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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 sixth volume of the detailed report contains classifications of the population by occupation. 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 education, housing, usual residence, 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 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 1). 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 Appendix 1.

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

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.

Persons described as farmers or farm workers should also state the area of the land currently/ previously farmed.

For students or persons at school, state the type of school (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:***

*Hosiery Machine Operator
Woodworking Machinist
Sound Technician
Laboratory Technician*

*Dock Labourer
Builder's Labourer
Civil Engineer
Electrical Engineer*

*Gas Fitter
Electrical Fitter
Garage Foreman
Site Foreman*

*Ticket Checker
Goods Checker
Radio Mechanic
Motor Mechanic*

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, i.e. "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) *If a farmer or farm worker and regardless of present status (Question 19), state also the area and units (statute acres/hectares) of the land farmed (i.e. including land taken and excluding land let). Specifically, if retired, then state the area farmed at retirement.*

- (viii) *For students or persons at school, state the type of school or institution, i.e. "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 occupational groups for which information from the 1991 Census is published is given in Appendix 2.

In addition to publishing information on occupations on the same basis as in the 1986 Census there was also a requirement to adhere to the international occupation classification ISCO Com (88). The significant structural differences between the two classifications necessitated the use of a very detailed common coding system.

Because of the difficulties of coding at the more detailed level, entailed by this common classification, the degree of comparability between 1986 and 1991 is not as precise as that which would have been attained by directly coding responses to the former less detailed classification. In addition there was an increase in the number of persons classified to residual categories such as those "not elsewhere specified" between 1986 and 1991. This was due to both classification difficulties and a greater incidence of incomplete occupation information being furnished by respondents in 1991. For the above reasons caution should be exercised by users in comparing the 1986 and 1991 occupation data at the most detailed 3 digit level.

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

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) *Full-time 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 Q19 (Present Status) should be interpreted. The answers, therefore, represent the subjective assessment of the person completing the form.

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.19).

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 the nature of business carried on.

If unemployed, state the name and nature of the 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.*

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

The nature of the 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)". 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 business registers, 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 most detailed level of the industry classification distinguished in the present report is given in Appendix 2 of Volume 4 of the detailed census report, while the intermediate level of industrial groups is given in Appendix 3 of the same volume. Both are identical to the classifications used in 1986. However, in order to comply with international requirements to publish comparable information on the basis of the European classification Nace Rev1, it was necessary to code responses in the 1991 Census to a greater level of detail than in 1986. About a quarter of the 3 digit headings were further disaggregated. This enabled the derived information to be regrouped in such a way that the requirements of both the national 3 digit classification and the international Nace Rev1 classification could be simultaneously satisfied. Coding at the more detailed level is not considered to have caused any significant discontinuity between the 1986 and 1991 industry results.

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 | |
|---|----------------------------|
| <p>If at work please ✓ the appropriate box to indicate person's present employment status.</p> <p>If unemployed or retired, indicate the person's previous employment status.</p> | |
| 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 |

Socio-Economic Group

The entire population was classified to one of eleven socio-economic groups plus a residual "unknown" group if sufficient details were not provided. The occupations assigned to each of the eleven groups are generally similar as regards the level of skill or educational attainment required. The socio-economic group of persons aged 15 years or over who were at work was determined by their occupation or in some cases by a combination of

occupation and employment status. Unemployed or retired persons were classified by socio-economic group according to their former occupation.

Persons engaged in home duties or at school/college, who were members of a family unit, were classified to the socio-economic group of the person in the family on whom they were deemed to be dependent. Thus, if the head of a family was at work, unemployed or retired, dependent persons were assigned to his/her socio-economic group. If the head was neither at work, unemployed nor retired (e.g. never worked, permanently disabled, etc.) or if his/her occupation was not known, they were assigned to the socio-economic group of the principal earner in the family - if there was no such earner, they were assigned to the **unknown** socio-economic group. Other persons engaged in home duties or at school/college who were not members of a family unit, such as persons living alone or relatives of a head of household who were not members of the family unit (e.g. widowed grandparents, etc.), were assigned to the **unknown** group.

The socio-economic groups used in the census, which are identical to those used in the 1986 Census, are as follows :

| | |
|---|---|
| 0 | Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers |
| 1 | Other agricultural occupations and fishermen |
| 2 | Higher professional |
| 3 | Lower professional |
| 4 | Self-employed (with employees) and managers |
| 5 | Salaried employees |
| 6 | Intermediate non-manual workers |
| 7 | Other non-manual workers |
| 8 | Skilled manual workers |
| 9 | Semi-skilled manual workers |
| X | Unskilled manual workers |
| Y | Unknown |

A detailed list of the constituent occupations in each socio-economic group is given in Appendix 4.

