

COMMENTARY

The number of persons in private households in 1966 was 2,754,450, representing 95.5 percent of the total population. There were, in all, 687,304 private households occupying some 3,080,000 rooms. The average number of persons per household was 4.01 and the average number of rooms occupied per household was 4.48.

Comparative figures for persons in private households and persons not in private households derived from the 1926, 1936, 1946 and 1961 Censuses are shown in Table I. The 1966 percentage of persons in private households was the highest recorded, comparing with 95.3 percent in 1961 and with the lowest figure of 93.2 percent in 1946. Between 1961 and 1966 the number of persons in private households increased by 68,149, while there was a slight fall of 2,488 in the number of persons not in private households.

TABLE I:- PERSONS ENUMERATED IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS AND THOSE NOT ENUMERATED IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS, 1926 TO 1966.

	1926	1936	1946	1961	1966
Persons in private households	2,790,581	2,791,047	2,755,490	2,686,301	2,754,450
Persons not in private households	181,411	177,373	199,617	132,040	129,552
TOTAL POPULATION	2,971,992	2,968,420	2,955,107	2,818,341	2,884,002
Percentage in private households	93.9	94.0	93.2	95.3	95.5

While the number of persons in private households increased by 2.5 percent between 1961 and 1966, the actual number of private households rose by 1.6 percent. The average number of persons per household rose from 3.97 in 1961 to 4.01 in 1966. This was the first increase recorded, the average for earlier years having declined steadily, from 4.48 in 1926 to 4.31 in 1936 and 4.16 in 1946.

TABLE II:- PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS: TOTAL NUMBER; TOTAL PERSONS; TOTAL ROOMS OCCUPIED; AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD; AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ROOM; AVERAGE NUMBER OF ROOMS OCCUPIED PER PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD, 1926 TO 1966.

	1926	1936	1946	1961	1966
Private households	622,678	647,362	662,654	676,402	687,304
Persons in private households	2,790,581	2,791,047	2,755,490	2,686,301	2,754,450
Rooms occupied by private households*	2,350,458	2,560,120	2,729,391	2,992,539	3,079,708
Average number of persons per private household	4.48	4.31	4.16	3.97	4.01
Average number of persons per room	1.19	1.09	1.01	0.90	0.89
Average number of rooms occupied per private household	3.77	3.95	4.12	4.42	4.48

* In obtaining these figures, the average number of rooms per dwelling in the case of dwellings where the number of rooms was not stated was assumed to equal the average for the dwellings where the number of rooms was stated.

The total number of rooms occupied by private households rose steadily over the entire period 1926 to 1966 at a faster rate than the number of households and the average number of rooms per private household showed a steady improvement.

In TABLES 1, 2 and 3 of this volume corresponding information is given on private households and rooms occupied in respect of the Aggregate Town Area and Aggregate Rural Area of each County. The average number of persons per household in Aggregate Town Areas which had tended to decline between 1926 and 1961, increased between 1961 and 1966 in all Counties except Laoighis, Longford, Clare, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Cavan and Donegal. In the case of the Aggregate Rural Areas also, a sizeable number of Counties, particularly those in Leinster, showed an increase in the average number of persons per household between 1961 and 1966, contrasting sharply with the trends over the period 1926 to 1961.

The principal table in this volume, TABLE 10, shows private households in each Province, County and County Borough and in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas of each county in 1966, classified by number of persons in household and number of rooms occupied. From this table, the other tables showing classifications by housing density may be derived. In Table III which follows, the distribution of the population living in private households according to housing density is compared for the 1926, 1936, 1946, 1961 and 1966 Censuses.

TABLE III:- PERSONS IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO HOUSING DENSITY, 1926 TO 1966.

