

COMMENTARY

PART 1 — USUAL RESIDENCE AND MIGRATION

The total population enumerated at the 1971 Census of Population was 2,978,248. Of this total, 2,957,753 persons were usually resident in the State and 20,495 in other countries. As indicated on page v, usual residents of the State who were outside the country on Census night were not enumerated and thus their total number is not known*.

All the tables in the first part of this Volume, except Table 1, deal with various aspects of usual residents and migrants i.e. persons whose usual residence one year prior to Census date differed from their usual residence at that date. The total usually resident population aged one year and over (children under that age could not have had an address one year previously) was 2,893,172. Of these 2,744,824 (or 94.9 per cent) had not changed their address, 89,526 (or 3.1 per cent) had moved within the same county, 33,963 (or 1.2 per cent) had moved from one county to another and 24,859 (or 0.9 per cent) had come from outside the State. Of this latter number, 13,497 (or 54.3 per cent) had been born in Ireland. The 1971 Census was the first Irish Census at which questions on usual residence were asked and there are, therefore, no comparable figures for other years.

COUNTIES

The degree of movement varies between counties as shown in Table A where counties are ranked according to the proportion of their total usually resident population aged one and over who had changed residence in the previous year. Also shown in this table is average annual net emigration per 100 population over the period 1966—71 for each county. The former provides a measure of movement into and within the county while the latter indicates the level of net movement out of (or into) the County.

It can be seen that the county with the highest proportion of persons who had changed their usual residence was Dublin with 7.5 per cent. Other counties with proportions in excess of the national figure of 5.1 per cent were Wicklow, Kildare, Louth and Cork. Counties in which less than 3 per cent of the usual residents had changed residence in the previous year were Cavan, Sligo, Leitrim, Mayo and Roscommon.

*It is, however, of interest to note that in the United Kingdom 1971 Census (which was taken on 25 April) the number of visitors recorded in Great Britain, whose usual residence was in Ireland (Republic) was 6,145. The corresponding number of residents of Great Britain recorded as visitors in the Irish Census was 12,095.

**TABLE A:- USUALLY RESIDENT POPULATION AGED ONE YEAR AND OVER IN EACH COUNTY,
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE AT DIFFERENT ADDRESS ONE YEAR PREVIOUSLY,
RANKED IN DECREASING ORDER OF PERCENTAGE AT DIFFERENT ADDRESS.**

County	Usually resident population aged one year and over	At different address one year previously		Average annual net emigration rate per 100 of average population 1966—1971
		Number	Percentage	
Dublin*	826,219	61,900	7.5	0.1
Wicklow	64,340	4,265	6.6	+ 0.8
Kildare	70,339	4,391	6.2	+ 0.1
Louth	72,851	3,886	5.3	+ 0.1
Cork*	342,857	17,779	5.2	0.2
Waterford*	75,227	3,838	5.1	0.2
Meath	69,619	3,349	4.8	+ 0.1
Westmeath	52,129	2,482	4.8	0.9
Limerick*	136,559	6,327	4.6	0.7
Clare	72,962	3,341	4.6	0.2
Wexford	83,947	3,693	4.4	0.4
Carlow	33,440	1,382	4.1	0.9
Offaly	50,317	1,930	3.8	1.2
Tipperary, N.R.	53,129	1,974	3.7	0.7
Galway	144,422	5,344	3.7	0.7
Laoighis	43,958	1,607	3.7	0.6
Kilkenny	59,877	2,130	3.6	0.4
Longford	27,702	963	3.5	1.1
Donegal	104,552	3,546	3.4	0.6
Kerry	109,339	3,650	3.3	0.5
Monaghan	44,555	1,384	3.1	0.4
Tipperary, S.R.	67,371	2,065	3.1	0.8
Cavan	51,598	1,501	2.9	0.9
Sligo	49,052	1,397	2.8	0.7
Leitrim	27,705	651	2.3	1.5
Mayo	106,875	2,450	2.3	1.4
Roscommon	52,231	1,123	2.2	1.1
STATE	2,893,172	148,348	5.1	0.4

The type of movement involved in counties with total movement in excess of 5 per cent is analysed in Table B which shows the percentage distribution of all persons who changed residence according to the three categories 'within the same county', 'from another county' and 'from outside the State'. Within the latter category persons with a birthplace in Ireland (Republic) are shown separately.

