



Family And Household Structure In Ireland

Key data from the 2016 Census of Population

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List of Tables

| | | |
|----------|---|----|
| Table 1a | Family types in Ireland, Censuses of Population, 1996-2016 | 1 |
| Table 1b | Family types in Ireland, % change from previous census, 2002-2016 | 2 |
| Table 1c | Family Types, by aggregate town or rural area | 2 |
| Table 1d | Family types, by aggregate town or rural area, % change from previous census (CSO) | 3 |
| Table 2 | Family Types, by age of youngest child | 3 |
| Table 3 | Percentage of children in different family types | 5 |
| Table 4 | Percentage of 0-17 year olds in different family types | 5 |
| Table 5 | Percentage share among all families of different family types in European Countries | 6 |
| Table 6 | 2015 Birth Statistics for Ireland | 8 |
| Table 7 | Percentage of births inside and outside marriage in European Countries | 9 |
| Table 8 | Number of Births in Ireland, by Parents' nationality | 10 |
| Table 9 | Birth statistics for various European countries, 2015 | 11 |
| Table 10 | Average number of children in different family types | 12 |
| Table 11 | Social Class of families in Ireland, broken down by number of children | 12 |
| Table 12 | Age groups of male partner in married and cohabiting couples, broken down by relative female age | 13 |
| Table 13 | Relative age of the female partner in married and cohabiting couples, broken down by no. of children | 13 |
| Table 14 | Family types, broken down by rental status of residence | 14 |
| Table 15 | Family types, broken down by principal economic status | 14 |
| Table 16 | Family Types, broken down by social class | 14 |
| Table 17 | Number of different family types in the administrative counties of Ireland, Census of Population 2016 | 16 |

List of Figures

| | | |
|----------|--|----|
| Figure 1 | Percentage breakdown of families by family type | 2 |
| Figure 2 | Time series of total fertility rate | 8 |
| Figure 3 | Percentage of married couples among families in administrative counties | 15 |
| Figure 4 | Percentage of married couples among families in Dublin electoral districts | 17 |
| Figure 5 | Families in electoral districts: Percentage change between 2011 and 2016 | 18 |



Introduction

This report presents data from the Censuses of Population on the structure of families and households in Ireland. The focus is mainly on data from the 2011 and 2016 censuses but some data is also presented from earlier censuses and other sources. This report is a stand-alone report but also satisfies DCYA's commitment under the *National Strategy for Research and Data on Children's Lives*, in which we committed that 'Further analysis will be conducted on existing census data to provide a full profile of family and household structures and living arrangements for children in Ireland'. Data was sourced from the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat.

For Census purposes, a family is defined as a couple (married or cohabiting) with or without children, or a one-parent family with one or more children. In this paper, we consider families with children only, and all references to families can be taken to mean families with children.

Table 1a: Family types in Ireland, Censuses of Population, 1996 - 2016

| | 1996 | 2002 | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| All families | 633,341 | 691,607 | 749,626 | 834,266 | 862,721 |
| Married couple | 491,567 | 508,035 | 516,404 | 558,682 | 568,317 |
| Cohabiting couple | 12,658 | 29,709 | 43,982 | 60,269 | 75,587 |
| One parent mother | 108,282 | 130,364 | 162,551 | 186,284 | 189,112 |
| One parent father | 20,834 | 23,499 | 26,689 | 29,031 | 29,705 |



Table 1b: Family types in Ireland, % change from previous census, 2002-2016

| | 2002 | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 |
|-------------------|-------|------|------|------|
| All families | 9.2 | 8.4 | 11.3 | 3.4 |
| Married couple | 3.4 | 1.6 | 8.2 | 1.7 |
| Cohabiting couple | 134.7 | 48.0 | 37.0 | 25.4 |
| One parent mother | 20.4 | 24.7 | 14.6 | 1.5 |
| One parent father | 12.8 | 13.6 | 8.8 | 2.3 |

Figure 1: Percentage breakdown of families by family-type

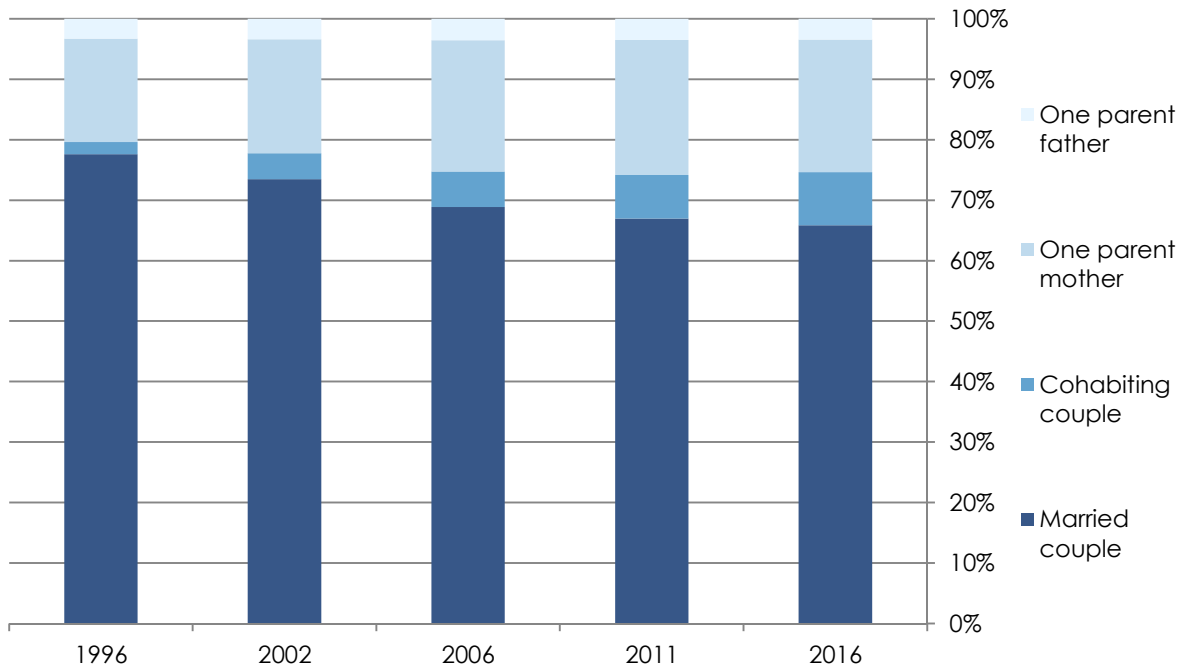


Table 1c: Family types, by aggregate town or rural area (CSO)

| | Married couple | | Cohabiting couple | | One parent mother | | One parent father | |
|------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|
| | 2011 | 2016 | 2011 | 2016 | 2011 | 2016 | 2011 | 2016 |
| State | 558,682 | 568,317 | 60,269 | 75,587 | 186,284 | 189,112 | 29,031 | 29,705 |
| Town Area | 310,983 | 324,620 | 41,649 | 52,470 | 132,534 | 134,183 | 17,773 | 18,269 |
| Rural Area | 247,699 | 243,697 | 18,620 | 23,117 | 53,750 | 54,929 | 11,258 | 11,436 |



