

COMMENTARY

The total number of gainfully occupied persons, or total "labour force" (including those out of work), at the date of the 1971 Census of Population was 1,119,531, of whom 831,664 were males and 287,867 were females. This represents a slight increase of just over 1,000 in comparison with total labour force in 1966 (the year of the most recent previous Census), the number of males having increased by about 2,600 while the number of females fell by about 1,300. The number not gainfully occupied aged 14 years and over was 985,790, of whom 217,950 were males and 767,840 were females. This is an increase of just over 7 percent compared with 1966, the number of males having increased by 29,107 (almost 16 percent) and the number of females by 36,004 (just under 5 percent). These increases were caused mainly by the greater numbers of students in secondary and higher education and by the higher number engaged in home duties, reflecting the increase in the number of married women over the period 1966/71.

CHANGES IN OCCUPATIONS, 1966-1971.

Table 1 shows the changes in the principal occupational groups between 1966 and 1971 in both absolute and percentage terms for persons, males and females. Table 3 of the main tables in this volume gives comparative figures for individual occupations for these years. The decline in the numbers in agricultural occupations continued over the period, the numbers in the group Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen decreasing by 58,500, or 16.9 percent. However the increase of 59,900 (or 7.8 percent) in the total of all other groups was sufficient to give the slight increase in the total gainfully occupied which has been noted above. The groups in which the largest increases in absolute terms occurred were Professional and technical workers where the increase was 15,100; Clerical workers, 11,700; Engineering and related trades workers, 9,000 and Electrical and electronic workers, 5,800. Groups that showed relative increases of more than one-third in comparison with 1966 included Electrical and electronic workers, Operators of cranes, stationary engines and excavators and Foremen and supervisors of manual workers.

TABLE I:- ACTUAL AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1966-1971 IN THE NUMBERS IN THE PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS.

Occupational group	Actual change (Thousands*)			Percentage change		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen	- 58.5	- 50.8	- 7.8	- 16.9	- 16.2	- 23.5
Mining, quarrying and turf workers	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	- 0.0†	+ 6.4	+ 6.6	- 100.0†
Electrical and electronic workers	+ 5.8	+ 4.8	+ 1.0	+ 37.3	+ 35.3	+ 50.8
Engineering and related trades workers	+ 9.0	+ 9.0	+ 0.0	+ 23.0	+ 23.6	+ 1.9
Woodworkers	+ 1.7	+ 1.8	- 0.0	+ 8.4	+ 8.5	- 8.8
Leather and leather substitute workers	- 1.0	- 0.7	- 0.3	- 11.4	- 13.5	- 8.4
Textile and clothing workers	+ 2.1	+ 1.6	+ 0.6	+ 6.1	+ 14.7	+ 2.3
Food, beverage and tobacco workers	+ 2.8	+ 2.5	+ 0.3	+ 16.2	+ 19.9	+ 6.7
Paper and printing workers	- 0.2	+ 0.6	- 0.8	- 2.3	+ 10.9	- 23.7
Workers in other products	+ 2.8	+ 2.3	+ 0.5	+ 23.8	+ 25.8	+ 17.4
Building and construction workers	+ 3.0	+ 3.0	- 0.0†	+ 23.3	+ 23.4	- 69.2†
Painters and decorators	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	- 0.0	+ 7.7	+ 8.5	- 20.7
Operators of cranes, stationary engines and excavators	+ 2.1	+ 2.1	-	+ 37.8	+ 37.8	-
Labourers and unskilled workers (n.e.s.)	- 3.3	- 3.2	- 0.1	- 3.6	- 3.5	- 14.1
Foremen and supervisors of manual workers	+ 3.6	+ 3.4	+ 0.1	+ 33.5	+ 35.8	+ 12.6
Transport and communication workers	+ 2.9	+ 1.9	+ 0.9	+ 4.9	+ 3.5	+ 33.3
Warehousemen, storekeepers, packers and bottlers	+ 0.2	+ 1.4	- 1.2	+ 0.9	+ 10.9	- 13.3
Clerical workers	+ 11.7	+ 1.3	+ 10.4	+ 12.7	+ 3.7	+ 18.3
Commerce, insurance and finance workers	- 1.0	+ 2.2	- 3.2	- 0.9	+ 3.1	- 8.1
Service workers	- 5.3	+ 3.2	- 8.5	- 6.2	+ 12.0	- 14.5
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	+ 3.6	+ 3.5	+ 0.1	+ 25.1	+ 26.0	+ 10.3
Professional and technical workers	+ 15.1	+ 8.6	+ 6.5	+ 17.1	+ 19.6	+ 14.6
Armed forces	+ 0.9	+ 0.9	- 0.0†	+ 11.4	+ 11.5	- 33.3†
Gainfully occupied but occupation not stated	+ 2.5	+ 2.2	+ 0.3	+ 113.8	+ 144.6	+ 48.1
TOTAL GAINFULLY OCCUPIED (aged 14 years and over)	+ 1.3	+ 2.6	- 1.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	- 0.4
TOTAL NOT GAINFULLY OCCUPIED (aged 14 years and over)	+ 65.1	+ 29.1	+ 36.0	+ 7.1	+ 15.4	+ 4.9
TOTAL UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE	+ 27.8	+ 15.0	+ 12.8	+ 3.3	+ 3.5	+ 3.1
TOTAL POPULATION	+ 94.2	+ 46.7	+ 47.5	+ 3.3	+ 3.2	+ 3.3

