

Sheffield's Population Statistics 1086 - 2001

A photograph of a historical document titled "CITY AND IN REGISTERS" for the period "ED NOVEMBER 1898-1918". The document is a table with several columns. The columns are: "Deaths per 1,000 Persons living", "Diphtheria", "Scarlet Fever", "Typhoid Fever", "Whooping Cough", "Measles", "Dysentery and other Intestinal Fevers", and "Typhus". The table contains numerical data for each category, with some rows showing specific values and others showing dots, possibly indicating missing or zero data. The document is aged and has a slightly yellowed appearance.

© **Sheffield Libraries Archives and Information 2015 (v.1.2)**

Originally published in 1967 as Sheffield City Libraries Local History Leaflet No. 2.
Revised and updated, 2015.

Front cover illustrations:

Sheffield citizens, 19th century
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield s02843*)

Medical Officer of Health population statistics, c. 1918
(*Sheffield Archives CA-MIN/57 and Local Studies Library: City Council minutes 352.042 SQ*)

Sheffield citizens, 21st century
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield a00049*)

Images can be copied for private or educational use without permission from us, though we ask that the following acknowledgement is included '[document reference number] From the collections of Sheffield Libraries Archives and Information'. Please contact us if you wish to publish, exhibit or broadcast any of the information within this *Guide*.

You can download a copy of this *Study Guide* from www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives

Contents

Population figures	4
List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information	8
Useful websites	13
Sheffield Local Studies Library and Sheffield City Archives facilities	14
Contact details	15

Population Figures Timeline showing key dates and population figures¹

1086	150 - 200
1379	2,200
1600	3,000
1692	5,000
1736	9,695
1750	20,000
1776	30,000
1801	60,095
1811	69,275
1821	84,540
1831	112,408
1841	134,599
1851	161,475
1861	219,634
1871	277,794
1881	335,953
1891	388,089
1901	451,195
1911	524,564
1921	543,336
1931	562,822
1941	569,884
1951	577,050
1961	574,915
1971	572,794
1981	530,844
1991	528,708
2001	513,234

¹ Prior to 1801 (when the first official census was undertaken) figures can only be estimates. Note also figures prior to 1801 may refer to either the township or the larger parish of Sheffield. Throughout the 20th century the boundary of Sheffield expanded due to local government boundary changes (see the text below for more detail). From 1801 figures are taken from http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/data_cube_page.jsp?data_theme=T_POP&data_cube=N_TOT_PO&P&u_id=10076882&c_id=10001043&add=N

The population of Sheffield before 1801 can only be tentatively estimated from incomplete statistics which refer, from century to century, to different areas and different sections of the population.

For instance, Sheffield is found in the Domesday Book (1086) as a sub-division of the larger manor of Hallam². The manor as a whole contained enough arable land to occupy twenty plough teams. In actual use there were two teams belonging to the lord of the manor (working his demesne³) and 12 ½ teams belonging to the thirty villeins⁴ who are the only inhabitants mentioned. There would, of course, be officials who carried out manorial business and their households, and each villein was the head of a household (possibly some of them of two households living together). The usual device of multiplying such recorded figures by five gives a population of between 150 and 200. This is a small number for so large an area even by 11th century standards; it is comparable to that of the two Staffordshire hundreds in the tail end of the Pennines, the rest of Stafford (not a rich county) being twice as populous. In the sub-manors of Sheffield and Attercliffe together, there was work for three plough teams, but the Domesday clerks do not say how many were actually in use. The population there was presumably about a sixth that of the rest of Hallam.

In 1297 there were enough “free tenants” to obtain from the lord of the manor the charter which made Sheffield a manorial borough⁵. Their number is unknown; their lands were all in the centre of Sheffield. They were probably descendents of the Domesday workers in the castle and on the demesne; the earliest known names of Free Tenants include none of gentle origin, but many manufacturers and traders.

The next document of interest is the roll of those assessed for the poll tax of 1379⁶. Places were assessed by the “vill”, or township; Sheffield, Bradfield and Ecclesfield (the parishes which formerly made up the manor of Hallam) are all called “vills”, which suggests that the parish of Sheffield was not yet divided into the six townships which later became the units of local government. The number of people who paid the tax in Sheffield included wives and a certain number of dependants and servants. As we have no means of knowing how many were too poor to pay, it is safer to count the number of householders and multiply, as before, by five. This calculation gives the population as about 2,200; a very fair size for a mediaeval parish. It is of interest to compare the state of Sheffield at this time with the neighbouring places. There were only about the same number of people in

² The Victoria History of the County of York, vol. 2, p. 256 has a good translation of the entry (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SQ; also available at Sheffield Archives: PAG/LOCAL O)

³ Demesne - land, owned by a lord, and farmed by those who gave him service.

