

Dáil Éireann Constituency Profile Donegal



January 2020

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Notes

1. The L&RS Constituency Profiles are based on the dataset derived, and adapted, from the CSO's Small Area Population Statistics for Census 2016. The dataset used for the Oireachtas Library & Research Service (L&RS) Constituency Profiles is also used as the basis for the L&RS Constituency Dashboards, available at dashboards.oireachtas.ie. The Constituency Profiles, as well as the sum of the Electoral Divisions (ED) that comprise each constituency, is based on the Schedule of the [Electoral \(Amendment\) \(Dáil Constituencies\) Act 2017](#).
2. Based on the Act's provisions, it should be noted that some constituencies include EDs from neighbouring counties.
3. In some instances - in line with the protocols used for the L&RS Constituency Dashboards - where EDs are split across two constituencies (e.g. EDs bisected by the M50 in Dublin), the data for the full ED is allocated to just one constituency, typically the constituency in which the majority of a specific ED's population and/or geographic area is located.
4. Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond to the sum of the separate figures.



Introduction to the Constituency Profile series

The Constituency Profiles are based on the [Small Area Population Statistics \(SAPS\)](#) from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) [Census 2016](#) releases.¹ The Oireachtas Library and Research Service (L&RS) Constituency Profiles series is a complementary publication to, and shares a similar structure of, the online interactive Constituency Dashboards (available at dashboards.oireachtas.ie). Each Constituency Profile reflects the Dáil constituencies as set out in the [Electoral \(Amendment\) \(Dáil Constituencies\) Act 2017](#).

In keeping with the L&RS Constituency Dashboards, each Constituency Profile is structured under the following **6 themes**:



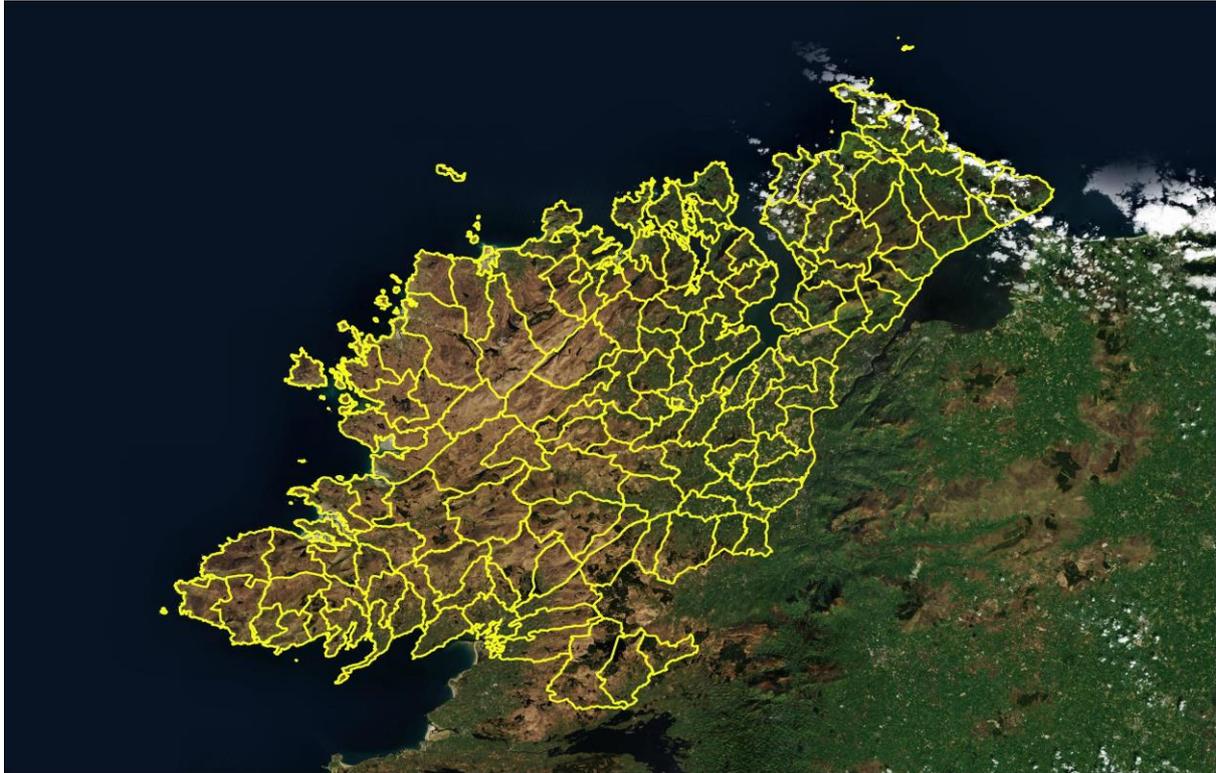
The Themes and Indicators included in this Profile reflect a selection of those used in the interactive Constituency Dashboards. A description of terms used by the CSO in the Census is set out in footnotes where relevant.

Introduction to Profile

Donegal is a 5-seat constituency located in the northwest of Ireland. It includes, among others, the following locations: Buncrana, Donegal, Letterkenny and Stranorlar. Donegal is comprised of 140 Electoral Divisions (EDs).

¹ The maps in this publication were produced in cooperation with the School of Geography, University College Dublin.

Figure 1: Location of Donegal

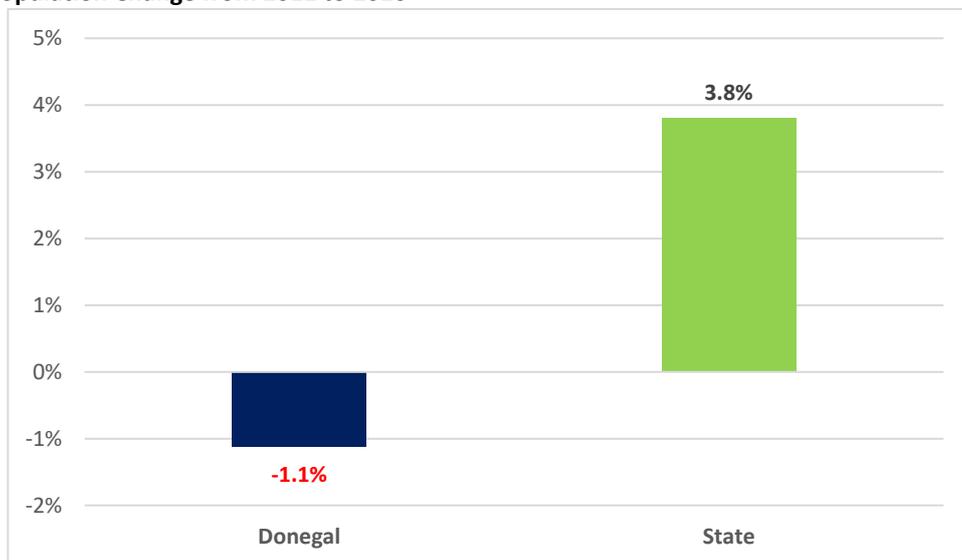


Demographics

Population

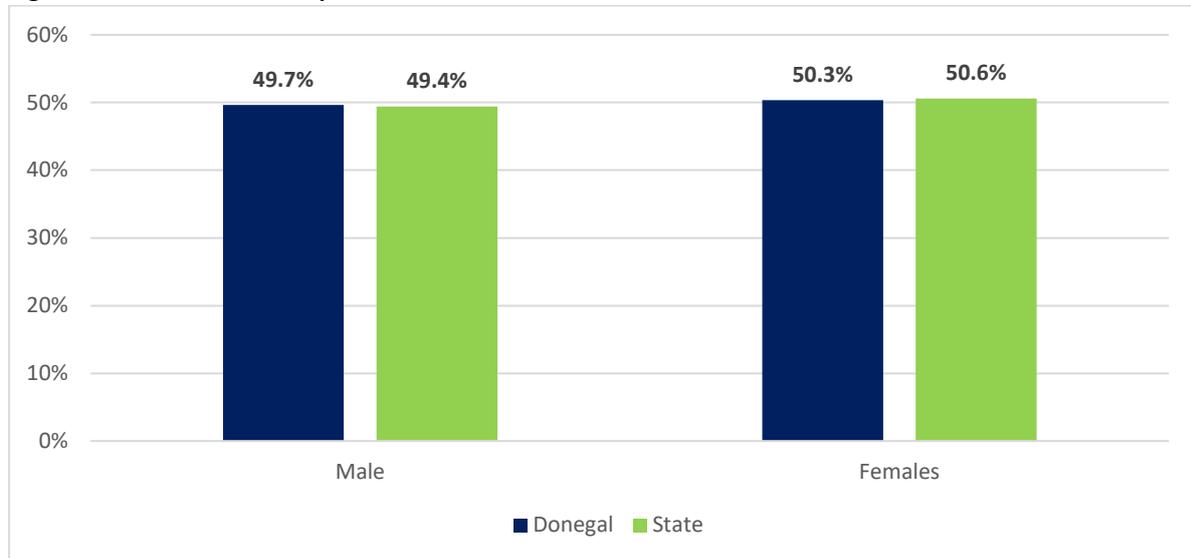
The population of the constituency at the time of the 2016 Census was **150,657**. This represents a 1.1% decrease from 2011. As shown in Figure 2, this change compares to the corresponding population increase in the State as a whole of 3.8% over the same period.

