

Section Two Demographic Profile

2.1 Population

This section of Leitrim: A County in Change draws on information from the 1996, 2002 and 2006 National Census of Population. From these it has been possible to analyse the population changes at County and sub-county level.

Table 2.1 Population of Leitrim 1996, 2002 and 2006 by Gender

Area	1996					2002					2006				
	Persons	Males		Females		Persons	Males		Females		Persons	Males		Females	
	Total	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Ballinamore Rural Area	3,205	1,667	52.0%	1,538	48.0%	3,059	1,562	51.1%	1,497	48.9%	3,161	1,603	50.7%	1,558	49.3%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	6,117	3,114	50.9%	3,003	49.1%	6,669	3,342	50.1%	3,327	49.9%	8,210	4,163	50.7%	4,047	49.3%
Kinlough Rural Area	1,656	899	54.3%	757	45.7%	1,912	1,022	53.5%	890	46.5%	2,423	1,242	51.3%	1,181	48.7%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	6,724	3,525	52.4%	3,199	47.6%	6,769	3,541	52.3%	3,228	47.7%	7,535	3,931	52.2%	3,604	47.8%
Mohill Rural Area	7,355	3,839	52.2%	3,516	47.8%	7,390	3,857	52.2%	3,533	47.8%	7,621	3,964	52.0%	3,657	48.0%
Leitrim	25,057	13,044	52.1%	12,013	47.9%	25,799	13,324	51.6%	12,475	48.4%	28,950	14,903	51.5%	14,047	48.5%
State	3,626,087	1,800,232	49.6%	1,825,855	50.4%	3,917,203	1,946,164	49.7%	1,971,039	50.3%	4,239,848	2,121,171	50.0%	2,118,677	50.0%

Source: CSO, National Census of Population 1996, 2002 & 2006

According to the 2006 National Census of Population, the population of Leitrim is 28,950, 51.5% of which is made up of males and 48.5% of females. Similarly to 2002, the greatest proportion of the population is in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area, followed by Mohill and Manorhamilton Rural Areas. The lowest proportion of the population is in Kinlough Rural Area.

Table 2.2 Population of Aggregate Town and Rural areas in Leitrim and the State, 2002 & 2006

Area	Persons 2002				Persons 2006					
	Total	Aggregate Town Areas		Aggregate Rural Areas		Total	Aggregate Town Areas		Aggregate Rural Areas	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Leitrim	25,799	1,842	7.1%	23,957	92.9%	28,950	2,595	9%	26,355	91%
Border Region	432,534	143,858	33.3%	288,676	66.7%	468,375	163,123	35%	305,252	65%
State	3,917,203	2,334,282	59.6%	1,582,921	40.4%	4,239,848	2,574,313	61%	1,665,535	39%

There was an increase of 753 people living in the Aggregate Town Areas of County Leitrim between 2002 and 2006 so that 9% of people now live in aggregate Town areas, an increase on the 7.1% in 2002. In comparison with the rest of the country, however, Leitrim continues to have the highest proportion of its population concentrated in the Aggregate Rural Areas of the County by a significant margin - 91% compared to 39% in the State - and a significantly lower proportion of its population concentrated in the Aggregate Town Areas of the County - 9% compared to 61% in the State. Almost four times as many people live in town areas in the Border Region as in Leitrim, though this figure is lower than the figure in 2002 when almost five times as many people lived in town areas in the Border Region as in Leitrim. Leitrim has the lowest population density in the State at 18 persons per square kilometre, compared to the average for the State at 60 persons per square kilometer¹.

1 http://www.cso.ie/census/documents/Vol1_%20Press_Release.pdf

Table 2.3 Towns in Leitrim by Population and Gender, 2002 & 2006

Population	2002					2006				
	Persons	Males		Females		Persons	Males		Females	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N
Carrick-on-Shannon	1,842	855	46.4%	987	53.6%	2,595	1,259	48.5%	1,336	51.5%
Manorhamilton	927	479	51.7%	448	48.3%	1,158	597	51.6%	561	48.4%
Mohill	786	386	49.1%	400	50.9%	931	458	49.2%	473	50.8%
Ballinamore	687	318	46.3%	369	53.7%	805	372	46.2%	433	53.8%
Kinlough	335	171	51.0%	164	49.0%	690	338	49.0%	352	51.0%
Drumshanbo	623	321	51.5%	302	48.5%	665	336	50.5%	329	49.5%
Dromahair	312	158	50.7%	154	49.3%	503	244	48.5%	259	51.5%
Carrigallen	257	129	50.2%	128	49.8%	303	164	54.1%	139	45.9%
Leitrim	-	-	-	-	-	258	126	48.8%	132	51.2%
Drumkeeran	242	122	50.4%	120	49.6%	249	125	50.2%	124	49.8%
Drumsna	173	92	53.2%	81	46.8%	217	106	48.8%	111	51.2%
Drumod	-	-	-	-	-	210	105	50.0%	105	50.0%
Tullaghan	-	-	-	-	-	216	100	46.3%	116	53.7%
Roosky	11	7	63.6%	4	36.4%	32	19	59.4%	13	40.6%

