Census 2006

Preliminary Report

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General Details

Introduction

A Census of Population was taken on the night of Sunday, 23 April 2006, in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order 2005 (S.I. No. 786 of 2005)[1]. This Report contains provisional results which are based on summaries returned by each of the 4,400 census enumerators. As these results are subject to revision they should not be regarded as having statutory force.

Coverage of the Census

The census figures relate to the *de facto* population i.e. the population recorded for each area represents the total of all persons present within its boundaries on the night of Sunday, 23 April 2006, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 24 April 2006, not having been enumerated elsewhere. Persons on board ships in port are included with the population of adjacent areas. 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.

The date of the census was chosen to coincide with a period when passenger movements were at a minimum and, consequently, the figures closely approximate to those for the normally resident population. Members of the Defence Forces who on census night were serving abroad with the United Nations were excluded from the enumeration.

Conduct of the Census

A temporary field force consisting of 6 Census Liaison Officers, 40 Regional Supervisors, 400 Field Supervisors and some 4,400 part-time Enumerators carried out the census enumeration. During the four weeks before Census Day the enumerators entered details in respect of 1.8 million private residences and communal establishments in their enumerator record books. They simultaneously delivered blank census questionnaires to 1.5 million of these dwellings that were expected to be occupied on census night. Approximately 275,000 residences were vacant at the time of the census while in the remaining cases the household was either enumerated elsewhere or temporarily absent from the State. The collection of completed questionnaires took place between Monday 24 April and Monday 22 May.

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) wishes to record its appreciation of the public-spirited co-operation received from households and the work carried out by the census field force.

Each enumerator was required to prepare a summary of the population enumerated in his/her enumeration area. These summaries were returned to the CSO in advance of the main body of the census field records and it is from these summaries that this Preliminary Report has been prepared. Dissemination of the definitive population figures, analysing the population by such factors as age, marital status, occupation, etc., will commence in April 2007.

Further information

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[1] The Statistics (Census of Population) Order 2005 was made by the Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach in pursuance of powers conferred on him by section 25 (1) of the Statistics Act 1993 (No. 21 of 1993) and the Statistics (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2004 (S.I. No. 664 of 2004).

COMMENTARY

Record growth in population

The preliminary total for the population enumerated on census night 23 April 2006 was 4,234,925 persons, compared with 3,917,203 persons in April 2002, representing an increase of 317,722 persons or 8.1 per cent in four years. The average annual rate of population increase in this four-year period was 2 per cent which is the highest on record. This compares with 1.3 per cent for the previous intercensal period 1996-2002 and the previous high of 1.5 per cent which occurred between 1971 and 1979. The 2006 population was last exceeded in the census of 1861 when the recorded population was 4.4 million.

The census total is a count of the number of persons actually in the State on census night. The change in population between two censuses reflects the effect of births and deaths and of movements of persons into and out of the State during the relevant period. Since the number of births and deaths are known from the vital statistics registration system the resulting residual is taken as a measure of net migration i.e. the difference between the inward and outward flows.

Just over 245,000 births were registered in the four-year period ended March 2006. Taken in conjunction with the 114,000 deaths which were registered during the same period this resulted in a natural increase in population of 131,000. Deducting this from the population increase of 318,000 gives a derived net immigration figure of 186,000[2] for the 2002-2006 period.

Historical situation

To put the recent changes in a historical context Table A shows the components of population change, expressed in the form of average annual figures, for each intercensal period since 1926.

Table A   Average annual births, deaths, natural increase and estimated net migration for each intercensal period, 1926-2006

Period	Total births	Total deaths	Natural increase	Change in population	Estimated net migration
			Thousands		
1926 - 1936	58	42	16	0	-17
1936 - 1946	60	43	17	-1	-19
1946 - 1951	66	40	26	1	-24
1951 - 1956	63	36	27	-12	-39
1956 - 1961	61	34	26	-16	-42
1961 - 1966	63	33	29	13	-16
1966 - 1971	63	33	30	19	-11
1971 - 1979	69	33	35	49	14
1979 - 1981	73	33	40	38	-3
1981 - 1986	67	33	34	19	-14
1986 - 1991	56	32	24	-3	-27
1991 - 1996	50	31	18	20	2
1996 - 2002	54	31	23	49	26
2002 - 2006	61	28	33	79	46

The natural increase has been positive for the entire period under review. It peaked during the 1979-1981 period when births exceeded deaths by an average of 40,000 per annum. This followed a steady build-up over the previous half century. The decline in births which occurred between 1980 and 1994 was mainly responsible for the natural increase declining to an average of 18,000 per annum between 1991 and 1996. Rising numbers of births and declining numbers of deaths have since resulted in the natural increase resuming its upward path with the recent intercensal period recording an average annual figure of 33,000.

