

## PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC STATUS

### Strong gains in employment

(Source: Table 1)

Analysing the responses to the question on present principal status (Q.26 on the 2006 Census questionnaire) enables the population aged 15 years and over to be classified into those inside and outside the labour force. It is important to note that the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS), which uses standardised International Labour Organisation methodology, is the definitive source of official labour force estimates. The labour market results in the present report, which are based on the responses to Q.26, may differ significantly from the QNHS estimates. For the likely causes of the differences see Appendix 2 – Definitions.

Table A compares the relevant results from the 2002 and 2006 censuses. Overall, the number of persons aged 15 years and over increased by 285,600 or 9.2 per cent between 2002 and 2006.

The number of persons in the labour force grew by 308,500 or 17.1 per cent between 2002 and 2006 with employment growth (+288,400) providing the main stimulus. The employment gains in absolute terms were evenly divided between males and females – the former increasing by 15 per cent and the latter by 21.3 per cent over the four-year period. The number of persons unemployed, including those looking for their first regular job, increased by 20,200 between both censuses.

There was a decline of 22,900 (or 1.8%) in the number of persons who were classified as being outside the labour force between 2002 and 2006. The main contributor to this decline was the fall of 52,000 in the number of persons looking after the home or family. The number of students aged 15 years and over remained stable during this period while there was an increase of 30,200 in the “Other” category (mainly retired persons).

**Table A Population aged 15 years and over classified by principal economic status and sex, 2002 and 2006**

Principal Economic Status	2002			2006		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Thousands						
Labour Force						
At work	1,641.6	963.2	678.3	1930.0	1107.2	822.8
Looking for first regular job	21.1	12.4	8.7	29.4	16.4	12.9
Unemployed, having lost or given up previous job	138.2	87.8	50.4	150.1	90.2	59.9
<b>Total labour force</b>	<b>1801.0</b>	<b>1,063.5</b>	<b>737.4</b>	<b>2109.5</b>	<b>1213.9</b>	<b>895.6</b>
Non-labour force						
Student	350.8	166.1	184.6	349.6	164.6	185.0
Looking after home/family	439.0	21.3	417.6	387.0	16.7	370.3
Other	499.1	271.1	228.0	529.3	282.9	246.4
<b>Total non-labour force</b>	<b>1,288.8</b>	<b>458.6</b>	<b>830.2</b>	<b>1265.9</b>	<b>464.3</b>	<b>801.6</b>
<b>Population 15 +</b>	<b>3,089.8</b>	<b>1,522.1</b>	<b>1,567.6</b>	<b>3375.4</b>	<b>1678.1</b>	<b>1697.3</b>

### County labour force participation rates

(Source: Table 8A)

Of the 34 administrative counties, Fingal (69.9%) had the greatest proportion of its population aged 15 years and over in the labour force in 2006, followed by Kildare (68.2%) and South Dublin (67.8%). At the other end of the scale

Cork City (54.6%) had the lowest labour force participation rate followed by Limerick City (56.7%) and Donegal (57.2%).

## Growth in the labour force intensifying

(Source: Table 1)

Table B provides a synopsis of the main labour market indicators for the twenty-five year period 1981-2006. The growth in the labour force recorded in recent censuses is due to a combination of two factors: the underlying growth in the population aged 15 years and over which has been driven in recent periods by high net inward migration; and increasing female labour force participation – up from 29.7 per cent in 1981 to 52.8 per cent in 2006.

**Table B Main labour market indicators, 1981- 2006**

Census Year	Persons in the labour Force Thousands	Average Annual percentage Change %	Labour force participation rate		Unemployment Rate %
			Male %	Female %	
1981	1,271	1.2	76.4	29.7	10.5
1986	1,330	0.9	74.0	32.2	17.9
1991	1,383	0.8	71.7	35.9	16.9
1996	1,534	2.1	70.7	40.7	14.8
2002	1,801	2.7	69.9	47.0	8.8
2006	2,110	4.0	72.3	52.8	8.5

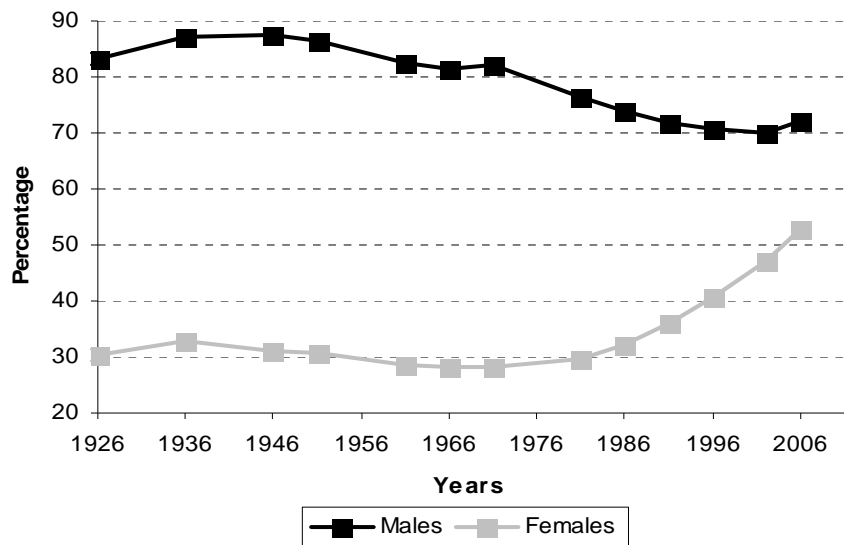
The average annual increase in the number of persons in the labour force has been intensifying over recent inter-censal periods with a 4 per cent increase recorded for 2002 to 2006. The unemployment rate<sup>3</sup>, measured on a Principal Economic Status basis, has been in decline since 1986.

