

Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly

COVID-19 and the Midlands: Challenges and Opportunities

John Daly

Economist of the Regional Assemblies of Ireland

26th May, 2021

Presentation Structure



1. Economic Impact of COVID-19

- Labour Market Impact
- Commercial Market Impact

2. Opportunities Post-COVID-19

- Potential of Remote Working
 - Potential of Low Carbon Recovery
- 
- 





Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

1. Economic Impact of COVID-19



Figure 1: Number of Midland residents in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment, Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme / Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme, 22nd of March 2020 to 28th of March 2021

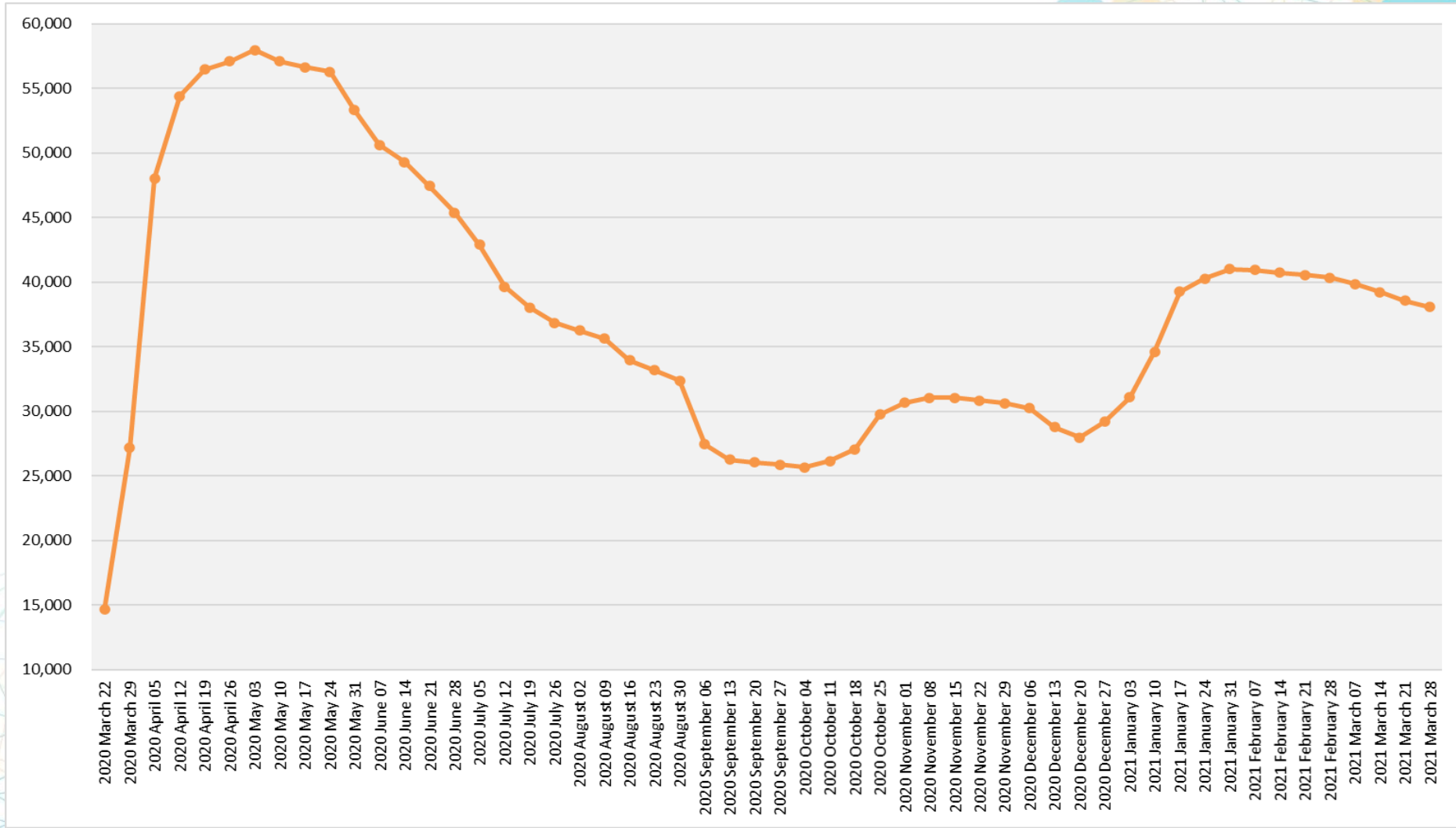
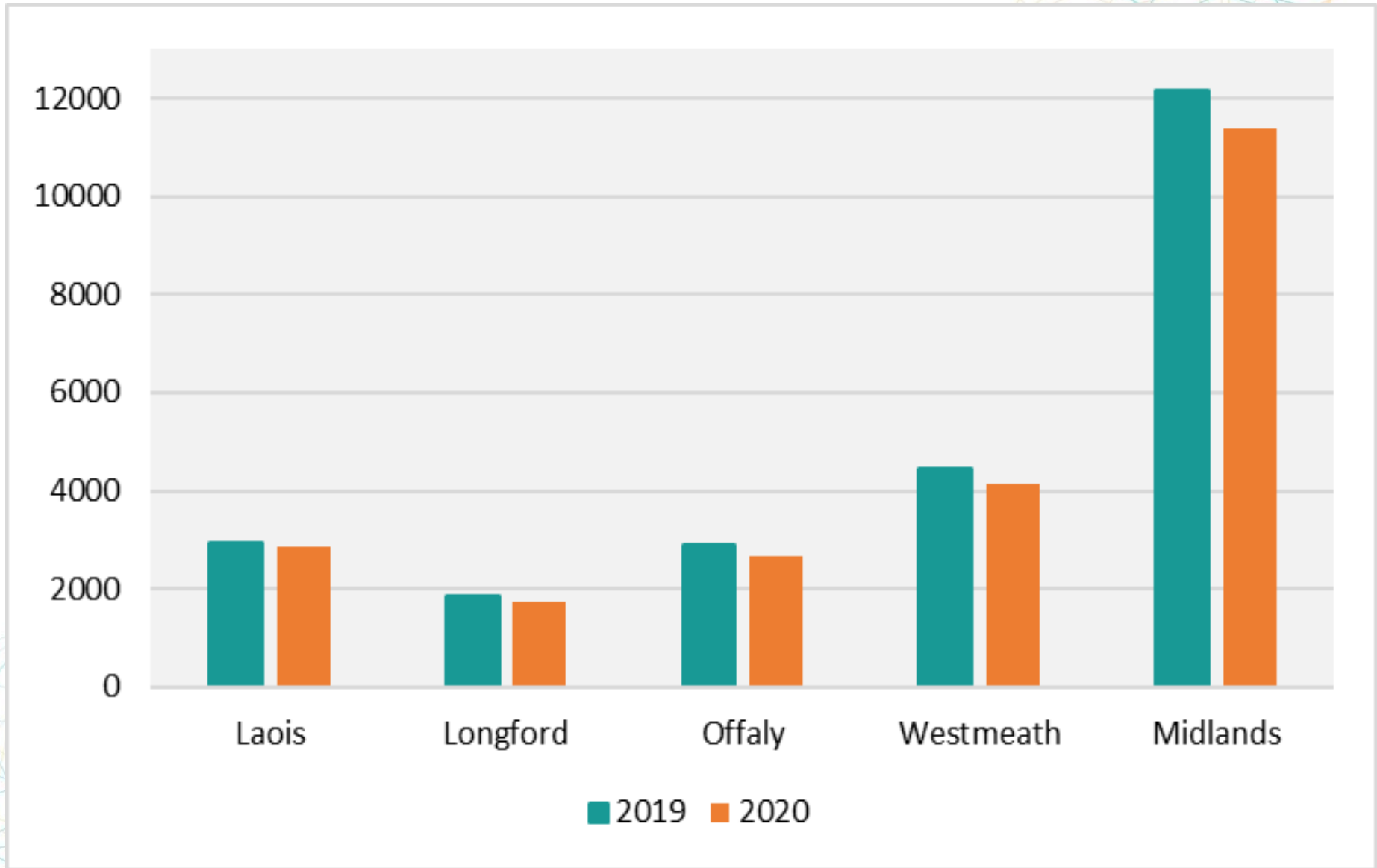


