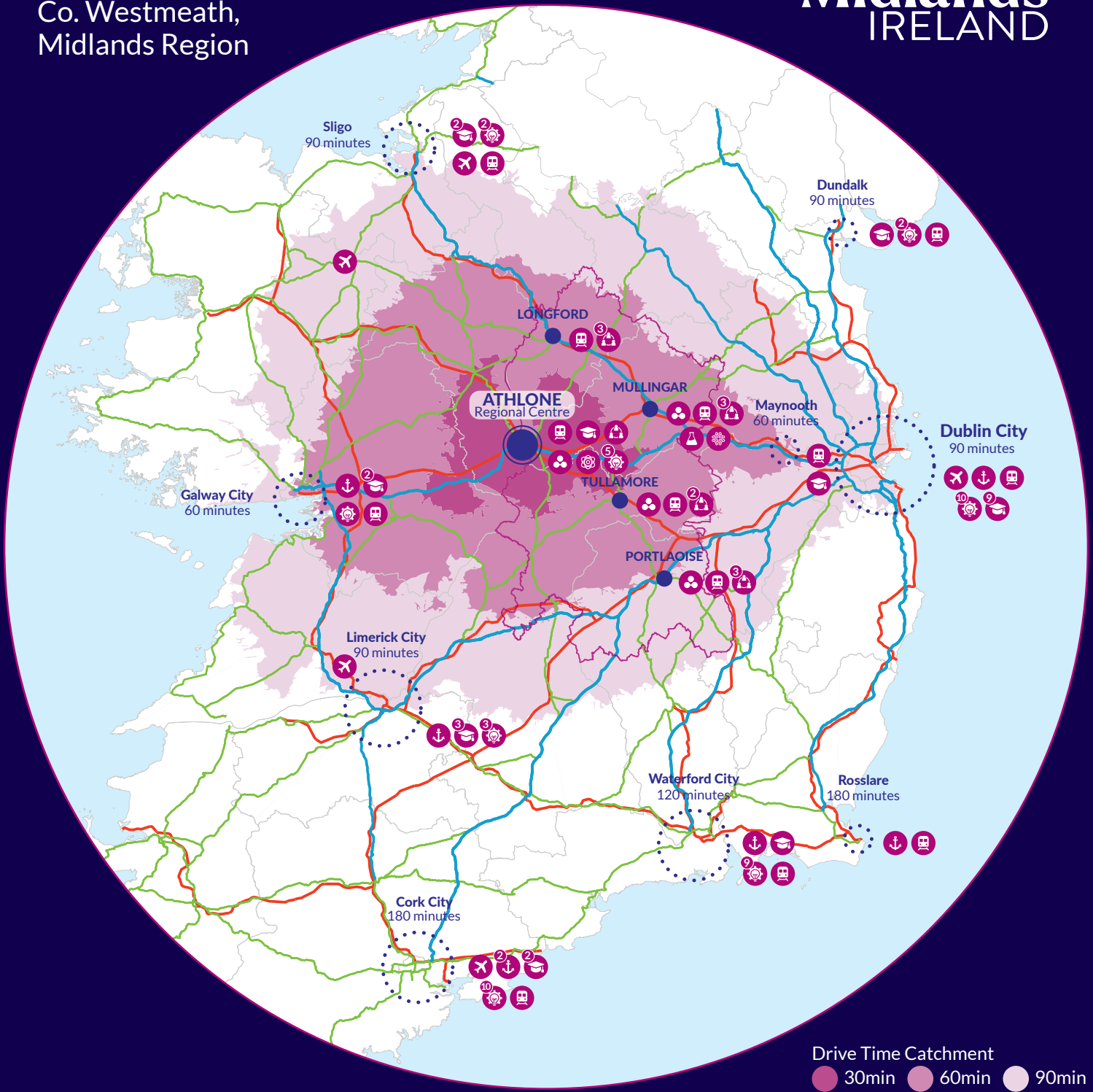


Athlone

Co. Westmeath,
Midlands Region



Who's within reach*	% Increase 30 mins (2016-2022)	Census 2022		
		30 mins	60 mins	90 mins
Population	+10.5%	102,690	621,858	2,898,923
Labour Force	+11.8%	48,738	299,910	1,457,343
Student	+6.0%	8,590	57,020	266,161
3rd Level or Postgraduate	+34.2%	19,686	123,418	669,511

