

200 years of the Census in...

LANCASHIRE (includes Merseyside and Greater Manchester 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.

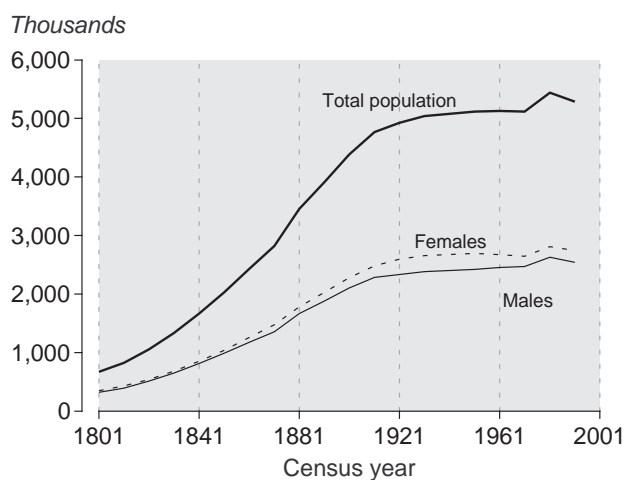
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100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

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 Lancashire over the years. Greater Manchester and Merseyside have been included with the county of Lancashire from 1981.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	672,731	322,356	350,375
1811	na	828,309	394,104	434,205
1821	na	1,052,948	512,524	540,424
1831	1,117,260	1,336,854	650,389	686,465
1841	1,117,260	1,667,054	814,847	852,207
1851	1,219,221	2,031,236	991,090	1,040,146
1861	1,219,221	2,429,440	1,173,424	1,256,016
1871	1,207,926	2,819,465	1,358,387	1,461,108
1881	1,208,154	3,454,441	1,669,864	1,784,577
1891	1,202,726	3,906,721	1,880,715	2,026,006
1901	1,196,753	4,387,043	2,107,605	2,279,438
1911	1,194,919	4,767,832	2,285,464	2,482,368
1921	1,194,555	4,927,484	2,332,931	2,594,553
1931	1,200,122	5,039,455	2,383,723	2,655,732
1951	1,201,933	5,117,853	2,422,666	2,695,187
1961	1,201,850	5,129,416	2,456,420	2,672,996
1971	1,202,955	5,118,423	2,472,610	2,645,813
1981	1,236,048	5,441,328	2,631,594	2,809,734
1991	1,238,164	5,287,081	2,541,478	2,745,603

na = not available

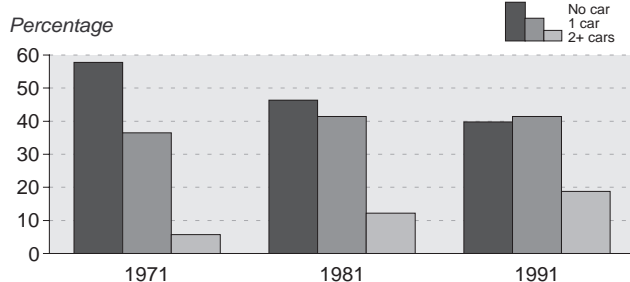
Households and Amenities

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 17,415 households in Lancashire were without a WC, compared to 50,316 households in 1951. By 1981, only 41,689 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	7,740	0.5
H/Holds without WC	50,316	3.3
H/Holds without fixed bath	588,592	38.2
H/Holds without kitchen sink	10,862	0.7
H/Holds without cooking stove	36,167	2.3
H/Holds with all five of the above	824,260	53.5

(Total Households in 1951 = 1,541,784)



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time 42 per cent of households in Lancashire already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 18 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

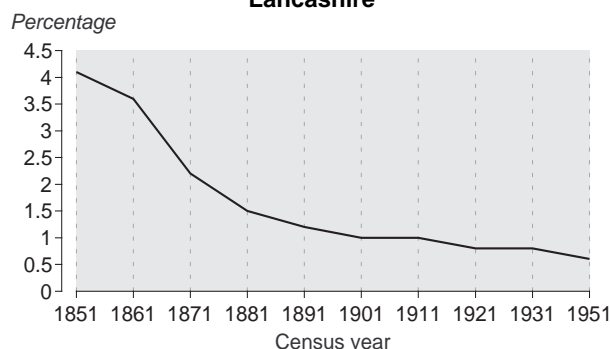
Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Lancashire the number of agricultural labourers fell from 32,234 in 1861 to 18,344 in 1931, a decrease of 43%.

