

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The Statistics in the present volume are based on the replies given in the following two columns of the Census Schedule :—

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>(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>
(k)	(l)
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From the information given in these two columns statistics of the numbers "at work" and "out of work" on 18th April, 1926 were compiled. For this purpose the following classes were excluded :—all persons under 12 years ; all persons 12 years or over who were confined to hospitals and other institutions ; those engaged in home duties ; children 12 years or over who were attending school ; and others not following gainful occupations who did not describe themselves as "out of work." The results while useful in comparing town with town, occupation with occupation, etc., are too general in their nature to determine the extent of what is ordinarily understood by the term "unemployment," namely, the number of persons normally dependent on wage earnings who were genuinely seeking work but unable to obtain it.

The following were the numbers of persons 18 years of age or over (a) returned as following agricultural occupations on 18th April, 1926, according to the Census of Population, and (b) returned by the enumerators of agricultural statistics as at work on farms in the summer of 1927.

PERSONS IN SAORSTAT EIREANN ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE, 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER.

		* Described as following agricultural occupations on 18/4/26 (a)	Described as actively engaged in agriculture in the summer of 1927 (b)	Difference (b)-(a)
Males :		Number	Number	
Farmers and relatives assisting	...	382,924	403,081	+ 20,157
Employees in agriculture	...	125,407	121,538	— 3,869
TOTAL	...	508,331	524,619	+ 16,288
Females :				
Farmers and relatives assisting	...	107,310	246,192	+ 138,882
Employees in agriculture	...	1,506	17,562	+ 16,056
TOTAL	...	108,816	263,754	+ 154,938
TOTAL	...	617,147	788,373	+ 171,226

The principal difference arises in the enumeration of female farmers and female relatives assisting farmers. Large numbers of the wives and daughters of small farmers who were described in April 1926 on the Census Schedules as engaged on home duties as their "principal" occupation (although they also worked on the farms feeding calves, pigs and poultry, etc.), were included in the summer of 1927 in the Agricultural Statistics as at work in agriculture. It will accordingly be realised that the figures in the present volume give too small a measure of the employment of women in agriculture.

Large numbers of small farmers and their sons work as agricultural labourers, road labourers, etc., as opportunity offers and many described their "principal" occupation at the Census in April 1926 as agricultural labourer, road labourer, etc. This is the chief reason why the numbers of farmers (male and female) shown in Censuses of Population were always so much less than the number of occupiers of agricultural holdings as compared with the agricultural statistics.

	LEINSTER	CONNACHT
Number of occupiers of 1 to 15 acres in the summer of 1929	28,747	36,874
Number of persons described as "farmers" with 1 to 15 acres in April 1926	12,429	33,410
DIFFERENCE	16,318	3,464
Number of occupiers of 15 to 30 acres in the summer of 1929	17,208	37,126
Number of persons described as "farmers" with 15 to 30 acres in April 1926	12,870	32,363
DIFFERENCE	4,338	4,763

* The figures in the first column include persons in institutions and those who declared themselves "out of work," they also include many gardeners and gardeners' labourers living in towns; for this reason the contrast should be greater than that shown but on the other hand there is probably some duplication in the second column.

It will be observed that the difference between the two sets of figures for the 1-15 acre class is much less in Connacht than in Leinster although the number of small holdings is much greater in the former than in the latter. It is evident that large numbers of small farmers in all parts of the country did not describe themselves as farmers at the Census and that this was more common in Leinster than in Connacht, as more employment can be obtained on the large farms and elsewhere in Leinster than in Connacht. It is suggested that this is the reason for the very large differences in the percentages unemployed in the two Provinces as published in this volume.

MALES, SAORSTAT EIREANN, APRIL 1926.

					LEINSTER	CONNACHT
					Number	Number
Actual Numbers :						
Total males described as						
(A) Agricultural Labourers	...	...	...	...	51,207	11,005
(B) Road Labourers	...	...	...	...	10,402	2,331
Males described as "out of work" and as						
(a) Agricultural Labourers	...	...	...	...	6,656	877
(b) Road Labourers	...	...	...	...	3,867	535
Percentage out of work :					Per cent.	Per cent.
Agricultural Labourers (a) as per cent. of (A)					13.0	8.0
Road Labourers (b) as per cent. of (B)					37.2	23.0

The large differences in the percentages can be effectively explained if, as suggested, large numbers of small farmers and their sons living at home described themselves at the Census as labourers out of work and that the numbers were proportionately much larger in Leinster than in Connacht.

It is accordingly considered that the numbers published in this volume as being "out of work" in country districts greatly exaggerated what is usually termed "unemployment." The Connacht percentages (8.0 per cent. and 23.0 per cent.) would probably be too high a measure for the country as a whole but if they are taken the total number of male agricultural and road labourers out of work in Saorstat Eireann would be 9,923 and 5,786 instead of 14,110 and 9,435 respectively, thus reducing the figure for unemployment for these two occupations by 7,836.

Arising out of the foregoing it will be understood that probably the number of "farmers working on their own account" is understated in this volume.

The following list suggests some of the groups of persons including those just mentioned, who, in order to determine the extent of unemployment, should if possible have been excluded from the total "out of work," but who in fact could not be segregated from the 78,071 shown in Table 1, page 1.

