

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

VOLUME 8

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NOTE: Tables 11-20 relate to "private dwellings". A "private dwelling" is the room or set of rooms occupied by a private household in a permanent housing unit. A "farm dwelling" (Tables 21A-21C) is a private dwelling in which at least one person usually resident is described as a working or retired farmer.

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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); Volume 6 - Irish Language (Pl. 3581) and Volume 7 - Occupations (Pl. 3828) 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.

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

VOLUME 8

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This Volume of the Report of the Census of Population, 1981 contains detailed tables concerning housing and social amenities. It is in two parts; Part I relates to Private Households/Dwellings in Permanent Housing Units and Part II covers Permanent Housing Units. Some new tables relating to private households/dwellings and farm households are being introduced for the first time. There are also some new tables relating to permanent housing units.

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 have been included as private households but most 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 shown for private households in the corresponding reports for previous Censuses.

A *farm household* is a household in which at least one of the usual residents is a retired or working farmer. This is the first time that this classification has been used. In previous Censuses permanent housing units with agricultural land were identified as a separate category but an analysis of the corresponding returns in the 1981 Census indicated that the question relating to occupiers of agricultural holdings was poorly answered and thus not suitable for publication.

A *housing unit* is a conventional house, a structurally separate flat or a temporary dwelling, regardless of the number of private households it contains; when temporary dwellings are excluded the definition relates to a *permanent housing unit*. Generally, one private household occupies one housing unit but households at the same address sharing toilet facilities are grouped into one housing unit. In 1981 there were 875,816 permanent housing units in the State in which there were 896,054 private households.

A *private dwelling* is the room or set of rooms occupied by a private household in a permanent housing unit. There is thus a one to one correspondence between such private households and private dwellings and the numbers of these entities are the same in all instances.

All classifications relate to occupied housing units only. Statistics of unoccupied housing units were not compiled because of the difficulty of determining, in many cases, whether unoccupied accommodation could be regarded as habitable or not.

The *number of rooms* occupied by a private household is the total number used by the household, including a kitchen, but excluding a kitchenette, scullery, bathroom, toilet, consulting room, office or shop.

The *number of persons* in a household consists of the total number of persons present there on the night of Sunday, 5 April 1981, together with all persons who arrived in the household on the morning of Monday, 6 April 1981, not having been enumerated elsewhere. The size of household, therefore, includes any visitors present in the household on Census night but excludes any usual residents of the household temporarily absent on Census night.

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, the suburban areas of Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Waterford, Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas were detailed.

QUESTIONS ON CENSUS FORM

The questions on the Census schedule from which the statistics contained in the present Volume were derived are set out hereunder.

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (23 TO 30) SHOULD BE ANSWERED IN RESPECT OF EACH PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD. THESE QUESTIONS NEED NOT BE ANSWERED IN RESPECT OF INSTITUTIONS OR PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS LIVING IN CARAVANS OR OTHER MOBILE DWELLINGS.

23. NATURE OF OCCUPANCY OF HOUSE, FLAT OR ROOMS (insert ✓ in appropriate box)

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Rented from Local Authority (Corporation, County or Urban District Council) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Rented unfurnished, other than from Local Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Rented furnished or part furnished | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| Being acquired from Local Authority under a Purchase or Vested Cottage Scheme | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Owner occupied where loan or mortgage repayments are being made | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| Owner occupied where no loan or mortgage repayments are being made | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 |
| Occupied free of rent (caretaker, company official, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 |

24. RENT (For Categories 1, 2 and 3 of Question 23)

If the house, flat or rooms are rented, state the rent and indicate period which applies by inserting ✓ in the appropriate box.

<p style="margin: 0;"><u>RENT</u></p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">£ p</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 30px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 50%;"></div> <div style="width: 50%;"></div> </div>	per	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Week</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: right;">1</td></tr> <tr><td>Two weeks</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: right;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Four weeks</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: right;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>Month</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: right;">4</td></tr> <tr><td>Two months</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: right;">5</td></tr> <tr><td>Three months</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: right;">6</td></tr> <tr><td>Six months</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: right;">7</td></tr> <tr><td>Year</td><td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td><td style="text-align: right;">8</td></tr> </table>	Week	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Two weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Four weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Month	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Two months	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Three months	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	8
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Six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	7																								
Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	8																								

25. ROOMS

State the number of rooms occupied by the household (including kitchen but excluding kitchenette, scullery, bathroom, toilet, consulting room, office or shop).

