DEMOGRAPHY
2.1 INTRODUCTION

The total population of Kildare in 2002 was 163,944 persons and this had likely exceeded 180,000 by the end of 2005. Between 1996 and 2002 the population increased by 28,952 persons, or 21.4%. This was second only to Co. Meath (with a 22.1% increase) in terms of the largest percentage increase experienced by any Irish county over the 1996-2002 period, and was well in excess of the 8% increase for the State. In fact, the rate of population increase in Kildare has exceeded that of the State for each inter-censal period over the past two decades, with rates of 11.6%, 5.5% and 10.1% for the 1981-86, 1986-91 and 1991-96 periods respectively, as compared with average rates of 2.8%, -0.4% and 2.8% for the State. The rate of population increase was also well in excess of that for the neighbouring Dublin region.

Kildare’s population is now even higher than it was in the mid nineteenth century. As can be seen from Figure 1, the population went into a long period of decline in the wake of the Famine, reaching a low of 57,892 in 1936. Since then, the population of Kildare has gradually increased – except for a short period of decline between 1956 and 1961 – and has increased more markedly since 1979.

Figure 1 Change in the population of Co. Kildare, 1841-2002

The 1996-2002 period, as can be seen in Figure 2, registered the most rapid rate of population increase over the past 150 years, with the Kildare population increasing at an average rate of 4,825 persons per annum over these six years. The only other period that experienced a roughly comparable rate of population increase was the 1970s, with the population increasing at a rate of 3,214 persons per annum during the 1971-81 period.
In contrast to previous inter-censal periods net migration emerged as the dominant factor contributing to population change in Ireland in the late 1990s. While Kildare had a far higher annual average rate of natural increase (births minus deaths) than the average for the State (12.8 vs 6.1 per 1000) net migration into Kildare is estimated to have been 17,909, which accounted for over 61.9% of the total increase.
2.2 POPULATION DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION

County Kildare is divided for statistical purposes into eighty-nine electoral divisions (EDs) which provide the spatial framework for mapping attributes of the population tallied at the time of the Census of Population in April 2002 (Map 2). A listing of all EDs in Kildare is included in Appendix A.

The overall population density in Kildare is 97 persons per square kilometre compared to a density of 55.8 persons per square kilometre for the State. Density levels vary considerably, as can be seen from Map 3, from the lowest in the very rural areas of the north west and south (having less than 70 persons per square kilometre) to between 571 and more than 1437 in the more urban districts (such as Newbridge, Naas and Athy) as well as the areas of the north east of the county that are within easy commuting distance of Dublin. According to the 2002 Census figures, Newbridge Urban was the electoral division with the largest population density (2,744 persons per square kilometre), followed by Athy West Urban (1437), Leixlip (1,327), Athy East Urban (1,301) and Naas Urban (1010). The EDs with the lowest population densities in the county in 2002 were Lullymore (8), Quinsborough (8), Drehid (13), Carrick (14) and Burtown (15). In over one-third of the districts the densities were less than 25 persons per square kilometre.

2.2.1 Urban settlements

According to the 2002 Census, 106,195 persons, or almost 65% of the population of Kildare, were designated as residing in urban areas defined as places with at least 1,500 inhabitants. This is significantly higher than the State proportion of 59.6% it further represents an increase over the 61.6% urban share of the population in Kildare recorded in the 1996 Census, reflecting the rapid growth of a number of urban centres during the late 1990s and early 2000s. The distribution of towns, classified by population size, and population change 1996-2002, are shown on Maps 4 & 5. If you consider the map of Towns 2002 (Map 4), the largest urban settlements were Naas, Newbridge, Athy, Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge. In terms of change, however, the greatest growth in an urban area between 1996 and 2002 was in Sallins with Prosperous, Rathangan, Kilcock, Clare, Kildare, Kill and Celbridge also exhibiting substantial growth.

Excluding the five city council areas, Naas is now the 11th largest town in the State in terms of population size, with 18,288 persons living in the town. Dundalk, Drogheda, Bray, Swords, Ennis, Tralee, Kilkenny, Sligo, Navan and Carlow are currently the only towns with larger populations. At the time of the 1996 Census, Naas was the 13th largest town, but over the 1996-2002 period it has overtaken Wexford and Athlone in terms of population in rank order.