Source: CSO, National Census of Population, 2002 & 2006

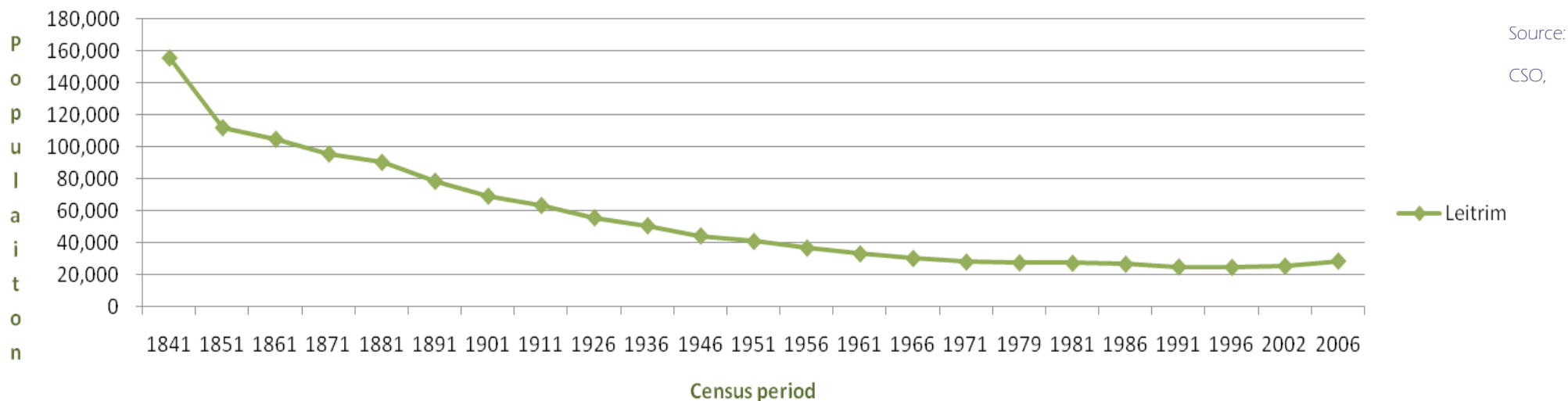
The major centers of population in Leitrim are Carrick-on-Shannon with a total population, according to the 2006 census, of 2,595 (Leitrim part only) and Manorhamilton with a total population of 1,158.

At ED level, Carrick-on-Shannon and Drumshanbo in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area, Manorhamilton and Drumahaire in Manorhamilton Rural Area, Mohill in Mohill Rural Area and Ballinamore in Ballinamore Rural Area have the largest populations. Arigna in Manorhamilton Rural Area, Aghavoghill and Aghalateeve in Kinlough Rural Area, Drumreilly East in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area and Stralongford in Ballinamore Rural Area have the smallest populations. There are 27 EDs in Leitrim with populations of fewer than 200 people and eight of these have populations of less than 100 people.

2.2 Population Change

Population change is an extremely useful indicator of how well economically and socially an area is performing. Population increase is usually an indicator of an area which is attractive to people to live and work. If this remains the case then people will generally settle down and begin to raise families in the area thus contributing to continued growth in the area. On the other hand, population decline, particularly in rural areas, is indicative of disadvantage, isolation and marginalisation. Population decline occurs as a result of the effect of adverse long-term labour market conditions that manifest themselves as either agricultural underemployment or emigration¹. Emigration occurs when there is a mismatch between the demand and supply of employment opportunities. That is why, in rural areas the unemployment rate is not regarded as the best indicator of poverty or disadvantage, as high levels of emigration lead de facto to lower levels of unemployment. Emigration also tends to be highly socially selective and it is usually the young, the more educated or skilled that leaves in search of better employment opportunities, leaving behind a demographically disproportionate population with high levels of dependency and high rates of low skilled workers. This, in turn, can result in an area becoming increasingly unattractive to commercial and industrial investment, and can ultimately result in persistent out migration and the decline in services.

Population of Leitrim 1841-2006



National Census of Population 1841 – 2006

Figure 2.1 Population of Leitrim 1841-2006

¹ Haase and Pratschke, 2005, p. 7

Figure 2.1 graphically depicts the population of Leitrim at every census since 1841. In 1841, the population in Leitrim was 155,297. In just over 100 years, by 1946, the population had declined by 110,706 to 44,591. It continued to fall until 1996 when it reached its lowest point of 25,057. Between 1996 and 2002 the population of Leitrim increased by 742 to 25,799, an increase of 3%. Between 2002 and 2006 the population of Leitrim increased by 3,151 to 28,950, an increase of 12.2%, bringing the population to the highest it has been since 1966.

Table 2.4 Rural Areas, Leitrim and the State by Change in Population 1996-2002 & 2002-2006

Area	Persons 1996	Persons 2002	Change in Population 1996-2002		Persons 2006	Change in Population 2002-2006	
			Actual	%		Actual	%
Ballinamore Rural Area	3,205	3,059	-146	-4.6%	3,161	102	3.3%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	6,117	6,669	552	9.0%	8,210	1,541	23.1%
Kinlough Rural Area	1,656	1,912	256	15.5%	2,423	511	26.7%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	6,724	6,769	45	0.7%	7,535	766	11.3%
Mohill Rural Area	7,355	7,390	35	0.5%	7,621	231	3.1%
Leitrim	25,057	25,799	742	3.0%	28,950	3,151	12.2%
Border Region	407,295	432,534	25,239	6.2%	468,375	35,841	8.3%
State	3,626,087	3,917,203	291,116	8.0%	4,239,848	322,645	8.2%

Source: CSO, National Census of Population, 1996, 2002 & 2006

Table 2.4 shows the changes in population that have occurred in Leitrim, the Border Region and the State between 1996 and 2002 and between 2002 and 2006. Between 1996 and 2002, the population of Leitrim increased by 3%, a modest increase compared to the Border Region and the State. Between 2002 and 2006, however, the population in Leitrim increased by a significant 12.2%, a substantially greater increase than either the Border Region (8.3%) or the State (8.2%). The population increase in Leitrim was the seventh highest recorded in the State, with only Fingal, Meath, Laois, Kildare, Cavan and Wexford recording higher increases.

