



**An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh**  
Central Statistics Office

# **This is Ireland Highlights from Census 2011, Part 1**

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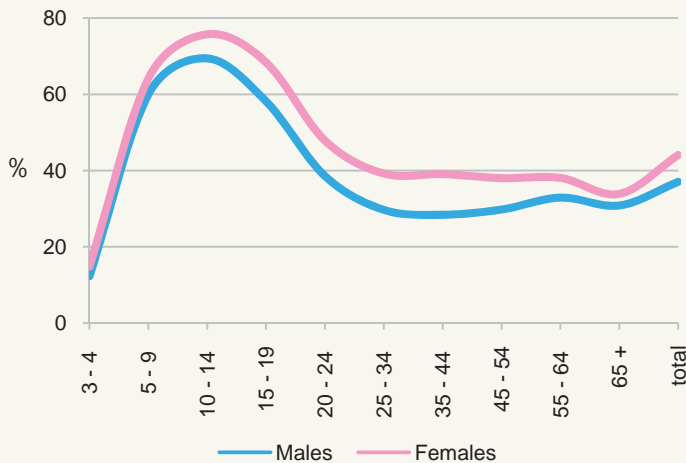
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**Figure 32 Irish speakers as a percentage of total population by sex**



## Can you speak Irish?

The question on Irish language ability is broken into two parts; the first part asks a simple “*Can you speak Irish?*” while the second asks about frequency of speaking the language.

The total number of people who answered ‘yes’ to being able to speak Irish increased by 7.1 per cent between 2006 and 2011 to reach 1.77 million in April 2011. This represents 41.4 per cent of respondents compared with 41.9 in 2006.

Almost 1 in 3, (30.9 per cent) 10 to 19 year olds answered “*no*” to the question “*Can you speak Irish?*”

Tables pages 98 - 103

## Women and men

Results on ability to speak Irish consistently show that more women than men identify themselves as being able to speak Irish; the results from this census bear this out.

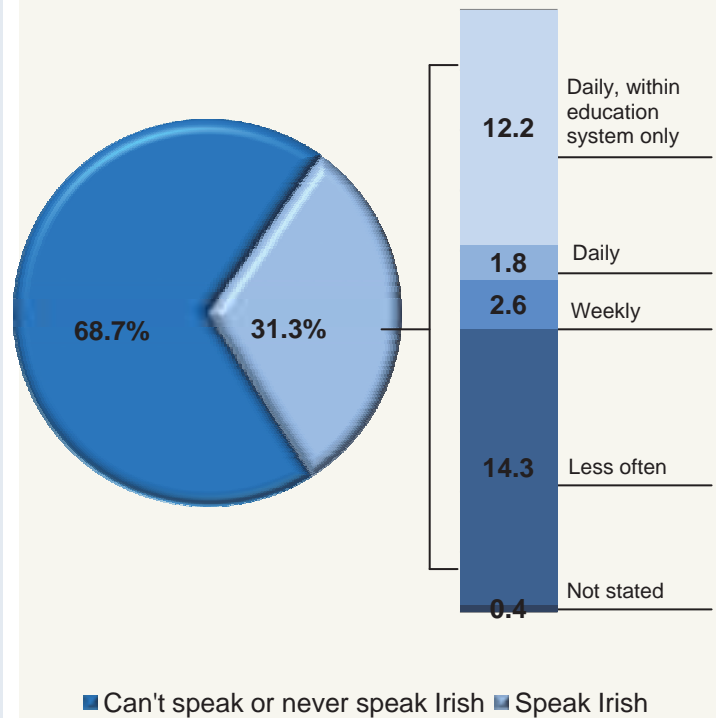
44.9 per cent of women were able to speak Irish compared with just 37.9 per cent of men. These percentages are identical to the results found in 2006. The data is illustrated by age group in the graph above,

## How often

Of the 1.77 million who indicated they could speak Irish, 77,185 said they speak it daily outside the education system. A further 110,642 said they spoke it weekly, while 613,236 said they spoke it less often. One in four said they never spoke Irish.

The numbers speaking Irish on a daily basis outside the education system increased by 5,037 persons since 2006 from 72,148 to 77,185; the numbers speaking weekly showed an increase of 7,781 persons, while those speaking Irish less often showed the largest increase of 27,139.

