



Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

Press Statement
Preas Ráiteas

2002 Census of Population – Volume 2 – Ages and Marital Status

Galway is Ireland's singles city

A higher than average proportion of singles are to be found in Galway and Maynooth, a new report from the Central Statistics Office today reveals.

This information is contained in *Census 2002 Volume 2 - Ages and Marital Status*, which gives further detailed results of the Census conducted on 28 April 2002. The report gives the final population figures classified by age, sex and marital status for detailed territorial divisions in the country. (See editor's note).

The new report shows that in the State as a whole 42.5 per cent of the population aged 15 and over were single and 47.1 per cent were married (excluding those separated). The remaining 10.4 per cent were either widowed or separated (including divorced).

However, in Galway City and Maynooth – both university locations - the opposite was true. Singles make up 57.6 per cent of the population in Galway City (including suburbs) with married people accounting for 33.9 per cent, while in Maynooth singles were also in the majority with a 53.3 per cent to 40 per cent divide.

The number of single people grew by over 175,000 (15.5%) between 1996 and 2002 compared with an increase in married people of almost 100,000 (7.2%) over the same period.

In rural areas, 52.5 per cent of the population aged 15 and over were married (excluding those separated) and 37.4 per cent were single, whereas in urban areas 43.5 per cent were married and 45.9 per cent single. Urban areas are defined as towns (including suburbs and environs) with 1,500 or more persons.

Highest proportion of separated in Limerick

The CSO report also reveals that Limerick City has the highest proportion of separated people at 11.7 per cent. This measure expresses the number of separated including divorced as a percentage of those ever-married including widowed. This was followed by Dublin City (10.6%). At the other end of the scale, County Cavan had the lowest proportion at 4.9 per cent of those who ever married.

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Proportionally more older people in rural areas

People aged 65 years and over account for 11.1 per cent of the total population in the State. However, there are proportionally more older people in rural areas than in urban locations. The 65+ age group account for 10.2 per cent of the urban population (defined as all towns of 1,500 and over), but 12.5 per cent of the rural population (the remainder).

In the category of towns with a population of 1,500+, Kenmare in County Kerry had the highest proportion of those aged 65 years and over with 22.9 per cent.

Decline in those under 14 years old

Children aged from 0 to 14 make up 21.1 per cent of the population in the State, down from 23.7 per cent in 1996. In urban areas in 2002 the figure was 20.2 per cent and 22.5 per cent for rural areas.

The population aged 15 years and over increased by 11.7 per cent between 1996 and 2002, due mainly to the high net inward migration since the mid 1990s.

The young dependency ratio, which is derived by expressing the population aged 0-14 as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64 years), peaked at over 50 per cent in the 1970s. However, it has since been in decline and reached a low of 31.2 per cent in 2002.

Editor's note:

The publication *Census 2002 - Principal Demographic Results*, released on 19 June 2003, contains a summary at State level of data from volumes 1 - 4, 8, 11 and 12 of the detailed census reports. The publication released today, Volume 2, gives corresponding figures at a more detailed geographical level.

All published tables from Census 2002 are being made available on the CSO web site (www.cso.ie). Tables at Electoral Division, Local Electoral Area and small town level are being made available exclusively on the CSO web site.

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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