

Glossary

Action Plan for Rural Development: three-year Government plan launched in January 2017 containing actions to support the economic and social progress of rural Ireland

Air pollution: caused by introducing harmful or poisonous substances into the air that are damaging to human health, plant and animal life, or property

An Taisce: national trust for Ireland, a non-governmental environmental organisation; drew up the An Taisce Heritage Plan 2030, which contains specific recommendations for the protection of our natural heritage

Asylum fatigue: occurs when a country's citizens and political system become opposed to migration

Asylum seeker: someone who has moved to another country and has applied to be recognised as a refugee

Birth rate: number of births that occur per thousand people in the population per year

Brain drain: emigration of highly trained or qualified people from a particular country

Bronze Age: 2500 BC–500 BC; introduction of metals, people living in this period were skilled in metalworking

Brownfield sites: urban sites for potential building development that have had previous development on them

Bungalow blitz: building of one-off housing in rural areas near towns

Carrying capacity: number of people, animals and crops a place can support without depleting its resources for future generations or damaging the environment

Celtic Tiger: period of economic boom in Ireland between the mid-1990s and 2008

Central business district (CBD): centrally located area of the city that is the main commercial, professional, retail and governmental centre

Central place theory: theory to explain patterns in the spacing and functions of settlements, published in 1933 by Walter Christaller

Changes in land use: changing functions of an area

Clachán: cluster of farmhouses and outhouses grouped together, oldest form of settlement in Ireland

CLÁR: Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais; investment programme providing funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that experience disadvantage and have suffered population decline

Climate change: change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular the change caused by increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels

Concentric zone model: urban land use theory developed by Ernest W. Burgess in 1925; divides cities into 5 concentric circles/zones

Conurbation: extended urban area consisting of several towns that merge with the suburbs of a main city

Counter-urbanisation: encouraging people to choose to live on the edge of urban areas or to relocate to the countryside; results in regional growth centres becoming self-supporting and not dependent on main urban centres in the region

County development plans: plans designed to protect rural areas by counteracting suburbanisation and allowing rural areas to remain distinct

Crannóg: ancient fortified dwelling in a lake or marsh; constructed from timber

Death rate: number of deaths that occur per thousand people in the population per year

Deindustrialisation: reduction of industrial activity or capacity in a region

Demographer: person who studies changing population statistics

Demographic transition model: five-stage model describing population development

Demography: study of changing population figures

Dependency ratio: number of dependants in a population divided by the number of productive/working people

Desertification: land that was once productive converts to desert conditions

Developed country: country with a minimum GDP of between \$12,000 and \$15,000 per person per year

Developing country: country where the GDP per person per year is below \$12,000

Dispersed settlement: also called scattered settlement; houses are dotted over a large area; common in farming areas

Displaced person: person who has been forced to migrate within their own country to avoid a threat to life

Dormitory town: town where people live and from where they travel to work elsewhere, in a bigger town or city

Dry point: area that is slightly raised from the surrounding area, which may be liable to flooding, e.g. floodplain. Dry point sites are gently sloping and well drained

Dublin Regulation: EU convention, originally signed in Dublin in 1990, to manage the applications of migrant asylum seekers for refuge in EU states. By the agreement, a person seeking asylum must make one application in the first EU state encountered in their travel to the EU

Early childhood mortality rate: probability of dying between ages one and five (different from infant mortality rate)

Economic recession: period of economic decline, GDP falling in two successive quarters

Emigration: movement of people out of their home country, with the intention of permanently settling in a new country

Ethnic profiling: when people are targeted by police based on expected behaviours due to their ethnicity, rather than facts; illegal discrimination under European and international law

Ethnicity: group of people with shared social, cultural and historical experiences

EU Blue Card: work permit issued by 25 of the 27 EU member states to highly qualified non-EU citizens; established in 2009

