

List of Tables

<i>Table 1: Population Change in County Limerick 1986 - 2002</i>	17
<i>Table 2: Population Change in Ireland 1996 - 2002</i>	17
<i>Table 3: Population & Distribution Trends in County Limerick</i>	18
<i>Table 4: Population of Towns in County Limerick</i>	19
<i>Table 5: Population of Electoral Areas in County Limerick, 2002</i>	20
<i>Table 6: Population Projections in County Limerick</i>	21
<i>Table 7: Length of National Roads (km) 2003</i>	23
<i>Table 8: Length of Regional & Local Roads (km)</i>	23
<i>Table 9: Major Projects in Progress</i>	24
<i>Table 10: Bus Éireann Service to Major Cities & Towns</i>	25
<i>Table 11: Bus Eireann Services to Towns/Villages in County Limerick</i>	25
<i>Table 12: Rail Service to Major Cities/Towns</i>	28
<i>Table 13: Passenger Numbers through Shannon Airport</i>	29
<i>Table 14: Direct International Flights to/from Shannon Airport</i>	29
<i>Summer 2004)</i>	29
<i>Table 15: Passenger Numbers through Kerry Airport</i>	30
<i>Table 16: Flights to/from Kerry Airport 2004</i>	30
<i>Table 17: Foynes Port - Imports and Exports (Tonnes)</i>	31
<i>Table 18: Some Comparisons between Broadband and Traditional dial-up Internet access</i>	34
<i>Table 19: Water Supply to Households in County Limerick</i>	35
<i>Table 20: Water & Sewerage Investment Programme 2003-2005</i>	35
<i>Table 21: Number of New Housing Completions</i>	36
<i>Table 22: Numbers Employed by Sector in County Limerick</i>	39
<i>Table 23: Percentage of Population in each Social Class 2002</i>	40
<i>Table 24: Numbers Unemployed in Labour Force</i>	41
<i>Table 25: Unemployment Rate classified by ILO Status, 2002</i>	41
<i>Table 26: Number Unemployed in Limerick 2003</i>	42
<i>Table 27: The no. of recipients of Unemployment Payments in the offices listed*</i>	42
<i>Table 28: Average Gross Value Added Figures for Mid West Region (1995-2001)</i> ...	45
<i>Table 29: Total & Disposable Income per person in 2001</i>	46
<i>Table 30: Industrial Local Units, 2000 – Activity in each County & the Mid West Region</i>	46
<i>Table 31: Number of Private Cars</i>	47

<i>Table 32: Number of New Vehicles Licensed (includes all class of vehicles)</i>	47
<i>Table 33: Grants Paid by Shannon Development to Companies in County Limerick.</i>	49
<i>Table 34: Employment in Indigenous Industry in County Limerick</i>	50
<i>Table 35: Employment in Overseas Companies in County Limerick</i>	50
<i>Table 36: CEB Figures - Period 01/01/2000 - 31/12/2003</i>	52
<i>Table 37: County Limerick Land Figures</i>	53
<i>Table 38: Role of Agriculture in the Irish Economy</i>	54
<i>Table 39: County Limerick Farms Classified by Type</i>	54
<i>Table 40: Number of Farmers by age in County Limerick, 2000</i>	55
<i>Table 41: Projected Future Farming Numbers for County Limerick in 2010*</i>	56
<i>Table 42: Major Visitor Attractions and Activities in County Limerick</i>	59
<i>Table 43: Passenger Movement via Aer Rianta Airports 2002</i>	60
<i>Table 44: Overseas Tourism to the Shannon Region</i>	60
<i>Table 45: Overseas and Domestic Visitors to the Shannon Region (000s)</i>	61
<i>Table 46: Overseas Tourists to individual Counties in the Shannon Region 2002 (000s)</i>	61
<i>Table 47: Visitor Numbers to Attractions in Co. Limerick (2003)</i>	62
<i>Table 48: County Limerick Hydrometric Area 24* - % Levels of Pollution</i>	65
<i>Table 49: Limerick County Household Waste Composition 2001 & 2002</i>	67
<i>Table 50: Municipal Waste Composition – Limerick County v National</i>	67
<i>Table 51: Waste Recycled in County Limerick, 2003</i>	68
<i>Table 52: Number of Primary School Pupils in County Limerick</i>	71
<i>Table 53: Number of National School Teachers in County Limerick</i>	72
<i>Table 55: Number of Second Level Schools</i>	73
<i>Table 56: Number of Second Level Students</i>	73
<i>Table 57: Number of Students in University of Limerick (U.L.) & Mary Immaculate College (M.I.C.)</i>	74
<i>Table 58: Number of Students in Limerick Institute of Technology</i>	74
<i>Table 59: Highest Level of Education Attained 2002 (over 15)</i>	74
<i>Table 60: Percentage of Resident Population with Third Level Qualifications</i>	75
<i>Table 61: Limerick Students in HEA Colleges (2001/02)</i>	75
<i>Table 62: Participation in Adult Education</i>	76
<i>Table 63: Total Number of Patients treated in the MWHB Region in 2003</i>	77
<i>Table 64: Total Births in the Mid West Region</i>	79
<i>Table 66: Age breakdown of mothers in 1997 and 2002, Mid West region (CSO)</i>	80
<i>Table 67: Main Causes of Death in the Mid-West Region, 2001</i>	81

<i>Table 68: Rates and age breakdown of young people who have consumed alcohol within the previous month in the Mid-West</i>	82
<i>Table 69: Number of headline offences recorded per 1,000 population</i>	87
<i>Table 70: Number Unemployed in County Limerick</i>	89
<i>Table 71: Number in receipt of Unemployment Welfare in Limerick (2003)</i>	90
<i>Table 72: Age Profile of Unemployed in Limerick (2003)</i>	90
<i>Table 73: FIS (Family Income Support)</i>	91
<i>Table 74: Number of One Parent Families in County Limerick, 2003</i>	91
<i>Table 75: Number of Old People receiving pensions in Limerick (2003)</i>	92
<i>Table 76: Number of older people living alone in County Limerick, 2002</i>	92
<i>Table 77: Number of people in receipt of Disability Allowance in</i>	93
<i>Table 78: Estimated number of Person with Physical/Sensory Disabilities in the Mid-West Region</i>	93
<i>Table 79: Age/Disability Profile of Persons with an Intellectual Disability within the Mid-West Region</i>	94
<i>Table 80: Age Structure of the Travelling Community (2002)</i>	95
<i>Table 81: Traveller Accommodation Provided in Co. Limerick</i>	96
<i>Table 82: National 2nd Level Education Retention Rates</i>	98
<i>Table 83: County Limerick Retention Rates</i>	98
<i>Table 84: Analysis of Rent Returns at March 2004</i>	100
<i>Table 85: Analysis of Occupation Status of Housing Waiting List, Feb. 2004</i>	100
<i>Table 86: Relative Deprivation Scores, 2002</i>	101
<i>Table 87: Construction of Deprivation Indices</i>	102
<i>Table 88: Public Libraries, Opening Hours & Services</i>	106
<i>Table 89: Ability to speak Irish</i>	107

List of Appendices

<i>APPENDIX 1 - Population By Area</i>	<i>109</i>
<i>APPENDIX 2 - Water Services Investment Programme 2004 - 2006</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>APPENDIX 3 - Water Services Investment Programme 2007 - 2012</i>	<i>115</i>
<i>APPENDIX 4 - Agriculture Disadvantaged Area Status by District Electoral Division in County Limerick.....</i>	<i>116</i>
<i>APPENDIX 5 - River Quality in County Limerick.....</i>	<i>121</i>
<i>APPENDIX 6 - List of County Limerick Primary Schools</i>	<i>122</i>
<i>APPENDIX 7 - List of County Limerick Secondary Schools.....</i>	<i>125</i>
<i>APPENDIX 8 - County of Origin of UL/MIC Students.....</i>	<i>126</i>
<i>APPENDIX 9 - Post Offices in County Limerick.....</i>	<i>127</i>
<i>APPENDIX 10 - Proposed Natural Heritage Areas – County Limerick.....</i>	<i>128</i>
<i>APPENDIX 11 - Major Sites of Archeological importance in Limerick in State Ownership or Guardianship</i>	<i>129</i>

List of Maps

Map 1 – Limerick County Principal Roads and Railway Lines

Map 2 – Limerick County – Population of Towns 2002

Map 3 – Population Changes 1996 to 2002 by District Electoral Division

Map 4 – Limerick County Electoral Boundaries

Map 5 – Proposed National Road Projects in Limerick

Map 6 – Limerick County – Bus Eireann Routes

Map 7 – Bord Gais, European Gas Network 2003

Map 8 – Telecommunications Broadband Access Network, 2003

Map 9 – Telecommunications Broadband Backbone Network, 2003

Map 10 – Limerick Metropolitan Area Network

Map 11 – Limerick County – Proposed Water/Sewerage Investment

Map 12 – Limerick County – Unemployment Rates by D.E.D. 2002

Map 13 – Limerick County Electoral Divisions covered by Leader Group

Map 14 – Limerick County – Agriculture Disadvantage Area Status by District Electoral Division

Map 15 – Limerick County Principal Tourist Attractions

Map 16 – Limerick County Secondary Schools

Map 17 – Limerick County Health Care Centres

Map 18 – Limerick County Childcare Facilities

Map 19 – Limerick County Garda Stations

Map 20 – Limerick County - Relative Affluence & Deprivation, 2002

Map 21 – Limerick County – Change in Relative Deprivation 1991- 2002

Background

A Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2011 has been prepared by Limerick County Development Board and was launched in April 2002.

An important study that formed the basis of this Strategy was the “Economic, Social and Cultural Analysis of County Limerick”, published in May 2001. The Board gave a commitment in the strategy that “after each census of population and more frequently if circumstances warrant same the analysis will be revised”. This analysis will assist the Board and other agencies in assessing the success of its activities and comparisons can be made with the study carried out in 2001.

The contribution to the compilation of data by the various agencies including members of the Board is acknowledged. A special thanks to the staff of Community & Enterprise section and in particular Ms. Alyson Casey who obtained statistics, formulated the submissions and presented data in text, tabular or map format as appropriate for ease of reference.

Where We Are Now

From the analysis to date, the following are the salient points in relation to County Limerick at the present time.

Location

County Limerick is situated in the Mid West of Ireland. The nearest airports are 24 kilometres in Shannon, Co. Clare and 32 kilometres in Farranfore, Co. Kerry. Rail links to Limerick are available from Dublin/Cork. There is an extensive bus service to Limerick from all major population centres outside the county.

Population

The total population in County Limerick in 2002 was 121,281, which showed an increase of 7.3% since 1996. County Limerick is characterised by a large number of small centres of population, with 71% of the population living in centres below 1,500.

Population Movement

There has been a trend of continued movement of population from the West, South and East of the County towards an area approximately within a 30 kilometre radius of Limerick City. In 2002 the population density in County Limerick was 44.27 persons per square kilometre and the most densely populated District Electoral Division was Ballycummin, 665.1 persons per square kilometre.

Infrastructure

There is a planned programme of infrastructural development under the National Development Plan. Infrastructural development is also underway in County Limerick, for instance there are a number of major road projects currently underway and 57 water and sewerage schemes have been identified as being required or in need of improvement.

Employment

The largest employment sector in County Limerick in 2002 was the tertiary (services) sector employing 70%, compared to the secondary (manufacturing, etc) sector employing 21% and the primary sector (agriculture, etc) employing 9%.

Agriculture

76% of the total land area in County Limerick is used for agriculture. County Limerick showed a reduction in agricultural employment between 1996 and 2002, which reflects the national trend. However, the role of non-agricultural activity in boosting farm income has increased in recent years.

Tourism

The tourism product and infrastructure in County Limerick is improving, thanks to private sector investment and the co-operation of the relevant agencies.

Unemployment

Unemployment has been showing a downward trend. In 1996 there were 5,163 people unemployed in County Limerick and by 2002 this had fallen to 3,599.

Environment

The Maigue and the Deel were the most polluted rivers in County Limerick in 2001 in terms of phosphorous loading. In 2003 there was 893 tonnes of waste recycled in County Limerick.

Culture, Sport & Recreation

There is an extensive network of libraries in County Limerick and a diversity of arts activity ranging from artists in schools to street theatre festivals. The sports infrastructure is generally strong throughout the County but some minor sports have infrastructural needs.

Childcare

There is a lack of childcare provision in rural areas of the County. When areas of least provision of childcare are compared with areas of deprivation there is a strong correlation between the two.

Local Authority Housing

From a survey of tenants in Council Houses, and also those on the waiting list, approximately 65% of the households are dependent on Social Welfare.

Quality of Life

Buoyancy in the national economy resulting in higher levels of employment, smaller family units and changes in culture, are impacting on the quality of life in County Limerick as elsewhere.

An Introduction to County Limerick

Its Origin

The County of Limerick dates from the year 1210. King John of England set up the first 12 Irish counties that year of which Limerick was one. The new county took its name from the old Viking foundation of Limerick, which was the only town of importance in the area. The derivation of the name Limerick (in Irish, Luimneach) is still a matter of conjecture among authorities on Irish place names. Originally, the name applied not just to the Viking town but to an extensive area along the Shannon shore westward from the town. The most likely explanation of the name is that it derives from Loimneach, meaning, “bare marsh”.

Corporations and Town Commissioners

Adare, Askeaton and Kilmallock were corporate towns from early Norman times, the Corporation of Kilmallock surviving, at least in name, until its final dissolution under the Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Act, 1840. In more recent times there were Town Commissioners in Newcastle West and Rathkeale. The functions of the Rathkeale Town Commissioners were transferred to the Limerick County Board of Health in 1926 and to the County Council on the dissolution of the Boards of Health in 1942. The Newcastle West Town Commissioners were dissolved in 1941 and their functions transferred to the Board of Health, and then in 1942, to the County Council.

Other divisions

County Limerick contains 119 civil (i.e. pre-Reformation) parishes, 58 ecclesiastical parishes, 1,938 townlands, 136 district electoral divisions, 5 local government electoral areas and 2 Dáil constituencies, East and West Limerick

The County lies mainly in the diocese of Limerick. A substantial part of the east of the county is in the archdiocese of Cashel & Emly and a small part of the north east of the county is in the diocese of Killaloe. In recent years the Church of Ireland diocesan boundary was extended to include part of the old diocese of Emly in the Church of Ireland diocese of Limerick.

The Coat of Arms of Limerick County

The green shield and white wavy bands signify the streams of milk flowing from fertile fields of Limerick. Superimposed on the shield is a gold cross in a ring, a design from the Ardagh Chalice, which was found in Ardagh, Co. Limerick. Sarsfield, the heroic defender of Limerick, forms the crest. The motto “Cuimhnigh ar Luimneach” (Remember Limerick) was the war cry of the Wild Geese.

Executive Summary

Physical Features

- *County Limerick covers approximately 2,735 square kilometres.*
- *Galteemore, just inside the Limerick Border has a peak of 920 metres.*
- *County Limerick is drained by the Shannon and its tributaries.*

Demography

- *The population of County Limerick in 2002 was 121,281, which showed an increase of 7.3% between 1996 and 2002.*
- *Only 2 Rural Districts from a total of 8 showed a decline in population.*
- *County Limerick is characterised by a large number of small centres of population, with 71% of the population living in centres below 1,500.*
- *The population of County Limerick is projected to increase to over 135,000 by 2011.*

Infrastructure

- *The County has 136km of national primary roads, 58km of national secondary roads, 468km of regional roads and 2,925km of local roads.*
- *County Limerick has one passenger railway station in Castleconnell (Nenagh to Limerick) with the nearest Dublin/Cork/Kerry rail links in Limerick City and Limerick Junction (Tipperary) and Charleville Co. Cork.*
- *Bus Eireann provides a limited service to towns and villages in County Limerick.*
- *Shannon Airport is located approximately 24km from Limerick County and provides Transatlantic, European and Domestic flights. Passenger numbers exceeded 2.4 million in 2003.*
- *Foynes Port is the only deep-water cargo port located in County Limerick with its main activity being importation.*
- *There are 21 ESB transformer stations located throughout the County ranging in size from 38kv to 220kv. The main transmission centre is located in Killonan, on the N24 near Limerick City.*
- *Natural Gas is available to approximately 20,000 residential customers in County Limerick.*

- *A 44Km fibre optic cable is being completed around Limerick City and its environs, which will lead to easier access to the Internet and other telecommunications services locally.*
- *The total number of houses in County Limerick in 2003 was 38,378.*
- *Under Limerick County Council's Assessment of Needs programme for water and sewerage schemes 2003-2005, 33 schemes were identified as being in need of upgrading or new facilities and a further 24 schemes were identified as priorities in the County for the period 2007 to 2012.*
- *Of the 38,141 houses in 2002, 99.5% were served with a piped water supply.*

Labour Force

- *The largest employment sector in County Limerick in 2002 was the tertiary sector employing 70%, compared to the secondary sector employing 21% and the primary sector employing 9%.*
- *Agricultural employment is continuing to decline showing a reduction of just over 2,000 persons between 1996 and 2002, compared to a decline of 1,000 persons between 1991 and 1996.*
- *In 2002 County Limerick had an unemployment rate of 4.3%, which was lower than the State unemployment rate of 5.7% and the other counties in the mid-west region.*
- *In 2002 the Labour Force in County Limerick was 54,265 of which 50,666 were employed and 3,599 were unemployed.*
- *Employment growth increased in County Limerick by 22% in the period 1996 - 2002.*
- *The overall employment participation rate in County Limerick in 2002 was 93% of the labour force.*

The Economy

- *The Gross Value Added per capita in the Mid-West Region was €22,416 in 2001, which was 93.5% of the State average and 107.5% of the EU average.*
- *The total income for Limerick City and County in 2001 was €20,563 per capita and the disposable income was €16,354, both higher than the Mid-West averages.*
- *The average industrial wage for Limerick was €21,595 in 2000, compared with €17,829 in North Tipperary and €23,347 in Clare.*
- *The number of new vehicles licensed in County Limerick has been steadily declining since a peak in the year 2000, and in 2003 there were 5,731 new cars registered in the County.*
- *In 2000 there were 6,186 farm holdings in County Limerick, with an average farm size of 32.6 hectares (80 acres).*
- *The predominant enterprise on County Limerick farms in 2000 was beef production, which increased by 21% since 1991, whereas dairying fell by almost 40% since 1991.*
- *At the end of 2003 there were 878 Early Retirement Scheme participants in County Limerick. At the beginning of 2004, 187 Limerick farmers were still participating in REPS 1 and 988 farmers were participating in REPS 2.*
- *The area of the County under forestry at the end of 2003 was 22,614 hectares or 8% of the land area, which compares with a national average of 9.9% and an EU average of 24%.*
- *In 2002 there were 963,000 overseas visitors to the Shannon Region with revenue of €305.8m.*
- *The main visitor attractions in County Limerick are The Foynes Flying Boat Museum, Curraghchase Forest Park, Desmond Castle and Adare Heritage Centre.*

The Environment

- *In 2001, the EPA estimated that the Maigue and the Deel were the most polluted rivers in the country in terms of phosphorous loading.*
- *30% of the rivers in hydrometric area 24, (which contain the Maigue and Deel catchments) are classed as unpolluted, compared with a national average of 70%.*
- *Limerick County Council has one landfill in operation at Gortadroma in the West of the County.*
- *This landfill is licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency and in 2003 81,800 tonnes of waste were disposed of at the landfill.*
- *Limerick County Council provides recycling facilities throughout the County with 49 recycling centres and the new Household Waste Recycling Centers in Newcastle West and Kilmallock.*
- *The total quantity of waste recycled in Limerick County in 2003 was 893 tonnes.*

Social Situation

- *County Limerick is served by 116 primary schools and 21 second level schools.*
- *County Limerick VEC provides a range of second level, post-leaving certificate, return to education and literacy programmes.*
- *The percentage of the resident population with third level qualifications in County Limerick is 19.8%, which is high compared to the other counties in the Mid-West Region.*
- *The total number of births in the Mid-West region has increased by 10% between 2001 and 2002 from 6,702 to 5,242.*
- *There are six hospitals in the Mid-West Region, three of which are located in County Limerick; Limerick Regional Hospital which is the main hospital for the region, the Orthopaedic Hospital in Croom and St. Ita's Hospital in Newcastle West.*
- *There are three outdoor and two indoor swimming pools in County Limerick.*
- *There are five town parks in County Limerick and three significant recreational areas in the Clare Glens, Curraghchase Forest Park and Lough Gur.*
- *There is a lack of childcare provision especially in rural areas and childcare provision is particularly poor for children under a year old.*
- *There are a total of 32 Garda Stations located in County Limerick, 3 of which are open on a full time basis.*
- *In 2002 there were 4,870 headline offences recorded in Limerick City & County.*

Social Inclusion

- *In 2002 the Labour Force in County Limerick was 54,265 of which 50,666 were employed and 3,599 were unemployed.*
- *By August 2003 the unemployment rate in the Mid-West region had risen to 5.8%, which was higher than the national average of 5.2%.*
- *In February 2003, there were 4,313 families in receipt of One Parent Family Allowances in County Limerick.*
- *In the 2002 Census the population of County Limerick aged over 65 years was almost 11% or 12,776 persons. Of this 5,805 persons were living alone, 64% female and 36% male.*
- *There were 510 families in Limerick City & County in receipt of family income support in 2003.*
- *There are an estimated 3,300 persons in the Mid-West region eligible for inclusion in the Physical & Sensory Disability database, of which almost 1,000 are children.*
- *There are 2,494 persons registered on the Intellectual Disability database within the Mid-Western Health Board.*
- *Limerick County Council has provided accommodation to 195 traveller families by 2003.*
- *Rathkeale is unique in Ireland; according to the 2002 census up to 30% of the population within the town is estimated as being from the travelling community.*
- *Limerick County's second level education retention rate is slightly better than the National average.*
- *A survey of Local Authority rented households showed that 23.2% of tenants are unemployed, 23.1% are elderly and 18.5% are lone parents.*
- *There were 1,081 families on the Local Authority waiting list in 2003 with 49.4% of the applicants unemployed and 8% being old age pensioners.*

Cultural Situation

- *There is a diversity of arts activities in County Limerick ranging from artists in schools, writer in residence, workshops, exhibitions and street theatre festivals.*
- *County Limerick has an extensive branch network of 26 libraries; a book stock in excess of 400,000; membership of 17,868 and an extensive local studies collection.*
- *The Eigse Michael Hartnett festival includes the largest award for poetry in Irish.*
- *According to the 2002 Census, 51% of people aged 3 years and over in County Limerick were recorded as being able to speak Irish.*
- *There are 34 proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas in County Limerick.*
- *There are 51 sites of archaeological importance in County Limerick that are in state ownership or guardianship.*

Chapter 1 - Physical Features

Introduction

The area of County Limerick is 2,735 square kilometres and is approximately 65 kilometres from East to West and 50 kilometres from North to South. One of the distinguishing features of the landscape of Limerick is its variety. Compressed into a relatively small area we encounter the uplands of the southeast and west of the county, the level farmlands of the central plain, and then the broad expanse of the Shannon Estuary. Each of these differing topographical areas is a product, not just of natural forces but also of the activities of mankind throughout the millennia.

