

Staplehurst 1891 Census Facts and Figures

Staplehurst Population 1891

Population of Staplehurst 1818

of which

Under 1 year old	39	2.1%
1 to 5 years of age	223	12.3%
6 to 12 years of age	291	16.0%
21 to 30 years of age	240	13.2%
31 to 40 years of age	235	12.9%
41 to 50 years of age	183	10.1%
51 to 60 years of age	126	6.9%
61 to 70 years of age	86	4.7%
Over 70 years of age	47	2.6%

And of which

Number of married people	612	33.7%
Number of widows/widowers	96	5.3%
Single people over 16 years	363	20.0%
of which single over 25 years	120	6.6%

Place of Birth

Born Staplehurst	833	45.8%
Born rest of Kent	714	39.3%
Born rest of England	244	13.4%
Born rest of United Kingdom	16	0.9%
Born other countries	11	0.6%

Disabilities

4 people are recorded with disabilities – one each for Deaf, Dumb, Blind and Imbecile. Note these are specific categories the enumerator was required to record. Other disabilities would not be recorded.

Occupation

There were 727 people with an occupation recorded (excluding scholars) of which 150 were female. The female occupations were almost exclusively domestic although one widow is a farmer and another a blacksmith. 20 women are involved in dressmaking or needlework and 9 in the teaching profession.

7 people were classed as retired and 33 as living on own means.

Note that wives rarely are shown with an occupation. The enumerator for District 12 did not record 'scholars' while the other 2 district enumerators did. Consequently, we cannot draw conclusions on the number of children at school in 1891.

Reviewing the occupations of the inhabitants of Staplehurst, provides a view of the village life in 1891. Agriculture is by far the largest employer followed by domestic servants. The railway, postal services and trades are all represented. The number of retailers implies that there were far more shops in Staplehurst in 1891 than there is today. There was at least one hotel and a couple of inns as well as a boarding house. There was a doctor and the number of teachers was a surprise for me.

Farming was the principle industry in Staplehurst. There are 40 farmers recorded with 16 ‘farmer’s sons’ and 6 ‘farmer’s daughters’ who presumably worked within the family farm. Bailiffs were employed to manage some of the farms. There are 225 agricultural labourers recorded or farm servants (8). The label agricultural labourer would cover many jobs within farming. Other titles used included Stock Man (1), Dairy Man (1), Game Keeper (1), Hay Binder (2), Poultry Worker (2), Charcoal Burner, and Wood Man (1). 9 shepherds are mentioned.

Farmers	40
Farmer’s sons & daughters	22
Farm Bailiffs	9
Agricultural Labourers/ servants	233
Shepherds	9
Other farming	9
Total Farming	322

Domestic - This is a large group with 148 people employed. The most usual title is Domestic Servant. In the better off homes, there is a tendency to have more than one servant and to have specific job titles such as butler, cooks, governess, lady’s maid, and parlour maid.

Domestic Servant	49	Gardener	21
Housekeeper	18	Coach Man	5
Cooks	9	Fly Driver	1
Daily Governess	3	Groom	7
Nurse	7	Houseboy	4
Mother’s Help	3	Butler	1
Parlour Maid	4	Footman	1
Lady’s Maid	1	Care Taker	1
Companion	1	Yard Men	2
Char Woman	4		
Laundress	6		
Total Females	105	Total Males	43

Services include the railway which employed 21 people including the stationmaster, signalmen (2), engine driver (1), traction engine (2), clerk (1), porters (5) and platelayers (6).

Postal services (10), telegraph (1) and mail carriers (3) employed 14.

Railway	23
Postal Services	14
Carters & Waggoners	25
Roadmen	3
Total Services	65

Professions including teaching, medical, religious (which includes 1 Vicar and 1 clerk for the Church of England, 1 Wesleyan Preacher, 1 Baptist Minister and 1 Congregational Minister) and military(2). Policing includes one constable and one instructing constable. And, of course, we have a tax collector from the inland revenue.

Teaching	15
Surgeon / General Practitioner	1
Religious	5
Military	2
Police	2
Inland Revenue	1
Total Professional	26

Trades such as Blacksmith (8), Wheelwright (8), and Hoop-maker (8) were local trades. Saddlers (2), and Coachbuilders (2) are in small numbers. Dressmakers and needlewomen, tailor (1) and boot-makers (6) met local needs.

Blacksmith, Wheelwright, Hoop-maker	24
Saddlers, Coachbuilders	4
Brick Maker	4
Dressmaker, needlewomen, & tailor	21
Boot-makers	6
Clock & Watch Makers	2
Hairdresser	1
Rope-maker	1
Total Trades	63

The **building** industry is present with carpenters, bricklayers, builders, painters, a plumber and a glazier. 5 labourers are mentioned which may or may not be part of the building trade.

Carpenters	13
Bricklayers	12
Builder	7
Painters	4
Plumber, Glazier	2
Labourers	5
Sawyer	1
Total building	44

Retail is represented with food related occupations such as grocers, bakers, butchers etc. There is also a florist & seedsman, draper, and stationers. The outlets appear to be grouped so that you have, for instance, a grocer & draper.

Grocer	24
Baker	7
Butcher	10
Confectioner	1
Fish Monger	1
Beer Retailer	3
Draper	3
Stationers	2
Florist / Seedsman	2
Total Retail	53

Merchants, which may be retail or otherwise, include Corn Dealers, Sugar Broker, Coal Merchants, and even a manure agent.

Coal Merchants	3
Corn Merchants	2
Commercial Merchant	2
Sugar Broker / Tea Dealer	2
Milk Purveyor	1
Manure Agent	1
Total Merchants	11

Catering – under this heading, I include inn keepers, hotel, keeper, Ostlers, publicans, victualler as follows.

Inn Keepers	3
Ostler	3
Hotel Keeper	1
Boarding House Keeper	1
Victualler	1
Publican	1
Bar maid/man	2
Total Catering	12