

200 years of the Census in...

CUMBRIA

March 10th 2001 marks the bicentenary of the modern Census in Britain.

For 200 years the Census has been the cornerstone of planning in Britain. The first Census in 1801 was taken amidst fears that Britain's growing population might outstrip the country's supply of food. It asked 5 questions and counted 10 million people living in two million households. The 2001 Census, which takes place on the 29th April, will count almost 60 million people who live in approximately twenty four million households. It will ask 40 questions and generate 2 billion pieces of information to allocate more than £50 billion of public spending each year.

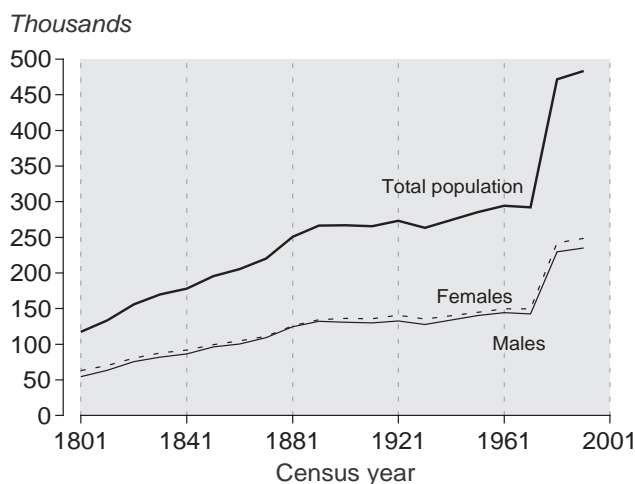
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100 years from 4.6 persons in 1901 to approximately 2.4 persons in 1991. We are also living longer. In 1821 almost half of the population was under 20 years of age compared with just over a quarter under 20 years of age today.

The value of the Census is that it provides detailed information at a local as well as a national level. This pamphlet - one of a series for various areas in England and for Wales - describes the changes in society measured by the Census between 1801 and 1991.

The information from censuses has continued to evolve and grow since the first reports in 1801. The questions and results are on issues relevant to a particular time and change cannot always be tracked exactly over the two centuries. Boundaries of counties also shift over time. The figures and graphs in this pamphlet are the best approximation in the circumstances and are to help paint the picture of change. A full list of the topics covered in the census since 1801 is available in an accompanying document 'Census Topics 1801-2001', and details on how to obtain further information on historical census statistics are given on the back page of this monitor.

THE POPULATION AND AREA SIZE OF CUMBRIA

This table and chart show the various increases and decreases in area size and population, and numbers of males and females. There have been a number of changes in the boundaries and size of Cumbria over the years. The apparent increase in the population of Cumbria between 1971 and 1981 was predominantly caused by the 1974 Local Government Re-organisation when boundaries, in particular those with North Yorkshire, were changed.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	117,230	54,377	62,853
1811	na	133,665	63,390	70,275
1821	na	156,124	75,600	80,524
1831	969,490	169,681	81,971	87,710
1841	969,490	178,038	86,292	91,746
1851	1,001,273	195,492	96,244	99,248
1861	1,001,273	205,276	100,333	104,943
1871	970,161	220,253	109,079	111,174
1881	970,161	250,647	124,746	125,901
1891	970,161	266,549	132,080	134,469
1901	973,086	266,933	130,613	136,320
1911	973,086	265,746	129,783	135,963
1921	973,086	273,173	132,677	140,496
1931	973,086	263,151	127,676	135,475
1951	973,147	285,338	140,389	144,949
1961	973,147	294,303	144,430	149,873
1971	973,137	292,187	142,661	149,526
1981	1,682,781	471,696	229,685	242,011
1991	1,686,045	483,163	234,841	248,322