Figure 2: Population Change from 2011 to 2016



In 2016, 50.3% (75,844) of the constituency’s population was female and 49.7% (74,813) was male. The corresponding proportions in the State for 2016 was 50.6% female and 49.4% male (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Male to Female Population



Age cohorts

Figure 4 below shows the distribution of the female and male population of the constituency according to five-year age bands. In Donegal, 26.6% of population was aged under 18 and 15.6% were aged 65 or over in 2016. As shown in Figure 5 overleaf, the corresponding State shares were 25% aged under 18 and 13.4% aged 65 or older.

Figure 4: Male/Female Age Cohorts, shown as an age pyramid

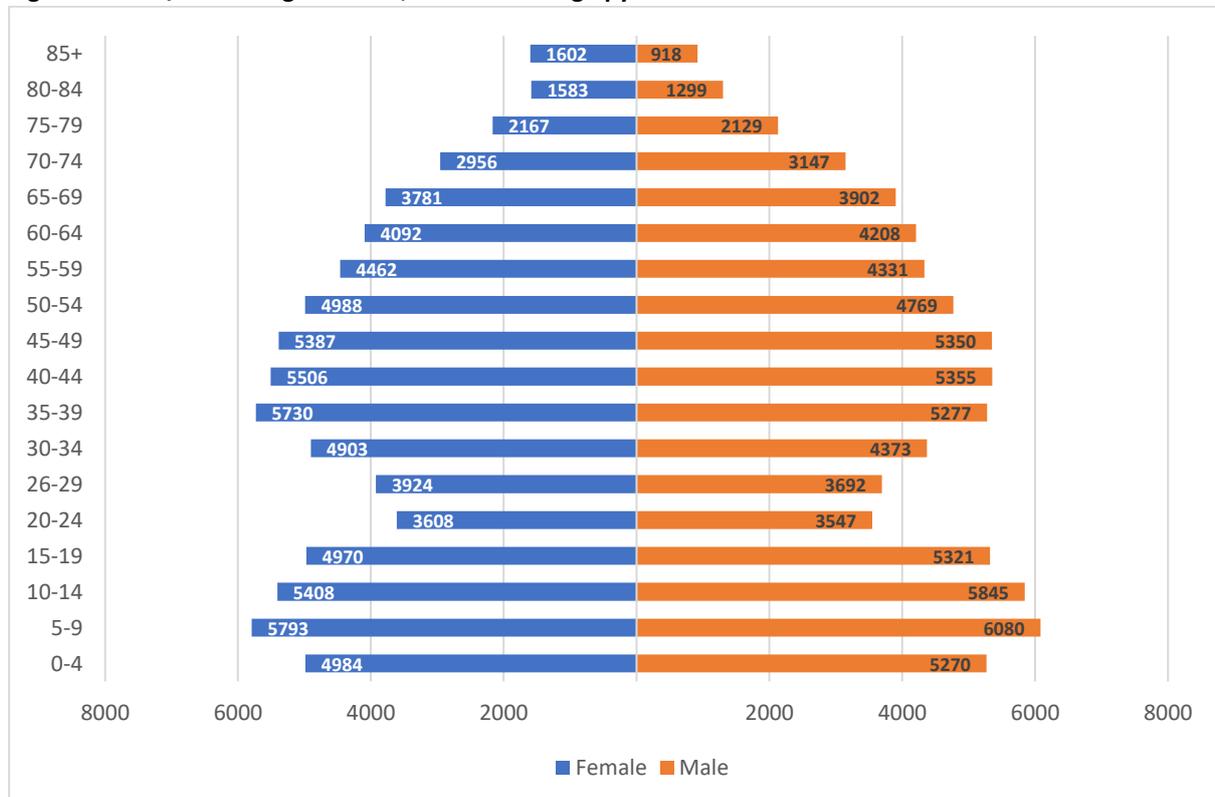
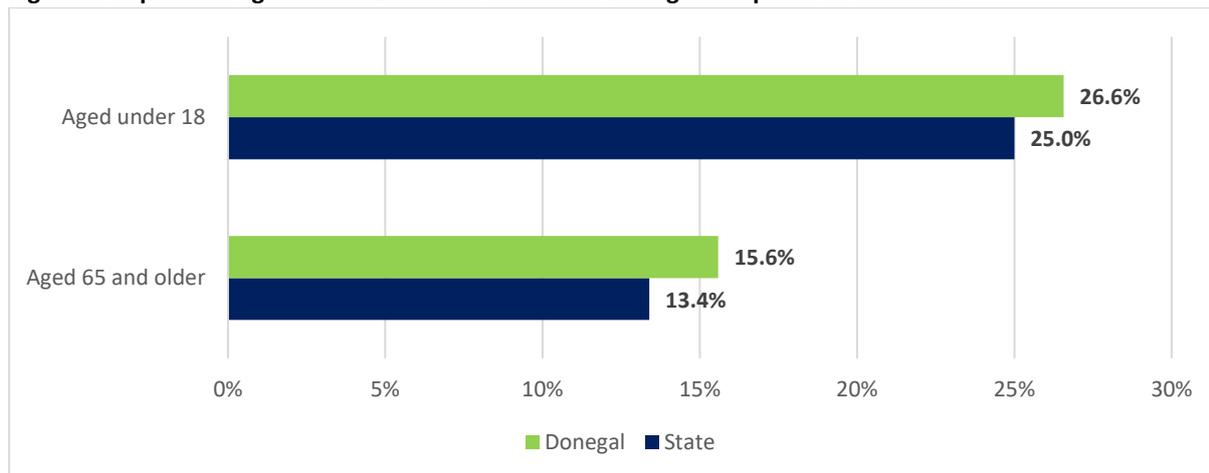


Figure 5: Population aged under 18 and 65 or older in Donegal compared to the State



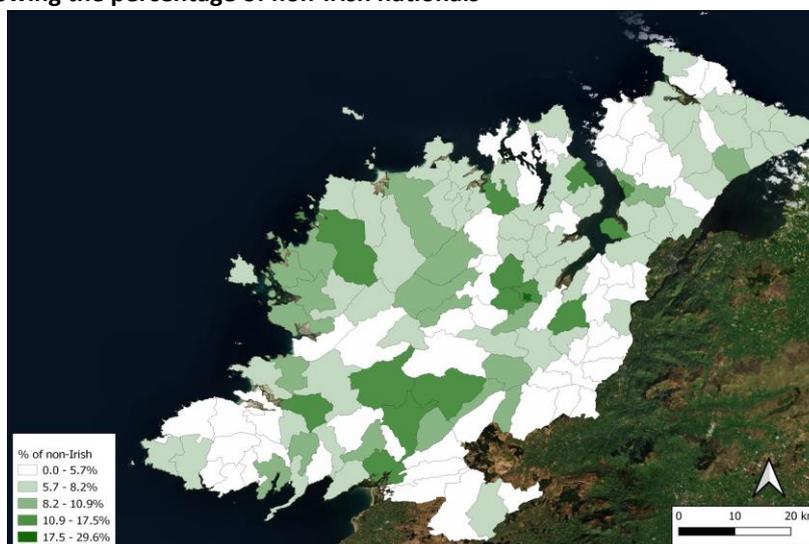
Nationality

The ratio of Irish to non-Irish nationals residing in Donegal is slightly higher than seen in the State in 2016. Of the usually resident population, 91.4% stated their nationality as Irish. Nationalities other than Irish comprised 7.4% of the population of the constituency, with 1.2% 'not stated'. Non-Irish nationals usually resident in the constituency included those who stated their nationality as British (3.8%), Polish (1.3%), Lithuanian (0.2%), from another EU country (0.9%) or from the rest of the world (1.2%). Table 1 below shows the comparison in the profile of nationality in the constituency with that seen in the State as a whole in 2016.

Table 1: Nationality in Donegal compared to the State

Nationality	Donegal	State
Irish	91.4%	87.0%
British	3.8%	2.2%
Polish	1.3%	2.6%
Lithuanian	0.2%	0.8%
Other EU	0.9%	3.1%
Rest of the World	1.2%	2.7%
Not Stated	1.2%	1.5%

Figure 6: Map showing the percentage of non-Irish nationals



Ethnicity

Table 2 (below) shows that 89.6% of people usually residing in Donegal identified their ethnicity as White Irish, which is a higher proportion than in the State overall (82.2%). The population in Donegal who stated their ethnicity as Asian or Asian Irish was lower than the State as a whole (1% compared to 2.1%).

