

CHAPTER VII.

AGES AND CONJUGAL CONDITIONS, CLASSIFIED BY OCCUPATIONS AND INDUSTRIES

Frequent reference is made in the Census reports to "gainfully occupied" persons or to "occupied" persons, and it must be borne in mind that such persons include all who are normally engaged in "gainful" occupations. They include in addition to persons actually at work all persons confined to hospitals, etc., and all others out of work who had gainful occupations which they intend to resume; they include not only employers, persons working on their own account and persons working for a definite wage, but also sons, daughters and other relatives assisting farmers and others in their businesses; they also include not only professed Priests and Nuns, but also theological students and novices and all persons studying for other professions (Medicine, Law, Engineering, etc.) and apprentices; they do not include persons pursuing general courses of study or persons engaged in home duties or persons retired from gainful occupations, etc. Similarly, for facility of reference, persons following non-gainful occupations are referred to as "unoccupied" persons.

Ages of persons in different occupations.

Perhaps the most important facts disclosed by Volume V, Part II, are the abnormally large proportions of boys and girls in this country under 18 who have not yet secured gainful occupations and the exceptionally small proportion of men and unmarried females over 65 years of age who have retired from gainful occupations. These abnormalities result in a normal total number of males unoccupied, but the total number of females unoccupied is exceptionally large. The following table brings out these characteristics. See also Diagram 14 which shows on the contrary the movements in the numbers of *gainfully* occupied males and females respectively (not those non-gainfully occupied) at ages from 13 to 24.

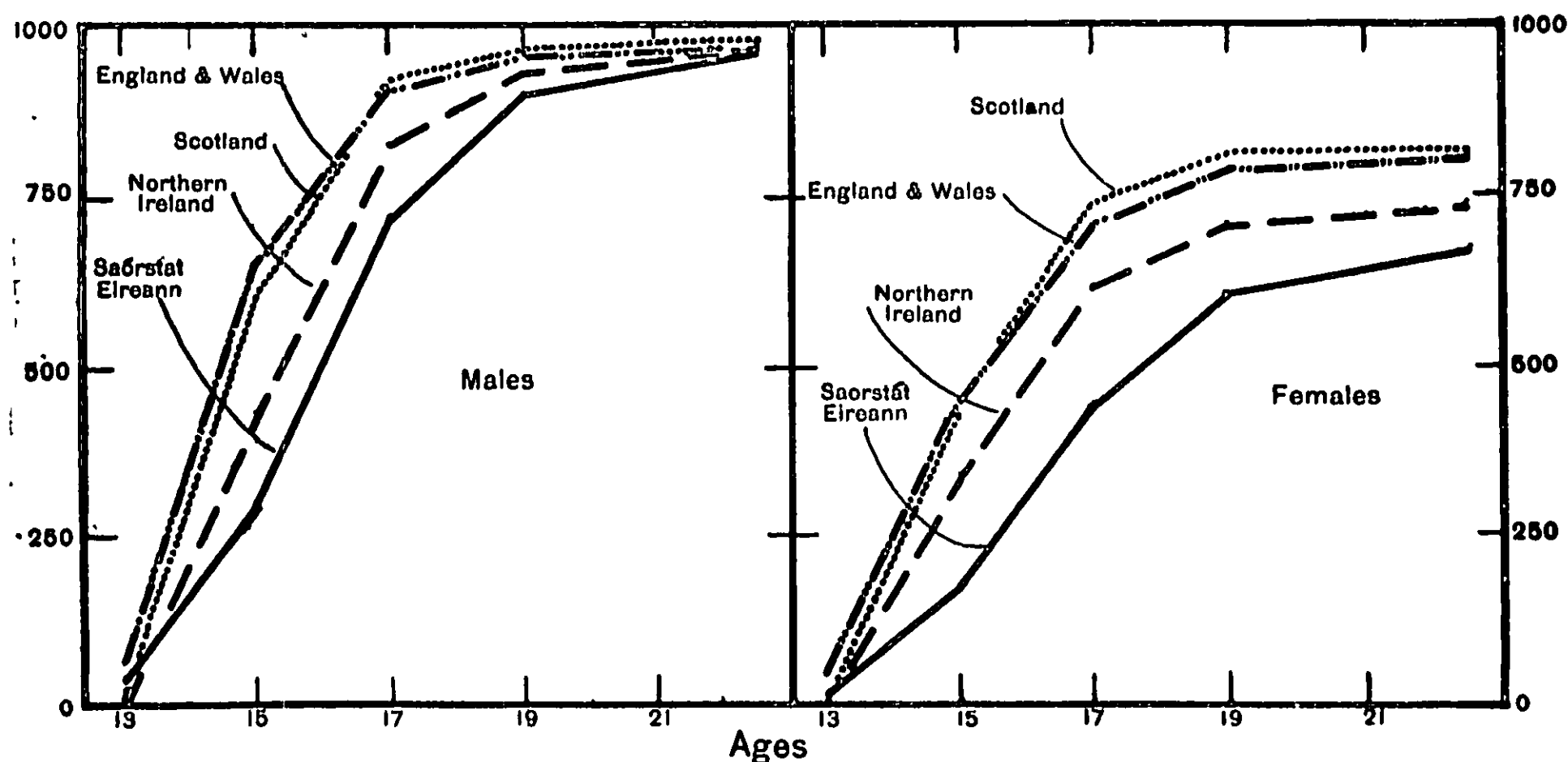
PERSONS NOT GAINFULLY OCCUPIED BY AGE GROUPS.

Ages	Saorstát Éireann (1926)	Northern Ireland (1926)	Scotland (1921)	England and Wales (1921)
As percentages of total population at the specified ages.				
ALL MALES :—				
14 and 15 ...	70	56	40	35
16 „ 17 ...	28	17	8	9
18 „ 19 ...	9	6	3	4
20 to 24 ...	4	3	2	3
25 „ 34 ...	3	3	2	2
35 „ 44 ...	4	3	2	2
45 „ 54 ...	5	4	3	3
55 „ 59 ...	7	6	} 7	{ 6
60 „ 64 ...	10	9		
65 „ 69 ...	13	15		
70 and over ...	35	44	53	59
All 12 or over ...	22	22	21	21
UNMARRIED FEMALES :—				
14 and 15 ...	83	66	56	55
16 „ 17 ...	55	38	26	29
18 „ 19 ...	39	29	19	21
20 to 24 ...	33	26	18	20
25 „ 34 ...	39	32	24	24
35 „ 44 ...	48	42	36	32
45 „ 54 ...	52	48	45	40
55 „ 59 ...	54	53	} 56	{ 47
60 „ 64 ...	58	60		
65 „ 69 ...	62	66		
70 and over ...	76	84	87	87
All 12 or over ...	54	47	40	39

The proportion of boys 16 and 17 years of age who have no gainful occupation (28%) is over three times as large as in Scotland (8%), or in England and Wales (9%), the proportion of girls of the same age who have not yet secured employment (55%) is about twice as great as in Scotland (26%) and England and Wales (29%).

DIAGRAM 14.

Number of Persons Gainfully Occupied at Ages 14-24 per 1,000 in each Age Group in Saorstát Éireann (1926), Northern Ireland (1926) England and Wales, (1921) and Scotland (1921).



On the other hand only 35% of males 70 or over are not gainfully occupied, as against 53% in Scotland and 59% in England and Wales; the contrast for unmarried females 70 or over is of the same kind, but not so striking. Taking all persons 12 years of age or over into account, there is little difference in the percentage of males unoccupied (22%) in the Saorstát as compared with England and Wales (21%), but we have a distinctly larger proportion of unmarried females unoccupied, 54% as against 40% in Scotland and 39% in England and Wales. The latter fact is presumably mainly due to the large number of unmarried females who have to attend to home duties in the unusually large number of bachelor households in this country.

The following table shows that of the 899 thousand females 20 years or over, no less than 233, or over a quarter, are single and widowed females who have no gainful occupations. (See Diagram 15).

Ages	<u>Married females</u>	Single and widowed <u>females</u>		<u>Total females</u>
		Occupied	Not gainfully occupied	
	In thousands			
20—24	15	68	33	116
25—34	92	65	43	200
35—44	111	31	29	171
45—54	101	29	29	159
55—64	56	26	28	110
65 or over	40	32	71	143
Total 20 or over ...	415	251	233	899

A comparison of the percentages of boys and girls respectively, between the ages of 14 and 17 years unoccupied in our County Boroughs, in Belfast and in a few English Cities, taken more or less haphazard, is shown in the next table.

JUVENILES NOT FOLLOWING GAINFUL OCCUPATIONS.

