

Irish Uplands Socio- Economic Profile

A report into Ireland's inhabited and farmed
upland areas

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Irish Uplands Socio-Economic Project

This is a report into Ireland's inhabited and farmed upland areas. It is evidence-based, drawing on data from the Census of Population, Census of Agriculture and Pobal – HP Deprivation Index to assess populations, social and industrial structures, and farming activities. The analysis of socio-economic conditions and their implications for upland communities will help to inform upland futures.

Uplands Scene-Setting and Methodology

There are 57 upland ranges across the island of Ireland, the vast majority in the Republic of Ireland (figure 1). For the purpose of this research, the Irish Uplands Forum (IUF) selected electoral divisions (EDs) from 17 of these ranges (figure 2) based on mapping criteria for land cover and habitation characteristics to identify inhabited rural areas with agricultural activity (box 1).

In order (1) to develop a broad policy approach across these upland areas to best meet their particular requirements within an Irish context and (2) to capture local variation in rural uplands that calls for flexible policy responses, this research adopted a two-stage analysis. The first stage provides a *summary* of the characteristics of the upland ranges and a comparison with national data. The second stage compares key indicators across the individual upland ranges to highlight local variations.

The upland ranges and the extent of their electoral divisions (EDs) covered in this report relate to areas where the IUF is particularly active. This distribution can be readily expanded to cover other upland areas, as required or specified by the IUF.

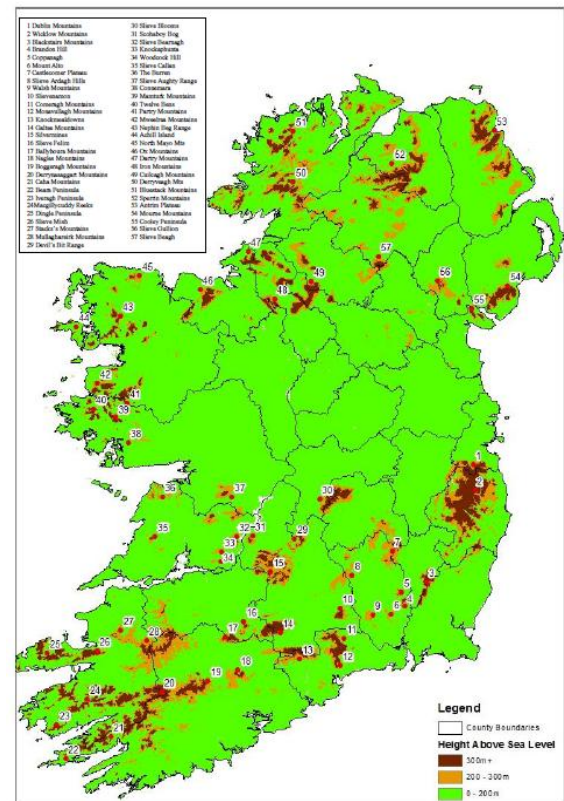
Box 1: IUF selection criteria to identify inhabited and farmed upland EDs.

- Most of townland was above **200m**;
- Upland vegetation was present with visible evidence of grazing (e.g. sheep paths, green patches of higher fertility, enclosures). If the area appeared overgrown with dense vegetation, it was ruled out as not being actively farmed;
- Presence of forestry was acceptable but townland ruled out if dominated by it;
- Absence of nucleated settlement in the townland (farms and one off housing accepted) to exclude urban households.

The political and local development landscape

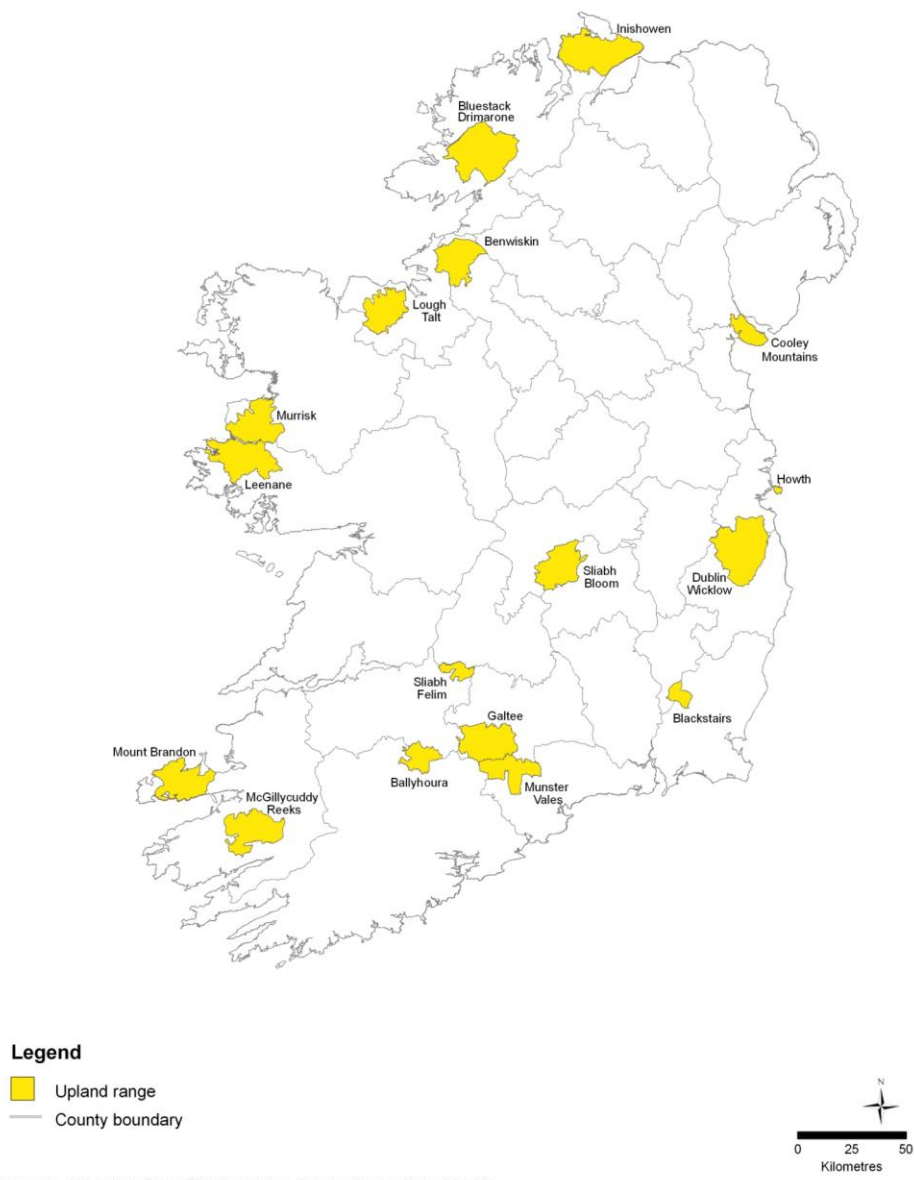
In delineating political and administrative boundaries, people have often used uplands to demarcate territories. Ranges such as the Pyrenees and Mont Blanc (Western Europe's highest mountain) denote borders between countries while, here in Ireland, mountain peaks in ranges such as the Cahas mark county boundaries. However, Ireland's upland areas pre-

Figure 1: Irish upland ranges.



date and transcend many man-made and administrative boundaries. Specifically, uplands such as the Sliabh Beagh, Sliabh Gullion and Cuilcagh Mountains straddle the border between the Republic and Northern Ireland. Consequently, holistic and integrated approaches to the sustainable development of most of Ireland's uplands imply inter-community and cross-border collaboration and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Thus, in time, the expansion of this report and other subsequent research to include uplands north of the border will represent a positive contribution to broadening the evidence-base that underpins the IUF strategic approaches. The inclusion of statutory and non-statutory bodies on both sides of the border will increase the social and knowledge capital and enhance the range of fundraising possibilities that can contribute to sustaining and developing upland landscapes and communities.

Figure 2: Upland ranges.



Data source - Irish Uplands Forum; Digital boundaries - Ordnance Survey of Ireland; (c) OSI

Tapping into knowledge capital and the wealth of heritage that has shaped our uplands necessitates investment in community development. The Uplands Community Study (Hill, 2016) instances many ways in which LEADER and Local Development Companies are supporting community-led local development initiatives in Ireland's uplands. While the funding cuts to the Rural Development Programme (RDP) (for the period 2014-2020, relative to the previous round) represent a considerable setback to communities, LEADER will continue to play a role in supporting upland communities, and bottom-up approaches must be

the hallmark of area-based development. Table 1 lists the Local Development Companies (Local Action Groups) that implement the RDP (including LEADER) in the upland areas profiled in this report.

Table 1: Political geography of Irish uplands.

Uplands Area	EDs	County	EDs	Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
Inishowen	16		16	Inishowen Development Partnership
Bluestack Drimarone	9	Donegal	8	Údarás na Gaeltachta
			1	Donegal Local Development Company
Benwiskin	10	Leitrim	8	Leitrim Integrated Development Company
		Sligo	2	Sligo LEADER Partnership
Lough Talt	7		7	
Murrisk	6	Mayo	6	South West Mayo Development Company
Leenane	7	Galway	4	Comhar na nOileán Teo
			3	Forum Connemara
McGillycuddy Reeks	7		7	South Kerry Development Partnership
Mount Brandon	11	Kerry	2	
			9	North, East and West Kerry Development
Sliabh Felim	3		3	
Ballyhoura	7	Limerick	7	Ballyhoura Development
Galtee	12	Tipperary	4	
			8	South Tipperary Development Company
Munster Vale	6	Waterford	5	
			1	Waterford LEADER Partnership
Sliabh Bloom	12	Laois	8	Laois Community and Enterprise Development
		Offaly	4	Offaly Integrated Local Development Company
Blackstairs	3	Carlow	2	Carlow County Development Partnership
		Wexford	1	Wexford Local Development
Dublin-Wicklow	12	Wicklow	9	County Wicklow Community Partnership
		Dublin	2	Southside Partnership DLR
			1	Dodder Valley Partnership
Cooley Mountains	6	Louth	6	Louth LEADER Partnership

Stage 1 – Overview of Rural Uplands

Socio-economic profile of inhabited and farmed Irish upland ranges

This section uses data from the Census of Population 2011 and Pobal – HP Deprivation Index to assess upland communities in terms of their population (density, change since 2006, structure, nationalities), family composition, health, educational attainment, labour force characteristics, industrial structure, connectivity (digital and transport) and deprivation.

The OECD classifies areas with a population density below 150 persons per km² as rural. Of the 135 electoral divisions (EDs) in the 17 selected upland areas, two have population densities well above this threshold. Howth has the highest density at 755/km² followed by Glencullen¹ in South Dublin at 513/km². In order to give a clearer account of rural upland areas for the purpose of this analysis, Howth² and Glencullen in Dublin are both excluded due to the extent of urbanisation indicated by their population densities. This reduced the number of ranges considered in this report to 16 upland areas comprising 133 EDs.

Table 2 lists key socio-economic variables for the uplands overall and the State in 2011 and reveals notable differences.

Population density and change since 2006

Fewer than 17 people per km² live in upland areas, only one-quarter of the national average (67/km²). The population of the uplands grew 8.5% between 2006 and 2011 from almost 77,100 to 83,600 inhabitants, just above the national increase of 8%.

Population structure and nationalities

Both youth dependency, measuring the population of 0-14 year olds as a percentage of the working-age population of 15-64 year olds, and elderly dependency, measuring the population of those 65 years and older as a percentage of 15-64 year olds, are higher than the national averages. Conversely, the demographic vitality ratio that measures the number of people in the most reproductively active age groups from 20-39 years is well below the national average. Compared with the State, the remaining population comprises a higher proportion of Irish residents (92/100), a smaller proportion of other Europeans (6/100) and much fewer residents from outside Europe (1/100).

Educational attainment

Early school leaving rates (measuring those with no formal education, primary or early secondary only), are higher in the uplands compared with the national average among both genders, especially males, while third-level education rates (from ordinary degree to post-doctorate) are much lower, again particularly so for males.

Labour force

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) comprises the population of those at work or looking for work reported as a percentage of the total eligible working age population (aged 15 years plus). It measures the population that is *available* to work. The profile of the labour force in the uplands reveals a gender divide. The male LFPR and employment rate³ are similar to national averages whereas the female LFPR and employment rate are lower (both 91%). The male unemployment rate in upland areas is above average.

Industrial structure

An assessment of what sectors employ workers living in upland areas reveals the ongoing importance of the primary production (farming, fishing and forestry) and construction sectors that together account for almost 30% of male workers in the uplands (compared with 17% nationally) – figure 3. Nationally and in the uplands, some 15% of males work in manufacturing, while 19% of males in upland areas work in trade and commerce compared with 24% nationally. The other important employment sectors for upland males are ‘other’ services (includes tourism) and professional services that together comprise 24% of workers, below the national average of 26%.

¹ Includes Stepside, Kiltiernan and part of the environs of Dun Laoghaire.

² Farming was last recorded in the Howth ED during the 1991 Census of Agriculture, when two beef farms and one tillage farm remained in operation there.

³ The number at work as a percentage of the working age population.

Female workers living in the uplands share a similar industrial structure to those nationally, with the main differences being lower employment in transport and communications and higher employment rates (but low numbers) in primary production and construction (figure 4). Both nationally and in the uplands, female employment is concentrated in the service sectors with over 80% of women working in just three sectors: professional services (e.g. administration and support services, education, health, social work), trade and commerce, and 'other' services (accommodation, food service, recreation and personal services e.g. hairdressing). For upland residents, these industrial structures indicate that commuting is a daily reality for most workers, especially among females.

Connectivity

Upland residents have lower rates of ICT ownership (69% of households have a PC) and connectivity (67% have internet access). It is also much rarer for households in the uplands to have no car (11% vs. 18% nationally), highlighting a higher level of dependence on private transport. This is borne out by the high percentage of workers and students who commute by private vehicle (69% vs. 63% nationally). Travel by public transport is on a par with the national average (both 13%).

Health

Some 3% of the uplands population are carers and 12% have a disability, less than the 4% and 13% found nationally.

Families

The demographics of upland families closely parallel the national picture. Some 34% of families have children under 15 years of age, 28% have children over 15 and another 11% have children under and over 15.

Overall, this snapshot of the uplands and comparison with the national picture reveals mountain ranges as sparsely populated areas made up of mainly indigenous communities with very few non-EU residents. The population structure reveals higher youth and elderly populations and lower demographic vitality. Altogether, the data indicate more traditional rural communities that experience a relatively high degree of outmigration of young adults taking with them their economic and reproductive potential, and their cultural capital after years of education and travel. Such outmigration leaves behind a population with a higher proportion of early school leavers and a smaller proportion of residents with a third-level education, especially among males.

The upland female labour force has lower participation and employment rates than found in the State overall, indicating fewer females of 15 years and older are either available to work or in employment. Males have a higher unemployment rate, while 'under-employment' is likely characteristic of low viability upland farms (discussed later). These indicators reveal that a more traditional labour force persists in the uplands with poorer employment prospects. Reduced access to employment can be related to such factors as lower education rates (discussed above), along with greater distance to urban-based job opportunities and poorer transport or ICT connectivity outlined next.

Among males, the industrial structure is more traditional, with nearly one-third at work in primary production and construction. Off-farm work, especially in construction, is also used to supplement low farm incomes (IUF, 2010).

The female industrial structure on the other hand is similar to the national picture with eight out of 10 women working in the three main service sectors (professional services, trade and commerce, and 'other').

Table 2: Total Upland Areas Socio-economic Profile.

Indicator	Uplands	State	% of State
Population density (population per km ²)	16.77	67.01	25
Population change, 2006-2011 (%)	8.48	8.05	105
Youth dependency	35.23	31.87	111
Elderly dependency	19.96	17.42	115
Demographic vitality ratio	1.40	1.88	74
% Irish	91.72	86.78	106
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	6.43	8.55	75
% Rest of the world	1.10	3.48	32
% early school leavers – male	43.67	34.46	127
% early school leavers – female	32.97	27.01	122
% 3rd-level – male	16.25	22.17	73
% 3rd-level – female	24.35	29.32	83
Labour force participation rate – male	68.70	69.37	99
Labour force participation rate – female	50.62	55.45	91
Employment rate – male	51.90	53.88	96
Employment rate – female	43.02	47.13	91
Unemployment rate – male	24.46	22.32	110
Unemployment rate – female	15.01	15.00	100
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing – male	18.37	8.43	218
% at work in building and construction – male	11.03	8.40	131
% at work in manufacturing - male	14.56	15.50	94
% at work in trade and commerce - male	18.84	23.94	79
% at work in transport and communications – male	8.46	11.34	75
% at work in public administration – male	5.01	6.28	80
% at work in professional services – male	10.14	11.94	85
% at work in ‘other’ – male	13.58	14.17	96
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing – female	2.28	1.30	176
% at work in building and construction – female	0.97	0.84	115
% at work in manufacturing – female	7.10	7.26	98
% at work in trade and commerce – female	23.50	26.71	88
% at work in transport and communications – female	3.44	4.49	77
% at work in public administration – female	6.31	6.32	100
% at work in professional services – female	38.27	36.51	105
% at work in ‘other’ – female	18.13	16.57	109
% households with PCs	69.25	72.71	95
% households with internet access	66.64	71.84	93
% households no car	10.92	17.57	62
% travel to work/school by private motorised vehicle	68.63	63.13	109
% travel to work/school by public transport	13.11	12.87	102
% disability	12.44	12.98	96
% carers	3.34	4.35	77
% families with children under 15	33.64	34.39	98
% families with children over 15	27.91	26.22	106
% families with children under and over 15	10.78	10.13	106
Families with children as % households	75.62	71.29	106
HP relative deprivation index	-2.46	0	n/a

Figure 3: Males at work, 2011.

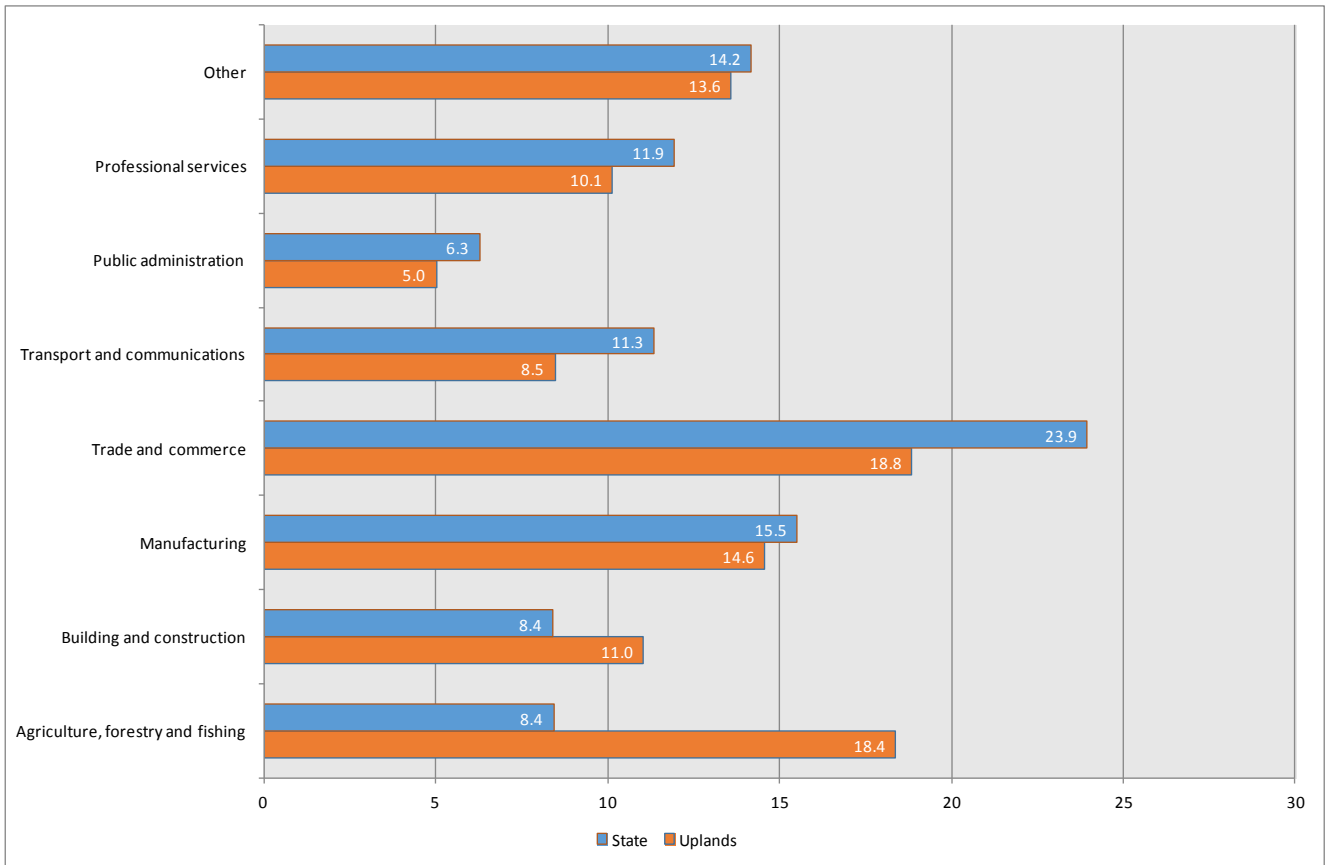
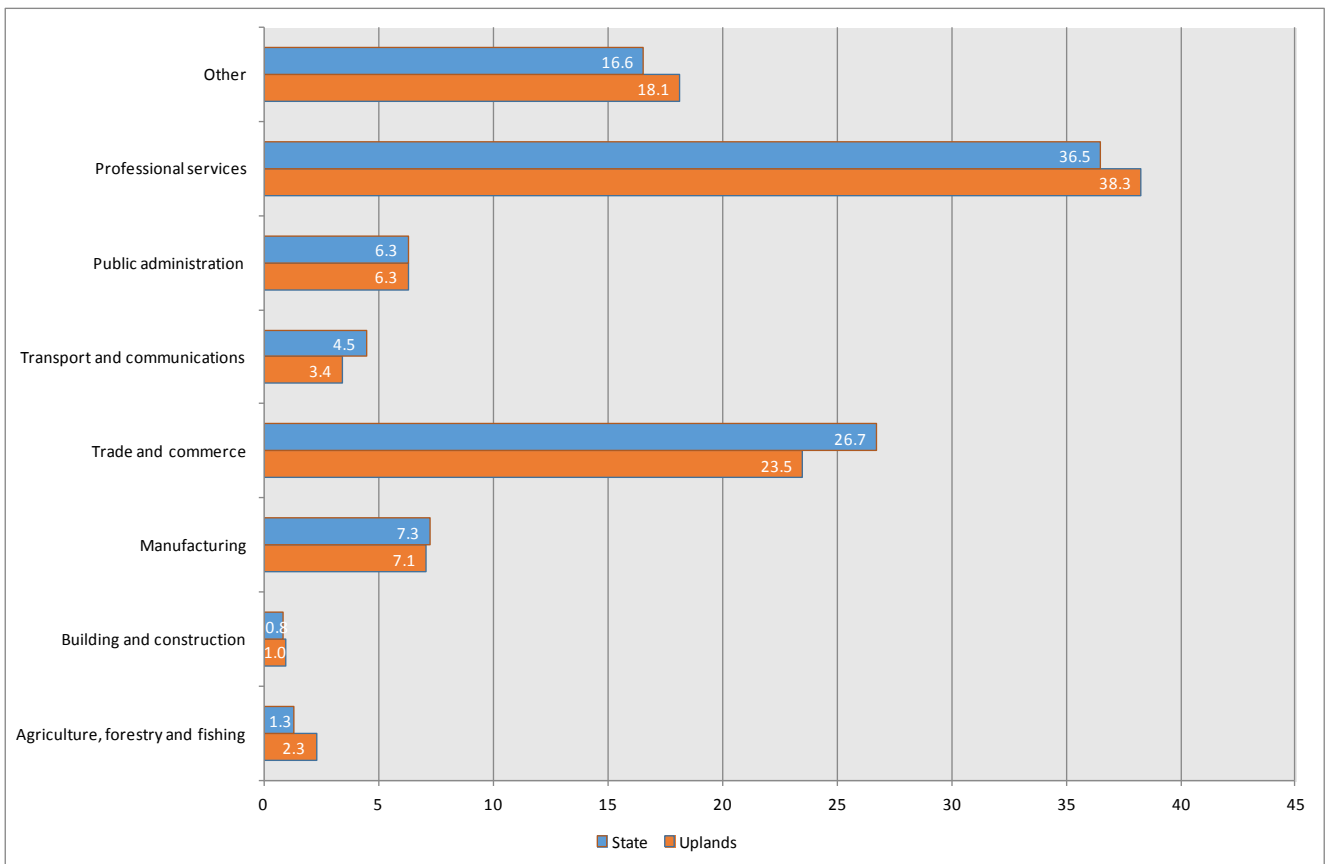


Figure 4: Females at work, 2011.



Nearly four out of 10 women living in upland areas are employed in professional services (e.g. teachers, nurses, social workers, administrators) reflecting the parallel national trends of rising third-level education among women and their higher participation in the labour force. Growing car ownership rates in recent decades and thus greater freedom to commute has allowed workers in these sectors to live further from their workplace, creating better access to opportunities for rural dwellers, including upland inhabitants. But the effect of distance is still visible, especially in the highly urbanised trade and commerce sector that returned lower employment rates among upland males and females.

The need to access jobs, as well as services generally, outside the locality helps to explain the much higher rate of car dependency in the uplands, where 11 out of 100 households do not have a car compared with 18 out of 100 nationally. While the uplands public transport commuting rate to work or school is the same as the national average (13%), this only measures the most active population segments. Adequate public transport is particularly important for vulnerable upland dwellers without a car, disadvantaged by greater distances from retail, health, financial and social services.

Distance from vital services helps to explain the lower rates of carers and people with disabilities living in upland areas. Day and residential services for the elderly and people with disabilities tend to be located in urban areas. The loss of GPs and public health care facilities from rural areas and cut-backs in community-based home help services combined with the greater need for their services among vulnerable populations makes it especially difficult for those groups to reside permanently in upland communities.

Distance to services is also a challenge for upland families. Some 34% of families in the uplands and nationally have children under 15 years of age, while a higher proportion of upland families have children older than 15 years (28% vs. 26%), and both under and over 15 years (11% vs. 10%). Overall, 76% of upland households comprise families with children compared with 71% for the State. Thus, upland areas remain attractive areas to raise a family but accessing health and child care, pre-school, primary and secondary school services are all likely to be more challenging and heavily dependent on private transport.

Reduced geographical accessibility is compounded by lower digital connectivity. Fewer upland households have PCs than found nationally (69% vs. 73%) while even less have internet access (67% vs. 72%) revealing a digital gap with implications for participation in the digital society and economy. This reiterates the more traditional profile of upland areas seen throughout this snapshot.

The next section reveals how local conditions vary across upland ranges and highlights the diverse challenges faced by their communities throughout the State.

Stage 2 – Comparison across Rural Uplands

A comparison of key socio-economic indicators across the individual upland ranges

The following graphs compare socio-economic variables across the ranges in 2011 with the uplands average denoted by a red line and the state average shown in blue. They reveal the wide variation in population structure, labour force, industrial structure and other indicators throughout mountain areas, reflecting the diversity of upland areas and highlighting the need for responsive local strategies to support upland communities and economies. Data for each upland area is presented in Appendix A.

The most sparsely populated upland areas are along the west coast from the Bluestack range to the McGillycuddy Reeks (figure 5). Just five people per km² live in Lough Talt and Murrisk in Connaught. The highest densities are found in uplands closest to or along the

main commuter routes of three of the four largest cities on the island: Dublin, Belfast and Derry. This emphasises the importance of accessibility to upland populations.

Similarly, ranges with the largest population increases between 2006 and 2011 share proximity to large urban centres and motorways (figure 6). The Cooley Mountains lie between Dundalk and Newry, off the M1 from Dublin to Belfast; Sliabh Felim is close to Limerick city and the M7; Benwisikin is just off the N16 from Sligo to Enniskillen; and Inishowen lies north of the N13 from Letterkenny to Derry. This gives upland residents ready access to large urban centres together with their employment opportunities and services. One of the least accessible upland areas, the McGillycuddy Reeks, is the only range that returned a decline in population.

Youth dependency rates (0-14 year olds) tend to be highest in the midlands/east and border ranges (figure 7). Demographic vitality ratios (20-39 year olds) are highest from the border to the southern ranges (figure 8). Elderly dependency rates (65 years and older) tend to be higher along the west coast (figure 9). Taken together, the distributions suggest that populations in western ranges are more vulnerable than elsewhere. Yet these western uplands are some of the most attractive areas to other EU residents (figure 10).

Upland areas in Donegal and in the midlands/south-east ranges tend to have the highest levels for early school leaving (figures 11 and 12), while the west, south and Dublin-Wicklow uplands have the highest rates of third-level education (figures 13 and 14). Uplands in Donegal are unemployment blackspots with the highest rates of unemployment for both males and females returned by Inishowen and Bluestack Drimarone (figures 15 and 16). The next highest rates are found in the Cooley Mountains and Leenane. This points to a number of mountain ranges in particular need of local training and job creation initiatives, including among the border commuter belts.

Among males, the highest employment rates in primary production occur throughout upland areas with the exception of Dublin-Wicklow and Cooley ranges, while high levels of males in manufacturing in beef and dairy strongholds points to the local importance of work in food processing (figures 17 and 18). Trade and commerce employment is highest in Dublin-Wicklow and the Cooley Mountains, while the 'other' sector that includes tourism services is strongest along part of the western seaboard from Murrisk to the McGillycuddy Reeks (figures 19 and 20).

Turning to females, employment in trade and commerce is strongest from the south-west through to the north-east (figure 21). The lowest rates of employment in professional services occur in Dublin-Wicklow and the Cooley Mountains, but still make-up one-third of female workers in those ranges (figure 22). High rates of employment in tourism-related services occur along most of the western seaboard from Inishowen to the McGillycuddy Reeks (with the exception of Lough Talt), as well as the Cooley Mountains (figure 23). While farming, construction and tourism may be the largest locally-based employment sectors in upland areas, the IUF (2010) cautions against over-reliance on such sectors as a solution to upland unemployment and low levels of enterprise development due to their low incomes, seasonality and vulnerability to cyclical downturns caused by external shocks.

Internet access is greatest in the Dublin-Wicklow range and the Cooley Mountains, followed by the uplands of Kerry (figure 24). Digital connectivity is lowest in the north-west and also in the dairying strongholds of the south. Thus, a strategy to support alternative employment and enterprise development in and adjacent to upland areas must be integrated with the roll-out of rural broadband and training in ICT and digital literacy.

The north-west shows some of the highest rates of commuting to work or school by public transport combined with above average rates of households with no car, pointing to the key role of public transport services to vulnerable populations in those uplands (figure 25). While the lowest rates for both occur in Ballyhoura, the gap between the 7% of households without a car and the 4% of workers and students who commute by public transport suggests isolated residents and the vital role of flexible local transport solutions under the rural transport programme. People with disabilities and the carers who look after them in upland communities are a prime example of those dependent on such local public services. Mountain ranges with carers and populations with a disability above the national averages are Bluestack Drimarone and Lough Talt in the north-west, as well as Ballyhoura, Galtee and Munster Vales in the south (figure 26).

The lowest rates of families with young children occur from Lough Talt to Mount Brandon (figure 27). While families with children comprise a greater proportion of upland households than found across the State, those along the western seaboard are more likely to go against this trend (figure 28). Leenane has the lowest value; there, one in three households do not have children.

Disadvantaged Areas

The Pobal – HP Deprivation Index (Haase and Pratschke, 2012) synthesises a range of indicator variables from the Census of Population to measure affluence and deprivation. Critiques of the index caution that it underestimates deprivation in rural areas. For example, the index does not account for such key factors of rural disadvantage as distance from public and private services and many job opportunities, access to transport, and poorer physical and ICT infrastructure⁴. The area-based nature of the index also works against rural areas where disadvantaged families and households are less likely to cluster together than in urban areas. As a result of this rural-urban difference, rural areas are less likely to register high values of relative deprivation. The data on population densities shows the rurality of upland areas compared with the county and the State and therefore the index is likely to understate deprivation experienced on the ground in some areas. This is noteworthy as the index forms the foundation of the resource allocation model for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and thus it must be complemented with the field-based knowledge of community development groups. Consequently, the following analysis can be read only as a broad guide to deprivation in rural upland areas.

A close-up view of the index shows that it measures affluence and deprivation across three dimensions: demographic profile, social class composition and the labour market situation⁵. Table 3 lists the indicators that make up each dimension.

The index has two measures: relative and absolute index scores. The relative index scores provide a comparison of each ED *relative to all other EDs* in 2011 around a national average of 'zero'. Negative scores on the index imply cumulative disadvantage, while positive values are associated with affluence. The relative index is the measure that its developers and many policy-makers and public bodies recommend and apply when targetting resources to areas of disadvantage as it highlights areas of most need at a particular point in time. In 2011, 36% (48) of EDs in the uplands (comparable to 38% nationally) registered negative scores indicating that they are more disadvantaged than the national average. Addressing the issues that underpin such disadvantage is at the heart of the work of Local Development Companies delivering the SICAP in upland areas.