Limerick's Farmland

What has been termed the “extensive farmed lowlands” has long been a feature of the county. The high density of ringforts (i.e. early farmsteads) within the county bears witness to the attraction that the grazing land of Limerick has long had for farmers. Prior to the arrival of man in Ireland, the limestone enriched grazing of Limerick found favour with large native herbivores. The concentration of the remains of the extinct Giant Irish Deer in the county demonstrates this. The famous settlement site at Lough Gur, demonstrates the antiquity of farming activity in the county. Dating back to the Neolithic Period (New Stone Age) the site provides evidence of agricultural activity, such as tillage and cattle raising.

The heavily enclosed rural landscape with its very visible field boundaries, usually in the form of hedgerows, is among the most distinctive features of the farmed landscape of Limerick.

Woodlands

It is likely that Limerick retained much of its woodland cover at least until the late Middle Ages. A substantial part of the woodland legacy of the county is in the shape of demesne plantings. The ordered landscape of the “big house” with their ornamental beech, horse chestnut and other species still features prominently in parts of the county. Adare and its environs spring to mind, but other towns such as Kilmallock possess their own legacy of such estate remnants. Nowadays little survives of the native wild wood that was a feature of the county up until the late Middle Ages. Its place has been taken, to a large extent, by the commercial plantings of non-native spruce species, primarily as a result of EU-led afforestation grant schemes, concentrated to a large extent in the western and upland areas of the county, such as Curraghchase.

The Cultural Landscape

Prior to the emergence of the big house in the county during the 18th century the visible evidence of the residences of former social elites is present in the shape of the tower house. These distinctive structures, often local landmarks, were the dwellings of old English settlers (which had been assimilated into Gaelic Society), and also of prominent Gaelic landholders. They are a particular feature of the east of county. In one sense they marked a transition between the old agricultural systems of the Gaelic structures and the massive process of enclosure that was to follow in the 18th century.

Uplands

While a popular perception of the county is that of low lying level farms with clearly defined field boundaries, a glance at a the map will reveal that a substantial part of the county is upland in nature. The upland areas of the county are among its more striking features. The most important mountainous area is in the south-east of the county, where the Galteemore peak at almost 920 metres is just inside the Limerick border. A number of other Limerick peaks in the Galtee range exceed the 600 metre mark. Peaks in the nearby Ballyhouras reach to 519 and 517 metres respectively and in the Mullaghareirk mountains in the south-west, and in the Sliabh Felim mountains in the north-east, there are a number of peaks which exceed 300 metres. Unlike much of the west of Ireland the upland peat habitats of these parts of the county are in good condition. Like the west of the county, however, an increasing feature of the uplands is the spread of largely mono-cultural spruce populations.

There can be little doubt that the uplands contribute significantly to the visual beauty of the county. The Ballyhouras and the Galtees in particular are popular among walkers and hikers, while in the west of the county the West Limerick Drive, running through the south west of the county gives easy access to the Mullaghareirks and uplands of the Limerick/Kerry border. With the increasing pressures from differing land uses, forestry, agriculture and tourism for example, there is an urgent need for a compromise to be reached between differing land uses in these mountainous regions, not least because of their conservation and scenic interest.

The Shannon Estuary

Traditionally Limerick's path to the sea and an important commercial route for centuries, the Shannon estuary is also important as a wintering area for many bird species. In this respect it is among the most important sites of its type in Europe, in addition to being an important commercial gateway. In terms of commercial activity, though shipping is no longer as important as it once was, the ports of Foynes and Limerick are important commercial centres. This part of the county possesses a character that is unique. The "shallow muddy vastness" of the Shannon Estuary and the haunt of wild fowl makes it one of the last truly wild areas of the county, retaining much of its original character.

The town of Foynes, famous both for its role as a seaplane terminus and also as a port is perhaps one of the main commercial centres of the estuary. The commercial life of the town depends heavily on shipping of course. The town of Askeaton too, once depended heavily on traffic from the Shannon as the Deel River is navigable as far as Askeaton. The maritime tradition of this area of the county, based on trade and also on fishing is unfortunately only a shadow of its former self. It is in the remnants of the old quays and stores and in books such as Roger Moran's "The Wildfowler" that nowadays one can gauge the importance of the maritime tradition to this part of Limerick.

❖ See Map 1 – Limerick County Principal Roads and Railway Lines

Summary

- *County Limerick covers approximately 2,735 square kilometres.*
- *Galteemore, just inside the Limerick Border has a peak of 920 metres.*
- *County Limerick is drained by the Shannon and its tributaries.*

Chapter 2 - Demography

Introduction

In this chapter we will examine the population trends in County Limerick.

2.1 Population Change

2.2 Population Density

2.3 Population Projections

2.1 Population Change

The 2002 Census of Population records County Limerick as having a population of 121,281. This represents an actual increase of 8,278 since the 1996 Census. The pace of population change has also accelerated and County Limerick recorded a 7.3% increase in population in the 1996-2002 Census period, whereas the increase in the 1991-1996 period was 2.8%.

Table 1: Population Change in County Limerick 1986 - 2002

Year	1986	1991	1996	2002
Population	108,290	109,873	113,003	121,281
Actual Change	+7,365	+1,583	+3,130	+8278
% Change	+7.3%	+1.5%	+2.8%	+7.3%

(Source: Census of Ireland 2002)

Table 2: Population Change in Ireland 1996 - 2002

Year	1996	2002	Diff. 1996– 2002	% Diff. 1996 – 2002
Ireland	3,626,087	3,917,203	+291,116	+8%
Mid Western Region	317,069	339,591	+22,522	+7.1%
County Limerick	113,003	121,281	+8,278	+7.3%
Limerick City	52,039	54,023	+1,984	+3.8%
County Clare	94,006	103,277	+9,271	+9.9%
Tipperary North	58,021	61,010	+2,989	+5.1%

(Source: Census of Ireland 2002 & 1996)

Table 3: Population & Distribution Trends in County Limerick

RURAL DISTRICT	1991	1996	2002	INCREASE/ DECREASE 1996-2002	% INCREASE/ DECREASE 1996-2002
Croom	10,803	11,035	11,627	+592	+5.4%
Glin	2,565	2,448	2,360	-88	-3.6%
Kilmallock	14,763	14,578	14,864	+286	+2%
Limerick No. 1	40,177	43,996	50,547	+6551	+14.9%
Mitchelstown No. 2	3,140	3,073	3,049	-24	-0.8%
Newcastle	20,121	19,996	20,610	+614	+3.1%
Rathkeale	13,879	13,495	13,798	+303	+2.2%
Tipperary No. 2	4,425	4,382	4,426	+44	+1.0%
Total Co. Limerick	109,873	113,003	121,281	+8,278	+7.3%

(Source: Census 1991, 1996 & 2002)

Note: For details of District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) in each Rural District see Appendix 1.

The aggregate number of DEDs in each Rural District does not correspond with other administrative areas / boundaries as Rural Districts are no longer of any relevance for administrative purposes, e.g. Electoral Divisions, Dail Constituencies.

The distribution of change in population in the County was reasonably uniform in the 1996-2002 Census period. The above table shows population change by Rural District in that period and indicates that the increase in population was moderately distributed throughout the County with only 2 of the 8 Rural Districts experiencing an actual decline in population. As expected, Limerick No. 1 Rural District (City Environs) experienced the greatest population increase of almost 15%.

Map number 4 shows the area of the County within an approximate 30 kilometre radius of Limerick City with fairly consistent population growth. Beyond this growth area, there is a picture of population levels remaining stagnant or of modest population loss in the more extreme areas of the County.

Table 4: Population of Towns in County Limerick

	1991	1996	2002	% Change ('96-'02)
Suburbs of Limerick	20,573	23,690	29,124	+22.9%
Newcastle west & Environs	3,612	3,618	4,017	+11%
Abbeyfeale	1,501	1,486	1,683	+13.3%
Rathkeale	1,803	1,546	1,362	-11.9%
Kilmallock	1,311	1,231	1,362	+10.6%
Castleconnell	1,391	1,414	1,343	-5.0%
Annacotty	546	586	1,342	+129%
Adare	899	1,042	1,102	+5.8%
Croom	1,090	1,009	1,056	+4.7%
Patrickswell	1,019	1,022	998	-2.3%
Askeaton	893	851	921	+8.2%
Kilfinane	808	766	779	+1.7%
Bruff	850	700	695	-0.7%
Cappamore	744	665	684	+2.9%
Hospital	723	723	621	-14.1%
Caherconlish	668	636	616	-3.1%
Glin	608	554	560	+1.1%
Pallaskenry	469	519	550	+6%
Drumcollogher	387	485	496	+2.3%
Foynes	650	558	491	-12%
Murroe	419	435	464	+6.7%
Athea	455	443	410	-7.4%
Doon	397	388	407	+4.9%
Oola	474	444	391	-11.9%
Shanagolden	416	412	373	-9.5%
Pallasgreen	318	303	368	+21.5%
Ballingarry	420	389	348	-10.5%
Ballylanders	348	318	333	+4.7%
Broadford	295	271	300	+10.7%
Bruree	265	261	299	+14.6%
Ardagh	316	328	270	-17.7%
Mungret	307	292	248	-15.1%
Galbally	244	246	235	-4.5%
Mountcollins	263	271	230	-15.1%
Coonagh	243	215	222	+3.3%
Knocklong	257	248	204	-17.7%
Ballyagran	224	215	185	-14%
O'Briensbridge/Montpelier	165	177	178	+0.6%
Total Environs & Towns	46,206	48,757	55,264	+13.3%
Total Rural Area	63,502	64,256	66,014	+2.7%

(Source: Census 2002 & 1996)

❖ See Appendix 1 - Population by Area

❖ See Map 2 – Limerick County – Population of Towns 2002

Apart from the Environs of Limerick City, where over 24% of the population resided in 2002, County Limerick is predominately rural with only two towns in the County with a population which exceeded 1,500 in 2002 – Newcastle West (4,017) and Abbeyfeale (1,683). Six other towns had a population exceeding 1,000 – Rathkeale (1,362), Kilmallock (1,362), Castleconnell (1,343), Annacotty (1,342), Adare (1,102), and Croom (1,056). 9 towns have a population between 500 and 1,000 with the remaining 22 under 500.

❖ See Map 3 – Limerick County - Population Changes 1996 to 2002 by District Electoral Division.

Some 71% of the population of the Southern & Eastern Region live in towns and cities over 1,500 persons while the comparative figure for County Limerick is 29%. 57% of County Limerick’s population live in rural areas or centres of less than 200 people. This has implications for the provision of key infrastructure and the delivery of public and private services.

(Source: Southern & Eastern Regional Development Strategy 2000-2006)

County Limerick contains five local government electoral areas; Bruff, Castleconnell, Kilmallock, Rathkeale and Newcastle West. The population of each area in 2002 was as follows:

Table 5: Population of Electoral Areas in County Limerick, 2002

Electoral Area	Population 2002
Bruff	32,855
Castleconnell	32,998
Kilmallock	16,998
Rathkeale	18,777
Newcastle West	19,652
Total	121,281

(Source: Census 2002)

Limerick County also contains two Dail Constituencies, East and West Limerick. The population of Limerick East Dail Constituency in 2002 was 115,677, which is made up of 56,716 in County Limerick, 54,023 in Limerick City and 4,938 in County Clare. The population of Limerick West Dail Constituency was 64,565.

❖ See Map 4 – Limerick County Electoral Boundaries

2.2 *Population Density*

In 2002 the population density in County Limerick was 44.27 persons per square kilometre.

The most densely populated District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) in 2002 were Ballycummin (661.5 persons per square kilometre), Limerick North Rural (458.1 persons per square kilometre), Ballysimon (316.27 persons per square kilometre) and Rathkeale Urban (224.4 persons per square kilometre).

The lowest densities were found in the DEDs of Particles (6.8 persons per square kilometre), Doon West (8.6 persons per square kilometre), Kilbeheny (9.6 persons per square kilometre), and Knocknascrow (11.4 persons per square kilometre).

(Source: C.S.O. 2002)

2.3 *Population Projections*

The following is the projected population of the County to the year 2011.

Table 6: Population Projections in County Limerick

Year	2002	2006	2011
Male	59,778	62,841	66,957
Female	61,503	64,331	68,155
Total Population	121,281	127,173	135,111

(Source: Forward Planning, Limerick County Council 2004)

These forecasts are based on the standard cohort component method. The method is dependent on assumptions on migration, morality and fertility, as follows:

- a) unchanged net-migration
- b) mortality rates derived using the CSO methods
- c) fertility rates are those that pertain to the national level.

Summary

- *The population of County Limerick in 2002 was 121,281, which showed an increase of 7.3% between 1996 and 2002.*
- *County Limerick is predominantly rural with only two towns in the County with a population which exceeded 1,500 in 2002 – Newcastle West (4,017) and Abbeyfeale (1,683). Six other towns had a population exceeding 1000 – Rathkeale (1,362), Kilmallock (1,362), Castleconnell (1,343), Annacotty (1,342), Adare (1,102) and Croom (1,056).*
- *County Limerick is characterised by a large number of small centres of population, with 71% of the population living in centres below 1,500.*
- *The population of County Limerick is projected to increase to over 135,000 by 2011.*

Chapter 3 - Key Infrastructure

In this section the current infrastructure of County Limerick is reviewed

3.1 Roads

3.2 Rail/Bus Service

3.3 Airports/Ports

3.4 Energy & Telecommunications Networks

3.5 Housing

3.6 Fire Service

3.1 Roads

Table 7: Length of National Roads (km) 2003

	Ireland (km)	Limerick (km)
National Primary	2,727	136
National Secondary	2,677	58

There are six National Primary Routes in the County, N7, N8, N18, N20, N21 and the N24, totalling 136km. The N69 is the only National Secondary Road that passes through County Limerick.

Table 8: Length of Regional & Local Roads (km)

	Ireland	Limerick
Regional Roads	11,327	468
Local Roads	74,980	2,925
- Local Primary	23,612	1,000
- Local Secondary	31,725	1,413
- Local Tertiary	19,643	512

(Source: Road Design Office, Mungret Feb. 2004)

❖ See Map 1 – Limerick County Principal Roads and Railway Lines

The dispersed nature of the population in County Limerick coupled with relatively small urban centres places heavy demand on its road network. Road traffic in Limerick has increased over the last number of years. The County, in common with Ireland generally relies more on its road network and to a greater extent on the non-national roads, than most of its European partners. Over 90% of passenger and 96% of goods traffic within the country are catered for by the road network.

(Source: National Development Plan 2000 – 2006)

There are a number of major road projects underway (2004).

Table 9: Major Projects in Progress

PROJECT TITLE	OVERALL COST	LENGTH APPROX	STATUS	Scheduled FINISH
N7 Limerick Southern Ring Road – Phase 1	€109M (2003 costs)	10.0KM	Constructed	June 2004
N7 Limerick Southern Ring Road – Phase 2	€355M (2003 costs)	10.0KM	EIS/CPO* Confirmed	2009
N7 Nenagh – Limerick	€307M (2003 costs)	38.0KM	EIS/CPO Confirmed	2008
N24 Pallasgreen to Bansha	€96M (2002 costs)	31.0KM	Prelim Design	2009
N20 Croom – Mallow	€250M (2001 costs)	37KM	Route Selection	Phased
N21 Adare Bypass	€21M (2002 costs)	6.0KM	Route Selection	2008

(Source: Roads Department, Limerick County Council, March 2004)

**EIS: Environmental Impact Statement*

**CPO: Compulsory Purchase Order*

The main objective of these projects is to:

- Improve travel time between major urban centres
- Help achieve the objectives of the Government's Road Safety Strategy in relation to the reduction in fatalities & serious injuries caused by road accidents

❖ See Map 5 – Proposed National Road Projects in Limerick

3.2 *Bus/Rail Service*

Bus Eireann provides a comprehensive service to towns and cities outside Limerick but only a limited service to towns and villages in the County.

❖ See Map 6 – Limerick County - Bus Eireann Routes.

Table 10: Bus Éireann Service to Major Cities & Towns

	Services Weekdays	Services Sundays
Limerick to Dublin	14	14
Limerick to Tralee	10	10
Limerick to Killarney	6	6
Limerick to Cork	14	14
Limerick to Galway	14	14
Limerick to Waterford	6 +1 extra on Friday	6
Limerick to Wexford	4	2
Limerick to Rosslare Harbour	3	2

(Source: Bus Eireann, February 2004)

Table 11: Bus Eireann Services to Towns/Villages in County Limerick

Bus Stop	Weekday	Sunday
Regional Hospital	32	27
Patrickswell	9	4
Adare	25	22
Croagh	25	22
Rathkeale	25	22
Newcastlewest	25	22
Devon Hotel	22	22
Devon Road Cross	22	22
Abbeyfeale	22	22
Mungret	6	1
Clarina	9	1
Kildimo	10	1
Pallaskenry	8	0
Stonehall	8	0
Askeaton	10	1
Borragone	9	1
Shanagolden	5	0
Barrack Cross	7	1
Foynes	10	1
Loughill	2	0

Bus Stop	Weekday	Sunday
Glin	7	1
The Hurlers	27	27
Annacotty	4	0
Daly's Cross	4	0
Casleconnell	4	0
Montpelier	4	0
Caherconlish	4	0
Caherline	4	0
Herbertstown	4	0
Hospital	4	0
Knocklong	2	0
Ballylanders	2	0
Galbally	1	0
Ballyneety	5	0
Fedamore	1	0
Meanus	2	0
Grange	4	0
Bruff	4	0
Kilmallock	3	0
Kilfinane	3	0
Murroe	5	0
Cappamore	5	0
Doon	4	0
Dromkeen	6	6
Pallas	6	6
Oola	6	6
Croom	6	4
Rourke's Cross	14	14
Bruree	2	0
Ballingarry	1	0

(Source: Bus Eireann, February 2004)

There were 150 hackneys and 198 large public service vehicles in County Limerick in 2003.

(Source: Department of Environment and Local Government, February 2004)

Rural Transport

In July 2003, Minister for Transport Seamus Brennan T.D. launched County Limerick & North Cork Transport Group, trading as *Rural Bus*, in Ardagh Community Hall. This Project was established to respond to the lack of publicly accessible transport and currently employs ten people both full time and part time, who co-ordinate rural transport services for residents in rural areas within County Limerick and North Cork. This project proved to be successful during 2003 with 8,892 passengers using the service and at present there are 745 members in the Travel Club of which, 556 are female and 189 are male. 384 members have free passes and 52 are registered as disabled.

The following is a list of services Rural Bus has running for 2004 and the weekday on which each service operates:

Ardagh to Newcastle West	Friday
Athea to Newcastle West	Tuesday
Ballingarry to Newcastle West	Thursday
Ballyhahill to Newcastle West	Friday
Broadford to Newcastle West	Saturday
Camas to Newcastle West	Friday
Dromcolligher to Newcastle West	Saturday
Glensharrold to Newcastle West	Friday
Kilmeedy to Newcastle West	Friday
Loughill to Newcastle West	Friday
Old Mill to Newcastle West	Friday
Grange to Bruff	Friday
Bruff to Drombanna	Thursday
Churchtown to Charleville	Friday
Dromina to Charleville	Saturday
Castletown to Charleville	Friday
Knocklong to Kilmallock	Friday
Kilcornan to Dooradoyle	Thursday
Askeaton to Dooradoyle	Thursday
Hospital to Tipperary	Thursday
Galbally to Mitchelstown	Thursday
Kilmallock to Mitchelstown	Thursday

Contact Rural Bus on 069 78052 for further details.