TABLE B:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY USUAL RESIDENCE ONE YEAR PREVIOUSLY OF ALL PERSONS WHO CHANGED USUAL RESIDENCE IN COUNTIES WHERE THE TOTAL PROPORTION OF PERSONS WHO CHANGED WAS MORE THAN 5 PER CENT.

County	Total	Usual residence one year previously			
		Same County	Other County	Outside State	
				Total	Of which Birthplace in Ireland (Republic)
Dublin*	100.-	69.8	17.1	13.1	6.7
Wicklow	100.-	40.8	38.6	20.6	9.1
Kildare	100.-	45.9	39.9	14.2	6.9
Louth	100.-	61.4	22.7	15.9	7.7
Cork*	100.-	70.4	13.8	15.8	8.4
Waterford*	100.-	54.3	31.2	14.5	8.2
STATE	100.-	60.3	22.9	16.8	9.1

*Including County Borough

In the State as a whole, 60.3 per cent of all persons who changed their usual residence remained within the same county but, in the case of Dublin and Cork, respectively, the comparable figures were 69.8 per cent and 70.4 per cent. In the case of Wicklow and Kildare, less than half of all changes were of this type. In these two counties, the proportions coming from another county were 38.6 and 39.9 per cent respectively, as against 22.9 per cent for the State. This, presumably, reflects movement from Dublin, in particular to new housing, in these two counties.

The proportion from outside the State of all persons who moved was 16.8 per cent, 9.1 per cent having their birthplace in Ireland (Republic) and the remaining 7.7 per cent outside the State. Among the counties shown in Table B, the county which recorded the highest proportion of its migrants coming from outside the State, 20.6 per cent, was Wicklow. The highest proportion of migrants coming from outside the State, with birthplace other than Ireland (Republic) was also in this County, at 11.5 per cent.

AGE GROUPS

In Tables C and D below, the pattern of migration is examined in terms of age group and conjugal condition for males and females respectively.

TABLE C:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALES CLASSIFIED BY USUAL RESIDENCE ONE YEAR PREVIOUSLY, AGE GROUP AND CONJUGAL CONDITION.

Age group and conjugal condition	Total	Usual residence one year previously			
		Same address	Different address		
			Within State	Outside State	
				Total	Of which Birthplace in Ireland (Republic)
1-14 years	100.-	96.1	3.2	0.8	0.1
15-19 " Single	100.-	96.1	3.5	0.4	0.2
Married	100.-	56.1	39.9	4.0	2.7
Widowed	-	-	-	-	-
Total	100.-	95.9	3.7	0.4	0.2
20-24 " Single	100.-	93.0	5.8	1.2	0.9
Married	100.-	64.4	32.4	3.2	2.2
Widowed	100.-	75.0*	25.0*	-	-
Total	100.-	88.6	9.9	1.5	1.1
25- 34 " Single	100.-	94.2	4.2	1.5	1.2
Married	100.-	84.1	13.5	2.4	1.8
Widowed	100.-	92.3	6.0	1.7*	1.7*
Total	100.-	88.3	9.7	2.1	1.5
35-44 " Single	100.-	97.1	2.0	0.9	0.7
Married	100.-	95.0	3.9	1.1	0.8
Widowed	100.-	95.9	3.1	1.0*	0.9*
Total	100.-	95.6	3.4	1.0	0.8
45-64 " Single	100.-	97.9	1.7	0.4	0.3
Married	100.-	98.2	1.4	0.4	0.3
Widowed	100.-	98.0	1.5	0.4	0.3
Total	100.-	98.2	1.5	0.4	0.3
65+ " Single	100.-	97.0	2.7	0.3	0.3
Married	100.-	98.5	1.2	0.4	0.3
Widowed	100.-	97.1	2.6	0.3	0.2
Total	100.-	97.8	1.9	0.3	0.3
Total one year of age and over Single	100.-	95.9	3.3	0.8	0.3
Married	100.-	93.8	5.2	1.0	0.7
Widowed	100.-	97.3	2.4	0.3	0.3
Total	100.-	95.2	4.0	0.9	0.5