Figure 2: Number of Occupied Commercial Units in the Midlands, September 2019 vs 2020





Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

2. Opportunities Post COVID-19



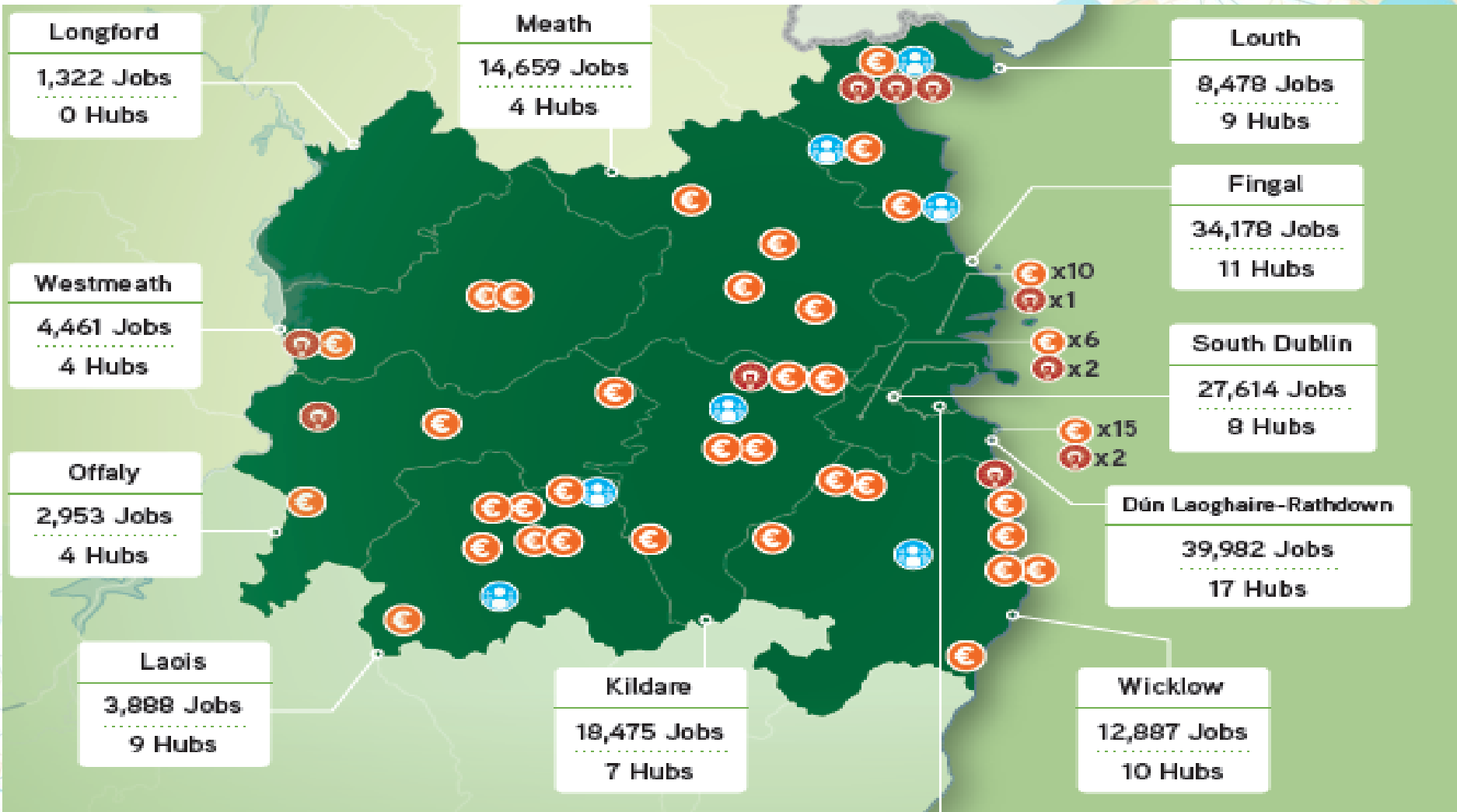


Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

2.1 Potential of Remote Working



Figure 3: Estimated number of private sector workers capable of operating remotely as of Q2 2020, and the number of Co-Working hubs as of September 2020, in the Eastern and Midland Region



For the Midlands, remote working could:

Attract more people

Enhance Human Capitals

Improve digital infrastructure

Reduce commuting times

Figure 4: Annual percentage change in the number of residential property transactions, in the Midlands versus the State, Q1-2020 vs Q1-2021

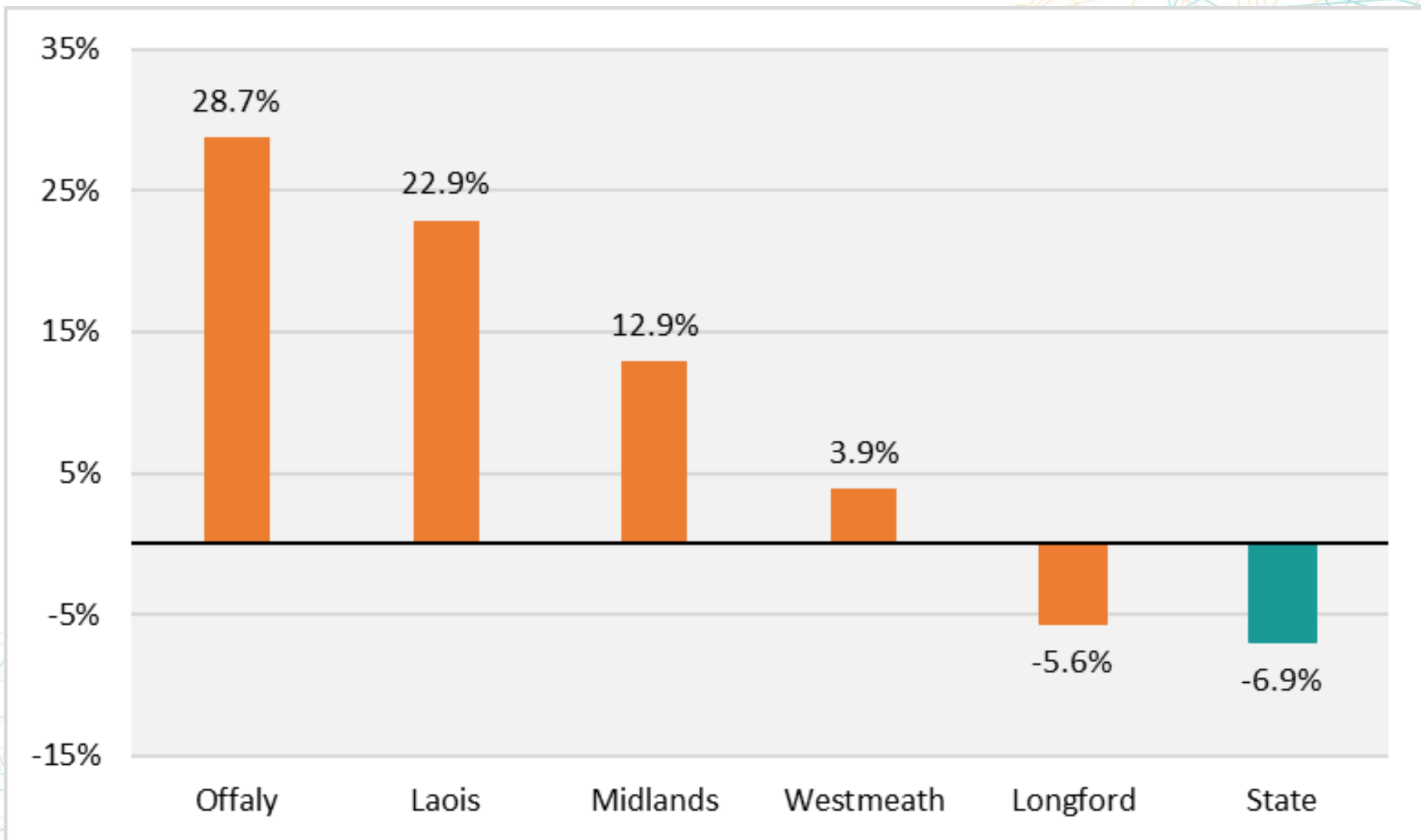


Figure 5: Percentage of residents with a third level qualification in the Midlands and the State, 2010-2020

