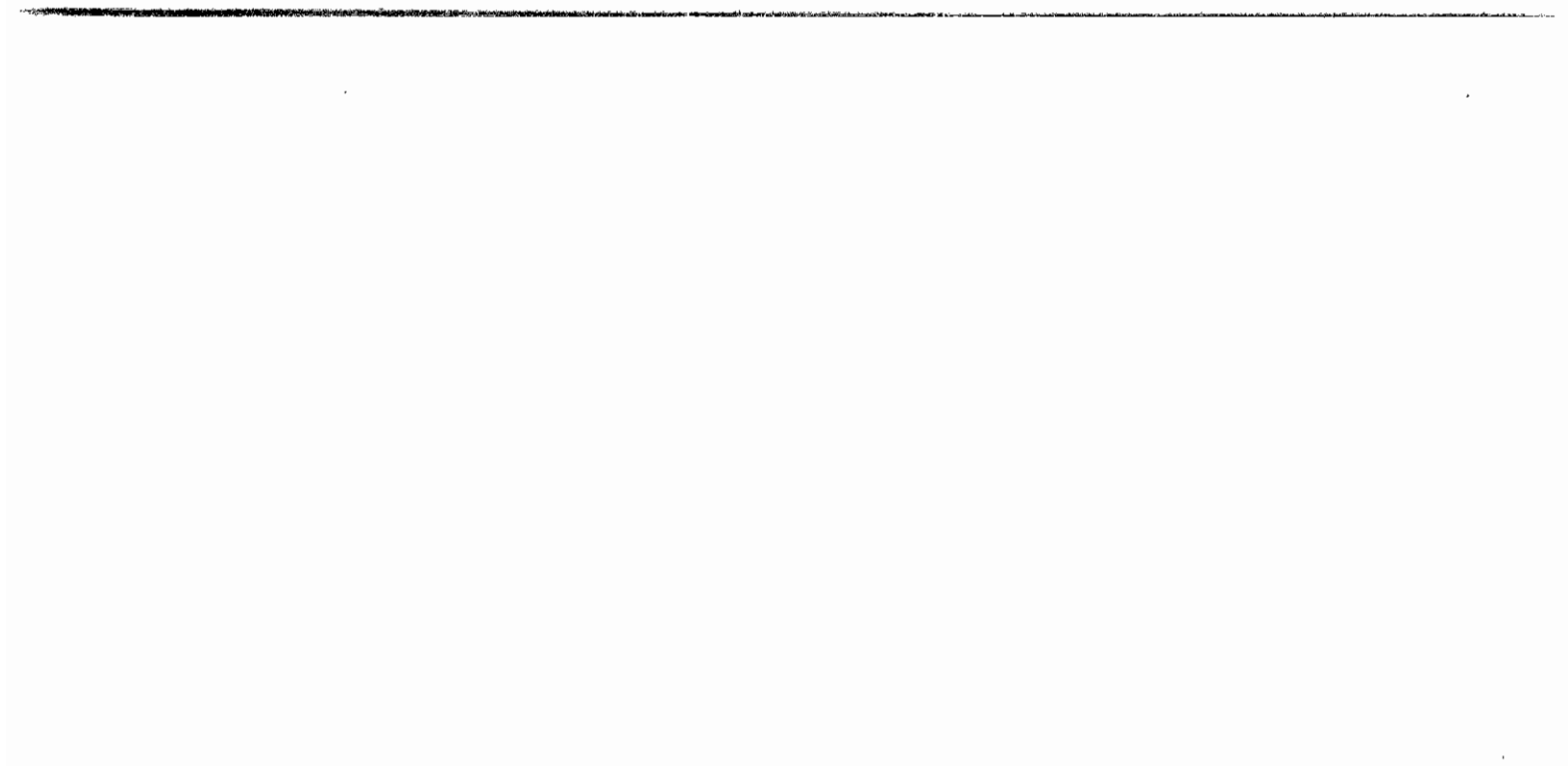




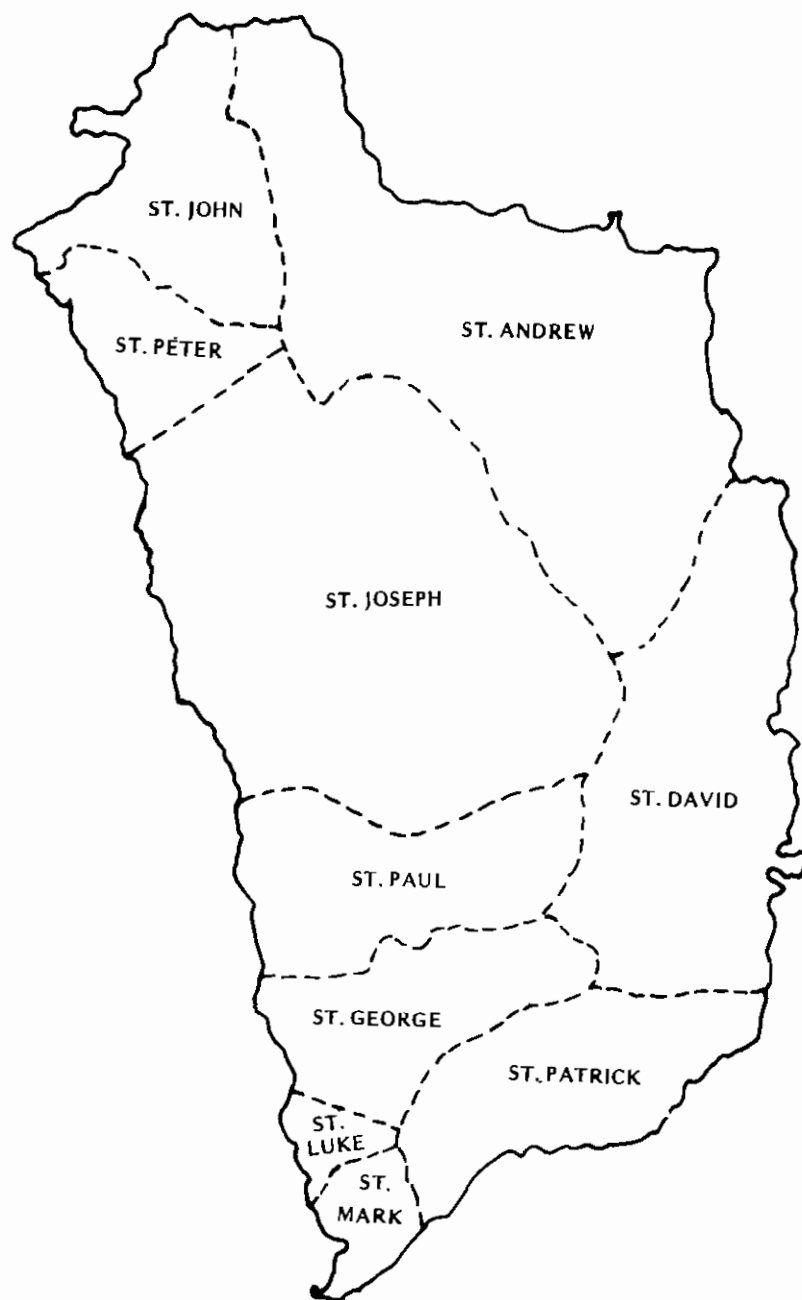
# 1980-1981 POPULATION CENSUS of the COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN



DOMINICA  
VOLUME 3



# DOMINICA



AREA: 772 KM<sup>2</sup>

Map outline prepared by the CARICOM Secretariat



## P R E F A C E

Pursuant to a mandate of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians, preliminary analyses of the 1980/81 Population Censuses have been undertaken.

These analyses have been done for eleven English-speaking Caribbean countries, namely, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, St. Christopher/Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, British Virgin Islands, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, for whom the processing of census data has been undertaken at a Regional Processing Centre established for the purpose in Barbados. The analyses are intended for use by policy makers in their work in the various sectors. Topics which are covered include: population size and growth, demographic characteristics, economic activity, education, race and religion, marriage and union status, fertility, and housing and households.

The Caribbean Community wishes to thank Ms. Basia Zaba, Demographer of Centro Latinoamericano de Demografía (CELADE) attached to the ECLAC Caribbean Office, who co-ordinated the production of the analyses, some of which she did herself, and the British Overseas Development Administration which provided financial assistance thereby enabling the Secretariat to utilize the services of Mr. Colin Newell. The valuable work done by Mr. Newell, Mrs. Olney Daly-Hill and Mr. Alison Forte in preparing country analyses is highly appreciated.

The Caribbean Community also takes this opportunity of recording its gratitude to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development for financial support for the processing and printing phases of the programme and to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) for the provision of the actual printing services .

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Rainford', is written in a cursive style.

R. RAINFORD  
SECRETARY-GENERAL  
Caribbean Community Secretariat



# DOMINICA

## PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF 1981 CENSUS DATA

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COLIN NEWELL, CPS,  
AND  
BASIA ZABA, CELADE

Port of Spain,  
January, 1985





## SECTION A

### POPULATION SIZE AND GROWTH

The population census of Dominica, held on 7th April 1981, was originally planned to take place in May 1981, simultaneously with the other countries participating in the Regional Census Programme, but the widespread destruction and disruption caused by hurricane David in August 1979 forced a postponement for a year.

TABLE A1

DOMINICA

#### Population Totals, 1981 Census

	Male	Female	Total
Enumerated in "Visitation records"	37327	37524	74851
Residents abroad on census night			226
Estimated de-facto population			74625
Non-residents enumerated	46	20	66
Estimated resident population	37281	37504	74785
Institutional population excluded from tables *			417
Refusals, non-contacts, spoilt questionnaires			347
Total "tabulable" population	36754	37041	73795

\* mainly prisoners and hospital patients

Sources : Dominica Statistics Office and unpublished census tables

The population enumerated by the census was 74,851 persons. This total, which is derived from a manual count of the Visitation Records' compiled by enumerators during the three weeks prior to Census Day, is somewhat larger than the figure of 73,795 persons on which the tabulations are based. The difference is partly a consequence of the failure to complete questionnaires for some persons, either because of non-contacts or refusals, and partly because of the deliberate exclusion from the tabulations of tourists, businessmen and others temporarily on the island, of residents of Dominica who were absent abroad on Census night, and those enumerated in certain institutions such as hospitals and prisons. Table A1 attempts to describe in more detail the difference between the enumerated and 'tabulable' population and also shows approximate estimates of the de facto and respondent populations. It should be remembered that a small number of Dominicans will inevitably have been omitted from both the tabulations and the enumerated totals, either because they were temporarily out of the country (seamen, diplomats, students, contract workers, tourists etc.), or because of

evasion and errors. To the extent that this has occurred the resident population will be slightly under estimated.

TABLE A2

DOMINICA

Population Size and Growth, 1871 to 1981

Census date	Population			Sex	Population growth	
	Male	Female	Total	Ratio	Average annual increase	Exponntl. rate % pa.
1871	12737	14441	27178	0.88		
1881	12867	15344	28211	0.84	103	0.37
1891	12059	14782	26841	0.82	-137	-0.50
01-Apr 1901	12870	16024	28894	0.80	205	0.74
03-Apr 1911	15231	18632	33863	0.82	497	1.59
24-Apr 1921	16760	20299	37059	0.83	318	0.90
09-Apr 1946	22277	25347	47624	0.88	423	1.00
07-Apr 1960	28167	31749	59916	0.89	878	1.64
07-Apr 1970	33376	36838	70214	0.91	1030	1.59
07-Apr 1981	37281	37504	74785	0.99	416	0.57

---

Sources : 1871 - 1946 : West Indian Census, 1946, part H, table 1  
 1960 : Census vol II, summary tables, #1  
 1970 : Census vol 3, table A, (resident population)  
 1981 : see table A1

Table A2 shows the total population of Dominica at each census from 1871 to 1981, together with sex ratios and intercensal growth rates. The basis and reliability of the early censuses is uncertain, but the figures suggest that between 1871 and 1901 there was little or no population growth, the population total fluctuating around 28,000. Thereafter growth was more rapid, attaining a peak of 1.64% per annum during 1946-1960 so that the total population reached almost 60,000 in 1960. During the sixties rapid growth continued and the figure rose to over 70,000 by 1970. Since then, however, there has been a substantial slowing down in the rate of growth from 1.6% to 0.6% per annum, so that between 1970 and 1981 the population grew by just 4,600 to 74,851.

A sex breakdown of these figures reveals, remarkably, that nearly all of the increase during the 1970's has been among males. Only 600 of the overall 4,600 increase was of females. This has meant that the sex ratio, expressed here as the number of males per 100 females, has risen rapidly from 91 in 1970 to 99 in 1981, having increased only very slowly during the first 70 years of the century from 80 in 1901.

Just as the low sex ratios of the past were a consequence of sex-selective emigration, a characteristic of many Caribbean populations, so the dramatic change in the sex ratio since 1970 is the consequence of changes in the sex composition of net migration flows.

TABLE A3

DOMINICA

Components of Population Change : 1970 to 1981

	Males	Females	Total
Population in 1970	33376	36838	70214
Population in 1981	37281	37504	74785
Intercensal change	3905	666	4571
Registered births 1970 - 1981	11337	10724	22061
Registered deaths 1970 - 1981	2663	2665	5328
Natural increase 1970 - 1981	8674	8059	16733
Implied net migration	-4769	-7393	-12162

---

sources : populations as in table A2

registration data from Dominica statistical office

note : registered events include all those registered in 1971 to 1979 and half of those registered in 1970 and 1981

negative net migration implies an excess of emigrants over immigrants

Table A3 derives an estimate of net intercensal migration by subtracting the natural increase (births - deaths) from the intercensal increase. This shows that there was a net migration of 12,162 outwards in the intercensal interval - equivalent to an average annual net migration rate of 1.6% outwards, implying that emigration from Dominica has continued at the same high level as in the 60's. The table also shows that the net migration figure for women (7,393 outwards) is over 50% higher than that for men (4,769 outwards). The sex composition of the migration flow has thus changed dramatically since the 50's and 60's, when it was male dominated.

Table A4 shows the population size and growth rates during roughly the period 1970 to 1981 for other countries in the Commonwealth Caribbean. It should be noted that many of the figures in this table use slightly different bases, are of a provisional nature or relate to years other than 1970 and 1980. There may also be problems of incomplete coverage in one or two countries in either or both the earlier and later censuses. These factors may significantly affect the calculated growth rates. If all the countries are ranked according to growth rate, Dominica comes more or less in the middle - this is true whether one considers all the countries which took part in the census programme, only the CARICOM countries, or only the OECS countries. Of the OECS countries, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the British Virgin Islands had higher growth rates than Dominica; Montserrat, St. Kitts and Grenada had lower growth rates.

