Appendix 8
Rural Area Types

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The Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities sets out in detail how the Government's policies on rural housing are to be implemented by planning authorities in making their development plans and in the operation of the development control system to ensure a vibrant future for all rural areas (DoEHLG, 2005: 2). The Guidelines state that "it is vitally important that a process of research and analysis be carried out into population and development trends in rural areas. This analysis should include the identification of the location and extent of the rural area types set out in the National Spatial Strategy" (DoEHLG, 2005: 15).

The Guidelines state that in order for planning authorities to identify rural area types they should carry out and update as necessary a survey of development trends in rural areas that will (DoEHLG, 2005):

- Map the locations of various types of rural housing planning decisions.
- Map, through the Commencement Notice system or by other means, the locations of planning permissions that are developed.
- Analyse the background to trends in areas where very significant development pressure is being experienced.
- Publish figures on an annual basis for rural housing applications received and a summary of the decisions made.

The aim of this analysis is to identify (using a GIS a method) rural area types as per the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines. The following general categories of information were used to inform the identification of rural area types:

- Population
- Housing
- Employment
- Commuting Pattern

All data has been derived from the Census and has been either compared against previous years to measure change, or as a percentage of a total. This has been done at Electoral Division (ED) level and using the 1km² grid cells as published by the CSO. The 1km² cells have been used to get a clearer picture of the spatial distribution of population across the county. ED figures have been assigned to individual grids based on the number of dwellings if the grid is split by an ED boundary. If grids are split and the number of houses is equal, then the grid has been assigned to an ED based on area.

The statistics used for each category are outlined in Table 1. The statistics have been weighted as per the % set out in Table 8.1. They have then been combined, using a weighted overlay approach, to give a total score for each area, with the scores grouped to define the type of area.

Weighted overlay is a type of suitability analysis that helps analyse site conditions based on multiple criteria. Weighted overlay analysis allows for different types of data to be combined, weighted and ranked so that multiple factors can be evaluated at once.

Weighting allows greater priority to be given based on their importance. In this case population and the level of commuting are considered to be more important as indicators of development pressure, reflected in their increased weighting. Recent House Construction has been given the next highest weighting in order to reflect recent patterns of development.

Input Layer	Weighting
Population 2016 by 1km grid	25%
Population Aged 65+	6%
Economic Dependency Ratio	6%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing Employment	6%
Recent House Construction (2000-2016)	15%
Housing Density[9]	10%
Commuters	32%
	100%

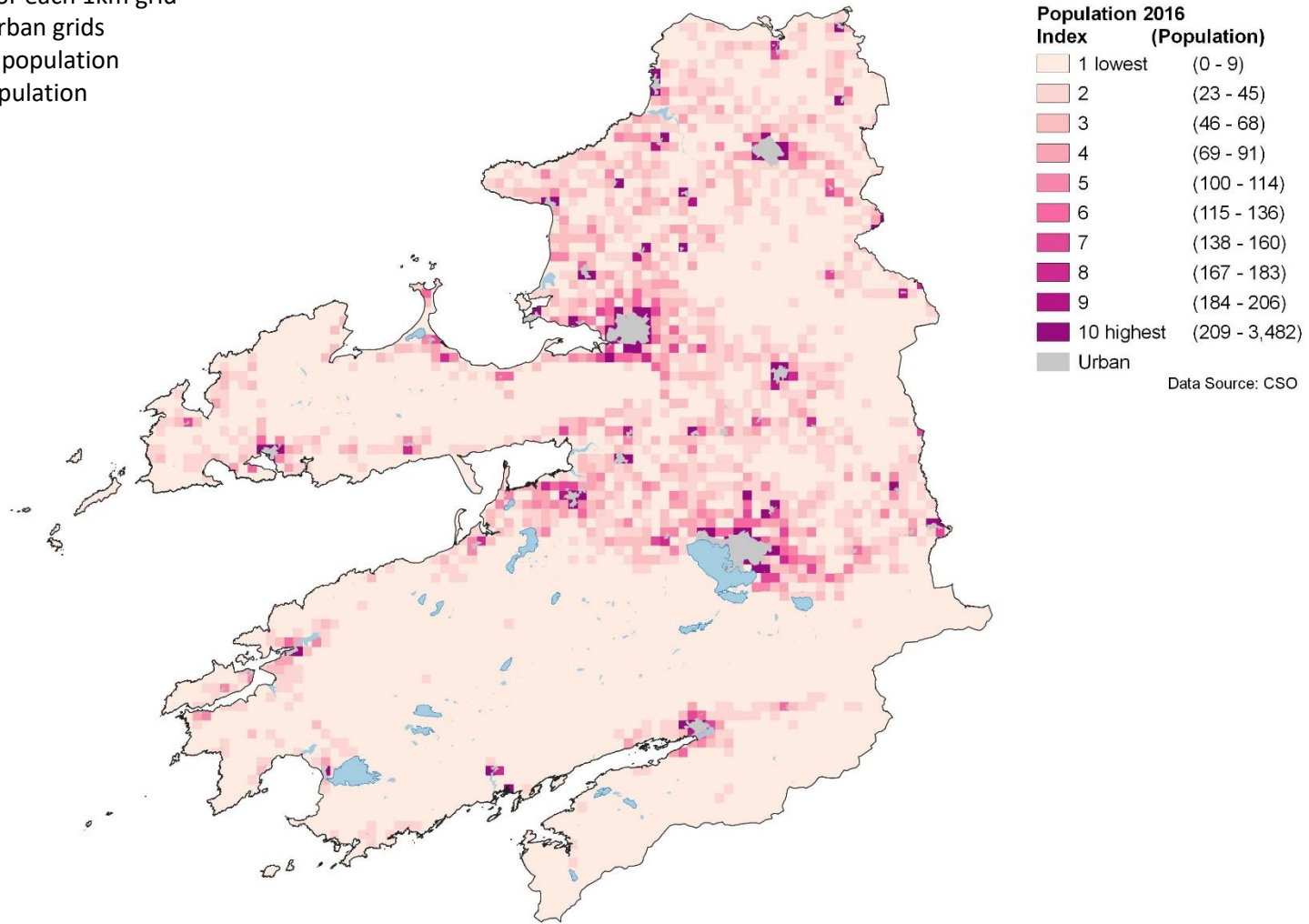**Table 8.1: Input Layers and their weighting**

