

CENSUS OF POPULATION 1979

INTRODUCTION

A Census of Population was taken on the night of 1 April 1979 in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order, 1979. (S.I. No. 55 of 1979) made by 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).

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 and (vi) change of residence from outside the State during the twelve months preceding the Census date.

COVERAGE OF THE CENSUS

The Census population figures relate to the de facto population, that is to say the population recorded for each household represents the total of all persons present on the night of Sunday, 1 April, 1979, together with all persons who arrived in that household on the morning of Monday, 2 April, 1979, not having been enumerated elsewhere. The figures, therefore, for an individual household include visitors present on Census night as well as residents, while persons temporarily absent from the household are excluded.

This volume†, the last in the series of the 1979 Census Reports, contains details of households classified by type and size of households and of family units.

†Publications already issued include a preliminary report "Census of Population 1979 - Preliminary Report (Prl. 8306)", Volume 1 containing final population figures for detailed units of area - "Census of Population 1979 - Volume 1 - Population of District Electoral Divisions, Towns and larger units of area (Prl. 8692)"; a bulletin "Census of Population 1979 - Bulletin No. 1 - Classification by age groups, sex and marital status for the State, Counties and County Boroughs (Prl. 9402)" which contained some of the more important results presented in Volume II and Volume II containing detailed results involving classifications of the population by age, sex and marital status - Census of Population 1979 - Volume II - ages and marital status classified by Areas (Prl. 9956).

CENSUS OF POPULATION 1979

VOLUME III

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The volume is in two parts; Part I contains the details of household composition similar to those for earlier Censuses, and in Part II information in respect of family units is introduced in experimental form. Particular attention is directed to the relevant definitions and explanatory notes and qualifications below.

DEFINITIONS

A *private household* is defined as a group of persons living together (usually but not necessarily related), jointly occupying the whole or part of a private dwelling house, flat or temporary dwelling and sharing a common budget. A person who lives alone or a person who occupies only part of the living accommodation but does not normally share a common budget with the other occupants is also regarded as constituting a separate private household. A *non-private household* is a boarding house, hotel, guest house, barrack, hospital, nursing home, boarding school, religious institution, welfare institution, prison or ship, etc. However, proprietors and managers of hotels, principals of boarding schools, persons in charge of various other types of institutions and members of staff who, with their families, occupy flats on the premises are classified as private households.

Households occupying caravans or other temporary dwellings are classified as private households but most of the tabulations concerning private households have been compiled for *private households in permanent housing units* and, therefore, exclude all such temporary dwellings. Thus the data are directly comparable with those for private households in the corresponding reports for previous censuses.

The *number of persons* in a household consists of the total number of persons present there on the night of Sunday, 1 April, 1979, together with all persons who arrived in the household on the morning of Monday, 2 April, 1979, not having been enumerated elsewhere. The size and composition of a household, therefore, include any visitors present in the household on Census night, but do not include any usual residents of the household temporarily absent on Census night.

A *family unit* or nucleus is defined as (i) a man and his wife (ii) a man and his wife together with one or more single children (of any age) or (iii) one parent together with one or more single children (of any age). Size and composition of a family unit also reflect the persons present on Census night.

CLASSIFICATION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE

The classification used for private households is the same as that used at the 1971 Census of Population.

The family unit forms the basis of this classification. Households containing family units are further classified into those with and those without other persons. Households containing more than one family unit are also separately distinguished as are one person households. Household size and composition relate only to the persons present in the household on Census night.

The ten types of household used in the classification are:-
Households consisting of:-

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| 1. One person only | } | with no other persons |
| 2. Man and wife | | |
| 3. Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age) | | |
| 4. One parent and one or more single children (of any age) | | |
| 5. Man and wife | } | with other persons |
| 6. Man, wife and one or more single children (of any age) | | |
| 7. One parent and one or more single children (of any age) | | |
| 8. Two family units with or without other persons | | |
| 9. Three or more family units with or without other persons | | |
| 10. Two or more persons but not including a family unit | | |

It should be particularly noted that the age of children is not taken into account in defining the household type. For example, a household comprised of a man and his wife and their child aged 10 years is assigned to Type 3 as is a household comprised of a man and his wife and their son aged 30, if the son is unmarried.

