

Who's within reach*	% Increase 30 mins (2016-2022)	Census 2022		
		30 mins	60 mins	90 mins
Population	+12.2%	89,555	438,988	2,427,457
Labour Force	+13.0%	41,992	207,226	1,226,086
Student	+19.1%	7,152	35,873	213,460
3rd Level or Postgraduate	+38.6%	14,876	77,100	533,645

#### Legend



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

## **Longford Town - Perfectly Located**

Located in the heart of Ireland, Longford Town is an authentic and dynamic area, with an ambitious community spirit. Having maintained a strong market tradition, the town preserves a connection and healthy balance between urban and rural environments, while in recent times attracting a strong multinational enterprise presence. Longford Town is positioned as a gateway to the Northern and Western Region, situated along the Dublin to Sligo rail line, within easy reach of the M4 motorway, and lying within just 90 minutes from Dublin, Dublin Airport and Galway City.

As a growing regional town with a multi-cultural population of 10,952 and proximity to all that the Midlands has to offer, Longford Town is an ideal place to live, work or visit. It is also home to a number of major industrial operators in the fields of life sciences and medical technologies. The town itself boasts a range of amenities, including many excellent restaurants, bars, cafes, and sports facilities, along with a shopping centre, leisure centre, bowling alley, cinema complex and golf course. The arts thrive in Longford, with the Backstage Theatre, art gallery, and a busy annual calendar of arts events throughout the town, including the unique Longford Lights Festival.

In recent years, the tourism industry in the Longford region has grown significantly, due in part to the opening of Center Parcs in 2019. This €233m Longford Forest resort represents the largest single investment in Irish tourism history and is approved for a further €100 million expansion. Conveniently located on the 130km Royal Canal Greenway, the 165km National Famine Way, the Longford Rebel Trail, and the Longford Literary Driving Trail, Longford town and the surrounding area is also ideally placed as a tourist centre for the Lakeland District and the River Shannon, all of which are part of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.

### **Longford Town - Town Amenities**



Primary & Secondary Schools



40+ Restaurants, Cafés & Bars



2 Gbps Fibre Broadband Speeds



Local Enterprise Office



130km Royal Canal Greenway



Center Parcs Longford Forest



Chamber of Commerce



Cathedral





Camlin River







Longford College of Further Education



40 Train Connections
Per Weekday



Hotels & B&Bs



Backstage Theatre



Sports & Recreation Facilities



STEM Programmes for Primary & Secondary Students



Longford Library

# **Business Activity & Clustering**

**Key Clusters - Life Sciences, Food & Drink, Engineering, Construction.** 

Longford is home to a number of key industry clusters, particularly in advanced manufacturing. The presence of Abbott Diagnostics in Longford since 2004 has spurred the development of key life science and medical technology industry clusters around the town. In 2023 Abbott produced its 10 billionth test from its facility in Longford, which is a SHINGO award winner for operational excellence and a world leader in medical technologies with over 1,200 employees and almost 100 PhDs, with strong links to the nearby TUS Faculty of Science. Avery Dennison and Technimark are other major employers in this cluster. With the existence of C&D Foods and Panelto, there is also an established food & drink cluster in Longford. In 2022, C&D Foods announced plans to invest €48m in their factory in Longford, bringing the total invested at the plant to €118m since 2006. In the same year, Panelto joined the 3i-backed European Bakery Group. Engineering and modern methods of construction represent emerging industries in the area, with specialities in steel and modular construction.

Industries in Longford are well supported by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO), the Longford Chamber of Commerce and the EDI Centre. The strategic location of Longford, combined with its skilled workforce and strong economic value proposition, has been instrumental in fostering numerous successful businesses in the region and this growth looks set to continue apace.

Technimark is committed to growing our business in Ireland and we are extremely excited to have this new space available for our global medical customer base. Ireland is seeing pronounced growth in the MedTech market, and our facility is ideally located to service our customers in the region.

Brad Wellington, CEO Technimark Longford

Avery Dennison Industrial and Healthcare Materials is deeply committed to its medical businesses, to the continued development of its outstanding medical manufacturing capabilities, and to the vibrant professional community here at Longford that has generated this remarkable success story.

Michael Johansen,

VP and General Manager Avery Dennison Longford



#### **INVEST** - Discover a connected region to build your business

• Youthful Population: 40.3 % of people within 30 mins are under 35.

• Labour Expansion: 13.0% increase in Labour Force within 30 mins from 2016 to 2022.

Managerial Boost: 23.9% increase in Professional and Managerial population within 30 mins from 2016 to 2022.

Skill Surge: 11.1% increase in 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: 59.1% (25-64 yrs) within 30 mins hold a Postsecondary qualification.

R&D Clusters: In Med Tech, Life Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing, and Engineering, with MMC/Engineering/

Construction playing a crucial role.

#### STUDY - Discover your future, wherever you want to go

• Graduate Growth: 19.1% increase in student population within 30 minutes from 2016 to 2022,

significantly ahead of national average.

University Access:
 2 Universities within 60 minutes – TUS and Maynooth, with 4 further universities

within 90 mins - ATU, DCU, TUD and University of Galway.

• Specialised Studies: FET College and STEM ambition, advancing industry skills through partnerships with Dreamspace,

Microsoft, and Ericsson, aiming to pioneer Computer Science in all secondary schools.

### LIVE - Discover a new pace & more space

Green Commutes: 11.8% increase in walking and cycling commutes from 2016 to 2022.

Healthy Living: 83.4% of people within 30 mins are in 'good or very good health', above the national average.