TABLE A4

DOMINICA

Population Size and Growth Rates, Commonwealth Caribbean, 1970 - 1980

Country	Population		Growth rate (% pa.)	Notes
	1970	1980		
Antigua and Barbuda	64794		NA	(i)
Bahamas	168812	209505	2.14	(ii)
Barbados	236891	247129	0.42	(iii)
Belize	120670	145318	1.84	(iii)
Bermuda	54273	54670	0.08	(iii), (viii)
British Virgin Islands	9765	10985	1.17	(ix)
Cayman Islands	10087	16677	5.23	(iii), (iv)
Dominica	70214	74785	0.57	(iii), (v)
Grenada	93622	89757	-0.38	(vi), (x)
Guyana	701718	759567	0.78	(iii)
Jamaica	1848512	2190357	1.40	(vii), (ii)
Montserrat	11498	11606	0.09	(iii)
St. Kitts and Nevis	44884	43309	-0.35	(ix)
St. Lucia	100583	115252	1.35	(iii)
St. Vincent	86944	98035	1.19	(iii)
Trinidad and Tobago	938506	1059047	1.20	(ii)
Turks and Caicos Islands	5584	7424	2.98	(iii), (viii)

sources : 1970 - census vol. 3, table A, "tabulable" + "institutional"  
 1980 - provisional totals released by census offices  
 resident populations from unpublished census tables

notes : (i) did not take a census - official estimate for 1980 is 75235, implying a growth rate of 1.49%  
 (ii) provisional total  
 (iii) resident population  
 (iv) census held in November, 1979  
 (v) census held 7th April 1981  
 (vi) census held 30th April 1981  
 (vii) census held 8th June 1982  
 (viii) 1970 census held 25th October, not April 7th  
 (ix) tabulated population - estimate of residents not available  
 (x) civilian population - estimate of residents not available

**SECTION B****DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**

The age and sex distributions of the population in 1960, 1970 and 1981 are given in Table B1, and the 1981 distribution is also shown graphically in the age pyramid in Figure B1, and in percentage form in table B3.

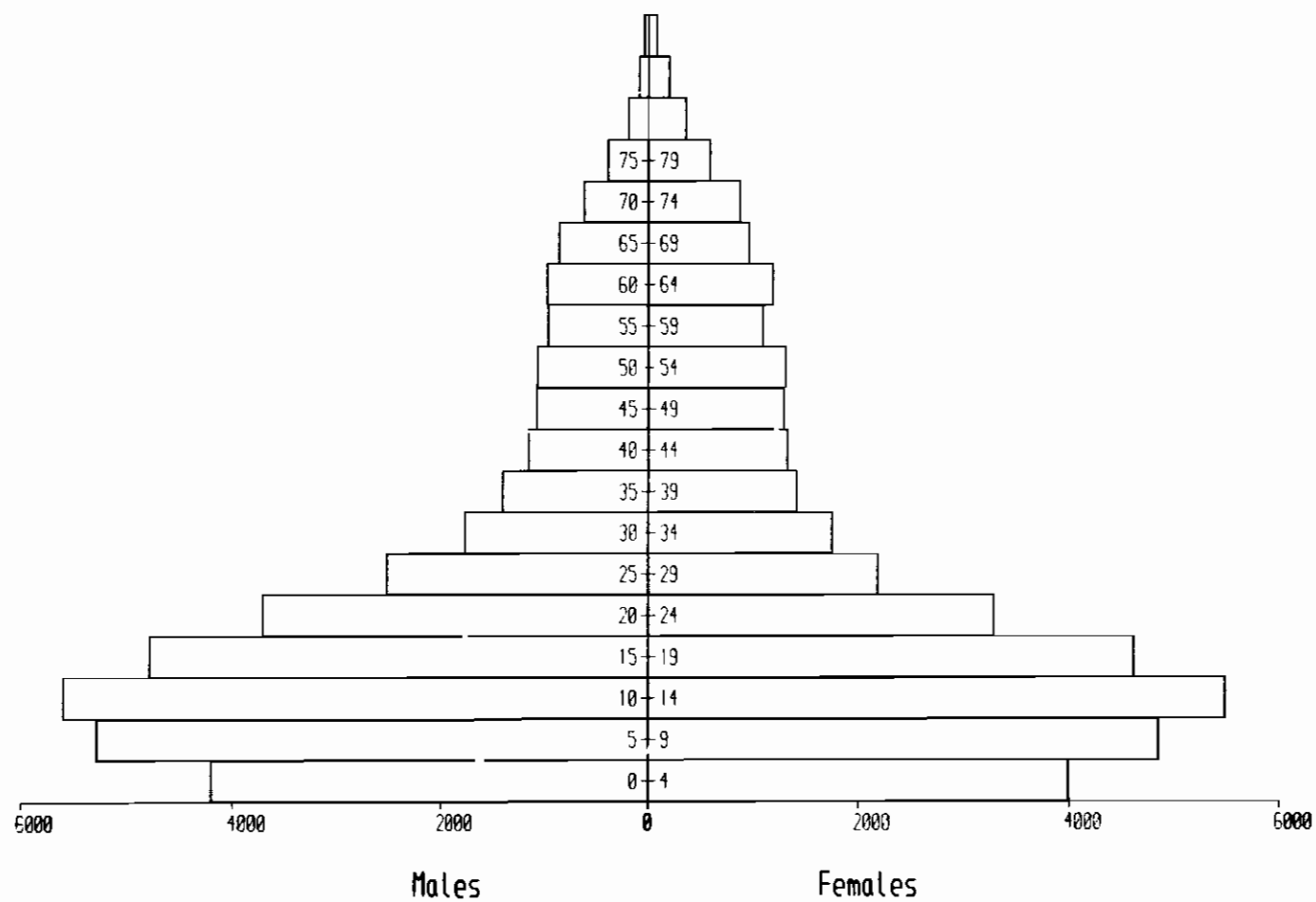
**TABLE B1****DOMINICA****Population by Sex and Five Year Age Group, 1960, 1970 and 1981**

Age group	1960			1970			1981		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0- 4	5713	5487	11200	6223	6278	12501	4202	3994	8196
5- 9	4287	4322	8609	5951	5886	11837	5277	4850	10127
10-14	3555	3438	6993	5030	4750	9780	5595	5488	11083
15-19	2566	2764	5330	3235	3563	6798	4779	4611	9390
20-24	1988	2491	4479	2269	2599	4868	3722	3286	7008
25-29	1565	1954	3519	1392	1718	3110	2521	2190	4711
30-34	1278	1584	2862	1123	1492	2615	1764	1755	3519
35-39	1222	1515	2737	1139	1527	2666	1404	1416	2820
40-44	1185	1487	2672	1132	1354	2486	1133	1328	2461
45-49	1183	1323	2506	1069	1345	2414	1058	1292	2350
50-54	1028	1335	2363	1097	1374	2471	1051	1311	2362
55-59	737	1059	1796	911	1168	2079	950	1097	2047
60-64	646	904	1550	848	975	1823	959	1190	2149
65-69	445	667	1112	601	925	1526	850	962	1812
70-74	351	571	922	406	642	1048	611	872	1483
75-79	207	370	577	257	390	647	383	584	967
80-84	125	269	394	171	299	470	191	357	548
85+	86	209	295	114	296	410	149	332	481
n.s.							155	126	281
<b>Total</b>	<b>28167</b>	<b>31749</b>	<b>59916</b>	<b>32968</b>	<b>36581</b>	<b>69549</b>	<b>36754</b>	<b>37041</b>	<b>73795</b>

sources : 1960 census, vol II, summary tables  
 1970 census vol 3, age tabulations  
 1981 census, table 1.1

Considering the 1981 figures first, the population is a young one with 40% of the population aged under 15 and only 8% aged 65 or more. The undercutting of the pyramid in the 0 - 4 and 5 - 9 age group is a consequence of the substantial decline in the birth rate which has taken place in Dominica during the 1970's, while the sharp decreases in numbers between ages 15 and 30, are a product of heavy emigration at these ages, though it may also reflect to some extent the reductions in infant and child mortality during the 1960's. The very slight decreases in the size

Fig 81: Dominica 1981 age structure by Five year age groups.



of age groups between ages 40 and 70 suggest that the higher mortality at these ages is being balanced by return migration, though earlier emigration patterns and age exaggeration at older ages may also have some impact.

TABLE B2

DOMINICA

Sex Ratios 1960, 1970, and 1981

Age group	Sex ratios (males per 100 females)		
	1960	1970	1981
0- 4	104	99	105
5- 9	99	101	109
10-14	103	106	102
15-19	93	91	104
20-24	80	87	113
25-29	80	81	115
30-34	81	75	101
35-39	81	75	99
40-44	80	84	85
45-49	89	79	82
50-54	77	80	80
55-59	70	78	87
60-64	71	87	81
65-69	67	65	88
70-74	61	63	70
75-79	56	66	66
80-84	46	57	54
85+	41	39	45
n.s.			123
Total	89	90	99

---

Source : Calculated from Table B1

The sex ratios for 1981, given in Table B2 do not show the steady decline with age encountered in most populations which is caused by the generally lighter mortality of females than males at all ages. Instead the pattern is irregular, a consequence of sex-selective migration. The relatively heavy emigration rates among females in their twenties, or possibly lower emigration among males, has produced a particularly marked distortion, with sex ratios as high as 115 men per 100 women in the 25 - 29 age group. The irregular ratios at older ages may be partly caused by small numbers.

Comparing the 1981 distribution with that for 1970 emphasises the dramatic effect that the changes in migration patterns have had on the age structure. The number of males in their twenties in 1970 was only 3,661, while in 1981 it was 70% greater at 6,243. In contrast, for females in the same age range the figures were 4,317 in 1970 and

5,476 in 1981, an increase of only 27%. A broader comparison of the age distribution in 1960, 1970 and 1981 is shown in Table B4. This reveals that the proportion of the population aged under 15 rose between 1960 and 1970 from 45% to 50% while by 1981 it had dropped to 40%. Correspondingly, the relative size of the 15 - 44 age group first fell during the 1960's and then rose to well above the 1960 level during the seventies indicating that both the labour force, and the number of potential mothers has been increasing in size faster than the population as a whole. The number of elderly, though still small, is rising slowly. In 1960 the number over 65 was 3,300 while in 1981 it was, 5,300.

TABLE B3

DOMINICA

Percentage Distribution of the Population by Age, 1981

Age group	Males	Females	Total
0- 4	11.4	10.8	11.1
5- 9	14.4	13.1	13.7
10-14	15.2	14.8	15.0
15-19	13.0	12.4	12.7
20-24	10.1	8.9	9.5
25-29	6.9	5.9	6.4
30-34	4.8	4.7	4.8
35-39	3.8	3.8	3.8
40-44	3.1	3.6	3.3
45-49	2.9	3.5	3.2
50-54	2.9	3.5	3.2
55-59	2.6	3.0	2.8
60-64	2.6	3.2	2.9
65-69	2.3	2.6	2.5
70-74	1.7	2.4	2.0
75-79	1.0	1.6	1.3
80-84	0.5	1.0	0.7
85+	0.4	0.9	0.7
n.s.	0.4	0.3	0.4
Total =100%	36754	37041	73795

-----  
Source : calculated from table B1

One overall consequence of these changes in age structure during the 1970's has been a decline in the proportion of the population that is dependent, as estimated by the proportion aged under 15 and 65 or over, from 55% to 47%.

Table B5 shows the population by major area in 1960, 1970 and 1981. It reveals that the increases in population have been spread very unevenly through the island. In fact, despite the overall growth, a number of parishes experienced slight population declines between 1970



TABLE B4

DOMINICA

Population by Broad Age Group, 1960, 1970 and 1981

Age group	Percent		
	1960	1970	1981
0 - 14	44.7	49.1	39.8
15 - 44	36.0	32.4	40.5
45 - 64	13.7	12.6	12.1
65+	5.5	5.9	7.2
n.s.	0.0	0.0	0.4
Total (=100%)	59916	69549	73795

source : calculated from table B1

TABLE B5

DOMINICA

Population by Area, 1960, 1970, 1981

Area	Numbers			Percent			% change	
	1960	1970	1981	1960	1970	1981	60-70	70-80
Roseau twm	10417	9949	8279	17.4	14.3	11.2	-4.5	-16.8
St George rem	6128	9521	12222	10.2	13.7	16.6	55.4	28.4
St John	4658	5227	5412	7.8	7.5	7.3	12.2	3.5
St Peter	1702	1701	1601	2.8	2.4	2.2	-0.1	-5.9
St Joseph	5507	6362	6606	9.2	9.1	9.0	15.5	3.8
St Paul	4156	4456	6386	6.9	6.4	8.7	7.2	43.3
St Luke	1590	1633	1503	2.7	2.3	2.0	2.7	-8.0
St Mark	1936	1961	1921	3.2	2.8	2.6	1.3	-2.0
St Patrick	8880	10095	9780	14.8	14.5	13.3	13.7	-3.1
St David	5210	6706	7337	8.7	9.6	9.9	28.7	9.4
St Andrew	9732	11937	12748	16.2	17.2	17.3	22.7	6.8
DOMINICA	59916	69548	73795	100.0	100.0	100.0	16.1	6.1

sources : 1960 census vol II, table 1  
 1970 census, vol 3, section C  
 1981 census, table 1.1

note : changes in area boundaries may affect comparability over time

and 1981. Roseau town itself experienced a more rapid decline of 1,700 or 17%, but this was more than balanced by a substantial increase in the rest of St. George parish. This is probably due to different boundaries being used in 1970 and 1981. There has also been a large increase of

over 40% in neighbouring St. Paul. The east coast parishes of St. Patrick, St. David and St. Andrew which grew relatively rapidly during the 1960's experienced a substantial slowing down during the 1970's, and the population of St. Patrick declined slightly.

TABLE B6

DOMINICA

Population Density by Area, 1981

Area	Land area (km)	Population	Density
St George	59.1	20501	347
St John	62.2	5412	87
St Peter	36.0	1601	44
St Joseph	124.6	6606	53
St Paul	69.9	6386	91
St Luke	11.4	1503	132
St Mark	14.2	1921	135
St Patrick	91.2	9780	107
St David	132.3	7337	55
St Andrew	189.1	12748	67
DOMINICA	790.0	73795	93

-----  
 Sources : 1981 census, table 1.1  
 and Dominica statistical office

Population densities of the major areas are shown in table B6. With the exception of St. George, St. Paul and St. Peter, the areas with the highest population densities (100+) have lost population, and those with lower densities have had increases in population since 1970.

The proportion of persons resident in each area who were also born there are shown in Table B7. The two areas which showed the biggest intercensal growth, St. George and St. Paul, show the largest proportions of "in-migrants", as might be expected, but of the other areas with large proportions of persons born outside : Roseau town, St. John, St. Joseph and St. Luke; two - Roseau town and St. Luke - have actually declined in size since 1970. This indicates that internal migration patterns in Dominica are complex and changing.

The proportion of the overall population of Dominica that is foreign born is very small, and, as Table B8 shows, has declined in absolute numbers since 1960 to just 1,757 persons in 1981, just 0.4% of the total population. This figure includes persons of Dominican origin born abroad and it should be remembered that these figures cannot be used directly to measure immigration because they exclude both immigrants who subsequently left again or died before the census, and Dominican born persons who left Dominica but subsequently returned.

TABLE B7

DOMINICA

Population by Area of Residence and Area of Birth

Area of residence	Area of birth			Total numbers (=100%)
	Area of residence	Elsewhere in country	Outside country	
Roseau twm	66.9	29.3	3.8	8279
St George rem	61.0	34.9	4.1	12222
St John	80.0	16.7	3.3	5412
St Peter	90.1	8.4	1.5	1601
St Joseph	83.2	14.8	2.0	6606
St Paul	69.9	27.5	2.6	6386
St Luke	76.0	19.2	4.8	1503
St Mark	90.7	7.9	1.4	1921
St Patrick	94.8	4.2	1.0	9780
St David	93.5	5.7	0.8	7337
St Andrew	90.5	7.9	1.6	12748
DOMINICA	97.6		2.4	73795

---

 Source : 1981 census, table 4.1

TABLE B8

DOMINICA

Foreign Born Population by Sex, 1960 to 1981

Year	males	females	both sexes
1960	1178	1221	2399
1981	893	864	1757

---

 sources : 1960 Census, vol II, table 7  
 1981 Census, table 3.1

A breakdown of the foreign born by birthplace is given in Table B9. A total of 867 persons were born in other Caribbean countries and the number of immigrants from the metropolitan countries: United Kingdom, USA and Canada is 450. Since there was no space on the census questionnaire to record immigrants in 1981, enumerators were instructed to include these with 1980 arrivals, which is one of the reasons why the immigrant arrivals for the year and a half before the census appear so large compared with figures for earlier years.

