

Census of Population 1996
Sample of Anonymised Records (COPSAR)
User Guide

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1 Introduction

A Census of Population was taken on the night of Sunday, 28 April 1996, in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order, 1996 (S.I. No. 91 of 1996)¹. A copy of the census questionnaire, including the explanatory notes which accompanied it, is reproduced in Appendix 1.

1.1 Coverage of the Census

The census data 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, 28 April 1996, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 29 April 1996, 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.

1.2 Conduct of the Census

The census enumeration was carried out by a temporary field force consisting of 335 supervisors and some 3,400 enumerators. The census questionnaires were distributed during the three weeks immediately preceding 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.

1.3 Production of Results

Each enumerator first prepared and returned to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) a summary of the population in his/her enumeration area. These summaries formed the basis for the preliminary 1996 population results². The completed questionnaires for the individual households were subsequently transmitted to the CSO 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 scrutiny and computer processing of the responses to the first eleven questions on the census questionnaire proceeded concurrently in the same county order.

These operations form the basis for the first four volumes of the detailed census report covering Areas, Ages and Marital Status, Household Composition and Family Units and Usual Residence, Migration and Birthplace. The computer processing of the remaining information on the census questionnaire provided the basis for census volumes on topics such as Irish, Education, Industry and Occupations.

¹ 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) (No. 2) Order, 1995 (S.I. No. 220 of 1995).

² Census of Population of Ireland, 1996: Preliminary Report (Pn. 2917), July 1996.

1.4 Further Information

For further information contact:

Census Inquiries Section
Central Statistics Office
Ardee Road
Rathmines
Dublin 6
Phone (01) 4977144 Ext. 4284-4288
LoCall 1890 313 414
Fax (01) 4984268

E-mail census@csso.ie
Web www.csso.ie

2 Sample structure and content

The file contains data relating to persons only. There is no information on the file which relates persons to households³. Separate samples of micro data relating to households are available from the Quarterly National Household Survey.

The following table gives details of the variables in the sample and how they are classified.

Data Set Name:	COP96MD	Observations:	181321
Sorted by:	County	Variables:	27
Label:	Census of Population 1996 - 5% Sample of persons anonymised		

----Variables Ordered by Position----					
#	Variable	Type	Length	Classification	Label
1	planrg	Char	1	PLANRG	Planning Region - Enumerated
2	county	Char	2	COUNTY	County (administrative) - Enumerated
3	sex	Char	1	SEX	Sex
4	age5grp	Char	5		5 Year Age Group
5	mstatus	Char	1	MSTATUS	Marital Status
6	plcbirth	Char	2	SARGEO	Place of Birth
7	pobflag	Char	1	POBFLAG	Place of Birth Flag
8	resnow	Char	1	USRES	Usual Residence Now
9	resyago	Char	1	USRESYR	Usual Residence 1 year ago
10	yearres	Char	2	YEARRES	Year taking up residency in Ireland
11	cntryres	Char	2	SARGEO	Country of Previous Residence
12	meantrv	Char	1	MEANTRV	Means of Travel to work/school/college
13	dis_trv	Char	1	DIS_TRV	Distance Travelled to work/school/college
14	spkirish	Char	1	SPKIR	Ability to speak Irish
15	irishfrq	Char	1	IRISHFQ	Frequency of Speaking Irish
16	leveled	Char	1	LEVELED	Highest Level of Education Completed
17	scitech	Char	1	SCITECH	Scientific or Technical Qualification
18	edcease	Char	2	EDCEASE	Age Education Ceased
19	pstatus	Char	1	PSTATUS	Present Status
20	empstat	Char	1	EMPSTAT	Employment Status
21	ind_cl	Char	3	IND_CL	Industry Class
22	typwork	Char	1	TYPWORK	Type of work
23	mth_ue	Char	1	MTH_UE	Months Unemployed
24	areatype	Char	2	AREATY	Area Type
25	occgrp	Char	1	OCCGRP	Occupation Group
26	seg	Char	1	SEG	Socio-Economic Group (SEG)
27	Soc_cl	Char	1	SOC_CL	Social Class

³ Social Class and Socio-Economic Group are given for all persons in the sample. For Persons on home duties or at school/college, who are members of a family unit, the Social Class and Socio-Economic Group are assigned on the basis of the person in the family on whom they were deemed to be dependent.

