



# Kildare Census 2022 Profile

# Demographics

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## Demographics

## **Demographic Profile**

### **Key Facts:**

- County Kildare has a total population (Census 2022) of 247,774, making it the fifth most populated local authority area in the State and represents 4.8% of the State population (5.1m);
- Over the course of the six years to 2022, Kildare experienced population growth of over eleven percent (+11.4%), an additional 25,270 persons (equivalent to the population of Newbridge). The county's population grew at a much higher rate than that of the state (+8.1%);
- There are considerable variations within the county in terms of demographic vitality; during the most recent intercensal period (2016-2022), the Naas MD experienced a growth rate of 17.1%, while the Celbridge-Leixlip MD grew by 4.9%;
- The growth in population in Kildare between 2016 and 2022 is evenly balanced between natural increase (birth minus death) and net in-migration with a respective ratio of 49.2 : 50.8. This relates to both a high birth rate and the availability of new housing developments as an attraction for people to move to the county over the last five years (i.e., large new housing developments in Kilcock, Maynooth, Naas etc.);
- Kildare has fourth highest proportion of resident young people (0-24 years) in the State. At nearly thirty five percent, the county is home to more than 86,155 young people – this is the fifth highest number across all local authorities;
- At 36.9 years, Kildare had the second youngest average age of all counties in Ireland. Only Fingal has a younger population;
- Two towns in Kildare are amongst the youngest ten towns in the State – Maynooth with an average age of 34 years and Kildare Town with an average age of 35 years;
- Persons aged 45 to 64 (62,591) comprise over a quarter (25.3%) of Kildare's resident population. This cohort has increased by 21.3% (+11,009) since 2016 and represents the largest demographic shift within all age cohorts;
- Persons aged 65+ (29,720) comprise just over one-eighth (12%) of the county's resident population. This cohort has increased by over a third (+35% or +7,706) since 2016 and is the first large intercensal transition towards a much older population. Over the next twenty years, County Kildare's population is projected to increase by about 18.6 percent, but at the same time, it will age considerably, and the number of persons aged 65+ is projected to increase substantially – increasing from 28,010 in 2021 to 59,016 in 2040.
- According to the CSO Urban and Rural Classification, over two thirds (67.8%) of County Kildare's population resides in areas that are classified as highly urban in nature (satellite urban towns or independent urban towns). The remainder of Kildare areas are classed as rural areas with low to high levels of urban influence (commuting to key urban employment destination).

County Kildare has a total population (Census 2022) of 247,774, making it the fifth most populated local authority area in the State and represents 4.8% of the State population (5.1m). Only Dublin City, Cork County, Fingal and South Dublin now have a larger population base than Kildare. To put this in context, the population of Kildare in 2022 is just less than twice that of Waterford City and County (127k), three times that of Cavan (81k) and more than four times the population of neighbouring Carlow (62k).

At the Municipal District (MD) level, the Kildare Newbridge MD (68,185) and Clane-Maynooth MD (66,159) are the most populous and each account for more than a quarter of the population of the county. In contrast, the MDs of Naas (45,822) and Celbridge-Leixlip (39,334) are smaller in size. The Athy MD is by far the smallest in terms of population size and accounts for 11.5% (28,646) of the population of the county.

The geographical boundary of the Greater Dublin Area, as defined by the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA), extends into parts of north-east Kildare (i.e., Leixlip, Maynooth, Kilcock, Celbridge etc) and is termed Metropolitan Kildare. This part of the county accounts for 28.1% (69,611) of the population of the county with the remainder classed as Hinterland Kildare (71.9% or 178,163). Kildare can also be classified into both 'urban' and 'rural' parts using the standard CSO definition (settlements >1,500 population = 'urban'). Using this definition, nearly three quarters of the population of Kildare (74.6% or 184,817) can be classified as 'urban'. Conversely, the 'rural' population in Kildare accounts for just over a quarter of the population of the county (25.4% or 62,957). While a small proportion, the rural population in Kildare is still a significant part of the county and is, in fact, a larger population than all of neighbouring county Carlow as well as Longford and Leitrim.

According to the results from Census 2022, Kildare now has seven settlements with a population greater than 10,000 (eligible for URDF) and four settlements with a population between 5,000 and 10,000. The largest settlements in the county are: Naas (26,180), Newbridge (24,366), Celbridge (20,601), Maynooth (17,259), Leixlip (16,733), Athy (11,035), Kildare Town (10,302), Kilcock (8,674), Clane (8,152), Sallins (6,269) and Monasterevin (5,307).

### Population Change

Over the course of the six years to 2022, Kildare experienced population growth of over eleven percent (+11.4%), an additional 25,270 persons (equivalent to the population of Newbridge). The county's population grew at a much higher rate than that of the State (+8.1%). Of the thirty-one local authority areas in Ireland, Kildare experienced the fourth-highest level of population growth. Neighbouring counties of Fingal (+11.6%) and Meath (+13.2%) grew at a slightly higher rate in the period since 2016. Longford recorded the highest growth rate of 14.4%.

The drivers of population change are natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration (immigration minus emigration). Births and deaths are registered which allows the calculation of natural increase between 2016 and 2022. Net migration can therefore be estimated as the

residual of subtracting natural increase from the population change between censuses. According to Census 2022, all counties experienced an increase in net migration over the six-year period between 2016 and 2022. Across the country, the largest inward migration occurred in Dublin (+46,559), Cork (+20,892), Meath (+14,921) and Kildare (+12,440). Kildare and Meath also had the highest levels of estimated natural increase with an average annual natural increase gaining 9 persons per 1,000 of population per year between 2016 and 2022.

The county's population has grown rapidly over recent decades, its level of growth far ahead of that of the State. Between 1991 and 2022, County Kildare's population doubled (+124,321, increasing from 122k in 1991 to 247k in 2022), while that of the State increased by forty-five percent. Over the past thirty years, rates of growth have been much higher in the north-east of the county – the Naas and Clane-Maynooth Municipal Districts (MDs) both increasing by 145%. In contrast, and although still very high relative to the State, the MDs of Athy (72.9%) and Celbridge-Leixlip (60%) had lower rates of growth.

When population change (2016-2022) is mapped at Electoral Division (ED) level, it is evident that most parts of the county experienced levels of growth of ten percent and above. Some areas emerge as having significantly higher levels of growth, and these include Maynooth and its immediate environs, Kilcock, Naas and Kildare Town. The county's main towns and their environs generally experienced levels of growth that exceeded the county level.

Population decline, and the associated demographic weaknesses, continue to persist in peripheral parts of the county in areas such as Kilberry, Dunmanogue and Timahoe South. Of the 89 EDs across Kildare, approximately eleven percent (10) witnessed population decline between 2016 and 2022.

Many key towns in Kildare have performed well since 2016 with all settlements increasing in population: Naas (+23% or +4,980), Newbridge (+3.6% or +1,517), Celbridge (+2.4% or +487), Maynooth (+18% or +2,654), Leixlip (+8.9% or +1,375), Athy (+12% or +1,192), Kildare Town (+19% or +1,638), Kilcock (+42% or +2,598), Clane (+12% or +872), Sallins (+7.2% or +420) and Monasterevin (+24% or +1,061). It should be noted that between Census 2016 and 2022 the CSO introduced a new set of geographical boundaries for settlements in Ireland called Built Up Urban Areas (BUAs). As BUAs have been defined differently to the Settlements used in Census 2016, caution should be taken when comparing the results between 2016 and 2022. BUAs and Census 2016 Settlements differ primarily in that BUAs are based upon a land-use definition whereas Settlements were based more on population concentration.

ESRI projections (as produced for DPHLG Housing Need and Demand Assessments (HNDAs) - to be reviewed as part of NPF Refresh in Q1 2024) indicate that Kildare will experience population growth in the order of eighteen percent between 2021 and 2040 (using Baseline scenario). This is significantly higher than the projected level of growth for the state (+12.6%). As is the case nationally, Kildare's population is projected to age over the coming twenty years and beyond. The number of persons aged 65+ is projected to increase substantially – increasing from 28,010 in 2016 to 59,016 in 2040. The proportion of the population aged 50+ is projected to increase significantly, while there is expected to be a decline, in

both absolute and relative terms, in the population aged 24 to 40, over the next ten years, although this is expected to recover in the 2030s. ESRI projections indicate a fall of the number of children in the county over the course of the next decade, but this is likely to stabilise thereafter.

### **Age Profile**

In Ireland, the median age of the population increased from 37.4 years in 2016 to 38.8 years in 2022 - this is the second youngest in the 27-member EU after Cyprus. At 36.9 years, Kildare had the second youngest average age of all counties in Ireland. Only Fingal has younger population. Kildare also had the 4th highest birthrate in Ireland (per 1,000 population). Two towns in Kildare are amongst the youngest towns in the State - Maynooth with an average age of 34 years and Kildare Town with an average age of 35 years.

There are particular sub-county level patterns in respect of the distribution of the population, by age, across Kildare. The age profile is youngest in the urban and peri-urban zones within the Metropolitan part of the county while more peripheral parts of the county tend to have an older age profile.

Persons aged 0 to 24 (86,155) comprise more than one third of the resident population (34.8%), which is higher than the State (32.2%) and regional levels. Kildare has the fifth highest number of young people in the State and the fourth highest rate. Across the Dublin and Mid-East regions, only Fingal (35.1%) and Meath (+35.5%) have higher rates. There has been an increase of 4,638 (+5.7%) in this age cohort since 2016. Within the sub-group cohorts, the largest increases have been in the 13-17 year age group (+16.4% or +2,648) and the 18-24 year age group (+17.7% or +3,291). In contrast, the youngest age groups have declined or increased at a very modest rate: the 0-4 age group has witnessed a decline in its population in the county (-10.6% or -1,833) and the 5 to 12 age group has only increased by +1.8% or +532. As such, the current pressure for young age group related services in Kildare, and in all other counties, is now focussed on the second-level school age cohorts.

Within the county, the highest proportions of persons aged 0 to 24 (approx. 37%) are in the Maynooth-Clane MD, while the lowest value is in the Celbridge-Leixlip MD (32.7%). Among the county's towns, the highest values (>38%) are in Maynooth (38%) and Kilcock (38.2%). A number of smaller towns also have rates in excess of forty percent - Derrinturn (40.1%), Carragh (43.3%) and Narraghmore (46.4%). In contrast, the towns with the lowest values (<34%) are Leixlip (31.4%), Ballymore Eustace (29%) and Suncroft (30.1%).

Persons aged 25 to 44 years (69,308) comprise 28% of Kildare's resident population. This is just above the equivalent value for Ireland as a whole (27.6%). Within Kildare, there is a notable difference between south Kildare and other parts of the county in respect of this variable, and an ED-level analysis of the distribution of this age cohort shows that the areas with the lowest values are in peripheral and rural parts of the county. In

contrast, the highest values are generally in the peri-urban zone to the north of the county in areas within close proximity to Naas, Maynooth and Leixlip. Across the settlement hierarchy there is considerable variance with rates in Maynooth (33.6%) and Kilcock (36.5%) above a third of the resident population whereas rates in Carragh (18.5%), Johnstownbridge (18.9%) and Narraghamore (20.5%) represent just a fifth of the resident population.

Persons aged 45 to 64 (62,591) comprise over a quarter (25.3%) of Kildare's resident population. This cohort has increased by 21.3% (+11,009) since 2016. Relative values are generally highest in the south and west of the county, most notably in the Athy MD (26.6%). Proportional rates for this age cohort are higher in both Kildare Hinterland and Kildare Rural than their counterpart geographies.

Persons aged 65+ (29,720) comprise just over one-eighth (12%) of the county's resident population. This cohort has increased by over a third (+35% or +7,706) since 2016 and is the first large intercensal transition towards a much older population. Among the county's MDs, the lowest values are in the more urbanised districts, namely Clane-Maynooth (10.7%), Kildare-Newbridge (11.9%) and Naas (11.4%), while the highest values are in the more rural districts, namely Athy (13.4%). Interestingly, the Celbridge-Leixlip MD has the highest rate at 13.9% and is reflective of the age of and history of residential development in the area. An ED-level spatial analysis illustrates that the areas with the highest proportions of persons aged 65+ are in the Celbridge-Leixlip MD but then predominantly in the south, west and peripheral parts of the county.

**Local Authorities, 2022**

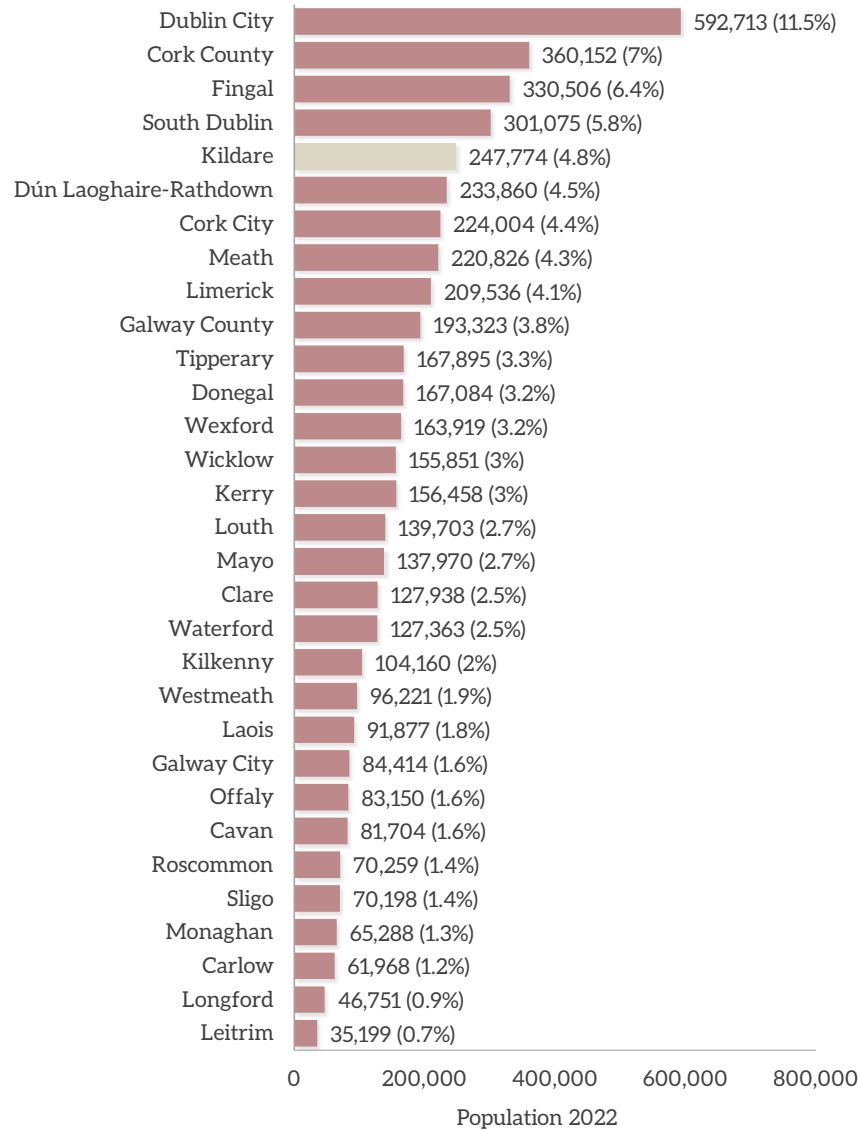


Figure 1.1 - Total Population 2022, by Local Authority, 2022 (Source: CSO)

