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## General Details

### Introduction

A Census of Population was taken on the night of Sunday, 21 April 1991 in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order 1991 (S.I. No. 62 of 1991)<sup>1</sup>. A copy of the census questionnaire including the explanatory notes which accompanied it is reproduced in Appendix 1.

This first volume of the detailed census report presents the population classified by sex for the different territorial divisions of the country – most of this information has already been published in a series of Local Population Reports (see Appendix 2). The areas are those in force at the date of the 1991 Census of Population and are defined in Appendices 3–8.

Subsequent census volumes will analyse the population by such characteristics 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, 21 April 1991, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 22 April 1991, 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 334 full-time supervisors and some 3,200 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 first prepared and returned to the Central Statistics Office a summary of the population in his/her enumeration area. These summaries formed the basis for the preliminary 1991 population results issued in three census publications within months of the census date<sup>2</sup>. The completed questionnaires for the individual households were subsequently transmitted to the Central Statistics Office for processing.

The population summaries, dwelling listings and enumeration 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 series of Local Population Reports which were issued on a county-by-county basis immediately results became available (see Appendix 2). A summary report for the State was issued in April 1993.

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 continues during 1993 in county order and will provide the basis for subsequent volumes.

<sup>1</sup> Made by the Taoiseach in pursuance of powers conferred on him by sections 11 and 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)

<sup>2</sup> Census of Population of Ireland, 1991

Preliminary Population Figures (PI 8176), June 1991

Preliminary Report – Areas (PI 8248), July 1991

Preliminary Report – Age Groups (PI 8447), November 1991

## **Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS)**

Small area population statistics for Urban Districts, Rural Districts, Towns, District Electoral Divisions, etc. from the 1991 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 will become available for individual counties as the corresponding second stage processing is completed.

## **Comparable 1991 and 1986 Populations for Areas**

Throughout this publication every effort has been made to give comparable population figures for the 1986 census. Consequently, figures given in this publication will differ from those published for the 1986 census in the case of administrative districts and census towns where alterations in boundaries were made between 1986 and 1991.

## **Area Measurements**

The measurement of area in hectares is shown where possible in Tables 12 and 13. 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 also not been possible to provide the areas within certain legal boundaries altered since 1981.

## **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. For the purpose of this publication, births have been classified according to the home address of the mother and deaths have been classified according to the home address of the deceased. Precise classification on this basis is not always possible, however, particularly distinctions 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, 21 April 1991 was 3,525,719 persons compared with 3,540,643 in April 1986, a decrease of 14,924 persons or 0.4 per cent. This was the first decline in population observed at a census since 1961. The population of the provinces at each census since 1926 is summarised in Table A.

**Table A Population of each Province, 1926–1991**

Year	Total	Leinster	Munster	Connacht	Ulster (part of)
<b>Persons</b>					
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
1991	3,525,719	1,860,949	1,009,533	423,031	232,206
<b>Males</b>					
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
1991	1,753,418	913,849	507,095	214,131	118,343
<b>Females</b>					
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
1991	1,772,301	947,100	502,438	208,900	113,863

The population of Leinster increased by 8,300 persons or 0.4 per cent between 1986 and 1991. A decline in population was recorded for the provinces of Munster (–11,000 persons or 1.1%), Connacht (–8,400 persons or 1.9%) and the three counties of Ulster (–3,800 persons or 1.6%) over the same period.

## Ratio of Females to Males

Between 1986 and 1991 the number of males in the State decreased by 16,272 while the number of females increased by 1,348. Table B shows the number of females per thousand males in the State and in the provinces for each census since 1926.

**Table B Females per 1,000 males in each Province, 1926–1991**

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
1991	1,011	1,036	991	976	962

The number of males exceeded the number of females in each census from the foundation of the State up to and including 1981. This excess was at its greatest in 1936 but has subsequently declined. The ratio of females per 1,000 males was fairly stable at around 990 for the five censuses between 1961 and 1981. The 1986 census was the first since the foundation of the State to show an excess (albeit marginal) of females in the population. This excess has grown in the 1991 census.

The 1936 census was the only census between 1926 and 1991 in which the number of males exceeded the number of females in Leinster. By contrast there has been a persistent but declining male excess in the provinces of Munster, Connacht and Ulster (part) over the same period. The variation in provincial female/male ratios was at its greatest in 1961 when the Leinster ratio was 15 per cent higher than that for Connacht. This variation has since been narrowing and now stands at 7.7 per cent (Leinster compared with Ulster (part)).

## Population of Counties and County Boroughs

Most counties experienced a decrease in population since 1986. Table C gives population figures for counties and county boroughs for 1986 and 1991 together with the actual and percentage changes for the same period.

In Leinster the population of Dublin County Borough fell by 24,400 between 1986 and 1991, continuing a trend begun in the 1970s. This contrasted with a population growth in Dublin–Belgard (+9,200), Dublin–Fingal (+14,300), Dun Laoghaire–Rathdown (+4,700) and in the following “dormitory counties” surrounding Dublin: Kildare (+6,400), Wicklow (+2,700) and Meath (+1,500). The population fell in all other counties in Leinster, apart from Kilkenny where there was a slight increase.

In Munster the population grew in Cork County, Limerick County and in Waterford County Borough but decreased in all other areas. The populations of Cork County Borough and of Limerick County Borough fell by 6,000 and 4,200 respectively.

In Connacht the only area to show an increase in population was Galway County Borough (+3,700). The other areas – most notably Leitrim, Roscommon and Mayo – all showed decreases. The population of these three counties combined fell by 4.5 per cent between 1986 and 1991.

The population of each of the three counties of Ulster (Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan) declined since 1986.

## Population of Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas

Since the 1966 census a town size of 1,500 has been taken as the threshold in applying the classification "aggregate town" and "aggregate rural" as described in Appendix 3. In 1991 the aggregate town population, comprising 130 centres of population, was 2,010,700 or 57.0 per cent of the total. The population of these towns increased by 0.4 per cent between 1986 and 1991. In the same period the aggregate rural population decreased by 1.5 per cent.

