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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, Volume 1 of the detailed Census report.

This second volume of the detailed report provides classifications of the population by age, sex and marital status. Some important basic classifications for these variables were previously published in "Census 86 – Summary Population Report" in November 1987. The territorial divisions of the country distinguished in this report are defined in Appendixes 2 – 4 of Volume 1.

Subsequent Census volumes will analyse the population by such factors as household composition, occupation, industry, 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 fulltime 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 his/her 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 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 volumes of the detailed Census report. The computer processing of the remaining information on the Census questionnaires will provide the basis for a second set of Local Population Reports and for the remaining volumes of the detailed report.

A complete list of the reports on the 1986 Census published to date is given in Appendix 2.

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 and magnetic tape. 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.

COMMENTARY

Changes in the Age Distribution

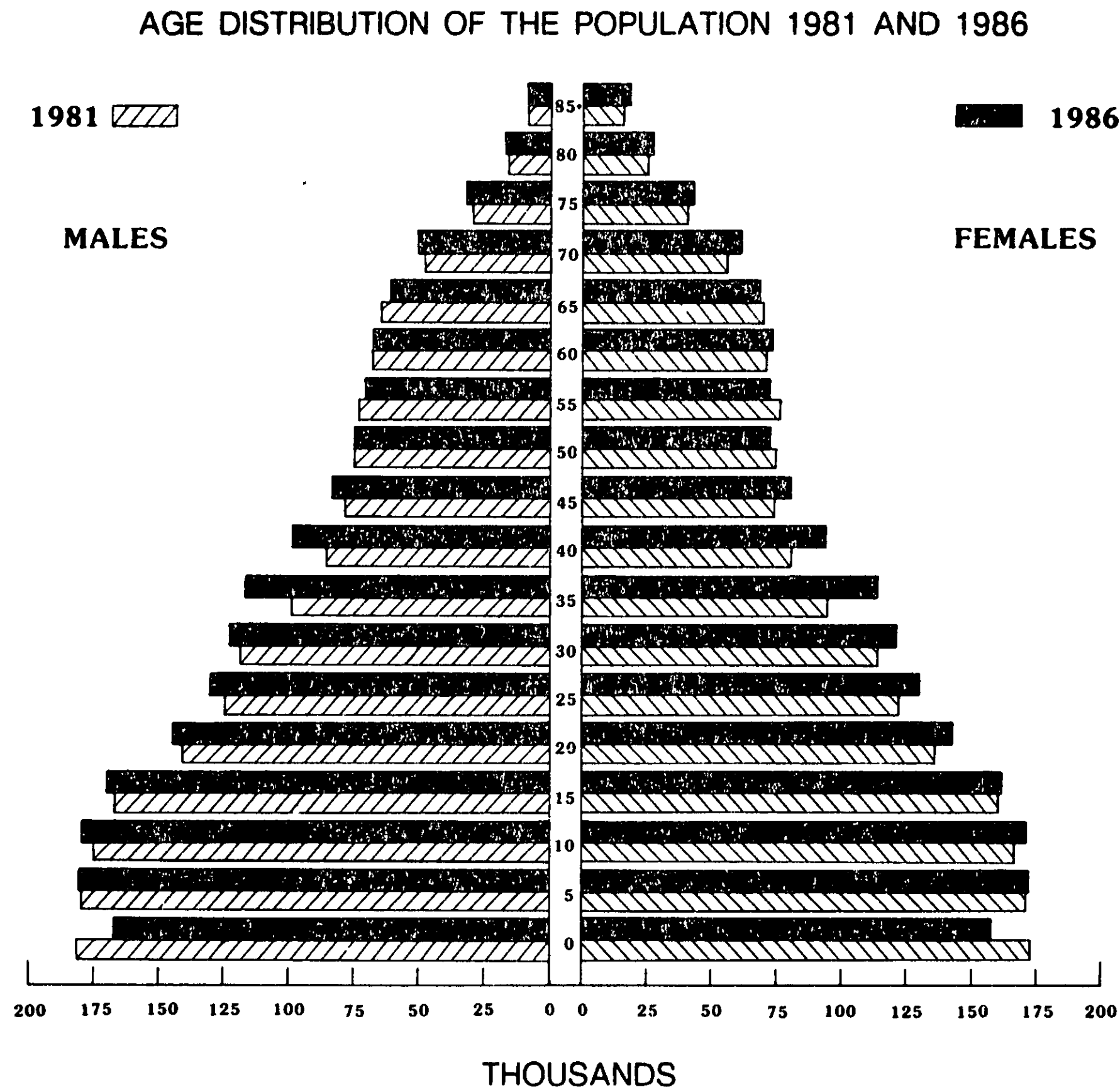
Between April 1981 and April 1986 the population increased by 97,200 or 2.8 per cent. The rates of change varied considerably between different age groups reflecting the effect of the natural progression on the 1981 population structure together with births, deaths and migration in the five year period. Table A following contains an overall summary of the principal results according to broad age groups with corresponding details for some earlier Censuses. Between 1981 and 1986 there was an increase of 61,700 or 17.1 per cent in the number of persons in the 35-44 age group. This increase accounted for almost two-thirds of the total increase. The 0-4 and 55-64 age groups experienced declines of 8.2 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively; while the remaining age groups increased by between 1.4 and 4.8 cent.

