

200 years of the Census in...

YORKSHIRE

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.

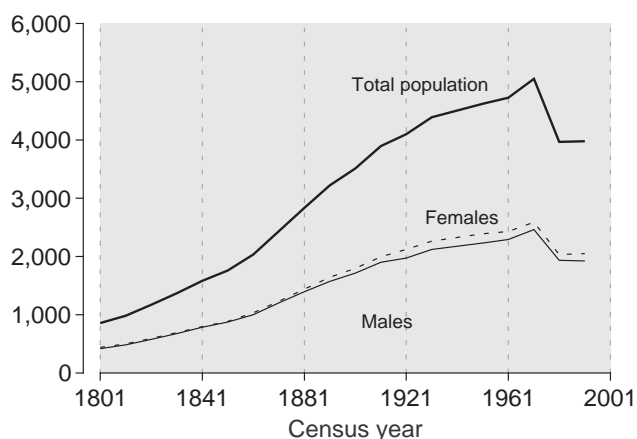
The information from censuses has continued to evolve and grow since the first reports in 1801. The questions and results are on issues relevant to a particular time and change cannot always be tracked exactly over the two centuries. Boundaries of counties also shift over time. The figures and graphs 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 YORKSHIRE

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 Yorkshire over the years.

The apparent decrease in Yorkshire's population between 1971 and 1981 was predominantly caused by the Local Government Re-organisation of 1974 when a large proportion of the East Riding was moved into the new county of Humberside. In addition, Teeside was removed from North Riding to become part of the new county of Cleveland. Doncaster, Sheffield, Rotherham and Barnsley, once in the West Riding, formed South Yorkshire.

Thousands



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	858,892	419,366	439,526
1811	na	986,041	483,797	502,244
1821	na	1,173,187	580,456	592,731
1831	3,669,510	1,371,359	677,667	693,692
1841	3,619,790	1,582,001	784,019	797,982
1851	3,826,566	1,761,692	875,772	885,920
1861	3,830,567	2,033,610	1,002,005	1,031,605
1871	3,882,851	2,436,355	1,206,625	1,229,730
1881	3,880,872	2,837,034	1,396,044	1,440,990
1891	3,809,540	3,218,882	1,573,753	1,645,129
1901	3,883,979	3,512,838	1,712,749	1,800,089
1911	3,886,028	3,897,682	1,900,953	1,996,729
1921	3,885,702	4,098,490	1,974,186	2,124,304
1931	3,891,967	4,389,679	2,122,872	2,266,807
1951	3,897,909	4,622,659	2,230,421	2,392,238
1961	3,897,939	4,725,976	2,295,069	2,430,907
1971	3,918,656	5,053,989	2,462,370	2,591,619
1981	2,942,530	3,967,192	1,932,960	2,034,232
1991	2,941,247	3,978,484	1,926,873	2,051,611

na = not available

Households and Amenities

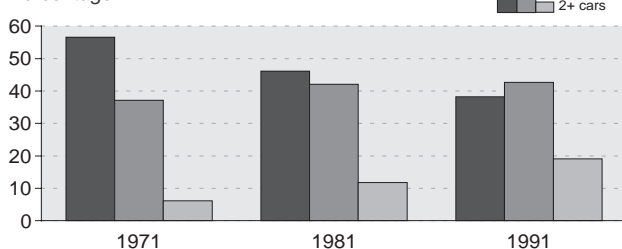
At the end of the Second World War (1939-45) it was vital to assess the overall housing situation in Great Britain. Consequently the 1951 Census had a number of questions on housing needs. These were met in the post-war housing programmes, and significant improvements were evident in subsequent Censuses. In 1971 only 13,255 households in Yorkshire were without a WC, compared to 86,300 households in 1951. By 1981, only 21,558 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	40,388	2.9
H/Holds without WC	86,300	6.2
H/Holds without fixed bath	547,175	39.0
H/Holds without kitchen sink	39,685	2.8
H/Holds without cooking stove	21,854	1.6
H/Holds with all five of the above	753,747	53.7

(Total Households in 1951 = 1,400,676)

Percentage



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time 44 per cent of households in Yorkshire already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 18 percentage points to over three-fifths of households (62 %). There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

OCCUPATIONS

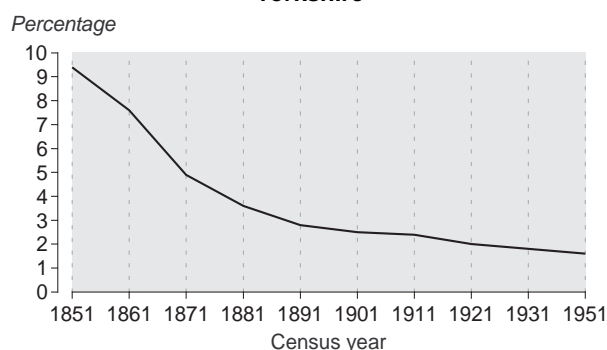
Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Yorkshire the number of agricultural labourers fell from 56,655 in 1861 to 46,622 in 1931, a decrease of 18%.

