



The Western Region

Key Statistics

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Introduction

The Western Development Commission (WDC) has statutory responsibility for promoting economic and social development in the Western Region of Ireland, which is made up of counties Clare, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo. This involves the WDC in assembling, analysing and disseminating relevant statistics for the region, which are included in various WDC publications, and on the websites wdc.ie and LookWest.ie.

The publication of the Census of Population 2006 provided a stimulus to the WDC to compile a comprehensive set of up-to-date demographic and socio-economic statistics for the Western Region. The availability of census data at regular intervals also enables us to track trends and to highlight the substantial changes that have occurred in recent decades in the region and nationally.

The Western Region: Key Statistics provides a brief social and economic profile of the Western Region. It includes data on population, employment, education, income, enterprise, economic sectors and infrastructure. These data illustrate the current situation in the region, relative to the national experience, as well as the changing trends in the areas covered. Where relevant, data from the Census of Population have been supplemented with information from other sources to ensure a more complete picture.

The Western Region: Key Statistics is organised around seven themes capturing key aspects of the social and economic situation in the region. The data are usually presented in both chart and supporting table format. Maps are included where relevant and available. In most cases data for each of the seven western counties and the Western Region as a whole are included. Data for the state are also provided for comparative purposes.

The WDC has compiled *The Western Region: Key Statistics* for a wide and varied audience. We hope it will prove useful for government departments, local authorities, development agencies, public representatives, community groups, business people, researchers, teachers, students and anyone with an interest in the West of Ireland.

Statistical Note

Assembling and analysing data for the Western Region presents a particular difficulty, as only certain data are available at county level. We can provide statistics for the region as a whole only when we have county level data that can be amalgamated. Other data, such as Gross Value Added, are not available at county level, but are available for NUTS¹ regions.

The Western Region includes counties in each of three NUTS3 regions – **Border** (Cavan, *Donegal*, *Leitrim*, Louth, Monaghan and *Sligo*), **West** (*Galway*, *Mayo* and *Roscommon*) and **Mid West** (Limerick, *Clare* and North Tipperary). When no county data are available for key statistics, we include data at NUTS3 level.

Acknowledgements

The Western Development Commission wishes to thank Raef Mac Giollarnáth, management consultant who sourced and compiled most of the information contained in this publication. The unfailing helpfulness and courtesy of staff from the Central Statistics Office, Forfás, the Higher Education Authority and the Revenue Commissioners is also much appreciated.

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¹ NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units), is the regional classification used by Eurostat and its Irish equivalent the Central Statistics Office (CSO). The Republic of Ireland is made up of eight NUTS3 regions – Border, Midlands, West, Dublin, Mid East, Mid West, South East and South West. These can be combined into two larger NUTS2 regions – Border, Midland & Western (BMW) and Southern & Eastern (S&E).

