



gretb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin
Galway and Roscommon
Education and Training Board

Galway and Roscommon
Education and Training Board

PROVIDER PROFILE

October
2021

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Assurance by Quality and Qualifications Ireland*



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1

Background



Background

Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB) is a statutory education and training body which was established on 1st July 2013 under the Education and Training Boards Act, 2013, as an amalgamation of three Vocational Educational Committees (Galway City, County Galway and County Roscommon). The former FÁS training centre, Galway, came under the auspices of GRETB in July 2014.

GRETB employs over 2,000 staff and has 23,367 learners annually¹. GRETB administers a budget of €115 million+ per annum, with over €50 million allocated to the Further Education and Training (FET) budget.

There are over 40 FET Centres across Galway and Roscommon, including one PLC College, three Dual Provision Schools that offer PLC courses, several Community Education and Training Initiatives, seven VTOS Centres, seven Youthreach Centres, nineteen Post-Primary Schools and two Community Primary Schools.

Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB) is a statutory education and training body which was established on 1st July 2013.



¹ GRETB Annual Report 2019



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Mission, Values and Strategic Focus



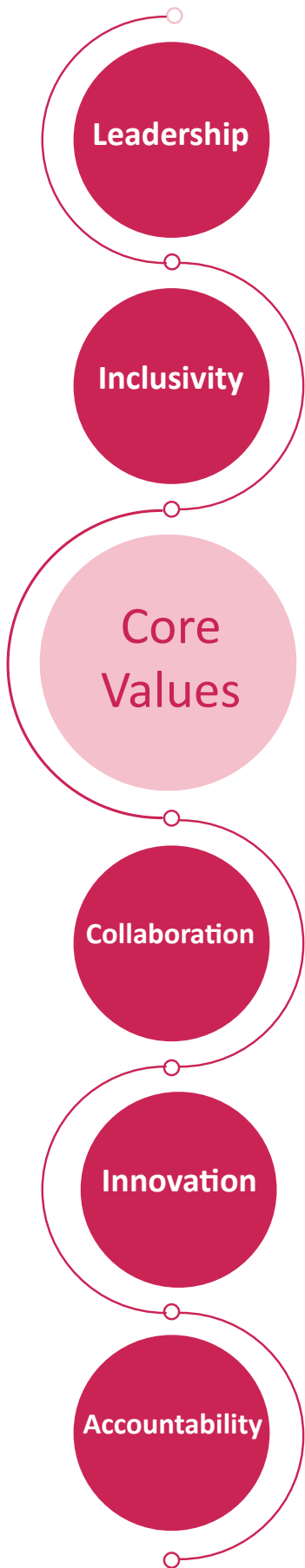
Mission, Values and Strategic Focus

In 2017, GRETB approved its [GRETB Strategy Statement 2017-2021](#) which states the organisation's vision, mission, and core values. The strategy's vision is to respond to learners' and society's needs by delivering high-quality education and training programmes and services. GRETB aims to provide programmes that are transformative for the learners and enabling them to realise their full potential. GRETB values the diversity of community-wide lifelong learning opportunities across the region.

The Strategy Statement describes the core values which guide GRETB's interactions with learners, staff, stakeholders and the wider community. The goals set out in the Strategy Statement have corresponding priorities which are met through supporting actions.

The strategy's vision is to respond to learners' and society's needs by delivering high-quality education and training programmes and services.





Vision

To actively lead the provision of high-quality education and training programmes and services that respond to the changing needs of learners and society.

Mission

To support individuals through learning, to achieve their full potential and contribute to social, cultural, and economic development.

Core Values

Leadership

Actively leading in the provision of education and training in the region and influencing the future direction of the sector.

Inclusivity

Openness, respectful and inclusive in the treatment of our learners, stakeholders, and staff. A culture where diversity is welcomed and valued.

Collaboration

Strong, mutually beneficial partnerships and teamwork, facilitating the sharing of knowledge, ideas, expertise, and skills.

Innovation

Creative and innovative thinking by encouraging new ideas, trying out different approaches and responding to change.

Accountability

Responsible decision-making, open, honest, and transparent in all activities.

Strategic Goals

The work of the FET service is driven by a set of high-level objectives as set out in the Strategy Statement 2017-2021, under four strategic goals, which are in line with national strategies on education:

- Improve the learning experience and success of learners.
- Improve the progress of learners at risk of disadvantage, those with special needs or with language, cultural and social differences.
- Provide high quality education and training programmes.
- Ensure our organisational infrastructure (people, process, and structure) is efficient and effective.

The work of the FET service is driven by a set of high-level objectives as set out in the Strategy Statement 2017-2021.

Strategic Priorities

Strategic Goal 1: Improve the learning experience and success of learners

- Provide responsive and innovative programmes
- Provide relevant knowledge and skills for lifelong learning, personal development, progression and employment
- Promote positive learning experiences and environments
- Provide technology-enhanced learning environments

Strategic Goal 2: Improve the progress of learners at risk of disadvantage, those with special needs or with language, cultural and social differences

- Promote equality and active inclusion
- Provide accessible and flexible education and training programmes
- Provide high quality inclusive education with improved learning outcomes
- Improve the transition of learners at critical stages in the education and training system



Strategic Goal 3: Provide high quality education and training programmes

- Promote quality assurance in our education and training programmes
- Support staff in the pursuit of quality teaching and learning standards
- Increase the use of quality data, analysis, research and evaluation to inform service delivery and identify emerging issues
- Promote leadership, innovation, continuous improvement and sharing of knowledge

Strategic Goal 4: Ensure our organisational infrastructure (people, process, and structure) is efficient and effective.

- Ensure the ETB has the capacity to successfully meet the current demands and to influence the future direction of the sector
- Enhance our internal and external communication systems
- Provide the best possible teaching, learning and working environments while maximising resources
- Ensure best practice in corporate governance throughout GRETB



GRETB agreed a strategic performance agreement with SOLAS for 2018-2020².

² https://www.solas.ie/ff/70398/x/fceec75f5/14717_solas_etb_galway_roscommon_web.pdf



A set of high-level priorities were set in 2018 and progress since then is outlined below.