⁴ European Commission (2008). Poverty and Social Exclusion in Rural Areas: Final Study Report.

⁵ Haase, T. and Pratschke, J. (2012) The 2011 Pobal HP Deprivation Index for Small Areas (SA): Introduction and Reference Tables. Available from www.pobal.ie.

Table 3: Composition of the HP Deprivation Index.

Indicator variable	Demographic profile	Social class composition	Labour market
% population change 2006-11	+		
% population aged under 15	+		
% population aged over 64 years	+		
% population with primary education only	+	+	
% population with third-level education	+	+	
% households with children under 15 and headed by a lone parent	+		+
Mean number of persons per room	+	+	
% households headed by professionals, or managerial/technical employees including farmers with 100+ acres		+	
% households headed by semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers including farmers with under 30 acres		+	
Male unemployment rate			+
Female unemployment rate			+

Deprivation in upland areas

A comparison of the distribution of relative deprivation scores at ED-level across the upland areas reveals local variation. The highest scores in disadvantage are found in the northwestern ranges (table 4). The proportion of disadvantaged areas (-10 to -20) are well above the uplands (2%) and national averages (4%) in Bluestack Drimarone (67%), Inishowen (44%), and Leenane (14%) uplands. But high rates of deprivation scores in the 0 to -10 range (50-100%) are found in upland areas across the country – Inishowen, Benwiskin, Lough Talt, Murrisk, Munster Vales, Galtee, Sliabh Bloom and the Cooley Mountains – compared with 34% for the uplands overall and nationally.

At the other end of the scale, one ED with an affluent score (10 to 20) is found in each of the Bluestack Drimarone, Benwiskin and Leenane ranges. These scores indicate the attraction of highly scenic upland areas for more affluent residents, some of whom opt to retire to mountain regions. Although these residents may be economically better off, they require help to integrate into local communities and to access health or transport services, especially as they often lack the support of a family network locally.

Table 4: Distribution of Relative Index Scores at ED-level, 2011.

Relative Index Score - %	Inishowen	Bluestack Drimarone	Benwiskin	Lough Talt	Murrisk	Leenane	Mount Brandon	McGillycuddy Reeks	Ballyhoura	Munster Vales	Galtee	Sliabh Feilim	Sliabh Bloom	Blackstairs	Dublin Wicklow	Cooley Mountains	Uplands	State
10 to 20 (affluent)		11	10			14											11	6
5 to 10 (marginally above average - high)					33		18	14	14				8		36		20	20
0 to 5 (marginally above average - low)		11	20	29	17	43	45	43	57	17	25	67			45	33	33	35
0 to -5 (marginally below average - low)	13		40	57	17	29	36		29	67	67	33	25	100	18	67	26	25
-5 to -10 (marginally below average - high)	44	11	30	14	33			43		17	8		67				8	9
-10 to -20 (disadvantaged)	44	67				14											2	4
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

This local variation is borne out by a comparison of the 2011 relative deprivation scores across upland areas (figure 29). Inishowen and Bluestack Drimarone show the highest levels of deprivation, both coming close to the ‘disadvantaged’ class overall. The south (Munster Vales and Galtee) and the midlands/south-east (Sliabh Bloom and Blackstairs) show the next highest deprivation scores. The fact that the McGillycuddy Reeks has a low level of deprivation (returning a positive score) and is almost on a par with the Dublin-Wicklow range, while Mount Brandon has the lowest level of deprivation for any mountain range, highlights the absence of a measure for accessibility/remoteness in the index.

Figure 5: Population density, 2011.⁶

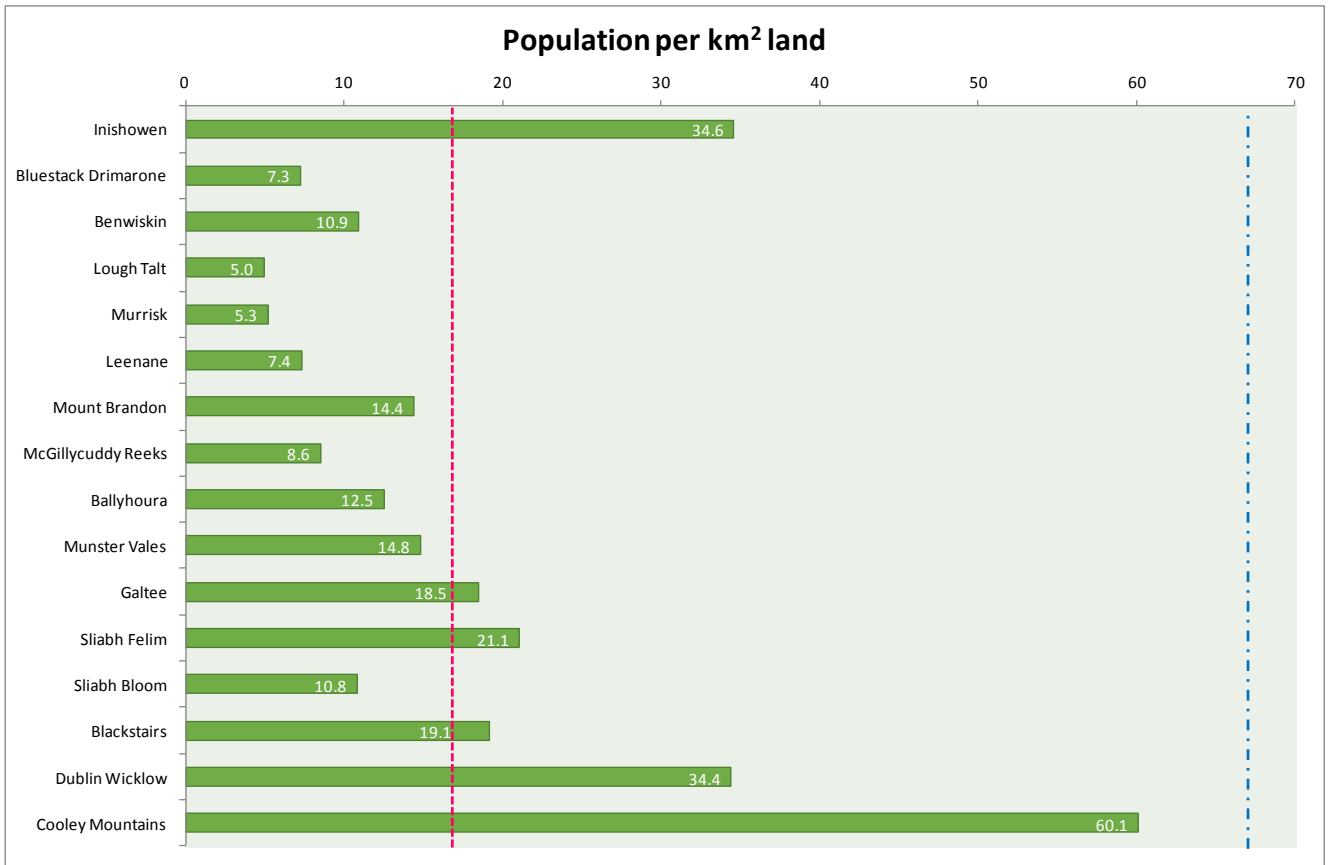
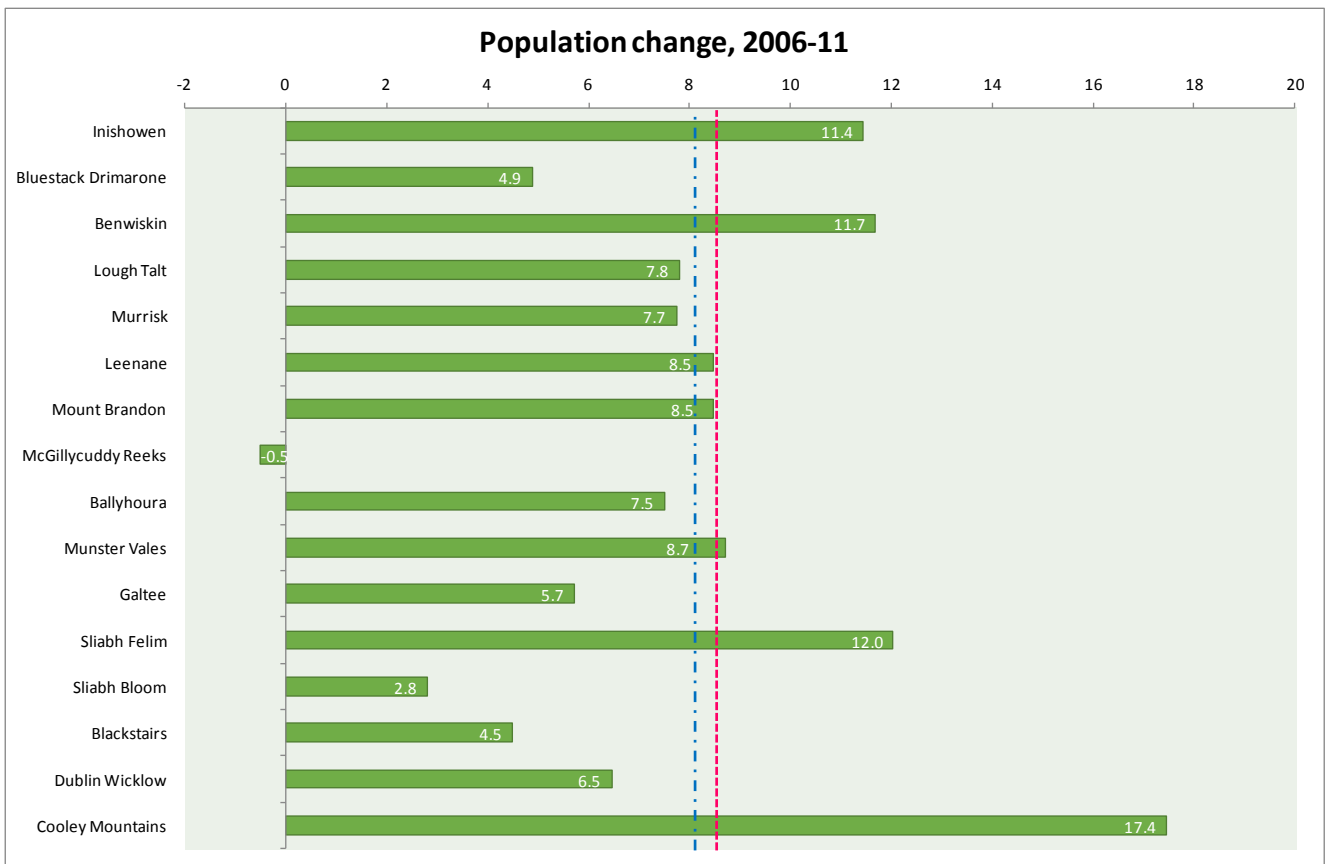


Figure 6: Percentage population change, 2006-2011.



⁶ Red line is average for all upland areas; blue line is the national average.

Figure 7: 0-14 year olds as a percentage of 15-64 year olds, 2011.

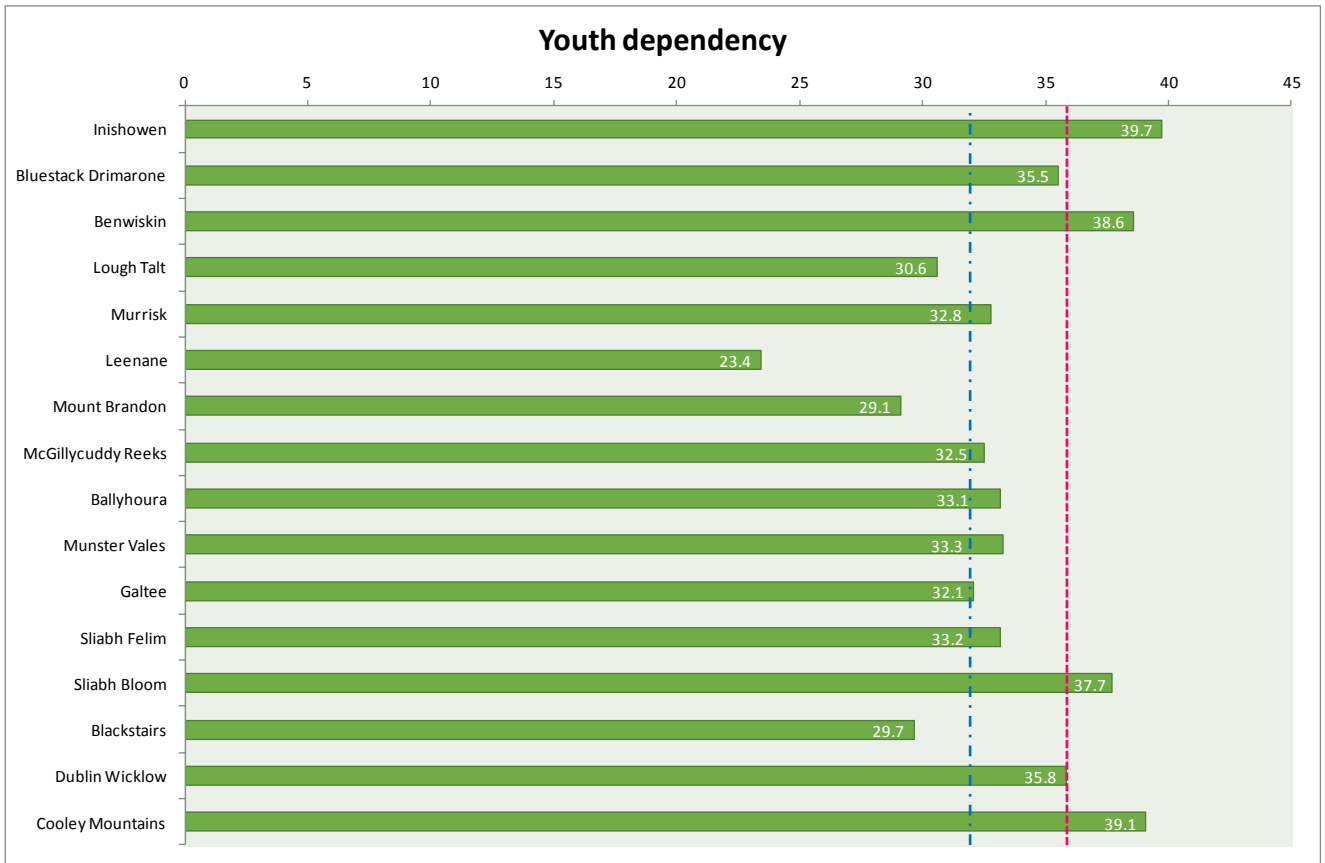


Figure 8: 20-39 year olds as a ratio of those aged 60 years plus, 2011.

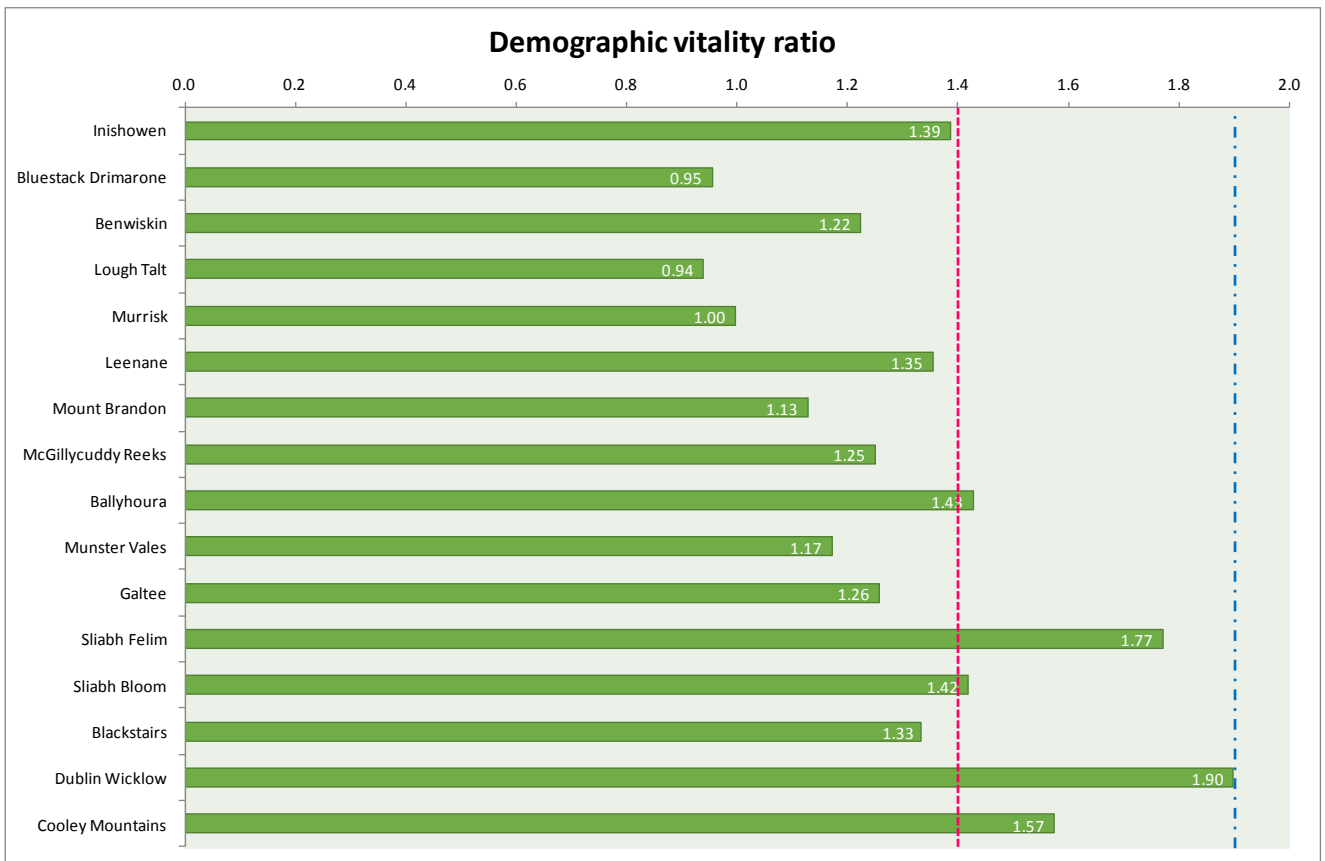


Figure 9: 65 years plus as a percentage of 15-64 year olds, 2011.

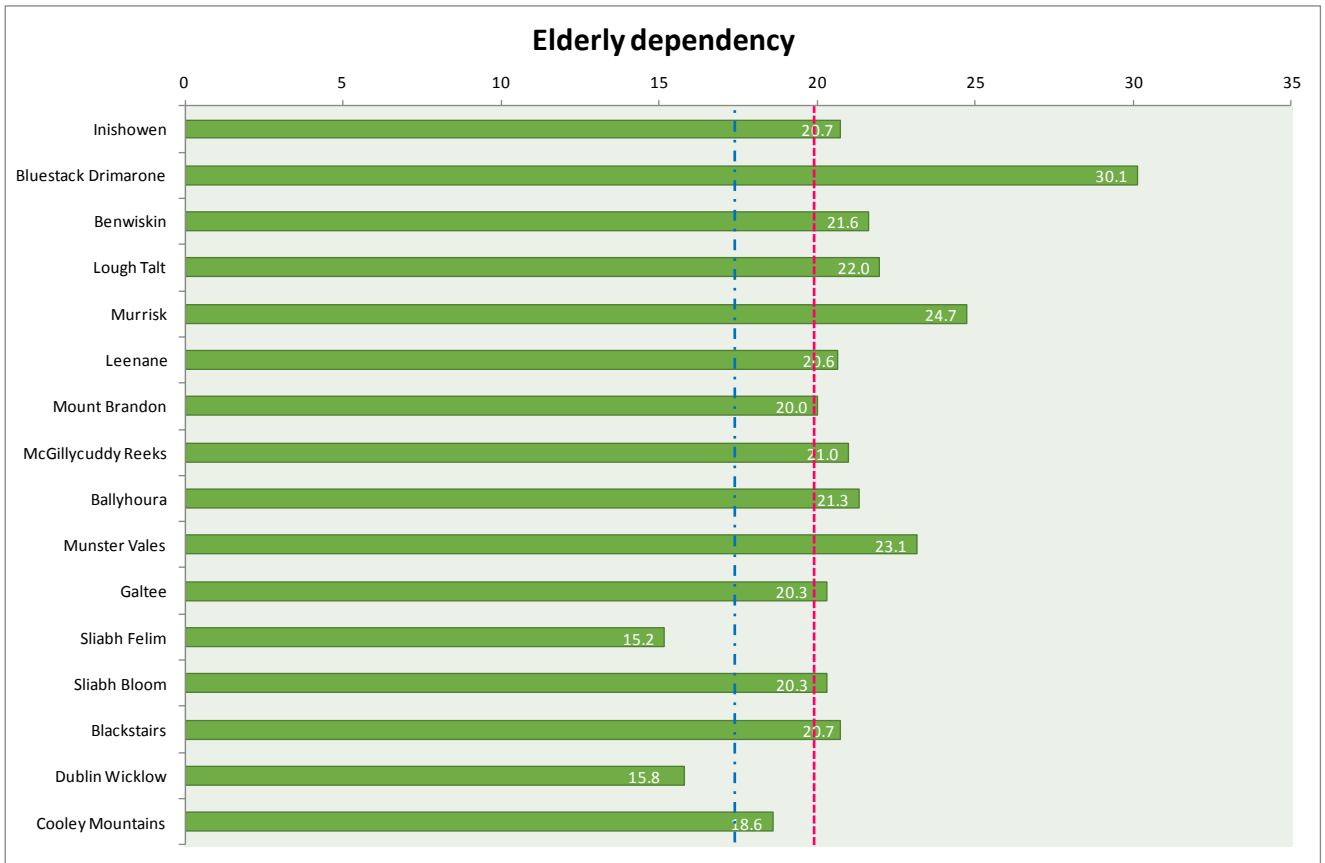


Figure 10: Percentage population whose nationality is other EU 27 (including UK), 2011.

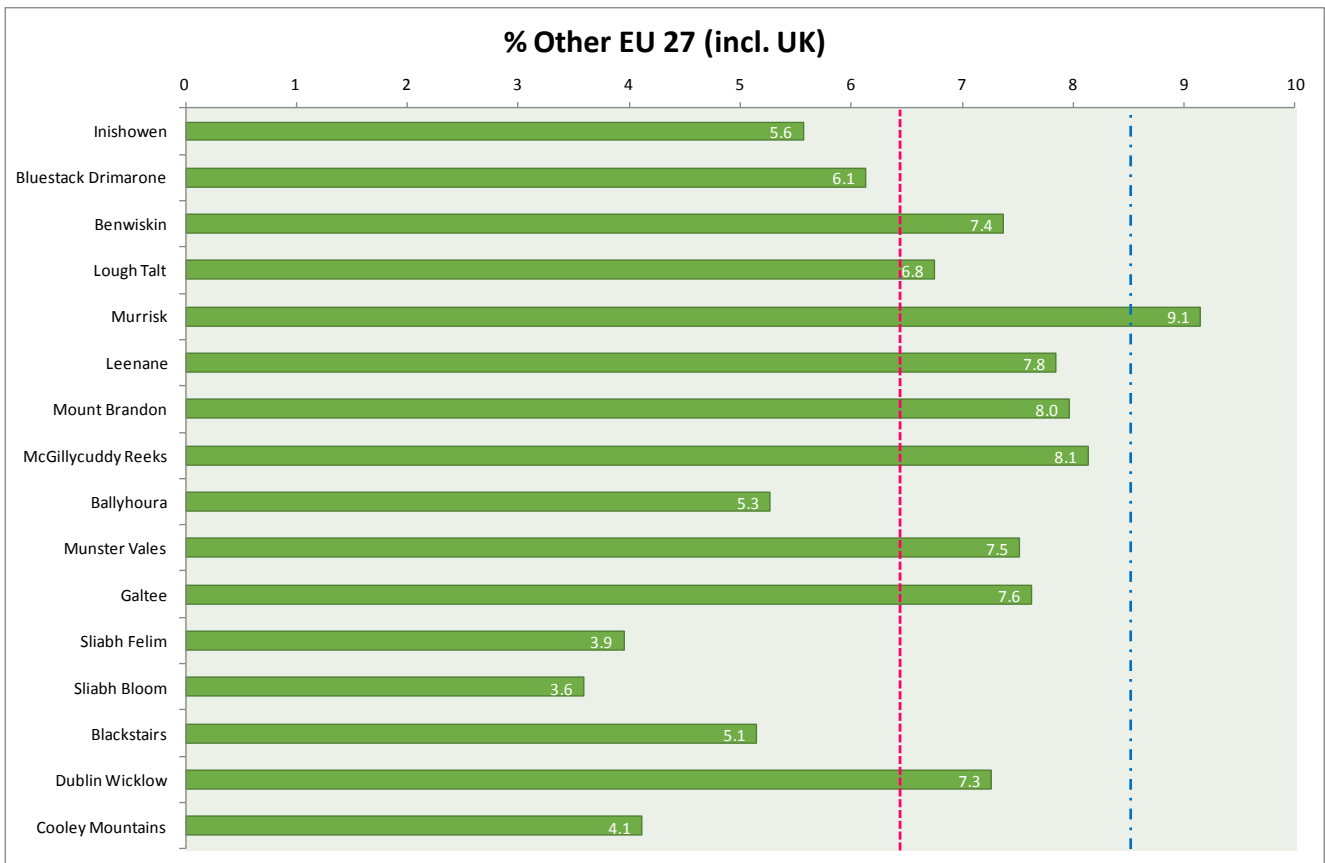


Figure 11: Percentage of males whose education has ceased with no formal education, primary school or early secondary only, 2011.

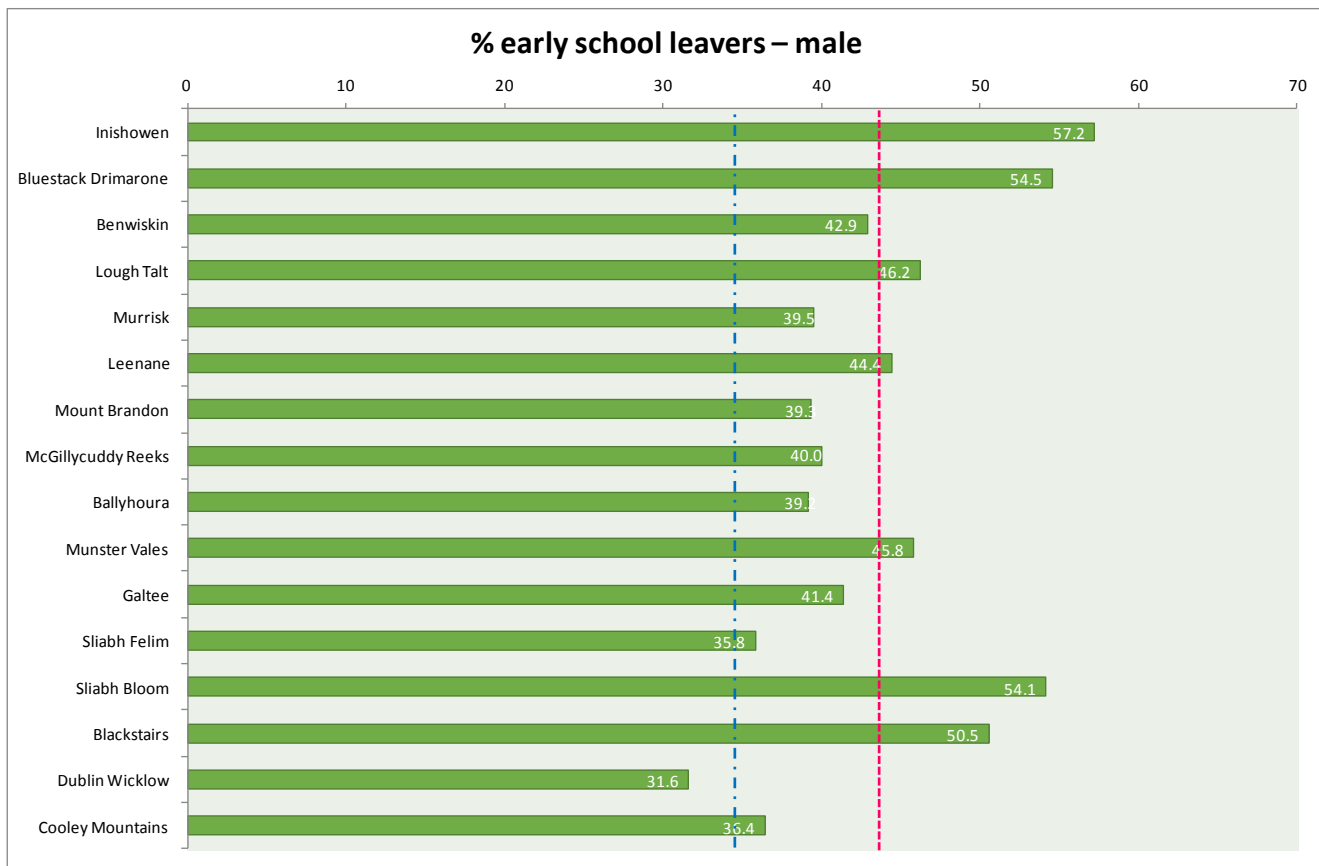


Figure 12: Percentage of females whose education has ceased with no formal education, primary school or early secondary only, 2011.

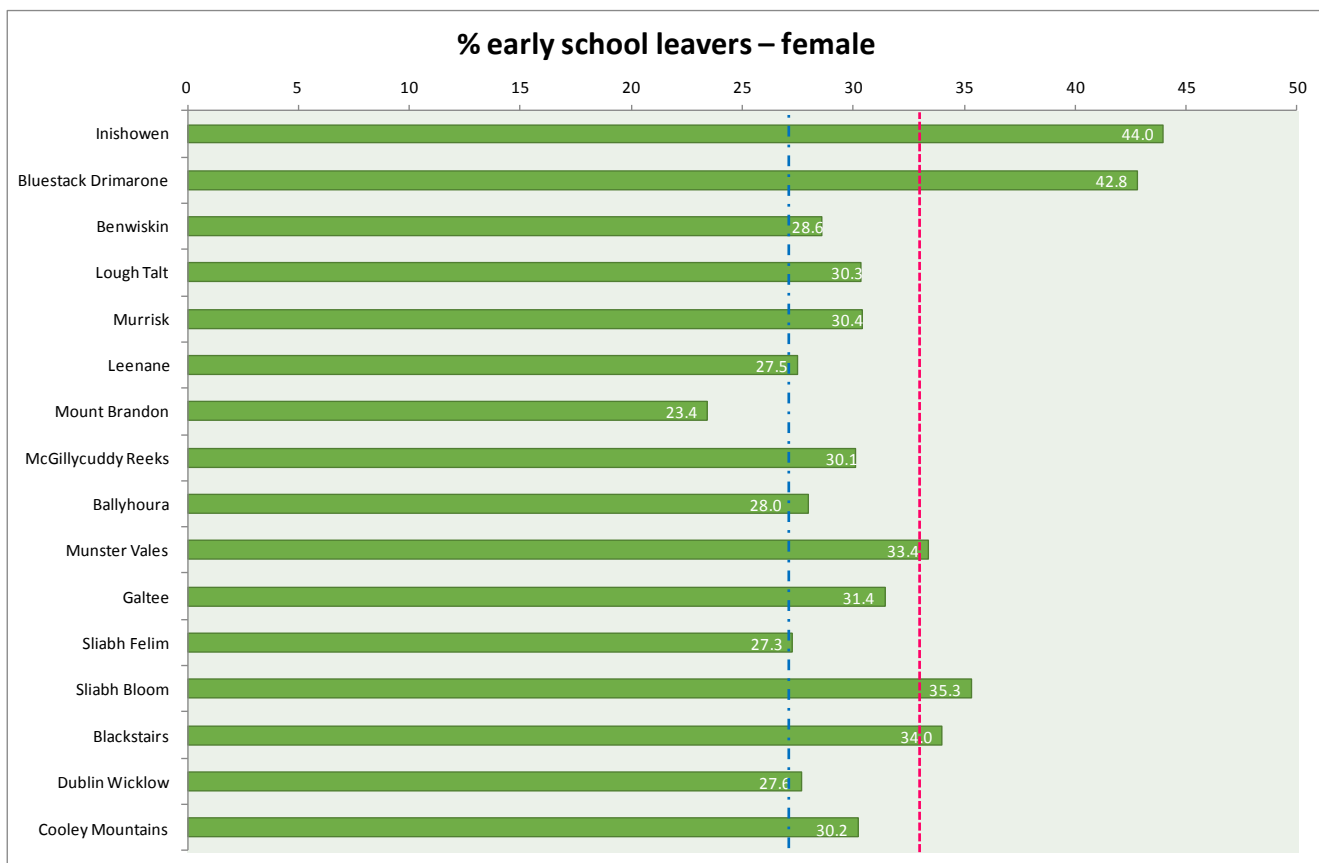


Figure 13: Percentage of males whose education has ceased with a third-level qualification (ordinary degree to post-doctorate), 2011.



Figure 14: Percentage of females whose education has ceased with a third-level qualification (ordinary degree to post-doctorate), 2011.