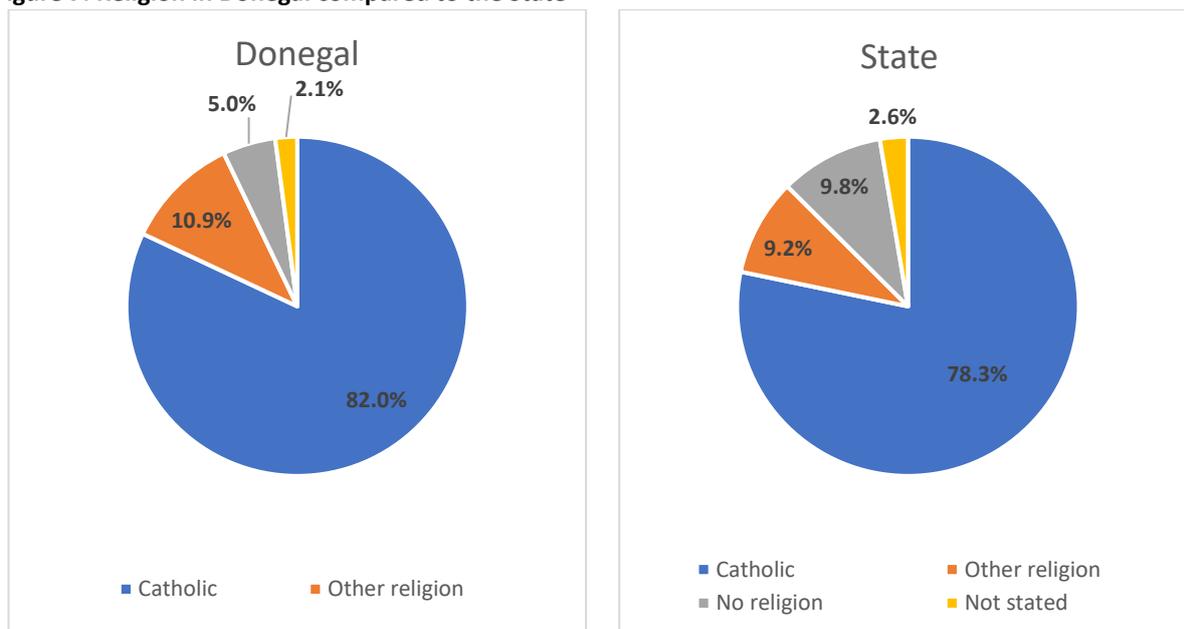
Table 2: Ethnicity in Donegal compared to the State

Ethnicity	Donegal	State
White Irish	89.6%	82.2%
White Irish Traveller	0.4%	0.7%
Other White Ethnicity	5.6%	9.5%
Black or Black Irish	0.5%	1.4%
Asian or Asian Irish	1.0%	2.1%
Other Ethnicity	0.9%	1.5%
Not Stated	2.2%	2.6%

Religion

The share of Catholics in Donegal (82%) is higher than the State as a whole (78.3%). A lower proportion of the usually resident population in Donegal stating ‘no religion’ than seen in the State overall (5% compared to 9.8%).

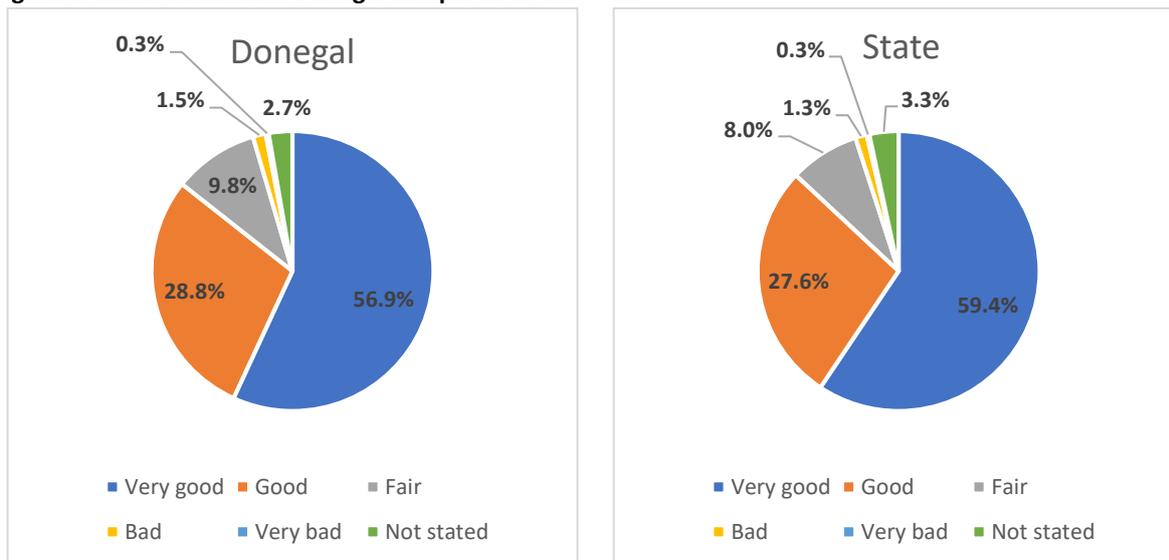
Figure 7: Religion in Donegal compared to the State



General Health

In Donegal, 56.9% of the population described their health as ‘very good’ in 2016, which is lower than the State (59.4%). The proportion of the population in Donegal describing their health as ‘good’ (28.8%) was slightly higher than the average for the State (27.6%). Finally, a slightly higher proportion of people in Donegal describe their health as ‘fair’ (9.8%) when compared to the State (8%).

Figure 8: General health in Donegal compared to the State



Social class²

Table 3 shows the social class makeup of Donegal in comparison with the State in 2016. Donegal has a lower proportion of professional workers (5.7% compared to 8.1%) and managerial and technical workers (24.3% compared to 28.1%) respectively compared to the State. The constituency has a higher proportion of people working in skilled-manual (16.1%) and semi-skilled (12.3%) occupations in comparison to the State (14.1% and 10.5% respectively).

Table 3: Social class in Donegal compared with the State

Social Class	Donegal	State
Professional workers	5.7%	8.1%
Managerial and technical	24.3%	28.1%
Non-manual	17.7%	17.6%
Skilled-manual	16.1%	14.1%
Semi-skilled	12.3%	10.5%
Unskilled	4.4%	3.6%
All other (gainfully employed and unknown)	19.5%	18.0%

² For a definition of social class as used by the CSO in the Census, see [here](#).





Economic Status and Work

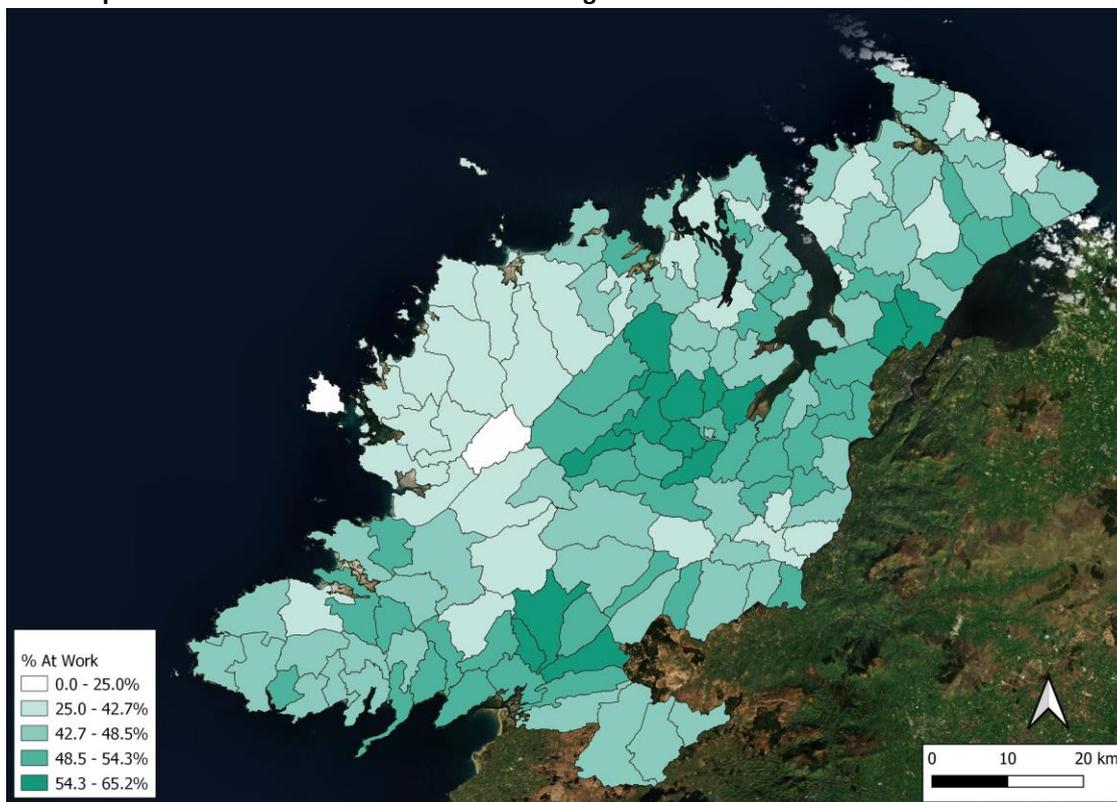
Principal economic status³

Table 4 shows the employment status of Donegal residents compared to the State as a whole. The constituency has a lower proportion of usual residents at work than the State overall (47% compared to 53.5%). Donegal has a higher proportion of retired persons (17.9% compared to 14.5%). Figure 9 illustrates the percentage of residents at work across the constituency of Donegal at the electoral division level.

Table 4: Principal economic status of Donegal compared to the State

Principal Economic Status	Donegal	State
At work	47%	53.5%
Looking for first job	0.9%	0.8%
Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	9.4%	7.1%
Student	10.8%	11.4%
Looking after home/family	8.6%	8.1%
Retired	17.9%	14.5%
Unable to work due to sickness or disability	4.9%	4.2%
Other	0.4%	0.4%

Figure 9: Proportion of the labour force at work in Donegal at the Electoral Division level



³ For explanation of terms and definitions used in Census data, see the CSO website [here](#).