The many changes in legally defined boundaries of towns, as well as the practice since the 1961 census of including the suburbs or environs in determining town size, make it impossible to give comparable population figures extending back over a long period of years for the areas defined at the 1991 census as aggregate town or aggregate rural. In Table D roughly comparable figures are given covering the period 1901 to 1936 for the area defined as aggregate town at the 1936 census. Comparable figures are shown for the 1936, 1946 and 1951 censuses by reference to the 1951 aggregate town areas. For each subsequent census, however, it is possible to give comparable figures only for the immediately preceding census, with the exception of the 1981 census where comparable figures are available for both 1971 and 1979.

**Table D Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural population, 1901 – 1991**

Year	Total		Leinster		Munster		Connacht		Ulster (part of)	
	Town Area	Rural Area	Town Area	Rural Area	Town Area	Rural Area	Town Area	Rural Area	Town Area	Rural Area
Thousands										
1901	911	2,311	547	606	290	787	53	594	22	324
1911	942	2,197	574	588	295	740	52	559	21	310
1926	959	2,013	595	554	288	682	54	499	22	278
1936	1,055	1,914	672	549	298	644	62	464	23	257
1936	1,099	1,869	701	519	313	629	62	464	23	257
1946	1,161	1,794	756	525	317	600	64	429	25	239
1951	1,227	1,733	814	523	323	576	66	406	25	228
1951	1,272	1,688	841	495	332	567	72	400	28	225
1956	1,285	1,613	855	484	333	545	70	376	27	209
1956	1,287	1,611	858	481	332	545	71	375	26	210
1961	1,299	1,519	871	461	331	518	72	347	25	193
1961	1,307	1,512	876	457	333	516	72	347	26	191
1966	1,419	1,465	960	455	357	503	76	326	27	182
1966	1,445	1,439	973	441	362	497	79	323	31	178
1971	1,556	1,423	1,050	449	389	493	84	307	33	174
1971	1,585	1,393	1,067	431	395	487	85	306	38	169
1979	1,873	1,495	1,260	483	462	518	105	314	46	180
1981	1,915	1,529	1,294	496	468	531	107	318	47	183
1981	1,942	1,502	1,301	490	481	517	110	314	50	181
1986	1,997	1,544	1,341	512	491	530	114	317	51	185
1986	2,002	1,538	1,344	508	494	527	114	317	50	186
1991	2,011	1,515	1,354	507	491	519	117	306	49	183

Despite the lack of strictly comparable figures the pattern of increasing town and decreasing rural population over the period 1901 to 1971 is very clear. While the pattern of increasing town population has continued in the ensuing period up to 1991, the pattern of declining rural population was reversed and population increases of 136,000 and 42,000 actually occurred in the 1971–1981 and 1981–1986 periods respectively. However, there was a decline of 23,000 in the rural population during the 1986–1991 period.

In 1901 only 28.3 per cent of the total population was in aggregate town areas whereas by 1936 this proportion had risen to 35.5 per cent. At the 1991 census 57.0 per cent of the population was in aggregate town areas. The rate of increase in the aggregate town area population rose sharply between 1961 and 1981. From 1951 to 1956, the aggregate town area population rose by 13,000 and from 1956 to 1961 by 12,000. From 1961 to 1966, however, the increase was 112,000 persons and this was followed by a similar rise from 1966 to 1971. From 1971 to 1981 the aggregate town population rose by a further 330,000 persons. The rate of increase slowed considerably between 1981 and 1986, the increase of 55,000 being equivalent to an annual average of 11,000 or just one-third of the rate for the previous ten year period. The rate of increase has fallen off even further since 1986: an increase of only 9,000 occurred in the period 1986–1991.

**Table C Population of each Province, County and County Borough**

Province, County or County Borough	Population		Change in population 1986-1991	
	1986	1991	Actual	Percentage
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,540,643</b>	<b>3,525,719</b>	<b>- 14,924</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>
<b>Leinster</b>	<b>1,852,649</b>	<b>1,860,949</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Carlow	40,988	40,942	- 46	- 0.1
Dublin Co. and Co. Borough	1,021,449	1,025,304	3,855	0.4
Dublin Co. Borough	502,749	478,389	- 24,360	- 4.8
Dublin - Belgard	199,546	208,739	9,193	4.6
Dublin - Fingal	138,479	152,766	14,287	10.3
Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown	180,675	185,410	4,735	2.6
Kildare	116,247	122,656	6,409	5.5
Kilkenny	73,186	73,635	449	0.6
Laoighis	53,284	52,314	- 970	- 1.8
Longford	31,496	30,296	- 1,200	- 3.8
Louth	91,810	90,724	- 1,086	- 1.2
Meath	103,881	105,370	1,489	1.4
Offaly	59,835	58,494	- 1,341	- 2.2
Westmeath	63,379	61,880	- 1,499	- 2.4
Wexford	102,552	102,069	- 483	- 0.5
Wicklow	94,542	97,265	2,723	2.9
<b>Munster</b>	<b>1,020,577</b>	<b>1,009,533</b>	<b>- 11,044</b>	<b>- 1.1</b>
Clare	91,344	90,918	- 426	- 0.5
Cork Co. and Co. Borough	412,735	410,369	- 2,366	- 0.6
Cork Co. Borough	133,271	127,253	- 6,018	- 4.5
Cork	279,464	283,116	3,652	1.3
Kerry	124,159	121,894	- 2,265	- 1.8
Limerick Co. and Co. Borough	164,569	161,956	- 2,613	- 1.6
Limerick Co. Borough	56,279	52,083	- 4,196	- 7.4
Limerick	108,290	109,873	1,583	1.5
Tipperary, N.R.	59,522	57,854	- 1,668	- 2.8
Tipperary, S.R.	77,097	74,918	- 2,179	- 2.8
Waterford Co. and Co. Borough	91,151	91,624	473	0.5
Waterford Co. Borough	39,529	40,328	799	2.0
Waterford	51,622	51,296	- 326	- 0.6
<b>Connacht</b>	<b>431,409</b>	<b>423,031</b>	<b>- 8,378</b>	<b>- 1.9</b>
Galway Co. and Co. Borough	178,552	180,364	1,812	1.0
Galway Co. Borough	47,104	50,853	3,749	8.0
Galway	131,448	129,511	- 1,937	- 1.5
Leitrim	27,035	25,301	- 1,734	- 6.4
Mayo	115,184	110,713	- 4,471	- 3.9
Roscommon	54,592	51,897	- 2,695	- 4.9
Sligo	56,046	54,756	- 1,290	- 2.3
<b>Ulster (part of)</b>	<b>236,008</b>	<b>232,206</b>	<b>- 3,802</b>	<b>- 1.6</b>
Cavan	53,965	52,796	- 1,169	- 2.2
Donegal	129,664	128,117	- 1,547	- 1.2
Monaghan	52,379	51,293	- 1,086	- 2.1

