

CHAPTER X.

DEPENDENCY.

Each married man, widower and widow was required to state in Col. (0) of the Census Schedule the number of living sons, daughters, step-sons and step-daughters under 16 years of age, whether residing as members of the household or elsewhere, and the statistics in Volume IX—Dependency—are based upon the analysis of information received. Accordingly, it will be noted that “dependency” is to be interpreted in its restricted sense of “dependent children”; no account is taken in this inquiry of adults who may be supported out of the household income. Furthermore, all children under 16 years of age were not classed as “dependents”; only those who were dependent on the married and widowed sections of the population were included. Children dependent on single persons, children both of whose parents are dead, nieces, nephews, grand-children, etc., supported by married men, widowers and widows, and even children whose fathers were not residing in Saorstát Eireann on Census night, were all excluded.

The number of children under 16 years of age returned as “dependents” according to the Census definition was 855,320, constituting 92% of the total children under 16 years of age in the Saorstát. From the dependency point of view the population in 1926 may be summarised as follows:—

			Number.	Percentage of Total.
Persons 16 years of age or over:—				
Gainfully occupied ...	...	...	1,276,733	43·0
Not gainfully occupied ...	...	...	768,397	25·8
Children under 16 years of age:—				
“Dependent” children ...	...	...	855,320	28·8
Other children ...	...	...	71,542	2·4
Total population			2,971,992	100·0

The numbers of dependent children of married men, widowers and widows are shown in the following table:—

	Married Men, Widowers and Widows	Dependent Children	Average No. of Dependent Children	Percentage Distribution of Dependent Children
Married men ...	407,505	775,989	1·90	90·7
Widowers ...	59,082	31,150	0·53	3·7
Widows ...	134,741	48,181	0·36	5·6
Total ...	601,328	855,320	1·42	100·0

It will be seen that 48,181 children, 5·6% of the total dependents, were dependents of widows.

The number of dependent children per family is much the same in all the provinces:—

	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (3 Cos.)	Saorstát Eireann
Dependent children per family					
Married men ...	1·86	1·91	1·94	1·98	1·90
Widowers ...	0·51	0·54	0·52	0·54	0·53
Widows ...	0·37	0·36	0·32	0·37	0·36
Total ...	1·41	1·43	1·42	1·46	1·42

The average number of children per married man ranges from 1·86 in Leinster to 1·98 in the three Ulster Counties. It is remarkable that the relative differences between the provinces are much more pronounced in the ratios of children under 5 years of age per 1,000 married women aged 15-44 years.

Province					Children under 5 years per 1,000 married women aged 15-44 years
Leinster	...	...	...	...	1,224
Munster	...	...	...	...	1,316
Connacht	...	...	...	...	1,466
Ulster (3 Cos.)	...	...	...	...	1,450
Saorstát Eireann					1,312

The greater range of variation in the latter figures may be due in some measure to an accentuation in the provincial differences in fertility during the five years preceding the Census, compared with the averages for the fifteen year period preceding the Census.

The following are some remarkable features of the county averages of dependent children per family. The average for married men is by far the lowest, at 1·57, in the four Urban Districts adjoining Dublin City; the next lowest are Leitrim with 1·79, and Wicklow, with 1·80. The ratio for married men is highest in Kerry, with 2·10, and Kerry is also highest for widowers, with 0·64. The average numbers of children per widow are uniformly low, the Connacht counties ranging from 0·30 to 0·33, compared with 0·36 to 0·38 in the three Ulster Counties, 0·33 to 0·42 in Munster, and 0·32 to 0·43 in Leinster.

Dependency in relation to age of parent.

As this aspect of Dependency is of most importance from the actuarial as well as from other points of view the greater part of Volume IX is devoted to it. In interpreting the figures it will be borne in mind that the average age at marriage, particularly of males, is higher in this country than in most other countries, and the fertility is also higher—see Chapter VI, where this matter was dealt with. The effect of these two factors is evident in the following table, which shows the average number of dependent children per family for different ages of parents. Corresponding figures are available for England and Wales for 1921, and these have been inserted for the purposes of contrast.