Industry

Table 5 shows those working in Donegal, compared to the State as a whole, by industry. Donegal has more residents working in professional services (26.2% compared to 23.5%). Commerce and trade account for 20.1% of worker's job sectors (compared to 23.9%). In the constituency, 9.3% work in manufacturing and industries (compared to 11.4%).

Table 5: Breakdown of workers by industry in Donegal compared to the State

Industry	Donegal	State
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	6.8%	4.4%
Building and construction	5.9%	5.1%
Manufacturing and industries	9.3%	11.4%
Commerce and trade	20.1%	23.9%
Transport and communications	6.7%	8.6%
Public administration	5.8%	5.3%
Professional services	26.2%	23.5%
Other	19.2%	17.8%

Occupation types

Table 6 shows the occupation types that Donegal residents work in. Donegal has a lower rate of workers in professional occupations (15.1% compared to 17.3%) than the State as a whole. Donegal's proportion of those in associate professional and technical occupations is less than the State share (7.9% compared to 10.9%). The constituency shows a higher proportion of its residents working in elementary occupations (9.5%) than the State as a whole (8.8%).

Table 6: Occupation types in Donegal compared to the State

Occupation Types	Donegal	State
Managers, directors and senior officials	5.9%	7.4%
Professional occupations	15.1%	17.3%
Associate professional and technical occupations	7.9%	10.9%
Administrative and secretarial occupations	9.4%	10.0%
Skilled trades occupations	17.3%	13.9%
Caring, leisure and other service occupations	8.8%	7.3%
Sales and customer service occupations	6.8%	6.8%
Process, plant and machine operatives	8.0%	7.2%
Elementary occupations	9.5%	8.8%
Not stated	11.3%	10.3%

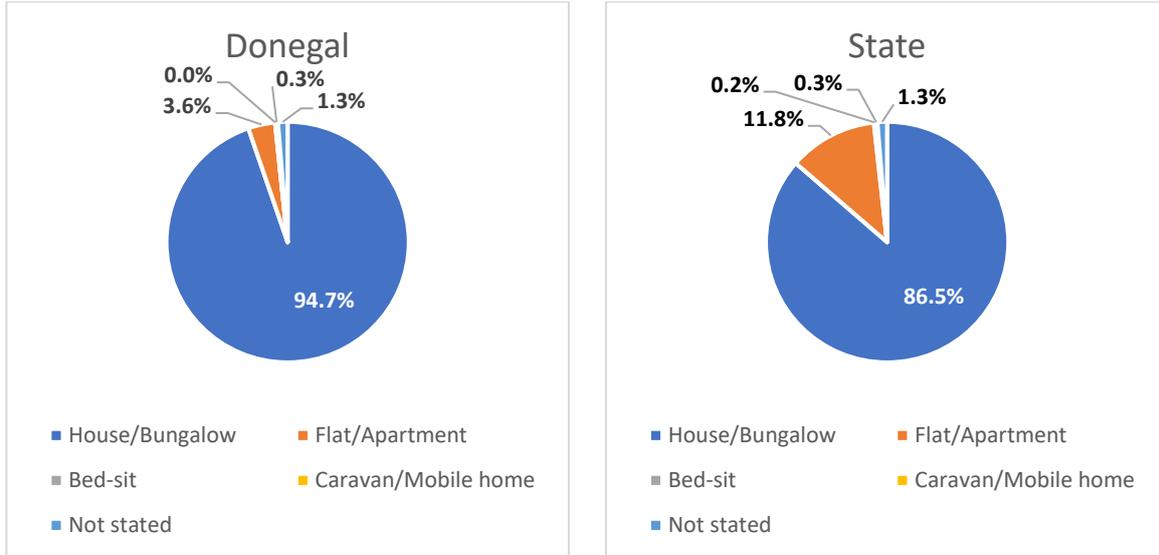


Households and Housing

Accommodation type

There were 55,214 private households in Donegal in 2016. Figure 10 below shows that Donegal residents live in houses or bungalows in a higher proportion than seen in the State as a whole (94.7% compared to 86.5%) and a lower proportion live in flats/apartments (3.6% compared to 11.8%).

Figure 10: Accommodation types in Donegal compared with the State



Occupancy type

Households in Donegal are more likely to own their houses outright (44.4% compared to 36%) but are less likely to own with a mortgage or loan compared to the State as a whole (28.2% compared to 31.6%). Donegal also has a lower proportion of households renting from private landlords compared to the State as a whole (12.7% compared to 18.3%) and more people rent from a local authority (8.8% compared to 8.4%) and more people rent from a local authority (8.8% compared to 8.4%) and more people rent from a local authority (8.8% compared to 8.4%).

Figure 11: Occupancy types in Donegal compared to the State

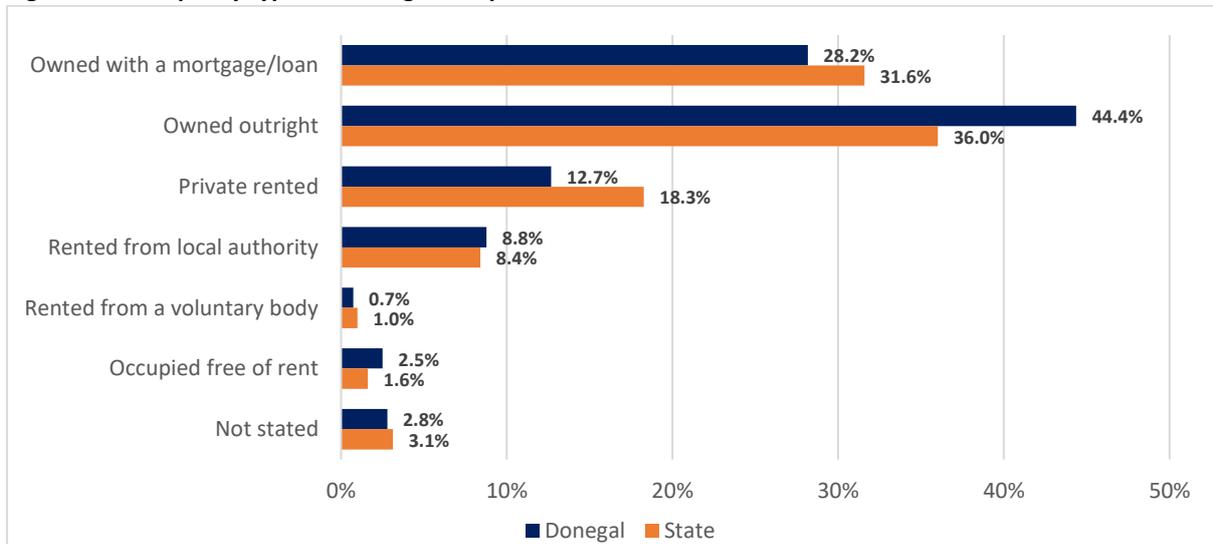
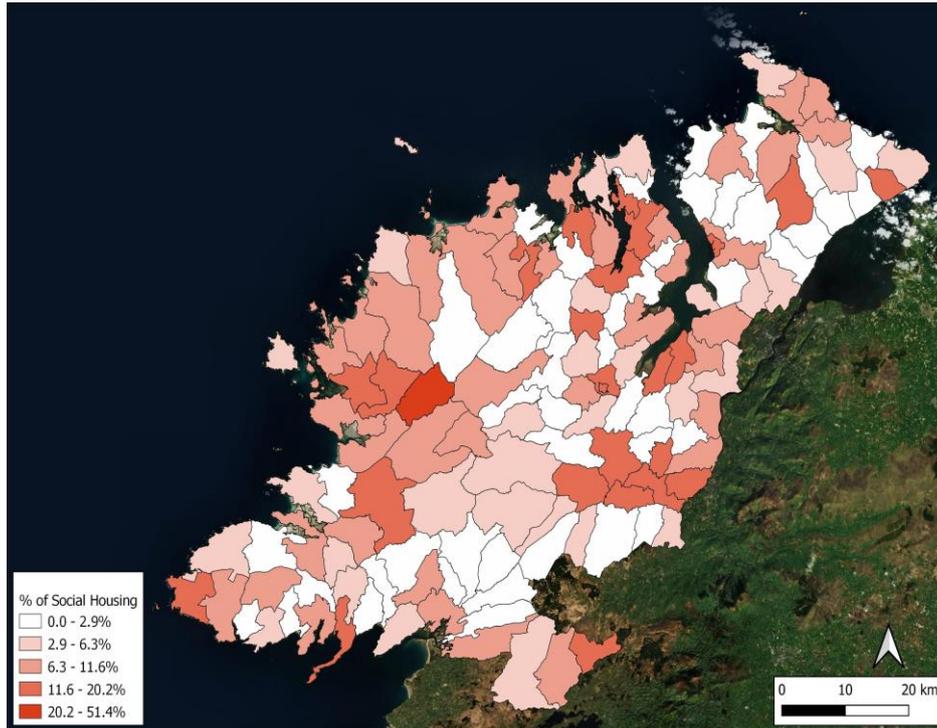
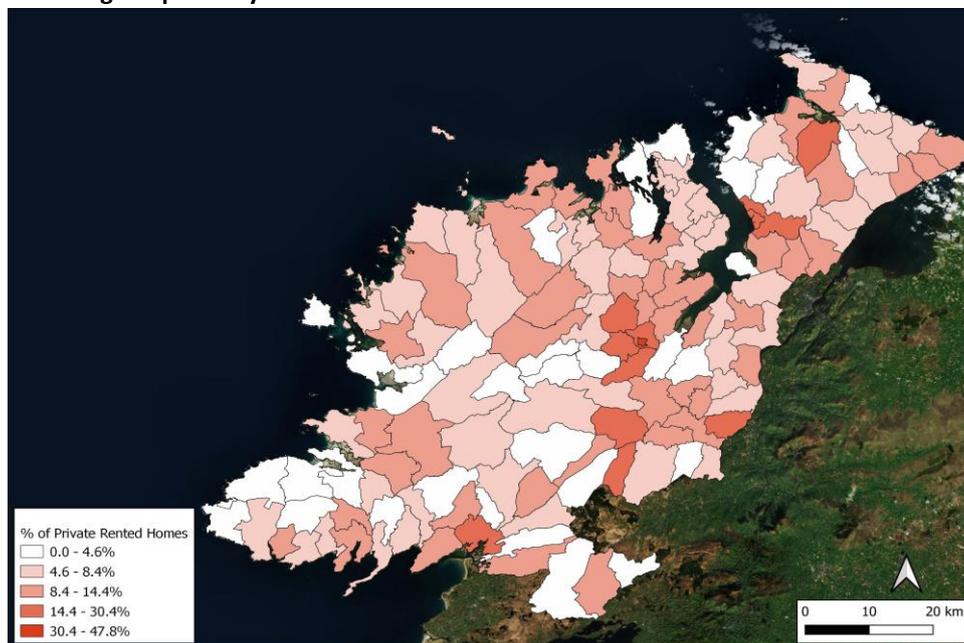


