

INTRODUCING THE SWOT FOR COUNTY MEATH

Move Free and Prosper?!

INTRODUCTION: SPATIAL STRUCTURE

- In many senses Meath is a microcosm of Irish history and society. County Meath covers an area of 234,490 hectares, approximately 3.3% of the total area of the state. Navan is the county town – we have no cities in our county.
- As a county, Meath is located within the Greater Dublin Region and development trends in parts of the county are considerably influenced by the opportunities and pressures emanating from the Dublin metropolitan area.
- Population growth within Meath has not been evenly distributed across the county and a large percentage of the county footprint still comprises typical rural, agrarian communities particularly in the North and West of the county which borders the BMW region.



TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS

- Well served by network of motorways and national routes
- Regional bus service and a local bus service is some of the larger towns
- No rail service – limited connectivity on the border of Dublin
- Predominately dependent on private car as a mode of transport – car pooling is not a widely implemented strategy



ADOPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

- The adoption of new technologies proves a good indicator of the social class, educational attainment and age profile of communities. There is a stark division between the emerging new almost exclusively urban communities of the commuter belt to the east and south of the county and the more rural communities to the north and west of the county.
- While 63% of all private households in Meath owned a personal computer in 2006, compared to 56% in the State
- 99.5% Broadband coverage in Meath, with variance in quality, speed and capacity



SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE

- Over half of the total employment in the manufacturing and traded services sectors in County Meath in traditional sectors such as food, drink, textiles, wood processing and printing.
- Only 3% of those employed are involved in internationally traded services while the high tech sector accounts for only 13% of total employment.
- These percentages are significantly lower than comparable employment rates in other counties in the Mid East region. Additionally, the foreign owned sector account for only 25% of employment in the county compared to 69% in Kildare and 41% in Wicklow.



SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE

- Problems associated with low skilled and low output value employment in Meath
- Our employment sector and economic development capacity generally has remained low, unable to keep pace with the increases in residential population.
- Homes have been provided for the people of the county, and for many who have migrated here, but it has not been possible to provide the corresponding level of jobs, amenities, services and community infrastructure necessary to sustain such a population and promote a high quality of life in many of our urban and rural communities.