Legend

- Athlone (Regional Centre)
- Key town
- Motorways
- National Roads
- Railroad
- Midlands Region
- Railway Station
- International Airport
- International Sea Port
- 3rd Level Institutions
- Midlands Network Co-Working Hubs
- Irish Manufacturing Research
- Research & Innovation Centres
- IDA Business & Technology Park
- National Science Park
- Enterprise Ireland Technology Gateway

* Based on Resident Population of underlying Census 2022 Electoral Division data and assessed travel-time catchments by car from Athlone settlement.
















Athlone – At the heart of it

Athlone, a vibrant and bustling town in the heart of Ireland, serves as a vital nexus within the broader Midlands Region. With a growing population of 22,869, Athlone straddles two provinces, Leinster and Connaught. This central and strategic location positions the town as the ideal gateway between East and West, North and South – being only 60 minutes from Galway City and just 90 minutes from Dublin Airport and Limerick.

Athlone is recognised as the regional growth centre in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. The town’s strategic importance is further evidenced by thriving industry clusters in ICT, life sciences, medical technology, and engineering. These clusters draw upon a skilled labour force from the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Athlone, as well as the wide array of industry-focused courses and research centres. Matched with real engagement and substantial support from local and national business development organisations, Athlone stands as a beacon of economic vitality and a testament to the synergistic power of community, culture, and innovation.

Athlone has also seen significant investments in the town’s infrastructure and public amenities, affirming Athlone’s designation as a ‘European City of the Future’ for Human Capital and Lifestyle by fDi Intelligence from the Financial Times. The town’s rich cultural tapestry and history is apparent, centred on the River Shannon, with landmarks like Athlone Castle and the Luan Gallery, as well as the Galway to Dublin Greenway, which runs through the Cultural Quarter. It all combines to offer an excellent environment in which to live, work and visit.

Athlone – Town Amenities

 Primary & Secondary Schools	 Regional Enterprise Ireland Office	 Chamber of Commerce	 3 Research & Innovation Centres	 35 Train Connections Per Weekday	 Sports & Recreation Facilities
 65+ Restaurants, Cafés & Bars	 Hotels & B&Bs	 130km Royal Canal Greenway	 43km Old Rail Trail	 Community Tourist Office	 LWETB – Athlone Training Centre
 2 Gbps Fibre Broadband Speeds	 Access to Remote Working Hub	 TUS Athlone Campus	 Theatres & Galleries	 Athlone Castle	 Athlone Library

Business Activity & Clustering

Key Clusters - ICT, Life Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, Polymers, Tourism.

Athlone excels as a hub of economic innovation and industry clustering in the heart of Ireland. Success may be attributed to a powerful blend of strategic location, academic capacity, and industry collaboration. The town is distinguished as one of Ireland’s premier Software Development hubs, with Ericsson leading the charge, bolstered by a thriving Midlands ICT cluster that also includes companies such as Zinkworks, Mersus Technologies and GlobalLogic. Collaborative endeavours are fuelling this innovation and growth, with industry and academia partnering in successful research projects across the technology sector.

This technological excellence is mirrored in Athlone’s thriving life sciences sector. Noteworthy contributors in these sectors include 3M, Teleflex, Almac and Medtronic, alongside Novo Nordisk, which recently announced an €85 million investment in the region in their first Irish facility, supporting over 400 jobs. The town’s expertise also extends into advanced manufacturing and engineering, with a particular emphasis on the polymer industry, marking Athlone and its surrounding region as specialists on the global stage. The tourism sector, propelled by Athlone’s scenic lakes and rivers, and supported by a vibrant nightlife, further diversifies the town’s economic profile and range of opportunities.

“I am particularly pleased to enter this agreement with Novo Nordisk as it offers our employees at this world-class, state-of-the-art GMP manufacturing facility in Athlone an exciting opportunity for growth.”

