



**An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh**  
Central Statistics Office

## **Profile 5**

# **Households and Families**

Published by the Stationery Office, Dublin, Ireland.

To be purchased from the:

Central Statistics Office, Information Section, Skehard Road, Cork.

Government Publications Sales Office, Sun Alliance House,  
Molesworth Street, Dublin 2,

or through any bookseller.

Price €5.00

September 2012

© Government of Ireland 2012

Material compiled and presented by the  
Central Statistics Office.

Reproduction is authorised, except for commercial  
purposes, provided the source is acknowledged.

ISBN 978-1-4064-2661-8

# Contents

## Page

### Foreword

5

### Marital status

An overview of marital status in Ireland, looking at recent trends across the different categories

7

### Single people

Examining the distribution of the single population

10

### Married people

We look at the married population and how it has changed over time

11

### Separated and divorced

A look at marital breakdown in Ireland, and people who have re-married

13

### Marital status of different groups

Examining the marital status structure by social class and nationality, and the marital characteristics of the older population

15

### Families

We look at different types and sizes of families

17

### Couples

A profile of married and cohabiting couples, with and without children

18

### Lone parents and other family types

An examination of lone parent families, adult children living with their parents and same sex couples

22

### Private households

We look at some of the non-traditional household types

25

### Fertility

Analysing the recent changes in fertility patterns

28

### Statistical tables

37

### Appendices

57



# Profile 5 – Households and Families

## Foreword

This report is the fifth of ten Profile reports examining in more detail the definitive results of Census 2011. It looks at living arrangements in Ireland in terms of marital status, households and families.

This report is part of a series of publications using a new style of reporting and graphic presentation of the data. Profile reports 1 to 4 covered population distribution and movements, the age profile of Ireland, the industries and occupations of workers and housing in Ireland. Other topics will be covered in future Profile reports to be released throughout the remainder of 2012. A complete list of planned publications and dates can be found on page 60 of this report.

### Web tables

All the data published in this and other reports are available on the CSO web site (at [www.cso.ie/census](http://www.cso.ie/census)) where users will be able to build their own tables by selecting the data they are interested in and downloading them in an easy to use format for their own analysis.

### Small area data

Small area data is an important output from the census and the complete set of tables for all the standard layers of geography, such as ED and Local Electoral Area, as well as tables for the new geographic unit, called Small Areas, are published in our interactive mapping application (SAPMAP) on the CSO website.

### Interactive maps

In co-operation with the All Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO) summary census data is now available in thematic maps for Electoral Districts and all Small Areas. Combined with the release of the SAPS data in our new easy to use interactive mapping application, these new developments bring census data alive in a fresh and exciting way making it easier to access for all. Just follow the link from the website.



Pádraig Dalton

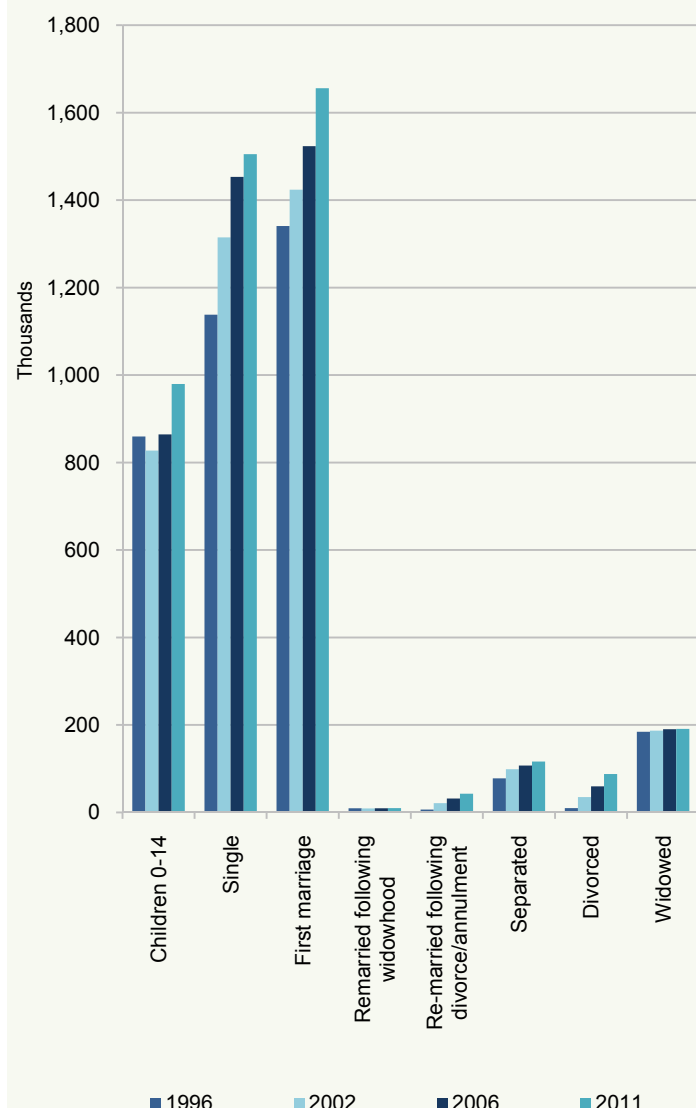
Director General

20 September 2012



# Marital Status – recent trends

**Figure 1 Population aged 15 and over by marital status 1996-2011**



## Divorced and re-married gain share...

Since 1996 the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over who were divorced has grown significantly from 0.4 per cent (9,787 people) to 2.4 per cent (87,770). There was a corresponding increase in the numbers who were re-married following divorce, from 6,641 in 1996 to 42,960 in 2011.

Figure 1 on the left shows the percentages of the adult population (i.e. aged 15 years and over) in each marital status category at the last four censuses.

## ...while single and widowed lose

There was a significant fall in the proportion who were widowed which fell from 6.7 per cent to 5.3 per cent over the same period. This corresponds with increased life expectancy for men.

The share of the population aged 15 and over who were single increased from 41.1 per cent in 1996 to 43.1 per cent in 2006, but has subsequently fallen back to 41.7 per cent (1,505,035 people) in 2011.

## Proportion of first-time married grows after decline from 1996-2006

While married people on their first marriage accounted for 48.5 per cent of the adult population in 1996, this has fallen to 45.1 per cent by 2006, but increased again in 2011 to 45.9 per cent.

Over the same period, the percentages have remained relatively stable for those re-married following widowhood, and for separated people.

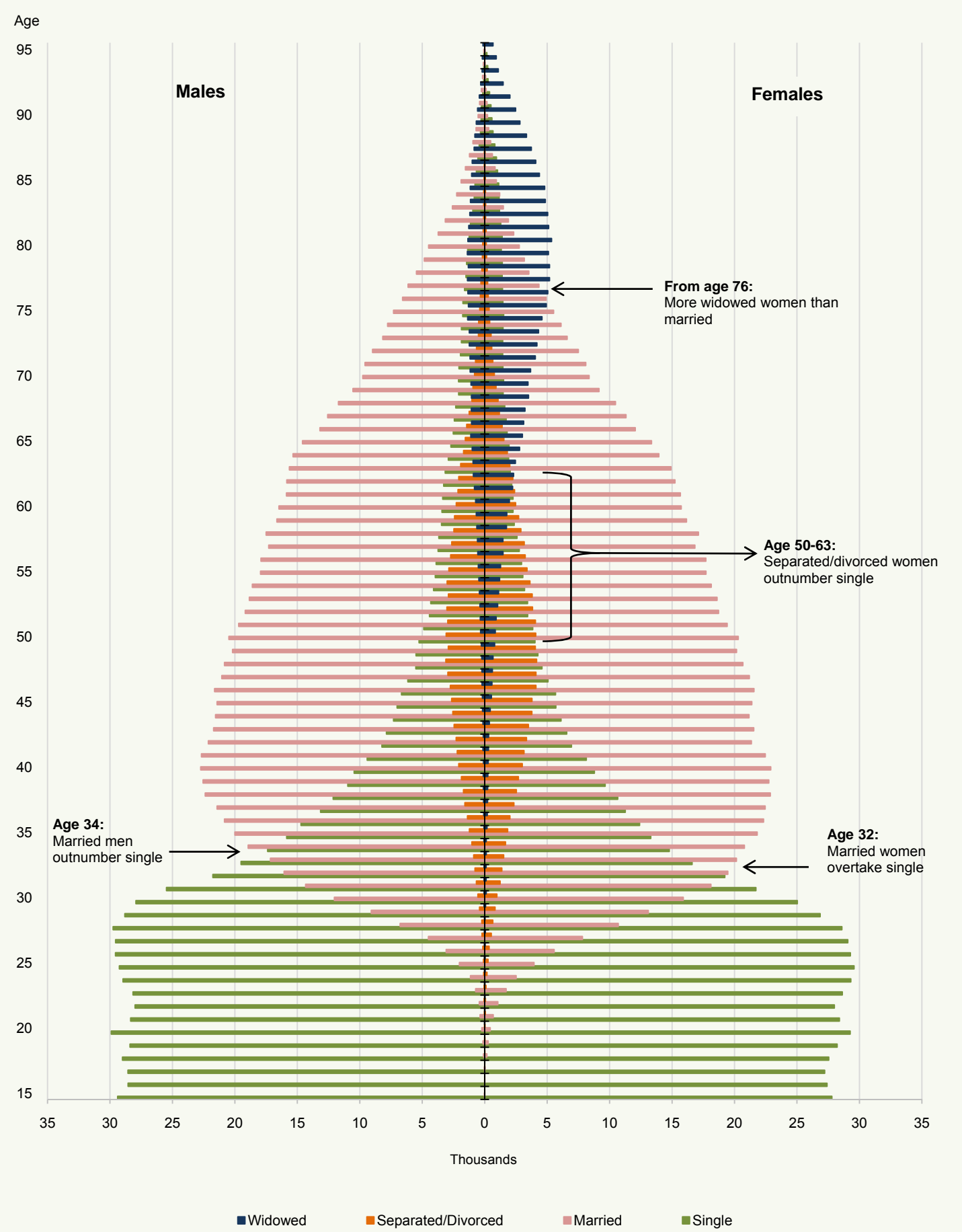
Table page 37

**Table A Population by marital status 1996 to 2011**

Marital status	1996	2002	2006	2011
Single	1,137,858	1,314,664	1,453,227	1,505,035
Total married	1,356,613	1,454,413	1,565,016	1,708,604
(of which)				
First marriage	1,340,631	1,423,884	1,523,527	1,655,906
Re-married following widowhood	9,341	9,128	9,694	9,738
Re-married following divorce/annulment	6,641	21,401	31,795	42,960
Separated	78,005	98,779	107,263	116,194
Divorced	9,787	35,059	59,534	87,770
Widowed	184,400	186,860	190,359	191,059
Total aged 15 years and over	2,766,663	3,089,775	3,375,399	3,608,662
Persons aged under 15 years	859,424	827,428	864,449	979,590
Total population	3,626,087	3,917,203	4,239,848	4,588,252

# Marital status population pyramid

Figure 2 Population aged 15-95 by single year of age and marital status





# Marital status population pyramid

## It's a fact!

**32** The age at which women were more likely to be married than single

**34** The age at which men were more likely to be married than single

**48** The peak age for separation and divorce

**26,128** more separated and divorced women than men

**76** The age at which women were more likely to be widowed than married

## Women marrying younger than men

Figure 2 opposite clearly shows the tendency for women to marry earlier than men. By age 32 married women outnumbered single women, while for men this did not occur until age 34.

This reflects the tendency for men in couples to be older than their spouses/partners. This is dealt with in more detail on page 14.

*Table pages 38 - 40*

## Stark differences for male and female population

The population pyramid opposite shows marital status for men and women at each year of age from 15 years to 95. It illustrates some notable contrasts between men and women in terms of marital status.

The dominance of the 'Widowed' category by women, reflecting shorter life expectancies for men is clearly illustrated. Also evident are the larger numbers of single men in their 40s, 50s and 60s.

## Single people

Single is the dominant category for males and females in their teens and early twenties, though the tendency for women to marry younger is already evident from as young as age 23. By late twenties we can see increasing numbers who were married and a corresponding fall in those who were single, particularly from age 30 onwards. By age 32 married is the most common status for women, reached two years later for men at age 34. The number of single people decreases rapidly with increasing age up to the early 40s, after which the numbers decline more slowly.

Up to the age of 80 single men outnumber single women in every age but higher mortality for men results in more single females than males from age 80 on.

## Married

Married women outnumber married men at each year of age from 17 up to 40 reflecting the trend for women to marry younger. This disparity is greatest for those aged in their twenties, with more than double the number of married women than men for ages 22, 23 and 24.

From age 41 onwards the pattern reverses with more married men than women at each single year of age as widowhood becomes more common for women.

## Separated and divorced

Separated and divorced is illustrated in the orange bars running through the centre of the graph. Beginning with people in their late twenties, the numbers increase steadily throughout the 30s and 40s reaching a peak at age 48. The uneven split between men and women can be seen with more women than men in every single year of age; the largest gap was at age 46 when there were 1,345 more separated and divorced women than men.

Between the ages of 50 and 63 there were more separated and divorced women than single women, whereas single men outnumbered their separated and divorced counterparts at every year of age.

