

# CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1966.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES.

A Census of Population was taken on the night of 17 April, 1966, in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order, 1966 (S.I. No. 40 of 1966), made by the Taoiseach in pursuance of powers conferred on him by sub-section (1) of Section 16 of the Statistics Act, 1926 and the Statistics Acts, 1926 and 1946 (Transfer of Ministerial Functions) Order, 1949 (S.I. No. 142 of 1949).

The following particulars were collected in respect of each individual:- (i) Name, (ii) relationship to head of household, (iii) sex, (iv) date of birth and (v) marital condition, and for persons aged 14 years or over, (vi) principal occupation, (vii) employment status (i.e. whether employer, employee etc.), (viii) name of employer and employer's business, (ix) area and rateable valuation of agricultural land held, (x) age at which full-time education ended and types of school, college etc. attended (for persons who had ceased their full-time education). In addition, the head of each private household was asked to state the number of rooms in the dwelling occupied by the household.

This Volume contains the final figures for the population classified by sex and by place of residence using various area divisions. Subsequent Volumes will be published in due course covering other aspects, as follows:-

- Volume II - Ages and Conjugal conditions classified by Areas only
- Volume III - Industries
- Volume IV - Occupations
- Volume V - Occupations classified by ages and conjugal conditions
- Volume VI - Housing and households
- Volume VII - Education

### COVERAGE OF THE CENSUS.

The Census figures relate to the *de facto* population, that is to say the population recorded for each area represents the total of all persons present within its boundaries on the night of 17 April, 1966, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 18 April, 1966, not having been enumerated elsewhere. Persons on board ships in port are included with the population of adjacent areas. The figures, therefore, include visitors present on Census night as well as residents, but Irish persons temporarily absent from the State 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 abroad with the United Nations were, of course, excluded from the enumeration. The total number of officers and men concerned was 537.

### CONDUCT OF THE CENSUS.

The Garda Síochána, assisted in certain areas by specially appointed Temporary Civilian Enumerators, acted as official enumerators for all parts of the country outside the Dublin region. Within the Dublin region the duties of enumeration were carried out by Postal Officials. The Census

schedules for completion by the head of each family or institution were distributed within the three weeks immediately prior to Census date while collection of the completed forms was commenced on the day after Census date. The enumerators scrutinised the returns at the time of collection to ensure that they were correctly completed and, where necessary, they assisted the householders to fill up the forms. Each enumerator prepared a summary, by sex, of the population of his area and from these summaries the Preliminary Report\*, which was published in August, 1966, was compiled. The completed schedules for the individual households were then transmitted to the Census Office for the preparation of the remaining Reports of the Census. The enumerators performed their difficult and onerous duties most efficiently.

## CONTENTS OF VOLUME I OF THE 1966 CENSUS.

While the statistics contained in the corresponding volumes of earlier censuses are continued in the present report, a number of changes has been made in the arrangement of tables and some additional tables have been included. The principal change is in respect of TABLE 11, which shows the populations of District Electoral Divisions. In the case of District Electoral Divisions which contain towns or portions of towns it was the practice to show in TABLE 11 of earlier Census reports separate population figures for the portions of the District Electoral Divisions within these towns. In the present volume, however, figures for complete District Electoral Divisions only are shown in TABLE 11, while the particulars of towns are to be found in TABLE 8, which has been extended to show for each town the District Electoral Division(s) in which it lies.

The new tables contained in this volume are as follows:- TABLE 3, which gives County totals in convenient form, together with numbers of females per 1,000 males in each County; TABLE 7, which shows the aggregate town and aggregate rural population of each County; TABLE 12, which shows the 1961 and 1966 populations of towns by type of district; TABLE 17, which shows the total population in Gaeltacht areas as defined by the Gaeltacht Areas Order, 1956, and TABLE 18, which shows the population of inhabited islands off the coast.

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND CENSUS AREAS.

There are many different territorial divisions of the country, of which the most important, from the point of view of the Census of Population, are listed below.

It should be particularly noted that the areas concerned are as defined at the date of the 1966 Census of Population, and that subsequent revisions have not been taken into account.

### TOWNLANDS

The enumeration of the Census is carried out, in the first instance, by Townlands in rural areas and by streets in town areas. The Townland is the smallest territorial division used for administrative purposes. Population figures in respect of Townlands, of which there are about 51,000, have not been published since the Census of 1911. However, populations of individual Townlands (excluding portions in towns) will be furnished to inquirers on request.

### DISTRICT ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

The smallest territorial division for which population statistics are published is the District Electoral Division (or, in the County Boroughs, the Ward). In the case of rural areas, the figures for Townlands are aggregated to give those for the District Electoral Divisions, while the figures for streets in town areas are similarly aggregated. There are 3,064 District Electoral Divisions (or Wards) in the State and population figures for these areas are contained in TABLE 11 of this Volume.

### URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS

District Electoral Divisions are aggregated to give Urban and (former) Rural Districts which, in turn, build up to Counties. The Rural Districts, which numbered 160, were abolished as administrative areas in 1925 (or, in the case of the Rural Districts in Co. Dublin, in 1930) but have been retained for Census purposes as convenient units of area, intermediate in size between the District Electoral Division and the County. A map showing County and Rural District boundaries appears on page ii. Figures for Urban and Rural Districts are contained in TABLES 9 and 11 of this Volume.

\* Census of Population of Ireland 1966 - Preliminary Report (Pr. 9049).

## REGISTRARS' DISTRICTS

The organisation of the Public Health services is based on the Registrar's District and the Dispensary District. In the great majority of cases the Registrar's District and the Dispensary District are co-terminous but, in certain cases, principally in urban areas, a Dispensary District will contain two or more Registrars' Districts. In the Reports of Censuses prior to 1961 figures were published in respect of both Dispensary Districts and Registrars' Districts. Figures for Registrars' Districts only were published in respect of 1961 and this practice has been continued in the present volume. Registrars' Districts, of which there are 651, aggregate to Superintendent Registrars' Districts, which number 126. In many cases, though by no means invariable, Superintendent Registrars' Districts coincide with Rural Districts plus any adjoining Urban Districts. Superintendent Registrars' Districts combine into Counties (including the County Boroughs). Figures in respect of Registrars' Districts and Superintendent Registrars' Districts are given in TABLE 10.

## CONSTITUENCIES

For the purpose of Elections to Dáil Éireann, the country is divided into Constituencies which, under Article 16.4<sup>o</sup> of the Constitution of Ireland, have to be revised at least once in every twelve years with due regard to changes in the distribution of population. The boundaries were last revised in July, 1961 and the Schedule to the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1961, contains the details of their composition. Population figures for these areas are contained in TABLE 14.

## COUNTY AND BOROUGH ELECTORAL AREAS

For elections to County Councils, each County is divided into Electoral Areas which have been constituted by Orders made under the Local Government Act, 1941. These areas, which number 123, are, in general, formed by the aggregation of District Electoral Divisions. In a small number of cases, however, District Electoral Divisions are divided between County Electoral Areas to facilitate electors. In the case of County Boroughs the Corporation elections are based on Borough Electoral Areas. Population figures for County and Borough Electoral Areas are contained in TABLE 15 of this Volume.

Changes affecting Electoral Areas in Cork County Borough and Kildare County were made between 1961 and 1966. Details of these changes are shown in the Appendix.

## CIVIL PARISHES

Originally an ecclesiastical division and later used for civil purposes, the Civil Parish has been for many years obsolete as an administrative unit of area and statistics relating to Civil Parishes for the country as a whole were not published since the 1911 Census. As numerous requests for population figures in respect of Civil Parishes — particularly those in Dublin County and County Borough and in the other large cities — were received in recent years, it was decided, on the occasion of the 1961 Census, to publish total population figures in respect of the Civil Parishes in Dublin County and County Borough and also of Civil Parishes in the County Boroughs of Cork, Limerick and Waterford. Corresponding 1966 figures are contained in TABLES 16A and 16B, respectively, which also show 1901 population in each case together with the percentage change in population since 1901.

## TOWNS

For purposes of statistical analysis one of the most important divisions of the population according to area is that between town and rural districts, while classifications of population by size of town are also of considerable interest. In this context, the precise definitions of "town" and "rural" areas present a number of difficulties. Towns fall into two classes, namely those with and those without legally defined boundaries. The first class comprises (a) the four County Boroughs and the Borough of Dun Laoghaire, (b) the six Municipal Boroughs, (c) the 49 Urban Districts and (d) the 29 Towns under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854. The areas to be enumerated as towns not having legally defined boundaries must be determined by the Census authorities and are herein referred to as Census Towns.

In the case of towns with legally defined boundaries it is necessary, for administrative purposes, to compile population figures for the areas within these boundaries, and these figures are given in various tables throughout this volume. However, in the case of many such towns it happens that extensive building has taken place outside of but in close proximity to the legally defined boundaries. The result is that large numbers of persons who should be regarded as belonging to the communities of which these towns are the nuclei are, nevertheless, excluded from their populations when attention is confined strictly to legally defined boundaries. This problem is one which, by its nature, tends to become more acute from one Census to the next, as building activity extends

further and further into the countryside surrounding these towns, while revisions of legally defined boundaries, being dependent on other factors besides the necessity of definition for Census purposes, tend to lag behind.

In 1926 and 1936 the definition of a Census Town without legally defined boundaries was simply "a cluster of twenty or more houses". With the increased building activity in recent years, involving in many cases the transfer of town dwellers to blocks of new houses adjacent to the old clusters but not necessarily contiguous to them it became necessary to modify the original definition to include the newly built clusters with the original Census Town, provided that the residents were still considered to take part in the community life of that town. This principle was followed at the 1946 and 1951 Censuses. Apart from the application of the amended definition, the delimitation of a Census Town was rather imprecise since no directions could be given as to the maximum distance between houses to be regarded as forming a cluster. The new definition placed still more reliance upon the judgement of individual enumerators with the result that the application of the principle varied from district to district.

