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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).¹ Copies of the Census questionnaire and of accompanying instructions are reproduced in Appendix 1 of Volume 1 of the detailed Census report.

This sixth volume of the detailed report, contains detailed results relating to the population aged 15 years and over classified by their principal economic status and by the industry in which working. The territorial divisions of the country distinguished in this report are defined in Appendices 2–4 of Volume 1.

Subsequent Census Volumes will analyse the population by such other characteristics as occupation and usual residence. The principal features of the 1986 Census results were published immediately they became available in two series of Local Population Reports.

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 who had not 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.

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 publications² within months of the Census date. The completed questionnaires for the individual households were subsequently sent to the Census Office for processing.

The population summaries, dwelling listings and maps for individual Enumeration Areas 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 (questions 1–6) 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. These were issued over a seven month period commencing in July 1987. A summary report for the State was published in November 1987.

These operations also formed the basis of the first three volumes of the detailed Census report. The computer processing of the remaining information on the Census questionnaires provided the basis for a second set of Local Population Reports published between November 1988 and June 1989 and for the second Summary State Report issued in November 1989. This approach ensured that the principal Census results were published in a timely manner.

A complete list of the reports on the 1986 Census published to date is given in Appendix 1.

¹ 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 (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 1983 (S.I. No. 13 of 1983).

² Census of Population of Ireland 1986 – Preliminary Population Figures (PI 4224) July 1986
– Preliminary Report (PI 4375) September 1986

Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS)

Small area population statistics for Urban Districts, Rural Districts, Towns District Electoral Divisions, etc from the 1986 Census are available on a commercial basis in two formats. One format contains 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 format is more detailed and contains in addition classifications of the population by principal economic status, age and sex, classifications of persons at work by sex, employment status and broad industrial sector, classifications of persons at work, unemployed and retired by sex and occupational group, detailed classifications by socio-economic group, social class, age education ceased, ability to speak Irish, means of travel and distance travelled to work, etc.

Definitions

Principal Economic Status

The principal economic status was determined for persons aged fifteen years and over on the basis of the responses to the following Census question

PRESENT STATUS			
Indicate by inserting ✓ in the appropriate box the person's present principal status			
Self-employed persons should insert ✓ in Box 1			
Persons temporarily absent from work because of illness, holidays etc. should insert ✓ in Box 1			
At work	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Home (i.e. domestic) duties	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Seeking regular work for first time	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
Unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Unable to work owing to permanent sickness or disability	<input type="checkbox"/> 7
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 8
At school student	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Specify	

The following more specific instructions as to how the question should be answered were given in the explanatory notes attached to the Census questionnaire

- (i) Self-employed persons should insert ✓ in Box 1
- (ii) Persons temporarily absent from work because of illness, holidays, etc., should insert ✓ in Box 1
- (iii) Apprentices who are in employment and who also attend technical schools or colleges of technology should insert ✓ in Box 1
- (iv) Fulltime students who are in part-time employment should insert ✓ in Box 4

Apart from the foregoing explanatory notes no further guidance was given as to how the categories distinguished in Q 15 should be interpreted. The answers, therefore, represent the subjective assessment of the person completing the form and may differ from what would be obtained by personal interview in the annual Labour Force Survey

Labour Force

The labour force comprises persons whose principal economic status is either at work, looking for first regular job or unemployed having lost or given up previous job (i.e. categories 1, 2 and 3 of Q 15)

The labour force and its constituent figures shown in this Volume are directly based on the Census. There are slight differences between the figures derived from the Census and the official mid-April 1986 Labour Force estimates which are contained in the annual series of Labour Force Survey reports

Industry

The industrial classification was determined for persons aged 15 years and over on the basis of the responses to the following Census question

EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYER'S BUSINESS

For persons at work if an employee state name of employer (person firm company or public body) and nature of business carried on by the employer

If self-employed state nature of business carried on

A farmer or farm worker should also state the area of the land farmed

If unemployed state name and nature of business of last employer

In addition the following instructions as to how the question should be answered were given in the explanatory notes attached to the Census questionnaire

