

200 years of the Census in...

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

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.

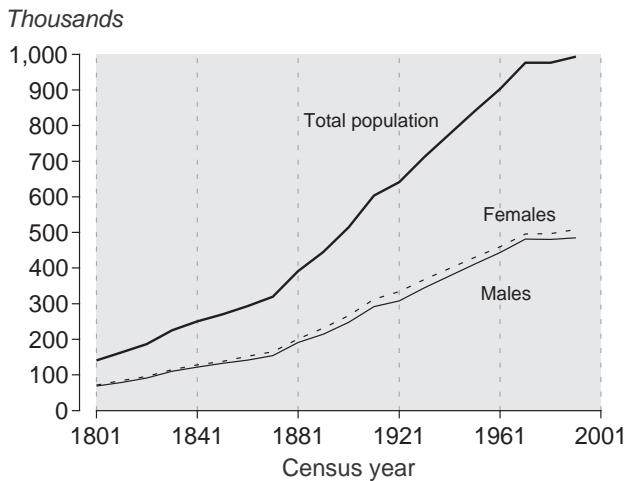
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100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

This table and chart show the various increases and decreases in area size and population, and numbers of males and females. Despite a number of small changes in the boundaries and size of Nottinghamshire over the years, the population has been more or less unaffected, and has continued to increase steadily.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	140,350	68,558	71,792
1811	na	162,900	79,057	83,843
1821	na	186,873	91,491	95,382
1831	525,800	225,327	110,457	114,870
1841	525,800	249,910	121,731	128,179
1851	526,076	270,427	132,263	138,164
1861	526,076	293,867	141,237	152,630
1871	526,176	319,758	154,407	165,351
1881	527,752	391,815	190,778	201,037
1891	539,752	445,823	214,199	231,624
1901	540,123	514,459	248,098	266,361
1911	540,123	604,098	291,720	312,378
1921	540,123	641,149	307,551	333,598
1931	540,015	712,731	344,596	368,135
1951	540,015	841,211	411,257	429,954
1961	540,017	902,988	443,601	459,387
1971	539,313	976,413	481,101	495,312
1981	534,638	976,748	480,351	496,397
1991	533,687	993,872	485,198	508,674

na = not available

Households and Amenities

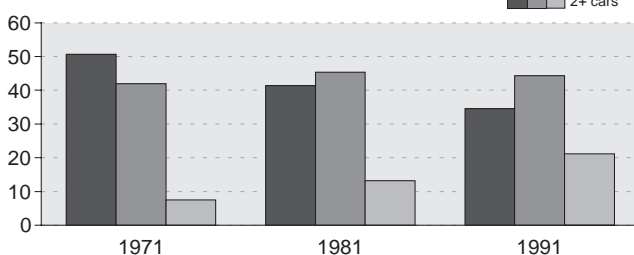
At the end of the Second World War (1939-45) it was vital to assess the overall housing situation in Great Britain. Consequently the 1951 Census had a number of questions on housing needs. These were met in the post-war housing programmes, and significant improvements were evident in subsequent Censuses. In 1971 only 2,320 households in Nottinghamshire were without a WC, compared to 15,682 households in 1951. By 1981, only 4,179 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	6,594	2.6
H/Holds without WC	15,682	6.3
H/Holds without fixed bath	89,781	35.8
H/Holds without kitchen sink	5,209	2.1
H/Holds without cooking stove	2,959	1.2
H/Holds with all five of the above	140,604	56.2

(Total Households in 1951 = 250,072)

Percentage



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time almost 50 per cent of households in Nottinghamshire already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 16 percentage points to over three-fifths of households (66 %). There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

OCCUPATIONS

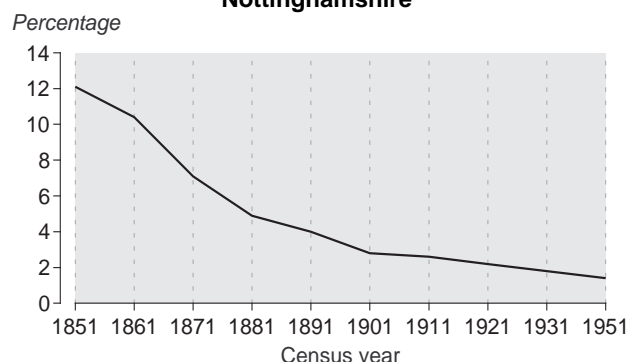
Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Nottinghamshire the number of agricultural labourers fell from 15,266 in 1861 to 7,003 in 1931, a decrease of 54%.