TABLE A: POPULATION IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS 1971 - 1986.

Age Group	Population (000)				Change in Population 1981 - 1986		Percentage Change 1971 - 1981	
	1971	1979	1981	1986	Actual (000)	Percentage	10 year Actual	5 year Equivalent
0 - 4 years	315.7	343.5	353.0	324.1	- 28.9	- 8.2	+ 11.8	+ 5.7
5 - 14 "	615.5	686.4	690.7	700.6	+ 9.9	+ 1.4	+ 13.8	+ 6.7
15 - 24 "	483.0	583.6	602.6	617.5	+ 14.9	+ 2.5	+ 24.8	+ 11.7
25 - 34 "	324.3	459.5	478.0	501.1	+ 23.1	+ 4.8	+ 47.4	+ 21.4
35 - 44 "	301.8	337.9	359.8	421.5	+ 61.7	+ 17.1	+ 19.2	+ 9.2
45 - 54 "	319.2	304.1	301.5	309.3	+ 7.8	+ 2.6	- 5.5	- 2.8
55 - 64 "	288.9	291.7	288.9	282.2	- 6.7	- 2.3	- 0.0	- 0.0
65 years and over	329.8	361.4	369.0	384.4	+ 15.4	+ 4.2	+ 11.9	+ 5.8
Total	2,978.2	3,368.2	3,443.4	3,540.6	+ 97.2	+ 2.8	+ 15.6	+ 7.5

The 15.6 per cent increase in the 1971-1981 period is equivalent to about 7.5 per cent in each five year period, or almost three times the rate of increase in the 1981-1986 period. Most of the difference in the rate of population growth was due to the effects of net migration which in the 1971-1981 period was 104,000 inward while for 1981-1986 it was 72,000 outward. The age effect of net migration may be seen in Table I.

The effects on age structure of the developments between 1981 and 1986 are illustrated in the form of population pyramids in the following diagram.



NUMBERS IN THE CENTRAL COLUMN REPRESENT THE LOWEST AGES IN THE GROUP

The effect of the changing numbers in the different age groups on the overall age structure of the total population is shown in Table B.

TABLE B: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS - 1926 TO 1986.

Year	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	"Dependent" groups. 0-14 years and 65 years and over
1926	29.2	17.7	25.0	18.9	9.1	38.3
1936	27.6	17.6	25.4	19.6	9.7	37.3
1946	27.9	16.3	26.1	19.1	10.6	38.5
1951	28.9	15.0	26.0	19.4	10.7	39.6
1961	31.1	13.9	22.5	21.3	11.2	42.3
1966	31.2	15.4	21.3	20.9	11.2	42.4
1971	31.3	16.2	21.0	20.4	11.1	42.3
1979	30.6	17.3	23.7	17.7	10.7	41.3
1981	30.3	17.5	24.3	17.1	10.7	41.0
1986	28.9	17.4	26.1	16.7	10.9	39.8

Those under 25 years of age accounted for 46.4 per cent of the population, down 1.4 percentage points since 1981. The 25-44 age group increased by 1.8 percentage points to 26.1 per cent. The proportion of the population accounted for by the "dependent" age groups continued its steady decline since 1966.

Age Distribution by Area

Considerable differences exist in the distribution of the population by age within different areas of the country. Table C compares the age distribution in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas†.

TABLE C: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN AGE GROUPS FOR AGGREGATE TOWN AND AGGREGATE RURAL AREAS, 1986.