This question should be answered in respect of each person aged 15 years or over who is at work or unemployed

(a) For a person at work –

- (i) If an employee, state the name of the employer (whether person, firm, company or public body) and the nature of the business carried on by the employer
- (ii) If self-employed, state the nature of the business carried on
- (iii) If a farmer or a farm worker, state also the area (in statute acres) of the land farmed (i.e. including land taken and excluding land let)

(b) For an unemployed person, state the name and nature of business of the last employer

The nature of business carried on should be described fully indicating the type of goods made or dealt with, or type of service rendered, for example, use descriptions such as 'Shirt Factory', 'Shoe Manufacturer', 'Cattle Dealer', 'Wholesale Tea Merchant', 'Import Agent (Textiles)', etc

Descriptions such as 'Factory', 'Manufacturer', 'Dealer', 'Merchant', 'Agent', should not be used alone

The next question on the Census questionnaire asked persons to give the full address at which they worked. Sometimes the information on the nature of employer's business entered on the Census questionnaire is not sufficiently precise to enable it to be accurately classified. In many of these cases the additional information on name and address of the employer allows the coders to identify the nature of business precisely with the aid of trade directories, etc

The industry in which a person is engaged is determined (whatever the occupation) by the main economic activity carried out in the local unit at which he or she works. If, however, the local unit provides an ancillary service to another unit (e.g. administration, storage, etc.) in the business then the persons in the ancillary unit are classified to the industry of the unit it services. Thus, while the occupational classification is concerned only with the particular work performed by an individual regardless of the activity carried on at the local unit, the industrial classification is concerned only with the ultimate purpose of the unit or end product regardless of the precise nature of the work performed by each individual. A manufacturing or commercial unit may employ persons with many different occupations for the purpose of making a particular product or for giving a particular service. Conversely, there are cases in which particular occupations are largely confined to a single industry. For example, the majority of persons with agricultural occupations are in the agriculture industry and most miners are in the mining industry.

The term *industry* as used for Census of Population purposes is not confined to manufacturing industry. It is synonymous with the term "sector of economic activity". The basis of the industrial classification is, in the case of employees, the business or profession of their employer and in the case of self-employed persons the nature of their own business or profession.

The detailed level of industries used in the 1986 Census classification is given in Appendix 2, while the intermediate level of industry groups used is given in Appendix 3.

Occupation

All persons aged 15 years and over who were at work, unemployed (other than first job seekers) or retired were classified in the Census to their usual (or previous) principal occupation on the basis of the responses to the following Census question

OCCUPATION
If at work state here the usual principal occupation giving a full description
If unemployed or retired describe the principal occupation previously held
For students or persons at school state the type (Secondary Community Vocational University etc)

The following more specific instructions as to how the question should be answered were given in the explanatory notes attached to the Census questionnaire

- (i) *If at work, state the usual principal occupation (i.e. that by which the living is mainly earned)*
- (ii) *If unemployed or retired, describe the principal occupation previously held*
- (iii) *In all cases describe the occupation fully and precisely, using any special name by which the job is known and stating the type of work done. The following are examples of the types of occupational descriptions which should be used*

<i>Hosiery Machine Operator</i>	<i>Dock Labourer</i>
<i>Woodworking Machinist</i>	<i>Builder's Labourer</i>
<i>Sound Technician</i>	<i>Civil Engineer</i>
<i>Laboratory Technician</i>	<i>Electrical Engineer</i>
<i>Gas Fitter</i>	<i>Ticket Checker</i>
<i>Electrical Fitter</i>	<i>Goods Checker</i>
<i>Garage Foreman</i>	<i>Radio Mechanic</i>
<i>Site Foreman</i>	<i>Motor Mechanic</i>