Social Class

The entire population is also classified by social class. The social class scale used, which was first introduced in the 1986 Census, was devised by a Working Party, working in conjunction with the Central Statistics Office, comprising representatives of the Medico-Social Research Board, An Foras Taluntais, the Department of Epidemiology at St. Vincent's Hospital, the Department of Health, the Economic and Social Research Institute, the Health Education Bureau and the Department of Social Science at University College Dublin. The scale combines the detailed occupation codes into six broad groups (with a seventh residual group, **unknown**) in such a way as to group together, as far as possible, people of similar social class. The entire population is classified by social class following the same procedures as are outlined in the previous section for the allocation of socio-economic group.

The social class groups used in the census, which are identical to those used in the 1986 Census, are as follows :

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Higher professional, higher managerial, proprietors employing others and farmers farming 200 or more acres |
| 2 | Lower professional, lower managerial, proprietors without employees and farmers farming 100-199 acres |
| 3 | Other non-manual workers and farmers farming 50-99 acres |
| 4 | Skilled manual workers and farmers farming 30-49 acres |
| 5 | Semi-skilled manual workers and farmers farming less than 30 acres |
| 6 | Unskilled manual workers |
| 7 | Unknown |

A detailed list of the constituent occupations of each social class group is given in Appendix 5.

Labour Force

The results of the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) provide the basis for the official series of annual mid-April labour force estimates. The labour force and its constituent figures shown in this Volume are directly based on the census. Users should be aware that information derived from identical questions in the census and LFS for the same year may show an appreciable difference. The main categories affected are the constituents of the question on principal economic status and the employment estimates classified by industry and occupation. The main reasons for the differences are:

- the census form is completed by a responsible adult in each household throughout the State in respect of everyone present in the household on census night while the LFS is by face to face interview;
- the census related to all persons present in the State (including visitors from abroad) at the time of the census while the LFS covers persons usually resident in Ireland;
- the census is a complete enumeration while the LFS is a sample survey;
- the LFS has a much wider range of questions on the labour force which may have a bearing on the responses received to individual questions.

The magnitude of the differences between the census and the LFS has increased between 1986 and 1991.

Commentary

Labour Force

The labour force as enumerated in the 1991 Census of Population was 1,382,870 persons - an increase of 53,324 or 4.0 per cent on the 1986 figure. Males comprised 911,200 of the 1991 labour force, representing a decrease of 9,100 or 1.0 per cent since 1986. The female labour force in 1991 stood at 471,670, up 62,424 or 15.3 per cent on the corresponding 1986 figure.

Changes in Occupations, 1986-1991

Table A* shows the changes in the numbers in the principal occupational groups between 1986 and 1991 for persons, males and females.

Table A Actual and percentage change 1986-1991 in the numbers in the principal occupational groups

| Occupational Group | Actual change (000) | | | Percentage change | | |
|--|---------------------|-------|---------|-------------------|-------|---------|
| | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females |
| | | | | % | % | % |
| Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen | -14.1 | -17.5 | 3.3 | -7.9 | -10.5 | 27.1 |
| Mining, quarrying and turf workers | -1.6 | -1.7 | 0.1 | -36.0 | -38.2 | # |
| Electrical and electronics workers | -4.6 | -3.9 | -0.7 | -10.3 | -11.2 | -6.9 |
| Engineering and related trades workers | -5.3 | -5.3 | 0.1 | -7.4 | -7.9 | 1.3 |
| Woodworkers | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.5 | 0.9 | 55.4 |
| Leather and leather substitute workers | -1.6 | -1.0 | -0.6 | -41.1 | -40.4 | -42.3 |
| Textile and clothing workers | -4.4 | -2.3 | -2.1 | -15.3 | -22.9 | -11.2 |
| Food, beverage and tobacco workers | -2.1 | -2.0 | -0.1 | -8.1 | -9.9 | -1.3 |
| Paper and printing workers | -0.2 | -0.2 | 0.1 | -1.8 | -3.4 | 3.0 |
| Workers in other products | -0.9 | -2.2 | 1.2 | -4.6 | -13.7 | 26.4 |
| Building and construction workers | -1.5 | -1.6 | 0.1 | -6.0 | -6.3 | 429.4 |
| Painters and decorators | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 3.7 | 1.2 | 143.8 |
| Operators of cranes, stationary engines and excavators | -1.0 | -1.0 | 0.0 | -8.8 | -9.1 | 375.0 |
| Foremen and supervisors of manual workers | -5.3 | -5.1 | -0.2 | -32.6 | -35.2 | -9.2 |
| Transport and communication workers | -2.1 | -1.8 | -0.3 | -3.2 | -2.9 | -7.2 |
| Warehouse and despatch clerks, packers and bottlers | -0.6 | -0.2 | -0.4 | -2.6 | -1.4 | -6.9 |
| Clerical workers | 17.6 | 6.2 | 11.4 | 12.0 | 16.7 | 10.4 |
| Commerce, insurance and finance workers | 15.0 | 3.7 | 11.4 | 10.3 | 3.8 | 22.6 |
| Service workers | 14.0 | 4.3 | 9.8 | 12.6 | 8.6 | 15.9 |
| Labourers and unskilled workers (n.e.s.) | 11.8 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 16.3 | 8.4 | 606.5 |
| Administrative, executive and managerial workers | 13.5 | 7.2 | 6.3 | 34.8 | 21.5 | 116.8 |
| Professional and technical workers | 19.9 | 7.6 | 12.3 | 11.6 | 9.0 | 14.1 |
| Armed forces | -3.9 | -4.0 | 0.0 | -26.0 | -26.3 | 48.5 |
| Gainfully occupied but occupation not stated | 18.9 | 11.0 | 7.9 | 99.9 | 80.9 | 148.0 |
| Looking for first regular job | -9.0 | -5.5 | -3.5 | -20.9 | -21.2 | -20.5 |
| Total labour force | 53.3 | -9.1 | 62.4 | 4.0 | -1.0 | 15.3 |
| Total not in labour force | 15.9 | 35.6 | -19.8 | 1.3 | 11.0 | -2.3 |
| Total population 15 years and over | 69.2 | 26.5 | 42.7 | 2.8 | 2.1 | 3.4 |
| Population under 15 years of age | -84.1 | -42.8 | -41.3 | -8.2 | -8.1 | -8.3 |
| Total population | -14.9 | -16.3 | 1.3 | -0.4 | -0.9 | 0.1 |