The age structure of the foreign born is distinctly older than that of the rest of the population. Table B10 shows that only one quarter is aged under 15 compared with 40% in the population as a whole.

TABLE B9

DOMINICA

Foreign Born Population by Country of Birth and Year of Immigration

Country of birth	Year of immigration								Total
	Before 1970	1970 -72	1973 -74	1975 -76	1977 -78	1979	1980 -81	not stated	
Antigua	98	6	8	10	10	7	12	16	167
Montserrat	66	1			3		2	9	81
Fr. west Indies	103	7	5	5	4	13	37	28	202
Other Caribbean	233	22	24	21	18	16	36	47	417
U. K.	111	25	12	6	12	10	17	13	206
U. S. A.	9	8	3	10	19	9	122	11	191
Canada	13	3	1	2	5	5	21	3	53
Elsewhere	173	11	12	16	20	15	81	63	391
Not stated	15	3			5	1	5	20	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>1757</b>

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 source : 1981 Census, table 3.3

TABLE B10

DOMINICA

Foreign Born Population by Sex and Age Group

Age group	percentage distribution		
	Males	Females	Total
0 - 14	22.7	25.2	24.0
15 - 44	50.8	42.8	46.9
45 - 64	17.9	16.7	17.3
65+	8.2	14.6	11.3
not stated	0.4	0.7	0.5
<b>Total no. (=100%)</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>1757</b>

---

 Source : 1981 census, table 3.1

SECTION CECONOMIC ACTIVITY

All persons aged 15 and over were asked a series of question about their economic activity during both the 12 month before the census and during the week immediately preceding the enumeration. However, those attending school full-time have been excluded from all economic activity tabulations. The term "adult" in this section thus refers to those aged 15 or over who are not currently attending primary or secondary school full-time and all tables are based on this population.

TABLE C1

DOMINICA

Economic Activity During the Week Before the Census, 1970 and 1981

Week's activity	Males				Females			
	number		percent		number		percent	
	1970	1981	1970	1981	1970	1981	1970	1981
Economically active	12884	16698	85.8	81.6	7551	8635	40.2	41.1
Worked	11407	13506	76.0	66.0	6398	6512	34.0	31.0
With job not working	513	502	3.4	2.5	372	186	2.0	0.9
Looked for work	964	2690	6.4	13.2	781	1937	4.2	9.2
Economically inactive	1604	2385	10.7	11.7	10763	11659	57.3	55.5
Home duties	102	361	0.7	1.8	8636	9024	45.9	42.9
Student	54	224	0.4	1.1	77	228	0.4	1.1
Retired	423	749	2.8	3.7	607	961	3.2	4.6
Disabled	1025	1051	6.8	5.1	1443	1446	7.7	6.9
Other and not stated	524	1372	3.5	6.7	481	720	2.6	3.4
Total	15012	20455	100.0	100.0	18795	21014	100.0	100.0

Sources : 1970 Census, Vol 4, part 6, table 1  
1981 Census, table 2.1

Table C1 shows the adult population classified by the economic activity engaged in during the week before the census. Table C2 which, in its broad features, is very similar to Table C1, shows the main activity carried out during the year before the census. In comparing these tables it is important to realise, firstly, that the table based on the previous week's activity may be substantially affected by seasonal employment fluctuations, unlike the year's activity table. Secondly, the question asking about the previous twelve months categorises the population according to which activity they were engaged in for the greatest part of that year, while the question about the previous week

gives priority to the categories "worked", "With job not working" and "Looked for work" (See the Explanatory Notes, Sections 4.6). The extent to which these precise instructions were followed by enumerators is impossible to assess. For example, it is probable that some persons who worked for say two days per week during the whole year would state that their main activity during that year was "Worked". In this and similar ways the extent of unemployment and under employment may be under-estimated. It should also be cautioned that comparison of the 1981 figures with earlier censuses may be affected by changing perceptions of what constitutes economic activity, or different instructions being given to enumerators. The definition of precisely what constitutes economic activity, is notoriously difficult, particularly for females.

TABLE C2

DOMINICA

Economic Activity During the Year Before the Census, 1970 and 1981

Main activity	Males				Females			
	number		percent		number		percent	
	1970	1981	1970	1981	1970	1981	1970	1981
Economically active	13210	16602	88.0	81.2	7961	8921	42.4	42.5
Worked	12293	13961	81.9	68.3	7159	6816	38.1	32.4
Seeking first job	614	1299	4.1	6.4	460	1027	2.4	4.9
Others seeking work	193	514	1.3	2.5	192	359	1.0	1.7
Wanted work & avlble	110	828	0.7	4.0	150	719	0.8	3.4
Economically inactive	1496	2258	10.0	11.0	10607	11255	56.4	53.6
Home duties	99	280	0.7	1.4	8564	8551	45.6	40.7
Student	98	283	0.7	1.4	125	293	0.7	1.4
Retired	1299	751	8.7	3.7	1918	1005	10.2	4.8
Disabled		944	0.0	4.6		1406	0.0	6.7
Other and not stated	306	1595	2.0	7.8	227	838	1.2	4.0
Total	15012	20455	100.0	100.0	18795	21014	100.0	100.0

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Sources : 1970 Census, Vol 4, part 6, table 2  
1981 Census, table 2.2

If the economically active population is defined as those who worked, looked for work, or had a job but did not work during the week before the census, then its total size is 25,333 persons, of which two-thirds are male and one-third female. This constitutes 34% of the overall population of Dominica and 61% of the adult population. At the previous census in 1970 the economically active population, using the same definition, was 20,435. The increase during the period 1970-81 was thus 4,898 or 24%, which is several times greater than the overall

population growth of 6.6%, but identical to the increase in the size of the population of working ages, 15 to 64 years. This implies that the comparatively rapid increase in the size of the economically active population is predominantly a consequence of changing age structure rather than a rise in labour force participation rates. This conclusion is broadly confirmed by Table C1 which shows that the participation rate among adult males has actually declined slightly from 85.8% in 1970 to 81.6% in 1981, while among females there has only been a very slight increase from 40.2% to 41.1%. Comparable figures derived from the question on years rather than weeks activity are very similar.

The number of persons who, in 1981 stated that they looked for work during the previous week was 4,627. This constitutes an overall unemployment rate among the economically active of 18.3%. It should be noted that this figure excludes those who only worked for part of the week. Alternatively, if the data based on main activity during the previous 12 months are used, and the unemployed are defined as those seeking their first job, others seeking work, and those who wanted work and were available, then their total number is slightly greater at 4,746 or 18.6% of those economically active. The very small difference between the two figures suggests that seasonal factors have probably not affected substantially the figures relating to the previous week, though the differences mentioned above between yearly and weekly questions complicate such a comparison.

TABLE C3

DOMINICA

Percent Unemployed Among the Economically Active, 1970 and 1981Based on Previous Week's Activity

		Males	Females	Both Sexes
All adults	1970	7.5	10.3	8.5
	1981	16.1	22.4	18.3

Based on Main Activity in Previous Year

		Males	Females	Both Sexes
All adults	1970	6.9	10.1	8.1
	1981	15.9	23.6	18.6
Heads of households	1970	1.1	2.6	1.6
	1981	4.8	9.2	5.9
Non-household heads	1970	14.9	14.3	14.6
	1981	28.4	30.2	29.2

---

Source : calculated from tables C1, C2, and 68

A breakdown of the unemployment rates by sex, together with comparable figures for 1970 are given in Table C3, it reveals, firstly, that unemployment among females is roughly 50% higher than among males. It is shown later that this is in part because the female economically active population is concentrated in the age groups where unemployment is highest. Secondly, it shows that unemployment has more than doubled since 1970 from about 8% to over 18% in 1981; and that this increase has been experienced equally by both males and females. Also shown in the lower part of Table C3 are unemployment rates separately for those adults who are heads of households and those who are not. While the proportion of heads of households who are economically active is much the same as for all adults (see Tables C2 and C8) a substantially higher proportion stated that their main activity during the previous year was "worked". Consequently the 1981 unemployment rate among heads of households is only 5.9% compared with 29.2% amongst those who are not heads of households. This big differential remains when the figures are split by sex, but it is interesting to note that the sex differential already noted, where females have higher unemployment than males, is a phenomenon confined to heads of households. Amongst non-heads males and females have similar levels of unemployment. These comments apply to 1970 figures as much as to those for 1981, but it is noteworthy that the unemployment rate of heads of households has roughly quadrupled since 1970, while amongst non-heads it has only doubled, though admittedly from a much higher initial level.

Turning to consider the economically inactive population, it should be remembered that categorising the population, particularly the elderly, into the economic activity classes used in the census is often difficult, and the distribution may be affected greatly by differing instructions to, or interpretation by enumerators. It can be argued for example, that it is possible for someone to be retired, disabled, and engaged in home duties all at the same time. However the figures given in Tables C1 and C2 clearly show the expected big difference between the sexes in the proportions engaged in "Home duties". Over 40% of females are so classified, but only 2% of males. Also apparent is an increase since 1970 in the proportion of students, though the figure remains below 1.5%. It should be remembered that this figure excludes full-time school children and that Dominicans have to go abroad for a university education and many will consequently be omitted entirely from the census. There are no substantial differentials or changes in the numbers of retired or disabled. The numbers "Not stated" have increased greatly since 1970 so that in 1981 they constitute 5% of males and 3% of females. This can be attributed to differing editing procedures being adopted. In 1981 inconsistent responses to the economic activity questions were, in general recoded to "Not stated".

One extremely important aspect of economic activity and unemployment rates is the way they vary by age. The distribution of main activity by age group in 1981 is given in Table C4. Participation rates, that is the proportion of the adult population that is economically active, are shown in the first row of the table. For males the rates are close to or over 80% for all ages from 15 to 64 and nearly 90% for those aged 25-54. Even at ages over 65 some 44% are still economically active. Among females participation rates are substantially lower at all ages.



Moreover, the pattern is quite different from that of males, with the highest rate of 57% occurring amongst 20-24 year olds, the figure declining steadily thereafter as they leave the labour force to raise families. This is echoed in the proportions of females engaged in home duties which rises with age from 32% among 15-19 year olds to over 50% in the 45-64 age groups.

TABLE C4

DOMINICA

Percentage Distribution of Main Activity by Broad Age Group and Sex

	Males					Females				
	15-19	20-24	25-44	45-64	65+	15-19	20-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Ec.Active	79.4	86.5	89.8	84.1	43.8	52.0	57.0	49.2	36.9	12.1
worked	39.9	69.3	83.3	81.8	42.9	17.3	39.7	43.4	34.9	11.8
skg 1st jb	26.2	7.4	0.9	0.1	.0	24.0	7.2	1.0	0.1	
other skrs	4.6	3.9	2.4	0.7	0.3	3.4	3.6	1.6	0.6	0.1
wnt wk avl	8.7	5.9	3.2	1.5	0.6	7.3	6.5	3.2	1.3	0.2
Inactive	8.9	4.0	3.3	10.3	52.2	40.9	37.5	46.8	60.5	86.6
home duty	3.0	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.5	31.7	35.3	45.1	51.1	29.9
student	4.6	1.9	0.6		.0	8.0	1.2	0.2		.0
retired		0.1	0.1	4.1	26.4		.0	0.1	3.9	25.8
disabled	1.3	1.0	1.8	5.1	24.3	1.2	1.0	1.4	5.5	30.9
Other & ns	11.7	9.5	6.9	5.6	4.0	7.1	5.5	4.0	2.6	1.3
Total no. (=100%)	3658	3667	6804	4013	2180	2986	3251	6678	4887	3104

Source : 1981 Census, table 2.2

Unemployment rates also vary markedly by age, being very much higher amongst the under-20's than any other age group. The figures are presented in Table C5 for each sex and for 1970 and 1981. In 1981 over half of 15-19 year olds who stated that they were economically active were unemployed, mostly seeking their first job. Putting this another way over half of the total unemployed (2,482 out of 4,746) are aged under 20. Unemployment rates are somewhat lower, but still high, among 20-24 year olds, and they continue to decline steadily thereafter with age. This steep age gradient has important implications when interpreting overall male and female unemployment rates. Part of the higher overall rates among females observed for example in Table C3, is a reflection of the fact that a higher proportion of the female economically active populations is aged under 25 where unemployment is highest. However, this does not explain entirely the differential since, as Table C5 shows, female unemployment rates are also substantially higher than male ones

within each age group. For example among 15-19 year olds the male unemployment is 50 percent while for females it is 67 percent.

TABLE C5

DOMINICA

Percent Unemployed by Age and Sex, based on Main Activity, 1970 and 1981

Age group	1970			1981		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
14	54.4	44.8	51.5			
15 - 19	29.4	32.2	30.6	49.8	66.7	55.7
20 - 24	5.9	11.6	8.2	19.9	30.4	23.8
25 - 34	2.2	4.2	2.9	8.8	15.0	10.9
35 - 44	1.4	2.1	1.7	4.6	7.2	5.6
45 - 54	1.2	0.7	1.0	2.7	7.2	4.3
55 - 64	0.6	1.5	0.9	2.9	2.7	2.8
65+	0.3	1.6	0.7	2.2	2.7	2.3
Not stated				8.5	11.4	9.5
All ages	6.9	10.1	8.1	15.9	23.6	18.6
Total number unemployed	917	802	1719	2641	2105	4746

sources : 1970 census, volume 4, part 9, table 2

1981 census, table 2.2

Comparing the 1970 unemployment rates by age with those for 1981, the figures from the earlier census generally show similar patterns, but at a substantially lower level than in 1981. Rates among the under-20's are several times those in the other age groups and decline to very low levels among those aged over 35. Female rates are, though, consistently higher than male rates at all ages. The increase in unemployment during the 1970's has affected all age groups approximately equally, though of course, it is the under-20's and, to a lesser extent, those aged 20-24 who are most affected.

Turning once more to consider the economically inactive members of the population, the age patterns observed in Table C4 are generally unexceptional. However, in the 65 and over age group more than 30% of females are categorised as "Disabled". The figures for males is 24%. These are roughly similar to the proportions classed as "Retired" which are 26% for both males and females.

Table C6 considers a different aspect of economic activity, namely the number of months worked during the year before the census. The interpretation of this table is complicated by the fact that it is unclear whether those who did no work in the year were given code '0' or the "Not stated" code. Confusion is added by the labelling of the '0' code as "Under 1" in the tabulations. Comparison with the 1970 figures

is also problematic as the first two codes on the 1970 questionnaire are "None" and "Under 2" and the former category has been omitted entirely from the published tabulations. In Table C6, therefore, the "Under 1" and "Not stated" categories have been left out entirely so that only those who did some work during the year are included. The table reveals no great differences between the sexes or between 1970 and 1981. About two-thirds of the persons included in the table worked for the whole year and only about 10 percent worked for less than six months. It should be mentioned that it is unclear whether persons who worked, say, for half of every week during the year are classed as working for all or for only half of the year.

TABLE C6

DOMINICA

Percentage Distribution of the Population by Number of Months Worked in Year before Census, 1970 & 1981

Months worked	Males		Females	
	1970	1981	1970	1981
1 *	1.5	1.6	3.4	2.0
2 - 3	2.8	4.3	4.9	4.9
4 - 5	4.4	5.3	6.8	5.3
6 - 7	8.3	8.0	10.1	7.7
8 - 9	11.1	8.7	10.4	7.6
10 - 11	6.8	8.9	5.7	7.2
12	65.1	63.2	58.7	65.3
total * number	12381	13902	7419	6915

\* see text for details of categories used in the two censuses and for treatment of "not stated" category

sources : 1970 census, vol 4, part 9, table 4  
1981 census, table 2.2.1

A more detailed analysis of months worked, this time split by economic status, is shown in Table C7. Again the "Not stated" and "Under 1" categories have been omitted. The empty cells are partly a consequence of the data editing procedures as, for example, it was ensured that those who stated that their main activity during the year was "Worked" did not also state that they worked for less than four months. The major feature of the table, seen in the last line, is the very small numbers of unemployed and inactive who reported working at all. Clearly most of those for whom unemployment was the main activity did no work at all during the year and the same is true of the economically inactive.