## Widowed

By age 76 women were more likely to be widowed than married whereas for men, married remained the most likely status right up to age 89.

## Geographic distribution of single people

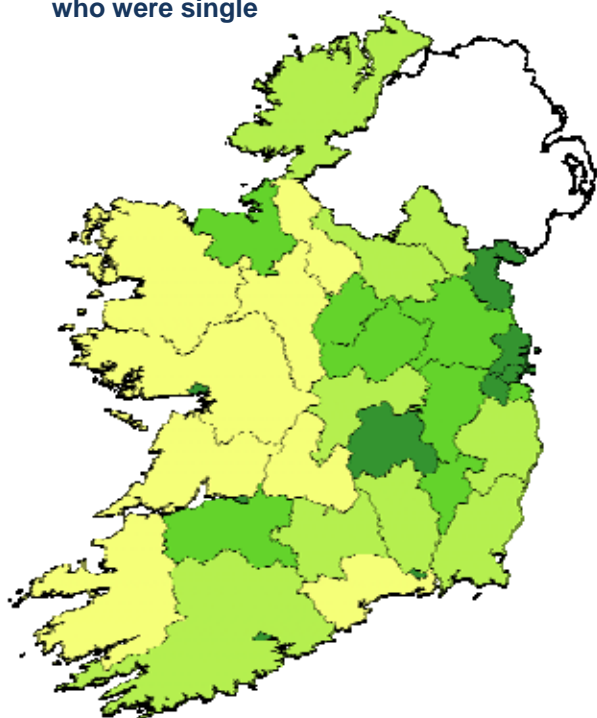
Map 1 below shows the percentage of the population of each county who were single. The highest proportions of singles were in the cities, Galway (62.7%), Dublin (60.7%) and Cork (57.8%). The counties with the lowest proportion single were Roscommon (50.3%), Leitrim (50.5%) and Mayo (51.0%).

However, these percentages depend heavily on the underlying age structure of each county. Younger counties tend to have more single people while older counties have more married and widowed people. Confining the analysis to those in their forties mitigates these effects.

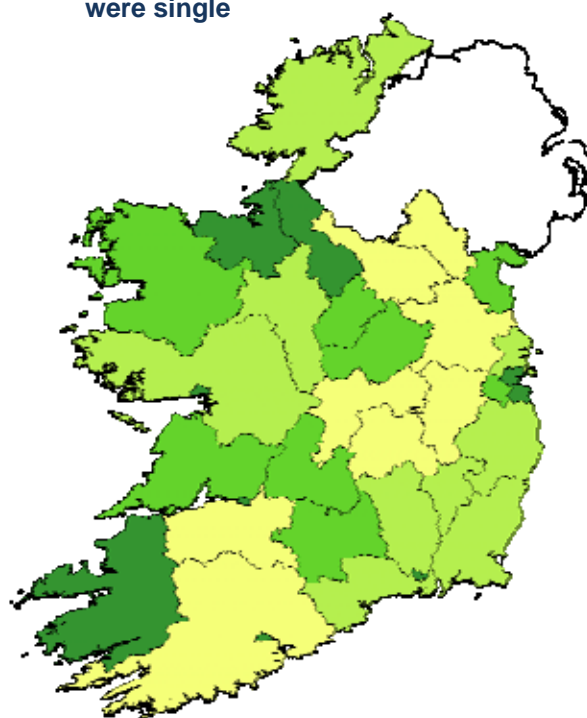
Map 2 below shows a very different picture. While the cities still top the board with high proportions of singles (all the cities have over 25% single), more rural counties such as Sligo (23.6%), Leitrim (21.8%) and Kerry (21.8%) also have high rates of single people. And the counties with the lowest percentages of single people are also among those with the youngest overall age such as Meath (15.4%), Kildare (16.0%) and Cork County (17.9%).

Table pages 41 - 42

**Map 1 Percentage of population aged 15 and over who were single**



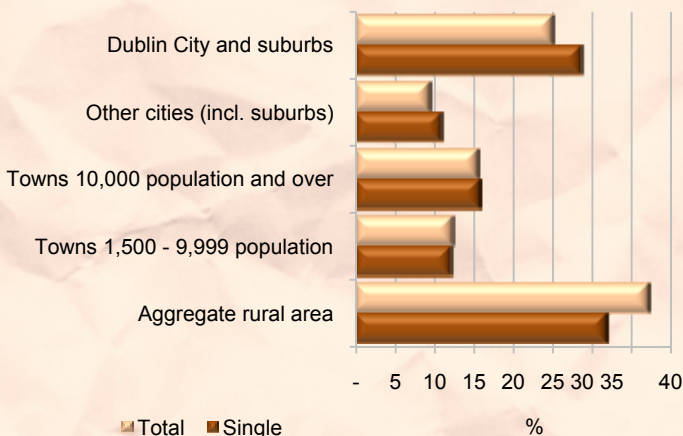
**Map 2 Percentage of population aged 40-49 who were single**



## It's a fact!

- 35%** The percentage of the total population who lived in cities
- 40%** The percentage of single people who lived in cities
- 37%** The percentage of the total population who lived in rural areas
- 32%** The percentage of single people who lived in rural areas

**Total population and single population by area type**



# Changes in the married population

## Growth in the married population

The married population increased by 9.2 per cent between 2006 and 2011, growing from 1,565,016 to 1,708,604. As the population aged 15 and over grew more slowly (6.9% over the same period), married people as a percentage of the total population increased from 46.4 per cent to 47.3 per cent.

This change was not evenly spread across the country. Rural areas experienced an increase from 53.1 per cent married in 2006 to 53.8 per cent in 2011. Urban areas saw a larger increase, from 42.2 per cent to 43.5 per cent.

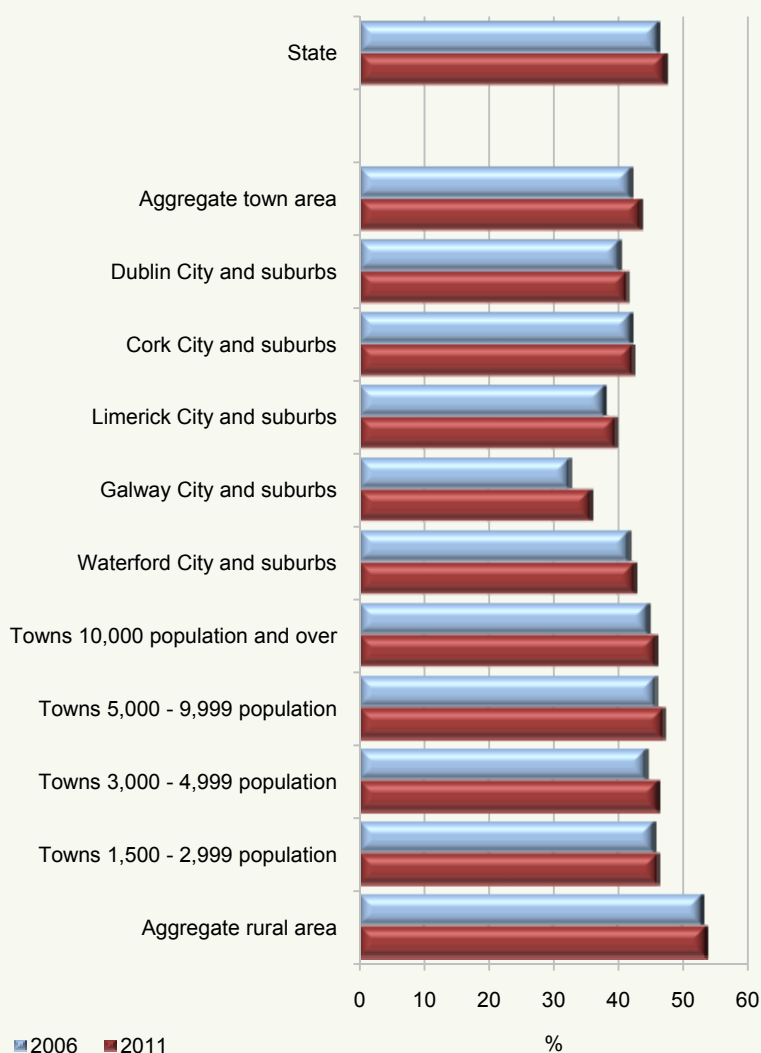
Of the cities (including their suburbs), Galway saw the largest change in the percentage married, rising from 32.4 per cent married in 2006 to 36.0 per cent five years later. The proportion in Limerick City and suburbs increased from 37.9 per cent in 2006 to 39.8 per cent in 2011.

## Change in married population of counties

Examining the changes in the actual number of married people in each county, Laois tops the table. The number of married people increased by 17.7 per cent from 25,809 to 30,382. The total population of Laois increased by 20.1 per cent over the same period.

Limerick City (-1.6%) and Cork City (-1.1%) were the only administrative counties to see reductions in the numbers married. These cities also had reductions in their overall populations between 2006 and 2011.

**Figure 3 Percentage married by area type, 2006 and 2011**



**Table B Percentage change in numbers married (top 5 and bottom 5 administrative counties)**

County	Married Population 2006	Married Population 2011	Percentage change
			%
Laois	25,809	30,382	+17.7
Fingal	88,620	103,902	+17.2
Cavan	25,122	28,699	+14.2
Meath	64,706	73,601	+13.7
Kildare	71,337	80,897	+13.4
State	1,565,016	1,708,604	+9.2
South Tipperary	31,836	33,394	+4.9
Kerry	55,685	57,914	+4.0
Waterford City	15,425	15,881	+3.0
Cork City	38,356	37,944	-1.1
Limerick City	18,406	18,117	-1.6

## It's a fact!

**9%**

The increase in the married population between 2006 and 2011

**54%**

The percentage of the rural population who were married

**44%**

The percentage of the urban population who were married



# Married people by location

## Married people tend towards rural areas

Maps 3 and 4 below show the percentages of married people in each county. Map 3 shows married people as a percentage of all those aged 15 years and over. Galway County (40.3%), Roscommon (40.2%) and Meath (40.0%) had the highest proportions of married. The cities had the lowest percentages; Dublin and Galway each had less than 30 per cent of their adult population married.

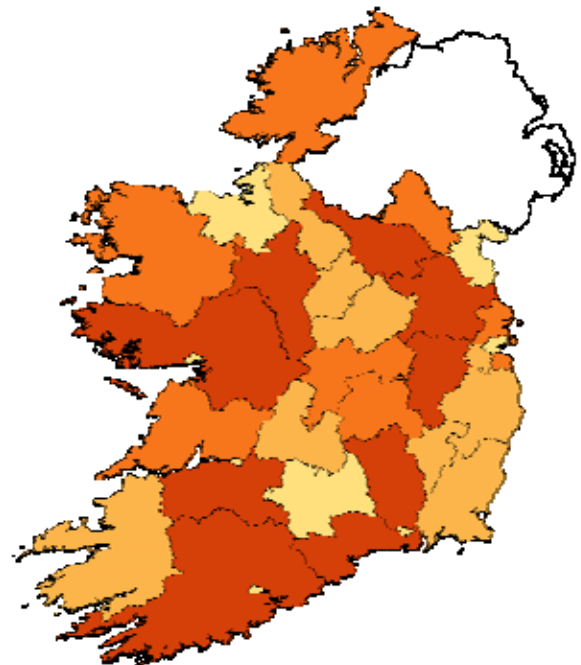
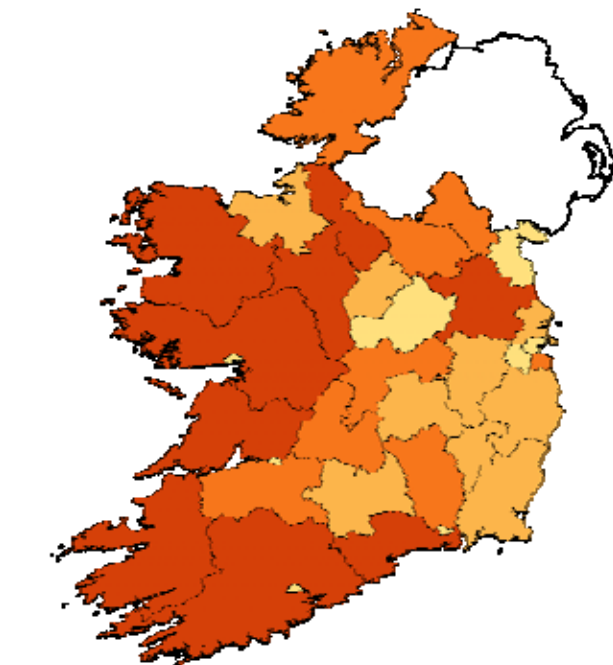
As with the analysis of single people on page 10, it is also useful to restrict the analysis to people in their 40s, with a view to minimising age structure effects which influence these percentages. Map 4 shows the percentage of 40-49 year olds in each county who were married.

While the lowest percentages are still in the five cities, Meath is joined by Kildare and Limerick County in the top three counties (74.0%, 73.5% and 72.7% respectively). The clear East/West divide visible in Map 3 is no longer in evidence, with counties such as Cavan (71.3%) and Kilkenny (71.5%) having high proportions of married among people in their forties.