LITERACY INTEGRATION	GRETB continues to build on the key aims and objectives of the National and GRETB Literacy & Numeracy Strategy.
GUIDANCE AND COURSE RECRUITMENT SERVICE	GRETB established a working group to fully integrate the guidance and course recruitment services. As the different services are now working more closely together it has meant that learners are more quickly directed to the most appropriate course to them. Work has also commenced on formalising pathways into, through, and out of FET for learners.
TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING	GRETB has implemented a broad programme of TEL CPD for staff. GRETB continues to expand its blended learning courses through the provision of a VLE for staff and upskilling staff to develop and maintain online courses. GRETB has promoted 'TEL Champions' across the FET department to assist in integrating TEL into all courses.
EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT	Since the establishment of an Employer Engagement Unit, GRETB's interaction with employers has grown and GRETB strives to deliver training that meets local industry needs. Staff placement with local, regional and European employers continues to be encouraged and supported.
ENHANCED HIGHER EDUCATION LINKS	Quarterly meetings continue to be held with 3rd level providers to accelerate the facilitation of advanced entry from Level 6 programmes into Year 2 of 3rd level programmes. GRETB courses are also adapted in line with the requirements of 3rd level programmes.
INCREASING THE RETENTION OF LEARNERS	A strategy to increase the retention of learners has progressed including pre-assessment of learners. This has been introduced for Levels 1-3 and a working group has been established to look at expanding this pre-assessment to courses at Level 4-6. Ensuring learners are placed on the course that is most appropriate to them positively impacts retention. Literacy, numeracy, and IT supports continue to be built into all provision as required and we have developed a range of subject specific supports.
TRAINEESHIPS	GRETB has substantially increased the number of Traineeship places available in Galway and Roscommon, via a range of initiatives. Traineeships combine a large amount of work experience with traditional in-class learning. In recent years we have introduced a Media and Film Traineeship, an ICT Traineeship, an Outdoor Education Management Traineeship and several Childcare Traineeships.
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW APPRENTICESHIPS	GRETB has substantially increased the number of new Apprenticeship trades available in Galway and Roscommon, via a range of initiatives. Some of the new Apprenticeships offered at GRETB are Arborist, Auctioneering, Accounting Technician, Butchery and ICT.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	The appointment of a Professional Development Co-ordinator allows GRETB to conduct a Training Needs Analysis and Skills Audit of staff. This will enable GRETB to identify and prioritise areas of professional development to be included in an action plan.
DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY PROVISION	GRETB developed a National, Regional and Local Tour Guiding course in collaboration with Kerry ETB and Fáilte Ireland.



3

Governance and Management Structures



Governance and Management Structures

GRETB Board

Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB) is a statutory, education, and training body. GRETB has a Board comprising of twenty-one members, which was established in accordance with Section 30 of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013. Functions of the Board are known as Reserve Functions and are set out in Section 12 of the Education and Training Board Act 2013. All other functions are known as Executive Functions and are the responsibility of the Chief Executive.

The Board adopted the new Code of Practice for the Governance of Education and Training Boards in 2019. The Board and Management of GRETB are accountable for the proper management of the organisation. Board Members and employees are strongly guided by the principles set out in the Code, fulfilling their responsibilities to ensure all activities meet the highest standards of corporate governance.

Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB) is a statutory, education, and training body.



A list of Board Members available in Appendix 1

³ <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2013/act/11/enacted/en/html>

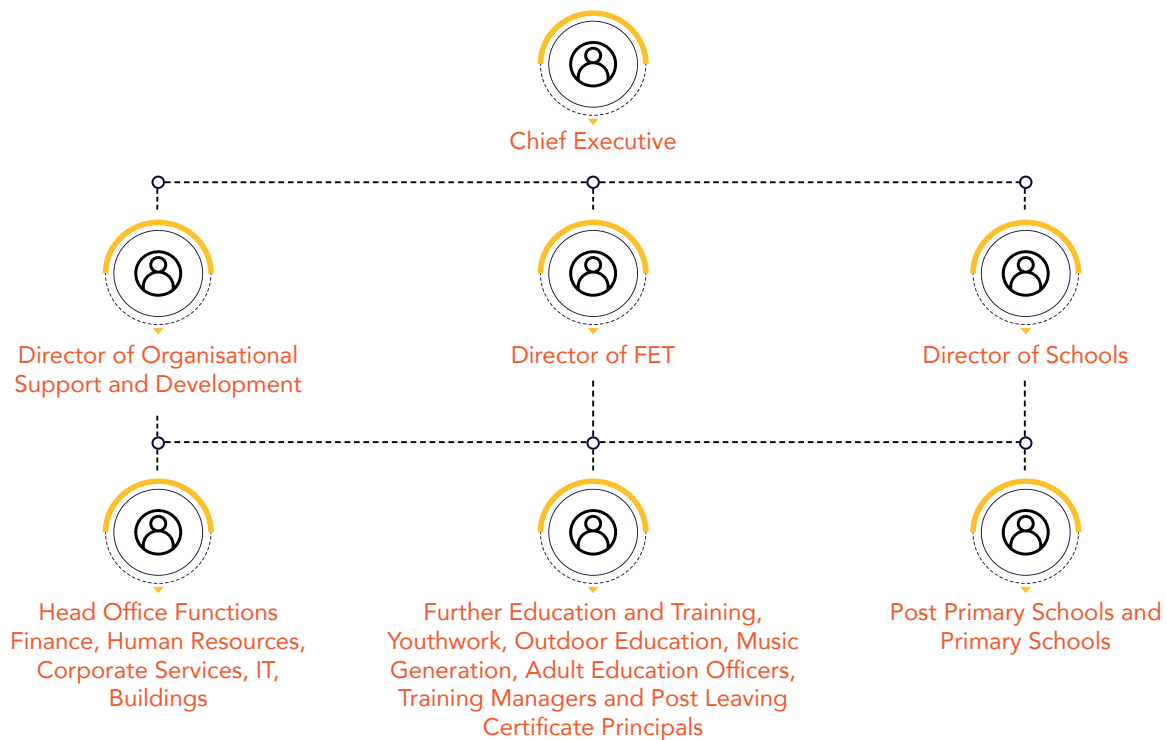
⁴ <https://assets.gov.ie/12100/d9938b6ea7694558b3d052ea0f4c1560.pdf>



Photo by Chaosheng Zhang

Organisational Structure

Executive Management



The GRETB has established two Committees in accordance with Section 45 of the 2013 Act (see Appendix 2 & 3 for membership):

- The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) and
- The Finance Committee

The purpose of these two Committees is to assist the Board with its consideration of issues relating to audit, governance, risk management and finance. However, the Board maintains responsibility and makes the final decisions on all these areas.

