



DAONÁIREAMH NA hÉIREANN 1971

IMLEABHAR VIII

AN GHAEILGE

MAILLE LE TÁBLAÍ SPEISIALTA I LEITH NA GAELTACHTA

AN PHRÍOMH-OIFIG STAIRIMH A THÍOMSAIGH

*Na figiúirí atá san fhoilseachán seo baineann siad le daonra na hÉireann
gan Tuaisceart Éireann a áireamh.*

CENSUS OF POPULATION OF IRELAND 1971

VOLUME VIII

IRISH LANGUAGE

WITH SPECIAL TABLES FOR THE GAELTACHT AREAS

COMPILED BY

CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE

The statistics herein relate to the population of Ireland exclusive of Northern Ireland

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH:

DUBLIN:

ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR.

PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE.

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OIFIG DHÍOLTA FOILSEACHÁN RIALTAIS, AN STUARA, ARD-OIFIG AN PHOIST,
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AN CLÁR FOILSITHEOIREACHTA

Beidh torthaí deiridh Dhaonáireamh 1971 foilsithe sna himleabhair seo a leanas:-

- *Imleabhar I — An daonra i dToghanna Ceantair, i mbailte agus i limistéar mhóra.
- *Imleabhar II — Aois agus stádas pósta, aicmithe de réir limistéar.
- *Imleabhar III — Tionscail.
- *Imleabhar IV — Gairmeacha.
- *Imleabhar V — Gairmeacha agus tionscail, aicmithe de réir aoiseanna agus stádas pósta.
- *Imleabhar VI — Tithíocht.
- *Imleabhar VII — Comhdhéanamh Teaghlach.
- Imleabhar VIII — An Ghaeilge.
- Imleabhar IX — Creideamh.
- Imleabhar X — Bisiúlacht phósta.
- Imleabhar XI — Gnáth-áit chónaí, imirce agus áit breithe.
- Imleabhar XII — Cóir iompair agus turas chun oibre.
- Imleabhar XIII — Oideachas agus cáilíochtaí eolaíochta agus teicneolaíochta.

Tá sraith 41 d'Fheasacháin Staidrimh speisialta foilsithe cheana féin. Tá i ngach ceann den chéad 37 de na foilseacháin sin réamhthorthaí i ndáil le gach Contae, Contae-Bhuirg nó Cúige, agus aicmiú déanta iontu i ndáil le haois, stádas pósta, gairmeacha, brainse gníomhaíochta eacnamaíochta, stádas fostaíochta, méid agus cineál teaghaise, saghas áitíochta, soláthar uisce agus saoráidí sláintíochta; eolas den sórt céanna, ach gur eolas níos iomláine é, maidir leis an Stát go léir, maraon le haicmiú i ndáil le creideamh, aicmiú sóisial-eacnamaíochta, eolas ar an nGaeilge, daoine aosta a chonaíonn go haonraic, cineálacha teaghlach agus a méid, aois aonad tithíochta, an uimhir gluaisteán atá ar fáil do dhaoine aon-teaghlach, bisiúlacht phósta, áit bhreithe, imirce, cáilíochtaí eolaíochta agus teicneolaíochta, cothrom oideachais agus cóir iompair agus an fad bealaigh chun oibre nó chun scoile.

Tá táiblíochtaí ina bhfuil eolas cosúil leis an eolas sna Feasacháin Chontae ullmhaithe i ndáil le gach Toghroinn Cheantair agus Barda agus i ndáil le gach baile a gcónaíonn 1,000 duine nó os a chionn ann. Cló ríomhaire atá ar na táiblíochtaí sin agus tabharfar iad d'aon duine a bhfuil spéis aige iontu ar an méid a chosnaíonn sé cóip díobh a dhéanamh.

ins na ceithre fheasachán eile (38 do 41) a tugadh amach tá

*Foilsithe cheana féin.

PUBLICATION PROGRAMME

The publication programme of the final results of the 1971 Census will comprise the following volumes:-

- *Volume I – Population of District Electoral Divisions, towns and larger units of area.
- *Volume II – Ages and conjugal conditions classified by areas.
- *Volume III – Industries.
- *Volume IV – Occupations.
- *Volume V – Occupations and industries classified by ages and conjugal conditions.
- *Volume VI – Housing.
- *Volume VII – Household composition.
- Volume VIII – Irish Language.
- Volume IX – Religion.
- Volume X – Fertility of marriage.
- Volume XI – Usual residence, migration and birthplace.
- Volume XII – Transport and journey to work.
- Volume XIII – Education and scientific and technological qualifications.

A series of 41 special Census Bulletins has already been published. Each of the first 37 of these publications gives preliminary results for a particular County, County Borough or Province, involving classifications by age, conjugal condition, occupational group, branch of economic activity, employment status, size and type of dwelling, nature of occupancy, water supply and sanitary facilities; the four further bulletins produced (38 to 41) contain similar though more detailed information for the State as a whole together with classifications involving religion, socio-economic groups, knowledge of Irish, elderly persons living alone, type and size of households, age of housing units, the number of motor cars available to household members, fertility of marriage, birthplace, migration, scientific and technological qualifications, level of education and means of transport and distance travelled to work or school.

