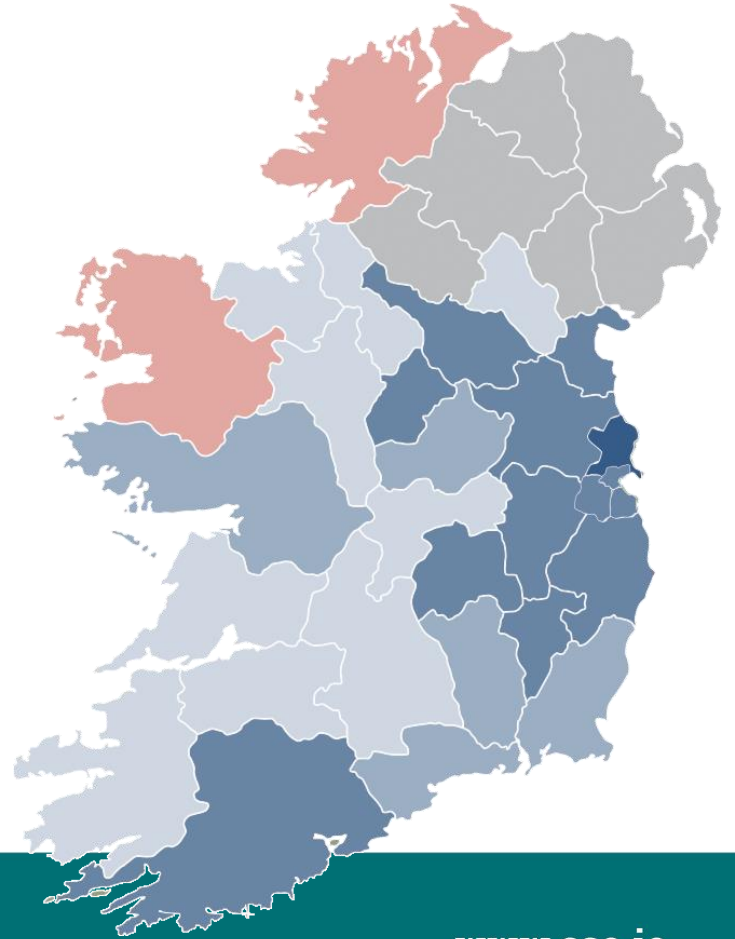# Irelands Demography: Past, Present and Future
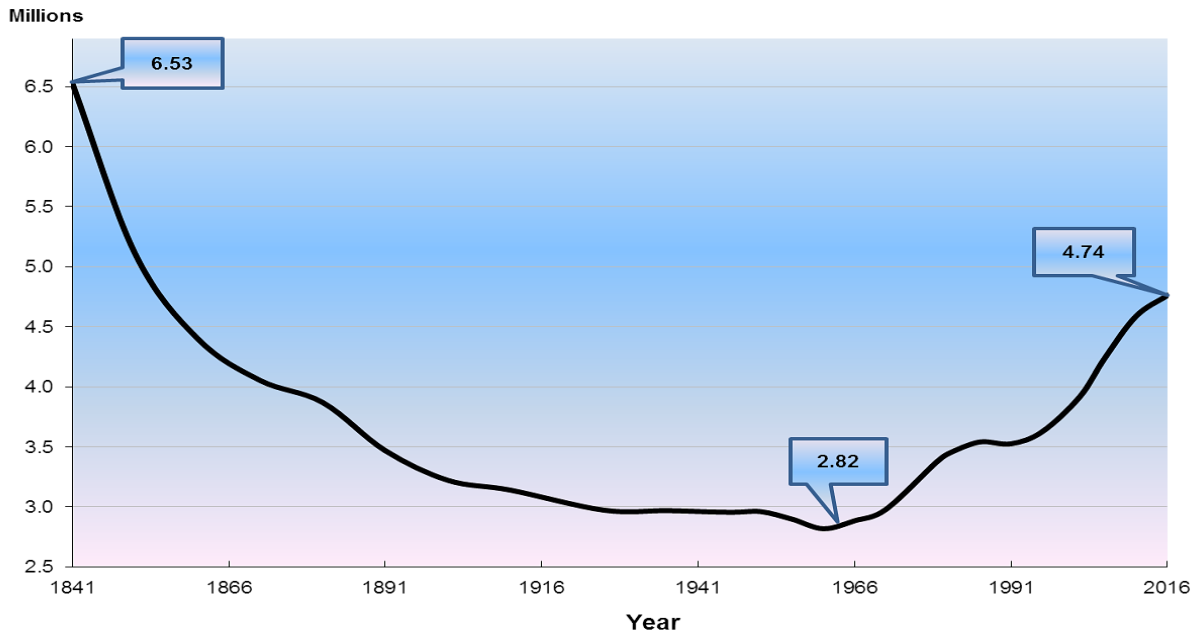
James Hegarty

Statistician, CSO

Croke Park, November 26th

Overview

- Historic perspective, 1841 - 2016

- Snapshot of current demographic trends

- Projections to 2051

- Focus on the younger and older age groups

Ireland's Population 1841 - 2019
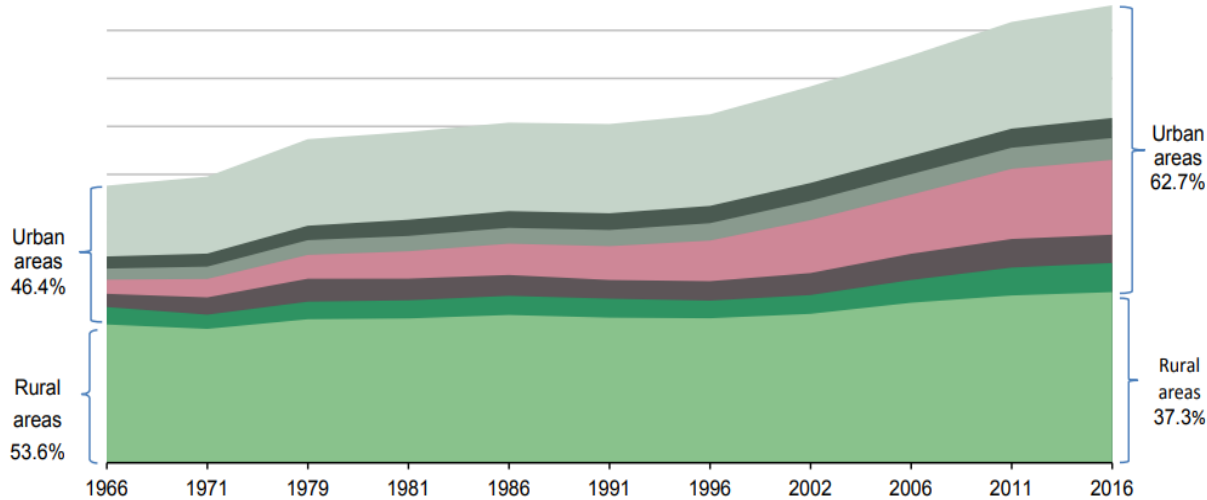

Estimated Population April 2019 = **4,921,500**

Estimated Population growth of **180,000** since 2016

Births *minus* Deaths = **+90,000**

Inward migrants *minus* outward migrants = **+90,000**

Urbanisation 1966 - 2016

Urban areas 46.4%

Rural areas 53.6%

Urban areas 62.7%

Rural areas 37.3%

1966 1971 1979 1981 1986 1991 1996 2002 2006 2011 2016

- Dublin city & suburbs
- Cork city & suburbs
- Other three main cities
- Towns 10,000 or over
- Towns 5,000 -9,999
- Towns 1,500 - 4,999
- Rural

