



**CENSUS OF POPULATION
OF IRELAND
1981**

VOLUME 5

RELIGION

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CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

CLASSIFICATION BY RELIGION

This Volume contains detailed results involving classifications of the population by religious denomination. The column on the Census schedule in which information on this topic was furnished was headed "Religion - State the Particular Denomination", If None write "None". 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 1971 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 70,976 as compared with 46,648 in 1971 and 5,625 in 1961. Classifications are given in respect of the following denominations: Catholic, Church of Ireland (including Anglican and Church of England), Presbyterian, Methodist and Jewish.

CLASSIFICATION BY OCCUPATION

All persons aged 15 years and over, including those out of work and those who are temporarily confined to hospitals, are classified to their usual principal occupation.

The occupation 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.

The most detailed classification by occupation used in the 1981 Census of Population is that shown in Appendix A (page 80).

CLASSIFICATION BY ADMINISTRATIVE AND CENSUS AREAS

The various administrative and Census areas for which figures are shown in this Volume were described in detail

CONTENT OF THE TABLES

The content and layout of the present Volume is similar to that of the corresponding Volume of the 1971 Census. 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 1981. Table 4 shows the number of persons in the various religious denominations in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas, of each Province and in the different types of district, that is County Boroughs, Towns of 10,000 population and over, Towns of 5,000-10,000 in population, Towns of 1,500-5,000 in population, Towns of 1,000-1,500 in population and the remainder of the country.

Table 5A gives the number of persons of each religion in each Province, County and County Borough in 1981 while Table 5B shows the percentage changes (Provinces and Counties) between 1971 and 1981. In Table 6 males and females are classified by religion, distinguishing Catholic and Church of Ireland only, for Urban and Rural Districts and towns with legally defined boundaries. 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 1981.

Table 7 classifies persons of each religion by age group and marital status while Table 8 provides a similar classification for males and females in each Province, County and County Borough, distinguishing Catholic and Church of Ireland only. Tables 9A and 9B provide information on males and females who are at work or unemployed classified by occupational group and by religion.

Note: In interpreting the percentage changes shown in Tables 1B and 5B respectively, the relatively small proportions of the total population covered by some categories should be borne in mind. It should also be noted that in Table 5B percentage changes are not shown where the number returned was 10 or less in 1971 or 1981.

COMMENTARY

CHANGES, 1971 - 1981

Table A below summarises the numbers of persons of different religious denominations in the State in 1971 and 1981. Persons returned as Catholics accounted for 3,204,476 or 95 per cent of persons for whom the question on Religion was answered in the 1981 Census, an increase of 408,810 on the corresponding 1971 figure. The number of persons returned under all other stated religions totalled 128,381 in 1981, a marginal rise on the 1971 level. Within this group the number of persons returned as belonging to the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches declined by about 4,000 persons, from 119,437 in 1971 to 115,411 in 1981. This decrease took place over a period in which the total population increased by more than 465,000 persons. Consequently the proportion of the population accounted for by these religions declined from 4.0 per cent in 1971 to 3.4 per cent in 1981. However, it should be noted that information on religion was not returned in respect of over 2 per cent of the population and this may have significantly affected the trends for these individual denominations. In fact this qualification should always be borne in mind when making comparisons between 1971 and 1981 as the numbers for whom no information was supplied has increased significantly, from 46,648 to 70,976, between the two Censuses.

The most significant relative change shown in Table A is the increase in the number of persons who indicated that they had no religion. The number of such persons was almost 40,000 in 1981, more than five times the corresponding number in 1971. The total number of persons for whom "no religion" or no information was returned came to more than 110,000 persons or 3 per cent of the total population.

**TABLE A:- PERSONS CLASSIFIED BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION IN 1971 AND 1981
SHOWING PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THAT PERIOD.**

Religious Denomination	1971	
------------------------	------	--

REGIONAL CHANGES

TABLE B below shows the changes which took place between 1971 and 1981 in each County in the numbers of Catholics, numbers of persons with specified religions other than Catholic, which are grouped together in the Table, and numbers of persons returned as having no religion or for whom no information was supplied.

