

## 6. Socio-economic group and social class

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Changes since 2011

Social class

County distributions

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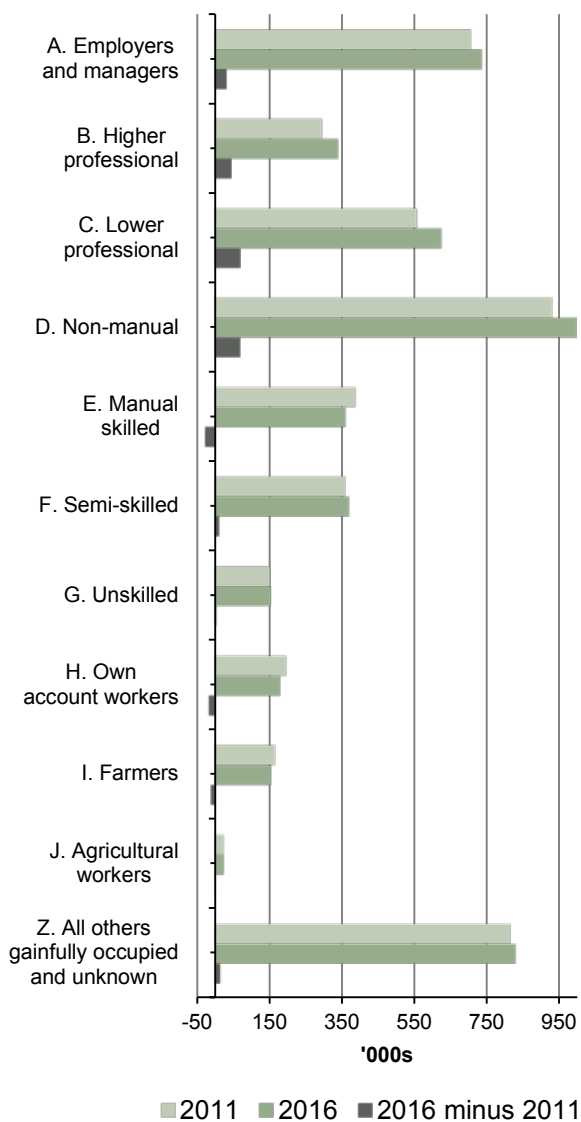
## Grouping the population

Socio-economic Group classifies the entire population into one of ten categories based on the level of skill and educational attainment of their occupation (those at work, unemployed or retired). All other people are classified to the socio-economic group of the person in the family on whom they are deemed to be dependent.

The largest category in 2016 was the group Non-manual at 996,696 persons, up 65,628 persons on 2011. The Lower Professional group showed the largest increase with a rise of 67,169 on 2011, while Own Account workers and Farmers both showed falls on 2011, dropping by 17,493 and 12,209 respectively.

[See web table EZ025](#)

**Figure 6.1 Persons by socio-economic group, 2011 and 2016**



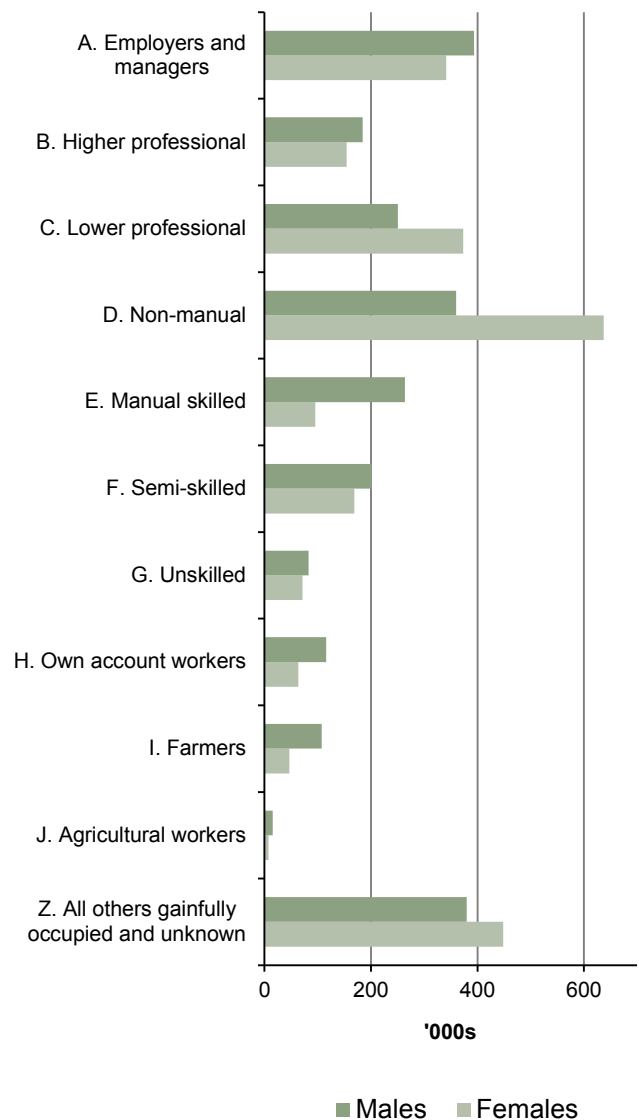
## Socio-economic grouping by sex

Men represented the majority of people in the Employers and Managers, Higher Professional, Manual and Agricultural groups, while women predominated in the Lower Professional and Non-manual categories.