**Municipal District, 2022**

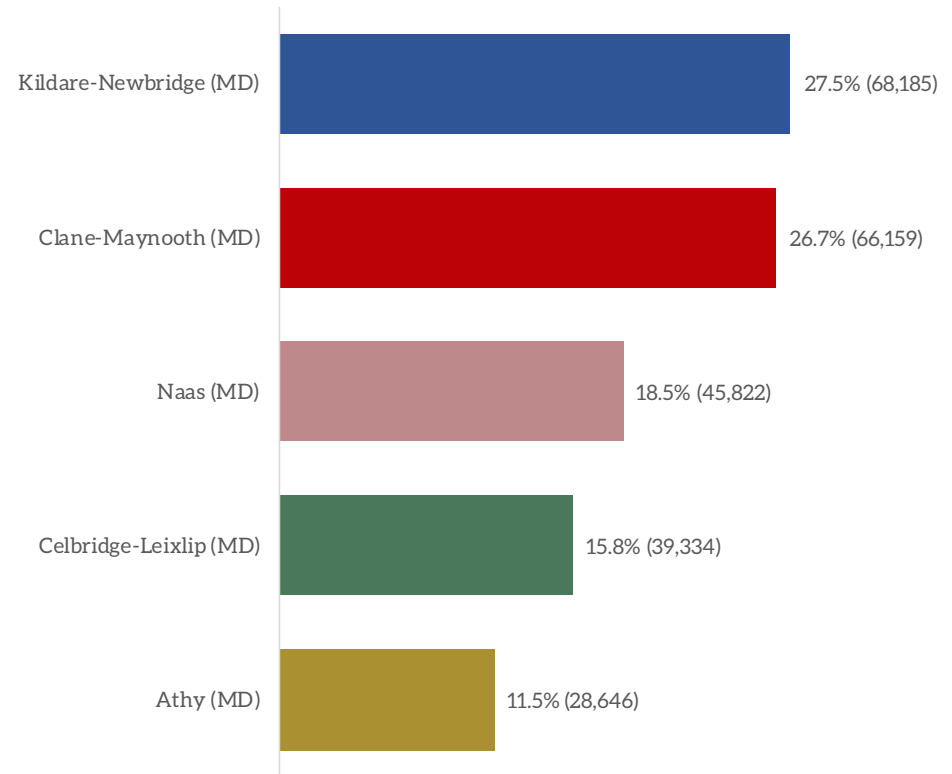


Figure 1.2 - Total Population 2022 MD, 2022 (Source: CSO)



### Settlement Hierarchy, 2022

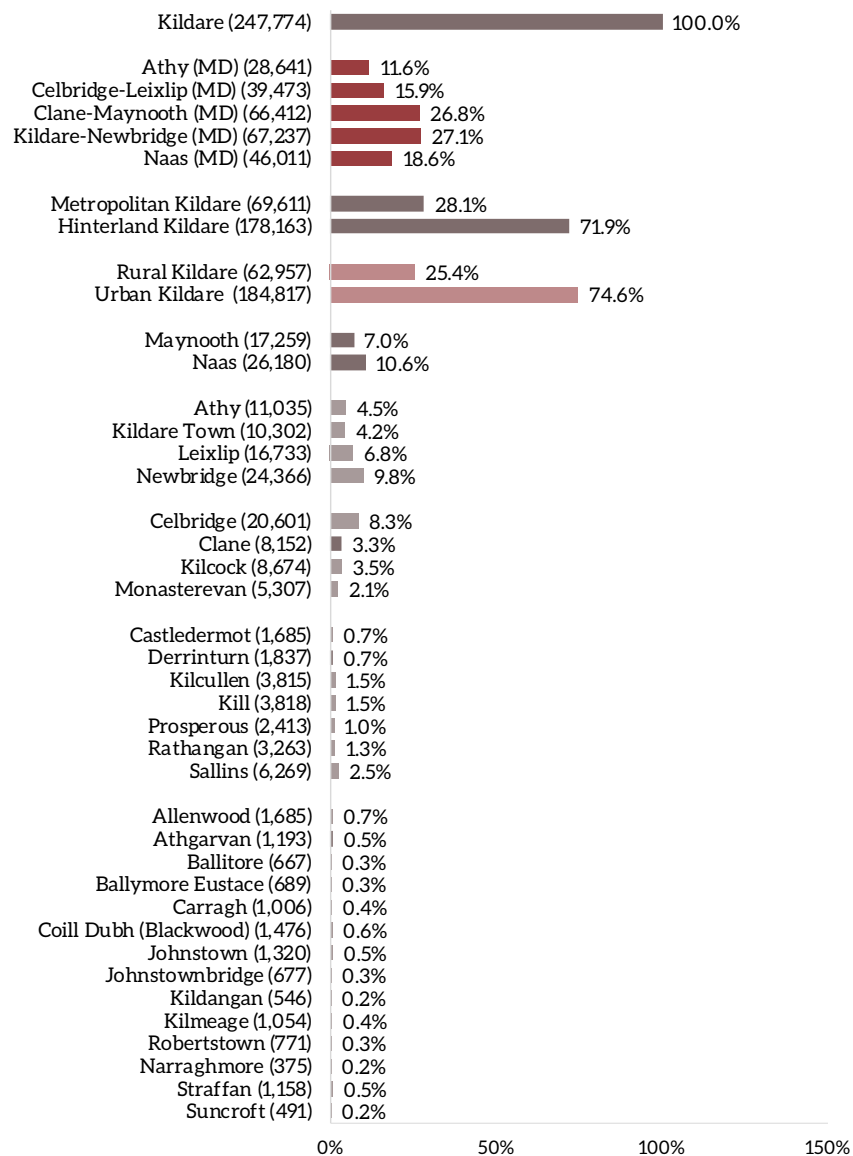


Figure 1.3 - Settlement Hierarchy, 2016 (Source: CSO)

**Population Change by Local Authority Change 2016 - 2022**

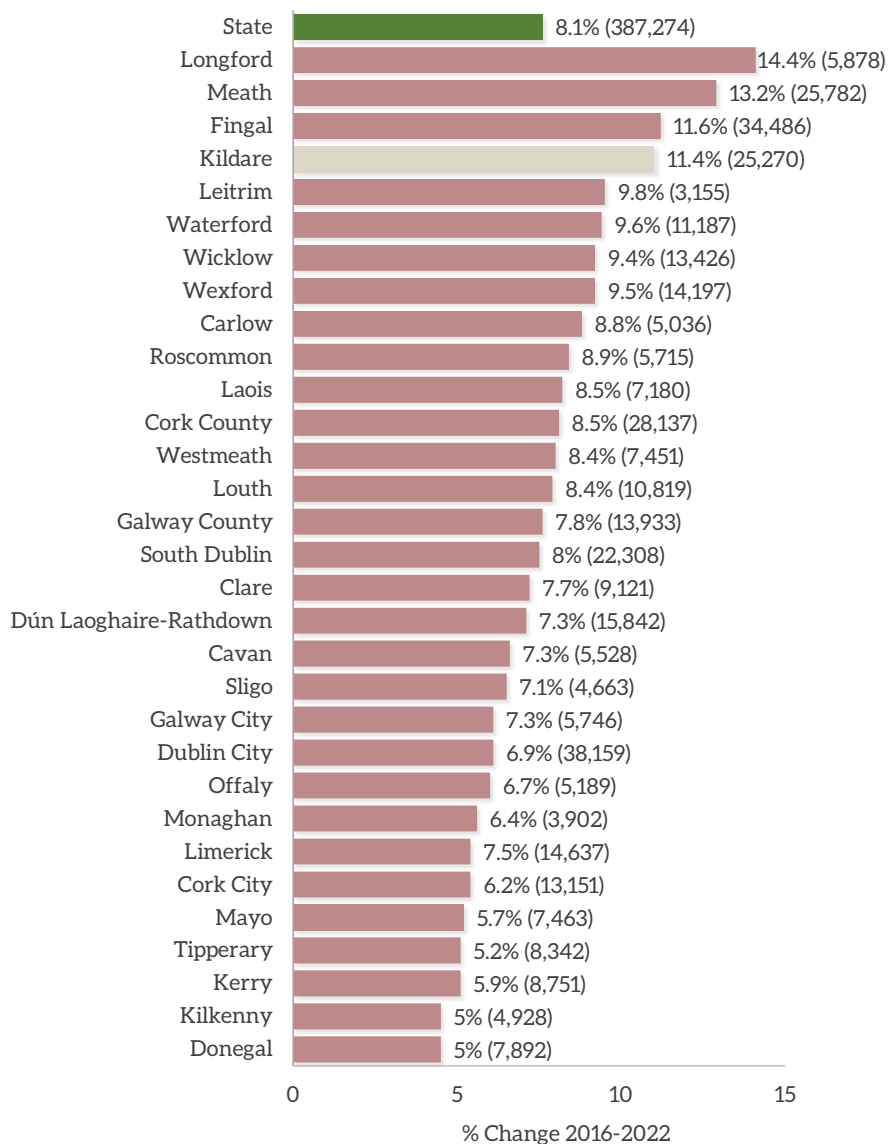


Figure 1.4 - Population Change 2016 to 2022 by LA, 2022 (Source: CSO)

**Population Change by Municipal District 2016 - 2022**

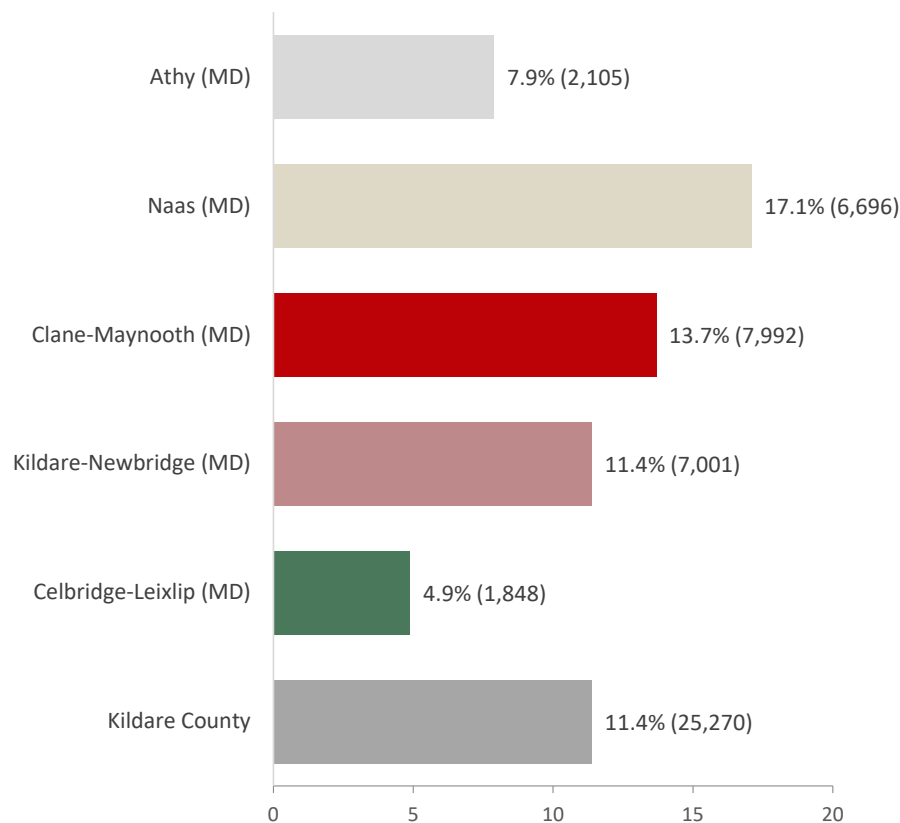
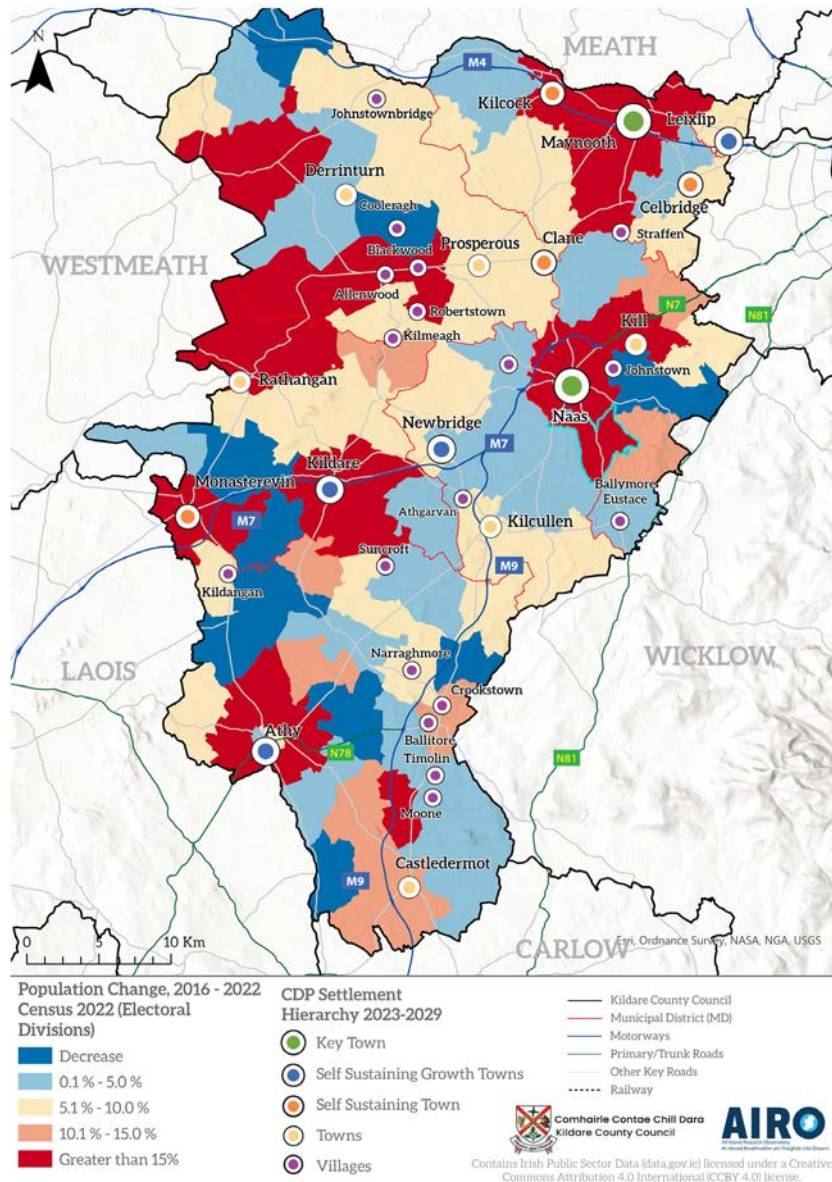


Figure 1.5 - Population Change 2016 to 2022 by MD and Local Authority, 2022 (Source: CSO)



### Population Change - Kildare Settlements, 2016 to 2022

- Naas (+23% or +4,980)
- Newbridge (+3.6% or +1,517)
- Celbridge (+2.4% or +487)
- Maynooth (+18% or +2,654)
- Leixlip (+8.9% or +1,375)
- Athy (+12% or +1,192)
- Kildare Town (+19% or +1,638)
- Kilcock (+42% or +2,598)
- Clane (+12% or +872)
- Sallins (+7.2% or +420)
- Monasterevin (+24% or +1,061).