The minutes of Board meetings are published on the GRETB website. <https://gretb.ie/topic/board-minutes>

In addition to the Audit and Risk Committee, and the Finance Committee, the work of the Board is also supported by the following committees:

- Further Education, Apprenticeship and Training (FEAT) Committee
- Youth and Arts Committee
- Youthreach Committee
- Petersburg Outdoor Education and Training Centre (OETC) Committee
- Boards of Management in GRETB Schools



The organisation is separated into three pillars:



The FET Pillar

The FET Pillar is responsible for the management and operation of the FET Service, to ensure continued delivery and expansion of high quality, flexible, and progressive programmes of education and training in 40 Further Education and Training Centres.



The OSD Pillar

The OSD Pillar has responsibility for the governance and management of GRETB's administration. It oversees the management of resources in a number of areas: Buildings, Corporate Services, Finance (including Procurement), Human Resources, and IT.



The Schools Pillar

The Schools Pillar is Patron to 19 Post-Primary Schools and two Community National Schools. It is responsible for providing supports and services to include programme development, human resources, financial and infrastructural resources. It ensures the delivery of front-line services, their efficient and effective deployment, as well as improving learning and teaching.

FET Management

The Director of FET has responsibility for over 350 programmes and several associated services across Galway and Roscommon. The FET Senior Management Team (SMT) comprises of three AEOs, an Area Training Manager and a PLC principal with responsibilities for specific areas and programmes as outlined below.

Adult Education Officer AEO	Adult Education Officer AEO	Adult Education Officer AEO	Area Training Manager	PLC Principals
Community Education	Adult Guidance & Information Service	Quality Assurance	Apprenticeships	Post Leaving Cert Provision
Community Training Centre	Back to Education Initiative (BTEI)	Music Generation	Contracted Training	Clarín College
Co-operation Hours	Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre (EROC)	Curriculum Development	Evening/ Saturday Provision	Galway Community College
Drugs Task Force	FARR/PLSS	Youth Services	Course Recruitment	Galway Technical Institute
Department of Justice Training Centres	Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS)	Youth Advocacy	Traineeships	Coláiste an Chreagáin
Local Training Initiatives (LTIs)	Adult Basic Education	Youth Arts	Services to Business	
Prison Education		Youth Education	Skills to Advance	
Learner Support & Inclusion		Professional Development	Skills for Work	
Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL)				
Specialist Training Providers (STP)				
Public Sector Duty				



4

Approach to Quality





Approach to Quality

GRETB is committed 'to actively lead(ing) the provision of high-quality education and training programmes and services that respond to the changing needs of learners and society' as envisioned in the GRETB Strategy Statement 2017-2021. Strategic goals include the provision of high-quality education and training programmes.

GRETB's approach to quality is guided by QQI's statutory guidelines for the following areas:

- [Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines \(2016\)](#)
- [Sector-Specific Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines for Education and Training Boards \(ETBs\) \(2017\)](#)
- [Topic-Specific Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines for Providers of Statutory Apprenticeship Programmes \(2016\)](#)
- [Topic-Specific Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines for Providers of Blended Learning Programmes \(2018\)](#)

The primary responsibility for its quality assurance lies with GRETB. The organisation is in the process of establishing a quality system composed of all internal quality assurance policies and procedures. This framework of policies and their management will provide the structure for GRETB to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of a quality service. To further ensure continuous improvement GRETB FET provision is subject to the submission of annual Quality Improvement Plans to QQI and periodic review by QQI.

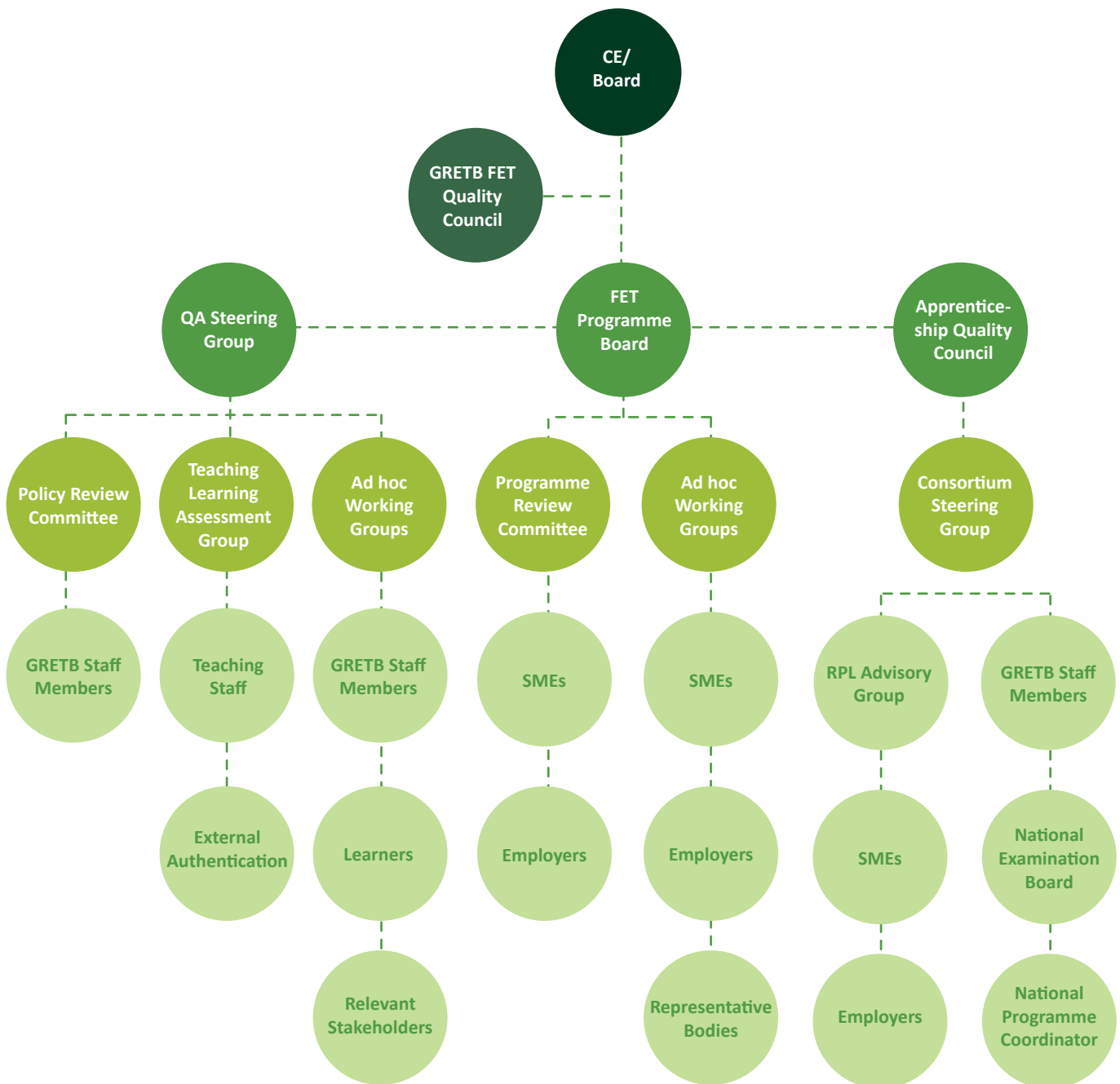
GRETB staff are members of National Fora such as the Quality Strategy Group and the QA Network, where good practice in quality processes is shared and implemented across the FET sector. GRETB staff are also involved in national working groups, including the development of the national assessment procedures handbooks. The openness to the learning from these Fora and working groups by staff has improved our quality practices in GRETB.

