South Tipperary economic and other indicators, 2009

Result area 1: Competitiveness

Average per Capita Disposable Income (data set two years behind).

From previous reports

- Baseline was set in 1999 and it was 85% of the national average at that time.
- In the 2003 data it is 90.8%.
- Target: 92% by 2006 (data for 2006 will be available in 2009)

The county is on the way to meeting the target of 92%. Within the South East, South Tipperary has a consistent rise in the index since the baseline of 1999, the only area that has done so. South Tipperary comes second to Waterford. The comparative trend is more positive with South Tipperary gaining 5.8 points on the index relative to Waterford (-0.8), Carlow (-0.3), Kilkenny (1.7) and Wexford (1.7).

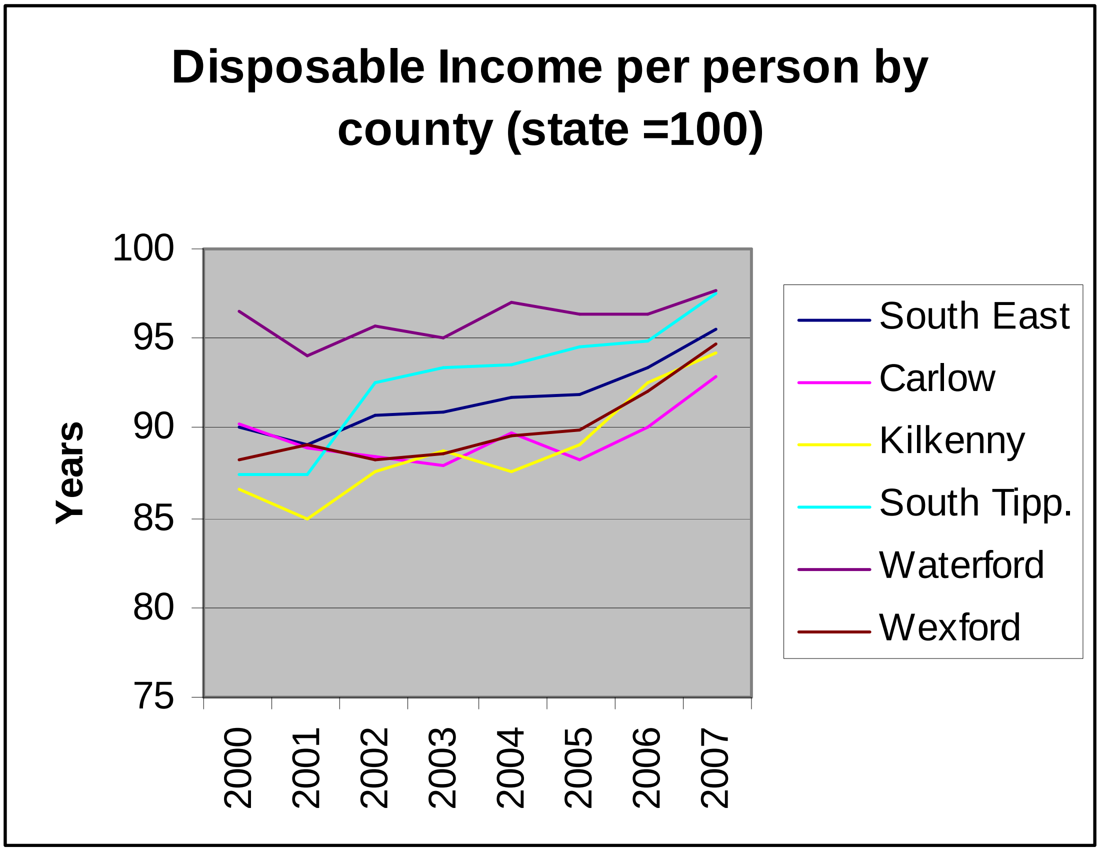
3.6 Future Economic Priorities 2009-2012
Indicator 2: Average Disposable Income per Capita
Target: 95 % by 2011

A report from the CSO[1] shows that, up to 2007 at least, South Tipperary per capita disposable income was rising to meet that of Waterford's and was above the regional average. However the CSO notes that 'the county data should be regarded more as indicative levels rather than as accurate precise figures'.

Indices of Disposable Income per person by region and county, 2000 -2007, State at 100%

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
South East	90.0	89.1	90.7	90.9	91.7	91.9	93.4	95.6
Carlow	90.2	88.9	88.4	87.9	89.7	88.2	90.0	92.8
Kilkenny	86.6	84.9	87.6	88.8	87.6	89.1	92.6	94.2
South T	87.4	87.4	92.5	93.3	93.6	94.5	94.8	97.5
Waterford	96.5	94.0	95.7	95.	97.1	96.3	96.3	97.7
Wexford	88.3	89.0	88.2	88.5	89.5	89.9	92.0	94.7

[1] Source: County Incomes and Regional GDP report 2007, CSO, Table 4, page11.



The Second Review of the County Strategy notes (3.1) that this index has been recalibrated by the CSO. This might account for the difference between the 2003 figures above.

However there would appear to be a fall in GNP per capita nationally in 2008 as compared to 2007[2] and we may therefore see a fall regionally and in South Tipperary. The indicator to watch is how South Tipperary performs relative to the region, does it continue its rise to meet the Co. Waterford level or fall back to below it?

