

SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN.

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1926.
VOLUME II.

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SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN.

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VOLUME II—OCCUPATIONS.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The difference between Statistics of Occupations and Industries has to be kept clearly in view when using this publication. A person's occupation is defined by the operations he performs in earning his living—grain miller, jam boiler, tram driver, packer, watchman, clerk. A person follows his occupation within a certain industry or service. Some occupations are peculiar to a single industry or service—grain miller, jam boiler, tram driver; others are found in very many industries and services—packer, watchman, clerk.

In the scheme of occupations adopted in this volume the occupations peculiar to or habitually associated with the more important industries and services, are grouped together and, if the above considerations are not kept in mind, there is a danger of the totals for such groups being misread as the totals for all engaged in the industries and services, whereas they represent only occupations peculiar to such industries or services.

* * *

The Occupational Statistics presented here will be found much more satisfactory than those published at previous Censuses. The improvement is almost entirely due to the splendid work done in recent years in Great Britain in connection with the collection and compilation of statistics of this kind.

At the collection stage of the Saorstát Census of 1926 great attention was paid to the occupational enquiry, especially in the Memorandum of Instructions (A) issued to householders with the Census Schedule. That Memorandum and the Census Schedule have already been published in the Statistics (Census of Population) Order (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1926, No. 76) made under the Statistics Act, 1926. It will, however, be convenient to repeat here the following two columns from the Census Schedule, as it was practically entirely from these two columns that the particulars published in this volume were compiled.

OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYMENT.

PERSONAL OCCUPATION.	EMPLOYMENT.
<p>State here the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, Service, &c.</p> <p>For persons working in connection with Agriculture, such descriptions as "Assisting on Father's Farm," "Farm Labourer," "Farmer," "Assisting on Neighbour's Farm," "Land Steward," &c., will be sufficient.</p> <p>Where the occupation is connected with Trade or Manufacture, the reply should be sufficient to show the particular kind of Work done, the Material worked in, and the Article made or dealt in, if any. The reply should be sufficient to distinguish Dealers from Makers.</p> <p>If at present Out of Work, add "Out of Work for—," stating period of Unemployment.</p> <p>(See instructions 1 to 9 and Examples in Memorandum A)</p>	<p>(1) If working for an Employer, state name and business of Employer (person, public body, &c.). If employed in connection with employer's farm, state also the area of farm in statute acres.*</p> <p>(2) If at present Out of Work, give same particulars as above for last employer</p> <p>(3) If employing paid persons for purposes of the principal business, write "Employer."</p> <p>(4) If working on own account and not employing paid persons for purposes of business, write "Own account."</p> <p>NOTE :—For Domestic Servants and others in private personal service, write "Private."</p> <p>(See instructions 1 to 9 and Examples.)</p>
(k)	(l)
.....
.....
.....

At the compilation stage it was decided to use the same method of classifying occupations as was adopted at the British Census of 1921. The clerical staff were thus able to make full use of the "Classification of Occupations" published by the Stationery Office, London, in 1924, which contains about 30,000 occupational terms fully and scientifically classified in a form convenient for reference; later on advantage was taken of the still more voluminous "Dictionary of Occupational Terms" issued by the Ministry of Labour, London, in 1927. The occupational code numbers in Table 2 of the present publication show how the 611 occupational descriptions for England and Wales were condensed into 266 occupational descriptions for Saorstát Éireann.

When at the publication stage the figures for the country as a whole were put together it became obviously desirable to subdivide many of the larger and illdefined occupations on a purely industrial basis (not on an occupational basis). Thus it appeared desirable to break up the large number of "Other Makers of Food" into seven industrial groups ("Other Makers of Food *working in Grain Mills,*" etc.)—see page 4. Similarly, it seemed an improvement to subdivide "Shopkeepers" into fifteen groups (see pages 9–10). Again, it was considered useful to show clerks in thirteen separate groups (*Bank Clerks, Railway Clerks, Shipping Clerks,* etc.)—see page 12. The figures given for "General and Undefined Labourers" were distributed amongst ten smaller classes—those employed *in the Coal Trade, in Public Houses, etc., etc.* (see page 13). Here an important note on the treatment of "Labourers" must be given.

