



**An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh**  
Central Statistics Office

# Bringing the Census to schools

6<sup>th</sup> Year Geographical Investigation



In preparation  
for:

**census**  
**2016** APRIL  
**24**  
[www.census.ie](http://www.census.ie)

## Table of Contents

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Stage 1 – Introduction – P. 7 .....	3
Stage 2 – Planning – P. 9 .....	5
Stage 3 – Gathering of Information – P. 11, 13, 15, 17 .....	7
Stage 4 - Results, Conclusions and Evaluations – P. 19, 21, 23	10

## Stage 1 – Introduction – P. 7

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### For entire project

Word count: 1,770

Maximum: 1,000

As these are guidelines, a lot of additional information has been added.

Therefore, you will need to trim and use this example for what it is, a guideline for tackling this Field Study.

### For Introduction

Word count: 50

Maximum: 50

**Topic:** Population in a local area

**Title:** An examination of population trends in the parish of Mohill, Co. Leitrim

Our aim is to examine:

1. Past population trends in the parish of Mohill
2. Present population trends in the parish of Mohill
3. To make predictions and plan for the future in this area
4. To examine occupations, religious groups, ethnic mix, and challenges that this area may face

### Suggestion for P.6

Draw a 1:50,000 O.S. Map of the area you are analysing.  
E.g. Co. Leitrim

### Field Study Tip

A well-presented, coloured map looks very impressive when examining this project.

## Stage 2 – Planning – P. 9

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Word count: 240

Maximum: 100

You may consider staying close to the recommended word count here.

You also have the option of informing the examiners of your wide ranging project intentions, and trimming back the word count elsewhere in the project.

1. We restudied the section in our course textbook (include name of textbook here and author(s) name(s))
2. Our teacher brought us to the local library/school library, where we researched the area that we would study
3. We studied Census Data from our area and our teacher introduced us to SAPMAP on [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)
4. We examined a 1:1,000 map of the area we would study
5. We examined a 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Map of the Area we would study
6. Our teacher brought a guest to the school, and this guest was able to tell us about the social and population changes in the locality in recent decades
7. We restudied graph drawing, and our Mathematics teacher also assisted us in strengthening this skill
8. With our teachers assistance, we designed questionnaires

9. We were given worksheets which we studied in detail
10. We were split into groups and a captain was chosen. We decided the method of gathering information in the town
11. Our teacher gave us statistical data related to the town from [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie).
12. We were brought to the computer room and we were allowed to conduct research on [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie)
13. Our teacher gave us further reading including ‘Mohill Remembered - Jubilee 2000’ by the Mohill Jubilee Committee
14. We were given extracts from ‘Leitrim and the Great Hunger’ by Gerard MacAtasney
15. Our teacher showed us how to use an instrument called a clicker that we would use.
16. Our teacher gave us the “Health and Safety Guidelines for Field Studies” and we read them thoroughly

#### Suggestion for P. 8

Construct a 1:1,000 map of the area that you are studying.

#### Suggestion for P. 10

Split the page into 2 sections.

Draw a simple diagram of the students working in the library.

Below this, draw a simple diagram of the students constructing a questionnaire or working in groups.

## Stage 3 – Gathering of Information – P. 11, 13, 15, 17

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Word Count:	405
Maximum:	450

1. Over a 3 day period, we counted the numbers of vehicles entering and leaving the town from 9am - 1pm. We used clickers to record results.
2. Over a 3 day period, we counted the numbers of people entering and leaving the town from 9am - 1pm. Results were noted and discussed. Clickers were used to record results.
3. Our group interviewed 13 people and asked them 5 simple questions. These questions were taken from the census so that the results could be compared to official census data. We filled in our questionnaires. 13 people were interviewed, as we needed to discard 3 answer sets in case of spoiled results.
4. Analysing SAPMAP on [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie) , we examined the population of the town. We studied Census 2006 and Census 2011. The results were noted.
5. We also examined the occupations of the town's inhabitants. The figures were noted and discussed. We cross referenced the results with our questionnaires.
6. We examined ethnic groupings in the town using SAPMAP. Results were debated and noted. We examined the results against what our questionnaires stated.

7. We examined religious grouping in the town of Mohill. This was done by correlating the information on SAPMAP and the information we had gathered in the town. A discussion followed this.
8. We gathered information using [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie) and SAPMAP. This was cross referenced with our information we had in the questionnaires.
9. When our guest speaker, Mr. P. Kelly visited the school, we noted the points he made. We asked questions relevant to our study.