Table 1d: Family types, by aggregate town or rural area, % change 2011-2016 (CSO)

| | Married couple | Cohabiting couple | One parent mother | One parent father |
|------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| State | 1.7 | 25.4 | 1.5 | 2.3 |
| Town Area | 4.4 | 26.0 | 1.2 | 2.8 |
| Rural Area | -1.6 | 24.2 | 2.2 | 1.6 |

Table 2: Family Types, by age of youngest child (CSO)

| | All families | | | Married couple | | Cohabiting couple | | One parent mother | | One parent father | |
|---------------|--------------|---------|----------|----------------|---------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|--------|
| | 2011 | 2016 | % change | 2011 | 2016 | 2011 | 2016 | 2011 | 2016 | 2011 | 2016 |
| State | 834,266 | 862,721 | 3.4 | 558,682 | 568,317 | 60,269 | 75,587 | 186,284 | 189,112 | 29,031 | 29,705 |
| 0 - 4 years | 266,141 | 249,091 | -6.4 | 180,467 | 166,307 | 38,994 | 44,272 | 44,491 | 36,466 | 2,189 | 2,046 |
| 5 - 9 years | 139,761 | 160,952 | 15.2 | 94,016 | 109,658 | 10,060 | 15,161 | 33,083 | 33,502 | 2,602 | 2,631 |
| 10 - 14 years | 119,189 | 123,994 | 4.0 | 82,700 | 84,053 | 5,498 | 7,539 | 27,504 | 29,078 | 3,487 | 3,324 |
| 15 - 19 years | 104,025 | 112,212 | 7.9 | 73,604 | 75,829 | 3,119 | 4,773 | 22,573 | 26,863 | 4,729 | 4,747 |
| >20 | 205,150 | 216,472 | 5.5 | 127,895 | 132,470 | 2,598 | 3,842 | 58,633 | 63,203 | 16,024 | 16,957 |

Summary

There were 862,721 families in the State in 2016, a 3.4% increase on 2011, when there were 834,266 families, and an increase of 36% from twenty years previously, in 1996, when there were 633,341 families. See *Table 1a*.

Over half (54%) of the total increase in family units between 2011 and 2016 was accounted for by the increase in the number of cohabiting couples with children, which in absolute terms increased by 25%, from 60,269 to 75,587. By contrast, the number of married couples increased by under 2% between 2011 and 2016. See *Table 1a*.



The proportion of families comprising of married couples dropped slightly from 67% to 66%, while the corresponding proportion of families made up of cohabiting couples increased from 7% to 9%. This is part of a consistent trend since the 1996 census, when married couples comprised 78% of all families and cohabiting couples 2%. While the number of cohabiting couples has been increasing from 1996 to 2016, the rate of increase is declining. The numbers more than doubled between 1996 and 2002, from 12,658 to 29,709, increased by half between 2002 and 2006 to 43,982, by over a third between 2006 and 2011, and, by a quarter in the subsequent period up to 2016 *See Tables 1a & Figure 1.*

Between 2011 and 2016, the number of families living in town areas increased by 5%, from 502,939 to 529,542. The number living in rural areas increased slightly (less than 1%) from 331,327 to 333,179. Contrary to the overall increase in rural areas the number of married couples in rural areas actually declined by 2%, whereas there was an increase in the numbers of all other family types. *See Tables 1c & 1d.*

In 2016, 22% of families were lone mothers, unchanged since 2011, although it is perhaps more instructive to look at the absolute figures. Over the period 1996-2011, the number of lone mother's increased by 72%, equivalent to a compound yearly increase of just under 4%. Over the entire five year period 2011-2016, there was an increase of under 2%. The number of one-parent father families increased by 42% over the period 1996-2016, but from a much lower base, so that the absolute increase was a little over 9,000. *See Tables 1a & 1b.*

The number of children in Ireland living in families increased by 3% between 2011 and 2016, from 1,625,975 to 1,682,601. The number of children in cohabiting couples had the greatest percentage change, increasing 32% from 104,665 to 138,238. *See Table 3.*

Since married couples on average have more children, the proportion of children living with a married couple is higher than married couples' share of all family units, at 71%, down from 72% in 2011. Similarly, the proportion of children living with a one-parent mother is lower than its share of family units, at 19%. The same can be said for cohabiting couples and one-parent fathers. Data from the OECD and Eurostat on the distribution of 0-17 year old children across family types shows that although a

higher proportion of children in Ireland live with a married couple, the proportion living with a cohabiting couple is below the EU average (OECD average not available), so that the proportion living with two parents is at the EU and OECD average. The proportion of children living with a single parent in Ireland (primarily one-parent mother families) is just above both the EU-28 and OECD average. See Tables 3 & 4.

Table 2 gives a breakdown of family type by the age-group of the youngest child. Overall, the number of families where the youngest child is aged 0-4 has fallen by 6%, from 266,141 to 249,091. By contrast, the number of families where the youngest child is aged 5-9 has increased by 15%, from 139,761 to 160,952. This is to be expected, as those born during the increase in births from 2006 onwards move through the early stages of life.

Table 3: Children in different family types (CSO)

| | 2011 | | 2016 | | % change |
|-------------------|------|-----------|------|-----------|----------|
| | % | No. | % | No. | |
| All Families | 100 | 1,625,975 | 100 | 1,682,601 | 3.48 |
| Married couple | 71.9 | 1,169,314 | 70.6 | 1,188,160 | 1.61 |
| Cohabiting couple | 6.4 | 104,665 | 8.2 | 138,238 | 32.08 |
| One parent mother | 18.9 | 308,109 | 18.6 | 312,241 | 1.34 |
| One parent father | 2.7 | 43,887 | 2.6 | 43,962 | 0.17 |

Table 4: Percentage of 0-17 year olds in different family types (OECD)

| | Living with two parents (unspecified) | Two married parents | Two cohabiting parents | Living with a single parent | Other |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Ireland | 82.4 | 71.8 | 10.6 | 17.6 | 0.1 |
| EU-28 ¹ average | 82.3 | 68.8 | 13.6 | 16.7 | 0.9 |
| OECD ² average | 81.9 | .. ³ | .. | 17.1 | 1 |