Of the 996,696 persons in the Non-manual category 636,952 were females.

The group Manual Skilled, which has the largest representation of males (73.4%) fell the most (by 27,156 persons).

**Figure 6.2 Persons by socio-economic group and gender, 2016**



## Managerial and technical

The entire population is also classified into one of seven social class groups which are ranked on the basis of occupation, thereby bringing together people with similar levels of occupational skill. See Appendix 3 for a complete definition.

At the State level, social class group 2 - Managerial and technical - accounted for the largest number of people with 1,336,896 persons, or 28.1 per cent of the population, up from 27.3 per cent in 2011. This group also showed the largest overall increase of 85,225 persons. At the other end of the scale, group 6 - Unskilled workers, accounted for just 3.6 per cent overall, while group 4 - Skilled manual - recorded a fall of 5.0 per cent since 2011 or 35,479 persons. This was the only class to decline since 2011 at a State level.

[See web table EZ027](#)

### *It's a fact!*

**64.1%**

The percentage of people in social class 4 (Skilled manual) who were male

**135,253**

The increase in the number of people in social class 1 and 2 combined (Professional, Managerial and Technical) between 2011 and 2016

**Figure 6.3 Persons by social class, 2011 and 2016**



## County differences

Significant differences existed in the distribution of social class across the country with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (55.9%) containing the highest proportion of people classified to the combined classes of 1 and 2 while Longford (27.7%), Monaghan (29.3%) and Cavan (29.4%) had the lowest rates.

## Unskilled workers

At the county level, Monaghan (5.1%) had the highest proportion of people classified to class 6 – Unskilled, followed by Wexford and Offaly, both at 4.8 per cent. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (1.5%) and Fingal (2.8%) had the lowest rates.

**Table 6.1 Persons by social class in each county ('000s), 2016**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Professional workers	Managerial and technical	Non-manual	Skilled manual	Semi-skilled	Unskilled	All other gainfully occupied and unknown
Dublin City	53.5	147.3	89.7	62.9	50.2	20.9	130.2
Cork County	38.7	124.3	75.2	61.5	47.2	12.3	58.0
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	35.4	86.6	35.6	16.7	10.6	3.3	29.9
Fingal	26.5	97.3	54.6	38.1	25.2	8.3	46.0
South Dublin	20.4	79.0	54.0	41.5	26.2	8.9	48.7
Kildare	18.8	70.2	40.5	31.3	21.5	7.6	32.6
Limerick City and County	15.7	49.8	32.9	26.9	21.5	7.6	40.6
Galway County	14.7	52.2	30.3	26.1	21.6	5.8	28.7
Meath	14.9	59.4	35.9	31.8	20.2	7.1	25.8
Wicklow	12.3	45.2	24.3	20.2	14.4	4.6	21.4
Tipperary	10.4	40.3	28.4	23.9	19.6	7.2	29.8
Cork City	10.3	27.0	20.8	15.5	14.2	5.5	32.4
Kerry	9.3	37.3	26.8	23.2	16.8	5.4	28.9
Donegal	9.0	38.5	28.2	25.7	19.5	6.9	31.2
Waterford City and County	8.8	29.5	20.3	16.4	14.1	5.0	22.1
Clare	8.8	33.8	21.2	17.7	12.9	4.0	20.4
Galway City	8.0	20.0	11.7	7.4	8.7	2.4	20.5
Wexford	8.2	38.1	27.2	24.9	19.0	7.2	25.2
Louth	8.3	33.0	23.7	20.0	14.9	5.3	23.6
Mayo	7.9	33.5	23.3	20.7	16.5	5.0	23.7
Kilkenny	7.6	29.3	17.3	15.8	10.3	3.9	15.0
Westmeath	6.2	23.7	15.5	13.1	9.6	3.1	17.7
Sligo	5.2	17.5	11.9	9.1	7.3	2.0	12.5
Laois	4.8	22.5	15.3	12.8	9.7	3.4	16.2
Offaly	4.1	19.2	13.4	13.3	9.4	3.7	14.8
Roscommon	4.0	17.4	12.7	9.5	7.6	2.1	11.2
Cavan	4.2	18.2	13.7	13.8	9.7	3.3	13.4
Carlow	3.3	13.9	9.4	9.1	6.4	2.7	12.2
Monaghan	3.2	14.8	10.6	11.6	8.1	3.2	9.9
Longford	2.0	9.4	6.9	6.4	4.9	1.7	9.6
Leitrim	1.9	8.9	6.1	4.9	3.5	1.1	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>386.6</b>	<b>1336.9</b>	<b>837.1</b>	<b>671.9</b>	<b>501.1</b>	<b>170.4</b>	<b>857.8</b>

Map 6.1 Persons in social classes 1 and 2 as a percentage of total population, 2016