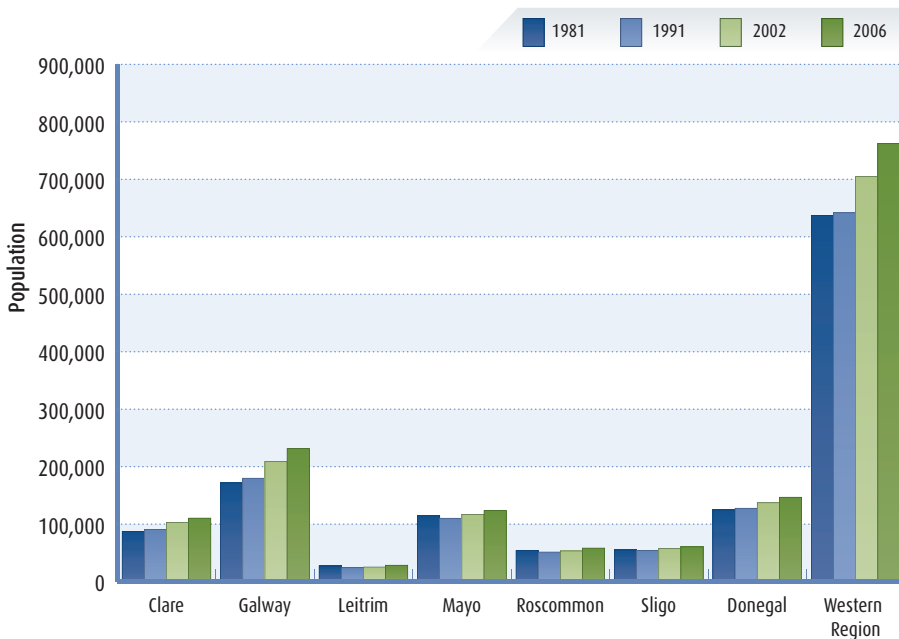


Section 1

People and Places

- 1.1 Population of each county in the Western Region, 1981, 1991, 2002, 2006
- 1.2 Percentage population change in each county and in the Western Region in inter-censal periods, 1981-2006
- 1.3 Percentage of population living in rural and urban areas in each county and in the Western Region, 2006
- 1.4 Population density of Electoral Divisions, 2006
- 1.5 Towns with a population of 1,500 or over in the Western Region, 2006
- 1.6a Age profile of persons in each county and in the Western Region, 2006
- 1.6b Age profiles in the Western Region, 1996, 2002, 2006
- 1.7 Country of birth of usual residents in the Western Region, 2006

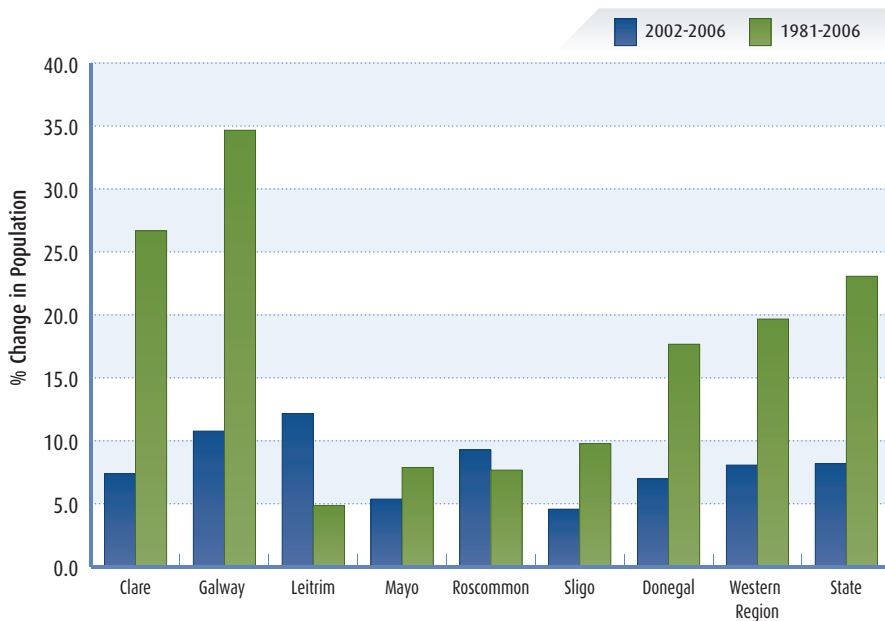
1.1 Population of each county in the Western Region, 1981, 1991, 2002, 2006



	Number of Persons			
	1981	1991	2002	2006
County/Region				
Clare	87,567	90,918	103,277	110,950
Galway	172,018	180,364	209,077	231,670
Leitrim	27,609	25,301	25,799	28,950
Mayo	114,766	110,713	117,446	123,839
Roscommon	54,543	51,897	53,774	58,768
Sligo	55,474	54,756	58,200	60,894
Donegal	125,112	128,117	137,575	147,264
Western Region	637,089	642,066	705,148	762,335
State	3,443,405	3,525,719	3,917,203	4,239,848

