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General Details

Introduction

A Census of Population was taken on the night of Sunday, 21 April 1991, in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order 1991 (S.I. No. 62 of 1991)¹. A copy of the census questionnaire including the explanatory notes which accompanied it is reproduced in Appendix 1, Volume 1 of the detailed census report.

This second volume of the detailed census report presents the population classified by age, sex and marital status. Some important basic classifications for these variables have already been published in a series of Local Population Reports (see Appendix). The territorial divisions of the country distinguished in this report are defined in Appendices 3–8 of Volume 1.

Subsequent census volumes will analyse the population by such characteristics as household composition, occupation, industry, etc..

Coverage

The census figures relate to the *de facto* population – i.e. the population recorded for each area represents the total of all persons present within its boundaries on the night of Sunday, 21 April 1991, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 22 April 1991, not having been enumerated elsewhere. Persons on board ships in port are included with the population of adjacent areas. The figures, therefore, include visitors present on census night as well as those in residence, while usual residents temporarily absent from the area are excluded.

The date of the census was 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.

Conduct of the Census

The census enumeration was carried out by a specially recruited temporary field force consisting of 334 full-time supervisors and some 3,200 part-time enumerators. The census questionnaires were distributed during the three weeks immediately preceding the census night and the collection of the completed questionnaires commenced the following day. The enumerators examined the questionnaires at the time of collection to ensure that they were correctly completed; and, where necessary, they assisted householders in their completion.

Production of Results

Each enumerator first prepared and returned to the Central Statistics Office a summary of the population in his/her enumeration area. These summaries formed the basis for the preliminary 1991 population results issued in three census publications within months of the census date². The completed questionnaires for the individual households were subsequently transmitted to the Central Statistics Office for processing.

The population summaries, dwelling listings and enumeration maps for individual enumeration areas were checked for consistency in county order and used to determine the boundaries of census towns and suburbs/environs of towns with legal boundaries. The first stage clerical scrutiny and computer processing of the entries for date of birth, marital status and relationship to head of household (questions 1–6) on the census questionnaire proceeded concurrently in the same county order. These two operations combined allowed the publication of the first set of final census results in a series of Local Population Reports which were issued on a county-by-county basis immediately results became available (see Appendix). A summary report for the State was issued in April 1993.

The derived first phase computer file forms the basis for three volumes of the detailed census report covering Areas, Ages and Marital Status, and Household Composition and Family Units. The computer processing of the remaining information on the census questionnaires enabled the publication of a second series of Local Population Reports covering place of birth, religion, Irish language, usual residence, car usage and household characteristics. Of the remaining volumes of the detailed census report, emphasis will be placed on publishing those relating to Industry, Occupation and Education.

¹ Made by the Taoiseach in pursuance of powers conferred on him by sections 11 and 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).

² Census of Population of Ireland, 1991:
 Preliminary Population Figures (Pl.8176), June 1991
 Preliminary Report – Areas (Pl.8248), July 1991
 Preliminary Report – Age Groups (Pl.8447), November 1991.

Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS)

Small area population statistics for Urban Districts, Rural Districts, Towns, District Electoral Divisions, etc. from the 1991 Census are being made available on a commercial basis in two phases. The first phase information is already available containing detailed classifications of the population by age, sex and marital status and of households by size and by age, sex and marital status of the head of the household. Details of family units classified by size, age of youngest child, etc. are also provided. The second phase information will become available for individual counties later on this year.

Commentary

Changes in the Age Distribution

Between April 1986 and April 1991 the population decreased by 14,900 or 0.4 per cent. The rates of change varied considerably between different age groups reflecting both the effect of the natural progression of the 1986 population structure and the impact of births, deaths and migration in the five year period. Table A following contains the population for the three most recent censuses for selected age groups together with derived changes in both absolute and percentage terms.

Table A Population in selected age groups, 1981 to 1991

Age group	Population (000)			Change in population (000)		Percentage change in population	
	1981	1986	1991	1981-1986	1986-1991	1981-1986	1986-1991
0-4 years	353.0	324.1	273.7	-28.9	-50.3	-8.2	-15.5
5-14 "	690.7	700.6	666.8	9.9	-33.8	1.4	-4.8
15-24 "	602.6	617.5	601.6	14.9	-15.9	2.5	-2.6
25-34 "	478.0	501.1	495.4	23.1	-5.7	4.8	-1.1
35-44 "	359.8	421.5	463.6	61.7	42.1	17.1	10.0
45-54 "	301.5	309.3	344.6	7.8	35.3	2.6	11.4
55-64 "	288.9	282.2	277.1	-6.7	-5.1	-2.3	-1.8
65 years and over	369.0	384.4	402.9	15.4	18.5	4.2	4.8
Total	3,443.4	3,540.6	3,525.7	97.2	-14.9	2.8	-0.4

