

Table of Contents

General Details

	Page
Introduction	7
Coverage	7
Conduct of the Census	7
Production of Results	7
Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS)	8

Definitions

Private Household	9
Non-private Household	9
Farm Household	9
Housing Unit	9
Private Dwelling	9
Temporary Dwelling	9
Number of Rooms	9
Size of Household	9
Questions on Census Form	10

Commentary

Overall Features	13
Household Density	13
Amenities	15
Nature of Occupancy	17
Fuel Used	18

Tables

Part I - Private Households/Dwellings in Permanent Housing Units

Table No.

1	Persons in private and non-private households in each Province, County and County Borough	21
2	Permanent housing units classified by persons in private households, number of private households and number of rooms occupied by private households in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas of each Province, County and County Borough	22
3	Average number of persons per private household in permanent housing units in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas of each Province, County and County Borough - 1946 to 1991	23
4	Average number of persons per room in private households in permanent housing units in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas of each Province, County and County Borough - 1946 to 1991	25
5	Percentage of persons in private households in permanent housing units having more than two persons per room in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas of each Province, County and County Borough - 1946 to 1991	27
6	Private households in permanent housing units in each Province and County, classified by number of rooms occupied - 1946 to 1991	29
7	Private households in permanent housing units occupying one-roomed dwellings, classified by size of household, in each Province and County - 1946 to 1991	33

Table No.		Page
	Persons in private households in permanent housing units, classified by number of persons per room	
8A	Province, County and County Borough	37
8B	Aggregate Town Area	38
8C	Aggregate Rural Area	39
9	Private dwellings classified by water supply, sanitary facilities, type of building in which situated and distinguishing number of persons in these dwellings	40
10	Private dwellings classified by nature of occupancy, period in which built, type of building in which situated and distinguishing number of persons in these dwellings	41
	Private dwellings classified by nature of occupancy	
11A	Province, County and County Borough	42
11B	Aggregate Town Area	43
11C	Aggregate Rural Area	44
11D	Geographic Area	45
	Rented private dwellings classified by weekly rent	
12A	Province, County and County Borough	56
12B	Aggregate Town Area	62
12C	Aggregate Rural Area	68
12D	Geographic Area	72
13	Rented private dwellings in each Planning Region, classified by weekly rent and number of rooms occupied	83
14	Rented private dwellings in each Planning Region, classified by weekly rent and period in which built	85
15	Private dwellings in each Province, County and County Borough, classified by principal method of heating and principal type of fuel used	87
16	Private dwellings in each Planning Region, classified by period in which built, principal method of heating and principal type of fuel used	93
17	Private dwellings in each Planning Region, classified by nature of occupancy, principal method of heating and principal type of fuel used	103
	Farm dwellings in each Province, County and County Borough	
18A	Period in which built	108
18B	Water supply and number having use of a fixed bath or shower	109
18C	Sanitary facilities and number having indoor toilet	110

Part II - Permanent Housing Units

	Private housing units, private households, persons and rooms by type of building	
19A	County and County Borough	113
19B	Aggregate Town Area	116
19C	Aggregate Rural Area	119
20	Average densities in permanent private housing units in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas of each Province, County and County Borough	122
21	Permanent private housing units, classified by water supply, sanitary facilities, type of building in which situated and distinguishing number of persons in these housing units	124

