

200 years of the Census in...

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(includes Avon 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.

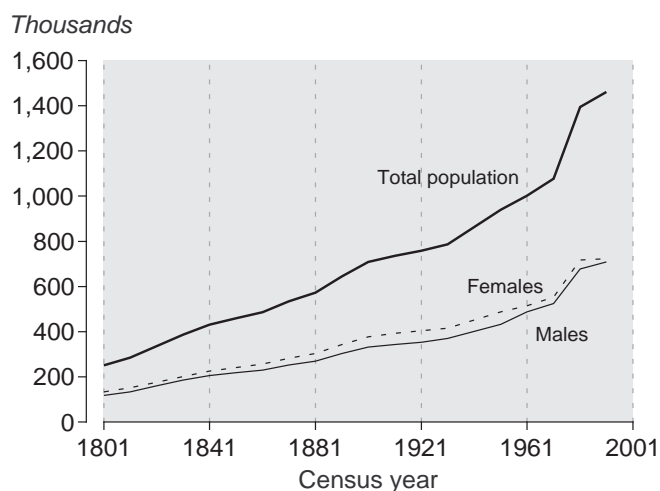
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100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

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 Gloucestershire over the years. The apparent sudden increase in Gloucestershire's population between 1971 and 1991 is due to the inclusion of figures for Avon, which came into existence in 1974 as part of the Local Government Re-organisation.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	250,809	117,180	133,629
1811	na	285,175	133,364	152,811
1821	na	335,843	160,451	175,392
1831	790,470	387,019	185,118	201,901
1841	790,470	431,383	205,543	225,840
1851	805,102	458,805	218,187	240,618
1861	805,102	485,770	229,009	256,761
1871	804,977	534,640	252,593	282,047
1881	783,699	572,433	269,470	302,963
1891	796,731	645,574	303,271	342,303
1901	805,482	708,439	331,558	376,881
1911	805,794	736,097	343,605	392,492
1921	805,842	757,651	353,466	404,185
1931	804,638	786,000	370,054	415,946
1951	804,932	939,433	431,713	487,720
1961	804,933	1,001,706	486,824	514,882
1971	805,665	1,076,708	524,373	552,335
1981	985,632	1,394,113	676,827	717,286
1991	984,869	1,461,004	708,583	752,461

na = not available

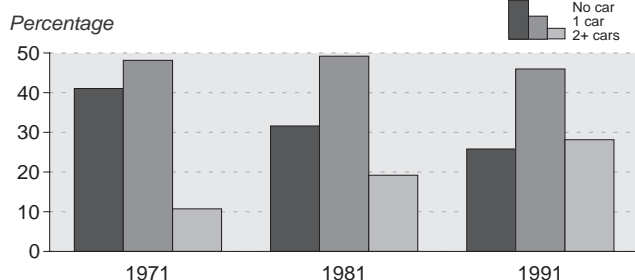
Households and Amenities

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 4,855 households in Gloucestershire were without a WC, compared to 30,250 households in 1951. By 1981, only 3,538 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	20,373	7.3
H/Holds without WC	30,250	10.9
H/Holds without fixed bath	102,563	36.8
H/Holds without kitchen sink	23,187	8.3
H/Holds without cooking stove	6,052	2.2
H/Holds with all five of the above	139,841	50.2

(Total Households in 1951 = 278,789)



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time almost 60 per cent of households in Gloucestershire already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 15 percentage points to around three-quarters of households. There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

OCCUPATIONS

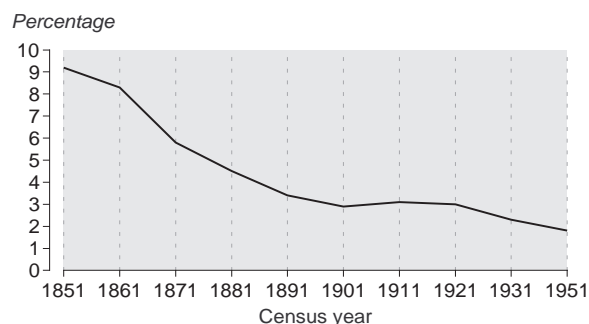
Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Gloucestershire the number of agricultural labourers fell from 27,091 in 1861 to 10,119 in 1931, a decrease of 63%.

