

Components of population change

Historical context

To put the recent changes in a historical context, Table E shows the components of population change, expressed in the form of average annual figures, for each inter-censal period since 1926.

Table E - Average annual births, deaths, natural increase and estimated net migration for each inter-censal period, 1926-2011

Period	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Change in population	Estimated net migration
Thousands					
1926 – 1936	58	42	16	0	-17
1936 – 1946	60	43	17	-1	-19
1946 – 1951	66	40	26	1	-24
1951 – 1956	63	36	27	-12	-39
1956 – 1961	61	34	26	-16	-42
1961 – 1966	63	33	29	13	-16
1966 – 1971	63	33	30	19	-11
1971 – 1979	69	33	35	49	14
1979 – 1981	73	33	40	38	-3
1981 – 1986	67	33	34	19	-14
1986 – 1991	56	32	24	-3	-27
1991 – 1996	50	31	18	20	2
1996 – 2002	54	31	23	49	26
2002 – 2006	61	28	33	81	48
2006 – 2011	73	28	45	68	24

Natural increase, the number of births in the State minus the number of deaths, has been positive over the period 1926-2011. The most recent inter-censal period (2006-2011) shows the highest natural increase at 45,000 persons per annum, with 73,000 births and 28,000 deaths¹. The previous peak of 40,000 per annum was during the 1979-1981 period which had a similar high number of births, but these were offset by a higher number of deaths (33,000).

Net migration has been more volatile than natural increase over the period 1926-2011. Net outward migration has been the norm for most of that time, with a peak of -42,000 per annum between 1956-1961. The years 1971-1979 had net inward migration of 14,000 per year, but the 1980s saw the return of net outward migration.

Since 1991, each inter-censal period has shown net inward migration, which peaked at 48,000 per annum during 2002-2006. Population growth also peaked at 81,000 per annum during this 4 year period.

¹ The data for births and deaths relate to events registered in the five year period ended 31 March 2011. The figures for the first quarter of 2011 are provisional.