European Economic Area: free-trade zone operative from 1994, composed of the states of the European Union (first called the European Economic Community) and certain members of the European Free Trade Association

Forced migration: relocation of refugees and internally displaced people due to conflict, or natural or environmental disasters

Frontex: European border and coastguard agency, established in 2004 as an integrated approach to providing security for the borders of the EU and the associated Schengen nations of Iceland, Norway and Switzerland

Function (of a settlement): services an urban settlement provides to its residents and those living in its hinterland

Green Revolution: technological advances in agriculture, e.g. artificial fertilisers, pesticides and high-yield crop varieties

Gross domestic product: measurement of a country's total economic output

Heritage issues in urban areas: heritage includes traditions, monuments, objects and culture; in Ireland, the 1995 Heritage Act ensures that all heritage sites are preserved when planning for a new development takes place

Hinterland: area that surrounds an urban centre

Historic: famous or important in history/the past; the Christian settlement period, around approximately AD 400, marks the beginning of historical records and the historic period in Ireland

Hoyt's sector model: urban land use theory developed by Homer Hoyt in 1939; divides cities into 5 wedges

Human Development Index: measure used to classify countries by factors such as life expectancy, education and standard of living/opportunities

Human development: when a person has access (opportunity and choice) to the resources they need to have a good standard of living, including access to education

Immigration: inward movement of people to a country

Infant mortality rate: number of deaths per 1,000 live births of children under one year of age (different from early childhood mortality rate)

Kyoto Protocol: international treaty signed by industrialised nations in 1997 setting mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions

Land use theories: models developed to explain the layout of cities across the world, e.g. the concentric zone model (Burgess, 1925), the sector model (Hoyt, 1939) and the multiple nuclei model (Harris and Ullman, 1945)

Land use values: in all cities across the world, land is more valuable closer to the very accessible central business district

Land use zones: land is zoned or rezoned by local authorities and can be used for various purposes, e.g. transport, commercial, industrial, residential and recreational zones in cities

Life expectancy: average number of years a person is expected to live from birth

Linear settlement: also called ribbon settlement; consists of houses built in a line along a road; allows easy access to services

Megadrought: drought that lasts for two decades or more

Megalithic tomb: burial chamber constructed of large stones, either underground or covered by a mound

Mesolithic: 8000 BC–4000 BC; middle stone age; the Mesolithic people in Ireland most likely came from Scotland and Britain on boats, arriving on the north-eastern coast of Ireland

Metropolitan area: region that consists of a densely populated urban core and less-populated surrounding areas that share industry, infrastructure and housing

Migration: the movement of people

Multiple nuclei model: urban land use theory developed by Chauncy Harris and Edward Ullman in 1945; suggests that cities grow from multiple centres; divided into 9 zones

National Development Plan: part of Project Ireland 2040; programme to upgrade state infrastructure in anticipation of population increase

National Planning Framework: part of Project Ireland 2040; hopes to achieve balanced regional development, with significant emphasis on the growth of the major cities of Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford

National Spatial Strategy: government scheme in operation until 2020; provided investment into smaller hub towns to reduce rural to urban migration

Neolithic: 4000 BC–2500 BC; Neolithic means New Stone Age. Neolithic people were the first farmers to arrive in Ireland

Net migration: migration balance, immigrants – emigrants = net migration

Newgrange: passage grave in Boyne Valley, County Meath; casting light on the 21/22 December (winter solstice)

Nodal point: place where transport routes meet

Nomadic: travelling from place to place to find fresh pasture for animals; without a permanent home

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs): non-profit organisations that are independent of governments and provide social and political support to communities and people

Nucleated settlement: also called clustered settlement; consists of houses located in groups or clusters

Overcropping: practice of continuous cultivation of land, without allowing it rest periods; leads to infertile and eroded soil

Overgrazing: plants being grazed on by too many animals, leads to infertile and eroded soil

Overpopulation: more people living in a region than can be supported by its resources