The County has one passenger railway station in Castleconnell (Nenagh to Limerick Routes) with the nearest Dublin/Cork/Kerry rail links in Limerick City, Charleville Co. Cork and Limerick Junction (Tipperary).

Table 12: Rail Service to Major Cities/Towns

	Services Weekdays	Services Sunday
Limerick-Ennis	7	7
Limerick-Dublin (via Limk. Junction)	10	4
Limerick-Dublin (via Nenagh)	4	2
Limerick-Tralee	5	4
Limerick-Cork	7	5
Limerick-Waterford	5	2
Limerick-Rosslare Harbour	4	3
Charleville – Cork	10	6
Charleville – Dublin	7	6

(Source: Iarnród Eireann, January 2004)

❖ See Map 1 – Limerick County Principal Roads and Railway Lines

3.3 Airports & Ports

Shannon Airport, which is 24km from Limerick, is the main airport in the region.

Table 13: Passenger Numbers through Shannon Airport

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Transatlantic	632,780	682,743	677,068	617,877	685,312
Great Britain	609,587	751,176	714,285	702,313	713,658
Europe	221,089	317,264	359,318	490,743	464,964
Domestic	182,070	164,665	158,362	117,871	135,740
Transit	542,628	492,404	491,692	420,145	399,205
Total	2,188,154	2,408,252	2,404,658	2,353,520	2,400,674

(Source: Aer Rianta, Shannon Airport, January 2004)

The total number of passengers through Shannon Airport in 2003 was 2.4 million, which had increased from 2.35 million in 2002, an increase of 2%. There are Direct International Flights operating to 19 destinations.

Table 14: Direct International Flights to/from Shannon Airport Summer 2004)

Destination	Number of Flights per Week
Atlanta	7
Birmingham	20
Boston	10
Chicago	11
Dublin	10
Frankfurt	1
London Stansted	14
London Heathrow	27
Manchester	7
Minsk	2
Philadelphia	7
Edinburgh	7
Toronto	7
Baltimore	7
Paris	7
Brussels	7
Prestwick	7
New York JFK	7
New York EWR	7

(Source: Aer Rianta, January 2004 - Effective up to 31st October 2004)

Kerry Airport located in Farranfore County Kerry is 32km from Limerick and offers a limited service to a number of destinations.

Table 15: Passenger Numbers through Kerry Airport

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Passenger Numbers	156,000	157,000	167,000	280,000

(Source: Kerry Airport, April 2004)

The total number of passengers through Kerry Airport in 2003 was 280,000, which had significantly increased from 167,000 in 2002, an increase of over 67%.

Table 16: Flights to/from Kerry Airport 2004

Destination	Number of Flights per Week
<i>Scheduled</i>	
Dublin	25
Frankfurt, Germany	7
London, Stansted	14
Manchester	3
<i>Charter</i>	
Lanzarote (May – October)	13 Flights in Total
Malaga (October only)	3 Flights in Total

(Source: Kerry Airport, April 2004)

Ports

Shannon Foynes Port Company is the body responsible for port activity and the safe passage of all marine traffic in the navigable water that runs from Loop Head (Co. Clare) to Kerry Head (Co. Kerry) and eastwards to Limerick City, a distance of 100km and comprising of 500 square km of water.

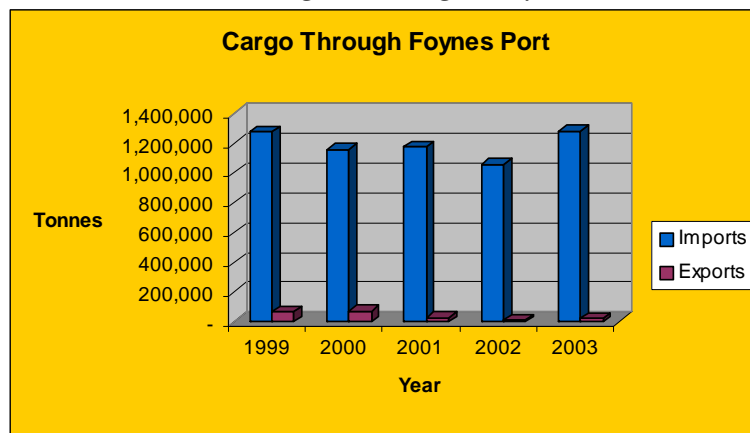
Foynes Port is the only Port in County Limerick which is a deep-water cargo port and its main activity is the importation of goods. Foynes Port is a modern Port with extensive facilities catering for a wide variety of vessels.

Table 17: Foynes Port - Imports and Exports (Tonnes)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Imports	1,275,086	1,156,711	1,174,397	1,059,659	1,282,782.08
Exports	69,057	71,108	29,122	12,583	20,314

(Source: Shannon Foynes Port Company, March 2004)

Chart 1: Cargo Through Foynes Port



(Source: Shannon Foynes Port Company, March 2004)

3.4 Energy/Telecommunications Network

Electricity Supply

Nationally there continues to be a shortage of generating capacity. There are 32 generation stations located throughout the country and it is planned to have further stations in the next 5 to 7 years. A license has been granted for the development of a generation station at Aughinish Alumina, involving a joint venture between Aughinish Alumina Ltd. and Bord Gais, and it is expected to begin generating electricity within 2 years. The E.S.B. are exploring wind farms as a new source of power and it is hoped that in the future this will mean further generation capacity should be available to the E.S.B.

There are 21 E.S.B. transformer stations located throughout County Limerick ranging in size from 38kv to 220kv. Since 2001 2 new stations have been located in Castletroy and the Dock Road and are both 38kv stations. The main transmission centre is located in Killonan on the N24 (Limerick to Tipperary Road).

Natural Gas

Nationally Bord Gais provides natural gas to over 428,000 customers through its 8,850km pipeline network. Of this there are approximately 20,000 residential natural gas customers in County Limerick. Bord Gais large commercial customers include University of Limerick, Dell and all of the Mid-Western Health Board Hospitals. The supply of gas from the Kinsale Field is continuing to decline; however, there has been a recent find of indigenous fields at Seven Heads, off the coast of Cork and at Corrib, off the coast of Mayo. Currently over 80% of the natural gas supplied to Ireland is imported through the European natural gas network.

❖ See Map 7 – Bord Gais, European Gas Network 2003

The main areas in Limerick supplied with natural gas include:

- Limerick urban area
- Adare
- Annacotty
- Castletroy
- Patrickswell
- Raheen

As Natural gas demand in Ireland is expected to grow at 10% per annum, it is likely that there will be future extensions to the gas network.

Telecommunications / Media

Broadband is the general term used to refer to access to extremely fast telecommunications channels, which offer large data carrying capacity and ‘real time’ exchange opportunities. At the end of March 2003 there was a total of 11,850 broadband subscribers in Ireland.

From a user’s perspective, broadband reduces the time it takes to undertake tasks on the internet. This is indicated in the table below when comparing the difference between broadband (512Kb) and traditional dial-up Internet access (56Kb). One comparison is that when downloading a normal web page (100KB) it takes 14 seconds with the traditional dial-up internet access compared to 1 second with broadband.

Table 18: Some Comparisons between Broadband and Traditional dial-up Internet access

Downloading	Dial-Up (56Kb)	DSL* (512Kb)
Normal Web Page (100KB)	14 sec	1 sec
10 Plain Text E-Mails (10x15KB)	21 sec	2 sec
Software Package (3.5MB)	8.5 min	1 min
Film Trailer (27MB)	37 min	7.5 min

(Source: Telecoms Strategy Group – Interim Report, Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, 2003)

*DSL: Digital Subscriber Line

A 44km long underground fibre optic broadband cable ring, or Metropolitan Area Network, is being laid around Limerick City and its environs, which will lead to greater competition and easier access to the Internet and other telecommunications services locally. The broadband loop will provide the capacity to transmit large amounts of information at high speed from place to place in Limerick and onwards to other locations. The new network, which was completed in May 2004, also paves the way for more job creation as well as inward and indigenous investment in the Limerick area.

- ❖ See Map 8 – Telecommunications Broadband Access Network, April 2003
- ❖ See Map 9 – Telecommunications Broadband Backbone Network, April 2003
- ❖ See Map 10 – Limerick Metropolitan Area Network

3.5 Housing

The total number of houses in County Limerick in 2002 was 38,378, an increase of 4,892 or 14.6% since 1996.

Table 19: Water Supply to Households in County Limerick

Source	1991 Households		2002 Households	
	Number	%	Number	%
Public Mains	14,994	49	21,463	56
Local Authority Group Scheme	8,751	29	6,829	18
Private Source	6,107	20	8,690	23
No Piped Water	585	1.9	206	0.5
Not Stated	75	0.2	953	2.5
Total	30,512		38,141	

(Source: Census 2002, Volume 13 Housing)

In 1991, almost 98% of the households were served with a piped supply of water, with 49% of the households obtaining their supply from public water schemes. According to the 2002 Census 99.5% of households were served with a piped supply of water. However of those stated just 0.5% or 206 households did not have a proper water supply. By 2002, 56% of households were served by public water schemes, an increase of 7% from 1991. Since 1991 the number of households served by the Local Authority group scheme has decreased by 11%.

Table 20: Water & Sewerage Investment Programme 2003-2005

	Ireland	€m Est. Cost	County Limerick	€m Est. Cost
Under Construction	41	1001	3	230
To Commence Construction (2004-'05)	367	2962	8	48
New Schemes (being planned)	94	276	3	6
Serviced Land Initiative & Rural Towns & Village Initiative	231	404	5	4
Total	735	5043	19	288

(Source: Limerick County Council, Assessment of Needs 2003;
Department of Environment & Local Government Water Services Investment
Programme 2003-2005)

The above table is the water and sewerage investment programme approved by the Department of Environment & Local Government in mid 2003. Under Limerick County Council's Assessment of Needs Programme 2003-2005, 33 schemes were identified as being in need of upgrading or new facilities and a further 24 schemes were identified as priorities in the County for the period 2007 to 2012.

- ❖ See Map 11 – Co. Limerick - Proposed Water/Sewerage Investment
- ❖ See Appendix 2 & 3 – Water Services Investment Programme

Table 21: Number of New Housing Completions

Houses	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total Ireland	46,512	49,812	52,602	57,695
Local Authority/Social Housing Dwell	3,488	3,207	5,022	5,074
Private Dwellings	43,024	46,657	47,727	51,932
Total Limerick	610	586	754	1,452
Private Dwellings	544	515	620	1,269
Local Authority Voluntary & Co-operative Housing	66	71	134	183

(Source: Housing Statistics Bulletin, March Quarter 2003)

At 31st December, 2003, there were 363 houses owned and managed by the Voluntary Housing Sector in Co. Limerick. These houses are located in 22 centres and involve 25 Voluntary Housing Organisations. A further 8 such organisations were either building houses or planning to build houses at 31st December, 2003.

(Source: Limerick County Council, Housing Department, January 2004)

3.6 Fire Service

Limerick County is served by 6 fire Stations located at Newcastle West (Headquarters), Abbeyfeale, Rathkeale, Foynes, Cappamore & Kilmallock. Limerick City Fire Brigade provides cover for the environs and a rural area surrounding same. Mobilisation of brigades is carried out by the Munster Regional Control Centre based at the Fire Station in Limerick City. Limerick City Council runs the centre on behalf of the nine participating local authorities in the Munster Area.

First turn out cover is also provided to areas adjoining the County boundaries by fire brigades located at Charleville (Co. Cork), Mitchelstown (Co. Cork), Newport (Co. Tipperary) and Tipperary Town.

Approximately 95% of the population are within a twenty-minute fire cover zone of the county/city fire service and 40% within a ten-minute cover zone.

(Source: Limerick County Council, Fire Department March 2004)

Summary

- *The County has 136km of national primary roads, 58km of national secondary roads, 468km of regional roads and 2,925km of local roads.*
- *The County has one passenger railway station in Castleconnell (Nenagh to Limerick) with nearest Dublin/Cork/Kerry rail links in Limerick City and Limerick Junction (Tipperary) and Charleville Co. Cork.*
- *Bus Eireann provides a limited service to towns and villages in County Limerick.*
- *There were 150 hackneys and 198 large public service vehicles in County Limerick in 2003.*
- *Shannon Airport is located approximately 24km from Limerick County and provides Transatlantic, European and Domestic flights. Passenger numbers exceeded 2.4 million in 2003.*
- *Foynes Port is the only deep-water cargo port located in County Limerick with its main activity being importation.*
- *There are 21 ESB transformer stations located throughout the County ranging in size from 38kv to 220kv. The main transmission centre is located in Killonan.*
- *Natural Gas is available to approximately 20,000 residential customers in County Limerick.*
- *A 44km fibre optic cable is being laid around Limerick City and its environs, which will lead to easier access to the Internet and other telecommunications services locally.*
- *The total number of houses in County Limerick in 2003 was 38,378.*
- *Under Limerick County Council's Assessment of Needs programme for water and sewerage schemes 2003-2005, 33 schemes were identified as being in need of upgrading or new facilities and a further 24 schemes were identified as priorities in the County for the period 2007 to 2012.*
- *By 2002, 56% of households in County Limerick were served by public water schemes, an increase of 7% from 1991.*

Chapter 4 - Labour Force

Introduction

In this chapter we consider the employment and unemployment situation in County Limerick.

4.1 *Employment by Sector*

4.2 *Unemployment*

4.3 *Labour Force Participation*

4.1 Employment by Sector

In 2002 there were 50,666 people employed in County Limerick, which showed an increase of 22.2% since 1996. There was a significant decline in the numbers employed in Agriculture as it fell from over 6,508 in 1996 to 4,502 in 2002. This was more than offset by increases in the construction and manufacturing sectors.

Table 22: Numbers Employed by Sector in County Limerick

	1991 Total	1996 Total	2002 Total	Male 2002	Female 2002
Primary	7,612	6,593	4,626	4,278	348
Secondary	7,520	9,735	10,431	7,091	3,340
Tertiary	21,078	25,126	35,609	19,173	16,436
Total	36,210	41,454	50,666	30,542	20,124

(Source: CSO – Principle Economic Status and Industries, 2002)

The largest employment sector in County Limerick in 2002 was the tertiary (services) sector employing 70%, compared to the secondary (manufacturing, etc) sector employing 21% and the primary sector (agriculture, etc) employing 9%.

Table 23: Percentage of Population in each Social Class 2002

Social Class	County Limerick	Mid-West	Ireland
	%	%	%
1. Professional Workers	6.3	5.6	6.1
2. Managerial & Technical	26.2	25	25.5
3. Non-Manual	16.2	16.5	16.5
4. Skilled Manual	16.8	17.2	17.2
5. Semi-Skilled	11.2	11.7	10.9
6. Unskilled	5.8	5.9	5.6
7. All others gainfully occupied and unknown	17.6	18.1	18.2

(Source: CSO 2002)

County Limerick has a higher proportion of the population in social classes 1 (Professional Workers) and 2 (Managerial & Technical) when compared to the Mid-West and the State.

4.2 Unemployment

The 2002 Census showed that there were 3,599 people unemployed in County Limerick in 2002, which was a significant decrease of 30% from 1996 and a drop of 32% from 1991.

Table 24: Numbers Unemployed in Labour Force

	1991	1996	2002	% 2002
Ireland	199,775	199,136	159,346	8.8%
Mid-West	19,195	17,146	12,583	9.0%
Limerick County	6,006	5,163	3,599	6.6%
Limerick City	5,151	4,548	3,328	13.9%
Clare	4,736	4,517	3,612	7.6%
North Tipperary	3,302	2,918	2,044	7.6%

(Source: Census 2002 – Principal Socio-Economic Results)

In 2002 the unemployment rate in County Limerick was 6.6% of the labour force with 3,599 people unemployed throughout the County. In comparison the unemployment rate in the Mid-West region was 8.2% with 12,583 people unemployed and the unemployment rate of the State was 8.8% with 159,346 people unemployed in 2002.

❖ See Map 12– County Limerick - Unemployment Rates by DED 2002

Other statistics available from the C.S.O. are the International Labour Organisation (ILO) unemployment statistics. These figures give a more accurate reading of the unemployment situation as they classify persons employed for a minimum of one hour per week as working.

Table 25: Unemployment Rate classified by ILO Status, 2002

2002	Unemployment Rate
Ireland	5.7%
Limerick County	4.3%
Limerick City	8.5%
Clare	5.1%
North Tipperary	5.1%

(Source: Census 2002 – Principal Socio-Economic Results)

Using the criteria County Limerick in 2002 had an unemployment rate of 4.3%, which was lower than the State figure of 5.7% and was also the lowest unemployment rate in the mid-west region in 2002.

4.3 Labour Force Participation

In 2002 the labour force in County Limerick was 54,265 persons. The overall employment participation rate in the County in 2002 was 93% of the labour force.

The following unemployment figures are sourced from the Department of Social Welfare and include the number of people in receipt of unemployment payments in Limerick City & County. These figures differ from those supplied by the C.S.O. as they include persons who described themselves as unemployed in the 2002 Census and who may or may not be in receipt of unemployment payments.

Table 26: Number Unemployed in Limerick 2003

	2003
Unemployment Assistance	3,419
Unemployment Benefit	3,379
Unemployment Credits	663
Total	7,461
Male	4,367
Female	3,094

(Source: Department of Social & Family Affairs, January 2004)

Table 27: The no. of recipients of Unemployment Payments in the offices listed*

Office	No of Recipients
Limerick	5765
Newcastle West	54
Kilmallock	855
Listowel	1,057
Tipperary	677
Total	8,403

(Source: Department of Social Welfare Statistics, January 2004)

**The figures in the above tables do not match because the areas served by Local Offices do not correspond to specific geographic boundaries. Therefore registrants at a given local office do not necessarily come from a particular region or area, which can be precisely defined.*

Summary

- *The largest employment sector in County Limerick in 2002 was the tertiary sector employing 70%, compared to the secondary sector employing 21% and the primary sector employing 9%.*
- *Agricultural employment is continuing to decline showing a reduction of just over 2,000 persons between 1996 and 2002, compared to a decline of 1,000 persons between 1991 and 1996.*
- *In 2002 County Limerick had an unemployment rate of 4.3%, which was lower than the State figure of 5.7% and was also the lowest unemployment rate in the mid-west region.*
- *In 2002 the Labour Force was 54,265 of which 50,666 were employed and 3,599 were unemployed.*
- *Employment increased in County Limerick by 22% in the period 1996 - 2002.*
- *The overall employment participation rate in County Limerick in 2002 was 93% of the labour force.*

Chapter 5 - The Economy

In this chapter the following economic sectors are examined:

- 5.1 *Gross Value Added, Income & Industrial Production*
- 5.2 *Enterprise Development*
- 5.3 *Agriculture*
- 5.4 *Forestry*
- 5.5 *Tourism*

5.1 Gross Value Added

Gross Value Added (GVA) is a measure of the value of the goods and services produced in a region. It is an indicator of output and not a measure of the income or wealth of the residents of that region or county.

Limerick's GVA for the period 1995 to 2001 was 93.5% of the State average and 107.5% of the EU Average.

Table 28: Average Gross Value Added Figures for Mid West Region (1995-2001)

	1995 to 2001
GVA: Total €M	91,153
GVA per Capita (€)	22,416
% of State Total	8.1
Indices of GVA per capita: State Average = 100	93.5
Indices of GVA per capita: EU Average =100	107.5

(Source: C.S.O. 2004)

GVA is a statistical concept normally used for broad regions, as an indicator of output and is not appropriate for use at smaller area levels such as counties. The figures must be interpreted with caution because

- the work force producing the GVA in a county may not live there and may bring their incomes home to a neighbouring county;
- the GVA for individual counties may be particularly influenced by the presence of large industrial enterprises whose profits may be remitted elsewhere;

These qualifications are of much lesser importance for large regions as estimates at this level are more accurate and meaningful.

Income

Table 29: Total & Disposable Income per person in 2001

	Total Income € (per person)	Disposable Income € (per person)
Mid West	19,405	15,596
Clare	17,816	14,502
Limerick*	20,536	16,354
North Tipperary	18,764	15,212

(Source: Census 2002)

*Limerick includes Limerick City & County

In 2001 Limerick had the highest total income and disposable income in the Mid West region.

Industrial Production

The *Census of Industrial Production 2000* report presents a detailed picture (for both local units and enterprises) of the structure and activity of industry in 2000. This covers industrial local units with three or more persons engaged.

Table 30: Industrial Local Units, 2000 – Activity in each County & the Mid West Region

Description of Variable	Unit	Mid-West			
		Clare	Limerick *	Tipp. North Riding	Total
Number of Local Units	No.	160	213	91	464
Total employees	No	8,963	16,548	4,698	30,209
Net Industrial Output	€000	893,666	2,512,725	253,614	3,660,005
Average no. of persons engaged per local unit	No.	56	78	52	65
Annual wages and salaries per industrial worker	€	23,347	21,595	17,829	21,445
Net output per person engaged	€	99,706	151,844	53,983	121,156

(Source: Census of Industrial Production 2000)

*Limerick City and County

The figures for Limerick indicate the highest net output per local unit and per person engaged per local unit in the Mid West Region. Limerick also has the greatest number of persons engaged per local unit with an average of 78. However, the annual wages and salaries figure per industrial worker is lower than in Clare.