Source: CSO, Census of Population 2006, Volume 1, Table 2

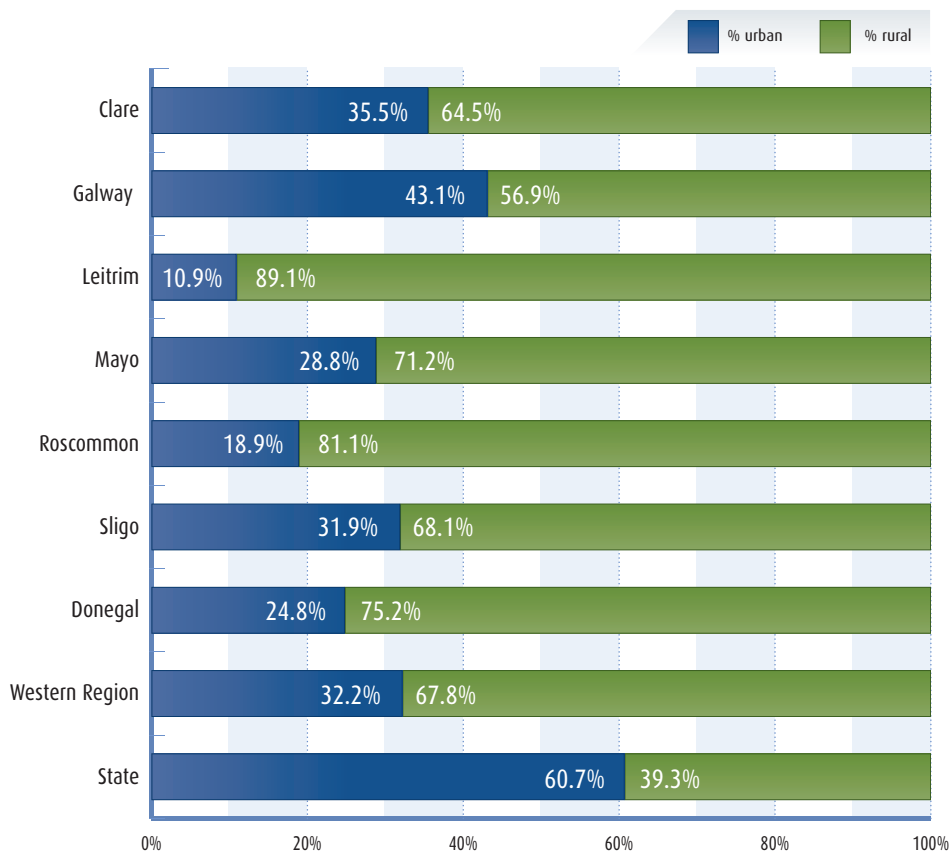
1.2 Percentage population change in each county and in the Western Region in inter-censal periods, 1981-2006



	% Population Change			
	1981-1991	1991-2002	2002-2006	1981-2006
County/Region				
Clare	3.8	13.6	7.4	26.7
Galway	4.9	15.9	10.8	34.7
Leitrim	-8.4	2.0	12.2	4.9
Mayo	-3.5	6.1	5.4	7.9
Roscommon	-4.9	3.6	9.3	7.7
Sligo	-1.3	6.3	4.6	9.8
Donegal	2.4	7.4	7.0	17.7
Western Region	0.8	9.8	8.1	19.7
State	2.4	11.1	8.2	23.1

Source: CSO, Census of Population 2006, Volume 1, Table 2

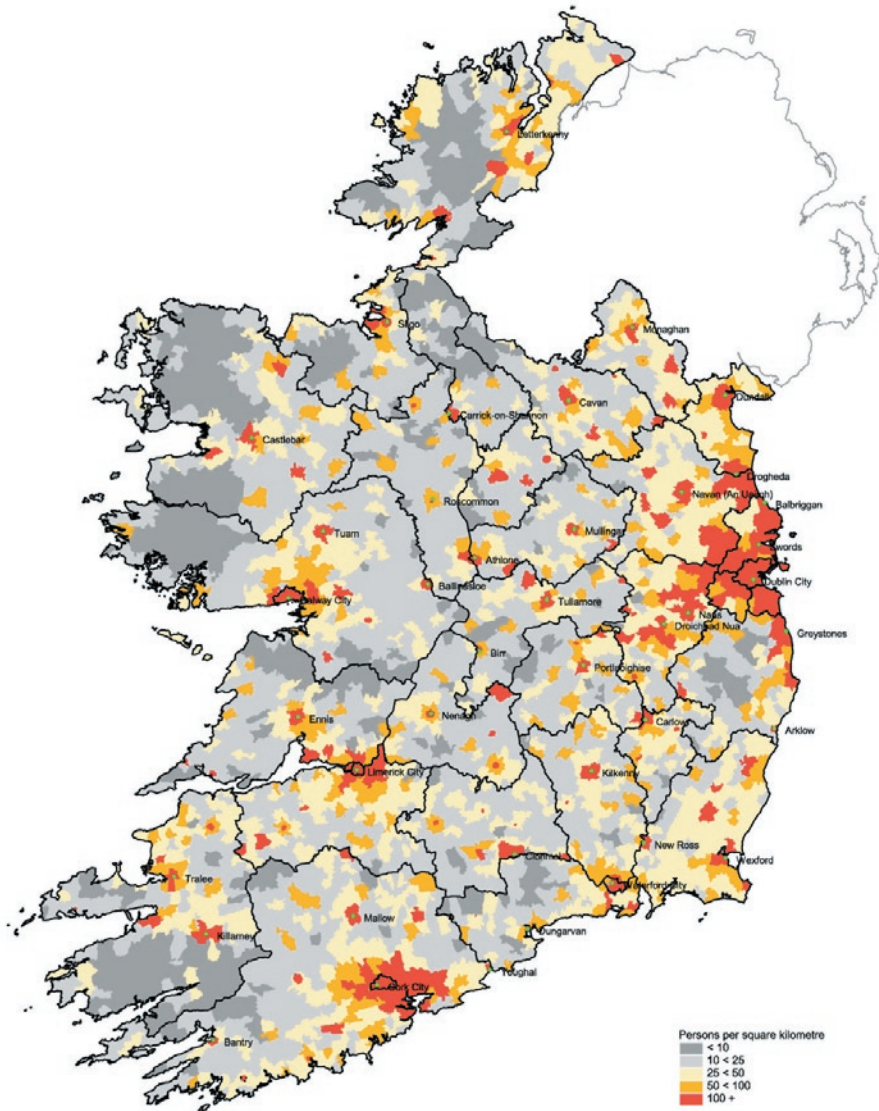
1.3 Percentage of population living in rural and urban areas¹ in each county and in the Western Region, 2006



