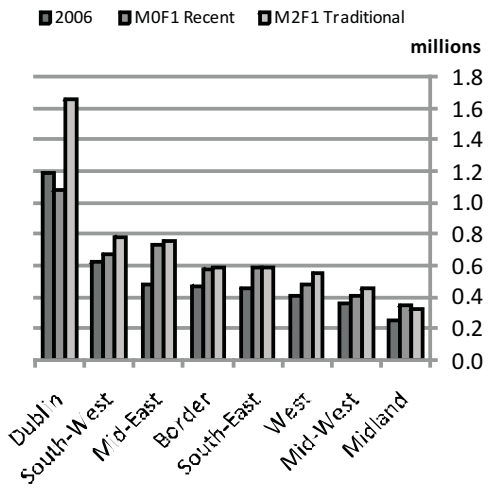
Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

4 December 2008

Figure 1 Projected population in 2026 under M0F1 Recent and M2F1 Traditional scenarios



Regional Population Projections
2011-2026

Wide variation in regional population growth rates if recent patterns of internal migration continue

Regional population growth rates will vary from a low of 0.7 per cent per annum for Dublin to a high of 2.8 per cent for the Mid-East if the internal migration patterns observed in recent periods continue over the next twenty years. The Midland (2.3%) and South-East (1.8%) will also experience strong population growth compared with a projected annual average increase in population of 1.5 per cent at national level in the period to 2026.

Alternatively, a return to a more traditional pattern of internal migration, such as that experienced up to the mid-1990s, would result in less variation in regional growth rates. Under this scenario projected annual population growth rates at regional level would vary from a low of 1.1 per cent for the Mid-West and South-West to a high of 2.3 per cent for the Mid-East.

The main findings of the regional population projections are:

- The population of the Mid-East is set to increase substantially under all scenarios. It will grow by 352,000 (73.3%) under M2F1 Recent while under M0F1 Traditional it will increase by 189,000 (39.2%).
- Dublin's population is projected to decline by just over 100,000 under the M0F1 Recent scenario – the only region projected to show a population decline in the period to 2026.
- Dublin, the Mid-West and the South-West would lose population share under the M2F1 Recent scenario while under the M2F1 Traditional variant Dublin and the Mid-East would be the only regions to gain population share.
- Under M2F1 Traditional all regions apart from Dublin and the Mid-East will lose population to internal migration. Under the same scenario the natural increase in population will account for 72.8 per cent of the overall population increase in the Midland compared with 52.5 per cent in the West.

The present release contains projections for the eight Regional Authority areas for 2011-2026. The assumptions used in relation to regional fertility and mortality trends and international migration to and from each region are consistent with those used at national level and published in April 2008. In addition two internal migration scenarios are used, namely, "Recent" and "Traditional" (see page 10).

The national projections distinguished six scenarios i.e. M1F1, M1F2, M2F1, M2F2, M0F1 and M0F2. Of these, only M2F1 and M0F1 are considered for the regional projections. This results in four variants i.e. M2F1 Recent, M2F1 Traditional, M0F1 Recent, M0F1 Traditional. The analysis in the following pages concentrates mainly on the M2F1 Traditional variant which combines continuing though declining international migration with constant fertility and a return to the traditional pattern of internal migration by 2016.

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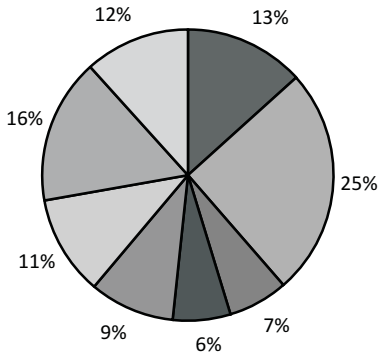
Table 1 Actual and projected population of Regional Authority[1] areas, 2006 and 2026 (M2F1 Traditional)

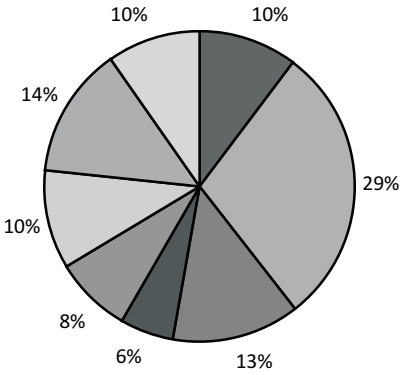
Regional Authority area	Population 2006	Natural increase	Internal migration	External migration	Total increase	Population 2026	Average annual increase
			Thousands				%
Border	470	81	-16	57	122	592	1.2
GDA	*1,662*	*405*	*69*	*276*	*751*	*2,413*	*1.9*
Dublin	1,183	258	0	217	476	1,659	1.7
Mid-East	479	147	69	59	275	754	2.3
Midland	252	50	-15	33	69	321	1.2
Mid-West	359	65	-6	32	92	450	1.1
South-East	461	79	-8	59	130	591	1.3
South-West	619	108	-21	70	157	776	1.1
West	411	74	-4	72	142	552	1.5
State	4,233	863	0	600	1,463	5,696	1.5

Figure 2 Population shares of Regional Authority areas, actual 1961 and projected 2026 (M2F1 Traditional)

1961 - Population 2,818,341



2026 - Population 5,696,000



Regional population shares

In 1961, when the population of the State was at its lowest level (2.8 million), Dublin accounted for just over a quarter of the total population while the share of the Mid-East region was 6.7 per cent. By 2006 Dublin had increased its share to 28 per cent while the Mid-East represented 11.2 per cent of the total. All other regions lost population share over the same 45-year period.

