

COMMENTARY.

The population enumerated on Census Night, 1956 was 2,898,264, compared with 2,960,593 in 1951, representing a decrease of 62,329 or 2·1 per cent. The number of males was 1,462,928 compared with 1,506,597 in 1951, a decrease of 43,669 or 2·9 per cent. The number of females was 1,435,336 compared with 1,453,996 in 1951, a decrease of 18,660 or 1·3 per cent. This population figure is the lowest recorded for the State for any Census. The results of the Censuses since 1841 are shown in Table I.

TABLE I.—POPULATION OF EACH PROVINCE, 1841-1956.

Year	Total	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (part of)
	Thousands				
1841	6,529	1,974	2,396	1,419	740
1851	5,112	1,673	1,858	1,010	571
1861	4,402	1,458	1,514	913	518
1871	4,053	1,339	1,393	846	474
1881	3,870	1,279	1,331	822	438
1891	3,469	1,188	1,172	725	384
1901	3,222	1,153	1,076	647	346
1911	3,140	1,162	1,035	611	331
1926	2,972	1,149	970	553	300
1936	2,968	1,220	942	525	280
1946	2,955	1,281	917	493	264
1951	2,961	1,337	899	472	253
1956	2,898	1,339	877	446	236

After a long period of decline, commencing in the decade 1841-1851, the total population achieved a measure of stability subsequent to the 1926 Census, while the intercensal period 1946-51 was the first for over a hundred years to show an increase in population. The rate of decline in the most recent period (0·4 per cent per annum) was last exceeded in the decade 1891-1901, when the figure was 0·7 per cent per annum. The percentage change in the population of each province in each intercensal period is shown in TABLE 4 of this Report. Diagram 1 illustrates the population trend in the whole country and in each province since 1841. This diagram is drawn on the "ratio" or logarithmic scale and has the property that the downward slope of the graph for a region represents the rate of decrease of the population for that region. Thus it can be at once inferred from the diagram that the percentage rate of decrease in Connacht over the whole period 1841 to 1956 was very similar to that in Ulster (part of) and somewhat greater than that in Munster.

SEX-RATIO.

The proportion of males to females in the total population and in the population of each province at each Census since 1841 is shown in Table II.

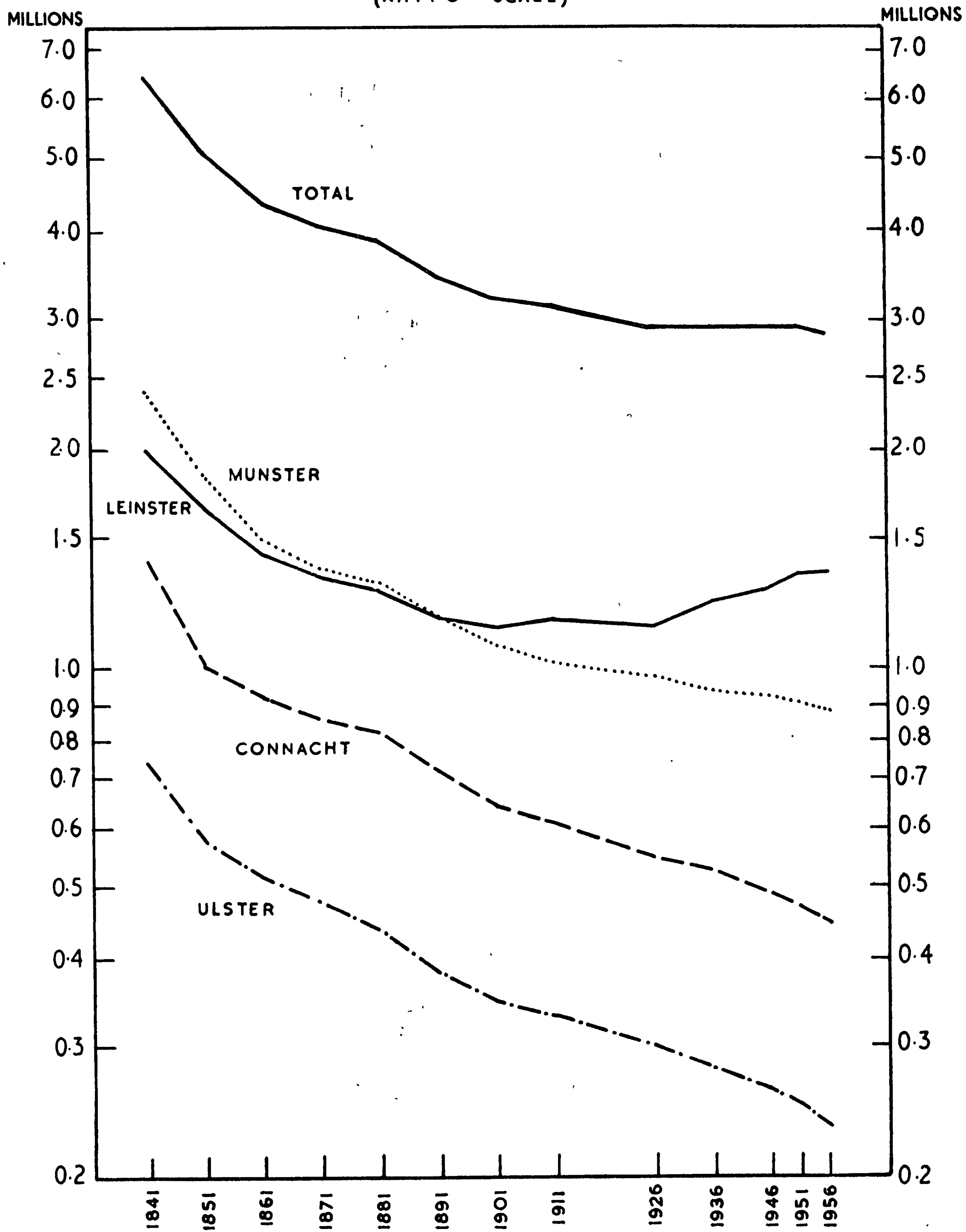
TABLE II.—FEMALES PER THOUSAND MALES FOR EACH YEAR 1841 TO 1956.

Year	Total	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (part of)
1841	1,026	1,048	1,020	1,004	1,029
1851	1,049	1,056	1,053	1,037	1,038
1861	1,030	1,039	1,032	1,011	1,028
1871	1,034	1,045	1,031	1,021	1,039
1881	1,024	1,030	1,017	1,019	1,035
1891	1,007	1,021	995	1,001	1,009
1901	1,001	1,016	989	999	992
1911	975	993	968	958	967
1926	972	1,002	965	944	937
1936	952	996	941	901	902
1946	977	1,030	961	912	907
1951	965	1,013	953	896	900
1956	981	1,033	963	902	915

Since 1911 there has been an excess of males in the population, and the 1936 figure of 952 females per 1,000 males is the lowest recorded. The increase in the ratio from 965 in 1951 to 981 in 1956 may be attributed largely to the fact that in this period male emigrants considerably outnumbered females. The proportion of 981 females per 1,000 males recorded at the most recent Census is the highest for any year since 1901. An increase in the proportion of females occurred in each province in the interval 1951 to 1956. Only in the case of Leinster, however, has the ratio of females to males shown an increase compared with the beginning of the century. In Munster the sex-ratio has remained fairly steady since 1911. In Connacht and Ulster (part of) the sex-ratio declined sharply until 1936, but has subsequently remained fairly stable.

The ratio of females to males in the population depends on three factors, namely the proportion of females to males among births, the expectation of life of the two sexes and ratio of females to males among emigrants and immigrants. Taken over a long period net emigration of males has been roughly equal to that of females, although considerable short term fluctuations occur in the ratio of males to females emigrating. The natural

Diagram 1
POPULATION 1841 — 1956
(RATIO SCALE)



increase (*i.e.* excess of births over deaths) is, therefore, the principal influence in determining the sex-ratio in the country. In each intercensal period from 1871 to 1946 the natural increase among males was greater than that among females. In the period 1946-51 and, to a much greater extent in 1951-56, the natural increase in the case of females exceeded that of males (see page xxi).

CHANGES IN POPULATION OF COUNTIES.

In the intercensal period 1951-56, increases of population were recorded for Dublin City and County, including Dun Laoghaire (+1.8 per cent), for the Counties of Louth (+0.6 per cent) and Meath (+0.6 per cent). In all other county areas decreases of population occurred. The greatest percentage declines were recorded in respect of Leitrim (10.1 per cent), Donegal (7.2 per cent), Cavan (7.0 per cent), Roscommon (6.4 per cent), Mayo (6.2 per cent), Sligo (6.1 per cent), Monaghan (5.9 per cent) and Clare (5.1 per cent). The percentage change in each county in the period 1951-56 is illustrated in Map 1. Details of the changes in the population of counties in the period 1951-56 may be obtained from TABLE 9. The trend in populations of individual counties over a period of approximately a hundred years may be seen from TABLES 3 and 4.

The trends in population in the different provinces and counties are closely related to the degree of urbanisation of these areas. In all counties the decline in rural population has been considerably greater than that in urban population, so that if a particular county is predominantly urban it may be expected to show a much smaller decline in total population than a county which is predominantly rural in character. For this reason it is more valid to compare counties in respect of the trends of their town and rural population separately, as is done later in these notes.

SURVEY OF TOWN BOUNDARIES.

In the explanatory notes an account has been given of the difficulties encountered in defining towns and the way in which these have been met in connection with the present Census. In TABLE 13 (pages 138-139) figures are given for all towns of 1,500 population or over and in the case of towns with legally defined boundaries the numbers within these boundaries and in the suburban areas or environs are shown separately. In Table III the figures from TABLE 13 for towns of 5,000 population and over are repeated, and comparison is made with the populations within the identical areas at the previous Census.

