

## Teagasc Rural Towns Index

Cathal O'Donoghue and David Meredith

Teagasc Rural Economy and Development Programme

Note we define our index on the basis economic “strength” as an index that is function of the unemployment rate and the level of migration. The lower the unemployment rate, the stronger the town was and the higher the level of inward migration, the stronger the town was.

We restrict our analysis towns and their surrounding districts that have a population of 1500 or more in 2011. The index is calculated using the CSO Census Small Area Population Statistics for 2011.

County	Towns and Rural Districts	Index Rank	Unemployment Rate Rank	Migration Rate Rank
27 Galway County	Bearna	1	10	1
19 Kerry	Rathmore	2	33	3
06 Kildare	Balraheen	3	11	29
18 Cork County	Bantry Town	4	32	11
18 Cork County	Whitechurch	5	18	26
15 Wicklow	Kilcoole	6	42	12
18 Cork County	Ovens	7	5	49
27 Galway County	Clarinbridge	8	14	42
06 Kildare	Celbridge	9	46	30
18 Cork County	Dromore	10	63	22
19 Kerry	Glin	11	39	51
27 Galway County	Carnmore	12	37	55
18 Cork County	Carrigtwohill	13	78	18
31 Sligo	Collooney	14	94	5
18 Cork County	Ightermurragh	15	76	23
27 Galway County	Oranmore	16	55	52
06 Kildare	Straffan	17	4	103
27 Galway County	Craughwell	18	35	74
14 Wexford	Carrick	19	26	85
09 Longford	Caldragh	20	72	41
06 Kildare	Kilcock	21	84	34
19 Kerry	Milltown	22	106	14
21 Limerick County	Caherconlish	23	119	7
16 Clare	Doora	24	40	87
11 Meath	Ashbourne	25	95	33
27 Galway County	Clifden	26	113	17
18 Cork County	Douglas	27	6	126
06 Kildare	Maynooth	28	25	107
19 Kerry	Kilcummin	29	53	80
22 Tipperary North	Newport	30	98	35
11 Meath	Ratoath	31	24	110
06 Kildare	Kill	32	56	78
18 Cork County	Rathcormac	33	86	48
10 Louth	Termonfeckin	34	99	40

29 Mayo	Claremorris	35	115	25
18 Cork County	Crosshaven	36	36	105
25 Waterford County	Clonea	37	68	76
29 Mayo	Ardnaree	38	60	86
11 Meath	Castlerickard	39	130	21
18 Cork County	Liscleary	40	69	83
11 Meath	Stamullen	41	57	97
21 Limerick County	Adare	42	12	146
18 Cork County	Glanmire	43	34	125
19 Kerry	Ballynahaglish	44	58	104
29 Mayo	Westport	45	74	91
27 Galway County	Maigh Cuilinn	46	17	149
21 Limerick County	Castleconnell	47	89	79
06 Kildare	Clane	48	116	56
06 Kildare	Sallins	49	108	64
34 Monaghan	Bellanode	50	79	94
13 Westmeath	Moydrum	51	28	145
16 Clare	Sixmilebridge	52	139	36
31 Sligo	Strandhill	53	19	157
19 Kerry	Kenmare	54	110	68
33 Donegal	Edenacarnan	55	179	4
30 Roscommon	Kiltoom	56	1	183
18 Cork County	Clonakilty	57	54	131
14 Wexford	Rosslare	58	120	66
19 Kerry	Listowel	59	184	2
06 Kildare	Carragh	60	27	160
07 Kilkenny	Thomastown	61	103	84
22 Tipperary North	Ballina	62	100	89
13 Westmeath	Killucan	63	168	24
25 Waterford County	Faithlegg (pt)	64	51	143
11 Meath	Enfield	65	132	63
06 Kildare	Carnalway	66	45	153
31 Sligo	Kilmacowen	67	21	177
08 Laoighis	Graiguecullen	68	191	10
18 Cork County	Cloyne	69	133	69
18 Cork County	Charleville	70	158	45
31 Sligo	Ballymote	71	167	37
18 Cork County	Kinsale	72	67	138
11 Meath	Kilbrew	73	38	173
18 Cork County	Inishannon	74	7	205
10 Louth	Castlebellingham	75	145	71
31 Sligo	Kilglass	76	203	15
10 Louth	Carlingford	77	200	19
32 Cavan	Virginia	78	188	39
11 Meath	Trim	79	140	88
10 Louth	Collon	80	197	32
18 Cork County	Kanturk	81	170	60