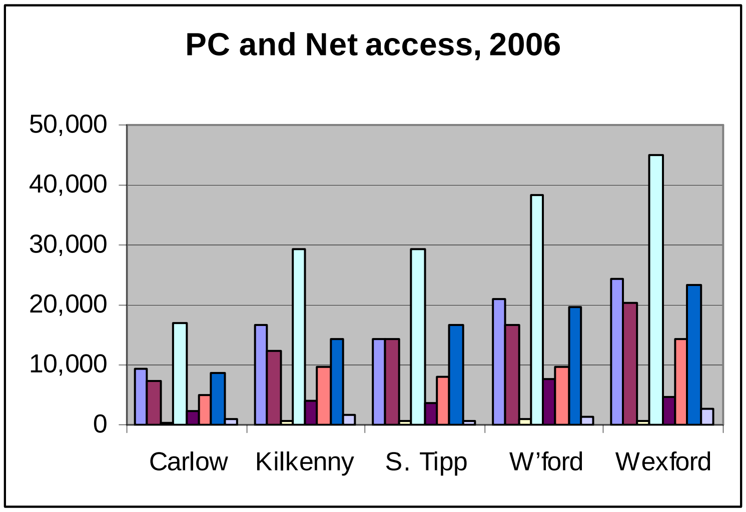
1.3 Internet access

3.6 Future Economic Priorities 2009-2012
Indicator 3 Broadband access
Target : Increase in broadband access from 13% (2006) to 17% by 2012.

'Number of private households in permanent housing units in each Province, County and City, classified by personal computer ownership and access to the internet, 2006'[3]

[2] (IPA Guide 2010, 406)
[3] CSO report

	PC? Yes	PC? No	Not stated	Total of households	Internet Broadband	Internet Other connect.	No access to internet	Not stated
Carlow	9,248	7,424	402	17,074	2,213	4,916	8,802	1,143
Kilkenny	16,601	12,273	604	29,478	3,919	9,545	14,283	1,731
S. Tipp	14,475	14,227	520	29,221	3,557	8,136	16,756	772
W'ford	20,955	16,580	909	38,444	7615	9761	19776	1292
Wexford	24203	20,183	710	45096	4510	14396	23446	2744



Columns as per table above. From left to right.

Alone among the counties of the South-East, South Tipperary households (in 2006) were as likely not to have a computer as having one.

There is no post-2006 CSO data. Comreg have regional data from 2008 as follows.

Regional analysis

In the first quarter of 2008, the percentage of households with a home computer was higher in the Southern and Eastern (SE) region than in the Border, Midland and Western (BMW) region. Almost 73% of households in the SE region owned a computer compared to 63% in the BMW region. Computer ownership in the SE region increased from 708,000 in the first quarter of 2007 to 782,500 in the same period of 2008. In the BMW region, the number of households with a home computer increased from 222,000 to 249,000 over the same period. *See Table 4.1*.
The percentage of households with an internet connection also continues to be higher in the SE region than in the BMW region. Some 66% of households in the SE region now have internet access. The corresponding figure for the BMW region is 53%. *See Table 4.2*.

The National Broadband Scheme has been set up by Government to bring internet services to those parts of the country not previously covered. By end 2009, 82% of the NBS areas had been covered, servicing some 8900 households. By Sept. 2010, 100% of the NBS areas should be covered[4].

[4] Source: Brian Purcell Insight Consultants

The Metropolitan Area Networks are rings of fibre optic cable running through the main towns in the county. At end 2009, Clonmel MANS was lit up with five carrier companies and seventeen customers (of whom seven are County Council sites) and a much larger number of end usersThe MANS in Cahir, Tipperary, Carrick-on-Suir and Cashel were handed over to Enet towards the end of the year. While three of these have a connection onwards (backhaul) and can therefore be lit up if a number of sizable customers can be identified, Cashel has no connection at present, a factor which is a major obstacle for it.

Greater Internet access should encourage a rise in the number of computers though broadband (presumably = Internet) access is the main issue, not pc ownership.

3.6 Future Economic Priorities 2009-2012
Indicator 1: Level of Investment into the County in the areas identified
Target: €42,000,000.

Areas identified: Broadband, Rail, Roads, Energy, District Centres, Slieve Ardagh Business Plan,

Investment in Rail 2009

This information requested from Iarnrod Eireann.

Investment in Roads 2009

Capital Expenditure 2009 €25,937,344.06

Childcare capital investment 2009

There was no central government investment in childcare facilities in the county in 2009[5]

Investment in Housing 2009

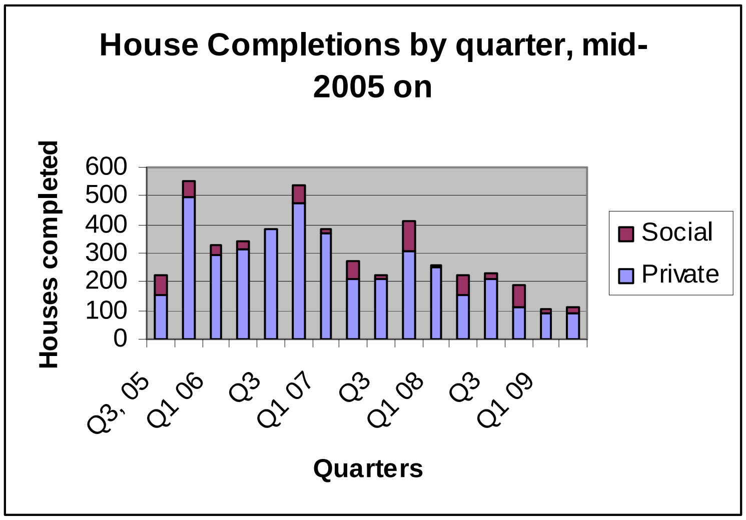
Area		
County	7,367,620	
Cashel	€997,200 + €14, 056 energy efficiency measures	
Clonmel	€2,340, 000	
Tipperary	695,000	
Carrick-on-Suir	1,220,000	
	total	€12, 633,876.

House completions, Housing Returns, Dept. of the Environment

	Q3, 05	Q4	Q1 06	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 07	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 08	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 09	Q2
Private	156	492	294	314	382	475	369	208	206	307	248	151	206	114	91	92

[5] Gerry Hickey by phone, 14/01/10

Social	69	58	32	26	4	63	12	66	14	108	9	70	21	71	11	20



Alternative energy:

There were no major renewable energy investments in 2009 in the county. There have been sizable applications in 2009 (TC's biogas and windfarm applications) but on the ground investment has yet to commence. A 100 megawatts wind project of c. 50 masts on three sites in the Hollyford Hills is due to start shortly, on completion of a substation for grid connection. Greenside Properties have indicated that they will proceed with the gas-powered plant in Cahir in early 2010.