3rd Level Education 1991

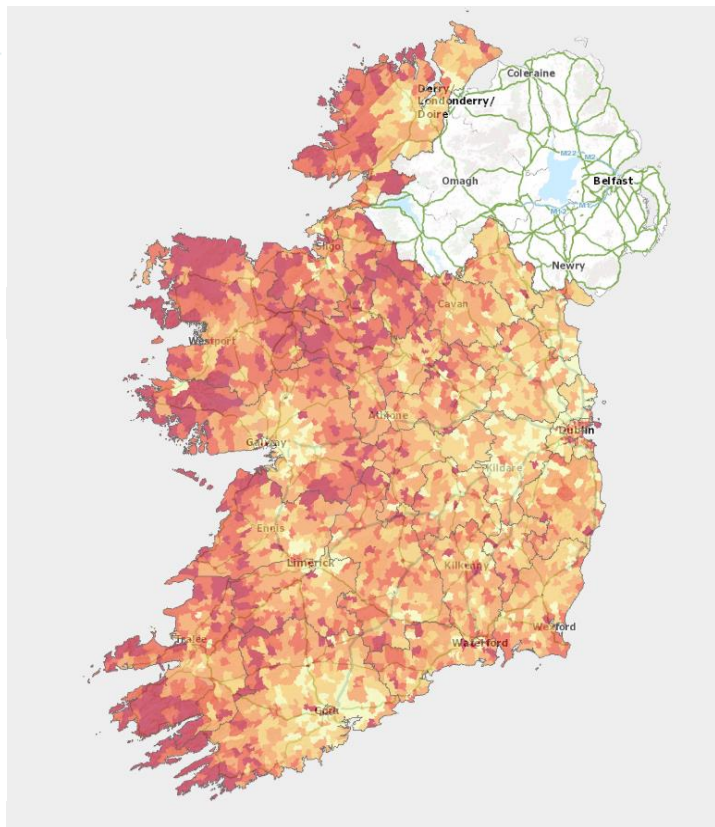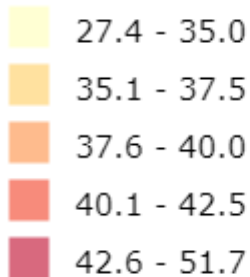**Males 14%**

Females 13.2%

3rd Level Education 2016

Males 40.7%

Females 43.2%

Map; Average Age by Electoral Division, 2016

An Age Profile in Ireland
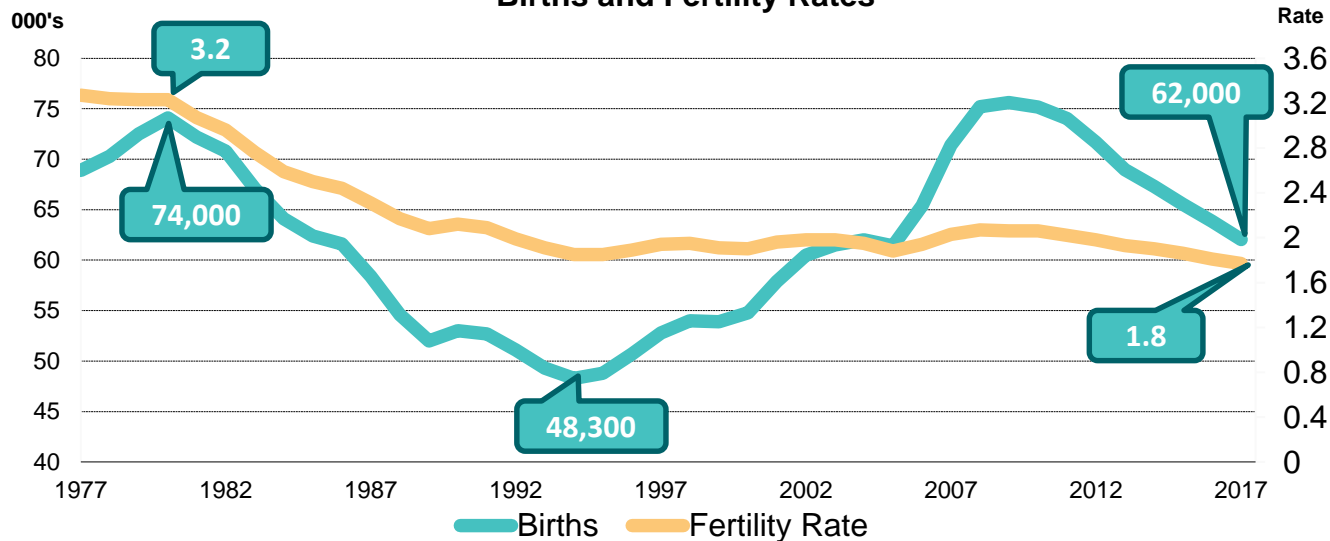
Average age by Electoral Division, 2016

- 27.4 - 35.0
- 35.1 - 37.5
- 37.6 - 40.0
- 40.1 - 42.5
- 42.6 - 51.7

State Average Age = **37.4**

Oldest – Mayo and Kerry: **40.2**

Youngest –
Fingal: **34.3**
Kildare: **34.9**
Meath: **35.2**
South Dublin: **35.5**

Births and Fertility 1977 – 2017

Births and Fertility Rates

000's | Rate

- 3.2
- 74,000
- 48,300
- 62,000
- 1.8

Years axis: 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017

Left axis: 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80

Right axis: 0, 0.4, 0.8, 1.2, 1.6, 2, 2.4, 2.8, 3.2, 3.6
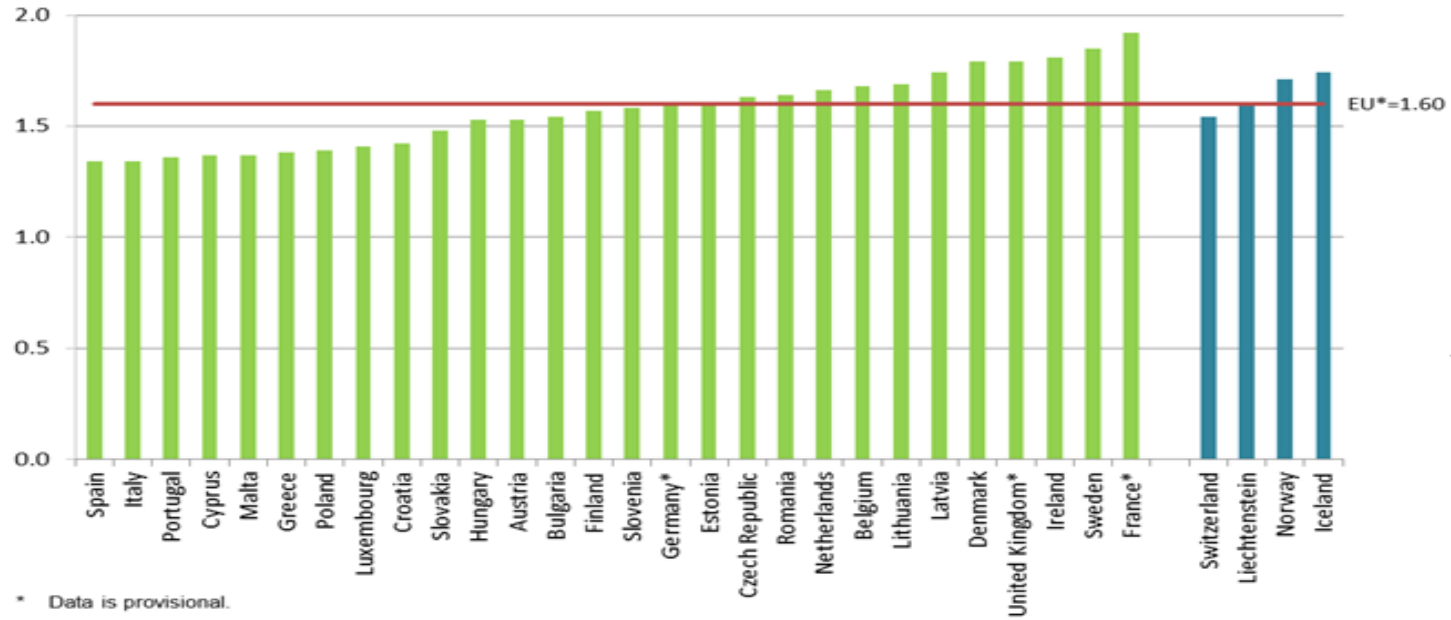
Legend: — Births — Fertility Rate