At rural area level, Ballinamore Rural Area reversed the population decline experienced between 1996 and 2002 (-4.6%) to an increase of 3.3% between 2002 and 2006, representing an actual increase of 102 people. This brings the population of Ballinamore to within 44 of the 1996 population figure. The population of Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area, which increased by 9% between 1996 and 2002, continued the trend and recorded a substantial increase of 23.1% between 2002 and 2006. The population of Kinlough Rural Area also continued to increase by a significant 26.7% between 2002 and 2006. The population of Manorhamilton Rural Area, which had shown a modest growth of 0.7% between 1996 and 2002, increased by 11.3% between 2002 and 2006. Mohill Rural Area showed the most modest increase between 2002 and 2006 at 3.1%. However, this is still substantially more than the increase of 0.5% between 1996 and 2002. The increase in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area between 2002 and 2006 accounted for almost 50% of the entire population increase in Leitrim in that period. Combined, the increase in Carrick-on-Shannon and Manorhamilton Rural Areas account for almost three quarters of the increase in population.

Table 2.5 Towns in County Leitrim by Change in Population 1996-2002 & 2002-2006

	1996	2002	Change 1996-2002		2006	Change 2002-2006	
	Persons	Persons	Actual	%	Persons	Actual	%
Carrick-on-Shannon	1,532	1,842	310	20.2%	2,595	753	40.9%
Manorhamilton	1,008	927	-81	-8.0%	1,158	231	24.9%
Mohill	808	786	-22	-2.7%	931	145	18.4%
Ballinamore	782	687	-95	-12.1%	805	118	17.2%
Kinlough	286	335	49	17.1%	690	355	106.0%
Drumshanbo	634	623	-11	-1.7%	665	42	6.7%
Dromahair	346	312	-34	-9.8%	503	191	61.2%
Carrigallen	251	257	6	2.4%	303	46	17.9%
Leitrim	-	-	-	-	258	-	-
Drumkeeran	220	242	22	10.0%	249	7	2.9%
Drumsna	143	173	30	21.0%	217	44	25.4%
Drumod	-	-	-	-	210	-	-
Tullaghan	-	-	-	-	216	-	-
Roosky	34	11	-23	-67.6%	32	21	190.9%

Source: CSO, National Census of Population, 1996, 2002 & 2006

At town level, Carrick-on-Shannon had the largest actual increase in population at 753 people or over 40%, adding to the 20% increase recorded between 1996 and 2002. The populations of Roosky and Kinlough more than doubled between 2002 and 2006. The towns of Manorhamilton, Ballinamore, and Dromahair all recorded decreases in population between 1996 and 2002. Between 2002 and 2006 this trend was reversed with all town recording increases, most notably in Kinlough and Dromahair, where the population increased by over 106% and 60% respectively.

Table 2.6 Components of Population Change in Leitrim and the State 1996-2002 & 2002-2006

	Population		Change in population	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase		Estimated net migration (inward less outward)	
	1996	2002				(births less deaths)		N	%
1996-2002									
	1996	2002	1996-2002			N	%	N	%
Leitrim	25,057	25,799	742	1,740	2,056	-316	-42.6%	1,058	142.6%
State	3,626,087	3,917,203	291,116	324,147	186,912	137,235	47.1%	153,881	52.9%
2002-2006									
	2002	2006	2002-2006			N	%	N	%
Leitrim	25,799	28,950	3,151	1,413	1,203	210	6.7%	2,941	93.3%
State	3,917,203	4,239,848	322,645	245,156	113,842	131,314	40.7%	191,331	59.3%

Source: CSO, National Census of Population 2002 & 2006

Tables 2.6 analyses the components of population change between 1996 and 2006. Between 1996 and 2002 it is estimated that immigrants accounted for 142% of the population increase² as the figure for natural increase was negative. Between 2002 and 2006, the natural increase was 210, accounting for 6.7% of the population increase. Immigration, at 93.3% of the increase, continued to account for a significant majority of the increase in population. This contrasts with the figures for the State, where the natural increase accounted for over 40% and migration accounted for less than 60% of the increase in population.

² In other words, during that period, the natural increase (births–deaths) was minus 316 but the rate of immigration (1,058) accounted for an overall increase of 742.

2.2.1 Population Change by Age Group

Table 2.7 Proportion of the Population Change by Age Group 2002-2006

	0-14 years		15-24 years		25-44 years		45-64 years		65+ years		Total	
	Leitrim	State	Leitrim	State	Leitrim	State	Leitrim	State	Leitrim	State	Leitrim	State
1996	5,847	859,424	3,470	632,890	6,097	1,016,091	5,269	703,800	4,374	413,882	25,057	3,626,087
2002	5,422	827,428	3,435	641,522	6,573	1,180,259	6,223	831,993	4,146	436,001	25,799	3,917,203
2006	5,898	864,449	3,680	632,732	7,951	1,345,873	7,214	928,868	4,207	467,926	28,950	4,239,848
Change 2002-2006	476	37,021	245	-8,790	1,378	165,614	991	96,875	61	31,925	3,151	322,645
Percentage Change	8.8%	4.5%	7.1%	-1.4%	21.0%	14.0%	15.9%	11.6%	1.5%	7.3%	12.2%	8.2%
Proportion of the population change	15.1%	11.5%	7.8%	-2.7%	43.7%	51.3%	31.5%	30.0%	1.9%	9.9%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: CSO, National Census of Population 2006