2.1 Anonymisation and recoding

The records relating to persons within households were anonymised by stripping off all identifiable information such as household number, person number within household and by recoding variables where the number of categories could lead to the identification of an individual when combined with other information on the record. In particular the lowest level of geography given is County. The following table gives a list of classifications used in the sample and the level of recoding (if applied).

Classification	Code	Associated label	Applies to Variables/ Notes
COUNTY	01	01 Carlow	<p>County</p> <p>This is the county (administrative) where the person was enumerated.</p> <p>Data is collected at the level of street/townland within Electoral Division but most detailed level of geography exposed in this sample is administrative county.</p>
	02	02 Dublin Co Borough	
	03	03 Dublin-Belgard	
	04	04 Dublin-Fingal	
	05	05 Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	
	06	06 Kildare	
	07	07 Kilkenny	
	08	08 Laoighis	
	09	09 Longford	
	10	10 Louth	
	11	11 Meath	
	12	12 Offaly	
	13	13 Westmeath	
	14	14 Wexford	
	15	15 Wicklow	
	16	16 Clare	
	17	17 Cork Co Borough	
	18	18 Cork County	
	19	19 Kerry	
	20	20 Limerick Co Borough	
	21	21 Limerick County	
	22	22 Tipperary North	
	23	23 Tipperary South	
	24	24 Waterford Co Borough	
	25	25 Waterford County	
	26	26 Galway Co Borough	
	27	27 Galway County	
	28	28 Leitrim	
	29	29 Mayo	
	30	30 Roscommon	
	31	31 Sligo	
	32	32 Cavan	
	33	33 Donegal	
	34	34 Monaghan	

Classification	Code	Associated label	Applies to Variables/ Notes
DIS_TRV		Not applicable	Dis_trv Distance Travelled to work/school/college Collected to the nearest mile and grouped into 7 groups. Not applicable applies to persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who indicated <i>None</i> for Means of travel to work, school or college; • who indicated <i>not at work, school or college</i> for Present Status.
	*	Not stated	
	0	0 miles	
	1	1 mile	
	2	2 miles	
	3	3 miles	
	4	4 miles	
	5	5 to 9 miles	
	6	10 to 14 miles	
	7	15 miles and over	
EDCEASE		Not applicable	Edcease Age full time education ceased Collected by single year of age but grouped into 8 categories for the purposes of this sample. Not applicable applies to persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 15 years of age on 28 April 1996; • Who indicated at school or college for Present Status.
	*	Not stated	
	1	Under 15 years	
	2	15 years	
	3	16 years	
	4	17 years	
	5	18 years	
	6	19 years	
	7	20-21 years	
	8	22 years and over	
EMPSTAT		Not applicable	Empstat Employment Status. Not applicable applies to persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under 15 years of age on 28 April 1996; • who indicated <i>not at work, unemployed or retired</i> for present status.
	*	Not stated	
	1	1 Self-employed, with paid employees	
	2	2 Self-employed, without paid employees	
	3	3 Employee	
	4	4 Assisting relative	
IND_CL		Not applicable	Ind_cl Industry Class. Industry is coded to over 200 detailed industry codes on the basis of the name and address of the business/employer and/or the free text description of the nature of business carried on The details industry codes have been grouped into the eight broad groups for the purposes of this sample. Not applicable applies to persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under 15 years of age on 28 April 1996; • who indicated <i>not at work</i>, for present status.
	*	Not stated	
	1	1 Agriculture forestry fishing	
	2	2 Manufacturing, mining, quarrying, electricity, gas, water	
	3	3 Building and construction	
	4	4 Commerce insurance finance business	
	5	5 Transport communication storage	
	6	6 Public administration defence	
	7	7 Professional services	
	8	8 Other industries	