New Cars Registered

Table 31: Number of Private Cars

	Total 1998	Total 1999	Total 2002
Ireland	1,196,901	1,269,245	1,447,908
Limerick	41,293	43,317	49,139

(Source: Irish Bulletin of Vehicle & Driver Statistics, 2002)

The above table shows an increase of 13.4% in the number of private cars registered in County Limerick between 1999 and 2002, which is similar to the national increase of 14%. As with other parts of Ireland car-ownership per head is set to continue to rise and vehicle use is also increasing through greater use of the car for commuting.

Table 32: Number of New Vehicles Licensed (includes all class of vehicles)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Ireland	172,524	213,600	274,990	207,441	193,743	188,109
Limerick County	5,931	6,506	9,157	6,220	6,019	5,731

(Source: CSO Statistical Release, Vehicles Licensed for the First Time, Feb 04)

The number of new vehicles registered in County Limerick was significantly higher in 2000 than in other years, which was also the case nationally. Since then the number of new vehicles registered has been steadily declining.

5.2 Enterprise Development

There are six Enterprise Development Agencies operating in County Limerick.

- Industrial Development Agency (IDA)
- Shannon Development
- County Enterprise Board (CEB)
- Ballyhoura Development Limited (LEADER & ADM)
- West Limerick Resources Limited (LEADER & ADM)
- Tipperary LEADER Group

The IDA, Shannon Development and the CEB operate on a countywide basis while the other agencies; Ballyhoura Development Limited, West Limerick Resources Limited and Tipperary LEADER Group operate on a sub-county basis.

- ❖ See Map 13 – Limerick County Electoral Divisions covered by Leader Group

Industrial Development Agency (IDA)

Geographical Area of Operation

IDA Ireland is a Government agency which has national responsibility for securing new investment from overseas in manufacturing and international services sectors and for encouraging existing foreign enterprises in Ireland to expand their businesses.

IDA Ireland operates nation-wide and the Mid-West regional office based in Henry St. Limerick has responsibility for Counties Limerick, Clare, North Tipperary and North Kerry in addition to Limerick City.

Main Target Groups

The business which IDA Ireland seeks to win are internationally mobile projects which can operate competitively and profitably from Ireland. This covers a range of sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, engineering and internationally traded services.

An analysis of the IDA supported companies in County Limerick show that there are approximately 8,500 employees in 37 multi-national operations. The majority of these are based in the City Environs Industrial Estates of Plassey, Raheen and Annacotty.

The annual budget for the IDA at national level is approximately €255m and the cost per job sustained over the seven-year period 1996-2002 was €15,897.

Shannon Development

Geographical Area of Operation

Shannon Development covers the Mid West Region which includes Clare, North Tipperary, North Kerry, Southwest Offaly and Limerick County and City. Its headquarters are located in Shannon with a regional office in Limerick City with responsibility for City and County.

Shannon Development has a number of industrial estates located throughout the County in order to provide workspace and sites for enterprise & industrial development.

Main Target Groups

The company's brief is to generate industry, tourism and rural development in the wider Shannon area. This includes:

- Developing and strengthening the indigenous industry sector
- Managing and developing serviced industrial sites and workspaces
- Tourism development and promotion in the region

Shannon Development provides various supports to assist industrial and tourism development. In 2002 there were 723 companies supported by Shannon Development in the Shannon Region.

Table 33: Grants Paid by Shannon Development to Companies in County Limerick

Year	No. of Projects/ Businesses	Amount Paid €
1998	44	2,503,786
1999	55	2,093,429
2002	39	2,178,647

(Source: Shannon Development Annual Reports, '98, '99 and '02)

The average cost per job (created & sustained) by programme in 2002 for indigenous industry in the Shannon Region was €10,648, compared to €7,989 in 1999 and €8,977 in 1998.

Shannon Development holds a large portfolio of industrial and development sites throughout the county, which creates employment in the region from both indigenous and overseas industry. Employment levels in both indigenous and overseas industry have been decreasing over the past number of years.

Table 34: Employment in Indigenous Industry in County Limerick

Location	2000	2001	2002	2003
Askeaton	173	189	178	201
Foynes	31	31	35	32
Glin	244	227	220	230
Annacotty	52	56	95	109
Mungret	178	164	147	153
Raheen	233	244	257	277
National Technological Park	422	399	332	327
Croom	48	50	44	47
Kilmallock	305	331	357	129
Ballylanders	105	106	121	120
Newcastle West	376	352	353	374
Abbeyfeale	46	47	53	53
Adare	45	41	34	33
Rathkeale	121	104	105	92
Dromcollogher	128	106	97	107
Other	433	379	323	318
Total	2,940	2,826	2,751	2,575

(Source: Shannon Development, April 2004)

Table 35: Employment in Overseas Companies in County Limerick

Location	2000	2001	2002	2003
Askeaton	927	998	990	1,070
Annacotty	267	235	269	217
Raheen	6,360	5,653	5,366	5,076
National Technological Park	1,530	1,682	1,330	1,045
Newcastle West	282	260	272	279
Abbeyfeale	1,198	1,274	988	900
Rathkeale	317	273	252	241
Dromcollogher	77	65	68	70
Other	560	472	474	446
Total	11,518	10,912	10,009	9,344

(Source: Shannon Development, April 2004)

Limerick County Enterprise Board

Geographical Area of Operation

Limerick County Enterprise Board (CEB) was established under the Local Enterprise sub-programme in 1993 with a focus on the creation of jobs and support for micro enterprises. The CEB covers the entire County and has its head office in Limerick City.

Objectives

The main objective of the CEB is enterprise and job creation by assisting businesses not already covered by the State Industrial Development Agencies. Currently the County Enterprise Board is funded under the Micro Enterprise Measure under the Local Enterprise Development Priority (Sub Programme) of the National Development Plan for the Southern and Eastern Region 2000-2006. The Board is permitted to issue funding in respect of two measures, which are as follows:

Measure 1 – SFI – Selective Financial Intervention – financial assistance to projects. This allows the Board to give direct financial assistance to support the purchase of equipment, take on additional employees and to undertake feasibility studies.

Measure 2 – ECD – Entrepreneurial and Capability Development – training, promoting an enterprise culture and mentoring.

Main Target Groups

Under the current Operational Programme the Board have a number of specific objectives to achieve, by seeking to:

- Reduce dependence on traditional or declining economical sectors
- Support greater participation of the unemployed and women in the promotion and development of enterprises
- Support employment opportunities in less developed and remote areas so as to achieve balanced regional development

Limerick CEB's *Women into Business Programme* commenced in September 2000 and covers specific business related topics and provides a networking session to enable women within the County to share experiences and assist their colleagues to start and grow their own businesses. There are a total of 380 women currently on the database and an average of 45 attend each monthly meeting.

Training and development is one of the Board's more important roles as well as the development of an entrepreneurial culture in the County.

Table 36: CEB Figures - Period 01/01/2000 - 31/12/2003

Number of enterprises assisted	113
Total jobs created	329
Total grants allocated	€1,689,605
No of participants availing of training	938
No of participants availing of School Enterprise Programmes	480

(Source: Limerick County Enterprise Board, April 2004)

West Limerick Resources Ltd. (WLR) is a rural development partnership company that covers a catchment area of approx. 1,347 square kilometres and includes 70 District Electoral Divisions (DED's) in the West of the County with a population of 57,552 in 2002.

WLR's main office is based in Newcastle West with a sub-office in Abbeyfeale.

Ballyhoura Development Ltd (BDL) covers the Ballyhoura area, which straddles part of Counties Limerick and Cork. In County Limerick this includes 52 District Electoral Divisions in the Southeast covering an area of approximately 1,434 square kilometres with a population of 40,102 in 2002. The main offices are based in Kilfinane with sub-offices servicing County Limerick in Croom, Hospital, Kilmallock, Charleville and Mitchelstown.

Tipperary LEADER Group (TLG) is a rural development organisation based in Tipperary town and administers the LEADER programme in almost all of County Tipperary. It also covers parts of East Limerick, which include 13 DED's with an area of approximately 363 square kilometres and a population of 14,153 in 2002.

5.3 Agriculture

Limerick has traditionally been recognised as a County with a very strong agricultural base. While primary and secondary agriculture are still extremely important in County Limerick, nevertheless, in line with national and international trends, employment in these sectors is declining as more jobs are created in industry and in the services sector.

County Limerick is part of the Golden Vale and is noted as a grassland and dairying area. About two-thirds of County Limerick is lowland. The hills and mountains occur around the edges of the county, with the only extensive hill region located in the West.

Role of Agriculture

The total land area in Ireland is 6.9 million hectares of which agriculture accounts for around 4.4 million hectares and forestry 600 hectares. Apart from an increase in forest cover there has been little change in land usage in recent years. Over 90% of agricultural land area is used for pasture, hay, silage, or rough grazing with the remaining 10% under cereals and other crops.

(Source: DAF Website, March 2004)

Table 37: County Limerick Land Figures

	Hectares	Percentage
Total Land Area	268,992	100%
Utilised Agricultural Area	201,979	75%
Disadvantaged Area	119,596	44.5%

(Source: DAF Website, March 2004)

The total land area in County Limerick (large bodies of water excluded) is 268,992 hectares, with 201,979 hectares or 76% used for agriculture. 119,596 hectares (44.5%) of the land area in the County is considered as being agriculturally disadvantaged. Of this 69,960 ha are classified as less severely disadvantaged and 49,636 ha as more severely disadvantaged.

- ❖ See Map 14 & Appendix 4 - Limerick County – Agriculture Disadvantaged Area Status by District Electoral Division.

Table 38: Role of Agriculture in the Irish Economy

Figures for 2003	Primary Agriculture	Agri-Food Sector
% of Gross Domestic Product	3%	8.9%
% of Employment	6%	9%
% of Exports (2002)	4.6%	8.3%

(Source: Teagasc 2004)

Agricultural Activity

The number of active farms nationally fell by 17% from 170,578 in 1991 to 141,527 in June 2000. The number of farms in County Limerick fell by 16% from 7,387 in 1991 to 6,194 in June 2000. Further analysis of the 2000 agricultural census indicates that the average farm size in County Limerick is 32.6 ha/80 acres compared to the average of 35.9 ha in Munster and 31.4 ha in the State. Specialist dairying (37.4%) and beef production (51.7%) are the most common type of farm in County Limerick. Since 1991 there was a decrease of almost 40% in the number of specialist dairying farms and an increase of 21% in the number of specialist beef production farms in County Limerick. The main reason for this is because dairying is so intensive and due to economies of scale.

The role of non-agricultural activity in boosting farm income has increased in recent years. Farms where farming was the sole occupation have declined substantially from 5,590 in 1991 to 3,594 in 2000 and farms where farming is a major or subsidiary occupation have also declined significantly.

Table 39: County Limerick Farms Classified by Type

Farming Type	1991	(%)	2000	(%)
Specialist Dairying	3,829	51.8	2,311	37.4%
Specialist Beef Production	2,652	35.9	3,198	51.7%
Mixed Grazing Livestock	713	9.7	508	8.3%
Specialist Sheep	89	1.2	56	0.9%
Specialist Tillage	37	0.5	24	0.4%
Other	67	0.9	74	1.2%
Total	7,387	100	6,194	100

(Source: 2000 Agricultural Census)

The age structure of farmers has also changed over time. The number of farmers under 35 years in County Limerick in 2000 has decreased by almost 10% since 1991.

Table 40: Number of Farmers by age in County Limerick, 2000

Age	Number of Farmers in County limerick
< 35 yrs	844
35-44 yrs	1,408
45-54 yrs	1,671
55-60 yrs	1,201
> 65 yrs	1,062
Total	6,186

(Source: Teagasc, January 2004)

Agricultural Education

There is an Agricultural College based in Pallaskenry, County Limerick which offers six certificate courses in Agriculture, Farm Machinery and Agricultural Mechanisation. In the academic year 2003/04 there were 144 students attending the above courses.

Teagasc has an Education & Training Programme into an Agricultural College based programme for inheritors of commercial farms. Training of entrants to part-time farming is being catered for by County based Education Officers. In 2003 Teagasc provided training for 100 part time farmers and a further 4 availed of the Teagasc on-line adult training courses.

Rural Environment

Uptake of the Early Retirement Scheme (ERS) has been quite high in County Limerick. At the end of 2003 there were 878 ERS participants in the County.

Since the introduction of the REPS scheme in 1994, almost 46,000 farmers throughout Ireland participated in REPS 1 (first round of REPS) with 1m. hectares of land being farmed to environmental specifications.

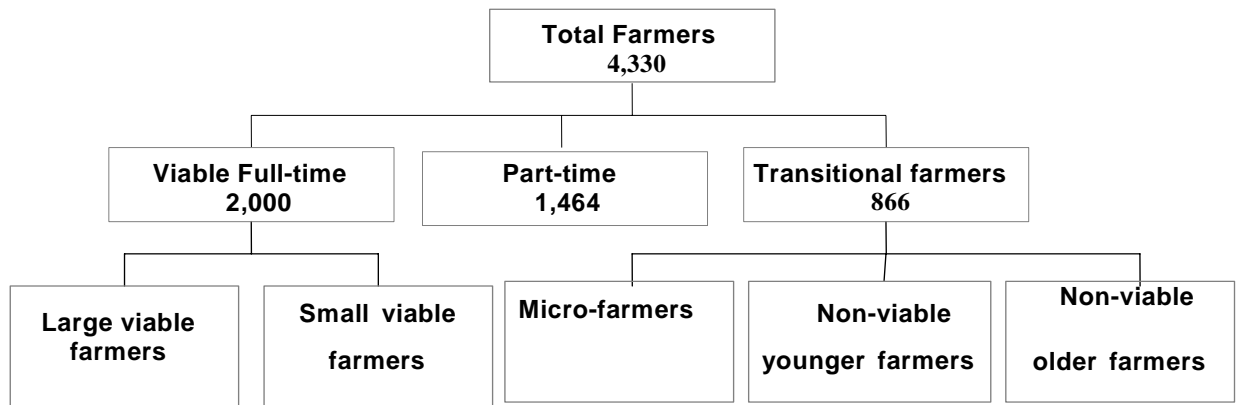
In County Limerick, 1,472 farmers participated in REPS 1 and almost 50,000 hectares of land was farmed environmentally. On 1st January 2004, 187 Limerick farmers were still participating in REPS 1 and 988 farmers were participating in REPS 2 (second round).

It is envisaged that up to 55,000 farmers nationally will participate in REPS programmes and it was expected that in excess of 2,000 farmers in Limerick will enrol in these environmental schemes.

Future Farming

The Agri-Food 2010 committee estimated the total number of farmers by 2010 will be 100,000 with 20,000 full-time and 60,000 part-time farmers and a further 20,000 in transitional groups.

Table 41: Projected Future Farming Numbers for County Limerick in 2010*



* County Limerick Estimates based on figures from the Agri-Food 2010 Report & adjusted for prominence of dairy farming sector in County Limerick

Dairy farmers will account for the majority of viable full-time farmers in County Limerick and the part-time farmers will combine suitable enterprises with full or part-time work off the farm. The other category of transitional farmers will consist of non-viable young farmers, micro farmers and non-viable older farmers.

5.4 Forestry

In County Limerick areas under forestry are concentrated on the peripheries, such as planted areas on the slopes of the Mullaghareirk Mountains from Mountcollins to Broadford, on the uplands of Ballyhoura near Kilfinane, on the slopes of the Galtees near Kilbeheny and on the slopes of Slieve Felim near Cappamore. There are also a number of plantations in West Limerick between Newcastlewest and Athea.

The area of the County under forestry at the end of 2003 was 22,614 hectares or 8% of the land area, which compares with a national average of 9.9% and an EU average of 24%. Private forests make up 46% of total with the remaining 54% in public ownership.

Broadleaves make up 13.5% of Limerick's woodlands with oak, sycamore, ash and beech being the main species. This is lower than the national average of 21%.

The County's soil and climate are particularly suited to tree growing and the level of plantation has increased in recent years. Private farm forestry plantations show the greatest increases, which is primarily due to the level of premia available but also due to the changing nature of farming.

Private afforestation in the County has grown from under 75 ha per annum planted in 1986 to over 500 ha in 1999, whereas public plantations have gone from 179 ha to 79 ha for the same period.

(Source: Dept. of Marine & Natural Resources 2000)

In addition to the direct benefits forestry has an important impact on rural economies through the development of related industries and rural tourism. The main forest amenity areas in the County are provided at Currachase, Galteewood and Ardpatrick.

The concerns of many rural communities that a proliferation of large-scale monoculture plantations would lead to changes in the landscape and increase the sense of isolation has led to the introduction of afforestation targets by species and the requirement for planning permission involving plantations of 50 hectares or more.

Future forestry strategy will emphasise the introduction of an incentive to promote planting by farmers on better quality enclosed land, the elimination of conifer monoculture and a 20% diverse category to promote species diversification.

(Source: Forest Service, April 2004)

5.5 Tourism

County Limerick has not traditionally been seen as a tourist destination, however the activities of the various Development Agencies have significantly increased the tourism infrastructure and amenities available in the County.

County Limerick has a number of attractive towns and villages. Adare, situated on the N21, is one of Ireland's designated Heritage Towns. Its picturesque thatched cottages, fine broad street and many historical sites all combine to make Adare the jewel in the crown of Limerick's tourism product. Kilmallock in the east of the County is one of the finest of Ireland's medieval towns, with its 13th Century Dominican Priory, 15th Century John's Castle and 16th Century Blossom Town Gate, to mention but a few features. Lough Gur Stone Age Centre is also one of Ireland's most important archaeological sites, with monuments from neolithic to mediaeval times.

County Limerick has a variety of landscapes and rich scenery with mountains stretching from the Mullaghareirks in the south west to the Ballyhouras and Galtees in the south east and to the Slieve Felim Mountains in the north east. Visitors can enjoy leisurely strolls or a more lively and adventurous pace along the many walking trails.

“The Limerick Guide” was published in 2002 and is a comprehensive guide providing information on the City and County in relation to Visitor Attractions, Festivals, Activities, Entertainment and historical background.

A new conference and sporting bureau “Meet Limerick Shannon” has been recently established to attract conference and sporting events to the Limerick Shannon area.

Table 42: Major Visitor Attractions and Activities in County Limerick

Walking / Cycling:

- Ballyhoura Mountain Park
- Clare Glens
- Curragh Chase Forest Park
- Mullaghareirk Walks
- Slieve Felim Way

Golf:

- Abbeyfeale (9)
- Adare Golf Club (18)
- Adare Manor (18)
- Castletroy (18)
- Killeline (NewcastleWest) (9)
- Limerick (Ballyclough) (18)
- County Limerick (Ballyneety) (18)
- Newcastle West (Ardagh) (18)

Attractions and Entertainments:

- Adare Heritage Town
- Askeaton Castle & Friary
- Barnagh Gap
- Celtic Park and Gardens
- Croom Mills Waterwheel & Heritage Centre
- Curraghchase Forest Park
- Desmond Hall, Newcastlewest
- De Valera Museum, Bruree
- Foynes Flying Boat Museum
- Glenstal Abbey, Murroe
- Glin Castle
- Irish Dresden. Dromcollogher
- Kilfinnane Education Centre
- Kilmallock Museum, Kilmallock
- Knockfierna Famine Commemoration Park
- Lough Gur Stone Age Centre
- Palatine Centre, Rathkeale
- Plunkett Heritage Centre, Dromcollogher
- Springfield Deer Farm, Dromcollogher

Fishing on Rivers:

- Deel
- Feale
- Maigne
- Mulcair
- Shannon
- Shannon Estuary

Equestrian Centres:

- Adare Manor Equestrian Centre
- Ashroe Riding School, Murroe
- Clarina Riding Centre
- Clonshire Equestrian Centre, Adare
- Coonagh Equestrian Centre
- Fitzgeralds Riding Centre, Abbeyfeale
- Hillcrest Riding Centre, Galbally
- Rathcannon Equestrian Centre, Kilmallock
- Westfields House Equestrian Centre, Abbeyfeale
- Woodview Riding Centre, Newcastle West.
- Yerville Stables, Pallasgreen

❖ See Map 15 – Limerick County Principal Tourist Attractions

Shannon Development has responsibility for tourism development in County Limerick. The Local Development Companies: Ballyhoura Development Ltd., Tipperary LEADER Group and West Limerick Resources are also involved in tourism development in the geographical areas they cover in the County. Limerick County Development Board Tourism Sub-Committee also plays a role in co-ordinating tourism activities in County Limerick.

Table 43: Passenger Movement via Aer Rianta Airports 2002

Airport	From the USA & Canada	From Great Britain	From Europe
Dublin	56%	82%	85%
Shannon	44%	7%	7%
Cork	-	11%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%

(Source: Presentation at Shannon Region Tourism Plan Briefings: “Tourism: Challenges, Perspectives and Plans”, 5th February 2004).

The above table highlights the importance of the American and Canadian markets to the Shannon region and also shows the potential for development of the Great Britain and European Markets.

