



Year	Posts only	Total (until 1871 excluding Telegraph Office)	Source for all
1854			First Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1855, p. 20, POST 92/1
1855			Second Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1856, p. 26, POST 92/1
1856			Third Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1857, p. 22, POST 92/1
1857		23,731	Fourth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1858, p. 30, POST 92/1
1858		24,372	Fifth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1859, p. 23, POST 92/2
1859		24,802	Sixth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1860, p. 37, POST 92/2
1860		25,282	Seventh Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1861, p. 22, POST 92/2
1861		25,473	Eighth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1862, p. 23, POST 92/2
1862		25,380	Ninth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1863, p. 27, POST 92/2
1863			Tenth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1864, POST 92/2
1864			Eleventh Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1865, POST 92/3
1865			Twelfth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1866, POST 92/3
1866			Thirteenth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1867, POST 92/3
1867			Fourteenth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1868, POST 92/3
1868			Fifteenth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1869, POST 92/3

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1869		27,270	Seventeenth Report of the PMG on The Post Office, 1871, p. 22, POST 92/3
1870		28,429	Seventeenth Report of the PMG on The Post Office, 1871, p. 22, POST 92/3
1871		29,344	Eighteenth Report of the PMG on The Post Office, 1872, p. 37 & p. 18, POST 92/3
1872		40,208	Nineteenth Report of the PMG on The Post Office, 1873, p. 38, POST 92/3
1873		42,236	Twentieth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1874, p. 42 POST 92/3
1874		43,982	Twenty-First Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1875, p. 38 POST 92/3
1875		44,644	Twenty-Second Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1876, p. 44 POST 92/3
1876		45,024	Twenty-Third Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1877, p. 55, POST 92/3
1877		45,506	Twenty-Fourth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1878, p. 58, POST 92/3
1878		45,947	Twenty-Fifth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1879, p. 64, POST 92/4
1879		46,192	Twenty-Sixth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1880, p. 56, POST 92/4
1880		51,674	Twenty-Seventh Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1881, p. 16, POST 92/4
1881 (Dec)		53,772	Twenty-Eighth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1882, p. 17, POST 92/4
1882 (March)		53,752	Twenty-Ninth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1883, p. 31, POST 92/4
1883		85,689	Twenty-Ninth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1883, p. 31, POST 92/4

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1884		91,184	Thirtieth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1884, p. 25, POST 92/4
1885		95,553	Thirty-First Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1885, p. 24, POST 92/4
1886		96,287	Thirty-Second Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1886, p. 23, POST 92/4
1887		101,961	Thirty-Third Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1887, p. 25, POST 92/5
1888		105,352	Thirty-Fourth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1888, p. 22, PSOT 92/5
1889		108,561	Thirty-Fifth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1889, p. 26, POST 92/5
1890		113,550	Thirty-Sixth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1890, p. 33, POST 92/5
1891		117,989	Thirty-Seventh Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1891, p. 35, POST 92/5
1892		125,762	Thirty-Eighth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1892, p. 43, POST 92/5
1893		131,459	Thirty-Ninth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1893, p. 45, POST 92/6
1894		136,111	Fortieth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1894, p. 39, POST 92/6
1895		138,738	Forty-First Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1895, p. 61, POST 92/6
1896		140,806	Forty-Second Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1896, p. 57, POST 92/6
1897		144,700	Forty-Third Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1897, p. 66, POST 92/7
1898		150,110	Forty-Fourth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1898, p. 64, POST 92/7

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1899		159,942	Forty-Fifth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1899, p. 65, POST 92/7
1900		167,086	Forty-Sixth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1900, p. 47, POST 92/7
1901		173,184	Forty-Seventh Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1901, p. 51, POST 92/7
1902		179,202	Forty-Eighth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1902, p. 51, POST 92/7
1903		183,595	Forty-Ninth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1903, p. 58, POST 92/8
1904		188,031	Fiftieth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1904, p. 60, POST 92/8
1905		192,454	Fifty-First Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1905, p. 58, POST 92/8
1906		195,432	Fifty-Second Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1906, p. 54, POST 92/8
1907		199,178	Fifty-Third Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1907, p. 56, POST 92/8
1908		203,597	Fifty-Fourth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1908, p. 57, POST 92/8
1909		207,947	Fifty-Fifth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1909, p. 56, POST 92/9
1910		212,364	Fifty-Sixth Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1910, p. 54, POST 92/9
1911		212,814	Fifty-Seventh Report of the PMG on the Post Office, 1911, p. 60, POST 92/9
1912		233,811	Report of the PMG on the Post Office 1911-12, 1912, p. 64, POST 92/9
1913		240,134	Report of the PMG on the Post Office 1912-13, 1913, p. 62, POST 92/9