Business parks:

At end 2009, five of thirteen business units in Clonmel Business Park were available for rent. 2009 data for other business parks is not available but 2010 data is being collected.

Decentralisation (Tipperary Town): Building

No capital expenditure in 2009 but rent of c. €257,000 is being paid annually.

Slieve Ardagh:

Key areas that have been progressed in 2009 –

- the development of the lake as a fishing resource is being continued,
- three literary events were held,
- usage of the IT facilities in the Library in Killenaule has increased.
- Research work on the O Tunney school is continuing.
- The Development officer proposes to lengthen her input by working a shorter number of hours per week.

- A review meeting with both the community and agency representatives took place to review the original aims of the initiative, set new aims and see what the most appropriate structures are for the achievement of these aims.
- A new plan was agreed.

€1,037,810 (4.1.4 grants and childcare grants

Town centres: major shops opening and investments

The only retail development completed in 2009 that we are aware of was the Showgrounds Development, Clonmel at 13,000 sq metres.

Water/Wastewater:

Total spend in 2009: €4,502,103

Ballingarrane

2009 A consultant has been employed to create a brochure. An agreement on a tenant for a 4 acre site there is expected in the first half of 2010.

District Service Centres	Investment in 2009
Cahir (Ardfinnan)	100,566.72
Cashel	0
Fethard (Carrick)	100,000
Tipperary	30,000
Clonmel	17784
totals	248,350

Food investment CD Company

STDC allocated grants to the value of €171,162 to the food sector in 2009 but only 1000 was paid out. The remainder is due for payment over the next few months. There is always a lag between commitment and payment

Scheme of Capital Grants for Recreational and Community Facilities and Amenities:

Total grants paid out in 2009, €1, 802,338.98

LEADER investment in the county, 2009

(Monies paid out in 2009. There are significantly higher commitments, but these will be caught in next year's payments)

So as to have no potential overlap, I will be including the tourism figure in the tourism part of the economic template, so there is no need for you to also include it.

- EPMG total spend for 2009 - €59,037
- Tourism total spend for 2009 - €68,449

(included in the tourism part of economic template)

- LA21 PMG total spend for 2009 - €149,184.
- CPMG total spend for 2009 - €69,100

These figures came from

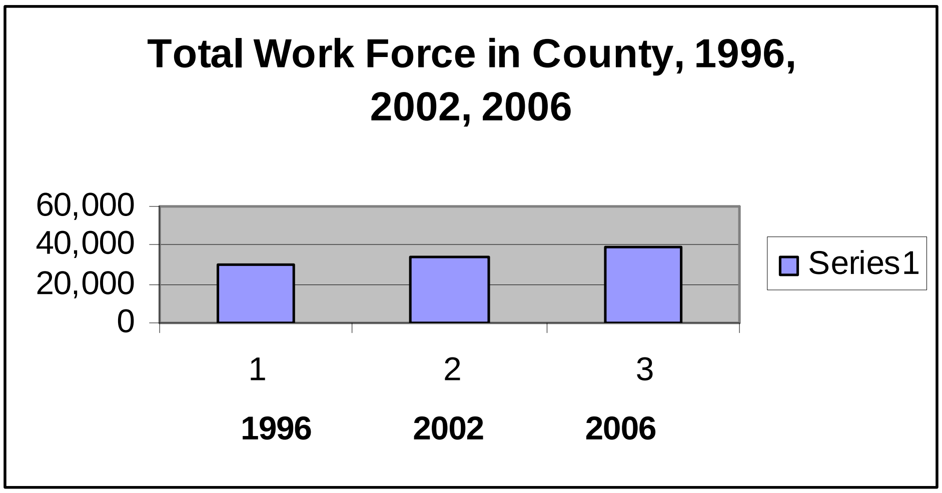
Diversification into non-agricultural activities	EPMG	€2,027
Support for business creation and development	EPMG	€1,713
Encouragement of tourism activities	Tourism	€13,152
Basic services for the economy and rural pop.	LA21 PMG	€66,959
Village renewal and development	LA21PMG	€0
Conservation and upgrade of rural heritage	CPMG	€13,803
Training and Development	LA21 PMG	€600
Cooperation projects (on a project by project basis, most likely a 50% EMPG and 50% Tourism		€0
Skills acquisition and animation	LA21PMg	€26,328
Administration Budget	Each to EPMG, Tourism, LA21 and CPMG	25%, €221,189

Result area 2: Provide a Skilled Workforce

Indicator 3 Jobs Profile of County
Baseline: 1996 and 2006 Censuses (as per below)