Table No.		Page
22	Permanent private housing units, classified by nature of occupancy, period in which built, type of building in which situated and distinguishing number of persons in these housing units	125
	Permanent private housing units classified by number of rooms, number of persons and containing	
23A	All households	126
23B	One household	127
23C	Two households	128
23D	Three or more households	129
	Permanent private housing units classified by nature of occupancy	
24A	Province, County and County Borough	130
24B	Aggregate Town Area	131
24C	Aggregate Rural Area	132
24D	Geographic Area	133
	Rented permanent private housing units classified by weekly rent	
25A	Province, County and County Borough	144
25B	Aggregate Town Area	145
25C	Aggregate Rural Area	146
25D	Geographic Area	147
	Permanent private housing units classified by period in which built	
26A	Province, County and County Borough	158
26B	Aggregate Town Area	159
26C	Aggregate Rural Area	160
26D	Geographic Area	161
	Permanent private housing units classified by water supply and showing number having use of a fixed bath or shower	
27A	Province, County and County Borough	172
27B	Aggregate Town Area	173
27C	Aggregate Rural Area	174
27D	Geographic Area	175
	Permanent private housing units classified by sanitary facilities and showing number having indoor toilet	
28A	Province, County and County Borough	186
28B	Aggregate Town Area	187
28C	Aggregate Rural Area	188
28D	Geographic Area	189
	Permanent private housing units classified by period in which built and sanitary facilities	
29A	Province, County and County Borough	200
29B	Aggregate Town Area	206
29C	Aggregate Rural Area	212
	Permanent private housing units classified by period in which built, water supply and use of a fixed bath or shower	
30A	Province, County and County Borough	216
30B	Aggregate Town Area	228
30C	Aggregate Rural Area	240

Appendix

1991 Census reports published to date	251
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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)¹. A copy of the census questionnaire including the explanatory notes which accompanied it is reproduced in Appendix 1, Volume 1 of the detailed census report.

This tenth volume of the detailed report which contains tables relating to housing and social amenities is in two parts. Part I refers to private households/dwellings in permanent housing units and Part II covers permanent housing units.

The territorial divisions of the country distinguished in this report are defined in Appendices 3-8 of Volume 1.

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 date². 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). A summary report for the State was issued in April 1993.

The derived first phase computer file formed the basis for three volumes of the detailed census report covering Areas, Ages and Marital Status and Household Composition and Family Units. The computer processing of the remaining information on the census questionnaires enabled the publication of a second series of Local Population Reports covering place of birth, religion, Irish speakers, usual residence, car usage and household characteristics.

A complete list of the reports on the 1991 Census published to date is given in the Appendix.

¹ 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. 142 of 1949).

² Census of Population of Ireland, 1991:
Preliminary Population Figures (Pl. 8176), June 1991
Preliminary Report - Areas (Pl. 8248), July 1991
Preliminary Report - Age Groups (Pl. 8447), November 1991.

Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS)

Small area population statistics (SAPS) for Urban Districts, Rural Districts, Towns, District Electoral Divisions, etc. from the 1991 Census are available on a fee basis.

The SAPS contain detailed classifications of:

- the **population** by age, sex and marital status;
- **households** by type, size and by age, sex and marital status of the head of the households;
- **family units** by size and age of youngest child;
- the **population aged 15 years and over** by principal economic status, age and sex;
- **persons at work** by sex, employment status and broad industrial sector;
- **persons at work and unemployed** by sex and occupational group;
- the **entire population** by socio-economic group and social class.

Detailed classifications by means of travel and distance travelled to work, education, ability to speak Irish, religion and housing characteristics, etc. are also provided.

For further information contact:

Census Inquiries Section
Central Statistics Office
Ardee Road
Rathmines
Dublin 6

Phone (01) 4977144 Ext. 4129, 4132, 4133 and 4134
Fax (01) 4972360

Definitions

All classifications relate to occupied housing units only. Statistics of unoccupied housing units were not compiled because of the difficulty of determining, in many cases, whether unoccupied accommodation could be regarded as habitable or not.

Private Household

A *private household* is defined as a group of persons living together (usually but not necessarily related), jointly occupying the whole or part of a private dwelling house, flat or temporary dwelling and sharing a common budget. A person who lives alone or a person who occupies only part of the living accommodation but does not normally share a common budget with the other occupants is also regarded as constituting a separate private household.

Non-private Household

A *non-private household* is a boarding house, hotel, guest house, barrack, hospital, nursing home, boarding school, religious institution, welfare institution, prison or ship, etc.. However, proprietors and managers of hotels, principals of boarding schools, persons in charge of various other types of institutions and members of staff who, with their families, occupy flats on the premises are classified as private households.

Farm Household

A *farm household* is a household in which at least one of the usual residents is a working or retired farmer.

Housing Unit

A *housing unit* is a conventional house, a structurally separate flat or a temporary dwelling, regardless of the number of private households it contains; when temporary dwellings are excluded the definition relates to a permanent housing unit. Generally, one private household occupies one housing unit but households at the same address sharing toilet facilities are grouped into one housing unit. In 1991 there were 1,006,506 permanent housing units in the State in which there were 1,019,723 private households.