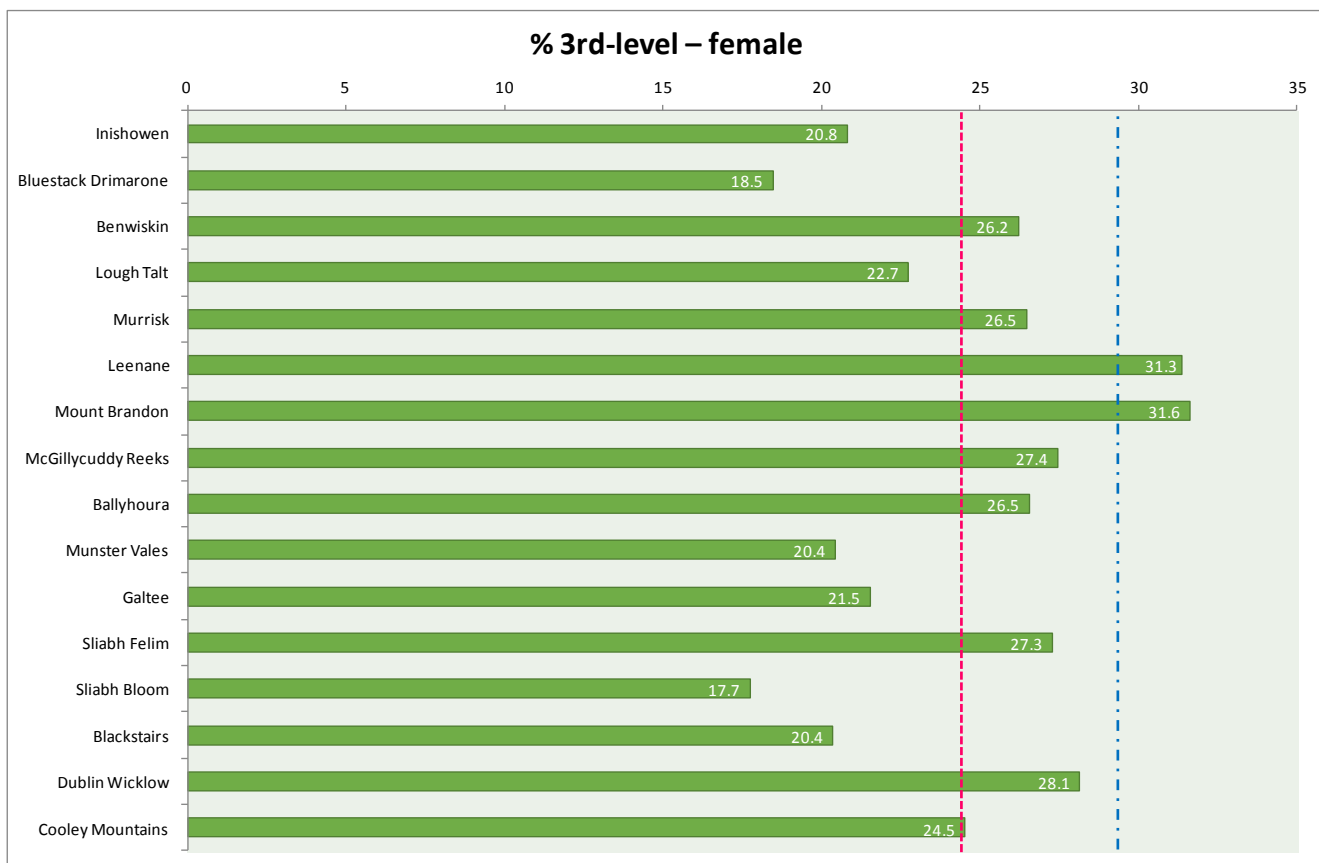


Figure 15: First-time jobseekers and unemployed males having lost or given up previous job, as percentage of the labour force, 2011.

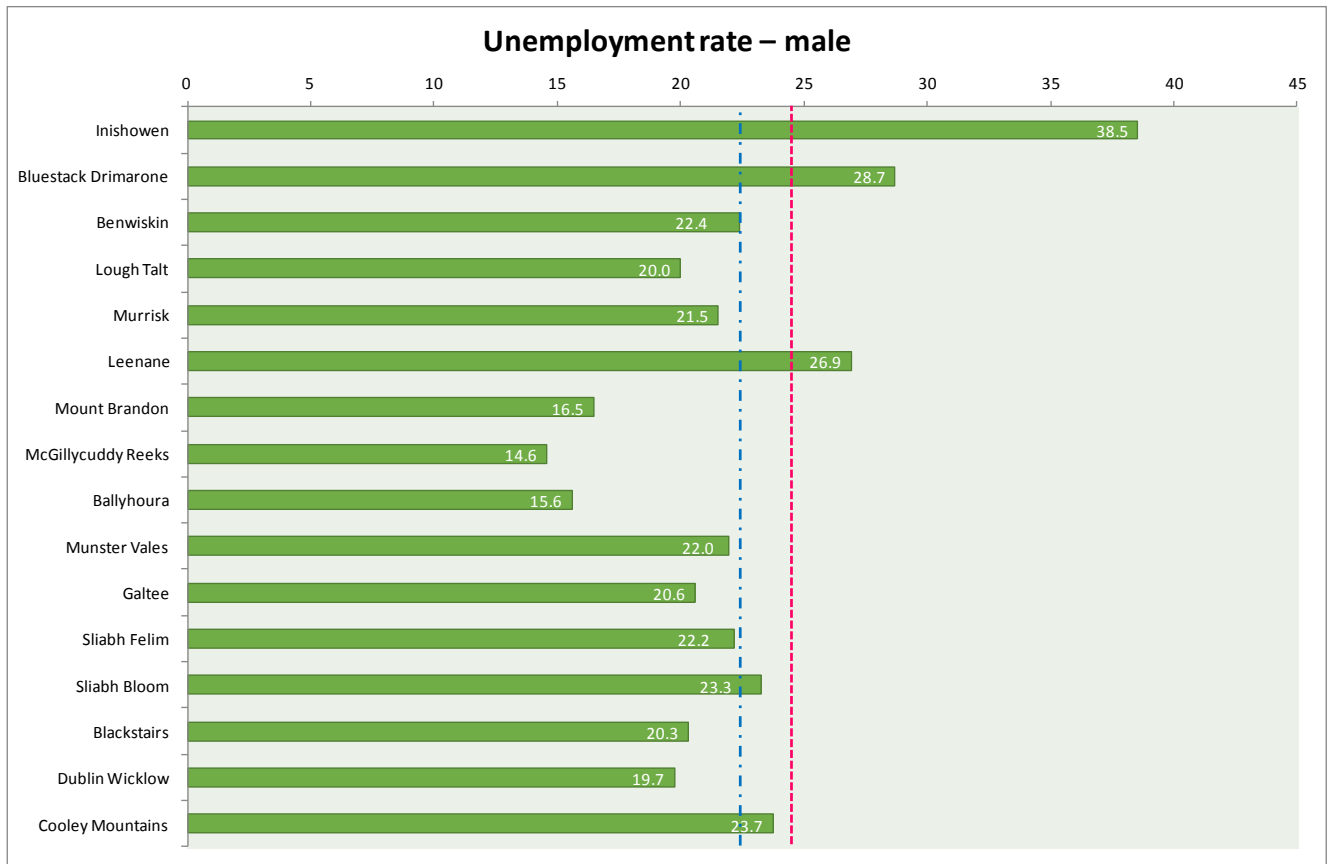


Figure 16: First-time jobseekers and unemployed females having lost or given up previous job, as percentage of the labour force, 2011.

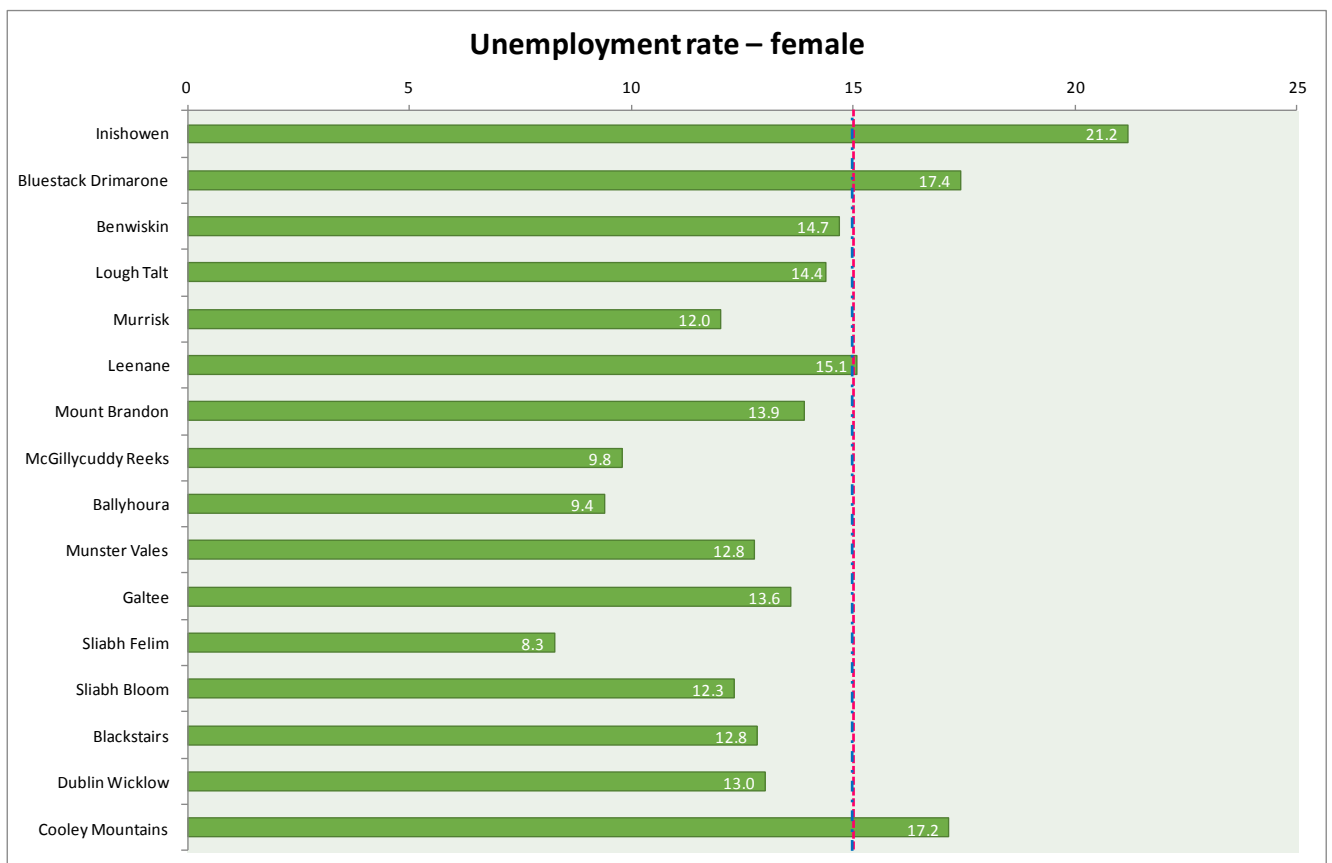


Figure 17: Percentage of total male workers employed in primary production, 2011.

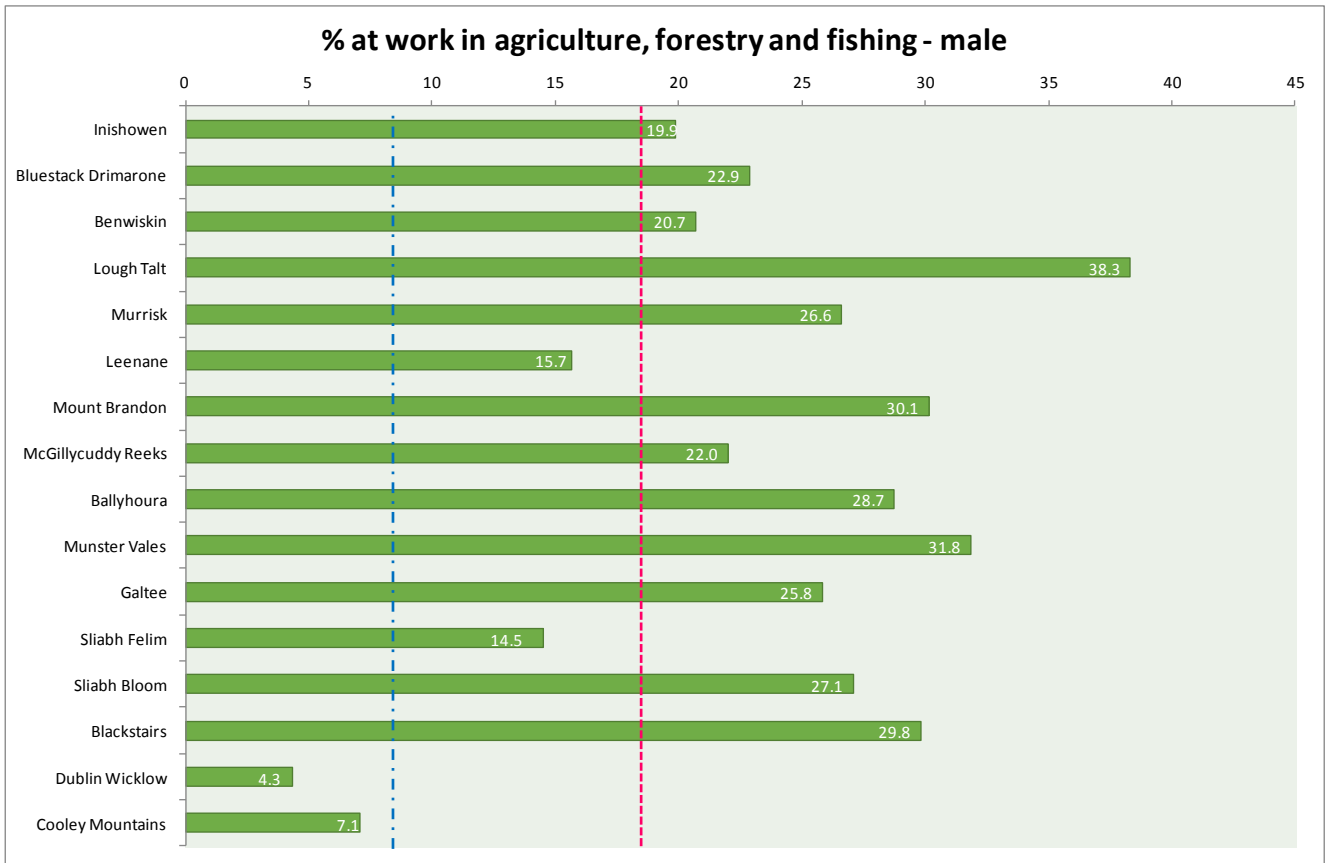


Figure 18: Percentage of total male workers employed in manufacturing, 2011.

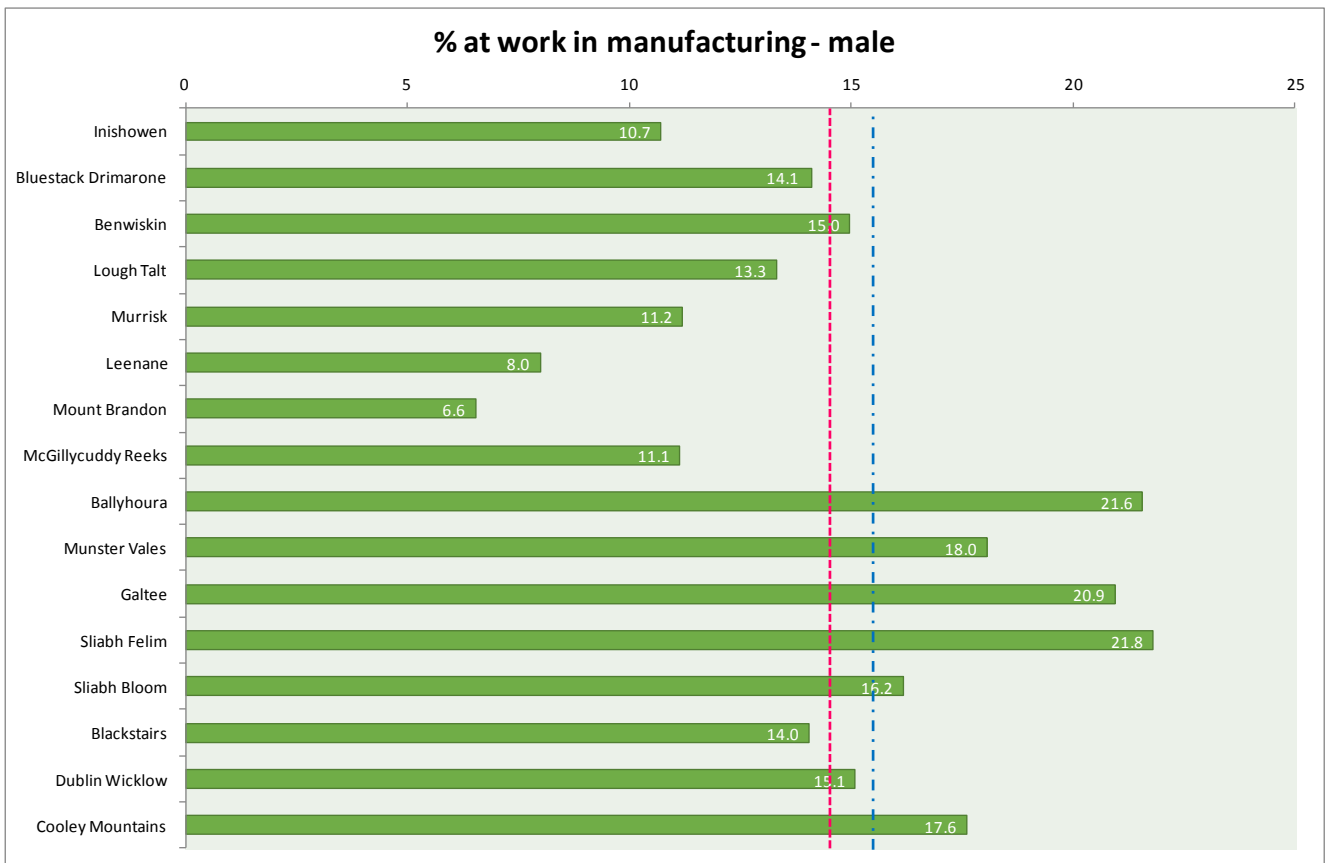


Figure 19: Percentage of total male workers employed in trade and commerce, 2011.

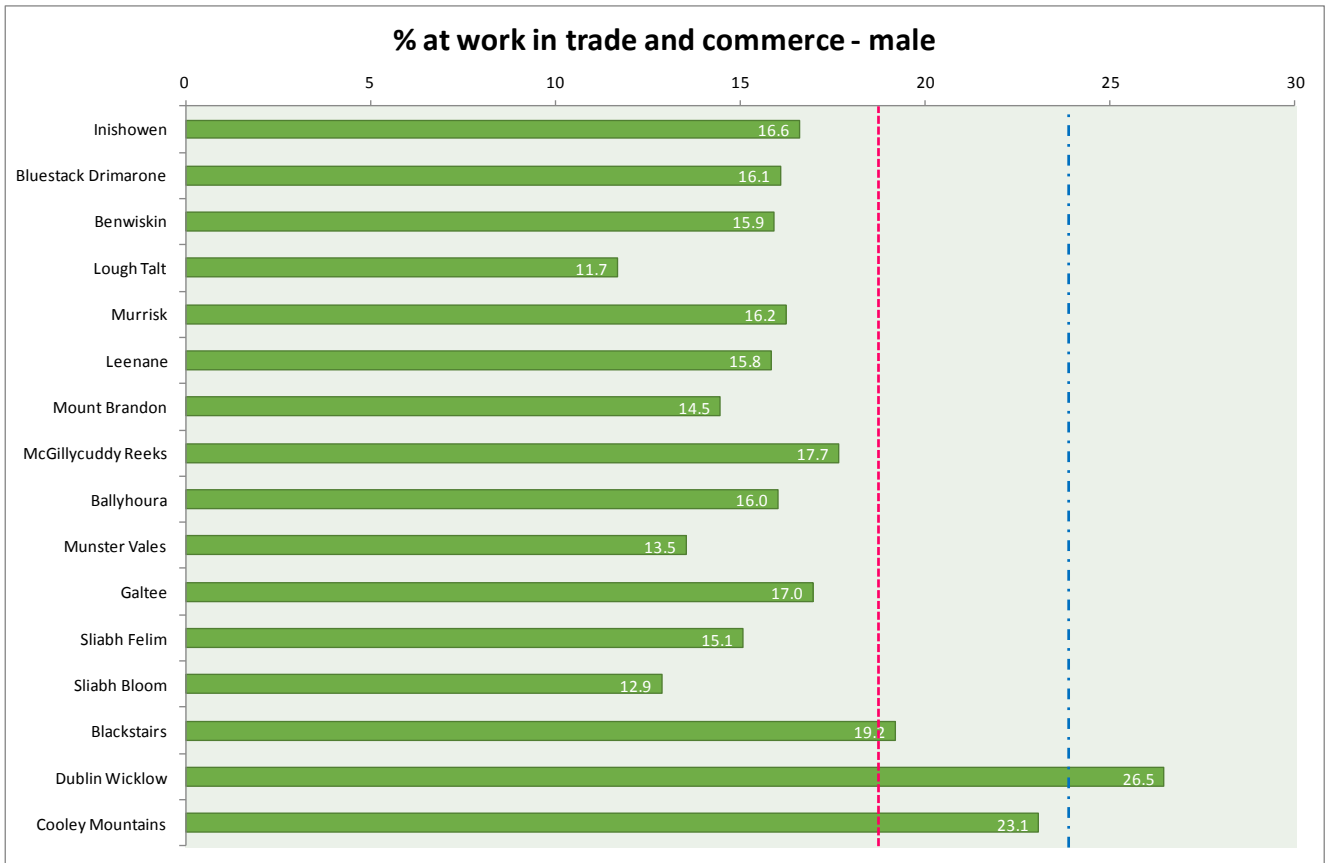


Figure 20: Percentage of total male workers employed in 'other' services, 2011.

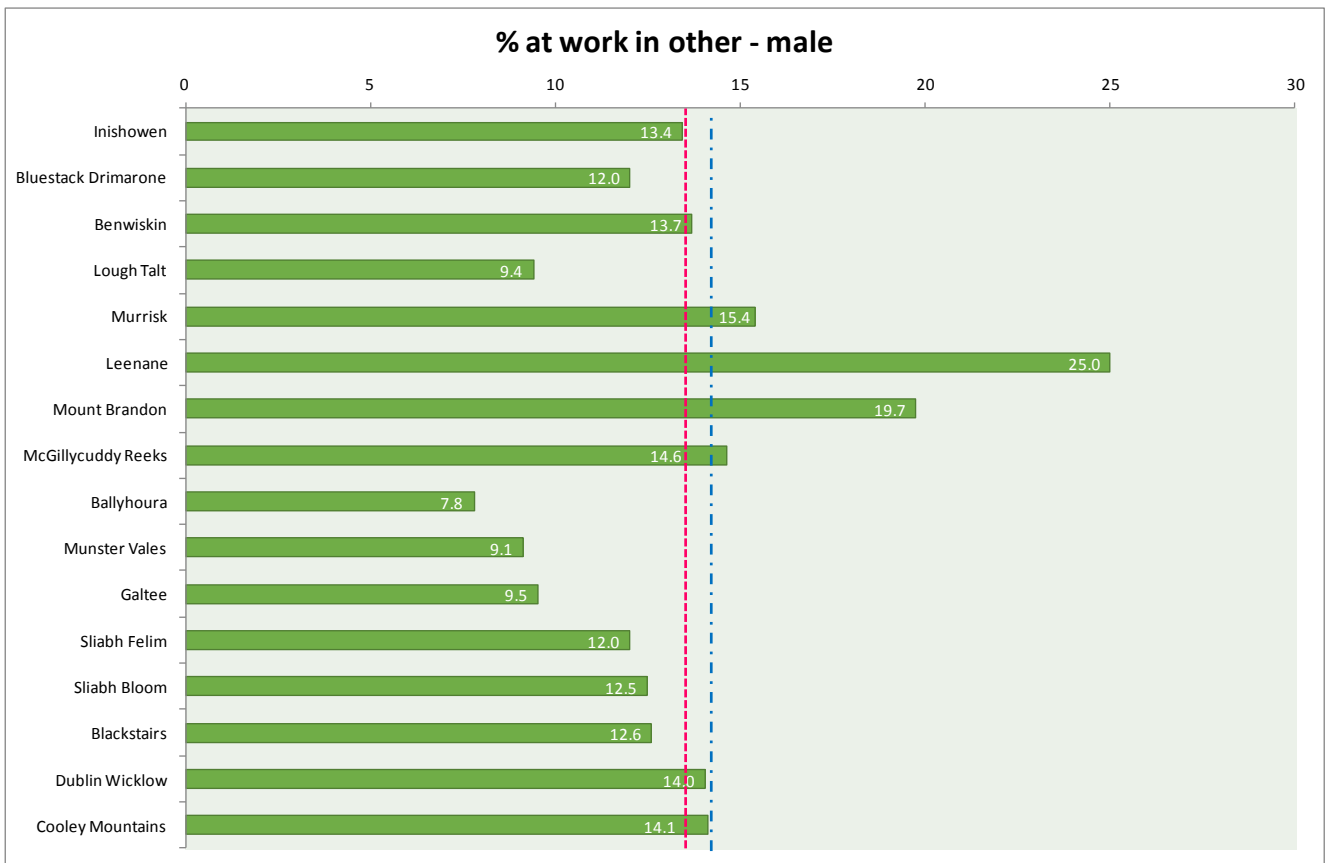


Figure 21: Percentage of total female workers employed in trade and commerce, 2011.

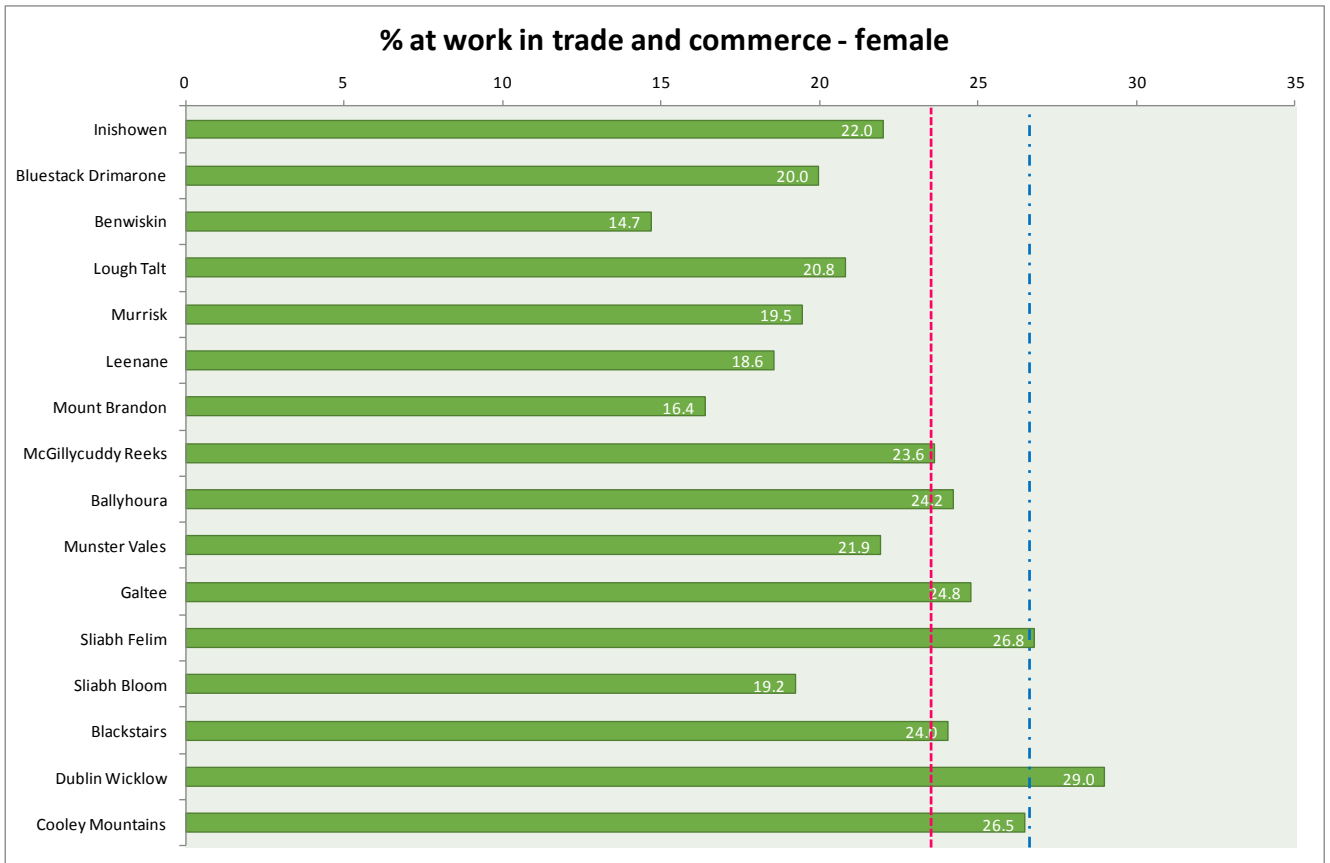


Figure 22: Percentage of total female workers employed in professional services, 2011.

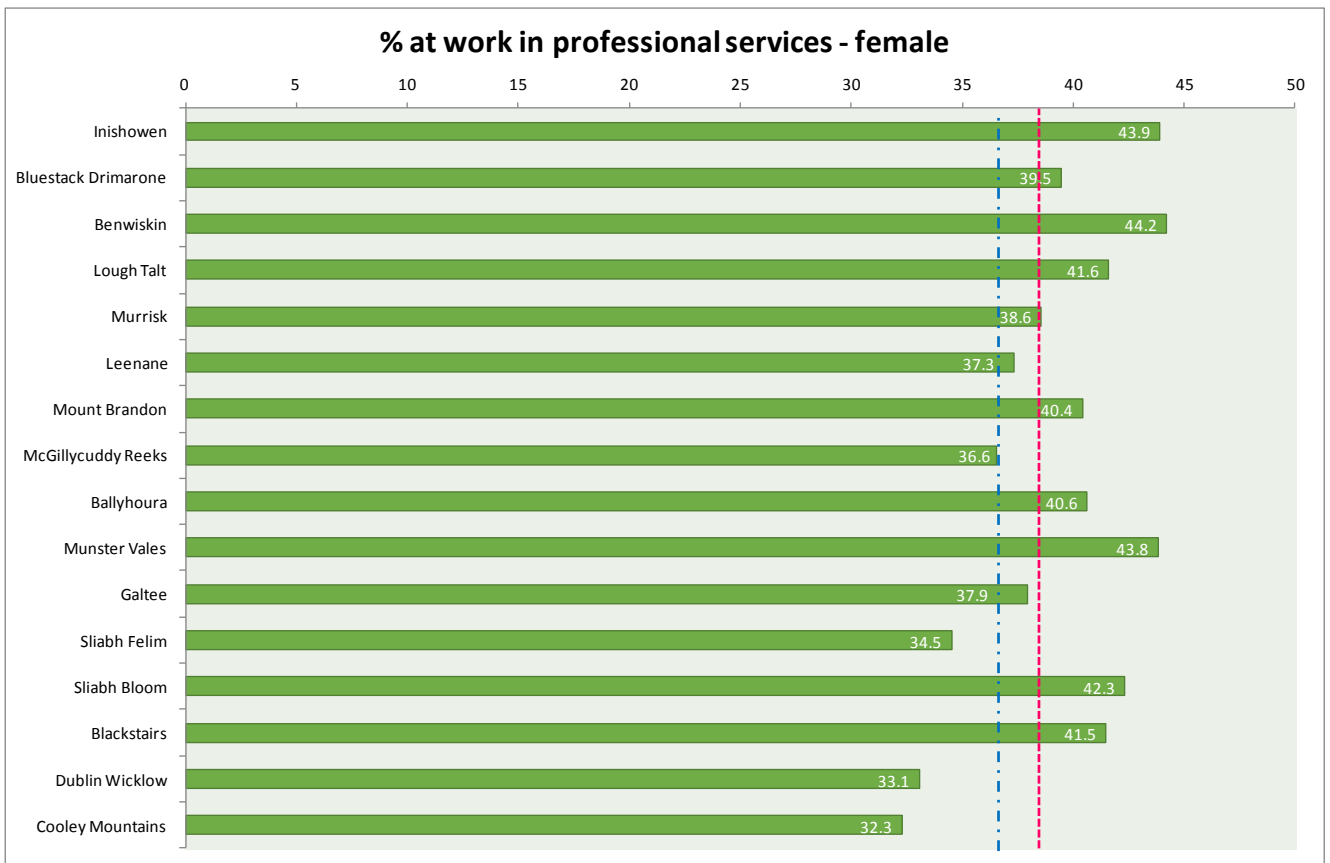


Figure 23: Percentage of total female workers employed in 'other' services, 2011.