29 Mayo	Foxford	82	129	101
21 Limerick County	Ballybricken	83	23	208
18 Cork County	Ballincollig	84	49	184
07 Kilkenny	Callan	85	172	62
27 Galway County	Mount Bellew	86	71	163
10 Louth	Mullary	87	73	162
11 Meath	Dunboyne	88	44	191
27 Galway County	Athenry	89	147	90
18 Cork County	Matehy	90	20	220
18 Cork County	Corkbeg	91	83	158
23 Tipperary South	Cashel	92	187	54
19 Kerry	Ballyseedy	93	122	122
10 Louth	Dunleer	94	175	70
10 Louth	Clogherhead	95	163	82
06 Kildare	Ballyshannon	96	65	180
32 Cavan	Cavan	97	192	53
19 Kerry	Clogherbrien	98	16	232
18 Cork County	Dunderrow	99	8	242
25 Waterford County	Lismore	100	101	152
27 Galway County	Portumna	101	177	77
21 Limerick County	Clarina	102	22	237
21 Limerick County	Newcastle West	103	201	61
13 Westmeath	Moate	104	235	27
29 Mayo	Ballyhaunis	105	148	115
18 Cork County	Millstreet	106	183	81
15 Wicklow	Enniskerry	107	13	252
32 Cavan	Mullagh	108	257	8
27 Galway County	Claregalway	109	50	216
27 Galway County	Annaghdown	110	111	155
30 Roscommon	Roscommon	111	127	139
29 Mayo	Ballinrobe	112	161	106
08 Laoighis	Abbeyleix	113	125	142
27 Galway County	Tullokyne	114	80	189
33 Donegal	Fahan	115	142	128
06 Kildare	Rathangan	116	264	6
18 Cork County	Midleton	117	153	118
15 Wicklow	Greystones	118	15	256
11 Meath	Julianstown	119	136	135
10 Louth	Drogheda	120	77	195
14 Wexford	Courtown	121	152	121
10 Louth	Dundalk	122	93	181
31 Sligo	Tubbercurry	123	199	75
11 Meath	Dunshaughlin	124	48	228
16 Clare	Killaloe	125	211	65
28 Leitrim	Manorhamilton	126	92	188
18 Cork County	Cobh	127	82	200
18 Cork County	Skibbereen	128	107	176
06 Kildare	Prosperous	129	123	161

32 Cavan	Moynehall	130	144	140
09 Longford	Ballymahon	131	256	28
13 Westmeath	Athlone	132	169	116
33 Donegal	Ballymacool	133	271	16
18 Cork County	Monkstown	134	85	203
18 Cork County	Glounthane	135	29	260
19 Kerry	Coom	136	47	243
29 Mayo	Breaffy	137	9	281
06 Kildare	Monasterevan	138	219	73
31 Sligo	Calry	139	3	290
16 Clare	Clonlara	140	52	241
32 Cavan	Ballyjamesduff	141	283	13
31 Sligo	Drumcliff	142	2	295
18 Cork County	Mallow	143	160	137
15 Wicklow	Blessington	144	88	209
18 Cork County	Riverstown	145	31	267
33 Donegal	Castlewray	146	30	270
19 Kerry	Killorglin	147	146	154
14 Wexford	Courtown Harbour	148	291	9
18 Cork County	Waterfall	149	41	259
16 Clare	Newmarket-On-Fergus	150	149	151
08 Laoighis	Port Laoise	151	270	31
32 Cavan	Kingscourt	152	258	43
07 Kilkenny	Pilltown	153	159	144
33 Donegal	Donegal	154	128	175
23 Tipperary South	Mortlestown	155	195	109
33 Donegal	Knock	156	210	95
18 Cork County	Carrigaline	157	61	245
11 Meath	Ballivor	158	269	38
15 Wicklow	Newcastle	159	121	187
25 Waterford County	Islandikane	160	43	269
06 Kildare	Naas	161	75	238
10 Louth	Dromiskin	162	185	130
16 Clare	Milltown Malbay	163	166	150
09 Longford	Edgeworthstown	164	297	20
33 Donegal	Rutland	165	207	112
33 Donegal	Redford	166	273	46
11 Meath	Slane	167	205	114
18 Cork County	St Marys (Blarney)	168	90	229
32 Cavan	Bailieborough	169	265	57
06 Kildare	Castledermot	170	278	44
14 Wexford	Wexford	171	87	236
15 Wicklow	Glenealy	172	196	127
33 Donegal	Magheraboy	173	102	221
06 Kildare	Newbridge	174	190	134
18 Cork County	Carrigaline	175	150	174
18 Cork County	Macroom	176	118	207
14 Wexford	Kilmore	177	213	113