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1914		249,606	Report of the PMG on the Post Office 1913-14, 1914, POST 92/10
1915		253,750	Report of the PMG on the Post Office 1914-15, 1915, POST 92/10
1916			
1917			
1918			
1919			
1920			
1921			
1922			
1923 (Dec)		213,525	Headquarters Summary No. 10 February 1925, no page number, POST 72/43
1924		214,551	Headquarters Summary No. 10 February 1925, no page number, POST 72/43
1925 (Mar)		220,066	Headquarters Summary No. 11 June 1925, no page number, POST 72/43
1926 (Apr)		223,605	HQ Summary No.15 June 1926, POST 72/44
1927			
1928			
1929			
1930		230,675	Alan Clinton, Post Office Workers, (Allen & Unwin, 1984), Appendix 5: Some statistics of the Post Office workforce, 1835-1980
1931			
1932			
1933			

Year	Posts only	Total (until 1871 excluding Telegraph Office)	Source for all
1934		227,882	BP 37 (37) Quarterly Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1934) in Post Office Board 1937: Index and board papers: Volume 1 (POST 69/6)
1935		235,102	BP 37 (37) Quarterly Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1935) in Post Office Board 1937: Index and board papers: Volume 1 (POST 69/6)
1936		245,851	BP 37 (37) Quarterly Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1936) in Post Office Board 1937: Index and board papers: Volume 1 (POST 69/6)
1937		261,832	BP 37 (37) Quarterly Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1937) in Post Office Board 1937: Index and board papers: Volume 1 (POST 69/6)
1938		278,995	BP 34 (38) Quarterly Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1938) in Post Office Board 1938: Index and board papers: Volume 1 (POST 69/8)

Year	Posts only	Total (until 1871 excluding Telegraph Office)	Source for all
1939		283,371	BP 31 (39) Quarterly Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1939) in Post Office Board 1939: Index and board papers: Volume 1 (POST 69/10)
1940		267,187	This figure represents 'Effective staff'. 38,460 were absentees with Forces or on loan to other Government Departments. 'BP 27 (40) Quarterly Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1940) in Post Office Board 1940: Index, board papers and proceedings (POST 69/12)

Year	Posts only	Total (until 1871 excluding Telegraph Office)	Source for all
1941		275,213	<p>This figure represents 'Effective staff'. 55,118 were absentees with Forces or on loan to other Government Departments, of which 51,447 men and 101 women were on service with the Forces, whilst 1,687 men and 1,883 women were on loan to other Government Departments. 'BP 13 (41) Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1941) in Post Office Board 1941: Index, board papers and proceedings (POST 69/13). In 'BP 13 (42) Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1942) in Post Office Board 1942: Index, board papers, proceedings and progress reports (POST 69/15), the number of effective staff on 1 Apr 1941 is given as 276,217. It is not clear why there is this discrepancy.</p>
1942		290,233	<p>This figure represents 'Effective staff'. 65,007 were absentees with Forces or on loan to other Government Departments, of which 60,033 men and 407 women were on service with the Forces, whilst 2,379 men and 2,188 women were on loan to other Government Departments. 'BP 13 (42) Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1942) in Post Office Board 1942: Index, board papers, proceedings and progress reports (POST 69/15). See also 'BP 18 (42) Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1942).</p>