For the reasons set out in the foregoing paragraphs a special investigation was held in conjunction with the 1956 Census, with the objects of (a) determining the extent of the suburban areas or environs of towns with legally defined boundaries and (b) establishing, on a uniform basis, boundaries for Census Towns. Whereas up to and including the 1951 Census the Census Town was defined as "cluster of 20 houses or more", in 1956 this definition was varied to the extent of including only occupied houses in determining the lower limit of size. The various boundaries were drawn on Ordnance Survey maps after consultation with Local Authority Officials whose considerable local knowledge was of greatest value in the work. In cases where doubt arose as to whether a cluster of houses outside a town should be included with it or not it was frequently found that such factors as whether or not these houses had a common electricity or water supply with the town were a valuable guide.

For the 1961 Census and again at the 1966 Census the boundaries drawn in 1956 were reviewed and where necessary they were revised to take account of new building. In the majority of cases no revisions were found to be necessary, for the purposes of the 1966 Census, in the boundaries which had been used in 1961. Statutory changes were made extending the boundaries of Cork and Waterford County Boroughs and the Urban Districts of Ceanannus Mór and Trim. Details of these changes are given in the Appendix.

In the case of Dublin and Limerick County Boroughs and the Borough of Dun Laoghaire, the boundaries of the suburban areas were revised. The extension of the legally defined boundary of Cork County Borough necessitated a revision of the area defined as its suburbs. It was found unnecessary to define any suburban area for Waterford County Borough. The areas comprising Dublin, Dun Laoghaire, Cork and Limerick suburbs are set out in the Appendix.

It should be clearly understood that the definitions of suburban areas, environs and Census Towns applied throughout this volume have been made for purposes of statistical analysis only. They do not affect in any way the existing legally defined boundaries of County Boroughs, Boroughs, Urban Districts or Towns under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854, as used for general administrative or local government purposes.

Population figures for towns are contained in TABLES 8, 12, 13 and 19. TABLE 8 contains the total populations of all towns, and of their suburbs or environs where applicable, arranged in order of size within Counties. An alphabetical list of these towns with their populations, is given in TABLE 19. In TABLES 12 and 13 towns of 1,500 population or over are arranged in size groups depending on total population. By "total population" in this context is meant the total population including that of suburbs or environs, if any. The total numbers of persons living in towns of various size ranges and in country districts are, also, shown in these Tables.

## AGGREGATE TOWN AND RURAL AREAS

The population in the "Aggregate Town Area" of each County, as used in TABLE 7 of this volume and in the remaining volumes of the Census is defined as those persons residing within towns of 1,500 inhabitants or more. 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 population residing in all areas outside towns of 1,500 inhabitants or over is classified as belonging to the "Aggregate Rural Area"; thus in TABLE 7 the population of all towns under 1,500 is included in the "Aggregate Rural Area" totals.

## GAELTACHT AREAS

The Gaeltacht Areas Order, 1956, defined the Gaeltacht as comprising 143 District Electoral Divisions or parts of District Electoral Divisions in the counties of Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kerry,



Mayo and Waterford. The population of these District Electoral Divisions or parts of District Electoral Divisions in 1956, 1961 and 1966 are given in TABLE 17.

## ISLANDS OFF THE COAST

The populations in 1961 and 1966 of inhabited islands off the coast are shown in TABLE 18. In some cases the areas of land concerned may not, strictly speaking, be considered as islands since they are connected to the mainland by causeways or bridges, or may be reached by land at low tide.

## AREAS TO WHICH COMPARABLE FIGURES RELATE.

Throughout this volume every effort has been made to give comparable populations at the 1961 Census of those areas to which the 1966 figures relate. Consequently, if comparison is made with the Report of the 1961 Census it will be found in the case of administrative districts and Census Towns where alterations in boundaries were made between 1961 and 1966, that the 1961 populations there published differ from those contained in the present volume.

In the enumeration of this Census some small inaccuracies affecting figures published at earlier Censuses came to light. Errors in the 1961 Report on this account have been corrected in the present volume: they relate only to the assignment of population to particular areas and do not affect the overall total figures.

## AREA AND VALUATION.

The particulars of area and valuation published in TABLES 9 and 11 were extracted from the records of the Valuation Office. The areas shown are exclusive of the areas under certain lakes, rivers and tideways.

## MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The statistics of marriages, births and deaths contained in TABLE 1 and in TABLE 4 are derived from registrations by the Office of the Registrar General. Many births and deaths take place in institutions at a distance from the normal place of residence and are registered in the areas in which the institutions are situated. However, for the purpose of TABLE 4, births have been assigned according to home address of mother and deaths have been assigned according to home address of deceased. This applies also to figures of births and deaths for Provinces shown in TABLE 1 for years subsequent to 1922. In the case of marriages, however, the figures shown in TABLE 1 are the numbers actually registered in the four provinces. Statistics of marriages classified according to area of residence of bride and groom before marriage are available only since 1957 (See Report on Vital Statistics, 1957, and corresponding reports for later years).