

Galway-Mayo Relocation Survey 2018



Collins McNicholas
Recruitment & HR Services Group

 **IDA**
Ireland



Introduction

“The West of Ireland is buoyant when it comes to employment opportunities with highly qualified people taking up quality careers in a range of sectors, and that shows no sign of changing in the near future.

Many of our client companies in Mayo and Galway are talking about expansion plans. They are creating opportunities for new roles, for people to progress or start a career.

And the diversity of opportunity is continuously expanding. The West is certainly experiencing a clustering of med tech and biopharma companies, but it is also steadily attracting shared services or global business services functions, along with an increased growth in ICT activity over the past number of years.

The Galway-Mayo Relocation Survey 2018 examines the experiences of professionals who have relocated to the region, and the findings show they are overwhelmingly happy with the move and with their improved quality of life.

Some 91% of people who relocated to Galway or Mayo are satisfied or very satisfied with their decision while a massive 76% report a better work-life balance following the move.

Michelle Murphy

**Collins McNicholas,
Director**

A move for anybody can be a fairly traumatic time, between tying up loose ends at your previous location to sourcing accommodation and sometimes schools in a new location, so to have such a high endorsement is extremely positive.

The fact that 78% would recommend relocating to Galway or Mayo speaks volumes for the attractions of relocating to the region which include shorter commute times, more disposable income and a wide variety of opportunities that allow candidates to enhance their careers while improving their work-life balance.

Some 75% now have a commute time of less than 40 minutes while a further 43% say commuting takes them less time than in their previous location. The lower cost of living in the region, particularly when it comes to accommodation and childcare, means 66% enjoy an increase in disposable income.

Relocation is often presented as people taking the opportunity to move back home but that is the case for only 16% of respondents with the vast majority moving from other parts of Ireland or international locations.

Clearly, the West of Ireland offers excellent career opportunities and positive lifestyle benefits for people with a wide variety of qualifications and expertise, and that shows no sign of abating – the West is well and truly awake and provides a welcoming and stimulating environment for professionals interested in relocating.

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Dave Hickey
President,
Galway Chamber

“ A good quality of life combined with work-life balance help attract and retain staff – and the quality of life in the West of Ireland sets us apart.

Life in Europe’s most westerly city, Galway, is inspiring yet relaxed. It’s full-on when you want it to be, but allows you to immerse yourself in its culture and absorb its energy at your own pace.

Drawing from a rich cultural heritage of the city and its unique countryside – Irish-speaking Connemara to the west, historic Mayo to the north, the dramatic Burren to the south – Galway has long been designated Ireland’s capital of culture.

Sitting in the centre of the Wild Atlantic Way, our outdoor life and

activities make the most of the dramatic countryside.

The Galway-Mayo Relocation Survey by Collins McNicholas provides some great insights into the experiences of those who have relocated here, with an incredible 91% satisfied with their decision.

Over three-quarters of respondents reported an improved work-life balance while 50% reported increased disposable income.

The cost of living, particularly in relation to property, in the West is amongst the lowest in Ireland.

Combined with excellent career opportunities and the culture, we attract people from across Ireland and overseas.

Six of Galway’s secondary schools rank in the top fifty in Ireland when it comes to university admissions while NUIG and GMIT offer a wide range of third-level options in both Galway and Mayo.

It’s Galway Chamber’s ambition to make Galway the best place in Ireland in which to live, work and to visit and this survey shows that, along with Mayo, we are on the right track.



Catherina Blewitt
Regional Manager,
West Region, IDA

“ The West has been successful in attracting inward foreign direct investment (FDI) with employment levels in foreign-owned companies reaching an all-time high this year.

There are almost 23,500 people working in more than 100 FDI companies in the West and the knock-on employment impact on the local economy is substantially more.

There is a significant ecosystem of well-established med tech and life sciences companies, a growing technology and thriving global business services cluster and a very strong start-up culture in the region.

This is evidenced by the continued growth of and investment in life sciences companies such as Allergan, Baxter, and Hollister in Mayo and Medtronic, Merit Medical, and Boston Scientific in Galway.

The number of people employed in software engineering, technical support, global business services and R&D has grown considerably in companies such as Valeo in Tuam, Lionbridge in Ballina, SAP, Cisco, Avaya and EA Games in Galway.

We have a thriving, dynamic and innovative enterprise base and the third-level institutes NUIG and GMIT in Castlebar and Galway are key to attracting further investment.

While embracing a new multicultural and multilingual identity, the region has, at the same time, retained its focus on Irish heritage and language, making it a

unique location in which to live, work and relocate to.

This survey by Collins McNicholas finds that 76% of respondents’ work-life balance has improved since relocating and that 40% relocated for a more senior role which shows the opportunities that exist.

The West is well positioned to continue to attract new FDI and grow employment in existing companies and we will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders and parties in the region to achieve this.



