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Ageing in Ireland

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Chapter 1

Introduction and outline of report

1.1 Introduction

This chapter briefly reviews the background leading to the preparation of this first report on Ageing in Ireland, the process of indicator selection, and the framework around which the indicators were constructed. A list of the domains and indicators used in this report are provided in Table A.

1.2 Background to report

The social partnership agreement 2003-2005 requested the CSO to support a move towards more evidence-based policy making. The National Statistics Board further requested that the CSO provide a comprehensive set of social indicators with emphasis on disaggregation by key characteristics such as the nine equality grounds of which age is one. The first set of social indicators published by the CSO focussed on the theme of gender. This second social indicators report takes the issue of ageing as its focus. It is intended to publish further reports on themes such as equality, regional variation of quality of life, childhood, and disability. In addition it is intended to publish thematic statistical releases, based primarily on administrative data, on topics such as migration and sport.

The selection of indicators for this report was influenced by existing international research and consultation with national bodies concerned with the topic of ageing. In practice, the actual choice of indicators was constrained by a lack of reliable and regular data in some areas of significant policy and user interest. The domains and themes used in future reports will be developed as more data become available on issues such as pensions, transport, and time-use.

1.3 Structure of report and brief technical notes

Chapter 2 presents the selected indicators which are focussed on persons aged 65 & over. Where tables are not sorted by year, the sort column is highlighted with a black background. In international tables, EU 27 data have been used as much as possible even in time series data that precede the EU expansion in 2007.

The appendices describe the indicator definitions and data sources in greater detail. The national and international data sources are given for each indicator. While many of the national data are compiled by the CSO, we have also used survey and administrative data holdings held by Government departments and agencies. The data in the tables and graphs reflect the national and international data availability position as of end of July 2007. The indicators in this report have been structured under 5 main domains as outlined in Table A. These domains reflect the data availability situation.

It is intended to publish this report on an annual basis.

Table A Domains and indicators

Domain	Indicator	
1. Population		
Age distribution	1.1	Ireland: Population by age group, 1926-2006
	1.2	EU: Population by age group, 2006
Population projections	1.3	Ireland and EU: Projected population by age, 2006 & 2026
	1.4	Ireland and EU: Projected age dependency ratios, 2006-2026
	1.5	Ireland: Age dependency ratios by area, 2006
Persons aged 80 & over	1.6	Ireland: Persons aged 80 & over, 1926-2006
	1.7	EU: Persons aged 80 & over, 2006
Proportion of males to females	1.8	Ireland: Males per 100 females by area and age group, 2006
	1.9	Ireland and EU: Males per 100 females, 2006
Marital status	1.10	Ireland: Persons aged 50 & over by marital status, 2006
2. Health and Care		
Life expectancy	2.1	Ireland: Life expectancy at birth and at age 65, 1925-2003
	2.2	EU: Life expectancy at birth and at age 65, 2005
Hospital activity	2.3	Ireland: Hospital activity of persons aged 65 & over, 1995 & 2005
Health status	2.4	Ireland: Perceived health status by age group, 2005
Smoking	2.5	Ireland: Smokers and non-smokers by age-group, 2005
Death rates	2.6	Ireland: Age specific death rates, 1980-2005
	2.7	Ireland and EU: Standardised death rates of persons aged 65 & over by main cause of death, 1980 & 2004
Disability	2.8	Ireland: Prevalence of disability, 2006
	2.9	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over by number of disability types, 2002
Carers	2.10	Ireland: Carers by age group, 2006
	2.11	Ireland: Carers aged 65 & over by unpaid help provided, 2006
	2.12	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over in receipt of carers payments, 1996-2005
3. Accommodation		
Living arrangements	3.1	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over by living arrangements, 2006
	3.2	EU: Persons aged 65 & over living alone, 2001
Nursing homes and hospitals	3.3	Ireland: Persons resident in nursing homes and hospitals, 2006
	3.4	EU: Persons resident in nursing homes and hospitals, 2001
Long-stay units	3.5	Ireland: Patients aged 65 & over by type of long-stay unit, 2001-2005
4. Economic situation		
Employment rates	4.1	Ireland and EU: Employment rates (ILO) of persons aged 65 & over by sex, 1997-2006
	4.2	Ireland: ILO status of persons aged 60 & over, 2006
	4.3	Ireland: ILO participation rates for persons aged 65 & over, 1998-2006
	4.4	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over in employment (ILO) by economic sector and employment status, 2006
	4.5	EU: Employment rates (ILO) of persons aged 65 & over, 2006
State pensions	4.6	Ireland: Recipients of State pension by pension type, 1996-2005
At risk of poverty	4.7	Ireland: At risk of poverty rate by age group and sex, 2005
	4.8	EU: At risk of poverty rate of persons aged 65 & over, 2005
Deprivation	4.9	Ireland: Persons classified by number of deprivation indicators experienced, 2005
Consistent poverty	4.10	Ireland: Persons in consistent poverty, 2004 & 2005
5. Lifestyles		
Travel	5.1	Ireland: Travel by Irish residents aged 55 & over, 2002-2006
	5.2	Ireland: Persons aged 60 & over holding a full driver's licence, 2004-2006
Voter participation	5.3	Ireland: Voter participation in the general election by age group, May 2002
	5.4	Ireland: Reasons for not voting in the general election, May 2002
Crime and victimisation	5.5	Ireland: Crime victimisation rates, 2006
	5.6	Ireland: Perceptions of crime in Ireland, 2006
	5.7	Ireland: Perceptions of safety of persons, 2006
Educational attainment	5.8	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over by level of educational attainment, 2006
Internet connection	5.9	Ireland: Internet connection of households, 2006
Voluntary work	5.10	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over involved in voluntary work, 2006
	5.11	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over by type of voluntary work, 2006

Chapter 2

Indicators

2.1 Commentary

This section briefly reviews some of the key issues of interest arising in the analysis of persons aged 65 & over in Ireland. More detailed commentary on the individual indicators is included in Section 2.2. Key points from the indicators include:

- ◆ In line with the increasing overall population, the number of persons aged 65 & over increased by 54,000 people between 1996 and 2006. However, persons aged 65 & over accounted for 11.0% of the population in 2006 compared to 11.4% in 1991 reflecting the younger age of immigrants (see Table 1.1).
- ◆ In 2006, Ireland had the lowest proportion of its population aged 65 & over among EU countries at 11.0%, this compared to an EU 27 average of 16.8% (see Table 1.2).
- ◆ There is a projected upward trend in the 65 & over dependency ratios for both Ireland and the EU from 2006 to 2026. This dependency ratio is expected to increase from 16.4% to 25.1% for Ireland, and increase from 25.2% to 36.6% for the EU 25 (see Graph 1.4 and Appendix 1 for definitions).
- ◆ In 2006, for persons aged 65 & over, there were 79.4 males per 100 females in the State. Longer female life expectancy is reflected in there being only 44.7 males per 100 females in the 85 & over age group (see Table 1.8).
- ◆ For men, life expectancy at age 65 has risen from 13.8 years in 1995-1997 to 15.4 years in 2001-2003 with a corresponding increase for women from 17.4 years to 18.7 years. In 2005, Irish men and women at age 65 had higher life expectancies than the EU 27 averages (see Tables 2.1 and 2.2).
- ◆ Primary or no formal education was the highest level of education attained for 48.1% of people aged 65 & over in 2006 (see Table 5.8).
- ◆ The age specific death rate for males aged 65 & over has decreased from around 77 per 1,000 in 1980 to 51 in 2005. The corresponding decrease for females was from 60 to 44 per 1,000 indicating a significant narrowing between both rates (see Graph 2.6).
- ◆ In 2005, only 17.9% of persons aged 65 & over perceived their health status to be “very good” compared to 52.2% of persons aged 16-64. Nearly 9% of persons aged 65 & over perceived their health to be “bad/very bad” compared to 2.7% of persons aged 16-64 (see Table 2.4).
- ◆ In 2006, 29.5% of persons aged 65 & over indicated they had a disability compared to 9.3% of all persons. The proportion of persons with a disability increased with age, particularly for the older age groups. The disability rate varied from 18.7% for the 65-69 age group to 58.6% for the 85 & over age group (see Table 2.8).
- ◆ The proportion of women aged 65 & over living alone in Ireland (31.7%) was the eighth lowest of EU countries but the rate for men at 20.6% was the fourth highest (see Table 3.2).
- ◆ Ireland had the sixth highest employment rate for people aged 65 & over among EU countries in 2006. Men aged 65 & over in Ireland had a much higher rate of employment than the EU 27 average in 2006 (14.4% compared to 6.6%). The difference for women between Ireland (4.2%) and the EU 27 (2.8%) was less marked (see Tables 4.1 and 4.5).
- ◆ In 2006, 48.7% of men aged 65 & over who were employed were engaged in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector compared to 12.7% of women. The proportion of women at work aged 65 & over employed in the health sector was 22.7% compared to only 1.7% of men (see Table 4.4).
- ◆ Between 1996 and 2005 there was a considerable shift from State non-contributory pensions to State contributory pensions. In 1996, 57.5% of State pensions were contributory. By 2005 this proportion had risen to 71.9% (see Table 4.6).
- ◆ In 2005, around 20% of persons aged 65 & over were at risk of poverty, which was substantially lower than the 2004 rate of 27.1%. This decrease was due mainly to an increase in the old age pension in 2005 (see Table 4.7).
- ◆ In the May 2002 general election, 86.3% of persons aged 65 & over voted. The main reason why persons aged 65 & over did not vote was due to illness or disability (see Tables 5.3 and 5.4).
- ◆ In 2006, 84.3% of men aged 60-69 held a full driver’s licence compared with 55.4% of women (see Table 5.2).

2.2 Indicators

Population

1.1 Ireland: Population by age group, 1926-2006

Year	% of population			Total	000	
	Age group				Persons	65 & over
	0-14	15-64	65 & over			
1926	29.2	61.7	9.1	100.0	2,972.0	271.7
1936	27.6	62.7	9.7	100.0	2,968.4	286.7
1946	27.9	61.5	10.6	100.0	2,955.1	314.3
1951	28.9	60.4	10.7	100.0	2,960.6	316.4
1961	31.1	57.7	11.2	100.0	2,818.3	315.1
1966	31.2	57.6	11.2	100.0	2,884.0	323.0
1971	31.3	57.7	11.1	100.0	2,978.2	329.8
1979	30.6	58.7	10.7	100.0	3,368.2	361.4
1981	30.3	59.0	10.7	100.0	3,443.4	369.0
1986	28.9	60.2	10.9	100.0	3,540.6	384.4
1991	26.7	61.9	11.4	100.0	3,525.7	402.9
1996	23.7	64.9	11.4	100.0	3,626.1	413.9
2002	21.1	67.7	11.1	100.0	3,917.2	436.0
2006	20.4	68.6	11.0	100.0	4,239.8	467.9

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In the 2006 Census of Population, persons aged 65 & over accounted for 11.0% of the population. This proportion has been relatively stable, varying from 9.1% in 1926 to 11.4% in the 1990s (see Table 1.1).
- ◆ The overall population has risen rapidly in the last decade. In line with the increasing overall population, the number of persons aged 65 & over increased by 54,000 people between 1996 and 2006 (see Table 1.1).
- ◆ In 2006, Ireland had the lowest proportion of its population aged 65 & over among EU countries at 11.0%. This was considerably lower than the EU 27 average of 16.8%. In contrast, Italy had around 20% in this age group (see Table 1.2).