In some of the tables, households are classified by various characteristics of the head of the household such as age and marital status. No instruction was given on the Census form as to which person in a household should be regarded as the head. It was indicated that particulars relating to the head of household should be entered on the first line of the form and therefore, the person completing the household schedule indicates in this manner who was regarded by the household as the head.

With regard to the marital status classifications, the marital status returns in the Census were sought on the basis of "present legal status" with provision for four categories - "single", "married", "widowed" and "other status". Some 5,334 heads of households (1,528 males and 3,806 females) returned themselves as "other status". These have been included with the "married" categories in the relevant tables.

Identification of family units is based on the information returned on the Census form with particular emphasis placed on the response to the "Relationship to Head of Household" question. While in general the information is sufficient to enable family units to be properly distinguished, there are two particular circumstances in which it is not adequate.

Firstly, there are problems in identifying unmarried parents with children as separate family units. This happens particularly where one unmarried parent with one or more children lives with his/her parents and the relationship to head of household information does not identify, beyond doubt, the parent/child relationship. In such cases, the unmarried parent and children are subsumed in another family unit. As a result the number of family units identified as consisting of unmarried parents with children is probably underestimated.

Secondly, there is the position of couples who, although not married, live together as man and wife. Where it is clear from the Census form that this relationship existed, a couple together with their children, if any, are classed as a family unit. Otherwise, they are classed as other persons who may or may not be attached to another identifiable family unit.

Finally there are the effects on the composition, size and type of family units of temporary absences from or visitors to households on Census night. In particular the temporary absence of one parent from a household on Census night (e.g. in hospital, absent on business or holiday, etc.) reduces a two-parent unit to a one-parent unit. To the extent that this has occurred, the number of one-parent family units is overstated at the expense of two-parent units. On the other hand the presence of visitors in households on Census night may have the effect of creating a second family unit in what is normally a one-family household or of attaching other persons to the usually resident family unit.

CLASSIFICATION OF FAMILY UNITS

While the presence or absence of a family unit has been used in this and previous Censuses as the basis for classifying households by type (see above), this is the first Census for which the population in family units and the number of such units by type of unit have been compiled. The qualifications just mentioned apply to family units as well as household types. The format of presentation adopted in Part II is experimental.

COMMENTARY

PART 1 - HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Of the 3,368,217 persons enumerated at the 1979 Census, 3,229,740 were in private households in permanent housing units; 111,206 were in institutions while 27,271 were in temporary or mobile homes. There were in all 867,026 private households in permanent housing units and these are the subject of most of the tables in Part I of this report.

PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS

While the total number of households rose from 726,363 in 1971 to 867,026 in 1979 (an increase of 19.4 per cent), there were large variations within particular household types. The numbers of each type of household in 1966, 1971 and 1979 and the percentage changes between 1966 and 1971 and between 1971 and 1979 (actual and on a five year basis to facilitate comparisons with the 1966 - 71 percentage changes) are shown in Table A.

TABLE A: PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS IN PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS CLASSIFIED BY TYPE 1966, 1971 AND 1979 AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN EACH CATEGORY

