking after home/family	6.7%	8.1%
Retired	13.7%	14.5%
Unable to work due to sickness or disability	3.4%	4.2%
Other	0.4%	0.4%

Figure 9: Proportion of the labour force at work in Galway West at the Electoral Division level



³ For explanation of terms and definitions used in Census data, see the CSO website [here](https://www.cso.ie/).



Industry

Table 5 below shows those working in Galway West and in the State as a whole, by industry. Galway West has a lower proportion of residents working in commerce and trade than in the State overall (19.6% compared to 23.9%). Professional services account for 26.6% of workers' industry sector in the constituency compared with 23.5% in the State. In the constituency, 14.2% work in manufacturing and industries, the equivalent proportion for the State is 11.4%.

Table 5: Breakdown of workers by industry in Galway West compared to the State

Industry	Galway West	State
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	2.4%	4.4%
Building and construction	4.3%	5.1%
Manufacturing and industries	14.2%	11.4%
Commerce and trade	19.6%	23.9%
Transport and communications	8.1%	8.6%
Public administration	4.1%	5.3%
Professional services	26.6%	23.5%
Other	20.7%	17.8%

Occupation types

Table 6 shows the occupation types that Galway West residents work in. Galway West has a higher proportion of professional occupations (21.7% compared to 17.3%) than the State. Galway West's proportion of those in skilled trades occupations is lower than the State share (11.4% compared to 13.9%).

Table 6: Occupation types in Galway West compared to the State

Occupation Types	Galway West	State
Managers, directors and senior officials	7.1%	7.4%
Professional occupations	21.7%	17.3%
Associate professional and technical occupations	10.8%	10.9%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.0%	10.0%
Skilled trades occupations	11.4%	13.9%
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	6.5%	7.3%
Sales and customer service occupations	6.6%	6.8%
Process, plant and machine operatives	8.0%	7.2%
Elementary occupations	8.8%	8.8%
Not stated	10.2%	10.3%

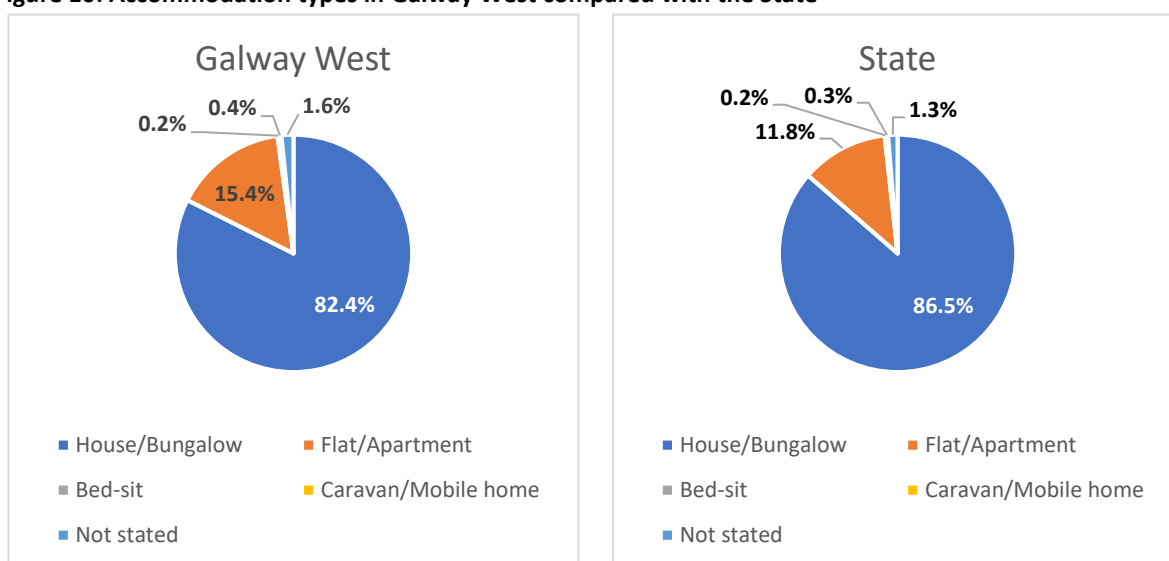


Households and Housing

Accommodation type

There were 51,635 private households in Galway West in 2016. Figure 10 below shows that less people in Galway West live in houses or bungalows than seen in Ireland overall (82.4% compared to 86.5%). Galway West has a higher proportion of households living in flats/apartments than the State as a whole (15.4% compared to 11.8%).

Figure 10: Accommodation types in Galway West compared with the State



Occupancy type

Households in Galway West are marginally less likely to own their houses outright (33.9% compared to 36%) and less likely to own with a mortgage or loan (26.3% compared to 31.6%) than the State average. In the constituency, 26.3% households rent from private landlords which is substantially higher than the State share of 18.3%. In the constituency, less households rent from a local authority than in the State as a whole (7% compared to 8.4%).