⁴ Villeins - tenants who held land, on condition they gave service or paid fines to a lord.

⁵ Leader, J. D., ed., *The Records of the Burgery of Sheffield* (Elliot Stock, 1897) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SST; also available at Sheffield Archives: TT Print Source)

⁶ Printed in the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, vol. 5, pages 1-51; reprinted as a volume by the Yorkshire Archaeological Association in 1882: Sheffield portion printed in Tucker, S. I., *Descent of the Manor of Sheffield* (pages 12-15) (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SST; also available at Sheffield Archives: HAS)

Doncaster, but they paid just ten times the tax. Rotherham paid almost the same tax as Sheffield, with two thirds the number of people. Rotherham and Ecclesfield paid the same amount and Bradfield a little less, though Bradfield's population was nearly as large as that of Rotherham, while Ecclesfield's was smaller than either. It seems clear that the majority of Sheffield people were rather poor; in the surrounding parishes there were many families of gentry, wealthy in a modest way, but in Sheffield there was only one knight; all others were just plain traders and manufacturers.

This continued to be the case. In 1615, an often quoted report⁷ was made to Gilbert, 7th Earl of Shrewsbury, by his officers, who stated that in the town there were 2,207 people, of whom the majority were "poor artificers", their children and servants. These people in the built-up area were not typical of those in the outer townships, in which a number of very comfortably circumstanced families certainly existed. An analysis of the parish registers from their beginning to 1600⁸ suggests that the population of the whole parish was about 3,000.

An increase of less than 1,000 in the course of two centuries seems very small, but until the latter part of the 17th century few people lived in towns if they could help it. To take up urban residence was to invite an early death; and even in the country the birth rate barely exceeded the death rate.

These conditions had not altered much in 1692, when an assessment of Sheffield was made for the poll tax for financing the French wars⁹; it gives 671 names of householders in the town (again the interesting particulars given of dependants and servants only include those liable to tax); the usual multiplication by five gives 3,355; so that probably the total population of the parish had risen to 5,000.

After 1700, it was no longer quite so lethal to live in towns, and in Sheffield the results of the vigorous industrial life of the period were shown in a big jump to the first definite figure of population. It was placed by Ralph Gosling on the printed map of Sheffield which he published in 1736¹⁰. The figure given is 9,695 but where he got it does not seem to be known; it is, however, quite a likely one. Lloyd suggests that by 1750 there may have been 12,000 in the town and 20,000 in the parish¹¹. In 1776, Captain T. Buck, in a letter¹² to the 2nd Marquis of Rockingham, reported that "Mr Wilkinson" (probably James Wilkinson, Vicar of Sheffield) estimated the

⁷ Hunter, J. *Hallamshire*, edited by Alfred Gatty (Pawson and Brailsford, 2nd ed., 1869) page 148 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SSTF*; also available at *Sheffield Archives: HUN/LOCAL O*)

⁸ Lloyd, G. I. H., *The Cutlery Trades - An Historical Essay in the Economics of the Small-Scale Production* (1913) (pages 148-149) (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 683.82 S*)

⁹ Jackson Collection (*Sheffield Archives: JC/1693*) printed in Tucker, S.I. *Descent of the Manor of Sheffield*, p. 55 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SST*)

¹⁰ A Plan of Sheffield from an actual survey by R. Gosling, 1736 (*Sheffield Local Studies Library S30 L*; also available at *Sheffield Archives JC/1771*)

