

COMMENTARY

The detailed tables which are included at the end of the Commentary are identified by arabic numerals, while the tables in the commentary are identified by roman numerals.

In 1966 there were 2,038,883 persons aged 14 years or over in the State and of these 142,993 or 7 percent were attending schools, colleges, etc. full-time. The remaining 1,895,890 persons had ceased their full-time education. These figures are shown in greater detail in TABLE I.

TABLE I:- NUMBERS WHO HAD CEASED FULL-TIME EDUCATION AND BALANCE OF TOTAL POPULATION.

	Persons	Males	Females
AGED 14 YEARS AND OVER			
Persons who have ceased full-time education	1,895,890	944,247	951,643
of which -- gainfully occupied	1,118,204	829,060	289,144
not gainfully occupied	777,686	115,187	662,499
Persons at school or college full-time	142,993	73,656	69,337
Total aged 14 years or over	2,038,883	1,017,903	1,020,980
Persons aged under 14 years	845,119	431,129	413,990
TOTAL	2,884,002	1,449,032	1,434,970

The numbers of males and females in each five year age group (and by single years of age up to 24 years), distinguishing those who, at census date, were attending school or college and those who had ceased full-time education, are shown in Tables 1A and 1B. Persons who had ceased full-time education are further classified by the age at which their full-time education had ceased. In Tables 3A and 3B similar particulars are given, the persons who had ceased full-time education being further classified by type of school, college, etc. attended.

Almost all those not yet finished their full-time education were under 25 years of age. Some 28 percent of all persons aged 14-24 years were receiving full-time education. The corresponding percentage at each year of age 14 to 24 years is shown in TABLE II.

TABLE II:- PERCENTAGE OF THOSE AGED 14 TO 24 YEARS RECEIVING FULL-TIME EDUCATION AT CENSUS DATE.

Age	Persons	Males	Females
	Percentage		
14 Years	73.7	72.5	75.0
15 "	59.0	56.6	61.5
16 "	43.4	39.6	47.4
17 "	30.9	28.6	33.3
18 "	19.5	19.5	19.5
19 "	12.7	13.8	11.5
20 "	9.6	11.6	7.4
21 "	7.9	10.4	5.2
22 "	5.9	8.6	3.1
23 "	4.1	6.7	1.5
24 "	3.0	4.8	1.2
TOTAL	28.2	28.2	28.3

Less than one-half of the sixteen year olds were receiving full-time education and the proportion had dropped to less than one-fifth for eighteen year olds. Below the age of 18 years, the percentage of females receiving full-time education was somewhat higher than of males while above this age the percentage of males exceeded that of females. With increasing age the excess in the percentage of males receiving full-time education became more marked, the proportions at 24 years of age being 4.8 percent of males and 1.2 percent of females.

In Tables 2A and 2B the percentage distribution of males and females in each age group according to age at which full-time education ceased, derived from the figures in Tables 1A and 1B, are shown. These results are summarised in Table III.

TABLE III:- PERCENTAGE LEAVING SCHOOL, COLLEGE, ETC. AT VARIOUS AGES.

Present age	Percentage leaving school, etc. aged:-					Average age at which full-time education ceased
	Under 15	15-16	17-18	19 and over	Total	
MALES						
(20-24)	(44.6)	(29.7)	(19.4)	(6.2)	(100.-)	(16.0)
25-29	47.3	26.2	16.9	9.5	100.-	16.3
30-34	51.8	24.5	14.6	9.0	100.-	16.1
35-44	58.4	22.2	12.0	7.4	100.-	15.9
45-54	61.7	21.9	9.8	6.6	100.-	15.7
55-64	67.0	19.4	8.3	5.3	100.-	15.4
65-74	72.3	17.8	5.8	4.1	100.-	15.2
75 and over	76.8	15.1	4.4	3.7	100.-	15.0
FEMALES						
(20-24)	(34.5)	(29.8)	(28.8)	(7.0)	(100.-)	(16.4)
25-29	37.3	28.3	25.7	8.7	100.-	16.4
30-34	42.0	27.8	23.0	7.2	100.-	16.2
35-44	46.2	27.7	20.4	5.7	100.-	16.0
45-54	49.9	27.9	17.3	4.9	100.-	15.8
55-64	54.7	25.0	15.2	5.2	100.-	15.7
65-74	61.4	22.6	11.6	4.5	100.-	15.5
75 and over	67.1	19.6	9.5	3.8	100.-	15.3

These figures reveal a steady improvement in the general level of education of the population. Thus, of males aged 25 to 29 years, only 47 percent had left school aged under 15 years, while of those aged 75 years or over 77 percent had left school under 15 years of age. The proportion ceasing full-time education after 19 years of age was 9.5 in the case of males in the 25-29 year group, compared with 3.7 percent in the group 75 years and over. As some of the 20-24 year group were, at census date, still receiving full-time education, the percentages shown for this group in TABLE III tend to understate the further improvement in the case of the group and in particular to give a lower percentage for the numbers ceasing full-time education after 19 years than would be expected from a later census of population, by which time most persons born in 1941-46 would have ceased full-time education. The average age at which full-time education ceased rose from 15.0 years in the group of males aged 75 years and over to 16.3 years in the age group 25-29 years.