Tabulations containing similar information to that shown in the County Bulletins have been prepared for each District Electoral Division and Ward and for each town of 1,000 population and over. These tabulations are in the form of computer print-outs and will be supplied to interested persons at a charge sufficient to cover the cost of photo-copying.

* Already issued.

AN DAONÁIREAMH, 1971

IMLEABHAR VIII

CLÁR

NÓTAÍ MÍNIÚCHÁIN	...	...	...	Leath vi
TRÁCHTAIREACHT	...	...	...	x
TÁBLAÍ				
1.	GAEILGEOIRÍ AGUS DAOINE NACH GAEILGEOIRÍ I nGACH CÚIGE I nGACH DAONÁIREAMH Ó 1861 GO 1946, 1961 AGUS 1971.	...	...	2
2.	GAEILGEOIRÍ MAR CHÉATADÁN DEN LÍON IOMLÁN DAOINE I nGACH CÚIGE I nGACH DAONÁIREAMH Ó 1861 GO 1946, 1961 AGUS 1971.	...	...	2
3.	AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, I nGACH CÚIGE AGUS CONTAE - 1946, 1961 AGUS 1971.	...	...	3
4.	AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN GAEILGEOIRÍ I gCEANTAIR UIRBEACHA AGUS I dTUATH-CHEANTAIR AGUS I mBAILTE A bhFUIL A dTEORAINNEACHA SONRAITHE LE DLÍ; I gCOMHARSANACHT BAILTE A bhFUIL A dTEORAINNEACHA SONRAITHE LE DLÍ AGUS BAILTE GAN TEORAINNEACHA ATÁ SONRAITHE LE DLÍ INA RAIBH, I 1971, 1,500 ÁITITHEOIR NÓ OS A CHIONN, MAILLE LEIS NA CÉATADÁIN CHOMPARÁIDEACHA DO 1961 - DAOINE 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN.	...	...	4
5.	AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN GAEILGEOIRÍ AGUS DAOINE NACH GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, I nGACH CÚIGE ARNA nAICMIÚ DE RÉIR AOISE - 1946, 1961 AGUS 1971.	...	...	13
6.	GAEILGEOIRÍ AGUS DAOINE NACH GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, I nGACH CÚIGE, CONTAE AGUS CONTAE-BHUIRG ARNA nAICMIÚ DE RÉIR AOISE.	...	...	14
6A.	GAEILGEOIRÍ MAR CHÉATADÁN DEN LÍON IOMLÁN I nGACH AOISAICME.	...	...	18
7.	GAEILGEOIRÍ ARNA nAICMIÚ DE RÉIR SLÍ BHEATHA.	...	...	20
8A.	GAEILGEOIRÍ AGUS DAOINE NACH GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, ARNA nAICMIÚ DE RÉIR AOISE, SA CHUID DE GACH CONTAE A ÁIRÍTEAR MAR LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA IN ORDUITHE NA LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA, 1956 AGUS 1967.	...	...	28
8B.	FIREANNAIGH, GAEILGEOIRÍ AGUS DAOINE NACH GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, ARNA nAICMIÚ DE RÉIR AOISE, SA CHUID DE GACH CONTAE A ÁIRÍTEAR MAR LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA IN ORDUITHE NA LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA, 1956 AGUS 1967.	...	...	29
8C.	BAINEANNAIGH, GAEILGEOIRÍ AGUS DAOINE NACH GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, ARNA nAICMIÚ DE RÉIR AOISE, SA CHUID DE GACH CONTAE A ÁIRÍTEAR MAR LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA IN ORDUITHE NA LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA, 1956 AGUS 1967.	...	...	30
9.	AN DAONRA IOMLÁN I 1966 AGUS 1971 AGUS AN LÍON IOMLÁN DAOINE 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN I 1971 AGUS GAEILGEOIRÍ DEALAITHE Ó DHAOINE NACH GAEILGEOIRÍ, I dTOGHRANNA CEANTAIR NÓ I gCODANNA DE THOGRANNA CEANTAIR SA GHAELTACHT MAR A MHÍNÍTEAR SIN LE hORDUITHE NA LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA, 1956 AGUS 1967.	...	...	31