#### Suggestion for P.12

Split the page into two sections.

Draw a simple sketch of the clicker that the students would use.

Below this, draw a sketch of the students working on graphs and charts

#### Suggestion for P.14

Split the page into two sections.

Draw a simple sketch of the students gathering information 'in the field'.

Below this draw a simple sketch of the students analysing the flows of traffic in the town.

#### Field Study Tip

Use titles, colour and labels when drawing sketches.

This really brings them to life and makes life very easy for the examiner.



## Observations

1. We observed the flows of traffic into, around, and out of the town. Results were noted.
2. We walked around the town, and observed any urban problems. Results were discussed and noted.
3. We observed the footfall in the town. This was done with our most important tool, our eyes. It was done over a 4 hour period on 1 day. Results were debated and noted.
4. Using our 1:1,000 map, we compared it to the town today. Although our map was up to date, we were able to identify changes in the urban landscape of the town and its relevance to the town dynamic population.
5. When comparing the 2006 Census and the 2011 Census, we observed the data. Results were discussed.
6. We compared the information we gathered from the library, the reading we had been given and the data in the questionnaires. Trends were observed and noted.
7. Using SAPMAP, we compared our observations with surrounding small area populations.

### Suggestion for P.16

Split the page into 2.

Construct a graph illustrating past population trends in Mohill.  
Below this, construct a graph illustrating present population trends in Mohill

### Field Study Reminder

Make sure you include a least 2 different types of chart/graph.  
Also remember to include at least one table of figures.

## Stage 4 - Results, Conclusions and Evaluations – P. 19, 21, 23

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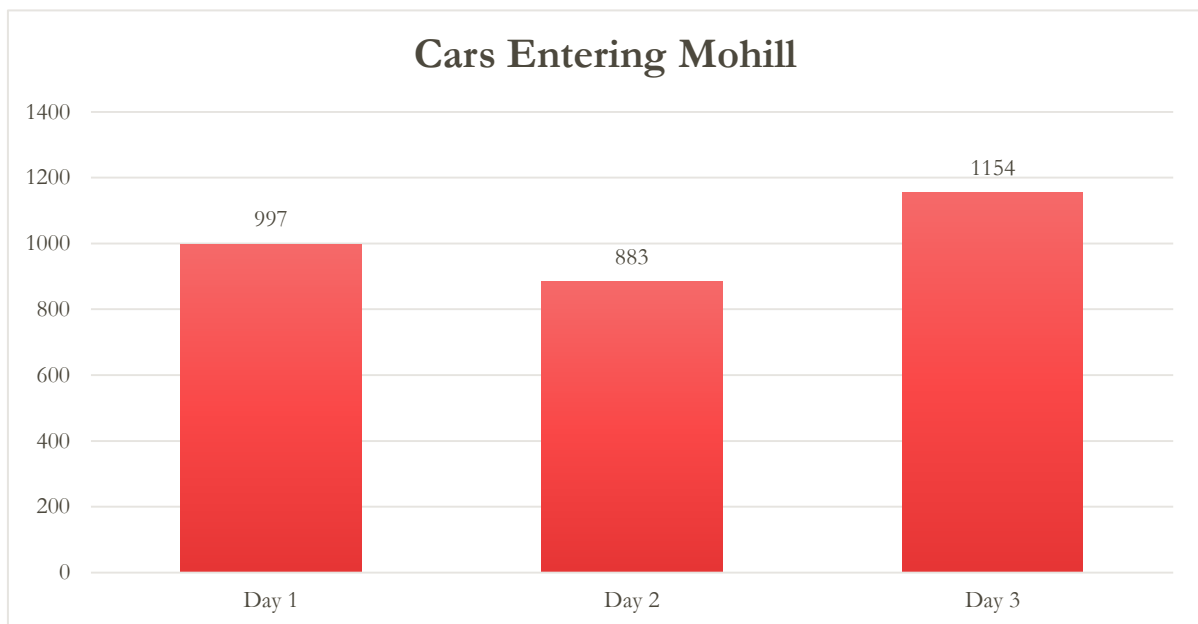
Over a 3 day period, from 8am – 1pm we recorded vehicles entering the town.