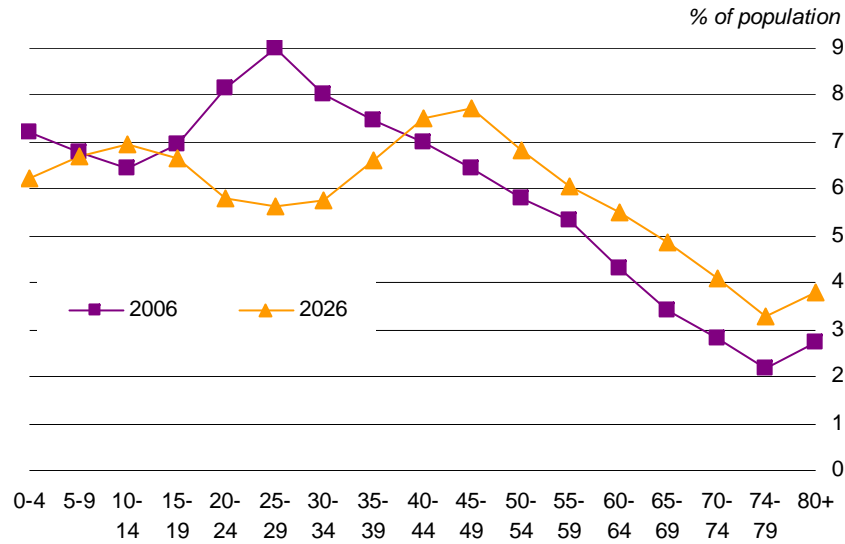
1.2 EU: Population by age group, 2006

Country	% of population			Total	Persons
	0-14	15-64	65 & over		
Ireland	20.4	68.6	11.0	100.0	4,239.8
Slovakia	16.6	71.7	11.7	100.0	5,389.2
Cyprus	18.4	69.5	12.0	100.0	766.4
Poland	16.2	70.5	13.3	100.0	38,157.1
Malta	17.1	69.4	13.4	100.0	404.3
Czech Republic	14.6	71.1	14.2	100.0	10,251.1
Netherlands	18.3	67.5	14.3	100.0	16,334.2
Luxembourg	18.6	67.1	14.4	100.0	459.5
Romania	15.5	69.7	14.8	100.0	21,610.2
Denmark	18.7	66.1	15.2	100.0	5,427.5
Lithuania	16.5	68.2	15.3	100.0	3,403.3
Slovenia	14.1	70.2	15.6	100.0	2,003.4
Hungary	15.4	68.8	15.8	100.0	10,076.6
United Kingdom	17.8	66.2	16.0	100.0	60,393.1
Finland	17.3	66.7	16.0	100.0	5,255.6
France	18.6	65.2	16.2	100.0	62,886.2
Austria	15.9	67.6	16.5	100.0	8,265.9
Spain	14.5	68.8	16.7	100.0	43,758.3
Estonia	15.1	68.2	16.7	100.0	1,344.7
EU 27	16.0	67.3	16.8	100.0	492,852.4
Latvia	14.3	68.9	16.8	100.0	2,294.6
Portugal	15.6	67.3	17.1	100.0	10,569.6
Belgium	17.1	65.7	17.2	100.0	10,511.4
Bulgaria	13.6	69.2	17.2	100.0	7,718.8
Sweden	17.3	65.4	17.3	100.0	9,047.8
Greece	14.3	67.2	18.5	100.0	11,125.2
Germany	14.1	66.6	19.3	100.0	82,438.0
Italy	14.1	66.2	19.7	100.0	58,751.7
Iceland	21.8	66.5	11.7	100.0	299.9
Norway	19.5	65.7	14.7	100.0	4,640.2
Switzerland	16.0	68.0	16.0	100.0	7,459.1

Source: Eurostat, CSO Census of Population

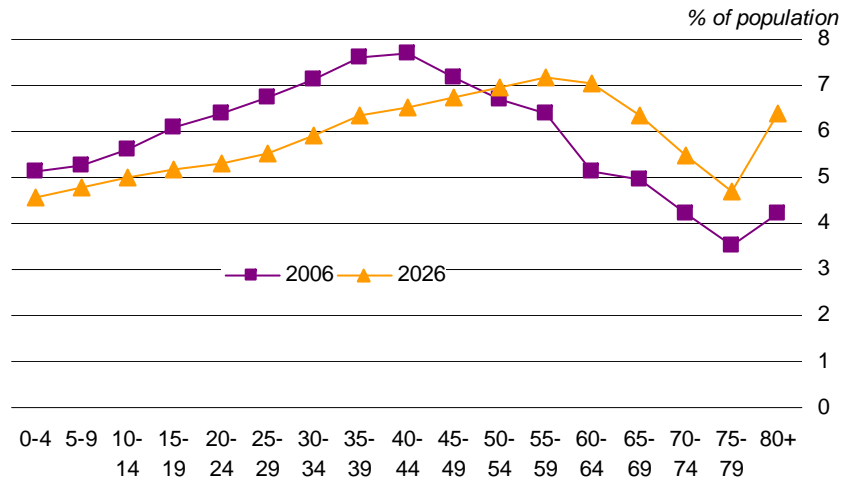
1.3 Ireland and EU: Projected population by age, 2006 & 2026

Ireland



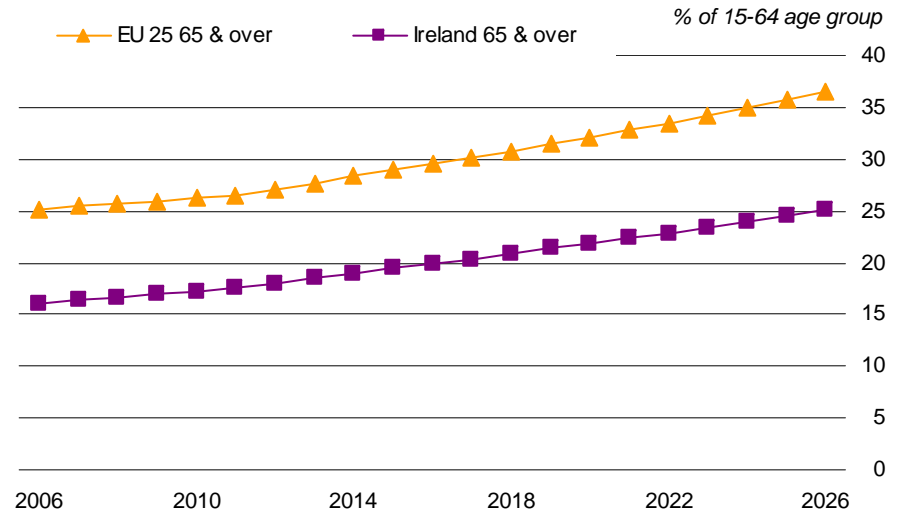
Source: CSO Population Projections

EU 25



Source: Eurostat Population Projections

1.4 Ireland and EU: Projected age dependency ratios, 2006-2026



Source: CSO Population Projections, Eurostat Population Projections

1.5 Ireland: Age dependency ratios by area, 2006

Age group	% of 15-64 age group		
	Urban	Rural	Total
0-14	27.4	20.3	29.7
65 & over	14.6	18.6	16.1

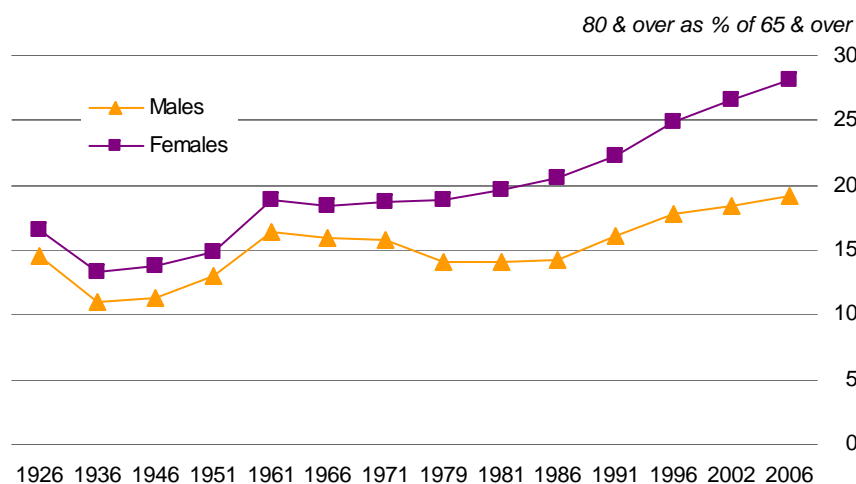
Source: Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, the 5-year age groups in Ireland with the highest number of persons were the 20-24, 25-29 and 30-34 age groups. The projection for 2026 is that the 40-44, 45-49 and 50-54 age groups will contain the most persons (see Graph 1.3).
- ◆ There is a projected upward trend in the 65 & over dependency ratios for both Ireland and the EU from 2006 to 2026. This dependency ratio is expected to increase from 16.4% to 25.1% for Ireland in this period, and increase from 25.2% to 36.6% for the EU 25 (see Graph 1.4 and Appendix 1 for definitions).
- ◆ In 2006, the 65 & over dependency ratio was 16.1% for the State with 14.6% for urban areas and 18.6% for rural areas (see Table 1.5).

1.6 Ireland: Persons aged 80 & over, 1926-2006

80 & over as % of 65 & over			
Year	Males	Females	Persons
1926	14.5	16.5	15.6
1936	10.9	13.3	12.1
1946	11.2	13.8	12.5
1951	13.0	14.9	14.0
1961	16.3	18.8	17.6
1966	15.9	18.5	17.3
1971	15.8	18.7	17.4
1979	14.1	18.9	16.7
1981	14.1	19.7	17.2
1986	14.3	20.5	17.8
1991	16.0	22.2	19.5
1996	17.9	24.8	21.9
2002	18.4	26.7	23.1
2006	19.1	28.1	24.1

Source: CSO Census of Population



- ◆ Persons aged 80 & over as a proportion of persons aged 65 & over remained stable at around 17% between 1961 and 1981. It has since risen steadily to 24.1% in 2006 (see Table 1.6).
- ◆ In 2006, males aged 80 & over accounted for 19.1% of males aged 65 & over. The corresponding figure for females was 28.1% (see Table 1.6 and Graph).

1.7 EU: Persons aged 80 & over, 2006

80 & over as % of 65 & over			
Country	Males	Females	Persons
Sweden	26.0	35.1	31.1
France	23.0	32.3	28.5
United Kingdom	22.4	31.7	27.7
Denmark	21.4	31.4	27.1
Austria	18.9	31.6	26.5
Spain	21.9	29.6	26.3
Italy	20.7	29.7	26.0
Belgium	20.3	29.6	25.8
Finland	18.3	29.9	25.3
Netherlands	19.0	29.7	25.2
EU 27	19.5	28.4	24.7
Ireland	19.1	28.1	24.1
Germany	15.9	28.3	23.2
Luxembourg	16.1	27.9	23.0
Portugal	19.5	25.4	22.9
Czech Republic	17.2	25.2	22.1
Hungary	18.2	24.2	22.0
Malta	19.4	23.8	22.0
Cyprus	19.7	23.4	21.7
Slovakia	17.2	22.9	20.7
Slovenia	13.9	24.5	20.5
Poland	15.7	23.1	20.3
Estonia	13.3	22.7	19.6
Greece	18.6	20.2	19.5
Lithuania	14.3	21.8	19.2
Bulgaria	17.0	20.6	19.1
Latvia	12.5	22.3	19.1
Romania	14.7	18.6	17.0
Norway	25.6	36.1	31.6
Switzerland	22.9	32.0	28.2
Iceland	23.0	29.2	26.4

Source: Eurostat, CSO Census of Population

- ◆ The proportion of persons aged 80 & over in the 65 & over age group in Ireland (24.2%) in 2006 was broadly similar to that of the EU 27 average (24.7%). New EU member states had a relatively low proportion of persons aged 80 & over in the 65 & over age group (see Table 1.7).

1.8 Ireland: Males per 100 females by area and age group, 2006

Age group	males per 100 females		
	Urban	Rural	State
55-64	95.4	110.9	102.0
65-69	89.6	110.1	97.8
70-74	81.0	104.1	90.3
75-79	68.5	88.2	76.6
80-84	55.1	69.9	61.4
85 & over	39.6	51.3	44.7
65 & over	72.0	89.9	79.4

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, for persons aged 65 & over, there were 79.4 males per 100 females in the State. This rose to 89.9 males per 100 females in rural areas compared to 72 males in urban areas (see Table 1.8).
- ◆ In the 65-69 age group there were 97.8 males per 100 females. Longer female life expectancy is reflected in there being only 44.7 males per 100 females in the 85 & over age group (see Table 1.8).
- ◆ In rural areas, men outnumber women in the 65-69 and 70-74 age groups, with 110 and 104 males respectively per 100 females in these age groups (see Table 1.8).
- ◆ At EU level, Ireland had the third most gender-balanced population in the 65 & over age group in 2006. In the 80 & over age group, there were 54 males per 100 females (see Table 1.9).