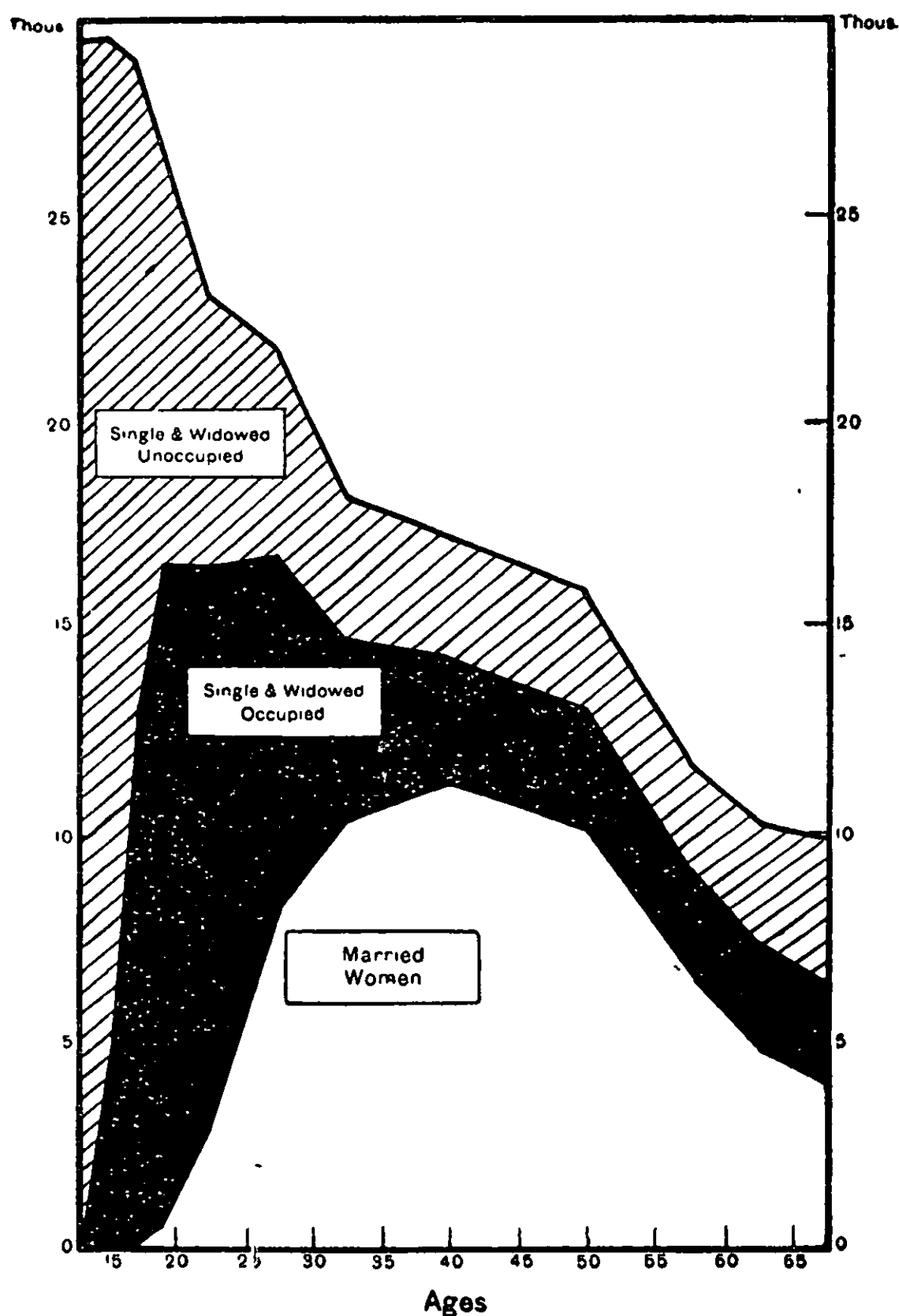
City	Boys aged		Girls aged	
	14 and 15	16 and 17	14 and 15	16 and 17
As percentages of total population at the specified ages.				
(1926)				
Limerick	89	41	94	68
Cork	82	44	90	65
Waterford	80	41	86	63
Dublin*	74	32	79	48
Belfast	55	17	51	21
(1921)				
London	42	9	53	19
Liverpool	40	9	55	26
Coventry	39	5	44	15
West Bromwich	33	4	50	19
Birmingham	32	6	42	14
Wolverhampton	32	7	54	23
Manchester	32	6	41	15
Walsall	28	5	50	18
Blackburn	15	5	17	9
Bolton	14	3	17	9
Stoke-on-Trent	11	3	21	12
Oldham	11	3	15	8

* Including the four adjoining Urban Districts.

The contrast between the proportion of boys and girls of 14 and 15 who have already found employment in our cities with the proportions for such places as Oldham or Stoke-on-Trent throws light on many of our problems. In Limerick only one out of every ten boys aged 14 or 15 is employed, as compared with nine out of ten in Oldham or Stoke-on-Trent. Only one out of twenty girls in Limerick has started work at 14 or 15 years of age, as against four out of five in Stoke-on-Trent and six out of seven in Oldham. In these matters Belfast is more like an English than an Irish town: eight out of ten girls 16 or 17 are in gainful occupations, as compared with five out of ten in Dublin and three out of ten in Limerick. While throwing immediate light on economic conditions, these figures are also helpful in considering our educational problems, and taken in conjunction with our abnormally large number of widows and orphans and the strength of family ties in this country they afford reasons for the very late age to which marriage is postponed here; we have an unusually large pro-

DIAGRAM 15.

Number of Females at Each Year of Age (a) Married
(b) Single and Widowed, Gainfully Occupied and
(c) Single and Widowed, not Gainfully Occupied.



portion of young men and women who have to support younger brothers and sisters who cannot find employment, and aged widowed mothers, and accordingly marriages are postponed to a later age than in other countries. There are, of course, other and perhaps stronger reasons for the late age of marriage here.

More than half of the persons gainfully occupied in this country are engaged in agriculture ; 57% of our "occupied" males and 35% of our "occupied" females follow agricultural occupations, but the percentages vary greatly with age, and the following table shows that agriculture employs an abnormally large number of young and old people :—

PERSONS IN AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS AS PERCENTAGE OF ALL PERSONS GAINFULLY OCCUPIED.

Ages				Saorstát Éireann (1926)	Northern Ireland (1926)	Scotland (1921)	England & Wales (1921)
MALES—				%	%	%	%
14—15	...	...	...	71	38	16	12
16—17	...	...	...	64	35	13	11
18—19	...	...	...	56	31	11	10
20—24	...	...	...	49	28	9	8
25—34	...	...	...	48	26	8	7
35—44	...	...	...	52	30	9	8
45—54	...	...	...	58	36	11	10
55—59	...	...	...	63	40	} 14 {	12
60—64	...	...	...	66	44		14
65—69	...	...	...	72	53		17
70 or over	...	...	...	82	71	28	24
All 12 or over				57	34	11	10
FEMALES—							
14—15	...	...	...	36	4	4	1
16—17	...	...	...	35	4	4	1
18—19	...	...	...	29	4	3	1
20—24	...	...	...	26	4	3	1
25—34	...	...	...	27	5	3	1
35—44	...	...	...	26	7	3	2
45—54	...	...	...	37	13	5	2
55—59	...	...	...	47	20	} 7 {	3
60—64	...	...	...	55	25		4
65—69	...	...	...	65	35		5
70 or over	...	...	...	77	59	20	8
All 12 or over				35	9	4	2

The horizontal comparison shows the great importance of agriculture in this country in providing employment for persons of every age, but it is the vertical comparison to which attention is particularly drawn ; 71% of all boys 14 or 15 years of age gainfully occupied in this country are employed in agriculture, and 82% of men 70 or over as compared with 48% of men 25 to 34. The comparatively large percentage of old persons engaged in agriculture in each of the four countries are largely due to the older persons being the survivors of larger rural populations in Great Britain as well as in this country.

When considering the younger ages, the foregoing table appears at first sight paradoxical when taken in conjunction with the tables which preceded it. There are comparatively few under 18 in gainful occupations in this country, and the above table merely shows that of these the great proportion are employed in agriculture.

The following table shows the proportion of young and old persons living in the County Boroughs and in the remainder of each province who have no gainful occupations :—

Area	Age 16 and 17		Age 65 to 69	
	Boys	Girls	Men	Single Women
	%	%	%	%
Dublin City and four adjoining Urban Districts	32	48	29	64
Cork City	44	65	26	60
Limerick City	41	68	23	65
Waterford City	41	63	33	60
Rest of Leinster	32	58	14	60
Rest of Munster	31	56	14	60
Connacht	17	55	7	62
Ulster (3 Counties)	18	52	8	63

Dublin provides more employment than any other part of the country for girls 16 or 17 years of age. In Connacht and Ulster a much smaller proportion of boys 16 or 17 are unoccupied than elsewhere in the Saorstát. In Waterford 33% of men 65 to 69 were described in the Census as not gainfully occupied, as compared with only 7% in Connacht and 8% in Ulster.

The following are the counties which have the smallest percentages of boys 16 and 17 not gainfully occupied :—Mayo, 14% ; Leitrim, 16% ; Roscommon and Monaghan, 17% ; Donegal and Cavan, 19% ; Galway, 20% ; Longford, 22% ; and Sligo, 23%. These counties form a contiguous region North-West of a line from South Galway to East Monaghan. Every county to the South and East has a larger percentage of boys not gainfully occupied at 16 and 17 years of age :—Kildare, 40% ; Dublin County (excluding City and Suburbs), 39% ; Wicklow, 36% ; Louth, 35% ; Waterford County, 34% ; Limerick County and Kerry, 32% ; Offaly, Cork County, Westmeath and Kilkenny, 31% ; Meath, Laoighise and Clare, 30% ; Tipperary, 29% ; Carlow, 28% ; Wexford, 25%.