*Average age of First time Mothers increasing **each year** since 1975*

1980 - 24.9 Years

2017 - 31.0 Years

Fertility Assumptions - Current European fertility rates

* Data is provisional.
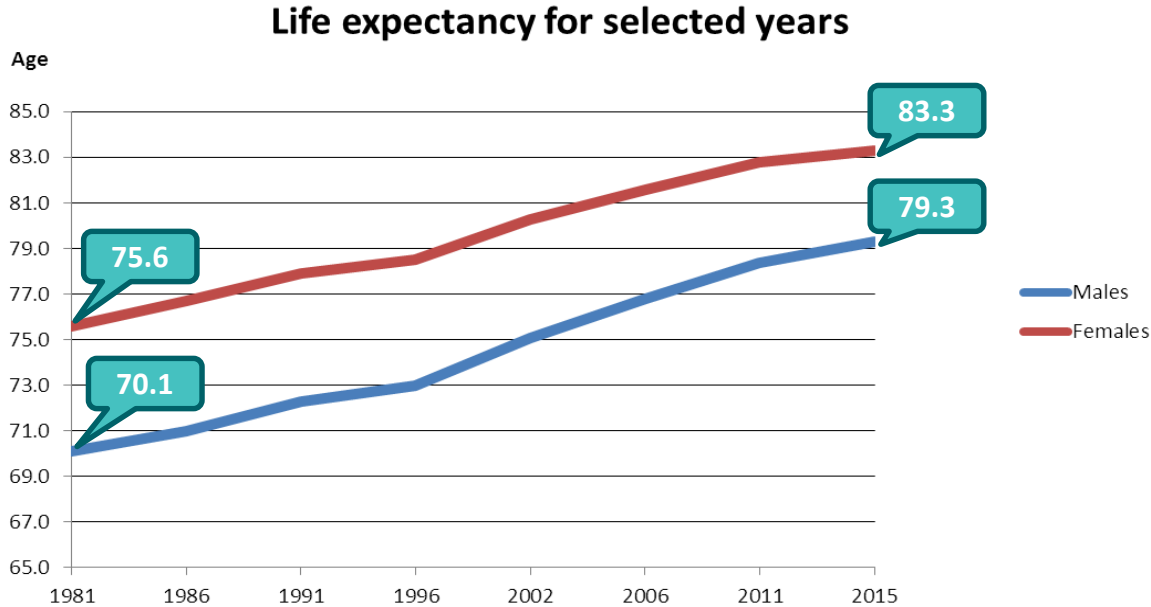
Recent Migration trends 1988 - 2019

Migration 1988-2019
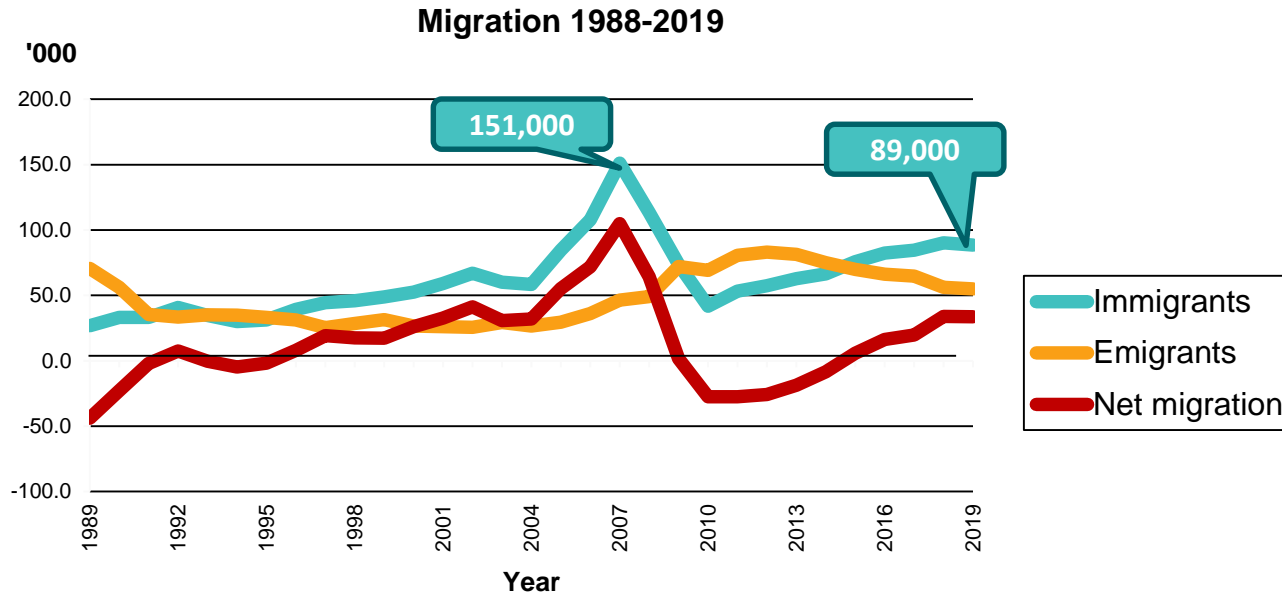
Average annual net in Migration

1987-2016 **+21,000**

2017-2019 **+29,000**

Life Expectancy 1981 - 2015

Life expectancy for selected years

Since 1981 Life expectancy gains

Females +9.2 Years

Males +7.7 Years

In line with EU averages

Projection Assumptions agreed by Expert Group to 2051

3 Migration assumptions

- **M1 - High net inward migration +30,000 per annum**

- **M2** - Net inward migration +20,000 per annum (20 year average)

- **M3** - Low net inward migration of +10,000 per annum
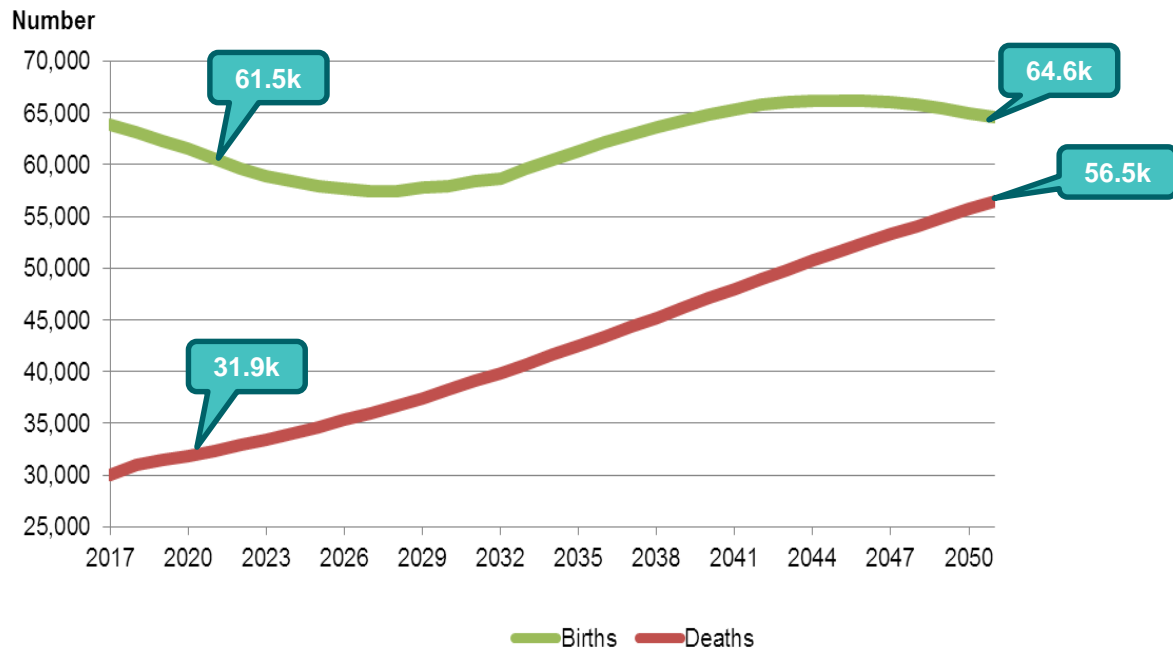
2 Fertility Assumptions

