

Victorian Cities

Population Growth and Composition 1801-1901

Table 1

Aggregate Population Data

	<i>pop of GB</i>	<i>urban pop. E & W</i>	<i>% urban (E&W)</i>
1801	10.5 million	3.0 million	33.8 ?
1851	20.8	9.7	54.0
1911	40.8	28.5	78.9

Table 2

Percentage Population of England and Wales

	<i>London</i>	<i>Other great cities</i>	<i>Cities 20,000-100,000</i>	<i>All cities 20,000+</i>	<i>Urban districts</i>	<i>Rural districts</i>
1801	9.73	0	7.21	16.94	-	-
1811	9.93	2.08	6.10	18.11	-	-
1821	10.20	3.27	7.35	20.62	-	-
1831	10.64	5.71	8.70	25.05	-	-
1841	11.75	6.52	10.63	28.90	-	-
1851	13.18	9.40	12.42	35.00	50.08	49.92

1861	13.97	11.02	13.22	38.21	54.60	44.40
1871	14.33	11.50	16.20	42.00	61.80	38.20
1881	14.69	14.91	18.40	48.00	67.90	32.10
1891	14.52	17.30	21.76	53.58	72.05	27.95

Table 3

Population Growth Indices : England and Wales 1801-1911

Headings ital

1801 100 100 33.8

Table 4**Distribution of Population in England and Wales**

	<i>London</i>	<i>Other cities of 100,000+</i>		<i>Cities of from 20,000 to 100,000</i>		<i>All cities 20,000+</i>		<i>Aggregate urban population¹</i>		<i>Aggregate rural population</i>	<i>Total population</i>
								<i>Towns</i>	<i>Population</i>		
1801	864,845	-	-	14	641,331	15	1,506,176	-	-	-	8,892,536
1811	1,009,546	2	210,484	15	619,370	18	1,839,400	-	-	-	10,164,256
1821	1,225,694	3	393,330	24	870,242	28	2,489,266	-	-	-	12,000,236
1831	1,471,941	5	791,315	37	1,203,624	43	3,466,880	-	-	-	13,896,797
1841	1,873,676	5	1,039,942	48	1,695,045	54	4,608,663	-	-	-	15,914,148
1851	2,362,236	8	1,678,551	54	2,224,224	63	6,265,011	580	8,900,809	8,936,800	17,927,609
1861	2,803,989	11	2,211,075	60	2,652,558	72	7,667,622	781	10,960,998	9,105,226	20,066,224
1871	3,254,260	12	2,617,726	90	3,671,982	103	9,543,968	938	14,041,404	8,670,862	22,712,266
1881	3,834,354	19	3,864,821	125	4,754,326	145	12,453,501	967	17,636,646	8,337,793	25,974,439
1891	4,232,118	23	5,021,856	161	6,309,860	185	15,563,834	1,011	20,895,504	8,107,021	29,002,525

¹The urban population from 1851 to 1871 consists of "municipal boroughs, towns of improvement acts, and towns of some 2,000 or more inhabitants, without any organization other than the parish vestry" (Census of 1871, Introd., p.xxxi). In 1881 and 1891 it consisted of the urban sanitary districts.

Table 5**Proportionate Decennial Increase**

	<i>London²</i>	<i>Other great cities³</i>	<i>All cities of 20,000 excl London</i>	<i>Small towns⁴</i>	<i>Total urban population⁵</i>	<i>Total rural population⁶</i>	<i>Pop. of England and Wales</i>
1801-11	131	150	140	91	122	84	100
1811-21	117	163	147	105	126	81	100
1821-31	128	239	190	95	143	66	100
1831-41	122	202	182	86	138	67	100
1841-51	167	209	195	82	158	46	100
1851-61	157	172	165	61	137	61	100
1861-71	121	131	152	83	132	64	100

Fig.1

² London - the registration district

³ Other great cities - the 16 cities which, in addition to London, had over 100,000 inhabitants in 1871

⁴ Small towns - places which contained, in 1871, a population of 2,000-20,000

⁵ Urban population - the population at the various censuses of all towns with 2,000 or more inhabitants in 1871

⁶ Rural population - the remainder

Some of these figures agree with the calculations of Sir Rawson W. Rawson, in the J. of Stat. Soc., 43, 500.

Decennial Increase in Population 1801-71

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(based on
pop
of E & W)