na = not available

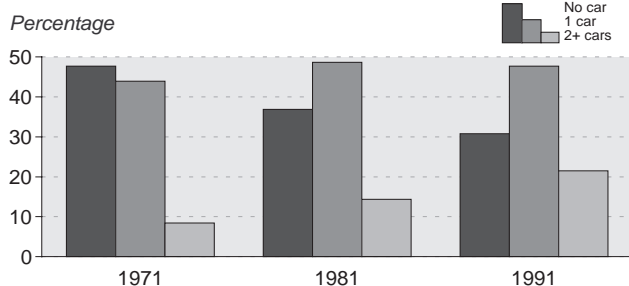
Households and Amenities

At the end of the Second World War (1939-45) it was vital to assess the overall housing situation in Great Britain. Consequently the 1951 Census had a number of questions on housing needs. These were met in the post-war housing programmes, and significant improvements were evident in subsequent Censuses. In 1971 only 2,120 households in Cumbria were without a WC, compared to 7,393 households in 1951. By 1981, only 4,162 households were without a fixed bath.

The 2001 Census will ask questions relevant now, such as availability of central heating and the lowest floor level of accommodation.

Amenities	1951	H/Holds %
H/Holds without piped water	4,493	7.5
H/Holds without WC	7,393	12.4
H/Holds without fixed bath	27,940	46.8
H/Holds without kitchen sink	6,518	10.9
H/Holds without cooking stove	3,271	5.5
H/Holds with all five of the above	28,606	48

(Total Households in 1951 = 59,657)



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time 52 per cent of households in Cumbria already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 17 percentage points to 69 per cent of households. There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

OCCUPATIONS

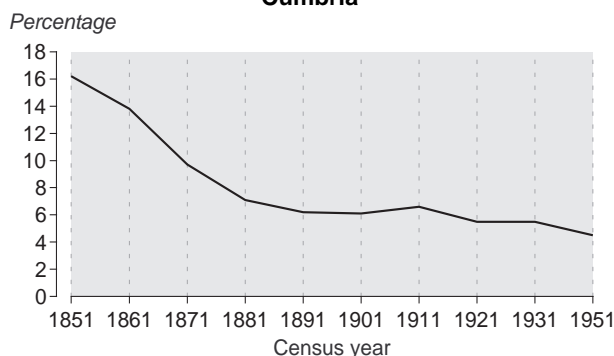
Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Cumbria the number of agricultural labourers fell from 7,664 in 1861 to 6,956 in 1931, a decrease of 9%. This compared to a much higher drop in many other counties.

By 1991, the number of farmers and agricultural labourers accounted for 2 per cent of Cumbria's population.

N.B. This analysis is based upon the number of people employed in agriculture as a percentage of the total population, not just the working population..

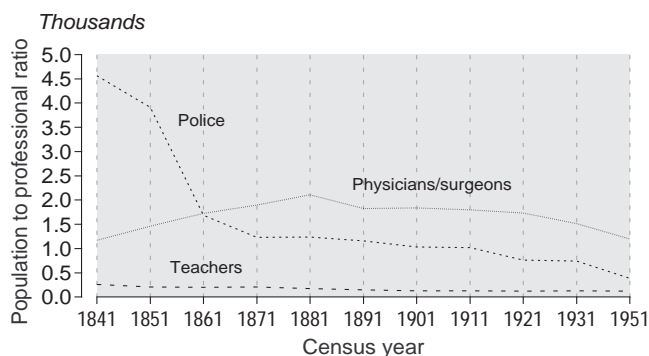
Percentage of people employed in agriculture in Cumbria



Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Cumbria, 1841-1951.

There have been changes in definition in what is included in each of these professions over the years.



For example, in 1841 'Police' included watchmen who were paid for 'guarding the gates' and patrolling the streets at night. Early figures for physicians and surgeons may also be overstated as they included people employed in 'apothecary' (chemists) and medical students.

The number of people per physician/surgeon appears to have risen and fallen, whilst the numbers of people per policeman/woman and teacher has fallen. For example, there was one police officer per 3,910 people in 1851, dropping to 383 people in 1951.