* The occupational classifications in the tables relate to persons aged 15 years and over.

#Very small number in 1986.

The longstanding decline in the number of persons in agricultural occupations continued during the 1986-1991 intercensal period. During this period the number of "Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen" decreased by over 14,000 - by far the largest decrease in any occupational group. However, this decrease comprised a fall of 17,500 in male numbers partially offset by an increase of 3,300 in females. Other occupational groups which experienced appreciable declines were "Engineering and related trades workers" (-5,300) and "Foremen and supervisors of manual workers" (-5,300).

"Professional and technical workers" (+19,900), "Clerical workers" (+17,600), "Commerce, insurance and finance workers" (+15,000), "Service workers" (+14,000) and "Administrative, executive and managerial workers" (+13,500) were the occupations which showed the greatest increases between 1986 and 1991 reflecting the continued growth in service sector employment. Females accounted for about two thirds of the growth in these occupational groups. The number of "Labourers and unskilled workers" also increased appreciably (+11,800) between 1986 and 1991.

The number of persons who were "Gainfully occupied but occupation not stated" almost doubled in the 1986-1991 period while there was a fall of 9,000 in the number of persons "Looking for first regular job".

Distribution of Occupations in different Planning Regions

Table B shows the percentage distribution of the labour force in each Planning Region classified by broad occupational group. The group "Producers, makers and repairers", which encompasses mainly industrial type occupations, covers all occupations in the groups from "Mining, quarrying and turf workers" to "Foremen and supervisors of manual workers" in Table 2 of the main tables (i.e. occupation codes 216-299, 302 and 307). The composition of the remaining headings is readily obtained by reference to Table 2, where similar titles are used.

Table B Total labour force in each planning region and percentage distribution by broad occupational group

| Planning Region | Total labour force | Percentage distribution | | | | | | | | Total |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|-------|
| | | Agri-cultural occupations | Producers, makers and repairers | Clerical workers | Commerce, insurance and finance workers | Service workers | Pro-fessional and technical workers | Others | Looking for first regular job | |
| East | 560,196 | 3.4 | 18.0 | 16.2 | 11.9 | 10.5 | 16.0 | 21.6 | 2.6 | 100.- |
| South West | 202,117 | 15.5 | 20.2 | 9.6 | 12.1 | 8.6 | 13.4 | 18.5 | 2.2 | 100.- |
| South East | 145,682 | 18.1 | 21.6 | 8.7 | 11.6 | 7.8 | 11.3 | 18.2 | 2.8 | 100.- |
| North East | 73,808 | 16.6 | 23.9 | 9.4 | 10.9 | 7.5 | 11.0 | 18.3 | 2.4 | 100.- |
| Midwest | 119,856 | 16.4 | 19.7 | 9.9 | 11.6 | 8.6 | 12.8 | 18.9 | 2.1 | 100.- |
| Donegal | 47,092 | 15.1 | 24.5 | 7.3 | 10.2 | 8.2 | 10.2 | 21.0 | 3.5 | 100.- |
| Midlands | 94,239 | 21.0 | 21.9 | 8.4 | 11.1 | 7.4 | 11.2 | 16.7 | 2.3 | 100.- |
| West | 109,476 | 21.6 | 17.3 | 8.5 | 11.7 | 7.7 | 14.0 | 17.0 | 2.2 | 100.- |
| North West | 30,404 | 20.4 | 18.8 | 9.2 | 11.1 | 8.4 | 13.4 | 16.6 | 2.0 | 100.- |
| Total | 1,382,870 | 11.9 | 19.6 | 11.9 | 11.6 | 9.0 | 13.8 | 19.5 | 2.5 | 100.- |

The labour force in the Eastern Region comprised over 560,000 people or 40 per cent of the entire labour force in the country. Its composition was significantly different to that of the other regions. The percentage of "Clerical workers" at 16.2 per cent was well in excess of that of any other region while the 3.4 per cent in "Agricultural occupations" was only about one sixth of the proportions in each of the Midlands, West and North West regions. Other features of the Eastern Region were the relatively high percentages of "Professional and technical workers" (16.0 per cent) and "Service workers" (10.5 per cent).