TABLE B:- CHANGE BETWEEN 1971 AND 1981 IN THE NUMBERS OF CATHOLICS, PERSONS OF OTHER STATED RELIGIONS, AND PERSONS OF NO RELIGION OR FOR WHOM NO INFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED IN EACH COUNTY.

Province or County	Religious Denomination			Province or County	Religious Denomination		
	Catholic	Other Stated Religions	"No Religion" or No Information Supplied		Catholic	Other Stated Religions	"No Religion" or No Information Supplied
Change 1971-1981				Change 1971-1981			
Total	+ 408,810	+ 63	+ 56,284	Munster	+ 100,556	+ 1,465	+ 14,292
Leinster	+ 257,845	- 208	+ 34,744	Clare</			

TABLE C shows the distribution of the population by religious denomination in the Planning Regions (the composition of each Planning Region is shown in Appendix B, page 82).

**TABLE C:- PERSONS IN EACH RELIGION AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION
IN EACH PLANNING REGION.**

Planning Region	Total	Religious Denomination						"No Religion"	No information supplied
		Catholic	Church of Ireland	Presbyterian	Methodist	Jewish	Other Stated Religions		
East	100.-	90.9	3.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	1.9	2.7
South West	100.-	94.6	2.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	1.0	1.7
South East	100.-	95.0	2.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.6	1.6
North East	100.-	91.7	3.9	1.8	0.1	-	0.2	0.5	1.8
Mid-West	100.-	95.6	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.8	1.8

AGE GROUPS

The changes between 1971 and 1981 in the religious denominations in various age groups are shown in TABLE D where specified religions other than Catholic are grouped together.

**TABLE D:- PERSONS CLASSIFIED BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION AND AGE GROUP
SHOWING PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1971-1981.**

Religious Denomination		Total	Age Group						
			Under 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
Total	1971	2,978,248	931,152	482,978	324,344	301,836	319,206	288,913	329,819
	1981	3,443,405	1,043,729	602,556	478,011	359,753	301,530	288,872	368,954
	% change	+ 15.6	+ 12.1	+ 24.8	+ 47.4	+ 19.2	- 5.5	- 0.0	+ 11.9
Catholic	1971	2,795,666							

TABLE E shows the numbers of persons in each age group as a percentage of the total population of each religious denomination in 1971 and 1981; specified religions other than Catholic are again grouped together in this Table.

**TABLE E:- PERSONS IN EACH AGE GROUP AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION
IN EACH RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION.**

Religious Denomination		Total	Age Group						
			Under 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
Total	1971	100.-	31.3	16.2	10.9	10.1	10.7	9.7	11.1
	1981	100.-	30.3	17.5	13.9	10.4	8.8	8.4	10.7
Catholic	1971	100.-	31.7	16.3	10.8	10.1	10.7	9.5	10.8
	1981	100.-	30.8	17.6	13.5	10.3	8.8	8.4	10.6
Other Stated Religions	1971</								

TABLES

TABLE 1A:- PERSONS OF EACH RELIGION AT EACH CENSUS - 1881 TO 1946, 1961, 1971 AND 1981.

Year	Total persons	Religious denomination						"No religion"	No information supplied
		Catholic	Church of Ireland	Presbyterian	Methodist	Jewish	Other stated religions		
1881	3,870,020	3,465,332	317,576	56,498	17,660	394		12,560	
1891	3,468,694	3,099,003	286,804	51,469	18,513	1,506		11,399	
1901	3,221,823	2,878,271	264,264	46,714	17,872	3,006		11,696	
1911	3,139,688	2,812,509	249,535	45,486	16,440	3,805		11,913	
1926	2,971,992	2,751,269	164,215	32,429	10,663	3,6			

**TABLE 2:- PERSONS OF EACH RELIGION IN EACH PROVINCE AND COUNTY AT EACH CENSUS -
1881 TO 1946, 1961, 1971 AND 1981.**

Province or County	Total persons	Religious denomination						"No religion"	No information supplied
		Catholic	Church of Ireland	Presbyterian	Methodist	Jewish	Other stated religions		
TOTAL									
1881	3,870,020	3,465,332	317,576	56,498	17,660	394		12,560	
1891	3,468,694	3,099,003	286,804	51,469	18,513	1,506		11,399	
1901	3,221,823	2,878,271	264,264	46,714	17,872	3,006		11,696	
1911	3,139,688	2,812,509	249,535	45,486	16,44				

TABLE 2 (contd.):— PERSONS OF EACH RELIGION IN EACH PROVINCE AND COUNTY AT EACH CENSUS -
1881 TO 1946, 1961, 1971 AND 1981.