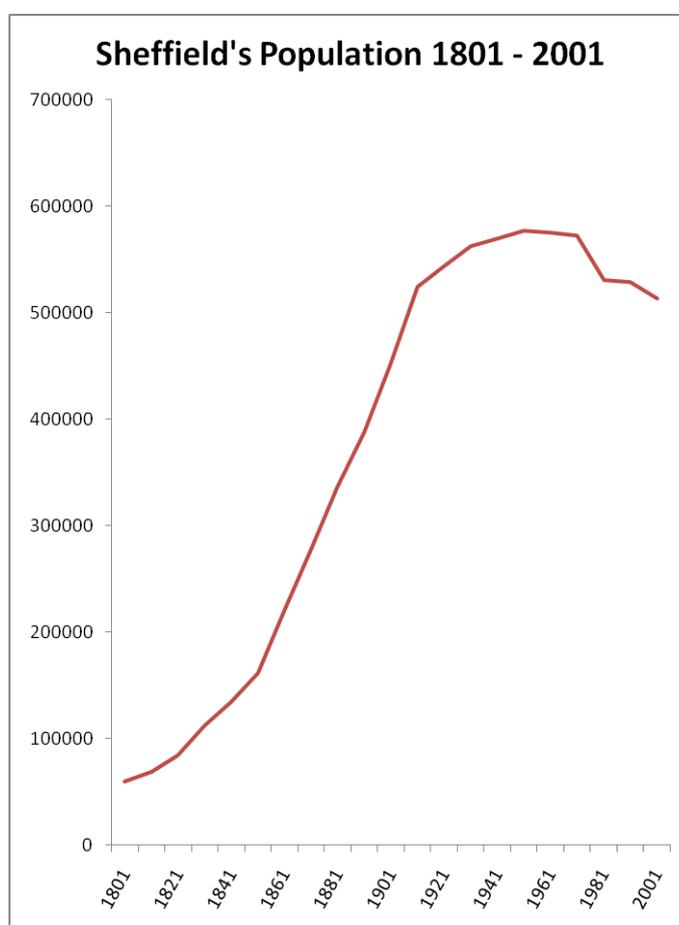
¹¹ Lloyd, G. I. H. (see ref 8 above) pages 151

¹² *Sheffield Archives WWM/R1 (1688)*

population to be 17,000 in the town and 50,000 in the parish, which calculations I should rather think too low.” It was an era of rapidly increasing populations, largely due to a drop in the incidence of many killing diseases, which increased to a spectacular extent as the century wore on.

All this time Sheffield, like other towns of the north and midlands, had lagged well behind the older, industrial centres of the south. In the early nineteenth century these older towns were rapidly overtaken, and the present distribution of population (apart from the unceasing growth of London) had come about by the middle of that century.

In 1801 the first census was taken, and for the first time an authoritative figure for the whole population can be quoted¹³. The area of Sheffield remained reasonably static until 1900. Thereafter the city boundary expanded into parts of Derbyshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire and the population figures reflect this enlargement.



¹³ From 1801 figures are taken from http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/data_cube_page.jsp?data_theme=T_POP&data_cube=N_TOT_POP&u_id=10076882&c_id=10001043&add=N

List of documents, books, photographs and other items available at Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information

There is a variety of material available at Sheffield Local Studies Library and Sheffield Archives to study population figures. The main ones are listed here in date order. Additional references will be found in the card indexes / computer catalogues at both service points by searching with the terms 'population' and 'census'. Also, Sheffield Reference and Information Library has a large number of census reports for the whole of the country.

1379

Poll tax, 1379 printed in the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, vol. 5, pages 1-51; reprinted as a volume by the Yorkshire Archaeological Association in 1882: Sheffield portion printed in Tucker, S. I., *Descent of the Manor of Sheffield*, pages 12-15 (Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SST; also available at Sheffield Archives: HAS)

16th - 19th centuries

Figures of population, 16th - 19th centuries (typescript, 20th cent)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2494 M)

1600

Analysis of the parish registers from their beginning to 1600 in Lloyd, G. I. H., *The Cutlery Trades - An Historical Essay in the Economics of the Small-Scale Production* (1913) pages 148-149
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 683.82 S)

1615

Report of 1615 in which a population figure is quoted
Hunter, J. *Hallamshire*, edited by Alfred Gatty (Pawson and Brailsford, 2nd ed., 1869) page 148
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SSTF; also available at Sheffield Archives: HUN/LOCAL O)

1615

Population in Sheffield in 1615 in *South Yorkshire Notes and Queries*, vol. 1 page 101
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 913.4274 S)

1650 - 1780

Warhurst, M. E., *The Social Structure of Sheffield 1650 - 1780* (handwritten, 1983)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 974.74 SSTQ)

1660 - 1740

Hey, D. G., *The Fiery Blades of Hallamshire: Sheffield and its neighbourhood, 1660 - 1740* (Leicester University Press, 1991)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S)

1672 - 1801

The population of Sheffield [1672-1801] (undated typescript)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 4143 M*)