The last two columns of Table G compare the percentage changes in the various town—size ranges between 1986–1991 and 1981–1986. Although the percentages shown do not relate to identical sets of towns, because of the changes in average size classification of a number of towns, they are sufficient to show how the pattern of town growth has altered between the two periods. In the 1986–1991 period the rate of decline for country districts was four times that of the State as a whole while in the previous five year period the rate of growth for country districts was almost equivalent to the total rate. The population of all the county borough areas combined fell by 0.1 per cent between 1986 and 1991 while the population of all other towns combined increased by 0.7 per cent.

**Table G Changes in the distribution of the population by type of district in the period 1986 – 1991**

Type of district	Number of towns	Population		Change in population 1986–1991		Percentage change 1981–1986*
		1986	1991	Actual	Percentage	
Greater Dublin Area	2	921,081	915,516	– 5,565	– 0.6	0.8
Cork County Borough and Suburbs	1	174,109	174,400	291	0.2	2.9
Limerick County Borough and Suburbs	1	76,569	75,436	– 1,133	– 1.5	0.3
Galway County Borough	1	47,104	50,853	3,749	8.0	9.0
Waterford County Borough and Suburbs	1	41,054	41,853	799	1.9	3.0
Other towns classified by average population in the period:						
10,000 population and over including environs	22	336,206	346,361	10,155	3.0	6.7
5,000 to 10,000 population including environs	31	211,958	213,577	1,619	0.8	5.3
3,000 to 5,000 population including environs	24	91,916	91,440	– 476	– 0.5	4.3
1,500 to 3,000 population including environs	45	99,269	98,212	– 1,057	– 1.1	2.5
1,000 to 1,500 population including environs	68	85,823	84,053	– 1,770	– 2.1	0.2
500 to 1,000 population	129	92,438	91,359	– 1,079	– 1.2	4.7
Under 500 population, but with at least 50 inhabited houses in 1991†	309	95,290	94,865	– 425	– 0.4	6.1
Population outside Towns	–	1,267,826	1,247,794	– 20,032	– 1.6	2.6
Total	634	3,540,643	3,525,719	– 14,924	– 0.4	2.8

\*From Table G, Volume 1, 1986 Census

†All except 30 of these towns had a population of 200 or more based on the average of their 1986 and 1991 populations

## Population of Towns

Table 14 gives the population of each of the 194 towns with 1,000 or more inhabitants in 1991 in descending order of size with comparable 1986 population. Table H shows the percentage change in population between 1986 and 1991 of the larger towns. These percentages refer to the entire built-up area of the town in each case (i.e. legally defined area and any suburbs or environs). The largest percentage increases occurred in the following towns within commuting distance of Dublin: Celbridge, Maynooth, Ashbourne, Malahide, Swords, Greystones, Wicklow, Naas and Lucan. The greatest declines in population between 1986 and 1991 occurred in Tuam, Fermoy, Mountmellick, Athy, Ballinasloe, Monaghan and Thurles.

**Table H Percentage change in population of Towns (including suburbs or environs, if any) with a population of 3,000 or more in 1991**

Town	Percentage change 1986–1991	Town	Percentage change 1986–1991
Ardee	0.6	Letterkenny	8.7
Arklow	– 4.8	Limerick	– 1.5
Ashbourne	24.1	Listowel	– 3.7
Athlone	– 1.4	Longford	– 0.2
Athy	– 5.6	Loughrea	– 2.6
		Lucan	10.4
Balbriggan	2.2		
Ballina	– 0.2	Malahide	21.6
Ballinasloe	– 5.4	Mallow	– 2.2
Bandon	– 3.8	Maynooth	26.4
Birr	– 2.7	Midleton	– 2.7
Bray	3.9	Mitchelstown	– 4.4
Buncrana	5.8	Monaghan	– 5.4
		Mountmellick	– 7.0
Carlow	0.8	Mullingar	– 2.7
Carrickmacross	– 3.6		
Carrick-on-Suir	– 3.9	Naas	11.2
Carrigaline	9.5	Navan (An Uaimh)	– 2.1
Castlebar	– 0.2	Nenagh	0.2
Cavan	– 0.3	Newcastle (Co. Limerick)	– 2.2
Ceannanus Mór	– 4.4	New Ross	– 4.3
Celbridge	33.8		
Clonmel	– 1.7	Passage West	– 2.6
Cobh	– 0.8	Portarlington	– 2.5
Cork	0.2	Portlaoighise	– 0.6
		Portmarnock	1.3
Drogheda	– 0.3		
Droichead Nua	3.6	Roscommon	– 1.3
Dublin		Roscrea	– 4.7
(Greater Dublin Area)*	– 0.6	Rush	7.2
Dundalk	– 2.1		
Dungarvan	1.0	Shannon	– 1.1
		Skerries	2.0
Edenderry	– 0.3	Sligo	– 0.3
Ennis	0.9	Swords	15.5
Enniscorthy	– 1.8		
		Thurles	– 5.3
Fermoy	– 8.6	Tipperary	– 4.7
		Tralee	1.2
Galway	8.0	Tramore	1.1
Gorey	– 1.2	Trim	1.5
Greystones	13.2	Tuam	– 9.2
		Tullamore	0.3
Kildare	– 1.7		
Kilkenny	0.7	Waterford	1.9
Killarney	– 2.4	Westport	6.7
		Wexford	0.1
Laytown – Bettystown –		Wicklow	12.6
Mornington	1.2		
Leixlip	9.4	Youghal	– 2.2

\*Including Dun Laoghaire Borough

In Table E the changes in the aggregate town and aggregate rural area populations are shown for counties for the 1986–1991 intercensal period based on the boundaries defined for the 1991 census. Increases in excess of 10 per cent in the aggregate town area population were recorded for Limerick and Dublin–Fingal while for Kildare and Galway County Borough the increases exceeded 5 per cent. The decline in the populations of Dublin, Cork and Limerick County Boroughs between 1986 and 1991 is also evident from Table E.

