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Regional Quality of Life in Ireland 2008

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Chapter 1

Introduction and outline of report

1.1 Introduction

This chapter briefly reviews the background leading to the preparation of this first report on Regional Quality of Life in Ireland, the process of indicator selection, and the framework around which the indicators were constructed. A list of the domains and indicators used in this report are provided in Table A.

1.2 Background to report

The social partnership agreement 2003-2005 requested the CSO to support a move towards more evidence-based policy making. The National Statistics Board further requested that the CSO provide a comprehensive set of social indicators with emphasis on disaggregation by key characteristics such as the nine equality grounds. The first set of social indicators published by the CSO focussed on the theme of gender. Other social indicator reports focus on ageing and inequality. It is intended to publish further reports on themes such as sport and young people.

The 2006 National Statistics Board User Survey found that there was an unmet need for a more regional and small-area analyses. It is hoped that this report partly addresses these needs. The selection of indicators for this report was influenced by consultation with national bodies concerned with regional aspects of Ireland. In practice, the actual choice of indicators was constrained by a lack of reliable and regular data in some areas of significant policy and user interest. The domains and themes used in future reports will be developed as more geographical data become available.

1.3 Structure of report and brief technical notes

All data are presented for the eight Regional Authorities (NUTS 3)¹, with some indicators also including county analysis. Out of 70 indicators, 16 are at administrative county level, 6 at county level and 48 at regional level (of which 6 are different regions to NUTS 3 classification). We have generally included the 34 administrative counties when reliable data were available. The eight Regional Authorities are listed in order of the NUTS 2 geographical classification, i.e. Border, Midland and West Region (BMW) and the Southern and Eastern Region (SE). The region and county classification is given in Appendix 1.

There are a number of maps produced throughout this report. All maps are copyright Ordnance Survey Ireland and all rights reserved under Licence number 01/05/001.

The appendices describe the indicator definitions and data sources in greater detail. The national data sources are given for each indicator. While many of the national data are compiled by the CSO, we have also used survey and administrative data holdings held by Government departments and agencies. The data in the tables and graphs reflect the national data availability position as of June 2008. The indicators in this report have been structured under eight main domains as outlined in Table A. These domains reflect the data needs and availability situation.

¹ See Appendix 1.

Table A Domains and indicators

Domain	Indicator	
1. Population		
Population	1.1	Population by county, 2002 & 2006
	1.2	Population density by region, 2006
	1.3	Town size by region, 2006
	1.4	Age by county, 2006
Dependency ratio	1.5	Dependency ratios by region, 2006
Males per 100 females	1.6	Males per 100 females by region, 2006
Population by nationality	1.7	Nationality by county, 2006
2. Housing		
Housing stock	2.1	Housing stock and vacancy rates by county, 2006
Age of dwellings	2.2	Dwellings by construction period and region, 2006
Type of accommodation	2.3	Type of accommodation by period in which built, 2006
	2.4	Type of accommodation by county, 2006
Nature of occupancy	2.5	Occupancy type by county, 2006
House completions	2.6	House completions by county, 2002 & 2007
Average house prices	2.7	Average house prices by county, 1997-2007
3. Lifestyles		
Living arrangements	3.1	Living arrangements by region, 2006
	3.2	Living alone by age and county, 2006
Voluntary work	3.3	Type of voluntary work by county, 2006
Sport	3.4	Participation in sport and physical exercise by region, 2006
	3.5	Active persons by main sport and region, 2006
Voter participation	3.6	Voter participation by region, May 2002
	3.7	Reasons for not voting by region, May 2002
Internet access	3.8	Lisbon Treaty referendum results by region, 2008
	3.9	PC ownership and Internet access by county, 2006
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	3.11	Crime offences by Garda region, 2006
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Travel to work	4.3	Means of travel to work by region, 2006
	4.4	Distance travelled to work by region, 2006
	4.5	Time taken to travel to work by region, 2006
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Driver penalty points	4.7	Drivers with current penalty points by licensing body, 2007
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Hospital discharge rates	5.3	Age-standardised discharge rates by selected principal diagnosis and region, 2006
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Secondary education	6.6	Secondary schools and pupils by county, 2006
	6.7	Leaving Certificate candidates by county, 2003-2007
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	6.9	Third level students by type of college and county, 2005/2006

Domain	Indicator	
7. Economy		
Disposable income	7.1	Household disposable income by county, 2000 & 2005
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	7.3	Gross Value Added by sector and region, 2005
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	7.5	Employment and unemployment rates by sex and region, 2002 & 2007
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Chapter 2

Commentary and indicators

Map 1 – Regional Authorities in Ireland

2.1 Main findings

This Section examines the main findings of the regional report. It is followed by a more detailed commentary that examines some of the main findings by region. The individual indicators are also accompanied by text on each indicator and illustrative graphs and maps.

In the 2006 Census, 15% of all accommodation was vacant. The Border (21.4%) and West (20.5%) regions, and counties Leitrim (29.3%) and Donegal (27%) had the highest rates. Counties along the west coast and Wexford had rates above 20%.

The proportion of detached houses in the Dublin region was 11.8%. Elsewhere the rate ranged from 47.2% in the Mid-East to 65% in the West region. Dublin City had the highest proportion of apartments at 31% followed by Galway City (22%).

Broadband access varied widely across the country, 53% of households with a PC in Dublin had broadband access to the Internet compared with 22% in the Border and Midland regions.

The Dublin (16.7%) and South-West (16.1%) regions had the highest proportions of Leaving Certificate higher level A grades compared with a national average of 13.1%. The Border (9.9%) and Midland (10.1%) regions had the lowest proportions. At county level, Cork (16.7%), Limerick (14.9%), Galway (14.3%) and Kerry (14.2%) had the highest proportions of A grades. Cavan (8.6%) and Leitrim (7.6%) had the lowest proportions. The Dublin region (8.8%) was over double the national rate of 4.2% for grades E or less.

The Mid-East (17.7%) region and Dublin City Council (16.4%) had the highest percentages of license holders with penalty points. The West region (10.7%) and Mayo (9.7%) had the lowest rates followed by Kerry (10.2%) and Donegal (10.3%). Kildare (18.7%) and Meath (18%) had the highest rates.

The Dublin region had the highest Gross Value Added (GVA) per person at €48,580 compared with the lowest of €22,914 in the Midland region. The national average was €34,468. The combined GVA per person in the Dublin and Mid-East regions was €42,435, which was 23.1% higher than the national average.

The population of Ireland increased by 8.2% between 2002 and 2006. Fingal (22.2%), Meath (21.5%) and Laoighis (14.1%) had the largest percentage increases. Cork City (-3%) and Limerick City (-2.7%) had decreases in population size between 2002 and 2006. The Dublin (5.7%), Mid-West (6.3%) and South-West (7%) regions had the smallest percentage increases. Kildare (26.4%) and Meath (23.4%) had the highest proportions of the population aged 0-14 in 2006.

Around half of private households in Fingal (55.5%), Meath (53%), Kildare (51.2%) and South Dublin (48.9%) were owner occupied with a loan or mortgage in comparison with a national rate of 39%. The rate of rented accommodation was 20.6% nationally. This rate rose to 41.6% in Galway City, and to around one-third in Dublin (35.9%), Cork (35.4%), Limerick (32.4%) and Waterford (31.9%).

Around 30% of commuters in the Mid-East region travelled 25 or more kilometres to work compared with around 6% in Dublin. Reflecting this, 10.6% of commuters in the Mid-East region left for work before 6:30 a.m., while a further 28.8% left before 7:30 am.

The Dublin region had the highest percentage of Non-Irish nationals at 14.5%. At county level, Galway City (17.4%), Dublin City (17.2%) and Fingal (15.6%) had the highest rates. In contrast, Limerick County, Kilkenny and Waterford County had the equal lowest proportions at 7.9%.

Persons aged 15 & over in the Mid-East (56.3%) and Dublin (51.6%) regions were most likely to perceive their health to be "very good" compared with a national average of 46.7%. The Midland (35.7%) and South-East (35.5%) regions had the lowest rates.

The Dublin (35.9%) and Mid-East (30.8%) regions had the highest proportion of persons with a 3rd level qualification. The Midland (22.7%), South-East (23%) and Border (23.4%) regions had the lowest percentages. Nationally, 29% of persons finished their full-time education at 15-17 years of age. The South-East region (34.3%) had the highest proportion of persons in this category, while the Dublin region (25.6%) had the lowest.

In 2007, 67.2% of persons were employed in the Services sector. The Dublin region had the highest rate at 79.7%. The Midland (34%), South-East (33%) and Mid-West (31.9%) regions had the highest percentages of persons employed in Industry.

In 2006, the Border (28.2%) and Midland (28.2%) regions had the highest at-risk-of-poverty rates compared with 9.9% in the Dublin and 11.2% in the Mid-East regions.

The average number of primary pupils per school was 144.1 in 2006. The West region (87.3) had the lowest ratio while the Dublin region (260.1) had the highest. Six counties had a pupil to school ratio of less than 100, these were Roscommon (69.1), Mayo (76), Leitrim (76.8), Galway County (85.6), Sligo (95.2) and Longford (96.5). Two counties had a ratio above 300, Fingal (320.1) and South Dublin (302.9)

There was an increase in the number of blue flags awarded from 71 in 1997 to 83 in 2007. Mayo (13), Kerry (13), Donegal (11) and Cork (10) accounted for over half of the 83 blue flags.

In 2005, 88.7% of all households recycled some household waste. The Dublin region (93.7%) had the highest percentage of households that recycled some of their waste, while the Border region (77.6%) had the lowest proportion.

2.2

Detailed commentary

This commentary focuses on individual regions and counties rather than on indicators. More detailed commentary on the individual indicators is included with the detailed tables and graphs.

In terms of a broad overview of the regions, Table C presents one indicator from each of the eight domains across the eight regions.

Table C Selected indicators by region

Indicator	Border	Midland	West	Dublin	Mid-East	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	Total
Non-Irish national population 2006	9.1	9.6	10.8	14.5	10.2	9.4	8.8	10.6	11.2
Vacancy rate	21.4	15.8	20.5	9.7	10.5	15.2	16.2	17.7	15.0
Broadband access	22.4	22.5	26.0	53.0	33.7	26.8	25.5	30.0	35.3
Travel to work - 50 km or more	7.6	11.9	6.3	1.0	9.1	5.4	7.5	4.4	5.3
Very good health	48.4	35.7	37.3	51.6	56.3	43.0	35.5	48.9	46.7
3rd level education	23.4	22.7	27.5	35.9	30.8	26.5	23.0	28.6	29.1
Disposable income	90.6	91.8	92.9	113.0	101.3	97.9	91.9	96.4	100.0
Vehicle registrations (rate per 1,000 aged 16 & over)	684	724	704	600	731	739	780	741	692

Dublin and Mid-East regions

Population

The population in the Dublin region increased by 5.7% between 2002 and 2006 compared with a national average change of 8.2% and an increase in the Mid-East region of 15.2%. At county level, there were wide variations within the Dublin region, with the population of Fingal increasing by 22.2% compared with increases of between 1.2% and 3.4% in the other three Dublin administrative counties, and 21.5% in Meath. Kildare, at 26.4%, had the highest proportion of persons aged under 15 in the State with Meath the next highest at 23.4%. Fingal (6%) and South Dublin (7.2%) also had a relatively younger age profile with only of their population aged 65 & over compared with around 13% for Dublin City and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Dublin City had the highest levels of Non-Irish nationals in its population at 17.2% compared with a national average of 11.2%. Other EU (9.2%) and Asian (3.4%) were the largest Non-Irish nationals in the Dublin region compared with the State figures of 4.5% and 1.1%, respectively.

Housing

The rate of vacant housing was low with South Dublin (6.2%), Fingal (8.8%) and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (8.9%) having the lowest rates nationally. The vacancy rate in the Mid-East of 10.5% was also well below the national average of 15%. The housing stock in Dublin was relatively older than the national average with only 13.9% built during 2001-2006 compared with a national average of 17.9%. In contrast 23.9% of dwellings in the Mid-East were built between 2001 and 2006. Dublin was markedly different than the other regions in the type of accommodation with only 11.8% detached compared with a national average of 42.6%. Dublin City (31%) had the highest proportion of apartment-type accommodation compared with a national average of 10.1% and rates in other cities such as Galway City (22%) and Limerick City (16.9%). South Dublin had higher levels of semi-detached (53.4%) and terraced (25.5%) housing compared with the other Dublin counties. Dublin had the highest proportion of rented accommodation with a figure for Dublin City of 35.9% compared with a national average of 20.6%. Galway City (41.6%) had the highest rate. Almost half of accommodation in the Mid-East (49.9%) was owner occupied with a mortgage compared with a national average of 39%. House completions in the Mid-East dropped from 14% of the national total in 2002 to 9.3% in 2007 reflecting that the Mid-East was the only region with fewer house completions in 2007 compared with 2002. Dublin had the highest prices for both new (€416,225) and second-hand (€495,576) accommodation compared with national averages of €322,634 for new and €377,850 for second-hand.

Lifestyles

The proportion of people aged 25 & over living alone in Dublin (12.1%) was in line with the

national average of 11.6%. Within the Dublin region, 16% of persons in the 45-64 age group in Dublin City lived alone which was the highest rate nationally and well above the State average of 11%. The Mid-East had the highest levels of shared accommodation with 80.3% of private households having more than one person compared with 73.3% in Dublin and a national figure of 74.6%. Participation rates in sport and physical exercise were highest in the Dublin (66.1%) and Mid-East (66.8%) regions compared with a national figure of 62.9%. Dublin had the highest relative levels of activity in Athletics (3.1%), Soccer (9.6%) and Tennis (1.6%) whereas it had the lowest levels in Gaelic football (3%) and Walking (34.3%). The Mid-East had the highest relative participation in Golf (10.2%) compared with a State figure of 7.6%. A CSO survey of voter participation in the May 2002 General Election showed that voter participation was lowest in the Dublin (71.4%) and Mid-East (71.8%) regions compared with a national average of 75.9%. In Dublin, 30.6% stated that they were either Away/too busy to vote whereas in the Mid-East 36.1% of persons were Not registered to vote. The rate of household PC ownership was highest in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (70.7%) and Fingal (68.8%). The percentage of households with broadband internet access was 56.4% in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, which was well above the national average of 35.3%. The Dublin Metropolitan area had the highest rates of criminal offences in many areas including Dangerous or negligent acts (72.6 per 1,000 population), Burglary (8.3), Theft (28.1), Controlled drugs (4.6), and Road & traffic offences (101.9). The national rates for these offences were: Dangerous or negligent acts (53.7), Burglary (5.8), Theft (17.6), Controlled drugs (3.4), and Road & traffic offences (65.0). The Eastern Garda region had the lowest rate for Road & traffic offences at 36.0 per 1,000 population.

Transport and travel

Dublin had the lowest rate of persons driving cars to work with 47.8% of persons using this means compared with a national average of 57.1%. People in Dublin were far more likely to travel by bus (14.1%) or train (7.3%) which were over twice the national averages of 6% and 2.9%, respectively. In terms of distance travelled to work, 9.1% of persons in the Mid-East travelled 50 kilometres or more compared with only 1% of persons in the Dublin region. The differences between the two regions were less pronounced in terms of time taken to travel to work. Higher proportions of drivers in the Dublin City (16.4%) and Mid-East (17.7%) had penalty points than the national average of 14%.

Health and care

Life expectancy at birth was broadly similar across all regions at around 75 years for males and 80 years for females. Age standardised discharge rates from publicly funded acute hospitals were lowest in Dublin at 11,185 per 100,000 population compared with a national rate of 13,421. The rates in Dublin were below the national rates for all of the major principal diagnoses. Almost one-third of persons aged 18 & over in Dublin were smokers compared with an average rate of 28.5%. The Mid-East had the lowest smoking rate of 26.2%. The disability rate, as measured by the Census of Population, was lowest in the Mid-East region at 8.1% and just above the national average in Dublin (9.5%). Dublin at 18.5% had the lowest rate of persons aged 18 & over with only medical card cover and the Mid-East was the next lowest at 21.5% compared with a national average of 25.9%. Conversely, Dublin had the second highest rate of private health insurance only cover at 51.3% compared with 48.9% in the Mid-East and 46.3% nationally. Persons aged 15 & over in the Mid-East (56.3%) and Dublin (51.6%) had the highest self-report levels of very good health, both of which were well above the national figure of 46.7%.

Education

Dublin (35.9%) had the highest proportion of people with 3rd level education among those who had completed their full-time education. The Mid-East rate of 30.8% was the second highest and above the national level of 29.1%. While the average primary class size was broadly similar across regions at around 24, the average number of pupils in primary schools in Dublin (260.1) and the Mid-East (197.5) were much larger than the national average of 144.1. The situation was much less pronounced at secondary level where Dublin (487.4) and the Mid-East (485.8) again had the highest number of pupils per school but this time the national average was more similar at 452.3. Similarly, Dublin (16.7%), along with the South-West region (16.1%), had the highest proportions of Leaving Certificate higher level A grades compared with a national average of 13.1%. However, Dublin (8.8%) was over double the national average rate of 4.2% for E or less grades. Persons from Dublin were more likely to attend Higher Education Authority colleges (60.7%), with the Mid-East (55.3%) equal to the national average (55.2%).

Economy

Dublin was 13% above the State average for household disposable income followed by the Mid-East at 1.3% above the national average. Between 2000 and 2005, Dublin had the smallest percentage increase of 39.9% in per capita disposable income compared with a national

increase of 44.3%. The distribution was much wider for Gross Value Added, with Dublin being 40.9% above, and the Mid-East 77.8% of, the national average. Dublin contributed 47.9% of the Gross Value Added in Market and non-market services. Only 0.5% of persons in Dublin were employed in the Agriculture sector compared with 4.9% in the Mid-East and a national average of 5.5%. The corresponding figures for Industry were 19.8% for Dublin, 27.4% for the Mid-East and 27.3% for the State. Dublin (62.3%) and the Mid-East (64.5%) were above the national employment rate of 60.6%. Crèche/montessori was the main type of childcare arrangement for 15.5% of families with pre-school children in Dublin compared with a rate of 11.7% in the Mid-East and a national figure of 10.1%. The cost of childcare was highest in Dublin at €145 per week compared with €124 per week in the Mid-East and a national figure of €121. Average price levels were 4.3% higher in Dublin compared with outside Dublin.

Environment

Over 98% of public water schemes in Dublin and the Mid-East were compliant with statutory requirements compared with the State figure of 97.7%. Dublin had four blue flag beaches and the Mid-East had three out of a national total of 83. The highest percentage of households recycling waste was in the Dublin region (93.7%) compared with 85.7% in the Mid-East and 88.7% nationally. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, at 31.8%, had the third highest percentage of household waste deposited at bring banks and civic amenity sites and was well above the national average of 17.2%. In contrast, only 9.5% in Dublin City and 13.2% in the Mid-East was collected in this way. Dublin had the lowest level of vehicle registrations at 600 per 1,000 persons aged 16 & over. The level in the Mid-East of 731 was higher than the State figure of 692.

Border, Midland and West regions

Population

The population increases in the Border (8.3%) and West (8.9%) regions between 2002 and 2006 were around the national average of 8.2%, while the Midland region (11.7%) was higher. There were variations at county level, with the highest population increases in Laoighis (14.1%) and Cavan (13.2%) and the lowest in Sligo (4.6%) and Mayo (5.4%). The Border (39), Midland (39) and West (30) regions had the lowest population densities compared with a national average of 62 persons per square kilometre. Over half of the population in the West (56.5%) and Border (51.4%) regions lived in rural areas, compared with around one-third nationally. Counties Roscommon (14.8%), Leitrim (14.5%) and Mayo (14.4%) had the highest proportions of population aged 65 & over compared with a national average of 11%. The 65 & over dependency ratios in the West (18.7%) and Border (18.5%) regions were above the national average of 16.1% while the Midland ratio of 16% was closer to the national average. The three regions had Non-Irish national populations below the national average of 11.2%, with the lowest proportions in Donegal (8%), Offaly (8.5%) and Laoighis (8.6%).

Housing

The Border (21.4%) and West (20.5%) regions had the highest vacancy rates compared with a national vacancy rate of 15%. However, there was wide variation at county level within these regions ranging from 29.3% in Leitrim to 12.8% in Monaghan in the Border region, and from 24.4% in Mayo to 13% in Galway City in the West region. The Midland rate was 15.8% with Longford having the highest county rate of 22.2%. The highest proportions of detached houses nationally were in the West (65%), Border (60.8%) and Midland (58.2%) regions compared with a national average of 42.6%. Galway County (77.3%) and Roscommon (76.1%) had the highest rates of detached houses nationally. The Border (4.3%) and Midland (4.6%) regions had the lowest rates of apartments. While the West rate (7.2%) was below the national average (10.1%) the proportion of apartments in Galway City of 22% was the second highest nationally after Dublin City (31%). Galway City (41.6%) had the highest proportion nationally in respect of rented accommodation. Longford (22.2%) was the only other county in the three regions that was above the national average of 20.6% for rented accommodation. The West (40.5%) and Border (39.9%) regions had the highest proportions nationally of owner occupier houses without a loan or mortgage, the highest county rate was in Leitrim (47%). The largest regional increase in the number of dwelling units completed between 2002 and 2007 was in the Midland region of 83.7% compared with a national average of 35.2%. At county level, Laoighis (152.6%) and Longford (114.8%) had the largest proportional increases in the three regions. There were decreases in Galway City (-51.1%) and Louth (-14%) during the 2002-2007 period.

Lifestyles

Around one-in-five households in the Border (22.8%), Midland (20.9%) and West (23%) regions were one-person households, which was similar to the national average of 21.6%. The Border region (28%) had the highest regional proportion of persons aged 65 & over living alone

compared with a national average of 25.9%. The highest county rate nationally was in Leitrim at 31.7%. The West (17.8%) had the highest proportion of persons involved in voluntary work nationally, while the highest county rate was in Leitrim (19.3%). The Border, Midland and West regions were the least active with sport participation rates of 56.9%, 59.7% and 60.9%, respectively, compared with a national average of 62.9%. Walking was by far the most popular activity. The Border (9.4%) had the highest national participation rate in Gaelic football, with the Midland (7.3%) and West (7.2%) regions following after the Mid-East (8%). A CSO survey of voter participation in the May 2002 General Election showed that around one-in-five eligible voters in the three regions did not vote. While the main reason given was being Away/too busy, a relatively high proportion of non-voters in the Border and Midland regions also cited Disillusionment as a reason. Less than 20% of households with a PC in Leitrim (15.8%), Cavan (18.3%), Roscommon (18.3%), Galway County (18.5%) and Donegal (19.1%) had broadband in 2006 compared with a national average of 35.3%.

Transport and travel

Around 60% of workers in each of the three regions drove a car to work, compared with 48% in the Dublin region. Nearly 12% of commuters in the Midland region travelled 50 kilometres or more to work, compared with 7.6% in the Border, 6.3% in the West and the national average of 5.3%. It took less than 30 minutes for two-thirds of persons in the Border region to get to work and around 60% for commuters in the Midland and West regions compared with a national average of 54.7%. The West region (10.7%) had the lowest percentage of licence holders with penalty points compared with a national average of 14%. The Border and Midland regions had 12.2% and 14.8%, respectively. Counties Mayo (9.7%) and Donegal (10.3%) were among the lowest county rates compared with a county high of 18.7% in Kildare.

Health and care

Life expectancies for both men and women in all three regions were similar to the national averages of around 75 and 80 years, respectively. Residents in the Midland (16,768 per 100,000 population) and Border (16,229) regions had the highest discharge rates from publicly funded acute hospitals compared with a national average of 13,421. The Border (76%) and Midland (77%) regions had the lowest proportions of persons aged 18 & over who drank alcohol in the previous 12 months compared with a national average of 81.1%. The standardised death rates for the three regions were similar to the national rate of 6.5 persons per 1,000 population. The Border (33%), Midland (38.2%) and West (37.7%) regions had the lowest proportions of persons aged 18 & over with private health insurance only cover compared with a national average of 46.3%. Over 30% in the Border (30.6%) and Midland (31.2%) regions had neither a medical card or private health insurance compared with a national rate of 25.6%. The Midland (35.7%), along with the South-East (35.5%), had the lowest proportions of persons aged 15 & over who perceived their health to be "very good". The three regions had the highest proportions of persons who perceived their health to be "bad/very bad".

Education

The Midland region (54.3%) had the lowest proportion of persons aged 15-24 still in full-time education, while the West had the highest nationally at 61.7%. The Border (24.1%), West (20.4%) and Midland (19.9%) regions had the highest proportions of persons with only primary or no formal education compared with a national average of 18%. The West (8.6%) had the lowest percentage of early school leavers compared with a national average of 11.9%. The West region (87 pupils) had the lowest level of enrolment in primary schools compared with the highest rate in Dublin of 260. The average primary class size was smallest in the West (21.6) while the Border (23.6) and Midland (24.1) regions were more in line with the national average of 24.1. Roscommon had the smallest average of 20.8. The Border (9.9%) and Midland (10.1%) regions had the lowest proportions of Leaving Certificate higher level A grades compared with a national average of 13.1%. The highest percentage of students attending Institutes of Technology were from Donegal (57.4%).

Economy

Household disposable income per person in the Border region was 9.4% lower than the national average of €20,164. It was also lower in the Midland (8.2% lower) and West (7.1% lower) regions. County Donegal had the lowest disposable income at 82.1% of the national average. Disposable income per person increased by 49.5% in the Border region and 49.3% in the Midland region between 2000 and 2005 compared with an overall increase of 44.3%. In terms of Gross Value Added, the three regions were around 28% to 34% lower than the national average. The Border region had the lowest employment rate of 57.9% compared with a national rate of 60.6%. The Midland and West regions had rates of 59.9% and 58.9%, respectively. The Border (1.7%) region, along with the Mid-West (2.1%) and South-East (1.7%), had the highest long-term unemployment rates compared with other regional rates of around 1%. The Border (28.2%) and Midland (28.2%) regions had the highest at-risk-of-poverty rates

compared with 9.9% in Dublin and the national average rate of 17%.

Environment

The compliance rate for public water schemes varied from 96.7% in the Border region to 98.7% in the Dublin region. The West region (92.4%) had the lowest compliance rate for private water schemes compared with a national rate of 94.3%. The Border region (77.6%) had the lowest percentage of households who recycled some of their waste compared with a national average of 88.7%. Corresponding rates for the Midland and West regions were 88.2% and 80.9%, respectively. The Border region (6.8%) had the lowest proportion of household waste collected by kerbside recyclable (i.e. green and brown compost bins) compared with a national average of 12.5%. Galway City (40.9%) had by far the highest proportion of household waste collected as kerbside recyclables. Over half of road freight transportation originating in the West (57.3%) and Border (51.4%) regions was delivered within the same region.

Mid-West and South-West regions

Population

Between 2002 and 2006, the population increases in the Mid-West (6.3%) and South-West (7.0%) regions were both below the national average of 8.2%. At county level there were wide variations, with the population of Limerick County (8.4%) and Cork County (11.4%) both increasing whereas the populations of both Limerick City (-2.7%) and Cork City (-3%) decreased. The Mid-West (43.1%) and South-West (37.6%) both had rural populations above the national average of 32.3%. The Mid-West had a Non-Irish national population of 9.4%. Limerick County had the joint lowest level nationally at 7.9% compared with a State figure of 11.2%. The South-West had a rate of 10.6%. Nationals from Other EU countries (excludes the United Kingdom) were the largest Non-Irish national group in both regions.

Housing

The rate of vacant housing was 15.2% in the Mid-West. This was just above the national average of 15%. The rate in the South-West region was 17.7% but it varied widely from 12% in Cork City to 24.8% in Kerry. Detached houses represented around half of the accommodation in the Mid-West (52.8%) and South-West (50%) compared with a national average of 42.6%. Kerry (66.2%) had the highest rate of detached houses in either region. The proportion of terraced housing was 38.1% in Limerick City and 38.9% in Cork City compared with 36.9% in Dublin City and 17.5% nationally. The pattern was similar in respect of rented accommodation with Limerick City (32.4%) and Cork City (35.4%) having similar levels to Dublin City (35.9%) and well above the national level of 20.6%. Cork had the highest average annual increase in both new (15.3%) and second-hand (16.8%) house prices between 2002 and 2007. Limerick (14.2%) was above the State average for new houses of 12.6% but had the lowest increase in the price of second-hand houses (11.8%). House completions in the Mid-West rose by 23.4% between 2002 and 2007 compared with a national increase of 35.2%. Completions in Limerick City fell by 56.4% which was the largest decrease nationally whereas completions in Limerick County increased by 68.2%. Completions increased more uniformly in the South-West region.