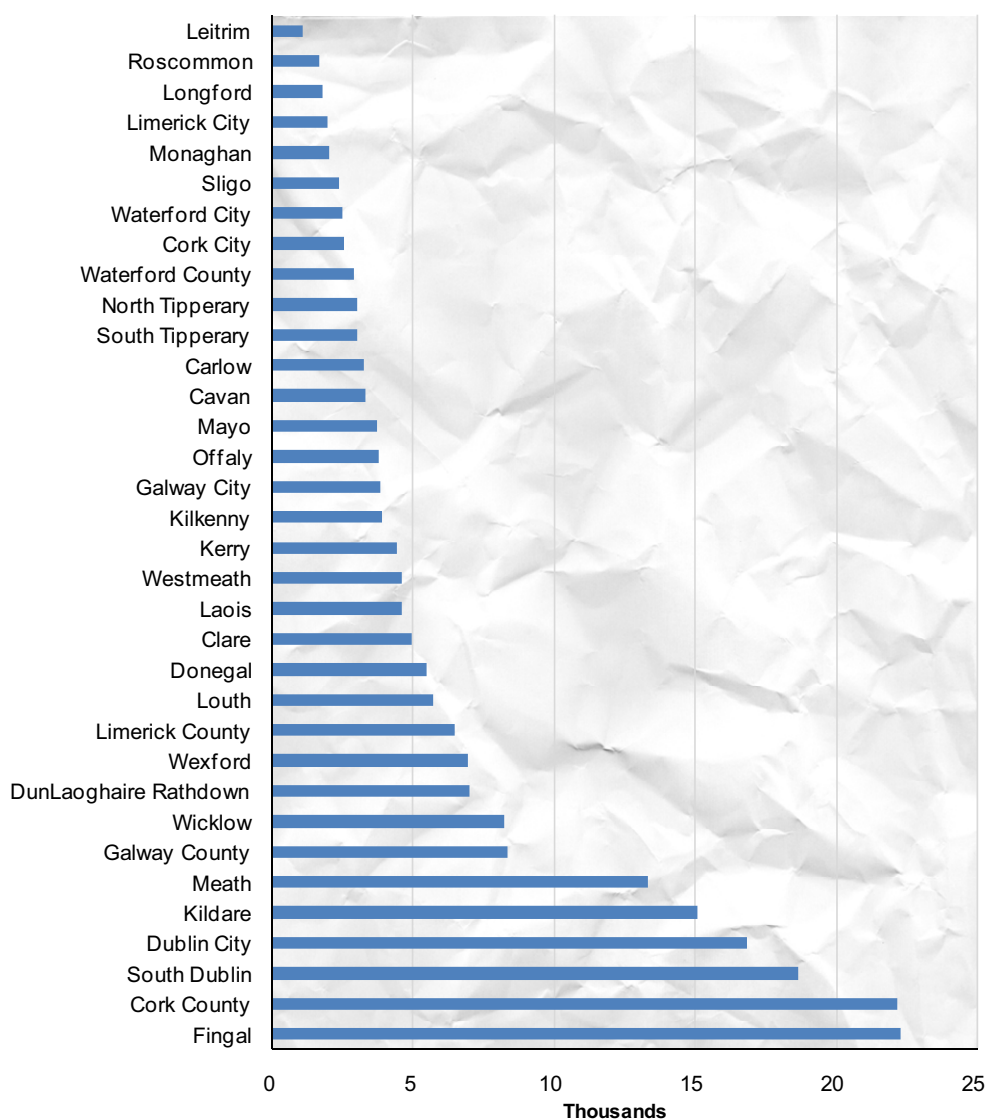
Natural increase

The census total is a count of the number of persons actually in the State on census night. The change in population between two censuses reflects the effect of births and deaths and of movements of persons into and out of the State during the relevant period.

Births and deaths combined give the natural increase in the population. With births of 363,500 and deaths of 140,700 over the relevant five year period the resulting natural increase between 2006 and 2011 was 222,800 or 5.3 per cent of the 2006 population over the five years. This is extremely strong by international comparisons².

All administrative counties experienced positive natural increase in the inter-censal period 2006-2011 with the rates highest in the administrative counties with the youngest age profiles as per the 2006 Census results (Fingal, South Dublin, Kildare and Meath). The areas with the lowest rates were Roscommon, Mayo and Cork City.

Figure 2 – Natural increase by County, 2006-2011



² The rates of natural change per 1,000 population in the EU27 was 1.0 in 2007 and 1.2 in 2008. The corresponding rates for Ireland were 9.8 and 10.4 respectively

Net migration

The total change in the population between successive censuses is the combined effect of natural increase and net migration, which is a measure of the movements of persons into and out of the State during the relevant period. As the natural increase is known, the difference between this and total population change is taken as net migration.

This residual figure however also reflects, implicitly, the net effect of non-migratory movements (i.e. change between successive censuses in the level of visitors in the State, or in the level of Irish residents temporarily abroad on census night) and of any other factors such as marginal variations in census coverage achieved.

Taking these factors into account, and given that the population figure presented is preliminary for 2011, users should treat the net migration estimate with caution until a greater level of analysis can be conducted on the actual Census returns. In particular an examination of the one year flows and a cohort analysis based on a number of key demographic variables such as age, gender and nationality is required before a more definitive picture of migration patterns can be extracted.

Between Census 2006 and Census 2011 the estimated net migration measured in this way is 118,650, which represents an annual average inflow of 23,730. This compares with the previous inter-censal annual average figure of 47,832.

Unlike the 2002-2006 inter-censal period, where there was a clear pattern of net inward migration across each of the four years concerned, the pattern over the 2006 to 2011 period is markedly different. Ireland continued to experience strong net inward migration for the first half of the latest inter-censal period followed by a switch to net outward migration over the second half.

