

200 years of the Census in...

WARWICKSHIRE

(includes West Midlands from 1981 onwards)

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.

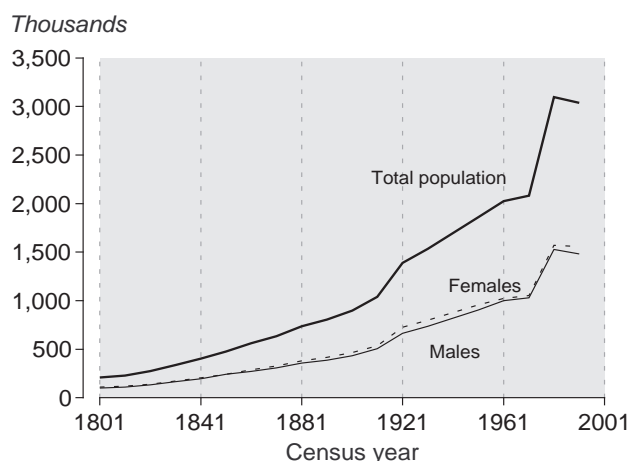
The Census is not only useful for planning. Two centuries of census taking have produced a record of remarkable changes in British society. For example, 90% of the population lived in urban areas in 1991 compared with just 16% in 1831. The average size of households has fallen by half in the past 100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

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 Warwickshire over the years. The apparent increase in Warwickshire's population between 1971 and 1991 is due to the inclusion of figures for the West Midlands, which came into existence in 1974 as part of the Local Government Re-organisation.



Year	Area Size (Acres)	Total Population	Males	Females
1801	na	208,190	99,942	108,248
1811	na	228,735	109,539	119,196
1821	na	274,392	133,827	140,565
1831	563,930	336,610	165,576	171,034
1841	567,930	401,715	195,679	206,036
1851	563,946	475,013	242,411	242,602
1861	563,946	561,855	273,038	288,817
1871	566,458	634,189	307,649	326,540
1881	566,271	737,339	357,146	380,193
1891	577,462	805,072	388,261	416,811
1901	579,885	897,835	433,384	464,451
1911	580,742	1,040,409	505,737	534,762
1921	634,119	1,389,977	663,123	726,854
1931	624,676	1,535,007	735,517	799,490
1951	628,972	1,861,670	904,369	957,301
1961	628,972	2,025,476	1,001,070	1,024,406
1971	623,055	2,082,229	1,030,690	1,051,539
1981	711,640	3,098,220	1,526,325	1,571,895
1991	710,976	3,035,918	1,479,963	1,555,955

na = not available

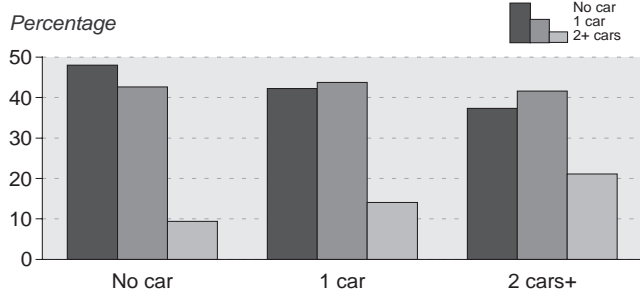
Households and Amenities

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 2,980 households in Warwickshire were without a WC, compared to 23,074 households in 1951. By 1981, only 2,019 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	18,191	3.4
H/Holds without WC	23,074	4.3
H/Holds without fixed bath	188,859	34.9
H/Holds without kitchen sink	13,511	2.5
H/Holds without cooking stove	5,057	0.9
H/Holds with all five of the above	296,366	54.8

(Total Households in 1951 = 540,954)



Car Availability 1971 – 1991

A question on car availability was asked for the first time in 1971, by which time over 50 per cent of households in Warwickshire already had a car. At the time of the 1991 Census this had increased by a further 12 percentage points to 62 per cent of households. There has also been a big increase in households with two or more cars since 1971.