## Gap in labour force participation between men and women narrowing

(Source: previous census reports)

The male labour force participation rate peaked at 87.4 per cent in 1946. The trend has been steadily downwards since then and reached a low point of 69.9 per cent in 2002. The turn around to 72.3 per cent in 2006 is mainly due to participation rate increases of Irish national males aged 30 years and over and males aged 25-44 years from the 10 EU Member States which acceded on 1 May 2004.

**Figure 1 Labour force participation rates for males and females, 1926-2006**



Female labour force participation remained largely unchanged at around 30 per cent over the period 1926 to 1981. It has increased sharply since then to reach a high point of 52.8 per cent in 2006 with over half of the increase coming in the last ten years. As a result the gap between the male and female rates (19.5 points) was at its lowest level in 2006. The percentage of

<sup>2</sup> The sum of unemployed and those seeking regular work for the first time expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

women aged 15 years and over describing their status as “looking after home/family” declined from 54.9 per cent in 1981 to 21.8 per cent in 2006.

## 1 in 8 workers non-Irish national

Table C analyses the principal economic status of usually resident Irish and non-Irish nationals aged 15 years and over in 2002 and 2006. The number of non-Irish nationals aged 15 years and over increased from 190,100 in 2002 to 367,200 four years later – an increase of 177,100 or 93.1 per cent. Given the higher proportion of non-Irish nationals in the active age groups, their labour force participation rate in 2006 (75.7%) was well ahead of the corresponding figure for Irish nationals aged 15 years and over (60.9%). Moreover, one in eight workers in the State in 2006 was a non-Irish national.

**Table C Persons aged 15 years and over usually resident and present in the State on Census Night classified by principal economic status and nationality, 2002 and 2006**

Principal Economic Status	2002			2006		
	Total	Irish	Non-Irish	Total	Irish	Non-Irish
Thousands						
Labour Force						
At work	1,595.0	1,487.9	107.1	1875.6	1631.1	244.5
Looking for first regular job	20.3	17.4	2.9	27.5	17.2	10.2
Unemployed, having lost or given up previous job	134.4	119.9	14.6	145.7	122.3	23.4
<b>Total labour force</b>	<b>1749.7</b>	<b>1625.2</b>	<b>124.5</b>	<b>2048.8</b>	<b>1770.7</b>	<b>278.1</b>
Non-labour force						
Student	340.2	321.7	18.6	338.4	306.4	32.0
Looking after home/family	428.7	403.6	25.1	377.7	345.4	32.3
Other	480.9	458.9	22.0	511.8	486.9	24.9
<b>Total non-labour force</b>	<b>1249.8</b>	<b>1184.2</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>1227.9</b>	<b>1138.7</b>	<b>89.1</b>
<b>Population 15 +</b>	<b>2999.5</b>	<b>2809.4</b>	<b>190.1</b>	<b>3276.6</b>	<b>2909.4</b>	<b>367.2</b>

## Nearly half of employment increase accounted for by non-Irish nationals

Of the increase of 280,600 in the number of usually resident persons at work between 2002 and 2006, almost a half (49%) was accounted for by non-Irish nationals. There were 23,400 non-Irish nationals unemployed and 10,200 looking for their first regular job in April 2006, the combined total representing an unemployment rate of 12.1 per cent compared with 7.9 per cent for Irish nationals.

## EMPLOYMENT

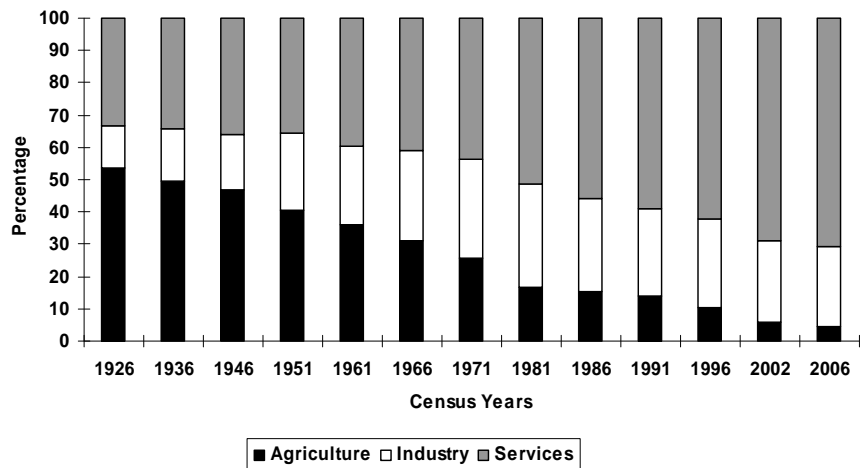
### Sectoral employment shares

(Source: Table 10)

Major changes have taken place since 1926 in the relative employment shares of the three broad sectors of economic activity: Agriculture, Industry and Services. The diminishing importance of Agriculture is clearly evident from Figure 2 with the sector accounting for a reduced share of under 5 per cent of total employment in 2006 compared with over 50 per cent in 1926. The growth in Services sector employment has been particularly pronounced with 58 per cent of the sectoral increase of 953,000 occurring in the last ten years. Services now account for 71 per cent of total employment. While industrial employment has increased by over 50 per cent between 1991 and 2006 its share of total employment has declined from 27.3 per cent to 24.7 per cent over the same period.

Three sectors accounted for over half of the total employment increase of 288,400 between 2002 and 2006 – construction (+65,900), health and social work (+47,700) and wholesale and retail trade (+38,100).

**Figure 2 Sectoral employment shares, 1926-2006**



### Nearly 1 in 3 workers in the hotels and restaurants sector is a non-Irish national

Table D provides an analysis of the sectors in which the proportions of non-Irish national workers are most prevalent. The analysis refers to usual residents aged 15 years and over.