An analysis of towns with more than 5,000 population (based on 1996 data) undertaken by NUI Maynooth researchers and Brady Shipman Martin Consultants for the National Spatial Strategy has shown that while Naas ranked 18th in terms of population, it’s functional rank (i.e. range of services and functions) was slightly lower at 20. Similarly, Newbridge which ranked 21st in terms of population had a much lower functional rank at 35, suggesting that it provides much less services than its population rank would suggest. Leixlip, Celbridge and Maynooth each had lower functional ranks than their population size would suggest confirming their role as partial dormitory centres. In the south the strong local service role of Athy is also evident form the broad range of services provided. This resulted from analysis based on ten sets of indicators.
### Table 2: Population of principal towns and changes since 1986

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<td>1124</td>
<td>2933</td>
<td>4214</td>
<td>8271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Droichead Nua + environs</td>
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<td>566</td>
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<td>2660</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>55</td>
<td>1304</td>
<td>1291</td>
<td>2650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sallins</td>
<td>2922</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>2148</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2740</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>1326</td>
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<tr>
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<td>78</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2246</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>621</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-68</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-60</td>
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<td>-210</td>
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<td>-90</td>
<td>-180</td>
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<td>-15</td>
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<td>191</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>-15</td>
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<td>-105</td>
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<td>-9</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>271</td>
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<td>-14</td>
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<td>-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maddenstown</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>-29</td>
<td>-26</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-65</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The population of Naas, the largest town in Kildare, grew by 4,214 persons in the 1996-2002 period representing an almost 30% increase for the town. Much of this population increase has resulted from an influx of new residents into the town over the 1996-2002 period. For example, 1,768 persons in Naas, or almost 10% of the town’s population had been living at a different address one year before the Census.
Only Maynooth, with its large student population exceeds this rate in Kildare with 14.53% of its population having a different address one year previously.

Newbridge, with a population of 16,739 in 2002, is the second largest urban centre in Kildare and the one that has shown the greatest increase in population in Kildare since 1986 with a population increase of 10,756 persons during this time (Table 2). Like Naas, the main growth for this settlement took place in the 1996-2002 period. The population of Sallins grew by 2,068 persons over the 1996-2002 period, marking a population increase of 242% for the town and making it the fastest growing town in the 1996-2002 period. This growth is largely influenced by both its proximity to Naas and Dublin and the location of a train station in Sallins facilitating commuting to Dublin (Map 5). Much of the growth of Naas and its hinterlands appears commuter driven and this is bolstered by the fact that 22.7% of Naas Rural and 21.1% of Naas Urban residents spend more than 45 minutes in their daily commute to work.

Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth remain the third, fourth and fifth largest towns in Co. Kildare with populations of 16,016, 15,016, and 10,151 respectively, according to the 2002 Census. The population of Celbridge increased by over 30% between 1996 and 2002, followed by Maynooth at 19% with Leixlip at almost 12%, exhibiting the least proportional growth of the three. These three towns are well within the Dublin commuter belt and their roles as commuter towns is evidenced by the fact that 23.6% of Celbridge residents, 20.8% of Maynooth residents and 25.9% of Leixlip residents spend more than 45 minutes commuting to work.

Prosperous experienced the second largest percentage increase in population in the 1996-2002 period in Kildare at 87.1% (709 persons) (Map 5). As expected, in-migration appears to be the key to the increase in Prosperous’s population size with the percentage of those living at a different address one year earlier at 7.7%.

Athy and Kildare in the south of the county both have populations greater than 5,000 (6,049 and 5,694 respectively) but have not experienced the same recent rates of population growth as their counterparts in the north east of the county with increases of 14% and 33% respectively between 1996 and 2002.
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2.3 POPULATION CHANGE