The population of the aggregate rural area of most counties declined between 1986 and 1991. The exceptions were Dublin–Fingal and Dun Laoghaire–Rathdown; the counties of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow bordering Dublin; and the counties of Carlow and Kilkenny.

**Table E Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural population of each County and percentage change, 1986–1991**

Province, County or County Borough	Aggregate Town Area*			Aggregate Rural Area*		
	Population		Percentage change in population 1986–1991	Population		Percentage change in population 1986–1991
	1986	1991		1986	1991	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,002,174</b>	<b>2,010,700</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1,538,469</b>	<b>1,515,019</b>	<b>– 1.5</b>
<b>Leinster</b>	<b>1,344,414</b>	<b>1,353,885</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>508,235</b>	<b>507,064</b>	<b>– 0.2</b>
Carlow	18,421	18,357	– 0.3	22,567	22,585	0.1
Dublin Co. and Co. Borough	996,147	998,700	0.2	25,302	26,604	5.1
Dublin Co. Borough	502,749	478,389	– 4.8	–	–	–
Dublin – Belgard	191,565	200,987	4.9	7,981	7,752	– 2.9
Dublin – Fingal	123,699	136,816	10.6	14,780	15,950	7.9
Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown	178,134	182,508	2.4	2,541	2,902	14.2
Kildare	64,070	70,239	9.6	52,177	52,417	0.4
Kilkenny	19,219	19,343	0.6	53,967	54,292	0.6
Laoighis	14,566	14,245	– 2.2	38,718	38,069	– 1.7
Longford	6,835	6,824	– 0.2	24,661	23,472	– 4.8
Louth	58,424	57,579	– 1.4	33,386	33,145	– 0.7
Meath	30,949	32,053	3.6	72,932	73,317	0.5
Offaly	21,163	20,856	– 1.4	38,672	37,638	– 2.7
Westmeath	28,682	27,947	– 2.6	34,697	33,933	– 2.2
Wexford	33,260	32,818	– 1.3	69,292	69,251	– 0.0
Wicklow	52,678	54,924	4.3	41,864	42,341	1.1
<b>Munster</b>	<b>493,932</b>	<b>490,815</b>	<b>– 0.6</b>	<b>526,645</b>	<b>518,718</b>	<b>– 1.5</b>
Clare	31,127	31,081	– 0.1	60,217	59,837	– 0.6
Cork Co. and Co. Borough	244,211	243,361	– 0.3	168,524	167,008	– 0.9
Cork Co. Borough	133,271	127,253	– 4.5	–	–	–
Cork	110,940	116,108	4.6	168,524	167,008	– 0.9
Kerry	33,878	33,616	– 0.8	90,281	88,278	– 2.2
Limerick Co. and Co. Borough	80,993	79,572	– 1.8	83,576	82,384	– 1.4
Limerick Co. Borough	56,279	52,083	– 7.4	–	–	–
Limerick	24,714	27,489	11.2	83,576	82,384	– 1.4
Tipperary, N.R.	19,979	19,336	– 3.2	39,543	38,518	– 2.6
Tipperary, S.R.	30,742	29,924	– 2.7	46,355	44,994	– 2.9
Waterford Co. and Co. Borough	53,002	53,925	1.7	38,149	37,699	– 1.2
Waterford Co. Borough	39,529	40,328	2.0	–	–	–
Waterford	13,473	13,597	0.9	38,149	37,699	– 1.2
<b>Connacht</b>	<b>114,257</b>	<b>116,653</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>317,152</b>	<b>306,378</b>	<b>– 3.4</b>
Galway Co. and Co. Borough	64,379	67,088	4.2	114,173	113,276	– 0.8
Galway Co. Borough	47,104	50,853	8.0	–	–	–
Galway	17,275	16,235	– 6.0	114,173	113,276	– 0.8
Leitrim	1,612	1,510	– 6.3	25,423	23,791	– 6.4
Mayo	21,294	21,410	0.5	93,890	89,303	– 4.9
Roscommon	8,954	8,681	– 3.0	45,638	43,216	– 5.3
Sligo	18,018	17,964	– 0.3	38,028	36,792	– 3.2
<b>Ulster (part of)</b>	<b>49,571</b>	<b>49,347</b>	<b>– 0.4</b>	<b>186,437</b>	<b>182,859</b>	<b>– 1.9</b>
Cavan	8,747	8,595	– 1.7	45,218	44,201	– 2.2
Donegal	25,499	26,180	2.7	104,165	101,937	– 2.1
Monaghan	15,325	14,572	– 4.9	37,054	36,721	– 0.9

\*As defined for the 1991 Census of Population

## Population by Type of District

Table F gives a classification of the population by "type of district" or community size. In addition to towns of 1,500 population or over comprising the aggregate town area population Table F covers all smaller towns down to a minimum size cluster of 50 inhabited houses. Suburban expansion in the Dublin area renders the allocation of suburbs as between Dublin County Borough and Dun Laoghaire Borough an arbitrary one and, therefore, these areas and their suburbs are combined in Table F under the heading "Greater Dublin Area".

In 1991 the population in towns of all sizes was 2,277,925 persons, representing 64.6 per cent of the total population of the country. The Greater Dublin Area contained 26.0 per cent of the total, while the 25 other towns of over 10,000 population accounted for 19.2 per cent. The 103 towns of between 1,500 and 10,000 inhabitants contained 11.8 per cent of the total population while the remaining 504 smaller towns contained 7.6 per cent. In all town areas the numbers of females exceeded those of males, the female excess being greatest in Galway County Borough and in the Greater Dublin Area. In country districts the number of males exceeded that of females very considerably, there being only 922 females per 1,000 males compared with 1,063 females per 1,000 males in town areas.