Age Group	Persons		Males		Females	
	Aggregate Town Areas	Aggregate Rural Areas	Aggregate Town Areas	Aggregate Rural Areas	Aggregate Town Areas	Aggregate Rural Areas
0 – 14 years	28.2	29.9	29.7	29.6	26.7	30.2
15 – 24 "	19.2	15.1	19.6	15.5	18.9	14.7
25 – 44 "	27.0	24.9	27.3	25.1	26.7	24.6
45 – 64 "	16.3	17.2	16.0	17.5	16.5	16.9
65 and over	9.3	12.8	7.4	12.2	11.2	13.5
Total	100.–	100.–	100.–	100.–	100.–	100.–

The rural population contained proportionately more persons in the upper age group than the urban population with 30 per cent of persons in rural areas aged 45 years and over compared to less than 26 per cent in urban areas. This disparity is particularly pronounced in the case of males since less than 24 per cent of males in the Aggregate Town Areas are over 45 years of age. The proportion of females aged 15–44 years which was almost 46 per cent in town areas was considerably lower for rural areas at just over 39 per cent.

The age distribution in each County and County Borough is shown in Table D. The proportion of the population under 15 years of age ranged from about 22 per cent in Dublin County Borough to just over 36 per cent in Dublin–Belgard. As already mentioned just over 46 per cent of the population was under 25 years of age, ranging from under 40 per cent for Leitrim to almost 53 per cent for Dublin–Belgard. Compared to the average for the State of about 11 per cent, the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over was very low in Dublin–Belgard (under 4 per cent) and Dublin–Fingal (over 5 per cent); and high in Mayo and Roscommon (both about 16 per cent) and Leitrim (18 per cent). Generally the proportion of the population in the “dependent” age groups is lowest in the Borough areas; this is to be expected when one considers the migration from rural to urban areas of persons of working age.

The Sex Ratio

The 1986 Census of Population is the first since 1901 to show an excess (albeit marginal) of females in the population as a whole. However, the number of females per 1,000 males varies between the different age groups, with the type of area – i.e. whether urban or rural – having a significant effect. The ratios are compared in Table E for each Census since 1926 and for Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas. It should be noted that the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas referred to here are as defined at the dates of the respective Censuses. It is not possible, owing to changes in town boundaries, to ensure that the figures for the different years relate to identical areas.

† Aggregate Town Areas: Population clusters of 1,500 or more.

Aggregate Rural Areas: Population residing in all areas outside clusters of 1,500 or more inhabitants. See definition in Appendix 2 of Volume 1.

**TABLE D: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN AGE GROUPS,
FOR EACH COUNTY AND COUNTY BOROUGH, 1986.**

County or County Borough	Age Group					
	0 -14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 years and over	"Dependent" groups, 0-14 years and 65 years and over
State	28.9	17.4	26.1	16.7	10.9	39.8
Carlow	31.1	17.2	25.4	16.4	9.9	41.0
Dublin Co. and Co. Borough	27.0	19.9	27.4	16.7	8.9	35.9
Dublin Co. Borough *	21.9	22.5	24.8	19.3	11.6	33.5
Dublin-Belgard *	36.2	16.4	31.8	11.8	3.8	40.0
Dublin-Fingal *	35.0	15.2	32.4	12.1	5.3	40.3
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown*	25.1	20.4	25.9	18.7	9.9	35.0
Kildare	33.2	16.8	30.0	13.2	7.0	40.1
Kilkenny	29.8	15.8	26.4	16.8	11.1	41.0
Laoghais	30.5	16.4	25.0	16.8	11.3	41.8
Longford	29.9	15.2	24.4	17.4	13.1	43.0
Louth	30.2	17.7	26.3	16.2	9.6	39.8
Meath	32.8	16.0	27.7	14.8	8.8	41.6
Offaly	31.3	16.8	24.4	16.9	10.6	41.9
Westmeath	30.0	17.3	25.1	17.0	10.6	40.6
Wexford	30.5	16.4	25.2	16.8	11.1	41.7
Wicklow	30.9	16.2	27.9	15.4	9.5	40.4
Clare	30.1	15.0	26.0	16.7	12.2	42.3
Cork Co. and Co. Borough	28.6	17.5	25.8	16.9	11.2	39.8
Cork Co. Borough	25.3	21.7	24.0	18.4	10.5	35.8
Cork	30.2	15.5	26.6	16.3	11.5	41.7
Kerry	28.3	15.0	24.5	17.8	14.5	42.8
Limerick Co. and Co. Borough	29.4	17.8	26.0	16.5	10.3	39.7
Limerick Co. Borough	26.5	21.3	24.3	18.0	9.9	36.4
Limerick	30.8	15.9	27.0	15.8	10.5	41.4
Tipperary, N.R.	29.6	16.0	24.5	17.8	12.1	41.6
Tipperary, S.R.	29.7	16.6	24.7	17.5	11.5	41.2
Waterford Co. and Co. Borough	29.3	17.4	25.5	17.1	10.6	40.0
Waterford Co. Borough	28.1	20.0	25.7	17.0	9.2	37.3
Waterford	30.3	15.4	25.4	17.2	11.7	42.0
Galway Co. and Co. Borough	28.8	17.6	24.9	16.3	12.4	41.2
Galway Co. Borough*	26.8	24.5	26.6	13.6	8.6	35.4
Galway*	29.5	15.1	24.3	17.2	13.8	43.3
Leitrim	26.5	13.3	23.0	19.1	18.0	44.5
Mayo	28.9	14.1	23.5	17.5	16.0	44.9
Roscommon	27.9	14.2	23.1	19.1	15.7	43.6
Sligo	27.7	15.7	24.9	17.5	14.1	41.9
Cavan	28.9	14.7	24.0	18.4	14.0	42.9
Donegal	30.4	15.8	24.0	16.3	13.6	44.0
Monaghan	30.4	15.6	24.6	17.1	12.3	42.7