The overall pattern of population change for Kildare is summarised on Map 6 which shows that the greatest rates of population increase were along the routes of the N7 and N9, in the hinterlands of Naas, the area along the N4 near Kilcock and a number of districts in the west around Rathangan. Population increases were not as dramatic in other areas and indeed in some areas the population decreased. This was particularly the case in the south of the county and in the area of Brownstown near Kildare town and more unexpectedly in the north-west around Straffan. Information from the Planning Section in Kildare County Council suggests that the decrease in the Straffan area may have been due to physical constraints, that is, the waste water treatment system was at capacity so there were restrictions on major developments in the area, and this coupled with decreasing household size would likely explain the decrease – (in any case the population decrease was 3.5% or 52 persons). In four EDs the population increased by more than 50% between 1996 and 2002. The most notable increase was associated with the EDs just north of Naas, with the population increasing by 119% in the Bodenstown ED and by 69% in the Naas Rural ED. The other EDs to experience exceptional growth over this period were Thomastown (59%), Downings (49.4%), Cloncurry (43.2%) and Windmill Cross (42.9%). The EDs around Naas and to the north of the town, namely, Naas Urban, Naas Rural, Bodenstown, Clare, Kill and Downings accounted for 31% of the total increase. In the northeast Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Kilcock accounted for a further 25.2% of the population increase in the county.

Endeavours to forecast the scale of population change in the future are laden with problems particularly in relation to forecasting migration and fertility trends. Further complications may transpire from the effects of any changes in policies that can directly influence the distribution of population. The implementation of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) for the Greater Dublin Area could impact on the demographic trend for Kildare. The NSS may encourage measures to slowdown the growth of the Greater Dublin Area while the RPGs may encourage higher residential densities in Dublin. Together these strategies could bring about some deceleration in the pace of growth in Kildare. Alternatively there may be some shifts in the pattern of population growth within the county, for example, the expansion of the Heuston to Carlow rail line could dramatically increase population densities in the south of the county.

The latest available projections from the CSO, however suggest considerable expansion of the population of Kildare to 2021. Figure 3 illustrates population projections for Co. Kildare based on regional projections produced by the CSO for the Mid-East region, which comprises the counties of Kildare, Wicklow and Meath. The scenario used here is M1F2 which largely assumes a continuation of recent demographic trends and is that which the CSO deems the most likely scenario. It is further divided using three internal migration scenarios: Recent would be consistent with the 2002 pattern continuing in the medium term and then moderating by 2021; Medium would be consistent with the 2002 pattern moderating in the short term and; Traditional would be consistent with the 2002 pattern reverting to the traditional 1996 pattern in the medium term. Irrespective of which scenario is considered it seems likely that the population of Co. Kildare will have increased well over the 200,000 mark by 2012 and will have reached 250,000 by 2021. This would represent a proportional increase of 52% in the population of Co. Kildare by 2021.
Figure 3: Population Projections

- Recent
- Medium
- Traditional

Year


Population Projections

Figure 3: Population Projections

- Recent
- Medium
- Traditional

Year


Population Projections

Figure 3: Population Projections

- Recent
- Medium
- Traditional

Year


Population Projections

Figure 3: Population Projections

- Recent
- Medium
- Traditional

Year


Population Projections

Figure 3: Population Projections

- Recent
- Medium
- Traditional

Year


Population Projections

Figure 3: Population Projections

- Recent
- Medium
- Traditional

Year

MAP 6: POPULATION CHANGE 1996-2002

Transport
- Railway
- Motorway
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads

Towns By Pop.
- > 10,000
- 3,000 - 9,999
- < 3,000

Percentage Change
- Decrease
- 0 - 19
- 19 - 32
- 32 - 70
- > 70

Average = 18.56
Std. Dev = 18.32

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Ireland Kildare 2004/07 CCMA
Data Source: Central Statistics Office Population Census SAPS files
1996 & 2002
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2.4 MIGRATION

In-migration from other counties and from outside the State is the major influence on the rate of population increase in Kildare. As can be seen from Table 3, a total of 17,909 persons migrated to Kildare between 1996 and 2002.

Table 3: Migration into Co. Kildare between 1996 and 2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pop 1996</th>
<th>Total births 96-02</th>
<th>Total deaths 96-02</th>
<th>Pop 2002</th>
<th>Net migration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kildare</td>
<td>134,992</td>
<td>15,885</td>
<td>4,842</td>
<td>163,944</td>
<td>17,909</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While the scale of in-migration has increased over recent years the process has been ongoing for a much longer period. Thus, in 2002 less than half (46.1%) of the population residing in Kildare were born in the county. Almost 71,000 (43.3%) were born in another county and the remainder (10.6%) were born outside the State including 8,201 born in the UK and 1,419 in Northern Ireland, which combined accounted for 5.9% of the total. Of those born outside of Ireland and the UK the largest group were 2,332 from Europe (including 1,321 from outside the EU) followed by 1,655 from Africa and 969 from Asia.

