



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh Central Statistics Office

Preasráiteas Press Statement

CSO releases “Measuring Ireland’s Progress 2015”

Ireland:

- ◆ has the third highest proportion of the population aged 25-34 that has completed third-level education in the EU
- ◆ has the second highest fertility rate in the EU at 1.94, well above the EU average of 1.58
- ◆ has the lowest divorce rate in the EU at 0.6 per 1,000 population
- ◆ was the third most expensive EU state in 2015 after Denmark and the United Kingdom with prices 22.5% above the EU average
- ◆ had the eleventh lowest rate of employment in the EU in 2015 while the rate of unemployment was the tenth highest

The Central Statistics Office has today released “**Measuring Ireland’s Progress 2015**” which presents an overall view of the social, economic, environment, education and health situation in Ireland and presents most indicators in both a national and an EU context.

Commenting on the publication, Statistician Helen Cahill said: “*Ireland has the second highest fertility rate in the EU, at 1.94, and just over a third of all Irish births are outside marriage, below the EU average of 40%. Ireland has the lowest divorce rate, at 0.6 per 1,000 population. Ireland has the highest proportion of young people in the EU and the second lowest proportion of old people while the Irish population is increasing at the third highest rate in the EU. The proportion of the population aged 25-34 that has completed third-level education is the third highest in the EU.*”

Ireland had the fifth smallest increase in inflation in the EU between 2011 and 2015 but prices remain high by EU standards. Ireland was the third most expensive EU state in 2015 after Denmark and the United Kingdom with prices 22.5% above the EU average. However this represents an improvement on 2008 when price levels in Ireland were 30% above the EU average and were the second highest in the EU.

The number of weapons and explosives offences fell by 42% between 2010 and 2015 while the number of dangerous or negligent acts fell by 40%. The rate of employment in Ireland was the eleventh lowest in the EU in 2015 while the rate of unemployment was the tenth highest. The number of dwelling units built was 12,666 in 2015, (below the number built in 1970), having peaked at almost 90,000 in 2006.”

Editor’s note: Measuring Ireland’s Progress, 2015 is available on the CSO web site (www.cso.ie)

For further information contact:

Helen Cahill (01 498 4253) or Moira Buckley (021 453 5028).

Central Statistics Office

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An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Bóthar na Sceiche Airde
Corcaigh
T12 X00E
Éire

Oifig i mBaile Átha Cliath
+353 1 4984000

Central Statistics Office
Skehard Road
Cork
T12 X00E
Ireland

Dublin Office
+353 1 4984000



LoCall 1890 313 414 (ROI)
0870 876 0256 (UK/NI)
+353 21 453 5000



+353 21 453 5555

information@cso.ie
www.cso.ie