Lifestyles

The proportion of persons aged 25 & over living alone was broadly similar to the national average of 11.6% in the Mid-West (11.8%) and South-West (11.8%) regions. As in other cities, the proportion was higher with a rate of 14.7% in Limerick City and 14.2% in Cork City. North Tipperary had the second highest level of participation in voluntary work with 19.2% of persons aged 15 & over. Only Leitrim, with 19.3%, had a higher rate. Participation rates in sport and physical exercise were slightly below the national average of 62.9% in the Mid-West (62.6%) and South-West (61.9%) regions. The Mid-West had the highest rate of participation in Hurling & camogie at 4.6% compared with a State average of 1.9%. The South-West had the highest rate of participation in Walking at 45.1% compared with the State average of 39.3%. A CSO survey of voter participation in the May 2002 General Election showed that the Mid-West had one of the highest rates of voter participation at 80.1% compared with 74.6% in the South-West and 75.9% nationally. The Mid-West had the lowest proportion of Not registered persons among non-voters at 20.8% compared with the State figure of 24.6%. Conversely, the Mid-West, at 32.4%, had the highest proportion of non-voters who stated that they had No interest in voting compared with a national rate of 23%. The rate of household PC ownership was lowest nationally in Limerick City (45.2%) and third lowest in Cork City at 48.1% compared with a national rate of 56.6%.

Transport and travel

The region with the highest proportion of persons travelling to the Americas was the Mid-West region (12.1%). The West at 10.5% was the next highest region, and the national average was 9.1%. The proportion of persons driving a car to get to work was highest in the Mid-West

(62.2%) and South-West (61.2%). The national average for this option was 57.1%. Almost two-thirds of persons in the Mid-West (61.6%) and South-West (61.5%) took less than 30 minutes to travel to work compared with 54.7% nationally. The South-West (11.8%) had the second lowest proportion of drivers with penalty points with Kerry, at 10.2%, well below the national average of 14%.

Health and care

While life expectancy at birth was broadly similar across all regions, the Mid-West rate of 74.4 years for males was below the national average of 75.1 years and lower than in all of the other regions. The Mid-West rate for females was 79.8 years which was the second lowest region. The South-West region (40%) had the highest percentage of obese persons aged 45 & over while the Mid-West (25.4%) had the lowest compared with a national rate of 31.7%. The standardised death rate per 1,000 population was highest in the Mid-West at 7.1 compared with a State average of 6.5. The disability rate, as measured by the Census of Population, was similar in the Mid-West (9.5%) and South-West (9.3%) regions to the overall rate of 9.3%. The rates of 18.8% for the 65-74 age group and 39.6% for the 75 & over age group in the South-West were the lowest across the eight regions. The Mid-West had the highest rate of private health insurance only cover at 54.9% compared with 48.9% in the South-West and 46.3% nationally.

Education

The South-West region (60.2%), along with the West (61.7%), had the highest proportions of persons aged 15-24 still in full-time education. The South-West region (16.1%), behind Dublin (16.7%), had the second highest proportion of Leaving Certificate higher level A grades. It had the highest proportion of B grades at 33.3%. Cork had the highest higher level A grade rate across the country at 16.7%, which was well above the national average of 13.1%, while Limerick (14.9%) had the second highest rate nationally. The Mid-West (62.1%) and South-West (61.3%) were the regions with the highest percentages of third level students attending Higher Education Authority colleges.

Economy

Only Limerick, with 101.6%, was above the State average for household disposable income per person among the counties in the Mid-West and South-West. Kerry, at 86.1% of the State figure, had the lowest level within these two regions, with only Donegal (82.1%) in the Border region being lower. Between 2000 and 2005, Clare (39.4%) had the lowest percentage increase in per capita disposable income at 55.4%, compared with a national increase of 44.3%. In terms of Gross Value Added, the South-West at €40,835 was only behind Dublin and well above the State figure of €34,468. The Mid-West at €30,423 was below the national average. The South-West contributed 21% of the Gross Value Added in Agriculture, forestry and fishing. The Mid-West had the highest unemployment rate of 5.8% compared with a State level of 4.5%. The South-West had the lowest unemployment rate of 3.5%. The Mid-West (2.1%) had the highest long-term unemployment compared with a national rate of 1.3%. The at-risk-of-poverty rate in the Mid-West was 23.2% compared with 14.3% in the South-West and 17% nationally.

Environment

The South-Western river basin district had the highest proportion of unpolluted water at 90%. This rate varied to as low as 54% in the Eastern river basin district. The South-West had 23 blue flag beaches out of a State total of 83. Cork County (36%) had the highest percentage of household waste collected via Bring banks and civic amenity sites and was well above the national average of 17.2%. The rate for Limerick City was one of the lowest at 9.5%.

South-East region

Population

Between 2002 and 2006 the population of the South-East region increased by 8.8% compared with a national increase of 8.2%. Within the region, Carlow had the highest increase with 9.4% while Waterford City (2.6%) and South Tipperary (5.2%) had below average increases. The age profile of the region was within one percentage point of the national profile in each age group. The South-East had the lowest level of Non-Irish nationals at 8.8%. Kilkenny and Waterford County at 7.9% had the joint lowest levels nationally along with Limerick County compared with a State figure of 11.2%.

Housing

Wexford had a housing vacancy rate of 21.5% which was well above the region figure of 16.2%. Over half of the accommodation in the South-East was detached (54.3%). Waterford County at 2.9% had the lowest rate of apartment dwellings nationally. Between 2002 and 2007, house completions in the South-East increased by 35.5% which mirrored the 35.2% increase at national level. In South Tipperary the increase was 119% whereas there were decreases in Waterford City (-4.3%) and County (-6.7%). House prices in Waterford were €292,057 for new

and €287,483 for second-hand. Of the major cities, only Limerick had lower prices.

Lifestyles

Relative to other regions, there was a very high participation level in Aerobics in the South-East with 19.4% of active people participating compared with a national average of 13%. Participation levels in Hurling and camogie at 4.5% were only just lower than the Mid-West high of 4.6%. A CSO survey of voter participation in the May 2002 General Election showed that voter participation levels in the South-East were 81% which was well above the average of 75.9% and higher than the rate recorded in all other regions. Of the households with a PC, 25.5% used broadband to connect to the internet which was below the State figure of 35.3%. As with other cities, the rate in Waterford City, at 53.4%, was much higher than in rural areas. The level of Controlled drugs offences in the South-Eastern Garda region were 4.1 per 1,000 population. This was the second highest regional rate below the Dublin Metropolitan rate of 4.6 and above the national figure of 3.4.

Transport and travel

The South-East (10.1%) had the highest proportion of people who had less than two kilometres to travel to work. The next highest region was the Border at 9.2% and the State average was 8%. Consequently, almost two-thirds of workers (65%) took under 30 minutes to get to work compared with a national average of 54.7%. The percentage of drivers with penalty points was lower in the South-East (13.4%) was just below the national average of 14%. The region rate comprised rates ranging from a low of 11.9% in Waterford County Council to a high of 14.9% in Carlow.

Health and care

Life expectancy at birth in the South-East were similar to the national figure for males of 75 years and for females of 80 years. The age standardised discharge rates from publicly funded acute hospitals were 15,564 per 100,000 population, which was well above the State figure of 13,421 and was the third highest regional figure after the Midland (16,768) and Border (16,229) regions. The discharge rate for Injuries and poisonings was the highest in the South-East at 1,671 compared with an overall average of 1,316. Only 35.5% of persons aged 15 & over in the South-East rated their health status as very good. This was the lowest regional rate and well below the national average of 46.7%.

Education

The South-East region (54.9%) had one of the lowest proportions of persons aged 15-24 in full-time education compared with a national average of 57.7%. The South-East, at 23%, also had one of the lowest proportions of persons aged 15 & over who had completed 3rd level education with only the Midland region (22.7%) below it. The national average was 29.1%. The South-East had the highest level of early school leavers at 15.9% of persons aged 18-24 compared with a State level of 11.9%. The Leaving Certificate higher level grades attained were fairly similar to the national average figures.

Economy

Household disposable income per person in the South-East was 91.9% of the State average and similar to the levels in the Border, Midland and West regions. Within the region, Carlow had the lowest level at 87.9% and no county exceeded the national average. Between 2000 and 2005, South Tipperary had the highest percentage increase in per capita disposable income at 55.4%, compared with a national increase of 44.3%. In terms of Gross Value Added, the region was at 74% of the State level in 2005, which was well below the rate of 83% recorded in 2000. The South-East accounted for 17.2% of GVA produced in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector compared with 8.8% of the GVA produced in Manufacturing and 7.3% in Market and non-market services. Employment in Agriculture represented 9.5% of employment in the region, Industry accounted for a further 33% and Services for the remaining 57.4%. In contrast nationally, Agriculture was 5.5%, Industry 27.3% and Services 67.2%. Along with the Mid-West (2.1%) and the Border (1.7%) regions, the South-East (1.7%) had among the highest long-term unemployment rates compared with a national rate of 1.3%.

Environment

Air quality is measured at 17 stations around the country. Wexford had the highest average levels of PM₁₀ (Particulate Matter) at 32 µg/m³ but only 8 days above the threshold of 50 µg/m³. Only four counties in Ireland were below 96% compliance rates for public water schemes quality - Waterford County (95%) and Wexford (95.9%) in the South-East, Donegal (95.9%) in the Border region and Galway County (95.3%) in the West. The South-East had eight blue flag beaches out of a national total of 83. The level of households recycling waste in the South-East (91.5%) was one of the highest nationally and above the national average of 88.7%.

2.3

Indicators

Population

1.1 Population by county, 2002 & 2006

County	000		% change 2006/2002
	2002	2006	
Border	432.5	468.4	8.3
Cavan	56.5	64.0	13.2
Donegal	137.6	147.3	7.0
Leitrim	25.8	29.0	12.2
Louth	101.8	111.3	9.3
Monaghan	52.6	56.0	6.5
Sligo	58.2	60.9	4.6
Midland	225.4	251.7	11.7
Laoighis	58.8	67.1	14.1
Longford	31.1	34.4	10.7
Offaly	63.7	70.9	11.3
Westmeath	71.9	79.3	10.4
West	380.3	414.3	8.9
Galway City	65.8	72.4	10.0
Galway County	143.2	159.3	11.2
Mayo	117.4	123.8	5.4
Roscommon	53.8	58.8	9.3
Dublin	1,122.8	1,187.2	5.7
Dublin City	495.8	506.2	2.1
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	191.8	194.0	1.2
Fingal	196.4	240.0	22.2
South Dublin	238.8	246.9	3.4
Mid-East	412.6	475.4	15.2
Kildare	163.9	186.3	13.7
Meath	134.0	162.8	21.5
Wicklow	114.7	126.2	10.0
Mid-West	339.6	361.0	6.3
Clare	103.3	111.0	7.4
Limerick City	54.0	52.5	-2.7
Limerick County	121.3	131.5	8.4
North Tipperary	61.0	66.0	8.2
South-East	423.6	460.8	8.8
Carlow	46.0	50.3	9.4
Kilkenny	80.3	87.6	9.0
South Tipperary	79.1	83.2	5.2
Waterford City	44.6	45.7	2.6
Waterford County	57.0	62.2	9.2
Wexford	116.6	131.7	13.0
South-West	580.4	621.1	7.0
Cork City	123.1	119.4	-3.0
Cork County	324.8	361.9	11.4
Kerry	132.5	139.8	5.5
Total	3,917.2	4,239.8	8.2

Source: CSO Census of Population

1.2 Population density by region, 2006

Region	km ²		persons per km ²
	Area ²	Population	
Border	11,976	468.4	39
Midland	6,496	251.7	39
West	13,626	414.3	30
Dublin & Mid-East	6,947	1,662.6	239
Dublin	917	1,187.2	1,295
Mid-East	6,030	475.4	79
Mid-West	7,874	361.0	46
South-East	9,179	460.8	50
South-West	12,119	621.1	51
Total	68,217	4,239.8	62

Sources: CSO Census of Population; Ordnance Survey Ireland

- ◆ The population of Ireland increased by 8.2% between 2002 and 2006. The Mid-East region had the largest increase (15.2%) followed by the Midland region (11.7%). The Dublin (5.7%), Mid-West (6.3%) and South-West (7%) regions had the smallest percentage increases in this period (see Table 1.1).
- ◆ At county level, Fingal (22.2%) and Meath (21.5%) had the largest percentage increases between 2002 and 2006. Laoighis with 14.1% had the next highest percentage increase. The populations of Cork City (-3%) and Limerick City (-2.7%) decreased between 2002 and 2006 (see Table 1.1 and Map).
- ◆ In 2006, the Dublin region had by far the highest population density at 1,295 persons per square kilometre. The density of the total Dublin and Mid-East regions together was 239 persons. The West had the lowest density of 30 persons per square kilometre followed by the Border (39) and Midland (39) regions (see Table 1.2 and Map).

² Land only – water excluded.

MAP 2 (landscape style)
Population change, 2002-2006 (%)

MAP 3 (landscape style)
Population density, 2006 (persons per square kilometre)

1.3 Town size by region, 2006³

Region	% of row					Persons 000
	Towns under 1,500	Towns 1,500 - 9,999	Towns 10,000 - 49,999	Towns 50,000 & over	Rural ⁴	
Border	13.8	13.0	21.9	0.0	51.4	468.4
Midland	11.6	16.0	25.2	0.0	47.2	251.7
West	7.3	12.6	6.0	17.6	56.5	414.3
Dublin	0.3	4.0	5.7	88.1	2.0	1,187.2
Mid-East	7.9	23.6	37.0	0.0	31.4	475.4
Mid-West	11.6	13.5	6.7	25.1	43.1	361.0
South-East	10.1	16.4	27.1	0.0	46.4	460.8
South-West	6.8	11.7	13.2	30.7	37.6	621.1
Total	7.0	12.0	15.7	33.0	32.3	4,239.8

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ Over half of the population of the West (56.5%) and Border (51.4%) regions were resident in rural areas⁴ in 2006 compared with only 2% of the Dublin region (see Table 1.3).
- ◆ Over 88% of the Dublin region population lived in towns of 50,000 and over, while 13.8% of the Border region population lived in towns with less than 1,500 persons (see Table 1.3).
- ◆ Counties Kildare (26.4%) and Meath (23.4%) had the highest proportions of population aged 0-14, while the cities of Dublin (15%), Cork (15.2%) and Galway (15.4%) had the lowest (see Table 1.4).
- ◆ The counties with the highest proportion of the population aged 65 & over in 2006 were Roscommon (14.8%), Leitrim (14.5%), Mayo (14.4%) and Cork City (14.1%) (see Table 1.4).

³ Defacto population – all people present in the State on Census night 2006.

⁴ "Rural" refers to aggregate rural population, including population clusters under 1,500 persons.

1.4 Age by county, 2006

County	% of row					Persons 000
	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	
Border	21.8	14.2	29.3	22.6	12.2	468.4
Cavan	22.3	13.7	29.2	22.4	12.5	64.0
Donegal	22.7	14.0	28.2	22.7	12.5	147.3
Leitrim	20.4	12.7	27.5	24.9	14.5	29.0
Louth	22.1	14.5	32.0	21.1	10.4	111.3
Monaghan	21.2	14.8	29.5	22.5	12.1	56.0
Sligo	19.6	14.8	27.8	24.4	13.5	60.9
Midland	22.3	14.3	30.6	21.8	11.0	251.7
Laoighis	22.6	14.0	31.4	21.4	10.6	67.1
Longford	21.7	13.8	28.2	23.7	12.6	34.4
Offaly	22.5	14.2	30.6	21.7	10.9	70.9
Westmeath	22.2	14.7	31.1	21.3	10.7	79.3
West	20.1	14.9	29.5	22.8	12.6	414.3
Galway City	15.4	23.5	35.1	17.5	8.5	72.4
Galway County	21.9	13.1	29.8	23.0	12.2	159.3
Mayo	20.5	13.3	26.9	24.9	14.4	123.8
Roscommon	20.4	12.7	27.5	24.6	14.8	58.8
Dublin	18.3	16.2	34.5	20.6	10.3	1,187.2
Dublin City	15.0	16.9	35.7	19.7	12.7	506.2
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	18.2	15.7	29.4	23.4	13.4	194.0
Fingal	22.1	14.9	37.7	19.4	6.0	240.0
South Dublin	21.7	16.4	33.1	21.6	7.2	246.9
Mid-East	22.8	14.2	33.9	21.0	8.1	475.4
Kildare	26.4	17.1	39.6	23.4	7.8	186.3
Meath	23.4	13.5	34.7	20.4	8.0	162.8
Wicklow	21.5	14.1	32.0	22.5	9.9	126.2
Mid-West	20.5	15.1	30.1	22.8	11.5	361.0
Clare	21.6	12.9	30.3	23.6	11.6	111.0
Limerick City	17.8	18.5	30.4	20.8	12.4	52.5
Limerick County	20.2	16.4	30.2	22.7	10.5	131.5
North Tipperary	21.4	13.3	29.3	23.3	12.7	66.0
South-East	21.4	14.0	30.0	22.8	11.8	460.8
Carlow	21.0	15.7	31.3	21.5	10.5	50.3
Kilkenny	21.5	13.6	30.2	23.2	11.4	87.6
South Tipperary	21.1	13.7	28.8	23.6	12.8	83.2
Waterford City	19.2	17.0	30.7	21.0	12.1	45.7
Waterford County	21.9	12.7	29.3	23.8	12.3	62.2
Wexford	22.2	13.3	30.3	22.6	11.6	131.7
South-West	20.0	14.5	30.8	22.8	11.9	621.1
Cork City	15.2	19.5	29.3	21.9	14.1	119.4
Cork County	21.8	13.4	32.1	22.2	10.5	361.9
Kerry	19.5	13.1	28.6	25.0	13.8	139.8
Total	20.4	14.9	31.7	21.9	11.0	4,239.8

Source: CSO Census of Population

1.5 Dependency ratios by region, 2006

Region	% of 15-64 age group		
	0-14	65 & over	Total
Border	33.0	18.5	51.5
Midland	33.5	16.5	50.0
West	29.9	18.7	48.6
Dublin	25.7	14.5	40.2
Mid-East	32.9	11.7	44.6
Mid-West	30.2	17.0	47.1
South-East	32.0	17.7	49.7
South-West	29.4	17.5	46.9
Total	29.7	16.1	45.8

Source: CSO Census of Population

1.6 Males per 100 females by region, 2006

Region	males per 100 females					
	Urban		Rural		Total	
	2002	2006	2002	2006	2002	2006
Border	92.7	95.5	105.5	104.9	101.1	101.5
Midland	96.6	99.9	106.1	105.3	102.5	103.1
West	91.5	95.9	106.3	105.8	101.0	102.1
Dublin	93.8	96.2	101.3	104.9	94.0	96.4
Mid-East	97.7	99.9	105.3	104.6	100.9	101.8
Mid-West	95.2	98.3	105.5	105.1	100.9	102.0
South-East	95.7	98.0	105.0	104.2	100.9	101.5
South-West	94.2	97.0	105.5	105.3	99.1	100.6
Total	94.4	97.1	105.5	105.0	98.7	100.1

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ Expressed as a percentage of those aged 15-64, the West (18.7%) and Border (18.5%) regions had the highest proportion of persons aged 65 & over compared with a national proportion of 16.1% in 2006. The Mid-East (11.7%) and Dublin (14.5%) regions had the lowest proportions (see Table 1.5).
- ◆ The Midland (33.5%), Border (33%) and Mid-East (32.9%) regions had the highest proportion of persons aged 0-14 years expressed as a percentage of those aged 15-64. The Dublin region (25.7%) had the lowest proportion compared with a national proportion of 29.7% (see Table 1.5).
- ◆ Overall in the Border (51.5%), Midland (50%) and South-East (49.7%) regions for every two persons of working age (15-64) there was one person aged either 0-14 or 65 & over (see Table 1.5).
- ◆ In all urban areas there were more women than men, whereas in all rural areas there were more men than women (see Table 1.6).
- ◆ In 2006, the number of men per 100 women in rural Ireland was broadly similar for all regions, with a national average of 105 men per 100 women. In urban areas the figures ranged from 95.5 men per 100 women in the Border region to 99.9 in the Midland and Mid-East regions (see Table 1.6).
- ◆ Between 2002 and 2006, the number of men per 100 women increased in all urban areas across the regions from around 94 to 97. The West region had the largest increase from 91.5 men per 100 women in 2002 to 95.9 in 2006 (see Table 1.6).
- ◆ In rural areas, the number of men per 100 women stayed around the same between 2002 and 2006, with the exception of an increase in the Dublin region (see Table 1.6).

1.7 Nationality by county, 2006⁵

County	% of row						
	Irish	Non-Irish	UK	Other EU	Africa	Asia	Other
Border	90.9	9.1	3.3	3.2	0.6	0.6	1.5
Cavan	90.0	10.0	3.0	4.3	0.5	0.6	1.8
Donegal	92.0	8.0	4.5	1.4	0.4	0.5	1.3
Leitrim	88.9	11.1	5.2	3.6	0.2	0.5	1.6
Louth	90.8	9.2	1.8	3.4	1.6	0.8	1.6
Monaghan	89.8	10.2	2.0	6.1	0.3	0.4	1.4
Sligo	90.8	9.2	3.5	3.0	0.3	0.8	1.6
Midland	90.4	9.6	2.6	4.0	0.7	0.6	1.7
Laoighis	91.4	8.6	2.4	3.5	0.7	0.5	1.5
Longford	88.6	11.4	3.1	4.9	1.0	0.5	1.8
Offaly	91.5	8.5	2.3	3.7	0.4	0.4	1.7
Westmeath	89.6	10.4	2.7	4.2	0.8	0.7	1.9
West	89.2	10.8	3.7	3.7	0.6	0.6	2.2
Galway City	82.6	17.4	2.3	8.8	2.1	1.5	2.7
Galway County	91.0	9.0	3.4	2.5	0.2	0.4	2.6
Mayo	90.3	9.7	4.7	2.8	0.3	0.6	1.4
Roscommon	89.9	10.1	4.6	2.8	0.3	0.5	1.9
Dublin	85.5	14.5	1.8	6.2	1.5	2.4	2.6
Dublin City	82.8	17.2	1.7	7.5	1.0	3.4	3.7
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	89.9	10.1	2.3	3.6	0.6	1.7	1.9
Fingal	84.4	15.6	2.0	7.2	2.7	1.8	2.0
South Dublin	88.5	11.5	1.4	4.6	1.9	1.7	1.8
Mid-East	89.8	10.2	2.5	4.4	0.8	0.8	1.7
Kildare	89.0	11.0	2.2	5.1	1.0	0.8	1.8
Meath	90.2	9.8	2.4	4.3	1.0	0.6	1.5
Wicklow	90.5	9.5	3.1	3.5	0.4	0.9	1.8
Mid-West	90.6	9.4	2.7	3.8	0.6	0.7	1.7
Clare	88.9	11.1	3.5	3.9	0.9	0.6	2.2
Limerick City	88.7	11.3	1.4	6.4	0.8	1.3	1.4
Limerick County	92.1	7.9	2.3	3.0	0.5	0.7	1.5
North Tipperary	91.8	8.2	3.0	3.2	0.3	0.4	1.3
South-East	91.2	8.8	3.2	3.3	0.4	0.5	1.4
Carlow	90.1	9.9	2.6	4.8	0.6	0.5	1.5
Kilkenny	92.1	7.9	2.8	2.8	0.3	0.5	1.5
South Tipperary	91.2	8.8	3.5	3.1	0.3	0.5	1.4
Waterford City	88.4	11.6	2.1	4.6	1.5	1.1	2.3
Waterford County	92.1	7.9	4.4	1.8	0.3	0.2	1.2
Wexford	91.4	8.6	3.3	3.5	0.2	0.3	1.1
South-West	89.4	10.6	3.1	4.3	0.5	0.7	1.9
Cork City	88.4	11.6	1.5	5.7	0.6	1.3	2.5
Cork County	90.1	9.9	3.4	3.9	0.6	0.4	1.6
Kerry	88.5	11.5	3.9	4.3	0.4	0.7	2.2
Total	88.8	11.2	2.7	4.5	0.8	1.1	2.0

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, the Dublin region (14.5%) had the highest proportion of Non-Irish, nationals compared with around 10% for the other regions. Other EU and Asia were the next two largest proportions of other nationalities in Dublin with 6.2% and 2.4% respectively. The national averages for these areas were other EU (4.5%) and Asia (1.1%) (see Table 1.7).
- ◆ Galway City (17.4%), Dublin City (17.2%) and Fingal (15.6%) had the highest proportions of Non-Irish nationals, whereas Limerick County, Kilkenny and Waterford County had the lowest proportions at 7.9% (see Table 1.7 and Map).
- ◆ The counties with the highest proportions of Other EU nationals were Galway City (8.8%), Dublin City (7.5%) and Fingal (7.2%) (see Table 1.7).
- ◆ Fingal (2.7%) and Galway City (2.1%) had the highest proportions of African nationals while Dublin City (3.4%) had the highest level of Asian nationals (see Table 1.7).

⁵ Persons usually resident and present in the State by nationality and county where enumerated.

MAP 4 (portrait style, full page)

Non-Irish national population, 2006 (%)

Housing

2.1 Housing stock and vacancy rates by county, 2006⁶

County	000		%
	Total housing stock	Occupied	
Border	210.0	162.1	21.4
Cavan	28.3	21.9	21.2
Donegal	70.5	50.5	27.0
Leitrim	15.3	10.6	29.3
Louth	45.5	38.8	13.4
Monaghan	21.7	18.6	12.8
Sligo	28.8	21.6	23.1
Midland	103.4	85.4	15.8
Laoighis	27.1	22.5	15.7
Lonqford	15.9	12.1	22.2
Offaly	27.6	23.6	12.9
Westmeath	32.8	27.1	15.3
West	184.0	143.4	20.5
Galway City	30.6	25.8	13.0
Galway County	67.7	53.2	20.1
Mayo	58.7	43.7	24.4
Roscommon	27.0	20.7	21.8
Dublin	478.0	422.4	9.7
Dublin City	223.1	192.6	11.7
Dún Laochaire-Rathdown	77.5	68.8	8.9
Fingal	89.9	80.4	8.8
South Dublin	87.5	80.6	6.2
Mid-East	179.2	157.3	10.5
Kildare	68.8	60.9	9.9
Meath	61.3	53.8	10.6
Wicklow	49.1	42.7	11.4
Mid-West	151.9	126.0	15.2
Clare	48.8	38.4	20.1
Limerick City	23.1	19.7	12.7
Limerick County	52.7	44.9	12.6
North Tipperary	27.3	23.1	13.4
South-East	195.2	160.4	16.2
Carlow	20.1	17.2	12.3
Kilkenny	34.4	29.6	12.0
South Tipperary	34.2	29.3	12.7
Waterford City	20.5	17.3	14.3
Waterford County	27.0	21.6	18.7
Wexford	59.0	45.3	21.5
South-West	268.0	216.3	17.7
Cork City	51.4	44.3	12.0
Cork County	150.7	123.6	16.5
Kerry	65.9	48.4	24.8
Total	1,769.6	1,473.3	15.0

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, 15% of all housing stock was vacant⁶. The Border (21.4%) and West (20.5%) regions had the highest vacancy rates with more than one-in-five dwellings vacant. The Dublin (9.7%) and Mid-East (10.5%) regions had the lowest vacancy rates (see Table 2.1).
- ◆ Counties Leitrim (29.3%) and Donegal (27%) had the highest vacancy rates (see Table 2.1 and Map).
- ◆ South Dublin (6.2%), Fingal (8.8%), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (8.9%) and Kildare (9.9%) were the only counties with vacancy rates below 10% (see Table 2.1 and Map).

⁶ The vacancy rate is the number of vacant houses, apartments and holiday homes divided by the total number. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

MAP 5 (portrait style, full page)
Vacant housing stock, 2006 (%)

2.2 Dwellings by construction period and region, 2006⁷

Region	% of row					dwelling units Total
	Pre-1961	1961-1980	1981-1990	1991-2000	2001-2006	
Border	28.6	21.3	12.5	18.1	19.5	155,724
Midland	29.3	19.8	11.0	17.4	22.6	81,208
West	26.8	20.4	13.6	19.6	19.7	136,936
Dublin	31.3	27.9	11.3	15.6	13.9	391,189
Mid-East	19.4	22.6	12.1	21.9	23.9	150,761
Mid-West	29.4	23.4	12.1	18.2	16.9	119,828
South-East	30.9	20.1	11.4	18.3	19.3	153,464
South-West	31.9	22.6	12.1	17.0	16.4	203,976
Total	29.0	23.4	11.9	17.8	17.9	1,393,086

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ Almost one-in-five dwellings (17.9%) have been built in the last six years (see Table 2.2).
- ◆ The Mid-East (23.9%) and Midland (22.6%) regions had the highest proportion of dwelling units built since 2001, while the Dublin (13.9%) region had the lowest (see Table 2.2).
- ◆ Around one-third of houses have been built since 1991 compared with 60% of apartments (see Table 2.3).