Net migration has been more volatile than natural increase over the eighty-year period. Net outward migration peaked during the second half of the 1950s leading to the population low point of 2.8 million being recorded in the 1961 census. While outward migration persisted during the 1960s, the strong natural increase in the

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[2] The number of non-Irish nationals enumerated as part of the 2002 census was 222,000, representing 5.8 per cent of the usually resident population. While the corresponding figure for 2006 will have to await the publication of the Principal Demographic Results in April 2007, it can be tentatively estimated from the derived flow data on migration that the stock of non-Irish nationals is likely to be about 400,000.

population was sufficient to ensure overall population growth. The 1970s was the first period to record net inward migration leading to an average annual growth in population of 49,000 during this period. However, the resumption of net outward migration during the 1980s led to a moderation in population growth and ultimately to a decline between 1986 and 1991. The direction of net migration has been inward since then with the magnitude of the flows strengthening to reach a level of 46,000 during the recent intercensal period.

Figure 1 shows average annual population change, natural increase and net migration for each of the intercensal periods during 1926 to 2006. The key influence which migration plays in determining population change can be clearly seen.

Figure 1 Components of population changes, 1926-2006
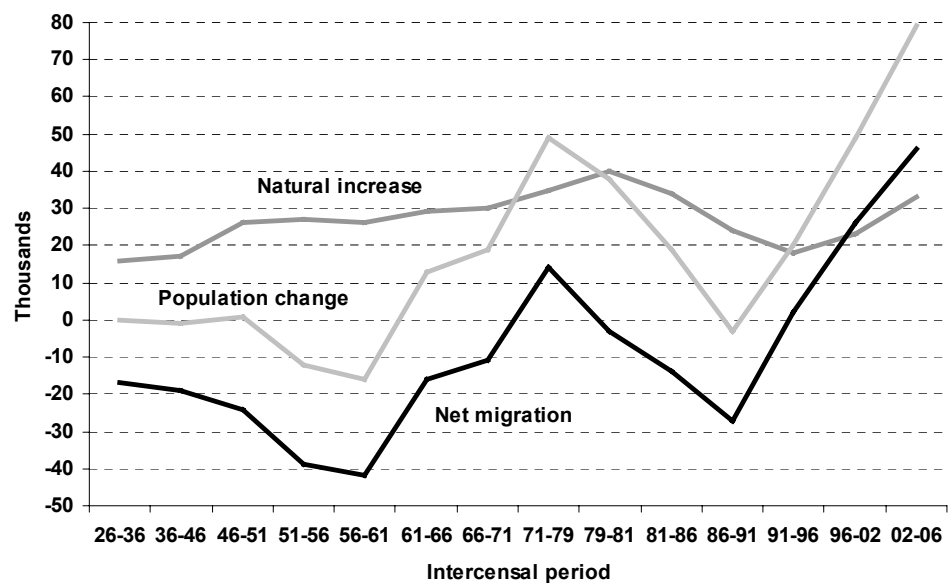
Major geographical change

All provinces experienced population growth between 2002 and 2006 (see Table 1) – the rate of increase ranging from 6.5 per cent for Munster to 8.9 per cent for Leinster. Because of its higher growth rate Leinster's share of the total population continued to increase. The long-term decline in the population shares of Connacht and Ulster (part of) was halted between 2002 and 2006 – both provinces maintaining their 2002 shares of the overall population. Munster's share of the total population fell from 28.1 per cent in 2002 to 27.7 per cent in 2006.

All counties in Leinster increased their populations between 2002 and 2006. The fastest growing counties were Fingal (+43,400 or 22.1%), Meath (+28,616 or 21.4%) and Kildare (+22,131 or 13.5%). The population of all counties in Leinster apart from Dublin City (+2%), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (+1%) and Dublin South (+3.4%) grew by more than the national average rate of 8.1 per cent. Taking a ten-year perspective (i.e. 1996-2006), three Leinster counties accounted for about 29 per cent of the 609,000 growth in population at State level. They were Fingal, Meath and Kildare.