- **F1** - Fertility rate to remain at the 2016 level of 1.8 until 2051

- **F2 - Decline to continue to 1.6 by 2031 and level off thereafter**

Gains in Life expectancy to continue at a slower rate

- **79.3** years in 2015 to **85.6** years in 2051 for males – **6.3 years**

- **83.3** years in 2015 to **88.3** years in 2051 for females – **5.0 years**

Births, Deaths and Natural Increase (M1F2)
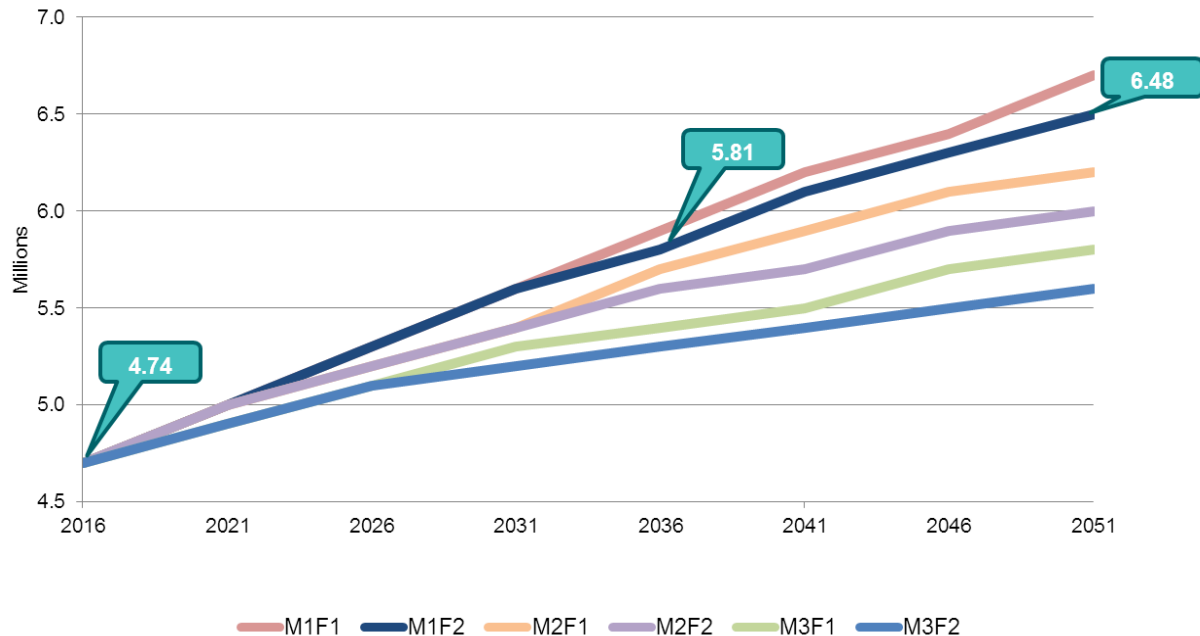

Natural Increase = births *minus* deaths

Total natural increase of 690,000 2016 - 2051

Currently natural increase = +30,000 annually

less than +9,000 by 2051

Population Projections results 2016 – 2051

Total Population change
1,740,000

Total Net Migration =
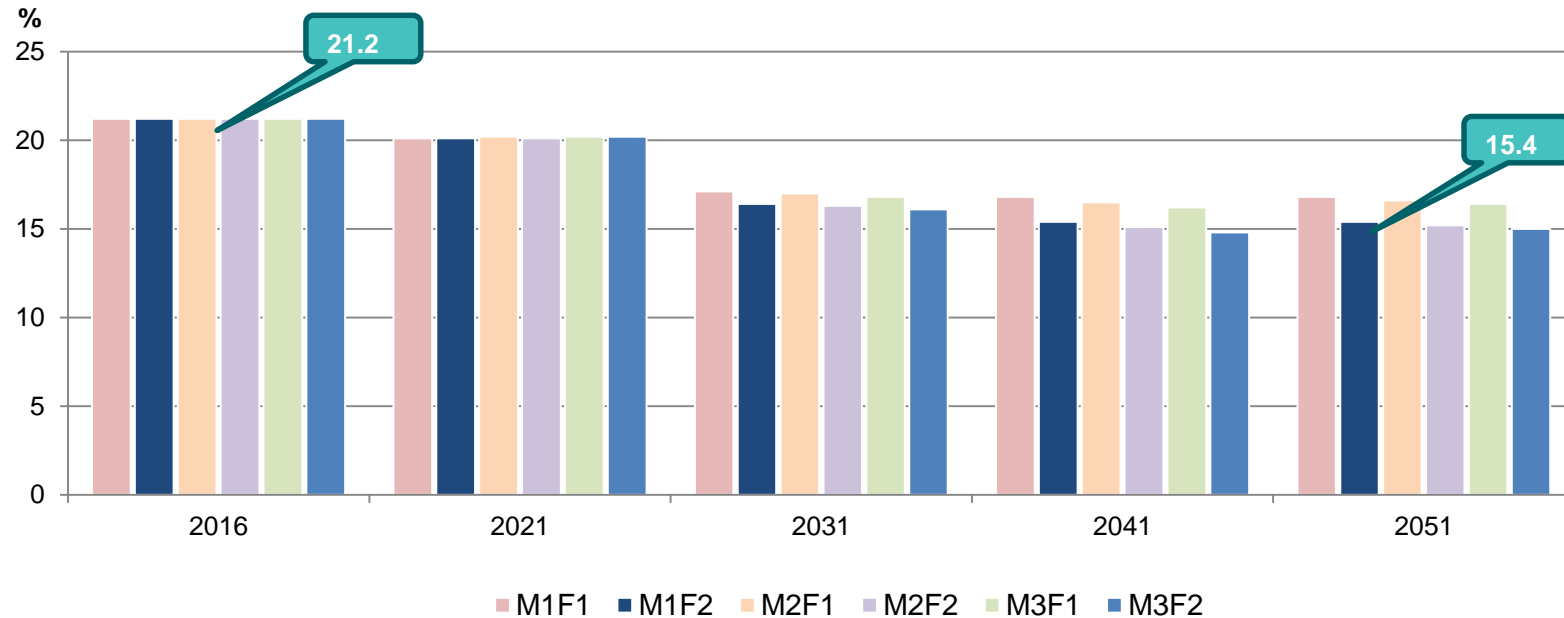**immigrants *minus* emigrants**
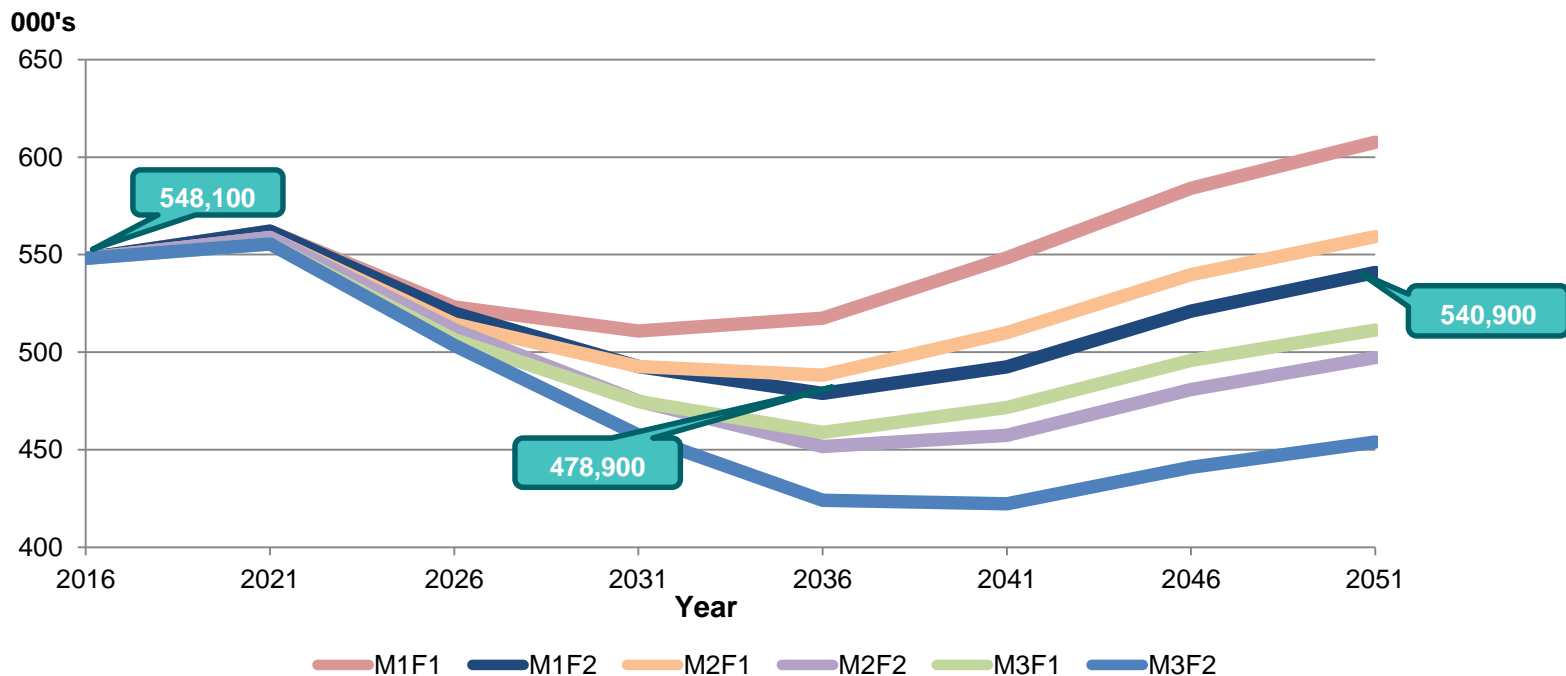**1,050,000**

