

2. Unemployment

By age, sex and marital status

In counties, towns and cities

Unemployment blackspots by ED

Unemployment falls

The number of people unemployed (that is unemployed having lost or given up a previous job or looking for their first regular job), based on their declared Principal Economic Status in April 2016 was 297,396. This is a decrease of 30.0 per cent compared with April 2011 or a fall of 127,447 people unemployed. Men accounted for 103,397 (or 81.1%) of the decrease.

The census based unemployment rate therefore, measured on Principal Economic Status, was 12.9 per cent. *Note: See Appendix 3 for an explanation of why this differs from the official rate of unemployment.*

Male and female unemployment

Male unemployment fell to 170,930, down from 274,327, a decrease of 37.7 per cent. This resulted in a male unemployment rate of 13.7 per cent (down from 22.3% in 2011). Female unemployment stood at 126,466, down from 150,516 in 2011. This gave a female unemployment rate of 12.0 per cent (compared to 15% in 2011), only marginally less than their male counterparts.

Although the unemployment rates between males and females were more closely aligned in 2016 than in 2011, Figure 2.1 shows that 44,464 more males than females were unemployed in April 2016.

[See web table EZ001](#)

Unemployment and age

Figure 2.2 shows how the rate of unemployment varies with age for both Census 2011 and Census 2016.

Although there were relatively fewer young people in the labour force, those that were experienced higher unemployment than their older counterparts. In April 2016, the unemployment rate for 20-24 year olds was 21.8 per cent compared with a rate of 11.3 per cent for 45-54 year olds.

[See web table EZ002](#)

Figure 2.1 Unemployed persons, 1986-2016

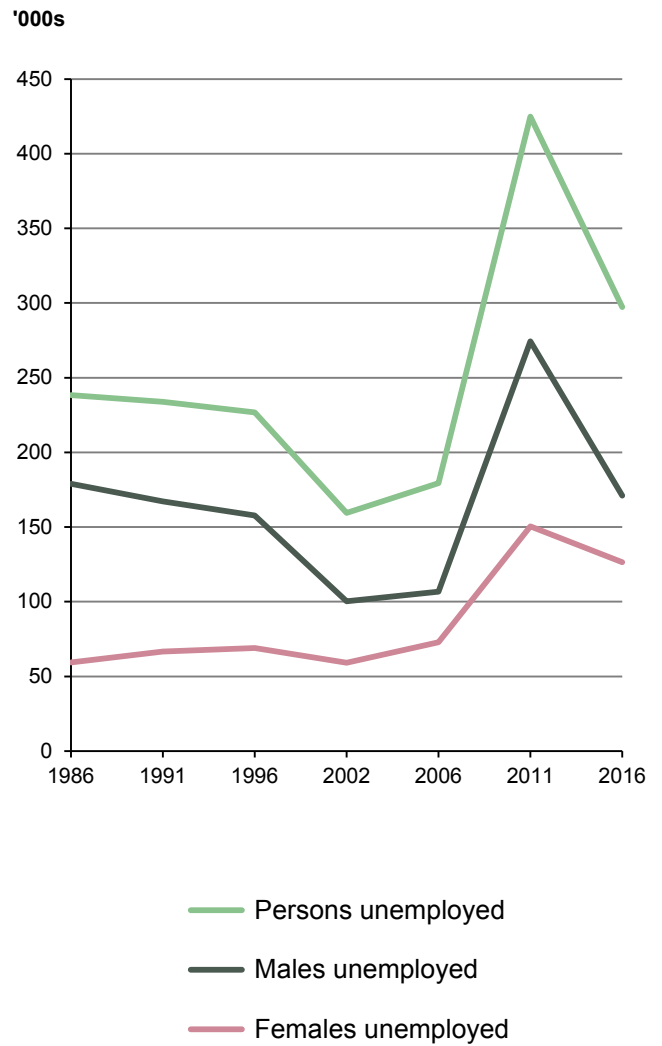
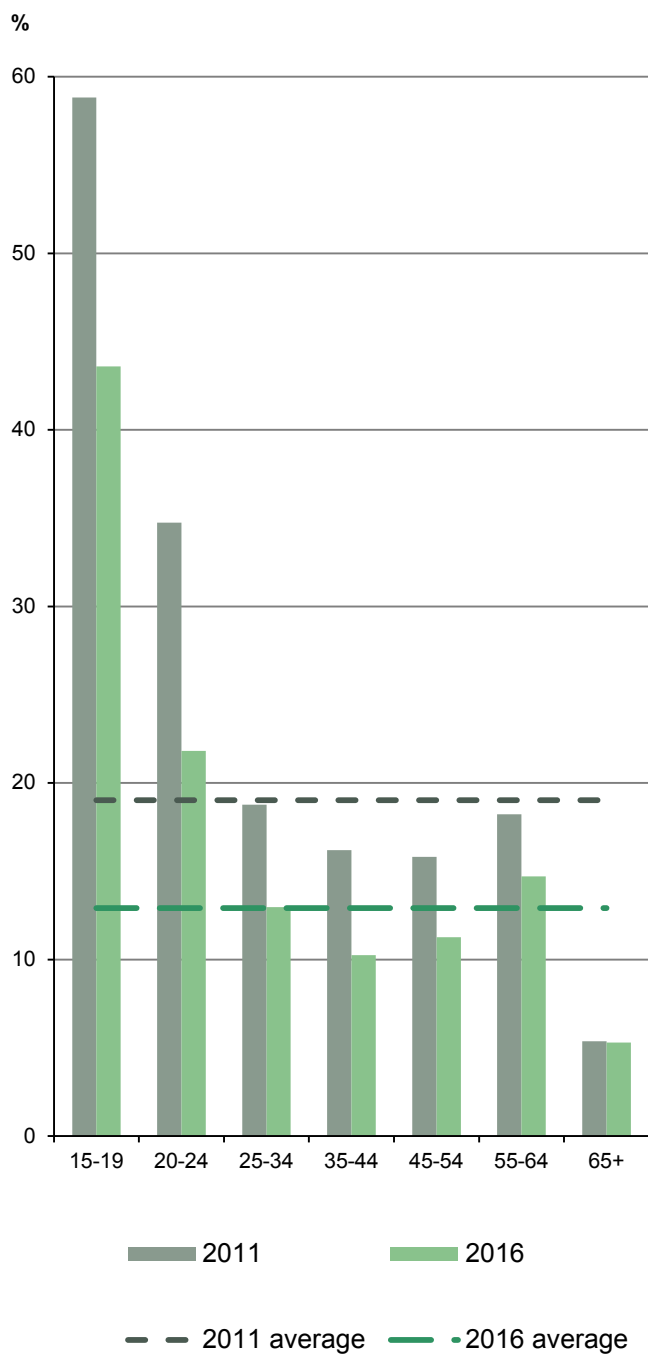


