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GENERAL DETAILS

Introduction

A Census of Population was taken on the night of Sunday, 13 April 1986 in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order 1986 (S.I. No. 61 of 1986)*. Copies of the Census questionnaire and of accompanying instructions are reproduced in Appendix 1.

This volume of the detailed Census Report provides the population for different territorial divisions of the country classified by sex - most of this information has already been published in the series of Local Population Reports (Appendix 5). The areas are defined in Appendices 2 - 4. All are as defined at the date of the 1986 Census of Population.

Subsequent volumes will analyse the population by such factors as age, marital status, household composition, occupation, etc..

Coverage

The Census figures relate to the de facto population - i.e. the population recorded for each area represents the total of all persons present within its boundaries on the night of Sunday, 13 April 1986, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 14 April 1986 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 area are excluded.

The date of the Census was 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.

Conduct of the Census

The Census enumeration was carried out by a specially recruited temporary field force consisting of 327 full-time supervisors and 3,221 part-time enumerators. The Census questionnaires were distributed during the three weeks immediately preceding the Census night and the collection of the completed questionnaires commenced the following day. The enumerators examined the questionnaires at the time of collection to ensure that they were correctly completed; and, where necessary, they assisted householders in their completion.

*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 Ministerial Functions) Order 1983 (S.I. No. 13 of 1983).

Production of Results

Each enumerator prepared in the first instance a summary of the population in the corresponding enumeration area. These summaries formed the basis for the provisional 1986 population results issued in two Census publications within months of the Census date*. The completed questionnaires for the individual households were subsequently transmitted to the Census Office for processing.

The enumeration summaries, dwelling listings and enumeration maps were checked for consistency in county order and used to determine the boundaries of Census Towns and suburbs/environs of towns with legal boundaries. The first stage clerical scrutiny and computer processing of the entries for date of birth, marital status and relationship to head of household on the Census questionnaire proceeded concurrently in the same county order. These two operations combined allowed the publication of the first set of final Census results in a special series of Local Population Reports (see Appendix 5) as individual counties were completed over a seven month period commencing in July 1987. A summary report for the State was issued in November 1987.

These operations also form the basis of the first three national volumes of the detailed Census report. The computer processing of the remaining information on the Census questionnaires continues during 1988 in the same county order and will provide the basis for a second set of Local Population Reports and national volumes.

Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS)

Small area population statistics for Urban Districts, Rural Districts, Towns, District Electoral Divisions, etc. from the 1986 Census are being made available on a commercial basis in two phases. The first phase information is already available containing detailed classifications of the population by age, sex and marital status and of households by size and by age, sex and marital status of the head of the household. Details of family units classified by size, age of youngest child, etc. are also provided. The second phase information containing classification by economic status, occupation, etc. will become available for individual counties once the corresponding second stage processing is completed.

These small area population statistics are available in the form of computer printout, magnetic tape or diskette. For full details of the contents and charges contact:

Central Statistics Office,
Census of Population Division,
Ardee Road,
Rathmines,
Dublin 6.

Phone (01) 977144 Extension 304

*Census of Population of Ireland 1986

Preliminary Population figures (Pl. 4224), 14 July 1986

Preliminary Report (Pl. 4375), September 1986

Comparable 1986 and 1981 Populations for Areas

Throughout this publication every effort has been made to give comparable population figures at the 1981 Census. Consequently, figures given in this publication will differ from those published for the 1981 Census in the case of administrative districts and Census towns where alterations in boundaries were made between 1981 and 1986.

Area Measurements

The measurement of area in hectares is shown where possible in Tables 11 and 12. The areas shown are exclusive of the areas of certain lakes, rivers and tideways. Since the boundaries of Census Towns and those defined for the suburbs and environs of legally defined towns have no statutory designation no area figures are available in these cases. It has not been possible to compile the areas within certain legal boundaries altered since 1981.

Figures for Marriages, Births and Deaths

The statistics of marriages, births and deaths contained in Tables 1 and 5 of this publication are not collected as part of the Census but are derived from the registration of these events recorded by the Office of the Registrar General. Many births and deaths occur in institutions which may be distant from the usual place of residence and are registered in districts in which the institutions are situated. For the purpose of this publication 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 Table 5.

COMMENTARY

Population of State and Provinces

The population enumerated on Census night 1986 was 3,540,600 persons compared with 3,443,400 in April 1981 representing an increase of 97,200 persons or 2.8 per cent. The average annual rate of population increase for the 1981-1986 intercensal period was 0.6 per cent compared with 1.1 per cent and 1.6 per cent in the 1979-1981 and 1971-1979 intercensal periods respectively. The continuing increase in population observed at each Census since 1961 has restored the total State figure to the level which pertained in 1888/1889. 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 - 1986.

Year	Total	Leinster	Münster	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
1986	3,540,643	1,852,649	1,020,577	431,409	236,008
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
1986	1,769,690	913,736	514,708	220,094	121,152
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
1986	1,770,953	938,913	505,869	211,315	114,856

A growth in population was recorded for each of the provinces between 1981 and 1986 amounting to 3.5 per cent for Leinster, 2.2 per cent for Munster, 1.6 per cent for Connacht and 2.5 per cent for Ulster (three counties). This was the third consecutive Census to record a population increase for Connacht and Ulster (three counties) following the continuous downward trend over the previous 130 years since the Census of 1841.