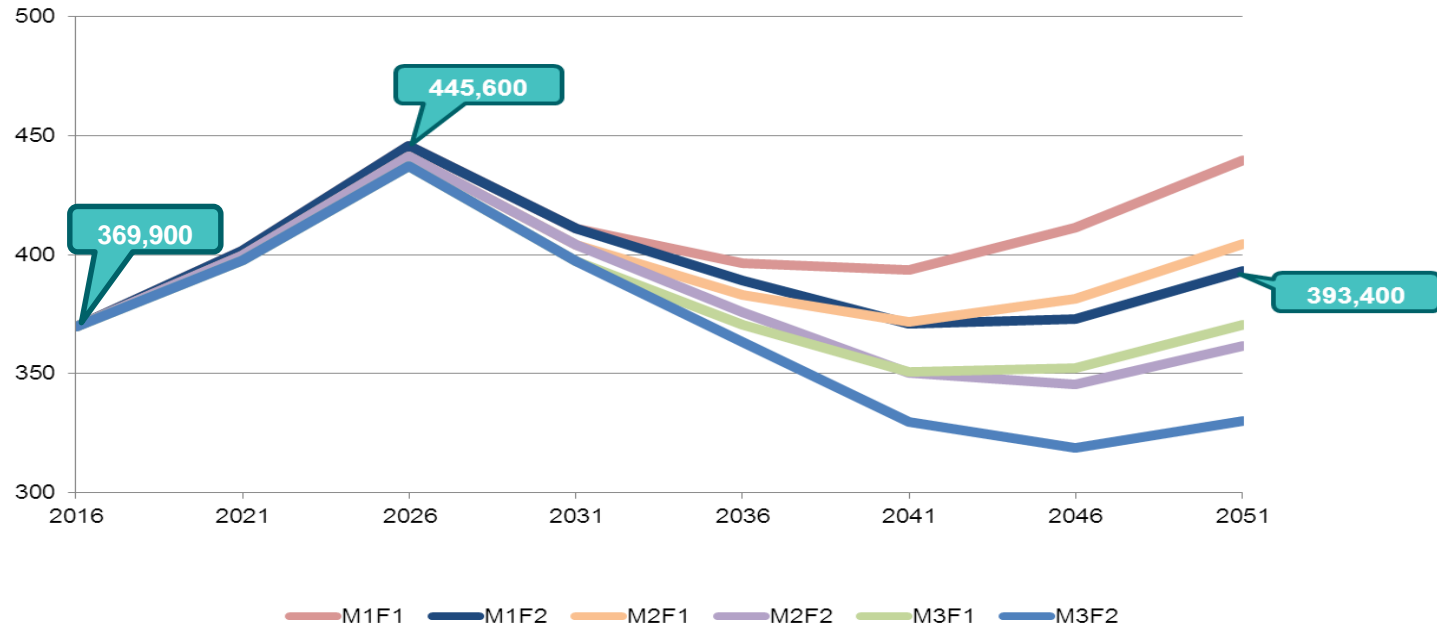**Total Natural Increase**
690,000

Persons 0-14 as a percentage of Total Population

Projected primary school pupils 2016 – 2051

Projected secondary school pupils, 2016 - 2051

Tenancy Status, Census 2016

Age home ownership became majority tenure category

2016 35 years   **2011** 32 years   **2006** 28 years

392,119 Children Living In Rented Accommodation

127,098 aged 0-4 up 3.5%

FOR RENT

168,878 aged 5-12 up 17.3%

96,143 aged 13-18 up 18.6%

76,207 Children Living In Flats And Apartments