**Figure 33 Population aged 3 years and over by frequency of speaking Irish**

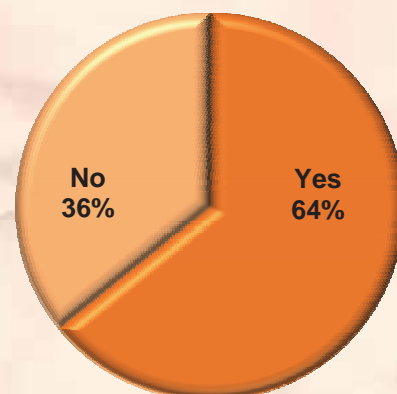


## It's a fact!

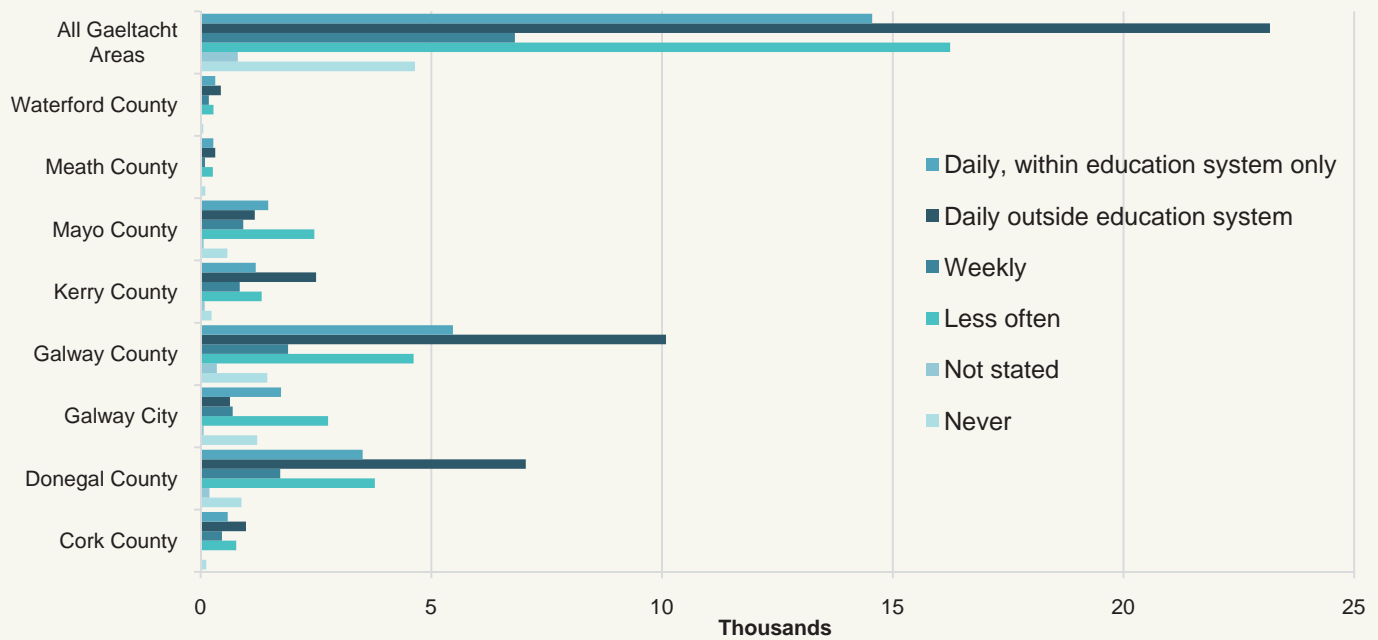
**1.8%** The percentage of the population (3 or over) who spoke Irish daily (outside school) in Ireland

**18.7%** The percentage of the population (3 and over) who spoke Irish daily, weekly or less often

**Ability to speak Irish among 17 and 18 year olds**



**Figure 34 Persons aged 3 years and over in Gaeltacht Areas by frequency of speaking Irish**



**Table V Daily Irish speakers in Gaeltacht Areas, 2006-2011**

Gaeltacht Area	2006	2011	Actual change 2006-2011
Cork County	867	982	115
Donegal County	6,956	7,047	91
Galway City	571	636	65
Galway County	9,654	10,085	431
Kerry County	2,394	2,501	107
Mayo County	1,281	1,172	-109
Meath County	336	314	-22
Waterford County	456	438	-18
All Gaeltacht Areas	22,515	23,175	660

## Gaeltacht areas

The total population of all Gaeltacht areas in April 2011 was 96,628, up from 91,862 in 2006, an increase of 5.2 per cent. Of these 66,238, or 68.5 per cent, indicated they could speak Irish, and 23,175, or 24.0 per cent indicated they spoke Irish daily outside the education system.

This is an increase of 2.9 per cent in the number of daily Irish speakers since 2006. The number of people in Gaeltacht areas who indicated they spoke Irish less often than weekly increased by 6.6 per cent from 15,244 to 16,244.

Of the 77,185 daily Irish speakers (outside the education system) in Ireland just over one in three lived in Gaeltacht areas.

Tables pages 98 - 103

## It's a fact!

**35%** The percentage of people in Gaeltacht areas who spoke Irish daily outside the education system

**54,010** The number of daily Irish speakers who spoke Irish outside the education system and lived outside the Gaeltacht areas