Figure 1.6 - Population Change 2016 to 2022 (Source: CSO)

**Population Change 1991 to 2022, Kildare Municipal Districts**

Relative Index Change. 1991 = 100

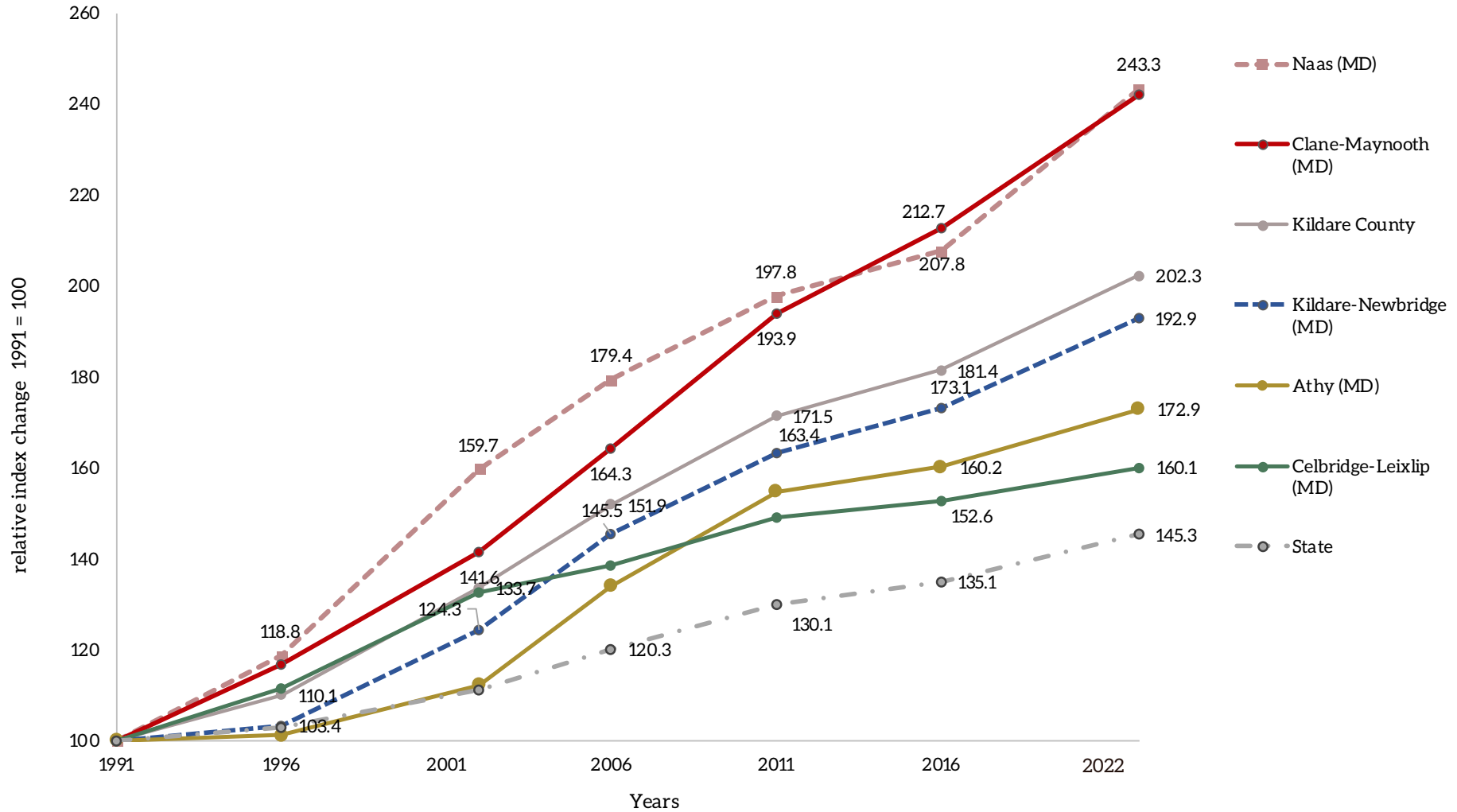
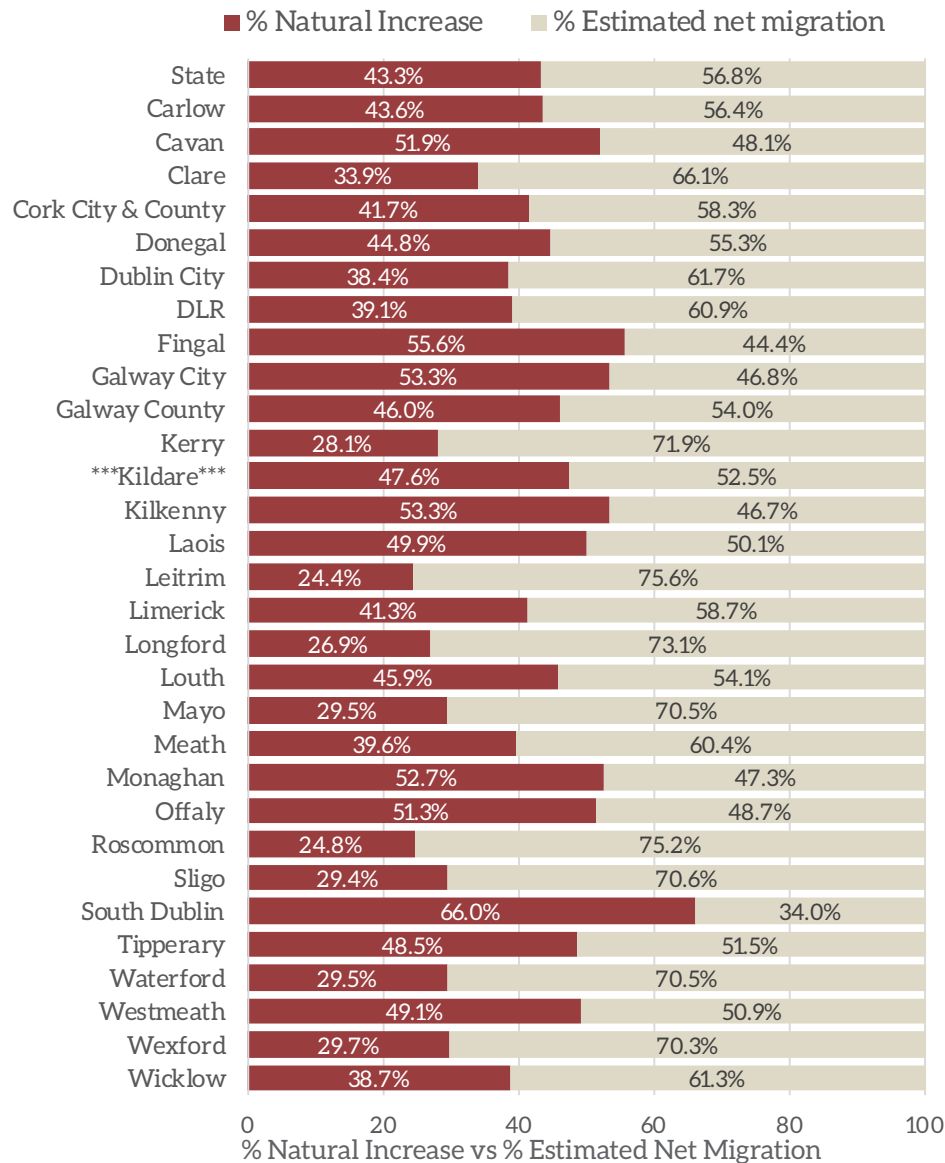


Figure 1.7 - Population Change 1991 to 2022 by Kildare MD (Source: CSO)

Components of Population Change, 2016 - 2022



Components of Population Change in County Kildare, 2016 to 2022

- Population Change # = +25,270
- Population Change % = 11.4%
- Natural Increase (Birth minus Deaths) = 12,016 (47.6%)
- Annual Average rate of Natural Increase = 9 per 1k population
- Estimated Net Migration (immigration minus emigration) = 13,254 (52.5%)
- Annual Average rate of Net Migration = 10 per 1k population
- Dublin had the highest number of people who, in the year prior to the census, moved either within or out of the county (93,473).
- Approximately 22k (23%) moved out of county Dublin to other destination.
- Over 18% (+4,000) of these residents moved to Kildare in the year prior to Census 2022.

Figure 1.8 - Components of Population Change, 2016 to 2022 (Source: CSO 2022)

**Projected Population Change, 2021 to 2040**

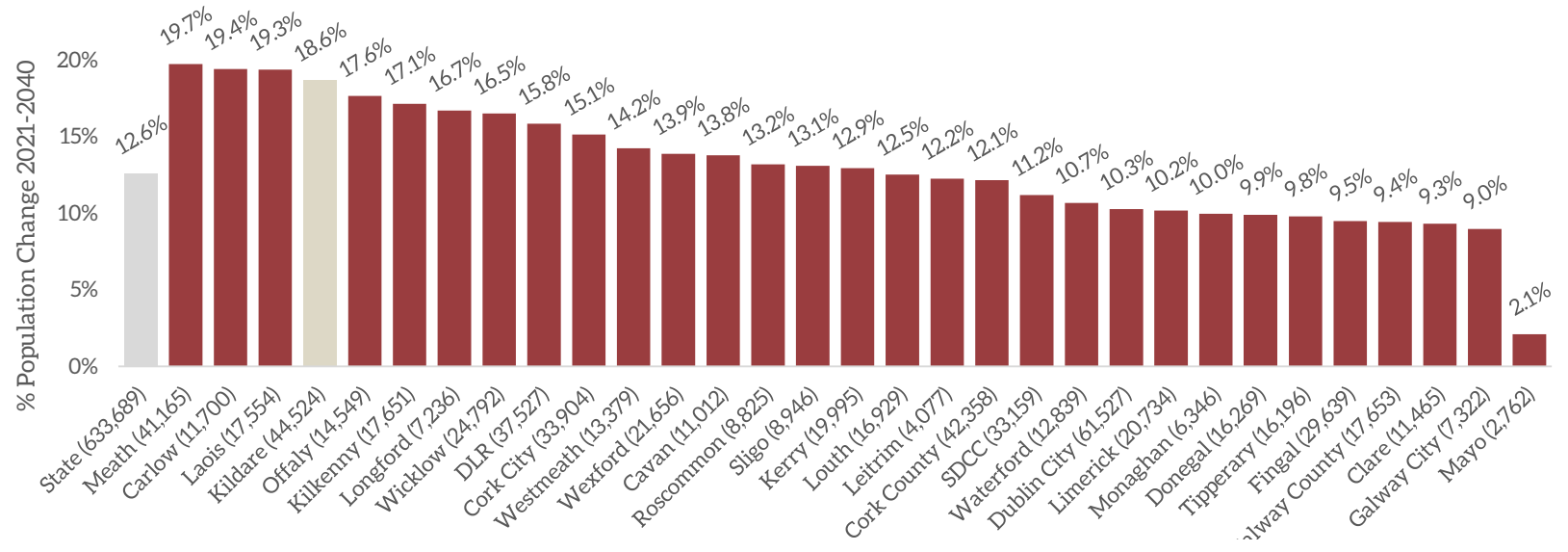


Figure 1.9 - Projected Population Size, 2021 to 2040 (Source: ESRI-HNDA Baseline)

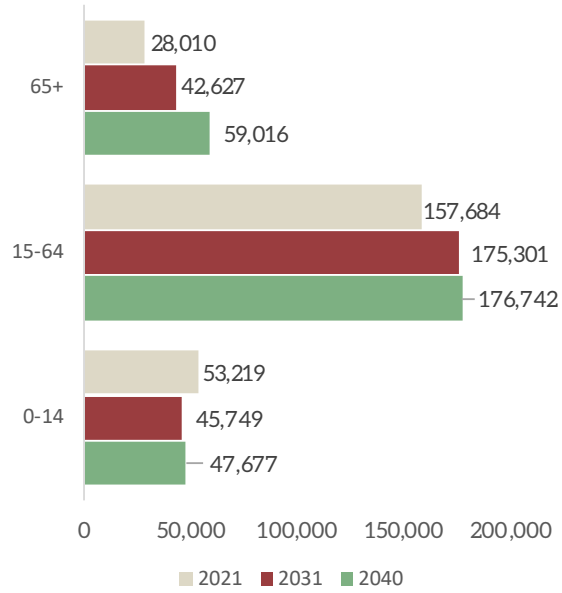


Figure 1.10 - Projected Population Cohort Size, 2021 to 2040 (Source: ESRI-HNDA Baseline)