Figure 11: Occupancy types in Galway West compared to the State

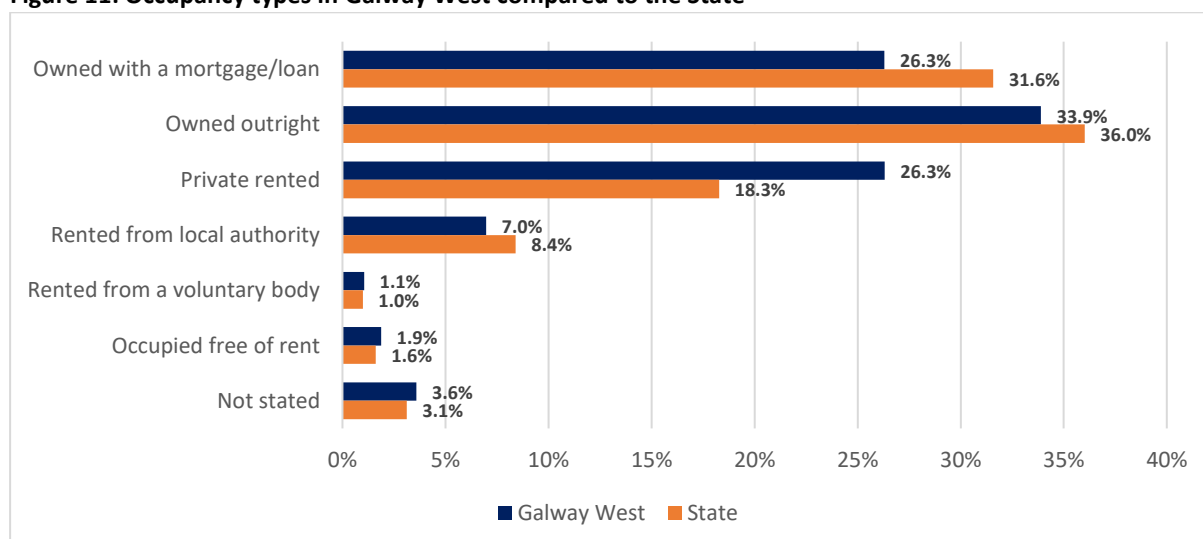
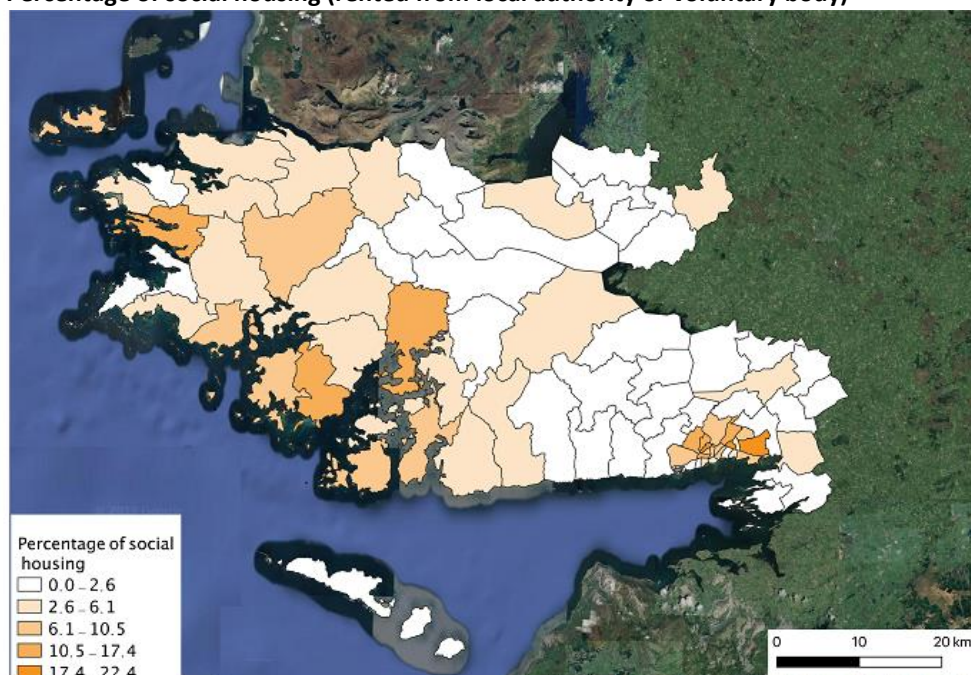
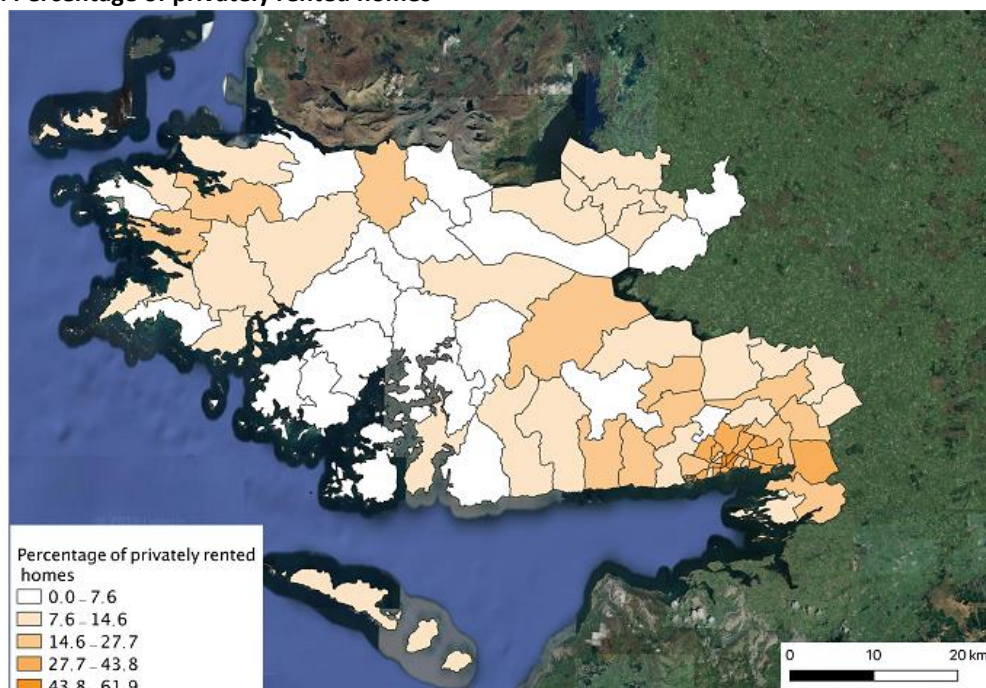


Figure 12: Percentage of social housing (rented from local authority or voluntary body)

Figures 12 (above) and 13 (below) show respectively the proportions of social and private rented housing across the EDs of Galway West at the time of Census 2016.