OCCUPATIONS

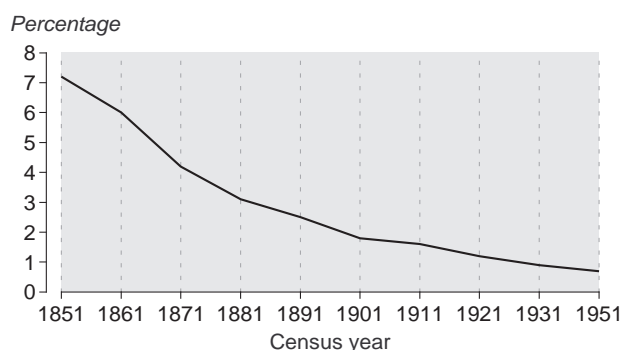
Agriculture

A general decline in the number of people employed in agriculture is common to many counties. In Warwickshire the number of agricultural labourers fell from 20,465 in 1861 to 7,769 in 1931, a decrease of 62%.

By 1991, the number of farmers and agricultural labourers accounted for less than 1% of population of Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

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.

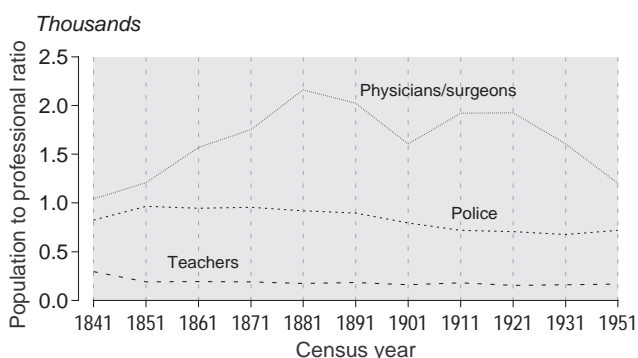
Percentage of people employed in agriculture in Warwickshire



Professionals

This chart is based on a comparison between three professional occupations (physicians/surgeons, teachers and the police), and the total population of Warwickshire, 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 965 people in 1851, dropping to 720 people in 1951.

By 1991, there was one teacher per 78 people, one physician/surgeon per 670 people and one police officer per 464 people.

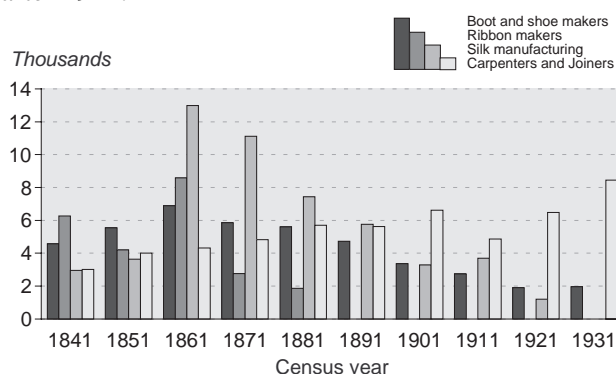
N.B. Figures between 1951 and 1991 have not been included due to problems with the availability and comparability of data between these years.

Key Occupations

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

Between 1841 and 1931 the numbers of carpenters and joiners increased steadily, whilst the number of boot and shoemakers rose and fell, peaking in 1861 with 6,887 people working in that occupation. The numbers of people employed in silk manufacturing also increased rapidly between 1841 and 1861 and then declined sharply. Those employed in ribbon making suffered a sharp decline between 1841 and 1881, falling from 6,264 people to just 1,853 people (having been 8,577 people in 1861).

Unfortunately there are no specific figures for this occupation after 1881, as with silk manufacturing after 1921.



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

Did you know ?

- The population of Warwickshire, including West Midlands from 1981 onwards, increased over fourteen-fold between 1801 to 1991.
- In 1991, one in nine households in Warwickshire and the West Midlands 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 Warwickshire (excluding construction) increased over two-fold – from 1,071 people to 2,559 people.
- In 1881, 8% of Warwickshire’s female population were employed as indoor domestic servants. Over 25 times as many females were domestic servants as males.
- In 1851, there were 16 chimney sweeps aged between 5 and 9 in Warwickshire.
- In 1881 there were 101 architects in Warwickshire.
- There was a rise in the population density of Warwickshire, including West Midlands from 1981 onwards, from 0.6 people per acre in 1831 to 4.3 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 Warwickshire contained 5 people, compared to 2.6 in 1991, which closely matched the 1991 GB average of 2.5 people per household. The 1991 figure is inclusive of the West Midlands.

The Census reports also contain interesting explanatory notes:

1821 – *“The increase of population in Long-Compton Parish is attributed to nearly all the poor belonging to the Parish having been brought home by order of removals.”*

1831 – *“The Parish of Baddesley-Clinton has experienced a decrease of population attributed to deaths by a fever.”*

1841 – *“The return for the Parish of Southam includes 50 strangers attending the fair.”*

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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