Under the M2F1 Traditional projection scenario, the Mid-East is projected to further increase its population share to 13.2 per cent by 2026 (*Table 7*). Dublin's share of the population, which remained flat at about 29 per cent during the 1980s and 1990s and has fallen slightly in more recent periods to 28 per cent, will increase marginally to 29.1 per cent by the end of the projection period. The population share of all other regions will decline over the same period apart from the West which will remain steady.

Births

The number of births in a particular period is a function of the number of women of child bearing age (15-49 years) and the fertility levels of these women. Given that over 90 per cent of births are to women aged 20-39 years, the focus will be on this age group.

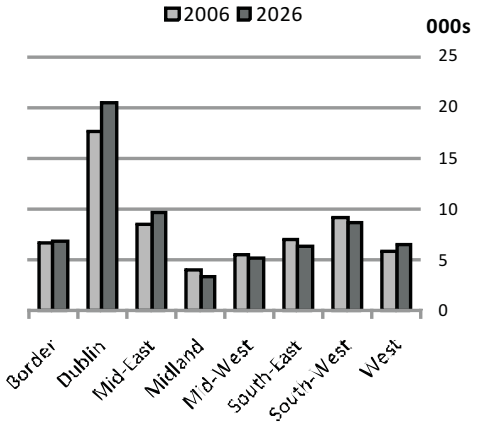
Under the M2F1 Traditional scenario the annual number of births at national level is projected to increase from its 2006 level of 64,000 to reach 67,000 by 2026, an increase of 4.4 per cent. Given that this scenario assumes that the total fertility rate will remain steady at 1.9 from 2006 to 2026 it might be expected that the projected fall of 9,000 in the number of women aged 20-39 during this period would lead to a decline in the total number of births. However, the projected increase in the number of females aged in their 30s (amongst whom the age-specific fertility rates are higher), will result in a higher number of births.

Dublin (+16.5%) and the Mid-East (+14.3%) will see a significant increase in births, and will account for 44 per cent of all births in 2026 – up from 39 per cent in 2006. Births will also increase significantly in the West (+13.2%) while the projected increase in the Border region will be a more modest 2.7 per cent. The remaining regions will experience a reduction in births in the period to 2026.

Table 2 Females aged 20-39 and total births, 1986, 2006 and 2026 (M2F1 Traditional)

Regional Authority area	Females aged 20-39			Births		
	1986	2006	2026	1986	2006	2026
	Thousands					
Border	53	68	66	7	7	7
GDA	*215*	*302*	*329*	23	*26*	*30*
Dublin	168	222	245	17	18	21
Mid-East	*47*	80	84	6	8	10
Midland	27	38	28	4	4	3
Mid-West	42	54	46	5	6	5
South-East	53	68	58	7	7	6
South-West	77	96	85	9	9	9
West	44	61	65	6	6	7
State	511	686	677	62	64	67

Figure 3 Actual and projected births (M2F1 Traditional)



Deaths

The mortality assumptions at national level envisage a decrease in mortality rates consistent with increases in life expectancy at birth of 7.6 years for males and 4.8 years for females between 2006 and 2026. Because of similarities in regional mortality rates, the national assumptions have been applied uniformly at regional level. Differential age structural effects will, therefore, largely dictate changes in the number of deaths projected over the 2006 to 2026 period.

Given that in 2006 nearly four out of five deaths were to persons aged 65 years and over, any changes in the numbers in this age group would be expected to impact on the projected number of deaths. However, in spite of pronounced increases in this age group in all regions (+97% at State level), the increase in deaths is projected to be much more moderate (+15%). This is due to the moderating effect of assumed decreases in mortality rates.

The Mid-East and Dublin will see the largest percentage increases in deaths, at 41 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively. The Mid-West (+2%) and Border (+6%) will have the smallest increases.