2.3 Type of accommodation by period in which built, 2006⁷

	% of row			Total 000
	Pre-1991	1991-2000	2001-2006	
House	66.7	17.3	15.9	1,247.3
Apartment	39.6	23.0	37.4	126.2
Bed-sit	80.3	8.5	11.2	7.0
Total	64.3	17.8	17.9	1,380.5

Source: CSO Census of Population

⁷ Private dwellings in permanent housing units. Excludes "not stated". See Appendix 1 for definitions.

2.4 Type of accommodation by county, 2006⁸

County	% of row					Total 000
	Detached house	Semi- detached	Terraced house	Apartment	Other	
Border	60.8	20.2	12.3	4.3	2.5	161.8
Cavan	69.0	15.8	8.2	4.2	2.8	21.9
Donegal	68.7	17.7	7.5	3.5	2.5	50.4
Leitrim	73.6	13.9	5.8	3.9	2.8	10.7
Louth	41.2	28.3	23.3	4.9	2.3	38.7
Monaghan	64.9	16.8	11.4	4.1	2.8	18.7
Sligo	59.1	21.6	11.5	5.6	2.2	21.5
Midland	58.2	23.6	10.4	4.6	3.1	85.5
Laoighis	59.9	24.1	9.8	3.2	3.0	22.6
Longford	66.2	14.8	11.2	4.4	3.4	12.1
Offaly	57.9	24.2	10.7	4.0	3.3	23.8
Westmeath	53.7	26.7	10.3	6.5	2.9	27.1
West	65.0	18.1	7.1	7.2	2.5	142.8
Galway City	21.2	37.4	16.8	22.0	2.6	25.4
Galway County	77.3	12.0	3.7	4.1	2.9	53.3
Mayo	70.2	16.2	7.4	4.0	2.2	43.4
Roscommon	76.1	14.6	3.7	3.4	2.3	20.7
Dublin	11.8	36.9	28.1	20.5	2.9	420.4
Dublin City	4.7	24.0	36.9	31.0	3.4	191.0
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	23.1	42.9	17.2	15.1	1.7	68.4
Fingal	20.1	45.8	18.8	12.5	2.8	80.4
South Dublin	10.5	53.4	25.5	8.0	2.7	80.6
Mid-East	47.2	32.5	11.3	6.6	2.6	157.8
Kildare	41.9	38.6	10.0	7.0	2.5	61.0
Meath	54.9	28.4	9.0	5.4	2.3	53.9
Wicklow	44.9	28.9	15.9	7.4	3.0	42.9
Mid-West	52.8	23.2	14.6	6.9	2.5	125.4
Clare	59.9	20.6	12.0	5.1	2.4	38.2
Limerick City	9.6	32.8	38.1	16.9	2.6	19.6
Limerick County	60.7	22.8	8.6	5.5	2.4	44.7
North Tipperary	62.7	20.0	10.5	4.1	2.7	23.0
South-East	54.3	22.4	15.7	5.0	2.6	160.4
Carlow	51.1	25.5	14.6	5.7	3.0	17.2
Kilkenny	60.1	19.7	13.7	4.1	2.4	29.7
South Tipperary	55.2	20.6	17.3	4.3	2.6	29.4
Waterford City	18.5	35.1	31.6	11.3	3.4	17.1
Waterford County	62.2	22.7	10.5	2.9	1.8	21.5
Wexford	60.8	19.4	12.7	4.5	2.6	45.6
South-West	50.0	22.5	18.3	6.7	2.5	215.3
Cork City	11.5	31.9	38.9	15.0	2.7	43.9
Cork County	57.5	21.6	14.2	4.5	2.2	123.3
Kerry	66.2	16.1	9.9	4.8	3.0	48.1
Total	42.6	27.1	17.5	10.1	2.7	1,469.5

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, 11.8% of accommodation in the Dublin region was detached. The region with the next lowest proportion of detached houses was the Mid-East with 47.2% (see Table 2.4).
- ◆ Over 70% of accommodation in four counties consisted of detached houses in 2006 - Galway County (77.3%), Roscommon (76.1%), Leitrim (73.6%) and Mayo (70.2%). Only 4.7% of Dublin City's accommodation were detached houses (see Table 2.4).
- ◆ In 2006, three of the main cities had the highest proportions of apartment-type accommodation - Dublin City (31%), Galway City (22%) and Limerick City (16.9%) (see Table 2.4).

2.5 Occupancy type by county, 2006⁹

County	Owner occupied		Rented	Other	Total
	With loan or mortgage	Without loan or mortgage			
Border	37.1	39.9	17.2	5.8	160.8
Cavan	36.7	41.6	16.0	5.7	21.8
Donegal	32.7	44.6	16.9	5.7	50.0
Leitrim	30.2	47.0	17.3	5.5	10.5
Louth	45.4	30.4	17.9	6.3	38.6
Monaghan	38.1	41.1	15.2	5.6	18.5
Sligo	35.5	39.7	19.4	5.4	21.4
Midland	39.5	37.3	16.6	6.6	84.9
Laoighis	40.8	37.8	14.8	6.7	22.4
Longford	31.3	39.0	22.2	7.5	12.0
Offaly	39.7	39.3	14.5	6.6	23.5
Westmeath	42.0	34.4	17.6	6.1	26.9
West	34.9	40.5	18.9	5.6	142.0
Galway City	29.8	22.1	41.6	6.6	25.3
Galway County	38.1	43.2	13.2	5.6	52.9
Mayo	33.7	45.4	15.5	5.3	43.2
Roscommon	35.6	46.1	13.1	5.2	20.6
Dublin	39.7	26.5	26.6	7.2	419.5
Dublin City	29.0	26.1	35.9	9.0	190.7
Fingal	55.5	21.2	17.7	5.6	80.1
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	40.5	35.1	19.1	5.3	68.4
South Dublin	48.9	25.5	19.8	5.8	80.4
Mid-East	49.9	28.8	15.6	5.8	156.6
Kildare	51.2	26.1	16.5	6.2	60.6
Meath	53.0	29.5	12.4	5.1	53.6
Wicklow	44.1	31.7	18.4	5.9	42.5
Mid-West	37.4	37.9	18.5	6.2	124.8
Clare	39.8	38.8	15.3	6.1	38.0
Limerick City	28.5	31.8	32.4	7.4	19.5
Limerick County	39.5	38.3	16.5	5.7	44.4
North Tipperary	36.8	40.8	16.0	6.4	22.9
South-East	36.9	38.2	19.0	6.0	159.3
Carlow	36.5	36.4	20.5	6.5	17.1
Kilkenny	38.4	39.8	15.9	6.0	29.5
South Tipperary	35.8	39.1	18.2	6.9	29.2
Waterford City	34.1	27.0	31.9	7.0	17.0
Waterford County	40.3	40.8	13.8	5.1	21.4
Wexford	36.1	40.1	18.4	5.4	45.1
South-West	35.9	37.6	20.2	6.2	214.3
Cork City	25.2	32.0	35.4	7.4	43.9
Cork County	41.8	36.9	15.8	5.5	122.7
Kerry	30.7	44.8	17.5	6.9	47.7
Total	39.0	34.1	20.6	6.3	1,462.3

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, 73.1% of dwellings were owner occupied with or without a mortgage (see Table 2.5).
- ◆ In the West region, 40.5% of private households were owner occupied without a loan compared with 34.9% with a loan. In contrast, there were much higher percentages of households owner occupied with a loan in the Mid-East (49.9% against 28.8%) and Dublin regions (39.7% against 26.5%) (see Table 2.5).
- ◆ Around half of private households in Fingal (55.5%), Meath (53%), Kildare (51.2%) and South Dublin (48.9%) were owner occupied with a loan or mortgage (see Table 2.5).
- ◆ In 2006, the four main cities, Galway (41.6%), Dublin (35.9%), Cork (35.4%), Limerick (32.4%) and Waterford (31.9%) had the highest proportions of rented accommodation (see Table 2.5).

⁹ See Appendix 1 for definitions.

2.6 House completions by county, 2002 & 2007¹⁰

County	dwelling units		% change	
	2002	2007	2002-07	Single
Border	7,908	11,212	41.8	35.7
Cavan	1,163	2,108	81.3	28.1
Donegal	2,765	4,164	50.6	39.6
Leitrim	691	975	41.1	38.2
Louth	1,923	1,654	-14.0	29.4
Monaghan	611	1,042	70.5	42.0
Sligo	755	1,269	68.1	36.8
Midland	3,637	6,681	83.7	24.1
Laoighis	862	2,177	152.6	15.8
Longford	735	1,579	114.8	24.2
Offaly	853	1,217	42.7	34.9
Westmeath	1,187	1,708	43.9	26.9
West	6,195	8,447	36.4	40.7
Galway City	1,496	732	-51.1	4.4
Galway County	2,265	3,849	69.9	43.1
Mayo	1,694	2,442	44.2	46.7
Roscommon	740	1,424	92.4	42.8
Dublin	12,623	17,725	40.4	6.0
Dublin City	4,124	6,678	61.9	5.4
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	785	3,052	288.8	7.2
Fingal	4,308	4,725	9.7	6.3
South Dublin	3,406	3,270	-4.0	5.6
Mid-East	8,052	7,249	-10.0	21.9
Kildare	3,126	3,118	-0.3	18.1
Meath	2,924	2,427	-17.0	25.8
Wicklow	2,002	1,704	-14.9	23.2
Mid-West	4,947	6,103	23.4	32.2
Clare	1,466	2,286	55.9	35.6
Limerick City	766	334	-56.4	3.0
Limerick County	1,452	2,442	68.2	26.9
North Tipperary	1,263	1,041	-17.6	46.6
South-East	6,529	8,846	35.5	30.4
Carlow	695	1,143	64.5	24.1
Kilkenny	1,119	1,544	38.0	37.6
South Tipperary	589	1,290	119.0	30.5
Waterford City	460	440	-4.3	3.0
Waterford County	1,324	1,235	-6.7	34.9
Wexford	2,342	3,194	36.4	31.2
South-West	7,404	11,364	53.5	29.1
Cork City	812	1,209	48.9	5.0
Cork County	4,754	7,477	57.3	28.3
Kerry	1,838	2,678	45.7	42.2
Total	57,695	78,027	35.2	25.2

Source: Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government

Change in house completions by region, 2007/2002



Source: Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government

- ◆ In 2007, 78,027 dwelling units were completed, an increase of 35.2% on the 2002 figure of 57,695. The largest regional increase was in the Midland region (83.7%) followed by the South-West (53.5%). There was a decrease of 10% in the Mid-East which was the region that had the highest population growth (15.2%) during 2002-2006 (see Tables 1.1, 2.6 and Graph).
- ◆ There was almost a three-fold increase in house completions in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown in 2007 in comparison with 2002. Three other counties had increases of over 100% in the same period while ten counties had decreases (see Table 2.6).
- ◆ In 2007, 25.2% of all house completions were in respect of single units, i.e. separate detached houses. The West region had the highest proportion of single houses (40.7%) while Dublin had the lowest proportion (6%) (see Table 2.6).
- ◆ At county level, Mayo (46.7%) had the largest proportion of single houses built, closely followed by North Tipperary (46.6%). As expected, the main cities had the smallest proportions (see Table 2.6).

2.7 Average house prices by county, 1997-2007¹¹

County	€			%
	New		Average annual increase	
	1997	2002	2007	2002-2007
Dublin	122,036	256,109	416,225	12.5
Cork	96,046	184,369	325,453	15.3
Galway	109,905	187,607	300,750	12.1
Limerick	91,077	168,574	288,202	14.2
Waterford	91,608	167,272	292,057	14.9
Other areas	94,664	179,936	296,605	13.0
Total	102,222	198,087	322,634	12.6
Second-hand				
Dublin	131,258	297,424	495,576	13.3
Cork	88,535	200,155	368,523	16.8
Galway	100,791	206,571	344,958	13.4
Limerick	78,256	172,273	273,640	11.8
Waterford	73,308	170,342	287,483	13.8
Other areas	86,347	192,301	313,487	12.6
Total	102,712	227,799	377,850	13.2

Source: Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government

- ◆ In 2007, Dublin recorded the highest new (€416,225) and second-hand (€495,576) house prices. Cork and Galway had the next highest house prices. Limerick had the lowest new (€288,202) and second-hand (€273,640) house prices (see Table 2.7).
- ◆ Between 2002 and 2007, average annual new house prices increased by 12.6%. The highest average annual increase was in Cork (15.3%) (see Table 2.7).
- ◆ Between 2002 and 2007, average annual second-hand house prices increased by 13.2%. The highest average annual increase was in Cork (16.8%) and the lowest in Limerick (11.8%) (see Table 2.7).

¹¹ Average house prices are derived from data supplied by the mortgage providers. Data includes apartments. See Appendix 1 for further information.

Lifestyles

3.1 Living arrangements by region, 2006¹²

% of row

Region	Communal establishments	In private households	
		Living alone	Living with others
Border	3.1	22.8	74.0
Midland	2.9	20.9	76.2
West	3.9	23.0	73.1
Dublin	4.6	22.1	73.3
Mid-East	2.7	17.0	80.3
Mid-West	3.9	22.0	74.1
South-East	3.4	21.4	75.2
South-West	3.9	22.0	74.0
Total	3.8	21.6	74.6
Households (000)	57.8	329.5	1,140.1

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, the West (23%) and the Border (22.8%) regions had the highest proportion of households with one person while the Mid-East had the lowest proportion at 17% (see Table 3.1).
- ◆ The Dublin region had the highest proportion of communal establishments at 4.6%, while the Mid-East had the lowest at 2.7% (see Table 3.1).

- ◆ The Mid-East region (8.9%) had the lowest proportion of persons aged 25 & over living alone compared with a national average of 11.6% (see Table 3.2 overleaf).
- ◆ At national level, the highest proportion of persons living alone was in the 65 & over age group (25.9%). The Border region had the highest proportion with 28% of persons aged 65 & over living alone while the Mid-East (23.1%) had the lowest (see Table 3.2 overleaf).
- ◆ County Leitrim (31.7%) had the highest proportion of persons aged 65 & over living alone, while South Dublin (20.7%) and Fingal (20.8%) had the lowest proportions (see Table 3.2 and Map overleaf).

¹² Communal establishments based on usual residence. Private households based on county of enumeration. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

3.2 Living alone by age and county, 2006¹³

County	% of cohort				Persons 000
	25-44	45-64	65 & over	25 & over	
Border	6.7	11.2	28.0	12.3	37.0
Cavan	6.5	10.6	29.9	12.5	5.1
Donegal	6.5	11.1	27.5	12.3	11.4
Leitrim	7.6	14.6	31.7	15.4	3.0
Louth	7.1	10.7	26.3	11.5	8.1
Monaghan	5.5	10.0	28.1	11.3	4.1
Sligo	7.0	12.2	27.5	13.1	5.2
Midland	6.3	10.3	26.3	11.1	17.8
Laoighis	6.2	10.1	25.7	10.8	4.6
Longford	6.2	11.6	29.4	12.7	2.8
Offaly	6.0	9.7	25.3	10.6	4.8
Westmeath	6.7	10.3	26.0	11.2	5.6
West	6.8	11.7	26.1	12.3	33.0
Galway City	8.5	13.9	22.1	12.0	5.3
Galway County	5.8	10.5	25.0	11.1	11.4
Mayo	7.2	12.1	27.8	13.5	11.1
Roscommon	6.3	11.7	28.1	13.1	5.2
Dublin	8.3	11.5	25.9	12.1	93.9
Dublin City	10.4	16.0	28.9	15.5	53.3
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	6.8	10.1	24.7	11.6	14.9
Fingal	7.2	7.9	20.8	8.7	13.2
South Dublin	5.8	7.7	20.7	8.2	12.6
Mid-East	5.8	8.6	23.1	8.9	26.7
Kildare	5.8	8.1	22.6	8.4	9.7
Meath	5.8	8.2	23.2	8.8	9.0
Wicklow	5.7	9.7	23.4	9.8	8.0
Mid-West	6.8	11.1	26.3	11.8	27.5
Clare	6.8	11.1	26.3	11.8	8.6
Limerick City	9.0	14.8	28.8	14.7	4.9
Limerick County	6.1	9.9	25.2	10.6	8.8
North Tipperary	6.5	11.0	25.9	11.9	5.1
South-East	6.5	10.8	25.3	11.4	34.1
Carlow	6.0	10.6	24.8	10.7	3.4
Kilkenny	6.3	9.9	24.3	10.7	6.1
South Tipperary	6.4	11.5	26.9	12.3	6.7
Waterford City	9.8	13.0	26.3	14.0	4.1
Waterford County	5.8	10.3	24.9	11.0	4.5
Wexford	6.1	10.4	25.0	11.0	9.4
South-West	6.6	11.4	25.7	11.8	47.8
Cork City	8.1	13.8	27.3	14.2	11.1
Cork County	6.2	10.3	25.4	10.7	25.1
Kerry	6.5	12.1	25.0	12.4	11.7
Total	7.0	11.0	25.9	11.6	317.7

Source: CSO Census of Population

MAP 6 (landscape style)

Population aged 65 & over living alone, 2006 (%)

¹³ Persons in private households by county of enumeration.

3.3 Type of voluntary work by county, 2006

County	% of persons aged 15 & over					Total	Persons 000
	Sporting	Social / charitable	Religious group	Political / cultural	Other		
Border	5.4	5.8	4.7	1.4	4.0	16.5	60.4
Cavan	6.3	5.9	5.7	1.6	3.8	17.5	8.7
Donegal	4.7	5.7	4.4	1.4	3.9	15.5	17.7
Leitrim	6.3	6.6	5.7	2.0	5.0	19.3	4.4
Louth	4.8	5.2	3.9	1.1	3.7	14.9	12.9
Monaghan	6.2	5.9	5.2	1.5	3.9	17.5	7.7
Sligo	5.7	6.3	5.1	1.6	4.8	18.2	8.9
Midland	6.3	5.6	4.3	1.4	4.0	16.8	32.8
Laoighis	6.2	5.4	4.1	1.3	4.2	16.5	8.6
Longford	6.6	6.2	4.9	1.7	3.9	17.8	4.8
Offaly	6.3	6.0	4.5	1.4	4.2	17.3	9.5
Westmeath	6.2	5.1	4.2	1.3	3.7	16.0	9.9
West	5.8	6.2	4.5	1.6	4.8	17.8	58.8
Galway City	4.3	6.2	4.0	1.6	4.4	16.4	10.1
Galway County	6.4	5.9	4.3	1.6	5.0	17.9	22.2
Mayo	5.8	6.6	4.9	1.6	4.9	18.3	18.0
Roscommon	6.4	6.4	5.1	1.6	4.5	18.2	8.5
Dublin	3.9	5.3	4.2	1.3	3.9	14.9	144.4
Dublin City	3.2	5.2	4.3	1.4	3.7	14.1	60.6
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	4.8	6.9	5.0	1.4	4.9	18.7	29.7
Fingal	4.6	5.0	3.3	1.1	3.9	14.7	27.5
South Dublin	4.0	4.5	4.0	1.0	3.5	13.7	26.5
Mid-East	5.6	5.5	4.0	1.2	4.1	16.3	59.7
Kildare	5.6	5.3	3.7	1.2	4.1	15.8	22.6
Meath	5.8	5.0	3.7	1.2	4.0	15.6	19.5
Wicklow	5.5	6.4	4.8	1.4	4.4	17.7	17.5
Mid-West	6.3	5.8	4.3	1.5	4.4	17.4	49.8
Clare	6.7	6.2	4.9	1.6	4.7	18.6	16.2
Limerick City	3.7	4.8	3.2	1.3	3.8	13.1	5.7
Limerick County	6.8	5.5	3.8	1.4	4.4	17.1	18.0
North Tipperary	7.1	6.4	5.2	1.7	4.6	19.2	10.0
South-East	6.3	6.0	4.2	1.4	4.2	17.2	62.3
Carlow	6.4	5.9	4.0	1.2	3.9	16.4	6.5
Kilkenny	6.6	6.0	5.0	1.5	4.1	18.1	12.4
South Tipperary	6.6	6.2	4.0	1.5	4.6	17.5	11.5
Waterford City	4.1	5.4	3.7	1.1	4.0	14.7	5.4
Waterford County	6.8	6.5	4.0	1.5	4.8	18.7	9.1
Wexford	6.3	5.9	4.1	1.4	4.0	16.9	17.3
South-West	6.0	6.1	4.0	1.4	4.3	17.1	85.2
Cork City	3.9	5.4	3.5	1.4	3.7	14.0	14.2
Cork County	6.7	6.2	4.0	1.4	4.5	18.1	51.2
Kerry	6.0	6.6	4.1	1.6	4.3	17.6	19.8
Total	5.3	5.7	4.2	1.4	4.2	16.4	553.3

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, 16.4% of the population aged 15 & over were involved in voluntary work. The West region (17.8%) had the highest proportion of persons involved while Dublin (14.9%) had the lowest (see Table 3.3).
- ◆ At county level, Leitrim (19.3%) and North Tipperary (19.2%) had the highest proportions of persons involved in voluntary work while Limerick City (13.1%) and South Dublin (13.7%) had the lowest proportions (see Table 3.3).
- ◆ The type of voluntary work undertaken varied across counties. 7.1% of persons in North Tipperary were involved in a sporting organisation compared with 3.2% in Dublin City (see Table 3.3).
- ◆ 5.7% of persons in Cavan and Leitrim did voluntary work in a religious group compared with 3.2% in Limerick City (see Table 3.3).

3.4 Participation in sport and physical exercise by region, 2006¹⁴

Region	% of cohort active		
	Male	Female	Total
Border	54.5	59.2	56.9
Midland	56.0	63.5	59.7
West	54.9	66.8	60.9
Dublin	68.6	63.8	66.1
Mid-East	64.5	69.1	66.8
Mid-West	59.5	65.7	62.6
South-East	60.5	63.4	62.0
South-West	58.9	65.0	61.9
Total	61.4	64.4	62.9
Persons (000)	1,034.0	1,101.8	2,135.8

Source: CSO QNHS Social Capital & Sport Module

3.5 Active persons by main sport and region, 2006

Main sport	% of column								
	Border	Midland	West	Dublin	Mid-East	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	Total
Aerobics	10.8	10.1	9.7	15.8	11.3	11.0	19.4	9.4	13.0
Athletics	1.5	1.4	1.2	3.1	3.0	1.6	1.3	1.2	2.1
Basketball	2.0	2.8	1.9	1.3	1.5	1.3	0.9	1.4	1.5
Billiards & snooker	1.4	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.2	0.7
Cycling	2.8	3.3	5.9	4.7	3.8	4.0	2.5	3.9	4.0
Dancing	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6
Fishing	1.6	2.2	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.9	1.3	1.1	1.2
Gaelic football	9.4	7.3	7.2	3.0	8.0	5.9	4.2	6.5	5.7
Golf	7.2	8.1	5.7	8.7	10.2	5.9	6.4	6.3	7.6
Hurling & camogie	0.3	3.8	2.7	0.6	1.1	4.6	4.5	1.9	1.9
Rugby union	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.4	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.6
Soccer	7.7	4.8	5.6	9.6	6.4	5.2	5.8	6.3	7.1
Swimming	8.1	5.7	9.7	7.6	8.7	9.3	8.1	7.3	8.0
Tennis	0.7	0.6	0.3	1.6	1.0	0.5	0.5	1.2	1.0
Walking	39.6	44.9	43.0	34.3	36.8	42.7	39.1	45.1	39.3
Other sports	5.7	4.3	4.9	6.6	5.7	4.0	4.0	7.2	5.7
Persons (000)	210.0	118.1	204.8	640.6	243.3	179.8	228.0	311.2	2,135.8

Source: CSO QNHS Social Capital & Sport Module

- ◆ Dublin and the Mid-East were the most active regions, with over 66% of their population aged 15 & over participating in sport or physical exercise in the previous 12 months. The Border region was the least active, with 56.9% of people participating compared with an overall national figure of 62.9% (see Table 3.4).
- ◆ With the exception of Dublin, women were more active than men (see Table 3.4).
- ◆ Aerobics was the main sport for 19.4% of active people in the South-East region compared with only 9.4% in the South-West (see Table 3.5).
- ◆ Walking was the most popular activity and participation varied from 34.3% in the Dublin region to 44.9% in the Midland region (see Table 3.5).
- ◆ Soccer (7.1%) and Gaelic football (5.7%) were the most popular team sports. In the Dublin region, however, Soccer (9.6%) was over three times as popular as Gaelic football (3%) (see Table 3.5).

¹⁴ Persons aged 15 years & over. Survey time period June to August (Quarter 3) 2006. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

3.6 Voter participation by region, May 2002¹⁵

Region	% of row		
	Yes	No	Total
Border	79.3	20.7	100.0
Midland	79.6	20.3	100.0
West	80.1	19.9	100.0
Dublin	71.4	28.6	100.0
Mid-East	71.8	28.2	100.0
Mid-West	80.1	19.9	100.0
South-East	81.0	19.0	100.0
South-West	74.6	25.3	100.0
Total	75.9	24.1	100.0

Source: CSO QNHS Voter Registration & Participation Module

3.7 Reasons for not voting by region, May 2002¹⁶

Region	% of non-voters					
	Away/ too busy	Not registered	No interest	No Disillusioned/ vote make no difference	Illness/ disability	Other
Border	24.7	18.7	28.2	23.7	11.0	14.9
Midland	22.6	26.9	26.3	21.3	8.3	11.2
West	27.0	32.2	23.8	16.4	7.8	15.6
Dublin	30.6	21.9	20.8	15.8	5.8	16.5
Mid-East	25.9	36.1	18.9	8.7	5.6	13.7
Mid-West	18.7	20.8	32.4	18.8	5.5	23.5
South-East	21.7	26.5	24.7	13.5	6.4	17.6
South-West	30.6	21.0	21.6	17.3	7.4	10.4
Total	27.2	24.6	23.0	16.2	6.8	15.3

Source: CSO QNHS Voter Registration & Participation Module

¹⁵ Persons eligible to vote. Overall, 75.5% of respondents indicated that they voted in the election compared with an actual turnout rate of 62%. This overstatement of voter participation, which is usual in surveys of this type, reflects the likelihood of a lower turnout amongst non-respondents to the survey and also possible reluctance amongst some respondents to admit that they did not vote. Despite these shortcomings the survey results provide a sound basis for analysing the reasons for not voting. Survey time period June to August (Quarter 3) 2002.

¹⁶ Persons eligible to vote. Totals do not add to 100% as the question allowed for multiple responses.

3.8 Lisbon Treaty referendum results by region, 2008

Region	000	%	% of valid poll
	Valid Poll	Turnout	Yes
Border	176.3	50.8	41.2
Midland	98.6	53.0	51.9
West ¹⁷	165.1	51.6	43.9
Dublin	427.2	54.6	49.0
Mid-East	183.1	53.3	49.8
Mid-West	142.2	53.3	48.3
South-East	173.5	52.8	46.6
South-West	248.9	53.5	42.6
Total	1,614.9	53.1	46.6

Source: Referendum Returning Officer

- ◆ A survey of voter participation in the May 2002 General Election estimated that 75.9% of eligible persons voted¹⁵. Over 28% of eligible persons in the Dublin and Mid-East regions did not vote, compared with 19% in the South-East (see Table 3.6).
- ◆ The main reason given by persons in Dublin for not voting in the May 2002 General Election was that they were Away or too busy (30.6%) while the main reason given in the Mid-East was because they were Not registered (36.1%) (see Table 3.6).
- ◆ Nearly one-third of non-voters in the Mid-West region said they had No interest. A relatively high percentage of non-voters in the Border (23.7%) and Midland (21.3%) regions did not vote due to being Disillusioned or feeling that their vote would not make a difference (see Table 3.7).
- ◆ The highest turnout for the Lisbon Treaty referendum was in the Dublin region (54.6%), while the lowest was in the Border (50.8%) (see Table 3.8).
- ◆ The Midland region was the only region where there was an overall Yes vote in the Lisbon Treaty referendum at 51.9% (see Table 3.8).
- ◆ The lowest Yes vote was recorded in the Border region at 41.2% compared with a national average of 46.6% (see Table 3.8).

