

Conclusion



The main aim of this Profile has been to provide an overview of Cork City and its population using data from the Census (2006, 2011 and 2016) and other sources. It is envisaged that the contents will provide useful information for organisations and stakeholders in assisting the effective planning and development of services and facilities for the city. It is impossible to distill this profile into short conclusions without losing the essence of the detail. A number of conclusions, however, can be drawn.

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<http://www.CSO.ie/en/releasesand-publications/ep/p-cp7md/p7md/p7anii/>.

Cork City remains a city of diversity, with a thriving cultural mix of people who enrich the city. 15.4% of the Cork City population was born abroad (17.3% in Ireland). Across the State, between 2011 and 2016, Cork City recorded the largest increase in its non-Irish population by 17.2% (2,505).²⁸¹ The city supports a vibrant environment for learning, education, cultural activities, economic development and health. Since the last Census it is evident that the impact of the period of recession has affected some more than others.

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http://ipoa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Rebuilding-Ireland_Action-Plan-for-Housing-Homelessness.pdf.

Areas classified as most deprived have become more deprived from 2011 to 2016. Unemployment has dropped from 12.1% in 2011 to 8.3% in 2016 and in 2018 unemployment continues to fall. The seasonally adjusted rate in February was 6%, down from 7.3% in February 2017, the lowest level since May 2008. However, for those aged 15-24 (youth unemployment) the rate remained high at 13.2% in February 2018.

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http://ipoa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Rebuilding-Ireland_Action-Plan-for-Housing-Homelessness.pdf.

Changes in legislation with the Marriage Equality Act have brought with it the potential for greater equality for the LGBTI community.

Homelessness is increasing in Cork City. In January 2016 there were 289 persons, increasing to 329 by January 2017 and 373 by January 2018. Increases in the numbers of homeless in Ireland largely stems from the economic collapse, this collapse leading to a contraction of the construction sector which has caused a housing supply shortage. In turn this shortage has impacted the supply and affordability of private rental accommodation resulting in higher numbers of families presenting to homeless services.²⁸² Increased homeless numbers has put pressure on emergency accommodation services causing the increased use of B&Bs and hotels and emergency accommodation, which is unsustainable and inappropriate.²⁸³

→ POPULATION

The number of people living in Cork City is increasing. In 2016 it was 125,657 which is a 5.4% increase over the 2011 figure (119,230). This increase follows population decreases from the 2002 to 2006 to the 2011 censuses. This will continue to rise in the context of the city boundary extension in 2019 to an estimated 210,000.

This Report classified the age profile of the population into five age brackets ranging from 0-4 years old to 85+. Between 2011 and 2016 all age groups increased in number. The lowest increase was amongst the 5-14 year olds at 1.6% and the highest increase was amongst those aged 85+ at 17.1%. Between 2006 and 2011 two age groups decreased in number: the 5-14 year olds by -8.0% and the 15-64 year olds by -0.7%. Electoral Divisions with the highest proportions of 15-64 year olds were city centre based. For each census the Electoral Division of Bishopstown C has had the highest number of those aged 65+ and the number increased with each census. Those aged 65+ are the fastest growing age cohort in Cork City.

Dependents are defined as those outside the normal working age of 15-64. In 2016 Cork City had the second lowest dependency rate in the State of 42.8%. The national dependency rate was 52.7%. The general dependency ratio in Cork City is increasing. The youth dependency ratio decreased between 2006 and 2016 and the old age ratio increased.

→ ECONOMY

The time period under review in this study was from 2006 to 2016 and during this time Ireland's economy went from 'boom' (economic expansion) to 'bust' (economic contraction) returning again to economic growth.

Evidence of the 2008 recession in census results may be found in Cork City's declining population of those of working age (15-64) and high unemployment. The number of unemployed in Cork City in 2006 was 6,404 rising to 12,266 in 2011. Economic recovery from 2013 saw unemployed numbers in Cork City reduce to 8,943 by 2016 and a 17.2% increase in the number of those at work over the 2011 figure. In March 2018 the national youth unemployment rate stood at 12.5% which is double the overall unemployment rate.

Between 2011 and 2016 job growth in Cork City increased by 9.3% which is an average of 1,333 new jobs per month. The majority of these jobs were created in the City's South West and South East sectors and those industries associated with highest job numbers were in the Information, Communication, Professional, Scientific and Technical sectors.

In 2006 the highest proportion of those at work by type of industry was in the Commerce and Trade sector. Proportions in this sector declined with each census whilst proportions in the Manufacturing sector remained largely the same. Building and Construction reduced significantly, Professional Services increased to 2011 and decreased to 2016 and Transport and Communications increased consistently.

In 2006 48.3% were at work, decreasing to 42.3% by 2011 and increasing to 46.9% in Cork City in 2016. The student population increased by just over 1% in the 10 years and those who were 'retired' increased by 2.6%. 11.3% of the population were looking after home and family in 2006 decreasing to 8.8% by 2011 and 7.1% by 2016. The majority of those who looked after home and family (93.5%) were female in 2016.

