

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

VOLUME 7

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CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

INTRODUCTION

A 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 (Delegation 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.

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.

PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF RESULTS

Volume 1 - Population of District Electoral Divisions, Towns and larger units of Area (Pl. 985); Volume 2 - Ages and Marital Status classified by Areas (Pl. 2561); Volume 3 - Household Composition and Family Units (Pl. 3084); Volume 4 - Principal Economic Status and Industries (Pl. 3274); Volume 5 - Religion (Pl. 3407) and Volume 6 - Irish Language (Pl. 3581) have already been published. Two reports based on the processing of a five per cent sample of the Census returns have also 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 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 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 frequency counts of the population in each Urban and Rural District, each District Electoral Division or Ward, each town of 1,000 population and over and each Gaeltacht Area classified by the main variables collected in the Census (e.g. Occupation, Industry, Economic Status, Socio-Economic Group, Education, Age, Marital Status) as well as counts of Private Households classified by Housing characteristics (Number of Rooms, Age of Building, Availability of Bath, etc.) are available on computer print-out sheets and on tape. These data will be supplied, at a charge, by the Central Statistics Office.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The present Volume contains detailed classifications by occupations and socio-economic groups of the population aged 15 years and over. The coverage of the Volume has been expanded compared with that of the corresponding 1971 Census Report - Volume IV (Occupations) - to include classifications by age and marital status which were included in Volume V of the 1971 Census Report. When making comparisons with 1971 it should be borne in mind that the 1971 Census volumes cover persons aged 14 years and over. In the 1981 Census, following the change in the school-leaving age to 15 in 1972, employment, etc. questions were asked of persons aged 15 years and over. However, in Table 3 persons aged 14 years have been excluded from the 1971 figures to enable direct comparisons to be made between 1971 and 1981.

BASIS OF CLASSIFICATION

The following notes deal with the basis of classification used:-

PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC STATUS

The Principal Economic Status was determined for persons aged fifteen years and over on the basis of a question which required a tick to be inserted opposite one of eight categories which best described the person's present economic status. The question was as follows:-

PRESENT STATUS

Indicate, by inserting in the appropriate box, the person's present principal status. Self-employed persons should insert in Box 1. Persons temporarily absent from work because of illness, holidays, etc. should insert in Box 1.

Q. 15

At work	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Home (i.e. domestic) duties	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Seeking regular work for first time	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Retired	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
Unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Unable to work owing to permanent sickness or disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	7
At school, student	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	8
			(specify)		

The notes which accompanied the question were as follows:-

- (i) Self-employed persons should insert in Box 1.
- (ii) Persons temporarily absent from work because of illness, holidays, etc. should insert in Box 1.
- (iii) Apprentices who are in employment and who also attend Technical Schools or Colleges of Technology should insert in Box 1.
- (iv) Full-time students who are in part-time employment should insert in Box 4.

It can be seen that, while present principal status was sought, strict guidelines relating to the nature of work performed, whether temporary or permanent, full-time or part-time were not laid down for use in reply to this question. Thus, the answers supplied are based on the subjective assessment of the person completing the form.

LABOUR FORCE

The Labour Force comprises persons aged 15 years and over who are "at work", "seeking regular work for the first time" or "unemployed". This is an extension of the Labour Force definition used in previous Censuses which did not include first job seekers.

The Labour Force (and its constituent) figures shown in this Volume are directly based on the Census and differ slightly therefore from the official mid-April 1981 Labour Force estimates. The latter were derived by modifying the Census figures to take account of the differences in methodology between the Census and sample Labour Force Surveys on which the official mid-April Labour Force series is now based; for details of the modifications to the Census figures and the official mid-April estimates see pages 8 and 9 of "Labour Force Survey 1983 - First Results" (Pl. 2660).

OCCUPATION

A person's occupational classification is determined by the kind of work he performs in earning a living, irrespective of the place in which, or the purpose for which, it is performed. The nature of the Industry, Business or Service in which the person is working has no bearing upon the classification of his occupation. For example, the occupation "clerk" covers clerks employed in Manufacturing Industries, Commerce, Banking, Insurance, Public Administration, Professions and Other Services, etc.

The question on the Census schedule relating to Occupation was as follows:-

OCCUPATION

"If at work, state here the usual principal occupation, giving a full description.

If unemployed or retired, describe the principal occupation previously held.

For students or persons at school, state the type (Secondary, Community, Vocational, University, etc.)."

The notes which accompanied the question contained the slightly more elaborate formulation - "if at work, state the usual principal occupation (i.e. that by which the living is mainly earned)".

It should be noted that whatever the occupation, the industry in which a person is engaged is determined by the main activity carried out at the local unit at which he/she works. If, however, the local unit is involved in some activity ancillary to another major unit (e.g. administration, storage, etc.) then the persons in the ancillary unit are classified to the industry of the major unit. Thus, while the occupational classification is concerned only with the particular work performed by the individual regardless of the main activity carried on at the local unit, the industrial classification is concerned only with the ultimate purpose or end product regardless of the precise nature of the work performed by each individual. A single manufacturing concern or commercial undertaking may employ persons of many different occupations for the purpose of making a particular product or giving a particular service. Conversely, there are many cases in which particular occupations are largely confined to a single industry. For example, the majority of persons having agricultural occupations are in the Industry of Agriculture and most miners are in the Mining Industry.

The term "industry" as used for Census of Population purposes is not confined to Manufacturing Industry, but is regarded as being synonymous with the term "Branch of economic activity". The basis of the industrial classification is, in the case of an employee, the business or profession of his employer and in the case of a self-employed person is the nature of his own business or profession. The question on the Census Schedule from which the classifications according to Industry were derived was as follows:-

EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYER'S BUSINESS

"For persons at work, if an employee, state name of employer (person, firm, company or public body) and nature of business carried on by the employer.

