

INTRODUCTION: IMPORTANT – DO READ THIS FIRST

1. Sources of Data: insight into historical population size can be gauged from various historical sources, starting with Domesday in 1086 (although it only covers the southernmost portion of the modern Cumbria) . However, there is much uncertainty around the accuracy of what has been recorded. For example, studies show that instructions on how to gather information was often carried out differently in different areas and no doubt as today, there would be a tendency by some to avoid being caught up by the records of authority. So any data which follows here must be treated with caution.

The actual data for the dates below are taken from A. B. Appleby, *Famine in Tudor and Stuart England*, 1978, Liverpool, Liverpool Univ. Press. His sources were:

a. **1563: The Diocesan Population Returns for 1563.** The bishops' returns of 1563 (and 1603) represent the earliest census-type information that has survived in England and Wales. The 1563 returns, surviving from twelve dioceses, record the number of households; [Alan D. Dyer and David M. Palliser, Editors *The Diocesan Population Returns for 1563 and 1603*, [2005] Oxford : Oxford University Press.

b. **1641/2 Protestation Returns:** These are lists of English males over the age of 18 who took, or did not take, an oath of allegiance "to live and die for the true Protestant religion, the liberties and rights of subjects and the privilege of Parliaments." These were designed by a 10-man committee of the House of Commons, in the Long Parliament, which drafted a national declaration.

[A. Whiteman, 'The Protestation Returns of 1641–1642' in *Local Population Studies*, p. 55 (1995); Cumberland: Parliamentary Archives, HL/PO/JO/10/1/82; Westmorland: *The Westmorland Protestation Returns 1641/2* (CWAAS Tract Series XVII, Kendal, 1971).

c. **1676 Bishop Compton's Census:** for Diocesan Records The Compton Census was a census of the population of England and Wales held in 1676 to determine their religious affiliation; carried out by the Bishop of London, Henry Compton.

[A. Whiteman (ed.) *The Compton Census of 1676: A Critical Edition* 1986 (Oxford: Oxford University Press,). *The population of the diocese of Carlisle in 1676.* F.G.James; CWAAS Vol 51 (1951) pp 137-142]

d. **1670-73 Hearth tax:** a tax imposed by Parliament in 1662, to support the Royal Household of King Charles II.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hearth_tax#Stuart_period].

2. Coverage: most of the sources do not cover all of present-day Cumbria and additionally, there is no guarantee that the area embraced by one of the counts covers the same area as the parish/township of the same name today.

3. Multipliers: Some of the assessments are based on the number of households or number of adult males over a given age. To estimate the total population then requires some estimate of the average number of persons in the household or dependent on the adult male. Given that many households will comprise a wife, many children, possibly servants, possibly an aged relative, contrasting with a household of just one widow, assessing the mix of these is

complex and the final figure can be no more than a best guess. Appleby uses different multipliers depending on the date of the source and what is being counted.

All in all, the data given can only be used as an **indicator** of changes in population and the accuracy of any of the estimated figures must consider the variability of the multiplier, thus a figure of 4.75 for 81 households gives 385 people, but for a multiplier of 4.5 the figure is 364 or for 5.0 it would be 405.

Other data:

e. **1781: Heysham Census:** In addition there was a census collected by Dr. John Heysham for the diocese of Carlisle. Original manuscript documents are held in the Jackson Library section of Carlisle Library but these records are patchy and in essence are his working notes.
These statistics were later used in the 19th century by companies offering life insurance to calculate life expectancy.

f. **1787** A similar exercise was done for Westmorland by the Court of Quarter Sessions; what records survive are in the care of the Curwen Archives Trust... They have been published but these records are so patchy that it has not seemed reasonable to include any here other than West Ward where just 4 township figures are missing.
[Curwen Archives Texts, 'Vital Statistics – the Westmorland Census of 1787', 1992]

g. **Denton:** 1688 Thomas Denton's census of 1688; This covers ancient parishes in Cumberland Ward only;
[D. Lysons, *Magna Britannia* (London, 1816), vol. 4, pp. xxxv-xliv (available via BHO <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/magna-britannia/vol4>)]

h: **Modern censuses:**

1801,1891

2011 **Nomis** – <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Working on behalf of the Office for National Statistics, this website allows a search for information from the 2011 census, e.g. population, and other aspects.

An interesting article from the CWAAS Transactions is available [HERE](#)

(ART. XIII. - *Some population problems relating to Cumberland and Westmorland in the 18th century.*
By G. P. JONES, M.A., Litt.D. *Read at Penrith, September 14th, 1956*)

TABLES OF POPULATION INDICATORS BY WARDS (Click on Title below)

[CUMBERLAND WARD](#)

[ESKDALE WARD](#)

[LEATH WARD](#)

[ALLERDALE BELOW DERWENT WARD](#)

[ALLERDALE ABOVE DERWENT WARD](#)

[KENDAL WARD](#)

[EAST WARD](#)

[WEST WARD](#)

LONSDALE WARD

There is no data available for the Furness-Cartmel and Sedbergh (ex West Riding) parishes.