1.9 Ireland and EU: Males per 100 females, 2006

Country	males per 100 females		
	65 & over	80 & over	All ages
Cyprus	81.9	69.0	97.2
Greece	79.9	73.8	98.1
Ireland	79.4	53.9	100.1
Sweden	76.5	56.6	98.4
United Kingdom	75.6	53.2	96.0
Denmark	75.4	51.4	98.0
Netherlands	73.7	47.1	97.8
Spain	73.3	54.2	97.1
Malta	73.1	59.7	98.5
Portugal	71.9	55.3	93.8
Italy	71.2	49.7	94.4
Belgium	71.2	48.8	95.8
Bulgaria	70.6	58.1	94.2
Germany	70.4	39.5	95.8
EU 27	70.3	48.2	95.3
Luxembourg	70.2	40.6	97.5
France	69.8	49.6	94.5
Romania	69.5	55.1	95.1
Austria	66.9	40.0	94.6
Finland	66.8	40.9	95.9
Czech Republic	64.3	43.8	95.3
Slovenia	61.8	35.2	96.0
Poland	60.8	41.3	93.7
Slovakia	59.6	44.7	94.3
Hungary	57.5	43.2	90.4
Lithuania	52.0	34.2	87.3
Estonia	49.6	29.1	85.4
Latvia	48.5	27.2	85.5
Iceland	82.6	64.9	101.7
Norway	73.4	51.9	98.4
Switzerland	71.2	50.9	96.0

Source: Eurostat, CSO Census of Population

1.10 Ireland: Persons aged 50 & over by marital status, 2006

Marital status	% of sex/age group					
	50-64		65 & over		80 & over	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Single	15.5	10.5	18.9	14.6	22.1	18.8
Married ¹	73.2	71.6	63.9	38.7	48.1	13.7
Separated (incl. deserted)	5.6	6.6	2.3	1.6	0.8	0.4
Divorced	3.0	3.4	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.2
Widowed	2.8	7.9	13.7	44.4	28.7	66.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons (000)	330.1	324.1	207.1	260.8	14.8	33.2

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ Nearly two-thirds of men aged 65 & over were married in 2006 (63.9%) compared with 38.7% of women. In the same age group, 44.4% of women were widowed compared to 13.7% of men, reflecting higher female life expectancy and probable age differences at the time of marriage (see Table 1.10).

2.1 Ireland: Life expectancy at birth and at age 65, 1925–2003²

Period	years			
	At birth		At 65 years	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1925-1927	57.4	57.9	12.8	13.4
1935-1937	58.2	59.6	12.5	13.1
1940-1942	59.0	61.0	12.3	13.2
1945-1947	60.5	62.4	12.0	13.1
1950-1952	64.5	67.1	12.1	13.3
1960-1962	68.1	71.9	12.6	14.4
1965-1967	68.6	72.9	12.4	14.7
1970-1972	68.8	73.5	12.4	15.0
1978-1980	69.5	75.0	12.4	15.4
1980-1982	70.1	75.6	12.6	15.7
1985-1987	71.0	76.7	12.6	16.2
1990-1992	72.3	77.9	13.4	17.1
1995-1997	73.0	78.5	13.8	17.4
2001-2003	75.1	80.3	15.4	18.7

Source: CSO Vital Statistics

- ◆ During the period 1925 to 1980, life expectancy at age 65 decreased slightly for men and increased by two years for women. Life expectancy for both men and women has increased significantly since then. For men, life expectancy at age 65 has risen from 12.4 years in 1978-1980 to 15.4 years in 2001-2003. For women, the corresponding increase was from 15.4 years to 18.7 years. However, in recent years the life expectancy of men has been rising at a faster rate than for women (see Table 2.1).
- ◆ In 2005, Irish men and women at age 65 had higher life expectancies than the EU 27 averages (see Table 2.2).

² Methodologies used to calculate life expectancies in Tables 2.1 & 2.2 differ. Table 2.1 is based on national calculations while Table 2.2 is based on Eurostat calculations. See Appendix 1.

2.2 EU: Life expectancy at birth and at age 65, 2005^{2,3}

Country	years			
	At birth		At 65	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
France	76.7	83.8	17.7	22.1
Spain	77.0	83.7	17.3	21.3
Finland	75.6	82.5	16.8	21.0
Sweden	78.5	82.9	17.4	20.7
Italy	77.1	82.8	16.8	20.6
Luxembourg	76.6	82.2	16.7	20.4
Austria	76.7	82.3	17.0	20.4
Belgium	76.2	81.9	16.6	20.2
Germany	76.7	82.0	16.9	20.1
Netherlands	77.3	81.7	16.4	20.1
Ireland	77.3	81.7	16.8	20.0
United Kingdom	77.1	81.1	17.0	19.5
Portugal	74.9	81.3	16.1	19.4
EU 27	74.6	80.8	15.9	19.4
Malta	77.3	81.4	16.2	19.4
Slovenia	73.9	80.9	15.2	19.3
Greece	76.8	81.6	17.1	19.2
Cyprus	76.8	81.1	16.8	19.1
Denmark	76.0	80.5	16.1	19.1
Poland	70.8	79.3	14.3	18.5
Estonia	67.3	78.2	13.1	18.1
Czech Republic	72.9	79.3	14.4	17.7
Lithuania	65.3	77.3	13.0	17.6
Latvia	65.4	76.5	12.5	17.2
Hungary	68.7	77.2	13.3	17.2
Slovakia	70.2	78.1	13.3	17.1
Romania	68.7	75.7	13.4	16.2
Bulgaria	69.0	76.2	13.1	16.1
Switzerland	78.7	84.0	18.1	21.8
Iceland	79.6	83.5	18.4	21.0
Norway	77.8	82.8	17.3	20.9

Source: Eurostat

³ 2003 data – EU 27 and Italy; 2004 data – France.

2.3 Ireland: Hospital activity of persons aged 65 & over, 1995 & 2005

Activity	patients aged 65 & over	
	1995	2005
Number of hospital discharges	171,077	277,099
% of total discharges	28.1	27.6
Number of in-patients	137,736	153,723
% of total in-patients	30.8	27.4
% of bed days used	49.0	48.7
Mean length of stay (days) aged 65 & over	11.4	11.5
Mean length of stay (days) aged 0-64	5.3	4.6
Number of day cases	33,341	123,376
% of day cases	20.6	28.0

Source: Hospital In-Patient Enquiry, Department of Health and Children

- ◆ The percentage of total discharges from hospital for persons aged 65 & over was around 28% in 1995 and 2005 (see Table 2.3).
- ◆ The percentage of in-patients aged 65 & over was 27.4% in 2005 but the percentage of beds used was 48.7%. This is consistent with the mean length of stay in hospitals for persons aged 65 & over (11.5 days) being over double the figure for persons under 65 of 4.6 days (see Table 2.3).
- ◆ In 2005, only 17.9% of persons aged 65 & over perceived their health status to be “very good” compared to 52.2% of persons aged 16-64. Nearly 9% of persons aged 65 & over perceived their health to be “bad/very bad” compared to just 2.7% of persons aged 16-64 (see Table 2.4).
- ◆ In 2005, 14.8% of persons aged 65 & over were smokers compared to 26.6% in the 16-64 age group (see Table 2.5).

2.4 Ireland: Perceived health status by age group, 2005

Age group	% of age group				
	Very good	Good	Fair	Bad/very bad	Total
65-74	20.4	43.9	29.7	6.0	100.0
75 & over	14.8	37.1	35.8	12.2	100.0
65 & over	17.9	40.9	32.4	8.8	100.0
16-64	52.2	34.8	10.3	2.7	100.0

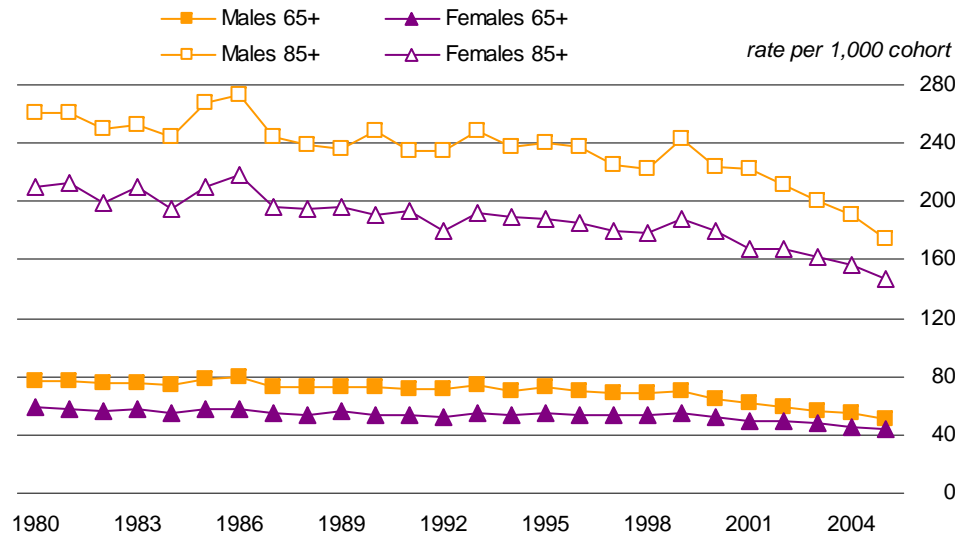
Source: CSO EU SILC

2.5 Ireland: Smokers and non-smokers by age group, 2005

Age group	% of age group		
	Smoker	Non-smoker	Total
65-74	16.3	83.7	100.0
75 & over	12.9	87.1	100.0
65 & over	14.8	85.2	100.0
16-64	26.6	73.5	100.0

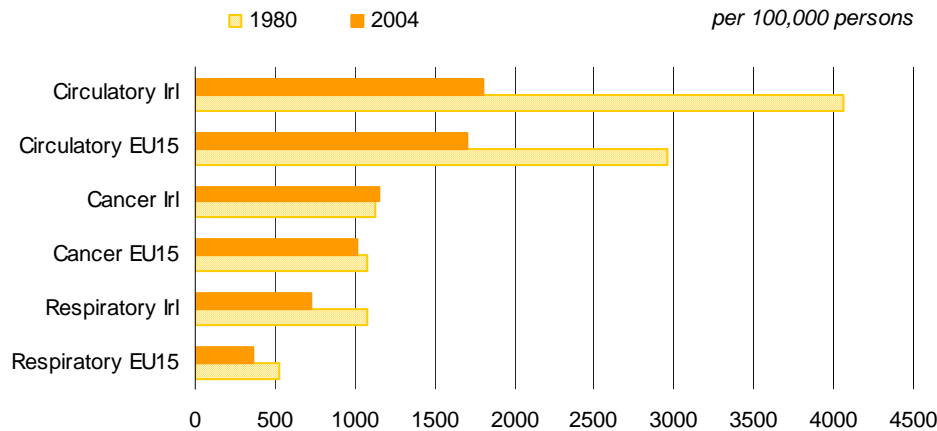
Source: CSO EU SILC

2.6 Ireland: Age specific death rates 1980-2005



Source: CSO Vital Statistics

2.7 Ireland and EU: Standardised death rates of persons aged 65 & over by main cause of death, 1980 & 2004



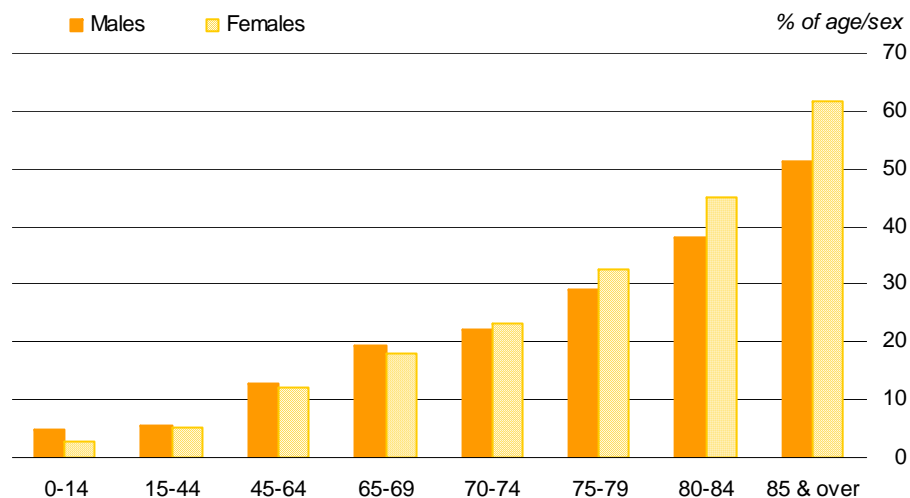
Source: WHO European mortality database

- ◆ The age specific death rate for males aged 65 & over has decreased from around 77 per 1,000 in 1980 to 51 in 2005. The corresponding decrease for females was from 60 to 44 per 1,000 (see Graph 2.6).
- ◆ The age specific death rate for persons aged 85 & over has decreased from a peak of 273 per 1,000 men and 218 per 1,000 women in 1986 to a low of 174 and 147 per 1,000 men and women respectively in 2005 (see Graph 2.6).
- ◆ Deaths from diseases of the circulatory system have significantly decreased between 1980 and 2004. The standardised death rate per 100,000 persons aged 65 & over decreased from 4,060 persons in Ireland in 1980 to 1,800 persons in 2004. The corresponding decrease in the EU 15 was from 2,950 in 1980 to 1,700 in 2004 (see Graph 2.7).
- ◆ The standardised death rate for persons aged 65 & over for respiratory diseases also decreased for both Ireland and the EU 15 between 1980 and 2004. The corresponding rates for cancer showed a slight increase in Ireland and a decrease for the EU 15 (see Graph 2.7).

