

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1956.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

A Census of Population was taken on the night of 8 April, 1956, in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order, 1956, (S.I. No. 71 of 1956) made by the Tánaiste in pursuance of powers conferred by subsection (1) of Section 16 of the Statistics Act, 1926 and the Statistics Acts, 1926 and 1946 (Transfer of Ministerial Functions) Order, 1949, (S.I. No. 142 of 1949) and by Article 28, Section 6·3° of the Constitution.

COVERAGE OF THE CENSUS.

The Census figures relate to the *de facto* population, *i.e.* the population recorded for each area represents all persons actually present within its boundaries on the night of 8 April, 1956, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday 9 April, 1956, not having been enumerated for Census purposes elsewhere within the country. The figures thus include temporary visitors present on that night as well as permanent residents; persons on board ships or boats in port, persons in caravans, etc. were included with the population of the adjacent areas. Persons who arrived in the State on the morning of Monday 9 April, 1956, and who, not having been enumerated elsewhere, were enumerated and included with the population of the area in which they arrived. Irish residents temporarily absent from the State at the time of the enumeration are excluded. The date of the Census was, however, specially chosen to coincide with a period when passenger movements are usually at a minimum and consequently the figures closely approximate to those for the normally resident population.

CONDUCT OF THE CENSUS.

The Census schedules for completion by the head of each family or institution were distributed about a week before Census date and completed forms were collected as soon as possible after that date. The Garda Síochána acted as official enumerators for all parts of the country outside the Dublin Metropolitan Garda Area, within which the duties of enumeration were carried out by Postal Officials. The enumerators scrutinised the returns at the time of collection to ensure that they were correctly completed and, where necessary, assisted householders in filling up the forms. A summary by sex of the population in his area was prepared by each enumerator and from these summaries the Preliminary Report, which was published in June, 1956, was compiled. The enumerators performed their difficult and onerous duties most efficiently.

The Census was of very limited scope and the head of each household was required to furnish full name, sex, date of birth and conjugal condition of each person who passed the night of 8 - 9 April, 1956, in the household or who arrived in the household on the morning of Monday, 9 April, 1956, not having been enumerated elsewhere. The home addresses of visitors enumerated in the household were also required.

Originally it was intended to compile statistics by area, age and conjugal condition but in the interests of economy it was subsequently decided to restrict the compilation of the Census to the population by areas only. Accordingly, on the occasion of this Census the present volume will be the only report published. The results have been derived by clerical methods and without recourse to the punched card techniques used at recent Censuses of Population.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CENSUS OF POPULATION AREAS.

The smallest administrative area unit used in the Census enumeration is the Townland, of which there are about 51,000 in the State. In the case of rural areas population figures are in the first instance compiled by townlands, although such details have not been published since the 1911 Census. Population of individual townlands (excluding portions within towns) are, however, supplied to inquirers on request. In the case of towns the initial enumeration is generally by streets, and townland figures are not compiled. Townlands are combined into District Electoral Divisions in rural areas and the streets in towns are similarly aggregated, the District Electoral Divisions being termed Wards in the case of the County Boroughs. There are 3,064 District Electoral Divisions (or Wards) in the country, and population figures for these areas are contained in TABLE 11 of this volume. Where a District

Electoral Division contains portion of a town, the population figures for the area inside the town are shown separately. The various categories of towns entering into the Census compilations are discussed in a later section. District Electoral Divisions are aggregated to give Urban and (former) Rural Districts which in turn build up to Counties. Rural Districts, which numbered 160, were abolished as administrative areas in 1925 (or in the case of the Rural Districts in County Dublin, in 1930) but have been retained for statistical purposes to give a well defined unit intermediate in size between the District Electoral Division and the County. Urban and Rural District figures are contained in TABLES 9 and 11 of this volume.

