## UK census dates throughout history Published by Find My Past FH Subscription Website Thanks to the transcriptions of Wendy Snarey, members can consult the Censuses of 1841-1901 on the Woodard Database

# 1911 still awaits its volunteer as will 1921 from 2022 [ if you can, email <u>presidentths@gmail.com</u>] Library Members can access both Find My Past and Ancestry on their pcs at Home

From 1801 to 1831, census records were used to create summaries of localities and later destroyed. So, for family historians, the full censuses dating from 1841 to 1911 are the ones of real interest.

Here's a brief summary on the history of British censuses and what these detailed family records can tell you.

#### 1801 Census

The first UK census was taken on 10 March 1801 but no longer exists apart from fragments like 1801 Kent, Dartford Census.

### 1811 Census

Taken on 27 May 1811, very few of the records survive.

### 1821 Census

Like those before it, very little remains of the 1821 Census which took place on 28 May that year. You'll find some of the remaining exceptions from Kent, Westminster and Orkney on Findmypast.

## 1831 Census

This census was taken on 30 May 1831. Excerpts from Westminster, Sheffield and Shrewsbury survive, among others.

### 1841 Census

The first fully surviving UK census was taken on 6 June 1841.

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1841 census return from Lambeth.

The 1841 Census can reveal useful information for your family tree including:

- Names
- Ages
- Genders
- Addresses
- Birthplaces

## 1851 Census

The 1851 census took place on 30 March that year.

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Parish or Township Chulth	m	Ecclesiastical Dis	strict of		<del>ror</del> Borough cenert		Town of		-Village of.	
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1851 census return from Greenwich.

As well as all of the information included in the 1841 Census, this edition also features more information on your family's relationships. Each entry includes:

- Relationship to head of household
- Marital status

## 1861 Census

Taken on 7 April 1861, this census includes all of the same information as the one that was recorded a decade earlier.

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1861 census return from Manchester.

On Findmypast, as well as searching census records for a person, you can also switch to a dedicated address search.

This is perfect for tracing who used to live at your address or how your local area has changed over time. **New to me: how does it work?** 

#### Another UK census was recorded in England, Scotland and Wales on 2 April 1871.

Page	2]		The u	ndermentioned	Houses are	situate	within the Bound	aries of the			
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1871 census return from Northamptonshire.

It was around 1871 that modern street numbering in Tewkesbury appears

The information that was captured in the previous two censuses was sought again in 1871.

## Transcripts of the 1881 UK census, recorded on 3 April that year, are free to access on Findmypast.

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1881 census return from Cardiff.

Like previous censuses, details on names, ages, addresses and family relationships are included.

Once the 1881 Census was fully compiled, officials noted that there was an alarming rise in the number of individuals being reported as "deaf and dumb", compared to previous census returns. After enquiries were made, it transpired that many enumerators had recorded babies as being deaf and dumb simply because they could not speak.

#### 1891 Census

For the first time, the UK census recorded a person's employment status in 1891. This adds even more colour as you build a detailed picture of your ancestors' lives.

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1891 census return from Newcastle.

In Wales, the 1891 Census included an extra question on the language spoken.

This census took place on 5 April 1891.

The first UK census of the 20th century requested the same information as the one before it. It was taken on 31 March 1901.

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16	Tenements with less than Five Rooms	11	186	7	Total	of Males and F	emales	14/1	5.						

1901 census return from Cornwall.

As well as individuals residing in households, censuses also record people on board docked ships, hospital patients,

prisoners, workhouse inmates and military personnel stationed in barracks.

The 1911 Census was taken on 2 April that year and is the most recent census currently open to the public. It's often a mustsearch starting point for anyone new to British family history.

	DET LETONOTIO	100		1.1.00	Contraction of the				Statistical Tables.	in the spin with			and the and the second	1 June 12	10.03
NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.	PART	ICULARS	as to MAR	RRIAGE.		UQ-A	PROFESS of Persons ag	ION or OCCUPATION ed ten years and upwards.			BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFI
of every Person, whether Member Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servi who		For Infants under one year	1.111	State, enter	for each M od on this i number	larried Won Schedule, ti	man he	Personal Occu	pation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer Worker, er Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at House.	(1) If born in the United King- dom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish.	State whether :	
<ol> <li>passed the night of Sunday, A 2nd, 1911, in this dwelling was alive at midnight, or</li> <li>arrived in this dwelling on morning of Monday, April 3rd.</li> </ol>	and "Head, or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or the other Relative, "Visitor,"	state the age in months as "under one month," " one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," opposite the names of	Com- ploted years the present Marriage	(If no alive wr	born aliv ent Marriag children be ite "None olumn 7).	ge. orn	reply should show the Profession, Trade, Man engaged in any Trade particular kind of work of	or Manufacture the	clearly shown in Col. 10	Trade or Industry, (1) " Employer" (that is employing	Write the	<ul> <li>(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State.</li> <li>(3) If born in a Foreign Country,</li> </ul>	age." (2) "Naturalised British sub- ject," giving year of natu- ralisation. Or	Denf,' and D (2) " ' (3) " I (4) " ]
having been enumerated elsewh No one else must be included. (For order of entering names see Example back of Schedule.)	ere, "Servant."	Ages of Males. Females	all persons aged 15 years and upwards.	has lasted. If less than one year write " under ons."	Children	Children still Living.	hildren who have Died. (Se	made or Material worke be clearly indicated. Instructions 1 to 8 an f Schedule.)	d or dealt in should	Answord nore. No entry needed 1sr Domestic Ser- vants in private employment. If employed by a public body (Government, Municipal, etc.) state what body. (See Instruction 9 and Exam- ples on back of Schedule.)	CF (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	person	write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea." NOTE.—In the case of persons born elsewhere than in England or Wales, state whether "Resident" or "Visitor "in this Country.	(3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," esc.	mir state t opposi son's
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1911 census return from Liverpool.

The 1911 Census contains far more information than any census that came before it. For the first time, the census recorded:

- Nationality
- Marriage length
- The number of children who were born, who died and who were still living

Scotland's census from 1911 is only available online at scotlandspeople.gov.uk.

There are some known missing pages from UK census records. You can see the full list here.

# When will census records next be released?

Due to UK privacy laws, 100 years must pass before the public can access census records. The 1921 Census is the next census to be released. It's scheduled to arrive in 2022 and you'll only find it online at Findmypast. For the first time, the 1921 Census requested employer information.

# UK censuses after 1921

The 1931 Census took place on 26 April in England, Scotland and Wales. Northern Ireland was recorded as part of the 1926 Irish Census so wasn't included in the 1931 UK Census. Along with the information requested in 1921, the 1931 Census asked respondents about their usual place of residence. While the records for England and Wales were destroyed by fire, the 1931 census for Scotland survives.

The next UK census was on 8 April 1951 with the records due to be released in 2052. It included questions on household amenities for the first time.

The UK census has continued every decade since the 1950s. Along the way, more and more questions were asked reflecting changes in British society and technology was introduced to make the process more efficient. In 1966, an additional census was taken trialling new methods of enumeration. The first question about religion appeared in 2001, while specific questions on civil partnerships first featured in 2011.

Without historical censuses, our journeys into the past would lack a lot of richness. What have you discovered with census records? Reach out to us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter to share your stories.