

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

This document aims

- to profile some of the demographic, settlement, economic, social and cultural changes that have taken place in county Clare over the period 1991-2002.
- to measure the relative socio-economic performance of the different Electoral District (ED) in the county over the period
- to establish if affluence and deprivation have been located in the same parts of the county in 1991 and 2002.

This document does not claim to be policy driven.

By and large information is presented in the form of maps so that the geography of the recent changes can be appreciated. Different sources of data have been used. Some data is published for the first time as a result of Special Requests to the Central Statistics Office (CSO), particularly in relation to the Census of Agriculture (1991, 2000); Census of Industrial Production (1991, 1996, 2002) and the Census of Population 2000 (1991, 1996 and 2002). Where such data is used, it is indicated in the Source as 'Special Request'

1.2 STRUCTURE

Chapters 2 and 3 adopt a descriptive approach to the major changes in the county by presenting information on:

- ∑ • population change;
- ∑ • housing stock and holiday homes;
- ∑ • urbanisation;
- ∑ • economic restructuring;
- ∑ • trends in 'Modern' manufacturing and service sectors;
- ∑ • labourforce change;
- ∑ • patterns of travelling to work;
- ∑ • the changing social fabric;
- ∑ • the changing class structure;

Chapter 4 adopts a more analytic approach in an effort to identify the dynamics that underpinned the changes in the county and in order to identify the economic and social features that were associated with these changes. Technical measures of association such as correlation are introduced and used throughout the Chapter. For example the question is asked "is the county's population growth associated with its labourforce growth, its house construction, the presence of higher and lower professionals".

The strength of the relationship between a number of economic and social features are examined. In this way a number of potential components are identified that could be combined to build an index or measure of affluence and deprivation. This index is used to compare the socio-economic performance of the different Electoral District (ED) both across the county and over time.

The relationships are examined between different socio-economic features such as educational achievement, unemployment, lone-parenting, social class, persons per room etc., in order to see which features can be combined in order to measure affluence and deprivation. This task involves more than adding percentages since every percentage point of unemployment does not have the same effect as every percentage point of educational disadvantage.

Consequently, **Chapter 4** examines ways in which various socio-economic features can be aggregated to construct a single index or measuring tape by means of which affluence and deprivation can be measured. The resultant pattern of affluence and deprivation for the county is mapped at ED level. The geographic persistence of this pattern is examined and the results are discussed.

1.3 FACILITATING READING THE REPORT

NOTE: READING THE MAPS

There are 11 Urban and Rural Districts in Clare. They are the Urban Districts of Ennis and Kilrush and the Rural Districts of Ballyvaughan, Ennistymon, Corofin, Kildysart, Kilrush, Ennis, Meelick, Scariff and Tulla. These should not be confused with the six Electoral Districts used for the purposes of Local Elections.

There are 155 Electoral Districts (EDs) in Clare. For confidentiality purposes, the CSO combined four of these to form two pairs namely, Glenroe/Ballyeighter, Iniscealtra North and South. Consequently each pair always has the same colour on the Maps. A Map, which shows the EDs within their respective Urban and Rural Districts, is shown in Appendix 1.

A map showing the boundaries of the 4 Ennis Urban EDs is shown in Appendix 2.

In general the Maps are organised by a colour code to distinguish five groupings each containing approximately 20% of the EDs in the county. Each Map states the number of EDs that fall into the different categories. The following colours are consistently used.

Red is used to display what, intuitively, would be considered as deprivation (eg. high dependency on agriculture, high unemployment rate, high lone-parenting rate etc.). **Green** is used to display what, intuitively, would be considered as affluence (high rate of Upper and Lower Professional classes, high rate of 3rd. level qualifications in the labourforce, etc.). There are three shades in between to distinguish different grades between these extremes.

The visual examination of the maps provides limited information. The map only shows that an ED's score falls within a particular range as indicated by the colour. It does not indicate on which end of the range a particular ED's score falls. A more accurate assessment of the association between any two features is provided by the mathematical correlation score between them. Most of the maps present the percentage of the population that falls into a specific category (older people, lone parents, etc.) Normally this is referred to as the risk factor. i.e the likelihood of being older, a lone parent etc. However it is also important to know how many people are in the different risk categories. For example it is important to know how many older people are involved if we say that 50% of the population of an ED are elderly. Where this is important it is detailed in the explanation that follows the maps.

NOTE: CENSUS OF POPULATION AND CENSUS OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

The Census of Population identifies the number of workers living in the county or in a particular ED. However, this is no indication of the number of jobs in the county or the ED, since workers may travel to work outside the county or outside the ED. The reverse is also true. Workers may travel into the county. In both instances, reliance on Census of Population figures does not give an accurate picture of the number of jobs in the county. The Census of Industrial production captures the number of jobs in firms with more than two employees in the Industrial Sector which includes mining and quarrying, all manufacturing, as well as electricity, gas and water. It provides more accurate data on the employment base of the county for the industrial sector.