Although the percentages of females in the age range 25 to 64 years who had ceased full-time education at ages 19 years or over were slightly lower than those for males, the general picture is that females received full-time education for a longer period than did males. Thus, in the 25 to 29 year age group, only 37 percent of the females ceased their full-time education before the age of 15 years, compared with 47 percent in the case of males.

Tables 4A and 4B show the percentage distribution of males and females in each age group according to type of educational establishment attended, these figures being derived from Tables 3A and 3B. The results are summarised in TABLE IV.

TABLE IV:- PERCENTAGE IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS WHO ATTENDED EACH TYPE OF SCHOOL, COLLEGE, ETC.

Present age	Percentage who attended:-					
	Primary	Secondary	Vocational	Secondary and Vocational	University	Total
MALES						
(20-24)	(48.5)	(22.4)	(18.2)	(6.7)	(4.2)	(100.-)
25-29	51.9	19.3	14.5	6.4	8.0	100.-
30-34	57.4	18.2	11.1	5.7	7.7	100.-
35-44	66.6	15.6	7.2	4.4	6.2	100.-
45-54	74.0	13.3	4.6	2.9	5.3	100.-
55-64	79.8	11.4	2.6	2.0	4.3	100.-
65-74	85.5	8.5	1.5	1.0	3.5	100.-
75 and over	89.4	6.1	0.9	0.7	3.0	100.-
FEMALES						
(20-24)	(38.8)	(28.3)	(15.0)	(14.1)	(3.8)	(100.-)
25-29	43.0	25.9	13.1	12.0	6.0	100.-
30-34	50.2	24.4	11.0	9.6	4.9	100.-
35-44	58.7	21.5	9.3	6.7	3.8	100.-
45-54	67.2	19.2	6.2	4.2	3.2	100.-
55-64	72.5	17.5	4.0	3.0	3.0	100.-
65-74	79.5	14.0	2.3	1.6	2.6	100.-
75 and over	83.9	12.1	1.1	0.8	2.1	100.-

The pattern revealed by this table is similar to that shown by TABLE III, namely a steady improvement in the level of education with decreasing age. Thus, 48 percent of males aged 25-29 years were educated beyond primary school level, compared with only 11 percent for the group aged 75 years and over. As in the case of TABLE III the percentages shown for the 20-24 year age group understate the continuing improvement. A much higher proportion of females than males attended secondary school or both secondary and vocational school, while the proportions of males and females who attended vocational school only did not differ greatly. A higher proportion of males than females received university-type education, namely 8 percent as against 6 percent in the 25-29 year age group.

Tables 5A and 5B contain detailed cross-classifications, for males and females respectively, of age at census date by age at which full-time education ceased and by type of educational establishment attended. The earlier tables of this volume are, in fact, summaries of Tables 5A and 5B. The total figures derived from Tables 5A and 5B combined, showing all persons who had ceased their full-time education classified by the age at which this education ceased and type of school, college, etc. are given in TABLE V.

TABLE V:- PERSONS WHO HAD CEASED FULL-TIME EDUCATION CLASSIFIED BY AGE AT WHICH SUCH EDUCATION CEASED AND HIGHEST TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT ATTENDED.

Age at which full-time education ceased	Total	Highest type of educational establishment attended					
		Primary	Secondary	Vocational	Secondary and Vocational	University	Not stated
Under 14	73,817	71,371	541	475	51	-	1,379
14	931,209	881,129	14,088	16,239	1,448	-	18,305
15	208,628	141,069	27,794	32,967	3,876	-	2,922
16	251,261	76,141	87,719	67,181	17,270	-	2,950
17	131,781	9,170	74,596	22,825	22,815	1,943	432
18	136,780	3,978	88,107	10,344	28,604	5,359	388
19	28,933	414	12,732	1,291	9,240	5,198	58
20	18,573	-	3,653	541	3,240	10,928	211
21	15,306	-	1,224	220	1,326	12,450	86
22	12,518	-	-	-	639	11,140	739
23	7,669	-	-	-	-	7,099	570
24	6,842	-	-	-	-	6,413	429
25 and over	12,058	-	-	-	-	11,325	733
not stated	60,515	7,727	2,980	1,189	752	1,334	46,533
TOTAL	1,895,890	1,190,999	313,434	153,272	89,261	73,189	75,735
Average age at which full-time education ceased	15.8	14.7	17.3	16.4	17.9	22.3	15.8

It will be noted that, in a substantial number of cases, no information on education was provided on the census returns. Particulars of both age at which full-time education ceased and type of educational establishment attended were omitted in respect of 46,533 persons. In 29,202 cases, age was stated but type of establishment was omitted while in 13,982 cases the type of establishment was stated but age at which full-time education ceased was omitted. Thus, for 89,717 persons, or almost 5 percent of the total who had ceased full-time education, one or both items of information regarding education was lacking. As was mentioned in the explanatory notes, this figure includes also cases in which the particulars provided were obviously inconsistent with other information on the census form.