Of the eight age groups the only ones to experience population growth between 1986 and 1991 were the 35-44 (+42,100), 45-54 (+35,300) and 65 years and over (+18,500). The 35-44 age group also displayed the highest population growth in the previous intercensal period when it accounted for almost two thirds of the total population growth. The decline of 28,900 in the population of the 0-4 age group between 1981 and 1986 was amplified in the latter intercensal period when it showed a decrease of 50,300. The decline in this age group in both periods reflects the steady decrease in the annual number of births from the peak level of over 74,000 in 1980 to a low of 51,700 in 1989.

The effect of the changing numbers in the different age groups on the overall age structure of the total population is shown for each census since 1926 in Table B.

Table B Percentage distribution of population in broad age groups and dependency ratio, 1926 to 1991

Year	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	Dependency* ratio
1926	29.2	17.7	25.0	18.9	9.1	62.2
1936	27.6	17.6	25.4	19.6	9.7	59.5
1946	27.9	16.3	26.1	19.1	10.6	62.6
1951	28.9	15.0	26.0	19.4	10.7	65.4
1961	31.1	13.9	22.5	21.3	11.2	73.3
1966	31.2	15.4	21.3	20.9	11.2	73.7
1971	31.3	16.2	21.0	20.4	11.1	73.4
1979	30.6	17.3	23.7	17.7	10.7	70.4
1981	30.3	17.5	24.3	17.1	10.7	69.6
1986	28.9	17.4	26.1	16.7	10.9	66.1
1991	26.7	17.1	27.2	17.6	11.4	61.6

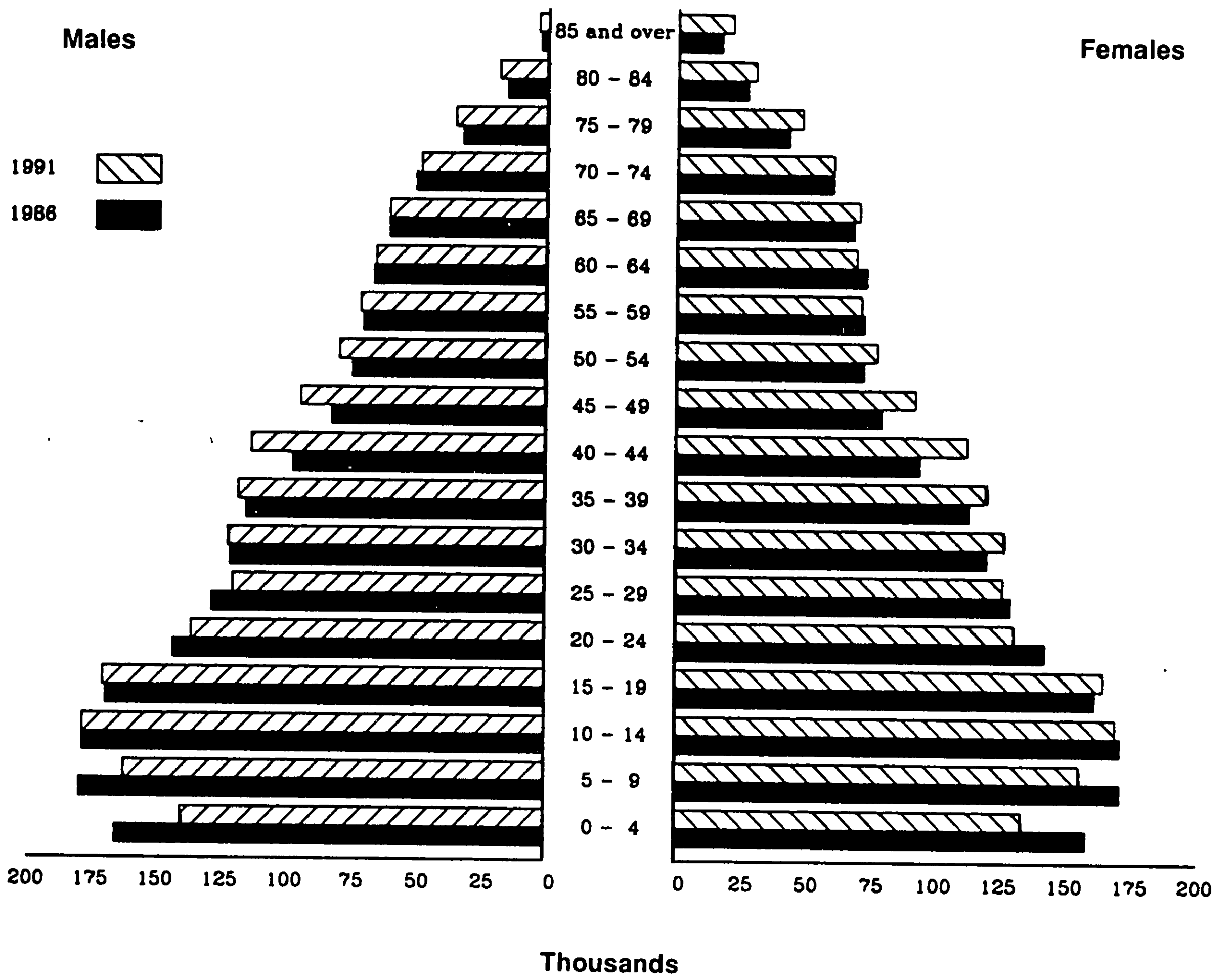
* The dependency ratio is calculated by expressing the sum of the populations aged 0-14 and 65 years and over as a percentage of the population 15-64.

