

200 years of the Census in...

DERBYSHIRE

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.

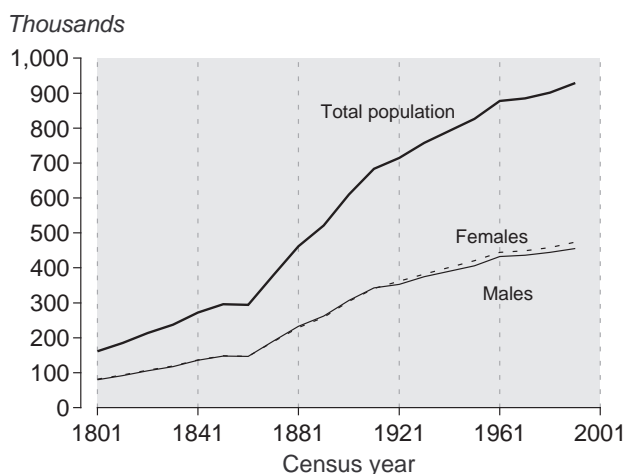
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100 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 DERBYSHIRE

This table and chart show the various increases and decreases in area size and population, and numbers of males and females. In terms of analysing the growth in population over the 200 years, Derbyshire has not been significantly affected by boundary changes.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	161,142	79,401	81,746
1811	na	185,487	91,494	93,993
1821	na	213,333	105,873	107,460
1831	663,180	237,170	117,740	119,430
1841	663,180	272,217	135,620	136,597
1851	658,803	296,084	147,737	148,347
1861	658,803	293,874	146,816	147,058
1871	656,243	379,394	190,657	188,737
1881	658,624	461,914	232,504	229,410
1891	657,550	520,914	262,529	258,385
1901	652,272	610,522	306,545	303,977
1911	650,369	683,423	342,964	340,459
1921	650,369	714,662	352,975	361,687
1931	647,824	757,374	375,073	382,301
1951	643,572	826,437	405,938	420,499
1961	643,572	877,620	432,779	444,841
1971	638,274	885,131	436,361	448,770
1981	650,105	901,831	443,999	457,832
1991	649,522	928,636	455,158	473,478

na = not available

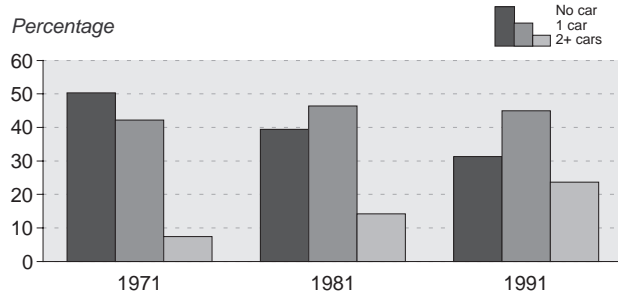
Households and Amenities

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 3,190 households in Derbyshire were without a WC, compared to 20,952 households in 1951. By 1981, only 6,957 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	7,477	3.1
H/Holds without WC	20,952	8.6
H/Holds without fixed bath	104,310	42.8
H/Holds without kitchen sink	3,505	1.4
H/Holds without cooking stove	3,311	1.4
H/Holds with all five of the above	125,105	51.3

(Total Households in 1951 = 243,677)



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time 50 per cent of households in Derbyshire already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 19 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

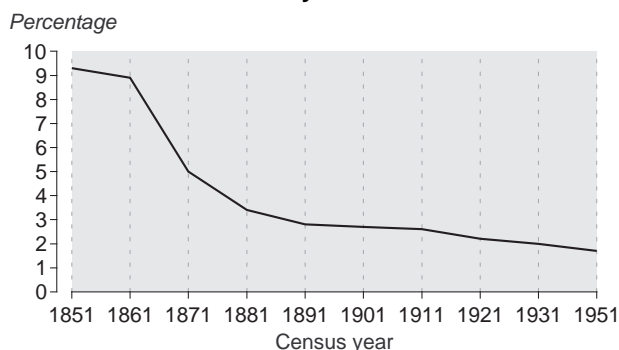
Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Derbyshire the number of agricultural labourers fell from 8,163 in 1861 to 6,298 in 1931, a decrease of 23%.