**Table F     Distribution of 1991 population by type of district and females per 1,000 males in each district**

Type of district	Number of towns	Population			Percentage distribution of population	Females per 1,000 males
		Persons	Males	Females		
Greater Dublin Area	2	915,516	437,789	477,727	26.0	1,091
Cork County Borough and Suburbs	1	174,400	84,693	89,707	4.9	1,059
Limerick County Borough and Suburbs	1	75,436	36,752	38,684	2.1	1,052
Galway County Borough	1	50,853	24,281	26,572	1.4	1,094
Waterford County Borough and Suburbs	1	41,853	20,497	21,356	1.2	1,042
Other towns classified by 1991 population:						
10,000 population and over including environs	21	336,411	163,895	172,516	9.5	1,053
5,000 to 10,000 population including environs	31	218,564	107,349	111,215	6.2	1,036
3,000 to 5,000 population including environs	25	96,403	47,299	49,104	2.7	1,038
1,500 to 3,000 population including environs	47	101,264	49,556	51,708	2.9	1,043
1,000 to 1,500 population including environs	64	79,196	38,675	40,521	2.2	1,048
500 to 1,000 population	134	94,984	47,109	47,875	2.7	1,016
Under 500 population but with at least 50 inhabited houses*	306	93,045	46,332	46,713	2.6	1,008
Population outside Towns	—	1,247,794	649,191	598,603	35.4	922
<b>Total</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>3,525,719</b>	<b>1,753,418</b>	<b>1,772,301</b>	<b>100.—</b>	<b>1,011</b>

\* All except 30 of these towns had a population of 200 or more

The population changes in the different types of districts between 1986 and 1991 are shown in Table G. The figures shown for 1986 and 1991 relate to identical areas, namely the towns, suburbs and environs defined in 1991. Because some towns fall into different size groups at the two censuses, somewhat different results are obtained depending on whether the type of district classification is based on the population in 1986 or in 1991. For this reason an average size classification (i.e. the simple averages of the populations of each town in the two census years) is used in Table G.

## 1986–1991 Intercensal 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 is known from the regular vital statistics, a residual measure of net movement of persons can be obtained. This residual is used as an estimate of *net migration* i.e. the difference between the inward and outward flows. It also reflects, however, the net effect of other factors such as the 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 marginal variations in census coverage. However, these are not considered to be significant.

In the five year period between the April 1986 and April 1991 censuses, births (277,000) exceeded deaths (158,000) by 119,000. The actual decrease in population in the same period was 15,000. The difference of 134,000 is the estimate of the extent to which outward migration in 1986–1991 was greater than inward migration i.e. an estimate of net migration.

Table I sets out the relevant figures for the intercensal period 1986–1991 with separate estimates for males and females.

**Table I Births, deaths and estimated net migration, 1986–1991**

Components of population change	Intercensal period 1986–1991		
	Persons	Males	Females
	Thousands		
Births*	277	143	134
Deaths*	158	85	73
Natural increase (excess of births over deaths)	119	58	61
Change in population	– 15	– 16	1
Estimated net migration (inward less outward)	– 134	– 74	– 60

\*The data for births and deaths relate to registrations in the five year period ended 31 March 1991

## Annual Estimates of Population and Net Migration, 1987–1990

The estimates of the mid–April population for the years 1987 to 1990 and the year–to–year changes in net migration have been revised on the basis of final 1991 census figures and a review of the trends exhibited by a range of population and migration indicators<sup>1</sup>. The annual components of population change for each of the years 1986 to 1991 are given in Table J.

**Table J Births, deaths and estimated net migration and population change in each year, 1986 to 1991**

Period	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Estimated net migration (inward less outward)	Estimated change in population
	Thousands				
1986/87	61	32	29	– 23	6
1987/88	58	32	26	– 42	– 16
1988/89	53	31	23	– 44	– 21
1989/90	52	33	19	– 23	– 4
1990/91	53	31	22	– 2	20
1986/91	277	158	119	– 134 *	– 15 *

\*Based on comparison of data from successive censuses

Revised population estimates (in thousands), with the extent of the revisions shown in parentheses, are as follows:

April 1987	April 1988	April 1989	April 1990
3,546 (+3)	3,531 (–7)	3,510 (–5)	3,506 (+3)

<sup>1</sup>Already published in Summary Population Report (PI 9743), April 1993

Table K shows the average annual change in the population, natural increase and estimated net migration for each intercensal period since 1926. The average annual natural increase rose fairly consistently up to 1981 and reached a level for the 1979–1981 period which was some 24,000 higher than for the 1926–1936 period. However, there have been sharp declines in the average annual natural increase in both 1981–1986 and 1986–1991, the figure (24,000) for the latter period being the lowest since the 1936–1946 intercensal period.

Since 1926 there has been an annual average excess of outward migration over inward migration for all intercensal periods with the exception of the 1971–1979 period. Since that period there has been a resumption of average annual net outward migration on a growing scale culminating in 1986–1991 in an average annual excess of outward migration over inward migration of some 27,000 persons. For the 1986–1991 intercensal period the average annual decline in population of 3,000 comprised a natural increase of 24,000 offset by net outward migration of 27,000.

**Table K Average annual change in population, natural increase and estimated net migration in each intercensal period, 1926–1991**

Intercensal period	Average annual change in population			Average annual natural increase			Estimated average annual net migration (inward less outward)		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1926–1936	– 357	+ 1,357	– 1,714	16,318	8,612	7,706	– 16,675	– 7,255	– 9,420
1936–1946	– 1,332	– 2,558	+ 1,226	17,380	8,700	8,680	– 18,712	– 11,258	– 7,454
1946–1951	+ 1,097	+ 2,344	– 1,247	25,595	12,745	12,850	– 24,498	– 10,401	– 14,097
1951–1956	– 12,466	– 8,734	– 3,732	26,887	12,923	13,964	– 39,353	– 21,657	– 17,696
1956–1961	– 15,985	– 9,276	– 6,709	26,416	12,639	13,777	– 42,401	– 21,915	– 20,486
1961–1966	+ 13,132	+ 6,496	+ 6,636	29,253	14,019	15,234	– 16,121	– 7,523	– 8,598
1966–1971	+ 18,849	+ 9,345	+ 9,504	29,630	14,295	15,335	– 10,781	– 4,950	– 5,831
1971–1979	+ 48,746	+ 24,689	+ 24,057	35,129	17,030	18,099	+ 13,617	+ 7,659	+ 5,958
1979–1981	+ 37,594	+ 18,041	+ 19,553	40,117	19,647	20,470	– 2,523	– 1,606	– 917
1981–1986	+ 19,447	+ 8,067	+ 11,380	33,824	16,350	17,474	– 14,377	– 8,283	– 6,094
1986–1991	– 2,985	– 3,254	+ 270	23,849	11,610	12,239	– 26,834	– 14,865	– 11,969

The annual averages for population change, natural increase and net migration given in Table K are shown in the form of annual rates per thousand of the average population in Table L. The average population in this context is the simple average of the populations at the beginning and end of the intercensal period. Table K shows that the rate of net outward migration was at its highest level since 1956–1961 in the second half of the 1980's.