2.8 Ireland: Prevalence of disability⁴, 2006

Age group	% of age/sex		
	Males	Females	Persons
0-14	4.8	2.9	3.8
15-44	5.5	5.4	5.4
45-64	12.7	12.0	12.4
65-69	19.4	18.0	18.7
70-74	22.2	23.0	22.7
75-79	29.2	32.7	31.2
80-84	38.1	44.9	42.3
85 & over	51.4	61.8	58.6
65 & over	26.6	31.9	29.5
All ages	9.0	9.6	9.3

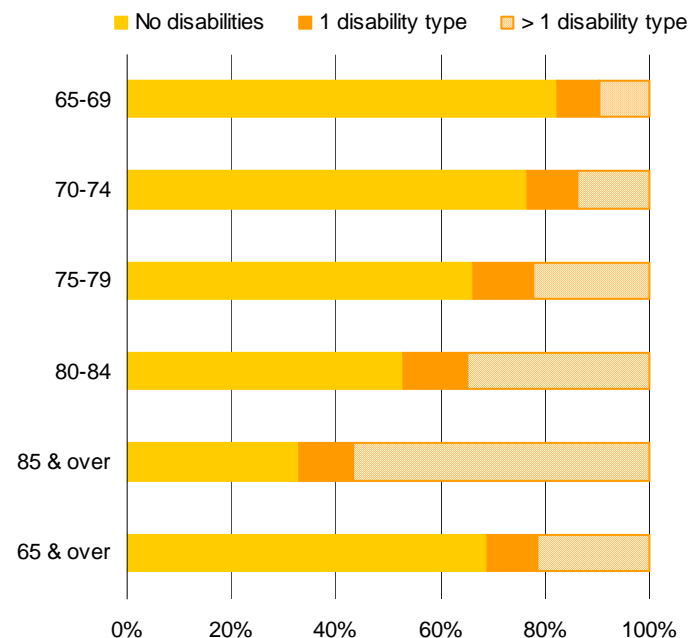
Source: CSO Census of Population



- ◆ In 2006, 29.5% of persons aged 65 & over indicated they had a disability compared to 9.3% of all persons (see Table 2.8).
- ◆ The proportion of persons with a disability increased with age, particularly for the older age groups. The disability rate varied from 18.7% for the 65-69 age group to 58.6% for the 85 & over age group (see Table 2.8).

⁴ Data on disability was derived from answers to questions on long-lasting conditions in the 2006 Census of Population. See Appendix 1 for more information.

2.9 Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over by number of disability types, 2002⁵



Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2002, older persons, particularly those aged 85 & over, were more likely to have more than one long-lasting condition or activity limitation (see Graph 2.9).

⁵ Data on disability was derived from answers to questions on long-lasting conditions of the 2002 Census of Population questionnaire. See Appendix 1 for more information.

2.10 Ireland: Carers by age group, 2006

Age group	% of age group		
	Males	Females	Persons
65-69	3.6	5.9	4.8
70-74	3.5	4.9	4.3
75-79	3.5	3.9	3.7
80-84	3.3	2.7	2.9
85 & over	2.5	1.5	1.8
65 & over	3.4	4.2	3.9
15-64	3.6	6.2	4.9

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, 3.9% of persons aged 65 & over classified themselves as carers. The comparative figure for the 15-64 age group was 4.9% (see Table 2.10).
- ◆ The proportion of carers in the 65-69 age group was 4.8% in 2006. This dropped to 3.7% for the 75-79 age group and 1.8% for the 85 & over age group (see Table 2.10).
- ◆ In 2006, 37% of carers aged 65 & over provided up to 14 hours of unpaid help per week compared to 48.6% providing 43 or more hours (see Table 2.11).
- ◆ There were nearly five times as many women aged 65 & over as men in receipt of carers payments in 2005 (see Table 2.12).

2.11 Ireland: Carers aged 65 & over by unpaid help provided, 2006

Hours of unpaid help provided per week	% of carers by sex		
	Males	Females	Persons
1-14	38.9	35.8	37.0
15-28	8.4	8.1	8.2
29-42	6.3	6.1	6.2
43 & over	46.4	50.0	48.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total carers aged 65 & over	7,143	11,009	18,152

Source: CSO Census of Population

2.12 Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over in receipt of carers payments⁶, 1996-2005

Year	persons		% of all male/female recipients	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1996	104	610	6.0	9.3
1997	124	862	5.7	10.8
1998	164	1,078	6.3	12.2
1999	219	1,312	7.2	11.5
2000	284	1,555	8.2	11.9
2001	323	1,816	8.5	11.8
2002	357	2,048	8.5	12.2
2003	412	2,248	9.4	12.8
2004	462	2,408	10.0	13.1
2005	506	2,447	10.4	11.7

Source: Department of Social and Family Affairs

⁶ Carers payments include carers benefit and carers allowance. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

Accommodation

3.1 Ireland: Persons⁷ aged 65 & over by living arrangements, 2006

Age group	% of age group			
	In communal establishments	In private households ⁸		Total
		Living alone	Living with others	
65-69	2.3	19.4	78.3	100.0
70-74	3.2	25.1	71.7	100.0
75-79	5.8	31.7	62.5	100.0
80-84	11.5	35.4	53.1	100.0
85 & over	24.6	31.7	43.7	100.0
65 & over	6.8	26.7	66.5	100.0
Persons aged 65 & over	30,680	121,157	301,088	452,925

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, two-thirds of persons aged 65 & over (66.5%) were living in private households with other persons. This proportion decreased from 78.3% for the 65-69 age group to 43.7% for the 85 & over age group. In the 85 & over age group, 24.6% of persons were living in communal establishments. This was over twice the rate for the 80-84 age group (see Table 3.1).
- ◆ The proportion of women aged 65 & over living alone in Ireland (31.7%) was the eight lowest of EU countries but the rate for men at 20.6% was the fourth highest in the EU (see Table 3.2).
- ◆ Denmark had the highest proportions with 26.4% of men and 55.1% of women aged 65 & over living alone. Greece had the lowest rates with 9.1% of men and 24.9% of women aged 65 & over living alone (see Table 3.2).

3.2 EU: Persons aged 65 & over living alone, 2001⁹

Country	% of sex/age group			
	65 & over		85 & over	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Greece	9.1	24.9	16.6	26.9
Portugal	10.1	25.3	17.4	25.7
Spain	10.8	25.8	18.8	31.4
Latvia	12.7	28.5	16.6	22.6
Cyprus	10.9	29.0	23.5	30.4
Bulgaria	14.8	31.2	29.0	34.1
Romania	12.5	31.5	27.3	39.2
Ireland	20.6	31.7	25.8	31.7
Slovenia	11.4	33.5	18.1	33.3
Poland	13.8	33.7	24.5	39.3
Italy	13.6	36.0	26.8	47.5
Luxembourg	14.8	36.0	26.4	36.2
Lithuania	14.3	37.9	22.3	34.9
Belgium	17.7	38.2	31.7	44.1
Hungary	15.4	39.5	25.9	38.4
France	16.5	40.4	:	:
Austria	15.9	42.7	28.2	49.5
Estonia	19.6	43.4	28.0	41.1
United Kingdom	21.9	43.6	36.9	54.2
Netherlands	17.7	43.9	31.8	50.6
Czech Republic	18.3	44.1	33.9	50.7
Finland	21.6	47.3	35.6	53.8
Germany	16.6	47.4	35.5	58.7
Slovakia	18.1	49.1	38.6	61.7
Denmark	26.4	55.1	46.1	74.0
Switzerland	16.7	41.7	26.8	44.6
Norway	24.4	49.3	40.0	63.6

Source: Eurostat National Census of Population

⁷ Persons usually resident and present in the State on census night, 2006.

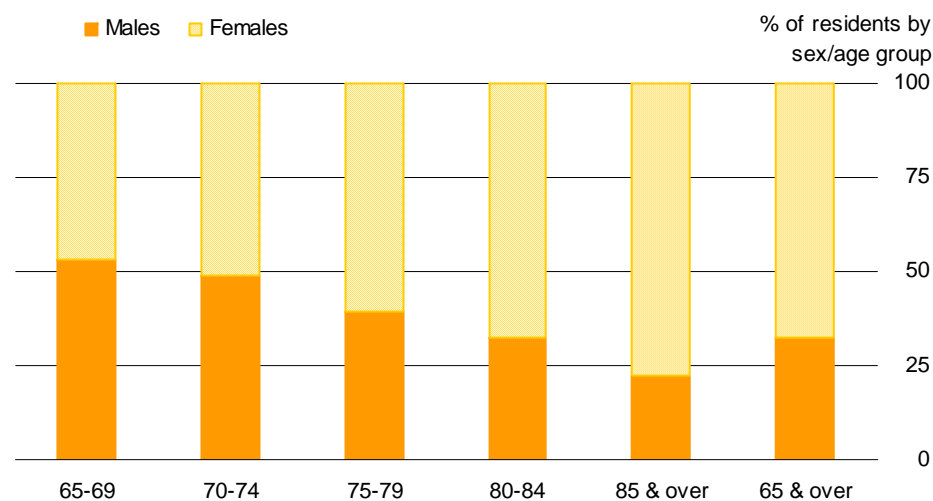
⁸ The total of usually resident persons living in private households includes persons who were reported as being temporarily absent from their usual residence on census night, 2006 by another member of their residence.

⁹ 2002 data for Ireland. No data available for Sweden or Malta.

3.3 Ireland: Persons resident in nursing homes and hospitals, 2006

Age group	% of cohort		
	Males	Females	Persons
65-69	1.4	1.2	1.3
70-74	2.3	2.2	2.2
75-79	4.1	4.9	4.6
80-84	8.4	10.7	9.8
85 & over	16.4	25.5	22.7
65 & over	4.1	6.7	5.5
Persons (000)	198.5	248.0	446.5

Source: CSO Census of Population



Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, persons usually resident in nursing homes and hospitals represented 4.1% of men and 6.7% of women aged 65 & over. Only 1.3% of persons aged 65-69 were usually resident in these establishments. This proportion increased with age to 22.7% of persons aged 85 & over usually resident in nursing homes and hospitals (see Table 3.3).
- ◆ Women represented 67.4% of all nursing home and hospital residents aged 65 & over, and 77.6% of residents aged 85 & over (see Graph).

3.4 EU: Persons resident in nursing homes and hospitals, 2001

Country	% of age group	
	65 & over	85 & over
Romania	0.3	0.9
Bulgaria	0.4	1.3
Poland	1.0	3.2
Greece	1.0	3.3
Lithuania	1.0	2.8
Latvia	1.3	3.3
Italy	1.4	6.0
Spain	1.5	5.5
Estonia	1.7	5.7
Czech Republic	2.1	9.1
Slovakia	2.3	6.4
Hungary	2.4	7.7
Finland	2.6	12.6
Portugal	3.1	12.6
Cyprus	3.5	16.2
Austria	3.9	17.2
United Kingdom	4.0	18.5
Luxembourg	4.8	23.8
France	5.1	21.8
Belgium	5.3	26.1
Ireland	5.6	22.7
Netherlands	6.1	30.7
Switzerland	6.6	28.4

Source: Eurostat National Census of Population

- ◆ In 2001, of the EU countries presented¹⁰, Ireland had the second highest proportion of persons aged 65 & over usually resident in nursing homes and hospitals (see Table 3.4).

¹⁰ No data available for Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Malta or Slovenia.

3.5 Ireland: Patients aged 65 & over by type of long-stay unit, 2001-2005¹¹

% of patients aged 65 & over

Year	Type of long-stay unit			Total
	Public	Voluntary	Private	
2001	41.4	13.6	45.0	100.0
2002	40.3	14.8	44.8	100.0
2003	40.0	12.6	47.4	100.0
2004	39.9	14.4	45.7	100.0
2005	36.3	16.1	47.5	100.0

Source: Department of Health and Children

- ◆ In 2005, almost half of patients aged 65 & over (47.5%) in long-stay units were in private units. The proportion of patients aged 65 & over in public long-stay units has decreased from 41.4% in 2001 to 36.3% in 2005, while there was an increase in the proportion of patients in voluntary units from 13.6% to 16.1% (see Table 3.5).

¹¹ The data are collected through a survey and have not been adjusted for non-response. The response rates for 2001 to 2004 were approximately 85% and 80% for 2005. The level of non-response may vary across the different types of long-stay units.