The figures for each category are given a score of between 1 and 10 with the weighting then applied to this score. The scores have been determined based on the range of figures in the category. The EDs of Tralee Urban, Killarney Urban, Listowel Urban and An Daingean are included in the process but they have been excluded when determining the score range for each category.

The following maps outline the input layers used in the analysis.

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[9] Per length of road in the ED

Total 2016 Population for each 1km grid
Indexing excludes the urban grids
Highest rural grid = 230 population
Lowest rural grid = 0 population

Population 2016

Index		(Population)
1 lowest		(0 - 9)
2		(23 - 45)
3		(46 - 68)
4		(69 - 91)
5		(100 - 114)
6		(115 - 136)
7		(138 - 160)
8		(167 - 183)
9		(184 - 206)
10 highest		(209 - 3,482)
Urban		

Data Source: CSO

Map 8.1: Population 2016 by 1km grid

Population Aged 65+

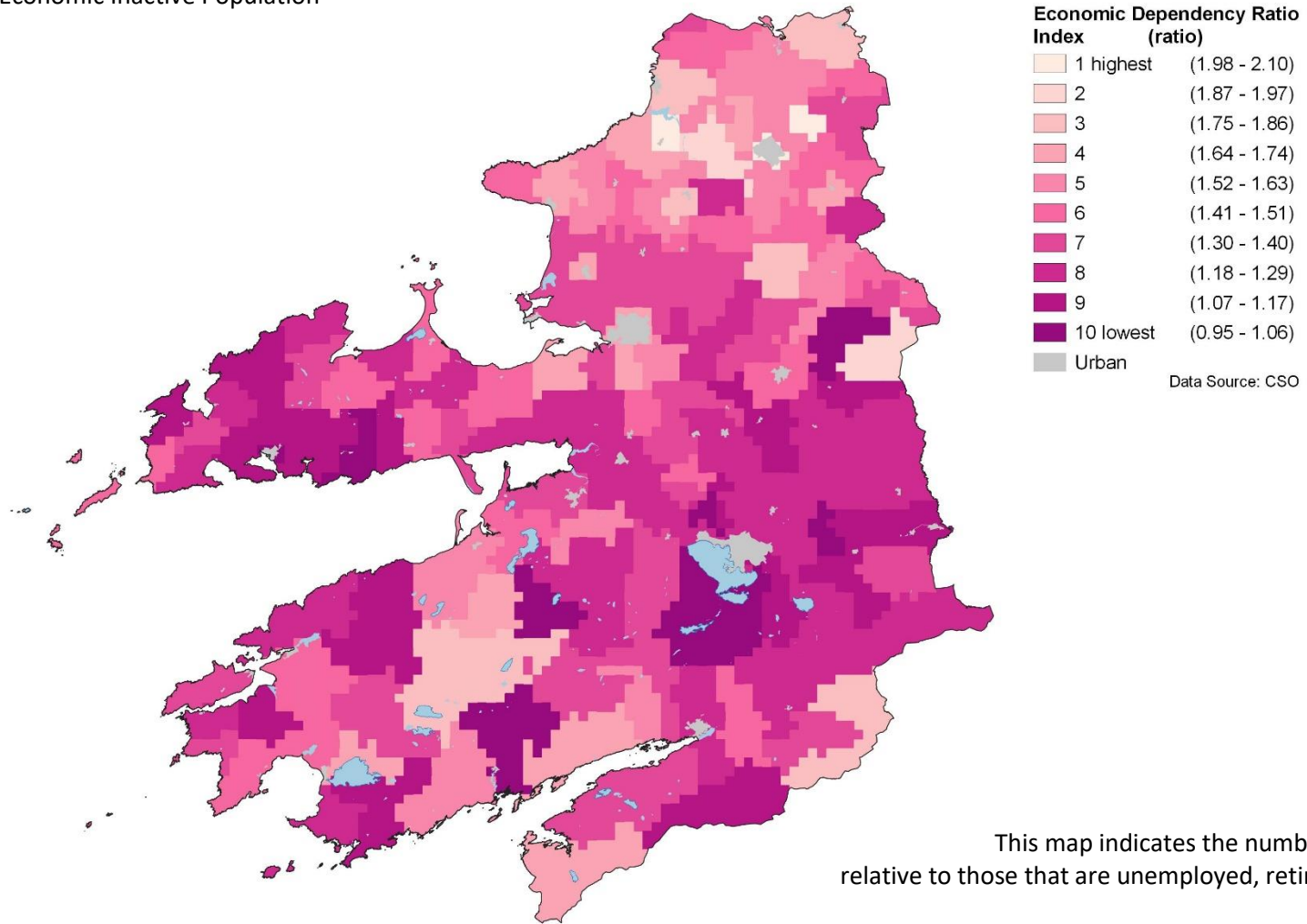| Index	(%)
1 highest	(28.69 - 30.72)
2	(26.65 - 28.68)
3	(24.62 - 26.64)
4	(22.58 - 24.61)
5	(20.55 - 22.57)
6	(18.51 - 20.54)
7	(16.48 - 18.50)
8	(14.45 - 16.47)
9	(12.42 - 14.44)
10 lowest	(10.38 - 12.41)
Urban	