Private Dwelling

A *private dwelling* is the room or set of rooms occupied by a private household in a permanent housing unit. There is thus a one to one correspondence between such private households and private dwellings and the numbers of these entities are the same in all instances.

Temporary Dwelling

Households occupying caravans or other temporary dwellings have been included as private households but most tabulations concerning private households have been compiled for private households in permanent housing units and, therefore, exclude all such temporary dwellings.

Number of Rooms

The *number of rooms* occupied by a private household is the total number used by the household, including a kitchen, but excluding a kitchenette, scullery, bathroom, toilet, consulting room, office or shop.

Size of Household

The number of persons in a household consists of the total number of persons present there on the night of Sunday, 21 April 1991, together with all persons who arrived in the household on the morning of Monday, 22 April 1991, not having been enumerated elsewhere. The *size of household*, therefore, includes any visitors present in the household on census night but excludes any usual residents of the household temporarily absent.

Questions on Census Form

The questions on the census questionnaires from which the details contained in this Volume were derived are reproduced below.

Nature of Occupancy

Each private household was classified according to the nature of occupancy of the house, flat or rooms in question 25.

25. NATURE OF OCCUPANCY OF HOUSE, FLAT or ROOMS (Insert ✓ in appropriate box)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Rented from Local Authority (Corporation, County or Urban District Council) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| Rented unfurnished, other than from Local Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Rented furnished or part furnished | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Being acquired from Local Authority under a Purchase or Vested Cottage Scheme..... | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Owner occupied where loan or mortgage repayments are being made | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Owner occupied where no loan or mortgage repayments are being made | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| Occupied free of rent (caretaker, company official, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 |

In the case of a permanent housing unit consisting of more than one household, the nature of occupancy of the housing unit was taken to be that of the principal household e.g. an owner occupied household within a housing unit meant that the housing unit was classified as owner occupied.

Rent

The amount of rent paid for rented private households (i.e. categories 1, 2 and 3 in question 25) was obtained from responses to the following question :

26. RENT (For Categories 1, 2 and 3 of Question 25)

If the house, flat or rooms are rented, state the rent and indicate the period which applies by inserting ✓ in the appropriate box.

RENT		
£	p	
		per
		Week <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Two weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Four weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Month <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Two months <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Three months <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Six months <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Year <input type="checkbox"/> 8

In the case of a permanent housing unit consisting of more than one household where each household was rented, the rent of the housing unit was taken to be the sum of the rents of the individual households.

Rooms

The number of rooms occupied was derived from the answers given to question 27:

27. ROOMS

State the number of rooms occupied by the household (including kitchen but excluding kitchenette, scullery, bathroom, toilet, consulting room, office or shop).

In the case of a permanent housing unit consisting of more than one household the number of rooms in the housing unit is the sum of the number of rooms occupied by the individual households within it.

Year Built

The census question relating to the year in which the house was built was formulated as follows:

28. YEAR IN WHICH THE HOUSE WAS BUILT

Indicate the period in which the house or other building containing the dwelling was built by inserting ✓ in the appropriate box. The year in which first built is required even if subsequently converted, extended or renovated.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Before 1919 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| Between 1919 and 1940 inclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Between 1941 and 1960 inclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Between 1961 and 1970 inclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Between 1971 and 1980 inclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Between 1981 and 1985 inclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| 1986 or later | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 |

Some of the responses to this question may not be accurate. Householders occupying older houses tend to be unsure about when they were built. Nevertheless, because of the interest in the figures and given the greater accuracy of the details for the more recent periods, tables relating to the year in which the house was built have been included in this Volume.

Water Supply, Bath or Shower and Sanitary Facilities

Information on types of water supply, sanitary facilities and access to bath and shower facilities was derived from the answers given to questions 29 to 31.

29. WATER SUPPLY (Insert ✓ in appropriate box)

Piped Water Supply :

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Connected to Public Main | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| Connected to a Group Water Scheme with a Local Authority source of supply | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Connected to a Group Water Scheme with a private source of supply (e.g. borehole, lake, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Connected to other private source (e.g. well, lake, rain-water tank, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| No piped water supply | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |

Is there a water tap inside the building ?