The percentage share of the population under 25 years did not fall below 43.8 per cent at any census since the foundation of the State. The share of this age group in the total population reached a peak of 48 per cent in 1979 and has since declined steadily to its 1991 level of 43.8 per cent. The population aged 65 years and over accounted for 11.4 per cent of the population in 1991 – the highest percentage in any of the censuses since the foundation of the State. The dependency ratio reached a peak of 73.7 per cent in 1966 and has since been in decline. The most recent intercensal period saw this ratio decreasing from 66.1 per cent in 1986 to 61.6 per cent in 1991.

The effects on age structure of the developments between 1986 and 1991 are illustrated in the form of population pyramids in the following diagram.

Diagram 1

Age distribution of the population 1986 and 1991



The diminishing impact of the younger (0-9) age groups and the increasing impact of the middle (30-54) and older (75 years and over) age groups can be clearly seen from the above diagram.

Age Distribution by Area

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

Table C Percentage distribution of population in broad age groups for Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas, 1991

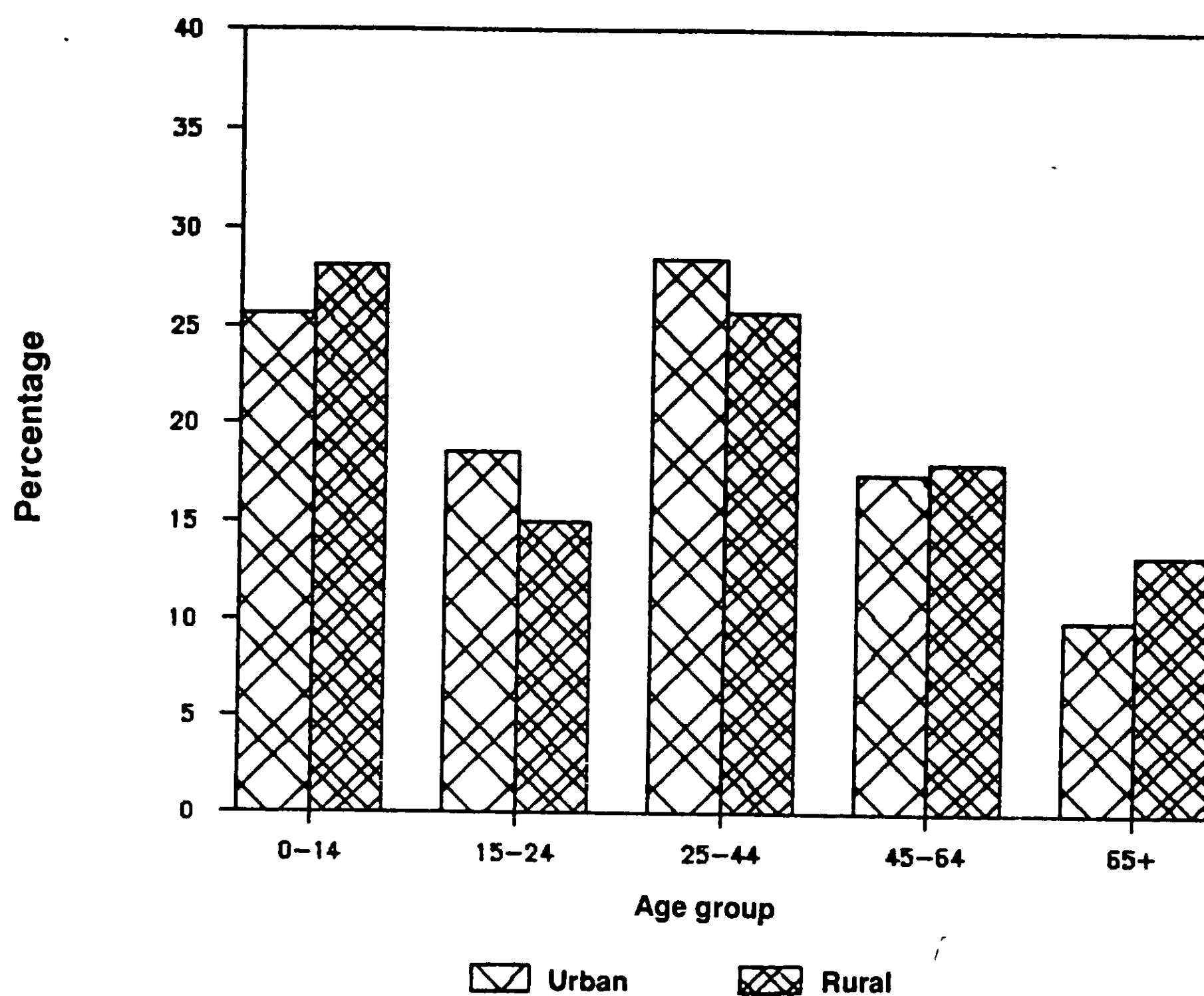
Age group	Persons		Males		Females	
	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area
0-14 years	25.6	28.1	27.1	28.0	24.2	28.2
15-24 "	18.6	15.0	19.1	15.6	18.2	14.2
25-44 "	28.4	25.7	28.4	25.6	28.3	25.7
45-64 "	17.4	18.0	17.3	18.4	17.4	17.4
65 years and over	10.0	13.3	8.0	12.3	11.9	14.4
Total	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-