GRETB's Strategic goals include the provision of high-quality education and training programmes.

Governance and Management of Quality

GRETB initially established a QA Steering Group as a means of managing its quality system. Following greater understanding of quality assurance processes this was found to be inadequate and a new governance system was created which includes the original QA Steering Group. This governance system is responsible for the governance of all further education and training services within the organisation.

FET Quality Assurance Governance



The FET Quality Council

The FET Quality Council is responsible for the governance, management and improvement of all aspects of GRETB's further education and training provision. The FET Quality Council ensures, as far as possible, that all learners receive an equal experience regardless of where they attend courses within the organisation. Representatives from NUIG, GMIT, The Regional Skills Forum and GRETB Senior FET Managers are members of the FET Quality Council.

The Quality Assurance (QA) Steering Group, the FET Programme Board and the Apprenticeship Quality Council (AQC) all report to the FET Quality Council.

The QA Steering Group

The QA Steering Group is responsible for the development, oversight, planning, co-ordination, and improvement of GRETB's quality assurance policies, procedures, and processes. Representatives from GRETB's FET services are members of the QA Steering Group.

The FET Programme Board

The FET Programme Board is responsible for the oversight, planning, co-ordination, development, and quality of GRETB's programmes. Representatives from GRETB's FET services are members of the FET Programme Board.

Representation from across the FET services ensures that the quality message is disseminated throughout the services.

The QA Steering Group and the FET Programme Board are responsible for the governance and management of working groups which are established on a need's basis.

Since 2018 the following working groups have been put in place:

- Blended learning
- Learner support
- RPL
- EA/RAP
- Digital badge
- TLA
- Policy review
- Programme review

The Apprenticeship Quality Council (AQC) oversees the planning, co-ordination, quality, development, and improvement of all aspects of new apprenticeship programmes that are part of GRETB's further education and training provision.

The AQC is responsible for the governance and management of the Consortium Steering Group, which in turn is responsible for the management of the National Programme Board and the National Examination Board.

GRETB, on an annual basis, engage in a partnership approach with AONTAS in the National Adult Learner Forums. GRETB staff also attended 'Capturing the Learner Voice', which is a professional development training delivered as part of the Further Education and Training Support Service (FESS) PD calendar of events. Currently learners are not represented on any of GRETB's governance groups. However, there have been many discussions on how the learner voice could be meaningfully included. In addition, GRETB is consulting with AONTAS on how best to engage learners, in a meaningful manner, in delivering governance duties.

Other Awarding Bodies

While QQI certification accounts for over 90% of awards achieved by GRETB's learners the quality assurance requirements of other awarding bodies are also overseen within GRETB's quality system. For consistency and efficiency an integrated system needs to be created which incorporates the requirements of all awarding bodies into the procedures.



5

Regional
Profile



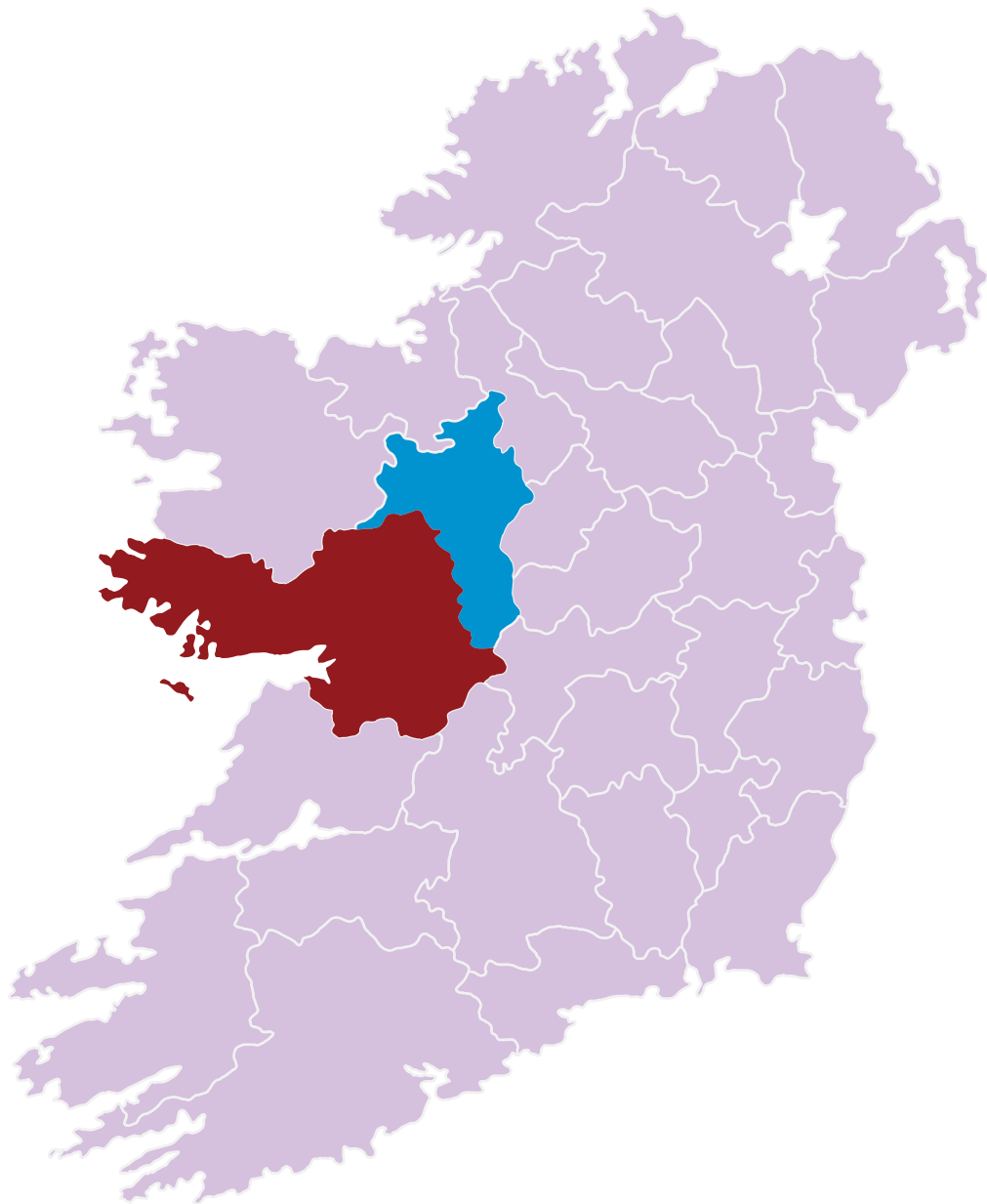
Enterprise & Population in Galway & Roscommon Region

