

FALKLAND ISLANDS

REPORT
OF
1953 CENSUS

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS.

Colony of the Falkland Islands.

[Excluding the Dependencies]

REPORT OF CENSUS

taken on the night of the 28th March, 1953.

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Introduction.

The Falkland Islands are a group of islands in the South Atlantic lying some 300 miles, approximately East, of the Straits of Magellan between 51° and 53° South latitude and 57° and 62° West longitude. There are two main islands the East Falkland having an area of 2,580 square miles and the West Falkland having an area of 2,038 square miles including in each case that of the numerous small islands clustered around them. The total area of the Islands is estimated to be 4,618 square miles.

The coast-line of the islands is very deeply indented. The East Falkland being almost bisected save for a narrow isthmus to the south of the Wickham Heights a range of mountains running east and west across the island and attaining its maximum elevation in Mt. Osborne, 2,245 feet. The surface of the East Island is flat to the south and hilly to the north, and that of the West Island is generally hilly, reaching its highest point in Mount Adam, 2,315 feet.

The islands are approximately as far south of the equator as London is north, but the summer temperature is lower than that of London, due to the cold winds blowing in off the ocean, while the winters are more mild than those experienced in London.

Census Report.

The Census was taken under the supervision of Mr. D. E. J. Ikkint on the night of Saturday, 28th March, 1953.

Population (Table 1).

The population of the Falkland Islands was found to total 2,230 distributed as follows :

	Males	Females	Total
Stanley	557	578	1,135
Other Districts, East Falklands	410	232	642
West Falklands	279	174	453
Totals	1,246	984	2,230

The total population of the Falkland Islands at previous censuses was :-

1881	....	1,510
1891	....	1,789
1901	....	2,043
1911	....	2,272
1921	....	2,094
1931	....	2,392
1946	....	2,239

The population of the settlement at Port Louis was 51 in 1842. In 1851 the population of the Islands was estimated at 287 and the "Blue Book" for 1861 and 1871 gives the population as 541 and 811 respectively.

It will be seen from Table I that during the past seven years the total population has decreased by 9 persons, shewing an increase of 19 in the male population and a decrease of 28 in the female population. The rate of the total decrease being 4%, while the rate of male increase is 1.55% and the rate of female decrease 2.77%.

Out of the total population of 2,230 the number of young people under 20 years of age is 742 (of whom 381 are males and 361 females), shewing a decrease of 69 when compared with the 1946 census.

Since the 1946 census the number of persons under 40 years of age has fallen from 1450 to 1438, and the number of persons over 40 years of age has risen from 789 to 792.

The population of Stanley totalled 1,135 persons as compared with 1,252 in 1946, shewing a decrease of 117 persons. The population of Stanley is 50.89% of the total population.

The total number of dwellings in Stanley is 324, with 4 under construction.

It is interesting to note that the population of the East Falkland (other than Stanley) has increased by 9.81%, and that of the West Falkland by 19.64% during the past seven years.

The density of the population of the Falkland Islands is approximately one person to every two square miles.

Ages.

The following table shews the percentage under certain age groups as compared with the 1946 census :—

Age.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentages 1953.	Percentages 1946.
Under 5	97	96	193	8.66	8.67
5 to 15	186	168	354	15.87	17.99
15 to 60	824	626	1450	65.02	63.11
60 and over	139	94	233	10.45	10.23
Totals	1246	984	2230	100.00	100.00

Civil Condition of Population (Table II).

The number of married persons in the Colony is shewn to be 956, of whom 476 are males and 480 are females. Married persons between the ages of 20 and 50 represent 69.24% of the total.

Unmarried persons, including those widowed or divorced, but excluding persons under the age of 20, number 544, of whom 390 are males and 154 are females.