Percentage Change 2002-2006

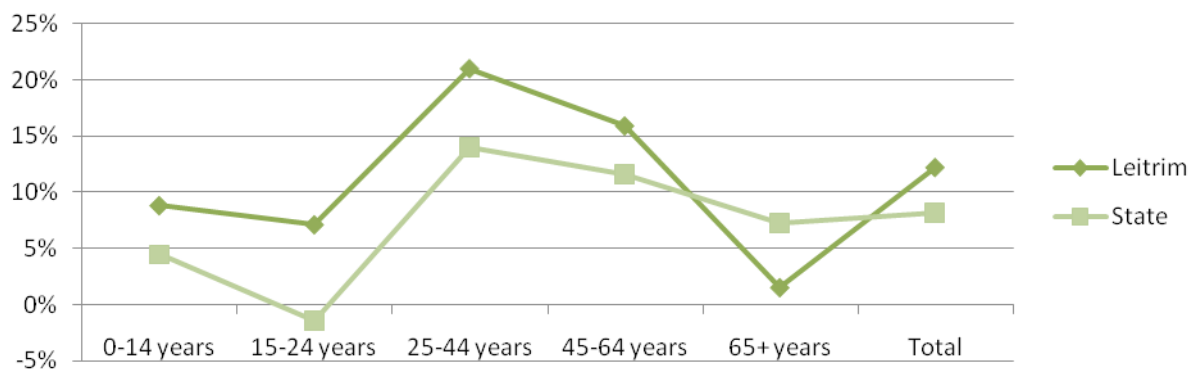


Figure 2.2 Proportion of the Population Change by Age Group 2002-2006

Source: CSO, National Census of Population 2006

Table 2.7 and Figure 2.2 shows the increase in population by age category between 2002 and 2006 in the State and in Leitrim. Unlike the figures for 2002 which showed decreases in some age categories, the figures for 2006 show that there was an increase in all age categories. The population increase is mainly concentrated in the age categories 25-44 years where there was an increase of 21% (accounting for 43.7% of the overall increase) and 45-64 where there was an increase of 15.9% (accounting for 31.5% of the overall increase). There was a more modest increase in the 0-14 years age category of 8.8%, which accounted for 15.1% of the overall increase, though this is significant in that it is a reversal of the decline in this age category between 1996 and 2002. Similarly for the 15-24 age category, which increased by 7.1%, accounting for 7.8% of the overall increase and is a reversal of the decline between 1996 and 2002. There was a modest increase in the 65+ years age category of 1.5% (1.9% of the overall increase), contrasting with the State figure for this age category which accounted for almost 10% of the overall population increase.

Table 2.8 Electoral Divisions in Leitrim by the Greatest Declines and Increases in Population 1996-2002 and 2002-2006

Area	ED	Persons 1996	Persons 2002	Change in Population 1996-2002		Persons 2006	Change in population 2002-2006	
				Actual	%		Actual	%
Kinlough Rural Area	027 Aghalateeve	88	94	6	6.8%	74	-20	-21.3%
Mohill Rural Area	072 Keeldra	237	235	-2	-0.8%	205	-30	-12.8%
Mohill Rural Area	068 Drumdoo	315	319	4	1.3%	290	-29	-9.1%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	048 Killarga	88	100	12	13.6%	91	-9	-9.0%
Mohill Rural Area	067 Drumard	228	229	1	0.4%	209	-20	-8.7%
Ballinamore Rural Area	010 Oughteragh	101	90	-11	-10.9%	83	-7	-7.8%
Ballinamore Rural Area	006 Garadice	513	520	7	1.4%	483	-37	-7.1%
Mohill Rural Area	066 Corriga	182	172	-10	-5.5%	162	-10	-5.8%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	016 Drumreilly East	88	71	-17	-19.3%	67	-4	-5.6%
Mohill Rural Area	061 Carrigallen West	373	400	27	7.2%	387	-13	-3.2%
Ballinamore Rural Area rea	009 Newtowngore	212	201	-11	-5.2%	196	-5	-2.5%
Ballinamore Rural Area	005 Drumreilly South	163	129	-34	-20.9%	126	-3	-2.3%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	043 Glenaniff	170	160	-10	-5.9%	158	-2	-1.2%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	023 Kiltubbrid	143	124	-19	-13.3%	149	25	20.2%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	014 Barnameenagh	146	128	-18	-12.3%	154	26	20.3%
Kinlough Rural Area	028 Aghanlish	142	132	-10	-7.0%	161	29	22.0%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	013 Annaduff	176	164	-12	-6.8%	206	42	25.6%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	039 Drumahaire	889	973	84	9.4%	1,244	271	27.9%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	015 Carrick-on-Shannon	2,148	2,663	515	24.0%	3,505	842	31.6%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	022 Keshcarrigan	214	270	56	26.2%	365	95	35.2%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	024 Leitrim	587	618	31	5.3%	870	252	40.8%
Kinlough Rural Area	031 Kinlough	454	498	44	9.7%	864	366	73.5%

