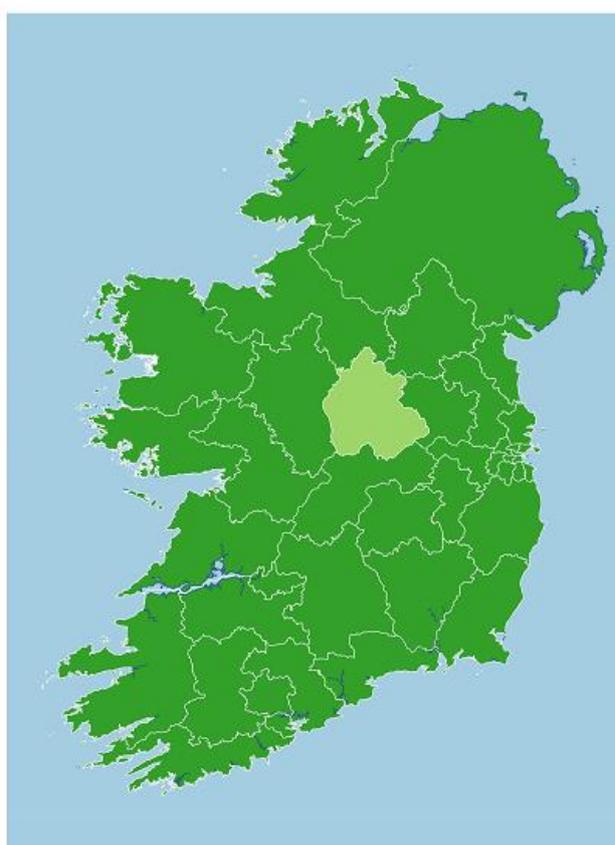


Dáil Éireann

Constituency Profile

Longford-Westmeath



January 2020



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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.

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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**:



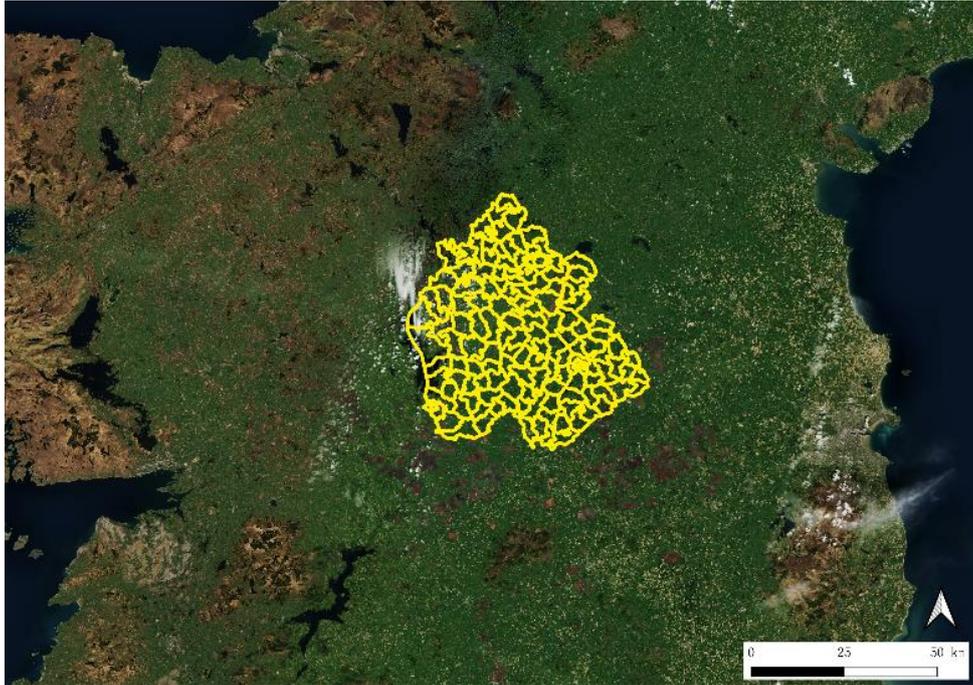
The Themes and Indicators included in this Profile reflect a selection of those used in the interactive Constituency Dashboards. A description of terms used by the CSO in the Census is set out in footnotes where relevant.

Introduction to Profile

Longford-Westmeath is a 4-seat constituency located in the midlands of Ireland. It includes, among others, the following locations: Athlone, Longford, Moate and Mullingar. Longford-Westmeath is comprised of 141 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 Longford-Westmeath

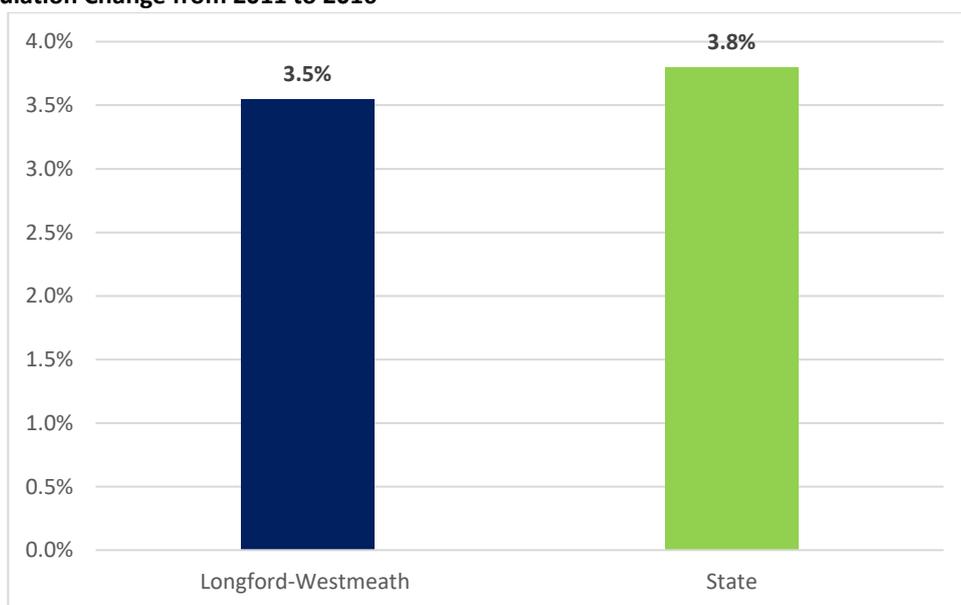


Demographics

Population

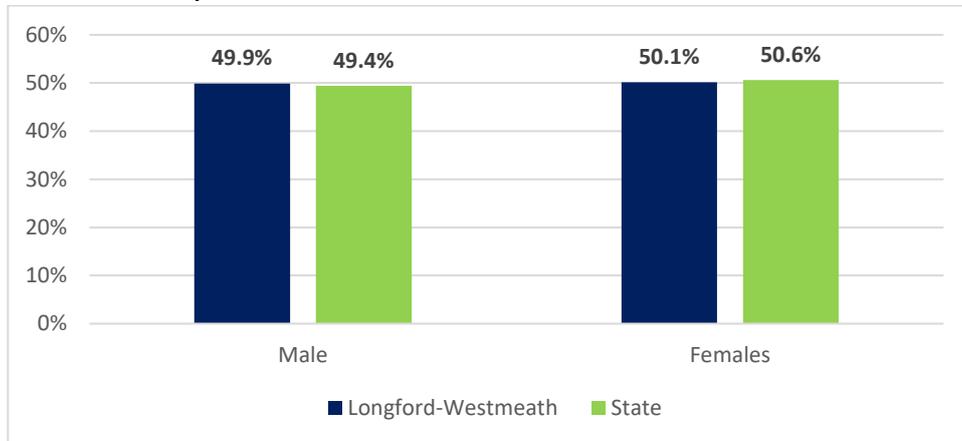
The population of the constituency at the time of the 2016 Census was **121,174**. This represents a 3.5% increase from 2011. As shown in Figure 2, this increase compares to a national population increase of 3.8% over the same period.

Figure 2: Population Change from 2011 to 2016



In 2016, 50.1% (60,727) of the constituency’s population was female and 49.9% (60,447) was male. The corresponding proportions in the State for 2016 were 50.6% female and 49.4% male (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Male to Female Population



Age cohorts

Figure 4 below shows the distribution of the female and male population of Longford-Westmeath according to five-year age bands. In Longford-Westmeath, 26.7% of population was aged under 18 and 13.3% were aged 65 or over in 2016. As shown in Figure 5 overleaf, the corresponding national measures were 25% aged under 18 and 13.4% aged 65 or older.