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1971

VOLUME VIII

CONTENTS

	Page
EXPLANATORY NOTES	viii
COMMENTARY	xii
TABLES	
1. IRISH SPEAKERS AND NON-IRISH SPEAKERS IN EACH PROVINCE AT EACH CENSUS FROM 1861 TO 1946, 1961 AND 1971.	2
2. IRISH SPEAKERS AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PERSONS IN EACH PROVINCE AT EACH CENSUS FROM 1861 TO 1946, 1961 AND 1971.	2
3. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, IN EACH PROVINCE AND COUNTY - 1946, 1961 AND 1971.	3
4. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IRISH SPEAKERS IN RURAL DISTRICTS AND IN TOWNS WITH LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES; IN ENVIRONS OF TOWNS WITH LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES AND IN TOWNS WITHOUT LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES HAVING 1,500 INHABITANTS OR OVER IN 1971, WITH COMPARATIVE PERCENTAGE FIGURES FOR 1961 - PERSONS 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER.	4
5. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IRISH SPEAKERS AND NON-IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, IN EACH PROVINCE CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUP - 1946, 1961 AND 1971.	13
6. IRISH SPEAKERS AND NON-IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, IN EACH PROVINCE, COUNTY AND COUNTY BOROUGH CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUP.	14
6A. IRISH SPEAKERS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL IN EACH AGE GROUP.	18
7. IRISH SPEAKERS CLASSIFIED BY OCCUPATION.	20
8A. IRISH SPEAKERS AND NON-IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUP, IN THE PORTION OF EACH COUNTY DESIGNATED AS A GAELTACHT AREA IN THE GAELTACHT AREAS ORDERS, 1956 AND 1967.	28
8B. MALES, IRISH SPEAKERS AND NON-IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUP, IN THE PORTION OF EACH COUNTY DESIGNATED AS A GAELTACHT AREA IN THE GAELTACHT AREAS ORDERS, 1956 AND 1967.	29
8C. FEMALES, IRISH SPEAKERS AND NON-IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUP, IN THE PORTION OF EACH COUNTY DESIGNATED AS A GAELTACHT AREA IN THE GAELTACHT AREAS ORDERS, 1956 AND 1967.	30
9. TOTAL POPULATION IN 1966 AND 1971 AND TOTAL PERSONS 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER IN 1971, DISTINGUISHING IRISH SPEAKERS AND NON-IRISH SPEAKERS, IN DISTRICT ELECTORAL DIVISIONS OR PARTS OF DISTRICT ELECTORAL DIVISIONS WITHIN THE GAELTACHT AS DEFINED BY THE GAELTACHT AREAS ORDERS, 1956 AND 1967.	31

AN DAONÁIREAMH, 1971

NÓTAÍ MÍNIÚCHÁIN

Tá an líon daoine trí bliana d'aois agus os a chionn aicmithe, de réir a n-eolais ar an nGaeilge, san Imleabhar seo den Tuarascáil ar an Daonáireamh, 1971. Rinneadh an Daonáireamh oíche an 18 Aibreán, 1971 de réir an Orduithe Staidrimh (Daonáireamh), 1971 (I.R. Uimh. 93 de 1971) a rinne an Taoiseach de bhun na gcumhacht a thugtar dó le Fo-alt (1) d'Alt 16 den Acht Staitistíochta, 1926 agus an Ordaithe um na hAcht Staidrimh, 1926 agus 1946 (Feidhmeanna Aire a Aistriú), 1949 (I.R. Uimh. 142 de 1949).

TUAIRISCÁBHAR AN DAONÁIRIMH

Baineann figiúirí an Daonáirimh leis an líon daoine *de facto*, is é sin le rá, is é an líon daoine atá ar taifead i ndáil le gach limistéar an líon iomlán daoine a bhí laistigh dá theorainneacha san oíche Dé Domhnaigh, 18 Aibreán, 1971, mar aon leis na daoine go léir a tháinig isteach sa limistéar sin maidin Dé Luain, 19 Aibreán, 1971, agus nár ríomhadh in aon áit eile. Tá daoine a bhí ar bord long i bport curtha ar taifead i dteannta na ndaoine i limistéir in aice an phoirt. Tá, dá bhrí sin, cuairteoirí a bhí i láthair oíche an Daonáirimh curtha san áireamh mar atá na daoine a raibh cónaí orthu san áit, agus tá Éireannaigh a bhí go sealadach as an Stát gan áireamh. Roghnaíodh dáta an Daonáirimh, áfach, i dtréimhse nuair a ba lú a bheadh an ghluaiseacht paisinéirí agus dá bhrí sin tá na figiúirí i ghar don uimhir daoine ar a bhfuil gnáthchónaí sna limistéir leith ar leith. Na daoine d'Óglaigh na hÉireann a bhí, ar dháta an Daonáirimh, ar fianas leis na Náisiúin Aontaithe fágadh gan áireamh iad, ar ndóigh.

EOLAS A BAILÍODH

Tiomsaíodh an t-eolas atá san Imleabhar seo as freagraí a tugadh ar an gceist seo a leanas a bhí i sceideal an Daonáirimh:-

LABHAIRT NA GAEILGE

Scríobh “Gaeilge amháin”, “Gaeilge agus Béarla”, “Léamh na Gaeilge gan bheith in ann í a labhairt” nó fág bán mar is cuí.

Bhí teoracha níos sonraí i dtaobh mar ba chóir an cheist sin a fhreagairt i nduilleoigín a ghabh le sceideal an Daonáirimh. Seo a leanas an treoir a tugadh ann:-

Is ceart an cheist seo a fhreagairt i dtaobh gach duine atá trí bliana nó os a chionn. Fág bán i gcás leanaí faoi bhun trí bliana.

Scríobh “Gaeilge amháin” do dhaoine nach bhfuil acu ach Gaeilge. Scríobh “Gaeilge agus Béarla” do dhaoine a bhfuil labhairt na Gaeilge agus an Bhéarla acu.

Do dhaoine ar féidir leo Gaeilge a léamh ach gan bheith in ann í a labhairt, scríobh “Léamh na Gaeilge gan bheith in ann í a labhairt”.

Ná scríobh dada os coinne ainmneacha daoine nach bhfuil léamh ná labhairt na Gaeilge acu.

