

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1946.

VOLUME I.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

A Census of Population was taken on the night of 12th/13th May, 1946, in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. No. 97 of 1946) made by the Minister for Industry and Commerce under the Statistics Act, 1926. The Census schedules, for completion by the head of each family or institution, were distributed about a week before Census date and the completed forms were collected as soon as possible afterwards. The distribution and collection of the Census schedules was made by the *Gárda Síochána* who acted as official enumerators. The *Gárda* enumerators scrutinised the returns at the time of collection to ensure that they were correctly completed and, where necessary, assisted the householders in filling up the forms. A summary, by sex, of the population in each area was prepared by each enumerator and from these summaries the Preliminary Report was compiled.

METHOD OF COMPILATION.

As at the 1926 and 1936 Censuses the punched card system was used for compilation. The particulars (as to area of residence, age, conjugal condition, occupation, etc.) shown on the Census forms were number-coded and transferred to statistical cards by the punching of holes. For the general Census there is one card for each person, and for each married woman there is an additional card for the compilation of statistics of marital fertility. These cards are passed many times through sorting and counting machines in order to record and summarise the statistics in accordance with predetermined classifications. The figures in this volume have been obtained from these Census machine cards, as will the information to be published in the subsequent volumes of the Census Report.

FORM OF PUBLICATION.

Up to the Census of 1911 the Census results were published by areas and the volume for each county or province contained complete particulars for that area. In 1926 the system of publication in subject volumes was inaugurated, each volume containing as much information as possible in regard to one subject, for the country as a whole and for smaller areas. There is necessarily a certain amount of cross classification, for instance, the numbers in each occupation will be classified by ages. The advantages of treating every aspect of one particular subject in a separate volume have been borne out by experience and the system has been maintained in presenting the statistics of the Census of Population, 1946.

The Preliminary Report was published in February, 1947, showing unrevised population figures for the principal areas in the country. In the present volume are contained the definitive figures for these areas and for all areas used for official administrative purposes down to District Electoral Divisions. The principal table, Table 11, gives details of the population of each District Electoral Division and indicates how these areas build up to the larger units of area. The (former) Rural Districts have been retained as convenient statistical units of area; these districts are as constituted at the date of their abolition as administrative areas in 1926 (or in the case of the Rural Districts in County Dublin in 1930). The District Electoral Division is composed of a number of complete townlands, which are the smallest territorial units of area used for administrative purposes. Following the procedure adopted at the 1926 and 1936 Censuses the population of townlands will be compiled but will not be published in the 1946 Census Report; populations of individual townlands will, however, be supplied on application.

In the present series volumes will be issued on the subjects of ages, conjugal condition and orphanhood; occupations, industries, industrial status and unemployment; religions and birthplaces; fertility of marriage; dependency; Irish language; housing and social amenities. The volume on the statistics of the Irish language will contain, *inter alia*, statistics relating to persons residing in the Gael-tacht areas.

POPULATION.

The population recorded for each area represents all persons actually present within its boundaries on the night of Sunday, 12th May, 1946, and all who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 13th May, not having been enumerated for Census purposes elsewhere in the country. The figures thus include temporary visitors present on that night as well as permanent residents; persons on board ships or boats in port, persons in caravans, etc., were included with the population of the adjacent areas.

AREA AND VALUATION.

The particulars of area and valuation published in this volume were extracted from the records of the General Valuation Department. The areas are in all cases exclusive of the areas under the tideways, larger lakes and rivers. The valuation is the rateable valuation after appeal in 1946.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The statistics of marriages, births and deaths in Tables 1 and 12 were extracted from the records of the Office of the Registrar-General. As explained in the notes at head of Table 12 both the numbers of births and deaths registered and the numbers attributed in respect of the areas mentioned for the inter-censal period 1936/46 are given. Particulars are shown in Table 1 and in Table 12 for the period from 1st April, 1936 to 31st March, 1946. In Table 12 information is also shown for the ten calendar years ended 31st December, 1945.