General terms such as "Machine Operator", "Technician", "Labourer", "Engineer", "Fitter", "Foreman", "Checker", "Mechanic", should not be used alone.
- (iv) *For civil servants and local government employees, the grade should be stated and for Army or Garda personnel, the rank should be stated*
- (v) *For teachers, the branch of teaching should be stated, e.g. "Primary teacher", "Vocational teacher", etc*
- (vi) *For clergy and members of religious orders engaged in teaching or other service, a full description should be given such as "Christian Brother, primary teacher", "Nun, general hospital nurse", etc*
- (vii) *For students or persons at school, state the type of school or institution, e.g. "Secondary", "Community", "Vocational", "University", etc*

A person's occupational classification is determined by the kind of work performed in earning a living, irrespective of the place in which, or the purpose for which, it is performed. The nature of the industry, business or service in which the person is working has no bearing upon the classification of the occupation. For example, the occupation "clerk" covers clerks employed in manufacturing industries, commerce, banking, insurance, public administration, professions and other services, etc. The most detailed level of occupations used in the 1986 Census classification is given in Appendix 4.

Employment Status

Each person, at work, unemployed or retired was classified by "employment status" to one of the following groups

- (1) Employer or own account worker
- (2) Assisting relative
- (3) Employee
- (4) Out of work

The Census question relating to employment status was formulated as follows

EMPLOYMENT STATUS If at work please ✓ the appropriate box to indicate person's present employment status If unemployed or retired indicate the person's previous employment status	
Self-employed with paid employees	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Self-employed without paid employees	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
Employee	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
Assisting relative (not receiving a fixed wage or salary)	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

Marital Status

Information on marital status was sought in the following format

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

In the Tables the category *married* includes *remarried*, while *separated* includes persons recorded as *deserted*, *marriage annulled*, *legally separated*, *other separated* and *divorced in another country*

Commentary

Principal Economic Status

Table A shows the number of persons aged 15 years and over classified by principal economic status and sex for both 1981 and 1986

Table A: Persons aged 15 years and over, classified by principal economic status and sex – 1981 and 1986.

Principal economic status	1981			1986		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
At work	1 137,827	808 670	329,157	1,091,155	741,318	349,837
Unemployed	113,096	91 279	21 817	195,390	152,900	42,490
Looking for first regular job	20 199	12,546	7,653	43 001	26,082	16,919
Students	200,316	97,306	103,010	245,210	121,373	123,837
Home duties	662,551	1 041	661,510	653,843	445	653,398
Others	265,687	183 103	82 584	287,343	201,926	85 417
Total	2,399 676	1 193,945	1,205 731	2,515,942	1 244,044	1,271,898

The total population aged 15 years and over increased by 116,266 persons (+4.8 per cent) from 2,399,676 in 1981 to 2,515,942 in 1986. Females (+5.5 per cent) contributed more to this increase than males (+4.2 per cent). There was a decline of 46,672 in the number of persons at work between 1981 and 1986. This consisted of a decline of 67,352 in the number of males at work which was partly off-set by an increase of 20,680 in the number of females at work. There was a substantial increase of 105,096 (+78.8 per cent) in the number of persons unemployed or looking for a first regular job between 1981 and 1986. While the increase for males was 72.4 per cent, the number of females in these categories more than doubled. Overall the labour force (i.e. those at work, unemployed or looking for a first regular job) increased by 58,424 persons, consisting of an increase of only 7,805 males along with a more substantial increase of 50,619 in the number of females.

Student numbers increased by nearly 45,000 over the five years. This increase was shared fairly evenly between males and females. The number of persons on home duties fell by about 1½ per cent between 1981 and 1986. The residual category "others" which includes retired persons, showed an increase of about 8 per cent over the same period with males accounting for most of the rise.

Table B gives a breakdown of the population aged 15 years and over by broad age group and sex within the main principal economic status categories in 1986. As already stated the labour force consists of those at work, unemployed or looking for a first regular job.

Table B: Persons, males and females aged 15 years and over, classified by principal economic status and age group – 1986.