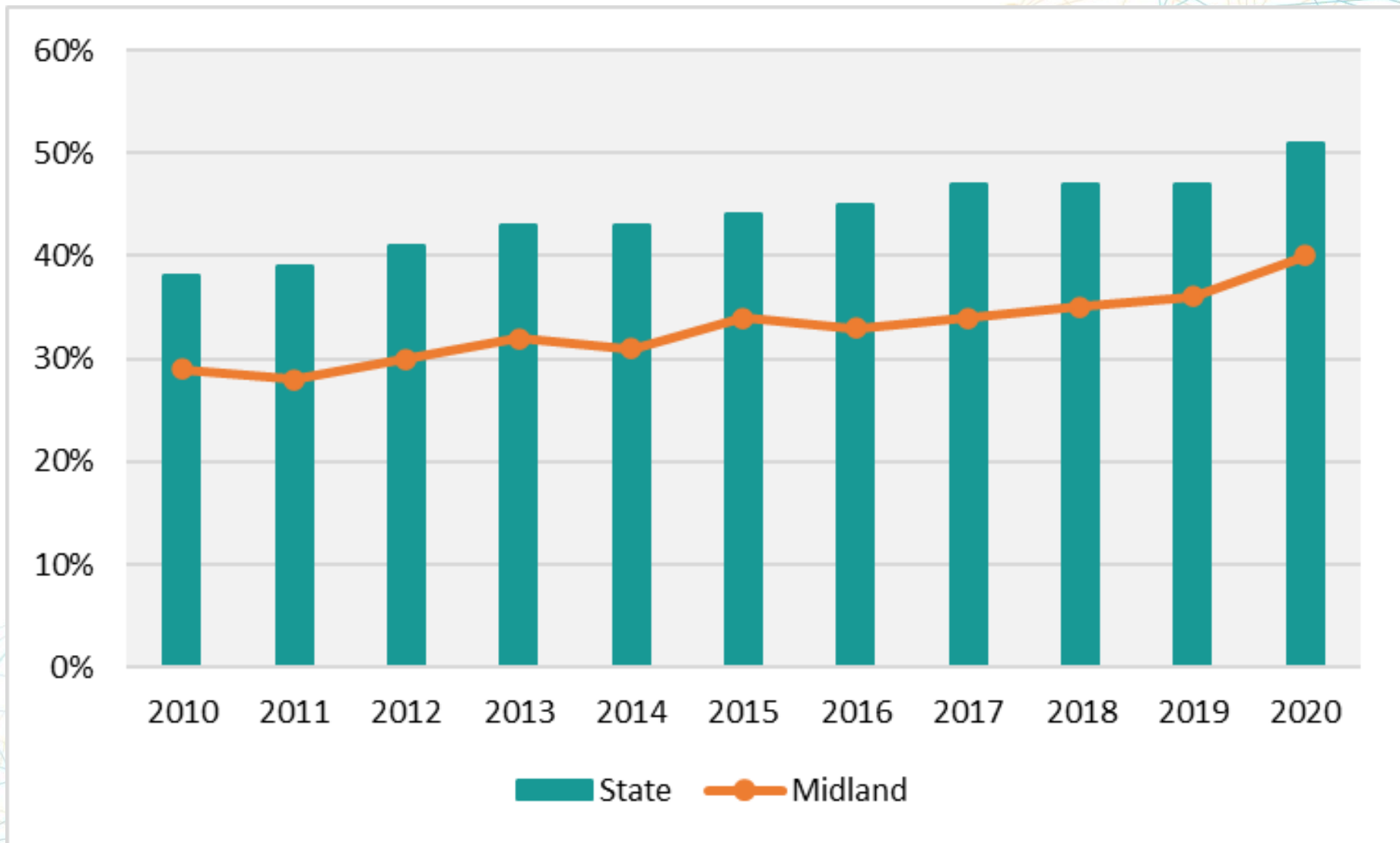


Figure 6: Percentage of households with a fixed broadband connection, Midlands versus the State Average, 2018-2020