Ratio of the Number of Females to Males

Between 1981 and 1986 the number of males in the State increased by 40,300 while the number of females increased by 56,900 or 16,600 more than the increase for males. For each province the increase in the number of females was greater than that for males. 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 1,000 Males in each Province, 1926 - 1986.

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
1986	1,001	1,028	983	960	948

Prior to 1986 there had been an excess of males in the population at every Census since 1926, the 1936 figure of 952 females per 1,000 males being the lowest ever recorded. The male excess declined subsequently and for the five Censuses between 1961 and 1981 the ratio was fairly stable at around 990. The 1986 Census is the first to show an excess (albeit marginal) of females in the population since the foundation of the State.

In 1961 the female to male ratio for Leinster was 15 per cent higher than that for Connacht. Since then the provincial differences have been narrowing so that by 1986 the ratio for Leinster was just over 8 per cent higher than that for Ulster (three counties).

Population of Counties and County Boroughs

Every county and borough experienced an increase in population between 1981 and 1986 with the exception of County Leitrim and the County Boroughs of Dublin, Cork and Limerick. Table C gives population figures for counties and county boroughs for 1981 and 1986 together with the actual and percentage changes for the period 1981-1986.

In Leinster increases exceeding 20 per cent occurred in Dublin-Belgard and Dublin-Fingal. The counties adjacent to Dublin continued to experience substantial population growth between 1981 and 1986, increases of 11.6, 8.9 and 8.1 per cent being recorded for Kildare, Meath and Wicklow respectively. However the population of Dublin County Borough was 42,100 or 7.7 per cent lower in 1986 than in 1981.

In Munster population declines of 7.3 and 2.3 per cent were recorded for the County Boroughs of Limerick and Cork respectively. A population increase was observed for all the other Counties and County Boroughs, the largest percentage increases being 7.3, 5.0 and 4.3 per cent for the Counties of Limerick, Cork and Clare respectively.

In Connacht the population of Galway County Borough increased by almost 3,900 while the rest of Galway showed an increase in excess of 2,600. Small increases were observed for Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo while the population of Leitrim declined by about 600.

In Ulster there were increases of 3.6 and 2.3 per cent for Donegal and Monaghan respectively while the population of Cavan was virtually unchanged.

The map shown on page 13 illustrates the growth in population in different Rural Districts* over the 1981-1986 period. The heavily shaded areas are those where the highest increases in population took place. It can be seen 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 Waterford and Galway.

*Each of the County Boroughs is separately distinguished as are the electoral counties in Dublin. Detailed information on the population growth with County Boroughs and the adjoining Rural Districts 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 1981 - 1986 (- = Decrease)	
	1981	1986	Actual	Percentage
TOTAL	3,443,405	3,540,643	97,238	2.8
LEINSTER	1,790,521	1,852,649	62,128	3.5
Carlow	39,820	40,988	1,168	2.9
Dublin Co. and Co. Borough	1,003,164	1,021,449	18,285	1.8
Dublin Co. Borough*	544,833	502,749	-42,084	- 7.7
Dublin - Belgard*	165,264	199,546	34,282	20.7
Dublin - Fingal*	114,951	138,479	23,528	20.5
Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown*	178,116	180,675	2,559	1.4
Kildare	104,122	116,247	12,125	11.6
Kilkenny	70,806	73,186	2,380	3.4
Laoighis	51,171	53,284	2,113	4.1
Longford	31,140	31,496	356	1.1
Louth	88,514	91,810	3,296	3.7
Meath	95,419	103,881	8,462	8.9
Offaly	58,312	59,835	1,523	2.6
Westmeath	61,523	63,379	1,856	3.0
Wexford	99,081	102,552	3,471	3.5
Wicklow	87,449	94,542	7,093	8.1
MUNSTER	998,315	1,020,577	22,262	2.2
Clare	87,567	91,344	3,777	4.3
Cork Co. and Co. Borough	402,465	412,735	10,270	2.6
Cork Co. Borough	136,344	133,271	- 3,073	- 2.3
Cork	266,121	279,464	13,343	5.0
Kerry	122,770	124,159	1,389	1.1
Limerick Co. and Co. Borough	161,661	164,569	2,908	1.8
Limerick Co. Borough	60,736	56,279	- 4,457	- 7.3
Limerick	100,925	108,290	7,365	7.3
Tipperary, N.R.	58,984	59,522	538	0.9
Tipperary, S.R.	76,277	77,097	820	1.1
Waterford Co. and Co. Borough	88,591	91,151	2,560	2.9
Waterford Co. Borough	38,473	39,529	1,056	2.7
Waterford	50,118	51,622	1,504	3.0
CONNACHT	424,410	431,409	6,999	1.6
Galway Co. and Co. Borough	172,018	178,552	6,534	3.8
Galway Co. Borough*	43,210	47,104	3,894	9.0
Galway*	128,808	131,448	2,640	2.0
Leitrim	27,609	27,035	- 574	- 2.1
Mayo	114,766	115,184	418	0.4
Roscommon	54,543	54,592	49	0.1
Sligo	55,474	56,046	572	1.0
ULSTER (part of)	230,159	236,008	5,849	2.5
Cavan	53,855	53,965	110	0.2
Donegal	125,112	129,664	4,552	3.6
Monaghan	51,192	52,379	1,187	2.3

*As defined in the Local Government (Reorganisation) Act, 1985 - See Appendix 3.