

# CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1971

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Volume of the Report of the Census of Population, 1971 contains detailed tables relating to Fertility of Marriage.

The Census was taken on the night of 18 April, 1971 in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order, 1971 (S.I. No. 93 of 1971) 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).

### 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 Sunday, 18 April, 1971, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 19 April, 1971, not having been enumerated elsewhere. However, for the fertility analysis contained in this Volume, the numbers of families and children included relate to those returns which contained full replies to the relevant questions on the Census Form as described in the next paragraph.

### FERTILITY QUESTIONS ASKED ON CENSUS FORM

The questions on the Census schedule from which the Statistics contained in the present Volume were derived were as follows:-

To be completed for each married woman only:-

Month and year of present marriage.

Number of children born alive to present marriage.

The fertility inquiry related to all married women in the State whether or not their husbands were in the household on the date of the Census; widows and single women were excluded. The information was collected in respect of existing marriages only. Hence, to enable valid analyses involving births, duration of marriage, etc., to be made, the question on the number of children born alive was designed to exclude children not born to the present marriage. Satisfactory information was provided in respect of 502,853 married women - some 96.1 percent of the total married women recorded in the Census.

The information on date of present marriage together with the date of birth of each married woman, (which was also asked for on the Census schedule) and the date of the Census made possible the calculation of (a) the duration of the marriage in completed years and (b) the age last birthday of the wife at the time of the marriage. Similarly, where the husband was enumerated in the same household as the wife, it was possible to determine the age last birthday of the husband at the time of the marriage. However, the validity of the data in respect of older women, especially those whose age at marriage was over 40 years or those whose duration of marriage was 40 years or more, is subject to some uncertainty.

### CLASSIFICATION BY SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP

The entire population was classified according to "Socio-Economic Group". The socio-economic 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. Listed below are the eleven socio-economic groups plus a residual group which were used, the occupations assigned to each of the eleven groups being considered generally similar as regards the level of skill or educational attainment required. Persons not gainfully occupied were classified to the socio-economic group of the person on whom they were deemed to be dependant. Thus, if the head of a family was gainfully occupied, dependent members were assigned to his socio-economic group. If the head was not gainfully occupied, the non-gainfully occupied members were assigned to the socio-economic group of the principal earner in the family. If a household did not contain any gainfully occupied persons, the occupants were assigned to the residual group.

The actual socio-economic groups used in the Census are as follows:-

- 0 - Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers
- 1 - Other agricultural occupations and fishermen
- 2 - Higher professional
- 3 - Lower professional
- 4 - Employers and managers
- 5 - Salaried employees
- 6 - Intermediate non-manual workers
- 7 - Other non-manual workers
- 8 - Skilled manual workers
- 9 - Semi-skilled manual workers
- X - Unskilled manual workers
- R - Unknown

A detailed list showing the allocation of the occupations to each socio-economic group is given in Appendix A.

A factor to be borne in mind in making comparisons with 1961 is the different method used in classifying some semi-skilled labourers according to occupation on this occasion; for example, Builders' labourers, previously separately distinguished, have been included in the occupation "Labourers and unskilled workers (n.e.s.)". This is necessary because of the difficulty of distinguishing in the Census returns a Builders' labourer, normally regarded as a semi-skilled worker, from a person who described himself as a labourer working for a builder. He would be regarded as an unskilled worker if the latter description could be accepted as the correct one. This change affects the socio-economic groups in that all such builders' labourers and their dependents are now assigned to the group "Unskilled manual workers" whereas formerly they were in the group "Semi-skilled manual workers". A similar situation arose in the case of other labourers who had previously been separately distinguished and classified as semi-skilled e.g. Fitter's labourer.

#### CLASSIFICATION BY RELIGION

The column on the Census schedule in which information on this topic was furnished was headed "Religion - state particular denomination" and no further notes or instructions were given. The Census Enumerators were instructed not to insist on the completion of this section of the form in cases where householders were reluctant to give the required information.

In Tables 10 and 10A of this Volume classifications are given in respect of the following religious denominations:- Catholic, Church of Ireland, Other stated religion and others (i.e. no religion or no information supplied), while in Tables 6, 12 and 12A, the Church of Ireland is combined with the other stated religions.

#### CONTENT OF THE TABLES

The lay-out of the present Volume is broadly similar to that of the corresponding Volume of the 1961 Census but there have been a number of changes in the content. Except in the case of the most detailed and basic tables, Tables 1, 2, 3, and 7, the additional cross-classification by number of children is not now included as it was in 1961 for tables dealing with other variables.

Two tables which in 1961 dealt basically with Provinces only are not now included. Two extra tables have been included classifying families and children born by year of birth of wife and year of marriage.

Table 1 classifies families and children born by the number of children born per family for each Province and for Dublin County Borough and Dun Laoghaire Borough and the combined County Boroughs of Munster, while Table 1A shows these in terms of the distribution per 10,000 families or children. Table 2 classifies families by duration of marriage and by number of children born, while Table 2A shows the distribution per 10,000 families. Tables 3 and 3A are similar to 2 and 2A but deal with children born rather than families.

Families and children born are classified by duration of marriage and by age of wife at marriage in Table 4 with Table 4A showing the average number of children born per 100 families in each of the groups distinguished in Table 4. Tables 5 and 5A are similar to Tables 4 and 4A but age of husband at marriage is included instead of duration of marriage. Table 6 shows the number of families, children born and average number of children per 100 families in each duration of marriage group for religious denominations.

Table 7 provides the most detailed breakdown of families with a four-way classification by duration of marriage, age of wife at marriage, age of husband at marriage and number of children born. Table 7A shows the average number of children born per 100 families in each duration of marriage by age of wife at marriage by age of husband at marriage group, while Table 7B shows, for duration ten years and over, the percentage of child-less marriages in each of these groups.

Each of Tables 8 to 12 (inclusive) classifies families and children born by duration of marriage and age of wife at marriage and by a third variable. In Table 8 the variable is the type of district involved (e.g. Towns 5,000-10,000 population, Rural areas, etc.) and Table 9 deals with Provinces, Counties and County Boroughs. The third variable in Table 10 is religious denomination and in Table 11 socio-economic group, while Table 12 combines these aspects to show religious denominations within each socio-economic group. Tables 8A and 12A each provide the related ratios for average number of children born per 100 families.

Families and children born are classified in Table 13 by duration of marriage and present age group of wife, while Table 14 contains a detailed classification of these by present age of wife. Table 15 shows families and children born classified by year of marriage, while Tables 16 and 17 provide a classification by year of birth of wife and year of marriage.