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Census 2006

Non-Irish Nationals Living in Ireland

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Introduction

This report presents a thematic examination of the non-Irish national population living in Ireland at the time of the 2006 Census. The information in the report is sourced entirely from the census and deals with persons who were usually resident in Ireland in April 2006. While the Irish census is conducted on a de-facto basis (all persons present in the country on census night were enumerated) this report only deals with persons who were resident in Ireland at the time. Overseas visitors are excluded from the analysis.

Non-Irish nationals were identified by their responses to the question 'What is your nationality?' This question was first asked in the 2002 Census, and while there is some limited scope for retrospective analysis the report primarily focuses on data taken from the 2006 Census.

6 What is your Nationality?
If you have more than one nationality, please declare all of them.

1 ☐ Irish

2 ☐ Other NATIONALITY, write in

3 ☐ No nationality

The report, which aims to present a broadly comprehensive picture of the non-Irish population in Ireland, is in two parts. The first part gives an overview of the total non-Irish population, and compares their characteristics with those of the resident Irish population. It looks at which countries they came from, where they were living across Ireland, their housing and family arrangements, what were they doing in Ireland from an economic perspective (working, student, retired) and in which sectors they were working.

The second part of the report presents a more in-depth profile of the ten largest nationality groups at the time of the 2006 Census. These profiles attempt to illustrate the diversity that existed among Ireland's non-Irish population in April 2006. Non-Irish nationals do not represent a homogenous grouping and to portray them as such can be somewhat misleading. The nationals of some of these countries are very recent arrivals, others have arrived in big numbers within the past ten years, and some have been here for a long time. Individual country profiles are presented for the UK, Poland, Lithuania, Nigeria, Latvia, United States, China, Germany, Philippines, and France. In addition, brief snapshot profiles are provided for the next ten largest groups.

Looking at these groups individually and highlighting the differences in their location of residence in Ireland, their living arrangements, their educational attainment and choice of occupations is highly informative. While there are some remarkable similarities among the different groups there are also areas of strong dissimilarity. For example, while the Polish are largely here to work, the Chinese are here to study; the UK nationals live mainly in rural areas while the Nigerians are highly urbanised; the US nationals are concentrated in the higher social classes while those from accession states tend to be working in the manual skilled areas.

The information in this report is by and large presented graphically or in small snapshot tables. In a number of cases appendix tables are provided to complete the picture for some variables. Fifteen volumes of very detailed tables have already been published from Census 2006 and small area statistics covering fifteen themes are available on the CSO website to address the needs of more in depth research. See <http://www.cso.ie/census/>

Further information

For further information contact:

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

Phone (01) 8951460 Ext. 1461/63/66
LoCall 1890 236 787

Fax (01) 895 1399

E-mail census@csso.ie

Web www.csso.ie

1. Non-Irish Nationals living in Ireland

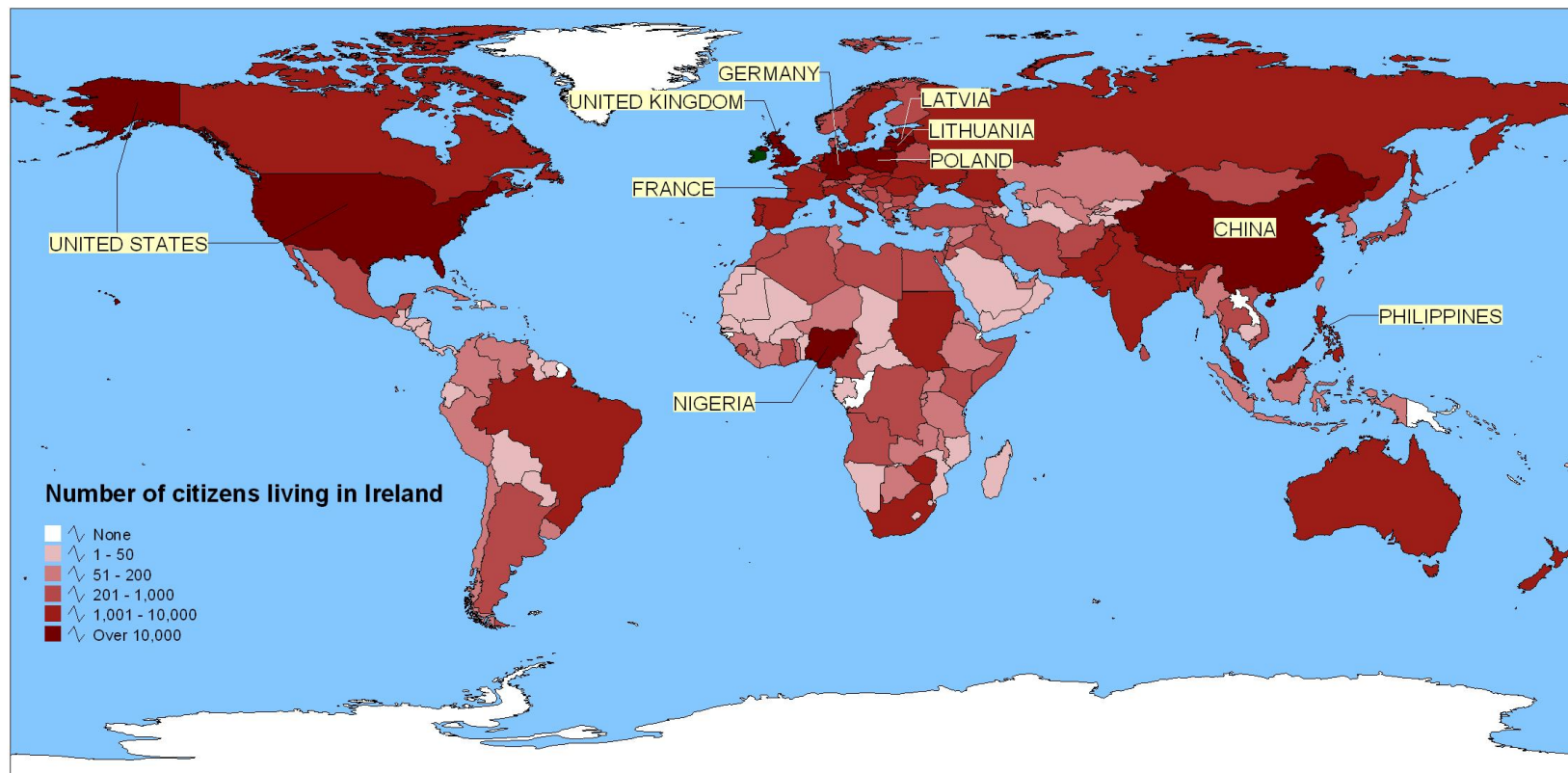
Country of Origin

Table 1 Complete list of countries from which there were non-Irish nationals

Number of persons					
1 - 10	11 - 50	51 - 200	201 - 1,000	1,001 - 10,000	Over 10,000
Anguilla	Azerbaijan	Armenia	Afghanistan	Australia	China
Bahamas	Bahrain	Botswana	Albania	Bangladesh	Germany
Belize	Barbados	Burundi	Algeria	Brazil	Latvia
Bermuda	Benin	Chile	Angola	Canada	Lithuania
Bhutan	Bolivia	Colombia	Argentina	Congo	Nigeria
Brunei	Chad	Cuba	Austria	Czech Republic	Poland
Burkina Faso	Dominica	Cyprus	Belarus	Estonia	United Kingdom
Cambodia	Ecuador	Eritrea	Belgium	France	USA
Cape Verde	El Salvador	Ethiopia	Bosnia / Herzegovina	Hungary	
Central African Republic	Gambia	Guinea	Bulgaria	India	
Costa Rica	Guatemala	Hong Kong	Cameroon	Italy	
Dominican Republic	Honduras	Iceland	Dem Rep Congo	Malaysia	
East Timor	Kyrgyzstan	Indonesia	Croatia	Moldova	
Faroe Islands	Lesotho	Ivory Coast	Denmark	Netherlands	
Fiji	Luxembourg	Jamaica	Egypt	New Zealand	
Gabon	Mauritania	Kazakhstan	Finland	Pakistan	
Gibraltar	Mozambique	Lebanon	Georgia	Philippines	
Grenada	Nicaragua	Liberia	Ghana	Portugal	
Guyana	Oman	FYROM	Greece	Romania	
Indian Ocean Territories	Paraguay	Malawi	Iraq	Russia	
Laos	Qatar	Malta	Israel	Slovakia	
Liechtenstein	Saudi Arabia	Myanmar Burma	Japan	South Africa	
Macao	Senegal	Niger	Jordan	Spain	
Madagascar	Swaziland	Palestine	Kuwait	Sudan	
Maldives	Tajikistan	Peru	Libya	Sweden	
Mali	Yemen	Rwanda	Mauritius	Ukraine	
Monacoan		Singapore	Mexico	Zimbabwe	
Montserrat		Slovenia	Mongolia		
Namibia		South Korea	Morocco		
Niue		Syria	Nepal		
Panama		Taiwan	North Korea		
Porto Rica		Tanzania	Norway		
Reunion		Togo	Sierra Leone		
Samoa		Trinidad and Tobago	Somalia		
Seychelles		Tunisia	Sri Lanka		
Solomon Islands		Uganda	Switzerland		
St Kitts and Nevis		United Arab Emirates	Thailand		
St Lucia		Uruguay	Turkey		
St Vincent		Uzbekistan	Vietnam		
Surinam		Venezuela	Serbia		
Tonga		Zambia			
Turkmenistan					
Vatican City					
Western Sahara					
Total persons from these countries					
187	674	4,729	24,532	114,822	263,996

There was a total of 420,000 non-Irish nationals living in Ireland in April 2006, representing 188 different countries. While the vast majority of these people were from a very small number of countries - 82 per cent from just 10 countries - there was also a remarkable diversity in the range of countries represented as can be seen from the table above. The adjacent map of the world shows the country of origin of Ireland's non-Irish population, clearly illustrating the very small number of countries from which there were no persons.

Fig 1 Non-Irish nationals living in Ireland by country



Different nationality groups in Ireland

The following sections look at the various characteristics of the non-Irish population compared with the Irish. As well as differentiating between Irish/non-Irish, the non-Irish are further sub-divided into four groups - United Kingdom, EU 15 (excl. UK and Ireland), EU15 to EU25 Accession States (i.e. the 10 states which joined the EU in May 2004) and Rest of World.

United Kingdom - the largest non-Irish group. There were over 112,000 UK nationals living in Ireland. They have been resident here for longer than the other groups, with large numbers having been here since the 1970s and 1980s, and the majority taking up residence here in the 1990s. The characteristics of UK nationals tend to be similar to those of the Irish population.

EU 15 (excluding Ireland and UK) - people from the 15 states comprising the EU before May 2004. A majority of these arrived during the period 2001-2006, but a substantial number had been here since the 1990s. The EU 15 (excluding Ireland and UK) group comprises Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden

EU15 to EU25 Accession States - this group saw the largest growth between 2002 and 2006, reflecting the accession of these states to the EU in 2004. Over 44 per cent of the citizens of these countries arrived in Ireland in 2005 or later. The states in this group are Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia

Rest of World - The remaining nationalities comprise a varied group, but mainly composed of the USA, African and Asian nationalities.