Source: CSO, National Census of Population, 2006

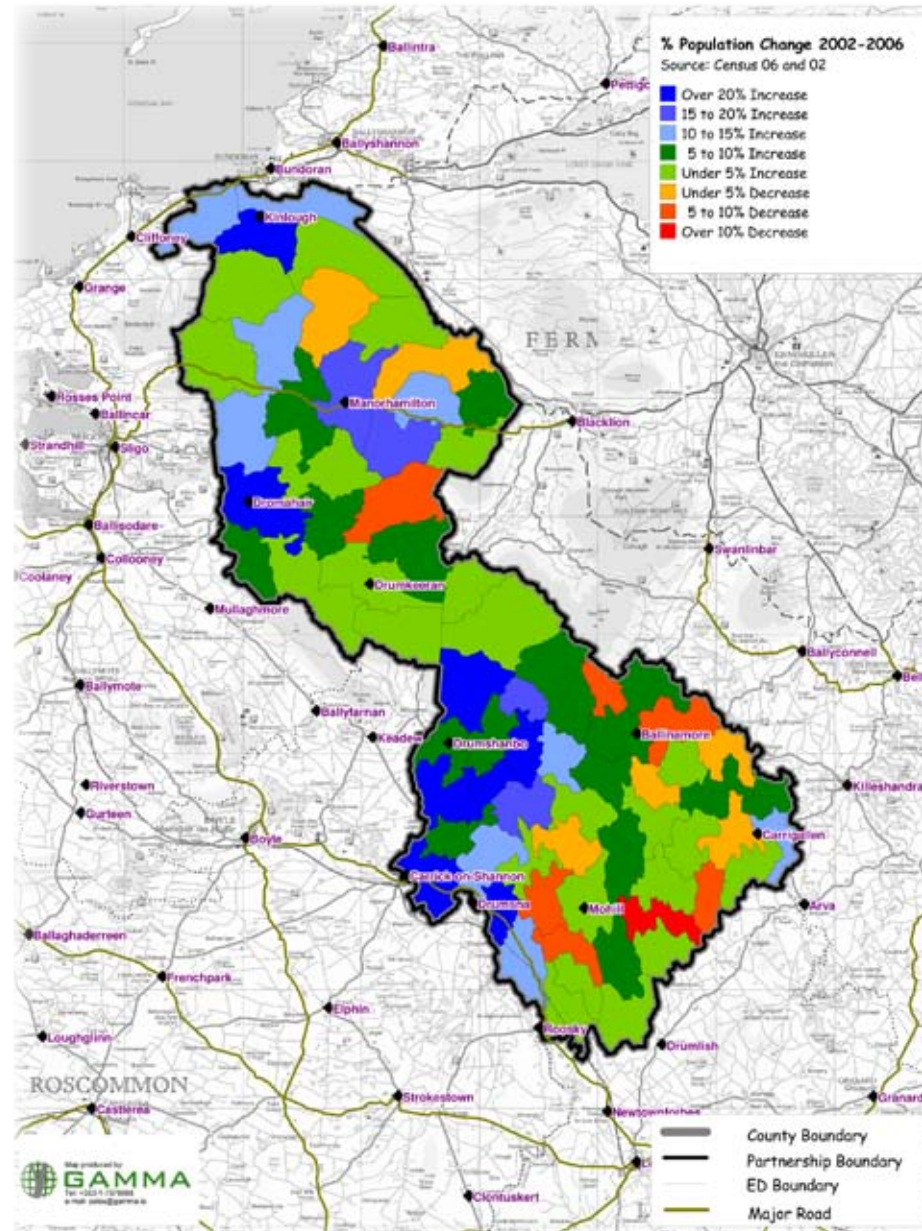
At Electoral Division level, sixty-three of the seventy-eight EDs in Leitrim recorded a positive increase in population, and population growth between 2002 and 2006 was either the same or higher than the State average in 32 EDs. It was lower than the national average in 31 of the 78 EDs and thirteen EDs showed a decline in population between 2002 and 2006, with two EDs remaining static.

Kinlough in Kinlough Rural Area showed a considerable increase in population between 2002 and 2006 of 73.5%. The next highest increases in population were in Leitrim, Keshcarrigan and Carrick-on-Shannon, all in the Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area and Drumahaire in Manorhamilton Rural Area.

The biggest decline in population was shown by Aghalateeve in Kinlough Rural Area at -21.3%, followed by Keeldra and Drumdoo in Mohill Rural Area, Killarga in Manorhamilton Rural Area and Drumard in Mohill Rural Area.

Seven EDs – Keeldra, Oughteragh, Corriga Drumreilly East, Newtowngore Drumreilly South and Glenaniff showed a persistent decline in population since 1996. Six EDs - Garadice, Aghalateeve, Killarga, Carrigallen West, Drumard and Drumdoo showed a decline in population between 2002 and 2006, after showing an increase between 1996 and 2002. The population of a number of EDs such as Drumreilly South, Glenaniff and Kiltyclogher remained static between 2002 and 2006. All these EDs show a decline in population between 1996 and 2002.

Map 2.1 Percentage Population Change 2002-2006



2.3 Age Profile

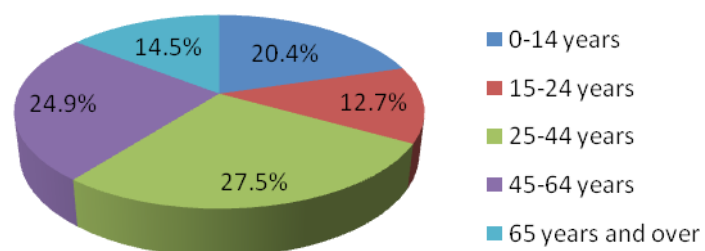
In 2006 the national average age of the population was 35.6 years, compared with 35.1 years in 2002. Dublin Fingal had the youngest population in 2006 (average age 32.2 years) followed by Kildare (32.8 years). Roscommon, with an average age of 38.3 years, had the oldest population in the State at the time of the 2006 census followed by Leitrim (38.1 years)³.