Map 7 illustrates that persons born in the UK are most strongly represented in the principal towns (Naas, Newbridge, Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip) and the main commuting corridors to Dublin within Co. Kildare. They are underrepresented in most of the rural EDs but there are concentrations in some EDs towards the west and south. If we consider those born outside of Ireland and the UK the concentrations are overwhelmingly in the north-east, and in the major towns (Naas, Newbridge, Kildare, Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip) within easy commuting distance from Dublin (Map 8).

The Census of Population also provides information on persons who were living at a different address twelve months prior to the census date. These data show that over the year prior to April 2002, 5,598 persons moved to Kildare from other counties which was the 3rd highest absolute level of inter-county in-migration after Dublin city and county and Co. Meath. The vast majority (67%) of the in-migrants to Kildare were previously living, though not necessarily born, in Dublin city or county. In addition to those that moved into Kildare another 6,596 who were already residing in the county moved to another address in Kildare. Furthermore, another 2,977 persons who had lived outside the State twelve months previously moved to Kildare. The combined total of persons that changed their addresses amounts to 15,171 or 9.5% of the total. This proportion is identical to the figure for Meath and more than twice the proportion of 4.0% for the State.

The distribution of all persons that had a different address twelve months prior to the Census in 2002 confirms the roles of Maynooth, Naas, Newbridge, and Kildare as the principal destinations (Map 9). These four towns plus Celbridge and Leixlip accounted for 49.7% of the total. Together these six centres accounted for only 40.6% of the movers who had a previous address in the county but a much larger share (62.6%) of the movers from outside the State. In contrast to those that moved within the county, these towns attracted 53.5% of the in-migrants from other counties with Naas attracting the largest share at 10.8%, followed by Celbridge with 9.5%. The fact that 46.5% of the in-migrants from other counties and 37.4% from outside the State are attracted to destinations other than the six centres referred to above confirms the attractiveness of rural communities and small urban centres as places of residence. It also highlights the extent of the pressures imposed on such places in the current phase of population growth.
MAP 7: PERSONS BORN IN THE UK AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002
MAP 9: PERSONS WITH A DIFFERENT ADDRESS ONE YEAR PREVIOUSLY AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS AGED 1+ 2002
2.5 GENDER BALANCE

The gender ratio for Kildare is finely balanced with slightly more males than females (50.5% compared with 49.5%). Kildare is different from the general national trend in this respect as nationally females form the majority, accounting for 50.3% of the State’s population, but Kildare is comparable to the more rural parts of Ireland where males generally account for over half of the population.

There are notable variations across the county in terms of gender divisions. Higher proportions of males tend to be associated with the more rural parts of the county, with EDs having particularly high levels of males clustered in the south (Map 10). EDs with the highest proportions of males include Balraheen (61.1%), Belan (58.0%), Bert (57.2%), Narraghtmore (57.0%), Ballysax East (55.3%), Thomastown (55.3%), Dunferth (54.6%), Numney (54.5%) and Ballysax West (53.5%). Higher percentages of females generally tend to be associated more urbanised EDs, although there is a cluster of rural EDs with high percentages of females in the west of the county. Electoral divisions with the highest proportions of females include Kildangan (52.7%), Quinsborough (52.2%), Skerries (52.1%), Killinthomas (52.0%), Monasterevin (52.0%), Carrick (51.9%), Timahoe South (51.8%) and Kilcock (51.5%).
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2.6 AGE STRUCTURE

The age profile of the population of Kildare and some of its neighbouring counties in 2002 is summarised in Table 4 with details of the principal changes since 1996 in Table 5. In 2002 just over 39% of the population in Kildare was aged less than 25 years compared with 37.5% in the State. By contrast, the percentage aged over 45 in Kildare (26.4) was less than the overall share for the State (32.3). So Kildare can be seen as generally having a quite young population. However, since 1996 the percentage aged under 25 has declined from almost 45% to just over 40% despite an increase of 5,688 persons in this age cohort.