Table pages 41 - 42

**Map 3 Percentage of those aged 15 and over in each county who were married**

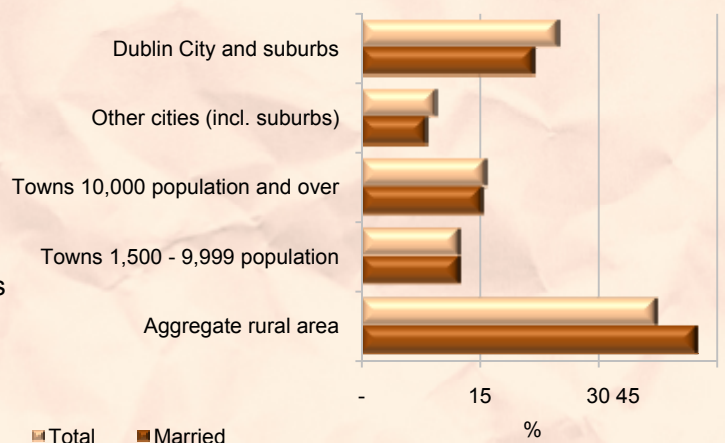
**Map 4 Percentage of 40-49 year olds in each county who were married**



## It's a fact!

- 35%** of the total population lived in cities
- 22%** of married people lived in cities
- 37%** of the total population lived in rural areas
- 42%** of married people lived in rural areas

**Total and married population aged 15 and over by area type**



# Separated and divorced

## Marital breakdown increases

The number of separated and divorced people increased by 22.3 per cent between 2006 and 2011 from 166,797 to 203,964. Two thirds of the increase (24,784) was among those aged 55 and over.

## More women than men

There were 88,918 separated and divorced men in 2011 and 115,046 women. Figure 4 below shows the age and sex breakdown of the separated and divorced population for 2006 and 2011.

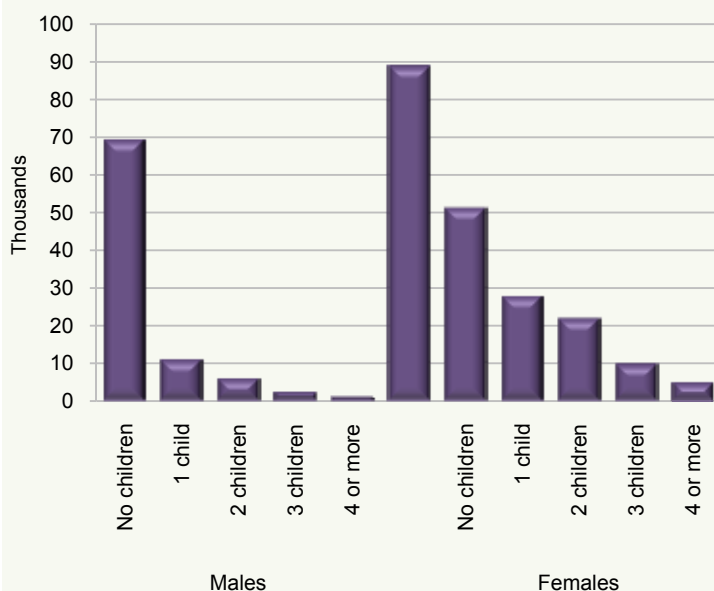
The numbers are very similar for men and women up to age 45 after which they begin to diverge as the number of separated and divorced women outstrip their male counterparts. This corresponds with the age at which re-married men outnumber women, as discussed on page 14.

## Divorced men more likely to be in childless households

Just over 2 out of 5 separated and divorced men (40.5%) lived in family households, compared with nearly two thirds of women (65.9%). A further 42.0 per cent of separated and divorced men lived alone compared with less than a quarter of their female counterparts.

Men were far more likely to live in households without children. Over three quarters of separated and divorced men (77.9%) were living in households with no children, in contrast to 44.5 per cent of their female counterparts.

**Figure 5 Separated and divorced men and women by number of children in household**

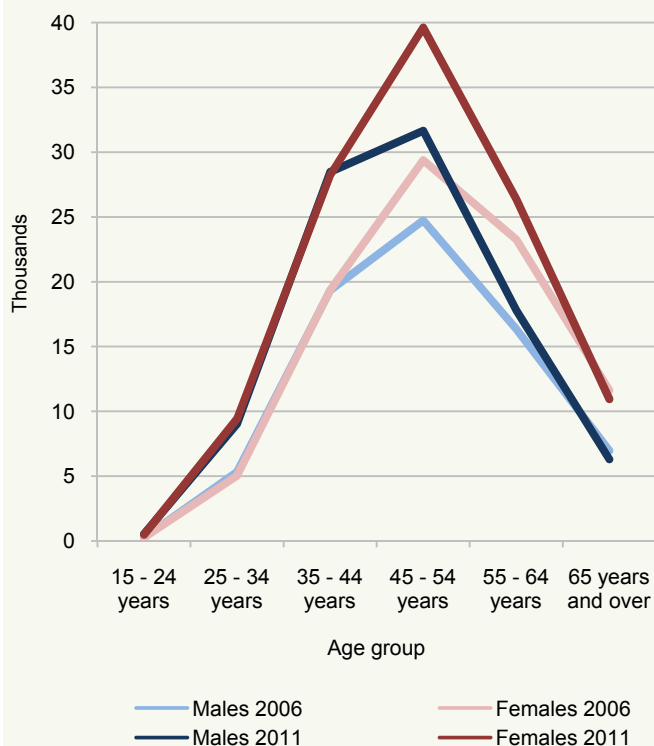


## Divorced and renting

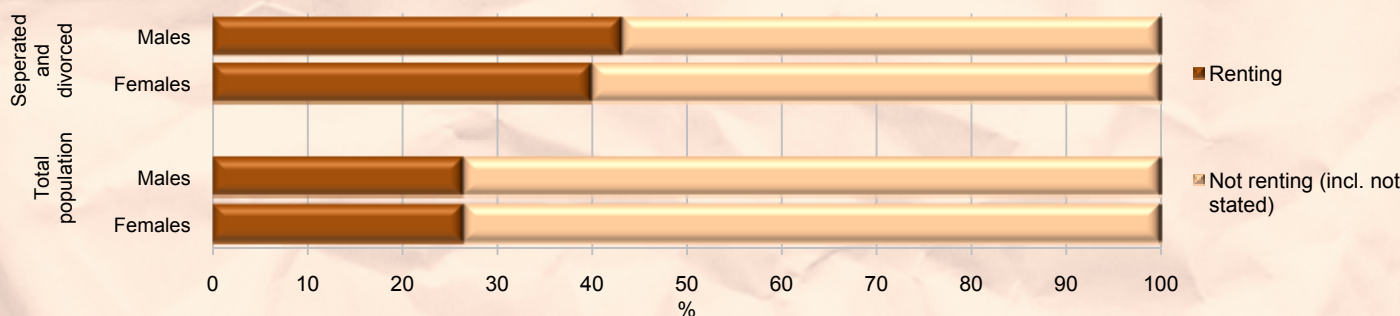
38,421 separated and divorced men were enumerated in rented accommodation, accounting for 43.2 per cent of all divorced men. By contrast, 46,071 divorced women were in rented accommodation on Census Night representing 40.0 per cent of the group. For the general population 26.5 per cent of men and women were renting.

Table page 43

**Figure 4 Separated and divorced men and women by age group 2006 and 2011**



## Separated and divorced men and women by nature of occupancy



# Re-married men and women

## More divorced women...

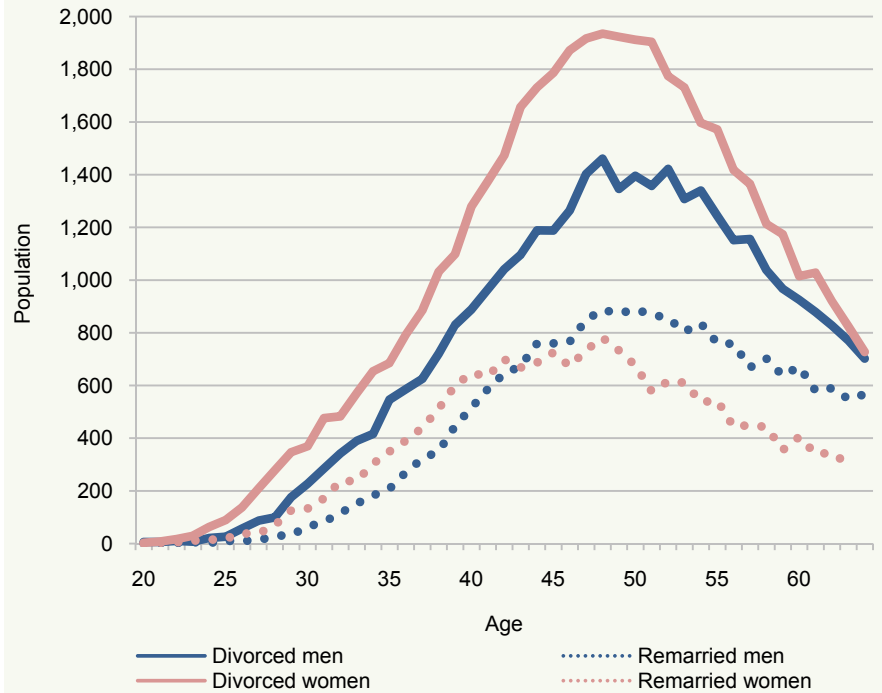
Between 1996 and 2011 the number of people who were re-married following divorce or annulment increased from 6,641 to 42,960, a rise of 550 per cent.

The graph on the right demonstrates the relationship between divorce and re-marriage following divorce, for both men and women, by age group.

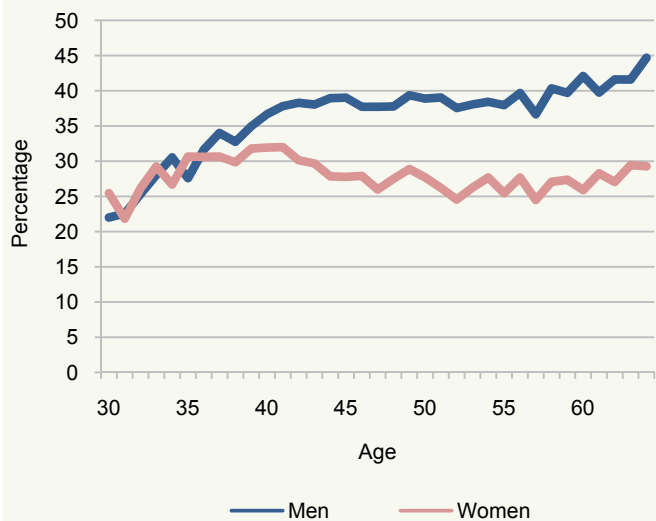
The peak age for divorce among both men and women was 48 with 1,461 and 1,935 persons respectively.

The census has consistently revealed more divorced women than men in Ireland with varying explanations, one of which is the higher numbers of men who re-marry following divorce as illustrated in the graph on the right.

**Figure 6 Population who were divorced, and re-married following divorce, aged 20 to 65, by single year of age and sex**



**Figure 7 Re-married men and women as a percentage of ever-divorced**



## ...and more re-married men

The graph on the left shows the number of men and women who were re-married as a percentage of ever-divorced persons, by age group. Overall, men are much more likely to re-marry with 39 per cent of ever-divorced men re-married compared with only 28 per cent of ever-divorced women.

The peak age in absolute terms for re-marriage for men was 50 while for women it was 49. The likelihood of being re-married following divorce increases with age for men - rising from 39 per cent at age 50 to 45 per cent by age 65.

For women the reverse occurs with the peak rate of 32 per cent at age 40 which then falls erratically to 29 per cent of ever divorced women who were re-married by age 65.

## It's a fact!

**42,960** The number of people who were re-married following divorce or annulment in April 2011

**39%** The percentage of ever-divorced men who were re-married

**28%** The percentage of ever-divorced women who were re-married



# Marital status of older people

## Men and women

The marital status of persons aged 65 and over is very different for men and women as illustrated in the graph on the right.

Longer life expectancy of women leads to a far higher rate of widowhood, though this is declining over time as male mortality improves. The numbers of those re-married following widowhood remain very small with only 2,750 men and 1,701 women in this category.

Divorce remains a marginal status for the elderly with just 1.6 per cent divorced, though this has almost doubled since 2006.