Type of Household	Total Households			Change 1971-79		Percentage Change	
	1966	1971	1979	Actual	Percentage	1966-71 (per cent)	1971-79* (per cent)
One Person	88,989	102,787	142,193	+ 39,406	+ 38.3	+ 15.5	+ 22.5
Man and Wife	62,153	72,479	96,001	+ 23,522	+ 32.5	+ 16.6	+ 19.2
Man, Wife and one or more children (of any age)	266,891	291,440	381,240	+ 89,800	+ 30.8	+ 9.2	+ 18.3
One Parent and one or more children (of any age)	68,191	63,897	68,956	+ 5,059	+ 7.9	- 6.3	+ 4.9
Man and Wife with other persons	19,018	18,610	14,835	- 3,775	- 20.3	- 2.1	- 13.2
Man, Wife and one or more children (of any age) with other persons	69,475	68,496	60,850	- 7,646	- 11.2	- 1.4	- 7.2
One Parent and one or more children (of any age) with other persons	19,469	17,195	14,137	- 3,058	- 17.8	- 11.7	- 11.5
Two family units with or without other persons	24,134	24,727	21,269	- 3,458	- 14.0	+ 2.5	- 9.0
Three or more family units with or without other persons	448	476	430	- 46	- 9.7	+ 6.3	- 6.2
Two or more persons but not including a family unit	68,536	66,256	67,115	+ 859	+ 1.3	- 3.3	+ 0.8
Total	687,304	726,363	867,026	+ 140,663	+ 19.4	+ 5.7	+ 11.7

*To facilitate comparison with the 1966-71 period the percentage changes over the 1971-79 period shown in the final column of the table have been converted to a five year basis.

It can be seen from the table that "One Person Households" showed the largest increase (i.e. + 38.3 per cent) between 1971 and 1979. There were also large increases in the "Man and Wife" (+ 32.5 per cent) and in the "Man, Wife and one or more Children" (+ 30.8 per cent) types of households. The households which showed the largest decreases were the "Man and Wife with other persons" (- 20.3 per cent) and the "One parent and one or more Children (of any age) with other persons" (-17.8 per cent).

Table B classifies one-person households (i.e. those households which showed the greatest increase between 1971 and 1979) by age and sex of person in the household and shows the percentage changes between 1971 and 1979.

TABLE B: ONE-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS IN PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS CLASSIFIED BY AGE AND SEX OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBER, 1971 AND 1979, WITH PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN EACH CATEGORY

Age Group	MALES			FEMALES		
	1971	1979	percentage change	1971	1979	percentage change
Under 25	1,779	4,186	+ 135.3	2,062	4,706	+ 128.2
25 - 29	1,787	4,546	+ 154.4	1,243	3,320	+ 167.1
30 - 34	1,801	3,830	+ 112.7	938	2,206	+ 135.2
35 - 39	2,404	3,347	+ 39.2	1,063	1,826	+ 71.8
40 - 44	3,606	4,203	+ 16.6	1,633	1,895	+ 16.0
45 - 49	5,000	5,379	+ 7.6	2,258	2,744	+ 21.5
50 - 54	6,014	6,807	+ 13.2	3,458	3,863	+ 11.7
55 - 59	6,725	7,627	+ 13.4	4,972	5,866	+ 18.0
60 - 64	6,289	7,503	+ 19.3	6,646	8,216	+ 23.6
65 - 69	5,895	7,892	+ 33.9	7,958	11,984	+ 50.6
70 - 74	5,280	6,293	+ 19.2	8,936	11,655	+ 30.4
75 and over	5,587	7,077	+ 26.7	9,453	15,222	+ 61.0
Total	52,167	68,690	+ 31.7	50,620	73,503	+ 45.2

There have been large increases in the numbers of one-person households for all age groups, with those for both males and females in the age groups under 25, 25-29 and 30-34 respectively more than doubling between 1971 and 1979. It may also be noted that the number of persons aged 65 years and over living alone has risen appreciably; they numbered 60,123 in 1979 compared to 43,109 in 1971, a rise of some 17,000 or 40 per cent. Overall, some 17 per cent of persons aged 65 years and over were living alone in 1979; one in five of females in this age group were in this position.

Table C classifies households by size (i.e. number of persons in the household) for the years 1966, 1971 and 1979.