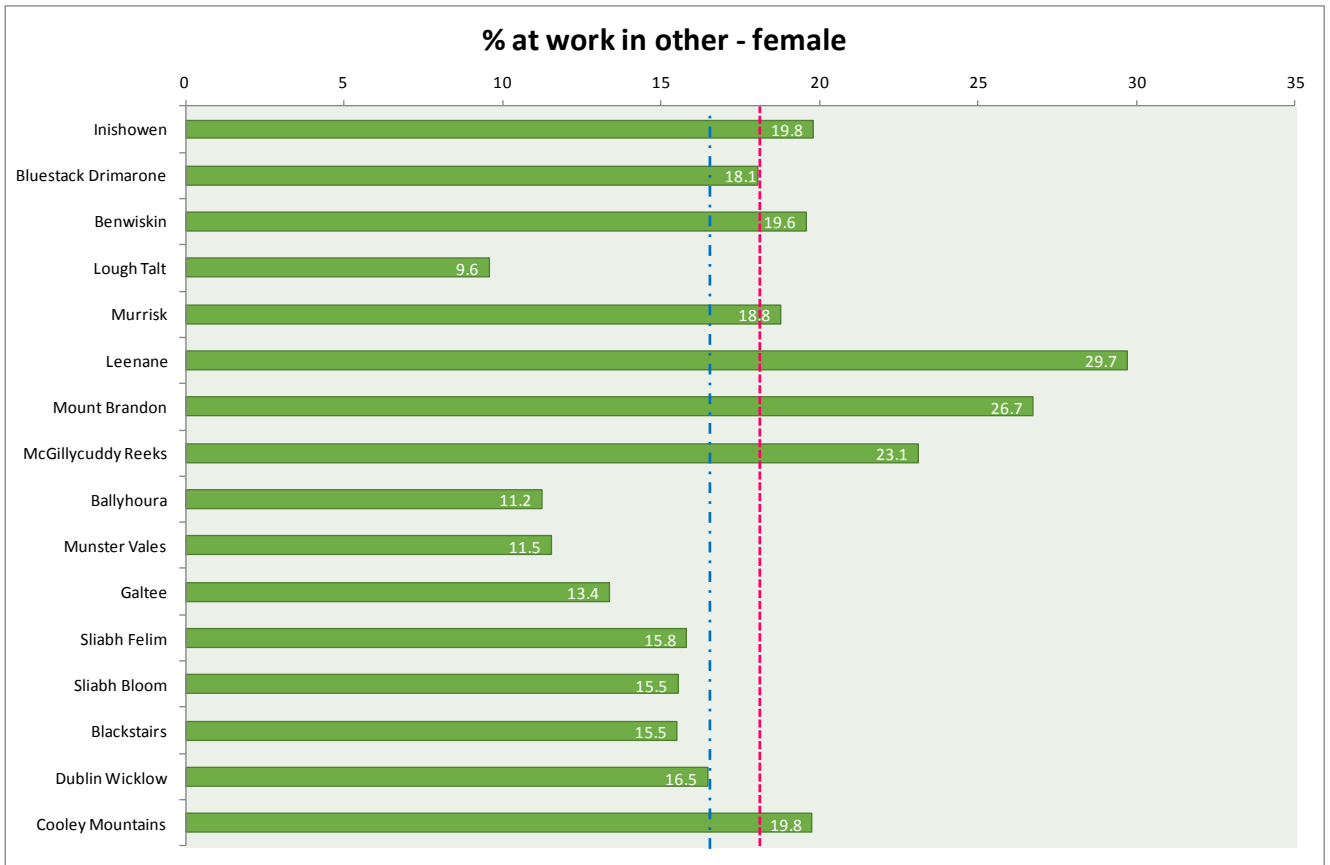
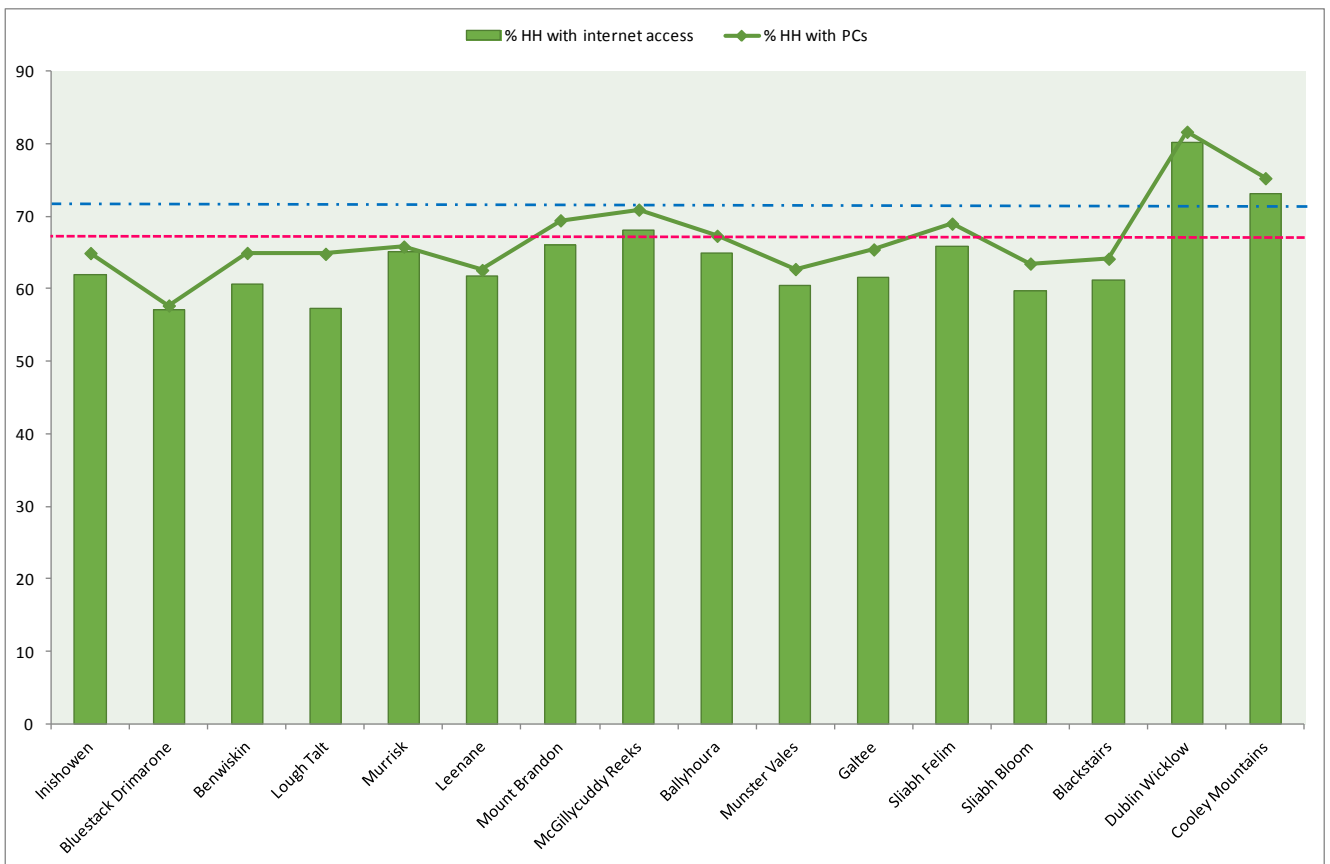


Figure 24: Percentage of households with internet access (broadband or other) and with personal computers, 2011⁷.



⁷ Averages for uplands and State shown for internet access.

Figure 25: Percentage of commuters travelling to work or school by public or private transport and percentage of households with no car, 2011⁸.

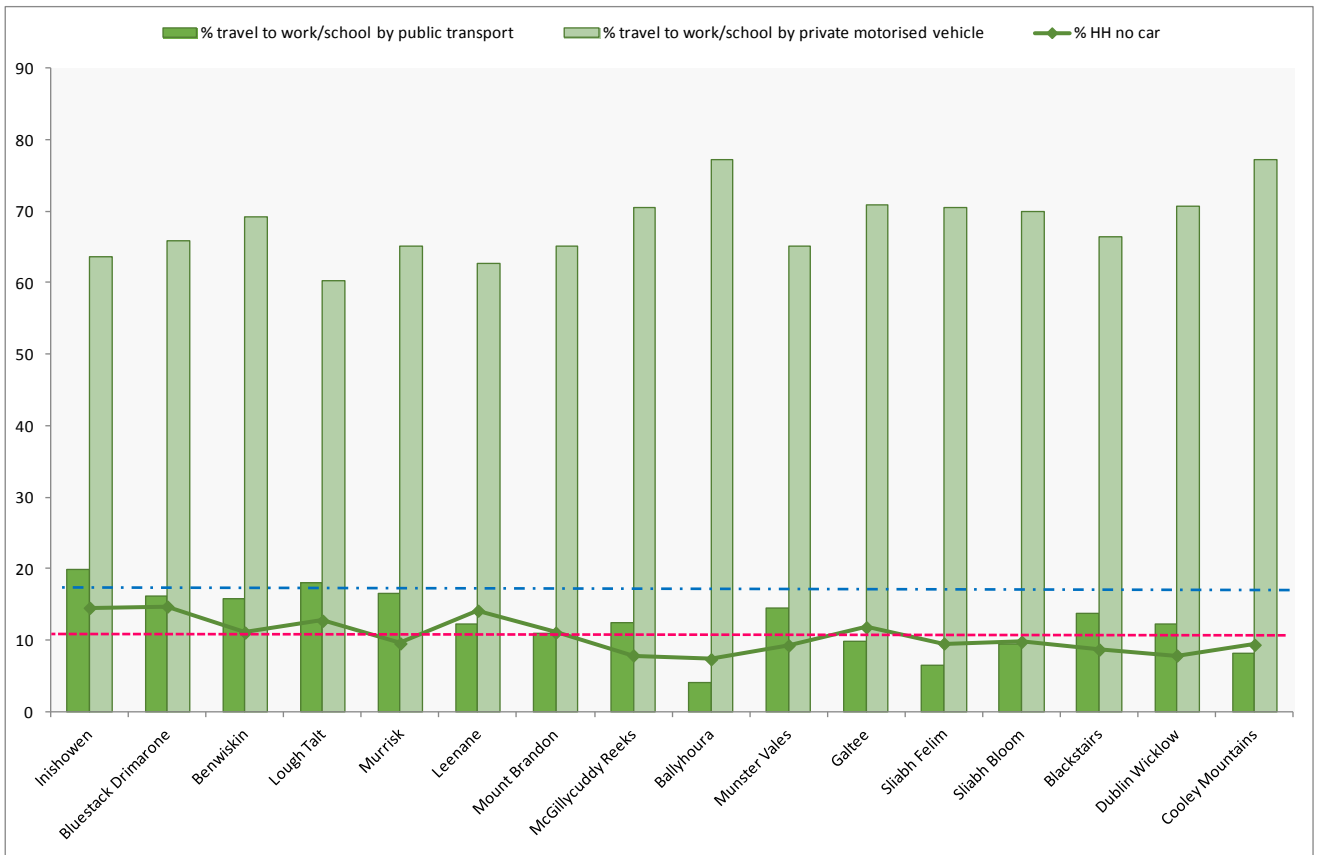
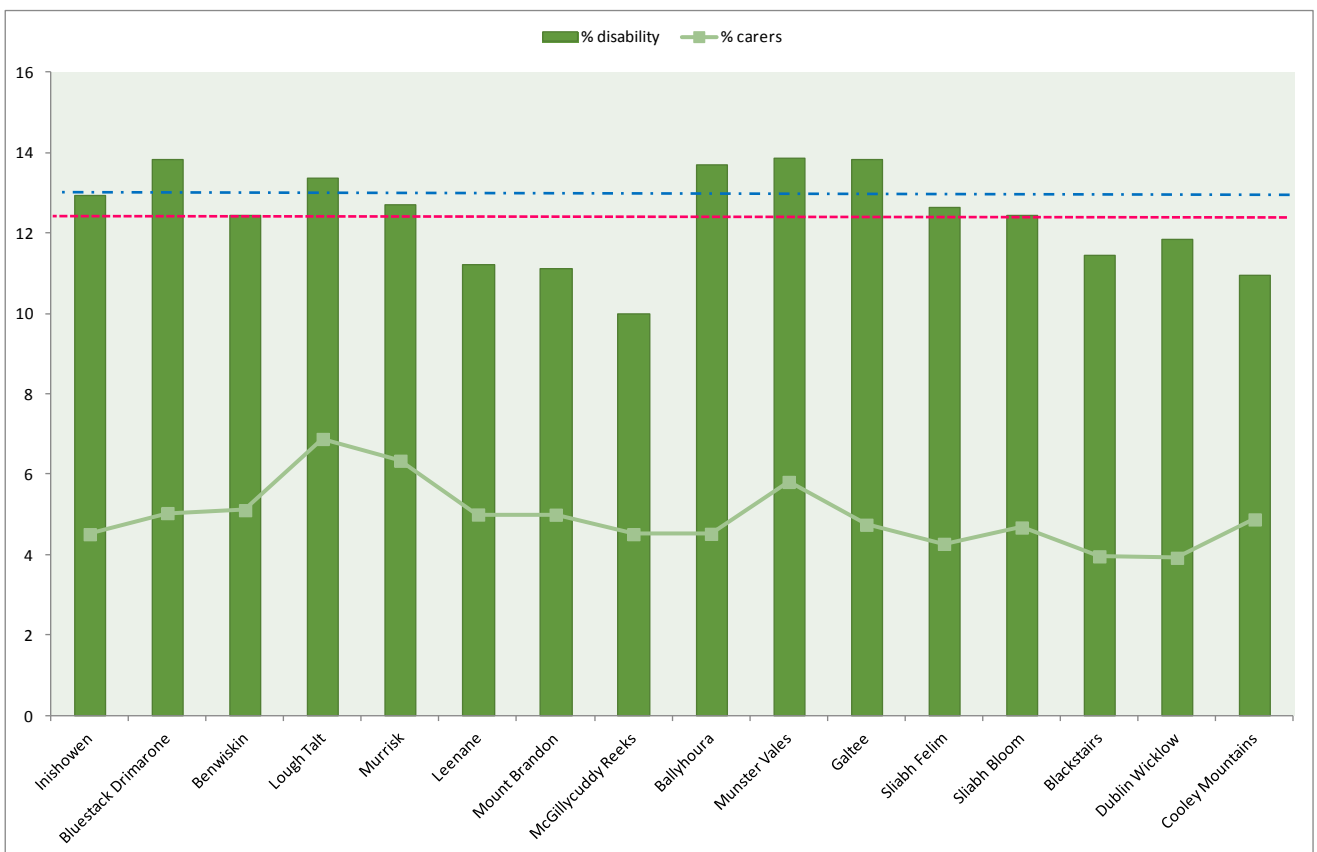


Figure 26: Percentage of total population with a disability and percentage of population aged 4 years plus who are carers, 2011⁹.



⁸ Averages for uplands and State shown for households with no car.

⁹ Averages for uplands and State shown for persons with a disability.

Figure 27: Percentage of families with children of various age groups, 2011¹⁰.

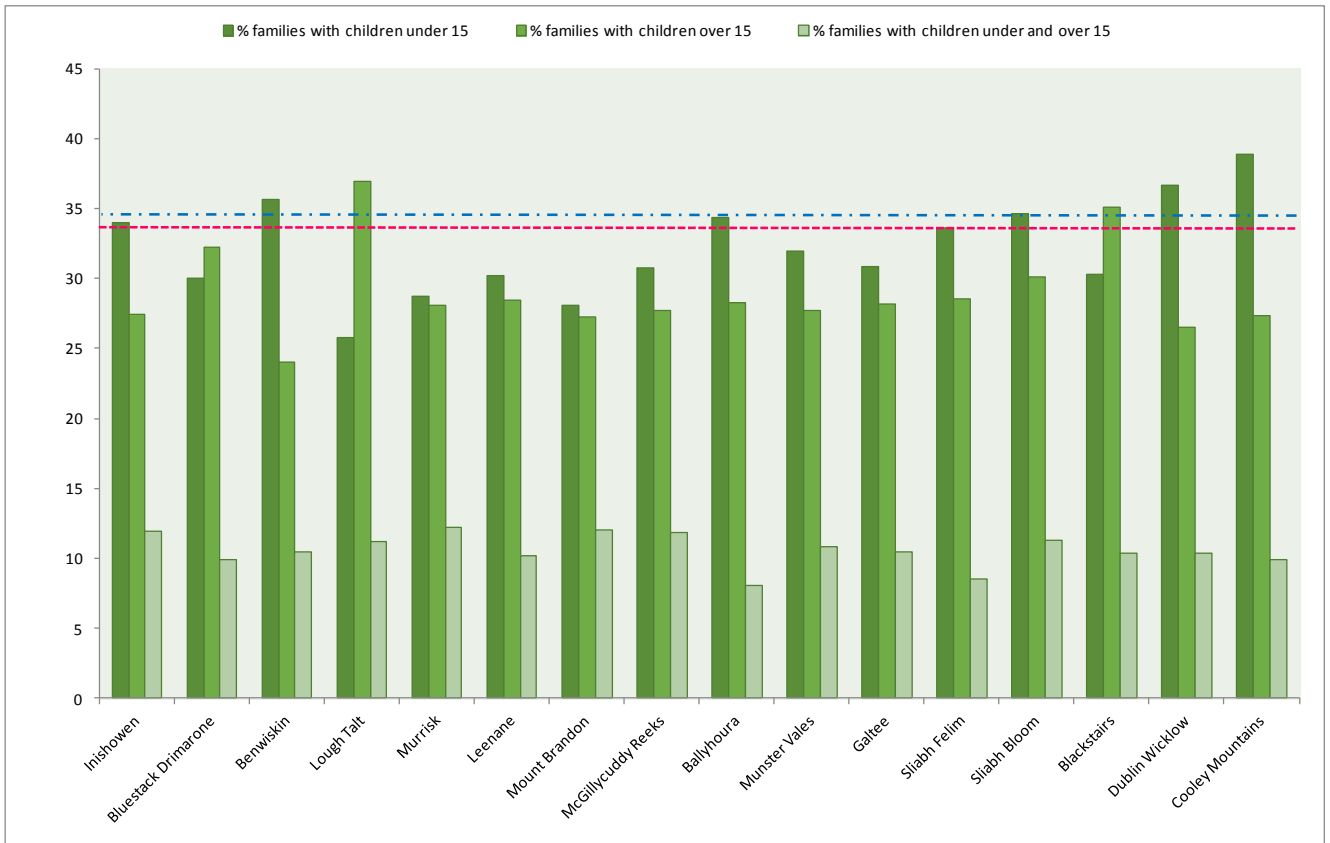
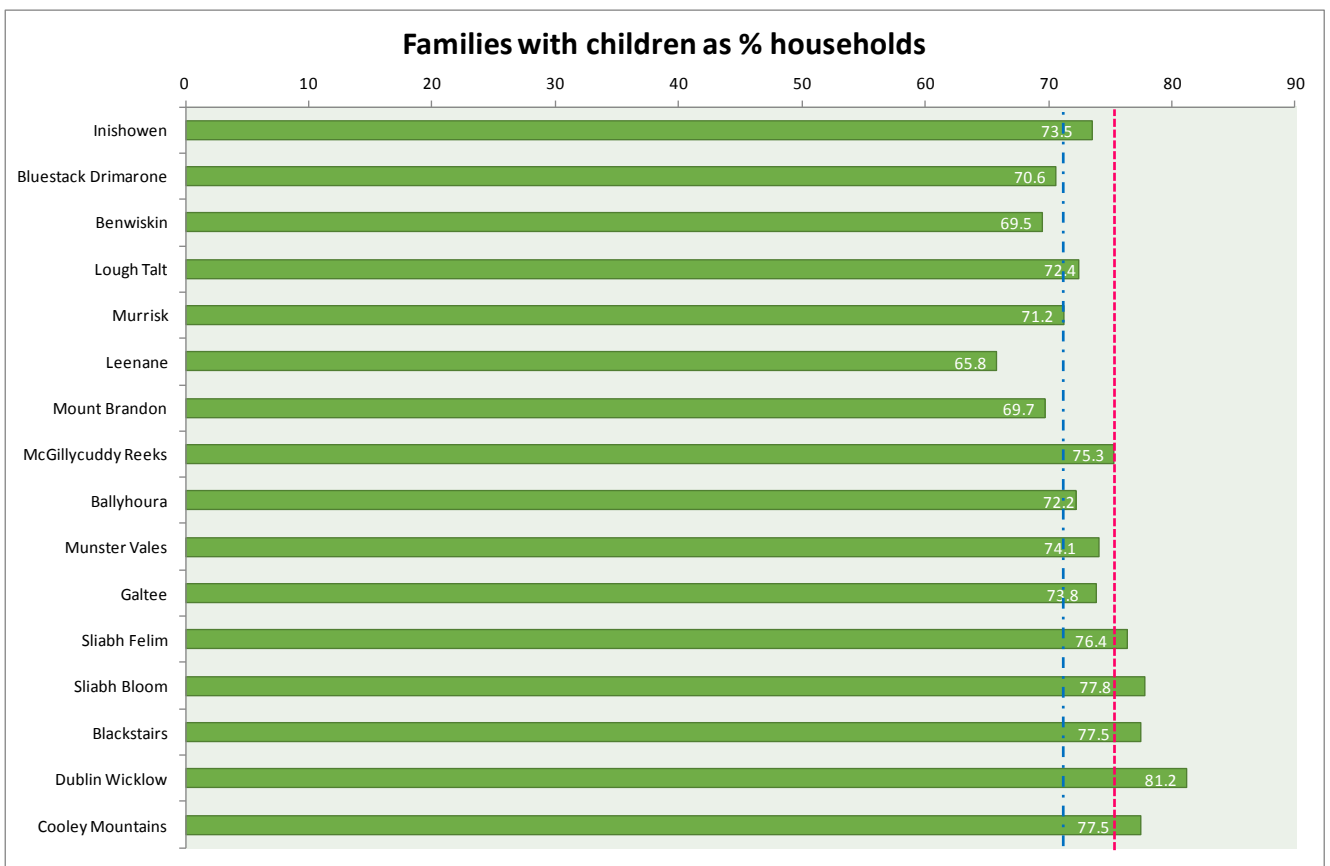
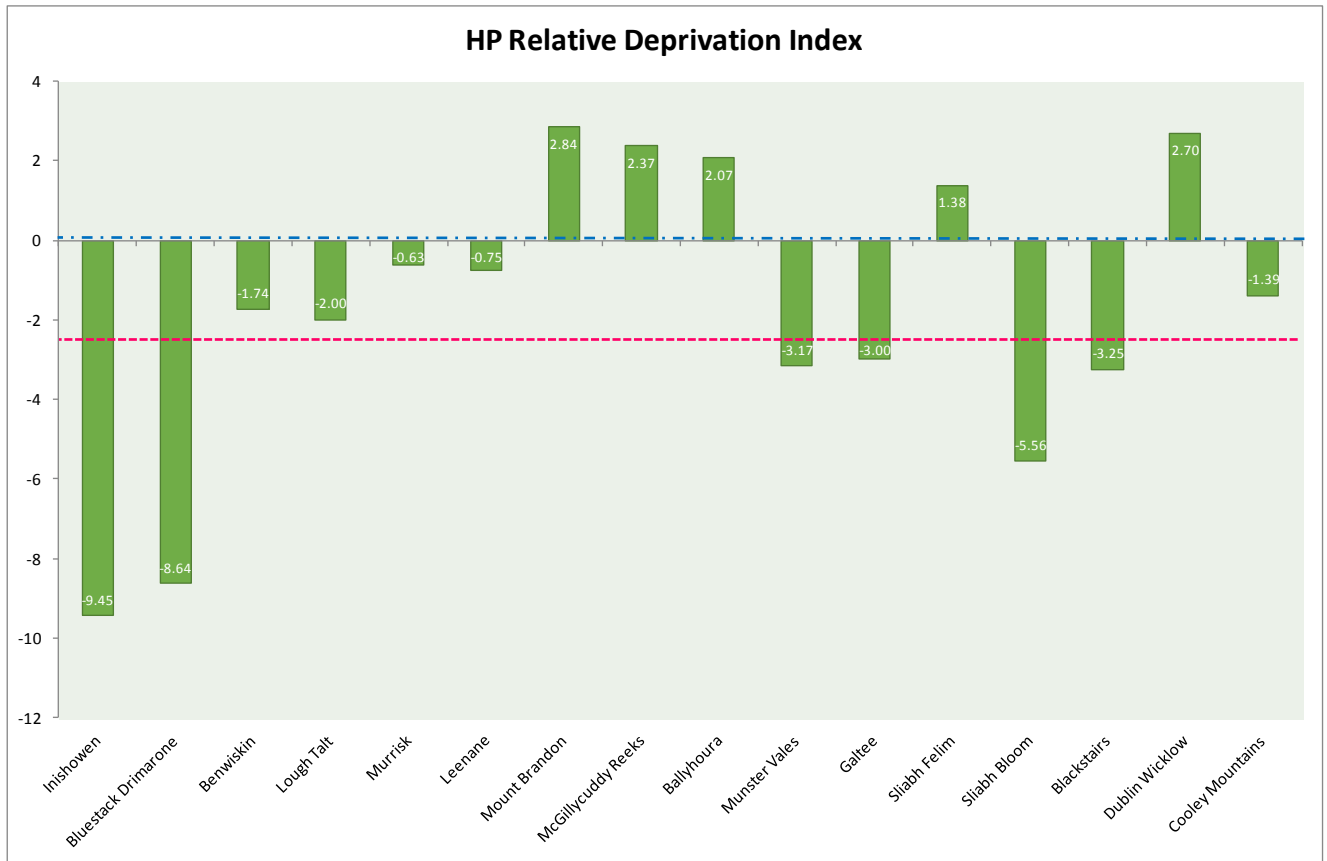


Figure 28: Families with children as a percentage of total households, 2011.



¹⁰ Averages for uplands and State shown for families with children under 15 years.

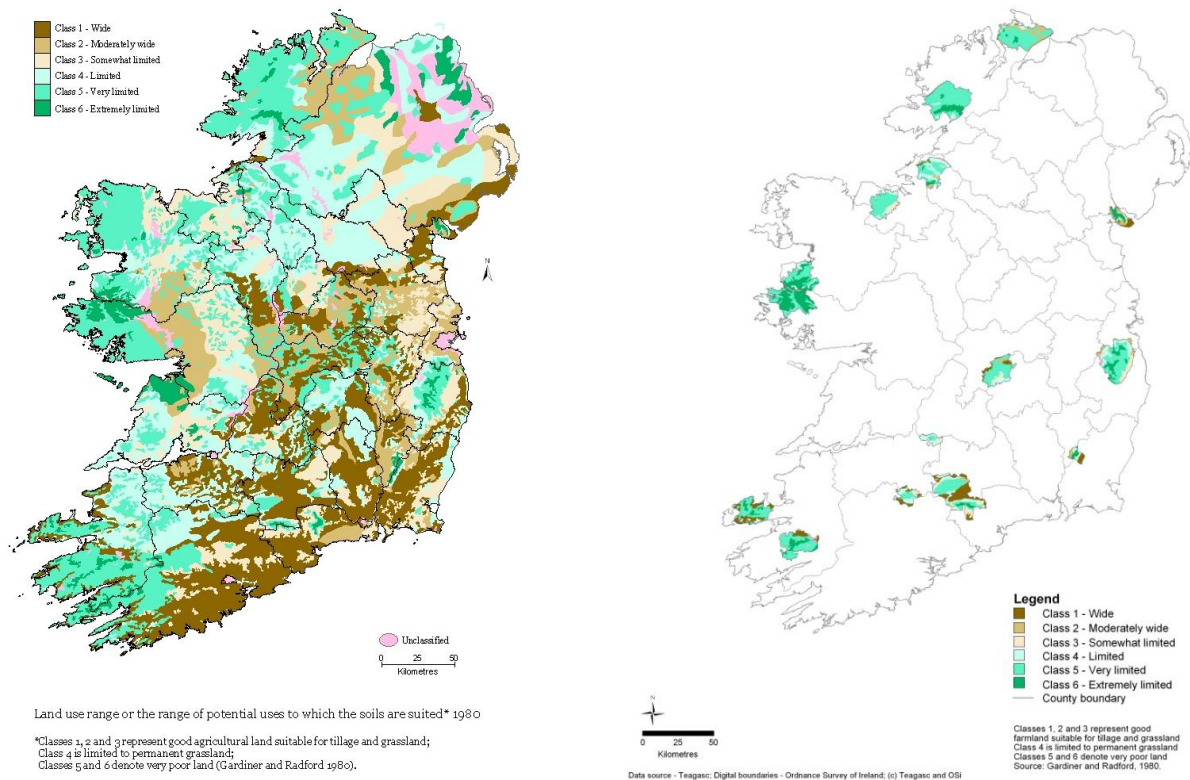
Figure 29: HP Relative Deprivation Index, 2011.



Focus on farming activity in rural Irish upland ranges - an overview

Farming is one of the most important industrial sectors in Irish uplands in terms of its visible impact. Physical geography has a strong influence on farming in mountain ranges with relief and soil resources being significant limiting factors. Natural resources in upland areas tend to constrain the type of farming activity that is suitable and the intensity of production that is attainable compared to farming in lowland areas, both of which reduce farm competitiveness and incomes and thus its economic viability into the future. Agricultural activity also varies across ranges according to differing local characteristics. The distribution of land use classes in uplands (figure 30) reveals a strong overlap with areas of very to extremely limited soil resources. There are some exceptions to this with wide and moderately wide land use ranges found in uplands across the south, midlands and east in particular.

Figure 30: Land use classes in Ireland and upland ranges.



From: Crowley et al. (2008)

With at least two-thirds of farms in the State deemed to be economically unviable¹¹, almost half of all Irish farmers combined farming with another job by 2010 while the remainder included low-income, full-time farmers in receipt of social welfare supports. Therefore, access to alternative employment opportunities for farmers and other adults in farm households has become essential to help sustain many of them. However, these two factors that are key to sustaining farming – either good land resources or access to alternative jobs locally to supplement farm income – are not characteristic of upland ranges, generally.

To assess how farming activity in rural Irish uplands compares with that of the State overall, this section uses data from the Census of Agriculture 2010, the most recent snapshot of farming across Ireland at ED-level.

Table 5 shows a range of key farming variables for the uplands and the State in 2010 and reveals notable differences.

¹¹ Hennessy and Moran (2015a). This is a conservative estimate as it is based on data from the National Farm Survey that excludes the smallest and thus least viable farms.

Farm physical size

Overall, upland farms are larger on average but a closer look at four size classes show that while 7% are 80ha plus (compared with 6% nationally), a greater proportion of upland farms are actually smaller than 20ha (45% compared to 42% nationally). The value of farm output per hectare is significantly lower at €591/ha, just 63% of the national average.

Farm labour input

While farm labour input is only slightly lower in the uplands (1.1 AWU versus 1.2 AWU), the value of farm output per AWU is much less at just 72% of the national average of €25,435.

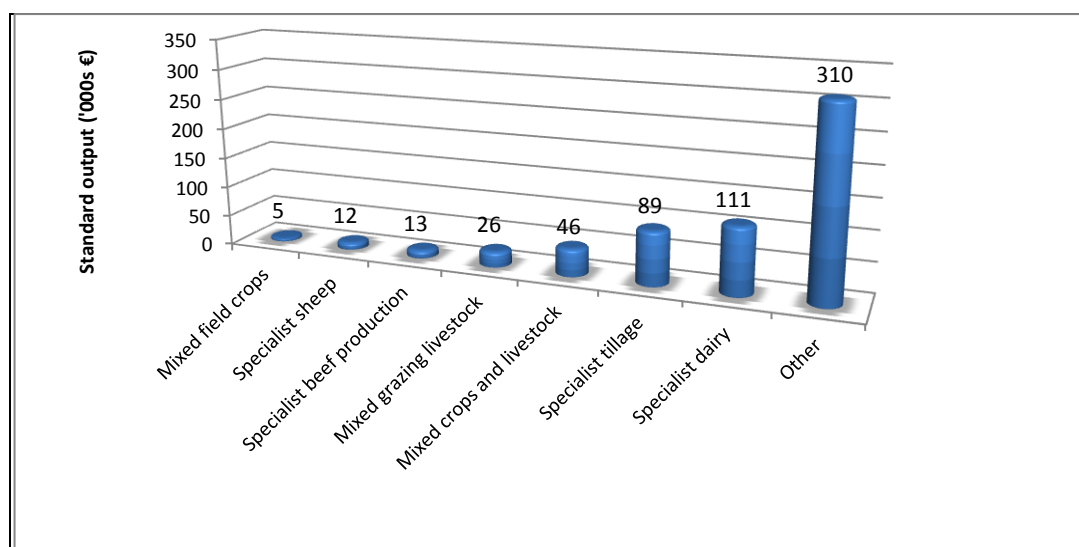
Farm economic size

Lower returns from farmers' land and labour investments in upland areas results in average farm output that is only 67% that of the State average of €30,620.

