

## *200 years of the Census in...*

# **HAMPSHIRE and the Isle of Wight**

March 10<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

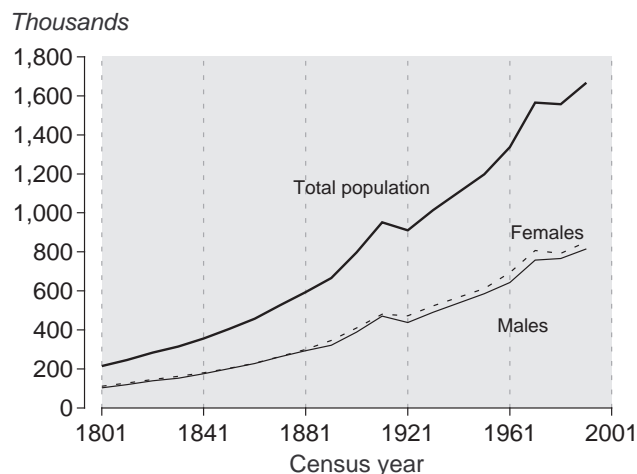
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100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

This table and chart show the various increases and decreases in area size and population, and numbers of males and females. As the Isle of Wight has traditionally been a part of Hampshire, or Southampton as it has been known, it is included for the purposes of this monitor. There have been several changes in the boundaries and size of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight over the years. The apparent decrease in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight's population between 1911 and 1921 was predominantly caused by boundary changes.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	214,994	103,254	111,740
1811	na	246,208	119,328	126,880
1821	na	283,298	138,373	144,925
1831	1,018,550	314,280	152,082	162,198
1841	1,018,550	355,004	175,023	179,981
1851	1,070,216	405,370	202,014	203,356
1861	1,070,216	456,654	228,039	228,615
1871	1,052,191	526,143	262,207	263,936
1881	1,037,764	593,470	293,050	300,420
1891	1,047,223	666,250	321,273	344,977
1901	1,039,031	797,634	388,129	409,505
1911	1,053,092	950,579	470,102	480,477
1921	958,896	910,252	438,222	472,030
1931	961,665	1,014,316	490,501	523,815
1951	962,191	1,197,170	585,290	611,880
1961	962,191	1,336,794	643,167	693,627
1971	962,192	1,565,483	758,032	807,451
1981	1,027,354	1,557,477	765,611	791,866
1991	1,027,653	1,666,124	814,765	851,359

na = not available

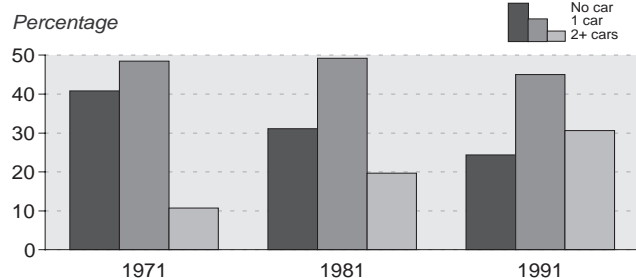
## Households and Amenities

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 5,280 households in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight were without a WC, compared to 31,450 households in 1951. By 1981, only 7,719 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	16,141	4.8
H/Holds without WC	31,450	9.3
H/Holds without fixed bath	100,410	29.5
H/Holds without kitchen sink	17,224	5.1
H/Holds without cooking stove	4,537	1.3
H/Holds with all five of the ab	195,681	57.6

(Total Households in 1951 = 339,970)



## 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 Hampshire and the Isle of Wight already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 16 percentage points to over three-quarters of households (76%). There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

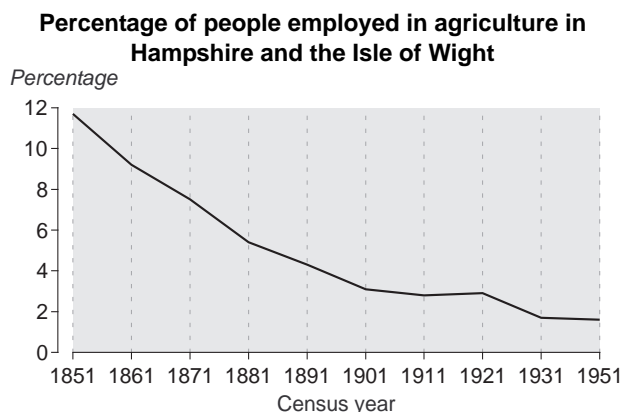
# OCCUPATIONS

## Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Hampshire and the Isle of Wight the number of agricultural labourers fell from 29,136 in 1861 to 12,113 in 1931, a decrease of 58%.

