

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

## **NORFOLK**

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.

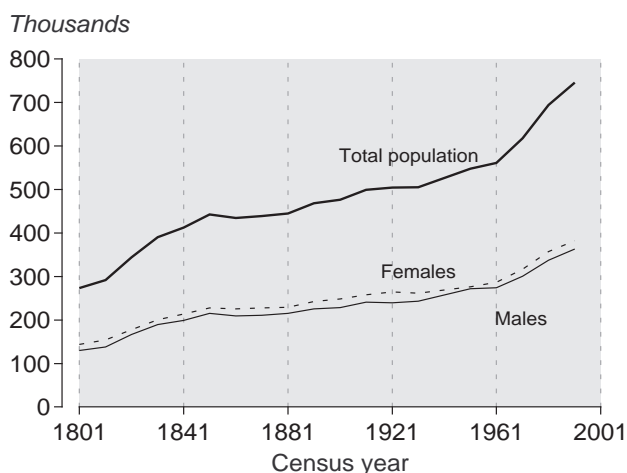
The value of the Census is that it provides detailed information at a local as well as a national level. This pamphlet - one of a series for various areas in England and for Wales - describes the changes in society measured by the Census between 1801 and 1991.

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 NORFOLK

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, Norfolk has not been significantly affected by boundary changes.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	273,371	129,842	143,529
1811	na	291,947	138,063	153,884
1821	na	344,368	166,892	177,476
1831	1,292,300	390,054	189,323	200,731
1841	1,292,300	412,664	199,101	213,563
1851	1,354,301	442,714	215,254	227,460
1861	1,354,301	434,798	209,005	225,793
1871	1,356,173	438,656	210,999	227,657
1881	1,356,173	444,749	215,266	229,483
1891	1,315,092	468,287	225,652	242,635
1901	1,314,612	476,553	228,429	248,124
1911	1,315,064	499,116	241,159	257,957
1921	1,315,064	504,293	239,697	264,596
1931	1,315,064	504,940	243,536	261,404
1951	1,314,332	548,062	272,060	276,002
1961	1,314,332	561,071	274,356	286,715
1971	1,314,186	617,616	300,595	317,021
1981	1,326,374	694,566	337,615	356,951
1991	1,327,505	745,613	363,038	382,575

na = not available

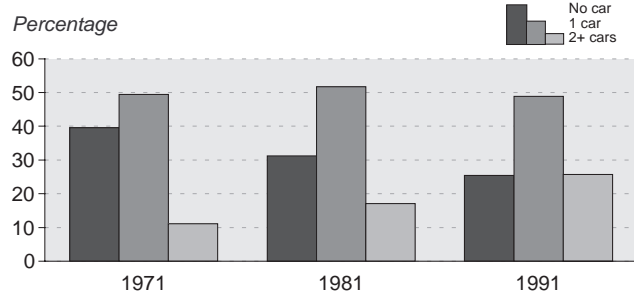
## Households and Amenities

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, 12,985 households in Norfolk were without a WC, compared to 59,290 households in 1951. By 1981, only 6,944 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	50,419	31.1
H/Holds without WC	59,290	36.6
H/Holds without fixed bath	91,645	56.6
H/Holds without kitchen sink	40,273	24.9
H/Holds without cooking stove	15,547	9.6
H/Holds with all five of the above	59,887	37.0

(Total Households in 1951 = 161,811)



## Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time 60 per cent of households in Norfolk already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 15 percentage points to three-quarters of households (75%). There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

# OCCUPATIONS

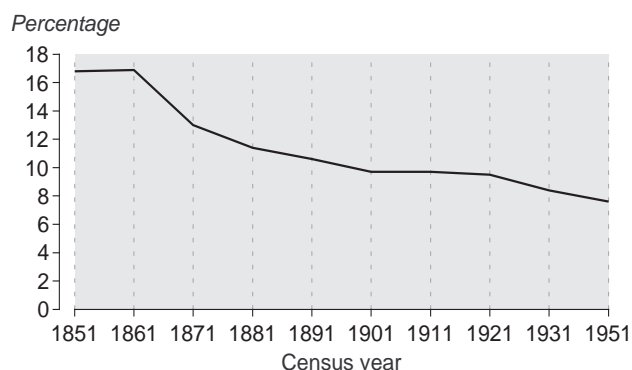
## Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Norfolk the number of agricultural labourers fell from 52,791 in 1861 to 29,948 in 1931, a decrease of 43%.