Province or County	Total persons	Religious denomination						"No religion"	No information supplied			
		Catholic	Church of Ireland	Presbyterian	Methodist	Jewish	Other stated religions					
LEINSTER (contd.)												
Kilkenny												
1881	99,531	94,149	4,956	206	143	-		77				
1891	87,261	82,732	4,144	170	132	12		71				
1901	79,159	74,830	3,978	170								

TABLE 2 (contd.): - PERSONS OF EACH RELIGION IN EACH PROVINCE AND COUNTY AT EACH CENSUS -
1881 TO 1946, 1961, 1971 AND 1981.

Province or County	Total persons	Religious denomination						"No religion"	No information supplied			
		Catholic	Church of Ireland	Presbyterian	Methodist	Jewish	Other stated religions					
LEINSTER (contd.)												
Offaly												
1881	72,852	65,040	6,883	290	426	-		213				
1891	65,563	58,264	6,432	291	463	6		107				
1901	60,187	53,806	5,513	353	392	9						

TABLE 2 (contd.): - PERSONS OF EACH RELIGION IN EACH PROVINCE AND COUNTY AT EACH CENSUS -
1881 TO 1946, 1961, 1971 AND 1981.

Province or County	Total persons	Religious denomination						"No religion"	No. information supplied
		Catholic	Church of Ireland	Presbyterian	Methodist	Jewish	Other stated religions		
MUNSTER (contd.)									
Clare									
1881	141,457	138,508	2,669	165	65	-		50	
1891	124,483	122,047	2,246	106	53	1		30	
1901	112,334	110,062	2,036	157	48	-		31	
1911	104,232	102,300	1,709	166	38	1			

**TABLE 5B:- PERCENTAGE INCREASE OR DECREASE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS OF CERTAIN RELIGIONS
IN EACH PROVINCE AND COUNTY - 1971-1981.**

Province or County	Total Persons	Religious denomination						"No Religion"	No Information supplied
		Catholic	Church of Ireland	Presby- terian	Methodist	Jewish	Other Stated Religions		
TOTAL	+ 15.6	+ 14.6	- 2.4	- 11.2	+ 2.6	- 19.2	+ 73.5	+ 419.6	+ 52.2
LEINSTER	+ 19.5	+ 18.6	- 2.9	- 16.1	+ 4.8	- 19.9	+ 61.9	+ 347.3	+ 47.8
Carlow	+ 16.3	+ 15.6	+ 1.7	0.0	- 27.0	...	+ 508.3	+ 326.2	+ 112.7
Dublin*	+ 17.7	+ 17.0	- 8.7	- 20.4	- 0.9	- 20.4	+ 49.6	+ 320.9	+ 27.4
Kildare	+ 44.7	+ 42							

TABLE 6 :- MALES AND FEMALES, CLASSIFIED BY RELIGION, IN URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS, DEFINED BOUNDARIES AND IN TOWNS WITHOUT LEGALLY DEFINED

DISTRICT	TOTAL		CATHOLIC		CHURCH OF IRELAND	
	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES
TOTAL	1729354	1714051	1604457	1600019	46702	48664
PROVINCE OF LEINSTER	884666	905855	809637	835852	27805	30551
PROVINCE OF MUNSTER	506857	491458	481156	468782	9068	9008
PROVINCE OF CONNACHT	218852	205558	209348	197463	3085	2888
PROVINCE OF ULSTER (PART OF)	118979	111180	104316	97922	6744	6217
LEINSTER						
CARLOW COUNTY	20195	19625	18667	18261	982	907
BALTINGLASS NO. 2 R.D.	181					

IN TOWNS WITH LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES; IN ENVIRONS OF TOWNS WITH LEGALLY BOUNDARIES HAVING 1,500 INHABITANTS OR OVER IN 1981.