Persons in private families in dwellings having	Numbers					Percentage				
	1926	1936	1946	1961	1966	1926	1936	1946	1961	1966
Less than one person per room	580,382	688,614	777,011	922,452	968,456	20.8	24.7	28.2	34.3	35.2
1 but less than 1.5 persons per room	702,830	759,510	804,302	825,321	883,161	25.2	27.2	29.2	30.7	32.1
1.5 but less than 2 persons per room	428,522	428,086	443,422	417,773	429,222	15.4	15.3	16.1	15.6	15.6
2 persons per room	275,976	245,974	224,490	170,628	162,728	9.9	8.8	8.1	6.4	5.9
More than 2 but less than 3 persons per room	336,215	302,764	261,356	210,407	207,550	12.0	10.8	9.5	7.8	7.5
3 or more persons per room	423,887	324,099	201,973	97,401	93,902	15.2	11.6	7.3	3.6	3.4
Not classified by housing density	42,769	42,000	42,936	42,319	9,431	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	0.3
TOTAL	2,790,581	2,791,047	2,755,490	2,686,301	2,754,450	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-

This table shows clearly the improvement in housing conditions over the period, as measured by the proportion of the population living under various housing density conditions. Thus, whereas in 1926, 37.1 percent of the population lived in accommodation with two or more persons per room, by 1946 this figure had declined to 25.0 percent and, by 1966, to 16.9 percent. The proportion of the population living in a housing density of less than one person per room rose from 20.8 percent in 1926 to 28.2 percent in 1946 and 35.2 percent in 1966. It will be noted that the number of persons who could not be classified by housing density showed a very marked decline in 1966, by comparison with earlier censuses. This was mainly due to a considerable reduction, in 1966, in the number of cases where householders failed to state the number of rooms occupied.

Table IV which follows, shows the number of persons living in households of each size at the 1926, 1936, 1946, 1961 and 1966 Censuses.

TABLE IV:- PERSONS IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE, 1926 TO 1966.

Number of persons in household	1926	1936	1946	1961	1966
1	51,537	60,570	68,881	85,388	88,989
2	196,874	221,976	237,476	274,574	279,082
3	307,992	334,527	349,203	350,628	343,308
4	384,964	400,472	413,692	392,932	388,232
5	411,620	414,550	422,185	392,160	396,600
6	391,860	376,584	377,730	355,278	366,408
7	338,926	320,551	308,196	286,321	297,584
8	266,376	247,696	228,024	209,656	216,784
9	189,801	177,021	161,730	140,580	148,950
10	131,900	122,300	82,600	95,710	102,300
11	60,401	58,850	52,569	48,070	53,878
12 or more	58,330	55,950	53,204	55,004	72,335
TOTAL	2,790,581	2,791,047	2,755,490	2,686,301	2,754,450

With the increase of 2.5 percent between 1961 and 1966 in the number of persons in private households some increase occurred in the numbers of persons in each household-size categories except those of 3 and 4 persons. The increases were substantial in the larger sized households. Thus the number of persons in households of ten persons rose by 7 percent, the number in households of eleven persons by 12 percent and the number in households of twelve or more persons by 32 percent. The increase between 1961 and 1966 in the number living in households of twelve or more persons is remarkable in view of the fact that little change had occurred in the figure over the entire period 1926 to 1961. Presumably the increase between 1961 and 1966 in the numbers in such households as well as in the larger households generally, is connected with the relatively low rate of net emigration from the State during the period, since it is to be expected that large households are to a greater extent affected by emigration than are small households. The steady increase over the entire period 1926 to 1966 in the numbers in one and two-person households will be noted.

As described in the Explanatory Notes, private households were classified by family composition according to ten types at the 1961 and 1966 Censuses of Population. The results obtained are compared in Table V.