The effect of migration on population change

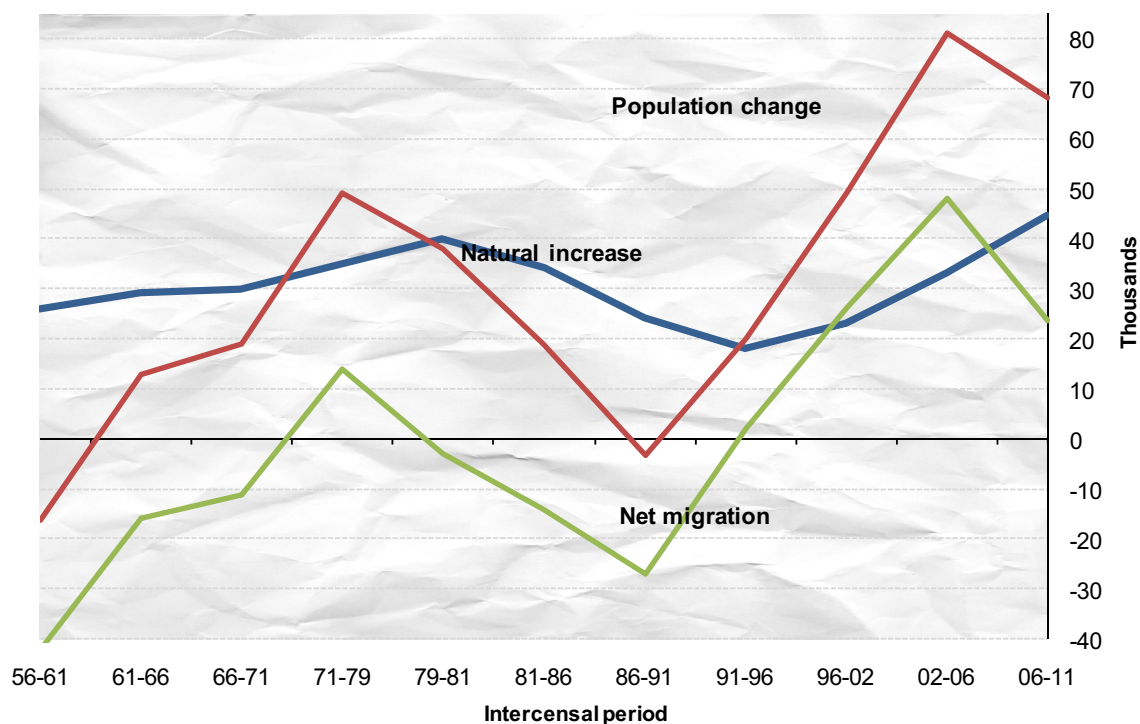
While the natural increase of the population has been steadily positive over the past 50 years the large swings in net migration have had a strong effect on overall population growth, as illustrated in Figure 3.

Net outward migration has varied considerably over the past 50 years. Strong outward migration during the 1950's led to a population low point of 2.8 million being recorded in the 1961 Census. Net migration then remained negative throughout the 1960s.

Net inward migration appeared briefly for the first time in the 1970's with an annual average of 14,000 between 1971 and 1979. This quickly reverted to net outward migration again throughout the 1980s with a record low point of 44,000 in 1989.

The turnaround began in the 1991-1996 inter-censal period, with small positive inflows leading up to the peak net inward migration period of 2002 to 2006 when derived net inward migration measured 191,000 for the four year period (or 47,800 on annual average basis). It has now fallen back again for this inter-censal period to 118,650 or an annual average of 23,730.

Figure 3 – Components of population change (average annual figures) for each inter-censal period, 1956-2011



County net migration

By deducting the natural increase in population at county level from the corresponding population change it is possible to derive county net migration figures. It is important to note that these figures represent not only the net movement of all persons into and out of the county from abroad but also the net movements between counties in Ireland.

All administrative counties, apart from the four provincial cities and South Dublin, experienced some level of net inward migration between 2006 and 2011. This varied in degree from a high of 23.5 per thousand of average population over the five year period in Laois, to the smaller inflow of 0.9 per thousand in Dublin City. Limerick City on the other hand experienced the highest net outflow over the five year period of 17.2 per thousand of its population, while Waterford City recorded a net outward migration figure of 6.7 per thousand.

