



- ◆ Immigration having peaked at 66,900 in the twelve-months to April 2002 has fallen back to 50,500 in the most recent period.
- ◆ Emigration is at its lowest level (20,700) since the series began in 1987.
- ◆ The excess of births over deaths has grown from 17,500 in the twelve-month period ending April 1995 to 31,900 in the corresponding period to April 2003.
- ◆ 40 per cent of emigrants went to countries other than the EU and the USA, while 45 per cent of all immigrants originated from outside the EU and USA. (*See Table 5*).
- ◆ The age profile of emigrants was younger than that for immigrants. 59 per cent of emigrants were aged 15-24 years, while 44 per cent of immigrants were aged 25-44 years. (*See Table 6*).
- ◆ Over a third (35 per cent) of immigrants are nationals of countries other than the EU and USA, while the same percentage of immigrants are returning Irish Nationals. (*See Table 7*).
- ◆ 8 per cent of immigrants are nationals from Central/Eastern Europe while 7 per cent are nationals of African countries.

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Table 1 Estimated Population classified by Sex and Age Group, 1996 - 2003

Sex and Age Group	Persons in April of each year							
	1996 ¹	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 ¹	2003 ²
000								
Persons								
0 - 4 years	250.4	250.0	253.7	259.8	266.2	273.2	277.6	284.9
5 - 9 "	282.9	277.9	273.8	270.6	266.7	263.7	264.1	268.2
10 - 14 "	326.1	318.0	308.3	300.2	295.1	290.6	285.7	281.0
15 - 19 "	339.5	343.7	343.7	338.5	329.4	320.4	313.2	306.9
20 - 24 "	293.4	297.2	299.1	303.9	311.9	317.6	328.3	335.9
25 - 29 "	259.0	264.4	272.4	279.7	289.4	300.8	312.7	318.5
30 - 34 "	260.9	265.1	267.9	271.9	277.5	288.6	304.7	313.4
35 - 39 "	255.7	260.7	267.1	273.5	280.2	285.1	290.9	294.5
40 - 44 "	240.4	247.4	251.3	255.7	260.5	267.6	272.0	278.1
45 - 49 "	225.4	228.2	232.8	234.6	239.1	243.9	249.6	253.2
50 - 54 "	186.6	198.3	207.9	217.5	225.0	228.2	230.8	234.8
55 - 59 "	153.8	156.1	162.4	168.2	174.3	185.8	197.3	206.7
60 - 64 "	137.9	140.9	142.3	145.5	149.7	151.7	154.3	160.4
65 - 69 "	126.8	126.7	128.2	128.8	129.3	130.8	133.5	135.1
70 - 74 "	112.5	112.8	111.7	111.1	111.3	111.8	112.1	113.6
75 - 79 "	84.1	85.0	88.3	89.1	88.9	89.2	89.8	89.6
80 - 84 "	55.8	55.8	54.6	54.6	55.8	57.6	58.9	61.5