TABLE C7

DOMINICA

Percentage Distribution of the Adult Population by Number of Months  
Worked, by Sex and by Economic Activity

Months worked	Male			Female		
	Working	Unemployed	Inactive	Working	Unemployed	Inactive
1 *		18.5	9.1		15.3	20.4
2 - 3		46.3	54.5		38.9	37.0
4 - 5	5.3	35.2	36.4	4.9	45.8	42.6
6 - 7	8.5			8.4		
8 - 9	9.3			8.2		
10 - 11	9.5			7.8		
12	67.4			70.7		
Total no. (=100%)	13035	108	22	6381	72	54

\* see text for details of categories used & for treatment of 'n.s.'

sources : 1981 census, table 2.2.1

TABLE C8

DOMINICA

Percent Unemployed by Highest School Attended

Type of school	Males	Females
None	8.4	10.3
Nursery or Infant	12.5	(26.7)
Primary	17.3	26.1
Secondary / Comprehensive	12.3	18.8
Multi-high	9.2	17.5
Other secondary	8.3	17.8
University	2.2	3.7
Other	6.6	14.5
Not stated	18.2	26.1
All schools	15.9	23.6

source : 1981 census, table 2.2.2

note : figures in brackets based on fewer than 20 cases

Table C8 further explores unemployment, this time according to educational attainment, as measured by highest type of school attended. Once again females have higher unemployment rates than males in all education categories but, considering both sexes, unemployment is highest

for those who only reached primary school level and it is still high amongst those with secondary education, particularly females where it is around 18%. Figures for those with no schooling are lower, below 10%, though this may only be an age effect as more of those with no schooling are in the older age groups. Similarly, the high unemployment among those with secondary education probably reflects in part the large numbers of young persons in that category. University graduates have very much the lowest unemployment rates.

Figures for 1970 comparable to those for 1981 in Table C8 are not available, but Table C9 shows unemployment rates for the adult population categorised by highest examination passed. This shows a very different pattern from the 1981 figures, with those with no qualifications or just School Leaving Certificate having the highest unemployment rates. Whether this is a real difference from 1981 is difficult to tell. It may be an artefact caused by the overall increases in both education and unemployment among the young during the 1970's.

TABLE C9

DOMINICA

Percent Unemployed by Highest Exam Passed, 1970

Exams passed	Male	Female
None	7.4	10.9
School leaving certificate	5.8	10.3
1 or 2 GCE 'O' levels	2.9	0.0
3 or 4 GCE 'O' levels	0.0	0.0
5 'O' levels or 1 'A' level	0.6	0.8
2 or more 'A' levels	(0.0)	(0.0)
Diploma	0.0	0.0
Degree	0.0	0.0
Other	2.4	2.9
Not stated	(20.0)	
Total	6.9	10.1

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Source : 1970 census, vol 4, part 9, table 7

figures in brackets are based on less than 20 cases

As well as asking adults about their main activity during the previous year, the census also asked respondents who had worked during the year whether they had worked for others and, if so, who for; or whether they worked for themselves and, if so, whether they had paid help or not. Table C10 gives the distribution of the economically active adult population (as defined in Table C2) according to this occupational status classification, for both 1970 and 1981. It shows that in 1981 nearly half of economically active males worked for others, one-third had their own business or farm, and 15% did no work. Among females a higher proportion (56%) worked for others and only 18% worked for themselves.

These figures have changed substantially since 1970. The biggest change has been the drop in the proportions who worked for others from 67% to 49% among males and from 74% to 56% for females. This is balanced not only by the substantial increase in unemployment, but also rises in the proportions working for themselves, many of whom may only actually be working for short periods each week. Within the "Worked for others" category there have been rises in the proportions who worked for Government from 17% to 18% among males and from 17% to 20% for females. In absolute terms the increase in the number of persons working for the Government was from 3,551 to 4,816, a rise of some 36%. Unemployment rates for the different occupational status classes cannot, unfortunately, be produced because the occupational categories included one labelled "Did no work" and almost all of those whose main activity during the year was unemployment gave this response.

TABLE C10

## DOMINICA

Occupational Status of the Economically Active Population

Occupational status	Males		Females	
	1970	1981	1970	1981
Worked for others	66.5	48.9	73.8	55.9
in government	16.6	18.3	17.1	20.0
in private enterprise	48.3	24.2	54.0	25.4
in a private household		4.5		8.6
as an unpaid worker	1.6	1.9	2.7	1.9
Has own business or farm	26.8	34.6	16.4	19.2
with paid help	5.7	7.6	3.2	3.9
without paid help	21.1	27.0	13.2	15.3
Did no work	6.7	14.8	9.8	22.3
Not stated	.0	1.7	.0	2.6
Total number (=100%)	13210	16602	7961	8921

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sources : 1970 census, vol 4, part 9, table 2  
1981 census, table 2.2

The distribution of the adult economically active population by occupational group is shown for both 1970 and 1981 in Table C11. Because of the big differences between 1970 and 1981 in the numbers in the "Not stated/Not applicable" category, which consists primarily of the unemployed these have been excluded from the percentage distributions. Details of the classification of occupations used in 1981 are given in the Explanatory Notes, Section 4.6. The categories used in 1970 are not identical to those used in 1981. In particular, "Transport and Communications" and "Labourers and others not elsewhere classified" were

not categories in 1981. These and other differences may affect some comparisons. Additionally, when comparing the distributions of males and females by occupational or industrial group it is important to remember the substantially younger age structure of the female economically active population.

TABLE C11

DOMINICA

Occupational Grouping of Economically Active Population, 1970 & 1981

	Males			Females		
	percent		number	percent		number
	1970	1981		1970	1981	
Professional and technical	4.2	5.9	807	11.2	17.0	1097
Administrative and managerial	1.0	1.1	155	0.3	0.8	49
Clerical	3.4	4.0	553	8.9	15.5	1006
Transport and communications	1.3	0.0		0.5	0.0	
Sales	3.1	2.6	358	12.6	12.7	824
Services	4.3	5.6	764	23.0	19.4	1252
Agriculture and related	48.7	44.0	6049	29.7	20.4	1319
Production and related	26.2	36.9	5071	9.1	14.3	923
Labourers and others n.e.c.	7.8	0.0		4.7	0.0	
Total number (=100%)	12311		13757	7171		6470
Not stated / not applicable	899		2845	790		2451

source : 1970 census, vol 4, part 16, table 1  
1981 census, table 2.4

note : categories used in 1970 are not identical to those used in 1981.  
In particular "transport" and "labourers" were not used in 1981.

Nevertheless, the largest occupational group in 1981 was agriculture which employs 44% of males and 20% of females. The next most important category is "Production and related". Amongst males the other groups are, in comparison to the two already mentioned, relatively small, but for females the much smaller proportions engaged in both agriculture and "Production" causes the proportions in the other groups to be correspondingly higher. Significant numbers are engaged in sales, services, clerical and professional and technical occupations. Indeed, in this last group, which includes teachers and nurses, females are more numerous than males (1,097 as compared with 807).

Considering now the changes since 1970, the proportion of the economically active population engaged in agriculture has declined from 49% of males to 44% and from 30% of females to 20%. However, in absolute

terms the decline has been about 9%, from 8,100 to 7,400. Balancing this has been an increase of over 50% in the numbers occupied in "Production and related" activities from 3,900 to 6,000 persons. It should again be noted, though, that the classification used in 1970 was different from that used in 1981 and some of the changes mentioned here may consequently be partly spurious. As with the occupational status figures, it is impossible to calculate meaningful unemployment rates for each occupational group simply because very few among the unemployed gave an occupation.

TABLE C12

DOMINICA

Industrial Grouping of Economically Active Population, 1970 & 1981

Industrial group	Males			Females		
	percent		number	percent		number
	1970	1981		1970	1981	
Agriculture, forestry etc.	47.0	47.6	6340	27.4	24.0	1503
Mining, refining and quarrying	0.0	0.1	7		.0	1
Manufacturing	6.8	5.9	786	9.7	10.1	631
Electricity, gas and water	1.2	1.6	218	0.6	0.4	27
Construction and installation	14.3	16.4	2186	2.1	1.9	120
Commerce	10.0	4.2	556	21.1	16.9	1057
Transpt, storage & communicatn	5.4	6.0	804	0.6	1.8	110
Finance, insurance & realestate		0.8	101		2.5	156
Government		7.0	938		6.5	405
Community services		3.8	512		19.0	1189
Other services	15.3	6.5	867	38.5	17.1	1069
Total number (=100%)	12244		13315	7147		6268
Not stated / not applicable	966		3287	814		2653

source : 1970 census, vol 4, part 16, table 2  
1981 census, table 2.5

note : categories used in 1970 are not identical to those used in 1981. In particular "finance", "government" & "community services" were classified together with "other services", and the "not stated" category included those not classified elsewhere.

As well as classifying the adult population by occupation, the census also collected information to classify the economically active according to the industry they are employed in. As with the occupational classification, the industrial classification used in 1981 is not identical to that used in 1970. Details of the 1981 classification are given in the Explanatory Notes, Section 4.6. The figures are shown in Table C12. Again the "Not stated"/"Not applicable" category has been left out of the percentage distributions.



The distribution of the economically active adult population by industry is, as one might expect, substantially different for males and females. Females tend to be more concentrated in the tertiary sectors of commerce, and services and, to a lesser extent, manufacturing, while higher proportions of males are engaged in agriculture, construction and installation and electricity, gas etc. Nearly half of economically active males and one quarter of females are employed in the agriculture fishing or forestry industries. For females the service sector predominates, employing 45% of the total. Since 1970, apart from a decline of about 40% in the numbers engaged in commerce, there have perhaps surprisingly, been no great changes in the industrial breakdown of the labour force, though there have been small rises in the service sectors. The changes are particularly small by comparison with the dramatic rise in the numbers unemployed, particularly among the young.

**SECTION D****SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

The topics covered here are mainly education and vocational training, though race and religion are also discussed. Considering education first, the questions were directed to all persons, irrespective of age, and details were collected on type of school or university currently being attended, if any, and about highest educational attainment. This was measured in three ways: as highest school or university ever attended, as the total number of years spent at school and as highest examination passed. Tabulations relating to current education include all persons currently attending school or university full-time, while those relating to the adult population exclude those currently at school full-time. Those at university are thus included in both sets of tabulations.

TABLE D1

DOMINICA

**Population at School or University by Sex and Age, 1970 & 1981**

Age	Male			Female		
	percent		number	percent		number
	1970	1981	1981	1970	1981	1981
under 5			461			496
5	88.3	89.6	775	88.8	92.3	755
6	96.9	95.9	909	97.7	97.1	894
7	98.3	98.4	1135	99.2	97.0	915
8	98.5	98.3	1156	98.3	98.3	1054
9	99.0	98.1	1112	99.5	98.6	1081
10	99.2	97.9	1126	98.6	98.5	1086
11	98.2	98.0	1095	98.9	98.4	1052
12	96.5	96.8	1074	98.2	98.4	1079
13	96.0	92.6	1027	98.7	98.4	1142
14	87.5	83.9	931	92.2	93.6	991
15	50.3	50.3	515	58.1	68.1	697
16	26.5	23.5	251	35.2	42.4	432
17	19.9	19.7	191	20.2	33.0	306
18	14.9	14.0	131	12.3	20.9	182
19		7.3	57		8.6	66
20 and over			159			97
Not stated			22			19
Total number (=100%)	12255		12127	12128		12344

source : 1970 census, vol 6, part 3, table 1 & vol 3, table 9

1981 census, tables 5.1 & 1.2

The total number of persons reported to be attending school or university in 1981 is 24,471 which is almost the same number as in 1970. The proportion of children attending school between the ages of 6 and 12 has also remained constant at close to 100%. After age 13 the proportion of boys at school has declined slightly since 1970, whereas the proportion of girls has increased.

TABLE D2

DOMINICA

Population Currently at School or University, by Type of School

Census figures	Male	Female	Total
Nursery or Infant	775	719	1494
Primary	9808	9081	18889
Secondary	1426	2421	3847
University	69	26	95
Other	47	84	131
Not stated	2	13	15
Total	12127	12344	24471
School enrollment figures	Male	Female	Total
Primary	9516	8854	18370
Secondary	1113	2004	3430

sources : 1981 census, table 5.1

Dominica Statistics Office

note : The total enrollment figure for secondary schools includes 313 pupils in sixth form college for whom information on sex was not supplied

Table D2 shows the school/university population by type of school being attended in 1981. 19,000 are at primary schools, nearly 4,000 at secondary schools and 1,500 at nursery or infant schools. Because there is no university in Dominica many Dominican students would be abroad studying at the time of the census, so the figure of 95 university students may be a substantial underestimate of the true number currently at university.

It is interesting to note that although slightly more males than females are attending primary schools, about 63% of the secondary school population are females.

Tables D3 to D6 describe in three different ways the educational attainment of the adult population defined as those aged 15 and over who are not currently attending primary or secondary school. From Table D3 it is apparent that some 5% of adults have had no schooling at all, while nearly 80% have only primary schooling. Of the remaining 15%, nearly all received secondary education but only 1.3% are reported as having

attended university. Considering the sex breakdown, it is clear that slightly more females than males have some secondary education, but this advantage is not continued to higher education as there are less than half as many female graduates (178) as males (377).

TABLE D3

## DOMINICA

Adult Population by Sex and Highest School Attended, 1970 and 1981

Type of school	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	1970	1981	1970	1981	1970	1981
None	6.1	4.7	5.8	5.0	5.8	4.9
Nursery or infant	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Primary	82.1	79.3	84.8	77.7	83.6	78.5
Secondary/Comprehensive	10.1	11.3	8.5	13.2	9.2	12.2
Multi-high		0.6		0.5		0.5
Other secondary		0.7		0.9		0.8
University	1.2	1.8	0.4	0.8	0.8	1.3
Other	0.5	0.9	0.4	1.2	0.5	1.1
Not stated	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5
Total number (=100%)	15763	20455	19667	21014	35430	41469

source : 1970 census, vol 6, table 3  
1981 census, table 5.2

note : comprehensive, multi-high and other secondary schools were grouped in one category in 1970

The rapid increases in recent years in education means that educational attainment varies greatly with age, with the old being less educated than the young. This is apparent in Table D4 which gives an age breakdown of the 1981 figures given in Table D3. The proportion with little or no education increases with age to about 15% amongst those aged 65 or over, whereas it is under 2% among those aged under 35. Conversely, the proportions with secondary education is at its maximum of over 20% for those in their twenties. Interestingly this maximum occurs in the 25-29 age group for males, but in the 20-24 age group for females. In the 20-24 age group 30% of females have secondary education but only 18% of males. These figures reinforce the finding in Table D1, that males are interrupting their secondary education earlier, though differential migration may also contribute to the relatively low number of males with secondary education in these age groups.

The substantial sex differential in favour of females amongst those with secondary education is again reversed in each age group when looking at university graduates. The fact that male graduates predominate in every age group suggests that this is not a recent phenomenon. The proportions with university education reach a maximum, of about 3.5%

of males and 1.9% of females, in the 30-34 age group. This does not reflect a decline in university attendance in recent years but the fact that it is necessary to leave Dominica for higher education and that many people who go abroad to study either do not do so until their late twenties, or stay abroad for some years after qualifying. Differential emigration of graduates and non-graduates may also be significant.