Figure 2.2 Unemployment rates by age, 2011 and 2016



It's a fact!

103,397

The decrease in the number of men unemployed between 2011 and 2016

24,050

The decrease in the number of women unemployed between 2011 and 2016

13.7%

The male census-based unemployment rate in April 2016

12.0%

The female census-based unemployment rate in April 2016

Unemployment and marital status

While unemployment varied greatly by age, with young people particularly affected, significant differences can also be seen when examined by marital status as illustrated in Figure 2.3.

Separated people (including deserted and divorced) had an unemployment rate of 18.5 per cent, the highest among the main marital status categories in 2016. Single people had the second highest unemployment rate at 17.8 per cent.

In 2016, married people continued to have the lowest unemployment rate at 8.2 per cent (down from 13.1% in 2011).

The unemployment rate for widowed people in 2016 was 14.5 per cent, just above the State average.

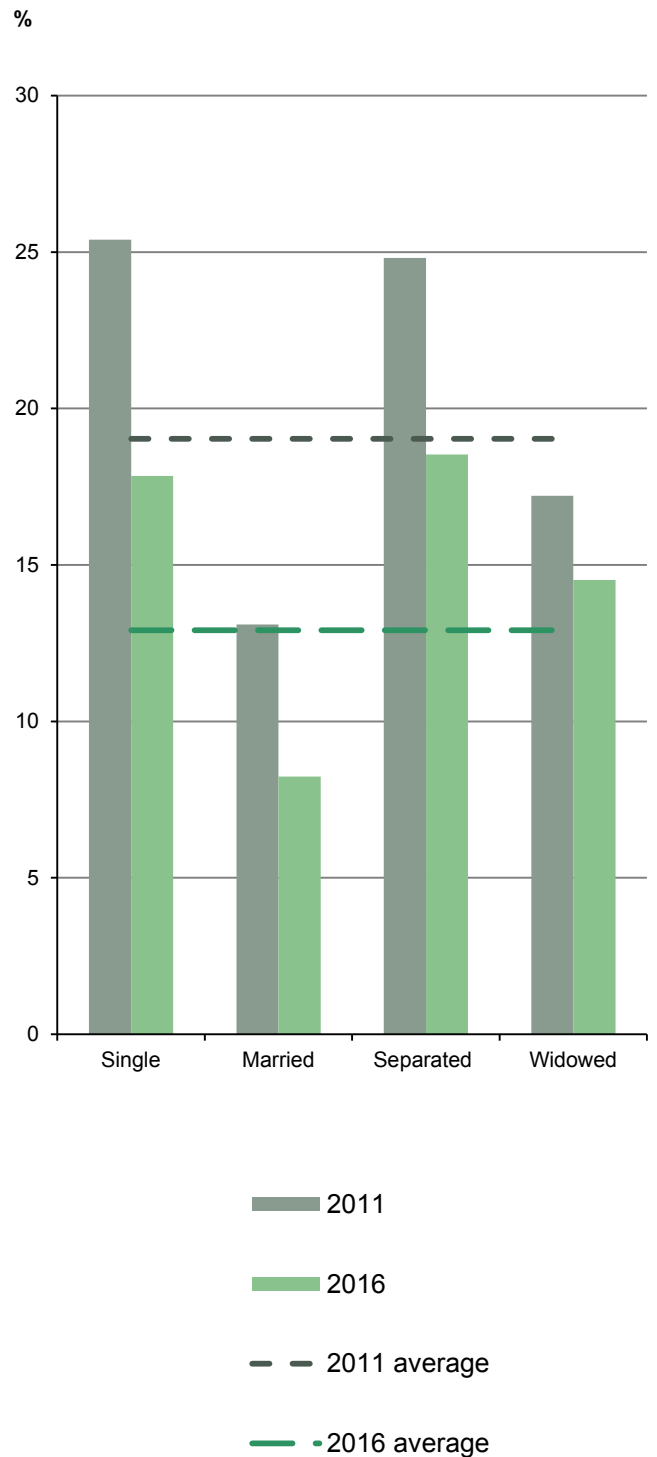
[See web table EZ005](#)

It's a fact!

17.8%

The unemployment rate for single people in 2016 (down from 25.4% in 2011)

Figure 2.3 Unemployment rate by marital status, 2011 and 2016



Unemployment in towns

Urban areas had a marginally higher unemployment rate (13.9%) than rural areas (11.2%).

Among the cities, Waterford City including its suburbs had the highest unemployment rate (18.8%), while Dublin City including its suburbs had the lowest unemployment rate (11.9%).

Of the large towns (population 10,000 and over), Longford (30.6%) had the highest unemployment rate whilst Malahide (5.4%) had the lowest in April 2016.

Small towns (population 1,500 - 2,999) tended to have higher unemployment rates than larger towns.

[See web table EZ014](#)