Farm type

The most common types of specialist farms in upland areas are sheep (38%) and beef (34%), in contrast to the national averages of 10% and 56%, respectively. The other farm types likely to be found in the uplands are mixed grazing livestock (12%) and mixed field crops (6%), both comparable to national proportions, while specialist dairy farming is less common (7% vs. 11%). More than three-quarters of all farms in the uplands are in beef, sheep or mixed field crops, the three farm types with the lowest average economic sizes (€13,013, €11,726 and €5,174, respectively, in 2010 – figure 31).

Figure 31: Average economic size classified by farming system, 2010.



Data source: CSO (2012).

Farming intensity

Stocking density is a useful way to measure the intensity of outdoor livestock production. The average across all farmland is much lower in upland areas compared to the State (72%) although the gap narrows when only grassland is considered (88%).

Farmer age

The age profile of Irish farmers is broadly in line with EU28 averages and by 2014 the average farmer's age in Ireland was 57 years¹². Farmers in the uplands are slightly more likely to be either of retirement age and older, or to be younger than 45 years.

¹² Hennessy and Moran (2015b)

Table 5: Comparison of farming variables in rural Irish uplands and the State, 2010.

Indicator	Uplands	State	% of State
Average farm size (ha¹³)	34.6	32.7	106
Average farm labour input (AWU¹⁴)	1.1	1.2	93
Average farm size (SO¹⁵)	20,414	30,620	67
Average SO per AWU	18,438	25,435	72
Average SO per ha	591	937	63
% farms <20ha	45	42	107
% farms 20<50ha	37	40	93
% farms 50<80ha	11	12	92
% farms 80+ha	7	6	117
% farms <8 SO	48	43	112
% farms 8-25 SO	33	31	106
% farms >25 SO	19	26	73
% farmers <45 years	25	24	105
% farmers >65 years	27	26	102
% sheep farms¹⁶	38	10	380
% beef farms	34	56	61
% mixed livestock farms	12	11	109
% dairy farms	7	11	64
% mixed field crops	6	7	86
LUs¹⁷ per 100ha of farmland	91.2	126.7	72
LUs per 100ha grassland¹⁸	134.9	153.2	88
% farms with woodland	10	12	89
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity¹⁹	8	9	90
% of farmers with 3rd-level qualification related to farming	3.8	4.4	86
% of farmers with farm certificate or apprenticeship	7.8	11.5	68
% of farmers with formal course of 60+ hours duration	4.6	6.1	75

This snapshot of farming in the uplands shows a range of weaknesses and strengths. Generally, the uplands remain strongholds of small-scale family farming and less intensive livestock production indicating a slower rate of consolidation of small farms into larger farms and a slower transition towards intensification. While this more traditional farm profile is seen as a weakness in the conventional farming sector, it points to three ‘strengths’ in terms of multifunctional farming that delivers public goods.

1. More farms persist in the uplands for now and thus their inhabitants contribute to the European ideal of ‘a living countryside’.
2. Smaller farms tend to underpin more traditional farmscapes characterised by such historical cultural heritage as vernacular farm settlements and stone walls layered upon landscapes dotted with archaeological monuments.
3. Traditional small farms and natural limits to intensification in the uplands mean that they are also a supply of high nature value farmland. This is evidenced by the extent

¹³ 1 hectare = 2.47 acres.

¹⁴ An annual work unit (AWU) measures labour input on the farm and is 1,800 hours or more of labour per person per annum (35 hours per week or more).

¹⁵ Standard output (SO) is the average monetary value of agricultural output at farm-gate prices. While it does not measure farm income, it is a useful indicator of the size of the farming enterprise.

¹⁶ Farm type is based on the relative economic importance of the range of agricultural activities carried out on the farm.

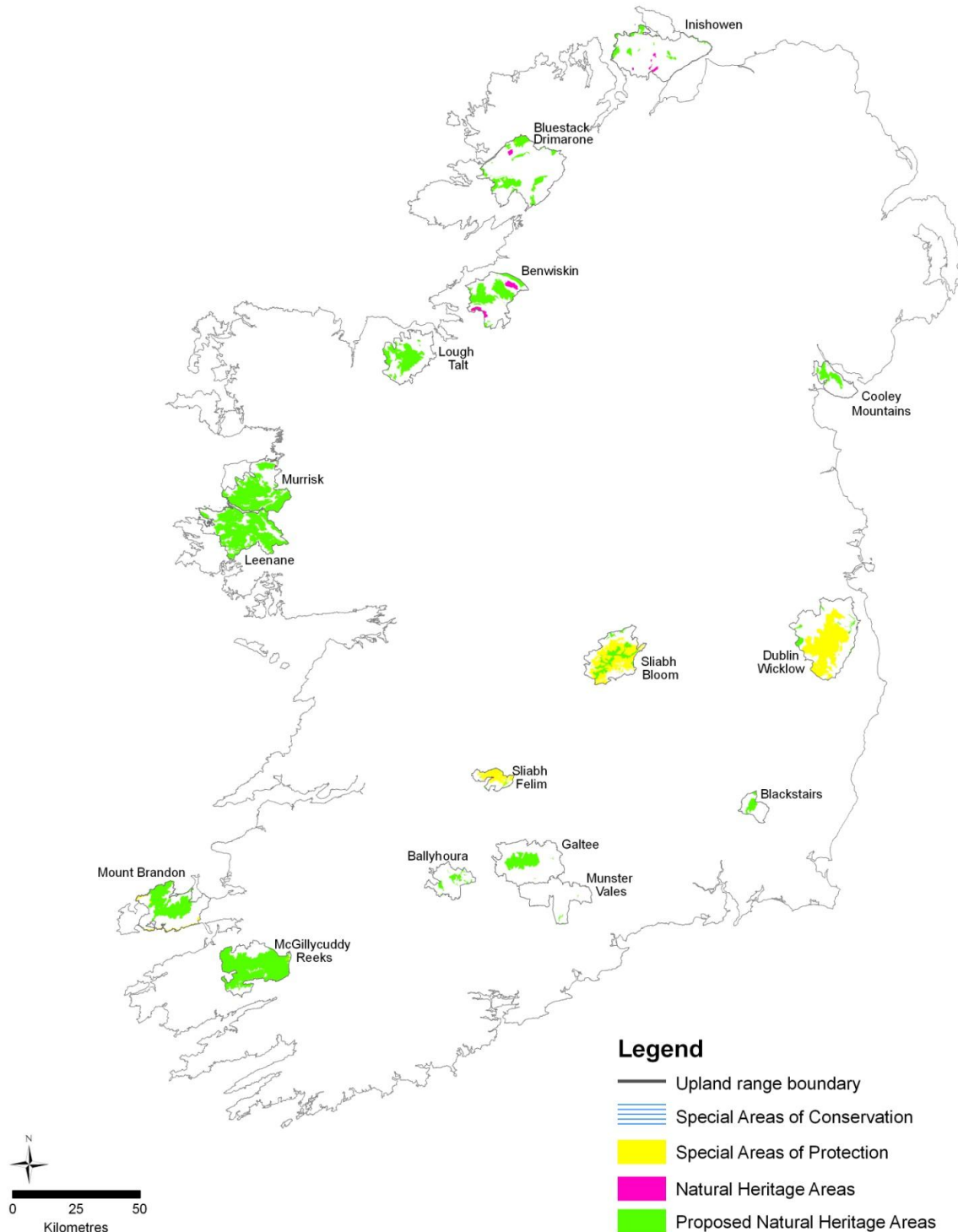
¹⁷ Livestock units (LUs) measure stocking density across a range of livestock using specific coefficients for each type of animal.

¹⁸ Grassland comprises hay, silage and pasture, and excludes rough grazing.

¹⁹ These include forestry, agricultural contracting, tourism, recreation and food processing.

of protected conservation areas of national and EU significance found in the uplands. Special Areas of Conservation (protected under the EU Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (designated under the EU Birds Directive) are found in every mountain range (figure 32). Conservation areas are closely integrated with farmland. For example, a 2009 survey of upland farms in the north-west and south found that 76% of farms included land with a conservation designation, rising to 100% of farms surveyed in Connemara (IUF, 2010). Such designations form the basis for securing EU LIFE funding such as the Kerry LIFE project (box 2).

Figure 32: Conservation areas in the uplands²⁰.



Data source - National Parks & Wildlife Service Digital boundaries - Ordnance Survey of Ireland; (c) OSI and Government of Ireland

²⁰ Proposed NHAs with significance for wildlife and habitats were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated and currently have limited protection.

Box 2: Kerry LIFE project.

The EU LIFE financial instrument funds environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects. LIFE projects are locally integrated, strategic models of best practice using a bottom-up approach. The Kerry LIFE project aims to restore two internationally important pearl mussel populations. It runs in the Caragh and Blackwater river catchments in the McGillycuddy Reeks over an area of 221km², three-quarters of which is farmland. The project brings together a range of local and national stakeholders from farmers, private forestry owners and South Kerry Development Partnership to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Forest Service, Coillte, Teagasc and Pobal. This partnership process recognises the value of combining local knowledge gained through multi-generational lived experience in the field with scientific and technical expertise in order to develop sustainable land management practices that achieve conservation goals while not compromising local livelihoods.
Source: kerrylife.ie

These farmscapes form the basis for outdoor rural recreation while farm households make up the indigenous communities sought out by visitors to Ireland (e.g., box 3). Fáilte Ireland's newest international tourism brand propositions, the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Ancient East, employ landscapes, people, culture and heritage as unique selling points. Two of Fáilte Ireland's three identified market segments, *Culturally Curious* and *Great Escapers*, are especially well-placed to seek out upland areas during their travels and deepen their cultural immersion during an Irish holiday²¹.

Box 3: Irish scenery and tourists.

'Friendly, hospitable people' and 'beautiful scenery' consistently rank in over 90% of responses as an important reason for considering Ireland for a holiday. Both factors also consistently rate over 90% as destination issues most likely to lead to a tourist being very satisfied or satisfied at the end of a visit. Across all the main overseas tourist markets, 'Irish people' and 'scenery' are the top two reasons why visitor expectations are exceeded, as well as the most frequently mentioned advantages of Ireland.
Source: *Millward Brown (2015)*.

But the strengths that deliver public goods and represent opportunities for the tourism sector do not add to the commercial value of farm commodities. They actually come at a cost to the viability of conventional farms as evidenced in the lower value of farm output. Lower returns pose a threat to the future of such multifunctional farming in mountain ranges, recognised as Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) vulnerable to land abandonment. Some upland farmers are innovating in the area of food branding to capture the added value of these public goods through premia for mountain lamb. The geographical indication achieved by Connemara Hill Lamb has the potential to provide a framework for broader rural and regional development, including in the Leenane range (box 4).

²¹ See Fáilte Ireland (2015)

Box 4: Upland farm produce, geographical indications and regional development.

Differentiation can set upland farm produce apart on the basis of attributes such as: *product* (traditional varieties, breeds and practices, natural life, natural diet), *place* (environmental, cultural and scenic characteristics e.g. terroir – agro-ecology and local know-how, provenance, Natura 2000, archaeological heritage, renowned landscapes/waterscapes) and *people* (multigenerational family farmers using, in part, traditional skills and indigenous knowledge, viable rural communities). This difference can be captured as a price premium through branding with a geographical indication.

Geographical indications (GIs) are a means of differentiating within the marketplace on the basis of product, place and people. They play a role in recognising, protecting and valorising indigenous forms of culture and knowledge encompassed in traditional farming, food and drink production practices within a particular place. GIs convey how the characteristics that set the product apart from its standard counterpart are derived from the human and physical environment of origin and so cannot be produced elsewhere (Rangnekar, 2003). This can give small, local producers a bigger voice in the marketplace. It can also “convey a deep sense of a people, their culture, and of their longstanding relationship to a region” (Giovanucci *et al.*, 2009: 35). In other words, GIs are a way by which the public goods generated by farmers and passed down through the generations can be translated into price premia for goods produced by contemporary farmers. For consumers, GIs offer an assurance mechanism by which they can identify a product that incorporates such values.

Connemara Hill Lamb Producers (www.connemarahilllamb.ie/) was founded in 1999 and produces indigenous lamb from Connemara (including the Leenane uplands). Their branding references tradition – lamb from the Connemara Blackfaced Horned Ewe traceable to the 1800s; the Connemara region – beauty, topography, climate; farmland characteristics – natural habitat, unique wild herbs, heathers and grasses; meat characteristics – natural, succulent flavour with a very pronounced aroma. Producers underwent a Quality Hill Lamb Production course in conjunction with Teagasc. Connemara Hill Lamb was awarded a protected geographical indication (PGI) in 2007, Ireland’s only mountain GI.

But there are challenges. For example, one barrier to securing GIs in Ireland’s uplands is the absence of slaughterhouses (Santini *et al.*, 2013) and some producer groups with a focus on regional foods have been short-lived. Burren Beef & Lamb Producers Group Ltd., established 2007 and dissolved in 2013, comprised some 20 farmers who branded and marketed their meat as high quality, ‘conservation-grade’ and locally sourced beef and lamb from Burren habitats with unique characteristics and flavour. Farmers underwent a 3-month training course from BurrenLIFE with financial support from LEADER, technical support from Teagasc and in cooperation with the IFA and National Parks and Wildlife Service. Mayo Lamb Direct, established 2009 and dissolved in 2014, consisted of eight sheep farmers who cooperated on packaging, distributing and direct sales.

Going beyond food production, there are strong synergies between GIs and regional development too. Regional cultural identity is embodied not only in the GI product but in the area’s history and built heritage, therefore it can also be valued through tourism, and local art and crafts (Giovanucci *et al.*, 2009), benefitting local people other than participating producers and businesses. There is a symbiotic relationship between the region and its GI – the region of origin imbues the GI with its reputation while the GI promotes the region (Rangnekar, 2003). GIs “show the greatest potential to benefit local producers where traditional small-scale production is still present on the supply side” (Bramley *et al.*, 2009: 136). This suggests targeting upland areas in Ireland in particular for GI development.

An analysis of Irish farm viability in 2014 found that one-third of farms were economically viable, another third of farm households were being sustained by the off-farm income of the farmer or spouse, and a further third had neither a viable farm enterprise nor an off-farm income to sustain them rendering them dependent on social welfare or the state pension. When classified by farming system, cattle and sheep farms that together comprise almost three-quarters of upland farms had the lowest levels of economic viability (blue in figure 33) and the highest levels of vulnerability (in green), exacerbated by the ongoing recession and the slower recovery in rural areas. For example, three quarters of Iveragh sheep and cattle farmers and/or their spouses depended on off-farm jobs to sustain the farm household by the late 2000s²².

²² O’Rourke and Kramm (2009). A survey of 80 farmers in 2007/2008.

Figure 33: Viability of Irish farming by farm system, 2014.



Source: Hennessy and Moran (2015a: 3)

Drystock farms and their farm households are fundamental to the fabric of rural communities and the Irish countryside. While the threat from low levels of farm economic viability is not unique to the Irish uplands, it can be compounded in upland areas by other local factors such as distance to urban markets and fewer opportunities to supplement farm income. Nationally, the strategy of diversifying the enterprise to include non-agricultural activity is far less common (9%) than combining farming with another job and is even lower in the uplands (90% of the national level). And forestry is most commonly pursued as an alternative agricultural activity which has significant consequences for both farming and recreational landscapes.

While younger or better educated farmers may consider farm diversification, even among those who were more positively predisposed to farm diversification compared with an off-farm job and considered their farm suitable for diversification, the stated preference remained 'to develop the core farm enterprise'²³. Fewer educational qualifications may also hinder access to alternative income streams and upland farmers showed lower rates of formal training in farming and related subjects compared to the national averages. These barriers to diversification contribute to the fit of the Walks Scheme with farming as it supports the provision of public goods by farmers, including maintaining and enhancing trails across private farmland, while allowing them to focus on agricultural activity the rest of the time. In fact, hill and countryside walking are popular pursuits among upland farmers and residents themselves (IUF, 2010). It also explains the high rate of participation in the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) in upland farms (82% vs. 45% nationally (IUF, 2010)) that supplemented farm income in exchange for agri-environmental public goods provision that were also a good fit for farming. REPS has since been watered down in its lower income successor programmes: Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS) and Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS). The complementarity of such recreational activity with upland farming combined with the vulnerability of funding for national schemes that support public goods provision through farming, highlight the importance of progressing actions to develop recreational activity in the uplands²⁴ that create economic gain for landowners.

Low interest in farm diversification is longstanding²⁵ and EU-wide²⁶ but it does not reflect a low interest in innovation²⁷. Comparable entrepreneurship rates have been found between

²³ Meredith (2015: 3)

²⁴ Through a bottom-up, community-led, partnership process (IUF, 2010).

²⁵ For example, Cawley *et al.* (1995)

²⁶ See Macken-Walsh (2011b)

²⁷ Defined by Heanue and Macken-Walsh (2010: 1) as 'doing something new or improved – in the realm of conventional agricultural activity or farm diversification – that improves farm household income.'

farmers and the general population²⁸. While farmers (generally male) may not see alternative activities as appropriate for themselves²⁹, they do consider them suitable for others, such as females in the farm family or farm offspring, groups that tend to have higher rates and more diverse forms of educational attainment³⁰. This signals the importance of taking a farm family approach that encourages the participation of women and youth from farms when engaging with farming stakeholders to explore alternative farming futures in the uplands. While only a small proportion of farming resources are held by women and farm offspring in Ireland, these are the members of farm families most positively disposed to alternative farm-based activities, making them important stakeholders in developing rural recreation development strategies.

With 27% of upland farmers continuing to farm into retirement, it flags (1) a reluctance to retire or (2) the absence of a young successor for the family farm and the possible winding down of more upland farms in the near future. In spite of the challenges, the finding that one-quarter of upland farmers are younger than 45 years (just above the national average) shows that young people are still drawn to farming in upland areas. While this represents a strength of the sector in mountain ranges, some young people may feel compelled to continue farming. This is because two-thirds of upland farms surveyed in 2009 were owned by the same family for 200 years or longer (IUF, 2010), which means that farm offspring from such multi-generational farms likely experience a strong sense of duty to carry it on.

Understanding the motivations of that 25% of upland farmers who are young (as well as upcoming farm successors) and addressing their needs both inside and outside the farm gate will be vital to maintain the farming fabric of the rural Irish uplands, ranging from landscapes and high nature value farmland to farming families and communities. It will also be necessary in order to offer young farmers and their families, and farm successors considering their future, the opportunity of a livelihood and an acceptable quality-of-life in light of the poor viability of upland drystock farming.

A comparison of key farming indicators across the individual upland ranges

The following graphs compare farming variables across the ranges in 2010 with the uplands average denoted by a red line and the state average shown in blue. They reveal the wide variation in farm structures, types and returns found throughout mountain areas, reflecting the diversity of upland areas and highlighting the need for responsive local strategies to support hill farming.

The largest average farm sizes are found along the west coast in the McGillicuddy Reeks (almost twice the state average), Leenane, Lough Talt and Bluestack Drimarone ranges while the smallest are in the border uplands of the Cooley and Inishowen peninsulas (figure 34). Small farms (<20ha) make up over half of all farms in the Cooley Mountains, Leenane, Inishowen, Dublin-Wicklow and Murrisk ranges (figure 35).

In contrast, ranges where farms returned the greatest value of agricultural output are in the south, south-east and midlands, regions with comparatively strong agricultural sectors, where land resources are better and some farmers can pursue higher income dairying and/or intensive beef production. High values occur in the dairying areas of Munster Vales (which returned the highest average of €48,000 per farm), Ballyhoura, Galtee, Blackstairs, Sliabh Felim and Mount Brandon and from intensive cattle farming with some dairying in Sliabh Bloom (figure 36). Low values predominate in the border and northwestern ranges with the lowest returned in Bluestack Drimarone (€8,500 per farm).

²⁸ Heanue (2011) in Macken-Walsh (2011a)

²⁹ Macken-Walsh (2011a)

³⁰ O'Hara (1998), Crowley *et al.* (2008); Macken-Walsh (2010); Macken-Walsh (2011a)

Unlike the variability found in the average farm size and value of output, average labour input is comparatively similar across the uplands (figure 37). Even farming that generates low value output requires a good deal of farm labour and does not leave much time for an additional job to supplement low incomes. Most areas average close to 35 hours plus (1.0 AWU) spent on farm work. The high labour inputs required by intensive dairy farming in Ballyhoura, Munster Vales, Galtee and Blackstairs along with intensive beef farming in Sliabh Bloom resulted in values above the national average in those ranges.

Specialist sheep farming is very common along the west coast (except for Lough Talt), in the border ranges and the Dublin-Wicklow mountains (figure 38). Specialist dairying is above the national average in the southern/south-eastern uplands as well as Mount Brandon (figure 39). The majority of farms (74% plus) in Sliabh Bloom and Sliabh Felim are in specialist beef farming, with high levels of cattle farming also found in the dairying strongholds of the south and south-east (but not Mount Brandon), as well as in Lough Talt (figure 40). Thus, the principal types of farming carried out on uplands vary widely between regions and to a lesser extent within them producing a rich variety of farmscapes in Irish mountain ranges, in addition to potential local foodscapes.

The highest upland livestock densities, indicating more intensive farming, are associated with the dairy farming strongholds of the southern and south-eastern ranges as well as Sliabh Bloom where cattle farming predominates (figure 41). Moderately high values are also found in Mount Brandon (dairying area) and in the border ranges where the average farm size is just 21-22ha. While this points to the role of land carrying capacity and farm types in stocking densities, it also signals an association between smaller farms and intensive production. Maintaining the maximum number of upland family farms goes against the trend towards consolidation on to fewer, larger farms but the findings in the border uplands suggest that it can support a more productive farming sector at a local level.

Some 30% plus of farmers in the dairying strongholds of the south (except Galtee) and in Mount Brandon are under 45 years of age, well above the national average, suggesting the strength of the farming sector in those uplands (figure 42). Leenane in Connemara lies at the other end of the scale where just 16% of farmers are young and suggests a farming population with particularly weak future prospects. Leenane's relatively high degree of peripherality and low accessibility might be push factors having a negative effect on farm succession in that mountain range. Initiatives such as the geographical indication that brands Connemara Lamb for the local food economy and distant urban markets highlights an innovative local response to counter those factors. Conversely, pull factors may be operating in the Dublin-Wicklow range. It returned the next lowest proportion of young farmers (21%), where its low degree of peripherality combined with relatively high accessibility to the largest urban job market in the State may overshadow a future in farming.

Turning to farm diversification, opportunities such as a nearby consumer market and the availability of capital to invest may explain the high rates of farm diversification in the uplands of the Dingle peninsula with its strong tourism sector, in the Dublin-Wicklow range just south of the capital city, as well as in other areas with either a high level of dairying or more intensive livestock production (figure 43).

Figure 34: Farm size.³¹

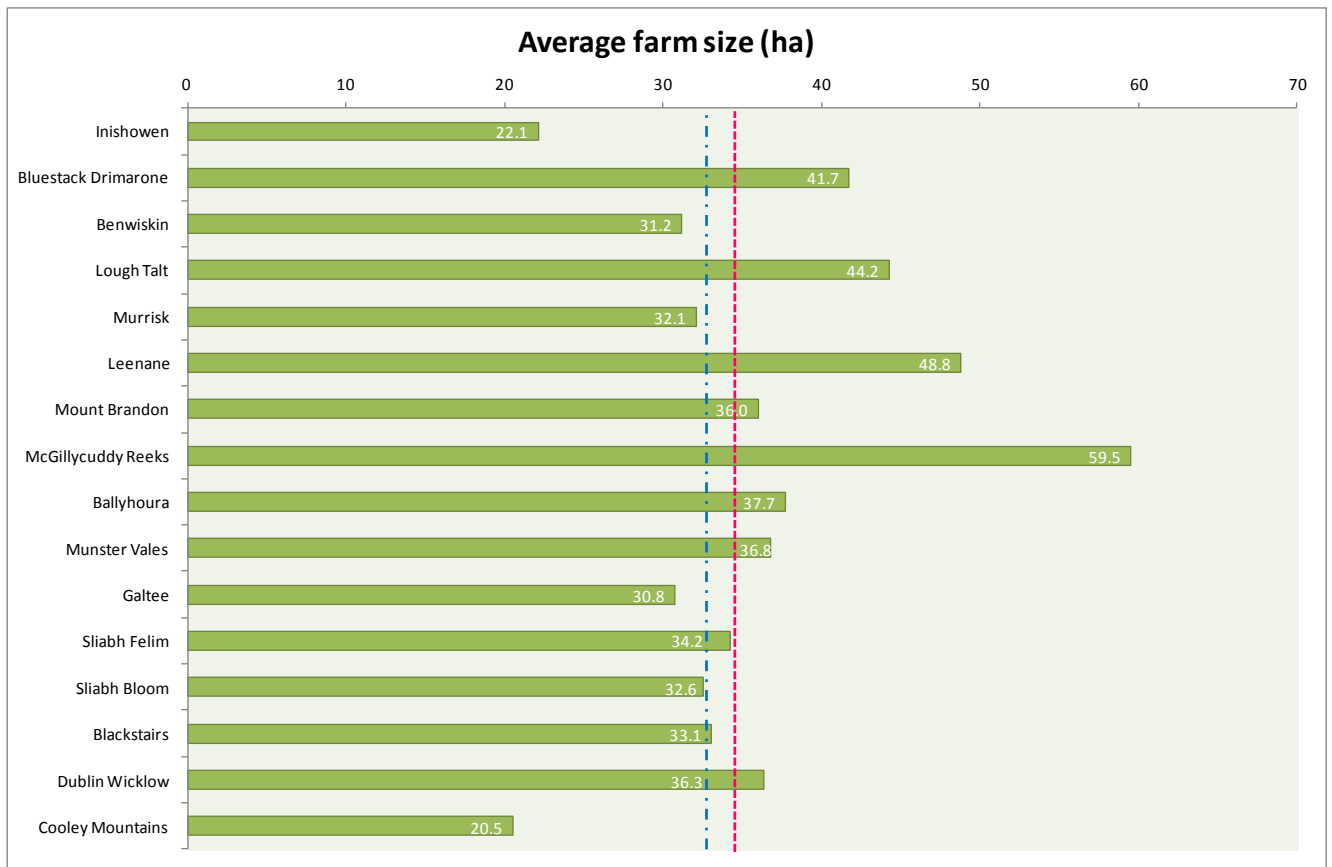
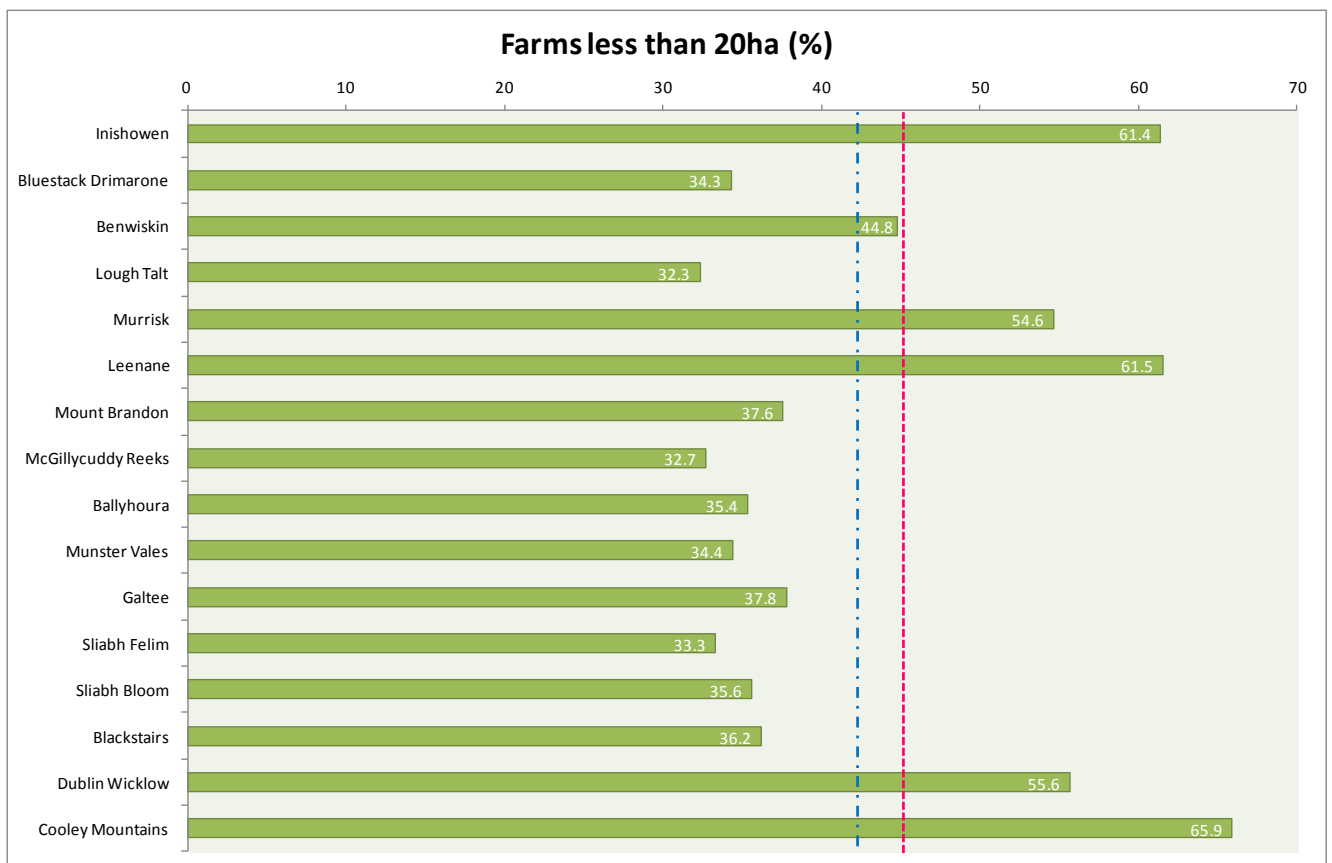


Figure 35: Small farms.



³¹ Red line is average for all upland areas; blue line is the national average.

Figure 36: Farm economic size.

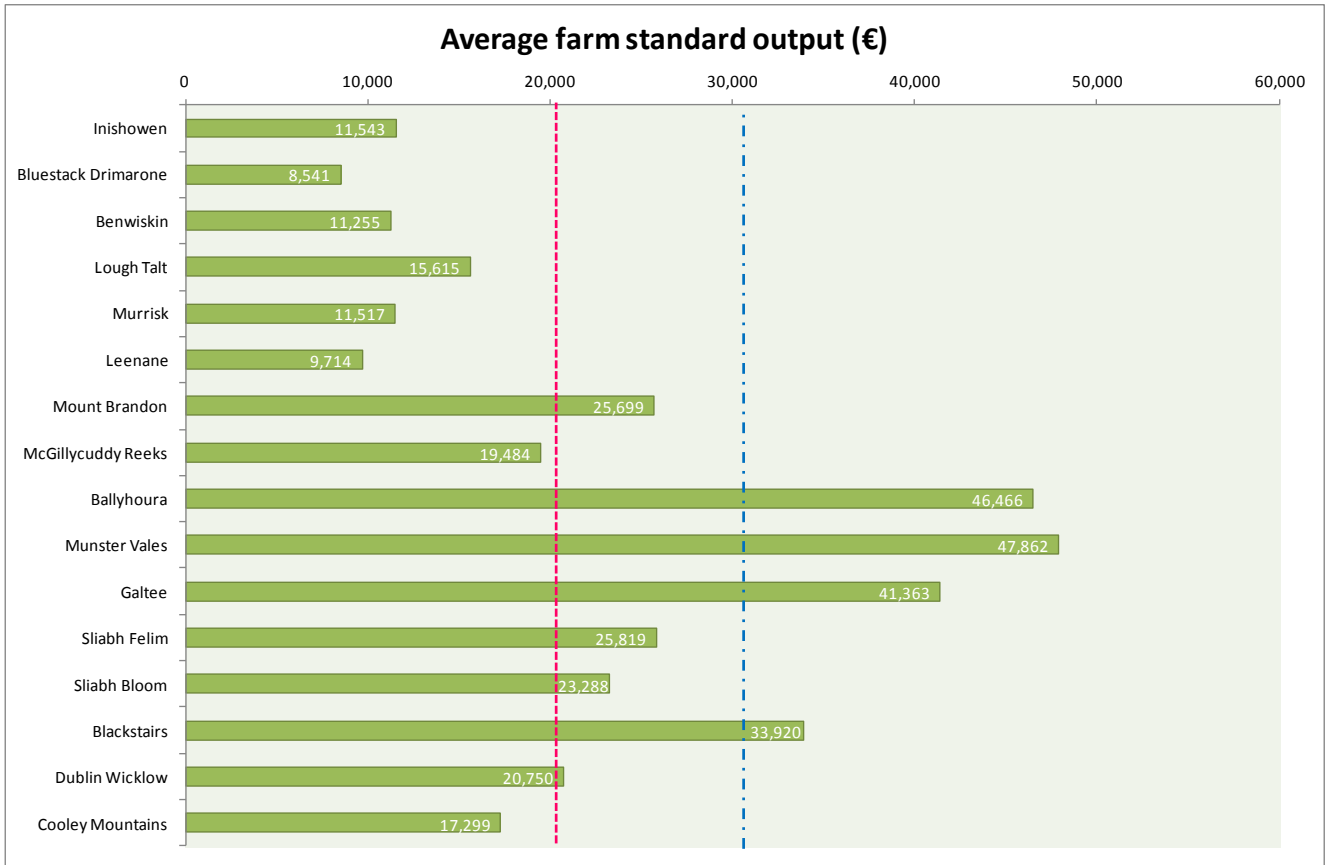


Figure 37: Farm labour input.

