

NEWS RELEASE (Westmeath)

GeoDirectory records 49% drop in completed new buildings in Westmeath in first half of 2010

The number of new buildings identified in the first six months of 2010 in Westmeath was 115, a decrease of 49% when compared to the same period last year.

GeoDirectory, the company jointly established by An Post and Ordnance Survey Ireland to create and manage a database of every building in the Republic of Ireland, identified 115 new commercial (15), residential (90) and dual purpose (10) buildings across Westmeath between January and June, down from 224 for the same period in 2009.

This brings the total number of buildings in Westmeath to 35,892 at the end of June.

The highest increase in completed new buildings was recorded in Cork City and County where 1,075 residential, 108 commercial and 73 dual purpose buildings were completed during the first half the year. In contrast, Leitrim recorded the lowest number of additions with 74 residential, 9 commercial properties and 8 dual purpose buildings completed in the six months of 2010.

The new additions for the first six months of 2010 bring the total number of buildings in the Republic of Ireland to 1,873,346.

Since 2001, GeoDirectory recorded an average of 68,000 new buildings per annum, with a peak in 2007 when over 90,000 new buildings were added to the database.

Commenting on the figures, General Manager at GeoDirectory, Dara Keogh said, "Based on the current level of activity in the construction sector, GeoDirectory predicts that approximately 15,000 residential and commercial buildings will be completed across the Country by the end of 2010".

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Editor's Note

In January 2011, GeoDirectory will release the total number of new buildings added to its database during 2010.

The GeoDirectory database is used by many different companies and organisations across a diverse range of applications. The Emergency Services use GeoDirectory for route optimisation when responding to 999 calls, which can save valuable minutes in an emergency. Similarly companies like Dominos Pizza use GeoDirectory for address location to ensure that delivery times are met. In the property sector, GeoDirectory is used by Daft.ie and the Property Registration Authority. In addition, utility companies, banking and insurance providers and all local authorities use the database.

Each of the 1.87 million building records contained in GeoDirectory includes an accurate standardised postal address, usage details for each building (commercial or

residential), a unique 8-digit identity number, or fingerprint, and x, y coordinates which accurately locate the centre point of each building to within one metre on the National Grid.

The database is updated quarterly by OSi and An Post staff.

GeoDirectory General Manager Dara Keogh is available for interview/comment.

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