TABLE C: PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS IN PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN EACH CATEGORY CLASSIFIED BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE 1966, 1971 AND 1979

Number of persons in household	Total Private Households			Change 1971 - 79		Percentage Change	
	1966	1971	1979	Actual	Percentage	1966-71 (per cent)	1971-79* (per cent)
1	88,989	102,787	142,193	+ 39,406	+ 38.3	+ 15.5	+ 22.5
2	139,541	149,467	176,664	+ 27,197	+ 18.2	+ 7.1	+ 11.0
3	114,436	115,781	131,093	+ 15,312	+ 13.2	+ 1.2	+ 8.1
4	97,058	102,195	132,063	+ 29,868	+ 29.2	+ 5.3	+ 17.4
5	79,320	84,035	108,596	+ 24,561	+ 29.2	+ 5.9	+ 17.4
6	61,068	64,971	77,318	+ 12,347	+ 19.0	+ 6.4	+ 11.5
7	42,512	43,714	45,871	+ 2,157	+ 4.9	+ 2.8	+ 3.0
8	27,098	27,022	25,515	- 1,507	- 5.6	- 0.3	- 3.5
9	16,550	16,118	13,411	- 2,707	- 16.8	- 2.6	- 10.9
10	10,230	10,346	7,488	- 2,858	- 27.6	+ 1.1	- 18.3
11	4,898	4,401	3,225	- 1,176	- 26.7	- 10.1	- 17.7
12 or more	5,604	5,526	3,589	- 1,937	- 35.1	- 1.4	- 23.7
Total	687,304	726,363	867,026	+ 140,663	+ 19.4	+ 5.7	+ 11.7

**To facilitate comparisons with the 1966-71 period, the percentage changes over the 1971-79 period shown in the final column of the table have been converted to a five year basis.*

Between 1971 and 1979 households with 1 member only showed the largest increase (+ 38.3 per cent) of all types of households. There were also very high increases in the numbers of households with 4 or 5 members (+ 29.2 per cent respectively). In contrast, however, it may be noted that the numbers of households with 9 or more members decreased sharply. In particular the numbers of households with 12 or more members decreased by 35.1 per cent in the period 1971-79.

Table D shows for 1979 the number of private households in permanent housing units classified by type and by sex and age group of the head of the household.

TABLE D: PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS IN PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS CLASSIFIED BY TYPE AND BY SEX AND AGE GROUP OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD IN 1979

Type of Household	Total	Male Head				Female Head			
		Age Group				Age Group			
		under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over	under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over
One Person	142,193	4,186	15,926	27,316	21,262	4,706	9,247	20,689	38,861
Man and Wife	96,001	6,211	25,447	26,481	35,496	413	913	589	451
Man, Wife and one or more children (of any age)	381,240	10,415	197,411	134,794	32,198	443	4,155	1,565	259
One Parent and one or more children (of any age)	68,956	42	1,698	5,784	6,842	480	7,754	23,289	23,067
Man and Wife with other persons	14,835	302	2,537	4,750	5,085	56	171	755	1,179
Man, Wife and one or more children (of any age) with other persons	60,850	635	24,285	23,364	6,959	64	567	1,709	3,267
One Parent and one or more children (of any age) with other persons	14,137	45	669	1,418	1,355	132	1,551	4,842	4,125
Two family units with or without other persons	21,269	182	4,448	7,175	5,987	43	334	1,864	1,236
Three or more family units with or without other persons	430	4	44	210	94	1	4	56	17
Two or more persons but not including a family unit	67,115	3,763	6,611	14,523	11,107	5,938	4,537	8,077	12,559
Total	867,026	25,785	279,076	245,815	126,385	12,276	29,233	63,435	85,021

The largest number of households was of the "Man, Wife and one or more children (of any age)" type. This type accounted for 381,240 or some 44 per cent of all private households and in turn, had predominantly male heads in the age-groups 25-44 and 45-64. The "One Person" household was the next most frequent type. In the case of males, those in the age-group 45-64 predominated in these households whereas for females, those aged 65 years and over accounted for more than one-half of the total.

NOTE: In general for households of two or more persons, the tabulations relating to head of household are based on the characteristics of the person entered on the first line of the Census form. Inadvertently this procedure was not always followed in processing the 1979 Census because of the simultaneous preparation of the new tables analysing family units (see Part II). In these instances a parent was taken as head of the household although not entered on the first line of the Census form. It is estimated that the number of households in question was about 1 per cent of all households. The main effect is to decrease the number of households with unmarried heads (principally males in the younger age groups) and to increase the number in other categories (mainly widowed females in the older age groups). This affects in particular the headship analysis of households comprised of one parent and one or more children.