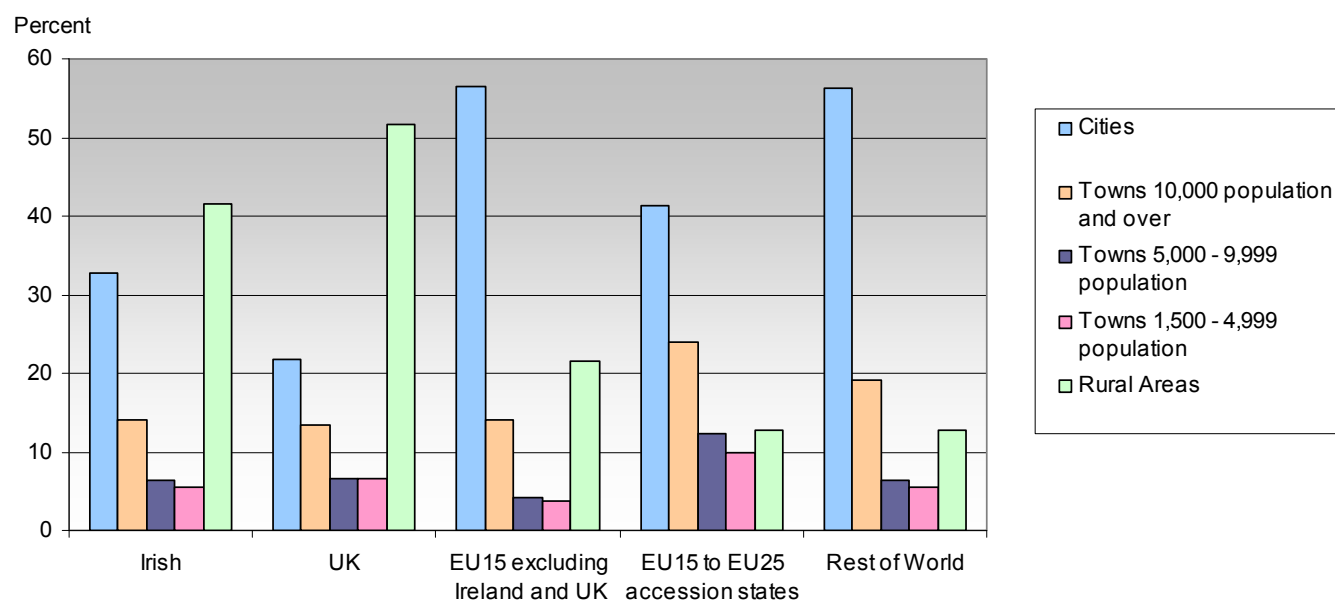
Geographic distribution

Census 2006 revealed there were non-Irish nationals living in every town in Ireland in April of that year. While the vast majority were living in our cities and large towns, small and medium sized towns were also remarkably popular. This is undoubtedly linked to the industries in which these workers were employed, with construction and services featuring strongly. Although one in four non-Irish were found to be living in rural areas two thirds of these were UK nationals; excluding the UK only one in seven non-Irish nationals were living in rural areas.

Table 2 Irish and non-Irish nationals living in cities, towns and rural areas

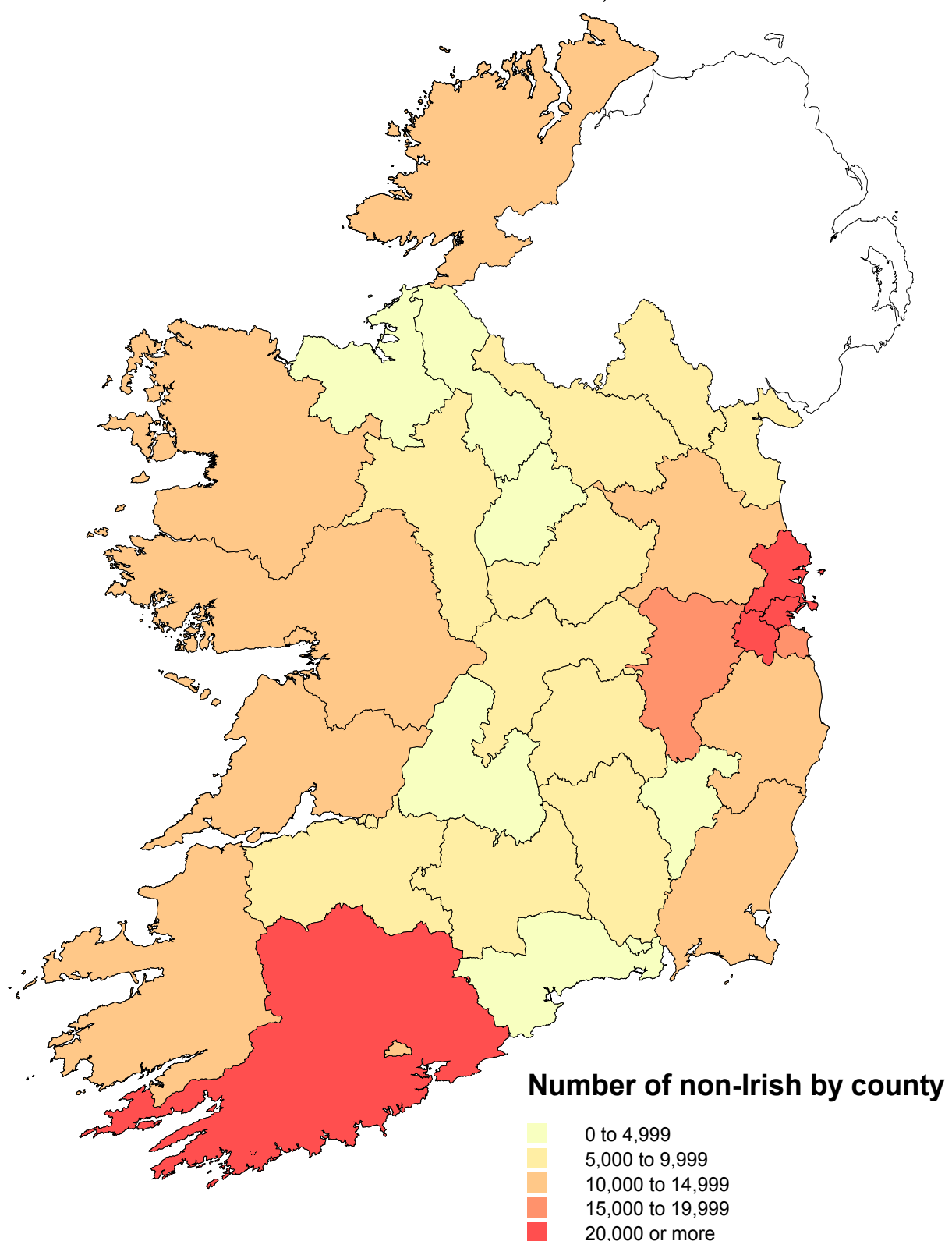
	Total	Irish	Non-Irish	Irish	Non-Irish
	Persons			Percentage share	
Urban areas	2,424,796	2,109,720	315,076	58.4	76.0
Cities and their suburbs	1,356,848	1,179,708	177,140	32.7	42.7
Towns with population 10,000+	582,697	506,177	76,520	14.0	18.5
Towns 5,000 - 9,999	260,159	227,432	32,727	6.3	7.9
Towns 3,000 - 4,999	225,092	196,403	28,689	5.4	6.9
Towns 1,500 - 2,999	121,244	106,332	14,912	2.9	3.6
Rural areas	1,600,214	1,500,778	99,436	41.6	24.0
State	4,025,010	3,610,498	414,512	100.0	100.0

Figure 2 Urban / Rural distribution



The map in Figure 3 shows the distribution of non-Irish nationals by county in absolute numbers. Leitrim, Longford, Waterford city and county, Carlow and North Tipperary all had fewer than 5,000 non-Irish nationals. Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin and Cork County all had greater than 20,000. In general non-Irish nationals were concentrated in places of employment, either in our cities, particularly Dublin and Galway, or in the popular tourist destinations on the western and southern seaboard.