By 1991, there was one teacher per 77 people, one physician/surgeon per 681 people and one police officer per 358 people.

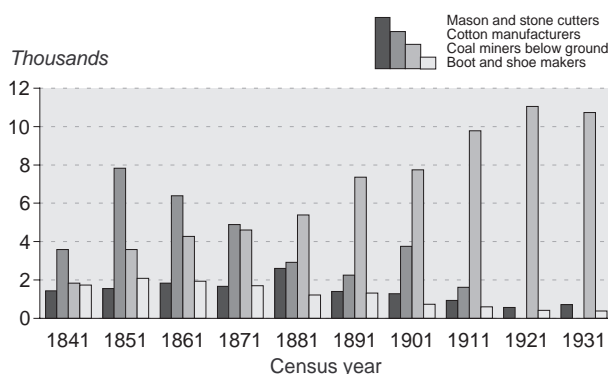
N.B. Figures between 1951 and 1991 have not been included due to problems with the availability and comparability of data between these years.

Key Occupations

The chart highlights four of the main occupations in Cumbria, past and present, and trends over the years.

Between 1841 and 1931 the biggest increase in employment came in the coal mining industry which reached a peak of 11,044 people in 1921. Cotton manufacturing experienced radical ups and downs employing 7,832 people in 1851, declining to 2,238 people in 1891, before rising again to 3,743 people in 1901. Figures on cotton manufacturing were not available from the 1921 and 1931 Censuses.

Numbers of mason and stonecutters rose between 1841 and 1881 and then fell, whilst the numbers of boot and shoemakers generally declined throughout the period



N.B. Analyses are only shown to 1931 because of difficulties in making comparisons with more recent statistics.

Did you know ?

- The population of Cumbria increased four-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in four households in Cumbria did not have central heating, which compared to a GB average of one in five.
- Between 1851 and 1901, the number of people employed on the railways in Cumbria (excluding construction) increased nine-fold - from 422 people to 3,811 people.
- In 1881, 10% of Cumbria's female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Almost 9 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 4 chimney sweeps aged between 10 and 14 in Cumbria.
- In 1881 there were 2,592 masons and stone cutters in Cumbria, whilst the highest number of coal miners recorded for Cumbria was 11,044 in 1921.
- There was a rise in the population density of Cumbria from 0.2 people per acre in 1831, to 0.3 people per acre in 1991. This was below the GB average of almost 1 person per acre in 1991.
- The numbers of people per household has decreased over the last 200 years. In 1801 the average household in Cumbria contained 5 people, compared to 2.5 in 1991, which matched the 1991 GB average of people per household.

The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1841 - " *The increase of population in Allonby is attributed to the presence of visitors for sea bathing.*"

1851 - " *Number of persons enumerated as paupers in workhouse was 1371 of which 669 were males and 702 were females and of these 168 were under 5 years.*"

1911 - " *The large decrease in the population of Millon Civil Parish is attributed to the removal of workmen who at the date of the 1901 Census were engaged in the construction of a sea wall also to the decline in employment at blast furnaces.*"

1931 - " *The increase of population in Bransty and Newtown Wards is attributed to colliery and residential development.*"

Further information

These monitors have been produced to show county level information. Often, there is more interest in information for lower geographical areas e.g. parishes. Many good reference libraries hold census volumes to enable individuals to carry out their own research. The ONS London library (details below) which is open to the public also contains a full set of census volumes back to 1801. From 10th March 2001 there will be additional information made available on our website www.statistics.gov.uk. Further advice and limited research can be also carried out by Census Customer Services.

Census Customer Services
Office for National Statistics
Room 4300S
Segensworth Road, Titchfield
Hampshire, PO15 5RR

ONS London Library
1 Drummond Gate
Pimlico
London
SW1V 2QQ

Phone: 01329 813800
Fax: 01329 813587
e-mail: census.customerservices@ons.gov.uk

