

200 years of the Census in...

SURREY

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.

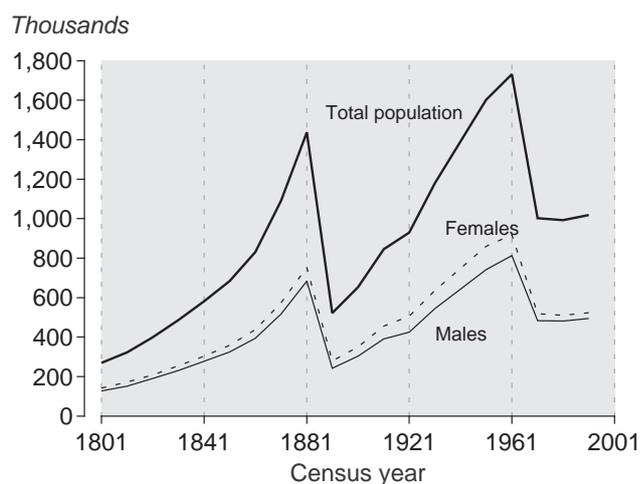
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100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

This table and chart show the various increases and decreases in area size and population, and numbers of males and females. Changes in the boundaries and size of Surrey over the years, is reflected in the fluctuation of population size. These boundary changes are as a result of the growth of London, which gradually absorbed parts of the surrounding counties into its administration.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	269,043	127,138	141,905
1811	na	323,851	151,811	172,040
1821	na	398,658	189,871	208,787
1831	474,480	486,334	230,860	255,474
1841	474,480	582,678	278,203	304,475
1851	478,792	683,082	325,041	358,041
1861	478,792	831,093	393,647	437,446
1871	483,178	1,091,635	517,111	574,524
1881	485,129	1,436,899	683,228	753,671
1891	461,230	521,551	242,066	279,485
1901	461,807	653,549	303,263	350,286
1911	461,829	845,578	390,395	455,183
1921	461,833	930,086	425,023	505,063
1931	461,833	1,180,878	544,054	636,824
1951	461,833	1,602,509	742,583	859,926
1961	461,833	1,731,042	813,035	918,007
1971	418,268	1,002,889	483,294	519,595
1981	414,940	992,489	481,224	511,265
1991	414,418	1,018,003	495,185	522,818

na = not available

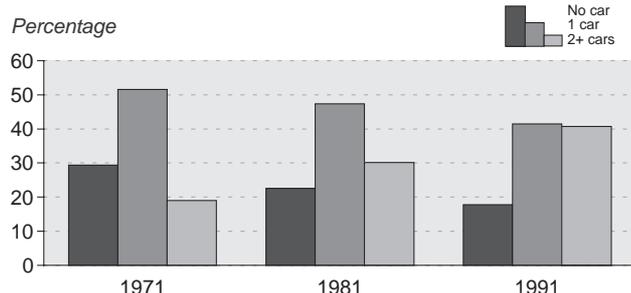
Households and Amenities

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 2,660 households in Surrey were without a WC, compared to 11,084 households in 1951. By 1981, only 3,816 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	3,769	0.8
H/Holds without WC	11,084	2.3
H/Holds without fixed bath	87,974	18.3
H/Holds without kitchen sink	8,430	1.8
H/Holds without cooking stove	4,403	0.9
H/Holds with all five of the above	327,252	68.1

(Total Households in 1951 = 480,234)



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time 71 per cent of households in Surrey already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 11 percentage points to 82% of households. There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

OCCUPATIONS

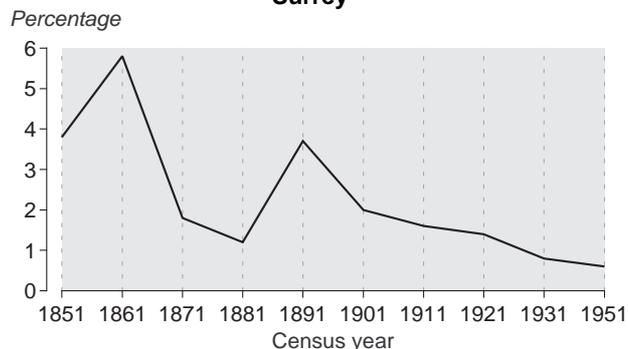
Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Surrey the number of agricultural labourers fell from 19,086 in 1861 to 11,877 in 1931, a decrease of 38%. The rise between 1881 and 1891 is presumably caused by an urban part of what was Surrey in 1881, being included in London from 1891 onwards.