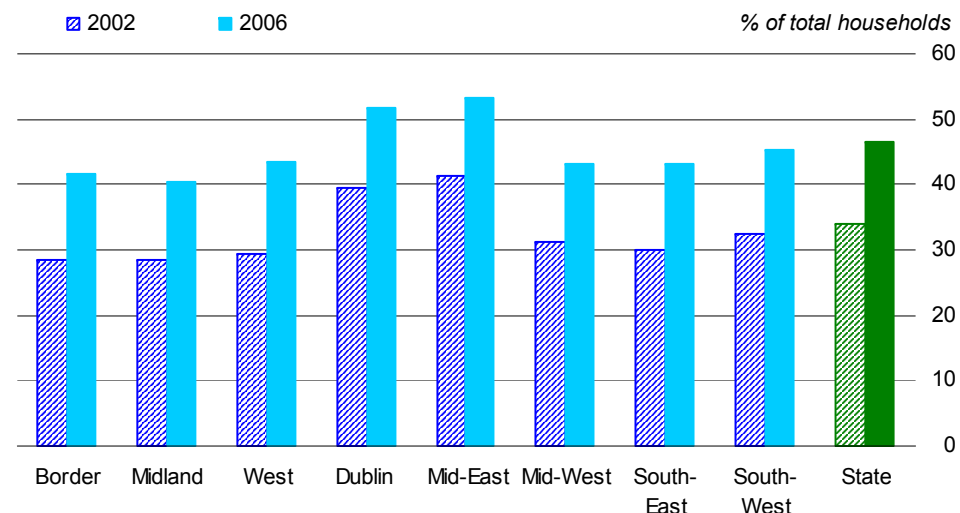
¹⁷ South Leitrim included in the West region.

3.9 PC ownership and Internet access by county, 2006¹⁸

County	% of households		% of households with PC
	PC ownership	Broadband Other Internet access	
Border	52.4	22.4	56.9
Cavan	49.6	18.3	60.4
Donegal	51.0	19.1	59.4
Leitrim	49.0	15.8	62.9
Louth	56.5	31.3	48.6
Monaghan	51.0	20.0	58.1
Sligo	53.8	21.8	59.8
Midland	52.4	22.5	54.6
Laoighis	53.6	22.2	54.8
Longford	48.0	20.6	57.6
Offaly	51.6	20.4	55.0
Westmeath	54.2	25.2	53.0
West	53.2	26.0	55.5
Galway City	57.2	55.2	29.2
Galway County	54.8	18.5	62.7
Mayo	49.9	20.3	61.1
Roscommon	51.0	18.3	60.2
Dublin	60.7	53.0	32.1
Dublin City	51.8	51.8	29.6
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	70.7	56.4	33.2
Fingal	68.8	50.3	36.8
South Dublin	64.9	55.1	30.9
Mid-East	63.8	33.7	49.8
Kildare	64.6	36.8	46.7
Meath	63.1	29.3	54.1
Wicklow	63.5	34.9	49.0
Mid-West	53.9	26.8	53.5
Clare	57.1	24.5	57.3
Limerick City	45.2	42.8	34.1
Limerick County	56.1	25.9	55.3
North Tipperary	51.8	21.3	57.3
South-East	53.7	25.5	54.7
Carlow	54.2	23.9	53.2
Kilkenny	56.3	23.6	57.5
South Tipperary	49.5	24.6	56.2
Waterford City	51.1	53.4	30.7
Waterford County	57.2	24.2	57.9
Wexford	53.7	18.6	59.5
South-West	54.5	30.0	53.2
Cork City	48.1	46.0	33.2
Cork County	58.5	27.8	56.8
Kerry	50.4	22.3	59.8
Total	56.6	35.3	47.1

Source: CSO Census of Population

3.10 Internet access by region, 2002 & 2006¹⁸



Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, 63.8% of households in the Mid-East region and 60.7% in the Dublin region owned a PC, while ownership rates were in the range 52% to 55% in all other regions (see Table 3.9).
- ◆ At county level, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown had the highest proportion of households with a PC (70.7%), while Limerick City had the lowest proportion, 45.2% (see Table 3.9)
- ◆ In 2006, 53% of households with a PC in Dublin had broadband access to the Internet compared with only 22% in the Border and Midland regions (see Table 3.9).
- ◆ In 2006, broadband was the most common form of Internet access in only Galway and Waterford cities and the four Dublin administrative counties (see Table 3.9 and Map).
- ◆ Less than 20% of households with a PC in Leitrim (15.8%), Cavan (18.3%), Roscommon (18.3%), Galway County (18.5%), Wexford (18.6%) and Donegal (19.1%) had broadband in 2006 (see Table 3.9 and Map).
- ◆ Between 2002 and 2006 there was an increase in Internet access across all regions, particularly in the West (+14%), Border (+13.2%), South-East (+13.1%) and South-West (+13%) (see Graph 3.10).

¹⁸ Private households in permanent housing units.

MAP 7 (portrait style, full page)

Broadband in households with PC, 2006 (%)

3.11 Crime offences by Garda region, 2006¹⁹

Crime offences	Eastern	Dublin Metropolitan	Northern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western	Total
per 1,000 population							
Sexual	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harrassments	3.2	3.6	5.2	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.6
Dangerous or negligent acts	49.7	72.6	58.3	45.7	43.0	37.6	53.7
Robbery, extortion & highjacking	0.4	1.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.6
Burglary	6.3	8.3	3.0	6.2	4.0	3.8	5.8
Theft	14.3	28.1	10.1	12.8	15.7	11.1	17.6
Fraud & deception	0.8	1.6	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.6	1.0
Controlled drugs	2.7	4.6	2.2	4.1	3.2	1.9	3.4
Weapons & explosives	0.4	1.2	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.7
Damage to property	8.4	14.7	8.2	8.3	10.0	6.8	10.3
Public order	9.0	15.8	14.8	14.3	14.8	10.4	13.4
Road & traffic	36.0	101.9	53.1	59.0	62.8	42.6	65.0
Government, justice procedures & organisation of crime	1.1	4.8	1.1	1.4	1.5	0.8	2.2
Offences not elsewhere classified	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.6
per 100,000 population							
Homicide	2.6	3.3	3.1	3.4	4.3	1.7	3.2
Kidnapping	2.3	2.6	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.2	1.9

Source: CSO Garda Recorded Crime Statistics 2003-2006

- ◆ In 2006, Road and traffic offences and Dangerous and negligent acts were by far the most common recorded crime offences across all Garda regions, with national rates of 65 and 54 per 1,000 population, respectively (see Table 3.11).
- ◆ The highest rate of Road and traffic offences were recorded in the Dublin Metropolitan Garda region (101.9) while the lowest were recorded in the Eastern Garda region (36) (see Table 3.11).
- ◆ The highest rate of Dangerous and negligent acts offences were recorded in the Dublin Metropolitan Garda region (72.6) while the lowest were recorded in the Western Garda region (37.6) (see Table 3.11).
- ◆ Theft (17.6) was the third highest recorded crime offence with the highest rate of 28.1 per 1,000 population being recorded in the Dublin Metropolitan Garda region (see Table 3.11).
- ◆ In 2006, the highest rate for Homicide was recorded in the Southern Garda region (4.3 per 100,000 population). The highest rates for Kidnapping were recorded in the Dublin Metropolitan region (2.6 per 100,000 population) and the Eastern Garda region (2.3) (see Table 3.11).

¹⁹ See Appendix 1 for definitions.

Transport and travel

4.1 Travel by Irish residents by region, 2002 & 2006²⁰

Region of residence	000 nights per trip		000 nights per trip	
	Trips	Nights	Trips	Nights
	2002		2006	
Domestic				
Border	480	3.1	683	2.9
Midland	278	3.3	390	3.3
West	565	3.0	740	2.6
Dublin	2,257	3.7	2,245	3.7
Mid-East	775	3.6	773	3.2
Mid-West	601	3.4	655	3.4
South-East	585	3.0	719	3.3
South-West	910	3.4	1,105	3.2
Total	6,452	3.4	7,310	3.3
International				
Border	355	9.1	609	7.6
Midland	179	8.5	325	7.3
West	320	8.9	551	7.9
Dublin	1,907	8.7	2,750	7.8
Mid-East	558	8.3	800	7.8
Mid-West	317	9.1	481	7.5
South-East	393	9.0	596	8.0
South-West	566	9.6	869	7.8
Total	4,597	8.8	6,981	7.8

Source: CSO Household Travel Survey

- ◆ The total number of domestic and international trips taken increased across all regions between 2002 and 2006, with the exception of slight decreases in domestic trips by Dublin and Mid-East residents (see Table 4.1).
- ◆ The number of international trips increased substantially with the Border (+72%), Midland (+82%) and West (+72%) regions recording increases of over 70% compared with a national average increase of 52% (see Table 4.1).

4.2 International travel by destination and region, 2006²⁰

Region	% of row						000
	International trips						Trips
	UK	Other EU	Americas	Asia	Africa	Oceania	
Border	25.8	62.5	8.7	1.5	0.5	1.0	608
Midland	27.6	60.4	8.6	1.2	1.2	0.9	326
West	29.6	56.5	10.5	2.0	0.4	0.9	550
Dublin	22.3	63.1	9.2	2.3	2.0	1.2	2,752
Mid-East	22.6	63.3	8.4	2.6	2.1	1.0	800
Mid-West	26.5	59.0	12.1	1.0	0.8	0.6	480
South-East	27.2	60.5	7.7	1.5	1.8	1.2	595
South-West	24.9	62.7	8.5	1.6	1.2	1.2	869
Total	24.5	61.9	9.1	1.9	1.5	1.1	6,982
Trips	1,710	4,321	636	135	105	75	6,982
Average length of stay							nights
Border	4.3	7.8	11.4	12.8	12.3	34.3	7.6
Midland	3.5	7.3	15.4	14.0	11.3	30.0	7.3
West	4.8	7.9	12.6	19.2	10.5	32.0	7.9
Dublin	3.6	7.7	12.1	16.9	14.7	30.6	7.8
Mid-East	3.9	7.8	12.0	17.0	11.1	28.1	7.8
Mid-West	4.7	7.6	11.1	9.8	9.8	37.7	7.5
South-East	4.8	8.2	12.7	16.2	11.3	25.1	8.0
South-West	4.5	8.0	11.2	14.1	12.6	32.0	7.8
Total	4.1	7.8	12.1	16.1	13.1	30.7	7.8

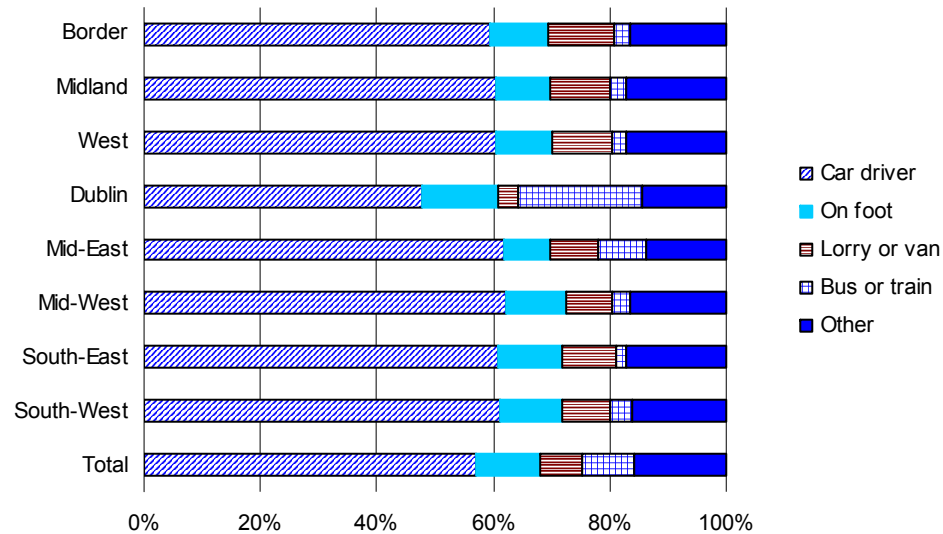
Source: CSO Household Travel Survey

- ◆ The average length of stay decreased on international trips and remained around the same on domestic trips between 2002 and 2006. Residents of the South-West region had the largest decrease in the average length of stay for international trips (-1.8 nights), followed by the Mid-West (-1.6) and Border (-1.5) regions (see Table 4.1).
- ◆ In 2006, Other EU (excluding the UK) accounted for 61.9% of all international trips and was the most popular travel destination across all regions, followed by the UK and the Americas. Just over 12% of international travel by persons from the Mid-West was to the Americas, compared with a national average of 9.1% (see Table 4.2).

4.3 Means of travel to work by region, 2006²¹

Means of travel ²²	% of column								
	Border	Midland	West	Dublin	Mid-East	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	Total
Car driver	59.5	60.4	60.5	47.8	61.9	62.2	61.0	61.2	57.1
On foot	9.8	9.5	9.7	12.9	8.0	10.4	10.9	10.8	10.8
Lorry or van	11.3	10.1	10.2	3.5	8.1	7.8	9.2	8.2	7.5
Work from home	8.4	8.7	8.9	5.7	6.4	8.5	9.1	8.6	7.5
Bus	1.9	1.6	2.3	14.1	4.3	2.8	1.5	3.2	6.0
Car passenger	7.0	6.8	6.4	3.7	5.6	6.4	6.6	6.1	5.6
Train	0.8	1.3	0.2	7.3	4.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	2.9
Bicycle	0.9	1.3	1.5	3.8	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.9
Motor cycle	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: CSO Census of Population



- ◆ Driving a car was the most common means of travel to work in 2006. Around 62% of persons in the Mid-East and Mid-West regions commuted by driving a car, while the Dublin region (47.8%) had the smallest proportion using this mode (see Table 4.3).
- ◆ Lorry or van and On foot were the second most common means of travel to work across the regions, with the exception of Dublin where Bus was the second most common means (see Table 4.3 and Graph).
- ◆ In 2006, over 21% of persons in the Dublin region used either a Bus or Train as their means of travel to work, compared with an overall national average of less than 9% (see Table 4.3 and Graph).

²¹ Persons at work aged 15 years and over, usually resident in each regional authority, and present in their usual residence on Census night.

²² Bus includes minibus and coach; Train includes Luas and DART.

4.4 Distance travelled to work by region, 2006²³

Region	Kilometres					Not stated	% of row
	< 2	2-9	10-24	25-49	50 & over		
	Border	9.2	28.9	21.5	10.7		
Midland	8.3	24.8	21.1	11.2	11.9	22.7	
West	8.6	28.6	22.6	12.3	6.3	21.5	
Dublin	6.5	39.2	26.5	4.7	1.0	22.2	
Mid-East	6.9	19.5	25.8	20.4	9.1	18.3	
Mid-West	8.7	29.8	22.8	12.6	5.4	20.9	
South-East	10.1	28.4	22.6	9.6	7.5	21.8	
South-West	8.8	30.1	24.1	11.0	4.4	21.6	
Total	8.0	30.8	24.2	10.3	5.3	21.4	

Source: CSO Census of Population

4.5 Time taken to travel to work by region, 2006²⁴

Region	Minutes				Not stated	% of row
	< 30	30-59	60-89	90 & over		
	Border	65.6	16.5	4.2		
Midland	59.4	17.6	5.8	5.9	11.3	
West	61.2	21.2	5.0	1.9	10.6	
Dublin	43.7	33.4	10.3	2.6	10.0	
Mid-East	44.6	25.0	14.1	7.2	9.1	
Mid-West	61.6	22.8	4.0	1.7	10.0	
South-East	65.0	17.2	4.3	3.1	10.5	
South-West	61.5	23.2	3.9	1.2	10.1	
Total	54.7	24.7	7.3	3.1	10.1	

Source: CSO Census of Population

4.6 Time leaving home to go to work by region, 2006²⁵

Departure time	% of row					
	Before 06:30	06:31 - 07:30	07:31 - 08:30	08:31 - 09:30	After 09:30	Not applicable ²⁶
Border	5.6	17.6	35.8	27.4	8.4	5.2
Midland	8.8	21.3	32.7	24.5	7.2	5.5
West	4.3	19.7	34.7	26.4	9.5	5.3
Dublin	6.3	25.4	35.5	18.6	7.9	6.2
Mid-East	10.6	28.8	31.1	17.9	6.7	4.9
Mid-West	4.7	23.5	34.9	23.4	7.8	5.6
South-East	6.6	21.1	36.0	23.6	7.2	5.5
South-West	4.4	22.2	37.9	22.4	7.6	5.5
Total	6.3	23.2	35.1	21.9	7.8	5.6

Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ Around 30% of commuters in the Mid-East region reported travelling 25 or more kilometres to work in 2006 compared with around 6% in the Dublin region (see Table 4.4).
- ◆ Around 10% of commuters travelled under 2 kilometres to work in the South-East region, while nearly 12% travelled at least 50 kilometres in the Midland region (see Table 4.4).
- ◆ Almost 55% of workers took less than 30 minutes to travel to work in 2006. This varied from less than 44% in the Dublin region to 65% in the Border and South-East regions (see Table 4.5).
- ◆ In 2006, 10.6% of commuters in the Mid-East region left their homes before 6:30 am, while a further 28.8% left in the next hour (see Table 4.6).
- ◆ Between 31% (Mid-East) and 38% (South-West) of commuters left their homes to go to work between 7:31 am and 8:30 am (see Table 4.6).

²³ Persons at work aged 15 years and over, usually resident in each region, and present in their usual residence on census night.

²⁴ Persons at work aged 15 years and over (excluding those who work mainly at or from home) usually resident in each region and present in their usual residence on Census night.

²⁵ Persons at work aged 15 years and over (excluding those who work mainly at or from home), usually resident in each region and present in their usual residence in Census night.

²⁶ Includes "not stated".

4.7 Drivers with current penalty points by licensing body, 2007²⁷

	%	000
Licensing body	Rate	Total licence holders
Border	12.2	287.6
Cavan	11.2	39.1
Donegal	10.3	91.7
Leitrim	11.3	18.7
Louth	15.8	63.5
Monaghan	11.7	36.1
Sligo	12.7	38.6
Midland	14.8	149.2
Laoighis	16.0	38.7
Longford	16.8	21.2
Offaly	14.6	41.9
Westmeath	12.9	47.4
West	10.7	256.0
Galway	10.7	141.8
Mayo	9.7	76.7
Roscommon	13.0	37.5
Dublin City Council²⁸	16.4	656.2
Mid-East	17.7	286.9
Kildare	18.7	112.9
Meath	18.0	96.1
Wicklow	15.9	77.9
Mid-West	12.2	224.1
Clare	12.0	70.0
Limerick City Council	11.5	27.8
Limerick County Council	12.7	83.4
North Tipperary	12.3	42.9
South-East	13.4	288.1
Carlow	14.9	35.0
Kilkenny	14.2	52.8
South Tipperary	12.6	52.7
Waterford City Council	13.1	27.9
Waterford County Council	11.9	36.8
Wexford	13.7	82.9
South-West	11.8	390.9
Cork	12.2	301.9
Kerry	10.2	88.9
Total	14.0	2,539.1

Source: Department of Transport

- ◆ As of October 2007, 14% of drivers had penalty points on their licences (see Table 4.7).
- ◆ The Mid-East region and Dublin City Council had the highest percentages of license holders with penalty points, 17.7% and 16.4% respectively, while the West region (10.7%) had the lowest (see Table 4.7).
- ◆ At county level, Mayo had the lowest percentage of licence holders with penalty points (9.7%) closely followed by Kerry (10.2%) and Donegal (10.3%). Kildare (18.7%) and Meath (18%) had the highest rates of penalty point holders (see Table 4.7 and Map).

²⁷ See Appendix 1 for definitions.

²⁸ Includes the whole of Dublin county.

MAP 8 (portrait style, full page)

Drivers with current penalty points, 2007 (%)

Health and care

5.1 Life expectancy at birth and age 65 by region, 2001-2003

Region	years			
	At birth		Age 65	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Border	74.8	80.9	15.3	19.2
Midland	74.8	79.7	15.3	18.5
West	75.5	80.9	15.6	19.0
Dublin	75.2	80.2	15.5	18.9
Mid-East	75.9	80.5	15.5	18.8
Mid-West	74.4	79.8	15.3	18.6
South-East	75.3	80.3	15.4	18.6
South-West	75.2	80.5	15.3	18.8
Total	75.1	80.3	15.4	18.7

Source: CSO Vital Statistics

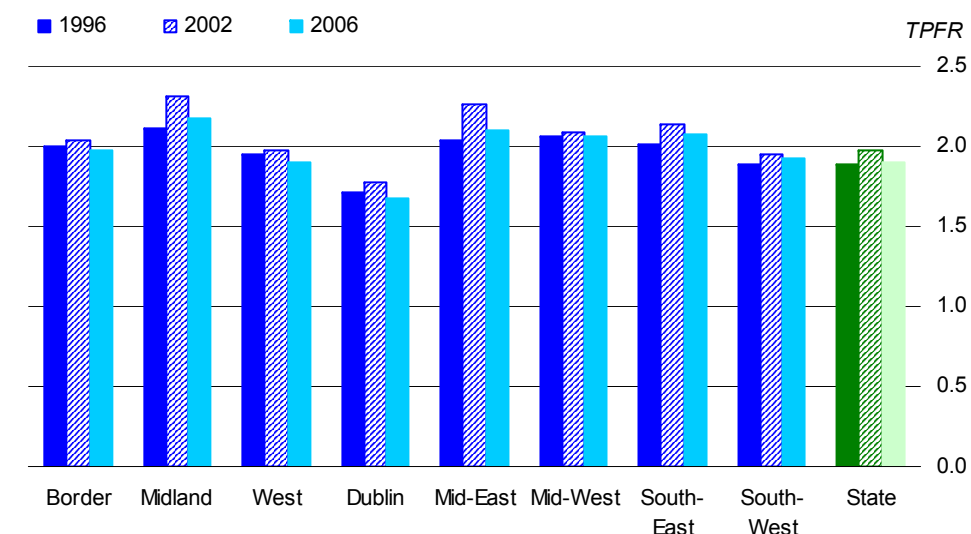
- ◆ In 2001-2003, life expectancies at birth and at age 65 were similar for men and women across all the regions. At birth women could expect to live 5 years longer than men on average, while at age 65 they could expect to live around 3 years longer than men (see Table 5.1).
- ◆ At birth, life expectancy for women ranged from 80.9 years in the Border and West regions to 79.7 years in the Midland region. Life expectancy for men ranged from 75.9 years in the Mid-East to 74.4 years in the Mid-West (see Table 5.1).
- ◆ For 65 year-old males, the life expectancy ranged from 15.3 to 15.6 years, the highest being in the West region. Female life expectancy at age 65 was highest in the Border region at 19.2 years and lowest in the Midland region at 18.5 years (see Table 5.1).
- ◆ In 2006, the Midland region (2.2) and three other regions had a total period fertility rate (TPFR)²⁹ at or above the theoretical population replacement ratio of 2.1. The Dublin region had the lowest TPFR of 1.7 (see Table 5.2 and Graph).

5.2 Total period fertility rate²⁹ by region, 1996-2006

Region	TPFR		
	1996	2002	2006
Border	2.0	2.0	2.0
Midland	2.1	2.3	2.2
West	2.0	2.0	1.9
Dublin	1.7	1.8	1.7
Mid-East	2.0	2.3	2.1
Mid-West	2.1	2.1	2.1
South-East	2.0	2.1	2.1
South-West	1.9	2.0	1.9
Total	1.9	2.0	1.9

Source: CSO Vital Statistics

Total period fertility rate by region, 1996, 2002 & 2006



Source: CSO Vital Statistics

²⁹ The total period fertility rate (TPFR) is derived from the age-specific fertility rates. It represents the projected number of children a woman would have if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates while progressing from age 15 to 49 years. A value of 2.1 is generally taken to be the level at which a generation would replace itself in the long run, ignoring migration.

5.3 Age-standardised discharge rates by selected principal diagnosis and region, 2006³⁰

per 100,000 population

Region	Respiratory diseases	Injuries & poisonings	Circulatory diseases	Digestive diseases	Malignant neoplasms	Total
Border	1,814	1,471	1,526	1,566	856	16,229
Midland	1,792	1,454	1,342	1,611	826	16,768
West	1,500	1,471	1,319	1,412	999	15,223
Dublin	1,132	1,186	1,036	936	656	11,185
Mid-East	1,252	1,239	1,321	1,207	706	12,921
Mid-West	1,736	1,143	1,223	1,401	668	14,162
South-East	1,670	1,671	1,453	1,428	848	15,564
South-West	1,178	1,229	1,088	1,070	728	11,412
Total	1,415	1,316	1,240	1,236	764	13,421

Source: Department of Health and Children, Hospital Inpatient Enquiry data

- ◆ In 2006, Midland region residents had the highest discharge rate from publicly funded acute hospitals of 16,768 per 100,000 population, followed by the Border residents (16,229). The Dublin (11,185) and South-West (11,412) residents had the lowest rates (see Table 5.3).
- ◆ The national average discharge rate for respiratory diseases was 1,415, which rose to 1,814 for Border region residents (see Table 5.3).
- ◆ Residents in the South-East had the highest injuries & poisonings discharge rate at 1,671 per 100,000 persons. The Mid-West had the lowest rate of 1,143 (see Table 5.3).
- ◆ The Border region residents (1,526) had the highest discharge rate for circulatory diseases compared with a national average of 1,240 (see Table 5.3).
- ◆ Midland residents (1,611) had the highest discharge rate for digestive system diseases compared with a rate of 936 for Dublin residents (see Table 5.3).
- ◆ The West region residents (999) had the highest discharge rate for malignant neoplasms (cancer) while Dublin residents (656) had the lowest rate (see Table 5.3).

5.4 Health indicators by region, 2007³¹

% of sample cohort

Region	Smoker	Alcohol	Obese
Border	26.8	76.0	34.8
Midland	28.9	77.0	27.5
West	26.4	81.5	36.7
Dublin	32.6	84.2	27.1
Mid-East	26.2	81.6	30.6
Mid-West	26.6	80.0	25.4
South-East	28.5	80.9	30.5
South-West	26.0	80.9	40.0
Total	28.5	81.1	31.7

Source: Department of Health & Children, Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition (Slán)

- ◆ In 2007, 32.6% of persons aged 18 & over sampled in the Dublin region were current smokers compared with a national average of 28.5%. The South-West (26%) had the lowest percentage (see Table 5.4).
- ◆ In 2007, 81.1% of persons aged 18 & over sampled drank alcohol in the previous 12 months, this rose to 84.2% for the Dublin region, and was 76% in the Border region (see Table 5.4).
- ◆ Nearly 32% of persons aged 45 and over given a physical examination were obese in 2007. The South-West region (40%) had the highest percentage of obese persons while the Mid-West (25.4%) had the lowest percentage (see Table 5.4).