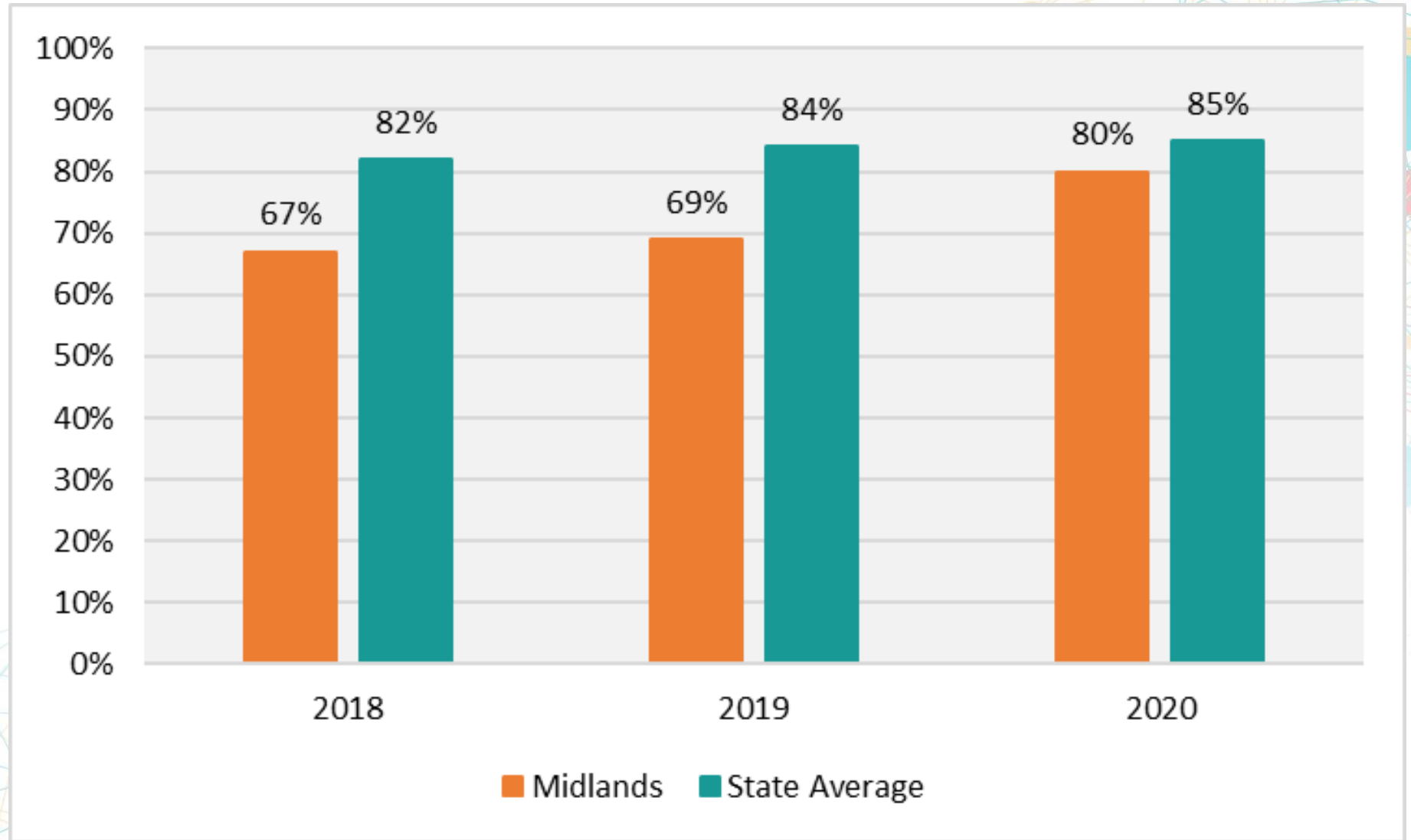


Figure 7: Average one-way commute time for residents of NUTS 3 Regions, Q2 2019

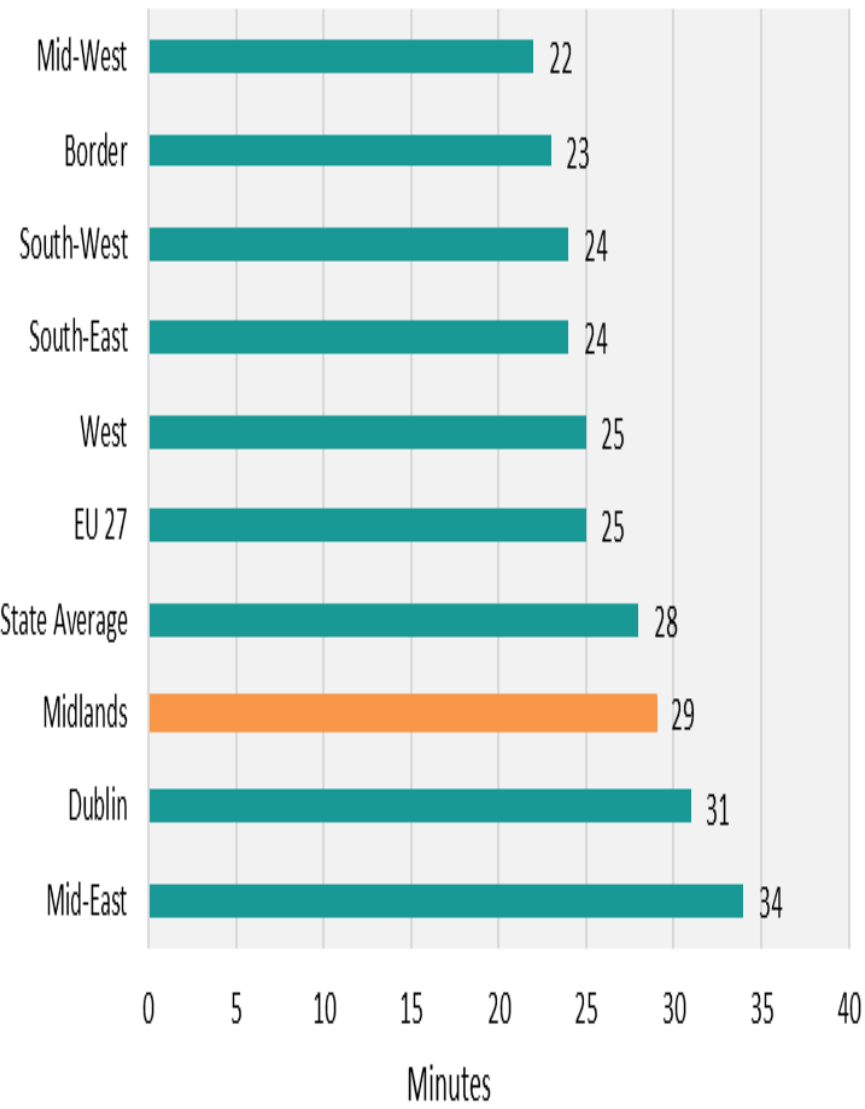
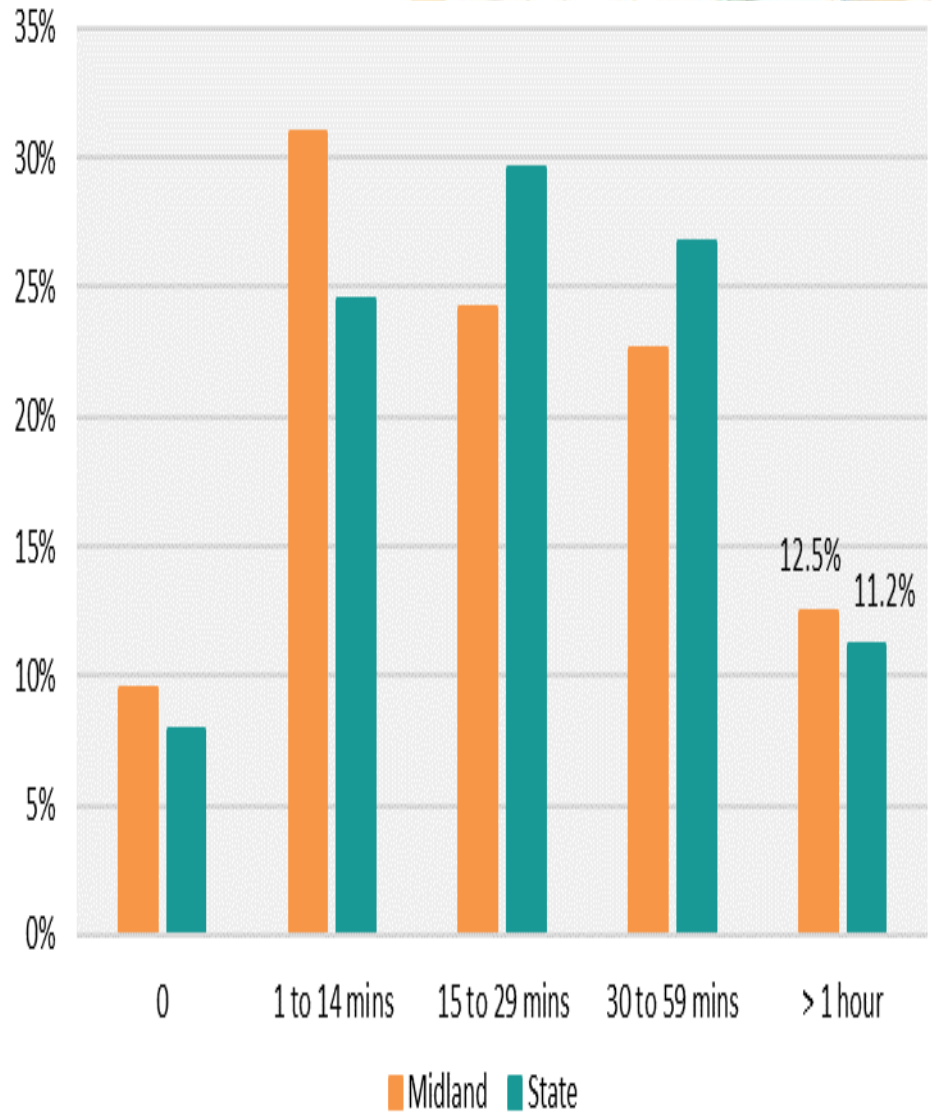


Figure 8: Breakdown of one-way commute times for the Midlands and the State, Q2 2019





Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

2.2 Potential of Low Carbon Recovery



Figure 9: Percentage of audited households that registered a Building Energy Rating between “A” or “B”, in the Midland’s counties, versus the State Average, 2009-2020