Figure 12: Percentage of social housing (rented from local authority or voluntary body)



Figures 12 (above) and 13 (below) show respectively the proportions of social and private rented housing across the electoral divisions of Donegal at the time of Census 2016.

Figure 13: Percentage of privately rented homes



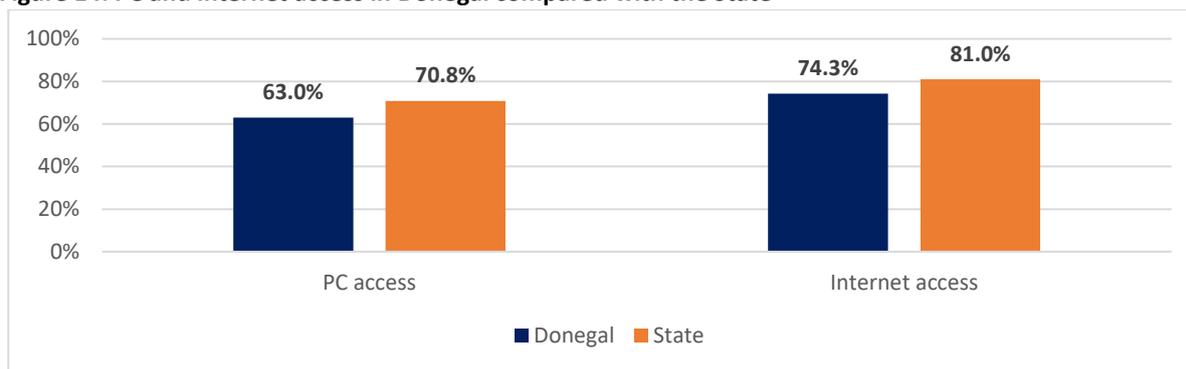
PC and broadband⁴

Donegal has a lower rate of PC access than the State average (63% compared to 70.8%). Donegal households also have a lower rate of access to the internet than households in the State overall (74.3% compared to 81%).⁵

⁴ In keeping with the Constituency Dashboards, the totals in this section exclude the “Not stated” category.

⁵ Internet access includes “Broadband” and “Other”.

Figure 14: PC and internet access in Donegal compared with the State



Central heating

Table 7 below shows that households in Donegal are more likely to use oil as their central heating source than households in the State as a whole (64.1% compared to 40.4%). Households in Donegal are in contrast considerably less likely to use gas for central heating than the State as a whole (1.1% compared to 33.7%). As shown in Table 7, Donegal households are more likely to use coal (14.7%) and peat (11.7%) for central heating than the State as a whole (5.1% and 5.3% respectively).

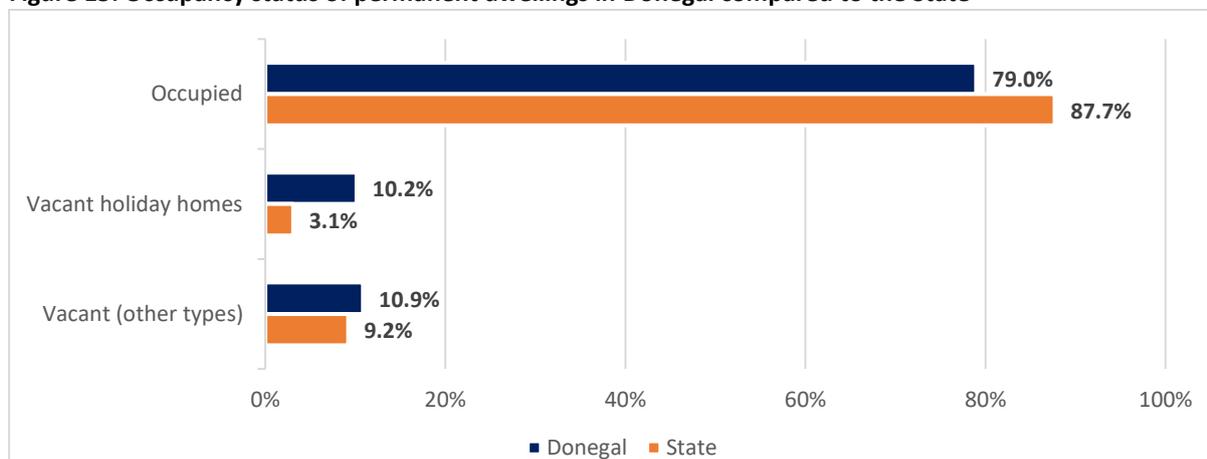
Table 7: Central heating in Donegal compared with the State

Central Heating	Donegal	State
Oil	64.1%	40.4%
Natural gas	1.1%	33.5%
Electricity	2.4%	8.6%
Coal	14.7%	5.1%
Peat	11.7%	5.3%
LPG	0.4%	0.6%
Wood	1.8%	2%
Other	0.9%	0.7%
No central heating	0.9%	1.4%
Not stated	2.1%	2.4%

Vacant dwellings

Figure 15 below shows the vacancy rate of permanent dwellings in Donegal compared to the State as a whole. The constituency also has a higher rate of vacant dwellings which aren't holiday homes (10.9% compared to 9.2%) and a lower rate of occupied homes (79% compared to 87.7%).

Figure 15: Occupancy status of permanent dwellings in Donegal compared to the State





Transport

Mode to work, school, etc.

Figure 16 below shows that people in Donegal are more likely to travel to work or education by car or van (as a driver or passenger) compared to the State overall (69.4% compared to 62.2%). Figure 16 also shows that Donegal residents are more likely to use public transport as their mode of transport (13.6% compared to 12.9%)