Figure 2.4 Unemployment rates in towns and cities, 2006-2016

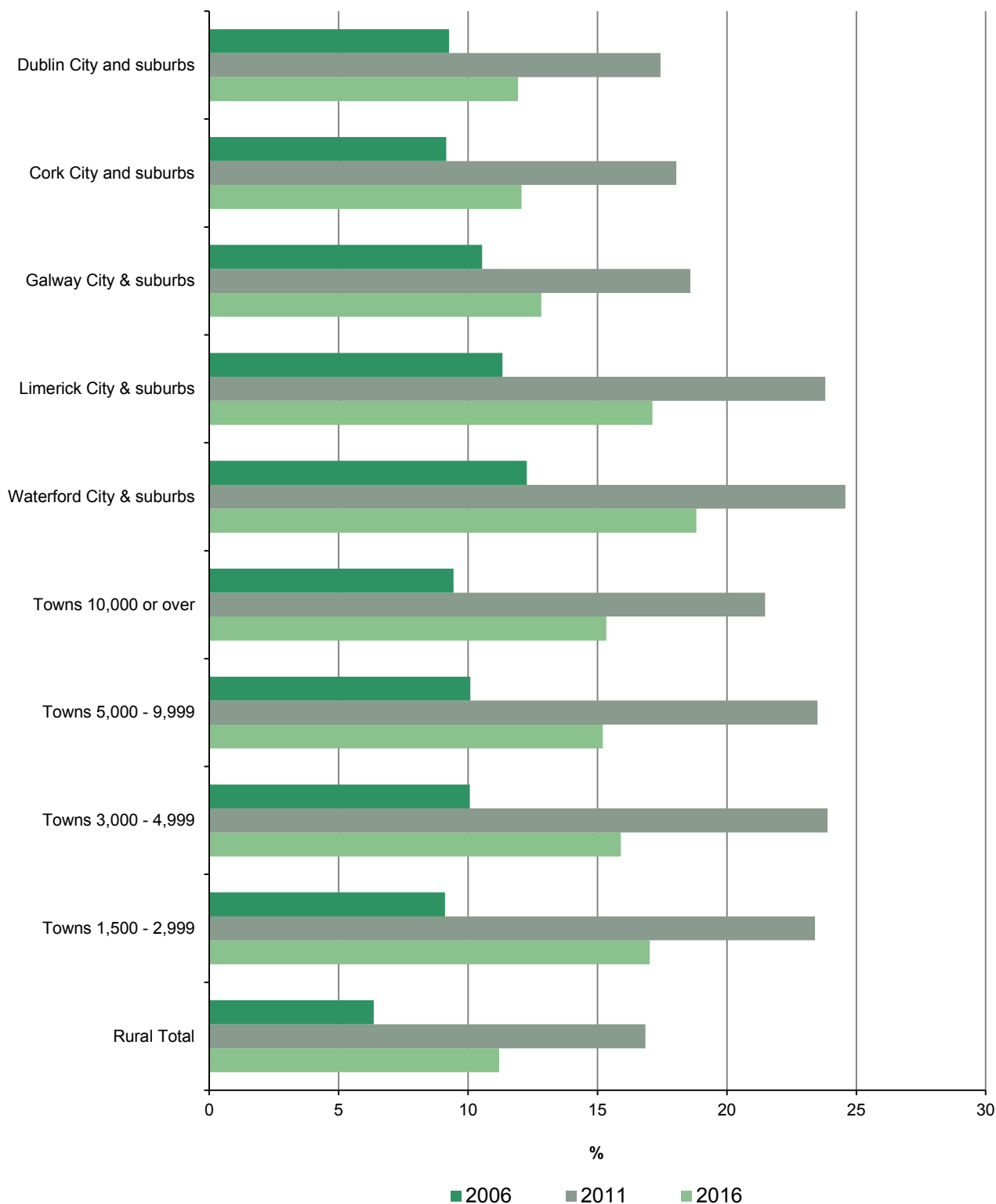


Figure 2.5 Unemployment by administrative county, 2011 and 2016



County unemployment rates

At administrative county level, Longford had the highest unemployment rate in 2016 (19.6%) while Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown had the lowest (7.4%).

The overall unemployment rate fell by 6.1 percentage points to 12.9 per cent in 2016 from 19.0 per cent in 2011. When examined on a county level, Donegal showed the largest change, decreasing from 26.2 per cent in 2011 to 18.0 per cent in 2016, followed by Monaghan which fell from 20.6 per cent in 2011 to 13.0 per cent in 2016.

At the other end of the scale Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown showed the smallest change decreasing from 11.2 per cent in 2011 to 7.4 per cent in 2016.

[See web table EZ005](#)

It's a fact!

19.6%

The unemployment rate for Longford in 2016

7.4%

The unemployment rate for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown in 2016

Unemployment blackspots at ED level

One of the major advantages of the census is its ability to provide data for small areas such as Electoral Divisions (EDs). Table 2.1 provides a summary analysis of EDs where the unemployment rate in April 2016 was considered high relative to the level of the State overall. For this report an unemployment blackspot was defined as an ED whose labour force exceeded 200 persons and where the unemployment rate (on a Principal Economic Status basis) exceeded 27 per cent. There were 79 such EDs in 2016 with an average unemployment rate of 31.2 per cent compared with 12.9 per cent nationally.