By 1991, the number of farmers and agricultural labourers accounted for less than 1% of Derbyshire'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 Derbyshire



Professionals

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

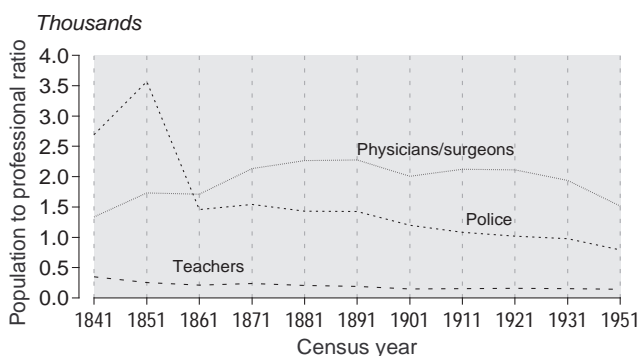
There have been changes in definition in what is included in each of these professions over the years.

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 are also overstated as they included people employed in 'apothecary' (chemists) and medical students.

The number of people per physician/surgeon appears to have risen and then fallen, whilst the numbers of people to each policeman/woman and teacher has fallen over the period. For example, there was one police officer per 3,500 people in 1851, dropping to 792 people in 1951.

By 1991, there was one teacher per 70 people, one physician/surgeon per 948 people and one police officer per 409 people.

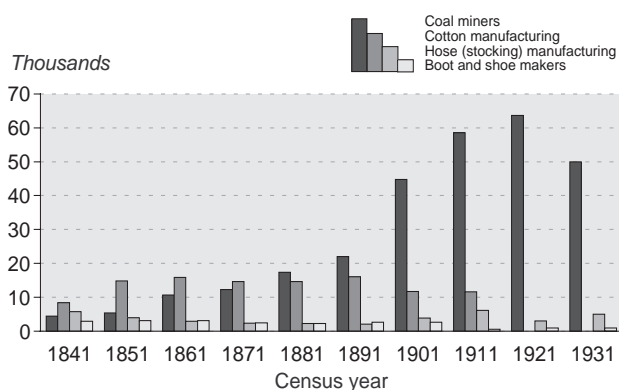
N.B. Figures between 1951 and 1991 have not been included due to problems with the availability and comparability of data between these years.



Key Occupations

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

The graph clearly shows the large increase of people employed in coal mining over the period with the only decline in numbers being at the end of the period in 1931. A rise followed by a fall in cotton manufacturing can also be seen, as well as fairly steady numbers on hose and stocking manufacturing. Boot and shoemakers are a fairly significant occupation in the county throughout the nineteenth century but dropped off at the beginning of the twentieth century.



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

Did you know ?

- The population of Derbyshire increased six-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in six households in Derbyshire 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 Derbyshire (excluding construction) increased fifteen-fold – from 645 people to 9,602 people.
- In 1881, 6% of Derbyshire’s female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over five times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 4 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in Derbyshire.
- In 1851 there were 6,642 people employed in silk manufacturing in Derbyshire. This was higher than the numbers of people employed in coal mining for the same year (5,434 people).
- There was a rise in the population density of Derbyshire from 0.4 people per acre in 1831, to 1.4 people per acre in 1991. This was above 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 Derbyshire contained 5 people, compared to 2.5 in 1991. This was consistent with the 1991 GB average.

The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1821 – *“The decrease of population in Pentrich Township is ascribed to the pulling down of houses consequent on the disturbances which occurred there in 1817.”*

1831 – *“The entire Parish of Spondon contains 1,867 Inhabitants and 4,300 Acres: the increase of Population is ascribed to the number of hands employed in Stocking and Twist Net Manufactories.”*

1831 – *“A cotton Manufactory at Wessington has been stopped, which has caused a trifling decrease of Population.”*

1891 – *“The decrease of population in Edale Civil Parish is mainly attributed to the departure of a large number of navvies and other workmen employed in making the Cowburn tunnel on the Dore and Chinley Railway.”*

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.

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