28 Leitrim	Carrick-On-Shannon	178	215	111
14 Wexford	St. Helen's	179	198	129
01 Carlow	Tullow	180	261	67
10 Louth	Ballymascanlan	181	126	202
14 Wexford	Gorey	182	284	47
08 Laoighis	Mountrath	183	274	58
27 Galway County	Loughrea	184	189	147
06 Kildare	Leixlip	185	64	272
08 Laoighis	Portarlinton	186	279	59
11 Meath	Kentstown	187	124	214
33 Donegal	Rathmelton	188	231	108
25 Waterford County	Portlaw	189	221	119
12 Offaly	Geashill	190	131	210
18 Cork County	Dunmanway	191	66	277
11 Meath	Duleek	192	212	132
27 Galway County	Tuam	193	250	96
33 Donegal	Carndonagh	194	296	50
34 Monaghan	Castleblayney	195	245	102
18 Cork County	Blarney	196	62	285
33 Donegal	Bundoran	197	202	148
06 Kildare	Kilmeage	198	227	123
11 Meath	Donaghpatrick	199	104	246
25 Waterford County	Dungarvan	200	173	178
19 Kerry	Caher	201	59	293
33 Donegal	Killea	202	254	98
18 Cork County	Youghal	203	260	93
18 Cork County	Buttevant	204	138	217
23 Tipperary South	Tipperary	205	143	215
18 Cork County	Mitchelstown	206	135	224
07 Kilkenny	Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch	207	263	99
18 Cork County	Bandon	208	178	185
06 Kildare	Athy	209	293	72
07 Kilkenny	Kilkenny	210	164	201
15 Wicklow	Bray	211	91	276
33 Donegal	An Bun Beag-Doirý Beaga	212	204	165
06 Kildare	Celbridge	213	81	288
19 Kerry	Killarney	214	70	299
14 Wexford	Rathaspick	215	109	262
11 Meath	Ardraccan	216	97	274
22 Tipperary North	Thurles	217	141	231
32 Cavan	Cootehill	218	242	133
18 Cork County	Fermoy	219	162	213
29 Mayo	Swineford	220	112	264
08 Laoighis	Stradbally	221	156	222
11 Meath	Ardcath	222	117	261

