

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1951.

VOLUME III, Part 1 - OCCUPATIONS.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The statistics in this volume relate to the classification according to occupation of persons aged 14 years and over as described on the Census schedules collected in respect of the Census of Population taken on the night of 8th/9th April, 1951. Tables are also included showing the total population classified by social group

The term "Occupation" is defined as the kind of work performed in earning a living irrespective of the place in which and the purpose for which it is performed. A person follows his occupation within a certain industry or service. Some occupations are peculiar to particular industries or services, e.g., grain miller, jam boiler, book binder, while others are found in many industries and services, e.g., clerk, motor driver, packer. Classification of the population by occupation thus brings together the numbers of persons engaged in the same type of work regardless of the purpose for which such work is undertaken. In compiling the statistics of occupation for this volume the occupations peculiar to or habitually associated with the more important industries and services are grouped together and this fact should be borne in mind, as there is a risk that the occupational group totals in this volume may be misread as the totals for all engaged in the rather similarly described industries and services, whereas they represent only occupations peculiar to such industries and services.

The questions on the Census Schedule from which particulars of occupation and industry were ascertained were as follows:

Personal Occupation

STATE PRECISE OCCUPATION OR CALLING AT WHICH PERSON WORKS EVEN IF AT PRESENT UNEMPLOYED. If following more than one occupation enter principal occupation only. If having started to work but at present out of work add "Out of Work."
For persons working in connection with Agriculture such description as "Assisting on Father's Farm," "Farm Labourer," "Farmer," "Land Steward" will suffice.
If at a University or studying for profession or occupation write "Student" (indicating branch, e.g. "Medical Student" "Law Student" etc.) "Apprentice" (indicating occupation, "Apprentice Plumber," etc.)
If at school or college and not otherwise occupied state "at school" adding the word "primary," "secondary," "vocational," "business college," etc., whichever applies. If not at school or college or not otherwise occupied, and if not yet started work, write "not yet at work."
If retired from a profession or occupation and not following any other profession or occupation write "retired."
If mainly occupied in unpaid domestic duties (e.g. Housewives) write "home duties." For other persons over 14 not at school or college, mainly dependent on others' earnings or upon their own or others' private means write "none."
Avoid vague descriptions such as "Builder," "Foreman," "Clerk," "Mechanic," "Printer," "Merchant," "Labourer."

(G)

Employer and Employer's Business

If working for an Employer state name and **BUSINESS** of Employer (person, public body, etc.). Describe accurately nature of business in which employed. If employed in connection with Employer's farm state also **area of farm** in statute acres.
For Domestic Servants and others in private personal service write "Private."
If at present **Out of Work** give same particulars as above in respect of last Employer.
If employing paid persons for the purpose of the principal business write "Employer" and in brackets insert number of employees, e.g. (6). Persons whose only employees are private domestic servants should not be described as "Employers."
If working on own account and not employing paid persons for purpose of business write "Own Account."

(H)

It was considered desirable to sub-divide a number of occupations on an industrial basis. For example, "shopkeepers" are shown under their principal trading groups, "clerks" are sub-divided in a similar manner. Where the description "labourer" was the only information given for "Personal Occupation" regard was had to the particulars shown relating to "Employer's Business" in order to identify the exact nature of the occupation concerned.

It should be noted that only the principal occupation was recorded in respect of each individual on the Census Schedule. As a result the numbers of farmers returned at the Census was smaller than the actual number of persons owning and farming land in the country. Large numbers of persons holding small farms work, for instance, as labourers on larger farms or for local authorities, etc. In describing themselves on the Census schedule such persons would properly return their occupation as "agricultural labourer" in the first case and as "local authority labourer" in the second if such was their principal occupation. Other persons holding land but following as their principal occupation pursuits other than farming described themselves not as farmers but as "shopkeepers," "publicans," "medical doctors," "auctioneers," etc. Accordingly the numbers ascertained at the Census for any particular occupation would be smaller than the number actually following that occupation whether as a principal or subsidiary occupation.

As the figures for each occupation include all persons described on the Census Schedules as following that occupation, the figures under each occupational heading include persons who at the date of the Census were unemployed as well as those employed. Similarly persons temporarily confined to hospitals and other institutions and persons temporarily resident in this country are included. Where a person was described as "retired" from an occupation, such person was not included under the occupation stated. The "retired" persons for all occupations were grouped together and shown with the other categories of persons regarded as "not gainfully occupied."

As in the case of previous Censuses, special attention was paid to the occupational inquiry and the instructions issued to each householder contained detailed directions together with examples as an aid to the correct completion of this part of the Schedule. There was a change in the minimum age of persons classified by occupation from 12 years in 1926 to 14 years in 1936 and 1946 and the latter has been continued in the 1951 Census.

