

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1936

VOLUME IV.—HOUSING.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The statistics of the population on 26th April, 1936, classified by housing contained in this publication, relate to the area which was formerly comprised in Saorstát Éireann and exclude 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.

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The head of each household was required to state on his household schedule the number of persons in the household and the number of rooms occupied; from these particulars the statistics contained in this volume have been primarily compiled.

The majority of the tables deal with the housing conditions of persons in private families who constitute ninety-four per cent. of the total population, the remaining six per cent. being those living in boarding-houses with three or more boarders, in business establishments with three or more resident assistants and in hotels, hospitals, mental homes and other institutions. Explanations of certain terms used in describing housing conditions will be found on page 1.

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The present volume is on similar lines to the housing volume of 1926, but has been enlarged in size and scope. Summary tables of housing conditions as regards size of dwelling and persons per room furnish statistics comparable with those published in the 1926 volume, while additional information is shown, e.g., for Wards and District Electoral Divisions in the County Boroughs of Cork, Limerick and Waterford, and for towns of 250 to 500 inhabitants.

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The assessment of housing conditions in terms of persons per room by the "equivalent adult" system is introduced on this occasion and many summary tables show results obtained under this system which, it is considered, affords a more realistic picture of housing conditions than the system which was used exclusively in 1926, whereby a family of, say eight persons of whom six were children under ten years of age living in say three rooms was regarded as having the same housing density ($2\frac{2}{3}$) as eight adults living also in three rooms, whereas the latter family is, of course, more poorly housed than the former. For the purpose of assessing density under the "equivalent adult" system, infants under 1 year of age are ignored and

children aged one to nine years (inclusive) are regarded as only half an adult. According to this system the proportion of persons in private families in 1936 living in a housing density of more than two persons per room, which is commonly regarded as "bad housing," was 16.6 per cent., as compared with 22.5 per cent. under the "actual" system.

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So much fresh matter has been introduced into this volume that a curtailment of the detailed tables was necessary in order to restrict the publication to reasonable dimensions. Limitations of printing space have precluded the publication of a number of detailed tables under both the **actual** and the **equivalent adult** system and there are, therefore, at the Census Office manuscript tables showing housing conditions in many areas for which space could not be found in the published volume. Amongst these may be mentioned those showing for Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas the numbers in private families arranged in sizes of family and classified by size of dwelling; similar tables for dispensary and registrar's districts in county boroughs; housing conditions by occupations for males and females respectively in each county, etc. These tables are available in manuscript in the Census Office for inspection by persons interested.

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The number of persons in a private family includes all persons residing in the family dwelling, i.e., resident relatives, servants, etc., as well as members of the family. Comparisons between average sizes of families, as thus defined, in the several areas of the country may accordingly be different from the corresponding comparisons between sizes of families born to married couples.

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As the difference in the size of family varies little from district to district, it will often be found convenient to compare the housing conditions of one area with those of another by contrasting the total numbers of persons living in different sizes of dwellings in the two areas, irrespective of the sizes of families in these dwellings. Such contrasts, it is thought, give more realistic impressions than the more accurate comparisons of the numbers of persons living in different housing densities, i.e., the numbers of persons living in families having less than one person per room, 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ persons per room and so on. For this reason a considerable amount of attention has been paid in this volume to the former type of comparisons as well as to the latter.

It was not considered necessary for practical purposes to compile particulars according to the exact number of rooms for dwellings with more than 10 rooms or to compile particulars according to the exact number of persons for families of more than 11 persons. It will accordingly be noticed in the second last column of Table 3A, p. 10 and in many other tables, that a small percentage (1.5 per cent.) of the persons in private families were not classified by housing densities, i.e., showing the number of persons per room. These consisted of persons in families of 11 living in dwellings of 11 rooms or more and of persons in families of 12 or over living in dwellings of 4 rooms or more.

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In the compilation of housing statistics persons living in a housing density of

more than two persons per room are often considered to be "overcrowded." This measure has been used in the tables in this volume in summarising housing conditions for the several areas for which particulars are given.

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In Tables 16A and 16B the numbers of one, two, three and four room dwellings are shown for each of the years 1926 and 1936 for each county and for each town possessing local government. The 1911 Census treated the one-room tenements in great detail in both rural and urban districts. Following on the lines of the Censuses of 1911 and 1926 considerable attention has been paid to housing in town areas and information is given for each town of 250 or more inhabitants.

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An appendix containing an alphabetical list of all towns in the Saorstat having a population of 250 or more in 1936 is printed at the end of the tables in the Volume. The index number allotted to each town will facilitate reference to Tables 8, 9, 10, 11 and 20.