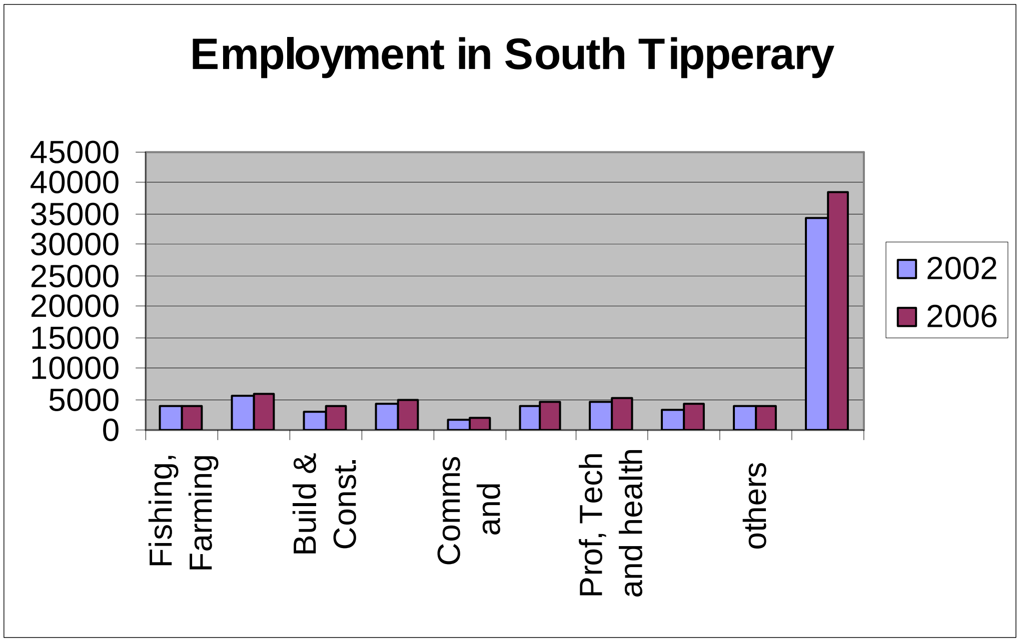
Total Work Force in County

1996	2002	2006
29,965	34,157	38,651

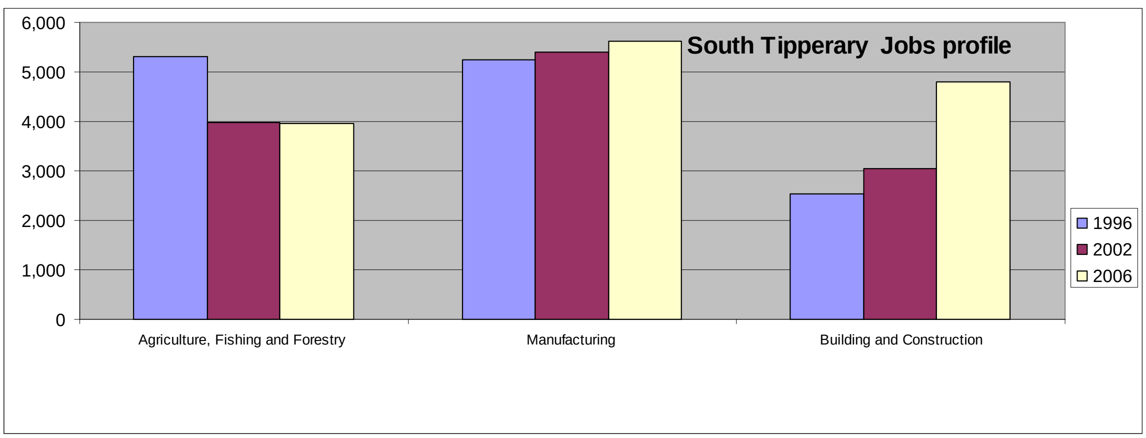


Numbers in employment

In 1996 there were 29,965 employed in the county and in 2002 there were 34,157. This rose to 38,687 by the census of 2006. There are no county level figures since then (until the next census) though it should be noted that the Live Register figure in the county rose from 3297 to 8514. We do not know however how many new jobs were created during that time so it would be incorrect to simply assume that the number employed had dropped by the increased Live Register figure.



Jobs Profile[6]



[6] CSO Censuses 1996, 2002, 2006.

Occupation Groups[7]

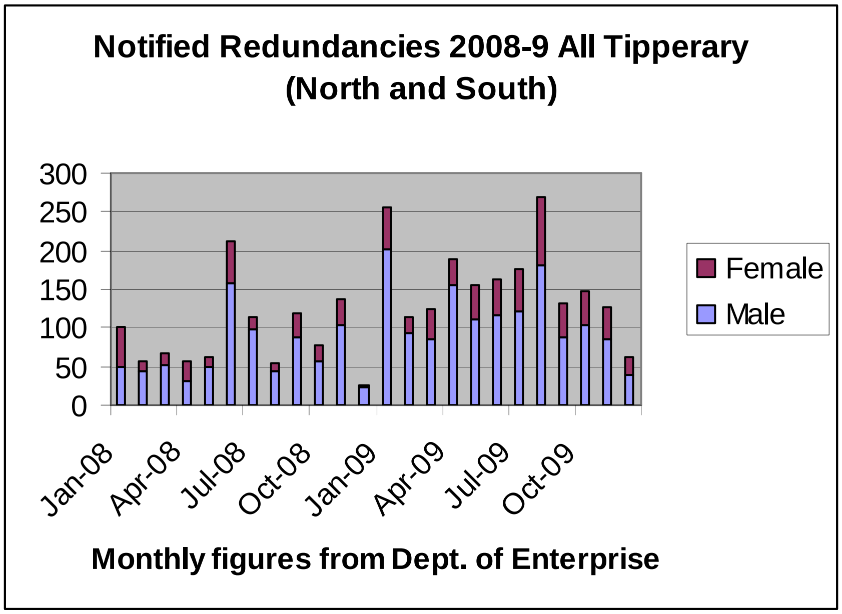
Table 3.1: Occupation Group				
	2002	**2006**	**% Change**	**% Total Employment 2006**
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	4,006	3,926	-2.0	10.9
Mining Quarrying and Turf Production	179	244	+36.3	
Manufacturing Industry	5,539	5,628	+1.6	15.7
Electricity Gas and Water Supply	141	148	+5.0	
Construction	3,249	4,789	+47.4	13.2
Wholesale and Retail Trade	4,186	4,740	+13.2	13.7
Hotels and Restaurants	1,428	1,631	+14.2	4.5
Transport Storage and Communications	1,228	1,268	+3.2	
Banking and Financial Services	695	726	+4.4	2.0
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	1,550	1,746	+12.6	
Public Administration and Defence	1,482	1,506	+1.6	4.2
Education	1,960	2,273	+15.9	6.4
Health and Social Work	2,740	3,796	+38.5	10.6
Other Community, Social and Personal Services Activities	1,196	1,621	+35.5	
Industry Not Stated	1,757	1,750	-0.4	-
Totals		**35,792**		

Notified Redundancies

Notified Redundancies <u>All</u> Tipperary (North and South combined data only available)

	Jan 08		Mar-08		May-08		Jul-08		Sep-08			Dec-08	Jan-09		Mar-09		May-09		Jul-09					Dec
M	49	45	51	32	49	157	99	45	88	58	104	23	202	94	86	156	111	116	121	181	87	104	85	40
F	51	11	15	25	12	56	15	9	30	19	32	2	53	21	38	34	44	46	54	87	44	44	41	22