In the counties of Connacht and Ulster, where farms are small, comparatively few youths of 16 or 17 are not gainfully occupied. In Leinster, with its large farms, and in Munster, with its medium-sized farms, a large proportion of boys 16 and 17 have no gainful occupation.

Numbers starting work at each age.

The following table shows the number of young persons following gainful occupations in this country and in England and Wales :—

Age Last Birthday	Boys		Girls	
	Saorstát Éireann (1926)	England and Wales (1921)	Saorstát Éireann (1926)	England and Wales (1921)
12 and 13 years ...	1,787	43,387	955	28,605
14 „ 15 „ ...	18,187	473,799	10,000	323,510
16 „ 17 „ ...	42,406	637,108	25,659	503,809
18 „ 19 „ ...	51,940	647,182	32,329	537,812

Some of the youths included in the group 12 and 13 were exactly 12, others were almost at age 14, so the group 12 and 13 may be considered as exactly at their 13th birthday, and similarly those 14 and 15 as exactly at their 15th birthday. Sub-

tracting the former from the latter group, we get a sufficiently accurate figure for the number who in two years took up occupations between their 13th and 15th birthdays (omitting deaths and migration) as shown in the next table :—

PERSONS STARTING WORK.

	Boys		Girls	
	Saorstát Eireann (1926)	England and Wales (1921)	Saorstát Eireann (1926)	England and Wales (1921)
Numbers entering occupations between—				
13th and 15th birthdays ...	16,400	430,412	9,045	294,905
15th „ 17th „ ...	24,219	163,309	15,659	180,299
17th „ 19th „ ...	9,534	10,074	6,670	34,003
Total, 13th to 19th birthdays ...	50,153	603,795	31,374	509,207
Percentage entering occupations between—	%	%	%	%
13th and 15th birthdays ...	33	71	29	58
15th „ 17th „ ...	48	27	50	35
17th „ 19th „ ...	19	2	21	7
Total, 13th to 19th birthdays ...	100	100	100	100

These figures represent the approximate numbers of boys and girls who start working at the ages indicated in a two-yearly period at the present time. For example, the number of boys who start working between the ages 13 and 15 in any given year is 8,200 (i.e., half of 16,400).

It will be observed that in England and Wales the majority of boys (71%) and of girls (58%) enter occupations between the 13th and 15th birthdays, but in this country the largest numbers enter between the 15th and 17th birthdays (48% and 50% respectively). In both countries boys enter occupations at a younger age than girls. In England and Wales recruitment to the occupations has practically ceased at the 17th birthday, but in this country a substantial proportion (one-fifth) take up employment for the first time after that age, and the above figures understate this movement, as emigration has set in here before the nineteenth birthday.

It is of interest to compare the age distribution of typical “blind alley” occupations in Saorstát Eireann in 1926 and in England and Wales in 1921.

Age	Actual Numbers		Percentages	
	Saorstát Eireann (1926)	England and Wales (1921)	Saorstát Eireann (1926)	England and Wales (1921)
Male Messengers—			%	%
12 and 13 years ...	72	9,838	1	8
14 „ 15 „ ...	1,655	87,414	28	69
16 „ 17 „ ...	2,555	25,897	44	20
18 „ 19 „ ...	1,571	3,307	27	3
Total under 20 ...	5,853	126,456	100	100
Male Newspaper Sellers—				
12 and 13 years ...	6	326	2	8
14 „ 15 „ ...	52	1,811	21	46
16 „ 17 „ ...	101	1,219	42	31
18 „ 19 „ ...	84	607	35	15
Total under 20 ...	243	3,963	100	100

Of the messengers under 20, no less than 77% are under 16 in England and Wales as compared with only 29% here. Of the newspaper sellers under 20, a much larger proportion are under 16 in England and Wales (54%) than in Saorstát Éireann (23%).

Calculating as before, the following table shows how early boys enter (+) and leave (—) blind alley occupations in two years in England and Wales as compared with this country :—

Boys entering(+) or leaving (—) occupations between—	Messengers		Newspaper Sellers	
	Saorstát Éireann (1926)	England and Wales (1921)	Saorstát Éireann (1926)	England and Wales (1921)
13th and 15th birthdays ...	+ 1,583	+ 77,576	+ 46	+ 1,485
15th „ 17th „ ...	+ 900	— 61,517	+ 49	— 592
17th „ 19th „ ...	— 984	— 22,590	— 17	— 612

Messenger boys and newsboys leave these occupations in England and Wales when they are 15, but in this country they wait until they are 17.

The following table shows the number of young persons in agricultural and non-agricultural occupations in Saorstát Éireann in 1926 :—

Age	Boys		Girls	
	Agricultural Occupations	Non-Agricultural Occupations	Agricultural Occupations	Non-Agricultural Occupations
12 and 13 years ...	1,590	197	463	492
14 „ 15 „ ...	12,888	5,299	3,614	6,386
16 „ 17 „ ...	27,363	15,043	9,064	16,595
18 „ 19 „ ...	28,889	23,041	9,461	22,868

In the same manner as already indicated the numbers entering these occupations in two years can be calculated with sufficient accuracy, and are tabulated as follows :—

	Boys		Girls	
	Agricultural Occupations	Non-Agricultural Occupations	Agricultural Occupations	Non-Agricultural Occupations
Numbers entering occupations between—				
13th and 15th birthdays ...	11,298	5,102	3,151	5,894
15th „ 17th „ ...	14,475	9,744	5,450	10,209
17th „ 19th „ ...	1,526	7,998	397	6,273
Total 13th to 19th birthdays	27,299	22,844	8,998	22,376
Percentage entering occupa- tions between—	%	%	%	%
13th and 15th birthdays ...	41	22	35	26
15th „ 17th „ ...	53	43	61	46
17th „ 19th „ ...	6	35	4	28
Total 13th to 19th birthdays	100	100	100	100

It will be noticed that 15 to 17 is the age at which the largest numbers of boys and girls enter both agricultural and non-agricultural occupations, but that after 17, while very few enter agriculture, large numbers adopt non-agricultural callings, in fact the number of boys taking up non-agricultural occupations between 17 and 19 is not far short of the number between the ages of 15 and 17.

The following are the approximate numbers of boys and girls who entered gainful occupations in two years in Saorstát Eireann between the ages of 13 and 15 :—

Boys		Girls	
Occupation	No.	Occupation	No.
Farmers' sons*	7,516	Farmers' daughters*	2,819
Farmers' other relatives*	662	Farmers' other relatives*	286
Agricultural labourers living in	1,505	Other agricultural occupations	46
Agricultural labourers not living in	1,473		
Other agricultural occupations	142	Total agricultural occupations... ..	3,151
Total agricultural occupations	11,298	Makers of food	231
Other producers—		Textile workers	180
Skilled (carpenters, etc.)	1,315	Apparel makers (dressmakers, etc.)	663
Unskilled	340	Others producers	173
Unclassified	76	Shop assistants	378
Messengers	1,583	Domestic servants living in	2,669
Others in transport	213	Domestic servants not living in	1,054
Shop Assistants	579	Packers	179
Theological students	94	Other non-agricultural occupations	367
Domestic servants	119		
Clerks	123	Total non-agricultural occupations	5,894
General labourers	176		
Other non-agricultural occupations	484		
Total non-agricultural occupations	5,102		
Total gainful occupations	16,400	Total gainful occupations	9,045

* Assisting on home farms.

It will be seen that nearly three-fourths of the boys (but only one-third of the girls) entering occupations between 13 and 15 adopt agriculture. Even at this early age large numbers of the boys are described as agricultural labourers (1,505 living in and 1,473 living out). Of the 5,102 boys entering non-agricultural occupations between 13 and 15 nearly a third (1,583) become messengers and a large number (579) become shop assistants.

Only about a third of the girls taking up work between 13 and 15 enter agriculture. Of the 5,894 entering non-agricultural occupations at this age nearly two-thirds (3,723) become domestic servants, a large number (663) take up sewing, dressmaking, etc., and 378 become shop assistants.

The following are the approximate numbers of boys who entered occupations in two years between the ages 15 and 17 :—

Occupation	No.	Occupation	No.
Farmers' sons*	9,058	Other producers—	
Farmers' other relatives*	854	Skilled	824
Agricultural labourers living in	1,504	Unskilled	494
Agricultural labourers not living in	2,778	Unclassified	63
Other agricultural occupations	281	Motor drivers	235
Total agricultural occupations	14,475	Drivers of horse vehicles	203
Fishermen	108	Messengers	900
Bakers	123	Porters	197
Bootmakers	139	Others in transport	311
Tailors	125	Shop assistants	1,489
Carpenters	418	Others in commerce	196
Blacksmiths	127	Theological students	233
Motor mechanics	355	Other professional students	152
Plumbers... ..	104	Barmen	316
Electrical fitters	121	Clerks	553
Printers, bookbinders, etc.	120	Packers, etc.	104
Builders' labourers	103	General labourers	545
Contractors' labourers (navvies)	340	Other non-agricultural occupations	617
Painters	129	Total non-agricultural occupations	9,744
		Total gainful occupations	24,219

* Assisting on home farm.