The results were:

Day 1 – 997

Day 2 – 883

Day 3 – 1,154



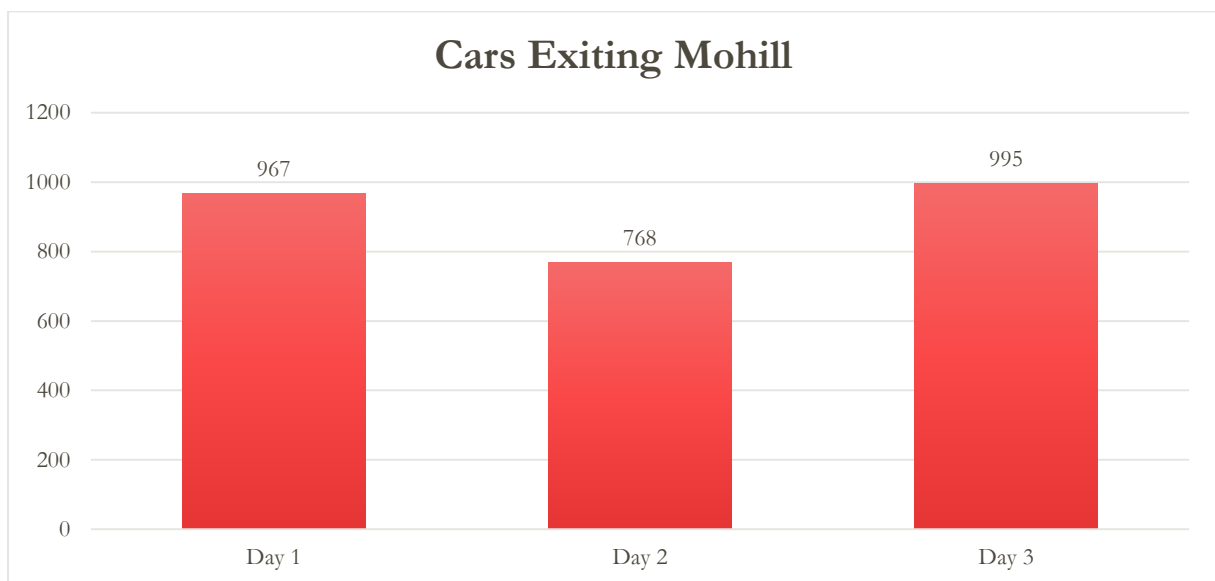
Over a 3 day period, from 8am – 1pm we recorded vehicles leaving the town.

The results were:

Day 1 – 867

Day 2 – 768

Day 3 – 995

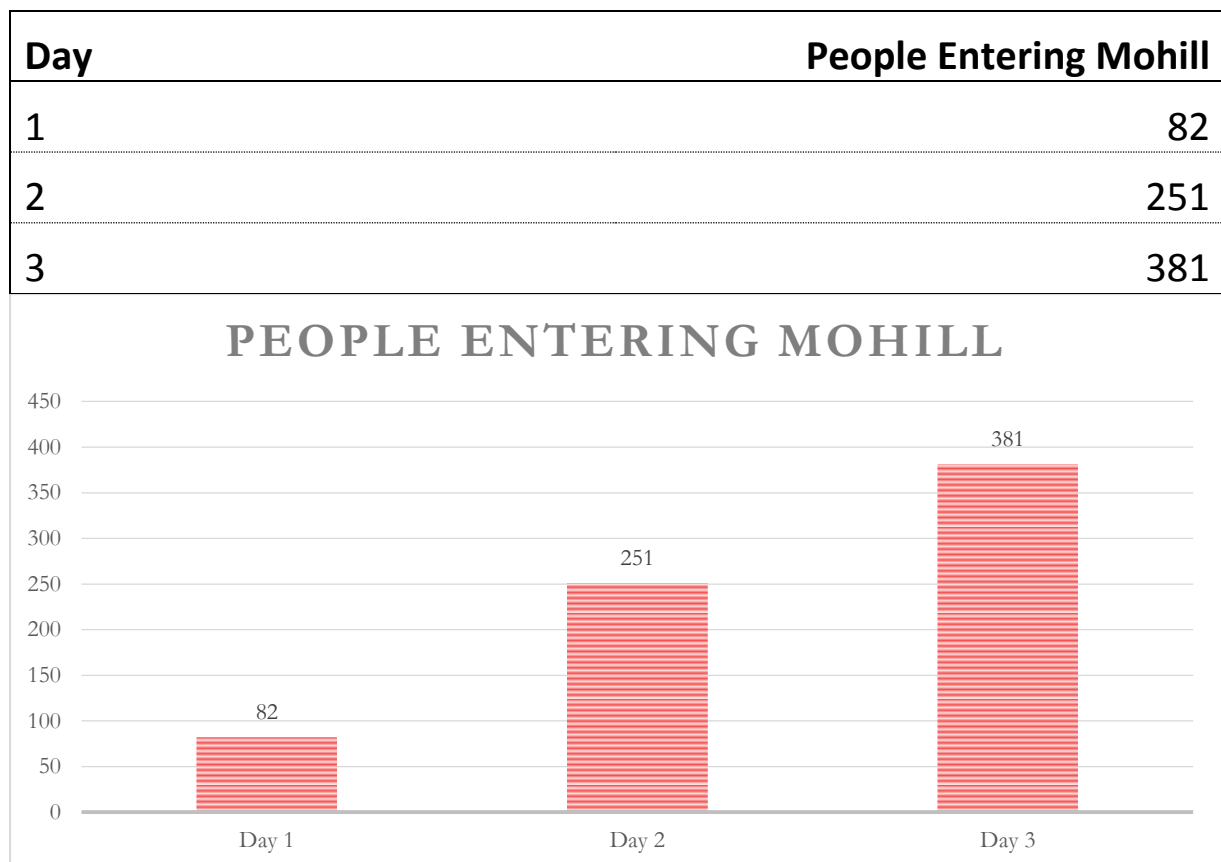


From our analysis, it is clear that the town of Mohill has a steady flow of traffic. This is directly related to the population in the hinterland and the population of the town. More vehicles appear to be entering the town than exiting. This needs to be managed carefully.

Our group discussed this and the following suggestions were made:

- Establishing a one way system to the North of the town
- Establishing a car-park to alleviate on-street parking
- Introducing traffic lights, that are well synched with traffic flows, to help traffic move more efficiently

Our footfall analysis over a 4 hour period (9am-1pm) over 3 days (combined totals) was as follows:



These results show us that:

- Footfall in Mohill varies greatly from day to day
- Day 3 had more than 4 times the amount of people in the town than Day 1. This was due to the fact that it was the day that old-age pensions are distributed.
- We can conclude from this data that extra transport services may be necessary on Day 3. Perhaps the local authorities could organise services for the elderly on this day e.g. a social club. Our group debated why so few people visited the town on Day 1. Perhaps businesses could organise events to attract more people the town on this particular day.

Our questionnaires provided us with some fascinating results. We questioned 10 people\* on the following:

- The number of people in their immediate family
- The average age of those in their immediate family
- Their Ethnic background and that of their immediate family
- Their religious beliefs and that of their immediate family
- Any specific needs that they think the town of Mohill requires

\*We had 2 spoiled questionnaires.

We discarded one questionnaire randomly so we would have a round number of 10

Results of Questionnaire											
Interviewees	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Avg
<b>Family Size</b>	3	5	8	5	6	1	1	6	3	2	4
<b>Age</b>	24	45	36	68	34	56	24	35	40	81	44.3
<b>Ethnicity</b>	Irish	Irish	Irish	Irish	Asian	Irish	Irish	Black	Irish	Irish	
<b>Religious Background</b>	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Buddhist	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic	Non-religious	Non-religious	
<b>Needs</b>	Extra Gardaí	More Services	More Litter Bins	Traffic worries	none	Extra Gardaí	Traffic worries	none	Extra Gardaí	Extra Gardaí	

Our questionnaire revealed:

- The average family size is 4. This is good news for the town of Mohill. The family unit is very important for any town.

However, we also have inhabitants living alone. They may also have needs, especially if they are elderly.

- The average age of people in the town is 44.3. When we compared these results to those of our classmates they were similar. This is positive as this age range is economically active. It is important that jobs are available

to this age group.

However, it is also important to note that the town has elderly and young inhabitants. They also have needs that need to be considered such as education, healthcare and transport.

- We can see that the town of Mohill is predominantly Irish, however, we do have Black and Asian inhabitants in the town. My team members noted the importance of integration in the town. This can be done through sport, education and community events.
- We can see that the town of Mohill is predominantly Roman Catholic. The religious needs of these people are served as a Roman Catholic Church can be found in the town.

However, our survey found that people of other religions inhabit the town, and they do not have centres of worship. This was highlighted by a member of our team and debated.