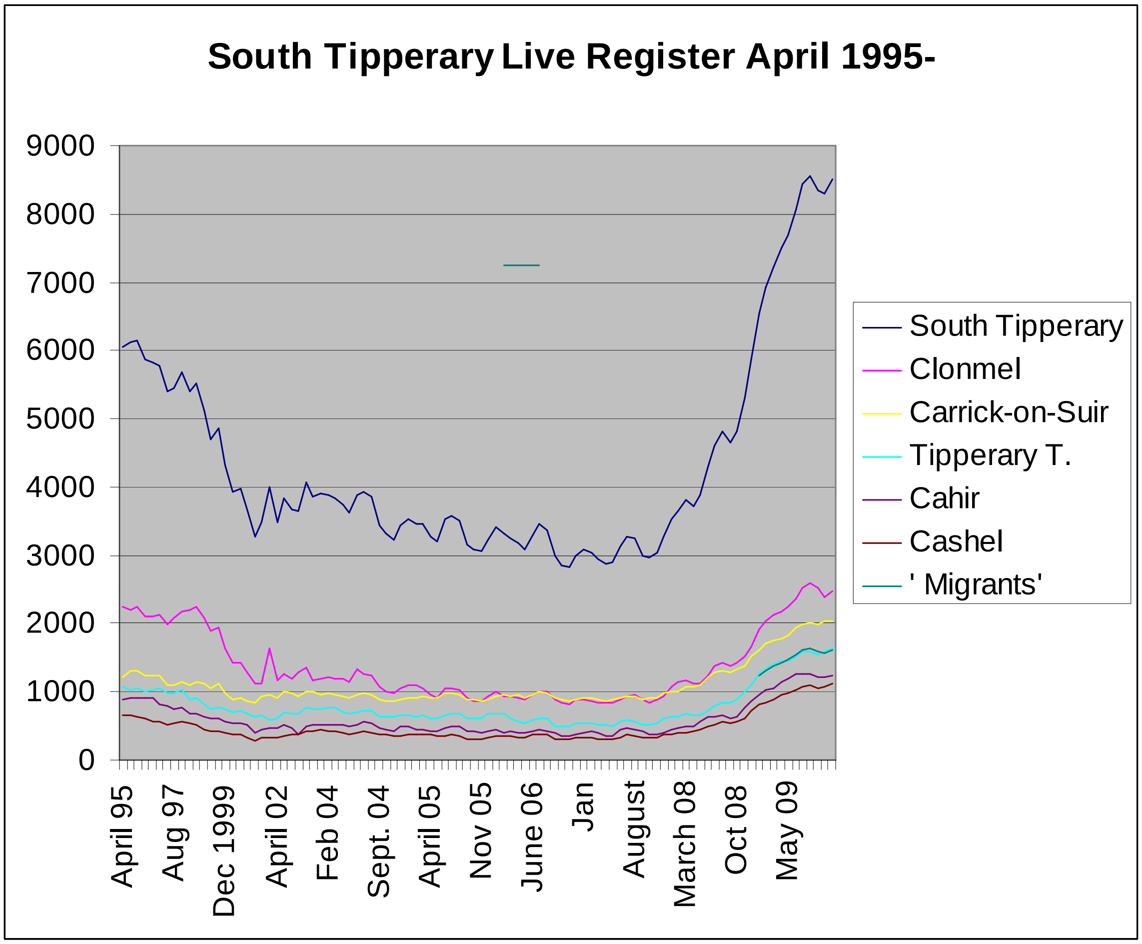
[7] South Tipperary Innovation and Enterprise Strategy 2010



3.6 Future Economic Priorities 2009-2012

Baseline December 1999 4,318 (CSO)
December 2008 5,870 (CSO)

Employment and Unemployment



Jan 09	Feb 09	March 09	April 09	May 09	June 09	July 09	Aug 09	Sept 09	Nov 09	Dec 09	
6547	6931	7216	7506	7699	8074	8445	8564	8339	8290	8514	South Tipperary
1917	2023	2125	2173	2254	2350	2520	2585	2530	2374	2479	Clonmel
1606	1705	1745	1777	1819	1941	1995	2016	1979	2029	2039	Carrick-on-Suir
1252	1324	1398	1454	1454	1508	1596	1600	1551	1581	1635	Tipperary T.
954	1034	1052	1138	1195	1255	1266	1263	1223	1223	1247	Cahir
818	845	896	964	977	1020	1068	1100	1056	1083	1114	Cashel
1244	1317	1371	1426	1463	1534	1605	1627	1584	1575	1618	' Migrants'
0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	% nationally

Notes re migrants

- Nationally migrant workers are between 18.5% and 20.4% of the Live Register. A figure of 19% has been taken for this study.
- The short blue line above 7000 in April 2006 is the census figure for the total number of non-Irish migrants (men, women and children) in the county at that time. It is the only definite figure available as, for example, study of the number of PPN numbers issued shows that many are not used beyond the first year, ie many of them ‘wither’ away.
- In South Tipperary, we have a moderate number of migrants. We have a sizable number of UK citizens, many of which are in mixed families ie have married into Irish families or are of Irish ancestry. We have a sizable number of Polish, Lithuanians and Latvians, in the towns of Clonmel, Cahir especially and Tipperary. Many of these are single or living away from their families/spouses. There are then a scatter of US nationals, Chinese, Germans and French and smaller numbers of other nationalities all of them making up a multicultural society, if far less noticeable than in Dublin say.

Result area 2: Provide a Skilled Workforce for Current and Future Jobs
Baseline: agreed database to be established

Upskilling actions in 2009

Target: FAS 20,000 clients or 10.4 million
Total upskilling actions in 2009, €21, 051, 366.