*Ten persons or less

TABLE D:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALES CLASSIFIED BY USUAL RESIDENCE ONE YEAR PREVIOUSLY, AGE GROUP AND CONJUGAL CONDITION.

Age group and conjugal condition	Total	Usual residence one year previously			
		Same address	Different address		
			Within State	Outside State	
				Total	Of which Birthplace in Ireland (Republic)
1-14 years	100.-	96.0	3.2	0.8	0.1
15-19 "	Single	100.-	93.9	5.7	0.5
	Married	100.-	60.0	36.4	3.7
	Widowed	100.-	100.0*	-	-
	Total	100.-	93.2	6.3	0.5
20-24 "	Single	100.-	87.9	10.3	1.8
	Married	100.-	68.6	28.1	3.3
	Widowed	100.-	84.4	14.1*	1.6
	Total	100.-	81.9	15.9	2.3
25-34 "	Single	100.-	90.8	7.1	2.1
	Married	100.-	88.0	10.0	2.0
	Widowed	100.-	90.9	7.0	2.2
	Total	100.-	88.7	9.3	2.0
35-44 "	Single	100.-	95.3	3.8	0.9
	Married	100.-	96.3	2.9	0.8
	Widowed	100.-	96.6	2.6	0.8
	Total	100.-	96.1	3.1	0.8
45-64 "	Single	100.-	96.9	2.5	0.7
	Married	100.-	98.5	1.2	0.4
	Widowed	100.-	97.8	1.8	0.4
	Total	100.-	98.0	1.6	0.4
65+ "	Single	100.-	96.6	3.0	0.4
	Married	100.-	98.5	1.3	0.3
	Widowed	100.-	97.5	2.3	0.2
	Total	100.-	97.5	2.2	0.3
Total one year of age and over	Single	100.-	94.7	4.4	0.9
	Married	100.-	93.6	5.4	1.0
	Widowed	100.-	97.5	2.2	0.3
	Total	100.-	94.6	4.6	0.9

*10 persons or less

In the case of males, the most mobile age groups were the 20-24 and 25-34 year groups. In these two groups, over 11 per cent of the usually resident population changed residence within the previous twelve months. The movement was much more pronounced in the case of married men, reflecting newly married men changing to their new homes. Thus, 35.6 per cent and 15.9 per cent of married men in the 20-24 and 25-34 year age groups, respectively, changed their address over the period concerned. It is of interest to note that in these two age groups, some 38 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively, of married men had been married within the previous twelve months (Census of Population, Volume X - Fertility of Marriage). In the case of the 15-19 year age group, 44 per cent of married men had moved in the previous year but some 92 per cent had been married within that period. In the older age groups there was little difference in the pattern of movement for single, married or widowed men.

The two age groups mentioned above were also the groups in which movement from outside the State was greatest, 2.1 per cent of males aged 25-34 years having resided outside the State one year previously. Of these, the majority, 1.5 per cent of the overall total, had been born in Ireland (Republic).