If self-employed, state nature of business carried on.

A farmer or farm worker should also state the area of the land farmed.

If unemployed, state name and nature of business of last employer."

The notes which accompanied the question indicated that the nature of business carried on should be described fully indicating the type of goods made or dealt with, or type of service rendered.

The next question on the Census Schedule asked persons to give the full address at which they worked. It often happened that the information on nature of employer's business entered on the Census Schedule was not sufficiently precise for the purpose of accurate classification and in many of these cases the additional information on name and address of the employer enabled the coders to identify the nature of business precisely with the aid of trade directories, etc.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Each person, at work, unemployed or retired was classified by "Employment Status" to one of the following groups:-

- Employer or own account worker
- Assisting relative
- Employee
- Out of work

The question on the Census Schedule relating to "Employment Status" was as follows:-

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

"If at work indicate, by inserting \surd in the appropriate box, the person's present employment status.

If unemployed or retired, indicate the person's previous employment status".

Q.17

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Self-employed, employing others..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Self-employed, without paid employees | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Employee..... | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| Assisting relative (not receiving a fixed wage or salary) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
-

SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP

The entire population was classified according to "Socio-economic group". Eleven specific socio-economic groups plus a residual "Unknown" group were used - these are listed on the following page. The purpose of the classification is to group together persons (and their dependents) with generally similar occupations as regards the level of skill or educational attainment required.

The socio-economic group of persons aged 15 years or over who were at work, was decided by their occupation or in some cases by a combination of occupation and employment status. Unemployed or retired persons were classified by socio-economic group according to their former occupation.

Persons engaged in home duties or at school/college, who were members of a family unit*, were classified to the socio-economic group of the person in the family on whom they were deemed to be dependent. Thus, if the head of a family was at work, unemployed or retired, members dependent on him/her were assigned to his/her socio-economic group. If the head was neither at work, unemployed nor retired (e.g. never worked, permanently disabled, etc.) or if his/her occupation was not known, members were assigned to the socio-economic group of the principal earner in the family; if there was no such earner, the family members were assigned to the "Unknown" group. Other persons engaged on home duties or at school/college who were not members of a family unit such as persons living alone or relatives of a head of household who were not members of the family unit (e.g. widowed grandparents, etc.) were assigned to the "Unknown" group.

*A family unit is defined as a man and wife with or without single children of any age or one parent together with one or more single children of any age. A household may consist of a family unit with or without other persons one or more of whom may be relatives of the family (e.g. widowed grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc.).

The classification according to socio-economic group in 1981 involved some differences on that used in 1971, viz:

- In 1981 as already indicated, retired persons were classified directly to socio-economic group on the basis of their former occupations and if former occupation was not stated, they were assigned to the "Unknown" group. In the 1971 Census, information was not sought on the former occupations of retired persons. However, in some cases it was supplied and was used to classify retired persons directly to socio-economic group. In other cases retired persons were assigned, where possible, to the group appropriate to other persons in the household and where this was not possible, to the "Unknown" group.
- In 1981 persons in private households who were relatives of the head of household but not members of the family unit, were assigned to socio-economic group on the basis of their own occupation and if occupation was not stated, to the "Unknown" group. In 1971 when occupation was not stated, they were assigned, where possible, to the group appropriate to other persons in the household and only where this was not possible, to the "Unknown" group.

Comparisons between 1971 and 1981 of the socio-economic groupings are affected by these classification differences. In making such comparisons the increase in the number classified to the "Unknown" group should be particularly noted (see also page xix for a discussion of the results).

A detailed list showing the allocation of occupations to each socio-economic group listed hereunder is given in Appendix B.

- i Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers
- ii Other agricultural occupations and fishermen
- iii Higher professional
- iv Lower professional
- v Employers and managers
- vi Salaried employees
- vii Intermediate non-manual workers
- viii Other non-manual workers
- ix Skilled manual workers
- x Semi-skilled manual workers
- xi Unskilled manual workers
- xii Unknown

CLASSIFICATION BY 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". The latter category was intended to relate only to "persons who had obtained a divorce in another country". Some 14,117 persons (5,116 males and 9,001 females) returned themselves as "other status". In this Volume, these persons are included in the "married" category in the tabulations involving classification by marital status.

CLASSIFICATION BY ADMINISTRATIVE AND CENSUS AREAS

The various administrative and Census areas for which figures are shown in this Volume were described in detail in the Explanatory Notes to "Census of Population of Ireland 1981, Volume 1" (Pl. 985). In particular the basis for defining towns and their environs and the suburban areas of Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Waterford were detailed.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

In the Census, persons who were rated occupiers of agricultural holdings were requested to state the area and rateable valuation of the land in such holdings. An analysis of the returns indicates that the question was poorly answered and therefore the results of this topic are not being published.

CONTENT OF THE TABLES

The tables in this Volume are similar to the tables on Occupation and Socio-Economic Group contained in Volumes IV and V of the 1971 Census report. However, as already indicated in the Explanatory Notes, tables on landholders which would normally be included in this Volume have been excluded because of the unsatisfactory response to the question on this topic on the 1981 Census form.

With the exception of Tables 14A and 14B which relate to unemployed persons only, the occupational descriptions refer to those at work and unemployed combined.

Tables 1 and 2 show the classification of the population according to occupational group and detailed occupational headings respectively while in Table 3 comparative figures are supplied for the detailed occupational headings for 1971 and 1981.

Tables 4A, 4B, 4C and 5 provide both the group level and the most detailed level of occupational classification for Provinces, Counties and County Boroughs.