* Apparent small discrepancies in this and other tables are due to the effect of rounding-off.

† Less than 20 persons in this group in 1966.

The rate of decline in the Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen group was more pronounced for females than for males, 23.5 percent as against 16.2 percent but the number of females involved was, of course, much smaller, 7,800 as compared with 50,800 males. Groups in which the number of females increased substantially over the period concerned were Clerical workers, (an increase of 10,400) and Professional and technical workers, (up by 6,500). Large percentage increases occurred in the numbers of female Electrical and electronic workers, 50.8 percent, and Transport and communication workers, 33.3 percent. The number of female Service workers fell by 8,500 and the number of females in the Commerce, insurance and finance workers occupational group declined by 3,200.

DISTRIBUTION OF OCCUPATIONS IN DIFFERENT PLANNING REGIONS.

Table II shows the percentage distribution of the gainfully occupied population of each planning region classified by broad occupational group. The group "Other producers, makers and repairers", which encompasses mainly industrial type occupations, covers occupation numbers 211 to 273 of Table 2 of the main Tables. The content of the remaining headings is clear from the descriptions of the headings themselves, taken in conjunction with the occupational descriptions given in Table 2.

TABLE II:- TOTAL GAINFULLY OCCUPIED IN EACH PLANNING REGION AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY BROAD OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS.

Planning Region	Total gainfully occupied	Percentage distribution							
		Agricultural occupations	Other producers, makers and repairers	Clerical workers	Commerce, insurance and finance workers	Service workers	Professional and technical workers	Others	Total
East	408,646	6.7	32.6	15.1	11.0	9.2	11.1	14.4	100.-
South West	170,893	29.3	28.6	7.1	9.8	6.8	8.7	9.9	100.-
South East	120,031	33.6	27.5	6.2	9.5	6.8	8.2	8.3	100.-
North East	68,197	32.3	31.4	6.0	8.9	5.6	7.7	8.0	100.-
Mid West	99,473	33.9	27.6	6.6	8.9	6.2	8.5	8.3	100.-
Donegal	40,830	40.5	27.7	4.1	8.2	6.3	6.3	6.9	100.-
Midlands	85,815	42.2	24.8	4.7	8.6	5.0	7.5	7.1	100.-
West	95,275	50.2	18.4	4.3	7.9	5.2	8.7	5.4	100.-
North West	30,371	48.7	19.0	5.0	8.4	5.0	7.9	6.0	100.-
TOTAL	1,119,531	25.8	28.6	9.2	9.7	7.2	9.2	10.3	100.-