B'ionann an treoir sin agus an treoir a tugadh le linn Dhaonáireamh 1961, agus ba é sin an Daonáireamh ba dhéanaí roimhe sin a raibh ceist ann faoin nGaeilge. Sna haicmíochtaí atá san imleabhar atá ann faoi láthair, taispeántar gur Gaeilgeoirí na daoine sa chéad dá earnáil de na hearnálacha comhcheangailte sin thuas agus taispeántar nach Gaeilgeoirí na daoine atá sa dá earnáil eile. Sin é an nós imeachta céanna a leanadh le linn an tuarascáil ar Dhaonáireamh 1961 a bheith á ullmhú.

Cé gur féidir na ceisteanna ar sceideal an Daonáirimh maidir le gnéas, dáta breithe, pósadh, slí bheatha etc. a fhreagairt go cruinn,

braitheann na freagraí ar an gceist faoi “Labhairt na Gaeilge” go mór a bhí cithiúnas an té a líonfaidh na foirmeacha. Níor bhféidir modh a cheapadh a bheadh sách simplí le haghaidh Daonáirimh agus ba chaighdeán neamhathraitheach le daoine a aicmiú de réir mar atá siad ábalta nó nach bhfuil siad ábalta ar an nGaeilge a labhairt. Dá dhroim sin, ní féidir a mheas go bhfuil an staidreamh atá san imleabhar seo chomh cruinn leis an staidreamh in imleabhair eile den Daonáireamh. Dá ainneoin sin, d’fhéadfadh tairbhe a bheith sa staidreamh i ndáil leis an nGaeilge le comórtas a dhéanamh idir limistéir éagsúla sa tír agus idir an Daonáireamh agus gach Daonáireamh nó aon Daonáireamh roimhe seo ach ní mór an díth cruinnis a luaitear thuas a choinneáil i gcuimhne.

AICMIÚ DE RÉIR GAIRME

Tá na daoine go léir 14 bliana d’aois agus os a chionn, ar a n-áirítear iad sin gan saothrú agus iad sin atá go sealadach in ospidéal, aicmithe de réir a bpríomh-ghairme.

Tá gairmeacha roinnte ina ndá earnáil leathana, is é sin, gairmeacha sochracha agus gairmeacha neamhshochracha. Is éard gairm shochrach gairm a mbíonn an duine ag gabháil go gníomhach di agus arb aisti a fhaightear maireachtáil de ghnáth. Daoine a bhíonn ag gabháil do ghairmeacha áirithe agus nach bhfaigheann pá ná tuarastal socair tá siadsan, áfach, aicmithe, freisin, mar dhaoine ag a bhfuil gairm shochrach agus is iad an príomh-dhream san earnáil sin daoine ag cabhrú le gaolta ag feirmeoireacht. Daoine ag obair sa bhaile, daoine ar scoil, mic léinn, daoine nach ndeachaigh ag obair fós agus daoine a bhfuil scortha acu de shaothar formhór na haicme nach bhfuil ag gabháil do ghairm shochrach. Socraítear an ghairm, i gcás daoine ag gabháil do ghairm shochrach, de réir an chineáil oibre a dhéantar ag saothrú codach, is cuma cá háit a ndéantar agus cad chuige an obair sin. Déanann aicmiú daoine de réir gairme daoine a bhíonn ag gabháil don chineál céanna oibre a thiomsú, ar an gcuma sin, is cuma cad chuige an obair sin.

AN TÁBHAR ATÁ SNA TÁBLAÍ

Tá dhá roinn táblaí san Imleabhar seo. Baineann Táblaí 1 go 7 leis an Stát go léir; leis an nGaeltacht, mar atá sin mínithe in Orduithe na Limistéir Gaeltachta, 1956 agus 1967, a bhaineann na táblaí eile atá ann.

Tá daoine aicmithe ina nGaeilgeoirí agus ina ndaoine nach Gaeilgeoirí a dTábla 1 de réir gach Cúige agus tugtar sa Tábla sin figiúirí gach Daonáirimh ó 1861 go 1946 agus mar bhí i 1961 agus i 1971, agus taispeántar i dTábla 2 na Gaeilgeoirí mar chéatadán den líon iomlán daoine i ngach Cúige na blianta sin. Tá eolas i dTábla 3 faoin líon Gaeilgeoirí i ngach Cúige na blianta 1946, 1961 agus 1971 agus tugtar an líon sin ann, freisin, mar chéatadán den líon iomlán daoine trí bliana d’aois agus os a chionn. Tuairiscítear i dTábla 4 an cor mar bhí i ngach Bailecheantar nó Tuathcheantar, i mbailte eile lena bhfuil teorainneacha dlíshonraithe agus ina bhfo-bhailte nó a mbéalbhacha agus i mbailte a raibh 1,500 nó os a chionn sin daoine iontu i 1971, agus tá na céatadáin do 1961 sa Tábla céanna.

Ní féidir na limistéir lena mbaineann figiúirí 1961 a chur i gcomórtas go díreach i ngach cás le limistéir 1971 mar gheall ar theorainneacha a athrú agus an mhór-fhorbairt nua-fhoirgníochta. I mbéalbhacha bailte lena raibh teorainneacha dlíshonraithe nó i mbailte gan teorainneacha dlíshonraithe a rinneadh formhór an athraithe sin agus is í foireann na hOifige Staidrimh a rinne an t-athrú.