- The lack of Gardaí, litter and the lack of services were concerns for the townsfolk. After much debate among our team, we decided we would contact the local County Council and highlight these concerns, and present all of our results.

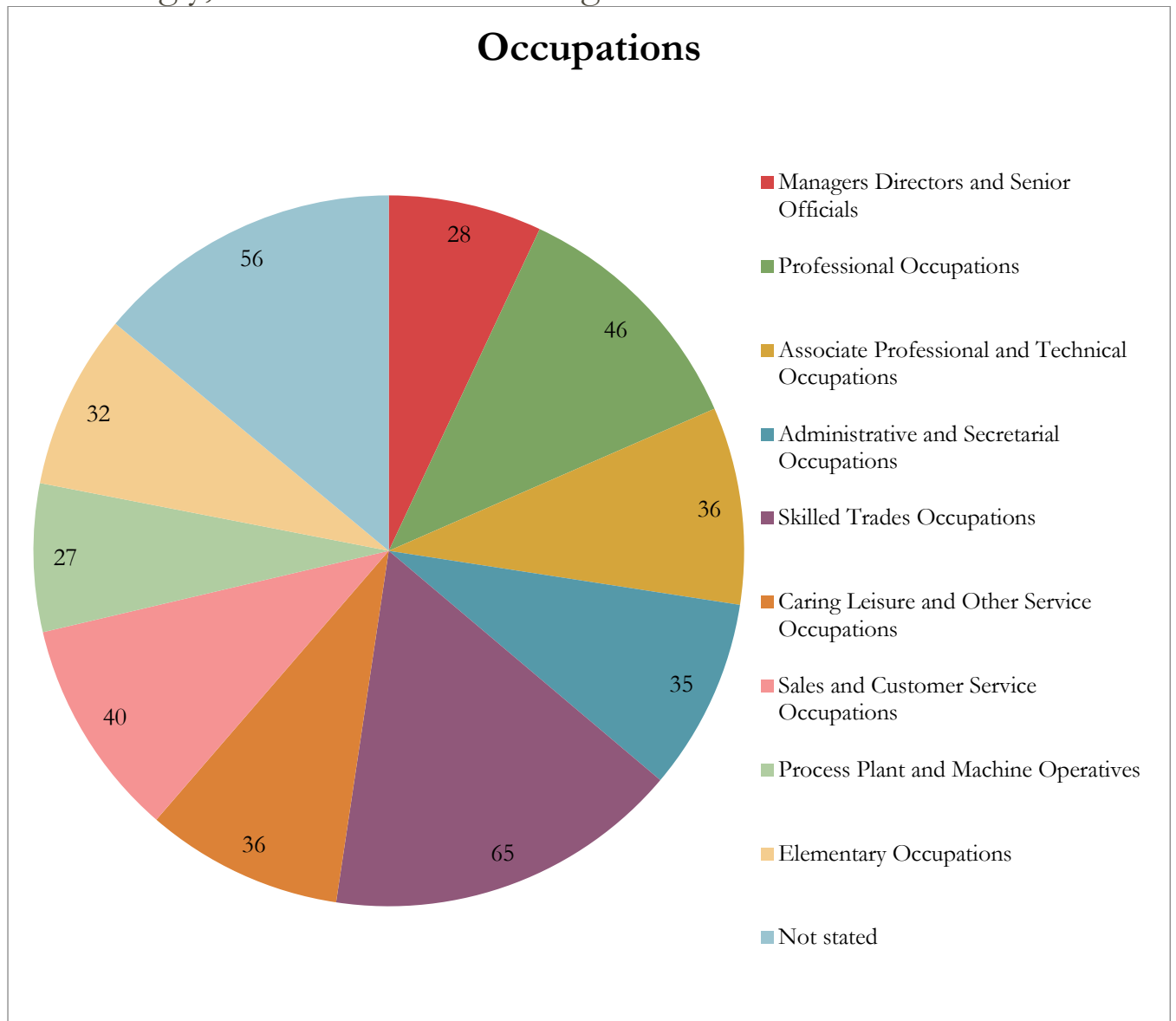
### Field Study Tip

Use numbers when moving on to a new point.

This is appreciated by the examiners, encourages neatness and makes the project easier to follow.