Brendan McGrath
Chief Executive,
Galway City Council

“ The quality of life in Galway and its ability to attract people to live and work here is unrivalled in Ireland.

Galway City is unique in that it has created a town environment in a city context. It feels like living in a town where everything is accessible and people know each other – yet it has all the facilities and attributes of a city.

Galway is an ideal location where you can plan and develop your business with supports available from a range of agencies as well as the ability to link in with major industries and a young educated work force coming from the third-level institutions.

The county and city attracts significant numbers of young, talented people while also providing a work-life balance that makes professionals want to settle in Galway long-term.

In this survey, carried out by Collins McNicholas, some 91% of respondents said they were happy with their move to the West.

Galway is a young, vibrant university city with a reputation as the cultural capital of Ireland, demonstrated by being designated the European Capital of Culture 2020 where we

will showcase what we have to offer to the rest of Europe.

The city has quality schools, a top-rated University, a wide range of recreation facilities and a cultural hub. Its location by the sea and adjacent to Connemara, together with major employers offering career opportunities, allows top talent to relocate here knowing they have the facilities of a European city at their disposal.



Kevin Kelly
Chief Executive (Acting),
Galway County Council

“ Galway City and County are key drivers for the West of Ireland. The city is located at a pivotal point on the Atlantic Economic Corridor, where the influence of Ireland’s southern Atlantic cities of Cork and Limerick extends northwards.

Galway is building on its key strengths - including a world class med tech cluster, a vibrant ICT sector, third-level institutions within the city, a vibrant arts and cultural scene, year-round tourism and an attractive natural setting - with all these factors contributing to a positive national reputation.

The region is well situated and improved connectivity, with the completion of the M6 Motorway to Dublin and M17/M18 Motorway linking the north of County

Galway to Limerick, has greatly reduced travel times within - and to and from - the region.

Galway now has three international airports within two hours. Dublin Airport is serviced by direct buses that travel every half hour, complemented with a frequent rail service between both cities.

The quality of life in Galway is unparalleled. Air and water quality are exceptional, as is the lack of noise pollution. Galway

offers a range of affordable residential environments from a vibrant city to rural living or small town village life.

The benefits of locating a business and or continuing your career in the West are clear from this research by Collins McNicholas with 78% saying they would recommend relocating to Galway or Mayo. Why don't you visit us and find out for yourself!



Peter Hynes
Chief Executive,
Mayo County Council

“ Mayo has a great deal to offer as both a location to establish or grow your business as well as an excellent place to build your career – while enjoying a fantastic lifestyle at an affordable cost.

We have a strong entrepreneurial culture, a highly-educated workforce and an established track record in terms of business success – with Allergan, Coca-Cola, Hollister, and Baxter Healthcare headlining a list of long-established large employers in the county.

Partly because of this track record in employment, Mayo has a strong pool of extremely talented workers who are exemplars in their fields and new employers here have no trouble recruiting and retaining skilled staff.

As well as boasting arguably some of the most beautiful, wild and rugged countryside in Europe, Mayo is home to a