The average age at which full-time education ceased in the case of persons who attended primary school only was 14.7 years, although it will be noted that a small proportion of persons remained at primary school up to 19 years of age. It was not possible to determine from the information available to what extent such entries related to attendance at secondary tops of primary schools incorrectly entered on the household schedule, or to incorrect information. The average age at which persons left secondary school was 17.3 years although a small proportion attended secondary school up to 21 years of age.

Tables 6A and 6B show, for males and females respectively, the numbers in each County and County Borough classified by age at which full-time education ceased while Tables 7A and 7B give the corresponding percentage distribution. These results are summarised, for broad regional groupings, in TABLE VI.

TABLE VI:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUPS AT WHICH FULL-TIME EDUCATION CEASED IN DIFFERENT AREAS.

Area	Percentage leaving school aged:-				
	Under 15	15-16	17-18	19 and over	Total
MALES					
Dublin County Borough and County	50.7	24.0	16.1	9.3	100.-
Rest of Leinster	63.4	22.8	9.3	4.5	100.-
Cork, Limerick and Waterford County Boroughs	43.1	30.9	18.1	7.9	100.-
Rest of Munster	59.3	25.6	10.2	4.9	100.-
Connacht	69.0	20.0	6.8	4.2	100.-
Ulster (part of)	77.8	13.8	4.8	3.6	100.-
TOTAL	60.0	23.1	11.0	5.9	100.-
FEMALES					
Dublin County Borough and County	48.5	23.9	21.4	6.1	100.-
Rest of Leinster	50.6	28.1	16.9	4.4	100.-
Cork, Limerick and Waterford County Boroughs	40.2	32.9	21.6	5.2	100.-
Rest of Munster	45.5	30.7	18.7	5.2	100.-
Connacht	52.9	26.8	15.2	5.2	100.-
Ulster (part of)	67.0	19.6	9.3	4.0	100.-
TOTAL	49.5	27.0	18.2	5.2	100.-

Tabulations similar to the foregoing, but with age at which full-time education ceased replaced by type of educational establishment attended are contained in Tables 8A, 8B, 9A and 9B and are summarised in TABLE VII.

TABLE VII:- PERCENTAGE IN CERTAIN AREAS WHO ATTENDED EACH TYPE OF SCHOOL, COLLEGE, ETC.

Area	Percentage who attended:-					Total
	Primary	Secondary	Vocational	Secondary and Vocational	University	
MALES						
Dublin County Borough and County	53.8	21.5	10.6	6.1	8.1	100.-
Rest of Leinster	71.8	12.5	9.0	2.9	3.7	100.-
Cork, Limerick and Waterford County Boroughs	53.2	21.9	10.7	8.4	5.8	100.-
Rest of Munster	72.6	13.2	7.4	2.9	3.7	100.-
Connacht	81.7	7.7	6.1	1.2	3.3	100.-
Ulster (part of)	84.3	6.2	5.8	1.0	2.7	100.-
TOTAL	68.9	14.3	8.4	3.6	4.8	100.-
FEMALES						
Dublin County Borough and County	54.5	24.1	8.3	8.9	4.1	100.-
Rest of Leinster	63.7	18.8	10.0	4.7	2.8	100.-
Cork, Limerick and Waterford County Boroughs	54.3	24.6	8.5	9.5	3.2	100.-
Rest of Munster	63.1	20.7	7.6	5.6	2.9	100.-
Connacht	71.2	15.1	7.5	3.2	3.0	100.-
Ulster (part of)	77.0	10.0	8.3	2.1	2.5	100.-
TOTAL	62.0	20.1	8.4	6.2	3.3	100.-

Thirty percent of the females who had ceased full-time education were gainfully occupied and of these about one-fifth were married or widowed. The level of education of the gainfully occupied females was considerably higher than that of the non-gainfully occupied, 53 percent of the former group and 31 percent of the latter having received post-primary full-time education. As in the case of males, this result depends to a considerable extent on the differing age structure in the two groups, the non-gainfully occupied group containing a higher proportion of females in the upper, and less educated, age groups. Substantial differences also existed between the education received by the married or widowed and the single gainfully occupied females. Forty percent of the former group and 56 percent of the latter had received post-primary full-time education. However, the proportion which had received university-type education was considerably higher in the case of married or widowed females who were gainfully occupied than in the case of those who were single. Almost sixty percent of the women who had received university-type education were gainfully occupied and of these almost thirty percent were married or widowed.