- (a) Persons actually at work on farms but who were described as agricultural labourers, road labourers, etc., out of work.
- (b) Persons ill in their own homes who were described as "out of work." The number of persons in receipt of National Health Insurance Benefit on 30th June, 1927 (the date nearest to the Census for which figures were available) was 23,533 of

whom 21,604 (13,944 males and 7,660 females) were ill in their own homes. It has been estimated* that of these some 7,600 (6,100 males and 1,500 females) who were then ill and incapable of work described themselves as "out of work" and were in consequence included in the total of 78,071.

- (c) Persons too old for work. 1,222 persons described as "out of work" were 70 years or over.
- (d) Persons not available for work, not genuinely seeking work, or not employable. Of the 78,071 described as unemployed 33,388, or 43 per cent. were out of work for over six months; of these 20,310 were out of work for over one year, 16,337 for two years or more and 8,757 for three years or more.
- (e) Persons too young for work. 592 persons under 16 were described as "out of work."
- (f) Casual labourers who were at work at the date of the Census were included amongst the employed, those who happened to be waiting for their next period of employment were classified as "out of work"; there were 1,535 dock labourers included in the unemployed.
- (g) Jobbing carpenters and other tradesmen who work by job or contract at fixed prices and not for wages though temporarily out of work are usually excluded from the number of the unemployed as they may be supposed to earn sufficient during employment to cover periods when not working. Persons of this class who described themselves as "out of work" were included in the 78,071.
- (h) 1,342 persons described as following non-gainful occupations were also described as "out of work" and were included in the 78,071.

Further groups, such as the following, contain persons who described themselves as "out of work" but who should, if possible, be excluded from that number:—

- (1) Owner-drivers of motor vehicles of whom 1,140 were returned as "out of work."
- (2) Some of the 468 married women described as "out of work" would be looking only for temporary work, their husbands being out of work.
- (3) Many persons who should have been classified as "retired" described themselves as "out of work" and were included in the figures of the unemployed. Persons who specifically stated that they had retired were grouped under the description "retired."

Including all the doubtful figures referred to in previous paragraphs the figure for the unemployed in the Saorstat is comparatively small; it amounts to only 6·0 per cent. of all persons employed and unemployed as compared, for instance, with 11·2 per cent. for Northern Ireland, although

* The estimate was based on an investigation made by tracing back to the Census Schedules a certain number of persons who at Census date were in receipt of National Health Benefit and were living in their own homes. Though only a small sample was taken, on account of the considerable amount of time occupied in tracing them back, it is thought that the estimate is fairly reliable. It can be stated that it is a ten to one chance that the number of males lies between 5,400 and 6,800 and that the number of females lies between 1,200 and 1,900.

the latter excluded from the number of the unemployed, persons such as those mentioned at (h) above who are included in the Saorstat total of those "out of work."

In considering the numbers of males included in those described as "out of work" attention is drawn to the fact that employment for females has increased in greater proportion than employment for males but the data necessary to determine the extent of substitution of male by female labour are not obtainable.

As the present volume contains the first table published showing the numbers in each industry and service (Table 6, p. 8) it should be explained that such information was compiled from the column of the Census Schedule headed "Employment" shown on p. viii. The business of a person's employer as given in that column was taken to be the *industry* in which the person pursued his *occupation*. Thus if the person's occupation was described as "clerk" and if he was stated to be employed by Messrs. "Flour Millers," the *industry* in which the clerk was engaged was recorded as "flour milling." This Census method of compiling the numbers in each industry and service led to misleading results in some cases, for instance in the numbers engaged in "quarrying." A person described as a labourer who was stated to be employed by a County Council had to be classified amongst those employed by the Local Government Authorities although he may have been employed in a quarry worked by that County Council. Thus the numbers recorded as engaged in "Quarrying" are much understated.

On account of the necessity for keeping the conception of "occupation" distinct from that of "industry" the statistics of occupations and of industries and of employment and unemployment were compiled by different sets of Census clerks at different stages. As a result there are differences in the totals given in this volume and those in Volume II. (Occupations) which need explanation. At first sight it would appear that if from the total following "gainful occupations" as stated in Volume II.—1,307,662—there is subtracted the number of such persons who were returned as in hospitals, etc.—9,789—the remainder—1,297,873—should give the total at work and out of work. But of those described in the occupation column as not following gainful occupations 1,870 who were also described as employer, employee, etc., and 1,342 described as out of work were included in this volume as at work or out of work. These 3,212 raised the 1,297,873 to 1,301,085 as the total for persons at work and out of work.

As regards the numbers returned as (a) employers, (b) persons working on their own account, (c) persons assisting relatives and (d) employees, it should be explained that persons employing domestic servants (only) were not classified as employers, that persons assisted in business only by relatives who had no contract for wages were classified as persons "working on their own account," that all persons actively engaged in work other than employers, persons working on their own account and persons assisting relatives were classified as employees (*e.g.*, clergymen, nuns), and finally that many employers having small concerns (blacksmiths, dressmakers, etc.), described themselves not as employers, as they should have done, but as persons working on their own account.

Director, Statistics Branch.

August, 1931.