The total population for Galway City and County combined is 258,058⁵. Population changes for the county recorded an increase of 3.0%⁶. The key centres of population in County Galway include Galway City (78,688), Tuam (8,767), Ballinasloe (6,662), Loughrea (5,556), Oranmore (4,990), Athenry (4,445), Gort (2,994), Bearna (1,998), Moycullen (1,704), Clifden (1,597) and Portumna (1,450)⁷. The total population for Roscommon is 64,544⁸.

Population changes for the county recorded an increase of 0.7%⁹. The key centres of population in Roscommon County include Roscommon Town (5,876), Boyle (2,568), Castlerea (1,992), Ballaghaderreen (1,808) and Strokestown (825)¹⁰.

Galway is the fourth most populous city in the Republic of Ireland. It is a University City, a hub for tourism and home to international companies such as: Boston Scientific, CISCO, Creganna, EA Games, HP, Oracle, Medtronic, SAP, and Thermo King. Other major employers such as Chanelle, Mylan and Valeo are located in Loughrea, An Spidéal and Tuam respectively. Galway City is the main focal point for many public services including Galway City Council, Galway County Council, and several public hospitals.

Galway is the fourth most populous city in the Republic of Ireland.



⁵ CSO (2016) Census of Population

⁶ CSO (2016) Population change 2011-2016

⁷ CSO (2016) Census of Population

⁸ CSO (2016) Census of Population

⁹ CSO (2016) Population change 2011-2016

¹⁰ CSO (2016) Census of Population

Roscommon County is a predominantly rural county with several small urban centres. Notable companies in the region include: Biotech Healthcare, Hasmac Medical, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Nordson Medical and Mimar Media. Roscommon Town is the county town and thus is the location of many of the public services for the county including Roscommon County Council and a public hospital.

In 2018, the figures for active enterprises in the Galway and Roscommon region were 22,447 with 135,886 persons employed¹¹. The West accounts for 9.6% of employment in Ireland according to figures by Regional Skills Ireland, *see Appendix 4*.

Active Enterprises by Region

	ACTIVE ENTERPRISES	NO. EMPLOYED
Galway County & City	18,497	110,067
Roscommon County	3,930	25,819

CSO Business Demography 2018

The sectors recorded as main sources of employment in the Galway and Roscommon region are 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing', 'Industry and Construction' and 'Services'¹², as per the table below.

Galway County & City	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	5,668 (5.1%)
	Industry & Construction	22,975 (20.9%)
	Services	76,510 (69.5%)
	Total	110,067
Roscommon	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	2,311 (9.0%)
	Industry & Construction	4,809 (18.6%)
	Services	17,819 (69.0%)
	Total	25,819

CSO Census of Population 2016

¹¹ CSO Statistical Release, 24 July 2020

¹² CSO (2016) Census of Population 2016

Culture, Heritage and Tourism

Galway is a vibrant social, commercial, and industrial centre in the West of Ireland. It has an extraordinarily rich history and tradition in the Arts, culture, and Irish heritage. Galway is home to many annual festivals, some of which include: Babaró, Cúirt Literary Festival, Clifden Arts Festival, Galway International Arts Festival, Galway Film Fleadh and Galway Oyster Festival. The National Irish language theatre, An Taibhdhearc, is also located in Galway City. The Local Economic and Community Plan recognises the integral part creativity and culture play in the economic and social sustainability of Galway City. This high-level goal builds on the ambition of the 'Cultural Strategy Framework for Galway City and County 2016-2025' which aims to transform Galway into a working model of cultural sustainability, best practice, and world class cultural and creative experiences.

There are four inhabited islands off the coast of mainland Galway. These off-shore Islands are Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, Inis Oírr and Inishbofin. Connemara and the islands attract tourists all year around. Connemara National Park, Dún Aonghasa and Kylemore Abbey are examples of popular visitor attractions.

Tourism also plays a significant role in Roscommon. The County has unspoilt natural beauty, located inland in the heart of Ireland with attractions including Boyle Abbey, Castlecoote Loop, Castlerea Trails, Elphin Windmill, Lough Key Forest Park and Roscommon Abbey.

The promotion of Gaeilge, the Irish language, is an essential element of GRET B's core service. According to CSO figures, 39.8% of the Irish population over the age of three could speak Irish. Within Ireland, County Galway has the highest percentage of Irish speakers (49%) as it has the largest Gaeltacht in the country. In addition, Galway City and its suburbs have the highest rate of Irish speakers (41.4%) for an urban area in Ireland.

Galway is home to many annual festivals, some of which include: Babaró, Cúirt Literary Festival, Clifden Arts Festival, Galway International Arts Festival, Galway Film Fleadh and Galway Oyster Festival.

¹³ CSO (2016) *Census snapmap (Population aged 15 years and over by sex and highest level of education)*



Photo by Chaosheng Zhang

Education

In 2016, 6,433 people in Galway City were engaged in a technical or vocational/advanced certificate/completed certificate, in County Galway 17,356 and in County Roscommon 6,636¹³. This is consistent with national levels, as stated in the CSO's educational attainment thematic report 2019, 14% of persons aged 18-64 were engaged in a Level 4/5/6 programme nationally.