³⁰ Rates for in-patients from publicly funded acute hospitals in the State. Based on region of residence. Remainder diagnoses excluded from the table. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

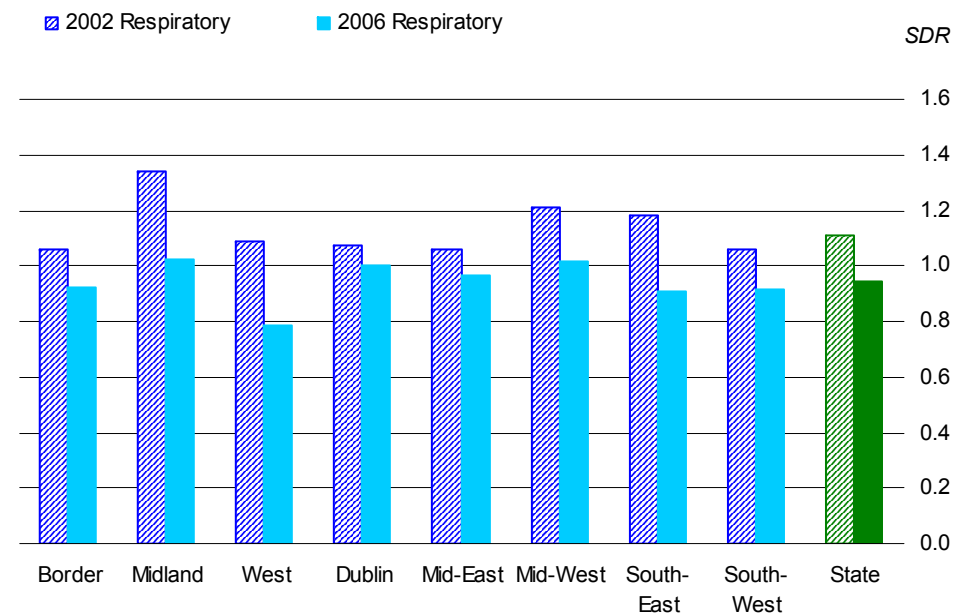
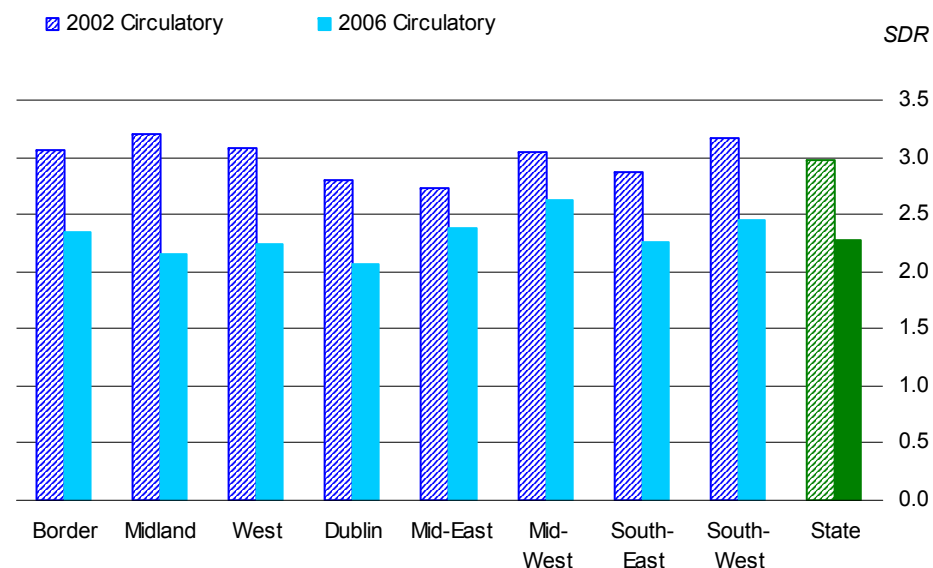
³¹ These health indicators are also related to age: smoking and alcohol use were higher in younger age groups, and overweight/obesity was higher in older groups. See Appendix 1 for background information and definitions.

5.5 Standardised death rates by cause and region, 2002 & 2006³²

Region	standardised death rate							
	Circulatory		Respiratory		Other		Total	
	2002	2006	2002	2006	2002	2006	2002	2006
Border	3.1	2.3	1.1	0.9	3.5	3.4	7.6	6.6
Midland	3.2	2.1	1.3	1.0	3.6	3.1	8.1	6.3
West	3.1	2.2	1.1	0.8	3.3	3.3	7.5	6.3
Dublin	2.8	2.1	1.1	1.0	3.6	3.3	7.5	6.4
Mid-East	2.7	2.4	1.1	1.0	3.3	3.2	7.1	6.6
Mid-West	3.0	2.6	1.2	1.0	3.6	3.5	7.8	7.1
South-East	2.9	2.3	1.2	0.9	3.5	3.4	7.6	6.5
South-West	3.2	2.4	1.1	0.9	3.4	3.3	7.7	6.7
Total	3.0	2.3	1.1	0.9	3.5	3.3	7.6	6.5

Source: CSO Vital Statistics

- ◆ In 2006, the national standardised death rate was 6.5 per 1,000 population. The lowest rates were in the Midland (6.3), West (6.3) and Dublin (6.3) regions, while the highest rate of 7.1 was in the Mid-West (see Table 5.5).
- ◆ Between 2002 and 2006 standardised death rates decreased across all regions, with the national average decreasing from 7.6 per 1,000 population to 6.5. The largest decrease was in the Midland region where the rate decreased from 8.1 per 1,000 population in 2002 to 6.3 in 2006 (see Table 5.5 and Graph).
- ◆ Between 2002 and 2006 there were large decreases in the standardised death rates (SDRs) for circulatory diseases across all regions. In the Midland region the rate decreased from 3.2 to 2.1, while the rate for the West decreased by 0.9 to 2.2 (see Table 5.5 and Graph).
- ◆ Between 2002 and 2006 there were decreases in the SDRs for respiratory diseases across all regions. The Midland, West and South-East regions had the largest decreases in the SDR for this period (see Table 5.5 and Graph).



Source: CSO Vital Statistics

³² Standardised rates take account of the age structure of the population of the particular region, and therefore the variation of such structures between regions. This therefore enables comparisons across regions. Here the rates are standardised to the State's population in each year. See Appendix 1 for further information.

5.6 Persons with a disability by age and county, 2006³³

County	% of age cohort				%	persons
	0-14	15-64	65-74	75 & over		
Border	3.6	7.8	20.4	40.9	9.6	44,850
Cavan	3.1	6.5	17.8	39.4	8.5	5,435
Donegal	3.8	8.4	21.3	42.9	10.2	14,981
Leitrim	3.2	7.7	18.7	43.4	10.1	2,916
Louth	3.5	8.1	21.5	40.2	9.4	10,414
Monaghan	3.2	6.7	19.6	42.7	8.8	4,921
Sliogo	4.3	8.3	20.5	36.0	10.2	6,183
Midland	3.7	7.5	19.9	41.3	9.1	22,838
Laoighis	4.0	7.2	20.1	39.2	8.8	5,872
Longford	3.6	7.9	18.8	40.1	9.6	3,285
Offaly	3.3	7.3	19.2	41.0	8.8	6,230
Westmeath	3.8	7.7	21.0	44.0	9.4	7,451
West	3.3	7.1	19.0	41.4	9.1	37,743
Galway City	3.7	7.0	20.6	39.2	8.3	6,000
Galway County	3.3	6.7	18.8	41.6	8.7	13,883
Mayo	3.3	7.5	18.5	41.6	9.8	12,114
Roscommon	3.1	7.2	19.1	42.0	9.8	5,746
Dublin	4.0	7.9	22.3	41.9	9.5	112,936
Dublin City	4.3	8.7	25.0	43.2	11.1	56,420
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	4.0	7.3	18.3	37.8	9.3	18,092
Fingal	3.7	6.4	19.9	43.8	7.2	17,215
South Dublin	4.0	8.0	21.0	41.7	8.6	21,209
Mid-East	3.9	7.0	20.6	42.3	8.1	38,638
Kildare	3.9	7.1	22.4	45.2	8.0	14,986
Meath	3.6	6.3	19.1	40.1	7.4	12,076
Wicklow	4.4	7.8	20.2	41.8	9.2	11,576
Mid-West	4.1	7.8	20.3	40.8	9.5	34,456
Clare	3.9	7.1	18.7	41.2	8.9	9,923
Limerick City	5.5	11.2	28.6	44.4	13.2	6,921
Limerick County	3.7	7.1	18.5	39.3	8.6	11,305
North Tipperary	4.0	7.6	19.1	40.2	9.6	6,307
South-East	4.0	8.0	20.5	40.6	9.6	44,376
Carlow	4.1	8.0	19.8	41.2	9.4	4,739
Kilkenny	3.9	7.4	18.8	40.1	9.1	7,941
South Tipperary	4.3	8.5	22.1	42.4	10.6	8,791
Waterford City	3.6	8.4	24.2	43.6	10.4	4,752
Waterford County	3.3	7.3	18.0	37.9	8.8	5,472
Wexford	4.2	8.1	20.7	39.6	9.6	12,681
South-West	3.8	7.7	18.8	39.6	9.3	57,948
Cork City	4.5	10.6	24.2	40.9	12.5	14,985
Cork County	3.7	6.8	17.2	39.7	8.2	29,777
Kerry	3.9	7.5	17.0	38.5	9.4	13,186
Total	3.8	7.6	20.5	41.1	9.3	393,785

Source: CSO Census of Population

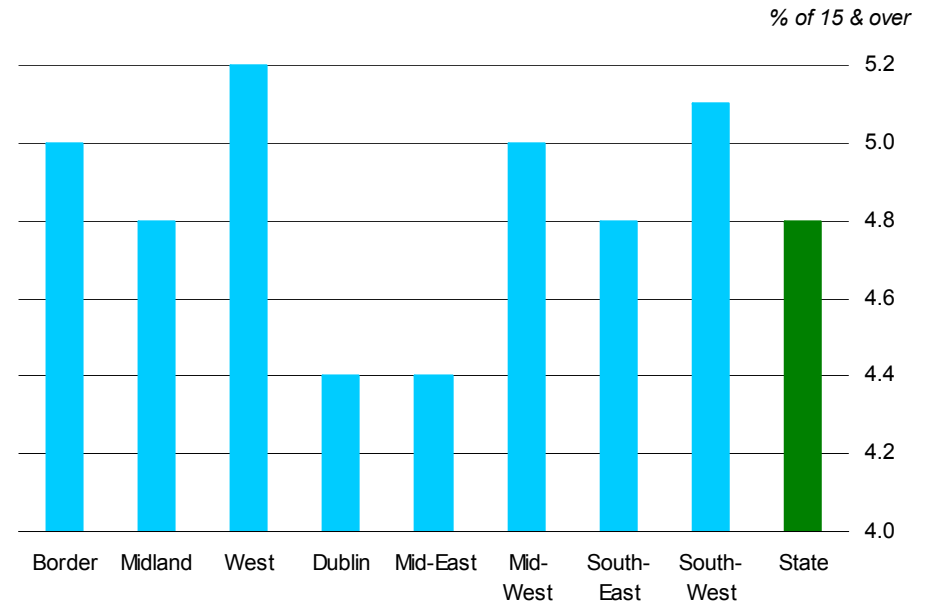
- ◆ In the 2006 Census, 9.3% of all persons reported that they had a disability. The Border and South-East regions had the highest disability rates of 9.6%. The Mid-East had the lowest at 8.1% reflecting that it had the lowest proportion of its population in the 65 & over age group (see Tables 5.6 and 1.4).
- ◆ In 2006, Limerick City (13.2%), Cork City (12.5%), Dublin City (11.1%), South Tipperary (10.6%) and Waterford City (10.4%) had the highest percentages of persons reporting a disability (see Table 5.6).
- ◆ Fingal and Meath had the lowest percentage of persons reporting a disability, 7.2% and 7.4% respectively, reflecting the younger age profile of the population (see Table 5.6).
- ◆ In 2006, Limerick City (28.6%) and Dublin City (25%) had the highest disability rates at county level for persons aged 65-74, compared with a national average of 20.5%. Limerick City (11.2%) and Cork City (10.6%) had the highest disability rates among the population aged 15-64 (see Table 5.6).

5.7 Carers by hours of unpaid work and county, 2006³⁴

County	% of row			carers	% of 15 & over
	Hours per week				
	1-14	15-42	43 or more	Persons	Carers
Border	55.7	17.3	27.0	18,449	5.0
Cavan	55.5	16.8	27.7	2,553	5.1
Donegal	51.9	18.0	30.1	5,698	5.0
Leitrim	59.5	15.3	25.2	1,205	5.2
Louth	56.8	17.1	26.0	4,226	4.9
Monaghan	59.3	17.9	22.9	2,283	5.2
Sligo	57.4	16.9	25.6	2,484	5.1
Midland	56.5	16.2	27.3	9,406	4.8
Laois	55.3	16.2	28.4	2,472	4.8
Longford	55.9	14.8	29.3	1,381	5.1
Offaly	55.7	17.1	27.2	2,691	4.9
Westmeath	58.5	16.0	25.5	2,862	4.6
West	56.6	16.9	26.4	17,259	5.2
Galway City	62.6	15.0	22.5	2,409	3.9
Galway County	55.7	17.7	26.5	6,843	5.5
Mayo	55.4	17.0	27.6	5,440	5.5
Roscommon	56.2	16.4	27.4	2,567	5.5
Dublin	59.8	16.6	23.5	42,243	4.4
Dublin City	56.2	18.1	25.7	18,356	4.3
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	66.5	14.0	19.6	7,544	4.8
Finjal	62.5	16.2	21.3	7,997	4.3
South Dublin	59.3	16.2	24.5	8,346	4.3
Mid-East	59.1	15.9	25.0	16,300	4.4
Kildare	57.6	15.8	26.6	5,961	4.2
Meath	60.2	16.2	23.7	5,721	4.6
Wicklow	59.8	15.8	24.5	4,618	4.7
Mid-West	58.7	16.0	25.3	14,400	5.0
Clare	60.0	16.3	23.7	4,507	5.2
Limerick City	52.3	16.2	31.5	2,074	4.8
Limerick County	60.2	16.0	23.9	5,114	4.9
North Tipperary	58.7	15.3	26.0	2,705	5.2
South-East	56.3	16.8	26.8	17,330	4.8
Carlow	55.6	17.2	27.3	1,677	4.2
Kilkenny	58.4	15.8	25.8	3,434	5.0
South Tipperary	55.7	16.3	27.9	3,263	5.0
Waterford City	57.6	17.6	24.8	1,640	4.4
Waterford County	60.9	16.7	22.4	2,491	5.1
Wexford	52.7	17.6	29.6	4,825	4.7
South-West	58.3	16.5	25.3	25,530	5.1
Cork City	57.0	16.9	26.1	4,855	4.8
Cork County	59.8	15.9	24.2	14,783	5.2
Kerry	55.4	17.4	27.1	5,892	5.2
Total	58.0	16.6	25.4	160,917	4.8

Source: CSO Census of Population

Carers by region, 2006



Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, 4.8% of persons aged 15 & over were carers. The West region had the highest percentage of carers at 5.2%, while the Dublin (4.4%) and Mid-East (4.4%) regions had the lowest (see Table 5.7 and Graph).
- ◆ Across the regions, between 56% and 60% of carers did 1-14 hours of unpaid work per week in 2006. Between 23.5% (Dublin) and 27.3% (Midland) of carers did 43 hours or more of unpaid work per week (see Table 5.7).
- ◆ Mayo (5.5%), Galway County (5.5%) and Roscommon (5.5%) had the highest percentages of carers, while Galway City (3.9%) had the lowest (see Table 5.7).

³⁴ Carers aged 15 & over.

5.8 Type of medical cover by region, 2001³⁵

Region	% of row			
	Medical card only	Private health insurance only	Both	Neither
Border	34.7	33.0	1.5	30.6
Midland	29.2	38.2	1.3	31.2
West	36.6	37.7	2.1	23.6
Dublin	18.5	51.3	2.1	28.0
Mid-East	21.5	48.9	1.4	28.2
Mid-West	25.3	54.9	3.1	16.7
South-East	29.2	44.8	1.7	24.4
South-West	27.1	48.9	3.1	21.0
Total	25.9	46.3	2.1	25.6

Source: CSO QNHS Health Module

- ◆ In 2001, 36.6% of persons aged 18 & over in the West region had the medical card as their only type of medical cover, compared with 18.5% in Dublin (see Table 5.8).
- ◆ Over 50% of persons aged 18 & over in the Mid-West (54.9%) and Dublin (51.3%) regions had private health insurance only, compared with 33% in the Border region (see Table 5.8).
- ◆ Over 30% of persons aged 18 & over in the Midland (31.2%) and Border (30.6%) regions had no medical cover. The Mid-West (16.7%) region had the smallest percentage of persons aged 18 & over with no medical cover (see Table 5.8).

5.9 Perception of health status by region, 2006³⁶

Region	% of row				Average age
	Very good	Good	Fair	Bad/very bad	
Border	48.4	34.1	13.4	4.2	35.5
Midland	35.7	47.8	11.5	5.1	33.6
West	37.3	41.2	17.4	4.1	37.2
Dublin	51.6	32.9	12.7	2.8	34.4
Mid-East	56.3	30.8	10.5	2.4	33.4
Mid-West	43.0	38.4	16.0	2.6	36.5
South-East	35.5	45.1	16.7	2.8	34.9
South-West	48.9	34.5	13.6	3.0	35.9
Total	46.7	36.4	13.7	3.2	35.1

Source: CSO EU SILC

- ◆ In 2006, 56.3% of persons in the Mid-East region and 51.6% of persons aged 15 & over in the Dublin region perceived their health to be “very good” compared with a national average of 46.7%. The Midland (35.7%) and South-East (35.5%) regions had the lowest proportions of persons who perceived their health to be “very good” (see Table 5.9).
- ◆ The Midland region had the highest proportion of persons who perceived their health to be “bad/very bad” at 5.1%, while the Mid-East region had the lowest proportion (2.4%) (see Table 5.9).

Education

6.1 Full-time education status by region, 2006³⁷

Region	% of 15-24	15-24 (000)
	In full-time education	Persons
Border	56.4	66.4
Midland	54.3	35.9
West	61.7	61.8
Dublin	57.4	192.1
Mid-East	55.7	67.6
Mid-West	59.4	54.4
South-East	54.9	64.5
South-West	60.2	90.1
Total	57.7	632.7

Source: CSO Census of Population

6.2 Highest level of education completed by region, 2006³⁸

Region	% of cohort					Persons 000
	Primary or no formal	Secondary		3rd level	Not stated	
		Lower	Upper			
Border	24.1	22.9	25.7	23.4	4.0	314.9
Midland	19.9	22.3	29.7	22.7	5.4	167.7
West	20.4	19.3	28.9	27.5	3.8	278.2
Dublin	15.8	16.4	26.4	35.9	5.5	799.0
Mid-East	14.7	20.1	30.3	30.8	4.1	312.9
Mid-West	17.7	21.3	30.1	26.5	4.4	242.3
South-East	19.5	24.2	29.4	23.0	3.8	313.6
South-West	17.1	21.0	28.8	28.6	4.5	421.7
Total	18.0	20.1	28.2	29.1	4.6	2,850.3

Source: CSO Census of Population

6.3 Age at which full-time education ceased by region, 2006³⁸

Region	% of region						Persons 000
	Under 15	15-17	18-20	21-24	25 & over	Not stated	
Border	15.9	32.8	23.0	11.4	3.8	13.1	314.9
Midland	11.7	30.8	25.6	11.4	3.5	17.0	167.7
West	12.6	26.7	27.0	14.7	5.3	13.7	278.2
Dublin	10.4	25.6	22.5	18.5	7.1	15.9	799.0
Mid-East	8.9	29.8	26.7	15.1	5.0	14.6	312.9
Mid-West	10.3	29.4	27.1	13.6	4.5	15.0	242.3
South-East	12.2	34.3	25.7	11.5	3.7	12.6	313.6
South-West	10.3	28.6	26.2	15.0	5.1	14.9	421.7
Total	11.3	29.0	24.9	14.9	5.2	14.7	2,850.3

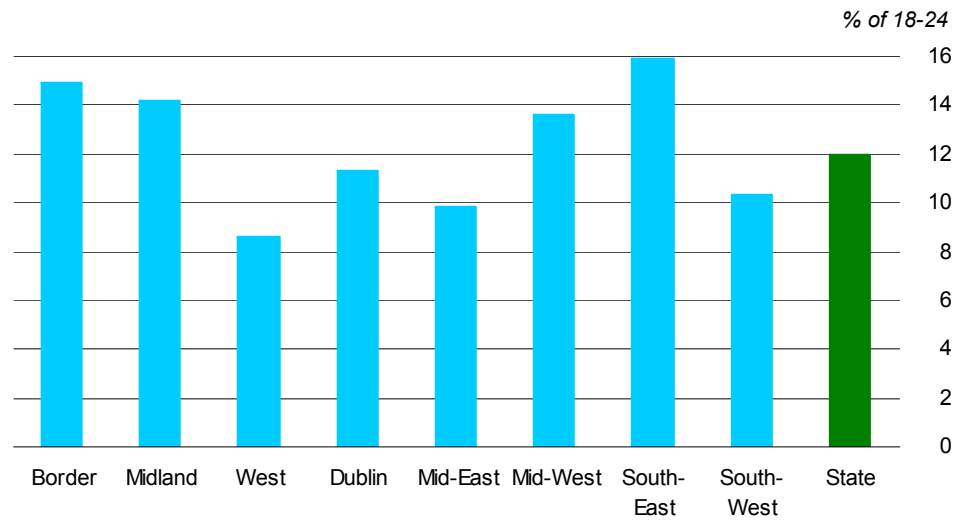
Source: CSO Census of Population

- ◆ In 2006, over 60% of persons aged 15-24 in the West (61.7%) and South-West (60.2%) regions were still in full-time education. The Midland (54.3%) and South-East (54.9%) regions had the lowest proportions (see Table 6.1).
- ◆ In 2006, of the persons whose full-time education had ceased, 24.1% in the Border region had only primary or no formal education compared with 14.7% in the Mid-East region (see Table 6.2).
- ◆ The Dublin (35.9%) and Mid-East (30.8%) regions had the highest proportion of persons with a 3rd level qualification, while the Midland (22.7%), South-East (23%) and Border (23.4%) regions had the lowest percentages (see Table 6.2).
- ◆ Nationally, 29% of persons finished their full-time education at 15-17 years of age. The South-East (34.3%) region had the highest proportion of persons in this category, while the Dublin region (25.6%) had the lowest (see Table 6.3).

³⁷ Persons aged 15 to 24.

³⁸ Persons aged 15 & over, whose full-time education has ceased.

6.4 Early school leavers³⁹ by region, 2005



Source: CSO QNHS Education Attainment and Qualifications Module

- ◆ In 2005, the South-East region had the highest percentage of early school leavers at 15.9%, followed by the Border (15%). The West (8.6%) and Mid-East (9.8%) regions had the lowest percentages of early school leavers compared with a national average of 11.9% (see Graph 6.4).

6.5 Primary schools, pupils and teachers by county, 2006

County	Schools	persons		ratio	pupils
		Pupils	Teachers ⁴⁰	Pupil/school	Average class size
Border	497	55,674	2,356	112.0	23.6
Cavan	78	8,040	335	103.1	24.0
Donegal	176	17,684	767	100.5	23.1
Leitrim	41	3,147	144	76.8	21.9
Louth	70	13,866	546	198.1	25.4
Monaghan	63	6,365	274	101.0	23.2
Sligo	69	6,572	290	95.2	22.7
Midland	247	29,984	1,244	121.4	24.1
Laoighis	65	7,577	306	116.6	24.8
Longford	40	3,859	177	96.5	21.8
Offaly	68	8,995	366	132.3	24.6
Westmeath	74	9,553	395	129.1	24.2
West	502	43,838	2,026	87.3	21.6
Galway City	22	5,981	261	271.9	22.9
Galway County	211	18,052	828	85.6	21.8
Mayo	176	13,377	628	76.0	21.3
Roscommon	93	6,428	309	69.1	20.8
Dublin	422	109,757	4,491	260.1	24.4
Dublin City	192	40,891	1,798	213.0	22.7
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	59	15,678	613	265.7	25.6
Fingal	81	25,925	970	320.1	26.7
South Dublin	90	27,263	1,110	302.9	24.6
Mid-East	289	57,071	2,204	197.5	25.9
Kildare	97	23,221	875	239.4	26.5
Meath	109	19,707	764	180.8	25.8
Wicklow	83	14,143	565	170.4	25.0
Mid-West	333	39,662	1,685	119.1	23.5
Clare	117	12,113	518	103.5	23.4
Limerick City	30	6,329	280	211.0	22.6
Limerick County	112	13,654	564	121.9	24.2
North Tipperary	74	7,566	323	102.2	23.4
South-East	379	52,957	2,136	139.7	24.8
Carlow	40	5,836	229	145.9	25.5
Kilkenny	76	9,576	383	126.0	25.0
South Tipperary	87	9,435	400	108.4	23.6
Waterford City	19	5,606	221	295.1	25.4
Waterford County	54	6,886	278	127.5	24.8
Wexford	103	15,618	625	151.6	25.0
South-West	491	66,512	2,767	135.5	24.0
Cork City	53	13,655	598	257.6	22.8
Cork County	298	38,108	1,536	127.9	24.8
Kerry	140	14,749	633	105.4	23.3
Total	3,160	455,455	18,909	144.1	24.1

Source: Department of Education & Science

- ◆ In 2006, there were 3,160 primary schools nation-wide, ranging from 502 in the West region to 247 in the Midland region (see Table 6.5).
- ◆ The average number of primary pupils per school was 144.1 in 2006. The West region (87.3) had the smallest schools on average while the Dublin region (260.1) had the largest (see Table 6.5).
- ◆ Six counties had a pupil to school ratio of less than 100 – Roscommon (69.1), Mayo (76), Leitrim (76.8), Galway County (85.6), Sligo (95.2) and Longford (96.5). Two counties had a ratio above 300 – Fingal (320.1) and South Dublin (302.9) (see Table 6.5 and Map).
- ◆ In 2006, the West region had the smallest primary school average class size of 21.6 while the Mid-East (25.9) had the largest. The national average was 24.1 (see Table 6.5).
- ◆ At county level, Fingal (26.7) and Kildare (26.5) had the largest primary school average class sizes in 2006. Roscommon had the smallest average class size at 20.8 (see Table 6.5).

⁴⁰ Teaching teachers.

MAP 9 (portrait style, full page)

Primary level education pupil/school ratio, 2006

6.6 Secondary schools and pupils by county, 2006

County	Schools	number		ratio
		Pupils	Pupil/school	
Border	90	39,680	440.9	
Cavan	11	5,020	456.4	
Donegal	26	11,849	455.7	
Leitrim	9	2,388	265.3	
Louth	17	10,148	596.9	
Monaghan	12	5,395	449.6	
Sligo	15	4,880	325.3	
Midland	47	20,514	436.5	
Laoighis	11	4,207	382.5	
Longford	9	3,388	376.4	
Offaly	12	5,122	426.8	
Westmeath	15	7,797	519.8	
West	82	31,501	384.2	
Galway City	10	5,228	522.8	
Galway County	36	12,725	353.5	
Mayo	28	10,581	377.9	
Roscommon	8	2,967	370.9	
Dublin	185	90,162	487.4	
Dublin City	82	36,083	440.0	
Fingal	27	16,694	618.3	
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	36	17,143	476.2	
South Dublin	40	20,242	506.1	
Mid-East	67	32,546	485.8	
Kildare	28	13,254	473.4	
Meath	18	9,553	530.7	
Wicklow	21	9,739	463.8	
Mid-West	68	28,660	421.5	
Clare	18	7,267	403.7	
Limerick City	14	6,782	484.4	
Limerick County	20	8,027	401.4	
North Tipperary	16	6,584	411.5	
South-East	79	38,305	484.9	
Carlow	11	5,486	498.7	
Kilkenny	15	7,042	469.5	
South Tipperary	15	6,385	425.7	
Waterford City	9	4,890	543.3	
Waterford County	9	3,739	415.4	
Wexford	20	10,763	538.2	
South-West	117	51,039	436.2	
Cork City	29	15,451	532.8	
Cork County	61	25,306	414.9	
Kerry	27	10,282	380.8	
Total	735	332,407	452.3	

Source: Department of Education & Science

- ◆ In 2006, the overall pupil to secondary school ratio was 452.3. The Dublin (487.4), Mid-East (485.8) and South-East (484.9) regions had the largest pupil to secondary school ratio. The Mid-West (421.5) and South-West (436.2) regions had the smallest ratios (see Table 6.6).
- ◆ At county level, Fingal (618.3) and Louth (596.9) had on average the largest pupil to secondary school ratios while Leitrim (265.3) and Sligo (325.3) had on average the smallest (see Table 6.6).