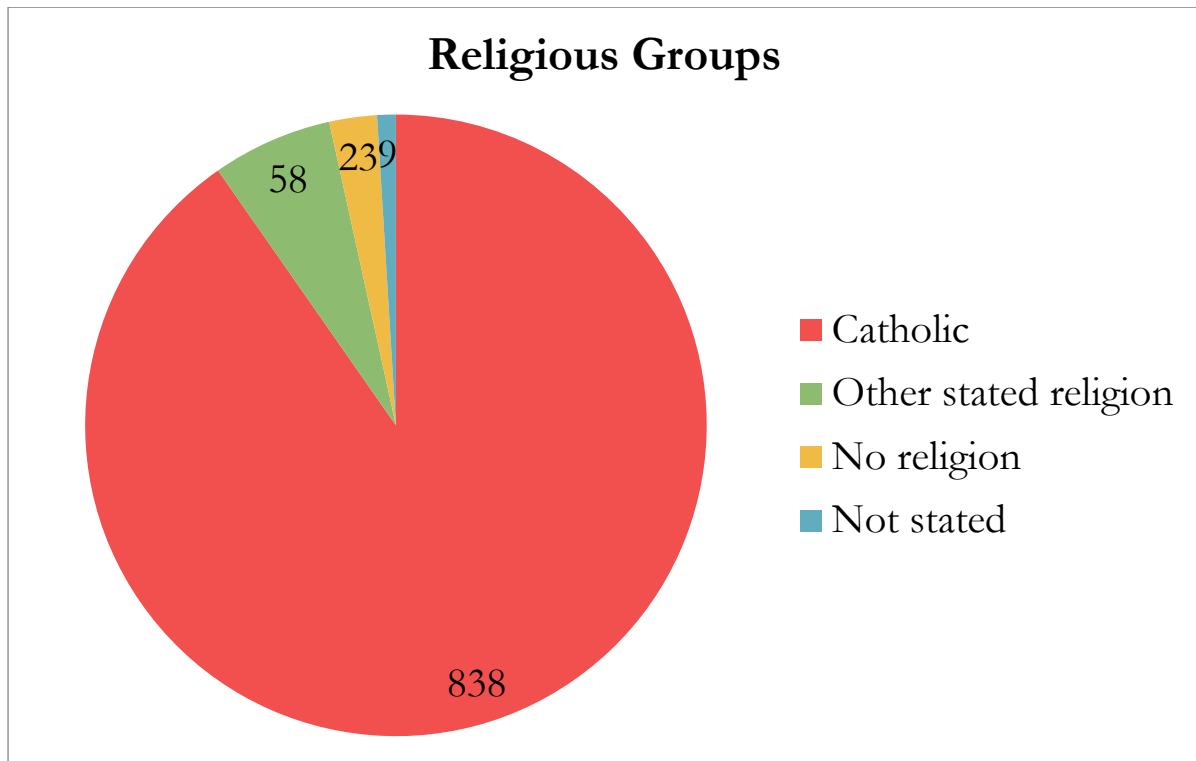
Our SAPMAP analysis of Mohill gave us some very interesting results. The population of the town in 2011 was 928 (446 male, 482 female)

Interestingly, we found the following results:



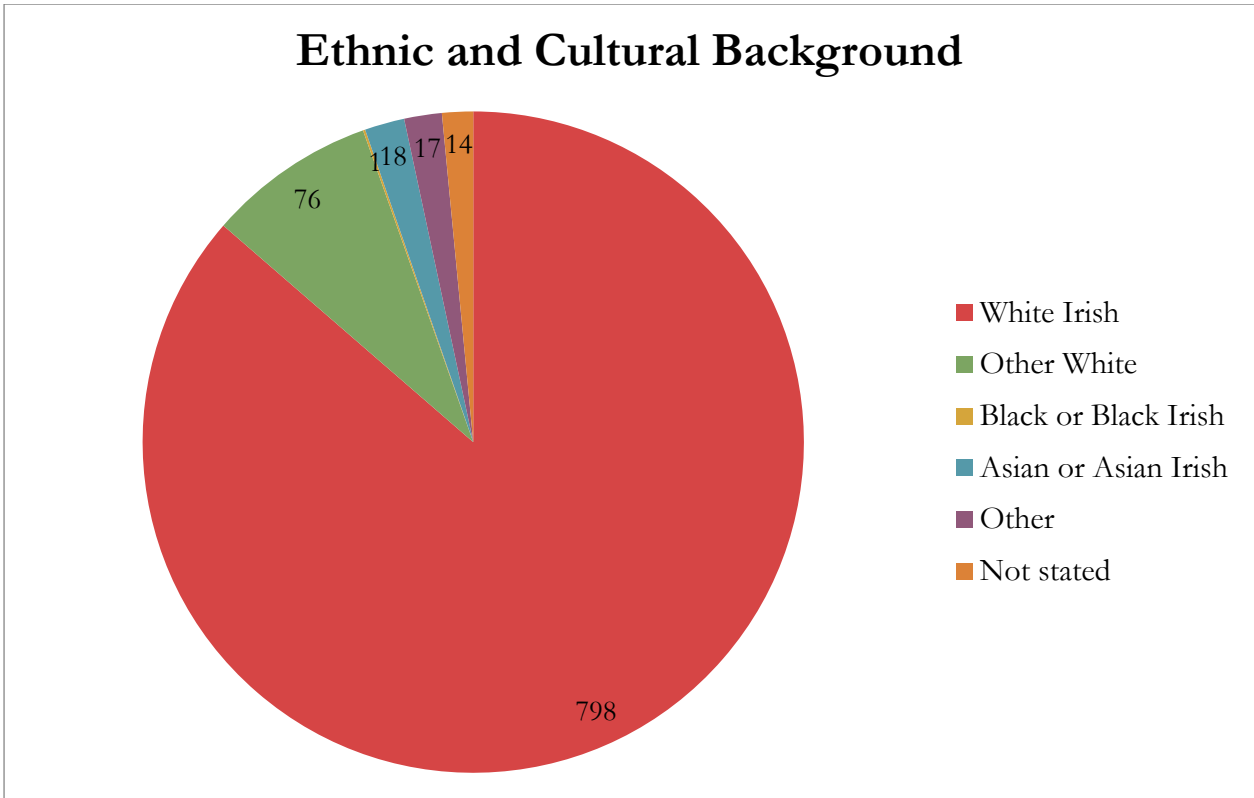
From this data, we can conclude that there are a wide range of occupations in the town. This is positive as it gives opportunities to different skill sets. The professions vary from traditional

forms of employment such as tradesmen to more modern practices like administrative roles.



Catholicism is the predominant religion in Mohill. However, as can be seen from the graph and footfall survey, other religions exist in the town. This emphasises how Ireland has become a multicultural and multid denominational country in recent years.





Source – C.S.O. SAPMAP

The population is predominantly white Irish. However, some diversity is present in the town and must be respected. A cultural centre would be a good idea for this town, as it may encourage new incoming migrants to build a life in Mohill.

Our guest speaker gave us a fascinating talk on demographic changes in the town.

He discussed the changing shape of the town, pastimes, social change and the future.

When we correlate this data with the above results we can see that we can see that the town is ever-changing and dynamic.

- 1) From the data we examined on [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie) we examined present population trends in Mohill. This information was correlated with our survey.
- 2) When we analysed the town on foot, we noticed the following urban problems:
  - A number of businesses were closed (approx 35%)
  - A lot of graffiti, litter, and particularly chewing gum could be seen in the town of Mohill
- 3) Analyzing the 1:1,000 map, we noticed that the town has undergone, and is undergoing great morphological change. The map we had to hand was printed in 2010. We noticed that:
  - A number of factories have been established on the approach roads to the town. They are eyesores.
  - Large residential estates have developed outside the town. They do not have transport services and may be isolated from the town.

#### Field Study Tip

It is recommended that at least 4 evaluations are included at the end of the project. These should be geographical evaluations, relevant to the study.

Evaluations:

- 1) If I was to conduct the project again, I would ask more than 5 questions in the questionnaire. I/We could have gathered a lot more information
- 2) On the days of the survey, we were not prepared for the elements. We should have consulted [www.meteireann.ie](http://www.meteireann.ie) and wore appropriate clothing.
- 3) We are going to contact the County Authorities and highlight our findings, particularly in relation to the chewing gum problem in the town.
- 4) I would like to spend more time working with SAPMAP. I have asked my teacher if more time could be allocated for this exercise. It would also work well for Transition Year.
- 5) I would like to see our school purchase more equipment. We ran out of clipboards. We could also have used recording devices. We have drafted a letter for the Head of the Geography Department.
- 6) I thoroughly enjoyed working as part of a team; sharing results and seeing our aims come to fruition.

Word Count: 1280

Maximum: 400

Again, this area needs to be trimmed.