Schools: 62 Primary Schools and 14 Secondary Schools within 30 mins.

Activity Options: Over 30 recreation and sports facilities (including gyms, swimming, golf) within reach in 30 mins.

Retail Range: Over 300 retail options within 30 mins for every product and service.

Family First: Over 20 childcare facilities within 30 mins.

Express Access: Travel to Dublin and Dublin Airport via the N4/M4 & Galway City via the N63, connecting

to the M6 motorway. North-South connectivity (N55).

On the Move: Daily departures to major cities by bus and 40 daily train connections to Dublin/Sligo

- travel made easy.

#### VISIT - Discover open spaces & thrilling activities

• Beautiful Blue: Embrace the water on Lough Ree and the River Shannon, paddle Lough Forbes,

and enjoy the serenity of the Royal Canal Greenway.

• Fabulous Forests: Escape to Center Parcs Longford Forest for endless family fun, historical gems like

Corlea Trackway and St. Mel's Cathedral, plus intriguing 'Rebel' & 'Literary' Trails.

• Stay in Style: 12 hotels within 30 mins offer a warm welcome.

Explore More: 40 Failte Ireland attractions within 30 mins invite you to discover walks, wildlife, and tours.
 Taste the Town: Savour the local flavour with farmers markets and restaurants to tempt every palate.

### WORK - Discover opportunities to grow & develop

Speed Unleashed: Blazing 2 Gbps connectivity for all business, commercial and residential.
 Hub Network: A thriving ecosystem of 5 co-working spaces within a 30-minute drive.

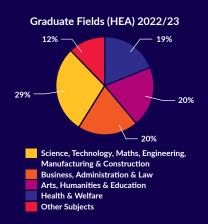
Commute Advantage: 58.5% of people enjoy a sub-30-minute commutes.
 Remote Rise: 62.5% increase in remote working from 2016 to 2022.

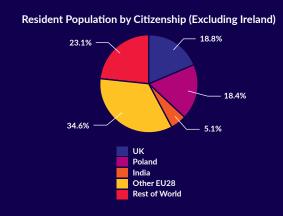
### **Quality of Life**

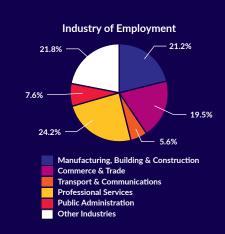
Surrounded by natural amenities such as the River Shannon, Lough Ree and the Royal Canal, Longford offers ample outdoor recreation activities, as well as world class angling opportunities. Access to the 130km Royal Canal Greenway provides opportunities for cycling and hiking enthusiasts while access to the 10km Camlin River Loop allows water sports such as kayaking, with further access to the water at harbours and marinas along the Shannon to Lough Ree. Historical attractions include the Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre in Longford showcasing an Iron Age Road from 148 BC and featuring an 8.6km Bog Walk. The National Famine Way, a 165km trail retracing the journey of 1,490 people from Roscommon to Dublin in 1847, bound for North America passes through Longford. Furthermore, the 73km Longford Literary Driving Trail and the Edgeworthstown Literary Trail highlight the footsteps of famous historical figures. Longford boasts an exceptional arts scene, anchored by institutions such as Backstage Theatre, a leading arts venue since 1995, and the Athena Fine Art Gallery & Café. Longford Arts Service plays a vital role in supporting and promoting the local arts sector, fostering creativity among young people and securing funding for local artists. The group also organise festivals and events throughout the year, such as the Longford Lights Festival and the Dead of Night Festival.

## **Green Longford**

Longford is making commendable strides towards a more sustainable future, with several notable achievements in embracing green practices. The historic connection with power generation has opened the door to a growing renewable energy sector. Recent investments in wind power and BESS Battery energy storage systems have increased the estimated renewable energy capacity of the county to between 63.3 and 78.3 MW, with plans for further investments in both technologies in addition to hydrogen and solar energy. Surpassing the national average, 37.9% of private dwellings in Longford have already adopted renewable energy sources, showcasing a growing commitment to sustainability at both commercial and community levels. Located on the 130km Royal Canal Way, Longford is investing in further cycling infrastructure for the town and county which will promote active and sustainable travel. Moreover, efforts to restore peatlands highlight a strong local commitment to both biodiversity and carbon sequestration within Longford.







## **Education, Training & Skills**

The main education, training and skills offerings in Longford are Longford College of Further Education and Longford's EDI Centre. Through ambitious STEM programmes, the county also seeks to provide Computer Science in all schools, a national first.

Longford College of Further Education provides a diverse range of Level 5 and Level 6 QQI courses, covering areas such as Engineering, Health Care, Business, Applied Social Studies, and IT. Additionally, Longford EDI Centre plays a vital role in community education, offering services including accredited QQI courses, industry-specific training and collaboration with third-level institutions to provide pathways for higher education. Longford intends to be the first county in Ireland with Computer Science as a Leaving Cert option in all secondary schools and has been awarded funding to progress the ambitious plan as part of a broader significant investment in future skills and STEM education in schools.

These forward-thinking projects see Longford County Council and LWETB collaborate with industry experts Microsoft and Ericsson and upskill teachers in the county by creating a learning network, providing ICT equipment and resources using Micro:bits and Microsoft's Dreamspace Academy.

The strategic location of Longford offers convenient access to TUS Athlone and Maynooth University, both within a 60-minute drive. This accessibility enhances the status of the town as an educational hub, facilitating lifelong learning opportunities and career advancement for its residents.









