

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1971

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Volume of the Report of the Census of Population, 1971, contains detailed classifications by age, conjugal condition, occupation and industry of the population aged 14 years and over.

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.

CLASSIFICATION BY OCCUPATION.

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

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 Appendix A. This occupation list is used in Table 2A of the present Volume, showing males classified by age, conjugal condition and occupation. In the case of Table 2B however, which contains similar particulars for females, occupations containing very small numbers have been grouped together. The composition of the occupation groups used in Tables 3A and 3B is outlined in Appendices A and B.

CLASSIFICATION BY INDUSTRY.

The industry in which a person is engaged is determined (whatever may be his occupation) by reference to the business or branch of economic activity in which, or for the purpose of which, his occupation is followed. Thus, while the occupational classification is concerned only with work performed by the individual, regardless of its ultimate purpose or end product, the industrial classification is concerned only with the ultimate purpose or end product, regardless of the precise nature of the work performed. A single manufacturing concern or commercial undertaking may employ persons of many different occupations for the purpose of making a particular product or giving a particular service (for example, a brewery usually employs skilled craftsmen such as carpenters, electricians, etc.). Conversely, there are many cases in which particular occupations are largely confined to a single industry. For example, the majority of persons having agricultural occupations are in the industry of Agriculture and most miners are in the Mining industry. It will be noted that the term "industry" as used for Census of Population purposes is not confined to Manufacturing industry, but is regarded as being synonymous with the term "branch of economic activity". The industrial groups used in Tables 11A, 11B, 13A and 13B are outlined in Appendix D.

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 groups 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; 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 arises in the case of other labourers who had previously been separately distinguished and classified as semi-skilled e.g. Fitter's labourer.

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

- 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

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

QUESTIONS ASKED ON CENSUS FORM.

The questions on the Census schedule 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 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 information such as age and education as well as the employer's business to assign them to the most appropriate heading.

CONTENT OF THE TABLES.

In general, the content and layout of the present Volume is similar to that of the corresponding Volume of the 1966 Census with some reduction in the detail given in Tables 3 and 4. The classification of those in each occupation by single year of age in Tables 5A and 5B has been extended to include each year of age up to 24. Males and females at work are classified by industrial group and age group but not by individual industry and, in the case of those out of work, the classifications in Tables 12 and 13 by age group are for occupational groups and industrial groups rather than for detailed occupations and industries.

Tables 1A and 1B show the classification of males and females in each occupational group according to age group and conjugal condition while Tables 2A and 2B give the same classification for males and females in each occupation. Tables 3A and 3B give the numbers in each occupational group in each Province, County and County Borough classified by age group. Farmers in each Province and County are classified in Table 4 according to conjugal condition and age group.

Tables 5A and 5B relate to the population aged 14-24 only. Males and females in this age group are shown by single year of age and by occupation. In Table 6, the total population in each socio-economic group is classified by age group and conjugal condition, distinguishing sex, gainfully occupied and not gainfully occupied for those aged 14 years and over while Table 7 gives the same information for those in the socio-economic group "Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers" and further subdivides them by the total rateable valuation of agricultural holdings held by persons usually resident in the household.

Males and females are classified by employment status and age group in Tables 8A and 9A while Tables 8B, 8C, 9B and 9C show the numbers in each age group as a percentage of the total in each employment status and the numbers in each employment status as a percentage of the total gainfully occupied in each age group. In Tables 10A and 10B, males and females in each employment status are classified by age group and conjugal condition.

Table 11A classifies males at work in each industrial group by age group while Table 11B provides a similar classification for females with a further subdivision by conjugal condition. Tables 12A, 12B, 13A and 13B are concerned with males and females out of work only and classify these by occupational group and age group in Tables 12A and 12B and by industrial group and age group in Tables 13A and 13B.