TABLE III.—COMPARISON OF POPULATION WITHIN 1956 LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARY AND POPULATION WITHIN TOTAL TOWN AREA IN THE CASE OF CERTAIN TOWNS.

(Abbreviations : *M.B.* Municipal Borough ; *U.D.* Urban District).

Town	1951				1956			
	Population			Per-centage in environs or suburbs	Population			Per-centage in environs or suburbs
	Within legal boundary	Within environs or suburbs	Total		Within legal boundary	Within environs or suburbs	Total	
				%				%
Dublin County Borough ...	551,555	28,833	580,388	5.0	539,476	45,007	584,483	7.7
Cork County Borough ...	82,884	29,871	112,755	26.5	80,011	34,417	114,428	30.1
Dun Laoghaire Borough ...	47,562	12,010	59,572	20.2	47,553	17,302	64,855	26.7
Limerick County Borough ...	50,820	357	51,177	0.7	50,886	780	51,666	1.5
Waterford County Borough ...	28,835	—	28,835	—	28,878	—	28,878	—
Dundalk ... <i>U.D.</i>	19,678	1,395	21,073	6.6	20,154	1,533	21,687	7.1
Galway ... <i>M.B.</i>	21,316	148	21,464	0.7	21,219	147	21,366	0.7
Drogheda ... <i>M.B.</i>	16,779	—	16,779	—	17,008	—	17,008	—
Sligo ... <i>M.B.</i>	13,529	—	13,529	—	12,947	—	12,947	—
Bray ... <i>U.D.</i>	12,062	732	12,794	5.7	10,856	1,547	12,403	12.5
Kilkenny ... <i>M.B.</i>	10,572	1,432	12,004	11.9	10,607	1,721	12,328	14.0
Wexford ... <i>M.B.</i>	11,979	62	12,041	0.5	10,838	1,002	11,840	8.5
Tralee ... <i>U.D.</i>	11,045	467	11,512	4.1	10,928	684	11,612	5.9
Clonmel ... <i>M.B.</i>	10,471	478	10,949	4.4	10,697	437	11,134	3.9
Athlone ... <i>U.D.</i>	9,015	686	9,701	7.1	9,393	976	10,369	9.4
Carlow ... <i>U.D.</i>	7,667	758	8,425	9.0	7,465	980	8,445	11.6
Ennis ... <i>U.D.</i>	6,097	2,294	8,391	27.3	5,741	2,551	8,292	30.8
Mullingar* ... <i>U.D.</i>	5,643	1,569	7,212	21.8	5,884	1,604	7,488	21.4
Thurles ... <i>U.D.</i>	6,276	250	6,526	3.8	6,363	210	6,573	3.2
Killarney ... <i>U.D.</i>	6,298	—	6,298	—	6,464	—	6,464	—
Enniscorthy ... <i>U.D.</i>	5,948	584	6,532	8.9	5,445	977	6,422	15.2
Tullamore ... <i>U.D.</i>	6,165	—	6,165	—	6,147	—	6,147	—
Ballina ... <i>U.D.</i>	6,220	—	6,220	—	6,091	—	6,091	—
Cobh ... <i>U.D.</i>	5,711	324	6,035	5.4	5,169	897	6,066	14.8
Mallow ... <i>U.D.</i>	5,583	—	5,583	—	5,729	—	5,729	—
Portlaoighise* ... <i>U.D.</i>	3,304	1,985	5,289	37.5	3,196	2,365	5,561	42.5
Ballinasloe ... <i>U.D.</i>	5,596	—	5,596	—	5,489	—	5,489	—
Dungarvan ... <i>U.D.</i>	5,423	—	5,423	—	5,394	—	5,394	—
Castlebar ... <i>U.D.</i>	5,288	—	5,288	—	5,321	—	5,321	—
Arklow ... <i>U.D.</i>	5,203	—	5,203	—	5,292	—	5,292	—
Monaghan ... <i>U.D.</i>	4,723	249	4,972	5.0	4,701	425	5,126	8.3

* Town under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854.

The suburbs of Dublin County Borough contained 45,007 persons in 1956, representing 7.7 per cent of the population of the entire city area. A decline of 12,079 or 2.2 per cent occurred in the population within the new legally defined city boundary, but this was offset by an increase of 16,174 in the suburban area. These changes were due largely to the transfer of population from the centre of the city to outlying areas offering better housing accommodation, partly within and partly without the legally defined boundary. Considerably greater detail on this subject may be obtained from TABLE II in which changes in individual wards are shown. It will be seen that most of the central wards showed fairly substantial reductions in population while the population of outlying wards, particularly those in the area recently added to the county borough, rose considerably.

The position in Cork County Borough was similar to that in Dublin: a decline in population within the legally defined boundary was compensated by a rise in the population of the suburban area with the result that a slight increase occurred (1.5 per cent) in the population of the entire city area. Almost a third of the population of Cork City was within the suburban area. The population of Dun Laoghaire Borough showed virtually no change from 1951 to 1956, but a substantial increase occurred in the suburban area. The line of demarkation between Dublin and Dun Laoghaire suburbs is necessarily somewhat arbitrary since, if the criterion "taking part in the communal life of the town" is to be applied, much of the population could be allocated to the suburbs of either city. Practically no change occurred in the population of Limerick County Borough, while the suburban area defined for this city contained only 780 persons, 1.5 per cent of the total. Waterford County Borough was without suburban areas outside the legally defined boundary, the recent boundary extension having incorporated all such areas into the city. The change in population from 1951 to 1956 within the area of the newly defined county borough boundary was negligible.

In the case of some of the towns listed in Table III the suburban populations are fairly large in relation to the populations within the legally defined boundaries, while in others the legally defined boundaries include practically the entire built up areas. Thus Ennis Urban District contained 5,741 persons in 1956, whereas the "town" of Ennis, comprising the Urban District and its environs, contained 8,292 persons. It will be seen that in 1951, also, a large proportion of the total population of this "town" (27.3 per cent) lived outside the legally defined boundary. Similarly, if attention were confined to legally defined boundaries Portlaoighise would be classed as a town of 3,196 persons whereas it may more accurately be described as a town of over 5,500 persons; 42.5 per cent of the population of the entire built up area was outside the legally defined boundary.

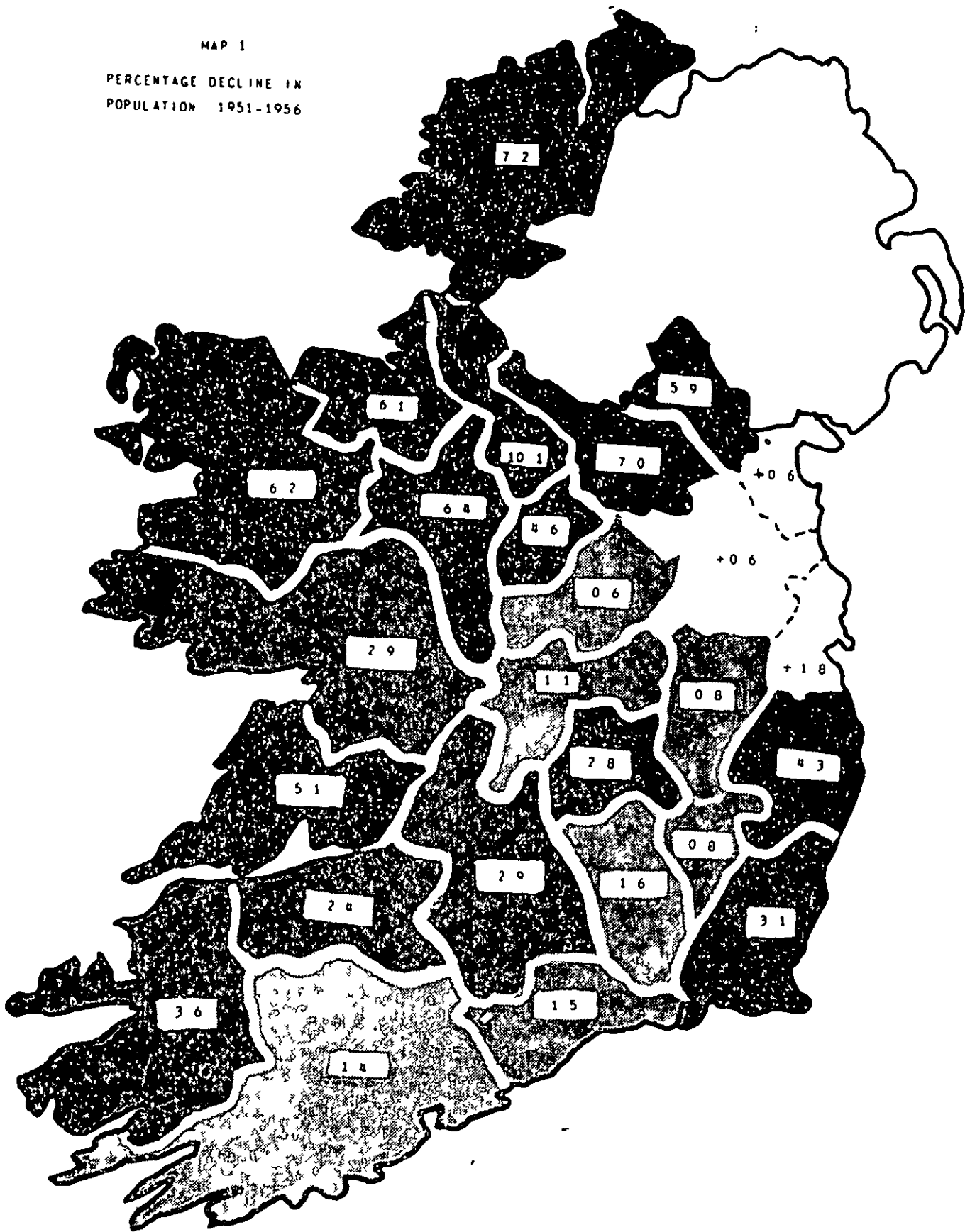
The effect of the review of town boundaries on the figures for individual counties may be inferred from Table IV. Altogether about 90,000 persons who were classed at the 1951 Census as belonging to country areas would have been allocated to towns had the principles followed in 1956 been adopted at the previous Census.