**Table D Persons at work aged 15 years and over usually resident and present in the State on Census Night classified by industrial group and nationality, 2002 and 2006**

Industrial Group	2002			2006		
	Total	Irish	Non-Irish	Total	Irish	Non-Irish
Thousands						
Manufacturing	239.7	223.4	16.3	237.9	201.7	36.2
Construction	146.4	139.5	6.9	209.5	179.8	29.7
Wholesale and retail trade	215.7	204.0	11.8	253.0	221.1	31.9
Hotels and restaurants	78.7	66.2	12.5	97.5	66.4	31.1
Real estate, renting and business activities	146.7	132.0	14.7	176.1	147.6	28.5
Health and Social Work	140.2	129.1	11.1	187.9	165.9	22.0
Other activities	627.6	593.7	33.9	713.6	648.5	65.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1595.0</b>	<b>1487.9</b>	<b>107.1</b>	<b>1875.6</b>	<b>1631.1</b>	<b>244.5</b>

The hotels and restaurants sector had the highest proportion (31.9%) of non-Irish national workers in 2006 followed by business activities<sup>4</sup> (16.2%), manufacturing (15.2%) and construction (14.2%). About one in eight workers in the wholesale and retail trade sector was a non-Irish national person with health and social work (11.7%) having a smaller proportion.

The employment of non-Irish nationals in manufacturing increased by nearly 20,000 between 2002 and 2006. At the same time the number of Irish nationals employed in the sector fell by 21,700 leading to an overall employment decline of 1,800. The number of non-Irish nationals working in construction increased from 6,900 in 2002 to 29,700 in 2006, accounting for 36.2 per cent of the total employment increase in the sector.

The map on page 16 shows the dispersal of non-Irish national workers throughout the country in 2006 in the hotels and restaurants sector.

## Occupational segregation

Table E sets out the occupations that have the highest proportions of males and females, respectively. Females accounted for only 0.6 per cent of the work force in the top ten male dominated occupations combined. These occupations, which were mainly concentrated in the building industry, accounted for 112,000 workers in total and 10.1 per cent of the male work force.

**Table E Occupations with highest segregation**

Male dominated occupations	Females as a percentage of total	Female dominated occupations	Males as a percentage of total
Plasterers	0.4	Secretaries	2.1
Carpenters	0.5	Child minders	2.9
Bricklayers	0.5	Receptionists	3.3
Plumbers	0.5	Educational assistants	4.2
Rail construction workers	0.6	Housekeepers	6.2
Roofers	0.7	Nurses	7.7
Floorers	0.8	Hairdressers and barbers	9.3
Welders	0.8	Care assistants	10.1
Vehicle body repairers	0.8	Radiographers	13.8
Mechanical plant drivers	0.9	Primary and nursery teachers	15.4

The top ten female dominated occupations were not as segregated. These occupations combined numbered 191,000 females in total in 2006 (23.2 per cent of the female work force). They included secretaries and child minders, which together amounted to 45,000 females at work, with males making up 7.8 per cent of the relevant occupations.

## Socio-economic group by county

(Source: Table 15A)

By examining the current occupations of those at work, and the previous occupations of unemployed and retired persons, it is possible to categorise the relevant individuals by socio-economic group. All other persons are classified to the socio-economic group of the person in the family on whom they are deemed to be dependent. Tables 15a to 15c provide the relevant details on a county basis.

The eastern counties of Dún-Laoghaire-Rathdown (25.0%), Fingal (19.8%), Wicklow (19.5%), Kildare (19.4%) and Meath (19.0%) had the highest proportion of persons classified to socio-economic group A (Employers and Managers) while Limerick City (10.2%), Cork City (10.8%) and Waterford City (11.4%) had the lowest rates. Socio-economic group I – Farmers – predominated in the rural counties of Roscommon (9.3%) and Leitrim (8.7%).

<sup>4</sup> More specifically Nace 70-74 Real Estate, Renting and business activities The main sectors were computer and related activities and industrial cleaning.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Table 1 shows the number of persons who classified themselves as unemployed on the basis of their declared Principal Economic Status. According to the 2006 Census of Population there were 179,000 such persons – an increase of 20,000 compared with the previous census in 2002. Males accounted for 12,000 of the increase. The overall unemployment rate for the State measured on this basis was 8.5 per cent. Males (8.8%) had a higher unemployment rate than females (8.1%).

### County unemployment rates

(Source: Table 6A)

At administrative county level Limerick City (14.6%) had the highest unemployment rate in 2006. Donegal (12.9%) and Waterford City (12.6%) were next in line. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (5.4%), Cork County (5.9%) and Roscommon (6.3%) had the lowest unemployment rates.

Unemployment among males was highest in Limerick City (16.1%), Donegal (14.4%) and Waterford City (13.6%), while Longford (13.2%), Limerick City (12.5%) and Waterford City (11.2%) had the highest female rates.

### Unemployment blackspots

At the overall State level, the unemployment rate for urban areas was 9.5 per cent in 2006 compared with 6.9 per cent for rural areas. One of the major advantages of a Census of Population is its ability to provide data for small areas such as Electoral Divisions (EDs). Table F provides a summary analysis of the worst unemployment blackspots in 2006<sup>1</sup>. These were located in both urban and rural areas. The 62 EDs, which are considered unemployment blackspots according to the chosen criteria, had an average unemployment rate of 24 per cent compared with 8.5 per cent nationally.

**Table F Distribution of unemployment blackspots at Electoral Division level by county, 2006**

County	Number of unemployment blackspots	Average Unemployment (persons)	Average unemployment rate (percent)
Cork City	5	236	24.6
Dublin City	13	405	24.5
Donegal	8	127	22.0
Galway County	6	88	25.0
Limerick City	11	141	26.8
Longford	3	198	23.9
South Dublin	3	499	21.7
Waterford City	6	116	23.6
Other counties*	7	198	22.8
Total	62	221	24.0

\*Clare, Fingal, Limerick County, Louth, Mayo and Wicklow.

Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Waterford Cities contained 35 of the 62 unemployment blackspots nation-wide. Dublin City had the highest number of Electoral Divisions which could be considered as unemployment blackspots in April 2006.

