



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

**census**  
**2016**  
**RESULTS**  
[www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)

## **Preas Ráiteas** **Press Statement**

### **Census 2016 Summary Results – Part 1**

Census 2016 results show that Ireland's population stood at 4,761,865 in April 2016, an increase of 173,613 (3.8%) since April 2011. The total number of non-Irish nationals fell slightly to 535,475, or 11.6% of the population, the first decline since the introduction of this question in 2002, while the number of people with dual-Irish nationality has increased by 48,879 to 104,784 people since April 2011.

These are some of the headline figures from the Census 2016 Summary Results Part I, which is published today by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). As well as detailing the overall change in the population since April 2011, Part I provides summary results on age profile, marital status, families, nationality, Irish language, foreign languages, religion and housing.

Deirdre Cullen, Senior Statistician, commented *"Today's publication is the first of a series of 13 reports on Census 2016 that are due to be published this year. As well as the two summary reports, the CSO will publish 11 thematic profile releases, each of which will explore separate topics such as housing, the homeless, religion, disability and carers in greater detail. Together, these will provide a comprehensive demographic and socio-economic profile of Ireland in April 2016."*

Today's full report is available on the CSO website at [www.cso.ie/en/census](http://www.cso.ie/en/census) and is accompanied by a range of interactive web tables which allow users to search and download the data using a range of criteria including geographic area.

In cooperation with All Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO) at NUI Maynooth, the summary census data will be simultaneously available in thematic maps for Electoral Districts. To view these, follow the link on our website.

Ms Cullen thanked everyone for their participation in Census 2016, and acknowledged the contribution of the census staff – *"Today's publication comes just 12 months after census night (24 April 2016). This could not have been achieved without the civic-minded participation of the Irish public, and the commitment and dedication of all of the census staff, and I want to thank all concerned. The results will provide us with a greater insight and understanding of Ireland today"*.

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An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh  
Bóthar na Sceiche Airde  
Corcaigh  
Éire

*Oifig i mBaile Átha Cliath*  
+353 1 4984000

Central Statistics Office  
Skehard Road  
Cork  
Ireland

*Dublin Office*  
+353 1 4984000



LoCall 1890 313 414 (ROI)  
0870 876 0256 (UK/NI)  
+353 21 453 5000  
+353 21 453 5555



information@cso.ie  
www.cso.ie

## Highlights of the report

### Ageing population

The average age of the population in April 2016 was 37.4 years, up from 36.1 years in April 2011. The number of males aged 65 and over increased by 22% to 296,837 while females aged 65 and over increased by 16.7% to 340,730. The average age of the non-Irish population increased by 2.5 years (almost twice that of all persons) to 35.4 years, while amongst Polish nationals it increased by 3.5 years (from 27.9 to 31.4).

### Families and households

The average number of children per family, at 1.38, was unchanged from 2011; 218,817 families were headed by one parent, with the vast majority (86.4%) being mothers. The number of private households increased by 2.9% to 1,702,289 in April 2016. The number of people living in private households rose by 3.7%, meaning household formation has now fallen behind population increase. The average household size increased from 2.73 persons to 2.75 persons, a reversal of the long-term decline in average household size in Ireland.

### First time to record same sex civil partnerships and marital status

Census 2016 recorded a total of 6,034 same sex couples, of whom 3,442 were male couples and 2,592 were female. There were 4,226 persons in same-sex civil partnerships, the first time this category was recorded in the census. Overall, the number of divorced people increased by 16,125 to 103,895 in 2016; the previous inter-censal increase was 28,236 persons.

### Migration

The number of Irish residents born outside Ireland continues to increase, and stood at 810,406 in 2016, a rise of 43,636 on the 2011 figure. 82,346 persons moved to Ireland in the year to April 2016. Of these, 28,143 were Irish nationals, with the main countries of origin being the UK, Australia and the USA. 54,203 were non-Irish immigrants, and their main countries of origin were the UK, Brazil and Poland.

### Foreign Languages

612,018 Irish residents spoke a foreign language at home, an increase of 19% since 2011. Polish was the most common language, followed by French, Romanian and Lithuanian. 30% of those who spoke a foreign language at home were born in Ireland, and 57.4% of these were children.

### Increase in Irish Traveller numbers

The number of people enumerated as Irish Travellers in Census 2016 increased by 5.1% to 30,987. The biggest percentage increases were recorded in Longford, where Traveller numbers rose by 40.8%, and Roscommon, where numbers increased by 30.3%.

### Irish Language

1,761,420 people (or 39.8% of respondents, compared to 41.4% in 2011) stated that they were able to speak Irish, a slight decrease (-0.7%) on the 2011 figure. Of that 1.76 million people, 73,803 spoke Irish daily outside the education system, 3,382 fewer than 2011.

### Increase in people with no religion

The number of people identifying themselves as having no religion increased from 269,800 to 468,400, an increase of 73.6%, and comprised 9.8% of the population. The number of Catholics fell to 3,729,100 from 3,861,300, and comprised 78.3% of the population in April 2016, compared to 84.2% in April 2011.

### Housing

The number of households renting on census night 2016 amounted to 497,111, an increase of 22,323 on the 2011 figure. Just under 1.7 million permanent housing units were occupied at the time of the census, an increase of 48,257 units (2.9%) on 2011.

### Broadband

312,982 dwellings (18.4%) had no internet connection, down from more than 1 in 4 (25.8%) in 2011. Broadband use in private households increased to 70.7% (from 63.8% in 2011) and 148,125 more households had a broadband connection.

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**For copies of the publication:**

To view and download the publication, visit the CSO website at <http://www.cso.ie/en/census/>

**For further information, contact:**

Brendan Murphy on (01) 895 1329

Central Statistics Office, Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin.

Census Enquiries: (01) 895 1460

Fax: (01) 895 1399

E-mail: [census@cso.ie](mailto:census@cso.ie)

Internet: [www.cso.ie/en](http://www.cso.ie/en)

Further information about Census 2016 is available on [www.census.ie](http://www.census.ie)

**Note to Editors:**

- ◆ Census 2016 was held on Sunday, April 24th. A census has been held in Ireland every five years since 1951 and Census 2016 was the 27th census. The first was carried out in 1821.
- ◆ Every household in the country was obliged by law to complete and return a census form.
- ◆ The Summary Results Part I are the first in the series of Census 2016 results being published this year. In addition to the Summary Results Part II, eleven profile reports on themes such as housing; Ireland's age profile; the homeless; Travellers, ethnicity and religion; employment, occupations and industry will be published between April and December 2017. A copy of the release schedule is available at <http://www.cso.ie/shorturl.aspx/458> or you can subscribe to our release calendar at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/censuspublicity1%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>