85 years and over	34.7	35.8	37.4	38.3	39.4	40.4	41.7	42.8
Total	3,626.1	3,664.3	3,703.1	3,741.6	3,789.5	3,847.2	3,917.2	3,978.9
Males								
0 - 4 years	128.7	128.7	130.8	134.0	137.2	140.4	142.0	145.6
5 - 9 "	145.3	142.2	140.3	138.7	136.6	135.5	135.9	137.7
10 - 14 "	167.4	163.5	158.3	154.1	151.3	149.0	146.1	144.2
15 - 19 "	174.0	176.2	175.7	173.8	168.9	164.3	160.4	157.0
20 - 24 "	149.1	151.3	152.3	153.6	157.4	160.5	165.3	168.2
25 - 29 "	129.4	132.0	136.6	140.5	146.0	151.2	156.1	159.4
30 - 34 "	127.7	129.9	131.8	133.9	137.5	144.2	152.4	157.2
35 - 39 "	126.1	128.7	131.8	135.2	138.2	141.2	144.5	146.5
40 - 44 "	120.1	123.3	125.0	127.5	129.7	133.0	135.3	138.2
45 - 49 "	113.8	114.8	116.7	117.6	119.8	122.4	125.0	126.5
50 - 54 "	94.8	100.8	105.8	110.4	114.1	115.5	116.6	118.2
55 - 59 "	77.8	79.2	82.2	85.2	88.2	94.0	99.8	104.9
60 - 64 "	68.7	70.2	70.9	72.5	74.8	75.9	77.6	80.6
65 - 69 "	60.3	60.9	62.2	63.0	63.3	64.0	65.3	66.0
70 - 74 "	50.1	50.2	49.8	49.7	50.3	51.1	51.7	53.1
75 - 79 "	35.2	35.6	36.8	37.0	36.9	37.1	37.4	37.3
80 - 84 "	21.1	20.9	20.5	20.4	21.0	21.7	22.3	23.2
85 years and over	10.6	11.0	11.4	11.5	11.8	12.2	12.5	12.9
Total	1,800.2	1,819.4	1,838.9	1,858.6	1,882.9	1,913.1	1,946.2	1,976.7
Females								
0 - 4 years	121.7	121.3	122.9	125.8	128.9	132.8	135.6	139.3
5 - 9 "	137.6	135.7	133.6	131.9	130.1	128.2	128.2	130.4
10 - 14 "	158.7	154.5	150.1	146.2	143.8	141.6	139.6	136.9
15 - 19 "	165.6	167.6	168.0	164.7	160.5	156.2	152.8	149.9
20 - 24 "	144.2	145.9	146.7	150.3	154.5	157.1	163.0	167.6
25 - 29 "	129.7	132.5	135.8	139.3	143.3	149.6	156.6	159.0
30 - 34 "	133.2	135.2	136.1	138.0	140.0	144.4	152.3	156.2
35 - 39 "	129.5	132.0	135.3	138.3	142.0	143.9	146.4	148.0
40 - 44 "	120.4	124.0	126.3	128.2	130.8	134.6	136.7	139.9
45 - 49 "	111.6	113.4	116.1	117.1	119.3	121.5	124.6	126.7
50 - 54 "	91.8	97.6	102.1	107.1	110.8	112.7	114.3	116.6
55 - 59 "	76.0	76.9	80.3	83.0	86.1	91.8	97.5	101.8
60 - 64 "	69.3	70.8	71.5	73.0	74.9	75.8	76.7	79.8
65 - 69 "	66.6	65.8	66.0	65.9	66.0	66.8	68.2	69.2
70 - 74 "	62.4	62.6	62.0	61.4	61.0	60.8	60.4	60.5
75 - 79 "	48.9	49.4	51.6	52.1	52.0	52.1	52.4	52.2
80 - 84 "	34.7	34.9	34.2	34.2	34.8	35.9	36.6	38.2
85 years and over	24.1	24.9	26.0	26.8	27.6	28.2	29.2	29.8
Total	1,825.9	1,844.9	1,864.2	1,883.0	1,906.6	1,934.1	1,971.0	2,002.2