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

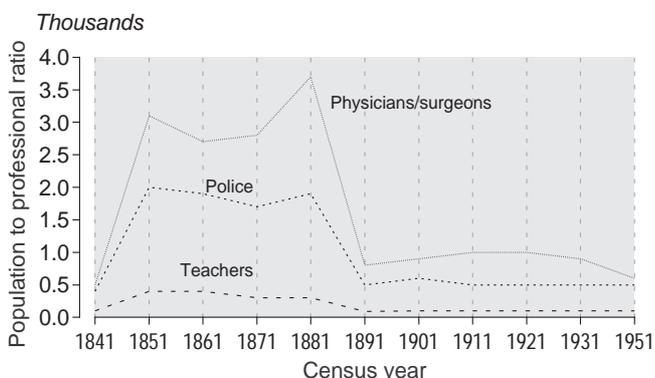
Percentage of people employed in agriculture in Surrey



Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Surrey, 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. This is certainly the case for Surrey as listed within the 1841 Census Occupation Report.

Generally the numbers of people to each professional has fallen over the period. For example, there was one police officer per 1,708 people in 1851, dropping to 524 people in 1951.

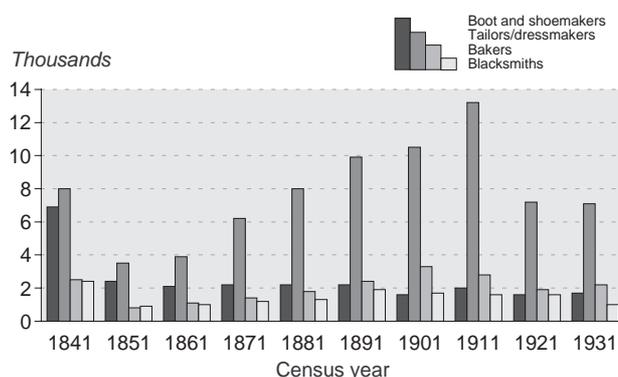
By 1991, there was one teacher per 63 people, one physician/surgeon per 525 people and one police officer per 215 people.

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

Between 1841 and 1911 the biggest increase in employment came from the trade of tailors and dressmakers, employing 13,256 people in 1911, nearly 2% of the population. Bakers were a prominent occupation in Surrey reaching a peak of 3,320 during 1901.



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

Did you know ?

- The population of Surrey increased four-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in ten households in Surrey 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 Surrey (excluding construction) increased by nearly twelve-fold – from 353 people to 4,361 people.
- In 1881, nearly 5% of Surrey’s female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 4 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 2 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in Surrey.
- In 1891 there were 1,966 blacksmiths in Surrey, and 6,324 males were recorded under the category of ‘coachman, cabman, groom, horsebreaker’ in 1911.
- There was a rise in the population density of Surrey from just over 1 person per acre in 1831, to 2.5 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 Surrey contained just under 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:

1821 *“Married men being sure of employment in preference to single men, or obtaining relief if unemployed, early marriages are becoming usual at Shere.”*

1831 *“The population of the County of Surrey is agricultural, except in so far as the Borough of Southwark and East Brixton hundred form an important portion of the metropolis and as such partake of the occupations of the inhabitants of London. 75 potters and weavers find employment at Battersea; manufacturing at Haslemere of silk crepe and Goldalming one of the earliest stations of Stockings- Weaving machinery, retains a portion of that manufacture.”*

1841 *“In the return for the County of Surrey 77 males and 57 females are stated to have emigrated to the Colonies and Foreign Countries since 31st December.”*

1851 *“There are 3,517 persons enumerated as ‘paupers living in the workhouse’ of which 123 males and 136 females are aged 5 years and under.”*

1861 *“The increase in Banstead Parish since 1851 is attributed to a portion of the land having changed hands and greater facilities having in consequence been offered for building. Many cottages have been erected by small capitalists.”*

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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