The following tables shew comparative percentages of the total population of married, unmarried, widowed or divorced persons in 1953 and 1946:—

1953

Age Period.	Married.		Unmarried.		Widowed or Divorced.		Totals.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Under 20	0.05	0.49	17.04	15.69	—	—	33.27
20 and under 30	3.14	4.57	6.95	1.57	0.09	0.13	16.45
30 " " 40	5.11	5.87	2.83	0.45	0.23	0.27	14.76
40 " " 50	6.01	4.98	2.02	0.49	0.45	0.45	14.40
50 " " 60	3.63	3.68	1.52	0.36	0.58	0.90	10.67
60 " " 70	2.20	1.44	0.76	0.14	0.45	0.72	5.71
70 and over	1.21	0.49	0.76	—	0.85	1.43	4.74
Totals	21.35	21.52	31.88	18.70	2.65	3.90	100.00

1946

Under 20	—	0.31	18.94	16.96	—	—	36.21
20 and under 30	2.50	4.06	5.09	2.18	0.08	0.13	14.04
30 40	5.22	5.63	2.77	0.66	0.08	0.17	14.53
40 50	5.53	5.68	2.06	0.53	0.44	0.62	14.86
50 60	4.14	3.27	1.43	0.21	0.71	0.44	10.20
60 70	2.45	1.60	0.98	—	0.62	1.24	6.89
70 and over	0.84	0.31	0.35	—	0.57	1.20	3.27
Totals	20.68	20.86	31.62	20.54	2.50	3.80	100.00

Classification of Occupations, Professions &c., (Tables III and IV).

Nationality and Birthplace (Table V.)

The population is entirely of European descent and has been derived mainly from the United Kingdom.

Religion (Table VI).

Of the total population 63.9% are Anglicans, 22.16% are Non-conformists, 10.58% are Roman Catholics, and 3.36% are of other religions.

Natural growth of the population (Table VII).

The average number of births during the past seven years (1946-1953) was 40; the average number of deaths over the same period 29, shewing an average yearly increase in the population of 11.

Immigration and Emigration (Table VIII).

During the past seven years (1946-1953) immigrants averaged 202 and emigrants 213, shewing an average decrease of 11 in the population.

When comparing tables VII and VIII the population appears to be static.

Conclusion.

The population was enumerated on the basis of previous Censuses, the whole population of the Colony on the night of the 28th March, 1953, being taken into consideration, whether permanent or temporary residents; the only exception being members of Her Majesty's Regular Armed Forces, who were excluded.

I cannot conclude this Report without a note of thanks to the people of the Colony who co-operated so willingly in furnishing all the details required.

A special note of thanks is extended to Mr. D. E. Mortimer whose work, in connection with the compilation of most of the Tables included in this Report, is much appreciated.

H. BENNETT.

Registrar General.

*Stanley,
Falkland Islands.
12th May, 1954.*

TABLE I. Relative Ages of the Population as compared with Census, 1946.

Age Period.	STANLEY.				OTHER DISTRICTS, E. F.				WEST FALKLANDS.			
	MALES.		FEMALES.		MALES.		FEMALES.		MALES.		FEMALES.	
	1953	1946	1953	1946	1953	1946	1953	1946	1953	1946	1953	1946
Under 1 ...	15	10	7	7	1	9	4	5	6	1	5	6
1 and under 5 ...	33	45	37	36	25	26	23	17	17	16	20	13
5 " " 10 ...	44	55	37	49	27	32	25	34	19	21	22	13
10 " " 15 ...	45	47	45	54	28	27	24	40	23	15	15	16
15 " " 20 ...	39	61	53	59	32	32	27	20	27	21	17	17
20 " " 30 ...	81	83	75	86	84	45	33	28	62	37	32	27
30 " " 40 ...	78	79	86	74	62	62	38	44	42	30	23	24
40 " " 50 ...	76	91	79	113	75	50	36	25	38	31	17	15
50 " " 60 ...	61	83	80	62	44	24	14	12	23	27	16	13
60 " " 70 ...	39	48	39	54	23	27	8	9	14	16	4	—
70 " " 80 ...	40	24	31	27	8	9	—	2	8	4	3	1
80 " over ...	6	3	9	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	557	629	578	623	410	343	232	236	279	219	174	145

Summary of Totals.

	MALES.		FEMALES.		TOTALS.	
	1953.	1946.	1953.	1946.	1953.	1946.
STANLEY ...	557	629	578	623	1135	1252
OTHER DISTRICTS, E. F. ...	410	343	232	236	642	579
WEST FALKLANDS ...	279	219	174	145	453	364
+ SHIPPING ...	—	36	—	8	—	44
Totals	1246	1227	984	1012	2230	2239

+ The absence of the s.s. Fitzroy and the fact that all the small craft in the Islands were in port and their crews ashore on the night of the 1953 Census accounts for the blanks under the heading "Shipping".

TABLE II.

Civil Condition of the Population.