Hey, D. G., *The Population of Sheffield* (typescript notes issued with a lecture, 1973)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: MP 2417 M*)

1692

Poll tax, 1692
(*Sheffield Archives: JC/1693*; printed in Tucker, S.I. "Descent of the Manor of Sheffield" in *The Journal of the British Archaeological Association* (1874) page 55
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 SST*)

1736

Figure given on a Plan of Sheffield from an actual survey by R. Gosling, 1736
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library S30 L*; also available at *Sheffield Archives: JC/1771*)

1736

Holland, John, *The Tour of the Don* (1837) page 260
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 914.274 S*)

1776

In 1776, Captain T. Buck, in a letter to the 2nd Marquis of Rockingham, reported that "Mr Wilkinson" (probably James Wilkinson, Vicar of Sheffield) estimated the population to be 17,000 in the town and 50,000 in the parish
(*Sheffield Archives WWM/R1-1688*)

1801 - 2001

Official census figures, 1801 - 2001

http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/data_cube_page.jsp?data_theme=T_POP&data_cube=N_TOT_POP&id=10076882&id=10001043&add=N

1801 - 1981

Crook, A. D. H. Appendix: population and boundary changes, 1801 - 1981 in *The History of the City of Sheffield, 1843 - 1993, vol. 2: Society* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1993)
(*Sheffield Local Studies Library 942.74 S*; also available at *Sheffield Archives: SHE/LOCAL*)

1821 onwards

Sheffield trade directories quote census figures from 1821 onwards. Be aware of the area for which each figure is quoted (for instance there will be separate figures for places like Ecclesfield, Dore, Totley, Norton, Bradfield, etc., until they were absorbed into the city boundary in the 20th century). Occasional discrepancies are due to the fact that in several cases a change in boundary almost coincided with the taking of the census.

Trade directories are available at both Sheffield Local Studies and Sheffield Archives.

1831 census

Return specifying occupations of males over 20 years old, Nether Hallam township
(*Sheffield Archives: CA21/25*)

Statistics, Ecclesall vestry minute book
(*Sheffield Archives: CA18/4*)

1841 - 1911 census

These are available online via www.findmypast.com, www.genesreunited.co.uk and www.ancestry.com. The latter is available free at every Sheffield Library. Microfilms are also available at Sheffield Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library.

19th century

Population statistics are given in Reports of the Medical Officer of Health, 19th - 20th centuries

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 352.4 S*)

19th century

Medical Officer reports are included in the City Council's Health Committee reports, 19th - 20th centuries

(*Sheffield Archives: CA-HEA*)

19th - 20th centuries

Pollard, Sidney and A. J. Hunt, "The Growth of Population" (with map illustrating the growth of Sheffield, 1832 - 1954) in *Sheffield and its Region: a scientific and historical Survey* (British Association for the Advancement of Science, 1956) pages 172 - 180 and 233.

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 942.74 S*)

1921 census

Yorkshire report (General Register Office, 1923)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ*)

1931 census

West Riding report (General Register Office, 1932)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ*)

1951 census

West Riding county report (General Register Office, 1954)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ*)

1961 census

West Riding county report (General Register Office, 1963)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ*)

Sheffield County Borough, Wortley and Chesterfield rural districts (part) (General Register Office, 1964)

(*Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ*)

Ward reports for Chesterfield and Wortley rural districts, Dronfield, Staveley urban districts, Sheffield County Borough, (General Register Office, 1964)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ and 312.4251 SQ)

1971 - 1986

Population changes, 1971 - 1986 in *City Trends* (1980)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

1971 - 2001

Population changes in Sheffield, 1971 - 2000 in *Planning Information Bulletin, no. 7*

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

1971 census

Great Britain Small Area Statistics (Sheffield County Borough, Stocksbridge Urban and Wortley Rural districts) (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1973)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

County report: West Riding (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1973)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

County report: South Yorkshire (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1976)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

Small area statistics: Sheffield (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1973)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

Ward library statistics: Sheffield (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1973)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SSTF)

1981 census

South Yorkshire county report (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1982)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

Small area statistics: Sheffield (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1982)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SSTF)

Ward and civil parish monitor: South Yorkshire (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1983)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

User Guide 3 ... South Yorkshire (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1981)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

Population into the 1990s: current population and the 1981 census *City Trends* (1981)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

Sheffield census reports (Sheffield City Council, Central Policy Unit, 1985)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

Constituency Profiles (age, ethnicity, car ownership, overcrowding, employment / unemployment etc)

