

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1951.

VOLUME II - PART I

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CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1951.

VOLUME II - PART I

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The present volume treats of the classification of the population by age and conjugal condition for the different areas of the country, based on the information which was collected at the Census of Population taken on the night of the 8/9 April, 1951. In the second part of this volume will be presented particulars of the population by age and conjugal condition according to the different occupations, while in Volume III the general data regarding occupations, sectors of economic activity and industrial status will be given, and in particular the population classified by age, condition and industrial status will be shown.

AGFS

Classification by ages is of the utmost importance and the provision of age particulars in the most accurate form obtainable is a matter to which great attention is given at Census inquiries. At the Censuses of 1926 and 1936 the householder was asked to state the age of each person in the household in years and months. Prior to the inquiry of 1926 it had been the practice to obtain statistics of age from a statement on the Census Schedule of the number of completed years of age at Census date. For the Censuses of 1946 and 1951 particulars of date of birth of each person were requested and the summarisation of these particulars gives results of a more accurate nature than were available heretofore.

The tendency, evident at previous Censuses, of furnishing ages which grouped at 30, 40, 50, etc., and in a lesser way at 25, 35, etc., has to a large extent been counteracted by the introduction of date of birth as a means of recording age. The following figures, showing the number of males in 1936, 1946 and 1951 respectively recorded at particular ages, reflects a considerable improvement since 1936.

Age	1936	1946	1951
29	19,893	21,268	20,199
30	22,324	20,501	20,230
31	16,598	21,168	19,761
39	17,728	19,469	21,473
40	22,490	18,124	21,651
41	14,699	16,875	19,006
49	14,695	17,608	15,948
50	21,168	16,309	20,659
51	12,650	14,308	16,341
59	13,688	14,386	12,780
60	18,370	12,818	13,269
61	10,987	11,956	11,934

The concentration at age 50 for 1951 seems to be due to an inclination to return 1900 as the year of birth. A similar concentration was noted at age 45 in the 1946 Census figures.

Where particulars of age were not entered on the Schedules separate consideration was given to each case and an age was assumed which was based on the other information shown on the schedule. Such cases were relatively few.

In setting out the tables in this report the ages shown in all cases represent the age last birthday, e.g., in Table 12 persons shown as in the age group 15-19 have reached their fifteenth birthday but are under 20 years of age.

MARRIAGE OR ORPHANHOOD

At the Census of 1951, in contrast to that of 1946, inquiries were not made, in respect of children under 15 years, as to whether both parents were alive, the father was dead, the mother was dead or both parents were dead. Consequently no statistics on orphanhood are presented in this report.

Persons aged 15 years and over were classified by conjugal condition, i.e., whether single, married, widower or widow. In addition to the actual figures for these categories certain of the tables in this volume show the number of single persons in each age group expressed as a percentage of the total in that age group.

LIFE TABLE

On account of the early publication of this volume it has not been possible to include in it a Life Table based on the Census of Population figures classified by ages and on the statistics of deaths for 1950-52. This Life Table will be prepared and published later.

CHANGES IN AREAS

For the first time at a Census the population of the suburbs of Dublin County Borough, Dún Laoghaire Borough and Cork County Borough have been compiled. Full particulars of the areas included in the suburbs are given in the Explanatory Notes to Volume I. Particulars are also given there of changes in the boundaries of administrative areas since 1946.

TABLES