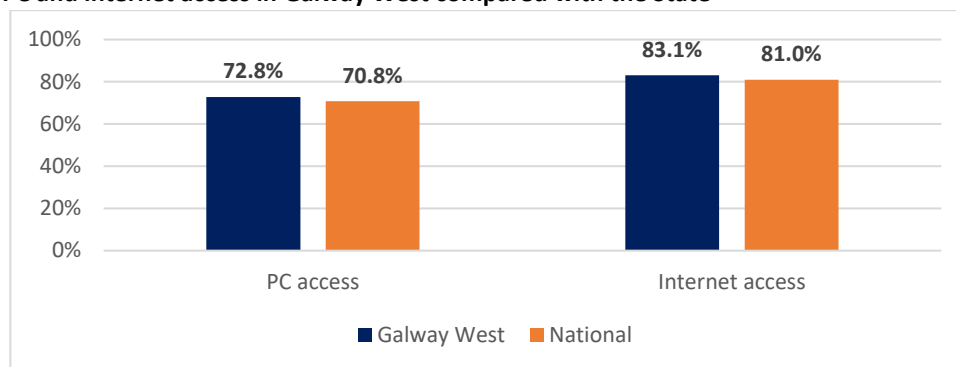
Figure 13: Percentage of privately rented homes

PC and broadband⁴

Galway West has a higher rate of PC access than the State as a whole (72.8% compared to 70.8%). Galway West households also have a higher rate of access to the internet than households in the State overall (83.1% compared to 81%).⁵ (See Figure 14 overleaf)

⁴ In keeping with the Constituency Dashboards, the totals in this section exclude the “Not stated” category.

⁵ Internet access includes “Broadband” and “Other”.

Figure 14: PC and internet access in Galway West compared with the State

Central heating

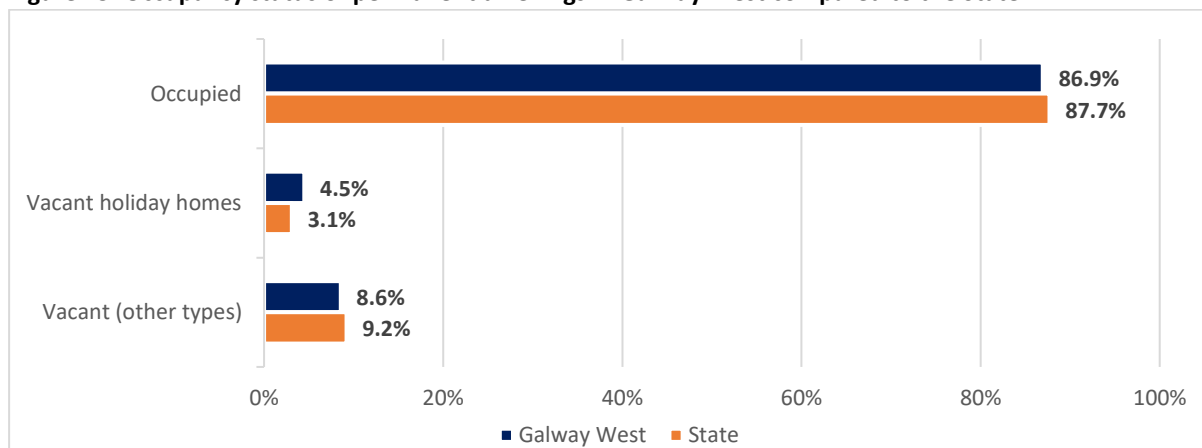
Table 7 below shows that households in Galway West are less likely to use natural gas as their central heating source than in the State overall (11.4% compared to 33.5%). Households in Galway West are in contrast considerably more likely to use oil for central heating than the State as a whole (55.3% compared to 40.4%). In the constituency, 7.6% of household use peat as their main source of heating compared to 5.3% of households across the State.

Table 7: Central heating in Galway West compared with the State

Central heating	Galway West	State
Oil	55.3%	40.4%
Natural gas	11.4%	33.5%
Electricity	14.4%	8.6%
Coal	4.3%	5.1%
Peat	7.6%	5.3%
LPG	1.0%	0.6%
Wood	1.3%	2%
Other	0.8%	0.7%
No central heating	1.3%	1.4%
Not stated	2.7%	2.4%

Vacant dwellings

Figure 15 below shows the vacancy rate of permanent dwellings in Galway West compared to the State. Compared to the State, the constituency has a slightly lower rate of overall vacant dwellings (8.6% compared to 9.2%) and a lower rate of occupied homes (86.9% compared to 87.7%).

Figure 15: Occupancy status of permanent dwellings in Galway West compared to the State



Transport

Mode to work, school, etc.

Figure 16 below shows that people in Galway West are marginally more likely to travel to work or education by car or van (as a driver or passenger) compared to the State as a whole (63.7% compared to 62.2%). Figure 16 also shows that Galway West residents are less likely to use public transport as their mode of transport compared to the State share (9.2% compared to 12.9%). A higher proportion of residents cite travel by bicycle as their main mode of transport to work and school compared to the State as a whole (3.6% compared to 2.7%).

