

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1971

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Volume of the Report of the Census of Population, 1971, contains detailed tables concerning housing and social amenities. A further Volume (Vol. VII) will present results with the basic emphasis on composition of households.

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 (I) 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 private household and the accommodation occupied:- (i) nature of occupancy of dwelling (rented, owner-occupied, etc.), (ii) rent of dwelling, (if rented), (iii) year in which house was built, (iv) rooms occupied, (v) type of water supply, (vi) availability of bath or shower, (vii) type of sanitary facility, (viii) electricity supply, (ix) rateable valuation of agricultural holdings held by usually resident members of the household.

DEFINITIONS

A **private household** is defined as a group of persons living together (usually but not necessarily related), jointly occupying the whole or part of a private dwelling house, flat or temporary dwelling and sharing a common budget. A person who lives alone or a person who occupies only part of the living accommodation but does not normally share a common budget with the other occupants is also regarded as constituting a separate private household. A **non-private household** is a boarding house, hotel, guest house, barrack, hospital, nursing home, boarding school, religious institution, welfare institution, prison or ship, etc. However, proprietors and managers of hotels, principals of boarding schools, persons in charge of various other types of institutions and members of staff who, with their families, occupy flats on the premises are classified as private households.

Households occupying caravans or other temporary dwellings have been included as private households but most tabulations concerning private households have been compiled for **private households in permanent housing units** and, therefore, exclude all such temporary dwellings. Thus, the data are directly comparable with those shown for private households in the corresponding reports for previous censuses.

A **housing unit** is a conventional house, a structurally separate flat or a temporary dwelling, regardless of the number of private households it contains; when temporary dwellings are excluded the definition relates to a **permanent housing unit**. Generally, one private household occupies one housing unit but a housing unit may contain more than one household. In 1971 there were 705,180 permanent housing units in the State in which there were 726,363 private households.

A **private dwelling** is the room or set of rooms occupied by a private household in a permanent housing unit. There is thus a one to one correspondence between such private households and private dwellings and the numbers of these entities are the same in all instances.

The new concept of housing unit has been introduced to permit of a more consistent classification for those cases where a house or flat is shared by two or more private households and hence contains two or more private dwellings. For certain purposes it is necessary to have a definition of units of accommodation independent of the way these units happen to be occupied at a particular time.

All classifications relate to occupied housing units only. Statistics of unoccupied housing units were not compiled because of the difficulty of determining, in many cases, whether unoccupied accommodation could be regarded as habitable or not.

The **number of rooms** occupied by a private household is the total number used by the household, including a kitchen, but excluding a kitchenette, scullery, bathroom, toilet, consulting room, office or shop.

COVERAGE OF THE CENSUS

QUESTIONS ON CENSUS FORM

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

19 AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

Area in Statute acres

.....
Valuation (Land and buildings)

£

20 NATURE OF OCCUPANCY OF HOUSE, FLAT OR ROOMS

Insert X opposite whichever term applies.

Rented from Local Authority (corporation, county or urban district council)		1
Rented unfurnished, other than from Local Authority		2
Rented furnished or part furnished		3
Being acquired from Local Authority under a Purchase or Vested Cottage Scheme		4
Owner occupied (including cases where loan or mortgage repayments are being made)		5
Occupied free of rent (caretaker, company official, etc.)		6

21 RENT (For categories 1, 2 and 3 of Question 20)

If the house, flat or rooms are rented, state the rent (inclusive of rates and ground rent) and strike out periods which do not apply.

£	p	per	<div> <div>week</div> <div>month</div> <div>year</div> </div>

22 YEAR IN WHICH HOUSE WAS BUILT

Indicate the period in which the house or other building containing the dwelling was built by inserting X in the appropriate box. The year in which first built is required even if subsequently converted or reconstructed.

Before 1860	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Between 1919 and 1940 inclusive	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Between 1860 and 1899 inclusive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Between 1941 and 1960 inclusive	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Between 1900 and 1918 inclusive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	1961 or after	<input type="checkbox"/>	6

23 ROOMS

State the number of rooms occupied by the household (including kitchen but excluding kitchenette, scullery, bathroom, toilet, consulting room, office or shop).

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24 WATER SUPPLY

Insert X opposite whichever term applies.

Water tap, inside the building, connected to public main	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Water tap, outside the building only, connected to public main	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Water tap, inside the building, connected to private source	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Water tap, outside the building only, connected to private source	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
No piped water supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	5

25 BATH OR SHOWER

Has the household the use of a fixed bath or shower? (write "Yes" or "No")

If "Yes", is this bath or shower shared with another household? (write "Yes" or "No")

26 SANITARY FACILITIES

Insert X opposite whichever term applies.

Flush toilet	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Chemical closet	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Dry closet	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
No toilet or closet	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Is the toilet or closet inside the building?	(write "Yes" or "No")	
Is the toilet or closet shared with another household?	(write "Yes" or "No")	

27 ELECTRICITY

Is an electricity supply laid on to the dwelling? (write "Yes" or "No")

NOTES ON THE QUESTIONS ASKED

Question 19 (Agricultural Holdings) is used to give separate classifications in Tables 20A, 20B and 20C for those permanent housing units in which there were usual residents who were the rated occupiers of agricultural holdings.

Question 20 sought information for each private household on nature of occupancy. However, the results are presented in terms of permanent housing units (Tables 13 and 15A-E). In cases where a housing unit consisted of more than one household, the nature of occupancy of the housing unit was taken to be that of the principal household e.g. an owner occupied household within a housing unit meant that the housing unit was classified as owner occupied.