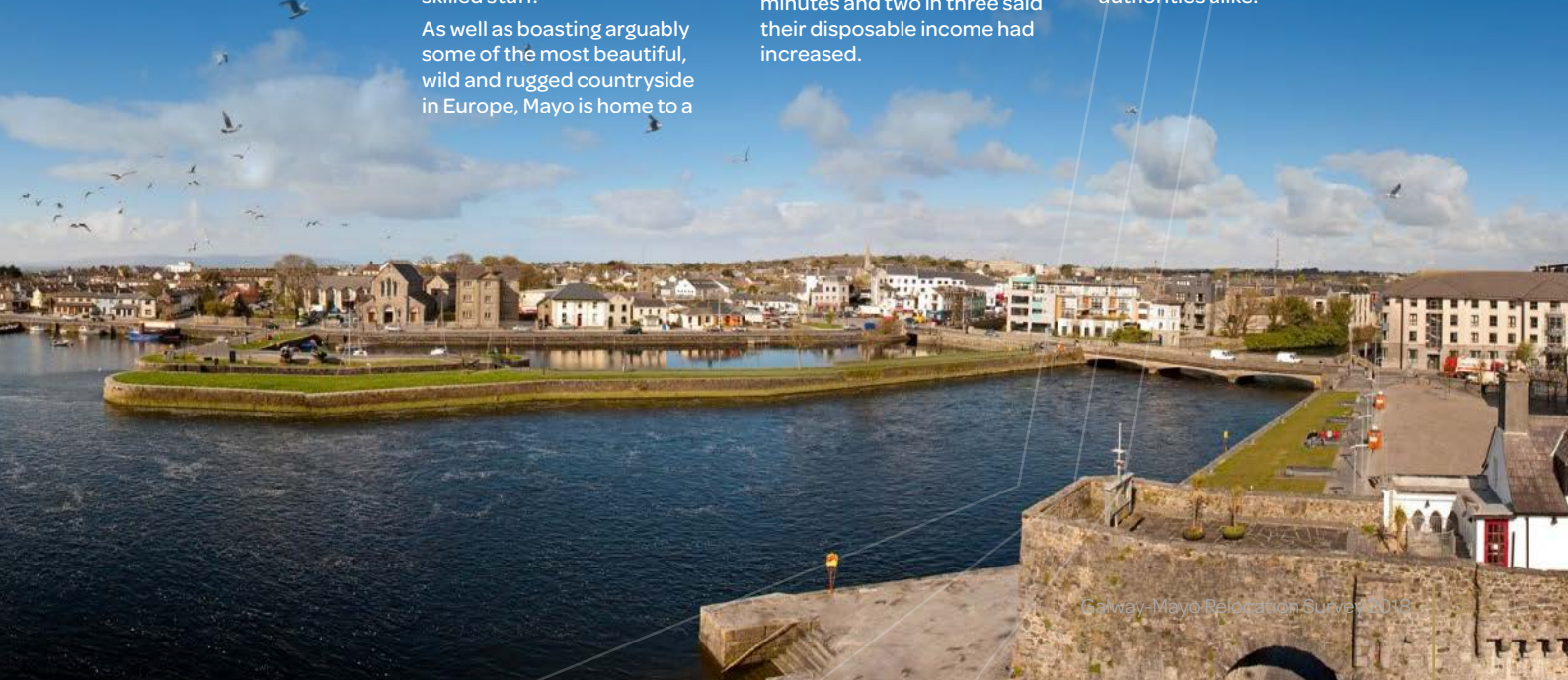
burgeoning hive of industries including med tech, agri-tech, food & beverages and engineering.

Ireland West Airport Knock is a gateway for the North West region into Europe and beyond, with many companies located here doing significant business on the continent because of that ease of access.

Some 43% of the respondents in this Collins McNicholas survey said that since their move to the West, their commute time was now less than twenty minutes and two in three said their disposable income had increased.

An overwhelming 76% said their work-life balance was better in Mayo and it's no wonder. Mayo is a thriving industrious county surrounded by the most stunning countryside. It is possible to combine progressing your career with a unique quality of life in a place which is beautiful, affordable and welcoming, the very 'Heartbeat of the Wild Atlantic Way'.

Find out for yourself and visit us - you can expect a warm welcome from both the local communities and local authorities alike.





Inma Aguilera

Manufacturing Process Development Engineer, Creganna Medical, Galway

The West of Ireland is a great place for engineers to further their careers because there are so many large companies where you can grow and progress your career.

I'm originally from Alicante, Spain but I moved to the Netherlands in 2015 for better career and lifestyle opportunities. While there were many great opportunities there, I wanted to improve my language skills and, having visited Ireland twice before, it seemed like the perfect place to achieve this as well as growing my career.