Tá Gaeilgeoirí agus daoine nach Gaeilgeoirí aicmithe de réir aoise, maidir le gach Cúige, i dTábla 5 do 1946, 1961 agus 1971. Tá sonraí a samhail i leith gach Contae agus gach Contae-Bhuirge i dTábla 6. Taispeántar i dTábla 6A an céatadán Gaeilgeoirí de gach aoisaicme. Tá Gaeilgeoirí aicmithe de réir gairme i dTábla 7.

Le limistéir Ghaeltachta amháin a dhéileálann Tábla 8A agus tá Gaeilgeoirí agus daoine nach Gaeilgeoirí sna limistéir sin aicmithe de réir aoise. Tá eolas a shamhail i dTábla 8B agus i dTábla 8C faoi fhireannaigh agus faoi bhaineannaigh faoi seach. Tá sonraí i dTábla 9 faoin líon iomlán daoine a bhí, i 1966 agus i 1971, i ngach Toghroinn Cheantair nó gach cuid de Thoghroinn Cheantair sa Ghaeltacht agus faoi Ghaeilgeoirí agus faoi dhaoine nár Ghaeilgeoirí sna limistéir chéanna.

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1971

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Volume of the Report of the Census of Population, 1971 contains classifications of the population aged three years and over by knowledge of the Irish language. 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 (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).

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, 18th April, 1971, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 19th 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.

INFORMATION COLLECTED

The information for this Volume was compiled from replies given to the following question on the Census schedule:-

ABILITY TO SPEAK THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Write "Irish only", "Irish and English", "Read but cannot speak Irish" or leave blank, as appropriate.

More specific directions as to how this question should be answered were given in a leaflet which accompanied the Census schedule. The instruction given there was as follows:-

This question should be answered for persons aged three years and over. Leave blank for children under three years of age.

Write "Irish only" for persons who can speak only Irish. Write "Irish and English" for those who can speak Irish and English.

For persons who can read but cannot speak Irish, write "Read but cannot speak Irish".

Do not write anything opposite names of persons who can neither read nor speak Irish.

This instruction was similar to that used at the 1961 Census of Population, this being the most recent previous Census at which the schedule contained a question on the Irish language. In the classifications in the present volume, persons in the first two of the above categories combined are shown as Irish speakers, while those in the two remaining categories are shown as non-Irish speakers. This procedure is the same as that adopted in preparing the report of the 1961 Census.

Whereas the questions on the Census schedule relating to sex, date of birth, conjugal condition, occupation etc. can all be answered precisely, the replies given to the question on "Ability to speak the Irish language" depend to a large extent on the judgement of the person completing the forms. It has not been found possible

to devise a method, simple enough for Census purposes, to provide an invariable standard for classifying persons into those who "can speak Irish" and those who cannot. Consequently the statistics contained in the present volume cannot be regarded as being precise in the same degree as those in the other volumes of the Census. The statistics of the Irish language may, nevertheless, be of interest for purposes of comparison between different areas of the country and between this and previous Censuses but in any use of these data the lack of objective precision referred to above must be borne in mind.

CLASSIFICATION BY OCCUPATION

All persons aged 14 years and over, including those 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 number of persons engaged in the same type of work regardless of the purpose for which such work is undertaken.

CONTENT OF THE TABLES

The tables contained in the present Volume fall into two sections. Tables 1 to 7 relate to the whole State and the remaining tables relate to the Gaeltacht areas as defined by the Gaeltacht Areas Orders, 1956 and 1967.

Table 1 classifies persons into Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers in each Province, giving the numbers for each Census from 1861 to 1946 and for 1961 and 1971 while Table 2 shows the Irish speakers as a percentage of the total population in each Province for the same years. Table 3 provides information on the number of Irish speakers in each County for the three years 1946, 1961 and 1971 and also gives this as a percentage of the total population aged 3 years and over. The situation in each Urban or Rural District, in other towns with legally defined boundaries and in their suburbs or environs and in other towns of 1,500 population or over in 1971 is described in Table 4 which also contains percentage figures for 1961.

The areas to which the 1961 figures relate are not directly comparable in all cases with the 1971 areas due to boundary revisions following the greatly accelerated pace of new building development. These revisions were mainly in the environs of towns with legally defined boundaries or in towns without legally defined boundaries and were carried out by Census Office staff.

A classification by age group for each Province, of Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers, is given in Table 5 for 1946, 1961 and 1971. Similar 1971 data are provided for each County and County Borough in Table 6. Table 6A shows the percentage of Irish speakers in each age group. In Table 7, Irish speakers are classified by occupation.

Table 8A deals with Gaeltacht areas only and classifies Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers in these areas by age group. Tables 8B and 8C give similar information for males and females, respectively. Table 9 contains details of the total population in 1966 and 1971 of each District Electoral Division or part of a District Electoral Division in the Gaeltacht and of Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers in the same areas.

TRÁCHTAIREACHT

GAEILGEOIRÍ, 1926–1971

Tá an scéal uilíoch maidir le heolas ar an nGaeilge léirithe i dTábla A i ndáil le gach bliain ó 1926 ar cuireadh ceist faoin ábhar sin le linn Daonáirimh.

TÁBLA A:– AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D’AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, 1926 GO 1971.

