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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 twelfth volume of the detailed report contains results relating to the population classified by religion for different territorial divisions of the country.

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.

Publication of Results

The planned publication schedule is set out in Appendix 7. 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.

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.

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