

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1961.

VOLUME III - OCCUPATIONS

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

This volume contains statistics relating to the detailed classifications of the total population and of the populations of different areas according to occupation, social group and employment status.

BASIS OF CLASSIFICATION.

All persons aged 14 years and over are classified to their usual principal occupation or calling, including those who are out of work and those who are temporarily confined to hospitals.

Occupations are divided into two broad categories, gainful and non-gainful, a gainful occupation being one in which the person is actively engaged and from which the livelihood is usually obtained. Persons in certain occupations who do not receive a fixed wage or salary are, however, also classified as gainfully occupied, the principal group of persons in this category being those assisting relatives in farm work. Persons engaged in home duties, persons at school and retired persons comprise the majority of the not gainfully occupied group.

The occupation, in the case of a gainfully occupied person, is determined by the kind of work performed in earning a living irrespective of the place in which, and the purpose for which, it is performed. 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. Accordingly, the occupational classification of the population should not be confused with the classification by industry or service which will be the subject of a later volume.

In the grouping of the occupational headings in Table 2 the individual occupations peculiar to, or habitually associated with, a particular industry or service have been listed together. Certain "residual" headings in this table (e.g. Other textile workers, Other road transport workers, etc.) cover in the main those occupations, which though peculiar to, or usually associated with, these industries or services, do not, by reason of the numbers engaged, justify separate identification, as well as cases in which the information provided on the Census schedules was not adequate for specific listing. Such headings *do not include* persons working in the industry or service in occupations which are common to a number of industries or services (e.g. Clerk, labourer, etc.). Likewise, not all persons in a particular occupation are necessarily employed in the industry or service most generally associated with that occupation. Thus, not all carpenters are engaged in the wood-working industry. It follows that the broader occupational group totals in this volume should not be mistaken for the totals of persons engaged in the rather similarly described industries and services. For instance, the total of persons in agricultural occupations includes those agricultural workers employed by institutions, such as mental hospitals, but it does not include such workers as mechanics or carpenters who may be employed on the larger agricultural holdings.

The questions on the Census schedule from which these statistics were derived are set out hereunder.

For all persons aged 14 years or over – Leave blank for children

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION

If usually working for payment or profit (even if at present out of work), state here the usual principal occupation or calling.

If wholly retired, state the former principal occupation.

For other persons write, as appropriate, "Home duties", "Private means", "At school" (primary, secondary or vocational), "Student" (Medical, Law, etc.), "Not yet at work", etc.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

If working for payment or profit, state whether "Employee", "Employs others", "On own account", "Assisting relative", or "Apprentice".

If out of work, write "Out of work".

If wholly retired, write "Retired".

EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYER'S BUSINESS

If working for payment or profit, state name and address of employer (person, firm, company or public body) and nature of business carried on by employer.

If self employed, state the nature of the business carried on.

If out of work, state name, address and nature of business of last employer.

If farmer, state the area, in statute acres, and the total rateable valuation of the farm on which working.

If farm worker, state the area, in statute acres, of the farm on which working.

More specific directions as to how these questions should be answered were given on the back of the form which also contained examples of properly completed schedules. In addition, the enumerators were requested to examine the completed forms carefully so that vague and inadequate occupational descriptions would be detected and corrected before the forms left the centres of enumeration. Despite these precautions there were, as at previous censuses, a number of cases where incomplete descriptions such as "employee" or "factory worker" were given. The procedure in such cases was, wherever possible, to use the information on employer's business to assign them to headings such as "Other metal workers", "Other woodworkers", "Other textile workers" etc. Where this was not possible they were, in general, assigned to the group "Labourers and unskilled workers".

The most detailed occupational classification is that contained in Table 2. Each occupation in this table has been numbered to facilitate the identification of the content of the broader occupational groups used in other tables. It was considered that it would also be of interest to subdivide certain occupations on an industrial basis in Table 2. The occupational classification used on this occasion differs fairly considerably from that used at the 1951 Census, the changes being designed to make it possible to conform to international recommendations. The most fundamental change has been in the case of professional students who were formerly assigned to the gainfully occupied group but who are now classified as not gainfully occupied.

At the 1951 Census a person with a manual occupation who employed others was coded to that occupation, provided the number of his employees was less than five, while, if the number was five or more, that person was coded to the appropriate "employer" group, it being considered that a person with five or more employees would be concerned mainly with managerial rather than with manual work. In 1961 the question on number of employees of employers was not asked. In the case of an employer stating a manual occupation, the particulars of nature of business were reviewed, and, in general, unless the concern was a limited company or other information available indicated that the business was fairly large, the person was coded to the manual occupation.

Except for the fact that this Volume includes a classification of occupations by employment status and that classification of the populations of aggregate town and aggregate rural areas according to social group are omitted, the statistics presented here are similar in content to those contained in the corresponding publication (Vol. III, Part I) of the Census of Population, 1951. The Status and Social Group classifications are, however, somewhat altered compared with those used in 1951.

CLASSIFICATION BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS.

Each gainfully occupied person was classified by "employment status" to one of the following groups:-

Employer
Own-account worker
Assisting relative
Employee (other than apprentice, or learner in a skilled trade)
Apprentice or learner in a skilled trade
Out of work

Whereas, in 1951, gainfully occupied persons temporarily confined to hospitals were all classified to a single group "In hospital", on this occasion such persons were classified to their appropriate employment status group as for persons not in hospitals. This procedure, which brings the Irish classification more closely into accord with international recommendations, has the added advantage that the total of the first five employment status groups indicates the total number of persons having jobs.

CLASSIFICATION BY SOCIAL GROUP.