Principal economic status	Age Group						
	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65 and over	15 years and over
Labour force							
Males	191 136	243,440	205 783	144,916	103,618	31,407	920,300
Females	157,709	121 251	55,575	39,200	27,610	7,901	409,246
Total	348,845	364,691	261,358	184,116	131,228	39,308	1,329,546
Students							
Males	119,071	2,044	216	31	6	5	121,373
Females	122 350	1,118	257	77	29	6	123,837
Total	241,421	3 162	473	108	35	11	245,210
Home duties							
Males	14	62	96	84	93	96	445
Females	21,332	124,066	147,797	106,998	103,526	149,679	653,398
Total	21,346	124,128	147,893	107,082	103,619	149,775	653,843
Others							
Males	3,778	5,738	8,277	12,894	34,016	137,223	201 926
Females	2,134	3 409	3,490	5,051	13,295	58,038	85,417
Total	5,912	9,147	11,767	17,945	47,311	195,261	287,343
Total							
Males	313,999	251,284	214,372	157,925	137,733	168,731	1,244,044
Females	303 525	249 844	207 119	151,326	144,460	215,624	1,271,898
Total	617,524	501 128	421,491	309,251	282,193	384,355	2,515,942

The table indicates that for each of the economically active age groups (i.e. 15–64) there were more males in the labour force than in any of the other principal economic status categories. By contrast this relationship only held for females in the 15–24 age group. For the remaining economically active age groups the category "home duties" predominated for females. This category was also the most prevalent in the case of females aged 65 and over whereas for males the residual category "Others" which includes retired persons, accounted for most of the 65 and over age group. In 1986, there were just over 245,200 students of whom 50.5 per cent were females. Most of the students were concentrated in the 15–24 age group.

The contrast between the positions of males and females can be seen more clearly from Table C which shows the percentage of males and females aged 15 years and over classified by age group and principal economic status.

Table C: Percentage of persons, aged 15 years and over, in each age group, classified by principal economic status – 1986.

Principal economic status	Age Group						
	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	65 and over	15 years and over
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Labour force							
Males	60.9	96.9	96.0	91.8	75.2	18.6	74.0
Females	52.0	48.5	26.8	25.9	19.1	3.7	32.2
Total	56.5	72.8	62.0	59.5	46.5	10.2	52.8
Students							
Males	37.9	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.8
Females	40.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	9.7
Total	39.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.7
Home duties							
Males	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Females	7.0	49.7	71.4	70.7	71.7	69.4	51.4
Total	3.5	24.8	35.1	34.6	36.7	39.0	26.0
Others							
Males	1.2	2.3	3.9	8.2	24.7	81.3	16.2
Females	0.7	1.4	1.7	3.3	9.2	26.9	6.7
Total	1.0	1.8	2.8	5.8	16.8	50.8	11.4
Total							
Males	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –
Females	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –
Total	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –

While labour force participation rates (i.e. those in the labour force expressed as a percentage of the relevant population total) were higher across all age groups for males than for females the differential was most marked in the case of the 35–44 and 45–54 age groups. The age group with the highest female labour force participation rate was the 15–24 age group. Thereafter, the rate declined with older age groups reflecting the effects of marriage and childbearing on women's participation in the labour force. Approximately seven in every ten women in the 35–44 and higher age groups were engaged in home duties in 1986.

Labour Force Participation Rates by Age Group

Table D provides an analysis of labour force participation rates in 1986 by sex and five year age group. It also provides comparative data for 1971 and 1981.

Table D: Percentage of persons aged 15 years and over in the labour force in each age group and sex – 1971, 1981 and 1986.