TABLE V:- PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED BY TYPE IN 1961 AND 1966 AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN EACH CATEGORY

Type of household	1961	1966	Percentage change
			%
One person	85,388	88,989	+ 4.2
Man and wife	58,691	62,153	+ 5.9
Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age)	249,988	266,891	+ 6.8
One parent and one or more single children (of any age)	74,225	68,191	- 8.1
Man and wife with other persons	20,742	19,018	- 8.3
Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age) with other persons	70,662	69,475	- 1.7
One parent and one or more single children (of any age) with other persons	23,308	19,469	- 16.5
Two family units with or without other persons	21,923	24,134	+10.1
Three or more family units with or without other persons	286	448	+56.6
Two or more persons but not including a family unit	71,189	68,536	- 3.7
TOTAL	676,402	687,304	+ 1.6

In 1966, households consisting of husband and wife only or husband, wife and single children (of any age) without other persons, numbered 329,044 or 48 percent of the total. Households consisting of husband and wife with other persons or husband, wife and children with other persons numbered 88,493 or 13 percent of the total. Households comprising one parent and children, with or without other persons numbered 87,660 or 13 percent of the total. Households containing two distinct family units numbered 24,134 less than 4 percent of the total, while households containing three or more family units numbered only 448. Households not containing a family unit, more than one half of which were one person households, represented about 23 percent of the total.

The slight overall increase in the number of private households of 1.6 percent between 1961 and 1966 conceals some fairly substantial changes in household composition. Thus households consisting of husband and wife increased in number by 6 percent while households consisting of husband, wife and children increased in number by 7 percent. On the other hand, households comprising one parent and children decreased in number by 8 percent. Households containing two family units increased in number by 10 percent while the number of three-family households in 1966, although small, represented an increase of 57 percent over the corresponding 1961 figures.

TABLES 15 to 23 of this volume show classifications of households by type and by such factors as age, conjugal condition and socio-economic group of the head of the household as well as by rateable valuation of agricultural land held by the household, rooms occupied and district of residence. In Table VI the distribution of households by type in Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas (see definitions) are compared.

TABLE VI:- PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS IN THE STATE AND IN AGGREGATE TOWN AND AGGREGATE RURAL AREAS IN 1966, CLASSIFIED BY TYPE, AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE.

Type of household	Total	Aggregate Town Areas	Aggregate Rural Areas	Percentage		
				Total	Aggregate Town Areas	Aggregate Rural Areas
One person	88,989	38,803	50,186	12.9	11.9	13.9
Man and wife	62,153	31,673	30,480	9.0	9.7	8.4
Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age)	266,891	142,174	124,717	38.8	43.7	34.4
One parent and one or more single children (of any age)	68,191	28,474	39,717	9.9	8.8	11.0
Man and wife with other persons	19,018	8,021	10,997	2.8	2.5	3.0
Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age) with other persons	69,475	28,696	40,779	10.1	8.8	11.3
One parent and one or more single children (of any age) with other persons	19,469	8,300	11,169	2.8	2.6	3.1
Two family units with or without other persons	24,134	10,682	13,452	3.5	3.3	3.7
Three or more family units with or without other persons	448	285	163	0.1(.07)	0.1(.09)	0.1(.05)
Two or more persons but not including a family unit	68,536	28,003	40,533	10.0	8.6	11.2
TOTAL	687,304	325,111	362,193	100.-	100.-	100.-

As may be seen from this table, the principal difference between the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas as regards distribution by type of household is in respect of the man, wife and children group. Such households formed 44 percent of the total in the Aggregate Town Areas compared with only 34 percent of the total in Aggregate Rural Areas. One-person households, households comprising one parent and children only and households not containing a family unit were all relatively more common in the rural areas.

In TABLE 17, private households are shown, classified by type, number of persons, sex and age group of head. The "headship" rates, that is the percentage of persons in each sex and age group who were heads of households, are shown in Table VII. The number of elderly persons, both male and female, living alone is fairly substantial and all such persons, of course, are classified as heads of households. The effect of excluding such persons in the calculation of headship rates is shown in Table VII, and it will be seen that particularly in the case of females, their exclusion considerably reduces the headship rates.

