

Table of Contents

General Details

	Page
Introduction	7
Coverage of the Census	7
Conduct of the Census	7
Production of Results	7
Publication of Results	8

Commentary

Principal Economic Status	11
Employment	13
Unemployment	15
Education	16
Travel Patterns	21
Disability and Caring	25
Housing	27

Tables

Table No.		Page
1	Persons, males and females aged 15 years and over, classified by principal economic status at each census since 1981	33
2	Persons, males and females aged 15 years and over in the labour force, classified by broad industrial group, 1996 and 2002	34
3	Persons, males and females aged 15 years and over, classified by principal economic status and marital status	35
	Population aged 15 years and over, classified by principal economic status, marital status and age group	
4A	Persons	36
4B	Males	37
4C	Females	38
5	Percentage rates of participation in the labour force for persons, males and females aged 15 years and over, classified by marital status and age group	39
	Population aged 15 years and over in each Province, County and City, classified by principal economic status	
6A	Persons	40
6B	Males	41
6C	Females	42
	Population aged 15 years and over in each Province, County and City, classified by labour force, employment status and labour force participation rate	
7A	Persons	43
7B	Males	44
7C	Females	45
8	Persons, males and females aged 15 years and over at work, classified by occupational group, 1996 and 2002	46
	Population aged 15 years and over at work and unemployed (excluding first time job seekers) in each occupational group, classified by employment status	
9A	Persons	47
9B	Males	48
9C	Females	49
	Population in each Province, County and City classified by socio-economic group	
10A	Persons	50
10B	Males	51
10C	Females	52

Table No

	Population in each Province, County and City classified by social class	
11A	Persons	53
11B	Males	54
11C	Females	55
12	Persons, males and females aged 15 years and over in private households, classified by principal economic status and status in family nucleus	56
13	Persons, males and females aged 15 years and over enumerated as husbands and wives (or couples) and lone parents, classified by principal economic status and type of family unit	57
14	Persons, males and females aged 15 years and over classified by ILO Economic Status and Principal Economic Status	58
	Population aged 15 years and over classified by ILO economic status in each Province, County and City	
15A	Persons	59
15B	Males	60
15C	Females	61
	Population aged 15 years and over and in employment (ILO), who worked in the week before Census Day, classified by broad industrial group and number of hours worked per week	
16A	Persons	62
16B	Males	63
16C	Females	64
17	Persons aged 15 years and over and in employment (ILO), who worked in the week before Census Day, classified by broad occupational group and number of hours worked per week	65
	Population aged 15 years and over in each Province, County and City, classified by age at which full-time education ceased	
18A	Persons	66
18B	Males	67
18C	Females	68
	Population aged 15 years and over in each Province, County and City, classified by highest level of education completed	
19A	Persons	69
19B	Males	70
19C	Females	71
20	Persons aged 15 years and over with a third level qualification attained after completing 2 or more years of study, classified by sex, age group and subject in which qualification is held	72
21	Persons, males and females at work aged 15 years and over, usually resident in the State, classified by distance travelled and means of travel to work	73
22	Children at school aged between 5 and 12 years usually resident in the State, classified by sex, distance travelled and means of travel to school	74
23	Students aged between 13 and 18 years, usually resident in the State, classified by sex, distance travelled and means of travel to school or college	75
24	Students aged 19 years and over, usually resident in the State, classified by sex, distance travelled and means of travel to school or college	76
25	Persons, males and females at work aged 15 years and over (excluding those who work mainly at or from home) usually resident in the State, classified by time leaving home and time taken to travel to work	77
26	Children at school aged between 5 and 12 years (excluding those who work mainly at or from home) usually resident in the State, classified by sex, time leaving home and time taken to travel to school	78

Table No

27	Students aged between 13 and 18 years (excluding those who work mainly at or from home) usually resident in the State, classified by sex, time leaving home and time taken to travel to school or college	79
28	Students aged 19 years and over (excluding those who work mainly at or from home) usually resident in the State, classified by sex, time leaving home and time taken to travel to school or college	80
29	Persons, males and females with a disability classified by age group and percentage disabled	81
30	Persons, at work aged 15 years and over with a disability classified by age group and percentage disabled	81
31	Persons aged 15 years and over classified by sex, age group and number of hours per week of unpaid personal help provided for a friend or family member with a long-term illness, health problem or disability	82
32	Number of private households in permanent housing units in each Province, County and City, classified by type of accommodation	83
	Number of private households in permanent housing units classified by period in which built, nature of occupancy, number of rooms occupied, central heating, water supply and sewerage facilities	
33A	Total	84
33B	Aggregate Town	85
33C	Aggregate Rural	86
34	Number of rented private dwellings in permanent housing units classified by type of accommodation, nature of occupancy and weekly rent	87
35	Number of private households in permanent housing units in each Province, County and City, classified by personal computer ownership and access to the internet	88
36	Private households in permanent housing units usually resident in each Province, County and City, classified by motor car availability	89

Appendices

1	2002 Census questionnaire	92
2	Definitions	105
3	Detailed level of industries used in the 2002 Census classification	109
4	Broad level of industrial groups used in the 2002 Census classification	113
5	Intermediate level of occupational groups used in the 2002 Census classification	114
6	Detailed level of occupations used in the 2002 Census classification	116
7	Socio-economic groups – list of constituent occupations	122
8	Social classes - list of constituent occupations	133
9	Census 2002 Publication Schedule	139

General Details

Introduction

A Census of Population was taken on the night of Sunday, 28 April 2002¹, in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order 2001 (S.I. No. 491 of 2001)². A copy of the census questionnaire, including the explanatory notes which accompanied it, is reproduced in Appendix 1.

This report gives the final census results for the State as a whole for travel patterns, disability, unpaid carers, education, housing characteristics and labour force characteristics. The definitions of the variables covered are contained in Appendix 2. The report brings together in one publication the main tables relating to the above mentioned topics. The planned publication schedule for the remaining census reports is contained in Appendix 9.

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, 28 April 2002, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 29 April 2002, 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 5 Census Liaison Officers, 35 Regional Supervisors, 350 Field Supervisors and some 4,000 part-time enumerators carried out the census enumeration. Blank census questionnaires were distributed to every household and communal establishment in the State during the four weeks immediately preceding census night. Collection of completed questionnaires commenced on Monday, 29 April. 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 (CSO) a summary of the population in his/her enumeration area. These summaries formed the basis for the preliminary 2002 population results³. 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 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 census originally planned for 29 April 2001 was postponed because of the Foot and Mouth disease situation pertaining at the time.

² The Statistics (Census of Population) Order, 2001 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, 1997 (S.I. No. 327 of 1997).

³ Census of Population of Ireland, 2002: Preliminary Report (Pn. 11897), July 2002.

Publication of Results

The planned publication schedule is set out in Appendix 9. 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.

Further information

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