It will be seen that three-fifths of the boys who enter occupations between 15 and 17 are employed in agriculture. Of the remaining 9,744, those in productive occupations number 3,693, most of whom enter skilled occupations; the largest numbers amongst the latter are carpenters, 418, and motor mechanics, 355. Large numbers of boys at this age become shop assistants (1,489), messengers (900), clerks (553), and general labourers (545).

The following are the approximate numbers of girls entering occupations in two years between the ages 15 and 17 :—

Occupation	No.	Occupation	No.
Farmers' daughters*	4,909	Teachers	136
Farmers' other relatives*	464	Domestic servants living in	4,161
Other agricultural occupations	77	Domestic servants not living in	1,731
Total agricultural occupations	5,450	Barmaids	154
Makers of food	215	Laundry workers	149
Textile workers	247	Clerks	270
Apparel makers (dressmakers, etc.)	485	Typists	207
Printing, etc.	145	Packers	207
Other producers	315	Other non-agricultural occupations	495
Shop assistants	1,292	Total non-agricultural occupations	10,209
		Total gainful occupations	15,659

*Assisting on home farm.

One-third of the girls entering occupations between 15 and 17 are employed in agriculture. Of the remaining 10,209, three-fifths (5,892) become domestic servants.

A comparison of the volume of employment offered to young persons in Belfast and in Dublin (including the four adjoining Urban Districts of Rathmines and Rathgar, Pembroke, Blackrock and Dun Laoghaire) is of special interest. There is not much difference in the populations.

District	Males	Females	Total
Dublin (including the four adjoining Urban Districts)	196,041	222,940	418,981
Belfast	195,539	219,612	415,151

Calculated as previously, the numbers entering occupations in two years at each age were :—

Number entering occupations between—	Boys		Girls	
	Dublin*	Belfast	Dublin*	Belfast
13th and 15th birthdays	1,989	3,522	1,569	3,917
15th „ 17th birthdays	3,012	2,757	2,688	2,683
17th „ 19th birthdays	1,749	954	1,875	934
Total 13th to 19th birthdays	6,750	7,233	6,132	7,534

* Including the four adjoining Urban Districts.

It will be observed that between the 13th and 15th birthdays nearly twice as many boys and more than twice as many girls enter occupations in Belfast as in Dublin. In Belfast more girls than boys, in Dublin more boys than girls enter occupations at this age. Between the 17th and 19th birthdays twice as many boys and twice as many

girls take up work in Dublin as in Belfast. The total number of boys and of girls entering occupations before the 19th birthday is substantially greater in Belfast than in Dublin.

While the classification of occupations is not exactly similar for both cities, still the following comparisons are helpful :—

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF GIRLS ENTERING OCCUPATIONS IN TWO YEARS.

Between 13th and 15th birthdays			Between 15th and 17th birthdays		
Occupation	Dublin*	Belfast	Occupation	Dublin*	Belfast
Apparel ...	406	1,081	Apparel ...	26	436
Textile workers ...	338	1,421	Textile workers ...	546	1,142
Other producers ...			Other producers ...		
Shop assistants ...	142	261	Shop assistants ...	464	299
Others in commerce ...	14		Others in commerce ...	23	
Domestic servants ...	353	407	Domestic servants ...	976	286
Others in personal service ...	63		Others in personal service ...	123	
Clerks and typists ...	47	133	Clerks and typists ...	243	363
Transport ...	206	125	Other gainful occupations	287	59
Packers ...					
Other gainful occupations		43			
Total gainful occupations	1,569	3,917	Total gainful occupations	2,688	2,683

* Including the four adjoining Urban Districts.

Most of the difference in the numbers entering occupations between the ages of 13 and 15 is due to the large number getting employment in the making of apparel and in the textile mills in Belfast. The same large differences are seen for ages 15 to 17, but are counterbalanced mainly by the large numbers who become domestic servants at this age in Dublin.

The following are the corresponding figures for boys :—

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF BOYS ENTERING OCCUPATIONS IN TWO YEARS.

Between 13th and 15th birthdays			Between 15th and 17th birthdays		
Occupation	Dublin*	Belfast	Occupation	Dublin*	Belfast
Carpenters ...	44	134	Carpenters ...	70	292
Other wood workers ...	80		Other wood workers ...	91	
Metal workers ...	189	429	Metal workers ...	334	567
Textile workers ...	309	388	Textile workers ...	558	362
Other producers ...			Other producers ...		
Transport :			Transport :		
Rail, road and water	59	52	Rail, road and water	171	126
Messengers, etc. ...	830	1,300	Messengers, etc. ...	631	—574
Shop assistants ...	161	450	Shop assistants ...	289	455
Others in commerce ...	55		Others in commerce ...	63	
Clerks ...	75	111	Clerks ...	299	295
Other gainful occupations	187	256	Other gainful occupations	506	515
Total gainful occupations	1,989	3,522	Total gainful occupations	3,012	2,757

* Including the four adjoining Urban Districts.

The difference in the numbers entering occupations at 13 to 15 is due mainly to the large numbers in Belfast who become messengers, or textile workers, or metal workers. It will be noticed that in Belfast messengers change their occupation between 15 and 17, while in Dublin they are still being largely recruited at this age.

Age distribution of occupied persons.

The following table shows the different age distributions of gainfully occupied males and females in the Saorstát in 1926 :—

Ages				Males	Females
				%	%
Under 20 years	...	...		12	20
20 to 24	„	...	...	13	20
25 to 34	„	...	...	20	21
35 to 54	„	...	...	34	21
55 or over	„	...	...	21	18
Total gainfully occupied				100	100

Only 25% of the occupied males are under 25 years of age, as compared with 40% of the occupied females.

While only 25% of all occupied males are under 25 years of age, over 50% in the following occupations are under 25.

Occupation				% under 25 years	Occupation				% under 25 years
Messengers	...	...	...	92	Shoe forging (unskilled)	...	...	...	59
Soldiers	...	...	...	67	Sons assisting farmers	...	...	...	52
Newspaper sellers	...	...	...	66	Motor mechanics	...	...	...	52
Cleaners (Railway)	...	...	...	63	Barmen	...	...	...	52
					Shop assistants	...	...	...	51

Taking all occupied females into account, 40% are under 25 years of age, but in the following occupations 50% or over are under 25 :—

Occupation				% under 25 years	Occupation				% under 25 years
Packers	...	...	...	73	Domestic servants	...	...	...	56
Daughters assisting farmers	...	...	...	67	Embroiderers	...	...	...	55
Typists	...	...	...	63	Barmaids	...	...	...	54
Makers of food	...	...	...	61	Waitresses	...	...	...	53
Shop assistants	...	...	...	59	Milliners	...	...	...	53
Hairdressers	...	...	...	59	Sewers	...	...	...	52
Bootmakers	...	...	...	58	Textile workers	...	...	...	50
Workers in printing	...	...	...	56	Clerks	...	...	...	50

Occupations followed by persons at the later ages.

The following are the percentages of persons 55 years of age or over in agricultural and other occupations :—

				Males	Females
				%	%
Agricultural occupations	...			26	32
Other occupations	...	...		15	11
All occupations	...	...		21	18

The percentages for agriculture are high on account of the large number of farmers 55 years of age or over : no less than 49% of our male farmers and 70% of our female farmers are 55 years or over. At the ages of 65 and over the number of male farmers

is 58,894, and the number of female farmers 22,377, so that the total of male and female farmers at these ages is no less than 81,271. The percentages aged 55 or over are much higher than in Great Britain, as the next table shows :—

PERCENTAGE OF FARMERS AGED 55 YEARS OR OVER.

Occupation	Saorstát Eireann (1926)	Scotland (1921)	England and Wales (1921)
Male Farmers	% 49	% 37	% 32
Female Farmers	70	60	56

The following are the average ages of farmers in the countries specified :—

	Saorstát Eireann (1926)	Scotland (1921)	England and Wales (1921)
Male Farmers	Years 55	Years 50	Years 48
Female Farmers	61	57	56

The proportion of our farmers aged 55 or over is greater on small than on large farms, the percentage of male farmers of this age gradually and regularly decreasing from 59% on farms of 1 to 5 acres to 45% on farms of 100-200 acres.

