

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1936.

VOLUME III.—RELIGIONS AND BIRTHPLACES.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The statistics of the population on 26th April, 1936, classified by religions and birthplaces, contained in this publication, relate to the area which was formerly comprised in Saorstát Éireann and excludes particulars relating to the Counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone and the County Boroughs of Belfast and Londonderry. Under the Constitution of 1937 the name of the State is now Eire, or, in the English language, Ireland. The expression “Saorstát Éireann” is, however, being used in all the volumes of the Report of the 1936 Census of Population, as the Census was taken on a date prior to the coming into force of the Constitution Act, 1937.

The following were the headings of the two columns of the Census schedule from which the statistics in this volume were primarily compiled :—

RELIGION	BIRTHPLACE
State here the particular Religion or Religious Denomination to which each person belongs. (Members of Protestant Denominations should state the name of particular Religious Body, Denomination or Community to which they belong).	(1) If born in Ireland, write the name of the County and of the Townland or Town.  (2) If born outside Ireland, write the name of the Country, and of the County or State, Province or District, or if born at sea, write “At sea.” (See Examples)
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PART I.—RELIGIONS.

As was the case in 1926 statistical machines, which sorted and counted cards punched in accordance with code numbers given to each religion, each birthplace, each occupation, etc., were used in compiling the Census of 1936.

The scheme of machine operations made it possible to compile statistics of religions, of Irish language, of ages, etc., as by-products, while sorting the cards in relation to other subjects. To take full advantage of this scheme it was necessary to confine attention to the principal religions only; otherwise the cost of compiling the statistics of religions would

have been much more than doubled. Particulars were compiled for only the following religions :—Catholics, Protestant Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, Jews and Baptists. All other religions were compiled as one group. The proportion of the total population belonging to religions other than those specified above was small—amounting to 0.3 per cent. in both 1926 and 1936.

Persons described in the Census schedule as “ Protestant Episcopalians,” “ Church of Ireland,” “ Church of England ” or as “ Protestants ” are all included in this volume under the description “ Protestant Episcopalians.” Persons who were described in the schedule merely as “ Protestant ” decreased from Census to Census and numbered only 198 in Saorstát Éireann in 1911. A special warning to avoid the vague description “ Protestant ” was given in the 1936 Census schedule and in the Memorandum of Instructions which accompanied it. The few persons in regard to whom no statement of religion was furnished were attributed to the description “ Others.”

## PART II.—BIRTHPLACES.

In the Censuses prior to that of 1926 the birthplace of many persons resident in Saorstát Éireann was described vaguely as “ America.” This description appeared in only a few of the 1926 Census schedules. Accordingly, in all the tables of this volume in which the years 1926 and 1936 are compared with previous Census years, the figures referring to persons resident in Saorstát Éireann who were born in America relate to persons born in all parts of America, North and South, except Canada. But in the tables for 1936 only, which show the different countries of birth of the residents of Saorstát Éireann, separate particulars are given for U.S.A., Canada, etc.

Attention is drawn to the change made in 1926 and maintained in 1936 in the method of compiling particulars of persons born in Cork City and Cork County, Dublin City and Dublin County. The number of persons born in Cork City and the number born in Cork County are shown separately in the volumes for 1926 and 1936 ; formerly separate figures were not published for Cork City and Cork County, they were treated as one unit of area for birthplace purposes. Similarly prior to 1926 Dublin City and Dublin County formed one area for the classification by birthplaces. In the 1926 volume Dublin City and the four adjoining Urban Districts of Rathmines and Rathgar, Pembroke, Blackrock and Dun Laoghaire were treated as one unit of area and the remainder of County Dublin as another. The boundaries of Dublin City were extended under the terms of the Local Government (Dublin) Act, 1930 and in the present volume the City thus constituted and Dun Laoghaire Borough are treated as one area and the remainder of County Dublin as another. Thus the total of persons described as born in the Saorstát outside county of residence includes the number of persons residing in Dublin City and Dun Laoghaire Borough but born in the remainder of County Dublin and vice versa.

In compiling comparative figures for 1926 for the extended area of Dublin City it was not possible to obtain exact figures for birthplaces but the particulars shown are closely approximate. The same observation applies to the corresponding statistics of religions.