

200 years of the Census in...

STAFFORDSHIRE

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.

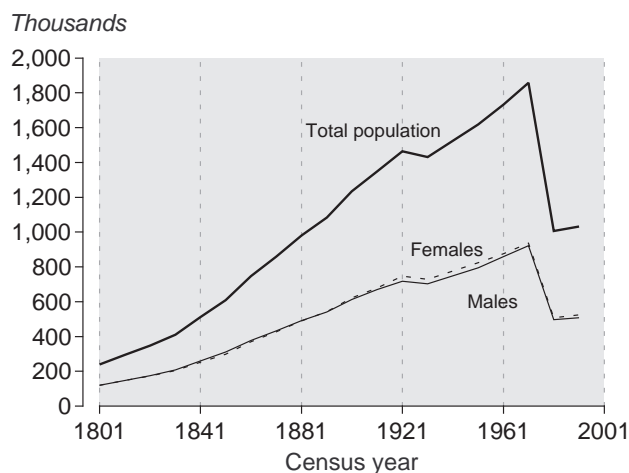
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100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

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 Staffordshire over the years. The apparent decrease in Staffordshire's population between 1971 and 1991 is predominantly a result of the Local Government Re-organisation when part of Staffordshire became the West Midlands. Figures for the West Midlands have been included in the monitor for Warwickshire.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	239,153	118,698	120,455
1811	na	294,196	147,581	146,615
1821	na	347,577	175,400	172,177
1831	736,290	410,512	206,921	203,591
1841	736,290	510,504	258,864	251,640
1851	728,468	608,716	310,032	298,684
1861	728,468	746,943	377,363	369,580
1871	732,434	858,326	431,814	426,512
1881	748,433	981,013	492,009	489,004
1891	749,601	1,083,408	540,693	542,715
1901	749,602	1,234,506	613,238	621,268
1911	744,985	1,348,259	668,694	679,565
1921	784,263	1,464,219	717,829	746,390
1931	737,886	1,431,359	702,401	728,958
1951	738,258	1,619,097	794,427	824,670
1961	738,258	1,733,519	858,183	875,336
1971	740,406	1,858,355	921,276	937,079
1981	671,161	1,005,641	497,343	508,298
1991	670,988	1,031,135	507,119	524,016

na = not available

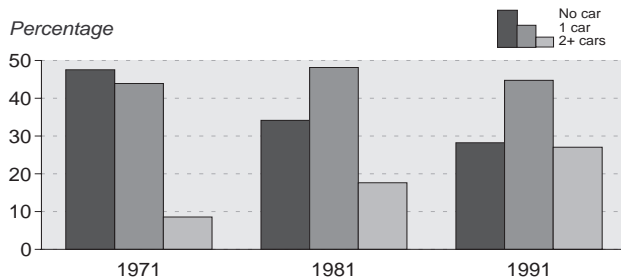
Households and Amenities

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 6,120 households in Staffordshire were without a WC, compared to 27,961 households in 1951. By 1981, only 9,976 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	25,066	5.4
H/Holds without WC	27,961	6.1
H/Holds without fixed bath	196,621	42.7
H/Holds without kitchen sink	18,109	3.9
H/Holds without cooking stove	12,339	2.7
H/Holds with all five of the above	231,273	50.2

(Total Households in 1951 = 461,005)



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time over half of households in Staffordshire already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased to almost three-quarters of households (72%). There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

OCCUPATIONS

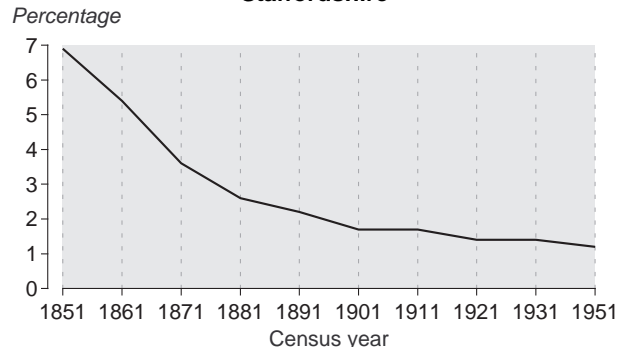
Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Staffordshire the number of agricultural labourers fell from 18,674 in 1861 to 9,788 in 1931, a decrease of 48%.

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

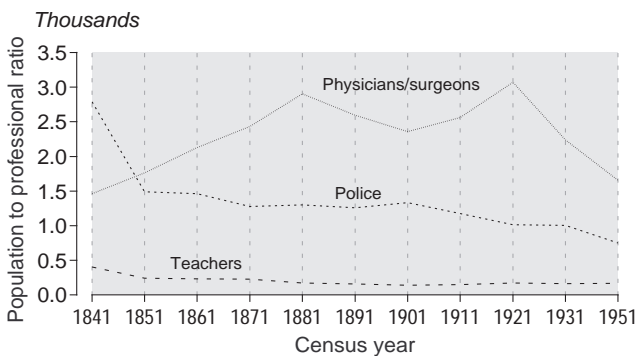
N.B. This analysis is based upon the number of people employed in agriculture as a percentage of the total population, not just the working population.

Percentage of people employed in agriculture in Staffordshire



Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Staffordshire, 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 1,492 people in 1851, dropping to 751 people in 1951.

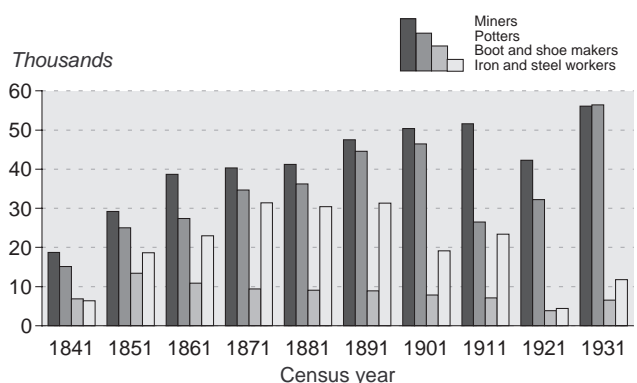
By 1991, there was one teacher per 66 people, one physician/surgeon per 1,021 people and one police officer per 366 people.

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

Between 1841 and 1931 the biggest increase in employment came in the number of potters, which rose from 15,158 people to 56,424 people, almost a four-fold increase. The mining industry followed the same lines as the pottery industry, and rose over three-fold. The number of boot and shoemakers remained fairly consistent over the period, whilst the number of people employed as iron and steelworkers rose and fell.



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

Did you know ?

- The population of Staffordshire increased four-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in six households in Staffordshire 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 Staffordshire (excluding construction) increased over nine-fold – from 940 people to 8,971 people.
- In 1881, 7% of Staffordshire's female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 35 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 14 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in Staffordshire.
- In 1891 there were 3,505 butchers in Staffordshire.
- There was a rise in the population density of Staffordshire from 0.6 people per acre in 1831, to 1.5 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 Staffordshire contained 5 people, compared to 2.6 in 1991 – slightly above the 1991 GB average of 2.5 people per household.

The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1821 – *“A branch of the Grnd Tounk Canal navigation having been extended to Uttoxeter has caused a great increase of population.”*

1831 – *“The North-West part of the county produces earthen ware from the Potteries in such quantity and excellence as to have acquired the distinctive appellation of Staffordshire-ware.”*

1841 – *“The parish of West Bromwich is divided into two distrcits. The return includes 86 persons in the workhouse, 24 in mines, 19 in sheds and 6 on barges.”*

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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