Age Group	Males			Females		
	1971	1981	1986	1971	1981	1986
	%	%	%	%	%	%
15–19 years	54.9	48.7	38.3	47.6	38.4	30.1
20–24 "	89.9	90.0	87.5	65.5	70.9	76.7
25–29 "	96.9	96.8	96.7	34.7	45.4	59.0
30–34 "	97.8	97.2	97.1	21.6	26.8	37.3
35–39 "	97.8	96.7	96.5	18.9	22.9	27.4
40–44 "	97.5	95.4	95.4	19.3	24.1	26.2
45–49 "	97.1	93.9	93.5	20.1	24.4	26.6
50–54 "	96.0	90.5	89.9	21.5	23.7	25.2
55–59 "	94.0	84.8	82.5	21.8	21.5	21.8
60–64 "	87.6	73.1	67.6	20.7	17.3	16.5
65–69 "	63.9	36.5	28.7	15.9	8.2	6.4
70–74 "	40.0	22.2	18.2	10.9	4.8	3.5
75 years and over	26.2	9.6	8.2	7.8	1.8	1.6
15–19 years	54.9	48.7	38.3	47.6	38.4	30.1
20–64 years	94.8	91.9	91.0	28.8	34.1	39.4
65 years and over	43.9	23.8	18.6	11.3	4.8	3.7
Total 15 years and over	82.0	76.4	74.0	28.2	29.7	32.2

Overall, male labour force participation declined from 82 per cent in 1971 to 76.4 per cent in 1981 and then to 74 per cent in 1986. This decline was most marked in the 15–19 age group as well as in the 60–64 and higher age groups. Conversely, there was an increase in overall female labour force participation over the same fifteen year period despite a decline in the rate for the 15–19 age group. The increasing female labour force participation was manifested in all age groups from 20–24 to 50–54 inclusive.

In Table E the labour force participation rates for females aged 20–54 years are disaggregated according to marital status

Table E: Labour force participation rates for females aged 20–54 years in each marital status category – 1971, 1981 and 1986.

Age Group	Single			Married*			Widowed		
	1971	1981	1986	1971	1981	1986	1971	1981	1986
20–24 years	88.3	87.9	85.3	15.2	35.2	46.8	43.8	41.3	33.3
25–29 "	88.0	91.1	91.4	10.5	26.8	41.4	47.3	39.1	34.8
30–34 "	80.1	84.7	86.8	7.2	16.8	27.1	43.0	34.8	33.0
35–39 "	75.2	79.0	81.0	6.7	15.6	20.5	46.5	35.1	31.8
40–44 "	69.9	73.5	77.1	6.8	17.0	20.1	46.7	37.0	33.7
45–54 "	64.1	65.4	68.6	7.3	15.3	19.0	41.8	35.0	32.6

*Including the "other status" category which was separately identified in 1981

The table indicates increases in labour force participation rates for both single and married females between 1971, 1981 and 1986 in all five year age groups apart from single 20–24 year olds, where there was a decrease. The increases were most marked in the case of married women, particularly in the younger age groups. The opposite trend held for widowed females – each of the five year age groups displaying a fall in labour force participation rates between 1971, 1981 and 1986.

Analysis of Persons at Work by Industrial Group and Planning Region

Table F analyses the numbers of persons at work by planning region and by broad industrial group and shows the percentage distribution by industrial group within each region.

Table F: Number and percentage distribution of persons at work in each planning region classified by broad industrial group – 1986.

Region	Total at work	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Other production industries (incl building)	Service type industries	Percentage distribution by region			
					Total at work	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Other production industries (incl building)	Service type industries
					%	%	%	%
East	433,861	16,859	120,203	296,799	39.8	10.1	38.2	48.7
South West	160,173	30,923	46,397	82,853	14.7	18.5	14.8	13.6
South East	113,756	25,386	35,375	52,995	10.4	15.2	11.3	8.7
North East	59,350	12,458	19,771	27,121	5.4	7.5	6.3	4.4
Mid West	97,470	20,581	30,348	46,541	8.9	12.3	9.7	7.6
Donegal	32,715	7,072	10,477	15,166	3.0	4.2	3.3	2.5
Midlands	79,290	21,004	23,274	35,012	7.3	12.6	7.4	5.7
West	88,675	25,595	21,927	41,153	8.1	15.3	7.0	6.7
North West	25,865	7,059	6,510	12,296	2.4	4.2	2.1	2.0
Total	1,091,155	166,937	314,282	609,936	100 –	100 –	100 –	100 –

In overall terms the eastern region accounted for about 40 per cent of total employment in 1986. The dominance of this region in sectors outside of agriculture is particularly evident from Table F. Almost half of all persons at work in the service type industries and almost 40 per cent of those in production industries were enumerated in the eastern region. By way of contrast, the western region, which accounted for just over 8 per cent of total employment, had a 15 per cent share of agricultural employment in 1986.