TABLE D4

DOMINICA

Educational Attainment of Adult Population by Age Group and Sex, 1981

Sex	Highest school attended	Age group						
		15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Male	None, nursery, infant	2.2	1.8	1.3	4.3	7.7	8.8	15.8
	Primary	86.4	77.3	75.1	79.9	80.3	81.9	75.8
	Secondary	9.8	18.3	18.8	11.3	7.9	6.4	6.4
	University	0.1	1.4	3.3	3.0	2.7	1.6	0.7
	Other, not stated	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
	Total nos (=100%)	3658	3667	4273	2531	2105	1908	2180
Female	None, nursery, infant	1.7	1.2	1.4	4.0	5.8	8.6	15.3
	Primary	74.5	75.3	75.6	81.4	85.4	83.8	78.8
	Secondary	20.2	19.9	19.5	11.7	6.7	6.0	4.7
	University	0.1	0.9	1.8	1.4	0.8	0.5	0.1
	Other, not stated	3.5	2.7	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.1
	Total nos (=100%)	2986	3251	3937	2741	2601	2286	3104

---

source : 1981 census, table 5.2

In some Caribbean populations a tendency has been observed for individuals to sometimes exaggerate their educational attainment in the census. For example, the same cohort of adults may report higher education levels in 1981 than they did in 1970 of such a magnitude that it is not explicable by differential migration or mortality. A comparison of the 1970 census figures (not reproduced here) with the 1981 figures in Table D4, does show some evidence consistent with there being some exaggeration, but this could be a consequence of greater emigration among those with less education. For example, 5.5% of males aged 30-34 in 1970 reported attaining secondary education, but in 1981 the percentage doing so in the 40-44 age group was 9.1%.

Highest school attended is a somewhat crude, though easily measured, guide to educational attainment essentially because it reflects only attendance, not performance at school. This problem is partially overcome in Table D5 showing highest examination passed. The multiplicity of examining organisations throughout the Caribbean,

together with the changes in these, both since 1970 and earlier, make categorisation and ranking very difficult. Details of the classification used in 1981 are given in the Explanatory Notes, section 4.4, it should be warned that this classification is somewhat different and more complex than that used in 1970. However, Table D5 shows that in 1981 substantially less than 20% of the adult population had passed any examination, and about half of those only had the "School Leaving Certificate", the lowest ranked qualification. About 3-4% of adults have GCE 'O' Level (or CXC 'General' passes) and only 0.9% of males and 0.4% of females had a degree. Given that Table D3 shows 1.3% of adults ever having attended university, many of these must have failed or only obtained diplomas, unless university attendance is being exaggerated. Considering changes since 1970, there has been a considerable increase in the proportions having qualifications, most marked among those having 1-4 GCE 'O' Levels or 1-3 CXC 'General' grades.

TABLE D5

DOMINICA

Adult Population by Highest Exam Passed, 1970 and 1981

Highest exam passed	Male		Female	
	1970	1981	1970	1981
None	88.3	85.2	88.1	82.1
PCE or school leaving	6.2	5.3	8.0	8.2
CP / CHS - dip / SSPE		0.1		0.3
CXC(B) 1 - 3		0.0		0.0
GCE 'O' 1-4 / CXC(G) 1-3	1.4	3.1	1.2	4.2
GCE 'O' 5+ / SC / GCE 'A' 1	1.3	1.2	0.8	1.5
GCE 'A' 2+	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Diploma	1.0	1.8	0.5	0.8
Degree	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.4
Other	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.3
Not stated	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.1
Total number (=100%)	15763	20455	19667	21014

source : 1970 census, vol 6, part 3, table 4  
1981 census, table 5.3

The third measure of educational attainment used in the census is the number of years of schooling. Table D6 gives the proportion of adults with seven or more years of schooling, broken down by age group. The proportions are around 90% for those aged below 35. Thereafter they decline slowly but remain above 60% at all ages. Females once more tend to have had slightly more education than males. It should be noted that the 15-19 age group excludes those still attending school full-time, so the figures for this cohort are an underestimate of the eventual levels that will be attained. Figures for 1970 unfortunately relate only to primary rather than all schooling and are thus not comparable.

TABLE D6

DOMINICA

Adults with 7+ Years of Schooling, by Age Group and Sex

Age group	Male		Female	
	number	% of age gp	number	% of age gp
15 - 19	3249	88.8	2758	92.4
20 - 24	3253	88.7	2978	91.6
25 - 29	2234	88.9	2033	93.0
30 - 34	1548	87.9	1590	90.8
35 - 39	1183	84.5	1227	86.8
40 - 44	894	79.0	1067	80.4
45 - 49	775	73.4	1004	77.8
50 - 54	776	74.0	1033	78.9
55 - 59	695	73.2	836	76.3
60 - 64	664	69.3	885	74.4
65+	1361	62.4	2013	64.9
Not stated				
Total	16632	81.3	17424	82.9

source : 1981 census, table 5.4

TABLE D7

DOMINICA

Adult Population with Vocational Training by Occupation Trained For

Occupation	Male	Female	Occupation	Male	Female
Physical scientist	0.6	0.2	Typist	0.1	28.0
Architect, engineer	7.4	0.2	Book-keeper	0.4	1.4
Aircraft & shp offcr	0.5		Computer operator	0.0	0.1
Life scientist	1.4	0.5	Cook, waiter, etc	0.4	0.9
Medicl, dentl & vet	6.6	21.2	Hairdresser		1.4
Statistician etc.	0.3	0.1	Protective service	14.4	1.6
Economist & Accntnt	2.5	0.9	Agric. & fishing	6.1	0.1
Judge & lawyer	0.5	0.4	Tailor & dressmaker	2.3	14.5
Teacher	5.8	19.6	Cabinet maker	14.2	0.2
Religious worker	3.1	1.2	Machine fitter	8.6	0.1
Author, journalist	0.1	0.1	Electrical & Electrnc	3.8	0.1
Sculptor, painter	0.9	0.9	Plumber	4.4	
Composr, perfm artst	0.6	0.3	Printer	0.3	0.1
Athletes, sportsmen	0.1	0.1	Mason	0.4	
Othr prof & tech	2.1	3.1	Miscellaneous n.e.c.	11.8	2.3
			Total number (=100%)	2173	1338

source : 1981 census, table 6.2

The total number of persons with vocational training is 2,173 and their distribution by occupation trained for is shown in table D7. Males with vocational training are distributed fairly widely over the different occupations, the only relatively large categories being in the protective services and, rather surprisingly, cabinet makers; there is also a large proportion of males not classified by occupation. Fewer females are trained than males, and they are heavily concentrated in medical services, teaching, typing and dress making.

TABLE D8

DOMINICA

Method of Training for those With or Receiving Training, 1970 and 1981

Method of training	Males		Females	
	1970	1981	1970	1981
On the job	3.2	29.7	2.8	20.1
Private study	3.6	7.0	4.5	7.8
Agricultural college		2.9		0.1
Teacher training college		5.7		14.6
Technical school		11.4		10.5
Other institutions	30.1	31.4	21.3	34.2
Hotel		0.2		0.2
Other	2.0	6.7	1.5	8.6
Not stated	61.1	5.0	69.9	3.9
Total number (=100%)	1186	2173	1126	1338

source : 1970 census, vol 6, part 2, table 7  
1981 census, table 6.2

note : in 1970 all colleges & technical schools were classified together

The number of adults with vocational training appears to have increased dramatically since 1970, from 2312 to 4511 in 1981. Proportionately the increase has been even more dramatic: from about 3.5% of the adult population to 8.5%. Table D8 shows how this training was acquired. Taking both sexes together, on the job training has increased its share of the distribution from 3% in 1970 to 25% in 1981. An increase of this size is most likely to be an artefact due to changing perceptions about what constitutes vocational training, than a reflection of changes in training practises. In 1981, the distributions of males and females by method of training are broadly similar, except for the relative importance of agricultural and teacher training colleges.

This change in perceptions about what constitutes vocational training is highlighted by table D9, which shows the proportions with vocational training in each sex and age group for both years. By following through cohorts from one census to the next, one can see that even in the oldest age groups, where one would not normally expect such training to occur, there is a reported doubling of the proportions



trained. Eg., males aged 50-54 in 1970, who would be aged about 60-64 in 1981, reported an increase in proportions trained from 3.1% to 6.8%.

TABLE D9

DOMINICA

Proportions of Adults with Vocational Training by Age  
and Sex, 1970 and 1981

Age group	Males		Females	
	1970	1981	1970	1981
15 - 19	0.3	5.7	1	4.3
20 - 24	2.8	11.4	2.2	7.8
25 - 29	4.1	17.8	2.4	12.2
30 - 34	4.6	16.7	2.5	10.1
35 - 39	4.7	12.9	2.6	9.1
40 - 44	4.7	11.9	1.7	6.7
45 - 49	4.6	10.9	2.1	4.6
50 - 54	3.1	9.4	1.9	4.4
55 - 59	2.9	8.7	1.6	4.6
60 - 64	2.5	6.8	0.6	4.5
65+	1.7	5.5	0.4	2.3
not stated		7.5		4.6
All ages	2.8	10.6	1.7	6.4

---

source : 1970 census, vol 6, part 3, table 6  
1981 census, table 6.1

note : 1970 figures relate to all persons over 15, whereas 1981 figures exclude those still at school

Turning from schooling and training to other socio-economic characteristics, Tables D10 and D11 gives breakdowns, by race and by religion respectively, of the total population in 1960, 1970 and 1981. Considering race first, in all three censuses the proportion of the population that is either black or of mixed race is over 97%, most of the remainder being Amerindians. In each census the instructions given to enumerators were to accept the answer given by the respondent rather than to make their own assessment. Persons born to parents who were of differing racial groups were to be classed as "mixed". The dramatic drop in the proportion of the population classified as of mixed descent from nearly one-third in 1960 to just 6% in 1981 must be due to changes in the perceived desirability of being classed as black or of mixed race. No longer do persons of mixed race have a higher social status than blacks. The changes are far too great to be accounted for by differences in mortality, fertility or migration, though this assertion cannot be proved conclusively, because fertility, mortality or migration data broken down by race are not available, either from registration or census sources.

TABLE D10

DOMINICA

Population by Race, 1960, 1970 and 1981

Race	Numbers			Percent		
	1960	1970	1981	1960	1970	1981
Negro / Black	39575	55492	67272	66.1	79.8	91.2
Mixed	19606	12323	4433	32.7	17.7	6.0
Amerindian	395	1270	1111	0.7	1.8	1.5
White	251	317	341	0.4	0.5	0.5
Others	81	135	219	0.1	0.2	0.3
Not stated	8	11	419	.0	.0	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>59916</b>	<b>69548</b>	<b>73795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

source : 1960 census, vol II, table 5

1970 census, vol 7, table 1

1981 census, table 7.2

TABLE D11

DOMINICA

Population by Religion, 1960, 1970 and 1981

Religion	Numbers			Percent		
	1960	1970	1981	1960	1970	1981
Roman Catholic	53894	61239	56770	89.9	88.1	76.9
Seventh Day Adventist	692	1280	2379	1.2	1.8	3.2
Anglican	1014	846	572	1.7	1.2	0.8
Baptist	2	64	1722	.0	0.1	2.3
Pentecostalist	31	392	2155	0.1	0.6	2.9
Methodist	3648	3879	3663	6.1	5.6	5.0
Church of God		298	533	0.0	0.4	0.7
Other Christian *	598	106	679	1.0	0.2	0.9
Hindu			19	0.0	0.0	.0
Muslim			54	0.0	0.0	0.1
Other			3114	0.0	0.0	4.2
None			1294	0.0	0.0	1.8
Not stated	37	1444	841	0.1	2.1	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>59916</b>	<b>69548</b>	<b>73795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

source : 1960 census, vol II, table 6

1970 census, vol 7, table 2

1981 census, table 7.1

note : \* includes Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Brethren, Salvation Army, Moravian, Menonite, and A.M.E.(Zion)

The religious composition of the population, shown in Table D11 for 1960, 1970, and 1981 reveals that Roman Catholicism is followed by over three-quarters of the population and most of the remainder is spread over numerous other Christian churches, though there are a significant numbers classed as "Other" and "None". Comparisons with 1960 and 1970 are complicated by the changes in the categories used. In particular, in 1970 those whose religion was not explicitly given on the questionnaire were asked to write in a response. Those who did so are labelled "Not stated" in the tabulations, rather than "Other" and "Not stated". The broad pattern is that Roman Catholics constitute a slowly declining, though still predominant, proportion of the population. Several of the smaller Christian sects have been increasing rapidly in both relative and absolute terms since 1960, and there seem to have been a considerable increase in the numbers following "Other" faiths, though the changes in the classifications make the extent of this difficult measure.

SECTION EMARRIAGE AND UNION STATUS

Respondents were asked both about their legal marital status, and about the status of any union they were in. However, whereas marital status was collected for all persons, males and female, aged 14 and over, union status was asked only of females aged 14 and over who were not attending school full-time. Further, females aged 45 and over were not asked for their current union status, but for their status at age 45. Current union status is thus only available for females aged 15-44 not attending school.

TABLE E1

DOMINICA

Marital status of the population aged 14+, by sex, 1981

Marital status	Number		Percent	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Never married	15773	15289	69.2	64.3
Married	6150	6521	27.0	27.4
Widowed	470	1533	2.1	6.4
Divorced	125	133	0.5	0.6
Legally separated	97	117	0.4	0.5
Not stated	174	175	0.8	0.7
Total	22789	23768	100.0	100.0

---

source : 1981 census, table B.1

Table E1 gives the basic distribution of the population by marital status for 1981. Roughly one-third of the population aged 14 or more is married and very small proportions are widowed, divorced or legally separated. It must be emphasised that the "separated" category only includes those legally separated. Those living apart but not legally separated are classified as married. Slightly more females than males report themselves to be married, the discrepancy being about 6% or 400. Possible reasons for this are differential migration, omission from the tables of married men who were enumerated in institutions or temporarily abroad, and misreporting of marital status. In this last possibility, it may be that some persons, males, females or both sexes, who are legally or otherwise separated reported themselves as single or perhaps women who are not formally married but have children may claim to be married. The only other significant feature of Table E1 is the difference between the sexes in the numbers widowed. There are more than three times as many widows as widowers, and this is a common feature attributable to generally lighter mortality among females, though possibly differences in remarriage rates between males and females are also contributing to this.

TABLE E2

DOMINICA

Marital Status of the Population Aged 15 - 64, by Sex, 1960, 1970, 1981

Marital status	Males			Females		
	1960	1970	1981	1960	1970	1981
Never married	56.6	62.5	71.6	55.9	60.4	65.2
Married	40.3	35.5	25.8	35.0	35.1	30.1
Widowed	2.7	1.2	1.0	8.5	3.7	2.9
Divorced	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.6
Legally separated	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Not stated			0.7			0.7
Total no. (=100%)	14300	13357	18142	18116	16183	17802

---

 source : 1960 census, vol II, table 10

1970 census, vol 8, part 1, table 1

1981 census, table 8.1

note : figures for 1960 include those aged 65 and over

Table E2 compares the marital status distribution for 1981 with those for 1960 and 1970. The 1970 figures are only available for those aged 15 to 64 not attending school, so the 1981 figures in this table have also been restricted to that population. The 1960 figures, however, cover all persons aged 15 and over and this difference explains, for example the apparently higher proportions widowed at that date. Except from this artefact, the main trends apparent are a substantial decline in the proportions married, particularly amongst males. Between 1970 and 1981 the proportion of males who were married dropped from 36% to 26%, while for females the decline was from 35% to 30%. It is difficult to assess the extent to which these trends are due to changes in age structure rather than a decline in the popularity of marriage or increased divorce rates. Certainly, though, there have been substantial changes in the proportion of the population in the prime marriage ages since 1970. Improvements in the reporting of marital status may also be significant.

