

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

VOLUME 2

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CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

INTRODUCTION

The present Volume contains detailed results involving classifications of the population by age, sex and marital status. The Census of Population was taken on the night of the 5th April, 1981 in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order 1981 (S.I. No. 60 of 1981) made by the Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach in pursuance of powers conferred on him by sub-section 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 the Statistics (Delegations of Powers and Duties) Order 1980 (S.I. No. 36 of 1980).

The following particulars were collected in respect of each individual:- (i) name, (ii) sex, (iii) relationship to head of household, (iv) date of birth, (v) marital status, (vi) place of birth, (vii) religion, (viii) ability to speak Irish, (ix) date of marriage and number of children (for married women only), (x) usual residence, (xi) usual residence one year prior to Census date, (xii) means of travel and distance travelled to work or school; and for persons aged 15 years or over, (xiii) present economic status, (xiv) principal occupation, (xv) employment status, (xvi) name of employer and nature of employer's business, (xvii) address of place of work or school, (xviii) area and rateable valuation of agricultural holdings, (xix) age at which full-time education ended and number of years' attendance at school or college (for persons who had ceased their full-time education), (xx) scientific or technological qualifications held and fields of science concerned. In addition the following information was collected in respect of each private household:- (i) nature of occupancy of the dwelling (rented, owner-occupied, etc.), (ii) rent of dwelling, (iii) rooms occupied, (iv) year dwelling was built, (v) type of water supply, (vi) availability of bath or shower, (vii) type of sanitary facilities and (viii) principal fuel used to heat the dwelling and availability of central heating.

PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF RESULTS

Volume 1 - Population of District Electoral Divisions, Towns and larger units of Area (Pl. 985) was published in September 1982. Two reports based on the processing of a five per cent sample of the Census returns have been published; the first in March 1983 (Pl. 1446) related to Age, Marital Status and Labour Force; the second in December 1983 (Pl. 1933) related to characteristics of Housing and Households. A series of Bulletins has already been published giving provisional results for the State and for each Planning Region, County and County Borough of classifications by Age, Marital Status, Principal Economic Status, Labour Force, Travel to Work, Religion, Size and Type of Dwelling, Nature of Occupancy, Water Supply, Sanitary Facilities and Fuel used to heat the dwelling. A list of these Bulletins is included in Appendix D. A final State Bulletin published in July, 1984 (Pl. 2526) contains classifications by Place of Birth, Usual Residence, Irish Language, Travel to Work and School, Education and Household Facilities, separately distinguishing between Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas.

Tabulations containing information on the population structure by Age Group, Sex and Marital Status; also on the number and size of permanent households and family nuclei, showing the number of family nuclei classified by age of youngest child; and on the number of persons aged 65 and over living alone; have been prepared for each District Electoral Division and Ward and for each town of 1,000 population and over. These tabulations are in the form of computer printed sheets and can be supplied to interested persons by the Central Statistics Office at a charge. More detailed tabulations for small areas will be available towards the end of 1984 containing, among other items, information on industry, occupation, socio-economic group, etc.

COVERAGE OF THE CENSUS

The Census figures relate to the de facto population, that is to say the population recorded for each area represents the total of all persons present within its boundaries on the night of Sunday, 5 April, 1981, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 6 April, 1981, 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 State are excluded. The date of the Census was, however, 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.

CONTENT OF THE TABLES

Tables 1A, 1B and 1C contain classifications of persons, males and females, respectively, according to five year age groups and by marital status; corresponding data from previous Censuses since 1926 are also shown. Table 2 shows the percentage single for five year age groups from age 15 onwards, for males and females. Tables 3 and 4 show, for five year age groups, how the population structure has developed since the 1951 Census. Tables 5A and 5B allow comparisons to be made between counties of the distribution of the population by age group, sex and marital status and also of the ratio of females to males. Tables 6A to 9 distinguish separately between Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas. The definition of the Aggregate Town Area is the same as that used in Volume 1 of the Census Report and covers all population clusters of 1,500 persons or over. The Aggregate Rural Area comprises all other areas, including towns of under 1,500 total population. Tables 10, 11A and 11B contain various classifications of the population by sex, single year of age and marital status. Table 12 classifies the population by sex and year of birth. Tables 13A and 13B classify the population by sex and by single year of age, 0 to 69 years, for Counties, County Boroughs, Provinces and Planning Regions. Tables 14A and 14B classify the population of Counties (distinguishing separately the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas), County Boroughs and Planning Regions by sex and marital status by those five year age groups usually used for the presentation of results, while Table 14C presents similar results for those five year age groups suitable for cohort analysis for the period 1979 to 1981. Table 15 classifies the population by sex, age group and marital status for Urban and Rural Districts, showing also towns and environs within Rural Districts.

Tables relating to persons who classified themselves on marital status as "Other Status" are included in Appendix A. The Irish Life Tables, Nos. 9 and 9A, 1978-1980, relating, respectively, to the State and to Urban Districts are included in Appendix B. The Planning Regions are described in Appendix C.

COMMENTARY

Changes in Age Distribution

Between April, 1979 and April, 1981 the population increased by 75,200 or 2.2 per cent. The rates of change varied considerably between different age groups reflecting the effect of the natural progression on the 1979 population structure together with births, deaths and migration in the two year period. Table A following contains an overall summary of the principal results according to broad age groups with corresponding details for some earlier Censuses. Between 1979 and 1981 there was an increase of 21,900 or 6.5 per cent in the number of persons in the 35-44 year age group while both the 15-24 year and 25-34 year age groups increased by just under 19,000. The number of persons aged 45-64 years actually fell by 5,500 but those aged 65 years and over increased by 7,600.