The proportion of males 55 or over in all non-agricultural occupations is 15%, but it is 25% or over in the following non-agricultural occupations, each of which has a total of over 500 in the occupation :—

Occupation	% aged 55 or over	Occupation	% aged 55 or over
Watchmen	48	Railway officials (not clerks) ...	30
Protestant Clergymen	45	Drivers of horse vehicles (passenger)	28
Caretakers,	41	Masons	27
Church officials	38	Coopers	27
Hotel and boarding-house keepers ...	35	Shopkeepers	26
Catholic Clergymen	33	Bootmakers	25
Auctioneers and valuers	33	Fishermen	25
Solicitors	31	Agents and factors	25
Publicans	31		

The proportion of females aged 55 or over in non-agricultural occupations is 11%, but the percentage is much higher in the following occupations :—caretakers, 49% ; publicans, 44% ; shopkeepers, 37% ; hotel and boarding-house keepers, 34% ; nuns, 30% ; charwomen, 29% ; hawkers, 27% ; midwives, 21%.

Perhaps more realistic results can be obtained by expressing the number of males at, say, 50 years of age as a percentage of those in the same occupation at, say, 22½, bearing in mind that (a) under present conditions of health about 83% of males aged 22½ would survive to 50 years of age, (b) those aged 50 in agricultural occupations are 81% of those aged 22½, and (c) that those aged 50 in non-agricultural occupations are only 56% of those aged 22½.

NUMBER OF MALES AGED 50 AS A PERCENTAGE OF MALES AGED 22½.

Occupation	%	Occupation	%	Occupation	%
Civic Guard ...	1	Agricultural labourers living in ...	31	Insurance canvassers ...	62
Soldiers ...	1	Fitters ...	36	Cartwrights ...	62
Bank clerks ...	3	Sugar, sweet and jam makers ...	37	Sawyers ...	64
Railway cleaners ...	5	Porters ...	37	General labourers ...	67
Motor mechanics ...	6	Van salesmen ...	38	Bootmakers ...	73
Messengers ...	6	Shipping clerks ...	38	Watch and clockmakers ...	74
Barmen ...	8	Cabinet makers ...	39	Agricultural labourers living out ...	74
Sons assisting farmers ...	8	"Mechanics" ...	41	Drivers of carts, etc. ...	75
Insurance clerks ...	13	Packers ...	44	Male domestic servants living out ...	75
Shop assistants ...	13	Foundry workers ...	44	Tailors ...	75
Railway firemen ...	14	Christian brothers ...	45	Carpenters ...	76
Drivers of motors ...	17	Tinsmiths ...	45	Bakers ...	76
Makers of tobacco ...	20	Railway porters ...	51	Pig dealers ...	78
Cycle mechanics ...	23	Law clerks ...	54	Creamery workers ...	80
Clerks (all) ...	27	Drovers ...	57	Contractors' labourers ...	82
Bus and tram conductors ...	27	Petty ship officers ...	59	Painters ...	82
Domestic servants living in ...	27	Plumbers ...	59	"Grain millers" ...	82
Electrical fitters ...	23	Textile workers ...	61		
Railway clerks ...	29				

In some of the above occupations the numbers at 50 are small in comparison with those at 22½ because the occupations are new; for instance, motor mechanics, 6%; drivers of motors, 17%; bus and tram conductors, 27%; electrical fitters, 28%; etc.; in others partly because of a large recent development of old occupations—makers of tobacco, 20%; sugar, sweet and jam makers, 37%; cabinet makers, 39%; the percentages in these cases are small because of increases in the total numbers in the occupations principally in the earlier ages. The figures for other occupations are small partly because they are the natural avenues to more lucrative occupations, thus many of the sons assisting farmers (8%) have become "farmers" by 50, many shop assistants (13%) have become shop keepers, commercial travellers, etc., railway clerks, 29% have gone into the class "station masters and other railway officials," and so on.

The following are the occupations in which the number aged 50 is more than 83% of the number at 22½.

In order to bring out the significance of this table the figures here are shown not as per 100, but per unit.

NUMBER OF MALES 50 YEARS OF AGE DIVIDED BY NUMBER OF MALES AGED 22½.

Stationmasters and railway officials ...	38.7	Auctioneers ...	3.0	Medical doctors ...	1.2
Protestant Episcopalian Clergy ...	28.2	Farm foremen ...	2.8	Dock labourers ...	1.2
Railway guards... ..	15.0	Gamekeepers ...	2.6	Journalists ...	1.2
Publicans ...	14.1	Navigating officers ...	2.5	Relatives (not sons) assisting farmers ...	1.2
Catholic Clergy ...	10.7	Insurance officials ...	2.3	Grooms ...	1.1
Engine drivers ...	7.4	Masons ...	2.1	Compositors ...	1.1
Signalmen ...	7.2	Owners of garages ...	2.1	Slaters ...	1.1
Watchmen ...	6.8	Platelayers ...	2.0	Saddlers ...	1.0
Bank officials ...	5.5	Agents and factors ...	1.7	Coopers ...	0.98
Tram drivers ...	5.0	Workers in gas works ...	1.6	Blacksmiths ...	0.98
Shopkeepers ...	4.5	Drivers of horse vehicles (passenger) ...	1.6	Storekeepers ...	0.97
Caretakers ...	4.4	Gardeners ...	1.6	Mental attendants ...	0.96
Dock officials, etc. ...	4.4	Commercial travellers ...	1.5	Builders' labourers ...	0.92
Farm managers... ..	4.2	Local Authority officials ...	1.4	Teachers ...	0.91
Hotel, etc. keepers ...	3.4	Cattle and sheep dealers ...	1.4	Civil servants ...	0.88
Solicitors ...	3.4	Civil engineers... ..	1.3	Plasterers ...	0.87
Timekeepers ...	3.0	Bricklayers ...	1.3	Postmen and sorters ...	0.86
		Brewery clerks ...	1.2	Fishermen ...	0.85

The above method selects the occupation to which age brings promotion, railway officials (not clerks), publicans, bank officials (not clerks), farm managers, insurance officials (not clerks), commercial travellers, etc.; also occupations for which persons are in training only and have not entered at 22½; clergymen, solicitors, civil engineers, doctors, etc. In other cases the figures appear to reflect the decreasing requirements of a smaller population (e.g., the figures for masons, gardeners, bricklayers, slaters, teachers, plasterers) who need fewer recruits than formerly.

The following tables suggest some interesting contrast in age distribution :—

CLERGYMEN.

				Average age	Percentage under 45 years
				Years	%
Catholic—				49	44
In Saorstát Eireann (1926)	...	...	...	46	50
In England and Wales (1921)	...	...	...
Protestant—				53	26
In Saorstát Eireann (1926)	...	...	...
Anglican—				51	33
In England and Wales (1921)	...	...	...

The contrasts in other professions are also striking :—

			Under 30	30 to 44	45 or over	Total
			%	%	%	%
Barristers	...	...	9	36	55	100
Solicitors	...	...	13	28	59	100
Doctors	...	...	24	37	39	100

The following are a few other interesting contrasts got by taking two occupations each amongst workers in the building trade, the woodworking and joinery trade, transport and agriculture, respectively. In the first two trades the second group of ages is 25 to 44 in building and 25 to 34 in woodworking and joinery, while in the latter two the first age group is under 35 years. The purpose of making these distinctions was to bring out the contrasts in each case all the more forcibly.

			Under 25	25 to <u>44</u>	<u>45</u> or over	Total
			%	%	%	%
Masons	...	...	9	37	54	100
Plasterers	...	...	25	38	37	100

			Under 25	25 to <u>34</u>	<u>35</u> or over	Total
			%	%	%	%
Coopers	...	...	14	17	69	100
Cabinet makers	...	...	39	21	40	100

			Under 35	35 or over	Total
			%	%	%
Drivers of horse vehicles	...	...	28	72	100
(passenger)	...	...	71	29	100
Motor drivers...	...	...	
Sons assisting farmers	...	...	83	17	100
Other relatives assisting farmers	...	...	36	64	100

Ages of Labourers and Males engaged in Agriculture.

The ages of the following five classes of labourers are worth comparing :— Contractors' labourers, i.e., road labourers, etc. (25,389 in all), dock labourers (6,363), builders' labourers (9,975), general and undefined labourers (22,955) and agricultural labourers living out (89,117). The number of general labourers aged 20 to 25 was 3,167, that is, 633 per year of age about 22½ and 633 is 28 per 1,000 of the total (22,955). In this way the following table was calculated :—

NUMBER OF LABOURERS AT EACH YEAR OF AGE PER 1,000 LABOURERS.

