CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

VOLUME I

CONTENTS

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

INTRODUCTION

A Census of Population was taken on the night of the 5th April, 1981 in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order 1981 (S.I. No. 60 of 1981) made by the Minister of State at the Department of 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), and the Statistics (Delegations of Powers and Duties) Order 1980 (S.I. No. 36 of 1980).

The following particulars were collected in respect of each individual:- (i) name, (ii) sex, (iii) relationship to head of household, (iv) date of birth, (v) marital status, (vi) place of birth, (vii) religion, (viii) ability to speak Irish, (ix) date of marriage and number of children (for married women only), (x) usual residence, (xi) usual residence one year prior to Census date, (xii) means of travel and distance travelled to work or school; and for persons aged 15 years or over, (xiii) present economic status, (xiv) principal occupation, (xv) employment status, (xvi) name of employer and nature of employer's business, (xvii) address of place of work or school, (xviii) area and rateable valuation of agricultural holdings, (xix) age at which full-time education ended and number of years' attendance at school or college (for persons who had ceased their full-time education), (xx) scientific or technological qualifications held and fields of science concerned. In addition the following information was collected in respect of each private household:- (i) nature of occupancy of the dwelling (rented, owner-occupied, etc.), (ii) rent of dwelling, (iii) rooms occupied, (iv) year dwelling was built, (v) type of water supply, (vi) availability of bath or shower, (vii) type of sanitary facilities and (viii) principal fuel used to heat the dwelling and availability of central heating.

THE CONDUCT OF THE CENSUS

The Census enumeration was carried out by a specially recruited temporary field force consisting of 327 supervisors and 3,185 part-time enumerators. The Census household schedules were distributed during the three weeks immediately preceding Census date, 5 April, and the collection of the completed schedules was commenced on the day after Census date. The Enumerators examined the returns at the time of collection to ensure that they were correctly completed and, where necessary, they assisted householders in filling in the forms. Each enumerator prepared in the first instance a summary of the population in his area and from these summaries the Preliminary Report of the Census†, which was published in October, 1981, was compiled. The completed schedules for the individual households were subsequently transmitted to the Census Office for the preparation of the remaining Volumes of the Census Report.

The present Volume of the Census Report contains the final figures of the population enumerated in each area, classified by sex. Subsequent volumes will analyse the population by such factors as age, marital status, household composition, occupation, etc.

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, 5 April, 1981, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 6 April, 1981, 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 those in residence, while usual residents 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 night, were serving abroad with the United Nations were excluded from the enumeration.

†Census of Population of Ireland 1981 - Preliminary Report (Pl. 157). The final total of 3,443,405 differs only to a marginal extent (2,978) from the preliminary figure.

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981
EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Volume contains the final population figures for various administrative and other areas from the Census of Population taken on the night of 5th April, 1981.

The detailed tables give results down to District Electoral Division or Ward, as appropriate. In addition, for the first time since 1971, population figures are available for "Census Towns" (towns without legally defined boundaries) and for the suburbs or environs, if any, of towns with legally defined boundaries.

The overall population in 1981 was 3,443,405. Of this total some 62.8 per cent were in towns or larger urban centres of population as compared with 58.9 per cent in 1971. Between 1971 and 1981 town population increased by 23.3 per cent and non-town population increased by 4.7 per cent.

A fuller commentary commences on page ix. This is preceded by a description of the different Administrative and Census Areas which form the framework for the detailed tables contained in the Volume and by some other explanatory notes.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CENSUS AREAS

There are many different territorial divisions of the country of which the most important, from the point of view of the Census of Population, are listed below. It should be particularly noted that the areas concerned are as defined at the date of the 1981 Census of Population and that any subsequent revisions have not been taken into account. A number of changes in legally defined boundaries were made by Government Orders in the period since 1971. Details of these changes are contained in Appendix A. Comparable figures given in the tables for years prior to 1981 relate to the 1981 boundaries.

TOWNLANDS

The enumeration of the Census is carried out, in the first instance, by townlands in rural areas and by streets in urban areas. The townland is the smallest territorial division used for administrative purposes. Population figures in respect of townlands, of which there are about 51,000, have not been published since the Census of 1911. However, populations of individual townlands in rural areas are available from the Census records and will be furnished on request on payment for the work of extraction involved. Townlands are not used as administrative areas within the boundaries of legally defined urban areas – County Boroughs, Urban Districts and Towns under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854 – and in most other urban areas without legal boundaries it is not possible to compile townland population figures as building development has completely obliterated the physical features by which townland boundaries were originally defined on Ordnance Survey maps.

DISTRICT ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

The smallest administrative area for which population statistics are published is the District Electoral Division (or, in the County Boroughs, the Ward). In rural areas each District Electoral Division consists of an aggregation of entire townlands. There are 3,308 District Electoral Divisions and Wards in the State and population figures for these are contained in Table 12 of this Volume.

URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS

District Electoral Divisions are aggregated to give Urban Districts (or Boroughs where appropriate) and (former) Rural Districts which, in turn, build up to Counties. The Rural Districts, which numbered 160, were abolished as administrative areas in 1925 (in the case of Rural Districts in County Dublin, in 1930) but have been retained for Census purposes as convenient units of area, intermediate in size between District Electoral Divisions and Counties. In the case of County Dublin, however, it is not possible to compile Rural District figures because of extensive revisions which have taken place in the boundaries of District Electoral Divisions over the years. Figures are, therefore, shown only for Dublin North County, comprising the former Rural Districts of Balrothery and Dublin North and Clonsilla District Electoral Division and for Dublin South County, comprising the remainder of the County excluding Dun Laoghaire Borough. Population figures for Urban and Rural Districts are contained in Tables 11 and 12 of this Volume. A map giving County and Rural District boundaries is shown on page xii; a second map illustrating the percentage change in population over the period 1971-'81 in each Rural District is given on page xiii; and a third map showing the density of population per square kilometre based on Rural Districts is given on page xiv.

COUNTIES AND COUNTY BOROUGHS

The country is divided into 26 Counties and 4 County Boroughs, these being the principal units of area for Local Government purposes. One County, Tipperary, is divided into a North Riding and a South Riding,each of which ranks as a separate County for administrative purposes. The boundaries of the County Boroughs are subject to periodic extensions to keep pace with building development and it is not possible therefore to show comparable population figures for an extended period. Counties, on the other hand, have only been affected to a very minor extent by boundary changes so that it is possible to compare County populations (including the appropriate County Boroughs) over a very long period of time. This is done in Table 6 which shows County population figures for each Census year from 1841 to 1981.

DÁIL CONSTITUENCIES

For the purpose of elections to Dáil Éireann the country is divided into Constituencies which, under Article 16.4° of the Constitution of Ireland, have to be revised at least once every twelve years with due regard to changes in the distribution of the population. The Constituencies were last revised in 1980 and the Schedule to the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1980, contains details of their composition. Population figures for these areas are contained in Table 15.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH ELECTORAL AREAS

For the purpose of County Council Elections each County is divided into Electoral Areas which are constituted on the basis of Orders made under the Local Government Act, 1941. These areas are, in general, formed by aggregating District Electoral Divisions; in a number of cases however District Electoral Divisions are divided between County Electoral Areas to facilitate electors. In the case of the County Boroughs the Corporation Elections are based on Borough Electoral Areas. Population figures for County and Borough Electoral Areas are contained in Table 16. Details of changes which have been made in the various Electoral Areas between 1971 and 1981 are given in Appendix A.

CIVIL PARISHES

Originally an Ecclesiastical Division and later used for civil purposes, the Civil Parish has for many years been obsolete as an administrative unit of area and statistics relating to Civil Parishes for the country as a whole have not been published since the 1911 Census. Numerous requests are however, still received for population figures for Civil Parishes, particularly those in the County Boroughs. In Table 17A the populations of the Civil Parishes in Dublin County and County Borough are given while Table 17B contains population figures for the Civil Parishes in or partly within the County Boroughs of Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

TOWNS

For Census purposes towns fall into two types - those with and those without legally defined boundaries. The first type comprises (a) the four County Boroughs and the Borough of Dun Laoghaire (b) the six Municipal Boroughs (c) the forty-nine Urban Districts and (d) the twenty-nine Towns under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854. The second class comprises the "Census Towns", the boundaries of which are determined, for Census purposes only, by the Central Statistics Office and which number 470 in 1981. It should be noted that in this Volume the town of Shannon is treated as a "Census Town" but the boundary used is that which was subsequently constituted on 1st January, 1982 as the legally defined boundary.*

TOWNS WITH LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES

In the case of towns with legally defined boundaries it is necessary, for administrative purposes, to compile population figures for the areas within these boundaries and these figures are given in the various tables throughout this Volume. However, in the case of many such towns extensive building has taken place outside but in close proximity to the legally defined boundaries. The result is that large numbers of persons who should be regarded as belonging to the communities of which these towns are the nuclei are, nevertheless, excluded from their populations if attention is confined strictly to legally defined boundaries. This problem tends to become more pronounced from one Census to the next as the building activity extends further and further into the countryside surrounding these towns, while revisions of the legally defined boundaries, being dependent on other factors besides the necessity of definition for Census purposes, tend to lag behind. Much of the work of Census analysis is concerned with the overall size of population clusters and not simply the areas within legally defined boundaries. Consequently, wherever building has extended beyond the legally defined town boundary, the Central Statistics Office must draw-up new limits, defining the suburban area or environs of the town. In defining suburban areas and environs, a fixed set of rules is followed to ensure that, as far as possible, similar standards apply in all cases. Suburban areas for Dublin County

**Statutory Instrument No. 399 of 1981 - Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854 (Shannon) Order, 1981.*

Borough, Cork County Borough and the Borough of Dun Laoghaire were defined for the first time at the 1951 Census, while at the 1956 Census all towns with legally defined boundaries were examined in co-operation with the Local Authorities concerned and, where necessary, suburban areas or environs were defined for them for Census purposes. The position was reviewed for each subsequent Census and a very comprehensive review was carried out in preparation for the 1981 Census.