The overall pattern for females is very similar to that for males, except in the case of the 20-24 year age group. Females in this age group were much more mobile than males, with 18.1 per cent changing their usual residence over the year compared with 11.4 per cent of males. The percentage of married women in this age group who moved, 31.4 per cent, was somewhat less than that for men, 35.6 per cent, but 12.1 per cent of single women changed their usual residence as compared with 7.0 per cent of single men. The 31 per cent of married women in this age group who moved is quite close to the proportion of married women in the age group who were married within the previous twelve months, some 28 per cent. Movement from outside the State in this age group was also more pronounced in the case of females, 2.3 per cent having moved in the preceding year as compared with 1.5 per cent of males. Again here, the difference was caused by the greater proportion of single women who moved, 1.8 per cent as compared with 1.2 per cent of single men. In fact, the proportion of single women who changed their usual residence was greater, in all age groups, than the proportion of single men. This was true, in general, of movement both within the State and also from outside the State.

Table E shows the structure by age and conjugal condition of migrants from outside the State.

TABLE E:- USUALLY RESIDENT POPULATION AGED ONE YEAR AND OVER WHO WERE USUALLY RESIDENT OUTSIDE THE STATE ONE YEAR PREVIOUSLY CLASSIFIED BY SEX, AGE GROUP AND CONJUGAL CONDITION.

Age group	Males				Females				Total Persons
	Total	Single	Married	Widowed	Total	Single	Married	Widowed	
1-14 years	3,464	3,464	-	-	3,393	3,393	-	-	6,857
15-19 "	549	524	25	-	682	582	100	-	1,231
20-24 "	1,651	1,120	531	-	2,345	1,283	1,061	1	3,996
25-34 "	3,335	1,035	2,297	3	3,181	847	2,320	14	6,516
35-44 "	1,572	381	1,184	7	1,230	240	964	26	2,802
45-64 "	1,217	305	868	44	1,252	395	692	165	2,469
65+ "	492	126	290	76	496	177	141	178	988
Total	12,280	6,955	5,195	130	12,579	6,917	5,278	384	24,859

Of the 24,859 persons involved, 12,280 were males and 12,579 females. The 25-34 year age group contained 6,516 or 26.2 per cent of all such migrants. The proportion of married persons in this age group was 68.9 per cent for males and 72.9 per cent for females as compared with 58.7 per cent and 74.1 per cent, respectively, in the usually resident population. A further 6,857 or 27.6 per cent, of these migrants were under 15 years of age. Many of these were presumably the children of the 10,473 married persons who came from outside the State, of whom 8,482, or 81.0 per cent, were aged under 45 years.

The total number of migrants aged 15 years and over was 18,002. Of these 58.2 per cent were married, 39.0 per cent were single and 2.9 per cent were widowed. This compares with 50.8 per cent, 40.9 per cent and 8.3 per cent, respectively, in the total usually resident population of the same age.

OCCUPATIONS

Table F shows the pattern of migration in different occupational groups.

TABLE F:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY USUAL RESIDENCE ONE YEAR PREVIOUSLY OF USUALLY RESIDENT PERSONS IN EACH OCCUPATIONAL GROUP.

Occupational Group	Usual residence one year previously				
	Total	Same address	Different address		
			Within State	Outside State	
				Total	Of which Birthplace in Ireland (Republic)
Agricultural workers	100.-	98.7	1.0	0.3	0.2
Producers, makers and repairers	100.-	94.0	5.0	1.0	0.8
Labourers and unskilled workers n.e.s.	100.-	95.5	3.4	1.1	1.0
Transport and communication workers	100.-	94.2	5.2	0.7	0.6
Clerical workers	100.-	88.8	10.2	1.0	0.7
Commerce insurance and finance workers	100.-	93.5	5.6	0.8	0.6
Service workers	100.-	88.8	9.8	1.3	0.9
Professional and technical workers	100.-	84.6	12.5	2.9	1.9
Administrative Executive and Managerial workers	100.-	89.1	8.7	2.3	0.8
Others	100.-	86.2	12.1	1.7	1.3
Total gainfully occupied	100.-	93.5	5.5	1.0	0.7
Total not gainfully occupied	100.-	95.7	3.6	0.7	0.5
Total 14 years of age and over	100.-	94.5	4.6	0.9	0.6