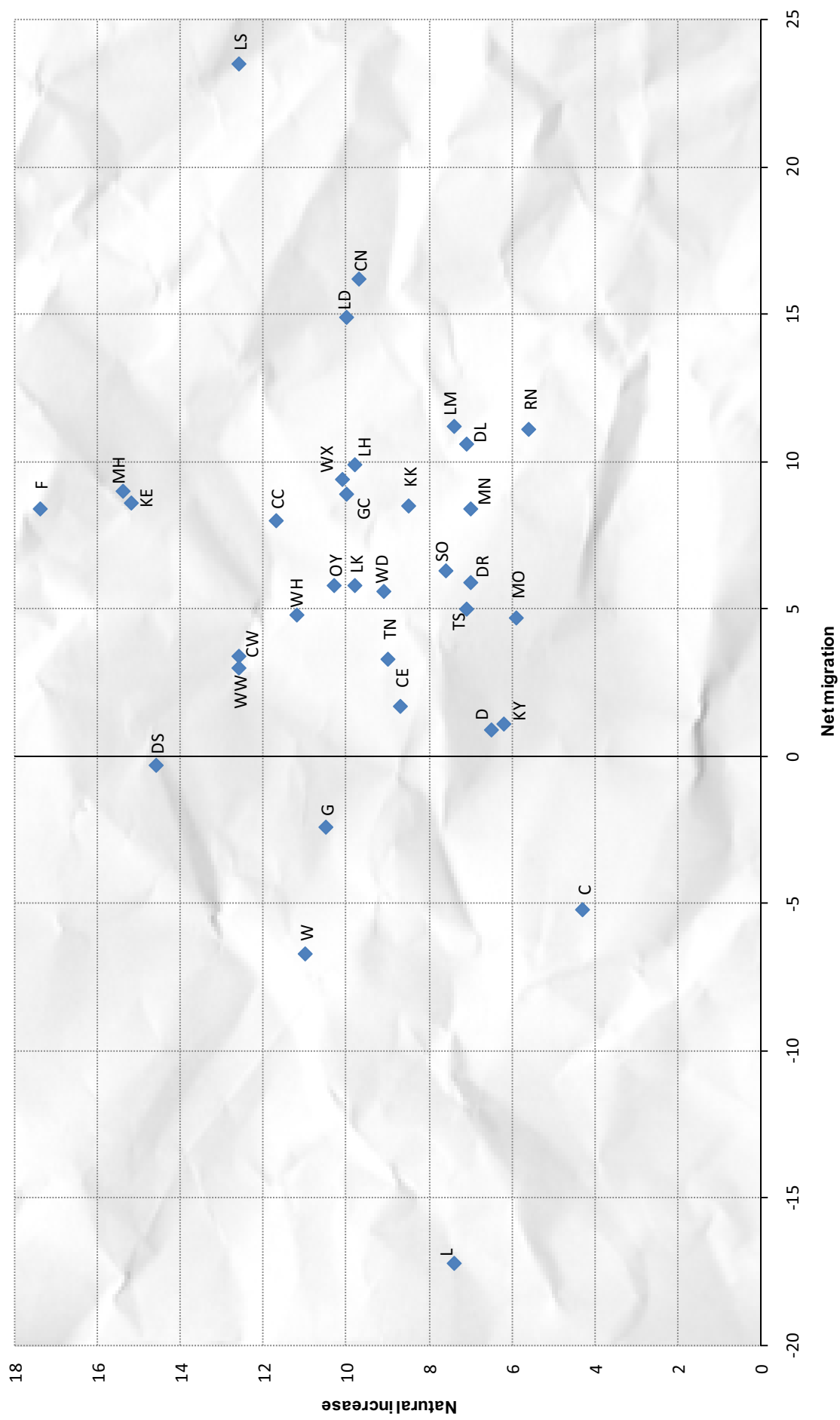
It is illustrative to chart how the combination of natural increase and net migration affected the population change in each county and this is represented in Figure 4.

The counties in the upper right quadrant of Figure 4 (Laois, Fingal, Kildare, and Meath) experienced high rates of net inward migration and natural increase. These trends have resulted from rapid housing development and a relatively large number of births because of the high proportion of young family households in these counties.

On the other hand, some of the counties in the bottom left quadrant (Limerick, Cork, Waterford and Galway cities) experienced negative net migration and relatively low natural increase in population. The factors responsible for these trends are the relatively low level of new housing and an ageing population.

At a regional level, the Mid-East no longer has the highest rate of net inward migration, and has fallen behind the Midland and Border regions. This represents the expansion of Dublin's commuter belt into these regions.