From 2018 the Irish economy is projected to continue to expand over the next two years and it is advised by the OECD that domestic firms are financially supported to assist their development.

→ EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Cork City has an established and strong education infrastructure with a number of third level institutes and colleges. Consequently, the city has a relatively high proportion of students accounting for 15.2% of the population in 2016 compared to 11.4% nationally.

A person's education level can affect aspects of their lives such as their quality of life and their health as well as how healthy they perceive themselves and their employment potential. It has been shown that the longer a person stays in school the greater benefit to their overall well-being. Between 2006 and 2016 there has been a positive trend in the age at which young people cease their education in Cork City. In 2006 more than one in 10 ceased their education under the age of 15. By 2016 the ratio was one in 20 which was marginally higher than the national rate. Electoral Divisions in the city with the highest proportions of early school leavers are concentrated in RAPID areas around the North West of the city. This geographic area also had the highest proportions of those who rate their health either Fair, Bad or Very Bad in 2016. In 2011 and 2016 FairHill B, Gurranebraher C and Gurranebraher B were the Electoral Divisions with the highest proportions who rated their health poorly. Each of these EDs however showed marginally reduced proportions between these censuses, indicating a positive trend.

The student population (aged 15+) has been increasing in Cork City since 2006. Between 2006 (n=14,251) and 2011 (n=14,962) they increased by 5% and between 2011 and 2016 (n=16,374) they increased by 9.4%. Electoral Divisions with the highest proportions of students are those located adjacent to UCC and CIT.

→ DIVERSITY

Cork City, as with the State, has become more diverse in recent years. This is largely due to EU expansion and a growing Irish Economy. Irish nationals continue to leave Ireland but the rate has slowed (April 2017). Census data for Cork City indicates that the largest single non-Irish nationality for 2006, 2011 and 2016 was Polish with 2.3%, 3.1% and 2.6% respectively. Irish nationals made up 88.4%, 86.1% and 84.5% of the population for 2006, 2011 and 2016 respectively. Electoral Divisions with the highest proportions of non-Irish nationals in 2016 were located in the City Centre.

→ FAMILIES

The One Person household is the most dominant in the city (29.3.2% versus 23.7% nationally), whilst nationally the numbers are more in favour of the traditional family unity of Husband, Wife and Children (31.3% nationally versus 21.1% in the city). The separated and divorced population in Cork City stands at 11.9%, a higher percentage than the national proportion of 10%. In 2016 in Cork City there were 29,206 family units and 23.1% of these (6,753) were lone parent family units. When compared to Cork City and Suburbs and the State, Cork City has a relatively high proportion of lone parent family units, 5.1% more than the State and 3.6% more than the City and Suburbs.

→ HOUSING

Approximately a third of households in Cork City, Cork City and Suburbs and the State are owner occupied without a mortgage and this is the most common type of occupancy in 2016. Of the three geographical boundaries, Cork City had the highest proportion of households renting from a Local Authority in 2016 and almost double that of the State.

Within Cork City the proportion of households who are owner occupied with a mortgage decreased from 2006 (25.2%) to 2016 (18.1%). Proportions who are 'mortgage free' and proportions who rented from the Local Authority remained largely the same. The greatest change can be seen with 'Rented from private landlord'. This type of household accommodation increased from 15.4% in 2006 to 26.3% in 2016. As well as this increase the cost of renting accommodation is increasing. Between 2014 and 2017 the cost of renting a three bed-roomed semi-detached house increased by 25.1% and the increase for a two bed-roomed apartment was 26.9%. Lack of affordable housing has been cited as a factor in the increase in numbers renting from private landlords. Electoral Divisions with the largest proportions of households renting from private landlords are concentrated in the South East and North West regions of the City Centre.

→ TRANSPORT

The private car is the most dominant mode of transport in 2016 in Ireland and Cork City with the greatest percentage of journeys for work or education. Electoral Divisions with the greatest proportions of commuters who drove a car, motorcycle or scooter in 2016 were located South East and East of the City Centre. Electoral Divisions with the greatest proportions of the population who were car passengers in 2016 were Fair Hill C, Gurranebraher A, Togher A, Tivoli B and Mahon A.

The use of bicycles increased significantly between 2006 and 2016. The use of public transport also increased and the Electoral Divisions with the greatest proportions commuting by public transport in 2016 were Centre A, South Gate A, St. Patrick's A, Centre B and Shandon A (EDs which are characterised by low proportions of car ownership).

The proportion of commuters in Cork City who spend 30+ minutes on their journey increased between each census period (from 17.2% in 2006 to 21.2% in 2016). In 2016 the most common time of day for the start of a commuter's journey was between 08.01 and 08.30 which is half an hour earlier than it was in 2011 and 2006. Proportions of persons commuting for 30+ minutes is increasing. In 2006 it was approximately one in four and in 2016 almost one in three.

