

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

# **LONDON & MIDDLESEX**

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.

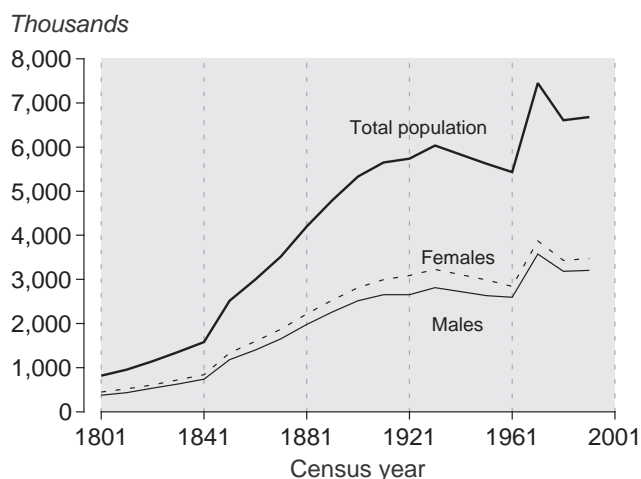
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100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

This table and chart show the various increases and decreases in area size and population, and numbers of males and females. For the purposes of this monitor, the data from 1851 onwards is based on an amalgamation of London Administration County and Extra-Metropolitan Middlesex, with the intention to coincide with the emergence of Greater London in 1971. Figures before 1841 however are solely based on Middlesex Registration County.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	818,129	373,655	444,474
1811	na	953,276	434,633	518,643
1821	na	1,144,531	533,573	610,958
1831	179,590	1,358,330	631,410	726,920
1841	179,590	1,576,636	738,904	837,732
1851	254,584	2,512,842	1,179,889	1,332,953
1861	254,552	2,991,314	1,397,669	1,593,645
1871	254,117	3,519,114	1,649,292	1,869,822
1881	254,089	4,197,297	1,978,108	2,219,189
1891	224,487	4,792,130	2,260,355	2,531,775
1901	223,539	5,328,855	2,513,146	2,815,709
1911	223,517	5,648,150	2,651,772	2,996,378
1921	223,542	5,737,525	2,649,964	3,087,561
1931	223,541	6,035,731	2,812,765	3,222,966
1951	223,585	5,617,297	2,633,470	2,983,827
1961	223,585	5,435,027	2,593,176	2,841,851
1971	390,279	7,452,346	3,578,238	3,874,108
1981	390,279	6,608,598	3,182,562	3,426,036
1991	390,210	6,679,699	3,205,596	3,474,103

na = not available

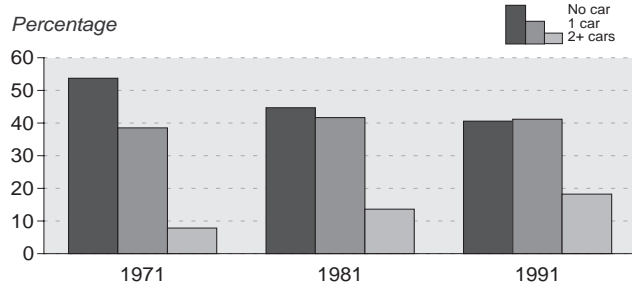
## Households and Amenities

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 4,330 households in London and Middlesex were without a WC, compared to 5,135 households in 1951. By 1981, only 53,199 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	11,257	0.6
H/Holds without WC	5,135	0.3
H/Holds without fixed bath	601,831	33.0
H/Holds without kitchen sink	87,682	4.8
H/Holds without cooking stove	43,086	2.4
H/Holds with all five of the above	809,400	44.4

(Total Households in 1951 = 1,823,982)



## Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time 46 per cent of households in London and Middlesex already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 13 percentage points to almost three-fifths of households (59 %). There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

# OCCUPATIONS

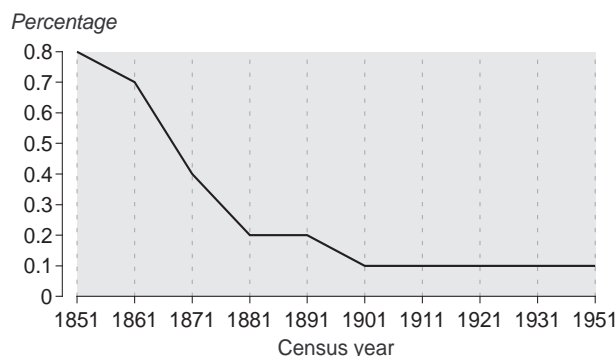
## Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In London and Middlesex the number of agricultural labourers fell from 11,938 in 1861 to 2,761 in 1931, a decrease of 77 %.