Figure 3 Distribution of non-Irish persons by county



Housing characteristics

Nature of occupancy

The housing profile of non-Irish nationals is very different to that of the Irish. While owner occupancy continues to be the favoured status for Irish and UK headed households the picture for other non-Irish nationals is quite different. The graph below clearly illustrates the differences. Almost eighty per cent of households headed by persons from the accession states were in rented accommodation. For other non-Irish groups the numbers renting were also high. Differences were also observed in the age of the dwellings occupied by Irish and non-Irish nationals. Again the accession states stand out. For this group 38 per cent of all dwellings were built in the previous five years; and 55 per cent were built since 1996. This latter figure compares with just over one in four for households headed by Irish persons.

Figure 4 Owner occupied and rented housing by nationality of head of household

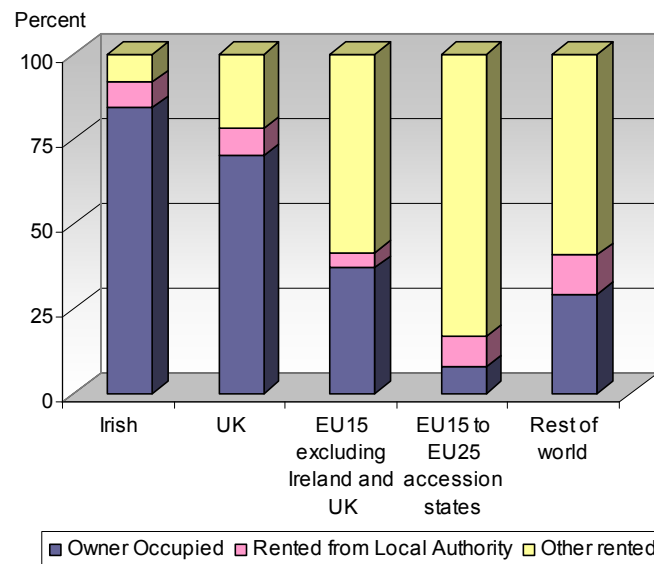


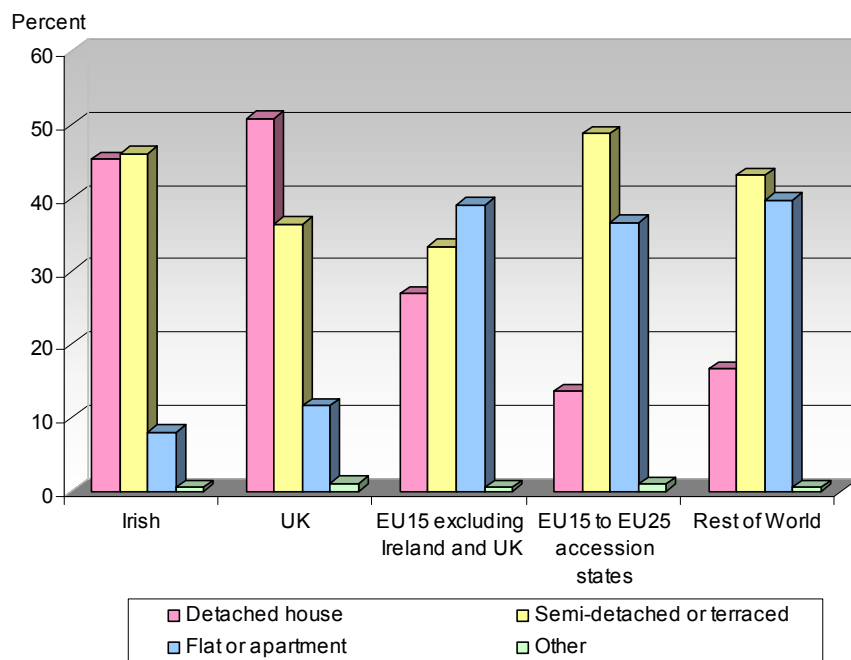
Table 3 Percentage distribution of housing units by period built, and broad nationality

Period in which built	Irish nationals	United Kingdom	EU15 excluding Ireland and UK	EU15 to EU25 accession states	Rest of World
Percent					
Before 1919	11.0	14.5	15.8	8.9	10.6
1919 to 1960	18.7	13.4	11.6	9.2	8.1
1961 to 1980	24.4	16.3	13.0	11.0	11.0
1981 to 1990	12.2	10.0	9.0	8.3	8.3
1991 to 1995	6.6	6.9	8.8	8.1	8.6
1996 to 2000	10.7	13.5	14.8	16.7	17.9
2001 or later	16.6	25.4	27.0	37.8	35.5
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Type of accommodation

The proportion of households living in detached dwellings was higher for UK headed households than for Irish households (50% compared with 45%); this is in keeping with the higher proportions of UK nationals living in rural areas. Flats and apartments were most popular among households headed by other nationalities; they accounted for just 7 per cent of dwellings for Irish nationals but over 35 per cent for non-Irish nationals.

Figure 5 Type of housing by nationality of head of household

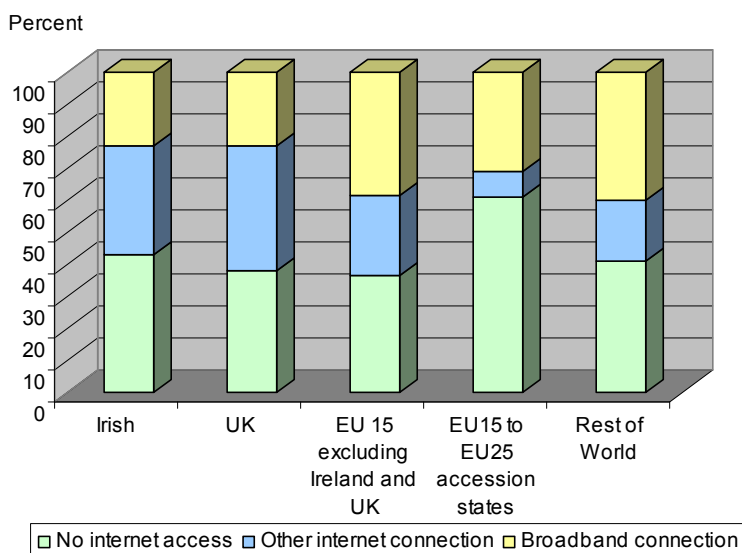


Internet access and broadband

Internet access at around 60 per cent was broadly similar among households headed by the different nationality groups, apart from nationals of the recent accession states where the proportion was 40 per cent. EU 15 (excluding Ireland and UK) headed households at 63.5 per cent had the highest internet access.

