

CHAPTER II.

DISTRIBUTION AND CHANGES IN THE POPULATION.

The population of Saorstát Eireann was 2,971,992 on the night of 18th April, 1926. It was distributed by types of areas as follows :—

Type of Area	Number of Towns	Total Population	Percentage Distribution of the Population
Dublin and four adjoining Urban Districts ...	5	418,981	14·1
Other Towns and Villages :—			
10,000 Population and over	10	229,419	7·7
5,000 to 10,000 Population	14	87,512	3·0
1,500 to 5,000 „	76	207,659	7·0
500 to 1,500 „	127	102,279	3·4
200 to 500 „	211	66,090	2·2
Less than 200 „	357	44,556	1·5
Population living outside Towns and Villages ...	—	1,815,496	61·1
TOTAL POPULATION	—	2,971,992	100·0

The boundaries of the smaller towns are ill-defined : in fact the determination of which houses should be included in such areas is usually left to the discretion of the Enumerators. In the cases of the County Boroughs, Urban Districts and the Towns under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854, the boundaries are defined by statute. The principal fact which emerges from the foregoing figures is that 61% of the population live outside towns and villages. It will be borne in mind that many of these country dwellers work in, or are dependent on persons who work in, towns ; the total agricultural population is only 51% of the total occupied population.

The provincial distribution is given in the following table :—

Province	Population	Total Area	Valuation of Lands and dwellings	Population per 100 acres	Valuation per head of population
		Acres	£		£
Leinster	1,149,092	4,851,136	5,508,556	23·7	4·8
Munster	969,902	5,962,803	3,551,326	16·3	3·7
Connacht	552,907	4,230,822	1,489,618	13·1	2·7
Ulster (3 Cos.)	300,091	1,979,720	878,313	15·2	2·9
SAORSTAT EIREANN	2,971,992	17,024,481	11,427,813	17·5	3·8

The “ total area ” shown is the area of land and smaller waters. The area of larger lakes, rivers and tideways is 343,100 acres, so that the inclusive area of Saorstát Eireann is 17,367,581 acres.

In Leinster 57% of the population live in towns and villages, compared with 37% in Munster, 16% in Connacht and 15% in the three Ulster Counties, and this accounts for the higher density of population in Leinster. There is no very significant difference in density between the other provinces. In considering these density figures it should also be borne in mind that the proportions of mountain, marsh, etc., land vary widely in the different parts of the country. Thus the proportion of non-agricultural land (including areas of grazed and barren mountain, turf bog, marsh, roads, water, towns, etc.) was 17% in Leinster, 25% in Munster, 39% in Connacht and 40% in the three Ulster Counties. These figures partly explain on broad lines how the problem of congestion arises in the provinces of Connacht and Ulster. It is interesting

to observe that the density of population of Saorstát Eireann of 112 persons per square mile is very little less than the average of Europe (including U.S.S.R. in Europe) of 116 persons per square mile.

Attention may now be directed to the map which is designed to indicate how the density of population (or more particularly of country population) varies throughout the Saorstát. Outside the towns each black dot represents 100 persons. In its preparation an Ordnance Survey map showing the District Electoral Division boundaries and with contour lines superposed was used. Where the contour lines did not indicate high elevations, the dots were distributed uniformly throughout each District Electoral Division. This has resulted in population being apparently attributed on the map to some of the more mountainous, rocky, marshy, etc., parts of the country which are unpopulated. Even where these anomalies were noted (*e.g.*, in Achill, or in Donegal) no attempt was made at correction, as up-to-date blank maps are not available indicating the distribution of inhabitable land on which the distribution of population could be accurately represented. Instead, a second map was prepared, using Dispensary District units—there are 585 in the Saorstát—indicating the density of *country population* (*i.e.*, the population living outside towns and villages) per thousand acres of *agricultural land* (*i.e.*, under crops and pasture). The two maps might be studied together. On the former map no towns of under 500 population are shown—their populations are evenly distributed throughout the D.E.D. in which they are situated; County Boroughs, Urban Districts and Towns with Local Government are indicated by their actual boundaries, and all other towns with populations of more than 500 by shaded circles of uniform size. It will be understood that no attempt has been made to suggest in such a manner the density of population in towns.

While these maps show rather strikingly the concentration of population in the congested areas of Mayo, and, of course, the concentration of population in the technically rural areas near Dublin which are so rapidly becoming urbanised, they also indicate a perhaps somewhat unexpected evenness of distribution of population throughout the country generally.

In the following table of county and provincial figures the densities of population in column B are based upon *total area* (less areas of Co. Boroughs, Urban Districts and Towns under the Towns Improvement Act). It would have been more correct, of course, to exclude the areas of the smaller towns; these area figures, however, are not available, and in any case their exclusion would not materially affect the calculations.

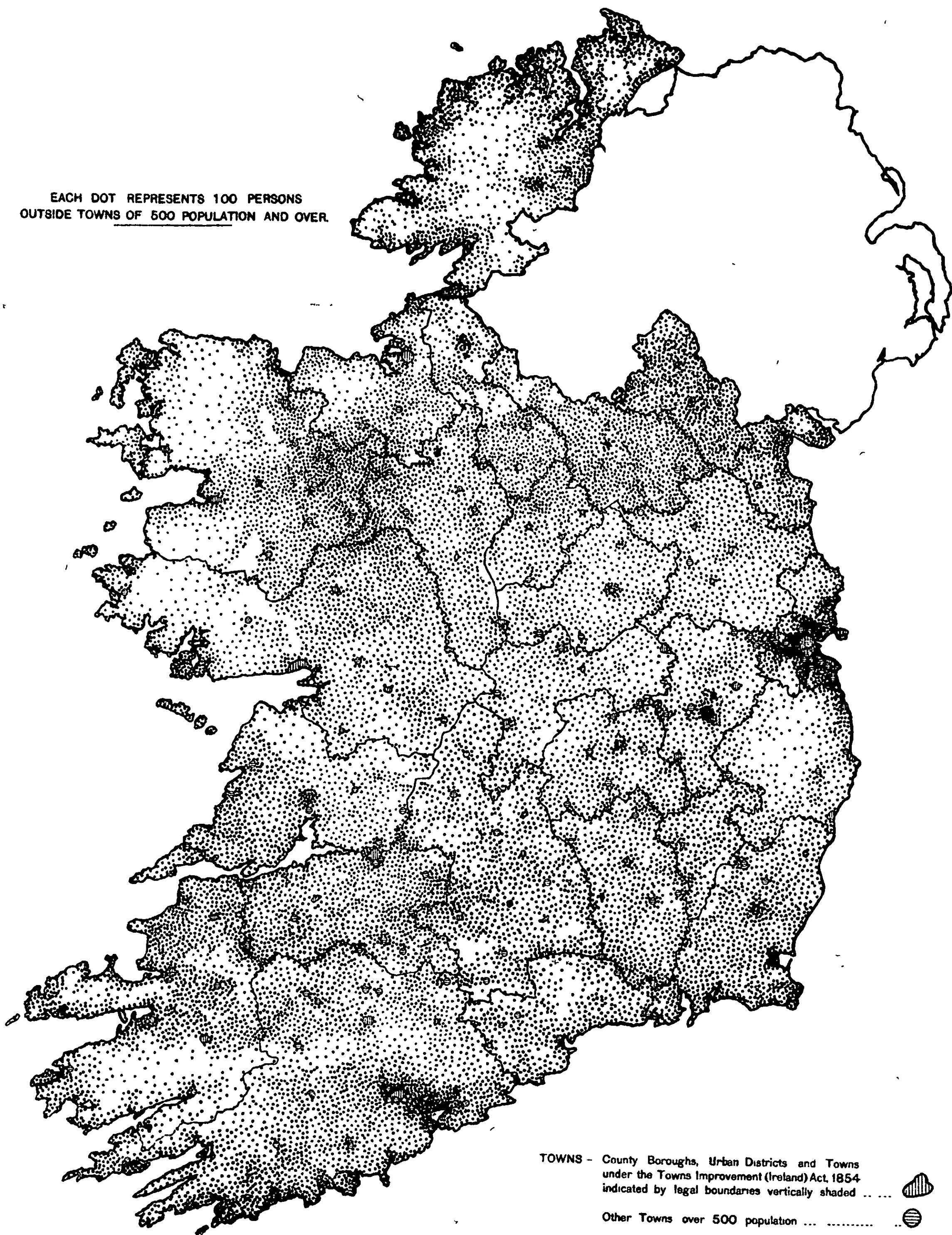
DENSITY OF COUNTRY POPULATION* PER THOUSAND ACRES IN 1926 OF (A) AREA OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND OF (B) TOTAL AREA, EXCLUDING THAT OF LARGER TOWNS.

