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**[FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS:
AN INITIAL ANALYSIS OF
CENSUS 2011 RESULTS]**

Introduction

The first set of confirmed results from Census 2011 in the Republic was released on March 29th 2012. This set is entitled *This Is Ireland* and contains the tabulated data and some additional analysis for marital status and age, living arrangement and families usual residence and nationality, ethnicity and religion and finally, data on housing. In all, the CSO provided 45 separate tables of data containing several thousand points of reference for analysis. This report will concentrate specifically on family units and households, with a brief tabulation of data on nationality and religion.

The report forms the first part of a two part analysis arising from these data. The second part will consist of a much more detailed report on these data in conjunction with the data from the latest round of *European Social Survey* data on Mass attendance and Catholic practice and will be available later this year. It is hoped that roughly equivalent data for Northern Ireland will be available at that time. Some data on family breakdown for NI has been included here and this was provided to me by Deirdre O’Rawe, *Accord*.

All of this data is available from the website of the Central Statistics Office, NISRA (NI) and from AIRO at NUIM.

Religion, belief systems and nationality.

In the census of 2006, 3.68m people in Ireland defined themselves as Roman Catholic. This accounted for just under 87% of the population of the Republic. By 2011, 3.86m people (or 84.2%) stated that they are Roman Catholic. While the proportion of people stating that they are Catholic has declined somewhat, the number of Catholics in the Republic has increased. This is principally as a result of migrants coming from the rest of the EU (except the UK). We know that almost 60,000 more people from Poland live in Ireland today compared with 2006 and until further data is released, we can assume that most of the increase in the number of Catholics in Ireland comes from the greater number of this nationality. The ranked table below shows the numbers and proportions of, as well as the percentage change in, each religious and belief system grouping from the 2011 Census.

	Population (Number)	Percentage Change Since Previous Census (%)
Roman Catholic	3,861,335	4.9
No religion	269,811	44.8
Church of Ireland, England, Anglican, Episcopalian	129,039	6.4
Not stated	72,914	3.7
Muslim (Islamic)	49,204	51.2
Orthodox (Greek, Coptic, Russian)	45,223	117.4
Other Christian religion	41,161	40.9
Presbyterian	24,600	4.5
Other stated religions	14,118	64.7
Apostolic or Pentecostal	14,043	73
Hindu	10,688	75.7
Buddhist	8,703	33.6
Methodist, Wesleyan	6,842	-43.7
Jehovah's Witness	6,149	19.4
Lutheran	5,683	7.7
Protestant	5,326	22.3
Evangelical	4,188	-20.6
Atheist	3,905	320.3
Baptist	3,531	5.8
Agnostic	3,521	132.4
Jewish	1,984	2.8
Pagan, Pantheist	1,940	14.7
Mormon	1,284	3.8
Lapsed (Roman) Catholic	1,279	136.9
Society of Friends	925	4.9
Baha'i	520	3.2
Brethren	336	-8

The percentage change in the numbers of Catholics since 2006 is smaller than it was in the last intercensal period. However, 84% of the population are Roman Catholic according to this Census. The second most numerous grouping (although it is arguable if No Religion can be constituted as a religion at all) is that of those who indicated that they have no religion. 6% of the population state that they have no religion. There was a 45% increase on the 2006 figure of 83,000 people). Almost 4% of the population did not state their religion. The large decrease in the numbers of Methodists can be partially accounted for by the fact that they would have had to write in their religion rather than ticking a box, which also partially explains the small numbers of atheists and agnostics. There has been a 51% increase in the number of Muslims in Ireland and a 117% increase in the number of Orthodox Christians.

The table below shows the percentage change in the numbers of people from different nationalities in Ireland on Census night in 2011. As can be seen from the third column, there were large intercensal increases in the numbers of people from Mauritius, Hungary, Romania

and India. As this was a write in question on the form, people could write in a variety of answers. There was a 6% increase in the number of Irish people and a 3% increase in the number of other European (i.e. non-EU) nationalities. Following a 66% increase in the period 2002 to 2006, the proportion of Russian nationals decreased by 13% since then. The number of New Zealanders has also decreased. Large numbers of Poles, Brazilians, Bulgarians and Latvians are still arriving in Ireland. The Republic of Ireland is home to over 45 distinct nationalities.

