

*The aim of the **Smart Region** is to use technology to capture, analyse and manage data to improve economic, social and environmental impact.*

**Commuting...what is the issue?**

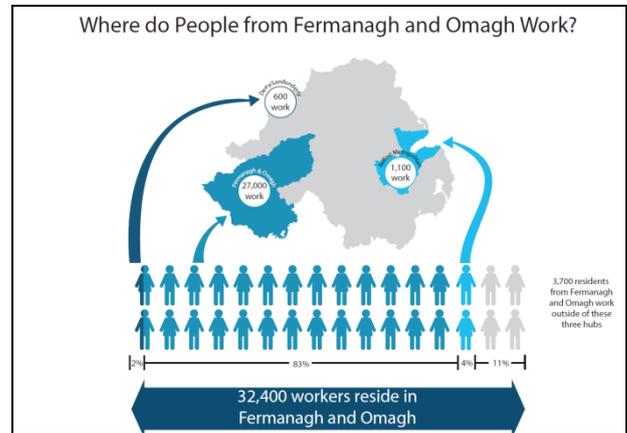
The issue of commuting from the Fermanagh and Omagh region is well established, but what does the hard data tell us? The Census is the only official source of information on how many people are driving out of (and into) the region on a daily basis.

*How many people?*

Almost 1 in 5 people living in Fermanagh and Omagh were working elsewhere. Neighbouring district Dungannon attracted 5% of these commuters but the cities are prevalent attracters of commuters. The Belfast Metro Area employs 3.5% of the region's people and Derry~Londonderry a further 1.7%. In people terms, over 1,150 people are driving daily to Belfast and 560 to Derry~Londonderry.

*Who is commuting?*

Males between 18 and 34 years are most likely to commute to Belfast, with 12% of the demographic commuting to Belfast daily. The gender factor is less significant than perhaps anticipated, with 9% of females in the same age bracket driving to Belfast. There is a significant age trend, with those aged 55 years and above 30% less likely to commute out of the region.



Over half of those commuting are working in the public sector (570 people), with the wider finance and professional industry (150 people) and IT sector (90 people) also attractive to out-commuters.

*How do they get there?*

Despite the increase in Park'n'Ride services, 700 people are driving on their own, without a passenger to Belfast, 235 driving with a passenger and 200 are using the bus regularly.

*What is the impact?*

Based on man hours lost and the average productivity in NI, calculations suggest that up to £8m per annum is lost to the economy. In addition, 6 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> are dumped into the atmosphere on an annual basis.

*What impact could intervention have?*

Estimations based on a 3 days-per-week hot desking in the region model suggest that £3.5m in output would be injected into the economy. In the region, this would have further indirect impacts, in terms of jobs in the supply chain – traditionally estimated at an impact of an additional 0.4 jobs per new full time job – and wider social impacts, as the reduced commute gives people greater opportunity to engage locally.

**SmartStats:**

**In the Fermanagh and Omagh region, there are:**

- 16 fitness centres
- 5 swimming pools
- 79 sports halls
- 10 golf courses
- 2 Outdoor bowling clubs

That equates to 7,188 people per fitness centre, broadly comparable to Belfast (7,193) and more concentrated than Derry and Strabane (7,430).



For more information please contact:  
 Alan Mitchell, Data Analyst,  
[Alan.mitchell@investni.com](mailto:Alan.mitchell@investni.com) M: 07789175057