Classification	Code	Associated label	Applies to Variables/ Notes
IRISHFQ		Not applicable	Irishfrq Frequency of Speaking Irish. Not applicable applies to persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> under 3 years of age on 28 April 1996; who indicated they could not speak Irish.
	*	Not stated	
	1	1 Daily	
	2	2 Weekly	
	3	3 Less often	
	4	4 Never	
LEVELED		Not applicable	Leveled Highest Level of Education Completed to date. 13 categories collected and grouped to 5 categories for the purposes of the sample. Not applicable applies to persons under 15 years of age on 28 April 1996.
	*	Not stated	
	1	Primary (including no formal education)	
	2	Lower Secondary	
	3	Upper Secondary	
	4	Third Level-Non degree	
	5	Third Level-Degree or higher	
MEANTRV		Not applicable	Meantrv Means of Travel to work/school/college <i>Not applicable</i> applies to persons who indicated they are <i>not at work, school or college</i> for Present Status.
	*	Not stated	
	1	1 On foot	
	2	2 Bicycle	
	3	3 School bus	
	4	4 Other bus	
	5	5 Train	
	6	6 Motor cycle	
	7	7 Motor car (driver)	
	8	8 Motor car (passenger)	
	9	9 Lorry, van	
	X	X Other means	
	Y	Y None	
MSTATUS		Not applicable	Mstatus Marital Status. Married combines remarried following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> widowhood dissolution of previous marriage. Separated combines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deserted Marriage annulled Legally separated Other separated Not applicable applies to persons under 15 years of age on 28 April 1996.
	*	Not stated	
	1	1 Never Married	
	2	2 Married	
	3	3 Separated (including divorced)	
	4	4 Widowed	

Classification	Code	Associated label	Applies to Variables/ Notes
MTH_UE		Not applicable	Mth_ue Months Unemployed. Unemployed persons were asked to indicate the year and month in which their previous principal occupation ceased. The number of months unemployed was derived and grouped in to 4 categories.
	*	Not stated	
	1	Under 12	
	2	12-23	
	3	24-35	
	4	36 or over	
OCCGRP		Not applicable	Occgrp Occupation Group. Person aged 15 years and over at work, unemployed or retired were asked to give a full description of their current or previously held principal occupation. Occupation descriptions were coded to 374 headings of Standard Occupational Classifications. The coded data was grouped to 9 groups. Not applicable applies to persons under 15 years of age on 28 April 1996 and to persons over 15 and over not at work, unemployed or retired.
	*	Not stated	
	1	1 Farming, fishing and forestry workers	
	2	2 Manufacturing workers	
	3	3 Building and construction workers	
	4	4 Clerical, managing & government workers	
	5	5 Communication and transport workers	
	6	6 Sales and Commerce workers	
	7	7 Professional, technical and health workers, religious occupations	
	8	8 Services workers, Gardai and Army	
	9	9 Other workers	
PLANRG	1	1 Border	Planrg. Planning Region-Enumerated
	2	2 Dublin	
	3	3 Mid East	
	4	4 Midlands	
	5	5 Mid-West	
	6	6 South-East	
	7	7 South-West	
	8	8 West	
POBFLAG	*	Not stated	Pobflag Place of Birth Flag. Derived by comparing county/country of birth and place of usual residence.
	1	1 County of Usual Residence	
	2	2 Other county	
	3	3 Elsewhere abroad	

Classification	Code	Associated label	Applies to Variables/ Notes
PSTATUS		Not applicable	<p>Pstatus</p> <p>Present Status.</p> <p>Persons were asked to indicate by ticking the appropriate box, the person's present principal status.</p> <p>Not applicable applies to persons under 15 years of age on 28 April 1996</p>
	*	Not stated	
	1	1 At work	
	2	2 Seeking regular work for first time	
	3	3 Unemployed	
	4	4 At school, student	
	5	5 Home (domestic) duties	
	6	6 Retired	
	7	7 Unable to work (sick or disabled)	
	8	8 Other	
SCITECH		Not applicable	<p>Scitech</p> <p>Scientific or Technical Qualifications.</p> <p>Persons were asked to state the qualifications held and the main subjects in which held. Results were coded to a classification consisting of 39 subject areas and 8 levels from lower technician to doctorate level. All that is indicated on the sample is whether a person holds a scientific or technical qualification to any level.</p> <p>Not applicable applies to persons under 15 years of age on 28 April 1996.</p>
	1	Yes	
	2	No	
SEG	A	A Employers and managers	<p>Seg</p> <p>Socio-Economic Group (SEG).</p> <p>The socio-economic group of persons aged 15 years or over who are at work is determined by their occupation and employment status. Unemployed or retired persons aged 15 years or over are classified according to their former occupation and employment status.</p> <p>Persons on home duties or at school/college, who are 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.</p>
	B	B Higher professional	
	C	C Lower professional	
	D	D Non-manual	
	E	E Manual skilled	
	F	F Semi-skilled	
	G	G Unskilled	
	H	H Own account workers	
	I	I Farmers	
	J	J Agricultural workers	
	Z	Z All others gainfully occupied and unknown	