Data Source: CSO
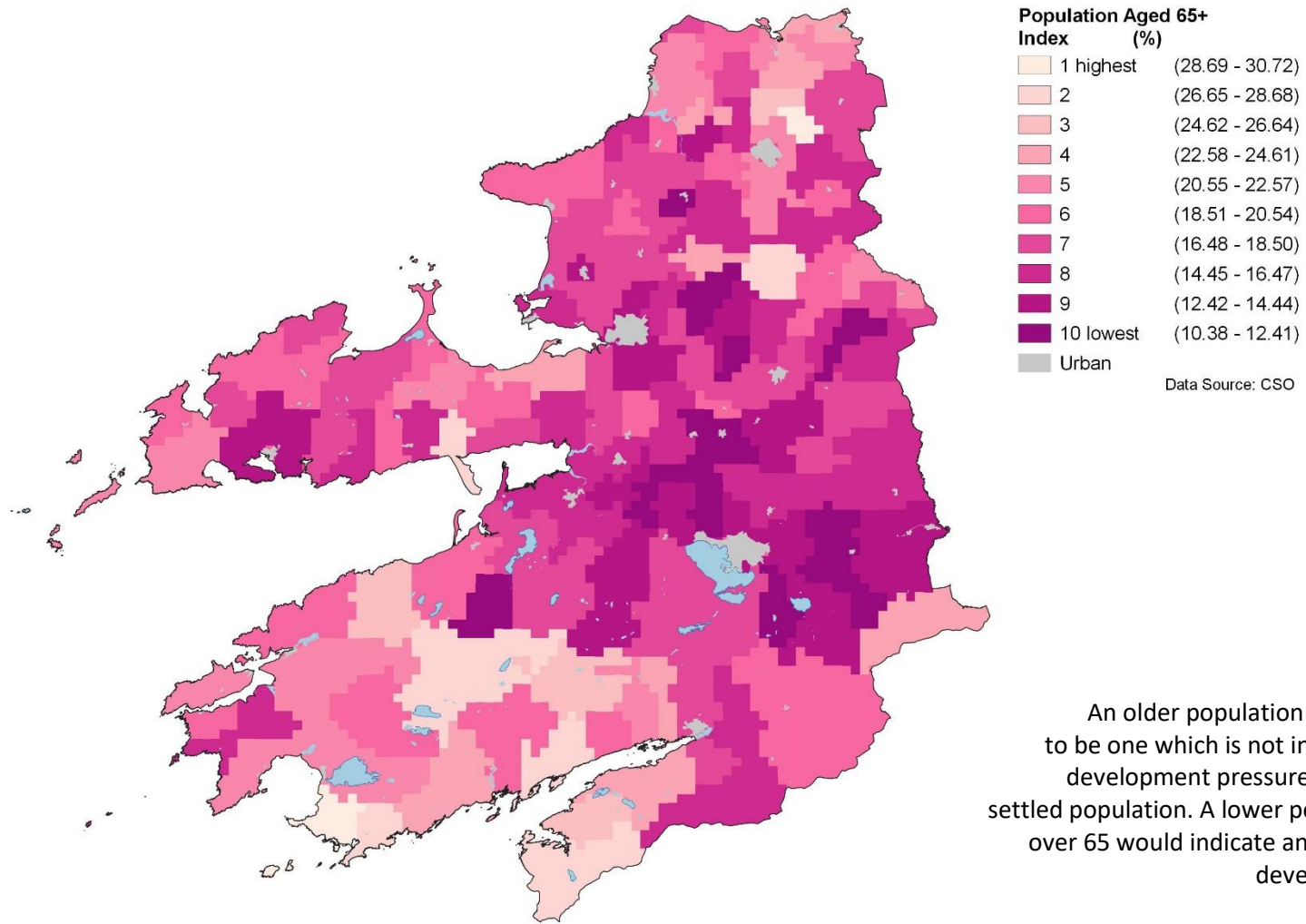
An older population can be considered to be one which is not influenced by urban development pressure. It typifies a more