31,891 aged 0-4 up 24.3%

29,689 aged 5-12 up 62.6%

14,627 aged 13-18 up 45.9%

Urban Tenancy Status

2016 Owner outright – 29%
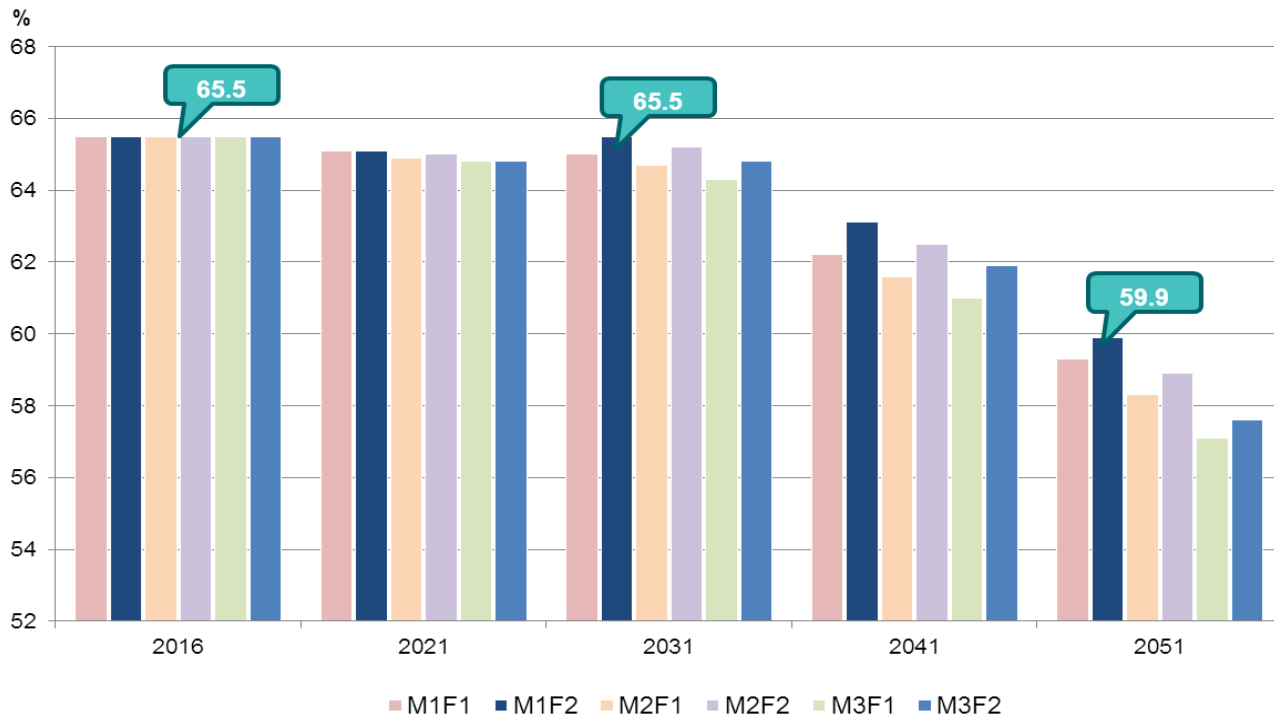
2016 Rented – 36%

Rural Tenancy Status

2016 Owner outright – 48%

2016 Rented – 13%

Population aged 15-64, 2016 - 2051
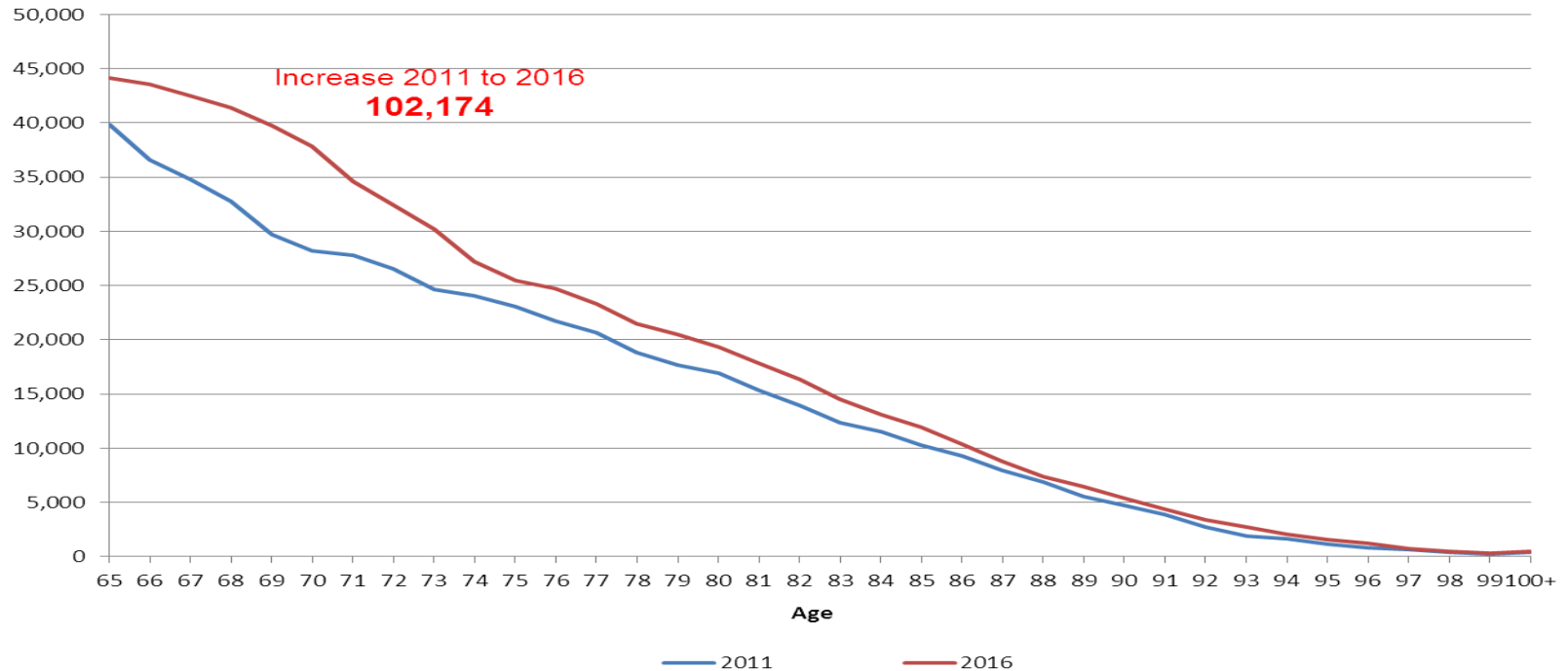

Persons 15-64 M1F2
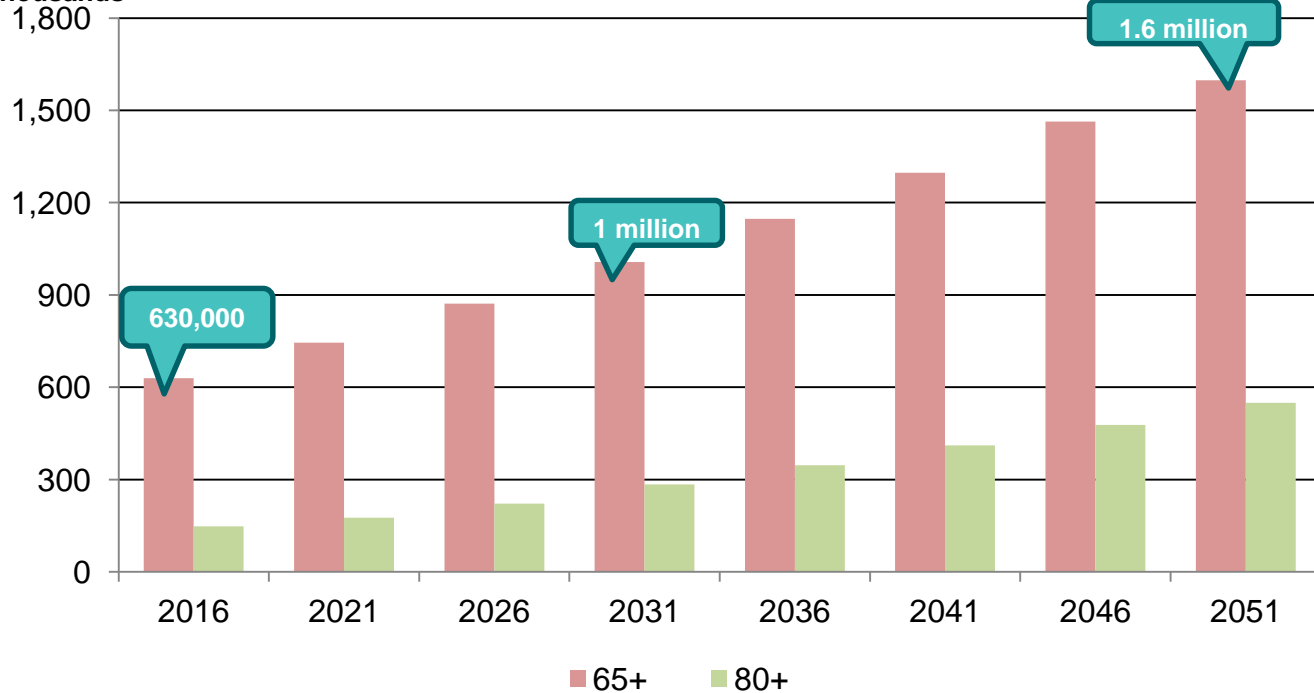
2016 *3.1 million*

2031 *3.65 million*

2051 *3.9 million*

Increase in persons aged 65+, 2011- 2016

Actual and Projected Population aged 65+ (M1F2)

