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Census 2006

Volume 3 - Household Composition, Family Units and Fertility

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General Details

Introduction

A Census of Population was taken on the night of Sunday, 23 April 2006, in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order 2005 (S.I. No. 786 of 2005)¹. An extract from the census questionnaire is reproduced in Appendix 1.

This third volume of the detailed census report is in four parts. In the first three parts household composition is analysed in the context of (a) all private households; (b) private households in permanent housing units; and (c) private households in temporary housing units. The final part relates to family units and family cycle. The different territorial divisions shown in this report are those in force at the date of the 2006 Census of Population.

Subsequent census volumes will analyse the population by such characteristics as usual residence and birthplace, occupation, industry, etc.

Coverage of the Census

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, 23 April 2006, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 24 April 2006, 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 from the census count.

A limited number of questions, relating mainly to demographic characteristics, were asked in respect of usual residents who were temporarily absent from their households on census night. The responses to these questions enables a more precise picture to be built up on families and households by excluding visitors present on census night and including residents who were temporarily absent.

Conduct of the Census

A temporary field force consisting of 6 Census Liaison Officers, 40 Regional Supervisors, 400 Field Supervisors and some 4,400 part-time Enumerators carried out the census enumeration. During the four weeks before Census Day the enumerators entered details in respect of 1.77 million private residences and communal establishments in their enumerator record books. They simultaneously delivered blank census questionnaires to 1.5 million of these dwellings that were expected to be occupied on census night. Approximately 266,000 residences were vacant at the time of the census while in a further 30,000 cases the household was either enumerated elsewhere or temporarily absent from the State. The collection of completed questionnaires took place between Monday 24 April and Monday 22 May 2006.

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) wishes to record its appreciation of the public-spirited co-operation received from households and the work carried out by the census field force.

Production of Results

Each enumerator first prepared and returned to the CSO a summary of the population in his/her enumeration area. These summaries formed the basis for the preliminary 2006 population results². The completed questionnaires for individual households were subsequently transported to the CSO for processing.

The population summaries, dwelling listings and enumeration maps for individual enumeration areas were checked for consistency and used to determine the boundaries of census towns and suburbs/environs of towns with legal boundaries. The capture and processing of the responses to questions on the census questionnaire proceeded concurrently.

¹ The Statistics (Census of Population) Order 2005 was made by the Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach in pursuance of powers conferred on him by section 25 (1) of the Statistics Act 1993 (No. 21 of 1993) and the Statistics (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2004 (S.I. No. 664 of 2004).

² Census of Population of Ireland, 2006: Preliminary Report (Prn. A6/0988), July 2006.

Publication of Results

The planned publication schedule is set out in Appendix 3. The schedule consists of the Principal Demographic Results and Principal Socio-economic Results, which provide the main census results, primarily at national level. More detailed data is provided in 13 subject matter reports. All of the tables published in these reports will be made available on the Central Statistics Office web site (www.cso.ie) using Beyond 20/20 interactive software. This software gives Internet users the ability to select and view data online and then download the same data to their computers.

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