CENSUS TOWNS

In the case of towns without legally defined boundaries, a thorough review of the boundaries to be defined for Census purposes was also considered necessary in preparation for the 1981 Census. For the Censuses of 1926 to 1951 a Census Town had been defined simply as a cluster of twenty or more houses, the precise delimitation of the towns being left to the discretion of the individual enumerators concerned. As part of the general review of towns at the 1956 Census, boundaries for the Census towns were drawn up in consultation with the various Local Authorities, applying as uniform principles as possible in all areas of the country. The definition of a Census Town was changed at the 1956 Census, from twenty houses to twenty occupied houses, this definition being applied also at the 1961 and 1966 Censuses. For the 1971 and 1981 Censuses a small number of Census Office staff, working to a uniform set of standards, designated the boundaries to be used for Census Towns. For both of these years **a Census Town was defined as a cluster of fifty or more occupied houses, not having a legally defined boundary.**

Population figures for towns are contained in Tables 10, 13, 14 and 20. Table 10 contains the total population of all towns and of their suburbs or environs where applicable, arranged in order of size within Counties. An alphabetical list of all towns in the country, with their populations, is given in Table 20. In Tables 13 and 14 towns of 1,000 population and over are arranged in size groups depending on total population. By "total population" in this context is meant the population of the towns, inclusive of suburbs or environs, if any.

The areas taken as comprising the suburban areas of Cork, Limerick and Waterford County Boroughs are described in Appendix B.

DUBLIN AREA

Because of continued suburban expansion in the Dublin area over the past ten years the format of presentation of the results for Dublin has been changed. It is no longer meaningful to attempt to distinguish between the suburbs of Dublin and Dun Laoghaire. Similarly six of the centres of population which could be separately identified as Census Towns at the 1971 Census are no longer so disjoined within the expanded suburbs of the Dublin area, namely, Blanchardstown, Clondalkin, Clonsilla, Kilternan (or Golden Ball), Stepaside and Tallaght. Thus the description "Greater Dublin Area" is used in some tables to denote Dublin County Borough, Dun Laoghaire Borough and their suburbs - including the six centres referred to. The area taken as comprising Greater Dublin Suburbs is also described in Appendix B. Various tables throughout this Volume contain information on the population of Dublin County Borough, Dun Laoghaire Borough and individual towns separately identified from Greater Dublin as well as for the Aggregate Urban and Aggregate Rural Areas (see paragraph following) of Dublin County and County Borough. Of course, population figures continue to be available (in Table 10) for the parts of those individual District Electoral Divisions within Greater Dublin.

AGGREGATE TOWN AND AGGREGATE RURAL AREAS

In continuation of the definition used in reports of the 1971 and earlier Censuses the population in the Aggregate Town Area, as shown in Table 8 of this Volume and in the remaining Volumes of the Census, is defined as those persons living in population clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants. If a town with a legally defined boundary has a suburban area or environs outside this boundary and if the total population made up of the population inside the legally defined boundary plus that in the suburbs or environs amounts to 1,500 persons or over, this town (including its suburbs or environs) is classified as belonging to the Aggregate Town Area. Similarly a Census Town with 1,500 inhabitants or over is classified as belonging to the Aggregate Town Area. The population residing in all areas outside clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants is classified as belonging to the Aggregate Rural Area. It should be particularly noted that the term "Aggregate Rural Area" is not connected with that of Rural District as described earlier. Whereas the Aggregate Rural Area is a statistical concept, the Rural District is a (former) administrative unit of area. From Table 14 may be seen the composition of the entire Aggregate Town Area population of 1,914,785 persons in 1981. Of this figure 1,290,607 resided within legally defined boundaries of towns while 624,178 resided in the suburbs or environs of these towns or in Census Towns, without legally defined boundaries. It may be seen also from Table 14 that there were 7 towns with legally defined boundaries which were not large enough, even with the population of their environs, to be included in the Aggregate Town Area.

It will also be seen from Table 14 that the total population in towns of all sizes, down to the lower limit of fifty occupied houses, was 2,161,289 persons. In Table 11, the population in towns of all sizes in each Rural District is shown.

GAELTACHT AREAS

The Gaeltacht Areas Orders, 1956, 1967 and 1974 defined the Gaeltacht as comprising 151 District Electoral Divisions or parts of District Electoral Divisions in the counties of Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kerry, Mayo, Meath and Waterford. The population of these District Electoral Divisions or parts of District Electoral Divisions in 1971, 1979 and 1981 is given in Table 18.

ISLANDS OFF THE COAST

The population in 1979 and 1981 of inhabited islands off the coast is shown in Table 19. In some cases the areas of land concerned may not, strictly speaking, be considered as islands since they are connected to the mainland by a causeway or bridge, or may be reached by land at low tide.

AREAS TO WHICH COMPARABLE FIGURES RELATE

Throughout this Volume every effort has been made to give comparable populations at the 1971 and 1979 Censuses of those areas to which the 1981 figures relate. Consequently, if comparison is made with the corresponding Volumes of the 1971 and 1979 Censuses it will be found, in the case of administrative districts and Census Towns where alterations in boundaries were made between 1971, 1979 and 1981, that the 1971 or 1979 populations there published differ from those contained in the present Volume.

A comprehensive classification of all urban areas involving the identification of suburbs, environs and "Census Towns" was not carried out for the special 1979 Census, which was limited in content and was taken primarily to provide up to date population figures for the Electoral Commission revising Dáil Constituency boundaries. Because of this no previous population figures have been published for Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas in respect of 1979 and those contained in this Volume are based on the boundaries as identified for the 1981 Census.

AREA

The measurements of area shown in Tables 11 and 12 are in most instances the metric equivalents of those figures previously published for the 1971 and 1979 Censuses, updated to take account of any statutory changes made to legal boundaries. The updated data for the Wards of Dublin, Cork and Limerick County Boroughs and Dun Laoghaire Borough have been provided by the Ordnance Survey Office and the corresponding data for Waterford County Borough was provided by Waterford Corporation. The area shown is exclusive of the areas of certain lakes, rivers and tideways. Since the boundaries of Census Towns and those defined for the suburbs or environs of incorporated towns have no statutory designation no area figures are available in these cases.

DATA FOR MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Although certain statistics of marriages, births and deaths are contained in Tables 1,5A and 5B of this Report they are not collected as part of the Census of Population but are derived from the registration of these events recorded by the Office of the Registrar General. Many births and deaths take place in institutions which may be some distance from the normal place of residence and are registered in the districts in which the institutions are situated. For the purpose of statistical analysis, births have been reassigned according to the home address of the mother and deaths have been reassigned according to the home address of the deceased. Precise reallocation is not always possible on the basis of the information available, particularly when a distinction is involved between County Boroughs and the remainder of the corresponding Counties. Some caution should therefore be exercised in interpreting the figures contained in Tables 5A and 5B.

COMMENTARY

TOTAL POPULATION AND POPULATION OF PROVINCES

The general picture shown by the Census results for the past two years is of a continuing growth in population, high by European levels, but lower than that averaged over the 1971 - '79 period. The population enumerated on Census night, 1981 was 3,443,000 persons, compared with 3,368,000 in April, 1979 representing an increase of 75,000 persons, or 2.2 per cent in two years. Over the ten year period 1971-'81 the total increase in population was 465,000 or 15.6 per cent which compares with an increase of 5.7 per cent during the ten year period 1961-'71. The average annual rate of growth for the 1979-'81 intercensal period was 1.1 per cent, somewhat lower than for the 1971-'79 intercensal period when it was about 1.5 per cent - giving an average of under 1.5 per cent for the ten year period as a whole. The continuing increase in population observed at each Census since 1961 has restored the total State figure to within 25,000 of the level which pertained in 1891. The results of Censuses since 1926, giving totals and numbers of males and females for Provinces, are summarised in TABLE A.