¹ Census of Population² Preliminary

Table 2 Estimated Population classified by Sex, Age Group and Marital Status, April 2003¹

Sex and Age Group	Total	Single	Married	Separated ²	Widowed
000					
Persons					
0 - 14 years	834.1	834.1	—	—	—
15 - 19 "	306.9	305.9	0.8	0.0	0.2
20 - 24 "	335.9	326.9	8.4	0.3	0.2
25 - 29 "	318.5	253.9	63.0	1.3	0.2
30 - 34 "	313.4	139.8	164.8	8.0	0.8
35 - 39 "	294.5	71.5	206.3	15.3	1.4
40 - 44 "	278.1	45.2	211.3	18.6	3.0
45 - 49 "	253.2	31.6	197.9	18.9	4.8
50 - 54 "	234.8	29.4	180.8	17.6	7.0
55 - 59 "	206.7	24.0	159.9	12.2	10.6
60 - 64 "	160.4	19.0	117.9	7.3	16.2
65 years and over	442.5	63.5	223.3	6.4	149.4
Total	3,978.9	2,144.7	1,534.5	105.9	193.8
Males					
0 - 14 years	427.5	427.5	—	—	—
15 - 19 "	157.0	156.5	0.3	—	0.1
20 - 24 "	168.2	165.8	2.4	0.0	0.0
25 - 29 "	159.4	135.0	24.1	0.3	—
30 - 34 "	157.2	77.0	77.3	2.6	0.3
35 - 39 "	146.5	39.7	102.0	4.3	0.5
40 - 44 "	138.2	26.3	104.7	6.2	1.0
45 - 49 "	126.5	18.4	99.5	7.1	1.5
50 - 54 "	118.2	18.4	90.9	7.3	1.7
55 - 59 "	104.9	15.0	81.3	5.8	2.7
60 - 64 "	80.6	12.5	61.0	3.3	3.7
65 years and over	192.5	32.8	126.4	3.9	29.4
Total	1,976.7	1,124.9	769.8	40.9	41.0
Females					
0 - 14 years	406.6	406.6	—	—	—
15 - 19 "	149.9	149.3	0.5	0.0	0.0
20 - 24 "	167.6	161.1	6.1	0.3	0.2
25 - 29 "	159.0	118.8	39.0	1.0	0.2
30 - 34 "	156.2	62.8	87.6	5.3	0.5
35 - 39 "	148.0	31.8	104.3	11.0	0.9
40 - 44 "	139.9	18.9	106.6	12.4	2.0
45 - 49 "	126.7	13.2	98.4	11.8	3.2
50 - 54 "	116.6	11.0	89.9	10.4	5.3
55 - 59 "	101.8	9.0	78.6	6.4	7.9
60 - 64 "	79.8	6.5	56.9	3.9	12.5
65 years and over	250.0	30.7	96.8	2.5	120.0
Total	2,002.2	1,019.8	764.6	65.0	152.8

¹ Preliminary² Including divorced

Table 3 Estimated Population classified by Sex, Age Group and Regional Authority Area, April 2003¹