Table 4: Age Profile and Dependency Ratios, 2002 (1996 figures for Kildare in brackets)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kildare</th>
<th>Meath</th>
<th>Wicklow</th>
<th>Dublin</th>
<th>Ireland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%&lt;15 yrs</td>
<td>23.7 (26.5)</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%15-24 yrs</td>
<td>16.5 (18.1)</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 25-44 yrs</td>
<td>33.4 (30.6)</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 45-64 yrs</td>
<td>19.7 (17.6)</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>21.9</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 65+ yrs</td>
<td>6.7 (7.2)</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>11.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth dependency</td>
<td>34.1 (39.9)</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>31.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly dependency</td>
<td>9.6 (10.8)</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>16.4</td>
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</table>

These data reflect the ageing trend which is in fact more pronounced in other parts of the State. The influx of a largely working age commuter population into the county has resulted in a significant reduction in the age dependency ratio (persons aged under 15 or over 65 as a percentage of the population aged 15-65) from 50.7% in 1996 to 43.7% in 2002, a level that is below the State average (47.6%) and the ratios for Meath (47.7%) and Wicklow (48.2%), but which is still slightly higher than the ratio for Dublin (41.5%).

Figure 4 illustrates the percentage of Kildares population in the different age categories in 1996 and 2002. Table 5 indicates that the increases in Kildare for all the age categories were well in excess of the average rates in the rest of the State. In the 15-24 category, the increase in Kildare accounted for almost a third (29.6%) of the total increase in this category within the State as a whole. The large increase in the 25-44 age category (13,548 persons – see Figure 5) reflects the considerable level of migration into the county over the previous six years. The greatest proportional increase was in the 45-64 age-group and this is likely reflective of the fact that significant in-migration into Kildare has been ongoing for much longer than this six-year period.
Table 5: Change in different age categories: Kildare compared with the State

<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-14 years</td>
<td>3,137</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>-31,996</td>
<td>-3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24 years</td>
<td>2,551</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>8,632</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44 years</td>
<td>13,548</td>
<td>32.8</td>
<td>164,168</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64 years</td>
<td>8,455</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>128,193</td>
<td>18.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>65+ years</td>
<td>1,261</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>22,119</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4: Percentage of Kildare population in different age categories, 1996 and 2002

Figure 5: Population increase by age cohort between 1996 and 2002
The spatial distributions of population in 2002 according to the main age groups, and the changes in the numbers in each age group, are summarised on Maps 11-20. The share of the young population (aged under 15 years, Map 11) is highest in the north east of the county, particularly in range of areas focussed on the towns of Naas, Newbridge, Clane and Celbridge. The districts with the highest proportions included Killinthomas (32.3%), Ballyshannon (30.9%), Balaheeen (29.0%), Carragh (28.5%), Timahoe South (28.5%), Fontstown (28.3%), Kilcock (27.9%) and Ladytown (27.6%). The increase of 3,137 in the number of persons in this cohort between 1996 and 2002 was mostly concentrated in the environs of major urban areas such as Naas, Newbridge and Kildare and generally along the route of the N7 (Map 12). Some decline was recorded in parts of the south of the county, particularly to the north and east of Athy, south of Newbridge and Naas and around Straffan.

There are three distinct areas with high percentages in the 15-24 age group, which accounts for 16.5% of the total population (Map 13). The first of these areas is in the very north east of the county from Balraheen to Leixlip. Another such cluster is around Kilberry, just south of Monasterevin in the south west of the county. A third cluster can be seen stretching from Milltown across the N7 and N9 to the district just south of Kilcullen. EDs with the highest proportions in the 15-24 age category included Maynooth (25.5%), Balraheen (23.6%), Harristown (21.6%), Ballysax East (20.7%), Ballybackan (21.3%) and Kilberry (21.2%). An increase of 2,551 persons was recorded for this cohort with the largest gains around Celbridge, in the hinterlands of Naas and to the north east of Kilberry. Out-migration resulted in declines in some rural areas especially in the south of the county in an area stretching from the north of Athy to Castledermot (Map 14).

