CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1961.

VOLUME VIII

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CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1961.

VOLUME VIII - FERTILITY OF MARRIAGE

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

Amongst the special inquiries which were included in the Census of Population, taken on the night of 9 April, 1961, was one relating to Fertility of Marriage. The results obtained are contained in the present volume.

The headings on the Census Schedule, from which the statistics of fertility of marriage were obtained, are as follows:-

For each married woman only

Month and Year of present marriage.

Number of children born alive to present marriage.

Thus the fertility inquiry related to all married women in the country whether or not their husbands were residing with them at the date of the Census; widows and single women were excluded. The information was collected in respect of existing marriages only and the question on the number of children born alive was designed to exclude children of previous marriages, step-children and illegitimate children. There were 468,228 married women in the State on the Census date in 1961, and particulars relating to 455,394 of these women were included in the fertility tables. The remainder, amounting to 2.7 per cent of the total, were omitted on account of incomplete or markedly inaccurate information having been furnished by them on the Census schedule.

The particulars as to date of present marriage together with the date of birth of each married woman, which was also furnished on the Census schedule, taken in conjunction with the date of the Census, made it possible to determine (a) the duration of the marriage in completed years and (b) the age last birthday of the wife at the time of the marriage. In similar fashion in the cases in which the husband was enumerated on the same schedule as the wife, since particulars of the date of birth of the husband were available, it was possible to determine the age last birthday of the husband at the time of the marriage. Families of different sizes are classified by duration of marriage. age of wife at marriage and age of husband at marriage for the whole country in Table 7. Classification by all three of these factors is also made in Table 7A which shows the average number of children born, and in Table 7B which gives the percentage of childless marriages. Classifications by both age of husband and by age of wife at marriage are also contained in the summary tables 5 and 5A. Duration of marriage and age of wife at marriage are of greater importance in relation to fertility than the age of husband at marriage and classifications by these factors are given in most of the The fertility data are also classified by reference to (a) area of residence, tables in this volume. (b) religion (c) social group. The classifications of a family by social group is, in general, determined by the occupation and employment status of the husband. The principles involved in social group classification are fully described in Volume III of the Reports of the 1961 Census.

The latest available statistical information as to fertility of marriage prior to 1961 is that obtained at the Census of 1946. At the Census of 1946 the total number of married women returned was 451,331 and statistics in respect of 443,636 of these were included in the tables relating to fertility of marriage. Those excluded on account of incomplete or inaccurate information at the 1946 Census amounted to 1.7 per cent. The corresponding 1946 Volume included classifications of marriages under 1 year by such factors as age of husband and age of wife at marriage, social group and area of residence. Corresponding tables were not prepared at the 1961 Census, since this information is now available from current marriage registration records. New Tables (16, 17 and 18) were, however, prepared showing classifications by present age of wife, duration of marriage, number of children born and year of marriage.