6.7 Leaving Certificate candidates by county, 2003-2007⁴¹

County	candidates				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Border	6,780	6,778	6,700	6,279	6,308
Cavan	760	769	724	693	711
Donegal	2,157	2,178	2,181	1,909	2,040
Leitrim	546	463	517	464	452
Louth	1,624	1,623	1,642	1,555	1,535
Monaghan	830	808	829	796	775
Sligo	863	937	807	862	795
Midland	3,887	3,664	3,722	3,481	3,408
Laoighis	809	777	783	783	765
Longford	676	598	664	572	587
Offaly	910	873	885	799	791
Westmeath	1,492	1,416	1,390	1,327	1,265
West	6,049	5,768	5,857	5,273	5,140
Galway	3,446	3,289	3,346	3,054	3,011
Mayo	1,998	1,937	1,921	1,752	1,640
Roscommon	605	542	590	467	489
Dublin	14,038	14,217	13,546	13,347	13,074
Mid-East	5,318	5,018	5,179	4,843	4,858
Kildare	2,316	2,195	2,225	2,085	1,984
Meath	1,686	1,618	1,591	1,455	1,580
Wicklow	1,316	1,205	1,363	1,303	1,294
Mid-West	5,282	5,029	5,019	4,510	4,656
Clare	1,434	1,372	1,343	1,193	1,335
Limerick	2,739	2,527	2,646	2,387	2,436
North Tipperary	1,109	1,130	1,030	930	885
South-East	6,335	6,206	5,914	5,624	5,774
Carlow	827	775	803	709	751
Kilkenny	973	1,002	935	933	968
South Tipperary	1,223	1,169	1,144	1,021	1,011
Waterford	1,494	1,565	1,342	1,417	1,470
Wexford	1,818	1,695	1,690	1,544	1,574
South-West	8,499	8,489	8,084	7,544	7,594
Cork	6,258	6,386	6,133	5,710	5,760
Kerry	2,241	2,103	1,951	1,834	1,834
Total	56,188	55,169	54,021	50,901	50,812

Source: State Examinations Commission

- ◆ Just over 50,000 candidates took the Leaving Certificate exam in Ireland in 2007 (see Table 6.7).
- ◆ Dublin accounted for 25.7% of all candidates in 2007 compared to 25.0% in 2003 (see Table 6.7).

6.8 Leaving Certificate higher level grades by county, 2007⁴²

County	% of row					number
	Grade					
	A	B	C	D	E or less	Grades
Border	9.9	28.8	34.4	22.5	4.3	21,810
Cavan	8.6	27.9	36.5	23.3	3.7	2,601
Donegal	9.4	27.6	34.2	23.7	5.0	6,839
Leitrim	7.6	28.2	36.2	23.1	5.0	1,829
Louth	9.6	29.4	34.9	22.5	3.6	4,597
Monaghan	12.4	30.1	33.5	20.8	3.1	2,988
Sligo	11.7	30.8	31.9	20.4	5.2	2,956
Midland	10.1	28.0	35.3	22.5	4.2	12,110
Laoighis	9.8	26.9	35.9	23.5	4.0	2,460
Longford	9.4	29.3	37.4	20.8	3.2	2,048
Offaly	9.8	28.3	35.1	22.7	4.1	2,732
Westmeath	10.6	27.8	34.2	22.6	4.7	4,870
West	13.2	30.3	32.8	19.6	4.1	20,286
Galway	14.3	31.2	32.1	18.4	4.0	12,162
Mayo	11.6	28.6	33.9	22.0	4.0	6,251
Roscommon	11.0	30.1	33.8	20.0	5.0	1,873
Dublin	16.7	21.5	30.1	22.8	8.8	17,211
Mid-East	10.8	30.0	35.0	20.3	3.9	17,347
Kildare	11.2	31.4	35.3	18.6	3.6	7,190
Meath	10.0	28.1	35.4	21.7	4.7	5,703
Wicklow	11.2	30.3	33.9	21.3	3.4	4,454
Mid-West	13.1	31.8	33.7	18.5	3.0	17,999
Clare	11.5	30.8	35.0	19.5	3.2	5,179
Limerick	14.9	31.6	32.9	17.7	2.9	9,327
North Tipperary	10.7	33.7	33.9	18.9	2.7	3,493
South-East	12.3	30.2	34.1	19.9	3.6	20,289
Carlow	11.8	31.0	33.8	19.8	3.6	2,528
Kilkenny	13.3	32.3	34.8	17.4	2.1	3,682
South Tipperary	11.8	31.1	35.1	18.6	3.3	3,656
Waterford	13.3	29.3	31.9	21.5	4.0	5,066
Wexford	11.2	28.7	34.9	20.9	4.3	5,357
South-West	16.1	33.2	31.3	16.6	2.9	31,082
Cork	16.7	33.5	30.9	16.2	2.8	23,502
Kerry	14.2	32.1	32.8	17.8	3.2	7,580
Total	13.1	29.7	33.1	20.0	4.2	158,134

Source: State Examinations Commission

- ◆ In 2007, the Dublin (16.7%) and South-West (16.1%) regions had the highest proportions of Leaving Certificate higher level A grades compared with a national average of 13.1%. The Border (9.9%) and Midland (10.1%) regions had the lowest proportions (see Table 6.8).
- ◆ The South-West region (33.2%) had the highest proportion of B grades while Dublin had the lowest (21.5%). There was more uniformity between regions for grades C and D (see Table 6.8).
- ◆ The Dublin region (8.8%) was over double the national average rate of 4.2% for grades E or less (see Table 6.8).
- ◆ At county level, Cork (16.7%) had the highest proportion of A grades followed by Limerick (14.9%), Galway (14.3%) and Kerry (14.2%). Cavan (8.6%) and Leitrim (7.6%) had the lowest proportions (see Table 6.8).
- ◆ North Tipperary (33.7%) and Cork (33.5%) had the highest proportions of B grades compared with a national average of 29.7% (see Table 6.8).

⁴² See Appendix 1 for definitions.

6.9 Third level students by type of college and county, 2005/2006⁴³

County	% of row			number Students
	Higher Education Authority	Institutes of Technology	Other ⁴⁴	
Border	40.2	54.4	5.4	14,114
Cavan	44.1	50.6	5.2	1,957
Donegal	38.4	57.4	4.3	3,843
Leitrim	40.5	53.1	6.4	1,100
Louth	38.2	56.8	5.0	3,176
Monaghan	41.6	53.6	4.8	1,592
Sligo	41.7	50.6	7.7	2,446
Midland	47.5	47.1	5.5	7,802
Laoighis	51.5	42.1	6.4	1,836
Longford	47.9	46.9	5.2	1,257
Offaly	47.5	47.0	5.4	1,952
Westmeath	44.5	50.4	5.0	2,757
West	55.3	40.4	4.3	16,699
Galway	61.4	34.9	3.7	9,250
Mayo	47.8	47.0	5.2	5,149
Roscommon	48.0	47.4	4.6	2,300
Dublin	60.7	30.2	9.1	30,859
Mid-East	55.3	37.7	7.0	13,019
Kildare	58.5	34.2	7.3	5,300
Meath	52.0	41.8	6.1	4,458
Wicklow	54.6	37.7	7.7	3,261
Mid-West	62.1	34.4	3.5	12,835
Clare	63.3	33.6	3.1	4,142
Limerick	64.1	32.6	3.3	6,413
North Tipperary	53.9	41.1	4.9	2,280
South-East	46.6	48.4	5.0	14,197
Carlow	39.7	50.9	9.4	1,761
Kilkenny	49.0	45.2	5.8	2,759
South Tipperary	53.9	41.1	5.0	2,872
Waterford	44.1	53.1	2.8	3,252
Wexford	44.6	51.2	4.2	3,553
South-West	61.3	35.7	3.0	21,972
Cork	64.5	32.5	3.0	16,484
Kerry	51.6	45.4	3.0	5,488
Total⁴⁵	55.2	39.1	5.7	131,497

Source: Department of Education & Science

- ◆ In 2005/2006, 55.2% of third level students nationally were in Higher Education Authority (HEA) colleges, while 39.1% were in Institutes of Technology (ITs). Around 62% of students from the Mid-West went to HEA colleges and 34.4% went to ITs. On the other hand, a majority of students went to ITs in the Border region (54.4%) with just over 40% going to HEA colleges (see Table 6.9).
- ◆ At county level, the highest percentage of third level students attending HEA colleges were from Cork (64.5%), Limerick (64.1%), Clare (63.3%) and Galway (61.4%) (see Table 6.9).
- ◆ The highest percentage of students attending ITs were from Donegal (57.4%). The highest percentage of students attending other colleges were from Carlow (9.4%) (see Table 6.9).

⁴³ Domiciliary origin of students, i.e. county where students come from. Full-time courses. North and South Tipperary have been estimated from Tipperary. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

⁴⁴ "Other" includes teacher training, other aided by Departments and non-aided.

⁴⁵ Total excludes "unspecified" and students from Northern Ireland.

Economy

7.1 Household disposable income by county, 2000 & 2005⁴⁶

County	State = 100		%
	2000	2005	
Border	87.4	90.6	49.5
Cavan	85.9	89.5	50.4
Donegal	79.5	82.1	48.8
Leitrim	85.3	90.9	53.6
Louth	99.4	98.8	43.4
Monaghan	86.5	92.8	54.8
Sligo	89.5	95.7	54.2
Midland	88.7	91.8	49.3
Laois	87.0	89.8	48.8
Longford	87.1	93.3	54.5
Offaly	85.4	90.7	53.3
Westmeath	94.0	94.0	44.3
West	92.6	92.9	44.7
Galway	96.3	96.0	43.8
Mayo	88.2	88.7	45.0
Roscommon	87.8	89.5	46.9
Dublin	116.5	113.0	39.9
Mid-East	100.6	101.3	45.3
Kildare	107.0	105.1	41.6
Meath	96.2	97.8	46.6
Wicklow	96.7	100.1	49.4
Mid-West	97.4	97.9	45.0
Clare	96.1	92.8	39.4
Limerick	100.3	101.6	46.1
North Tipperary	91.5	96.3	51.9
South-East	90.1	91.9	47.3
Carlow	90.2	87.9	40.7
Kilkenny	86.5	89.4	49.1
South Tipperary	87.3	94.1	55.4
Waterford	97.0	97.2	44.5
Wexford	88.3	89.5	46.1
South-West	94.6	96.4	47.0
Cork	97.6	99.4	46.9
Kerry	84.6	86.1	46.8
Total	100.0	100.0	44.3
Total (€)	13,977	20,164	

Source: CSO Regional Accounts

Household disposable income by region, 2005/2000^{46, 47}



Source: CSO Regional Accounts

- ◆ In 2005, household disposable income per person in the Dublin region was 13% above the national average of €20,164, while the Border region was 9.4% below. The Mid-East (101.3%) was the only other region that was above the national average (see Table 7.1).
- ◆ Per capita disposable income was lowest in Donegal at 82.1% of the national average (see Table 7.1 and Map).
- ◆ Household disposable incomes per person increased by 49.5% in the Border region and 49.3% in the Midland region between 2000 and 2005 compared with an overall increase of 44.3%. The Dublin region had the smallest percentage increase of 39.9% (see Table 7.1 and Graph).
- ◆ Between 2000 and 2005, eight counties had over 50% increases in per capita disposable income, the highest being in south Tipperary at 55.4%. Clare had the lowest percentage increase of 39.4% (see Table 7.1).

⁴⁶ Household disposable income per person. County estimates should be interpreted with caution – see Appendix 1.

⁴⁷ Percentage change based on actual household disposable income figures (not indices).

MAP 10 (portrait style, full page)

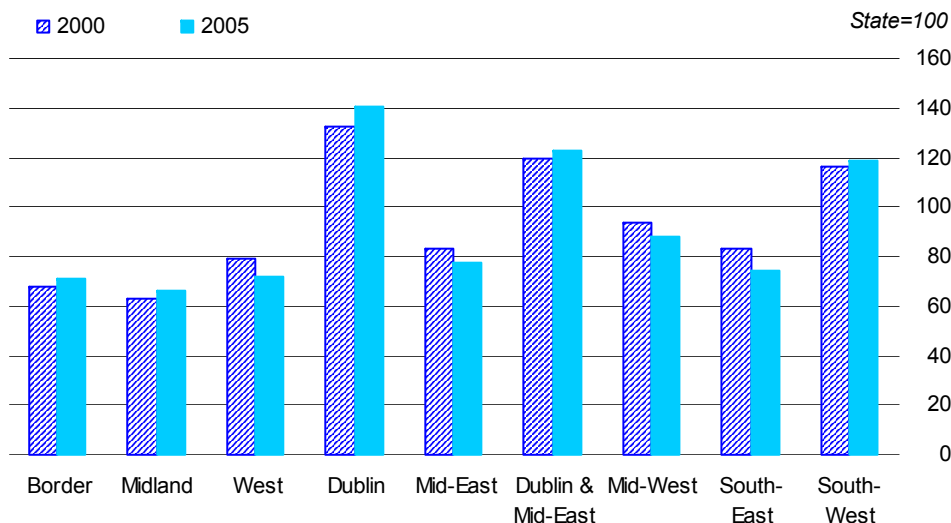
Household disposable income, 2005 (State = 100)

7.2 Gross Value Added by region, 2000 & 2005⁴⁸

Region	€ per person		%	State = 100	
	2000	2005	2005/2000	2000	2005
Border	16,537	24,403	47.6	67.5	70.8
Midland	15,441	22,914	48.4	63.0	66.5
West	19,480	24,818	27.4	79.5	72.0
Dublin	32,412	48,580	49.9	132.3	140.9
Mid-East	20,425	26,822	31.3	83.4	77.8
Dublin plus Mid-East	29,275	42,435	45.0	119.5	123.1
Mid-West	22,913	30,423	32.8	93.5	88.3
South-East	20,328	25,504	25.5	83.0	74.0
South-West	28,460	40,835	43.5	116.2	118.5
Total	24,494	34,468	40.7	100.0	100.0

Source: CSO Regional Accounts

Gross Value Added, 2000 & 2005



Source: CSO Regional Accounts

- ◆ The Dublin region had the highest Gross Value Added (GVA)⁴⁸ per person in 2005, €48,580, compared with the lowest of €22,914 in the Midland region. The national average was €34,468. GVA per person in Dublin is somewhat exaggerated compared with the other regions due to a high level of people commuting to work into the county from adjoining counties. For this reason it is more realistic to combine the Dublin and Mid-East regions. The combined GVA per person was €42,435, which was 23.1% higher than the national average (see Table 7.2).
- ◆ Between 2000 and 2005, GVA per person increased in all regions with the highest increases in the Dublin (49.9%) and Midland regions (48.4%). The lowest increases were in the South-East (25.5%) and West (27.4%) regions (see Table 7.2).
- ◆ The per capita GVA generated in the South-East fell from 83% to 74% of the State GVA average. The West region also fell from 79.5% in 2000 to 72% in 2005 (see Table 7.2).

⁴⁸ Gross Value Added (GVA) per person at basic prices. Gross Value Added (GVA) differs from household income principally in that company profits are included in GVA whereas they are not included in household income. Company profits are substantial and may be remitted abroad and not distributed to households in a region. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

7.3 Gross Value Added by sector and region, 2005⁴⁹

Region	% of column			
	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	Manufacturing, building & construction	Market & non-market services	Total GVA
Border	18.0	8.0	7.4	7.8
Midland	7.1	3.5	4.0	3.9
West	12.4	6.9	7.0	7.1
Dublin	3.3	27.1	47.9	39.6
Mid-East	9.5	10.9	7.2	8.6
Mid-West	11.5	8.7	6.8	7.5
South-East	17.2	8.8	7.3	8.0
South-West	21.0	26.2	12.4	17.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: CSO Regional Accounts

- ◆ In 2005, 39.6% of GVA was produced in the Dublin region, the South-West was the next highest at 17.5%. The Midland region had the lowest percentage contribution at 3.9% (see Table 7.3).
- ◆ The Border (18%) and South-East (17.2%) regions accounted for 35.2% of GVA in agriculture, forestry and fishing but only 15.8% of total GVA. Nearly 48% of the GVA in the market & non-market services sector was accounted for by the Dublin region (see Table 7.3).
- ◆ Agriculture, forestry and fishing was relatively more important in terms of GVA in all regions except Dublin (3.3% and 27.1%) and the Mid-East (9.5% and 10.9%) (see Table 7.3).
- ◆ Manufacturing, building & construction had the highest percentage GVA shares in the Dublin and South-West regions in 2005 at 27.1% and 26.2% respectively (see Table 7.3).

7.4 Employment by broad economic sector and region, 2007⁵⁰

Region	% of row			Persons 000
	Agriculture	Industry	Services	
Border	7.7	29.6	62.6	217.4
Midland	8.1	34.0	57.9	121.2
West	8.8	29.8	61.4	201.8
Dublin	0.5	19.8	79.7	614.7
Mid-East	4.9	27.4	67.7	241.1
Mid-West	7.4	31.9	60.7	173.5
South-East	9.5	33.0	57.4	221.2
South-West	7.1	29.4	63.5	304.4
Total	5.5	27.3	67.2	2,095.4

Source: CSO QNHS

- ◆ In 2007, 67.2% of persons were employed in the Services sector with the figure for the Dublin region rising to 79.7% (see Table 7.4).
- ◆ The Midlands (34%), South-East (33%) and the Mid-West (31.9%) had the highest percentages of persons employed in Industry (see Table 7.4).
- ◆ The South-East (9.5%) had the highest percentage of persons employed in Agriculture followed by the West (8.8%) (see Table 7.4).

⁴⁹ Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

⁵⁰ Persons aged 15 & over. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

7.5 Employment and unemployment rates by sex and region, 2002 & 2007⁵¹

% aged 15 & over				
Region	Employment		Unemployment	
	2002	2007	2002	2007
All persons				
Border	51.8	57.9	6.7	5.3
Midland	55.9	59.9	3.9	4.4
West	55.7	58.9	4.8	4.6
Dublin	60.1	62.3	3.6	4.3
Mid-East	61.4	64.5	3.3	4.1
Mid-West	56.4	59.7	3.6	5.8
South-East	56.0	58.8	4.7	5.1
South-West	54.5	59.5	4.0	3.5
Total	57.1	60.6	4.2	4.5
Males				
Border	62.8	67.0	7.0	5.7
Midland	67.3	71.1	3.6	4.1
West	66.9	69.0	4.8	4.1
Dublin	69.1	69.8	4.4	5.2
Mid-East	73.2	74.4	3.2	4.0
Mid-West	67.4	69.2	4.3	5.6
South-East	66.7	68.5	4.7	5.0
South-West	65.4	68.6	4.4	3.6
Total	67.5	69.6	4.5	4.7
Females				
Border	40.8	48.6	6.2	4.9
Midland	44.2	48.5	4.4	4.8
West	44.6	49.0	4.8	5.2
Dublin	52.0	55.2	2.7	3.3
Mid-East	49.8	54.6	3.5	4.1
Mid-West	45.6	50.1	2.6	5.9
South-East	45.2	49.0	4.6	5.2
South-West	43.8	50.6	3.6	3.3
Total	47.0	51.7	3.7	4.2

Source: CSO QNHS

- ◆ In 2007, the Mid-East (64.5%) and Dublin (62.3%) regions had the highest employment rates while the Border had the lowest (57.9%). However, between 2002 and 2007, the employment rate rose by 6.1 percentage points in the Border region, while the lowest increase was in Dublin (2.2) (see Table 7.5).
- ◆ The Midland region had the second highest employment rate for men (71.1%) but the lowest rate for women (48.5%) (see Table 7.5).
- ◆ In 2007, the highest unemployment rate was in the Mid-West region at 5.8%, while the lowest was in the South-West at 3.5%. The highest unemployment rate for males was in the Border (5.7%) region and for females in the Mid-West (5.9%) (see Table 7.5).

⁵¹ ILO employment and unemployment for persons aged 15 & over. Survey time period March-May (Quarter 2) 2002 and 2007. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

7.6 Long-term unemployment rate by region, 2002 & 2007⁵²



Source: CSO QNHS

- ◆ In 2007, the Mid-West (2.1%), Border (1.7%) and South-East (1.7%) had the highest long-term unemployment rates, compared with the remaining regions rates of around 1% (see Graph 7.6).
- ◆ Between 2002 and 2007, the long-term unemployment rate decreased in five of the eight regions, the exceptions being Dublin, the Mid-East and Mid-West (see Graph 7.6).

7.7 Overtime by region, 2001 & 2004⁵³



Source: CSO QNHS Work Organisation and Working Time Module

- ◆ In 2004, over 10% of employees in the Mid-East (13.2%), Dublin (11.2%) and Mid-West (10.3%) regions worked overtime compared with 7.6% in both the West and South-East regions (see Graph 7.7).

⁵² The long-term unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons who are unemployed for more than 1 year divided by the total labour force. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

⁵³ Employees aged 15 & over. Survey period March-May 2001 and 2004. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

7.8 Main type of childcare arrangements by region, 2005⁵⁴

Region	% of row					
	Parent/ guardian	Unpaid relative	Paid relative	Paid carer	Crèche/ montessori	Other
Pre-school children						
Border	61.1	15.9	4.9	10.2	6.6	*
Midland	57.1	12.7	4.8	11.9	8.7	4.0
West	62.6	7.1	3.5	17.7	7.1	2.0
Dublin	61.6	8.5	4.4	8.1	15.5	1.7
Mid-East	60.5	10.5	4.7	10.2	11.7	2.0
Mid-West	60.8	11.3	4.3	14.0	7.5	2.2
South-East	60.3	16.4	5.1	11.2	5.6	1.4
South-West	52.0	13.2	4.0	17.9	8.6	4.0
Total	59.7	11.5	4.5	12.1	10.1	2.2
Primary school children						
Border	81.0	10.9	2.8	3.6	*	1.1
Midland	74.1	13.7	2.5	7.6	*	1.5
West	82.2	6.4	2.0	8.1	*	1.0
Dublin	79.9	8.0	2.8	5.1	2.5	1.5
Mid-East	77.2	8.4	3.0	7.6	1.6	2.2
Mid-West	79.4	9.9	1.5	6.3	1.1	1.8
South-East	75.4	12.9	3.2	7.3	0.9	*
South-West	76.7	11.2	2.1	8.9	0.9	*
Total	78.5	9.7	2.6	6.5	1.4	1.3

Source: CSO QNHS Childcare Module

* Sample occurrence too small for estimation.

7.9 Cost of paid childcare per household by region, 2002 & 2005⁵⁵

Region	€ per week		%
	2002	2005	Change
Border	80	100	25.2
Midland	88	119	35.9
West	85	107	25.7
Dublin	119	145	21.7
Mid-East	107	124	15.0
Mid-West	85	111	30.3
South-East	81	107	31.6
South-West	90	109	21.3
Total	98	121	23.7

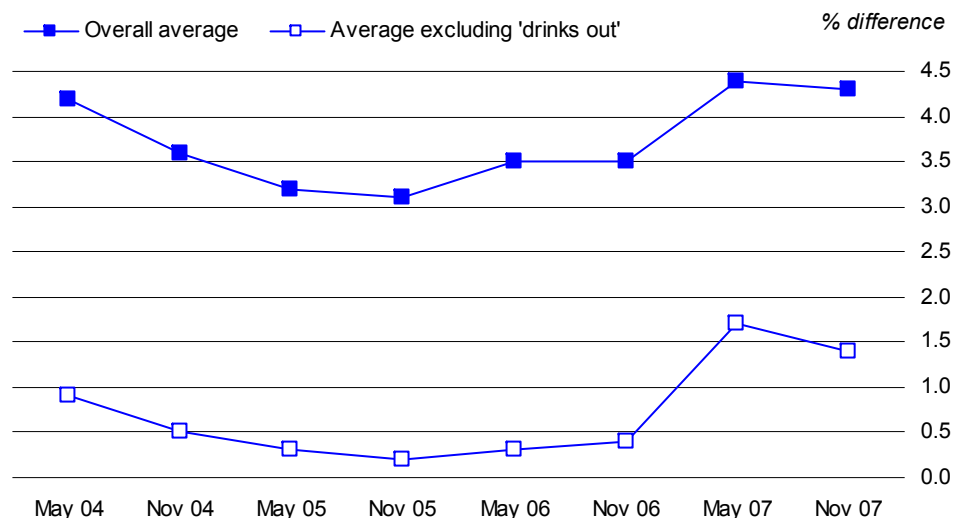
Source: CSO QNHS Childcare Module

- ◆ In 2005, parent/guardian was the main type of childcare for families with pre-school (59.7%) and primary school (78.5%) children at a national level. The West region had the highest proportion of families where parent/guardian was the main type of childcare (62.6% for pre-school and 82.2% for primary school) (see Table 7.8).
- ◆ The South-West (17.9%) and West (17.7%) regions had relatively higher proportions of pre-school children being minded by a paid carer (see Table 7.8).
- ◆ The Dublin (15.5%) and Mid-East (11.7%) regions had the highest proportions of pre-school children being minded in a creche/montessori (see Table 7.8).
- ◆ In 2005, the average weekly cost of paid childcare was highest in the Dublin (€145) and Mid-East (€124) regions. The lowest cost was in the Border region at €100 per week (see Table 7.9).
- ◆ The Midland and South-East regions had the highest percentage increases in childcare costs between 2002 and 2005 at 35.9% and 31.6%, respectively. Increases were lower in the Dublin (+21.7%), South-West (+21.3%) and Mid-East (+15%) regions (see Table 7.9).

⁵⁴ See Appendix 1 for definitions. Survey time period December-February (Quarter 1) 2005.

⁵⁵ Average weekly cost. See Appendix 1 for definitions.

7.10 Price differences between Dublin and outside Dublin, 2004-2007⁵⁶



Source: CSO Consumer Prices, Bi-annual average price analysis

7.11 Price differences between Dublin and outside Dublin, November 2007⁵⁶

	% difference	
	Higher in Dublin	Lower in Dublin
Gents' wash, cut and blow dry	+41.7	Medium uncooked chicken -12.9
Salmon steak (1kg)	+23.3	White bread, sliced (large) -6.9
Best back rashers (1kg)	+21.4	Fillets of plaice (1kg) -6.4
Gents' dry cut	+21.2	Lamb, whole leg (1kg) -6.4
Ladies' wash, cut and blow dry	+18.0	Ham fillet (1kg) -6.3
Grapes (1kg)	+17.5	Tea bags (80) -5.7
Potatoes (2.5kg)	+12.8	Lamb, loin chops (1kg) -3.8
Draught lager (1 pint)	+12.3	Milk (full fat, 1ltr) -3.7
Orange Juice	+11.5	Pork, roast loin (1kg) -3.6
Cinema	+11.1	Sirloin steak (1kg) -3.1
Steak (1kg)	+9.3	Round steak (1kg) -2.0
Eggs (large, half dozen)	+7.8	Butter (1lb) -1.2
Tomatoes (1kg)	+7.6	Brown bread, sliced (large) -1.2
Broccoli (1kg)	+7.2	Marmalade (1lb) -1.1
Cooked ham (1kg)	+6.8	Spaghetti (500g) -0.8

Source: CSO Consumer Prices, Bi-annual average price analysis

⁵⁶ Dublin v Outside Dublin is a comparison of Dublin to Outside Dublin average prices, May 2004-November 2007. Outside Dublin comprises regional cities (Cork, Galway, Waterford and Limerick). Towns with a population of less than 20,000 are also included. See Appendix 1 for further information

7.12 At risk of poverty, 2005 & 2006⁵⁷

	% persons	
Region	2005	2006
Border	29.3	28.2
Midland	21.2	28.2
West	26.7	22.7
Dublin	10.2	9.9
Mid-East	13.5	11.2
Mid-West	25.6	23.2
South-East	23.2	18.1
South-West	15.7	14.3
Total	18.5	17.0

Source: CSO EU SILC

- ◆ In November 2007 average price levels were 4.3% higher in Dublin compared with outside Dublin. However, if "drinks out" are excluded the average price level difference was less pronounced with prices in Dublin being 1.4% higher than outside Dublin in November 2007 (see Graph 7.10).
- ◆ There was an increase of one percentage point in the price level difference (excluding "drinks out") between November 2006 and November 2007 (0.4% to 1.4%) (see Graph 7.10).
- ◆ In November 2007, prices in Dublin were significantly higher for gents' hairdressing (41.7%), salmon steak (23.3%) and best back rashers (21.4%). Uncooked chicken was nearly 13% cheaper in Dublin than outside Dublin, and white sliced bread was 6.9% cheaper in Dublin (see Table 7.11).
- ◆ In 2006, the Border (28.2%) and Midland (28.2%) regions had the highest at-risk-of-poverty rates compared with 9.9% in the Dublin region (see Table 7.13).
- ◆ Between 2005 and 2006, the at-risk-of-poverty rate decreased in all regions with the exception of the Midland region which increased from 21.2% to 28.2% (see Table 7.12).

⁵⁷ Figures should be interpreted with caution due to smaller sample sizes at regional level.

