

Section Four Households, Families and Accommodation

This section of the Leitrim: A County in Change looks at the composition of households, families and the nature of accommodation that households live in.

4.1 Households & Family Units

Table 4.1 Private Households in Leitrim and the State by Composition, 2002 & 2006

Composition	2002				2006			
	Leitrim		State		Leitrim		State	
	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*
One person	2,596	28.5%	277,573	21.6%	3,056	28.7%	329,450	22.4%
Husband and wife	1,395	15.3%	169,668	13.2%	1,658	15.6%	204,487	13.9%
Cohabiting couple	166	1.8%	41,751	3.2%	380	3.6%	65,055	4.4%
Husband, wife and children	3,124	34.3%	462,283	35.9%	3,383	31.8%	477,705	32.5%
Cohabiting couple and children	135	1.5%	27,188	2.1%	244	2.3%	39,626	2.7%
Lone father and children	129	1.4%	19,313	1.5%	132	1.2%	21,689	1.5%
Lone mother and children	685	7.5%	111,878	8.7%	806	7.6%	130,853	8.9%
Couple and others	99	1.1%	17,165	1.3%	114	1.1%	23,877	1.6%
Couple, children and others	232	2.5%	44,264	3.4%	188	1.8%	31,714	2.2%
Lone father, children and others	25	0.3%	3,658	0.3%	16	0.2%	3,244	0.2%
Lone mother, children and others	56	0.6%	15,785	1.2%	63	0.6%	13,994	1.0%
Two or more family units	35	0.4%	5,732	0.4%	84	0.8%	20,257	1.4%
Non-family households and relations	286	3.1%	38,681	3.0%	292	2.7%	43,426	3.0%
Two or more non-related persons	136	1.5%	53,019	4.1%	230	2.2%	64,144	4.4%
Total private households	9,099	100.0%	1,287,958	100.0%	10,646	100.0%	1,469,521	100.0%

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

* % of total private households

Table 4.1 shows the composition of households in Leitrim in 2002 and 2006. Households refer to all those sharing accommodation, including those not belonging to a single family unit. Similar to the State profile of households, the largest proportion of households in Leitrim were composed of a husband and wife with children in both 2002 and 2006 (34.3% in 2002 and 31.8% in 2006). Similar to the picture in 2002, there were a significant number of one person households in Leitrim in 2006 (28.7%) compared to the State (22.4%). Lone mothers with children made up 7.6% of all households in Leitrim, slightly below the State average of 8.9%, while the number of lone fathers with children in Leitrim, at 1.2%, was similar to the State average of 1.5%. The number of co-habiting couples in Leitrim doubled between 2002 and 2006, from 1.8% in 2002 to 3.6% in 2006.

Table 4.2 Family Units in the Rural Areas, Leitrim and the State by Composition and Number of Children in each Family Unit Type, 2002 & 2006

	Ballinamore RA		Carrick-on-Shannon RA		Kinlough RA		Manorhamilton RA		Mohill RA		Leitrim		State	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2002														
Total number of family units	737		1,594		482		1,562		1,741		6,116		924,464	
Total number of children	1,166		2,325		718		2,572		2,916		9,697		1,470,819	
Couples with no children	196	26.6%	481	30.2%	155	32.2%	408	26.1%	450	25.8%	1,690	27.6%	232,857	25.2%
Couples with children	440	59.7%	868	54.5%	260	53.9%	902	57.7%	1,043	59.9%	3,513	57.4%	537,744	58.2%
Children in families headed by a couple	1,014	87.0%	1,926	82.8%	598	83.3%	2,134	83.0%	2,501	85.8%	8,173	84.3%	1,197,239	81.4%
Lone fathers with children	17	2.3%	40	2.5%	10	2.1%	40	2.6%	48	2.8%	155	2.5%	23,499	2.5%
Children in family units headed by a lone father	25	2.1%	66	2.8%	19	2.6%	70	2.7%	72	2.5%	252	2.6%	40,064	2.7%
Lone mothers with children	84	11.4%	205	12.9%	57	11.8%	212	13.6%	200	11.5%	758	12.4%	130,364	14.1%
Children in family units headed by a lone mother	127	10.9%	333	14.3%	101	14.1%	368	14.3%	343	11.8%	1,272	13.1%	233,516	15.9%
2006														
Total number of family units	775		2,033		629		1,835		1,881		7,153		1,053,180	
Total number of children	1,172		2,644		861		2,699		2,823		10,199		1,486,431	
Couples with no children	213	27.5%	690	33.9%	200	31.8%	541	29.5%	560	29.8%	2,204	30.8%	303,554	28.8%
Couples with children	443	57.2%	1,033	50.8%	329	52.3%	1,006	54.8%	1,049	55.8%	3,860	54.0%	560,386	53.2%
Children in families headed by a couple	1,000	85.3%	2,179	82.4%	712	82.7%	2,207	81.8%	2,385	84.5%	8,483	83.2%	1,174,628	79.0%
Lone fathers with children	20	2.6%	40	2.0%	15	2.4%	41	2.2%	42	2.2%	158	2.2%	26,689	2.5%
Children in family units headed by a lone father	30	2.6%	59	2.2%	19	2.2%	64	2.4%	64	2.3%	236	2.3%	42,018	2.8%
Lone mothers with children	99	12.8%	270	13.3%	85	13.5%	247	13.5%	230	12.2%	931	13.0%	162,551	15.4%
Children in family units headed by a lone mother	142	12.1%	406	15.4%	130	15.1%	428	15.9%	374	13.2%	1,480	14.5%	269,785	18.1%

