



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

census
2016
RESULTS
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Preas Ráiteas **Press Statement**

Census 2016 Preliminary Results

Population grows to 4.76 million in 2016

The first results of the 2016 census were released today and show that the preliminary total of the population enumerated on Census Night, Sunday the 24th of April 2016, was 4,757,976 persons. This compares with 4,588,252 persons in April 2011, an increase of 169,724 persons since 2011 or 3.7 per cent.

This release also contains first results on housing and vacant dwellings and show the number of occupied houses has increased by 49,285 since April 2011 while the number of vacant dwellings has fallen by 29,889.

Brendan Murphy, Statistician at the CSO explained that “While the number of holiday homes has increased marginally (up 1,809) the number of other vacant dwellings has decreased by almost 14 per cent since April 2011, or 31,700 units. These falls can be seen right across Ireland with the largest falls in Carlow and Dublin. Full details of total housing, holiday homes and other vacant dwellings are now available on the CSO web site in an easy to use interactive map and we’d encourage the public to log on and check out the results for their area. The CSO would also like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude for the fantastic cooperation we received from householders during the conduct of the 2016 census”.

Population change

Population change varied widely across the country ranging from a high of over 8 per cent in Fingal to a low of -1.5 per cent in Donegal. Among the fastest growing counties were the four administrative areas of Dublin, along with the commuter belt counties of Meath, Kildare and Laois and the cities of Cork and Galway.

While most counties experienced some level of population growth three counties witnessed population decline over the five years, namely Donegal (-1.5%), Mayo (-0.2%) and Sligo (-0.1%).

Housing and vacant dwellings

The number of occupied households increased by just over 49,000, an increase of 3 per cent. As the population increased by 3.7 per cent over the five years, household formation has fallen behind population growth over the five years 2011 to 2016.

The number of vacant dwellings has fallen by 29,889 (13.8%) and now stands at 259,562. The vacancy rate has also fallen to 12.8 per cent. Within this the number of holiday homes has increased marginally between 2011 and 2016, from 59,395 to 61,204.

While the overall number of holiday homes increased only slightly (up 1,809) there was a noticeable increase in the number of vacant holiday homes in Dublin City Centre up from 322 in 2011 to 937 in 2016, an increase of 190 per cent.

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Migration

Net migration, calculated as the residual of the total population increase of 169,724 less natural increase of 198,282, is estimated to be -28,558 over the five years 2011 to 2016. This compares with net inward migration of 115,800 over the previous five years.

Net migration varied widely across Ireland, from a low of -6,731 in Donegal to a high of 7,257 in Dublin City. Dublin City and Cork City (4,380), along with the administrative area of Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown (4,066), were the only areas to experience net inflows of any meaningful amount, while Fingal (875), Laois (285), Longford (178) and Kilkenny (127) showed marginal increases.

Mr. Murphy concluded that “These preliminary results, published just 12 weeks after census day, are based on a clerical summary of each enumeration area compiled by the 4,663 enumerators. These counts were returned to the CSO in advance of the census forms themselves and the results published today are based on this information. We’d like to thank the enumerators and their supervisors for all their hard work over the course of the census, and in particular for making the publication of these results today possible. Scanning and processing of the two million actual census forms is well underway and the first definitive results are due to be published next March, within a year of census day”.

For copies of the publication:

To view and download the publication, visit the CSO website at <http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cpr/censusofpopulation2016-preliminaryresults/>

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Further information about Census 2016 is available on www.census.ie

Note to editors:

- ◆ Census 2016 was held on Sunday, April 24th.
- ◆ Census 2016 was the 27th census. The first was carried out in 1821. There was a Census every ten years up to 1946 (with a gap between 1911 and 1926) and every five years since 1951.
- ◆ The preliminary results are the initial count of the census. Further results will be released in different phases as they become available during 2017, commencing with This is Ireland, Part 1 - Principal Demographic Results due to be published in March 2017.
- ◆ The 2016 Census was a no change census, therefore there were no new questions but there was a change to the marital status question to allow for same sex civil partnerships and some small changes to some other questions.