Figure 16: Mode of transportation in Galway West compared to the State

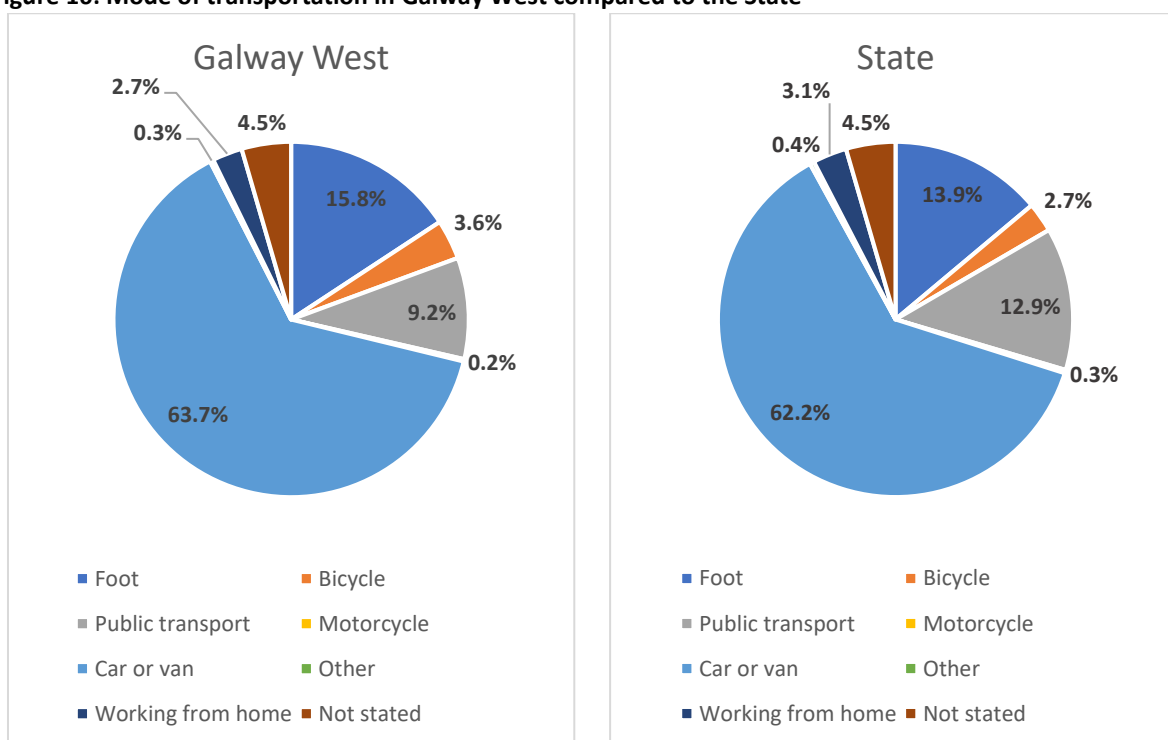


Figure 17: Public transportation use in Galway West by ED

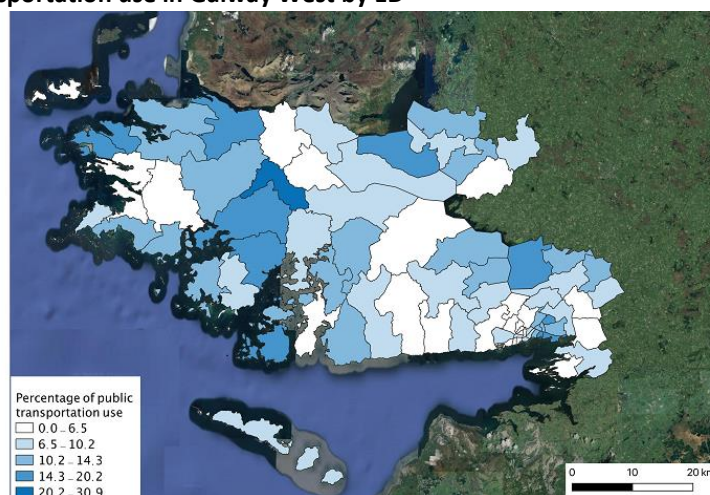
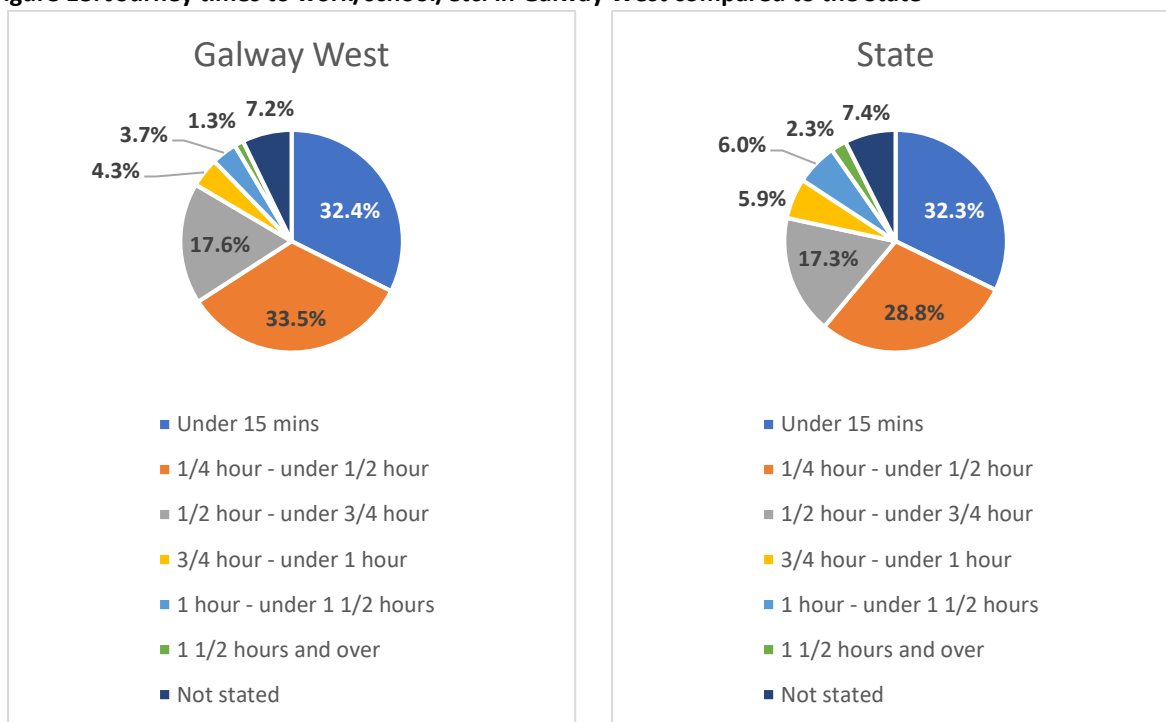


Figure 17 (previous page) maps the proportion of people in Galway West at the ED level who use public transport as their main means of travel to work, school or college.