Equine Employment in South Tipperary (Teagasc)

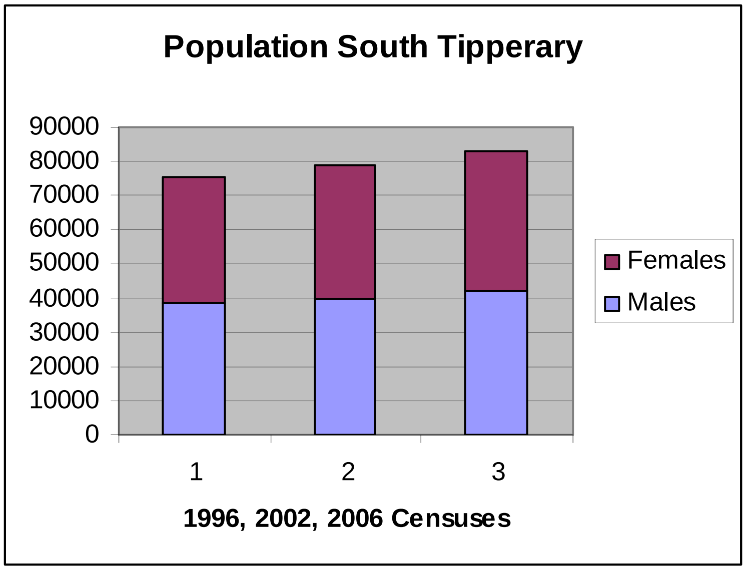
Target: Human Capital investment of €237,000

Spoke to Donal Mullane, 09/02/10 and he estimates that there would be a reduction of 10% on the figures given in the earlier report on the Equine Industry study. I believe that this was a report given for the purpose of including the data in the County Development plan.

General Demographics

Population of the County:

Population	1996	2002	2006
Males	38312	39999	42250
Females	37202	39122	40971
total	75514	79121	83221



In inter-censal years (i.e 2007, 2008, 2009) CSO only publishes national and regional data. In April 2009, nationally emigration had increased, with first EU 12 citizens and then Irish citizens being the two main groups. Immigration had declined and overall there was a return to a small outward migration. Births had increased substantially so that overall the population had increased by 0.8% to a total of 4.46 million people.

How will South Tipperary have been affected in particular? It is not possible to be anything more than tentative but it seems likely that the county will follow general national trends and see outward migration, or re-migration, of both native and migrant population groups.

Age Profile of County[8]

[8] South Tipperary Innovation and Enterprise Strategy 2010.

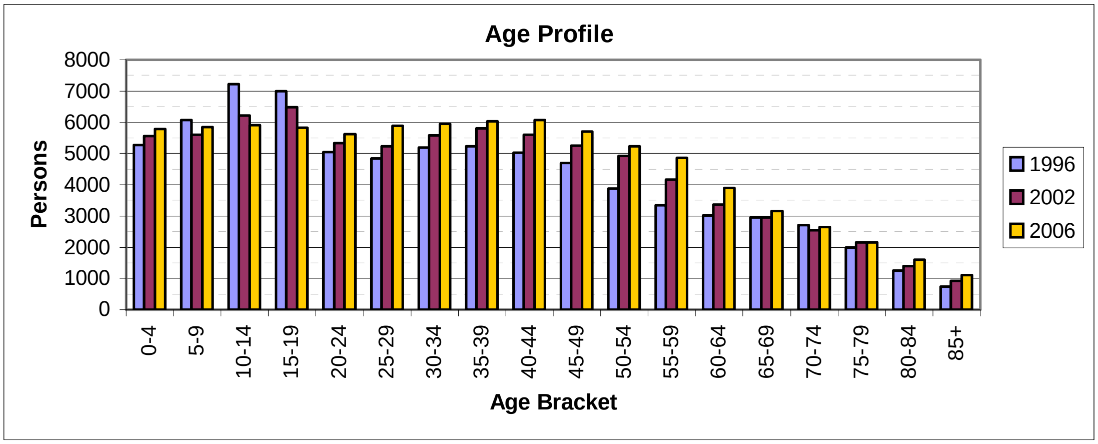
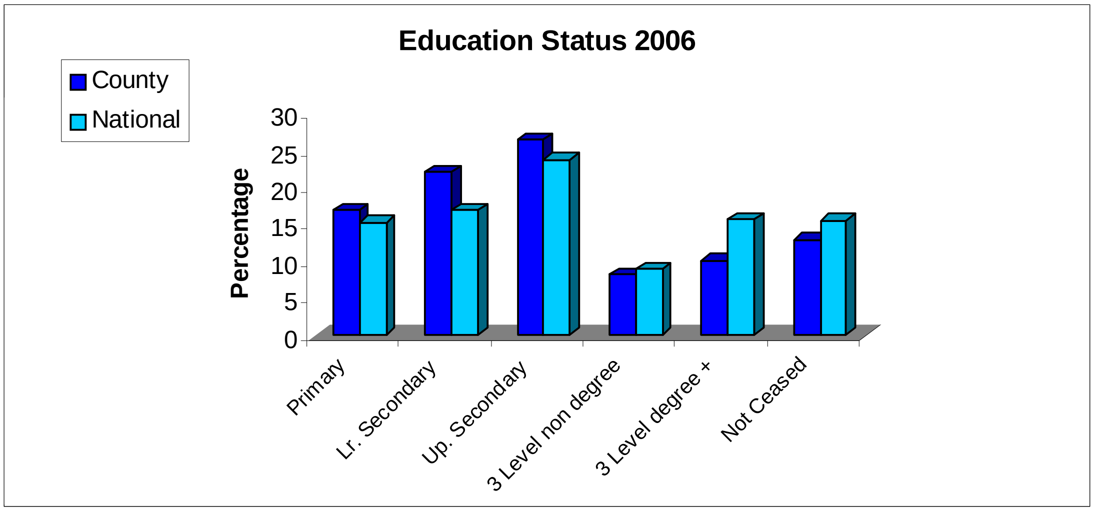


Figure 3.1: Age Profile 1996-2006

Analysis of the population structure relative to age profile illustrates:

- The population numbers in the younger age cohorts 10-19 is larger proportionate to other age group, and when projected forward to 2020 and beyond, provides a positive indication for an available young workforce, provided this population potential is retained within the County.
- The decline in overall population numbers in the age cohorts of the 10-19 & 20 – 24 group. It would appear that the cohort of University age/First job seeking age, are being lost to the county and this is an issue that requires some consideration.
- All other age cohorts increased over the period 1996 – 2006.
- a growing proportion of the population fall into the "ageing category of 50 – 65+" and an increasing ageing population (relative to the younger cohorts) is of some concern for future economic growth and in particular support for our "ageing" population.