At individual Electoral Division level, the 3 EDs of John's A (42.6%), Glentworth C (35.1%) and Galvone B (34.5%) in Limerick City had the highest unemployment rates in April 2006. The EDs of Cherry Orchard A (33.6%) in Dublin City, Sillerna (33.2%) in Galway County and Prospect B (31.7%) in Limerick City had the next highest unemployment rates.

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this report an Electoral Division is defined as an unemployment blackspot if its labour force exceeds 200 persons and its unemployment rate on a Principal Economic Status basis exceeds 20 per cent. There were 62 such EDs in 2006.

## EDUCATION

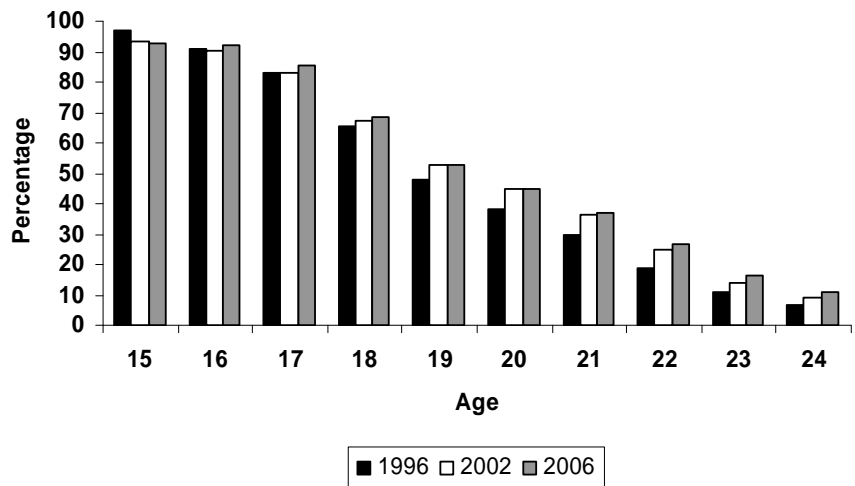
### Increase in number of older students

There was a marginal decline of 0.3 per cent in the number of students aged 15 years and over between 2002 and 2006 – down from 350,800 to 349,600 (see Table 1). The number of students aged 15 to 19 years fell by 15,000 in the 2002-2006 period. However, this decline was counterbalanced by increases of 5,100 and 8,800 in the numbers of students aged 20 to 24 years and 25 years and over, respectively.

Education participation rates increased between 2002 and 2006 for all single years 15 to 24 apart from 15 year olds and 19 year olds. The decline of 15,000 in the number of 15 to 19 year old students was mainly as a result of smaller cohorts compared with four years earlier while the increase in the number of 20 to 24 year old students comprised a modest participation rate effect supplemented by a demographic effect.

Figure 3 shows the education participation rates for 15 to 24 years olds. The increased participation rates, particularly at the older end of the age distribution, are evident from the table. The declines shown for those aged 15 years result from a questionnaire effect linked to the use of that age as a filter question on the census form.

**Figure 3 Percentage of persons aged 15 to 24 years receiving full-time education by single year of age, 1996, 2002 and 2006**



### Proportionately more females in education

The results of the 2006 census show that the proportion of females in full-time education exceeds that of males for each single year of age in the range 15 to 23 years. This continues the trend evident from previous censuses. The differential in participation rates between males and females is widest for 19 year olds at 15.7 percentage points (see Table G).

The percentage of persons age 20 years and still in education is shown for Electoral Divisions (EDs) located in Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin in the map on page 19. Students living away from home in EDs adjacent to third level campuses are likely to upwardly bias the figures for the small number of relevant EDs. However, notwithstanding this qualification, the map does provide an indication of the variation in the proportion of 20 year olds attending third level college by district within Dublin.

**Table G Percentage of males and females aged 15 to 24 years receiving full-time education, 2002 and 2006**

Age	2002		2006	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
15 years	92.5	94.5	92.4	93.6
16 "	87.3	93.2	89.9	94.2
17 "	78.3	88.1	80.8	90.1
18 "	60.0	75.2	61.3	76.2
19 "	46.0	59.6	44.8	60.4
Total 15-19 years	72.6	81.8	73.6	82.6
20 years	39.2	50.6	38.7	51.0
21 "	32.6	40.1	32.7	41.4
22 "	23.6	26.5	23.7	29.1
23 "	13.5	14.5	16.0	17.3
24 "	8.8	9.0	11.1	10.9
Total 20-24 years	23.9	28.4	23.9	29.2
Total 15-24 years	47.8	54.2	46.8	53.5

### Persons staying on in education longer

There is a direct link between increasing education participation rates and the general increase in the age at which full-time education ceases. This is illustrated in Table H. Nearly 50 per cent of the population aged 15 years and over in 1981 whose full-time education had ceased left the educational system before reaching the age of 16. By 2006 the corresponding figure had fallen to 21.1 per cent. Conversely, in 1981 only one in ten of those whose full-time education had ceased left aged 19 years or over compared with one in three in 2006.

**Table H Percentage distribution of persons whose full-time education has ceased, classified by age at which education ceased, 1981-2006**

Year	Age at which full-time education ceased				
	Under 15 years	Under 16 years	Under 17 years	Under 18 years	Under 19 years
	Percentage				
1981	36.8	49.7	66.2	77.8	89.9
1986	28.6	41.8	60.1	73.1	88.0
1991	27.8	40.0	57.6	70.9	86.6
1996	23.9	34.9	50.8	64.4	80.8
2002	15.4	24.4	39.9	53.3	71.6
2006	13.3	21.1	35.1	47.2	65.4

### Highest level of education

(Source: Table 20A)

The increasing participation in education is also reflected in the highest level of education completed (see Table I).