On the other hand Cork City and Limerick City were the only two of the thirty-four administrative counties to experience population decline between 2002 and 2006, the decreases being 3.2 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively. Cork County (+11.4%) was the fastest growing county in Munster, followed by Waterford County (+9.2%) and Limerick County (+8.3%). Developments in the suburban areas adjacent to the cities of Cork, Waterford and Limerick were major contributors to this growth.

Of the Connacht counties Leitrim (+3,038 or 11.8%) had the highest population growth rate in the recent intercensal period. This followed on from the modest increase of 3 per cent between 1996 and 2002 which in itself marked a turn around after a century and a half of continuous decline. Galway County experienced an 11

per cent increase while the rapid growth in the population of Galway City experienced in the previous two intercensal periods moderated to 9.3 per cent between 2002 and 2006.

Cavan had the highest growth rate in Ulster (part of) - the main stimulus coming from the south of the county which is within commuting distance of Dublin. Donegal and Monaghan each grew by less than the national average rate in the last four years.

Highest growth in the Mid-East region

The Mid-East region, comprising the counties of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow had the highest population growth (+15.1%) between 2002 and 2006. The Midland region (+11.5%) also comfortably exceeded the national average rate of increase of 8.1 per cent. The counties involved: Laoighis, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath form part of the wider Dublin commuter belt. Both the South-East and West regions experienced population growth of 8.7 per cent, slightly ahead of the national average while the Border region (+8%) was in line with national growth.

The population of the Dublin region grew by just 5.6 per cent, the large increase in Fingal being offset by smaller increases in Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and Dublin South. The population of the Mid-West region increased by 6.2 per cent with Limerick City exerting a downward influence on trends. Similarly, Cork City slowed the growth rate of the South-West region (6.9%).

Positive natural increase in all counties

All counties experienced positive natural increase in the intercensal period 2002-2006 with the rates highest in the counties with the youngest age profiles (Fingal, Dublin South, Kildare and Meath) and lowest in counties with the oldest age profiles (Leitrim, Roscommon and Mayo).

By deducting the natural increase in population at county level from the corresponding population change data it is possible to derive county net migration figures. These figures represent the net movement of all persons into the county from elsewhere in Ireland and from abroad and out of the county to elsewhere in Ireland and to abroad. Table 5 provides the components of population change for each province, county and city for 2002 to 2006. The county figures are summarised in Figure 2.

Only six of the thirty-four administrative counties experienced net outward migration between 2002 and 2006. These were the cities of Limerick, Cork, Waterford and Dublin along with Dublin South and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. This was due to a combination of factors including adult children leaving the family home, urban renewal schemes and regeneration projects involving the demolition of older housing. In addition many of the infill developments in city areas consisted of apartment blocks in which individual units catered for only one or two persons.

The counties in the upper right quadrant of Figure 2 (Fingal, Kildare, Meath, Galway City) experienced both net inward migration and natural increase in excess of 10 per thousand (1%) per annum between 2002 and 2006. These trends have resulted from rapid housing development and a relatively large number of births because of the high proportion of young family households in these counties. On the other hand some of the counties in the bottom left quadrant (Limerick, Cork, Waterford and Dublin cities and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown) experienced negative net migration and relatively low natural increase in population. The factors responsible for these trends are the relatively low level of new housing and an ageing population.

Highest growth in Blakestown

The most detailed administrative areas distinguished in the present report are Electoral Divisions (EDs). Table 4 provides the 2006 population at this level of geography classified by sex as well as the 2002 details for comparison purposes. The derived percentage changes are illustrated graphically in Map 1 while Map 2 focuses on the Dublin counties.

Table B summarises the top twenty population growth areas in the country between 2002 and 2006. The largest population increase was in the ED of Blanchardstown-Blakestown in Fingal where the population grew from