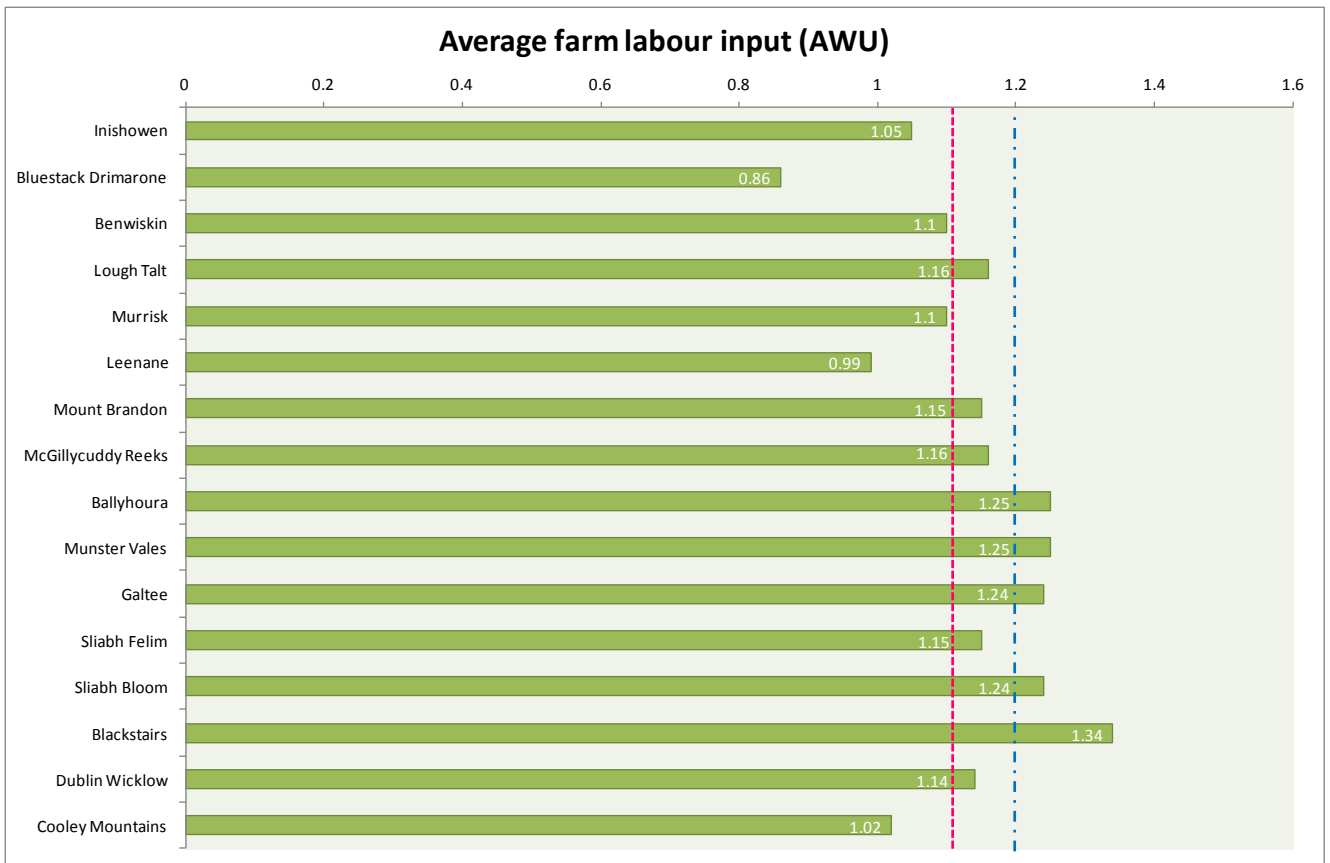


Figure 38: Sheep farming.



Figure 39: Cattle farming.

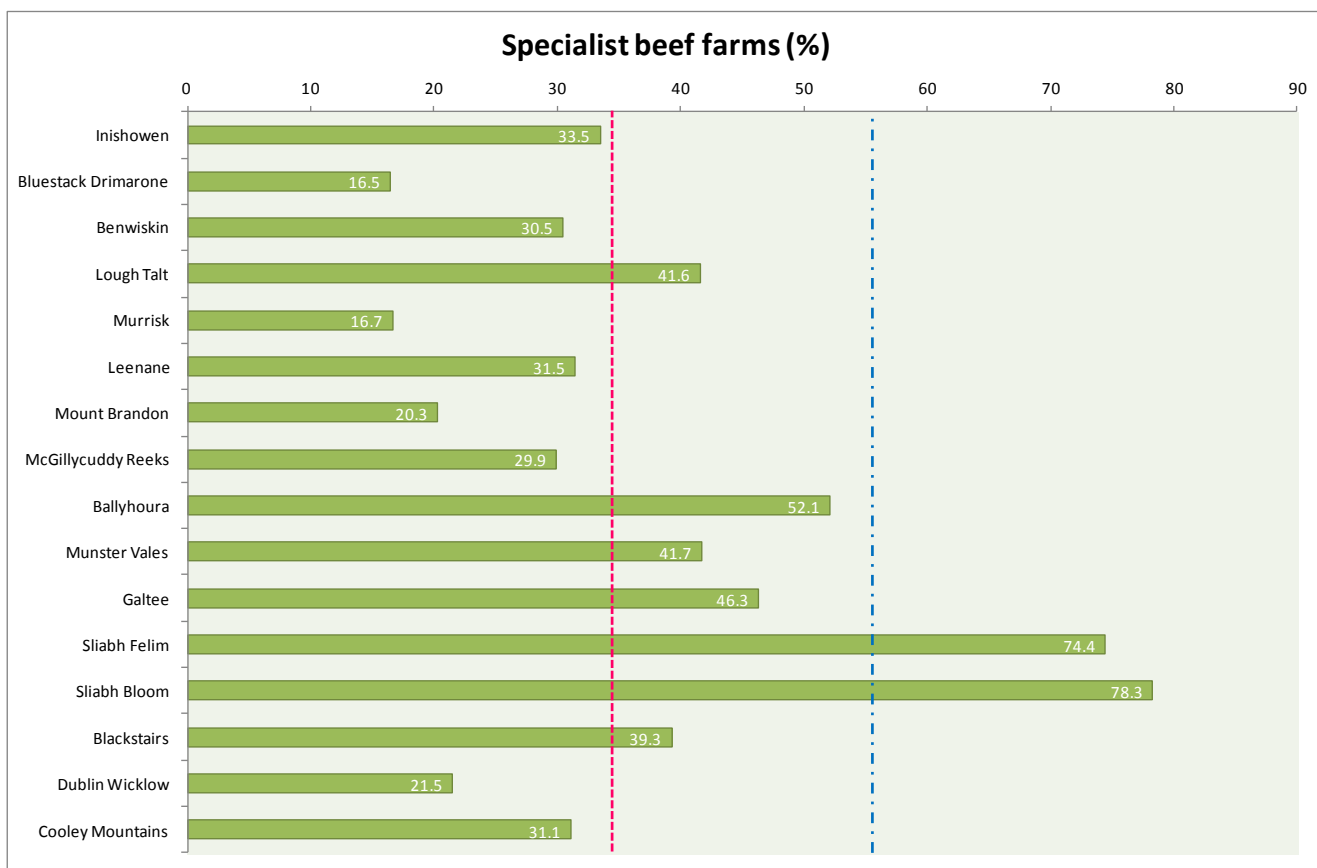


Figure 40: Dairy farming.

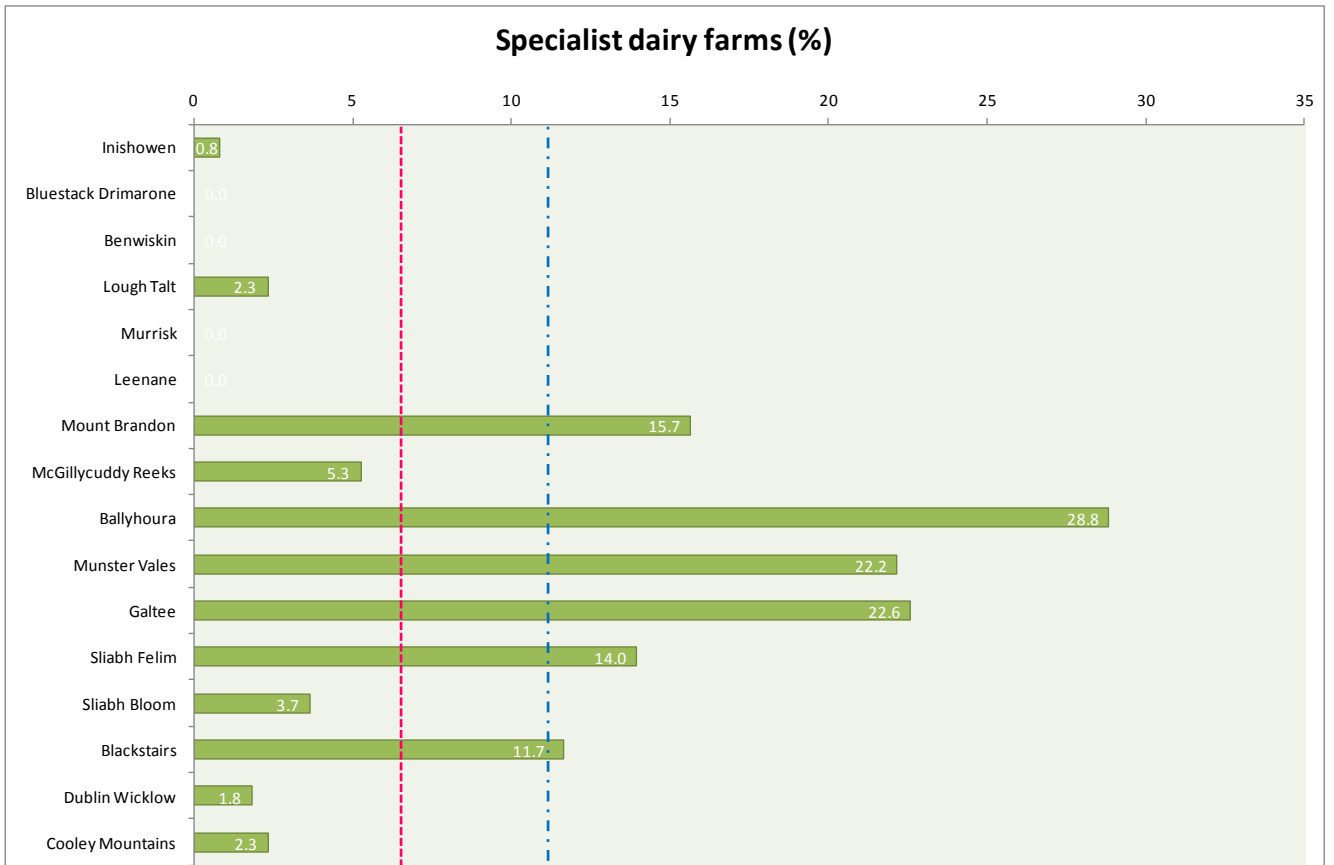


Figure 41: Stocking density.

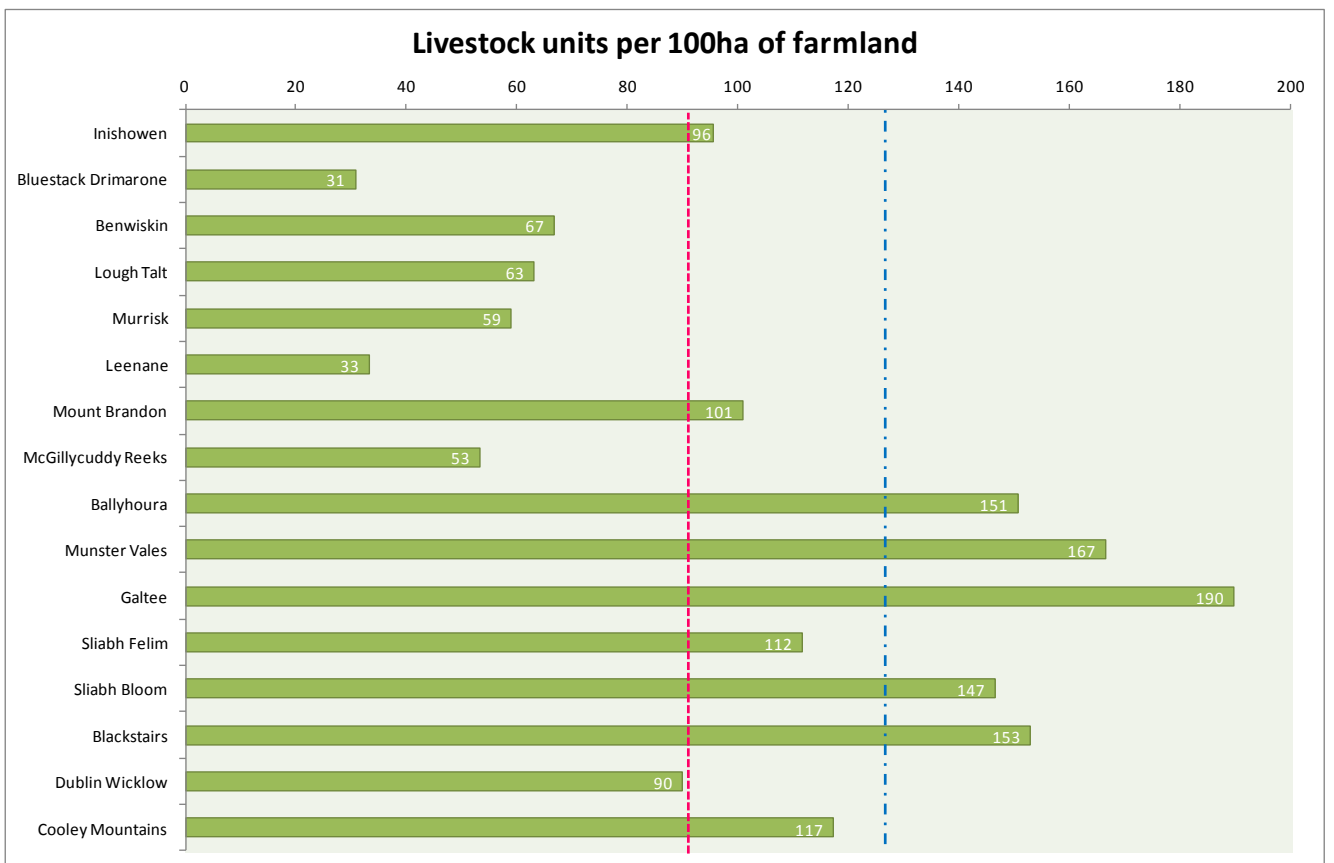


Figure 42: Young farmers.

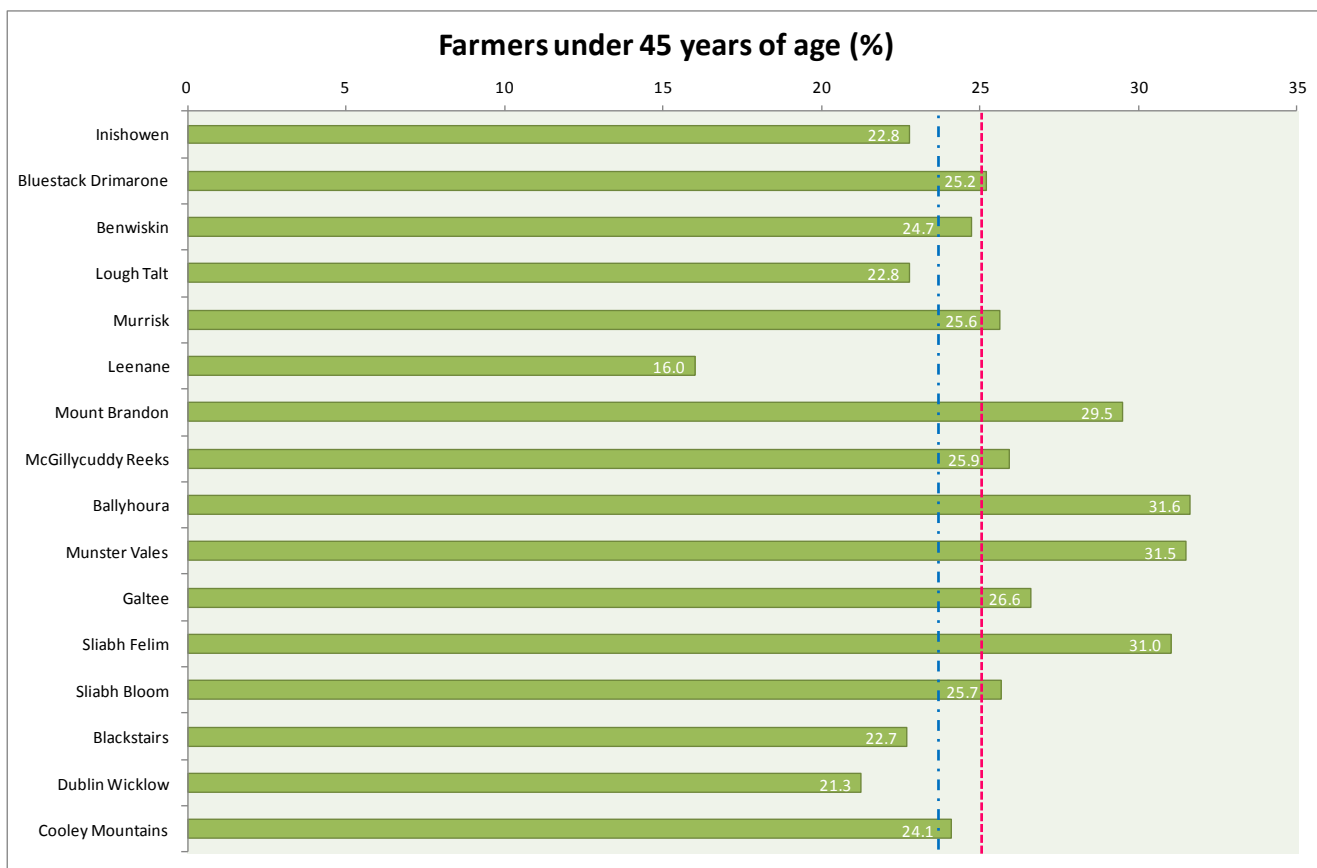
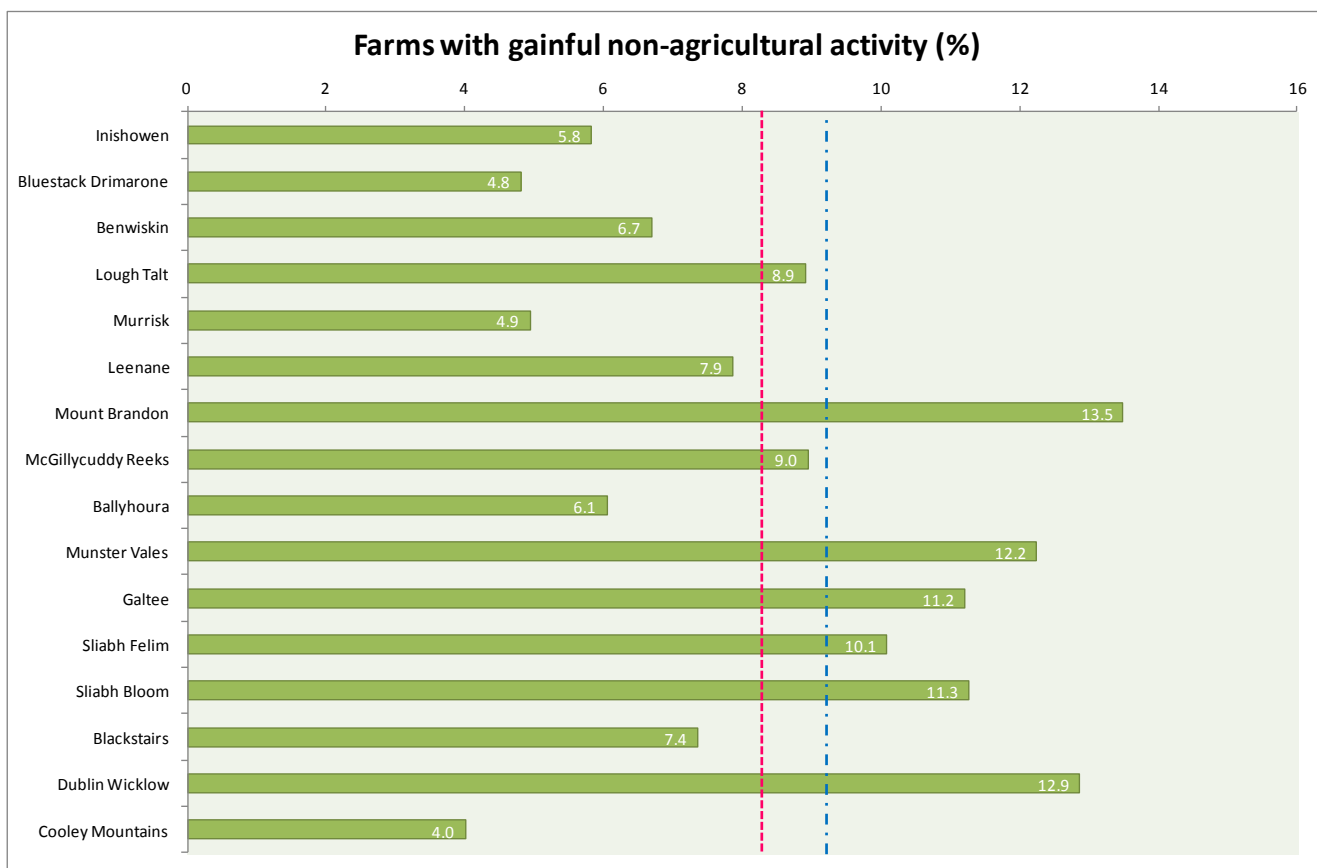


Figure 43: Diversified farms.



Implications for vision planning and local development in upland areas

Upland areas straddle county bounds and the border between the Republic and Northern Ireland, transcending man-made and administrative boundaries. The rich political geography of upland ranges calls for holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development through inter-community and cross-border collaborations and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Social and knowledge capital will be enhanced by the participation of statutory and non-statutory bodies from both sides of the border, while an all-island approach and international networking will create opportunities for European Territorial Cooperation projects (Interreg V 2014-2020) – joint actions and policy exchanges that promote economic, social and territorial development.

Investment in community-led local development and social inclusion initiatives is key to tapping into the knowledge, social and cultural capital of upland areas using bottom-up approaches as best practice in area-based development. The Rural Development Programme (LEADER) and the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme delivered by Local Action Groups³² offer mechanisms by which to achieve this at community and sub-regional levels. The fact that seven of the 16 upland ranges assessed in this report lie across two local authority areas explains why upland residents highlighted concerns with planning, infrastructure and public service provision in their communities (IUF, 2010). Thus, cooperation among local authorities and joined-up thinking across government departments will be fundamental to rural proofing and adopting tailored solutions for upland areas.

The socio-economic and farming profile identifies a range of issues to address in upland areas. Lower educational attainment and higher unemployment rates, especially among males, and lower labour force participation rates among females indicate a more traditional labour force in upland areas. This points to a need for the **local delivery of continuing adult education and re-skilling in regional employment growth sectors**.

Geographical remoteness results in a more traditional industrial structure and the need to commute to urban-based service jobs. With the majority of Irish farmers now relying on off-farm jobs or social welfare to sustain the farm household, local job creation more broadly will also benefit farming in the uplands. This highlights the importance of **supports for enterprise development, job creation and growth** in and adjacent to upland areas. It also underscores the need to reverse government cuts to LEADER funding.

The need for enterprise development and job creation is compounded by weaker ICT and public transport service provision. The digital gap has implications for the ability of upland residents to participate in an increasingly digital society and economy. Therefore, supports for economic development must be integrated with ICT supports through the roll-out of the **National Broadband Plan**³³ to deliver high-speed internet access to upland communities not served by commercial operators by the end of 2016, combined with **provision of local training in ICT and digital literacy**.

Higher rates of car dependency indicate lower rates of accessibility in upland areas, underscoring the need for **flexible local transport solutions**, as delivered through the Rural Transport Programme, to serve upland dwellers most at risk of social exclusion (e.g. persons with a disability, elderly, carers, households with no car). This, together with the fact that deprivation scores for some upland areas reveal some almost in the 'disadvantaged' class, highlights the importance of **rural proofing government policies** to maintain adequate local access to health, child care, social welfare, educational, financial and retail services for upland communities in order to prevent a downward spiral of rural decline and depopulation.

³² Funded through the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

³³ Under the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

Uplands farming is distinctive and rich in cultural and natural heritage that represent public goods of national and international significance. Multi-generational farm families are the indigenous communities that form the social fabric of a 'living countryside'³⁴. Rivers rise in upland farms, the source of vital water supplies for urban populations downstream. However, upland farms are characterised by limiting natural resources generally and the provision of public goods does not support farm incomes while conservation area designations can actually depress them. This leaves upland farmers heavily reliant on farming subsidies and off-farm income (IUF, 2010). Socio-economic conditions in upland areas also weaken the sustainability of the uplands farming sector.

The challenge is how to support a sector of the economy that is increasingly economically unviable but that creates public goods in terms of national identity, international tourism, outdoor recreation, biodiversity and water supply security. **Conservation designations represent an opportunity** to directly support farm incomes through investment in innovative upland landscape management. With upland farming requiring high levels of labour input in spite of low returns, and farmers' interest focused on the core farm enterprise rather than diversification into alternative income streams, the most suitable solution in the short-term is to provide income support to upland farms for demonstrable public goods provision and/or public access to enjoy them. This could be achieved through (1) an **agri-environment scheme** designed with an uplands focus, as called for by the IUF (2010)³⁵ and (2) a well-resourced **Walks Scheme**, with trails agreed through a community-led partnership process among stakeholders.

In terms of expanding farm diversification beyond more conventional enterprises such as forestry and agricultural contracting, Irish and international research highlights the key role of farm women and offspring as members of farm households most positively predisposed to alternatives from food processing to recreation. This calls for adopting a **farm family approach to exploring diversification options**.

The branding differentiation of farm produce through 'geographical indications' based on unique attributes of product, people and place and its association with broader regional development from tourism to art and craft enterprises signposts the role of **joined-up thinking** across a number of sectors to optimise their synergies in terms of job creation and income generation. This calls for a **community-led local development approach to integrating a values-based food supply chain from field to fork with complementary sectors** to ensure local authenticity of new products and services and local ownership of the process. Local Action Groups are best placed to animate stakeholders and facilitate the necessary partnership process through an adequately resourced and less bureaucratic RDP.

Conclusions

This profile has drawn on the Census of Population, Pobal – HP Deprivation Index and Census of Agriculture to present a largely quantitative profile of selected Irish uplands – as specified in advance by the IUF. The data presented here complement the work of Hill (2016), IUF (2010) and other qualitative analysis undertaken by the Irish Uplands Forum. Therefore, this report makes a significant contribution to an emerging, multi-dimensional and integrated picture of upland human and physical geography in Ireland. The template used in this report can be applied to other upland areas, as required by the IUF, and can be applied to previous censuses so that a longitudinal profile can be constructed. By examining change over time, and by including all uplands on the Island of Ireland, stakeholders will gain a stronger evidence-base to underpin the formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategies for upland areas.

³⁴ From the 1996 Cork Declaration at the European Conference of Rural Development (http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/cork_en.htm), accessed 29 May 2016.

³⁵ This would be funded through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

This report has highlighted many of the socio-economic and demographic features that are shared among Ireland's uplands. These include more extensive farming practices, below average levels of connectivity, more traditional industrial structures and stronger gender-based divisions of labour than is the case elsewhere. The profile also suggests a bottoming-out in population decline in most upland communities and a demographic upturn in many areas. In identifying the factors and features that bind Ireland's upland communities, this report notes commonalities between upland areas and many other parts of rural Ireland, notably coastal and island communities. Thus, in progressing the sustainable development of Ireland's uplands, the IUF has 'natural allies' in many parts of Ireland with whom it can make common cause. In general, Ireland's uplands are places of both production and consumption, and their sustainable development requires collaboration and engagement with lowland areas and with the urban dwellers who rely on the uplands for many raw materials, for water resources and for recreational purposes.

While acknowledging the many features they share, this report also notes that upland areas in Ireland are diverse. Just as it is misguided to view rural Ireland as homogenous, it would be folly to view the uplands as being 'all the same.' The profile has identified the demographic and socio-economic variability that pertain across Irish uplands. Interfaces with lowlands and with urban Ireland are more pronounced in the south and east of Ireland, and consequently the service sector is more significant here than in the north-west of the island. Uplands in the east of Ireland, and in particular those adjacent to Dublin and Belfast, share some of the features of rural lowland commuter communities, and are more challenged than are others to preserve their physical landscapes.

In identifying many of the features, opportunities and challenges that pertain in upland areas, this report notes the similarities between Ireland's uplands and those in many other European countries. Uplands are subject to the intensive and rapid processes of change associated with rural-restructuring and globalisation. Thus, all-island and transnational networking will stand upland communities and the IUF in good stead as they promote best practice and innovation. As the Hill (2016) report highlights, several of Ireland's upland communities are characterised by high levels of social capital. Volunteerism is high, and local farmers, walkers, businesses and civil society organisations have come together in a spirit of collaboration to put a value on local assets (especially the landscape) and to derive local development benefits. LEADER Local Action Groups have proven themselves to be promotive enablers and facilitators of bringing parties together, motivating participation, providing seed funding and enabling innovation to be realised. This bottom-up approach, based on partnership and recognising the distinctiveness of place, is integral to the future sustainable development of Ireland's uplands. However, it is essential that local communities not be saddled with all the responsibility or any of the bureaucracy often associated with 'doing development.' Instead, they need to be supported by the State and by statutory bodies and local government in mapping out a vision and in promoting development for the benefit of all, and in particular for future generations.