settled population. A lower percentage of those over 65 would indicate an area that is under development pressure.
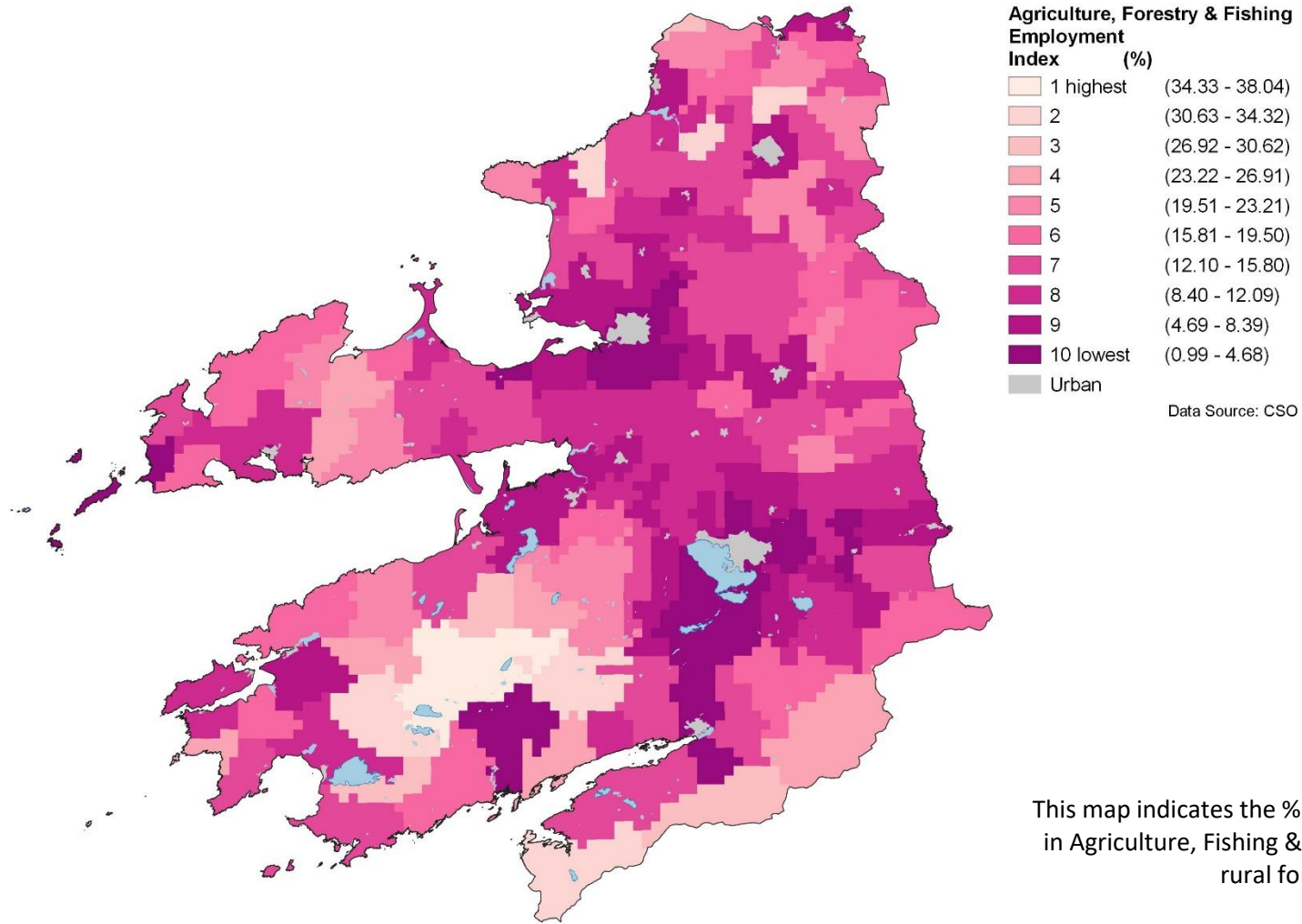
Map 8.2: Population Aged 65+