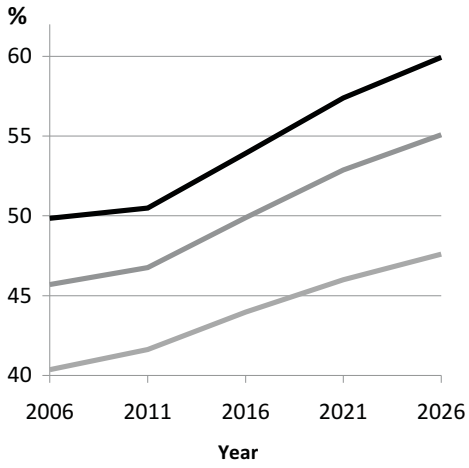
Table 3 Old population and total deaths, 1986, 2006 and 2026 (M2F1 Traditional)

Regional Authority area	Persons aged 65+			Deaths		
	1986	2006	2026	1986	2006	2026
	Thousands					
Border	53	57	105	4	4	4
GDA	*117*	160	332	10	9	12
Dublin	91	122	231	8	7	8
Mid-East	*26*	38	101	2	2	3
Midland	23	28	56	2	1	2
Mid-West	35	41	79	3	3	3
South-East	42	54	106	4	3	4
South-West	64	72	138	6	4	5
West	49	51	94	4	3	3
State	384	462	909	34	27	32

Age structure

Between 2006 and 2026 the number of young persons (i.e. those aged 0-14 years) is projected to increase by 28.8 per cent in the State as a whole. However, the projected increases will vary considerably across the regions. Dublin (39%) and the Mid-East (53%) will show the largest increases while the Border and the Midland will show increases of only 14 and 15 per cent, respectively.

Figure 4 Projected total dependency ratios, 2006 to 2026 (M2F1 Traditional)



The Mid-East will see an increase of over one-third in the numbers of people aged 15 to 24 years. Dublin will see a 7.8 per cent increase in this age group while the Mid-West and South-East will experience smaller gains (0.8% and 1.4%, respectively). All other regions will experience decreases in the population in this age group.

Major increases are projected in all regions between 2006 and 2026 for those aged 25 to 64, reflecting earlier birth cohorts joining the population of working age. Projected gains from external migration will also exert a strong influence on this age group.

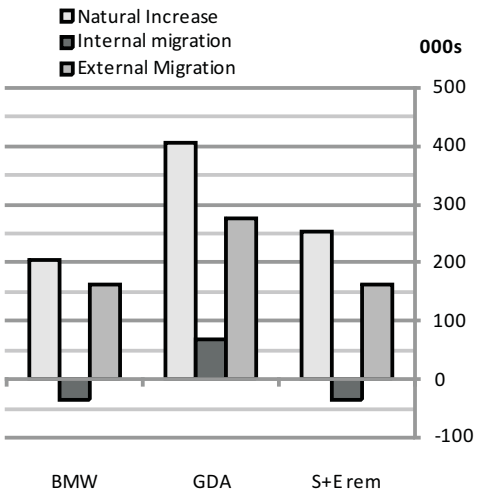
The number of old persons (65 years and over) will almost double in every region over the life-time of the projections, with the most marked increases likely to occur in the Mid-East (+164%) and Midland (+102%) regions. The very old population (those aged 80 years and over) is projected to more than double by 2026, with the largest increase in the Mid-East (+170%).

All regions are expected to see rises in the old dependency ratio (those aged 65 years and over as a percentage of those aged 15-64) during the projection period. By contrast, the young dependency ratio (those aged 0-14 as a percentage of those aged 15-64) is projected to fluctuate, with most regions seeing increases in the period 2006-2021 followed by subsequent declines. This reduction in the young dependency ratio will have a moderating effect on the increasing total dependency ratio. Movements in both ratios will be strongly affected by the denominator term (i.e. those aged 15-64).

The Dublin region (47.6%) will have the lowest total dependency ratio in 2026 under the M2F1 Traditional scenario, while the Midland region will have the highest, at 59.9 per cent.

NUTS2 level

Figure 5 Components of change for NUTS2 regions, 2006-2026 (M2F1 Traditional)



The State is divided into two NUTS2 regions – the Border, Midland and West (BMW) and the South and East (S+E). Because of its size, the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) – comprising Dublin and the Mid-East – is separately distinguished within the South and East region. The remaining part of the South and East is termed S+E rem.

Under the M2F1 Traditional scenario the population of the BMW region is projected to grow on average by 1.3 per cent per annum between 2006 and 2026, while the corresponding rate for the S+E region is 1.6 per cent per annum (*Table 4*). Within the South and East region the GDA will provide the main growth stimulus with its population projected to increase at an average annual rate of 1.9 per cent compared with 1.2 per cent for the remainder of the region – lower than that for the BMW.

The projected increase of 333,000 in the population of the BMW region will be dominated by natural increase (205,000) with net inward migration from abroad contributing 162,000. However, these two flows will be partially offset by a net outward flow of 35,000 persons to the South and East region. Natural increase will also be the largest component of population growth in the South and East region between 2006 and 2026 and will account for 657,000 (58%) of the projected 1,130,000 increase. Almost 62 per cent of the natural increase will arise in the GDA.

Figure 6 Projected population under low (M0F1 Recent) and high (M2F1 Traditional) scenario.