Of the households which had access, a different story emerged in terms of broadband access. Even though households headed by nationals of the accession countries had the lowest uptake in terms of internet access, four out of five of the households which had internet access had a broadband connection. The relevant proportion for the UK was 36.7 per cent and for the Irish was 40.6 per cent. These figures reflect the urban/rural distribution of these nationalities, with the more urbanised groups tending to have higher levels of broadband access.

Figure 6 Access to internet and broadband

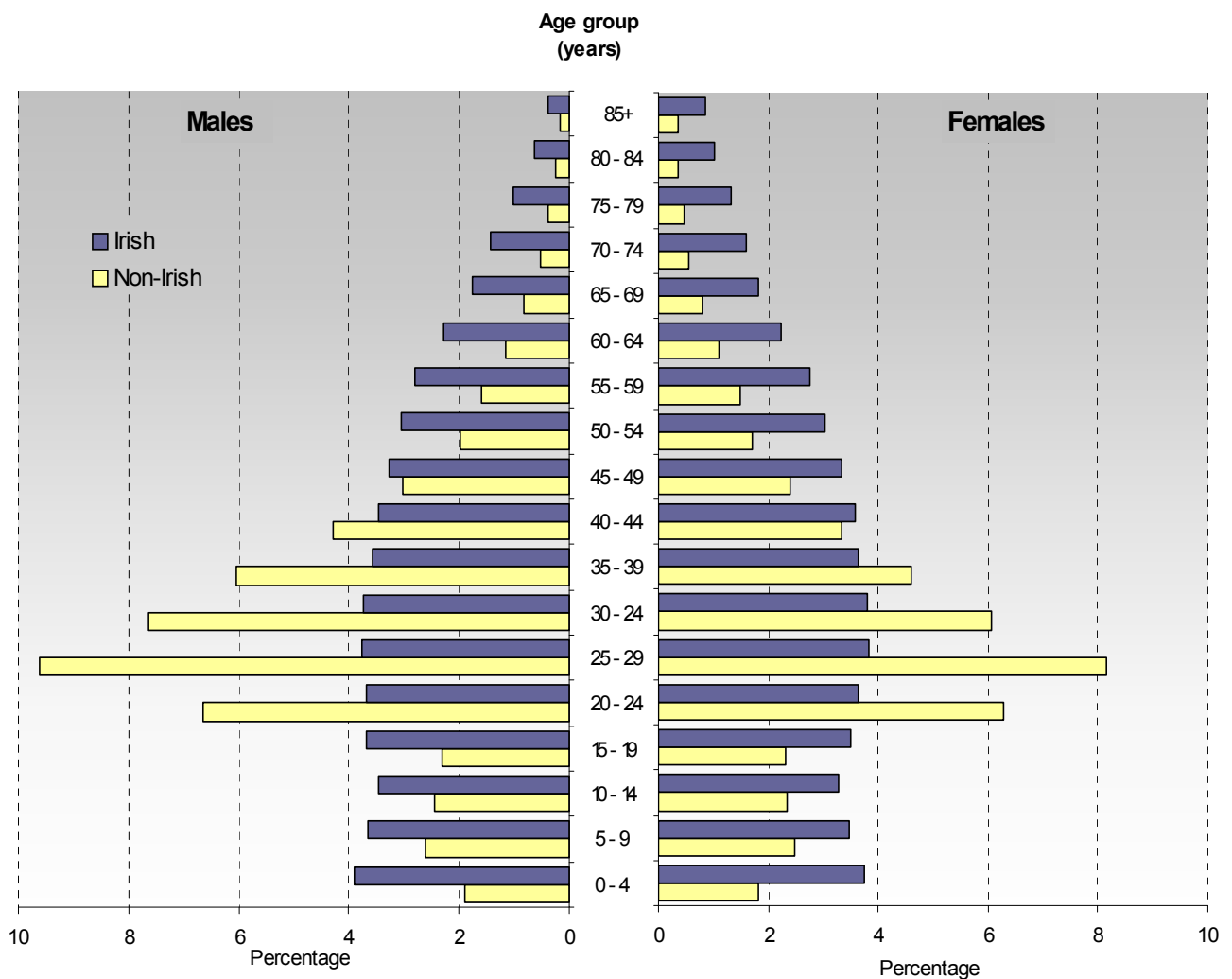


Demographic profile

Age and sex composition

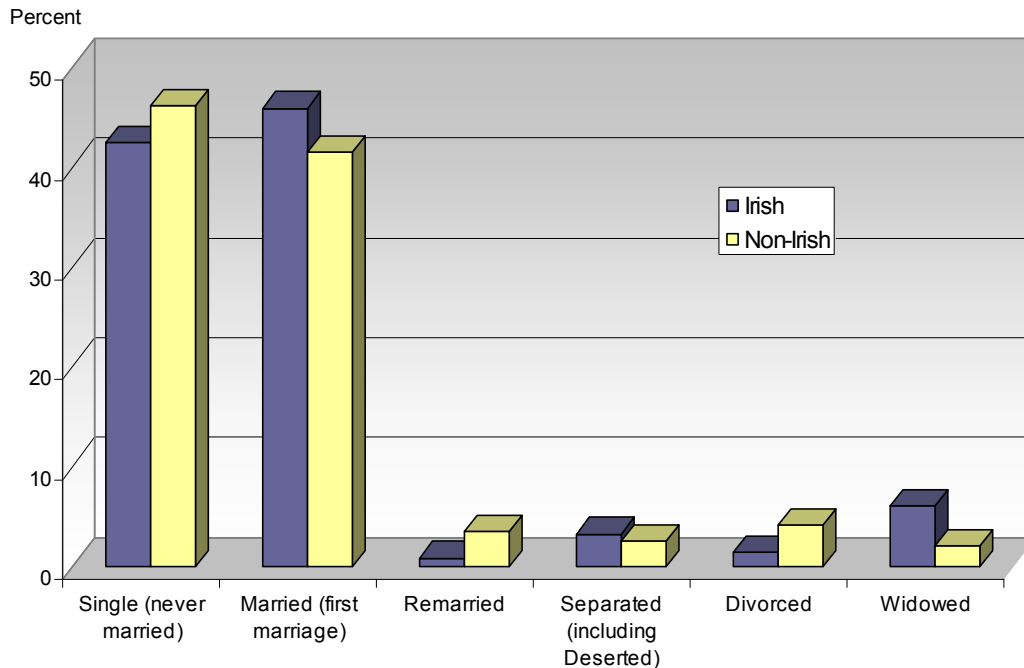
The non-Irish national population had a strikingly different demographic profile to that of the Irish, and this is clearly illustrated in the population pyramid below. The non-Irish were dominated by people in their twenties and thirties with significantly more men than women. The sex ratio disparity was most marked among the younger age groups, where the largest numbers were found, though there were more men than women in every age group under 70 years. There were few children and elderly persons among the non-Irish nationals. The predominance of persons of working age accounts for other differences between the Irish and non-Irish groups, in areas such as labour force participation rates and levels of educational attainment.