The rural population contained proportionately more persons in the older age groups than the urban population with 31.3 per cent of persons in rural areas aged 45 years and over compared to 27.4 per cent in urban areas. This disparity is more pronounced in the case of males than females. The proportion of females aged 15-44 years which was 46.5 per cent in town areas was considerably lower for rural areas at just less than 40 per cent.

Diagram 2 provides a graphical illustration of the disparity in the distribution of the population by age group for urban and rural areas. As already stated the proportion of the population in the "active" age groups 15-24 and 25-44 is greater in the urban areas; the proportion of the population in the 45-64 age group is roughly equivalent between urban and rural. The corollary of this is a higher proportion of the rural population in the "dependent" age groups 0-14 and 65 years and over.

Diagram 2

Age distribution of the population for urban and rural areas



The age distribution in each County and County Borough is shown in Table D. The proportion of the population under 15 years of age ranged from about 20 per cent in Dublin County Borough to 32.4 per cent in Dublin–Belgard while the proportion under 25 years of age ranged from 38.1 per cent in Leitrim to almost 50 per cent in Dublin–Belgard. Compared to the average for the State of 11.4 per cent, the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over was very low in Dublin–Belgard (4.4 per cent) and Dublin–Fingal (5.4 per cent); and high in Mayo and Roscommon (both about 16.5 per cent) and Leitrim (18.5 per cent). Generally the proportion of the population in the “dependent” age groups 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.

Table D Percentage distribution of population in broad age groups and dependency ratio, for each County and County Borough, 1991