Source: CSO, Census of Population 2006, Volume 1, Table 7

¹ The population living in urban areas consists of those living in Aggregate Town Areas i.e. 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 residing in all areas outside clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants is classified as belonging to Aggregate Rural Areas, referred to as rural areas above.

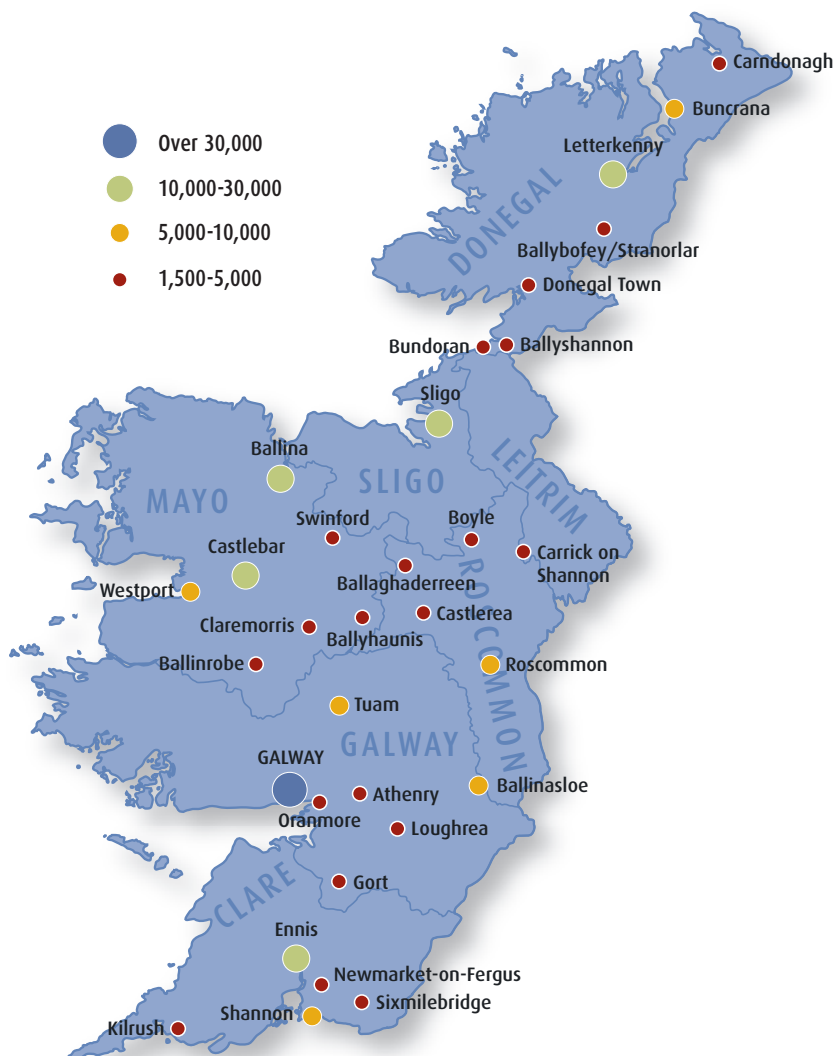
1.4 Population density of Electoral Divisions, 2006



