



Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

Press Statement
Preas Ráiteas

2002 Census of Population – Principal Socio-Economic Results

Major social change

Major changes in employment/unemployment trends, educational attainment, travel patterns and housing characteristics have been revealed in a report released today by the Central Statistics Office. The report: *2002 Census of Population – Principal Socio-Economic Results* gives the final results of the census conducted on 28 April 2002.

The report also provides information for the first time on third level qualifications, persons with disabilities, carers and the number of households having PCs and Internet access.

Employment up 25 per cent in six years

Employment grew by over 25 per cent (+334,000) between 1996 and 2002 while the number of persons unemployed, including those looking for their first regular job, fell by 67,000. The growth in the labour force recorded in recent censuses is largely due to a combination of the underlying growth in the population aged 15 years and over and increasing female labour force participation, with the latter increasing from 28.2 per cent in 1971 to 47 per cent in 2002.

Highest unemployment in Donegal

The overall unemployment rate* as measured by the responses to the question on principal economic status in the 2002 Census was 8.8 per cent nationally. Unemployment was higher in urban (9.5%) than in rural areas (7.9%).

At county level Donegal (15.6%) had the highest unemployment rate in 2002. Limerick City (13.9%) and Louth (13.2%) were next in line. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (5.7%), Kildare (6.2%) and Cork County (6.4%) had the lowest rates.

** The official unemployment rate in the second quarter of 2002 as measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey using the ILO criterion was 4.2 per cent.*

Proportionately more females in education

The proportion of females in education in 2002 exceeded that of males for all single years of age in the range 15 to 24 years. The differential between males and females was widest for 18 year olds at 15.2 percentage points, i.e. 75.2 per cent of 18 year old females were in education compared with 60 per cent of males.

A consequence of the increasing education participation rates among those aged 18 to 24 years is a general increase in the age at which full-time education ceases. Nearly 50 per cent of the population aged 15 years and over in 1981, whose full-time education had ceased, left the educational system before reaching the age of 16. By 2002, the corresponding figure had fallen to 24.4 per cent.

More /...

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One in five have third level qualifications

Over 626,000 persons aged 15 years and over in April 2002 held third level qualifications, which they attained after completing two or more years of study, according to the results of a new question introduced in the 2002 Census. Graduates aged 25 to 34 years at the time of the census accounted for over a third of the total and for 36.7 per cent of the age group.

More car users

Driving to work by car was the principal means of travel used by Irish workers in 2002. Just over 55 per cent of all workers drove to work, up from 46 per cent six years previously. Taken in combination with workers who travelled to work as car passengers or who drove vans or lorries to work, more than two out of three workers were private vehicle users in 2002.

Workers travelled on average 9.8 miles from their homes to their workplaces in 2002, up from 6.7 miles six years earlier. Even though urban workers travelled shorter distances (7.8 miles) to their workplaces than workers living in rural areas (13.3 miles), traffic congestion meant that they spent longer periods commuting (28 minutes compared with 26 minutes for rural workers).

Over half of primary schoolchildren driven to school

More than half of primary schoolchildren were driven to school by car in 2002 compared with less than one in five some twenty years earlier. During the same period the proportion of primary schoolchildren walking to school declined from 47.3 per cent to 26 per cent.

8.3 per cent of population with a disability

Almost 324,000 persons, representing 8.3 per cent of the total population, had a long lasting health problem or disability based on the responses to two new questions introduced in the 2002 Census. The incidence of disability was higher among females than males (8.7% compared with 7.8%) and nearly two-thirds of those with a disability were aged 50 years or over.

Almost 149,000 carers

Almost 149,000 persons aged 15 years and over (4.8% of the total) indicated that they provide regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability in April 2002. Women accounted for over 91,000 (or 61%) of the total and over half of them were in their forties or fifties. Over one in ten women aged 40-59 was reported as a carer.

Doubling of private rented dwellings

The number of private rented dwellings almost doubled (from 71,000 to 141,000) between 1991 and 2002, following declines observed during the previous thirty years. One in nine dwellings are now rented privately.

Owner occupied dwellings continue to be the most prevalent occupancy status. While the number of such dwellings increased by 22.7 per cent (from 807,000 to 991,000) between 1991 and 2002, their share of all housing units actually fell from 80.2 per cent to 77.4 per cent – the first time such a decline was recorded in recent decades.

Highest proportion of one-off housing in Co. Galway

Over one in four of the 290,000 housing units built since 1991 were individual one-off houses in rural areas (i.e. detached buildings with individual septic tanks). The counties with the highest percentage of these one-off housing units built since 1991 were: Co. Galway (63.1%), Monaghan (54.1%), Roscommon (52.5%), Cavan (52.4%) and Leitrim (52.3%).

PC ownership and Internet access

Over 555,000 (43.5%) households had a personal computer (PC) in April 2002 while 436,000 (34.1%) had access to the Internet. Dublin was ahead of the rest of the country in terms of access to both facilities (48.8% compared with 41.2% for PCs and 39.4% compared with 31.8% for Internet access).

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Increased car ownership

Car ownership was higher in rural areas (86.2%) than in urban areas (73.3%). The trend in both areas has been sharply upwards since 1991 when the relevant percentages were 74.6 per cent and 59.5 per cent, respectively. Over a million households had at least one car each in 2002 – an increase of 330,000 compared with 1991. Despite the growth in the overall numbers of households in the same period, those without a car declined by 70,000 or 20 per cent.

For copies of the publication contact:

Central Statistics Office, Information Section, Skehard Road, Cork

or

Government Publications Sale Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

Price: €15.00

Copies can also be downloaded from the CSO website (see below).

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