Richard Pops,
CEO Alkermes

“With strong ongoing partnerships with the IDA, the Irish Government and TUS, we are excited to continue attracting and nurturing the best and brightest Irish and international talent to the heart of Ireland.”

Denis Dullea,
Head of R&D Ericsson Athlone



INVEST – Discover a connected region to build your business

- **Youthful Population:** 41.5 % of people within 30 mins are under 35.
- **Labour Expansion:** 11.8% increase in the Labour Force within 30 mins from 2016 to 2022.
- **Managerial Boost:** 22.6% increase in the Professional and Managerial population within 30 mins from 2016 to 2022.
- **Skill Surge:** 9.1% increase in the Skilled Workforce within 30 mins from 2016 to 2022.
- **Educational Excellence:** 32.5% (25-64 yrs) within 30 mins hold a Degree or Postgraduate qualification.
- **Qualification Strength:** 61.1% (25-64 yrs) within 30 mins hold a Postsecondary Qualification.
- **R&D Clusters:** In Life Sciences, ICT, Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering.

STUDY – Discover your future, wherever you want to go

- **Graduate Growth:** 9% increase in student population within 60 minutes from 2016 to 2022, ahead of national average.
- **University Access:** Home to 5 Star QS-rated TUS Athlone, with ATU, University of Galway and Maynooth University within 60 minutes and 5 further universities within 90 mins – UCD, DCU, Trinity, IADT, TUD.
- **Specialised Studies:** Home to specialist institutes such as APT, First Polymer Skillnet and PRISM in Polymers, COMAND in Connected Media and the MIRC Midlands Innovation Research Centre.

LIVE – Discover a new pace & more space

- **Future Forward:** European City of the Future for Human Capital and Lifestyle – fDi Intelligence Financial Times.
- **Green Commutes:** 9% increase in walking and cycling commutes from 2016 to 2022.
- **Healthy Living:** 85.5% of people within 30 mins are in ‘good or very good health,’ above the national average.
- **Schools:** 64 Primary Schools and 9 Secondary Schools within 30 mins.
- **Activity Options:** Over 40 recreation and sports facilities (including gyms, swimming, golf clubs) within 30 mins.
- **Family First:** Over 30 childcare facilities within 30 mins.
- **Express Access:** Fast access to the M6 motorway linking Dublin, Galway City and Dublin Airport.
- **Eco-Motion:** Home to Ireland’s first all-electric bus service - cleaner, greener commutes.

VISIT – Discover open spaces & thrilling activities

- **Adventure Awaits:** Dive into the serenity of Lough Ree & the Shannon Blueway or pedal the Galway to Dublin Greenway.
- **Dramatic Heritage:** Home to the All-Ireland Drama Festival since 1953 and a thriving arts and theatre scene.
- **Stay in Style:** 12 hotels within 30 mins offer a warm welcome.
- **Explore More:** Over 50 Failte Ireland attractions within 30 mins invite you to discover walks, wildlife and tours.
- **Taste the Town:** Discover Athlone’s vibrant restaurant scene with 2 Michelin guide restaurants, tempting every palate.

WORK – Discover opportunities to grow & develop

- **Speed Unleashed:** Blazing 2 Gbps connectivity for all business, commercial and residential.
- **Hub Network:** 4 co-working spaces within 30 mins.
- **Commute Advantage:** 61.8% of people enjoy a sub-30-minute commutes.
- **Remote Rise:** 95% increase in remote workers within 30 mins from 2016 to 2022.

Quality of Life

Athlone is a vibrant town steeped in history. Centred around Athlone Castle and the Cultural Quarter, the town offers a thriving food and drink scene, including two Michelin Guide restaurants and Sean’s Bar, the oldest pub in Europe, an iconic venue for locals and visitors to enjoy a drink and experience traditional Irish music.