County or County Borough	Age group					Dependency ratio*
	0 – 14 years	15 – 24 years	25 – 44 years	45 – 64 years	65 years and over	
Carlow	28.4	17.3	26.7	17.1	10.6	63.8
Dublin Co. and Co. Borough	24.6	19.1	28.9	17.7	9.6	52.0
Dublin Co. Borough	19.8	20.6	27.4	19.3	12.8	48.5
Dublin–Belgard	32.4	17.4	31.4	14.4	4.4	58.3
Dublin–Fingal	31.5	16.5	31.7	14.8	5.4	58.5
Dun Laoghaire–Rathdown	22.5	19.1	27.8	19.8	10.7	49.7
Kildare	30.1	17.4	30.4	14.9	7.2	59.6
Kilkenny	28.0	15.5	27.0	17.6	12.0	66.5
Laoighis	29.1	15.4	26.2	17.3	12.0	69.8
Longford	28.5	14.7	25.0	17.8	14.0	73.7
Louth	27.8	17.3	27.0	17.2	10.6	62.6
Meath	30.0	16.0	27.9	16.5	9.5	65.5
Offaly	28.9	16.3	25.7	17.4	11.6	68.1
Westmeath	27.7	16.9	26.4	17.4	11.5	64.6
Wexford	28.1	16.0	26.2	18.0	11.6	65.9
Wicklow	28.2	16.2	28.4	17.2	10.1	61.9
Clare	27.5	15.1	26.8	18.1	12.5	66.6
Cork Co. and Co. Borough	26.2	17.2	27.0	17.9	11.6	60.8
Cork Co. Borough	22.8	20.8	25.9	19.2	11.3	51.7
Cork	27.8	15.6	27.6	17.4	11.7	65.3
Kerry	26.1	14.8	25.8	18.5	14.7	68.9
Limerick Co. and Co. Borough	26.8	17.7	26.9	17.6	10.9	60.6
Limerick Co. Borough	23.9	20.1	25.9	19.0	11.0	53.8
Limerick	28.2	16.6	27.4	16.9	10.9	64.0
Tipperary, N.R.	27.2	15.7	25.4	18.5	13.1	67.7
Tipperary, S.R.	27.6	15.4	26.4	18.0	12.7	67.5
Waterford Co. and Co. Borough	26.9	17.2	26.6	18.1	11.2	61.8
Waterford Co. Borough	25.5	19.6	27.1	18.2	9.6	54.2
Waterford	28.0	15.2	26.2	18.0	12.5	68.3
Galway Co. and Co. Borough	26.7	17.7	25.8	17.1	12.6	64.8
Galway Co. Borough	24.0	24.2	28.2	15.1	8.5	48.1
Galway	27.8	15.1	24.9	17.9	14.2	72.5
Leitrim	25.8	12.3	23.9	19.4	18.5	79.8
Mayo	27.5	13.8	24.2	18.0	16.5	78.6
Roscommon	26.6	13.5	24.0	19.3	16.6	76.2
Sligo	26.1	15.3	26.0	17.9	14.6	68.7
Cavan	27.9	14.1	25.2	18.0	14.9	74.6
Donegal	28.5	16.0	24.4	17.2	13.7	73.3
Monaghan	28.7	15.5	25.7	17.3	12.8	71.1
State	26.7	17.1	27.2	17.6	11.4	61.6

* The dependency ratio is calculated by expressing the sum of the populations aged 0–14 and 65 years and over as a percentage of the population 15–64.

The Sex Ratio

The 1986 Census of Population was the first since 1901 in which the number of females exceeded the number of males in the population as a whole. The female excess widened between 1986 and 1991 when the sex ratio (i.e. number of females per 1,000 males) stood at 1,011. There was wide variation in the sex ratio between the different age-groups and between urban and rural areas. The ratios are compared in Table E for each census since 1926 and for Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas.

Table E Females per 1,000 males, 1926 to 1991

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
1986	1,001	949	967	981	1,000	1,278
1991	1,011	948	954	1,013	989	1,319
Aggregate Town Area*						
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
1986	1,061	952	1,023	1,038	1,093	1,613
1991	1,068	951	1,018	1,064	1,074	1,595
Aggregate Rural Area*						
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
1986	928	947	880	907	897	1,033
1991	939	945	857	942	890	1,097

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

In every census since 1926 the number of females exceeded the number of males in urban areas while males exceeded females in rural areas.

All age groups apart from the 25–44 age group experienced declines in the sex ratio between 1986 and 1991 in urban areas. The proportionate increase in the 25–44 age group was sufficient to ensure an overall increase in the sex ratio for urban areas. A similar pattern obtained in rural areas with the exception of the 65 years and over age group which showed a marked increase from 1,033 in 1986 to 1,097 in 1991. For the State as a whole the sex ratio varied from a low of 948 for the 0–14 age group to a high of 1,319 for those aged 65 years and over. There were approximately 16 females for every 10 males in the latter age group in urban areas.

Marital Status

The 1986 Census was the first in which information on the marital status of ever married persons was collected on the basis of the *de facto* rather than the legal status. The formulation of the question used in 1991, which was identical to that contained in the 1986 Census, was as follows:

MARITAL STATUS – for persons born on or before 21 April 1976			
Was the person ever married? Please ✓ the appropriate box.	What is the marital status of persons who were ever married ("Yes" at Q.5)? Indicate the present actual marital status irrespective of the legal status Please ✓ the appropriate box		
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Remarried following: Widowhood <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Dissolution of previous marriage (annulment or divorce) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Married <input type="checkbox"/> 4 </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> Married but separated: Deserted <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Marriage Annulled <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Legally Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Other Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Divorced in another country <input type="checkbox"/> 9 </td> </tr> </table>	Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Remarried following: Widowhood <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Dissolution of previous marriage (annulment or divorce) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Married <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Married but separated: Deserted <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Marriage Annulled <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Legally Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Other Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Divorced in another country <input type="checkbox"/> 9
Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Remarried following: Widowhood <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Dissolution of previous marriage (annulment or divorce) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Married <input type="checkbox"/> 4	Married but separated: Deserted <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Marriage Annulled <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Legally Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Other Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Divorced in another country <input type="checkbox"/> 9		

The numbers returned for each of the nine marital status categories distinguished are shown separately in Tables 5 and 7. The historical Tables 1A–1C distinguish three categories only – single, ever married and widowed, while the remainder of the tables classify the population into four categories – single, married, separated and widowed.