Economic situation

4.1 Ireland and EU: Employment rates (ILO¹²) of persons aged 65 & over by sex, 1997-2006

Year	Employment rate					
	Ireland			EU 27		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
1997	15.5	3.0	8.5	:	:	:
1998	14.9	3.0	8.1	:	:	:
1999	15.1	2.7	8.0	:	:	:
2000	14.9	2.9	8.1	7.2	3.4	5.0
2001	14.4	2.9	7.9	7.1	3.5	5.0
2002	15.0	3.0	8.2	6.6	3.1	4.6
2003	14.1	3.3	8.0	6.4	2.9	4.3
2004	13.6	3.0	7.6	6.2	2.7	4.1
2005	14.6	3.2	8.2	6.4	2.7	4.3
2006	14.4	4.2	8.7	6.6	2.8	4.4

Source: Eurostat LFS, CSO QNHS

4.2 Ireland: ILO status of persons aged 60 & over, 2006¹³

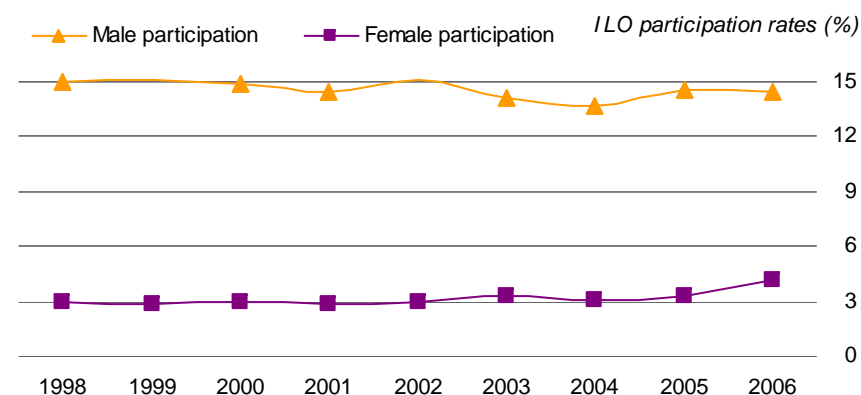
ILO status	% of sex/age group			
	Males			
	60-64	65-69	70 & over	65 & over
Labour force	58.3	24.7	9.3	14.5
In employment	57.5	24.5	9.2	14.4
In employment, full-time	50.4	18.8	5.7	10.1
In employment, part-time	7.0	5.6	3.5	4.3
Not in labour force	41.8	75.3	90.7	85.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons (000)	91.4	70.9	137.0	207.9
ILO status	Females			
	60-64	65-69	70 & over	65 & over
	Labour force	31.2	10.1	1.9
In employment	30.9	10.1	1.9	4.2
In employment, full-time	14.6	3.0	0.6	1.3
In employment, part-time	16.3	7.1	1.3	2.9
Not in labour force	68.8	89.9	98.0	95.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons (000)	90.9	73.2	189.6	262.8

Source: CSO QNHS

¹² See Appendix 1 for definitions.

¹³ Unemployment figures too small for publication.

4.3 Ireland: ILO participation rates¹⁴ for persons aged 65 & over, 1998-2006



Source: CSO QNHS

- ♦ Men aged 65 & over in Ireland had a much higher rate of employment than the EU 27 average in 2006 (14.4% compared to 6.6%). The difference for women between Ireland (4.2%) and the EU (2.8%) was less marked (see Table 4.1).
- ♦ There was a considerable fall-off in the rate of employment for both men and women between the 60-64, 65-69, and 70 & over age groups. In the case of men, the rate fell from 57.5% for the 60-64 age group to 24.5% for the 65-69 age group to 9.2% for the 70 & over age group (see Table 4.2).
- ♦ Since 1998, labour force participation rates for persons aged 65 & over have remained fairly stable, with male rates staying at around the 14% to 15% level, well above the female participation rates of around 3% (see Graph 4.3).

¹⁴ Persons in the (ILO) labour force expressed as a percentage of the population.

4.4 Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over in employment (ILO) by economic sector and employment status, 2006

Economic sector	% of persons aged 65 & over in employment			
	Sex		Employment status ¹⁵	
	Males	Females	Self-employed	Employee
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	48.7	12.7	60.9	5.1
Other production industries	7.3	0.9	2.9	10.1
Construction	6.3	0.0	4.1	5.7
Wholesale and retail trade	9.7	15.5	10.3	12.7
Hotels and restaurants	2.7	7.3	4.1	3.8
Transport, storage and communication	4.0	3.6	3.3	5.1
Financial and other business services	8.3	10.0	8.2	10.1
Public administration and defence	1.0	2.7	0.4	3.2
Education	3.0	11.8	0.8	12.7
Health	1.7	22.7	2.1	15.8
Other services	7.3	10.9	3.3	16.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons (000)	30.0	11.0	24.3	15.8

Source: CSO QNHS

- ◆ In 2006, 48.7% of men aged 65 & over in employment were engaged in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector compared to 12.7% of women. The proportion of women at work aged 65 & over employed in the health sector was 22.7% compared to only 1.7% of men (see Table 4.4).
- ◆ Agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for 60.9% of self-employed persons aged 65 & over in 2006. In contrast, only 5.1% of employees in the 65 & over age group were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing (see Table 4.4).
- ◆ Ireland had the sixth highest employment rate for persons aged 65 & over among EU countries in 2006. Portugal and Romania had the highest rates (see Table 4.5).

4.5 EU: Employment rates (ILO) of persons aged 65 & over, 2006¹⁶

Country	% of age group		
	65-69	70-74	65 & over
Portugal	28.0	19.5	18.3
Romania	26.4	22.3	15.2
Estonia	24.2	:	10.2
Cyprus	16.6	10.5	10.2
Latvia	22.8	7.7	9.7
Ireland	17.2	7.9	8.7
Slovenia	12.9	8.0	8.3
United Kingdom	15.9	5.9	6.8
Poland	10.9	4.3	5.3
Denmark	13.0	5.4	5.2
Sweden	12.7	6.8	4.9
Netherlands	10.4	3.9	4.8
Lithuania	10.7	:	4.6
EU 27	9.4	4.4	4.4
Greece	9.7	3.7	4.4
Czech Republic	8.5	3.6	4.0
Austria	7.1	2.9	3.5
Italy	7.7	3.0	3.4
Germany	6.1	2.6	3.1
Finland	7.4	3.7	3.0
Bulgaria	5.7	2.2	2.7
Spain	5.4	1.7	2.2
Belgium	4.5	1.6	1.8
Hungary	3.8	1.2	1.5
Luxembourg	2.8	:	1.4
France	2.8	1.1	1.1
Slovakia	2.6	:	1.1
Iceland	52.6	14.9	34.0
Norway	20.0	6.1	13.6
Switzerland	16.9	8.2	8.2

Source: Eurostat LFS, CSO QNHS

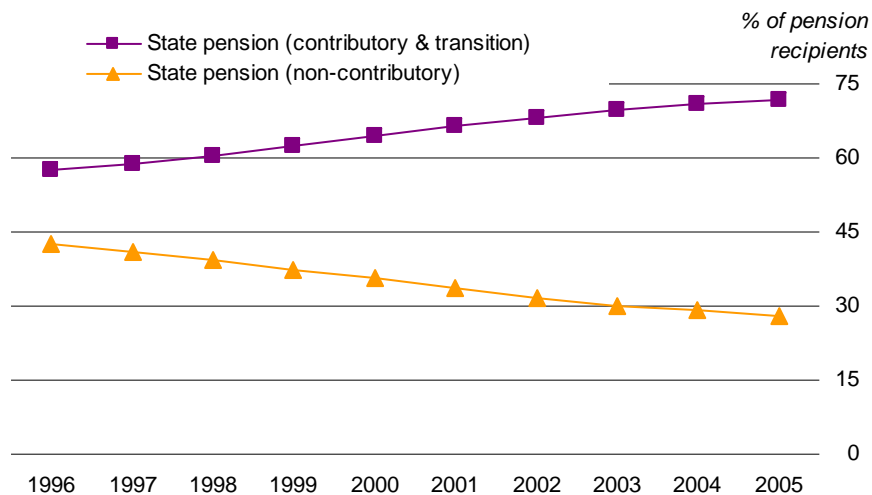
¹⁵ Excludes "assisting relative" employment status.

¹⁶ 2003 data – Luxembourg; 2005 – Iceland; No data for Malta.

4.6 Ireland: Recipients¹⁷ of State pension by pension type, 1996-2005

Year	% of pension recipients			Persons 000
	State pension (contributory)	State pension (non-contributory)	Total	
1996	57.5	42.5	100.0	239.4
1997	58.9	41.1	100.0	240.7
1998	60.5	39.5	100.0	242.9
1999	62.5	37.5	100.0	248.1
2000	64.5	35.5	100.0	255.2
2001	66.3	33.7	100.0	264.3
2002	68.2	31.8	100.0	276.2
2003	69.8	30.2	100.0	287.2
2004	70.9	29.1	100.0	292.4
2005	71.9	30.3	100.0	300.1

Source: Department of Social and Family Affairs



- ◆ Between 1996 and 2005 there was a considerable shift from State non-contributory pensions to State contributory pensions. In 1996, 57.5% of pensions were contributory (including transition). By 2005 this proportion had risen to 71.9% (see Table 4.6).
- ◆ The number of State pensions rose from 239,400 in 1996 to 300,100 in 2005, an increase of 25.4% (see Table 4.6).

¹⁷ Persons aged 65 & over. State pension (contributory) includes transition. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

4.7 Ireland: At risk of poverty rate¹⁸ by age group and sex, 2005

Age group	at risk of poverty rate					
	2004			2005		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
65-74	27.2	28.6	27.9	20.3	21.1	20.7
75 & over	23.5	27.7	26.1	20.4	18.5	19.3
65 & over	25.8	28.2	27.1	20.3	19.9	20.1
16-64	16.0	18.6	17.3	16.7	17.4	17.0

Source: CSO EU SILC

- ◆ In 2005, around 20% of persons aged 65 & over were at risk of poverty, which was substantially lower than the 2004 rate of 27.1%. This decrease was due mainly to the increase in the old age pension rates in 2005 (see Table 4.7).
- ◆ In 2005, men (20.3%) and women (19.9%) aged 65 & over had similar at risk of poverty rates (see Table 4.7).
- ◆ In 2005, the at risk of poverty rate before social transfers (including pensions) in Ireland was around the same as the EU 25 level for persons aged 65 & over at around 88%. However, Ireland ranked second highest for risk of poverty rates after the effect of social transfers and pensions were taken into account.
- ◆ For persons aged 65 & over, women (21%) were at a higher risk of poverty than men (16%) at EU 25 level (see Table 4.8).

4.8 EU: At risk of poverty rate of persons aged 65 & over, 2005^{18,19}

Country	at risk of poverty rate of persons aged 65 & over					
	Risk of poverty before social transfers & pensions		Risk of poverty after pensions		Risk of poverty after social transfers & pensions	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Luxembourg	88	86	12	9	9	5
Netherlands	95	95	10	10	5	6
Czech Republic	91	87	7	14	2	7
Hungary	90	90	7	14	4	8
Poland	88	88	8	13	5	9
Slovakia	88	93	8	15	3	10
Sweden	90	97	13	30	6	14
Malta	80	82	20	22	16	17
Austria	86	87	11	20	10	17
Denmark	92	96	45	41	17	18
Germany	91	92	14	19	12	18
France	96	95	19	22	15	18
EU 25	89	90	20	26	16	21
Romania	78	76	21	20	12	21
Belgium	92	91	24	26	19	22
Lithuania	85	87	8	26	6	22
Bulgaria	68	74	17	17	5	23
Finland	89	94	19	32	11	23
Estonia	83	83	11	28	10	26
Italy	83	86	21	28	19	26
Latvia	78	79	15	32	12	26
Slovenia	83	84	26	37	11	26
Portugal	83	82	30	30	28	28
United Kingdom	90	94	30	40	24	29
Greece	81	85	29	35	25	30
Spain	84	83	29	35	26	32
Ireland	87	88	38	48	30	36¹⁸
Cyprus	87	88	51	57	47	53
Iceland	77	85	13	15	9	10
Norway	88	94	23	40	8	27

Source: Eurostat

¹⁸ Methodologies used to calculate data in Tables 4.7 & 4.8 are very different. Table 4.7 uses national definition of income and national equivalence scale, i.e. equivalised total disposable income including all social transfers at the 60% threshold. Comparable EU figures in Table 4.8 are calculated using the Eurostat definition of income and the modified OECD equivalence scale, and consequently differ somewhat from the nationally published data (see Appendix 1).

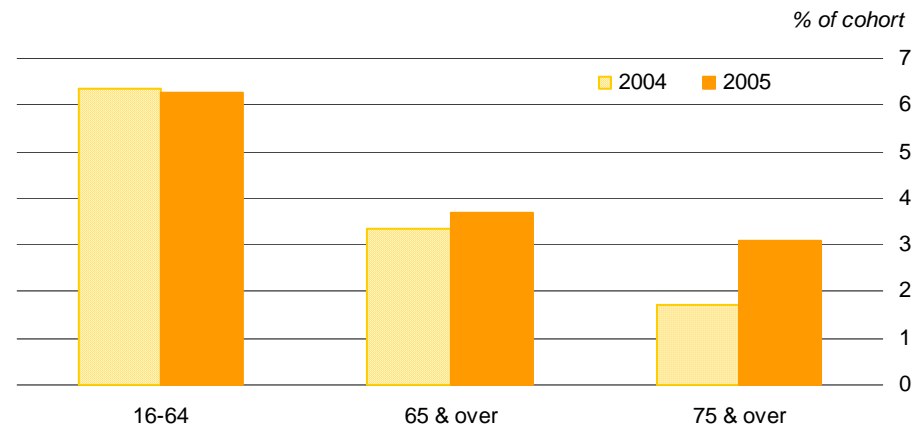
¹⁹ 2004 data - Bulgaria; EU 27 figure not available.