By 1991, the number of farmers and agricultural labourers accounted for less than 1% of London and Middlesex'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.*

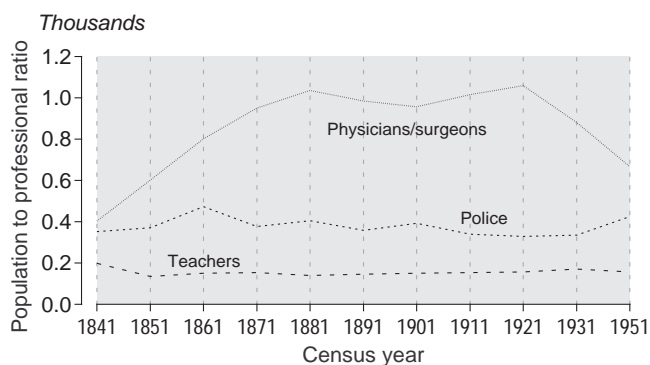
Percentage of people employed in agriculture in London & Middlesex



## Professionals

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

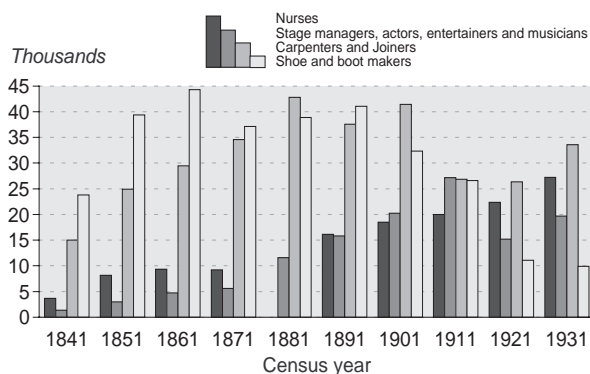
By 1991, there was one teacher per 75 people, one physician/surgeon per 402 people and one police officer per 334 people.

*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 London and Middlesex, past and present, and trends over the years.

Between 1841 and 1931 the number of nurses increased rapidly, rising from 3,693 people to over 27,000 people. Carpenters and joiners enjoyed a two-fold rise, whilst the opposite can be said for boot and shoe makers, who fell in numbers from 23,775 people to 9,903 people. A big growth in the entertainment industry is highlighted by the growth of stage managers, actors, entertainers and musicians, which rose almost fifteen-fold.



*N.B. Analyses are only shown to 1931 because of difficulties in making comparisons with more recent statistics. Figures for nurses were not available for 1881.*

## Did you know ?

- The population of London and Middlesex increased eight-fold between 1801 to 1991 (when it was Greater London).
- In 1991, one in five households in Greater London did not have central heating, which matched the GB average.
- Between 1851 and 1901, the number of people employed on the railways in London and Middlesex (excluding construction) increased over ten-fold – from 4,009 people to 43,214 people.
- In 1881, 12% of London and Middlesex’s female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 13 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 6 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in London and Middlesex.
- In 1891 there were 13,807 blacksmiths in London and Middlesex.
- There was a rise in the population density from 7.6 people per acre in London and Middlesex in 1831, to 17.1 people per acre in Greater London 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 London and Middlesex contained 8 people, compared to 2.4 people per household in Greater London in 1991. This was just under the 1991 GB average of 2.5 people per household.

## The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1821 – *“Between 30 and 40 persons died of a fever in the years 1818 and 1819 at Harmondsworth”*

1841 – *“In the Returns for the County of Middlesex 101 males and 59 females are stated to have emigrated to the Colonies and Foreign Countries since 31<sup>st</sup> December 1840”*

1931 – *“The decrease of population in Littleton Parish is attributed to a considerable number of men being engaged on the construction of the Littleton Reservoir, now completed, in 1921”*

## 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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