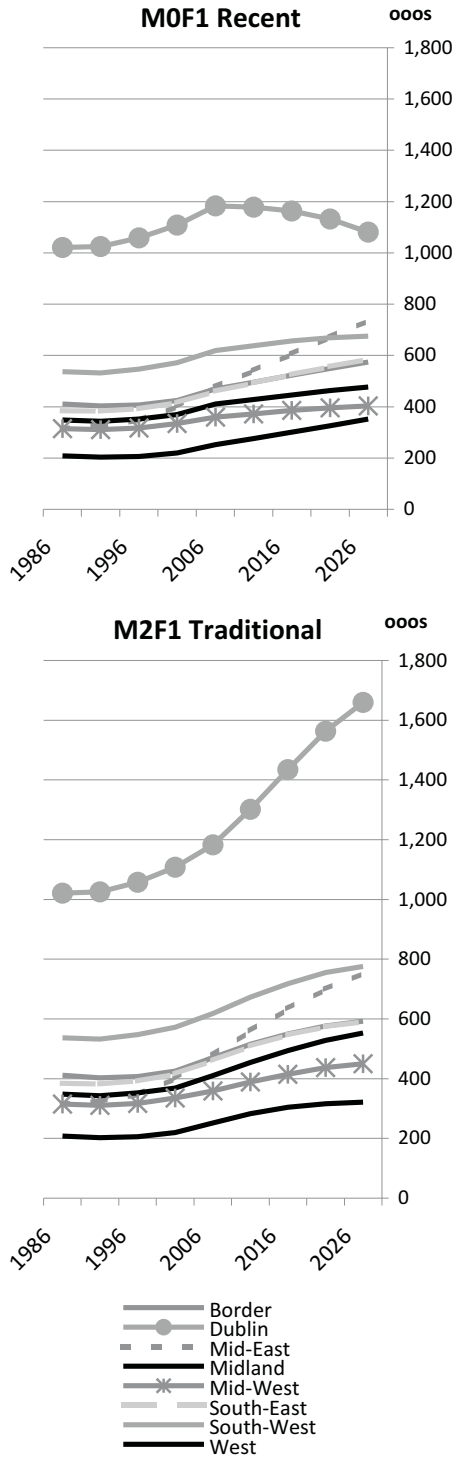


Table 4 Actual and projected population of NUTS2 regions, 2006 and 2026 (M2F1 Traditional)

NUTS2 region	Population 2006	Natural increase	Internal migration	External migration	Population 2026	Total increase	Average annual increase
			Thousands				%
BMW	1,133	205	-35	162	1,465	333	1.3
S+E	3,100	657	35	438	4,231	1,130	1.6
GDA	1,662	405	69	276	2,413	751	1.9
S+E rem	1,439	252	-34	162	1,818	379	1.2
Total	4,233	863	0	600	5,696	1,463	1.5

Different scenarios

All eight regions are projected to show population increases between 2006 and 2026 under the Traditional internal migration scenarios (*Table 7*). However, under the Recent scenario, a different picture emerges, with Dublin projected to experience a drop in population under M0 due to internal migration movements.

M2

Focusing on the M2 international migration assumption, average annual population growth rates will vary widely across the regions depending on the internal migration assumption chosen. Growth will range from 0.7 per cent in Dublin to 2.8 per cent in the Mid-East under the Recent scenario, and from 1.1 in the South-West to 2.3 in the Mid-East under the Traditional model.

The Dublin region will be the one whose population growth rate will be most affected by the differing internal migration assumptions. In the period to 2026 its population is projected to grow by 181,000 under the Recent model or by 476,000 under the Traditional scenario. The variation will arise directly because of the additional internal migration flows and indirectly because of the gains in the natural increase which will arise from these additional flows.

The Mid-East region will show the highest growth rates in population regardless of the scenarios used, ranging from 2.3 per cent under the Traditional scenario to 2.8 per cent under the Recent scenario.

Because the projected population growth rates will vary depending on which internal migration scenario is selected, the resultant population shares in 2026 will differ from those twenty years earlier, with the widest disparity again in the Dublin region. Under the Recent internal migration scenario, Dublin, the Mid-West and the South-West will lose population share compared with 2006, with Dublin's share decreasing from 28.0 per cent to 24.0 per cent. This decrease is almost directly offset by a corresponding increase in the Mid-East which would see a marked gain over the same period to 14.6 per cent – up from 11.3 per cent in 2006. The Traditional scenario presents a contrasting picture, with Dublin and the Mid-East the only regions to gain share. The West would remain unchanged compared with 2006 while all the other regions would lose population share.

MO

The M0 assumption considers net international migration of zero. As a result relevant growth rates under M0 will be less than the corresponding rates under M2 across all the regions. Under M0 the population of Dublin in 2026 is projected to be 1.08 million under the Recent scenario and 1.34 million under the Traditional model – a difference of over a quarter of a million. The projected population of the Mid-East will vary from 667,000 under the Traditional variant to 736,000 under the Recent one.