¹ See Glossary for definition of EU 28

² See Glossary for definition of the OECD average

³ Not available

Table 5: Percentage breakdown of families in EU countries by family-type 2011⁴ (Eurostat)

| | Married couple | Registered partnership | Cohabiting couple | One-Parent Father | One-Parent Mother |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Austria | 63.5 | 0 | 10.5 | 3.8 | 22.1 |
| Belgium | 59.8 | 4.1 | 9.1 | 5 | 22 |
| Bulgaria | 61.8 | 0 | 14.3 | 4.7 | 19.2 |
| Croatia | 73.4 | 0 | 2.6 | 3.8 | 20.1 |
| Cyprus | 82.2 | 0 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 13.7 |
| Czech Republic | 61.2 | 0 | 6.7 | 6 | 26.1 |
| Denmark | 60.7 | 0.1 | 15.9 | 4.1 | 19.1 |
| Estonia | 41.8 | 0 | 21.4 | 3.4 | 33.4 |
| France | 55.6 | 0 | 19.4 | 4.1 | 20.9 |
| Germany | 67.8 | 0 | 7.7 | 3.8 | 20.7 |
| Greece | 76.7 | 0 | 0.6 | 3.6 | 19 |
| Hungary | 57.8 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 26.1 |
| Ireland | 67.1 | 0 | 7.2 | 3.4 | 22.2 |
| Italy | 70.9 | 0 | 5.8 | 4.1 | 19.2 |
| Latvia | 44 | 0 | 10.6 | 5.9 | 39.6 |
| Lithuania | 58.2 | 0 | 6.6 | 4.9 | 30.4 |
| Luxembourg | 69.5 | 1.4 | 6.2 | 3.9 | 18.9 |
| Malta | 75 | 0 | 2 | 3.5 | 19.5 |
| Netherlands | 65.6 | 1.1 | 13.8 | 3.4 | 16.1 |
| Poland | 67.6 | 0 | 2.1 | 3.9 | 26.5 |
| Portugal | 67.2 | 0 | 9.8 | 3.1 | 19.9 |
| Romania | 71.5 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 18.4 |
| Slovakia | 67.5 | 0 | 5.6 | 4.6 | 22.4 |
| Slovenia | 55.3 | 0 | 11.4 | 5.5 | 27.9 |
| Spain | 67.9 | 0 | 8.1 | 5 | 18.9 |
| Sweden | 51.8 | 0 | 24.5 | 5.6 | 18.1 |
| United Kingdom | 56.5 | 0 | 12.1 | 4.5 | 26.9 |

⁴ Data for Finland not available



Fertility and Family Size

At 1.9 children per woman, the total fertility rate⁵ in 2015 (the latest date for which finalised data is available) in Ireland was higher than both the EU and OECD average. The Irish fertility rate has been quite stable since the early 90s, after a two-decade period of continual decline. At 1.9 in 2015 and 2016, it has fallen below 2 for the first time since 2006. *See Figure 2.*

The overall mean age of mothers at birth of first child in 2015 was 29.9, higher than the EU28 average of 28.9, and the OECD-25 average of 29. First-time mothers within marriage in 2015 were older than those outside marriage, at 32.8 years on average, compared to 28.1 years.

Older mothers were more likely to give birth within marriage. 70% of births occurring to mothers aged 20-29 were outside marriage. Contrary to this, 76% of births occurring to mothers aged 30-39 were within marriage. *See Table 6.*

The overall proportion of births occurring outside marriage in 2015 was 37%, below the OECD average of 40%⁶. At 60% and 70% respectively, the proportion of births outside marriage was the highest in France and Iceland and lowest at 9% in Greece⁷. *See Table 7.*

70% of all births in 2015 were to parents who were both Irish, a further 14% were to parents at least one of whom was Irish, with 13% to parents who were both non-Irish. *See Table 8.*

The average number of children in a family was 1.95 in 2016 unchanged since 2011. Married couples had more children on average at 2.09, with all other family types having less than the average. 30% of married couples had 3 or more children, compared to figures of 19% and 15% for cohabiting couples and lone mothers respectively. Families of professional, managerial and technical social classes were found to have larger families, on average. 31% of families classed as professional had three or more children, compared to 21% for families classed as unskilled. It is

⁵ See Glossary

⁶ This is based on data from 2014, although some country data (including Ireland) dated to 2012

⁷ Data for all EU countries was not available



important to note that this data refers only to the current number of children in the family unit, excluding adult children no longer usually resident. See Table 10.

Figure 2: Time series of total fertility rate (OECD)

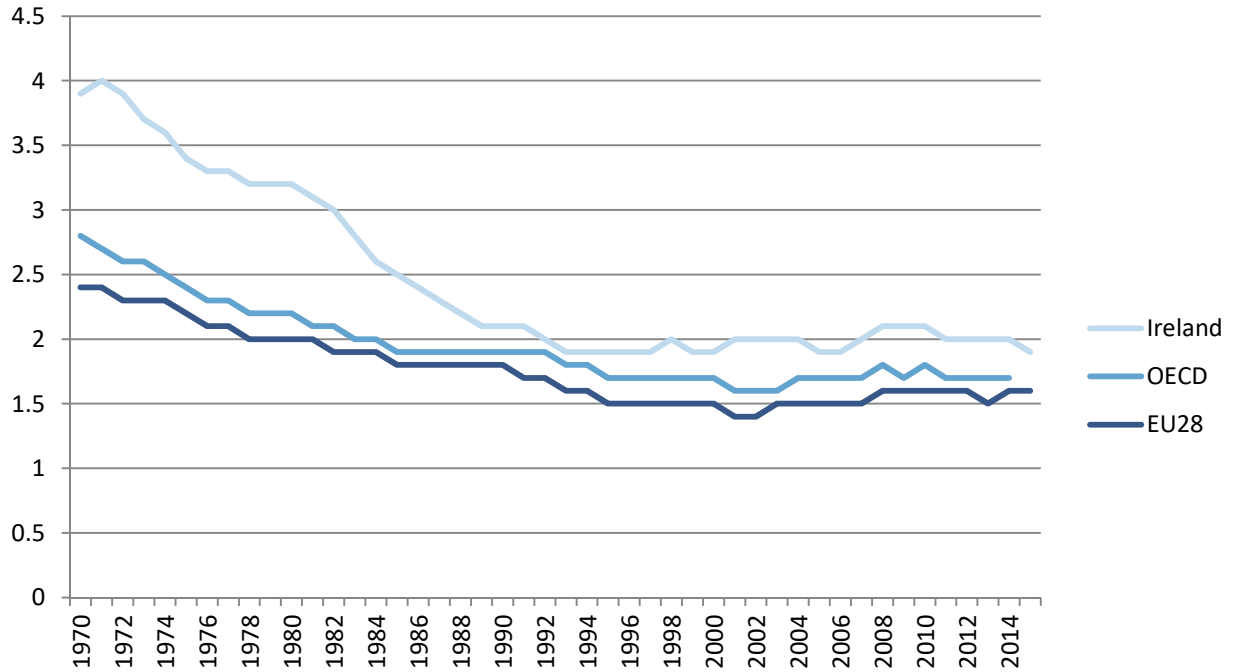


Table 6: 2015 Birth Statistics for Ireland (CSO)

