

200 years of the Census in...

HEREFORDSHIRE

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.

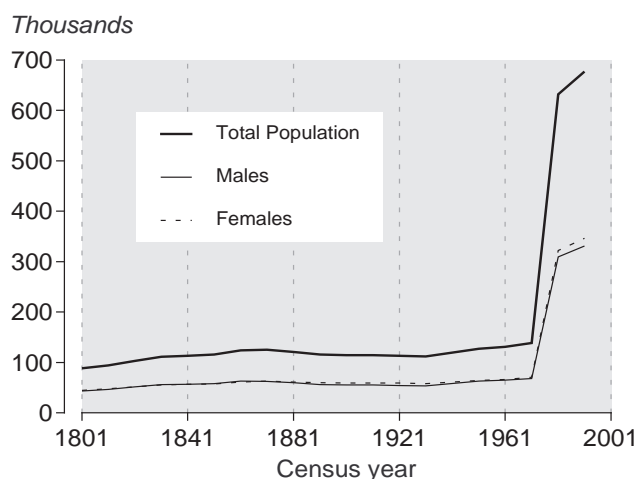
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100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

This table and chart show the various increases and decreases in area size and population, and numbers of males and females. As a result of the 1971 Local Government Re-organisation, Herefordshire combined with Worcestershire to form one county for the 1981 and 1991 Censuses. This explains the population growth in the graph below at this time.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	88,099	43,406	44,693
1811	na	94,073	46,404	47,669
1821	na	103,243	51,552	51,691
1831	534,800	111,211	55,838	55,373
1841	534,823	113,272	56,667	56,605
1851	534,823	115,489	58,114	57,375
1861	534,823	123,712	62,908	60,804
1871	532,898	125,370	62,562	62,808
1881	532,918	121,062	59,809	61,253
1891	537,363	115,949	56,090	59,859
1901	538,921	114,125	55,196	58,929
1911	538,924	114,269	55,168	59,101
1921	538,924	113,189	54,199	58,990
1931	538,924	111,767	53,681	58,086
1951	538,924	127,159	62,747	64,412
1961	538,924	130,928	64,605	66,323
1971	539,108	138,639	68,160	70,479
1981*	970,238	631,756	309,454	322,302
1991*	969,487	676,747	330,646	346,101

na = not available

*including Worcester 1981 onwards

Households and Amenities

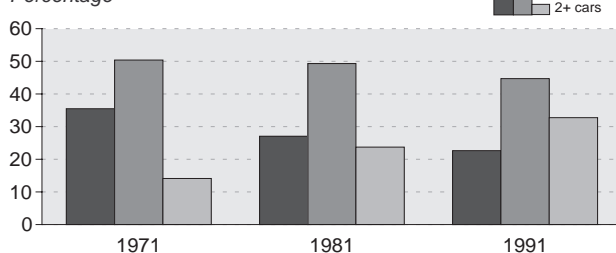
At the end of the Second World War (1939-45) it was vital to assess the overall housing situation in Great Britain. Consequently the 1951 Census had a number of questions on housing needs. These were met in the post-war housing programmes, and significant improvements were evident in subsequent Censuses. In 1971 only 4,015 households in Herefordshire were without a WC, compared to 14,181 households in 1951. By 1981, only 5,083 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	11,636	32.9
H/Holds without WC	14,181	40.2
H/Holds without fixed bath	19,071	54.0
H/Holds without kitchen sink	7,467	21.1
H/Holds without cooking stove	2,241	6.3
H/Holds with all five of the above	13,025	36.9

(Total Households in 1951 = 35,323)

Percentage



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time almost 65 per cent of households in Herefordshire already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 12 percentage points to over three-quarters of households (77%). There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

OCCUPATIONS

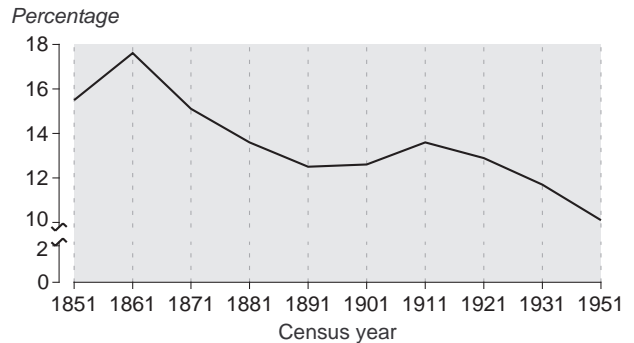
Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Herefordshire the number of agricultural labourers fell from 11,504 in 1861 to 7,220 in 1931, a decrease of 37 %.