The organisation of the Public Health services is based on the Registrar's District and the Dispensary District, there being, in 1956, 654 of the former and 588 of the latter in the country. In many cases the Registrar's District and the Dispensary District are coterminous but in certain instances, principally in urban areas, two or more Registrars' Districts constitute a Dispensary District. Superintendent Registrars' Districts, which number 126, are constituted from Registrars' Districts and in many cases, though not invariably, coincide with Rural Districts plus any adjoining Urban Districts. Superintendent Registrars' Districts combine into Counties (including the County Boroughs). Figures for Registrars' Districts, Dispensary Districts and Superintendent Registrars' Districts are given in TABLE 10.

For the purpose of Parliamentary Elections the country is divided into Constituencies which, under Article 16.4° of the Constitution of Ireland, have to be revised at least once in every twelve years with due regard to changes in the distribution of population. The boundaries were last revised in 1947 and the Schedule to the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1947, contains the details of their composition. Population figures for these areas are contained in TABLE 5.

For elections to County Councils, County Electoral Areas were constituted by Orders made under the Local Government Act, 1941. These areas number 122 and are, in general, formed by the aggregation of District Electoral Divisions although in some cases a District Electoral Division may be divided between County Electoral Areas to facilitate electors. In the case of Dublin County Borough the Corporation elections are based on 9 Borough Electoral Areas, being aggregates of the Wards, while each of the County Boroughs of Cork, Limerick and Waterford constitutes a single Borough Electoral Area. Population figures for County and Borough Electoral Areas are contained in TABLE 6.

TOWNS.

For purposes of statistical analysis one of the most important divisions of the population according to area is that between town and rural districts, while classifications of population by size of town are also of considerable interest. In this context, the precise definitions of "town" and "rural" areas presents a number of difficulties. Towns fall into two classes, namely those with and those without legally defined boundaries. The first class comprises (a) the four County Boroughs and the Borough of Dun Laoghaire, (b) the six Municipal Boroughs, (c) the 49 Urban Districts and (d) the 29 Towns under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854. The areas to be enumerated as towns not having legally defined boundaries must be determined by the Census authorities and are herein referred to as Census Towns.

In the case of towns with legally defined boundaries it is necessary, for administrative purposes, to compile population figures for the areas within these boundaries, and these figures are given in various tables throughout this volume. However, in the case of many such towns it happens that extensive building has taken place outside of but in close proximity to the legally defined boundaries. The result is that large numbers of persons who for statistical purposes can obviously be regarded as belonging to the communities of which these towns are the nuclei are, nevertheless, excluded from their populations when attention is confined strictly to legally defined boundaries. This problem is one which, by its nature, tends to become more acute from one Census to the next, as building activity extends further and further into the countryside surrounding these towns, while revisions of legally defined boundaries, being dependent on other factors besides the difficulties of statistical definition, tend to lag behind.

In 1926 and 1936 the definition of a Census Town without legally defined boundaries was simply "a cluster of twenty or more houses". With the increased building activity in recent years, involving in many cases the transfer of town dwellers to blocks of new houses adjacent to the old cluster but not necessarily contiguous to it, it became necessary to modify the original definition to include the newly built clusters with the original Census Town, provided that the residents were still considered to take part in the community life of that town. This principle was followed at the 1946 and 1951 Censuses. Even before the introduction of the amended definition the delimitation of a Census Town was rather imprecise since no direction could be given as to the maximum distance between houses to be regarded as forming a cluster. The new definition placed still more reliance upon the judgement of individual enumerators with the result that the application of the principle varied from district to district.

For the reasons set out in the foregoing paragraphs it was decided to hold a special investigation in conjunction with the present Census, with the objects of (a) determining the extent of the suburban areas or environs of towns with legally defined boundaries and (b) establishing, on a uniform basis, boundaries for Census Towns. While at recent Censuses of Population the Census Town was defined as "a cluster of 20 houses or more" on the present occasion it was decided to vary this definition to the extent of including only *occupied* houses in determining the lower limit of size. The various boundaries were drawn on Ordnance Survey maps after consultation with Local Authority officials whose considerable local knowledge was of the greatest value in the work. In cases where doubt arose as to whether a cluster of houses outside a town should be included with it or not it was frequently found that such factors as whether or not these houses had a common electricity or water supply with the town were a valuable guide. The areas taken as comprising the suburbs of Dublin, Cork and Limerick County Boroughs and of Dun Laoghaire Borough are set out later in these Explanatory Notes. It was found unnecessary to define any suburban areas for Waterford County Borough as this entire community was resident within the legally defined boundary.