Journey time to work, school, etc.

Figure 18 shows the journey times of residents in Galway West to work or school in comparison to the State. The constituency has a similar proportion of less than 15-minute journeys (32.4%) as the State as a whole (32.3%). Galway West has a higher proportion of 15- to 30-minute (33.5%) and 30- to 45-minute journeys (17.6%) than the corresponding State shares (28.8% and 17.3% respectively).

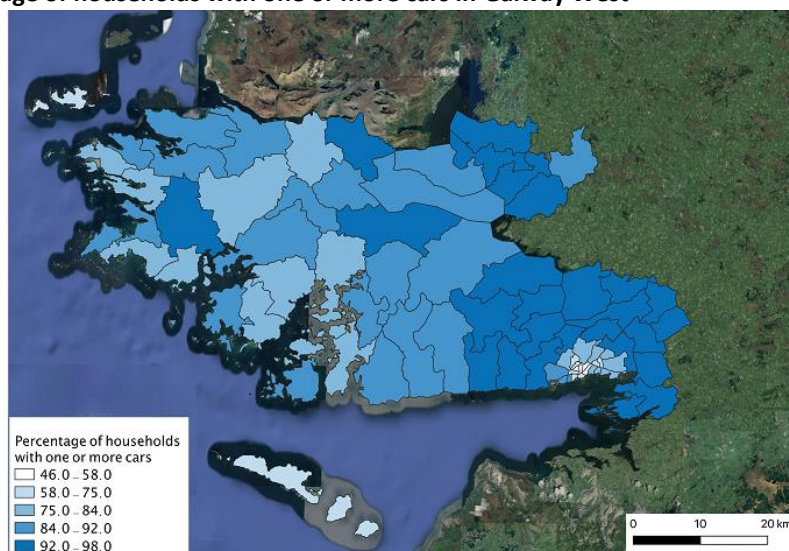
Figure 18: Journey times to work/school/etc. in Galway West compared to the State



Car access

Figure 19 maps at the ED level the proportion of households having one or more cars in Galway West.

Figure 19: Percentage of households with one or more cars in Galway West





Education

Highest education level completed/achieved

Figure 20 shows the highest education completed in Galway West and its comparison with the corresponding State measures. In comparison with the State, the constituency displays a higher proportion of people who have completed their highest level of education at third level and above (37.4% compared to 28.5%) and but a lower proportion completing their education at intermediate level (18.2% compared to 19.6%). The proportion completing their highest education at secondary level is less than that seen in the State as a whole (27.4% compared to 33.0%).

Figure 20: Highest completed education in Galway West compared to the State

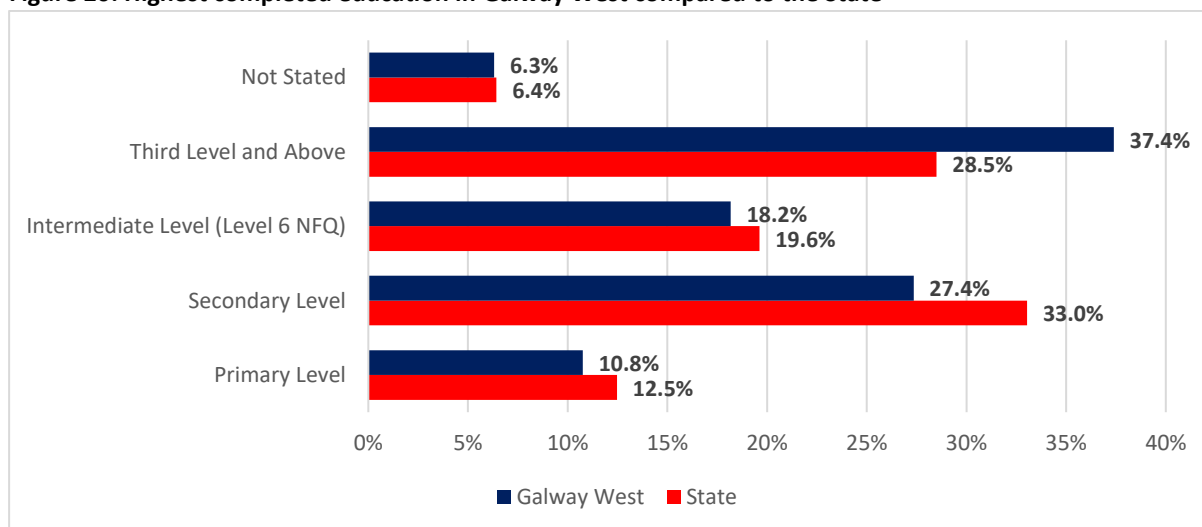


Figure 21 below and 22 (overleaf) show the rates of usual residents with third level education or higher and maps the proportions of Galway West residents at the ED level with primary education or below.