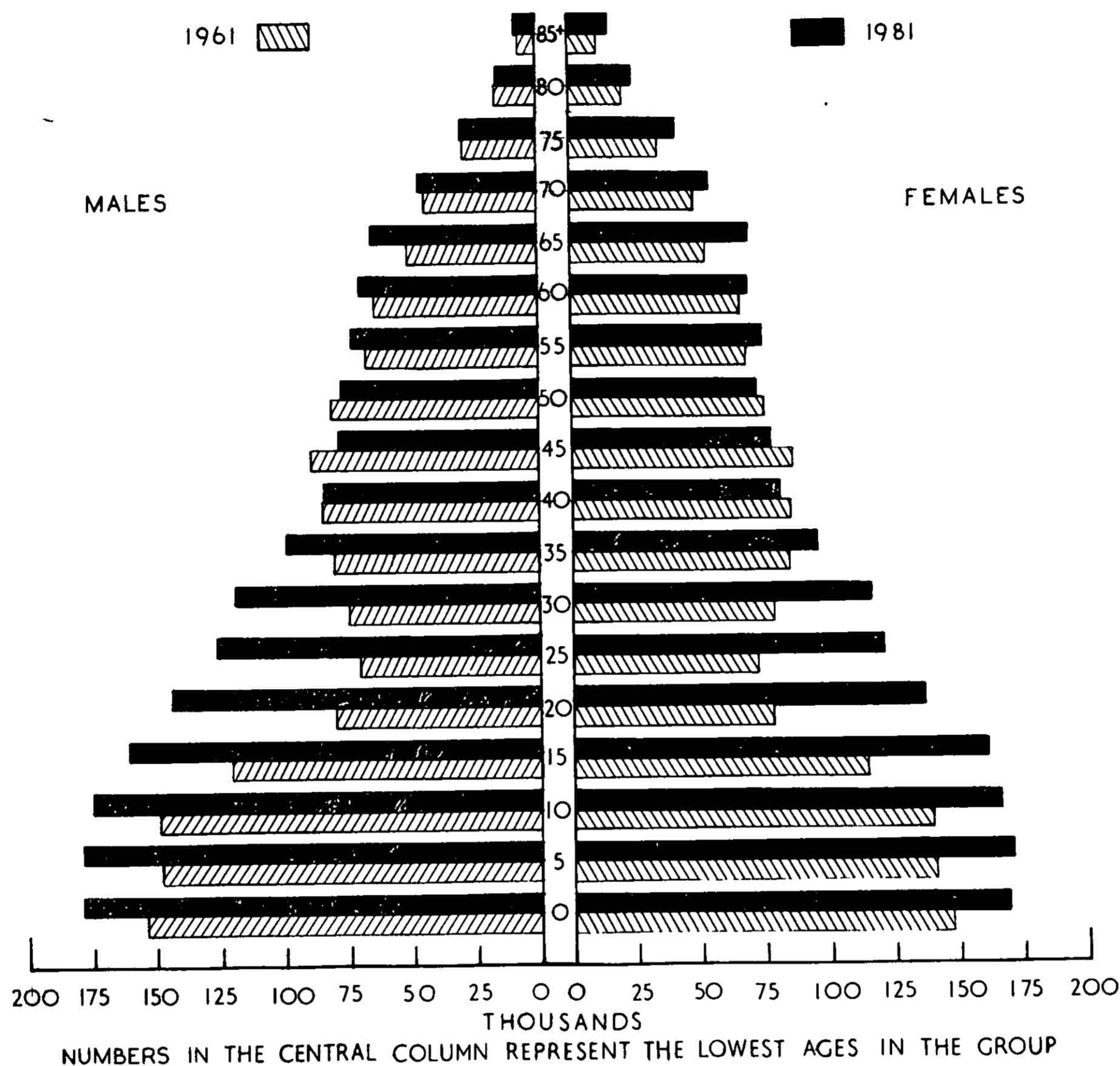
TABLE A:- POPULATION IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS 1961 - 1981.

Age Group	Population (000)				Change in Population 1979 - 1981		Percentage Change	
	1961	1971	1979	1981	Actual (000)	Percentage %	1961-71 %	1971-81 %
0-14 years	877.3	931.2	1,029.9	1,043.7	+ 13.8	+ 1.3	+ 6.1	+ 12.1
15-24 "	391.8	483.0	583.6	602.6	+ 18.9	+ 3.2	+ 23.3	+ 24.8
25-34 "	298.2	324.3	459.5	478.0	+ 18.5	+ 4.0	+ 8.8	+ 47.4
35-44 "	337.1	301.8	337.9	359.8	+ 21.9	+ 6.5	- 10.5	+ 19.2
45-54 "	331.7	319.2	304.1	301.5	- 2.6	- 0.9	- 3.8	- 5.5
55-64 "	267.2	288.9	291.7	288.9	- 2.9	- 1.0	+ 8.1	- 0.0
65 years and over	315.1	329.8	361.4	369.0	+ 7.6	+ 2.1	+ 4.7	+ 11.9
Total	2,818.3	2,978.2	3,368.2	3,443.4	+ 75.2	+ 2.2	+ 5.7	+ 15.6