Figure 16: Mode of transportation in Donegal compared to the State

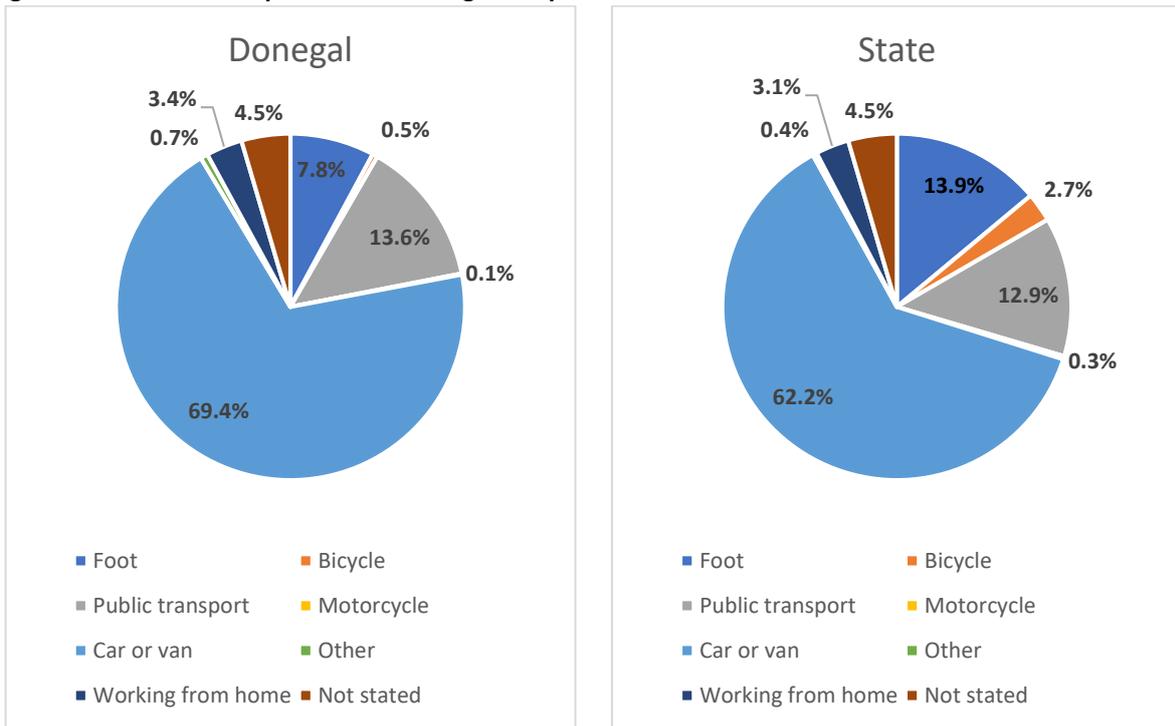


Figure 17: Percentage of public transportation use in Donegal

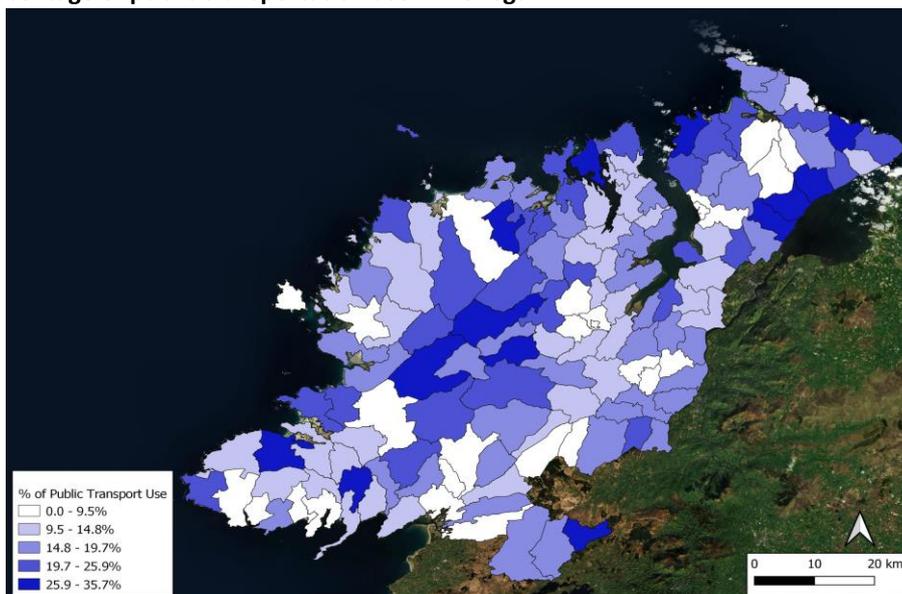
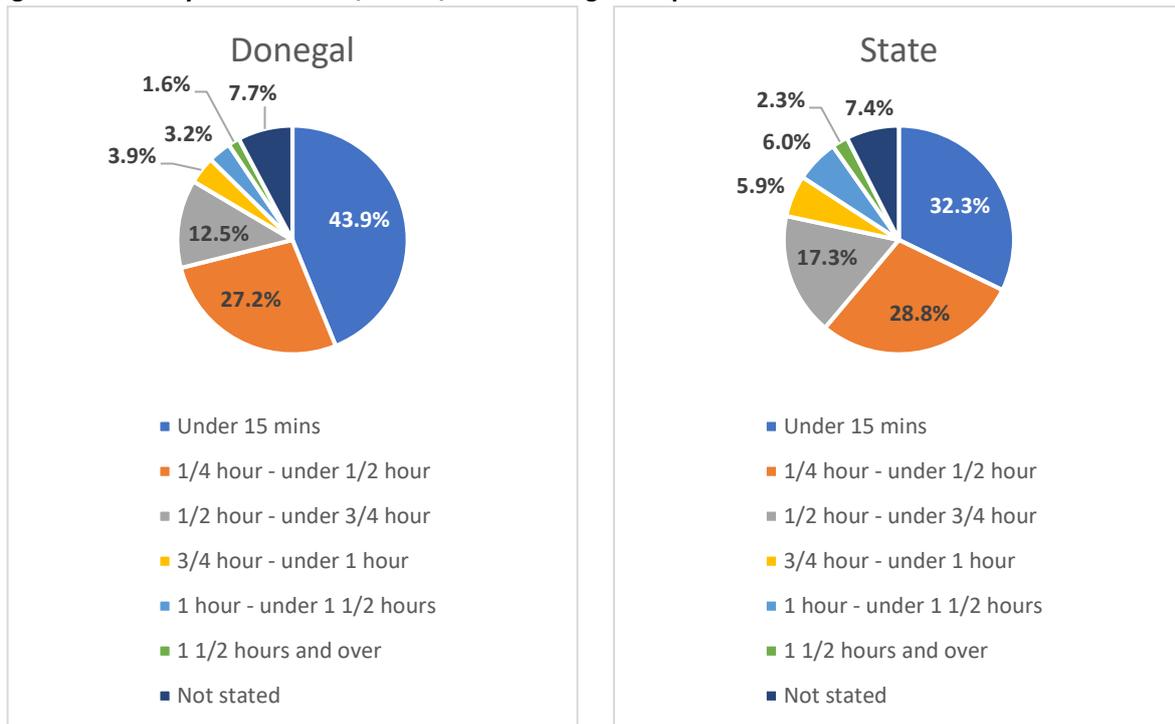


Figure 17 (previous page) shows the proportion of people in Donegal who use public transport as their main means of travel to work, school or college.

Journey time to work, school, etc.

Figure 18 shows the journey times of residents in Donegal to work or school in comparison to the State average. The constituency has a higher proportion of less than 15-minute journeys (43.9% compared to 32.3%). Donegal also has a comparatively lower proportion of 30- to 45-minute journeys (12.5% compared to 17.3%).

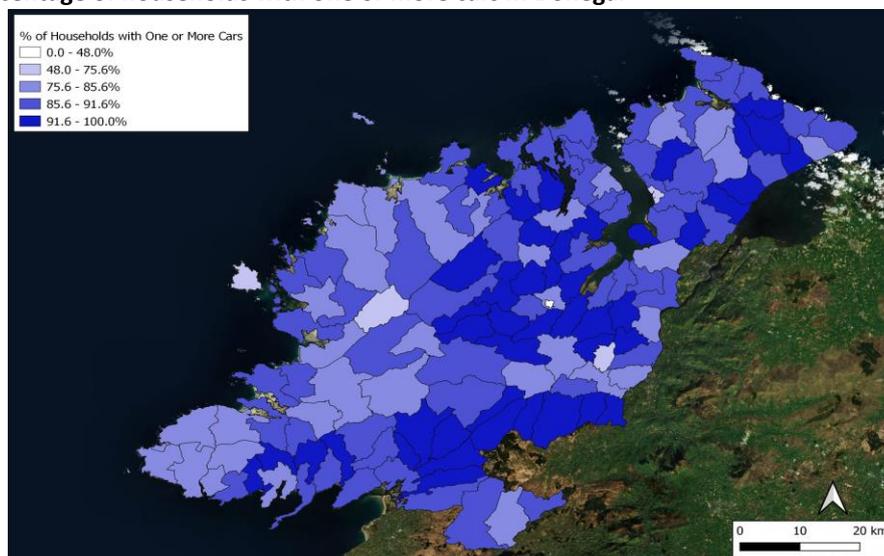
Figure 18: Journey times to work/school/etc. in Donegal compared to the State



Car access

Figure 19 maps the proportion of households having one or more cars in Donegal at the electoral division level.

Figure 19: Percentage of households with one or more cars in Donegal





Education

Highest education level completed/achieved

Figure 20 shows the highest education completed in Donegal and the corresponding State share. In comparison with the State, the constituency displays similar proportions who have completed education at second level (33.4% compared to 33%). However, less people in Donegal completed education at third level and above compared to the State as a whole (21.3% compared to 28.5%). The proportion of people who completed their education at primary level in the constituency is higher than equivalent proportion for the State as a whole (20.6% compared to 12.5%)