TABLE VII:- PERCENTAGE OF MALES AND FEMALES IN EACH AGE GROUP WHO ARE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS (a) INCLUDING AND (b) EXCLUDING ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS

Age group	(a) All households	(b) Excluding one- person households
	%	%
Males		
15-24 years	3.7	3.2
25-44 years	57.3	55.9
45-64 years	81.1	79.6
65 years and over	74.2	71.4
Females		
15-24 years	1.9	1.3
25-44 years	5.0	3.7
45-64 years	20.4	15.9
65 years and over	37.3	28.9

Excluding those living alone, only 3.2 percent of the males in the 15-24 year age group were heads of households, this percentage rising to almost 80 in the 45-64 year age group. Only 3.7 percent of the females in the 25-44 year age group were heads of households, this figure rising to 28.9 percent for females aged 65 years or over.

Table VIII shows headship rates on the same basis as in the foregoing table, in respect of conjugal condition groups.

TABLE VIII:- PERCENTAGE OF SINGLE, MARRIED AND WIDOWED MALES AND FEMALES WHO ARE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS (a) INCLUDING AND (b) EXCLUDING ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS.

	(a) All households	(b) Excluding one- person households
	%	%
Males		
Single	18.4	11.4
Married	89.6	89.5
Widowed	69.5	63.5
Females		
Single	11.8	6.3
Married	3.4	3.0
Widowed	66.0	60.5

It will be seen that 90 percent of married males are heads of households. The effect of excluding one-person households is to reduce the headship rates for single persons very considerably and also to reduce, to some extent, the rates for widowed persons while leaving the figures for married persons virtually unchanged.

In Table IX the composition of households in each socio-economic group is examined, the percentages being derived from TABLE 19 of this volume. For convenience the ten household types have been combined into four groups.

TABLE IX:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION, BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE, OF HOUSEHOLDS IN EACH SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP

SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP													
Type of household	Total households	Socio-economic group											
		Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers	Other agricultural occupations and fishermen	Higher professional	Lower professional	Employers and managers	Salaried employees	Intermediate non-manual workers	Other non-manual workers	Skilled manual workers	Semi-skilled manual workers	Unskilled manual workers	Unknown
One person	12.9	12.9	15.8	7.1	17.7	4.7	3.8	12.3	9.7	5.1	8.4	8.8	57.0
Man and wife with or without other persons	60.7	54.2	60.4	70.8	53.5	80.8	85.5	58.1	68.6	77.9	63.3	70.6	5.4
One parent and one or more single children with or without other persons	12.8	15.6	10.6	5.0	12.7	6.4	5.4	14.4	10.8	8.8	16.6	9.8	20.1
Other households (including more than one family unit and non-family type)	13.5	17.4	13.2	17.2	16.1	8.1	5.2	15.2	10.9	8.1	11.7	10.9	17.6
TOTAL	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-
Number of households	687,304	199,822	39,828	15,674	19,897	27,812	13,336	84,427	60,686	93,057	39,713	55,560	37,492

It will be noted that very considerable differences exist between the households in the various socio-economic groups as regards their classification by type. Thus, in the Salaried employee group, 86 percent of the households were composed of Man and wife type, with or without other persons, whereas in the Lower professional group only 54 percent of the households were in this category. Households of the One parent and children type were relatively most common in the Semi-skilled manual workers and in the Farmers and farmers' relatives groups. One-person households were most common in the Lower professional group.

From TABLE 22 of this volume, in which households are classified by type, number of persons and number of rooms occupied, an indication can be obtained of the housing conditions, as measured by housing density, in each type of household category. Table X, based on this table, shows the percentage distribution according to housing density in respect of each type of household.

TABLE X:- DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS IN EACH TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD ACCORDING TO HOUSING DENSITY