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



Professionals

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

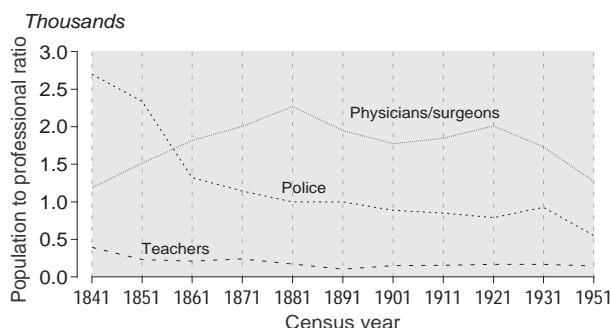
There have been changes in definition in what is included in each of these professions over the years.

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 2,337 people in 1851, dropping to 551 people in 1951.

By 1991, there was one teacher per 69 people, one physician/surgeon per 564 people and one police officer per 404 people.

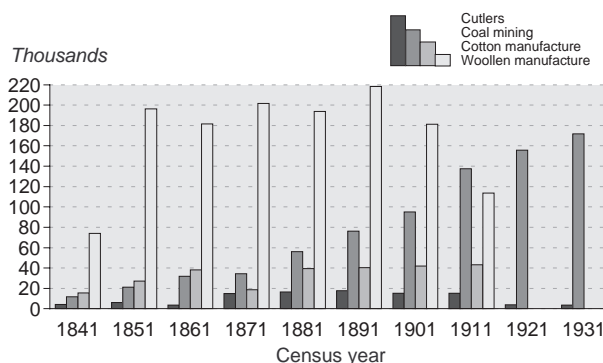
N.B. Figures between 1951 and 1991 have not been included due to problems with the availability and comparability of data between these years.



Key Occupations

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

Between 1841 and 1931 the industry that continued to rise was that of coal mining, from 11,821 employed in 1841 to 171,668 in 1931. The manufacture of cotton increased by almost three-fold, from 15,596 people to 43,168 people, whereas the growth of the woollen industry appears to be rather erratic over the same period. Please note that there are no specific occupational figures for cotton or woollens manufacture for 1921 or 1931. The cutlery trade based mainly within Sheffield reached its peak in 1891 employing 17,786 people.



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

Did you know ?

- The population of Yorkshire increased almost five-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in five households in Yorkshire 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 Yorkshire (excluding construction) increased over twelve-fold – from 2,979 people to 36,808 people.
- In 1881, 7% of Yorkshire's female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Almost 8 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 21 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in Yorkshire.
- In 1841 there were 2,976 people employed on the canals as bargemen and lightermen in Yorkshire.
- In 1831 and 1841, 17 and 32 people respectively, were recorded as being employed in the manufacture of Whitby Jet ornaments.
- The fishing industry of North Yorkshire rose from 364 in 1841 to its peak in 1901 of 2,553 fishermen and women.
- There was a rise in the population density of Yorkshire from 0.4 people per acre in 1831, to 1.4 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 Yorkshire contained 5 people, compared to 2.5 in 1991. This was consistent with the 1991 GB average.

The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1821 – *“Hartburn and Hyde, formerly villages in North Holderness, are said to have been washed away by the sea.”*

1831 – *“The influx of persons into Huddersfield is attributable to the extensive woollen and silk manufacturies”*

1831 – *“Atwick decreased by 41 persons, attributed to emigration to America.”*

1851 - Leeds – *“the return for Kirkgate Ward includes 85 persons on barges and several families who resided at their place of business in 1841, now live in the suburbs.”*

1901 - *“The total number of Boys aged 10 and under 14 Years in the entire County is 143,000 and of these 20,975, equal to 14.7 per cent, are engaged in Occupations. Coal and Shale Mining finds employment for 1,701 Boys below ground.”*

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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