Figure 20: Highest completed education in Donegal compared to the State

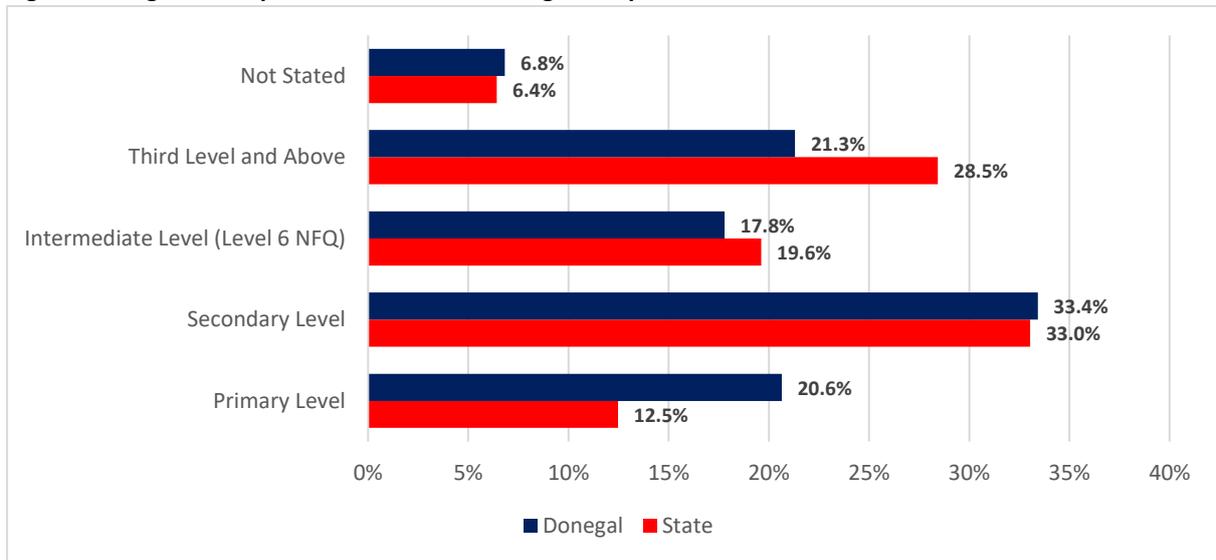


Figure 21 below shows the rates of usual residents with third level education or higher, while the following Figure 22 (overleaf) maps the proportions of Donegal residents at the electoral division level with primary education or below.

Figure 21: The percentage of people with third level education or higher in Donegal

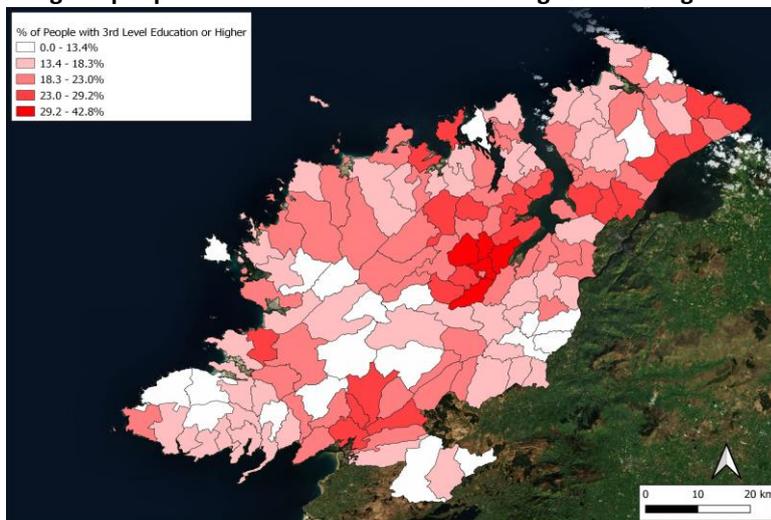
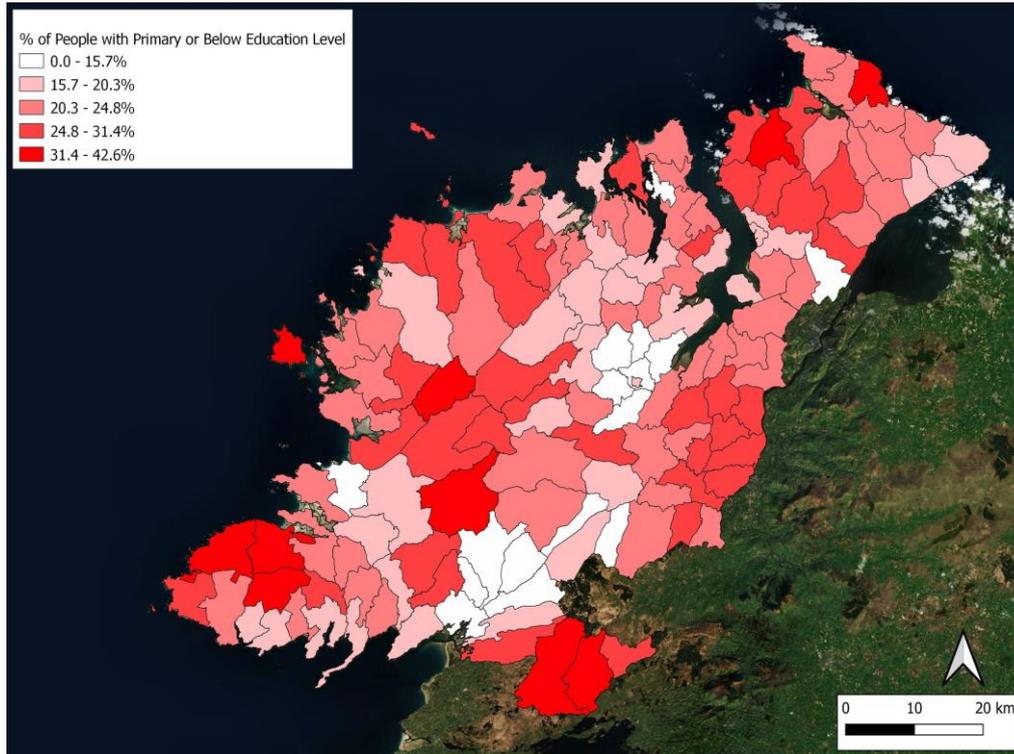


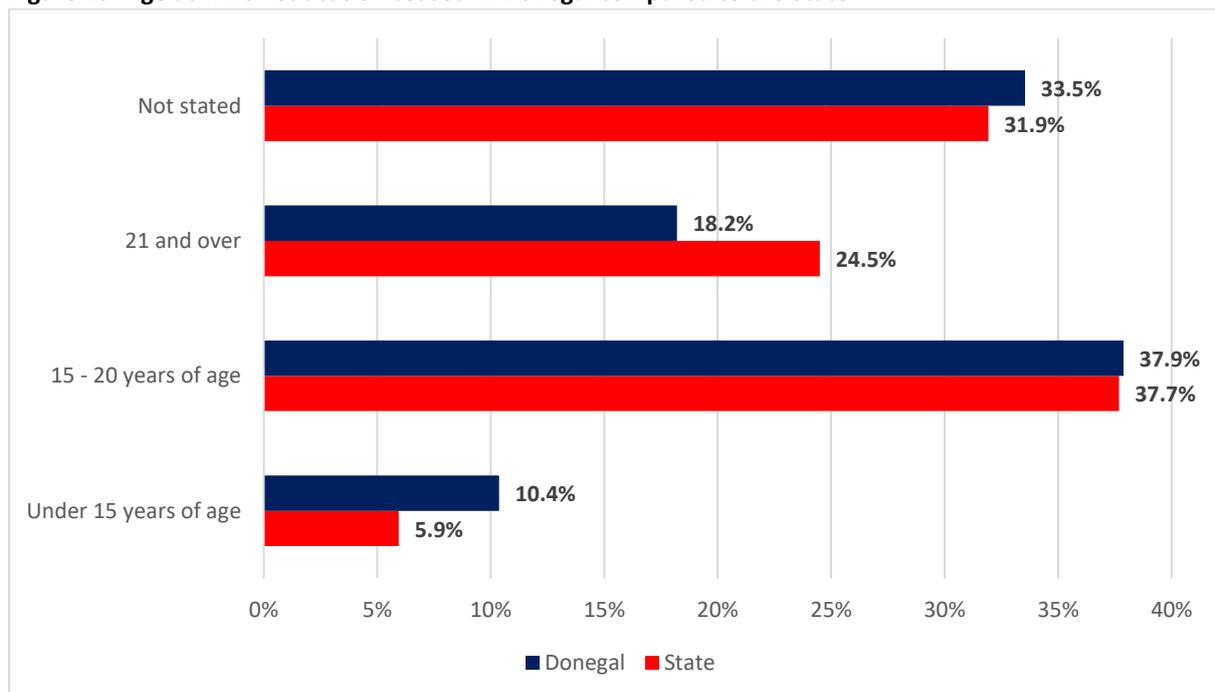
Figure 22: Percentage of people with primary education or below in Donegal



Age at which education ceased

Figure 23 below shows the highest age at which education ceased in Donegal compared to the State. The constituency has a lower proportion of usual residents who completed their education aged 21 and over (18.2%) than the corresponding State measure (24.5%). The constituency also shows a higher proportion ceasing their education under age 15 than the State average (10.4% compared to 5.9%).