Employment

In 2016, 110,067 persons were employed in Galway City and County combined comparing to 25,819 persons in County Roscommon. In 2016, the unemployment rate among the general population was 11.7% in County Galway and 13% in County Roscommon, while the national unemployment was 12.9%. At the time the unemployment rate of Galway City reflected the national rate of 12.9%¹⁴.

There are three unemployment blackspots in the GRETB region:

- Boyle, Co. Roscommon
- Scainimh, Co. na Gaillimhe
- Garumna, Co. na Gaillimhe



¹⁴ CSO (2016) *Census of Population 2016*



6

Provision
Profile



Provision Profile

GRETB values its learners and offers a wide variety of education and training programmes for people who wish to enter, re-enter or progress in further education or the workplace.

The types of courses on offer vary from day, evening, and weekend options. Learner supports such as literacy and numeracy are offered across all provision.



a. GRETB Centres

GRET B offers a wide range of full-time and part-time programmes from Levels 1 – 6 on the NQF throughout the region. Unaccredited provision forms a large component of Core Personal and General Learning provision for learners. Central to supporting this FET provision is the Adult Information and Guidance Services.

To view GRETB centres by provision and location click on the interactive map below.



Full-time and Part-time Provision

The table below demonstrates the number of learners in 2019 by provision type.

*Note: **Beneficiary** is the number of unique learners counted multiple times as they may have participated in more than one course during a year e.g., 2019. It is a measure of activity.*

Learners are the count of unique learners. Each learner is counted only once even if they may have participated in more than one course. It is a measure of how many individuals were there.

PROVISION TYPE	FT LEARNERS 2019		P/T LEARNERS 2019	
	No.	%	No.	%
Adult Literacy Groups			1630	15.13%
Apprenticeships	896	17.67%		
Blended Training	39	0.70%		
BTEI Groups			2284	21.20%
Community Education			2243	20.82%
ESOL			919	8.53%
Evening Training			791	7.34%
FET Cooperation Hours			398	3.69%
ITABE			93	0.86%
Justice Workshop			84	0.78%
Night Classes			2064	19.16%
Other Funding			56	0.52%
PLC	2569	50.67%		
Refugee Resettlement			7	0.06%
Skills for Work			177	1.64%
Specific Skills Training	604	11.91%		
Traineeship Training	195	3.85%		
Voluntary Literacy Tuition			29	0.27%
VTOS Core	474	9.35%		
Youthreach	293	5.78%		
Total	5070		10775	
Overall Total		15845		

b. Contracted / External Provision

The table below lists the types of programmes delivered by community contracted trainers. Contracted training refers to the structure, procurement, and management of training and/or education outsourced to contractors by GRETB.

	LEARNERS 2019		BENEFICIARIES 2019	
	No.	%	No.	%
Community Training Centres	51	13.56%	63	14.15%
Local Training Initiatives	164	43.61%	201	45.16%
Specialist Training Providers	161	42.81%	181	40.67%
Total	376	100%	445	100%



c. GRETB Services

SERVICE	DESCRIPTION
Adult Education Guidance and Information Service	Adult Education Guidance and Information Service offers impartial and confidential advice, guidance, and counselling on the educational options that are available within GRETB and with other education providers.
Community Liaison Service (Western Region Drug and Alcohol Taskforce)	GRETB works in partnership with the WRDATF to support communities and individuals who have been impacted by drug and alcohol misuse. This work involves education programmes, policy development, and special initiatives such as the coordination of 'Planet Youth'.
Employer Engagement	The Employer Engagement Unit works in collaboration with employers in Galway and Roscommon to provide work-based learning opportunities to support employee development. Within employer engagement, the Skills for Work and Skills to Advance programmes are administered.
GRETB Apprenticeship Services	GRETB supports apprentices from the first registration to the completion of their apprenticeship. Employers are approved to take on apprentices and are monitored by GRETB. All apprenticeship queries are dealt with by the apprenticeship services team.
Music Generation	Music Generation, Ireland's National Music Education Programme, transforms the lives of children and young people through access to high quality performance music education.
Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL)	The purpose of TEL is to promote, support and embed the use of technology to enhance the teaching and learning experience for everyone in GRETB.
Youth Advocacy Service	The purpose of GRETB's Youth Advocacy Service is to enable, empower, and advocate for 16-25 year olds that are, or are at risk of being, Early School Leavers (ESL). An ESL is a person who leaves formal education before reaching the age of 16 years or before completing 3 years post-primary education. The Advocacy service provides support, mentoring and alternative options in a one-to-one confidential setting. Often, this specifically targeted group come from marginalised backgrounds; socio-economically disadvantaged, socially isolated, present with mental health and wellbeing issues, and have/had adverse childhood experiences or poor educational experiences.
Youth Services	GRETB provides an administrative, oversight and governance function to 22 Department of Children and Youth Affairs funded Youth Work Services (UBU – Your Place, Your Space Scheme) and over 120 Volunteer Youth Clubs through the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme.

d. GRETB Provision by Field of Learning

The number of FET beneficiaries by field of learning is displayed in the table below.

FIELD OF LEARNING	BENEFICIARIES 2018	BENEFICIARIES 2019	BENEFICIARIES 2020
Apprenticeships*	808	896	691
Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary	435	457	404
Arts and humanities	881	865	816
Business and administration and law	1242	1184	974
Education	6045	7250	1656
Engineering, manufacturing and construction	618	631	388
Generic programmes and qualifications	2800	3805	6937
Health and welfare	2053	1995	1822
Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	833	803	637
Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics	65	71	71
Services	1268	1329	1101
Social Sciences, Journalism and Information	14	0	0
Total	17062	19286	15497

*From 2017 to 2021 apprentices in Galway and Roscommon have registered in the following fields: Arboriculture, BioPharma, Electrical, Engineering, Finance, Hairdressing, Healthcare, Hospitality & Food, ICT, Insurance, Logistics, Motor, Property Services, Recruitment and Sales.

e. GRETB Provision by NFQ Level

The table below shows the number of learners by National Framework Qualification level (NFQ).

NFQ LEVEL	BENEFICIARIES 2018	BENEFICIARIES 2019	BENEFICIARIES 2020
Uncertified*	6166	7806	6057
Level 1	85	94	69
Level 2	523	426	291
Level 3	1333	1686	1219
Level 4	1310	1499	1084
Level 4 / 5	145	229	173
Level 5	5718	5649	5008
Level 6 / Advanced Certificate / Higher Certificate**	1782	1897	1596
Total	17062	19286	15497

* Uncertified includes - Community Education, ABE and Cooperation Hours

** Apprentices added at Level 6

Figures do not include night classes

f. Awarding Bodies

The number of FET beneficiaries that achieved certification by awarding bodies is displayed in the table below.