Table 2.9 Age Structure of Leitrim and the State, 2002 & 2006

	2002		2006		2002		2006	
	Leitrim	State	Leitrim	State	Leitrim	State	Leitrim	State
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-14 years	5,422	21.0%	827,428	21.1%	5,898	20.4%	864,449	20.4%
15-24 years	3,435	13.3%	641,522	16.4%	3,680	12.7%	632,732	14.9%
25-44 years	6,573	25.5%	1,180,259	30.1%	7,951	27.5%	1,345,873	31.7%
45-64 years	6,223	24.1%	831,993	21.2%	7,214	24.9%	928,868	21.9%
65 years & over	4,146	16.1%	436,001	11.1%	4,207	14.5%	467,926	11.0%
Population	25,799		3,917,203		28,950		4,239,848	

Source: CSO, National Census of Population, 2002 & 2006

Age Structure 2006 - Leitrim



Age Structure 2006 - State

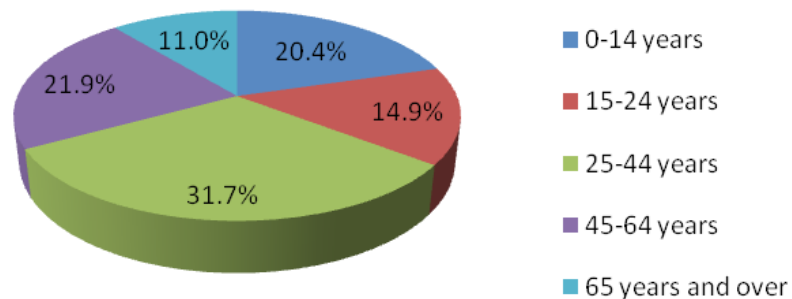


Figure 2.3 Age Structure of Leitrim and the State 2006

Source: CSO, National Census of Population 2006

3 CSO Principal Demographic Results, 2007, p. 15.

Table 2.9 and Figure 2.3 show the breakdown of the population by age in Leitrim and the State in 2002 and 2006. In 2002, 21% of the population was between the ages of 0-14 years in both Leitrim and the State. Just over 13% of the population was in the 15-24 years age category in Leitrim compared to 16% in the State. The percentage of the population in the 45-64 years and 65+ years age categories was higher in Leitrim (24.1% and 16.1%) compared to the State figures (21.2% and 11.1%). The percentage in the age category 25-44 years was quite a bit lower in Leitrim than in the State at 25.5% and 30.1% respectively. Overall, 60% of the population of Leitrim was aged 44 years and under compared to 68% of the State's population. That picture reverses in relation to the older age categories and 40% of the population of Leitrim was 45 years and over, compared to 32% of the State's population.

In 2006, 20% of the population was between the ages of 0-14 years in both Leitrim and the State. Almost 13% of the population was in the 15-24 years age category in Leitrim compared to almost 15% in the State. The percentage of the population in the 45-64 years and 65+ years age categories was higher in Leitrim (24.9% and 14.5%) compared to the State figures (21.9% and 11.0%), though the percentage of the population aged 65 years and over in Leitrim fell from 16.1% in 2002 to 14.5% in 2006. Similarly to 2002, the percentage in the age category 25-44 years was quite a bit lower in Leitrim than in the State at 27.5% and 31.7% respectively. Overall, 60.5% of the population of Leitrim was aged 44 years and under compared to 67.1% of the State's population. That picture reverses in relation to the older age categories and 39.5% of the population of Leitrim is 45 years and over, compared to 32.9% of the State's population.

Table 2.10 Age Structure at Rural Area Level, 2002 & 2006

Age Category	0-14 years		15-24 years		25-44 years		45-64 years		65 years and over		Population
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
2002											
Area	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Total
Ballinamore Rural Area	673	22.0%	389	12.7%	769	25.1%	746	24.4%	482	15.8%	3,059
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	1,306	19.6%	929	13.9%	1,870	28.0%	1,575	23.6%	989	14.8%	6,669
Kinlough Rural Area	413	21.6%	212	11.1%	544	28.5%	462	24.2%	281	14.7%	1,912
Manorhamilton Rural Area	1,451	21.4%	876	12.9%	1,630	24.1%	1,678	24.8%	1,134	16.8%	6,769
Mohill Rural Area	1,579	21.4%	1,029	13.9%	1,760	23.8%	1,762	23.8%	1,260	17.1%	7,390
2006											
Ballinamore Rural Area	642	20.3%	435	13.8%	758	24.0%	859	27.2%	467	14.8%	3,161
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	1,591	19.4%	1,102	13.4%	2,516	30.6%	1,930	23.5%	1,071	13.0%	8,210
Kinlough Rural Area	555	22.9%	261	10.8%	748	30.9%	577	23.8%	282	11.6%	2,423
Manorhamilton Rural Area	1,589	21.1%	905	12.0%	2,016	26.8%	1,867	24.8%	1,158	15.4%	7,535
Mohill Rural Area	1,521	20.0%	977	12.8%	1,913	25.1%	1,981	26.0%	1,229	16.1%	7,621

Source: CSO, National Census of Population, 2002 & 2006

There are no major discrepancies in terms of age structure at rural area level. Kinlough Rural Area has the highest percentage of people in the 0-14 years age category at 22.9%. Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area has the lowest percentage at 19.4%. Ballinamore Rural Area and Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area have the highest percentage of population in the 15-24 years age category at 13.8% and 13.4% respectively. Kinlough Rural Area has the lowest percentage at 10.8%. Overall Ballinamore Rural Area has the highest percentage of population under the age of 24 years.