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

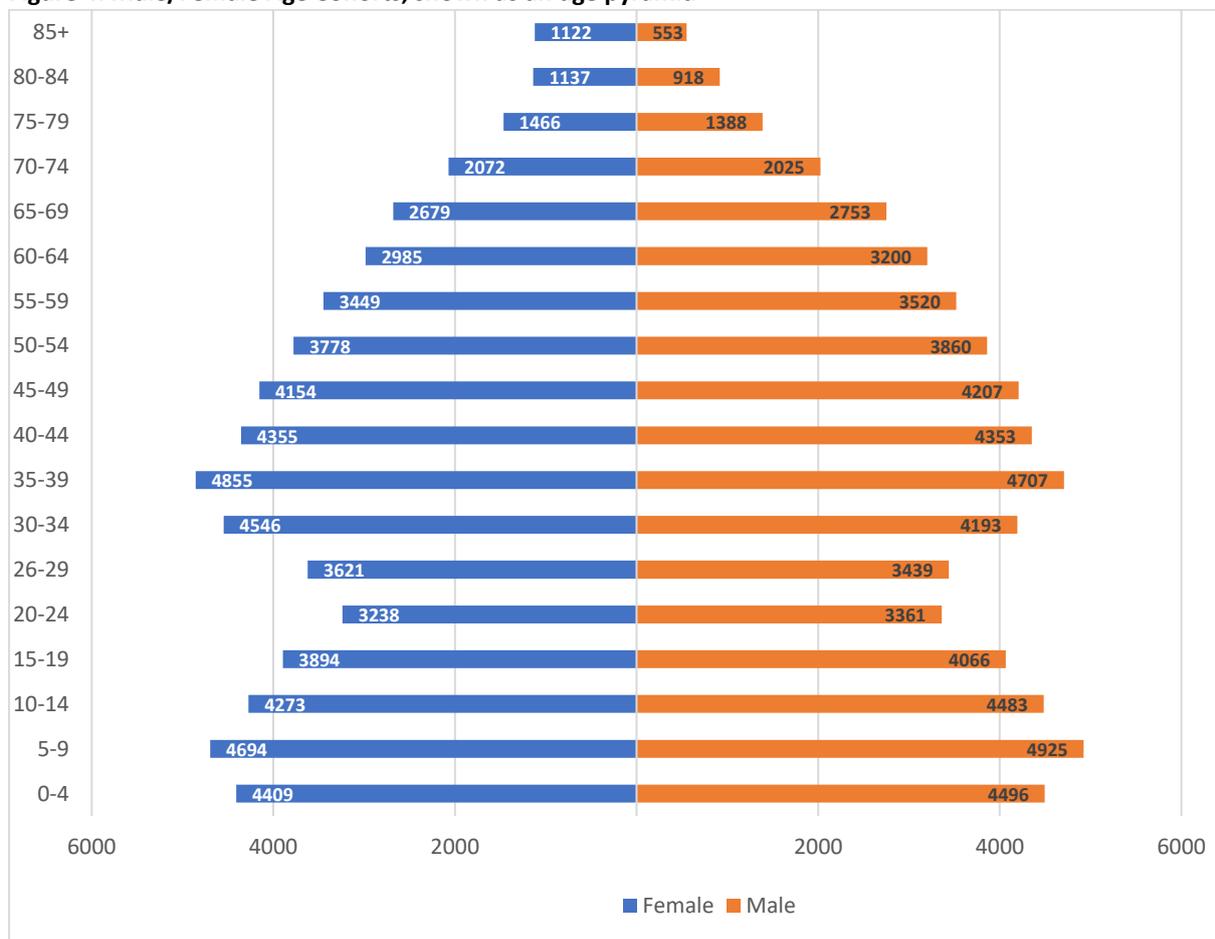
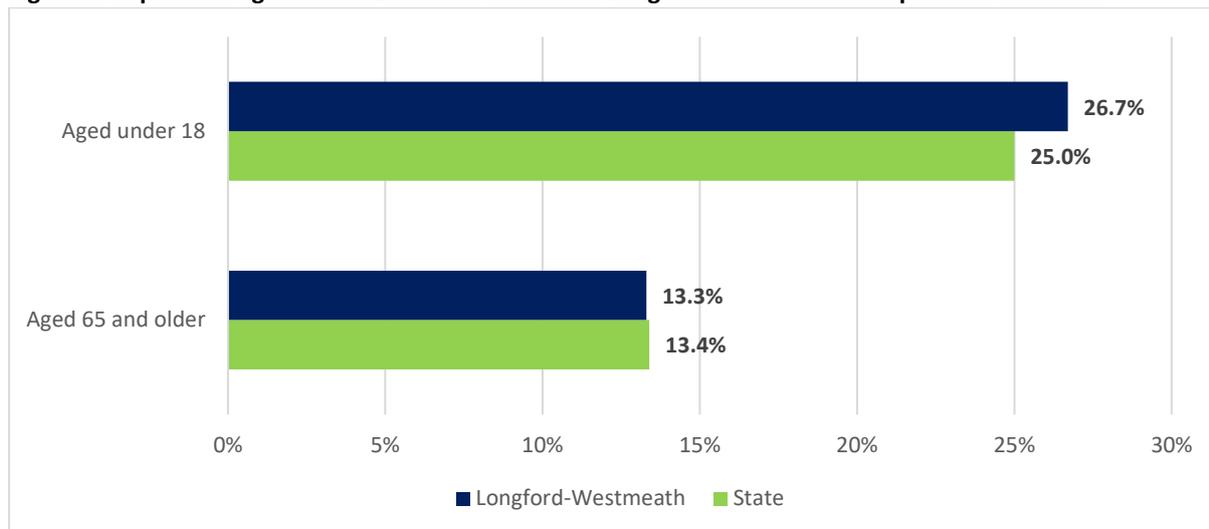


Figure 5: Population aged under 18 and 65 or older in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State



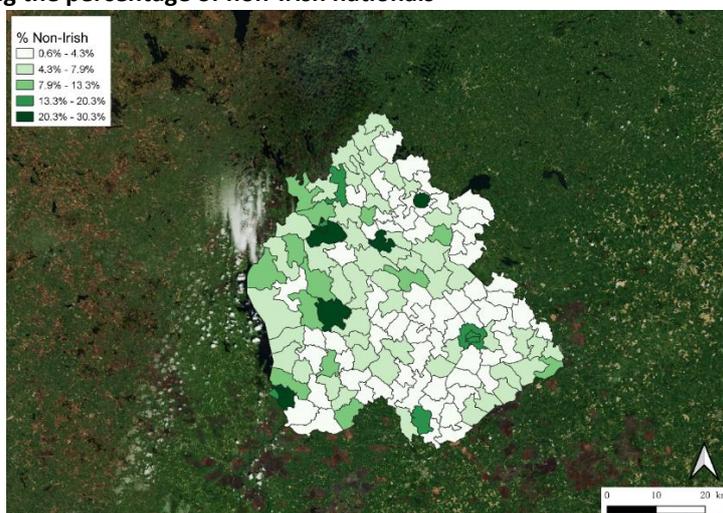
Nationality

The ratio of Irish to non-Irish nationals residing in Longford-Westmeath is lower than seen nationally in 2016. Of the usually resident population of Longford-Westmeath, 85.7% stated their nationality as Irish in the 2016 Census. Nationalities other than Irish comprised 12.9% of the population of the constituency, with 1.4% 'not stated'. Non-Irish nationals usually resident in the constituency included those who stated their nationality as British (2.2%), Polish (3.5%), Lithuanian (1.4%), from another EU country (2.9%) or from the rest of the world (2.9%). Table 1 below shows the comparison in the profile of nationality in the constituency of Longford-Westmeath with that seen nationally in 2016.

Table 1: Nationality in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State

Nationality	Longford-Westmeath	State
Irish	85.7%	87.0%
British	2.2%	2.2%
Polish	3.5%	2.6%
Lithuanian	1.4%	0.8%
Other EU	2.9%	3.1%
Rest of the World	2.9%	2.7%
Not Stated	1.4%	1.5%

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



For more detail and interactive tables see the L&RS Constituency Dashboards at dashboards.oireachtas.ie:

Ethnicity

Table 2 below shows that 80.4% of people usually residing in Longford-Westmeath identified their ethnicity as White Irish, which is a lower proportion than the State (82.2%). Other White Ethnicity accounted for 10.1% of people, this is marginally higher than the national rate of 9.5%. The proportions of the population in Longford-Westmeath who stated their ethnicity as Black or Black Irish (1.8% compared to 1.4%) was higher than the national average. The population in the constituency who stated their ethnicity as White Irish Traveller was higher than the State average (1.7% compared to 0.7%).

