

200 years of the Census in...

HERTFORDSHIRE

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.

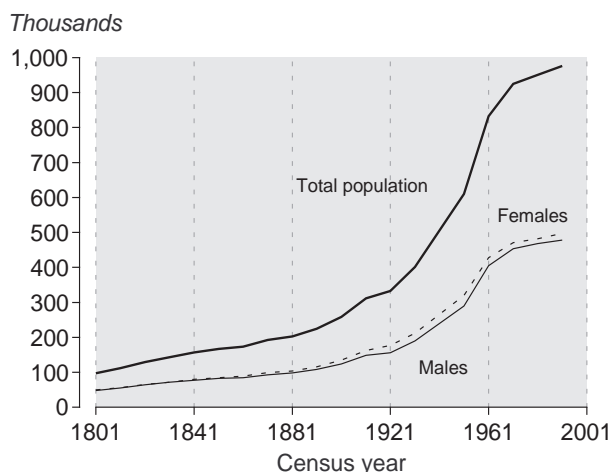
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100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

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, Hertfordshire has not been significantly affected by boundary changes.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	97,577	48,063	49,514
1811	na	111,654	55,023	56,631
1821	na	129,714	64,121	65,593
1831	400,370	143,341	71,365	71,946
1841	400,350	157,207	77,617	79,590
1851	391,141	167,298	82,831	84,467
1861	391,141	173,280	84,352	88,928
1871	391,141	192,226	93,244	98,982
1881	405,141	203,069	98,792	104,277
1891	406,932	224,550	108,471	116,079
1901	404,518	258,423	123,719	134,704
1911	404,523	311,284	148,632	162,652
1921	404,523	333,195	155,724	177,471
1931	404,520	401,206	189,663	211,543
1951	404,526	609,775	289,892	319,883
1961	404,526	832,901	405,015	427,886
1971	403,789	924,632	453,870	470,762
1981	403,799	950,760	468,590	482,170
1991	405,066	975,829	478,643	497,186

na = not available

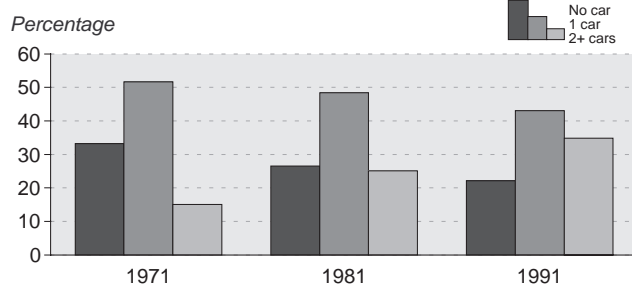
Households and Amenities

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 1,305 households in Hertfordshire were without a WC, compared to 10,825 households in 1951. By 1981, only 3,299 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	6,983	3.9
H/Holds without WC	10,825	6.1
H/Holds without fixed bath	42,318	23.6
H/Holds without kitchen sink	5,973	3.3
H/Holds without cooking stove	1,383	0.8
H/Holds with all five of the above	119,052	66.5

(Total Households in 1951 = 179,028)



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time almost 67 per cent of households in Hertfordshire already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 11 percentage points to over three-quarters of households (78 %). There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

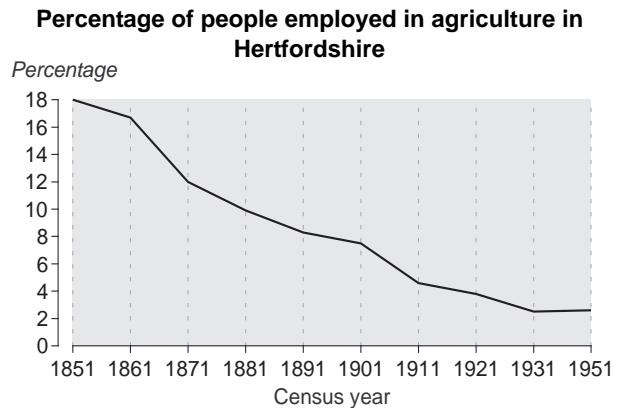
OCCUPATIONS

Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Hertfordshire the number of agricultural labourers fell from 21,511 in 1861 to 10,228 in 1931, a decrease of 53 %.

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

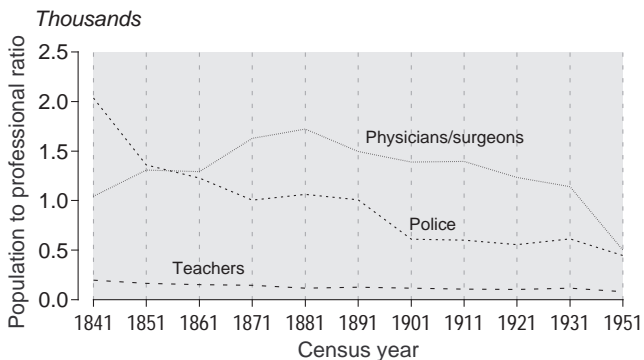
N.B. This analysis is based upon the number of people employed in agriculture as a percentage of the total population, not just the working population.



Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Hertfordshire, 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 1,360 people in 1851, dropping to 445 people in 1951.

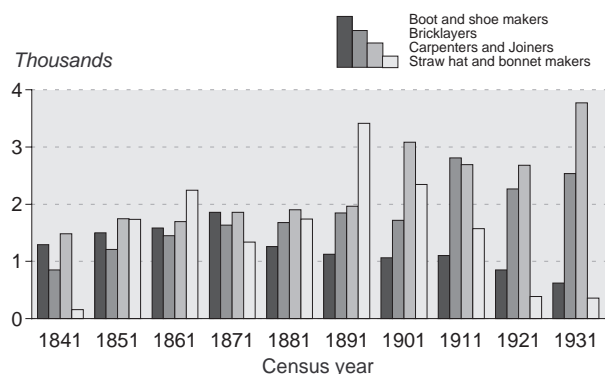
By 1991, there was one teacher per 59 people, one physician/surgeon per 626 people and one police officer per 245 people.

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

The number of bricklayers and carpenters and joiners rose throughout the period. The number of boot and shoemakers rose steadily between 1841 and 1871 and then declined. By 1931 there were only half as many boot and shoemakers as there were in 1841. The number of straw hat and bonnet makers varied across the period, peaking in 1891 when 3,416 people in Hertfordshire shared this occupation.



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

Did you know ?

- The population of Hertfordshire increased ten-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in twelve households in Hertfordshire 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 Hertfordshire (excluding construction) increased thirteen-fold – from 249 people to 3,337 people.
- In 1881, 10% of Hertfordshire’s female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 11 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 7 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in Hertfordshire.
- In 1871 there were 12,804 people employed in the manufacture of straw plait.
- There was a rise in the population density of Hertfordshire from 0.35 people per acre in 1831, to 2.4 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 Hertfordshire contained 5 people, compared to 2.6 in 1991, which was slightly above the 1991 GB average of 2.5 people per household.

The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1821 – *“The increase of population at Bishop’s Stortford is attributed to the prosperity of the malting trade.”*

1831 – *“A great number of females and boys are employed in straw plaiting and imitation Leghorn in the Parishes of St Alban’s and St Peter.”*

1831 – *“The great increase of population in the Parish of Newnham, is attributed to the bad effects of the Poor Laws.”*

1861 – *“The increase of population in Bushey Parish is attributed to the sale of land for building purposes, and to railway communication with the metropolis.”*

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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