It should be clearly understood that the definitions of suburban areas, environs and Census Towns applied throughout this volume have been made for purposes of statistical analysis only. They do not affect in any way the existing legally defined boundaries of County Boroughs, Boroughs, Urban Districts or Towns under the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854, as used for general administrative or local government purposes.

In TABLE 8 are shown the populations of all towns of 200 population or over with the population of their environs where applicable, arranged in order of size within counties. In TABLE 9, population figures are given in greater detail for all towns with legally defined boundaries and their environs and for other towns of 1,500 population or over. TABLE 11 shows the population of each town and of its suburbs or environs where applicable, down to the smallest areas enumerated as towns. In those cases where towns are divided between two or more District Electoral Divisions in TABLE 11, totals for the towns are given in footnotes. In TABLE 13 a "Type of district" classification is shown; all towns of 1,500 population or over are arranged in order of size, while the total numbers of persons living in towns of various size ranges and in country districts (*i.e.* outside even the smallest towns) are also given. By "size of town" in this context is meant the total population including suburban areas or environs. Finally an alphabetical list of all towns in the country, with their populations, is given in TABLE 14.

AREAS TO WHICH COMPARABLE FIGURES RELATE.

Throughout this volume every effort has been made to give the comparable populations at the 1951 Census of those areas to which the 1956 figures relate. Consequently, if comparison is made with Volume I of the 1951 Census it will be found in the case of those Census Towns without legally defined boundaries, towns with legally defined boundaries and other administrative districts, which have experienced boundary changes in the period 1951-56, that the figures relating to the 1951 population differ in the two Volumes.

The opportunity has been taken at this Census to make a thorough examination of the boundaries of administrative areas, and some small inaccuracies, affecting figures published at earlier Censuses have come to light. Errors in the 1951 Reports on this account have been corrected in the present volume.

VALUATION AND AREA.

The particulars of area and valuation published in TABLES 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 of this Volume were extracted from the records of the Valuation Office. The areas shown are exclusive of the areas under certain lakes, rivers and tideways. The valuation is the rateable valuation on 1 March, 1956. Valuations of Census Towns (*i.e.* those without legally defined boundaries) are not available.

CITY SUBURBS.

At the 1951 Census, for the first time, figures were published relating to the suburban areas of Dublin and Cork County Boroughs and of Dun Laoghaire Borough. As already described, the delimitation of these suburban areas has been reviewed in the light of building activity and boundary changes since that date, and the constituent areas of these suburbs, as defined at the 1956 Census, are shown below. In the case of both Dublin and Cork the area of the County Boroughs has been extended under the Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation Acts, 1953 and 1955 respectively and thus certain parts of the 1951 suburbs of these cities have been absorbed into the County Boroughs. For convenience, the suburbs of Dublin and Cork have been divided to show the north city suburbs and south city suburbs separately. Figures for the suburbs of Limerick County Borough have been compiled for the first time in conjunction with the present Census and the areas comprising Limerick suburbs are given below.

Dublin North City Suburbs.

Dublin North City Suburbs comprise the townlands of Ashtown (pt.), Cabragh and Pelletstown in the D.E.D. of Castleknock; the townland of Newtown (pt.) in the D.E.D. of Coolock and the townland of Santry (pt.) in the D.E.D. of Drumcondra Rural. This area includes the former Census "towns" of Newtown and Santry. The entire North City Suburbs contain 2,252 persons, a decrease of 14.6 per cent since 1951, the decrease being attributable to the incidence of holidays in the case of certain institutions in this area.

Dublin South City Suburbs.