MARRIED

District.	Under 20.		20 under 30.		30 under 40.		40 under 50.		50 under 60.		60 under 70.		70 and over.		Total 1953.			Total 1946.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.		
Stanley ...	1	8	35	48	54	75	59	61	46	58	33	24	22	11	250	285	535	256	288	544
Other Districts, E. F. ...	—	—	19	26	31	34	46	34	21	9	9	5	2	—	128	108	236	113	103	216
West Falklands ...	—	3	16	28	29	22	29	16	14	15	7	3	3	—	98	87	185	78	70	148
Totals ...	1	11	70	102	114	131	134	111	81	82	49	32	27	11	476	480	956	463	467	930

UNMARRIED

Stanley ...	175	171	45	25	24	6	16	10	11	7	5	3	10	—	286	222	508	347	262	609
Other Districts, E. F. ...	113	103	64	6	28	3	22	1	17	1	7	—	5	—	256	114	370	219	124	343
West Falklands ...	92	76	46	4	11	1	7	—	6	—	5	—	2	—	169	81	250	127	74	201
Totals ...	380	350	155	35	63	10	45	11	34	8	17	3	17	—	711	417	1128	708	460	1168

WIDOWED OR DIVORCED

Stanley ...	—	—	1	2	—	5	1	8	4	15	1	12	14	29	21	71	92	26	73	99
Other Districts, E. F. ...	—	—	1	1	3	1	7	1	6	4	7	3	2	—	26	10	36	11	9	20
West Falklands ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	3	1	2	1	3	3	12	6	18	14	1	15
Totals ...	—	—	2	3	5	6	10	10	13	20	10	16	19	32	59	87	146	56	85	141

* Including totals under the heading "Shipping".

OCCUPATIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.

TABLE III.

Population resident in Stanley on the night of the Census.

OCCUPATIONS, PROFESSIONS &c.	TOTALS	OCCUPATIONS, PROFESSIONS &c.	TOTALS
Accountants	2	<i>Brought forward</i>	664
Bakers	2	Lighthouse Keepers	3
Bartenders	1	Marine & Cuttermen	10
Blacksmiths	2	Masons	6
Striker	1	Mechanics :	
Boarding House Keepers	4	Aircraft	2
Boot Repairer	1	Motor	6
Butchers	3	Motor, Apprentices	2
Slaughtermen	3	Merchants, General	8
Caretakers	18	Messengers :	
Carters	4	Office	3
Carpenters :		Store	1
Foreman	1	Military Armourer	1
Journeymen	14	Motor Lorry Drivers	10
Apprentices	11	Nurses	5
Cashiers :		Packer	1
Office	2	Painters	5
Store	2	Physicians & Surgeons	2
Charwoman	1	Pilot, Aircraft	1
Civil Servants	41	Plumber	1
Clergymen	3	Apprentice	1
Clerks :		Police :	
Office	33	Chief Constable	1
Store	2	Sergeant	1
Customs Officer	1	Constables	5
Dairy Workers	6	Gaoil Matron	1
Dental Surgeon	1	Printers	2
Dental Mechanic	1	Apprentices	2
Domestic Servants	40	Publicans	4
Dressmakers	2	Sailmakers	2
Electricians	5	School Teachers	10
Apprentice	1	Assistant	3
Superintendent Engineers	4	Scholars	167
Marine Engineers	2	Under School Age	90
Electric Light Enginemen	5	Sheepfarmers	2
Assistant Enginemen	3	Sheepfarm Managers	2
Launch Engineman	1	Shepherd	1
Fitter	1	Shop Assistants	17
Gardeners	8	Storekeepers	6
Handymen	10	Assistants	3
Home Duties	321	Sweep	1
House Boy	1	Telephone Operators	4
Labourers :		Warehouseman	1
General	91	Watchmaker	1
Sheepfarm	7	Wireless Operators	9
Laundress	1	Learners	4
Librarian	1	Works Foreman	1
		No Occupation	63
<i>Carried forward</i>	664	TOTAL	1135

TABLE IV. OCCUPATIONS, PROFESSIONS, &c.

Population resident on Sheep Farms.

