

unrevised and the revised totals of all England and Wales, with a population of nearly 23 millions, amounted at the census of 1871 to no more than 8,158.

The error was still more insignificant in respect to the number of inhabited houses; for, out of a total of more than four millions and a quarter, the difference between the revised and the unrevised figures was but 85. The preliminary figures, therefore, may be used without fear for the larger divisions of the country, and still more for the country itself, and it is only in the case of the smaller sub-divisions, such as sub-districts, that caution is required.

The total number of persons returned as living in England and Wales at midnight on April 4th, 1881, was 25,968,286.

Total population of England and Wales on April 4, 1881.

This was an increase of 3,256,020, or of 14·34 per cent., upon the numbers living at the previous census of April 3rd, 1871, and was almost exactly equivalent to the addition of another London with all its inhabitants to the population.

The rate of increase was higher than in any decennium since 1831-41, when it was 14·52. In the two succeeding decades (1841-51 and 1851-61) the rate fell, first to 12·65 and then to 11·93; but in 1861-71 the rate again rose to 13·19, to be, as already noted, still further advanced to 14·34 in the ten years just completed.

The rate of increase in the aggregate population of England and Wales is almost entirely determined by two factors, namely, the birth-rate and the death-rate; for, in comparison with these, emigration and immigration have but an insignificant effect. The rapid growth of the past decennium was due to the fact that the birth-rate was unusually high, while the death-rate was still more unusually low. That is to say, the additions were somewhat above the average, while the losses were far below it.

Causes of the high rate of increase.

	Mean Annual Birth-Rate.	Mean Annual Death-Rate.
1841-51	32·61	22·33
1851-61	34·15	22·25
1861-71	35·24	22·50
1871-81	35·35	21·27

The higher birth-rate in 1871-81, as compared with the preceding decade, implies the addition of 26,774 extra members to the community, while the lower death-rate implies the survival of 299,385 persons who with the previous rate of mortality would have died.

The difference between the total number of births and the total number of deaths in the ten years, or "the natural increment of the people," amounted to 3,425,982, or to an increase of 15·08 per cent. upon the population at the beginning of the period; and as the actual increase, as determined by enumeration, was 14·34 per cent., the combined effects of all other movements of the population, including emigration and immigration, resulted in a loss of no more than 0·74 per cent. in the whole period.

The natural increment.

How closely the growth of the population is determined by the "natural increment," and in what small degree comparatively it is affected by other causes, is seen in the following table, which gives the population and the rate of increase for three successive decennial periods, as they would have been, if determined simply by the natural increment, and as they were found actually to be on enumeration:—

CENSUS YEARS.	POPULATION.		Difference of "Natural Increment" Population from "Enumerated" Population.	Increase per cent. in previous Decade.		Difference of Natural Increment Rate from Enumeration Rate.	CENSUS YEARS.
	As determined by "Natural Increment" only.	As actually enumerated.		As determined by "Natural Increment" only.	As determined by Actual Enumeration.		
1861	20,188,335	20,066,224	122,111	12·61	11·93	+0·68	1861
1871	22,791,234	22,712,266	78,968	13·58	13·19	+0·39	1871
1881	26,138,248	25,968,286	169,962	15·08	14·34	+0·74	1881