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Citizen's Assembly
$10^{\text {th }}$ June, 2017

Demographics and older people

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In the 175 years of census, the population has gone from a high of 6.53 million in 1841 to a low of 2.82 million in 1961. From the late sixties the population began to increase, growing steadily throughout the seventies until the early 1980s when we saw a return to slower growth as a result of net outward migration with the population actually falling during the 1986-1991 inter-censal period. Thereafter, it has grown in each decade through a combination of natural increase and declining net outward migration.
Since 1961 the population has increased by just over 1.9million (69\%), rising from 2,818,341 in 1961 to $4,761,865$ in 2016.

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The number of males and females in 2016, by single year of age, is represented in the population pyramid above.

A peak in the number of births in 1980 and again in 2009 can be seen in today's 36 and 6 year olds respectively. The decline in births throughout the late eighties and early nineties is also clearly evident, as is the more recent fall in births since 2009.

The contraction at the top of the pyramid reflects declining population with increasing age.


People are living longer as can be seen in the changes in the population aged over 65 which has increased by 102,174 (19.1 \%) from 535,393 in 2011 to 637,567 in 2016.

Those aged 69 years had the largest increase in number over the five years with a rise of 10,025 persons from 29,678 in 2011 to 39,703 in 2016.

In the group aged 100 and over there were 389 persons in 2011. This grew by 67 to 456 persons in 2016.

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We can see in this slide that the gap between older males and females is narrowing. In 2016 the male population rose by 53,523 (22\%) from 243,314 in 2011 to 296,837 compared with an increase of 48,651 (16.7\%) in the female population.
For example, in the age group 65-69 there were 18,935 more men than in 2011. Similarly men aged 85 and over in 2016 accounted for 23,062 persons compared with 18,486 five years earlier an increase of 4,576 persons.

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Although the gap in numbers is narrowing between males and females aged over 65, the number of females outnumbered males by 43,893 in 2016, a decrease of 4,872 on the 2011 figure of 48,765 .
Of the 67,555 persons aged 85 and over, females accounted for 44,493 in 2016 an increase of 4,563 (11.4 \%) on the 2011 figure of 39,930.
In those aged 100 and over, females outnumbered males by 288 persons.

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Of the 156,799 persons aged 65 and over living alone in 2016, 97,636 (62.3 \%) were women. Males living alone accounted for 59,163 (37.7 \%).

Of the 23,102 persons aged 85 and over living alone, women accounted for almost three in every four (73\%).

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In 2016, Dublin City and Cork City had the highest number of those aged 65 and over living alone with 20,687 persons and 12,847 persons respectively.

The counties with the least number of those aged over 65 living alone were Longford with 1,627 persons and Leitrim with 1,645 persons.

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As is the case with those aged 65 and over (previous slide), the largest number of those aged 80 and over living alone were in Dublin City and Cork City with 7,393 persons and 4,059 persons respectively.

Similarly, the counties with the lowest number of persons aged 80 and over living alone were Longford and Leitrim with 499 persons and 539 persons respectively.


There was a total of 587,284 persons aged 65 and over living in private households in April 2016. Of these, 156,799 (27\%) lived alone with 97,636 females and 59,163 males.

By comparison, of those aged 65 and over living with others, 212,245 (49.3\%) were female and $218,240(50.7 \%)$ were male giving a total of 430,485 persons.

Among the 231,304 persons aged 75 and over, 81,672 (35.3\%) lived alone and 149,632 (64.7\%) lived with others.

Of persons aged 85 and over, almost 45 per cent (just over 23,100) of the 51,503 persons lived alone.


Cities, along with the Border and Western regions, had the highest proportions of elderly living alone. Counties in the Eastern region, particularly those in the Dublin commuter belt generally had lower proportions of elderly living alone. Dublin City was an exception to this.


In 2016 there were 395,522 households headed by a person aged 65 and over.
Of these, 202,879 indicated they had broadband access to the internet.
A further 20,282 indicated they had internet access other than broadband while 161,563 indicated they had no internet access. A total of 10,798 failed to answer the question.

In households headed by a person aged 65 and over, 156,086 were living alone.
Among this group 94,920 had no internet access.


Of the households headed by a person aged 65 and over, gas, oil and electricity were the main types of fuel used for central heating, accounting for 315,372 households. Other households used fossil fuels.