Yes ☐ 1

No ☐ 2

30. BATH or SHOWER (Insert ✓ in appropriate box)

Has the household the use of a fixed bath or shower ?

Yes ☐ 1
No ☐ 2

If "Yes", is this bath or shower shared with another household ?

Yes ☐ 1
No ☐ 2

31. SANITARY FACILITIES (Insert ✓ in appropriate box)

- Flush Toilet connected to public sewer ☐ 1
 Flush Toilet connected to septic tank ☐ 2
 Chemical Closet ☐ 3
 Dry Closet ☐ 4
 No Toilet or Closet ☐ 5

Is the Toilet or Closet inside the building ?

Yes ☐ 1
 No ☐ 2

Is the Toilet or Closet shared with another household ?

Yes ☐ 1
 No ☐ 2

In the case of a permanent housing unit with more than one household, the housing unit was regarded as having the relevant amenity (e.g. water supply, bath or shower) provided any one of its constituent households had it.

Household Heating

Question 32 sought detailed information on household heating in winter time.

32. HOUSEHOLD HEATING IN WINTER TIME

Indicate the principal method of heating the dwelling in winter time and also the principal fuel used.

Principal Method of Heating :
 (✓ one box only)

- Open fire only ☐ 1
 Open fire with water heating back boiler ☐ 2
 Open fire with back boiler central heating ☐ 3
 Closed solid fuel appliances :
 Room heating only ☐ 4
 Room and water heating ☐ 5
 Central heating ☐ 6
 Electric central heating ☐ 7
 Oil fired central heating ☐ 8
 Gas fired central heating ☐ 9
 Dual system central heating ☐ 10
 Portable heaters ☐ 11
 Other ☐ 12

Principal Type of Fuel :
 (✓ one box only)

- Solid Fuel :
 Smokeless fuel (e.g. briquettes, anthracite/extracite) ☐ 1
 House (bituminous) coal ☐ 2
 Other solid fuel (e.g. turf, wood) ☐ 3
 Electricity ☐ 4
 Oil, including Kerosene ☐ 5
 Natural gas ☐ 6
 Bottled gas, including bulk LPG ☐ 7
 Other ☐ 8

Commentary

Overall Features

The total population enumerated in the 1991 Census of Population was 3,525,719. Of this total, 3,408,651 persons, who comprised 1,019,723 private households, were living in 1,006,506 permanent housing units. A further 24,397 persons covering 9,361 households were living in caravans or other temporary dwellings. The remaining 92,671 persons were enumerated in non-private dwellings.

The average number of persons per private household in permanent housing units was 3.34 and the average size of dwelling was 5.25 rooms giving an average density of occupation of 0.64 persons per room.

Household Density

Table A shows the average number of persons per private household in permanent housing units in the State and in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas since 1926.

Table A Average number of persons per private household in permanent housing units, 1926-1991

Area	1926	1936	1946	1961	1966	1971	1981	1986	1991
Aggregate Town Area *	4.32	4.28	4.15	3.99	4.07	3.98	3.64	3.47	3.26
Aggregate Rural Area *	4.55	4.33	4.16	3.96	3.95	3.89	3.72	3.62	3.46
State	4.48	4.31	4.16	3.97	4.01	3.94	3.68	3.54	3.34

* As then defined.

In rural areas there has been a consistent decline in average household size from 4.55 persons in 1926 to 3.46 persons in 1991. The downward trend in average household size in urban areas was temporarily halted between 1961 and 1966. Expressed in annual average terms, the rate of decline in average household size for the 1986-1991 intercensal period was the largest since the foundation of the State.