This is ratio of the total Economic Inactive Population to those at Work.

Economic Dependency Ratio

Index	(ratio)
1 highest	(1.98 - 2.10)
2	(1.87 - 1.97)
3	(1.75 - 1.86)
4	(1.64 - 1.74)
5	(1.52 - 1.63)
6	(1.41 - 1.51)
7	(1.30 - 1.40)
8	(1.18 - 1.29)
9	(1.07 - 1.17)
10 lowest	(0.95 - 1.06)
Urban	

Data Source: CSO

This map indicates the numbers in employment relative to those that are unemployed, retired or dependents.

Map 8.3: Economic Dependency Ratio (EDR)

Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing Employment

Index	(%)
1 highest	(34.33 - 38.04)
2	(30.63 - 34.32)
3	(26.92 - 30.62)
4	(23.22 - 26.91)
5	(19.51 - 23.21)
6	(15.81 - 19.50)
7	(12.10 - 15.80)
8	(8.40 - 12.09)
9	(4.69 - 8.39)
10 lowest	(0.99 - 4.68)
Urban	

Data Source: CSO

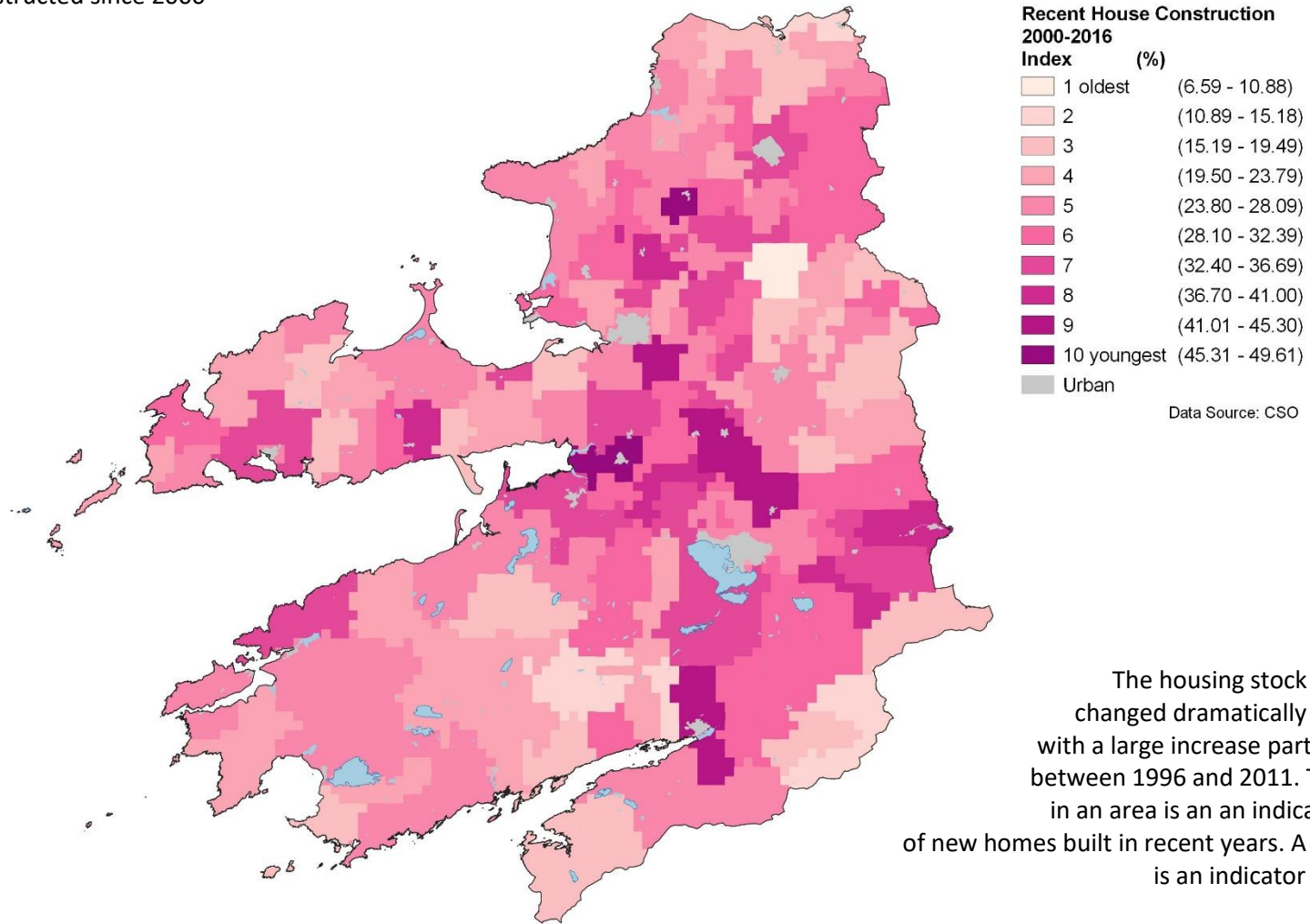This map indicates the % of those employed in Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry which is a rural form of employment.

