

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1961.

VOLUME II.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The present volume gives detailed classifications of the total population and populations of different areas according to age and conjugal condition, based on the information which was collected at the Census of Population taken on the night of 9 April, 1961. In subsequent volumes statistics of the population by age and conjugal condition classified by such other factors as occupation, socio-economic group, employment status, religion and birthplace will be shown.

COVERAGE OF THE CENSUS.

The Census figures relate to the *de facto* population, i.e. the population recorded for each area represents the total of all persons present within its boundaries on the night of 9 April, 1961, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 10 April, 1961, not having been enumerated elsewhere; persons aboard ships or boats in port are included in the population of adjacent areas. The figures, therefore, include visitors present on Census night in addition to residents, but Irish persons temporarily absent from the State on Census night are excluded. The date of the Census was, however, chosen to coincide with a period when passenger movements were at a minimum and consequently the figures closely approximate to those for the normally resident population.

Members of the Defence Forces who, on Census date, were serving with the United Nations Force in the Congo were, of course, excluded from the enumeration. The total number of officers and men concerned was 652, and the following table shows the classification of these according to age group and conjugal condition:-

Age group	Total	Single	Married	Widowed
15-19 years	119	119	-	-
20-24 "	250	231	19	-
25-29 "	101	65	36	-
30-34 "	49	25	23	1
35-39 "	44	6	38	-
40-44 "	65	13	52	-
45-49 "	21	5	16	-
50-54 "	3	-	3	-
Total	652	464	187	1

ARRANGEMENT OF TABLES.

Although a number of changes have been made in the arrangement and form of presentation of the tables compared with the corresponding volumes for earlier censuses, the actual content of the tables has been little altered. The table showing single years of age for individual counties (Table 11) has been extended to show up to and including 69 years of age. The tables showing age groups by conjugal condition for the aggregate town and aggregate rural areas of each county have been omitted as it is considered that these classifications are not of sufficient importance to warrant the amount of space required to include them and, in addition, this information can be easily deduced from Table 13 of this volume. A table has been included showing the population at or over each year of age (Table 10), in order to make it easy to ascertain the numbers of persons in different age ranges.

In the case of Table 13, which shows figures for Urban Districts, for other towns having legally defined boundaries, for towns of 1,500 population or over not having legally defined boundaries and for Rural Districts, the arrangement of the different areas corresponds exactly to that in Table 9 of Volume 1. Though this means that, sometimes, age by conjugal condition data are provided for small areas, it is obviously an advantage to have a uniform classification in the two Tables.

The definition of 'aggregate town area' as used throughout this volume and the remaining volumes of the Census differs somewhat from that applied at the 1951 Census. In 1951 the term 'aggregate town area' related to cities and towns with legally defined boundaries and all other towns of 1,500 inhabitants or more. At the 1961 Census the term 'aggregate town area' applies only to towns with 1,500 inhabitants or over. If a town with a legally defined boundary has a suburban area or environs outside this boundary and if the total population made up of the population inside the legally defined boundary plus that in the suburbs or environs amounts to 1,500 persons or over this town (including suburbs or environs) is classified as belonging to the 'aggregate town area'. The area outside towns of 1,500 inhabitants or over is classed as belonging to the 'aggregate rural area'.

The questions involved in defining the boundaries of 'Census Towns', i.e. towns without legally defined boundaries, and in delimiting the suburbs or environs of towns having legally defined boundaries are discussed in the Explanatory Notes to Volume 1 of the 1961 Census. In Table 13 of that volume all cities and towns which, together with their suburbs or environs, if any, have 1,500 inhabitants or over are listed in order of size so that it is possible from this table to identify precisely the composition of the 'aggregate town area' group.

DATA ON AGES AND CONJUGAL CONDITIONS.

Following the practice used at the 1946 and 1951 Censuses, the date of birth - day, month and year - was asked for in respect of each person enumerated. 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 while at earlier censuses the age in completed years was asked for.

The instruction on the Census schedule regarding conjugal condition read as follows:-

"For persons 14 years of age or over write 'Single', 'Married' or 'Widowed', whichever applies'.
For children under 14 years write 'Child'."

For convenience of presentation in the various tables of the report, children under 14 years are included under the heading 'Single'. A very small number of persons made entries such as 'Separated' or 'Divorced' in this section of the schedule. These have been included under the heading 'Married', as their numbers are much too small to justify their being classified separately.

It is believed that by asking for date of birth rather than age a considerable increase in accuracy in the information is obtained. Thus the importance attached to furnishing precise particulars is emphasised and the tendency to give approximate age avoided. Prior to the 1946 Census, there was a strong tendency to furnish ages grouped at 30, 40, 50, 60, etc. The following figures showing males in 1936, 1946, 1951 and 1961, respectively, recorded at particular ages reflects a considerable improvement in accuracy since 1936.

Age	1936	1946	1951	1961
29	19,893	21,268	20,199	14,314
30	22,324	20,501	20,230	15,273
31	16,598	21,168	19,761	14,810
39	17,728	19,469	21,473	17,338
40	22,490	18,124	21,651	17,611
41	14,699	16,875	19,006	17,373
49	14,695	17,608	15,948	18,445
50	21,168	16,309	20,659	18,989
51	12,650	14,308	16,341	16,623
59	13,688	14,386	12,780	12,948
60	18,370	12,818	13,269	15,718
61	10,987	11,956	11,934	12,849

The concentration at age 60 in 1961 is probably due to an inclination for persons born around the beginning of the Century to return 1900 as the year of birth. A similar concentration was noted at age 45 in 1946 and age 50 in 1951.