	Density of population			Density of population			Density of population.	
	A	B		A	B		A	B
Saorstát Eireann ...	148	107	Monaghan ...	183	164	Wexford ...	125	114
Leinster ...	121	102	Loitrim ...	178	135	Waterford ...	123	85
Munster ...	136	103	Cavan ...	175	153	Wicklow ...	113	67
Connacht ...	181	110	Louth ...	172	151	Kilkenny ...	112	102
Ulster (3 Cos.) ...	214	129	Kerry ...	168	100	Laoighise ...	112	92
Donogal ...	264	110	Longford ...	155	128	Kildare ...	111	99
Dublin ...	249	226	Galway ...	155	92	Carlow ...	111	98
Mayo ...	242	112	Roscommon ...	150	123	Tipperary ...	108	90
Sligo ...	183	127	Cork ...	146	111	Westmeath ...	106	90
			Limerick ...	139	126	Offaly ...	100	73
			Clare ...	125	95	Meath ...	95	91

* Population outside Towns and Villages.

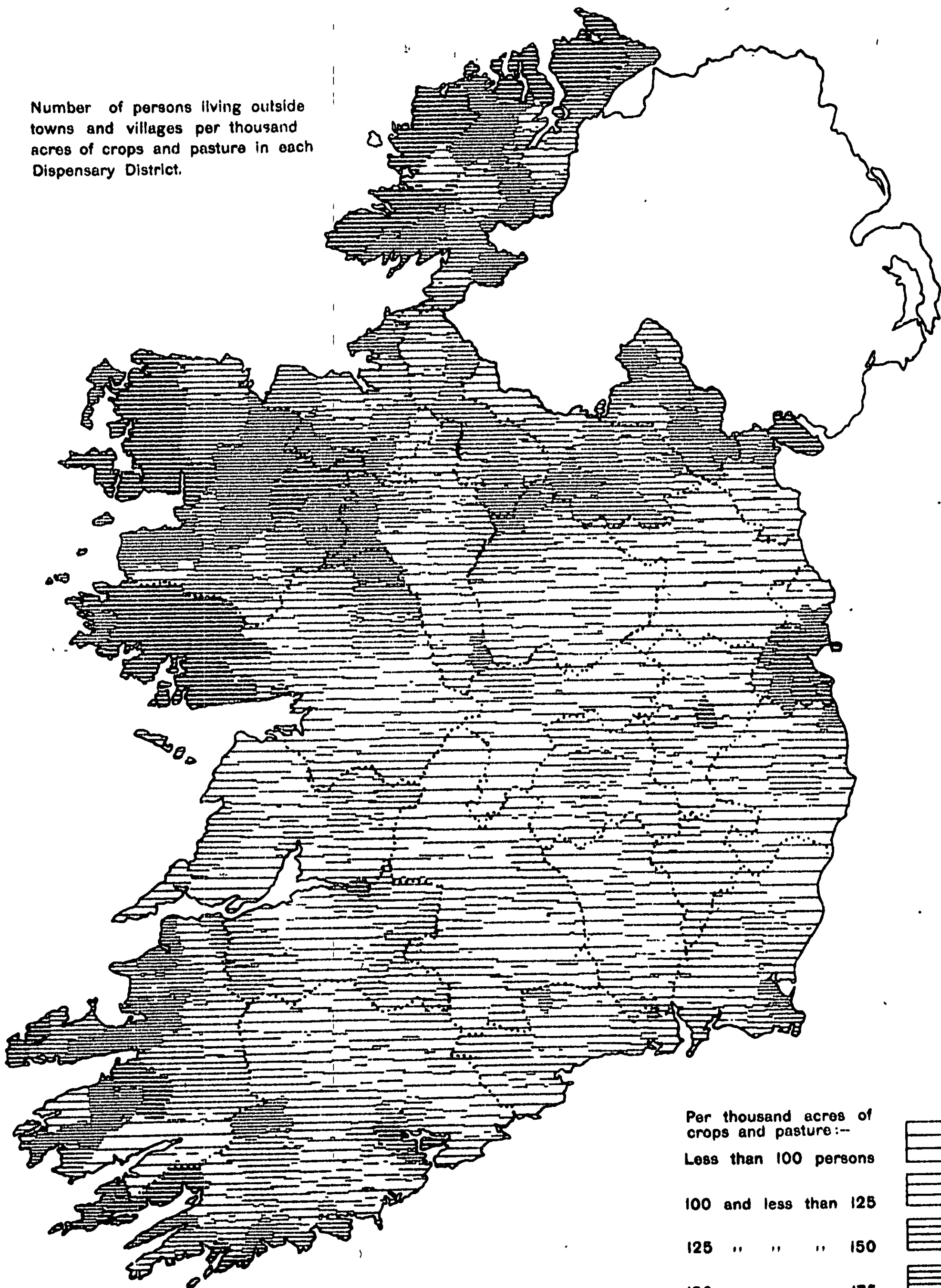
DISTRIBUTION OF THE RURAL POPULATION.

EACH DOT REPRESENTS 100 PERSONS
OUTSIDE TOWNS OF 500 POPULATION AND OVER.



COUNTRY POPULATION

Number of persons living outside towns and villages per thousand acres of crops and pasture in each Dispensary District.



Per thousand acres of crops and pasture:—

Less than 100 persons

100 and less than 125

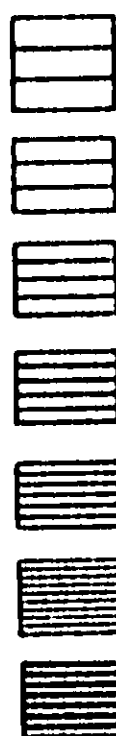
125 " " " 150

150 " " " 175

175 " " " 200

200 " " " 300

300 and over



The counties are arranged in descending order of the magnitude of A. It will be seen that as regards these densities counties Donegal, Dublin and Mayo are in a class by themselves, the Mayo density being nearly 60 per 1,000 acres (agricultural land) greater than the Sligo density of 183. The contiguous areas of Sligo, Monaghan, Leitrim, Cavan and Louth constitute the next natural group with densities (A) ranging from 172 to 183. Per thousand acres of agricultural land the densities for Meath and Offaly, of 95 and 100 respectively, are lowest. It will be noted that the densities B (total area) give a quite different place in order on the list for certain of the more mountainous counties. For instance, Mayo and Donegal with densities (B) of 112 and 110 are only about equal to those of Cork, while the density (B) for Meath is about equal to those of Galway, Laoighise, Tipperary and Westmeath and exceeds the densities for five counties.

From the point of view of density of population the figures for towns are possibly more important than those for rural areas. As stated above, the areas (and valuations) of Co. Boroughs, Urban Districts and towns under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854, are available, but as the town boundaries were somewhat arbitrarily defined and include a greater or lesser portion of the surrounding rural area, the densities of population of many of the smaller of these towns have no great significance. The figures for the towns over 10,000 population are given in the following table with the housing density and the number of persons per room. There is an obvious affinity between the two series of figures, though, as will appear, by no means necessarily a statistical relationship:—

City or Town					Population in 1926	Persons per acre	Persons per room
Dublin County Borough	...	...	...	...	316,693	37.9	1.55
Pembroke	...	...	...	...	39,984	21.2	1.02
Rathmines and Rathgar	...	...	...	...	33,383	23.4	0.83
Blackrock	...	...	...	...	9,934	8.9	0.80
Dun Laoghaire	...	...	...	...	18,987	13.1	0.98
TOTAL OF DUBLIN AND FOUR ADJOINING URBAN DISTRICTS					418,981	29.5	1.32
Cork Co. Borough	...	...	...	...	78,490	29.2	1.22
Limerick Co. Borough	...	...	...	...	39,448	16.5	1.36
Waterford Co. Borough	...	...	...	...	26,647	18.5	1.18
Galway	...	...	...	...	14,227	2.7	1.14
Dundalk	...	...	...	...	13,996	9.8	1.16
Drogheda	...	...	...	...	12,716	8.6	1.23
Wexford	...	...	...	...	11,879	25.2	1.02
Sligo	...	...	...	...	11,437	3.9	1.19
Tralee	...	...	...	...	10,533	17.8	1.32
Kilkenny	...	...	...	...	10,046	10.9	1.00

The following towns (in addition to those shown in the foregoing table) have densities of more than 10 persons per acre:—Enniscorthy (22.9), Ballybay (18.3), Bandon (14.4), Fermoy (13.7), Clones (13.5), Cobh (12.4), Carlow (12.2), Ennis (11.5), New Ross (10.9), Kinsale (10.0).