TABLE IV.—POPULATION OF TOWNS OF ALL SIZES IN EACH COUNTY AT 1951 AND 1956 CENSUSES, SHOWING THE EFFECT OF RE-DEFINITION OF BOUNDARIES ON THE 1951 FIGURES AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE, 1951 TO 1956, WITHIN THE NEW BOUNDARIES.

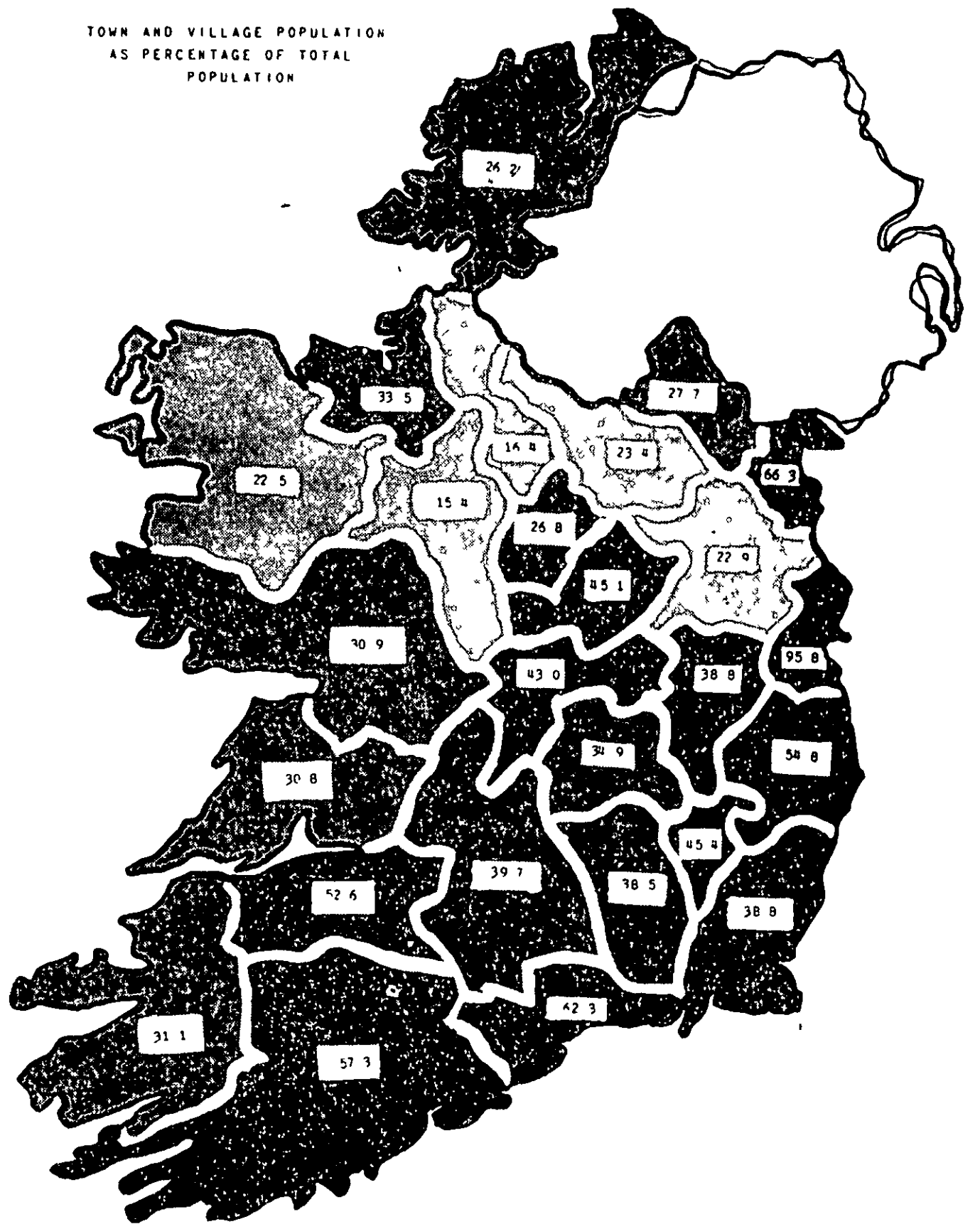
County	Population as enumerated in 1951	Revised 1951 population on 1956 boundaries	Population in 1956	Percentage change	
				1951—Revised 1951	Revised 1951—1956
Carlow ...	13,719	15,316	15,372	+11.6	+0.4
Dublin ...	656,669	663,683	676,027	+1.1	+1.9
Kildare ...	19,374	22,880	25,549	+18.1	+11.7
Kilkenny ...	20,318	24,236	24,649	+19.3	+1.7
Laoighis ...	12,941	16,137	16,451	+24.7	+1.9
Longford ...	7,352	8,857	8,830	+20.5	-0.3
Louth ...	43,332	44,830	45,888	+3.5	+2.4
Meath ...	11,624	14,716	15,317	+26.6	+4.1
Offaly ...	18,680	21,763	22,356	+16.5	+2.7
Westmeath ...	19,489	23,843	24,429	+22.3	+2.5
Wexford ...	31,127	34,636	33,818	+11.3	-2.4
Wicklow ...	31,198	34,265	32,811	+9.8	-4.2
Clare ...	19,832	24,319	23,774	+22.6	-2.2
Cork ...	179,446	191,386	192,856	+6.7	+0.8
Kerry ...	33,834	37,174	37,978	+9.9	+2.2
Limerick ...	68,022	72,279	72,516	+6.3	+0.3
Tipperary ...	48,679	51,566	51,434	+5.9	-0.3
Waterford ...	42,338	45,826	46,104	+8.2	+0.6
Galway ...	45,088	49,406	48,106	+9.6	-2.6
Leitrim ...	5,654	6,365	6,089	+12.6	-4.3
Mayo ...	26,313	30,937	29,871	+17.6	-3.4
Roscommon ...	9,014	10,136	9,822	+12.4	-3.1
Sligo ...	17,964	19,999	19,031	+11.3	-4.8
Cavan ...	11,477	14,824	14,426	+29.2	-2.7
Donegal ...	24,901	31,459	32,017	+26.3	+1.8
Monaghan ...	13,624	14,185	14,407	+4.1	+1.6
Leinster ...	885,823	925,162	941,497	+4.4	+1.8
Munster ...	392,151	422,550	424,662	+7.8	+0.5
Connacht ...	104,033	116,843	112,919	+12.3	-3.4
Ulster (part of) ...	50,002	60,468	60,850	+20.9	+0.6
TOTAL ...	1 432,009	1,525,023	1,539,928	+ 6.5	+ 1.0

In each county the revision of town boundaries resulted in a larger allocation of population to town areas than had occurred at the 1951 Census, although the extent of this reallocation varied widely between the different areas. The 1951 population within the revised town boundaries exceeded the population originally classified as "town" by between 20 and 30 per cent in the counties of Cavan, Meath, Donegal, Laoighis, Clare, Westmeath and Longford. Table IV should, of course, be regarded as giving only an approximate indication of the extent to which the 1951 Census figures failed to represent the true town populations which would have been obtained if a survey of the type carried out in 1956 had been made at the previous Census. It is evident, also, that this table will tend to overstate the shortfall in the 1951 figures for town populations since the boundaries drawn in 1956 would, in general, extend beyond boundaries drawn, following similar principles, in 1951.