The East region, with 409,000 gainfully occupied persons, contained more than one-third of the total number of persons gainfully occupied in the State, with the South West region having the next largest number, 171,000. The only other region to have a labour force of more than 100,000 persons was the South East while the regions with smallest labour forces were Donegal and North West (41,000 and 30,000 persons, respectively). The general pattern exhibited by this table reflects the greater extent of industrial and commercial activity in the eastern part of the country in general and the greater dependence on agriculture in other regions, particularly those on the West coast. While just over one-quarter of the total gainfully occupied population in the State were in Agricultural occupations, the proportion for the East region was only 6.7 percent. This contrasts with the situation in the West and North West regions in particular where roughly one-half of the total gainfully occupied persons were in Agricultural occupations. Other regions had between approximately 30 and 34 percent of their total labour force in this group, with the Donegal and Midlands regions having just over 40 percent. The group "Other producers, makers and repairers" formed almost one-third of the total in the East and North East regions as compared with just under one-fifth in the West and North West regions. The proportion for this group in the other regions varied between approximately 25 and 30 percent.

Apart from the Agricultural occupations the East region shows the highest proportion of gainfully occupied persons in all the other broad occupational groups in question. For example in the case of Clerical workers the difference is very substantial; over 15 percent of gainfully occupied persons in the East region were in this category while the corresponding proportion for the other regions varied between 4 and 7 percent. A similar though less pronounced pattern is evident for the other non-agricultural groups.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS.

The number of persons in each socio-economic group showing the proportions gainfully occupied, not gainfully occupied and children under 14 years of age in each group is given in Table III. The method by which the population was classified by Socio-economic group is described in the Explanatory Notes (page vii).

TABLE III:-- PERSONS IN EACH SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP SHOWING THE PROPORTIONS GAINFULLY OCCUPIED, NOT GAINFULLY OCCUPIED AND CHILDREN UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE.

Socio-economic group	Total persons	Percentage			
		Gainfully occupied	Not gainfully occupied	Children under 14 years of age	Total
Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers	607,786	38.8	33.1	28.1	100.-
Other agricultural occupations and fishermen	128,120	41.1	30.5	28.4	100.-
Higher professional	89,369	47.9	23.8	28.3	100.-
Lower professional	110,596	52.6	23.6	23.8	100.-
Employers and managers	151,640	27.9	32.7	39.5	100.-
Salaried employees	59,545	29.7	32.4	37.9	100.-
Intermediate non-manual workers	359,665	52.9	23.7	23.4	100.-
Other non-manual workers	303,027	41.0	26.4	32.5	100.-
Skilled manual workers	491,865	35.3	28.1	36.7	100.-
Semi-skilled manual workers	173,635	50.9	22.6	26.6	100.-
Unskilled manual workers	258,111	34.4	30.0	35.6	100.-
Unknown	244,889	1.9	85.5	12.6	100.-
TOTAL	2,978,248	37.6	33.1	29.3	100.-

The largest single group was the Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers group which contained 607,786 persons or just over one-fifth of the total population. The other agricultural group, Other agricultural occupations and fishermen, contained a further 128,120 persons. There were 491,865 persons in the Skilled manual workers group while the only other groups which contained more than 10 percent of the total population were Intermediate non-manual workers with 359,665 persons and Other non-manual workers with 303,027 persons. The two smallest groups were Higher professional and Salaried employees with 89,369 and 59,545 persons respectively.

