



NEWS RELEASE

GeoDirectory records 698 new builds in Westmeath in 2008

January 27th, 2009

The number of new buildings recorded in Westmeath in 2008 was 698, according to new figures released by GeoDirectory.

GeoDirectory was jointly established by An Post and Ordnance Survey Ireland to create and manage Ireland's only complete database of commercial and residential buildings. The figures were recorded by 5,600 An Post delivery staff working with experts from OSi.

GeoDirectory identified 650 new residential buildings, 38 commercial buildings and 9 dual purpose buildings with both residential and commercial space in County Westmeath during 2008.

The figures show a decrease of 62% on 2007 when 1,846 new buildings were identified.

These new additions bring the total number of buildings in Westmeath to 36,716.

On a national level, 42,683 new buildings were identified across the country in 2008 representing a 56% decrease on 2007 levels. In 2008, total completed residential buildings were 37,968, commercial buildings were 3,275, and dual-purpose buildings with both residential and commercial components were 1,440.

The new additions for 2008 bring the total number of buildings in the Republic of Ireland to 1,855,567.

The greatest increase was recorded in Cork City and County where 4,371 residential, 311 commercial, and 280 dual-purpose buildings were identified during the year. In contrast, Leitrim recorded the lowest number of additions with 655 residential, 26 commercial and 8 dual-purpose buildings added to the GeoDirectory database in the twelve months from January to December 2008.

Commenting on the new figures, GeoDirectory General Manager, Dara Keogh said,

“The largest decrease in building activity was recorded in the residential sector, which decreased year-on-year by 58% in 2008. The rate of commercial property development fell by 16% in 2008. These drops are measured against a record year in 2007 and reflect current market conditions. They represent a return to longer term average construction levels.”

GeoDirectory will release figures for the first six months of 2009 in early July.



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Editors Note

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 time-critical situations. 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 1.8 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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