	1926	1936	1946	1961	1971
Gaeilgeoirí	540,802	666,601	588,725	716,420	789,429
Daoine nach Gaeilgeoirí	2,261,650	2,140,324	2,182,932	1,919,398	1,998,019
Daonra iomlán 3 bliana d’aois agus os a chionn	2,802,452	2,806,925	2,771,657	2,635,818	2,787,448
Gaeilgeoirí mar chéatadán den iomlán 3 bliana d’aois agus os a chionn	19.3	23.7	21.2	27.2	28.3

Tá an líon Gaeilgeoirí (de réir an mhínithe atá tuairiscithe sna Nótaí Míniúcháin) méadaithe ó 541,000 go dtí 789,000 le linn an tréimhse 1926–71, is é sin, méadaithe de 46.0 faoin gcéad. Tá sé ar taifead gur mhéadaigh an líon sna tréimhsí idir tráthanna Daonáirimh, ach amháin an tréimhse idir 1936 agus 1946. Laghdaigh an líon ó 667,000 go dtí 589,000 an tréimhse sin. Mhéadaigh an líon in imeacht na tréimhse deiridh Daonáirimh 1961 go 1971, ó 716,000 go dtí 789,000, is é sin, 10 faoin gcéad de mhéadú. Mhéadaigh an céatadán den líon iomlán daoine trí bliana d’aois agus os a chionn, ar Gaeilgeoirí iad, ó 19.3 faoin gcéad i 1926 go dtí 28.3 faoin gcéad i 1971.

NA CÚIGÍ, 1946–1971

Achoimire ar an stad mar a bhí i ngach Cúige sna blianta 1946, 1961 agus 1971.

TÁBLA B:– AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D’AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, I NGACH CÚIGE I 1946, 1961 AGUS 1971.

Cúige	Gaeilgeoirí			Gaeilgeoirí mar chéatadán den iomlán		
	1946	1961	1971	1946	1961	1971
Laighin	180,755	274,644	341,702	15.1	22.2	24.5
Mumhan	189,395	228,726	252,805	22.0	28.7	30.6
Connachta	154,187	148,708	137,372	33.2	37.6	37.2
Ulaidh (cuid de)	64,388	64,342	57,550	26.0	31.4	29.5
AN tIOMLÁN	588,725	716,420	789,429	21.2	27.2	28.3

Taispeánann na figiúirí i ndáil leis an tréimhse cúig bliana fichead lena mbaineann an tábla sin gur mhéadaigh an líon Gaeilgeoirí i gCúige Laighean agus i gCúige Mumhan agus gur laghdaigh a líon i gConnachta agus i gCúige Uladh (cuid de). Ach nuair is mar chéatadán den líon daoine trí bliana d’aois agus os a chionn na figiúirí, tá méadú cláraithe i leith gach Cúige. I 1946, ba é Cúige Laighean an Cúige ba lú céatadán Gaeilgeoirí, is é sin, 15.1 faoin gcéad agus Connachta an Cúige ba mhó céatadán Gaeilgeoirí, is é sin, 33.2 faoin gcéad. Is í an chomhréir chéanna, céatadán 24.5 agus 37.2 faoi seach, a bhí idir na Cúigí sin i 1971. Mar a chéile, geall leis, a bhí an cor sna Cúigí go léir i 1971 is a bhí i 1961; mhéadaigh an céatadán den líon daoine ar Gaeilgeoirí iad i gCúige Laighean agus i gCúige Mumhan (24.5 agus 30.6 faoin gcéad faoi seach i 1971 i gcomórtas le 22.2 faoin gcéad agus 28.7 faoin gcéad i 1961) agus laghdaigh an céatadán de bheagán i gConnachta agus i gCúige Uladh (cuid de) (37.2 agus 29.5 faoin gcéad faoi seach i 1971 agus 37.6 agus 31.4 faoin gcéad i 1961).

Maidir le figiúirí de, mhéadaigh an líon Gaeilgeoirí i gCúige Laighean ó 275,000 go dtí 342,000 idir 1961 agus 1971 agus mhéadaigh sé i gCúige Mumhan ó 229,000 go dtí 253,000. Ach i gConnachta laghdaigh ar líon Gaeilgeoirí ó 149,000 go dtí 137,000 agus thit sé ó 64,000 go dtí 58,000 i gCúige Uladh (cuid de).

AOISAICMÍ

Tá comórtas déanta i dTábla C idir an líon Gaeilgeoirí de gach aoisicme i 1961 agus 1971 agus taispeántar ann an céatadán de gach líon iomlán de gach aoisicme na blianta sin ar Gaeilgeoirí iad.

TÁBLA C:- AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D’AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN I nGACH AOISAICME I 1961 AGUS I 1971.

Aoisicme	Gaeilgeoirí		Gaeilgeoirí mar chéatadán den iomlán	
	1961	1971	1961	1971
3 – 4 bliana	6,934	6,850	5.9	5.5
5 – 9 ”	81,931	87,631	28.5	27.6
10 – 14 ”	150,200	151,147	52.0	50.6
15 – 19 ”	118,003	137,820	50.5	51.5
20 – 24 ”	59,971	79,632	38.0	37.0
25 – 34 ”	92,877	95,327	31.1	29.4
35 – 44 ”	88,273	82,006	26.2	27.2
45 – 54 ”	56,316	74,807	17.0	23.4
55 – 64 ”	29,048	42,442	10.9	14.7
65 agus os a chionn	32,867	31,767	10.4	9.6
AN tIOMLÁN	716,420	789,429	27.2	28.3

Ó thaobh céatadán de, is rí-bheag an difear idir 1961 agus 1971 maidir le daoine suas go dtí 44 bliana d’aois. Mhéadaigh an céatadán Gaeilgeoirí d’aoisicme 45-54 ó 17.0 go dtí 23.4 agus mhéadaigh an céatadán Gaeilgeoirí d’aoisicme 55-64 ó 10.9 go dtí 14.7. Athrú beag a tháinig, arís, maidir leis an gcéatadán d’aicme 65 agus os a chionn.