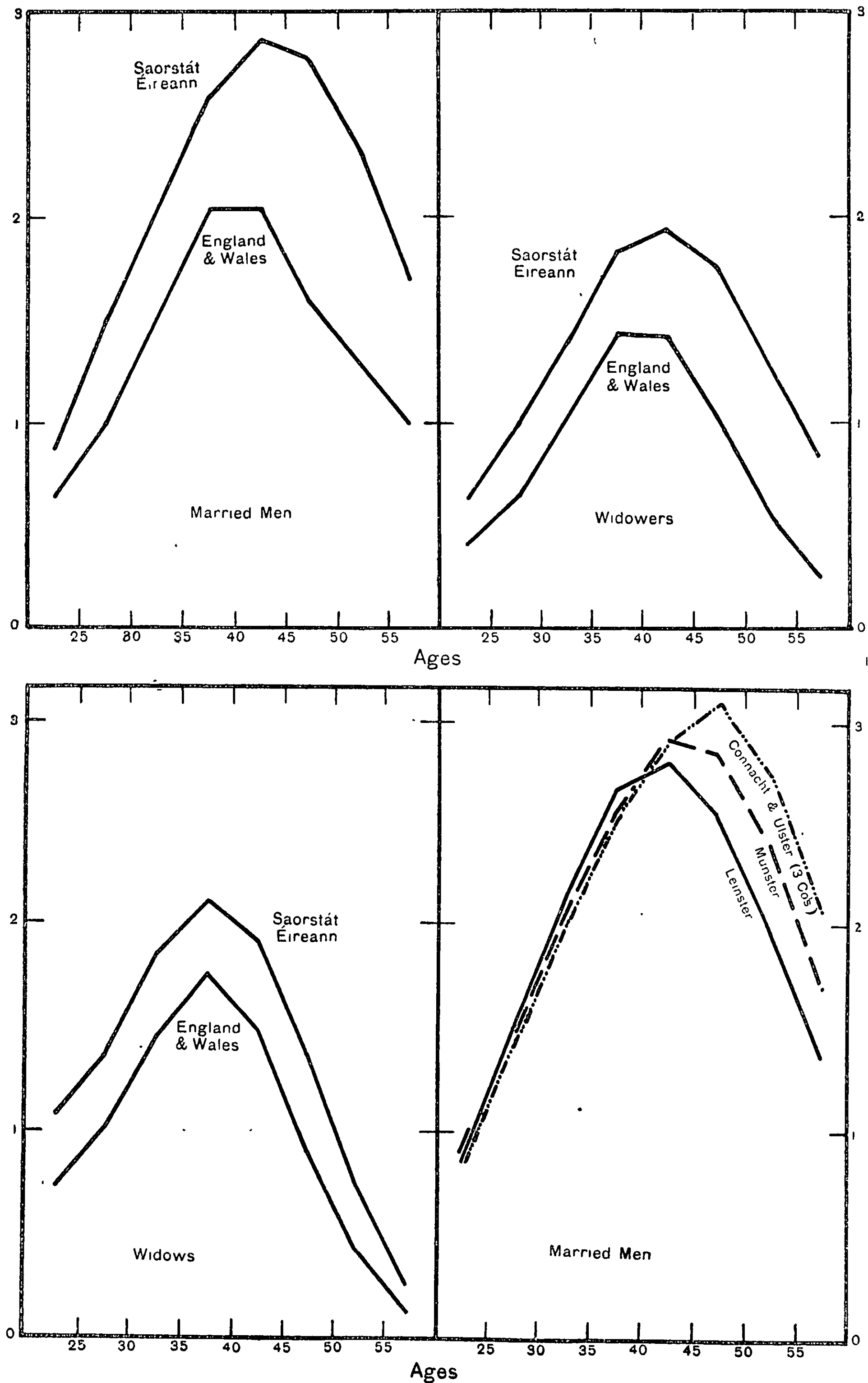
DEPENDENT CHILDREN PER FAMILY IN SAORSTÁT EIREANN IN 1926 AND IN ENGLAND AND WALES IN 1921.

	Age of Parent										All Ages*
	20—	25—	30—	35—	40—	45—	50—	55—	60—	65—69	
Married Men :											
Saorstát ...	0·88	1·40	2·08	2·60	2·89	2·80	2·33	1·70	1·05	0·58	1·90
England and Wales ...	0·65	1·01	1·56	2·06	2·05	1·60	1·01	0·52	0·23	0·11	1·27
Married Women :											
Saorstát ...	1·18	1·91	2·66	3·26	3·23	2·45	1·38	0·56	0·14	0·04	1·90
England and Wales	0·78	1·27	1·87	2·27	2·01	1·35	0·68	0·21	0·03	0·01	1·27
Widowers :											
Saorstát ...	0·63	0·99	1·41	1·84	1·95	1·77	1·29	0·84	0·38	0·18	0·53
England and Wales ...	0·42	0·64	1·03	1·45	1·43	1·03	0·56	0·24	0·08	0·03	0·32
Widows :											
Saorstát ...	1·08	1·36	1·86	2·12	1·92	1·36	0·73	0·26	0·06	0·02	0·36
England and Wales ...	0·73	1·01	1·46	1·76	1·48	0·91	0·42	0·12	0·02	0·01	0·37

* Including those not given in table.