Table 44: Overseas Tourism to the Shannon Region

	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002
No. of Tourists (000)	1,010	1,066	1,122	1,010	963
Revenue €M	207.9	212.8	311.4	300.1	305.8

(Source: Failte Ireland Website)

There has been a steady increase in the number of tourists visiting the Shannon Region and in revenue accrued up to 2000. The number of visitors and revenue then declined significantly in 2001, however in 2002 the tourist numbers decreased but the revenue to the region increased to €305.8m.

Table 45: Overseas and Domestic Visitors to the Shannon Region (000s)

	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002
Britain	352	378	345	355	378
Mainland Europe	328	299	324	270	227
North America	285	331	385	325	317
Other Areas	45	58	68	60	41
Total Overseas Tourists	1,010	1,066	1,122	1,010	963
Domestic Tourism	742	892	691	958	726
Northern Ireland	37	30	12	20	20
Total Tourists	1,789	1,988	1,825	1,988	1,709

(Source: Fáilte Ireland Website)

The Domestic Tourism market is a very significant market for the Shannon Region. Of the overseas market, Britain provides the largest number of visitors. The total number of tourists to the Shannon Region has declined by 14% since 2001.

Table 46: Overseas Tourists to individual Counties in the Shannon Region 2002 (000s)

	Total	Britain	Midland Europe	North America	Other Areas
Clare	516	166	129	205	17
Limerick (City & Co.)	388	166	83	116	22
Tipperary North	34	18	10	5	2
Offaly West	14	5	4	4	1
Kerry North	127	45	39	38	5
Regional Total	1,079	400	265	368	47

(Source: Fáilte Ireland Website)

Clare attracts the most tourists in the Shannon Region, followed by Limerick City & County. The British market is the most significant in terms of overseas tourist numbers to the region. Other residents of Counties in Munster & Dublin are the majority of domestic tourists.

Table 47: Visitor Numbers to Attractions in Co. Limerick (2003)

Adare Heritage Centre	3,600
Curraghchase Forest Park - Coillte	32,000
Desmond Castle	1,891
Foynes Flying Boat Museum	18,100
Glin Castle	400
Irish Palatine Museum	600

(Source: Contact with the individual operators)

A feature of County Limerick is the many attractive towns and villages such as Adare, which is one of Ireland's designated Heritage Towns. Adare is situated on the N21 road to Killarney, its picturesque thatched cottages, its fine broad street and its many historical sites all combine to make Adare the jewel in the crown of Limerick's tourism product. Kilmallock in the east of the County is one of the finest of Ireland's medieval towns, close to the Galtee and Ballyhoura mountain ranges and contains numerous historical and medieval structures.

Summary

- *The Gross Value Added per capita in the Mid-West Region was €22,416 in 2001, which was 93.5% of the State average and 107.5% of the EU average.*
- *The total income for Limerick City and County in 2001 was €20,563 per capita and the disposable income was €16,354, both higher than the Mid-West averages.*
- *The average industrial wage for Limerick was €21,595 in 2000, compared with €17,829 in North Tipperary and €23,347 in Clare.*
- *There are six Enterprise Development Agencies operating in County Limerick.*
- *In 2000 there were 6,186 farm holdings in County Limerick, with an average farm size of 32.6 hectares (80 acres).*
- *The predominant enterprise on County Limerick farms in 2000 was beef production, which increased by 21% since 1991, whereas dairying fell by almost 40% since 1991.*
- *The number of farmers under 35 years in County Limerick in 2000 has decreased by almost 10%.*
- *At the end of 2003 there were 878 Early Retirement Scheme participants in County Limerick. At the beginning of 2004, 187 Limerick farmers were still participating in REPS 1 and 988 farmers were participating in REPS 2.*
- *Estimates for County Limerick indicate there will be approximately 4,330 farmers operating in 2010, with approximately 60% of these part-time.*
- *The area of the County under forestry at the end of 2003 was 22,614 ha or 8% of the land area, which compares with a national average of 9.9%*
- *In 2002 there were 963,000 overseas visitors to the Shannon Region with revenue of €305.8m.*
- *The main visitor attractions in County Limerick are The Foynes Flying Boat Museum, Curraghchase Forest Park, Desmond Castle and Adare Heritage Centre.*

Chapter 6 - The Environment

Introduction

In this chapter we consider environmental aspects of County Limerick.

- 6.1 *Water Quality*
- 6.2 *Waste Disposal*
- 6.3 *Recycling*

6.1 Water Quality

Water quality monitoring began at a national level in 1971. Since then there has been a steady decline in the quality of water in Ireland's rivers and lakes. In Limerick, this deterioration has been particularly marked: in 2001, the EPA estimated that the Maigue and the Deel were the most polluted rivers in the Country in terms of phosphorous loading. Overall, only 30% of the rivers in hydrometric area 24, (which contains the Maigue and Deel catchments) are classed as unpolluted, compared with a national average of 70%.

However initiatives have been undertaken to try and improve the river quality in County Limerick. Under the 1998 Phosphorus Regulations Limerick County Council are obliged to achieve significant improvements in water quality in the County by 2007. Over 400 farms have been surveyed to date and many farmers have been carrying out significant anti pollution works on their farms.

❖ See Appendix 5 – River Quality in County Limerick

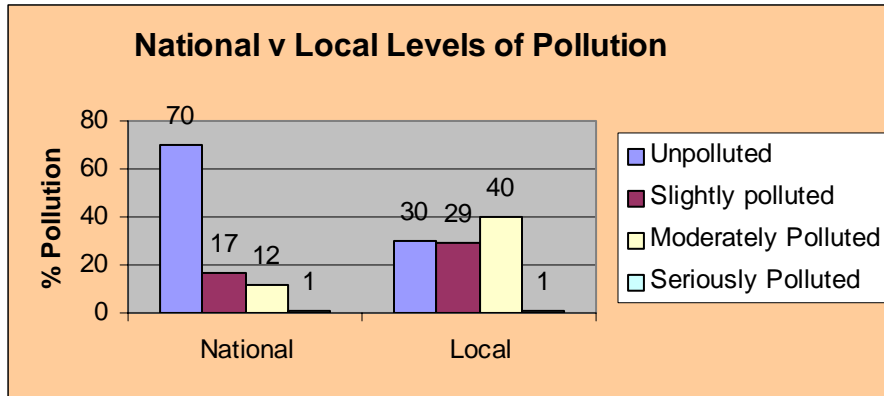
Table 48: County Limerick Hydrometric Area 24 - % Levels of Pollution*

	1987/90	1991/94	1995/97	1998/00
Unpolluted	15	28	20	30
Slightly polluted	46	34	34	29
Moderately Polluted	36	39	44	40
Seriously Polluted	3	0	2	0.8

(Source: EPA Report 2001)

(*Hydrometric Area 24 covers most of County Limerick)

Chart 2: National v Local Levels of River Quality



(Source: EPA Report, 2001)

6.2 Waste Disposal

Limerick County Council has one landfill in operation at Gortadroma, Ballyhahill in the West of the County. This landfill is licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency and provides disposal facilities for 130,000 tonnes of waste per annum. In the year 2003 81,800 tonnes of waste were disposed of in Gortadroma.

Table 49: Limerick County Household Waste Composition 2001 & 2002

Waste Categories	% Waste
Paper	22.9
Plastic	9.5
Glass	4.5
Ferrous Metals	2.2
Aluminium	0.4
Other Metals	0
Textiles	1.6
Organic Waste	34.2
Others	24.7

(Source: EPA Report 2001)

Table 50: Municipal Waste Composition – Limerick County v National

	Limerick County	National Figure
Household Waste	33,032	1,468,834
Commercial Waste	24,961	1,156,732
Street Cleansing	515	78,469

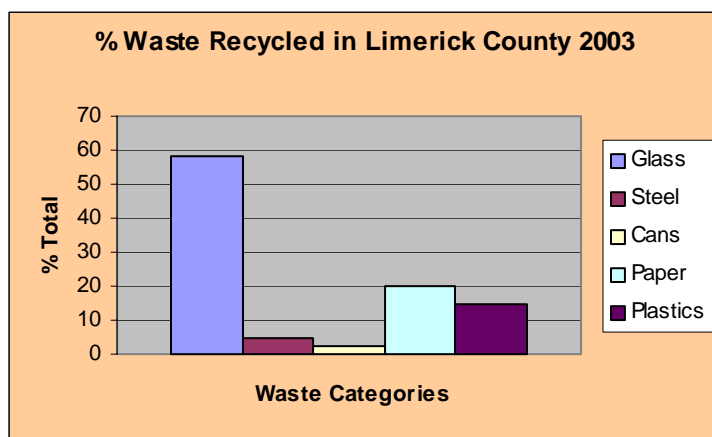
(Source: EPA Report 2001)

Statistics on municipal waste for 2001 indicate an increase of 31.5% in Ireland since 1998. The quantity of municipal waste reported to be consigned to landfills has increased by 18.2% since 1998, and the quantity of municipal waste reported to be recovered has increased by 83.3%.

6.3 Recycling

Limerick County Council has 49 recycling centers located throughout the County. Two new Household Waste Recycling Centres were opened in April 2004 in Newcastle West and Kilmallock. These centers provide recycling facilities for a wide range of household waste materials, such as electrical goods, furniture, timber, books, etc. There are also recycling facilities at the landfill site at Gortadroma.

Chart 3: Total Waste Recycled in County Limerick 2003



(Source: Limerick County Council returns made to REPAK)

Table 51: Waste Recycled in County Limerick, 2003

Categories	Total Tonnage	% of Total
Glass	519	58
Steel	39	4
Cans	20	2
Paper	181	20
Plastics	133	15
Total Tonnage	893	100

(Source: Limerick County Council returns made to REPAK)

The total quantity of waste recycled in Limerick County in 2003 was 893 tonnes.

Summary

- *In 2001, the EPA estimated that the Maigue and the Deel were the most polluted rivers in the country in terms of phosphorous loading.*
- *30% of the rivers in hydrometric area 24, (which contain the Maigue and Deel catchments) are classed as unpolluted, compared with a national average of 70%.*
- *Limerick County Council has one landfill in operation at Gortadroma in the West of the County.*
- *This landfill is licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency and in 2003 81,800 tonnes of waste were disposed of at the landfill.*
- *Limerick County Council provides recycling facilities throughout the County with 49 recycling centres and the new Household Waste Recycling centers in Newcastle West and Kilmallock.*
- *The total quantity of waste recycled in Limerick County in 2003 was 893 tonnes.*

Chapter 7 - Social Situation

In this chapter the following social areas are considered

- 7.1 *Education*
- 7.2 *Health*
- 7.3 *Sport*
- 7.4 *Amenities*
- 7.5 *Childcare*
- 7.6 *Security*

7.1 *Education*

There are 116 Primary schools and 21 Post-Primary schools located in County Limerick. There are 3 Third Level institutions located in Limerick: the University of Limerick which is situated in the County and Mary Immaculate College and Limerick Institute of Technology are located in Limerick City. There are two private National Council for Educational Awards colleges in Limerick City - HSI and the Mid West Business Institute. County Limerick Vocational Education Committee (VEC) provides a range of further education, post-primary, post-leaving certificate, return to education, adult, continuing, lifelong learning and literacy programmes to all citizens of County Limerick.

Primary Level

Table 52: Number of Primary School Pupils in County Limerick

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2001/02
Ireland	470,074	454,533	444,310	424,707
Limerick	14,432	13,901	13,753	13,188

(Source: Regional Office - Department of Education, Statistical Report 2001/02)

Limerick County has 114 Primary Schools and 2 Special Primary Schools located in towns & villages throughout the County.

❖ See Appendix 6 - List of County Limerick Primary Schools

Table 53: Number of National School Teachers in County Limerick

Year	1998/99	1999/00	2001/02
No. of Teachers	649	648	657
Teacher / Pupil Ratio	21.4:1	21.2:1	20:1

(Source: Regional Office - Department of Education, Statistical Report 2001/02)

There are 17 two-teacher schools in County Limerick.

Table 54: Number of Two Teacher Schools in County Limerick at Enrolment in 2003

School	Location	No. of Pupils
Lough Gur	Holycross	37
Ballysteen	Askeaton	16
Bohermore	Ballysimon	33
Martinstown	Kilmallock	7
Rathkeale	Rathkeale	28
Garrydoolis	Pallasgreen	29
Coolcappa	Ardagh	12
Naoimh Padraig	Abbeyfeale	36
Bulgaden	Bulgaden	37
Fedamore	Fedamore	27
Feale View	Abbeyfeale	26
Clover Field	Dromkeen	28
Meenkilly	Abbeyfeale	50
Scoil Naomh Ide	Ballagh	38
Cappamore	Cappamore	30
Scoil Ioseph Naofa	Ballyorgan	16
Kilbehenny	Kilbehenny	33

(Source: Department of Education, February 2004)

Second Level

Table 55: Number of Second Level Schools

<i>Ireland</i>	<i>2001/02</i>	<i>Limerick</i>	<i>2001/02</i>
Secondary	416	Secondary	10
VEC	247	VEC	9
Community	71	Community	2
Comprehensive	16	Comprehensive	0
Total	750	Total	21

(Source: Regional Office - Department of Education, Statistical Report 2001/02)

There are 21 Second Level Schools located in County Limerick, with 10 classified as Secondary Schools, 9 as Vocational Schools and 2 Community Schools.

County Limerick VEC, the local education authority has been spearheading a phased development and enhancement programme at post-primary level. This has given rise to new partnership management structures and the establishment of a major countywide building programme incorporating the planning and development of new schools at Askeaton, Castletroy, Dromcollogher, Hospital, Kilmallock, Newcastle West and Rathkeale while plans are also in train for Abbeyfeale, Cappamore and Croom. This development strategy ensures post-primary opportunities, services and facilities at strategic development locations throughout the county.

- ❖ See Map 16 – Limerick County Secondary Schools.
- ❖ See Appendix 7 – List of County Limerick Secondary Schools.

Table 56: Number of Second Level Students

<i>Ireland</i>	<i>2001/02</i>	<i>Limerick</i>	<i>1999/00</i>	<i>2000/01</i>	<i>2001/02</i>
Secondary	192,436	Secondary	3,271	3,163	2,982
VEC	96,467	VEC	2,493	2,760	2,949
Community	42,951	Community	994	1,475	1,012
Comprehensive	8,224	Comprehensive	0	0	0
Total	340,078	Total	6,758	7,398	6,945

(Source: Regional Office - Department of Education, Statistical Report 2001/02)

Third Level

Table 57: Number of Students in University of Limerick (U.L.) & Mary Immaculate College (M.I.C.)

	1997/98	1998/99	2001/02
Full-time	8,317	8,826	10,010
Part-time	944	1,301	1,830
Total	9,261	10,127	11,840

(Source: Regional Office - Department of Education, Statistical Report 2001/02)

Table 58: Number of Students in Limerick Institute of Technology

	1997/98	1998/99	2001/02
Full-time	2,625	2,939	3,464
Part-time	803	884	1,136

(Source: Regional Office - Department of Education, Statistical Report 2001/02)

There has been an increase in the number of full-time & part-time students attending 3rd level colleges in Limerick.

Table 59: Highest Level of Education Attained 2002 (over 15)

	Primary	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary	Third Level Non- Degree	Third Level Degree
Co. Limerick					
Males	8,695	9,470	11,557	3,650	5,311
Females	7,037	8,511	11,719	4,432	5,692
Total	15,732	17,981	23,276	8,082	10,940
Munster	153,853	170,763	210,596	70,960	98,016
Mid-West	26,121	26,910	32,771	9,720	14,017
Ireland	552,220	565,433	724,099	250,429	396,408

(Source: Census 2002, Vol. 8 – Education and Qualifications)

Table 60: Percentage of Resident Population with Third Level Qualifications

Area	% 2002
Ireland	21.7
Munster	19.6
Mid-West	17.7
Limerick County	19.8
Limerick City	17.7
Clare	20.1
Tipperary North	16.2

(Volume 7, Census 2002)

The percentage of resident population with Third Level Qualifications in County Limerick is significantly higher than Limerick City and Tipperary North and just below the figure for Clare. The proximity of County Limerick to three third level institutions could account for the high participation rate in third level education.

Table 61: Limerick Students in HEA Colleges (2001/02)

College	Students
UL – University of Limerick	1,996
UCC – University College Cork	587
MIC – Mary Immaculate College	429
NUIG – National University of Ireland, Galway	308
UCD – University College Dublin	255
TCD – Trinity College Dublin	190
DCU – Dublin City University	45
NUIM – National University of Ireland, Maynooth	42
NCAD – National College of Arts & Design	13
RCSI – Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland	8
SPD – St Patrick’s Dromcondra	4
Total	3,877

(Source: Higher Education Authority)

In the academic year 2001/02 there were 3,877 Limerick students attending HEA colleges, an increase of 355 students since 1998/99.

❖ See Appendix 8 – County of Origin of UL/MIC students.

Table 62: Participation in Adult Education

	1997/98	2001/02
Ireland	131,859	152,258
Limerick*	2,111	5,278

(Source: Regional Office - Department of Education Statistical Report 2001/02)

*Limerick City & County

In 2001/02, 5,278 adults in Limerick attended adult education courses ranging from Adult Literacy, Back to Education Initiatives, Community Education Courses, Family Learning Initiatives, Youthreach, Vocational Training Opportunities, Senior Traveller Training Centres and Evening Programmes. These courses are provided at various locations throughout the County.

7.2 Health

County Limerick is part of the Mid-Western Health Board area which also covers Limerick City, Clare and North Tipperary. Health statistics for County Limerick alone are not available as statistics for health are mainly on a city and county basis or on an administrative area basis, with East Limerick included in North Tipperary health area statistics. All DEDs in the Castleconnell Electoral Area, except for Roxborough, Fedamore, Cahercorney and Kiltely are in the North Tipperary Community Care Area.

Statistics on the population in the MWHB Region:

- In 2002 the population of the Mid-Western Health Board (MWHB) Region was 339,591, which represents an increase of 7.1% since 1996.
- The number of births in the region has increased from 4,764 in 1996 to 5,242 in 2002. The population and birth rate in the MWHB Region continues to increase; however the relative number of persons aged 18 years or less is decreasing due to the decrease in the birth rate in the 1980s.
- The total number of deaths in the region in 2001 was 2,777. The infant death rate in 2001 was 4 for every 1,000 live births and was below the state average of 6 per year for infants aged under one year.

(Source: Census 2002; Mid-Western Health Board Service Plan 2004)

Table 63: Total Number of Patients treated in the MWHB Region in 2003

Type of Patient	Total Treated
In-Patients	42,960
Day-Patients	24,667
Out-Patients	142,934
A&E Attendance	84,879

(Source: Mid-Western Health Board Service Plan 2004)

In 2003 a total of 294,440 patients were treated in the Mid-Western Health Board Region.

The Mid-West Regional Hospital, Raheen

The Mid-West Regional Hospital located in Dooradoyle is the main hospital for the Mid-West Region. It offers acute in-patient services and a full range of out-patient services in the following areas: operating theatres, day surgery units, dialysis unit, intensive care, outpatients, accident and emergency, laboratory, physiotherapy, radiology, paediatric unit, social work and pharmacy.

The Regional Maternity Hospital

The Regional Maternity Hospital is located in Limerick City and serves the population of the region, including the residents of County Limerick.

Orthopaedic Hospital, Croom

Specialises in orthopaedic services on an inpatient, day care and outpatient basis.

St. Ita's Hospital, Newcastle West

Offers a range of non-acute services for the older adult both on an inpatient and outpatient basis.

Raheen Community Hospital

Caters for people over 65 years of age and is mainly for patients requiring long-term care.

❖ See Map 17 – Limerick County Health Care Centres

Births in the Mid-West Region

Table 64: Total Births in the Mid West Region

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
County Clare	1,311	1,332	1,421	1,372	1,485	1,749
Limerick City	996	957	693	847	849	866
County Limerick	1487	1,574	1,696	1,574	1,522	1,698
North Tipperary	911	832	801	999	908	929
Total Births	4,704	4,695	4,611	4,792	4,764	5,242

(Source: Mid-Western Health Board, Community Development Section, 2004)

From the above table we can see that nationally the birth rate has been falling at a rate of 21.2% in 1995 to 14.5% in 1998. However, the number of births in the Mid-West region has increased between 2001 and 2002 from 4,764 to 5,242, an increase of 10%.

Table 65: Total Births to Mothers under 20 yrs in the Mid West Region

Year	1998	2000	2002
Clare	69	64	64
Limerick City	98	96	92
County Limerick	56	74	70
North Tipperary	46	58	49
Total Births	269	292	275

(Source: Mid-Western Health Board, Community Development Section, 2004)

The number of births in the Mid-West Region to mothers under 20 yrs has increased from 269 in 1998 to 275 in 2002. In County Limerick the number has also increased significantly from 56 in 1998 to 70 in 2002.