Tables 6A and 6B contain classifications by occupational group for Urban and Rural Districts, etc., while Table 7 contains a more detailed occupational breakdown for towns of 1,500 population or over (including their suburbs or environs, if any). An alphabetical index to the cities and towns shown in Tables 6A, 6B and 7 is given in Appendix E.

Table 8 gives a breakdown of persons at work in each of the detailed occupational headings by employment status and shows unemployed persons separately in each occupational heading.

Tables 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, 11A and 11B provide breakdowns of the individual occupations and occupational groups by age group and marital status.

Table 12 is solely concerned with farmers and shows the numbers of farmers at work in each Province and County classified by sex, age group and marital status.

Tables 13A and 13B provide a breakdown of males and females in each occupation in the age group 15 - 24 by single year of age.

Tables 14A and 14B give details of unemployed persons classified by their former occupation and by age group.

Tables 15 and 16 relate to socio-economic groups. Table 15 gives the numbers of males and females in each socio-economic group in each Province, County and County Borough with separate figures for those in the labour force, not in the labour force and children under 15 years. Table 16 gives a breakdown of the persons in each socio-economic group classified by age group, sex and marital status with separate figures for those in the labour force, not in the labour force and children under 15 years.

Note: Volume 4 of the 1981 Census Report - Principal Economic Status and Industries - also contains a considerable amount of occupational data. In Tables 13A and 13B of that Volume males and females at work in each industrial group are classified by major occupational group for 1971 and 1981, while Table 14 distinguishes, for males and females at work, the principal occupations within each industry.

COMMENTARY

LABOUR FORCE

The total number of persons in the labour force as obtained in the 1981 Census of Population was 1,271,122, of whom 912,495 were males and 358,627 were females. These represent substantial increases on the corresponding figures for 1971 with the total labour force increasing by almost 146,000 persons or 13 per cent in the ten year period. The more significant increase took place in the female labour force which rose by 69,000 persons or 24 per cent while the male labour force increased by 77,000 persons or 9 per cent.

These comparisons may be somewhat affected by the introduction in the 1981 Census of the eight-category question on principal economic status (see under "Principal Economic Status" on page vi) which on the basis of experience with the Labour Force Survey has tended to lower the level of the labour force. For further details see page ix of Census of Population 1981 Volume 4 - Principal Economic Status and Industries (Pl. 3274).

CHANGES IN OCCUPATIONS 1971 - 1981

TABLE A shows the changes in the numbers in the principal occupational groups between 1971 and 1981 for persons, males and females. In this Table (and all others) occupational classifications relate to persons aged 15 years and over but in deriving changes between 1971 and 1981, the 1971 figures have been adjusted to exclude 14 year olds.

**TABLE A:- ACTUAL AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1971-1981 IN THE NUMBERS
IN THE PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS.**

(The changes relate to persons aged 15 years and over in 1971 and 1981. The 1971 figures have been adjusted to exclude 14 year olds)

Occupational Group	Actual Change (000)*			Percentage Change		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen	- 89.5	- 76.9	- 12.6	% - 31.1	% - 29.3	% - 49.9
Mining, quarrying and turf workers	+ 0.3	+ 0.3	...	+ 6.1	+ 5.9	...
Electrical and electronic workers	+ 17.0	+ 13.2	+ 3.8	+ 79.6	+ 72.1	+ 125.0
Engineering and related trades workers	+ 21.5	+ 19.0	+ 2.5	+ 44.8	+ 40.6	+ 210.3
Woodworkers	+ 4.2	+ 4.1	+ 0.1	+ 18.5	+ 18.2	+ 54.9
Leather and leather substitute workers	- 2.5	- 1.4	- 1.0	- 33.9	- 33.0	- 35.3
Textile and clothing workers	- 6.2	- 0.6	- 5.5	- 17.2	- 5.2	- 23.4
Food, beverage and tobacco workers	+ 7.2	+ 6.2	+ 1.0	+ 36.2	+ 42.1	+ 18.9
Paper and printing workers	+ 1.2	+ 1.0	+ 0.2	+ 13.9	+ 16.7	+ 7.3
Workers in other products	+ 5.6	+ 4.5	+ 1.2	+ 39.5	+ 39.9	+ 38.1
Building and construction workers	+ 9.5	+ 9.5	+ 0.0†	+ 59.6	+ 59.5	+ 375.0†
Painters and decorators	+ 1.0	+ 1.1	- 0.1	+ 11.6	+ 12.8	- 55.6
Operators of cranes, stationary engines and excavators	+ 4.7	+ 4.7	...	+ 63.1	+ 63.0	...
Labourers and unskilled workers (n.e.s.)	- 14.5	- 14.3	- 0.2	- 16.4	- 16.3	- 20.9
Foremen and supervisors of manual workers	+ 3.9	+ 3.6	+ 0.3	+ 27.5	+ 27.8	+ 24.6
Transport and communication workers	+ 8.0	+ 5.1	+ 3.0	+ 13.2	+ 8.9	+ 80.6
Warehousemen, storekeepers, packers and bottlers	+ 0.5	+ 3.3	- 2.8	+ 2.3	+ 22.9	- 35.9
Clerical workers	+ 37.1	+ 2.7	+ 34.4	+ 36.0	+ 7.4	+ 51.4
Commerce, insurance and finance workers	+ 24.3	+ 16.6	+ 7.7	+ 22.5	+ 22.8	+ 21.8
Service workers	+ 14.4	+ 12.2	+ 2.2	+ 18.0	+ 40.7	+ 4.4
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	+ 17.1	+ 14.4	+ 2.7	+ 95.4	+ 84.5	+ 304.4
Professional and technical workers	+ 51.2	+ 26.5	+ 24.7	+ 49.6	+ 50.3	+ 48.8
Armed forces	+ 5.4	+ 5.4	+ 0.0†	+ 61.1	+ 61.1	+ 60.0†
Gainfully occupied but occupation not stated	+ 15.2	+ 10.9	+ 4.4	+ 326.0	+ 298.0	+ 426.1
Persons looking for first regular job	+ 9.0	+ 5.6	+ 3.4	+ 80.5	+ 80.3	+ 80.8
TOTAL LABOUR FORCE (aged 15 years and over)	+ 145.8	+ 76.5	+ 69.3	+ 13.0	+ 9.1	+ 23.9
TOTAL NOT IN LABOUR FORCE (aged 15 years and over)	+ 206.8	+ 97.5	+ 109.3	+ 22.4	+ 53.0	+ 14.8
TOTAL UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE	+ 112.6	+ 59.6	+ 53.0	+ 12.1	+ 12.5	+ 11.6
TOTAL POPULATION	+ 465.2	+ 233.6	+ 231.6	+ 15.6	+ 15.6	+ 15.6