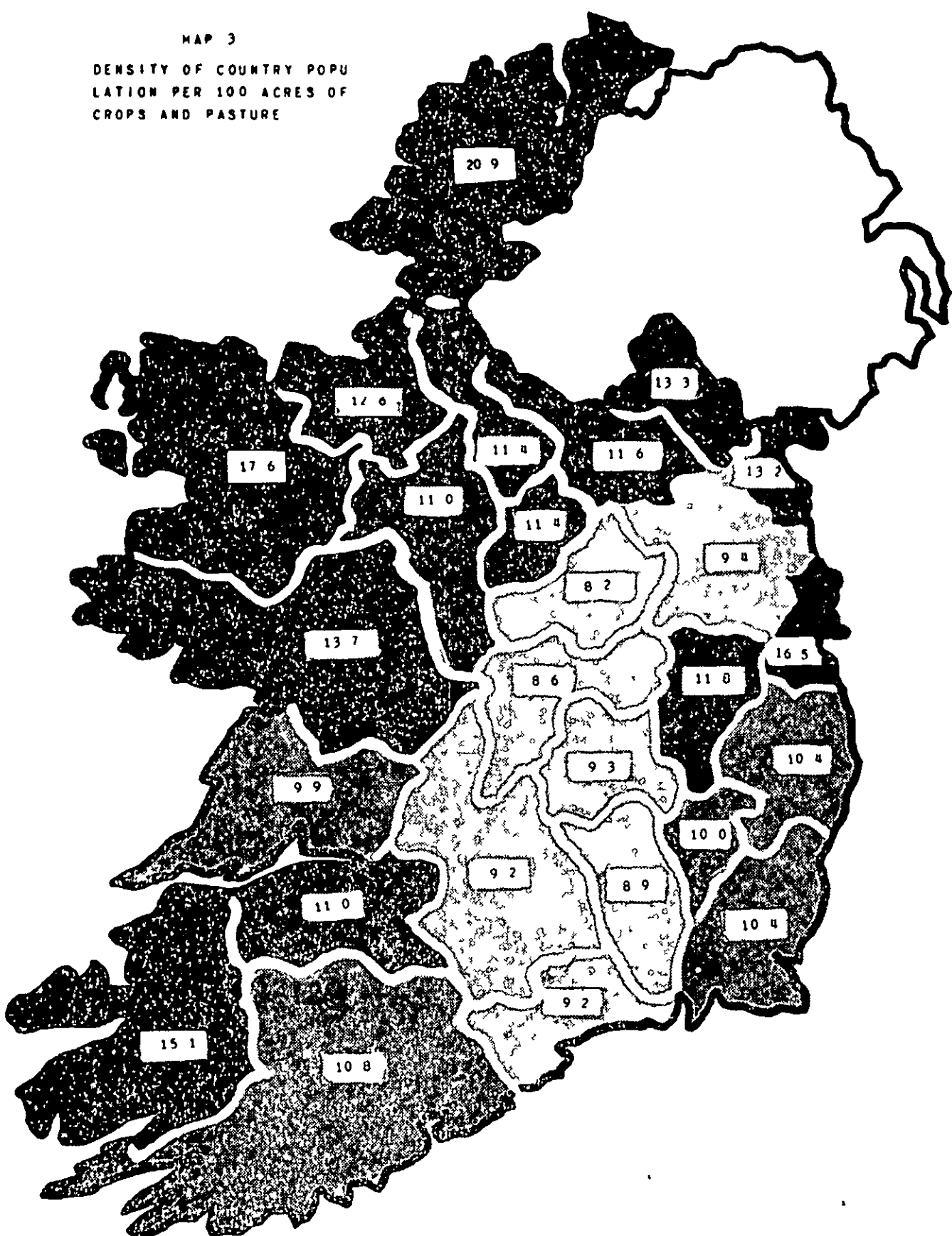
MAP 1
PERCENTAGE DECLINE IN
POPULATION 1951-1956



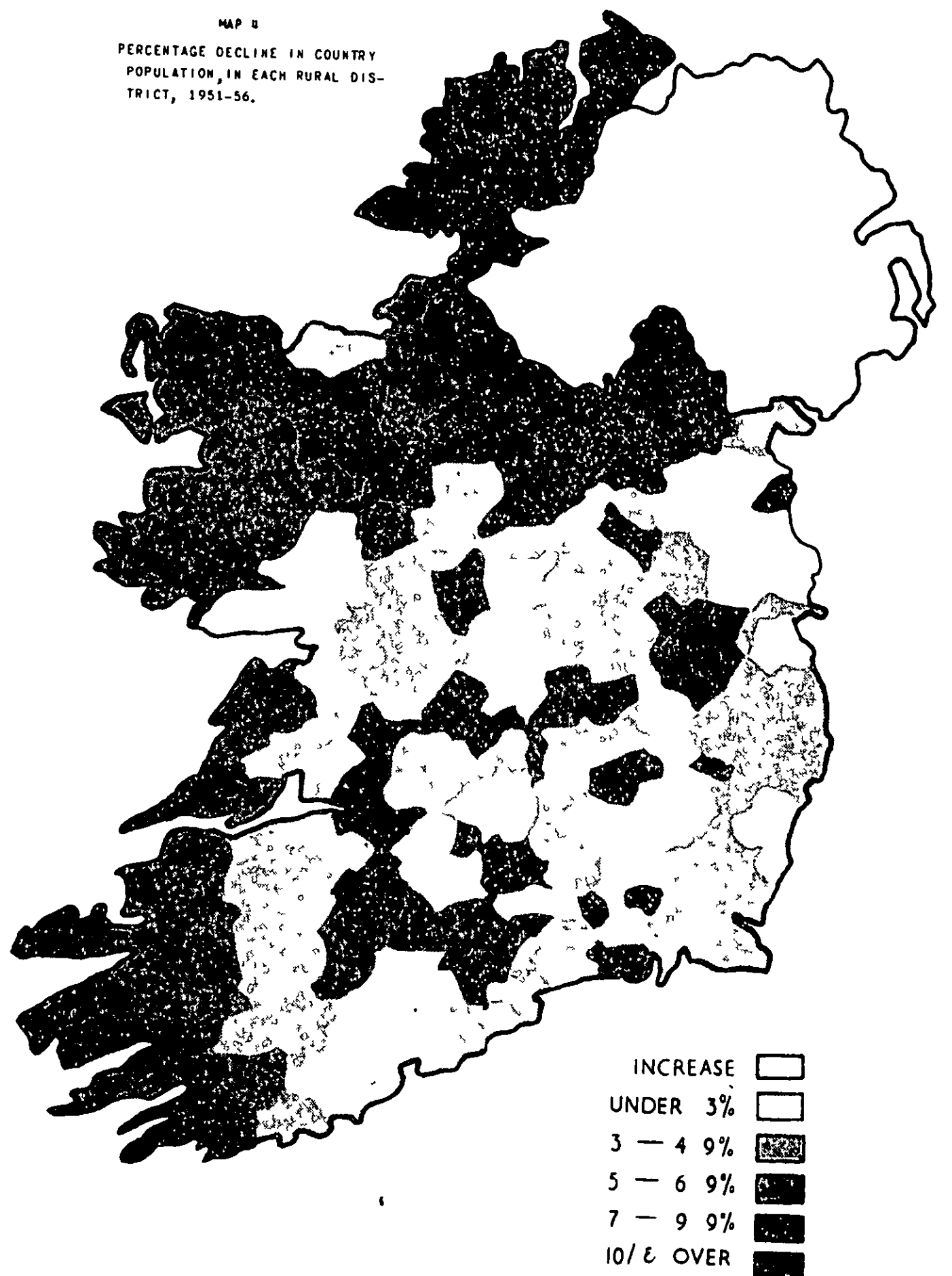
MAP 2
TOWN AND VILLAGE POPULATION
AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
POPULATION



MAP 3
DENSITY OF COUNTRY POPU-
LATION PER 100 ACRES OF
CROPS AND PASTURE



MAP 4
PERCENTAGE DECLINE IN COUNTRY
POPULATION, IN EACH RURAL DIS-
TRICT, 1951-56.



INCREASE
UNDER 3%
3 — 4 9%
5 — 6 9%
7 — 9 9%
10/ & OVER

TYPE OF DISTRICT.

In Table V a classification of the population in 1956 by type of district is shown, this being a summary of the contents of TABLE 13 (pages 138-139). As explained earlier, by size of town in this context is meant the total population including persons in suburban areas or environs. For example, the population of the town and environs of Portlaoighise is classified as belonging to the "towns of 5,000 and under 10,000 population" group.

TABLE V.—DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION IN 1956, ACCORDING TO TYPE OF DISTRICT; FEMALES PER 1,000 MALES IN EACH TYPE OF DISTRICT.

Type of District	Number of towns	Population			Percentage distribution of population	Females per 1,000 males
		Persons	Males	Females		
					%	
Dublin County Borough and Suburbs ...	1	584,483	272,476	312,007	20.2	1,145
Dun Laoghaire Borough and Suburbs ...	1	64,855	29,059	35,796	2.2	1,232
Cork County Borough and Suburbs ...	1	114,428	53,547	60,881	3.9	1,137
Limerick County Borough and Suburbs ...	1	51,666	24,371	27,295	1.8	1,120
Waterford County Borough ...	1	28,878	13,460	15,418	1.0	1,145
Other towns :—						
10,000 population and over and environs ...	10	142,694	68,741	73,953	4.9	1,076
5,000 to 10,000 population and environs ...	16	99,900	48,269	51,631	3.4	1,070
3,000 to 5,000 population and environs ...	24	94,417	44,907	49,510	3.3	1,103
1,500 to 3,000 population and environs ...	47	103,658	50,279	53,379	3.6	1,062
500 to 1,500 population and environs ...	153	127,416	62,058	65,358	4.4	1,053
200 to 500 population ...	251	78,197	38,807	39,390	2.7	1,015
Less than 200 population ...	382	49,336	24,700	24,636	1.7	997
Country districts ...	—	1,358,336	732,254	626,082	46.9	855
Total ...	—	2,898,264	1,462,928	1,435,336	100.0	981

In 1956, the population in towns of all sizes numbered 1,539,928 representing 53.1 per cent of the total population of the country. Dublin County Borough and suburbs contained over a fifth of the total population while the fourteen other towns of over 10,000 population with their suburbs and environs contained under one seventh. Towns of under 500 population numbered 633 and contained 4.4 per cent of the total population. The percentage of the population of each county in towns of all sizes in 1956 is illustrated in Map 2. This proportion ranged from 95.8 per cent in Co. Dublin and 66.3 per cent in Co. Louth to 15.4 per cent in Co. Roscommon.

The country population of each county (*i.e.* the population outside towns and villages) is related to the area of agricultural land in that county in Map 3. The density of country population per 1,000 acres of agricultural land ranged from 209 in Co. Donegal to 82 in Co. Westmeath. The high density of country population in Co. Dublin (165 persons per 1,000 acres of agricultural land) will be noted.

In all types of district down to towns of 200 population the number of females exceeded that of males, the ratio of females to males being highest in Dun Laoghaire Borough and its suburbs. In the towns of under 200 population the numbers of males and females were practically equal, but in country districts the excess of males was very marked, there being only 855 females per 1,000 males.

The population changes in the various types of district between 1951 and 1956 may be seen from Table VI. The figures shown for 1951 and 1956 relate to identical areas, namely the towns, suburbs and environs as defined in 1956. On account of the fact that certain towns fell into different size groups at the two censuses, somewhat different results are obtained according as to whether the type of district classification is based on population in 1951 or population in 1956. For this reason a third classification, based on average population (taking the simple average of the populations in the two Census years) is considered the most useful. A few very small towns, which contained 20 or more occupied houses in 1951 but not in 1956 are included in "country districts".

