



Ireland Census and Census Substitutes

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What is a Census?

A census is an official count or survey of the population in a country. The information recorded varies from census to census. In Ireland the census was taken:

- Every 10 years
- Between 1801-1911

What Happened to the Irish Census Records?

- Census years 1801-1891 were mostly destroyed
- Censuses from 1821-1851 are called Fragments and are available on FamilySearch.org and other websites
- The 1901 and 1911 are complete, indexed and imaged
- Census substitutes are a way to fill in the gaps of early census loss.

What is a Census Substitute?

Any list that places a person in a particular location in a specific time period. Some examples are:

- Land and property records
- Militia lists
- Religious censuses
- Tax lists
- Various compiled lists

Census and Census Substitutes

1901 and 1911 Complete Census

- Available online free from:
- The Nationalarchives.ie
- Irishgenealogy.ie
- By subscription through:
- Ancestry.com
- RootsIreland.ie

Large City Street Indexes available for the 1901 census in the British Reference Census are at the FHL.

FamilySearch Research Wiki pages for Census Fragments

- See the FamilySearch Research Wiki page *Ireland Census Fragments Available at the Family History Library* for a list of all census fragments for the 1821-1851 censuses. They are listed by county and then parish:
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Census_fragments_available_at_the_Family_History_Library.
- Indexes with digital images are also available in the FamilySearch Historical Records Collection:
https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list/?page=1®ion=UNITED_KINGDOM_Ireland&recordType=Census.

The Census of 1821

Government extracts exist for some parishes where all people were recorded. Fragments available at:

- www.FamilySearch.org
- www.findmypast.ie

The Census of 1831

Original census records shows heads of household. Census fragments for many parishes in Londonderry exist:

- www.FamilySearch.org
- www.findmypast.ie

See transcribed information on www.rootsireland.ie

The Census of 1841 and 1851

- www.findmypast.ie
- www.ancestry.com

Civil Registration

Beginning April 1, 1845

- Civil register office and non-Catholic marriage registration.

Beginning Jan. 1, 1864

- Birth, death and Catholic marriage registration.

Indexes and/or images available at the following websites

- Irishgenealogy.ie
- Geni.nidirect.gov.uk
- Rootsireland.ie
- FamilySearch.org

Church Records

Church records can provide: names, birth dates, baptisms, residences that could be compiled into a census substitute type of record. Access to these records are available on many websites. Transcribed information on www.rootsireland.ie, www.familysearch.org, www.ancestry.co.uk, www.irishgenealogy.ie, and www.findmypast.ie.

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has a great collection of Church Records for Belfast and Antrim areas of Ireland and also Presbyterian records www.ancestryireland.ie. These records are available for most places after 1850. The National Library of Ireland released free online access to images of Catholic Church parish records. Indexes to these church records are available from www.rootsireland.ie, www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk.

Land and Property Valuation

These records are especially useful from the 1820s onwards. There are gaps, but you can locate families residing on the same property for generations and therefore can trace lines from these valuation type records. They include the following:

- Tithe Applotment
- Griffiths Valuation
- Valuation lists (Revision Books) see Catalog on FamilySearch.org under each County
- After 1858 and later under Land and Property
 - www.familysearch.org
- Landed Estate Court Records, 1850-1885
 - www.findmypast.ie

Old Age Pension Claims

Irish census forms 1841 and 1851. The government used these forms to search the 1841 and 1851 censuses to prove the age of people applying for old age pensions. Birth certificates did not exist as civil registration of birth began in 1864.

The census search forms contain the applicant's name, address, residence in 1851 with county, barony, parish, townland and street originally captured at The National Archives of Ireland and the index was created by www.findmypast.ie also available on FamilySearch.org.

Dog Licence Registers 1866-1914

You can search more than 6 million dog licenses to find the colour, breed and gender of your ancestor's pet. You can also find the name and address of their owner. Available at www.findmypast.ie.

Directories

Irish directories list names, occupations and address. These can be used as a head of household census. Check the FamilySearch Catalog for availability by city and time period. Belfast and Ulster street directories are available at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-street-directories>.

Religious Census of 1766

Taken March and April 1766. This database is an index to fragments of the 1776 Religious Census of Ireland. The index covers over 11,000 heads of households, giving their names, parish and religion. Available at www.ancestry.com.

Irish Flax Growers List, 1796

As part of a government program to encourage linen trade, free spinning wheels or looms were granted to individuals planting at least one rood of flax ($\frac{1}{4}$ acre) on their land. The lists of those entitled to the awards, covering almost 60,000 individuals, were published in 1796, and record only the names of the individuals and the civil parish in which they lived. The majority, were in Ulster, but some names appear from every county except Dublin and Wicklow.