4.9 Ireland: Persons classified by number of deprivation indicators experienced, 2005²⁰

Age group	Number of deprivation indicators				Total
	0	1	2	3 & over	
65-74	80.4	8.0	4.7	6.9	100.0
75 & over	77.5	11.7	5.1	5.7	100.0
65 & over	79.1	9.6	4.9	6.4	100.0
16-64	77.4	9.3	4.8	8.6	100.0

Source: CSO EU SILC

4.10 Ireland: Persons in consistent poverty²¹, 2004 & 2005



Source: CSO EU SILC

- ◆ In 2005, while 79.1% of persons aged 65 & over experienced none of the 11 deprivation indicators, 9.6% experienced one, 4.9% experienced two and 6.4% experienced three or more (see Table 4.9 and Appendix 1 for definitions).
- ◆ In 2005, a higher proportion of the 75 & over age group experienced at least one of the 11 deprivation indicators compared to the 65-74 age group (see Table 4.9 and Appendix 1 for definitions).
- ◆ The proportion of persons aged 75 & over in consistent poverty increased from 1.7% in 2004 to 3.1% in 2005 (see Graph 4.10).

²⁰ Based on 11 deprivation indicators.

²¹ Persons are defined as being in consistent poverty if they are at risk of poverty and are suffering enforced deprivation as defined by a set of 11 deprivation indicators (see Appendix 1).

Lifestyles

5.1 Ireland: Travel by Irish residents aged 55 & over, 2002-2006

average number of trips taken by age group

Year	International		Domestic	
	2002	2006	2002	2006
55-64	1.3	2.6	1.0	2.3
65-69	1.1	1.6	1.4	2.4
70-74	0.8	1.4	1.3	2.0
75-79	0.5	1.1	0.9	1.6
80-84	0.3	0.4	0.6	1.1
85 & over	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7
65 & over	0.7	1.4	1.0	1.8

Source: CSO Household Travel Survey

5.2 Ireland: Persons aged 60 & over holding a full driver's licence, 2004-2006

% of age/sex

Age group	2004		2005		2006	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
60-69	80.3	50.3	82.5	52.8	84.3	55.4
70-79	67.1	31.2	67.5	32.7	69.9	34.8
80 & over	40.9	11.1	41.3	11.6	44.5	12.8
60 & over	70.7	35.7	72.1	37.5	73.9	39.7

Source: Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

- ◆ In 2006, an average of 1.4 international and 1.8 domestic trips were taken by persons aged 65 & over. Persons in the 55-64 age group took more trips with 2.6 international and 2.3 domestic trips per person respectively (see Table 5.1).
- ◆ International trips taken by the 65 & over age group doubled from an average of 0.7 in 2002 to 1.4 in 2006. Domestic trips also increased for this age group from 1 trip on average in 2002 to 1.8 trips in 2006 (see Table 5.1).
- ◆ In 2006, the 65-69 age group took the largest average number of trips, both international (1.6) and domestic (2.4), for persons aged 65-69 (see Table 5.1).
- ◆ In 2006, 73.9% of men aged 60 & over held a full driver's licence compared with 39.7% of women. Just over 55% of women aged 60-69 held a full driver's licence compared to nearly 13% of women aged 80 & over. Similarly for men, 84.3% aged 60-69 held a full licence compared to 44.5% aged 80 & over (see Table 5.2).

5.3 Ireland: Voter participation in the general election by age group, May 2002

% of age group

Age group	Yes	No	Total
55-64	88.2	11.8	100.0
65-74	89.8	10.2	100.0
75-79	84.9	15.0	100.0
80 & over	79.2	20.8	100.0
65 & over	86.3	13.6	100.0
18-64	74.0	26.0	100.0

Source: CSO QNHS Voter Registration & Participation Module

5.4 Ireland: Reasons for not voting in the general election, May 2002²²

%

Reasons	55-64	65 & over
Illness/disability	13.8	43.4
Away	24.0	13.8
No interest	15.4	12.7
Disillusioned	17.8	11.2
Lack of transport	1.8	9.4
My vote would make no difference	4.6	6.4
Not registered	10.7	4.0
Other	23.3	14.3

Source: CSO QNHS Voter Registration & Participation Module

- ◆ In the May 2002 general election, 86.3% of persons aged 65 & over who were eligible to vote actually voted. The highest proportion of the older age groups that voted was the 65-74 (89.8%) and the lowest, at 79.2%, was for persons aged 80 & over. This was in all cases significantly higher than the turnout of people aged 18-64 (see Table 5.3).
- ◆ The main reason why persons aged 65 & over did not vote in the May 2002 general election was due to illness or disability (43.4%). Other main reasons included being away, no interest or disillusioned (see Table 5.4).

²² Totals do not add to 100% as the question allowed for multiple responses.

5.5 Ireland: Crime victimisation rates, 2006

Type of crime	% of sex/age group			
	Males		Females	
	18-64	65 & over	18-64	65 & over
Theft without violence	3.1	1.1	2.5	1.1
Theft with violence	1.6	0.7	0.9	0.5
Physical assault ²³	2.0	0.2	0.6	0.0

Source: CSO QNHS Crime and Victimisation Module

5.6 Ireland: Perceptions of crime in Ireland, 2006

Perception	% of age group		
	18-64	65 & over	All persons
Very serious problem	42.9	63.0	45.9
Serious problem	36.1	28.3	34.9
Fairly serious problem	17.6	8.0	16.2
Not a serious problem	3.1	0.5	2.7
Not a problem	0.3	0.1	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: CSO QNHS Crime & Victimisation Module

- ◆ For both men and women aged 65 & over, theft without violence had the highest victimisation rates of 1.1% in 2006 (see Table 5.5).
- ◆ In 2006, 63% of persons aged 65 & over felt that there was a “very serious problem” of crime in Ireland, compared to 42.9% of persons aged 18-64 (see Table 5.6). Although persons aged 65 & over had a stronger perception that crime was a very serious problem, only a very small percentage of that age group were victims of crime (see Table 5.5).
- ◆ In 2006, 54.8% of persons aged 65 & over felt “very safe” or “safe” walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. Of the same group, 88.3% felt “very safe” or “safe” alone in their home after dark (see Table 5.7 and Graph).

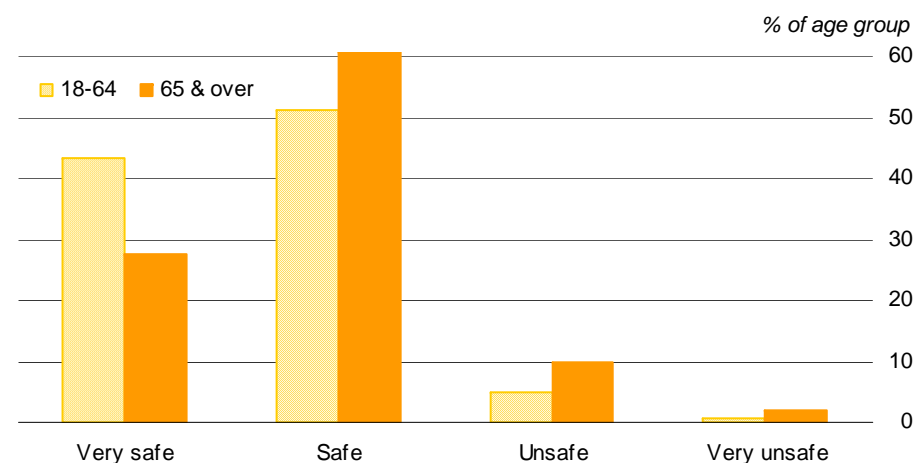
²³ Physical assault of a person excludes attacks of a sexual nature and domestic violence.

5.7 Ireland: Perceptions of safety of persons, 2006

Level of safety felt	% of age group			
	Walking alone in neighbourhood after dark		Alone in home after dark	
	18-64	65 & over	18-64	65 & over
Very safe	26.6	13.1	43.4	27.6
Safe	50.3	41.7	51.2	60.7
Unsafe	19.4	32.8	4.9	9.7
Very unsafe	3.7	12.4	0.5	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: CSO QNHS Crime and Victimisation Module

Level of safety felt alone in home after dark



5.8 Ireland: Persons²⁴ aged 65 & over by level of educational attainment, 2006

Age group	% of sex/age group					
	Primary or no formal	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	3rd level	Not stated	Total
65-69	43.1	17.8	11.7	20.5	6.9	100.0
70-74	47.5	16.3	11.0	17.4	7.9	100.0
75-79	51.0	15.0	10.1	14.6	9.3	100.0
80-84	52.8	13.7	9.8	12.8	10.9	100.0
85 & over	52.7	12.1	8.9	11.4	15.0	100.0
65 & over	48.1	15.7	10.7	16.5	9.0	100.0
25-64	13.2	21.1	19.8	42.4	3.5	100.0

Source: CSO Census of Population

5.9 Ireland: Internet connection of households, 2006

Type of internet connection	% of households	
	At least one person aged 65 & over	No persons aged 65 & over in household
Broadband	8.3	23.3
Other	16.2	29.7
Total	24.5	53.0

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ Primary or no formal education was the highest level of education attained for 48.1% of persons aged 65 & over in 2006. This compared with 15.7% with lower second level and 10.7% with upper second level. A further 16.5% had third level education (see Table 5.8).
- ◆ Over 50% of the 75 & over age groups had only attained primary level or had no formal education (see Table 5.8).
- ◆ In 2006, 24.5% of households with at least one person aged 65 & over had an internet connection compared to 53% of households with no persons aged 65 & over (see Table 5.9).

5.10 Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over involved in voluntary work, 2006

Age group	% of sex/age group	
	Males	Females
65-69	18.9	21.4
70-74	17.3	17.8
75-79	14.0	12.8
80-84	9.8	7.9
85 & over	5.8	4.0
65 & over	15.5	14.5
55-64	20.2	22.0

Source: CSO Census of Population

5.11 Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over by type of voluntary work, 2006²⁵

Age group	% of age group				
	Religious group or church	Social or charitable organisation	Sporting organisation	Political or cultural organisation	Other
65-69	42.2	41.4	17.6	10.1	23.8
70-74	47.4	42.0	14.3	9.7	22.3
75-79	51.7	41.6	12.2	9.5	21.1
80-84	53.8	39.5	10.9	9.4	22.0
85 & over	52.3	39.8	13.8	12.6	26.7
65 & over	46.7	41.4	15.0	9.9	22.8
Males	41.5	37.3	23.3	12.6	22.7
Females	51.0	44.9	7.9	7.7	22.9

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, around 15% of men and women aged 65 & over were involved in voluntary work compared to around 20% of men and 22% of women aged 55-64. The 65-69 age group had the highest proportion of persons aged 65 & over involved in voluntary work (see Table 5.10).
- ◆ In 2006, the majority of persons aged 65 & over who were involved in voluntary work did so for a religious group or church (46.7%) or a social or charitable organisation (41.4%) (see Table 5.11).
- ◆ Over 23% of men aged 65 & over involved in voluntary work did so for a sporting organisation compared to 7.9% of women (see Table 5.11).

Appendices

Appendix 1

Notes and definitions

1 Population

Population

Table 1.1

The total population of the country may comprise either all of the usual residents of the country (*de jure*) or all persons present in the country on a particular date (*de facto*). Published census figures for Ireland are on a *de facto* basis. The figures therefore include visitors present on census night as well as those in residence, while usual residents temporarily absent from the area are excluded from the census count. Ireland last conducted a Census of Population in 2006.

Population projections

Graphs 1.3 & 1.4

Population projections are based on various assumptions relating to future trends in fertility, mortality and migration. Three sets of assumptions were chosen for fertility, one for mortality and two for migration trends up to the year 2026. These assumptions were agreed by an expert group, chaired by the CSO.

For the purposes of this report, the M1F1 scenario was used. This assumes a high fertility and a high but moderating migration. See www.cso.ie for more information.

Age dependency ratio

Graph 1.4

The young age dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the number of persons in the population aged 0-14 by the number of persons aged 15-64. The old age dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the number of persons aged 65 & over by the number of persons aged 15-64.

The EU 25 figures have been calculated by Eurostat (the European Commission Statistical Agency), baseline variant. The ratios for Ireland have been calculated using the CSO population projections M1F1 assumptions.