Figure 21: The percentage of people with third level education or higher in Galway West

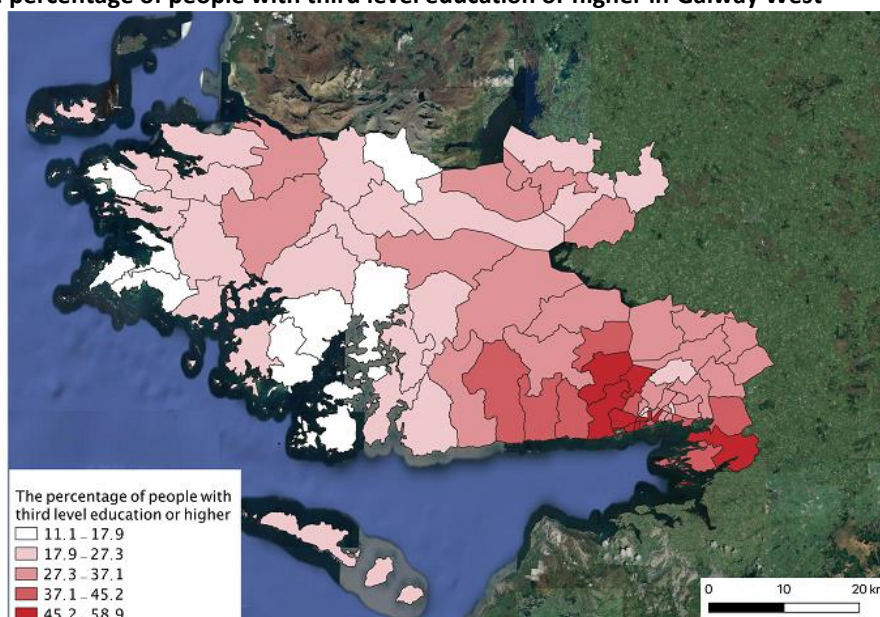
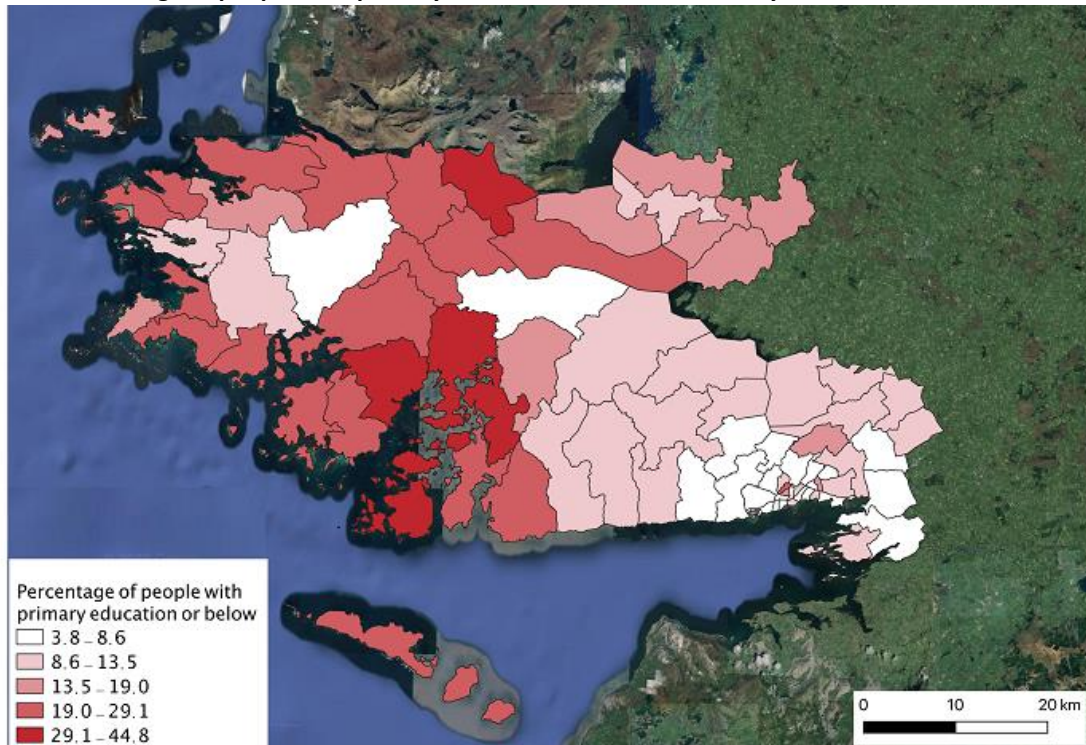
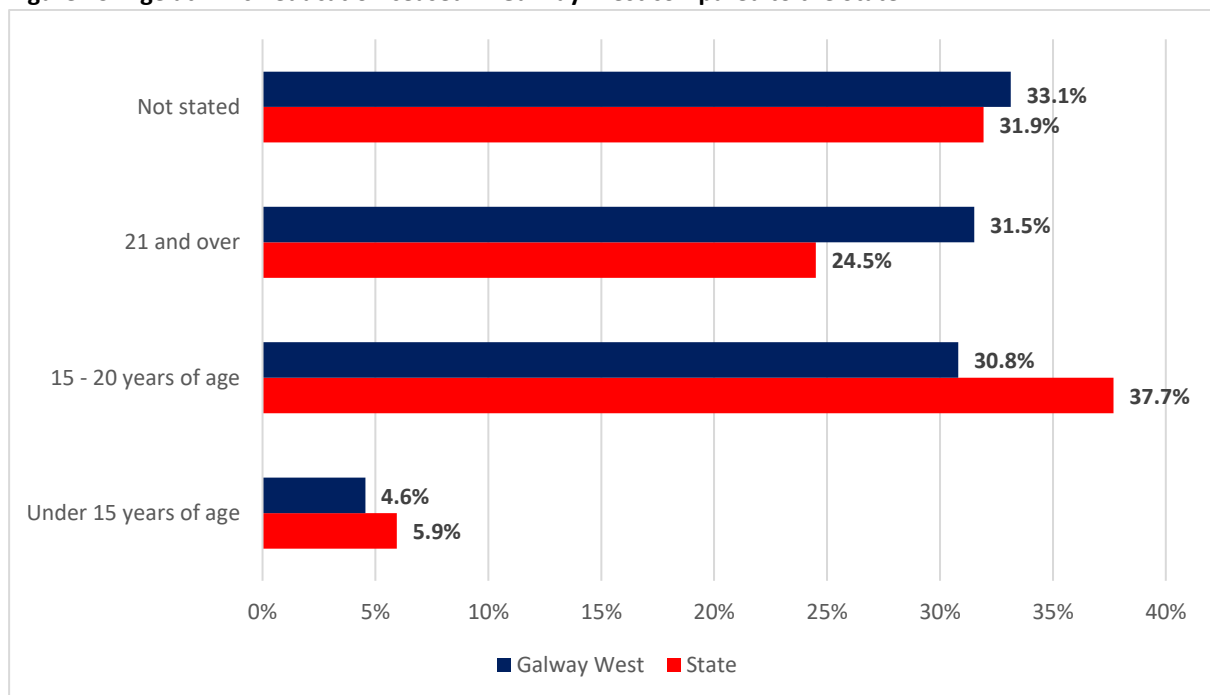