LIMISTÉIR GHAELTACHTA

Tá comórtas déanta i dTábla D idir an cor mar bhí i 1961 agus i 1971 sna limistéir Ghaeltachta i ngach Contae.

TÁBLA D:- AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D’AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN I 1961 AGUS I 1971 SA CHUID DE GACH CONTAE A ÁIRítear ina LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA IN ORDUITHE NA LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA, 1956 AGUS 1967.

Contae	Gaeilgeoirí		Daoine nach Gaeilgeoirí		Gaeilgeoirí mar chéatadán den iomlán		Céatadán d’athrú sa daonra iomlán †
	1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971	
Iomlán na limistéar † Gaeltachta (gan an Mhí a áireamh)	64,275	54,940	9,986	11,042	86.6	83.3	- 11.1
Corcaigh	2,789	2,703	497	383	84.9	87.6	- 6.1
Dún na nGall	22,096	18,321	2,946	3,636	88.2	83.4	- 12.3
Gaillimh	19,895	17,698	1,608	2,328	92.5	88.4	- 6.9
Ciarraí	7,207	6,214	1,108	1,174	86.7	84.1	- 11.1
Maigh Eo	11,599	9,270	3,778	3,449	75.4	72.9	- 17.3
Port Láirge	689	734	49	72	93.4	91.1	+ 9.2
An Mhí	*	500	*	358	*	58.3	*

* Níl siad ar fáil.

† 3 bliana d’aois agus os a chionn.

Port Láirge an contae ba mhó céatadán Gaeilgeoirí ina limistéir Ghaeltachta i 1971; 91.1 faoin gcéad an céatadán sin. An Mhí ba lú céatadán Gaeilgeoirí; 58.3 a mhéid. Taispeántar gur laghdaigh an céatadán Gaeilgeoirí idir 1961 agus 1971 i ngach contae ina bhfuil Gaeltacht, ach amháin Contae Chorcaí. Níl aon fhiigiúirí 1961 ann maidir leis an Mí mar nach raibh an Ghaeltacht ansin luaite mar Ghaeltacht an tráth sin.

Laghdaigh an líon Gaeilgeoirí sna Gaeltachtaí (gan Gaeltacht na Mí a áireamh) ó 64,275 i 1961 go dtí 54,940 i 1971. Port Láirge an t-aon chontae ar mhéadaigh an líon ann, ó 689 go dtí 734. Laghdaigh na figiúirí go mór i nDún na nGall, ó 22,096 go dtí 18,321, i nGaillimh, ó 19,895 go dtí 17,698 agus i gContae Mhuigh Eó, ó 11,599 go dtí 9,270 agus laghdaigh na figiúirí i gCiarraí ó 7,207 go dtí 6,214.

Ba í Gaeltacht Phort Láirge an t-aon Ghaeltacht amháin, freisin, ar mhéadaigh an líon daoine trí bliana d’aois agus os a chionn inti; mhéadaigh sé de 9.2 faoin gcéad. Líon Ghaeltacht Mhuigh Eo is mó a laghdaigh; laghdaigh sé 17.3 faoin gcéad agus tharla cuid ba mhó ná 10 faoin gcéad de laghdú i nDún na nGall agus i gCiarraí. Is lú ná sin de laghdú a tharla i nGaeltacht Chorcaí agus i nGaeltacht na Gaillimhe, 6.1 faoin gcéad agus 6.9 faoin gcéad a laghdú sin faoi seach.

COMMENTARY

IRISH SPEAKERS, 1926-1971

The overall situation in respect of knowledge of the Irish language is outlined in Table A for each of the years since 1926 in which a question on this topic was asked in the Census of Population.

TABLE A:- NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, 1926 TO 1971.

	1926	1936	1946	1961	1971
Irish speakers	540,802	666,601	588,725	716,420	789,429
Non-Irish speakers	2,261,650	2,140,324	2,182,932	1,919,398	1,998,019
Total population 3 years of age and over	2,802,452	2,806,925	2,771,657	2,635,818	2,787,448
Irish speakers as percentage of total 3 years of age and over	19.3	23.7	21.2	27.2	28.3

Over the period 1926-1971, the number of Irish speakers (according to the definition described in the Explanatory Notes) has increased from 541,000 to 789,000, a rise of 46.0 percent. Increases were recorded in each of the relevant inter-censal periods, except between 1936 and 1946 when a fall from 667,000 to 589,000 was shown. The increase in the last inter-censal period, 1961 to 1971, was from 716,000 to 789,000, a 10 percent rise. As a percentage of the total population aged three years and over, the number of Irish speakers has increased from 19.3 percent in 1926 to 28.3 percent in 1971.

PROVINCES, 1946-1971

Table B is a summary of the situation in each Province in the years 1946, 1961 and 1971.

TABLE B:- NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER IN EACH PROVINCE IN 1946, 1961 AND 1971.