	Percentage change in numbers in each nationality	
	2006	2011
Mauritian	856.7	343.7
Hungarian	741.1	133.5
Romanian	54.6	124.8
Indian	233.9	100.8
Brazilian	303.7	98.4
Polish	2879.1	93.7
Bulgarian	65.4	81.5
Latvian	641.2	54.6
Portuguese	161.7	52.3
Lithuanian	1070.5	48.9
Slovenian	188.9	47.7
Cypriot	87.5	38.3
Pakistani	70.1	37
EU27 excluding Irish	92.9	36
Luxembourger	62.5	34.6
Filipino	144.8	34
Slovak	2631	33.2
Non-Irish	87.2	29.7
Maltese	71.6	29.5
Greek	62.8	25.2
Italian	64.2	23.7
Austrian	5.4	23.5
Irish-American	-0.3	19
Belgian	15.3	17.7
Estonian	390.7	12.7
Spanish	36.4	12.3
Malaysian	76.7	10.6
German	42.6	9.9
Danish	15.5	9.9
Nigerian	81.7	8.2
Dutch	28.4	8.1
French	42.2	7.8
Ukrainian	119.9	7.1
All Irish	3.4	5.9

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	Percentage change in numbers in each nationality	
Czech	367.7	5.7
Irish	3.6	5.7
Other European	73.5	3.5
Canadian	21.3	1.7
UK	8.8	-0.3
Swedish	38	-1.7
Chinese	91	-2.4
Finnish	5.7	-6.3
Irish-English	-27.6	-8.7
South African	29.8	-10.3
American (US)	9.6	-11.7
Russian	66.3	-13.3
New Zealander	7.3	-20.6
Australian	8.8	-29.4

Not every category tabulated in the Census has been included in this table. The population as a whole then shows a specific diversity with distinct policies in place for various groups of EU and non-EU nationals to migrate to Ireland. Generally speaking though, many of these nationality groups have small numbers of people within them. For example, there are 35 Luxembourgers and just over 800 people from Denmark in Ireland. On the other hand, just over 544,000 people state that they have a nationality other than Irish. For the first time in an Irish census, UK nationals are not the largest non-Irish nationality grouping. In 2011 there were 122,585 Polish nationals and 112,259 UK nationals in Ireland.

Households and families

Against this background of small proportions of those from other nationalities and religions, the data for the various household types can be analysed. In this sense then we should not think of Irish households but of households in Ireland as many people living in households will be of mixed belief systems, religions and nationalities. Further outputs from the CSO later in 2012 will show a more detailed picture. For now, we can note that there are 1.654 million private households in the Republic in which 4.51 million people live. The remainder of the population lives in communal establishments, e.g. mental health or care facilities. Of these 1.6 million households, the most numerous is that comprised by a husband and wife with children, 522,959 households in all. One person households are the next most numerous – almost 24% of all households.

	Percentage of all households	Private Households (Number)
Husband and wife with children	31.6	522,959
One person	23.7	392,000
Husband and wife	14.5	240,146
Lone mother with children	9.4	155,264
Cohabiting couple	4.4	73,111
Households comprised of unrelated persons only	3.8	62,608
Cohabiting couple with children	3.3	54,911
Non-family households containing related persons	2.4	39,611
Husband and wife with children and other persons	1.6	26,226
Lone father with children	1.5	24,497
Two family units with/without other persons	1.1	18,317
Lone mother with children and other persons	0.9	15,190
Husband and wife with other persons	0.8	13,095
Cohabiting couple with other persons	0.5	8,602
Cohabiting couple with children and other persons	0.3	4,233
Lone father with children and other persons	0.2	2,986
Three or more family units with/without other persons	0.0	452

From the table above, it can be seen that cohabiting couple households (with or without children) account for 7.7% of all households. Married households in the Republic make up just over 48% of all households. Lone parent households (with women-headed households making up the vast bulk of the numbers) constitute just 10.9% of all households in Ireland, numbering 179,761 households in total. As has been noted by Dr Jane Grey of NUIM these trends point to some new trends:

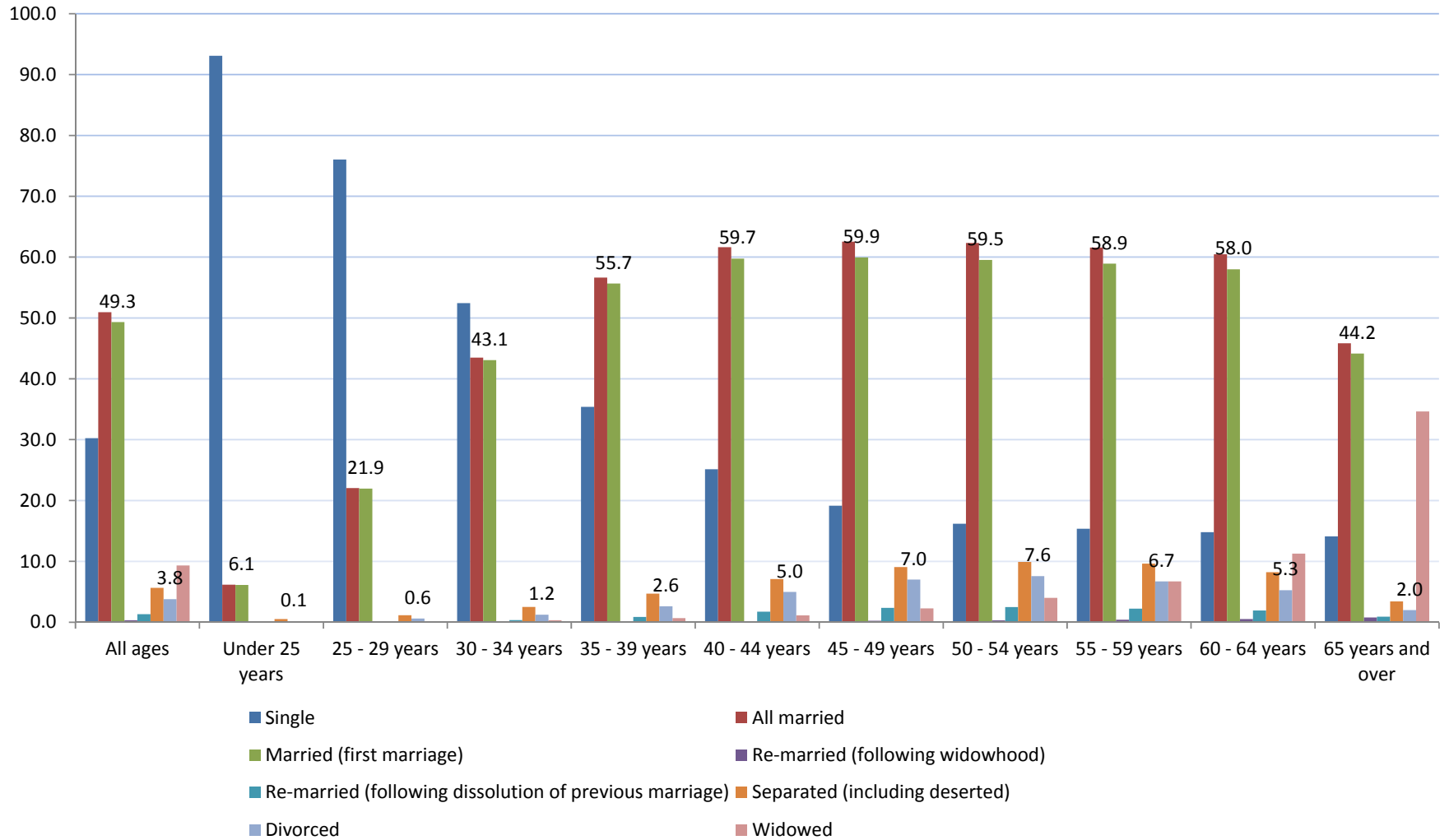
Cohabitation increased rapidly in Ireland from the mid 1990s, but according to [the Census] report, the rate of increase slowed between 2006 and 2011. The younger average age of cohabiting couples in 2011 is consistent with earlier research showing that, for most people in Ireland, cohabitation is a precursor to marriage. However, the growth in the proportion of cohabiting couples with two or more children might indicate a small increase in the number for whom cohabitation is an alternative to marriage.(2012: <http://irelandafternama.wordpress.com/2012/03/29/census-2011-families/>).