By 1991, the number of farmers and agricultural labourers accounted for less than 2% of the combined population of Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

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.

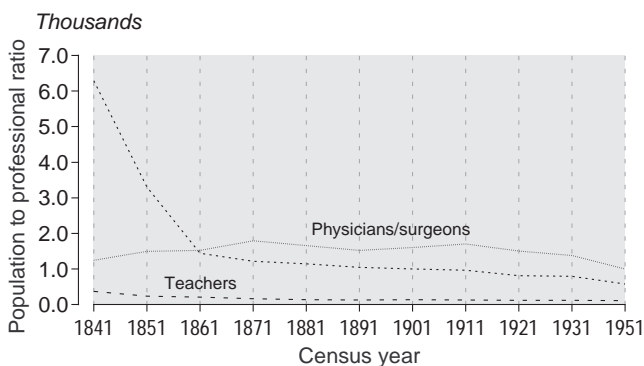
Percentage of people employed in agriculture in Herefordshire



Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Herefordshire, 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 3,300 people in 1851, dropping to 583 people in 1951.

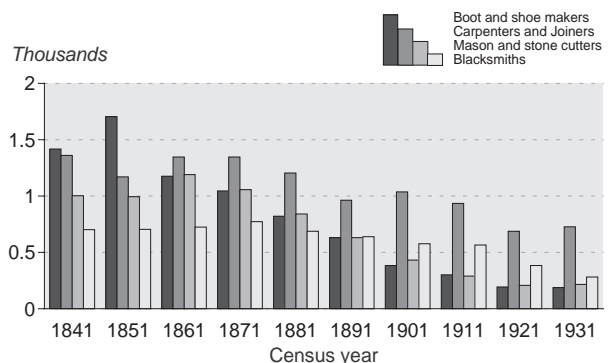
By 1991, there was one teacher per 61 people, one physician/surgeon per 705 people and one police officer per 382 people.

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

Between 1841 and 1931 all four occupations identified in the chart witnessed a fall in employment numbers. The biggest decline came in boot and shoe making, which fell over seven-fold, from 1,416 people to just 187 people. Carpenters and joiners fared best out of all the occupations but still fell by almost a half, from 1,360 people to 728 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 Herefordshire increased by 63% between 1801 to 1971.
- In 1991, one in six households in Herefordshire and Worcestershire 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 Herefordshire (excluding construction) increased from 1 person to 173 people.
- In 1881, 8% of Herefordshire's female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 4 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there was 1 chimney sweep aged between 5 and 9 in Herefordshire.
- In 1861 there were 337 grocers in Herefordshire, whilst the highest number of livery stable keepers and coach proprietors recorded for Herefordshire was 201 in 1871.
- There was a rise in the population density of Herefordshire from 0.2 people per acre in 1831, to 0.7 people per acre in 1991 – when the figures include Worcestershire. 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 Herefordshire contained 5 people, compared to 2.5 in 1991 – when the figures include Worcestershire. This matched the 1991 GB average of people per household.

The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1821 – *“The increase of population in the City of Hereford is ascribed to vaccine inoculation, to the peace, and the construction of a market”*

1831 – *“Scarcely any manufacture can be said to exist in the County of Hereford; about 40 males aged 20 years of age, at Leominster, are employed in making hats and gloves, and woollen cloth and stockings are mentioned as a source of employment at a few other places”*

1851 – *“There are 815 persons enumerated as ‘paupers living in the workhouse,’ of these there are 59 males and 56 females under the age of 5 years”*

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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