TEMPORARY HOUSING UNITS

Table E sets out the number of private households in temporary housing units classified by type of household together with the numbers of persons in various groups in these households.

TABLE E: PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS AND NUMBER OF PERSONS, CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE, CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE AND PERSONS AGED 65 YEARS AND OVER IN TEMPORARY HOUSING UNITS CLASSIFIED BY TYPE

Type of Household	Total Households	Total Persons	Children under 5 years of age	Children under 15 years of age	Persons aged 65 years and over
One Person	2,789	2,789	-	-	1,204
Man and Wife with or without children (of any age)	5,740	20,647	5,040	8,294	407
Man and Wife with or without children (of any age) with other persons	192	1,012	153	344	78
One parent and one or more children (of any age) with or without other persons	474	1,512	238	612	112
Other households	438	1,311	36	101	418
Total	9,633	27,271	5,467	9,351	2,219

There were 9,633 such households with 27,271 persons in 1979; this compares with 4,180 households containing 14,765 persons in 1971. The largest single type was that of "Man and Wife with or without children" accounting for 5,740 households and 20,647 persons. Children under 15 years of age accounted for 8,294 of these persons. One person households in temporary housing units numbered 2,789 and contained 1,204 persons aged 65 years and over out of the total of 2,219 such persons.

PART II - FAMILY UNITS

In the previous section the analysis was based on household type defined on the basis of the presence or absence on Census night of an identifiable family unit. In this section further analysis is carried out on the basis of these family units and their composition.

The total number of family units (as defined) was 686,347. Households containing family units accounted for 2,942,778 persons; a further 314,233 persons were in private households not containing an identifiable family unit and the remainder of the population, 111,206 persons, were in non-private households.

The total number of family units relates to the number in private households (in permanent and temporary housing units) as set out in Table F following

TABLE F: NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS, NUMBER OF FAMILY UNITS AND NUMBER OF PERSONS CLASSIFIED BY TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD

Type of Household	Number of Households	Number of Identified Family Units	Number of Persons
Single family unit	642,425	642,425	2,798,239
Two family units	21,304	42,608	140,473
Three or more family units	430	1,314	4,066
Total with a family unit	664,159	686,347	2,942,778
One person households	144,982	-	144,982
Two or more persons but no family unit	67,518	-	169,251
Total in Private Households (of which in Temporary Housing Units)	876,659 (9,633)	686,347 (6,476)	3,257,011 (27,271)

The following Table G summarises the composition of family households using broad age groupings. A detailed presentation by five year age groups, including a classification by marital status, is given in the detailed Table 1 in Part II of the volume. As already mentioned there are important qualifications arising from the Census procedures and definitions which must be borne in mind in interpreting the figures. Because actual location on Census night is the basis of the count, if a spouse is absent temporarily on that night (e.g. in hospital etc.) the classification is affected. Thus, if one or more children (unmarried) are present the family unit becomes "one parent" type while if there are no children (unmarried) present there will be no family unit. This inflates somewhat the numbers of one parent family units and one person households. On the other hand the Census information does not usually enable identification of a family unit of one unmarried parent with a child especially if living with other persons.

In defining family units (and households) "with children" it will be recalled that unmarried children of any age are in question.

Table G shows that of the 593,764 family units with husband and wife present, 466,451 or nearly 79 per cent had children. Most of the parents involved were under 55 years of age. For couples with no children present on Census night the majority were over 55 years of age.

There were 92,583 family units with one parent present on Census night, in most cases the mother - usually a widow.

Family units with both parents present covered 1,366,620 children (as defined) and almost 70 per cent of these were under 15 years of age with a further 26 per cent being under 25 years of age. For family units with only one parent present there were 186,846 children (as defined) with only 29 per cent under 15 years with a further 36 per cent under 25 years but an almost equal number over 25 years of age. Apart from parents and children there were a further 109,201 persons covered in the family households. Some 60,516 of these were 55 years or more, the majority (63 per cent) being widowed persons.