Table 5 Projected population and dependency ratios for Regional Authority areas, 2006 - 2026 (M2F1 Traditional)

		Population						Dependency ratios		
		0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Total	Young	Old	Total
		Thousands						Percentage		
Border										
	2006	102	69	137	105	57	470	32.7	18.2	50.9
	2011	109	67	156	119	64	515	31.8	18.8	50.6
	2016	114	65	164	130	77	550	31.8	21.3	53.1
	2021	117	66	162	141	90	576	31.8	24.4	56.1
	2026	116	67	151	153	105	592	31.1	28.2	59.3
GDA										
	2006	*327*	*259*	*572*	*344*	*160*	*1,662*	*27.8*	*13.6*	*41.5*
	2011	*373*	*234*	*673*	*395*	*188*	*1,863*	*28.7*	*14.5*	*43.1*
	2016	*422*	*243*	*726*	*447*	*230*	*2,068*	*29.8*	*16.3*	*46.1*
	2021	*461*	*269*	*738*	*518*	*278*	*2,263*	*30.2*	*18.2*	*48.4*
	2026	*470*	*297*	*704*	*609*	*332*	*2,413*	*29.2*	*20.6*	*49.8*
Of which: Dublin										
	2006	218	190	410	244	122	1,183	25.9	14.5	40.4
	2011	243	167	478	274	140	1,302	26.5	15.2	41.6
	2016	272	174	517	305	166	1,434	27.3	16.7	44
	2021	296	190	532	349	196	1,563	27.7	18.3	46
	2026	304	205	508	411	231	1,659	27.1	20.6	47.6
Mid-East										
	2006	109	69	162	100	38	479	32.8	11.5	44.4
	2011	130	67	195	121	49	561	34	12.8	46.7
	2016	150	69	208	143	64	634	35.8	15.2	51
	2021	164	79	206	169	81	700	36.2	17.8	54
	2026	166	92	196	198	101	754	34.2	20.7	54.9
Midland										
	2006	56	37	77	55	28	252	33.4	16.4	49.9
	2011	63	35	90	64	32	283	33.5	17	50.5
	2016	68	32	93	72	39	304	34.3	19.6	53.9
	2021	69	33	88	80	47	316	34.2	23.2	57.4
	2026	64	35	78	88	56	321	32.1	27.8	59.9
Mid-West										
	2006	74	54	108	82	41	359	30.3	16.9	47.2
	2011	80	50	119	91	48	389	30.8	18.3	49
	2016	86	50	124	98	57	415	31.7	21.1	52.8
	2021	90	51	122	105	68	437	32.3	24.3	56.6
	2026	88	55	116	113	79	450	31	27.9	58.9
South-East										
	2006	98	66	138	104	54	461	31.9	17.4	49.3
	2011	107	64	156	119	63	509	31.7	18.6	50.3
	2016	115	61	163	131	76	546	32.2	21.3	53.5
	2021	118	63	159	144	90	574	32.1	24.6	56.6
	2026	114	67	146	158	106	591	30.6	28.6	59.2
South-West										
	2006	124	92	191	140	72	619	29.4	17.1	46.6
	2011	135	83	213	158	84	672	29.7	18.4	48.1
	2016	146	81	220	172	100	718	30.9	21.1	52
	2021	154	83	212	188	118	756	31.7	24.3	56.1
	2026	151	88	193	207	138	776	30.9	28.3	59.2
West										
	2006	83	62	121	93	51	411	30.1	18.3	48.4
	2011	90	58	144	105	57	454	29.2	18.5	47.7
	2016	100	55	156	115	68	494	30.5	20.7	51.1
	2021	108	58	157	126	80	529	31.6	23.4	55.1
	2026	111	61	146	141	94	552	31.9	26.9	58.9
State										
	2006	865	638	1,343	924	462	4,233	29.8	15.9	45.7
	2011	957	590	1,552	1,050	536	4,686	30	16.8	46.8
	2016	1,050	587	1,647	1,165	646	5,095	30.9	19	49.9
	2021	1,116	624	1,639	1,303	770	5,451	31.3	21.6	52.9
	2026	1,114	669	1,534	1,470	909	5,696	30.3	24.7	55.1

