

6. Ethnicity and Irish Travellers

Ethnicity

Irish Travellers

A changing ethnic mix

A question on ethnic or cultural background was asked for the first time in 2006.

Between 2011 and 2016 the number of people categorised as White Irish increased by 1 per cent while those in the Black Irish or Black African category fell by 847 persons, or 1.4 per cent. This contrasts with an increase of 45 per cent in the Black Irish or Black African category between 2006 and 2011.

Those classified as Other Asian increased by 12,145, or 19 per cent, also far lower than the previous inter-censal increase of 87 per cent.

Over 124,000 people failed to answer the question.

Table 6.1 Usual residents by ethnic or cultural background, 2011-2016

Category	2011	2016	% change
White Irish	3,821,995	3,854,226	0.8
Irish Travellers	29,495	30,987	5.1
Other White	412,975	446,727	8.2
Black Irish or Black African	58,697	57,850	-1.4
Other Black	6,381	6,789	6.4
Chinese	17,832	19,447	9.1
Other Asian	66,858	79,273	18.6
Other	40,724	70,603	73.4
Not stated	70,324	124,019	76.4
Total	4,525,281	4,689,921	3.6

It's a fact!

82%

The percentage of the usually resident population who identified themselves as White Irish

17%

The percentage increase in the population who identified themselves as Chinese or Other Asian

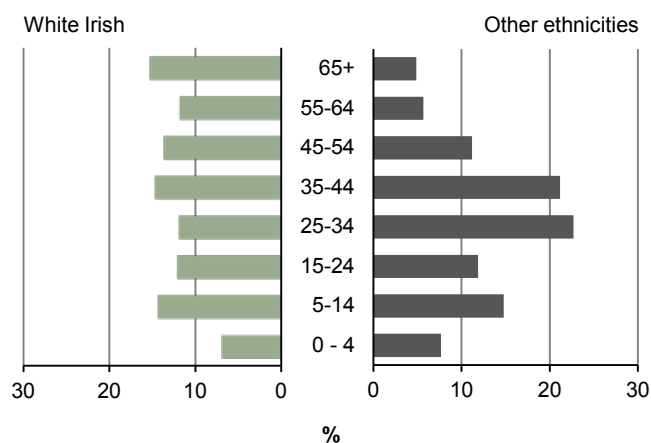
Ethnic age profiles

People with a White Irish background were generally older than other ethnic groups.

Just over 57 per cent of people in ethnic groups other than White Irish were under 35. Almost 5 per cent of people in these ethnic groups were 65 or older, compared with 13 per cent of the White Irish group.

[See web table EY029](#)

Figure 6.1 Ethnic population by age, 2016



Increase in Irish Traveller numbers

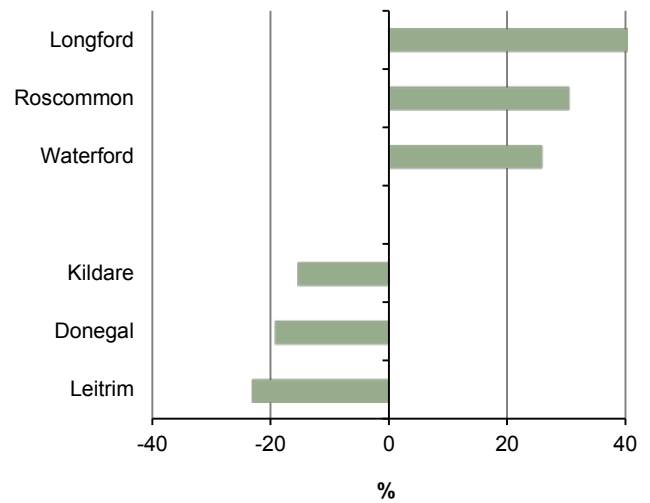
The number of usual residents present in the State and enumerated as Irish Travellers in Census 2016 increased by 5.1 per cent from 29,495 to 30,987.

There were 98.5 males for every 100 females within the Irish Traveller population. The equivalent sex ratio for the general population was 97.9.

Figure 6.2 Number of Irish Travellers, 2011-2016



Figure 6.3 Percentage change in Traveller numbers by county, top 3 and bottom 3, 2016



Traveller count by County

While Irish Traveller numbers increased in most counties there was a decline in some, with Leitrim showing the largest percentage decline of 23.1 per cent or 61 people.

The biggest percentage increases were recorded in Longford where Traveller numbers rose by 40.8 per cent and Roscommon where numbers increased by 30.3 per cent.