By 1991, the number of farmers and agricultural labourers accounted for less than 2% of Norfolk'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.*

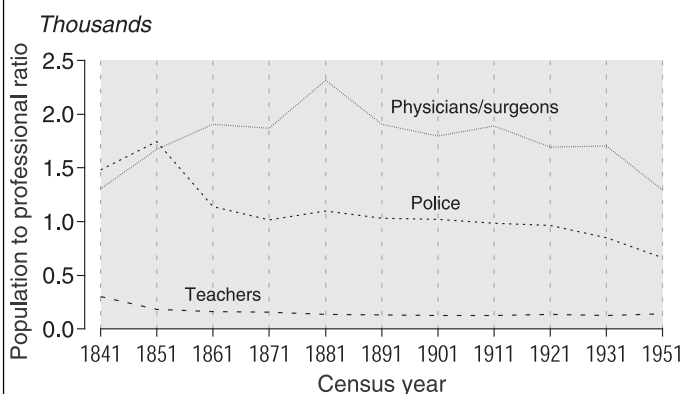
Percentage of people employed in agriculture in Norfolk



## Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Norfolk, 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 are also 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 1,750 people in 1851, dropping to 666 people in 1951.

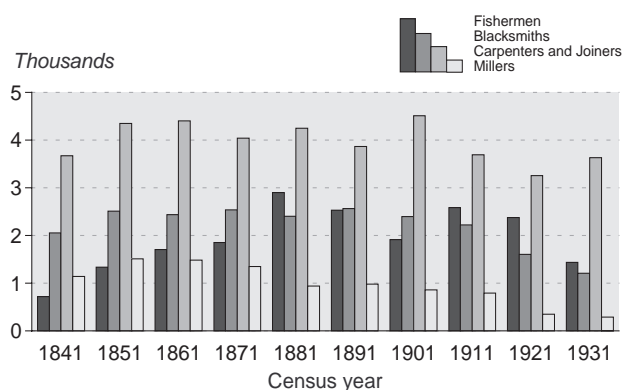
By 1991, there was one teacher per 67 people, one physician/surgeon per 645 people and one police officer per 448 people.

*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 Norfolk, past and present, and trends over the years.

The graph clearly shows consistently high numbers of people employed as carpenters and joiners across the period, whilst the numbers of fishermen/women rose and fell. The number of blacksmiths stayed fairly consistent although dropped in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with the advent of the motor car. Numbers of millers fell through the period and there were less than 300 by 1931.



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

## Did you know ?

- The population of Norfolk increased more than two-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in six households in Norfolk 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 Norfolk (excluding construction) increased nine-fold – from 432 people to 3,791 people.
- In 1881, 9% of Norfolk’s female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 26 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there was one chimney sweep aged between 5 and 9 in Norfolk.
- In 1891 there were 2,814 people employed as weavers in Norfolk.
- There was a rise in the population density of Norfolk from 0.3 people per acre in 1831, to 0.6 people per acre in 1991. 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 Norfolk 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:

1821 – “Norfolk lunatic asylum in the parish of Thorpe, partly in the city of Norwich, contained 111 people”.

1821 – “One male in the parish of Larling was upwards of 100 years of age”.

1831 – “The manufacture of Bombazines out of Norwich remarkable recovered from the depression it had endured for a long time, of which the year 1811 was deemed the mid-point”.

1851 – “Drayton, in St Faiths District increased in population due to an influx of labourers employed at the paper mills in the adjoining parish of Taverham”.

## 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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