Age	Dock Labourers	Contractors' Labourers	Builders' Labourers	General Labourers	Agricultural Labourers (Out)
15	—	1	1	4	9
17	4	8	6	16	24
19	10	17	14	25	<u>29</u>
22½	19	25	22	<u>28</u>	26
27½	24	<u>26</u>	<u>29</u>	24	20
32½	<u>24</u>	21	25	21	17
40	23	20	24	19	17
50	22	21	20	19	19
57½	16	15	12	13	14
62½	11	10	8	10	10
67½	7	8	5	8	10

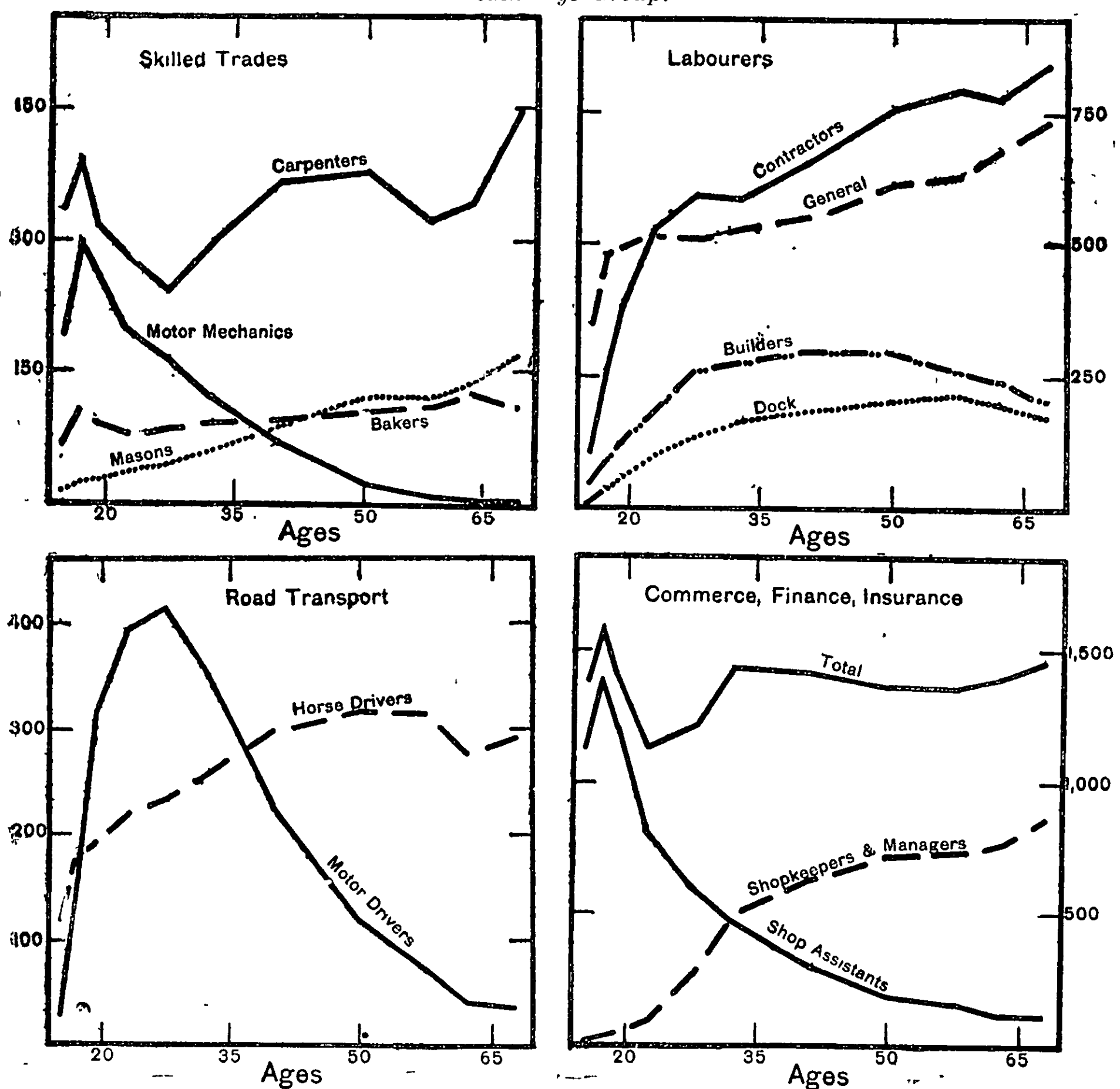
It will be observed that agricultural labourers (living out) are most numerous at age 19, general labourers at 22½, builders' labourers and contractors' labourers at 27½ and dock labourers between 27½ and 32½. The following table expresses the matter in a more summary way:—

	Agricultural Labourers (out)	General Labourers	Builders' Labourers	Contractors' Labourers	Dock Labourers
Average age in years	39	39	39	40	41
Percentage under 25	25.5	22.8	15.5	18.0	12.5

Attention is directed to Diagram 16 in which the age distribution in certain representative non-agricultural occupations are contrasted by a method differing

DIAGRAM 16.

Number of MALES in Certain Occupations per 1,000 Males in all Non-Agricultural Occupations in each Age Group.



from that used in the foregoing analysis, namely, that of expressing the actual number in each age group in a given occupation as a proportion of the total in all non-agricultural occupations in the same age group. Caution should be used in making comparisons between the sections of the diagram as it will be observed that different scales are used in the sections and the degree of upward or downward movement is strictly comparable only in respect of the occupations referred to in the same section. The contrasts between such declining occupations as masons, horse drivers, with the newer occupations motor drivers and motor mechanics will be noted; also the indication of the ages at which shop assistants become shopkeepers; and the fact that there seems to be a tendency for workers to drift into the labourer class with increasing age.

The number of persons aged 16 to 19, inclusive, who were described as male farmers or male relatives assisting farmers on 1 to 5 acre farms, was 1,352. One-fourth of these, or 338, may be taken as the number in the middle year, i.e., aged $17\frac{1}{2}$ to $18\frac{1}{2}$. Similarly, the number in the year 22 to 23 may be taken as 240. Accordingly, the number of male farmers and farmers' male relatives on 1 to 5 acre farms aged $22\frac{1}{2}$ years was 29% less than those aged 18. This deficit in the numbers of male farmers and farmers' male relatives aged $22\frac{1}{2}$, as compared with the numbers aged $17\frac{1}{2}$ to $18\frac{1}{2}$ is due almost entirely to emigration.

Proceeding in the above manner, the following table was calculated:—

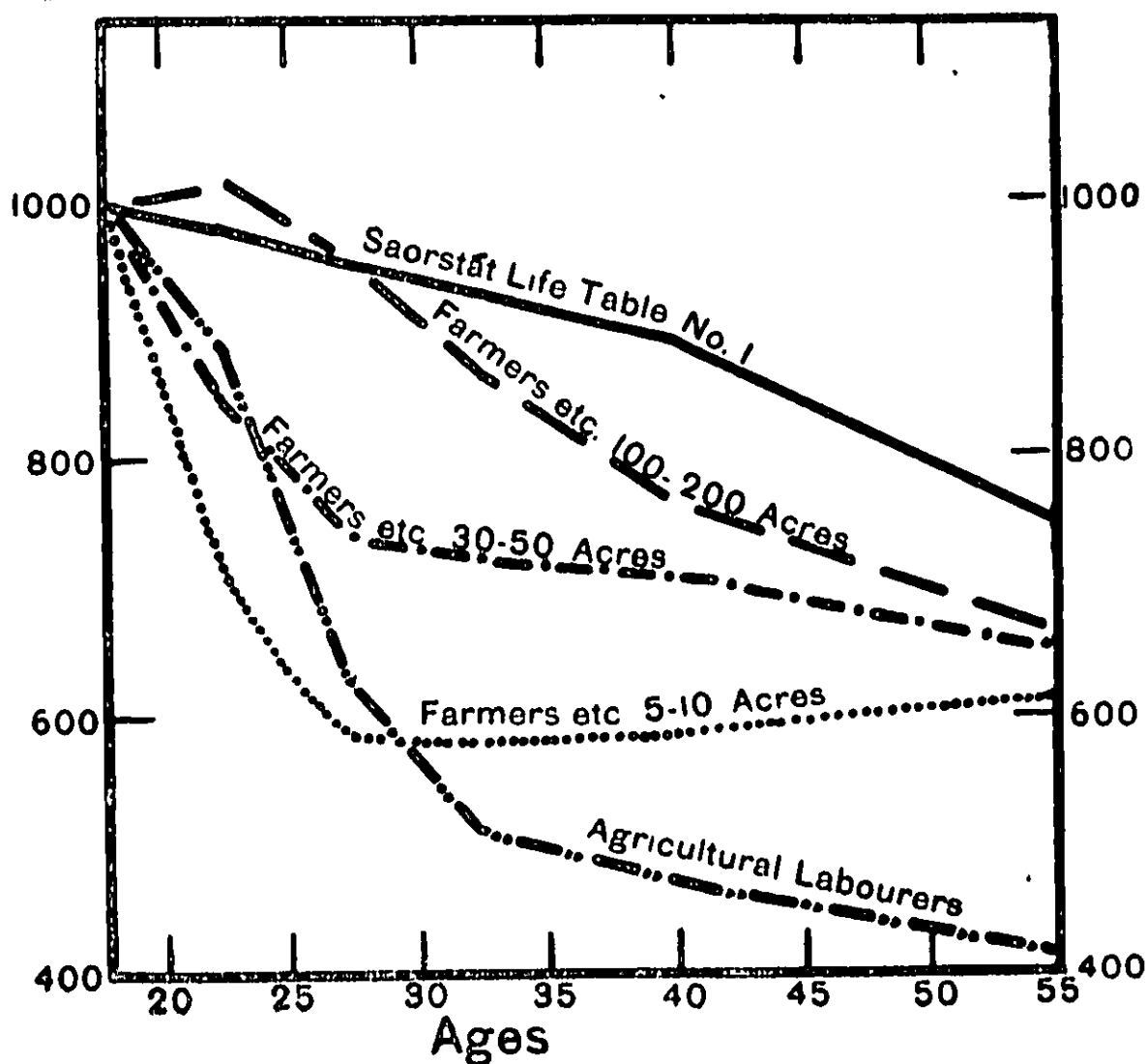
PERCENTAGE DIFFERENCE IN THE NUMBERS OF MALES AT DIFFERENT AGES.

