



North West Kent Family History Society

(N W Kent and ancient Kent parishes now S E London incorporating TWFHS)

www.nwkhfs.org.uk

UK Census Dates 1801-2011

The UK Census has been taken every 10 years since the first one was taken in 1801, the only exception being 1941. Prior to 1841 the census was basically a head count and, in general, no names were recorded. The 100 year Data Protection rule applies to any census but, on occasion, the census is provided slightly earlier but with sensitive information redacted.

The dates when the census was taken are shown in the following table – in general the details recorded should have been of people present at each dwelling at midnight at the end of this day, although in later years the rules were clarified to include those such as night shift workers, who returned to the dwelling the following morning, having not been counted elsewhere.

Census year:	Day:	Date:	Population:
1801	Tuesday	10 th March 1801	
1811	Monday	27 th May 1811	
1821	Monday	28 th May 1821	
1831	Sunday	29 th May 1831	
1841	Sunday	6 th June 1841	15,914,000
1851	Sunday	30 th March 1851	17,928,000
1861	Sunday	7 th April 1861	20,066,000
1871	Sunday	2 nd April 1871	22,723,000
1881	Sunday	3 rd April 1881	25,974,000
1891	Sunday	5 th April 1891	28,999,725
1901	Sunday	31 st March 1901	38,328,000
1911	Sunday	2 nd April 1911	42,138,000
1921	Sunday	19 th June 1921	44,072,000
1931	Sunday	26 th April 1931	46,074,000 (destroyed in WW2)
1941	See note below	Estimated from 1939	48,216,000
1951	Sunday	8 th April 1951	50,290,000
1961	Sunday	23 rd April 1961	52,807,000
1971	Sunday	25 th April 1971	55,928,000
1981	Sunday	5 th April 1981	56,352,000
1991	Sunday	21 st April 1991	57,808,000
2001	Sunday	29 th April 2001	58,789,194
2011	Sunday	27 th March 2011	

No census was held in 1941 because of the Second World War but a “mini-census” was held on 29th September 1939 so that everybody could be issued with a National Identity Card (National Registration Act 1939). This now available from Ancestry and Find My Past but with information on living persons redacted.

Censuses taken from 1951 onwards will not be available to the public.