26. YEAR IN WHICH THE HOUSE WAS BUILT

Indicate the period in which the house or other building containing the dwelling was built by inserting ✓ in the appropriate box. The year in which first built is required even if subsequently converted, extended or renovated.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Before 1919 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Between 1919 and 1940 inclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Between 1941 and 1960 inclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| Between 1961 and 1970 inclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Between 1971 and 1975 inclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| 1976 or later | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 |

NOTES ON THE QUESTIONS ASKED

Question 23 (Nature of Occupancy). In the case of a permanent housing unit consisting of more than one household, the nature of occupancy of the housing unit was taken to be that of the principal household e.g. an owner occupied household within a housing unit meant that the housing unit was classified as owner occupied.

Question 24 (Rent). In the case of a permanent housing unit consisting of more than one household and each household was rented, the rent of the housing unit was taken to be the sum of the rents of the individual households. This is a different procedure to that used for the 1971 Census.

Question 25 (Rooms). In the case of a permanent housing unit consisting of more than one household the number of rooms in the housing unit is the sum of the number of rooms occupied by the individual households within it.

Question 26 (Year Built). There may be some inaccuracies in the statistics on this topic. Householders occupying older houses tend to be unsure as to when their houses were built. Nevertheless because there is much interest in the figures and because they appear to be reasonably accurate for the more recent periods, tables relating to the year in which the house was built have been included in this Volume.

Questions 27-29 (Water supply, bath or shower and sanitary facilities). In the case of a permanent housing unit with more than one household, the housing unit was regarded as having the amenity (e.g. water supply, bath or shower) provided one of its constituent households had the amenity.

CONTENT OF THE TABLES

PART I

PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS/ DWELLINGS IN PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS

Table 1 classifies all persons in each Province, County and County Borough according to the type of private or non-private household in which they were enumerated. Tables 2-20 deal with private households in permanent housing units, while Tables 21A-21C deal with "farm dwellings".

Tables 2-10 provide classifications of private households in permanent housing units by total number of persons, total number of rooms in the household and by average number of persons per room in the household. Separate figures are supplied in some tables for Aggregate Town Areas and Aggregate Rural Areas and comparative figures for previous Censuses are also supplied in some tables.

Tables 11 and 12 classify private households in permanent housing units and the persons in these households according to the type of building containing the private dwelling, the period in which the building was built, nature of occupancy, water supply and sanitary facilities.

Tables 13A-13E deal with private dwellings classified by the nature of occupancy of the dwelling (e.g. whether owner occupied, rented, etc.). Data is provided in these tables for Counties and their Aggregate Town Areas and Aggregate Rural Areas, for Urban and Rural Districts, towns of 1,500 inhabitants or over and for each Ward in Dublin County Borough and Cork County Borough.

Tables 14-16 deal with rented private dwellings. In Tables 14A-14C rented private dwellings in each County and in their Aggregate Town Areas and Aggregate Rural Areas are classified by weekly rent within each of the three categories (i) Local Authority rented, (ii) Unfurnished, non-Local Authority rented, (iii) Furnished or Part-Furnished, rented. In Tables 14D and 14E rented private dwellings are classified by weekly rent in each Urban and Rural District, each town of 1,500 population or over and in each Ward of the County Boroughs of Dublin and Cork. In Table 15 rented private dwellings in each Planning Region are classified by weekly rent and number of rooms, while Table 16 shows for the same areas classifications by weekly rent and period in which the housing unit was built.

Tables 17 - 20 deal with central heating and principal fuel used to heat the dwelling. Table 17 provides a cross-classification of private dwellings in each County by availability and usage of central heating and principal fuel used for heating purposes. Table 18 provides a cross-classification for private dwellings in each Planning Region by period built, principal fuel used to heat the dwelling and availability and usage of central heating. Table 19 cross-classifies private dwellings in each Planning Region by nature of occupancy and principal fuel used to heat the dwelling. Table 20 gives a breakdown of private dwellings in each Planning Region, with or without central heating by nature of occupancy of the dwelling (i.e. owner occupied, rented, etc.).