*Apparent small discrepancies in this and other tables are due to the effect of rounding.

†Less than 20 persons in group in 1971 and 1981.

...No females in group in 1971.

The decline which had been taking place prior to 1971 in the numbers in agricultural occupations continued during the period 1971 to 1981. During these ten years the number in the group "Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen" decreased by almost 90,000 persons, the number of females falling to almost half of their level in 1971 while the number of males decreased by almost 30 per cent. This was, by far, the largest decrease in any group in the 1971-81 period. Significant decreases also took place in the numbers of "Labourers and unskilled workers" where there was a decline of almost 15,000 reflecting the decreasing role of unskilled labour in the workforce. Other decreases were registered in "Textile and clothing workers" and "Leather and leather substitute workers". There were, however, substantial increases in several other occupational groups which resulted in an overall net increase in the labour force of almost 146,000 persons. The largest increase, over 51,000 persons, was in the category "Professional and technical workers". This reflected the growth in health, education and other professional services (e.g. accountancy) which took place during the period 1971 to 1981. Appreciable increases were also registered in the numbers in the categories "Clerical workers", "Commerce, insurance and finance workers", "Administrative, executive and managerial workers" and "Service workers". These increases ranged from 14,000 in the case of "Service workers" to 37,000 in the case of "Clerical workers". The largest increases in the trades categories occurred in "Engineering and related trades workers" and in "Electrical and electronic workers" where there were rises of 22,000 and 17,000, respectively.

Table A also shows the percentage changes between 1971 and 1981 in the numbers in the various occupational categories. The most significant increases were in "Administrative, executive and managerial workers" (95.4 per cent overall but over 300 per cent in the number of females), "Electrical and electronic workers" (79.6 per cent), "Operators of cranes, stationary engines and excavators" (63.1 per cent), "Armed forces" (61.1 per cent) and "Building and construction workers" (59.6 per cent).

DISTRIBUTION OF OCCUPATIONS IN DIFFERENT PLANNING REGIONS

TABLE B shows the percentage distribution of the labour force in each Planning Region classified by broad occupational group. The group "Other producers, makers and repairers" which encompasses mainly industrial type occupations covers all occupations in the groups from "Mining, quarrying and turf workers" to "Foremen and supervisors of manual workers" in Table 2 of the main tables (i.e. occupation codes 212-289, 292, 295-297). The composition of the remaining headings is easily obtained by reference to Table 2, where similar titles are used.

TABLE B:- TOTAL LABOUR FORCE IN EACH PLANNING REGION AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY BROAD OCCUPATIONAL GROUP.

Planning Region	Total Labour Force	Percentage Distribution								Total
		Agricultural occupations	Other producers, makers and repairers	Clerical workers	Commerce, insurance and finance workers	Service workers	Professional and technical workers	Others	Persons looking for first regular job	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
East	501,692	4.1	22.9	16.0	11.4	8.9	14.2	21.2	1.3	100.0
South West	188,537	18.8	24.2	8.6	10.6	7.1	11.5	17.6	1.6	100.0
South East	132,819	22.3	25.3	7.7	10.2	6.3	10.2	16.3	1.8	100.0
North East	71,118	21.4	27.0	8.1	9.8	6.0	9.7	16.4	1.6	100.0
Mid West	110,986	21.3	23.4	8.7	9.5	6.7	11.0	17.8	1.5	100.0
Donegal	41,831	22.7	23.5	5.8	8.6	6.5	9.1	20.8	3.0	100.0
Midlands	91,310	27.0	23.7	6.9	9.2	5.7	9.8	16.1	1.6	100.0
West	101,866	29.8	19.2	7.0	9.0	6.0	12.3	14.4	2.3	100.0
North West	30,963	29.5	20.6	7.0	9.0	6.3	11.4	14.5	1.6	100.0
TOTAL	1,271,122	15.6	23.3	11.0	10.4	7.4	12.2	18.5	1.6	100.0

The labour force in the East Region comprised over half a million people or almost 40 per cent of the entire labour force in the country. The composition of the labour force in the East Region was also significantly different to that of the other regions. The percentage of "Clerical workers" at 16 per cent was almost twice that of any other region while the 4.1 per cent in "Agricultural occupations" was less than one quarter of that in the South West and about one seventh of the proportions in the West and North West respectively. Other features of the East Region were the relatively high percentages of "Professional and technical workers" (14.2 per cent) and "Commerce, insurance and finance workers" (11.4 per cent) compared to the other regions.