Any person described in column (k) as an "agricultural labourer," a "quarry labourer," a "brewery labourer," a "dock labourer," etc., was allotted immediately to his appropriate class as an unskilled worker in a particular group. But when in column (k) a person was called merely a "labourer" or a "general labourer," particulars in column (l) were examined. If the latter proved that the *employer* was a "producer, maker or repairer"—a brewer, for instance—then the labourer was classified to his appropriate place amongst the groups I to IV, *e.g.*, "Other (unskilled) makers of drink employed in breweries." All other "labourers" and "general labourers" about whom no further information was given in *Column (k)* were classified under the heading "general and undefined labourers." This procedure appears to go somewhat further than the British instructions on this matter which appear on page 195 of the "Classification of Occupations" (1924).

The above remarks on labourers explain why none of the persons in the occupational group "general and undefined labourers" are shown as in a producing or making industry; all appear in "services." Still, probably nearly all of the 3,460 "general and undefined labourers" employed by Local Authorities (see page 13, code number 258) were quarry labourers or road labourers and accordingly, the figures, especially in Group III (B) and also in Group IV (J) must be correspondingly short. These labourers had to be thrown into the classification "general and undefined labourers" because the name of the employer was entered as "Co. Council," and there was no reference to the work being done in a quarry or on a road, notwithstanding specific references to these matters in the "Memorandum of Instructions" issued to householders.

* * *

Only the principal occupation was recorded for each individual on the Census Schedule. As a result the number of farmers recorded was much smaller than the actual number of persons controlling and farming land in the Saorstát. One of the principal reasons was that very large numbers of persons holding small farms work as labourers on larger farms and were correctly described at the Census as agricultural labourers—the principal occupation. Similarly other persons farming land but whose principal occupations were non-agricultural described themselves on the Schedule not as "farmers" but as "publicans," "doctors," etc. In a later volume the numbers of persons in each occupation as well as in each industry who also farmed land will be given. The numbers ascertained at the Census for any particular occupation would, of course, be smaller than the number actually following that occupation, whether as a principal or subsidiary occupation.

* * *

In the present volume the number recorded in a particular occupation in a particular district represents the number of persons living in that district at Census night who followed that occupation and not the persons engaged in that occupation in that district. The place of work (or the place at which children attended school) was not asked for; only the place where each person was actually in residence had to be stated.

* * *

The figures for each occupation include *all* persons described on the Census Schedules as following that particular occupation; thus are included

under each occupational heading persons who at the date of the Census were unemployed, persons temporarily confined to hospitals and other institutions, persons temporarily resident in this country, etc. But where a person was described as "retired" from an occupation such person was not included under the occupation stated, but the "retired" persons for all occupations were grouped together and shown under one general heading, "Retired from Gainful Occupations," at the end of the lists of occupations in Tables 2 and 5.

* * *

At the Saorstát Census of 1926, as already stated, the same scheme of classification of occupations was adopted as at the British Census of 1921. Occupations peculiar to or habitually associated with each of the principal industries and groups of smaller industries were kept together, each group representing the numbers in occupations peculiar to that industry, not *all* persons working in that industry. The former are, in almost all industries, much fewer than the latter. It is feared that there is a distinct danger that many readers will assume that the figures represent all employed in each industry—the clerks, carpenters, motor drivers, etc., etc., in that industry as well as those in occupations peculiar to that industry alone.

* * *

County Cork has, in this volume, been divided into an Eastern and a Western Division for statistical purposes. The Eastern boundaries of the Rural Districts of Kanturk, Macroom and Bandon form the Eastern boundaries of the Western Division and the Western boundaries of the Eastern Division.

* * *

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that in the present volume Occupations are shown classified by sex and locality alone, but that in later volumes dealing with Ages, Conjugal Conditions, Industries, Unemployment, Industrial Status, the Irish Language and the Gaeltacht, Birthplaces, Religions, Housing, Fertility, etc., occupations will be classified in accordance with each of these subject matters.

JOHN HOOPER,

Director of Statistics.

September, 1928.