Sex and Age Group	State	Border	Dublin	Mid-East	Midland	Mid-West	South-East	South-West	West
000									
Persons									
0 - 4 years	284.9	32.1	77.1	35.6	17.6	24.6	30.9	40.5	26.4
5 - 9 "	268.2	31.4	68.8	31.7	17.1	23.4	30.4	39.5	25.9
10 - 14 "	281.0	33.6	71.2	31.9	17.5	24.2	32.3	41.6	28.8
15 - 19 "	306.9	35.3	80.0	32.8	18.1	27.0	34.6	44.6	34.5
20 - 24 "	335.9	31.8	112.6	32.0	16.1	30.6	31.2	45.5	36.0
25 - 29 "	318.5	29.5	115.9	32.7	15.6	25.5	28.5	42.6	28.2
30 - 34 "	313.4	30.9	101.3	36.1	17.0	24.9	31.3	44.1	27.7
35 - 39 "	294.5	31.0	84.7	35.2	16.7	24.8	31.5	43.4	27.3
40 - 44 "	278.1	30.0	77.7	31.9	16.1	23.4	30.5	41.8	26.7
45 - 49 "	253.2	27.7	68.7	28.2	14.8	22.2	27.7	38.3	25.7
50 - 54 "	234.8	26.5	63.7	24.7	13.5	21.1	25.8	35.8	23.9
55 - 59 "	206.7	23.8	55.5	21.0	11.6	18.6	23.2	32.3	20.7
60 - 64 "	160.4	18.2	44.4	14.9	8.8	14.4	18.5	25.0	16.2
65 - 69 "	135.1	15.7	36.8	11.2	8.0	12.2	15.8	21.6	14.0
70 - 74 "	113.6	13.4	30.6	8.6	6.8	10.1	13.1	18.4	12.5
75 - 79 "	89.6	11.3	23.2	6.8	5.6	8.2	10.2	14.2	10.1
80 - 84 "	61.5	8.1	15.0	4.9	3.7	5.6	7.0	9.8	7.3
85 years and over	42.8	5.8	10.4	3.4	2.4	3.8	4.5	6.7	5.8
Total	3,978.9	436.0	1,137.6	423.6	227.0	344.5	427.1	585.5	397.7
Males									
0 - 4 years	145.6	16.4	39.5	18.4	8.9	12.5	15.9	20.6	13.4
5 - 9 "	137.7	16.3	35.6	16.3	8.7	12.0	15.6	19.9	13.3
10 - 14 "	144.2	17.1	36.4	16.4	9.1	12.4	16.6	21.3	14.9
15 - 19 "	157.0	18.3	40.5	16.9	9.5	14.1	17.9	22.6	17.3
20 - 24 "	168.2	16.2	54.5	16.5	8.5	15.6	16.7	22.5	17.7
25 - 29 "	159.4	15.1	56.6	16.7	8.0	13.0	14.4	21.7	13.9
30 - 34 "	157.2	15.7	50.6	17.9	8.7	12.7	15.8	22.1	13.6
35 - 39 "	146.5	15.5	41.5	17.7	8.4	12.4	15.8	21.6	13.6
40 - 44 "	138.2	14.9	37.8	16.0	8.2	11.9	15.1	21.0	13.2
45 - 49 "	126.5	14.1	33.1	14.1	7.6	11.2	14.1	19.3	12.9
50 - 54 "	118.2	13.5	30.6	12.5	7.0	10.8	13.3	18.2	12.3
55 - 59 "	104.9	12.4	26.9	10.9	5.9	9.5	11.7	16.5	11.0
60 - 64 "	80.6	9.5	21.3	7.6	4.6	7.2	9.5	12.6	8.5
65 - 69 "	66.0	7.9	16.8	5.6	3.9	6.1	7.8	10.6	7.2
70 - 74 "	53.1	6.5	13.3	4.0	3.3	4.9	6.3	8.6	6.2
75 - 79 "	37.3	4.9	8.9	2.8	2.5	3.5	4.4	5.9	4.4
80 - 84 "	23.2	3.2	5.0	1.9	1.5	2.2	2.8	3.7	2.9
85 years and over	12.9	1.8	2.6	1.1	0.8	1.2	1.4	2.0	2.0
Total	1,976.7	219.3	551.5	213.2	115.2	173.3	215.1	290.8	198.2
Females									
0 - 4 years	139.3	15.8	37.7	17.2	8.7	12.0	15.0	19.9	13.0
5 - 9 "	130.4	15.1	33.3	15.4	8.4	11.4	14.8	19.5	12.6
10 - 14 "	136.9	16.5	34.7	15.4	8.4	11.8	15.7	20.3	13.9
15 - 19 "	149.9	17.0	39.5	15.9	8.6	12.9	16.8	22.0	17.1
20 - 24 "	167.6	15.6	58.1	15.5	7.6	15.0	14.5	23.0	18.3
25 - 29 "	159.0	14.4	59.3	16.0	7.6	12.4	14.1	20.8	14.3
30 - 34 "	156.2	15.2	50.7	18.1	8.3	12.1	15.5	22.0	14.2
35 - 39 "	148.0	15.5	43.2	17.5	8.2	12.4	15.7	21.8	13.7
40 - 44 "	139.9	15.1	39.9	15.9	7.9	11.5	15.4	20.8	13.5
45 - 49 "	126.7	13.6	35.5	14.2	7.2	11.0	13.6	18.9	12.7
50 - 54 "	116.6	12.9	33.1	12.1	6.5	10.2	12.5	17.6	11.6
55 - 59 "	101.8	11.4	28.6	10.1	5.7	9.1	11.4	15.8	9.7
60 - 64 "	79.8	8.7	23.2	7.3	4.2	7.1	9.0	12.5	7.7
65 - 69 "	69.2	7.8	20.0	5.6	4.0	6.1	8.0	10.9	6.8
70 - 74 "	60.5	6.9	17.3	4.6	3.5	5.2	6.8	9.8	6.3
75 - 79 "	52.2	6.4	14.3	4.0	3.1	4.7	5.8	8.2	5.7
80 - 84 "	38.2	4.8	10.0	3.0	2.3	3.4	4.2	6.1	4.4
85 years and over	29.8	3.9	7.7	2.3	1.6	2.6	3.1	4.7	3.8
Total	2,002.2	216.7	586.0	210.4	111.8	171.2	212.0	294.7	199.4

¹ Preliminary

Table 4 Estimated Population aged 15 years and over classified by Sex, Regional Authority Area and Marital Status, April 2003¹