Table 6 Actual and projected population of Regional Authority areas, 1961-2026

Year	Border	*GDA*	Dublin	Mid-East	Midland	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	West	State
					Thousands					
Actual										
1961	372	*906*	718	188	180	261	320	447	332	2,818
1966	360	*989*	795	194	178	265	320	452	320	2,884
1971	361	*1,062*	852	210	179	270	329	466	312	2,978
1979	395	*1,256*	984	272	198	301	367	516	336	3,368
1981	402	*1,290*	1,003	287	202	308	375	525	341	3,443
1986	411	*1,336*	1,021	315	208	315	385	537	348	3,541
1991	403	*1,351*	1,025	325	203	311	383	532	343	3,526
1996	407	*1,406*	1,058	347	206	317	392	547	352	3,626
2001	425	*1,509*	1,108	401	220	335	416	572	369	3,847
2006	470	*1,662*	1,183	479	252	359	461	619	411	4,233
Projected										
M2F1 Recent										
2011	520	*1,845*	1,279	566	289	389	514	673	455	4,685
2016	568	*2,001*	1,345	656	326	416	565	720	497	5,093
2021	613	*2,126*	1,380	746	362	439	613	760	536	5,449
2026	651	*2,195*	1,365	830	396	455	653	782	564	5,696
M2F1 Traditional										
2011	515	*1,863*	1,302	561	283	389	509	672	454	4,686
2016	550	*2,068*	1,434	634	304	415	546	718	494	5,095
2021	576	*2,263*	1,563	700	316	437	574	756	529	5,451
2026	592	*2,413*	1,659	754	321	450	591	776	552	5,696
M0F1 Recent										
2011	496	*1,718*	1,178	540	276	373	493	638	428	4,421
2016	523	*1,769*	1,164	606	301	386	525	656	446	4,606
2021	550	*1,803*	1,132	671	326	396	556	669	463	4,764
2026	575	*1,816*	1,080	736	351	403	586	675	477	4,884
M0F1 Traditional										
2011	492	*1,735*	1,199	535	270	372	488	638	427	4,422
2016	507	*1,831*	1,246	585	281	385	509	654	443	4,609
2021	517	*1,927*	1,298	629	285	394	522	665	456	4,766
2026	523	*2,010*	1,343	667	285	400	531	670	466	4,884

Table 7 Actual and projected population of Regional Authority areas, 2006 and 2026

Regional Authority Area	Population 2006	Population Share 2006	Births	Deaths	Internal migration	External Migration	Population 2026	Population Share 2026	Total Increase	Average annual increase
					Thousands					
		%						%		%
M2F1 Recent										
Border	470	11.1	157	69	35	57	651	11.4	181	1.6
GDA	*1,662*	*39.3*	*569*	*198*	*-114*	*276*	*2,195*	*38.5*	*533*	*1.4*
Dublin	1,183	28	348	143	-242	217	1,365	24	181	0.7
Mid-East	479	11.3	221	56	128	59	830	14.6	352	2.8
Midland	252	6	99	34	45	33	396	6.9	144	2.3
Mid-West	359	8.5	115	50	-2	32	455	8	96	1.2
South-East	461	10.9	156	66	43	59	653	11.5	192	1.8
South-West	619	14.6	194	87	-13	70	782	13.7	164	1.2
West	411	9.7	136	61	6	72	564	9.9	153	1.6
State	4,233	100	1,427	564	0	600	5,696	100	1,463	1.5
M2F1 Traditional										
Border	470	11.1	149	68	-16	57	592	10.4	122	1.2
GDA	*1,662*	*39.3*	*606*	*200*	*69*	*276*	*2,413*	*42.4*	*751*	*1.9*
Dublin	1,183	28	403	146	0	217	1,659	29.1	476	1.7
Mid-East	479	11.3	202	55	69	59	754	13.2	275	2.3
Midland	252	6	84	34	-15	33	321	5.6	69	1.2
Mid-West	359	8.5	115	49	-6	32	450	7.9	92	1.1
South-East	461	10.9	144	65	-8	59	591	10.4	130	1.3
South-West	619	14.6	195	87	-21	70	776	13.6	157	1.1
West	411	9.7	135	61	-4	72	552	9.7	142	1.5
State	4,233	100	1,427	564	0	600	5,696	100	1,463	1.5
M0F1 Recent										
Border	470	11.1	136	67	32	4	575	11.8	105	1
GDA	*1,662*	*39.3*	*467*	*193*	*-104*	*-15*	*1,816*	*37.2*	*155*	*0.4*
Dublin	1,183	28	274	139	-221	-17	1,080	22.1	-103	-0.5
Mid-East	479	11.3	193	54	117	2	736	15.1	258	2.2
Midland	252	6	88	34	41	4	351	7.2	100	1.7
Mid-West	359	8.5	101	49	-2	-5	403	8.3	45	0.6
South-East	461	10.9	138	65	39	12	586	12	125	1.2
South-West	619	14.6	163	86	-12	-9	675	13.8	56	0.4
West	411	9.7	110	60	6	10	477	9.8	66	0.7
State	4,233	100	1,204	554	0	0	4,884	100	651	0.7
M0F1 Traditional										
Border	470	11.1	129	67	-13	4	523	10.7	53	0.5
GDA	1,662	39.3	500	195	59	-15	2,010	41.2	348	1
Dublin	1,183	28	323	142	-5	-17	1,343	27.5	160	0.6
Mid-East	479	11.3	176	53	64	2	667	13.7	189	1.7
Midland	252	6	75	33	-12	4	285	5.8	33	0.6
Mid-West	359	8.5	100	49	-6	-5	400	8.2	41	0.5
South-East	461	10.9	128	65	-6	12	531	10.9	70	0.7
South-West	619	14.6	164	86	-18	-9	670	13.7	51	0.4
West	411	9.7	110	60	-4	10	466	9.6	56	0.6
State	4,233	100	1,204	554	0	0	4,884	100	651	0.7

Assumptions

Expert Group

The Expert Group which advised the CSO on the assumptions to be used in the population and labour force projections at national level was retained for the regional projections exercise. The membership is given in Appendix 1 of the national report published in April 2008.

