

## People of Ireland, it's time to MAKE YOUR MARK!

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011 is Census Day

As Census 2011 is launched, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) is asking people to “*Make Your Mark*” when they fill out their Census form on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011. Visit the census website at [www.census.ie](http://www.census.ie) to find out all about Census 2011.

Launching the Census at Government Buildings this morning, Minister of State at the Department of An Taoiseach and Government Chief Whip Paul Kehoe outlined the importance of everyone taking part in Census 2011. *“The census is an important milestone for the country. It is a time to stand back and take stock. In the census on the 10<sup>th</sup> April, each and every one of us will be given the opportunity to record important information about our lives and circumstances in Ireland today, information which is essential to helping us to understand where we are as a country. The provision of this information is critical as we face the challenges ahead.”*

*“This is a very important time for Ireland. As a society we are faced now with making crucial decisions about our future and it is imperative that we have accurate and objective information on which to base those decisions. The census is the most comprehensive and valuable of these information sources. It is critical therefore that everyone in the State on Census Night is included in preparing this accurate and up-to-date picture of Ireland.”*

The Census is a major undertaking for the CSO, according to Gerry O’Hanlon, Director General of the Office. *“The Census is the CSO’s largest statistical operation. It is also the most exacting since the fieldwork must be completed over a short nine-week period and a complete count of the population must be obtained on Census Night 10<sup>th</sup> April. The full co-operation of the public, which has always been the strong point of Irish censuses, is essential in this regard. We also rely heavily on the skill and dedication of our 5,500-strong temporary field force to carry this task through to a successful conclusion.”*

With regard to confidentiality, Mr. O’Hanlon is emphatic. *“The Census information is strictly confidential and will be used for statistical purposes only – this is guaranteed by law. No other Government Department or Agency has access to the identifiable information relating to individuals or households collected in the Census. The need for confidentiality is stressed in the training of our field staff and all are made fully aware of their legal obligations in this respect. We in the CSO are justifiably proud of our unblemished record in the treatment of confidential data, and it is one of our top priorities to maintain this record!”*

From tomorrow, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Census enumerators will be calling to households to deliver the census form and every household in Ireland should receive their census form over the next three to four weeks. On Census night, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April, each householder is required to complete the Census form in respect of each person in the household and to sign the declaration at the end of the form when it is complete. It should take an average household approximately 30 minutes to complete the census form. Census enumerators will call to collect the completed forms in the three to four weeks after Census Night. All census enumerators will be wearing clearly marked reflective jackets and will be carrying I.D.

For those whose first language is not English a translation of the census form is available in the following 21 languages: Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Estonian, French, German, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swahili, Urdu and Yoruba. Other resources which are available to assist people with filling out the census form include large print, Braille and audio versions of the census form and a Step-by-Step Guide to completing the census form which has been developed in association with the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA). All of these resources and much more information about the census are available on the census website at

[www.census.ie](http://www.census.ie). And of course census enumerators will be happy to assist with answering any questions when they call to deliver and collect the form.  
Further information about Census 2011 is available on [www.census.ie](http://www.census.ie)

**For media queries: Email: [censuspublicity@cso.ie](mailto:censuspublicity@cso.ie) or Phone: 01 895 1304/1423**

**Note to editors:**

- Census 2011 will be the 24<sup>th</sup> census. The first was carried out in 1841. There was a Census every ten years up to 1946 (with a gap between 1911 and 1926) and every five years since 1951. A new EU regulations means that there will be a Census in every EU country in 2011.
- Every household in the country is obliged by law to complete and return a census form.
- Preliminary results are available three months after the Census and principal demographic results will be available within a year.
- For census purposes, the country is divided into 44 designated 'regions' each comprising 10 'field districts'. Census field operation positions are organised in a pyramid structure with
  - 50 full-time senior managers at the top working from Census HQ and regional offices,
  - 440 full-time field supervisors who will work from their own homes, and
  - 5,000 part-time enumerators who will deliver and collect the census forms to householders over the 10 weeks of the census field campaign.
- The 2011 Census form will also ask two new questions. The first about what other languages are spoken in the home and the level of proficiency in spoken English for those whose first language is not English or Irish. The second will ask each person how their health is in general. The data from the language question will be used to target state resources in areas such as education and health to support people who may struggle speaking English. The answers to the health question will provide us with a country-wide picture of people's health and how it is related to various factors such as age, etc.