Tables 21A - 21C show "farm dwellings" in each Province, County and County Borough classified by period built, water supply and sanitary facilities. A "farm dwelling" is one in which at least one person usually resident is described as a working or retired farmer.

PART II

PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS

Table 22A shows for each County and County Borough and their Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas, the numbers of housing units and their constituent private households, persons and rooms classified by the type of building in which the units were situated. For permanent housing units four types of building are distinguished in this table - "conventional house", "one dwelling building, partly non-residential", "multi-dwelling building" and "institutions". It should be understood that the category "conventional house" covers not only the most frequently occurring situation involving one household occupying a whole house but also cases where two or more households occupy a house which has not been structurally subdivided into different housing units; thus the number of households is greater than the number of housing units. The category "multi-dwelling building" relates to purpose built blocks of flats or other buildings which have been structurally subdivided into separate housing units; thus the numbers of housing units and households for this latter category are always the same. Table 22B contains average densities derived from the data for permanent housing units in each County and County Borough and their Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas. These densities are average number of persons per housing unit, per private household and per room in permanent housing unit, average number of households per housing unit and average number of rooms per housing unit and per private household.

Table 23 provides State totals for housing units and persons therein classified by type of building in which situated and by water supply and sanitary facilities.

Table 24 is similar to Table 23 but the variables used for cross-classification purposes are type of building, nature of occupancy and period in which built.

Table 25 cross-classifies housing units by number of rooms and number of persons for the three categories viz. - housing units occupied by one household, housing units occupied by two households and housing units occupied by three or more households, respectively.

Tables 26A-E, 27A-E, 28A-E, 29A-D and 30A-D provide data on housing units classified by nature of occupancy, weekly rent, period in which built, water supply and sanitary facilities for detailed areas throughout the State.

Tables 31A-C provide a cross-classification of housing units by sanitary facilities and period built in each Province, County and County Borough.

Tables 32A-C are similar to Tables 31A-C with "water supply" being used instead of "sanitary facilities".

NOTE: Tables 11-21C of Part I and 31A-32C of Part II give information which was not published for the 1971 Census.

COMMENTARY

A total population of 3,443,405 persons were enumerated in the 1981 Census. Of these, 108,876 were not in private households. A further 40,316 persons covering 14,646 households were living in caravans or other temporary dwellings. The remaining 3,294,213 persons comprising 896,054 private households were living in 875,816 permanent housing units.

The average number of persons per private household in permanent housing units was 3.68 and the average size of dwelling was 4.97 rooms giving an average density of occupation of 0.74 persons per room.

HOUSEHOLD DENSITY

TABLE A shows for the Census years of 1926, 1936, 1946, 1961, 1966, 1971 and 1981 the average number of persons per private household in permanent housing units in the State and in the Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas.

TABLE A:- AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD IN PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS.

Area	1926	1936	1946	1961	1966	1971	1981
Aggregate Town Area*	4.32	4.28	4.15	3.99	4.07	3.98	3.64
Aggregate Rural Area*	4.55	4.33	4.16	3.96	3.95	3.89	3.72
TOTAL	4.48	4.31	4.16	3.97	4.01	3.94	3.68

*As then defined.

It can be seen from this table that the rate of decline in household size in the ten-year period 1971 to 1981 was much greater than in any of the previous intercensal periods shown. There has been a consistent decline in average household size in the Aggregate Rural Area from 4.55 in 1926 to 3.72 in 1981. The trend for the Aggregate Town Area is very similar except for the rise which took place between 1961 and 1966. TABLE B below shows for the same years the average number of persons per room in private households in permanent housing units. This is an overall indication of the improvement in housing conditions.

TABLE B:- AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ROOM IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS IN PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS.

Area	1926	1936	1946	1961	1966	1971	1981
Aggregate Town Area*	1.17	1.11	1.03	0.88	0.89	0.85	0.72
Aggregate Rural Area*	1.19	1.08	1.00	0.91	0.90	0.87	0.76
TOTAL	1.19	1.09	1.01	0.90	0.89	0.86	0.74

*As then defined.