	From 18 to $22\frac{1}{2}$	From $22\frac{1}{2}$ to $27\frac{1}{2}$	From $27\frac{1}{2}$ to $32\frac{1}{2}$	From $32\frac{1}{2}$ to 40	From 40 to 50
	%	%	%	%	%
Male farmers and male relatives assisting on farms—					
1—5 Acres ...	— 29	— 23	— 11	+ 9	+ 16
5—10 „ ...	— 29	— 21	— 2	+ 5	+ 16
10—15 „ ...	— 32	— 14	— 1	+ 1	+ 18
15—30 „ ...	— 22	— 13	— 7	+ 2	+ 14
30—50 „ ...	— 15	— 13	— 2	— 2	+ 6
50—100 „ ...	— 6	— 9	— 7	— 5	+ 3
100—200 „ ...	+ 2	— 6	— 9	— 12	—
Over 200 „ ...	+ 7	— 17	— 20	— 4	+ 4
All sizes ...	— 18	— 13	— 5	— 1	+ 10
Agricultural labourers	— 12	— 28	— 19	— 7	+ 8
Non-agricultural occs.	+ 28	— 10	— 18	— 12	— 14
Saorstát Life Table ...	— 2	— 2	— 3	— 5	— 8

It is suggested that the above table (and Diagram 17 based on it) can be interpreted thus. The last line shows that from age 18 to age $22\frac{1}{2}$ about 2% of males die. Accordingly, 27% to 30% leave farms under 15 acres between these ages; most of them emigrate, but many find work as agricultural labourers (in which occupation there is a decrease of only 12%). On the large farms the numbers increase between 18 and $22\frac{1}{2}$ as the members of the family start work at a later age than on small farms. Similarly, the numbers in non-agricultural occupations increase between 18 and $22\frac{1}{2}$, as large numbers enter such occupations at this comparatively late age. From $22\frac{1}{2}$ to $27\frac{1}{2}$ there is another large exodus from

DIAGRAM 17.—MALES.

Numbers of Farmers and Relatives Assisting on certain Sizes of Farms and Agricultural Labourers at each Year of Age per 1,000 of the respective Numbers aged 18 years.



small farms and a still larger fall in the numbers of agricultural labourers. From 32½ to 40 the numbers on small farms increase, presumably due to the return to their home farms of agricultural labourers (whose numbers are still falling more than deaths would account for), road labourers, etc. There are similar movements from age 40 to 50. In reading the above table, it should be noticed that the last column refers to a period of 10 years and the figures are accordingly greater than in the second last column, which covers only 7½ years. The following table for each County contrasts the numbers of farmers and relatives assisting on farms aged 40 years as percentages of those aged 18.

MALE FARMERS AND MALE RELATIVES ASSISTING FARMERS—THOSE AGED 40 EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THOSE AGED 18. BY COUNTIES.

County					%	County					%
Tipperary	...	...	...	...	99	Offaly	...	...	...	...	83
Louth	...	...	...	...	98	Cavan	...	...	...	...	79
Meath	...	...	...	...	98	Longford	...	...	...	...	73
Carlow	...	...	...	...	96	Cork*	...	...	...	...	72
Limerick*	...	...	...	...	96	Clare	...	...	...	...	70
Kilkenny	...	...	...	...	96	Monaghan	...	...	...	...	69
Wicklow	...	...	...	...	94	Roscommon	...	...	...	...	68
Dublin†	...	...	...	...	94	Sligo	...	...	...	...	60
Wexford	...	...	...	...	92	Leitrim	...	...	...	...	59
Westmeath	...	...	...	...	90	Donegal	...	...	...	...	57
Laoighis	...	...	...	...	89	Galway	...	...	...	...	55
Kildare	...	...	...	...	89	Kerry	...	...	...	...	52
Waterford*	...	...	...	...	87	Mayo	...	...	...	...	46

* Excluding Co. Borough. † Excluding Co. Borough and 4 adjoining Urban Districts.

These figures indicate the great migration of members of farmers' families from the counties on the western seaboard; in Mayo the numbers in farmers' families working on the farms at 40 years of age is only 46% of those aged 18.

Conjugal Conditions of persons in different occupations.

In Chapter VI above it was shown that this country holds a unique position in its exceedingly low percentage of young married men. The following table shows clearly that this is not in any way due to the occupations of our people. In each occupation there is a much larger proportion of young men married in England and Wales than here.

PERCENTAGE OF MALES AGED 20 TO 24 AND AGED 25 TO 34 WHO WERE MARRIED

Occupation				Age 20 to 24		Age 25 to 34	
				Saorstát Eireann (1926)	England and Wales (1921)	Saorstát Eireann (1926)	England and Wales (1921)
				%	%	%	%
Sons assisting farmers	...	...	...	1	4	5	19
Teachers	...	...	...	1	8	26	58
Shop assistants	...	...	...	2	10	19	54
Fishermen	...	...	...	2	27	24	71
Professional group	...	...	...	3	12	30	56
Carpenters	...	...	...	3	16	32	67
Agricultural labourers	...	...	...	3	13	24	56
Tailors	...	...	...	4	12	29	58
Bakers	...	...	...	5	16	44	67
Civil Service	...	...	...	6	13	39	55
Bootmakers	...	...	...	7	15	39	61
Farmers	...	...	...	10	22	47	66
Navvies	...	...	...	10	26	40	66
General labourers	...	...	...	10	22	45	62
Shopkeepers	...	...	...	14	25	51	74
Builders' labourers	...	...	...	16	24	55	67
All Males	...	...	...	4	18	28	65

At the age 25 to 34 England and Wales have more than twice as large a proportion of married men amongst sons assisting farmers, fishermen, shop assistants, carpenters, teachers and agricultural labourers. It will be noticed that the occupations in which least are married young are much the same here as in England and Wales; fishermen stand out as a conspicuous exception. In Saorstát Eireann they have the fourth lowest percentage, in England and Wales the highest at 20 to 24, and second highest at 25 to 34. Of the above occupations civil servants in England and Wales have the third lowest percentage married at 25 to 34, but in Saorstát Eireann their rank is not nearly so low; still 55% of civil servants aged 25 to 34 are married in England and Wales as compared with only 39% here.

The following is the percentage of males single at 25 to 29 in this country in those occupations in which the smallest proportion are single at this age. (The total number married, widowed and single at 25-29 is at least 50 in each of the occupations selected).

MALES—PERCENTAGE SINGLE AND TOTAL NUMBER AGED 25 to 29.

Occupation	% single	Total in the occupation	Occupation	% single	Total in the occupation
Tinsmiths	40	121	Tram drivers	54	74
Unskilled workers in brewing ...	45	276	Dock labourers	54	769
General labourers in the coal trade	47	231	Unskilled workers in Distilleries	54	55
Hawkers	48	134	in Biscuit making	55	97
Workers in gas works	49	125	Firemen and donkeymen	55	73
Builders' labourers	50	1,452	Grocery shopkeepers	55	279
Railway ticket collectors	51	78	Storekeepers and warehousemen	55	192
Unskilled workers in bakeries and flour confectionery ...	52	62	Dairy shopkeepers	56	69
Railway shunters	52	79	Unskilled workers in bacon factories	57	56
Coal porters	52	81	Cart drivers	58	1,167
Newspaper sellers	53	57	Boilermakers', plumbers', etc., labourers	58	97
General labourers employed by Local Authorities	53	470	Railway signalmen	59	83
by Railways	54	54	Hairdressers	59	220
Makers of tobacco	54	63			

It will be observed that most of the above are unskilled occupations. Amongst the ordinary skilled trades the place taken by hairdressers is of special interest. The largest groups of males who marry young are builders' labourers, general labourers, dock labourers and drivers of horse carts, etc. About half the men in these occupations are married before the age of 30.

The occupations in the secondary industries (i.e., all producers other than in agriculture, fishing, mining and quarrying) can be conveniently classified into the following three main groups, for which the numbers single are shown as percentages at each age :—

MALES—PERCENTAGE SINGLE FOR CERTAIN AGE GROUPS IN INDUSTRIAL OCCUPATIONS.

Age	Unskilled workmen	Skilled workmen	Superintending staff	All classes
	%	%	%	%
20—24 years	90	94	93	92
25—29 „	61	71	72	67
30—34 „	43	50	46	47
35—44 „	31	34	24	32
45—54 „	21	25	13	22
55—64 „	18	22	10	19
65 or over „	16	19	8	17
Total Males 12 and over ...	44	52	24	47

At each age there is a smaller proportion single amongst the unskilled than amongst the skilled, and the percentage single of employers, managers and foremen in industry at ages above 35, is much less than the percentages for either the skilled or unskilled workers.