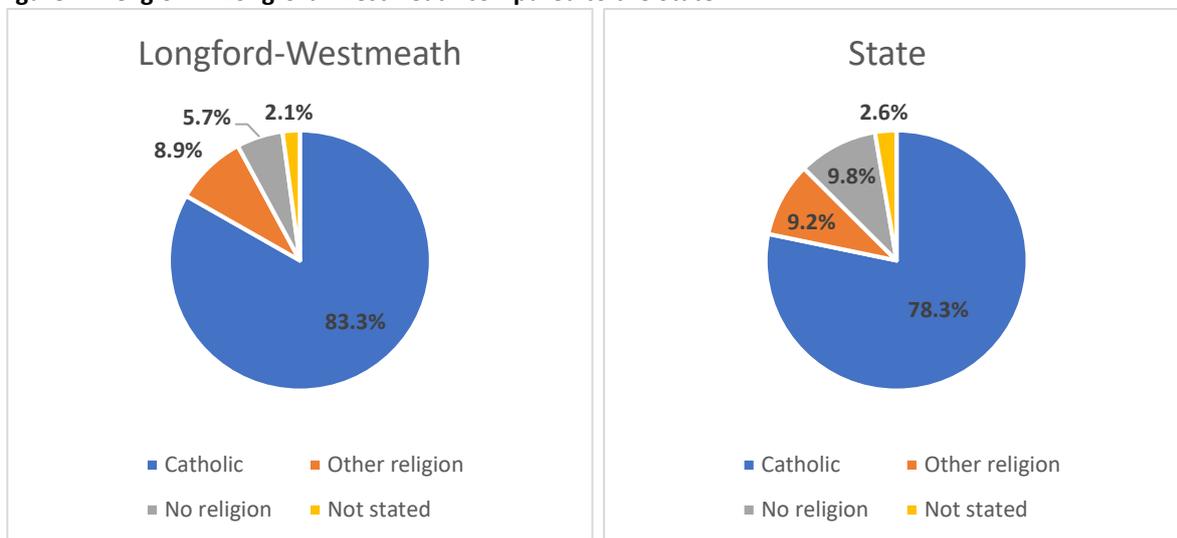
Table 2: Ethnicity in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State

Ethnicity	Longford-Westmeath	State
White Irish	80.4%	82.2%
White Irish Traveller	1.7%	0.7%
Other White Ethnicity	10.1%	9.5%
Black or Black Irish	1.8%	1.4%
Asian or Asian Irish	2.1%	2.1%
Other Ethnicity	1.5%	1.5%
Not Stated	2.4%	2.6%

Religion

The share of Catholics in Longford-Westmeath (83.3%) is higher than the national share (78.3%). Lower proportions of the usually resident population in Longford-Westmeath stated that they have a religion other than Catholic (8.9% compared to 9.2%) and no religion (5.7% compared to 9.8%) compared to the State.

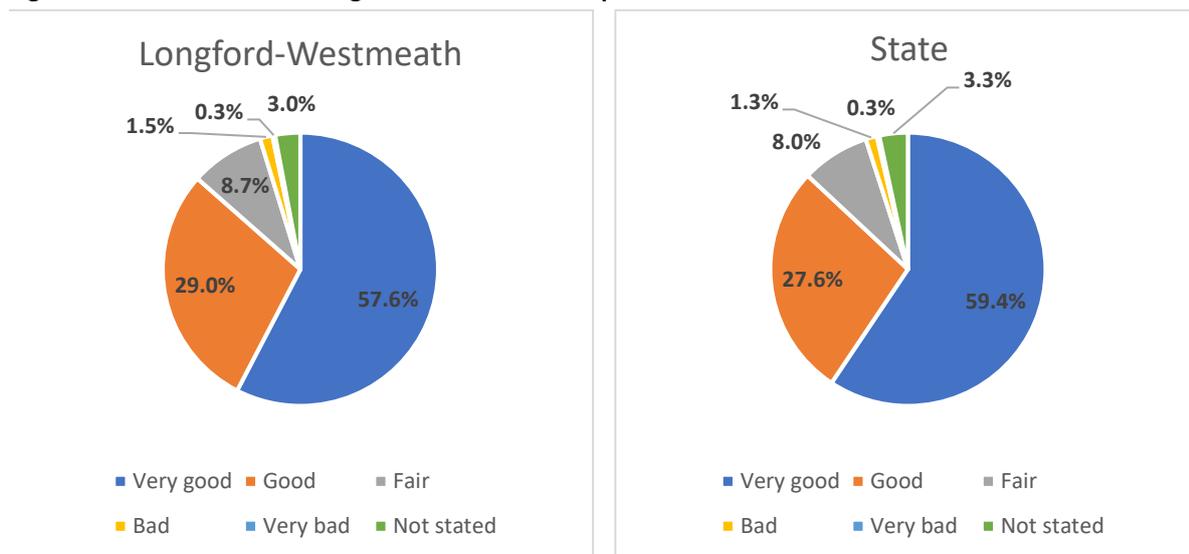
Figure 7: Religion in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State



General Health

In Longford-Westmeath, 57.6% of the population described their health as ‘very good’ in 2016, which is below the average of 59.4% seen in the State – see Figure 8 overleaf.

Figure 8: General health in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State



Social class²

Table 3 shows the social class makeup of Longford-Westmeath in comparison with the State in 2016. Longford-Westmeath has lower proportions of professional workers (6.4% compared to 8.1%) and managerial and technical workers (25.5% compared to 28.1%) than seen nationally. The constituency has higher proportions of people working in skilled-manual (14.9%) and semi-skilled (11%) occupations in comparison to the State (14.1% and 10.5% respectively).

Table 3: Social class in Longford-Westmeath compared with the State

Social Class	Longford-Westmeath	State
Professional workers	6.4%	8.1%
Managerial and technical	25.5%	28.1%
Non-manual	17.2%	17.6%
Skilled-manual	14.9%	14.1%
Semi-skilled	11.0%	10.5%
Unskilled	3.7%	3.6%
All other (gainfully employed and unknown)	21.4%	18.0%

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



Economic Status and Work

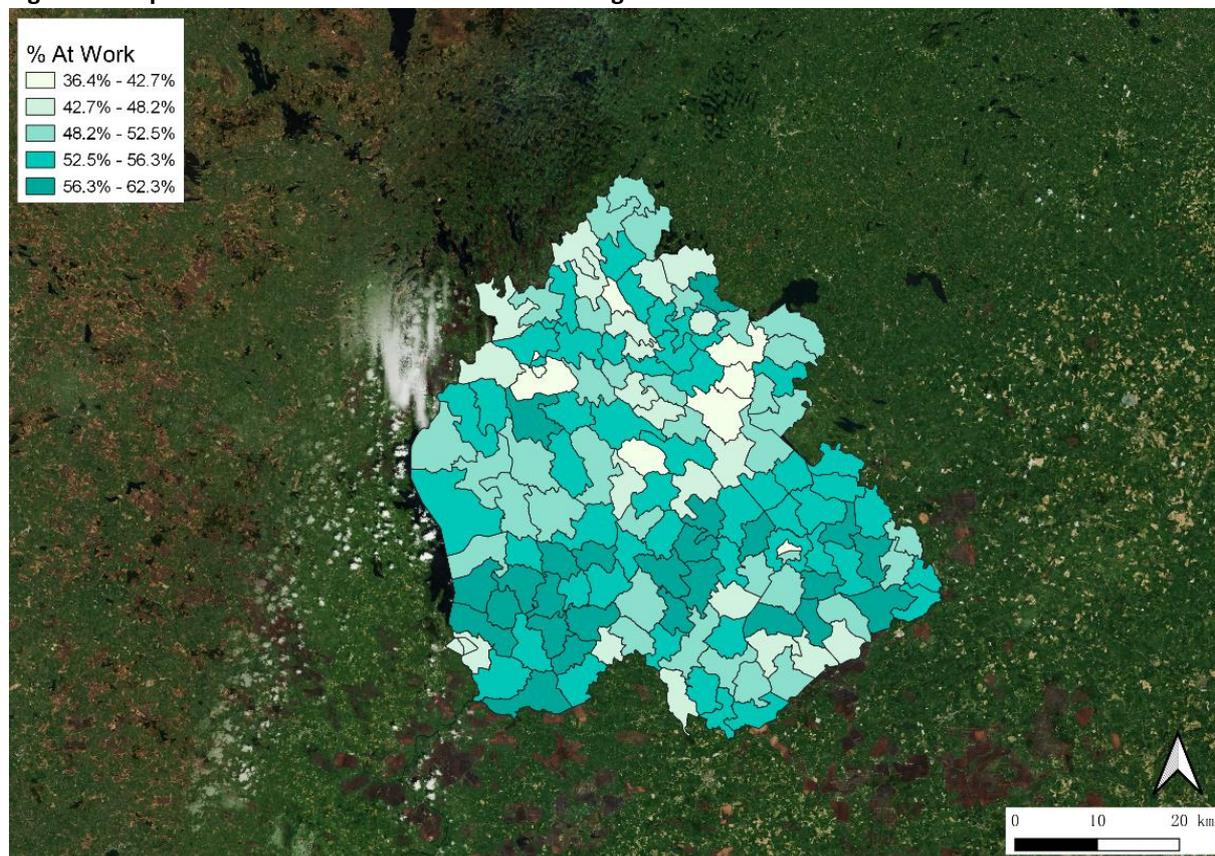
Principal economic status³

Table 4 below shows the employment status of Longford-Westmeath compared nationally. The constituency has a lower proportion of usual residents at work than seen for the State overall (50.3% compared to 53.5%). Longford-Westmeath has a lower proportion of students (10.9%) compared to the national rate (11.4%). The constituency has a higher proportion of usual residents who are looking after home/family (8.8% compared to 8.1%) than nationally. Figure 9 illustrates the percentage of residents at work across the constituency of Longford-Westmeath at the ED level.

Table 4: Principal economic status of Longford-Westmeath compared to the State

Principal Economic Status	Longford-Westmeath	State
At work	50.3%	53.5%
Looking for first job	1.1%	0.8%
Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	9.3%	7.1%
Student	10.9%	11.4%
Looking after home/family	8.8%	8.1%
Retired	14.4%	14.5%
Unable to work due to sickness or disability	4.7%	4.2%
Other	0.6%	0.4%

Figure 9: Proportion of the labour force at work in Longford-Westmeath at the ED level



³ For explanation of terms and definitions used in Census data, see the CSO website [here](#).