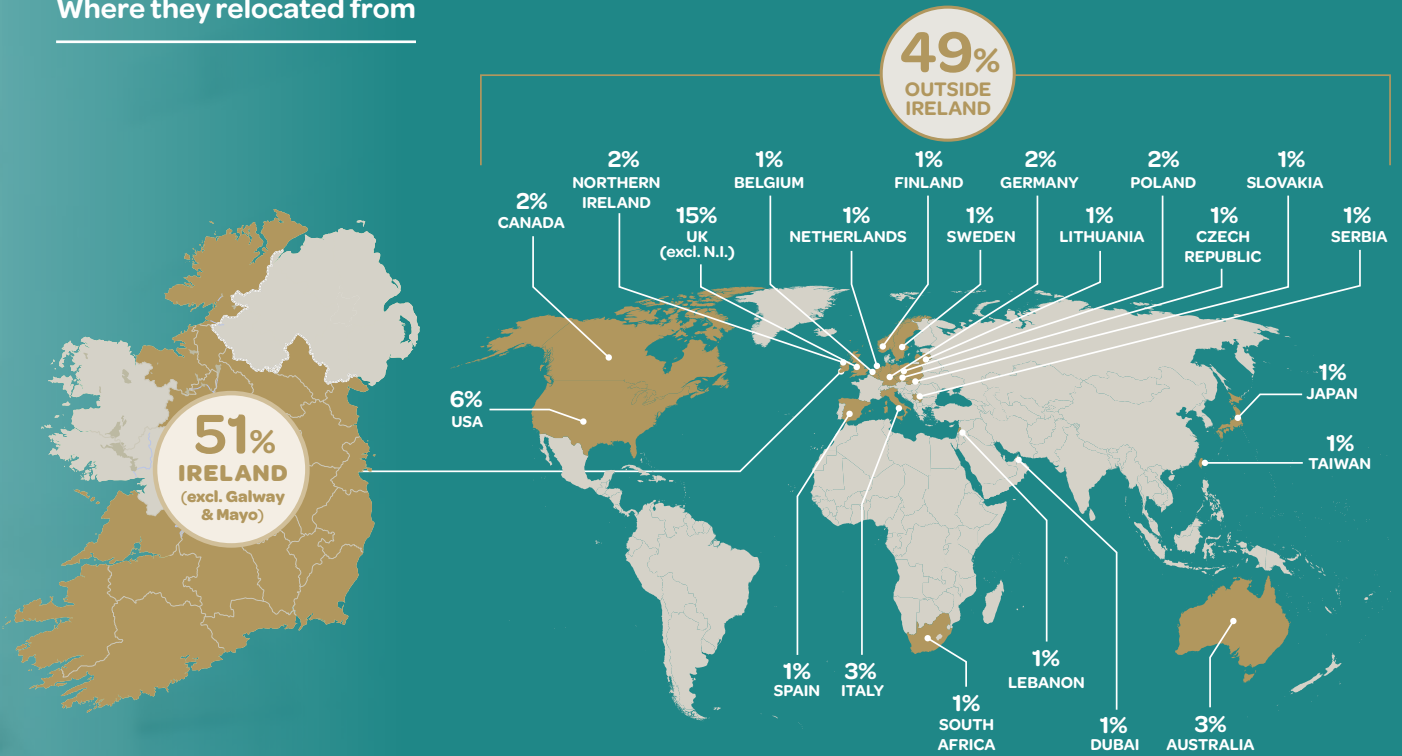
In June 2018, I moved to Renmore, Galway after getting a job with Creganna Medical at their site in Parkmore Business and Technology Park – just 5k from my home. My journey to work takes me around 15 minutes each day by bus.

It's much easier to communicate with people here. My colleagues are very friendly, everyone helps each other out, and the hours are flexible. It's a very supportive team and it's such a nice environment to work in.

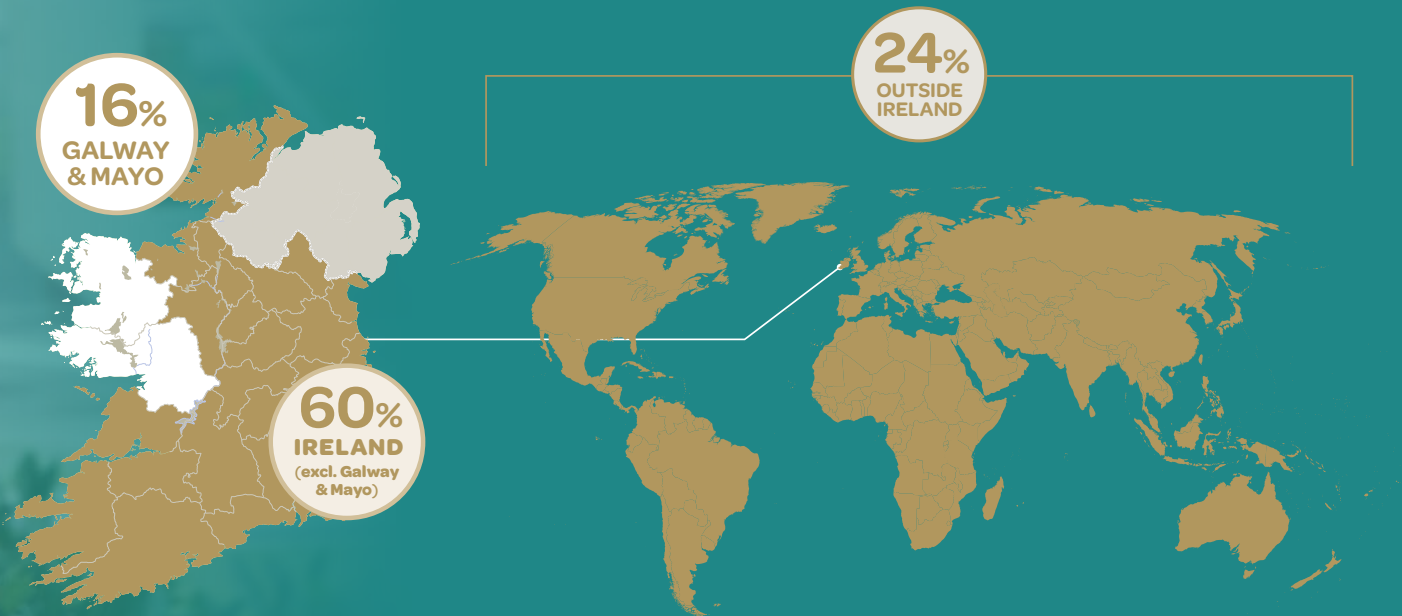
I love travelling and exploring new places so I'm looking forward to exploring other towns around Ireland in my spare time. But there is also so much going on here in Galway. It's great for shopping, there is plenty to do and see, and there is beautiful scenery right on your doorstep. It's also a fantastic city for arts all year round. I love art and culture and am looking forward to joining a painting class soon.