Figure 7 Population pyramid showing Irish and non-Irish nationals by five year age group



Marital Status

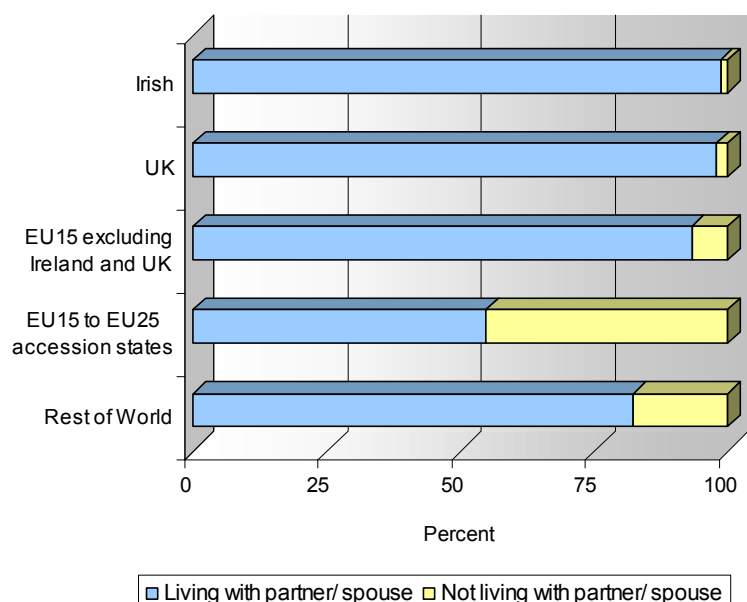
Figure 8 Percentage distribution of Irish and non-Irish nationals by marital status (persons aged 15 years and over)



Given the overall impression of the non-Irish being generally young and single, it is surprising to find that almost 42 per cent were married (compared with 46 per cent for the Irish population). When re-married is included the difference is even less; nearly four per cent of the non-Irish were re-married, compared with just under one per cent of Irish people, reflecting the relatively recent introduction of divorce in Ireland.

Although such a high proportion of non-Irish nationals were married this was not reflected in their household composition where non-family households predominated, particularly among nationals of the recent accession states. Almost one in five (18.6 per cent) married non-Irish nationals did not live with their spouse at the time of the census. The graph below shows the percentage distribution for the broad nationality groups. The evidence from the census would seem to suggest that a large number of the more recent arrivals to Ireland have left spouses behind in their home countries, very similar to the Irish in Britain in the 1950s and 1960s.

Figure 9 Married persons and their living arrangements

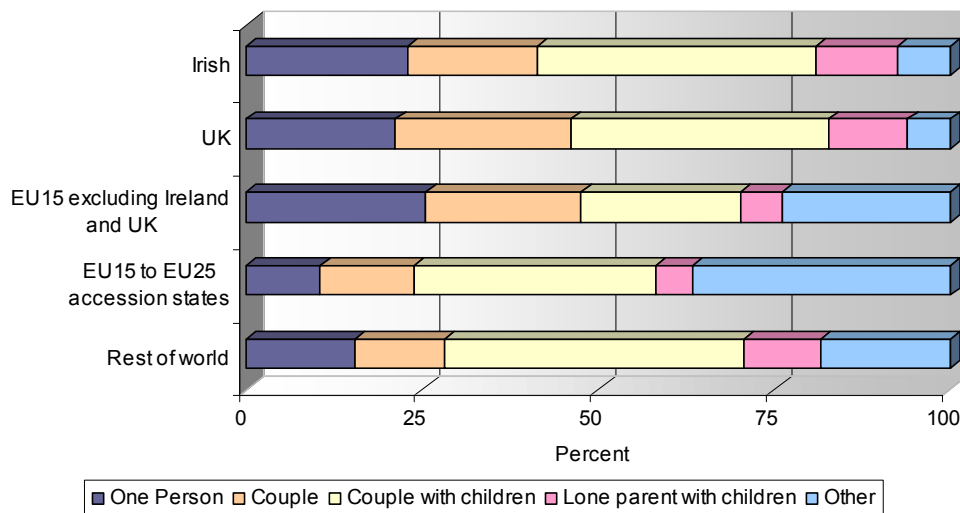


Living Arrangements

Household composition

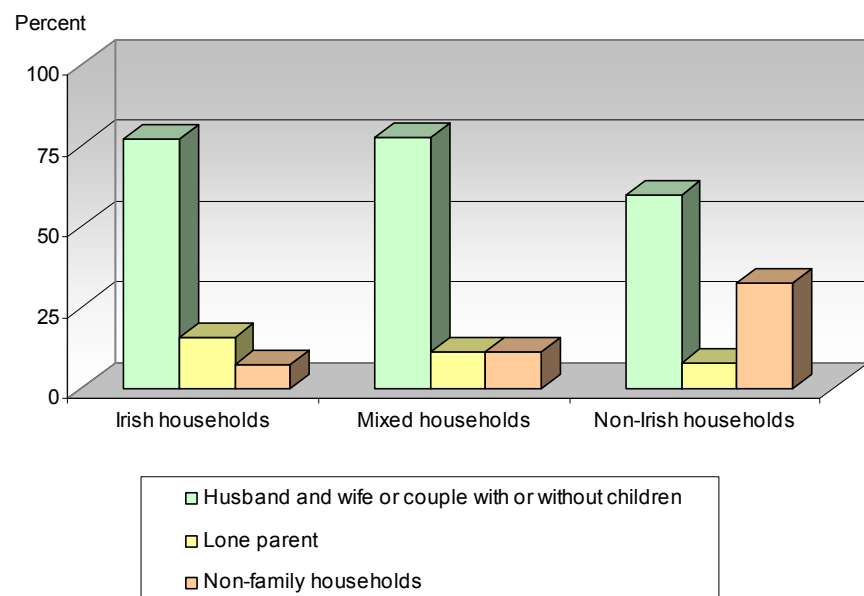
There were significant differences in household composition among the different nationality groups. UK-headed households had the highest percentage of family type households at 73 per cent (the comparable figure for Irish households was 70%). Among EU15 headed households one person households were the most prevalent type, followed by couples without children. In households headed by persons from the accession states the most common type was non-family households, followed by couples with children.

