



POPULATION

(beginning with No 1, 1981...)

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1981 Community Census of Population

First results for the United Kingdom*

Censuses of population were carried out throughout the United Kingdom on the night of 5/6 April 1981 within the context of the Community directive on synchronised censuses in 1981. Provisional results were published on 30 June 1981; these figures may be subject to small changes in the main census reports. The total number of persons recorded as present on census night was 55,676,000, representing a slight increase of 161,000 or 0,3% on the 1971 census figure. The distribution of total population by countries and regions and changes which have occurred since the previous census in 1971 are shown in Table 1.

While a slight increase in population occurred in England (+ 0.4%), a more marked increase in relative terms was recorded for Wales (+ 2.2%) with an almost equivalent decrease (- 2.1%) for Scotland. The North and North West Regions suffered decline while Yorkshire and Humberside and the West Midlands showed almost no change. In the South West, East Midlands and particularly East Anglia substantial percentage increases in population were recorded. The most populous South East Region showed an overall slight decline, due to a substantial fall in population in the Greater London area (- 10.1%).

Although the preliminary reports so far published do not permit a very detailed analysis of urban/rural trends, the information provided is sufficient to indicate a widespread downward tendency in the population of city areas, as may be seen from Table 2. The inner London boroughs lost between 12 and 26% of their population; however, the City of London itself showed an increase. Losses in some of the principal city districts were: Manchester, -17.4%; Liverpool, -16.4%; Salford, -12.9%; Newcastle-upon-Tyne, -9.9%; Nottingham, -9.8%; Birmingham, -8.3%; Coventry, -6.7%; Sheffield, -6.3%. The greatest decrease in Scotland was recorded in Glasgow City district, with a fall in population of 22.3%, while the entire Clydeside conurbation declined by 10.0%. Dundee City district showed a fall in population of 8.8% and Edinburgh a fall of 8.5%.

Where increases in population occurred, these were generally in areas peripheral to the larger cities or remote from them and in resort or retirement districts, and in areas associated with oil related developments in Scotland.

* Office of Population Censuses and Surveys: Census 1981, Preliminary Report, England and Wales
Registrar General Scotland: Census 1981, Preliminary Report, Scotland.

Table 1 - Population present on census night 1971 and 1981

	1971	1981	Percentage change in 10-year period
	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	
ENGLAND AND WALES	48 750	49 011	0.5
England	46 018	46 221	0.4
Regions			
North	3 142	3 097	-1.4
Yorkshire and Humberside	4 856	4 854	-0.1
East Midlands	3 633	3 807	4.8
East Anglia	1 669	1 865	11.7
South East	16 931	16 729	-1.2
Greater London	(7 452)	(6 696)	-10.1
Remainder of South East	(9 478)	(10 033)	5.9
South West	4 081	4 326	6.0
West Midlands	5 110	5 136	0.5
North West	6 597	6 406	-2.9
Wales	2 731	2 790	2.2
SCOTLAND	5 229	5 117	-2.1
NORTHERN IRELAND	1 536	1 547*	0.7
UNITED KINGDOM	55 515	55 676	0.3

* 1980 estimated figure, the census count not yet being available

Table 2 - Population in groups of districts, 1971 and 1981

Groups of districts	Total population of districts (thousands)		Percentage change in 10-year period
	1971	1981	
ENGLAND AND WALES			
Greater London Boroughs	7 452	6 696	-10.1
Inner London	3 032	2 497	-17.7
Outer London	4 420	4 199	-5.0
Metropolitan districts	11 781	11 235	-4.6
The principal cities*	3 872	3 486	-10.0
Others	7 909	7 749	-2.0
Non-metropolitan districts	29 516	31 080	+5.3
Large cities (over 175,000 population in 1971)	2 912	2 763	-5.1
Small cities	1 742	1 687	-3.2
Others	24 862	26 630	+7.1
SCOTLAND			
Central Clydeside Conurbation	1 903	1 713	-10.0
Glasgow City district	982	763	-22.3
Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh			
City districts	886	820	-7.4
Scotland remainder	2 441	2 584	+5.9

* Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Sheffield