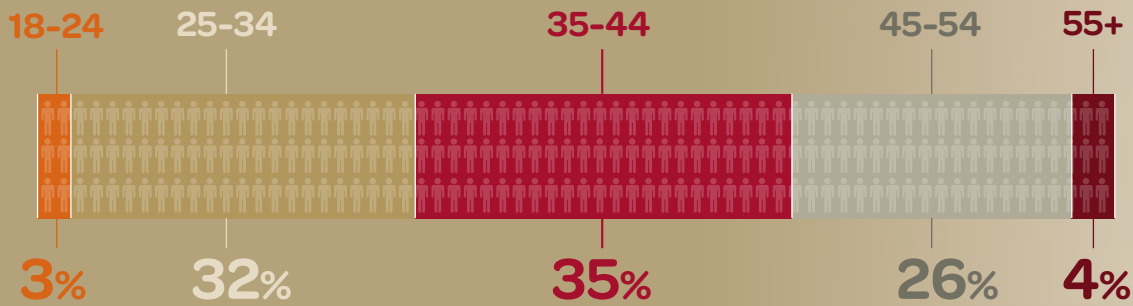
Where they relocated from



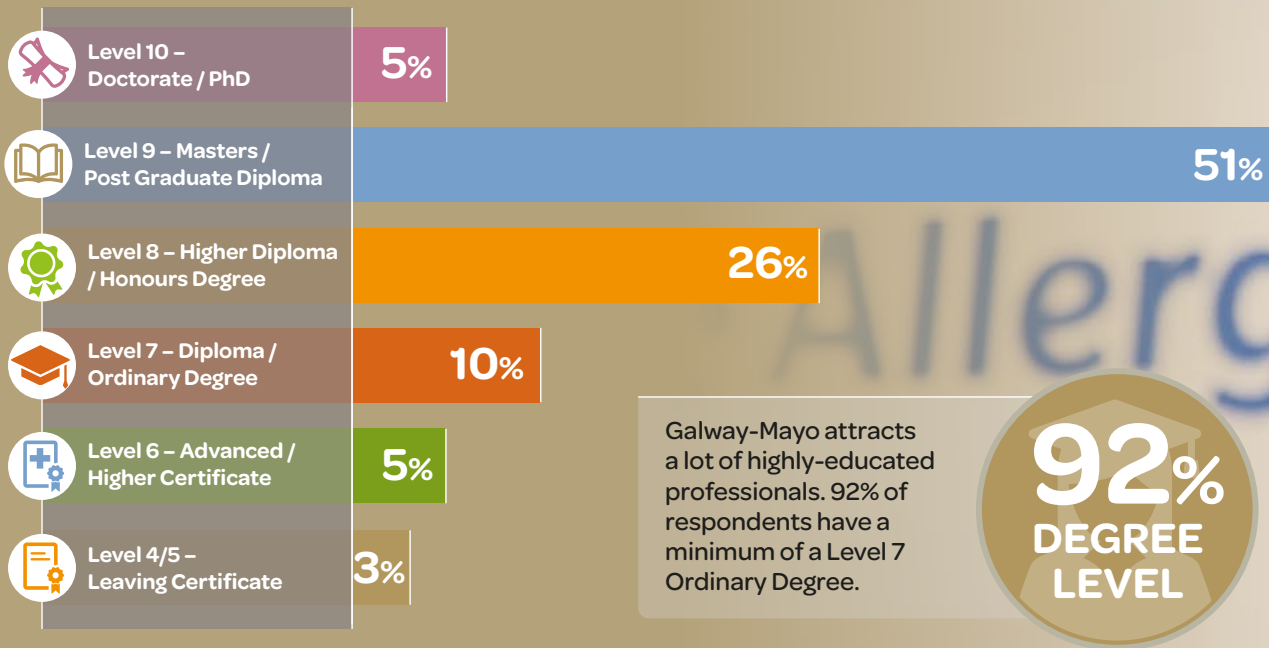
Where they are from originally



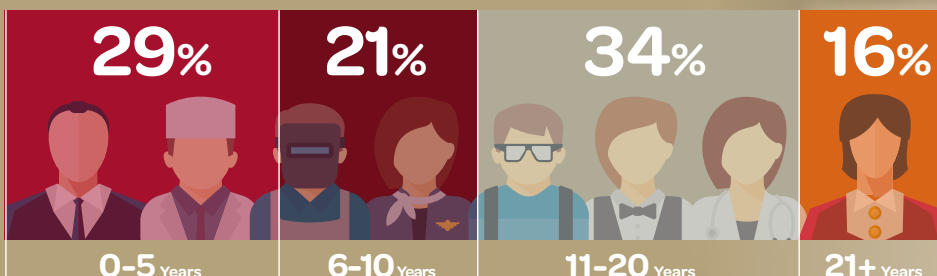
Age of respondents



Their level of education



The amount of experience they have in their current sector of employment





Paweł Hajan

Team Member, Zeltiq/Allergan, Galway

My wife and I moved to Galway from Poland in October 2017 and shortly after relocating, I joined the team at Allergan.