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

Table 4.2 shows the family units in Leitrim and the State. A family unit refers to those who make up a family. In 2006, the majority of family units in Leitrim were made up of couples with children (3,860 or 54.0% of all family units). This is similar to the State average of 53.2%, though slightly lower than the figure in 2002 of 57.4%. The children in this family unit type accounts for 83.2% of all children in Leitrim, a slightly higher rate than the State average of 79.0%. In Leitrim 30.8% of family units were composed of couples with no children in 2006, a slightly higher average than that of the State at 28.8%.

At rural area level, the majority of family units were made up of couples with children in all rural areas in 2006. Over 30% of all family units were made up of couples with no children in both Carrick-on-Shannon and Kinlough Rural Areas.

4.2 Accommodation

Housing and accommodation are useful indicators of relative affluence and disadvantage. Generally, areas with a high level of local authority rented accommodation are associated with high levels of disadvantage. Research has shown that the risk of poverty is highest for households in the local authority rented sector⁷ and this sector caters predominantly for those on the lowest incomes, with around 80% of tenants dependent on social welfare⁸. Conversely, high rates of owner occupation are generally good indicators of relative affluence. Ireland has the highest rate of owner occupation in the EU⁹ and the figures for Leitrim are even higher than the national average.

In predominantly rural areas such as Leitrim it should not be assumed that high levels of owner occupation automatically indicate affluence. Comparatively large proportions of family income and wealth can be tied up in housing in rural areas. In addition, the relatively old population structure in Leitrim may also indicate an older housing stock¹⁰, owner-occupied but in need of repair and renovation. Section 4.2.1 looks at the types of households and 4.2.2 looks at the nature of occupancy of households in Leitrim and the State.

7 Doling, J., *Comparative Housing Policy: Government and Housing in Advanced Industrialized Countries*, 1997

8 CPA, 1996, p. 2

9 Poverty Briefing No. 8: Poverty, Housing and Homelessness, Combat Poverty Agency, 1999

10 An analysis of the Irish National Survey of Housing Quality 2001/2002 (Watson et al, 2005 (pp. 99-107) indicates, for example, that Leitrim is 2.0 above the national average for the absence of housing amenities (absence of a flush toilet, hot running water, shower or bath, etc.) usually associated with an older housing stock.

4.2.1 Type of Accommodation

Table 4.3 Private Households in Permanent & Temporary Households by Type of Accommodation in the Rural Areas, Leitrim and the State, 2002 & 2006