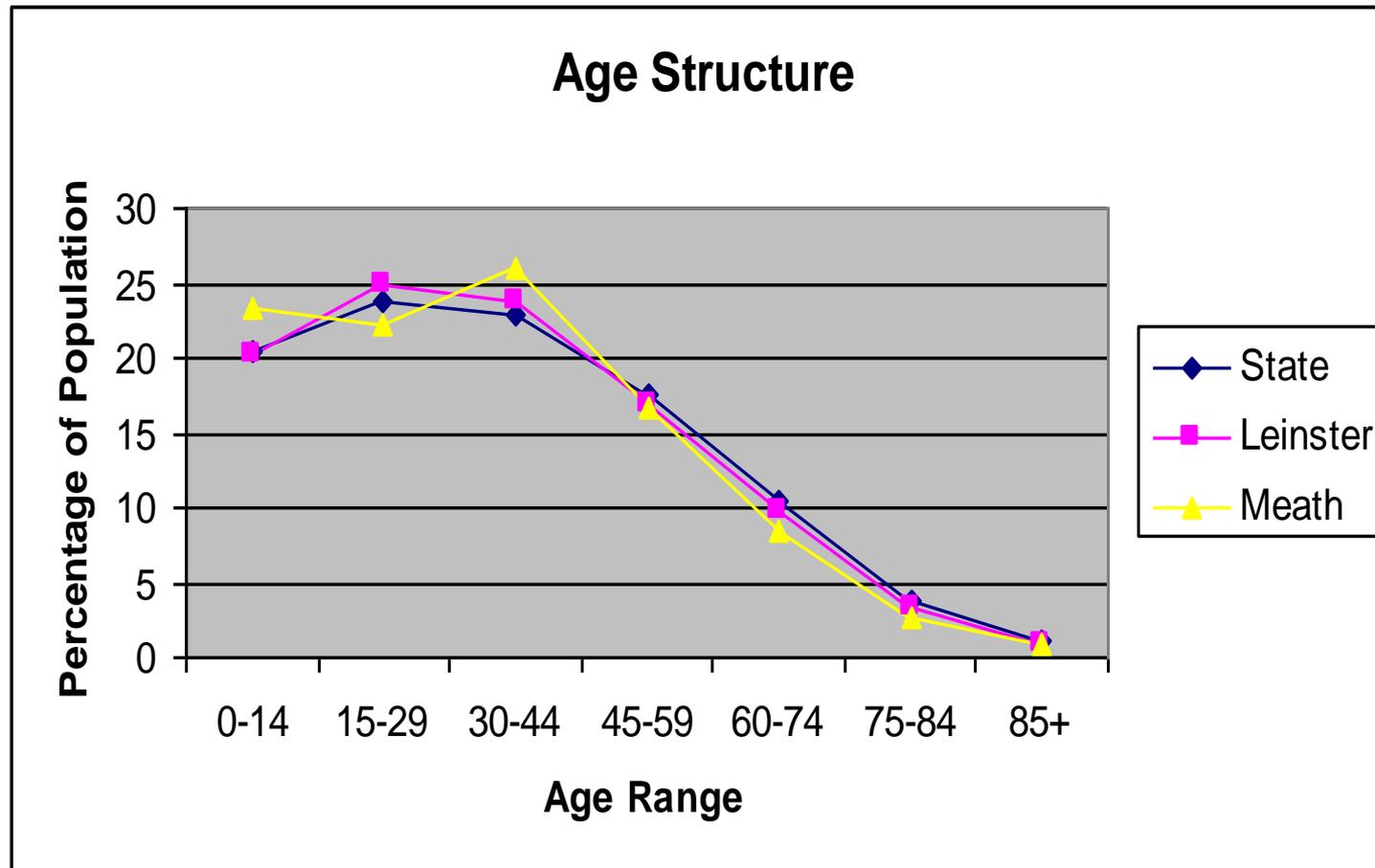


SOCIAL CLASS

- According to the social class indices used by the CSO and based on occupation just over 52% of the population in County Meath in 2006 were classified in the top three social classes which include professional workers (1), managerial and technical workers (2), and non-manual workers (3). This is slightly higher than the national average.



AGE STRUCTURE



LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW

- As set out in *The Current Trends in Occupational Employment and Forecasts for 2010 and 2020* report of the ESRI, the structure of the labour market is expected to be markedly transformed by 2020. In 2005, traditional industries such as agriculture, manufacturing and other production industries accounted for in excess of 400,000 jobs in Ireland; by 2020 these sectors are expected to provide 315,000 jobs, a reduction of approximately 85,000 jobs, with the actual loss of 40,000 jobs in the agricultural industry.