The actual population and the densities of population in the wards of Dublin City in 1926 were as follows:—

Ward	Population	Per Acre	Ward	Population	Per Acre
Arran Quay	33,461	59.1	Mansion House	10,587	92.9
Clontarf East	4,275	5.5	Merchants' Quay	26,772	85.5
Clontarf West	9,232	12.4	New Kilmainham	11,170	12.3
Drumcondra	11,712	16.2	Royal Exchange	5,355	74.4
Glasnevin	11,461	13.3	South City	3,298	60.0
Inns' Quay	22,600	102.7	South Dock	16,084	40.2
Mountjoy	27,381	125.6	Trinity	10,027	61.9
North City	6,719	81.0	Usher's Quay	25,573	35.8
North Dock	27,317	29.1	Wood Quay	21,869	139.3
Rotunda	18,038	133.6			
Fitzwilliam	13,762	68.5	DUBLIN CITY	316,693	37.9

In four wards of the City of Dublin the density of population exceeds 100 persons per acre. In the other Co. Boroughs and in a few of the larger towns the figures published in Volume I of this series of Reports indicate large densities of population (e.g., in Cork City—No. 7 Urban the density is 68.5 persons per acre), but nowhere outside of Dublin City does the figure exceed 100. The densities of population in the principal cities of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are given in the following table for comparison with the Dublin City figure :—

City	Per Acro	City	Per Acro	City	Per Acro	City	Per Acro
Northern Ireland (1926)		Derby ...	24.6	Norwich ...	15.3	Tottenham	48.7
Belfast ...	28.1	East Ham ...	43.1	Nottingham ...	24.0	Walthamstow	29.8
Londonderry	20.5	Gateshead ...	40.0	Oldham ...	30.6	West Ham ...	64.2
		Huddersfield	9.3	Plymouth ...	36.8	Willesden ...	37.8
England and Wales (1921)		Kingston- upon-Hull	31.8	Portsmouth ...	31.0	Wolver- hampton ...	29.0
Birkenhead ...	37.2	Leeds ...	16.3	Preston ...	29.6	Stockport ...	17.5
Burnley ...	22.3	Leicester ...	27.3	Rhondda ...	6.8		
Birmingham ...	21.1	Leyton ...	49.5	St. Helens ...	14.1	Scotland (1921)	
Blackburn ...	17.1	Liverpool ...	37.8	Salford ...	45.0	Aberdeen ...	25.2
Bolton ...	11.7	London : Ad- ministrative		Sheffield ...	19.6	Dundee ...	25.7
Bradford ...	12.5	County of ...	59.9	Southampton	17.5	Edinburgh ...	13.0
Brighton ...	56.0	Manchester	33.7	Southend-on- Sea ...	15.0	Glasgow ...	55.6
Bristol ...	20.5	Middles- borough ...	31.5	Sth. Shields	48.6	Dublin ...	37.9
Cardiff ...	30.8	Newcastle-		Stoke-on-			
Coventry ...	30.9	on-Tyne ...	32.5	Trent ...	21.6		
Croydon ...	21.2			Sunderland	33.7		
				Swansea ...	7.3		

There are ten in the above list of fifty-two towns in which the density of population exceeds that of Dublin City.

Within the cities of Glasgow, Liverpool and London, where there are also notorious slum areas, the highest recorded densities of population are as follows : in Glasgow (in the Glasgow Parish) 65.5 ; in Liverpool there are ten wards with densities exceeding 100, the highest of which is in Netherfield, with 254.5 ; in London there are eight Metropolitan Boroughs with densities exceeding 100, the highest of which is in Southwark with 163.0.

Littoral and Inland Population.

Regarding Limerick as a maritime town, Kilkenny is the only inland town in Saorstát Eireann with a population exceeding 10,000. In the following table are shown the total littoral and inland populations of Saorstát Eireann in 1926 and certain other statistics relating to them. By definition, the littoral population is the population living within 20 miles of the sea-coast. The City of Limerick is regarded as belonging to the littoral strip. The allocations were made by District Electoral Divisions. There were some difficulties with regard to the treatment of inlets, estuaries, etc., but in the main the allocations may be taken as substantially accurate, and it is found that 63.5 per cent. of the total population were residing within 20 miles of the sea-coast.

Provinces				Estimated Population		Area in acres		Estimated Population	
				Littoral	Inland	Littoral	Inland	Littoral	Inland
				in thousands				per hundred acres	
Leinster ...	...	...	...	773	376	1,932	2,919	40.0	12.9
Munster ...	...	...	...	634	336	3,365	2,598	18.8	12.9
Connacht ...	...	...	...	307	246	2,560	1,670	12.0	14.7
Ulster (3 Cos.) ...	...	...	...	173	127	1,290	690	13.4	18.4
SAORSTAT EIREANN ...				1,887	1,085	9,147	7,877	20.6	13.8

The town and country populations of the littoral and inland divisions of Saorstát Eireann are given in the following table :—

	Population		
	Littoral	Inland	Total
Living in towns and villages	924,000	233,000	1,157,000
Country population	963,000	852,000	1,815,000
TOTAL POPULATION	1,887,000	1,085,000	2,972,000
Living in towns and villages as percentage of total population	49·0%	21·5%	38·9%

Changes in the Population.

The populations of Saorstát Eireann and the Provinces at each Census since 1821 and the intercensal percentage changes in population are shown in the following tables :—

Year	Population (in thousands)				
	Saorstát Eireann	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (3 Cos.)
1821*	5,421	1,757	1,936	1,110	618
1831*	6,193	1,910	2,227	1,344	713
1841*	6,529	1,974	2,396	1,419	740
1851*	5,112	1,673	1,858	1,010	571
1861	4,402	1,458	1,514	913	518
1871	4,053	1,339	1,393	846	474
1881	3,870	1,279	1,331	822	438
1891	3,469	1,188	1,172	725	384
1901	3,222	1,153	1,076	647	346
1911	3,140	1,162	1,035	611	331
1926	2,972	1,149	970	553	300

* The Military and Navy are not included in the figures in this Table for 1821 to 1851, but are included for subsequent years.

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN POPULATION.

(+ Increase, - Decrease).

Interval		Saorstát Eireann	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (3 Cos.)
1821-'31		+ 14·2	+ 8·7	+ 15·1	+ 21·1	+ 15·3
1831-'41		+ 5·4	+ 3·4	+ 7·6	+ 5·6	+ 3·9
1841-'51		- 21·7	- 15·3	- 22·5	- 28·8	- 22·8
1851-'61		- 13·9	- 12·9	- 18·5	- 9·6	- 9·3
1861-'71		- 7·9	- 8·1	- 7·9	- 7·3	- 8·5
1871-'81		- 4·5	- 4·5	- 4·5	- 2·9	- 7·6
1881-'91		- 10·4	- 7·1	- 11·9	- 11·8	- 12·4
1891-'01		- 7·1	- 2·9	- 8·2	- 10·7	- 9·9
1901-'11		- 2·6	+ 0·8	- 3·8	- 5·6	- 4·3
1911-'26		- 5·3	- 1·1	- 6·3	- 9·5	- 9·4
1911-'26†		- 3·6	- 0·7	- 4·3	- 6·4	- 6·4

† Equivalent decennial change.

Between 1911 and 1926 the population of Saorstát Eireann declined by 168,000 or by 5·3%. There were, of course, abnormal causes for the decline in population since 1911 in addition to those which had been in operation for more than half a century before. Amongst these exceptional causes were the following :—

- (a) The withdrawal of the British Army, which numbered 25,242 in the Saorstát in 1911. These with their dependents must have numbered about 34,000 (*i.e.*, taking 37 dependents for every 100 soldiers—the known proportion for Dublin City).