Figure 4 – Natural increase and estimated net migration per 1,000 of average population for each County and City, 2006-2011



The following additions have been made to the abbreviations used for motor vehicle registration: DR Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, F Fingal, DS Dublin South, CC Cork County and GC Galway County.

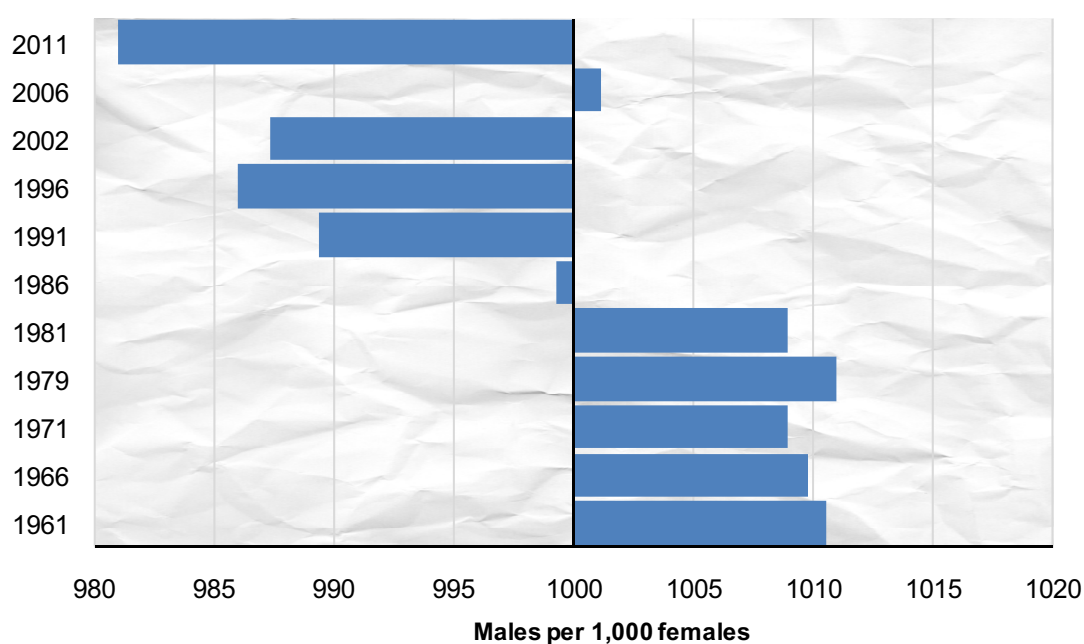
Population breakdown by sex

As the preliminary population data is captured for both males and females separately, the sex ratio of the population (males per 1,000 females) is available at State, regional and county level.

Having indicated a male excess for over twenty years from 1961 to 1981, the sex ratio began to decline steadily from 1986 onwards showing fewer males than females in each census; it reached a low point in 1996 with 986 males for every 1,000 females. In 2006 it changed direction again and showed marginally more males than females. It has now reversed again and these preliminary results show 43,864 more females than males overall in the State, resulting in a sex ratio of 981 males for every 1,000 females.

On a regional basis, Dublin had the lowest ratio with only 949 males for every 1,000 females. The Midland was the only region to show more males than females with 1,002 for every 1,000.

