

# CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1971

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Volume of the Report of the Census of Population, 1971, contains detailed classifications by occupations and socio-economic groups of the population of the State and of the principal administrative areas.

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).

### INFORMATION COLLECTED.

The following particulars were collected in respect of each individual:— (i) Name, (ii) sex, (iii) relationship to head of household, (iv) usual residence, (v) usual residence one year prior to Census date, (vi) place of birth, (vii) date of birth, (viii) conjugal condition, (ix) date of marriage and number of children (for married women only), (x) religion, (xi) knowledge of Irish (for persons 3 years of age and over), (xii) method of transport and distance travelled to work or school and for persons aged 14 years or over:— (xiii) principal occupation, (xiv) employment status, (xv) name of employer and nature of employer's business, (xvi) age at which full-time education ended and number of years' attendance at school or college, etc. (for persons who had ceased their full-time education), (xvii) scientific or technological qualifications held and fields of science concerned. In addition the following information was collected in respect of each private household:— (i) total area and rateable valuation of agricultural holdings held by members of the household, (ii) nature of occupancy of dwelling (rented, owner-occupied, etc.), (iii) rent of dwelling, (iv) year house was built, (v) rooms occupied, (vi) type of water supply, (vii) availability of bath or shower, (viii) type of sanitary facility, (ix) electricity supply and (x) motor vehicles used by household.

### 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. Persons on board ships in port are included with the population of adjacent areas. The figures, therefore, include visitors present on Census night as well as residents while Irish persons temporarily absent from the State are excluded. The date of the Census was, however, chosen to coincide with a period when passenger movements were at a minimum and consequently the figures closely approximate to those for the normally resident population. Members of the Defence Forces who, on Census date, were serving abroad with the United Nations were, of course, excluded from the enumeration.

### BASIS OF CLASSIFICATION.

All persons aged 14 years of age and over are classified to their usual principal occupation including those who are out of work and those who are temporarily confined to hospitals.

Occupations are divided into two broad categories, gainful and non-gainful, a gainful occupation being one in which the person is actively engaged and from which the livelihood is usually obtained. Persons in certain occupations who do not receive a fixed wage or salary are, however, also classified as gainfully occupied, the principal group of persons in this category being those assisting relatives in farm work. Persons engaged in home duties, persons at school, students, persons not yet at work and retired persons comprise the majority of the not gainfully occupied group. The occupation, in the case of a gainfully occupied person, is determined by the kind of work performed in earning a living irrespective of the place in which, and the purpose for which, it is performed. Classification of the population by occupation thus brings together the numbers of persons engaged in the same type of work regardless of the purpose for which such work is undertaken.

The most detailed occupation classification used in the 1971 Census of Population is that shown in Table 2 of this Volume. In the arrangement of the occupational headings in Table 2 the individual occupations peculiar to, or usually associated with, a particular industry or service have been grouped together. Certain residual headings in this table (e.g. other woodworkers, other transport and communication workers) cover, in the main, occupations which, though peculiar to or usually associated with specific industries or services do not, by reason of the numbers engaged in them, justify separate identification. Such headings do not include persons working in the industry or service in occupations which are common to a number of industries or services (e.g. Clerk, Labourer, etc.). Likewise, not all persons in a particular occupation are necessarily employed in the industry or service most generally associated with that occupation. Thus, not all Carpenters are engaged in the Woodworking Industry. It follows that the broader occupational group totals in this Volume should not be mistaken for the total of persons engaged in the rather similarly described industries and services; information on this latter aspect form the basis of the data given in Volume III of the 1971 Census which has already been published. The questions on the Census schedules from which the statistics contained in the present Volume were derived are set out hereunder.

**To be completed for each person aged 14 years or over**

### **PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION**

If usually working for payment or profit even if at present out of work, state here the **usual principal occupation**, giving a full description.

For other persons, write, as appropriate, "**Home duties**", "**At school**" (primary, secondary or vocational), "**Student**" (Medical, Law, etc.), "**Not yet at work**", etc.

### **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

If usually working for payment or profit, state whether "**Employee**", "**Assisting relative**", "**Self employed, employs others**" or "**Self employed, without employees**".

If at present out of work, write "**Out of work**".

### **EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYER'S BUSINESS**

If an employee, state **name of employer** (person, firm, company or public body), **address of place of work** and **nature of business** carried on by employer.

If self employed, state **nature of business** in which engaged.

If a farmer, state the **area** and **total rateable valuation of the farm** on which working.

If a farm worker, state the **area of the farm** on which working.

If out of work, state **name, address** and **nature of business** of last employer.

**To be answered in respect of each private household and of the house,  
flat or rooms occupied by that household**

### **AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS**

State the **area** and **rateable valuation** of all agricultural holdings (if any) in the State, of which persons usually resident in the household are the rated occupiers. Land held under the eleven months system or in conacre or in commonage should not be included.