TABLE A:-POPULATION OF EACH PROVINCE, 1926-1981.

Year	Total	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (part of)
			Persons		
1926	2,971,992	1,149,092	969,902	552,907	300,091
1936	2,968,420	1,220,411	942,272	525,468	280,269
1946	2,955,107	1,281,117	917,306	492,797	263,887
1951	2,960,593	1,336,576	898,870	471,895	253,252
1956	2,898,264	1,338,942	877,238	446,221	235,863
1961	2,818,341	1,332,149	849,203	419,465	217,524
1966	2,884,002	1,414,415	859,334	401,950	208,303
1971	2,978,248	1,498,140	882,002	390,902	207,204
1979	3,368,217	1,743,861	979,819	418,500	226,037
1981	3,443,405	1,790,521	998,315	424,410	230,159
			Males		
1926	1,506,889	573,900	493,628	284,453	154,908
1936	1,520,454	611,279	485,412	276,399	147,364
1946	1,494,877	630,982	467,698	257,794	138,403
1951	1,506,597	664,008	460,365	248,955	133,269
1956	1,462,928	658,453	446,782	234,558	123,135
1961	1,416,549	651,908	431,292	219,983	113,366
1966	1,449,032	694,248	436,368	210,097	108,319
1971	1,495,760	737,460	447,271	203,694	107,335
1979	1,693,272	862,509	497,411	216,176	117,176
1981	1,729,354	884,666	506,857	218,852	118,979
			Females		
1926	1,465,103	575,192	476,274	268,454	145,183
1936	1,447,966	609,132	456,860	249,069	132,905
1946	1,460,230	650,135	449,608	235,003	125,484
1951	1,453,996	672,568	438,505	222,940	119,983
1956	1,435,336	680,489	430,456	211,663	112,728
1961	1,401,792	680,241	417,911	199,482	104,158
1966	1,434,970	720,167	422,966	191,853	99,984
1971	1,482,488	760,680	434,731	187,208	99,869
1979	1,674,945	881,352	482,408	202,324	108,861
1981	1,714,051	905,855	491,458	205,558	111,180

A growth in population was recorded for each of the provinces between 1979 and 1981, being 2.7 per cent for Leinster, 1.9 per cent for Munster, 1.4 per cent for Connacht and 1.8 per cent for Ulster (three counties). The resultant increase over the entire ten year period 1971-'81 was 19.5 per cent for Leinster, 13.2 per cent for Munster, 8.6 per cent for Connacht and 11.1 per cent for Ulster (three counties). While Leinster has experienced population growth since the turn of the century, and Munster since 1961, the increases recorded for Connacht and Ulster (three counties) continue the reversal first observed at the 1979 Census, of the continuous downward trend in population since the Census of 1841.

RATIO OF THE NUMBER OF FEMALES TO MALES

The number of males in the State increased by some 36,100 between 1979 and 1981, some 3,000 lower than the corresponding increase in the number of females. In the ten year period 1971-'81 the number of males increased by 233,600 or some 2,000 higher than the corresponding increase for females. With the exception of Munster the increase in the number of females was greater than that for males between 1979 and 1981; while with the exception of Connacht the increase in the number of males was greater than that for females between 1971 and 1981. TABLE B following shows the number of females per thousand males in the State and in each Province for each Census since 1926.

TABLE B:-FEMALES PER THOUSAND MALES IN EACH PROVINCE, 1926-1981.

Year	Total	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (part of)
1926	972	1,002	965	944	937
1936	952	996	941	901	902
1946	977	1,030	961	912	907
1951	965	1,013	953	896	900
1956	981	1,033	963	902	915
1961	990	1,043	969	907	919
1966	990	1,037	969	913	923
1971	991	1,031	972	919	930
1979	989	1,022	970	936	929
1981	991	1,024	970	939	934

At each Census there has been an excess of males in the population, the 1936 figure of 952 females per thousand males being in fact the lowest ever recorded. The trend in the Censuses up to 1961 was for this male excess to decrease and since the 1961 Census the ratio has been more or less stable at the overall State level of 990.

The differences between the Provinces were greatest in 1961 when the ratio of 1,043 for Leinster compared with one of 907 for Connacht. Over the past 20 years however the ratio for Leinster has declined to 1,024, that for Munster has remained fairly stable; while the ratios for Connacht and Ulster (three counties) have increased steadily and are now close to their 1926 levels.

POPULATIONS OF COUNTIES AND COUNTY BOROUGHS

In almost every County there was an increase in population since 1979, but a fall in population was recorded in Dublin County Borough, Cork County Borough and Leitrim. TABLE C gives population figures for Counties and County Boroughs for 1971, 1979 and 1981 together with the actual and percentage changes for the ten year period 1971-'81 and the two year period 1979-'81.

In Leinster the largest increase occurred in Dublin County (exclusive of the County Borough and the Borough of Dun Laoghaire) where the total population rose from 384,853 to 422,786, an increase of some 38,000 or 9.9 per cent, thus yielding an increase over the ten years since 1971 of 192,000 or a remarkable 82.9 per cent. However, in Dublin County Borough the 1981 level of population was 18,700 (3.4 per cent) lower than in 1979, while the population of Dun Laoghaire remained virtually unchanged. The net effect is that the aggregate population of Dublin City and County increased by some 19,500 or 2.0 per cent between 1979 and 1981, while the increase over the ten years since 1971 was 151,000 or 17.7 per cent.

The Counties adjacent to Dublin continued to experience substantial increases in population between 1979 and 1981 - Kildare 7.1 per cent, Meath 5.2 per cent and Wicklow 4.2 per cent, bringing the total increases for these Counties to 44.7 per cent, 33.3 per cent and 31.9 per cent respectively, for the ten year period 1971-'81. The average annual rates of growth for these Counties at 3.5 per cent, 2.6 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively, for the period 1979-'81 were somewhat lower than the corresponding 3.8 per cent, 3.0 per cent and 3.0 per cent respectively, for the 1971-'79 period.

In Munster while population increases were recorded for all Counties between 1979 and 1981, there was a decrease of 2,000 or 1.4 per cent in the population of Cork County Borough. The populations of Limerick County Borough and Waterford County Borough remained virtually unchanged over the period.

In Connacht the population of Galway has risen by 4,000 since 1979 bringing the increase over the ten years 1971-'81 to 22,800 or 15.3 per cent. Marginal increases were recorded for Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo while in the case of Leitrim there was a marginal decrease in the population total.

In Ulster for the 1979-'81 period, while the population of Cavan remained virtually unchanged, that of Donegal and Monaghan increased by 2.6 per cent and 1.6 per cent respectively.

The map shown on page xiii illustrates the growth in population in different Rural Districts* over the ten-year period 1971-'81. The heavily shaded areas are those where the highest increases in population took place. It can be seen from these and from the insets shown on the map, that the largest increases were in the Eastern part of the Country and in the areas surrounding the County Boroughs, even though the population actually declined in all the County Boroughs except Limerick.

**Dublin County and County Borough is shown as a composite area and the other County Boroughs and Urban Districts are included with the adjoining Rural Districts. More detailed information on the population growth within Rural Districts and the County Boroughs with which they are aggregated is given in the insets shown on the map.*