Fertility

The national population projections published in April 2008[2] distinguished two fertility assumptions as follows:

- **F1**: TFR (Total Fertility Rate) to remain at its 2006 level of 1.9 for the lifetime of the projections;
- **F2**: TFR to decrease to 1.65 by 2016 and remain constant thereafter.

Only F1 is considered in the present release. The age specific fertility rates for each region in 2006 were used as the starting point in the regional projections consistent with the approach used in the national projections. Despite the assumption of constant TFR at national level under F1 it was decided that the projection model should attempt to reflect the past differential rate of change in regional fertility into the future rather than maintaining the regional differentials observed in 2006 unchanged throughout the projection period.

The year 1994, when the TFR was at it lowest level, was taken as the starting point for the comparisons over time (see Table A1 below). The average annual rate of change in the regional TFRs between 1994 and 2006 varied from a low of -0.1 per cent for the Border to a high of 0.7 per cent for the Mid-East. Due to the uncertainty surrounding future variations in regional fertility rates it was decided to apply the average differential for the period 1994 to 2006 to the assumed TFR of 1.90 for 2026 under the F1 scenario. The regional TFRs for the years 2007 to 2025 inclusive were then estimated by interpolating between the 2006 and 2026 values. The resulting figures for the period 2007-2026 were re-calibrated in order to minimise the discrepancy between the number of births projected across all regions and the previously published totals at national level.

Table A1 Actual and assumed TFRs (under M2F1 Traditional) for Regional Authority Areas, 1994-2026

Year	Border	Dublin	Mid-East	Midland	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	West	State
1994	1.96	1.70	1.95	2.04	2.00	1.89	1.88	1.92	1.85
2006	1.99	1.67	2.17	2.17	2.07	2.05	1.93	1.85	1.90
2026	1.99	1.67	2.17	2.17	2.08	2.05	1.93	1.85	1.90

Mortality

Regional life tables for 2006 were produced and the results assessed by the Expert Group. It was felt that the relatively small number of deaths in some regions gave rise to an unacceptably high margin of error in the corresponding regional life tables. Accordingly it was decided to use the national mortality assumption across the regions.

At national level the assumptions are that mortality rates will decrease consistent with gains in life expectancy at birth from:

- 76.7 years in 2006 to 84.3 years in 2026 for males;
- 81.5 years in 2006 to 86.3 years in 2026 for females.

International migration

Two migration assumptions, **M1** and **M2**, were used in compiling the population projections at national level. Annual net inward migration in the period to 2041 was assumed to be 38,600 under M1 and 21,400 under M2.

[2] *Population and Labour Force Projections, 2011-2026, Prn A8/0473, Stationery Office,Dublin, April 2008.*

A zero net migration scenario **M0** was also introduced to allow a full assessment of the impact of migration to be made. Only M2 and M0 are considered in the present release.

The gross flow components of these two assumptions, (which are reproduced in Table A2), were regionally sub-divided using Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) data. The regional breakdowns were based on average percentage flows to and from each Regional Authority area during the period 2002-2006. The factors used are given in Table A3. These gross flows were broken down by single year of age and sex on the same basis as for the total flows into and out of the State (i.e. no region-specific age distribution has been applied).

Table A2 Assumed average annual migration flows, 2006-2026

Scenario	2006-2011	2011-2016	2016-2021	2021-2026
M2				
Immigration	70	55	45	30
Emigration	20	20	20	20
Net migration	50	35	25	10
M0				
Immigration	20	20	20	20
Emigration	20	20	20	20
Net migration	0	0	0	0

Table A3 Percentage distribution of gross migration flows by Regional Authority area

	Border	Dublin	Mid-East	Midland	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	West
				Percentage				
Immigration	8.8	39.1	9.5	5.0	6.3	7.8	13.2	10.4
Emigration	7.9	43.4	8.9	4.0	7.6	4.8	15.4	8.0

Source: QNHS, 2002-2006

Internal migration

By examining a person's usual residence at the time of a census and one year previously it is possible to determine inter-regional migration patterns. An **analysis of the one-year inflow figures from the 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996** censuses for internal migration between regions reveals a fairly stable picture in terms of the magnitudes of the inward, outward and net migration flows. The Dublin and Mid-East region had positive net migration flows while flows in all other regions were negative.

However the 2002 and 2006 Censuses revealed a substantially different pattern of internal migration between regions, and in particular showed a negative net migration flow for the Dublin region. In the year to April 1996 Dublin experienced positive net inward migration of 2,100 persons from the other seven regions. The corresponding 2002 figure was a net outward migration of 12,600 persons to these seven regions. The 2006 pattern was similar to that of 2002, albeit on a more moderate scale, with a net outward migration of 10,200 from Dublin to the other regions.