**Table L Average annual rates of change in population, natural increase and estimated net migration per 1,000 of average population in each intercensal period, 1926–1991**

Intercensal period	Change in population	Natural increase	Estimated net migration (inward less outward)
Per thousand of average population			
1926–1936	– 0.1	5.5	– 5.6
1936–1946	– 0.4	5.9	– 6.3
1946–1951	+ 0.4	8.7	– 8.3
1951–1956	– 4.3	9.2	– 13.4
1956–1961	– 5.6	9.2	– 14.8
1961–1966	+ 4.6	10.3	– 5.7
1966–1971	+ 6.4	10.1	– 3.7
1971–1979	+ 15.4	11.1	+ 4.3
1979–1981	+ 11.0	11.8	– 0.7
1981–1986	+ 5.6	9.7	– 4.1
1986–1991	– 0.8	6.8	– 7.6

Estimated net movement of persons can also be derived for counties and county boroughs in a similar fashion by comparing the change in population with the natural increase for each area. These estimates are given for the 1986–1991 intercensal period in Table 5. County estimates for net migration derived in this manner take into account all movements into and out of each county whether to or from abroad, or to or from another part of the State. The estimates of net migration represent the difference between two opposite flows – inwards and outwards.

Derived annual rates of net migration per thousand of the average population for each county are shown in Table M for each intercensal period since 1956.

**Table M Average annual rate of estimated net migration (inward less outward) per 1,000 of average population in each intercensal period, 1956–1991**

Province or County	1956– 1961	1961– 1966	1966– 1971	1971– 1979	1979– 1981	1981– 1986	1986– 1991
<b>Total</b>	– 14.8	– 5.7	– 3.7	+ 4.3	– 0.7	– 4.1	– 7.6
<b>Leinster</b>	– 13.1	– 1.5	– 1.7	+ 5.5	– 0.5	– 4.5	– 7.3
<b>Munster</b>	– 14.2	– 6.4	– 3.5	+ 3.2	– 1.3	– 4.0	– 7.8
<b>Connacht</b>	– 18.3	– 13.6	– 10.0	+ 2.4	– 0.4	– 3.4	– 7.9
<b>Ulster (part of)</b>	– 20.7	– 14.2	– 6.6	+ 3.8	– 0.9	– 3.1	– 8.6
<b>Leinster</b>							
Carlow	– 16.1	– 12.2	– 8.9	+ 1.8	– 0.6	– 6.9	– 9.1
Dublin*	– 10.1	+ 4.8	– 0.7	+ 4.0	– 3.5	– 7.2	– 7.4
Kildare	– 18.4	– 8.4	+ 0.9	+ 18.3	+ 14.2	+ 5.0	– 1.3
Kilkenny	– 15.6	– 10.9	– 4.2	+ 5.5	+ 1.6	– 2.6	– 6.1
Laoighis	– 17.2	– 12.6	– 6.4	+ 3.1	+ 1.4	– 1.9	– 10.0
Longford	– 20.8	– 16.8	– 11.3	+ 3.2	– 2.4	– 5.2	– 12.1
Louth	– 17.1	– 6.8	+ 0.9	+ 6.8	– 0.4	– 3.4	– 9.1
Meath	– 14.7	– 4.1	+ 1.3	+ 15.6	+ 9.5	+ 3.4	– 6.3
Offaly	– 13.2	– 11.7	– 11.6	+ 0.5	– 4.6	– 4.9	– 11.1
Westmeath	– 15.9	– 12.3	– 9.1	+ 3.2	+ 0.2	– 5.6	– 11.9
Wexford	– 17.4	– 9.5	– 4.0	+ 1.8	– 0.2	– 3.1	– 8.3
Wicklow	– 17.2	– 4.2	+ 7.5	+ 14.5	+ 5.6	+ 3.0	– 3.7
<b>Munster</b>							
Clare	– 14.9	– 6.3	– 1.9	+ 7.3	+ 5.7	+ 0.1	– 6.3
Cork*	– 11.2	– 3.9	– 1.9	+ 4.1	– 2.8	– 3.7	– 7.1
Kerry	– 15.2	– 11.2	– 4.7	+ 1.6	+ 2.2	– 3.8	– 6.3
Limerick*	– 17.0	– 5.0	– 6.5	+ 1.5	+ 1.0	– 5.9	– 9.9
Tipperary, N.R.	– 16.1	– 8.3	– 6.5	– 0.7	– 7.5	– 6.7	– 10.8
Tipperary, S.R.	– 18.6	– 13.0	– 8.2	+ 1.3	– 3.0	– 5.9	– 11.4
Waterford*	– 14.8	– 5.0	+ 1.6	+ 4.4	– 4.0	– 3.4	– 5.4
<b>Connacht</b>							
Galway*	– 16.2	– 10.6	– 6.7	+ 4.6	+ 1.2	– 1.7	– 4.4
Leitrim	– 22.7	– 19.1	– 14.7	– 2.3	– 5.9	– 6.3	– 12.2
Mayo	– 20.3	– 17.1	– 14.0	+ 0.2	– 2.7	– 5.2	– 10.8
Roscommon	– 17.9	– 11.7	– 10.9	+ 0.6	– 0.3	– 2.8	– 11.4
Sligo	– 16.6	– 12.7	– 6.8	+ 4.6	+ 2.0	– 4.1	– 8.2
<b>Ulster (part of)</b>							
Cavan	– 21.3	– 13.8	– 9.1	– 3.0	– 7.7	– 7.0	– 9.2
Donegal	– 17.9	– 15.0	– 6.3	+ 7.2	+ 2.9	– 1.2	– 8.2
Monaghan	– 26.5	– 12.9	– 4.4	+ 3.2	– 2.9	– 3.7	– 8.8