Grey's reference to the age related cohorts of households is reflected in the data represented in the table below. These data show the numbers and percentages of households, with marital status of the reference person, in each bracket for 2011. As would be expected almost 100 percent of people under 25 years old are single. However, by about 30 years old, only about 52 percent are single. It has been shown elsewhere that the age at which people are getting married, if at all, is now later in life than it used to be two decades ago. As Grey has indicated:

In general, then, over the past 30 years there has been some increase in the diversity of Irish family forms, as young adults have postponed marriage and childbirth, and have disassembled the timing and sequencing of those transitions. But... there has been little change in the composition of Irish families between 2006 and 2011, and Irish family diversity remains limited compared to other western countries. (2012: <http://irelandafternama.wordpress.com/2012/03/29/census-2011-families/>).

Family diversity in Ireland, however it is conceived, remains different to many other countries of the EU. Various family forms exist because of a variety of circumstances and, while family breakdown occurs, it is clear from the graph below that marriage retains its popularity despite increasing numbers of people deciding on cohabitation. Between the ages of 40 and 64, about 6 in 10 households are headed by those married. This is illustrated by the first set of figures in the graph below. On the other hand, the second, lower set of figures shows the proportion in each age group across the population who are divorced. For the 50 – 54 age group, this is about 1 in every 14 households.

A divorced person heads about 4% of households across Ireland. In contrast, a married person heads about 51% of all households.



Looking at the percentage changes in each of these groupings (for all age groups) since 2006, the following might be noted. Households of cohabiting couples with children have increased by 38% in the intercensal period and cohabiting couples with no children by 12%. Comparing these to their married counterparts, a picture emerges. There was an increase of 9.5% of households composed of husband wide and children between 2006 and 2011 and an increase of 17% of households composed of those with just a husband and wife. The table below compares the numbers of households composed of these two sub-groups.

Households composed of...	2006	2011
Husband and wife with children	477,705	522,959
Husband and wife	204,487	240,146
Cohabiting couple with children	39,626	54,911
Cohabiting couple	65,055	73,111

While there has been an increase in the number of households of these various compositions since 2006, it is evident that more cohabiting couples are choosing to stay unmarried and have children. The percentage increase in households where there are cohabiting couples with children was 38%, albeit from a smaller base figure.

Finally, I want to focus on the number of households in the Republic who are composed of people who have remarried, separated and divorced. The number of households composed of divorced people remains relatively low although, as has been seen in the mainstream media, the number of people divorced increased by 150% intercensally (Quinn: 2012). It must also be acknowledged however that not everyone in these households was in Ireland in 2006 or they may not be Irish and / or Catholic. In September, we will know in more detail how these households are composed. The table below shows the data for 2011.

	Number of households	Percentage of total households
Re-married (following dissolution of previous marriage)	21854	1.3
Separated (including deserted)	93393	5.6
Divorced	62803	3.8

To augment these data, I present some data from Northern Ireland. While the available data does not tally the number of households, we can see that almost 12% of marriages in 2010 were one partner was previously married. This figure has declined since 2006 from 13%.

	Percentage of couples marrying		
	Neither partner previously married	One partner previously married	Both partners previously married
2006	78.6	13.5	7.9
2007	79	13.3	7.7
2008	79.8	12.7	7.5
2009	80.9	11.8	7.3
2010	80.5	11.7	7.8

In Northern Ireland, the average duration of marriages of people who get a divorce has increased over the last ten years although the divorce rate per 1,000 population has remained steady at 1.8. 29% of the divorces granted in 2010 were of marriages that had had a Roman Catholic wedding, the largest proportion of all of the groups tallied.

In conclusion, there has been considerable change in Irish households over the last twenty years. There are more households composed of divorced and separated people than before, although marriage retains its popularity, albeit at a later age in life. National and ethnic diversity is a continuing feature of life in Ireland and increasingly diverse households are reflected in some of the data presented. 84% of people in Ireland state that they are Roman Catholic, although this represents a declining share of the population. Increasing numbers of people are stating that they have No Religion. As the second of these two reports will show, just under half of Catholics surveyed for the *European Social Survey* in 2010 stated that they attend Mass weekly or more often. We might state then that diversity in populations leads to a greater complexity, often not captured in censuses and surveys.

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