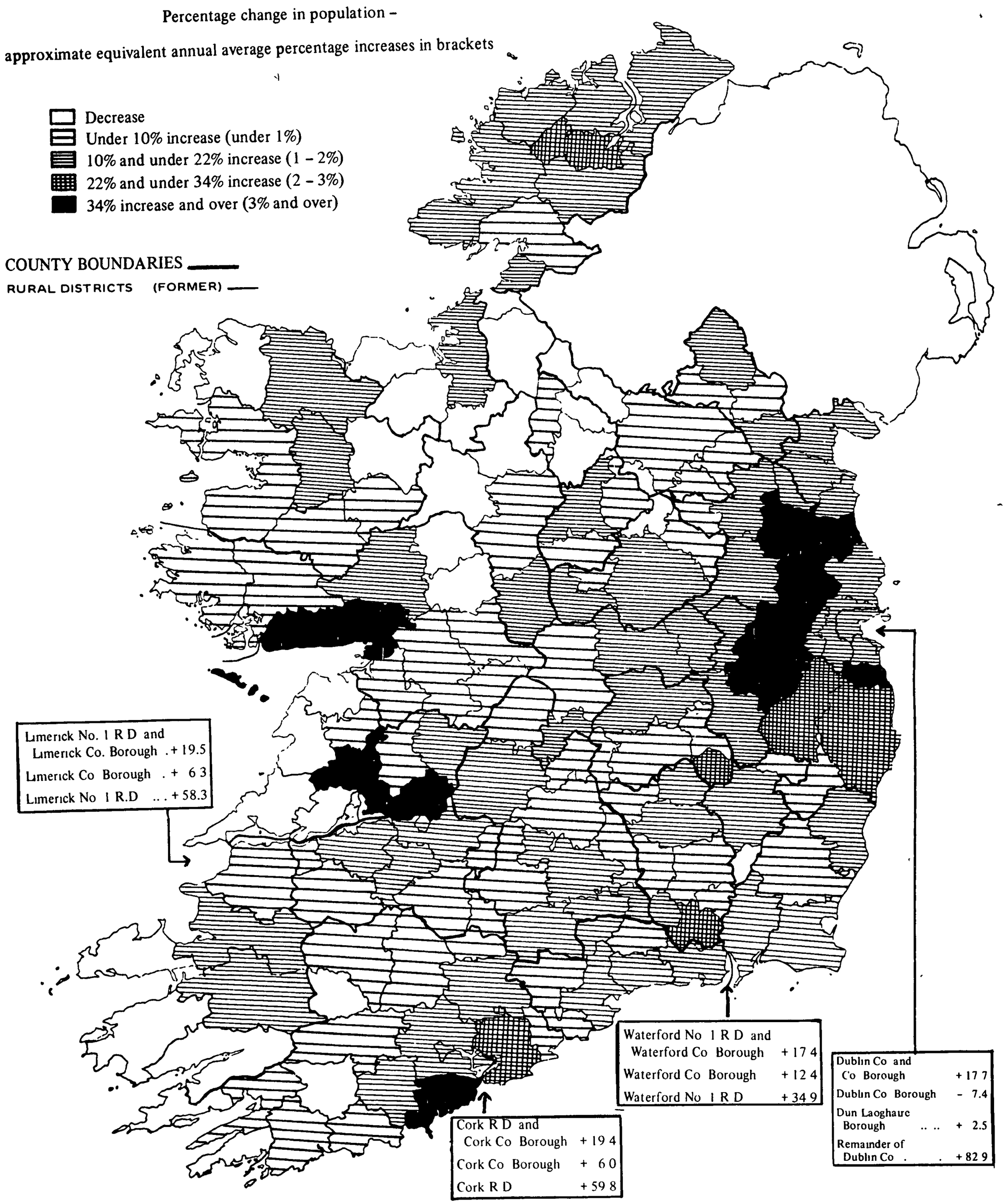
TABLE C:- POPULATION OF EACH PROVINCE, COUNTY AND COUNTY BOROUGH.

Province, County or County Borough	Population			Increase 1971-1981 (- = Decrease)		Increase 1979-1981 (- = Decrease)	
	1971	1979	1981	Actual	Percentage	Actual	Percentage
					%		%
TOTAL	**2,978,248**	**3,368,217**	**3,443,405**	**465,157**	**15.6**	**75,188**	**2.2**
LEINSTER	**1.498,140**	**1,743,861**	**1,790,521**	**292,381**	**19.5**	**46,660**	**2.7**
Carlow	34,237	38,668	39,820	5,583	16.3	1,152	3.0
Dublin Co. and Co. Borough	852,219	983,683	1,003,164	150,945	17.7	19,481	2.0
Dublin Co. Borough	*567,866*	*544,586*	*525,882*	*- 41,984*	*- 7.4*	*- 18,704*	*- 3.4*
Dun Laoghaire Borough	*53,171*	*54,244*	*54,496*	*1,325*	*2.5*	*252*	*0.5*
*Dublin**	*231,182*	*384,853*	*422,786*	*191,604*	*82.9*	*37,933*	*9.9*
Kildare	71,977	97,185	104,122	32,145	44.7	6,937	7.1
Kilkenny	61,473	69,156	70,806	9,333	15.2	1,650	2.4
Laoighis	45,259	49,936	51,171	5,912	13.1	1,235	2.5
Longford	28,250	30,785	31,140	2,890	10.2	355	1.2
Louth	75,104	86,135	88,514	13,410	17.9	2,379	2.8
Meath	71,576	90,715	95,419	23,843	33.3	4,704	5.2
Offaly	51,829	57,342	58,312	6,483	12.5	970	1.7
Westmeath	53,570	59,885	61,523	7,953	14.8	1,638	2.7
Wexford	86,351	96,421	99,081	12,730	14.7	2,660	2.8
Wicklow	66,295	83,950	87,449	21,154	31.9	3,499	4.2
MUNSTER	**882,002**	**979,819**	**998,315**	**116,313**	**13.2**	**18,496**	**1.9**
Clare	75,008	84,919	87,567	12,559	16.7	2,648	3.1
Cork Co. and Co. Borough	352,883	396,118	402,465	49,582	14.1	6,347	1.6
Cork Co. Borough	*128,645*	*138,267*	*136,344*	*7,699*	*6.0*	*- 1,923*	*- 1.4*
Cork	*224,238*	*257,851*	*266,121*	*41,883*	*18.7*	*8,270*	*3.2*
Kerry	112,772	120,356	122,770	9,998	8.9	2,414	2.0
Limerick Co. and Co. Borough	140,459	157,407	161,661	21,202	15.1	4,254	2.7
Limerick Co. Borough	*57,161*	*60,665*	*60,736*	*3,575*	*6.3*	*71*	*0.1*
Limerick	*83,298*	*96,742*	*100,925*	*17,627*	*21.2*	*4,183*	*4.3*
Tipperary, N.R.	54,337	58,476	58,984	4,647	8.6	508	0.9
Tipperary, S.R.	69,228	75,265	76,277	7,049	10.2	1,012	1.3
Waterford Co. and Co. Borough	77,315	87,278	88,591	11,276	14.6	1,313	1.5
Waterford Co. Borough	*34,226*	*38,478*	*38,473*	*4,247*	*12.4*	*- 5*	*- 0.0*
Waterford	*43,089*	*48,800*	*50,118*	*7,029*	*16.3*	*1,318*	*2.7*
CONNACHT	**390,902**	**418,500**	**424,410**	**33,508**	**8.6**	**5,910**	**1.4**
Galway	149,223	167,838	172,018	22,795	15.3	4,180	2.5
Leitrim	28,360	27,844	27,609	- 751	- 2.6	- 235	- 0.8
Mayo	109,525	114,019	114,766	5,241	4.8	747	0.7
Roscommon	53,519	54,189	54,543	1,024	1.9	354	0.7
Sligo	50,275	54,610	55,474	5,199	10.3	864	1.6
ULSTER (part of)	**207,204**	**226,037**	**230,159**	**22,955**	**11.1**	**4,122**	**1.8**
Cavan	52,618	53,720	53,855	1,237	2.4	135	0.3
Donegal	108,344	121,941	125,112	16,768	15.5	3,171	2.6
Monaghan	46,242	50,376	51,192	4,950	10.7	816	1.6

*Excluding Dun Laoghaire Borough.

