

The Census



A census is an official government document that records the people living in the UK. It is completed every 10 years. It tells us who lives where, their occupation, age etc.



The first government census in Britain was taken in 1801. There has been a census every ten years since, apart from in 1941 due to our involvement in the Second World War. The census is useful as it helps us compare and monitor population, occupations and other statistics over time.

In this small extract from the Llangadog 1851 census, Henry Thomas is listed as being the head of the household at 54 years old, his wife Elisabeth is 33. He works as a quarryman. His 10 year old grandson Henry and 8 year old granddaughter Margaret were living with them.

7	Lletty Lludrew	Henry Thomas	Head	Mar	54	quarryman
		Elisabeth do	Wife	Mar	33	
		Henry Prothers	grandson		10	schoolar
		Margaret do	grandau		8	schoolar