A breakdown of the 1981 marital status distribution by age is shown in Table E3. The small numbers widowed, divorced or separated make the figures for these categories somewhat erratic and unreliable, especially at young ages. By the age group 30-34 nearly one-third of men and 40% of women are married, the difference being mainly due to the fact that women tend to marry earlier than men, though the possible biases discussed earlier may also affect these figures. After age 40 the proportion of women that are married drops below that of men. This may be primarily a reflection of the increasing number widowed and low sex ratios caused by differential mortality.

TABLE E3

DOMINICA

Marital status distribution by age group and sex, 1981

Sex	Age group	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced/ separated	Not stated	Total no. (=100%)
<b>Males</b>							
	15 - 19	99.1	0.1			0.8	4779
	20 - 24	97.6	1.9		.0	0.5	3722
	25 - 29	85.3	13.8	.0	0.1	0.8	2521
	30 - 34	66.0	32.3	0.2	0.9	0.6	1764
	35 - 39	52.8	45.0	0.6	0.7	0.9	1404
	40 - 44	42.5	53.0	1.7	1.9	0.9	1133
	45 - 49	40.0	55.0	1.2	3.0	0.8	1058
	50 - 54	31.7	61.9	2.8	2.7	0.9	1051
	55 - 59	29.9	63.1	3.5	2.8	0.7	950
	60 - 64	23.6	65.9	6.9	3.1	0.5	959
	65+	17.8	65.3	13.6	2.5	0.8	2184
	n.s.	63.9	22.6	0.0	0.6	12.9	155
	All ages	69.1	27.0	2.1	1.0	0.8	22789
<b>Females</b>							
	Age group	Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced/ separated	Not stated	Total no. (=100%)
	15 - 19	98.6	0.4		.0	1.0	4611
	20 - 24	91.4	8.1		0.1	0.4	3286
	25 - 29	73.3	26.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	2190
	30 - 34	57.6	39.8	0.9	1.1	0.6	1755
	35 - 39	51.1	45.6	0.6	1.7	1.0	1416
	40 - 44	46.2	47.8	2.2	2.8	1.0	1328
	45 - 49	38.3	54.3	4.6	2.3	0.5	1292
	50 - 54	36.1	52.0	8.9	1.6	1.4	1311
	55 - 59	35.5	51.0	9.9	2.8	0.8	1097
	60 - 64	31.3	50.2	15.4	2.4	0.7	1190
	65+	29.7	36.0	32.2	1.7	0.4	3107
	n.s.	58.8	21.4	7.1	0.8	11.9	126
	All ages	64.4	27.4	6.4	1.1	0.7	23768

---

 source : 1981 census, table 8.1

The rate and ultimate extent of marriage described in the first two columns of Table E3 can be summarised using a measure of the mean age at marriage and the proportion who never marry. Here a "singulate" mean age of marriage is used which has the advantage that it controls for age structure. Unfortunately this measure is not as robust in the Caribbean as elsewhere because substantial numbers of people marry at relatively old ages and this makes the measure slightly sensitive to the cut-off age used. Here age 60 is used and the figures for 1970 and 1981 are shown in Table E4, which also includes the proportions never married by age. The mean ages at marriage are about four years higher for males than for

females. In 1981 they were 36 and 32 years respectively, about one year higher than in 1970. It is difficult to estimate the proportions of males and females who eventually marry as the data are truncated at age 65, but the impression is that about 70% of females and over 75% of males do at some stage marry. Comparisons with the 1970 figures suggest a slight decline in the prevalence of marriage during the seventies. For example among males aged 40-44 in 1981 only some 60% were married; whereas, in 1970 the figure was 68%.

TABLE E4

DOMINICA

Mean Age at Marriage and Proportions Never Marrying, 1970 & 1981

	Mean age at marriage		Percent never marrying	
	male	female	male	female
1970	34.7	31.0	22	30
1981	35.8	32.1	27	33

source : 1970 census, vol 8, part 1, table 1  
1981 census, table 8.1.1

note : these measures are derived from proportions single reported in each age group

TABLE E5

DOMINICA

Mean Age at Marriage and Proportions Never Marrying,  
by Highest School Attended, 1981

Highest school attended	Mean age at marriage		Percent never marrying	
	male	female	male	female
None / infant	41.0	35.3	38	41
Primary	36.9	33.3	26	33
Secondary	31.8	28.9	15	27
University	30.7		15	

source : 1981 census, table 8.1.1

note : these measures are derived from proportions single reported in each age group

Table E5 presents the proportions never married according to educational attainment, as measured by highest school attended. Some of the figures on which this table is based are small and thus somewhat

unreliable, particularly for females who reached university, but the overall trends are clear. Mean ages at marriage, given in the last row of the table, are highest for those with little or no schooling and lowest for those who attended university. The differentials are very large indeed. Males who attend university marry, on average at about age 31 while those with little or no education have a mean age at marriage of over 40. Among females the range is less, but is still some seven or eight years. The proportions never marrying show a similar steep gradient by education; 30% of males and 40% of females with little or no schooling never marry, while for the more educated the figures are 10 to 15% of males and 20 to 25% of females.

TABLE E6

DOMINICA

Union Status Distribution of Females Aged 15-44, 1970 and 1981

Age group	Year	U n i o n   s t a t u s							Total 100%
		Married	Common law	Visiting	No lngr w hsbnd	No lngr w clp	Nvr had partner	Not stated	
15-19	1970	3.1	5.0	14.1		0.8	77.0		2666
	1981	0.4	7.6	12.7		2.0	65.1	12.2	2986
20-24	1970	10.9	15.3	21.2	0.2	3.6	48.7	0.1	2589
	1981	7.7	18.0	16.7	0.2	6.1	44.5	6.8	3251
25-29	1970	29.6	22.1	15.7	0.4	6.2	25.9	0.1	1713
	1981	24.9	21.8	12.6	0.9	6.2	28.9	4.7	2186
30-34	1970	41.2	19.0	10.1	1.7	7.2	20.8		1489
	1981	37.5	20.1	7.9	2.7	8.3	19.6	3.9	1751
35-39	1970	49.9	16.7	5.3	3.7	7.5	16.9		1523
	1981	42.3	20.4	4.8	4.1	8.1	15.5	4.8	1414
40-44	1970	54.3	12.2	2.8	6.6	9.6	14.5		1349
	1981	44.2	16.1	3.5	6.2	10.8	14.7	4.5	1327

source : 1970 census, vol 8, part 2, table 1  
1981 census, table 8.2

Turning now to consider union status rather than formal marriage, as has already been mentioned, this was only asked of females aged 14 and over not attending school, and those aged over 45 were asked to give their union status at age 45 rather than their current status. Seven categories were used and these are defined in detail in the Explanatory Notes, Section 4.7. It is important in particular to note that women were defined as being in a "visiting union" only if they had had a birth during the previous year and were not in a marriage or Common Law union at the time. Those who may have considered themselves to be in a



visiting relationship but who did not have a birth during the year were, according to the instructions issued to enumerators, to be categorised as "Never had a husband or Common Law partner". However, these somewhat complex definitions were clearly not always followed because, as Table 8.2 shows, nearly half of the women aged 14-44 who are classified as being in a visiting union did not report having had a birth during the previous year. Further, Table 8.2 shows that 101 or 6.5% of women in the visiting category are aged 45 or over, which is unexpectedly high, given that it should have been their status at age 45 that was recorded. A few of these wrong categorisations may be attributed to coding errors, but clearly many enumerators were not following their instructions closely, and were perhaps instead accepting the woman's own statement of whether or not she was in a visiting union. Nevertheless, at least to the extent that the definitions given above were actually followed, the figures are probably an underestimate of the number of women who consider themselves to be in visiting unions. Fortunately, though, the 1981 definitions were virtually identical to those used in 1970 (and indeed 1960) so it is possible to measure trends. No tabulations of births in the previous year were produced in 1970 so it is impossible to show definitively that the definitions were not followed then, but it seems likely that enumerators also failed to follow the instructions in earlier censuses.

Table E6 gives the distribution of females by union status for each age group 15-19 up to 40-44 for 1970 and 1981. 1960 figures are not available for Dominica. Note that only those not attending school full-time are included in the table. In 1981 about 35% of females aged 15-19 were still at school and if they were to be included in the table then the figures for that age group would probably change substantially. Note also that the 1981 figures show around 5% in the "Not stated" category, a consequence of the recoding of inconsistent responses during data editing. In 1970 there were hardly any "Not stated" responses.

Considering first the 1981 figures alone, the proportion of females in a visiting union rises to a maximum of 17% in the 20-24 age group and declines thereafter to under 4% by age 40-44. Common Law unions show a slower rise and a later peak of around 22% in the 25-29 age group. They also decline in importance more slowly so that by the age group 40-44 some 16% of females are in a Common Law union. Formal marriages, which occur in substantial numbers only after age 25, increase in importance steadily so that by age group 40-44 they are the predominant form of union and over half of females are married. It should be remembered that these figures give the proportions of females who are in each type of union at the time of the census. They do not in any way measure the proportion of women who ever enter each union type.

A comparison of the 1970 figures in Table E6 with those for 1981 reveals that the incidence of formal marriage has fallen at all ages, while Common Law and Visiting unions have increased. Once again it should be stated that this change may be partly due to improvements in the reporting of marital status since 1970. The small proportions who report that they are no longer with their husband or Common Law partner have also increased since 1970. The proportions who have never had either a husband or a Common Law partner do not show any consistent changes except in the 15-19 age group where it has declined substantially

from 79% to 65%. This could be a consequence of increased numbers attending school in that age group rather than any greater propensity to form unions. The 12% of "Not stated" in this age group also suggests distortions in the distribution.

Just as in the earlier discussion of marriage a mean age at marriage was calculated, so an analogous measure of the mean age at union formation can also be computed. Here one is forced to use a cut-off age of 45, rather than 60 as before, but this should not significantly bias downwards the values obtained as the number of women entering unions for the first time after age 45 is likely to be negligible. However, the effect of the exclusion of those still attending school, and the inclusion of some of those who have had a visiting union in the "Never had a husband or Common Law partner" category may be significant. The mean age at union formation in 1970 was about 22 years while by 1981 it had dropped to 21 years. This contrasts with a mean age at marriage, already given, of about 32 years. The extent of union formation does not seem to have changed during the decade, with about 15% of females aged 40-44 never having had a husband or Common Law partner.

TABLE E7

DOMINICA

Mean Age at Union Formation and Proportions Never  
Entering a Union by Highest School Attended, 1981

Highest school attended	Mean age at union formation	Percentage never in a union
None / infant	20.6	23
Primary	20.6	14
Secndry / univrsty	23.2	10
All schools	21.0	15

-----  
source : 1981 census, table 8.2.1

Table E7 gives comparable figures for 1981 for different educational attainment categories. It shows that those with secondary or higher education have a mean age of union formation of about 23 years, some three years older than those with primary education or less. Similarly the proportions never in a union by ages 40-44 are lowest for those with secondary or university education (10.5%) and rise to 27% for those with little or no education. It should be emphasised that, due to the biases that might exist in these figures, these estimates only give a broad indication of the extent of, and mean ages at, union formation, but the differentials they reveal are likely to be real, in so far as the same biases affect all the categories of women compared.

SECTION FFERTILITY

Four questions in the census related directly to fertility. These only covered females aged 14 and over who were not attending school full-time and asked for the number of children ever borne, age at first birth, age at last birth, and number of births during the last twelve months. A fifth question asked for the number of still-births during the previous year, but no tables based on it have been produced because of the poor quality of the responses.

TABLE F1

DOMINICA

Births Last Year and Age Specific Fertility Rates, 1981

Age group	Total women	Births in last year	ASFR's (per 1000)	registered births
15 - 19	2951	459	155.5	-
20 - 24	3244	744	229.3	-
25 - 29	2185	437	200.0	-
30 - 34	1751	252	143.9	-
35 - 39	1414	115	81.3	-
40 - 44	1327	31	23.4	-
15 - 44	12872	2038	158.3	-
Total fertility rate			4.2	
Mean age at childbearing			26.5	

---

source : 1981 census, table 8.4

registered birth data not available for 1981

note : Women who are still at school, and those who did not report the number of births last year are excluded from the table. Births last year reported to 14 yr olds are included in the births to age group 15-19.

Table F1 shows the number of live births reported as occurring during the twelve months before the census, together with the age-specific fertility rates implied by them. These ASFR's show an early peak in the 20-24 age group, but remain at fairly high levels until the mid-thirties. The Total Fertility Rate calculated from these figures is 4.2 births per woman and the mean age of child bearing is 26.5 years. Unfortunately it is impossible to compare these data with 1970 census figures because, although the information was collected in 1970, no tabulations using the information were published.

TABLE F2

DOMINICA

Age Specific Fertility Rates by Highest School Attended

Age group	Highest school attended	
	Primary or none	Secondary & higher
15 - 19	155.1	169.8
20 - 24	242.9	199.6
25 - 29	211.5	171.1
30 - 34	143.7	145.6
35 - 39	81.9	84.4
40 - 44	21.2	45.1
15 - 44	158.3	164.1
Total fertility rate	4.3	4.1
Mean age at childbearing	26.4	27.0

---

source : 1981 census, table 8.4.1

Table F2 shows age-specific fertility rates for different educational attainment categories, as measured by highest school attended. Because of small numbers of births only a two-way split can usefully be made. As one might expect, the more educated have a lower Total Fertility Rate of 4.1 and later mean age of child bearing (27 years) than the less educated (4.3 and 26.4 years) but the differences are remarkably small, especially given the considerable differences in mean age at union formation by education described in the previous section (Table E7). Comparison of the ASFR's shows that the less educated group have a more concentrated pattern of childbearing than the more educated with a higher peak during the twenties and lower figures at younger and older ages.

A breakdown of births in the last year by union status is given in Table F3. The fact that the largest number of births, 37.5% of the total, occur to women in visiting unions is unsurprising given the way visiting unions are defined. As stated in the Explanatory Notes, section 4.7, in theory it was necessary to have had a birth in the last 12 months to be classed as being in a visiting union, though in practice this rule was not always followed. Nevertheless it remains true that over half of all births occur outside a marriage or Common Law union. Only 20% occur within marriage and 24% within a Common Law union. Part of the reason for the high numbers of births occurring within visiting unions is that visiting unions most frequently occur during the prime childbearing ages. Similarly the low number of births occurring within marriages is, at least in part, a consequence of the fact that for many couples marriage does not occur until after childbearing is completed.

TABLE F3

DOMINICA

Births in Last Year by Union Status, 1981

Union status	Births	
	Number	Percent
Married	405	19.9
Common law	486	23.8
Visiting	765	37.5
No longer with husband	13	0.6
No longer in common law union	76	3.7
Never had husband or c.l. partner	206	10.1
Not stated	87	4.3
Total	2038	100.0

---

 source : 1981 census, table 8.4.2

TABLE F4

DOMINICA

Age Specific Fertility Rates (per 1000) by Union Status

Age group	U n i o n   s t a t u s		
	Married	Common law	Other
15 - 19	583	355	145
20 - 24	328	355	187
25 - 29	255	224	167
30 - 34	156	171	127
35 - 39	95	76	59
40 - 44	29	37	13
15 - 44	153	227	146
T.f.r.	7.2	6.1	3.5
Mean age	23.8	24.9	26.1

---

 source : 1981 census, table 8.4.2

note : the "other" category includes women in visiting unions and those who no longer have, or never had a husband or common-law partner.