* As defined in the Local Government (Reorganisation) Act 1985.

TABLE E: FEMALES PER 1,000 MALES - 1926 TO 1986.

Year	All ages	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
TOTAL						
1926	972	965	946	996	917	1,113
1936	952	970	917	947	928	1,034
1946	977	964	964	976	984	1,020
1951	965	959	918	966	971	1,041
1961	990	955	952	1,023	972	1,110
1966	990	960	950	1,004	972	1,154
1971	991	957	957	979	986	1,189
1979	989	954	958	955	1,004	1,217
1981	991	949	962	961	1,006	1,234
1986	1,001	949	967	981	1,000	1,278
AGGREGATE TOWN AREAS						
1926	1,103	994	1,121	1,146	1,097	1,461
1936	1,110	994	1,194	1,124	1,105	1,395
1946	1,169	987	1,251	1,253	1,210	1,373
1951	1,119	975	1,134	1,178	1,163	1,385
1961	1,124	966	1,141	1,183	1,180	1,476
1966	1,103	966	1,105	1,115	1,173	1,522
1971	1,086	960	1,075	1,071	1,168	1,557
1979	*	*	*	*	*	*
1981	1,061	951	1,043	1,025	1,122	1,599
1986	1,061	952	1,023	1,038	1,093	1,613
AGGREGATE RURAL AREAS						
1926	916	952	863	920	850	1,031
1936	874	956	781	848	852	934
1946	875	950	802	832	876	906
1951	868	947	757	828	863	910
1961	887	945	786	890	840	939
1966	892	954	797	890	837	964
1971	896	953	827	869	852	976
1979	*	*	*	*	*	*
1981	910	947	849	878	893	988
1986	928	947	880	907	897	1,033

* Information on Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas is not available for 1979.

In the urban areas, although there were changes in individual age groups, the overall sex imbalance was unchanged since 1981 at 1,061 females per 1,000 males. In the rural areas, the sex imbalance was

reduced in all age groups over 15 years and overall the number of females per 1,000 males increased from 910 in 1981 to 928 in 1986. For persons aged 65 years and over there were in excess of 16 females in the urban areas and almost 13 females in the State, for every 10 males.

Marital Status

The 1986 Census was the first in which information on marital status of ever married persons was collected on the basis of the *de facto* rather than the legal status.