Accommodation	Total Private Households	Permanent Private Households				Temporary Private Households						
		House/Bungalow		Flat/ Apartment/ Bedsit		Total Permanent Households		Total Temporary Households			Not stated	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
2002												
Ballinamore Rural Area	1,099	1,021	92.9%	29	2.6%	1,050	95.5%	9	0.8%	40	3.6%	
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	2,371	2,142	90.3%	163	6.9%	2,305	97.2%	21	0.9%	45	1.9%	
Kinlough Rural Area	695	672	96.7%	5	0.7%	677	97.4%	6	0.9%	12	1.7%	
Manorhamilton Rural Area	2,397	2,262	94.4%	44	1.8%	2,306	96.2%	37	1.5%	54	2.3%	
Mohill Rural Area	2,537	2,429	95.7%	42	1.7%	2,471	97.4%	26	1.0%	40	1.6%	
Leitrim	9,099	8,526	93.7%	283	3.1%	8,809	96.8%	99	1.1%	191	2.1%	
State	1,287,958	1,142,541	88.7%	110,458	8.6%	1,252,999	97.3%	8,341	0.6%	26,618	2.1%	
2006												
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Ballinamore Rural Area	1,173	1,077	91.8%	56	4.8%	1,133	96.6%	7	0.6%	33	2.8%	
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	2,986	2,681	89.8%	223	7.5%	2,904	97.3%	26	0.9%	56	1.9%	
Kinlough Rural Area	922	880	95.4%	13	1.4%	893	96.9%	7	0.8%	22	2.4%	
Manorhamilton Rural Area	2,790	2,632	94.3%	64	2.3%	2,696	96.6%	44	1.6%	50	1.8%	
Mohill Rural Area	2,775	2,657	95.7%	64	2.3%	2,721	98.1%	21	0.8%	33	1.2%	
Leitrim	10,646	9,927	93.2%	420	3.9%	10,347	97.2%	105	1.0%	194	1.8%	
State	1,469,521	1,281,870	87.2%	148,623	10.1%	1,430,493	97.3%	7,225	0.5%	31,803	2.2%	

Source: CSO, National Census of Population 2002 & 2006

Table 4.4 Persons in Permanent & Temporary Households by Type of Accommodation in the Rural Areas, Leitrim and the State, 2002 & 2006

Accommodation	Permanent Private Households						Temporary Private Households				
	Total	Persons in House/ Bungalow		Persons in Flat/ Apartment/Bedsit		Total persons in permanent private households		Persons in temporary private households		Not stated	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
2002											
Ballinamore Rural Area	3,014	2,856	94.8%	45	1.5%	2,901	96.3%	9	0.3%	104	3.5%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	6,376	5,917	92.8%	298	4.7%	6,215	97.5%	51	0.8%	110	1.7%
Kinlough Rural Area	1,897	1,840	97.0%	10	0.5%	1,850	97.5%	17	0.9%	30	1.6%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	6,548	6,278	95.9%	92	1.4%	6,370	97.3%	54	0.8%	124	1.9%
Mohill Rural Area	7,244	6,961	96.1%	123	1.7%	7,084	97.8%	60	0.8%	100	1.4%
Leitrim	25,079	23,852	95.1%	568	2.3%	24,420	97.4%	191	0.8%	468	1.9%
State	3,791,316	3,486,215	92.0%	210,656	5.6%	3,696,871	97.5%	20,574	0.5%	73,871	2.0%
2006											
Ballinamore Rural Area	3,121	2,922	93.6%	104	3.3%	3,026	97.0%	14	0.4%	81	2.6%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	7,900	7,233	91.6%	452	5.7%	7,685	97.3%	75	0.9%	140	1.8%
Kinlough Rural Area	2,393	2,307	96.4%	30	1.3%	2,337	97.7%	9	0.4%	47	2.0%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	7,335	7,036	95.9%	119	1.6%	7,155	97.5%	63	0.9%	117	1.6%
Mohill Rural Area	7,487	7,224	96.5%	118	1.6%	7,342	98.1%	60	0.8%	85	1.1%
Leitrim	28,236	26,722	94.6%	823	2.9%	27,545	97.6%	221	0.8%	470	1.7%
State	4,123,318	3,729,679	90.5%	292,551	7.1%	4,022,230	97.5%	16,565	0.4%	84,523	2.0%

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

Tables 4.3 and 4.4 show the number and type of private households and the number of people living in each type of household. The vast majority (93.2%) of households and people (94.6%) in Leitrim live in whole houses. This proportion is higher than the national average of 87.2% of households and 90.5% of people. In comparison with the State, there are still very few households or people living in flats or apartments in Leitrim, though the number increased slightly since 2002.

The figure for private households is made up of the sum of permanent households and temporary households. The vast majority of households in Leitrim, as in the State, are permanent households. One percent of households, representing 221 people, are in temporary households (caravan, mobile or other temporary structure). This is double the national proportion of households of 0.5%.