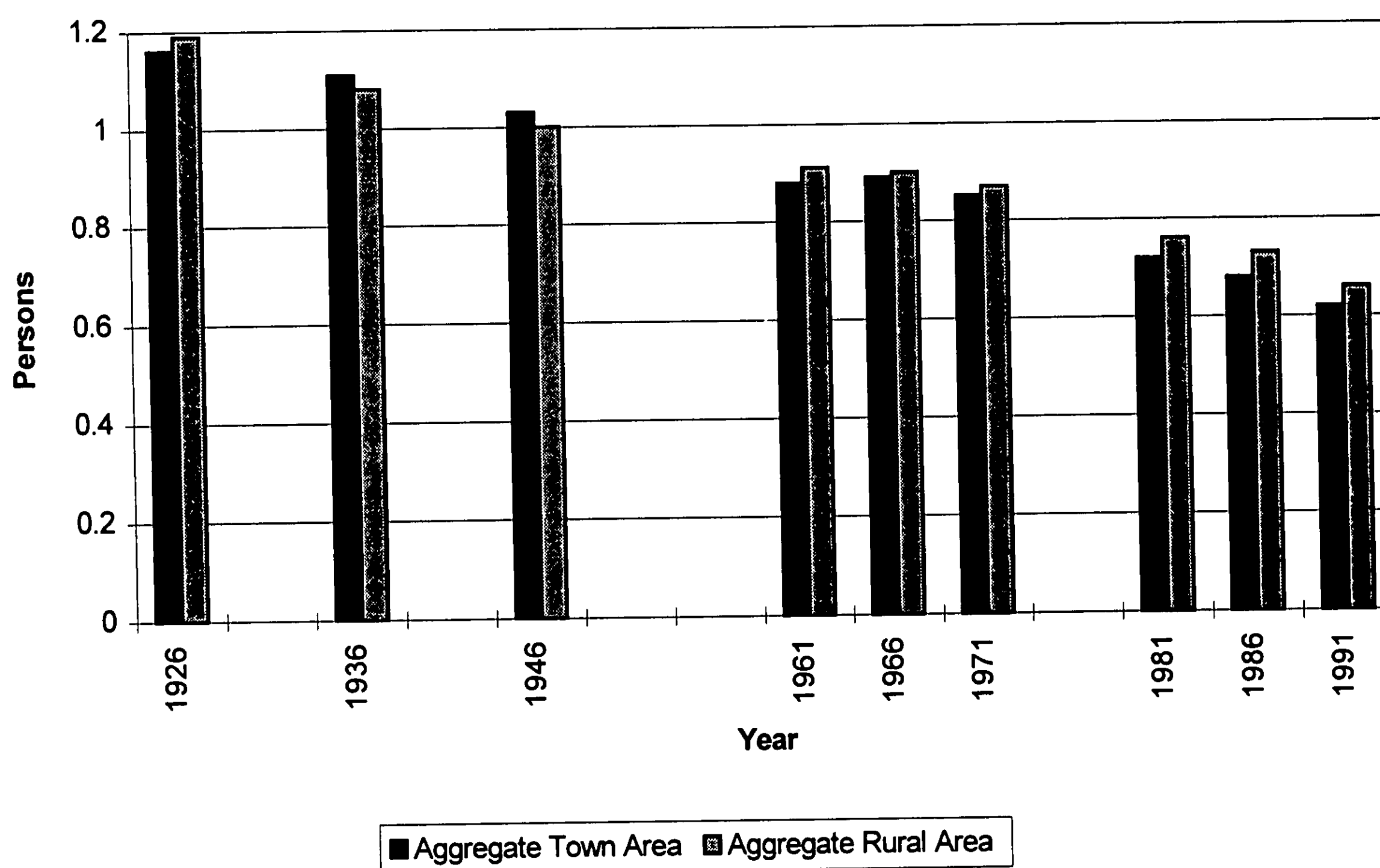
Table B below shows the average numbers of persons per room in private households in permanent housing units while Figure 1 gives a graphical illustration of the situation for Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas.

Table B Average number of persons per room in private households in permanent housing units, 1926-1991

Area	1926	1936	1946	1961	1966	1971	1981	1986	1991
Aggregate Town Area *	1.17	1.11	1.03	0.88	0.89	0.85	0.72	0.68	0.62
Aggregate Rural Area *	1.19	1.08	1.00	0.91	0.90	0.87	0.76	0.73	0.66
State	1.19	1.09	1.01	0.90	0.89	0.86	0.74	0.70	0.64

* As then defined.