In the ten year period 1971 to 1981 the population increased by 465,000 or 15.6 per cent compared with an increase of 160,000 or 5.7 per cent in the previous ten year period. Most of the difference in the rate of population growth was due to the effects of net migration which in the 1961-1971 period was 133,000 outward while for the 1971-1981 period it was 104,000 inward. Looking at the age groups it can be seen that the most striking features are the increases of 47 and 19 per cent for the 25-34 year and 35-44 year age groups, respectively, between 1971 and 1981 compared with a corresponding increase of 9 per cent and a decrease of 10 per cent in the previous ten year period. These significant changes are attributable in part to the sizeable reversal in the pattern of net migratory movements in the latter period. This may be seen from Table K (page xvii) which shows that in the 1961-1971 period the 25-34 year age group suffered a loss of some 65,000 persons due to migratory movements while in the 1971-1981 period there was almost a net zero effect for this age group, while for the 35-44 year age group net migratory movements resulted in a modest gain of 8,000 persons in the 1961-1971 period compared with a gain of almost 40,000 in the following ten year period.

The effects on age structure of the developments between 1961 and 1981 are illustrated in the form of population pyramids in the Diagram. In 1981 the typical triangular image of a pyramid existed in contrast to 1961 when the numbers of 20 to 40 year olds had been greatly reduced by high levels of emigration during the preceding decade.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION 1961 AND 1981



The effect of the changing numbers in the different age groups on the overall age structure of the total population is shown in Table B following:-

TABLE B:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS - 1926 TO 1981.

Year	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	"Dependent" Groups, 0-14 years and 65 years and over
1926	29.2	17.7	25.0	18.9	9.1	38.3
1936	27.6	17.6	25.4	19.6	9.7	37.3
1946	27.9	16.3	26.1	19.1	10.6	38.5
1951	28.9	15.0	26.0	19.4	10.7	39.6
1961	31.1	13.9	22.5	21.3	11.2	42.3
1966	31.2	15.4	21.3	20.9	11.2	42.4
1971	31.3	16.2	21.0	20.4	11.1	42.3
1979	30.6	17.3	23.7	17.7	10.7	41.3
1981	30.3	17.5	24.3	17.1	10.7	41.0

In the ten year period between 1971 and 1981 the proportion of the population aged 25-44 years increased from 21.0 per cent to 24.3 per cent and there was a corresponding decrease in the proportion accounted for by the 45-64 year age group. Just under 48 per cent of the population were under 25 years of age with a decline in the proportion aged 0-14 years being offset by an increase in the proportion aged 15-24 years. The proportion of the population accounted for by the "dependent" age groups - those aged less than 15 years and those aged 65 years and over - at 41 per cent has continued a steady decline since 1966.

Age Distribution by Area

Considerable differences exist in the distribution of the population by age within different areas of the country. Table C following compares the age distribution in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas.

**TABLE C:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN AGE GROUPS
FOR AGGREGATE TOWN AND AGGREGATE RURAL AREAS, 1981.**

Age Group	Persons		Males		Females	
	Aggregate Town Areas	Aggregate Rural Areas	Aggregate Town Areas	Aggregate Rural Areas	Aggregate Town Areas	Aggregate Rural Areas
0-14 years	30.3	30.3	32.0	29.7	28.7	30.9
15-24 "	19.1	15.5	19.3	16.0	18.9	14.9
25-44 "	25.5	22.8	26.0	23.2	25.1	22.4
45-64 "	16.1	18.5	15.6	18.7	16.5	18.3
65 and over	9.0	12.8	7.2	12.3	10.8	13.4
Total	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-

It can be seen that the rural population contained proportionately more persons in the upper age group than the urban population with over 31 per cent of persons in rural areas aged 45 years and over compared to 25 per cent in urban areas. This disparity is particularly pronounced in the case of males since less than 23 per cent of males in the Aggregate Town Areas are over 45 years of age. The proportion of females aged 15-44 years which was 44 per cent in town areas was considerably lower for rural areas at just over 37 per cent.

The age distribution in each County and County Borough is set out in Table D. The proportion of the population under 15 years of age ranged from about 24 per cent in Dublin County Borough and Dun Laoghaire Borough to 34.5 per cent in Kildare and 36.6 per cent in the remainder of Dublin County. This contrasts with the position ten years earlier in 1971 when Leitrim recorded the lowest figure at 26.5 per cent and the figures for Dublin County Borough and Dun Laoghaire Borough were 30.3 per cent and 28.4 per cent, respectively. While about 48 per cent of the total population were under 25 years of age the corresponding figure was lowest for Leitrim with 40.5 per cent while Dublin County with 52.7 per cent had the highest proportion of under 25's. The proportion of the population in the "Dependent" groups, 0-14 years and 65 years and over, is lowest in the Borough areas; this is to be expected when one considers the migration from rural to urban areas of persons of working age. In all other areas, with the exception of Mayo (44.7 per cent) and Donegal (45.2 per cent), the proportion of the population in the "Dependent" age groups was between 41.2 and 43.9 per cent. The proportion of the population aged 65 years of age and over is lowest for County Dublin at 4.7 per cent while almost four times higher at 17.6 per cent for Leitrim.

The Sex Ratio

At each Census since 1901 there has been an excess of males in the population as a whole. However the number of females per 1,000 males varies between the different age-groups, with the type of area - i.e. whether urban or rural - having a significant effect. The ratios are compared in Table E for each Census since 1926 and for Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas. It should be noted that the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas referred to here are as defined at the dates of the respective Censuses. It is not possible, owing to changes in town boundaries, to ensure that the figures for the different years relate to identical areas.