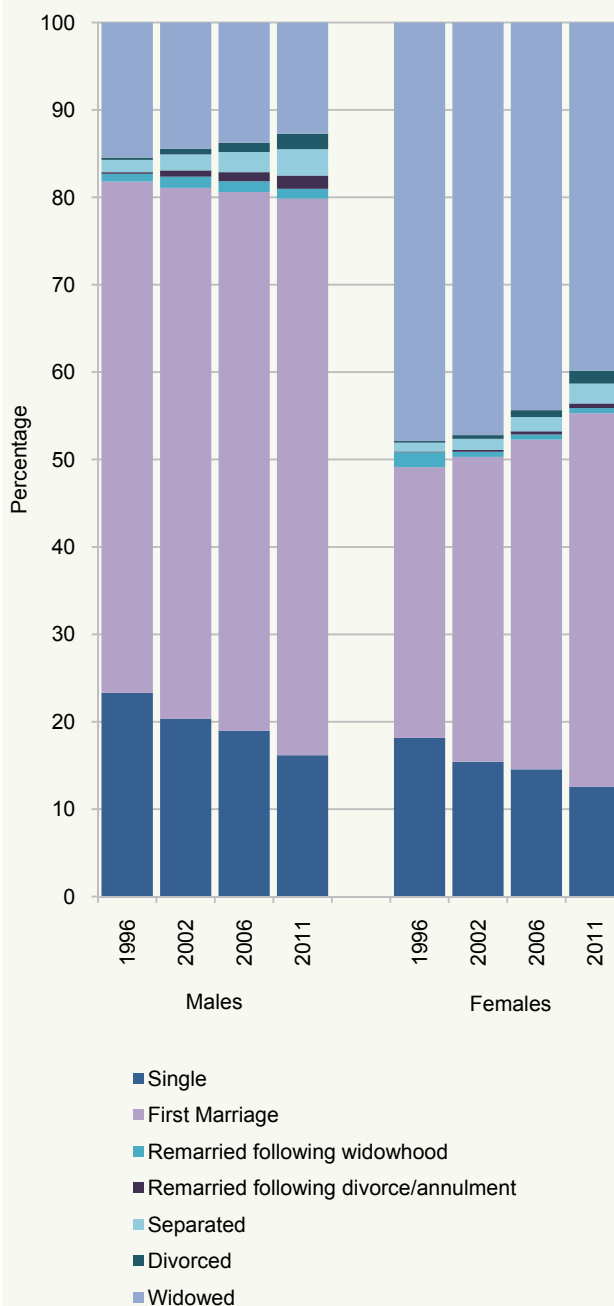
The pie charts below illustrate the increased tendency to re-marry among men as opposed to women.

Table pages 41 - 42

**Table C Persons aged 65 and over by sex and marital status, 2006 and 2011**

	2006		2011	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Total	207,095	260,831	243,314	292,079
Single	39,231	37,983	39,346	36,641
Total Married	132,420	100,842	161,388	128,148
First Marriage	127,699	98,379	154,923	124,891
Re-married following widowhood	2,558	1,549	2,750	1,701
Re-married following divorce/annulment	2,163	914	3,715	1,556
Separated	4,778	4,250	7,342	6,608
Divorced	2,194	2,058	4,291	4,332
Widowed	28,472	115,698	30,947	116,350

**Figure 8 Marital status of men and women aged 65 years and over**

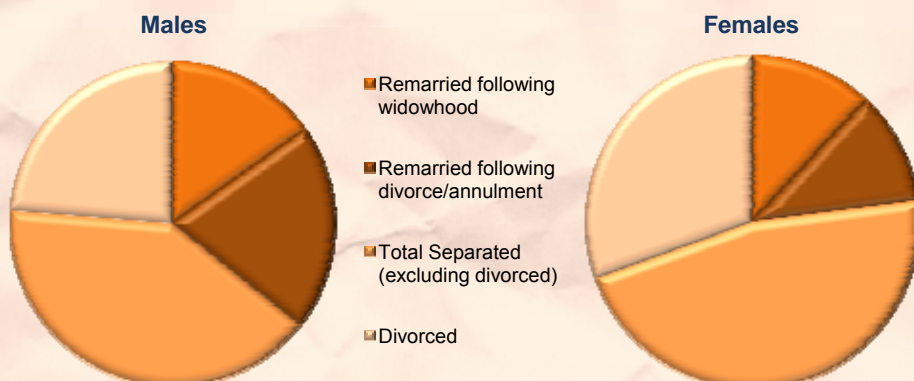


## It's a fact!

**2,750** men remarried following widowhood

**1,701** women remarried following widowhood

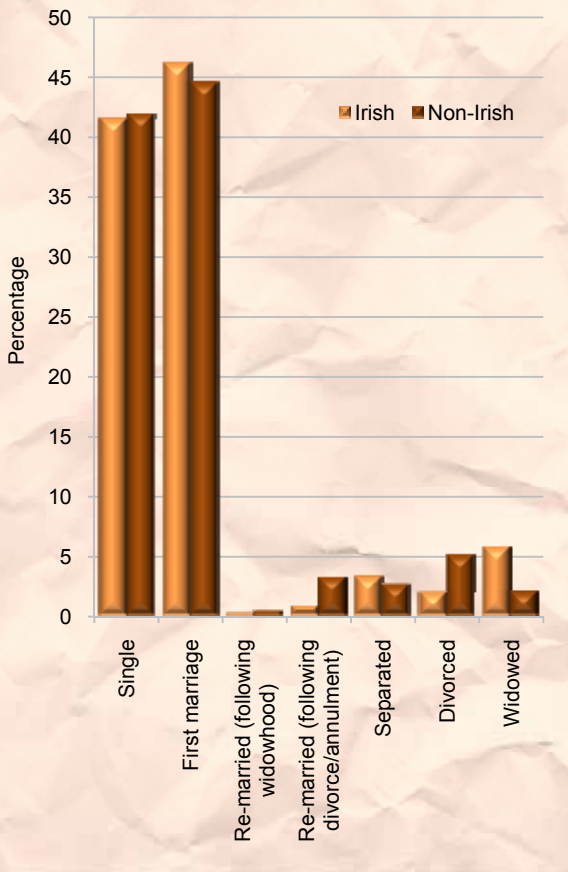
### Re-married, separated and divorced men and women aged 65 and over



# Marital status and nationality

## It's a fact!

### Marital status of Irish and non-Irish nationals



### Marital status for Irish/Non-Irish

In 2011 the marital structure of the Irish national population aged 15 and over had some significant differences to that of the non-Irish population.

The percentage of singles among Irish and non-Irish nationals was broadly similar (41.6% and 42.0% respectively) as was the percentage in their first marriage (46.2% and 44.6% respectively). However, contrasts emerge between the two groups when examining the remaining categories.

7.8 per cent of non-Irish national adults were separated or divorced, compared with 5.3 per cent of Irish. And while 3.3 per cent of non-Irish nationals were re-married following divorce, only 0.9 per cent of Irish nationals belonged to this category.

Widows accounted for 5.8 per cent of Irish nationals, but only 2.1 per cent of non-Irish, reflecting the younger age structure of the non-Irish population.

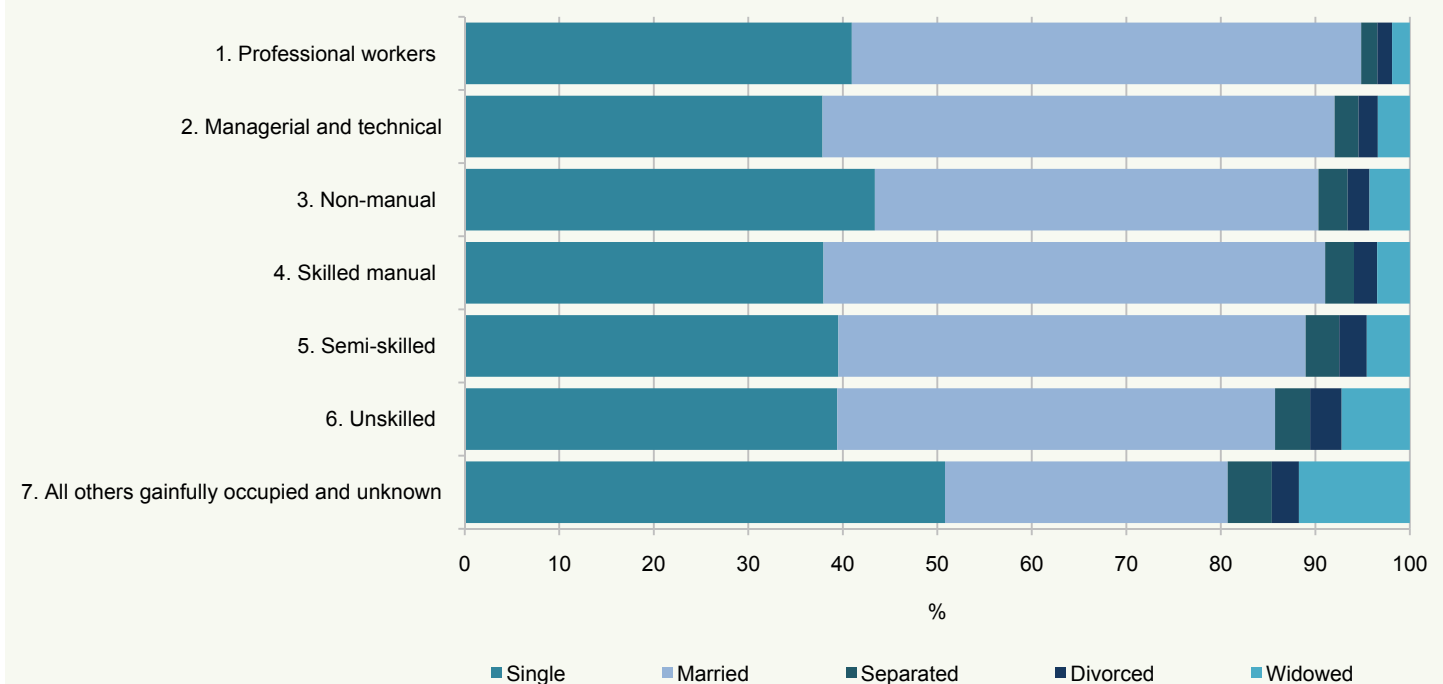
### Social class and marital status

The population in the various social class groups had very different marital status distributions. The 'Professional Workers' category had the lowest rates of separation, divorce and widowhood, as well as an above-average proportion of singles.

Generally, the lower social classes had lower proportions married, and higher proportions in the other categories. However, category 3 'Non-Manual' had a lower percentage of married than the 'Skilled manual', 'Semi-skilled' and 'Unskilled' groups.

Table pages 41 - 42

Figure 9 Population by marital status and social class





## Growth in families/decrease in number of children

There were 1,179,210 families in the State on Census Night, an increase of 12.0 per cent since 2006, and 55.6 per cent since 1991.

For census purposes, a family is defined as a couple with one or more children, a couple without children or a lone parent with one or more children.

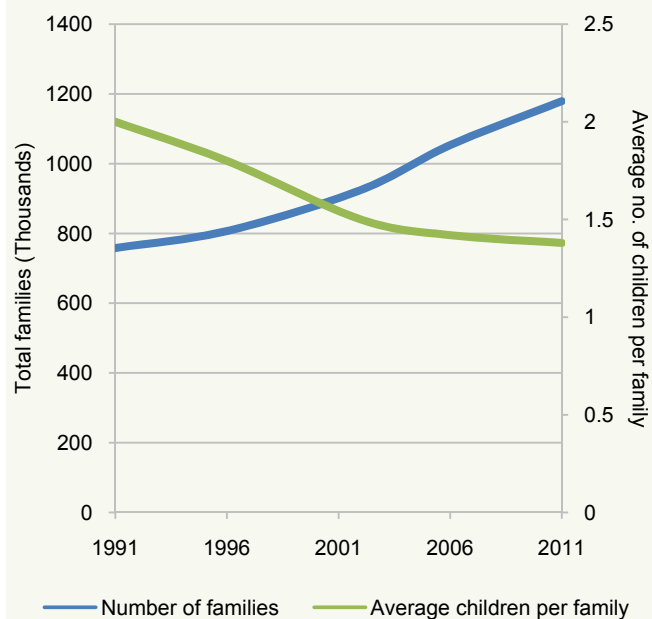
Figure 10 shows that the growth in the number of families was reasonably steady over the period from 1991 to 2002. This was followed by a period of more rapid growth from 2002 to 2006, with an average increase of 3.3 per cent per year on average. From 2006 to 2011 this rate has fallen back to an average of 2.3 per cent per annum.

## Decline in family size slows

Family size (measured in average number of children per family) has been falling in recent years. In 1991 there were 2.0 children on average in each family. In 1996 this had fallen to 1.8 children. In 2002 it was 1.6 children and by 2006 the average family had 1.4 children.

In 2011, while the average number of children had fallen slightly, it was still just below 1.4 children per family, representing a slowdown in the rate of decrease in family size. The high number of births between 2006 and 2011 (73,000 per annum approximately) was a contributing factor in this slowdown. The previous inter-censal period 2002-2006 had an average of approximately 61,000 births per year.

Figure 10 Number of families and average number of children per family 1991-2011



## It's a fact!

**64,248** The number of families with 4 or more children

**3,253** The number of families with 6 or more children

Table D Families in urban and rural areas by number of children

Number of children	State	Urban	Rural
No children	344,944	218,585	126,359
1 child	339,596	218,209	121,387
2 children	285,952	172,598	113,354
3 children	144,470	79,273	65,197
4 children	47,602	24,227	23,375
5 or more children	16,646	8,632	8,014
Total families	1,179,210	721,524	457,686
Total children	1,625,975	945,353	680,622

## Rural families have more children

Rural families were larger on average than those in urban areas. The average number of children per family was 1.5 in rural areas, compared with 1.3 for their urban counterparts.