Figure 5 – Sex ratio at each Census, 1961-2011



Housing

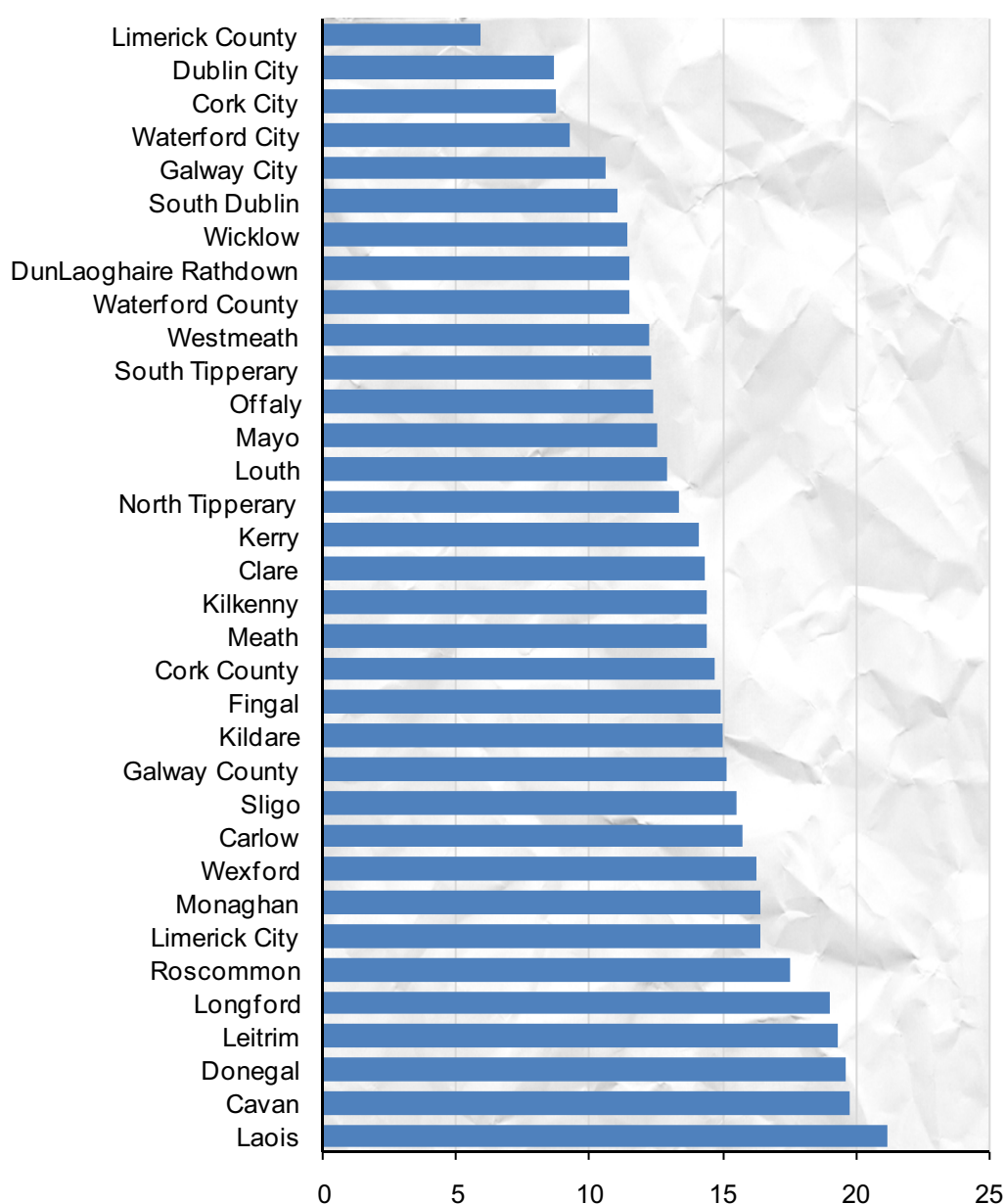
Total housing stock

Housing numbers (dwellings) have increased more rapidly than total population between 2006 and 2011, with a 13.3 per cent increase in dwellings compared with 8.1 per cent for the population. The number of dwellings increased by 234,562 from 1,769,613 in 2006 to 2,004,175 in 2011, representing an annual average increase of 46,912.

The largest percentage increase in households was seen in Laois (21.2%) followed by Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim and Longford which all showed increases of above 19 per cent.

Limerick County and the five cities all showed the lowest increases.