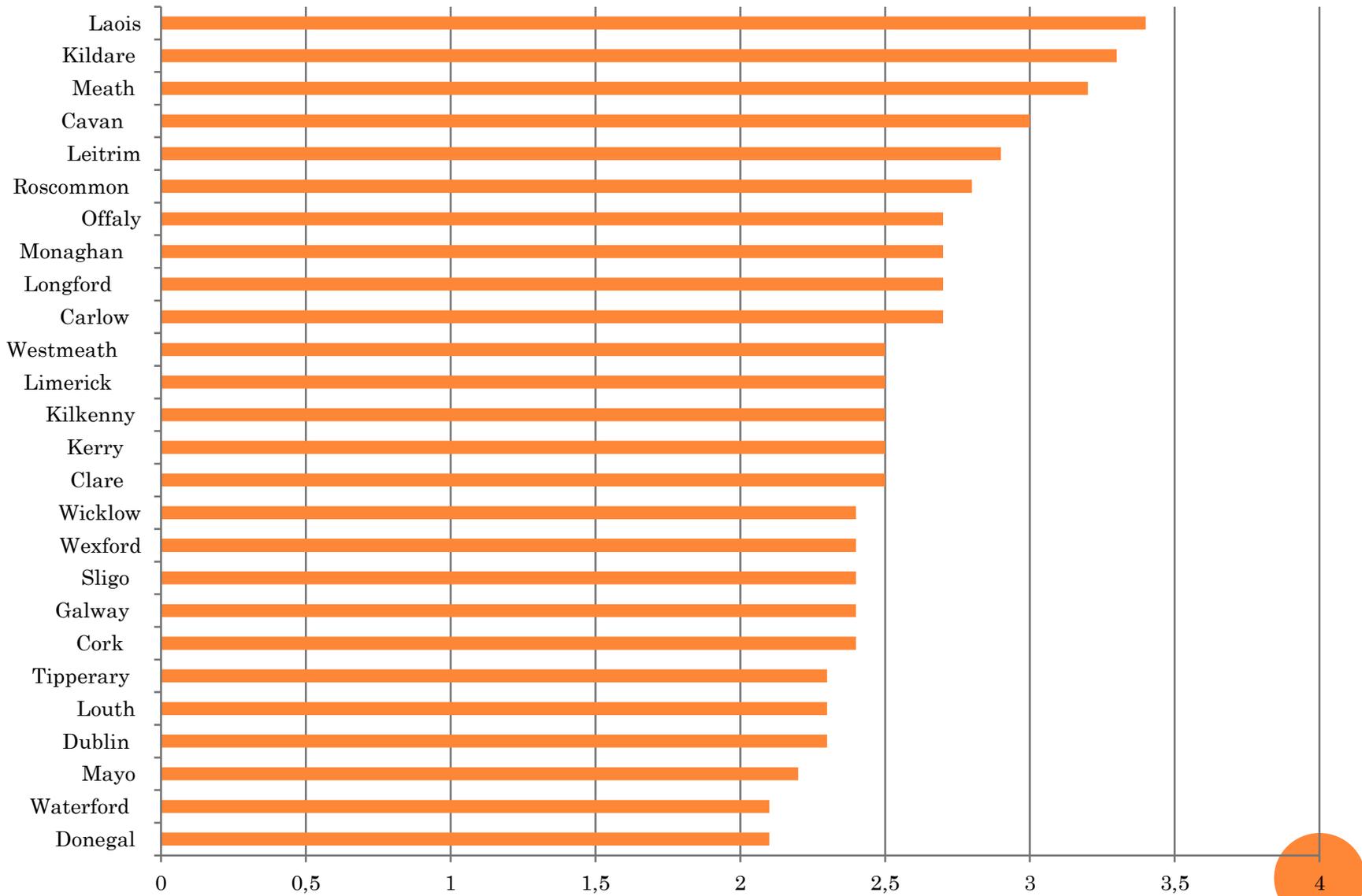


LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW

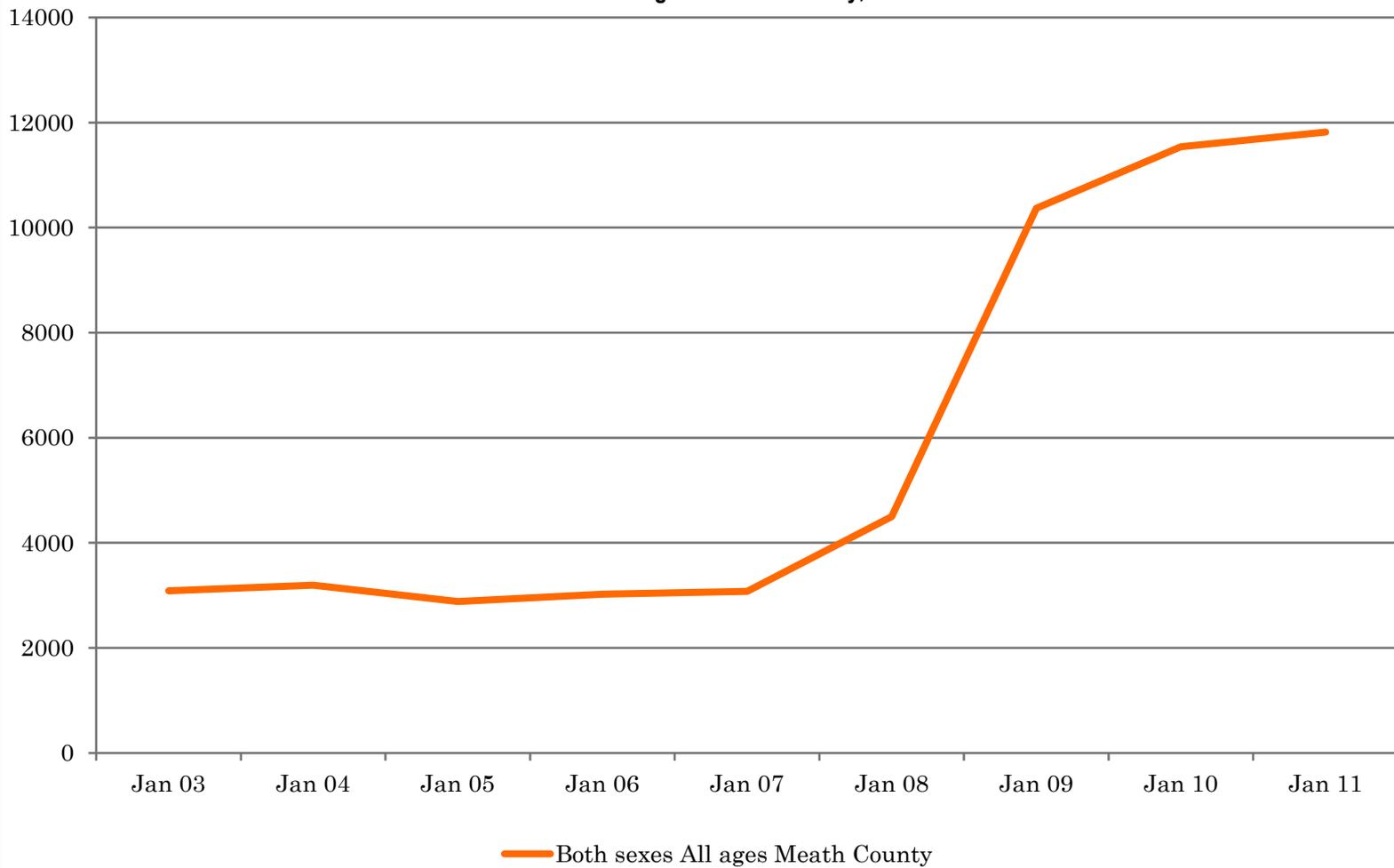
- While Meath's labour market participation rates were generally high, the recession has seen unemployment rise to over 120% in some towns and rural villages and it is acknowledged that in the key urban centres, the highest unemployment levels and social disadvantage within the county are being experienced.