Figure 1 Average number of persons per room in private households in permanent housing units, 1926-1991



The trends are similar to those in Table A. The number of persons per room has been declining consistently down through the years in both town and rural areas with the exception of the five-year period 1961 to 1966 when a slight increase took place in town areas. While the difference between the town and rural areas was quite small in 1991 (0.66 persons per room in rural areas compared with 0.62 persons per room in town areas), there were sizeable differences between the county averages. In Table 4 of this report, it can be seen that in the Aggregate Town Areas the lowest density was 0.54 for Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown and the highest was 0.68 which was recorded in Laoighis and Offaly. In the Aggregate Rural Area within counties values ranged from a low of 0.56 in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown to a high of 0.73 in Donegal.

The improvement in housing conditions over the period 1926 to 1991 can also be seen in Table C which provides a classification of the population in private households in permanent housing units by housing density.

Table C Percentage distribution of persons in private households in permanent housing units by housing density

[illegible]

The proportion of the population in private households in permanent housing units with a density of 2 or more persons per room fell from 37.1 per cent in 1926 to 2.0 per cent in 1991. Correspondingly, the proportion of the population in households having less than one person per room rose from 20.8 per cent in 1926 to 63.7 per cent in 1991.

Table 5 of this report shows the percentage of persons in private households in permanent housing units having more than two persons per room in each county and in their Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas. For the Aggregate Town Area the proportion of the population in households with a density of more than two persons per room varies from a minimum of 0.3 per cent in Dublin-Belgard, Dublin-Fingal, and Counties Cork and Leitrim to a maximum of 1.7 per cent in Kerry. The range for the Aggregate Rural Areas is from a minimum of 0.3 per cent in Dublin-Belgard to a maximum of 2.4 per cent in Donegal.

Amenities

The results of the 1991 Census concerning water supply and sanitary facilities are mainly presented in terms of housing units - although data on these topics are presented in Table 9 for all private dwellings and in Tables 18B and 18C for "Farm dwellings". This follows the procedure used in 1971 and 1981 and allows direct comparisons to be made between the three censuses in respect of housing units. Generally one private household occupies a housing unit but in some cases a housing unit may contain more than one household (e.g. bedsitters). Of the total private households in permanent housing units in 1991 some 957,056 occupied separate housing units while the remaining 62,667 households were accommodated in 49,450 housing units.

Table D shows the percentage of private dwellings and permanent housing units with piped water supply and flush toilet with separate percentages shown for urban and rural areas.

Table D Percentage of private dwellings and permanent housing units in 1971, 1981 and 1991 with piped water supply and flush toilet

Amenities and Area	Private dwellings			Permanent housing units		
	1971	1981	1991	1971	1981	1991
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Piped Water Supply						
Aggregate Town Area *	99.3	99.9	100.0	99.2	99.9	100.0
Aggregate Rural Area *	57.7	88.8	97.1	57.6	88.8	97.1
State	78.8	95.0	98.8	78.2	94.9	98.7
Flush Toilet						
Aggregate Town Area *	98.4	99.5	99.9	98.4	99.5	99.9
Aggregate Rural Area *	42.4	78.0	93.6	42.3	77.9	93.6
State	70.8	90.0	97.3	70.0	89.8	97.2

* As then defined.

Over 99 per cent of private dwellings in urban areas had a piped water supply by 1971. In contrast, only 57.7 per cent of rural private dwellings had this facility. A significant improvement (to 88.8 per cent) was recorded between 1971 and 1981 and further progress was recorded in the following decade so that 97.1 per cent of rural private dwellings had a piped water supply in 1991.

A similar position holds with regard to the percentages of private dwellings with a flush toilet. In 1991, 97.3 per cent of private dwellings had this amenity. In urban areas 99.9 per cent of private dwellings had a flush toilet while 93.6 per cent of rural dwellings had one - the latter compares with 78.0 per cent in 1981 and 42.4 per cent in 1971.

Table E shows the variation in the different counties and their Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas in the numbers of permanent housing units with piped water supply and flush toilets.