The proportion of persons who had left the education system with only a Primary education fell from 31.8 per cent in 1996 to 22.6 per cent in 2006. Conversely, there was an increase in the proportion of persons who completed their education with a Third level qualification (from 19 per cent in 1996 to 29.1 per cent in 2006).

About one in eight persons in the labour force in 2006 were educated to Primary level only compared with one in five in 1996. The proportion of the



labour force with a Third level qualification grew from 25.4 per cent in 1996 to 36.2 per cent in the most recent census.

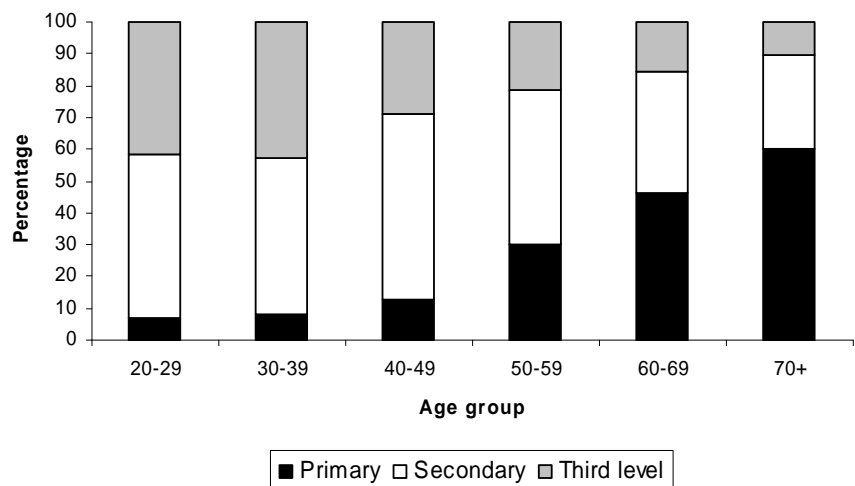
**Table I Percentage distribution of the population whose full-time education has ceased classified by highest level of education completed, 1996, 2002 and 2006**

Year	Highest level of education completed		
	Primary (incl. no formal education and not stated)	Second level	Third level
Total persons			
1996	31.8	49.1	19.0
2002	26.2	49.2	24.7
2006	22.6	48.3	29.1
Persons in the Labour Force			
1996	19.9	54.7	25.4
2002	15.4	52.5	32.1
2006	12.8	51.0	36.2

## Cohort analysis

The improvement in education attainment is most pronounced when viewed from a cohort perspective. Figure 4 illustrates that around 6 in every 10 persons aged 70 years and over were educated to Primary level only. In contrast 7 per cent of persons aged 20-29 years in 2006 completed their education at Primary level. The larger proportions of more recent cohorts with a Third level education is also evident. By 2006, 42.6 per cent of the 30-39 age group had completed third level education.

**Figure 4 Highest level of education completed by birth cohort, 2006**



## Unemployment related to level of education

The higher the educational level attained the less likely the risk of unemployment, as indicated by the figures in Table J. The progression from Primary education through both levels of Secondary education to Third level certificate/diploma and degree/higher results in a clear pattern of decreasing risk of unemployment for both males and females. The risk of unemployment was nearly five times higher in 2006 for a person with only a Primary education than for someone who had completed a Third level (degree or higher) course.

**Table J Unemployment rate by educational level and sex, 2006**

Highest level of education completed	Persons	Males	Females
	%	%	%
Primary*	18.4	17.8	19.7
Lower Secondary	12.5	11.6	14.1
Upper Secondary	7.3	6.9	7.8
Third level (non-degree)	4.2	4.5	4.0
Third level (degree or higher)	3.9	4.0	3.8
Total	8.5	8.8	8.1

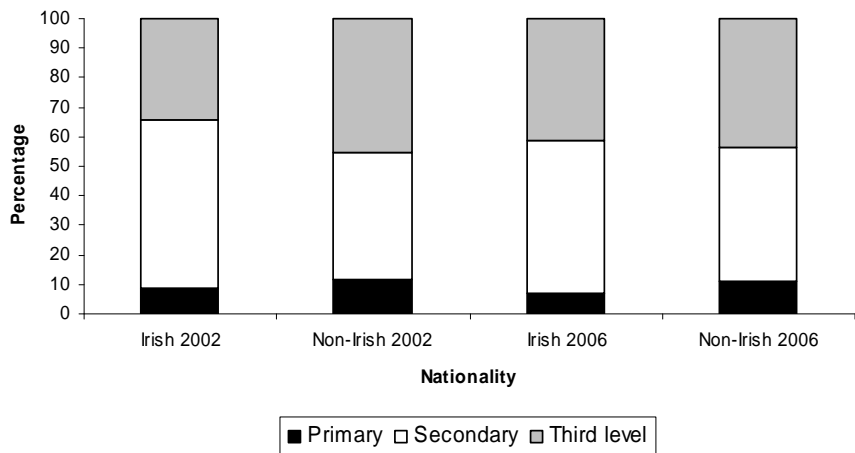
\* Includes no formal education and not stated.

### High level of education attainment among non-Irish nationals

(Source: Table 21)

In 2006, 43.8 per cent of non-Irish nationals aged 25-44 years had a third level qualification compared with 41.3 per cent for the corresponding Irish cohort. The relevant proportions from the 2002 census were 45.3 per cent and 34.3 per cent, respectively. At the other end of the scale 10.8 per cent of non-Irish nationals in the relevant cohort were only educated to primary level in 2006 compared with 7.2 per cent for Irish nationals. The corresponding proportions in 2002 were 11.8 per cent and 8.7 per cent, respectively.