OCCUPATIONS, PROFESSIONS &c.	EAST FALKLANDS.	WEST FALKLANDS.	TOTALS.
Accountant	1	—	1
Blacksmiths	2	—	2
Carpenters	11	4	15
Carters	2	1	3
Clergyman *	1	—	1
Cuttermen	6	8	14
Dentist	1	—	1
Domestic Servants	20	20	40
Engineers †	4	—	4
Electricians †	2	—	2
Farmers	6	5	11
Farm Managers	14	11	25
„ Cadets	2	3	5
„ Overseers	2	1	3
„ Foremen	11	11	22
„ Shepherds	94	57	151
„ Labourers	110	63	173
„ Cooks	16	11	27
First Aid Man †	1	—	1
Fitter †	1	—	1
Foreman †	1	—	1
Ganger †	1	—	1
Gardeners	7	7	14
Handymen	16	3	19
Home Duties	128	91	219
Houseboys	4	5	9
Masons †	4	—	4
Meat Inspector †	1	—	1
Mechanics	—	7	7
Physicians	1	1	2
Plumber †	1	—	1
Plumber	—	1	1
School Teachers	8	4	12
Scholars	97	70	167
Under School Age	54	49	103
Stoker †	1	—	1
Storekeepers	6	2	8
Tractor Drivers	1	3	4
Wireless Operators	—	2	2
No Occupation	4	13	17
TOTALS	642	453	1095

* Normally resident in Stanley.

† Employed on the Colonial Development Corporation Project at Ajax Bay, East Falklands.

TABLE V.
Nationality and Birthplaces.

NATIONALITY.	STANLEY.	EAST FALKLANDS.	WEST FALKLANDS.	TOTAL.
British Born	1117	638	449	2204
FOREIGN				
American	2	—	—	2
Argentine	1	—	—	1
Chilean	—	1	—	1
Danish	2	1	1	4
Eirean	2	—	—	2
German	9	1	—	10
Hungarian	—	—	2	2
Polish (Danzig)	—	—	1	1
Swedish	1	—	—	1
Yugoslavian	1	1	—	2
Totals ...	1135	642	453	2230
BIRTHPLACES.				
Falkland Islands	953	534	376	1863
United Kingdom	146	95	65	306
Australia	—	—	1	1
Canada	1	—	—	1
Ceylon	—	1	—	1
Eire	2	—	—	2
India	1	—	—	1
New Zealand	—	2	—	2
Nigeria	1	—	—	1
South Africa	2	—	—	2
Southern Rhodesia	1	—	—	1
FOREIGN				
Argentina	3	2	5	10
Chile	6	4	1	11
Danzig	—	—	1	1
Denmark	2	1	1	4
Germany	9	1	—	10
Hungary	—	—	2	2
Russia	1	—	—	1
Sweden	1	—	—	1
United States	2	—	—	2
Uruguay	3	1	1	5
Yugoslavia	1	1	—	2
Totals ...	1135	642	453	2230

TABLE VI.
RELIGIONS.

	STANLEY.	EAST FALKLANDS.	WEST FALKLANDS.	TOTAL.
Church of England	703	387	335	1425
Non-conformist	239	164	91	494
Roman Catholic	152	64	20	236
Other Religions	41	27	7	75
Totals	1135	642	453	2230

TABLE VII.
Natural Growth of the Population, 1946-1953.

YEAR.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.			INCREASE.			DECREASE.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1946	17	20	37	21	9	30	—	11	11	4	—	4
1947	12	23	35	16	15	31	—	8	8	4	—	4
1948	16	15	31	15	10	25	1	5	6	—	—	—
1949	14	26	40	18	15	33	—	11	11	4	—	4
1950	19	16	35	19	7	26	—	9	9	—	—	—
1951	23	22	45	12	15	27	11	7	18	—	—	—
1952	28	27	55	18	15	33	10	12	22	—	—	—
Totals	129	149	278	119	86	205	22	63	85	12	—	12

TABLE VIII.
Statistics of Immigration and Emigration, 1946-1953.

YEAR.	ARRIVALS.			DEPARTURES.			INCREASE.			DECREASE.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1946	120	81	201	121	86	207	1	—	1	—	5	5
1947	128	71	199	107	57	164	21	14	35	—	—	—
1948	103	62	165	104	72	176	—	—	—	1	10	11
1949	142	76	218	127	99	226	15	—	15	—	23	23
1950	95	60	155	118	82	200	—	—	—	23	12	35
1951	187	79	266	152	83	235	33	—	33	—	4	4
1952	145	64	209	180	101	281	—	—	—	35	37	72
Totals	920	493	1413	909	580	1489	70	14	84	59	91	150

