

PRESS RELEASE

Census 2011 Shows Continuing Population Growth In Fingal Fastest Growing Dublin Local Authority Area

The Central Statistics Office recently released preliminary results from the 2011 Census of Population. These results only relate to basic population numbers, and are made available at county, Dail Constituency and Electoral and district level, allowing us to see which parts of the country have experienced population change since 2006.

Although Fingal is not the fastest growing county unlike in 2006, these Census results show the population in Fingal is increasing steadily over the past 15 years, and is the fastest growing of the Dublin Local Authority Areas, with 40% of the population growth within the Dublin Region recorded in Fingal.

The population of Fingal is now recorded at 273,051, an additional 33,059 people since the 2006 Census. This represents an increase of 13.8% (almost double the national growth rate of 8.1%), and numerically is the second highest amount of extra people after Cork County (37,399 population increase). This population increase now means that Fingal constitutes 6% of the national population while previously it was just over 5.7%. Particular Electoral Divisions in Fingal (Balbriggan Rural, Blanchardstown-Blakestown, and The Ward) all feature in the list of 10 fastest growing EDs in the State. Fingal also features at the opposite end of a scale – the second lowest level (7%) of vacant housing in the state.

In addition to the overall growth of the county there are significant localised growth figures that are worthy of more discussion:

- Since 2006 Swords, the County town of Fingal, grew to 48,828 which is an increase of over 12%. The town is larger now than Waterford City.
- Blanchardstown grew by 10% and now consists of 100, 894 people. It remains as the biggest single suburb in the Greater Dublin Area and is larger than most of the other cities and towns in the state.

- Balbriggan now has a total population of 22,676 which makes it one of Ireland's larger towns
- Smaller towns like Rush, Skerries, Malahide and Lusk all experienced modest increases showing a maintenance of the growth trend overall in most parts of Fingal

Population forecasts carried out by the Fingal Development Board were remarkably close to the correct figure for the county overall. A guesstimate of 271,326 was just below the actual number published by CSO and was within less than 1% margin of error. Fingal County Manager David O'Connor acknowledges the challenge that this population increase presents to the council, saying "The figures demonstrate the need for the provision of adequate infrastructure and services to support this population increase across all state agencies. With fewer resources available to the council, it needs a smarter and targeted approach to addressing the needs. I am pleased that the Census figures corroborate our own analysis over the past number of years, and this demonstrates that our planning and overall strategies are informed, accurate and appropriate. The County Development Plan 2011-2017 provides a solid and robust framework for Fingal to continue to grow in a steady and sustainable manner."

Mayor of Fingal Councillor Gerry McGuire, said "Census 2011 preliminary figures clearly show that Fingal is growing, and will continue to grow at a steady and consistent rate, and is the obvious area in which to focus growth and investment for Dublin Region. Economic growth requires delivery of key critical infrastructure to support this, and all state agencies responsible for delivering schools, employment, and transport for example, need to plan accordingly and with Census 2011 results in mind.

Key Statistics

Fingal In Numbers

- Population at 2006 Census – 239,992
- Population at 2011 Census – 273,051
- Increase from 2006-2011 – 33,059 (13.8%)

Fingal In Relation to the rest of the country

- Fastest Growing Dublin Local Authority
- Population of Fingal is 6% of National Population
- 40% of the population growth of the Dublin Area is in Fingal (Fingal, South Dublin DLR and Dublin City Councils)
- 3 of the 10 fastest growing Electoral Divisions in the state are in Fingal
 - Balbriggan Rural – 5,531 extra population (57.5% growth)
 - Blanchardstown-Blakestown – 3,682 extra population (11.4% growth)
 - The Ward – 3,000 extra population (57.9% growth)
- Fingal has the second lowest level (7%) of vacant housing in the state.

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