It will be seen that as a permanent feature the burden of dependency at each age of parent is heavier in this country than in England and Wales (see Diagram 19).

DIAGRAM 19.
Average Number of Dependent Children (under 16 Years of Age) per Family in Saorstát Éireann (1926), England and Wales (1921) and Saorstát Provinces.



For married men and women of all ages the average is 1.90 in the Saorstát in 1926, or 50% in excess of the English average of 1.27 in 1921. It will also be noted that with increasing age of parent, for all marital conditions, the contrast between the figures for the two countries becomes more marked. At age 40-44 the excess in the case of married men in the Saorstát is 41%, at age 50-54 131%, at age 60-64 357%, due principally to the larger families in the Saorstát and the later age at marriage. The English figures relate to the year 1921. If the English figures for 1926 were available to compare with the Saorstát figures, the contrast would most likely be stronger. Thus, while the Registrar-General's Reports show that in England and Wales males aged 20 and over increased by 7% between 1921 and 1926, children under 16 decreased by 4%, so that the ratio of children per family declined by perhaps 10%, and in 1926 the average number of children per family might have been 65% greater in Saorstát Eireann. The difference in the size of family in the two countries is also very evident from the following table, in which the numbers of married men are classified according to number of dependent children :—

Number of Dependent Children				Number of Families as Percentage of Total	
				Saorstát Eireann (1926)	England and Wales (1921)
0*	...	...	...	39.4	43.2
1	...	...	...	14.1	23.0
2	...	...	...	13.0	15.2
3	...	...	...	11.1	8.8
4	...	...	...	8.7	5.0
5	...	...	...	6.1	2.7
6 or over	...	...	...	7.6	2.1
Total				100.0	100.0

* Including "not stated."

The percentage of Saorstát families (of married men) with three or more children is 33.5, compared with a percentage of 18.6 in England and Wales.

In families of married men the average dependency is highest at the ages 40-49 in Saorstát Eireann, when the average married man has nearly three children to support. In England and Wales the maximum is reached at the ages 35-44, or on an average about five years earlier than in the Saorstát. As might be expected, this interval closely corresponds to the difference between the average age at marriage in the two countries :—

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MARRIAGES AND AVERAGE AGE AT MARRIAGE IN SAORSTÁT EIREANN* (1925-26) AND ENGLAND AND WALES (1926).

		Percentage Distribution by Age at Marriage								Average Age at Marriage
		15—	20—	25—	30—	35—	40—	45—	50 or over	
Males :										Years
Saorstát Eireann	...	0.3	10.6	23.4	23.1	17.9	11.5	6.6	6.6	34.9
England and Wales	...	1.6	35.7	34.7	12.4	5.6	3.1	2.2	4.7	29.1
Females :										
Saorstát Eireann	...	3.7	25.4	33.8	20.2	10.5	3.6	1.6	1.2	29.1
England and Wales	...	8.2	45.6	26.9	9.1	4.2	2.2	1.5	2.3	26.6

* Based on Census Statistics for marriages of under one year's duration.

This table shows that of the males married almost three-fourths are under 30 years of age in England and Wales, as compared with one-third in the Saorstát, and of the females married one-half are under 25 in England and Wales, as compared with less than one-third in the Saorstát.

The provincial averages for married men by age groups are :—
AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF MARRIED MEN BY PROVINCES.

Province	Age of Parent										All Ages*
	20—	25—	30—	35—	40—	45—	50—	55—	60—	65— 69	
Leinster ...	0.88	1.50	2.13	2.67	2.82	2.55	1.96	1.37	0.83	0.46	1.86
Munster ...	0.90	1.48	2.05	2.55	2.93	2.87	2.39	1.69	0.97	0.50	1.91.
Connacht ...	0.87	1.48	1.92	2.50	2.93	3.13	2.75	2.10	1.37	0.73	1.94
Ulster (3 Cos.) ...	0.82	1.45	2.06	2.64	2.97	3.04	2.75	2.01	1.39	0.76	1.98

* Including those not given in table.

These series are graphed on Diagram 19. It will be seen that in the case of married men under 40 years of age the Leinster averages are highest, but that after that age the averages are higher in the other Provinces. The County Borough averages at the later ages of parents are in strong contrast with those for the rest of the Saorstát. It will be sufficient to indicate certain of the Dublin City figures :—

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF MARRIED MEN OF CERTAIN AGE GROUPS.