In six of the nine regions, the most common occupations were "Other producers, makers and repairers" which encompasses the industrial type activities, with the highest proportions at 27.0 per cent and 25.3 per cent, respectively, in the North East and South East. "Agricultural occupations" dominated in the Midlands, West and North West accounting for 27.0, 29.8 and 29.5 per cent respectively, of the labour force in these regions. With the exception of the East and Donegal, the least common occupations were those of "Service workers", with the Midlands having the smallest proportion at 5.7 per cent. The least common occupation in Donegal was that of "Clerical worker" which at 5.8 per cent was also the lowest proportion in any region. Persons looking for their first regular job comprised 1.6 per cent of the total labour force in the State; Donegal at 3.0 per cent had the highest proportion with the East at 1.3 per cent having the lowest.

AGE DISTRIBUTION IN OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

TABLES C and D on pages xiv and xv following show the distributions by age group of the male and female labour force respectively in various occupational groups. The most noticeable features of these tables are the relatively high percentages of persons aged 65 years and over in the "Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen" group. In the case of males, almost 14 per cent of the labour force with these occupations were aged 65 years and over whereas no other occupational group contained more than 4 per cent of its male labour force in this age group. Younger males under 25 years of age were strongly represented in the "Armed forces" where they accounted for 45.6 per cent of the total. Other occupational groups which had relatively high percentages of males aged under 25 years were "Engineering and related trades workers" (38.5 per cent), "Electrical and electronic workers" (37.3 per cent), "Woodworkers" (36.4 per cent) and "Clerical workers" (35.5 per cent).

The contrast between the age structure of those with Agricultural occupations and those with other occupations is even more striking in the case of females. Almost 19 per cent of female "Agricultural workers" were aged 65 years and over; no other occupational group had more than about 5 per cent in this age group. Most other occupational groups are characterised by having a high percentage, over 60 per cent, of their female workforce aged under 30 years. In fact, almost 78 per cent of female "Electrical and electronic workers" were under 30 years of age. However, the groups "Professional and technical workers", "Administrative, executive and managerial workers", "Service workers" and "Forewomen and supervisors of manual workers" contained larger percentages in the older age groups.

TABLE C:- AGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALES BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP.

Occupational Group	Total	Age Group										
		15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over
Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen	100.-	4.4	7.5	7.4	8.4	8.0	8.4	9.3	10.7	11.2	10.9	13.7
Mining, quarrying and turf workers	100.-	4.7	14.0	14.3	14.0	11.7	9.9	8.7	8.3	8.1	5.7	0.6
Electrical and electronic workers	100.-	12.9	24.4	19.4	13.7	9.3	6.6	4.9	3.9	2.9	1.7	0.4
Engineering and related trades workers	100.-	16.8	21.7	16.5	13.5	9.2	7.2	5.3	4.0	3.1	2.1	0.6
Woodworkers	100.-	18.3	18.1	14.3	13.9	9.2	6.7	6.5	4.6	3.7	3.3	1.3
Leather and leather substitute workers	100.-	11.9	13.8	10.9	8.7	8.6	7.7	7.8	9.3	10.1	7.9	3.4
Textile and clothing workers	100.-	12.4	21.1	16.4	13.5	10.1	7.5	5.6	5.0	4.2	2.9	1.4
Food, beverage and tobacco workers	100.-	10.7	16.8	14.4	12.8	9.9	8.8	7.9	7.4	6.4	4.0	1.1
Paper and printing workers	100.-	11.7	15.0	15.5	14.2	10.8	9.6	7.9	6.2	4.4	3.4	1.3
Workers in other products	100.-	9.3	19.5	17.6	14.5	9.9	8.8	7.0	5.7	4.3	2.6	0.8
Building and construction workers	100.-	8.8	13.3	14.3	15.5	12.7	9.9	8.4	6.5	4.9	3.8	2.0
Painters and decorators	100.-	11.1	13.7	13.2	14.3	11.2	9.7	9.0	6.8	5.6	3.8	1.4
Operators of cranes, stationary engines and excavators	100.-	3.2	12.0	15.7	18.1	14.7	11.1	8.8	7.1	5.7	3.0	0.5
Labourers and unskilled workers (n.e.s.)	100.-	7.7	15.0	14.0	13.3	9.8	9.0	8.1	8.1	7.6	5.7	1.5
Foremen and supervisors of manual workers	100.-	0.3	4.0	10.2	14.3	14.5	14.3	12.5	11.1	10.5	6.8	1.3
Transport and communication workers	100.-	4.5	9.3	11.5	13.7	14.5	12.0	10.3	9.1	8.1	5.3	1.6
Warehousemen, storekeepers, packers and bottlers	100.-	15.2	18.7	13.1	10.8	8.7	7.9	6.6	6.8	6.5	4.5	1.3
Clerical workers	100.-	11.5	24.0	17.2	11.1	7.9	5.8	5.9	5.4	5.2	4.2	1.7
Commerce, insurance and finance workers	100.-	9.3	13.2	12.4	12.9	11.5	9.6	8.5	7.6	6.3	4.6	3.9
Service workers	100.-	5.9	14.1	15.0	13.2	11.6	10.2	8.5	7.0	6.6	4.8	3.0
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	100.-	0.1	4.2	11.2	16.1	17.7	14.5	11.8	9.8	7.6	5.3	1.7
Professional and technical workers	100.-	1.9	12.9	18.9	17.2	13.2	9.3	7.7	6.3	5.2	4.1	3.5
Armed forces	100.-	18.7	26.9	19.4	13.4	9.0	4.7	2.9	2.1	2.0	0.7	0.2
Gainfully occupied but occupation not stated	100.-	14.3	20.8	14.6	11.8	9.2	8.3	6.3	6.3	4.4	2.8	1.2
Persons looking for first regular job	100.-	79.7	17.3	2.5	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LABOUR FORCE (aged 15 years and over)	100.-	8.9	13.8	13.2	12.6	10.5	8.9	8.0	7.5	6.8	5.4	4.3

TABLE D:- AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALES BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP.