There were 166,937 persons at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing in 1986 compared to 314,282 in production industries and 609,936 in services, the latter representing approximately 56 per cent of total employment. The change over time in the relative share of total employment accounted for by the three broad sectors of economic activity is illustrated in Figure 1. The figure shows the percentage distribution of persons at work by broad economic sector for selected censuses since 1926, and the diminishing importance of agriculture in terms of the numbers at work is clearly evident. The growth of the services sector, particularly since 1961 is also evident.

Figure 1 SECTORAL SHARES OF EMPLOYMENT

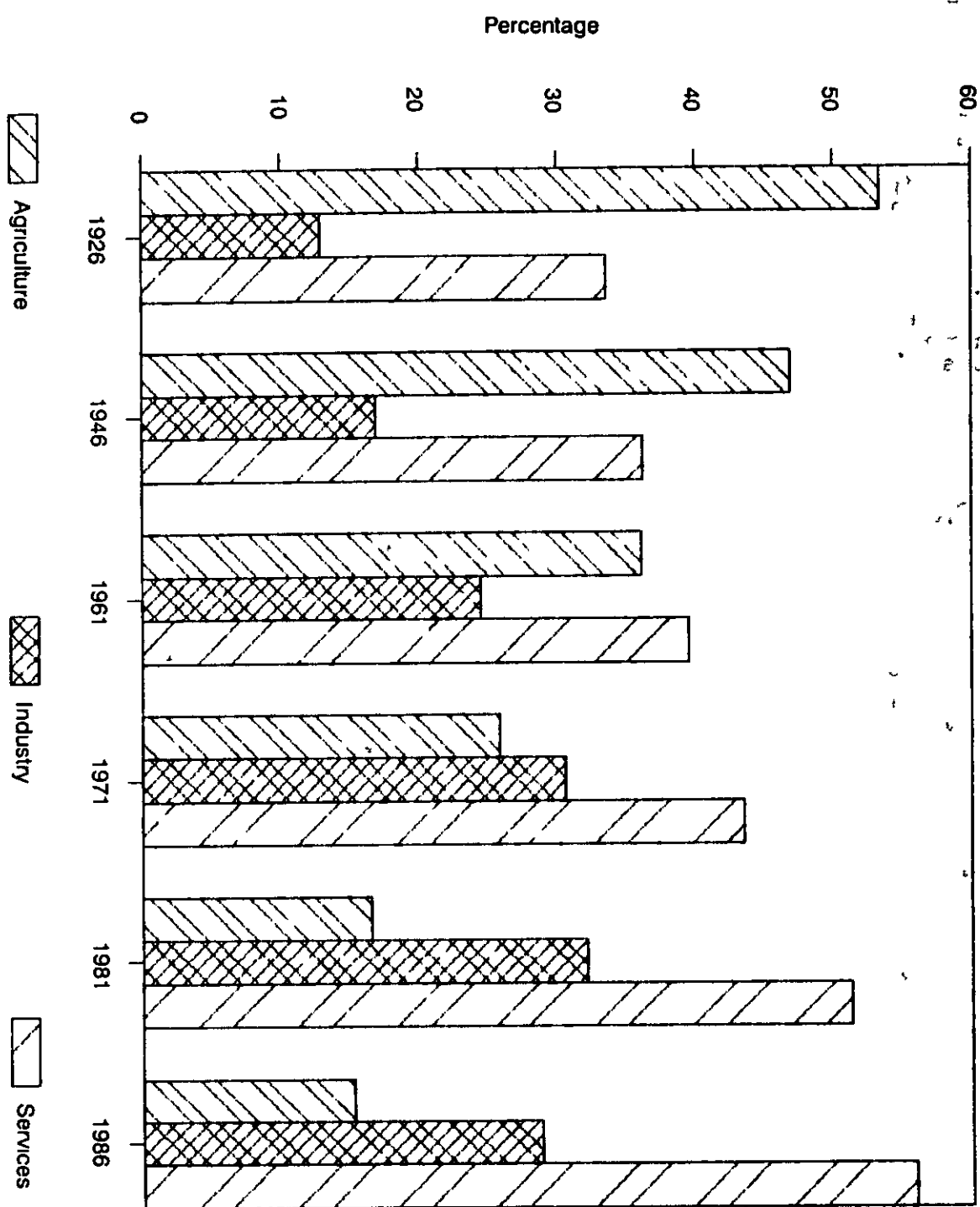


Table G shows the changes which took place between 1981 and 1986 in the numbers at work in the main industrial groups

Table G: Actual and percentage change 1981–1986 in the number at work in the principal industrial groups.

Industrial Group	Actual change			Percentage change		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
	(000)	(000)	(000)	%	%	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	- 21 6	- 21 2	- 0 4	-11 5	- 12 1	- 3 3
Mining, quarrying and turf production	- 2 8	- 2 7	- 0 0	-24 8	- 25 3	- 10 9
Manufacturing industries	- 22 9	- 21 4	- 1 5	- 9 6	- 12 3	- 2 3
Food, beverages and tobacco	- 8 8	- 7 0	- 1 7	-15 4	- 15 8	- 14 1
Textiles, clothing, footwear and leather	- 7 7	- 5 6	- 2 1	-19 9	- 31 0	- 10 1
Wood and wood products	- 0 1	- 0 1	+ 0 0	- 0 5	- 0 6	+ 1 8
Paper, paper products, printing and publishing	- 1 3	- 0 7	- 0 5	- 7 1	- 5 7	- 10 7
