

# CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1966.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES.

This Volume deals with the population living in private households and contains classifications by housing accommodation and type of household, derived from the 1966 Census of Population. The Census 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.

The full publication programme of the 1966 Census comprises the following reports:-

- Volume I — Population of District Electoral Divisions, towns and larger units of area. (Already published).
- Volume II — Ages and Conjugal Conditions. (Already published).
- Volume III — Industries. (Already published).
- Volume IV — Occupations. (Already published).
- Volume V — Occupations and industries classified by ages and conjugal conditions. (Already published).
- Volume VI — Housing and households. (The present volume).
- Volume VII — Education.

Information on Housing and Household size collected at the 1961 Census of Population has been published in Volume VI of the Reports on that Census. An analysis of Household types compiled on an experimental basis was published in the Irish Statistical Bulletin, September, 1966. These tables have been reproduced as an Appendix to the present Volume. Questions in respect of water supply, sanitary facilities, electricity supply and age of dwelling, asked at the 1961 Census inquiry were not repeated in 1966. Consequently, classifications of dwellings based on these characteristics are not available for 1966.

## DEFINITIONS.

For Census of Population purposes the total population is divided into two groups, namely, those persons living in private households and those not living in private households, persons in the various types of institution constituting the majority of the latter group. A *private household* is defined as a group of persons jointly occupying the whole or part of a private dwelling house or flat and sharing the principal meals and making common provision for basic living needs. A person who lives alone in a private dwelling house or flat or who occupies part of a house or flat but does not have any meals with the other occupants, is also regarded as constituting a private household. The principal categories of *non-private households* are, boarding house, hotel, guest house, barrack, hospital, nursing home, boarding school, religious institution, welfare institution, prison, ship, caravan or other mobile dwelling.

However, managers of hotels, principals of boarding schools, persons in charge of various other types of institution and members of staff who, with their families, occupy flats on the premises are classified as private households.

In distributing the household schedule (Form A), the Enumerators are instructed to ensure that a separate form be completed in respect of each private household, as defined above. The room or set of rooms occupied by a private household are defined as a *private dwelling*. At the 1966 Census inquiry the head of each private household was asked to state the number of rooms occupied by the household. The various classifications involving dwellings contained in this volume are obtained by relating the numbers of persons in private households and the numbers of rooms occupied by them. Thus the classifications relate to occupied dwellings only. Statistics of unoccupied dwellings are not compiled on account of the difficulty of determining, in many cases, whether unoccupied dwellings should be regarded as habitable or not. The *number of rooms* in a private dwelling is the total number occupied and used by the household, including kitchen, but excluding scullery, pantry, landing, hallway, bathroom, toilet or any consulting room, office or shop.

A *farm dwelling* is defined as one in which one or more persons, usually resident in the household, are rated occupiers of agricultural holdings, i.e. holdings of a quarter of an acre or over used for agricultural purposes.

### CLASSIFICATION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE.

A number of possible methods exist for the classification of private households, some of which are both detailed and complex. For Census of Population purposes, however, it was necessary to adopt a classification which was simple enough to apply to all private households in the State and sufficiently short to facilitate machine processing while giving the most useful and informative results possible. The classification chosen is an extension of that recommended by the Conference of European Statisticians in their "European Programme for National Population Censuses". It was used for the first time on an experimental basis in connection with the 1961 Census of Population.

The basis of the system of classification is the family unit which is defined as one of the following:-

- (i) A man and his wife.
- (ii) A man and his wife together with one or more single children (of any age).
- (iii) One parent together with one or more single children (of any age).

Households containing family units of these types were further classified into those with and those without other persons. Households with more than one family unit were separately distinguished. For households with no family unit those consisting of one person were separately distinguished.

Private households were therefore assigned to one of the following ten types:-

Households consisting of:-

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1. One person only.   |            |
| 2. Man and wife   | } with no  |
| 3. Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age)                                     |            |
| 4. One parent and one or more single children (of any age)                                    | } other    |
| 5. Man and wife   |            |
| 6. Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age)                                     | } persons. |
| 7. One parent and one or more single children (of any age)                                    |            |
| 8. Two family units, as defined, with or without other persons.                               | } with     |
| 9. Three or more family units, as defined, with or without other persons.                     |            |
| 10. Two or more persons, whether related or not, but not including a family unit, as defined. | } other    |
|   |            |
|   | } persons. |
|   |            |

It should be particularly noted that the age of children is not taken into account in defining the household type. Thus a household comprising a man aged 30, his wife aged 27 and their child aged 2 years is assigned to Type 3, and so also is a household comprising a man aged 60, his wife aged 57 and their son aged 32, provided the son is unmarried.

In some of the tables households are shown classified by various characteristics of the head of the household, such as age, conjugal condition and socio-economic group. No instructions are, however, given on the Census form as to which person in a household should be regarded as the head. The person completing the form is simply asked to enter the particulars in respect of the head of the household on the first line. Thus it is deliberately left to the individuals concerned to indicate which member of the household is regarded as the head. On this basis in a small proportion of households consisting of husband and wife only, the wife has been classified as head. Similarly in a small proportion of households consisting of a husband, wife and son or daughter, the son or daughter has been classified as head.

## AGGREGATE TOWN AND RURAL AREAS.

In studying housing accommodation a separate examination of town and rural areas is particularly important and in many of the tables in this volume figures are given separately for aggregate town area and aggregate rural area within each county and province. The definition of the Aggregate Town Area is the same as that used in Volume I of the 1966 Census and covers all population clusters of fifteen hundred persons or over. More precisely, the Aggregate Town Area of the State comprises the following:-

- The four County Boroughs and their suburbs (if any).
- The Borough of Dun Laoghaire and its suburbs.
- The six Municipal Boroughs and their suburbs (if any).
- Forty-eight Urban Districts and their environs (if any).
- Twenty-one Towns under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854 and their environs (if any), having populations, when their environs are included, of fifteen hundred or more persons.
- Twenty-four Towns without legally defined boundaries having populations of fifteen hundred persons or over.

The Aggregate Rural Areas comprise all other areas, including Towns of under fifteen hundred total population. In particular, one Urban District and eight Towns under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854 which, even when the populations of their environs are added, do not reach fifteen hundred persons, fall within the Aggregate Rural Area as defined. It should be noted that, as the boundaries of towns may alter from one census to the next and as the population of towns may pass above or below the 1,500 limit, the precise areas comprising the Aggregate Town Areas and Aggregate Rural Areas may differ between successive censuses. The changes which occurred between the 1961 and 1966 Censuses are discussed in the Commentary of Volume I of the 1966 Census.

## COVERAGE OF THE CENSUS

The Census figures relate to the *de facto* population, that is to say the size and composition recorded for each household relate to all the persons present in the household on the night of 17 April, 1966, together with any persons who arrived on the morning of Monday, 18 April, 1966, not having been enumerated elsewhere. Any visitors staying in a household on Census night have been included as part of that household while household members temporarily absent on Census night have not been included as part of the household.

## CLASSIFICATION BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP.

The basis of this classification is explained in Volume IV (Occupations) which also contains, in Appendix D a detailed list showing the allocation of occupations to socio-economic groups.