Industry

Table 5 shows those working in Longford-Westmeath and nationally by industry. Longford-Westmeath has more residents working in agriculture, forestry, and fishing (6% compared to 4.4%), building and construction (5.5% compared to 5.1%), manufacturing and industries (14% compared to 11.4%) and public administration (6.3% compared to 5.3%) than nationally. The constituency has less residents working in commerce and trade (21.5% compared to 23.9%), transport and communications (6.4% compared to 8.5%) and professional services (22.8% compared to 23.5%) than the State as a whole.

Table 5: Breakdown of workers by industry in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State

Industry	Longford-Westmeath	State
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	6.0%	4.4%
Building and construction	5.5%	5.1%
Manufacturing and industries	14.0%	11.4%
Commerce and trade	21.5%	23.9%
Transport and communications	6.4%	8.5%
Public administration	6.3%	5.3%
Professional services	22.8%	23.5%
Other	17.4%	17.8%

Occupation types⁴

Table 6 shows the occupation types in which Longford-Westmeath residents work. Longford-Westmeath has a lower rate of managers, directors and senior officials (6.7% compared to 7.4%), those working in professional occupations (14.8% compared to 17.3%), associate professional and technical occupations (8.9% compared to 10.9%) and administrative and secretarial occupations (8.8% compared to 10%) than the State. Longford-Westmeath's proportion of those in skilled trades occupations (15.7% compared to 13.9%) is higher than the national average.

Table 6: Occupation types in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State

Occupation Types	Longford-Westmeath	State
Managers, directors and senior officials	6.7%	7.4%
Professional occupations	14.8%	17.3%
Associate professional and technical occupations	8.9%	10.9%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	8.8%	10.0%
Skilled trades occupations	15.7%	13.9%
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	7.8%	7.3%
Sales and customer service occupations	6.9%	6.8%
Process, plant and machine operatives	8.2%	7.2%
Elementary occupations	8.9%	8.8%
Not stated	13.3%	10.3%

⁴ For details of the CSO definition of occupation, see [here](#).

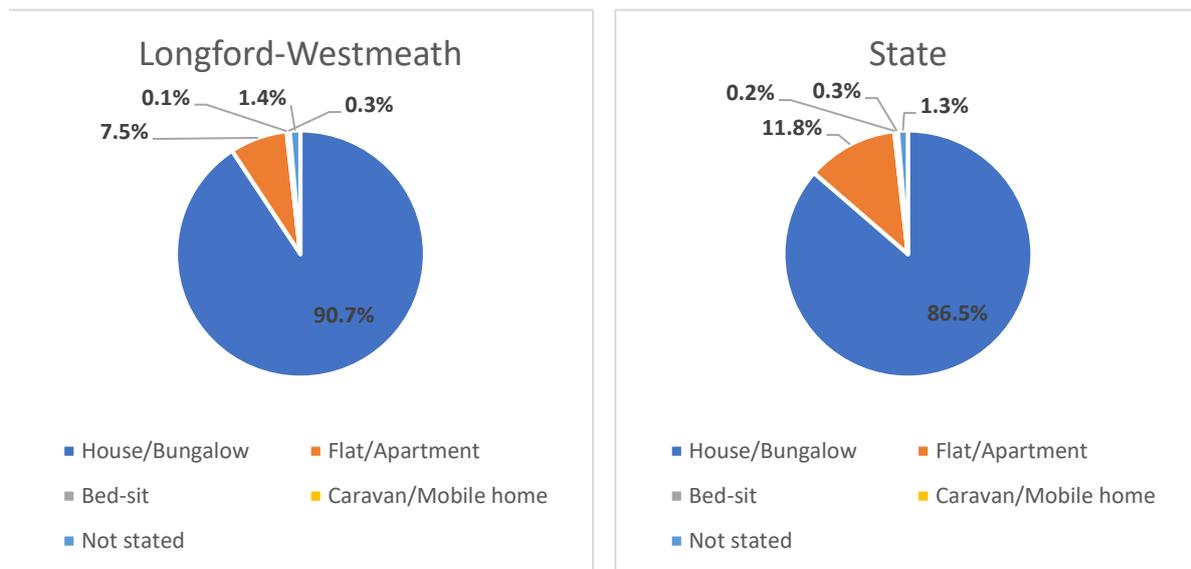


Households and Housing

Accommodation type

There were 43,922 private households in Longford-Westmeath in 2016. Figure 10 below shows that more people in Longford-Westmeath live in houses or bungalows than seen in Ireland (90.7% compared to 86.5%). Longford-Westmeath has a lower proportion of households living in flats/apartments than the State as a whole (7.5% compared to 11.8%).

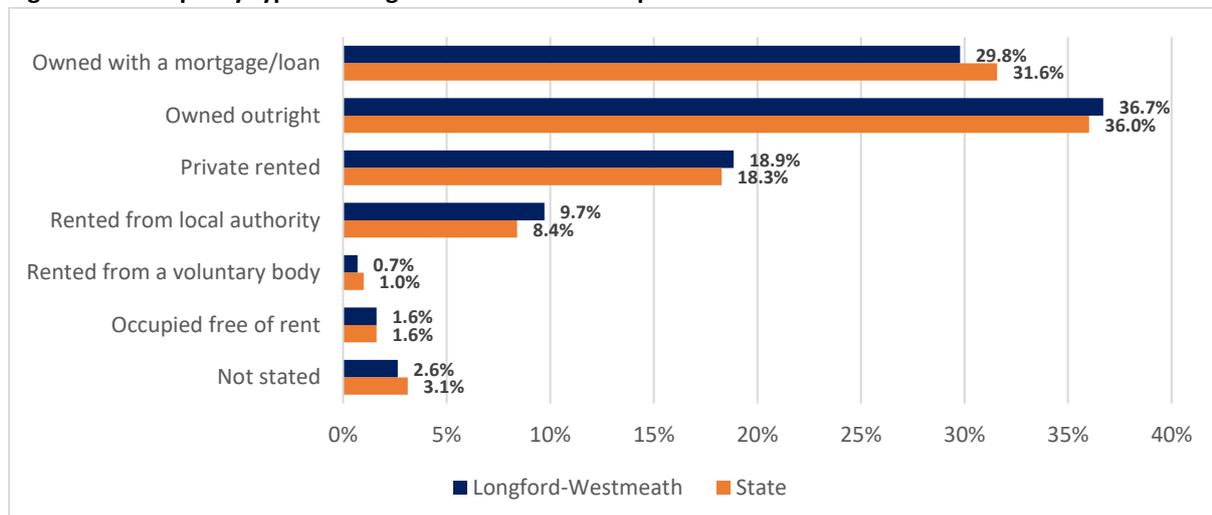
Figure 10: Accommodation types in Longford-Westmeath compared with the State



Occupancy type

Figure 11 below shows that households in Longford-Westmeath are marginally more likely to own their houses outright (36.7% compared to 36%) and less likely to own with a mortgage or loan (29.8% compared to 31.6%) than the State overall. In the constituency, 18.9% of households rent from private landlords which is marginally higher than the national average of 18.3%. More people in the constituency rent from a local authority than the average nationally (9.7% compared to 8.4%).

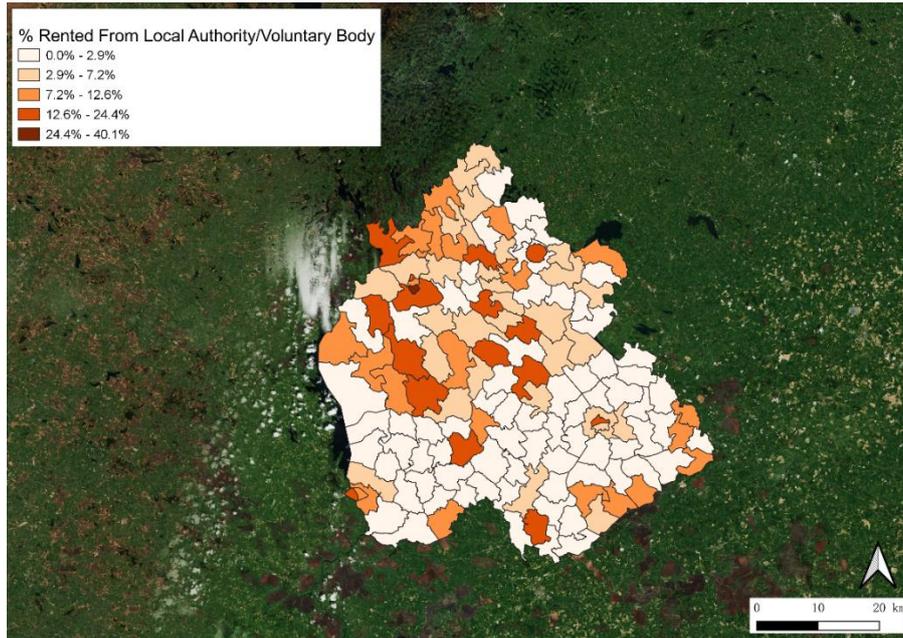
Figure 11: Occupancy types in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State



For more detail and interactive tables see the L&RS Constituency Dashboards at dashboards.oireachtas.ie:

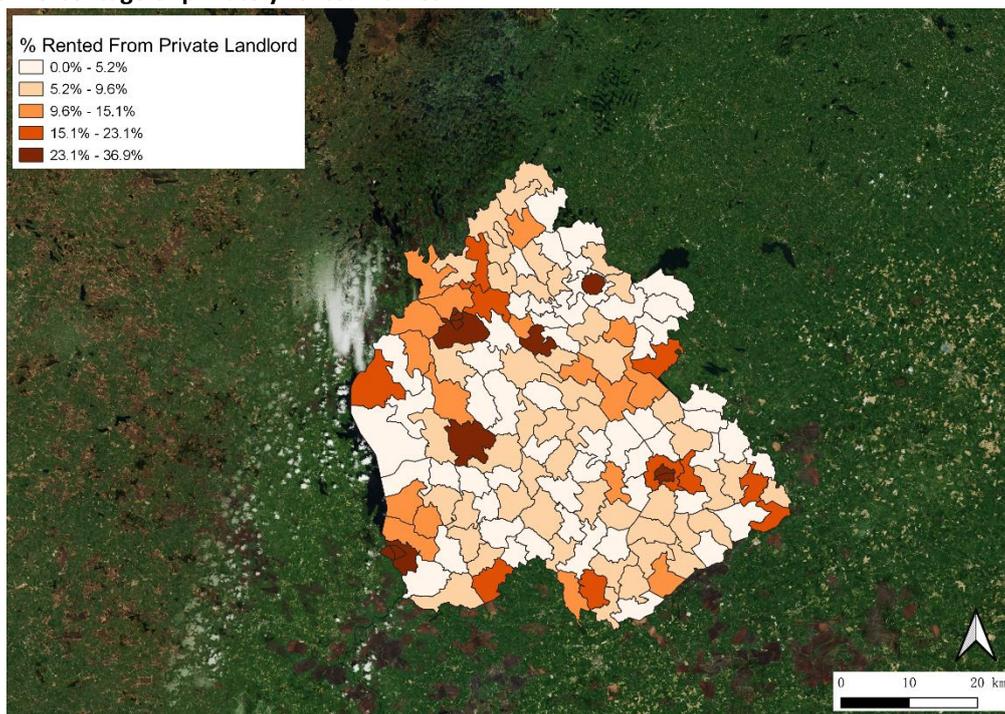


Figure 12: Percentage of social housing (rented from local authority or voluntary body)



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

Figure 13: Percentage of privately rented homes



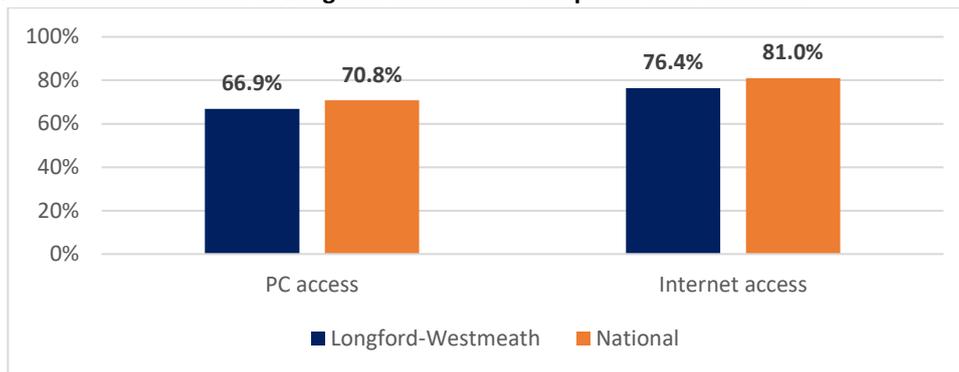
PC and broadband⁵

Longford-Westmeath has a lower rate of PC access than the national average (66.9% compared to 70.8%) – Figure 14 overleaf. Longford-Westmeath households also have lower rates of access to the internet compared to households in the State overall (76.4% compared to 81%).⁶

⁵ In keeping with the Constituency Dashboards, the totals in this section exclude the “Not stated” category.

⁶ Internet access includes “Broadband” and “Other”.

Figure 14: PC and internet access in Longford-Westmeath compared with the State



Central heating

Table 7 below shows that households in Longford-Westmeath are more likely to use oil (51% compared to 40.4%) and peat (19.8% compared to 5.3%) as their central heating source than households nationally. Households in Longford-Westmeath are in contrast less likely to use natural gas (7.9% compared to 33.5%) for central heating than the State as a whole.

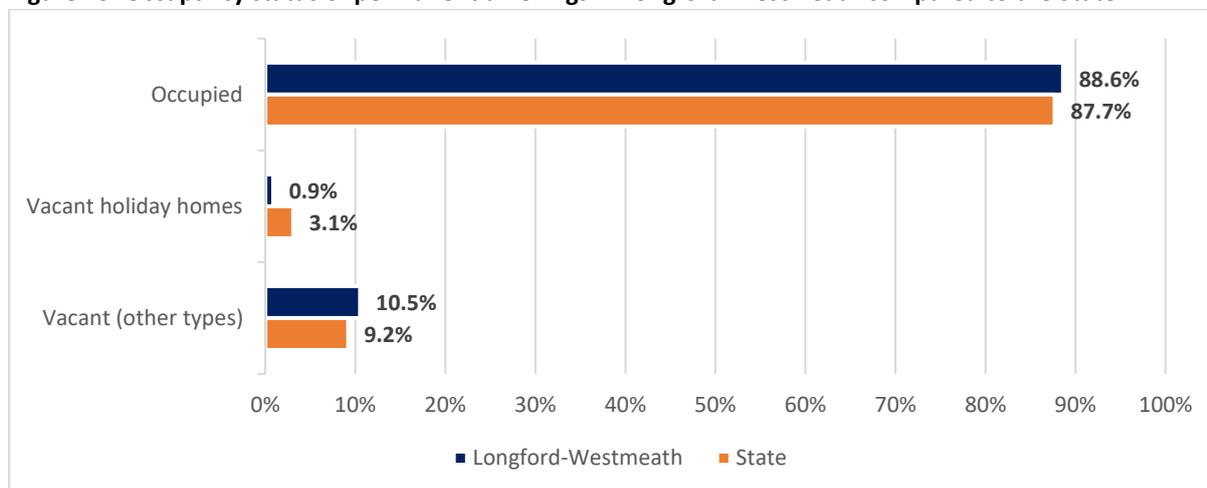
Table 7: Central heating type in Longford-Westmeath compared with the State

Central heating	Longford-Westmeath	State
Oil	51.0%	40.4%
Natural gas	7.9%	33.5%
Electricity	8.3%	8.6%
Coal	5.2%	5.1%
Peat	19.8%	5.3%
LPG	0.9%	0.6%
Wood	2.8%	2%
Other	1.0%	0.7%
No central heating	1.2%	1.4%
Not stated	1.8%	2.4%

Vacant dwellings

Figure 15 below shows the vacancy rate of permanent dwellings in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State. Compared to the State as a whole, the constituency has a higher rate of overall vacant dwellings (10.5% compared to 9.2%) and a higher rate of occupied homes (88.6% compared to 87.7%).

Figure 15: Occupancy status of permanent dwellings in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State





Transport

Mode to work, school, etc.

Figure 16 below shows that a higher proportion of people in Longford-Westmeath travel to work or education by car or van (as a driver or passenger) (68.2% compared to 62.2%) compared to the State average. Figure 16 also shows that Longford-Westmeath residents are less likely to walk (12.3% compared to 13.9%) and use public transport (9.6% compared to 12.9%) than the comparative State average.

Figure 16: Mode of transportation in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State