We've met some very nice people since moving. My colleagues in particular are very friendly. I car share with my co-workers when commuting to work, but sometimes I cycle too as work is only 10k from our home in Doughiska.

Galway scenery is breathtaking, especially early in the morning when the first thing I see is the bay and the ocean. This is the first time I've lived so close to the sea. I like it very much here; there's so much to visit and explore.

My working hours really suit a work-life balance; before I was working shifts but now I have weekends off which gives us more time to visit places in the area – whether it's Salthill Beach, going for a cycle at Silver Strand, jogging in Merlin Wood, shopping in Eyre Square or having a quiet lunch in Oranmore.

We try to visit other places around Ireland too; we've climbed Croagh Patrick in Mayo and have gone to see the Cliffs of Moher twice. Ireland is a fascinating country and I really enjoy exploring it.

There are so many great career prospects here, as well as education opportunities, so it's inviting for students too. You can get a proper education and find a good and promising job in just one city.



Ruairí Conroy

Managing Director, SiteMinder, Galway

Since relocating to the West, I have more time to slow down at the weekends. There is a much more outdoorsy feel to living here; we can take our three children to the beach at the weekend or sometimes I go fishing in my spare time.

My wife and I are originally from Tourmakeady, a Gaeltacht area in Mayo, but we were living and working in Dublin for 14 years before relocating in 2016 to be closer to our families.

We're much closer to my parents and my wife's parents now so we get to see them more often, and our extended family only live two minutes over the road. At the moment we're renting in Partry, which is just outside Ballinrobe, but we have plans to build a house next to my parents back home in Tourmakeady.

I've been with SiteMinder in Galway for two years now and the commute to work is much shorter. The drive takes an hour tops in the car both ways, but the traffic is nowhere near as congested. In Dublin, I wouldn't have arrived home until after 8pm but now I can get home earlier and have more time with my family before the kids go to bed.

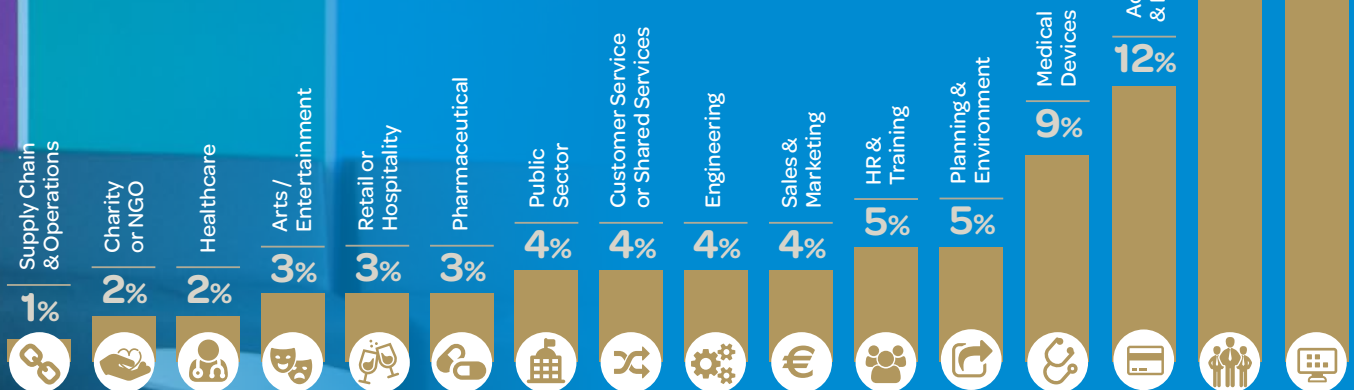
I think the prospects here in the West of Ireland are among the best in the world. The West has a special culture that still maintains its sense of community which makes it super unique, and that's incredibly appealing to families and people both young and old.