| | 2015 |
|---|--------|
| All Births (Number) | 65,536 |
| Births within Marriage (Number) | 41,594 |
| Births outside Marriage (Number) | 23,942 |
| Domiciliary Births (Number) | 345 |
| Average Age of Mother (Years) | 32.5 |
| Average Age of Mother within Marriage (Years) | 34.1 |
| Average Age of Mother outside Marriage (Years) | 29.7 |
| Average Age of First Time Mother (Years) | 30.6 |
| Average Age of First Time Mother within Marriage (Years) | 32.8 |
| Average Age of First Time Mother outside Marriage (Years) | 28.1 |

Table 7: Percentage breakdown of births in EU countries by marital status, 2015 (Eurostat)⁸

| | Inside marriage | Outside marriage |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Bulgaria | 41.4 | 58.6 |
| Croatia | 81.9 | 18.1 |
| Cyprus | 83.4 | 16.6 |
| Czech Republic | 52.2 | 47.8 |
| Denmark | 46.2 | 53.8 |
| Estonia | 42 | 57.9 |
| EU-28 | 57.5 | 42.5 |
| Finland | 55.7 | 44.3 |
| France | 40.9 | 59.1 |
| Germany | 65 | 35 |
| Greece | 91.2 | 8.8 |
| Hungary | 52 | 47.9 |
| Ireland | 63.4 | 36.6 |
| Italy | 70 | 30 |
| Latvia | 58.5 | 41.5 |
| Lithuania | 72.3 | 27.7 |
| Luxembourg | 60.8 | 38.8 |
| Malta | 73 | 26.9 |
| Netherlands | 50.2 | 49.8 |
| Poland | 75.4 | 24.6 |
| Portugal | 49.3 | 50.7 |
| Romania | 69 | 31 |
| Slovakia | 60.8 | 39.2 |
| Slovenia | 42.1 | 57.9 |
| Spain | 55.5 | 44.5 |
| Sweden | 45.3 | 54.7 |
| United Kingdom | 52.1 | 47.9 |

⁸ Data not available for Austria and Belgium



Table 8: Breakdown of births in Ireland by nationality of parents 2015 (CSO)

| | No. of Births | % |
|--|---------------|-------|
| All nationalities | 65,536 | 100.0 |
| Both parent Irish | 45,973 | 70.1 |
| Mother and father UK | 223 | 0.3 |
| Mother Irish, father UK | 1,314 | 2.0 |
| Mother UK, father Irish | 1,160 | 1.8 |
| Mother not stated, father Irish | 6 | 0.0 |
| Mother Irish, father EU15 excluding Irish and UK | 404 | 0.6 |
| Mother EU15 excluding Irish and UK, father Irish | 608 | 0.9 |
| Mother other nationality excluding EU27, father Irish | 1,361 | 2.1 |
| Mother Irish, father EU15 to EU27 states | 313 | 0.5 |
| Mother Irish, father other nationality excluding EU27 states | 1,098 | 1.7 |
| Mother Irish, father nationality not stated | 1,918 | 2.9 |
| Mother EU15 to EU27, father Irish | 1,073 | 1.6 |
| Mother and father EU15 excluding Irish and UK | 401 | 0.6 |
| Mother and father EU15 to EU27 | 5,902 | 9.0 |
| Mother and father other nationality, excluding EU27 states | 2,177 | 3.3 |
| Not Stated/Other combinations | 37 | 0.1 |



Table 9: Birth statistics for European Union countries, 2015 (Eurostat)

| | % live births outside marriage | Total fertility rate | Mean age at childbirth | Mean age at birth of first child | % first born children |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| European Union 28 | .. | 1.57 | 30.5 | 28.9 | 45.9 |
| Austria | .. | 1.49 | 30.6 | 29.2 | 48.3 |
| Belgium | 48 | 1.7 | 30.4 | 28.7 | 43.5 |
| Bulgaria | 58.6 | 1.53 | 27.4 | 26 | 50.9 |
| Croatia | 18.1 | 1.4 | 29.9 | 28.3 | 45.5 |
| Cyprus | 16.6 | 1.32 | 31.3 | 29.5 | 46.5 |
| Czech Republic | 47.8 | 1.57 | 30 | 28.2 | 48.1 |
| Denmark | 53.8 | 1.71 | 31 | 29.2 | 46 |
| Estonia | 57.9 | 1.58 | 29.9 | 27.2 | 42.3 |
| Finland | 44.3 | 1.65 | 30.6 | 28.8 | 41.3 |
| France | 59.1 | 1.96 | 30.4 | 28.5 | 42.2 |
| Germany | 35 | 1.5 | 30.9 | 29.5 | 49 |
| Greece | 8.8 | 1.33 | 31.3 | 30.2 | 48.1 |
| Hungary | 47.9 | 1.45 | 29.6 | 27.9 | 46.5 |
| Ireland | 36.6 | 1.9 | 32.5 | 30.6 | 37.8 |
| Italy | 30 | 1.35 | 31.7 | 30.8 | 47.5 |
| Latvia | 41.5 | 1.7 | 29.4 | 26.5 | 42.6 |
| Lithuania | 27.7 | 1.7 | 29.5 | 27.1 | 47.4 |
| Luxembourg | 38.8 | 1.47 | 31.5 | 30.2 | 54.5 |
| Malta | 26.9 | 1.37 | 30.3 | 28.7 | 51.1 |
| Netherlands | 49.8 | 1.66 | 31.2 | 29.7 | 45.5 |
| Poland | 24.6 | 1.32 | 29.2 | 27 | 47.3 |
| Portugal | 50.7 | 1.31 | 30.9 | 29.5 | 52.5 |
| Romania | 31 | 1.58 | 27.7 | 26.3 | 54.1 |
| Slovakia | 39.2 | 1.4 | 28.8 | 27.1 | 46 |
| Slovenia | 57.9 | 1.57 | 30.2 | 28.7 | 47.9 |
| Spain | 44.5 | 1.33 | 31.9 | 30.7 | 51.2 |
| Sweden | 54.7 | 1.85 | 31 | 29.2 | 42.7 |
| United Kingdom | 47.9 | 1.8 | 30.3 | 28.7 | 39.8 |