Type of household	Total persons	Percentage distribution by housing density							Total
		Less than 1 person per room	1 but less than 1.5 persons per room	1.5 but less than 2 persons per room	2 persons per room	More than 2 but less than 3 persons per room	3 or more persons per room	Not known	
One person	88,989	88.7	10.7	-	-	-	-	0.6	100.-
Man and wife	124,306	87.8	9.5	-	2.3	-	-	0.4	100.-
Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age)	1,408,210	25.1	34.9	18.5	7.2	9.5	4.6	0.3	100.-
One parent and one or more single children (of any age)	212,515	57.2	27.2	8.5	3.0	2.7	1.0	0.3	100.-
Man and wife with other persons	62,142	71.4	24.2	3.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	100.-
Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age) with other persons	439,134	18.6	40.5	21.0	7.4	8.9	3.3	0.4	100.-
One parent and one or more single children (of any age) with other persons	84,720	41.0	37.9	12.1	3.6	3.8	1.1	0.4	100.-
Two family units with or without other persons	161,181	11.0	34.5	25.8	9.9	13.4	4.9	0.4	100.-
Three or more family units with or without other persons	4,248	3.1	16.1	17.3	14.0	33.7	15.6	0.2	100.-
Two or more persons but not including a family unit	169,005	74.9	19.0	2.9	2.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	100.-
TOTAL	2,754,450	35.2	32.1	15.6	5.9	7.5	3.4	0.3	100.-

It will be seen that very considerable differences existed as regards the density of housing of the different household types. Thus, in the case of households consisting of a man, wife and children with or without other persons, about 20 percent of the persons lived under conditions of two or more persons per room. The corresponding figures for persons in two-family households was 28 percent and for persons in three-family households the figure was 63 percent. On the other hand, in the case of persons in households of the type man and wife only, or man, wife and other persons, only small proportions had a housing density of two or more persons per room.

Table XI shows the numbers of persons, classified by broad age groups and numbers gainfully occupied in the various household-type categories.

TABLE XI:- PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED BY TYPE, TOTAL PERSONS, CHILDREN UNDER 14 YEARS, PERSONS 14 BUT UNDER 65 YEARS, PERSONS 65 YEARS AND OVER AND GAINFULLY OCCUPIED PERSONS IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS

Type of household	Total households	In private households				
		Total persons	Children under 14 years	Persons 14-64 years	Persons 65 years and over	Gainfully occupied persons
One person	88,989	88,989	-	53,965	35,024	56,002
Man and wife	62,153	124,306	-	88,329	35,977	53,718
Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age)	266,891	1,408,210	571,325	789,859	47,026	453,036
One parent and one or more single children (of any age)	68,191	212,515	30,314	148,274	33,927	112,518
Man and wife with other persons	19,018	62,142	2,124	42,985	17,033	29,654
Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age) with other persons	69,475	439,134	160,051	235,572	43,511	143,467
One parent and one or more single children (of any age) with other persons	19,469	84,720	15,377	54,939	14,404	40,107
Two family units with or without other persons	24,134	161,181	47,170	91,636	22,375	57,664
Three or more family units with or without other persons	448	4,248	1,250	2,720	278	1,621
Two or more persons but not including a family unit	68,536	169,005	3,304	118,615	47,086	106,664
TOTAL IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS	687,304	2,754,450	830,915	1,626,894	296,641	1,054,451
NOT IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS	-	129,552	14,204	88,982	26,366	63,753
TOTAL	-	2,884,002	845,119	1,715,876	323,007	1,118,204

Out of a total of 830,915 children under 14 years in private households, 733,500 or 88.3 percent were in single family unit households with both a man and wife, while 45,691 or 5.5 percent were in corresponding households in which one parent only was present, 48,420 or 5.8 percent were in multiple family unit type households and the remainder (3,304 or 0.4 percent) were in private households not containing a family unit.

Of the total of 323,007 persons aged 65 years or over, 26,366 or 8 percent were in institutions, etc. while 35,024 or 11 percent were living alone. There were 214,531 persons aged 65 years or over, or 66 percent of the total, living in households containing family units.

Gainfully occupied persons represented 63 percent of the total in one person households while in the case of persons in non-family households the percentage gainfully occupied was also 63. About one-third of the persons in households of the man, wife and children type and about half of those in households comprising one parent and children were gainfully occupied.

The numbers and percentages of persons aged 65 years and over in each County and County Borough who were living alone, distinguishing males and females are shown in TABLE 28. Corresponding figures for persons aged 70 years and over are shown in TABLE 29.