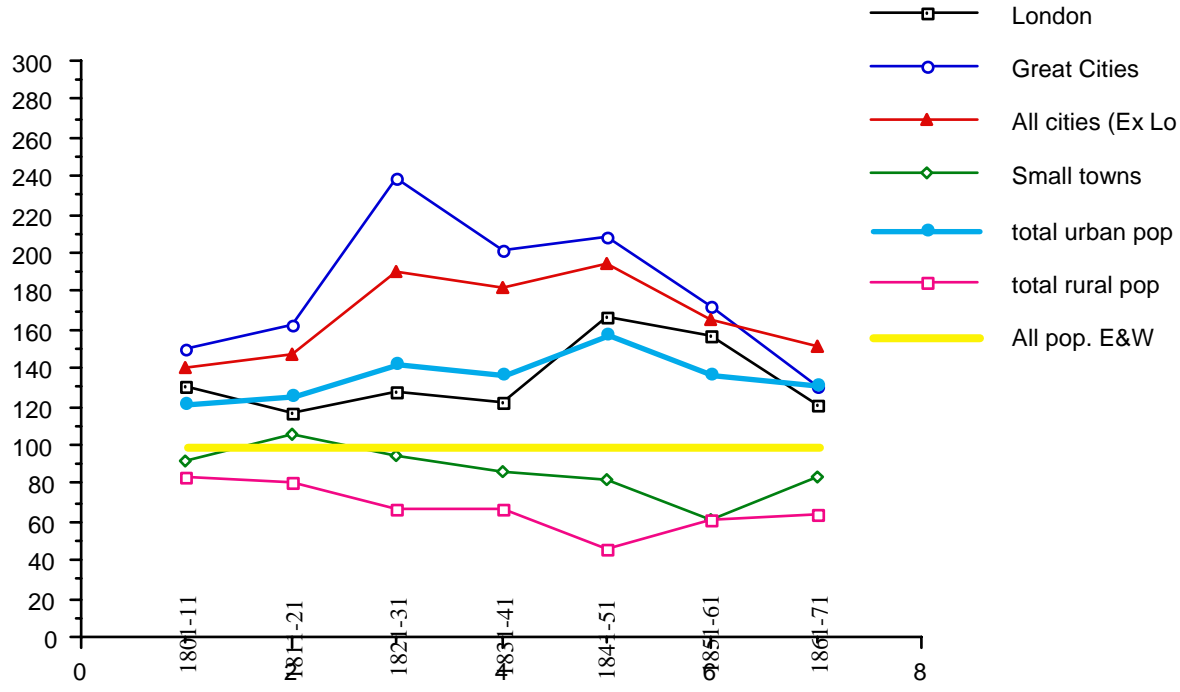
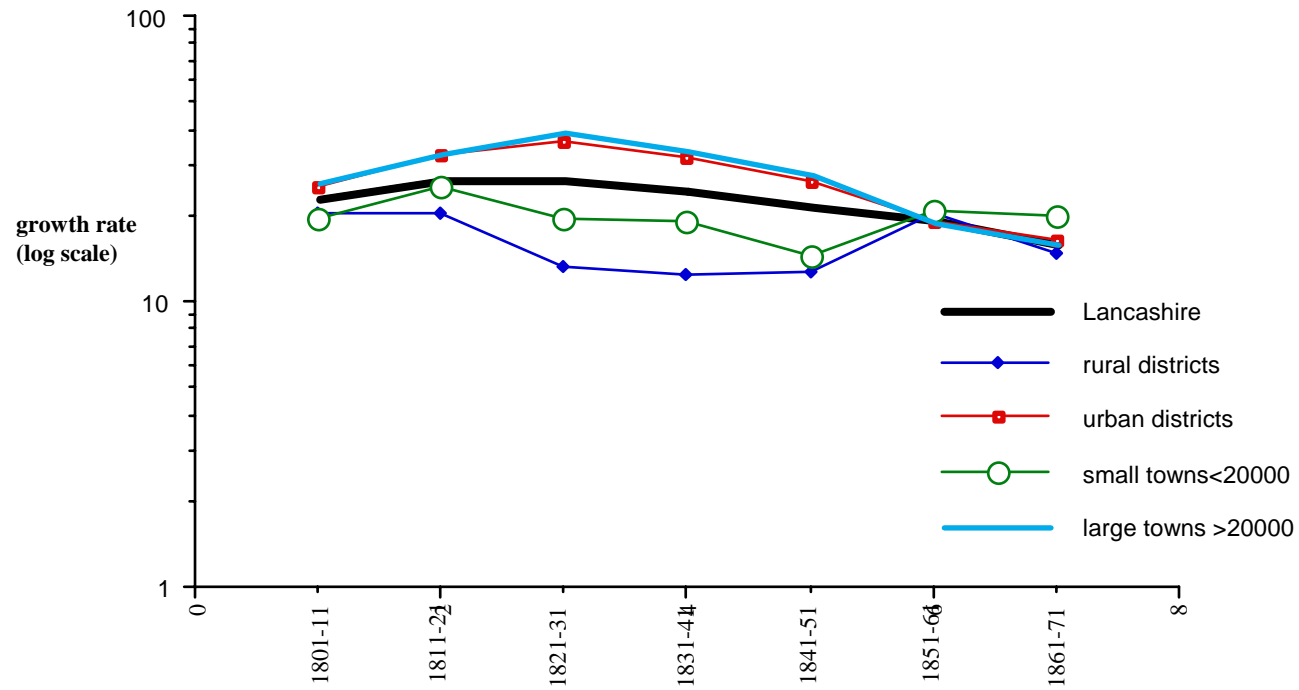


Table 6**Lancashire : Decennial Increase of Population**

	<i>Lancashire</i> (%)	<i>Rural</i> <i>districts</i> (%)	<i>Urban</i> <i>districts</i> (%)	<i>Small towns (2,000-</i> <i>20,000)</i> (%)	<i>Large towns</i> <i>(20,000+)</i> (%)
1801-11	23.02	20.44	25.07	19.40	26.37
1811-21	27.09	20.20	32.37	25.44	33.08
1821-31	26.97	13.29	36.46	19.44	39.95
1831-41	24.70	12.51	31.73	19.07	33.94
1841-51	21.84	12.67	26.37	14.35	28.23
1851-61	19.61	20.46	19.23	20.77	19.01
1861-71	16.06	14.86	16.58	19.91	16.12

Fig.2

Population growth : Lancashire 1801-71



Based on data in Table 3.

Table 7**Population Growth Urban (Sanitary) Districts 1881-91**

<i>Population</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Mean percentage of increase of population (%)</i>
London	1	10.4
250,000-600,000	5	7.2
100,000-250,000	18	19.9
50,000-100,000	38	22.8
20,000-50,000	123	22.1
10,000-20,000	175	18.9
5,000-10,000	262	11.5
3,000-5,000	185	6.6
Under 3,000	194	3.6
Total urban	1,011	15.4
Total rural	-	3.0