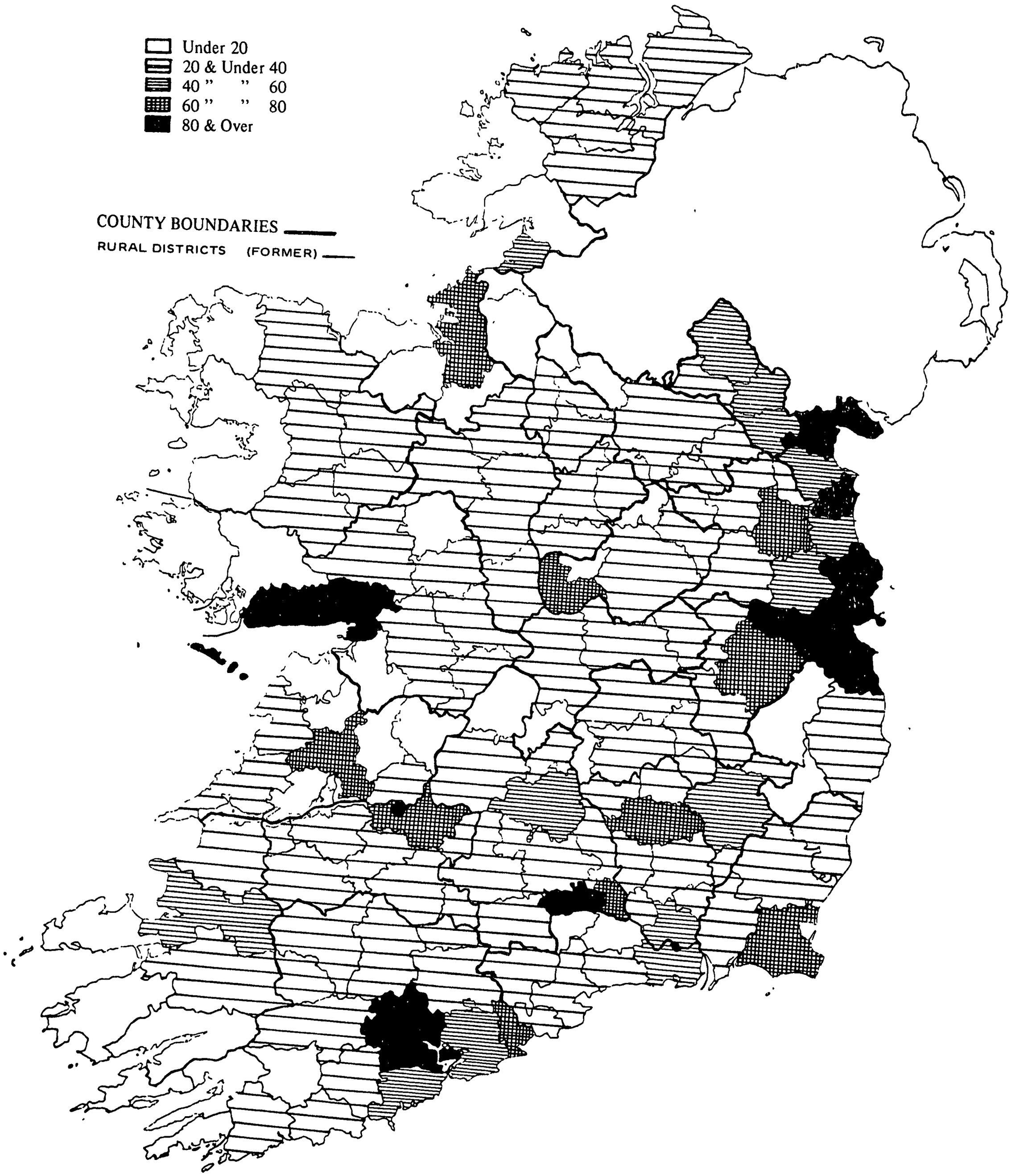
COUNTIES AND RURAL DISTRICTS

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN POPULATION OF RURAL DISTRICTS 1971-1981



Note:- In compiling the percentage changes for this map Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts have been included with the adjoining Rural Districts.

POPULATION OF RURAL DISTRICTS PER SQUARE KILOMETRE



Note:- In compiling population densities for this map Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts have been included with the adjoining Rural Districts.

AGGREGATE TOWN AND AGGREGATE RURAL POPULATION

As at a number of previous Censuses a town size of 1,500 has been taken as the dividing line in applying the classification "aggregate town" and "aggregate rural" as described in the Explanatory Notes. In 1981 the "aggregate town" population,comprising 124 centres of population, was 1,914,785 or 55.6 per cent of the total. The population of these towns increased by 20.8 per cent between 1971 and 1981. In the same period the "aggregate rural" population increased by 9.7 per cent, the first such increase since 1901 in this aggregate. In the two year period 1979-'81 the "aggregate town" population increased by 40,353 or 2.2 per cent while the "aggregate rural" population increased by 34,835 or 2.3 per cent.

The many changes in legally defined boundaries of towns, as well as the practice at recent Censuses of including the suburbs or environs in determining the town size, make it impossible to give comparable population figures extending back over a long period of years for the areas defined at the 1981 Census as "aggregate town" or "aggregate rural". In TABLE D roughly comparable figures are given covering the period 1901 to 1936 for the area defined as "aggregate town" at the 1936 Census. Comparable figures are shown for the 1936, 1946 and 1951 Censuses by reference to the 1951 aggregate town areas. For each later Census, however, it is possible to give comparable figures only for the immediately preceding enumeration, with the exception of the 1981 Census where comparable figures have been prepared for both 1971 and 1979.

TABLE D:-"AGGREGATE TOWN" AND "AGGREGATE RURAL" POPULATION 1901 TO 1981 (In thousands).

Year	TOTAL		LEINSTER		MUNSTER		CONNACHT		ULSTER (part of)	
	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area
1901	911	2,311	547	606	290	787	53	594	22	324
1911	942	2,197	574	588	295	740	52	559	21	310
1926	959	2,013	595	554	288	682	54	499	22	278
1936	1,055	1,914	672	549	298	644	62	464	23	257
1936	1,099	1,869	701	519	313	629	62	464	23	257
1946	1,161	1,794	756	525	317	600	64	429	25	239
1951	1,227	1,733	814	523	323	576	66	406	25	228
1951	1,272	1,688	841	495	332	567	72	400	28	225
1956	1,285	1,613	855	484	333	545	70	376	27	209
1956	1,287	1,611	858	481	332	545	71	375	26	210
1961	1,299	1,519	871	461	331	518	72	347	25	193
1961	1,307	1,512	876	457	333	516	72	347	26	191
1966	1,419	1,465	960	455	357	503	76	326	27	182
1966	1,445	1,439	973	441	362	497	79	323	31	178
1971	1,556	1,423	1,050	449	389	493	84	307	33	174
1971	1,585	1,393	1,067	431	395	487	85	306	38	169
1979	1,873	1,495	1,260	483	462	518	105	314	46	180
1981	1,915	1,529	1,294	496	468	531	107	318	47	183

Despite the lack of strictly comparable figures the pattern of increasing town and decreasing rural population over the period 1901 to 1971 is very clear. While the pattern of increasing town population continued in the ten years from 1971 to 1981, the pattern of declining rural population was reversed for the first time and actually increased by 135,000 persons. In 1901 only 28.3 per cent of the total population was in aggregate town areas whereas, by 1936 this proportion had risen to 35.5 per cent. At the 1981 Census, 55.6 per cent of the population was in aggregate town areas. The rate of increase in the aggregate town area population has risen sharply since 1961. From 1951 to 1956, the aggregate town area population rose by 13,000 and from 1956 to 1961 by 12,000. From 1961 to 1966, however, the increase amounted to 112,000 persons and this was followed by a similar rise from 1966 to 1971. In the ten years since 1971 the aggregate town population rose by a further 330,000 persons.

In TABLE E the changes in aggregate town and aggregate rural area populations are shown for Counties for the 1971-1981 intercensal period according to the boundaries as defined for the 1981 Census. With the exception of Dublin County Borough the aggregate town area population increased everywhere. In Leinster the increase in town population was particularly evident in County Dublin (excluding Dun Laoghaire Borough) with an increase of 90 per cent, and in the Counties adjacent to Dublin with increases of 84, 69 and 44 per cent respectively for Kildare, Meath and Wicklow. In Munster, Counties Cork, Limerick and Waterford, excluding the County Borough areas, all showed large increases as also did Clare. In Connacht the largest increases in town population occurred in Counties Galway (32 per cent) and Sligo (23 per cent), while in Ulster Counties Donegal and Monaghan showed increases of 26 per cent and 22 per cent respectively. The increases in the aggregate town population for the Provinces ranged from 18 per cent for Munster to 25 per cent for Connacht.

The aggregate rural area population increased by 10 per cent between 1971 and 1981, ranging from 4 per cent in Connacht to 15 per cent in Leinster. All Counties showed increases except for Leitrim and Roscommon, where a marginal decline occurred. This contrasts with the preceding ten years when increases in the aggregate rural population were recorded in only four Counties between 1961 and 1966, while between 1966 and 1971 ten Counties showed increases.

TABLE E:-"AGGREGATE TOWN" AND "AGGREGATE RURAL" POPULATION OF EACH COUNTY, 1971 AND 1981 AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE INTERCENSAL PERIOD.

(Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas as defined in 1981)