Table 10: Average number of children in different family types (CSO)

| | 2011 | 2016 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|
| All families | 1.95 | 1.95 |
| Married couple with children | 2.09 | 2.09 |
| Cohabiting couple with children | 1.74 | 1.83 |
| One parent mother with children | 1.65 | 1.65 |
| One parent father with children | 1.51 | 1.48 |

Table 11: Percentage breakdown of family social-class by no. of children 2016 (CSO)⁹

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | >4 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|-----|
| All social classes | 39.5 | 35.6 | 17.6 | 7.2 |
| Professional workers | 31.8 | 37.5 | 22.1 | 8.6 |
| Managerial and technical | 35.8 | 37.9 | 19.7 | 6.6 |
| Non-manual | 42.4 | 36.2 | 15.9 | 5.5 |
| Skilled manual | 38.7 | 36.1 | 17.8 | 7.4 |
| Semi-skilled | 41.5 | 35.3 | 16.4 | 6.8 |
| Unskilled | 45.5 | 33 | 14.6 | 6.9 |
| All other occupied and unknown | 44.8 | 30.2 | 15.2 | 9.8 |

Taking Professional Workers as an example, this table should be read as: 31.8% of all families in the Professional workers social class have one-child, 37.5% have two children, 22.1% have 3 children, and 8.6% have four or more children.

Age Gap

In considering the age-gap between the male and female partner in married or cohabiting couples, the 'same age' is defined as being when the couple are within a year of each other in age. *Table 12* shows that as the male partner gets older, the female partner is less likely to be the same age, and more likely to be younger. Most of this change takes place within narrow bands, however, so that the proportion of couples having an age gap of less than 4 years remains relatively stable. The age gap did not have a marked effect on family size where the female partner was younger, or no more than four years older, with family size being similarly distributed across each

⁹ See Glossary for guide to reading *Tables 11-16*



of the seven relevant age gaps. In the remaining two age-gaps, where the female is more than five years older, the distribution is more skewed towards smaller families. See Table 13.

Table 12: Percentage breakdown of age-group of male partner in married/cohabiting couples by relative age of female partner (CSO)

| | Younger | Same Age (+/- 1 year) | Older |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------|
| All ages | 51.7 | 35 | 13.3 |
| Under 20 years | 1.9 | 34.4 | 63.7 |
| 20 - 24 years | 19.1 | 50.2 | 30.7 |
| 25 - 29 years | 27.8 | 45.7 | 26.4 |
| 30 - 34 years | 33.9 | 44.4 | 21.7 |
| 35 - 39 years | 43.7 | 40 | 16.4 |
| 40 - 44 years | 50.6 | 35.3 | 14 |
| 45 - 49 years | 53.8 | 33.9 | 12.3 |
| 50 - 54 years | 55.2 | 34 | 10.7 |
| 55 - 59 years | 59.7 | 31.3 | 9 |
| 60 - 64 years | 64 | 27.9 | 8.1 |
| 65 years and over | 70.5 | 22.5 | 7 |

Taking the third line as an example, this table should be read as: 19.1% of male partners between the ages of 20 and 24 have a younger female partner, 50.2% have one who is the same age, and 30.7% have one who is older.

Table 13: Percentage breakdown of relative age of the female partner in married/cohabiting couples by no. of children (CSO)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | >6 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 10 years or more younger | 36.5 | 35.9 | 18 | 6.8 | 2 | 0.9 |
| 5-9 years younger | 33.9 | 37.4 | 19.6 | 6.7 | 1.7 | 0.7 |
| 2-4 years younger | 33 | 38.1 | 20.6 | 6.4 | 1.4 | 0.6 |
| Same Age | 32.2 | 38.7 | 21.1 | 6.2 | 1.3 | 0.5 |
| 2-4 years older | 34.3 | 39.3 | 19.4 | 5.4 | 1.1 | 0.4 |
| 5-9 years older | 38.9 | 39.6 | 15.7 | 4.4 | 1 | 0.4 |
| 10 years or more older | 48.8 | 32.5 | 12.7 | 3.7 | 1.7 | 0.6 |

Taking the first line as an example, this table should be read as: 36.5% of married/cohabiting couples where the female partner is 10 or more years younger have 1 child, 35.9% have 2, and so on.



Economic and Social Class¹⁰

The tables here show that, compared to all other family types, married couples are less likely to rent, more likely to have at least one person in work, and that person is more likely to be in a professional, managerial, or technical job.

It is difficult to draw strong conclusions from the data for social class, however, as 22% of one-parent fathers and 33% of one-parent mothers have been found to be uncategorizable in any of the six classes.

Table 14: Percentage breakdown of family types by nature of occupancy (CSO)

| | Renting | Not renting (including not stated) |
|-------------------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Married couple | 17.9 | 82.1 |
| Cohabiting couple | 52.9 | 47.1 |
| One parent mother | 46 | 54 |
| One parent father | 29.2 | 70.8 |

Table 15: Percentage breakdown of family types by Principal Economic Status (CSO)

| | Persons at work | Unemployed | Student | Looking after home | Retired | Unfit to work | Other |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------------|-------|
| All families | 67.8 | 0.4 | 7.8 | 1.2 | 9.7 | 8.3 | 3.6 |
| Married couple | 75.6 | 0.2 | 5.6 | 0.7 | 6.6 | 7.5 | 3.0 |
| Cohabiting couple | 69.3 | 0.7 | 12.4 | 1.7 | 11.4 | 0.8 | 3.1 |
| One parent mother | 46.9 | 0.9 | 12.1 | 2.6 | 19.5 | 10.7 | 5.2 |
| One parent father | 47.8 | 0.4 | 11.2 | 0.9 | 3.9 | 27.3 | 5.8 |

Table 16: Percentage breakdown of family types by Social Class (CSO)

| | Professional | Managerial & technical | Non-manual | Skilled manual | Semi-skilled | Unskilled | Other |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| All families | 7.3 | 27.3 | 17.2 | 17.2 | 12.5 | 4.0 | 14.5 |
| Married couple | 9.5 | 31.9 | 15.6 | 19.2 | 12.2 | 3.6 | 8.0 |
| Cohabiting couple | 4.4 | 21.8 | 18.6 | 21.3 | 15.0 | 4.9 | 14.1 |
| One parent mother | 2.4 | 17.1 | 22.2 | 8.3 | 12.1 | 4.6 | 33.2 |
| One parent father | 5.0 | 18.0 | 10.8 | 24.2 | 13.8 | 6.3 | 21.8 |

¹⁰ See Glossary

Geographical Statistics

Table 17 gives a breakdown of different family types within each Administrative county. The data for married couples is visualised in Figure 3, a graduated colour map, where darker colours represent a higher proportion of married couples among families within that county. The proportion of married couple family units was highest in Galway at 72.7 and lowest in Dublin at 55.1. However, overall, there is limited variation at county level.

