



NEWS RELEASE (Westmeath)

New builds in Westmeath double in first half of 2007

The number of new buildings identified in the first six months of 2007 in County Westmeath has more than doubled 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 872 new commercial and residential buildings across the county between January and June, up from 375 for the same period in 2006.

The increase brings the total number of buildings in Westmeath to 34,172 at the end of June.

On a national level, GeoDirectory predicts healthy growth in the number of new buildings that will be completed across the country this year.

In the first six months of the year, GeoDirectory identified 60,781 new commercial and residential buildings across the country. This represents a 44% increase in the number of new buildings when compared with the same period last year. The increase brings the total number of buildings in the Republic of Ireland to 1,789,876.

When seasonal adjustments are taken into consideration, the figures allow GeoDirectory to forecast that over 80,000 new builds will be completed in 2007. This will make 2007 the second highest year for completed buildings in history behind 2006.

GeoDirectory General Manager, Dara Keogh explains, "In the second half of the year we expect to identify at least 20,000 additional buildings. This allows us to forecast that over 80,000 new buildings will be completed by the end of 2007."

GeoDirectory also reports that the number of delivery points in the Republic surpassed two million for the first time ever at 2,019,126 at the end of June.

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Editor's note:



GeoDirectory is Ireland's only complete commercial and residential buildings database. Many different companies and organisations use the database in a diverse range of applications.

The Emergency Services use GeoDirectory for route optimisation, which can save valuable minutes in an emergency. 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, all local authorities, utility companies, banking and insurance providers use the database.

Each of the 1.7 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 and x, y coordinates which accurately locate the centre point of each building to within one metre on the National Grid.

Many buildings contain multiple addresses (e.g. apartment blocks), hence the total number of buildings in the Republic of Ireland stands at 1,789,876, while the total number of delivery points is 2,019,126.

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