Dublin South City Suburbs comprise the entire D.E.D. of Milltown; the townlands of Bluebell, Drimnagh, Fox and Geese, Fox and Geese Common and Redcow in the D.E.D. of Clondalkin; the townlands of Gallanstown (pt.), Palmerston Lower (pt.), Palmerston Upper (pt.), Redcowfarm (pt.), and Woodfarm (pt.) in the D.E.D. of Palmerston; the townlands of Butterfield, Oldorchard, Rathfarnham, Whitehall and Willbrook in the D.E.D. of Rathfarnham; the townland of Templeogue (pt.) in the D.E.D. of Tallaght; the townlands of Commons, Crumlin, Greenhills, Kimmage, Perrystown, Roebuck, Whitehall and Wilkinstown in the D.E.D. of Terenure; the townlands of Ballyboden (pt.) and Edmondstown (pt.) in the D.E.D. of Whitechurch and the townlands of Balally (pt.), Ballinteer, Drummartin, Dundrum, Mount Anville, Mount Merrion or Callary, Roebuck and Trimleston in the D.E.D. of Dundrum. This area includes the former Census "towns" of Palmerston, Ballyboden, Coffey Hill and Ballinteer. The entire South City Suburbs contain 42,755 persons, an increase of 63.2 per cent since 1951.

Dun Laoghaire Suburbs.

Dun Laoghaire Suburbs comprise the townlands of Brennanstown (pt.), Bullock, Carrickmines Little (pt.), Cherrywood (pt.), Kerrymount, Kilbogget, Laughanstown (pt.), Loughlinstown, Rochestown, Rochestown Domain and Thomastown in the D.E.D. of Ballybrack; the townland of Mount Merrion South in the D.E.D. of Dundrum; the townlands of Glebe (pt.), Old Connaught (pt.), Shanganagh (pt.) and Shankill (pt.) in the D.E.D. of Rathmichael and the townlands of Cabinteely, Cornelscourt, Deansgrange, Foxrock (pt.), Galloping Green North, Galloping Green South (pt.), Glebe, Johnstown, Kill-of-the-Grange, Kilmacud East, Kilmacud West, Mountsahton, Mulchanstown, Newpark, Newtown Castlebyrn, Newtownpark, Stradbroom, Stillorgan Grove, Stillorgan North, Stillorgan Park, Stillorgan South, Tipperstown (pt.), Waltersland, Woodland and Woodpark in the D.E.D. of Stillorgan. This area includes the former Census "town" of Shankill. The entire suburbs contain 17,302 persons, an increase of 44.1 per cent since 1951.

Cork North City Suburbs.

Cork North City Suburbs comprise the townlands of Ballinamought East and Lotabeg in the D.E.D. of Rathcooney and the townlands of Ballysheehy, Ballyvolane, Cahergal, Clogheen, Commons (pt.), Garranebraher (pt.), Kilbarry, Kilnap, Knocknacullen East, Knocknacullen West, Knocknaheeny (pt.), Mount Desert and Shanakiel in the D.E.D. of St. Mary's. The entire North City Suburbs contain 5,696 persons, an increase of 12·6 per cent since 1951.

Cork South City Suburbs.

Cork South City Suburbs comprise the entire D.E.Ds. of Bishopstown and Blackrock; the townlands of Ardarrig, Ballybrack, Castletreasure, Douglas, Grange, Hop Island, Maryborough; Monfieldstown, Mounthovel and Rochestown (pt.) in the D.E.D. of Douglas and the townlands of Grange and Inchisarsfield in the D.E.D. of Lehenagh. The townland of Castletreasure includes the former Census "town" of Donnybrook. The entire South City Suburbs contain 28,721 persons, an increase of 15·7 per cent since 1951.

Limerick City Suburbs.

Limerick City Suburbs comprise the townlands of Ballykeefe (pt.), Dooradoyle (pt.) and Gouldavoher (pt.) in the D.E.D. of Ballycummin and the townlands of Caherdavin (pt.) and Shanabooly (pt.) in the D.E.D. of Limerick North Rural. The entire suburbs contain 780 persons, an increase of 118·5 per cent since 1951.

CHANGES IN LEGALLY DEFINED BOUNDARIES OF TOWNS.