In 1991 there were 1,012,871 single persons aged 15 years or over; 1,329,428 persons were married, including remarried; 187,703 persons were widowed; and there were 55,143 persons returned as "separated". The separated category is analysed further in Table F for both 1986 and 1991.

Table F Separated persons classified by category and sex, 1986 and 1991

Separated persons	Persons		Males		Females	
	1986	1991	1986	1991	1986	1991
Deserted	11,622	23,685	2,584	6,781	9,038	16,904
Marriage annulled	983	1,221	443	499	540	722
Legally separated	7,187	11,152	3,299	5,178	3,888	5,974
Other separated	13,062	12,982	6,090	5,787	6,972	7,195
Divorced in another country	4,391	6,103	2,222	3,105	2,169	2,998
Total	37,245	55,143	14,638	21,350	22,607	33,793

Most of the increase in the number of separated persons between 1986 and 1991 was in the "deserted" and "legally separated" categories. There were over 50 per cent more separated females than males in both 1986 and 1991.

Over a third of separated persons in 1991 were aged 35–44 years while a further quarter were in the age group 45–54 years. There were 21,350 separated males and 33,793 separated females equivalent to 3.1 per cent and 4.8 per cent, respectively, of the corresponding total of ever married excluding widowed persons. These rates varied between age groups and counties. For example, for females the percentage separated was highest at 6.0 per cent for the 35–44 age group and at 8.5 per cent in Dublin County Borough. Other areas which displayed high female separation rates were Limerick County Borough (8.0 per cent) and Dublin–Belgard (7.2 per cent). The counties which showed the lowest female separation rates were Roscommon (1.9 per cent) and Cavan (2.1 per cent).

Table G Population aged 15 years and over classified by marital status, 1979 to 1991

Marital status	Population (000)				Change in population 1986–1991	
	1979	1981	1986	1991	Actual (000)	Percentage
Males						
Single	508.4	516.8	540.9	548.9	8.0	1.5
Ever married	619.9	639.8	665.1	683.7	18.6	2.8
Widowed	37.9	37.3	38.0	37.9	– 0.0	– 0.1
Total	1,166.2	1,193.9	1,244.0	1,270.6	26.5	2.1
Females						
Single	404.8	415.2	447.4	464.0	16.6	3.7
Ever married	626.7	648.3	676.2	700.8	24.7	3.6
Widowed	140.6	142.3	148.3	149.8	1.4	1.0
Total	1,172.1	1,205.7	1,271.9	1,314.6	42.7	3.4

In Table G males and females are classified into the three marital status categories "single", "ever married" and "widowed" for each census since 1979. There was an increase of 26,500 in the number of males aged 15 years and over between 1986 and 1991 with increases of 8,000 in the single category and 18,600 in the ever married category. The corresponding increase in the number of females comprised 16,600 in the single category, 24,700 in the ever married category and 1,400 in the number of widows.

Table H shows the percentage of the population who were single in different age groups for 1991 and for earlier censuses, in so far as the figures are available, back to the year 1841. Between 1986 and 1991 quite large increases in the proportions single can be observed for both males and females in the 20–24 and 25–34 age groups reflecting continual decline in marriage rates.

Table H Percentage single in selected age groups, 1841 to 1991

	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
1986	99.8	88.7	38.3	17.7	20.2	25.1	25.3	
1991	99.8	93.9	43.6	17.8	16.7	22.1	24.3	
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
1986	99.1	77.7	26.4	10.7	12.1	16.5	21.7	
1991	99.6	86.2	31.7	11.5	10.2	14.2	19.8	