Sex and Region	Total	Single	Married	Separated ²	Widowed
000					
Persons					
State	3,144.8	1,310.6	1,534.5	105.9	193.8
Border	338.8	131.6	173.5	10.8	22.9
Dublin	920.4	428.8	405.7	35.7	50.3
Mid-East	324.4	125.0	171.9	10.9	16.6
Midland	174.8	67.9	90.4	5.1	11.4
Mid-West	272.3	107.7	140.1	7.5	17.0
South-East	333.5	128.0	171.4	11.7	22.4
South-West	463.9	186.2	228.5	16.6	32.6
West	316.6	135.5	153.0	7.6	20.5
Males					
State	1,549.2	697.4	769.8	40.9	41.0
Border	169.5	73.5	87.2	4.2	4.7
Dublin	440.0	212.1	203.2	13.1	11.6
Mid-East	162.1	67.7	86.5	4.3	3.6
Midland	88.5	38.9	45.1	2.3	2.3
Mid-West	136.3	60.0	69.9	2.9	3.5
South-East	167.0	70.6	87.0	4.3	5.1
South-West	228.9	100.5	114.7	7.0	6.8
West	156.7	74.2	76.3	2.7	3.5
Females					
State	1,595.6	613.2	764.6	65.0	152.8
Border	169.3	58.1	86.3	6.6	18.3
Dublin	480.4	216.7	202.4	22.5	38.7
Mid-East	162.3	57.4	85.3	6.6	13.1
Midland	86.3	29.0	45.3	2.8	9.1
Mid-West	136.0	47.7	70.2	4.6	13.5
South-East	166.5	57.4	84.4	7.4	17.3
South-West	235.0	85.7	113.9	9.6	25.8
West	159.9	61.3	76.8	4.9	17.0

¹ Preliminary

² Including divorced

Table 5 Estimated Migration classified by Sex and Country of Destination/Origin, 1996 - 2003

Sex / Year ending April		Emigrants				Immigrants				Net migration
		UK	Rest of EU	USA	Rest of world	Total	UK	Rest of EU	USA	Total
000										
Persons										
1996	14.1	5.1	5.2	6.8	31.2	17.6	7.2	6.4	8.0	39.2
1997	11.6	3.8	3.4	6.6	25.3	20.3	8.1	6.7	9.4	44.5
1998	11.8	5.9	5.3	5.6	28.6	22.1	9.1	5.1	9.7	46.0
1999	11.2	5.5	5.3	9.5	31.5	22.3	10.2	5.9	10.5	48.9
2000	7.2	4.0	4.0	10.0	26.6	20.8	11.7	5.5	14.5	52.6
2001	7.8	5.6	3.4	9.5	26.2	20.6	10.3	6.7	21.5	59.0
2002	7.4	4.8	4.8	8.5	25.6	19.1	11.3	6.6	29.9	66.9
2003 ¹	5.9	4.6	1.9	8.3	20.7	13.5	9.7	4.7	22.5	50.5
Males										
1996	6.7	2.2	2.7	3.6	15.3	8.4	3.2	2.8	4.3	18.8
1997	5.4	1.8	2.1	3.2	12.5	10.4	3.9	2.7	4.9	22.0
1998	6.0	2.3	3.3	2.3	13.9	11.4	3.5	2.7	5.0	22.7
1999	5.2	2.2	2.9	5.1	15.5	11.8	4.6	2.8	5.3	24.5
2000	3.4	2.4	2.1	5.2	13.1	10.4	4.9	2.8	8.1	26.2
2001	3.4	2.0	2.0	5.2	12.6	10.2	5.0	2.7	12.2	30.1
2002	3.5	2.1	2.8	4.2	12.7	9.3	4.6	2.9	14.4	31.3
2003 ¹	3.4	2.0	1.2	5.1	11.7	7.6	5.0	2.4	10.9	25.9
Females										
1996	7.4	2.8	2.5	3.2	15.9	9.2	3.9	3.6	3.7	20.4
1997	6.1	2.0	1.3	3.4	12.9	9.9	4.2	4.0	4.5	22.6
1998	5.8	3.6	2.0	3.2	14.7	10.6	5.5	2.4	4.7	23.3
1999	6.0	3.2	2.4	4.4	16.1	10.5	5.7	3.0	5.2	24.4
2000	3.7	3.1	1.9	4.8	13.5	10.5	6.8	2.7	6.4	26.4
2001	4.4	3.6	1.5	4.3	13.6	10.4	5.4	4.0	9.3	29.0
2002	3.9	2.7	2.0	4.3	12.9	9.8	6.7	3.7	15.5	35.6
2003 ¹	2.5	2.7	0.7	3.2	9.0	6.0	4.7	2.3	11.7	24.6