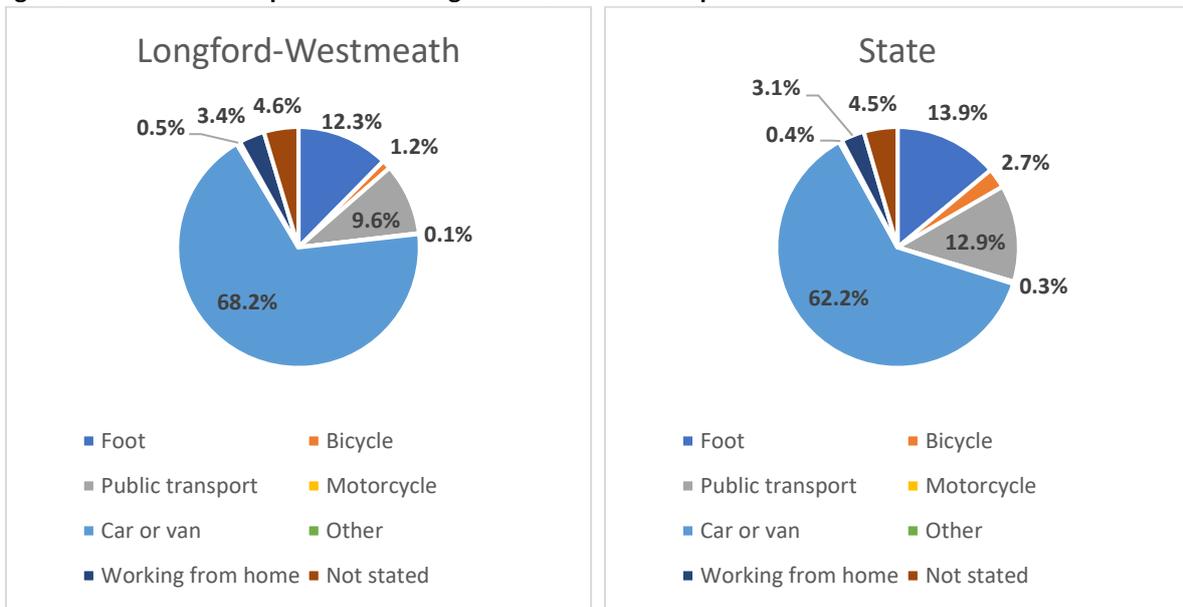


Figure 17: Percentage of public transportation use in Longford-Westmeath

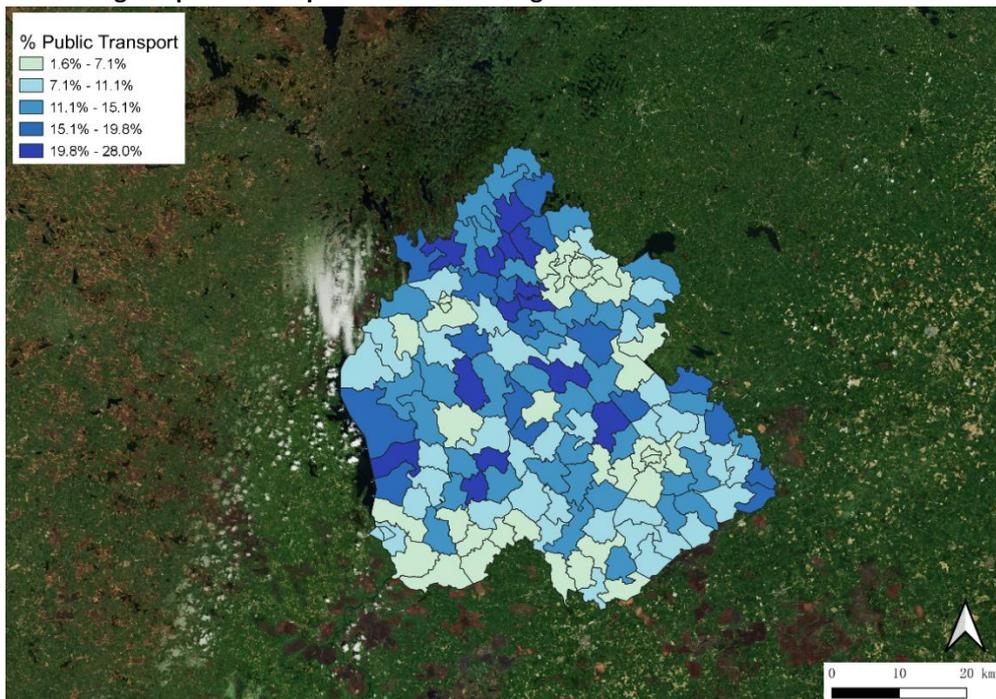
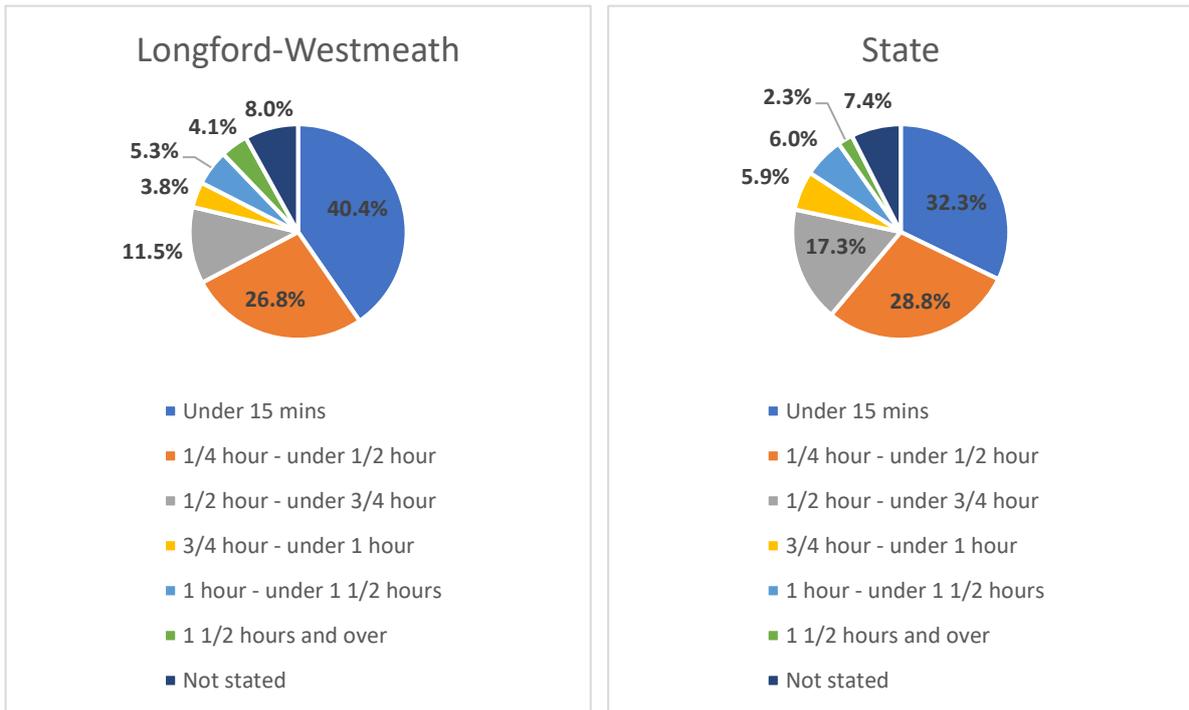


Figure 17 (previous page) shows the proportion of people in Longford-Westmeath at the ED level who use public transport as their main means of travel to work, school or college.

Journey time to work, school, etc.

Figure 18 below shows the journey times of residents in Longford-Westmeath to work or education in comparison to the State average. The constituency has a higher proportion of less than 15-minute journeys (40.4% compared to 32.3%). Longford-Westmeath has a lower proportion of 15- to 30-minute journeys (26.8% compared to 28.8%) and 30- to 45-minute journeys (11.5% compared to 17.3%) than the national share.

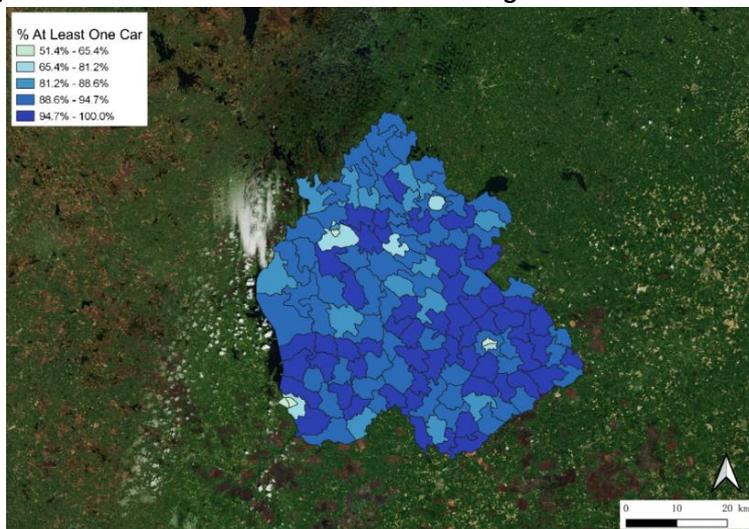
Figure 18: Journey times to work/school/etc. in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State



Car access

Figure 19 maps at the ED level the proportion of households having one or more cars in Longford-Westmeath.

Figure 19: Percentage of households with one or more cars in Longford-Westmeath



For more detail and interactive tables see the L&RS Constituency Dashboards at dashboards.oireachtas.ie:



Education

Highest education level completed/achieved

Figure 20 below shows the highest education level completed in Longford-Westmeath and its comparison with the corresponding national measure. In comparison with the State, the constituency displays a higher proportion who have completed their highest level of education at secondary level (35.1% compared to 33.0%) and at intermediate level (20.8% compared to 19.6%). The constituency has a lower proportion of residents who have completed their education at third level and above (23.3% compared to 28.5%) and below (14.0% compared to 12.5%) than nationally.