TABLE VI.—CHANGES IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION BY TYPE OF DISTRICT IN THE PERIOD 1951 TO 1956.

(The groupings are based on average populations in the period).

Type of District	Number of towns	Population in 1951	Population in 1956	Change in Population 1951—1956	Percentage change 1951—1956
					%
Dublin County Borough and Suburbs ...	1	580,388	584,483	+ 4,095	+0.7
Dun Laoghaire Borough and Suburbs ...	1	59,572	64,855	+ 5,283	+8.9
Cork County Borough and Suburbs ...	1	112,755	114,428	+ 1,673	+1.5
Limerick County Borough and Suburbs ...	1	51,177	51,666	+ 489	+1.0
Waterford County Borough ...	1	28,835	28,878	+ 43	+0.1
Other towns :—					
10,000 population and over and environs ...	10	141,846	142,694	+ 848	+0.6
5,000 to 10,000 population and environs ...	17	104,408	104,689	+ 281	+0.3
3,000 to 5,000 population and environs ...	23	90,440	89,470	— 970	—1.1
1,500 to 3,000 population and environs ...	49	106,305	106,721	+ 416	+0.4
500 to 1,500 population and environs ...	149	122,980	123,193	+ 213	+0.2
200 to 500 population ...	246	76,323	77,891	+ 1,568	+2.1
Less than 200 population ...	389	49,994	50,960	+ 966	+1.9
Country districts ...	—	1,435,570	1,358,336	—77,234	—5.4
Total ...	—	2,960,593	2,898,264	—62,329	—2.1

Only in the case of Dun Laoghaire Borough and suburbs was there a substantial increase in population and, as may be seen from TABLE 11, this increase was confined to the suburban area. The population within the legally defined boundary of Dublin County Borough declined between 1951 and 1956, while the increase shown in Table VI is accounted for entirely by a growth in the population of the south city suburbs. Similarly the population within the legally defined boundary of Cork County Borough declined between 1951 and 1956, this decline being more than compensated by the rise in the suburban population of the city. In country districts a very substantial fall in population occurred, amounting to over one per cent per annum, and it may be assumed that the stability of the population in towns is, to a large extent, due to migration of country population to town areas. The decline in country population in the period 1951–56 in each Rural District is illustrated in Map 4.

TOWN AND RURAL POPULATIONS.

In this section a comparison is made between counties in respect of the trends in their aggregate town and aggregate rural populations. Since the very small towns are closer in character to purely country districts than to large urban areas it is necessary to take a dividing line below which towns are assigned to the "rural" portion of the county. The fixing of this dividing line is somewhat arbitrary but it has been taken, for Census purposes for a number of years, as 1,500 population. In determining whether or not a town with legally defined boundaries

falls above this limit the population of its environs is included. Where such a town qualifies for inclusion in the aggregate town area the population of the environs is also regarded as belonging to the aggregate town area, this being a somewhat different procedure from that followed at earlier Censuses.

In Table VII is shown the population in aggregate town and aggregate rural areas of each county in 1956, together with the population in the identical areas in 1951 and the percentage change in the five-year period.

TABLE VII—TOWN AND RURAL POPULATION OF EACH COUNTY, 1951 AND 1956, AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

Province, County or County Borough	Aggregate town areas			Aggregate rural areas		
	Population in 1951	Population in 1956	Percentage change	Population in 1951	Population in 1956	Percentage change
TOTAL	1,272,455	1,284,979	+ 1.0	1,688,188	1,613,285	—4.4
LEINSTER	841,007	854,789	+ 1.6	495,474	484,153	—2.3
Carlow	12,156	12,267	+ 0.9	22,006	21,621	—1.7
Dublin County Borough	551,555	539,476	— 2.2	—	—	—
Dun Laoghaire Borough	47,562	47,553	— 0.0	—	—	—
Dublin (remainder of)	55,390	79,517	+43.6	38,515	39,235	+1.9
Kildare	15,173	16,359	+ 7.8	51,264	49,556	—3.3
Kilkenny	12,004	12,328	+ 2.7	53,136	51,761	—2.6
Laoighis	9,725	10,095	+ 3.8	38,705	36,992	—4.4
Longford	4,345	4,167	— 4.1	30,208	28,802	—4.7
Louth	40,341	41,414	+ 2.7	28,430	27,780	—2.3
Meath	8,789	8,761	— 0.3	57,548	58,001	+0.8
Offaly	16,094	16,124	+ 0.2	36,450	35,846	—1.7
Westmeath	16,913	17,675	+ 4.5	37,550	36,447	—2.9
Wexford	26,365	25,721	— 2.4	63,667	61,538	—3.3
Wicklow	24,595	23,332	— 5.1	37,995	36,574	—3.7
MUNSTER	331,531	332,584	+ 0.3	567,434	544,654	—4.0
Clare	13,222	12,857	— 2.8	68,107	64,319	—5.6
Cork County Borough	82,884	80,011	— 3.5	—	—	—
Cork	78,455	82,010	+ 4.5	179,945	174,642	—2.9
Kerry	24,253	24,675	+ 1.7	102,391	97,397	—4.9
Limerick County Borough	50,820	50,886	+ 0.1	—	—	—
Limerick	2,989	3,420	+14.4	87,430	83,575	—4.4
Tipperary, North Riding	16,326	16,335	+ 0.1	40,683	39,362	—3.2
Tipperary, South Riding	25,229	24,933	— 1.2	51,075	48,785	—4.5
Waterford County Borough	28,835	28,878	+ 0.1	—	—	—
Waterford	8,518	8,579	+ 0.7	37,803	36,574	—3.3
CONNACHT	71,999	70,290	— 2.4	399,896	375,931	—6.0
Galway	35,157	34,478	— 1.9	125,047	121,075	—3.2
Leitrim	1,337*	1,289*	— 3.6	39,872	35,767	—10.3
Mayo	16,190	15,871	— 2.0	125,677	117,181	—6.8
Roscommon	5,786	5,705	— 1.4	62,316	58,005	—6.9
Sligo	13,529	12,947	— 4.3	46,984	43,903	—6.6
ULSTER (part of)	27,918	27,316	— 2.2	225,334	208,547	—7.4
Cavan	6,071	5,817	— 4.2	60,306	55,923	—7.3
Donegal	10,130	9,676	— 4.5	121,400	112,383	—7.4
Monaghan	11,717	11,823	+ 0.9	43,628	40,241	—7.8

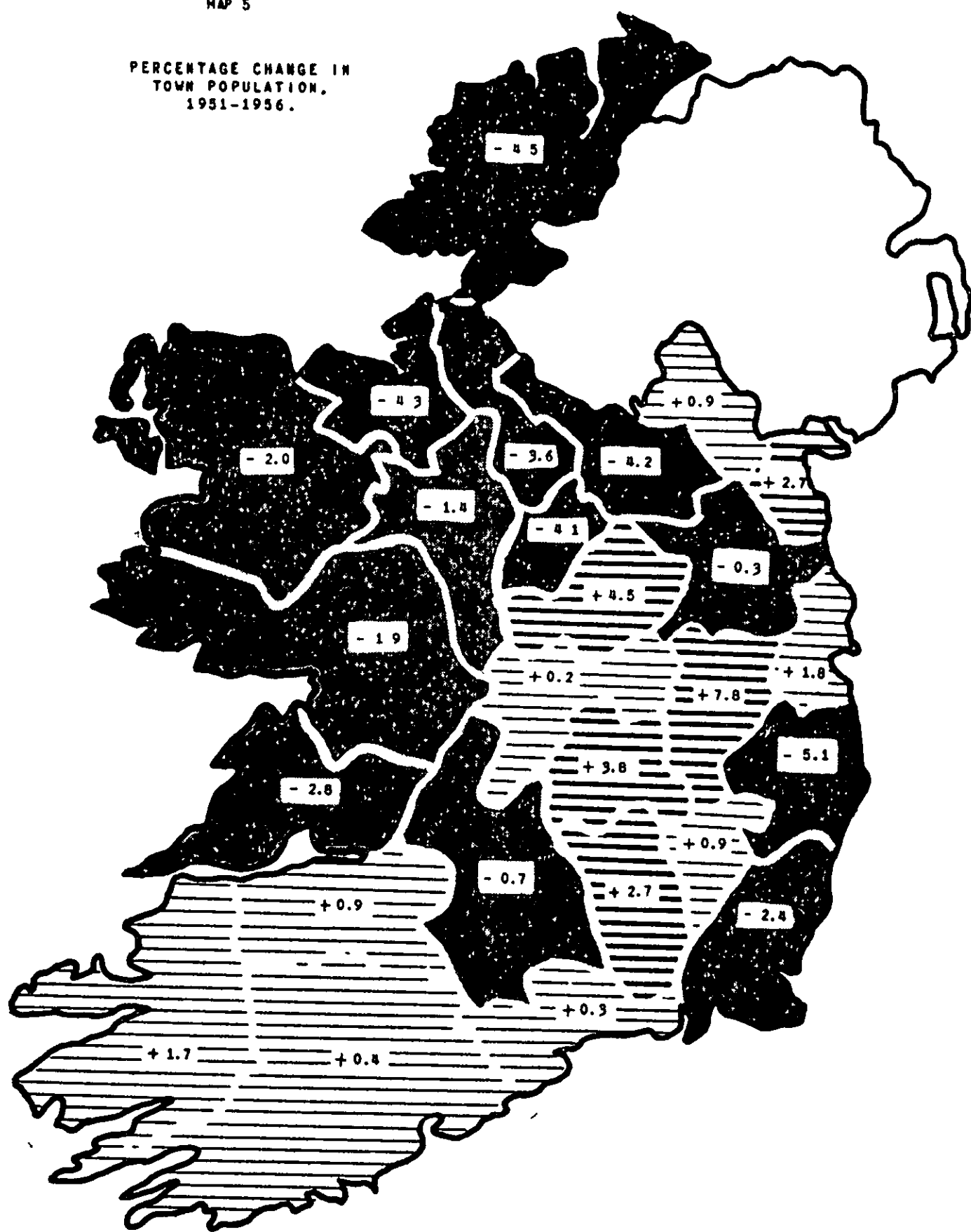
* Figures relate to that part of Carrick-on-Shannon in Co. Leitrim. The total population of this town in 1956 was 1,530 persons, qualifying it for inclusion in the aggregate town areas.