2 Health and care

Life expectancy

Tables 2.1 & 2.2

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years that a person when born can be expected to live, assuming that age-specific mortality levels remain constant. Life expectancy at age 65 is the average number of years that a person at age 65 can be expected to live, assuming that age-specific mortality levels remain constant.

The difference between the National and the Eurostat methodologies for the calculation of life expectancies by sex and age is that Eurostat makes adjustments regarding age. The procedure for conversion of rates by age at last birthday to rates by age reached in the calendar year is described in the work Methodology for the calculation of Eurostat's demographic indicators (G. Calot and J.P. Sardon).

Hospital activity

Table 2.3

Data from the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry System (HIPE) which records activity in publicly funded acute hospitals. The system records hospital discharges and not patients. Therefore, a person admitted and discharged from hospital on more than one occasion is recorded for each hospital episode. HIPE does not record activity in private hospitals.

Perceived health status

Table 2.4

Perceived health status is based on the answers persons aged 15 & over gave to the following CSO EU SILC survey question –

How is your health in general? Very good; Good; Fair; Bad; Very bad.

Smoking

Table 2.5

As part of the CSO EU SILC, persons aged 15 & over were asked: *Do you smoke?* Yes ; No.

Cause of death

Graphs 2.6, 2.7

The underlying cause of death is the disease or injury which the doctor (or coroner) reported on the death certificate as being the cause that initiated the train of events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of the accident, or violence which produced the fatal injury.

Age specific death rates

Graph 2.6

Age-specific death rates are the number of deaths occurred (or registered) during the calendar year at a specified age per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of the same age and sex.

Standardised death rates

Graph 2.7

The standardised death rate is a method of comparing levels of mortality in different years and countries, while taking account of differences in population structure. The age structure of the population can affect the number of deaths and thereby the crude death rate. To overcome this problem, the common approach is to adjust or standardise the mortality rates to take account of differences between the age structure of the populations.

To derive the standardised rate, age-specific mortality rates are first calculated from the observed data in a year. Then a standard population is selected, and the age-specific rates applied to these, to produce a total number of deaths expected. From this total number, and the total population, an overall age-standardised death rate is calculated.

Prevalence of disability

Table 2.8 & Graph

Data on disability was derived from answers to questions on long-lasting conditions (questions 15 & 16) of the 2006 Census of Population questionnaire. Question 15 asked persons of all ages about the existence of the following long-lasting conditions:

- (a) blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment;
- (b) a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying;
- (c) a learning or intellectual disability;
- (d) a psychological or emotional condition; and
- (e) other, including any chronic illness.

Individuals were classified as having a disability if they ticked "YES" in response to any of the categories in question 15.

Question 16 was answered by any person who answered YES to any of the five categories in question 15. Question 16, a five-part question, asked whether an individual had any difficulty in doing any of the following activities:

- (a) learning, remembering or concentrating;
- (b) dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home;
- (c) going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office;
- (d) working at a job or business or attending school or college; and
- (e) participating in other activities, for example, leisure or using transport.

Multiple disabilities

Graph 2.9

Data on multiple disabilities for 2006 were not available at the time of printing this report. Data are based on answers to questions on long-lasting conditions (questions 14 & 15) of the 2002 Census of Population questionnaire. Question 14, a two-part question, asked persons of all ages about the existence of the following long-lasting conditions:

- (a) blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment;
- (b) a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying.

Question 15, a four-part question, asked whether an individual had a physical, mental or emotional condition lasting six months or more that made it difficult to perform certain activities. The four activity categories were:

- for persons aged 5 years & over:

- (a) learning, remembering or concentrating;
- (b) dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home;

- for persons aged 15 years & over:

- (c) going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office;
- (d) working at a job or business.

Individuals were classified as having a disability if they ticked "YES" in response to any of the categories in questions 14 and 15.

Carers

Tables 2.10 & 2.11

Data on carers was derived from answers to question 21 of the 2006 Census of Population questionnaire. This asked persons aged 15 years & over

"Do you provide regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability?"

Problems due to old age are included. Personal help includes help with basic tasks such as feeding or dressing. Receipt of “Carers Allowance” was not considered payment for the purposes of this question. “Meals on Wheels” staff were not considered carers for the purpose of this question. The following response categories were given:

- Yes, 1-14 hours a week;
- Yes, 15-28 hours a week;
- Yes, 29-42 hours a week;
- Yes, 43 or more hours a week; and
- No.

Carers payments

Table 2.12

Carers payments include Carers Allowance and Carers Benefit. Carers Allowance is a payment for carers on low incomes who live with and look after certain people in need of full-time care and attention. Carers Benefit is a payment made to insured persons who leave the workforce to care for a person(s) in need of full-time care and attention.

3 Accommodation

Usual residence

Data on usual residence was derived from answers to question 7 of the 2006 Census of Population questionnaire. This asked persons where do they usually live. The figures for usual residents in a particular area include persons enumerated in that area who stated that their usual residence was at the place where they were enumerated, together with other persons usually resident in that area who were enumerated elsewhere in the State. Usual residents of an area who were not in the State on census night are not included in the figures.

Private household

Table 3.1

A private household comprises either one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping arrangements – that is, at least one meal a day or sharing a living room or sitting room. In order to be included in the household, a person must be a usual resident at the time of the Census. Therefore, visitors to the household on census night are excluded, while usual residents temporarily absent (for less than 3 months) are included.

Communal establishments

Table 3.1

A non-private household or a communal establishment is a group of persons enumerated in a boarding house, hotel, guest house, hostel, barrack, hospital, nursing home, boarding school, religious institution, welfare institution, prison or ship, etc. A non-private household may include usual residents and/or visitors. However, proprietors and managers of hotels, principals of boarding schools, persons in charge of various other types of institutions and members of staff who, with or without their families, occupy separate living accommodation on the premises are classified as private households.

EU: Living alone

Table 3.2

A private household is either:

- (a) a one-person household, i.e. a person who lives alone in a separate housing unit or who occupies, as a lodger, a separate room (or rooms) of a housing unit but does not join with any of the other occupants of the housing unit to form part of a multi-person household as defined below;
- (b) a multi-person household, i.e. a group of two or more persons who combine to occupy the whole or part of a housing unit and to provide themselves with food and possibly other essentials for living. Members of the group may pool their incomes to a greater or lesser extent.

Nursing homes & hospitals

Tables 3.3 & 3.4

See communal establishments above.

Long-stay units

Table 3.5

A public long stay unit is a publicly funded and managed unit run by the Health Service Executive. This category includes Extended Care Units in District/Community Hospitals, Geriatric Homes and Welfare Homes which are publicly funded and managed.

A voluntary long stay unit is a unit run by a charitable non-profit making organisation in which patients are not maintained for the personal profit of the proprietors. This includes all welfare homes run by religious orders as well as homes run by lay charitable organisations.

A private long-stay unit is run as a private business for the care and maintenance of dependent persons. As the term implies, these are nursing homes established by private individuals or by companies in the private sector, which are run on a profit-making basis.

The data on long-stay units are collected through a survey and have not been adjusted for non-response. The response rates for 2001 to 2004 were approximately 85% and 80% for 2005. The level of non-response may vary across the different types of long-stay units.

4 Economic situation

ILO

Tables 4.1 to 4.5

The International Labour Office (ILO) classification distinguishes the following main subgroups of the population aged 15 & over:

Persons in employment are all persons:

- who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business; and
- all persons who had a job but were not at work because of illness, holidays etc. in the week.

Persons classified as unemployed are persons who, in the week before the survey:

- were without work;
- were available for work within the next two weeks; and
- had taken specific steps, in the preceding four weeks, to find work.

The labour force comprises persons in employment plus persons unemployed.

The inactive population is all other persons in the population who are not part of the labour force.

Employment rate

Tables 4.1, 4.2, 4.4 & 4.5

The employment rate is defined as the number of persons in employment (ILO) in an age group as a percentage of the population or that age group.

The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in Ireland (the Labour Force Survey in the EU) covers persons living in private households. Persons living in collective households (halls of residence, medical care establishments, religious institutions, collective workers' accommodation, hostels, etc.) and persons carrying out obligatory military service are not included.

All data relating to the (ILO) labour force refers to the second quarter (March-May) of the reference year unless otherwise stated.

Unemployment rate

Table 4.2

The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the (ILO) labour force.

ILO participation rate

Graph 4.3

Persons in the (ILO) labour force expressed as a percentage of the population.

NACE economic sector

Table 4.4

The economic sector is classified using the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE).

Employment status

Table 4.4

Employees are classified by their status, either self-employed or employee. The category "assisting relative" has been excluded from this table.

State pensions

Table 4.6

A State Pension (Transition) is a social insurance payment made to you when you reach age 65, while a State Pension (Contributory) is a social insurance payment made to you when you reach age 66. Both pensions are based on your social insurance (PRSI) contributions record.

The pensions are not means-tested, so your personal rate is not affected by other income you may have such as an occupational pension. However, the increase for a Qualified Adult is means tested.

State pension (contributory)

Table 4.6

Formerly known as the old age contributory pension. Persons who will qualify for State pension (contributory):

- are aged 66 or over, and
- satisfy certain social insurance contribution conditions.

Persons can continue to work full-time after age 66 and also collect their State pension (contributory).

If persons are getting the maximum Invalidity Pension, they will automatically transfer to State pension (contributory) when you are aged 66. The amount of pension persons receive will not change.

State pension (transition)

Table 4.6

Formerly known as the retirement pension. Persons who qualify for State Pension (transition):

- are aged 65,
- are retired from insurable employment*, and
- satisfy certain social insurance contribution conditions.

* Persons do not need to give up employment completely.

Persons can be employed part-time and earn less than €38 per week paying PRSI at Class J or earn less than €3,174 per year if they are self-employed.

The retirement condition no longer applies on reaching age 66.

State pension (non-contributory)

Table 4.6

State pension (non-contributory) is a new payment introduced from 29 September 2006. It replaces most existing means-tested payments for people aged 66 and over, such as old age (non-contributory) pension. This pension is a means-tested payment for persons aged 66 or over who do not qualify for the State pension (transition) or the State pension (contributory) based on their social insurance record. To qualify for this pension, you must:

- satisfy the habitual residence condition*,
- live in the State while getting this pension,
- be aged 66 or over,
- have a valid Personal Public Service Number (PPS No.), and
- satisfy a means test.

* Habitual residence is a condition which you must satisfy to qualify for certain social welfare assistance payments and child benefit. This condition took effect from 1 May 2004 and affects all applicants regardless of nationality.

Risk of poverty

Tables 4.7 & 4.8

At-risk-of-poverty rate is the share of persons with an equivalised income below a given percentage (usually 60%) of the national median income. The rate is calculated by ranking persons by equivalised income from smallest to largest and the median or middle value is extracted. Anyone with an equivalised income of less than 60% of the median is considered to be *at-risk-of-poverty at a 60% level*.

The at-risk-of-poverty rate before/after social transfers and pensions (i.e. old-age and survivors' benefits) shows the percentage of persons in the total population having an equivalised disposable income before/after social transfers and pensions that is below the national 'at-risk-of-poverty threshold' which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income.

Equivalence scales: Equivalence scales are used to calculate the *equivalised household size* in a household. Although there are numerous scales, the focus in this report is on the national scale and the modified OECD scale. The national scale attributes a weight of 1 to the first adult, 0.66 to each subsequent adult (aged 14+ living in the household) and 0.33 to each child aged less than 14.

The modified OECD scale attributes a weight of 1 to the first adult, 0.5 to each subsequent adult and 0.3 to each child aged less than 14. The weights for each household are then summed to calculate the *equivalised household size*.

Example:

A household consists of 5 people: 2 adults and 3 children. The modified OECD scale gives a weight of 1 to the first adult and 0.5 to each subsequent adult (aged 14+) living in the household, and 0.3 to each child. Thus, this household's *equivalised household size*, using OECD scale, is $1 + 0.5 + 0.3 + 0.3 + 0.3 = 2.4$. While this household's *equivalised household size*, using the national scale, is $1 + 0.66 + 0.33 + 0.33 + 0.33 = 2.65$.

Equivalised income: The disposable household income is divided by the *equivalised household size* to calculate the *equivalised income* for each individual, which essentially is an approximate measure of how much of the income can be attributed to each member of the household. This *equivalised income* is then applied to each member of the household.

Example:

If a household has a total disposable income of €50,000 and the *equivalised household size* is 2.4 (i.e. the OECD figure), the *equivalised income* for this household is €20,833.33. Using the national *equivalised household size* of 2.65, implies an *equivalised income* for this household of €18,867.92. This income is applied to each member of the household.