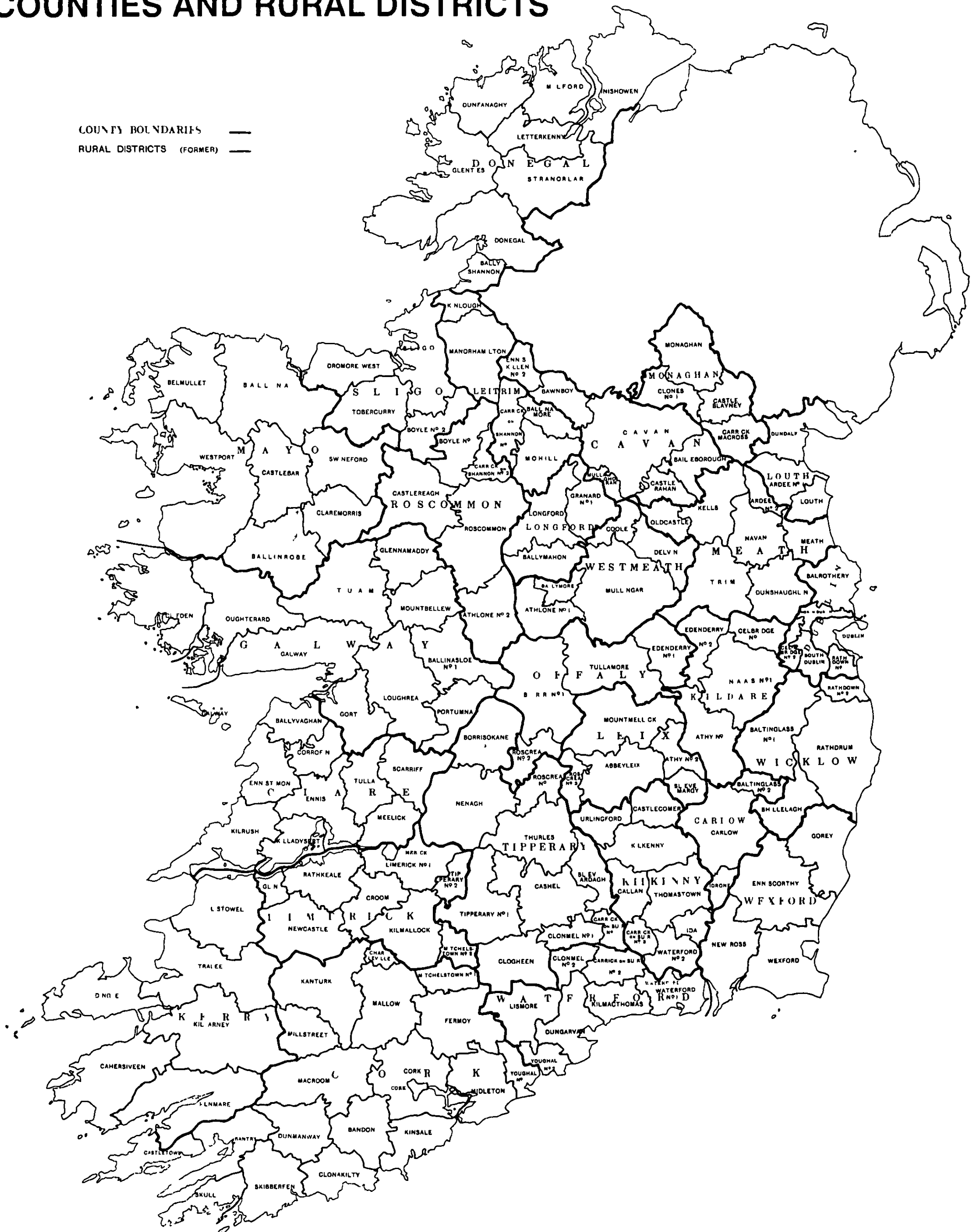
\*County and County Borough.

No county experienced net inward migration in the 1986–1991 period. The counties with the highest levels of average net outward migration were Leitrim, Longford, Westmeath, Tipperary S.R. and Roscommon while those with the lowest levels were Kildare, Wicklow and Galway.