At rural area level, the percentages of people living in whole houses are fairly standard at between approximately 90% and 96.5%, all above the national average. The numbers of households and people living in flats or apartments increased in all the rural areas since 2002 but are still well below the national average in all rural areas except for Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area. Between just under and just over 1% of households in the rural areas are households in temporary accommodation.

Table 4.5 Average Number of Persons per Private Household in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas in Leitrim and the State, 2002 & 2006

2002									
Area	Number of private households			Number of persons in private households			Average number of persons per private household		
	Total	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area	Total	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area	Total	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area
Leitrim	9,099	-	-	25,079	-	-	2.76	2.38	2.79
State	1,287,958	-	-	3,791,316	-	-	2.94	2.86	3.08
2006									
Leitrim	10,646	955	9,691	28,236	2,394	25,842	2.65	2.51	2.67
State	1,469,521	914,305	555,216	4,123,318	2,486,641	1,636,677	2.81	2.72	2.95

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

Similar to the national trend, the average number of people per private household fell in Leitrim between 2002 and 2006 from 2.76 to 2.65 people per private household. Leitrim continues to have one of the lowest averages of persons per private household in the State, with only four areas having a lower rate - Dún-Laoghaire-Rathdown (2.50), Waterford City (2.55), Limerick City (2.58) and Cork City (2.61).

4.2.2 Nature of Occupancy

Table 4.6 Private Dwellings in Permanent Housing Units in the Rural Areas, Leitrim and the State by Nature of Occupancy, 2002 & 2006

	Total permanent private households	Owner occupied		Total Owner Occupied	%*	Rented from Local Authority		Purchased from Local Authority		Rented from Voluntary Body		Total private rented		Occupied free of rent		Not stated	
		With mortgage	Without mortgage			N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*	N	%*
2002																	
Ballinamore Rural Area	1,090	300	581	881	80.8%	59	5.4%	12	1.1%	-	-	55	5.1%	38	3.5%	45	4.1%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	2,350	660	1,083	1,743	74.2%	149	6.3%	51	2.2%	-	-	300	12.8%	47	2.0%	60	2.6%
Kinlough Rural Area	689	195	346	541	78.5%	54	7.8%	20	2.9%	-	-	41	6.0%	17	2.5%	16	2.3%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	2,360	587	1,249	1,836	77.8%	215	9.1%	53	2.3%	-	-	136	5.8%	69	2.9%	51	2.2%
Mohill Rural Area	2,511	652	1,439	2,091	83.3%	157	6.3%	33	1.3%	-	-	107	4.3%	65	2.6%	58	2.3%
Leitrim	9,000	2,394	4,698	7,092	78.8%	634	7.0%	169	1.9%	-	-	639	7.1%	236	2.6%	230	2.6%
State	1,279,617	484,774	461,166	945,940	73.9%	88,206	6.9%	44,783	3.5%	-	-	141,459	11.1%	21,560	1.7%	37,669	2.9%
2006																	
Ballinamore Rural Area	1,166	328	615	943	80.9%	60	5.1%	7	0.6%	39	3.3%	67	5.7%	24	2.1%	26	2.2%
Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area	2,960	885	1,198	2,083	70.4%	217	7.3%	26	0.9%	140	4.7%	353	11.9%	53	1.8%	88	3.0%
Kinlough Rural Area	915	324	375	699	76.4%	70	7.7%	9	1.0%	37	4.0%	61	6.7%	15	1.6%	24	2.6%
Manorhamilton Rural Area	2,746	860	1,292	2,152	78.4%	226	8.2%	26	0.9%	59	2.1%	142	5.2%	57	2.1%	84	3.1%
Mohill Rural Area	2,754	783	1,471	2,254	81.8%	193	7.0%	23	0.8%	48	1.7%	115	4.2%	66	2.4%	55	2.0%
Leitrim	10,541	3,180	4,951	8,131	77.1%	766	7.3%	91	0.9%	323	3.1%	738	7.0%	215	2.0%	277	2.6%
State	1,462,296	569,966	498,432	1,068,398	73.1%	105,509	7.20%	23,547	1.6%	50,480	3.5%	145,317	9.9%	21,701	1.5%	47,344	3.2%