Province, County or County Borough	Aggregate Town Areas			Aggregate Rural Areas		
	Population		Percentage change	Population		Percentage change
	1971	1981		1971	1981	
			%			%
TOTAL	**1,585,052**	**1,914,785**	**+ 20.8**	**1,393,196**	**1,528,620**	**+ 9.7**
LEINSTER	**1,067,195**	**1,294,039**	**+ 21.3**	**430,945**	**496,482**	**+ 15.2**
Carlow	14,678	17,977	+ 22.5	19,559	21,843	+ 11.7
Dublin Co. and Co. Borough	829,832	977,700	+ 17.8	22,387	25,464	+ 13.7
Dublin Co. Borough	*567,866*	*525,882*	*- 7.4*	-	-	-
Dun Laoghaire Borough	*53,171*	*54,496*	*+ 2.5*	-	-	-
*Dublin**	*208,795*	*397,322*	*+ 90.3*	*22,387*	*25,464*	*+ 13.7*
Kildare	27,875	51,320	+ 84.1	44,102	52,802	+ 19.7
Kilkenny	16,422	20,883	+ 27.2	45,051	49,923	+ 10.8
Laoighis	12,006	13,837	+ 15.3	33,253	37,334	+ 12.3
Longford	5,008	6,548	+ 30.8	23,242	24,592	+ 5.8
Louth	47,387	55,734	+ 17.6	27,717	32,780	+ 18.3
Meath	14,191	24,015	+ 69.2	57,385	71,404	+ 24.4
Offaly	17,420	20,336	+ 16.7	34,409	37,976	+ 10.4
Westmeath	22,239	27,609	+ 24.1	31,331	33,914	+ 8.2
Wexford	28,355	32,237	+ 13.7	57,996	66,844	+ 15.3
Wicklow	31,782	45,843	+ 44.2	34,513	41,606	+ 20.6
MUNSTER	**394,607**	**467,531**	**+ 18.5**	**487,395**	**530,784**	**+ 8.9**
Clare	18,199	27,701	+ 52.2	56,809	59,866	+ 5.4
Cork Co. and Co. Borough	194,511	227,667	+ 17.0	158,372	174,798	+ 10.4
Cork Co. Borough	*128,645*	*136,344*	*+ 6.0*	-	-	-
Cork	*65,866*	*91,323*	*+ 38.6*	*158,372*	*174,798*	*+ 10.4*
Kerry	26,179	31,993	+ 22.2	86,593	90,777	+ 4.8
Limerick Co. and Co. Borough	67,032	78,738	+ 17.5	73,427	82,923	+ 12.9
Limerick Co. Borough	*57,161*	*60,736*	*+ 6.3*	-	-	-
Limerick	*9,871*	*18,002*	*+ 82.4*	*73,427*	*82,923*	*+ 12.9*
Tipperary, N.R.	18,363	20,276	+ 10.4	35,974	38,708	+ 7.6
Tipperary, S.R.	26,405	30,018	+ 13.7	42,823	46,259	+ 8.0
Waterford Co. and Co. Borough	43,918	51,138	+ 16.4	33,397	37,453	+ 12.1
Waterford Co. Borough	*34,226*	*38,473*	*+ 12.4*	-	-	-
Waterford	*9,692*	*12,665*	*+ 30.7*	*33,397*	*37,453*	*+ 12.1*
CONNACHT	**85,226**	**106,553**	**+ 25.0**	**305,676**	**317,857**	**+ 4.0**
Galway	43,826	57,725	+ 31.7	105,397	114,293	+ 8.4
Leitrim	1,549	1,677	+ 8.3	26,811	25,932	- 3.3
Mayo	17,910	20,695	+ 15.5	91,615	94,071	+ 2.7
Roscommon	7,358	8,454	+ 14.9	46,161	46,089	- 0.2
Sligo	14,583	18,002	+ 23.4	35,692	37,472	+ 5.0
ULSTER (part of)	**38,024**	**46,662**	**+ 22.7**	**169,180**	**183,497**	**+ 8.5**
Cavan	6,023	6,840	+ 13.6	46,595	47,015	+ 0.9
Donegal	19,498	24,626	+ 26.3	88,846	100,486	+ 13.1
Monaghan	12,503	15,196	+ 21.5	33,739	35,996	+ 6.7

*Excluding Dun Laoghaire Borough.

TYPE OF DISTRICT

In TABLE F a classification of the population by "type of district" or community size is shown. In addition to towns of 1,500 population or over comprising the aggregate town area population referred to above, the Table covers all smaller towns down to a minimum size cluster of 50 inhabited houses. As stated in the Explanatory Notes, suburban expansion in the Dublin area during the past decade renders the allocation of suburbs as between Dublin County Borough and Dun Laoghaire Borough an arbitrary one and thus these areas and their suburbs have been combined in the Table under the heading "Greater Dublin Area".

TABLE F:-DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION IN 1981, ACCORDING TO TYPE OF DISTRICT; FEMALES PER 1,000 MALES IN EACH TYPE OF DISTRICT.

Type of District	Number of towns	Population			Percentage distribution of population	Females per 1,000 Males
		Persons	Males	Females	%	
Greater Dublin Area	2	915,115	438,038	477,077	26.6	1,089
Cork County Borough and Suburbs	1	149,792	73,007	76,785	4.4	1,052
Limerick County Borough and Suburbs	1	75,520	36,963	38,557	2.2	1,043
Waterford County Borough and Suburbs	1	39,636	19,366	20,270	1.2	1,047
Other towns:-						
10,000 population and over and environs	17	298,750	146,588	152,162	8.7	1,038
5,000 to 10,000 population and environs	35	247,240	122,182	125,058	7.2	1,024
3,000 to 5,000 population and environs	27	100,226	49,716	50,510	2.9	1,016
1,500 to 3,000 population and environs	40	88,506	43,185	45,321	2.6	1,049
1,000 to 1,500 population and environs	69	86,692	42,328	44,364	2.5	1,048
500 to 1,000 population	113	79,907	39,729	40,178	2.3	1,011
Under 500 population but with at least 50 inhabited houses*	253	79,905	40,065	39,840	2.3	994
Country Districts	-	1,282,116	678,187	603,929	37.2	891
Total	**559**	**3,443,405**	**1,729,354**	**1,714,051**	**100.-**	**991**

*All except of 18 of these towns had a population of 200 or more.

In 1981 the population in towns of all sizes was 2,161,289 persons, representing 62.8 per cent of the total population of the country. The Greater Dublin Area contained 26.6 per cent of the total, while the 20 other towns of over 10,000 population contained 16.4 per cent. The 102 towns of between 1,500 and 10,000 inhabitants contained 12.7 per cent of the total population while the remaining 435 smaller towns contained 7.2 per cent. In all town districts, with the exception of towns with under 500 population where the figures were almost identical, the numbers of females exceeded those of males, the female excess being greatest in the Greater Dublin Area. In country districts the number of males exceeded that of females very considerably, there being only 891 females per 1,000 males compared with the figure for all town areas of 1,056 females per 1,000 males.

The population changes in the various types of district between 1971 and 1981 are shown in TABLE G. The figures shown for 1971 and 1981 relate to identical areas, namely the towns, suburbs and environs defined in 1981. Because some towns fall into different size groups at the two Censuses, somewhat different results are obtained depending on whether the type of district classification is based on the population in 1971 or in 1981. For this reason a third classification, based on average population (taking the simple averages of the populations of each town in the two Census years) is the most useful.

TABLE G:-CHANGES IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION BY TYPE OF DISTRICT IN THE PERIOD 1971 TO 1981.
(The groupings are based on average populations in the period)

Type of District	Number of towns	Population		Change in Population 1971-1981		Percentage Change 1966-1971†
		1971	1981	Actual	Percentage	
					%	%
Greater Dublin Area	2	801,298	915,115	+ 113,817	+ 14.2	+ 5.6
Cork County Borough and Suburbs	1	135,456	149,792	+ 14,336	+ 10.6	+ 6.8
Limerick County Borough and Suburbs	1	63,436	75,520	+ 12,084	+ 19.0	+ 7.1
Waterford County Borough and Suburbs	1	34,837	39,636	+ 4,799	+ 13.8	+ 9.3
Other towns:-						
10,000 population and over and environs	13	200,227	253,997	+ 53,770	+ 26.9	+ 8.7
5,000 to 10,000 population and environs	32	177,824	249,577	+ 71,753	+ 40.4	+ 8.1
3,000 to 5,000 population and environs	27	86,188	119,044	+ 32,856	+ 38.1	+ 16.0
1,500 to 3,000 population and environs	38	76,894	97,137	+ 20,243	+ 26.3	+ 10.7
1,000 to 1,500 population and environs	61	66,764	83,052	+ 16,288	+ 24.4	+ 7.9
500 to 1,000 population	113	72,612	89,049	+ 16,437	+ 22.6	+ 7.6
Under 500 population, but with at least 50 inhabited houses in 1981*	270	68,899	89,370	+ 20,471	+ 29.7	+ 5.8
Country Districts	-	1,193,813	1,282,116	+ 88,303	+ 7.4	- 2.2
Total	**559**	**2,978,248**	**3,443,405**	**+ 465,157**	**+ 15.6**	**+ 3.3**

*All except 42 of these towns had an average population of 200 or more.

†From Table VII, Volume I, 1971 Census.

The last two columns of this table compare the percentage changes in the various size-of-town ranges between 1971-'81 and 1966-'71. Although the percentages shown do not relate to identical areas, in view of the changes in size classification of a number of towns, they are sufficient to show how the pattern of town growth has altered between the two periods. While in the 1966-'71 period the rate of growth of the County Borough areas was almost on a par with the rates recorded for the other town-size categories, the past ten years has seen considerably greater growth rates in the towns outside the Borough areas with the highest growth rates shown by towns where average population in the period was in the 3,000 to 10,000 range.

POPULATIONS OF TOWNS

In Table 13 on pages 136 to 139 the populations of each of the 193 towns with 1,000 or more inhabitants in 1981 are shown with comparable 1971 and 1979 figures, the towns being arranged in descending order of size. TABLE H shows the percentage change in population between 1971 and 1981 and between 1979 and 1981 of the larger towns. These percentages refer to the entire built-up area of the town in each case, the population of the suburbs or environs being added to that within the legally defined boundary. It will be seen from the Table that the largest percentage increases occurred in certain Census towns on the perimeter of Dublin and Cork and in Shannon.