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

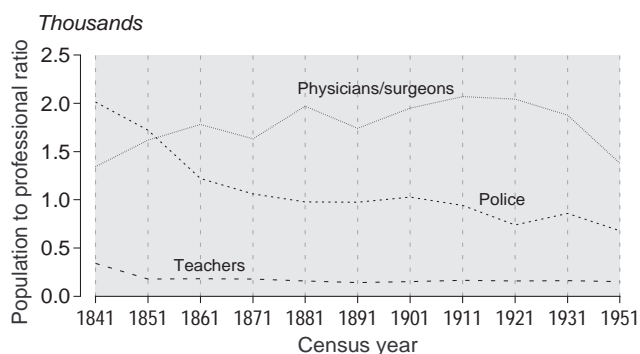
Percentage of people employed in agriculture in Nottinghamshire



Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Nottinghamshire, 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 1,722 people in 1851, dropping to 680 people in 1951. By 1991, there was one teacher per 65 people, one physician/surgeon per 641 people and one police officer per 471 people.

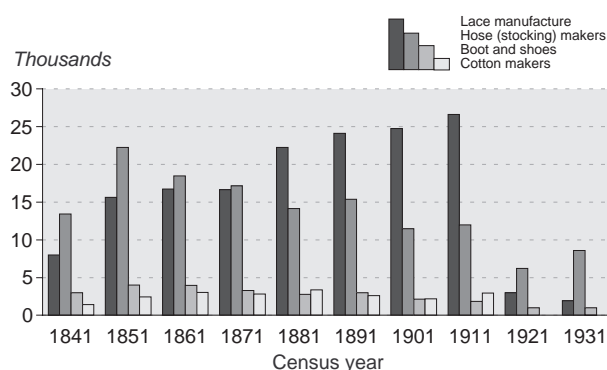
N.B. Figures between 1951 and 1991 have not been included due to problems with the availability and comparability of data between these years.

Key Occupations

The chart highlights four of the main occupations in Nottinghamshire, past and present, and trends over the years.

Between 1841 and 1911 the biggest increase in employment came in the manufacture of lace, which grew more than three-fold. By 1931 however, this industry employed fewer than 2,000 people. The number of hose (stocking) makers fell through the period, whilst the other two occupations remained relatively steady between 1841 and 1931.

N.B. Figures for cotton makers are unavailable after 1911 due to changes in occupational groupings.



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

Did you know ?

- The population of Nottinghamshire increased seven-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in eight households in Nottinghamshire 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 Nottinghamshire (excluding construction) increased over twenty-fold – from 285 people to 6,226 people.
- In 1881, 8% of Nottinghamshire’s female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 5 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 19 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in Nottinghamshire.
- In 1891 there were 1,986 blacksmiths in Nottinghamshire, whilst the highest number of coal miners recorded for Nottinghamshire was 50,505 in 1921.
- There was a rise in the population density of Nottinghamshire from 0.4 people per acre in 1831, to 1.9 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 Nottinghamshire contained 6 people, compared to 2.5 in 1991, which matched the 1991 GB average of people per household.

The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1831 – *“The manufacture of stockings and lace is so considerable in the County of Nottingham as to employ 13,600 males upwards of twenty years of age.”*

1831 – *“The great increase of population in the parish of Lenton (1,837 Persons) is attributed to the flourishing state of the Bobbin-Lace and Machine Manufacture, and to the Immigration of Families to whom said Manufacture affords ready employment.”*

1911 – *“198 persons were returned as being in Prison, 1440 returned as being within Lunatic Asylums and 549 returned as being in Hospital.”*

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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