Education Status



Youth

(extract from recent report 'Young People in South Tipperary: A Demographic Profile' based on 2006 Census)

The proportion of young people as part of the overall population in South Tipperary is higher than the national average.

- The actual number of young people in the county is comparatively low by national standards.
- The proportion of young people in South Tipperary's urban centres is notably below the county average.
- Almost 30 per cent of young people enumerated in the county live in (19.3 per cent) or just outside (10.6 per cent) Clonmel.
- 44 per cent of young people live in rural areas; 18.3 per cent live in rural electoral divisions bordering the urban centres and 37.7 per cent live in the five towns.
- The number and proportion of young people in South Tipperary has decreased between 2002 and 2006, while the overall population has grown.
- There is a strong migratory trend out of the county among 17 to 22 year olds.
- It is expected that the youth population will increase by up to 9 per cent by 2021.
- However, the proportion of young people as part of the overall population will decrease as life expectancy continues to increase.
- Less than 2 per cent of young people under 25 have only completed primary level education.
- Almost 13 per cent of young people under the age of 25 leave school before completion of upper second level.
- Males are at twice the risk of leaving school early compared to females. Young men between the ages of 15 and 17 are four times more likely to leave school early.
- There would appear to be a positive trend in respect of early school leaving with the number of early school leavers decreasing with age in the group of 15 to 24 year olds.
- Up to 39 per cent of children (0 - 18 years) may be at risk of poverty as they grow up in one-parent families or in families of four or more children.
- Approximately 1⁄5th of young people are classified as unskilled or semi-skilled or live in a household, whose head of the family falls into this category.
- Approximately 1 per cent of annual births are to mothers under the age of 18.
- Births to mothers under the age of 20 in South Tipperary fell by 28 per cent to 37 in 2006.
- Almost 85 per cent of children born to mothers aged under 25 are born out of wedlock, compared to 36 per cent in all age groups.
- Between 2.5 and 5 per cent of young people have a disability.
- Almost 2 per cent of 15 to 24 year olds act as carers, most of whom are caring between 1 and 14 hours per week.
- Less than 1 per cent of the population aged 10 to 24 years is a member of the Travelling community.
- There is a general downward trend in the number of young people on the Live Register for the period 2004 – 2006, with males being more likely than females to be in need of Jobseeker's payments.
- Latest figures suggest an increase in the proportion of young people on the Live Register by over 4 per cent.
- 79 persons aged 10 to 21 years in South Tipperary received treatment for drug or alcohol misuse in 2007.
- Drug treatment data would suggest that males are at a higher risk of drug and alcohol misuse.
- There is an indication that drug misuse in comparison to alcohol misuse is more pronounced in the county than elsewhere.
- Unemployment and low educational attainment are characteristic for many young people treated for alcohol and drug misuse

General Business

Tourism Revenue

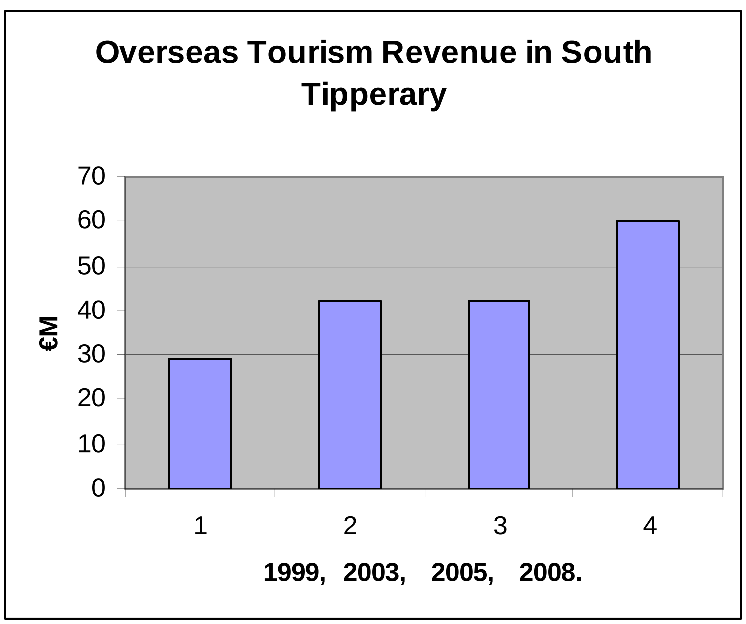
Result area 3 Increase the Economic Performance of Targeted Sectors and Grow Entrepreneurship

Indicator 1: Tourism investment in the county
Baseline Investment of €400,000 (2005-8)
Increase of number of hotel bednights, baseline to be established.

Targets:
Tourism €400,000
Food €50,000
Engineering Sector €30,000
Equine sector €25,000
County Enterprise Creation €400,000
Region, Enterprise creation: €225,000

Total Tourism Revenue, South Tipperary

1999	2003	2005	2008
29	42	42	60



Indicator 2 Entrepreneurship Growth

Baseline : to be developed around growth in number of R&D investments.
The County Data unit may succeed in creating an index of entrepreneurship.

Enterprise creation

The Gem Report on Entrepreneurship in 2008 shows that the region generates the highest rate of early stage entrepreneurship of all the regions in Ireland. However the trend has been for businesses to remain very small and to trade locally. The relatively low level of HPSUs emerging from the region reflects this pattern. The extremely high rate of early stage entrepreneurial activity among men in the region (15.5%) is the highest rate across all regions. Men in the region are two and a half more likely to be early stage entrepreneurs than are women. The proportion of individuals in the region, however, that aspire to start a new business (10.7%) is more at the average for the regions (11.0%). It is estimated (based on limited survey) that 450 individuals are setting up new businesses in the South-East region every month. This number is second only to the Dublin region.