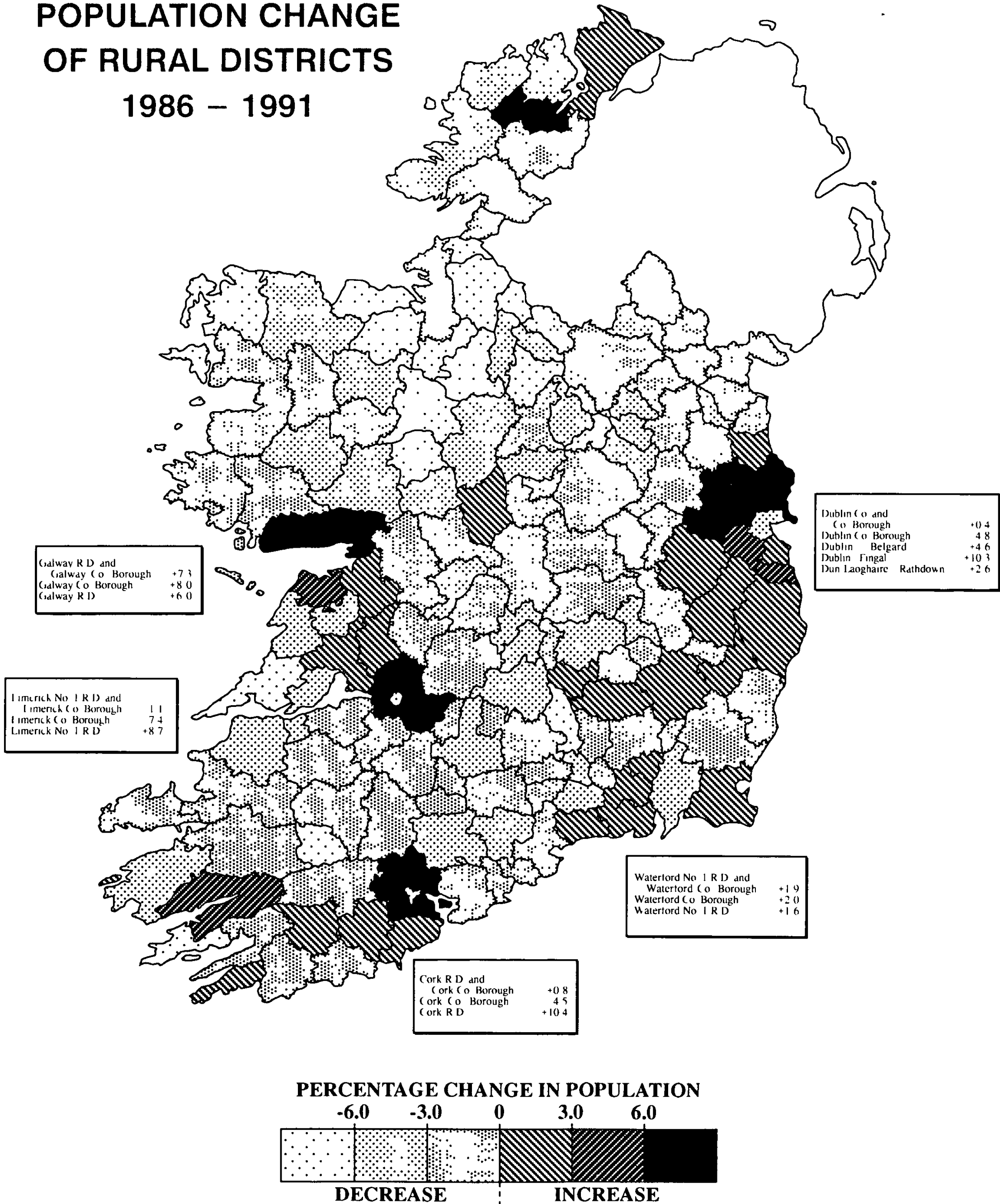


# MAPS

## COUNTIES AND RURAL DISTRICTS

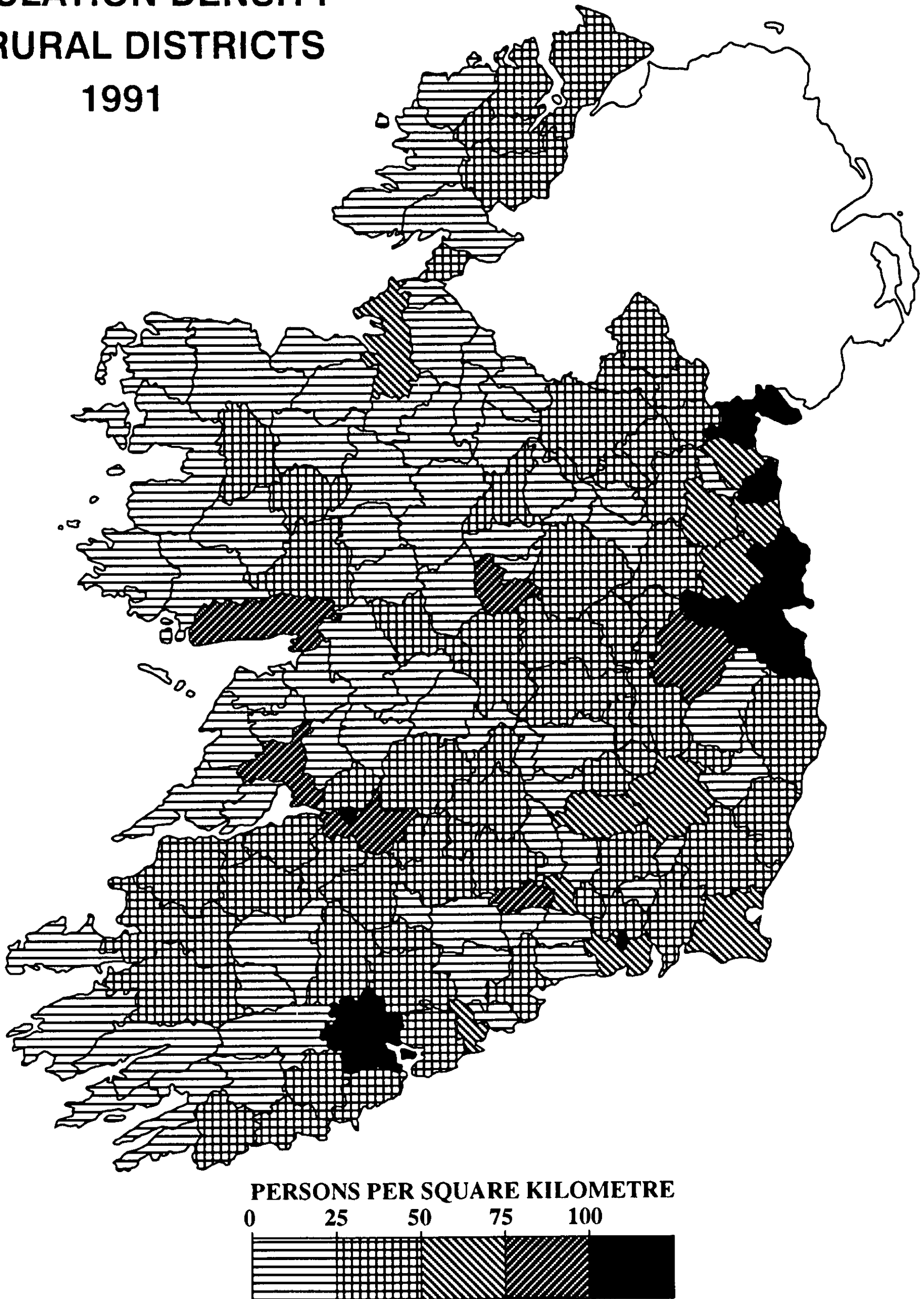


# POPULATION CHANGE OF RURAL DISTRICTS 1986 – 1991



*Note* In compiling the percentage changes for this map Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts have been included with the adjoining Rural Districts. County Boroughs have been treated separately.

# POPULATION DENSITY OF RURAL DISTRICTS 1991



*Note* In compiling population densities for this map Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts have been included with the adjoining Rural Districts. County Boroughs (with the exception of Dublin and Galway) have been treated separately.