There were three groups in which more than one-half of the persons were gainfully occupied; these were the Lower professional, Intermediate non-manual workers and Semi-skilled manual workers group. The groups with the smallest proportion of gainfully occupied persons were Salaried employees and Employers and managers. It must be borne in mind that the proportion of persons not gainfully occupied in a particular Socio-economic group can be influenced by a number of different factors. For example, groups containing a large number of single persons would have a smaller number of persons not gainfully occupied as, in general, single persons do not have dependents (who would be classified to the same socio-economic group); the proportion of secondary school pupils and third level students also varies from one group to another. The "Unknown" group is, of course, a special case in the context of this analysis as it contains most of the retired persons (see page vii) and all persons living in a household which did not contain a gainfully occupied person.

GAINFULLY OCCUPIED PERSONS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS.

Apart from individual data on occupation, employment status, etc. each household was asked to state the total rateable valuation of all agricultural holdings in the State, of which persons usually resident in the household were the rated occupiers. This has been used in combination with the individual data to prepare Tables 10A and 10B. Many persons who are the rated occupiers of agricultural land may state an occupation other than that of farmer as their principal occupation. In addition many gainfully occupied persons although not having a principal occupation connected with agriculture and not themselves being the rated occupiers of agricultural land, nevertheless live in households where some other person is a rated occupier of agricultural land and so might be considered to be associated with agriculture.

Persons living in households with agricultural land are classified in Table IV according to the total rateable valuation of all agricultural holdings in the State of which persons usually resident in the household are the rated occupiers. Persons in agricultural and non-agricultural occupations in each Province are distinguished in this Table which also gives corresponding figures for 1966.

In 1971 there were some 142,700 persons with non-agricultural occupations living in these households together with some 255,500 persons with agricultural occupations. Many of the former were in households where the valuation was low. Table V summarises the position.

While the number of persons in agricultural occupations fell by 58,500 between 1966 and 1971, the number of persons in non-agricultural occupations living in households with some agricultural land rose by 11,300 over the same period. This trend was particularly apparent in Connacht where the number of such persons rose by 5,000 or 19.3 percent. This reflects the increasing number of persons residing in agricultural households but taking up employment in other sectors of the economy. As shown in Table VI the proportionate increase in the number of such persons was highest in the intermediate valuation groups.

**TABLE IV:- PERSONS IN AGRICULTURAL AND NON-AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS IN EACH PROVINCE CLASSIFIED BY THE AGGREGATE RATEABLE VALUATION
OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS HELD BY PERSONS USUALLY RESIDENT IN THE HOUSEHOLD – 1966 AND 1971.**

