## A 1991 CENSUS PROFILE OF LEEDS WARDS

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SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY • UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

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#### **CONTENTS**

### Acknowledgements

Introduction

Notes on profiles

Map of Leeds wards

Profile of Leeds

Profiles of Leeds wards:

Aireborough

Armley

Barwick and Kippax

**Beeston** 

**Bramley** 

Burmantofts

Chapel Allerton

City and Holbeck

Cookridge

Garforth and Swillington

Halton

Harehills

Headingley

Horsforth

Hunslet

Kirkstall

Middleton

Moortown

Morley North

Morley South

North

Otley and Wharfedale

Pudsey North

Pudsey South

Richmond Hill

Rothwell

Roundhay

Seacroft

University

Weetwood

Wetherby

Whinmoor

Wortley

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The profiles presented here are based on data collected in the 1991 Census of Population carried out by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. Access to the data collected has been made possible under the licence granted to the academic community by this body. However, it should be noted that all Census data are subject to Crown Copyright.

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#### INTRODUCTION

On the night of the 21st April 1991 every household in Leeds and throughout Britain was required to fill in a Census return, supplying information on all persons then present. Much of the data collected may be viewed in tabular forms at larger city libraries. However, tables of information can often seem to be meaningless. Hence this paper, which provides (hopefully) vivid graphic representations, or profiles, of some key socio-economic and demographic indicators on a ward by ward basis across Leeds.

This ward level approach reveals sharp differences between wards and highlights one of the fundamental principles of geography, namely that different areas have different characteristics. The differences revealed also underline the need for as much and as detailed information as possible when studying an area. Compare the all Leeds profile with the ward profiles for a sense of the information that is lost through data aggregation. One of the skills of geography is to pick the right level of spatial resolution for the task in hand.

Although the census is the largest and most reliable population survey in Britain, the figures presented should not be treated as infallible. The data on which the profiles are based are subject to two forms of error. Firstly, there was a known under count during the census of about one million (2%) across Britain. Some of the missing people were later 'imputed' (estimated) on the basis of information gathered in a post-enumeration survey. However, there is still believed to be an under count in the published census figures, which affects particularly young males in the ages 20 to 29. Argument rages as to whether or not the under count is likely to be more severe in deprived inner city areas as compared to more affluent sub-urban and rural areas.

The second source of error is more minor, but still of note. In order to protect the confidentiality of census respondents, the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys only releases data at ward level after the random addition of -1, 0 or +1 to all counts. For tables such as those presented in the profiles, the maximum likely affect of this is to inflate totals by six.

As well as providing a way into the Census statistics for Leeds, this paper will hopefully generate discussion on the way in which data should be presented. Presenting one-dimensional data as a single bar-graph or pie-chart breaks one of the cardinal rules of data presentation, since more information (i.e. precise cell counts) is lost in the process than is gained by conversion to a graphic image. However, perhaps the broader sweep of intra-ward difference is made clearer.

#### NOTES ON PROFILES

#### Age Pyramid

The age pyramid diagram compares the male and female populations in five year age groups from the ages of 0 to 90 and over.

#### **Tenure**

The four categories of tenure presented here are aggregated from the full official Census classification as follows:

<u>Profile</u> <u>Census</u>

Owned outright Owner occupied - owned outright

Buying Owner occupied - buying

Rented Rented privately - unfurnished

Rented privately - furnished

Rented from a housing association Rented with a job or business

Council Rented from a local authority or new town

#### The 'Marriage Market'

The basis for this diagram is simply to show the ratio of single (never married) males to single females. However, the graph actually records the ratio of males to females or females to males, depending upon which sex is in the majority. The formula used to calculate this ratio is of the form

where M = Male, F = Female and

Max = M if M>F or F if F>M Min = M if M<F or F if F<M

#### Occupational Class

The official title for this socio-economic indicator is social class by occupation. To code social class, people are placed into one of six categories, depending upon their job description. Social class by occupation is coded based on a respondents current job or, for the unemployed, on the basis of their last job with previous ten years. Respondents in the armed forces and those who returned a job description insufficiently detailed for full coding, are placed in the social class category of 'other'. Since the coding of job descriptions is very time consuming, the Office of Population

Censuses and Surveys only codes 10% of all census respondents by occupational class. Hence, unlike the other statistics used in the profiles, social class must definitely be viewed as a sample from a larger population.

The full title of each social class by occupation is:

I Professional, etc occupations
 II Managerial and technical occupations
 III(N) Skilled occupations: non-manual
 III(M) Skilled occupations: manual
 IV Partly skilled occupations

Unskilled occupations

other

V

#### Multi-cultural Britain

Depicted is the breakdown of population by self-reported ethnic group, for all private household residents in an area. This excludes those living permanently in communal establishments. In most profiles, the bar-chart depicting ethnic group starts at 90%, in order to capture the detail of the non-white ethnic group mix present. However, a few profiles start at either 50% or 80%, on account of larger than average non-white ethnic populations.

#### Unemployment

The percentage of the population unemployed is calculated as the percentage of those people classed as economically active who are unemployed. The full breakdown of the population aged 16 and over by economic position is:

```
Economically active
       Persons in employment
              Employees
                     full-time
                     part-time
              Self-employed
                     with employees
                     without employees
              On a government scheme
       Unemployed
              Waiting to start a job
              Seeking work
       Students (included above)
Economically inactive
       Students
       Permanently sick
       Retired
       Other inactive
```

#### Number of students

A student is defined as someone aged 16 and over in full-time education. The percentage of students is calculated as a proportion of those people aged 16 and over living in private households.

#### Households with central heating

Households with central heating include those with central heating in some rooms and those with central heating in all rooms. The percentage of households with central heating is calculated as a proportion of all private households.

#### Households with dependent children

A dependent child is defined as any child aged 0-15, and any child aged 16 to 18 who is never married, in full-time education and economically inactive. The percentage of households containing one or more dependent children is calculated as a proportion of all private households.





































