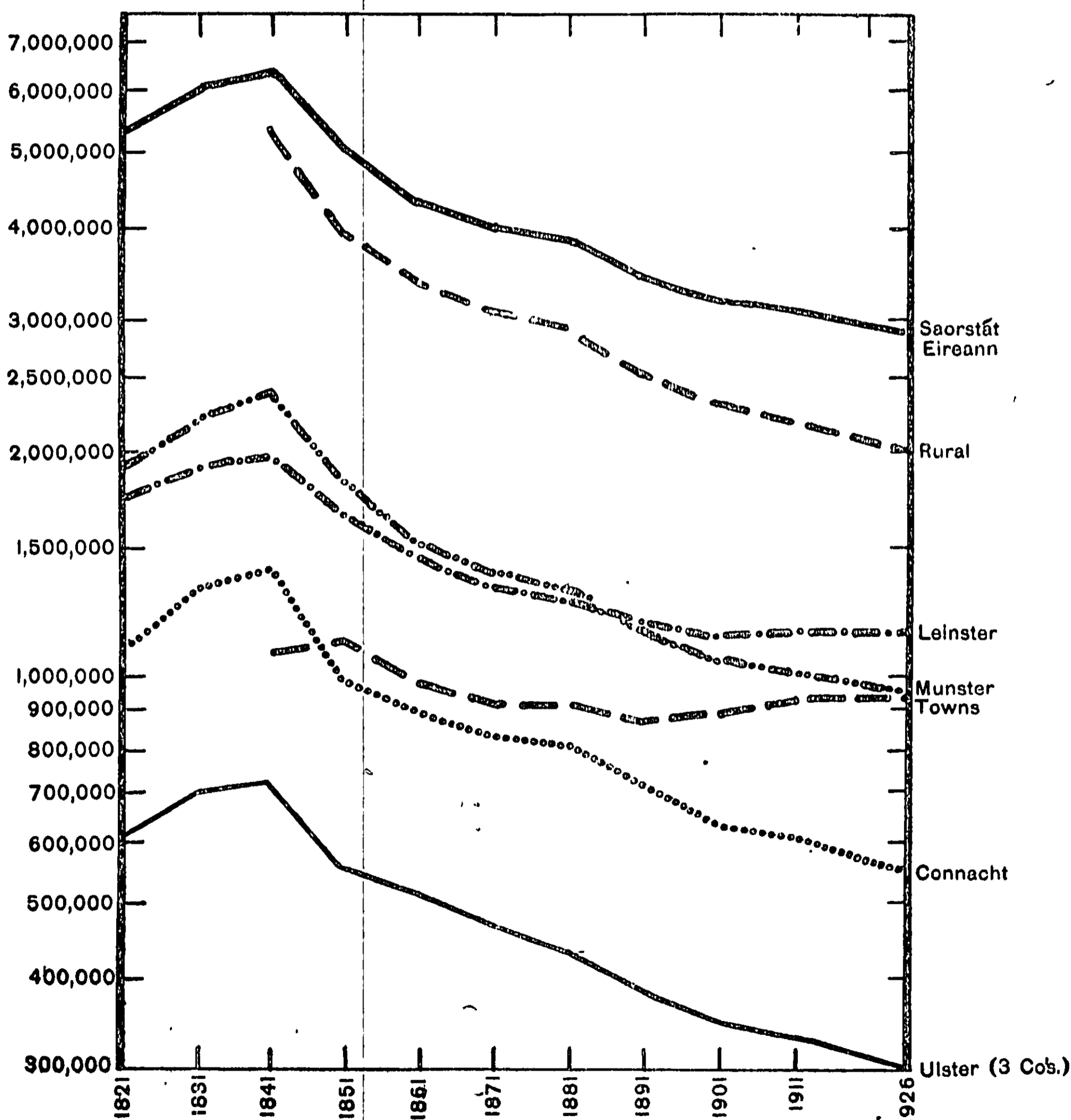
(b) The number of Irish soldiers killed in the European war. The Registrar-General's lists show that the number of Irish warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men who died on active service outside Great Britain and Ireland from 1914 to 1918 was 27,405. It is not possible to allocate these deaths between Saorstát Eireann and Northern Ireland, nor are the numbers of Irish officers killed known.

(c) The numbers of officers and men who joined the British Army during the war and who have remained in other countries.

(d) The Royal Irish Constabulary, which numbered 8,079 in the Saorstát in 1911, many of whom on being disbanded left the country.

It appears not unlikely that the foregoing accounted for 70,000 of the total decline in population of 168,000. The difference, approximately 100,000, averages about 6,500 per annum in the fifteen intercensal years, compared with 8,200 per annum in the 1901-1911 period. This decline of 100,000, or 3.2% of the 1911 population, is equivalent to 2.2% per decade, compared with 2.6% in the 1901-1911 decade.

DIAGRAM 1.
Population, 1821-1926. (Ratio Scale).



The foregoing chart, showing the population trends in the Saorstát, has been drawn on the "ratio" or "logarithmic" scale. Each vertical unit of length indicates the same percentage increase or decrease anywhere on the chart (e.g., 6/10" vertical represents an increase of 50% or a decrease of 33⅓%). The object of using this, rather than the more common "linear" scale, is to permit of realistic comparison between the trends for areas with widely differing populations.

Over the whole span from 1821 to 1926, three well marked periods in the trend of population may be distinguished—(1) from 1821 to 1841, when the population was increasing but at a diminishing rate ; (2) from 1841 to 1881, when the population was declining but at a diminishing rate ; and (3) 1881 to 1926. It will be seen that the rate of decline in population increased from 4.5% in 1871-81 to 10.4% in 1881-91. This increase in rate will be observed in all the provinces but was most marked in Connacht. To a large extent it was due to the great increase in emigration which occurred after the almost-famine conditions of the years 1879-80. After 1891 the rate of decline again slowed down, and as the figures given in the previous paragraphs indicated, were it not for the European War and the political changes the rate of decline in population would probably have continued to diminish in the 1911-1926 period.

The "town" populations shown in the following table represent the total numbers of persons in towns with populations of 1,500 or over at the *particular Censuses*. Town boundaries have been altered from time to time, and the populations of towns with populations of 1,500 or over in 1926 have been taken, for the purposes of the next table and that on p. 15, as the numbers of persons within the 1926 boundaries of the towns. As in many cases these changes in boundaries were not made in complete townland units the adjustments in populations are somewhat conjectural.

Year	Saorstát Eireann		Leinster		Munster		Connacht		Ulster (3 Cos.)	
	Towns	Rural	Towns	Rural	Towns	Rural	Towns	Rural	Towns	Rural
In thousands										
1841 ...	1,092	5,437	522	1,452	429	1,967	110	1,309	31	709
1851 ...	1,124	3,987	543	1,129	445	1,413	103	907	33	538
1861 ...	978	3,424	517	941	354	1,160	79	834	29	489
1871 ...	926	3,127	504	835	332	1,061	66	780	24	450
1881 ...	924	2,946	516	763	319	1,012	64	757	24	414
1891 ...	879	2,590	509	679	296	876	53	671	21	363
1901 ...	901	2,321	537	616	290	787	53	594	22	324
1911 ...	933	2,207	567	595	290	746	53	558	23	308
1926 ...	944	2,028	588	561	280	690	54	499	22	278

It will be seen that while the rural population was constantly declining since 1841 the town population has remained fairly steady throughout the whole period, with a tendency to rise slowly since 1891. The town population (as defined) of the area of the Saorstát constituted 17% of the total population in 1841, 24% in 1881, 30% in 1911, and increased to 32% in 1926.

In the following table are shown the percentage changes in population in six groups of towns (classified according to population) and in country districts (including villages) in three periods 1841 to 1881, 1881 to 1911, and 1911 to 1926. In each interval the towns are grouped according to *average population* (taken as the simple average of the populations in the two Census years).

(+ Increase, — Decrease).

Group	40 Years 1841-1881		30 Years 1881-1911		15 Years 1911-1926	
	No. of Towns	Per- centage Change	No. of Towns	Per- centage Change	No. of Towns	Per- centage Change
1. Dublin City and Four adjoining Urban Districts ...	5*	+ 20.4	5*	+ 16.0	5*	+ 5.2
2. Other towns with average population of 10,000 or more ...	11	— 12.3	11	— 4.3	10	+ 1.9
3. Towns with 5,000 to 10,000 average population ...	26	— 25.4	18	— 7.0	15	— 5.5
4. Towns with 3,000 to 5,000 average population ...	32	— 26.9	28	— 11.1	24	— 0.9
5. Towns with 1,500 to 3,000 average population ...	51	— 24.9	49	— 6.2	49	— 3.8
6. Towns with 500 to 1,500 average population ...	200	— 30.1	158	— 20.4	130	— 4.9
7. Remainder of population ...	.	— 47.3	.	— 25.6	.	— 8.4
Population of Saorstát Eireann	.	— 40.7	.	— 18.9	.	— 5.3

* As constituted in 1926.

While in none of the three Census intervals the changes in population vary regularly with size of town, in all the intervals it is clear that generally speaking the smaller the town the worse it fares, country districts being worst of all. The changes between groups 1, 2, 6 and 7 are quite regular in each interval. In groups 3, 4 and 5 it cannot be said that there has been a definite tendency for any group to decline more than others through the whole period from 1841 to 1926. The exceptionally unfavourable experience of towns with 5,000 to 10,000 populations in 1911-1926 will be noted.