Figure 22: Percentage of people with primary education or below in Galway West

Age at which education ceased

Figure 23 below shows the highest age at which education ceased in Galway West compared to the State share. In the constituency, a higher proportion ceased their education aged 21 and over than in the State as a whole (31.5% compared to 24.5%). The proportions who completed their education aged 15 to 20 is lower than the State share (30.8% compared to 37.7%).

Figure 23: Age at which education ceased in Galway West compared to the State

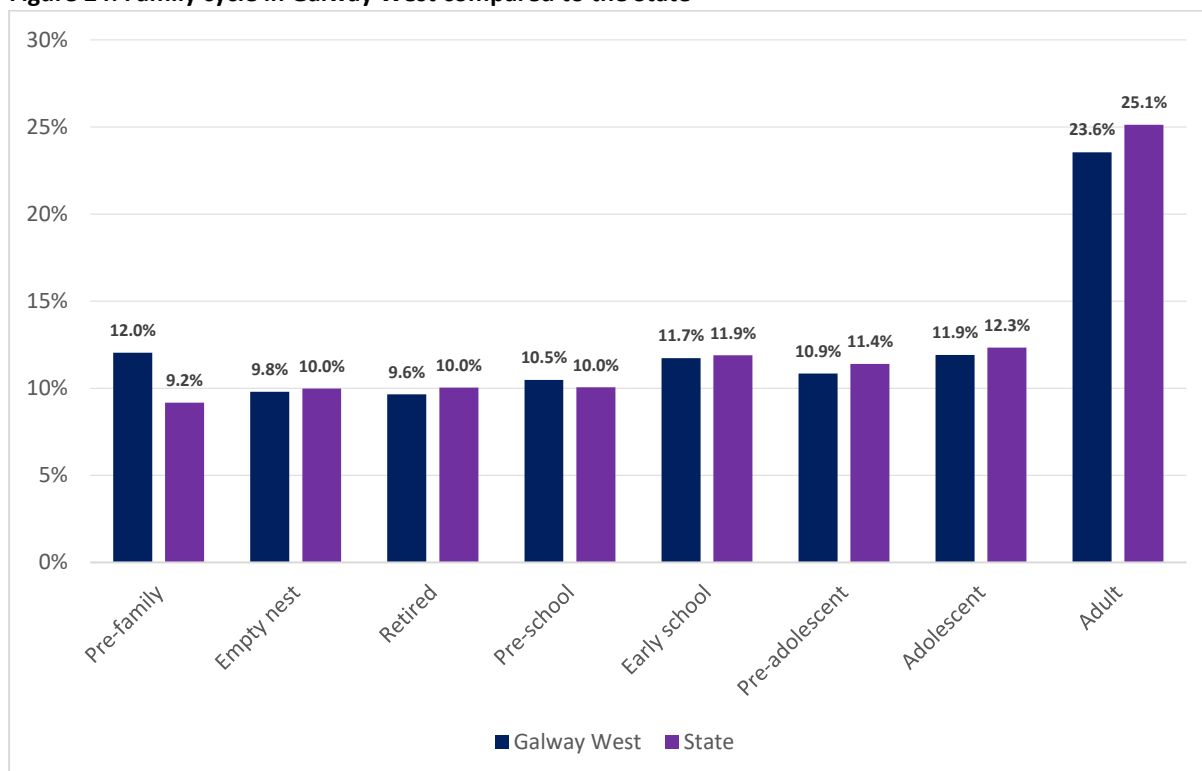


Families

Family cycle⁶

In Galway West, there are 33,855 family units. Figure 24 below shows the breakdown of the number of families in the constituency according to their stage of the family cycle and its comparison to the State. In the constituency, the proportion of family units that are described as empty nest (9.8%) and retired (9.6%) is less than that corresponding State shares (10% and 10% respectively). The proportion of families in the constituency described as pre-school (10.5%) is more than the State share (10%). The proportion of families categorised by family cycle as early school (11.7%), pre-adolescent (10.9%) and adolescent (11.9%) is marginally less in each case than the corresponding equivalent measures in the State.