¹ Preliminary

Table 6 Estimated Migration classified by Sex and Age Group, 1996 - 2003

Sex / Year ending April	Emigrants					Immigrants					Net migration		
	0 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	Total	0 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64		65 and over	Total
000													
Persons													
1996	0.9	21.4	8.1	0.7	0.0	31.2	6.6	10.9	16.9	3.6	1.2	39.2	8.0
1997	0.3	19.4	5.6	0.0	0.0	25.3	6.4	13.8	18.2	4.7	1.5	44.5	19.2
1998	1.6	21.1	5.8	0.2	0.0	28.6	7.5	12.4	19.9	4.3	1.8	46.0	17.4
1999	0.0	23.1	7.6	0.3	0.6	31.5	7.0	15.3	21.5	4.1	0.9	48.9	17.3
2000	0.0	21.4	4.6	0.1	0.6	26.6	7.1	16.8	23.4	4.0	1.2	52.6	26.0
2001	0.0	21.2	4.4	0.0	0.7	26.2	7.9	16.4	29.5	4.3	0.8	59.0	32.8
2002	2.5	18.7	3.1	0.1	1.2	25.6	7.0	19.8	35.2	4.2	0.8	66.9	41.3
2003 ¹	0.5	12.2	7.0	0.6	0.5	20.7	6.2	16.8	22.3	3.9	1.2	50.5	29.8
Males													
1996	0.4	9.8	5.1	0.0	0.0	15.3	3.1	4.2	8.7	2.2	0.6	18.8	3.5
1997	0.1	9.0	3.4	0.0	0.0	12.5	2.9	5.9	9.6	2.7	0.8	22.0	9.5
1998	0.4	10.1	3.2	0.2	0.0	13.9	3.4	5.1	11.1	2.1	0.9	22.7	8.8
1999	0.0	10.4	4.6	0.0	0.4	15.5	3.6	6.1	11.7	2.5	0.6	24.5	9.0
2000	0.0	10.2	2.6	0.0	0.3	13.1	3.6	6.8	12.7	2.6	0.6	26.2	13.1
2001	0.0	9.9	2.4	0.0	0.4	12.6	4.1	6.6	16.3	2.5	0.5	30.1	17.5
2002	1.2	9.0	1.7	0.0	0.8	12.7	3.2	8.0	17.5	2.3	0.3	31.3	18.6
2003 ¹	0.3	6.7	3.9	0.4	0.4	11.7	3.0	7.5	12.3	2.4	0.6	25.9	14.2
Females													
1996	0.6	11.7	3.0	0.7	0.0	15.9	3.6	6.7	8.1	1.3	0.6	20.4	4.4
1997	0.2	10.4	2.2	0.0	0.0	12.9	3.5	7.8	8.6	2.0	0.7	22.6	9.7
1998	1.2	10.9	2.5	0.0	0.0	14.7	4.1	7.3	8.8	2.2	0.9	23.3	8.6
1999	0.0	12.7	3.0	0.3	0.1	16.1	3.4	9.2	9.9	1.6	0.3	24.4	8.3
2000	0.0	11.2	2.0	0.1	0.3	13.5	3.6	10.1	10.7	1.4	0.6	26.4	12.9
2001	0.0	11.3	2.0	0.0	0.3	13.6	3.8	9.8	13.2	1.8	0.3	29.0	15.3
2002	1.2	9.8	1.4	0.1	0.4	12.9	3.8	11.8	17.7	1.9	0.5	35.6	22.7
2003 ¹	0.2	5.4	3.1	0.2	0.1	9.0	3.2	9.3	10.0	1.6	0.6	24.6	15.6