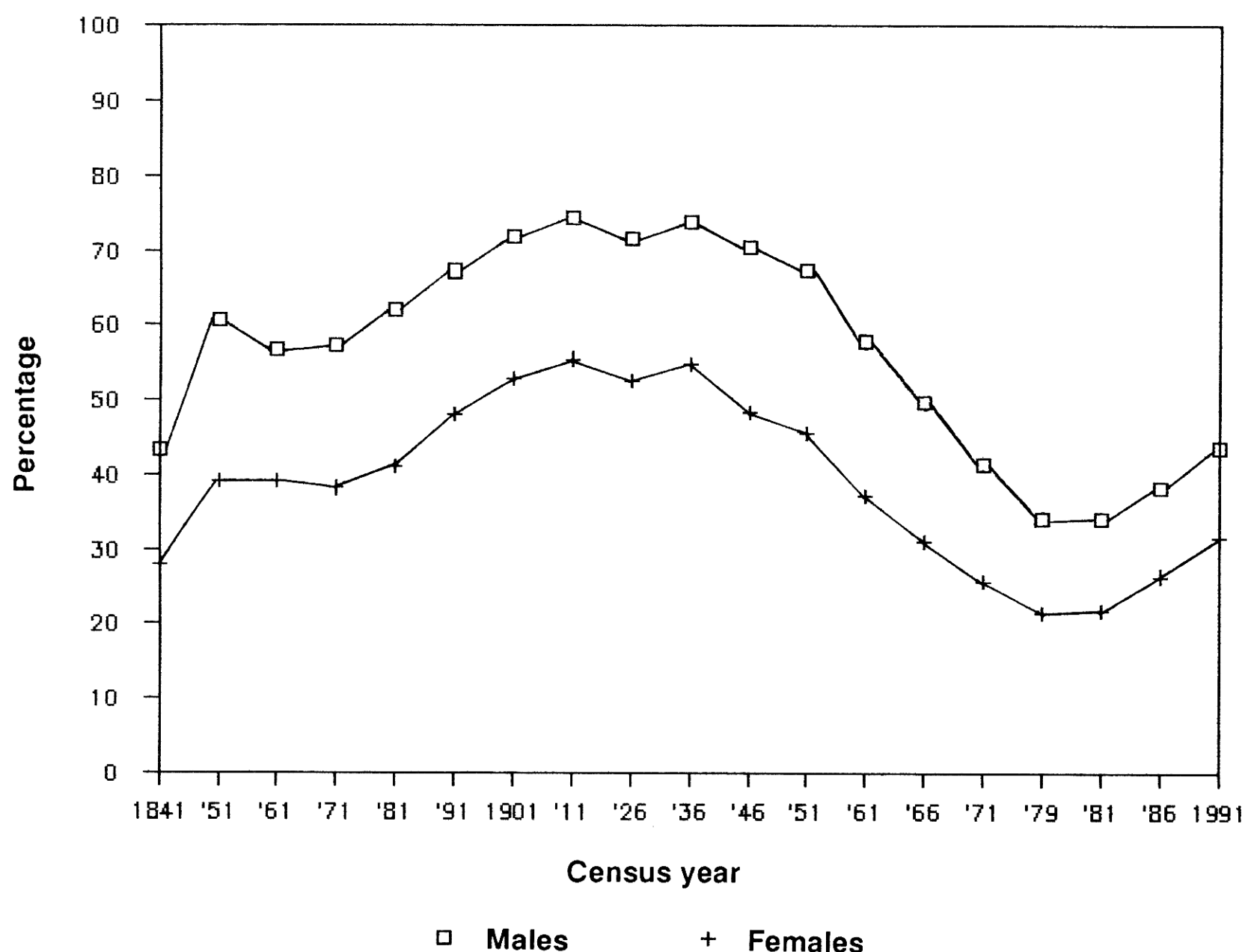
* Age groupings for 1841 were 26-35, 36-45, 46-55 and 56 and over

† Particulars not available.

Diagram 3 charts the percentage of those aged 25–34 who were single at each census since 1841, distinguishing males and females. While allowance has to be made for the varying intercensal periods contained in the diagram it does, nonetheless, illustrate that a higher proportion of males than of females in the 25–34 age group was single. The diagram also shows clearly that the increasing tendency towards marriage for those in the 25–34 age group between 1936 and 1979 has now been reversed.

Diagram 3

Percentage single in 25–34 age group, 1841 – 1991



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. 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.

In the five year period between the April 1986 and April 1991 censuses, births (277,000) exceeded deaths (158,000) by 119,000. The actual decrease in population in the same period was 15,000. The difference of 134,000 is the estimate of the extent to which outward migration in 1986–1991 was greater than inward migration i.e. an estimate of net migration.

The 1986 and 1991 Census results by age group make 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 1991 Census with the numbers in the same cohort of the 1986 Census having first allowed for deaths over the five 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 20–24 age group relate to persons born between April 1961 and April 1966 and yield an estimated net outflow of 32,600 between 1986 and 1991.