Over 30 per cent of urban families had no children. In rural areas this figure was 27.6 per cent. One-child families accounted for 30.2 per cent of the urban total, but only 26.5 per cent of the rural number.

Families with three or more children made up 15.5 per cent of the total in urban areas, and 21.1 per cent in rural areas

Large families have not completely disappeared in Ireland. There were 16,646 families with 5 or more children, of which 3,253 had 6 or more.

# Couples – social class and age

**Table E Average age difference of couples classified by family type and age of female**

Age of female	All families containing couples	Married			Cohabiting		
		Total	Without children	With children	Total	Without children	With children
<i>Average age difference (male less female)</i>							
Total	+2.21	+2.19	+2.24	+2.17	+2.35	+2.20	+2.55
15-29	+3.32	+3.74	+3.31	+4.01	+3.02	+2.78	+3.48
30-44	+2.21	+2.25	+2.20	+2.26	+2.01	+1.71	+2.27
45-59	+1.99	+2.01	+2.49	+1.86	+1.68	+1.97	+1.32
60-74	+2.12	+2.16	+2.22	+2.05	-0.37	-0.30	-0.75
75+	+1.08	+1.12	+1.05	+1.44	-4.19	-4.29	-3.27

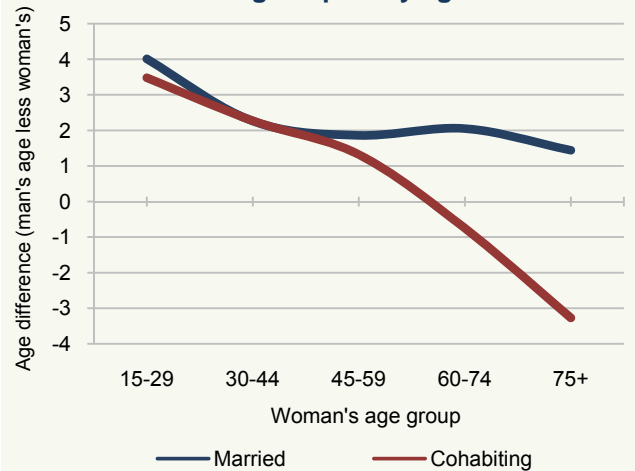
## Age differences between partners

Men in couples were on average 2.21 years older than their wives or partners. This gap was more pronounced for cohabiting couples (+2.35 years) compared with married couples (+2.19 years).

Married couples with children were marginally closer in age to each other (+2.17 years) than those without (+2.24 years). The converse was true for cohabiting couples, with a gap of 2.55 years between those with children and 2.20 for those without.

In older married couples the men tended to be closer to the woman's age. This is due in part to men dying younger; the surviving couples tend to be those with younger husbands. This is even more pronounced among older cohabiting couples, with the men tending to be younger than the women on average in couples where the woman was aged 60 or over.

**Figure 11 Age difference between married and cohabiting couples by age of female**



## Different families – different class

The social class structure of couples varied according to whether they were married or cohabiting, and whether or not they had children. Figure 12 illustrates this graphically.

For married couples, those with children tended to belong to the higher social classes. 54.6 per cent of these families belonged to the higher classes (1 to 3), compared with 50.1 per cent of couples without children.

The opposite pattern emerges for cohabiting couples. Those without children are much more likely to belong to social classes 1 to 3 (63.5%). Only 42.8 per cent of cohabiting couples with children belong to these groups.

**Figure 12 Couples by social class and family type**

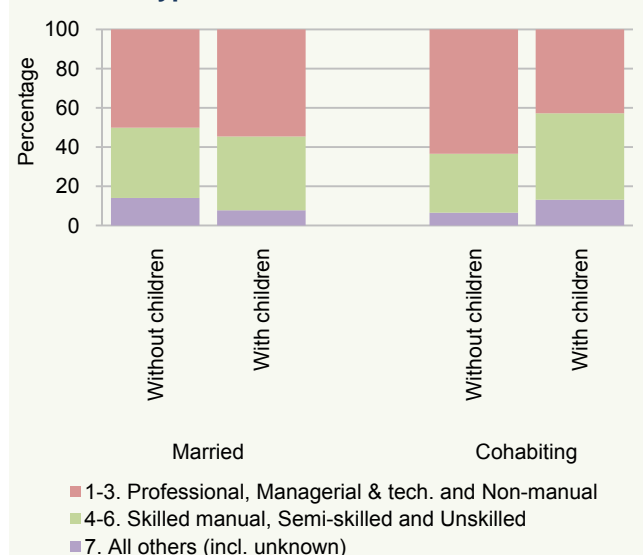


Table page 46

# Couples without children

## It's a fact!

**86%** The percentage of cohabiting couples without children who were classified as pre-family

**23%** The percentage of married couples without children who were classified as pre-family

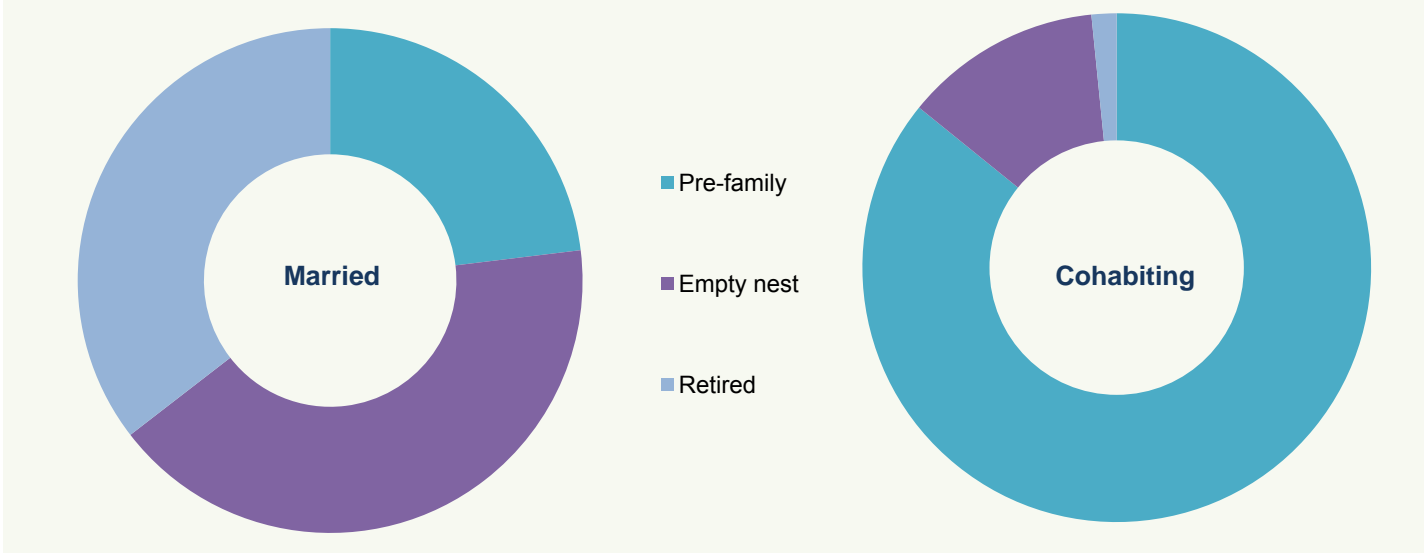
## Most childless cohabiting couples are pre-family

'Pre-family' couples (defined for census purposes as couples without children where the woman was aged under 45) accounted for the vast majority (85.8%) of childless cohabiting couples. A further 12.6 per cent were 'empty nest' families (i.e. where the woman was aged 45 to 64), and less than 2 per cent were retired couples (woman aged 65 or over).

The distribution for married couples without children contrasted sharply with this. Just under a quarter were 'pre-family', over two fifths were 'empty nest' and 35.5 per cent were 'retired'.

Overall, there were 344,944 couples without children of which 261,652 were married while 83,292 were cohabiting couples.

**Figure 13 Married and cohabiting couples without children by family cycle**



## Pre-family dominates urban areas, empty nest in rural

There were 218,585 couples without children in urban areas (63.4%) and 126,359 in rural areas

In urban areas the most common type of childless family was pre-family making up 44.7 per cent of urban childless families.

By contrast, in rural areas empty nest families were most prevalent, accounting for over two fifths of couples without children.

The third category, retired, where the woman was aged 65 or over, was also more prevalent in rural areas, making up 30.5 per cent of couples without children, compared with 25.4 per cent in urban areas.

Table page 46

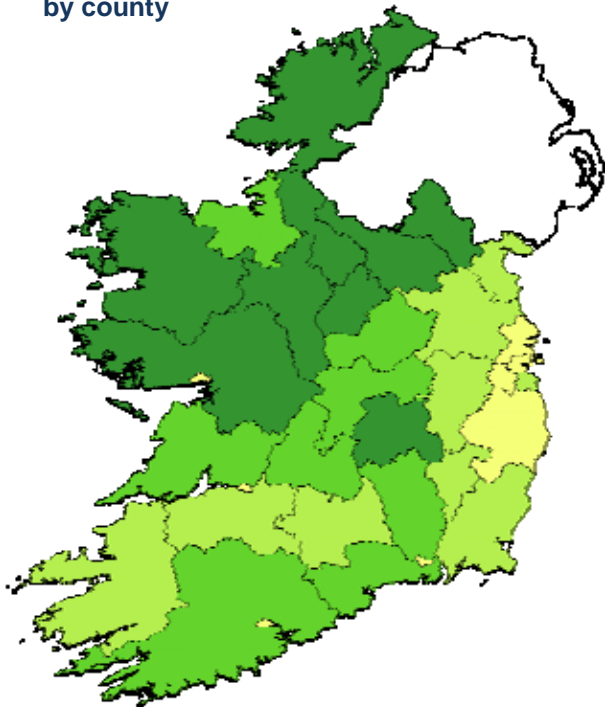
**Table F Families without children by area type and family cycle**

Family Cycle	Total	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area
Total	344,944	218,585	126,359
Pre-family	131,877	97,677	34,200
Empty nest	118,939	65,301	53,638
Retired	94,128	55,607	38,521



# Couples with children

**Map 5 Average number of children per family by county**



**Average number of children**



## Cohabiting couples had fewer children

Figure 14 charts the differences between married and cohabiting couples in terms of the number of children in their families.

Over half of cohabiting couples with children were one-child families. For married couples with children, one-child families accounted for less than one third of the total.

Overall, cohabiting couples with children had an average of 1.74 children, while the figure for married couples was 2.09 children.

*Table page 46*

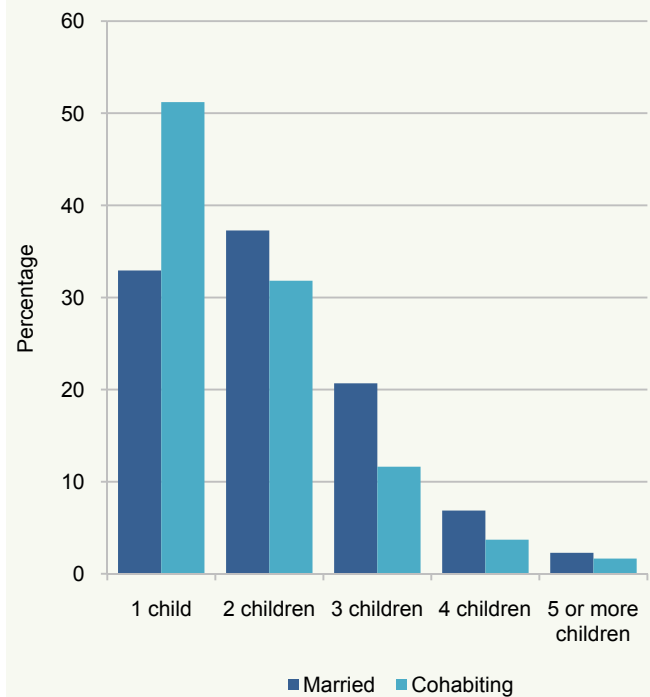
## Larger families in the North and West – smaller families in cities

Map 5 shows the average number of children per family in each county (couples with children only). There is a clear North-West/South-East divide evident.

Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan had the largest families with 2.19 children per family on average. Leitrim and Mayo (each with 2.17 children per family) were next.

The five cities had the smallest families in this category with fewer than 2 children per family on average. Fingal (2.00), South Dublin (2.01) and Wicklow (2.02) also had smaller families than average.