Figure 6 – Percentage increase in the number of dwellings by county, 2006- 2011



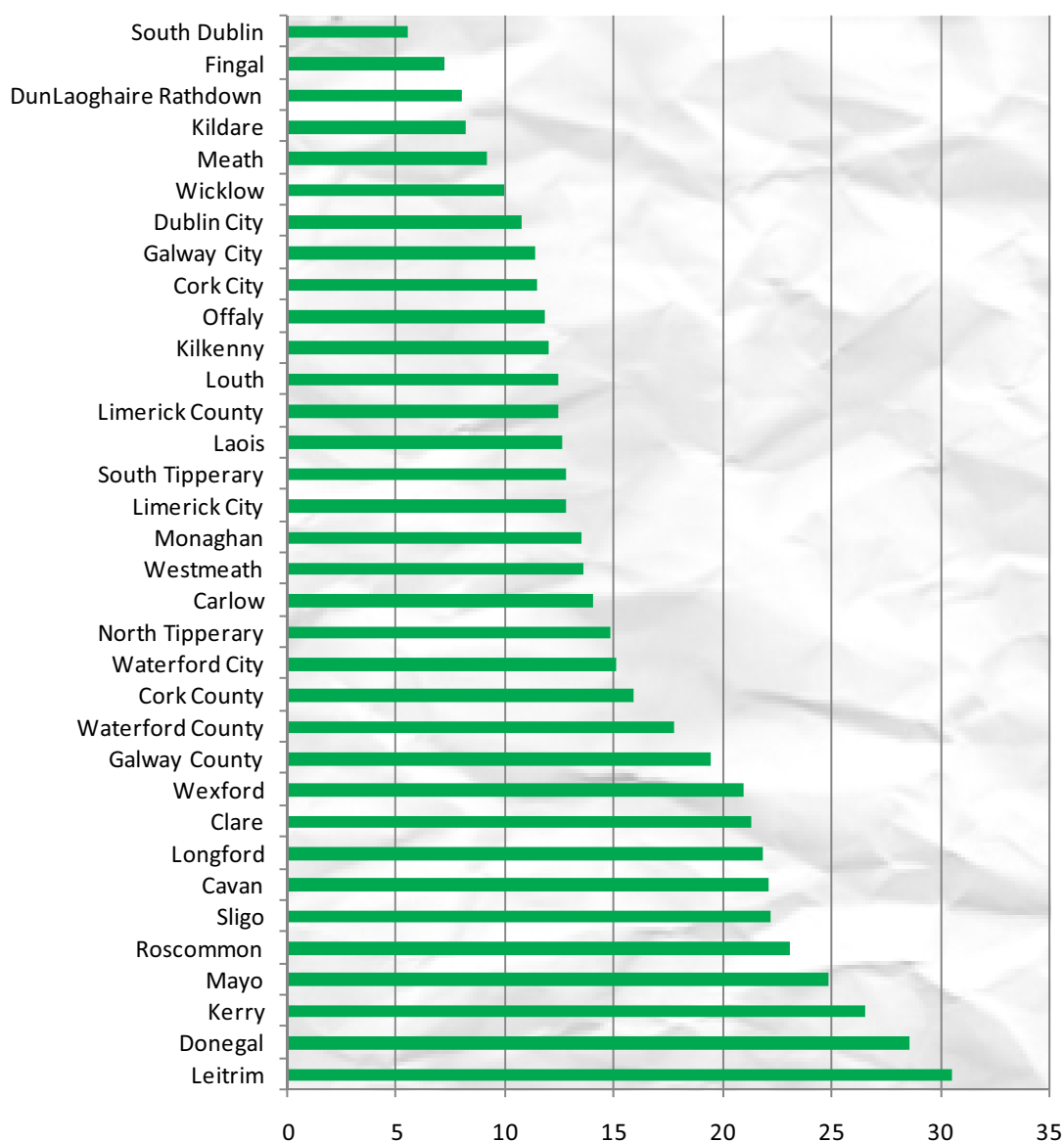
Vacant dwellings

The 2006 Census provided figures for the first time on vacant dwellings in Ireland and the data showed that 15.0 per cent of all housing was vacant in April 2006. These Preliminary Results show that the total number of vacant dwellings in 2011 has increased by 27,880 from 266,322 to 294,202. As the total housing stock has also increased since 2006 by 13.3 per cent – higher than the 10.5 per cent increase in vacant dwellings – the overall vacancy rate (i.e. the percentage of dwellings that are vacant) has therefore fallen slightly to 14.7 per cent.