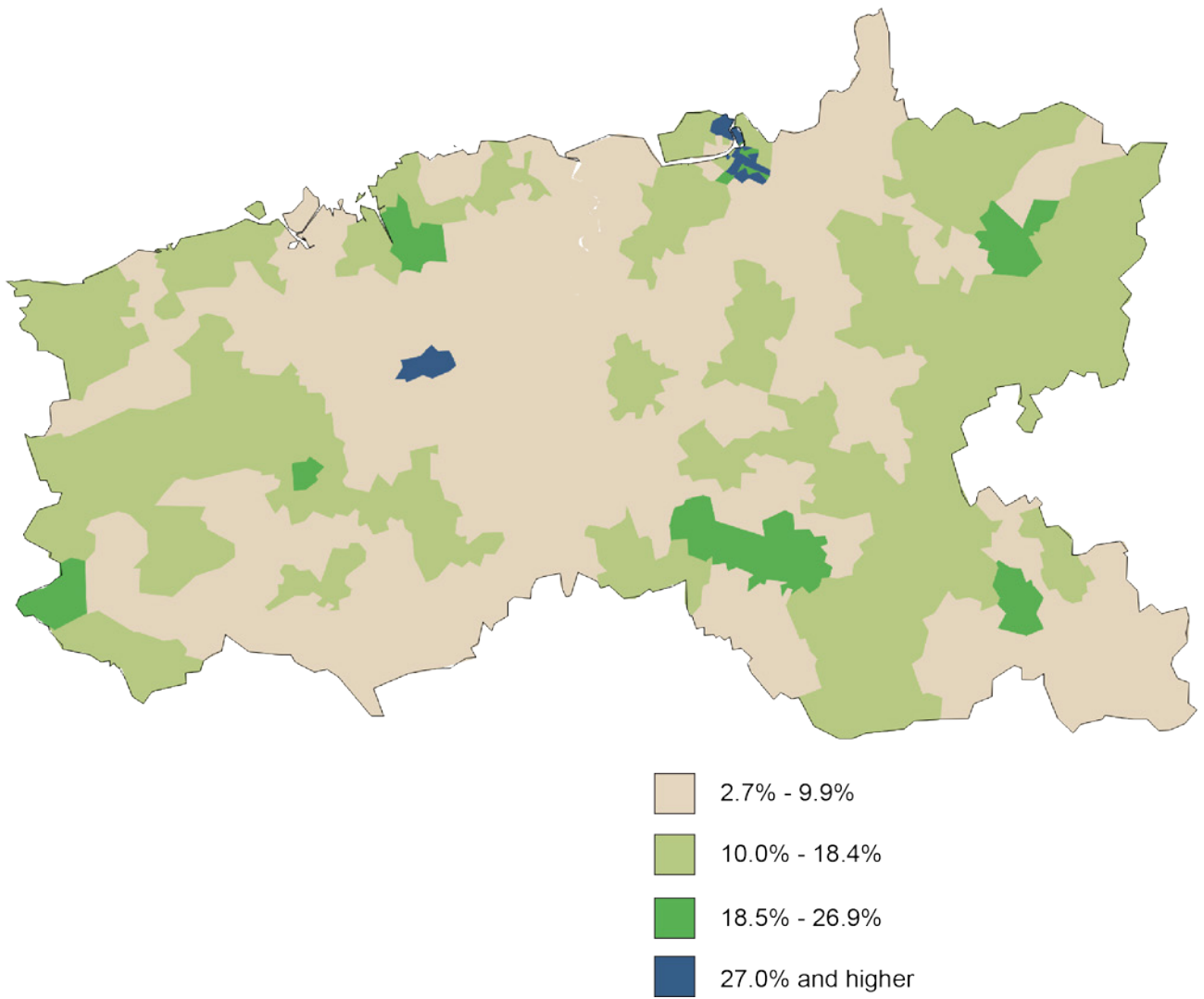
The administrative areas Dublin City, Cork City, Limerick City and County and Waterford City and County contained 39 of the 79 unemployment blackspots nationwide. Seventeen of the 38 EDs in the city of Limerick were unemployment blackspots. The city also accounted for 8 out of the 10 EDs with the highest unemployment rates in the State in April 2016.

At individual Electoral Division level, John's A (58.3%), Galvone B (45.0%), Ballynanty (43.6%), Abbey C (41.9%) and Prospect B (40.7%) in the city of Limerick had the highest unemployment rates in April 2016. The complete list of all 79 unemployment blackspot EDs is available in Appendix 10.

Table 2.1 Number of unemployment blackspots by administrative county, 2016

County	Number of unemployment blackspots	Average unemployment %	County unemployment rate %
Limerick City and County	18	35.7	14.4
Waterford City and County	9	31.5	15.4
Dublin City	7	30.4	12.9
Donegal	6	30.0	18.0
Cork City	5	32.7	15.0
Mayo	5	29.0	14.3
South Dublin	4	29.4	13.3
Clare	3	29.2	12.4
Longford	3	31.4	19.6
Wexford	3	31.1	16.6
Cavan	2	35.1	15.1
Galway County	2	32.7	11.7
Tipperary	2	30.8	14.6
Fingal	1	28.1	10.3
Kildare	1	35.0	11.4
Kilkenny	1	27.5	12.7
Kerry	1	27.2	12.4
Louth	1	28.0	16.7
Meath	1	29.7	11.2
Monaghan	1	27.7	13.0
Roscommon	1	27.1	13.0
Westmeath	1	33.4	15.9
Wicklow	1	27.2	12.7
Total	79	31.2	12.9

Map 2.1 Unemployment rates in Limerick City and County by electoral division, 2016



Map 2.2 Change in unemployment rates by electoral division, 2011- 2016