Figure 3: Percentage of married couples among families in administrative counties

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Dublin City | 55.1 |
| Cork City | 56.1 |
| Galway City | 61.4 |
| Wexford | 61.9 |
| South Dublin | 62.3 |
| Waterford City and County | 62.5 |
| Louth | 62.7 |
| Longford | 63.5 |
| Carlow | 64.0 |
| Tipperary | 64.5 |
| Limerick City and County | 65.1 |
| Westmeath | 65.3 |
| Wicklow | 65.7 |
| Offaly | 65.7 |
| State | 65.9 |
| Sligo | 66.0 |
| Laois | 66.1 |
| Donegal | 66.8 |
| Kerry | 67.1 |
| Fingal | 67.9 |
| Clare | 68.1 |
| Kilkenny | 68.5 |
| Mayo | 68.5 |
| Monaghan | 68.7 |
| Leitrim | 69.4 |
| Cavan | 69.4 |
| Kildare | 69.5 |
| Roscommon | 69.5 |
| Meath | 70.7 |
| Cork County | 71.2 |
| Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown | 71.6 |
| Galway County | 72.7 |

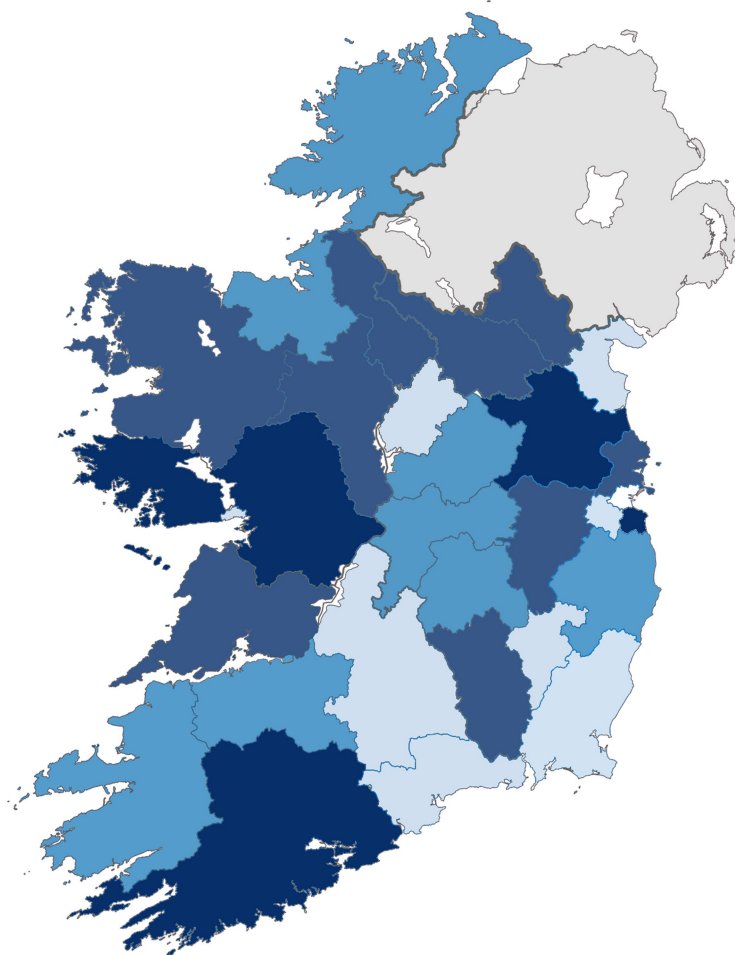




Table 17: Number of different family types in the administrative counties of Ireland (CSO)