Only in the cases of Co. Dublin and Co. Meath were increases in the population of aggregate rural areas recorded between 1951 and 1956. The largest decrease in aggregate rural population occurred in Co. Leitrim, amounting to 10.3 per cent, followed by Co. Monaghan (7.8 per cent), Co. Donegal (7.4 per cent) and Co. Cavan (7.3 per cent). In the Counties of Roscommon, Mayo and Sligo, falls in aggregate rural population of almost seven per cent occurred. In Co. Galway, on the other hand, the aggregate rural population fell by only 3.2 per cent, a smaller decline than in some of the counties of Leinster. In Munster the overall decline in aggregate rural population was 4.0 per cent, being greatest in Co. Clare (5.6 per cent) and Co. Kerry (4.9 per cent).

The aggregate town population of Leinster rose by 1.6 per cent between 1951 and 1956, and that of Munster by 0.3 per cent. Declines of 2.4 and 2.2 per cent occurred in the population of the aggregate town areas of Connacht and Ulster (part of) respectively. The greatest increases in aggregate town population occurred in Co. Dublin, excluding the County Borough and Dun Laoghaire (43.6 per cent), Co. Limerick, excluding the County Borough (14.4 per cent) and Co. Kildare (7.8 per cent). Declines in aggregate town population between 1951 and 1956 were greatest in Co. Wicklow (5.1 per cent), Co. Donegal (4.5 per cent) and Co. Sligo (4.3 per cent). The percentage changes in the populations of the aggregate town and aggregate rural areas of each county between 1951 and 1956 are illustrated in Maps 5 and 6.

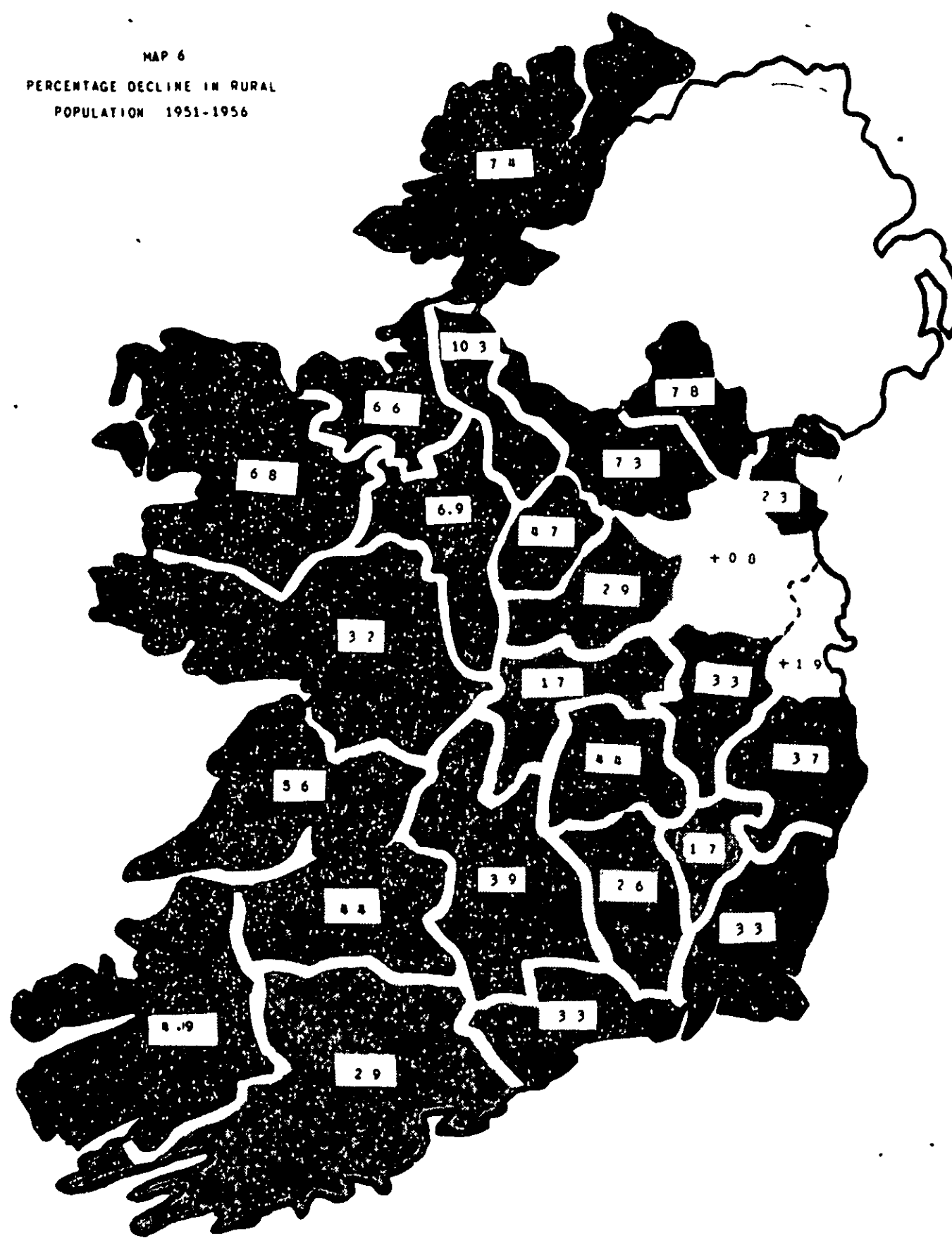
MAP 5

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN
TOWN POPULATION,
1951-1956.