Figure 10 Household types by nationality of head of household



Looking at the composition of households in terms of the mix of nationalities of their members reveals some distinct differences between Irish-only, non-Irish-only and mixed Irish/non-Irish households. (One person households are excluded from this comparison.). As illustrated in Figure 11, households comprising couples (with or without children) were in the majority for each of the three types, but in households containing no Irish persons non-family households were more prevalent.

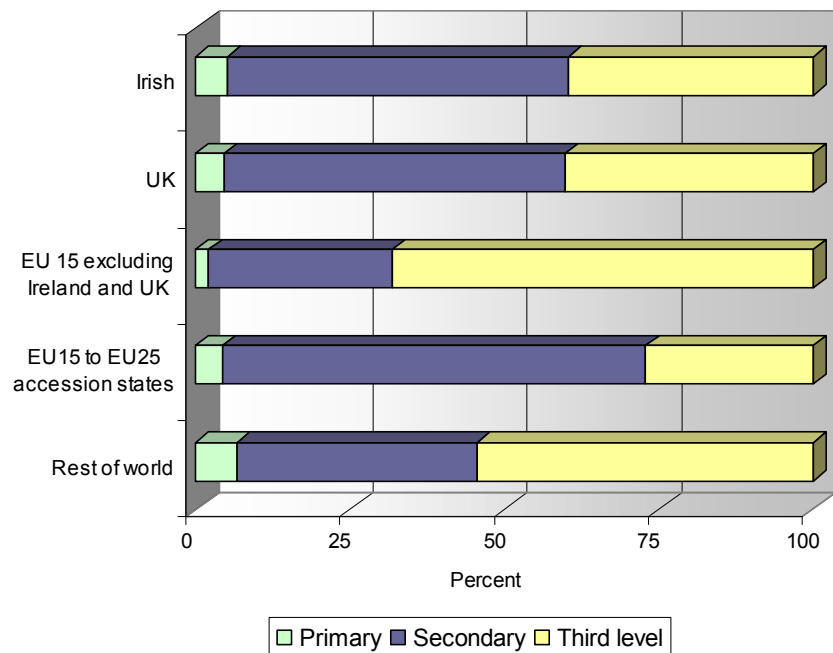
Figure 11 Household composition and nationality composition



Education

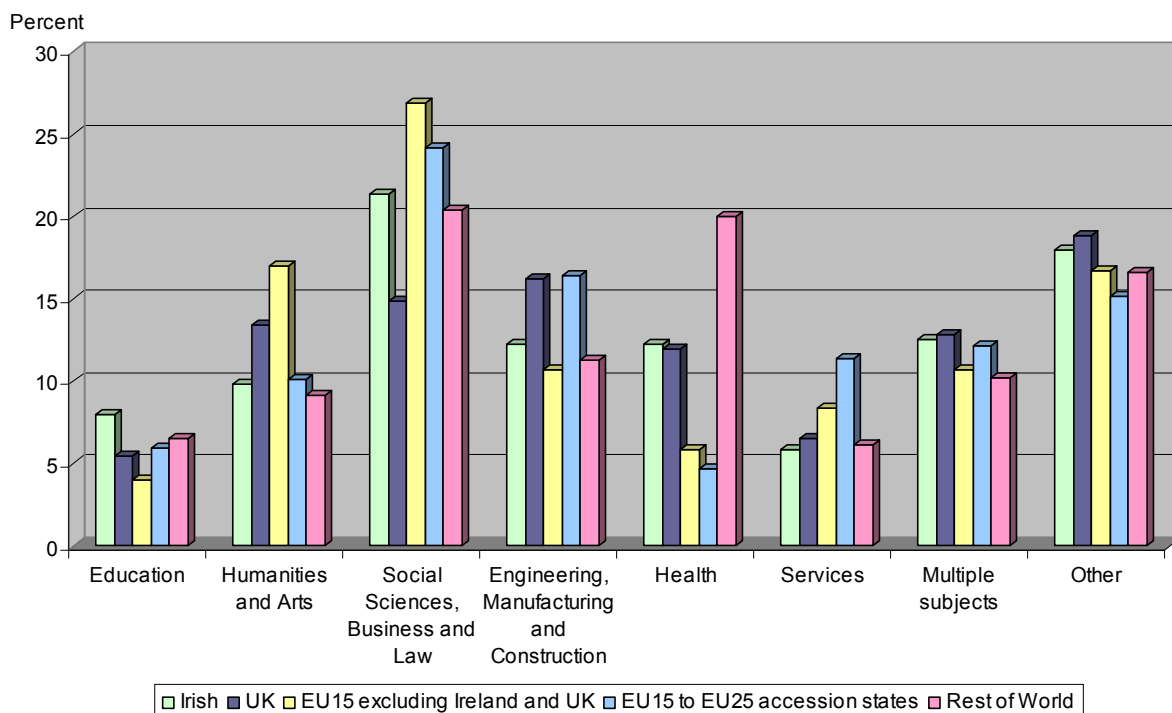
While non-Irish nationals had distinctly higher overall levels of education than the Irish population this is largely a demographic effect caused by the older age profile of the Irish population, many of whom ceased their education at primary level. When the analysis is confined to those aged 15 - 44 these differences largely disappear. Wide variations between the different nationality groups can still be seen however, as illustrated in Figure 12. Nearly three quarters of persons from the EU 15 excluding Ireland and the UK are educated to third level, and the equivalent figure for persons from the rest of the world is over 50 per cent.

Figure 12 Level of education for 15 - 44 year olds



Just over 129,000 non-Irish nationals held a third level qualification, representing 31 per cent of that group. Among those from Asia the percentage was 42 per cent, the highest of all groups. The distribution of the subjects in which the qualifications were held among the broad groups is interesting; Business and law was very popular with persons from Europe and qualifications in health dominated among those from Asia.