Here again the same trends as in TABLE A are apparent. A relatively greater decline in the number of persons per room took place between 1971 and 1981 than in any of the previous intercensal periods shown. The number of persons per room has been declining consistently down through the years in both town and rural areas with the exception of the five-year period 1961 to 1966 when a slight increase took place in town areas. While the difference between the town and rural areas was quite small in 1981, 0.76 persons per room in rural areas compared with 0.72 persons per room in town areas, there were sizeable differences between the county averages. In Table 4 of Part I it can be seen that in the Aggregate Town Area within Counties the lowest density was 0.60 for Dun Laoghaire Borough and the highest was 0.79 which was recorded in Counties Donegal and Laoighis. In the Aggregate Rural Area within Counties, the range was from 0.72 in Counties Sligo, Leitrim, Cork and Wicklow to 0.85 in County Donegal.

The improvement in housing conditions over the period 1926 to 1981 as measured by the proportion of the population living under various housing density conditions is also clear from the data given in TABLE C which shows the distribution of the population in private households in permanent housing units by housing density for the Census years from 1926 to 1981.

**TABLE C:- PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS
IN PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS BY HOUSING DENSITY.**

Number of Persons per Room	1926	1936	1946	1961	1966	1971	1981
Up to and including 0.5	20.8	24.7	28.2	13.2	13.2	14.1	17.8
Over 0.5 but under 1				21.1	22.0	23.2	31.7
1	25.2	13.1	14.1	14.7	15.0	15.3	16.7
Over 1 but under 1.5		14.1	15.1	16.1	17.0	17.7	17.2
1.5 but under 2	15.4	15.3	16.1	15.6	15.6	14.8	9.4
2	9.9	8.8	8.1	6.4	5.9	5.5	2.7
Over 2 but under 3	12.0	10.8	9.5	7.8	7.5	6.5	2.4
3 or more	15.2	12.2	8.1	3.6	3.4	2.8	0.8
Not known	1.5	0.9	0.7	1.6	0.3	0.2	1.4
TOTAL	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-	100.-

The proportion of the population in private households in permanent housing units with a density of more than two persons per room fell from 27.2 per cent in 1926 to 3.3 per cent in 1981. Correspondingly, the proportion of the population in households having less than one person per room rose from 20.8 per cent in 1926 to almost 50 per cent in 1981. Here again it can be seen that a more significant improvement in housing conditions, as measured by number of persons per room, took place in the ten-year period 1971 to 1981 than in any of the previous intercensal periods shown.

Table 5 of Part I shows the percentage of persons in private households in permanent housing units having more than two persons per room in each County and in their Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas. For the Aggregate Town Areas the proportion of the population in households with a density of more than two persons per room varies from a minimum of 1 per cent in County Dublin (excluding Dublin Co. Borough and Dun Laoghaire Borough) to a maximum of 5.3 per cent in County Laoighis. The range for the Aggregate Rural Areas is from a minimum of 2.1 per cent in County Dublin to a maximum of 7.3 per cent in County Donegal.

AMENITIES

The results for 1981 concerning water supply and sanitary facilities are mainly presented in terms of housing units - although data on these topics are presented in Table 11 (Part I) for all private households and in Tables 21B and 21C (Part I) for "farm dwellings". This follows the procedure used in 1971 and allows direct comparisons to be made between the two Censuses in respect of housing units. Generally one private household occupies a housing unit but in some cases a housing unit may contain more than one household (e.g. bedsitters). Of the total private households in permanent housing units in 1981 some 868,132 each occupied a separate housing unit and the remaining 27,922 households were accommodated in 7,684 housing units.

TABLE D below shows the percentage of private dwellings and housing units with piped water supply and flush toilet with separate percentages shown for urban and rural areas.

