

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1971

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Volume of the Report of the Census of Population, 1971 contains detailed classifications of private households by type of household composition (e.g. one person; man and wife; man, wife and single children; etc.). The data are further classified by factors showing other aspects of the composition of the household such as the number of persons, number of gainfully occupied persons, number of dependent children, number of persons out of work and elderly persons. Classifications are also shown involving characteristics of the head of the household (e.g. sex, age group, socio-economic group, etc.) and according to details of the accommodation occupied such as number of rooms, nature of occupancy, availability of amenities, etc. More detailed information concerning housing and social amenities has been published in the 1971 Census Housing Volume (Vol. VI) which, however, does not contain information on household composition.

The Census was taken on the night of the 18th 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:— (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, (if rented), (iv) year in which 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 population figures relate to the *de facto* population, that is to say the population recorded for each household represents the total of all persons present on the night of Sunday, 18 April, 1971, together with all persons who arrived in that household on the morning of Monday, 19 April, 1971, not having been enumerated elsewhere. The figures, therefore, for an individual household include visitors present on Census night as well as residents while persons temporarily absent from the household are excluded.

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 are classified as private households but most of the 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 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. The majority of housing units contain one private household. In 1971 there were 705,180 permanent housing units in the State in which there were 726,363 private households. All tabulations in this Volume are on the basis of private households. In the Housing Volume (Vol. VI) most of the tabulations are on the basis of housing units.

A family unit is defined as (i) a man and his wife (ii) a man and his wife together with one or more single children (of any age) or (iii) one parent together with one or more single children (of any age).

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.

CLASSIFICATION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE

The classification used for private households was the same as that used at the 1966 Census of Population and first used on an experimental basis at the 1961 Census of Population. It was adapted from the recommendations proposed by the Conference of European Statisticians in the ECE publication "European Recommendations for the 1970 Housing Censuses".

The family unit forms the basis of this classification. Households containing family units were further classified into those with and those without other persons. Households containing more than one family unit were also separately distinguished as were one person households. Household size and composition relate to the persons present in the household on Census night.

The ten types of household used in the classification were:-

Households consisting of:-

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| 1. One person only | | |
| 2. Man and wife | } | with no other persons |
| 3. Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age) | | |
| 4. One parent and one or more single children (of any age) | | |
| 5. Man and wife | } | with other persons |
| 6. Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age) | | |
| 7. One parent and one or more single children (of any age) | | |
| 8. Two family units with or without other persons | | |
| 9. Three or more family units with or without other persons | | |
| 10. Two or more persons but not including a family unit | | |

It should be particularly noted that the age of children was not taken into account in defining the household type. For example, a household comprised of a man and his wife and their child aged 10 years was assigned to Type 3 as was a household comprised of a man and his wife and their son aged 30, if the son was unmarried.

In some of the tables, households are classified by various characteristics of the head of the household such as age and conjugal condition. No instruction was given on the Census form as to which person in a household should be regarded as the head. It was indicated that particulars relating to the head of the household should be entered on the first line of the form and therefore, the person completing the household schedule indicates in this manner who was regarded by the household as the head.

CONTENT OF THE TABLES

Table 1 classifies private households in permanent housing units by type and number of persons. Each of Tables 2 to 19 follows the same format. In each of these Tables, these households are classified by type of household and number of persons within each type; they are further classified by some characteristic of the household or of the head of the household.

Table 2A gives the particulars of household type for each County and County Borough while Table 2B presents the results by the type of district, distinguishing different town size groupings. The sex and age group of the head of the household is the topic covered in Table 3 while Tables 4A and 4B give a more detailed age group breakdown for households with male and female heads, respectively. In Table 5 the classification is by sex and conjugal condition of the head.

Tables 6A, 6B, 6C and 6D provide information on rooms occupied by each household type in the State, Aggregate Town Area, Aggregate Rural Area and in Dublin County Borough. The nature of occupancy of the household is distinguished for the same areas in Tables 7A, 7B, 7C and 7D as is availability of water supply, use of fixed bath and electricity supply in Tables 8A, 8B, 8C and 8D. Tables 9A, 9B, 9C and 9D deal with sanitary facilities, again in these areas.

Table 10 classifies households according to the number of gainfully occupied persons while the measure used in Table 11 is the number of children under 14 and in Table 12 the number of dependent children under 16. Households are classified in Table 13 by the number of persons out of work and in Table 14 by the number of persons aged 65 years and over.

Tables 15 and 16 classify households by the socio-economic group and by the religious denomination of the head of the household, respectively. Table 17 classifies households by number of persons per room. Table 18 deals only with households where the head is in the socio-economic group "Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers" and classifies these, as before, by type and number of persons and also by the aggregate rateable valuation of agricultural holdings held by persons normally resident in the household. All households containing persons with such holdings are classified in Table 19 according to their rateable valuation.

Tables 20 and 21 deal with private households in temporary housing units and Tables 22 and 23 deal with elderly persons, distinguishing the number and percentage living alone.