Occupational Group	Total	Age Group										
		15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over
Agricultural workers	100.-	4.6	7.2	5.7	5.7	5.3	6.2	8.4	11.3	13.8	12.9	18.8
Electrical and electronic workers	100.-	26.6	38.0	13.0	6.6	4.2	3.8	3.0	2.2	1.6	0.9	0.1
Leather and leather substitute workers	100.-	31.9	25.3	11.4	6.6	4.8	3.8	4.6	4.3	3.9	3.0	0.5
Textile and clothing workers	100.-	33.9	29.3	11.5	6.0	3.9	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.1	1.2
Food, beverage and tobacco workers	100.-	21.9	26.4	12.2	7.3	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.8	5.4	3.2	0.5
Paper and printing workers	100.-	22.4	29.4	12.6	6.8	4.4	5.7	5.3	5.0	4.0	3.2	1.2
Other producers, makers and repairers	100.-	24.1	34.6	13.8	7.2	5.3	4.6	3.4	3.1	2.2	1.1	0.5
Unskilled workers (n.e.s.)	100.-	20.5	23.4	10.5	7.4	5.9	5.2	5.2	6.7	7.9	4.9	2.5
Forewomen and supervisors of manual workers	100.-	2.6	19.1	17.1	13.6	9.4	8.9	8.1	8.2	6.8	5.1	1.2
Transport and communication workers	100.-	9.6	32.7	23.4	9.3	6.3	4.2	4.0	3.9	2.8	2.2	1.6
Storekeepers, packers and bottlers	100.-	9.6	32.7	23.4	9.3	6.3	4.2	4.0	3.9	2.8	2.2	1.6
Storekeepers, packers and bottlers	100.-	23.5	27.4	12.6	7.1	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.6	4.3	2.6	0.6
Clerical workers	100.-	16.9	36.6	19.6	8.2	4.4	3.5	3.0	2.8	2.4	1.7	0.8
Commerce, insurance and finance workers	100.-	22.0	24.4	10.5	6.8	5.6	5.2	5.4	5.7	5.3	4.1	5.1
Service workers	100.-	16.8	18.9	10.0	7.6	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.9	8.0	5.6	4.1
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	100.-	0.2	13.0	18.7	15.6	13.3	9.9	9.3	7.9	6.4	4.2	1.4
Professional and technical workers	100.-	4.8	22.3	20.3	12.5	9.2	8.1	6.6	5.5	4.7	3.7	2.3
Other occupations (incl. gainfully occupied but occupation not stated)	100.-	21.0	29.7	15.2	9.5	6.0	4.7	4.2	3.8	3.1	1.8	1.0
Persons looking for first regular job	100.-	81.0	17.1	1.6	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL LABOUR FORCE (aged 15 years and over)	100.-	17.1	26.8	15.4	8.5	6.0	5.4	5.0	4.9	4.6	3.4	2.7

MARRIED FEMALES IN OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

TABLE E shows the numbers and proportions of married females in different occupational groups.

TABLE E:- MARRIED* FEMALES IN THE LABOUR FORCE IN EACH OCCUPATIONAL GROUP.

Occupational Group	Female Labour Force		Married as a percentage of total
	Total	Married*	
Agricultural workers	12,671	3,367	26.6
Electrical and electronic workers	6,777	2,065	30.5
Leather and leather substitute workers	1,915	504	26.3
Textile and clothing workers	18,118	4,039	22.3
Food, beverage and tobacco workers	5,994	1,825	30.4
Paper and printing workers	2,735	729	26.7
Other producers, makers and repairers	8,353	2,415	28.9
Unskilled workers (n.e.s.)	611	184	30.1
Forewomen and supervisors of manual workers	1,476	670	45.4
Transport and communication workers	6,646	2,258	34.0
Storekeepers, packers and bottlers	4,973	1,422	28.6
Clerical workers	101,474	25,786	25.4
Commerce, insurance and finance workers	42,879	13,271	30.9
Service workers	51,907	18,455	35.6
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	3,599	1,427	39.6
Professional and technical workers	75,443	29,006	38.4
Other occupations (incl. gainfully occupied but occupation not stated)	5,403	987	18.3
Persons looking for first regular job	7,653	7	0.1
TOTAL LABOUR FORCE (aged 15 years and over)	358,627	108,417	30.2

*Including the "Other Status" category which was separately identified in 1981.

More than 30 per cent of the female labour force in 1981 were married; in 1971 the corresponding figure was 13.6 per cent. The highest percentage of married females was in the category "Forewomen and supervisors of manual workers" where 45.4 per cent of the female workforce were married. Other categories having a high proportion of married females were "Administrative, executive and managerial workers" (39.6 per cent) and "Professional and technical workers" (38.4 per cent).

In terms of the absolute numbers involved it can be seen that "Professional and technical workers" accounted for the greatest number of married females (29,006). This group was closely followed by "Clerical workers" (25,786), "Service workers" (18,455) and "Commerce, insurance and finance workers" (13,271). These four groups taken together accounted for some 80 per cent of all married females in the labour force.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS OUT OF WORK IN EACH OCCUPATIONAL GROUP

The age distribution of males and females out of work in each occupational group is given in TABLES F and G respectively (pages xvii and xviii).

