

# CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1936.

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## VOLUME V PART I.

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### AGES, ORPHANHOOD AND CONJUGAL CONDITIONS.

CLASSIFIED BY AREAS ONLY.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The statistics of the population on 26th April, 1936, classified by ages, orphanhood and conjugal condition, 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.

Although this volume is the second of the 1936 series to be published, it has been given the serial number "V—Part I" of the corresponding subject volume of the previous Census. This procedure is not likely to cause confusion and has been adopted for uniformity and for convenience of reference.

#### **Ages.**

The classification of the population by ages is of fundamental importance and the statistics of practically all the attributes of the people which are investigated at the Census require to be classified by ages for their proper interpretation. The present volume deals with the age distribution of the population of different areas of the country. Later volumes will contain particulars of ages of persons cross-classified according to occupations, industries, religions, housing conditions, etc.

At past Censuses, ages were generally not stated with sufficient accuracy. There was a marked tendency to furnish ages ending in the digit 0 and to a lesser extent in 5, and there was also some evidence of a partiality for the units digits 2 and 8. In other countries similar tendencies have been noted.

The Census of 1926 was the first in this country in which householders were requested to state ages in years and months; in previous Censuses only "age (last birthday)" was asked. At the 1936 Census special care was taken in framing the instructions for filling up the Census Schedule to

indicate that an improvement in the recording of ages was desired and the following special paragraph was inserted in the memorandum of instructions for filling up the Schedules :—

‘ Very particular care should be taken to give the exact age in years and months of each person whose name appears on the Census Form. Persons who have forgotten their correct ages should make reasonable efforts to ascertain them, and not be content to give approximate ages in round numbers, e.g., “ 40,” “ 50,” or “ 60,” when these ages might really be “ 41 years 2 months,” “ 49 years 9 months,” or “ 62 years 5 months ” respectively. The same observation applies to ages in years ending in 5, e.g., 35, 45, 55. Ages in years ending in 0 or 5 should not be given unless it is quite certain that they are correct.’

In addition to this special instruction to householders there was also an instruction issued to the Enumerators who collected the completed Schedules from each dwelling which read :—

“ The age of every person one year old and upwards should be entered in years and months, and those for children less than one year old in months only. At past Censuses statements of age have been very defective, persons at the later ages showing a strong tendency to give ages in round numbers, e.g., 30, 35, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, etc. On this occasion a marked improvement must be effected. If the Enumerator notices that any of these ages are recorded on the Census Return, he should courteously draw the attention of the head of the household or the person tendering the Form to the Special Instruction on ages and inquire if the age stated is the exact age or only an approximate one. If the person concerned cannot state his or her exact age the Enumerator should inquire about the year of birth and amend the return, if necessary.”

The following figures, showing the number of males in 1926 and 1936 respectively at particular ages, indicate that as a result of these special efforts considerable improvement was effected :—

Age.			1926		1936
29	...	...	18,001	...	19,893
30	...	...	26,271	...	22,324
31	...	...	14,666	...	16,598
39	...	...	14,550	...	17,728
40	...	...	28,589	...	22,490
41	...	...	11,702	...	14,699
49	...	...	13,838	...	14,695
50	...	...	31,170	...	21,168
51	...	...	11,135	...	12,650
59	...	...	9,641	...	13,688
60	...	...	20,141	...	18,370
61	...	...	6,720	...	10,987

It will be observed that whereas there was a heavy concentration at the ages 30, 40, 50 and 60 in 1926 as compared with the years immediately preceding and immediately following those years, the figures compiled from the 1936 Census show less numbers at the ages ending in the digit 0 and more at the years before and after. It is accordingly considered that the age distribution of the population as ascertained from the 1936 Census is more accurate than the age distribution as published in the 1926 Census

Report, though there is still considerable room for improvement. It will, of course, be evident that the statistics in the decennial age groups, particularly of the type 25-34, 35-44, etc. (with the age ending in the digit 0 at the centre) are to be regarded as much more reliable than the numbers at individual ages shown in Tables 11A, 11B and 11C. The numbers in the quinquennial age groups 25-29, 35-39, 45-49, etc., may be somewhat understated, and the numbers in the age groups 30-34, 40-44, 50-54, etc., somewhat overstated, in consequence of the concentration at ages 30, 40, 50, etc.

In the few cases in which age particulars were not entered on the Census Schedules, each such case was separately considered and an age based on the other particulars shown on the Schedule was assumed.

### **Marriage or Orphanhood.**

The instruction on the Census Schedule at the head of the column relating to marriage or orphanhood read :—

‘for persons aged 15 and over information as to whether “single,” “married,” “widower” or “widow.” For children aged under 15 years state in respect of parents, whether both parents alive, father dead, mother dead, or both parents dead.’

The replies in regard to conjugal condition were satisfactory, but in the case of orphanhood condition there were a number of instances in which no information was given opposite the name of the child. Where possible these omissions were rectified from internal evidence but out of a total population of 416,433 males and 403,961 females under 15 years of age, no particulars can be stated in respect of 3,764 males and 3,687 females. In Table 12 the sub-divisions of these numbers by counties are shown in a column headed “not stated.”

From the numbers “married,” “widowed” and “single” classified by age groups as shown in the tables in this publication further tables were compiled, and are included in this volume, showing the number of “single” persons in each age group expressed as a percentage of the total in that age group. A comparison of such results for this and other countries will be found in Table 21, while an international comparison of ages is contained in Table 20 of this volume.

Particulars of orphanhood conditions for children under 15 years of age which were recorded for the first time in this country at the 1926 Census were again collected and the results are shown in Tables 11A, 11B, 11C, and 12.

### **Life Table.**

A life table based upon the Census population classified by ages and the Registrar-General’s statistics of deaths in the years 1935, 1936 and 1937 (and certain other vital statistics) is included as Table 22 in the present volume, together with a memorandum which explains the methods of computation. The algebraical processes used were identical with those used for the corresponding table in the report on the 1926 Census, but, as explained, the abnormal mortality experience in 1937 rendered necessary the use of weighted average mortality rates, instead of simple averages as used in the compilation of the 1925-27 table.