Table I Estimated effect of net migration between 1986 and 1991 for different age groups*

Age group in 1991	Males (000)			Females (000)		
	Population 1991 without migration from 1986 to 1991	Actual population 1991	Effect of migration † 1986 – 1991	Population 1991 without migration from 1986 to 1991	Actual population 1991	Effect of migration † 1986 – 1991
0 – 4 years	141.5	140.6	– 0.9	133.2	133.2	0.0
5 – 9 "	166.2	163.3	– 2.8	157.5	155.2	– 2.3
10–14 "	179.6	178.9	– 0.7	170.7	169.4	– 1.3
15–19 "	179.0	171.4	– 7.6	170.4	163.6	– 6.8
20–24 "	169.1	136.5	– 32.6	161.0	130.1	– 30.9
25–29 "	143.5	120.7	– 22.8	142.1	125.7	– 16.4
30–34 "	128.5	123.2	– 5.3	129.1	125.9	– 3.2
35–39 "	121.5	118.7	– 2.8	120.1	119.2	– 0.9
40–44 "	115.4	113.9	– 1.5	112.7	111.8	– 0.9
45–49 "	96.5	95.4	– 1.1	92.9	92.3	– 0.6
50–54 "	80.7	79.9	– 0.8	77.6	76.9	– 0.7
55–59 "	71.6	71.7	0.1	70.4	70.9	0.5
60–64 "	64.6	65.6	1.0	68.3	69.0	0.7
65–69 "	57.7	61.0	3.3	67.0	69.8	2.8
70–74 "	48.5	49.2	0.6	60.3	60.1	– 0.2
75 years and over	63.6	63.6	0.0	98.5	99.2	0.7
Total	1,827.4	1,753.4	– 74.0	1,831.9	1,772.3	– 59.6

* 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 1991 Census Report.

† Effect of migration on the numbers recorded in the age group at the 1991 Census; this is not the same as the numbers migrating at that age. The natural increase from which these figures are derived is based on year of occurrence rather than year of registration data.

There are two important points to be kept in mind in interpreting the migration figures given. Firstly, 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 1991 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 1991 or it may be a preceding one.

In the 1986–1991 period the 1991 age groups 20–24 and 25–29 accounted for three-quarters and four-fifths, respectively, of the total male and female net migration for both males and females; although the net outflows for males were larger than those for females. The pattern of net inflow for the older age groups has been a feature of the effects of migratory movements even in periods experiencing very large net emigration.

Estimates of net migration for various intercensal periods since 1956 are shown in Table J classified by selected age groups.

Table J The effect on selected age groups of net migration during intercensal periods since 1956

Age group	1956-1961	1961-1966	1966-1971	1971-1981*	1981-1986	1986-1991†
Thousands						
Males						
0-14 years	- 2.2	4.8	5.6	24.4	- 3.3	- 4.5
15-24 "	- 59.3	- 39.7	- 31.2	- 4.9	- 26.7	- 40.2
25-34 "	- 26.8	- 3.0	- 4.3	- 1.3	- 12.1	- 28.1
35-44 "	- 6.8	2.3	3.1	22.7	- 1.5	- 4.3
45-54 "	- 6.6	- 1.1	- 0.6	7.6	- 1.4	- 1.9
55-64 "	- 7.7	- 1.6	- 1.4	0.4	- 0.2	1.0
65 years and over	2.5	1.3	4.0	9.0	3.9	3.9
Total	- 106.9	- 37.2	- 24.8	58.1	- 41.4	- 74.0
Females						
0-14 years	- 5.0	5.0	6.1	23.0	- 3.0	- 3.6
15-24 "	- 56.0	- 36.9	- 29.2	- 5.3	- 21.8	- 37.6
25-34 "	- 21.7	- 2.9	- 4.6	0.2	- 7.0	- 19.6
35-44 "	- 9.1	- 1.1	0.2	16.9	- 0.1	- 1.8
45-54 "	- 9.3	- 4.0	- 2.4	2.6	- 1.2	- 1.3
55-64 "	- 4.5	- 2.6	- 2.4	- 0.8	- 0.1	1.1
65 years and over	3.8	0.5	3.3	9.2	2.6	3.3
Total	- 101.9	- 41.9	- 28.9	45.8	- 30.5	- 59.6

* Ten year period.

† The natural increase from which these figures are derived is based on year of occurrence rather than year of registration data.

A large net inward migratory movement was experienced during the 1970's, the only period for which immigration exceeded emigration. Even in this period there was a tendency for some young people to emigrate as can be seen from the net outflows which occurred in the 15-24 year age group for both males and females. In all other intercensal periods outward movements of the population exceeded inward movements.

In the five year period to 1961 a large net outflow of 209,000 was experienced; this moderated to 79,000 and then 54,000 in the succeeding five year periods. The scale of the outflow in the 1986-1991 period while not on a par with the 1956-1961 intercensal period is, nevertheless, the highest net outward migration experienced since that time.