Owing to the introduction of food rationing in 1942 and the consequent necessity for immediate registration of births (up to that time there had been a "lag" of from 3 to 6 months in birth registration) the births registered in the 10 year period under review record a somewhat inflated figure. To counter-balance this inflation a reduction has been made in the numbers of births registered during the inter-censal period.

BOUNDARIES.

Since 1936 changes in boundaries have been recorded in respect of Dublin City, to which has been added the former Urban District of Howth and a small section of Dublin County in the Crumlin area. Extensions of boundaries have also been made in the case of Waterford County Borough and Dundalk Urban District.

The population figures for 1936 shown in this volume for these cities relate to the areas as existing on 12th May, 1946.

WARD POPULATIONS IN DUBLIN CITY.

A revision of boundaries of the wards in Dublin City was enacted by the Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, Adaptation Order, 1946, dated 15th July, 1946, and it was considered advisable to compile and publish population figures for the wards thus defined, although the Local Government Order came into operation some months after Census Date.

AREAS TO WHICH COMPARATIVE FIGURES RELATE.

In most of the tables in this volume comparisons are made between the years 1936 and 1946 and in these tables the boundaries of the administrative areas compared are the same—those existing at the date of the 1946 Census. Only in Tables 1 and 2 and in the two deduced Tables 3 and 4 are particulars given for years prior to 1911. These tables refer to counties and provinces and although the changes in boundaries of these areas were small it was decided to follow the procedure of previous Censuses by showing in Tables 1 and 2 the populations at each Census for the areas as existing at the date of such Census.

TOWNS.

In Table 13 is shown an alphabetical list of Towns which forms the basis of "Town and Village Population" used in Tables 9 and 10 of the volume.

Towns are in two main classes :

- (i) towns with legally defined boundaries and
- (ii) towns and villages without legally defined boundaries.

The first class comprises (a) the four county boroughs and the borough of Dun Laoghaire, (b) 51 Urban Districts and (c) 26 Towns under the Towns Improvement Act, 1854. In the case of towns not having legally defined boundaries populations are determined by the Census authorities on the advice of the Garda Superintendents of enumeration. A "town" of this sort is defined to be a cluster of twenty or more houses but in certain cases clusters of houses are included with the population of the adjacent town or village of type (ii) from which they are geographically separated, when the populations of such clusters take part in the communal life of the town or village.

Problems of definition have arisen in connection with new housing schemes, whereby families are transferred from houses in towns to houses situated in the surrounding country. In such cases, when the town has legal boundaries and the new housing scheme is situated outside such boundaries, the Census authorities have no option but to "define" new towns, for example Cork South East suburbs. It must be confessed that, perhaps naturally, such creations have sometimes failed to achieve local recognition or even identification. When the town or village has no legally defined boundaries and when the clusters of newly built houses are not far distant from the parent town the populations are usually included with the population of the town or village. It is the practice to show, where possible, comparative population figures for the previous Census in respect of the area of the Census town as existing at the current Census; in cases where comparative figures are not available, the fact is indicated by means of a footnote.

Even when the towns have legal boundaries, comparisons of intercensal changes of population for the identical areas may be misleading. Thus the population of Cork County Borough will be seen to have declined from 80,765 to 75,595 or 6.4 per cent. between 1936 and 1946. When, however, the adjacent District Electoral Divisions of Bishopstown, Blackrock, St. Mary's and Rathcooney are included the population of Cork City and these four D.E.Ds. increased from 108,325 to 109,295 or almost one per cent. in the last intercensal period. This problem is specially acute in the larger expanding conurbations.

Areas and valuations are given in Tables 9, 10 and 11 only for towns with legally defined boundaries. Even in such cases care must be exercised in comparing density of population (e.g. persons per 100 acres given in Table 9) since the fixed boundaries may in some cases include a rural belt or the area of the town may be almost entirely built up.