Population Distribution by Urban/Rural Classification, 2016

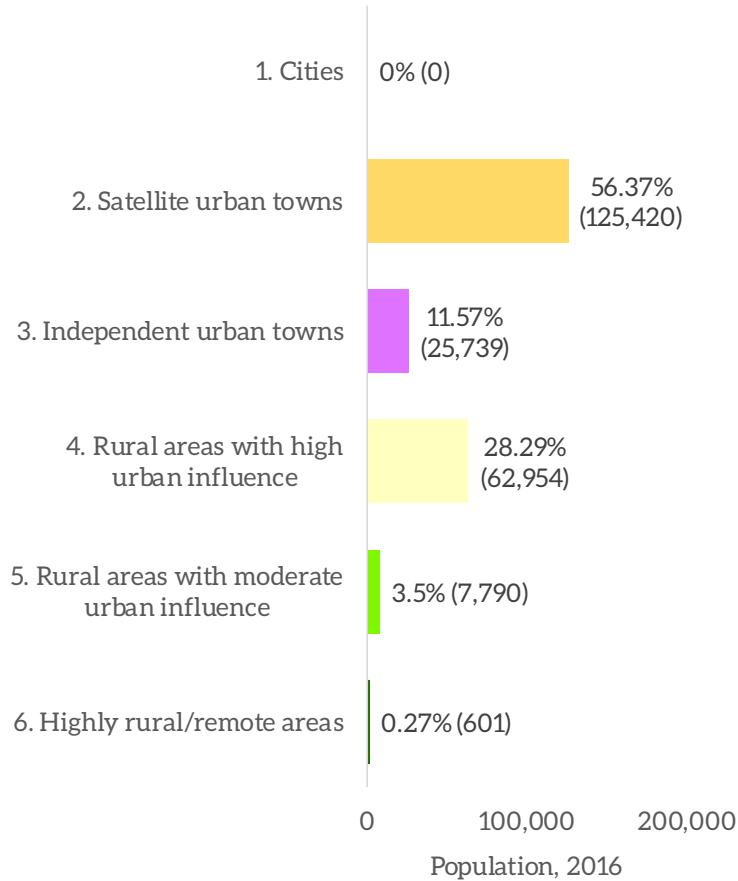


Figure 1.11 - Population Distribution by Urban Rural Classification, 2016 (Source: CSO)

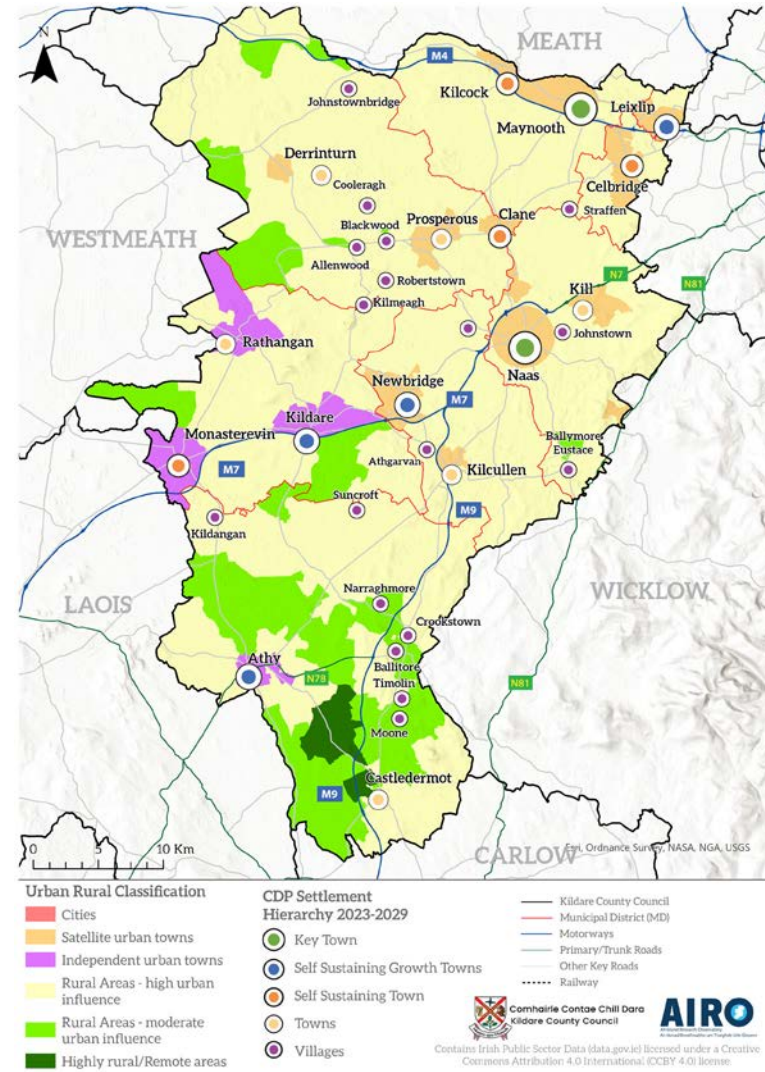
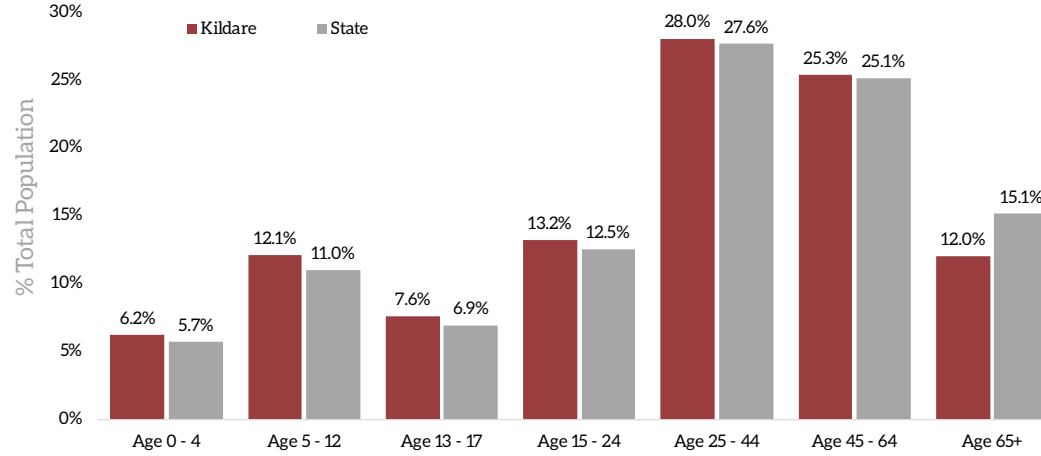


Figure 1.12 - Urban Rural Classification, 2016 (Source: CSO)

Age Cohort Distribution Kildare vs State



Single Year Age Distribution Kildare vs State

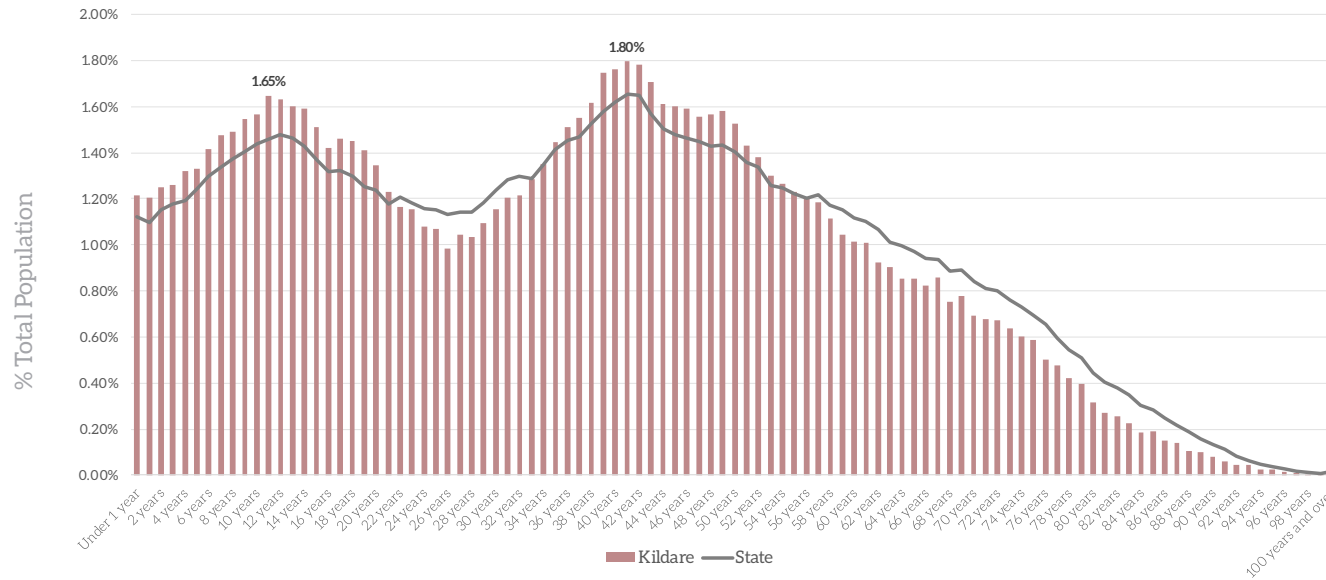


Figure 1.13: Age Profiles in Kildare v State, 2022 (Source: CSO)



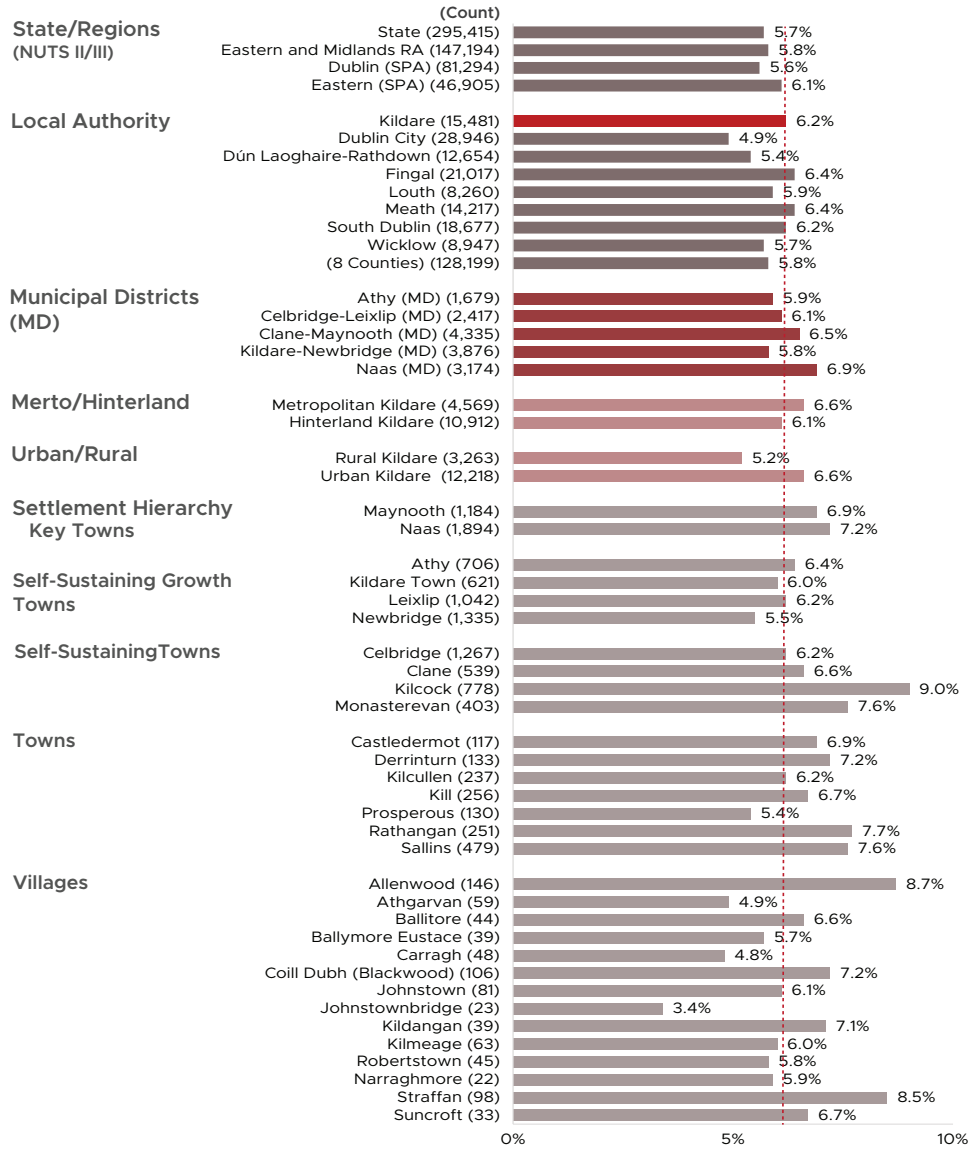


Figure 1.14 - Age Cohort: % Age 0-4 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

### Headline:

15,481 persons aged 0-4 years or 6.2% of the population, 2022

### Summary Statistics

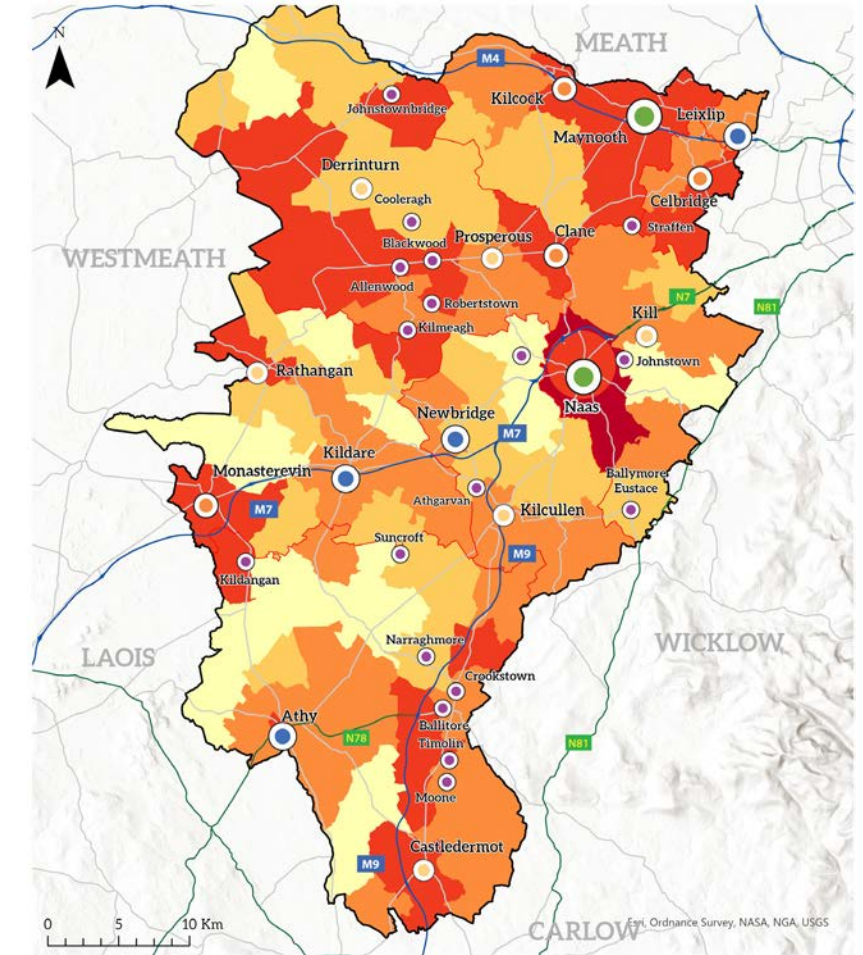
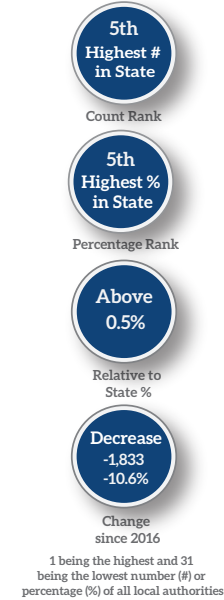


