Future Demography of Ireland

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Overview

• Importance of population projections
• Historic perspective, 1841 - 2016
• Snapshot of current demographic trends
• Projections to 2051
Importance of populations projections

Planning for Society’s needs

- Education
- Health care
- Ageing
- Housing
- Employment
- Infrastructure
Ireland’s population 1841 - 2016

Fig 1.1 Ireland’s population 1841 – 2016

Source: CSO Ireland
Population Change by County 2011-2016

-2% - 0.1%
0.0% - 1.9%
2.0% - 3.9%
4% - 5.9%
> 5.9%

Non Irish Nationals are 11.6% of the population
Dual Irish Nationality is 104,784

Educaion
42% of people had a third level education

Population By Age Group

Children
Pre-school 331,515
- down 7.0%

Adults
19-24 years 331,208
- down 6.5%
25-64 years 2,541,294
- up 1.9%
65+ years 637,567
- up 19.1%

www.cso.ie
Population change - 2018

Births 61,200
Less Deaths 30,700
Natural Increase 30,500
Plus Immigration 90,300
Less Emigration 56,300
Net migration 34,000
Population change 64,500
Population projections approach

• Expert group assembled by CSO
• Projects the 2016 population forward under assumptions
  • 2 fertility assumptions
  • 1 mortality assumption
  • 3 migration assumptions
• NOT A FORECAST!
  • 6 population scenarios
Fertility Assumptions - Births 1960 - 2016
Fertility assumptions - Average age of first time mothers 1975 - 2015

Fig 4.3 Average age of first time mothers

Source: CSO Ireland
Fertility assumptions agreed

- **F1** – Fertility to remain at the 2016 level until 2051
  - 1.8 is below the theoretical replacement level of 2.1
  - Ireland fertility rates near the top of European levels

- **F2** – Fertility to fall to 1.6 by 2031 and level off thereafter
  - Irish fertility rates converging to European average
Mortality assumptions - Life expectancies at birth for selected years

Fig 5.1 Life expectancies at birth for selected years

Source: CSO Ireland
Recent migration trends

Fig 6.1 Annual components of population change

Source: CSO Ireland

16,200
Migration assumptions - Areas considered

- Recent migration trends
- Present Economic conditions
- ‘Pull factor’ – capacity in a number of sectors of the labour market
- Brexit – Potential positive and negative impact
- Infrastructure
Net migration and the unemployment rate

Fig 6.2 Net migration and the unemployment rate, 1998 – 2016

Source: CSO Ireland
Migration assumptions agreed

- **M1 - Net inward migration +30,000 per annum 2017 – 2051**
  - Extended period of economic growth and low unemployment
  - Potential for some increase in inward migration from the EU28 post Brexit
- **M2 - Net inward migration +20,000 per annum 2017 - 2051**
  - Net inward migration of +20,000 was recorded for the year to April 2017
  - 20 year average net inward migration (1997 – 2016)
- **M3 – Net inward migration of +10,000 per annum 2017 – 2051**
  - +10,000 is 50% below the 20 year average, allowing for periods of downturn and net outward migration.
Deaths by year for selected assumptions

Fig 2.5 Deaths by year for selected assumptions 2017 – 2051

Source: CSO Ireland
Projected primary school pupils 2016 - 2051

Fig 2.7 Projected primary school pupils, 2016 – 2051

Source: CSO Ireland

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Projected secondary school pupils, 2016 - 2051

Fig 2.8 Projected secondary school pupils, 2016 – 2051

Source: CSO Ireland
Population aged 15-64, 2016 - 2051

Fig 2.9 Percentage of population aged 15–64, 2016 – 2051

- 2016: 65.5%
- 2021: 65%
- 2031: 63.8%
- 2041: 59.9%
- 2051: 57.1%

Source: CSO Ireland
Projected population of older age groups 2016 & 2051
Dependency Ratios

- Ratio of young and old population as % of working age population

- **Young**
  - 32% in 2016 and
  - Between 26% and 29% in 2051

- **Old**
  - 20% in 2016
  - 40% and 48%.
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- Significant increase in population
- Increased population of older age groups
- Increased dependency rates
- Reduced share of working age population as percentage of total population
  - Now: 2 workers for each dependent
  - 2051: Less than 1.5 persons for each dependent
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Thank you