The information was sought in the following format:

MARITAL STATUS — for persons born on or before 13 April, 1971													
<p>Was the person ever married?</p> <p>Please ✓ the appropriate box.</p>	<p>What is the marital status of persons who were ever married ("Yes" at Q 5)</p> <p>Indicate the present actual marital status irrespective of the legal status.</p> <p>Please ✓ the appropriate box</p>												
<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1</p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/> 2</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 1</td> <td>Married but Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Remarried following widowhood <input type="checkbox"/> 2</td> <td>Deserted <input type="checkbox"/> 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>following dissolution of previous marriage (annulment or divorce) <input type="checkbox"/> 3</td> <td>Marriage Annulled <input type="checkbox"/> 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Married <input type="checkbox"/> 4</td> <td>Legally Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Other Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Divorced in another country <input type="checkbox"/> 9</td> </tr> </table>	Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Married but Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5	Remarried following widowhood <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Deserted <input type="checkbox"/> 5	following dissolution of previous marriage (annulment or divorce) <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Marriage Annulled <input type="checkbox"/> 6	Married <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Legally Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 7		Other Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 8		Divorced in another country <input type="checkbox"/> 9
Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 1	Married but Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5												
Remarried following widowhood <input type="checkbox"/> 2	Deserted <input type="checkbox"/> 5												
following dissolution of previous marriage (annulment or divorce) <input type="checkbox"/> 3	Marriage Annulled <input type="checkbox"/> 6												
Married <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Legally Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 7												
	Other Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 8												
	Divorced in another country <input type="checkbox"/> 9												

The numbers returned for each of the nine marital status categories distinguished are shown separately in Tables 5 and 6. The historical Tables 1–4 distinguish three categories only – i.e. single, ever married and widowed. While the remainder of the tables classify the population into four categories – i.e. single, married, separated and widowed.

There were 988,280 single persons aged 15 years or over; 1,304,095 persons were married, including remarried; 186,322 persons were widowed; and there were 37,245 persons returned as "separated" under the following headings:

TABLE F: SEPARATED PERSONS CLASSIFIED BY SEX, 1986.

Separated Category	Persons	Males	Females
Deserted	11,622	2,584	9,038
Marriage Annulled	983	443	540
Legally Separated	7,187	3,299	3,888
Other Separated	13,062	6,090	6,972
Divorced in another country	4,391	2,222	2,169
Total	37,245	14,638	22,607

Some 57 per cent of the total separated were aged 25–44 years, while 32 per cent were aged 45–64 years. There were 14,600 separated males and 22,600 separated females equivalent to 2.2 per cent and 3.3 per cent, respectively, of the total of ever married, excluding widowed. These rates varied between age groups and counties. For example, for females the percentage separated was highest at 4.0 per cent for the 35–44 age group and at 5.2 per cent for Dublin (including the County Borough). In contrast the rate was under 1.5 per cent for Counties Roscommon, Leitrim and Cavan.

TABLE G: POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER CLASSIFIED BY MARITAL STATUS 1971–1986.

Marital Status	Population (000)				Change in Population 1981–1986	
	1971	1979	1981	1986	Actual (000)	Percentage
Males						
Single	465.9	508.4	516.8	540.9	24.1	+ 4.7
Ever Married	514.9	619.9	639.8	665.1	25.3	+ 4.0
Widowed	39.1	37.9	37.3	38.0	0.7	+ 1.9
Total	1,020.0	1,166.2	1,193.9	1,244.0	50.1	+ 4.2
Females						
Single	374.3	404.8	415.2	447.4	32.2	+ 7.8
Ever Married	523.1	626.7	648.3	676.2	27.9	+ 4.3
Widowed	129.8	140.6	142.3	148.3	6.0	+ 4.2
Total	1,027.1	1,172.1	1,205.7	1,271.9	66.2	+ 5.5

In Table G males and females are classified into the three marital status categories "single", "ever married" and "widowed". There was an increase of 50,000 in the number of males aged 15 years and over between 1981 and 1986 with increases of 24,000 in the single category and over 25,000 in the ever married category. The corresponding 66,000 increase in the number of females comprised increases of 32,000 in the single category, 28,000 in the ever married category and 6,000 in the number of widows.

Table H shows the percentage of the population who were single in different age groups for 1986 and for earlier Censuses, in so far as the figures are available, back to the year 1841. Between 1981 and 1986

quite large increases in the proportions single can be observed for both males and females in the 20-24 and 25-34 age groups reflecting continual decline in marriage rates.

TABLE H: PERCENTAGE SINGLE IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS - 1841 TO 1986.