Table F4, giving ASFR's for each union status eliminates the effects of these variations in union status by age. The extraordinarily high figures for visiting unions are a consequence of the definition of visiting unions and are not comparable with the others. Fertility within

marriage appears not to be consistently higher or lower than that in Common Law unions. The high figure for the married 15-19 year olds is based on small numbers and, in any case the figures for that age group are inflated by the exclusion of those still at school.

TABLE F5

DOMINICA

Mean Children Ever Borne by Age Group of Mother, 1970 and 1981

Age group	1970			1981		
	Total women	Children ever borne	Mean Parity	Total women	Children ever borne	Mean Parity
15 - 19	2666	924	0.347	2986	1005	0.337
20 - 24	2589	4112	1.588	3251	3674	1.130
25 - 29	1713	5981	3.492	2186	4924	2.253
30 - 34	1489	7357	4.941	1751	6162	3.519
35 - 39	1523	9006	5.913	1414	6532	4.620
40 - 44	1349	8301	6.153	1327	7702	5.804
45 - 49	1343	7532	5.608	1291	7897	6.117
50 - 54	1372	7209	5.254	1310	7942	6.063
55 - 59	1165	5554	4.767	1096	5679	5.182
60 - 64	974	4615	4.738	1190	5970	5.017
65+			0.000	3104	13947	4.493
Total	16183	60591	3.744	20906	71434	3.417

source : 1970 census, vol 8, part 3, table 1  
1981 census, table 8.3

note : Women attending school full time are excluded from this table, but women for whom number of children ever borne was not stated are included.

Turning to the question on the number of children ever born, Table F5 gives mean parities for each age group, for 1970 and 1981. The figures thus relate to different birth cohorts, the 15-19 figures for 1981 referring to women born during 1961-65 etc. It should be remembered, though, that any information on the fertility (or indeed anything else) of cohorts that is derived from censuses is not strictly comparable with registration or similar data because only those who are present on census night are included in the former. Those who have died or emigrated are not covered and, to the extent that their fertility is different, the census data will yield a biased picture of the true experience of the cohorts.

The mean parities from the 1981 census in the last column of Table F5 rise steadily with age to a peak of 6.1 children per woman in the 45-49 age group, and thereafter decline. This decline at older ages is a very common feature of these kind of data and is usually due not to lower fertility at sometime in the past, but to the omission of

children by older women. This bias is often caused by women "forgetting" children who died in infancy, or by a younger member of the household who is actually giving the information on behalf of the older woman not knowing about children who have perhaps died or are living elsewhere. Comparing the 1981 figures with those for 1970 reveals that there has been a marked decline in fertility affecting all age groups under 40. Those aged 25-29, for example, had, on average, 3.5 children in 1970 but only 2.3 or 36% fewer in 1981. The declines in the 20-24 and 30-34 age groups are almost as large.

TABLE F6

DOMINICA

Percentage Distribution of Women in Each Age Group by Parity

Parity	Age group											All ages
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65+	
0	63.6	30.9	15.3	8.1	5.6	5.2	7.7	8.6	15.0	15.4	17.8	22.2
1	21.8	33.3	19.1	10.6	6.5	4.7	5.2	7.3	7.7	10.8	11.1	15.4
2	4.6	20.6	22.9	14.8	9.5	7.8	6.5	6.7	9.0	8.4	9.3	11.8
3	0.4	8.2	18.7	17.0	11.6	6.6	6.7	7.6	8.3	7.4	8.0	8.8
4	.0	2.6	11.8	14.6	11.1	8.7	6.7	6.5	7.5	8.2	6.7	6.8
5		0.5	6.3	13.8	13.5	11.3	8.4	7.2	8.0	5.3	7.2	6.3
6		0.1	2.5	10.6	14.2	9.9	8.8	8.1	6.8	6.1	6.8	5.5
7			1.0	5.1	10.8	10.9	8.8	8.2	5.7	5.9	5.5	4.5
8			0.3	2.6	7.6	11.1	10.5	7.5	5.7	6.3	6.1	4.1
9		.0	.0	0.9	3.5	8.6	8.8	7.3	6.6	4.4	4.5	3.1
10+	0.1	.0	0.1	0.5	3.3	13.0	17.8	22.5	17.5	18.4	13.6	7.7
n.s.	9.5	3.8	2.0	1.4	2.8	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	3.4	3.4	3.7
Total (=100%)	2986	3251	2186	1751	1414	1327	1291	1310	1096	1190	3104	20906

source : 1981 census, table 8.3

Further evidence of the tendency of older women to omit children is provided in Table F6 which gives the distribution of women by parity for each age group in 1981. The proportions childless, shown along the first row of the table, increase with age after age 45, whereas one would expect them to remain fairly steady after that age. Smaller rises are also observable in the parity-one and parity-two rows, though this could be explained to some extent by higher levels of secondary sterility in the past. This misreporting makes it difficult to assess what proportion of women remain childless throughout their lives, but the figure is probably around 5%. At the other extreme the table suggests that over 25% of all women aged 45-49 have ten or more children. This very great variability in numbers of children ever borne should be remembered when considering the mean parities given in other tables in this section.

TABLE F7

DOMINICA

Mean Children Ever Borne by Union Status and Age, 1970 and 1981

Age group	Married		Common law		Others	
	1970	1981	1970	1981	1970	1981
15 - 19	1.188	0.083	1.326	0.886	0.284	0.308
20 - 24	2.220	1.638	2.831	1.753	1.236	0.959
25 - 29	3.878	2.496	4.563	3.019	2.767	1.866
30 - 34	5.747	3.776	5.774	4.241	3.710	2.924
35 - 39	6.615	5.045	6.706	5.340	4.470	3.878
40 - 44	7.154	6.454	5.811	6.238	4.664	5.049
45 - 49	6.730	7.068	5.421	6.155	4.114	4.937
50 - 54	6.195	7.085	4.683	6.466	3.920	4.925
55 - 59	5.687	6.192	4.800	5.943	3.572	3.967
60 - 64	5.671	6.166	4.757	4.347	3.640	3.950
65+		5.736		3.662		3.659

source : 1970 census, vol 8, table 3

1981 census, table 8.3.2

note : The category "other" consists of those in visiting unions and those who never had, or no longer have a husband or common law partner.

Union status for those aged over 45 is that which existed at 45.

Table F7, showing a breakdown of mean children ever borne by union status and age for 1970 and 1981 is particularly hard to interpret, because the table is based on current union status and takes no account of previous union history. Yet, for example, a 45 year old married woman may have reached that status by many varied routes and these are likely to significantly affect her reproductive performance. The definition of the visiting union category and the fact that those aged over 45 were asked to report their status at age 45 rather than current status, creates further interpretive problems. However, by age group 45-49 the highest mean parity, 7.1 children, is reported by those who are married, while those in Common Law unions have a somewhat lower mean of 6.2 children. The small numbers of women in visiting unions have a similar figure of 6.1 children. For those not in a union, which includes both those who never had and those who no longer have a husband or Common Law partner, the mean is substantially lower at 4.9. Interestingly, these figures are substantially higher than those reported in 1970; despite the overall decline in fertility during the decade. This may be a reflection of improved reporting rather than any real increase. In contrast below age 40 the 1981 figures are generally markedly lower than in 1970 in all categories except those not in a union.

Table F8, showing mean parities for different educational attainment categories and age, is very much easier to interpret than the previous table because, unlike union status, educational attainment



remains fixed from a relatively early age. The differentials are substantial and generally fertility declines as education increases. By the age group 45-49 those with little or no education had about 6.7 children and those with primary education, by far the largest group, had 6.2, while those with secondary education had only 5.2 children. However, at ages under 45 the pattern is somewhat more complex and those with little or no schooling have distinctly lower fertility than those with primary education.

TABLE F8

DOMINICA

Mean Parities by Age Group and Highest School Attended

Age group	Highest school attended			
	None - infant	Primary	Secondary	University
15 - 19	0.275	0.351	0.338	(0.000)
20 - 24	0.730	1.308	0.743	(0.077)
25 - 29	2.227	2.555	1.504	0.553
30 - 34	3.727	3.837	2.225	1.382
35 - 39	4.372	4.941	3.539	1.857
40 - 44	5.373	5.984	5.483	(1.235)
45 - 49	6.690	6.229	5.220	3.231
50 - 54	6.338	6.162	5.573	(2.000)
55 - 59	5.176	5.352	4.158	(1.571)
60 - 64	4.135	5.281	3.393	(1.400)
65+	5.193	4.440	2.958	(1.000)

-----  
 source : 1981 census, table B.3.1

note : figures in parentheses are based on fewer than 20 reports

A breakdown of mean parities according to the main activity engaged in by women during the previous year is given in Table F9. As was pointed out earlier; the classification of women by economic activity is a difficult and to some extent, arbitrary exercise and the presence of children may for example, encourage women to report themselves as engaged in home duties rather than perhaps unemployed. Therefore it is not surprising to find the highest mean parities at all ages in the "Home duties" category. In the age group 45-49 those engaged in home duties have a mean of 6.6 children while those who were working had only 5.6. The unemployed have considerably more children than those working at ages under 35, suggesting that the presence of children is a hindrance to obtaining a job. Of course women who are raising children and who state that they are unemployed may only be reporting a rather vague ambition eventually to try to return to work rather than that they are actually currently searching actively for work.

TABLE F9

DOMINICA

Mean Parities by Age Group and Main Activity in Previous Year

Age group	Main activity			
	Worked	Skng first job	Other unemployd	Home duties
15 - 19	0.294	0.235	0.351	0.503
20 - 24	0.800	1.009	1.250	1.550
25 - 29	1.730	1.837	2.261	2.891
30 - 34	2.935	3.286	3.809	4.070
35 - 39	4.145	(4.333)	3.756	5.256
40 - 44	5.295		6.050	6.388
45 - 49	5.669	(1.500)	5.730	6.646
50 - 54	5.609	(5.000)	5.657	6.575
55 - 59	4.835	(1.000)	2.400	5.703
60 - 64	4.652		1.889	5.706
65+	4.008		2.400	5.110

---

 source : 1981 census, table 8.3.3

note : figures in parentheses are based on fewer than 20 reports

In addition to asking about how many births women have had, the census also makes possible some investigation of when they had them since questions were asked about both age at first birth and age at last birth. A serious, but unavoidable problem with the information obtained from these questions is that many women, especially the young, will not yet have had their last, or indeed first birth. To avoid as far as possible the bias caused by this truncation effect, Table F10 only gives the mean ages at first birth for women aged 35 and over, by which age the vast majority of first births will have already been born. For similar reasons, ages at last birth are given only for those aged 50 and over when childbearing has finished. Note however, that these figures are thus based on the reports of older women who have already been shown to give unreliable answers to the question on children ever borne, and also that they refer mainly to births which occurred before 1970. Nevertheless, the figures suggest that the average age at which women first become mothers has been declining slowly from around 23 years for those aged 55 and above in 1981 to about 20.5 years for those aged 35-39. The mean ages at last birth given in Table F10 are between 36 and 37 years, and show little sign of any trend. However, comparable figures derived from the 1970 Census fertility tabulations are somewhat lower at 35.9, 35.5 and 36.0 years for the 50-54, 55-59 and 60-64 age groups respectively. This, somewhat surprisingly, suggests that the mean age at last birth may be rising slightly. Again it must be emphasised that these data may well be unreliable and the trend may reflect no more than improved reporting since 1970.

Table F10 also shows mean ages at first and last birth differentiated by union status categories. Interpretation is complicated

## SECTION G

**HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS**

As was stated in the Explanatory Notes, Section 2, a household is defined as one or more persons living together and sharing at least one daily meal. Boarders, servants and guests are thus included as members of the household, but tenants and others who only rent a room constitute separate households. The institutional population is excluded entirely from all household-based tabulations and are not considered further in this section.

There were some 15,100 households in Dominica in 1970. By 1981 this figure had increased by some 2,200 or nearly 15% to 17,310. This increase was greater than the overall population increase of 6% and consequently there has been a reduction in the average household size from 4.6 in 1970 to 4.3 in 1981.

TABLE G1

DOMINICA

Households by Area - Numbers and Mean Size, 1970 and 1981

Area	Number		Percent		Mean size	
	1970	1981	1970	1981	1970	1981
Roseau twm	2388	2150	15.8	12.4	4.17	3.85
St George rem	1971	2749	13.0	15.9	4.83	4.45
St John	1260	1372	8.3	7.9	4.15	3.94
St Peter	452	465	3.0	2.7	3.76	3.44
St Joseph	1478	1702	9.8	9.8	4.30	3.88
St Paul	1046	1507	6.9	8.7	4.26	4.24
St Luke	445	438	2.9	2.5	3.67	3.43
St Mark	479	476	3.2	2.7	4.09	4.04
St Patrick	1969	2186	13.0	12.6	5.13	4.47
St David	1197	1479	7.9	8.5	5.60	4.96
St Andrew	2463	2786	16.3	16.1	4.85	4.58
DOMINICA	15148	17310	100.0	100.0	4.59	4.26

sources : 1970 census, vol 9, table 1  
1981 census, table 11.1.4

note : changes in area boundaries may affect comparability over time

Table G1 shows that this national picture is not reflected in every parish. Mean household sizes in 1981 substantially larger than the average are found in the east coast parishes of St. Andrew (4.6), St. David (5.0) and St. Patrick (4.5) while below average figures are found in the northern parishes of St. Peter and, St. John and in the south

by the fact that the union status is that which existed at the time of the census in 1981 rather than at the time of the births, or, in the case of women aged 45 and over, the union status which existed at age 45. The differences between the categories in mean age at first birth, shown in the top half of the table, are generally not large, though those in Common Law unions appear to enter motherhood at slightly younger ages than the other categories. Those never in a union not surprisingly, generally have the highest means.

TABLE F10

DOMINICA

Mean Ages at First and Last Birth by Age and Union Status, 1981

	Age group	Union status			
		Married	Common law	Other	All
First birth					
	35 - 39	20.8	19.7	20.5	20.5
	40 - 44	20.8	19.7	20.7	20.5
	45 - 49	21.5	21.4	21.4	21.4
	50 - 54	22.1	21.8	22.3	22.1
	55 - 59	22.9	22.1	22.9	22.9
	60 - 64	22.4	20.8	22.3	22.3
	65+	23.0	22.2	23.3	23.1
Last birth					
	50 - 54	37.5	38.2	35.3	36.7
	55 - 59	37.8	38.6	34.8	36.7
	60 - 64	37.4	32.8	35.5	36.4
	65+	38.0	33.5	35.3	36.5

---

source : 1981 census, tables 8.5 and 8.6

note : the category other includes those in visiting unions as well as those who never had or no longer have a husband or common law partner

The mean ages at last birth, in the lower part of Table F10, are more variable, with those never in a union having the lowest figures of around 34 years, while those in the married category appear to complete their childbearing at, an average, approaching 38 years. It must, be emphasised again that these data are derived from the possibly unreliable reports of older women, and they relate to births occurring sometime in the past, usually prior to 1970. A more up-to-date picture of the trends in fertility could be obtained from registration derived data, though not, of course, breakdowns by union status, education or other socio-economic variables.

seventies there has been a decline in the proportion of households of seven or more persons, and a corresponding decline in the proportion of the total population they contain from 50% to 43%.