Figure 1.15 - Age Cohort: % Age 0-4 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

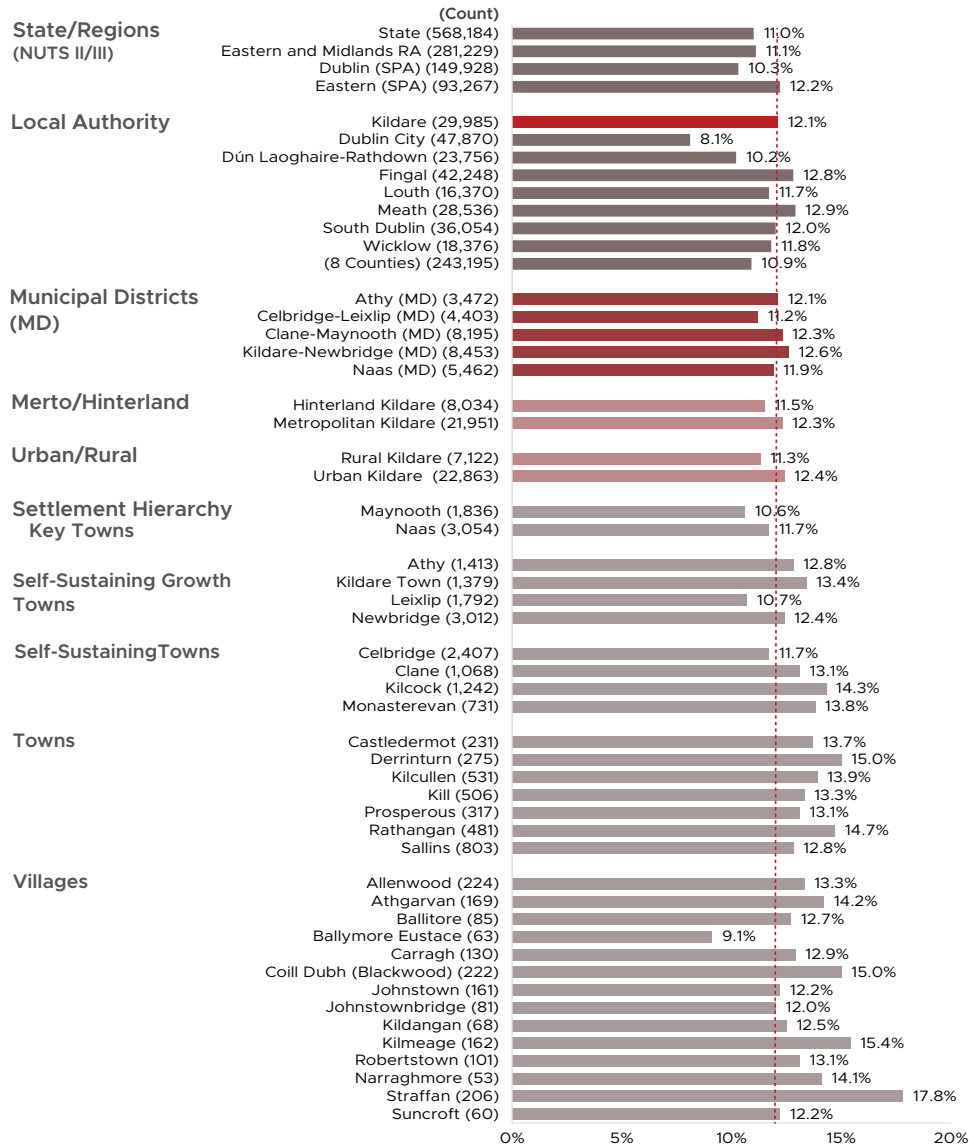


Figure 1.16 - Age Cohort: % Age 5-12 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

### Headline:

29,985 persons aged 5-12 years or 12.1% of the population, 2022

### Summary Statistics

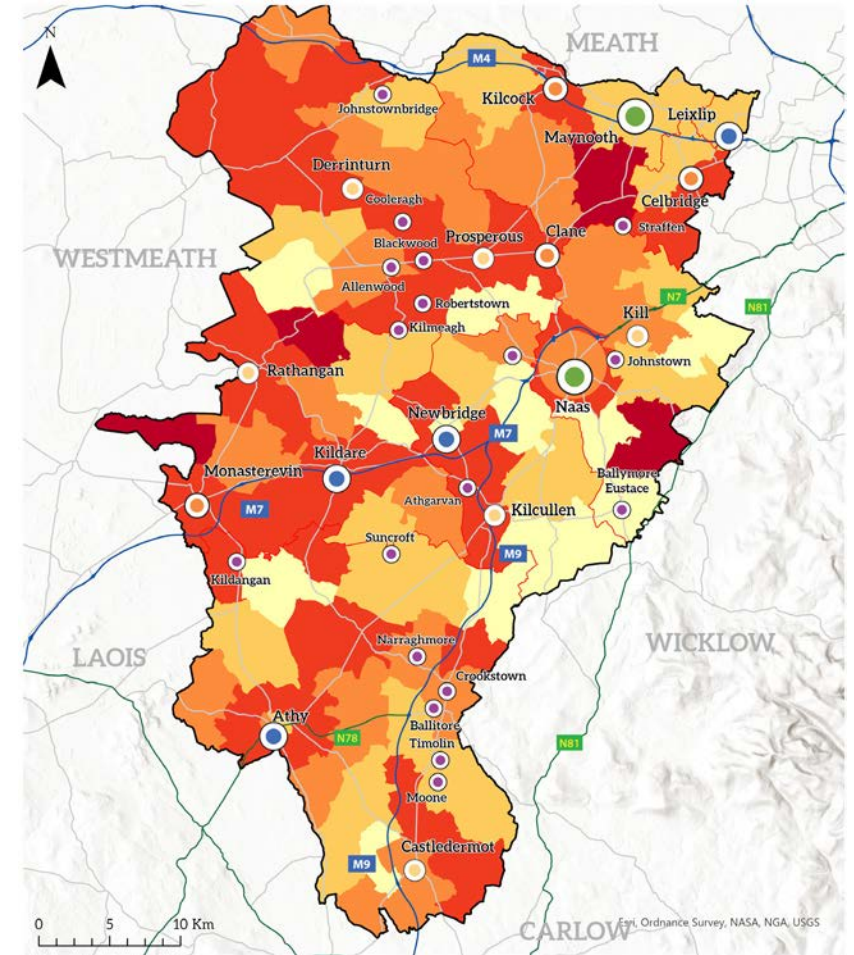
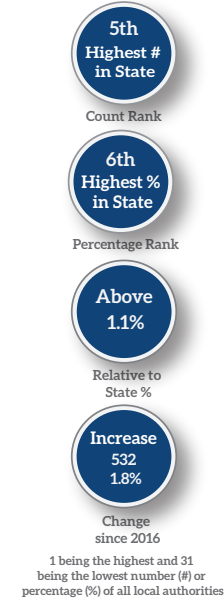


Figure 1.17 - Age Cohort: % Age 5-12 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

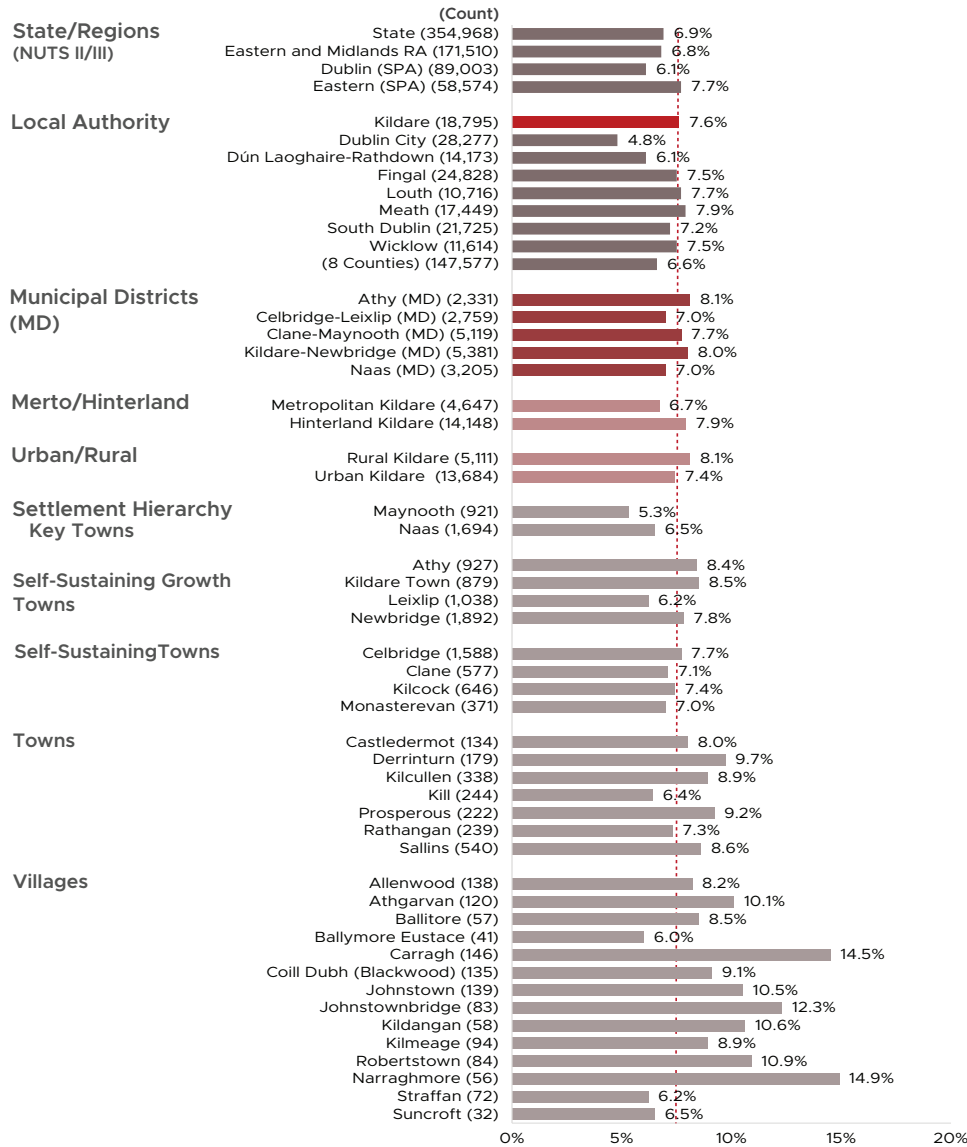


Figure 1.18 - Age Cohort: % Age 13-17 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

## Headline:

18,795 persons aged 13-17 years or 7.6% of the population, 2022

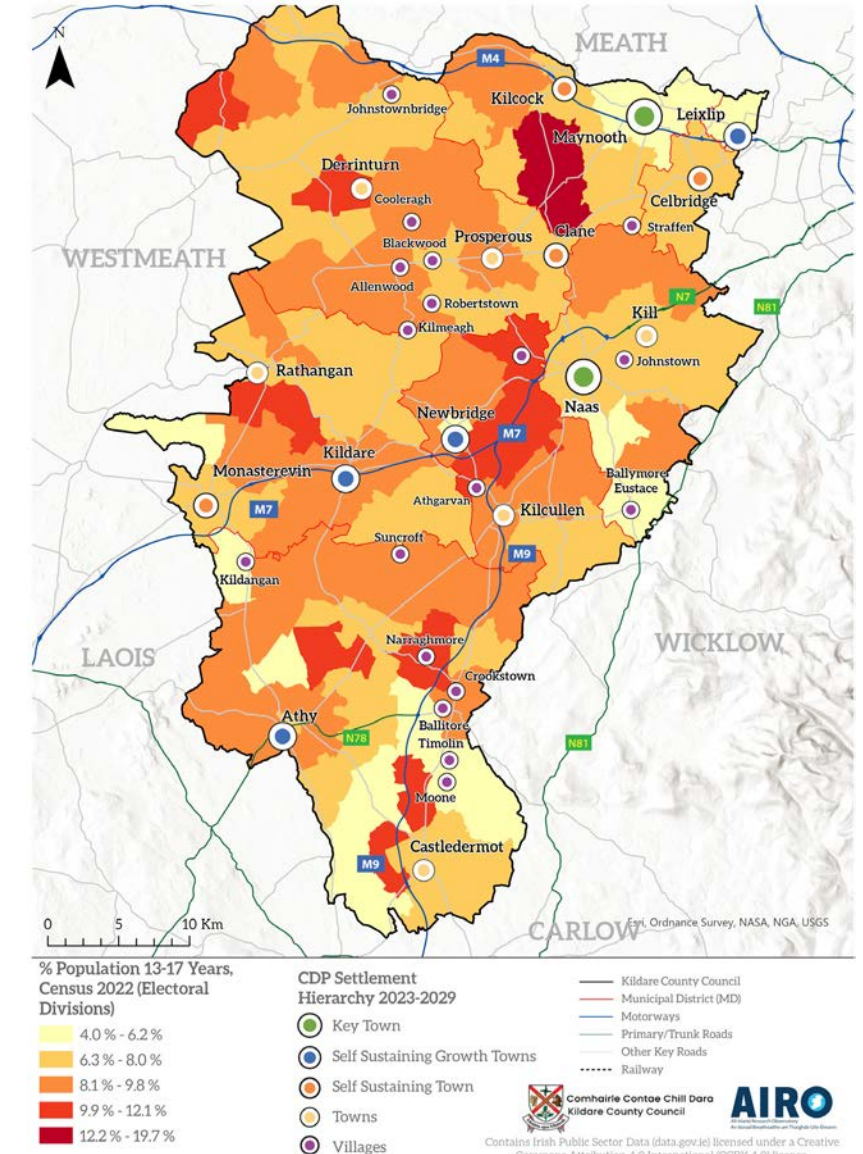
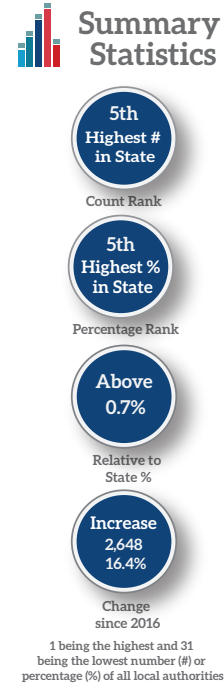