The statistics were compiled from information furnished on Census schedules by the heads of households. Whilst every care was taken by the enumerators to ensure that the information given was accurate and complete as far as possible, there were, as at previous Censuses, a small number of cases where vague occupational descriptions such as "factory worker" were given. It was not possible to assign such persons to definite occupational headings and they are included in residual groups "Other skilled workers" under their main occupational heading or in the group "Unskilled workers." In these and in some other cases difficulty was experienced in deciding whether a person should be allocated to skilled or to unskilled occupations. The large numbers described as "Other skilled workers" in some groups are caused by (a) vague occupational descriptions returned on some schedules, and (b) a number of different occupations being grouped together under this heading each with a very small number of persons.

The full list of occupations used to classify persons by occupation is shown in Table 2 of this volume and opposite each occupation a code number is shown. The grouping of occupations in other tables can be followed by reference to these code numbers. The list of occupations was revised and extended in 1951 and for that reason it is not possible to give comparative figures for 1946 for each occupation. An appendix table is, however, included in the volume showing comparative figures for earlier censuses for certain occupational groups and principal occupations.

Compared with previous censuses there has been an important change in classification of employers. Up to 1946 such persons were included with "Employers and managers" under their respective main occupational headings. In 1951, however, employers of less than 5 persons were assigned to individual occupations where the information on the schedules enabled this to be done. Thus a carpenter employing less than 5 persons in 1951 is included with "Carpenters" but in 1946 such a person was included with "Employers and managers." A carpenter employing 5 or more persons is, however, still included with "Employers and managers".

The number of persons shown as following a particular occupation in any district represents the number living in that district at Census night and not the persons engaged in that occupation in that district.

Certain of the tables contained in the corresponding 1946 volume (Volume II) are omitted from the present volume but additional tables (Nos. 7A, 7B, 7C and 8) relating to the classification of the population according to social group are included. The social group of each gainfully occupied person was decided by the occupation at which the person was working or by his last occupation if out of work or retired. Persons who were not gainfully occupied were assigned to the social group of the head of the household if the head of the household was gainfully occupied and in other cases to the social group of the principal breadwinner. Where, however, more than one family was returned on the same schedule the not gainfully occupied members of the sub-family were assigned to the social group of the head of the sub-family or, if the head was not

gainfully occupied, to the social group of the principal breadwinner in the sub-family. Some persons could not be allocated to any social group - these included residents in institutions not gainfully occupied, persons not gainfully occupied in regard to whom social group was not ascertainable from information on the schedule and not gainfully occupied students living away from home.

Classification in respect of rateable valuation in Tables 8, 9A and 9B was made from particulars of the total valuation for agricultural holdings in the State of which persons normally resident in the household were the rated occupiers. It will, of course, be understood that the valuation entered on each schedule was the total valuation of all agricultural holdings owned by the normal residents of the household and that a large proportion of urban dwellers were in the category "No statement, nil, under 1 acre in area and institutions."

Particulars of the population in each occupation classified by age are contained in Volume II Part II and particulars of each occupation classified by industrial status are contained in Volume III, Part II.

The numbers in the social group "working on own account" in this volume are not the same as the numbers "working on own account" in the industrial status classification in Volume III, Part II, for the reason that all persons in agricultural and professional occupations together with fishermen, actors and musicians were assigned to the agricultural or professional social groups but persons in other occupations who were working on own account were allocated to the social group "working on own account". In the industrial status classification all persons (except those confined to hospitals, etc.) working on own account, no matter what their occupations might be, were classified as "working on own account".

"Aggregate town areas" in this volume means the total of towns of over 1,500 inhabitants, together with smaller towns possessing local government. "Aggregate rural areas" comprises the rest of the country. It will be observed that there are no such "town areas" in Co. Leitrim.

E R R A T A

Explanatory notes, Question G - Personal occupation - "Agriculture" in fourth line should read "Agriculture"

- Page 3 : Section number XII sub-group C - "Painters" should read "Printers"
- Page 38 : Leinster - 3rd line - "Dublin" should read "Dublin County Borough"
- Page 40 : Leinster - "Cavan" should read "Carlow"
- Munster - 5th line - "Limerick" should read "Limerick County Borough"
- Page 49 : "Coopers, loop-makers and benders" should read "Coopers, hoop-makers and benders"
- Page 78 : Code Number "387" should read "386, 387"
- Page 93 : Code Number "198-109" should read "198-209"
- Page 133 : "Ulster" should read "Ulster (part of)"
- Page 155 : "Textile Workers - preparing room workers" should read "preparing room workers"
- Page 156 : Makers of paper and paperboard - "Paperbox makers" should read "Paperboard box makers"
- Page 158 : Footnote c - "Greyhound" should read "Greyhound"