Kinlough Rural Area and Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area have the highest percentage of population in the 25-44 years age category at 30.9% and 30.6% respectively. Ballinamore Rural Area has the lowest at 24.0%. Ballinamore Rural Area has the highest percentage of population in the 45-64 years age category at 27.2%. Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area and Kinlough Rural Area have the lowest percentages at 23.5% and 23.8% respectively. Mohill Rural Area has the highest percentage of population in the 65 years and over age category at 16.1%. Kinlough Rural Area has the lowest at 11.6%.

2.4 Age Dependency

Age dependency is used to give an indication of how many people in the economically inactive age categories are dependant on those in the economically active age categories. Though not perfect as a measurement⁴, it is regarded as a succinct way of considering imbalances in age structures. The young and old dependency ratios are derived by expressing the young population (0-14 years) and the old population (aged 65 years and over) either as percentages of the population of working age (15-64 years – Age Dependency Ratio 1) or as percentages of the overall population (Age Dependency Ratio 2). The total age dependency ratio is the sum of the young and old rates⁵. For every census between 1991 to 2002, Leitrim had the highest age dependency rate in the State ⁶

Table 2.11 Rural Areas, Leitrim and the State by Age Dependency Ratios, 2002 & 2006

	Age Dependency Rate 1 2002	Age Dependency Rate 2	Total Population 2006	Dependant ages	Working Ages	Age Dependency Rate 1	Age Dependency Rate 2
Ballinamore Rural Area	60.7%	37.8%	3,161	1,109	2,052	54.0%	35.1%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	52.5%	34.4%	8,210	2,662	5,548	48.0%	32.4%
Kinlough Rural Area	57.0%	36.3%	2,423	837	1,586	52.8%	34.5%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	61.8%	38.2%	7,535	2,747	4,788	57.4%	36.5%
Mohill Rural Area	62.4%	38.4%	7,621	2,750	4,871	56.5%	36.1%
Leitrim	58.9%	37.1%	28,950	10,105	18,845	53.6%	34.9%
State	47.6%	32.3%	4,239,848	1,332,375	2,907,473	45.8%	31.4%
Border	-	35.0%	468,375	159,126	309,249	51.5%	34.0%

Source: CSO, National Census of Population 2006

Age Dependency Ratio 1 refers to age dependency as a percentage of the population of working age

Age Dependency Ratio 2 refers to age dependency as a percentage of the overall population

⁴ Age dependency is not a precise measurement as there is a risk of inaccuracy in calculating the ratios depending on age. For example, there is a likelihood that there may be a substantial number of people aged 15 years and over still in education (and therefore economically inactive) and there is also a likelihood that people aged 65+ may still be at work (and therefore economically active). Nonetheless, it is still a useful and commonly used indicator, showing the number of those that are age dependent on the population of working age.

⁵ For example, a rate of 59% indicates that for every 100 people in the economically active age categories there are 59 people in the economically inactive age categories (and therefore age dependant).