**TABLE D:- PERCENTAGE OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS IN 1946, 1961, 1971 AND 1981
AND PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS IN 1971 AND 1981
WITH PIPED WATER SUPPLY AND FLUSH TOILET.**

Area	Percentage with Piped Water Supply						Percentage with Flush Toilet					
	Private Dwellings				Permanent Housing Units		Private Dwellings				Permanent Housing Units	
	1946	1961	1971	1981	1971	1981	1946	1961	1971	1981	1971	1981
Aggregate Town Area*	91.8	97.2	99.3	99.9	99.2	99.9	90.6	96.0	98.4	99.5	98.4	99.5
Aggregate Rural Area*	8.6	25.0	57.7	88.8	57.6	88.8	9.1	19.4	42.4	78.0	42.3	77.9
TOTAL	38.7	57.2	78.8	95.0	78.2	94.9	38.5	53.5	70.8	90.0	70.0	89.8

*As then defined.

A major improvement in housing conditions took place in the ten-year period 1971 to 1981, in terms of the availability of the basic amenities i.e. water supply and flush toilet. With regard to the availability of piped water supply, the progress made in previous intercensal periods was maintained between 1971 and 1981 with the result that some 95.0 per cent of private dwellings in the State had this amenity in 1981 - this compares with 78.8 per cent in 1971, 57.2 per cent in 1961 and 38.7 per cent in 1946. In urban areas in 1981, almost all dwellings had a piped water supply. In rural areas the improvement recorded at previous Censuses was again maintained so that in 1981 some 88.8 per cent of private dwellings had a piped water supply.

A similar position holds with regard to the percentages of private dwellings with a flush toilet. In 1981, nine out of every ten private dwellings had this amenity. In urban areas almost all dwellings had a flush toilet while 78.0 per cent of rural dwellings had one - the latter compares with some 42 per cent in 1971, 20 per cent in 1961 and less than 10 per cent in 1946.

From Tables 21B and 21C of Part I, it can be seen that 86.2 per cent of farm households had a piped water supply while 72.3 per cent had a flush toilet available in the dwelling. In the case of housing units, almost all units in urban areas (99.9 per cent) had a piped water supply.

In rural areas the percentage with a piped water supply increased from 58 per cent in 1971 to 89 per cent in 1981, continuing the remarkable increases of previous intercensal periods as illustrated by the corresponding trend in private dwellings.

Similarly in 1981 almost every housing unit (99.5 per cent) in urban areas had a flush toilet. In rural areas considerable progress has been made over the ten years and the percentage of housing units with a flush toilet rose from 42 per cent in 1971 to 78 per cent in 1981.

TABLE E shows the variation in the different Counties and their Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas in the numbers of housing units with piped water and flush toilets, respectively.

TABLE E:- PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS WITH WATER SUPPLY AND FLUSH TOILET IN THE AGGREGATE TOWN AND AGGREGATE RURAL AREAS OF EACH PROVINCE, COUNTY AND COUNTY BOROUGH.