In 1981 somewhat more than one-ninth of all males who had lost or given up a previous job were aged 55 years and over, a very considerable fall on the corresponding 1971 proportion of about one-third. On the other hand, over the ten-year period the proportion of unemployed males in the under 35 age groups increased from 35 per cent to over 55 per cent. In fact in several occupational groups more than 30 per cent of unemployed males were under 25 years of age. The group "Warehousemen, storekeepers, packers and bottlers" contained the highest percentage, at 36.4 per cent, of unemployed males under 25 years of age. This contrasts with "Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen" and "Transport and communication workers" in each of which just less than 16 per cent of unemployed males were under 25 years of age. There were only two occupational groups which contained more than 20 per cent of their unemployed male workforce in the age groups 55 years and over; these were "Agricultural workers" and "Leather and leather substitute workers".

Just over one-half of females who had lost or given up a previous job were under 25 years of age. Only the "Professional and technical workers" group, with 32 per cent, contained a significantly lower proportion in this age group.

TABLE F:- AGE DISTRIBUTION OF MALES OUT OF WORK, HAVING LOST OR GIVEN UP PREVIOUS JOB, IN EACH OCCUPATIONAL GROUP.

Occupational Group	Total	Age Group										
		15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over
Agricultural and forestry workers and fishermen	100.-	4.5	11.2	11.7	12.1	8.7	8.1	8.8	9.9	11.9	10.7	2.6
Mining, quarrying and turf workers	100.-	6.6	14.6	13.5	14.1	12.6	8.3	7.6	8.1	8.1	5.4	1.1
Electrical and electronic workers	100.-	8.0	22.6	21.5	13.6	11.2	6.4	5.5	4.7	4.1	2.2	0.2
Engineering and related trades workers	100.-	8.0	22.7	19.3	15.3	10.2	7.5	5.8	4.4	3.5	2.7	0.6
Woodworkers	100.-	7.2	17.2	16.7	17.5	11.0	8.4	7.0	4.9	4.6	4.5	1.1
Leather and leather substitute workers	100.-	8.1	12.5	11.7	12.3	10.2	6.3	7.1	11.1	9.8	10.0	0.8
Textile and clothing workers	100.-	7.6	19.3	17.3	13.2	12.4	8.9	6.2	5.0	5.1	4.1	0.8
Food, beverage and tobacco workers	100.-	11.6	20.0	16.5	14.2	9.9	7.6	6.3	5.5	4.6	3.1	0.8
Paper and printing workers	100.-	6.3	16.0	16.4	15.2	11.3	9.2	7.8	6.0	5.6	5.5	0.7
Workers in other products	100.-	8.7	21.7	19.2	15.1	9.5	6.9	5.2	5.4	4.6	3.1	0.6
Building and construction workers	100.-	5.6	15.7	17.6	17.1	12.4	9.5	7.5	6.2	4.5	3.1	0.8
Painters and decorators	100.-	5.6	13.7	14.0	16.0	14.5	10.5	8.5	7.7	5.2	3.4	0.9
Operators of cranes, stationary engines and excavators	100.-	2.8	12.3	18.2	20.6	14.0	10.2	8.3	5.7	4.7	2.8	0.4
Labourers and unskilled workers (n.e.s.)	100.-	5.7	15.4	15.6	14.9	10.9	9.0	7.8	7.3	6.9	5.4	1.2
Foremen and supervisors of manual workers	100.-	0.3	5.0	11.0	14.0	14.7	16.6	10.8	10.4	8.9	6.7	1.4
Transport and communication workers	100.-	5.1	10.7	13.9	15.3	14.7	11.2	9.3	7.8	6.4	4.7	0.8
Warehousemen, storekeepers, packers and bottlers	100.-	14.8	21.6	14.0	11.6	8.8	7.4	4.5	6.0	5.7	4.4	1.1
Clerical workers	100.-	6.9	25.4	17.0	12.3	8.1	6.8	6.4	4.8	5.4	5.8	1.2
Commerce, insurance and finance workers	100.-	13.1	19.2	15.2	12.4	9.8	7.2	6.2	6.0	5.4	4.1	1.2
Service workers	100.-	9.5	19.0	14.7	12.8	9.8	8.3	6.7	6.5	6.8	4.6	1.2
Professional and technical workers	100.-	2.0	20.4	24.5	19.1	10.7	5.5	5.3	4.9	4.3	2.5	0.9
Other occupations (incl. gainfully occupied but occupation not stated)	100.-	15.3	25.1	15.2	11.0	8.1	6.8	5.4	5.2	3.7	3.0	1.1
TOTAL	100.-	7.8	17.4	15.8	14.3	10.7	8.4	7.1	6.6	6.0	4.7	1.1

TABLE G:- AGE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALES OUT OF WORK, HAVING LOST OR GIVEN UP PREVIOUS JOB, IN EACH OCCUPATIONAL GROUP.

