

# Economic Activity in Two Core Regions Differ

## | Sample Answer

**Economic activity in core regions differs from that in peripheral regions, examine this statement with reference to two examples you have studied.**

**(2014 Q6B)**

The core region which I will discuss is the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) and the peripheral region is the Border Midlands West (BMW) which consists of counties e.g. Leitrim and Mayo.

A core region is the main economic hub in a nation and often benefits from inward migration from the less economically well off, peripheral regions. Economic activities greatly differ because of this.

Approximately 80% of workers in Dublin are employed in the tertiary sector. The IFSC, one of the largest financial services centres is located here. It is the 7th largest in Europe and generates 7% of GDP per year.

The IFSC was set up in 1987 and directly employs 40,000 people with a multiplier effect that creates 50,000 extra jobs in the Dublin region. Servicing the 450 companies based in the IFSC.

Tourism is also important to the GDA as it is the main entry point to Ireland through Dublin airport and Port. 90% of all flights to Ireland land in Dublin. Tourism earns in the region of 1 billion euros per year for the region.

In 2019 11.2 million people visited Ireland generating 5.8 billion for the national economy. It thrives through cultural attractions of which many are found in Dublin e.g. Trinity College.

Fáilte Ireland successfully markets Dublin as a tourist friendly destination with many hotels in the area and transport links e.g. the Dublin area Rapid Transport (DART) and the Luas. In 2019 the Luas was used 42 million times.

The Border Midlands West (BMW) region of Ireland has a lower than average employment in the tertiary sector but still relies heavily on tourism and is supported through attractions like the Wild Atlantic Way and the Blue Ways dotted along canals around the region.

Over 2 million people visit the region annually with many visiting urban hubs such as Galway or Castlebar. Tourism is also boosted by the presence of many Gaeltacht areas mainly situated in Galway e.g. An Spiddal. On average 20,000 students spend time in the Gaeltacht each year.

This industry is seasonal with most arriving in July and August this is in contrast to Dublin which has a year round tourism industry.

Tourism is unexploited here and has been affected by the limited access to the region. With Shannon and knock airports being minor and there being few rail links to the region only serving main areas e.g. Galway/Sligo/Westport.

The Border Midlands West (BMW) region relies heavily on agriculture, a primary activity although soils are worse quality and it is less mechanised due to the jagged relief. The average beef farmer in Ireland earns 13,000e per year before EU grants like the common Agricultural policy are divided out.

Many in the BMW region have turned their land to Sitka spruce plantations with an offer of 520e per hectare per year as a government incentive to increase forestry to 18% of the land cover. Sitka spruce, however, is poisonous to Irish ecosystems as it is a coniferous tree with acidic pines.

Dublin agriculture is booming with a growing season of 270 days. This has allowed for 15% of the national potato crop e.g. Tayto and strawberries e.g. Keeling's to succeed here.

The difference between the two regions is most notable through their population densities. The GDA is a small region consisting of four counties while it is very dense the 1458 people /km<sup>2</sup> in contrast the BMW only has 37/KM<sup>2</sup>

Dublin attracts many companies in the secondary sector with a large Pharmaceutical base e.g. Bristol Myers Squibb, whereas Shannon has companies like the liquid natural gas station which is a point of much controversy.