Table 66: Age breakdown of mothers in 1997 and 2002, Mid West region (CSO)

<u>1997</u>	Clare	Limerick City	Co. Limerick	Tipperary (N.R.)	Total
15 yrs and under	1	3	2	1	7
16 years	4	9	3	2	18
17 years	7	16	12	8	43
18 years	21	32	20	25	98
19 years	16	43	29	20	108
Other Ages	1,262	893	1,421	855	4,431
Total	1,311	996	1,487	911	4,705
Teens as % of all ages	4%	10%	4%	6%	6%
<u>2002</u>	Clare	Limerick City	Co. Limerick	Tipperary (N.R.)	Total
15 yrs and under	2	5	0	1	8
16 years	3	5	6	6	20
17 years	8	14	12	7	41
18 years	23	26	12	12	73
19 years	28	42	40	23	133
Other Ages	1,685	774	1,628	880	4,967
Total	1,749	866	1,698	929	5,242
Teens as % of all ages	4%	11%	4%	5%	6%

(Source: Community Development Section, MWHB, 2004)

In 2002, 6% of births in the Mid-Western Region were to mothers under the age of twenty. In County Limerick births to mothers under the age of twenty accounted for only 4% of the total births.

Mortality

Table 67: Main Causes of Death in the Mid-West Region, 2001

Cardiovascular Disease	41%
Cancers	22%
Respiratory Diseases	17%
Injuries & Poisoning	5%
Remainder	15%

(Source: Mid-Western Health Board Service Plan 2004)

The age Standardised Death Rate within the MWHB region per 100,000 persons has decreased steadily over the past decade. From 1982 to 1986 the Mid-Western death rate was 1,114 and this then decreased to 829 from 1987 to 2001. The Mid-West region has moved from having the highest Standardised Death Rate to being just above the average for the state.

Cardiovascular disease, which includes coronary heart disease and stroke, is the single largest cause of death. There were 2,777 deaths in the Mid-Western Health Board region in 2001. Of these 41% were due to cardiovascular disease.

Teenage Survey – Lifestyle Habits

The Public Health department of the Mid-Western Health Board carried out a study of the smoking habits, alcohol and drug consumption of almost 3,000 post-primary school students in Counties Limerick and Clare in 2003. This up-dated a similar study carried out in 1998.

Summary of Findings

Alcohol was the main substance of misuse by young students in the Mid-West. 62% reported having consumed alcohol within the previous month, an increase since the previous survey. 22% of 14 year olds reported that they had consumed more than 5 drinks in a row within the previous month. Rates of alcohol use were higher for females than males, reversing the trend of the previous survey.

Table 68: Rates and age breakdown of young people who have consumed alcohol within the previous month in the Mid-West

Age	% reporting alcohol consumption within the previous month
14 years	42
15 years	44
16 years	68
17 years	77

(Source: Mid-Western Health Board, 2004)

Almost one-third of students surveyed, smoke, which was a slightly higher rate than found in the previous survey. 18% of females and 15% of males reported smoking daily at the age of 13 years or younger.

39% of students surveyed have used some form of illicit drug. This is an increase of almost 10% from the previous survey. Cannabis and inhalants were the main illicit drugs identified.

Consumption of tobacco and alcohol continue to pose a significant threat to the health of much of our population. Drug use among the younger people in the region is increasingly common.

(Source: Community Development Section, MWHB, 2004)

7.3 Sport

County Limerick Local Sports Partnership

In County Limerick representatives of a number of state agencies have been working together to support community and voluntary effort in the promotion of sport and recreation. A County Limerick Local Sports Partnership (CLLSP) Steering Group has been formed with the aim of securing an Irish Sports Council's Local Sports Partnership and the development of a Strategic Plan for Sport and Recreation in the County. The vision of the Steering Group is of a County where all residents and visitors are provided with the opportunity and encouragement to participate in a form of sport regardless of age, ability, social or economic circumstances.

The key aims of CLLSP are:

- To co-ordinate the activities of the key agencies involved in sports development in County Limerick; and
- To secure an Irish Sports Council (ISC) funded sports partnership for the County to support the efforts of the key providers (sports clubs, community organisations, schools, etc).

Action Plan 2003/04

The CLLSP have produced a Strategic Action Plan for the 2003/04 period geared at increasing participation in sport and recreation by people of all ages and abilities. The plan identifies two main strategies –

- 1) Developing Organised Sport – this involves supporting sports organisations, clubs, professionals and volunteers in delivering a high quality service to sports participants.
- 2) Communities In Motion – this involves empowering local communities in the development of locally appropriate Action Plans with a particular focus on low-participation groups. Three pilot projects are being supported in Croom, Cappamore and Newcastle West.

The following groups were prioritised in the Action Plan:

- Older People (50+)
- Toddlers (0-4yrs) and their parents
- Young People

The above groups were prioritised based on the research and consultation undertaken. The main findings were as follows:

Older People:

The World Health Organisation defines older people as those over 50 years of age. In 2002 the Census reported that older people now account for 26% of the total population in County Limerick. According to the National Council on Ageing and Older People it is projected that older people will account for 28% of the total population by 2006 and this will increase to 30% by 2011.

- The Health and Social Services for Older People Survey (HeSSOP) 2000 was a survey of older people living in their homes and reported that most older people are interested in maintaining social contact and over 20% are interested in becoming an active member of a club or group.
- The Survey of Attitudes of County Limerick Residents reported that older people considered themselves to be underprovided for in terms of social outlets and activities; they cited that there are community facilities available but are under-utilised, and that limited financial resources restrict the range of activities older people can participate in.

Toddlers

The World Health Organisation suggests that regular physical activity at an early age is crucial to the physical, social and mental development of the child. According to the 2002 Census there are 8,182 young children between the ages of 0 – 4 years in County Limerick of which 4,184 are boys and 3,998 are girls. In total, young children account for 6.75% of the overall population in the County. Surveys on children have shown that:

- The activity levels and physical fitness levels of Irish children are lower than that of children in Europe.
- Over 40% of children undertake less physical activity than is desirable.
- 78% of children are spending 1-3hrs per day sedentary in front of a screen.

Young People

According to the 2002 Census there are approximately 14,500 young people in County Limerick, which accounts for 12% of the overall population. The Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) survey was carried out amongst children of 10-18 years and it reported:

- Overall, 48% of children are engaging in strenuous exercise four or more times a week, 52% did not. 12% of the total respondents engaged in exercise less than weekly.
- A survey on school sport in Primary and Post-Primary Schools reported that there is a significant dropout of young people participating in sport as they move from Primary through to Secondary school.

As a result of the above research CLLSP chose to prioritise the three groups in their Action Plan – Older People, Toddlers and Young People. A number of actions have been undertaken in order to achieve the strategy.

Actions Undertaken

- A County Sports Forum and Executive for the Sports Forum have been established to represent the views of clubs/recreation groups in the formation and delivery of future sports policy, facilitate closer co-operation, improve access to information and provide support to clubs/recreation groups.
- A series of Communities in Motion formation/training workshops have been organised, designed to assist the local Community/Voluntary Groups.
- Action Plans appropriate to each community have been designed and launched and are geared towards increasing participation levels in physical activity.
- Information/education presentations have been organised and promoted in each community.
- Appropriate leader training opportunities have been organised and promoted.

7.4 Amenities

There are five town parks in County Limerick, which are located in Adare, Bruff, Kilmallock, Newcastle West (Demesne) and Abbeyfeale. Other recreational areas in the County include the Clare Glens, Currachase Forest Park and Lough Gur. There are also various walks established throughout County Limerick with 1,500km of walks in mid-Limerick, over 29km in the east and 8 trails in the west. Kilfinnane Outdoor Education Centre is one of a National Network of nine Outdoor Education Centres and is administered by the V.E.C.

7.5 Childcare

There are eighty two sessional services (less than 3.5 hours) and thirty three full day care services being offered in County Limerick. Since 2001 there has been an increase in the number of childcare places available from 1,202 to 1,627 with 1,158 sessional places and 469 full day places now available.

There remains to be a lack of childcare provision in rural areas of the county. When the areas of least provision of childcare are compared with areas of deprivation in the County, there is a strong correlation between the two.

The lack of provision in rural areas has implications for the distance parents have to travel for children. This raises again the issue of availability of rural transport and its accessibility for parents wishing to use childcare facilities. Childcare provision is particularly poor for children under a year old.

Supply of good quality childcare is being addressed by the County Limerick Childcare Committee (CLCC) through the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme. CLCC has as its aim to increase the number of childcare places for 0-12 year olds. On the demand side, there is an increase in the number of women in work, particularly married women with children and this has implications for childcare provision. Balance in provision is required between isolated rural areas and urban centres to ensure that there is greater coverage of the county as a whole.

(Source: County Limerick Childcare Committee, Annual Report 2003)

❖ See Map 18 – County Limerick Childcare Facilities

7.6 Security

An Garda Siochana

Limerick Garda Divison comprises of all Limerick City and County and parts of Clare. The area is further divided into Limerick City North, Limerick City South, Askeaton, Newcastle West and Bruff Districts. A Chief Superintendent heads the Garda force in the Limerick Division and is assisted by 5 Superintendants who have their offices in Henry Street and Roxboro Road in Limerick City, Askeaton, Newcastle West and Bruff. There are 3 Garda Stations open 24 hours a day in County Limerick, Askeaton, Newcastle West and Bruff.

❖ See Map 19 – Limerick County Garda Stations

A survey carried out by An Garda Siochana found levels of public satisfaction with the overall Garda service in the community in 2002 was 81%, which was somewhat lower than 87% in 2001. Females reported higher satisfaction levels than males, and those older than 55 years of age also reported higher satisfaction levels than other age groups.

Table 69: Number of headline offences recorded per 1,000 population

	1993	1997	2001	2002
Limerick	22.0	18.95	21.48	29.35
Clare	7.9	12.08	16.48	19.86
Tipperary	14.5	11.79	13.55	14.74

(Source: An Garda Siochana, Crime Statistics 2002)

The figure for Limerick includes both Limerick City and County. The number of crimes per thousand in Limerick has fallen between 1995 and 1997 from 23.77 to 18.95. However it has increased significantly between 2001 and 2002 from 21.48 to 29.35.

In 2002 there were 4,870 headline offences recorded in Limerick. The rate of headline offences recorded in 2002 in all 25 Garda Divisions increased by 23% since 2001.

Summary

- *County Limerick is served by 116 primary schools and 21 second level schools.*
- *County Limerick VEC provides a range of second level post-leaving certificate, return to education and literacy programmes.*
- *The percentage of resident population with third level qualifications in County Limerick is 19.8%, which is high compared to the other counties in the Mid-West Region.*
- *In the 2001-2002 academic year there were 3,877 Limerick students attending HEA colleges.*
- *There were 2,777 deaths in the Mid Western Health Board region in 2001. Death rates in the Region have fallen by 8.9% since 1998.*
- *The total number of births in the Mid-West region has increased by 10% between 2001 and 2002 from 6,702 to 5,242.*
- *The number of births to mothers aged less than twenty years in the Region accounted for 6% of all births compared to 4% in County Limerick.*
- *There are six hospitals in the Mid-Western Region, three of which are located in County Limerick, Limerick Regional Hospital which is the main hospital for the region, the Orthopaedic Hospital in Croom and St. Ita's Hospital in Newcastle West.*
- *There are three outdoor and two indoor swimming pools in County Limerick.*
- *There are five town parks in County Limerick and three significant recreational areas in the Clare Glens, Curraghchase Forest Park and Lough Gur.*
- *There is a lack of childcare provision especially in rural areas and childcare provision is particularly poor for children under a year old.*
- *There are a total of 32 Garda Stations located in County Limerick.*
- *In 2002 there were 4,870 headline offences recorded in Limerick City & County.*

Chapter 8 - Social Inclusion

In this chapter the situation of the following target groups are considered:

- 8.1 *Unemployed*
- 8.2 *Low Paid*
- 8.3 *One Parent Families*
- 8.4 *Older People*
- 8.5 *People with Disabilities*
- 8.6 *Travellers*
- 8.7 *Educationally Disadvantaged*
- 8.8 *Tenants of Local Authority Housing*
- 8.9 *Homeless*
- 8.10 *Deprivation*

Introduction

What is Social Exclusion

Partnership 2000 defines social exclusion as cumulative marginalisation from:

- production (unemployment)
- consumption (poverty),
- social networks (community, family and neighbours),
- decision making (participation) and from an adequate quality of life.

8.1 Unemployed

Table 70: Number Unemployed in County Limerick

	1996	2002
Ireland	199,136	138,199
Munster	53,010	36,097
Mid-West	14,956	10,658
County Limerick	5,163	3,599

(Source: CSO Principal Socio-Economic Results, 2002)

In 2002 the unemployment rate in County Limerick was 6.6% of the labour force with 3,599 people unemployed throughout the County, which was a decrease of 1,564 since 1996. In comparison the unemployment rate in the Mid-West region was 8.2% with 12,583 people unemployed and the unemployment rate of the State was 8.8% with 159,346 people unemployed in 2002.

However based on the C.S.O. International Labour Organisation unemployment statistics County Limerick had an unemployment rate of 4.3% in 2002. This was the lowest unemployment rate in the mid-west region and was also lower than the state figure of 5.7% in 2002. The ILO statistics are a more accurate reading of the unemployment situation, as it includes all persons employed for a minimum of one hour per week.

The following unemployment figures are sourced from the Department of Social Welfare and include the number of people in receipt of unemployment payments in Limerick City & County. These figures differ from those supplied by the C.S.O. as persons who described themselves as unemployed in the 2002 Census may or may not be in receipt of unemployment payments.

Table 71: Number in receipt of Unemployment Welfare in Limerick (2003)

	2003
Unemployment Assistance	3,419
Unemployment Benefit	3,379
Unemployment Credits	663
Total	7,461
Male	4,369
Female	3,094

(Source: Department of Social & Family Affairs, February 2004)

Table 72: Age Profile of Unemployed in Limerick (2003)

Age	2003
15 – 24 years	1,307
25 – 44 years	3,856
45 – 66 years	2,298

(Source: Department of Social & Family Affairs, February, 2004)

8.2 Low Paid

Table 73: FIS (Family Income Support)

	2001	2003
Limerick	484	510
Clare	283	231
Tipperary	656	627

(Source: Department of Social & Family Affairs, February 2004)

Family Income Support is a weekly payment for families, including lone parent families, who are working and on low pay. The number of families in receipt of Family Income Supplement in Limerick City & County in 2003 was 510, an increase of over 5% since 2001.

8.3 One Parent Families

Table 74: Number of One Parent Families in County Limerick, 2003

Type of Allowance	Number of People
Deserted Wife's Benefit	506
Deserted Wife's Allowance	59
Unmarried Mother's Payment	567
Widowed Parent	13
Separated Spouse Allowance	155
One Parent Family Payment 1	2,980
One Parent Family Payment 2 (Widows)	33
Total	4,313

(Source: Department of Social & Family Affairs, February 2004)

During 2003 there was a total of 4,313 persons in receipt of One Parent Family Allowance in County Limerick.

8.4 Older People

Table 75: Number of Old People receiving pensions in Limerick (2003)

Type of Pension	Number of People
Old Age Contributory	3,936
Old Age Non Contributory	4,036
Retirement	3,683
Total	11,655

(Source: Department of Social & Family Affairs, February 2003)

In the 2002 Census, the population in County Limerick aged 65 years and over was almost 11% or 12,776 persons. In 2003, 11,655 people were receiving a pension in County Limerick, an increase of over 62% since 2001.

Pensions and other allowances are mainly administered through Post Offices.

❖ See Appendix 9 – Post Offices in County Limerick

Table 76: Number of older people living alone in County Limerick, 2002

County Limerick	Aged 65+		Aged 70+	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	1,201	2,058	887	1,659
% of Total	37%	63%	35%	65%
Total	3,259		2,546	

(Source: Mid-Western Health Board Service Plan, 2004)

In 2002, 29% of persons aged 65 years and over were recorded as living alone in the Mid-West region, an increase of 26% on the 1996 rate. In 2002 there was a total of 12,776 persons aged 65 years and over living in County Limerick. Of this there were 5,805 persons living alone, 63% female and 37% male.

We can see from the above table that there were more women than men living alone, reflecting the greater numbers of women living longer in the 65+ age group.

8.5 People with Disabilities

Table 77: Number of people in receipt of Disability Allowance in Limerick (2003)

Type of Allowance	Number of People
Invalidity Allowance	2,981
Disability Allowance	3,679
Blind Persons Pension	83

(Source: Department of Social & Family Affairs, February 2004)

There were 6,743 people in receipt of Disability allowances in Limerick City and County in 2003.

Physical & Sensory Disabilities

In 2003, 3300 persons with physical or sensory disabilities were estimated as eligible for inclusion on the Physical and Sensory Disability Database within the Mid-Western Health Board region. This represents a regional prevalence of 9.71 per 1,000 population.

Table 78: Estimated number of Person with Physical/Sensory Disabilities in the Mid-West Region

Category	Co. Clare	Limerick*	North Tipperary	Total
Children	297	515	178	990
Adults	693	1201	416	2310
Total	990	1716	594	3300

(Source: Mid-Western Health Board, Service Plan 2004)

* Limerick includes both City & County

Intellectual Disabilities

In 2003, 2494 persons were registered on the Intellectual Disability Database within the Mid-Western Health Board region, an increase of 9% since 2000. This represents a regional prevalence of 7.65 per 1,000 population against a national prevalence of 7.38 per 1,000 population. Over 1,100 people have mild intellectual disabilities, with slightly fewer than half being less than 18 years. Over 1,300 people are in the moderate, severe or profound range.

Table 79: Age/Disability Profile of Persons with an Intellectual Disability within the Mid-West Region

Age Group	Mild	Moderate/Severe/ Profound	Total
0-18	500	258	758
19-65	643	1,035	1,678
65+	24	34	58
Total	1,167	1,327	2,494

(Source: Mid-Western Health Board Service Plan, 2004)

Of the total database almost 53% are classified as having a moderate/severe/profound Intellectual Disability.

8.6 Travellers

Introduction

Close to 24,000 Irish Travellers, representing 0.6% of the total population, were enumerated in the 2002 Census. There were 1,364 Travellers in Limerick, of which 317 were in the City and 1,047 were in the county. There was an estimated 477 Traveller Families in the administrative area of County Limerick (including Trader Families) in November 2003.

(Source: Limerick County Council)

Table 80: Age Structure of the Travelling Community (2002)

Age Group	Travellers		Total Population	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
0-14 years	10,001	42%	827,428	21%
15-64 years	12,904	55%	2,653,774	68%
65 years and over	776	3%	436,001	11%
Total	23,681	100%	3,917,203	100%

(Source: Census 2002, Volume 8 Irish Traveller Community)

In 2002, 42% of the travelling community were in the 0-14 age category, 55% were in the 15-64 age group and only 3% were over 65 years of age. The 2002 Census recorded 6 travellers per 1,000 population in the State and in County Limerick this was 8.6 per 1,000 population. Traveller men live on average 10 years less than settled men and traveller women live on average 12 years less than settled women. The infant mortality rate for travellers is 18.1 per 1000 live births compared to 7.4 for the settled population.

(Source: Census 2002 - Volume 8;

Mid Western Health Board Operational Programme, 2000)

Traveller Accommodation

In November 2003 there were an estimated 477 Traveller Families in the administrative area of County Limerick, of which accommodation was provided for a total of 195 families.

Table 81: Traveller Accommodation Provided in Co. Limerick (November 2003)

Standard Local Authority Housing	134 Families
Group Housing	16 Families
Residential Caravan Sites	27 Families
Shared Ownership Scheme/ Loans etc.	18 Families
Total Accommodation	195 Families

(Source: Limerick County Council, Housing Department, 2003)

Assessment of Need - November 2002

In November 2002 there were 67 traveller families seeking assistance with accommodation from Limerick County Council. This compares to a total of 103 Families seeking assistance in May 1999.

Living circumstances of Traveller Families Seeking Accommodation.

20 families (30%) - Roadside/ Unofficial Site

14 families (21%) - Private Sites/ Yards

8 families (12%) - Living with relatives

20 families (30%) - Official Caravan Sites

2 families (3%) - Private Rented Accommodation

3 families (4%) - Other

County Limerick

Rathkeale is unique in Ireland in that it has become the hometown of a significant number of traveller families. The population of Rathkeale has decreased from 1,546 in 1996 to 1,362 in 2002. Of this 30% are from the travelling community and over 10% are living in caravans. The population of Rathkeale has declined at a faster rate than any other town in Limerick over the last 5 years.

Over the years the wealthier members of the travelling community have purchased or built their own homes in the town. A sizeable number of these houses remain unoccupied, as some of the families pursue their trading activities abroad, or choose to live in a caravan adjacent to the house. Often houses are used as stores and the doors and windows of many are fitted with unsightly iron grills. Within the town the Roches Road and Fair Hill areas are almost entirely occupied by travellers.

(Source: Limerick County Council Rathkeale, Local Area Plan 2000)

8.7 *Educationally Disadvantaged*

During 2003, there were 324 people in receipt of the Back to Education Allowance in Limerick County & City.

The Department of Education traces 1st Year students through to the end of their second level education. This allows for 2nd level education retention rates to be recorded.

Table 82: National 2nd Level Education Retention Rates

National Cohort = 70,851 in 1992; 70,737 in 1993 & 69,103 in 1994

	*1992	*1993	*1994
To Junior Cert Level	95.10%	95.70%	96.40%
Sits Junior Cert	92.30%	93.40%	94.30%
Senior Cycle	78%	78.10%	78.30%

(Source: Regional Office - Department of Education, February 2004)

Table 83: County Limerick Retention Rates

	*1992	*1993	*1994
Sits Junior Cert	92.50%	93.90%	94.60%
Senior Cycle	81%	78.70%	78.50%

(Source: Regional Office - Department of Education, February 2004)

**Number who are still in the school system at the various levels mentioned above.*

By the end of the Senior Cycle, 21.5% of 1994 1st Year students had dropped out of second level education in Limerick, which was slightly lower than the National rate of 21.7%.