TABLE H:-PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN POPULATION OF TOWNS (INCLUDING SUBURBS OR ENVIRONS, IF ANY) WHICH HAD IN 1981 A POPULATION OF 3,000 OR MORE.

Town	Percentage change	
	1971-1981	1979-1981
	%	%
Ardee	+ 4.0	+ 7.4
Arklow	+ 24.4	+ 2.3
Athlone	+ 22.0	+ 2.1
Athy	+ 16.9	+ 3.6
Balbriggan	+ 70.2	+ 14.9
Ballina	+ 18.7	- 0.6
Ballinasloe	+ 8.0	- 1.3
Ballincollig-Carrigrohane	+ 241.6	+ 11.5
Ballyshannon	+ 22.8	+ 1.1
Bandon	+ 12.7	+ 2.5
Birr	+ 12.0	+ 0.1
Bray	+ 47.0	+ 5.4
Buncrana	+ 12.7	- 1.3
Carlow	+ 26.2	+ 3.7
Carrickmacross	+ 30.4	+ 3.4
Carrick-on-Suir	+ 11.2	+ 1.0
Carrigaline	+ 282.9	+ 15.1
Castlebar	+ 13.4	- 0.2
Castleblayney	+ 25.6	+ 1.0
Cavan	+ 12.7	+ 0.6
Ceanannus Mór	+ 38.1	+ 3.1
Celbridge	+ 190.2	+ 37.9
Clonmel	+ 18.4	+ 1.9
Cobh	+ 18.2	+ 2.3
Cork	+ 10.6	- 0.2
Drogheda	+ 15.5	+ 2.9
Droichead Nua	+ 66.3	+ 4.9
Dublin (Greater Dublin Area)*	+ 14.2	+ 1.6
Dundalk	+ 21.6	+ 1.9
Dungarvan	+ 18.8	+ 0.8
Edenderry	+ 17.7	+ 4.4
Ennis	+ 30.7	+ 3.2
Enniscorthy	+ 7.3	- 0.4
Fermoy	+ 19.3	- 1.1
Galway	+ 40.6	+ 4.0
Gorey	+ 16.8	+ 2.2
Greystones-Delgany	+ 65.5	+ 7.5
Kildare	+ 27.7	+ 3.5
Kilkenny	+ 25.8	+ 2.3
Killarney	+ 19.0	+ 3.0
Leixlip	+ 285.5	+ 27.0

Town	Percentage change	
	1971-1981	1979-1981
	%	%
Letterkenny	+ 43.7	+ 4.1
Limerick	+ 19.0	+ 1.9
Listowel	+ 18.1	+ 2.6
Longford	+ 30.8	- 1.0
Loughrea	+ 9.8	- 1.9
Lucan	+ 171.3	+ 7.6
Malahide	+ 136.0	+ 2.2
Mallow	+ 13.8	+ 0.7
Maynooth	+ 146.6	+ 6.2
Midleton	+ 32.4	+ 0.5
Mitchelstown	+ 11.1	- 1.4
Monaghan	+ 18.3	+ 0.1
Mountmellick	+ 16.7	+ 3.0
Mullingar	+ 25.0	+ 4.8
Naas	+ 64.3	+ 7.8
Navan (An Uaimh)	+ 63.1	+ 9.0
Nenagh	+ 13.5	+ 0.8
Newcastle (Co. Limerick)	+ 35.3	+ 1.1
New Ross	+ 16.6	+ 2.2
Passage West	+ 33.6	+ 9.4
Portarlington	+ 8.0	+ 2.2
Portlaoighise	+ 18.5	+ 1.4
Portmarnock	+ 372.8	+ 11.3
Roscommon	+ 20.4	+ 0.9
Roscrea	+ 9.0	- 0.0
Rush	+ 46.8	+ 6.2
Shannon	+ 117.3	+ 5.7
Skerries	+ 89.9	+ 6.4
Sligo	+ 23.4	+ 2.4
Swords	+ 156.0	+ 8.5
Thurles	+ 7.9	- 0.9
Tipperary	+ 8.4	+ 1.3
Tralee	+ 26.4	+ 1.7
Tramore	+ 48.6	+ 9.4
Trim	+ 53.5	+ 12.2
Tuam	+ 21.7	- 1.1
Tullamore	+ 16.2	+ 0.5
Waterford	+ 13.8	+ 0.6
Westport	+ 11.7	- 2.8
Wexford	+ 15.0	+ 1.2
Wicklow	+ 36.3	+ 4.4
Youghal	+ 9.2	+ 1.7

*Including Dun Laoghaire Borough.

NET MIGRATION ESTIMATED FROM CENSUS RECORDS AND VITAL STATISTICS DATA

The Census total is a count of the number of persons actually in the State on Census night. The change in population reflects the effect of vital events (births and deaths) and of all movement of persons into and out of the State between successive Censuses. Since the number of births and deaths are known from the regular vital statistics, a residual measure of net movement of persons can be obtained. In the absence of direct measures of inward and outward migratory flows this residual is used as an estimate of "net migration" i.e. the difference between the inward and outward flows. The residual figure however also reflects, implicitly, the net effect of non-migratory movements (i.e. change between successive Censuses in the level of visitors in the State, or in the level of Irish residents temporarily abroad on Census night) and of any other factors such as marginal variations in Census coverage achieved. Where the total residual figure is comparatively large and covers a long intercensal period (such as in 1971-1979) the possible effect of the factors mentioned is negligible. Where the total is comparatively small and covers a very short period (as in 1979-1981) the effect could be relatively more important.

In the two year period between the 1979 and 1981 Censuses births (146,000) exceeded deaths (66,000) by 80,000. This natural increase was slightly higher than the actual population increase of 75,000. The difference of 5,000 (an average rate of 2,500 per year) is taken as an estimate of the extent to which inward migration in 1979-'81 was less than outward migration. For the preceding intercensal period 1971-'79 it was estimated that inward migration exceeded outward migration by 109,000 - an average of 13,600 per year.

TABLE I sets out the relevant figures for the two year period 1979-'81 and for the ten year period 1971-'81 with separate estimates for males and females.

TABLE I:-ESTIMATED NET MIGRATION.

	Intercensal period 1971-1981			Intercensal period 1979-1981		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Births*	695,000	357,000	338,000	146,000	75,000	71,000
Deaths*	333,000	181,000	152,000	66,000	36,000	30,000
Natural increase (excess of births over deaths)	361,000	175,000	186,000	80,000	39,000	41,000
Increase in population	465,000	234,000	232,000	75,000	36,000	39,000
Estimated net migration (inward less outward)	104,000	58,000	46,000	- 5,000	- 3,000	- 2,000

*The data for births and deaths relate to ten year and two year periods ending 31 March, 1981.

TABLE J following gives figures for changes in the population, natural increase and estimated net migration for each intercensal period since 1926, expressed in the form of annual averages. The average annual natural increase has risen fairly consistently over time with the result that the level for the 1979-'81 period is some 24,000 higher than that for the 1926-'36 period. Since 1926 there has been an annual average excess of outward migration over inward migration for all intercensal periods with the exception of the 1971-'79 period. For the entire ten year period 1971-'81 there was an annual average increase in population of 46,515 comprised of an annual average natural increase of 36,126 and an average annual net migratory inflow of 10,389.

TABLE J:-AVERAGE ANNUAL CHANGE IN POPULATION, NATURAL INCREASE AND NET MIGRATION IN EACH INTERCENSAL PERIOD, 1926-1981.

Intercensal Period	Average Annual Change in Population			Average Annual Natural Increase			Estimated Average Annual Net Migration (inward less outward)		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1926-1936	- 357	+ 1,357	- 1,714	16,318	8,612	7,706	- 16,675	- 7,255	- 9,420
1936-1946	- 1,332	- 2,558	+ 1,226	17,380	8,700	8,680	- 18,712	- 11,258	- 7,454
1946-1951	+ 1,119	+ 2,390	- 1,271	25,503	12,699	12,804	- 24,384	- 10,309	- 14,075
1951-1956	- 12,466	- 8,734	- 3,732	26,887	12,923	13,964	- 39,353	- 21,657	- 17,696
1956-1961	- 15,985	- 9,276	- 6,709	26,416	12,639	13,777	- 42,401	- 21,915	- 20,486
1961-1966	+ 13,132	+ 6,496	+ 6,636	29,253	14,019	15,234	- 16,121	- 7,523	- 8,598
1966-1971	+ 18,849	+ 9,345	+ 9,504	29,630	14,295	15,335	- 10,781	- 4,950	- 5,831
1971-1979	+ 48,746	+ 24,689	+ 24,057	35,129	17,030	18,099	+ 13,617	+ 7,659	+ 5,958
1979-1981	+ 37,594	+ 18,041	+ 19,553	40,117	19,647	20,470	- 2,523	- 1,606	- 917
1971-1981	+ 46,515	+ 23,359	+ 23,156	36,126	17,553	18,573	+ 10,389	+ 5,806	+ 4,583

The annual averages for population change, natural increase and net migration given in TABLE J are shown in the form of annual rates per thousand of the average population in TABLE K, the average population in this context being taken as one half of the sum of the populations at each end of the intercensal period. These latter calculations show clearly the derivation of the net migration rate and indicate that although the net outward migration for the 1979-'81 period is a reversal of the trend observed for the 1971-'79 period, nevertheless the level of this net outward migration is very low in the historical context and the rate of population increase remains quite high.