	20—24	40—44	60—64	All Ages
Saorstát Eireann ...	0.88	2.89	1.05	1.90
Dublin Co. Borough ...	0.89	2.74	0.44	1.84

To a large extent these contrasts are due to the widely different ages at marriage in different parts of the country, as might be deduced from the statistics of percentages of single males at the different ages (see Chapter VI).

Dependency in Relation to Occupation.

It is not possible to distribute on a dependency basis the whole population occupationally which takes dependent adults as well as children into account. As far as the Census data permit, this is done in the following table for main occupational groups :—

DEPENDENCY BY OCCUPATION OF PARENT.

Occupational Group	Total persons in Occu- pations (1)	Wives of Married Men (2)	Dependent Children under 16 years (3)	Total (4)	Percentages of Numbers in	
					Col. (4)	Col. (1)
Agriculture ...	672,129	203,709	398,606	1,274,444	52.0	51.4
Other Production ...	194,969	77,197	164,918	437,084	17.8	14.9
Transport ...	64,952	28,686	61,012	154,650	6.3	5.0
Commerce ...	85,008	25,243	45,546	155,797	6.4	6.5
Public Administration and Defence	37,333	10,190	17,442	64,965	2.7	2.9
Professions ...	55,441	8,616	15,455	79,512	3.2	4.2
Personal Service ...	127,842	8,361	14,560	150,763	6.2	9.8
Others ...	69,988	22,083	41,266	133,337	5.4	5.3
Total ...	1,307,662	384,085	758,805	2,450,552	100.0	100.0

As 23,895 married women and 30,929 children under 16 were returned as gainfully occupied, there is some relatively small duplication in columns (1), (2) and (3). It will be seen that when allowance has been made for this duplication the total of persons gainfully occupied, their wives and dependent children not gainfully occupied, account for about 2,400,000 persons or about 80% of the whole population. The remaining 600,000 includes single women and widows not gainfully occupied, single males not gainfully occupied, persons in hospitals, pensioners, etc., as well as the children under.

16 years of age who are not accounted for in the dependency statistics. These include children dependent on relatives gainfully occupied other than parents or step-parents, children dependent on pensioners and others not gainfully occupied, children dependent on public charity, as well as a number of children about whom no statement of dependency was furnished.

The 399,019 married and widowed males *at work* are returned as having 735,383 dependent children under 16 years of age, or in the ratio of 1.84 children per family. The corresponding ratios for the main industrial groups are given in the following table :—

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF MARRIED AND WIDOWED MALES.

Industrial Group	Actual	Corrected for ages of parents
Agriculture	1.80	1.99
Other Production	2.00	1.79
Transport	2.02	1.74
Commerce	1.79	1.60
Public Administration and Defence	1.97	1.71
Professions	1.42	1.34
Personal Service	1.66	1.54
Other Industries	1.55	1.45
Total	1.84	1.84

The figures in the first column show that the number of dependent children per family was highest in the groups transport, non-agricultural production and public administration, in which there were about two dependent children in every family. The ratio was lowest in the professions, with less than three children in two families. That these ratios are considerably influenced by the ages of the parents will be seen by comparing the figures in the first with those in the second column, which shows what the ratios would be if the married men and widowers were similarly distributed by ages in each of the industrial groups. The figures in the second column, therefore, compare the effective fertility in the different groups. It will be seen that by this standard the average is by far the highest in agriculture, with 1.99, and by far the lowest in the professions, with 1.34 children.

In agricultural occupations agricultural labourers (not living in) have the highest average number (2.18) of dependent children per family in this group, followed by farmers' sons, with 2.00, and farmers, with 1.93. The figures for farmers classified by size of holding are shown in the following table :—

MARRIED FARMERS (MALES) CLASSIFIED BY SIZE OF HOLDING: AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

	Size of holding in Acres								All Married Male Farmers
	1—5	5—10	10—15	15—30	30—50	50—100	100—200	200—	
Average number of dependent children per family	1.59	1.72	1.81	1.92	2.03	2.05	2.09	2.04	1.93
Percentage farmers married at ages 35-44	62	66	68	69	72	72	70	75	69

The average number of dependents increases regularly with size of holding from 1.59 on holdings of 1 to 5 acres to 2.09 on holdings of 100 to 200 acres. The second line of figures indicates that this is probably due, in some part, to the later age at marriage on the smaller holdings.

The following table shows the average number of dependent children under 16 years per family of married men in those specific occupations in which these averages were highest and lowest respectively.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN PER FAMILY OF MARRIED MEN.