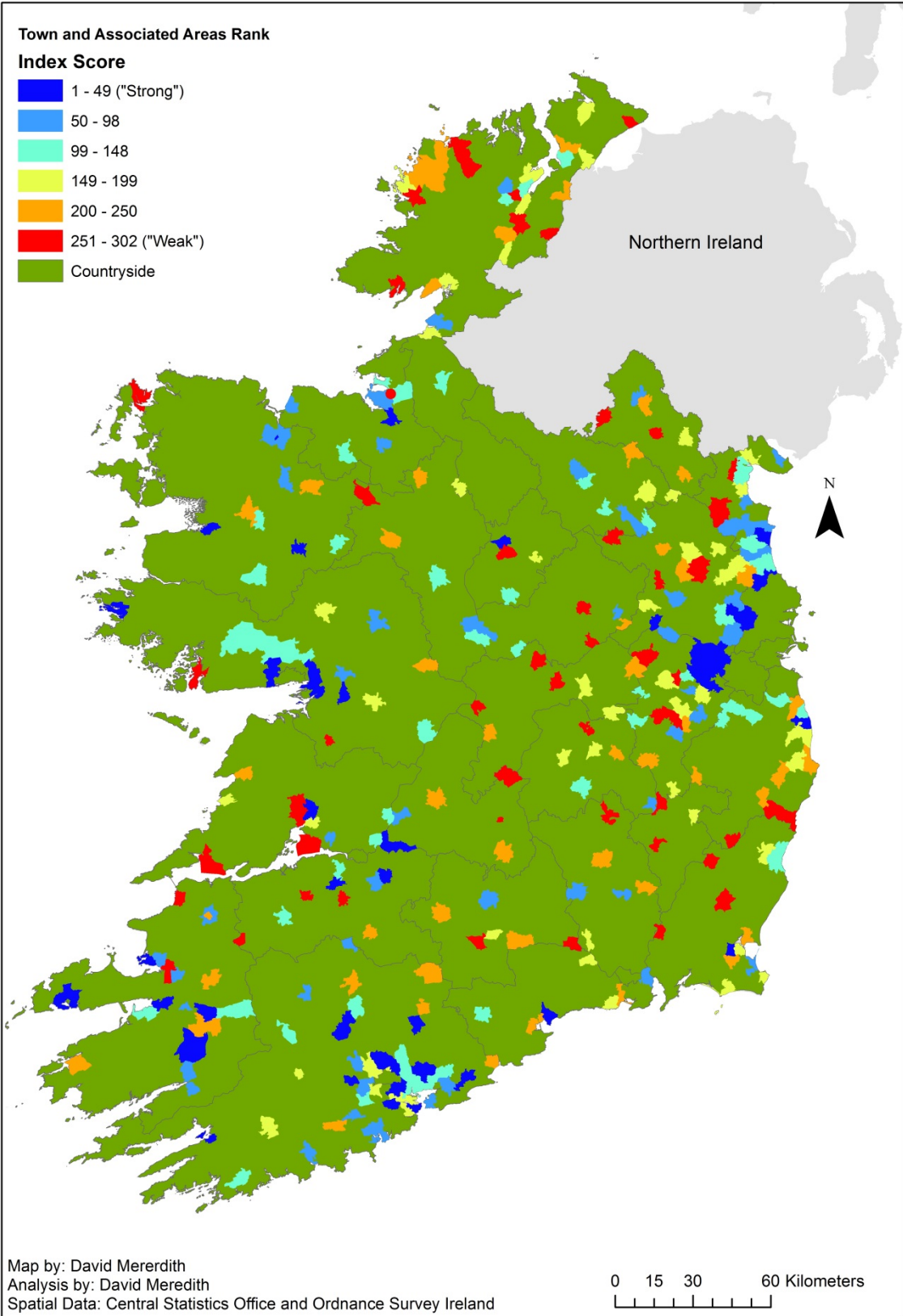
34 Monaghan	Carrickmacross	223	224	156
15 Wicklow	Kilmacanoge	224	96	289
15 Wicklow	Aughrim	225	288	100
06 Kildare	Kilcullen	226	134	254
15 Wicklow	Wicklow	227	218	172
13 Westmeath	Kinnegad	228	272	120
33 Donegal	Mountcharles	229	114	280
22 Tipperary North	Nenagh	230	171	223
30 Roscommon	Castlerea	231	302	92
15 Wicklow	Baltinglass	232	253	141
33 Donegal	Ballybofey-Stranorlar	233	228	167
15 Wicklow	Rathdrum	234	230	166
14 Wexford	Castlebridge	235	157	239
16 Clare	Ennistimon	236	225	171
34 Monaghan	Monaghan	237	229	169
11 Meath	Kells	238	209	190
33 Donegal	Annagary	239	217	186
25 Waterford County	Tramore	240	193	211
11 Meath	Enfield	241	105	301
33 Donegal	Bunrana	242	290	117
21 Limerick County	Kilmallock	243	182	227
19 Kerry	Castleisland	244	194	219
12 Offaly	Edenderry	245	298	124
30 Roscommon	Boyle	246	165	258
33 Donegal	Gortahork	247	289	136
29 Mayo	Castlebar	248	154	273
27 Galway County	Ballinasloe	249	233	194
12 Offaly	Birr	250	249	179
16 Clare	Shannon Town	251	151	278
33 Donegal	Dunglow	252	186	244
06 Kildare	Ballysax	253	137	298
33 Donegal	Convoy	254	246	193
01 Carlow	Bagnalstown	255	222	218
15 Wicklow	Arklow	256	277	164
27 Galway County	Carrowroe	257	282	159
31 Sligo	Sligo	258	155	287
10 Louth	Ardee	259	248	196
16 Clare	Ennis	260	174	271
12 Offaly	Clara	261	243	204
29 Mayo	Belmullet	262	208	240
12 Offaly	Tullamore	263	268	182
11 Meath	Navan (An Uaimh)	264	238	212
15 Wicklow	Carnew	265	281	170
22 Tipperary North	Roscrea	266	255	197
14 Wexford	Enniscorthy	267	285	168
33 Donegal	Killybegs	268	181	275
06 Kildare	Kildare	269	216	248
08 Laoighis	Mountmellick	270	214	251