The most mobile occupational groups were Professional and technical workers, where the proportion moving was 15.4 per cent. The corresponding proportion for the miscellaneous category "Others" (incl. Armed Forces) was 13.8 per cent, for Clerical and Service workers, was 11.2 per cent, and for Administrative, Executive and Managerial workers was 10.9 per cent. Agricultural workers were the least mobile group – only just over one per cent of such workers changed residence during the twelve month period prior to the Census; indeed the general picture was that unskilled or manual workers do not appear to change residence very much when compared with other groups.

The Professional and technical workers group also had the greatest proportion of migrants from outside the State at 2.9 per cent as compared with 1.0 per cent of all gainfully occupied persons. The only other group with 2 per cent or more was the Administrative, Executive and Managerial group. This latter group was the only group in which the majority of migrants who came from outside the State had been born outside the State.

EDUCATION

Another factor to be considered in connection with migration is education. In Table G persons whose full time education had ceased are classified according to the highest type of educational establishment attended full-time and the type of migration.

TABLE G:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY USUAL RESIDENCE ONE YEAR PREVIOUSLY OF USUALLY RESIDENT PERSONS AGED 14 YEARS AND OVER CLASSIFIED BY HIGHEST TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT ATTENDED FULL-TIME.

Highest type of educational establishment attended full-time	Total	Usual residence one year previously			
		Same address	Different address		
			Within State	Outside State	
				Total	Of which Birthplace in Ireland (Republic)
Secondary	100.-	90.9	7.8	1.4	0.9
Vocational	100.-	92.2	6.9	1.0	0.8
Secondary and Vocational	100.-	88.9	9.7	1.5	1.0
University, Other Third Level	100.-	85.3	11.5	3.2	1.7
Primary (not stated)	100.-	96.5	2.9	0.6	0.5
Still at school, etc.	100.-	97.0	2.5	0.6	0.2
TOTAL 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER	100.-	94.5	4.6	0.9	0.6

The most mobile group were those who attended university or other third level institutions. Nearly 15 per cent of this group changed residence during the twelve months prior to Census date compared with the overall rate of 5.5 per cent. In contrast, only 3.5 per cent of persons who had attended at primary level only, or who did not give a reply to the education question, had moved during the same period. Persons in the University, Third level, etc. group who had changed usual residence from outside the State made up 3.2 per cent of all persons in this group, the next highest corresponding figure being 1.5 per cent in the case of the Secondary and Vocational group.

PART II – BIRTHPLACES

Of the total population of 2,978,248 in 1971, 2,399,332, or 80.6 per cent, were enumerated in the county in which they were born. A further 441,620, or 14.8 per cent, were born in another county in the State while 26,183, or 0.9 per cent, were born in Northern Ireland; 84,038, or 2.8 per cent were born in Great Britain and 27,075 or 0.9 per cent, were born elsewhere.

By contrast, in 1961, 82.4 per cent of the population were enumerated in their county of birth and the 1946 figure was 83.1 per cent. The percentage of persons with birthplace outside the whole of Ireland has risen consistently from 2.2 per cent in 1946 to 2.5 per cent in 1961 and 3.7 per cent in 1971. The numbers and percentage distribution of persons in each of these categories in 1946, 1961 and 1971 are given in Table H below.

TABLE H:-- BIRTHPLACES AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY BIRTHPLACE OF ENUMERATED POPULATION.