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

* % of all private dwellings in permanent housing units

There is a slightly higher level of owner-occupation in Leitrim (77.1%) than the State average (73.1%) and a higher proportion of those in owner-occupied accommodation own their homes without a loan or mortgage in Leitrim than in the State - 60.9% of owner occupied households are owned without a loan or mortgage compared to 46.7% of owner occupied households in the State. Similar to the national trend, there was a slight increase in the number of housing units being rented from the Local Authority in Leitrim between 2002 and 2006 (from 7.0% in 2002 to 7.3% in 2006) and there is a slightly higher level of Local Authority rented accommodation in Leitrim than nationally. In the same period, there was a decrease in the number of housing units being purchased from the Local Authority (from 1.9% in 2002 to 0.9% in 2006). The level of private rented accommodation in Leitrim increased by just under a hundred units between 2002 and 2006 and is still mainly concentrated in Carrick-on-Shannon rural area.

At rural area level, Mohill Rural Area has the highest rate of owner occupation, followed by Ballinamore Rural Area. However, there are no major discrepancies between the rural areas in relation to owner occupation. The highest rate of accommodation being rented from the local authority is in Manorhamilton Rural Area, followed by Kinlough Rural Area (where the absolute number is only 70 units).

At ED level there is higher than the State average of households being rented from the local authority in 23 of the 78 DEDs. The highest levels are in Mohill in Mohill Rural Area and Drumkeeran in Manorhamilton Rural Area.

In relation to owner occupation at ED level 20 EDs have an owner occupation rate of 90% or over. Eleven of the 78 DEDs in Leitrim have a lower rate of owner occupation than the State average and 67 of the 78 DEDs have a higher rate of owner occupation than the State average. Carrick-on-Shannon and Keshcarrigan in Carrick-on-Shannon Rural Area have the lowest rates of owner occupation. Rowan and Bunnybeg in Mohill rural area have the highest levels of owner occupation.

In relation to temporary accommodation, on a percentage basis, Mahanagh in Manorhamilton Rural Area has the highest level of temporary accommodation units (7 units or 6.8% representing 8 people). The highest absolute number of temporary accommodation units is in Carrick-on-Shannon (17 units representing 59 people), followed by Mohill (10 units representing 40 people).

Table 4.7 Leitrim County Council Housing Stock, 2006

Electoral Area	Allocated	Occupied	Vacant	Total Housing Units
Ballinamore	0	137	10	147
Carrick-on-Shannon	6	300	25	331
Dromahair	2	248	10	260
Manorhamilton	0	210	12	222
Total	8	895	57	960

Source: Leitrim County Council Housing Department, June 2006

Table 4.7 shows the Leitrim County Council total housing stock. There are 960¹¹ accommodation units, the majority of which are centred in and around Carrick-on-Shannon.

Table 4.8 Tenant Purchases by Year, 2003-2006

Year	Number Of Sales
2003	13
2004	11
2005	25
2006	17 (sales completed to June 2006)
Total	66

Source: Leitrim County Council Housing Department June 2006

Table 4.8 shows the number of sales by tenant purchase scheme from Leitrim County Council. In total, between 2003 and June 2006 there were 66 sales under this scheme.

¹¹ Of the total figure of 960 there are 22 new units of accommodation which were not yet ready for occupancy. The total available stock at June '06 is 935 units.



4.3 Conclusion and Commentary

The majority of family units and households in Leitrim are composed of married couples with children. Proportionately, there are more people living alone, fewer lone parents with children and more couples with no children in Leitrim than the State. There are also fewer co-habiting couples, though the number of co-habiting couples in Leitrim doubled between 2002 and 2006.

The profile of housing and accommodation is fairly predictable for a rural county like Leitrim. The vast majority of people live in whole houses with few living in flats or apartments and this had remained fairly consistent between 2002 and 2006. Leitrim has one of the highest percentages of one-off housing units in the country, after County Galway, Monaghan, Roscommon and Cavan¹². Leitrim continues to have one of the lowest averages of persons per private household in the State. The vast majority of private households are in the Aggregate Rural Areas of County Leitrim and Leitrim continues to have one of the lowest average number of persons per private household in the State.

Significantly more people own their own houses without a loan or a mortgage than the State average. Proportionally, approximately the same number of houses are being rented from the local authority in Leitrim as in the State but just under half the number of houses in Leitrim are being purchased from the local authority than in the State.