

Introduction

Background

This study is designed to address Step 3 in the *'Shared Vision'* Guidelines, i.e. an analysis of the present economic, social and cultural situation of County Kerry. It is an important study in that it helped to form the basis on which much of the County Strategy will be based.

Objective

The objective of Step 3 is to analyse the data requirements as set down in Appendix 2 of the *'Shared Vision'* document. Approximately 80% of the data outlined in that Appendix is mapped in the Kerry Atlas. This study goes further in identifying and analysing other relevant data.

Methodology

Substantial information has been mapped in the form of a Kerry Atlas, 69 maps are represented accompanied with commentary and statistical data.

Additional data and updated statistics have been gathered via secondary research (desk research) and primary research via telephone interviews and personal interviews. A wide source of literature has been reviewed.

Limitations

The following are the limitations experienced while undertaking this report:

- The major limitation is that the report is mostly based on 1996 census data in particular population data.
- Due to the county being divided into North and South administration for some agencies, there is a lack of consistent data available.
- Some data sets are not available at county level.
- The vast amount of data that has been required by the *'Shared Vision'* document was difficult to collate and analyse with the time scale prescribed by Shared Vision.
- Unemployment figures are not 100% accurate as the county figures derived from the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs include a small percentage of Limerick and Cork.
- The figure obtained from CSO is not designed to measure unemployment, it is the live register figure which includes part-time workers (those who work up to three days a week). Seasonal and casual workers entitled to Unemployment Assistance or Benefit. Unemployment is measured by the Quarterly National Household Survey, which is calculated on a regional basis. The South West region includes Cork and Kerry.

Gaps

Generally, there can be difficulty in obtaining reliable data at county and sub-county level. This is an objective which needs to be addressed by the Board in the immediate future.