Figure 20: Highest completed education in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State

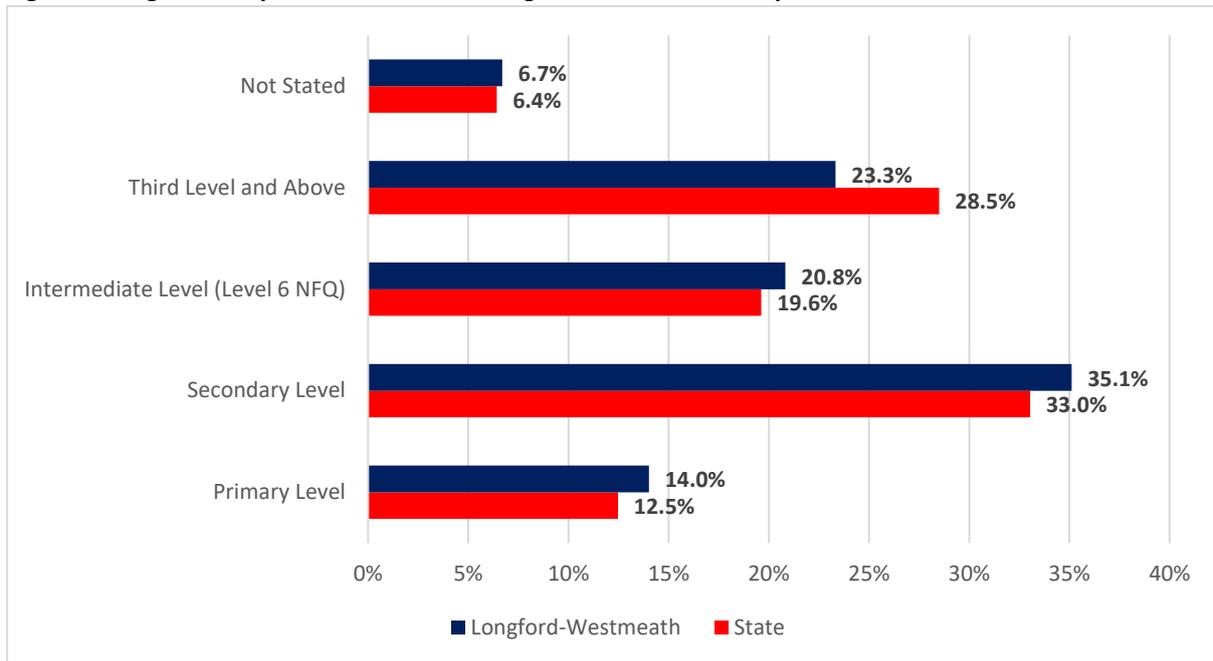


Figure 21 below shows the rates of usual residents with third level education or higher, while the following Figure 22 (overleaf) shows the proportions of Longford-Westmeath residents at the ED level with primary education or below.

Figure 22: The percentage of people with third level education or higher in Longford-Westmeath

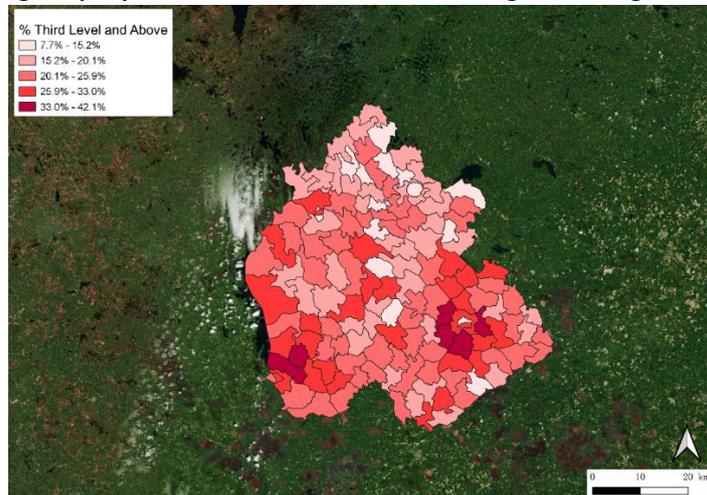
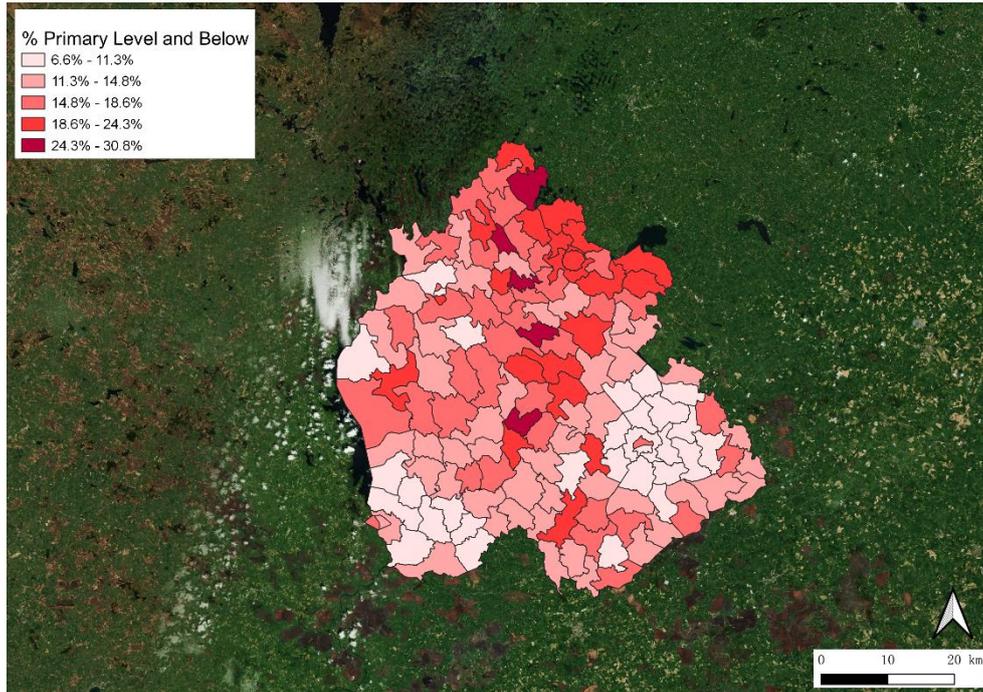


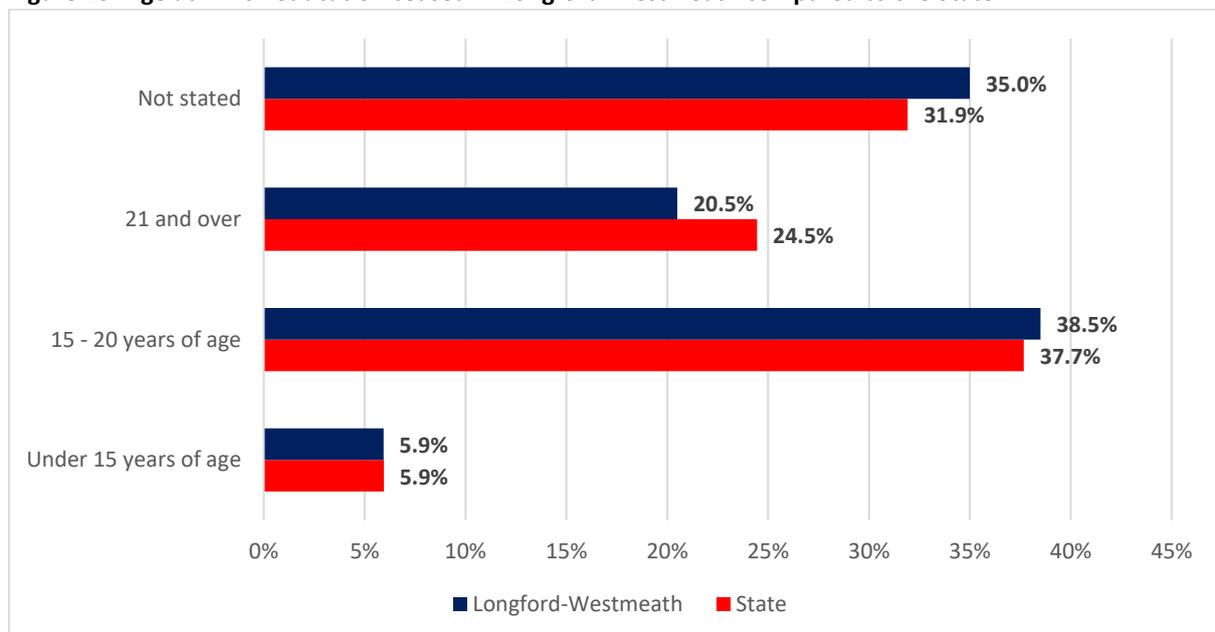
Figure 22: Percentage of people with primary education or below in Longford-Westmeath



Age at which education ceased

Figure 23 below shows the highest age at which education ceased in Longford-Westmeath compared to the national average. The constituency shows a lower proportion ceasing their education aged 21 and over (20.5% compared to 24.5%) and a higher proportion ceasing their education aged 15-20 (38.5% compared to 37.7%) than nationally.

