

# CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1971

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Volume of the Report of the Census of Population, 1971, contains detailed classifications by religious denomination of the population of the State.

The Census was taken on the night of 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).

### 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, 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 usually 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 RELIGION

The column on the Census schedule in which information on this topic was furnished was headed "Religion — state particular denomination" and no further notes or instructions were given. The Census Enumerators were instructed not to insist on the completion of this section of the form in cases where householders were reluctant to give the required information. This was similar to the instruction given at the 1961 Census of Population, the most recent previous Census at which a question on religion was included on the Census schedule. The number of persons for whom no information was supplied was 46,648 as compared with 5,625 in 1961. Classifications are given in respect of the following religious denominations:— Catholic, Church of Ireland (including Anglican and Church of England), Presbyterian, Methodist and Jewish.

### 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.

## CONTENT OF THE TABLES

In general, the content and layout of the present Volume is similar to that of the corresponding Volume of the 1961 Census. However, persons who stated that they had no religion or for whom no information was supplied are shown separately in all Tables except in Table 9 where they are combined. Table 1A shows the number of persons of each religious denomination at each Census of Population since 1881 at which a question on this topic was included while Table 1B shows the percentage changes in these numbers in the intercensal periods. Table 2 provides similar information to Table 1A for each Province and County while Table 3, for Provinces only, gives a classification for males and females in 1971. Table 4 distinguishes the Aggregate Town Area and Aggregate Rural Area of each Province while Table 5 is concerned with types of district, that is County Boroughs, various town size groupings, etc. Each of these tables show the number of persons of each religion in 1971.

The number of persons of each religion in each Province, County and County Borough in 1971 is shown in Table 6A while Table 6B shows the percentage changes between 1961 and 1971. Males and females are classified by religion, distinguishing Catholic and Church of Ireland only, for Rural Districts and towns with legally defined boundaries in Table 7. Other areas for which information is provided in this table are environs of towns with legally defined boundaries and towns without legally defined boundaries having a population of 1,500 or over in 1971.

Table 8 classifies persons of each religion by age group and conjugal condition while Table 9 provides a similar classification for males and females in each Province, County and County Borough, distinguishing Catholic and Church of Ireland only. Tables 10A and 10B provide information on males and females in each occupational group classified by religion with Catholic and Church of Ireland being distinguished in this case also.