Figure 2 Natural increase and estimated net migration per 1,000 of average population for each County and City, 2002-2006
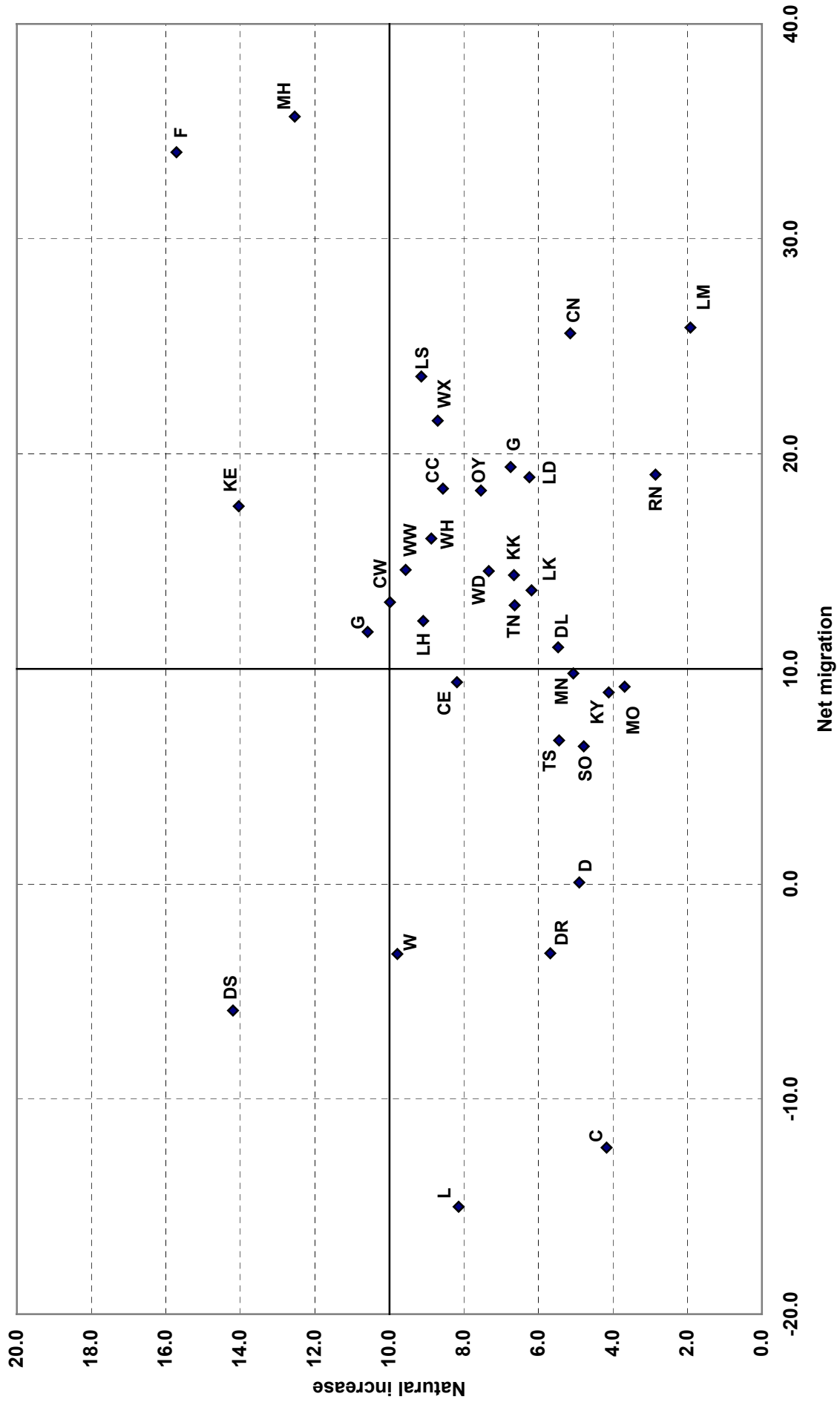
The following additions have been made to the abbreviations used for motor vehicle registration: DR Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, F Fingal, DS Dublin South, CC Cork County and GC Galway County.

24,404 in 2002 to 32,305 in 2006. In 1996 its population stood at 15,131. Other EDs in Fingal which appeared in the top twenty growth areas were Balbriggan Rural, The Ward, Swords-Lissenhall, Lusk, Dubber (near Dublin airport), Swords-Forrest and Castleknock-Knockmaroon. Elsewhere in the Dublin region the following EDs also featured strongly: Lucan-Esker and Tallaght-Jobstown in South Dublin and Glencullen in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Table B Top twenty Electoral Divisions ordered by population change, 2002 to 2006