Figure 23: Age at which education ceased in Donegal compared to the State



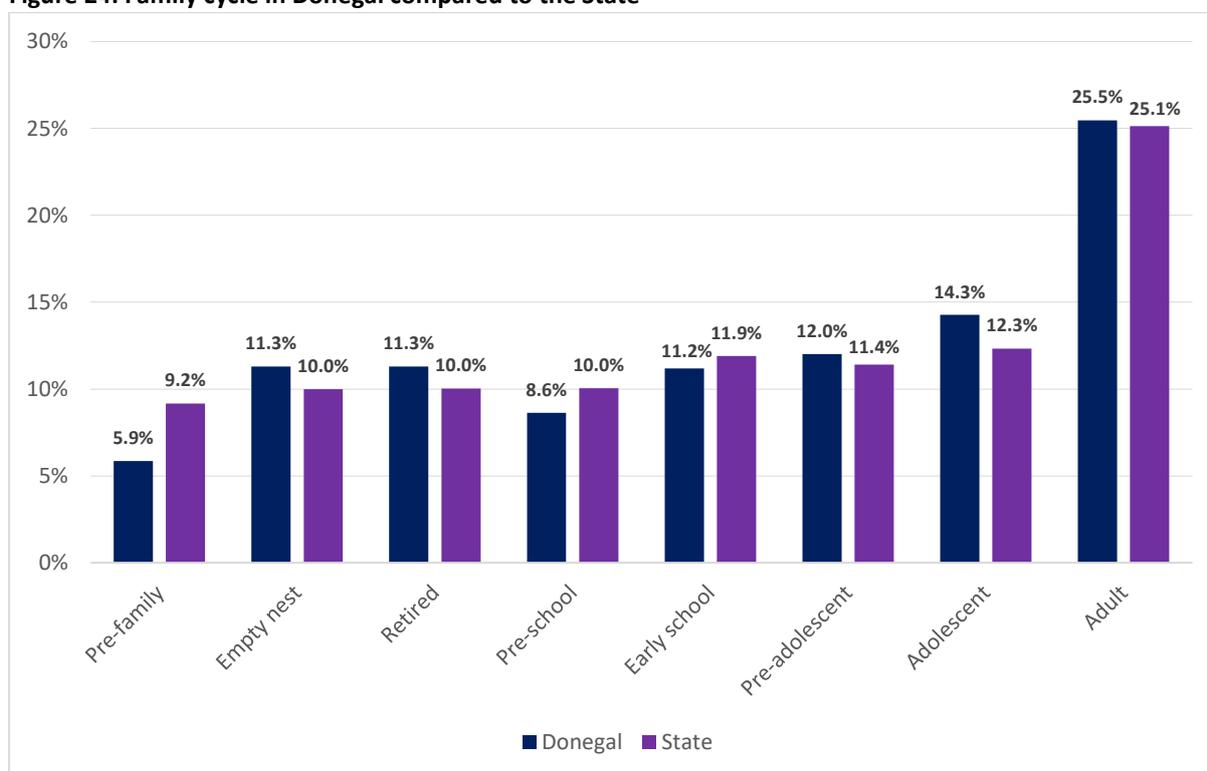


Families

Family cycle⁶

In Donegal, there are 38,930 family units. Figure 24 below shows the breakdown of the number of families in the constituency according to their stage of the family cycle and its comparison to the State. In Donegal, the proportion of families described as pre-family is lower than the State (5.9% compared to 9.2%). The proportion of family units that are described as adult (25.5%), empty nest (11.3%) and retired (11.3%) in the constituency is greater than the respective State equivalent measures.

Figure 24: Family cycle in Donegal compared to the State



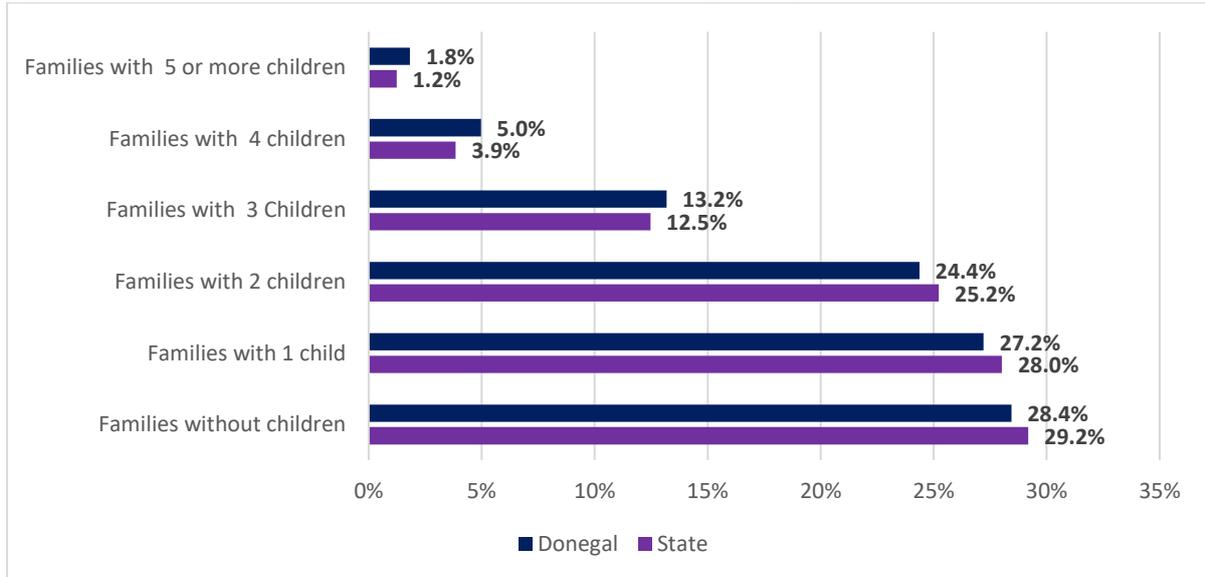
Families with or without children

Figure 25 (overleaf) compares Donegal and State in terms of families with and without children, and the numbers of children in families. Compared to the State as a whole, Donegal has a slightly lower proportion of families with 2 children (24.4% compared to 25.2%) and 1 child (27.2% compared to 28%). The constituency also has a slightly larger share of families with 3 children (13.2% compared to 12.5%).

⁶ For the CSO’s definition of family cycle as used in the Census, see [here](#).



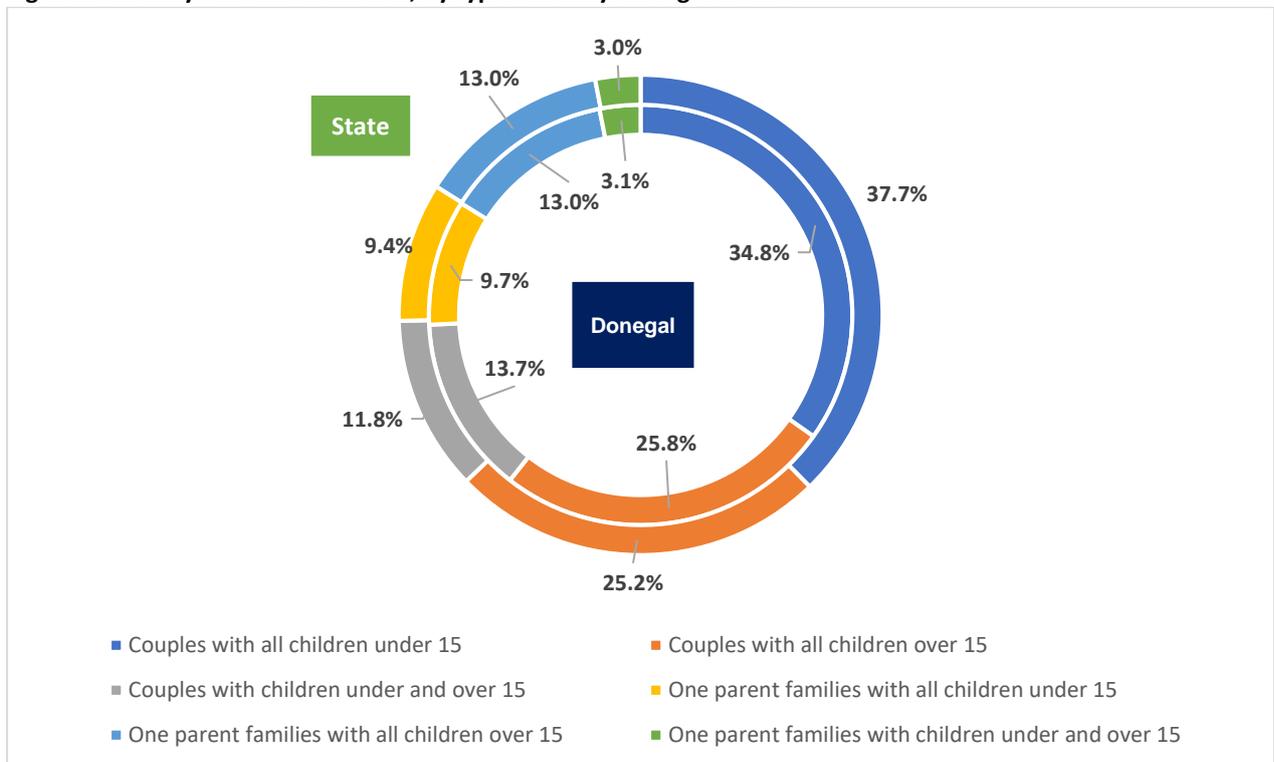
Figure 25: Number of families with or without children in Donegal compared to the State



Family type

There are 27,859 families with children in Donegal. Of these, 20,687 families (74.3%) were couples with children and 7,172 (25.7%) were one parent families. Figure 26 below shows the proportion of family types with children (under and over 15) in 2016 for Donegal and compared to the State. In Donegal, there are more couples with all children over 15 (25.8% compared to 25.2%) and under and over 15 (13.7% compared to 11.8%). In comparison with the State measure, the constituency shows a marginally higher proportion of one parent families with all children under 15 (9.7% compared to 9.4%).

Figure 26: Family units with children, by type of family and age of child





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