There were 24,312 using coal as their main fuel source and 30,196 using peat.
A total of 7,877 households indicated they had no central heating while 5,318 did not answer the question.


In 2016 the total number of older households stood at 395,522.
The majority of older households own their home outright accounting for 319,651 (or almost $81 \%$ ) of the total. This is an increase of 45,807 on 2011 when the number of older households who owned their own home outright stood at 273,844.

Housing tenure, persons aged 65 and over, 2011-2016


Of those older households who did not fall into the category of owning their own home outright,

- 22,674 indicated they still had a mortgage (up from 18,012 in 2011)
- 9,301 were renting privately (up from 8,477 in 2011)
- 23,186 were renting from a local authority (up from 19,283 in 2011)
- 3,487 were renting from a voluntary body (up from 3,010 in 2011)


As the most recent data on households and families is not yet available from the 2016 census the information in this slide is taken from the 2011 census.

In April 2011 the census results showed that 94 per cent of the elderly population lived in private households, with the remainder, 31,054 persons, in communal establishments.

The graph shows this group by sex, single year of age and type of establishment.
There were over twice as many females as males living in nursing homes; the numbers increase with increasing age, particularly from age 70 onwards, rising to a peak of over 1,132 living in nursing homes at age 88 , before decreasing in line with the decreasing population at older ages.

While two-thirds of this group were living in nursing homes, the numbers of elderly usually resident in hospitals is noteworthy with a total of 4,873 persons aged 65 and over accounting for over 15 per cent of those living in communal establishments. The majority of the 5,379 persons enumerated in other establishments were in religious communities.

## Population projections

- Fertility
- Mortality
- Migration

Population projections are compiled following each census. Trends in fertility, migration and mortality are examined and assumptions are made about the possible future direction of each component.

Mortality
From the point of view of an ageing population the assumptions around mortality are the most pertinent. The most recent report (Population and Labour Force Projections 2016-2041) published in April 2013 looked at gains in life expectancy over recent periods and made assumptions about continuing gains. The data contained in the following slides is taken from the best-fitting scenario (a return to net inward migration and falling fertility).

Gains in life expectancy
Gains in life expectancy at birth 1926 to 2010

| Period | Males |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
|  | 3.1 |  |
| $1926-1946$ | 7.6 |  |
| $946-196$ | 0.7 | 4.5 |
| $1901-1971$ | 1.3 | 9.5 |
| $1971-1981$ | 0.9 | 1.6 |
| $1981-1986$ | 1.3 | 2.1 |
| $1986-1991$ | 0.7 | 1.1 |
| $1991-1996$ | 2.1 | 1.2 |
| $1996-2002$ | 1.7 | 0.8 |
| $2002-2006$ | 1.1 | 1.7 |
| $2007-2010$ |  | 1.3 |
|  | 20.5 | 1.1 |
| $1926-2010$ |  |  |

As can be seen from this slide, the biggest gains in both male and female life expectancy were recorded in the immediate post war period (1946-1961). These gains resulted from improvements in living conditions, as well as from advances in maternity services and medical treatment, such as immunisation which significantly improved survival rates.

The situation has improved again in recent years. Between 1991 and 2010, life expectancy at birth increased by 5.6 years for males and by 4.9 years for females. The improvements have been most notable in the older age groups. Improved living conditions coupled with further advances in medical care are considered to be the main contributing factors.

## Mortality assumptions

- Improvements in life expectancy are assumed to continue for the foreseeable future
- Male life expectancy at birth increasing from 77.9 in 2010 to 85.1 by 2046
- Female life expectancy at birth increasing from 82.7 in 2010 to 88.5 by 2046

There is a general consensus internationally among demographers that improvements in life expectancy will continue. The challenge is to calculate the rate of improvement.

An expert group was established to provide population projections. The following projections are built on assumptions based on future trends.


The results show that the population aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 637,567 in 2017 (census results) to 887,273 by 2027 a gain of almost 250,000. The one million mark is projected to be breached by 2031 and by 2037 the figure is projected to pass the 1.1 million mark.


The population aged 80 and over is projected to increase from just under 150,000 $(148,592)$ in 2017 to 232,237 within 10 years and to almost 358,000 by 2037.


This pyramid presents the population structure today with the projected structure in 2037. The increasing number of older people, combined with the falling number of those in the 40 to 50 age bracket, is clearly evident.

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