Environment

8.1 Air quality by station, 2006⁵⁸

Station	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)			days
	Annual mean ⁵⁹	Daily max ⁶⁰	Values > 50 ⁶¹	
Zone A				
Winetavern Street	20	67	10	
Dublin				
Coleraine Street	21	94	17	
Marino	16	52	2	
Rathmines	19	77	13	
Phoenix Park	14	53	2	
Ballyfermot	17	61	10	
Zone B				
Heatherton Park	18	54	1	
Cork				
Old Station Road	16	57	4	
Zone C				
Galway	17	50	0	
Next 15 biggest towns				
Ennis	26	103	19	
Wexford	32	98	8	
Bray	23	47	0	
Zone D				
Ferbane	17	45	0	
Remainder of stations				
Drogheda	18	47	0	
Castlebar	16	62	2	
Kilkitt	10	47	0	
Carnsore Point	27	93	9	

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

- ♦ Air quality is monitored at 17 stations across the country. Five stations (29%) had at least 10 days where the PM₁₀ value exceeded 50 µg/m³, while five stations had no days where the 50 µg/m³ limit was exceeded⁶⁰ (see Table 8.1).
- ♦ In 2006, all stations were compliant with the PM₁₀ limit value, which permits no more than 35 days where the PM₁₀ value exceeds 50 µg/m³.
- ♦ Ennis recorded the highest daily maximum PM₁₀ value (103 µg/m³) in 2006, while Ferbane recorded the lowest daily maximum value of 45 µg/m³ (see Table 8.1).
- ♦ The highest annual mean PM₁₀ concentrations were recorded in Wexford (32 µg/m³), Carnsore Point (27 µg/m³) and Ennis (26 µg/m³), while the lowest were at the Phoenix Park (14 µg/m³) and Kilkitt (10 µg/m³) (see Table 8.1).

⁵⁸ See Appendix 1 for definitions.

⁵⁹ The PM₁₀ annual mean limit value for the protection of human health is 40 µg/m³.

⁶⁰ The maximum PM₁₀ value recorded at the station during 2006. The daily limit for the protection of human health is no more than 35 days >50 µg/m³.

⁶¹ The number of days where the PM₁₀ value recorded at the station was > 50 µg/m³.

8.2 River water quality by river basin district, 2004-2006⁶²

River basin district	% of row			
	Unpolluted	Slightly polluted	Moderately polluted	Seriously polluted
South-Western	90.0	8.0	2.0	0.2
Western	84.0	10.0	5.0	0.1
North-Western (South)	71.0	15.0	13.0	0.5
Shannon	67.0	22.0	11.0	0.7
South-Eastern	62.0	26.0	12.0	0.4
Eastern	54.0	27.0	18.0	1.2
Neagh Bann (South)	49.0	30.0	20.0	0.6

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

- ♦ Between 2004-2006, 90% of the South-Western river basin district (RBD) was unpolluted compared with only 49% of the Neagh Bann (South) RBD. 1.2% of the Eastern RBD was seriously polluted (see Table 8.2).

⁶² The percentage of the total channel length examined in each river basin district that occurred in each quality class. See Appendix 1 for further information.

8.3 Compliant drinking water schemes by county, 2006⁶³

County	% compliant	
	Public	Private
Border	96.7%	94.1%
Cavan	96.7%	92.6%
Donegal	95.9%	91.0%
Leitrim	98.4%	95.5%
Louth	97.6%	95.0%
Monaghan	97.6%	95.6%
Sligo	97.0%	96.2%
Midland	98.6%	96.8%
Laoighis	98.6%	94.7%
Longford	97.0%	95.5%
Offaly	99.0%	97.8%
Westmeath	98.8%	99.3%
West	96.8%	92.4%
Galway City	99.1%	n/a
Galway County	95.3%	94.6%
Mayo	97.8%	89.0%
Roscommon	96.9%	90.6%
Dublin	98.7%	n/a
Dublin City	98.8%	n/a
Fingal	98.5%	n/a
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	98.4%	n/a
South Dublin	99.3%	n/a
Mid-East	98.1%	92.8%
Kildare	99.4%	97.6%
Meath	97.9%	92.9%
Wicklow	96.9%	85.9%
Mid-West	98.2%	97.2%
Clare	98.8%	97.5%
Limerick City	97.1%	n/a
Limerick County	97.6%	96.1%
North Tipperary	99.2%	97.7%
South-East	97.5%	94.3%
Carlow	99.6%	95.9%
Kilkenny	98.4%	95.8%
South Tipperary	97.7%	93.2%
Waterford City	98.9%	n/a
Waterford County	95.0%	87.3%
Wexford	95.9%	89.7%
South-West	97.3%	93.6%
Cork City	98.0%	95.1%
Cork County ⁶⁴	98.2%	89.1%
Kerry	96.5%	94.4%
Total	97.7%	94.3%

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

- ◆ In 2006, 97.7% of public water schemes were compliant with statutory requirements compared with 94.3% of private schemes. The compliance rate for public water schemes varied from 96.7% in the Border region to 98.7% in the Dublin region (see Table 8.3).
- ◆ The West region (92.4%) had the lowest compliance rate for private water schemes, while the Mid-West (97.2%) had the highest (see Table 8.3).
- ◆ Public water schemes in 11 out of the 34 administrative counties were around 99% compliant in 2006, while Westmeath (99.3%) was the only county which was 99% compliant for private water schemes (see Table 8.3).

⁶³ Drinking water schemes in compliance with statutory requirements. n/a means not applicable.

⁶⁴ Cork County includes Cork North, South and West.

8.4 Blue Flag beaches by county, 1997-2007⁶⁵

<i>beaches and marinas</i>			
County	1997	2002	2007
Border	13	15	15
Donegal	8	12	11
Sligo	3	3	2
Louth	2	0	2
Midland	1	1	2
Westmeath	1	1	2
West	24	29	28
Galway	6	6	8
Mayo	12	13	13
Clare	6	10	7
Dublin	3	1	4
Mid-East	2	3	3
Wicklow	2	3	3
Mid-West	0	0	0
South-East	8	7	8
Waterford	4	2	3
Wexford	4	5	5
South-West	20	23	23
Cork	8	9	10
Kerry	12	14	13
Total	71	79	83

Source: An Taisce

- ◆ In 2007, Ireland was awarded 83 Blue Flags by the International Blue Flag Jury, 80 flags for beaches and 3 for marinas (see Table 8.4).
- ◆ There was an increase in the number of blue flags awarded from 71 in 1997 to 83 in 2007. Mayo (13), Kerry (13), Donegal (11) and Cork (10) accounted for 47 of the 83 blue flags (see Table 8.4).
- ◆ There were four blue flags awarded to the Dublin region in 2007 compared with only one in 2002. Counties Louth and Galway had two extra flags awarded in 2007 (see Table 8.4).
- ◆ Clare had three less flags awarded in 2007 compared with 2002 (see Table 8.4).

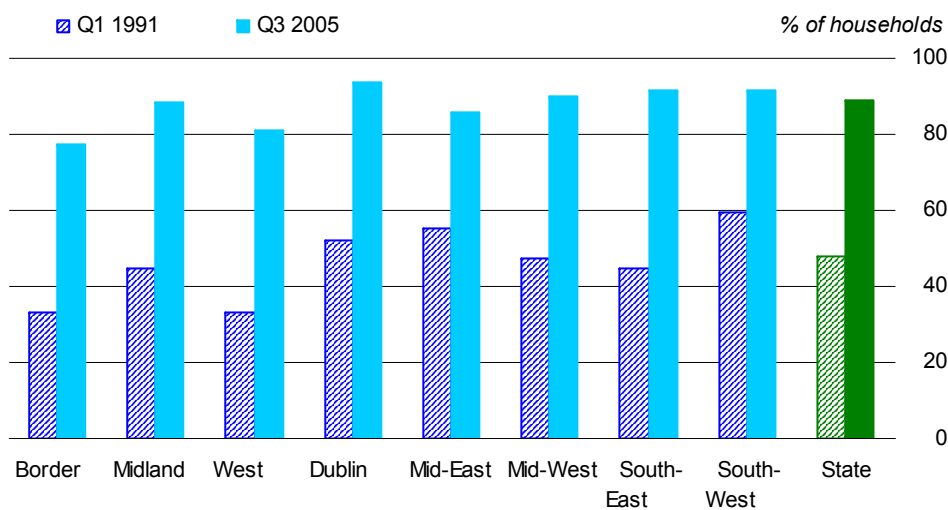
⁶⁵ See Appendix 1 for definitions.

8.5 Households recycling waste by region, 1991 & 2005⁶⁶

Region	% of households		households (000)
	1991	2005	2005
Border	33.0	77.6	125.1
Midland	44.7	88.2	73.9
West	33.2	80.9	117.7
Dublin	52.2	93.7	386.8
Mid-East	55.2	85.7	126.4
Mid-West	47.4	90.1	113.8
South-East	44.6	91.5	147.3
South-West	59.3	91.8	200.3
Total	47.9	88.7	1,291.2

Source: CSO QNHS Recycling & Energy Module

- ◆ In 2005, 88.7% of all households recycled some household waste. The Dublin region (93.7%) had the highest percentage of households who recycled some of their waste, while the Border region (77.6%) had the lowest proportion (see Table 8.5).
- ◆ Between 1991 and 2005 there were large increases in the percentage of households who recycled waste, the largest being in the West (33% to 81%) and South-East (45% to 92%) regions (see Table 8.5 and Graph).



Source: CSO QNHS Recycling & Energy Module

8.6 Household waste by county, 2006⁶⁷

County	% of row				Tonnes '000
	Mixed residual collection	Kerbside recyclables	Bring banks & civic amenities	Other	
Border	49.4	6.8	16.9	26.9	194.3
Cavan	39.5	4.9	15.4	40.2	34.6
Donegal	45.7	6.1	11.4	36.8	43.7
Leitrim	47.0	9.8	11.3	31.9	10.2
Louth	56.0	6.3	22.2	15.6	64.6
Monaghan	47.4	8.8	18.5	25.3	24.3
Sligo	58.4	10.1	14.6	16.8	16.8
Midland	45.5	11.4	18.1	24.9	91.9
Laoighis	40.2	10.4	13.7	35.8	26.0
Longford	42.0	13.6	8.4	36.1	15.3
Offaly	50.2	12.8	23.2	13.7	21.1
Westmeath	48.8	10.3	23.4	17.6	29.5
West	41.4	14.2	10.5	33.8	187.0
Galway City	43.5	40.9	9.8	5.8	26.1
Galway County	38.7	16.1	6.0	39.2	67.7
Mayo	45.3	3.1	14.7	36.9	64.3
Roscommon	37.6	10.2	12.4	39.8	28.9
Dublin	66.4	13.7	18.1	1.8	474.5
Dublin City	76.9	11.6	9.5	2.0	198.9
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	47.0	17.9	31.8	3.4	75.5
Fingal	67.7	15.1	16.2	0.9	96.4
South Dublin	59.2	13.4	26.5	1.0	103.6
Mid-East	66.6	12.5	13.2	7.7	170.2
Kildare	69.7	15.2	12.8	2.3	66.5
Meath	71.2	13.4	11.3	4.1	56.6
Wicklow	56.7	7.5	16.2	19.6	47.2
Mid-West	49.4	11.3	15.7	23.6	140.4
Clare	43.7	9.7	20.0	26.5	49.0
Limerick City	67.8	16.1	9.5	6.6	18.6
Limerick County	49.7	11.5	14.7	24.1	39.9
North Tipperary	47.0	10.6	14.1	28.2	32.9
South-East	47.4	15.5	15.9	21.2	178.6
Carlow	55.3	4.2	32.8	7.7	23.1
Kilkenny	42.2	12.0	14.2	31.5	29.1
South Tipperary	56.2	15.9	8.9	19.1	34.2
Waterford City	42.3	36.8	14.7	6.3	17.2
Waterford County	41.9	22.0	19.6	16.5	22.1
Wexford	45.2	12.5	12.7	29.6	52.8
South-West	43.8	12.6	25.6	18.1	235.5
Cork City	63.3	14.0	13.3	9.4	55.2
Cork County	38.3	12.6	36.0	13.1	122.3
Kerry	36.8	11.1	15.3	36.9	58.0
Total	53.9	12.5	17.2	16.4	1,672.3

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

- ◆ In 2006, around two-thirds of household waste collected in the Mid-East and Dublin regions was mixed residual waste (i.e. kerbside black bin collections) (see Table 8.6).
- ◆ At least 50% of household waste collected in 13 of the 34 administrative counties was mixed residual waste, the highest proportion being in Dublin City (76.9%) (see Table 8.6).
- ◆ The Border region had the lowest proportion of household waste (6.8%) collected by kerbside recyclable (i.e. green and brown compost bins) (see Table 8.6).
- ◆ In 2006, Galway City (40.9%) had by far the highest proportion of household waste collected as kerbside recyclables, the next highest rates were in Waterford City (36.8%) and Waterford County (22%). Mayo (3.1%) had the lowest proportion (see Table 8.6).
- ◆ The South-West (25.6%) had the highest proportion of household waste brought to bring banks and civic amenity sites compared with 10.5% in the West (see Table 8.6).
- ◆ Around one-third of household waste was brought to bring banks and civic amenity sites in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (31.8%), Carlow (32.8%) and Cork County (36%) (see Table 8.6 and Map).

⁶⁷ See Appendix 1 for definitions.

MAP 11 (portrait style, full page)

Bring banks & civic amenity household waste, 2006 (%)

8.7 Vehicle registrations by tax class and region, 2006

Region	rate per 1,000 persons aged 16 & over							000
	Private cars	Goods vehicles	Tractors	Motor cycles	PSV ⁶⁸	Other	Total	Total
Border	503	119	29	6	7	21	684	245.7
Midland	540	113	35	9	7	19	724	138.8
West	523	113	36	5	7	19	704	228.7
Dublin	493	62	1	14	15	15	600	572.7
Mid-East	573	104	14	13	9	18	731	263.5
Mid-West	567	105	29	9	7	21	739	208.3
South-East	583	117	37	13	6	24	780	277.1
South-West	574	101	26	10	8	23	741	361.7
Total	536	96	21	11	9	19	692	2,296.4

Source: Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government

- ◆ In 2006, the national average for vehicle registrations was 692 registrations per 1,000 population aged 16 & over. The South-East region (780) had the highest rate of vehicle registrations, while the Dublin region (600) had the lowest rate (see Table 8.7).
- ◆ In 2006, the Dublin region (493) and four counties had under 500 private cars per 1,000 population aged 16 and over - Louth (475), Limerick City (482), Monaghan (489) and Donegal (494). The national average was 536. North Tipperary (617) and Carlow (606) had the highest rates of private car registrations (see Table 8.8).
- ◆ Between 2002 and 2006, at a national level, the private car registration rate increased by 58 from 478 to 536. The Mid-West region (70) had the largest increase in the rate while the Dublin region (44) had the lowest (see Table 8.8).
- ◆ Limerick City (116) and Waterford County (100) were the only counties to have increases of at least 100 in the rate of private car registrations between 2002 and 2006, while Longford (38) had the lowest increase (see Table 8.8).

⁶⁸ PSV – public service vehicle.

8.8 Private car registrations by licensing authority, 1996-2006

Licensing authority	rate per 1,000 persons aged 16 & over			private cars
	1996	2002	2006	2006
Border	358	440	503	180,646
Cavan	393	472	525	25,606
Donegal	328	415	494	55,036
Leitrim	384	490	545	12,337
Louth	337	418	475	40,449
Monaghan	382	448	489	21,134
Sligo	391	476	543	26,084
Midland	400	481	540	103,577
Laoighis	404	475	531	27,066
Longford	409	484	522	13,807
Offaly	386	474	536	28,852
Westmeath	407	492	559	33,852
West	381	463	523	170,020
Galway	381	453	514	93,861
Mayo	373	467	524	50,533
Roscommon	401	497	558	25,626
Dublin	373	449	493	470,952
Mid-East	422	510	573	206,435
Kildare	425	510	565	79,539
Meath	431	517	575	70,413
Wicklow	409	504	581	56,483
Mid-West	407	497	567	159,779
Clare	416	515	578	49,405
Limerick City	302	366	482	20,468
Limerick County	435	523	567	58,452
North Tipperary	435	537	617	31,454
South-East	413	516	583	207,329
Carlow	427	537	606	23,668
Kilkenny	409	503	551	37,101
South Tipperary	426	521	583	37,550
Waterford City	381	498	563	20,484
Waterford County	396	495	595	28,340
Wexford	424	531	598	60,186
South-West	419	511	574	280,123
Cork	424	517	580	219,109
Kerry	402	494	552	61,014
Total	392	478	536	1,778,861

Source: Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government

8.9 Road freight transportation by region, 2006⁶⁹

Region of Origin	Region of Destination								Total
	Border	Midland	West	Dublin	Mid-East	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	
Border	51.4	4.5	7.4	17.2	6.6	3.4	4.9	4.6	1,579
Midland	10.8	39.3	7.3	13.0	6.1	6.9	9.1	7.5	899
West	8.9	6.3	57.3	12.9	1.6	4.5	5.9	2.5	1,298
Dublin	11.2	5.8	7.1	26.1	15.6	7.0	9.8	17.3	2,792
Mid-East	6.2	6.0	3.9	28.5	38.3	4.0	8.7	4.4	1,606
Mid-West	3.9	3.5	6.8	9.7	2.2	47.6	8.4	17.9	1,449
South-East	4.4	3.6	4.2	14.5	6.3	6.6	47.7	12.7	2,144
South-West	1.4	2.9	2.8	13.9	2.1	8.7	14.2	53.9	2,289
Total	11.5	6.8	10.3	17.9	10.3	10.4	15.1	17.7	14,056

Source: CSO Road Freight Survey

- ◆ In 2006, over half of road freight transportation originating in the West (57.3%), South-West (53.9%) and Border (51.4%) regions was delivered within the same region (see Table 8.9).
- ◆ The Dublin region (26.1%) had the lowest “within-region” delivery (see Table 8.9).
- ◆ Dublin was the main region of destination for road freight in 2006 at 17.9%, followed closely by the South-West (17.7%). The Midland region had the lowest proportion of destination freight at 6.8% (see Table 8.9).

Appendices

1 Population

Regional authorities

NUTS 3

NUTS is an acronym for the EU Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics. This classification was legally established by EU regulation No 1059/2003 on 29 May 2003. In Ireland it is classified hierarchically as:

Level 1 - Ireland;

Level 2 - Regions (Border, Midland and West and Southern and Eastern);

Level 3 - 8 Regional Authorities:

Border – Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, Sligo.

Midland – Laoighis, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath.

West – Galway, Mayo, Roscommon.

Dublin – Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin.

Mid-East – Kildare, Meath, Wicklow.

Mid-West – Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary.

South-East – Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford.

South-West – Cork, Kerry.

Population

The total population of a country may comprise all of the usual residents of the country (*de jure*) or all persons present in the country on a particular date (*de facto*). Published census figures for Ireland are on a *de facto* basis. The figures therefore include visitors present on census night as well as those in residence, while usual residents temporarily absent from the area are excluded from the census count. Ireland last conducted a Census of Population in April 2006.

Age dependency ratio

The young age dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the number of persons in the population aged 0-14 by the number of persons aged 15-64. The old age dependency ratio is calculated by dividing the number of persons aged 65 and over by the number of persons aged 15-64.

The EU 25 figures have been calculated by Eurostat's baseline variant. The ratios for Ireland have been calculated using the CSO population projections M1F1 assumptions.

2 Housing

Housing stock

Housing stock is the number of permanent private households (or dwellings) and includes both occupied and vacant private households. It excludes all non-private households (communal establishments) and temporary private households such as caravans.

Housing unit

A housing unit is a conventional house, a structurally separate flat or apartment, or a mobile or temporary dwelling, regardless of the number of private households it contains. When temporary dwellings are excluded the definition relates to a permanent housing unit. The 2006 Census collected details on the number of households/dwellings, but not on the number of housing units.

Private household

A private household comprises either one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping arrangements – that is, sharing at least one meal a day or sharing a living room or sitting room. In order to be included in the household, a person must be a usual resident at the time of the Census. Therefore, visitors to the household on census night are excluded, while usual residents temporarily absent (for less than 3 months) are included.

Vacancy rate	The vacancy rate is calculated by dividing the number of vacant houses/apartments and unoccupied holiday homes by the total housing stock.
Usual residence	Data on usual residence was derived from answers to question 7 of the 2006 Census of Population questionnaire. This asked persons where they usually live. The figures for usual residents in a particular area include persons enumerated in that area who stated that their usual residence was at the place where they were enumerated, together with other persons usually resident in that area who were enumerated elsewhere in the State. Usual residents of an area who were not in the State on census night are not included in the figures.
Type of accommodation	Private households (see above for definition) are classified by type of accommodation. Apartment includes flat and bed-sit. "Other" includes caravans, mobile homes or other temporary structures and not stated.
Occupancy type	Occupancy type for private households (see definition above). Rented includes rented from a local authority or voluntary body and privately rented. Other includes being purchased from a local authority, occupied free of rent and not stated.
House completions	Dwelling unit completions comprise units built for private sale, for Local Authority (LA) use, and voluntary housing completions. The LA figures exclude acquisitions of private units for social housing use. Social housing use comprises LA and voluntary housing. Local Authority housing has traditionally been the main option for those who could not afford housing from their own means. Local Authorities charge rents based on the income of the household. Persons who have been a tenant of a local authority house for at least one year may apply to the Local Authority to purchase it at a discounted price.
Average house prices	Average house prices are derived from data supplied to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government by the mortgage lending agencies on loan approvals rather than loans paid. House prices include apartments. In comparing house prices figures from one period to another, account should be taken of the fact that changes in the mix of houses (including apartments) will affect the average figures.

3 Lifestyles

Private household	See Housing.
Communal establishments	A non-private household or a communal establishment is a group of persons enumerated in a boarding house, hotel, guest house, hostel, barracks, hospital, nursing home, boarding school, religious institution, welfare institution, prison or ship, etc. A non-private household may include usual residents and/or visitors. However, proprietors and managers of hotels, principals of boarding schools, persons in charge of various other types of institutions and members of staff who, with or without their families, occupy separate living accommodation on the premises are classified as private households.
Voluntary work	This analysis is based on the persons (aged 15 & over) who answered YES to the question – <i>In the last four weeks have you done any of the following activities without pay?</i> (Question 25 on the Census 2006 form). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Helping or voluntary work with a social or charitable organisation;</i> 2. <i>Helping or voluntary work with a religious group or church;</i> 3. <i>Helping or voluntary work with a sporting organisation;</i> 4. <i>Helping or voluntary work with a political or cultural organisation;</i>

5. *Any other voluntary work;*
6. *No voluntary activity.*

Sport participation

The questions on sport and physical exercise were included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from June to August 2006. This module only measured physical activity for the purpose of taking exercise, recreational pursuits or sports involvement. A twelve month measure was used and each activity was self-selected by respondents. Type of participation was only asked in respect of the main sport or physical exercise of respondents. Persons aged 15 & over were asked about their activity/non-activity in the previous 12 months:

In the last twelve months did you participate in any physical activities for exercise, recreation or sport (e.g. walking, swimming, playing basketball or golf)? Yes/No

Voter participation

A module on Voter Participation and Abstention was included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from June to August 2002.

Overall, 75.5% of respondents indicated that they voted in the election compared with an actual turnout rate of 62%. This overstatement of voter participation, which is usual in surveys of this type, reflects the likelihood of a lower turnout amongst non-respondents to the survey and also possible reluctance amongst some respondents to admit that they did not vote. Despite these shortcomings the survey results provide a sound basis for analysing the reasons for not voting and also for contrasting voters and non-voters in respect of their socio-demographic characteristics and attitudes.

The voter participation question asked was - *As you may know, for one reason or another, many people did not vote in the general election last May. How about you? Did you vote? Yes; No.*

Persons who answered NO, were then asked - *What were the main reasons why you did not vote in the recent general election?*

1. *Not interested in politics*
2. *Disillusioned with politics*
3. *Did not understand the issues / could not make a choice / too little information*
4. *My vote would not make any difference*
5. *Illness/disability*
6. *Away from home / away working, could not go home / away on holidays*
7. *No time / work commitments / family commitments / leisure commitments*
8. *Not registered to vote / Registered at a different address*
9. *No polling card / lost card*
10. *Lack of transport*
11. *Other*

Internet access

These analyses are based on households who answered YES to the question – *Does your household have access to the Internet?* (Question H11 on the Census 2006 form).

Crime offences

The CSO publication, *Garda Annual Crime Statistics 2003-2006*, replaces the Crime Statistics section of Garda Annual Reports. An Garda Síochána ceased including this section in their annual reports from 2006, in recognition that the CSO was to assume this responsibility. The crime offences are classified using the new Irish Crime Classification System condensed version (ICCS). The ICCS replaces the Headline/Non-Headline classification. Full details of the ICCS are available in the CSO website at

http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/pr_crimejust.htm.

The data originates in the Garda PULSE (Police Using Leading Systems Effectively) and the FCPS (Fixed Charge Penalty System) systems. The data refer only to crime incidents known to An Garda Síochána and recorded as such.

The crime counting rules dictate that the most serious incident only counts for statistical purposes. (Seriousness here is determined by reference to the primary offence, which is the one with the severest potential penalty.) This is achieved by flagging, within PULSE, one offence which should “count” for that event.

The data is classified by the 6 Garda Regions –

Eastern Region

Carlow/Kildare
Laois/Offaly
Longford/Westmeath
Louth/Meath

Dublin Metropolitan Region

Eastern DMR
North Central DMR
Northern DMR
South Central DMR
Southern DMR
Western DMR

Northern Region

Cavan/Monaghan
Donegal
Sligo/Leitrim

South Eastern Region

Tipperary
Waterford/Kilkenny
Wexford/Wicklow

Southern Region

Cork City
Cork North
Cork West
Kerry
Limerick

Western Region

Clare
Galway West
Mayo
Roscommon/Galway East.

4 Transport and travel

Travel by Irish residents Data on travel by Irish residents refer to persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one continuous year for leisure, business or other purposes. Stays in prison, military service and hospital or clinics etc. are excluded.

Domestic tourism is defined as the activities of residents of the Republic of Ireland travelling to and staying in places only within the Republic of Ireland but outside their usual environment.

International tourism is defined as the activities of residents of the Republic of Ireland travelling to and staying in places outside the Republic of Ireland and therefore outside their usual environment.

The average number of trips taken by age group is calculated by dividing the total number of trips taken for the age group by the number of persons taking trips in that particular age group.

The Americas include North, South and Central America. Oceania includes Australia, New Zealand and Oceania.

Penalty points

Penalty points were introduced in December 2002. The table shows the percentage of drivers with current penalty points since their introduction. The rate is calculated by dividing the number of drivers with penalty points by the total number of drivers holding current full and provisional driving licences.

Data are based on the licensing authority which issued the drivers with their driving license. Therefore, this may not match the usual residence of the person or where the penalty point incidence(s) took place.

The data excludes drivers where there was no record of place of residence.

5 Health and care

Life expectancy Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years that a person when born can be expected to live, assuming that age-specific mortality levels remain constant. Life expectancy at age 65 is the average number of years that a person at age 65 can be expected to live, assuming that age-specific mortality levels remain constant.

Total period fertility rate The total period fertility rate (TPFR) is derived from the age-specific fertility rates. It represents the projected number of children a woman would have if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates while progressing from age 15 to 49 years. A value of 2.1 is generally taken to be the level at which a generation would replace itself in the long run, ignoring migration.

Discharge rate Discharge rates are age-standardised hospital discharge rates that have been standardised to the World Health Organisation's European standard population. Rates are expressed per 100,000 population.

These rates are derived from the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) system. Data for publicly funded acute hospitals are only included in this table. The rates are for inpatients only, day cases are not included. The system records hospital discharges and not patients. Therefore, a person admitted and discharged from hospital on more than one occasion is recorded for each hospital episode. Caution should be exercised in the interpretation of this data. In the absence of data from private hospitals, population-based rates may be understated and are also subject to selection bias. The data should not be used as a proxy for prevalence. Rather, it provides indicators of public hospital utilisation and should be interpreted in this context.

Health indicators

Slán

SLÁN is a national survey of the lifestyle, attitudes and nutrition of people living in Ireland (Morgan K, McGee H, Watson D, Perry I, Barry M, Shelley E, Harrington J, Molcho M, Layte R, Tully N, van Lente E, Ward M, Lutomski J, Conroy R, Brugha R (2008). *SLÁN 2007: Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes & Nutrition in Ireland. Main Report*. Dublin: Department of Health and Children).

To date surveys have been carried out in 1998, 2002 and 2007. SLÁN 2007 is the largest survey to date. A scientifically representative random sample of 10,364 persons aged 18 & over were interviewed in their own homes, by experienced researchers from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). The survey covers general health, behaviours relating to health (e.g. exercise, nutrition) and the use of certain health services. In addition, 1,207 people who participated in the survey also participated in a detailed medical examination.

Smoker data are for current smokers and are based on the answers given in to the following question -

D3 Do you now smoke every day, some days, or not at all?

Every day... 1 Some days ... 2 Not at all ... 3

Alcohol consumption data are based on the answers given to the following question

E2a How long ago did you last have an alcoholic drink?