Question 21 (Rent). Where the dwelling was rented the household was asked to state the rent. The results are presented in terms of permanent housing units (Tables 16A-E). In cases where there was more than one household and each one was rented, the rent of a housing unit was that of the principal tenant within the housing unit rather than the sum of the rents paid by all households in the housing unit.

Question 22 asked for the year in which the house was built. There is some uncertainty as to the degree of accuracy of the information received on this topic. It is clear, from comparisons with results of a similar inquiry at the 1961 Census, that many householders, particularly those occupying older houses, were not at all sure as to when the houses they were occupying were built. Nevertheless, because there is much interest in these figures and because they appear to be reasonably accurate for the more recent periods, they have been included in Tables 13, 17A-E and 20A.

Question 23 (Rooms occupied). Results are presented generally in terms of private households but in Table 14 the classification is for permanent housing units. The number of rooms occupied in a housing unit is, of course, the sum of the rooms occupied by the household or households within that housing unit.

Questions 24-27. The particulars of water supply, bath or shower availability, sanitary facilities and electricity supply are presented in terms of permanent housing units based on the replies of the constituent households. If any household stated that it had the use of an amenity (e.g. water supply, bath or shower) then the housing unit was regarded as having that amenity.

CONTENT OF THE TABLES

Table 1 classifies all persons in each Province, County and County Borough according to the type of private or non-private household in which they were enumerated.

Tables 2-10 give information on private households in permanent housing units and deal entirely with numbers of persons and numbers of rooms.

Tables 11-20 are concerned with housing units and give information on amenities, nature of occupancy, rent, period in which built* and the composition of the housing units in terms of their constituent households. Many of these items are also important in the context of households and this aspect will be covered in Volume VII. In that Volume, households will be classified by type (one person, man and wife, etc.), by number of persons and by their situation in respect of many of the topics for which information at the level of the housing unit is given in the present Volume.

The number of private households in permanent housing units and the number of persons and rooms occupied in each Province, County and County Borough and in their Aggregate Town Areas and Aggregate Rural Areas are given in Table 2 while Table 3 shows, for the same areas, the average number of persons in such households in 1971 and at previous censuses back to 1936. A similar comparison for average number of persons per room is outlined in Table 4. Table 5 shows the percentage of persons living in households having more than two persons per room for the Census years from 1936 to 1971, this being one measure of the extent of over-crowding in each of the relevant years. Table 6 classifies households in each Province and County by number of rooms occupied, again for the Census years since 1936. Table 7 concentrates on one-roomed dwellings only, in the same areas and in the same years, classifying such households by number of persons. Tables 8A, 8B and 8C are concerned with the actual and percentage distribution over various density ranges (i.e. number of persons per room) of persons in private households in each Province, County and County Borough and in their Aggregate Town Areas and Aggregate Rural Areas. Table 9 gives a similar breakdown for each Ward of the County Boroughs of Dublin and Cork. A detailed two way classification showing private households by number of persons and number of rooms is given in Table 10 for the same areas as Tables 8A-C.

**In interpreting the data relating to period in which the housing unit was built the qualifications referred to in paragraph 4 above should be borne in mind.*

Table 11A contains the first classification concerning housing units, giving information on the number of housing units and their constituent private households, persons and rooms classified according to the type of building in which the units were situated. For permanent housing units, four types of building are distinguished in this table — “conventional house”, “one-dwelling building, partly non-residential”, “multi-dwelling building” and “institutions”. It should be borne in mind that the category “conventional house” covers not only the most frequently occurring situation involving one household occupying a whole house but also cases where two or more households occupy a house which has not been structurally sub-divided into different housing units — thus the number of households is greater than the number of housing units. The category “multi-dwelling building” relates to purpose-built blocks of flats or other buildings which have been structurally sub-divided into separate housing units; thus the numbers of housing units and households for this latter category are always the same.

Table 11B contains average densities derived from the data for permanent housing units in each County and County Borough as well as their Aggregate Town Areas and Aggregate Rural Areas. These densities are average number of persons per housing unit, per private household and per room in permanent housing unit, average number of households per housing unit and average number of rooms per housing unit and per private household.

All the remaining tables in the Volume relate to permanent housing units. Table 12 classifies the State totals for these housing units and numbers of persons therein for each type of building by water supply, sanitary facilities, bath or shower, while Table 13 presents in a similar way particulars of nature of occupancy, period in which built* and electricity supply.

Table 14 is concerned with a two way classification for the State as a whole showing number of rooms by number of persons in housing unit with separate classifications where housing unit contains one, two and three or more households.

Tables 15A-E are concerned with the nature of occupancy of housing units for different area categories; Tables 16A-E contain information on monthly rent for rented housing units in the same areas; Tables 17A-E again relate to these areas, in this case dealing with the period in which the housing unit was built* and electricity supply. The areas used in each of the above sets of Tables are (A) Provinces, Counties and County Boroughs (B) the Aggregate Town Areas of each of these (C) the Aggregate Rural Areas of Provinces and Counties (D) individual Urban and Rural Districts, towns of 1,500 population and over and (E) the Wards of the County Boroughs of Dublin and Cork.

Tables 18A-D show the situation regarding water supply for the areas listed under (A) to (D) in the previous paragraph and particulars of the type of sanitary facilities in housing units in the same areas are given in Tables 19A-D. Finally, in Tables 20A, 20B and 20C housing units with usual residents who were the rated occupiers of agricultural holdings are classified according to period in which built*, electricity supply, water supply and sanitary facilities for Provinces and Counties.

*See footnote on page viii.