OTHER STATED RELIGIONS		"NO RELIGION"		NO INFORMATION SUPPLIED		DISTRICT
MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	
16971	16044	24214	15358	37010	33966	TOTAL
8514	8310	16400	10412	22310	20730	PROVINCE OF LEINSTER
2287	2126	5300	3329	9046	8213	PROVINCE OF MUNSTER
735	687	1773	1142	3911	3378	PROVINCE OF CONNACHT
5435	4921	741	475	1743	1645	PROVINCE OF ULSTER (PART OF)
						LEINSTER
51	71	111	68	384	318	CARLOW COUNTY
1	2	5	1	19	11	BALTINGLASS NO. 2 R.D.
23	35	31	22	126</		

DISTRICTS, IN TOWNS WITH LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES; IN ENVIRONS OF TOWNS WITH
DEFINED BOUNDARIES HAVING 1,500 INHABITANTS OR OVER IN 1981.

OTHER STATED RELIGIONS		"NO RELIGION"		NO INFORMATION SUPPLIED		DISTRICT
MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	
79	65	89	46	185	178	LONGFORD COUNTY
8	7	15	8	36	26	BALLYMAHON R.D.
8	12	20	13	28	21	GRANARD NO. 1 R.D.
1	4	4	4	4	4	GRANARD
7	8	16	9	24	17	REM.
7	5	14	5	25	34	LONGFORD U.D.
56	41	40	20	96	97	LONGFORD R.D.
10	8	2	-	23	34	ENVIRONS OF LONGFORD
46	33	38	20	73	63	REM.
212						

DISTRICTS, IN TOWNS WITH LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES; IN ENVIRONS OF TOWNS WITH
DEFINED BOUNDARIES HAVING 1,500 INHABITANTS OR OVER IN 1981.

OTHER STATED RELIGIONS		"NO RELIGION"		NO INFORMATION SUPPLIED		DISTRICT
MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	
140	123	117	78	315	279	OFFALY COUNTY
11	13	10	10	16	14	BIRR U.D.
16	15	21	7	67	46	BIRR NO. 1 R.D.
5	3	3	1	1	-	ENVIRONS OF BIRR
11	12	18	6	66	46	REM.
4	4	18	12	40	37	EDENDERRY NO. 1 R.D.
1	-	8	5	16	15	EDENDERRY
1	1	2	1	2	2	ENVIRONS OF EDENDERRY
2	3	8	6	22	20	REM.
38	39	7	7</			

TABLE 6 (CONTD.):- MALES AND FEMALES, CLASSIFIED BY RELIGION, IN URBAN AND RURAL LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES AND IN TOWNS WITHOUT LEGALLY

DISTRICT	TOTAL		CATHOLIC		CHURCH OF IRELAND	
	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES
WICKLOW COUNTY	43663	43786	37770	37895	3324	3618
BALTINGLASS NO. 1 R.D.	5643	5098	4913	4426	536	481
BRAY U.D.	11102	11751	9903	10513	417	566
RATHDOWN NO. 2 R.D.	5826	6048	4442	4575	812	958
GREYSTONES-DELGANY (PT.)	3510	3785	2719	2891	463	594
REM.	2316	2263	1723	1684	349	364
ARKLOW U.D.	4269	4377	3955	4094	109	116
WICKLOW U.D.	2482	2696	2270	2476	86</	

DISTRICTS, IN TOWNS WITH LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES; IN ENVIRONS OF TOWNS WITH
DEFINED BOUNDARIES HAVING 1,500 INHABITANTS OR OVER IN 1981.