Reproductive Loan Fund Records, 1822-1854

Almost completely survived. After loans ceased in 1848, all records were returned to London and they are available at The National Archives in Kew (Series T/91). Index available at www.findmypast.ie. There are loan ledgers, repayment books and defaulters' books. The minimum information supplied is the name and address, but much additional detail is often given, notes on health, occupation, family circumstances and emigration.

Other Census Substitutes by County

See online Irish Ancestors

- www.johngrenham.com

There are lists of all different types of Census substitutes listed on this website. Choose **Browse** and then under **Records** choose **Census**. A drop down menu lists the following items and time periods:

- History
- 1901 and 1911
- 1901 and 1911 online
- Sixteenth and seventeenth century
- Eighteenth and nineteenth century

Under **Property & Valuations** see the following items:

- Irish place names
- Tithe Applotment
- Griffith's Valuation
- Griffith's Valuation online
- Valuation office
- Estate records

Other Census Substitutes

Undertakers, Muster Rolls, Depositions, Hearth Money Rolls, Dissenters' petitions, School Records, Freeholders and voters lists, and Electoral Records.

List of Census Substitutes

| <i>Type of record</i> | <i>Years</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Where to Find Them</i> |
|---|--|---|--|
| Muster Rolls | 1630, 1642 1698-1825 | Local militia; related primarily to large landed estates in Ulster. Tenison Grove's collection of Muster Rolls with Householders, Wills, Deeds, Parish Registers, https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/361776?availability=Family%20History%20Library Digital film | 1630 https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/479854?availability=Family%20History%20Library Digital film 1642 https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/280684?availability=Family%20History%20Library Digital book |
| Hearth Money Rolls | 1664-1666 | Based on number of hearths in a home. Lurgan Ancestry and Fáilte Romhat | http://www.lurganancestry.com/hearthtax.htm http://www.failteromhat.com/underCensus/Directories |
| Catholic Qualification Rolls, 1700-1845 | 18th and 19th Centuries | Lists of Catholics who took the Oath of Allegiance to the King and renounced their religion for the Church of Ireland. The National Archives of Ireland and findmypast.ie | http://census.nationalarchives.ie/search/cq/home.jsp http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/the-1831-tithe-defaulters |
| Freeholders List | 18th and 19th Centuries | Lists of people entitled to vote or who voted at elections. Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) | https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-freeholders-records |
| Memorials of Deeds, Conveyances, and Wills | 708-1929 | A memorial was the preservation or recording of a deed for registration. A conveyance was a document related to the transfer of property. Registry of Deeds Index Project and FamilySearch | http://irishdeedsindex.net/index.html https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/185720?availability=Family%20History%20Library |
| Elphin Diocesan Census | 1749 | Covered parts of Roscommon, Sligo, and Galway. Irish Genealogical Research Society and findmypast.ie | http://www.irishancestors.ie/?page_id=1688 http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/the-census-of-elphin-1749 |
| Religious Censuses | Taken 1740 & 1766 | Identified numbers of Catholics ("popish" = rebel) Covers only parts of selected counties (mostly Ulster). Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) | https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-name-search |
| Dissenters' Petitions | 1775 | Petitions to the Irish Parliament regarding the Act of 1774 which excluded dissenters from voting at vestry meetings of the Church of Ireland. Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) | https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-name-search |
| Irish Flax Growers List | 1796 | A government program for anyone who planted at least one rood of flax (¼ acre) entitled to a spinning wheel. Entries for every county but heavily Ulster. Fáilte Romhat, Lurganancestry.com, and Ancestry.com | http://www.failteromhat.com/flax1796.php http://www.lurganancestry.com/flaxlist.htm Armagh only www.ancestry.com |