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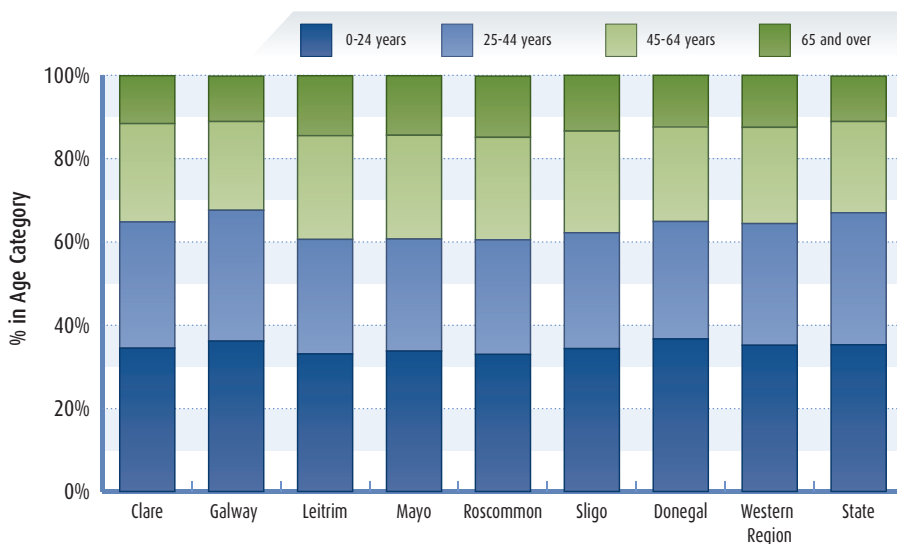
Source: CSO, Census of Population 2006, Volume 1, Figure 2
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1.5 Towns with a population of 1,500 or over in the Western Region, 2006



Source: Data for the map sourced from CSO, Census of Population 2006, Volume 1, Table 7

1.6a Age profile of persons in each county and in the Western Region, 2006



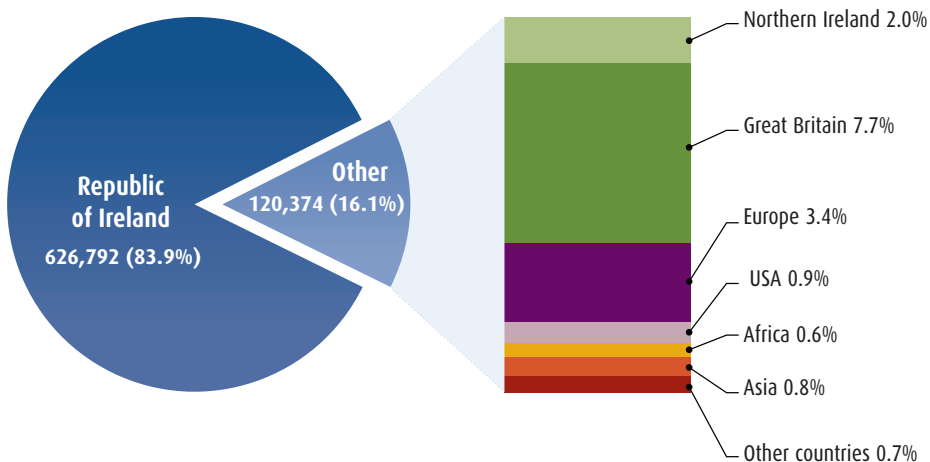
County/Region	% in Each Age Category 2006				Total Persons
	0-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 and over	
Clare	34.5	30.3	23.6	11.6	110,950
Galway	36.2	31.4	21.3	11.0	231,670
Leitrim	33.1	27.5	24.9	14.5	28,950
Mayo	33.8	26.9	24.9	14.4	123,839
Roscommon	33.0	27.5	24.6	14.8	58,768
Sligo	34.4	27.8	24.4	13.5	60,894
Donegal	36.7	28.2	22.7	12.5	147,264
Western Region	35.2	29.2	23.1	12.6	762,335
State	35.3	31.7	21.9	11.0	4,239,848

1.6b Age profiles in the Western Region, 1996, 2002, 2006

	Persons in Each Age Category				Total Persons
	0-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 year	65 and over	
1996	268,638	168,956	129,398	90,239	657,231
2002	262,401	195,528	156,658	90,561	705,148
2006	267,982	222,280	176,238	95,835	762,335

Source: CSO, Census of Population 1996, Volume 2, Table 10; CSO, Census of Population 2002, Volume 2, Table 3; CSO, Census of Population 2006, Volume 2, Table 3

1.7 Country of birth of usual residents¹ in the Western Region, 2006



Source: CSO, Census of Population 2006, Volume 4, Table 28

¹ Data refer to those present on Census Night.