21 Limerick County	Croom	271	241	225
01 Carlow	Carlow	272	232	235
33 Donegal	Moville	273	276	192
19 Kerry	Tralee	274	239	234
16 Clare	Kilrush	275	206	268
34 Monaghan	Clones	276	176	302
22 Tipperary North	Templemore	277	180	300
13 Westmeath	Mullingar	278	252	233
10 Louth	Castletown (pt)	279	287	198
11 Meath	Athboy	280	240	247
34 Monaghan	Ballybay	281	223	265
09 Longford	Longford	282	301	199
19 Kerry	Ballybunion	283	247	253
33 Donegal	Lifford	284	300	206
14 Wexford	New Ross	285	280	226
33 Donegal	Letterkenny	286	251	257
29 Mayo	Ballina	287	226	284
30 Roscommon	Ballaghaderreen	288	262	249
07 Kilkenny	Castlecomer	289	220	296
33 Donegal	Cross Roads	290	266	250
33 Donegal	Ballyshannon	291	234	283
11 Meath	Oldcastle	292	267	255
06 Kildare	Carbury	293	295	230
23 Tipperary South	Kilcommon	294	237	292
13 Westmeath	Castlelost	295	244	286
27 Galway County	Gort	296	236	297
12 Offaly	Banagher	297	259	279
21 Limerick County	Abbeyfeale	298	275	266
23 Tipperary South	Carrick-on-Suir	299	299	263
21 Limerick County	Rathkeale	300	286	282
06 Kildare	Robertstown	301	294	291
14 Wexford	Bunclody-Carrickduff	302	292	294

**Town and Associated Areas Rank**

**Index Score**

- 1 - 49 ("Strong")
- 50 - 98
- 99 - 148
- 149 - 199
- 200 - 250
- 251 - 302 ("Weak")
- Countryside



Map by: David Meredith  
Analysis by: David Meredith  
Spatial Data: Central Statistics Office and Ordnance Survey Ireland

0 15 30 60 Kilometers  
[Scale bar]



### Average Rank per County

County	Average of Index Rank
31 Sligo	105
18 Cork County	105
27 Galway County	106
19 Kerry	119
10 Louth	128
06 Kildare	133
32 Cavan	137
25 Waterford County	141
29 Mayo	143
09 Longford	149
21 Limerick County	151
11 Meath	152
28 Leitrim	152
13 Westmeath	164
07 Kilkenny	168
16 Clare	168
08 Laoighis	170
22 Tipperary North	180
14 Wexford	181
15 Wicklow	184
30 Roscommon	186
23 Tipperary South	209
33 Donegal	209
34 Monaghan	210
01 Carlow	236
12 Offaly	251