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Appendix A: Profiles of individual upland ranges

Ballyhoura

There are seven EDs in the Ballyhoura uplands that met the selection criteria, all of which are in the territory of Ballyhoura Development in south-east Limerick. The Ballyhoura uplands comprise 215 farms with farming activity across 8,108 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands ³⁶	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	12.51	16.77	67.01	75	19
Population change, 2006-2011	7.50	8.48	8.05	89	93
Youth dependency	33.15	35.23	31.87	94	104
Elderly dependency	21.32	19.96	17.42	107	122
Demographic vitality ratio	1.43	1.40	1.88	102	76
% Irish	93.36	91.72	86.78	102	108
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	5.27	6.43	8.55	82	62
% Rest of the world	0.42	1.10	3.48	38	12
% early school leavers – m	39.17	43.67	34.46	90	114
% early school leavers – f	27.96	32.97	27.01	85	104
% 3rd-level – m	16.38	16.25	22.17	101	74
% 3rd-level – f	26.54	24.35	29.32	109	91
Labour force participation rate – m	73.60	68.70	69.37	107	106
Labour force participation rate – f	52.90	50.62	55.45	105	95
Employment rate – m	62.12	51.90	53.88	120	115
Employment rate – f	47.93	43.02	47.13	111	102
Unemployment rate – m	15.60	24.46	22.32	64	70
Unemployment rate – f	9.40	15.01	15.00	63	63
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	28.75	18.37	8.43	156	341
% at work in building and construction - m	8.21	11.03	8.40	74	98
% at work in manufacturing - m	21.56	14.56	15.50	148	139
% at work in trade and commerce - m	16.02	18.84	23.94	85	67
% at work in transport & communications - m	6.98	8.46	11.34	83	62
% at work in public administration - m	2.46	5.01	6.28	49	39
% at work in professional services - m	8.21	10.14	11.94	81	69
% at work in other - m	7.80	13.58	14.17	57	55
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	6.34	2.28	1.30	278	488
% at work in building and construction - f	1.44	0.97	0.84	149	172
% at work in manufacturing - f	9.80	7.10	7.26	138	135
% at work in trade and commerce - f	24.21	23.50	26.71	103	91
% at work in transport and communications - f	1.44	3.44	4.49	42	32
% at work in public administration - f	4.90	6.31	6.32	78	78
% at work in professional services - f	40.63	38.27	36.51	106	111
% at work in other - f	11.24	18.13	16.57	62	68
% HH with PCs	67.34	69.25	72.71	97	93

³⁶ 'Uplands' is the averaged value across the 16 upland ranges considered in this report.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands ³⁶	State	% Uplands	% State
% HH with internet access	64.90	66.64	71.84	97	90
% HH no car	7.31	10.92	17.57	67	42
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	77.17	68.63	63.13	112	122
% travel to work/school by public transport	4.10	13.11	12.87	31	32
% disability	13.70	12.44	12.98	110	106
% carers	4.52	3.34	4.35	135	104
% families with children under 15	34.38	33.64	34.39	102	100
% families with children over 15	28.29	27.91	26.22	101	108
% families with children under and over 15	8.06	10.78	10.13	75	80
Families with children as % households	72.20	75.62	71.29	95	101
HP relative deprivation index	2.07	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	37.71	34.57	32.66	109	115
Average farm size (SO)	46,466	20,414	30,620	228	152
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.25	1.11	1.2	113	104
Average SO per ha	1,232.21	590.54	937.48	209	131
Average SO per AWU	37,165	18,438	25,435	202	146
% farmers <45 years	31.63	25.02	23.77	126	133
% farmers >65 years	16.28	26.66	26.19	61	62
% farms <20ha	35.35	45.19	42.19	78	84
% farms 20<50ha	39.53	37.27	39.61	106	100
% farms 50<80ha	16.74	10.48	12.03	160	139
% farms 80+ha	8.37	7.06	6.16	119	136
% farms <8 SO	31.63	47.78	42.77	66	74
% farms 8-25 SO	25.58	32.89	31.21	78	82
% farms >25 SO	42.79	19.32	26.02	221	164
% sheep farms	0.93	38.13	9.71	2	10
% beef farms	52.09	34.31	55.61	152	94
% mixed livestock farms	6.98	12.18	10.5	57	66
% dairy farms	28.84	6.7	11.2	430	258
% mixed field crops	6.05	5.99	6.87	101	88
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	150.67	91.23	126.72	165	119
LUs per 100ha grassland	165.61	134.89	153.18	123	108
% farms with woodland	10.23	10.41	11.73	98	87
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	6.05	8.29	9.2	73	66

Benwiskin

There are ten EDs in the Benwiskin uplands that met the selection criteria. Eight EDs are in the Leitrim Integrated Development Company territory in county Leitrim while two are in the area of Sligo LEADER Partnership in county Sligo³⁷. The Benwiskin uplands comprise 538 farms with farming activity across 16,773 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	10.93	16.77	67.01	65	16
Population change, 2006-2011	11.69	8.48	8.05	138	145
Youth dependency	38.60	35.23	31.87	110	121
Elderly dependency	21.63	19.96	17.42	108	124
Demographic vitality ratio	1.22	1.40	1.88	88	65
% Irish	91.64	91.72	86.78	100	106
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	7.37	6.43	8.55	115	86
% Rest of the world	0.41	1.10	3.48	38	12
% early school leavers – m	42.87	43.67	34.46	98	124
% early school leavers – f	28.56	32.97	27.01	87	106
% 3rd-level – m	15.14	16.25	22.17	93	68
% 3rd-level – f	26.20	24.35	29.32	108	89
Labour force participation rate – m	66.69	68.70	69.37	97	96
Labour force participation rate – f	54.46	50.62	55.45	108	98
Employment rate – m	51.77	51.90	53.88	100	96
Employment rate – f	46.46	43.02	47.13	108	99
Unemployment rate – m	22.37	24.46	22.32	91	100
Unemployment rate – f	14.68	15.01	15.00	98	98
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - m	20.70	18.37	8.43	113	246
% at work in building and construction - m	8.60	11.03	8.40	78	102
% at work in manufacturing - m	14.97	14.56	15.50	103	97
% at work in trade and commerce - m	15.92	18.84	23.94	85	67
% at work in transport and communications - m	6.21	8.46	11.34	73	55
% at work in public administration - m	7.64	5.01	6.28	153	122
% at work in professional services - m	12.26	10.14	11.94	121	103
% at work in other - m	13.69	13.58	14.17	101	97
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	3.44	2.28	1.30	151	265
% at work in building and construction - f	0.18	0.97	0.84	19	22
% at work in manufacturing - f	5.98	7.10	7.26	84	82
% at work in trade and commerce - f	14.67	23.50	26.71	62	55
% at work in transport and communications - f	2.36	3.44	4.49	68	52
% at work in public administration - f	9.60	6.31	6.32	152	152
% at work in professional services - f	44.20	38.27	36.51	116	121
% at work in other - f	19.57	18.13	16.57	108	118
% HH with PCs	64.97	69.25	72.71	94	89

³⁷ The relevant Local Action Groups were determined using the Local Development Company boundaries in Pobal Maps, with the exception of Ballyhoura.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% HH with internet access	60.62	66.64	71.84	91	84
% HH no car	11.04	10.92	17.57	101	63
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	69.23	68.63	63.13	101	110
% travel to work/school by public transport	15.83	13.11	12.87	121	123
% disability	12.46	12.44	12.98	100	96
% carers	5.11	3.34	4.35	153	117
% families with children under 15	35.65	33.64	34.39	106	104
% families with children over 15	24.01	27.91	26.22	86	92
% families with children under and over 15	10.44	10.78	10.13	97	103
Families with children as % households	69.47	75.62	71.29	92	97
HP relative deprivation index	-1.74	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	31.18	34.57	32.66	90	95
Average farm size (SO)	11,255	20,414	30,620	55	37
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.1	1.11	1.2	99	92
Average SO per ha	361	590.54	937.48	61	39
Average SO per AWU	10,245	18,438	25,435	56	40
% farmers <45 years	24.72	25.02	23.77	99	104
% farmers >65 years	22.86	26.66	26.19	86	87
% farms <20ha	44.8	45.19	42.19	99	106
% farms 20<50ha	37.55	37.27	39.61	101	95
% farms 50<80ha	12.27	10.48	12.03	117	102
% farms 80+ha	5.39	7.06	6.16	76	88
% farms <8 SO	56.69	47.78	42.77	119	133
% farms 8-25 SO	34.2	32.89	31.21	104	110
% farms >25 SO	9.11	19.32	26.02	47	35
% sheep farms	52.23	38.13	9.71	137	538
% beef farms	30.48	34.31	55.61	89	55
% mixed livestock farms	11.71	12.18	10.5	96	112
% dairy farms	0	6.7	11.2	0	0
% mixed field crops	5.58	5.99	6.87	93	81
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	66.75	91.23	126.72	73	53
LUs per 100ha grassland	87.13	134.89	153.18	65	57
% farms with woodland	8.36	10.41	11.73	80	71
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	6.69	8.29	9.2	81	73

Blackstairs

There are three EDs in the Blackstairs uplands that met the selection criteria: two EDs in the Carlow County Development Partnership territory in county Carlow and one in the area of Wexford Local Development in county Wexford. The Blackstairs uplands comprise 163 farms with farming activity across 5,391 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	19.14	16.77	67.01	114	29
Population change, 2006-2011	4.50	8.48	8.05	53	56
Youth dependency	29.66	35.23	31.87	84	93
Elderly dependency	20.75	19.96	17.42	104	119
Demographic vitality ratio	1.33	1.40	1.88	95	71
% Irish	93.43	91.72	86.78	102	108
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	5.15	6.43	8.55	80	60
% Rest of the world	0.54	1.10	3.48	49	16
% early school leavers – m	50.54	43.67	34.46	116	147
% early school leavers – f	34.01	32.97	27.01	103	126
% 3rd-level – m	9.06	16.25	22.17	56	41
% 3rd-level – f	20.37	24.35	29.32	84	69
Labour force participation rate – m	68.98	68.70	69.37	100	99
Labour force participation rate – f	53.05	50.62	55.45	105	96
Employment rate – m	54.96	51.90	53.88	106	102
Employment rate – f	46.24	43.02	47.13	107	98
Unemployment rate – m	20.32	24.46	22.32	83	91
Unemployment rate – f	12.84	15.01	15.00	86	86
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	29.80	18.37	8.43	162	353
% at work in building and construction - m	8.31	11.03	8.40	75	99
% at work in manufacturing - m	14.04	14.56	15.50	96	91
% at work in trade and commerce - m	19.20	18.84	23.94	102	80
% at work in transport & communications - m	5.16	8.46	11.34	61	45
% at work in public administration - m	3.72	5.01	6.28	74	59
% at work in professional services - m	7.16	10.14	11.94	71	60
% at work in other - m	12.61	13.58	14.17	93	89
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	3.49	2.28	1.30	153	268
% at work in building and construction - f	0.39	0.97	0.84	40	46
% at work in manufacturing - f	6.20	7.10	7.26	87	85
% at work in trade and commerce - f	24.03	23.50	26.71	102	90
% at work in transport and communications - f	1.16	3.44	4.49	34	26
% at work in public administration - f	7.75	6.31	6.32	123	123
% at work in professional services - f	41.47	38.27	36.51	108	114
% at work in other - f	15.50	18.13	16.57	86	94
% HH with PCs	64.17	69.25	72.71	93	88
% HH with internet access	61.22	66.64	71.84	92	85
% HH no car	8.66	10.92	17.57	79	49

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	66.48	68.63	63.13	97	105
% travel to work/school by public transport	13.65	13.11	12.87	104	106
% disability	11.44	12.44	12.98	92	88
% carers	3.96	3.34	4.35	118	91
% families with children under 15	30.30	33.64	34.39	90	88
% families with children over 15	35.10	27.91	26.22	126	134
% families with children under and over 15	10.35	10.78	10.13	96	102
Families with children as % households	77.50	75.62	71.29	102	109
HP relative deprivation index	-3.25	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	33.07	34.57	32.66	96	101
Average farm size (SO)	33,920	20,414	30,620	166	111
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.34	1.11	1.20	121	112
Average SO per ha	1,025.60	590.54	937.48	174	109
Average SO per AWU	25,266	18,438	25,435	137	99
% farmers <45 years	22.70	25.02	23.77	91	95
% farmers >65 years	26.38	26.66	26.19	99	101
% farms <20ha	36.20	45.19	42.19	80	86
% farms 20<50ha	46.63	37.27	39.61	125	118
% farms 50<80ha	11.66	10.48	12.03	111	97
% farms 80+ha	5.52	7.06	6.16	78	90
% farms <8 SO	29.45	47.78	42.77	62	69
% farms 8-25 SO	33.13	32.89	31.21	101	106
% farms >25 SO	37.42	19.32	26.02	194	144
% sheep farms	17.79	38.13	9.71	47	183
% beef farms	39.26	34.31	55.61	114	71
% mixed livestock farms	19.02	12.18	10.50	156	181
% dairy farms	11.66	6.70	11.20	174	104
% mixed field crops	4.29	5.99	6.87	72	62
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	152.93	91.23	126.72	168	121
LUs per 100ha grassland	185.38	134.89	153.18	137	121
% farms with woodland	10.43	10.41	11.73	100	89
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	7.36	8.29	9.20	89	80

Bluestack Drimarone

There are nine EDs in the Bluestack Drimarone uplands that met the selection criteria: eight EDs in the Donegal Gaeltacht territory where Údarás na Gaeltachta delivers the RDP 2014-2020³⁸ and one in the area of Donegal Local Development Company in county Donegal. The Bluestack Drimarone uplands comprise 770 farms with farming activity across 32,137 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	7.30	16.77	67.01	44	11
Population change, 2006-2011	4.89	8.48	8.05	58	61
Youth dependency	35.54	35.23	31.87	101	112
Elderly dependency	30.11	19.96	17.42	151	173
Demographic vitality ratio	0.95	1.40	1.88	68	51
% Irish	92.48	91.72	86.78	101	107
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	6.13	6.43	8.55	95	72
% Rest of the world	0.61	1.10	3.48	56	18
% early school leavers – m	54.53	43.67	34.46	125	158
% early school leavers – f	42.80	32.97	27.01	130	158
% 3rd-level – m	11.28	16.25	22.17	69	51
% 3rd-level – f	18.46	24.35	29.32	76	63
Labour force participation rate – m	63.08	68.70	69.37	92	91
Labour force participation rate – f	47.76	50.62	55.45	94	86
Employment rate – m	44.97	51.90	53.88	87	83
Employment rate – f	39.45	43.02	47.13	92	84
Unemployment rate – m	28.70	24.46	22.32	117	129
Unemployment rate – f	17.41	15.01	15.00	116	116
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	22.88	18.37	8.43	125	271
% at work in building and construction - m	10.07	11.03	8.40	91	120
% at work in manufacturing - m	14.12	14.56	15.50	97	91
% at work in trade and commerce - m	16.08	18.84	23.94	85	67
% at work in transport & communications - m	7.32	8.46	11.34	87	65
% at work in public administration - m	6.93	5.01	6.28	138	110
% at work in professional services - m	10.59	10.14	11.94	104	89
% at work in other - m	12.03	13.58	14.17	89	85
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	2.72	2.28	1.30	119	209
% at work in building and construction - f	1.12	0.97	0.84	115	133
% at work in manufacturing - f	5.11	7.10	7.26	72	70
% at work in trade and commerce - f	19.97	23.50	26.71	85	75
% at work in transport and communications - f	2.72	3.44	4.49	79	60
% at work in public administration - f	10.86	6.31	6.32	172	172
% at work in professional services - f	39.46	38.27	36.51	103	108
% at work in other - f	18.05	18.13	16.57	100	109

³⁸ Formerly delivered by Meitheal Forbatha na Gaeltachta Teo.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% HH with PCs	57.71	69.25	72.71	83	79
% HH with internet access	57.17	66.64	71.84	86	80
% HH no car	14.68	10.92	17.57	134	84
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	65.87	68.63	63.13	96	104
% travel to work/school by public transport	16.09	13.11	12.87	123	125
% disability	13.83	12.44	12.98	111	107
% carers	5.03	3.34	4.35	151	116
% families with children under 15	30.01	33.64	34.39	89	87
% families with children over 15	32.19	27.91	26.22	115	123
% families with children under and over 15	9.88	10.78	10.13	92	97
Families with children as % households	70.58	75.62	71.29	93	99
HP relative deprivation index	-8.64	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	41.74	34.57	32.66	121	128
Average farm size (SO)	8,541	20,414	30,620	42	28
Average farm labour input (AWU)	0.86	1.11	1.20	77	72
Average SO per ha	174.96	590.54	937.48	30	19
Average SO per AWU	8,461	18,438	25,435	46	33
% farmers <45 years	25.19	25.02	23.77	101	106
% farmers >65 years	32.08	26.66	26.19	120	122
% farms <20ha	34.29	45.19	42.19	76	81
% farms 20<50ha	40.91	37.27	39.61	110	103
% farms 50<80ha	16.23	10.48	12.03	155	135
% farms 80+ha	8.57	7.06	6.16	121	139
% farms <8 SO	69.87	47.78	42.77	146	163
% farms 8-25 SO	27.92	32.89	31.21	85	89
% farms >25 SO	2.21	19.32	26.02	11	8
% sheep farms	66.75	38.13	9.71	175	687
% beef farms	16.49	34.31	55.61	48	30
% mixed livestock farms	9.87	12.18	10.50	81	94
% dairy farms	0.00	6.70	11.20	0	0
% mixed field crops	6.49	5.99	6.87	108	94
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	30.75	91.23	126.72	34	24
LUs per 100ha grassland	71.09	134.89	153.18	53	46
% farms with woodland	5.97	10.41	11.73	57	51
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	4.81	8.29	9.2	58	52

Cooley Mountains

There are six EDs in the Cooley Mountains, county Louth that met the selection criteria, all in the Louth LEADER Partnership territory. The Cooley Mountains comprise 299 farms with farming activity across 6,136 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	60.05	16.77	67.01	358	90
Population change, 2006-2011	17.44	8.48	8.05	206	217
Youth dependency	39.08	35.23	31.87	111	123
Elderly dependency	18.59	19.96	17.42	93	107
Demographic vitality ratio	1.57	1.40	1.88	113	84
% Irish	93.92	91.72	86.78	102	108
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	4.11	6.43	8.55	64	48
% Rest of the world	0.94	1.10	3.48	86	27
% early school leavers – m	36.43	43.67	34.46	83	106
% early school leavers – f	30.21	32.97	27.01	92	112
% 3rd-level – m	18.29	16.25	22.17	113	83
% 3rd-level – f	24.52	24.35	29.32	101	84
Labour force participation rate – m	70.27	68.70	69.37	102	101
Labour force participation rate – f	52.00	50.62	55.45	103	94
Employment rate – m	53.59	51.90	53.88	103	99
Employment rate – f	43.08	43.02	47.13	100	91
Unemployment rate – m	23.73	24.46	22.32	97	106
Unemployment rate – f	17.16	15.01	15.00	114	114
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	7.09	18.37	8.43	39	84
% at work in building and construction - m	9.02	11.03	8.40	82	107
% at work in manufacturing - m	17.59	14.56	15.50	121	113
% at work in trade and commerce - m	23.07	18.84	23.94	122	96
% at work in transport & communications - m	14.56	8.46	11.34	172	128
% at work in public administration - m	5.54	5.01	6.28	111	88
% at work in professional services - m	9.02	10.14	11.94	89	76
% at work in other - m	14.11	13.58	14.17	104	100
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	0.71	2.28	1.30	31	55
% at work in building and construction - f	0.63	0.97	0.84	65	75
% at work in manufacturing - f	7.17	7.10	7.26	101	99
% at work in trade and commerce - f	26.46	23.50	26.71	113	99
% at work in transport and communications - f	4.41	3.44	4.49	128	98
% at work in public administration - f	8.58	6.31	6.32	136	136
% at work in professional services - f	32.28	38.27	36.51	84	88
% at work in other - f	19.76	18.13	16.57	109	119
% HH with PCs	75.29	69.25	72.71	109	104
% HH with internet access	73.14	66.64	71.84	110	102
% HH no car	9.33	10.92	17.57	85	53

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	77.31	68.63	63.13	113	122
% travel to work/school by public transport	8.08	13.11	12.87	62	63
% disability	10.94	12.44	12.98	88	84
% carers	4.88	3.34	4.35	146	112
% families with children under 15	38.86	33.64	34.39	115	113
% families with children over 15	27.30	27.91	26.22	98	104
% families with children under and over 15	9.94	10.78	10.13	92	98
Families with children as % households	77.48	75.62	71.29	102	109
HP relative deprivation index	-1.39	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	20.52	34.57	32.66	59	63
Average farm size (SO)	17,299	20,414	30,620	85	56
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.02	1.11	1.20	92	85
Average SO per ha	842.93	590.54	937.48	143	90
Average SO per AWU	16,918	18,438	25,435	92	67
% farmers <45 years	24.08	25.02	23.77	96	101
% farmers >65 years	30.77	26.66	26.19	115	117
% farms <20ha	65.89	45.19	42.19	146	156
% farms 20<50ha	25.75	37.27	39.61	69	65
% farms 50<80ha	5.69	10.48	12.03	54	47
% farms 80+ha	2.68	7.06	6.16	38	44
% farms <8 SO	51.51	47.78	42.77	108	120
% farms 8-25 SO	29.77	32.89	31.21	91	95
% farms >25 SO	18.73	19.32	26.02	97	72
% sheep farms	32.78	38.13	9.71	86	338
% beef farms	31.10	34.31	55.61	91	56
% mixed livestock farms	14.72	12.18	10.50	121	140
% dairy farms	2.34	6.70	11.20	35	21
% mixed field crops	8.36	5.99	6.87	140	122
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	117.28	91.23	126.72	129	93
LUs per 100ha grassland	155.85	134.89	153.18	116	102
% farms with woodland	3.68	10.41	11.73	35	31
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	4.01	8.29	9.20	48	44

Dublin - Wicklow

There are 12 EDs in the Dublin Wicklow uplands that met the selection criteria: nine EDs in the County Wicklow Community Partnership territory in county Wicklow and three in south county Dublin (two in Southside Partnership DLR and one in Dodder Valley Partnership). Glencullen ED in the Southside Partnership area was excluded from the general socio-economic analysis due to its high population density; it was not excluded from the farming analysis. The Dublin Wicklow uplands comprise 381 farms with farming activity across 13,839 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	34.40	16.77	67.01	205	51
Population change, 2006-2011	6.46	8.48	8.05	76	80
Youth dependency	35.84	35.23	31.87	102	112
Elderly dependency	15.81	19.96	17.42	79	91
Demographic vitality ratio	1.90	1.40	1.88	136	101
% Irish	90.16	91.72	86.78	98	104
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	7.26	6.43	8.55	113	85
% Rest of the world	1.95	1.10	3.48	178	56
% early school leavers – m	31.62	43.67	34.46	72	92
% early school leavers – f	27.64	32.97	27.01	84	102
% 3rd-level – m	24.20	16.25	22.17	149	109
% 3rd-level – f	28.14	24.35	29.32	116	96
Labour force participation rate – m	72.24	68.70	69.37	105	104
Labour force participation rate – f	53.60	50.62	55.45	106	97
Employment rate – m	57.98	51.90	53.88	112	108
Employment rate – f	46.63	43.02	47.13	108	99
Unemployment rate – m	19.74	24.46	22.32	81	88
Unemployment rate – f	13.01	15.01	15.00	87	87
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	4.33	18.37	8.43	24	51
% at work in building and construction - m	11.63	11.03	8.40	105	138
% at work in manufacturing - m	15.10	14.56	15.50	104	97
% at work in trade and commerce - m	26.46	18.84	23.94	140	111
% at work in transport & communications - m	12.02	8.46	11.34	142	106
% at work in public administration - m	5.41	5.01	6.28	108	86
% at work in professional services - m	11.00	10.14	11.94	109	92
% at work in other - m	14.05	13.58	14.17	103	99
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	0.69	2.28	1.30	30	53
% at work in building and construction - f	1.37	0.97	0.84	142	164
% at work in manufacturing - f	8.87	7.10	7.26	125	122
% at work in trade and commerce - f	28.98	23.50	26.71	123	109
% at work in transport and communications - f	5.43	3.44	4.49	158	121
% at work in public administration - f	5.12	6.31	6.32	81	81
% at work in professional services - f	33.07	38.27	36.51	86	91
% at work in other - f	16.46	18.13	16.57	91	99

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% HH with PCs	81.69	69.25	72.71	118	112
% HH with internet access	80.15	66.64	71.84	120	112
% HH no car	7.83	10.92	17.57	72	45
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	70.68	68.63	63.13	103	112
% travel to work/school by public transport	12.17	13.11	12.87	93	95
% disability	11.83	12.44	12.98	95	91
% carers	3.92	3.34	4.35	117	90
% families with children under 15	36.63	33.64	34.39	109	107
% families with children over 15	26.56	27.91	26.22	95	101
% families with children under and over 15	10.35	10.78	10.13	96	102
Families with children as % households	81.19	75.62	71.29	107	114
HP relative deprivation index	2.70	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	36.32	34.57	32.66	105	111
Average farm size (SO)	20,750	20,414	30,620	102	68
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.14	1.11	1.20	103	95
Average SO per ha	571.25	590.54	937.48	97	61
Average SO per AWU	18,246	18,438	25,435	99	72
% farmers <45 years	21.26	25.02	23.77	85	89
% farmers >65 years	34.12	26.66	26.19	128	130
% farms <20ha	55.64	45.19	42.19	123	132
% farms 20<50ha	25.20	37.27	39.61	68	64
% farms 50<80ha	8.92	10.48	12.03	85	74
% farms 80+ha	10.24	7.06	6.16	145	166
% farms <8 SO	50.39	47.78	42.77	105	118
% farms 8-25 SO	29.66	32.89	31.21	90	95
% farms >25 SO	19.95	19.32	26.02	103	77
% sheep farms	45.14	38.13	9.71	118	465
% beef farms	21.52	34.31	55.61	63	39
% mixed livestock farms	19.69	12.18	10.50	162	188
% dairy farms	1.84	6.70	11.20	27	16
% mixed field crops	8.92	5.99	6.87	149	130
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	89.93	91.23	126.72	99	71
LUs per 100ha grassland	121.93	134.89	153.18	90	80
% farms with woodland	11.81	10.41	11.73	113	101
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	12.86	8.29	9.20	155	140

Galtee

There are 12 EDs in the Galtee uplands that met the selection criteria: eight EDs in the South Tipperary Development Company territory in county Tipperary and four in county Limerick, in the area of Ballyhoura Development. The Galtee uplands comprise 598 farms with farming activity across 18,391 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	18.50	16.77	67.01	110	28
Population change, 2006-2011	5.73	8.48	8.05	68	71
Youth dependency	32.08	35.23	31.87	91	101
Elderly dependency	20.30	19.96	17.42	102	117
Demographic vitality ratio	1.26	1.40	1.88	90	67
% Irish	90.46	91.72	86.78	99	104
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	7.62	6.43	8.55	119	89
% Rest of the world	1.22	1.10	3.48	111	35
% early school leavers – m	41.38	43.67	34.46	95	120
% early school leavers – f	31.41	32.97	27.01	95	116
% 3rd-level – m	12.91	16.25	22.17	79	58
% 3rd-level – f	21.53	24.35	29.32	88	73
Labour force participation rate – m	70.04	68.70	69.37	102	101
Labour force participation rate – f	52.08	50.62	55.45	103	94
Employment rate – m	55.61	51.90	53.88	107	103
Employment rate – f	45.01	43.02	47.13	105	95
Unemployment rate – m	20.59	24.46	22.32	84	92
Unemployment rate – f	13.59	15.01	15.00	91	91
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	25.82	18.37	8.43	141	306
% at work in building and construction - m	9.60	11.03	8.40	87	114
% at work in manufacturing - m	20.93	14.56	15.50	144	135
% at work in trade and commerce - m	16.96	18.84	23.94	90	71
% at work in transport & communications - m	5.98	8.46	11.34	71	53
% at work in public administration - m	3.85	5.01	6.28	77	61
% at work in professional services - m	7.30	10.14	11.94	72	61
% at work in other - m	9.55	13.58	14.17	70	67
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	4.85	2.28	1.30	212	373
% at work in building and construction - f	0.88	0.97	0.84	91	105
% at work in manufacturing - f	10.43	7.10	7.26	147	144
% at work in trade and commerce - f	24.76	23.50	26.71	105	93
% at work in transport and communications - f	2.20	3.44	4.49	64	49
% at work in public administration - f	5.58	6.31	6.32	89	88
% at work in professional services - f	37.91	38.27	36.51	99	104
% at work in other - f	13.37	18.13	16.57	74	81
% HH with PCs	65.45	69.25	72.71	95	90
% HH with internet access	61.63	66.64	71.84	92	86
% HH no car	11.78	10.92	17.57	108	67

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	70.84	68.63	63.13	103	112
% travel to work/school by public transport	9.83	13.11	12.87	75	76
% disability	13.82	12.44	12.98	111	106
% carers	4.74	3.34	4.35	142	109
% families with children under 15	30.89	33.64	34.39	92	90
% families with children over 15	28.18	27.91	26.22	101	107
% families with children under and over 15	10.42	10.78	10.13	97	103
Families with children as % households	73.82	75.62	71.29	98	104
HP relative deprivation index	-3.00	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	30.75	34.57	32.66	89	94
Average farm size (SO)	41,363	20,414	30,620	203	135
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.24	1.11	1.20	112	103
Average SO per ha	1,344.96	590.54	937.48	228	143
Average SO per AWU	33,286	18,438	25,435	181	131
% farmers <45 years	26.59	25.02	23.77	106	112
% farmers >65 years	18.90	26.66	26.19	71	72
% farms <20ha	37.79	45.19	42.19	84	90
% farms 20<50ha	46.99	37.27	39.61	126	119
% farms 50<80ha	10.54	10.48	12.03	101	88
% farms 80+ha	4.68	7.06	6.16	66	76
% farms <8 SO	30.43	47.78	42.77	64	71
% farms 8-25 SO	28.93	32.89	31.21	88	93
% farms >25 SO	40.64	19.32	26.02	210	156
% sheep farms	11.54	38.13	9.71	30	119
% beef farms	46.32	34.31	55.61	135	83
% mixed livestock farms	8.70	12.18	10.5	71	83
% dairy farms	22.58	6.7	11.2	337	202
% mixed field crops	5.35	5.99	6.87	89	78
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	189.70	91.23	126.72	208	150
LUs per 100ha grassland	212.06	134.89	153.18	157	138
% farms with woodland	12.88	10.41	11.73	124	110
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	11.20	8.29	9.2	135	122

Inishowen

There are 16 EDs in the Inishowen uplands that met the selection criteria, all in the Inishowen Development Partnership territory in county Donegal. The Inishowen uplands comprise 1,150 farms with farming activity across 25,442 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	34.61	16.77	67.01	206	52
Population change, 2006-2011	11.44	8.48	8.05	135	142
Youth dependency	39.75	35.23	31.87	113	125
Elderly dependency	20.72	19.96	17.42	104	119
Demographic vitality ratio	1.39	1.40	1.88	99	74
% Irish	93.09	91.72	86.78	101	107
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	5.57	6.43	8.55	87	65
% Rest of the world	0.64	1.10	3.48	58	18
% early school leavers – m	57.24	43.67	34.46	131	166
% early school leavers – f	43.97	32.97	27.01	133	163
% 3rd-level – m	11.95	16.25	22.17	74	54
% 3rd-level – f	20.81	24.35	29.32	85	71
Labour force participation rate – m	66.89	68.70	69.37	97	96
Labour force participation rate – f	45.38	50.62	55.45	90	82
Employment rate – m	41.10	51.90	53.88	79	76
Employment rate – f	35.77	43.02	47.13	83	76
Unemployment rate – m	38.55	24.46	22.32	158	173
Unemployment rate – f	21.17	15.01	15.00	141	141
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	19.89	18.37	8.43	108	236
% at work in building and construction - m	15.30	11.03	8.40	139	182
% at work in manufacturing - m	10.71	14.56	15.50	74	69
% at work in trade and commerce - m	16.60	18.84	23.94	88	69
% at work in transport & communications - m	8.06	8.46	11.34	95	71
% at work in public administration - m	4.29	5.01	6.28	86	68
% at work in professional services - m	11.72	10.14	11.94	116	98
% at work in other - m	13.43	13.58	14.17	99	95
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	1.52	2.28	1.30	67	117
% at work in building and construction - f	1.10	0.97	0.84	114	131
% at work in manufacturing - f	3.55	7.10	7.26	50	49
% at work in trade and commerce - f	22.00	23.50	26.71	94	82
% at work in transport and communications - f	2.62	3.44	4.49	76	58
% at work in public administration - f	5.50	6.31	6.32	87	87
% at work in professional services - f	43.91	38.27	36.51	115	120
% at work in other - f	19.80	18.13	16.57	109	119
% HH with PCs	64.95	69.25	72.71	94	89
% HH with internet access	62.00	66.64	71.84	93	86
% HH no car	14.51	10.92	17.57	133	83

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	63.67	68.63	63.13	93	101
% travel to work/school by public transport	19.83	13.11	12.87	151	154
% disability	12.92	12.44	12.98	104	100
% carers	4.51	3.34	4.35	135	104
% families with children under 15	34.02	33.64	34.39	101	99
% families with children over 15	27.44	27.91	26.22	98	105
% families with children under and over 15	11.91	10.78	10.13	110	118
Families with children as % households	73.49	75.62	71.29	97	103
HP relative deprivation index	-9.45	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	22.12	34.57	32.66	64	68
Average farm size (SO)	11,543	20,414	30,620	57	38
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.05	1.11	1.20	95	88
Average SO per ha	521.77	590.54	937.48	88	56
Average SO per AWU	10,980	18,438	25,435	60	43
% farmers <45 years	22.78	25.02	23.77	91	96
% farmers >65 years	30.43	26.66	26.19	114	116
% farms <20ha	61.39	45.19	42.19	136	146
% farms 20<50ha	39.06	37.27	39.61	105	99
% farms 50<80ha	4.43	10.48	12.03	42	37
% farms 80+ha	3.22	7.06	6.16	46	52
% farms <8 SO	59.83	47.78	42.77	125	140
% farms 8-25 SO	31.65	32.89	31.21	96	101
% farms >25 SO	8.52	19.32	26.02	44	33
% sheep farms	41.39	38.13	9.71	109	426
% beef farms	33.48	34.31	55.61	98	60
% mixed livestock farms	16.09	12.18	10.50	132	153
% dairy farms	0.78	6.70	11.20	12	7
% mixed field crops	6.00	5.99	6.87	100	87
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	95.64	91.23	126.72	105	75
LUs per 100ha grassland	138.37	134.89	153.18	103	90
% farms with woodland	10.87	10.41	11.73	104	93
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	5.83	8.29	9.20	70	63

Leenane

There are seven EDs in the Leenane uplands that met the selection criteria, four in the Galway Gaeltacht under the responsibility of Comhar na nOileán Teo and three in the Forum Connemara territory in county Galway. The Leenane uplands comprise 356 farms with farming activity across 17,365 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	7.36	16.77	67.01	44	11
Population change, 2006-2011	8.47	8.48	8.05	100	105
Youth dependency	23.44	35.23	31.87	67	74
Elderly dependency	20.64	19.96	17.42	103	118
Demographic vitality ratio	1.35	1.40	1.88	97	72
% Irish	89.71	91.72	86.78	98	103
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	7.85	6.43	8.55	122	92
% Rest of the world	1.65	1.10	3.48	150	47
% early school leavers – m	44.40	43.67	34.46	102	129
% early school leavers – f	27.50	32.97	27.01	83	102
% 3rd-level – m	18.89	16.25	22.17	116	85
% 3rd-level – f	31.34	24.35	29.32	129	107
Labour force participation rate – m	63.15	68.70	69.37	92	91
Labour force participation rate – f	52.21	50.62	55.45	103	94
Employment rate – m	46.15	51.90	53.88	89	86
Employment rate – f	44.33	43.02	47.13	103	94
Unemployment rate – m	26.92	24.46	22.32	110	121
Unemployment rate – f	15.09	15.01	15.00	101	101
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	15.67	18.37	8.43	85	186
% at work in building and construction - m	9.00	11.03	8.40	82	107
% at work in manufacturing - m	8.00	14.56	15.50	55	52
% at work in trade and commerce - m	15.83	18.84	23.94	84	66
% at work in transport & communications - m	7.17	8.46	11.34	85	63
% at work in public administration - m	5.17	5.01	6.28	103	82
% at work in professional services - m	14.17	10.14	11.94	140	119
% at work in other - m	25.00	13.58	14.17	184	176
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	2.34	2.28	1.30	103	180
% at work in building and construction - f	0.59	0.97	0.84	60	70
% at work in manufacturing - f	3.32	7.10	7.26	47	46
% at work in trade and commerce - f	18.55	23.50	26.71	79	69
% at work in transport and communications - f	4.49	3.44	4.49	130	100
% at work in public administration - f	3.71	6.31	6.32	59	59
% at work in professional services - f	37.30	38.27	36.51	97	102
% at work in other - f	29.69	18.13	16.57	164	179
% HH with PCs	62.61	69.25	72.71	90	86
% HH with internet access	61.75	66.64	71.84	93	86
% HH no car	14.10	10.92	17.57	129	80