TABLE D:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION IN AGE GROUPS,
FOR EACH COUNTY AND COUNTY BOROUGH, 1981.

County or County Borough	Age Group					
	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	"Dependent" Groups, 0-14 years and 65 years and over
Carlow	32.4	17.5	23.4	16.9	9.8	42.3
Dublin Co. and Co. Borough	29.2	20.0	25.9	16.3	8.6	37.8
<i>Dublin Co. Borough</i>	23.9	23.1	22.6	19.3	11.1	35.0
<i>Dun Laoghaire Borough</i>	24.0	20.0	22.6	19.5	13.8	37.9
<i>Dublin*</i>	36.6	16.1	30.5	12.1	4.7	41.3
Kildare	34.5	16.9	28.1	13.6	6.9	41.4
Kilkenny	30.9	16.4	24.1	17.7	10.9	41.8
Laoighis	31.5	16.8	22.8	18.0	11.0	42.5
Longford	30.1	15.6	22.4	19.2	12.7	42.8
Louth	32.0	17.5	24.7	16.6	9.2	41.2
Meath	34.0	16.2	25.8	15.3	8.7	42.7
Offaly	32.2	17.3	22.4	17.9	10.2	42.4
Westmeath	31.4	17.3	23.3	17.7	10.4	41.8
Wexford	32.0	16.2	23.4	17.0	11.3	43.3
Wicklow	32.4	16.0	26.3	15.7	9.6	41.9
Clare	30.8	14.7	24.4	17.6	12.5	43.3
Cork Co. and Co. Borough	30.0	17.3	24.2	17.4	11.1	41.1
<i>Cork Co. Borough</i>	28.4	21.1	22.9	17.6	10.0	38.4
<i>Cork</i>	30.9	15.4	24.8	17.3	11.6	42.5
Kerry	29.0	15.4	22.9	18.7	14.0	43.0
Limerick Co. and Co. Borough	30.8	17.7	24.3	17.1	10.1	41.0
<i>Limerick Co. Borough</i>	30.0	20.9	23.1	16.9	9.1	39.1
<i>Limerick</i>	31.3	15.8	24.9	17.2	10.7	42.1
Tipperary, N.R.	30.6	16.3	22.5	18.8	11.9	42.4
Tipperary, S.R.	30.8	17.1	22.6	18.3	11.3	42.1
Waterford Co. and Co. Borough	31.2	17.0	24.1	17.3	10.4	41.6
<i>Waterford Co. Borough</i>	31.2	18.8	24.7	16.3	9.0	40.3
<i>Waterford</i>	31.1	15.6	23.7	18.0	11.5	42.7
Galway	29.8	17.2	23.3	17.2	12.5	42.3
Leitrim	26.1	14.4	20.9	21.0	17.6	43.7
Mayo	28.8	14.9	21.4	19.0	15.9	44.7
Roscommon	28.2	14.7	20.7	20.7	15.6	43.9
Sligo	28.2	15.8	22.9	18.8	14.2	42.5
Cavan	28.8	15.7	21.6	20.2	13.8	42.5
Donegal	31.3	15.1	22.5	17.2	14.0	45.2
Monaghan	30.4	16.1	22.9	18.3	12.3	42.7

*Excluding Dun Laoghaire Borough.

TABLE E:- FEMALES PER 1,000 MALES - 1926 TO 1981.

Year	All Ages	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over
TOTAL						
1926	972	965	946	996	917	1,113
1936	952	970	917	947	928	1,034
1946	977	964	964	976	984	1,020
1951	965	959	918	966	971	1,041
1961	990	955	952	1,023	972	1,110
1966	990	960	950	1,004	972	1,154
1971	991	957	957	979	986	1,189
1979	989	954	958	955	1,004	1,217
1981	991	949	962	961	1,006	1,234
AGGREGATE TOWN AREAS						
1926	1,103	994	1,121	1,146	1,097	1,461
1936	1,110	994	1,194	1,124	1,105	1,395
1946	1,169	987	1,251	1,253	1,210	1,373
1951	1,119	975	1,134	1,178	1,163	1,385
1961	1,124	966	1,141	1,183	1,180	1,476
1966	1,103	966	1,105	1,115	1,173	1,522
1971	1,086	960	1,075	1,071	1,168	1,557
1979	*	*	*	*	*	*
1981	1,061	951	1,043	1,025	1,122	1,599
AGGREGATE RURAL AREAS						
1926	916	952	863	920	850	1,031
1936	874	956	781	848	852	934
1946	875	950	802	832	876	906
1951	868	947	757	828	863	910
1961	887	945	786	890	840	939
1966	892	954	797	890	837	964
1971	896	953	827	869	852	976
1979	*	*	*	*	*	*
1981	910	947	849	878	893	988

**Information on Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas is not available for 1979.*

There were 991 females per 1,000 males in the State in 1981 and while this figure has hardly changed over the previous 20 years it is noticeable that the sex imbalance in both urban and rural areas has been steadily improving since about 1951. For the 0-14 year age group the ratio of females to males declined a little in both urban and rural areas since 1971. For both the 15-24 and 25-44 year age groups there were slight increases in the number of females per 1,000 males since 1979; for both age groups there has been a large decline in the ratios for urban areas since 1971 with an increase occurring in rural areas. For the 45-64 year age group the female excess which occurred for the first time in 1979 was repeated in 1981; while for persons aged 65 years and over the most striking feature is that in urban areas there are about 16 females in this age group for every 10 males.