Thousands

Chart showing 65+ (red) and 80+ (green) population:
- 2016: 630,000
- 2031: 1 million
- 2051: 1.6 million

Percentage of population 65+

2016 **13.3%**

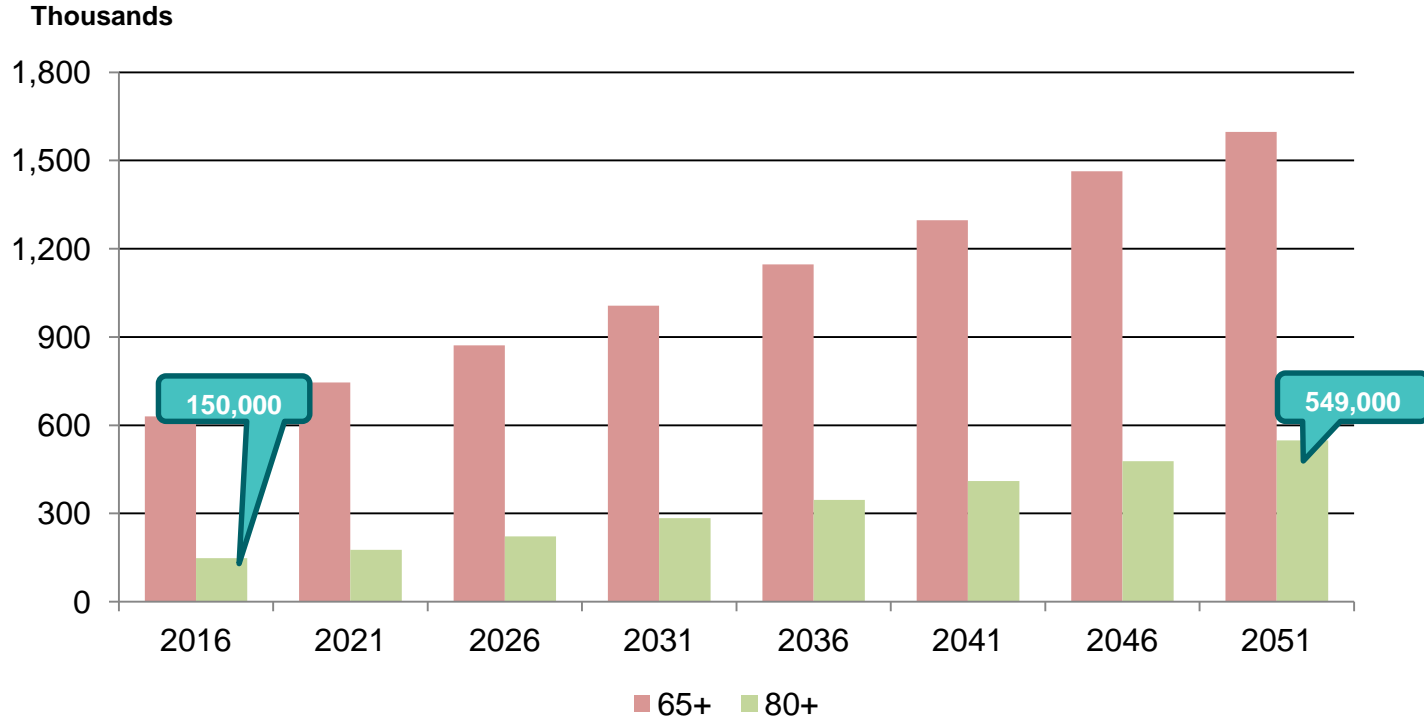*2031* **18.1%**

2051 **24.6%**

Legend: 65+   80+

Ratio of the working age population (15-64) to those aged 65+ (M1F2)
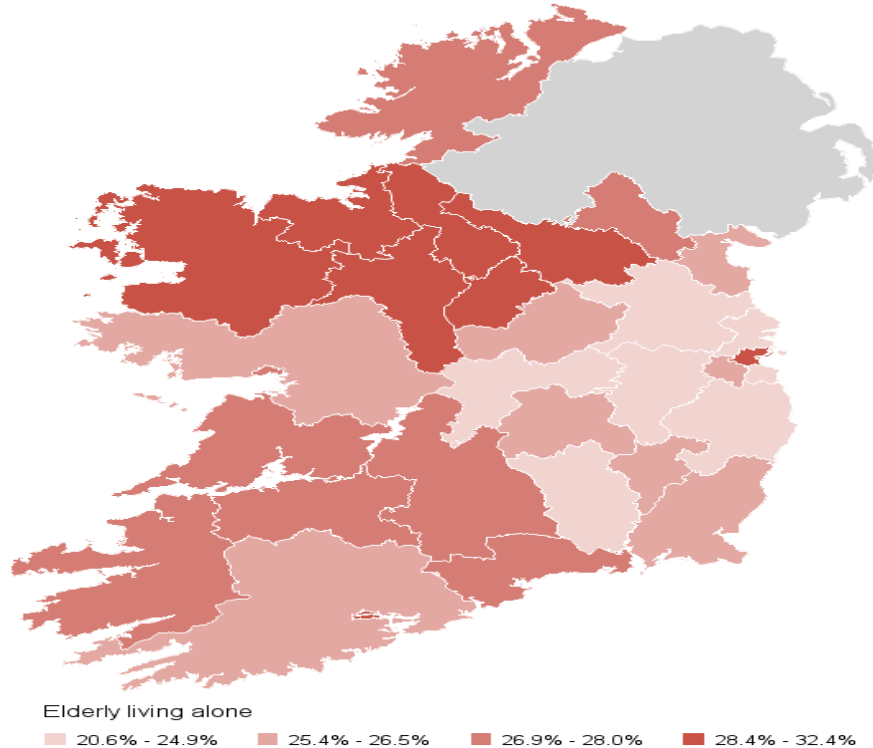
Population aged 80+, 2016-2051 (M1F2)

Thousands

Persons 80+

Increase of around 270% by 2051

Legend: ■ 65+ ■ 80+

Callout labels: 150,000 (2016, 80+), 549,000 (2051, 80+)

General health by age group, Census 2016
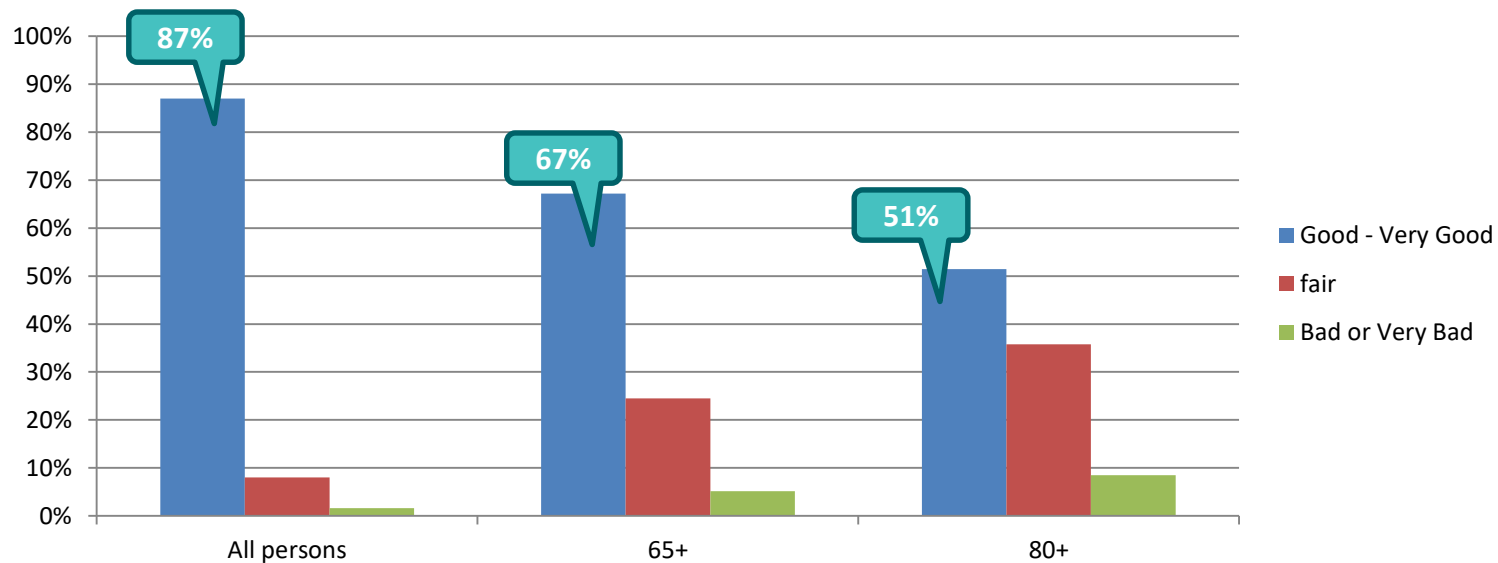
Map 4.1 Persons aged 65 and over living alone