Table E Percentage of permanent housing units with piped water supply and flush toilet in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas of each Province, County and County Borough

Province, County or County Borough	Piped water supply			Flush toilet		
	Total	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area	Total	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Leinster	99.3	100.0	97.5	98.5	99.9	94.5
Carlow	98.5	99.9	97.3	96.5	99.8	93.6
Dublin	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.9	100.0	96.6
of which						
Dublin Co. Borough	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	-
Dublin-Belgard	100.0	100.0	99.1	99.9	100.0	97.3
Dublin-Fingal	100.0	100.0	99.7	99.6	99.9	96.2
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	100.0	100.0	99.3	99.9	100.0	97.1
Kildare	99.3	99.9	98.4	98.3	99.8	96.1
Kilkenny	98.3	100.0	97.7	95.6	99.8	94.1
Laoighis	97.7	99.9	96.8	95.3	99.7	93.7
Longford	96.3	99.9	95.3	93.5	99.7	91.8
Louth	99.1	100.0	97.5	98.1	99.9	94.9
Meath	98.2	99.9	97.4	97.1	99.8	95.9
Offaly	98.0	99.9	96.9	95.8	99.7	93.7
Westmeath	97.4	100.0	95.3	95.6	99.9	92.2
Wexford	98.8	99.9	98.2	96.2	99.7	94.4
Wicklow	99.2	100.0	98.1	98.0	99.9	95.4
Munster	98.5	99.9	97.2	96.4	99.8	93.2
Clare	97.2	99.9	95.9	94.1	99.8	91.2
Cork	98.8	99.9	97.1	97.2	99.8	93.3
of which						
Cork Co. Borough	100.0	100.0	-	100.0	100.0	-
Cork County	98.2	99.9	97.1	95.9	99.6	93.3
Kerry	97.9	100.0	97.2	95.4	99.9	93.7
Limerick	98.7	100.0	97.5	96.6	99.8	93.5
of which						
Limerick Co. Borough	100.0	100.0	-	99.9	99.9	-
Limerick County	98.1	99.9	97.5	95.0	99.7	93.5
Tipperary, N.R.	98.2	99.9	97.3	95.0	99.7	92.5
Tipperary, S.R.	99.1	100.0	98.4	96.4	99.9	94.0
Waterford	98.9	99.9	97.4	97.4	99.9	93.8
of which						
Waterford Co. Borough	99.9	99.9	-	99.9	99.9	-
Waterford County	98.1	99.9	97.4	95.4	99.9	93.8
Connacht	97.3	99.9	96.4	94.8	99.8	92.9
Galway	97.9	99.9	96.6	96.0	99.8	93.8
of which						
Galway Co. Borough	100.0	100.0	-	99.8	99.8	-
Galway County	97.0	99.9	96.6	94.5	99.8	93.8
Leitrim	94.7	100.0	94.4	89.3	100.0	88.7
Mayo	97.6	99.9	97.0	95.3	99.7	94.3
Roscommon	97.0	99.8	96.5	93.4	99.4	92.3
Sligo	96.6	100.0	95.1	93.9	99.9	91.1
Ulster (part of)	97.5	99.9	96.8	94.8	99.7	93.5
Cavan	96.1	99.8	95.4	92.1	99.6	90.7
Donegal	97.9	99.9	97.4	96.1	99.7	95.2
Monaghan	97.8	100.0	97.0	94.6	99.8	92.5
State	98.7	100.0	97.1	97.2	99.9	93.6

Almost all housing units in urban areas in each county had a piped water supply. In the case of rural areas, however, County Leitrim had the lowest percentage (94.4 per cent) while Dublin-Fingal (99.7 per cent) had the highest percentage.

It is also clear from Table E that almost every housing unit in the urban areas of each county had a flush toilet - County Roscommon (at 99.4 per cent) had the lowest percentage. In the case of rural areas, the percentage of housing units with flush toilets varied from a low of 88.7 per cent in County Leitrim to a high of 97.3 per cent in Dublin-Belgard.

Nature of Occupancy

Table F shows the number of permanent housing units and private dwellings therein, classified by certain categories of nature of occupancy for which the distinction is particularly relevant.