Marital Status

In the 1981 Census of Population, returns on marital status were sought on the basis of "present legal status" with provision for four categories - "single", "married", "widowed" and "other status". This latter category was intended to relate only to "persons who had obtained a divorce in another country". However, 14,117 persons (5,116 males and 9,001 females) returned themselves as "Other Status", some of whom gave additional information from which in most instances it appears that the "present legal status" was "married". The 1981 figures contrast with the 1979 Census figure of 7,624 (2,379 males and 5,245 females) and suggests that the increased level of public interest in 1981 concerning this Census question affected the pattern of answering more than in 1979. It was therefore decided to include all persons returning themselves as "other status" with the "married" category in the tabulations but particulars of age distribution and geographic distribution are given in Appendix A for those 14,117 persons returned as "other status".

TABLE F:- POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER CLASSIFIED BY MARITAL STATUS 1961-81.

Marital Status	Population (000)				Change in Population 1979-81		Percentage Change	
	1961	1971	1979	1981	Actual (000)	Percentage %	1961-71 %	1971-81 %
MALES								
Single	468.4	465.9	508.4	516.8	+ 8.4	+ 1.7	- 0.5	+ 10.9
Married	453.6	514.9	619.9	639.8	+ 19.9	+ 3.2	+ 13.5	+ 24.3
Widowed	45.8	39.1	37.9	37.3	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 14.5	- 4.6
Total	967.8	1,020.0	1,166.2	1,193.9	+ 27.7	+ 2.4	+ 5.4	+ 17.1
FEMALES								
Single	378.6	374.3	404.8	415.2	+ 10.4	+ 2.6	- 1.2	+ 10.9
Married	468.2	523.1	626.7	648.3	+ 21.5	+ 3.4	+ 11.7	+ 23.9
Widowed	126.4	129.8	140.6	142.3	+ 1.7	+ 1.2	+ 2.7	+ 9.6
Total	973.3	1,027.1	1,172.1	1,205.7	+ 33.7	+ 2.9	+ 5.5	+ 17.4

Table F gives information on the total population aged 15 years and over, for the 1961 Census and for each Census since 1971, classified by marital status. It can be seen that between 1979 and 1981 there was an increase of almost 28,000 males and 34,000 females, with about 72 per cent and 64 per cent, respectively, of these increases arising in the married category. In the ten year period between 1961 and 1971 the number of males and females aged 15 years and over increased by 52,000 and 54,000, respectively, in both cases the increases occurred mainly in the numbers married. These increases represented only about 30 per cent of the corresponding increases of 174,000 males and 179,000 females occurring in the following ten year period 1971 to 1981. In the 1971-81 period the rate of increase in percentage terms in the numbers married was about twice that of the previous ten year period for both males and females. In the more recent period the number of single males and females increased by about 11 per cent compared to slight declines in the earlier period. The number of males who were widowed continued to decline during the 1971-81 period while the number of widowed females increased by 12,500 or just under 10 per cent.

Table G shows the percentage of the population who were single in different age groups for 1981 and for earlier Censuses, in so far as the figures are available, back to the year 1841:

TABLE G:- PERCENTAGE SINGLE IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS - 1841 TO 1981.

Year	Age group						
	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over
MALES							
1841	†	†	43.3*	15.4*	10.0*	†	†
1851	†	†	60.7	20.9	11.6	†	†
1861	99.8	91.9	56.8	23.9	14.3	11.1	11.7
1871	99.8	92.6	57.3	25.5	16.4	12.7	12.2
1881	99.9	94.1	62.0	27.1	16.4	13.4	12.0
1891	99.9	95.8	67.3	33.0	19.7	15.6	13.8
1901	99.9	96.3	71.8	38.3	23.8	18.2	15.5
1911	99.9	96.6	74.5	44.5	28.6	22.7	17.7
1926	99.9	96.0	71.7	45.0	31.4	26.2	20.5
1936	99.9	96.2	73.8	44.2	33.5	28.2	23.6
1946	99.8	95.0	70.4	43.0	32.1	30.0	25.4
1951	99.9	94.9	67.4	40.5	31.0	28.8	26.6
1961	99.8	92.5	58.0	36.2	29.7	28.1	26.7
1966	99.7	89.6	49.8	33.4	29.1	27.7	26.8
1971	99.5	84.6	41.3	28.9	28.1	27.1	26.8
1979	99.3	81.6	34.1	21.1	25.3	26.6	26.3
1981	99.4	82.4	34.2	19.4	23.9	26.3	26.0
FEMALES							
1841	†	†	28.0*	14.7*	11.7*	†	†
1851	†	†	39.1	15.2	11.4	†	†
1861	97.8	76.2	39.1	18.5	13.5	13.3	13.5
1871	98.1	77.7	38.2	19.8	15.2	13.4	14.3
1881	98.8	82.5	41.2	19.2	15.5	13.7	13.7
1891	99.2	86.0	48.1	23.1	16.6	15.8	15.3
1901	99.4	88.0	52.9	27.8	20.0	17.3	17.4
1911	99.5	88.4	55.5	31.0	24.0	20.8	18.5
1926	99.3	87.0	52.6	29.5	23.9	23.6	19.8
1936	99.1	86.4	54.8	30.2	25.1	23.7	22.7
1946	98.4	82.5	48.3	30.0	25.6	24.4	23.3
1951	98.9	82.3	45.6	27.6	25.7	24.7	23.7
1961	98.9	78.2	37.1	22.7	23.1	25.0	24.3
1966	98.4	74.8	31.0	20.4	20.8	24.4	24.8
1971	97.9	68.9	25.7	17.5	18.8	22.0	25.1
1979	97.3	66.3	21.5	12.3	15.7	18.9	23.8
1981	97.7	67.7	21.9	11.4	14.6	18.2	23.2

*Age groupings for 1841 were 26-35, 36-45, 46-55 and 56 and over.