Birthplace	1946	1961	1971	1946	1961	1971
	Population (thousands)			Percentage distribution		
Ireland (Republic)	2,856	2,719	2,841	96.7	96.5	95.4
<i>County of enumeration</i>	2,455	2,321	2,399	83.1	82.4	80.6
<i>Other County</i>	401	398	442	13.6	14.1	14.8
Northern Ireland	33	27	26	1.1	1.0	0.9
Great Britain	49	54	84	1.7	1.9	2.8
Elsewhere	16	18	27	0.5	0.6	0.9
TOTAL	2,955	2,818	2,978	100.-	100.-	100.-

Table J goes on to consider the situation in each county in 1961 and 1971. In the first two columns, the percentage of persons enumerated in each county who were born in another county is shown, while the third and fourth columns show the proportion of persons born in that county and remaining in the State but who were enumerated in another county. The counties are ranked in increasing order of the 1971 percentages shown in the fourth column; the final column of the table shows the population of each county in 1971. In general, the population is inversely related to the proportion of persons born in that county, who were enumerated in another county. These figures represent the overall long-term effect of migration as distinct from the experience of one particular year which is considered in Part I of this Commentary. In fact, in 21 out of the 26 counties, the proportion of the total population born in another county was greater in 1971 than in 1961, thus indicating a generally increased level of movement among the population in the ten years prior to 1971.

TABLE J:-- COUNTY OF ENUMERATION AND COUNTY OF BIRTHPLACE, 1961 AND 1971.

County†	(a) Percentage of total population born in other county		(b) Persons enumerated outside their county of birth as percentage of population of Ireland (Republic) born in that county		Population (thousands)
	1961	1971	1961	1971	
Dublin*	19.4	18.5	7.4	7.9	852
Donegal	3.7	4.1	7.0	8.9	108
Cork*	7.4	7.4	9.0	9.7	353
Kerry	5.8	7.1	15.0	16.7	113
Galway	9.5	10.4	14.3	17.1	149
Limerick*	13.0	13.2	16.0	17.6	140
Mayo	6.6	7.7	13.8	17.6	110
Waterford*	15.5	15.9	16.7	17.9	77
Monaghan	9.6	11.0	16.0	17.9	46
Wexford	9.2	10.4	17.5	18.1	86
Clare	8.4	12.2	16.4	18.1	75
Louth	13.8	14.0	16.0	18.6	75
Sligo	13.1	14.1	17.3	19.9	50
Tipperary	12.6	13.1	20.3	21.8	124
Offaly	19.4	18.7	21.0	22.4	52
Kildare	29.9	30.7	24.9	22.6	72
Kilkenny	15.2	16.1	21.6	22.6	61
Cavan	10.7	12.8	20.8	23.2	53
Meath	25.0	27.5	24.0	23.4	72
Wicklow	29.2	31.1	26.2	23.4	66
Roscommon	14.0	15.7	20.3	23.7	54
Laoighis	18.8	18.8	24.9	25.2	45
Longford	14.7	16.0	21.1	25.6	28
Carlow	21.7	21.2	25.9	25.9	34
Westmeath	21.5	24.0	24.2	26.4	54
Leitrim	11.1	13.0	22.6	27.6	28

*County and County Borough

†Ranked in increasing order of Col. (b), 1971.

The county with the highest proportion of persons born in other counties is Wicklow, at 31.1 per cent, followed closely by Kildare with 30.7 per cent. Other counties with substantial numbers of persons who were born elsewhere in the State are Meath and Westmeath. By contrast, less than 10 per cent of the population came from elsewhere in the State in Counties Cork, Kerry, Mayo and Donegal. A large proportion of persons born in Counties Carlow, Laoighis, Longford, Westmeath and Leitrim are now resident elsewhere in the State. In each of these counties, over one-quarter of those born in the county and still in the country are now in another county. In general, counties with a high proportion of natives of other counties have also lost a high proportion of their own natives. The exception to this is Dublin where 18.5 per cent of the population were born elsewhere in Ireland (Republic) but where only 7.9 per cent of Dublin born persons in the State are now resident outside the county. Donegal has the lowest level of inward movement and the second lowest (after Dublin) level of outward movement. The proportions for each county in 1971 differ little from those which existed in 1961.