Table 11A shows males, gainfully occupied and not gainfully occupied, classified by age at census date (for ages up to 24 years) and age at which full-time education ceased. Table 11B contains corresponding particulars for females, further sub-divided into married or widowed and single. The percentages of males not gainfully occupied at each age, derived from Table 11A, are shown in TABLE IX.

**TABLE IX:- PERCENTAGE NOT GAINFULLY OCCUPIED OF MALES IN EACH CATEGORY:
PRESENT AGE BY AGE AT WHICH FULL-TIME EDUCATION CEASED.**

Present age	Age at which full-time education ceased						
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
14 Years	31.6						
15 "	19.6	18.1					
16 "	10.4	9.2	11.2				
17 "	6.3	4.1	5.7	13.6			
18 "	3.9	3.3	2.6	7.6	13.6		
19 "	2.4	1.4	1.6	2.3	6.7	16.0	
20 "	1.9	1.2	0.9	1.0	2.2	8.4	8.7
21 "	1.5	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.7	2.0	4.4
22 "	1.6	1.1	0.9	0.2	1.1	0.7	0.8
23 "	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.4	1.1	1.6	1.4
24 "	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.6

This Table gives an indication of the rate at which males obtained employment after they left school, college, etc., although it should be borne in mind that it is a cross-sectional analysis and that the figures in each row of a particular column relate to different groups of people and do not, strictly speaking, represent the experience over a number of years of the same group of people. It appears that males who left school aged 14 years did not obtain employment as quickly as those who left at higher ages, nor was the percentage who ultimately obtained employment as high.

Tables 13A and 13B show males and females, respectively, in each occupational group, classified by age at which full-time education ceased and by highest type of educational establishment attended full-time, while Tables 16A and 16B contain similar particulars for individual occupational headings. The percentage distribution by age at which full-time education ceased, of males and females in each occupational group, are shown in Tables 14A and 14B and corresponding distributions by type of educational establishment attended full-time are shown in Tables

15A and 15B. The percentage of males and females in some of the principal occupational groups who attended the various types of educational establishments are shown in TABLE X.

TABLE X:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT ATTENDED FOR A NUMBER OF THE PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS.

Occupational group	Total	Primary	Secondary	Vocational	Secondary and Vocational	University
MALES						
Agricultural occupations	100.-	86.9	7.5	4.1	1.0	0.5
Electrical and electronic workers	100.-	29.1	16.8	32.8	18.6	2.8
Woodworkers	100.-	53.5	9.8	31.2	5.2	0.2
Building and construction workers	100.-	82.0	6.4	9.5	1.7	0.3
Labourers and unskilled workers	100.-	91.0	3.7	4.5	0.7	0.0
Transport and communication workers	100.-	75.6	11.6	9.1	2.9	0.8
Clerks	100.-	13.6	60.4	7.5	13.6	4.9
Commerce, insurance and finance occupations	100.-	42.1	35.2	11.6	7.6	3.4
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	100.-	8.8	44.1	5.8	13.7	27.5
Professional and technical occupations	100.-	5.4	16.8	3.9	6.1	67.8
FEMALES						
Agricultural occupations	100.-	77.3	14.1	5.3	2.4	0.9
Textile workers	100.-	79.9	7.2	11.9	1.0	0.0
Makers of textile goods	100.-	79.7	6.9	11.9	1.3	0.2
Clerks and typists	100.-	7.4	38.1	19.5	33.0	2.0
Commerce, insurance and finance occupations	100.-	42.0	33.4	17.3	6.4	0.9
Service workers	100.-	71.5	13.5	11.1	3.3	0.6
Professional and technical occupations	100.-	8.2	43.4	5.1	6.9	36.4

Similar classifications in respect of industrial groups and individual industry headings (for persons at work only) are contained in Tables 17 to 21. It should be noted, both as regards the occupational and the industrial classifications in relation to education, that the figures refer to persons of all ages within each particular occupational or industrial group. It is likely that in most occupations and industries, as in the population at large, persons in the younger age groups had a higher level of education than had those in the older age groups. Consequently the educational level of the persons within an occupation or industry as revealed by the census does not necessarily represent the level of education required by new entrants to that occupation or industry. It should also be repeated, in relation to these tables, that individuals in particular occupations or industries may have had considerably higher qualifications, obtained by part-time study, than could be inferred from their full-time education only, while on the other hand attendance at secondary school or University does not automatically imply completion of a full course.