→ THE ENVIRONMENT

The EPA Air Quality Index for Health (AQIH) presents open data on regional air quality. The index indicates if air quality is good, fair, poor or very poor. There are four air quality monitoring locations in Cork City. At the time of reference for this report no site in the network recorded a breach of EU limit values.

Since 1971 biological monitoring has taken place in Irish rivers and the EPA monitoring programme covers more than 13,000 km of river channels nationally. Findings in this report indicate that Ireland is not meeting its legal requirements under the EU Water Framework Directive with approximately 50% of rivers, lakes and estuaries affected by pollution as well as untreated sewage being discharged at 36 coastal locations and estuaries. In 2016 water quality results for Cork Harbour were 49% 'good' and 12% 'poor'. No boil water notices were issued in 2016 for the city.

The Lee Catchment (River Lee) covers an area of approximately 2,000 square kilometres and has a history of significant flooding. These floods have damaged farmland, properties, businesses and public roads. The Lower lee Flood Relief Scheme being advanced by Cork City and County Councils and the Office of Public Works is a five year flood protection plan. The aim of the scheme is to protect c.900 houses and 1,200 businesses from one in 100 year fluvial and one in 200 year tidal flooding.

→ DEPRIVATION

The population is classified into one of seven social class groups which are ranked on the basis of occupation. Census results indicate that the social class structure of Cork City underwent change between 2006 and 2016 towards more technical and professional occupations. The largest social class group in Cork City for 2006, 2011 and 2016 (apart from broad classification 'all others gainfully occupied and unknown') was 'Managerial and Technical'. Numbers in this group increased with each census from 22,125 in 2006 to 26,967 in 2016. In the same period professional workers increased by 2,494 and non-manual workers by 2,202. The numbers of those classified as 'Skilled manual', 'Semi-skilled' and 'Unskilled' reduced between 2006 and 2016 by 3,273, 929 and 451 respectively. Cork City had a marginally higher proportion of 'Unskilled' in 2015 than did Cork City and Suburbs and the State. At Electoral Division level Knocknaheeny and Fair Hill A featured in the top five EDs at each census with the highest proportions of 'Unskilled'.

The deprivation rate across Cork City improved between 2006 and 2011 and again between 2011 and 2016. This was also the trend for Dublin City, Cork County and the State. At Cork City Electoral Division level for each census Knockree A and Bishopstown A were amongst the five most affluent EDs for 2006, 2011 and 2016. Farranferris B, Knocknaheeny and Fair Hill B were amongst those which scored highest for deprivation for these censuses.

→ HEALTH

In Cork City & County deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer represented 60% of all deaths registered in 2016 across all age groups and 65% of premature deaths (under 75 years). Among females in Cork City the leading invasive cancers between the period 2011 and 2015 remain breast, lung and colorectal cancers. Among males in Cork City similar trends emerge, prostate lung and colorectal cancers presenting as the leading invasive cancers registered during this five year period. Those living in more deprived areas are less likely to perceive their health to be good.

The Profile highlights the continued challenges that some communities in the city face in terms of deprivation, coupled with social exclusion, poor health, disability, lone parent families, low educational attainment rates and high unemployment. These patterns have persisted from over the years with each Census with very little change or improvement in evidence.

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities - the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries. This Profile provides a picture of Cork City that highlights the need to further strengthen outcomes for greater equality, social inclusion and health.

→ **GROUPS AT PARTICULAR RISK**

Groups at particular risk of social exclusion and negative health outcomes include: those living alone, the immigrant community, Travellers, people with disabilities, the LGBT community, carers and the homeless. This Profile highlights in many ways how they are at risk; see the 'Diversity' and 'Demography' sections in particular. The problems associated with achieving social inclusion and reducing negative health outcomes for these groups have been persistent, indicating that there is still progress to be made.

Gaps in research in key areas became apparent while preparing the Profile, in particular in relation to vulnerable minorities. Such research is essential for the identification of people's needs and the challenges that they face and would be beneficial in shaping local policy to support these groups.

→ **THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS**

The maps contained within this report have indicated how diverse the city is in terms of the spatial distribution of socio-economic groups. There are a number of distinct zones that have been identified that are worthy of further exploration. It is hoped that Section II of this report will provide a valuable tool for those conducting analysis of given localities, Electoral Divisions or Small Areas in a variety of contexts. On this note, it should be highlighted that every map of Census data contained within this report can be zoomed in on down to Small Area level when viewing the electronic pdf.

→ **FINAL REMARK**

This report highlights the need to strengthen and continue the focused work on building a more equal city. It is hoped that the structure and format of the Profile, as well as the information within it, can be built upon in subsequent censuses and help inform the work of other organisations and authorities in the country.



Cover image by Darragh Kane.

