

SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN.

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1926.

VOLUME IX.—DEPENDENCY.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES.

Statistics relating to dependency were compiled in connection with the Census of Population for the first time at the Census of 1926. In framing the question for inclusion on the Census Schedule it was decided that all children and step-children under the age of 16 years should be classed as dependent irrespective of the position or social standing of the parents. The heading on the schedule was as follows :—

Information regarding present and previous Marriages, required from Married Men, Widowers and Widows.

State for each Married Man, Widower, and Widow the number of living sons, daughters, step-sons and step-daughters under 16 years of age, whether residing as members of this household or elsewhere.

If none, write "None."

(o)

The definition of a "dependent" for the purposes of this enquiry was therefore limited to living children and stepchildren under 16 years of age who were recorded in respect of Married men, Widowers and Widows.

Notwithstanding that all children under 16 are not actually dependent on their parent or parents, as for instance, the 30,929 persons in gainful occupations who, at Census date, were recorded as being under 16 years of age, the scope of the enquiry as governed by the form of the question is similar to that used at Census Enquiries in other countries. It is accordingly possible to compare the results arising from the 1926 Census of the Saorstát with dependency statistics which have been collected and compiled for these other countries, having in mind such factors as a later age of entering gainful occupations in this country as compared with other countries. The importance of Agriculture in this country is responsible for the fact that of 19,974 males under 16 years of age recorded as gainfully occupied,

10,490 were farmers' sons and other relatives assisting on the home farm ; the corresponding figure for females being 4,005 out of a total of 10,955. Of the other persons under 16 recorded as gainfully occupied it may be assumed that most of them are in part dependent. In the absence of any similar enquiry in previous years, scrutiny of the figures had to be confined to a comparison with the corresponding results for other countries.

The total number of children under 16 years of age recorded at the Census was 926,862. All of these cannot be accounted for as dependents as the question was restricted to the children of married men, widowers and widows. A considerable number of children under 16 years would not be taken into account for many reasons, *e.g.* children under 16 years who were orphans by the death of both parents ; children whose parents were at Census date outside Saorstát ; further the total number of married men recorded in 1926 was 407,505 while the total number of married women was 416,566 leaving 9,061 married women (whose husbands were absent from the Saorstát on Census date) whose children under 16 years were omitted as being outside the scope of the enquiry, etc., etc.

The total number of dependents recorded was 855,320 representing 92·7% of the total children under 16 which may be compared with the result of the 1921 England and Wales Census in which the number of dependents recorded was 92·0% of the total children under 16 years of age.

Of the 407,505 married men in respect of whom dependency statistics were compiled there were 384,644 cases in which the wife was enumerated on the same schedule as the husband and, accordingly, it has been possible to show for this latter number dependency statistics in relation to married women.

In calculating the number of dependents for the tables in this Volume it has been assumed that in all cases in which the number of dependents was " not stated " the answer to the question was " no dependents." The loss as regards numbers of dependents in all these cases cannot be considerable as a certain amount of discretion was used when scrutinising the Census Schedule to ensure that the answers given in regard to this question were in accordance with the other particulars shown on the Schedule.

Particulars of dependents in the Volume are classified by areas and also according to the occupation of the married man, widower or widow as the case may be. In the tables classified by areas, the total number of dependents shown is exact, in other words, where families of more than 10 children were recorded the actual number of dependents, *e.g.*, 12, 13, 15 was accounted for in the total number of dependents, whereas in the tables classified by occupation of parent where there were 10 or more dependents the number was in all cases assumed (because of the system of machine counting) to be 10. Consequently the total number of dependents shown in the Occupations table is somewhat less than the exact total. The number of families however having more than 10 dependents was so small that it did not justify special machine operations to obtain such minute results.

Dependency Statistics have already been published in Volumes VI. and VII. of this series of Census Reports. In Volume VI. are shown the number of dependents of persons who were "out of work" at Census date and in Volume VII particulars are given of dependents of persons classified according to the Industry or service in which they were engaged at Census date.

In Table 5 of this Volume details are given of the relative ages of husbands and wives classified by quinquennial age groups. This information was only available for and was compiled in respect of the 384,644 cases in which husband and wife were enumerated on the same Census Schedule.

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