Figure 1.19 - Age Cohort: % Age 13-17 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

## Age Cohort: % Age 18 - 24 Years, 2022

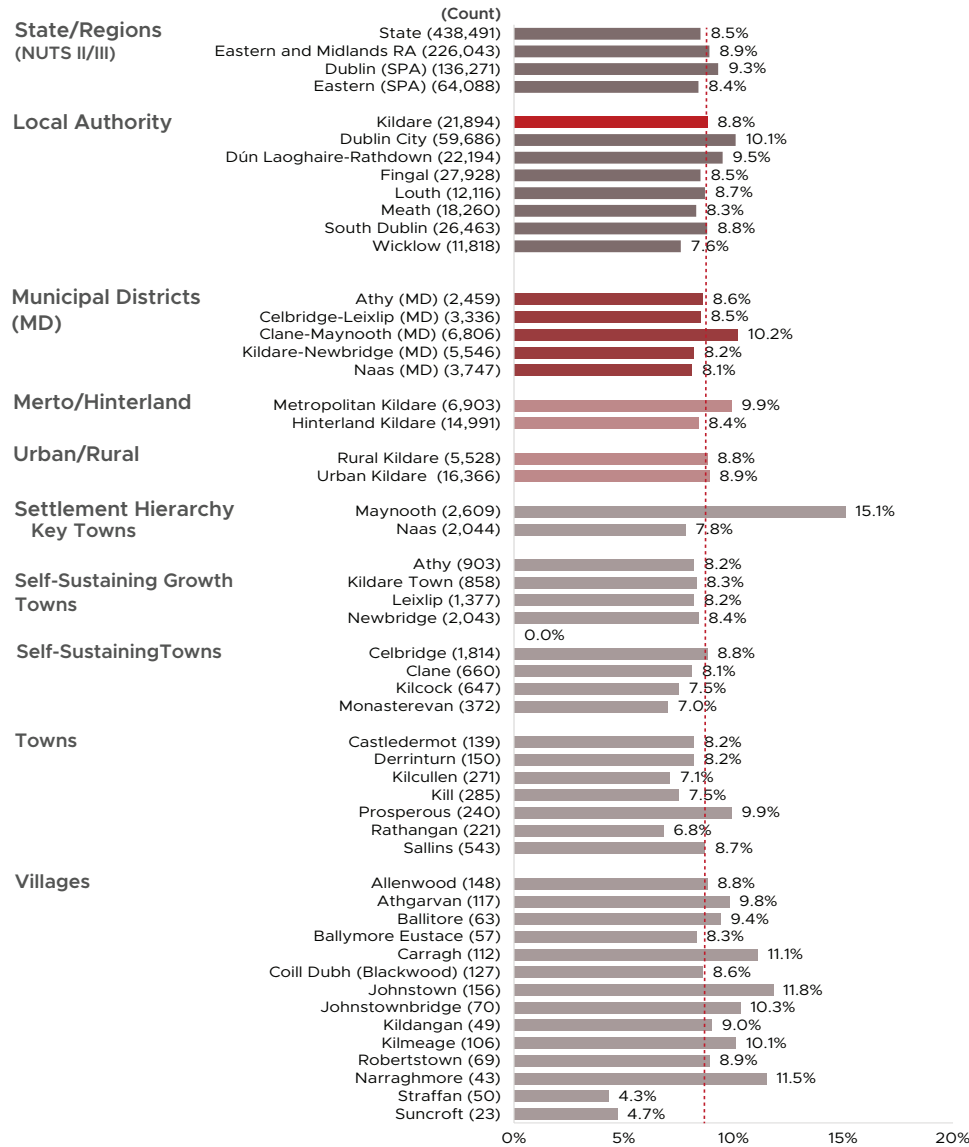


Figure 1.20 - Age Cohort: % Age 18-24 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

## Headline:

21,894 persons aged 18-24 years or 8.8% of the population, 2022

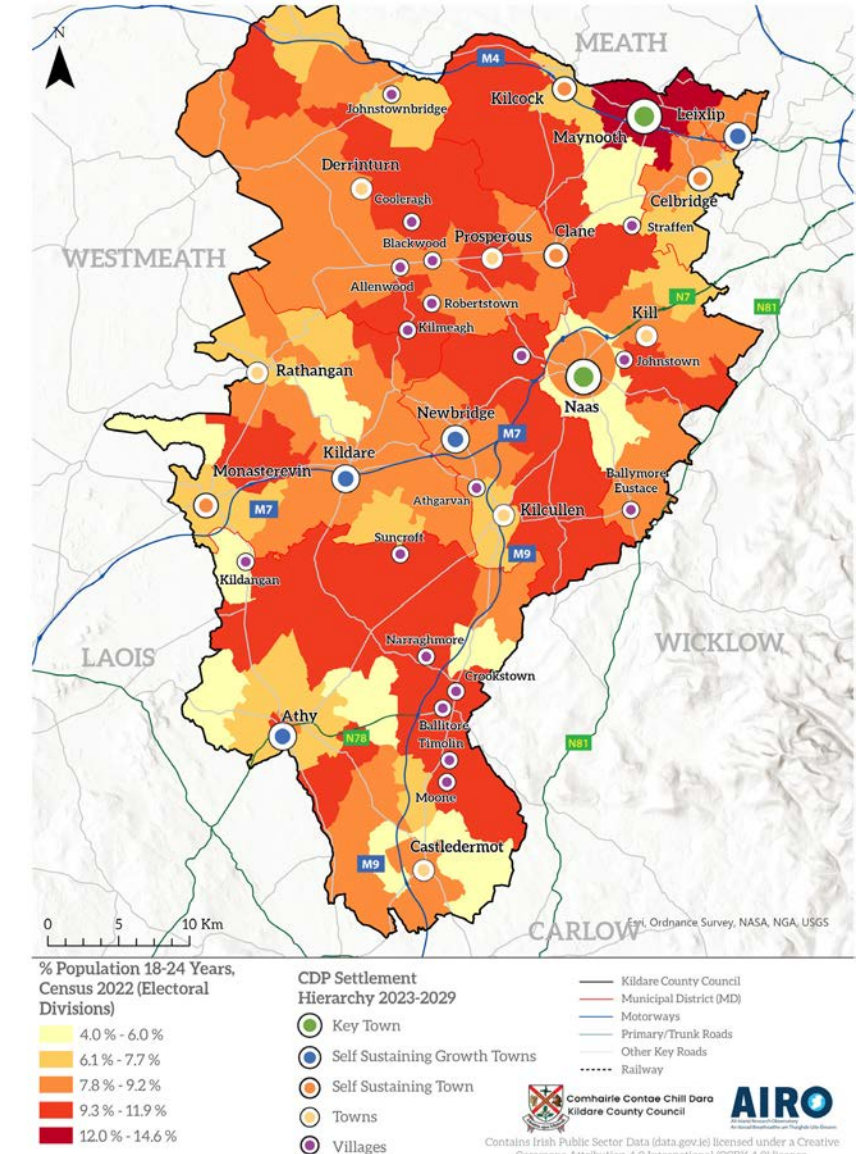
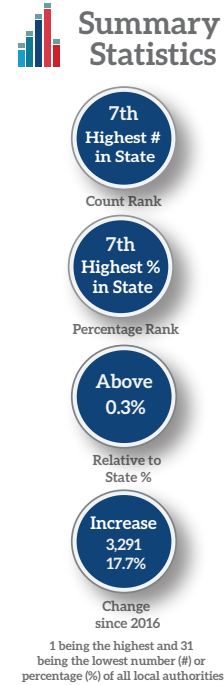


Figure 1.21 - Age Cohort: % Age 18-24 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

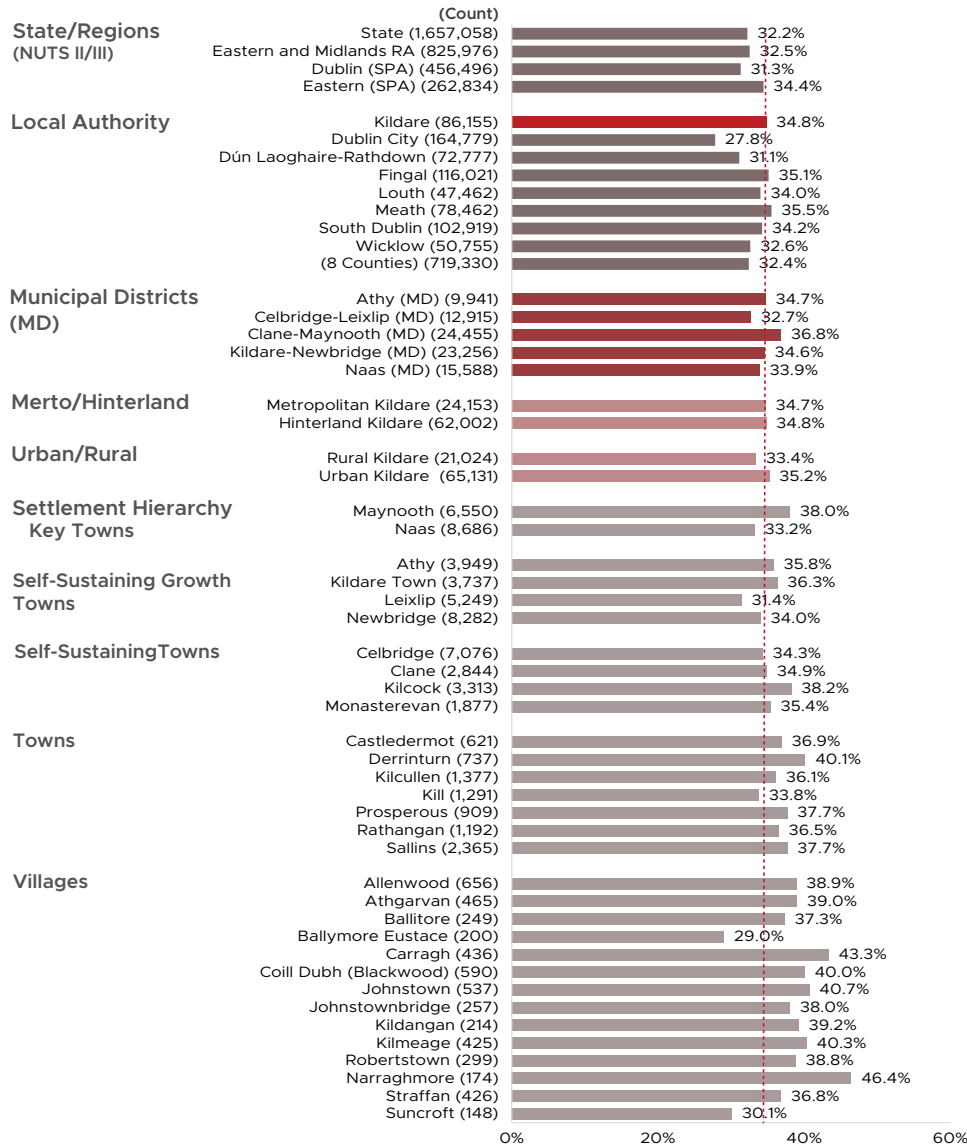


Figure 1.22 - Age Cohort: % Age 0-24 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

## Headline:

86,155 persons aged 0-24 years or 34.8% of the population, 2022

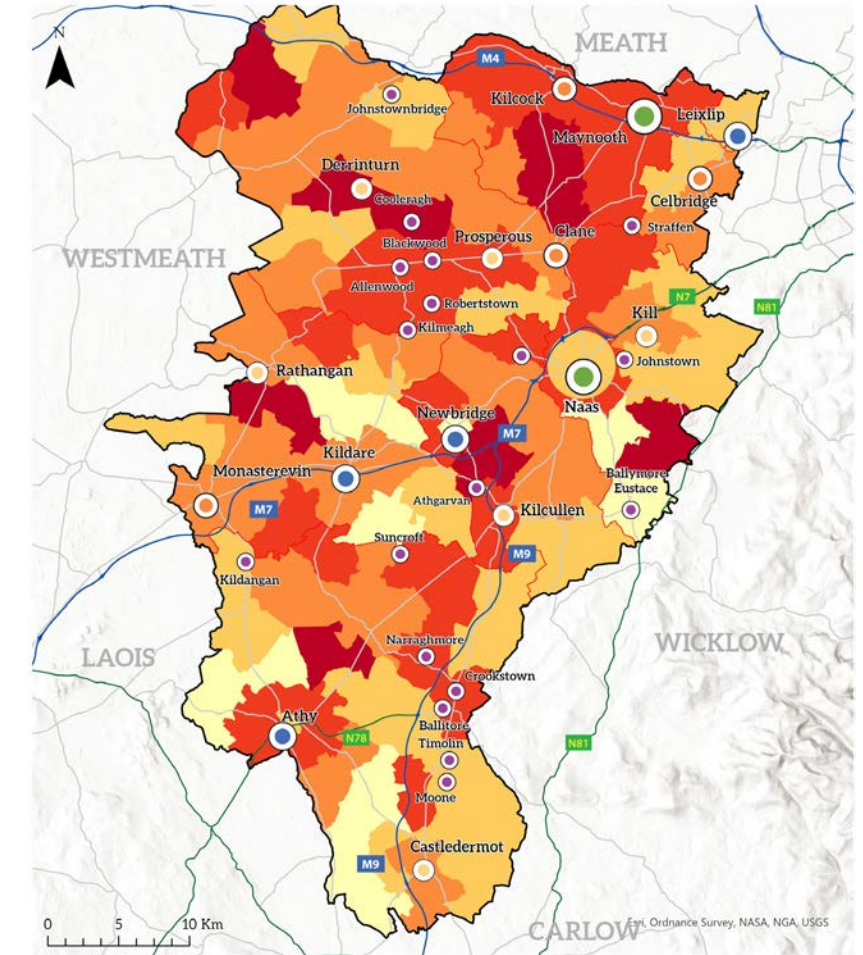
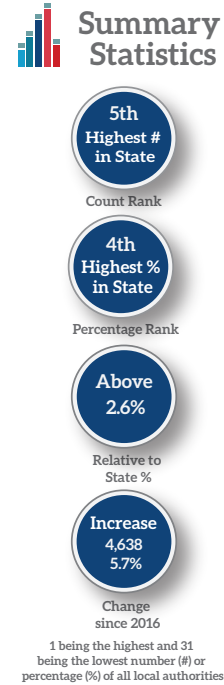