Province		Total	Persons in households without agricultural land, institutions, etc.	Persons in private households with agricultural land	Rateable valuation										
					Under £2	£2 and under £4	£4 and under £7	£7 and under £10	£10 and under £15	£15 and under £20	£20 and under £30	£30 and under £50	£50 and under £100	£100 and under £200	£200 and over
LEINSTER															
Agricultural occupations	1966	94,592	18,647	75,945	1,984	4,278	3,396	2,936	5,224	5,940	13,044	15,636	14,727	6,584	2,196
	1971	79,861	16,870	62,991	1,656	2,452	2,559	2,280	4,120	4,808	10,515	13,801	12,984	5,814	2,002
Non-agricultural occupations	1966	455,216	412,420	42,796	4,211	9,143	5,442	2,883	3,569	2,851	4,595	4,400	3,381	1,521	800
	1971	489,059	443,527	45,532	5,108	6,784	5,334	3,231	4,237	3,495	5,600	5,354	3,997	1,620	772
MUNSTER															
Agricultural occupations	1966	117,870	10,745	107,125	3,223	6,592	7,831	7,552	12,217	10,863	17,075	18,715	16,390	5,633	1,034
	1971	99,621	10,714	88,907	2,408	4,324	5,985	6,124	9,987	9,114	14,521	16,393	14,378	4,775	898
Non-agricultural occupations	1966	208,980	162,773	46,207	6,391	10,537	7,175	3,446	4,105	2,725	4,035	3,611	2,766	1,083	333
	1971	224,805	176,920	47,885	6,299	9,035	6,621	3,836	4,804	3,580	4,882	4,289	3,165	1,125	249
CONNACHT															
Agricultural occupations	1966	92,123	2,760	89,363	3,261	7,947	11,841	11,153	17,593	12,752	13,629	7,613	2,934	533	107
	1971	74,388	2,418	71,970	1,954	5,967	9,621	8,876	14,139	10,497	11,531	6,472	2,385	442	86
Non-agricultural occupations	1966	65,811	39,965	25,846	1,664	3,287	3,792	3,335	4,845	3,125	3,198	1,705	740	111	44
	1971	71,657	40,827	30,830	1,418	3,343	4,512	4,132	6,205	4,021	4,161	2,040	814	145	39
ULSTER (part of)															
Agricultural occupations	1966	42,715	3,168	39,547	2,312	4,610	5,111	3,656	5,211	4,254	5,966	5,011	2,764	551	101
	1971	34,883	3,226	31,657	1,488	3,492	4,105	2,904	4,227	3,417	5,072	4,031	2,362	465	94
Non-agricultural occupations	1966	40,897	24,395	16,502	1,794	2,899	2,628	1,727	1,976	1,481	1,781	1,371	669	136	40
	1971	45,257	26,842	18,415	1,576	3,045	2,775	1,975	2,557	1,781	2,241	1,494	760	164	47
TOTAL															
Agricultural occupations	1966	347,300	35,320	311,980	10,780	23,427	28,179	25,297	40,245	33,809	49,714	46,975	36,815	13,301	3,438
	1971	288,753	33,228	255,525	7,506	16,235	22,270	20,184	32,473	27,836	41,639	40,697	32,109	11,496	3,080
Non-agricultural occupations	1966	770,904	639,553	131,351	14,060	25,866	19,037	11,391	14,495	10,182	13,609	11,087	7,556	2,851	1,217
	1971	830,778	688,116	142,662	14,401	22,207	19,242	13,174	17,803	12,877	16,884	13,177	8,736	3,054	1,107

Note – Relates to agricultural holdings in the State, of which persons usually resident in the household are the rated occupiers.

TABLE V:- PERSONS WITH NON-AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL GAINFULLY OCCUPIED PERSONS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS.

Province	Rateable valuation				Total
	Under £4	£4 and under £10	£10 and under £20	£20 and over	
	%	%	%	%	%
Leinster	74.3	63.9	46.4	27.8	42.0
Munster	69.5	46.3	30.5	21.2	35.0
Connacht	37.5	31.8	29.3	25.6	30.0
Ulster (part of)	48.1	40.4	36.2	28.1	36.8
TOTAL	60.7	43.3	33.7	25.0	35.8

TABLE VI:- ACTUAL AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE BETWEEN 1966 AND 1971 IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WITH NON-AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS.

Province	Rateable valuation								Total	
	Under £4		£4 and under £10		£10 and under £20		£20 and over			
	Actual change	Percent-age change	Actual change	Percent-age change	Actual change	Percent-age change	Actual change	Percent-age change	Actual change	Percent-age change
Leinster	- 1,462	- 10.9	+ 240	+ 2.9	+ 1,312	+ 20.4	+ 2,646	+ 18.0	+ 2,736	+ 6.4
Munster	- 1,594	- 9.4	- 164	- 1.5	+ 1,554	+ 22.8	+ 1,882	+ 15.9	+ 1,678	+ 3.6
Connacht	- 190	- 3.8	+ 1,517	+ 21.3	+ 2,256	+ 28.3	+ 1,401	+ 24.2	+ 4,984	+ 19.3
Ulster (part of)	- 72	- 1.5	+ 395	+ 9.1	+ 881	+ 25.5	+ 709	+ 17.7	+ 1,913	+ 11.6
TOTAL	- 3,318	- 8.3	+ 1,988	+ 6.5	+ 6,003	+ 24.3	+ 6,638	+ 18.3	+ 11,311	+ 8.6