Chemical rubber and plastic products	+ 0 6	- 0 2	+ 0 8	+ 2 8	- 1 4	+ 17 2
Glass, pottery and cement	- 2 9	- 2 5	- 0 4	-17 9	- 18 2	- 16 1
Metals, metal products and machinery	+ 3 8	+ 0 6	+ 3 2	+ 6 7	+ 1 5	+ 21 3
Other manufacturing (incl transport equipment)	- 6 5	- 5 8	- 0 7	-39 9	- 42 9	- 25 3
Electricity, gas and water supply	+ 0 3	+ 0 0	+ 0 2	+ 2 0	+ 0 3	+ 17 4
Building and construction	- 26 3	- 25 7	- 0 6	-25 7	- 25 9	- 20 6
Commerce	- 2 0	- 4 8	+ 2 8	- 1 2	- 4 3	+ 5 0
Insurance, finance and business services	+ 4 1	+ 2 1	+ 2 0	+ 9 9	+ 9 9	+ 9 9
Transport, communication and storage	- 2 5	- 1 6	- 0 9	- 3 6	- 2 8	- 7 0
Public administration and defence	+ 3 7	+ 2 6	+ 1 1	+ 5 3	+ 5 2	+ 5 5
Professional services	+ 16 3	+ 3 0	+ 13 3	+10 0	+ 4 5	+ 13 7
Personal services	+ 6 8	+ 2 6	+ 4 1	+12 8	+ 14 1	+ 12 1
Other industries or industry not stated	+ 0 2	- 0 4	+ 0 6	+ 0 9	- 2 7	+ 8 7
Total all industries	- 46 7	- 67 4	+ 20 7	- 4 1	- 8 3	+ 6 3

The main contributors to the overall decline of about 47,000 in the number of persons at work between 1981 and 1986 were agriculture, forestry and fishing (-21,600), manufacturing industry (-22,900) and building and construction (-26,300). For the most part these decreases were confined to males. The losses in these sectors were offset by gains in the services sector, particularly professional services (+16 300) and personal services (+6 800). Females accounted for 23,000 of the 26,600 employment gain in the services sector.

Table H shows the change in the number at work between 1981 and 1986 in each of the main industrial sectors in each planning region.