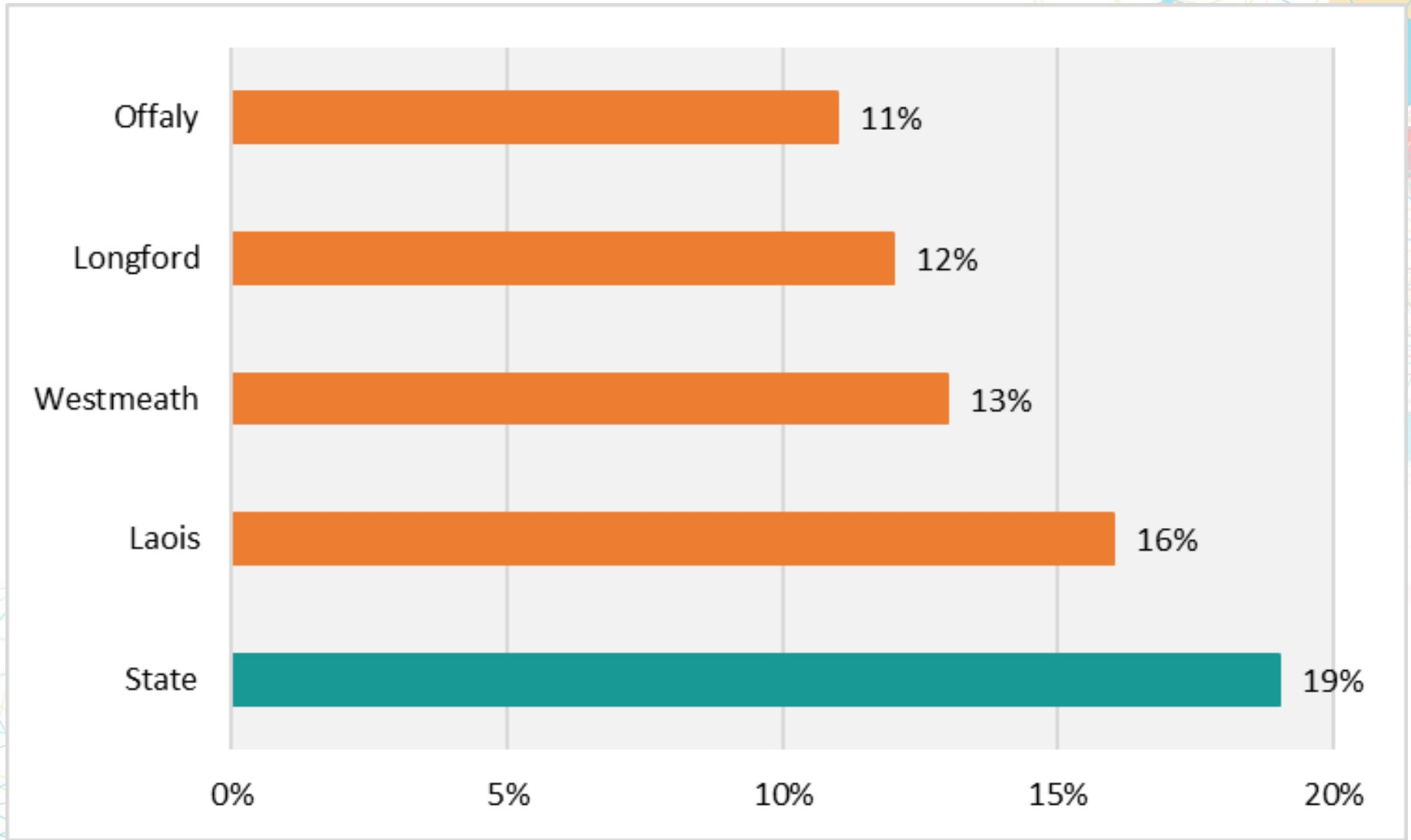


Figure 10: Number of publicly owned “Fast” Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers and “High-Powered” EV Chargers (December 2020), and EVs / Hybrids as a % of new cars licensed for the first time (2020) in the Midlands and Ireland

	Number of Fast Chargers*	Number of High-Powered Chargers**	EVs / Hybrids as a % of new cars licensed for the first time
Midlands	8	1	17.5%
Ireland	88	4	19.7%