In six of the nine regions, the "Producers, makers and repairers" group accounted for the greatest proportion of occupations. The highest proportions were in Donegal and the North East with 24.5 per cent and 23.9 per cent respectively. "Agricultural occupations" accounted for over 20 per cent of the labour force in the Midlands, West and North West. With the exception of the East and Donegal, the least common occupations were those of "Service workers"; the Midlands at 7.4 per cent had the lowest proportion.

Persons "Looking for first regular job" comprised 2.5 per cent of the total labour force in the State. Donegal at 3.5 per cent had the highest proportion while the North West had the lowest at 2.0 per cent.

Age Distribution in Occupational Groups

Tables C and D show the distributions by age group of the male and female labour force respectively in various occupational groups. One of the notable features of both tables is the relatively high percentages of "Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen" aged 65 years and over. In the case of males, nearly 14 per cent of the labour force in these occupations were aged 65 years and over whereas no other occupational group had more than 4.4 per cent of the male labour force in this age group. The "Warehouse and despatch clerks, packers and bottlers", "Food, beverage and tobacco workers" and "Woodworkers" groups had the highest proportion of younger males (i.e. those under 25 years of age).

Table C Age distribution of males by occupational group

| Occupational Group | Total | Age group | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65 and over |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen | 100.- | 3.0 | 7.5 | 8.3 | 8.9 | 9.2 | 10.2 | 9.6 | 9.5 | 10.1 | 9.8 | 13.9 |
| Mining, quarrying and turf workers | 100.- | 1.9 | 6.2 | 9.9 | 14.7 | 15.8 | 16.1 | 14.4 | 9.5 | 7.1 | 3.7 | 0.7 |
| Electrical and electronics workers | 100.- | 5.2 | 14.7 | 16.2 | 18.0 | 15.4 | 11.2 | 8.0 | 5.5 | 3.5 | 1.9 | 0.3 |
| Engineering and related trades workers | 100.- | 8.2 | 15.9 | 15.8 | 14.9 | 13.5 | 11.6 | 8.0 | 5.8 | 3.9 | 2.1 | 0.4 |
| Woodworkers | 100.- | 10.9 | 16.6 | 15.1 | 12.6 | 11.6 | 11.7 | 7.5 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 2.6 | 0.6 |
| Leather and leather substitute workers | 100.- | 4.4 | 11.7 | 14.0 | 10.3 | 10.6 | 10.9 | 9.9 | 8.2 | 8.5 | 7.1 | 4.4 |
| Textile and clothing workers | 100.- | 8.1 | 14.8 | 14.1 | 14.2 | 13.3 | 11.4 | 8.8 | 6.8 | 4.9 | 2.8 | 0.9 |
| Food, beverage and tobacco workers | 100.- | 9.4 | 18.2 | 14.3 | 12.7 | 11.4 | 10.6 | 8.3 | 6.6 | 5.2 | 2.8 | 0.4 |
| Paper and printing workers | 100.- | 8.3 | 18.0 | 13.7 | 11.0 | 11.4 | 11.3 | 9.0 | 7.6 | 5.4 | 3.5 | 0.9 |
| Workers in other products | 100.- | 6.4 | 17.3 | 16.2 | 14.8 | 14.2 | 11.3 | 7.8 | 5.7 | 3.7 | 2.1 | 0.5 |
| Building and construction workers | 100.- | 4.4 | 9.5 | 11.9 | 14.2 | 15.3 | 15.2 | 11.5 | 8.0 | 5.9 | 3.2 | 1.0 |
| Painters and decorators | 100.- | 5.6 | 13.1 | 15.1 | 12.8 | 12.5 | 13.4 | 9.4 | 7.9 | 6.2 | 3.2 | 0.7 |
| Operators of cranes, stationary engines and excavators | 100.- | 2.6 | 9.2 | 10.5 | 14.0 | 15.8 | 16.1 | 12.9 | 9.1 | 6.3 | 3.1 | 0.4 |
| Foremen and supervisors of manual workers | 100.- | 0.3 | 3.6 | 8.8 | 14.3 | 14.0 | 15.5 | 14.5 | 12.6 | 9.7 | 5.9 | 0.6 |
| Transport and communication workers | 100.- | 1.6 | 6.3 | 10.4 | 13.3 | 13.8 | 14.5 | 14.7 | 11.4 | 8.2 | 5.0 | 0.9 |
| Warehouse and despatch clerks, packers and bottlers | 100.- | 10.2 | 19.8 | 15.4 | 12.6 | 10.3 | 9.2 | 7.6 | 6.5 | 4.7 | 3.1 | 0.5 |
| Clerical workers | 100.- | 3.6 | 16.4 | 16.5 | 15.8 | 13.5 | 10.7 | 8.3 | 6.1 | 5.0 | 3.3 | 0.8 |
| Commerce, insurance and finance workers | 100.- | 6.5 | 15.1 | 14.0 | 12.9 | 11.4 | 11.1 | 9.6 | 7.3 | 5.7 | 3.8 | 2.6 |
| Service workers | 100.- | 4.0 | 12.1 | 14.2 | 15.1 | 13.8 | 11.8 | 10.1 | 8.3 | 5.8 | 3.5 | 1.3 |
| Labourers and unskilled workers (n.e.s.) | 100.- | 5.8 | 12.9 | 12.4 | 13.2 | 13.0 | 13.0 | 9.9 | 8.4 | 6.6 | 4.2 | 0.7 |
| Administrative, executive and managerial workers | 100.- | 0.1 | 3.4 | 9.3 | 15.0 | 17.2 | 17.1 | 15.3 | 10.8 | 7.2 | 3.5 | 1.1 |
| Professional and technical workers | 100.- | 0.9 | 9.9 | 14.1 | 15.3 | 15.6 | 14.0 | 10.8 | 7.5 | 5.7 | 3.6 | 2.6 |
| Armed forces | 100.- | 2.6 | 12.5 | 20.8 | 21.8 | 18.3 | 11.8 | 6.6 | 3.4 | 2.1 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Gainfully occupied but occupation not stated | 100.- | 15.2 | 19.6 | 14.2 | 11.5 | 9.9 | 9.5 | 6.8 | 6.1 | 3.9 | 2.3 | 1.0 |
| Looking for first regular job | 100.- | 57.6 | 33.2 | 6.6 | 2.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | - |
| Total labour force (aged 15 years and over) | 100.- | 5.9 | 12.4 | 12.7 | 13.1 | 12.6 | 11.9 | 9.8 | 7.8 | 6.3 | 4.4 | 3.3 |