PERCENTAGE DECREASE IN COUNTY POPULATIONS.

County	1841 to 1926	1881 to 1926	1911 to 1926	County	1841 to 1926	1881 to 1926	1911 to 1926	County	1841 to 1926	1881 to 1926	1911 to 1926
	%	%	%		%	%	%		%	%	%
Carlow ...	60.0	26.0	4.9	Westmeath ...	59.8	20.9	5.3	Galway ...	61.5	30.0	7.1
Dublin*...	+35.6	+20.7	+6.0	Wexford ...	52.6	22.6	6.3	Leitrim ...	64.0	38.1	12.1
Kildare ...	49.3	23.4	12.9	Wicklow ...	54.3	18.2	5.1	Mayo ...	55.6	29.6	10.1
Kilkenny	64.9	28.7	5.3	Clare ...	66.8	32.8	8.8	Roscommon	67.1	36.9	11.1
Laoighis	66.5	29.5	5.7	Cork*	57.2	26.2	6.7	Sligo ...	60.5	36.0	9.7
Longford	65.5	34.7	9.1	Kerry ...	49.2	25.8	6.6	Cavan ...	66.1	36.3	9.6
Louth ...	51.1	19.2	1.5	Limerick*	57.5	22.3	1.9	Donegal ...	48.6	26.0	9.5
Meath ...	65.7	28.0	3.3	Tipperary ...	67.6	29.4	7.5	Monaghan ...	67.5	36.6	8.9
Offaly ...	64.2	27.2	7.5	Waterford*	60.0	30.3	6.4	Saorstát Eireann ...	54.5	23.2	5.3

* Including Co. Borough. (+ = Increase).

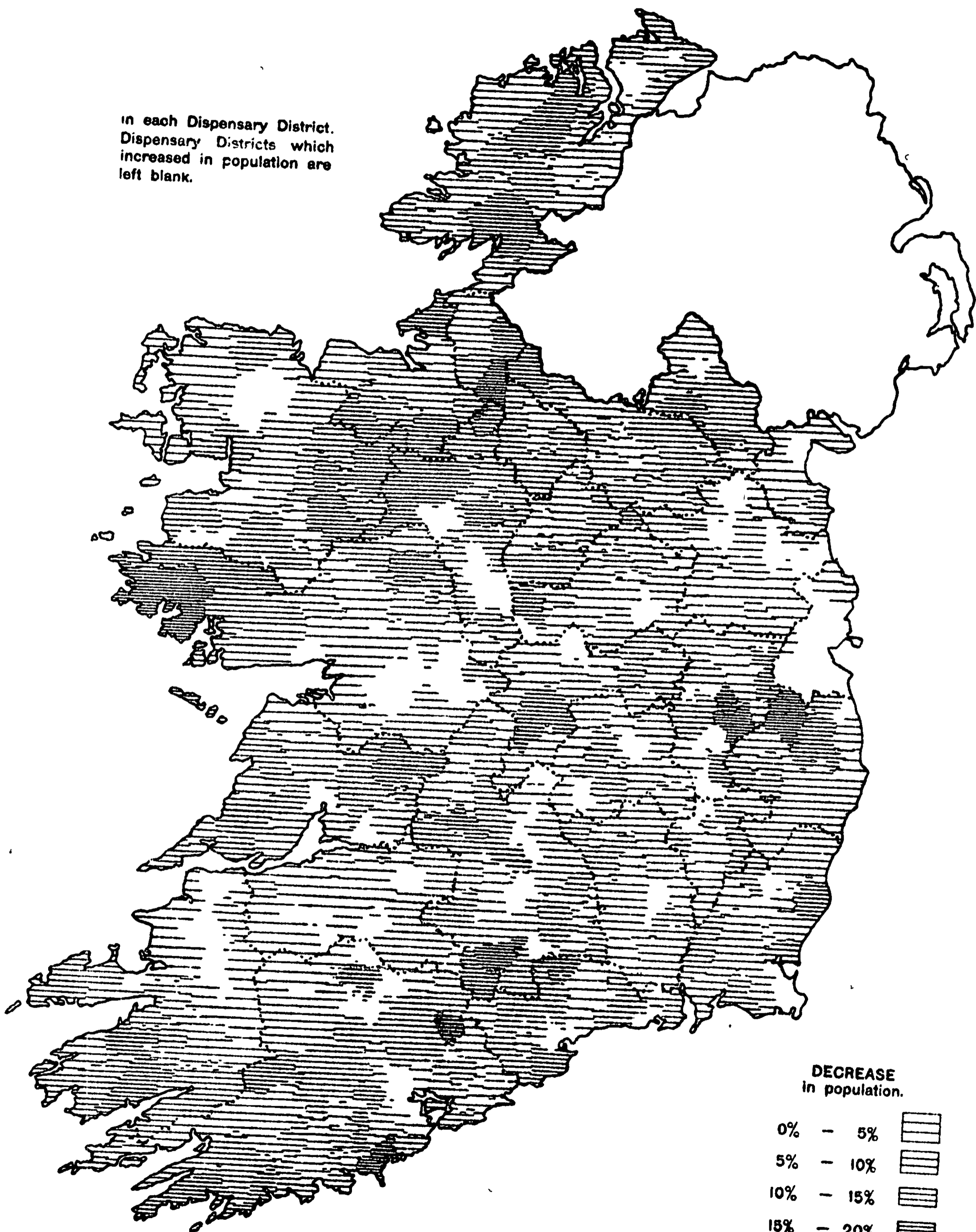
Since 1841 the population of the area of Saorstát Eireann declined by more than one half. Except for Dublin City and County the declines have been fairly uniformly spread over the twenty-six counties: fifteen counties have lost 60% or more of their population, a further seven have lost more than 50%, and only three counties (other than Dublin City and County) declined less than 50%. Since 1911 the most severe declines in population have been experienced by Kildare with 13%, Leitrim 12%, Roscommon 11%, and Mayo 10%. The nine counties with the greatest percentage declines in population since 1911 include four of the five Connacht counties, the three Saorstát Ulster counties and two Leinster counties, Kildare and Longford. The decline in Kildare was due principally to the exodus of British military.







The change in population since 1911 in the Dispensary Districts is shown in the map opposite. It will be observed that throughout the country there are certain well-defined contiguous areas, sometimes extending over the boundaries of several counties in which the changes in population have been markedly homogeneous. Thus in the creamery districts embracing Limerick, North Cork and North Kerry the decline in population has been less severe than in the surrounding areas. The exceptional experience of Dublin and its environs in the last intercensal period will also be noted.

The populations from 1841 to 1926 of the areas of towns as constituted in 1926 with populations exceeding 1,500 in 1926 are given in the following table.

PERCENTAGE DECLINE IN POPULATION 1911-1926.

in each Dispensary District.
Dispensary Districts which
increased in population are
left blank.



DECREASE in population.		
0% - 5%		
5% - 10%		
10% - 15%		
15% - 20%		
20% - 25%		
25% or over		

POPULATION SINCE 1841 OF CITIES AND TOWNS WHICH HAD A POPULATION OF 1,500
OR OVER IN 1926.

(The populations at each Census are those who lived within the 1926 boundaries
of the Cities and Towns).