| | All Families | | Married couple with children | | Cohabiting couple with children | | One parent mother with children | | One parent father with children | |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------|------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|--------|
| | 2011 | 2016 | 2011 | 2016 | 2011 | 2016 | 2011 | 2016 | 2011 | 2016 |
| State | 834,266 | 862,721 | 558,682 | 568,317 | 60,269 | 75,587 | 186,284 | 189,112 | 29,031 | 29,705 |
| Carlow | 10,354 | 10,819 | 6,900 | 6,929 | 878 | 1,184 | 2,206 | 2,341 | 370 | 365 |
| Dublin City | 78,071 | 80,943 | 42,685 | 44,638 | 5,563 | 7,141 | 26,261 | 25,779 | 3,562 | 3,385 |
| Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown | 35,357 | 37,478 | 25,122 | 26,832 | 1,797 | 2,251 | 7,346 | 7,255 | 1,092 | 1,140 |
| Fingal | 52,771 | 57,286 | 35,838 | 38,881 | 4,123 | 5,158 | 11,330 | 11,627 | 1,480 | 1,620 |
| South Dublin | 52,706 | 55,112 | 33,007 | 34,319 | 4,197 | 5,234 | 13,784 | 13,713 | 1,718 | 1,846 |
| Kildare | 40,688 | 43,257 | 28,526 | 30,081 | 3,270 | 4,009 | 7,715 | 7,996 | 1,177 | 1,171 |
| Kilkenny | 17,965 | 18,616 | 12,621 | 12,753 | 1,293 | 1,601 | 3,430 | 3,606 | 621 | 656 |
| Laois | 15,445 | 16,280 | 10,516 | 10,768 | 1,412 | 1,705 | 3,015 | 3,268 | 502 | 539 |
| Longford | 7,280 | 7,542 | 4,816 | 4,788 | 523 | 744 | 1,689 | 1,729 | 252 | 281 |
| Louth | 23,925 | 24,876 | 15,411 | 15,599 | 1,902 | 2,491 | 5,779 | 5,922 | 833 | 864 |
| Meath | 36,475 | 38,667 | 26,328 | 27,338 | 2,938 | 3,517 | 6,127 | 6,658 | 1,082 | 1,154 |
| Offaly | 14,829 | 15,106 | 10,109 | 9,928 | 1,268 | 1,499 | 2,940 | 3,127 | 512 | 552 |
| Westmeath | 15,922 | 16,660 | 10,748 | 10,878 | 1,281 | 1,671 | 3,363 | 3,503 | 530 | 608 |
| Wexford | 27,690 | 28,468 | 17,865 | 17,634 | 2,525 | 3,213 | 6,327 | 6,582 | 973 | 1,039 |
| Wicklow | 26,669 | 27,970 | 17,777 | 18,363 | 2,152 | 2,706 | 5,818 | 5,987 | 922 | 914 |
| Clare | 21,601 | 21,663 | 15,153 | 14,755 | 1,531 | 1,855 | 4,141 | 4,258 | 776 | 795 |
| Cork City | 18,697 | 19,153 | 10,747 | 10,748 | 1,186 | 1,652 | 5,918 | 5,874 | 846 | 879 |
| Cork County | 75,940 | 79,332 | 54,844 | 56,456 | 4,897 | 6,373 | 13,787 | 14,096 | 2,412 | 2,407 |
| Kerry | 26,095 | 25,983 | 18,033 | 17,425 | 1,619 | 2,090 | 5,439 | 5,500 | 1,004 | 968 |
| Limerick City and County | 34,426 | 34,927 | 22,890 | 22,744 | 2,515 | 3,086 | 7,764 | 7,799 | 1,257 | 1,298 |
| Tipperary | 30,090 | 30,012 | 19,825 | 19,346 | 2,507 | 2,873 | 6,582 | 6,646 | 1,176 | 1,147 |
| Waterford City and County | 21,058 | 21,342 | 13,641 | 13,349 | 1,610 | 2,018 | 5,026 | 5,109 | 781 | 866 |
| Galway City | 10,512 | 11,185 | 6,425 | 6,866 | 781 | 983 | 2,926 | 2,960 | 380 | 376 |
| Galway County | 32,425 | 33,317 | 23,940 | 24,236 | 1,914 | 2,225 | 5,557 | 5,797 | 1,014 | 1,059 |
| Leitrim | 5,580 | 5,601 | 3,966 | 3,887 | 372 | 442 | 1,055 | 1,107 | 187 | 165 |
| Mayo | 23,223 | 22,954 | 16,475 | 15,732 | 1,311 | 1,688 | 4,606 | 4,685 | 831 | 849 |
| Roscommon | 11,690 | 11,661 | 8,294 | 8,110 | 767 | 941 | 2,235 | 2,201 | 394 | 409 |
| Sligo | 11,257 | 11,331 | 7,682 | 7,480 | 742 | 925 | 2,430 | 2,511 | 403 | 415 |
| Cavan | 13,587 | 14,122 | 9,646 | 9,803 | 997 | 1,265 | 2,495 | 2,603 | 449 | 451 |
| Donegal | 30,372 | 29,360 | 20,638 | 19,614 | 1,677 | 2,142 | 6,968 | 6,575 | 1,089 | 1,029 |
| Monaghan | 11,566 | 11,698 | 8,214 | 8,037 | 721 | 905 | 2,225 | 2,298 | 406 | 458 |

Figure 4 displays the same information as Figure 3 for the Dublin region, only this time at electoral district¹¹ (ED) level. This lower geographic level shows a greater level of variation.

Figure 4: Percentage of married couples among families in Dublin electoral districts

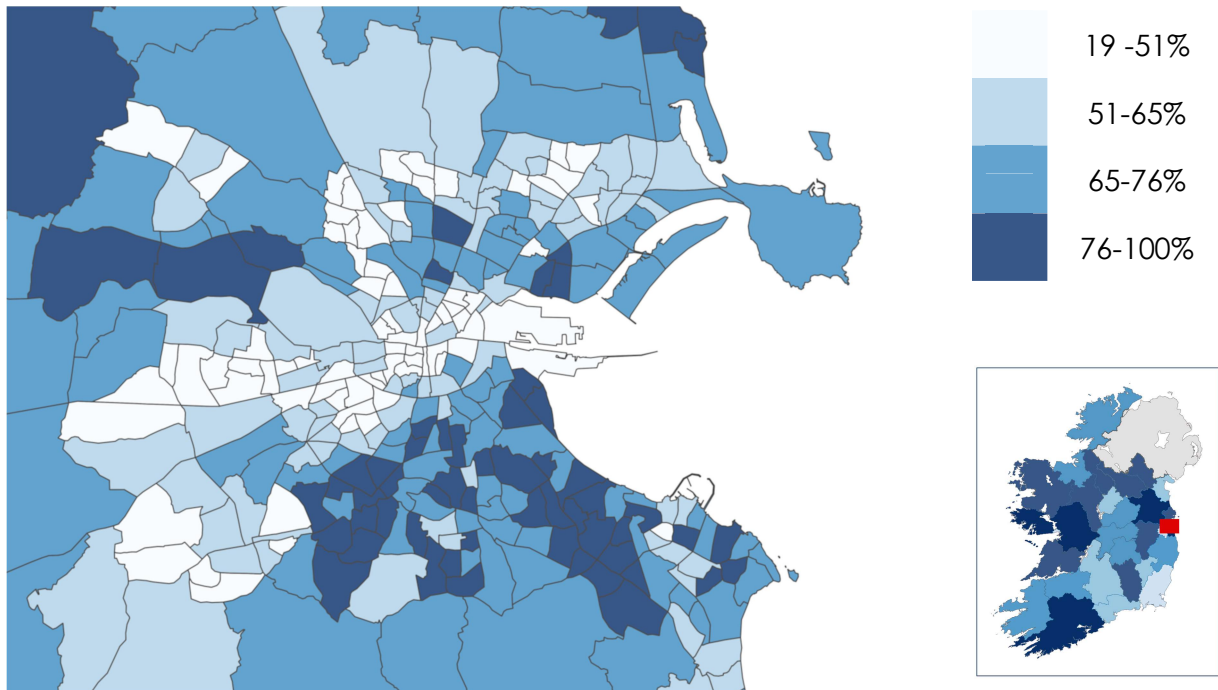
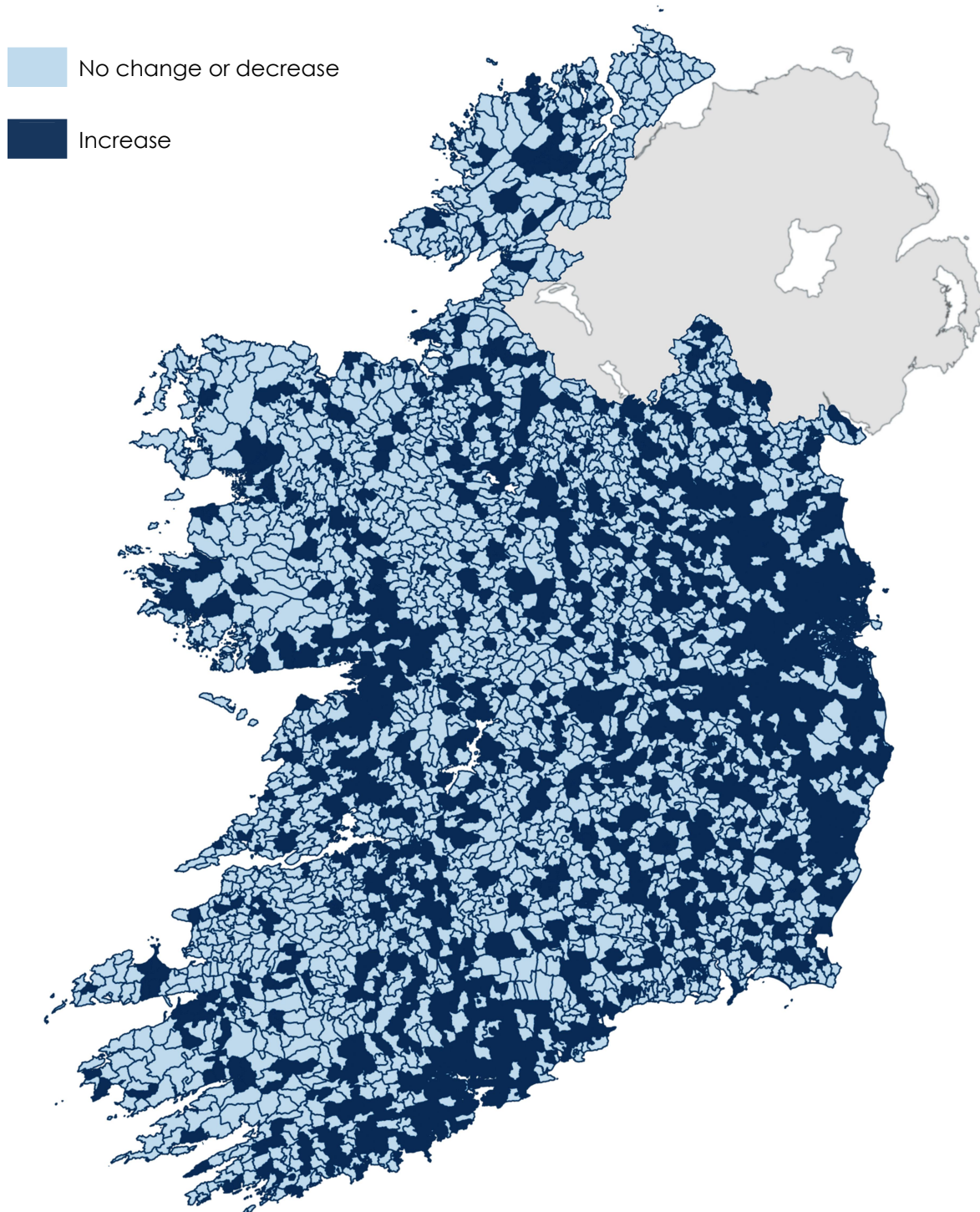