The contrast between the age structure of those in the "Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen" occupational group and those in other occupations is even more striking in the case of females. In this group more than one in six females were aged 65 years and over; no other occupational group had over 2.7 per cent in this age group. Most occupational groups had over 50 per cent of their female work force aged under 30 years.

Table D Age distribution of females by occupational group

| Occupational Group | Total | Age group | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65 and over |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen | 100.- | 2.0 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 7.2 | 9.5 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 12.5 | 12.0 | 17.8 |
| Electrical and electronics workers | 100.- | 7.7 | 31.2 | 26.1 | 14.5 | 7.8 | 5.6 | 3.4 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 0.4 | - |
| Leather and leather substitute workers | 100.- | 6.9 | 14.6 | 20.6 | 13.4 | 12.1 | 11.6 | 8.5 | 4.1 | 5.7 | 1.9 | 0.5 |
| Textile and clothing workers | 100.- | 15.4 | 25.5 | 19.5 | 12.8 | 8.9 | 6.5 | 4.5 | 2.9 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 0.4 |
| Food, beverage and tobacco workers | 100.- | 11.2 | 23.3 | 17.8 | 12.7 | 9.2 | 7.7 | 6.5 | 5.2 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 0.4 |
| Paper and printing workers | 100.- | 9.2 | 23.1 | 19.0 | 13.1 | 9.3 | 8.0 | 5.8 | 4.9 | 3.8 | 3.0 | 0.8 |
| Other producers, makers and repairers | 100.- | 8.1 | 28.1 | 24.1 | 14.0 | 8.8 | 6.5 | 4.7 | 3.0 | 1.7 | 0.9 | 0.2 |
| Foremen and supervisors of manual workers | 100.- | 0.5 | 10.9 | 21.0 | 19.7 | 13.6 | 11.9 | 8.9 | 5.5 | 4.3 | 2.9 | 0.8 |
| Transport and communication workers | 100.- | 2.4 | 8.7 | 13.8 | 20.4 | 15.1 | 11.1 | 9.8 | 7.7 | 5.0 | 3.4 | 2.7 |
| Warehouse and despatch clerks, packers and bottlers | 100.- | 10.6 | 25.6 | 18.0 | 12.9 | 8.6 | 7.6 | 6.2 | 4.5 | 3.3 | 2.1 | 0.5 |
| Clerical workers | 100.- | 5.2 | 23.8 | 23.6 | 17.9 | 10.9 | 6.8 | 4.6 | 3.0 | 2.2 | 1.3 | 0.5 |
| Commerce, insurance and finance workers | 100.- | 10.1 | 24.9 | 18.8 | 11.2 | 7.9 | 7.7 | 6.2 | 4.6 | 3.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 |
| Service workers | 100.- | 9.0 | 20.7 | 15.6 | 11.0 | 9.3 | 9.7 | 8.4 | 6.6 | 5.1 | 3.2 | 1.5 |
| Labourers and unskilled workers (n.e.s.) | 100.- | 9.6 | 25.3 | 19.7 | 13.2 | 9.3 | 7.1 | 6.0 | 4.5 | 3.1 | 1.5 | 0.9 |
| Administrative, executive and managerial workers | 100.- | 0.2 | 11.6 | 23.1 | 20.5 | 14.5 | 11.3 | 8.5 | 4.8 | 3.0 | 1.7 | 0.8 |
| Professional and technical workers | 100.- | 2.1 | 13.5 | 18.6 | 17.0 | 14.5 | 11.1 | 8.5 | 6.6 | 4.4 | 2.4 | 1.2 |
| Other occupations (incl. gainfully occupied but occupation not stated) | 100.- | 18.3 | 25.8 | 15.8 | 9.8 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 5.4 | 4.3 | 3.1 | 1.6 | 1.2 |
| Looking for first regular job | 100.- | 61.5 | 32.3 | 4.8 | 1.2 | 0.1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total labour force (aged 15 years and over) | 100.- | 8.2 | 20.8 | 19.0 | 14.2 | 10.4 | 8.3 | 6.5 | 4.9 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 1.7 |