Occupational Group	Total	Age Group										
		15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over
Electrical and electronic workers	100.-	21.2	37.9	17.7	6.3	4.2	4.4	2.2	3.2	1.8	1.0	0.2
Leather and leather substitute workers	100.-	17.0	25.7	19.0	10.3	4.7	3.6	5.9	4.7	4.7	4.0	0.4
Textile and clothing workers	100.-	24.1	31.7	15.5	8.2	4.3	3.6	2.6	2.7	3.9	2.7	0.6
Food, beverage and tobacco workers	100.-	22.5	31.1	13.7	6.6	4.4	4.8	3.4	5.6	4.3	3.0	0.7
Unskilled workers (n.e.s.)	100.-	22.7	31.1	12.1	9.1	5.3	5.3	3.0	4.5	3.0	2.3	1.5
Other producers, makers and repairers	100.-	20.2	32.7	16.8	7.9	5.0	3.7	3.9	3.1	3.2	2.8	0.6
Storekeepers, packers and bottlers	100.-	21.2	29.0	16.3	8.2	5.2	4.0	4.6	5.4	4.3	1.6	0.3
Clerical workers	100.-	11.6	33.7	22.9	9.9	5.4	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.5	2.3	0.5
Commerce, insurance and finance workers	100.-	27.4	31.8	13.7	7.8	4.7	3.1	3.0	3.4	2.5	2.0	0.7
Service workers	100.-	21.2	25.7	13.1	7.4	5.4	4.5	5.5	6.0	6.4	3.3	1.6
Professional and technical workers	100.-	2.1	29.9	25.4	14.1	8.3	5.8	4.9	4.2	2.9	1.6	0.8
Other occupations (incl. gainfully occupied but occupation not stated)	100.-	23.4	31.0	15.9	8.4	5.3	3.9	3.6	3.0	2.8	1.6	1.2
TOTAL	100.-	19.4	30.7	17.0	8.7	5.3	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.8	2.4	0.9

SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS

The number of persons in each socio-economic group in 1971 and 1981 together with the proportions in the labour force, not in the labour force and children under 15 years of age in 1981 are shown in TABLE H.

TABLE H:- PERSONS IN EACH SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP IN 1971 AND 1981 SHOWING THE PROPORTIONS IN THE LABOUR FORCE, NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS IN 1981.

Socio-Economic Group	Total Persons		Percentage Distribution 1981			
	1971	1981	In Labour Force	Not in Labour Force	Children under 15 years of age	Total
			%	%	%	%
Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers	607,786	469,547	35.8	34.6	29.6	100.-
Other agricultural occupations and fishermen	128,120	100,779	35.2	37.0	27.7	100.-
Higher professional	89,369	129,527	44.0	26.0	30.0	100.-
Lower professional	110,596	172,666	54.6	21.5	24.0	100.-
Employers and managers	151,640	234,306	31.1	30.7	38.2	100.-
Salaried employees	59,545	74,814	33.2	31.3	35.5	100.-
Intermediate non-manual workers	359,665	441,076	55.3	22.3	22.4	100.-
Other non-manual workers	303,027	375,376	39.1	27.8	33.0	100.-
Skilled manual workers	491,865	662,651	35.2	27.7	37.2	100.-
Semi-skilled manual workers	173,635	200,345	47.2	24.1	28.8	100.-
Unskilled manual workers	258,111	233,425	33.2	32.6	34.2	100.-
Unknown	244,889	348,893	6.6	72.2	21.1	100.-
TOTAL	2,978,248	3,443,405	36.9	32.8	30.3	100.-

The method by which the population was classified by socio-economic group and the related differences between 1971 and 1981 are described in the Explanatory Notes (pages viii and ix). While the effects of these classification differences cannot be quantified, they contributed to the increase between 1971 and 1981 of 104,000 or 42.5 per cent in the number of persons classified to the "Unknown" group. In particular the 1981 classification of relatives not members of family units contributed to an increase in the number of widowed females classified as "Unknown" (up some 36,000 on the 1971 level).

However, apart from the classification changes there were other elements contributing to the increase in the "Unknown" group. There was an increase in the number of persons for whom occupation was not stated (up some 15,000) - many of them of course would have had dependents also classified to the "Unknown" group. There was also an increase in 1981 in the number of children in boarding schools on Census night (up some 10,500) because of some difference in timing between the two Censuses relative to Easter.

While the classification differences and other factors mentioned have affected trends between 1971 and 1981, it is nevertheless clear from Table H that certain significant changes have occurred over the ten-year period. In 1981 the group containing the largest number of persons was "Skilled manual workers" which accounted for 662,651 persons, or 19.2 per cent of the total population, followed by "Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers" with 469,547 persons or 13.6 per cent of the population. This is a reversal of the position in 1971 when the former contained 491,865 persons and the latter 607,786, accounting for 16.5 and over 20 per cent, respectively, of the population. The next largest groups in both 1971 and 1981 were the "Intermediate non-manual workers" and "Other non-manual workers", both of which increased in number over the ten-year period and accounted for 12.8 per cent and 10.9 per cent, respectively, of the population in 1981. In both years the smallest group was the "Salaried employees" containing 74,814 persons in 1981 or just 2.2 per cent of the population.

The largest percentage change between 1971 and 1981 in any individual group was registered in the "Lower professional" group, which increased by 56.1 per cent from 110,596 persons in 1971 to 172,666 persons in 1981. There was an almost equally large percentage increase (54.5 per cent) in the "Employers and managers" group in which the number of persons rose from 151,640 in 1971 to 234,306 in 1981. The "Higher professional" group also showed a large increase of 44.9 per cent on the 1971 level. As already stated, a rise of some 104,000 or 42.5 per cent occurred in the "Unknown" group.

In addition to the "Farmers, farmers' relatives and farm managers" group which declined by almost 23 per cent, "Other agricultural occupations and fishermen" and "Unskilled manual workers" showed decreases of 21.3 and 9.6 per cent, respectively, between 1971 and 1981.

Table H also shows that in 1981 more than one-half of the total persons in two socio-economic groups were in the labour force, these were the "Intermediate non-manual workers" (55.3 per cent) and the "Lower professional" (54.6 per cent). The "Employers and managers" group at 31.1 per cent, had the lowest proportion in the labour force. About one-third of the population in each of "Salaried employees" and "Unskilled manual workers" were in the labour force. The proportion of persons not in the labour force in any group is particularly influenced by the numbers of "dependent" persons (e.g. non-working wives, children at school or college, etc.) in the group as such persons are classified to the same socio-economic group as the person on whom they are deemed to be dependent.