Figure 23: Age at which education ceased in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State



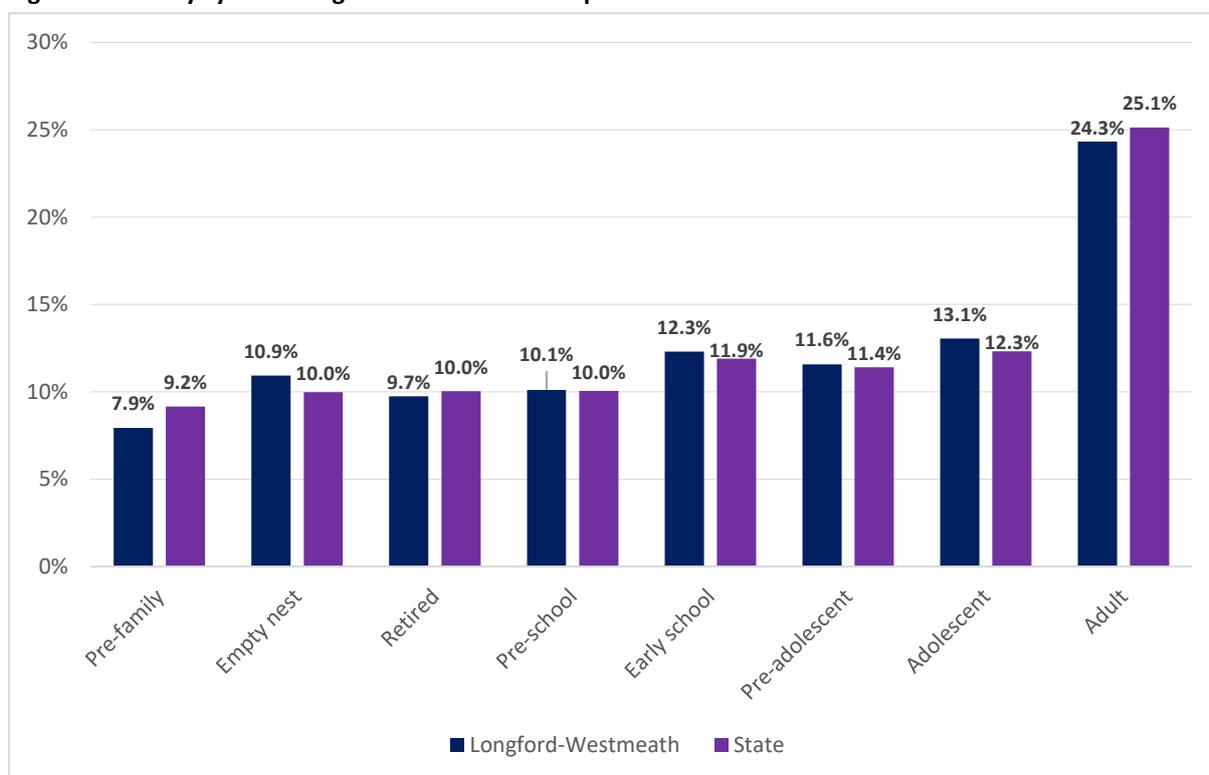


Families

Family cycle⁷

In Longford-Westmeath there are 31,603 family units. Figure 24 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 proportions of family units described as pre-family (7.9% compared to 9.2%) and adult (24.3% compared to 25.1%) is less than the State overall. The proportions of families in the constituency described as adolescent (13.1% compared to 12.3%), early school (12.3% compared to 11.9%) and empty nest (10.9% compared to 10%) are greater than the corresponding national equivalent measures.

Figure 24: Family cycle in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State



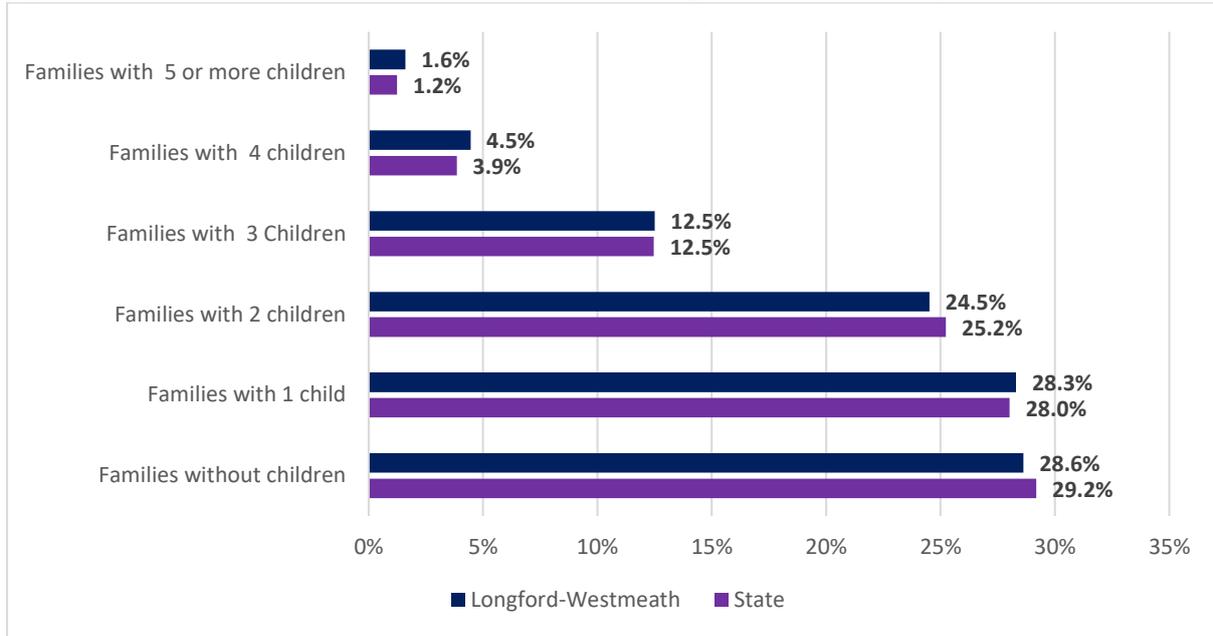
Families with or without children

Figure 25 (overleaf) compares the proportions of families according to the number of children in Longford-Westmeath and the State. Longford-Westmeath has a marginally lower proportion of families without children (28.6% compared to 29.2%) and families with 2 children (24.5% compared to 25.2%) but a higher proportion with 4 children (4.5% compared to 3.9%) than nationally.

⁷ For the CSO’s definition of family cycle as used in the Census, see [here](#).



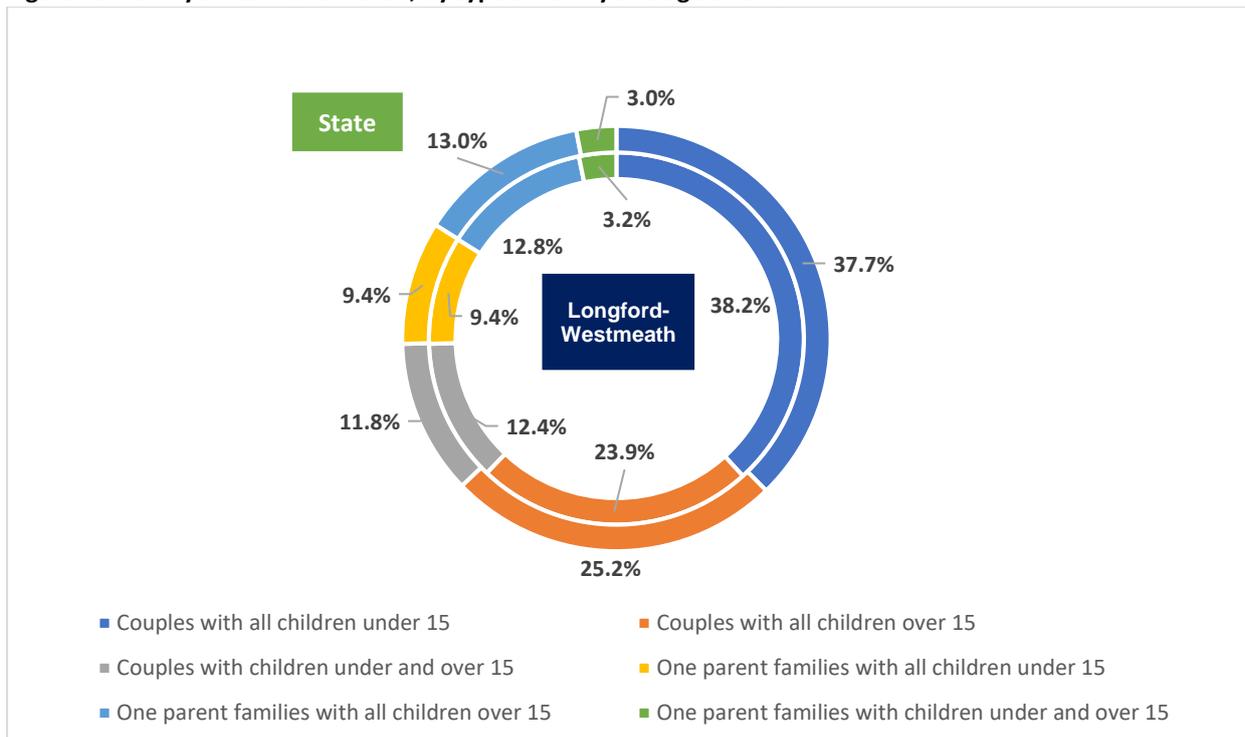
Figure 25: Number of families with or without children in Longford-Westmeath compared to the State



Family type

There are 22,558 families with children in Longford-Westmeath. 16,817 (74.6%) of these families were couples with children and 5,741 (25.4%) were one parent families. Figure 26 below shows the proportion of family types with children (under and over 15) in 2016 for Longford-Westmeath and compared to the State. In Longford-Westmeath, there are more couples with all children under 15 (38.2% compared to 37.7%) and couples with children both under and over 15 (12.4% compared to 11.8%) than nationally. The constituency shows similar proportions to the State of one parent families with all children over 15 (12.8% compared to 13%) and one parent families with children both under and over 15 (3.2% compared to 3%).

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





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