**Figure 14 Married and cohabiting couples with children by number of children**



## It's a fact!

**1.74** The average number of children of co-habiting couples with children

**2.09** The average number of children of married couples with children

**2.19** The average number of children of couples in Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan – the highest in Ireland

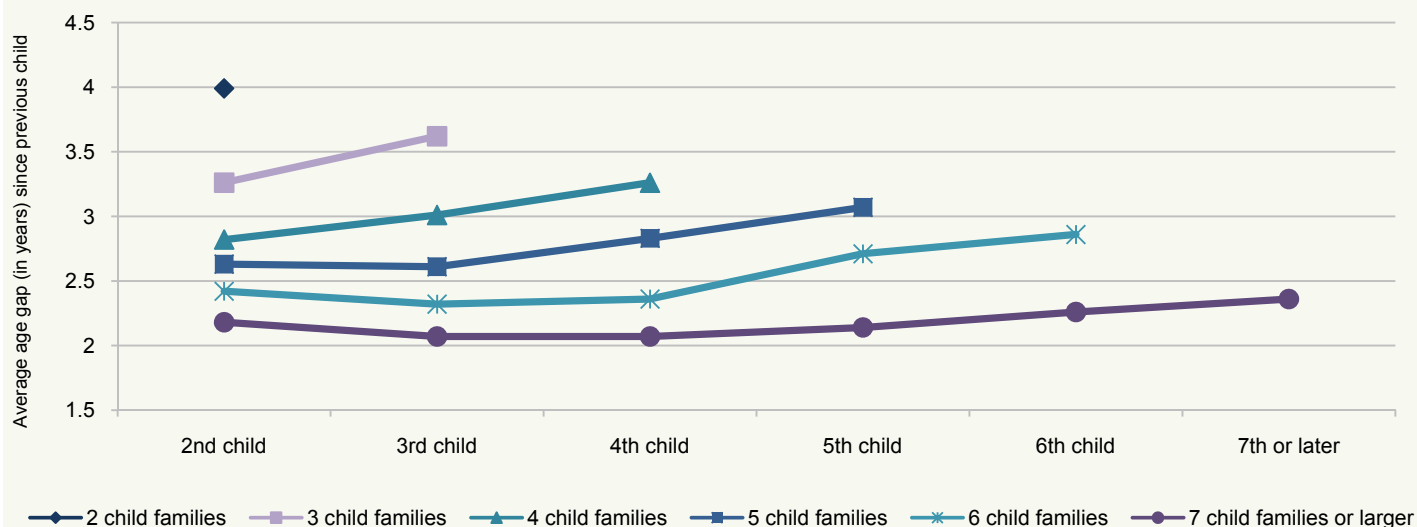
# Couples with children - family size

## Longer gaps between later children

Figure 15 below shows the average age gaps between children in families consisting of couples with children. Unsurprisingly, in larger families, the age gaps were smaller – children in two-child families were an average of four years apart, while children in five-child families were 2.8 years apart on average. The chart below shows that the age gaps between successive children grows for the later-born children. For example, in four-child families, the gap between first and second children was 2.8 years, between second and third it had increased to 3.0 years and between third and fourth it had grown to 3.3 years.

Table page 46

**Figure 15 Average age gaps between children by family size**

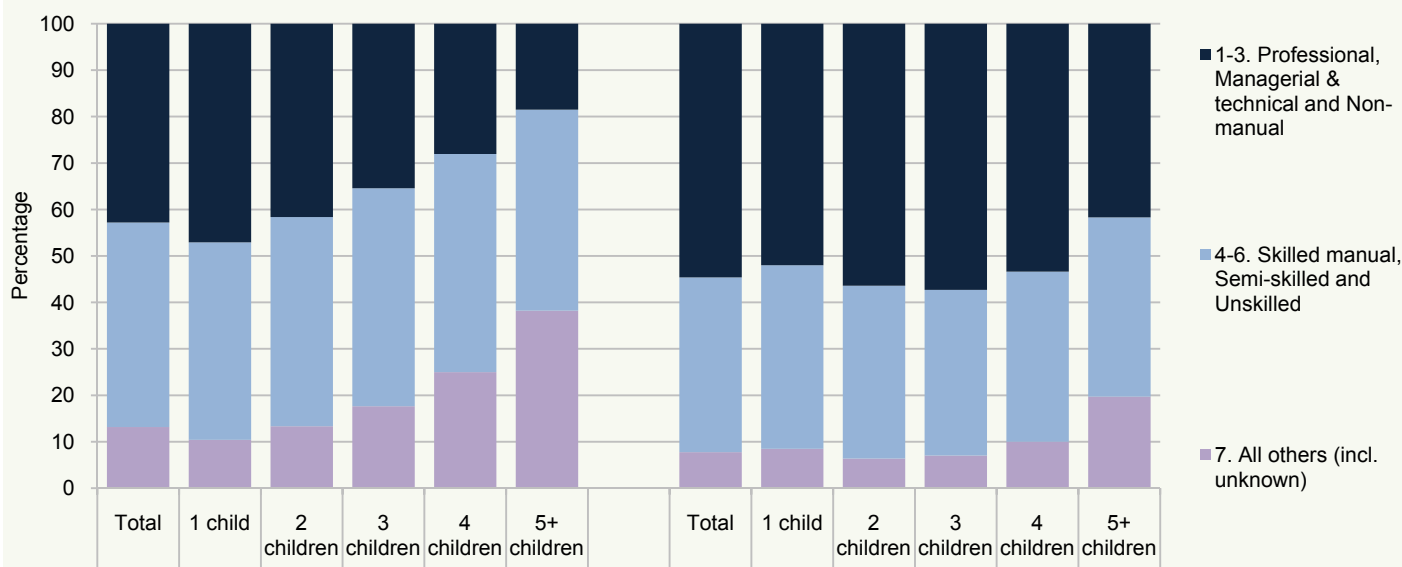


## Social class related to family size

Larger families were more likely to belong to the lower social class categories, with the effect especially pronounced for families of cohabiting couples. In general, cohabiting couples with children were more likely to belong to lower social class groups (see figure 16 below).

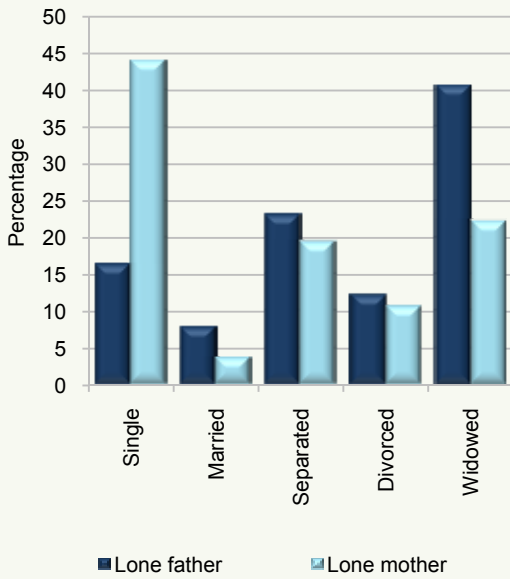
Over half of married couples with one child belonged to the top three social classes. For married couples with five or more children this dropped to 41.7 per cent. Only 18.5 per cent of cohabiting couples with five or more children belonged to the top 3 social classes.

**Figure 16 Couples with children by family size (number of children) and social class**



# Lone parents with children

**Figure 17 Lone parents by sex and marital status**



## Single mothers and widowed fathers

The number of lone parent families stood at 215,315 in 2011 of which 186,284 were mothers and 29,031 were fathers. The majority, 124,765, had just one child.

When examined by age and marital status strong differences appear between the sexes. Lone fathers were on average considerably older than their female counterparts with 65 per cent aged 50 or over compared with just 35 per cent of women. The majority of lone mothers were aged between 35 and 49.

Single women made up 44.1 per cent of lone mothers, whereas among lone fathers widowhood dominated accounting for 40 per cent of the total. Just over 1 in 5 lone mothers were widowed, while 55,977 were either separated or divorced, accounting for 30 per cent of the group.

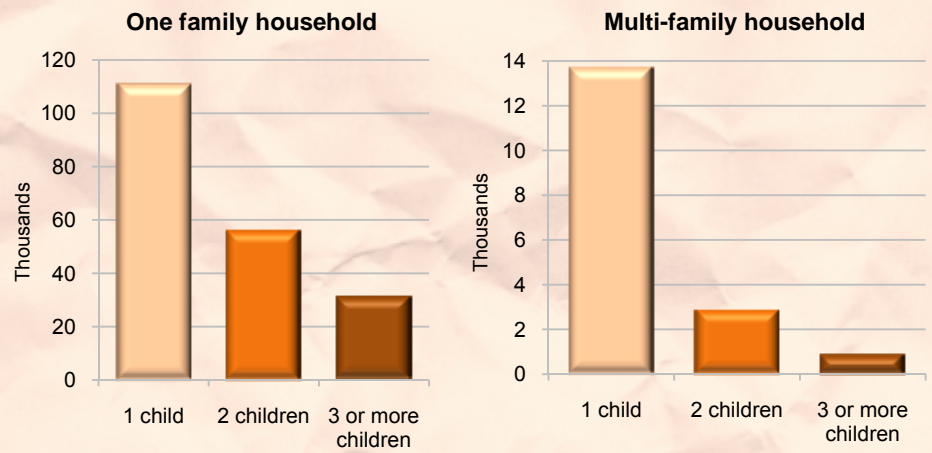
Most lone parents were living in one-family households. Of the 17,378 lone parents in multi-family households 15,830 were lone mothers; 78.8 per cent of these (12,481 lone mothers) had one child.

## It's a fact!

**56%** The percentage of lone parents in one-family households who had one child

**79%** The percentage of lone parents in multi-family households who had one child

## Lone parent families by household type and number of children



## Lone parents less likely to be at work

Figure 18 shows the distribution of lone parents by principal economic status alongside the equivalent breakdown for heads of two-parent families.

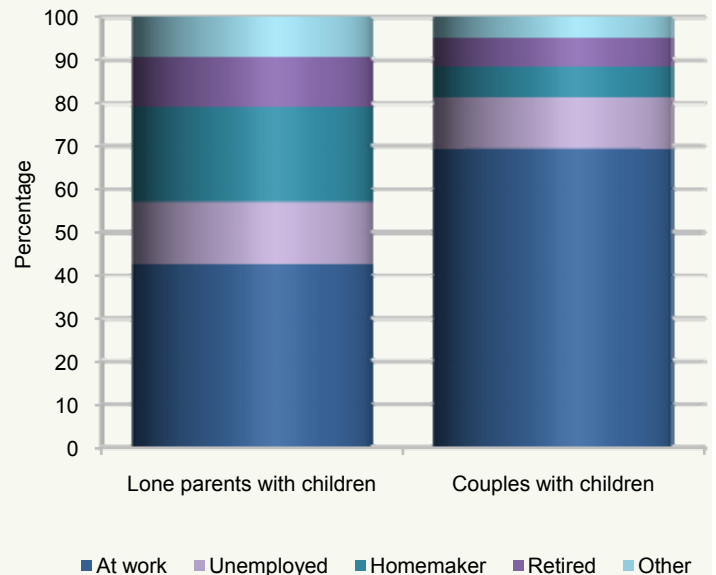
Only 42.5 per cent of lone parents were at work, compared with 69.3 per cent for heads of two-parent families. 14.4 per cent of lone parents were unemployed. For couples, this figure was 11.8 per cent.

Homemakers were also prevalent among lone parents, accounting for 21.9 per cent, although this was unevenly spread between men and women. Only 4.7 per cent of lone fathers were homemakers, compared with 24.6 per cent of lone mothers.

Retirees made up 11.7 per cent of lone parents (25.7% of lone fathers and 9.5% of lone mothers).

Table page 47

**Figure 18 Couples with children and lone parents by principal economic status**



# Adult children still living at home

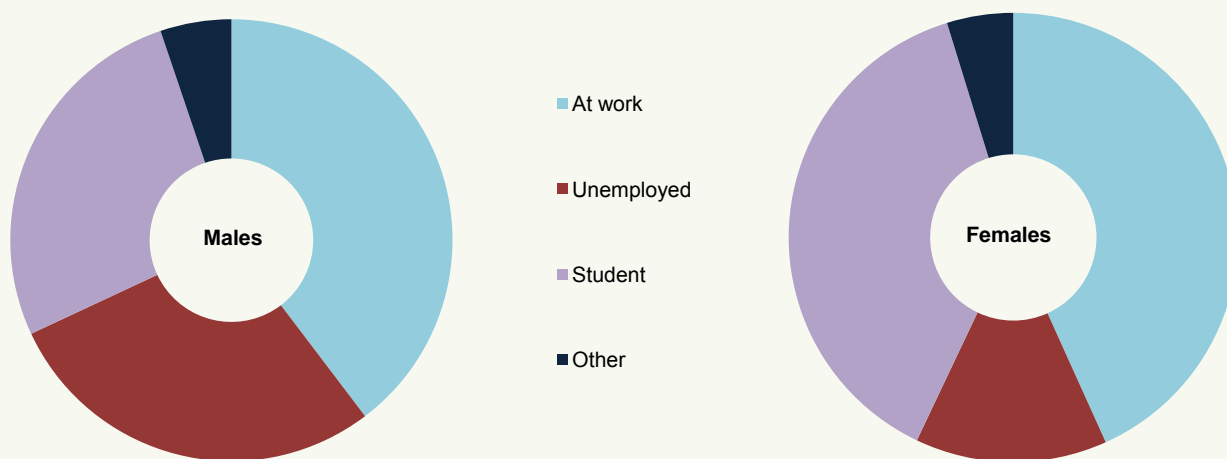
## Three in five adults living with parents were men

There were 439,478 adults aged 18 and over living with parents at the time of the census in April 2011, of which 6 out of 10 were men. On an urban rural divide 42.7 per cent were in rural areas, compared with 38 per cent of the general population. When examined for those age 30-49 there were far more men than women still living with a parent (63,271 compared with 28,160), even in urban areas (33,260 men as against 15,602 women).