(Sheffield Archives: CA-COU/152-153)

Unemployment in Yorkshire and Humberside
(Sheffield Archives: CA-COU/152)

1991 census

South Yorkshire county report (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1993)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

South Yorkshire county monitor (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1992)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

South Yorkshire county report (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1993)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

South Yorkshire ward and civil parish monitor (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, 1994)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

Reports (Sheffield City Council, Central Policy Unit, 1990s)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 312.4274 SQ)

2001 census

Neighbourhood Statistics: Sheffield (Office for National Statistics, 2003)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 304.6021 SF)

Key statistics for local authorities: Sheffield (Office for National Statistics, 2003)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: 304.6021 SF)

CAS [Census Area Statistics] for Output Areas, wards and higher administrative geographies : DVD 03 wards and higher administrative geographies in England and Wales, and Output Areas in Yorkshire and the Humber [DVD] (Office for National Statistics, 2003)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: DVD 61)

Census Area Statistics for Output Areas, wards and higher administrative geographies in England and Wales part 2 [DVD] (Office for National Statistics, 2004)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: DVD 60)

CD supplement to the national report for England and Wales [and] key statistics for local authorities in England and Wales [CD-ROM] (Office for National Statistics, 2004)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: DVD 59)

CD supplement to the national report for England and Wales [and] key statistics for local authorities in England and Wales [CD-ROM] (Office for National Statistics, 2003)
(Sheffield Local Studies Library: DVD 58)

Key statistics for output areas (Office for National Statistics, 2003)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: DVD 57)

Key statistics for wards in England and Wales [CD-ROM] (Office for National Statistics, 2003)

(Sheffield Local Studies Library: CD 26)

Useful Websites

Online historical population reports www.histpop.org

Vision of Britain www.visionofbritain.org.uk

Office for National Statistics www.ons.gov.uk

Historic data from Office for National Statistics www.ons.gov.uk/census/get-data/data-1801-1991/index.html

Official labour Market statistics www.nomisweb.co.uk

Neighbourhood statistics www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Sheffield City Council <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/sheffield-profile.html>

Sheffield Archives and Local Studies services collect and preserve original records and printed material relating to Sheffield and the surrounding area.

The information dates from the 12th century to the present and relates to Sheffield, South Yorkshire and north Derbyshire.

Included are extensive collections of books • pamphlets • photographs • church registers • newspapers • census records • minutes • diaries • films • maps • deeds • records from schools • hospitals • businesses and charities • family estates • personal papers etc.

Our facilities include:

Study areas • expert staff on hand to help you make the most of your visit • a library of reference books • photocopying and photography services • free Internet access • microform machines and printers • catalogues and indexes • a range of useful publications for sale • CD-Rom library • on-line image library.

Adding to our collections

Sheffield Libraries and Archives seeks to preserve information about events in our city's history. If you have photographs or personal papers that may be worth preserving please consider safeguarding them for current and future generations by placing them in the care of Sheffield Libraries and Archives. It is only through the generosity of individuals and organisations that we are able to have a complete record of important events in the history of Sheffield and the nation. We are interested in photographs, flyers and posters, minutes of meetings etc. For advice on record keeping and the facilities we offer please contact Peter Evans, Archives & Local Studies Manager (pete.evans@sheffield.gov.uk or 0114 203 9397).

<p>Sheffield Local Studies Library 1st floor Central Library Surrey Street Sheffield S1 1XZ</p> <p>Tel: 0114 273 4753 Fax: 0114 273 5009</p> <p>archives@sheffield.gov.uk</p> <p>www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives</p> <p>(selected) Sheffield Local Studies Library catalogue https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/catalogues.html</p>	<p>Sheffield City Archives 52 Shoreham Street Sheffield S1 4SP</p> <p>Tel: 0114 203 9395</p> <p>archives@sheffield.gov.uk</p> <p>www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives</p> <p>(selected) Archives catalogues: https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries/archives-and-local-studies/catalogues.html and http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/</p>
<p>For 65,000+ images of Sheffield: www.picturesheffield.com</p>	
	<p>www.sheffield.gov.uk/archives</p>
	<p>www.twitter.com/shefflibraries</p>
	<p>http://shefflibraries.blogspot.co.uk/</p>
	<p>www.flickr.com/photos/shefflibraries</p>
	<p>www.youtube.com/user/SheffieldArchives1</p>
	<p>www.facebook.com/shefflibraries</p>