

200 years of the Census in...

DURHAM

(includes Cleveland from 1981 onwards)

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.

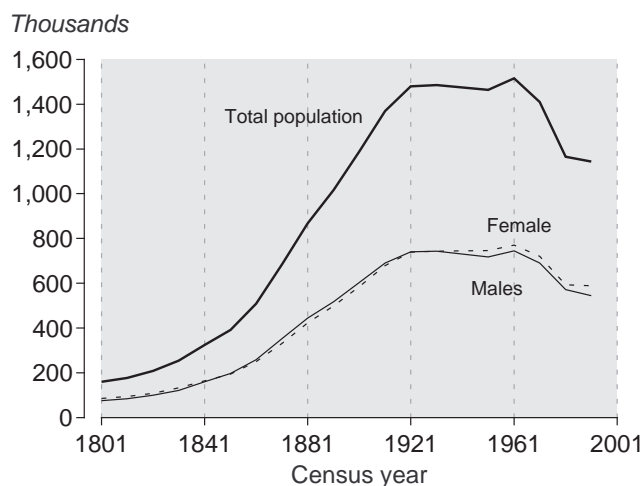
The value of the Census is that it provides detailed information at a local as well as a national level. This pamphlet - one of a series for various areas in England and for Wales - describes the changes in society measured by the Census between 1801 and 1991.

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 DURHAM

This table and chart show the various increases and decreases in area size and population, and numbers of males and females. There have been several changes in the boundaries and size of Durham over the years.

The apparent decrease in Durham's population between 1971 and 1991 is predominately a result of the 1974 Local Government Re-organisation. From 1981, figures for Cleveland are included, but areas that were previously part of Durham and now part of Tyne and Wear are not included.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	160,361	74,770	85,591
1811	na	177,590	83,655	93,935
1821	na	207,673	99,100	108,573
1831	679,530	253,910	121,748	132,162
1841	679,530	324,284	160,073	164,211
1851	622,476	390,997	196,700	194,297
1861	622,476	508,666	258,297	250,369
1871	647,592	685,089	353,117	331,972
1881	647,592	867,258	443,973	423,285
1891	647,281	1,016,559	517,942	498,617
1901	649,244	1,187,474	602,411	585,063
1911	649,244	1,369,860	690,441	679,419
1921	649,244	1,479,033	740,005	739,028
1931	649,420	1,486,175	742,923	743,252
1951	649,440	1,463,868	718,056	745,812
1961	649,440	1,515,643	744,546	771,097
1971	634,061	1,409,637	689,947	719,690
1981	745,995	1,164,726	571,714	593,012
1991	747,623	1,143,723	554,262	589,461

na = not available

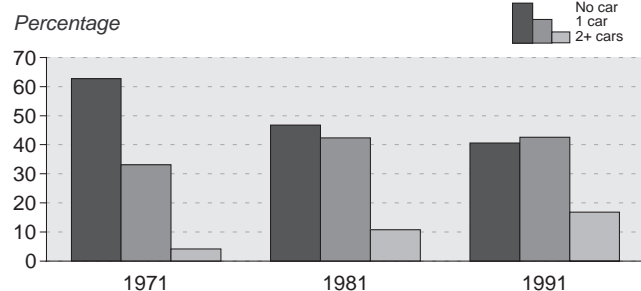
Households and Amenities

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 3,810 households in Durham were without a WC, compared to 29,163 households in 1951. By 1981, only 5,853 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	37,974	9.0
H/Holds without WC	29,163	6.9
H/Holds without fixed bath	193,642	45.9
H/Holds without kitchen sink	68,979	16.3
H/Holds without cooking stove	7,092	1.7
H/Holds with all five of the above	206,680	49.0

(Total Households in 1951 = 422,151)



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time almost 40 per cent of households in Durham already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census, this had increased by a further 20 percentage points to 60 per cent of households. There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

OCCUPATIONS

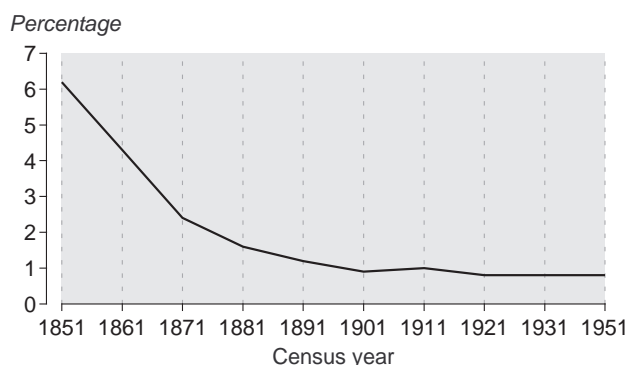
Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Durham the number of agricultural labourers fell from 8,567 in 1861 to 6,355 in 1931, a decrease of 26%.

