

SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN.

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1926.

VOIUME I.

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VOLUME I.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

In accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order (Statutory Rules and Orders 1926, No. 76) made on 22nd March 1926 by the Minister for Industry and Commerce under the Statistics Act, a Census was taken of the Population of Saorstát Éireann on the 18th April 1926. A Preliminary Report which contained unrevised totals of the males and females in Saorstát Éireann, in each Province, County, Urban and Rural District was published in August 1926. The present volume contains *inter alia* corresponding final figures for these areas and for all areas used for official administrative purposes down to the District Electoral Division, the unit from which official administrative areas are as a rule built up.

Table 11, the principal table in the present volume, while mainly intended to present particulars of District Electoral Divisions and to indicate how these areas build up into the larger administrative units, also shows the population of every town down to the smallest "cluster of 20 houses or more"—the definition of a Census town—and indicates precisely the locality in which these towns are situated. In this table and in other tables relating to the 1926 Census the Rural Districts (as constituted at the date of their abolition as administrative areas in 1925 or, in the case of the Rural Districts in County Dublin, at the date of the 1926 Census) have been retained as convenient statistical units of areas.

The District Electoral Division is composed of a number of complete townlands, the smallest territorial units of area used for administrative purposes. Particulars for 1891, 1901 and 1911 for each townland were shown in Table VII of the Census volumes for 1911 and corresponding totals were published in connection with each previous Census. As townland figures have to be consulted very seldom and by very few persons, and as the particulars of the 51,158 townlands in Saorstát Éireann covered 1,307 foolscap pages of the 1911 Census Volumes it is considered that publication of these particulars at each Census could not be justified and would tend to needless complexity. It is, accordingly, not proposed to publish any particulars of townlands in connection with the 1926 Census but figures corresponding exactly to those contained in the Reports of previous Censuses will, on application, be supplied to any persons who may require the information regarding particular townlands.

BOUNDARIES.

In connection with the Censuses of 1851, 1871 and 1901 a complete topographical index was issued of all townlands and other territorial units in use in Ireland. Each of these publications contained over a thousand foolscap pages. A supplement to the 1901 Volume was published after the Census of 1911 and it is proposed to issue in connection with the present Census either a further supplement showing the few changes in boundaries made since 1911 or a completely new topographical index. Since that year no alterations were made in the boundaries of Counties (or of Provinces) and no alterations were made in the boundaries of the Urban Districts existing in 1911 or of the Towns constituted under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act 1854. Four new

Urban Districts were constituted—Passage West, Co. Cork, Buncrana and Bundoran, Co. Donegal, and Howth, Co. Dublin and consequential changes were made in the boundaries of the Rural Districts in which these towns were situated. Other changes made in the boundaries of Rural Districts are fully described in the footnotes to Table 9. Changes in the boundaries of Superintendent Registrars' Districts, Dispensary Districts and Registrars' Districts can be inferred from the reference column in Table 10. Since 1911 alterations were made in the boundaries of only eight District Electoral Divisions, four of these areas were divided each into two, a Rural and an Urban District Electoral Division in consequence of the creation of the four new Urban Districts referred to above; the boundaries of only four others were altered, 12 townlands being transferred from the District Electoral Division of Lackan South, County Mayo, to the adjoining District Electoral Division of Ballycastle in the same County and 9 townlands being transferred from the District Electoral Division of Killinagh, Co. Cavan to the adjoining District Electoral Division of Eskey in the same County in exchange for one townland transferred from Eskey to Killinagh.

In most of the tables in this volume comparisons are made only between the years 1911 and 1926 and in these tables the boundaries of the administrative areas compared are the same—those existing at the date of the 1926 Census. In only Tables 1 and 2 and in the two deduced Tables 3 and 4 are numbers given for years previous to 1911. These tables refer only to Counties and Provinces and although the changes in the boundaries of these areas were small it is considered at the present stage safest to follow the procedure of previous Censuses by showing in Tables 1 and 2 the populations at each Census for the boundaries as existing at the date of that Census.

POPULATION.

The figures for population published in this volume represent the numbers of persons who resided on the night of Sunday, 18th April 1926 in the District referred to or who arrived in that District on the morning of Monday, 19th April not having been enumerated for Census purposes elsewhere in Saorstát Éireann. The population for each area thus represents all persons (including military, etc.) actually present within its boundaries whether as permanent residents or temporary visitors; persons on board ships or boats in port, etc., were included with the population of the adjacent area.

AREA AND VALUATION.

The particulars of area and valuation published in this volume were extracted from the records, and with the assistance of the officials of the General Valuation Department. The areas are in all cases exclusive of the areas under the tideways, larger lakes and rivers. The valuation is the rateable valuation after appeal in 1926.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The figures for marriages, births and deaths in Tables 1 and 12 were extracted from the records, and with the assistance of the officials of the Registrar-General's Office. Large numbers of births and very large numbers of deaths take place in institutions (county homes, hospitals, etc.) at a distance from the normal place of residence, and are registered in the areas in which the institutions are situated. Up to and including 1922 the numbers of births and deaths recorded and published for each area represented only those *registered* in the area. From and including 1923 in addition to the numbers registered in each area, the numbers of births and deaths properly *attributable* to the area have also been published. The latter figures were calculated by adding to or subtracting from the numbers as registered in each area the appropriate numbers of births and deaths in institutions; as the corrections thus made form considerable percentages of the numbers for some small areas, especially for those containing hospitals, etc., Table 12 shows for Superintendent Registrars' Districts, Counties and Provinces, both sets of figures for the period 1st January, 1923, to 31st December, 1926 (the numbers registered and

the numbers attributed to each of these districts), and the birth and death rates shown for each district in that table are those calculated on the latter corrected figures.

METHOD OF PUBLICATION.

The procedure adopted in issuing the results of previous Censuses in this country was in the first place to present complete figures for each County and Province in a separate volume for that County or Province, and the figures for the country as a whole in a General Report. This method of publication, while having some advantages for those specially interested in the problems of a particular county, does not provide in a convenient form the material for comparisons between counties, and involves reference to a large number of volumes when dealing thoroughly with any problem from the national point of view. It has accordingly been considered that for this Census the best procedure is to issue fewer but larger volumes, each containing in respect of a particular subject as complete information as possible for the country as a whole and for each of the districts into which the country is divided. Most of the tables have been compiled in respect of all subjects except "Dependency" and "Fertility of Marriage." The results will be issued in separate volumes relating to Occupations, Industries, Unemployment, Housing, the Irish Language and the Gaeltacht, Ages, Conjugal Conditions, Birthplaces, Religions, Dependency and Fertility of Marriage. These volumes, which will contain explanatory prefaces but no analyses of tables, will be followed by one or more volumes analysing the results and including a General Report.

JOHN HOOPER,
Director of Statistics.

Department of Industry and Commerce,
May, 1928.