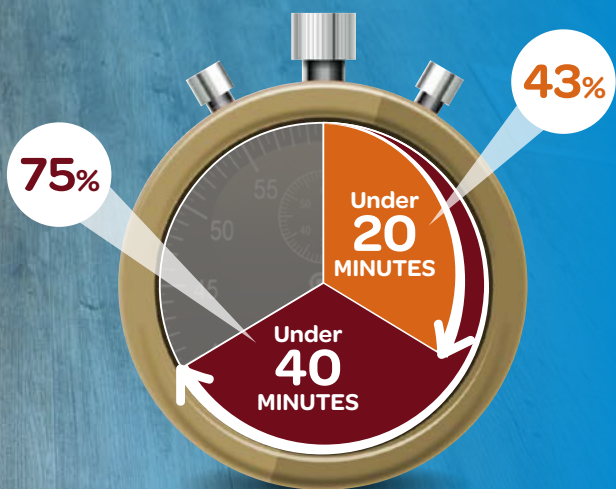
Their level of difficulty in finding work

72% did not consider it difficult to find work in the region.

The industry they are working in

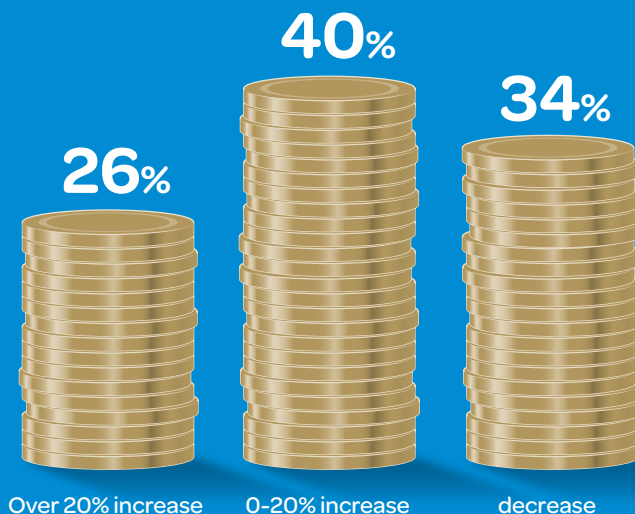


Length of commute time in their current role



Has your disposable income changed since relocating to Galway-Mayo?

66% have the same or more disposable income since moving to Galway-Mayo.





Samantha Commons

Associate Director of Human Resources,
Allergan, Westport

I moved back to the West of Ireland when I joined Allergan in April after three-and-a-half years in Dublin. It was a quality of life decision. Most of my friends and family are in this part of Ireland. I was spending a lot of time at weekends on the road down here. Even though I was enjoying Dublin, my heart was here in the West of Ireland.

When I started thinking about where I wanted to be last year, I thought that I'd probably end up in Galway because that's where a lot of the larger companies with HR requirements are based. I couldn't believe my luck when something came up with Allergan in Westport as I had always heard that it was a great place to work. I grew up in Enniscrone, Co Sligo, but my family actually live in Castlebar now so they're literally only up the road.

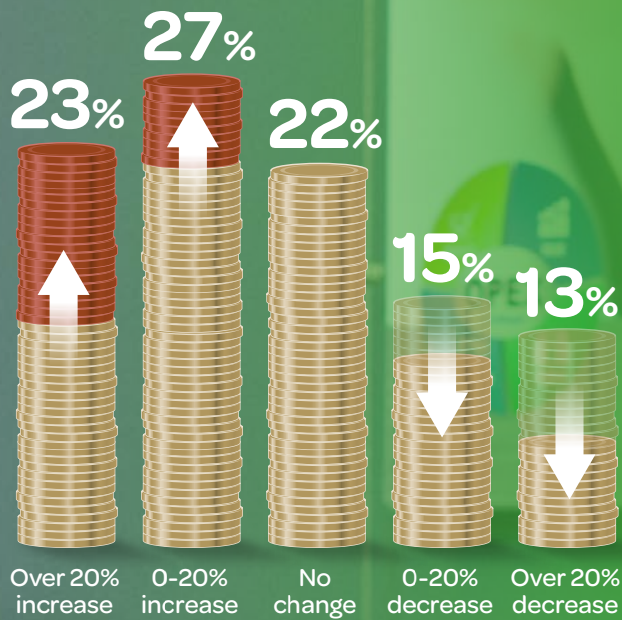
Westport is great. It's not your typical Irish country town. There's something happening every day of the week. There's great energy and pride in the town, including the association with Allergan, which has been in Westport for 40 years and is the largest employer in the region.

I was definitely one of the luckier people in Dublin because I didn't have a big commute. Here I have a zero commute – I live across the road from Allergan!