Occupations with the Highest Averages	Occupations with the Lowest Averages
Coalmining ... 2.75	Agricultural Labourers, living in ... 0.97
Postmen and P.O. Sorters ... 2.47	Farmers' Relatives (other than Sons and Daughters) ... 0.99
Foremen and Onlookers, Building Occupations ... 2.40	Clergymen ... 1.04
Skilled Workers in Bacon Curing ... 2.39	Civic Guard ... 1.22
Tinsmiths ... 2.38	Hotel, Restaurant and Boarding House Keepers ... 1.30
Contractors' Labourers, Navvies ... 2.38	Caretakers ... 1.30
Railway Signalmen ... 2.38	Church Officials ... 1.31
Railway Guards ... 2.37	Watchmen ... 1.38
Teachers ... 2.37	Solicitors ... 1.43
Platelayers ... 2.35	Shipowners, Harbour Officials ... 1.46
Van Salesmen and Canvassers ... 2.35	Bank Officials (not Clerks) ... 1.48
Makers of Fertilisers ... 2.34	Civil Engineers and Surveyors ... 1.52
Unskilled Makers of Food ... 2.33	Agents and Factors (for Coal, Drapery, etc.) ... 1.52
Quarrying Occupations ... 2.32	Clerks ... 1.55
Smiths ... 2.31	Medical Doctors ... 1.61
Railway Porters ... 2.27	Commercial Travellers ... 1.62
Foundry Workers ... 2.26	Drivers of Horse Vehicles (for Passengers) 1.65
Unskilled Makers of Drinks ... 2.26	
Sawyers and Wood Machinists ... 2.24	
Railway Ticket Collectors and Checkers ... 2.23	
Drivers of Horse Vehicles, Lorries, Carts and Vans ... 2.23	
Dock Labourers ... 2.21	
Racehorse Trainers, Jockeys ... 2.21	
Masons ... 2.21	
Plasterers ... 2.19	
Builders Labourers ... 2.18	
Agricultural Labourers, not living in ... 2.18	
Stationery Engine Drivers ... 2.18	

In each occupation in which more than 10,000 Males were recorded at the 1926 Census the average number of dependent children of each married man was as follows:—farmers, 1.93; farmers' sons, 2.00; farmers' other relatives, 0.99; agricultural labourers (not living in), 2.18; agricultural labourers (living in), 0.97; carpenters, 2.09; contractors' labourers (navvies), 2.38; drivers of motor vehicles, 2.14; drivers of horse vehicles, 2.15; shopkeepers, 1.83; shop assistants, 1.71; army, 1.70; clerks, 1.55; general (and undefined) labourers, 2.01.

Ages of Husbands and Wives.

In Table 5 of Volume IX there is an interesting analysis by ages of the 384,644 husbands and wives who were enumerated on the same Census schedules. The following is a digest of the table:—

RELATIVE AGES OF HUSBANDS AND WIVES.

(A) Average age of Wife by Husbands' Age Groups.

Husbands' Age Group ...	15—	20—	25—	30—	35—	40—	45—	50—	55—	60—	All Ages
Average Age of Wife ...	22.9	24.3	27.5	30.8	34.2	38.3	42.3	46.7	51.0	61.0	45.3
(B) Average Age of Husband by Wives' Age Groups											
Wives' Age Group ...	15—	20—	25—	30—	35—	40—	45—	50—	55—	60	All Ages
Average Age of Husband	27.6	30.5	34.4	38.9	43.6	48.4	52.7	57.4	61.5	69.8	50.5

The average age of husbands was 50·5 years and of wives 45·3 years, so that the average difference in age was 5·2 years, closely corresponding, as might be expected, with the difference in age at marriage (see table on page 84).

No deduction can safely be drawn as to differences in ages of husbands and wives *in each age group* because, as the foregoing table shows, apparently paradoxical results will appear according as to whether the classification is by ages of husbands or ages of wives. This is particularly evident in the extreme age groups. Thus, it is found that wives aged 80-84 (or, say, average age 82) are married to husbands aged 79·8 years on an average, or a difference of about 3 years, while husbands aged 80-84 (or, say, average age 82) are married to wives whose average age is 71·5 years, or a difference of about 11 years. This apparent contradiction is due, of course, to the effect of mortality at the later ages.

The figures in Table 5A of Volume IX indicate a remarkable homogeneity in the ages of husbands and wives: there are very few instances in the matter of disparate ages, having regard to the large numbers involved. Thus, of the 12,712 wives aged 20-24, only 28 (or 0·2%) were married to husbands aged 60 or over, and only 8·2% to husbands aged 40 or over. Of the 58,905 husbands whose wives were aged 60 or more only 44 (or 0·1%) were aged less than 40 and 8·8% aged less than 60.