Since 1951 the following changes in boundaries have been made in respect of the Towns specified below. In each case the comparative population figures for 1951 shown in this volume are those as returned in 1951 for the area as constituted after the coming into operation of the Order or Act in question.

Bray.

Under the Bray Urban District (Alteration of Boundary) Order, 1952, (S.I. No. 42 of 1952) part of the D.E.D. of Kilmacanoge was transferred to the Urban District of Bray.

Cork.

Under the Local Government Provisional Orders Confirmation Act, 1955, parts of the D.E.Ds. of Bishopstown, Blackrock and St. Mary's were added to the City of Cork.

Dublin.

Under the Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation Act, 1953, parts of the D.E.Ds. of Castleknock, Coolock, Drumcondra Rural, Finglas, Howth Rural, Clondalkin, Palmerston, Rathfarnham, Tallaght and Terenure were added to the City of Dublin.

Letterkenny.

Under the Letterkenny Urban District (Alteration of Boundary) Order, 1953, (S.I. No. 79 of 1953) part of the D.E.D. of Letterkenny Rural was transferred to the Urban District of Letterkenny.

Waterford.

Under the Local Government Provisional Orders Confirmation Act, 1955, part of the D.E.D. of Kilculliheen in Kilkenny County and parts of the D.E.Ds. of Ballynakill and Waterford Rural in Waterford County were added to the City of Waterford. The number of persons in 1956 in the area transferred from Kilkenny County to Waterford County Borough was 861 while the figures shown in the volume relate to the newly defined County Borough and County areas. This fact must be borne in mind in drawing comparisons between the county figures in 1956 and in earlier years, as in TABLE 3. The same remark applies to comparisons in respect of the provinces of Leinster and Munster, since this transfer also affected the totals for these provinces.

CHANGES IN BOUNDARIES OF ELECTORAL AREAS.

The following changes in Electoral Areas have taken place since 1951 :—

Dublin County Borough.

Under the Dublin County Borough (Electoral Areas) Order, 1954, (S.I. No. 143 of 1954) the Electoral Areas in Dublin County Borough have been revised as shown in TABLE 6.

Dublin County.

Under the Dublin County Council (Amendment) Order, 1953, (S.I. No. 263 of 1953) County Electoral Area No. 2 now has three representatives instead of four and County Electoral Area No. 4 has six representatives instead of five.

Kildare County.

Under the Kildare County Council (Amendment) Order, 1954, (S.I. No. 29 of 1954) the County Electoral Areas of Athy, Clane, Kildare and Naas have been revised.

Longford County.

Under the Longford County Council (Amendment) Order, 1954, (S.I. No. 63 of 1954) part of the District Electoral Division of Breanrisk has been transferred from the County Electoral Area of Longford to the County Electoral Area of Drumlish.

CHANGES IN BOUNDARIES OF DISPENSARY DISTRICTS.

Since 1951 the following changes in boundaries have been made in respect of the Dispensary Districts specified below. In each case the comparative population figures for 1951 shown in this volume are those as returned in 1951 for the area as constituted after the coming into operation of the Order in question.