Province, County or County Borough	Permanent Housing Units with Piped Water Supply			Permanent Housing Units with Flush Toilet		
	Total	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area	Total	Aggregate Town Area	Aggregate Rural Area
	%	%	%	%	%	%
LEINSTER	97.4	99.9	90.8	94.4	99.7	80.6
Carlow	93.8	99.6	89.0	86.6	98.9	76.5
Dublin Co. and Co. Borough	99.9	100.0	98.7	99.5	99.8	86.9
<i>Dublin Co. Borough</i>	100.0	100.0	-	99.9	99.9	-
<i>Dun Laoghaire Borough</i>	100.0	100.0	-	99.9	99.9	-
<i>Dublin</i>	99.9	100.0	98.7	99.0	99.8	86.9
Kildare	96.7	99.6	93.7	91.8	98.7	84.9
Kilkenny	94.4	99.7	92.2	84.7	99.1	78.8
Laoighis	91.9	99.7	89.2	83.6	98.7	78.4
Longford	87.2	99.9	84.3	77.4	98.8	72.5
Louth	96.8	99.8	91.4	93.6	99.3	83.4
Meath	92.8	99.7	90.4	88.5	98.9	85.0
Offaly	92.8	99.5	89.3	84.2	98.4	76.6
Westmeath	90.8	99.8	84.2	85.6	99.3	75.6
Wexford	94.6	99.6	92.1	85.9	99.0	79.4
Wicklow	96.5	99.9	92.8	92.0	99.7	83.4
MUNSTER	94.6	99.8	90.2	87.8	99.3	78.2
Clare	90.0	99.7	85.9	81.3	99.0	73.9
Cork Co. and Co. Borough	96.1	99.8	91.4	90.9	99.4	80.1
<i>Cork Co. Borough</i>	100.0	100.0	-	99.8	99.8	-
<i>Cork</i>	94.2	99.7	91.4	86.4	98.7	80.1
Kerry	92.0	99.8	89.5	83.4	99.1	78.3
Limerick Co. and Co. Borough	94.9	99.9	90.4	88.5	99.4	78.7
<i>Limerick Co. Borough</i>	100.0	100.0	-	99.6	99.6	-
<i>Limerick</i>	91.9	99.5	90.4	82.1	98.7	78.7
Tipperary, N.R.	91.1	99.6	86.9	81.7	98.7	73.1
Tipperary, S.R.	96.6	99.8	94.5	86.5	99.2	78.3
Waterford Co. and Co. Borough	96.5	99.8	92.1	91.0	99.4	80.0
<i>Waterford Co. Borough</i>	99.8	99.8	-	99.5	99.5	-
<i>Waterford</i>	94.1	99.8	92.1	84.9	99.1	80.0
CONNACHT	87.9	99.8	84.3	80.3	99.2	74.6
Galway	90.9	99.9	86.7	84.6	99.5	77.5
Leitrim	77.7	99.7	76.6	67.3	99.5	65.7
Mayo	89.0	99.6	86.8	81.1	98.9	77.4
Roscommon	85.0	99.2	82.5	75.3	97.0	71.6
Sligo	85.6	99.9	79.8	78.8	99.6	70.5
ULSTER (part of)	89.4	99.3	87.1	80.5	98.5	76.3
Cavan	87.3	99.3	85.8	75.5	99.0	72.6
Donegal	90.2	99.2	88.1	82.4	97.8	78.9
Monaghan	90.1	99.7	86.3	81.5	99.3	74.5
TOTAL	94.9	99.9	88.8	89.8	99.5	77.9

Over 99 per cent of the housing units in urban areas in every County had a piped water supply. In the case of rural areas, however, County Leitrim had the lowest percentage (77 per cent) while Counties Tipperary, S.R. (95 per cent) and Dublin (99 per cent) had the highest percentages.

It is also clear from Table E that almost every housing unit in the urban areas of each County had a flush toilet. County Roscommon had (at 97 per cent) the lowest percentage of housing units in urban areas with flush toilets. In the case of rural areas the percentage of housing units with flush toilets varied from a low of 66 per cent in County Leitrim to highs of 85 per cent in County Meath and 87 per cent in County Dublin.

NATURE OF OCCUPANCY

TABLE F shows the number of permanent housing units and private dwellings therein classified by nature of occupancy, distinguishing the two categories where the distinction is particularly relevant. Three areas are shown - Dublin County Borough together with Dun Laoghaire Borough, the three other County Boroughs combined and the remainder of the State.

**TABLE F:- PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS AND PRIVATE DWELLINGS
CLASSIFIED BY NATURE OF OCCUPANCY.**

Area	Total		Nature of Occupancy					
			Rented other than from Local Authority				Other (i.e. Owner Occupied, Rented from Local Authority, etc.)	
	Unfurnished		Furnished or Part-Furnished					
	Housing Units	Private Dwellings	Housing Units	Private Dwellings	Housing Units	Private Dwellings	Housing Units	Private Dwellings
Dublin Co. Borough and Dun Laoghaire Borough	152,966	166,591	9,280	10,384	13,213	25,346	130,473	130,861
Other County Boroughs	58,142	60,570	4,266	4,477	3,629	5,776	50,247	50,317
Remainder of State	664,708	668,893	18,546	18,836	22,213	25,496	623,949	624,561
TOTAL	875,816	896,054	32,092	33,697	39,055	56,618	804,669	805,739

The main difference between housing units and private dwellings occurred in the rented "furnished or part-furnished" category, in which numbers of private dwellings frequently existed within one housing unit. In total there were 56,618 private dwellings "rented furnished or part-furnished" located in 39,055 rented private housing units, a ratio of less than 1.5 to 1. It can be seen that Dublin and Dun Laoghaire contained the greatest concentration of these dwellings with 25,346 rented dwellings located in 13,213 permanent rented housing units, a ratio of 1.9 to 1. This compared with ratios of 1.6 to 1 for the other County Boroughs and just over 1.1 to 1 for the rest of the State.