General Commentary

The South East is deficient comparatively in
■Incomes
■Relatively low labour force participation
■Poor educational attainment
■Heavy concentration on manufacturing & agriculture

From Regional Competiveness Agendas, Overview Findings and Actions, Forfas Report, 2010

The South-East

Comprising of counties Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford, the South-East region has a total population of 496,500. The region has a distinctive settlement pattern with five relatively large centres of population distributed across it, and a gateway that has demonstrated limited impact to date. This has resulted in diverging and competitive dynamics within the region, but also presents an opportunity to work with this distinctive diversity through a more coordinated regional approach. In reality the northern parts of the region are more naturally 'drawn' towards Dublin. Historically the region had a strong heavy industry profile, and although there have been developments in recent years the transition to a more knowledge intensive enterprise profile has been relatively slow.

Key Data and Statistics – South-East

	South East	**State Average**	**Dublin**
Ulnemployment (Q4, 2009)	**11.4%**	**10.2%**	**8.9%**
Employment Growth 1998-2008	**40%**	**33%**	**22%**
GVA per worker (productivity	€57,864	€76,799	€103,104
GVA per person	€26,735	€36,606	€51,596

Educational Attainment 3rd level	23%	29.1%	35.9%
HERD % of national total	1.6%	100%	50.0%
BERD % of national total	4.4%	100%	41.8%
Agricultural Employment	9%	6%	2%
Manufacturing Employment	17%	**14%**	**11%**

47 CSO *Population & Migration Estimates*, April 2009

FORFÁS REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS AGENDAS: OVERVIEW, FINDINGS & ACTIONS

Key points of interest and potential

The absence of a university within the region has been cited by regional stakeholders as a significant deficit and a formal application by WIT for upgrade to university status is currently with government

The region has benefited from a strong international brands through the promotion of Waterford Crystal, Kilkenny Medieval City and Wexford Opera

Agency supported sectors that experienced the most significant growth in the region over the last decade included pharmachem, medical technologies and ICT services industries. These growth sectors are dominated by foreign-owned firms

Contributing 9% to overall employment, the agricultural sector remains a significant part of the South-East economy. Strong international players in the food processing industry provide a solid platform for future growth

Although the performance of the region in terms of entrepreneurship has been comparatively low, regionally based initiatives such as the *Spirit of Enterprise* demonstrate local capacity and capability to stimulate a collaborative and regional approach to the development of indigenous enterprise

The small portion of the total R&D spend in the higher education sector (HERD) underlines the importance of establishing linkages and networks, including with relevant HEIs and research institutes beyond the region (nationally and internationally).

Significant developments such as the awarding of an SFI Strategic Research Cluster to WIT/TSSG (the first of the ITs to establish such a cluster) represent a key step in enhancing one aspect of research and innovative capacity within the region.

Key Actions (Extract)

The enterprise development focussed *Spirit of Enterprise Forum* is an initiative that has brought together the relevant stakeholders over the past 3 years, and has had some success in developing a regional rather than county focus. This forum has the potential to provide leadership and a cohesive approach to enterprise development throughout the region – although the role and engagement of the agencies in this context should be clarified

A cross-regional Gateway Implementation Group should be established to garner proactive support for the gateway and to accelerate its strategic development, in terms of enterprise potential, infrastructures and the built environment . Recognising the resources of potential entrepreneurs from the

farming community, and given the business opportunities that are arising in the agri-business/environmental sectors, ensure optimal co-ordination of supports ffom relevant agencies such as Teagasc, EI, LEADER and the CEBs
Including the development agencies, WIT, chambers of commerce, business representatives etc. See http://www.spiritofenterprise.ie

FORFÁS REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS AGENDAS : OVERVIEW, FINDINGS & ACTIONS

Priority Infrastructures – South-East
Roads
N11 (Arklow/Rathnew; Enniscorthy By-pass)
N25 New Ross Bypass
N24 Upgrade Limerick-Waterford
Waste Water Address Waste Water capacity deficits in Wexford
Broadband Extension of Waterford MAN
Dublin and the Mid-East (the East)

Points of Interest
densely populated region in Ireland.
longer distance commuting to Dublin City

From Regional Competitivenes Agenda
Volume 11-Realising Potential South-East
Forfas 2009

Enterprise Dynamic assessing the enterprise structure, employment and GVA, the contribution from agency supported enterprises, and sectoral diversity and/or clustering
Skills & Education an analysis of the skills, educational attainment and education resources
Innovation research and development investment and activity, collaborations and interlinkages between HEIs and firms, between firms and customers
Economic Infrastructures
transport and broadband infrastructures – recent investments and ongoing infrastructure needs
Quality of Life based on factors relevant to the attraction of mobile investment and labour/talent
Leadership and Strategic Capacity
outlining relevant organisations and indications of locally driven initiatives and outcomes

Age cohort analysis shows that almost one fifth of the region’s young adult population (aged 15-19) migrates from the region as they pass from late teens to early twenties p 5

The impact of the fall in construction may have a greater overall impact that in other parts of the country 6.
The agricultural sector contributes 9% in over all employment, greater than the national average of 6%, complemented by the employment provided by strong international food processing companies.
The region continues to exhibit a relatively high level of early school leaving (below Leaving Cert) and relatively lower levels of attainment to third level.
The south-east accounts for a very small portion of the total R&D spend in the higher education sector (HERD) (under 2% in 2006) 7.

Infrastructure: issues remaining to be addressed:
The east west links from Waterford to Limerick by road
Existing but under-used rail transport infrastructure
Key investments in electricity infrastructure
Broadband service

A more co-ordinated approach to regional development is required.

The South-East Region has more people without a Leaving Certificate qualification than almost any other region in the country (with the exception of the Border) and one of the lowest levels of third level attainment in the country. Upskilling and reskilling will be vital.