AWARDING BODY	BENEFICIARIES 2018		BENEFICIARIES 2019		BENEFICIARIES 2020	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
ADOBE	15	0.14	11	0.10%	0	0.00%
Approved EN Certifying Body	136	1.26	142	1.26%	73	0.78%
ATI	41	0.38	14	0.12%	0	0.00%
CIBTAC	18	0.17	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
CIDESCO	20	0.18	40	0.35%	40	0.43%
CISCO	26	0.24	13	0.12%	21	0.23%
City & Guilds	121	1.12	120	1.06%	55	0.59%
CompTIA	39	0.36	59	0.52%	54	0.58%
Department of Education & Skills	174	1.61	258	2.28%	207	2.22%
ICS SKILLS	155	1.43	115	1.02%	60	0.64%
Institute of Workplace & Facilities Management	0	0.00	0	0.00%	13	0.14%
ITEC	53	0.49	40	0.35%	27	0.29%
MICROSOFT	0	0.00	13	0.12%	0	0.00%
Oracle	31	0.29	38	0.34%	13	0.14%
PHECC	62	0.57	50	0.44%	22	0.24%
Pitman Training Group		0.00		0.00%	19	0.20%
QQI-FE	9,836	90.94	10,230	90.58%	8,556	91.90%
RSA (Road Safety Authority)	60	0.55	151	1.34%	150	1.61%
RTITB	29	0.27	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total	10,816		11,294		9,310	

*Night classes not included



7

Learner Profile



Learner Profile

The tables below show a breakdown of learners by gender, age and nationality.

a. Gender Profile

LEARNER GENDER	BENEFICIARIES 2018	BENEFICIARIES 2019	BENEFICIARIES 2020
Female	9687	11430	9287
Male	6567	6960	5519
Total	16254	18390	14806

* Gender does not include apprentices or night classes.

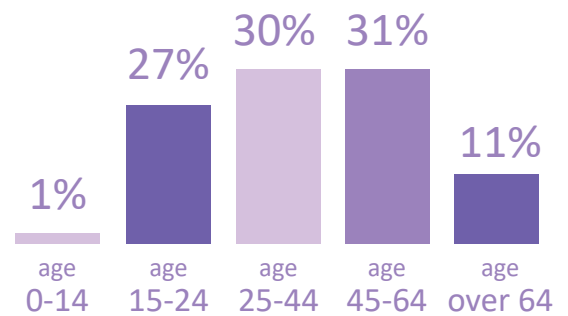


BENEFICIARIES 2020

b. Age Profile

LEARNER AGE	BENEFICIARIES 2018	BENEFICIARIES 2019	BENEFICIARIES 2020
0-14	11	30	14
15-24	4334	4459	3956
25-44	5742	5924	4556
45-64	4858	5865	4670
Over 64	1309	2112	1610
Total	16254	18390	14806

*Age range does not include apprentices or night classes.



BENEFICIARIES 2020

c. Nationality Profile¹⁵

REGION	2018	2019
Africa	341	399
Asia	469	596
Europe	1,188	1,205
Ireland	8,479	10,435
North America	27	49
Oceania	6	10
South America	275	350
United Kingdom	302	422
Unknown	5,167	4,924
Total	16,254	18,390

¹⁵ Figures provided by SOLAS



8

Staffing Profile





Staffing Profile

There are over 800 staff employed across the FET division of which 701 are learning practitioners, while other functions are managerial, administrative and coordinator focused. Examples of these functions include: Quality Assurance, Technology Enhanced Learning, Professional Development, PLSS Coordinator and Guidance roles. A full breakdown of staff resources by number is in the table below.

a. Staffing Overview

STAFF RESOURCES	NO.	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Director of FET	1	
Area Training Manager	1	
Assistant Manager (training services)	2	
Adult Education Officer	3	
Director of Outdoor Education	1	
Provision Coordinators	6 2 8 7 7	Adult Literacy Organisers Back to Education Initiative Coordinators Centre Managers Youthreach Coordinators VTOS Coordinators
Principal	1 3	PLC College Dual Provision (Post- Primary & PLC)
Quality Assurance Coordinator	1	
Quality Assurance Administrator	1	
Quality Assurance Support Officer	0.3	
Learning Practitioners (full-time & part-time)	701	Teachers Tutors (including Music Generation) Instructors Resource Workers Adult Educators
Professional Development Coordinator	2	
TEL	2	

STAFF RESOURCES	NO.	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
PLSS and FET Reporting Coordinator	1	
Community Officer/ Contracted Training Officer	4.5	
Community Education Facilitators	3	
Administration FE (including FET Centres admin)	3	
Administration Training Centre	15	
Adult Guidance Counsellor	5	
Adult Guidance Information Officer	2	
General Assistants	3	
Youth Officers	4	
Music Generation Development Officer & Admin	6	
Employer Engagement Officer	1	
Community Liaison Officers	2	
Course Recruitment officer	1	
Instructors	22	
Training Standards Officer	1	
Assistant Training Officer	1.25	
CEF Coordinators	5	Arborist, post 2016 apprenticeships, Skills to Advance, Innovation Project: Aquafarm
Skills for Work Coordinator	1	
Senior Stores officer	1	
Senior Training Advisor	3	

b. Teacher/Learner Ratio

All education and training programmes are delivered according to agreed standard operating procedures and in line with best practice in the delivery and oversight of education and training.