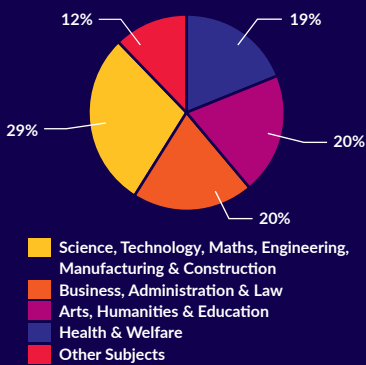
Set on the River Shannon at the edge of Lough Ree, Athlone offers ample outdoor and water recreational activities. These include the Athlone Marina, Lough Ree Yacht Club, the Royal Canal Greenway, Old Rail Trail and the Shannon Banks Nature Trail.

Athlone is also a flourishing arts and cultural hub, hosting the All-Ireland Drama Festival since 1953. The town’s arts scene features two theatres: the Dean Crowe Theatre and the Athlone Little Theatre. The Luan Gallery showcases the most interesting artists from the Midlands, Ireland and abroad, while the Abbey Road Artists’ Studios offer a dedicated space for local and visiting artists. The town is also home to various community and voluntary groups as well as an array of sports facilities and teams.

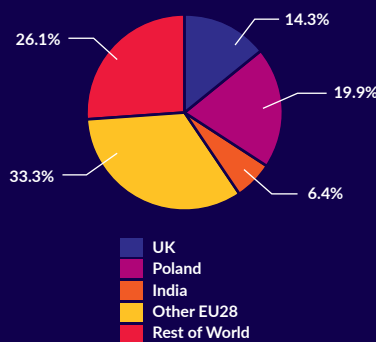
Green Transport Athlone

Athlone is home to Ireland’s first all-electric urban bus service. Saving up to 400,000kg of CO₂ annually, the service has resulted in a 25% increase in passenger numbers and includes 11 state-of-the-art vehicles, with dedicated charging infrastructure. In addition, Athlone has introduced a town bicycle scheme, EV charging hubs and numerous investments in active travel infrastructure.

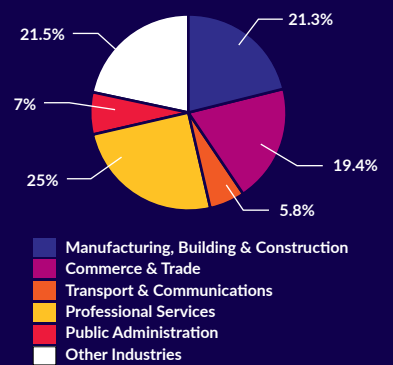
Graduate Fields (HEA) 2022/23



Resident Population by Citizenship (Excluding Ireland)



Industry of Employment



Education, Training & Skills

The main education, training and skills offerings in Athlone are the third level education provider TUS Athlone, and the LWETB Athlone Training Centre.

TUS is home to 6,495 students and 200+ industry-focused courses. The university has been hugely significant for the region with an estimated economic impact of €429m annually. TUS graduates have been named Ireland’s most employable, with 86.9% of 2022 honours graduates in employment and more than 60% of graduates taking up employment within the region.

TUS Athlone has a reputation for world-class athletics and state-of-the-art facilities. In recent years, the campus has undergone significant development, now boasting a €70m, 13,000sq.m. Engineering and Informatics facility, a 2,000 seater €10m International Sports Arena and a state-of-the-art €4m Apprenticeship Facility with capacity for up to 1,000 apprentices annually. Construction is also nearing completion on a new 6,000sq.m. STEM building, with capacity for up to 1,000 students.

The campus hosts three research centres, two technology gateways, and an industry cluster. These entities span software engineering, interactive media technologies, life sciences, engineering and advanced manufacturing. As a founding member of RUN-EU, TUS collaborates with 100,000 students, 11,000 staff, and 100+ research institutes across the EU.

The Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) is dedicated to supporting individuals entering the labour market, transitioning careers, or expanding their skill sets. The LWETB also places a strong emphasis on enterprise support and upskilling in future-ready skills such as advanced manufacturing, sustainability, and digitalisation. With planned future investments for a state-of-the-art facility on campus, the LWETB Athlone Training Centre is distinguished nationally for its focus on advanced manufacturing and engineering.