City or town	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1926
Dublin City ...	245,826	272,214	270,738	262,667	268,452	268,650	290,638	304,802	316,693
Rathmines and Rathgar ...	10,376	12,814	17,604	21,256	24,370	27,796	32,602	37,840	39,984
Pembroke ...	12,090	14,689	17,987	20,717	22,964	23,992	25,799	29,294	33,383
Blackrock ...	6,352	6,319	6,966	8,089	8,902	8,401	8,719	9,080	9,934
Dun Laoghaire ...	10,455	15,116	17,841	17,527	18,586	17,091	17,377	17,219	18,987
Total of Dublin and four ad- joining Urban Districts ...	285,099	321,152	331,136	330,256	343,274	345,930	375,135	398,235	418,981
Cork ...	80,720	85,732	80,121	78,642	80,124	75,345	76,122	76,673	78,490
Limerick ...	48,391	53,448	44,472	39,353	38,562	37,155	38,151	38,518	39,448
Waterford ...	26,886	30,194	27,459	27,894	27,827	26,203	26,769	27,464	26,647
Galway ...	20,840	26,632	19,420	15,597	15,471	13,800	13,426	13,255	14,227
Dundalk ...	11,102	10,306	10,990	11,327	11,913	12,449	13,076	13,128	13,996
Drogheda ...	19,244	21,348	18,250	16,098	14,708	13,708	12,760	12,501	12,716
Wexford ...	11,794	12,908	11,840	12,077	12,163	11,545	11,168	11,531	11,879
Sligo ...	14,148	14,806	12,648	10,706	10,816	10,274	10,870	11,163	11,437
Tralee ...	11,588	13,239	10,870	10,036	10,013	9,318	9,867	10,300	10,533
Kilkenny ...	19,071	19,975	14,174	12,710	12,299	11,048	10,609	10,514	10,046
Clonmel ...	16,542	18,229	13,780	12,063	11,956	10,708	10,167	10,209	9,056
Bray ...	3,747	3,780	5,126	6,087	6,535	6,888	7,424	7,691	8,637
Athlone ...	7,902	9,341	7,994	6,565	6,755	6,742	6,617	7,472	7,540
Carlow ...	10,957	12,048	9,120	7,979	7,294	6,619	6,513	6,619	7,163
Cobh ...	5,497	11,626	9,528	10,340	9,755	9,082	7,909	8,209	7,077
Tipperary ...	7,915	8,715	6,727	6,392	7,284	6,404	6,281	6,645	5,555
Enniscorthy ...	7,016	6,077	5,396	5,594	5,666	5,648	5,458	5,495	5,543
Ennis ...	9,318	8,623	7,175	6,503	6,307	5,460	5,093	5,472	5,518
Youghal ...	10,535	10,260	7,515	6,848	6,477	5,722	5,393	5,648	5,339
Killarney ...	7,668	10,884	6,407	6,158	6,651	5,510	5,656	5,796	5,328
Mullingar ...	4,838	5,545	5,803	5,103	4,787	5,323	4,500	5,539	5,293
Ballinasloe ...	7,236	9,193	6,056	5,303	5,011	4,642	4,904	5,169	5,245
Dungarvan ...	9,454	8,776	7,265	6,618	5,367	5,263	4,850	4,977	5,207
New Ross ...	7,927	9,124	7,140	6,806	6,670	5,847	5,847	5,547	5,011
Tullamore ...	7,261	8,160	5,935	5,428	5,324	4,676	4,833	4,926	4,930
Ballina ...	7,485	6,337	5,974	5,843	5,760	4,846	4,505	4,662	4,873
Thurles ...	7,856	8,819	5,422	5,047	4,850	4,511	4,411	4,549	4,815
Carrick-on-Suir ...	11,883	10,271	7,962	7,984	6,764	5,789	5,406	5,235	4,657
Monaghan ...	4,614	4,537	4,459	4,137	4,247	3,884	4,214	4,272	4,636
Terenure ...	1,048	851	939	903	1,143	1,282	1,304	3,770	4,614
Mallow ...	7,803	6,009	5,443	4,770	4,996	4,366	4,542	4,452	4,562
Arklow ...	5,092	5,087	5,454	5,715	4,777	4,172	4,944	5,042	4,535
Nenagh ...	8,885	9,340	6,885	5,730	5,422	4,720	4,704	4,776	4,524
Fermoy ...	6,822	8,812	9,319	7,319	6,454	6,469	6,126	6,863	4,510
Castlebar ...	5,454	5,989	3,408	3,571	3,855	3,558	3,585	3,698	4,266
Dalkey ...	1,659	2,580	2,625	2,584	3,234	3,197	3,398	3,536	4,129
Howth ...	1,615	1,787	1,712	2,034	1,937	2,259	2,776	3,267	4,029
Longford ...	5,021	4,688	4,956	4,375	4,380	3,827	3,747	3,760	3,685
Navan ...	5,860	5,200	4,343	4,104	3,873	3,963	3,839	3,934	3,652
Westport ...	6,410	8,229	5,294	4,444	4,468	4,070	3,892	3,674	3,488
Athy ...	4,980	5,263	4,596	4,510	4,181	4,886	3,559	3,535	3,460

POPULATION SINCE 1841 OF CITIES AND TOWNS WHICH HAD A POPULATION OF 1,500
OR OVER IN 1926—*continued*.

(The populations at each Census are those who lived within the 1926 boundaries
of the Cities and Towns).

City or town	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1926
Naas ...	4,669	5,184	4,150	3,593	3,738	3,735	3,836	3,842	3,442
Birr ...	7,254	7,483	6,146	4,939	4,955	4,313	4,438	4,047	3,402
Maryborough ...	3,702	3,221	3,077	2,731	2,872	2,809	2,957	3,270	3,374
Kilrush ...	6,178	10,292	5,445	4,836	4,635	4,095	4,179	3,666	3,345
Tuam ...	6,072	4,992	4,648	4,135	3,567	3,012	2,896	2,980	3,293
Cavan ...	3,993	3,485	3,461	3,389	3,050	2,968	2,822	2,961	3,060
Wicklow ...	3,463	3,666	3,591	3,412	3,391	3,273	3,288	3,243	3,025
Passage West ...	3,329	3,903	3,506	3,262	3,589	2,933	2,994	2,815	3,019
Cashel ...	7,036	7,892	4,913	4,562	3,961	3,216	2,938	2,813	2,953
Listowel ...	3,820	7,290	3,432	3,171	3,848	3,566	3,605	3,409	2,917
Bandon ...	6,235	5,202	4,301	4,225	3,997	3,488	2,830	3,122	2,830
Loughrea ...	8,271	3,985	3,287	3,072	3,159	2,815	2,557	2,388	2,805
Newcastle ...	3,628	5,864	3,235	2,756	3,078	2,735	2,599	2,585	2,797
Roscrea ...	5,275	3,400	3,727	2,992	2,801	2,568	2,325	2,322	2,772
Clonakilty ...	4,564	3,500	3,476	3,568	3,676	3,221	3,098	2,961	2,770
Kinsale ...	6,988	5,573	4,917	6,404	5,386	4,605	4,250	4,020	2,747
Middleton ...	4,597	6,055	3,895	3,603	3,358	3,246	3,361	3,182	2,732
Bantry ...	4,921	5,479	3,107	2,995	3,181	3,327	3,109	3,159	2,685
Skibberoon ...	5,199	4,306	3,988	3,768	3,694	3,269	3,208	3,021	2,627
Knockree ...	704	689	698	791	1,192	1,256	2,042	2,031	2,611
Macroon ...	5,611	6,400	3,871	3,710	3,819	3,449	3,016	2,717	2,413
Clones ...	2,877	2,538	2,394	2,170	2,216	2,032	2,068	2,401	2,365
Boyle ...	3,954	5,025	3,641	3,347	2,994	2,464	2,477	2,691	2,323
Buncrana ...	1,408	1,217	1,637	1,159	1,148	1,018	1,501	1,874	2,309
Lettorkenny ...	2,263	2,330	2,266	2,116	2,188	2,320	2,370	2,194	2,308
Gorey ...	3,487	3,049	2,674	2,639	2,450	2,213	2,243	2,339	2,296
Balbriggan ...	3,043	2,393	2,388	2,357	2,468	2,273	2,236	2,273	2,281
Mountmellick ...	4,755	5,257	3,529	3,316	3,126	2,623	2,407	2,341	2,279
Newbridge ...	1,177	1,170	3,205	3,286	3,372	3,207	2,903	3,400	2,249
Timplomoro ...	3,904	4,541	4,297	3,542	2,800	2,433	2,774	1,791	2,233
Kells ...	4,205	4,012	3,225	2,953	2,822	2,427	2,428	2,395	2,196
Mitchelstown ...	4,181	3,091	2,924	2,743	2,467	2,312	2,146	2,268	2,146
Kildaro ...	1,629	1,298	1,426	1,333	1,174	1,172	1,576	2,639	2,116
Ballyshannon ...	4,287	4,410	3,676	2,958	2,840	2,471	2,359	2,170	2,112
Edonderry ...	2,276	3,235	2,361	2,169	1,999	1,926	2,001	2,208	2,092
Killiney and Ballybrack ...	1,265	1,630	2,118	2,290	2,607	2,649	2,744	2,721	2,061
Dingle ...	3,386	3,262	2,262	2,117	1,833	1,764	1,786	2,219	1,998
Carrickmacross ...	3,438	4,695	2,551	2,235	2,238	1,981	1,929	2,064	1,995
Skorries ...	2,519	2,327	2,257	2,236	2,227	1,809	1,721	1,936	1,973
Portarlinton ...	3,106	2,728	2,581	2,424	2,357	2,021	1,943	2,012	1,954
Roscommon ...	3,439	3,364	2,731	2,375	2,117	1,994	1,891	1,858	1,830
Bagonalstown ...	2,225	2,309	2,055	2,292	2,141	1,920	1,882	1,873	1,821
Tramore ...	1,120	1,882	1,847	2,011	2,036	1,850	1,733	1,644	1,812
Caherciveen ...	1,492	3,155	1,808	1,925	2,003	1,987	2,013	1,896	1,773
Ardee ...	4,646	4,560	3,361	2,972	2,622	2,067	1,883	1,773	1,729
Clara ...	1,504	1,097	1,020	1,001	1,409	1,459	1,783	1,701	1,726
Caher ...	3,668	3,698	2,985	2,694	2,469	2,046	2,058	1,930	1,709
Charleville ...	4,287	2,685	2,469	2,482	2,266	1,970	2,000	1,925	1,684
Kilkeo ...	2,169	2,327	2,290	1,972	1,965	1,830	1,762	1,688	1,682
Kanturk ...	4,388	3,150	2,286	1,964	1,859	1,689	1,583	1,518	1,630
Greystones ...	—	93	238	355	405	516	856	1,226	1,594
Tullow ...	3,394	3,142	2,623	2,369	2,158	1,932	1,837	1,894	1,585
Killostor ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,577
Dunmanway ...	3,086	2,303	2,091	2,046	2,049	2,007	1,776	1,619	1,565
Castloblayney ...	2,260	2,138	1,822	1,809	1,810	1,721	1,576	1,692	1,550
Rathkoale ...	4,765	3,305	3,002	2,577	2,549	2,073	1,749	1,705	1,550
Rush ...	2,264	2,063	1,938	1,792	1,773	1,797	1,672	1,542	1,540
Cootchill ...	2,523	2,175	2,069	1,851	1,789	1,593	1,509	1,550	1,532
Callan ...	3,560	4,650	2,748	2,387	2,340	1,973	1,840	1,987	1,500

