



English Population, 1681-1841

This graph “shows the estimates of total population for the period produced by the application of the technique of generalised inverse projection to national totals of births and deaths derived until 1837 from aggregate baptism and burial totals from the registers of 404 Anglican parishes, and thereafter from the Registrar-General returns of birth and deaths. The raw totals drawn from the Anglican registers were extensively modified to take account of the deficiencies in the original data; of the problems associated with the unrepresentative character of the sample of parishes; and of the presence of rising numbers of nonconformists. Further modifications were made to take advantage of information contained in the early censuses and of the findings of family reconstitution studies, before the resulting totals were inflated by a multiple intended to produce national estimates from the sample data. The figure plots the data both naturally and logarithmically: the latter enables the changes in the rate of growth to be appreciated more easily.” E. A. Wrigley, “British Population during the ‘long’ eighteenth century, 1680-1840,” in Roderick Floud and Paul Johnson, eds., *The Cambridge Economic History of Britain, Vol. I: Industrialisation, 1700-1860*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, p. 61.