Map 8.4: Agriculture, Fishing & Forestry Employment

Based on % houses constructed since 2000
of total houses.

**Recent House Construction
2000-2016**

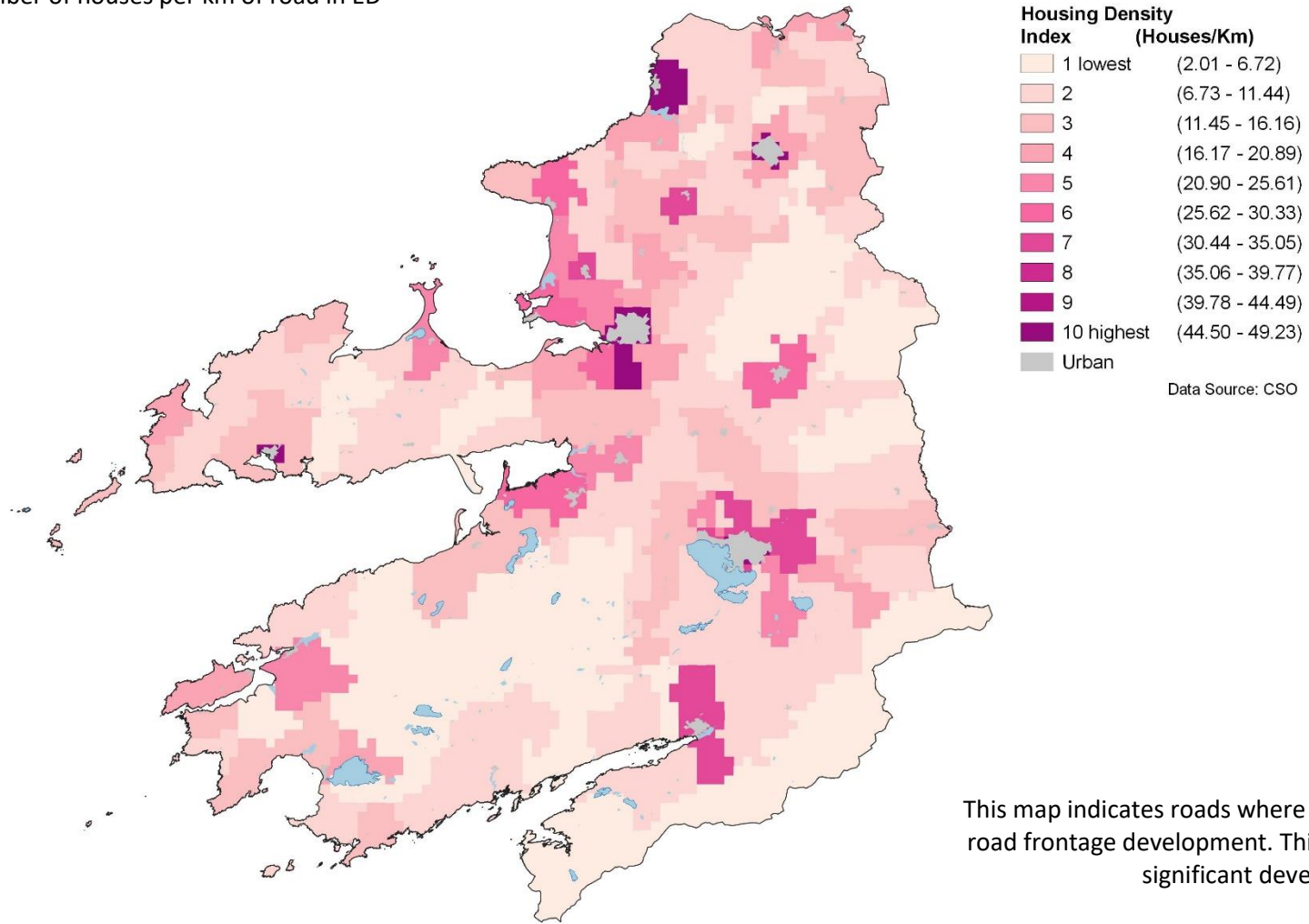| Index	(%)
1 oldest	(6.59 - 10.88)
2	(10.89 - 15.18)
3	(15.19 - 19.49)
4	(19.50 - 23.79)
5	(23.80 - 28.09)
6	(28.10 - 32.39)
7	(32.40 - 36.69)
8	(36.70 - 41.00)
9	(41.01 - 45.30)
10 youngest	(45.31 - 49.61)
Urban	

Data Source: CSO

The housing stock of the country has
changed dramatically in recent decades,
with a large increase particularly prominent
between 1996 and 2011. The age of housing
in an area is an an indicator of the number
of new homes built in recent years. A higher percentage
is an indicator of urban pressure.