Figure 5 visualizes the change in the number of families in electoral districts between 2011 and 2016. For clarity, this is a two-colour map: Light-blue indicates electoral districts where the number of families remained static or decreased in this time-period, darker-blue indicating an increase. It is clear that the growth in the number of families is concentrated in the suburban areas of the major cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Galway. Outside of the cities, much of the increase is in EDs along road-transport links. For instance, the dark-blue areas in greater-Dublin very roughly correspond to the major motorways out of the capital. The same can be said for the area between Cork and Limerick. In other areas of the country, where there are no favourable connections to major urban areas, the number of families has either remained unchanged or fallen. This comprises the vast majority of Donegal, Connacht and southern Munster.

¹¹ See Glossary

Figure 5: Families in electoral districts: Percentage change between 2011 and 2016





Background Notes

This is the second in a series called *Statistical Spotlight*. A *statistical spotlight* is a short publication focused on a different topic each publication, gathering together available statistical data highlighting trends or patterns in the data. These are intended to be short statistical based publications bringing together available information for interested users. The publications will include a short commentary detailing (where relevant) trends and comparisons as relevant (e.g. comparisons between sex, region, age group etc.).

The primary purpose has been to gather together the most relevant data and draw attention to the most evident features or trends. Therefore, although it could serve as the basis for such further research, none of the information contained therein should in and of itself be used to ascribe cause and effect between any two variables. In any case, much of the data we considered is not sufficiently detailed to give anything other than to give a very high-level snapshot of the nature of families in which Ireland's children are growing up.

Glossary

Principal Economic Status and Social Class: In the case of a one-parent family, both the economic status and social class of the family are the same as the parent's individual economic status and social class. In the case of a married or cohabiting couple, they are the same as those of the parent who has the highest individual economic status or social class.

Electoral Districts: There are 3,440 legally defined electoral districts in the State, of which, 32 with low population have been amalgamated into neighbouring ED's, giving a total of 3,409.

EU-28: The EU-28 comprises of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK.



OECD: The OECD countries comprise of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

OECD Average: The OECD average, or the country average, is calculated as the simple mean of the data values for all OECD countries for which data is available or can be estimated.

Total Fertility Rate: The total fertility rate in a specific year is defined as the total number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years and give birth to children in alignment with the prevailing age-specific fertility rates.

Urban/Rural: For CSO purposes the population in the aggregate Town area is defined as those persons living in population clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants. For this purpose a town with a legally defined boundary is classified on the basis of its total population including any suburbs or environs. The population in all areas outside clusters of 1500 or more inhabitants is classified as belonging to the aggregate rural area.

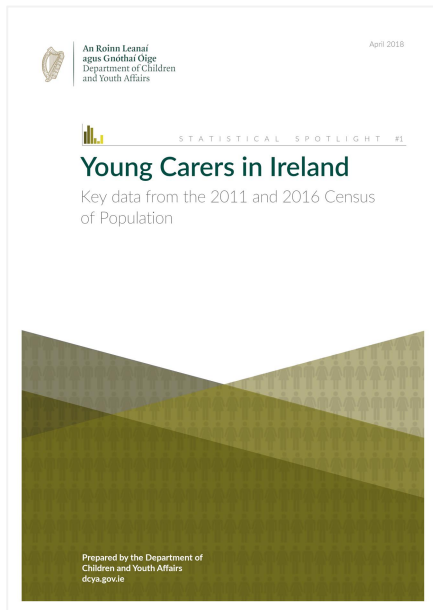
Sources

CSO Censuses of Population: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/population/>

Eurostat: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

OECD: <http://www.oecd.org/els/family/database.htm>

Previous Statistical Spotlights in the series



Statistical Spotlight Number 1

Young Carers In Ireland

Publication Date

April 2018