Table H: Actual and percentage change 1981–1986 in the number of persons at work classified by industrial group and planning region

Region	Actual change				Percentage change			
	Total at work	Agriculture forestry and fishing	Other production industries (incl building)	Service type industries	Total at work	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Other production industries (incl building)	Service type industries
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	%	%	%	%
East	- 18 8	- 1 5	- 27 2	+ 10 0	- 4 2	- 8 3	- 18 5	+ 3 5
South West	- 9 2	- 3 1	- 9 3	+ 3 2	- 5 4	- 9 1	- 16 7	+ 4 0
South East	- 4 0	- 2 4	- 5 1	+ 3 5	- 3 4	- 8 7	- 12 6	+ 7 2
North East	- 4 1	- 2 2	- 2 8	+ 0 8	- 6 5	- 14 9	- 12 2	+ 3 2
Mid West	- 2 8	- 2 3	- 3 0	+ 2 5	- 2 8	- 10 0	- 9 0	+ 5 7
Donegal	+ 0 1	- 1 3	+ 0 6	+ 0 9	+ 0 4	- 15 9	+ 5 6	+ 6 5
Midlands	- 4 0	- 3 0	- 2 9	+ 1 8	- 4 9	- 12 3	- 11 0	+ 5 4
West	- 1 8	- 3 9	- 1 2	+ 3 2	- 2 0	- 13 3	- 5 0	+ 8 6
North West	- 2 1	- 1 9	- 0 7	+ 0 5	- 7 4	- 21 1	- 9 9	+ 4 6
Total	- 46 7	- 21 6	- 51 6	+ 26 6	- 4 1	- 11 5	- 14 1	+ 4 6

All regions, experienced a decline in employment between 1981 and 1986 apart from Donegal where there was a marginal increase. Agricultural employment declined throughout, the largest percentage declines being in the North West, Donegal and the North East. Again with the exception of Donegal all other regions saw industrial employment decreases, the most pronounced losses being in the East and South West. Service sector employment increased in every region between 1981 and 1986, the most marked increases in percentage terms being in the West and South East.

Employment Status

Table I classifies persons, males and females at work in 1986 by employment status with comparative information for 1981. Derived actual and percentage changes are given in Table J.

Table I: Employment status in 1986 of persons, males and females with comparative figures for 1981.

Employment status	1981			1986		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Employer and own account	231,705	209,532	22,173	222,875	201,776	21,099
Assisting relative	28,698	23,263	5,435	31,693	21,372	10,321
Employee	877,424	575,875	301,549	836,587	518,170	318,417
Total at work	1,137,827	808,670	329,157	1,091,155	741,318	349,837

Some 836,600 or approximately 77 per cent of persons at work were classified as employees in 1986. Employers and own account workers accounted for almost 222,900 persons or a further 20 per cent, while assisting relatives numbered less than 31,700 and comprised only 3.0 per cent of persons at work.

Employees accounted for 40,800 of the 46,700 decline in the number of persons at work between 1981 and 1986. These were mainly in the non-agricultural sectors where the fall in employee numbers was partly off-set by increases in the number of employers and own-account workers and assisting relatives. By contrast the fall in agricultural employment related mainly to employers and own-account workers, while the influence of assisting relatives continues to diminish (i.e. a fall of about 1,000 to 21,400).

Table J: Actual and percentage change 1981-1986 in the number at work in each employment status category.

Employment status	Actual change			Percentage change		
	All industries	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Other industries	All industries	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Other industries
	(000)	(000)	(000)	%	%	%
Employer and own account	- 8.8	- 17.6	+ 8.8	- 3.8	- 12.5	+ 9.8
Assisting relative	+ 3.0	- 1.0	+ 4.0	+ 10.4	- 4.2	+ 91.5
Employee	- 40.8	- 3.0	- 37.9	- 4.7	- 13.0	- 4.4
Total at work	- 46.7	- 21.6	- 25.1	- 4.1	- 11.5	- 2.6