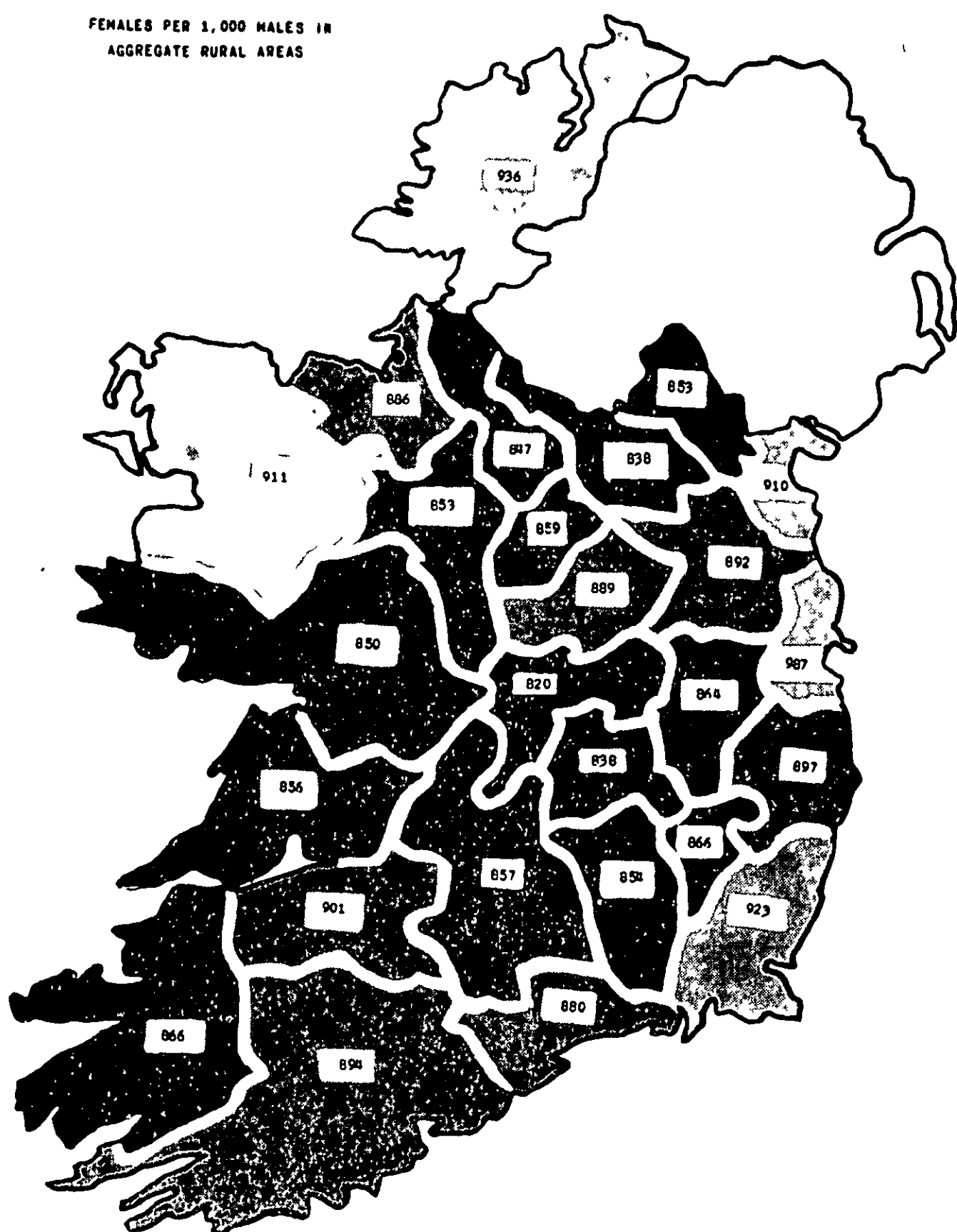
MAP 6

PERCENTAGE DECLINE IN RURAL
POPULATION 1951-1956



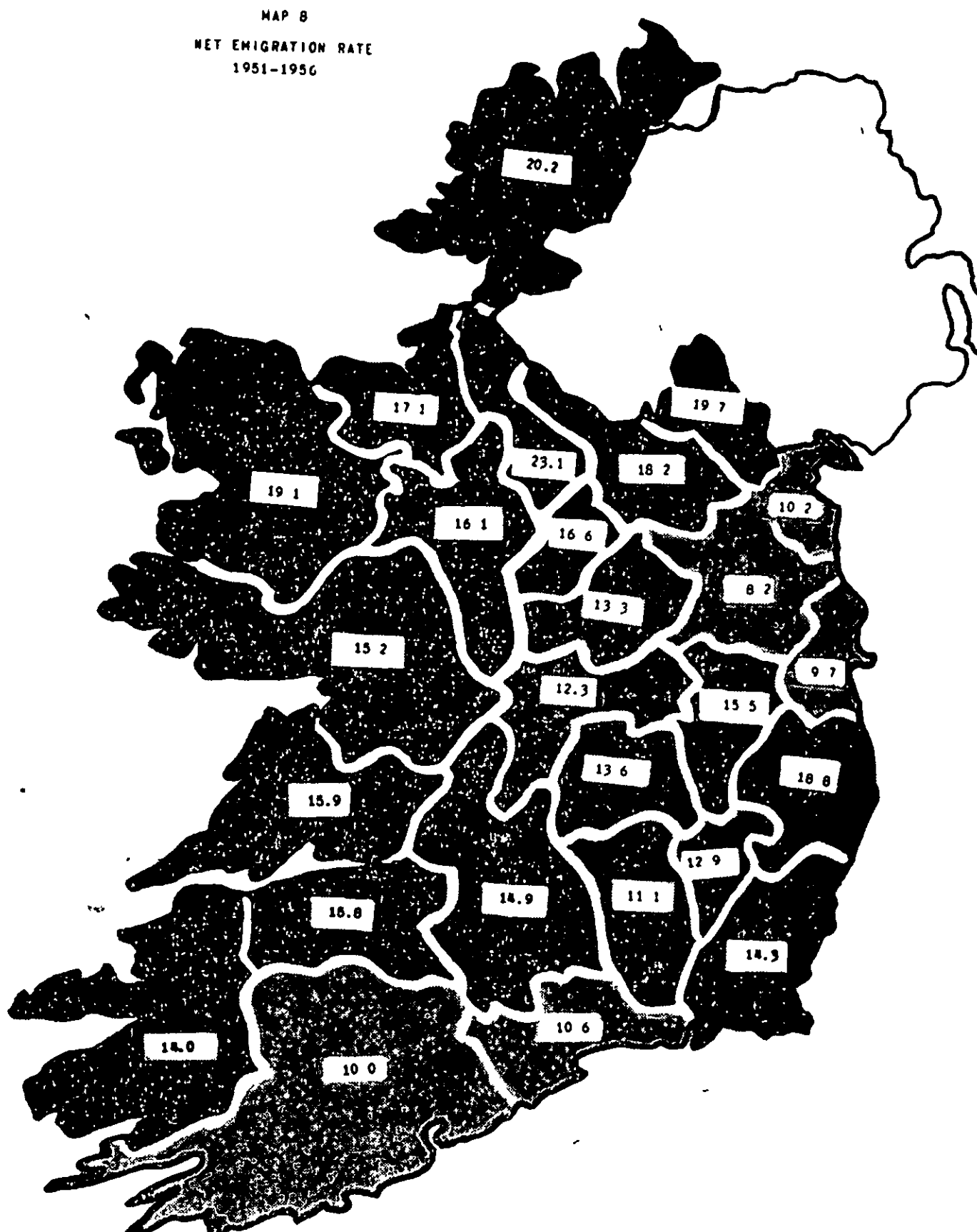
MAP 7

FEMALES PER 1,000 MALES IN
AGGREGATE RURAL AREAS



MAP 8

NET EMIGRATION RATE
1951-1956



The number of females per 1,000 males in total aggregate town areas was 1,124, the proportions in the provinces being Leinster, 1,129; Munster, 1,121; Connacht, 1,078; and Ulster (part of), 1,110. The number of females per 1,000 males in total aggregate rural areas was 881. Among the provinces, Ulster (part of) had the highest proportion of females to males in aggregate rural areas (893 females per 1,000 males), while the lowest proportion (873 females per 1,000 males) occurred in aggregate rural areas in Connacht. In the aggregate rural areas of Leinster and Munster the numbers of females per 1,000 males were respectively 884 and 878. The sex-ratios in the aggregate rural areas of each county are shown in Map 7. In aggregate rural areas the number of females per 1,000 males ranged from 987 in Co. Dublin to 820 in Co. Offaly.

An indication of the trend in town and rural population since the year 1841 may be obtained from Table VIII. The first set of figures in this table relating to the years 1841 to 1936 inclusive represents the populations at the respective Censuses within the 1936 boundaries of towns of 1,500 population or over in 1936. The second set, for the years 1936, 1946 and 1951, shows the population at these Censuses within the 1951 boundaries of towns of 1,500 population or over in 1951. The final set shows the populations in 1951 and 1956 within the 1956 boundaries of aggregate town areas (as defined above). This form of presentation has been adopted in view of the impossibility of getting figures for strictly comparable areas over the whole period.

TABLE VIII.—“TOWN” AND “RURAL” POPULATION, 1841 TO 1956 (a).
(In Thousands)

Year	Total		Leinster		Munster		Connacht		Ulster (part of)	
	Town	Rural	Town	Rural	Town	Rural	Town	Rural	Town	Rural
1841	1,100	5,429	530	1,444	429	1,967	110	1,309	31	709
1851	1,131	3,980	550	1,122	445	1,413	103	907	33	538
1861	986	3,416	525	933	354	1,160	79	834	29	489
1871	934	3,119	512	827	332	1,061	66	780	24	450
1881	932	2,938	524	755	319	1,012	64	757	24	414
1891	888	2,581	518	670	296	876	53	671	21	363
1901	911	2,311	547	606	290	787	53	594	22	324
1911	942	2,197	574	588	295	740	52	559	21	310
1926	959	2,013	595	554	288	682	54	499	22	278
1936	1,055	1,914	672	549	298	644	62	464	23	257
.....										
1936	1,099	1,869	701	519	313	629	62	464	23	257
1946	1,161	1,794	756	525	317	600	64	429	25	239
1951	1,227	1,733	814	523	323	576	66	406	25	228
.....										
1951	1,272	1,688	841	495	332	567	72	400	28	225
1956	1,285	1,613	855	484	333	545	70	376	27	209

(a) For content of figures, see text.

Despite the great fall in population since 1841, the total number of persons in town areas has changed relatively little. Downward trends in the town population of Munster, Connacht and Ulster (part of) have been offset by a rise in the town population of Leinster (largely, of course, concentrated in Dublin County Borough). The rural population of each province in 1956 was at only about one third of its level in 1841.

MIGRATION.

In the intercensal period 1951 to 1956 the number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 134,434 whereas the total population declined by 62,329. The sum of these two figures, namely 196,763, represents the net emigration during the period.

TABLE IX.—BIRTHS, DEATHS AND NET EMIGRATION IN THE PERIOD 1951 TO 1956, BY SEXES.

Five-year period, 1951 to 1956							Persons	Males	Females
Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	312,517	160,334	152,183
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	178,083	95,721	82,362
Natural increase (excess of births over deaths)	...	...	...	...	...	...	134,434	64,613	69,821
Decrease in population	...	...	...	...	...	...	62,329	43,669	18,660
Net emigration (emigrants less immigrants)	...	...	...	...	...	...	196,763	108,282	88,481

It will be seen from Table IX that this figure for net emigration was made up of 108,282 males and 88,481 females. This compares with a net emigration of 119,568 persons, comprising 50,552 males and 69,016 females, in the period 1946 to 1951. Thus the net emigration of males in the later period was over double that in the earlier, while that of females showed an increase of over a quarter. The rate of net emigration per 1,000 average population per annum rose from 8.2 in 1946-51 to 13.4 in 1951-56.

In Table X are shown the annual average change in population, natural increase and net emigration for each intercensal period since the year 1871.

TABLE X.—AVERAGE ANNUAL CHANGE IN POPULATION, NATURAL INCREASE AND NET EMIGRATION, 1871-81 TO 1951-56.

Period	Average annual decline (+ = increase)			Average annual natural increase (Births less deaths)			Average annual net emigration		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1871-1881†	18,317	8,003	10,314	31,855	16,955	14,900	50,172	24,958	25,214
1881-1891†	40,133	18,384	21,749	19,600	10,873	8,727	59,733	29,257	30,476
1891-1901†	24,688	11,852	12,836	14,954	8,463	6,491	39,642	20,315	19,327
1901-1911†	8,214	2,058	6,156	17,940	9,706	8,234	26,154	11,764	14,390
1911-1926††	11,180	5,508	5,672	15,822	8,426	7,396	27,002	13,934	13,068
1926-1936†	357	+1,357	1,714	16,318	8,612	7,706	16,675	7,255	9,420
1936-1946†	1,332	2,558	+1,226	17,380	8,700	8,680	18,712	11,258	7,454
1946-1951‡	+1,119	+2,390	1,271	25,503	12,699	12,804	24,384	10,309	14,075
1951-1956‡	12,466	8,734	3,732	26,887	12,923	13,964	39,353	21,657	17,696

† Ten year period.