OTHER STATED RELIGIONS		"NO RELIGION"		NO INFORMATION SUPPLIED		DISTRICT
MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	
483	543	1044	713	1042	1017	WICKLOW COUNTY
32	44	84	66	78	81	BALTINGLASS NO. 1 R.D.
151	174	327	215	304	283	BRAY U.D.
113	126	242	185	217	204	RATHDOWN NO. 2 R.D.
78	86	133	95	117	119	GREYSTONES-DELGANY (PT.)
35	40	109	90	100	85	REM.
43	33	71	34	91	100	ARKLOW U.D.
19	30	26	19	81	68	WICKLOW U.D.
124	129	27				

DISTRICTS, IN TOWNS WITH LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES; IN ENVIRONS OF TOWNS WITH DEFINED BOUNDARIES HAVING 1,500 INHABITANTS OR OVER IN 1981.

OTHER STATED RELIGIONS		"NO RELIGION"		NO INFORMATION SUPPLIED		DISTRICT
MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	
85	84	201	137	557	499	TIPPERARY COUNTY, SOUTH RIDING
-	-	21	16	58	45	CARRICK-ON-SUIR U.D.
6	2	8	3	18	17	CARRICK-ON-SUIR NO. 1 R.D.
2	2	4	2	5	3	CASHEL U.D.
10	8	34	22	78	67	CASHEL R.D.
-	-	-	-	3	3	ENVIRONS OF CASHEL
-	-	-	-	-	-	FETHARD
-	-	-	-	-	1	ENVIRONS OF FETHARD
10	8	34	22	75	63	REM.
17	18					

DISTRICTS, IN TOWNS WITH LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES; IN ENVIRONS OF TOWNS WITH
DEFINED BOUNDARIES HAVING 1,500 INHABITANTS OR OVER IN 1981.

OTHER STATED RELIGIONS		"NO RELIGION"		NO INFORMATION SUPPLIED		DISTRICT
MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	
						CONNACHT
293	259	964	603	2102	1785	GALWAY COUNTY
19	22	17	10	27	20	BALLINASLOE U.D.
3	3	17	13	51	53	BALLINASLOE NO. 1 R.D.
-	-	-	-	-	-	ENVIRONS OF BALLINASLOE (PT.)
3	3	17	13	51	53	REM.
19	24	63	51	173	133	CLIFDEN R.D.
155	106	397	224	545	453	GALWAY M.B.
47	55	218	145	390	338	GALWAY

DISTRICTS, IN TOWNS WITH LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES; IN ENVIRONS OF TOWNS WITH
DEFINED BOUNDARIES HAVING 1,500 INHABITANTS OR OVER IN 1981.

OTHER STATED RELIGIONS		"NO RELIGION"		NO INFORMATION SUPPLIED		DISTRICT
MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	
35	32	121	97	378	316	ROSCOMMON COUNTY
6	5	12	12	54	53	ATHLONE NO. 2 R.D.
-	-	1	-	1	-	ENVIRONS OF ATHLONE (PT.)
-	-	-	-	-	-	ENVIRONS OF BALLINASLOE (PT.)
6	5	11	12	53	53	REM.
14	12	42	30	96	56	BOYLE NO. 1 R.D.
9	9	7	5	14	12	BOYLE
-	2	3	1	2	1	ENVIRONS OF BOYLE
-	-	1	1	-	1	CARRICK-ON-SHANNON (PT.)
5						

DISTRICTS, IN TOWNS WITH LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES; IN ENVIRONS OF TOWNS WITH DEFINED BOUNDARIES HAVING 1,500 INHABITANTS OR OVER IN 1981.

OTHER STATED RELIGIONS		"NO RELIGION"		NO INFORMATION SUPPLIED		DISTRICT
MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	MALES	FEMALES	
3502	3155	480	328	1122	1073	DONEGAL COUNTY
5	6	8	8	14	16	BUNDORAN U.D.
57	52	15	7	71	69	BALLYSHANNON R.D.
17	14	8	5	45	39	BALLYSHANNON
1	-	1	-	4	2	ENVIRONS OF BALLYSHANNON
39	38	6	2	22	28	REM.
246	217	41	33	91	85	DONEGAL R.D.
16	17	12	8	19	14	DONEGAL
230	200	29	25	72	71	REM.