The following are the percentage changes in the population of these towns since 1911 :—

PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN TOWN POPULATIONS, 1911 to 1926.

(+ Increase, — Decrease).

City or town	%	City or town	%	City or town	%
Dublin City ...	+ 3.9	Thurles ...	+ 5.8	Buncrana ...	+ 23.2
Rathmines and Rathgar ...	+ 5.7	Carrick-on-Suir ...	— 11.0	Letterkenny ...	+ 5.2
Pembroke ...	+ 14.0	Monaghan ...	+ 8.5	Gorey ...	— 1.8
Blackrock ...	+ 9.4	Terenure ...	+ 22.4	Balbriggan ...	+ 0.4
Dun Laoghaire ...	+ 10.3	Mallow ...	+ 2.5	Mountmellick ...	— 2.6
Total of Dublin and four adjoining U.D.'s ...	+ 5.2	Arklow ...	— 10.1	Newbridge ...	— 33.9
		Nenagh ...	— 5.3	Templemore ...	+ 24.7
		Fermoy ...	— 34.3	Kells ...	— 8.3
		Castlebar ...	+ 15.4	Mitchelstown ...	— 5.4
		Dalkey ...	+ 16.8	Kildare ...	— 19.8
		Howth ...	+ 23.3	Ballyshannon ...	— 2.7
		Longford ...	— 2.0	Edenderry ...	— 5.3
Cork ...	+ 2.4	Navan ...	— 7.2	Killiney and Ballybrack ...	— 24.3
Limerick ...	+ 2.4	Westport ...	— 5.1	Dingle ...	— 10.0
Waterford ...	— 3.0	Athy ...	— 2.1	Carrickmacross ...	— 3.3
Galway ...	+ 7.3	Naas ...	— 10.4	Skerries ...	+ 1.9
Dundalk ...	+ 6.6	Birr ...	— 15.9	Portarlinton ...	— 2.9
Drogheda ...	+ 1.7	Maryborough ...	+ 3.2	Roscommon ...	— 1.5
Wexford ...	+ 3.0	Kilrush ...	— 8.8	Bagenalstown ...	— 2.8
Sligo ...	+ 2.5	Tuam ...	+ 10.5	Tramore ...	+ 10.2
Tralee ...	+ 2.3	Cavan ...	+ 3.3	Cahiriveen ...	— 6.5
Kilkenny ...	— 4.5	Wicklow ...	— 6.7	Ardee ...	— 2.5
Clonmel ...	— 11.3	Passage West ...	+ 7.2	Clara ...	+ 1.5
Bray ...	+ 12.3	Cashel ...	+ 5.0	Caher ...	— 11.5
Athlone ...	+ 0.9	Listowel ...	— 14.4	Charleville ...	— 12.5
Carlow ...	+ 8.2	Bandon ...	— 9.4	Kilkee ...	— 0.4
Cobh ...	— 13.8	Loughrea ...	+ 17.5	Kanturk ...	+ 7.4
Tipperary ...	— 16.4	Newcastle West ...	+ 8.2	Greystones ...	+ 30.0
Enniscorthy ...	+ 0.9	Roscrea ...	+ 19.4	Tulloo ...	— 16.3
Ennis ...	+ 0.8	Clonakilty ...	— 6.5	Killester ...	(a)
Youghal ...	— 5.5	Kinsale ...	— 31.7	Dunmanway ...	— 3.3
Killarney ...	— 8.1	Middleton ...	— 14.1	Castleblayney ...	— 8.4
Mullingar ...	— 4.4	Bantry ...	— 15.0	Rathkeale ...	— 9.1
Ballinasloe ...	+ 1.5	Skibbereen ...	— 13.0	Rush ...	— 0.1
Dungarvan ...	+ 4.6	Knockrea ...	+ 28.6	Cootehill ...	— 1.2
New Ross ...	— 9.7	Macroon ...	— 11.2	Callan ...	— 24.5
Tullamore ...	+ 0.1	Clones ...	— 1.5		
Ballina ...	+ 4.5	Boyle ...	— 13.7		

(a) Not a Census Town in 1911.

In the latter table the towns are arranged in order of the population in 1926. It will be seen that in the last intercensal period three of the four County Boroughs increased in population, Waterford alone showing a decrease. A great increase in the Dublin Suburbs and in the towns adjacent to the city will be noted, for example Terenure (22%), Dalkey (17%), Killiney and Ballybrack (24%), also a marked increase in many of the seaside resorts, viz., Bray (12%), Howth (23%), Greystones (30%), Tramore (10%).

The changes in the population of what were formerly British garrison towns will also be observed. The declines in the populations of Fermoy (34%), Newbridge (34%), Kildare (20%) and Tipperary (16%) were due principally to the exodus of the British military, while the towns affected to a lesser extent by this factor include Clonmel, Mullingar and Kinsale. Increases due largely to the presence of garrisons may be noted in Templemore (25%) and Castlebar (15%). Buncrana shows an increase of 23%, due partly to the increase in the number of military and partly to its position as a seaside resort. Increases partly attributable to garrisons may be noted in Carlow, Kilkenny, Athlone, Boyle and Naas.

Amongst towns the changes of population in which cannot be regarded as being due principally to the three factors (a) proximity to Dublin City, (b) seaside resorts, (c) movements of garrisons, the most marked *increases* occurred in Knockrea (a suburb

of Cork City) (29%), Roscrea (19%) and Loughrea (17%), and the most marked decreases in Kinsale (32%), Callan (25%), Tullow (16%), Birr (16%) and Bantry (15%).

Population according to Sexes.

There were 1,506,889 males and 1,465,103 females in Saorstát Eireann in 1926, a ratio of 972 females to 1,000 males. The following table gives the ratios for Saorstát Eireann and the provinces in each of the Census since 1821 :—

FEMALES PER THOUSAND MALES IN SAORSTAT EIREANN.

Year	Saorstát Eireann	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (3 Cos.)
1821	1,025	1,044	1,016	1,004	1,041
1831	1,042	1,058	1,037	1,035	1,032
1841	1,026	1,048	1,020	1,004	1,029
1851	1,049	1,056	1,053	1,037	1,038
1861	1,030	1,039	1,032	1,011	1,028
1871	1,034	1,045	1,031	1,021	1,039
1881	1,024	1,030	1,017	1,019	1,035
1891	1,007	1,021	995	1,001	1,009
1901	1,001	1,016	989	999	992
1911	975	993	968	958	967
1926	972	1,002	965	944	937

The decline in the proportion of females in the total population which began in 1871 continued, although the latest figure, 972, is only three below the 1911 ratio, contrasting with a decline of twenty-six in the previous decade. Between 1911 and 1926 the Leinster ratio increased by nine, while the ratios for the other provinces declined. This table also shows that the female-male ratio for each of the provinces of Saorstát Eireann usually fluctuated in the same direction, up or down, between consecutive Censuses. It will, of course, be evident that the political changes in the last intercensal period (resulting in particular in the withdrawal of British Forces from this country) and the deaths of Irish soldiers in the European war would tend towards retarding the decline in the female-male ratio. In this connection reference may be made to Co. Kildare, where the ratio was the lowest in Ireland in 1911 and which increased more than in any other county in 1926.