Census 2016

Of the 156,799 people aged 65 and over living alone, 49,820 are aged 80 and over

Elderly living alone

20.6% - 24.9%   25.4% - 26.5%   26.9% - 28.0%   28.4% - 32.4%

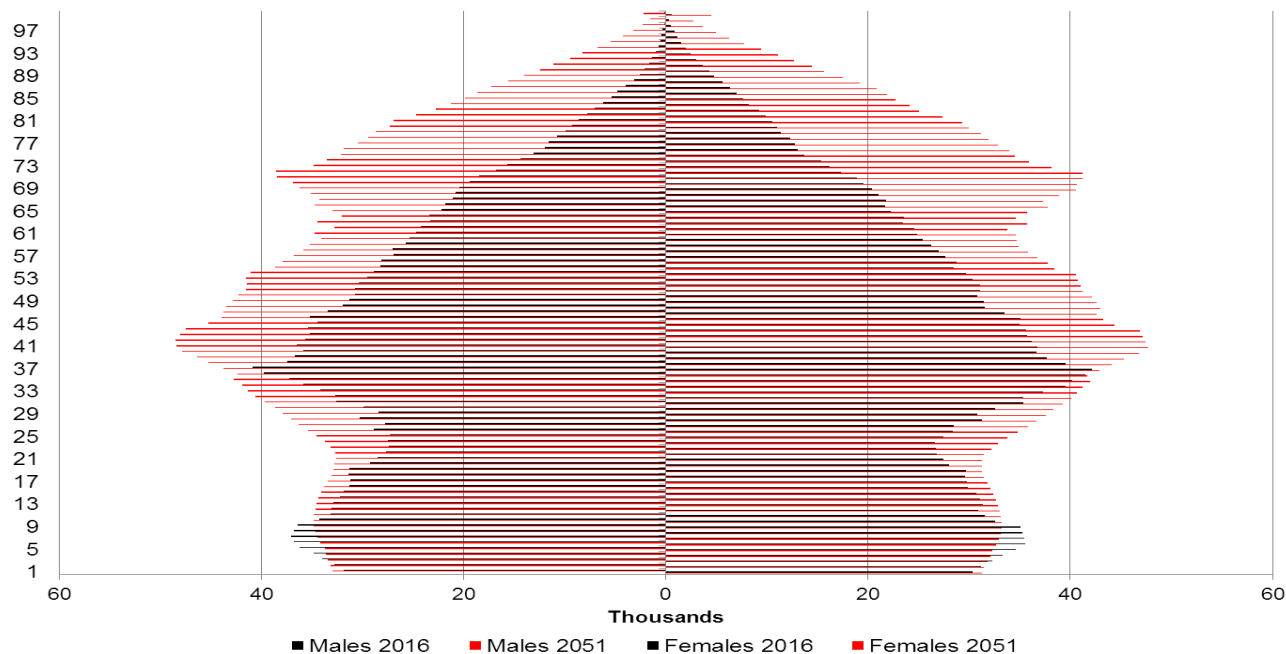General health of all persons who lived in family households and aged over 50, 2016
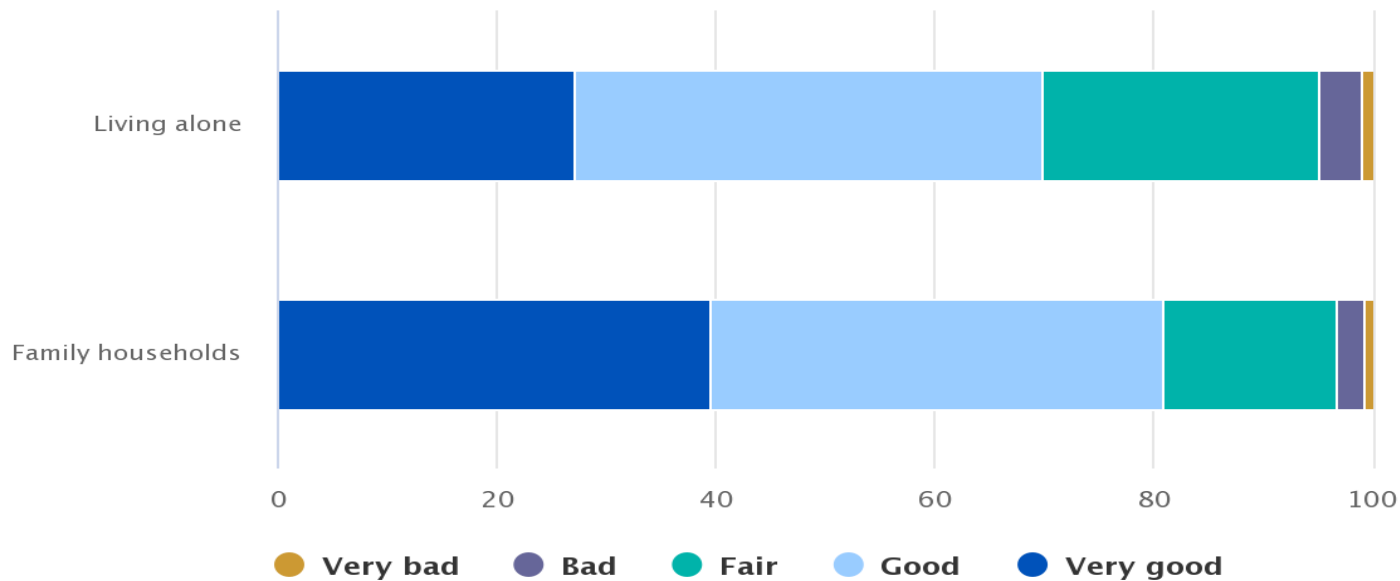
Source: CSO Ireland
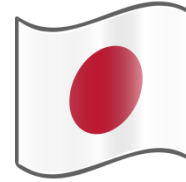
Population Structure 2016 and 2051(M1F2)

In 2016 **13.3%** aged 65+

In 2051 **24.6%** aged 65+

- *Less very young*
- *Increases across all other age groups*

Median age for selected countries

Future Demography of Ireland - Summary

Significant increase in population to 2051 – 1.7 million

Children will account for a lower percentage of the total

- Increased population of older age groups

    - Now: 5 working age for each person aged 65+

    - 2051: 2.5 working age for each person aged 65+

Reduced share of working age population as percentage of total population

    - Now : 2 working age for each dependent (0-14 and 65+)

    - 2051 : Less than 1.5 working age for each dependent

Ireland 'younger' than most European countries – learn from experience of others