Province	Irish speakers			Irish speakers as percentage of total		
	1946	1961	1971	1946	1961	1971
Leinster	180,755	274,644	341,702	15.1	22.2	24.5
Munster	189,395	228,726	252,805	22.0	28.7	30.6
Connacht	154,187	148,708	137,372	33.2	37.6	37.2
Ulster (part of)	64,388	64,342	57,550	26.0	31.4	29.5
TOTAL	588,725	716,420	789,429	21.2	27.2	28.3

Over the twenty-five year period covered in this table, there were increases shown in the number of Irish speakers in Leinster and Munster with decreases in Connacht and Ulster (part of). However, when the numbers are shown as a percentage of the population aged three years and over, increases are registered in each Province. In 1946, the Province with the smallest percentage of Irish speakers was Leinster with 15.1 percent and Connacht had the largest, 33.2 percent. The relative positions of these two Provinces were maintained in 1971, the respective percentages then being 24.5 and 37.2. The 1971 situation in all Provinces was close to that in 1961 with slight rises in the percentage of Irish speakers in the population aged three years and over being shown in Leinster and Munster (24.5 and 30.6 percent respectively in 1971 as compared with 22.2 percent and 28.7 percent in 1961) and slight decreases in Connacht and Ulster (part of) (37.2 and 29.5 percent respectively in 1971 and 37.6 and 31.4 percent in 1961).

In terms of actual numbers, Irish speakers in Leinster increased from 275,000 to 342,000 between 1961 and 1971 while the number in Munster increased from 229,000 to 253,000. However, the number in Connacht fell from 149,000 to 137,000 and in Ulster (part of) from 64,000 to 58,000.

AGE GROUPS

A comparison is given in Table C between the number of Irish speakers in each age group in 1961 and 1971, showing also Irish speakers as a percentage of the total in each age group in those two years.

TABLE C:- NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER IN EACH AGE GROUP IN 1961 AND 1971.

Age group	Irish speakers		Irish speakers as percentage of total	
	1961	1971	1961	1971
3 - 4 years	6,934	6,850	5.9	5.5
5 - 9 "	81,931	87,631	28.5	27.6
10 - 14 "	150,200	151,147	52.0	50.6
15 - 19 "	118,003	137,820	50.5	51.5
20 - 24 "	59,971	79,632	38.0	37.0
25 - 34 "	92,877	95,327	31.1	29.4
35 - 44 "	88,273	82,006	26.2	27.2
45 - 54 "	56,316	74,807	17.0	23.4 =
55 - 64 "	29,048	42,442	10.9	14.7
65 and over	32,867	31,767	10.4	9.6
TOTAL	716,420	789,429	27.2	28.3

In terms of percentages, there is very little difference between 1961 and 1971 in ages up to 44. In the 45-54 age group, the percentage of Irish speakers increased from 17.0 to 23.4 while in the next ten year age group, 55-64, a rise from 10.9 to 14.7 was recorded. For ages 65 years and over, there was again only a small change in the situation.

GAELTACHT AREAS

The situation in the Gaeltacht areas of each County is compared for 1961 and 1971 in Table D.

TABLE D:- NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IRISH SPEAKERS AND TOTAL POPULATION, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER IN GAELTACHT AREAS IN 1961 AND 1971.

Gaeltacht County	Irish speakers		Non-Irish speakers		Irish speakers as percentage of total		Percentage change in total population †
	1961	1971	1961	1971	1961	1971	
Total Gaeltacht Areas † (excluding Meath)	64,275	54,940	9,986	11,042	86.6	83.3	- 11.1
Cork	2,789	2,703	497	383	84.9	87.6	- 6.1
Donegal	22,096	18,321	2,946	3,636	88.2	83.4	- 12.3
Galway	19,895	17,698	1,608	2,328	92.5	88.4	- 6.9
Kerry	7,207	6,214	1,108	1,174	86.7	84.1	- 11.1
Mayo	11,599	9,270	3,778	3,449	75.4	72.9	- 17.3
Waterford	689	734	49	72	93.4	91.1	+ 9.2
Meath	*	500	*	358	*	58.3	*

* Not available.

† 3 years of age and over.

The county with the highest percentage of Irish speakers in its Gaeltacht areas in 1971 was Waterford with 91.1 percent and the lowest was Meath with 58.3 percent. In each county containing a Gaeltacht area, except Cork, a fall in the percentage of Irish speakers between 1961 and 1971 was shown. There are no 1961 figures for Meath as the Gaeltacht area there was not designated at that time.

The number of Irish speakers in Gaeltacht areas (excluding Meath) fell from 64,275 in 1961 to 54,940 in 1971. Waterford was the only county to show an increase, from 689 to 734. Substantial falls occurred in Donegal, from 22,096 to 18,321, in Galway, from 19,895 to 17,698 and in Mayo, from 11,599 to 9,270 while the decrease in Kerry was from 7,207 to 6,214.

Waterford was also the only county in which the population in Gaeltacht areas aged three years and over showed an increase, this increase being 9.2 percent. The largest percentage decline was one of 17.3 percent in Mayo with decreases of more than 10 percent also occurring in Donegal and Kerry. The Gaeltacht areas in Cork and Galway showed relatively smaller declines, these being 6.1 percent and 6.9 percent respectively.