County	Statutory Instruments	District Electoral Division	Dispensary District in 1951	Dispensary District in 1956
Kildare	No. 36 of 1952 with effect from 1/4/52	Burtown Harristown Inchaquire Narraghmore Nurney Skerries	Athy Monasterevin Fontstown Fontstown Monasterevin Fontstown	{ Athy Fontstown Monasterevin Fontstown Moone Moone Monasterevin Fontstown Fontstown Athy
Wexford	No. 325 of 1953 with effect from 5/11/53	Enniscorthy Urban Enniscorthy Rural Kilcormick Marshalstown Tinnacross Edermine	Enniscorthy Enniscorthy Enniscorthy Enniscorthy Enniscorthy Enniscorthy	{ Enniscorthy North Enniscorthy South Enniscorthy North Enniscorthy South Enniscorthy North Enniscorthy North Enniscorthy North Enniscorthy South
Limerick County Borough	No. 332 of 1951 with effect from 1/12/51	—	Limerick Urban and Limerick Rural (pt.)	Limerick Urban Nos. 1-4
Limerick	No. 333 of 1951 with effect from 1/12/51	Ballycummin Ballysimon Roxborough	Clarina Annacotty Clarina	{ Clarina Limerick Rural Annacotty Limerick Rural Clarina Limerick Rural
Limerick County Borough	No. 293 of 1954 with effect from 1/2/55	—	Limerick Urban Nos. 1-4	Limerick Urban Nos. 1-5
Waterford	No. 167 of 1955 with effect from 1/9/55	Rathgormuck Gurteen St. Mary's Knockaunbrandaun	Rathgormuck Kilsheelan No. 2 St. Mary's Seskinane	{ Rathgormuck Ballymacarbry Kilsheelan No. 2 Ballymacarbry St. Mary's Ballymacarbry Ballymacarbry
Sligo	No. 222 of 1950 with effect from 21/9/50	Sligo North Sligo East Sligo West Calry Drumcliff East Drumcliff West Kilmacowen Knockarea	Sligo Sligo Sligo Sligo Sligo Sligo Sligo Sligo	{ Sligo No. 1 Sligo No. 2 Sligo No. 2 Sligo No. 3 Sligo No. 1 Sligo No. 2 Sligo No. 1 Sligo No. 1 Sligo No. 2 Sligo No. 3
Donegal	No. 298 of 1953 with effect from 8/9/53	Graffy	{ Tantallan Donegal Glenties	Glenties

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CHANGES IN BOUNDARIES OF REGISTRARS' DISTRICTS.

Since 1951 the following changes in boundaries have been made in respect of the Registrars' Districts specified below. In each case the comparative population figures for 1951 shown in this volume are those as returned in 1951 for the area as constituted after the coming into operation of the Order in question.

County	Effective date of Order	District Electoral Division	Registrar's District in 1951	Registrar's District in 1956
Dublin County Borough	1/4/54	Crumlin Ushers	Crumlin South City No. 5 South City No. 6 Rathmines No. 2 South City No. 1 South City No. 2 South City No. 5	Crumlin South City No. 6 South City No. 7 Rathmines No. 2 South City No. 1 South City No. 2 South City No. 5 South City No. 7
Kildare	2/6/52	Burtown Harristown Inchaquire Narraghmore Nurney Skerries	Athy Monasterevin Fontstown Fontstown Monasterevin Fontstown	Athy Fontstown Monasterevin Fontstown Moone Moone Monasterevin Fontstown Fontstown Athy
Wexford	1/4/54	Enniscorthy Urban Enniscorthy Rural Kilcormick Marshalstown Tinnacross Edermine	Enniscorthy Enniscorthy Enniscorthy Enniscorthy Enniscorthy Enniscorthy	Enniscorthy No. 1 Enniscorthy No. 2 Enniscorthy No. 1 Enniscorthy No. 2 Enniscorthy No. 2 Enniscorthy No. 2 Enniscorthy No. 2 Enniscorthy No. 1
Limerick County Borough	11/2/52	—	Limerick Nos. 1-3 and Limerick Rural (pt.)	Limerick Urban Nos. 1-4
Limerick	11/2/52	Ballycummin Ballysimon Roxborough	Clarina Annacotty Clarina	Clarina Limerick Rural Annacotty Limerick Rural Clarina Limerick Rural
Limerick County Borough	1/2/55	—	Limerick Nos. 1-4	Limerick Urban Nos. 1-5
Sligo	11/2/52	Sligo West Urban Knockarea	Sligo No. 2 Sligo No. 2	Sligo No. 3 Sligo No. 3

CHANGES IN BOUNDARIES OF WARDS IN DUBLIN CITY.

The Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, and the Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, Adaptation Order, 1936, dated 9 April, 1954, altered the boundaries of Clontarf West, Pembroke East and South Dock wards. Nine new wards were created, viz.—Artane, Baldoyle, Ballyfermot, Coolock, Crumlin West, Finglas East, Finglas West, Rathfarnham South and Santry.