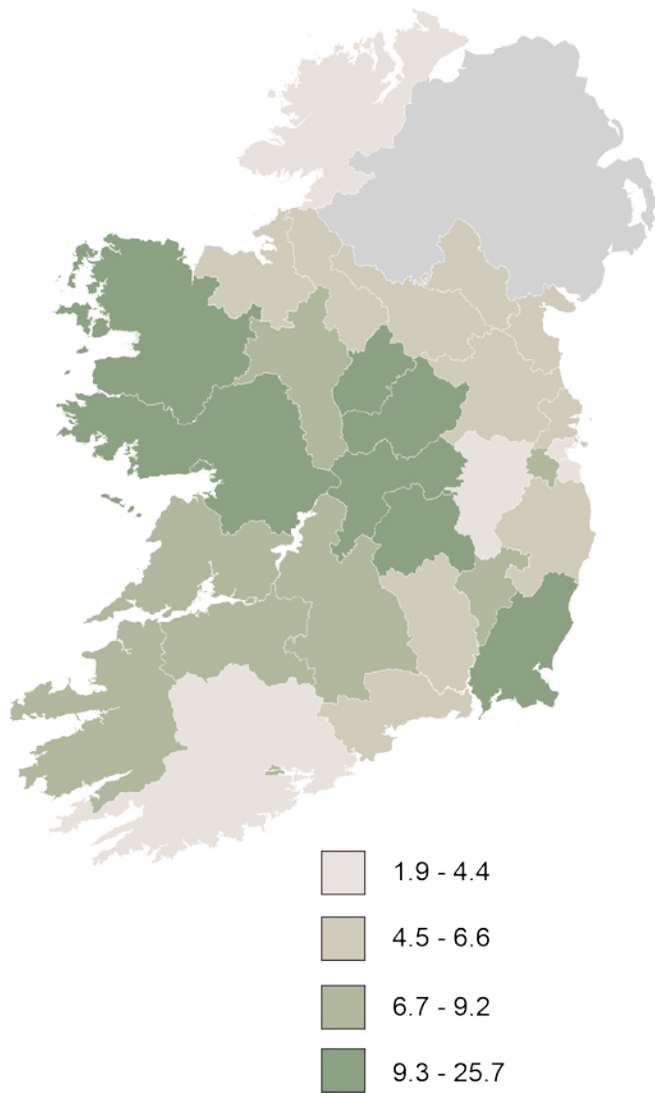
Longford had the highest absolute increase in Traveller numbers of any county, increasing by 303.

Longford also had the highest number of Travellers per head of population, with 25.7 Travellers for every thousand people. South Dublin had the lowest number per head of population with 1.9 Travellers per thousand people.

There were 6,006 Travellers in Dublin, the largest number in any county. Thirty seven per cent were in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, with 7 per cent in South Dublin.

[See web table EY030](#)