In terms of principal economic status 180,703 were at work while 98,739 were unemployed. A further 137,967 were students. When examined separately for men and women, men were less likely to be at work (40%) than women (43%) and more likely to be unemployed (28% compared with 14% of women).

Thirty eight per cent of adult women living with a parent were students compared with only 27 per cent of men.

**Figure 19 Adult children living with their parents by sex and principal economic status**

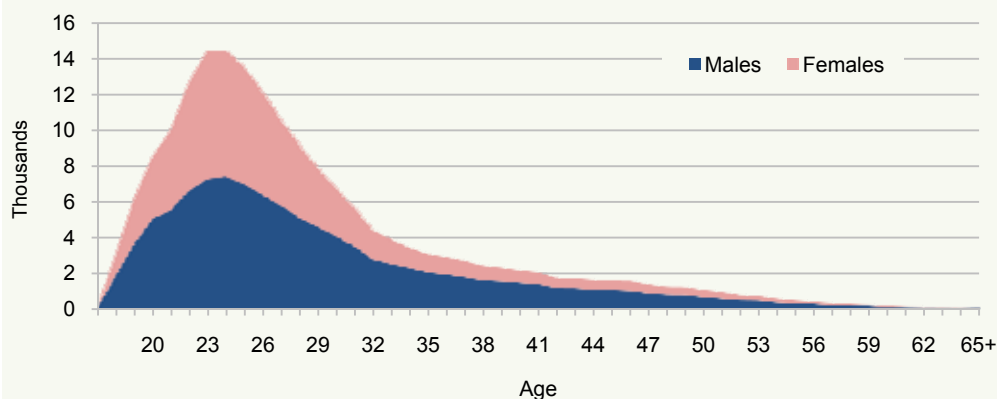


## Workers still living at home

The tendency to be working and still living with a parent declines with age; in the 20-24 year age bracket there were 59,681 persons working and living 'at home' and by age 34-39 there were only 13,192 of which 66 per cent were men.

Table page 48

**Figure 20 Adult workers living with their parents by sex and age**



## It's a fact!

**440,000** The number of adult children still living with a parent in April 2011

**180,703** The number of working adult children living with a parent

**98,739** The number of unemployed adult children living with a parent



## More male same-sex couples

There were 4,042 same sex couples living together in 2011 of which 2,321 (57.4%) were male and 1,721 (42.6%) were female. Information on same-sex relationships is only captured in the Irish census where persons are enumerated living together.

## Same sex couples are younger

The graph on the right tracks the age (of the main householder) of same-sex couples and illustrates their concentration in the younger age groups. Just under half (49.5%) of all same-sex couples were aged between 30 and 44 compared with only 36.3 per cent of opposite-sex couples.

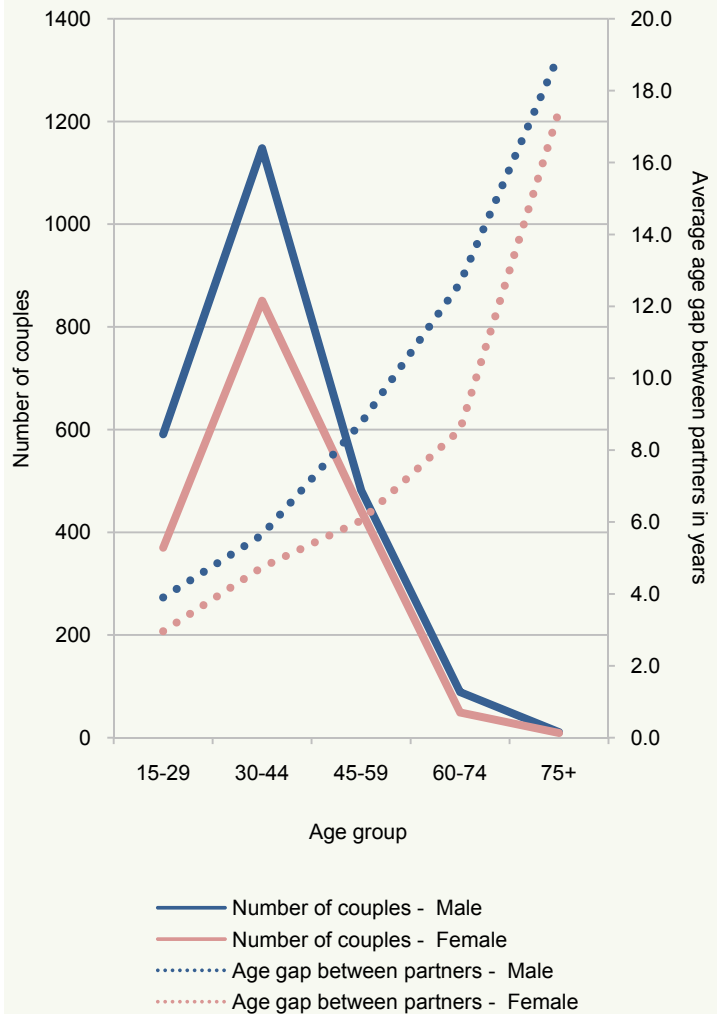
The graph also tracks the age gap between same-sex partners and graphically illustrates how it rises with the increasing age of the reference person. Overall, same sex couples had an average age gap of 5.6 years between partners, 6.2 years for male couples and 4.9 years for female couples. Opposite sex couples had an average age gap between partners of 3.5 years.

## Mostly urban dwellers

3,359 same-sex couples (83.1%) lived in urban areas in 2011. Of these 1,963 lived in Dublin city and suburbs.

Male couples were more urbanised than their female counterparts, with over half living in Dublin city and suburbs. Only 683 same-sex couples lived in rural areas, split evenly between male and female.

**Figure 21** Number of same sex couples and age gaps between partners, classified by sex



**Table G** Same sex couples by sex and area type

Area type	Total	Males	Females
State	4,042	2,321	1,721
Dublin City and suburbs	1,963	1,247	716
Other Cities (incl. suburbs)	476	264	212
Towns over 10,000	570	299	271
Towns 5,000-9,999	190	100	90
Towns 1,500-4,999	160	65	95
Aggregate rural area	683	346	337

## It's a fact!

**4,042** The number of same sex cohabiting couples

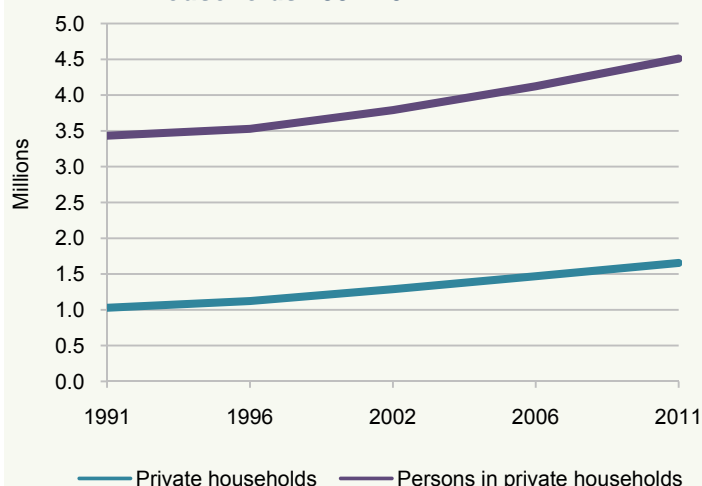
**57%** The percentage of same sex cohabiting couples who were male

**83%** The percentage of same sex couples who lived in urban areas



# Private households

**Figure 22 Private households and persons in private households 1991-2011**



## Increase in number of households

While the previous section covered families, the following deals with private households. In the census, a private household is defined as either one person living alone or a group of people living at the same address with common housekeeping arrangements. A household can contain one or more families.

The number of private households increased by 60.7 per cent since 1991, from 1,029,084 to 1,654,208 in 2011. Over the same period the average household size decreased from 3.3 persons per household to 2.7 driven by the growing number of one person households and falling family size.

Table page 49

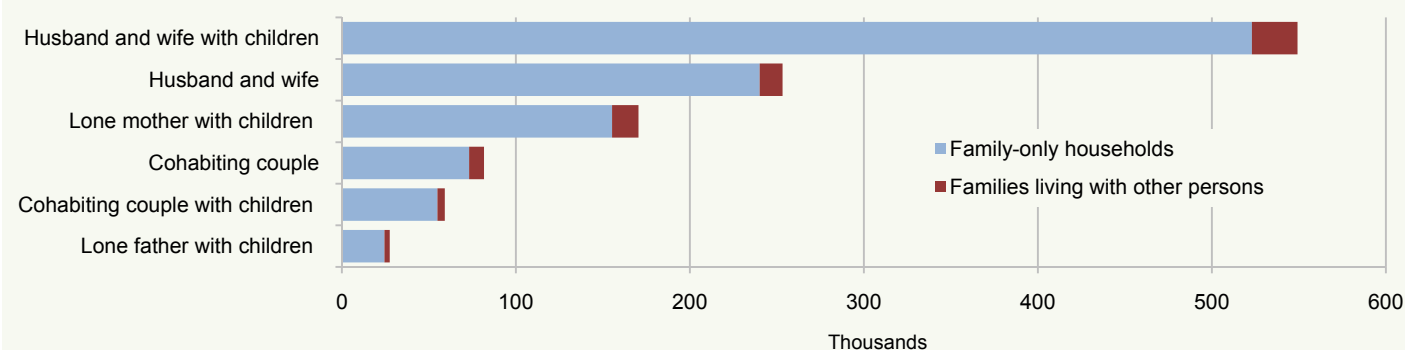
## Family households living with others

A total of 1,159,989 households (70.1%) contained families. A further 392,000 (23.7%) were one-person households. The remaining 102,219 (6.2%) were non-family households. The graph below shows family households by type, with those containing other persons illustrated in red.

Just over 6 per cent, 70,332 households, had persons other than family members living in them. Lone parents were most likely to share their home with others, with 11 per cent of lone fathers living with a non-family member and 9 per cent of lone mothers. Over one in ten cohabiting couples without children also lived with a non-family member while only 5 per cent of married couples shared their home with others.

There were 26,226 households with a husband, wife and children which also contained a non-family member.

**Figure 23 Family-only households and households containing families and other persons by household type**



## It's a fact!

**70.1%** The percentage of all households that contained families

**70,332** The number of family households that shared their home with a non-family member

**6.1%** The percentage of family households that shared their home with a non-family member

## One-person households

There were 392,000 people living on their own at the time of the last census, almost evenly split between men and women with 194,000 and 198,000 respectively.

The numbers living alone increased with age, with 35 per cent aged 65 and over. There were more men than women in all age groups up to age 65 after which longer life expectancy of women results in more women living alone. The greatest difference was in the 35-49 age bracket where six out of ten persons living alone were men. This was more pronounced in rural areas where 67.6 per cent of those living alone were men.

The majority of those living alone were single (56.3%), with just under 1 in 4 widowed. Among men 65.8 per cent were single compared with 46.9 per cent of women while 11 per cent of the men were widowed in sharp contrast to 36.3 per cent of the women.

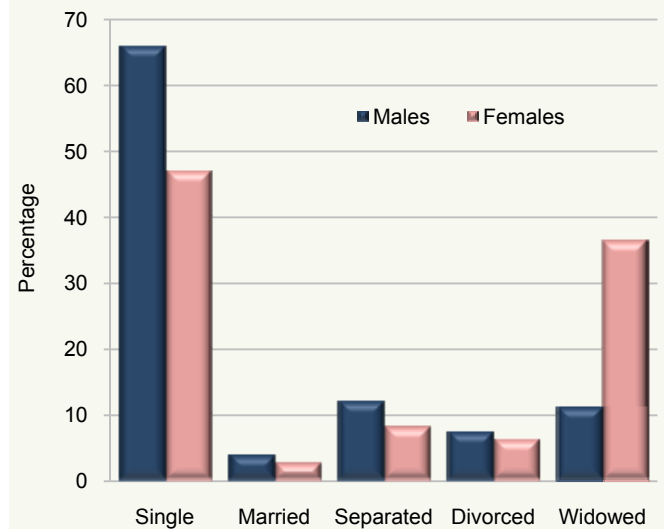
Persons living alone were predominantly living in their own home with 66 per cent homeowners; this compares with 69.7 per cent for the population as a whole. Men were less likely to own their own home (60%) than women (73%).

Those living alone had in general a lower social class than the overall population. Some 34.6 per cent of the general population was found in social classes 1 and 2 compared with only 27.5 per cent of those on their own.

Almost 30,000 of those living alone were unable to work due to a disability, with more men (16,761) than women (12,798) in this category. There were 9,632 persons in this category living in rural areas.