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|---|-----------------------|--|---|
| <i>Belfast and Ulster Street Directories</i> | 1819 to 1900 | Search for a name, profession or street name. Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) | https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-street-directories |
| <i>Ireland Census Fragments</i> | 1821-1851 | Indexes and images of various surviving census fragments. See FamilySearch Wiki: https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/1144379?availability=Family%20History%20Library | https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list?page=1&countryId=1927084&recordType=Census www.findmypast.ie 1821-1831 www.findmypast.ie 1841 and 1851 www.ancestry.com www.findmypast.ie |
| <i>Poverty Relief Loans (Irish Reproductive Loan Fund)</i> | 1821-1874 | Loan applications which include the name of the borrower and the two names of guarantors who may have been close family members or neighbours. From The National Archives at Kew in England. | www.findmypast.ie |
| <i>Tithe Defaulters List</i> | 1831 | Tithe Defaulter List is an index to the full list of tithe defaulters recorded for a parish in the order they appear on the original document. findmypast.ie, Myheritage.com, Fáilte Romhat | http://search.findmypast.ie/search-world-Records/the-1831-tithe-defaulters https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10285/ireland-tithe-defaulters-1831 http://www.failteromhat.com/tithe1831.php Cork only |
| <i>Tithe Applotment Books</i> | 1823-1837 | Tax record. Contains heads of households only - both those who leased land & those who owned land; few records for cities/large towns (contains only 40% of all heads of households) National Archives of Ireland and FamilySearch | http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/index.jsp https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1804886?collectionNameFilter=false |
| <i>Griffith's Valuation</i> | 1848-1864 | Tax records. Contains heads of households only - both those who leased land & those who owned land; estimated coverage of 80-90% of all heads of households. Ask About Ireland.ie and FamilySearch Original notebooks used to value property: Field Books, Tenure Books, House Books and Quarto Books – Digital at FamilySearch.org | http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2329951?collectionNameFilter=false https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/1149346?availability=Family%20History%20Library |
| <i>Republic of Ireland Revision Lists</i> | 1850s to 1940s | Valuation Lists (also known as Cancel Books, Revision Lists) lists of occupiers kept subsequent to Primary Valuation; able to trace a tenement held from generation to generation. Not available digitally. | https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/results?count=20&query=%2Bkeywords%3Aireland%20%2Bkeywords%3Arevision%20%2Bkeywords%3Alists |
| <i>Northern Ireland Annual Revision Lists</i> | | Valuation Revision Books (VAL 12B) 1863-1930s. Digital at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) | http://apps.proni.gov.uk/Val12B/Search.aspx Leave the place name search blank and put in the county and parish to see list of townlands. |
| <i>Landed Estate Court Rentals</i> | 1850-1885 | Information about land occupation during the 19 th century. Includes advertisements for both incumbered and unincumbered landed estates being offered for sale. Includes descriptions of the estates, names of the owners, the tenants | https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/1144379?availability=Family%20History%20Library Landowner names indexed at the beginning of each volume. |

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| | | and rents charged. Most advertisements include maps of the estates. findmypast.ie and FamilySearch | http://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/landed-estates-court-rentals-1850-1885 |
| Old Age Pension Claims 1908-1922 | Based on 1841 and 1851 census information | Based on searches made in 1841 & 1851 censuses (before destroyed). National Archives of Ireland, Ancestry.com, and FamilySearch | http://censussearchforms.nationalarchives.ie/search/cs/home.jsp www.ancestry.com https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/464691?availability=Family%20History%20Library Some films digital |
| Landowners List | 1876 | A list of landowners who held at least one acre of land. Fáilte Romhat and FamilySearch | http://www.failteromhat.com/lo1876.htm |
| The Landowners of Ireland | Published in 1878 | An alphabetical list of the owners of estates of 500 acres or £500 valuation and upwards in Ireland with the acreage and valuation in each county. FamilySearch | https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/286069?availability=Family%20History%20Library Scroll down to click on the camera |
| Ireland Census | 1901 and 1911 | Complete for all of the Republic and Northern Ireland with images | http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/ |
| Ulster Covenant | 1912 | List of protesters to the Third Home Rule Bill by the British Government. Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) | https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-ulster-covenant |
| Dog Licence Registers | Unknown | Database containing 7 million dog licences for Ireland. Will give the colour, breed and gender of the pet. You may also find the name and address of the dog owner. | www.findmypast.ie |

Online Sources

- FamilySearch Research Wiki Ireland Genealogy: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Genealogy
- FamilySearch Research Wiki Ireland Online Genealogy Records: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Online_Genealogy_Records
- Irish Genealogy Toolkit: <http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/>
- Irish Ancestors John Grenham: www.johngrenham.com
- Irishgenealogy General Register Office GRO: www.irishgenealogy.ie
- General Register Office of Northern Ireland GRONI: <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/>
- findmypast: www.findmypast.ie
- Ancestry: www.ancestry.com
- RootsIreland: www.rootsireland.ie
- National Library of Ireland: <http://www.nli.ie/en/parish-register.aspx>
- The National Archives of Ireland: <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy1/genealogy-records/introduction/>
- The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/public-record-office-northern-ireland-proni/search-archives-online>

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