TABLE K:-AVERAGE ANNUAL RATES OF CHANGE IN POPULATION, NATURAL INCREASE AND NET MIGRATION PER 1,000 OF AVERAGE POPULATION, IN EACH INTERCENSAL PERIOD, 1926-1981.

Intercensal Period	Change in Population	Natural Increase	Estimated Net Migration (inward less outward)
	Per thousand average population per annum		
1926-1936	- 0.1	5.5	- 5.6
1936-1946	- 0.4	5.9	- 6.3
1946-1951	+ 0.4	8.6	- 8.2
1951-1956	- 4.3	9.2	- 13.4
1956-1961	- 5.6	9.2	- 14.8
1961-1966	+ 4.6	10.3	- 5.7
1966-1971	+ 6.4	10.1	- 3.7
1971-1979	+ 15.4	11.1	+ 4.3
1979-1981	+ 11.0	11.8	- 0.7
1971-1981	+ 14.5	11.3	+ 3.2

Estimated net migration figures can also be derived for Counties and County Boroughs in a similar fashion by comparing the figures for the change in population with the natural increase for each of the areas concerned. The calculations for the periods 1971-'81 and 1979-'81 are set out in TABLES 5A and 5B respectively of the detailed tabulations. It should be borne in mind, however, that the County figures for net migration take into account all movement into and out of each County whether to or from abroad, or whether to or from another part of the State. It should also be remembered that the net figures represent the difference between two opposite flows - inwards and outwards.

Derived annual rates of net migration per thousand of the average population for each County are shown in TABLE L following, along with corresponding rates for each intercensal period since 1951.

TABLE L:-AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF ESTIMATED NET MIGRATION (inward less outward) PER 1,000 OF AVERAGE POPULATION IN EACH INTERCENSAL PERIOD, 1951-1981.

Province or County	1951-1956	1956-1961	1961-1966	1966-1971	1971-1979	1979-1981	1971-1981
TOTAL	- 13.4	- 14.8	- 5.7	- 3.7	+ 4.3	- 0.7	+ 3.2
LEINSTER	- 11.4	- 13.1	- 1.5	- 1.7	+ 5.5	- 0.5	+ 4.2
MUNSTER	- 12.8	- 14.2	- 6.4	- 3.5	+ 3.2	- 1.3	+ 2.3
CONNACHT	- 17.4	- 18.3	- 13.6	- 10.0	+ 2.4	- 0.4	+ 1.8
ULSTER (part of)	- 19.6	- 20.7	- 14.2	- 6.6	+ 3.8	- 0.9	+ 2.8
LEINSTER							
Carlow	- 12.9	- 16.1	- 12.2	- 8.9	+ 1.8	- 0.6	+ 1.3
Dublin*	- 9.7	- 10.1	+ 4.8	- 0.7	+ 4.0	- 3.5	+ 2.4
Kildare	- 15.5	- 18.4	- 8.4	+ 0.9	+ 18.3	+ 14.2	+ 17.3
Kilkenny	- 11.1	- 15.6	- 10.9	- 4.2	+ 5.5	+ 1.6	+ 4.7
Laoighis	- 13.6	- 17.2	- 12.6	- 6.4	+ 3.1	+ 1.4	+ 2.7
Longford	- 16.6	- 20.8	- 16.8	- 11.3	+ 3.2	- 2.4	+ 2.1
Louth	- 10.2	- 17.1	- 6.8	+ 0.9	+ 6.8	- 0.4	+ 2.1
Meath	- 8.2	- 14.7	- 4.1	+ 1.3	+ 15.6	+ 9.5	+ 14.3
Offaly	- 12.3	- 13.2	- 11.7	- 11.6	+ 0.5	- 4.6	- 0.5
Westmeath	- 13.3	- 15.9	- 12.3	- 9.1	+ 3.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.6
Wexford	- 14.3	- 17.4	- 9.5	- 4.0	+ 1.8	- 0.2	+ 1.4
Wicklow	- 18.8	- 17.2	- 4.2	+ 7.5	+ 14.5	+ 5.6	+ 12.6
MUNSTER							
Clare	- 15.9	- 14.9	- 6.3	- 1.9	+ 7.3	+ 5.7	+ 6.9
Cork*	- 10.0	- 11.2	- 3.9	- 1.9	+ 4.1	- 2.8	+ 2.7
Kerry	- 14.0	- 15.2	- 11.2	- 4.7	+ 1.6	+ 2.2	+ 1.7
Limerick*	- 15.8	- 17.0	- 5.0	- 6.5	+ 1.5	+ 1.0	+ 1.4
Tipperary, N.R.	- 14.0	- 16.1	- 8.3	- 6.5	- 0.7	- 7.5	- 2.1
Tipperary, S.R.	- 15.5	- 18.6	- 13.0	- 8.2	+ 1.3	- 3.0	+ 0.4
Waterford*	- 10.6	- 14.8	- 5.0	+ 1.6	+ 4.4	- 4.0	+ 2.6
CONNACHT							
Galway	- 15.2	- 16.2	- 10.6	- 6.7	+ 4.6	+ 1.2	+ 3.9
Leitrim	- 23.1	- 22.7	- 19.1	- 14.7	- 2.3	- 5.9	- 3.0
Mayo	- 19.1	- 20.3	- 17.1	- 14.0	+ 0.2	- 2.7	- 0.4
Roscommon	- 16.1	- 17.9	- 11.7	- 10.9	+ 0.6	- 0.3	+ 0.4
Sligo	- 17.1	- 16.6	- 12.7	- 6.8	+ 4.6	+ 2.0	+ 4.1
ULSTER (part of)							
Cavan	- 18.2	- 21.3	- 13.8	- 9.1	- 3.0	- 7.7	- 3.9
Donegal	- 20.2	- 17.9	- 15.0	- 6.3	+ 7.2	+ 2.9	+ 6.3
Monaghan	- 19.7	- 26.5	- 12.9	- 4.4	+ 3.2	- 2.9	+ 2.0

*County and County Borough.

Although lower than for the 1971-'79 period, the annual average rates of net inward migration per thousand of the average population for Kildare and Meath for 1979-'81 at 14.2 and 9.5 respectively, are nevertheless very high. Wicklow, with a rate of 5.6 for 1979-'81, shows a large decrease from the 14.5 for the 1971-'79 period and indeed is 2 points lower than the 7.5 recorded for the 1966-'71 period.

In Munster only Clare, Kerry and Limerick experienced net inward migration for the 1979-'81 period while in Connacht and Ulster, Galway and Sligo experienced positive rates of net inward migration while the rate for Donegal at 2.9 was much lower than the 7.2 recorded for the 1971-'79 period.

PLANNING REGIONS

PLANNING REGIONS

TABLE 9A of the detailed tabulations shows the principal population aggregates for the nine Planning Regions for 1981 while TABLE 9B shows changes which occurred during the ten year period 1971-'81 and during the two year period 1979-'81.

From TABLE 9A it can be observed that some 40 to 65 per cent of the population was located in country districts (i.e. areas excluding population clusters with at least 50 inhabited houses) in all Regions except the East where the figure was only 12 per cent. In the East Region, which accounted for almost two-fifths of the population of the State, some 76 per cent of the population was in towns of 10,000 persons or more, whereas Donegal had no town of this size. Small urban clusters of less than 1,500 persons but with at least 50 inhabited houses accounted for 16 per cent of the population in Donegal, 14 per cent in the North West and between 8 and 11 per cent in the remaining Regions except the East where the figure was 3 per cent.

From TABLE 9B it can be observed that in the ten year period 1971-'81 the increases in the population of the Planning Regions ranged from under 6 per cent in the North West to over 21 per cent in the East, with increases of between 10 and 15 per cent in the other Regions. The percentage rate of increase for the aggregate town area population was considerably greater than that for the aggregate rural area population for each Region except the East where the rates of increase were almost identical over the 1971-'81 period. The average annual rate of natural increase per 1,000 of average population in the East was more than three times that in the North West where birth rates are lower and death rates higher than in other Regions; this is due to the relatively different age structure of the population in the North West.

The pattern of migration over the ten-year period 1971-'81 is one of net immigration in every Region in contrast to the 1979-'81 period during which net emigration occurred in all Regions except the Mid-West and Donegal. For the latter, net immigration was again recorded though at a considerably reduced rate.

The composition of the Planning Regions is set out in Appendix C.