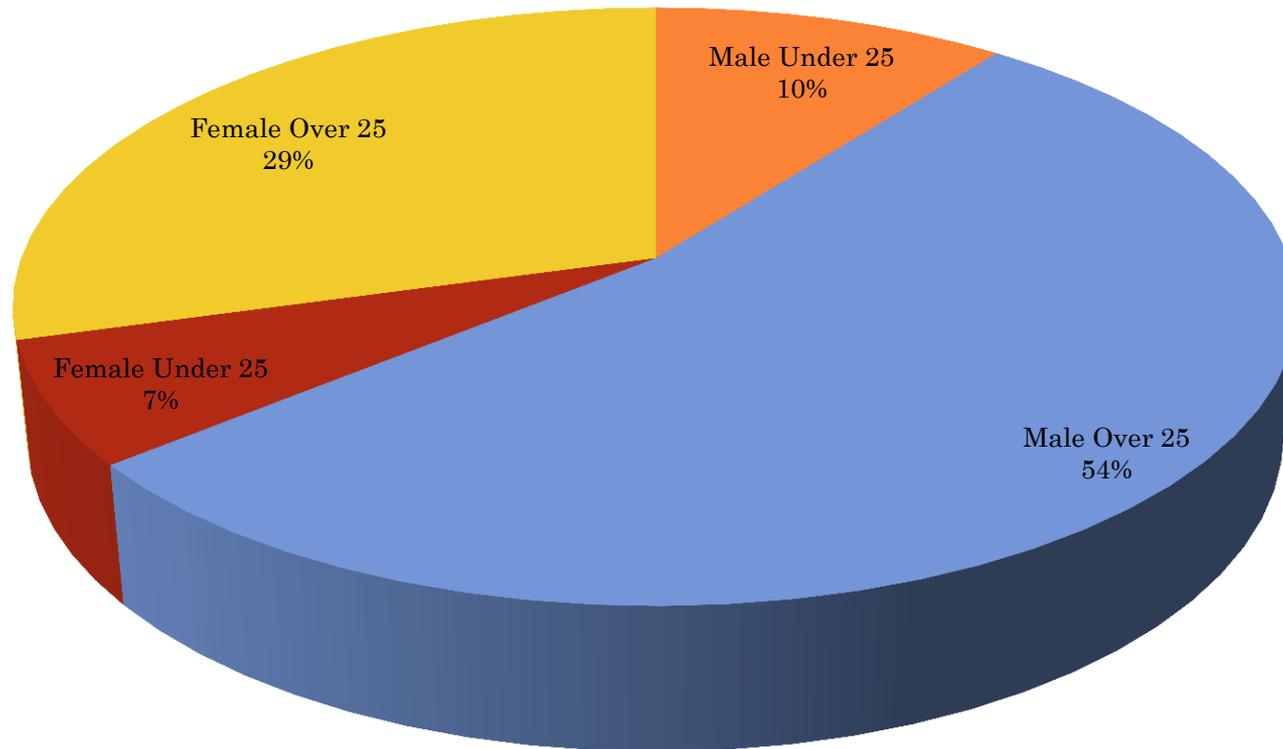
Increase in Live Register as Multiple of 2006 CSO Figure