Classification	Code	Associated label	Applies to Variables/ Notes
SEX	1	Males	
	2	Females	
SOC_CL	1	1 Professional workers	Soc_cl Social Class The occupations included in each social class have been selected so as to bring together, as far as possible, people with similar levels of occupational skill. In determining social class no account is taken of the differences between individuals on the basis of other characteristics such as education. Accordingly social class ranks occupations by the level of skill required on a social class scale ranging from 1 (highest) to 7 (lowest). This scale combines occupations into six groups by occupation and employment status following procedures similar to those outlined for the allocation of SEG. A residual category "All others gainfully occupied and unknown" is used where no precise allocation is possible.
	2	2 Managerial and technical	
	3	3 Non-manual	
	4	4 Skilled manual	
	5	5 Semi-skilled	
	6	6 Unskilled	
	7	7 All others gainfully occupied and unknown	
SPKIR		Not applicable	Spkirish. Ability to speak Irish Not applicable applies to persons under 3 years of age on 28 April 1996
	*	Not stated	
	1	Yes	
	2	No	
TYPWORK		Not applicable	Typwork Type of work. Not applicable applies to persons under 15 years of age on 28 April 1996 and to persons over 15 and over not at work.
	*	Not stated	
	1	Full-time	
	2	Part-time	
USRES	*	Not stated	Resnow Usual Residence Now. Derived by comparing address of usual residence with address enumerated.
	1	1 Address enumerated	
	2	2 Elsewhere in Rep of Ireland	
	3	3 Elsewhere North of Ireland	
	4	4 Elsewhere abroad	
USRESYR		Not applicable	Resyago Usual Residence 1 year ago. Derived by comparing address where persons was usually resident one year ago with address usual resident now. Not applicable applies to persons under 1 year of age on 28 April 1996.
	*	Not stated	
	1	1 Same as now	
	2	2 Elsewhere in Rep of Ireland	
	3	3 Elsewhere North of Ireland	
	4	4 Elsewhere abroad	
YEARRES		Not applicable	Yearres Year taking up residency in Ireland. Persons who lived outside the republic for a period of one year or more were asked to indicate the year of taking up residence in the Republic of Ireland and the Country of last previous residence. The year stated was grouped into 6 separate categories for the purposes of this sample.
	*	Not stated	
	1	1 Before 1951	
	2	2 1951-1960	
	3	3 1961-1970	
	4	4 1971-1980	
	5	5 1981-1990	
	6	6 1991-1996	

Classification	Code	Associated label	Applies to Variables/ Notes
SARGEO		Not applicable	<p>Plcbirth</p> <p>Place of Birth.</p> <p>Persons are asked to give the usual residence of the person's mother at the time of birth, not the location of the hospital or nursing home where the person was born.</p> <p>If the person was born in any part of Ireland (incl. Northern Ireland) they state county of birth.</p> <p>If the person was born outside Ireland, whether now resident in or visiting Ireland they state country of birth.</p> <p>For the purposes of the sample place of birth for those born outside the Republic of Ireland are grouped into 5 headings.</p>
	**	Not stated	
	01	01 Carlow	
	02	02 Dublin	
	06	06 Kildare	
	07	07 Kilkenny	
	08	08 Laoighis	
	09	09 Longford	
	10	10 Louth	
	11	11 Meath	
	12	12 Offaly	
	13	13 Westmeath	
	14	14 Wexford	
	15	15 Wicklow	
	16	16 Clare	
	17	17 Cork	
	19	19 Kerry	
	20	20 Limerick	
	22	22 Tipperary	
	24	24 Waterford	
	26	26 Galway	
	28	28 Leitrim	
	29	29 Mayo	
	30	30 Roscommon	
	31	31 Sligo	
	32	32 Cavan	
	33	33 Donegal	
	34	34 Monaghan	
	35	35 Rep Ireland (county not stated)	
	36	36 Northern Ireland	
	44	44 England,Scotland,Wales	
	50	50 EU Other	
	75	75 USA	
	99	99 Countries NES	

2.2 Sample selection

A 5% random sample of the recoded person records from each county was selected. The records within each county were sorted randomly before output to the sample file.