Figure 13 Distribution of third level subjects in each nationality group

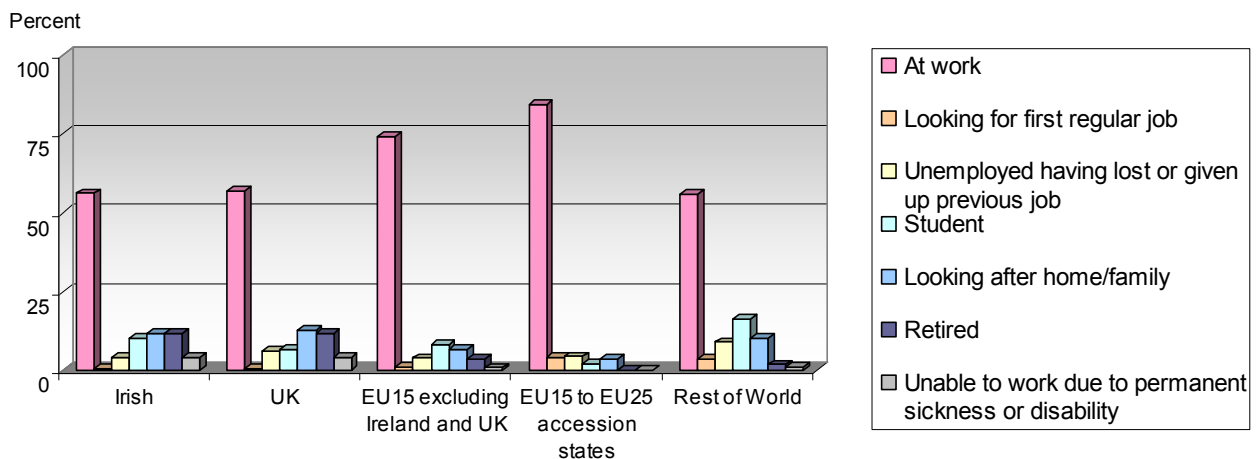


Economic Profile

Principal Economic Status

The economic profile of the non-Irish population is quite different to that of the Irish. Their labour force participation rate is higher, with fewer students, homemakers or retirees. This is broadly in line with expectations, given the younger age profile. However, there are marked differences in the economic profile within different nationality groups. Nationals from the accession states are predominantly workers while there is a higher percentage of students among those from outside Europe. One in six UK nationals living in Ireland were retired or unable to work - the same proportion for the Irish population.

Figure 14 Principal Economic Status (persons aged 15 and over)



Workers by industrial group

The broad sectors in which workers were employed varied according to nationality. While the services sector dominated for all groups it was least important for persons from the accession states, where the industrial (specifically manufacturing and construction) and agricultural sectors were more important. The share of agricultural workers was very low for non-Irish groups excluding the accession states (1.5% for EU15 excluding Ireland and the UK and approximately 2% for the UK and Rest of world.)

Figure 15 Workers in industrial sectors

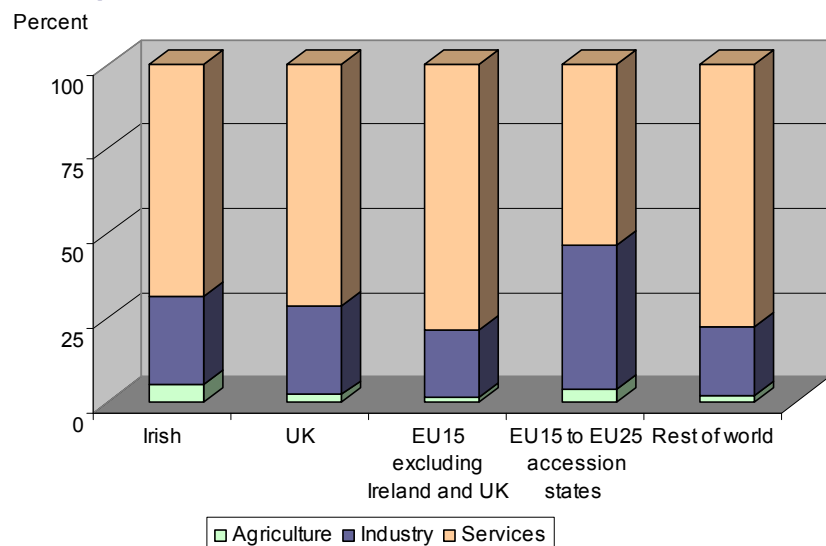


Table 4 provides a more detailed view of the relevant industrial groups. Predictably, the distribution of UK nationals is very similar to that of the Irish, while for the other groups a more distinct picture emerges. Workers of EU15 nationality (excluding Ireland and UK) are more highly concentrated in business activities, accounting for almost a quarter of all workers from these countries. Among nationals of the EU accession states four industries employed three quarters of all workers: manufacturing, construction, wholesale/retail trade and hotels and restaurants. Over one fifth of those from other countries worked in health and social work - these were mostly Asian workers.

All groups had a high proportion of workers in hotels and restaurants. In overall terms this industry had the highest proportion of non-Irish national workers at over one in three. The industry with the lowest proportion of non-Irish nationals was public administration and defence at 2.6 per cent.

Table 4 Workers by industrial group and nationality

Industrial group	Irish Nationals	United Kingdom	EU15 (excl. Irl. & UK)	EU15 to EU25 accession states	Rest of world
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5.3	2.1	1.6	3.9	2.0
Mining, quarrying and turf production	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.2
Manufacturing industries	13.1	13.8	14.9	21.4	11.7
Electricity, gas and water supply	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2
Construction	11.7	11.6	4.4	20.8	8.3
Wholesale and retail trade	14.4	15.3	9.7	17.0	11.7
Hotels and restaurants	4.3	6.2	14.2	16.5	17.0
Transport, storage and communications	6.1	5.7	7.0	3.7	3.6
Banking and financial services	5.0	4.6	6.4	0.9	2.8
Business activities	9.6	12.8	24.3	9.0	12.9
Public administration and defence	6.3	2.4	1.5	0.2	1.4
Education	7.7	6.6	6.1	0.6	3.1
Health and social work	10.8	11.8	5.7	2.4	20.8
Other community, social and personal services activities	4.5	6.1	3.7	3.1	4.3
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Social Class

While the non-Irish tended to belong to the lower social classes compared with the Irish, this was most pronounced amongst nationals of the recent accession states. Only one in five belong to the upper three classes. The opposite picture emerges for EU15 (excluding Ireland and UK) nationals, with nearly three quarters belonging to the upper three classes. The distribution of UK nationals is similar to that of the Irish with a majority in the higher groups. For the Rest of world, the split is quite even, reflecting the varied make-up of this group of countries.

Figure 16 Social Class