Area in Statute Acres . . . . .

Valuation (Land and buildings) £. . . . .

More specific directions as to how these questions should be answered were given in a leaflet which accompanied the Census schedule. In addition, the enumerators were requested to examine the completed forms carefully so that vague and inadequate occupational descriptions would be detected and corrected before the forms left the centres of enumeration. Despite these precautions there were, as at previous censuses, a number of cases where incomplete descriptions were given. The procedure in such cases was to use the information such as age and education as well as the employer's business to assign them to the most appropriate heading.

#### CLASSIFICATION BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS.

Each gainfully occupied person was classified by "Employment Status" to one of the following groups:—

Employer and own account worker  
Assisting relative  
Employee  
Out of work

#### 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 persons on whom they were deemed to be dependent. 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.

While in previous Censuses information was sought from retired persons regarding their former occupation, thus making it possible to classify them directly according to socio-economic groups, on this occasion such information was not sought and, where the former occupation was not stated, these persons were assigned to the residual group except, as explained above, where they could be assigned to the socio-economic group of the principal earner in the family unit. As the number of retired persons involved is quite substantial this significantly affects comparability with the corresponding data on socio-economic groups from the 1966 Census. A further factor to be borne in mind in regard to this latter aspect is the different method used in classifying some semi-skilled labourers according to occupation on this occasion; these changes which also affect assignment of persons to socio-economic groups are explained further on page viii.

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

- i — Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers
- ii — Other agricultural occupations and fishermen
- iii — Higher professional
- iv — Lower professional
- v — Employers and managers
- vi — Salaried employees
- vii — Intermediate non-manual workers
- viii — Other non-manual workers
- ix — Skilled manual workers
- x — Semi-skilled manual workers
- xi — Unskilled manual workers
- xii — Unknown

## CONTENT OF THE TABLES.

Little change has been made in the content or layout of the present Volume as compared with the corresponding Volume of the 1966 Census but tables relating to landholders are not now included as a question on this topic was not included in the 1971 inquiry. An extra table (Table 6) has been added which shows the populations of Rural Districts and Towns, etc., classified by occupational group.

It will be noted that the numbering of the occupation headings does not run in sequence (i.e. from 1 to 161) as would be the case had the practice of previous Censuses been adhered to. Instead, because most of the tables were printed by computer, the actual computer codes were used, thus simplifying the programming involved.

Tables 1 and 2 show the classification of the population according to occupational groups and detailed occupational headings, respectively, while in Table 3 the 1966 and 1971 Census results are compared for the detailed occupational headings. As the list of occupations used at the 1966 Census of Population was somewhat longer than that used in 1971, it has been necessary to amalgamate some of the headings published in 1966 in order to give occupational totals comparable to those for 1971. In most cases the occupations affected are immediately clear from a comparison of the 1966 and 1971 Census reports. For example, the 1966 list contains the two headings "Coal miners" and "Other mine and quarry workers" which in the 1971 list are combined under the single heading "Mine and quarry workers". In a number of other instances revisions in the 1971 occupational coding system have affected comparability with correspondingly named occupations in 1966 and in these cases adjustments have been made to the 1966 data in order to maintain comparability in the figures presented in Table 3. The full extent of changes in the classification is indicated in Appendix A. It should also be noted that Builders' labourers are not separately distinguished but 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 also 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 arises in the case of other labourers who had previously been separately distinguished and classified as semi-skilled e.g. Fitter's labourers.

In Tables 4 and 5 figures for occupational groups and detailed occupational headings are given for Provinces, Counties and County Boroughs. Tables 6A and 6B contain classifications by occupational groups for Rural Districts and Towns, etc., while Tables 7A and 7B contain certain occupational classifications for towns of 1,500 population or over. An alphabetical index to the cities and towns appearing in these tables is contained in Appendix F. Table 8 gives a classification of the population of each Province, County and County Borough by socio-economic group, while in Table 9 the group "Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers" is further sub-divided according to the total rateable valuation of agricultural holdings held by persons normally resident in the household. Tables 10A and 10B show males and females in the principal occupational groups according to a valuation classification similar to Table 9. Finally, Table 11 classifies males and females by occupation and employment status.

Appendix A sets out the full list of occupations used in presenting the 1971 results while Appendices C to E show how these have been grouped for the various occupational groupings presented in the various tables.

It should be noted that Volume III of the Census Report — Industries — also contains a considerable amount of occupational data. In Tables 7A and 7B of that Volume 1966 and 1971 classifications by broad occupational group are shown for males and females, respectively, at work in the principal industrial groups. Table 8 of the Industries Volume contains a detailed classification of males and females at work in each industry according to occupation and occupational group. In that table each occupation or occupational group having twenty or more males or females within an industry is distinguished separately.