Adult, Lifelong, Continuing and Community Education

In 2003 there were 3,625 participants in various adult education programmes, 75% of these were female and 25% were male. Of this 82% were aged between 25 - 64 with 14% under 25 years of age and 4% over 65 years of age.

- *Youthreach* is a programme for early school leavers aged from 16-21 years who have dropped out of mainstream education and provides an opportunity to obtain recognised qualifications such as the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme and Further Education And Training Awards (FETAC) Foundation and Level One accreditation. There are currently two centres in the County, one in Hospital and the other in Shanagolden.
- The *Senior Traveller Training* Centres in Abbeyfeale and Rathkeale, offer full-time FETAC accredited education programmes to the Travelling community. In Abbeyfeale there is also a part-time Programme for Traveller Women.
- *Adult literacy* services are provided at a number of locations throughout the County at times suitable to participants usually on a one-to-one or small group tuition basis.
- *Family Learning* programmes are available to groups throughout the county.
- A range of *Community Education Initiatives* are provided in partnership with local communities to groups that address exclusion. This initiative aims to provide educational programmes locally with a particular emphasis on disadvantaged groups. Groups undertake a variety of courses based on their area of interest, e.g. leadership skills, community development.
- The *Back to Education Initiative (BTEI)* introduced in Autumn 2002 is an opportunity for young people (over the age of 15) and adults to return to learning on a part-time basis. This provides learners with the opportunity to combine return to education with family, work and other responsibilities. The BTEI offers individuals and communities an opportunity to improve their educational status. A priority target of the BTEI is to increase the participation of people with less than upper secondary education and provide them with a range of flexible learning opportunities.
- All *post-primary and adult education centres* provide a wide variety of part-time personal and professional development courses in the Autumn and Spring in an extensive spread of centres throughout the county.

8.8 Tenants of Local Authority Housing

Table 84: Analysis of Rent Returns at March 2004

Total No. Of Households	1,452
No. of Households where Principal earner is employed	509 (35%)
No. of Households where Principal Earner is Dependent on Social Welfare	943* (65%)

(Source: Limerick County Council, Housing Section, March 2004)

*Breakdown of 943 households where principal earner is dependent on social welfare:

◆ Elderly	218
◆ Lone Parents	174
◆ Back to Work/Community Employment Schemes etc.	38
◆ Invalidity/Disability/Carers	206
◆ Unemployed	219
◆ Others	<u>88</u>
◆ TOTAL	943

There are 1,452 households in Local Authority rented accommodation in County Limerick as at March 2004. Of these there are 943 or 65% of households dependent on social welfare allowances as their main source of income showing that large concentrations of unemployment still exist in Local Authority housing estates.

Table 85: Analysis of Occupation Status of Housing Waiting List, Feb. 2004

Description	Numbers	%
Employed	247	22.9
Employed in Back-to-work/FÁS Schemes etc	13	1.2
Lone Parent Support Only	200	18.5
Pensioner	87	8
Unemployed (in receipt of S.W. Benefit)	534	49.4
TOTAL	1,081	100%

(Source: Limerick County Council, Housing Section, February 2004)

In 2003 there were 1,081 families on the Local Authority Waiting List. An analysis of the applicants for Local Authority Accommodation shows that 49.4% of the applicants are unemployed and Old Age Pensioners account for 8% of the total number of applicants.

8.9 Homeless

There were 53 persons who presented themselves as homeless in County Limerick at the end of 2003. From January to June 2004, 25 persons presented themselves as homeless in County Limerick.

Main services dealing with homelessness in the Mid West Region are:

- Adapt House, Rossbrien, Limerick - Victims of domestic violence
- Altarnira Apartments, Thomondgate, Limerick – Single parents with children
- Brother Stephen Russell Home, Limerick – Single men
- St. Patrick’s Hostel, Limerick – Single men
- Focus Ireland, Parnell Street, Limerick – Single people
- Cuain Mhuire, Bruree, Co. Limerick – Single people
- Thomond House, Limerick – Single women
- Clarehaven, Co. Clare – Victims of domestic violence

8.10 Deprivation

The following deprivation scores are based on 2002 Census data and take into consideration the underlying dimensions of deprivation, i.e. Demographic Decline, Social Class Disadvantage and Labour Market Deprivation. The scores range from -50 to 50 with -50 being extremely deprived and 50 being extremely affluent.

Table 86: Relative Deprivation Scores, 2002

National	2.2
Mid-West	1.9
Limerick County	5.0
Limerick City	1.2
North Tipperary	1.3
Clare	3.8

(Source: GAMMA, 2002)

In 2002 the National Relative Deprivation Score was 2.2. The level of deprivation in County Limerick was 5.0, which was better than the National score and also the Mid-West average of 1.9.

There are a number of disadvantaged clusters in County Limerick. The most deprived DED's in 2002 were Rathkeale Rural (-21.0), Glensharrold (-14.2), Kilfergus (-13.1), Mountcollins (-12.7) and Bruree (-12.5).

- ❖ See Map 20 – Limerick County – Relative Affluence & Deprivation 2002
- ❖ See Map 21 – Limerick County – Change in Relative Deprivation 1991- 2002

Table 87: Construction of Deprivation Indices

Census Variables used in Index
<p><u>Demographic Decline</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the percentage of population aged under 16 or over 65 years of age ▪ the percentage change in population over the previous five years ▪ the percentage of population with a primary school education only ▪ the percentage of population with a third level education (inverse effect) ▪ the percentage of households with children aged 15 years and under headed by a single parent (inverse effect)
<p><u>Social Class Deprivation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the percentage of population with a primary school education only ▪ the percentage of population with a third level education (inverse only) ▪ the percentage of households headed by professionals or managerial and technical employees, including farmers with 100 acres or more(inverse effect) ▪ the mean number of persons per room ▪ the percentage of households headed by semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers, including farmers with less than 30 acres
<p><u>Labour Market Deprivation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the percentage of households headed by semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers, including farmers with less than 30 acres ▪ the percentage of households with children aged 15 years and under headed by a single parent ▪ the male unemployment rate ▪ the female unemployment rate

Summary

- *In 2002 the Labour Force in County Limerick was 46,417 of which 41,454 were employed and 5,163 were unemployed.*
- *By August 2003 the unemployment rate in the Mid-West region had risen to 5.8%, which was higher than the national average of 5.2%.*
- *In February 2003, there were 4,313 families in receipt of One Parent Family Allowances in County Limerick.*
- *In the 2002 Census the population of County Limerick aged over 65 years was almost 11% or 12,776 persons. Of this 5,805 persons were living alone, 64% female and 36% male.*
- *There were 510 families in Limerick City & County in receipt of family income support in 2003.*
- *There are an estimated 3,300 persons in the Mid-West region eligible for inclusion in the Physical & Sensory Disability database, of which almost 1,000 are children.*
- *There are 2,494 persons registered on the Intellectual Disability database within the Mid-Western Health Board.*
- *Limerick County Council provided accommodation to 195 traveller families by 2003.*
- *Rathkeale is unique in Ireland; according to the 2002 census up to 30% of the population within the town is estimated as being from the travelling community.*
- *Limerick County's second level education retention rate is slightly better than the national average.*
- *A survey of Local Authority rented households showed that 23.2% of County Limerick tenants are unemployed, 23.1% are elderly and 18.5% are lone parents.*
- *There were 1,081 families on Limerick County Councils Housing waiting list in 2003, with 49.4% of the applicants unemployed and 8% being old age pensioners.*
- *The level of relative deprivation in County Limerick in 2002 was 5.0, which was better than the National score of 2.2 and the Mid-West average of 1.9.*

Chapter 9 - Cultural Situation

In this chapter we consider cultural services in County Limerick:

- 9.1 *Arts Facilities & Services*
- 9.2 *Public Libraries*
- 9.3 *Irish Language*
- 9.4 *Areas of Conservation*

9.1 Arts Facilities

University Concert Hall is situated in the University of Limerick in Castletroy. Many of the world's finest artists have graced the Concert Hall's stage since its opening in 1993. The 1,038 seat venue is a host of regular live entertainment including drama, comedy, recitals, dance and grand opera.

Friar's Gate Theatre is situated in Kilmallock. A regular calendar of exhibitions and performances by amateur and professional drama groups is hosted by the theatre. The Theatre also runs a very active Youth Theatre sponsored by the County Arts Office.

River Oak Folk Studio is situated in Abbeyfeale. This theatre has capacity for 80 people and hosts amateur drama productions.

Glin Heritage Centre hosts a number of exhibitions and other type art events.

Abington Church, Murroe hosts largely concerts and choral events.

Honey Fitz Theatre, Lough Gur and The Interpretive Centre, Lough Gur are the venues for the Annual Lough Gur Storytelling Festival.

Newcastle West and Area Arts Committee host the Arts Festival in April and a number of exhibitions and concerts throughout the year. There are approximately 3-4 exhibitions, 3 concerts and 3 poetry readings held each year. Venues for these events are the Council Area Office, the Library and the Desmond Castle.

Samhlu Street Theatre includes approximately 70 people from aged 6 to 60 engaged in making costumes for the Foynes Irish Coffee Festival Street Parade. They also perform in parades in Limerick City, festivals around the County and in surrounding counties.

Rathkeale Community Arts Group hold the Slanders Festival every May Eve involving the community (including the Travelling Community).

The Joyce Brothers School is an annual Summer School promoted by the VEC and takes place each year in Kilfinane Education Centre.

Newcastle West & District School of Music resourced by the VEC in conjunction with the local organising committee provides year round tuition for over one hundred students in string, wind, keyboard and percussion.

Arts Services

The following is the type of programme/projects co-ordinated by the Arts Office:

- 10 Artists in Primary School Scheme
- Literature programme including residencies, readings and workshops.
- Organisation of Eigse Michael Hartnett literary weekend which includes readings by Irelands' leading poets
- A series of approximately 16 exhibitions by visual artists in library venues such as Newcastle West and Dooradoyle.
- Programme of participatory events for the active age for the Bealtaine Festival.
- A series of concerts, music workshops in various county locations.
- Co-ordination the implementation of the Council's per cent for public art.

(Source: County Arts Office, February 2004)

9.2 Public Libraries

Table 88: Public Libraries, Opening Hours & Services

Hours open per week	Location	Hours open to the public	No. of evenings per week	Weekend opening
+40	Newcastle West	45	2	Y
	Dooradoyle	42½	2	Y
30-39	Adare	36½	2	Y
	Doon	30½	2	N
20-29	Abbeyfeale	29	2	Y
	Foynes	25½	2	Y
	Rathkeale	23½	2	N
	Kilfinane	19	-	N
10-19	Askeaton	18	2	N
	Athea	13½	2	N
	Ballylanders	11	1	N
	Caherconlish	11	3	N
	Cappamore	16½	3	N
	Croom	10½	2	N
	Galbally	9½	3	Y
	Hospital	10	3	N
	Kilmallock	16½	2	Y
	Dromcollogher	14	2	N
Under 10	Ballingarry	8½	2	N
	Bruff	8	2	N
	Caherdavin	9½	2	N
	Pallaskenry	6	2	N
	Shanagolden	4	-	N

(Source: Limerick County Library, February 2004)

Limerick County Library has 26 Branch Libraries and a Mobile Library service with 17,868 members, a book stock of 400,000 and an extensive local studies collection. The Library service issued 376,432 books in 2003. There is free public library internet access on becoming a member and there is no registration charge. The 5 main branches (Dooradoyle, Adare, Newcastlewest, Abbeyfeale and Foynes) all run a calendar of cultural events and activities each year.

9.3 Irish Language

Activities / Festivals

The main activities using Irish are hosting readings by poets writing in Irish and also the organising of Eigse Michael Hartnett poetry award, the largest award for poetry in Irish. Keynote lectures at the Michael Hartnett weekend are in Irish.

Table 89: Ability to speak Irish

	Total	Irish Speakers	Non-Irish Speakers
Ireland	3,917,203	1,570,894	2,346,309
Munster	1,100,614	493,500	607,114
Limerick	121,281	58,051	63,200

(Source: Census 2002 – Principal Demographic Results)

In 2002, 58,081 or 48% of persons aged 3 years and over were recorded as being able to speak Irish in County Limerick. Of this 11,489 people stated that they speak Irish on a daily basis.

9.4 Areas of Conservation

Currently in Limerick there are three types of conservation designations, which have been introduced by the 1992 EU Habitats Directive; Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

The most basic designation for Wildlife is the Natural Heritage Area and under the Wildlife Act 2000 NHAs are legally protected from the time they are formally proposed. Designation of an NHA will not prevent any landowner from developing the land; however, any developments undertaken must be compatible with the protection of the environment.

Special Areas of Conservation are the prime areas of wildlife conservation and they ensure the restoration or maintenance of natural habitats and species of community interest.

Special Protection Areas are intended for the protection of bird species. At present no definite boundaries or preservation conditions have been attached to them.

❖ See Appendix 10 – Proposed Natural Heritage Areas, SACs & SPAs
County Limerick

There are 51 sites of archaeological importance in County Limerick that are in state ownership or guardianship. When a site is under state ownership the property is owned completely by the state with its title (usually) vested in the Office of Public Works. State Guardianship, on the otherhand, involves buildings or structures that are in private ownership or in the ownership of a Trust and the Commissioners for Public Works act as Guardians for these buildings or structures.

Lough Gur is a natural lake situated approximately 20 kilometres south east of Limerick City. It is designated as a Natural Heritage Area and a Zone of Archaeological Potential.

❖ See Appendix 11 – Major Sites of Archaeological Importance in
Limerick in State Ownership or Guardianship

Summary

- *There is a diversity of arts activities in County Limerick ranging from artists in schools, writer in residence, workshops, exhibitions and street theatre festivals.*
- *County Limerick has an extensive branch network of 26 libraries; a book stock in excess of 400,000; membership of 17,868 and a extensive local studies collection*
- *The Eigse Michael Hartnett festival includes the largest award for poetry in Irish.*
- *According to the 2002 Census, almost 48% of people aged 3 years and over in County Limerick were recorded as being able to speak Irish.*
- *There are 34 proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas in County Limerick.*
- *There are 51 sites of archaeological importance in County Limerick that are in state ownership or guardianship.*

APPENDIX 1 POPULATION BY AREA

Numbers in each District Electoral Division

	1986	1991	1996	2002	% Change '96 to '02
Limerick County & City	164,569	161, 956	165,042	175,304	6.2%
Limerick County	108,290	109,873	113,003	121,281	7.3%
Croom Rural District	10,846	10,803	11,035	11,627	5.4%
Abbeyville	249	245	241	259	7.5%
Adare North	470	490	519	580	11.8%
Adare South	1,483	1,586	1,768	2,012	13.8%
Ballingarry	796	749	713	699	-2.0%
Ballyagran	555	612	559	550	-1.6%
Ballygrennan	306	264	260	254	-2.3%
Ballynabanoge	342	330	312	321	2.9%
Ballynoe	427	371	419	449	7.2%
Castletown	366	340	378	391	3.4%
Coolrus	447	400	401	395	-1.5%
Crean	382	344	347	374	7.8%
Crecora	364	373	365	439	20.3%
Croom Rural District	1,606	1,684	1,600	1,564	-2.2%
Dunnaman	463	487	519	554	6.7%
Fedamore	989	948	1,003	1,020	1.7%
Garrane	256	263	274	295	7.7%
Grange	449	431	398	469	17.8%
Kilfinny	232	227	263	260	-1.1%
Kilpeacon	390	400	435	478	9.9%
Rathmore	274	259	261	264	1.1%
Glin Rural District	2,649	2,565	2,448	2,360	-3.6%
Fleanmore	264	250	212	199	-6.1%
Glin	1,190	1,197	1,140	1,178	3.3%
Kilfergus	605	577	587	508	-13.5%
Kilmoylan	590	541	509	475	-6.7%
Kilmallock Rural District	15,217	14,763	14,578	14,864	2.0%
Ardpatrick	399	391	399	388	-2.8%
Athlacca	358	372	357	371	3.9%
Ballymacshaneboy	426	416	406	403	-0.7%
Bruff	1,257	1,298	1,192	1,265	6.1%
Bruree	858	844	824	920	11.7%
Bulgaden	311	277	273	306	12.1%
Cahercorney	566	526	524	529	1.0%
Colmanswell	524	480	529	557	5.3%

		1991	1996	2002	% Change '96 to '02
Darragh	351	337	333	300	-9.9%
Dromin	502	489	470	476	1.3%
Emlygrennan	641	607	622	633	1.8%
Glenbrohane	444	397	371	379	2.2%
Griston	284	275	250	263	5.2%
Hospital	1,196	1,173	1186	1,143	-3.6%
Kilfinnane	1,099	1,094	1069	1,104	3.3%
Kilflyn	254	258	263	225	-14.4%
Kilmallock	2,232	2,124	2058	2,088	1.5%
Kilteely	494	445	443	457	3.2%
Knockainy	595	591	627	625	-0.3%
Knocklong	767	745	758	799	5.4%
Particles	194	189	186	166	-10.8%
Rockhill	380	377	370	301	-18.6%
Tobernea	541	543	554	627	13.2%
Uregare	544	515	514	539	4.9%
Limerick No.1 Rural District	36,973	40,177	43,996	50,547	14.9%
Abington	613	592	609	733	20.4%
Ballybricken	1,096	1,137	1,238	1,391	12.4%
Ballycummin	7,311	8,303	9,907	13,435	35.6%
Ballysimon	5,580	6,747	8,222	9,675	17.7%
Ballyvarra	2,416	2,545	2,928	3,740	27.7%
Caherconlish East	486	477	453	458	1.1%
Caherconlish West	1,234	1,247	1,247	1,218	-2.3%
Caherelly	208	190	182	228	25.3%
Cappamore	1,335	1,291	1,284	1,408	9.7%
Carrig	571	572	592	589	-0.5%
Castleconnell	2,487	2,584	2,651	2,647	-0.2%
Clarina	1,204	1,261	1,417	1,451	2.4%
Clonkeen	504	472	477	526	10.3%
Doon West	294	246	232	204	-12.1%
Glenstal	855	867	918	919	0.1%
Kilmurry	760	713	686	761	10.9%
Limerick North Rural	6,506	7,248	7,102	6,932	-2.4%
Limerick South Rural	663	687	751	980	30.5%
Patrickswell	1,437	1,586	1,580	1,574	-0.4%
Roxborough	1,413	1,412	1,520	1,678	10.4%
Mitchelstown No. 2 Rural District	3,232	3,140	3,073	3,049	-0.8%
Anglesborough	398	378	350	351	0.3%
Ballylanders	620	614	591	606	2.5%
Cullane	372	351	376	364	-3.2%

	1986	1991	1996	2002	% Change '96 to '02
Duntryleague	336	324	331	301	-9.1%
Galbally	525	507	509	524	2.9%
Kilbeheny	256	246	230	242	5.2%
Kilglass	296	291	282	287	1.8%
Knocknascrow	200	200	183	162	-11.5%
Riversdale	229	229	221	212	-4.1
Newcastle Rural District	20,700	20,121	19,996	20,610	3.1%
Abbeyfeale	1,935	1,914	1,989	2,263	13.8%
Ardagh	929	896	923	942	2.1%
Ballintober	410	395	370	345	-6.8%
Ballynoe West	302	273	265	276	4.2%
Boola	159	157	156	155	-0.6%
Broadford	896	829	786	846	7.6%
Caher	353	311	306	326	6.5%
Cleanglass	325	300	304	317	4.3%
Cloncagh	311	290	262	235	-10.3%
Danganbeg	408	398	697	373	-6.0%
Dromcolliher	969	919	927	976	5.3%
Dromtrasna	786	772	814	786	-3.4%
Feenagh	401	393	351	315	-10.3%
Garryduff	257	317	333	306	-8.1%
Glenagower	511	469	459	472	2.8%
Glengort	732	726	701	737	5.1%
Glensharrold	487	480	428	446	4.2%
Kilmeedy	400	401	371	350	-5.7%
Knockaderry	468	439	415	458	10.4%
Mahoonagh	556	557	518	463	-10.6%
Monagay	1,009	1,021	1,042	1,018	-2.3%
Mountcollins	614	578	564	546	-3.2%
Mounplummer	387	342	329	298	-9.4%
Newcastle Rural	1,040	1,019	1,085	1,305	20.3%
Newcastle Urban	3,370	3,287	3,288	3,495	6.3%
Port	547	551	554	560	1.1%
Rathronan	958	952	909	876	-3.6%
Rooskagh	342	316	303	286	-5.6%
Templeglentan	838	819	847	839	-0.9%
Rathkeale Rural District	14,190	13,879	13,495	13,798	2.2%
Askeaton East	754	743	701	718	2.4%
Askeaton West	780	775	751	881	17.3%
Aughinish	165	172	197	230	16.8%
Ballyallinan	371	359	361	359	-0.6%
Ballynacarriga	568	585	557	586	5.2%