The difference between the CSO's (Table 4.7) and the EU's (Table 4.8) figures are due to the fact that there is a large number of persons in Ireland aged 65 & over whose income lies just below the EU income threshold which classifies at risk of poverty. The income thresholds for both the national and the EU calculations are shown in the table below. Tables 4.7 and 4.8 in the report are based on 60% threshold. The national calculation for the 60% threshold is €193 compared to the EU calculation of €215. Therefore, the difference between the at-risk-of-poverty rates between Tables 4.7 and 4.8 is mainly due to the fact that a large number of persons aged 65 & over have incomes above €193 but below €215. In 2005, the median *equivalised income* for persons aged 65 & over was €227. The CSO's calculation of the at risk of poverty rate at the 60% threshold is €193 compared to the EU calculation of €215.

	€		
	Threshold		
	50%	60%	70%
National calculation	161	193	225
EU calculation	179	215	251

11 deprivation indicators and consistent poverty

Table 4.9 & Graph 4.10

The consistent poverty measure considers those persons who are defined as being at risk of poverty (using the national income definition and equivalence scale) and assesses the extent to which this group may be excluded and marginalised from participating in activities which are considered the norm for other people in society. The identification of the marginalised or deprived is achieved on the basis of a set of eleven basic deprivation indicators:

1. Without heating at some stage in the past year due to lack of money;
2. Unable to afford a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight for entertainment;
3. Unable to afford two pairs of strong shoes;
4. Unable to afford a roast once a week;
5. Unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day;
6. Unable to afford new (not second-hand) clothes;
7. Unable to afford a warm waterproof coat;
8. Unable to keep house adequately warm;
9. Unable to afford to replace worn out furniture;
10. Unable to afford to have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month; and
11. Unable to afford buy presents for family or friends at least once a year.

An individual is defined as being in consistent poverty if they are:

- Identified as being at risk of poverty; and
- Living in a household deprived of one or more of the eight basic deprivation items listed above.

Note that it is enforced deprivation that is relevant in this context. For example, a household may not have a roast once a week. The household is classified as deprived of this basic indicator only if the reason they didn't have it was because they could not afford it.

5 Lifestyles

Travel by Irish residents

Table 5.1

Data on travel by Irish residents refers to persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business or other purposes. Stays in prison, military service and hospital or clinics etc. are excluded. Trips taken for the purposes of work, which is distinguished from business trips by where that activity is remunerated, are also excluded.

Domestic tourism is defined as the activities of residents of the Republic of Ireland travelling to and staying in places only within the Republic of Ireland but outside their usual environment.

International tourism is defined as the activities of residents of the Republic of Ireland travelling to and staying in places outside the Republic of Ireland and outside their usual environment.

The average number of trips taken by age group is calculated by dividing the total number of trips taken for the age group by the number of persons in that particular age group.

Driving licences

Table 5.2

Data on driving licences are held in the National Vehicle and Driver File of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The data shown reflect the position at 31 December 2006.

Voter participation

Table 5.3

A module on Voter Registration and Participation was included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from June to July 2002. The voter participation question asked was - *As you may know, for one reason or another, many people did not vote in the general election last May. How about you? Did you vote? Yes; No.*

Persons who answered YES, were then asked - *What were the main reasons why you did not vote in the recent general election?*

1. *Not interested in politics*
2. *Disillusioned with politics*
3. *Did not understand the issues / could not make a choice / too little information*
4. *My vote would not make any difference*
5. *Illness/disability*
6. *Away from home / away working, could not go home / away on holidays*
7. *No time / work commitments / family commitments / leisure commitments*
8. *Not registered to vote / Registered at a different address*
9. *No polling card / lost card*
10. *Lack of transport*
11. *Other*

Crime victimisation rates

Table 5.5

A module on Crime and Victimisation was included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from September to November 2006. This was a repeat of a modules asked in the same period in 2003 and 1998. While the primary purpose of the QNHS is to collect information on employment and unemployment and the production of quarterly labour force estimates, it also includes modules on social topics of interest.

The module contained over fifty questions on crime-related topics, divided into two main sections - household and individual questions:

Household

- security of premises
- burglary
- theft of and from vehicles
- vandalism
- theft of bicycles

Individual

- theft with violence
- theft without violence
- physical assault
- perceptions and opinions in relation to crime, safety and the Gardaí

The module also included questions on the seriousness of crimes (such as cost and injuries) and on whether crimes were reported to the Gardaí. These questions related to the last incident, in cases where the household or person had been a victim of a particular kind of crime more than once in the past year. The survey did not ask about sexual assaults or domestic violence, as these questions are too sensitive and personal for inclusion in a general household survey such as the QNHS. The questions about crimes against individuals and about perceptions and opinions were confined to persons aged 18 or over participating directly in the survey.

Double-counting of incidents was avoided as much as possible. For example, if a person was attacked during a burglary then this incident would have been only recorded as burglary and not also as an assault.

Theft with violence

Table 5.5

Stealing or attempting to steal something from a person by using force or threatening to use violence. This includes incidents such as mugging or attempted mugging.

Theft without violence

Table 5.5

Stealing or attempting to steal something from a person without involving force. Examples of this type of incident are pick pocketing or a jacket being stolen.

Physical assault

Table 5.5

Physical assault of a person excludes attacks of a sexual nature and domestic violence.

Perceptions of crime

Table 5.6

Perceptions of crime in Ireland were asked of individuals (aged 18 & over) as part of the Crime and Victimization module of the QNHS.

Perceptions of safety

Table 5.7 & Graph

Perceptions of safety were asked of individuals (aged 18 & over) as part of the Crime and Victimization module of the QNHS.

Education attainment

Table 5.8

This analysis is based on persons (aged 15 & over) who had ceased their full-time education, i.e. answered YES to question 22 on the Census 2006 form. This table classifies these persons by the highest level of education they have attained (question 23 on the Census 2006 form).

Internet connection

Table 5.9

This analysis is based on households who answered YES to the question – *Does the household have access to the internet?* (Question H11 on the Census 2006 form).

Voluntary work

Tables 5.10 & 5.11

This analysis is based on the persons (aged 15 & over) who answered YES to the question – *In the last four weeks have you done any of the following activities without pay?* (Question 25 on the Census 2006 form).

Appendix 2

Data sources

Domain and sub-domain	Indicator	Data source	
1. Population			
Age distribution	1.1	Ireland: Population by age group, 1926-2006	CSO, Census of Population
	1.2	EU: Population by age group, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006 Eurostat data explorer - Population and social conditions \ Population \ Demography \ National data \ Population \ Population by age and sex on 1 January
Population projections	1.3	Ireland and EU: Projected population by age, 2006 & 2026	CSO, Population projections Eurostat data explorer - Population and social conditions \ Population \ Population projections \ Baseline variant \ Baseline variant - 1 January population by sex and single year of age
Dependency ratios	1.4	Ireland and EU: Projected age dependency ratios, 2006-2026	CSO, Population projections Eurostat data explorer - Population and social conditions \ Population \ Population projections \ Baseline variant \ Baseline variant - 1 January population by sex and single year of age
	1.5	Ireland: Age Dependency ratios by area, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
Persons aged 80 & over	1.6	Ireland: Persons aged 80 & over, 1926-2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
	1.7	EU: Persons aged 80 & over, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006 Eurostat data explorer - Population and social conditions \ Population \ Demography \ National data \ Population \ Population by age and sex on 1 January
Proportion of males to females	1.8	Ireland: Males per 100 females by area and age group, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
	1.9	Ireland and EU: Males per 100 females, 2006	CSO, Population estimates Eurostat data explorer - Population and social conditions \ Population \ Demography \ National data \ Population \ Population by age and sex on 1 January
Marital status	1.10	Ireland: Persons aged 50 & over by marital status, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
2. Health and care			
Life expectancy	2.1	Ireland: Life expectancy at birth and at age 65, 1925–2003	CSO, Vital Statistics, Irish Life Tables No 14, 2001-2003
	2.2	EU: Life expectancy at birth and at age 65, 2005	Eurostat data explorer – Population and social conditions \ Population \ Demography \ National data \ Mortality \ Life expectancy by sex and age
Hospital activity	2.3	Ireland: Hospital activity of persons aged 65 & over, 1995 & 2005	Hospital In-Patient Enquiry, Department of Health and Children.
Health status	2.4	Ireland: Perceived health status by age group, 2005	CSO, EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC)
Smoking	2.5	Ireland: Smokers and non-smokers by age group, 2005	CSO, EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC)
Death rates	2.6	Ireland: Age specific death rates, 1980-2005	CSO, Vital Statistics,
	2.7	Ireland and EU: Standardised death rates of persons aged 65 & over by main cause of death, 1980-2004	CSO, Vital Statistics; and Department of Health and Children
Disability	2.8	Ireland: Prevalence of disability, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
	2.9	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over by number of disability types, 2002	CSO, Census of Population 2002

Domain and sub-domain	Indicator	Data source	
Carers	2.10	Ireland: Carers by age group, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
	2.11	Ireland: Carers aged 65 & over by unpaid help provided, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
	2.12	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over in receipt of carers payments, 1996-2005	Department of Social and Family Affairs
3. Accommodation			
Living arrangements	3.1	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over by living arrangements, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
	3.2	EU: Persons aged 65 & over living alone, 2001	Eurostat data explorer - Population and social conditions \ Population \ Census \ National level census 2001 round \ Households \ Population in private household by sex, age group, indicator of citizenship and household size
Nursing homes and hospitals	3.3	Ireland: Persons resident in nursing homes and hospitals, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
	3.4	EU: Persons resident in nursing homes and hospitals, 2001	Eurostat data explorer - Population and social conditions \ Population \ Census \ National level census 2001 round \ Households \ Population by sex, age, type of household and household status
Long-stay units	3.5	Ireland: Patients aged 65 & over by type of long-stay unit, 2001-2005	Department of Health and Children, Annual Survey of Long Stay Units
4. Economic situation			
Employment rates	4.1	Ireland and EU: Employment rates (ILO) of persons aged 65 & over by sex, 1997-2006	Eurostat data explorer - Population and social conditions \ Labour market \ Employment and Unemployment (Labour Force Survey) \ LFS series –detailed quarterly results (from 1998) \ Employment rates – LFS series \ Employment rates by sex, age groups and nationality (%)
	4.2	Ireland: ILO status of persons aged 60 & over, 2006	CSO, Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), Quarter 2 2006
	4.3	Ireland: ILO participation rates for persons aged 65 & over, 1998-2006	CSO, Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), Quarter 2 2006
	4.4	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over in employment (ILO) by economic sector and employment status, 2006	CSO, Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), Quarter 2 2006
	4.5	EU: Employment rates (ILO) of persons aged 65 & over, 2006	Eurostat data explorer - Population and social conditions \ Labour market \ Employment and Unemployment (Labour Force Survey) \ LFS series –detailed quarterly results (from 1998) \ Employment rates – LFS series \ Employment rates by sex, age groups and nationality (%)
State pensions	4.6	Ireland: Recipients of State pensions by pension type, 1996-2005	Department of Social and Family Affairs
At risk of poverty	4.7	Ireland: At risk of poverty rate by age group and sex, 2005	CSO, EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC)
	4.8	EU: At risk of poverty rate of persons aged 65 & over, 2005	Eurostat data explorer - Population and social conditions \ Living conditions and welfare \ Income and living conditions \ Main indicators \ Laeken indicators \ At risk of poverty rate by gender and various age groups, and, At risk of poverty rate before cash social transfers by gender and selected age groups
Deprivation	4.9	Persons classified by number of deprivation indicators, experienced, 2005	CSO, EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC)
Consistent poverty	4.10	Ireland: Persons in consistent poverty, 2004 & 2005	CSO, EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC)

Domain and sub-domain	Indicator		Data source
5. Lifestyles			
Travel	5.1	Ireland: Travel by Irish residents aged 55 & over, 2002-2006	CSO, Household Travel Survey
	5.2	Ireland: Persons aged 60 & over holding a full driver's licence, 2004-2006	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
Voter participation	5.3	Ireland: Voter participation in the general election by age group, May 2002	CSO, QNHS Voter Registration and Participation Module, Quarter 3 2002
	5.4	Ireland: Reasons for not voting in the general election, May 2002	CSO, QNHS Voter Registration and Participation Module, Quarter 3 2002
Crime and victimisation	5.5	Ireland: Crime victimisation rates, 2006	CSO, QNHS Crime and Victimisation Module, Quarter 4 2006
	5.6	Ireland: Perceptions of crime in Ireland, 2006	CSO, QNHS Crime and Victimisation Module, Quarter 4 2006
	5.7	Ireland: Perceptions of safety of persons, 2006	CSO, QNHS Crime and Victimisation Module, Quarter 4 2006
Education attainment	5.8	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over by level of educational attainment, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
Internet connection	5.9	Ireland: Internet connection of households, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
Voluntary work	5.10	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over involved in voluntary work, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006
	5.11	Ireland: Persons aged 65 & over by type of voluntary work, 2006	CSO, Census of Population 2006