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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, Volume 1 of the detailed census report.

This fifth volume of the detailed report contains classifications of the population by religious denomination. The territorial divisions of the country distinguished in this report are defined in Appendices 3-8 of Volume 1.

Subsequent census volumes will analyse the population by such characteristics as occupation, education, housing, 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). A summary report for the State was issued in April 1993.

The derived first phase computer file forms 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.

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<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 (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 household;
- **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.

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