**London Population Metadata**

London, located on the River Thames in what is now southern England was first established as a permanent settlement known as Londinium in the Roman era ca. 47 CE (Tyers 2008; Swain and Williams 2008). Londinium was one of the largest settlements in the region for the next two centuries but by the early 5th century CE Londinium was abandoned, though it may have still served as a nexus of interaction for surrounding small communities in the subsequent two centuries (Swain and Williams 2008; Vince 1990). By the 7th century CE the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Lundenwic (later Lundenburh and London) began to grow as a major regional population hub and commercial center in the former location of Londinium. The city grew to prominence over the next centuries and was twice the size of the next most populous town in the region by the 12th century and perhaps five times larger than the next most populous town by 1300 (Keene 2000; Barron 2000). From the 14th century CE on London was the undisputed largest, wealthiest, and most populous settlement in England and continued to grow rapidly (Schwarz 2000), in particular over the last 200 years as the population expanded from one million to over nine million today.

Estimating population for London through time is difficult due to incomplete archaeological coverage and historic records (see Hardin 1990; Keene 1984). The data we provide here should be considered tentative and illustrative rather than wholly consistent in that we are combining the estimates of populations from archaeological and historical sources by different authors and accepted ranges for these estimates differ. In particular, it is difficult to combine archaeological estimates from Roman Londinium with the later historic record and there are eras where little documentation exists. For Roman Londinium, we relied on the average population estimates prepared by Swain and Williams (2008:Table 1.4.3) which were derived from archaeological estimates of settlement density, residential area, and historic ethnographic parallels for conversions to likely population. For the post-Roman period until the modern era, we relied primarily on general accounts of the population history of London compiled by various authors in the Cambridge Urban History of Britain. For the post-Roman era to 1300 CE, we relied on general estimates provided by Keene (2000), though these are by his own estimate quite rough and based on limited historic references. For the period from 1300 to 1540 CE we relied on general historic estimates compiled and presented by Barron (2000; see also Keene 1984). Again, these numbers are based on limited documents and should be considered tentative. For the period after 1540 CE we have considerably more historic information. Drawing on discussions by Boulton (2000:Table 10.1) we used data from V. Harding (1990) who reviewed a wide variety of published evidence for the population of London from 1500 to 1800 CE. We use Harding’s (1990) “high” population estimates here. For the period from 1800 to the present, we rely on official census numbers published by the United Kingdom National Archives.

| **Year (CE)** | **Population Estimate** | **Source** | **Additional Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 47 | 0 | Swain and Williams 2008: Table 1.4.3 |  |
| 60 | 9306 | Swain and Williams 2008: Table 1.4.3 |  |
| 110 | 25844 | Swain and Williams 2008: Table 1.4.3 |  |
| 200 | 30632 | Swain and Williams 2008: Table 1.4.3 |  |
| 400 | 0 | Keene 2000 | Londinium served as a focus for small towns in the area but was virtually uninhabited |
| 500 | 0 | Vince 1990; Keene 2000 | Little evidence of occupation in the 6th century CE |
| 601 | 7500 | Keene 2000:187 | Pope Gregory envisaged London seat of premartial see of England |
| 680 | 8000 | Keene 2000 | London is an important commercial settlement to the Bishop of Kent who did business there |
| 700 | 9000 | Keene 2000 | London is described as a major commercial center |
| 800 | 10000 | Keene 2000 | rough estimate for commercial London based on historic documents |
| 1100 | 20000 | Keene 2000 | twice as populous as the next largest town in the region |
| 1200 | 40000 | Keene 2000 |  |
| 1300 | 80000 | Barron 2000:396 | five times the next most populous town (using Barron's lower estimate) |
| 1400 | 40000 | Barron 2000:400 | post-plague population decreased by as much as half |
| 1450 | 40000 | Barron 2000:400 |  |
| 1499 | 40000 | Barron 2000:400 |  |
| 1501 | 40000 | Barron 2000:400 |  |
| 1550 | 75000 | Boulton 2000:Table 10.1; Harding 1990 |  |
| 1600 | 200000 | Boulton 2000:Table 10.1; Harding 1990 |  |
| 1650 | 400000 | Boulton 2000:Table 10.1; Harding 1990 |  |
| 1700 | 575000 | Boulton 2000:Table 10.1; Harding 1990 |  |
| 1750 | 637500 | Schwarz 2000: Table 19.1 |  |
| 1760 | 740000 | Schwarz 2000: Table 19.1 |  |
| 1770 | 811000 | Schwarz 2000: Table 19.1 |  |
| 1780 | 890000 | Schwarz 2000: Table 19.1 |  |
| 1801 | 1090078 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1811 | 1294765 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1821 | 1560419 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1831 | 1862970 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1841 | 2185804 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1851 | 2630782 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1861 | 3155144 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1871 | 3840595 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1881 | 4711456 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1891 | 5567591 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1901 | 6506889 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1911 | 7157729 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1921 | 7382131 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1931 | 8098206 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1939 | 8615050 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1951 | 8161779 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1961 | 7975558 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1971 | 7403534 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1981 | 6483431 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 1991 | 6679822 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 2001 | 6679822 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 2011 | 8173941 | Office of National Statistics UK 2011 | census of population for greater London |
| 2020 | 9304000 | current projection |  |

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