During the last week..... 1

During the last month, but not in the last week 2

Within the last three months, but not in the last month.....3

Within the last 12 months, but not in the last 3 months 4

More than 12 months ago 5

Never had alcohol beyond sips or tastes 6

Obesity data are based on the height, weight and waist measurements for a small number of people (1,207) aged 45 & over as part of a full physical examination conducted by trained medical personnel. Obese people have BMI in the range 30 kg/m² and higher.

Age specific death rates Age-specific death rates are the number of deaths occurred (or registered) during the calendar year at a specified age per 1,000 of the estimated resident population of the same age and sex.

Standardised death rates

Variations in the age distribution of the population from one county/region to another can have an effect on the comparability of death rates between counties/regions. If a particular county contains a large proportion of elderly persons, the crude death rate per 1,000 population will be relatively high even if the health conditions in that county are better than the general average. In an attempt to overcome this, standardised rates are prepared. For a particular county this is done by calculating the death rate in each age group of the population in that county and then multiplying the death rate in each age group by the population in the whole country in that age group and summing the resulting products.

Cause of death

The underlying cause of death is the disease or injury which the doctor (or coroner) reported on the death certificate as being the cause that initiated the train of events leading directly to death, or the circumstances of the accident, or violence which produced the fatal injury.

Cause of death is coded using the International Classification of Diseases version 9 (ICD 9). The ICD 9 codes for the causes of death highlighted are –
Circulatory Diseases 390-459
Respiratory 460-519.

Prevalence of disability

Data on disability were derived from answers to questions on long-lasting conditions (questions 15 & 16) of the 2006 Census of Population questionnaire. Question 15 asked persons of all ages about the existence of the following long-lasting conditions:

- (a) blindness, deafness or a severe vision or hearing impairment;
- (b) a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying;
- (c) a learning or intellectual disability;
- (d) a psychological or emotional condition; and
- (e) other, including any chronic illness.

Individuals were classified as having a disability if they ticked "YES" in response to any of the categories in question 15. In addition, a small number of persons who did not record a "yes" answer in question 15 but who did record a "yes" answer to question 16 were included.

Question 16 was answered by any person who answered YES to any of the five categories in question 15. Question 16, a five-part question, asked whether an individual had any difficulty in doing any of the following activities:

- (a) learning, remembering or concentrating;
- (b) dressing, bathing or getting around inside the home;
- (c) going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's surgery;
- (d) working at a job or business or attending school or college; and
- (e) participating in other activities, for example, leisure or using transport.

Carers

Data on carers were derived from answers to question 21 of the 2006 Census of Population. This asked persons aged 15 years & over:

"Do you provide regular unpaid personal help for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability?"

Problems due to old age are included. Personal help includes help with basic tasks such as feeding or dressing. Receipt of "Carers Allowance" was not considered payment for the purposes of this question. "Meals on Wheels" staff were not considered carers for the purpose of this question. The following response categories were given:

- Yes, 1-14 hours a week;
- Yes, 15-28 hours a week;
- Yes, 29-42 hours a week;
- Yes, 43 or more hours a week; and
- No.

Perceived health status Perceived health status is based on the answers persons aged 15 & over gave to the following CSO EU SILC survey question:
How is your health in general? Very good; Good; Fair; Bad; Very bad.

6 Education

Education attainment This analysis is based on persons (aged 15 & over) who had ceased their full-time education, i.e. answered YES to question 22 on the Census 2006 form. Table 6.2 classifies these persons by the highest level of education they have attained (question 23 on the Census 2006 form).

Early school leavers Early school leavers are defined as those persons aged 18-24 whose highest level of education attained is lower secondary or below who have completed their formal education and have not received education (either formal or non formal) in the four weeks prior to the survey.

In more technical terms, early school leavers are persons aged 18 to 24 in the following two conditions: the highest level of education or training attained is ISCED 0, 1 or 2; the respondents declared not having received any education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey.

ISCED 0 Pre-primary level of education: Initial stage of organised instruction, designed primarily to introduce very young children to a school-type environment. This level of education should be centre or school based, be designed to meet the educational and developmental needs of children at least 3 years of age and have staff that are adequately trained and qualified to provide an educational programme for these children.

ISCED 1 Primary level of education: Programmes normally designed to give students a sound basic education in reading, writing and mathematics. This level represents the beginning to systematic studies characteristic of primary education, e.g. reading, writing and mathematics. It is marked by entry into the nationally designated primary institutions or programmes. The commencement of reading activities alone is not a sufficient criterion for classification of an educational programme to ISCED 1.

ISCED 2 Lower secondary level of education: The lower secondary level of education generally continues the basic programmes of the primary level, although teaching is typically more subject-focused. Programmes at the start of level 2 should correspond to the point where programmes begin to be organised in a more subject-oriented pattern, using more specialised teachers conducting classes in their field of specialisation.

The denominator is the total population of the same age group, excluding non-response answers to the questions 'highest level of education or training attained' and 'participation in education and training'. Both the numerators and the denominators come from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). A reference period of four weeks has been chosen for the questions on participation in order to avoid distortion of information due to recall problems. The reference period is the last four weeks preceding the survey. The information collected relates to all education or training received whether or not relevant to the respondent's current or possible future job. It includes initial education, further education, continuing or further training, training within the company, apprenticeship, on-the-job training, seminars, distance learning, evening classes, self-learning, etc. It includes also courses followed for general interest and may cover all forms of education and training such as language, data processing, management, art/culture, and health/medicine courses.

Leaving Certificate levels

Higher Level (Árd Leibhéal)
Ordinary Level (Gnáthleibhéal)
Foundation Level (Bonn Leibhéal)
Common Level (Leibhéal Comonta)

Higher and Ordinary level applied to all subjects at Leaving Certificate.

Foundation level applies to Mathematics and Irish at Leaving Certificate.
Common Level applies to LCVP - Link modules in the Leaving Certificate.

Leaving Certificate grades

Results of the Leaving Certificate are shown in the form of grades, each grade representing a percentage range of marks as follows:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage Range</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage Range</i>
A1	90+	C3	55<60
A2	85<90	D1	50<55
B1	80<85	D2	45<50
B2	75<80	D3	40<45
B3	70<75	E	25<40
C1	65<70	F	10<25
C2	60<65	No grade	0<10

The analysis shows **A** = A1, A2; **B** = B1, B2, B3; **C** = C1, C2, C3; **D** = D1, D2, D3; **E or less** = E, F, No grade.

Third level education

HEA colleges

National University of Ireland, Cork
National University of Ireland, Dublin
National University of Ireland, Galway
Trinity College, Dublin
National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Dublin City University
University of Limerick
St. Patrick's Teacher Training College, Drumcondra
Mary Immaculate College of Education, Limerick
Mater Dei Institute
National College of Art & Design

Institutes of Technology

Athlone Institute of Technology
Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown
Institute of Technology, Carlow
Cork Institute of Technology
Dublin Institute of Technology
Dundalk Institute of Technology
Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology
Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology
Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Limerick Institute of Technology
Institute of Technology, Sligo
Institute of Technology, Tallaght
Institute of Technology, Tralee
Waterford Institute of Technology
Hotel Training/Catering College, Killybegs
Institute of Technology, Letterkenny

Other

Teacher training (Primary and Home Economics)

Colaiste Mhuire, Marino, Dublin
C.O.I. College of Education, Rathmines
Froebel College, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
St. Angela's College, Lough Gill, Co Sligo
St. Catherine's College, Sion Hill

Other Department aided

National College of Ireland
Pontifical College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Aided by other Departments

Garda College Templemore
Cadet College

Religious and non-aided Colleges

St. Nicholas (Montessori)
Montessori College (A.M.I.)
Portobello College
Griffith College
Shannon H.C.M. College
King's Inn
Law Society
Mid West Business Institute
Burren College of Art
Mayoralty College - Galway
I.P.A.
Executive Professional & Tertiary Institute
Fitzwilliam William Institute
H.S.I. College (Dublin)
H.S.I. College (Limerick)
Dublin Institute of Design
Royal College of Surgeons
St. Pats College, Carlow
St. Patrick's College, Thurles
All Hallows College
Development Studies Centre
Milltown Institute

7 Economy

Household disposable income

Household primary income is defined as wages, plus self-employed income, plus rent (including imputed rent), plus net interest and dividends.

Total income is defined as primary income (i.e. wages, plus self-employed income plus interest and dividends) plus social benefits plus other current transfers.

Current taxes are defined as income taxes and other current personal taxes.

Household disposable income is defined as total income minus current taxes on income minus social contributions (employers', employees', self employed, etc.).

Household disposable income per person is the household disposable income of a region divided by the total population of the region.

Gross Value Added

Gross Value Added (GVA) is a key economic measure of the value added generated by the production of goods and services within a region. GVA (at basic prices) equals Gross Domestic Product (GDP) minus product taxes plus product subsidies. Distributing product taxes (e.g. vat, excise duties, etc.) between regions can distort the comparisons of the amount of value added that is generated in each region. Hence GVA is the standard measure of value added used for regions rather than GDP.

GVA is essentially the sum of compensation of employees and profits generated in a region - the differences between the absolute levels in the regions arise from population differences and different levels of profits and wages in the regions. The per capita differences reflect different levels of wages and profits per person in the regions. The biggest difference between GVA and household Income in Ireland is that company profits are included in GVA whereas this is not the case for household income. Company profits can be very substantial and may be remitted abroad rather than distributed to households in a region.

International Labour Office

The International Labour Office (ILO) classification distinguishes the following main subgroups of the population aged 15 & over:

Persons in employment are all persons:

- who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business; and
- all persons who had a job but were not at work because of illness, holidays, etc. in the week.

Persons classified as unemployed are persons who, in the week before the survey:

- were without work;
- were available for work within the next two weeks; and
- had taken specific steps, in the preceding four weeks to find work.

The labour force comprises persons in employment plus persons unemployed.

The inactive population is all other persons in the population who are not part of the labour force.

Employment rate

The employment rate is defined as the number of persons in employment (ILO) in an age group as a percentage of the population of that age group.

The Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in Ireland (the Labour Force Survey in the EU) covers persons living in private households. Persons living in collective households (halls of residence, medical care establishments, religious institutions, collective workers' accommodation, hostels, etc.) and persons carrying out obligatory military service are not included.

All data relating to the (ILO) labour force refers to the second quarter (March-May) of the reference year unless otherwise stated.

Unemployment rate

The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the (ILO) labour force.

Long-term unemployment rate

The long-term unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed persons who are unemployed for more than 1 year. It is calculated by dividing the number of persons who are unemployed for more than one year by the total labour force (i.e. the number of persons employed plus the number of persons unemployed). The data are for Quarter 2 (March-May) of 2002 & 2007.

NACE economic sector

The economic sector is classified using the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE).

Overtime

A module on Work Organisation and Working Time was included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from March to May 2004.

The work organisation and working time module was asked to all persons aged 15 and over in employment (ILO). Persons in employment are defined as persons who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business and all persons who had a job but were not at work because of illness, holidays etc. in the week. The design of the questionnaire (undertaken at EU level) was modular in that different sets of questions were asked of different sub-populations (e.g. employees, self-employed). One of the implications of this approach is that in some cases it has not been possible to produce comparable analysis for employees and the self-employed. Note that some of topics covered in this module, (such as overtime), were also asked in the Quarter 2 2001 ad hoc module on length and pattern of working time. Methodological changes to the questionnaire in Quarter 2 2004 for other topics have resulted in a lack of direct comparability between the two modules for some topics.

Childcare

Questions on childcare were included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from December 2004 to February 2005. The childcare module was asked of all households in which there were found to be primary school-going children or younger. One member of each household was asked directly about the details of their childcare arrangements for their primary school-going and/or pre-school children. The questions asked included, the main source of childcare (multiple

response not allowed), the cost of childcare and the hours involved.

Childcare refers to the main type of childcare used by parents/guardians on a regular weekly basis during the working day (e.g. Monday to Friday from 7am to 7pm or similar, as applicable to household) and covers pre-school or primary school-going children. The childcare categories are - 'parent/guardian', 'unpaid relative', 'paid relative', 'paid carer', 'crèche/montessori' and 'other'.

Price comparisons

This is a comparison of Dublin to Outside Dublin average prices for items and services. Outside Dublin is regional cities (Cork, Galway, Waterford and Limerick cities). Towns with a population of less than 20,000 are also included in the Outside Dublin.

A plus indicates that the average price for Dublin for the given item as recorded for the November 2007 CPI is higher than the average price Outside Dublin.

The overall average is a weighted average of the differences for the 73 items. The weightings used are the item weights from the Consumer Price Index.

At risk of poverty

At-risk-of-poverty rate is the share of persons with an equivalised income below a given percentage (usually 60%) of the national median income. The rate is calculated by ranking persons by equivalised income from smallest to largest and the median or middle value is extracted. Anyone with an equivalised income of less than 60% of the median is considered to be *at-risk-of-poverty at a 60% level*.

The at-risk-of-poverty rate before/after social transfers and pensions (i.e. old-age and survivors' benefits) shows the percentage of persons in the total population having an equivalised disposable income before/after social transfers and pensions that is below the national 'at-risk-of-poverty threshold' which is set at 60% of the national median equivalised disposable income.

Equivalence scales: Equivalence scales are used to calculate the *equivalised household size* in a household. Although there are numerous scales, the focus in this report is on the national scale and the modified OECD scale. The national scale attributes a weight of 1 to the first adult, 0.66 to each subsequent adult (aged 14 & over living in the household) and 0.33 to each child aged less than 14.

The modified OECD scale attributes a weight of 1 to the first adult, 0.5 to each subsequent adult and 0.3 to each child aged less than 14. The weights for each household are then summed to calculate the *equivalised household size*.

Example:

A household consists of 5 people: 2 adults and 3 children. The modified OECD scale gives a weight of 1 to the first adult and 0.5 to each subsequent adult (aged 14+) living in the household, and 0.3 to each child. Thus, this household's *equivalised household size*, using OECD scale, is $1 + 0.5 + 0.3 + 0.3 + 0.3 = 2.4$. While this household's *equivalised household size*, using the national scale, is $1 + 0.66 + 0.33 + 0.33 + 0.33 = 2.65$.

Equivalised income: The disposable household income is divided by the *equivalised household size* to calculate the equivalised income for each individual, which essentially is an approximate measure of how much of the income can be attributed to each member of the household. This *equivalised income* is then applied to each member of the household.

Example:

If a household has a total disposable income of €50,000 and the equivalised household size is 2.4 (i.e. the OECD figure), the equivalised income for this household is €20,833.33. Using the national equivalised household size of 2.65, implies an equivalised income for this household of €18,867.92. This income is applied to each member of the household.

8 Environment

Urban air quality

Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) concentration levels are used to measure Urban air quality comprising two sub-elements based on concentration levels of ozone and fine particulates in ambient air in urban areas. Ozone is a strong photochemical oxidant,

which causes serious health problems and damage to ecosystem, agricultural crops and materials. Human exposure to elevated ozone concentrations can give rise to inflammatory responses and decreases in lung function.

The selected urban stations include station types "urban" and "street". Only time series with a data capture of at least 75% are used. The number of exceedance days per City is obtained by averaging the results of all urban stations. The stations classified as "street" are influenced by local (traffic) emissions and might not be representative for the concentrations in more residential areas. Both station types have been included in the analysis to maximise the coverage; this may imply, however, that urban air quality concentrations are overestimated.

Under EU/Irish air quality legislation, monitoring stations are classified as either urban, suburban or rural and after that as either traffic, background or industrial. Therefore, the urban stations classified as "street" or "urban" could be classified as "traffic" or "background" to stay consistent with the EU classification.

The indicator target and limit values, as set in EC legislation, are as follows:

- The target for Ozone for the protection of human health is $120\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (max. daily 8 hours-mean), not to be exceeded on more than 25 days per calendar year averaged over three years, from 2010; and
- The limit value for PM_{10} is $50\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (24h average) not to be exceeded on more than 35 days per calendar year, from 2005.

The year to year variability of exceedances is large, particularly for ozone. The occurrence of high ozone peaks is strongly dependent on weather conditions. Comparisons between countries are only justified if coverage with stations is either sufficiently large, or if there is a really representative number of monitoring stations reporting regularly. These conditions are rarely satisfied.

The PM_{10} indicator shows percentages of urban population potentially exposed to concentration levels exceeding the limit value for the protection of human health in a calendar year. The limit value for PM_{10} is $50\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (24h average) not to be exceeded on 35 or more days per calendar year, from 2005. For each urban station the number of days with a daily average concentration in excess of the limit value is calculated from the available hourly or daily values. Urban population data is obtained from the GISCO database.

Legislation in Ireland forbids the sale of bituminous coal in the following urban areas: Dublin (since 1990); Cork (since 1995); Arklow, Drogheda, Dundalk, Limerick and Wexford (all since 1998); Celbridge, Galway, Leixlip, Naas and Waterford (all since 2000); and Bray, Kilkenny, Sligo and Tralee (all since 2003).

River water quality

River water is the principal source of drinking water in Ireland. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducts an assessment of river water quality every three years on behalf of Local Authorities. Samples are taken from over 3,000 locations around Ireland. These biological surveys began in 1971. River water quality is classified into four quality classes based on a scheme of biotic indices, which codify the characteristic changes induced in flora and fauna of rivers and streams in the presence of pollution. Unpolluted waters include pristine waters and also waters of a less high but acceptable standard. Slightly polluted and moderately polluted waters are mainly characterised by eutrophication and may not be able to support fish survival. Seriously polluted waters are characterised by the presence of high concentrations of biodegradable organic waste. These waters are of very little beneficial use.

Drinking water

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the Drinking Water Regulations. This involves the collection of results on an annual basis from local authorities and carrying out audits on selected local authorities to verify the information that has been submitted.

A drinking water supply is deemed to be secure if there is in place a management system that has identified all potential risks and reduction measures to manage these risks.

Though the Regulations specify two types of supplies (“public” and “private”), in practice there are four distinct categories of water supply in Ireland, of which the latter three would be classified as “private” in the context of the Regulations. These categories are listed below:

- Public Water Supplies (PWS)
- ‘Public’ Group Water Schemes (PuGWS). These are schemes where the water is provided by the local authority but responsibility for distribution of the water rests with the group scheme. These schemes tend to be supplied off larger public water supplies.
- ‘Private’ Group Water Schemes (PrGWS)
- Small Private Supplies (SPS)

Blue Flag beaches

The Blue Flag stands for more than just excellent bathing water quality. The Blue Flag for beaches covers 29 criteria, which have developed over the years to become more holistic and to address the various issues of sustainability. These criteria cover issues such as environmental education and information about the coastal zone, dunes, compliance with national environmental legislation, provision of lifeguards and rescue equipment, litter management, toilet facilities, animal control and more.

Household recycling

The questions on recycling and energy conservation were included in the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) in the three months from June to August 2005. While the primary purpose of the QNHS is to collect information on employment and unemployment, it also includes modules on social topics of interest.

The recycling and energy conservation module was asked of all households with persons aged 18 years and over across three waves of the QNHS sample. The results are based on the recycling and energy conservation questionnaire, a copy of which is available on the CSO website: www.cso.ie. This module measured the proportion of households that actually recycled, defining recycling as household waste being re-used by others and not within households. The question used to extract this information was –

Are any items of household waste recycled or re-used by others such as glass, paper, clothing, aluminium cans etc?

1 Yes

2 No

3 No - But if the facilities were available I would recycle

Household waste

Household waste includes:

- Mixed residual waste collection (black bins);
- Separate kerbside collection of mixed dry recyclable waste (green bins);
- Separate kerbside collection of food and garden waste (brown bins);
- Household waste brought to bring banks and civic amenity sites;
- Other - household waste delivered directly to landfill face by households, estimate of home composting and estimate of “uncollected” household waste.

A household is defined to be any person or group of persons (not necessarily related) with common living arrangements, separately occupying all or part of a private house, flat, apartment or other private habitation of any kind.

The data are reported by the local authorities to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and are based on each local authority's household waste collection service (where one exists) and also on reports submitted by local household waste collectors to the local authority. While the data shows the proportion of household waste that is collected for recycling, it is important to remember that a certain quantity of waste brought to civic amenity sites is black bag waste and was deposited for disposal, not recycling. Also, due to contamination in the recycling stream (dirty waste, unsuitable waste), mixed dry waste must be processed to remove unrecyclable material before it is sent for recycling, meaning that not all waste that is put out for recycling is actually suitable for recycling.

The data are presented by regional authority areas that are different to the waste management regions that many local authorities group themselves into. For example, the four Limerick, Clare and Kerry local authorities are a "waste management region". Similarly, the Connaught region comprises Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim authorities. See Appendix B of the (EPA) National Waste Report 2006 for the waste management regional groupings.

Road freight

This indicator is from the CSO's "National Survey of Transport of Goods by Road" carried out for the year 2006. The survey was conducted as part of an EU-wide project in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) 1172/98 on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of goods by road. For the purposes of this report, international and cross-border road freight have been excluded from the table.

During 2006 information was collected concerning one week's transport activity for a random sample of goods vehicles. The sample was spread evenly over each week in the year. The sample data has been grossed to the level of the national fleet to provide estimates for road freight transport activity by all goods vehicles in 2006.

The principle measures used in this report to assess transport activity are:

- (a) the weight of goods carried (given in tonnes); and
- (b) the quantity of work done (given in tonne-kilometres).

Tonne-kilometres is the standard unit of measure for goods transport across all the modes. It takes account of both weight carried and distance travelled. For example, this measure differentiates between a truck travelling 1 mile carrying 1 tonne and a truck travelling 1 mile carrying 20 tonnes.

Irish registered vehicles belonging to the motor taxation class *goods vehicles with an unladen weight of 2 tonnes and over* came within the scope of the survey. No other vehicles were covered. In particular, this meant that vehicles in other motor taxation classes such as agricultural tractors, general haulage tractors, dumpers and exempt vehicles (i.e. vehicles exempt from liability to pay road tax which include state owned, diplomatic, fire services or disabled drivers) were not included.

All activity of goods vehicles within the scope of the survey engaged in the carriage of goods, either on own account or for hire or reward, on the public road was covered. Excluded, therefore, was activity such as site work off the public road or work of a mainly service nature (e.g. carriage of personnel to or from places of work).

For end-to-end journeys, tonne-kilometres is the result of multiplying the weight of goods carried by the distance they were carried. For split delivery/collection journeys more complex formulae are used, involving multiplying the distance travelled with a load by an estimate of the average weight of load carried.

Appendix 2

Data sources

Domain and sub-domain	Indicator	Data source	
1. Population			
Population	1.1	Population by county, 2002 & 2006	CSO Census of Population
	1.2	Population density by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population ; Ordnance Survey Ireland
	1.3	Town size by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population
	1.4	Age by county, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Dependency ratio	1.5	Dependency ratios by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Males per 100 females	1.6	Males per 100 females by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Population by nationality	1.7	Nationality by county, 2006	CSO Census of Population
2. Housing			
Housing stock	2.1	Housing stock and vacancy rates by county, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Age of dwellings	2.2	Dwellings by construction period and region, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Type of accommodation	2.3	Type of accommodation by period in which built, 2006	CSO Census of Population
	2.4	Type of accommodation by county, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Nature of occupancy	2.5	Occupancy type by county, 2006	CSO Census of Population
House completions	2.6	House completions by county, 2002 & 2007	Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government
House prices	2.7	Average house prices by county, 1997-2007	Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government
3. Lifestyles			
Living arrangements	3.1	Living arrangements by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population
	3.2	Living alone by age and county, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Voluntary work	3.3	Type of voluntary work by county, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Sport	3.4	Participation in sport and physical exercise by region, 2006	CSO QNHS Social Capital and Sport Module
	3.5	Active persons by main sport and region, 2006	CSO QNHS Social Capital and Sport Module
Voter participation	3.6	Voter participation by region, May 2002	CSO QNHS Voter Registration and Participation Module
	3.7	Reasons for not voting by region, May 2002	CSO QNHS Voter Registration and Participation Module
Internet access	3.8	Lisbon Treaty referendum results by region, 2008	Referendum Returning Officer
	3.9	PC ownership and Internet access by county, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Crime	3.10	Internet access by region, 2002 & 2006	CSO Census of Population
	3.11	Crime offences by Garda region, 2006	CSO Garda Recorded Crime Statistics, 2003-2006
4. Transport and travel			
Travel by Irish residents	4.1	Travel by Irish residents by region, 2002 & 2006	CSO Household Travel Survey
	4.2	International travel by destination and region, 2006	CSO Household Travel Survey
Travel to work	4.3	Means of travel to work by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population
	4.4	Distance travelled to work by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population
	4.5	Time taken to travel to work by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population

Domain and sub-domain	Indicator		Data source
	4.6	Time leaving home to go to work by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Driver penalty points	4.7	Drivers with current penalty points by licensing body, 2007	Department of Transport
5. Health and care			
Life expectancy	5.1	Life expectancy at birth and age 65 by region, 2001-2003	CSO Vital Statistics
Total period fertility rate	5.2	Total period fertility rate by region, 1996-2006	CSO Vital Statistics
Hospital discharge rates	5.3	Age-standardised discharge rates by selected principal diagnosis and region, 2006	Department of Health & Children, Hospital Inpatient Enquiry data
Health indicators	5.4	Health indicators by region, 2007	Department of Health & Children, Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes & Nutrition (Slán)
Death rates	5.5	Standardised death rates by cause and region, 2002 & 2006	CSO Vital Statistics
Disability	5.6	Persons with a disability by age and county, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Carers	5.7	Carers by hours of unpaid work and county, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Medical cover	5.8	Type of medical cover by region, 2001	CSO QNHS Health Module
Health status	5.9	Perception of health status by region, 2006	CSO EU SILC
6. Education			
Education status	6.1	Full-time education status by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Educational attainment	6.2	Highest level of education completed by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Age education ceased	6.3	Age at which full-time education ceased by region, 2006	CSO Census of Population
Early school leavers	6.4	Early school leavers by region, 2005	CSO QNHS Education Attainment and Qualifications Module
Primary education	6.5	Primary schools, pupils and teachers by county, 2006	Department of Education & Science
Secondary education	6.6	Secondary schools and pupils by county, 2006	Department of Education & Science
	6.7	Leaving Certificate candidates by county, 2003-2007	State Examinations Commission
	6.8	Leaving Certificate higher level grades by county, 2007	State Examinations Commission
Third level education	6.9	Third level students by type of college and county, 2005/2006	Department of Education & Science
7. Economy			
Disposable income	7.1	Household disposable income by county, 2000 & 2005	CSO Regional Accounts
Gross Value Added	7.2	Gross Value Added by region, 2000 & 2005	CSO Regional Accounts
	7.3	Gross Value Added by sector and region, 2005	CSO Regional Accounts
Employment	7.4	Employment by broad economic sector and region, 2007	CSO QNHS
	7.5	Employment and unemployment rates by sex and region, 2002 & 2007	CSO QNHS
Long-term unemployment	7.6	Long-term unemployment rate by region, 2002 & 2007	CSO QNHS
Overtime	7.7	Overtime by region, 2001 & 2004	CSO QNHS Work Organisation and Working Time Module
Childcare	7.8	Main type of childcare arrangements by region, 2005	CSO QNHS Childcare Module
	7.9	Cost of paid childcare per household by region, 2002 & 2005	CSO QNHS Childcare Module
Price level comparison	7.10	Price differences between Dublin and outside Dublin, 2004-2007	CSO Consumer Prices, Bi-annual average price analysis
	7.11	Price differences between Dublin and outside Dublin, November 2007	CSO Consumer Prices, Bi-annual average price analysis

Domain and sub-domain	Indicator		Data source
Poverty	7.12	At risk of poverty, 2005 & 2006	CSO EU SILC
8. Environment			
Air quality	8.1	Air quality by station, 2006	Environmental Protection Agency
River water quality	8.2	River water quality by river basin district, 2004-2006	Environmental Protection Agency
Drinking water quality	8.3	Compliant drinking water schemes by county, 2006	Environmental Protection Agency
Blue Flag beaches	8.4	Blue Flag beaches by county, 1997-2007	An Taisce
Household waste	8.5	Households recycling waste by region, 1991 & 2005	CSO QNHS Recycling & Energy Module
	8.6	Household waste by county, 2006	Environmental Protection Agency
Vehicle registrations	8.7	Vehicle registrations by tax class and region, 2006	Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government
	8.8	Private car registrations by licensing authority, 1996-2006	Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government
Road freight	8.9	Road freight transportation by region, 2006	CSO Road Freight Survey