**Figure 5 Persons aged 25-44, usually resident and present in the State on Census Night, classified by highest level of education completed by nationality, 2002 and 2006**



### One in five have third level qualifications

(Source: Table 22)

Nearly 821,000 persons aged 15 years and over in April 2006 held third level qualifications, which they attained after completing two or more years of study (see Table 22). Of these, 443,000 (54%) were females. The most recent birth cohorts contained the highest proportions of persons with third level qualifications (41.6% for those aged 25 to 34 compared with 10.5% for those aged 65 years and over). Persons aged 25 to 34 years at the time of the census accounted for over a third of all graduates. Just over a quarter of all females aged 15 years and over have a third level qualification compared with just over a fifth of all males.

The most popular branch of study was social sciences/business/law (21.0%) followed by engineering/manufacturing/construction (12.3%). More than one in eight graduates held qualifications in more than one discipline. Engineering/manufacturing/construction was the most prominent branch of study among male graduates while social sciences/business/law predominated among women. Of those with a third level qualification, four out of every five persons in health were female while nine out of every ten persons in engineering/manufacturing/construction were male.

## TRAVEL PATTERNS

### More car users

(Source: Table 23)

The private car continues to be the main means of transport for Irish workers. Just over 57 per cent of all workers drove to work by car in 2006, up from 55 per cent four years earlier. Taken in combination with workers who drove vans or lorries to work, almost 65 per cent of Irish workers drove to work in 2006, representing an additional 225,000 work related car users compared with 2002.

### Pattern changing over time

In contrast, the share of public transport by bus fell from 6.7 per cent of persons at work in 2002 to 6.1 per cent in 2006. The number of persons commuting to work by train increased by over 66 per cent compared with 2002, reflecting the introduction of the LUAS. This represented an increase in share from 2.1 per cent in 2002 to 2.9 per cent in 2006. The proportion of workers who walked or cycled to work declined between 2002 and 2006.

**Table K Means of travel to work, 1991-2006**

Means of Travel	1991	1996	2002	2006
	%	%	%	%
On foot	11.1	11.5	11.4	10.9
Bicycle	4.4	3.6	2.1	1.9
Bus	7.7	7.6	6.7	6.1
Train	1.7	1.7	2.1	2.9
Motor cycle	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.7
Car driver	38.9	46.3	55.1	57.1
Car passenger	8.0	8.7	6.7	5.5
Other (incl. lorry or van)	4.0	4.3	7.1	7.8
None	19.8	12.3	6.1	5.6
Not stated	3.2	3.1	1.7	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

### Majority of primary schoolchildren driven to school

(Source: Table 24)

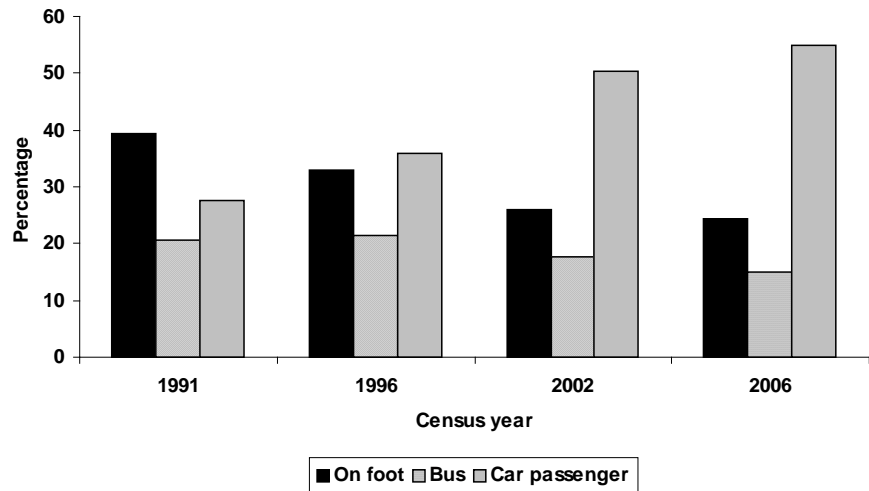
Just over 55 per cent of primary schoolchildren were driven to school by car in 2006; about one in four walked while less than one in six used the bus. The most popular means of transport for secondary students was the bus (35.6%) while 31.5 per cent were driven to school. The main mode of transport used by third level students to get to college was walking (29.6%), reflecting the fact that many third level students live close to the university or college which they attend. About one in four took the bus but the number who drove rose sharply to over 32,000 – an increase of 63 per cent compared with 2002.

**Table L Means of travel to school or college, 2006**

Means of Travel	Primary (aged 5-12 years)	Secondary (aged 13-18 years)	Third level (aged 19 years and over)
	%	%	%
On foot	24.3	24.4	29.6
Bicycle	0.9	2.4	4.2
Bus	15.0	35.6	24.4
Train	0.1	1.8	7.3
Motor cycle	0.0	0.2	0.5
Car driver	0.0	1.7	22.0
Car passenger	55.0	31.5	8.0
Other (incl. lorry or van)	0.3	0.3	0.4
None and not stated	4.2	2.2	3.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The changing transport usage pattern by primary schoolchildren is clearly evident from Figure 6. The proportion of primary schoolchildren walking to school has declined from 39.4 per cent in 1991 to 24.3 per cent in 2006. During the same period the proportion of primary schoolchildren being driven to school has increased significantly from 27.7 per cent in 1991 to 55 per cent in 2006. Bus usage has continued to decline in the most recent intercensal period.

**Figure 6 Proportion of primary schoolchildren classified by means of travel to school, 1991-2006**



### No major change in distances travelled

(Source: Tables 23-26)

The 2006 census was the first in which the question relating to the distance from home to work, school or college was asked in kilometres as distinct from miles. As a consequence, the number of respondents who left the question blank increased from 304,400 (or 12.2%) in 2002 to 568,800 (or 20.4%) in 2006. It is not clear to what extent the increase in the not stated category has impacted on the comparisons between the recorded distances for both years.

The average distance travelled by workers from their homes to their workplaces in 2006 was 15.8 kilometres – broadly in line with the 2002 result. The differential between the distance travelled by rural dwellers and those living in urban areas narrowed between 2002 and 2006. This may be partly due to an expansion of urban centres located at greater distances from the major cities. The map on page 25 charts the percentage of workers within Electoral Divisions who undertook a journey of 30 kilometres or more to work each day. Long distance commuting patterns are clearly evident from the map.