Ever-married Females in Occupational Groups

Table E shows the numbers and proportions of ever-married females in different occupational groups.

Table E Ever-married* females in the labour force in each occupational group

| Occupational Group | Female labour force | | Ever-married as a percentage of total |
|--|---------------------|--------------|---|
| | Total | Ever-married | |
| Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen | 15,682 | 7,741 | 49.4 |
| Electrical and electronics workers | 9,191 | 4,200 | 45.7 |
| Leather and leather substitute workers | 785 | 398 | 50.7 |
| Textile and clothing workers | 16,708 | 7,030 | 42.1 |
| Food, beverage and tobacco workers | 5,546 | 2,429 | 43.8 |
| Paper and printing workers | 2,541 | 1,069 | 42.1 |
| Other producers, makers and repairers | 10,950 | 5,109 | 46.7 |
| Foremen and supervisors of manual workers | 1,502 | 881 | 58.7 |
| Transport and communication workers | 4,255 | 2,352 | 55.3 |
| Warehouse and despatch clerks, packers and bottlers | 4,749 | 2,015 | 42.4 |
| Clerical workers | 121,569 | 53,984 | 44.4 |
| Commerce, insurance and finance workers | 61,628 | 27,303 | 44.3 |
| Service workers | 71,424 | 35,061 | 49.1 |
| Labourers and unskilled workers (n.e.s.) | 6,719 | 3,098 | 46.1 |
| Administrative, executive and managerial workers | 11,706 | 5,923 | 50.6 |
| Professional and technical workers | 99,940 | 52,976 | 53.0 |
| Other occupations (incl. gainfully occupied but occupation not stated) | 13,324 | 3,769 | 28.3 |
| Looking for first regular job | 13,451 | 274 | 2.0 |
| Total labour force (aged 15 years and over) | 471,670 | 215,612 | 45.7 |

*Ever-married includes all married, remarried and separated persons and excludes widowed persons.

More than 45 per cent of the female labour force in 1991 were ever-married compared with 36.3 per cent in 1986. The highest percentage of ever-married females (58.7 per cent) was in the category "Foremen and supervisors of manual workers". Other categories having a high proportion of ever-married females were "Transport and communication workers" (55.3 per cent), "Professional and technical workers" (53.0 per cent), "Leather and leather substitute workers" (50.7 per cent) and "Administrative, executive and managerial workers" (50.6 per cent).

Age Distribution of Persons out of Work in each Occupational Group

The age distribution of males and females out of work in each occupational group is given in Tables F and G respectively.

In 1991 over one in ten unemployed males, who lost or gave up their previous job, were aged 55 years and over while 18.6 per cent were aged less than 25 years. There was, however, considerable variation between different occupational groups in these measures. Those with a high proportion of unemployed males aged 55 years and over were "Foremen and supervisors of manual workers" (21.8 per cent), "Leather and leather substitute workers" (20.6 per cent) and "Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen" (16.0 per cent). The occupational groups with the highest proportions of unemployed males aged less than 25 years in 1991 were "Commerce, insurance and finance workers" (29.1 per cent), "Clerical workers" (26.6 per cent) and "Warehouse and despatch clerks, packers and bottlers" (25.6 per cent).

Nearly 36 per cent of unemployed females, who lost or gave up their previous job, were aged less than 25 years in 1991 compared to 44 per cent five years earlier. "Commerce, insurance and finance workers", of whom 44 per cent were under 25 years, had the highest percentage share of unemployed females in this age group.