Figure 1.23 - Age Cohort: % Age 0-24 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

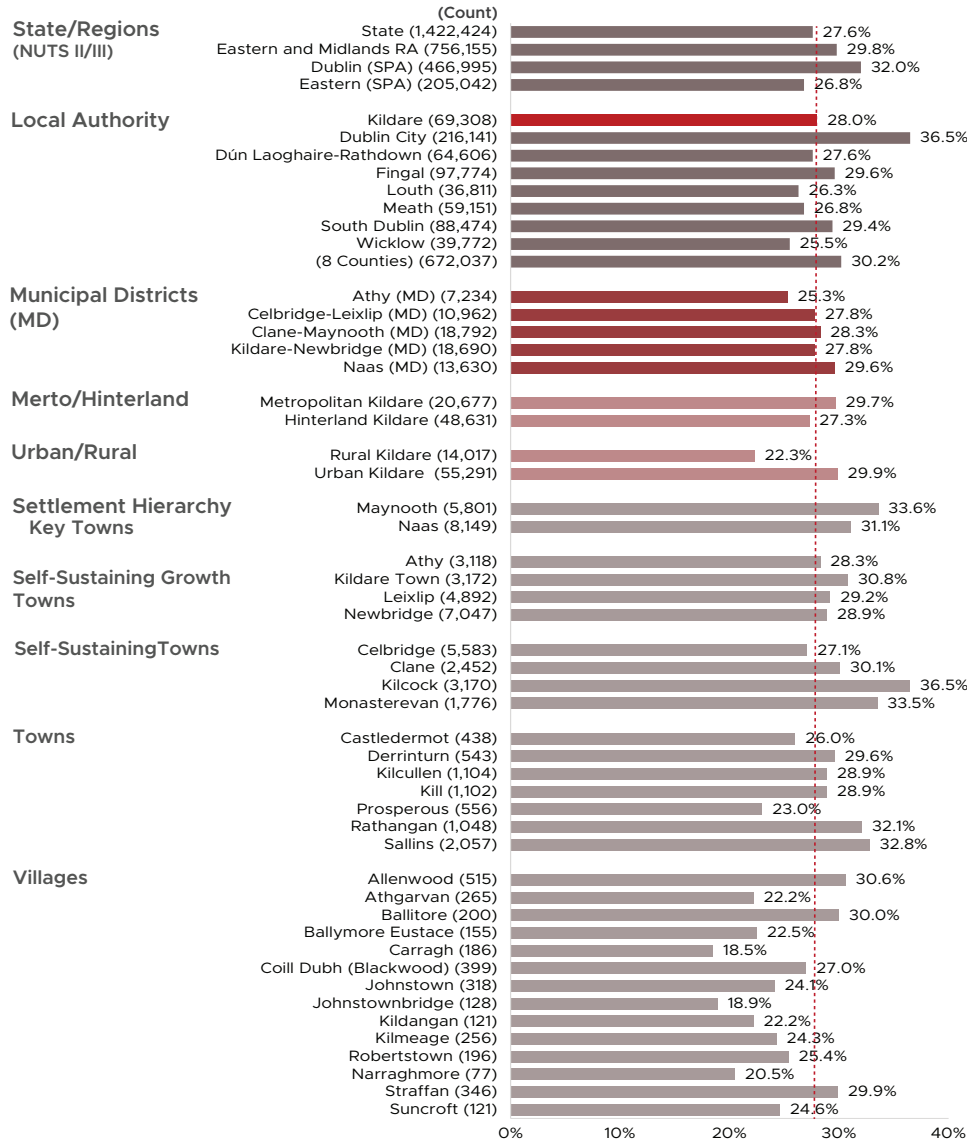


Figure 1.24 - Age Cohort: % Age 25-44 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

### Headline:

69,308 persons aged 25-44 years or 28.0% of the population, 2022

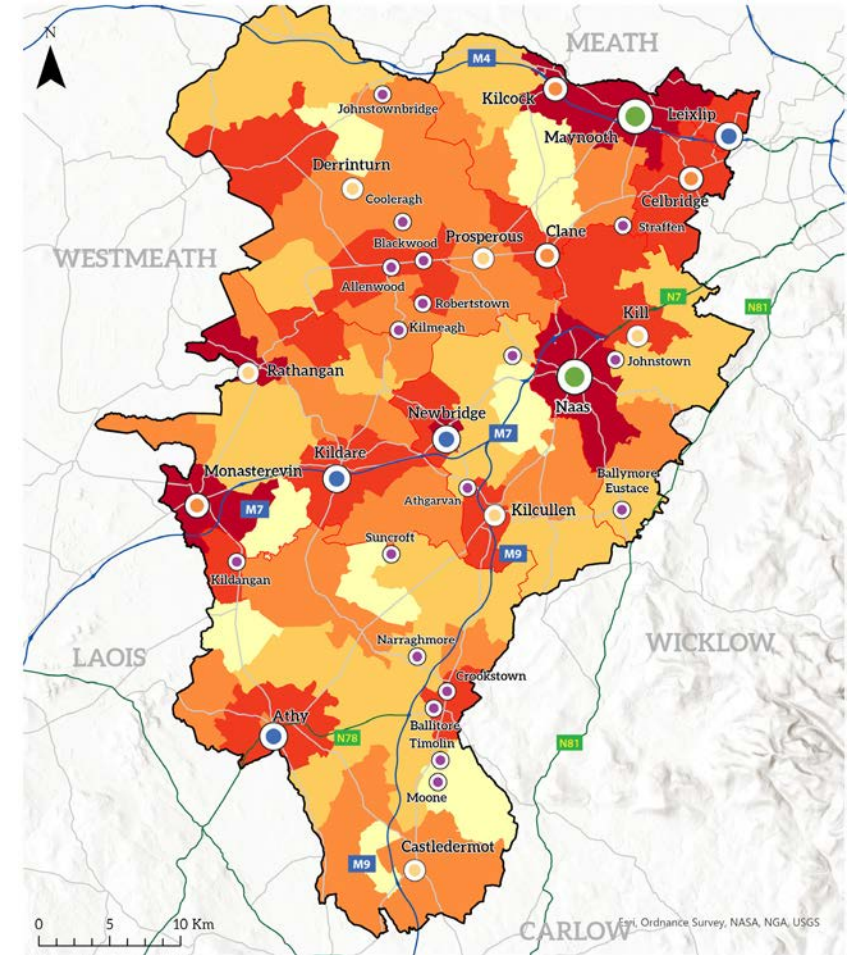
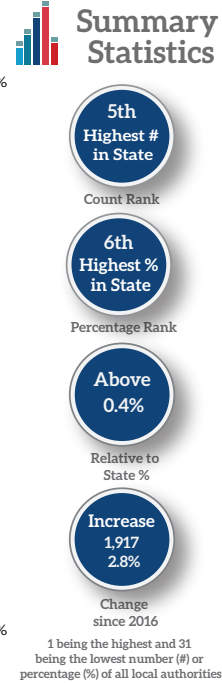


Figure 1.25 - Age Cohort: % Age 25-44 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

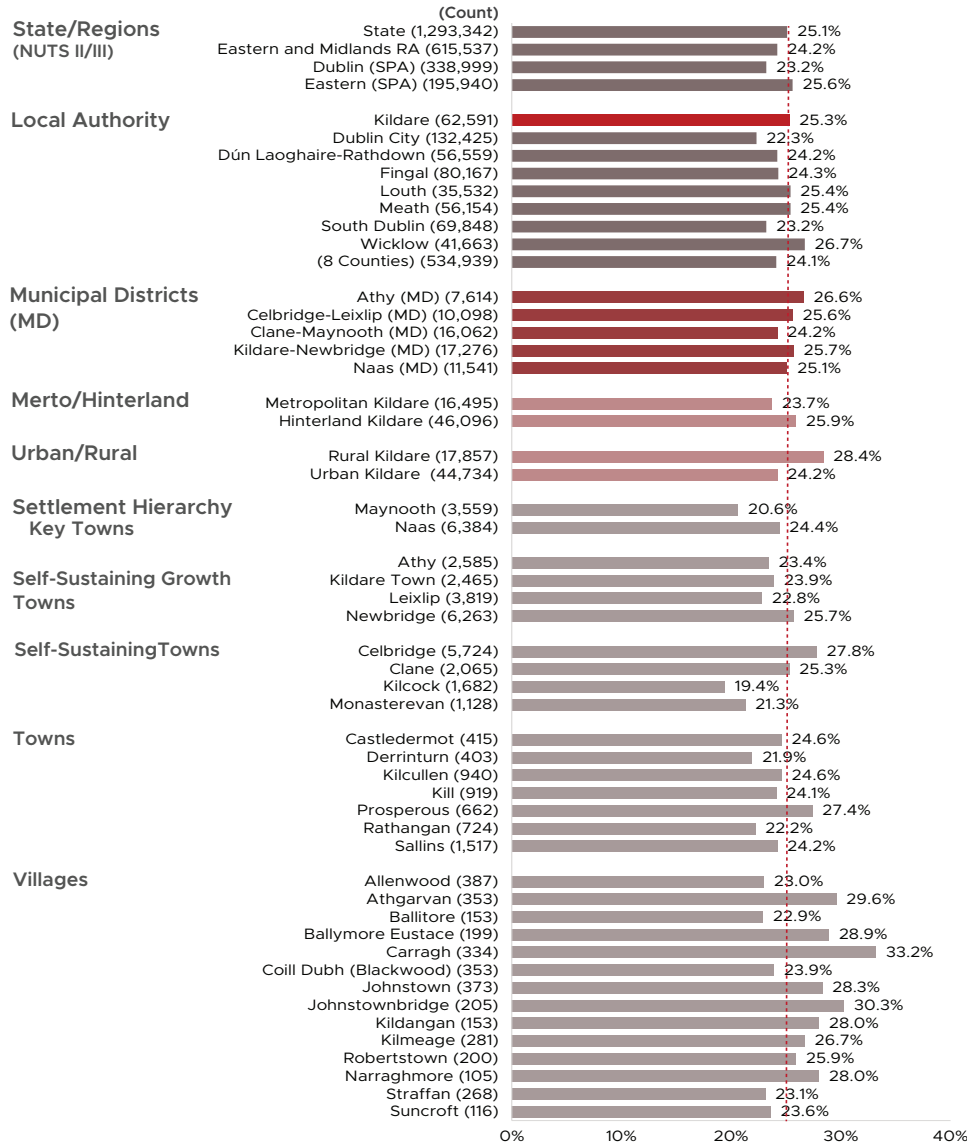


Figure 1.26 - Age Cohort: % Age 45-64 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

### Headline:

62,591 persons aged 45-64 years or 25.3% of the population, 2022

### Summary Statistics

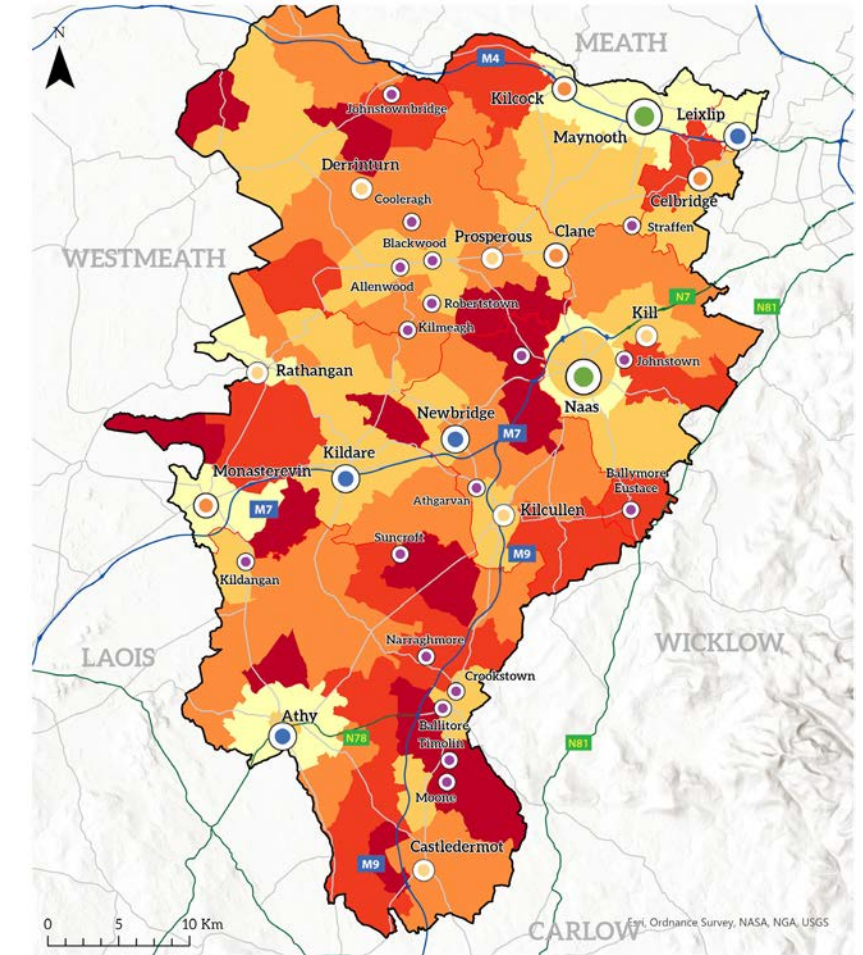
5th Highest # in State

21st Highest % in State

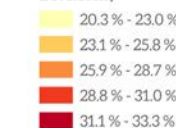
Above 0.2%

Increase 11,009 21.3%

Change since 2016  
1 being the highest and 31 being the lowest number (#) or percentage (%) of all local authorities



% Population 45-64 Years, Census 2022 (Electoral Divisions)



CDP Settlement Hierarchy 2023-2029



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara Kildare County Council  
AIRO  
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Figure 1.27 - Age Cohort: % Age 45-64 Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