Table F Permanent housing units and private dwellings classified by nature of occupancy

Area	Nature of occupancy							
	Total		Rented other than from Local Authority				Other (i.e. owner occupied, rented from Local Authority, etc.)	
			Unfurnished		Furnished or part-furnished			
	Housing units	Private dwellings	Housing units	Private dwellings	Housing units	Private dwellings	Housing units	Private dwellings
Dublin Co. Borough	150,506	158,916	4,039	4,602	17,133	23,326	129,334	130,988
Cork Co. Borough	37,058	38,100	1,263	1,318	3,026	3,848	32,769	32,934
Limerick Co. Borough	15,306	15,604	394	408	1,131	1,397	13,781	13,799
Galway Co. Borough	14,112	14,411	230	238	2,426	2,669	11,456	11,504
Waterford Co. Borough	11,587	11,718	216	225	772	883	10,599	10,610
Remainder of State	777,937	780,974	11,099	11,303	29,183	31,207	737,655	738,464
State	1,006,506	1,019,723	17,241	18,094	53,671	63,330	935,594	938,299

The main difference between housing units and private dwellings occurred in the rented "Furnished or part-furnished" category, in which more than one private dwelling frequently existed within one housing unit. In total there were 63,330 private dwellings "Rented furnished or part-furnished" located in 53,671 rented private housing units, a ratio of less than 1.2 to 1. It can be seen that Dublin Co. Borough contained the greatest concentration of these dwellings with 23,326 rented dwellings located in 17,133 permanent rented housing units; a ratio of 1.4 to 1. The ratio of housing units to private dwellings was close to one in the case of other categories of occupancy.

The percentage distribution of private dwellings and permanent housing units in the three main categories of occupancy is shown in Table G for 1971, 1981 and 1991.

Table G Percentage distribution of private dwellings and permanent housing units in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas by nature of occupancy, 1971, 1981 and 1991

Nature of Occupancy and Area	Private dwellings			Permanent housing units		
	1971	1981	1991	1971	1981	1991
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Aggregate Town Area						
Rented from Local Authority	25.4	17.5	13.3	26.8	18.2	13.4
Rented other than from Local Authority	20.5	14.8	11.3	16.0	11.5	9.8
Owner occupied*	52.5	65.6	73.1	55.6	68.3	74.6
Aggregate Rural Area						
Rented from Local Authority	5.3	6.1	4.6	5.3	6.1	4.6
Rented other than from Local Authority	6.0	4.1	3.3	5.8	4.0	3.3
Owner occupied*	85.5	85.6	87.8	85.6	85.7	87.9
State						
Rented from Local Authority	15.5	12.5	9.7	15.9	12.7	9.7
Rented other than from Local Authority	13.3	10.1	8.0	10.9	8.1	7.0
Owner occupied*	68.8	74.4	79.3	70.8	76.1	80.2

* Including tenant purchase or vested cottage scheme.

Table G shows a decline in the proportion of rented accommodation - both private and local authority. Rented accommodation continues to be more prevalent in Aggregate Town than in Aggregate Rural Areas.

There was little change in rural areas in the last ten years in the proportions of dwellings in the different nature of occupancy categories.

For the State as a whole in 1991, 79.3 per cent of private dwellings were owner occupied.

Fuel Used

Table H provides a classification of private dwellings in permanent housing units according to the principal fuel used to heat the dwellings in 1981 and 1991.

Table H Private dwellings in permanent housing units classified by principal type of fuel used to heat the dwelling in winter time, 1981 and 1991

Type of Fuel Used	Number		Percentage	
	1981	1991	1981	1991
Solid fuel	628,105	628,508	70.1	61.6
Electricity	58,255	51,326	6.5	5.0
Oil	140,682	199,869	15.7	19.6
Gas	41,210	109,538	4.6	10.7
Other fuels (incl. not stated)	27,802	30,482	3.1	3.0
Total	896,054	1,019,723	100.-	100.-

While solid fuel continues to be the main fuel used to heat private dwellings in winter time, its importance declined from 70.1 per cent in 1981 to 61.6 per cent in 1991. Gas was the fastest growing domestic fuel in the 1981-1991 intercensal period, up from 4.6 per cent in 1981 to 10.7 per cent in 1991. The importance of oil as a source of winter fuel also grew although the increase was not as pronounced as for gas.