†† Fifteen year period.

‡ Five year period.

The average yearly natural increase was greater, between 1951 and 1956, than during any period since 1881-91, amounting to 26,887 per annum. The average yearly net emigration was higher, between 1951 and 1956, than during any period since the beginning of the present century, amounting to 39,353 per annum. It is noteworthy that in the 1946-51 period and, to a greater extent between 1951 and 1956, the natural increase for females exceeded that for males. In all the earlier periods shown the male natural increase was greater than that for females, although in the decade 1936-46 the excess in the case of males was slight. The various rates derived from Table X are shown in Table XI.

TABLE XI.—RATES OF CHANGE IN POPULATION, NATURAL INCREASE AND NET EMIGRATION PER 1,000 OF AVERAGE* POPULATION PER ANNUM AND NUMBER OF FEMALES EMIGRATING PER 1,000 MALES, 1871-81 TO 1951-56.

PER 1,000 MALES, 1871-81 TO 1951-56.

Period	Decrease in population (+ =increase)	Natural increase	Net emigration	Females emigrating per 1,000 males
	Per 1,000 of average* population			
1871-1881†	4.6	8.0	12.7	1,010
1881-1891†	10.9	5.3	16.3	1,042
1891-1901†	7.4	4.5	11.9	951
1901-1911†	2.6	5.6	8.2	1,223
1911-1926††	3.7	5.2	8.8	938
1926-1936†	0.1	5.5	5.6	1,298
1936-1946†	0.4	5.9	6.3	662
1946-1951‡	+0.4	8.6	8.2	1,365
1951-1956‡	4.3	9.2	13.4	817

* The arithmetical average of the population in consecutive census years.

†† Fifteen year period.

† Ten year period.

‡ Five year period.

The rate of natural increase, at 9.2 per 1,000 average population, was higher in 1951-56 than in any of the other intercensal periods shown, while the rate of net emigration, at 13.4 per 1,000 average population, was exceeded in only one of these periods namely 1881-91.

The number of females emigrating per 1,000 males was 817 in the period 1951-56, compared with 1,365 in the previous five years and 662 in 1936-46. Despite the considerable fluctuations in this proportion from one intercensal period to the next, the numbers of males and females emigrating over a long period are practically equal. Thus between 1901 and 1956, male emigrants numbered 670,600 while female emigrants numbered 666,200. Over the whole period covered in the foregoing tables, namely 1871 to 1956, the number of male emigrants was 1,415,900 while the number of female emigrants was 1,416,300.

The rates of change in population, natural increase and net emigration for each province in the intercensal periods since 1871 are shown in Table XII.

TABLE XII.—RATES OF DECREASE IN POPULATION, NATURAL INCREASE AND NET EMIGRATION PER THOUSAND AVERAGE* POPULATION PER ANNUM IN THE PROVINCES, 1871-81 TO 1951-56.

Period	Total			Leinster			Munster			Connacht			Ulster (part of)		
	Decrease in Population	Natural Increase	Net Emigration	Decrease in Population	Natural Increase	Net Emigration	Decrease in Population	Natural Increase	Net Emigration	Decrease in Population	Natural Increase	Net Emigration	Decrease in Population	Natural Increase	Net Emigration
1871-1881†	4.6	8.0	12.7	4.6	4.3	8.9	4.6	9.1	13.7	2.9	12.0	15.0	7.8	8.4	16.3
1881-1891†	10.9	5.3	16.3	7.4	2.9	10.3	12.7	5.7	18.4	12.5	8.5	21.0	13.3	5.6	18.9
1891-1901†	7.4	4.5	11.9	3.0	2.5	5.6	8.6	5.0	13.6	11.3	6.9	18.3	10.4	4.4	14.7
1901-1911†	2.6	5.6	8.2	+0.8	4.4	3.6	3.9	6.2	10.1	5.7	7.4	13.1	4.3	4.8	9.1
1911-1926††	3.7	5.2	8.8	0.7	4.7	5.5	4.4	5.6	9.9	6.7	6.1	12.8	6.6	4.0	10.6
1926-1936†	0.1	5.5	5.6	+6.0	6.4	0.4	2.9	5.3	8.2	5.1	5.0	10.1	6.8	3.4	10.2
1936-1946†	0.4	5.9	6.3	+4.9	7.8	2.9	2.7	5.0	7.7	6.4	3.9	10.3	6.0	3.7	9.7
1946-1951‡	+0.4	8.6	8.2	+8.6	10.7	2.1	4.1	7.5	11.7	8.8	6.3	15.1	8.4	6.2	14.6
1951-1956‡	4.3	9.2	13.4	+0.4	11.7	11.4	4.9	7.9	12.8	11.2	6.3	17.4	14.2	5.4	19.6

* The arithmetical average of the population in consecutive census years.

†† Fifteen year period.

† Ten year period.

‡ Five year period.

The most striking feature of this table is the high rate of net emigration from the province of Leinster in the most recent period, the figure of 11·4 per 1,000 average population exceeding that for any of the other intercensal periods shown. In the case of Ulster (part of), also, the rate of net emigration in 1951-56 was higher than in any of the other intercensal periods shown, but in each period the rate of net emigration from this area was substantial. The rate of natural increase in Leinster in 1951-56 was the highest in any of the years shown, while that in Munster was exceeded only in 1871-81. In Connacht the rate of natural increase has remained fairly stable for a number of years, while in Ulster (part of) a decline occurred in 1951-56 compared with the previous five years.

In TABLE 12 (pages 136-137), are shown the numbers of births and deaths, the natural increase and net emigration and the corresponding annual rates for each county for the period 1951 to 1956. The annual average rates of net emigration from each county in the periods 1946-51 and 1951-56 are compared in Table XIII.

TABLE XIII.—ANNUAL AVERAGE RATE OF NET EMIGRATION FROM EACH COUNTY IN THE PERIODS 1946 TO 1951 AND 1951 TO 1956.

Area	Net emigration per 1,000 average population per annum		Area	Net emigration per 1,000 average population per annum	
	1946 to 1951	1951 to 1956		1946 to 1951	1951 to 1956
TOTAL	8·2	13·4	MUNSTER		
Leinster	2·1	11·4	Clare	15·9	15·9
Munster	11·7	12·8	Cork*	7·9	10·0
Connacht	15·1	17·4	Kerry	17·7	14·0
Ulster (part of)	14·6	19·6	Limerick*	12·7	15·8
			Tipperary, N.R.	12·6	14·0
			Tipperary, S.R.	13·5	15·5
			Waterford*	9·6	10·6
LEINSTER			CONNACHT		
Carlow	9·3	12·9	Galway	15·3	15·2
Dublin*	+5·5	9·7	Leitrim	18·7	23·1
Kildaro	8·8	15·5	Mayo	15·3	19·1
Kilkenny	13·1	11·1	Roscommon	15·9	16·1
Laoighis	12·2	13·6	Sligo	10·8	17·1
Longford	16·8	16·6			
Louth	3·3	10·2	ULSTER (part of)		
Meath	8·6	8·2	Cavan	15·8	18·2
Offaly	13·3	12·3	Donegal	14·6	20·2
Westmeath	11·9	13·3	Monaghan	13·2	19·7
Wexford	12·3	14·3			
Wicklow	2·1	18·8			

* County and County Borough.

It will be observed that whereas for 1946-51 Dublin City and County was an area of net immigration, in the period 1951-56 it was one from which there was a very substantial net emigration, accounting for over one-sixth of the total net emigration from the country in the period. The counties in the case of which net emigration was greatest in 1951-56, with rates per 1,000 per annum were Leitrim (23·1), Donegal (20·2), Monaghan (19·7), Mayo (19·1), Wicklow (18·8), Cavan (18·2), Sligo (17·1), Longford (16·6), Roscommon (16·1) and Clare (15·9). These areas are largely those in the north and west of the country, the only county in Connacht and Ulster (part of) not listed being Galway in the case of which the rate of net emigration was 15·2 per 1,000 population. The annual average rate of net emigration from each county in the period 1951-56 is illustrated in Map 8.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF SEX-RATIO.

The most recent available figures for the proportion of females to males in a number of countries are shown in Table XIV.

TABLE XIV.—FEMALES PER 1,000 MALES IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES.

Country				Females per 1,000 males	Country				Females per 1,000 males
Canada ... ..	...	...	1951	976	Italy ... ..	...	...	1951	1,053
Australia ... ..	...	...	1954	977	The Six Counties ... ..	...	...	1951	1,053
IRELAND ... ..	...	...	1956	981	Switzerland ... ..	...	...	1950	1,075
Turkey ... ..	...	...	1950	990	Spain ... ..	...	...	1950	1,077
New Zealand ... ..	...	...	1951	991	Portugal ... ..	...	...	1950	1,079
Sweden ... ..	...	...	1950	1,008	England and Wales ... ..	...	...	1951	1,082
Netherlands ... ..	...	...	1947	1,009	France ... ..	...	...	1954	1,085
U.S.A. ... ..	...	...	1950	1,014	Finland ... ..	...	...	1950	1,092
Denmark ... ..	...	...	1950	1,017	Scotland ... ..	...	...	1951	1,094
Norway ... ..	...	...	1950	1,017	Germany (Federal Republic) ... ..	...	...	1950	1,134
Belgium ... ..	...	...	1947	1,027	Austria ... ..	...	...	1951	1,155
Greece ... ..	...	...	1951	1,051					

In only two of the countries listed, namely Canada and Australia, was the proportion of females to males lower than in Ireland. In Turkey and New Zealand, also, the number of males exceeded that of females while in all the other countries listed females outnumbered males. In Austria and the German Federal Republic the excess of females was very marked.