Map 8.5: Housing Age

Density is based on number of houses per km of road in ED

Housing Density

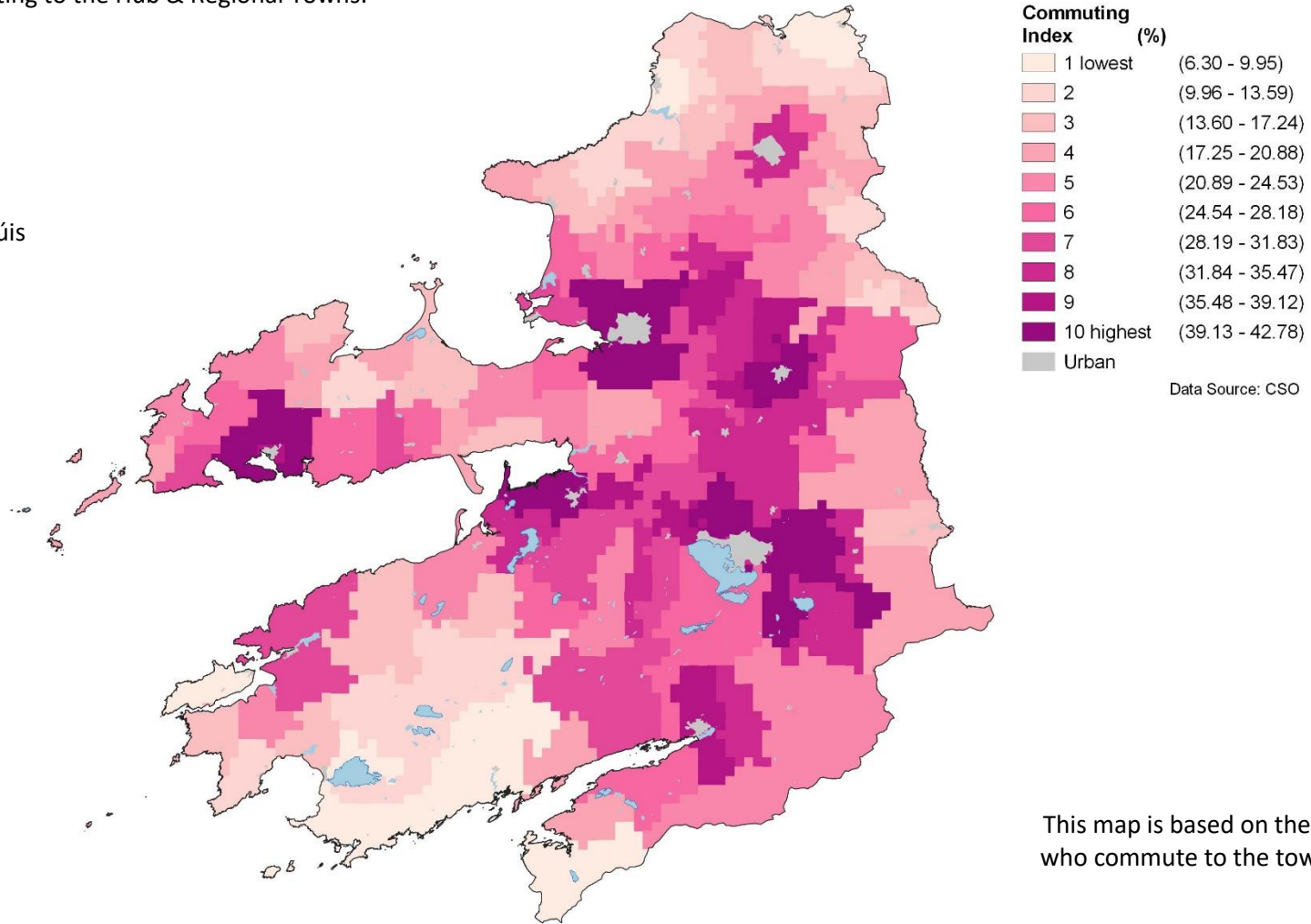| Index	(Houses/Km)
1 lowest	(2.01 - 6.72)
2	(6.73 - 11.44)
3	(11.45 - 16.16)
4	(16.17 - 20.89)
5	(20.90 - 25.61)
6	(25.62 - 30.33)
7	(30.44 - 35.05)
8	(35.06 - 39.77)
9	(39.78 - 44.49)
10 highest	(44.50 - 49.23)
Urban	

Data Source: CSO

This map indicates roads where there is significant road frontage development. This is an indicator of significant development pressure.

Map 8.6: Housing Density

Based on those commuting to the Hub & Regional Towns:

- Tralee
- Killarney
- Listowel
- Castleisland
- Kenmare
- Killorglin
- Daingean Uí Chúis
- Ballybunion
- Cahersiveen
- Milltown

Commuting Index (%)

	1 lowest	(6.30 - 9.95)
	2	(9.96 - 13.59)
	3	(13.60 - 17.24)
	4	(17.25 - 20.88)
	5	(20.89 - 24.53)
	6	(24.54 - 28.18)
	7	(28.19 - 31.83)
	8	(31.84 - 35.47)
	9	(35.48 - 39.12)
	10 highest	(39.13 - 42.78)
	Urban	

Data Source: CSO

This map is based on the number of people who commute to the towns listed for work, school or college.