The next table shows the percentage single and the total number at age 25 to 29 in those occupations in which the largest proportion are single at that age in this country. Only occupations having 50 or more in age group 25 to 29 are included.

MALES—PERCENTAGE SINGLE AND NUMBER AGED 25 TO 29.

Occupation	% single	Total in occupation	Occupation	% single	Total in occupation
Agricultural labourers living in ...	97	4,121	Dentists ...	79	87
Farmers' sons*	97	26,975	Tailors ...	79	681
Farmers' other relatives*	96	3,325	Cattle dealers ...	79	354
Domestic servants living in ...	95	246	Superintending staff in woodworking ...	79	62
Barmen ...	93	698	Pig dealers ...	79	76
Teachers ...	89	806	Blacksmiths ...	78	591
Creamery managers ...	88	110	Carpenters ...	78	1,352
Creamery workers (so returned) ...	88	66	Woodmen ...	78	72
Shop assistants ...	87	3,325	Saddlers ...	77	163
Packers of eggs and poultry	86	71	Local Authority officials and clerks ...	76	292
Unskilled workers in shoe forging ...	84	129	Coal mining ...	76	140
Doctors ...	84	326	Glass makers ...	76	50
Analytical chemists ...	83	59	Poulterers ...	76	76
Civic Guard ...	83	3,075	Upholsterers ...	76	58
Fishermen ...	82	579	Civil Engineers and surveyors	76	119
Printers (so returned) ...	82	50	Employers and managers in tailoring ...	75	53
Messengers ...	82	155	Agricultural labourers not living in ...	75	8,971
Clerks ...	81	2,659	Chemists (shopkeepers) ...	75	67
Solicitors ...	81	93			
Masons ...	80	224			

* Assisting on home farm.

In all the occupations in the column on the left 80% or over of males aged 25 to 29 are single. The principal groups of males in which very few marry under 30 years of age are farmers' sons and other relatives assisting on farms, agricultural labourers living in, shop assistants, civic guards and clerks. There are also fairly large numbers of barmen, teachers and fishermen of this age, and few are married. It will be observed that few in the professions (e.g., doctors, solicitors, dentists, etc.) marry before 30.

The next table shows that even at the age 30 to 34 the percentage single in some of the skilled occupations still remains very high.

MALES—SKILLED TRADES—PERCENTAGE SINGLE AGED 30 TO 34.

Occupation	%	Total in Occupation	Occupation	%	Total in Occupation
Saddlers ...	72	162	Bookbinders ...	46	26
Tailors ...	62	640	Cabinet-makers ...	46	89
Masons ...	60	253	Plasterers ...	46	124
Cycle mechanics ...	59	64	Plumbers ...	44	204
Blacksmiths ...	57	581	Fitters ...	42	343
Carpenters ...	56	1,356	Hairdressers ...	42	227
Cartwrights ...	56	151	Painters and decorators ...	42	527
Bootmakers ...	52	573	Bakers ...	42	413
Motor mechanics ...	50	543	Electrical fitters ...	38	329
Compositors ...	49	109	Coopers ...	36	92
Bricklayers ...	48	87	Slaters ...	34	35

Nearly three-fourths of the saddlers, 62% of the tailors and 60% of the masons are still single at 30 to 34 as compared with 34% of the slaters, 36% of the coopers and 38% of the electrical fitters.

There is a considerable difference in the marriage rates of different classes of clerks, for instance 68% of the law clerks and 64% of the bank clerks are single at 30 to 34, as compared with 45% of brewery clerks and 48% of shipping clerks. Amongst shopkeepers the age at marriage varies much with the type of shop, 49% of butchers, 46% of hardware shopkeepers, and 43% of drapers are single at 30 to 34, as compared with 24% of keepers of sweet shops, 33% for groceries and provisions, and 35% for vegetable and fruit shopkeepers. The following contrasts also suggest themselves as of special interest :—

Occupation	Ago 25 to 29	Ago 30 to 34
	Percentage	Single
Civic Guards	83	59
Soldiers	70	38
Fishermen	82	69
Agricultural labourers (not living in) ...	75	57
Builders' labourers	50	35

Conjugal conditions of Farmers.

The total number of persons whose principal occupation was described as farmer was 268, 930, including 220,442 males and 48,488 females. The following table shows these persons classified according to conjugal conditions.

FARMERS CLASSIFIED BY CONJUGAL CONDITIONS.

Conjugal Condition	Actual Numbers		Percentages	
	Male farmers	Female farmers	Male farmers	Female farmers
Married	No. 151,230	No. 4,084	% 68	% 8
Widowed	21,241	37,097	10	77
Single	47,971	7,307	22	15
Total	220,442	48,488	100	100

It will be observed that over three-fourths (77%) of the females who were described as farmers were widows. The proportion of widows amongst females described as farmers increased as the size of the farm increases up to 50 to 100 acres. The conjugal conditions of female farmers, with each size of farm, is shown in the following table :—

FEMALE FARMERS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE OF HOLDING AND CONJUGAL CONDITIONS,
ACTUAL NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES.

Femalo Farmers	1-5 acres	5-10 acres	10-15 acres	15-30 acres	30-50 acres	50- 100 acres	100- 200 acres	Over 200 acres	Un- classi- fied
Actual Numbers									
Married ...	382	784	720	1,093	512	344	137	66	46
Widowed ...	2,502	4,774	4,982	9,795	6,502	5,358	2,176	770	238
Single ...	739	1,193	1,073	1,667	1,036	844	371	186	198
Total ...	3,623	6,751	6,775	12,555	8,050	6,546	2,684	1,022	482
As percentages of total									
Married ...	11	11	11	9	6	5	5	7	10
Widowed ...	69	71	73	78	81	82	81	75	49
Single ...	20	18	16	13	13	13	14	18	41
Total ...	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

In previous tables there were indications that the lower the social grade the lower the percentage of unmarried ; thus it was shown that the percentage of young unskilled labourers who were single was less than for skilled labourers ; the percentage single amongst young professional men was high. But in the case of male farmers it will be seen from the following table that the smaller the farm the larger, as a rule, the percentage unmarried.

MALE FARMERS.

	At 25 to 29	At 30 to 34	At 35 to 44	All ages
Percentage Single				
Male Farmers having—				
1 to 5 acres ...	62	50	38	25
5 to 10 „ ...	66	50	34	23
10 to 15 „ ...	62	44	32	22
15 to 30 „ ...	66	47	31	21
30 to 50 „ ...	63	44	28	20
50 to 100 „ ...	64	44	28	20
100 to 200 „ ...	65	44	30	21
Over 200 „ ...	65	45	25	22
All Male Farmers ...	65	46	31	22

The smaller the farm, the larger the percentage unmarried is borne out even more strongly when the percentages of male farmers aged 35 to 44 in the provinces are considered, particularly in Leinster and Munster.

MALE FARMERS—PERCENTAGE SINGLE AT AGES 35 TO 44.

	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (3 Cos.)
	%	%	%	%
Male Farmers having—				
1 to 5 acres ...	57	41	36	27
5 to 10 „ ...	44	35	28	38
10 to 15 „ ...	42	30	27	38
15 to 30 „ ...	41	27	27	38
30 to 50 „ ...	36	23	25	38
50 to 100 „ ...	35	23	31	33
100 to 200 „ ...	36	25	35	39
Over 200 „ ...	28	18	40	31
All Male Farmers ...	39	26	28	37

It will be observed from the above that for each size of farm the percentage of single farmers at 35 to 44 is higher for Leinster than for Munster.

The next table shows for each county the percentage single for male farmers irrespective of size of farm.

MALE FARMERS—PERCENTAGE SINGLE AGED 25 TO 34 AND AGED 45 TO 64.

County	% single at		County	% single at	
	25 to 34	45 to 64		25 to 34	45 to 64
	%	%		%	%
Kerry	32	8	Cavan	57	22
Mayo	43	11	Wicklow	57	24
Clare	46	16	Monaghan... ..	57	25
Cork*	50	11	Laoighis	57	28
Limerick*	51	17	Offaly	57	28
Leitrim	51	15	Louth	58	30
Sligo	51	17	Kilkenny	60	21
Galway	52	14	Tipperary	60	20
Carlow	53	27	Westmeath	61	29
Longford	54	19	Meath	61	32
Wexford	54	29	Donegal	61	27
Roscommon	55	17	Kildare	62	31
Waterford*	57	21	Dublin†	65	26

* Excluding Co. Borough.

† Excluding Co. Borough and 4 adjoining Urban Districts.

Kerry stands out conspicuously as the county in which farmers marry youngest. Less than one-third of the farmers in Kerry are unmarried at 25 to 34, as compared with two-thirds unmarried in Co. Dublin at that age. Farmers in the South-West (i.e., the Munster Counties, except Tipperary) marry youngest; those in the West (i.e., the Connacht Counties) next youngest, farmers in Leinster marry latest.