The distances travelled by Primary schoolchildren remained largely unchanged between 2002 and 2006. The distances travelled suggest that most children attend schools that are situated in close proximity to their homes.

Students travel greater distances according as they progress from Primary through Secondary to Third level institutions. There was a slight decline in the average distance travelled by rural secondary students during the most recent inter-censal period while the distances travelled by third level students to college or university also fell.

**Table N Average distance travelled to work, school or college, 1991-2006**

Year	Average distance travelled (km)		
	State	Urban	Rural
<b>Workers</b>			
1991	7.7	7.0	8.5
1996	10.7	9.1	13.1
2002	15.7	12.5	21.3
2006	15.8	12.8	20.9
<b>Primary (5-12 years)</b>			
1991	2.4	1.8	3.4
1996	3.2	2.4	4.2
2002	4.0	3.2	5.0
2006	4.0	3.1	4.9
<b>Secondary (13-18 years)</b>			
1991	5.8	3.2	8.8
1996	7.0	4.0	10.2
2002	8.0	4.8	11.4
2006	7.7	4.7	10.9
<b>Third level (19 years and over)</b>			
1991	9.1	7.2	17.1
1996	11.7	8.3	23.7
2002	14.6	10.9	24.6
2006	14.0	10.4	24.1

### **Average journey time to work less than a half an hour**

While in overall terms the average journey time to work has only increased slightly from 26.8 minutes in 2002 to 27.5 minutes in 2006 the number of workers taking more than one hour to get to work increased from 142,500 to 187,000. Despite travelling shorter distances, urban based workers continue to spend on average slightly longer commuting to work than their rural counterparts (27.9 minutes compared with 26.8 minutes).

The average journey time for primary schoolchildren has fallen since 2002 from 12 minutes to just over 11 minutes. Children in rural areas spend 10 minutes on average getting to school while those in the towns and cities take just over 12 minutes.

The journey time for secondary students, while still twice that for primary children, has also fallen from an average of 20 minutes in 2002 to just under 19 minutes. Third level students continue to spend over half an hour on average getting to college each day. This reflects the relatively long distances travelled as well as the mode of travel undertaken.

### **Time leaving home**

(Source: Table 27)

Almost 285,000 workers leave home before 7.00 in the morning to get to work, with 113,000 of those leaving before 6.30. Three out of four of these early commuters are men. Women continue to dominate the later time slots between 8 and 9 am, to coincide with departing primary and secondary students. Nearly a half (47%) of all third level students leave for college between 8 and 9 am.

## DISABILITY AND CARING

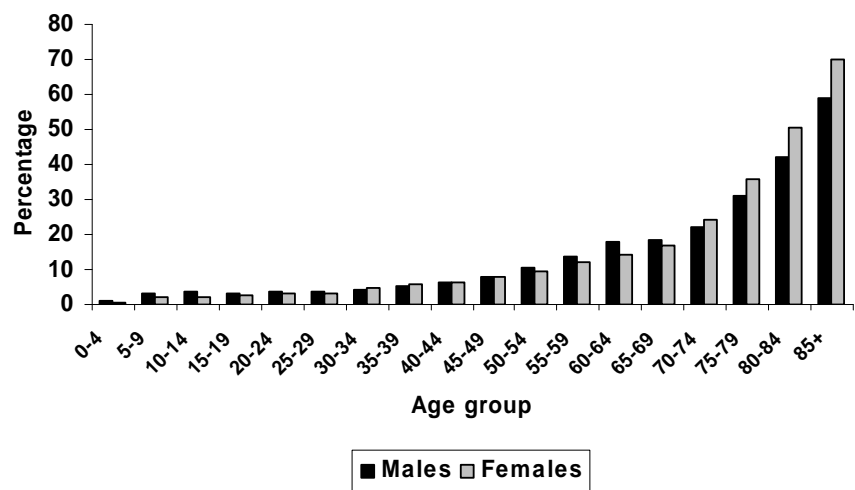
### Nearly one in ten persons has a disability

(Source: Table 31)

Almost 394,000 persons, representing 9.6 per cent of the total population, had a long lasting health problem or disability in April 2006 – up from 8.3 per cent four years earlier. These persons answered “Yes” in response to at least one of the categories distinguished in Questions 15 and 16 of the 2006 census form in relation to disability. The questions on disability used in the 2006 census included three new categories of disability and one new category of activity compared with the 2002 question (see Appendix 1 for the 2006 questionnaire and Appendix 2 for a definition of those with a disability). The inclusion of the new categories, although offset by a decline in the number of persons who ticked the category “working at a job or business”, was responsible for the increase in the overall disability rate between 2002 and 2006.

The incidence of disability in 2006 was higher among females than males (9.6% compared with 9.0%) and this is linked directly to lower mortality among females, especially among those age 75 and over, and the strong link between disability and age (see Figure 7). For persons aged 19 years and over the proportion who indicated that they had a long lasting health problem or disability increased for every five year age group from 15-19 up to 80-84 years for both males and females. Nearly two-thirds of those with a disability were aged 50 years or over. Among children age 0-14 years, however, the number of boys with a disability was far higher than the number of girls, 21,183 compared with 12,073.

**Figure 7 Proportion of persons with a disability by age group and sex, 2006**



Approximately 78,000 workers, representing 4.0 per cent of total persons at work, had a long lasting health problem or disability in 2006. This is significantly higher than in 2002 (45,000 workers and 2.7 per cent of persons at work). The explanation is the inclusion of the new categories in the disability question. Males accounted for 58.5 per cent of these workers. Focussing on the 15–64 age group, approximately 38 per cent of males with a disability were in the workforce while for females the relevant proportion was 29 per cent.