As at the 1951 Census, the entire population was classified according to "social group". The social group of each gainfully occupied person was decided by his or her occupation, or, in some cases, by a combination of occupation and employment status. Retired persons were classified to the social group corresponding to their former occupation, while other non-gainfully occupied persons were classified to the social group of the persons on whom they were deemed to be dependent. Thus, if the head of a family was gainfully occupied, dependent members were assigned to his social group. If the head was not gainfully occupied, other non-gainfully occupied members were assigned to the social group of the principal earner in the family. A detailed list showing the allocation of occupations to Social groups is given in Appendix C. The principal changes compared with 1951 are as follows:- (i) The "Working on own account" group has been discontinued, persons in this group being allocated, according to their occupation and status, to the other groups. (ii) The "Wage-earner (non-manual)" group has been divided in two, namely "Intermediate non-manual workers" and "Other non-manual workers".

RATEABLE VALUATION.

The following question was asked in respect of each household:-

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

State the area and rateable valuation of all agricultural holdings (if any) in the State of which persons usually resident in the household are the rated occupiers. Land held under the eleven months system or in conacre or in commonage should be excluded.

This information was used to provide a further sub-division of the social group "Farmers, relatives assisting and farm managers" according to rateable valuation of all agricultural holdings owned by residents in the same household as is shown in Table 8. Similarly in Table 9A males in each occupation are classified according to the rateable valuation, using the particulars obtained in reply to this question, while Table 9B gives a corresponding classification for females.

SUBSIDIARY OCCUPATIONS AND AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS.

Although the Census of Population classifications are, for the most part, concerned with the "principal occupation" of individuals, the problem arises that, for many persons, particularly in rural areas, it may be difficult to decide which of several occupations they follow at different periods is the principal one. For example, a man with a small holding who takes employment as a road labourer with the Local Authority may find it difficult to say, when completing the Census return, whether his principal occupation is that of "farmer" or "road labourer". Whichever occupation is entered, valuable information is lost as both occupations are necessary in order to obtain a reasonably complete description of the work done by this man throughout the year. This problem has, of course, been present at each Census of Population at which information on occupation was sought, but in 1961, for the first time, supplementary questions were included on the Census schedule with the object of obtaining information about the subsidiary occupations of persons in agriculture and about land held by persons whose principal occupation was not that of farmer. It was, of course, realised that many persons besides those connected with agriculture have subsidiary occupations. The problems of definition of principal and subsidiary occupations are so great that it was decided to attempt such an inquiry in relation only to agriculture. In any event, it was judged that it was of greater importance

to investigate the position in relation to agriculture than in other fields. As was already remarked, this is the first occasion on which an inquiry of this type was included on the Census schedule and it was, therefore, to a certain extent, experimental.

The relevant instructions on the Census form read as follows:

SUBSIDIARY OCCUPATION

If principal occupation is in agriculture state subsidiary occupation, if any.

If principal occupation is not that of farmer, and if the person is the rated occupier of agricultural land, write "Landholder" and state the area of this land in statute acres, and the total rateable valuation of the holding.

DIRECTIONS ON BACK OF FORM

If a person whose principal occupation is that of farmer, relative assisting farmer, farm labourer or other agricultural worker, had another job inside or outside the State on which he spent a substantial part of his working time (one month or more) during the past year, this second job should be stated, for example "Builder's labourer", "Road worker", "Labourer on other farm", "Labourer in Sugar Company", "Labourer in Bord na Mona", "Forestry worker", "Fisherman", "Shopkeeper - groceries", "Postman, part-time".

Where the principal occupation is not that of farmer and the person is the rated occupier of agricultural land, then "Landholder" should be entered in this column, stating the area of the holding in statute acres and the rateable valuation (land and buildings).

The particulars obtained in reply to the first section, giving the subsidiary occupations of men whose principal occupation is in agriculture are summarised in Table 10. It will be noted that this table relates only to men. Corresponding classifications were made for some counties for women, but the numbers involved were so small - of the order of ten women per county - that it was not considered worthwhile preparing these classifications for all counties. The table shows the subsidiary occupations of men whose principal occupation was given as "farmer", "farmer's relative assisting on home farm" or "farm labourer", classified by the area of the farm on which working in connection with his principal occupation.

The particulars obtained from the second section of this question are summarised in Table 11 which indicates the numbers of persons whose principal occupation is not that of farmer, but who, nevertheless, held agricultural land.

1951 - 1961 COMPARISONS.

The numbers of persons, males and females by occupations and occupational groups at the 1951 and 1961 Censuses are compared in Table 3. The classification adopted in this Table is, as far as possible, the same as that used in Table 2 and this has necessitated regrouping the 1951 results according to the new (1961) classification. In some cases, however, it has not been possible to obtain complete correspondence between the two sets of figures, with the result that some changes in certain headings are to be attributed to different classification procedures at the two censuses. Thus, the number of females classified as "not yet at work" or "no statement" is considerably lower in 1961 than in 1951, due to the allocation to the "engaged in home duties" group of certain categories of persons which in 1951 were coded to the former group. Sometimes, also, it has been necessary to regroup the 1961 figures, using industry and employment status sub-divisions, in order to get correspondence between the 1951 and 1961 data. The following occupations are affected in this way, and in consequence, the figures which appear for them in Table 3 are not the same as those in Table 2. "Tobacco preparers and product makers", "Directors and managers in building and construction, builders, contractors and clerk of works", "Packers and bottlers", and "Proprietors, managers and buyers in wholesale and retail trade".

COVERAGE OF 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 commissioned officers (including 2 Chaplains) was 69 and the total number of other ranks was 583.