¹ Preliminary

Table 7 Estimated Immigration classified by Sex and Nationality, 1996 - 2003

Sex and Nationality	Immigrants							
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 ¹
000								
Persons								
Irish	17.7	20.8	24.3	26.7	24.8	26.3	27.0	17.5
UK	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.2	8.4	9.0	7.4	6.9
Rest of EU	5.0	5.5	6.1	6.9	8.2	6.5	8.1	6.9
USA	4.0	4.2	2.3	2.5	2.5	3.7	2.7	1.6
Rest of world	4.2	5.5	4.7	4.5	8.6	13.6	21.7	17.7
Total	39.2	44.5	46.0	48.9	52.6	59.0	66.9	50.5
Males								
Irish	8.2	10.2	12.3	13.7	11.8	13.2	12.4	9.4
UK	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.5	4.1	3.7
Rest of EU	2.2	2.5	2.3	3.0	3.9	3.1	3.1	3.2
USA	1.6	1.8	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.7	0.7
Rest of world	2.4	2.9	2.5	2.4	5.2	8.1	11.0	8.8
Total	18.8	22.0	22.7	24.5	26.2	30.1	31.3	25.9
Females								
Irish	9.5	10.7	11.9	13.0	13.0	13.1	14.6	8.1
UK	3.9	3.8	4.4	3.9	4.3	4.5	3.3	3.1
Rest of EU	2.8	3.1	3.8	3.9	4.4	3.5	4.9	3.7
USA	2.4	2.5	1.1	1.4	1.4	2.5	2.0	0.9
Rest of world	1.8	2.6	2.2	2.1	3.4	5.4	10.8	8.8
Total	20.4	22.6	23.3	24.4	26.4	29.0	35.6	24.6

¹ Preliminary

Background Notes

Source of Migration data The principal source of information for the estimation of the gross annual migration flows is the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS - formerly annual Labour Force Survey), which also provides the basis for the classification of the flows by sex, age group, origin/destination and nationality (immigrants only).

Other migration indicators are also used. These include:

- the continuous Country of Residence Inquiry of passengers, conducted at airports and seaports
- the Register of Electors
- the Child Benefit Scheme
- the number of visas granted
- the number of work permits issued/renewed
- the number of asylum applications

Coverage The reference period for the population estimates is mid-April of the years shown while the migration flows are in respect of the twelve months to mid-April of the corresponding years. The population classified by age and sex for years 1996 and 2002 are taken from the Census of Population held in those years. The population and migration estimates for the 1997-2001 period have been revised in the light of the 2002 population details.

Revision of inter-censal population estimates The change in population between successive Censuses of Population reflects the effect of births and deaths and all movements of persons into and out of the State between both dates. As the number of births and deaths is known from the regular vital statistics, the residual provides a measure of the overall net migration (i.e., the difference between inward and outward flows) for the six year inter-censal period.

The population estimate for April 2002, based on projecting forward the 1996 Census base figure using the existing methodology, was approximately 20,000 less than the Census outturn. Overall, this reflected a very good degree of accordance given the high levels of migration that had occurred over the inter-censal period. However, a closer comparison of the 2002 Census one year inflow figures with those of the QNHS suggested that the latter may have been significantly underestimating the magnitude of both the inward and outward gross flows.

Respondents to the QNHS are surveyed over 5 successive quarters. In Q3 and Q4 of the year N and in Q1 of year N+1 respondents being surveyed for the first time are asked where they were living in April of year N. Then in Q2 of year N+1 **all** respondents are asked where they were living in April of year N irrespective of whether or not they had answered the question already in an earlier quarter. The answer given in Q2 of year N+1 was taken as the basis of the annual immigration estimates as it replicated more closely the situation applying previously when the methodology was based on the annual Labour Force Survey.

However, upon detailed examination of the consistency of the replies given in the QNHS, it was discovered that a significant minority of respondents were changing their original answer – when asked the immigration question for the first time they replied ‘outside the State’ but when asked the immigration question again during Q2 they replied they were resident in the State during the previous April. Furthermore, since the estimates of the level of immigration in 2001/2002 derived from the first QNHS responses were much closer to the 2002 Census one year inflows it was decided to change the methodology to correct for this response bias. This revised upwards considerably the previous estimates of immigrants, in particular for years 2000, 2001 and 2002. As these revisions were larger than the previous observed difference between the Census and the population estimates for 2002, this resulted in the estimates of emigrants also being revised upwards.

Revision of results While at the overall level the population estimates cover persons resident in private and non-private households (i.e., institutions), the breakdowns provided are based solely on the QNHS which covers private households only. Because there are asylum seekers who are accommodated in institutions such as hotels and hostels, the classification of immigrants by country of origin (*Table 5*) and nationality (*Table 7*) for more recent years may be subject to a wider margin of error than the other estimates in this release. The number of migrants accommodated in institutions is estimated to be in the region of about 4,500 in the year to April 2003.