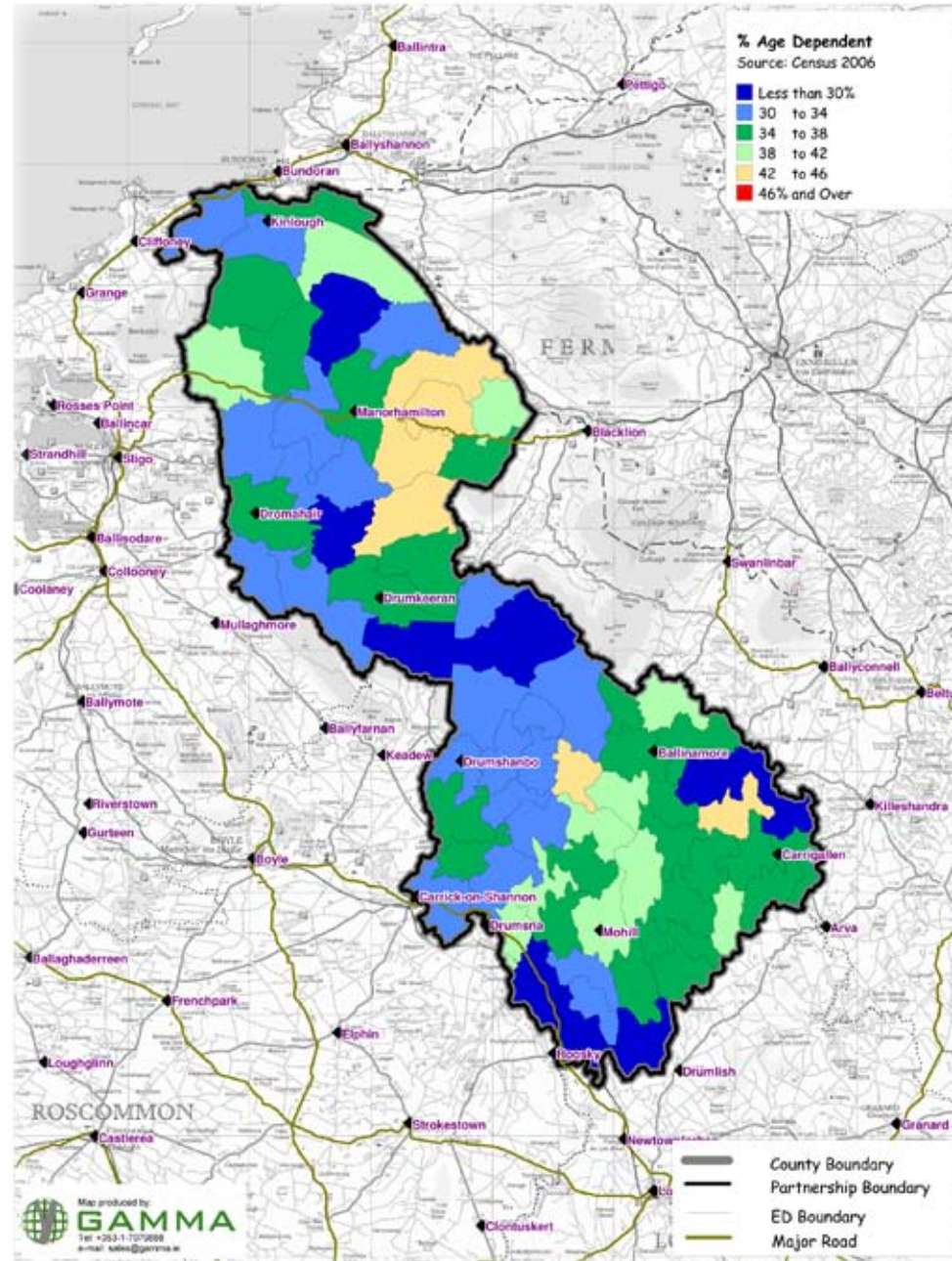
⁶ Haase and Pratschke, 2005, p. 37

Depending on which ratio is analysed the level of age dependency for Leitrim is either 53.6% or 34.9%. While these rates remain considerably higher than the rates at national level (45.8% and 31.4% respectively) the gap between the rates in Leitrim and the State is decreasing. For example, in 2002 Leitrim was 11.3% above the national average for Age Dependency Rate 1 but by 2006 this had narrowed to 7.8%.

At rural area level, Manorhamilton Rural Area has the highest level of age dependency, followed by Mohill and Ballinamore Rural Areas. There are higher levels than the State of age dependency in all the rural areas of Leitrim, though all rates have fallen since 2002. Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area has the lowest level of age dependency.

At ED level 60 of the 78 EDs in Leitrim have higher levels of age dependency than the State average, and 40 of the 78 EDs have higher age dependency ratios than the average for the county. Glenboy in Manorhamilton Rural Area has the highest age dependency ratio at 82.1%, followed by Killarga also in Manorhamilton Rural Area at 82%. St. Patrick's in Manorhamilton Rural Area continues to have the lowest rate at 32.7%, followed by Drumreilly North and Newtowngore in Ballinamore Rural Area at 3.1% and 35.2% respectively. A total of 13 EDs have lower age dependency rates than the average for the State.

Map 2.2 Age Dependency Rate 2006



2.5 Conclusion and Commentary

Leitrim continues to have the smallest and most rurally based population in the State with only 9% of the population living in aggregate town areas and 91% living in rural areas. This compares to the State and Border Region averages of 60.7% and 34.8% living in town areas respectively. Leitrim also has the lowest population density in the State, almost three and a half times lower than the average for the State. However, when the trends since 2002 are examined it emerges that the population of Leitrim is continuing to grow strongly and is becoming slightly more urbanized.

The population in County Leitrim had been in decline since 1841. This trend began to reverse between 1996 and 2002, and the 2002 census recorded an increase in population of 3%. This new trend continued between 2002 and 2006 with the population of County Leitrim increasing by 12.2%, the third highest increase recorded in the State and almost one and a half times the State average of 8.2%. In 2002 only 7% of the population lived in the aggregate town areas. In 2006 this figure increased to 9%. In 2002 the population density in Leitrim was 16. In 2006, this figure increased to 18.

However, continuing the trend that emerged between 1996 and 2002, the increase in population in Leitrim is not evenly distributed through the county. The figures for 2006 indicate that the population increase is mainly concentrated in the Carrick-on-Shannon and Manorhamilton Rural Areas, where the population between 2002 and 2006 increased substantially and where the combined increase accounts for almost 75% of the overall increase in population in Leitrim. Comparatively small increases were recorded in Ballinamore and Mohill Rural Areas. At ED level, a number of EDs recorded significant increases in population between 2002 and 2006. However, the population of others declined and seven EDs have recorded persistent population decline since 1996.

Dependency on high levels of immigration for population growth continued between 2002 and 2006, when immigration accounted for 93.1% of the population increase. Though there was a positive natural increase between 2002 and 2006 (in contrast to a negative natural increase between 1996 and 2002) this accounted for less than 7% of the population increase, in contrast to over 40% of the national population increase.

The national population is getting older. Against the national trend, the population in Leitrim is getting younger with the average age falling by 0.4 years between 2002 and 2006. Despite this, Leitrim continues to have one of the oldest populations in the State.

The age dependency rate in Leitrim fell from 37.1% in 2002 to 34.9% in 2006, and though the rate remains one of the highest in the State and substantially higher than the State average, it is no longer the highest in the State and the gap between Leitrim and the State narrowed considerably between 2002 and 2006.