Map 6.1 Irish Travellers per 1,000 population, by county, 2016

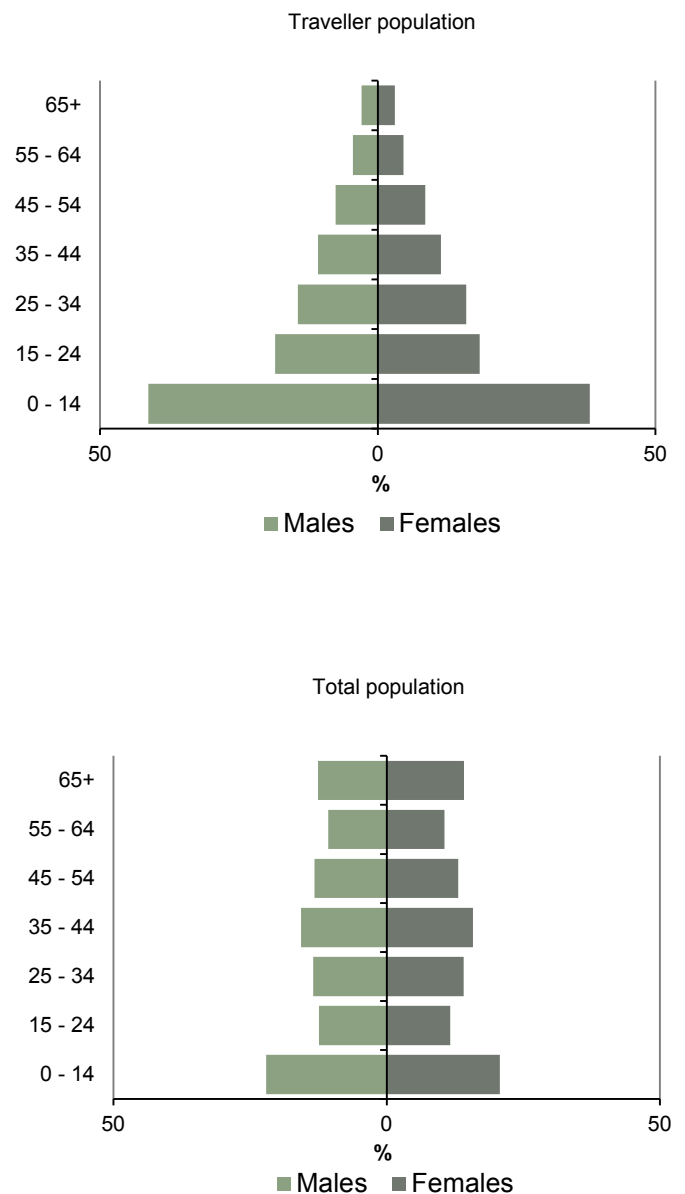


Travellers younger

Irish Travellers were much younger than the general population. Just over 73 per cent of Travellers were aged 34 or younger while 7.5 per cent were over 54.

The age group where the greatest percentage population growth took place in the Traveller community was between 5 and 9. There were 413 (10.6%) more children in this category than in 2011.

Figure 6.4 Age distribution of Irish Traveller and total populations, 2016



Marrying earlier

Almost a quarter of Travellers aged between 15 and 24 were married (22.6%), compared with 1.2 per cent of the general population.

The tendency of Irish Travellers to marry younger is evident in the fact that only 35.1 per cent of Travellers aged between 25 and 34 were single compared with 69.1 per cent of the general population in the same age range.

[See web table EY031](#)

Table 6.2 Irish Travellers' marital status, 2016

Age group	Single	Married*	Other
15 - 24	4,320	1,292	93
25 - 34	1,651	2,710	342
35 - 44	829	2,174	419
45 - 54	394	1,642	470
55+	243	1,420	675

* including same-sex civil partnership

Small increase in temporary accommodation

The number of Travellers living in temporary accommodation increased between 2011 and 2016 from 3,560 to 3,718 a rise of 158 persons. This accounts for 12.2 per cent of all Travellers.

Just over 83 per cent of the Traveller population lived in permanent housing.

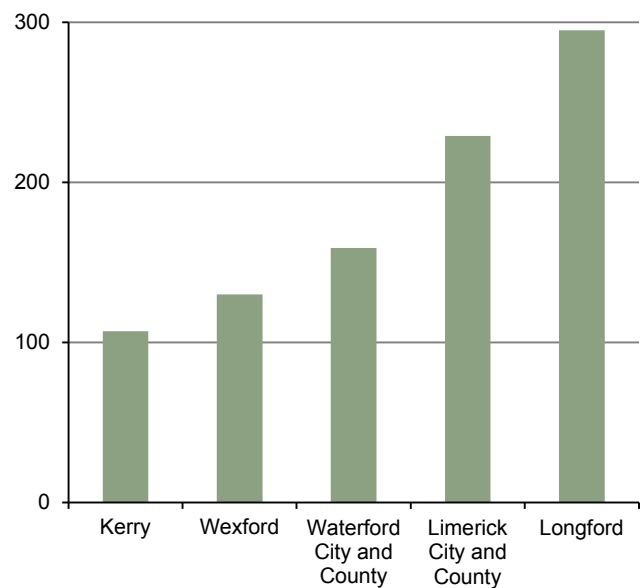
Monaghan, at 96.4 per cent, had the highest proportion of Travellers living in permanent housing. In contrast, 22.2 per cent of Travellers in Limerick lived in temporary accommodation.

The biggest increase in Travellers living in permanent housing occurred in Longford, where the number increased by 43.1 per cent (or 295 people) since 2011.

In a small number of areas the number of Travellers living in temporary accommodation increased. This included Dublin City where the number increased by 130 people.

[See web table EY032](#)

Figure 6.5 Top 5 counties where there has been an increase in the number of Travellers living in permanent accommodation, 2016



It's a fact!

22%

The percentage of Irish Travellers in Limerick who lived in caravans or mobile homes

1%

The percentage of Irish Travellers in Cavan who lived in caravans or mobile homes