	Year	Age group						
		15-19 years	20-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over
Males	1841	†	†	43.3*	15.4*	10.0*	†	†
	1851	†	†	60.7	20.9	11.6	†	†
	1861	99.8	91.9	56.8	23.9	14.3	11.1	11.7
	1871	99.8	92.6	57.3	25.5	16.4	12.7	12.2
	1881	99.9	94.1	62.0	27.1	16.4	13.4	12.0
	1891	99.9	95.8	67.3	33.0	19.7	15.6	13.8
	1901	99.9	96.3	71.8	38.3	23.8	18.2	15.5
	1911	99.9	96.6	74.5	44.5	28.6	22.7	17.7
	1926	99.9	96.0	71.7	45.0	31.4	26.2	20.5
	1936	99.9	96.2	73.8	44.2	33.5	28.2	23.6
	1946	99.8	95.0	70.4	43.0	32.1	30.0	25.4
	1951	99.9	94.9	67.4	40.5	31.0	28.8	26.6
	1961	99.8	92.5	58.0	36.2	29.7	28.1	26.7
	1966	99.7	89.6	49.8	33.4	29.1	27.7	26.8
	1971	99.5	84.6	41.3	28.9	28.1	27.1	26.8
	1979	99.3	81.6	34.1	21.1	25.3	26.6	26.3
	1981	99.4	82.4	34.2	19.4	23.9	26.3	26.0
	1986	99.8	88.7	38.3	17.7	20.2	25.1	25.3
Females	1841	†	†	28.0*	14.7*	11.7*	†	†
	1851	†	†	39.1	15.2	11.4	†	†
	1861	97.8	76.2	39.1	18.5	13.5	13.3	13.5
	1871	98.1	77.7	38.2	19.8	15.2	13.4	14.3
	1881	98.8	82.5	41.2	19.2	15.5	13.7	13.7
	1891	99.2	86.0	48.1	23.1	16.6	15.8	15.3
	1901	99.4	88.0	52.9	27.8	20.0	17.3	17.4
	1911	99.5	88.4	55.5	31.0	24.0	20.8	18.5
	1926	99.3	87.0	52.6	29.5	23.9	23.6	19.8
	1936	99.1	86.4	54.8	30.2	25.1	23.7	22.7
	1946	98.4	82.5	48.3	30.0	25.6	24.4	23.3
	1951	98.9	82.3	45.6	27.6	25.7	24.7	23.7
	1961	98.9	78.2	37.1	22.7	23.1	25.0	24.3
	1966	98.4	74.8	31.0	20.4	20.8	24.4	24.8
	1971	97.9	68.9	25.7	17.5	18.8	22.0	25.1
	1979	97.3	66.3	21.5	12.3	15.7	18.9	23.8
	1981	97.7	67.7	21.9	11.4	14.6	18.2	23.2
	1986	99.1	77.7	26.4	10.7	12.1	16.5	21.7

* Age groupings for 1841 were 26-35, 36-45, 46-55 and 56 and over.

† Particulars not available.

Net Migration

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.

In the 1981-1986 intercensal period births (333,000) exceeded deaths (164,000) by 169,000. Since the population increase was 97,000 the difference of 72,000 is taken as an estimate of the extent to which outward migration exceeded inward migration in the five year period.

The availability of the 1986 Census results by age groups makes it possible to analyse further this measure of population movement by deriving estimates of net migration for each age cohort i.e. for each group of persons born in a specific period. This is done by comparing the actual numbers in the particular age group at the 1986 Census with the numbers in the same cohort of the 1981 Census having first allowed for deaths over the five years. The results are set out in Table I. Interpretation is perhaps made easier if described in terms of year of birth. For example the figures shown in the table for males in the 20 to 24 age group relate to persons born between April 1961 and April 1966 and yield an estimated net outflow of 21,700 between 1981 and 1986.

TABLE I: ESTIMATED EFFECT OF NET MIGRATION BETWEEN 1981 AND 1986 FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS*.