TABLE G3

DOMINICA

Households by Number of Rooms, 1970 and 1981

No. of rooms	Number		Percent	
	1970	1981	1970	1981
1	2337	1808	15.4	10.4
2	6423	6146	42.4	35.5
3	1577	2461	10.4	14.2
4	3120	3412	20.6	19.7
5	749	1268	4.9	7.3
6	433	724	2.9	4.2
7 and over	293	452	1.9	2.6
Not stated	217	1039	1.4	6.0
Total	15149	17310	100.0	100.0

-----  
 source : 1970 census, vol 9, table 8

1981 census, table 11.1.4

Of course the number of persons per household does not in itself provide a measure of the extent of overcrowding because houses vary in size. The extent of this variation can be seen in Table G3 which shows the number of rooms available to each household. It should be mentioned that kitchens, bathrooms, toilets etc. are not counted when arriving at these numbers. The mean number of rooms per household in 1981 was 3.0, substantially more than in 1970 when it was 2.7. The distribution shows that this increase is due to a reduction, in both relative and absolute terms, in the number of one and two roomed households. In 1970 these comprised 58% of the total stock, but 46% in 1981.

Table G4 puts together the information presented in the two previous tables and thus looks more directly at overcrowding by considering the number of persons per room in each household. If overcrowding is defined as, there being two or more persons per room in a household, then in 1981 32% of households, in which lived nearly half the total population, are overcrowded. In only 27% of households with just 12% of the population is there more than one room per person. This position is nevertheless a considerable improvement since 1970 when 62% of the population (comprising 42% of households) lived at a density of two or more persons per room, and only 9% of the population (22% of households) enjoyed the comparative luxury of having more than one room per person.

southern parishes of St. Luke and St. Mark, dropping there to below 3.5 persons. The town of Roseau also tends to have small households, in contrast to the surrounding other parts of the parish of St. George. Comparing the 1981 figures with those for 1970 shows that the range of values was even greater in 1970, with mean sizes greater than 5.0 persons in St. Patrick and St. David. However, almost all parishes (the exception being St. Joseph) have seen declines in the average household size since 1970, this being greatest in St. Patrick and St. David. A decline has also occurred in the non-urban part of St. George, suggesting that house-building in this area is more than keeping pace with its rapid population growth. This is also true in St. Paul, the other area which grew particularly rapidly during the 1970's.

TABLE G2

DOMINICA

Distribution of Households and Population  
by Household Size, 1970 and 1981

Household size	Households		Population	
	1970	1981	1970	1981
1	18.0	20.1	4.0	4.7
2	14.6	14.6	6.4	6.9
3	11.9	12.8	7.8	9.0
4	11.0	11.9	9.7	11.2
5	9.9	10.6	10.9	12.5
6	8.6	8.9	11.3	12.6
7	7.7	7.0	11.8	11.5
8	6.1	5.2	10.7	9.8
9	4.5	3.4	8.9	7.2
10	3.1	2.3	6.8	5.4
11	1.9	1.2	4.6	3.1
12	1.2	0.8	3.2	2.3
13	1.4	1.2	4.0	3.8
Total (=100%)	15149	17310	69032	73578

source : 1970 census, volume 9, table 8  
1981 census, table 11.1.4

The means presented in Table G1, though informative, do hide the very great variability in household sizes apparent in Table G2. This shows the distribution by household size of both the households and the population, for 1970 and 1981. It can be seen that the greatest number of households, some 20% of the total, are of single persons, but they contain less than 5% of the total population. At the other extreme, households of seven or more persons constitute 21% of the total, households and contain over 43% of the total population. Thus only a comparatively small number of households are close to the mean size of 4.3. A comparison of the 1970 and 1981 figures shows that during the

TABLE G4

DOMINICA

Persons per Room, 1970 and 1981

<u>Households</u>	<u>Numbers</u>		<u>Percent</u>	
Persons per room	1970	1981	1970	1981
Under one	3371	4707	22.3	27.2
One	2615	2872	17.3	16.6
Between one & two	2536	3210	16.7	18.5
Two or more	6410	5482	42.3	31.7
Rooms not stated	217	1039	1.4	6.0
Total	15149	17310	100.0	100.0

<u>Population</u>	<u>Numbers</u>		<u>Percent</u>	
Persons per room	1970	1981	1970	1981
Under one	6122	9092	8.9	12.4
One	5965	7053	8.6	9.6
Between one & two	13366	17272	19.4	23.5
Two or more	42731	35997	61.9	48.9
Rooms not stated	848	4164	1.2	5.7
Total	69032	73578	100.0	100.0

source : 1970 census, vol 9, table 8  
 1981 census, table 11.1.4

note : for the purposes of computing the persons per room ratio, 7+ rooms is taken as 7,  
 and 13+ persons is taken as 13.

TABLE G5

DOMINICA

Distribution of Households and Persons by Family Type, 1980

Family type	households	persons
Nuclear	56.4	41.9
Extended	34.0	45.2
Composite	9.6	12.9
All types (=100%)	17310	73578

source : 1980 census, table 11.3

note : for definitions of family type see explanatory notes

Households have been classified in the census as "nuclear", "extended" or "composite" according to whether relatives, boarders, servants etc are present in the household. Households comprising only heads, their spouse or Common Law partner and their children are designated as "nuclear"; those containing other relatives are "extended"; "composite" households are ones which contain boarders, domestics or other non-relatives.

The distribution of both households and population in 1981 by family type is shown in Table G5. 57% of households are nuclear, one-third contain another relative and are thus "extended", while some 10% are of composite type. The distribution of the population shows that 45% of the people live in households containing another relative and only just over 40% of persons live in simple nuclear households.

TABLE G6

DOMINICA

Mean Number of Persons per Room by Family Type, 1981

Family type	Mean persons per room
Nuclear	1.24
Extended	1.81
Composite	1.66
All types (=100%)	1.51

-----  
source : 1981 census, table 11.3

note : for definitions of family type see explanatory notes

Because the mean size of households by "family type" varies, it is important to investigate the relationship between "family type" and overcrowding. This is done in Table G6 which gives mean numbers of persons per room for each type. Nuclear households have a mean of 1.2 persons per room while for extended and composite households the means are 1.8 and 1.7 persons, which indicates that nuclear families enjoy the most favourable conditions as regards overcrowding.

Overcrowding also varies by area, as can be seen in Table G7. The least overcrowding appears to occur in St. Peter and St. Luke where there are fewer than 1.3 persons per room on average, and is greatest in the east coast parishes of St. David (1.84) and St. Andrew (1.63).

Table G8 considers another aspect of household characteristics, namely the main economic activity of heads of households during the previous year. The table is identical to Table C2 described earlier except that it is confined to heads of households rather than all adults. Comparing the two tables shows first that labour force participation rates are much the same amongst heads as amongst all adults. However, within the economically active category a much lower proportion of heads



TABLE G7

## DOMINICA

Persons per Room by Area, 1981

Area	Mean persons per room
Roseau twm	1.40
St George rem	1.49
St John	1.48
St Peter	1.17
St Joseph	1.43
St Paul	1.49
St Luke	1.28
St Mark	1.45
St Patrick	1.48
St David	1.84
St Andrew	1.63
DOMINICA	1.51

---

source : 1981 census, table 11.1

TABLE G8

## DOMINICA

Main Economic Activity of Heads of Households, 1970 and 1981

Main activity	Males		Females	
	1970	1981	1970	1981
Economically active	87.7	81.6	45.3	43.2
Worked	86.7	77.7	44.0	39.2
Seeking first job	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.6
Others seeking work	0.6	1.1	0.7	1.3
Wanted work and available	0.2	2.1	0.4	2.1
Economically inactive	11.4	12.2	54.2	53.7
Home duties	0.3	0.8	36.9	34.0
Student	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Retired	10.9	5.8	17.2	9.1
Disabled		5.4		10.4
Other and not stated	0.9	6.2	0.5	3.1
Total number (=100%)	8723	10787	6425	6521

---

source : 1970 census, vol C, table 6  
1981 census, table 11.2

are unemployed than non-heads. The figures have already been discussed and are shown in Table C3. This lower unemployment may be, in part at least, an age effect as heads of households are likely to be somewhat older, on average, than non-heads and, as has already been seen, unemployment varies markedly with age.

Amongst the economically inactive there are also significant differences between heads and non-heads. Heads of households are more likely to be retired or disabled and less likely to classify themselves as being engaged primarily in home duties. Again this could be in part an age effect.

TABLE G9

DOMINICA

Distribution of Households by Type of Dwelling

Type of dwelling	1970	1981
Separate house	81.8	78.3
Flat or apartment	13.7	12.7
Range type or barracks	0.2	1.0
Out-room	0.7	1.1
Part of commercial building	1.8	1.6
Other private	0.4	2.9
Group dwelling	0.5	0.7
No fixed abode	0.1	0.1
Not stated	0.8	1.6
Total number (=100%)	15148	17310

-----  
 source : 1970 census, vol 9, table 2  
 1981 census, table 9.1

The last section of tables describe various aspects of housing conditions and quality. Table G9 shows the distribution of households by type of dwelling and reveals that nearly 80% of households live in separate houses, and most of the remainder live in flats. Some 500 or 3% of households live in "other private" dwellings, a category which includes boats, tents, trailers etc. This is undoubtedly a consequence of the hurricanes of 1979 and 1980 as there were very few households in this category in 1970. The increases since 1970 in the small numbers of households living in ranges, barracks, outrooms etc. may similarly be attributable to the destruction caused by the hurricanes.

The distribution of the housing stock by tenure can be seen in Table G10. Almost 56% of households own their house, 21% rent from a private landlord and some 9% live rent free; presumably mainly in dwellings tied to a job such as caretakers flats, apartments for staff in institutions etc. Since 1970 there have been few changes, though fewer now rent privately.

TABLE G10

DOMINICA

Distribution of Households by Type of Tenure, 1970 & 1981

Tenure	1970	1981
Owned	64.8	65.3
Leased	1.0	0.8
Private rented	25.6	21.1
Rent free	7.3	8.6
Squatted	0.1	0.7
Hire purchase		1.1
Government rented		0.5
Other	0.4	0.5
Not stated	0.8	1.4
Total (=100%)	15148	17310

-----

source : 1970 census, vol 9, table 1  
1981 census, table 9.2

TABLE G11

DOMINICA

Distribution of Households by Construction Material, 1970 and 1981

Material	1970	1981
Wood	81.2	61.6
Concrete	9.6	19.7
Stone	0.3	0.4
Brick	0.3	0.7
Noggin or stucco	.0	
Wattle or adobe	0.2	.0
Wood and brick		0.7
Wood and concrete	7.6	13.6
Other	0.8	0.7
Not stated		2.6
Total number (=100%)	15148	17310

-----

source : 1970 census, vol 9, table 2  
1981 census, table 9.4

The distribution of households by material of construction of dwelling is shown in Table G11. Although most houses are still built of wood, there has been a marked increase since 1970 in the proportion of dwellings built of concrete or wood and concrete from 17% to over 33% in 1981. In absolute terms the number has more than doubled from 2,600 in 1970 to 5,300 in 1981. The number of houses built of logging, wattle and

"other" materials has declined during the same period to negligible proportions. The proportion of dwellings built of wood has declined substantially from over 80% of the total to just 62%.

TABLE G12

DOMINICA

Distribution of Households by Year of Construction of Dwelling, 1981

Date of construction	Number	Percent	Rate per year apr.
1960 or earlier	7845	45.3	
1961 - 1969	2516	14.5	252
1970 - 1977	2684	15.5	336
1978	367	2.1	367
1979	1098	6.3	1098
1980 - 1981	1406	8.1	937
Not stated	1394	8.1	
Total	17310	100.0	

-----  
source : 1981 census, table 9.3

Table G12 gives the distribution of households by year of construction of the dwelling. It does not, of course, include dwellings built and subsequently demolished or destroyed before the census. Neither does it, in theory, cover renovations, reconstructions and other structural improvements carried out after the dwelling was built, though some of these may in practice be included, especially if the respondent considered the modifications to have been sufficiently major for the house to be called "new". The figures here are thus underestimates of the real extent of building activity. About 8% of households are categorised as "Not stated". Clearly many people, particularly, one suspects, those who rent rather than own their houses, simply do not know when their dwelling was built. However, nearly one-third of households live in dwellings built since 1970 and a further 15% were built during the 1960's. The annual construction rates are derived simply by dividing the number of dwellings built in the period by the number of years in the period. They show rising construction rates during the 1960's and 1970's and very high rates for 1979 and 1980, a reflection of the reconstruction after the hurricanes. Because the census was postponed from 1980 to May 1981 there was no place on the questionnaire to mark dwellings built in 1981, so enumerators were instructed to include dwellings built in 1981 with those built in 1980.

Tables G13 to G16 describe the amenities available to households. Table G13 shows that during the 1970's substantial improvements in water supplies took place. Although nearly half of households still have to fetch their water from a public standpipe, the proportion of households which obtained their water from "other" sources, including wells, streams and ponds, declined from 24% in 1970 to 16% in 1981, while the

proportions which had water piped into their dwelling increased from 13% to 22% over the same period. Some 22% of households now have access to the public piped water supply either in their yard or their dwelling. In 1970 the figure was 16%.

TABLE G13

DOMINICA

Distribution of Households by Method of Water Supply, 1970 and 1981

Method of water supply	1970	1981
Public - piped into dwelling	8.3	12.8
Public - piped into yard	7.4	9.5
Private - piped into dwelling	5.1	9.3
Private catchment, not piped	2.2	1.6
Public stand-pipe	51.1	47.3
Public tank	0.7	1.0
Other	24.4	15.6
Not stated	0.8	2.9
Total number (=100%)	15148	17310

source : 1970 census, vol 9, table 3  
1981 census, table 10.1

TABLE G14

DOMINICA

Distribution of Households by Toilet Facilities, 1970 and 1981

Availability	1970	1981	Type	1970	1981
Shared	10.3	8.6	Pit	33.6	33.9
Not shared	38.0	46.4	WC linked to sewer	8.8	
None	51.1	40.2	WC not linked	3.5	20.2
Not stated	0.6	4.8	Other	2.4	0.9
			None	51.1	40.2
			Not stated	0.6	4.8
Total number (=100%)	15148	17310	Total number (=100%)	15148	17310

source : 1970 census, vol 9, tables 4a and 4b  
1981 census, table 10.2

Modest improvements in toilet facilities have also been made during the decade, though the figures given in Table G14 show that 40% of households still have no toilet facilities at all available to them. The 1970 figure was 51%. Most of those which do have access to some facilities only have a pit latrine. Only 20% of households have access

to a W.C. though their number has increased substantially from 1,900 to 3,200 in 1981. The apparent disappearance of WC's linked to sewerage systems (nearly 9 percent of households were reported to have this kind of toilet facility in 1970 and none at all in 1980) is due to coding and/or reporting errors in 1970: Dominica in fact has no public sewerage system. The editing procedure adopted in 1980 ensured that this error was not repeated.

TABLE G15

DOMINICA

Distribution of Households by Type of Lighting, 1981

L i g h t i n g   t y p e				Total number (=100%)
electric	kerosene	other	n.s.	
30.0	65.2	2.4	2.4	17310

---

source : 1981 census, table 10.3

Tables G15 and G16 show the types of fuel used for lighting and for cooking in 1981. Unfortunately, comparisons with 1970 cannot be made because, although the data were collected, no tabulations based on them were published. In 1981 only 30% of households have electric lighting and two-thirds use kerosene. The predominant cooking fuel, used by some 70% of households is wood or charcoal. Most of the rest use gas.

TABLE G16

DOMINICA

Distribution of Households by Cooking fuel used, 1981

C o o k i n g   f u e l						Total number (=100%)
Gas	Electrcity	Wood or charcoal	Kerosene	Other or none	not stated	
19.9	0.4	70.4	4.8	1.2	3.3	17310

---

source : 1981 census, table 10.4

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