*Table page 50*

**Figure 24 People living alone by sex and marital status**



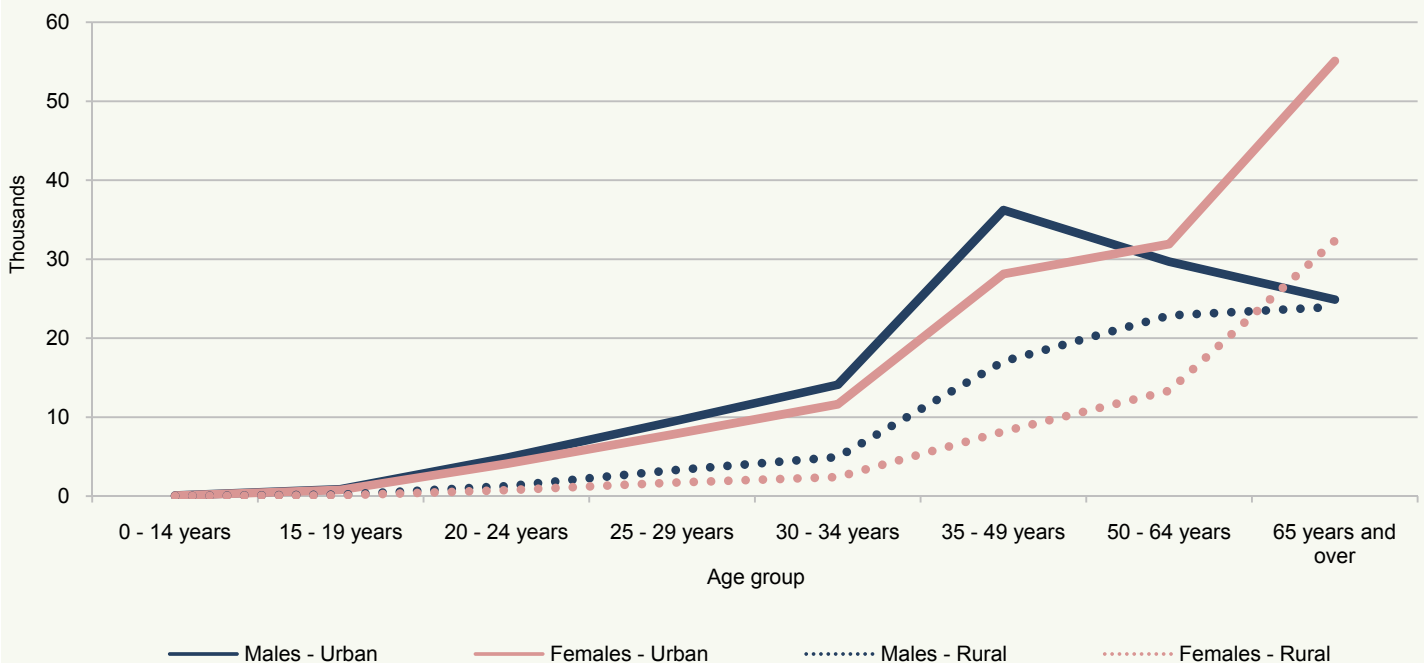
## It's a fact!

**392,000** The number of one-person households

**66%** The percentage of men living alone who were single

**36%** The percentage of women living alone who were widowed

**Figure 25 People living alone in urban and rural areas by sex and age group**



# Non-family households

## Non-family households in decline

There were 102,219 non-family households in 2011, down from 107,570 in 2006, a 5.4 per cent reduction.

62,608 (61.2%) of these contained unrelated persons only, while 39,611 (38.8%) contained related persons such as siblings, cousins, grandparents with grandchildren, etc. For the census definition of families, see Appendix 2.

## Younger people in unrelated households

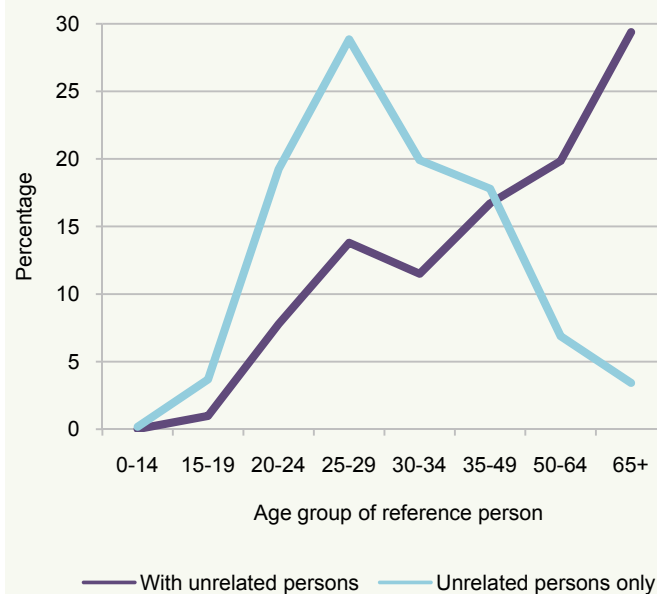
Households containing unrelated persons had a much younger age profile than those containing relatives, and the numbers declined rapidly with age as illustrated in the graph on the right.

Just under half of all households containing related persons were headed by people aged 50 and over compared with only 10.3 per cent of unrelated households.

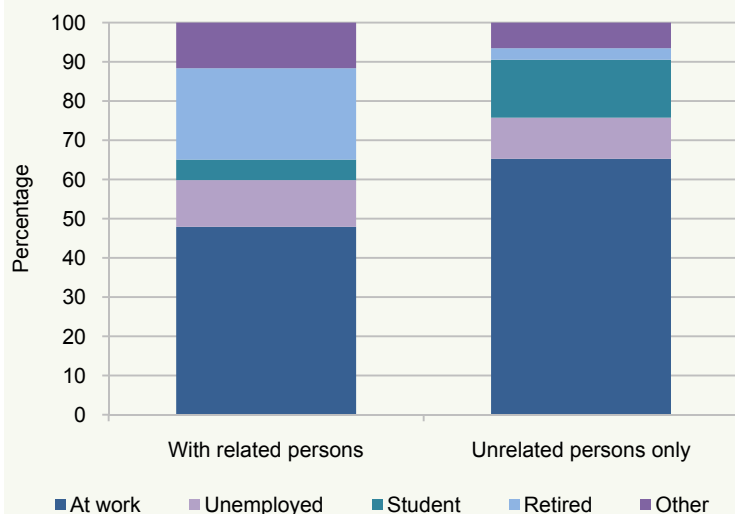
Households with unrelated persons also tended to be larger (41.5 per cent had more than 2 persons), more likely to be single (87% of main householders single), and far more likely to be renting (71.4%).

Table page 51

**Figure 26 Non-family households by household type and age of reference person**



**Figure 27 Non-family households by household type and principal economic status of reference person**



## Mostly workers and students in unrelated households

65.3 per cent of unrelated households were headed by workers, while 14.8 per cent were students. By contrast just 47.9 per cent of households containing relatives were headed by workers and 5.2 per cent by students.

Households with relatives were much more likely to be headed by a retired person (23.3%) than households with unrelated persons only (3.0%).

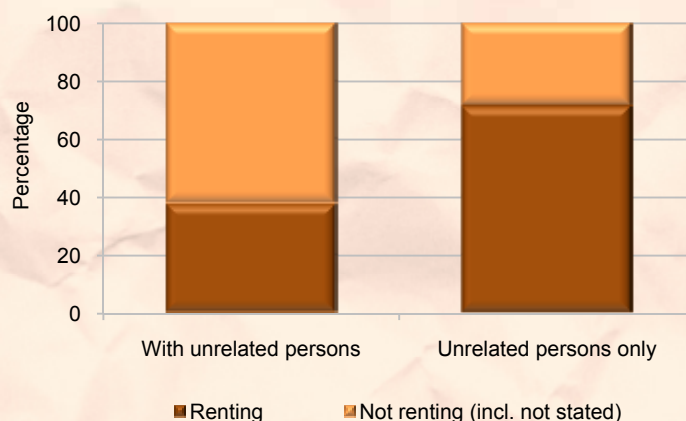
## It's a fact!

**38%** The percentage of rented dwellings among non-family households containing relatives

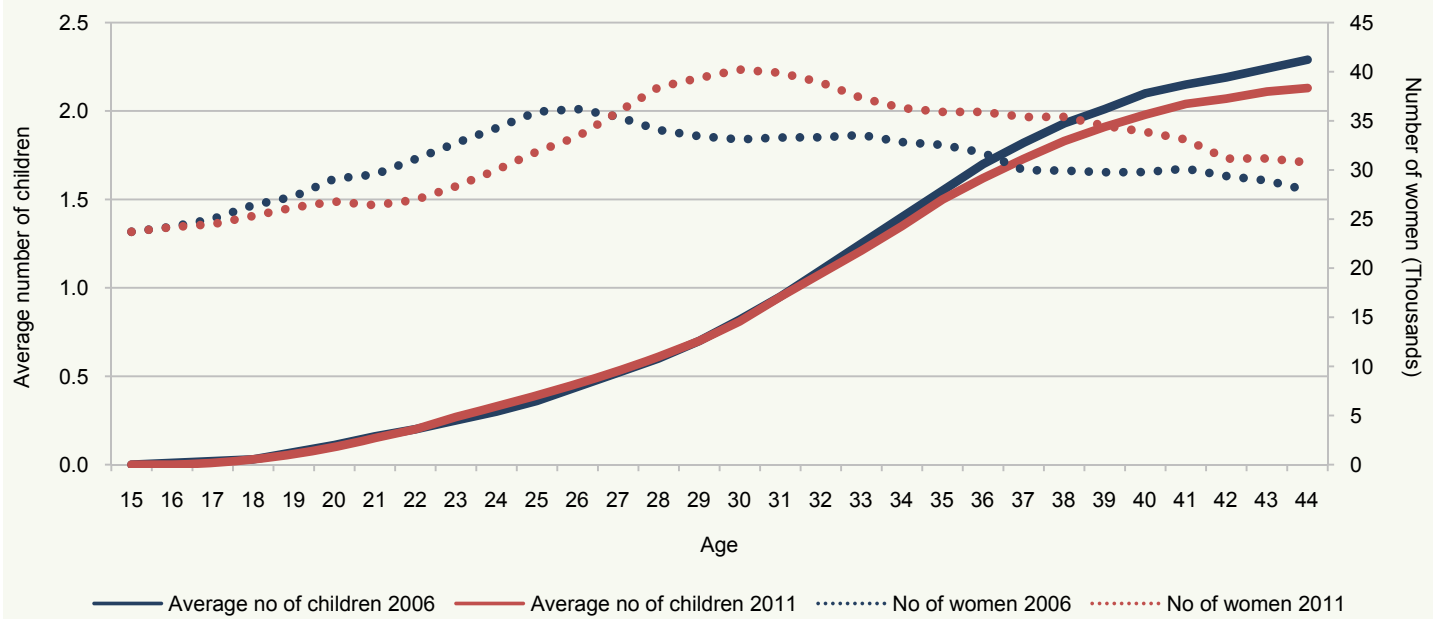
**71%** The percentage of rented dwellings among non-family households containing relatives

**102,219** The number of non-family households

**Non-family households by nature of occupancy**



**Figure 28** Number of women aged 15 to 44 and average number of children born by single year of age



## Increase in births due to more mothers rather than higher fertility rates

Figure 28 above shows the number of women in the main child-bearing age group, 15 to 44 years, along with the average number of children born, for 2006 and 2011.

The average number of children born per woman has only slightly changed over the five years, from 0.98 children per woman in 2006 to 1.00 in 2011. The rate had increased slightly for women in their 20s, but had decreased for the older age groups.

By contrast the total number of women aged 15 to 44 has increased by 5.0 per cent from 924,728 to 971,087 over the same period. In the peak childbearing years of 30 to 34 the increase was sharper – a rise of 15.9 per cent from 166,150 to 192,626.

## It's a fact!

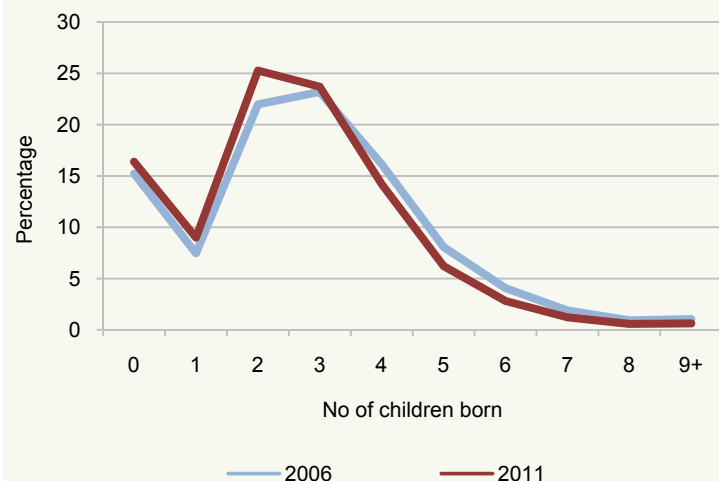
**2.84**

The average number of children born to women who had completed their child bearing, 2006

**2.55**

The average number of children born to women who had completed their child bearing, 2011

**Figure 29** Percentage of women aged 45 to 64 years by number of children born, 2006 and 2011



## Completed fertility

Examining the changes in numbers of children born for women aged 45 to 64 (who are likely to have completed their child bearing) illustrates the changes in fertility patterns between 2006 and 2011 (see figure 29 on the left).

On average women aged 45 to 64 in 2006 had had 2.82 children. By 2011 the figure had fallen to 2.55.

In 2011 there was a higher proportion of women in this age group with no children, one child or two children. The proportions were lower in 2006 for women who had larger families.

Table page 53