Rank	Electoral Division	County	Population 2002	Population 2006	Actual increase	Percentage increase
1	Blanchardstown-Blakestown	Fingal	24,404	32,305	7,901	32.4
2	Navan Rural	Meath	18,020	23,196	5,176	28.7
3	Balbriggan Rural	Fingal	4,501	9,651	5,150	114.4
4	Lucan-Esker	South Dublin	20,807	25,778	4,971	23.9
5	Ballybaan	Galway City	5,522	9,878	4,356	78.9
6	Glencullen	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	10,266	13,939	3,673	35.8
7	St Mary's (suburb of Drogheda)	Meath	5,457	8,707	3,250	59.6
8	The Ward	Fingal	1,308	4,464	3,156	241.3
9	Ratoath	Meath	5,581	8,629	3,048	54.6
10	Swords-Lissenhall	Fingal	6,081	9,099	3,018	49.6
11	Lusk	Fingal	4,131	7,015	2,884	69.8
12	Dubber (near Dublin airport)	Fingal	838	3,721	2,883	344.0
13	Ballycummin	Limerick	13,435	16,279	2,844	21.2
14	Kilcoole	Wicklow	4,066	6,856	2,790	68.6
15	Tallaght-Jobstown	South Dublin	9,838	12,586	2,748	27.9
16	Swords-Forrest	Fingal	9,797	12,461	2,664	27.2
17	Mullingar Rural	Westmeath	7,012	9,575	2,563	36.6
18	Julianstown	Meath	5,806	8,281	2,475	42.6
19	Castleknock-Knockmaroon	Fingal	14,859	17,110	2,251	15.1
20	Douglas	Cork	15,999	18,192	2,193	13.7

In the remainder of Leinster there were significant population increases in the following Meath EDs: Navan Rural, St Mary's (suburb of Drogheda), Ratoath and Julianstown. Kilcoole in Wicklow and Mullingar Rural in Westmeath also featured among the high growth areas.

In Munster Ballycummin ED in the outskirts of Limerick City increased its population by 2,844 or 21.2 per cent between 2002 and 2006 while the population of the Douglas suburb of Cork City increased by 2,193 or 13.7 per cent over the same period.

Ballybaan in Galway City had a population increase of 4,356 (78.9%) during the 2002-2006 period while in the same city Barna's population grew by 1,973 (18.2%).

In Ulster (part of) the population of Letterkenny Rural increased by 2,097 or 55.2 per cent.

Constituency changes Table 3 shows the population in 2002 and 2006 and the number of TDs in each of the 43 Dáil constituencies as defined in the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 16) Act 2005. The table shows the percentage change in the population of each of the constituencies as well as the average number of persons per TD based on the preliminary population figures contained in the present report.

The constituency of Dublin West, which is located within the county of Fingal, showed the greatest change in population (+26.8%) between 2002 and 2006. Based on the 2006 census results the average number of persons per TD now stands at 30,933. Also in Dublin the population of Dublin North, which is predominantly in Fingal, increased its population by 21.4 per cent to leave the average number of persons per TD at 29,996.

The population increases observed for County Meath are also apparent in the growth in Meath East (+23.4%) and Meath West (18.9%). Other notable increases were in the constituencies of Kildare South (+17.7%) and Cork East (+15%).

More males than females

A final feature of the summary data prepared by the enumerators is the breakdown by sex. Table C gives the sex ratio (the number of males per 1,000 females) for the State and Provinces for each census from 1926.

Table C Males per 1,000 females in each Province, 1926-2006

Year	Total	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (part of)
1926	1,029	998	1,036	1,060	1,067
1936	1,050	1,004	1,062	1,110	1,109
1946	1,024	971	1,040	1,097	1,103
1951	1,036	987	1,050	1,117	1,111
1956	1,019	968	1,038	1,108	1,092
1961	1,011	958	1,032	1,103	1,088
1966	1,010	964	1,032	1,095	1,083
1971	1,009	969	1,029	1,088	1,075
1979	1,011	979	1,031	1,068	1,076
1981	1,009	977	1,031	1,065	1,070
1986	999	973	1,017	1,042	1,055
1991	989	965	1,009	1,025	1,039
1996	986	964	1,005	1,016	1,032
2002	987	972	999	1,009	1,024
2006	1,001	989	1,010	1,019	1,027

The sex ratio declined in all four Provinces between 1979 and 1996. The downward trend continued between 1996 and 2002 in Munster, Connacht and Ulster (part of) while the turn around in Leinster was sufficient to ensure a modest increase in the sex ratio at State level. In the most recent intercensal period all Provinces showed an increase in the sex ratio.

Leinster was the only Province in which the number of females exceeded the number of males in 2006 while Ulster (part of) had the highest male excess. From the detail in Table 1 the general conclusion to be drawn in relation to the sex ratio is that males predominate in rural counties such as Leitrim, Cavan and Roscommon while there are more females in cities and urban areas.