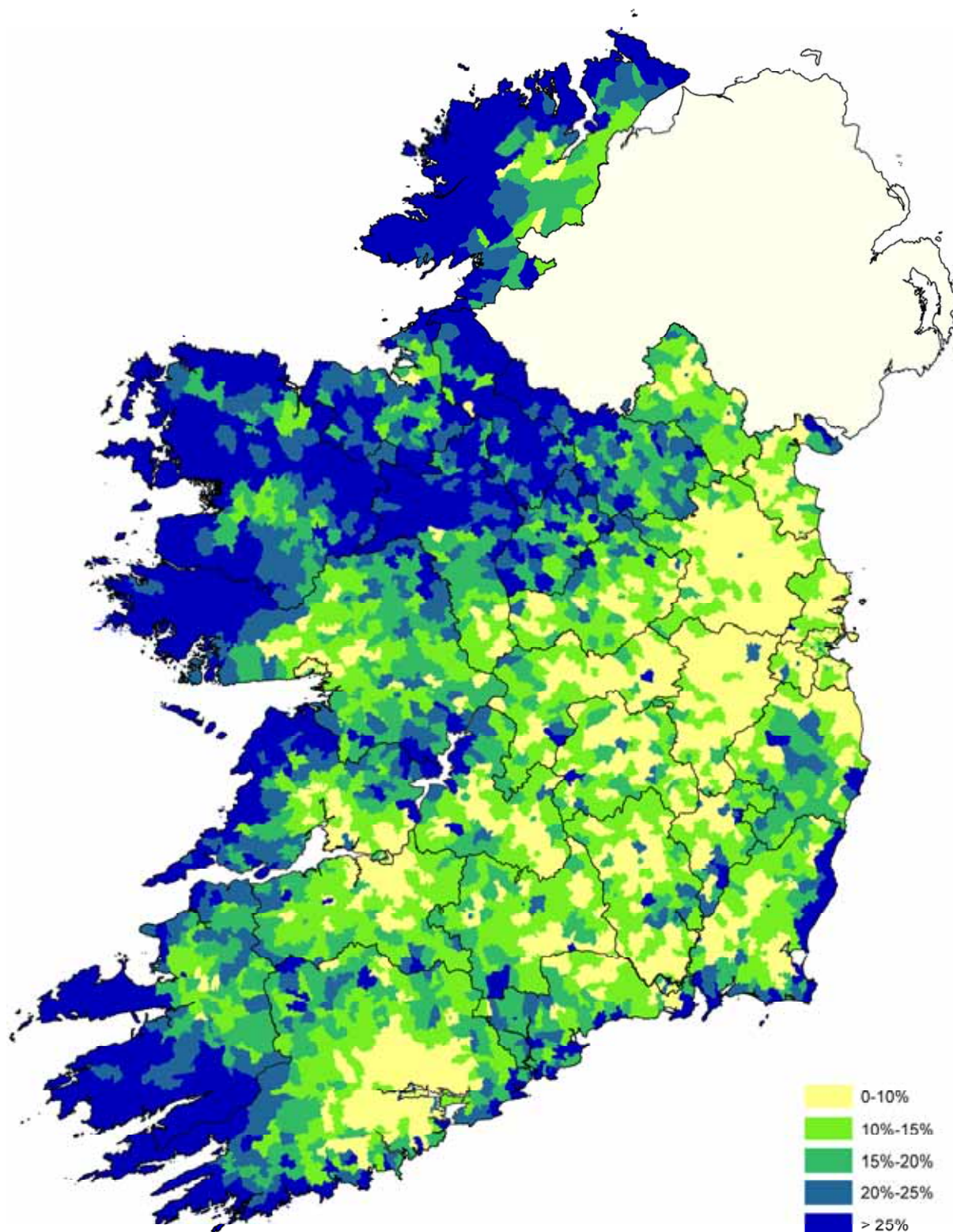
The vacancy rate varies widely across the country, with Leinster's rate falling from 11.6 per cent to 10.6 since 2006. The vacancy rate in Connacht fell slightly from 21.4 to 21.3 per cent, while Munster and Ulster saw their rates rise over the past five years.

With 30.4 per cent of housing units vacant, Leitrim remains the county with the highest vacancy rate followed by Donegal (28.5%), Kerry (26.5%) and Mayo (24.8%). The vacancy rate for Dublin City shows that one in ten dwellings in the capital were vacant at the time of the census in April 2011.

Figure 7 – Vacant dwellings as a percentage of total housing stock by county, 2011



Map 7 – Percentage of dwellings vacant in each Electoral Division, 2011



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