The spatial pattern for the 25-44 age group, which accounts for 33.4% of the total, is broadly similar to that of the 0-14 age category, which is not surprising given that the parents of children in the 0-14 age category fall mainly within the 25-44 age group (Map 15). The more urbanised districts in the north east around Maynooth, Clane, Naas and Newbridge, as well as a couple of districts in the west of the county, tend to have the largest proportions within this age category. EDs with the highest proportions in the 25-44 age category include Bodenstown (41.9%), Thomastown (39.4%), Naas Rural (39.2%), Naas Urban (39.1%), Drehid (38.6%), Celbridge (38.4%), Windmill Cross (37.1%), Clane (37.0%), Morristownbiller (36.5%), Kilcock (34.9%), Maynooth (34.8%), and Robertstown (34.5%). In-migration contributed to the very significant increase of 30.5% in the size of this cohort with gains recorded in the majority of districts and especially around urban centres such as Naas, Newbridge and Kildare (Map 16). Declines were recorded in Straffan, Kilteel and in some districts to the south west of the county.

There is a much higher incidence of middle aged and elderly persons in the more rural parts. One cluster of EDs with high proportions in the 45-64 age category encompasses the mainly rural hinterland of Athy (Map 17). Districts with the highest proportions in the 45-64 age category included Kilkea (33.9%), Burtown (32.4%), Kilashee (30.2%), Kilteel (28.8%), Athy Rural (28.5%), Pollardstown (27.6%), Straffan (27.3%) and Feighcullen (27.1%). The increase of 8,455 in this cohort was mostly concentrated in the north east of the county reflecting the effects of net in-migration in previous decades (Map 18). Declines were confined to three districts, in Athy, Johnstown in the south of the county and around Kilcullen.
The proportion of the total population aged 65 and over is only 6.7%. While there is a small cluster immediately to the north of Newbridge, most of the districts with relatively high percentages aged 65 and over are in the south and south west of the county (Map 19). EDs with the highest proportions included Athy West Urban (16.3%), Oldconnell (15.6%), Kilkea (14.4%), Johnstown (13.4%), Bert (13.2%) and Kilashee (12.8%). The current age profile of these districts is reflective of the effects of out-migration of the younger population in previous decades. Significant increases in the number of persons aged over 65 occurred in the stretch from the N7/N9 border with Dublin to Kildare, around Clane and Monasterevin (Map 20).

The variations in the distributions of different age cohorts can be summarised by maps of dependency ratios. In terms of youth dependency, which is persons aged under 15 as a percentage of total aged 15-64, the pattern is quite variable with a large concentration towards the north eastern area and a number of pockets around Rathangan and south of Kildare and Kilcullen as well as the far south (Map 21). By contrast, the elderly dependency ratio, which is persons aged over 65 as a percentage of the total aged 15-64, distribution is less complex with a concentration in the south of the county near Ballitore and Castledermot, in the hinterland of Newbridge and to a lesser extent in the north west of the county (Map 22).

The demographic vitality ratio (which is persons aged 20-39 years as a ratio of number of persons aged over 60) for each electoral division in Kildare is almost the mirror image of that for age dependency, with the districts having the highest vitality ratios strongly concentrated in those parts that have experienced the greatest population growth in the 1990s, namely the commuter belt in the north east of the county and the hinterlands of the larger towns such as Naas, Newbridge and to a lesser extent some pockets around Rathangan and the area between Kildare and Monasterevin (Map 23).
MAP 11: PERSONS AGED 0-14 YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002

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Data Source: Central Statistics Office Population Census SAPs file 2002
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Transport
- Railway
- Motorway
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads

Towns By Pop.
- > 10,000
- 3,000 - 9,999
- < 3,000

Percentage
- < 17
- 17 - 21
- 21 - 23
- 23 - 26
- > 26

Average = 23.15
Std. Dev = 3.58

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MAP 14: PERSONS AGED 15-24 YEARS PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1996-2002
MAP 15: PERSONS AGED 25 - 44 YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002
MAP 16: PERSONS AGED 25 - 44 YEARS PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1996-2002

Transport
- Railway
- Secondary Roads
- Motorway
- Primary Roads

Towns By Pop.
- > 10,000
- 3,000 - 9,999
- < 3,000
MAP 17: PERSONS AGED 45-64 YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS, 2002

Transport
- Railway
- Motorway
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads

Towns By Pop.
- > 10,000
- 3,000 - 9,999
- < 3,000
MAP 18: PERSONS AGED 45-64 YEARS PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1996-2002

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MAP 21: YOUTH DEPENDENCY RATIO
PERSONS AGED <15 YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AGED 15-64 YEARS, 2002