Palaeolithic: 10500 BC–8000 BC; Old Stone Age, when much of Ireland was covered in ice; evidence now suggests the presence of humans in Ireland in this period

Passage tomb: one or more burial chambers covered in earth or with stone, and having a narrow access passage made of large stones

Paternity leave: time off from work granted to a father after or shortly before the birth of his child

Polygamy: having more than one wife or husband at the same time

Population density: number of people per unit area, usually people per square kilometre

Population distribution: variation in population densities over wide areas

Population pyramid: graph that shows how age and gender are distributed over the total population, can be expansive, stationary or constrictive

Population: number of people who live in a region or country

Prehistoric: prehistoric period in Ireland encompasses the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, and the Bronze Age and Iron Age

Primate city: city that has at least twice the population of the second largest city in the country

Project Ireland 2040: 10-year plan released by the government in 2018; intends to tackle Ireland's population growth into the future by promoting balanced development and decentralisation of industry

Pull factors: attractive qualities of a place that pull migrants to it

Push factors: conditions that force people to move away from a place

Race: grouping of people by inherited physical characteristics like skin colour or other physical features

Refugee: person who has been forced to migrate to another country to avoid a threat to life and cannot return for fear of persecution

Religion: particular system of faith and worship

Remittance: money sent by migrants to their home countries

Replacement rate: number of births a population requires to exactly replace itself from one generation to the next

Ringfort: prehistoric earthwork, defended by circular banks and ditches

Rundale system: system of farming governing the division of land between farmers in Ireland; clusters (clachán) of farmhouses and communal grazing areas were common features

Rural: relating to the countryside (rather than the town)

Schengen Agreement: intergovernmental agreement on the relaxation of border controls between participating European countries, first signed in Schengen, Luxembourg, in 1985. Ireland is not a member

Settlement: location where people live

Site: exact place/ground on which a village, town or city developed

Situation: general location of a settlement; position of the settlement in relation to surrounding physical features, areas and other settlements

Social stratification: way in which different groups of people are placed within society based on social position or class; people of similar income and education usually live in the same areas

Standing stone: tall upright stone erected in prehistoric times in western Europe

Suburbanisation: outward growth of urban areas; may cause surrounding villages and towns to be engulfed into the larger urban area

The Durban Platform: process set up in 2011 whereby all parties of the UN Climate Change Convention commit to a new international agreement with legal force to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Third-country national: person who is not a citizen of the EU

Total fertility rate: total number of children a woman is likely to have in her lifetime

Urban: relating to a town or city

Urban decay: degeneration of buildings and infrastructure in an urban area

Urban expansion: development of cities into the surrounding countryside; can lead to urban sprawl

Urban hierarchy: way to classify urban settlements according to order of importance; arranged like a pyramid, with a small number of conurbations at the top and a large number of villages at the bottom

Urban land uses: models developed to explain the layout of cities across the world, e.g. the concentric zone model (Burgess, 1925), the sector model (Hoyt, 1939) and the multiple nuclei model (Harris and Ullman, 1945)

Urban planning: planning strategies have been put in place in different countries to tackle issues such as urban sprawl and urban decay

Urban problems of traffic congestion: huge volumes of traffic lead to traffic congestion in many developing world cities; fuel consumption, pollution levels and economic losses increase consequently, which has a serious impact on the environment, leading to climate change

Urban problems: problems in urban centres, including traffic congestion, urban decay, inadequate infrastructure, a lack of affordable housing, environmental issues, crime and heritage issues

Urban renewal: rehabilitation of areas suffering from urban decay by renovating or replacing dilapidated buildings

Urban sprawl: spread of an urban area into what used to be countryside

Voluntary migration: migration as a result of a person's choice to relocate

Water pollution: water quality can be affected by many things, e.g. decayed organic materials, pesticides, agricultural activities, toxic and hazardous substances, detergents, litter and sedimentation

Wet point: area close to a supply of water