Table F Age distribution of males out of work, having lost or given up previous job, in each occupational group

| Occupational Group | Total | Age group | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65 and over |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen | 100.- | 4.0 | 11.8 | 12.1 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 12.7 | 10.0 | 9.0 | 8.4 | 5.8 | 1.8 |
| Mining, quarrying and turf workers | 100.- | 0.9 | 4.5 | 9.1 | 15.9 | 16.6 | 15.8 | 12.6 | 9.2 | 8.5 | 5.6 | 1.3 |
| Electrical and electronics workers | 100.- | 3.3 | 16.7 | 16.2 | 14.3 | 12.8 | 11.4 | 10.6 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 2.5 | 0.4 |
| Engineering and related trades workers | 100.- | 3.3 | 12.5 | 14.9 | 14.5 | 14.6 | 14.0 | 9.4 | 7.9 | 5.5 | 3.1 | 0.3 |
| Woodworkers | 100.- | 3.7 | 13.8 | 15.4 | 13.4 | 13.1 | 14.1 | 8.9 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 3.3 | 0.3 |
| Leather and leather substitute workers | 100.- | 2.2 | 7.0 | 11.4 | 9.8 | 12.5 | 13.6 | 12.7 | 10.1 | 11.2 | 7.6 | 1.8 |
| Textile and clothing workers | 100.- | 3.0 | 9.7 | 12.4 | 15.4 | 15.4 | 15.0 | 10.8 | 8.1 | 6.2 | 3.5 | 0.5 |
| Food, beverage and tobacco workers | 100.- | 5.5 | 14.3 | 13.6 | 13.5 | 13.3 | 13.0 | 8.8 | 7.0 | 6.7 | 3.9 | 0.4 |
| Paper and printing workers | 100.- | 5.3 | 16.7 | 11.5 | 9.9 | 11.8 | 14.1 | 9.1 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 6.6 | 0.3 |
| Workers in other products | 100.- | 4.0 | 14.7 | 13.5 | 13.9 | 14.2 | 12.8 | 8.7 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 3.7 | 0.5 |
| Building and construction workers | 100.- | 2.0 | 9.1 | 14.0 | 14.7 | 15.9 | 14.9 | 11.0 | 8.4 | 6.0 | 3.4 | 0.5 |
| Painters and decorators | 100.- | 2.4 | 11.7 | 15.9 | 13.9 | 13.7 | 14.1 | 10.2 | 8.7 | 6.3 | 2.8 | 0.4 |
| Operators of cranes, stationary engines and excavators | 100.- | 1.4 | 7.1 | 9.2 | 14.3 | 16.2 | 17.2 | 13.7 | 9.7 | 7.0 | 3.7 | 0.5 |
| Foremen and supervisors of manual workers | 100.- | 0.6 | 2.5 | 6.1 | 8.5 | 12.4 | 17.1 | 14.7 | 16.3 | 12.7 | 8.1 | 1.0 |
| Transport and communication workers | 100.- | 1.5 | 5.9 | 8.3 | 12.6 | 14.0 | 15.4 | 15.5 | 11.9 | 9.0 | 5.1 | 0.8 |
| Warehouse and despatch clerks, packers and bottlers | 100.- | 7.2 | 18.3 | 13.9 | 13.1 | 12.1 | 10.6 | 8.5 | 6.4 | 5.6 | 3.8 | 0.4 |
| Clerical workers | 100.- | 5.8 | 20.8 | 14.4 | 11.1 | 10.8 | 11.2 | 8.1 | 7.1 | 5.5 | 4.2 | 1.0 |
| Commerce, insurance and finance workers | 100.- | 8.5 | 20.6 | 14.9 | 12.1 | 10.7 | 10.2 | 7.8 | 6.2 | 5.0 | 3.2 | 0.8 |
| Service workers | 100.- | 4.9 | 17.9 | 15.8 | 15.5 | 12.6 | 10.2 | 8.0 | 6.4 | 5.0 | 3.0 | 0.6 |
| Labourers and unskilled workers (n.e.s.) | 100.- | 3.5 | 11.5 | 12.1 | 13.7 | 14.2 | 14.6 | 10.4 | 8.5 | 6.6 | 4.1 | 0.8 |
| Professional and technical workers | 100.- | 1.5 | 16.9 | 19.4 | 14.8 | 13.4 | 11.9 | 8.1 | 5.8 | 4.6 | 2.8 | 0.7 |
| Other occupations (incl. former occupation not stated) | 100.- | 11.0 | 19.2 | 15.1 | 12.3 | 11.0 | 10.6 | 7.1 | 6.2 | 4.3 | 2.4 | 0.9 |
| Total | 100.- | 4.7 | 13.8 | 13.5 | 13.3 | 13.2 | 13.1 | 9.8 | 7.9 | 6.3 | 3.7 | 0.7 |