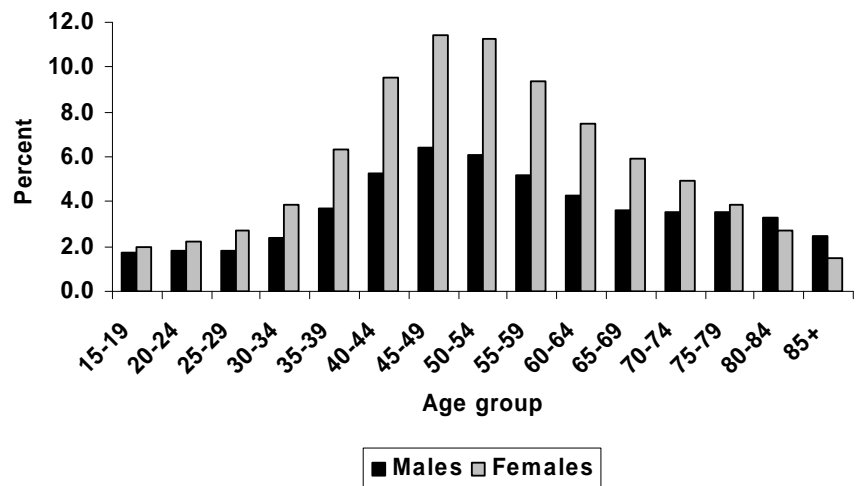
### Almost 161,000 carers

(Source: Table 33)

Almost 161,000 persons aged 15 years and over (4.8% of the total) indicated that they provided regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability in April 2006. The corresponding number of carers in 2002 was 149,000. Women accounted for over 100,000 (or 62%) of the 2006 total and over half of them were in their forties or fifties.

As shown in Figure 8, proportionately more females than males were carers in all age groups apart from the very old. The highest proportions were amongst the middle aged, with over one in ten women aged 40-59 being reported as a carer.

**Figure 8 Proportion of carers by age group and sex, 2006**



Nearly 41,000 persons, representing more than one in four carers, provide regular unpaid help for 43 or more hours each week (i.e. on average more than six hours per day throughout the week). Two-thirds of these heavily committed carers are women. A half of all those aged 65 years and over who are carers spend more than 43 hours each week providing help to others.

## VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES

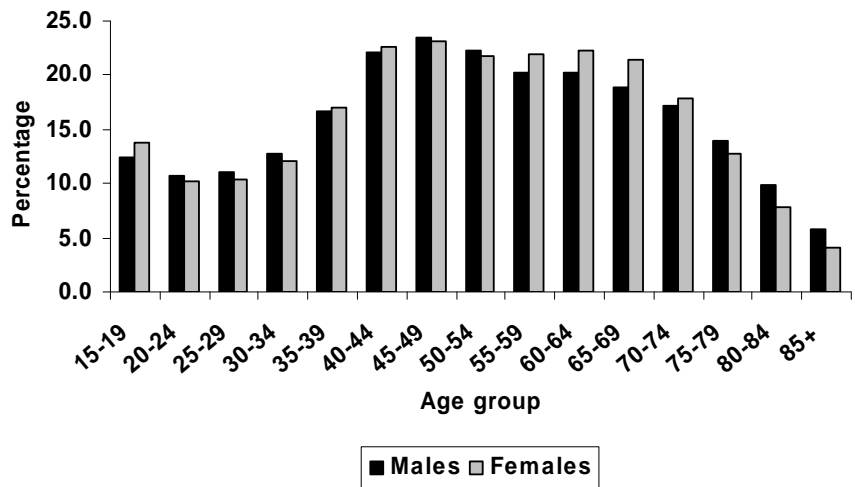
### One in six persons aged 15 years and over involved in voluntary work

(Source: Table 34)

A new question on voluntary activities was asked for the first time in the 2006 census. Over 553,000 persons, representing 16.4 per cent of the population aged 15 and over, were involved in at least one of the five voluntary activity categories distinguished on the census form in the four weeks before Census Day, 23 April 2006. Males and females had similar participation rates.

Figure 9 shows the proportion of persons involved in voluntary activities by age group and sex. The 45-49 age group had the highest participation rate in voluntary activities (23.3%) while almost one in four of all voluntary workers were in their forties.

**Figure 9 Proportion of voluntary workers by age group and sex, 2006**



### Social or charitable voluntary work most common

The activity with the highest recorded number of volunteers was social or charitable work (193,000 persons) followed by sporting activities (180,000). Females made up 61 per cent of voluntary workers involved with a religious group or church and 59 per cent of voluntary social and charitable workers while males accounted for 69 per cent of those involved in voluntary sporting activities and 58 per cent of political volunteers.

Higher and lower professionals had the highest participation rates in voluntary activities (24.7% and 25.6%, respectively) while unskilled workers (9.4%) participated least.



## CAR AND PC OWNERSHIP

### **Four out of every five households has a car**

(Source: Table 37)

Four out of every five households had at least one car in April 2006. The number of households with at least one car has increased by 174,000 since April 2002.

Car ownership was higher in rural areas (88.6%) than in urban areas (75.2%). Meath (89.8%) had the highest proportion of households with at least one car in 2006 followed by Cork County (87.6%) and Kildare (87%). At the other end of the scale the city areas, especially Dublin City (59.5%) and Limerick City (62.3%), had the lowest car ownership rates.

### **PC ownership and Internet access increasing**

(Source: Table 38)

Over 828,000 (56.6%) households had a personal computer (PC) in April 2006 while 683,000 (46.7%) had access to the Internet. Of this latter figure, 292,000 households had a broadband connection to the internet. Urban areas were ahead of rural ones in terms of access to both facilities (57.1% compared with 55.8% for PCs and 47.4% compared with 45.5% for Internet access). The Dublin counties of Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin had the highest penetration rates for PCs and Internet access while Limerick City, Longford and Cork City had the lowest.