Age Group in 1986	Males (000)			Females (000)		
	Population 1986 without migration from 1981 to 1986	Actual Population 1986	Effect of migration † 1981 - 1986	Population 1986 without migration from 1981 to 1986	Actual Population 1986	Effect of migration † 1981 - 1986
0 - 4 years	169.6	166.4	- 3.2	160.2	157.7	- 2.6
5 - 9 "	180.6	179.8	- 0.7	171.6	170.8	- 0.8
10 - 14 "	178.8	179.4	+ 0.6	170.2	170.6	+ 0.4
15 - 19 "	174.9	169.9	- 5.0	165.8	161.2	- 4.6
20 - 24 "	165.8	144.1	- 21.7	159.5	142.3	- 17.2
25 - 29 "	139.7	129.1	- 10.6	135.4	129.4	- 6.1
30 - 34 "	123.7	122.2	- 1.5	121.4	120.5	- 0.9
35 - 39 "	117.5	116.4	- 1.1	113.3	113.3	+ 0.1
40 - 44 "	98.3	98.0	- 0.4	94.0	93.8	- 0.2
45 - 49 "	83.9	82.8	- 1.1	79.8	79.0	- 0.8
50 - 54 "	75.5	75.2	- 0.3	72.7	72.4	- 0.4
55 - 59 "	71.4	70.5	- 0.8	72.1	71.7	- 0.4
60 - 64 "	66.6	67.2	+ 0.6	72.4	72.8	+ 0.3
65 - 69 "	58.3	61.1	+ 2.8	65.6	68.4	+ 2.8
70 - 74 "	50.5	50.9	+ 0.3	60.8	60.1	- 0.7
75 years and over	55.9	56.8	+ 0.8	86.6	87.1	+ 0.5
Total	1,811.1	1,769.7	- 41.4	1,801.4	1,771.0	- 30.5

* Estimates of total net migration for males and females, for the State as a whole and for different areas were contained in Volume 1 of the 1986 Census Report.

† Effect of migration on the numbers recorded in the age group at the 1986 Census; this is not the same as the numbers migrating at that age.

There are two important points to be kept in mind in interpreting the migration figures given. Firstly, in each case the figures represent a net flow reflecting the difference between inward and outward movements of population. Secondly, the presentation of the results is in terms of the effect of migration on the numbers recorded in the 1986 Census in the different age groups and not in terms of a net number migrating at a particular age. The appropriate age group at time of migration may be the same as the relevant age group in April, 1986 or it may be a preceding one.

In the 1981-1986 period there were large net outflows for the 1986 age groups between 15 and 29 for both males and females; although the net outflows for males were larger than those for females. The pattern of net inflow for the older age groups has been a feature of the effects of migratory movements even in periods experiencing very large net emigration.

Estimates of net migration for various intercensal periods since 1956 are shown in Table J classified by broad age groups.

**TABLE J: THE EFFECT ON CERTAIN AGE GROUPS OF NET MIGRATION
DURING INTERCENSAL PERIODS SINCE 1956.**

Age group	1956-1961	1961-1966	1966-1971	1971-1981 *	1981-1986
Males					
	(000)				
0 - 14 years	- 2.2	+ 4.8	+ 5.6	+ 24.4	- 3.3
15 - 24 "	- 59.3	- 39.7	- 31.2	- 4.9	- 26.7
25 - 34 "	- 26.8	- 3.0	- 4.3	- 1.3	- 12.1
35 - 44 "	- 6.8	+ 2.3	+ 3.1	+ 22.7	- 1.5
45 - 54 "	- 6.6	- 1.1	- 0.6	+ 7.6	- 1.4
55 - 64 "	- 7.7	- 1.6	- 1.4	+ 0.4	- 0.2
65 years and over	+ 2.5	+ 1.3	+ 4.0	+ 9.0	+ 3.9
Total Males	- 106.9	- 37.2	- 24.8	+ 58.1	- 41.4
Females					
0 - 14 years	- 5.0	+ 5.0	+ 6.1	+ 23.0	- 3.0
15 - 24 "	- 56.0	- 36.9	- 29.2	- 5.3	- 21.8
25 - 34 "	- 21.7	- 2.9	- 4.6	+ 0.2	- 7.0
35 - 44 "	- 9.1	- 1.1	+ 0.2	+ 16.9	- 0.1
45 - 54 "	- 9.3	- 4.0	- 2.4	+ 2.6	- 1.2
55 - 64 "	- 4.5	- 2.6	- 2.4	- 0.8	- 0.1
65 years and over	+ 3.8	+ 0.5	+ 3.3	+ 9.2	+ 2.6
Total Females	- 101.9	- 41.9	- 28.9	+ 45.8	- 30.5

* Ten year period.

A large net inward migratory movement was experienced during the 1970's, the only period for which immigration exceeded emigration. Even in this period there was a tendency for some young people to emigrate as can be seen from the net outflows which occurred in the 15-24 year age group for both males and females. In all other intercensal periods outward movements of the population exceeded inward movements.

In the five year period to 1961 a large net outflow of 209,000 was experienced; this moderated to 79,000 and then 54,000 in the succeeding five year periods. The scale of the outflow in the 1981-1986 period is similar to that of the early 1960's.