Table G Age distribution of females out of work, having lost or given up previous job, in each occupational group

| Occupational Group | Total | Age group | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65 and over |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Electrical and electronics workers | 100.- | 8.9 | 23.8 | 26.2 | 16.6 | 8.4 | 5.5 | 4.4 | 3.1 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| Leather and leather substitute workers | 100.- | 4.7 | 8.8 | 20.4 | 15.7 | 13.8 | 12.9 | 8.5 | 4.7 | 7.5 | 2.5 | 0.6 |
| Textile and clothing workers | 100.- | 8.7 | 23.1 | 21.6 | 16.0 | 10.6 | 7.0 | 4.4 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 1.8 | 0.5 |
| Food, beverage and tobacco workers | 100.- | 9.3 | 24.1 | 19.0 | 12.7 | 9.6 | 8.5 | 5.6 | 4.5 | 3.7 | 2.7 | 0.3 |
| Warehouse and despatch clerks, packers and bottlers | 100.- | 9.2 | 22.5 | 18.9 | 14.2 | 10.3 | 9.1 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 0.8 |
| Clerical workers | 100.- | 5.8 | 23.6 | 20.0 | 16.4 | 11.9 | 7.3 | 5.0 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 2.2 | 0.4 |
| Commerce, insurance and finance workers | 100.- | 12.9 | 31.6 | 20.3 | 11.1 | 6.9 | 5.1 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 2.8 | 1.7 | 0.5 |
| Service workers | 100.- | 10.1 | 28.2 | 19.2 | 11.2 | 7.7 | 6.8 | 5.3 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 2.4 | 0.7 |
| Professional and technical workers | 100.- | 1.3 | 17.5 | 24.8 | 16.4 | 12.3 | 9.7 | 7.2 | 4.9 | 3.5 | 1.9 | 0.5 |
| Other occupations (incl. former occupation not stated) | 100.- | 14.0 | 26.4 | 17.6 | 11.8 | 8.7 | 7.0 | 5.2 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 1.6 | 1.0 |
| Total | 100.- | 9.8 | 25.9 | 19.9 | 13.3 | 9.3 | 7.0 | 5.0 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 1.9 | 0.6 |

Socio-Economic Group

Table H presents an analysis of the population by socio-economic group in 1986 and 1991 distinguishing the proportions in the labour force, not in the labour force and children under 15 years of age in 1991.

Table H Persons in each socio-economic group in 1986 and 1991 showing the proportions in the labour force, not in the labour force and children under 15 years in 1991

| Socio-Economic Group | Total persons | | Percentage distribution 1991 | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | 1986 | 1991 | In labour force | Not in labour force | Children under 15 years of age | Total |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | % | % | % | % |
| Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers | 439,327 | 385,592 | 35.7 | 39.1 | 25.2 | 100.- |
| Other agricultural occupations and fishermen | 102,915 | 88,369 | 36.3 | 37.3 | 26.4 | 100.- |
| Higher professional | 138,520 | 136,337 | 43.9 | 28.7 | 27.5 | 100.- |
| Lower professional | 198,506 | 232,590 | 55.3 | 22.2 | 22.5 | 100.- |
| Employers and managers | 237,904 | 244,536 | 37.2 | 32.0 | 30.7 | 100.- |
| Salaried employees | 78,744 | 85,075 | 38.0 | 32.2 | 29.8 | 100.- |
| Intermediate non-manual workers | 487,959 | 531,771 | 55.0 | 23.4 | 21.6 | 100.- |
| Other non-manual workers | 407,351 | 399,387 | 42.2 | 30.4 | 27.4 | 100.- |
| Skilled manual workers | 685,848 | 608,003 | 35.7 | 31.0 | 33.3 | 100.- |
| Semi-skilled manual workers | 208,498 | 175,630 | 50.4 | 25.2 | 24.3 | 100.- |
| Unskilled manual workers | 236,338 | 253,935 | 35.1 | 35.3 | 29.6 | 100.- |
| Unknown | 318,733 | 384,494 | 11.8 | 66.1 | 22.0 | 100.- |
| Total | 3,540,643 | 3,525,719 | 39.2 | 34.1 | 26.7 | 100.- |

"Skilled manual workers" accounted for the largest proportion of the population in both 1986 (19.4 per cent) and 1991 (17.2 per cent). The next largest groups in 1991 were "Intermediate non-manual workers" who accounted for 15.1 per cent of the population and "Other non-manual workers" who made up 11.3 per cent of the population. "Salaried employees" containing 85,075 persons in 1991 or just 2.4 per cent of the population was the smallest group both in 1986 and 1991.

Table H also indicates that persons in the labour force accounted for more than half of the total population in only three socio-economic groups. These groups were "Lower professional" (55.3 per cent), "Intermediate non-manual workers" (55.0 per cent) and "Semi-skilled manual workers" (50.4 per cent). The socio-economic groups with the lowest proportion in the labour force were "Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers" (35.7 per cent), "Skilled manual workers" (35.7 per cent) and "Unskilled manual workers" (35.1 per cent). The proportion of persons not in the labour force in any group is particularly influenced by the numbers of "dependent" persons (e.g. non-working spouses, children at school or college, etc.) in the group as such persons are classified to the same socio-economic group as the person on whom they are deemed to be dependent.