Map 8.7: Commuting

The Rural Housing Guidelines state that Rural Area Types should be presented on a single map that illustrates the broad grain of how these areas occur through the planning authority's area, and to avoid an overly-detailed and prescriptive map that involves abrupt and frequent changes of area types

Following the allocation of a weighted score to each cell using the weighted overlay process, the scores were split into three groups, the group with the highest scores being Rural Areas Under Significant Urban Influence, the middle group being Rural Areas Under Urban Influence, and the group with the lower scores being Other Rural Areas. The groups are divided based on the range of scores. The resulting areas as shown on the Rural Area Type Map below have been generalised when mapped.
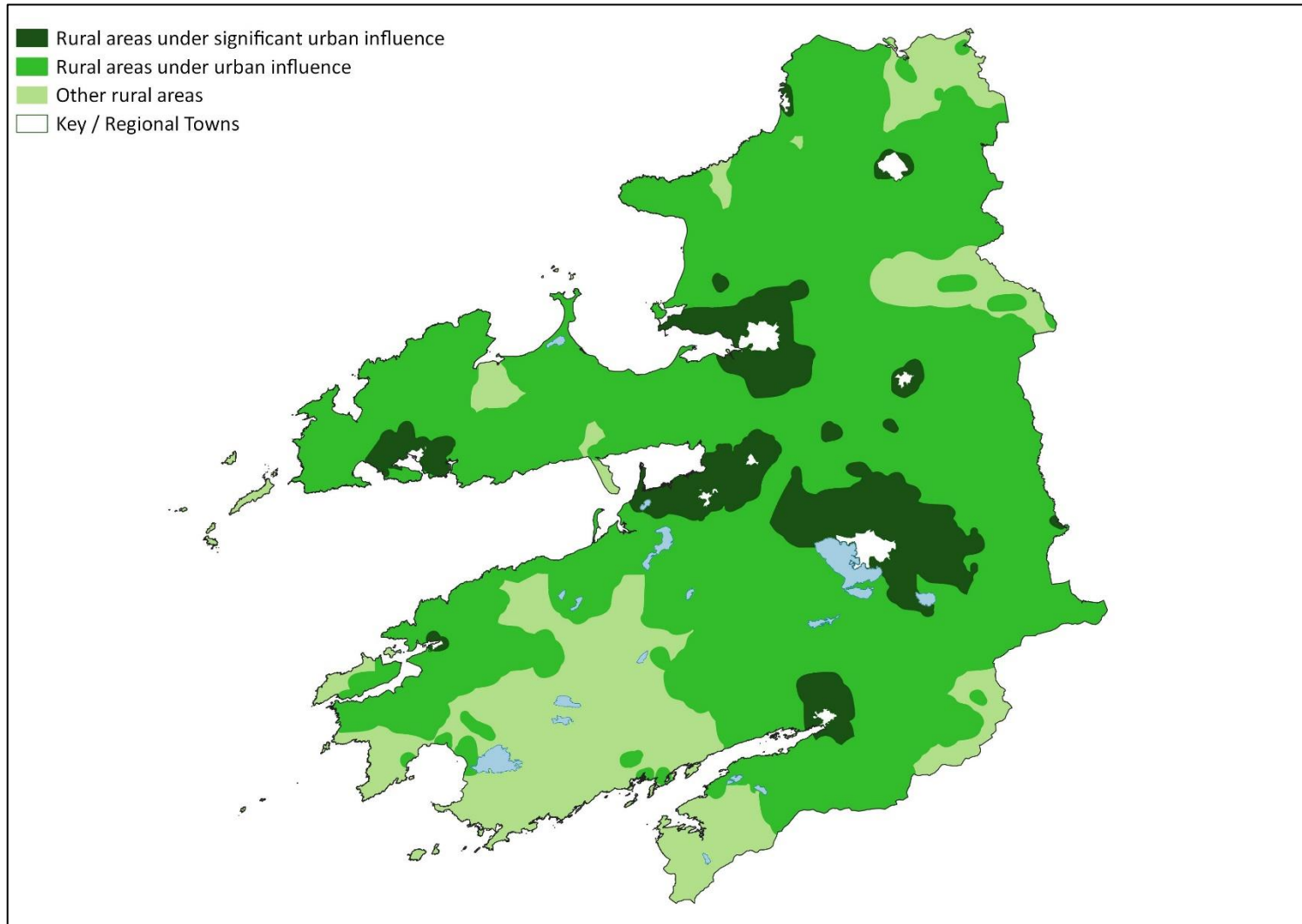
Map 8.8: Rural Area Types as per analysis