†Particulars not available.

From about 1936 to 1979 there has been a continuing decrease in the proportion single in virtually all age groups for both males and females. Between 1979 and 1981, however, the proportions single have increased a little for age groups under 35 years, for both males and females. Whether this slight upward movement represents a change in the nuptiality patterns for the younger age groups or merely a temporary short-term pause remains to be seen however. For age groups over 35 years there was a continuing decrease in the proportion single for both males and females.

The trends between 1926 and 1981, in the percentages single in the various age groups in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas are shown in Table H.

TABLE H:- PERCENTAGE SINGLE IN EACH AGE GROUP IN AGGREGATE TOWN AND AGGREGATE RURAL AREAS - 1926 TO 1981*.

	Age group									
	Total 15 years and over	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-29 years	30-34 years	35-39 years	40-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and over
MALES										
Aggregate Town Areas										
1926	52.8	99.9	92.8	67.6	46.4	35.3	30.7	25.4	22.7	21.0
1936	51.6	99.9	93.0	71.0	47.9	33.5	27.8	25.4	23.9	22.8
1946	49.3	99.7	91.8	68.3	45.4	32.2	25.7	22.9	23.5	23.7
1951	48.0	99.8	92.5	66.4	42.2	30.0	23.9	21.4	21.5	24.2
1961	42.6	99.7	89.1	53.9	33.2	24.4	20.9	19.6	20.4	23.7
1966	42.2	99.5	85.8	46.5	27.4	22.4	19.8	18.7	19.3	23.2
1971	40.3	99.3	79.8	39.0	21.8	18.7	18.4	18.0	18.3	22.0
1981	40.6	99.3	80.1	39.5	20.0	14.7	14.9	16.2	17.5	20.0
Aggregate Rural Areas										
1926	57.6	100.0	97.6	86.5	70.6	56.7	44.6	33.8	27.3	20.5
1936	59.2	99.9	97.7	88.6	72.8	56.8	45.4	37.3	29.9	23.8
1946	57.9	99.8	96.8	85.5	68.8	55.2	44.9	36.8	32.8	26.0
1951	55.8	99.9	96.7	84.2	68.0	53.3	43.2	36.8	32.5	27.4
1961	52.5	99.9	96.0	80.5	63.7	50.7	42.3	36.1	33.0	28.2
1966	52.1	99.8	94.0	73.1	55.7	48.2	41.3	36.3	33.2	28.7
1971	50.6	99.7	90.4	62.3	45.7	40.9	39.6	36.4	33.1	29.5
1981	46.3	99.6	85.6	49.2	29.7	23.8	26.9	32.3	33.7	30.1
FEMALES										
Aggregate Town Areas										
1926	50.0	99.1	84.1	57.5	39.8	33.4	28.7	27.0	27.6	27.0
1936	50.7	98.9	84.6	60.9	42.8	33.9	29.6	28.0	27.8	28.7
1946	48.7	98.4	82.5	57.0	39.0	33.4	30.0	28.9	27.8	28.7
1951	47.2	99.0	83.2	54.4	37.0	30.8	28.9	28.7	28.1	28.7
1961	42.5	98.8	77.9	43.6	29.9	25.5	24.7	26.3	28.2	29.0
1966	41.2	98.2	74.3	36.7	24.1	22.6	21.9	23.8	27.1	29.2
1971	38.7	97.7	68.5	30.6	19.7	17.9	19.5	21.4	25.0	28.9
1981	37.5	97.7	69.5	31.2	16.4	12.6	13.3	16.4	20.9	26.6
Aggregate Rural Areas										
1926	45.3	99.4	89.1	64.7	42.7	31.9	25.0	22.4	21.7	17.4
1936	45.0	99.2	87.9	66.8	45.2	32.0	25.3	23.3	21.6	20.2
1946	42.1	98.4	82.6	57.9	38.6	31.0	25.8	23.5	22.3	20.7
1951	39.0	98.8	81.1	54.4	35.9	26.5	24.7	23.2	22.3	20.8
1961	35.4	99.0	78.7	47.1	29.3	21.5	19.4	20.1	22.3	20.9
1966	34.9	98.6	75.5	39.5	24.1	19.6	16.9	17.9	21.9	21.2
1971	33.7	98.2	69.6	32.1	18.9	16.0	15.7	16.2	19.1	21.5
1981	30.1	97.7	64.2	24.8	12.1	9.1	9.5	12.0	15.1	19.5

*Information on Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas is not available for 1979.

