

Where are the jobs in Clare?

(An analysis of job vacancies from the Clare Champion newspaper in 2011)

Rationale:

Each year the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs produces a National Skills Bulletin (www.skillsireland.ie) which among other reports contains an analysis of job vacancies from FAS and the national newspapers. However no regional breakdown of vacancies exists currently. It is possible that there is significant regional variation in vacancies among different job sectors.

Clare Adult Guidance Service maintains a database of job opportunities in Clare on its website www.clareguidance.ie/jobs. This is a list of jobs and the companies offering them which is updated each week by the information officer based on listings in the Clare Champion newspaper. A review of this database for 2011 is an attempt to ascertain in which sectors the current jobs exist in Co. Clare.

Sample:

The sample contained jobs advertised in the 'Appointments' section of the Clare Champion newspaper every Thursday. It does not contain those advertised in the small ads in the 'situations vacant' column. Not every job advertised in the paper for 2011 is included as there were some weeks during the Summer when the service was closed and the database wasn't updated. Information for 278 ads was recorded in 2011. Sometimes there was more than one job listing per advertisement. The total number of vacancies advertised in these 278 ads was approximately 324.

Method:

Each of the 278 ads in the database was looked at and jobs recorded according to broad occupational category and more specific job type. Where available the area of the county in which the job was located was recorded (Ennis, North Clare, South Clare, East Clare, West Clare, Countywide and Other). Whether the job was part time or full time was also recorded where this information was available. A formal statistical analysis of the results was not attempted but a percentage breakdown is provided.

Results:

Table 1 below shows a breakdown of vacancies by job sector.

Table 1: Breakdown of Job Vacancies by Job Sector

Job Sector	Percentage of total vacancies in 2011
Food, Catering, Accomodation	24.1%
Social Care, Community Care	12%
Retail, Sales & Customer Service	7.7%
Healthcare	7.4%
Childcare	7.1%
Engineering & Manufacturing	6.8%
Administration & Secretarial	6.2%
Health & Beauty	5.2%
Training & Education	4.3%
Accounting & Finance	3.7%
Hygiene, Safety & Security	2.8%
Languages, Information & Culture	2.8%
IT & Computers	2.5%
Logistics	2.5%
Sport, Recreation, Leisure	2.2%
Art, Craft, Design	1.2%
Agriculture	0.9%

Almost a quarter of all vacancies advertised in the Clare Champion in 2011 were in the Food, Catering & Accomodation sector. This was more than double the number in the next biggest sector. The types of jobs in this sector included Chefs, Catering Assistants, Waiting staff, bar staff, duty managers, and accommodation assistants. Most of these jobs were in North Clare followed by Ennis and West Clare, with a smaller number in South Clare and none at all in East Clare.

There were also a significant amount of Social Care vacancies. These include occupations such as support workers and carers, project workers and co-ordinators. The majority of these jobs were based in Ennis with the rest spread around the county or countywide.

Table 2: The 5 most advertised occupations in Clare in 2011.

Occupation	Percentage of Total Vacancies
Chef	9.6%
Carers/ Support Workers	8%
Waiting Staff	5%
Hairdresser	4.6%
Nurse	4.3%

The most advertised occupations were those in service industries (catering, hairdressing) and social care, healthcare (carers, registered nurses). Note that this does not imply there is a shortage of staff in these occupations, merely that there were more vacancies advertised for these type of jobs. Other reasons such as high staff turnover could account for a greater frequency of job advertisements in a particular occupational area.

Table 3: Distribution of Job Vacancies in Clare

	Ennis	North Clare	South Clare	West Clare	East Clare	Countywide	Other
%age of vacancies advertised	38%	19.4%	9.3%	15.7%	3%	4%	10.5%

Unsurprisingly the majority of jobs were Ennis based. The relatively high figure for North Clare is perhaps skewed a bit by the amount of vacancies in the food and catering sector there. Nearly all the jobs in the IT sector were based outside Clare. In some cases the contact address given in the advertisement was not actually where the job was based which means that the number of vacancies could be a little skewed towards the larger urban centres like Ennis. One thing that is noticeable about the breakdown is the very small number of vacancies advertised in East Clare.

In terms of whether jobs were classified as part time or full time, in many cases this information was not available. The only significant trend which emerged was that in the case of jobs in childcare, almost all were part time. There were very few full time jobs advertised in the childcare sector.