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MAP 22: ELDERLY DEPENDENCY RATIO
PERSONS AGED 65+ YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AGED 15-64 YEARS, 2002
MAP 23: DEMOGRAPHIC VITALITY RATIO
PERSONS AGED 29-39 YEARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AGED 60+ YEARS, 2002

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2.7 MARITAL STATUS

Table 6 shows that Kildare had a significantly higher proportion of married people in the population aged 15 and over than for the rest of the State. EDs with high proportions of married people were dispersed throughout the county, however there were also a number of clusters with high percentages of married people in some parts, the most obvious of these being an extensive area in the hinterland of Naas (Map 24). EDs with high proportions of married people included Fontstown (63.8%), Oughterard (63.3%), Drehid (61.8%), Ballyshannon (61.6%), Moone (60.6%), Pollardstwon (60.4%), Gilttown (59.7%), Kilteel (59.6%) and Kilrainy (59.1%).

EDs with high proportions of single people are concentrated in other parts of the county, in particular around Maynooth in the north east of the county (which may be explained by the location of a university in Maynooth), around Kildare, Athy town centre and in a strip stretching from just north of Athy as far as Monasterevin. Areas with high proportions of single people include the EDs of Athy Urban West (63.1%), Maynooth (59.3%), Ballybrackan (56.2%), Ballysax East (55.9%), Kilberry (55.7%), Kilcullen (55.6%) and Ballysax West (55.3%).

Table 6: Marital Status: Kildare compared with the State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kildare</th>
<th>Percentage of total aged 15+</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percentage of total aged 15+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>63,665</td>
<td>50.9</td>
<td>1,454,413</td>
<td>47.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>50,410</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>1,314,664</td>
<td>42.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated/Divorced</td>
<td>5,554</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>133,838</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>5,406</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>186,860</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.8 FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS

There were 50,477 private households in Kildare in 2002 with an average of 3.18 persons per household. Family households account for 80% of the total. Using data on the age profiles of household members it is possible to distinguish between households at different stages in the family life cycle. The idea of family life cycle is based on the knowledge that families move through a series of life stages that can be defined according to the age of the female partner and the children. The first stage (pre-family) is represented by young couples without children. It is followed by the pre-school stage characterised by couples with all children aged under four years. Following the transition through adolescence the adult stage is reached before progressing to the empty-nest phase when all children have left the home and finally the retirement stage is reached.

Each of the different stages have distinctive geographies (Maps 25-28) reflecting especially the effects of out-migration from rural areas and recent in-migration of mainly commuter oriented populations to
several urban centres. Pre-school families are concentrated mainly in the EDs that have experienced rapid growth over recent years including especially urban centres with significant commuter populations (Map 25). Adult families are where the children have reached the adult stage and are still living at home with their parents. This was by far the most common family type accounting for almost 27% of the total. The highest incidence of adult families were in the south east of the county as well as pockets in the west of the county (Map 26). As expected, this family type was less dominant where there are large numbers of pre-school families.

Empty-nest families are those consisting of a couple only (no children living at home) where the female partner is aged between 45 and 64 years. This category represents almost eight percent of the total. The highest incidences are mainly in rural EDs especially in the hinterlands of Athy and south and east of Naas from which the children have migrated (Map 27). Finally, retired families which account for just over three percent of the total are most strongly represented on the outskirts of Athy and in districts to the south of Naas (Map 28).
MAP 24: MARRIED PERSONS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS AGED 15+, 2002

Transport
- Railway
- Motorway
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads

Towns By Pop.
- > 10,000
- 3,000 - 9,999
- < 3,000

Percentage
- < 45
- 45 - 50
- 50 - 55
- 55 - 65
- > 65

Average = 53.08
Std. Dev = 5.13

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Data Source: Central Statistics office Population Census SAPS file 2002
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MAP 25: PRE-SCHOOL FAMILIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL FAMILIES, 2002

Transport
- Railway
- Motorway
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads

Towns By Pop.
- > 10,000
- 3,000 - 9,999
- < 3,000

Percentage
- < 7
- 7 - 9
- 9 - 12
- 12 - 15
- > 15

Average = 11.03
Std. Dev = 3.28

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Data Source: Central Statistics Office Population Census SAFS file 2002
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MAP 27: EMPTY NEST FAMILIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL FAMILIES, 2002
MAP 28: RETIRED FAMILIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL FAMILIES, 2002

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