*ESB EV Fast chargers can get an 80 percent charge to most EVs in 30 minutes

**ESB EV high powered chargers can give a charge of 100km in as little as six minutes

Figure 11: Total Afforestation (hectare) for the Midlands, 2000-2019

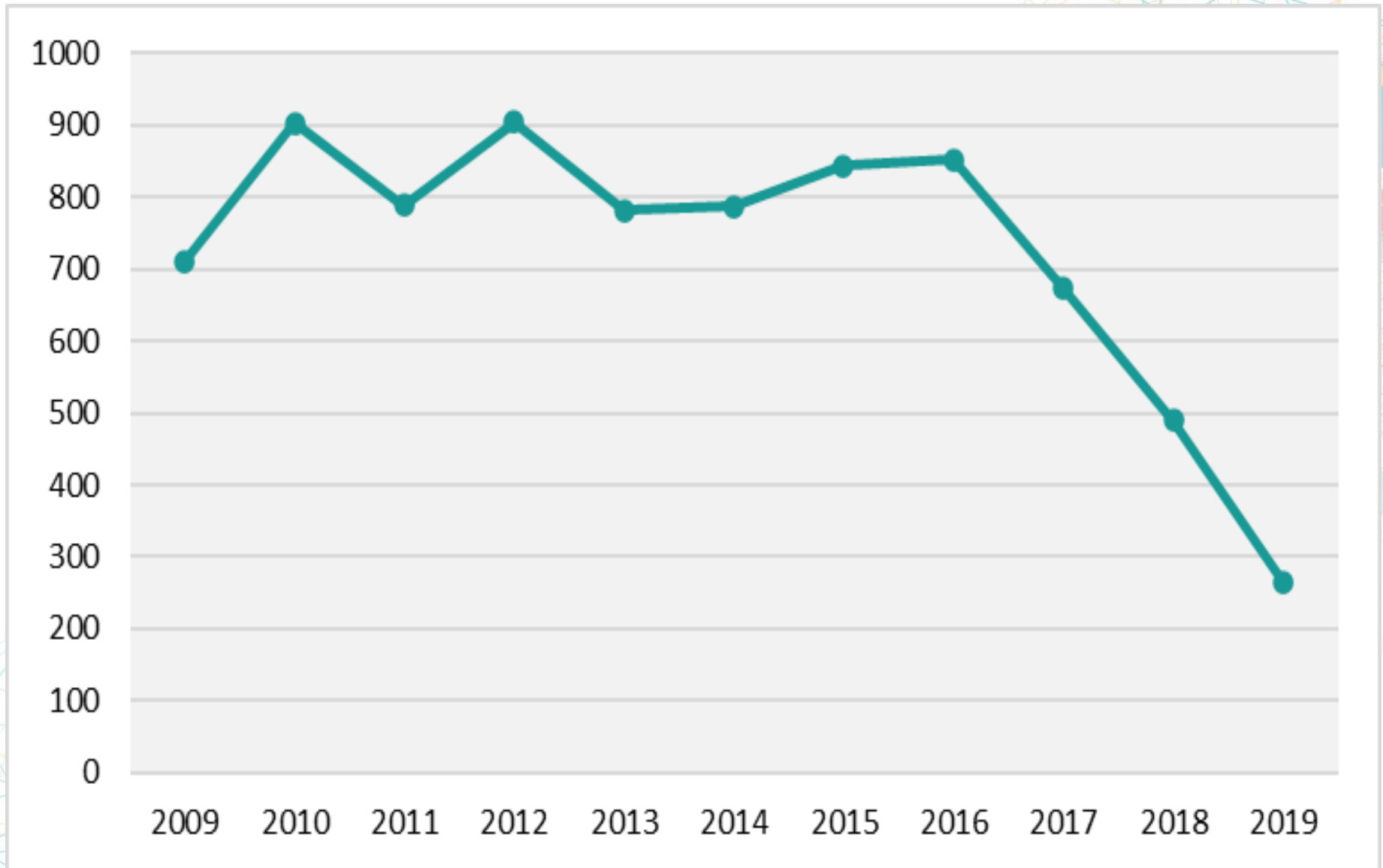
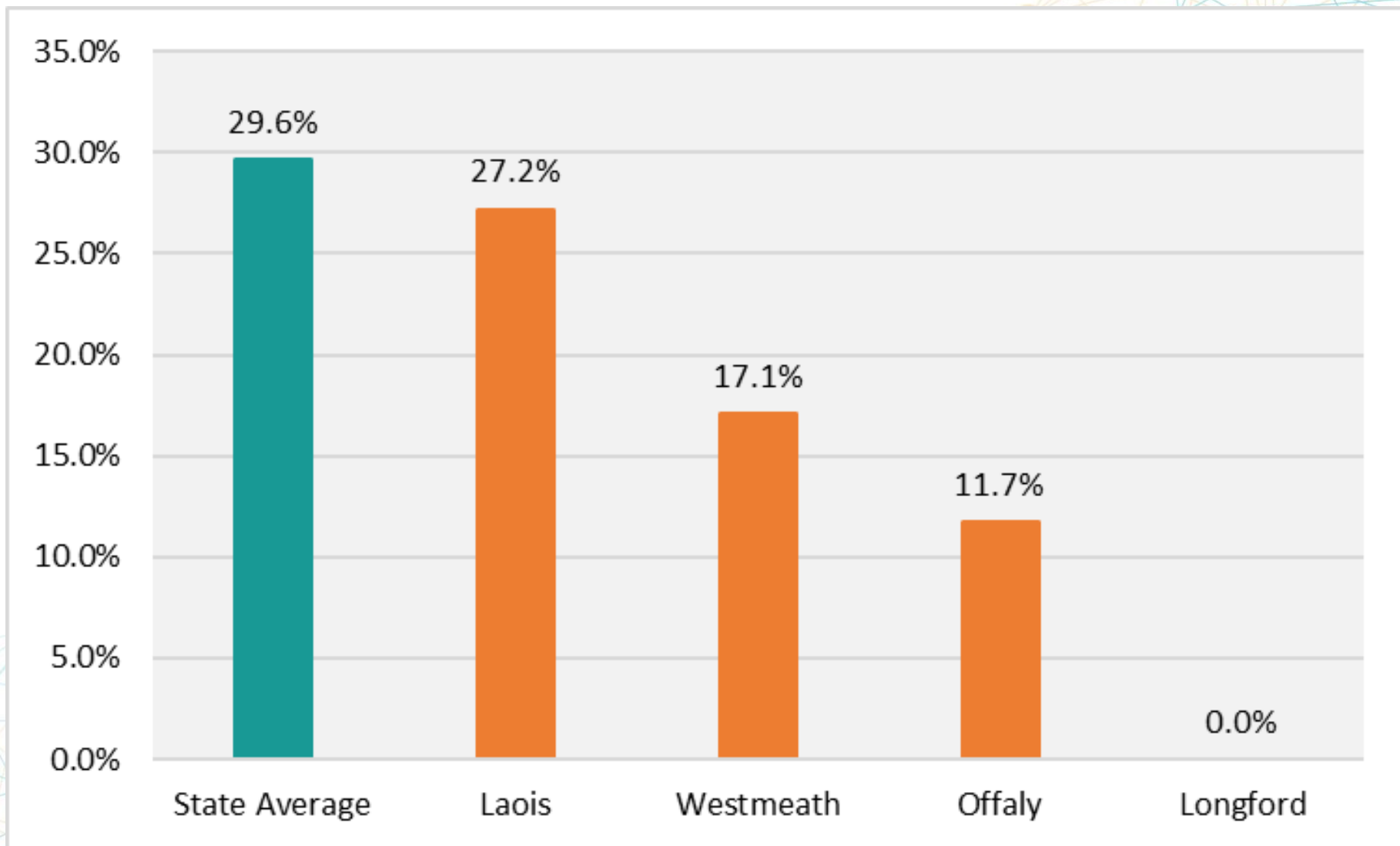


Figure 12: Percentage of population with access to highly frequent public transport at their nearest public transport stop, 2016 (i.e. stop with over 50 departures a day)



A decorative background featuring a network diagram with interconnected nodes and lines. The nodes are represented by circles in various colors including teal, orange, and red, and are connected by thin, light-colored lines. The network is most dense in the top right and bottom left corners, with a solid teal bar at the bottom and a solid orange bar at the very bottom.

Thank You