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	62.62	68.63	63.13	91	99
% travel to work/school by public transport	12.20	13.11	12.87	93	95
% disability	11.22	12.44	12.98	90	86
% carers	5.00	3.34	4.35	150	115
% families with children under 15	30.19	33.64	34.39	90	88
% families with children over 15	28.43	27.91	26.22	102	108
% families with children under and over 15	10.22	10.78	10.13	95	101
Families with children as % households	65.76	75.62	71.29	87	92
HP relative deprivation index	-0.75	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	48.78	34.57	32.66	141	149
Average farm size (SO)	9,714	20,414	30,620	48	32
Average farm labour input (AWU)	0.99	1.11	1.20	89	83
Average SO per ha	199.15	590.54	937.48	34	21
Average SO per AWU	9,829	18,438	25,435	53	39
% farmers <45 years	16.01	25.02	23.77	64	67
% farmers >65 years	32.02	26.66	26.19	120	122
% farms <20ha	61.52	45.19	42.19	136	146
% farms 20<50ha	20.51	37.27	39.61	55	52
% farms 50<80ha	6.46	10.48	12.03	62	54
% farms 80+ha	11.52	7.06	6.16	163	187
% farms <8 SO	66.01	47.78	42.77	138	154
% farms 8-25 SO	27.25	32.89	31.21	83	87
% farms >25 SO	6.74	19.32	26.02	35	26
% sheep farms	55.34	38.13	9.71	145	570
% beef farms	31.46	34.31	55.61	92	57
% mixed livestock farms	7.87	12.18	10.50	65	75
% dairy farms	0.00	6.70	11.20	0	0
% mixed field crops	5.34	5.99	6.87	89	78
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	33.30	91.23	126.72	37	26
LUs per 100ha grassland	76.34	134.89	153.18	57	50
% farms with woodland	5.34	10.41	11.73	51	46
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	7.87	8.29	9.20	95	86

Lough Talt

There are seven EDs in the Lough Talt uplands of county Sligo that met the selection criteria, all of them in the Sligo LEADER Partnership territory. The Lough Talt uplands comprise 303 farms with farming activity across 13,405 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	4.99	16.77	67.01	30	7
Population change, 2006-2011	7.80	8.48	8.05	92	97
Youth dependency	30.57	35.23	31.87	87	96
Elderly dependency	21.97	19.96	17.42	110	126
Demographic vitality ratio	0.94	1.40	1.88	67	50
% Irish	92.41	91.72	86.78	101	106
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	6.75	6.43	8.55	105	79
% Rest of the world	0.35	1.10	3.48	32	10
% early school leavers – m	46.23	43.67	34.46	106	134
% early school leavers – f	30.33	32.97	27.01	92	112
% 3rd-level – m	12.63	16.25	22.17	78	57
% 3rd-level – f	22.75	24.35	29.32	93	78
Labour force participation rate – m	66.15	68.70	69.37	96	95
Labour force participation rate – f	51.50	50.62	55.45	102	93
Employment rate – m	52.92	51.90	53.88	102	98
Employment rate – f	44.09	43.02	47.13	102	94
Unemployment rate – m	20.00	24.46	22.32	82	90
Unemployment rate – f	14.38	15.01	15.00	96	96
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	38.31	18.37	8.43	209	454
% at work in building and construction - m	7.47	11.03	8.40	68	89
% at work in manufacturing - m	13.31	14.56	15.50	91	86
% at work in trade and commerce - m	11.69	18.84	23.94	62	49
% at work in transport & communications - m	5.19	8.46	11.34	61	46
% at work in public administration - m	5.52	5.01	6.28	110	88
% at work in professional services - m	9.09	10.14	11.94	90	76
% at work in other - m	9.42	13.58	14.17	69	66
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	4.00	2.28	1.30	175	308
% at work in building and construction - f	0.80	0.97	0.84	83	95
% at work in manufacturing - f	12.00	7.10	7.26	169	165
% at work in trade and commerce - f	20.80	23.50	26.71	88	78
% at work in transport and communications - f	2.00	3.44	4.49	58	45
% at work in public administration - f	9.20	6.31	6.32	146	146
% at work in professional services - f	41.60	38.27	36.51	109	114
% at work in other - f	9.60	18.13	16.57	53	58
% HH with PCs	64.84	69.25	72.71	94	89
% HH with internet access	57.23	66.64	71.84	86	80
% HH no car	12.70	10.92	17.57	116	72

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	60.28	68.63	63.13	88	95
% travel to work/school by public transport	18.03	13.11	12.87	137	140
% disability	13.36	12.44	12.98	107	103
% carers	6.88	3.34	4.35	206	158
% families with children under 15	25.80	33.64	34.39	77	75
% families with children over 15	36.97	27.91	26.22	132	141
% families with children under and over 15	11.17	10.78	10.13	104	110
Families with children as % households	72.45	75.62	71.29	96	102
HP relative deprivation index	-2.00	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	44.24	34.57	32.66	128	135
Average farm size (SO)	15,615	20,414	30,620	76	51
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.16	1.11	1.20	105	97
Average SO per ha	352.96	590.54	937.48	60	38
Average SO per AWU	13,443	18,438	25,435	73	53
% farmers <45 years	22.77	25.02	23.77	91	96
% farmers >65 years	21.45	26.66	26.19	80	82
% farms <20ha	32.34	45.19	42.19	72	77
% farms 20<50ha	44.88	37.27	39.61	120	113
% farms 50<80ha	13.20	10.48	12.03	126	110
% farms 80+ha	9.57	7.06	6.16	136	155
% farms <8 SO	44.55	47.78	42.77	93	104
% farms 8-25 SO	42.57	32.89	31.21	129	136
% farms >25 SO	12.87	19.32	26.02	67	49
% sheep farms	35.64	38.13	9.71	93	367
% beef farms	41.58	34.31	55.61	121	75
% mixed livestock farms	14.85	12.18	10.50	122	141
% dairy farms	2.31	6.70	11.20	34	21
% mixed field crops	4.62	5.99	6.87	77	67
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	63.16	91.23	126.72	69	50
LUs per 100ha grassland	99.77	134.89	153.18	74	65
% farms with woodland	13.53	10.41	11.73	130	115
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	8.91	8.29	9.20	107	97

McGillycuddy Reeks

There are seven EDs in the McGillycuddy Reeks uplands of county Kerry that met the selection criteria, all of them in the South Kerry Development Partnership territory. The McGillycuddy Reeks uplands comprise 324 farms with farming activity across 19,271 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	8.56	16.77	67.01	51	13
Population change, 2006-2011	-0.5	8.48	8.05	n/a	n/a
Youth dependency	32.51	35.23	31.87	92	102
Elderly dependency	20.99	19.96	17.42	105	120
Demographic vitality ratio	1.25	1.40	1.88	89	66
% Irish	89.27	91.72	86.78	97	103
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	8.13	6.43	8.55	127	95
% Rest of the world	1.45	1.10	3.48	132	42
% early school leavers – m	40	43.67	34.46	92	116
% early school leavers – f	30.08	32.97	27.01	91	111
% 3rd-level – m	17.92	16.25	22.17	110	81
% 3rd-level – f	27.44	24.35	29.32	113	94
Labour force participation rate – m	69.62	68.70	69.37	101	100
Labour force participation rate – f	54.03	50.62	55.45	107	97
Employment rate – m	59.47	51.90	53.88	115	110
Employment rate – f	48.74	43.02	47.13	113	103
Unemployment rate – m	14.59	24.46	22.32	60	65
Unemployment rate – f	9.8	15.01	15.00	65	65
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	22	18.37	8.43	120	261
% at work in building and construction - m	10.71	11.03	8.40	97	128
% at work in manufacturing - m	11.14	14.56	15.50	77	72
% at work in trade and commerce - m	17.66	18.84	23.94	94	74
% at work in transport & communications - m	5.07	8.46	11.34	60	45
% at work in public administration - m	7.24	5.01	6.28	144	115
% at work in professional services - m	11.58	10.14	11.94	114	97
% at work in other - m	14.62	13.58	14.17	108	103
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	1.9	2.28	1.30	83	146
% at work in building and construction - f	1.21	0.97	0.84	125	144
% at work in manufacturing - f	4.48	7.10	7.26	63	62
% at work in trade and commerce - f	23.62	23.50	26.71	100	88
% at work in transport and communications - f	2.41	3.44	4.49	70	54
% at work in public administration - f	6.72	6.31	6.32	107	106
% at work in professional services - f	36.55	38.27	36.51	96	100
% at work in other - f	23.1	18.13	16.57	127	139
% HH with PCs	70.95	69.25	72.71	102	98
% HH with internet access	68.14	66.64	71.84	102	95

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% HH no car	7.84	10.92	17.57	72	45
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	70.53	68.63	63.13	103	112
% travel to work/school by public transport	12.45	13.11	12.87	95	97
% disability	9.99	12.44	12.98	80	77
% carers	4.51	3.34	4.35	135	104
% families with children under 15	30.76	33.64	34.39	91	89
% families with children over 15	27.7	27.91	26.22	99	106
% families with children under and over 15	11.85	10.78	10.13	110	117
Families with children as % households	75.32	75.62	71.29	100	106
HP relative deprivation index	2.37	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	59.48	34.57	32.66	172	182
Average farm size (SO)	19,484	20,414	30,620	95	64
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.16	1.11	1.20	105	97
Average SO per ha	327.59	590.54	937.48	55	35
Average SO per AWU	16,746	18,438	25,435	91	66
% farmers <45 years	25.93	25.02	23.77	104	109
% farmers >65 years	24.07	26.66	26.19	90	92
% farms <20ha	32.72	45.19	42.19	72	78
% farms 20<50ha	34.26	37.27	39.61	92	86
% farms 50<80ha	12.65	10.48	12.03	121	105
% farms 80+ha	20.37	7.06	6.16	289	331
% farms <8 SO	39.51	47.78	42.77	83	92
% farms 8-25 SO	37.04	32.89	31.21	113	119
% farms >25 SO	23.46	19.32	26.02	121	90
% sheep farms	40.43	38.13	9.71	106	416
% beef farms	29.94	34.31	55.61	87	54
% mixed livestock farms	15.74	12.18	10.50	129	150
% dairy farms	5.25	6.70	11.20	78	47
% mixed field crops	6.79	5.99	6.87	113	99
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	53.30	91.23	126.72	58	42
LUs per 100ha grassland	101.45	134.89	153.18	75	66
% farms with woodland	10.80	10.41	11.73	104	92
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	8.95	8.29	9.20	108	97

Mount Brandon

There are 11 EDs in the Mount Brandon uplands of Dingle peninsula, county Kerry that met the selection criteria, nine in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht in the North, East and West Kerry Development area and two in the South Kerry Development Partnership territory. The Mount Brandon uplands comprise 556 farms with farming activity across 20,010 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	14.42	16.77	67.01	86	22
Population change, 2006-2011	8.48	8.48	8.05	100	105
Youth dependency	29.12	35.23	31.87	83	91
Elderly dependency	20.01	19.96	17.42	100	115
Demographic vitality ratio	1.13	1.40	1.88	81	60
% Irish	89.81	91.72	86.78	98	103
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	7.96	6.43	8.55	124	93
% Rest of the world	1.44	1.10	3.48	131	41
% early school leavers – m	39.32	43.67	34.46	90	114
% early school leavers – f	23.44	32.97	27.01	71	87
% 3rd-level – m	19.66	16.25	22.17	121	89
% 3rd-level – f	31.62	24.35	29.32	130	108
Labour force participation rate – m	69.04	68.70	69.37	100	100
Labour force participation rate – f	51.12	50.62	55.45	101	92
Employment rate – m	57.65	51.90	53.88	111	107
Employment rate – f	44.02	43.02	47.13	102	93
Unemployment rate – m	16.49	24.46	22.32	67	74
Unemployment rate – f	13.90	15.01	15.00	93	93
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	30.13	18.37	8.43	164	357
% at work in building and construction - m	11.06	11.03	8.40	100	132
% at work in manufacturing - m	6.55	14.56	15.50	45	42
% at work in trade and commerce - m	14.47	18.84	23.94	77	60
% at work in transport & communications - m	4.85	8.46	11.34	57	43
% at work in public administration - m	3.57	5.01	6.28	71	57
% at work in professional services - m	9.62	10.14	11.94	95	81
% at work in other - m	19.74	13.58	14.17	145	139
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	3.02	2.28	1.30	132	232
% at work in building and construction - f	0.46	0.97	0.84	48	55
% at work in manufacturing - f	4.53	7.10	7.26	64	62
% at work in trade and commerce - f	16.38	23.50	26.71	70	61
% at work in transport and communications - f	3.14	3.44	4.49	91	70
% at work in public administration - f	5.34	6.31	6.32	85	85
% at work in professional services - f	40.42	38.27	36.51	106	111
% at work in other - f	26.71	18.13	16.57	147	161
% HH with PCs	69.47	69.25	72.71	100	96
% HH with internet access	66.07	66.64	71.84	99	92

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% HH no car	11.03	10.92	17.57	101	63
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	65.06	68.63	63.13	95	103
% travel to work/school by public transport	10.84	13.11	12.87	83	84
% disability	11.12	12.44	12.98	89	86
% carers	4.99	3.34	4.35	149	115
% families with children under 15	28.04	33.64	34.39	83	82
% families with children over 15	27.25	27.91	26.22	98	104
% families with children under and over 15	12.01	10.78	10.13	111	119
Families with children as % households	69.68	75.62	71.29	92	98
HP relative deprivation index	2.84	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	35.99	34.57	32.66	104	110
Average farm size (SO)	25,699	20,414	30,620	126	84
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.15	1.11	1.20	104	96
Average SO per ha	714.08	590.54	937.48	121	76
Average SO per AWU	22,287	18,438	25,435	121	88
% farmers <45 years	29.50	25.02	23.77	118	124
% farmers >65 years	19.60	26.66	26.19	74	75
% farms <20ha	37.59	45.19	42.19	83	89
% farms 20<50ha	45.14	37.27	39.61	121	114
% farms 50<80ha	11.87	10.48	12.03	113	99
% farms 80+ha	5.40	7.06	6.16	76	88
% farms <8 SO	31.47	47.78	42.77	66	74
% farms 8-25 SO	36.15	32.89	31.21	110	116
% farms >25 SO	32.37	19.32	26.02	168	124
% sheep farms	44.42	38.13	9.71	116	457
% beef farms	20.32	34.31	55.61	59	37
% mixed livestock farms	12.95	12.18	10.50	106	123
% dairy farms	15.65	6.70	11.20	234	140
% mixed field crops	5.76	5.99	6.87	96	84
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	100.98	91.23	126.72	111	80
LUs per 100ha grassland	143.36	134.89	153.18	106	94
% farms with woodland	11.87	10.41	11.73	114	101
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	13.49	8.29	9.20	163	147

Munster Vales

There are six EDs in the Munster Vales that met the selection criteria: five in the area of the South Tipperary Development Company, county Tipperary and one in the Waterford LEADER Partnership territory, county Waterford. The Munster Vale uplands comprise 343 farms with farming activity across 12,629 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	14.82	16.77	67.01	88	22
Population change, 2006-2011	8.71	8.48	8.05	103	108
Youth dependency	33.28	35.23	31.87	94	104
Elderly dependency	23.15	19.96	17.42	116	133
Demographic vitality ratio	1.17	1.40	1.88	84	62
% Irish	90.79	91.72	86.78	99	105
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	7.51	6.43	8.55	117	88
% Rest of the world	1.23	1.10	3.48	112	35
% early school leavers – m	45.81	43.67	34.46	105	133
% early school leavers – f	33.41	32.97	27.01	101	124
% 3rd-level – m	11.29	16.25	22.17	69	51
% 3rd-level – f	20.44	24.35	29.32	84	70
Labour force participation rate – m	67.07	68.70	69.37	98	97
Labour force participation rate – f	47.67	50.62	55.45	94	86
Employment rate – m	52.33	51.90	53.88	101	97
Employment rate – f	41.58	43.02	47.13	97	88
Unemployment rate – m	21.98	24.46	22.32	90	98
Unemployment rate – f	12.79	15.01	15.00	85	85
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	31.83	18.37	8.43	173	378
% at work in building and construction - m	10.73	11.03	8.40	97	128
% at work in manufacturing - m	18.05	14.56	15.50	124	116
% at work in trade and commerce - m	13.54	18.84	23.94	72	57
% at work in transport & communications - m	4.39	8.46	11.34	52	39
% at work in public administration - m	4.27	5.01	6.28	85	68
% at work in professional services - m	8.05	10.14	11.94	79	67
% at work in other - m	9.15	13.58	14.17	67	65
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	4.12	2.28	1.30	180	317
% at work in building and construction - f	0.99	0.97	0.84	102	118
% at work in manufacturing - f	10.38	7.10	7.26	146	143
% at work in trade and commerce - f	21.91	23.50	26.71	93	82
% at work in transport and communications - f	1.81	3.44	4.49	53	40
% at work in public administration - f	5.44	6.31	6.32	86	86
% at work in professional services - f	43.82	38.27	36.51	115	120
% at work in other - f	11.53	18.13	16.57	64	70
% HH with PCs	62.74	69.25	72.71	91	86
% HH with internet access	60.51	66.64	71.84	91	84
% HH no car	9.24	10.92	17.57	85	53

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	65.14	68.63	63.13	95	103
% travel to work/school by public transport	14.44	13.11	12.87	110	112
% disability	13.86	12.44	12.98	111	107
% carers	5.81	3.34	4.35	174	134
% families with children under 15	31.95	33.64	34.39	95	93
% families with children over 15	27.69	27.91	26.22	99	106
% families with children under and over 15	10.84	10.78	10.13	101	107
Families with children as % households	74.05	75.62	71.29	98	104
HP relative deprivation index	-3.17	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	36.82	34.57	32.66	107	113
Average farm size (SO)	47,862	20,414	30,620	234	156
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.25	1.11	1.20	113	104
Average SO per ha	1,299.96	590.54	937.48	220	139
Average SO per AWU	38,365	18,438	25,435	208	151
% farmers <45 years	31.49	25.02	23.77	126	132
% farmers >65 years	21.57	26.66	26.19	81	82
% farms <20ha	34.40	45.19	42.19	76	82
% farms 20<50ha	41.40	37.27	39.61	111	105
% farms 50<80ha	17.20	10.48	12.03	164	143
% farms 80+ha	7.00	7.06	6.16	99	114
% farms <8 SO	25.66	47.78	42.77	54	60
% farms 8-25 SO	29.74	32.89	31.21	90	95
% farms >25 SO	44.61	19.32	26.02	231	171
% sheep farms	10.79	38.13	9.71	28	111
% beef farms	41.69	34.31	55.61	122	75
% mixed livestock farms	11.08	12.18	10.50	91	106
% dairy farms	22.16	6.70	11.20	331	198
% mixed field crops	6.41	5.99	6.87	107	93
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	166.52	91.23	126.72	183	131
LUs per 100ha grassland	189.24	134.89	153.18	140	124
% farms with woodland	13.70	10.41	11.73	132	117
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	12.24	8.29	9.20	148	133

Murrisk

There are six EDs in the Murrisk uplands that met the selection criteria, all in the area of the South West Mayo Development Company, county Mayo. The Murrisk uplands comprise 324 farms with farming activity across 10,398 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	5.25	16.77	67.01	31	8
Population change, 2006-2011	7.74	8.48	8.05	91	96
Youth dependency	32.79	35.23	31.87	93	103
Elderly dependency	24.73	19.96	17.42	124	142
Demographic vitality ratio	1.00	1.40	1.88	71	53
% Irish	89.00	91.72	86.78	97	103
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	9.15	6.43	8.55	142	107
% Rest of the world	0.60	1.10	3.48	54	17
% early school leavers – m	39.54	43.67	34.46	91	115
% early school leavers – f	30.41	32.97	27.01	92	113
% 3rd-level – m	19.11	16.25	22.17	118	86
% 3rd-level – f	26.46	24.35	29.32	109	90
Labour force participation rate – m	65.37	68.70	69.37	95	94
Labour force participation rate – f	48.90	50.62	55.45	97	88
Employment rate – m	51.29	51.90	53.88	99	95
Employment rate – f	43.02	43.02	47.13	100	91
Unemployment rate – m	21.54	24.46	22.32	88	96
Unemployment rate – f	12.01	15.01	15.00	80	80
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	26.61	18.37	8.43	145	316
% at work in building and construction - m	8.68	11.03	8.40	79	103
% at work in manufacturing - m	11.20	14.56	15.50	77	72
% at work in trade and commerce - m	16.25	18.84	23.94	86	68
% at work in transport & communications - m	6.44	8.46	11.34	76	57
% at work in public administration - m	5.60	5.01	6.28	112	89
% at work in professional services - m	9.80	10.14	11.94	97	82
% at work in other - m	15.41	13.58	14.17	113	109
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	2.05	2.28	1.30	90	158
% at work in building and construction - f	1.02	0.97	0.84	106	122
% at work in manufacturing - f	10.58	7.10	7.26	149	146
% at work in trade and commerce - f	19.45	23.50	26.71	83	73
% at work in transport and communications - f	3.41	3.44	4.49	99	76
% at work in public administration - f	6.14	6.31	6.32	97	97
% at work in professional services - f	38.57	38.27	36.51	101	106
% at work in other - f	18.77	18.13	16.57	104	113
% HH with PCs	65.85	69.25	72.71	95	91
% HH with internet access	65.02	66.64	71.84	98	91
% HH no car	9.52	10.92	17.57	87	54
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	65.10	68.63	63.13	95	103

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% travel to work/school by public transport	16.55	13.11	12.87	126	129
% disability	12.71	12.44	12.98	102	98
% carers	6.34	3.34	4.35	190	146
% families with children under 15	28.74	33.64	34.39	85	84
% families with children over 15	28.05	27.91	26.22	100	107
% families with children under and over 15	12.18	10.78	10.13	113	120
Families with children as % households	71.19	75.62	71.29	94	100
HP relative deprivation index	-0.63	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	32.09	34.57	32.66	93	98
Average farm size (SO)	11,517	20,414	30,620	56	38
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.10	1.11	1.20	99	92
Average SO per ha	358.86	590.54	937.48	61	38
Average SO per AWU	10,511	18,438	25,435	57	41
% farmers <45 years	25.62	25.02	23.77	102	108
% farmers >65 years	34.88	26.66	26.19	131	133
% farms <20ha	54.63	45.19	42.19	121	129
% farms 20<50ha	29.32	37.27	39.61	79	74
% farms 50<80ha	7.72	10.48	12.03	74	64
% farms 80+ha	8.33	7.06	6.16	118	135
% farms <8 SO	47.84	47.78	42.77	100	112
% farms 8-25 SO	40.74	32.89	31.21	124	131
% farms >25 SO	11.42	19.32	26.02	59	44
% sheep farms	70.99	38.13	9.71	186	731
% beef farms	16.67	34.31	55.61	49	30
% mixed livestock farms	7.10	12.18	10.50	58	68
% dairy farms	0.00	6.70	11.20	0	0
% mixed field crops	5.25	5.99	6.87	88	76
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	58.98	91.23	126.72	65	47
LUs per 100ha grassland	110.72	134.89	153.18	82	72
% farms with woodland	3.70	10.41	11.73	36	32
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	4.94	8.29	9.20	60	54

Sliabh Bloom

There are 12 EDs in the Sliabh Bloom uplands that met the selection criteria: eight lie in the territory of Laois Community and Enterprise Development Company, county Laois and four in the area of Offaly Integrated Local Development Company, county Offaly. The Sliabh Bloom uplands comprise 382 farms with farming activity across 12,433 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	10.82	16.77	67.01	65	16
Population change, 2006-2011	2.81	8.48	8.05	33	35
Youth dependency	37.70	35.23	31.87	107	118
Elderly dependency	20.31	19.96	17.42	102	117
Demographic vitality ratio	1.42	1.40	1.88	102	75
% Irish	95.05	91.72	86.78	104	110
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	3.59	6.43	8.55	56	42
% Rest of the world	0.29	1.10	3.48	26	8
% early school leavers – m	54.15	43.67	34.46	124	157
% early school leavers – f	35.30	32.97	27.01	107	131
% 3rd-level – m	8.71	16.25	22.17	54	39
% 3rd-level – f	17.74	24.35	29.32	73	61
Labour force participation rate – m	72.09	68.70	69.37	105	104
Labour force participation rate – f	48.74	50.62	55.45	96	88
Employment rate – m	55.31	51.90	53.88	107	103
Employment rate – f	42.73	43.02	47.13	99	91
Unemployment rate – m	23.29	24.46	22.32	95	104
Unemployment rate – f	12.32	15.01	15.00	82	82
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	27.07	18.37	8.43	147	321
% at work in building and construction - m	12.22	11.03	8.40	111	145
% at work in manufacturing - m	16.16	14.56	15.50	111	104
% at work in trade and commerce - m	12.88	18.84	23.94	68	54
% at work in transport & communications - m	7.49	8.46	11.34	89	66
% at work in public administration - m	5.65	5.01	6.28	113	90
% at work in professional services - m	6.04	10.14	11.94	60	51
% at work in other - m	12.48	13.58	14.17	92	88
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	4.62	2.28	1.30	202	355
% at work in building and construction - f	0.55	0.97	0.84	57	66
% at work in manufacturing - f	6.65	7.10	7.26	94	92
% at work in trade and commerce - f	19.22	23.50	26.71	82	72
% at work in transport and communications - f	2.96	3.44	4.49	86	66
% at work in public administration - f	8.13	6.31	6.32	129	129
% at work in professional services - f	42.33	38.27	36.51	111	116
% at work in other - f	15.53	18.13	16.57	86	94
% HH with PCs	63.50	69.25	72.71	92	87
% HH with internet access	59.67	66.64	71.84	90	83
% HH no car	9.76	10.92	17.57	89	56

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	69.98	68.63	63.13	102	111
% travel to work/school by public transport	9.46	13.11	12.87	72	73
% disability	12.45	12.44	12.98	100	96
% carers	4.67	3.34	4.35	140	107
% families with children under 15	34.66	33.64	34.39	103	101
% families with children over 15	30.13	27.91	26.22	108	115
% families with children under and over 15	11.26	10.78	10.13	104	111
Families with children as % households	77.77	75.62	71.29	103	109
HP relative deprivation index	-5.56	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	32.55	34.57	32.66	94	100
Average farm size (SO)	23,288	20,414	30,620	114	76
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.24	1.11	1.20	112	103
Average SO per ha	715.52	590.54	937.48	121	76
Average SO per AWU	18,715	18,438	25,435	102	74
% farmers <45 years	25.65	25.02	23.77	103	108
% farmers >65 years	29.06	26.66	26.19	109	111
% farms <20ha	35.60	45.19	42.19	79	84
% farms 20<50ha	48.43	37.27	39.61	130	122
% farms 50<80ha	10.47	10.48	12.03	100	87
% farms 80+ha	5.50	7.06	6.16	78	89
% farms <8 SO	31.94	47.78	42.77	67	75
% farms 8-25 SO	45.03	32.89	31.21	137	144
% farms >25 SO	23.04	19.32	26.02	119	89
% sheep farms	3.66	38.13	9.71	10	38
% beef farms	78.27	34.31	55.61	228	141
% mixed livestock farms	7.59	12.18	10.50	62	72
% dairy farms	3.66	6.70	11.20	55	33
% mixed field crops	3.66	5.99	6.87	61	53
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	146.54	91.23	126.72	161	116
LUs per 100ha grassland	161.18	134.89	153.18	119	105
% farms with woodland	19.90	10.41	11.73	191	170
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	11.26	8.29	9.20	136	122

Sliabh Felim

There are three EDs in the Sliabh Felim uplands that met the selection criteria, all in the territory of Ballyhoura Development Limited, county Limerick. The Sliabh Felim uplands comprise 129 farms with farming activity across 4,412 hectares.

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
Population density	21.07	16.77	67.01	126	31
Population change, 2006-2011	12.04	8.48	8.05	142	150
Youth dependency	33.16	35.23	31.87	94	104
Elderly dependency	15.17	19.96	17.42	76	87
Demographic vitality ratio	1.77	1.40	1.88	127	94
% Irish	94.72	91.72	86.78	103	109
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	3.95	6.43	8.55	61	46
% Rest of the world	0.93	1.10	3.48	85	27
% early school leavers – m	35.83	43.67	34.46	82	104
% early school leavers – f	27.27	32.97	27.01	83	101
% 3rd-level – m	19.25	16.25	22.17	118	87
% 3rd-level – f	27.27	24.35	29.32	112	93
Labour force participation rate – m	61.99	68.70	69.37	90	89
Labour force participation rate – f	55.50	50.62	55.45	110	100
Employment rate – m	48.25	51.90	53.88	93	90
Employment rate – f	50.90	43.02	47.13	118	108
Unemployment rate – m	22.17	24.46	22.32	91	99
Unemployment rate – f	8.28	15.01	15.00	55	55
% at work in agriculture, forestry & fishing - m	14.53	18.37	8.43	79	172
% at work in building and construction - m	8.66	11.03	8.40	78	103
% at work in manufacturing - m	21.79	14.56	15.50	150	141
% at work in trade and commerce - m	15.08	18.84	23.94	80	63
% at work in transport & communications - m	7.54	8.46	11.34	89	67
% at work in public administration - m	5.03	5.01	6.28	100	80
% at work in professional services - m	15.36	10.14	11.94	152	129
% at work in other - m	12.01	13.58	14.17	88	85
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	0.97	2.28	1.30	42	74
% at work in building and construction - f	0.97	0.97	0.84	100	115
% at work in manufacturing - f	10.00	7.10	7.26	141	138
% at work in trade and commerce - f	26.77	23.50	26.71	114	100
% at work in transport and communications - f	4.52	3.44	4.49	131	101
% at work in public administration - f	6.45	6.31	6.32	102	102
% at work in professional services - f	34.52	38.27	36.51	90	95
% at work in other - f	15.81	18.13	16.57	87	95
% HH with PCs	69.01	69.25	72.71	100	95
% HH with internet access	65.85	66.64	71.84	99	92
% HH no car	9.51	10.92	17.57	87	54

Indicator	Upland Area	Uplands	State	% Uplands	% State
% travel to work/school by private vehicle	70.52	68.63	63.13	103	112
% travel to work/school by public transport	6.53	13.11	12.87	50	51
% disability	12.64	12.44	12.98	102	97
% carers	4.27	3.34	4.35	128	98
% families with children under 15	33.64	33.64	34.39	100	98
% families with children over 15	28.57	27.91	26.22	102	109
% families with children under and over 15	8.53	10.78	10.13	79	84
Families with children as % households	76.41	75.62	71.29	101	107
HP relative deprivation index	1.38	-2.46	0	n/a	n/a
Average farm size (ha)	34.20	34.57	32.66	99	105
Average farm size (SO)	25,819	20,414	30,620	126	84
Average farm labour input (AWU)	1.15	1.11	1.20	104	96
Average SO per ha	754.82	590.54	937.48	128	81
Average SO per AWU	22,406	18,438	25,438	122	88
% farmers <45 years	31.01	25.02	23.77	124	130
% farmers >65 years	18.60	26.66	26.19	70	71
% farms <20ha	33.33	45.19	42.19	74	79
% farms 20<50ha	50.39	37.27	39.61	135	127
% farms 50<80ha	8.53	10.48	12.03	81	71
% farms 80+ha	7.75	7.06	6.16	110	126
% farms <8 SO	39.53	47.78	42.77	83	92
% farms 8-25 SO	36.43	32.89	31.21	111	117
% farms >25 SO	24.03	19.32	26.02	124	92
% sheep farms	0.00	38.13	9.71	0	0
% beef farms	74.42	34.31	55.61	217	134
% mixed livestock farms	3.88	12.18	10.50	32	37
% dairy farms	13.95	6.70	11.20	208	125
% mixed field crops	6.98	5.99	6.87	117	102
LUs (stocking density) per 100ha	111.71	91.23	126.72	122	88
LUs per 100ha grassland	122.01	134.89	153.18	90	80
% farms with woodland	20.93	10.41	11.73	201	178
% farms with gainful non-agricultural activity	10.08	8.29	9.20	122	110