It can be seen from Table H that in the Aggregate Rural Areas the proportion single continued to decrease between 1971 and 1981 for all age groups and for both males and females with the exception of males 55 years of age and over. In the Aggregate Town Areas the decline in the proportion single in age groups under 30 years of age was halted with a small increase occurring for both males and females. For the older age groups the proportion single continued to decline. For females aged 20-34 the proportion single had usually been lower in the Aggregate Town than in the Aggregate Rural Areas for Censuses up to 1971 but in 1981 the position was reversed with the result that in 1981 the proportion single was lower in the Aggregate Rural Areas for all age groups. In the case of males in the Aggregate Town Areas the percentages single in the various age groups were very much lower at each Census than in the Aggregate Rural Areas but the differences narrowed considerably between 1971 and 1981.

Net Migration

The Census total is a count of the number of persons actually in the State on Census night. The change in population reflects the effect of vital events (births and deaths) and of all movement of persons into and out of the State between successive Censuses. Since the number of births and deaths are known from the regular vital statistics, a residual measure of net movement of persons can be obtained. In the absence of direct measures of inward and outward migratory flows this residual is used as an estimate of "net migration" i.e. the difference between the inward and outward flows. The residual figure however also reflects, implicitly, the net effect of non-migratory movements (i.e. change between successive Censuses in the level of visitors in the State, or in the level of Irish residents temporarily abroad on Census night) and of any other factors such as marginal variations in Census coverage achieved. Where the total residual figure is comparatively large and covers a long intercensal period (such as in 1971-1979) the possible effect of the factors mentioned is negligible. Where the total is comparatively small and covers a very short period (as in 1979-1981) the effect could be relatively more important.

In the two year period between the 1979 and 1981 Censuses births (146,000) exceeded deaths (66,000) by 80,000. This natural increase was slightly higher than the actual population increase of 75,000. The difference of 5,000 (an average rate of 2,500 per year) is taken as an estimate of the extent to which inward migration in 1979-81 was less than outward migration. For the preceding intercensal period 1971-79 it was estimated that inward migration exceeded outward migration by 109,000 - an average of 13,600 per year.

The availability of the 1981 Census results by age groups makes it possible to analyse further this measure of population movement by deriving estimates of net migration for each age cohort i.e. for each group of persons born in a specific period. This is done by comparing the actual numbers in the particular age group at the 1981 Census with the numbers in the same cohort of the 1979 Census having first allowed for deaths over the two years. The results are set out in Table I. Interpretation is perhaps made easier if described in terms of year of birth. For example the figures shown in the table for males in the 15 to 19 age group relate to persons born between April 1961 and April 1966 and yield an estimated net outflow of 3,300 between 1979 and 1981.

TABLE I:- ESTIMATED EFFECT OF NET MIGRATION BETWEEN 1979 AND 1981 FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS*.

Age Group in 1981	Males (000)			Females (000)		
	Population 1981 without migration from 1979 to 1981	Actual Population 1981	Effect of migration† 1979-1981	Population 1981 without migration from 1979 to 1981	Actual Population 1981	Effect of migration† 1979-1981
0-4 years	179.8	181.0	+ 1.3	171.2	172.0	+ 0.8
5-9 "	178.3	179.1	+ 0.8	170.1	170.4	+ 0.3
10-14 "	173.5	175.3	+ 1.8	164.7	166.0	+ 1.3
15-19 "	170.0	166.7	- 3.3	162.8	159.8	- 3.1
20-24 "	145.3	140.4	- 4.9	139.2	135.7	- 3.6
25-29 "	125.4	124.4	- 1.0	121.7	121.7	- 0.1
30-34 "	117.3	118.3	+ 1.0	112.5	113.7	+ 1.2
35-39 "	98.6	99.3	+ 0.7	93.8	94.5	+ 0.8
40-44 "	84.8	85.3	+ 0.5	80.4	80.6	+ 0.2
45-49 "	77.7	77.8	+ 0.1	74.3	74.1	- 0.2
50-54 "	75.8	75.3	- 0.4	75.0	74.4	- 0.6
55-59 "	73.6	73.3	- 0.3	76.2	76.3	+ 0.1
60-64 "	68.4	68.0	- 0.4	71.5	71.3	- 0.2
65-69 "	63.0	64.3	+ 1.3	68.0	69.6	+ 1.6
70-74 "	48.5	48.4	- 0.1	55.0	54.8	- 0.2
75 years and over	52.6	52.5	- 0.1	79.6	79.4	- 0.2
Total	1,732.6	1,729.4	- 3.2	1,715.9	1,714.1	- 1.8

†Effect of migration on the numbers recorded in the age group at the 1981 Census; this is not the same as the number migrating at that age.

*Estimates of total net migration for males and females, for the State as a whole and for different areas were contained in Volume 1 of the 1981 Census Report.

There are two important points to be kept in mind in interpreting the migration figures given. Firstly it must be stressed that in each case the figures represent a net flow reflecting the difference between inward and outward movements of population. Secondly the presentation of the results is in terms of the effect of migration on the numbers recorded in the 1981 Census in the different age groups and not in terms of a net number migrating at a particular age. The appropriate age group at time of migration may be the same as the relevant age group in April, 1981 or it may be a preceding one.

In the 1979-1981 period there was a net inflow of both males and females in the 1981 age groups under 15 years, 30-44 and 65-69. The remaining significant feature is the net outflow in the 15-29 age groups for both males and females. The table suggests a pattern of immigration of family groups and an emigration of young adults. The pattern of net inflow shown for the 65-69 year age group, on retirement probably, has been a feature of the effects of migratory movements even in periods experiencing very large net emigration.