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

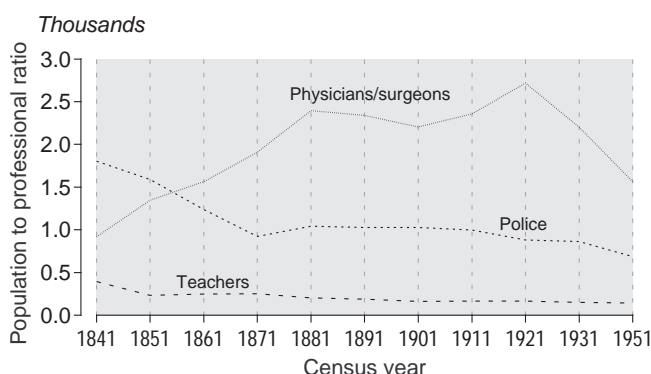
Percentage of people employed in agriculture in Durham



Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Durham, 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 1,589 people in 1851, dropping to 687 people in 1951.

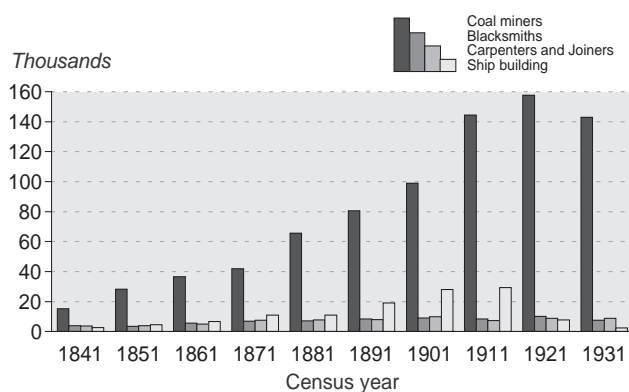
By 1991, there was one teacher per 70 people, one physician/surgeon per 689 people and one police officer per 384 people.

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 Durham, past and present, and trends over the years.

The graph clearly shows the rise and dominance of coal mining as an occupation in Durham between 1841 and 1931. The number of coal miners increased from 15,202 people in 1841, to 142,931 people in 1931, a rise of over nine-fold. Both the numbers of blacksmiths and carpenters & joiners increased gradually to about twice their original size through the period. The numbers of people employed in shipbuilding increased from 1841 to 1911. The numbers of shipbuilders for 1921 and 1931 do not include metal workers involved with shipbuilding, which explains much of the sudden decline.



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

Did you know ?

- The population of Durham increased seven-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in ten households in Durham and one in seven households in Cleveland did not have central heating. This compared to a GB average of one in five.
- Between 1851 and 1901, the number of people employed on the railways in Durham (excluding construction) increased almost ten-fold – from 1,029 people to 10,218 people.
- In 1881, 7% of Durham's female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 9 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 3 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in Durham.
- The number of coal miners in Durham peaked in 1921 at 157,837 people.
- There was a rise in the population density of Durham from 0.4 people per acre in 1831, to almost one person per acre in Durham, and 3.7 people per acre in Cleveland in 1991. This compared to the GB average of almost one person per acre in 1991.
- The numbers of people per household has decreased over the last 200 years. In 1801 the average household in Durham contained 6 people, compared to 2.5 in 1991 (for both Durham and Cleveland), which was consistent with the 1991 GB average.

The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1821 – *“A flourishing colliery has much increased the population of Great-Lumley Township.”*

1861 – *“The increase of population in Darlington Township is attributed to the establishment of large iron furnaces and rolling mills, and of extensive works for making and repairing locomotive engines and railway carriages.”*

1871 – *“An increase of population in the parish of Trimdon is attributed to the extensive coal mining operations.”*

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