There was no hard evidence available to the expert group as to whether the 2002 and 2006 patterns were likely to persist into the future or whether there would be a return to the long-term traditional pattern observed between 1981 and 1996. Given the lack of stability in internal migration movements over the period 1996 to 2006 the expert group opted for the following two internal migration scenarios:

- **Recent:** The pattern of inter-regional flows observed in the year to April 2006 is applied up to 2026.
- **Traditional:** The 1996 pattern of inter-regional flows is applied in 2016 and kept constant thereafter, with the difference between the 2006 and 1996 patterns apportioned over the years between 2006 and 2016.

In each scenario the volume of inter-regional flows is adjusted in line with changes in the overall population.

Table A4 Census internal migration flows

Migration	Border	Dublin	Mid-East	Midland	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	West	State
1996									
Inwards	3,563	14,903	8,549	2,788	4,997	4,695	4,575	4,762	48,832
Outwards	4,547	12,848	6,590	3,814	5,252	5,388	5,376	5,017	48,832
Net flow	-984	2,055	1,959	-1,026	-255	-693	-801	-255	0
2006									
Inwards	7,185	17,212	17,746	6,789	5,921	8,419	6,033	6,877	76,182
Outwards	5,699	27,442	12,332	4,891	6,014	6,617	6,584	6,603	76,182
Net flow	1,486	-10,230	5,414	1,898	-93	1,802	-551	274	0

National Spatial Strategy

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is responsible for implementation of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) which is aimed at promoting more balanced regional development and harnessing the potential of all regions. In devising the NSS scenario, the Department distinguishes between population projections based on recent or traditional trends and targets based on coordinated implementation of NSS principles and objectives at national, regional and local levels.

The NSS targets were considered by the Expert Group, but were not factored specifically into the projections, as the projections methodology does not lend itself to the use of target-based assumptions.

The table below shows the projected population in 2021 for the eight Regional Authority Areas under each of the four scenarios along with the comparable NSS target for the same year.

Table A5 Projected population and National Spatial Strategy target populations, 2021.

	M0F1		M2F1		
	Recent	Traditional	Recent	Traditional	NSS Target
			Thousands		
Border	550	517	613	576	603
Dublin	1,132	1,298	1,380	1,563	1,484
Mid-East	671	629	746	700	648
Midland	326	285	362	316	322
Mid-West	396	394	439	437	469
South-East	556	522	613	574	589
South-West	669	665	760	756	806
West	463	456	536	529	529
State	4,764	4,766	5,449	5,451	5,449

Background Notes

Methodology

The regional population projections contained in this release represent a top-down disaggregation of the national projections published in 2004. The assumptions used in the national model (fertility, mortality and international migration) are regionalised mainly based on recent historical data, while migration between regions is also assessed. The outcome of this procedure is a set of regional population projections based on what would be likely to happen if recent trends in fertility, mortality and international migration were to continue, subject to the overall constraint of the national population projections.

Limitations

Because of the greater uncertainty attaching to regional as distinct from national population projections, the results for individual Regional Authority areas must be regarded as somewhat tentative. The objective of the regional population projections is to determine how the population of the various regions would evolve in the period to 2021 if recent demographic trends were to continue. The National Spatial Strategy, which is likely to influence how future regional population trends will evolve, was not factored specifically into the projections.

More detailed results

More detailed results on population, births, deaths, net internal migration and net international migration under the four regional projection scenarios are available on the CSO web site (see www.cso.ie/census/reg_pop_project.htm). The data on births, deaths and net migration are broken down by sex for each year from 2006 to 2026. The population data are broken down by single year of age and sex from 2006 to 2026. Further information can be obtained from:

Census Enquiries Section
Central Statistics Office
Swords Business Campus
Balheary Road
Co. Dublin

Phone 01 895 1460/1461/1467
LoCall 1890 236 767
Fax 01 895 1399
Email census@cso.ie
Web www.cso.ie

NUTS2 and NUTS3 regions

The regional classifications in this release are based on the NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units) classification used by Eurostat. The NUTS3 regions correspond to the eight Regional Authorities established under the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order, 1993, which came into operation on 1 January 1994. The NUTS2 regions, which were proposed by Government and agreed by Eurostat in 1999, are groupings of the NUTS3 regions. The composition of the regions is set out below.

Border, Midland and Western NUTS2 Region

Border	Cavan
	Donegal
	Leitrim
	Louth
	Monaghan
	Sligo
Midland	Laoighis
	Longford
	Offaly
	Westmeath
West	Galway City
	Galway County
	Mayo
	Roscommon

Southern and Eastern NUTS2 Region

Dublin	Dublin City
	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
	Fingal
	South Dublin
Mid-East	Kildare
	Meath
	Wicklow
Mid-West	Clare
	Limerick City
	Limerick County
	North Tipperary
South-East	Carlow
	Kilkenny
	South Tipperary
	Waterford City
	Waterford County
	Wexford
South-West	Cork City
	Cork County
	Kerry