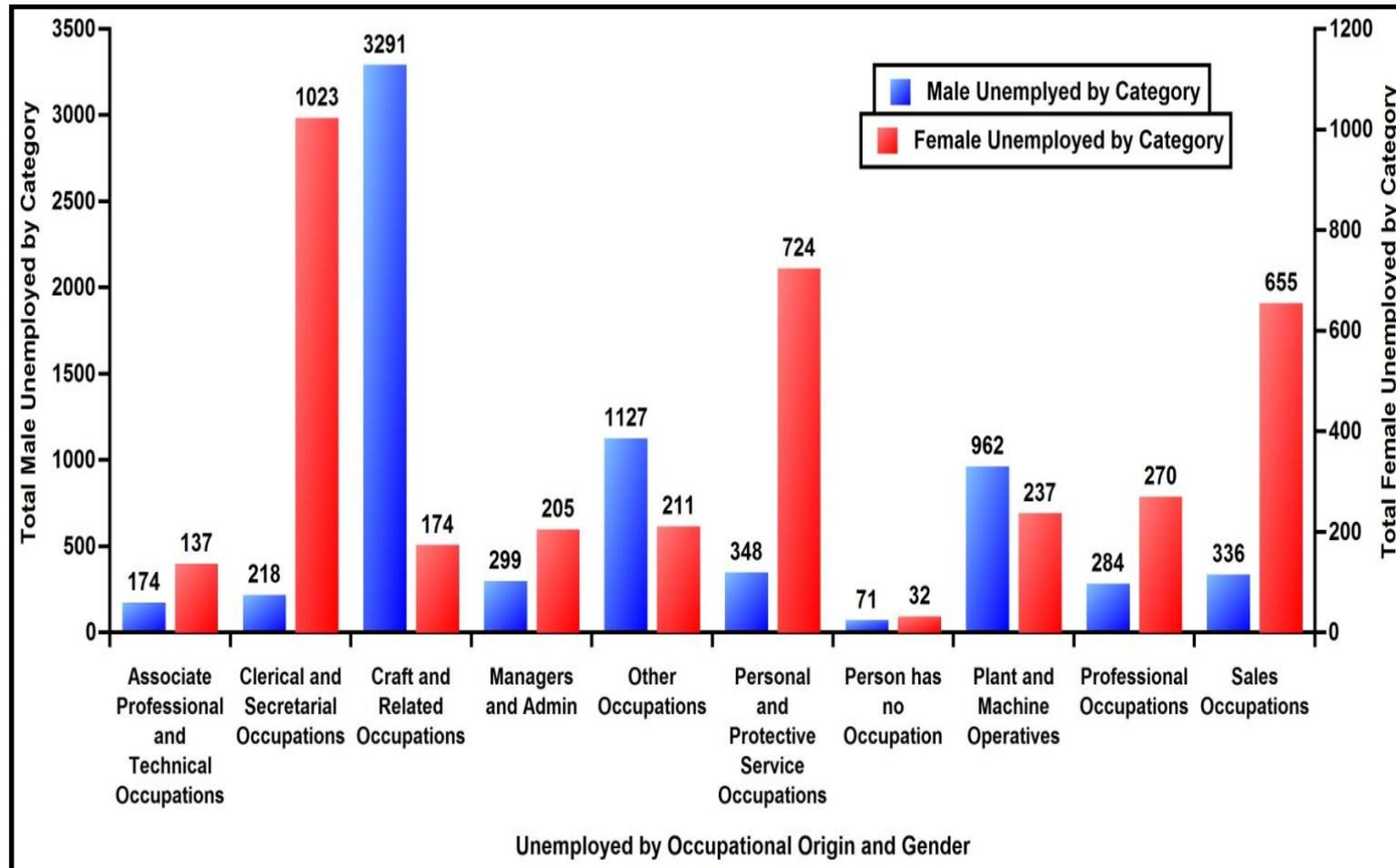
Persons On Live Register- Meath County, 2003-2011



JOBSEEKERS BY GENDER AND AGE



JOBSEEKERS BY GENDER AND OCCUPATION



ETHNICITY IN MEATH

- The Table on the next slide shows the ethnic or cultural background of Meath residents compared with Ireland as a whole. A number of interesting variations emerge from this picture.
- First, Meath is somewhat more homogeneous than the rest of Ireland with a higher percentage of the population being Irish.
- Second, the composition of those from non-Irish background reveals a number of differences. There is a greater concentration of people with African background in Meath (possibly reflecting the presence of Mosney as a refugee accommodation centre in the county) and a significantly lower number of people of Asian and Chinese background compared with the rest of Ireland.



Table 1: Persons classified by ethnic or cultural background

	% Population Meath	% Population State
Total	100	100
Irish	88.88%	87.37
Irish Traveller	0.44	0.54
Any other White Background	6.45	6.93
African	1.14	0.97
Any other Black Background	0.07	0.09
Chinese	0.21	0.40
Any other Asian Background	0.49	0.86
Others including mixed background	0.99	1.11
Not stated	1.33	1.73



EDUCATIONAL PROFILE

- Primary and secondary level education in County Meath is well served by 108 primary schools and 17 secondary schools, 8 of which are designated DEIS schools.
- There is, however, no third level institution in the county.
- In 2006, 25.1% of the population in Meath had achieved a 3rd Level qualification. This is broadly in keeping with the national average. There are however pockets of noticeable educational disadvantage and these tend to be located in the main towns of Meath and pockets in the north and west of the county.



EDUCATIONAL PROFILE

- The numbers with very low levels of education remain high with over 16,000 people with only primary school or no formal levels of education and over 22,000 with lower secondary level qualification (although a small number of these may still be in the education system).