Because of the caveat mentioned in respect of the short 1979-81 period in the introductory paragraph to this section corresponding information is shown in Table J for the longer ten year period 1971-1981. It should be noted that because of the different intercensal periods involved, the age at migration as implied by the age group at the 1981 Census differs between Tables I and J with the exception of the 0-4 age group. For example, for the 15-19 age group in 1981, the age at migration was 13 to 19 years in Table I and 5 to 19 years in Table J.

TABLE J:- ESTIMATED EFFECT OF NET MIGRATION BETWEEN 1971 AND 1981 FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS.

Age Group in 1981	Males (000)			Females (000)		
	Population 1981 without migration from 1971 to 1981	Actual Population 1981	Effect of migration† 1971-1981	Population 1981 without migration from 1971 to 1981	Actual Population 1981	Effect of migration† 1971-1981
0-4 years	179.3	181.0	+ 1.8	169.9	172.0	+ 2.1
5-9 "	170.9	179.1	+ 8.2	162.3	170.4	+ 8.1
10-14 "	160.9	175.3	+ 14.4	153.2	166.0	+ 12.7
15-19 "	161.1	166.7	+ 5.6	154.7	159.8	+ 5.0
20-24 "	151.0	140.4	- 10.5	146.0	135.7	- 10.3
25-29 "	135.3	124.4	- 10.9	130.4	121.7	- 8.8
30-34 "	108.7	118.3	+ 9.6	104.7	113.7	+ 9.0
35-39 "	86.5	99.3	+ 12.7	84.6	94.5	+ 9.9
40-44 "	75.3	85.3	+ 10.0	73.6	80.6	+ 7.0
45-49 "	73.1	77.8	+ 4.6	72.1	74.1	+ 1.9
50-54 "	72.3	75.3	+ 3.0	73.7	74.4	+ 0.7
55-59 "	72.1	73.3	+ 1.1	76.1	76.3	+ 0.2
60-64 "	68.7	68.0	- 0.7	72.3	71.3	- 1.0
65-69 "	61.2	64.3	+ 3.1	66.2	69.6	+ 3.5
70-74 "	44.8	48.4	+ 3.6	51.9	54.8	+ 2.9
75 years and over	50.2	52.5	+ 2.3	76.6	79.4	+ 2.8
Total	1,671.3	1,729.4	+ 58.1	1,668.2	1,714.1	+ 45.8

†Effect of migration on the numbers recorded in the age group at the 1981 Census; this is not the same as the number migrating at that age.

The period 1971-81 was characterised by a substantial net inflow of population estimated at 58,100 males and 45,800 females. The net inflow was particularly marked in the very young age groups and accounted for about 47,300 of persons under 15 years in April, 1981. Age groups over 30 years also showed a substantial net gain from migration flows particularly the 30-44 groups which were 58,200 higher as a result. When the substantial net inflow figures for the very young age groups are also taken into account they suggest that many of the inward migrants consisted of family groups. While there were some 10,600 more persons in the 15-19 age group in 1981 because of the effects of migration there was, in contrast, a considerable net outflow totalling over 40,500 for the 20-29 age group.

The effect of the migration pattern is broadly similar in magnitude for males and females for age groups up to 34 years and for persons aged 60 years and over. However for cohorts aged between 35 and 59 years in 1981 even though there was a substantial net inflow of approximately 19,700 for females, this was not as large as the net inflow of 31,400 for males.

Calculations similar to those used in deriving the estimates in Tables I and J were carried out for previous intercensal periods. In Table K the results for the four 5-year intercensal periods between 1951 and 1971 have been rearranged into ten-year periods for comparison purposes with the 1971-1981 period.

TABLE K:- THE EFFECT ON CERTAIN AGE GROUPS OF NET MIGRATION DURING TEN-YEAR PERIODS BETWEEN 1951 AND 1981.

Age group	1951-1961	1961-1971	1971-1981
	MALES (000)		
0-14 years	- 11.1	+ 11.4	+ 24.4
15-24 "	- 73.5	- 46.8	- 4.9
25-34 "	- 80.6	- 34.4	- 1.3
35-44 "	- 25.2	+ 7.0	+ 22.7
45-54 "	- 15.8	+ 0.3	+ 7.6
55-64 "	- 11.8	- 4.1	+ 0.4
65 years and over	+ 7.2	+ 4.8	+ 9.0
Total Males	- 210.8	- 62.0	+ 58.1
	FEMALES (000)		
0-14 years	- 11.8	+ 11.7	+ 23.0
15-24 "	- 73.4	- 44.0	- 5.3
25-34 "	- 59.4	- 30.3	+ 0.2
35-44 "	- 19.3	+ 1.1	+ 16.9
45-54 "	- 16.5	- 5.6	+ 2.6
55-64 "	- 10.2	- 6.4	- 0.8
65 years and over	+ 4.3	+ 2.5	+ 9.2
Total Females	- 186.5	- 70.8	+ 45.8

Table K illustrates the remarkable change which has taken place in the pattern of net migration over the past thirty years. In the ten years to 1961 migratory movements resulted in a population loss of over 397,000 persons of whom about 310,000 would have been under 35 years of age in 1961. The following ten years up to 1971 saw the population loss resulting from migratory movements fall to 133,000 persons; with the net loss of persons under 35 years of age amounting to 132,000. The population gain of 104,000 due to migratory movements between 1971 and 1981 contrasts sharply with the earlier periods and represents a differential of over half a million compared with the 1951-1961 period and about 237,000 compared with the 1961-1971 period.