The following table shows the female-male ratio in the town and country districts of each province and county in 1926. It will be seen that in the town districts the ratio is 1,103, compared with 917 in other districts:—

FEMALES PER THOUSAND MALES IN EACH COUNTY.

County, etc.	Total	Towns over 1,500 population	Other Population	County	Total	Towns over 1,500 population	Other Population
Saorstát Eireann	972	1,103	917	Wexford ...	973	1,106	931
Leinster ...	1,002	1,116	896	Wicklow ...	992	1,277	887
Munster ...	965	1,096	916	Clare ...	899	1,099	876
Connacht ...	944	1,010	937	Cork* ...	997	1,113	937
Ulster (3 Cos.)	937	1,107	925	Kerry ...	941	1,046	923
Carlow ...	937	995	912	Limerick* ...	972	1,073	929
Dublin* ...	1,116	1,144	942	Tipperary ...	934	1,070	888
Kildare ...	814	915	791	Waterford* ...	993	1,127	903
Kilkenny ...	914	986	901	Galway ...	914	1,008	898
Laoighis ...	895	939	888	Leitrim ...	912	—	912
Longford ...	915	972	910	Mayo ...	990	983	991
Louth ...	976	1,013	946	Roscommon ...	931	1,021	926
Meath ...	903	1,066	888	Sligo ...	947	1,042	930
Offaly ...	908	1,062	863	Cavan ...	893	1,032	886
Westmeath ...	884	897	881	Donegal ...	953	1,069	948
				Monaghan ...	958	1,167	923

* Including County Borough.

The next table contrasts the ratio of the sexes in Saorstát Eireann with that of other countries. The countries are arranged in ascending order of the magnitude of the ratio :—

FEMALES PER THOUSAND MALES IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES.

Country	Females per 1,000 males	Country	Females per 1,000 males	Country	Females per 1,000 males
Canada (1921) ...	940	Italy (1921) ...	1,028	Poland (1921) ...	1,070
South Africa (1926) ...	957 (a)	Belgium (1920) ...	1,032	Switzerland (1920) ...	1,074
New Zealand (1926) ...	959	Sweden (1920) ...	1,037	Czecho Slovakia ...	
U.S.A. (1920) ...	961	Yugo Slavia (1920) ...	1,039	(1921) ...	1,075
Australia (1921) ...	967	Denmark (1921) ...	1,053	Austria (1923) ...	1,076
Saorstat Eireann (1926)	972	Norway (1920) ...	1,053	Scotland (1921) ...	1,080
Roumania (1919) ...	985	Hungary (1920) ...	1,062	France (1926) ...	1,083
Bulgaria (1926) ...	997	Spain (1920) ...	1,063	England and ...	
Netherlands (1920) ...	1,013	Nth. Ireland (1926) ...	1,066	Wales (1921) ...	1,096
Finland (1920) ...	1,027	Germany (1925) ...	1,067	Portugal (1920) ...	1,113

(a) White population.

The proportion of females per 1,000 males in the population of Saorstát Eireann is lower than that of any of the other 22 *European* countries shown. It is greater than that of the United States and the other overseas countries shown above where a constant influx of settlers, in which males predominate, keeps the female ratio low. The exceptional position of Saorstát Eireann apparently bears a close relation to the fact that the stream of migration from Ireland to the United States always contains a large proportion of females (see next table).

Natural Increase and Emigration.

In the last intercensal period the decline in population was 167,696, births exceeded deaths by 237,333, so that the sum, 405,029, must represent net emigration, or emigration less immigration, during the period, an average of 27,002 per annum. The following table gives corresponding figures for each sex for each intercensal period since 1871 :—

Period	Average yearly decline		Average yearly natural increase (births less deaths)		Average yearly net emigration		No. of females emigrating per 1,000 males
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
1871-81	8,003	10,314	16,955	14,900	24,958	25,214	1,010
1881-91	18,384	21,749	10,873	8,727	29,257	30,476	1,042
1891-01	11,852	12,836	8,463	6,491	20,315	19,327	951
1901-11	2,058	6,156	9,706	8,234	11,764	14,390	1,223
1911-26	5,508	5,672	8,426	7,396	13,934	13,068	938

In considering this table regard will be had to the abnormal migration during the last period, which, as indicated above, might have accounted for 70,000, or nearly 5,000 per annum, out of the total of 27,000 per annum. In the last period emigration had more than halved since 1881-91. It will also be noted that female migrants are usually about equal in number to males. Were it not for the abnormal migration in the last period, it is probable that there would have been a very considerable excess of females amongst the emigrants.

RATES PER THOUSAND OF AVERAGE POPULATION PER ANNUM.

Period	Leinster			Munster			Connacht			Ulster (3 Counties)			Saorstát Éireann		
	Dec. in pop.	Nat. inc.	Net emigr.	Dec. in pop.	Nat. inc.	Net emigr.	Dec. in pop.	Nat. inc.	Net emigr.	Dec. in pop.	Nat. inc.	Net emigr.	Dec. in pop.	Nat. inc.	Net emigr.
1871-81 ...	4.6	4.3	8.9	4.6	9.1	13.7	2.9	12.0	15.0	7.8	8.4	16.3	4.6	8.0	12.7
1881-91 ...	7.4	2.9	10.3	12.7	5.7	18.4	12.5	8.5	21.0	13.3	5.6	18.9	10.9	5.3	16.0
1891-01 ...	3.0	2.5	5.6	8.6	5.0	13.6	11.3	6.9	18.3	10.4	4.4	14.7	7.4	4.5	11.9
1901-11 ...	+0.8*	4.4	3.6	3.9	6.2	10.1	5.7	7.4	13.1	4.3	4.8	9.1	2.6	5.6	8.2
1911-26 ...	0.7	4.7	5.5	4.4	5.6	9.9	6.7	6.1	12.8	6.6	4.0	10.6	3.7	5.2	8.8

* Increase.

In Munster, Connacht, in the three Ulster Counties and in the Saorstát as a whole the rate of natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) declined in the last intercensal period after recording a substantial increase in the 1901-11 decade. The rate of natural increase for the Saorstát has been fairly steady since the 1881-91 decade: the rate of decrease of population has reflected changes in the rate of migration. If abnormal migration be taken as averaging 5,000 per annum in the 1911-26 period the rate of "normal" emigration would have been about 7.2 per thousand instead of 8.8 per thousand shown in the last table, comparing with 8.2 in 1901-11, 11.9 in 1891-01 and 16.3 in 1881-91.

Ireland is absolutely unique amongst the countries of the world in the relation which the number of her natives living outside of Ireland bears to the population of the mother country. The following table, compiled from the Census returns of the countries to which the Irish have emigrated shows that in 1920-21 there were 1,762,335 natives of Ireland residing in the five countries indicated. In addition there were 34,419 Irish-born in New Zealand, 12,289 in the Union of South Africa, and 8,414 in India, or a total of 1,817,457, which is equivalent to 43% of the population of Ireland in 1926.

NUMBERS OF IRISH-BORN PERSONS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES, 1841-1921.

Year			Population of Ireland	U.S.A.(a)	England and Wales	Scotland	Canada	Australia
			Irish-born persons					
1841	...	...	8,175,124	(b)	289,404	126,321	122,000(c)	(b)
1851	...	...	6,552,385	961,719	519,959	207,367	227,000(c)	(b)
1861	...	...	5,798,564	1,611,304	601,634	204,083	286,031(c)	(b)
1871	...	...	5,412,377	1,855,827	566,540	207,770	223,163	(b)
1881	...	...	5,174,836	1,854,571	562,374	218,745	185,526	212,633
1891	...	...	4,704,750	1,871,509	458,315	194,807	149,184	226,949
1901	...	...	4,456,775	1,615,459	426,565	205,064	101,629	184,085
1911	...	...	4,390,219	1,352,251	375,325	174,715	92,874	139,434
1921	...	...	4,228,553(c)	1,037,234	364,747	159,020	93,301	105,033

(a) Year previous to dates in col. 1.

(b) Not available.

(c) 1926 Census.

The highest number of Irish-born recorded in the United States was 1,871,509 in 1891, since when the numbers have fallen away considerably. The highest total recorded in Great Britain was 805,717 Irish-born in 1861: in 1921 the number had declined to 523,767. The 364,747 Irish-born in England and Wales in 1921 included 281,190 born in Saorstát counties, 65,491 in the six Northern Counties, and for the remaining 18,066 the part was not defined.