By 1991, the number of farmers and agricultural labourers accounted for roughly 1% of Gloucestershire's population. In Avon this figure was less than 1% of the total 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..

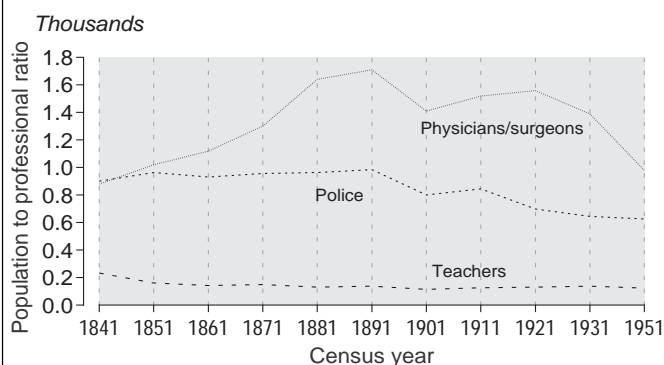
Percentage of people employed in agriculture in Gloucestershire



Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Gloucestershire, 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 fallen, whilst the numbers of people per policeman/woman and teacher has fallen. For example, there was one police officer per 964 people in 1851, dropping to 626 people in 1951.

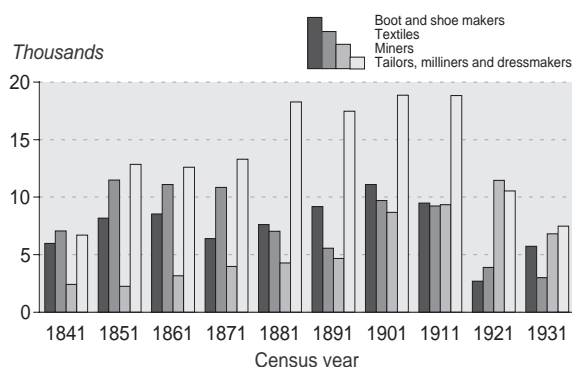
By 1991, there was one teacher per 65 people, one physician/surgeon per 543 people and one police officer per 388 people.

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

The main occupation that grew between 1841 and 1931 was mining, which increased from 2,418 people to 6,805 people, a rise of almost three-fold. The numbers of tailors, milliners and dressmakers rose and fell, from 6,689 people in 1841 to 7,468 people in 1931, with a peak in 1901 of 18,851 people. The number of people employed in textiles varied across the period, but ended with fewer in 1931 than in 1841. The number of boot and shoemakers also varied across the period, but ended with similar numbers in 1931 as there were in 1841.



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

Did you know ?

- The population of Gloucestershire (and Avon from 1981) increased six-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in six households in Gloucestershire and one in seven households in Avon 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 Gloucestershire (excluding construction) increased over ten-fold – from 538 people to 5,656 people.
- In 1881, 10% of Gloucestershire's female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 5 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 2 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in Gloucestershire.
- In 1891 there were 2,476 blacksmiths in Gloucestershire.
- There was a rise in the population density of Gloucestershire from 0.5 people per acre in 1831, to 0.8 people per acre in Gloucestershire and 2.8 people per acre in Avon in 1991. This compared to 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 Gloucestershire contained 5 people, compared to 2.5 in 1991 (for Gloucestershire and Avon). This was consistent with the 1991 GB average.

The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1821 – *“The increase of population in Cromhall Abbots Parish is attributed mainly to the opening of a coal mine.”*

1851 – *“Since 1841, the Clifton Union Workhouse for Children, then containing 215 persons, has been removed from the Parish of St. George Clifton.”*

1861 – *“An increase of population in the Parishes of Charfield and Newham is attributed mainly to the establishment of railway stations.”*

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