9

Collaborations and Partnerships





Collaborations and Partnerships

GRETB's FET Service has working relationships with many statutory and non-statutory agencies at both local and national levels. Other stakeholders include a variety of community groups, employers, representative and professional bodies, and voluntary providers.

a. National Agencies



etbi
Education & Training
Boards Ireland
*Boird Oideachais &
Oiliúna Éireann*



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

SOLAS
learning works



QQI AWARD



The Voice of
Adult Learning

NALA 
National Adult Literacy Agency

b. Regional Partners and other Networks

GRETB works with a larger number of organisations, locally, regionally, and nationally for both collaborative and networking purposes. Below is a small sample of these organisations:



c. Other Partnerships



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Appendices





Photo by Chaosheng Zhang

Appendix 1

GRETB Board members, as of August 2021

CITY COUNCIL NOMINEES	
1.	Cllr. Noel Larkin
2.	Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty
3.	Cllr. Michael Crowe


GALWAY CO. COUNCIL NOMINEES	
1.	Cllr. Michael Maher
2.	Cllr. Shane Curley
3.	Cllr. Colm Keaveney
4.	Cllr. Peter Roche
5.	Cllr. Tom Welby
6.	Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly

ROSCOMMON CO. COUNCIL NOMINEES	
1.	Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher
2.	Cllr. John Cummins
3.	Cllr. Laurence Fallon

ETB STAFF NOMINEES	
1.	Ms. Jean Beswick- Duignan
2.	Mr. Daniel Cronin

PARENTS NOMINEES	
1.	Mr. Sean Harnett
	Vacant

COMMUNITY NOMINEES	
1.	Ms. Bernadette Costello
2.	Ms. Nora Fahy
3.	Mr. Tomás Ó Nidh
4.	Ms. Mary Mullarkey
5.	Dr. Michael Hannon



Appendix 2

GRETB Audit and Risk Committee,
as of August 2021

1. Ms. Martina Maloney (Chairperson)
2. Mr. Gerry Finn
3. Br. James Mungovan
4. Ms. Mary Coyne
5. Cllr. Laurence Fallon
6. Cllr. Noel Larkin



Appendix 3

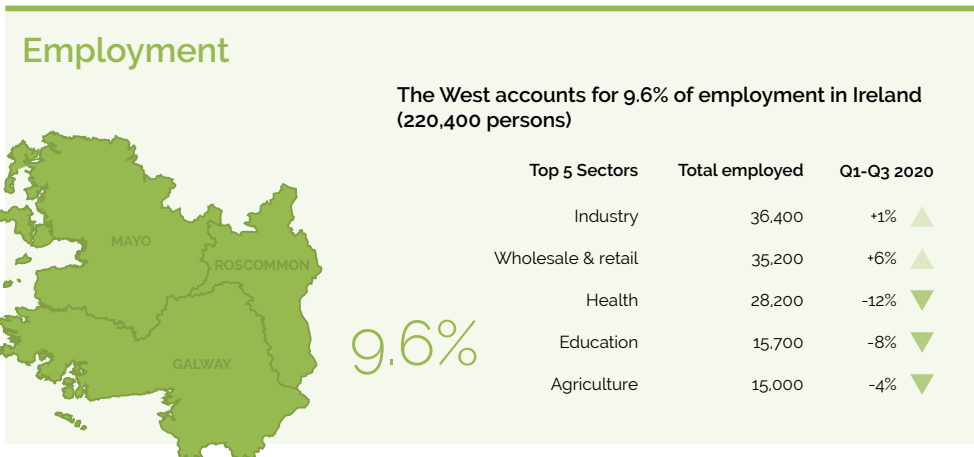
GRETB Finance Committee, as of
August 2021

1.	Ms. Mary Mullarkey (Chairperson)
2.	Cllr. Michael Maher
3.	Cllr. Michael Crowe
4.	Ms. Bernadette Costello
5.	Mr. Ivor Gleeson
6.	Mr. Charlie Notley



Appendix 4

Regional Skills West¹⁶



Impact of COVID-19 on the West region

(from Q1 2020 to Q3 2020)

Employment



↓ 1.4%
Employment fell by 3,100 persons (1.4%)



1.6% ↓ 1.2% ↓
Male employment fell by 2,000 persons (1.6%) while female employment declined by 1,200 persons (1.2%)

Work Force



62.3%
The labour force participation rate increased from 61.5% in Q1 to 62.3% in Q3

Health Sector



↓ 12%
The health sector saw the largest absolute decline in employment (3,900 persons or a 12% decrease)

Sector Focus

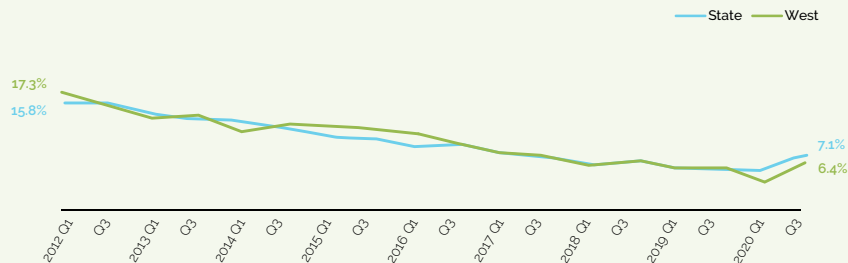
Selected top manufacturing companies in the West region

Caragh Provision
Oliver Carty **Ballina Beverages** **Chanelle**
 Penn Engineering Fastening Technologies West Bake
 McHale Engineering C&F Tooling Kepak
 Kepak (Athleague) **Thermo King**
Dawn Meats

¹⁶ The West Region (coded IE042) is a Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) Level III statistical region of Ireland. It consists of the territory of Galway City, the regional capital, as well as the counties of Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. The West region spans 13,801 km² (20% of the total area of the state). GRETB's region covers Galway and Roscommon only, with County Mayo sitting with Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB. As a caveat, the reader interpreting the data displayed should take the geographical differences across ETBs into consideration.

Unemployment

Unemployment rate %



Numbers unemployed Q3 2020



Change from Q1-Q3 2020 UE Number



Increase of 8,000 persons unemployed

UE Rate Q3 2020



Change from Q1-Q3 2020 UE Rate



Increase of 3.4 percentage points

Region rates – Overall comments



After Dublin, the West region observed **the greatest increase** in UE rate between Q1 2020 – Q3 2020. Despite this, the West region had **the second lowest UE rate** in Q3 2020.

Pandemic Unemployment Payments - Week 44

Persons receiving Pandemic Unemployment Payment in the **West** region:

- **30,100 persons**, compared to 52,600 in May 2020 (Week 18)
- Accounting for **13.7% of the labour force*** in the region (14.4% overall in the State)
- 27.7% (or 8,300 persons) **aged under 25 years** (25.3% for the State)
- **51.5% female** (50.4% for the State)

* based on Quarter 3 2020

Companies with recent job announcements in the West region

Company	No. of Jobs
Medtronic	300
Fidelity	100
triggerfish	60
CitySwift	50
Diligent	200



CitySwift



triggerfish
animation studios



Diligent



Fidelity
INVESTMENTS

www.regionalskills.ie/Regions/West
www.solas.ie

Sources: CSO Labour Force Survey and Live Register, Kompass



gretb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin
*Galway and Roscommon
Education and Training Board*

📍 An Coiléar Bán, Baile Átha an Rí
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