

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

Tables

Part I – Usual Residence and Migration

Table No.		
1	Population of each Province at each census since 1926, distinguishing the components of population change in each intercensal period since 1911	11
2	Population of each Province, County and City in 1996 and 2002, the components of population change and average annual rates per 1,000 of average population	12
	Population enumerated and usually resident in each County	
3A	Persons	14
3B	Males	15
3C	Females	16
4	Persons, males and females, enumerated and present in the State, whose usual residence was outside the State, classified by country of usual residence	17
5	Persons usually resident and present in the State on census night, but not enumerated at their usual residence, classified by County of usual residence, County or City of enumeration and by whether they were enumerated in private or non-private households	18
6	Persons, males and females usually resident and present in the State on census night, but not enumerated at their usual residence, classified by age group and marital status	24
	Population usually resident and present in the State on census night, but not enumerated at their usual residence, classified by county of usual residence and age group	
7A	Persons	25
7B	Males	26
7C	Females	27
	Population usually resident and present in the State on census night, but not enumerated at their usual residence, classified by county of usual residence and marital status	
8A	Persons	28
8B	Males	29
8C	Females	30
	Population aged one year and over usually resident in each County, and present in the State on census night, classified by usual residence one year previously	
9A	Persons	31
9B	Males	32
9C	Females	33
10	Persons usually resident in each County and present in the State on census night, classified by usual residence one year previously	34
11	Persons, males and females aged one year and over usually resident and present in the State on census night, whose usual residence one year previously was outside the State, classified by former country of usual residence and distinguishing those born in Ireland (Republic) or elsewhere	37

Table No.

12	Persons, males and females aged one year and over usually resident and present in the State on census night, whose usual residence one year previously was outside the State, classified by former country of usual residence and distinguishing those with Irish nationality or other nationality	38
13	Persons, males and females aged one year and over usually resident and present in the State on census night, whose usual residence one year previously was outside the State, classified by age group and marital status	39
	Population aged one year and over usually resident in each County, and present in the State on census night, whose usual residence one year previously was elsewhere in the State, classified by former county of usual residence	
14A	Persons	40
14B	Males	42
14C	Females	44
15	Persons, males and females aged one year and over usually resident in the State and present in the State on census night, whose usual residence one year previously was elsewhere in the State, classified by age group and marital status	46
	Population aged one year and over usually resident in the State and present in the State on census night, whose usual residence one year previously was elsewhere in the State, classified by former county of usual residence and age group	
16A	Persons	47
16B	Males	48
16C	Females	49
	Population aged one year and over usually resident in the State, and present in the State on census night, whose usual residence one year previously was elsewhere in the State, classified by former county of usual residence and marital status	
17A	Persons	50
17B	Males	51
17C	Females	52
	Population aged one year and over usually resident (and present in their usual residence on census night) in each town of 1,500 population and over (including suburbs or environs, if any), classified by usual residence one year previously	
18A	Persons	53
18B	Males	56
18C	Females	59
	Population aged one year and over usually resident and present in the State on census night, classified by age group, marital status and usual residence one year previously	
19A	Persons	62
19B	Males	63
19C	Females	64
	Population aged one year and over usually resident and present in the State on census night, classified by age group, usual residence one year previously and distinguishing those born in Ireland (Republic) or elsewhere	
20A	Persons	65
20B	Males	66
20C	Females	67
	Population aged one year and over usually resident and present in the State on census night, classified by age group, usual residence one year previously and distinguishing those with Irish nationality or other nationality	
21A	Persons	68
21B	Males	69
21C	Females	70

Table No.

	Population aged one year and over usually resident in Dublin County and present in the State on census night, classified by age group, marital status and usual residence one year previously	
22A	Persons	71
22B	Males	72
22C	Females	73
	Population aged one year and over usually resident in each County and present in the State on census night, classified by age group and by usual residence one year previously	
23A	Persons	74
23B	Males	80
23C	Females	86
	Population aged one year and over, usually resident in each County and present in the State on census night, who lived outside the State for one year or more, classified by country of previous residence	
24A	Persons	92
24B	Males	93
24C	Females	94
	Population aged one year and over, usually resident in each County and present in the State on census night, who lived outside the State for one year or more, classified by year of taking up residence in Ireland (Republic)	
25A	Persons	95
25B	Males	96
25C	Females	97
26	Persons, males and females aged one year and over, usually resident and present in the State on census night, who lived outside the State for one year or more, classified by age group and country of previous residence	98
	Population aged one year and over, usually resident and present in the State on census night, who lived outside the State for one year or more, classified by age group, birthplace and country of previous residence	
27A	Persons	99
27B	Males	100
27C	Females	101
28	Persons, males and females aged one year and over usually resident and present in the State on census night, who lived outside the State for one year or more, classified by year of taking up residence in Ireland (Republic) and country of previous residence	102

Part II – Birthplaces

	Population usually resident in each Province and County, and present in the State on census night, classified by country of birth	
29A	Persons	104
29B	Males	106
29C	Females	108
	Population usually resident (and present in their usual residence on census night) in each Province and in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas, classified by birthplace	
30A	Persons	110
30B	Males	111
30C	Females	112
	Usually resident population born in each County, and present in the State on census night, classified by place of usual residence	
31A	Persons	113
31B	Males	114
31C	Females	115

Table No.

	Population usually resident in each Province and County, and present in the State on census night, classified by county of birth	
32A	Persons	116
32B	Males	120
32C	Females	124
33	Persons usually resident (and present in their usual residence on census night) in each town of 1,500 population and over (including suburbs or environs, if any) classified by country of birth	128
34	Usually resident persons, males and females, present in the State on census night, classified by country of birth and age group	130
35	Persons enumerated in each Province and County, classified by country of birth, 1986 to 2002	132

Part III – Nationalities

	Population usually resident in each Province and County, and present in the State on census night, classified by nationality	
36A	Persons	136
36B	Males	138
36C	Females	140
37	Usually resident persons, males and females, present in the State on census night, classified by nationality and age group	142
38	Usually resident persons, males and females, present in the State on census night, classified by country of birth and nationality	144
	Population usually resident (and present in their usual residence on census night) in each Province and in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas, classified by nationality	
39A	Persons	146
39B	Males	147
39C	Females	148
40	Persons usually resident (and present in their usual residence on census night) in each city or town (including suburbs or environs, if any) of 1,500 or more inhabitants, classified by nationality	149

Appendices

1	2002 Census questionnaire	152
2	Definitions	165
3	Census 2002 publication schedule	166

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 fourth volume of the detailed census report is in three parts. Part I contains detailed classifications of the population by usual residence at census date and one year prior to census date. Part II contains tabulations according to birthplace, while Part III covers nationality.

With the exception of Tables 1, 2 and 35, the tables in this volume relate to the usually resident population in each area, as analyses involving migration are more meaningful when presented in this way.

Subsequent census volumes will analyse the population by such characteristics as occupation, industry, education, disability, religion, 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, 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 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.

Further information

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