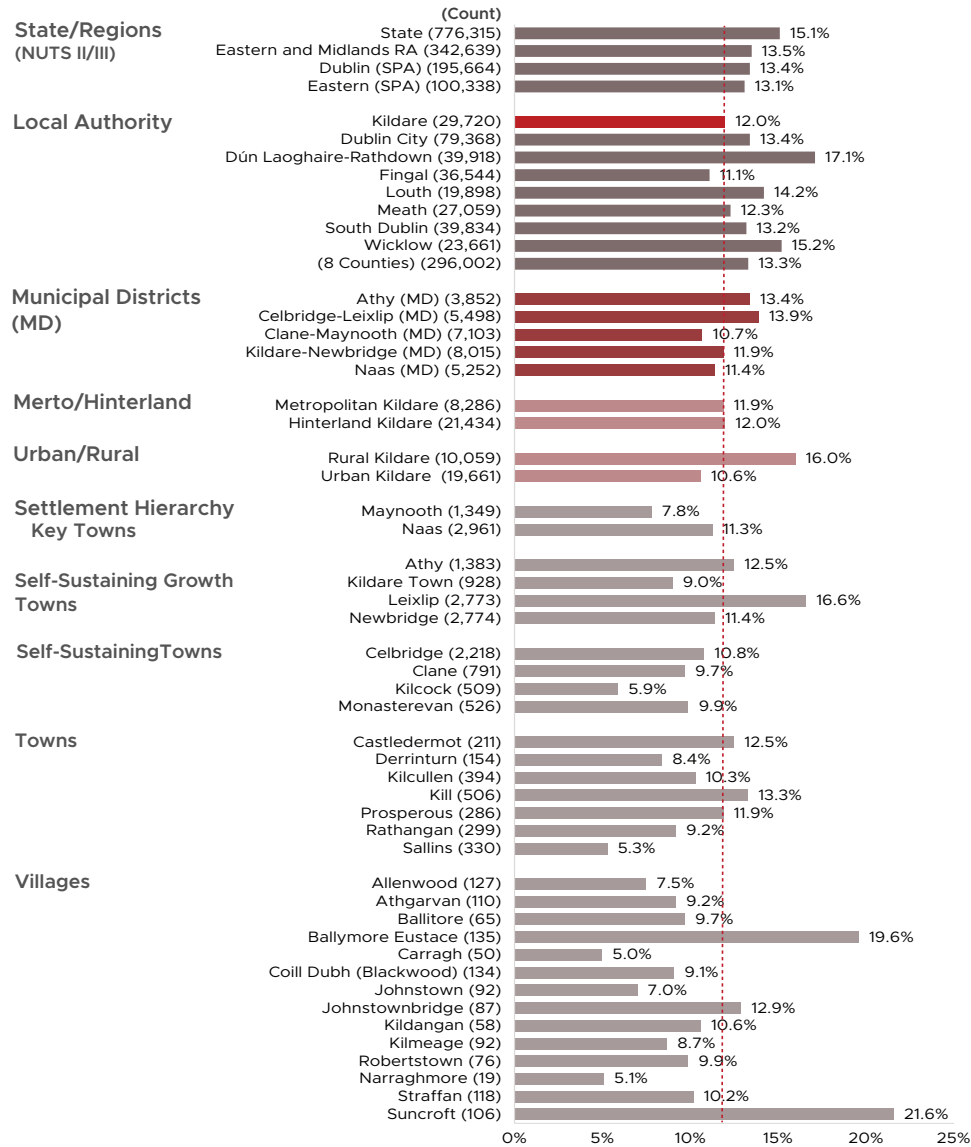


Figure 1.28 - Age Cohort: % Age 65+ Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)

### Headline:

29,720 persons aged 65+ years or 12.0% of the population, 2022

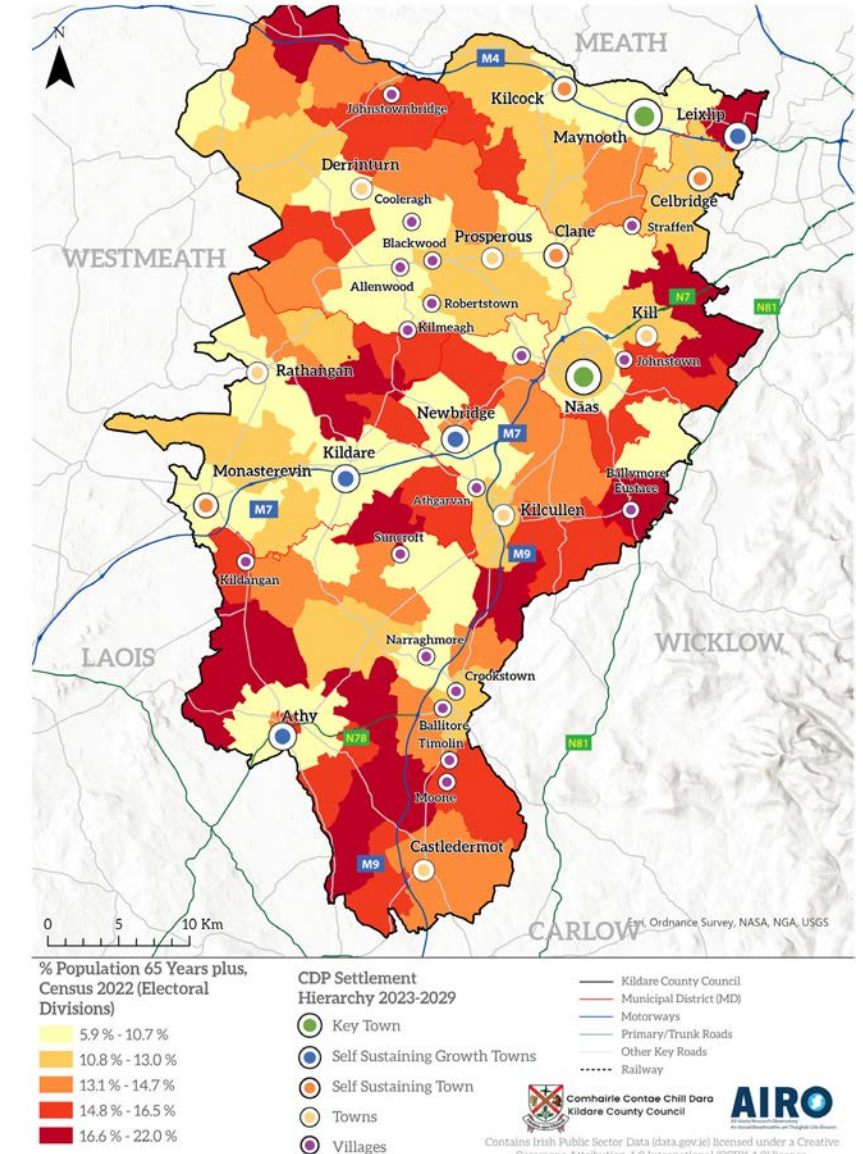
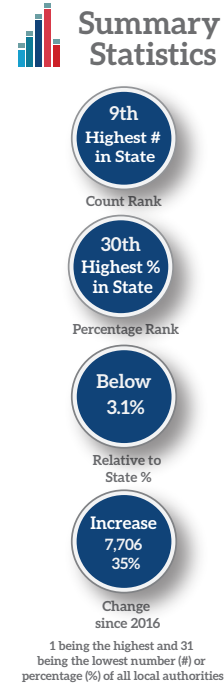


Figure 1.29 - Age Cohort: % Age 65+ Years, 2022 (Source: CSO)



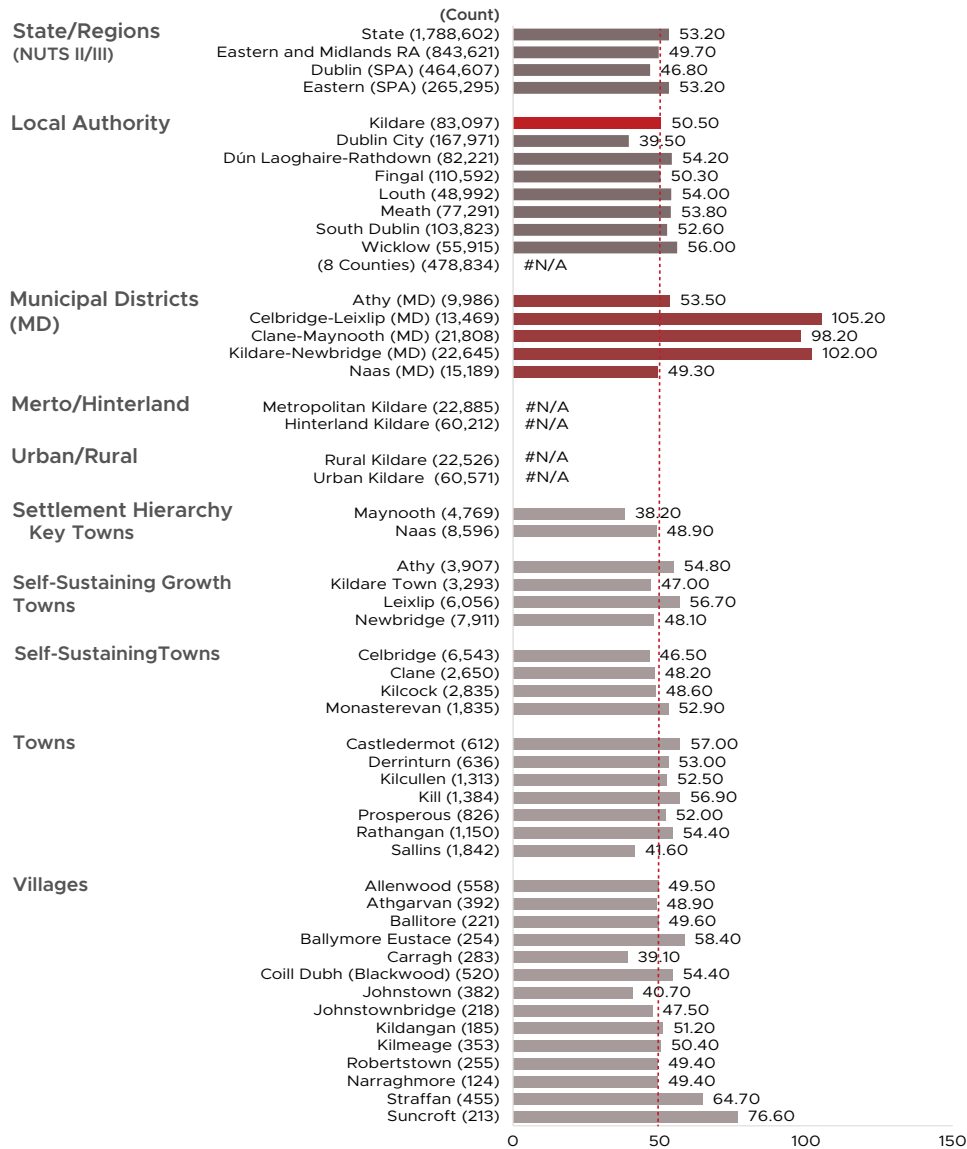


Figure 1.30 - Dependency Rate, 2022 (Source: CSO)

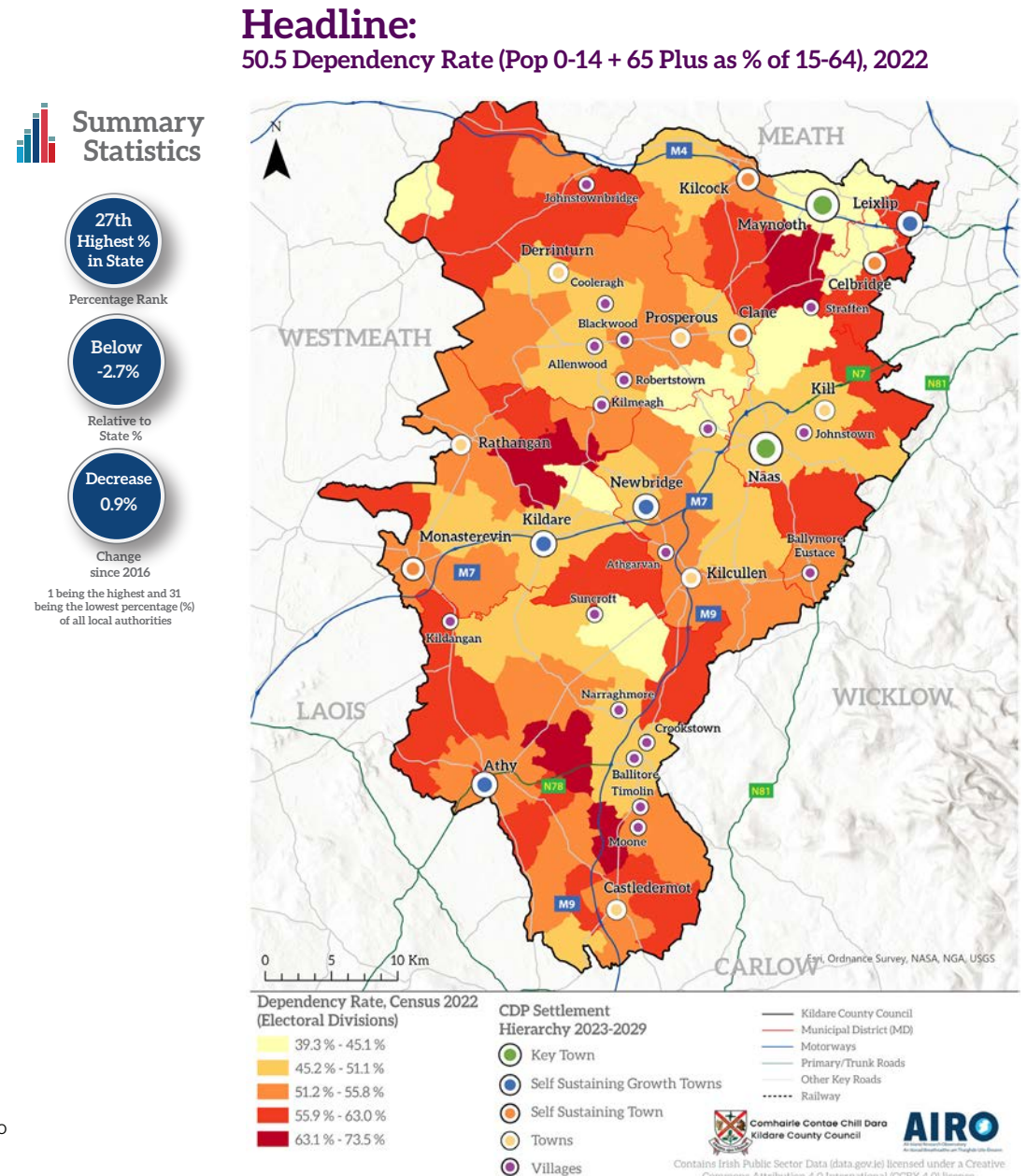


Figure 1.31 - Dependency Rate, 2022 (Source: CSO)







**Comhairle Contae Chill Dara**  
Kildare County Council