The percentage distribution of private dwellings and permanent housing units in the three main categories of occupancy is shown in TABLE G for a number of Census years.

TABLE G:- PERCENTAGE OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS AND HOUSING UNITS, RENTED OR OWNER OCCUPIED.

Nature of Occupancy	Private Dwellings				Housing Units	
	1946	1961	1971	1981	1971	1981
Aggregate Town Area						
Percentage of Private Dwellings:-						
Rented from Local Authority	73.8	28.8	25.4	17.5	26.8	18.2
Rented other than from Local Authority		30.0	20.5	14.8	16.0	11.5
Owner occupied*	23.2	38.0	52.5	65.6	55.6	68.3
Aggregate Rural Area						
Percentage of Private Dwellings:-						
Rented from Local Authority	25.0	10.1	5.3	6.1	5.3	6.1
Rented other than from Local Authority		6.9	6.0	4.1	5.8	4.0
Owner occupied*	69.3	77.4	85.5	85.6	85.6	85.7
Total						
Percentage of Private Dwellings:-						
Rented from Local Authority	42.7	18.4	15.5	12.5	15.9	12.7
Rented other than from Local Authority		17.2	13.3	10.1	10.9	8.1
Owner occupied*	52.6	59.8	68.8	74.4	70.8	76.1

*Including tenant purchase or vested cottage scheme.

In the case of urban areas there has been a consistent decline since 1946 in the proportion of rented dwellings. The proportion of the total accounted for by both Local Authority rented dwellings and privately rented dwellings declined while there was a corresponding increase in the proportion of owner occupied dwellings. Some 2 out of 3 dwellings in urban areas were owner occupied in 1981.

There was little change in rural areas in the last ten years in the proportions of dwellings in the different nature of occupancy categories - nearly 86 per cent of dwellings in rural areas were owner occupied.

For the State as a whole in 1981, almost three quarters of all dwellings were owner occupied, owner occupancy having increased for 1 in 2 of dwellings in 1946. One eighth of all dwellings were rented from Local Authorities while a further one tenth were privately rented.

In the case of housing units the trend between 1971 and 1981 followed that of dwellings.

CENTRAL HEATING AND FUEL USED

The 1981 Census was the first Census in which information was collected on central heating and on the principal fuel used to heat the dwelling. TABLE H below shows the total private dwellings in the State classified by availability and usage of central heating and by principal fuel used to heat the dwelling.

TABLE H:- PRIVATE DWELLINGS IN PERMANENT HOUSING UNITS CLASSIFIED BY AVAILABILITY AND USAGE OF CENTRAL HEATING AND BY PRINCIPAL FUEL USED TO HEAT THE DWELLING.

Availability and Usage of Central Heating System	Principal Fuel used to Heat Dwelling					TOTAL
	Solid Fuel	Electricity	Oil	Gas	Other Fuels (incl. not stated)	
Without Central Heating	428,819	39,347	9,025	23,286	15,963	516,440
Availability of Central Heating not stated	20,044	1,897	1,384	985	3,969	28,279
With Central Heating	179,242	17,011	130,273	16,939	7,870	351,335
of which, using Central Heating:						
as Principal Heating System	125,082	10,679	118,755	11,682	4,299	270,497
not as Principal Heating System	48,480	5,772	9,379	4,913	3,046	71,590
not stated if Principal System or not	5,680	560	2,139	344	525	9,248
TOTAL	628,105	58,255	140,682	41,210	27,802	896,054

Some 628,000 dwellings comprising 70 per cent of all private dwellings used solid fuel as the main fuel for heating. The percentages using electricity, oil and gas as the principal fuel for heating were, respectively, 6.5, 15.7 and 4.6 per cent. Over 351,000, or 39 per cent of private dwellings had central heating. Some 51 per cent of dwellings with central heating used solid fuel as the main fuel for heating the dwelling; 37 per cent used oil, while the percentages using electricity or gas were approximately 5 per cent each. For about one in every five dwellings having central heating the central heating system was not the principal system used to heat the dwelling.