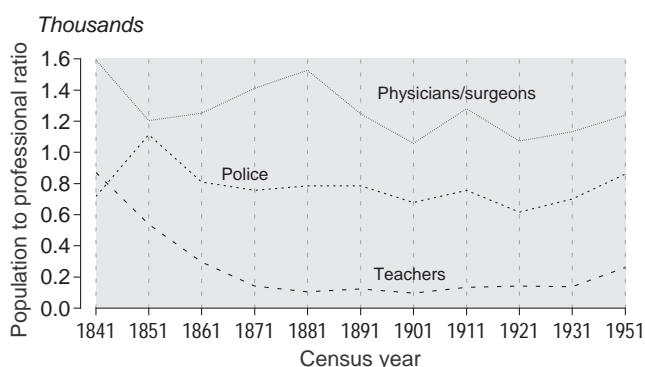
By 1991, the number of farmers and agricultural labourers accounted for less than 1% of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight's population.

*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.*



## Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, 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.

Generally the numbers of people to each professional has fallen over the period. For example, there was one police officer per 1,114 people in 1851, dropping to 861 people in 1951.

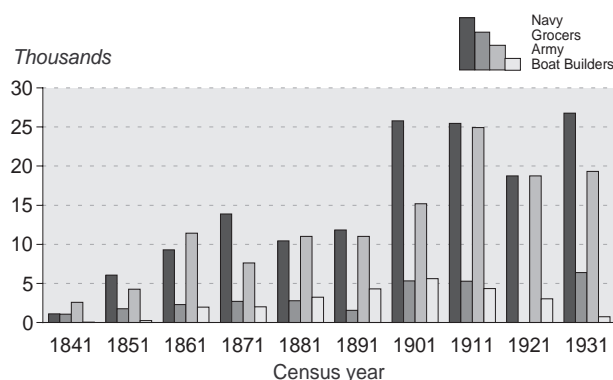
By 1991, there was one teacher per 73 people, one physician/surgeon per 677 people and one police officer per 420 people.

*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 Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, past and present, and trends over the years.

Between 1841 and 1931 the biggest increases in employment came in the navy, rising swiftly from 1,097 people to 26,766 people, and the army, which grew from 2,600 people to 19,334 people. Servicemen away from the area on Census night will have affected figures for both the Army and the Navy. Coinciding with the growth of the navy, the number of people involved in ship building also shot up between 1841 and 1931, an increase of over fifteen-fold. Please note that this figure should be higher, but the data for 1921 and 1931 omits metal workers on ships. The number of grocers, as you would expect, experienced a gradual climb, and peaked in 1931 with a total of 6,403 people.



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

## Did you know ?

- The population of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight increased eight-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in six households in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight 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 Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (excluding construction) increased over nine-fold – from 438 people to 4,141 people.
- In 1881, 12% of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight’s female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Around 3 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 5 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
- There was a rise in the population density of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight from 0.3 people per acre in 1831, to 1.6 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 Hampshire and the Isle of Wight contained 6 people, compared to 2.5 in 1991, which closely matched the 1991 GB average of people per household.

## The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1821 - “ *The decrease in population at Portchester is occasioned by the removal of the establishment attached to the depot of French prisoners at Portchester Castle.*”

1831 – “*142 men employed in public works now in progress in the Royal Clarence Victualling Yard at Weovil.*”

1851- “ *The great increase of population is ascribed to the continual influx of visitors to the watering places of Ryde and Ventnor.*”

1861 – “*Gosport and Alverstoke are united under Gilbert’s Act for purposes connected with the relief of the poor.*”

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> March 2001 there will be additional information made available on our website [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk). Further advice and limited research can be also carried out by Census Customer Services.

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