	1986	1991	1996	2002	% Change '96 to '02
Castletown	375	392	374	399	6.7%
Craggs	251	245	231	267	15.6%
Croagh	517	490	531	671	26.4%
Dromard	539	507	562	674	19.9%
Dunmoylan East	489	475	432	442	2.3%
Dunmoylan West	117	125	106	94	-11.3%
Iveruss	293	306	310	293	-5.5%
Kilcornan	636	605	604	632	4.6%
Kildimo	541	551	576	597	3.6%
Kilscannell	450	435	433	466	7.6%
Lismakeery	430	422	418	403	-3.6%
Loughill	820	702	700	674	-3.7%
Mohernagh	148	152	150	128	-14.7%
Nantinan	619	604	637	701	10.0%
Pallaskenry	934	938	1005	1,009	0.4%
Rathkeale Rural	336	331	319	335	5.0%
Rathkeale Urban	1,815	1,803	1,546	1,362	-11.9%
Riddlestown	441	445	421	440	4.5%
Shanagolden	1,270	1,201	1,087	981	-9.8%
Shanid	531	516	486	456	-6.2%
Tipperary No. 2 Rural District	4,483	4,425	4,382	4,426	1.0%
Bilboa	423	405	402	381	-5.2%
Doon South	1,111	1,133	1,157	1,210	4.6%
Grean	1,290	1,313	1,271	1,310	3.1%
Oola	1,151	1,146	1,136	1,063	-6.4%
Templebraden	508	428	416	462	11.1%

APPENDIX 2
WATER SERVICES INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Assessment of Needs - Period 2004 to 2006	
Priority Number	Name of Scheme
1	Mungret Sewerage Scheme
2	Shannon Estuary WSS - Extension to Pallaskenry/Kildimo
3	Limerick County Trunk Watermains - Caherconlish N24 Link
4	Glin Sewerage Scheme
5	Shannon Estuary WSS - Extension to Loughill/Ballyhahill/Glin
6	Dromcolliher Sewerage & Surface Water Scheme
7	Hospital Sewerage Scheme
8	Pallasgreen Sewerage Scheme
9	Bruff Sewerage Scheme
10	Castletroy Sewerage Scheme (Pump to Limerick Main Drainage)
11	Newcastle West Water Supply Scheme
12	Limerick County & City Trunk Watermains – Extension to Pallasgreen/Oola
13	Cappamore Sewerage Scheme
14	Caherconlish Sewerage Scheme
15	Cappamore Water Supply Scheme
16	Kildimo Sewerage Scheme
17	Kilfinnane Sewerage Scheme
18	Herbertstown Sewerage Scheme
19	Limerick County Trunk Watermains - SEWSS Link & Stonehall reservoir
20	Ballyneety Sewerage Scheme
21	Pallaskenry Sewerage Scheme
22	Kilfinnane/Ardpatrick Water Supply Scheme
23	Newcastle West Sewerage Scheme
24	Doon Water Supply Scheme
25	Hospital Water Supply Scheme
26	Doon Sewerage Scheme
27	Bruff Water Supply Scheme

28	Dromcolliher Water Supply Scheme
29	Oola Sewerage Scheme
30	Murroe Water Supply Scheme
31	Carrigeen Water Supply Scheme
32	Ballingarry Water Supply Scheme
33	Clarina/Doon Sewerage Scheme

APPENDIX 3
WATER SERVICES INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Assessment of Needs - Period 2007 to 2012	
Priority Number	Name of Scheme
34	Montpelier Sewerage Scheme
35	Knockaderry Sewerage Scheme
36	Adare Water Supply Scheme
37	Knockainey Sewerage Scheme
38	Kilmallock Water Supply Scheme
39	Knocklong/Scarteen Water Supply Scheme
40	Kilbehenny Sewerage Scheme
41	Galbally Sewerage Scheme
42	Bruree Water Supply Scheme
43	Ballylanders Sewerage Scheme
44	Shanagolden Water Supply Scheme
45	Feenagh Sewerage Scheme
46	Ardagh Sewerage Scheme
47	Rathkeale Water Supply Scheme
48	Templeglantan Sewerage Scheme
49	Anglesboro Sewerage Scheme
50	Foileen Water Supply Scheme
51	Ashford Sewerage Scheme
52	Abbeyfeale Sewerage Scheme
53	Athlacca Sewerage Scheme
54	Knocklong Sewerage Scheme
55	Feohanagh Sewerage Scheme
56	Loughill Sewerage Scheme
57	Glenroe Sewerage Scheme

APPENDIX 4
TOWNLANDS IN DISTRICT ELECTORAL DIVISIONS CLASSIFIED
AS AGRICULTURAL DISADVANTAGED

List of Townlands to be Reclassified to more Severely Disadvantaged Status October 1995	
<i>District Electoral Division</i>	<i>Townlands</i>
Abington	Cappanouk Gortavacoosh Liscreagh Mongfune Rathwood
Anglesborough	Anglesborough Ballynamuddagh Bournagurrahy Boolanlisheen Inchacomb Lackendarragh Lyre
Cappamore	Cappamore Dromsallagh Farnanefranklin Gortnascarry
Castleconnell	Bunkey Cloon and Commons Coolbane Coolready Derreen Derryhasna Derrylusk Drominboy Lower Fairyhall Gardenhill Gooig Knockanbaun Lacka Montpelier Portcrusha Stradbally North Stradbally South Waterpark
Clonkeen	Clonloughna
Doon South	Ballycoshown Castlegarde Clonlusk

List of Townlands to be Reclassified to more Severely Disadvantaged Status October 1995

<i>District Electoral Division</i>	<i>Townlands</i>
	Dark island Gortavalla East Gortavalla North Gortavalla South Gortmanna Knocknacarriga
Glin	Ballygiltenan Lower Killeany Beg Killeany More
Grean	Brackyle Coolnapisha
Kilbeheny	Carrigeen Carrigeenmountain Knocknagalty
Kilglass	Carrow Coolnamohoge Garryvurragha Geeragh Glencurrane Kilglass Lisnalanniv
Knocknascrow	Boher Coolattin Coolboy Knocknascrow Knockrour Scrowmore
Oola	Carrig Beg Coolbawn Gortnakistin Reask Shandangan
Riversdale	Ballygeana Barna Bauteen
Shanid	Ballyanne Briskagh Cloonty Cloonyclohassy

New Areas designated as Less Severely disadvantaged May 1996

<i>District Electoral Divison</i>	<i>Townlands</i>
Adare North	Clorhane
Ardagh	Ardagh Ardvone Ashgrove Coolcronoge Doocatten Dromrahnee Gortnaglogh
Askeaton West	Ballyclough Ballycullen Baunreagh
Broadford	Barnagarrane
Caherconlish East	Curragnaboul Pallasbeg
Cahercorney	Ballinscoola Gortnaskagh Herbertstown (Powell) Kilcullane Moohane
Colmanswell	Fort East Fort Middle Killacolla
Craggs	Ardaneer Churchfield
(Article 3.5)	Inchagreenogue Knockardnacorlan Oorla Robertstown Sroolane Sroolane North Sroolane South Stokesfield
Dunryleague	Ballylooby Ballynamona Corbally
Grean	Ballynagally
	Ballytrasna Cloghaderreen Glen Gortnacoolagh Gortnanuv Knockgrean Knocknacrohy

New Areas designated as Less Severely disadvantaged May 1996

<i>District Electoral Divison</i>	<i>Townlands</i>
	Lackanascarry Pallashill Scart
Hospital	Ballinscoola Ballynamona Millfarm Portboy
Kildimo	Kildimo Kilmoreen Monanooag
Kilfinnane	Ballygeagoge Ballyriggeran Garrynlease Kilfinnane Thomastown
Kilteely	Ballyvouden Carricklittle
Knockainy	Ballyhaukish Gortacloona Gorteennacreeagh Kilballyowen Knockainy East Knockainey West Ragamus
Newcastle Rural	Ballingowan Ballylahiff Churchtown Cullenagh Dooally Dromin (Beesom) Dromin Dungeeha Gortroe Shangarry

New Areas designated as Less Severely disadvantaged May 1996

<i>District Electoral Divison</i>	<i>Townlands</i>
Shanagolden	Ballinree Ballynacragga South
(Article 3.5)	Parkmore Shanagolden Shanagolden Demense
Shanid	Ballycormick Clashganniff
(Article 3.5)	Moig Mountdavid Shanid Lower Shanid Upper
Templebredon	Ballyneety Ballyneety South

APPENDIX 5
RIVER QUALITY IN COUNTY LIMERICK

Hydrometric Area 16

River Name	No. Of Stations	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Aherlow	9	6	3

Hydrometric Area 18

River Name	No. Of Stations	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Funshion	3	2	1

Hydrometric Area 23

River Name	No. Of Stations	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Allaghan	5	5	0
Feale	4	3	1
Feoghanagh	2	2	0
Galey	2	1	1
Oolagh	2	2	0

Hydrometric Area 24

River Name	No. Of Stations	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Ahacronane	2	0	2
Ahavarragh Stream	3	2	1
Arra	3	3	0
Barnakyle	3	1	2
Broadford Stream	2	1	1
Bunoke	4	2	2
Camoge	6	1	5
Charleville Stream	2	0	2
Clonshire	5	0	5
Deel (NCW)	9	4	5
Flemingstown Stream	1	1	0
Glencorbry	2	2	0
Greanagh	1	0	1
Loobagh	6	2	4
Mahore	3	0	3
Maigue	8	0	8
Morningstar	8	5	3
TOTAL	89	45	44

APPENDIX 6
LIST OF COUNTY LIMERICK PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Name	Address
S N Peadar agus Pol	Kilmallock
Croagh National School	Rathkeale
Templeglantine N S	Templeglantine
S N Sheanain	Foynes
Ballymartin N S	Croom
S N Fiodhnach	Kilmallock
Kildimo N S	Kildimo
Knockea N S	Ballyneety
S N Loch Guir	Holy Cross
Banogue N S	Croom
Glengurt N S	Tournafulla
S N Ailbhe	Killinure
Ballysteen N S	Askeaton
Bohermore N S	Ballysimon
Ardpatrick N S	Kilmallock
Bruree National School	Bruree
St Nicholas Church of Ireland School	Adare
Carnane Mxd N S	Fedamore
Old Lady's Abbey	Adare
Croom N S	Croom
Monagay N S	Newcastle West
St James N S	Cappagh
Martinstown N S	Kilmallock
Granagh N S	Granagh
Rathkeale N S	Rathkeale
Garrydoolis N S	Pallasgreen
Scoil Dean Cussen	Bru na nDeise
Carrickerry N S	Athea
Ballyguiltenane N S	Glin
Mahoonagh N S	Castlemahon
S N Cnoch a Deaga	Ballylanders
Coolcappa N S	Ardagh
S N Naomh Padraig	Abbeyfeale
Glenbrohane N S	Garryspillane
Pallaskenry N S	Pallaskenry
St Joseph's Convent	Newcastle West
Kilfinane Convent Primary School	Kilfinane
S N Gallbhaile	Galbally
Bulgaden N S	Bulgaden
Kilteely N S	Kilteely

Name	Address
Fedamore N S	Fedamore
S N Moluab	Ardagh
Nicker N S	Nicker
Ballylanders N S	Kilmallock
Scoil Nessain	Mungret
Feale View N S	Abbeyfeale
Doon Convent N S	Doon
Cappamore Convent N S	Cappamore
Caherline N S	Caherline
Scoil an Spioraid Naomh	Roxborough, Ballysimon
Athea N S	Athea
Bilbao N S	Bilbao
Cloverfield N S	Cloverfield
Donoughmore N S	Donoughmore
Dromtrasna N S	Abbeyfeale
Meenkilly N S	Abbeyfeale
Abbeyfeale Boys N S	Abbeyfeale
Scoil na mBearnan	Pallasgreen
O Healy and O Rourke Girls School	Kilmallock
Scoil Athain	Lisnagry
Scoil Naomh Iosaf	Adare
Scoil na mBraithre	Doon
Kilmeedy N S	Kilmeedy
Scoil Naomh Ide	Ballagh
Scoil na Naoinean	Askeaton
Convent of Mercy	Abbeyfeale
Cappaghmore Boys N S	Cappamore
Scoil Sean tSraide	Adare
Scoil Mhuire	Glenroe
Scoil Cre Cumhra	Patrickswell
Scoil Cill Colmain	Athlacca
Athlacca N S	Athlacca
Oola N S	Oola
Scoil Nais	Knockainey
Scoil Ioseph Naofa	Ballyorgan
Kilbehenny N S	Kilbehenny
Scoil Mhuire	Effin
Scoil Baile an Aird	Ballinalard
Shanagolden N S	Shanagolden
Scoil Nais	Caherconlish
Scoil Naomh Mhuire	Abbeyfeale
Scoil Tobar Padraig	Patrickswell
Gearoid Ui Ghriobhtha	Loughill
Scoil Cill Churnain	Kilcornan

Name	Address
Scoil Moinalin	Castletroy
Scoil O Curain	Newcastle West
S N Gleann na gCreabhar	Glenbrohan
Scoil Ailbhe	Ballybricken
Scoil Cnoc Loinge	Knocklong
Castleconnell N S	Castleconnell
Scoil Aine Naofa	Rath Caola
Scoil Naomh Muire	Ballyhahill
Scoil Mhuire	Ballyhahill
S N Toinn an Tairbh	Cappamore
Scoil Ide Naofa	Raheenagh
S N Lios na Groi	Lisnagry
Askeaton Senior N S	Askeaton
S N Ma Rua	Murroe
Scoil Mhuire	Aghalin, Newcastle West
Scoil Naomh Iosef	Rathkeale
S N Cill Lachtain	Newcastle West
S N Ciarain	Kilfinny
St Vincent's SP School	Lisnagry
S N Naomh Iosef	Ballybrown
S N Beal Atha Grean	Kilmallock
Scoil Chriost Ri	Caherdavin
Scoil Phoil Naofa	Dooradoyle
Mid West School H Imp	Rosbrien
Milford Grange N School	Milford
Gaelscoil O Doghair	Newcastle West
Hospital N S	Hospital
St Joseph's	Dromcollogher
Scoil Chriost an Slanaitheoir	Ballingarry
St Fergus Primary School	Glin
SN Muire na hEireann	Caherdavin
Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treoigh	Chaladh an Treoigh

APPENDIX 7
LIST OF COUNTY LIMERICK SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Name	Address
Secondary	
St. Ita's College	Abbeyfeale
St. Joseph's Sec. School, Convent of Mercy	Abbeyfeale
St. Joseph's Sec. School, Convent of Mercy	Doon
St. Fintan's	Doon
Scoil Pol	Kilfinane
Ard Scoil Mhuire FCJ,	Bruff
Glenstal Abbey School	Murroe
Scoil Mhuire agus Ide	Newcastle West
Salesian Secondary College	Pallaskenry
Scoil Mhuire, Drom Collachair	Dromcollogher
Vocational	
Abbeyfeale Vocational School	Abbeyfeale
Colaiste Mhuire	Askeaton
Colaiste Pobail Mhichil	Cappamore
Colaiste Chiarain	Croom
Hazlewood College	Dromcollogher
Colaiste Ioasef	Kilmallock
Desmond College, Gortboy	Newcastle West
Colaiste na Trocaire	Rathkeale
Castletroy College	Castletroy
Community	
John the Baptist Community School	Hospital
St. Enda's Community School	Kilmallock Road, Limerick

APPENDIX 8
COUNTY OF ORIGIN OF UL/MIC STUDENTS 2001/02

	UL	MIC
Antrim	3	0
Armagh	1	0
Carlow	36	2
Cavan	29	1
Clare	861	225
Cork	936	381
Derry	0	0
Donegal	86	3
Down	1	0
Dublin	158	5
Fermanagh	2	0
Galway	611	179
Kildare	95	4
Kilkenny	196	40
Laois	100	21
Leitrim	41	4
Limerick	1996	429
Longford	44	4
Louth	35	3
Mayo	254	53
Meath	72	5
Monaghan	23	2
Offaly	124	34
Roscommon	118	20
Sligo	86	11
Tipperary	776	232
Tyrone	1	0
Waterford	172	57
Westmeath	109	10
Wexford	150	1
Wicklow	38	1

APPENDIX 9
POST OFFICES IN COUNTY LIMERICK

Post Offices		Postal Agencies *
Abbeyfeale	Galbally	Castlemahon
Adare	Garryspillane	Elton
Ardagh	Glin	Kilteely
Askeaton	Holycross	Bulgaden
Athea	Herbertstown	Caherelly
Anglesborough	Hospital	Tour
Athlacca	Kilmallock	
Ballagh	Kilbeheny	
Ballingarry	Kilcolman	
Ballyagran	Kildimo	
Ballyhahill	Kilfinane	
Ballylanders	Knocklong	
Ballysteen	Lisnagry	
Ballyneety	Loughhill	
Broadford	Martinstown	
Bruff	Mungret	
Bruree	Manister	
Caherconlish	Murroe	
Cappamore	Newcastle West	
Castleconnell	Old Pallas	
Castletroy	Oola	
Creora	Pallasgreen	
Croom	Pallaskenry	
Doon	Patrickswell	
Dromkeen	Rathkeale	
Dooradoyle	Shanagolden	
Drumcollogher	Strand	
Fedamore	Templeglantine	
Feenagh	Tournafulla	
Foynes		

** Postal Agencies have only limited postal services*

APPENDIX 10

Proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas – County Limerick 2004*

**(Subject to change as designation process proceeds)*

- Adare Woodlands,
- Ardagh Church, Newcastle West,
- Ballintlea Wood,
- Ballinvirick Marsh,
- Ballyhoura Mountains (SPA and NHA),
- Ballymorrisheen Marsh,
- Ballynacourty Wood,
- Ballyroe Hill & Mortlestown Hill,
- Ballyvorheen Bog,
- Bilboa and Gortnageragh River Valleys (SAC),
- Cappagh Fen,
- Castleconnell (Domestic Dwelling, occupied),
- Castleoliver Woods,
- Curraghchase Woods,
- Dromore & Bleach Loughs,
- Dromsallagh Bog,
- Galtee Mountains (SAC),
- Glen Bog,
- Glenacurrane River Valley,
- Glenastar Wood,
- Gorteennamrock,
- Herbertstown Fen,
- Inner Shannon Estuary - South Shore (SAC),
- Knockanavar Wood,
- Lough Gur,
- Loughmore Common Turlough,
- Mountrussell Wood,
- Mullagariers (SPA),
- Skoolhill,
- Carrigkerry Bog (NHA),
- Grageen Fen & Bog (NHA),
- Lough Gay (NHA),
- Moyreen Bog (NHA),
- Slieve Felim (SPA)

APPENDIX 11
MAJOR SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN
LIMERICK IN STATE OWNERSHIP (O) OR GUARDIANSHIP (G)

Monument	Townland	Status
Megalithic Tomb (Leaba na Muice) (F)	Ballynagallagh	G
Crannog (Crock Isld)	Grange	G
House Site ("Spectacles")	Grange	G
House Sites (Knockadoon)	Grange	G
Hut Sites (Carrigalla)	Grange	G
Megalithic Tomb (E)	Grange	O
Standing Stone (A)	Grange	G
Stone Circle (C)	Grange	G
Stone Circle (D)	Grange	G
Site, Barrow	Knockfennel	O
Stone Circle (T), Fort	Knockfennel	O
Cairn (M)	Lough Gur	O
Cairn (P)	Lough Gur	O
Circle Enclosure and Standing Stone (J)	Lough Gur	O
Circular Enclosure (K)	Lough Gur	O
Circular Enclosure (L)	Lough Gur	O
Megalithic Tomb (M)	Lough Gur	O
Standing Stone (N)	Lough Gur	O
Standing Stone (S)	Lough Gur	O
Stone Circle (O)	Lough Gur	O
The Stone Forts (Carrigalla)	Lough Gur	O
Two Standing Stones (I)	Lough Gur	O
Two Stone Circles (G)	Lough Gur	O
Desmond Castle	Adare	O
Askeaton Castle	Aghalacka	G
Ringfort & Fulachta Fiadha	Ballylanders	O
Hospital Church	Barrysfarm	O
Church (Mungret Group)	Baunacloka	O
Church	Carrigeen	O
Clonkeen Church	Clonkeen-Barrington	O
Killeen Church	Cowpark	G
Earthworks (part)	Cush	O
Passage Grave etc. (Duntryleague Hill)	Deerpark	G
Mungret Abbey Church	Dromdarrig	O
Rathard Fort	Garryheakin	O
Killulta Church	Glennameade	G

Monument	Townland	Status
Castle	Glenquin	O
Collegiate Church of SS. Peter & Paul	Killmallock Town	G
King's Castle, Blossom Gate	Killmallock	O
Killmallock Abbey (Dom.)	Killmallock (Abbeyfarm)	O
Ringfort	Kilmihill	O
Kilrush Church	Kilrush (Limerick Urban)	G
De Valera's Cottage	Knockmore	O
Killaliathan Church	Lacka Lower	O
Fanning's Castle (part of)	Limerick (Boro's)	O
King John's Castle	Limerick (Boro's)	G
Askeaton Abbey (Frans.)	Moig South	G
Abbey (Cist.)	Monasteranenagh	O
Desmond Banqueting Hall	Newcastle West	O
Templars Castle Complex	Newcastlewest (Castle Demesne)	O
Ardagh Fort	Reerasta South	O