In the detailed Table 1 the married category includes those returned under "other status". An additional table, Table 1A has been included classifying such persons on the same lines as in Table 1.

There are two further tables in Part II of the volume concerning family units. Table 2 shows the family units classified by number of children (as defined) in the family unit. In this table there is also shown separate figures for family units where all children are under 15 years of age and where all children are aged 15 or over.

The second table, Table 3, shows a relationship between the size of the family unit and the size of the household in which the unit is located.

**TABLE G: POPULATION IN FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS DISTINGUISHING MALES AND FEMALES
CLASSIFIED BY POSITION IN FAMILY UNIT AND BY BROAD AGE GROUP**

Position in Family Unit and Broad Age Group	Persons	Males	Females
Husbands and Wives - Total	1,187,528	593,764	593,764
Under 55 years - with children	753,574	357,074	396,500
- no children	117,122	55,287	61,835
Aged 55 years or more - with children	179,328	109,377	69,951
- no children	137,504	72,026	65,478
One Parent - Total	92,583	19,291	73,292
Under 55 years	32,133	5,963	26,170
55 years or more	60,450	13,328	47,122
Children (single of any age) with both parents - Total	1,366,620	721,521	645,099
Under 15 years of age	950,360	486,052	464,308
15 and under 25	355,133	194,167	160,966
25 years or more	61,127	41,302	19,825
Children (single of any age) with one parent - Total	186,846	109,011	77,835
Under 15 years of age	53,770	27,383	26,387
15 and under 25	66,879	37,503	29,376
25 years or more	66,197	44,125	22,072
Other Persons in family households - Total	109,201	47,122	62,079
Under 15 years of age	9,044	4,380	4,664
15 and under 25	18,358	8,984	9,374
25 and under 55	21,283	12,556	8,727
55 years or more	60,516	21,202	39,314
Population in Family Households -	2,942,778	1,490,709	1,452,069

CONTENT OF THE TABLES

PART I

Table 1 shows the number of persons in private and non-private households separately in each County in the State.

The remaining tables in Part I fall into three groups. Tables 2 - 5B relate to **all private households** (i.e. private households in both permanent and temporary dwellings). Tables 6 - 14 relate to private households in **permanent dwellings only** while tables 15, 16A and 16B relate to private households in **temporary dwellings only**.

Table 2 gives the number of private households classified by type of household and number of persons in the household.

Table 3 shows private households and members of private households classified by number and broad age group of occupants. This is a new table and is intended to complement the usual "type of household" classification by way of an alternative classification of households based on number and age structure of occupants.

Table 4 gives the number of private households and persons therein classified by the sex, age and marital status of the heads of the households.

Tables 5A and 5B show the numbers and percentages of people aged 65 years and over and 70 years and over, respectively, living alone in each County in the State.

Table 6 gives the average number of persons per private household in permanent housing units in each County with comparisons for earlier years.

Table 7 gives the number of private households in permanent housing units classified by type of household and number of persons in the household. **Table 8** gives the number of private households of different sizes in each County in the State while **Table 9** gives a detailed breakdown of numbers of households in each County classified by both type and size of household.

Tables 10 to 14 give the number of private households in permanent housing units classified by type and size of household and by some other characteristic of the household such as age and sex of the head of the household or number of children under 15 in the household etc.

Tables 15, 16A and 16B relate to private households in temporary housing units and are similar to other tables produced for private households in permanent housing units.

PART II

Table 1 gives a breakdown of the entire population in both private and non-private households by age, sex and marital status and by position in household (e.g. husbands and wives, children, lone parents etc.).

Table 1A gives a similar breakdown to Table 1 of those persons who were classified in the marital status category "Other Status" in the Census.

Tables 2 and 3 refer to **family units** as opposed to households. Table 2 shows the number of family units classified by type and number of children in the unit. Table 3 gives a breakdown of the number of family units by type and size of family unit and by type and size of household in which they were enumerated.