Figure 24: Family cycle in Galway West compared to the State

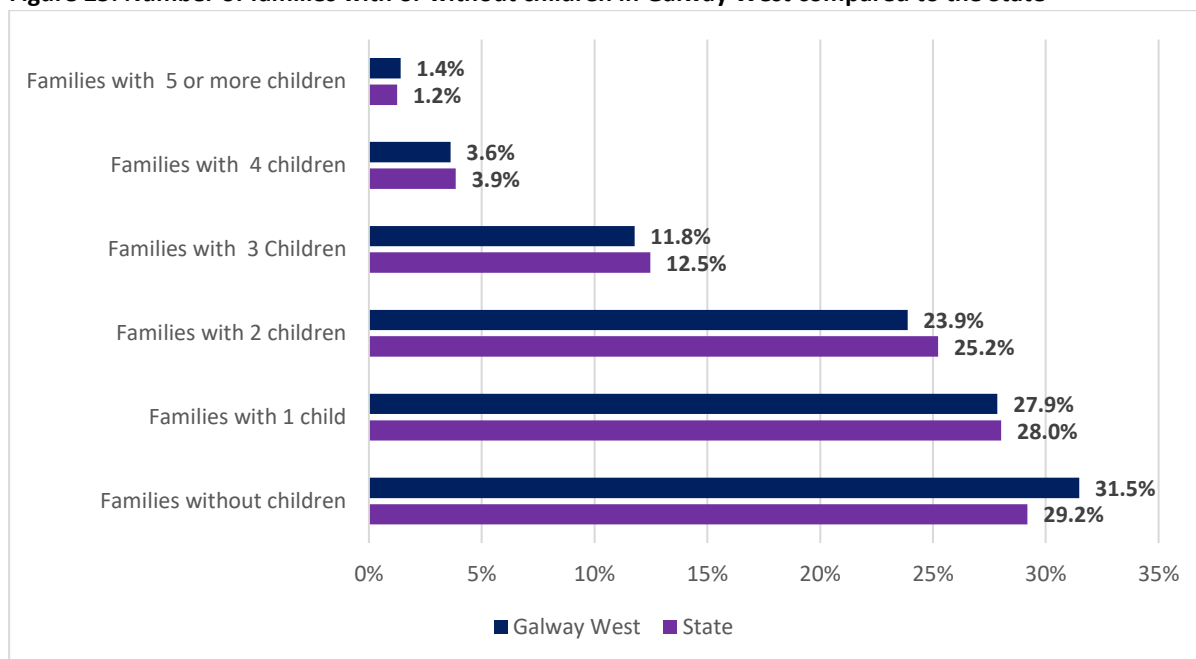


Families with or without children

Figure 25 (overleaf) compares the proportions of families according to the number with and without children in Galway West and the State. Galway West has a lower proportion of families with 2 children (23.9% compared to 25.2%) and a marginally lower proportion with 1 child (27.9% compared to 28%) than in the State as a whole. The constituency has a larger share of families without children (31.5%) than the corresponding State share (29.2%).

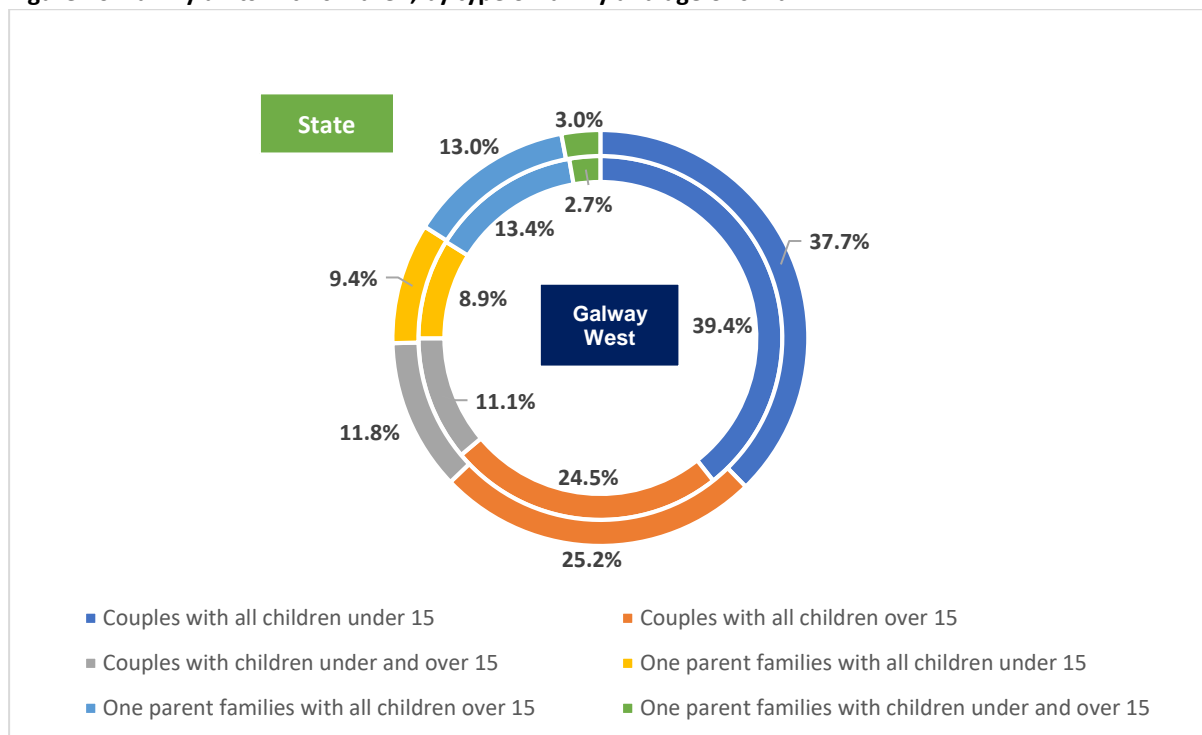
⁶ For the CSO's definition of family cycle as used in the Census, see [here](#).



Figure 25: Number of families with or without children in Galway West compared to the State

Family type

There are 23,198 families with children in Galway West. 17,392 (75%) of these families were couples with children and 5,806 (25%) were one parent families. Figure 26 below shows the proportion of family types with children (under and over 15) in 2016 for Galway West and compared to the State as a whole. In Galway West, there are more couples with all children under 15 (39.4%) and slightly less with all children over 15 (24.5%) than the shares in the State overall (37.7% and 25.2% respectively). The constituency shows a higher proportion than the State of one parent families with all children over 15 (13.4% compared to 13%).

Figure 26: Family units with children, by type of family and age of child



Contact:

Houses of the Oireachtas
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

www.oireachtas.ie
Tel: +353 (0)1 6183000 or 076 1001700
Twitter: @OireachtasNews

Library & Research Service
Tel: +353 (0)1 6184701
Email: library.and.research@oireachtas.ie

Connect with us