By 1991, the number of farmers and agricultural labourers accounted for a quarter of a per cent of the combined population of Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

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.

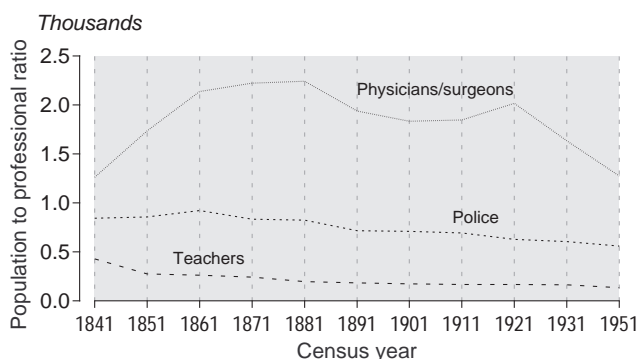
Percentage of people employed in agriculture in Lancashire



Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Lancashire, 1841-1951.

There have been changes in definition in what is included in each of these professions over the years.



Early figures for physicians and surgeons may be overstated as they included people employed in 'apothecary' (chemists) and medical students.

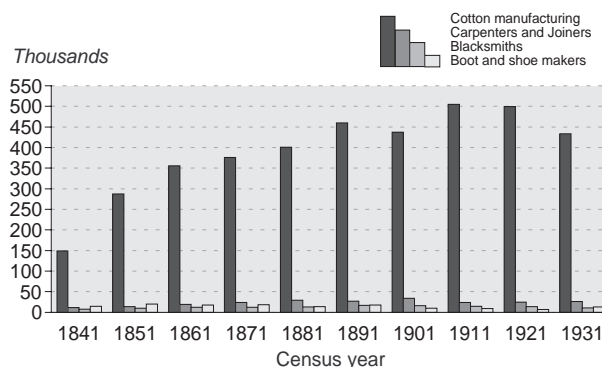
The number of people per physician/surgeon appears to have risen and then fallen, whilst the numbers of people to each policeman/woman and teacher has fallen over the period. For example, there was one police officer per 855 people in 1851, dropping to 558 people in 1951.

By 1991, there was one teacher per 71 people, one physician/surgeon per 615 people and one police officer per 352 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 graph clearly shows the dominance of cotton manufacturing in Lancashire. In 1911 there were over 500,000 people in Lancashire employed in this industry. Although hard to see from the graph, there was a rise in the number of carpenters and joiners across the period, whilst the number of blacksmith's rose and fell, peaking in 1891 when there were nearly 17,000. There were higher numbers of boot and shoemakers in Lancashire during the second half of the nineteenth century, than in the early part of the twentieth century.



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

Did you know ?

- The population of Lancashire increased eight-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in four households in Lancashire, one in five households in Greater Manchester and one in three households in Merseyside 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 Lancashire (excluding construction) increased seven-fold – from 4,308 people to 30,796 people.
- In 1881, 8% of Lancashire's female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 12 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 19 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in Lancashire.
- In 1861, there were 3,867 people employed working on the canals as bargemen and lightermen in Lancashire.
- There was a rise in the population density of Lancashire from 1.2 people per acre in 1831, to 4.2 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 Lancashire contained 6 people, compared to 2.5 in 1991. This was consistent with the 1991 GB average.

The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1831 – “ *The entire Parish of Preston contains 36,336 Inhabitants and 14,230 Acres. The large increase in the Borough of Preston (8,537 Persons) is ascribed to the extension of the factories.* ”

1851 – “*The House of Correction, containing 200 persons in 1841 and 346 in 1851, and the Workhouse and House of Recovery, which together contained 318 inmates in 1841, and 346 in 1851, are in the Township of Preston.*”

1851 – “*The Liverpool District consists of the entire Parish of Liverpool, and includes the following Public Institutions; viz., the Borough Gaol, containing 536 persons in 1841, and 954 in 1851; the Blue Coat Hospital containing 363 persons in 1841 and 107 in 1851; and the Liverpool Union Workhouse containing 1643 persons in 1841, and 2048 in 1851.*”

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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