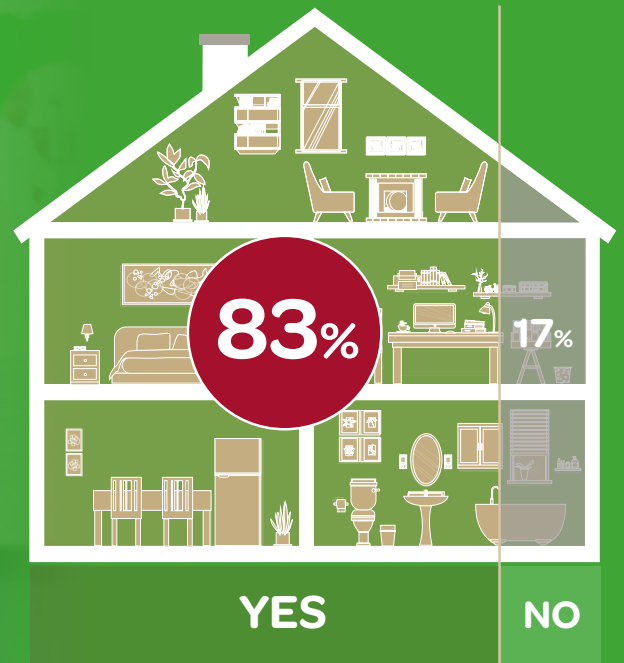
It's great for me to be able to be close to my family and friends and have a great job as well. That's the dream really, isn't it?



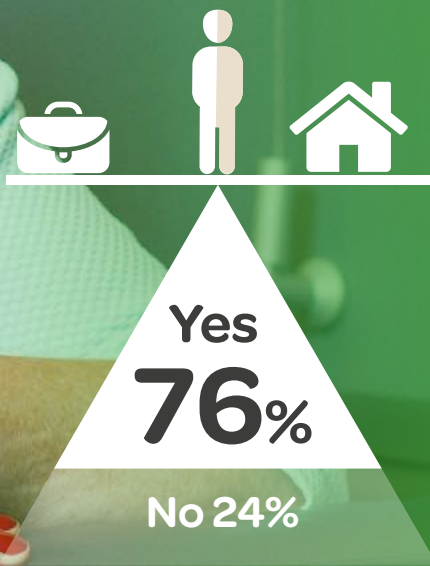
Their change in salary since relocating to Galway–Mayo



Have they bought property in Galway–Mayo, or are they considering it?



Has their work-life balance improved since moving to Galway–Mayo?

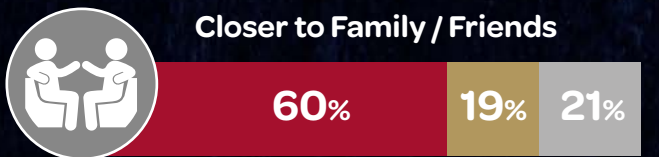
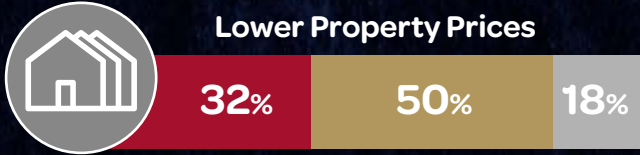
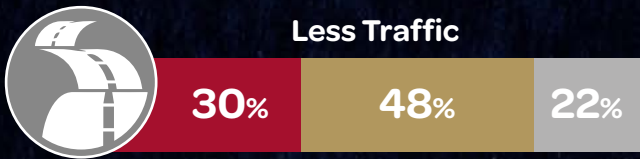


Their level of satisfaction with their move to Galway–Mayo

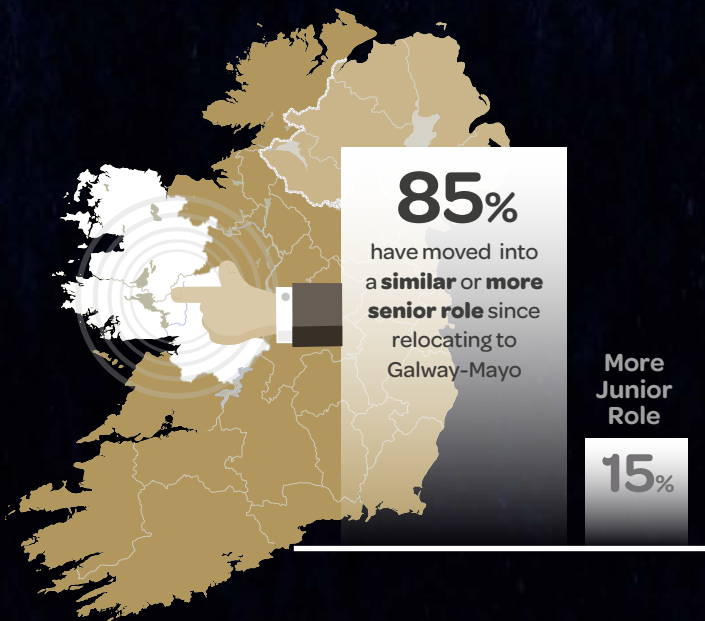
91% are either satisfied or very satisfied with their move to Galway–Mayo



Benefits of moving to Galway-Mayo



Their job level since relocating to Galway-Mayo



Would they recommend relocating to Galway-Mayo?





Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



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