Year	Posts only	Total (until 1871 excluding Telegraph Office)	Source for all
1943		295,021	<p>This figure represents 'Effective staff'. 73,679 were absentees with Forces or on loan to other Government Departments, of which 66,733 men and 1,927 women were on service with the Forces, whilst 2,691 men and 2,328 women were on loan to other Government Departments. 'BP 19 (43) Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1943) in Post Office Board 1943: Index, agenda and board papers: Volume 1 (POST 69/17).</p>
1944		292,353	<p>This figure represents 'Effective staff'. 78,288 were absentees with Forces or on loan to other Government Departments, of which 70,270 men and 3,136 women were on service with the Forces, whilst 2,618 men and 2,264 women were on loan to other Government Departments. 'BP 19 (44) Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1944) in Post Office Board 1944: Agenda and board papers: Volume 1 (POST 69/21). In 'BP 7 (45) Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Jan 1945) in Post Office Board 1945: Index, board papers, proceedings and progress reports (POST 69/25), the number of effective staff on 1 Apr 1941 is given as 292,480. It is not clear why there is this discrepancy.</p>

Year	Posts only	Total (until 1871 excluding Telegraph Office)	Source for all
1945		301,793	This figure represents 'Effective staff'. 78,114 were absentees with Forces or on loan to other Government Departments, of which 70,593 men and 2,973 women were on service with the Forces, whilst 2,413 men and 2,135 women were on loan to other Government Departments. 'BP 13 (45) Summary of Post Office Staff' (as of 1 Apr 1945) in Post Office Board 1945: Index, board papers, proceedings and progress reports (POST 69/25).
1946		329,090	
1947		351,881	
1948		347,947	
1949		348,224	
1950		329,105	
1951		331,668	
1952		337,549	
1953		335,491	
1954		334,187	
1955		337,465	
1956		346,859	
1957		359,460	Post Office Commercial Accounts 1957-58, p. 49, POST 92/14
1958		359,922	Post Office Commercial Accounts 1958-59, POST 92/14
1959		360,812	Post Office Commercial Accounts 1959-60 p.49, POST 92/14
1960		361,931	Report & Commercial Accounts 1960-61 p. 65, POST 92/15

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1961		373,453	Report & Commercial Accounts 1960-61 p. 65, POST 92/15
1962		388,943	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1963 p. 80, POST 92/15
1963		394,716	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1963 p. 80, POST 92/15
1964		399,660	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1964 p.79, POST 92/15
1965		407,241	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1965 p.89, POST 92/15
1966		420,169	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1966 p. 108, POST 92/15b
1967		429,509	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1968 p. 108, POST 92/16
1968		435,384	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1968 p. 108, POST 92/16
1969		439,762	Report & Accounts for the six months ended 31 March 1970 p. 164, POST 92/17
1970	164,283	430,297	Report & Accounts for the six months ended 31 March 1970 p. 164, POST 92/17
1971	177,248	437,345	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1972 p. 78, POST 92/17
1972	173,544	438,812	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1972 p. 78, POST 92/17
1973	172,562	443,494	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1973 p. 71
1974	170,128	443,134	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1974 p. 67
1975	177,625	456,056	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1975 p. 69

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1976	174,287	441,968	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1976 p. 71
1977	171,038	428,414	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1977 p. 77
1978	168,287	422,192	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1978 p. 67
1979	172,122	431,467	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1979 p. 73, in 1980 report established staff are given as 411001 and unestablished as 21213 (432,214 total)
1980	176,486	443,958	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1980 p. 51
1981	179,795	453,109	Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1981 p. 55
1982	177,943		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1983 p. 58
1983	176,288		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1983 p. 58
1984	175,402		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1984 p. 64
1985	177,381		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1985 p. 19
1986	179,753		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1986 p. 23
1987	185,723		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1987 p. 52
1988	194,640		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1988 p. 43
1989	200,622		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1989 p. 51

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1990	205,666		
1991	206,000		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1991 p.44
1992	197,000		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1992 p.92
1993	190,000		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1993 p. 89
1994	186,000		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1994 p. 82
1995	189,000		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1995 p. 86. In 1994-5 part time staff are shown on a full time equivalent basis. Figures for 1993-94 have been restated. Prior to 1993-94 part time staff were counted as half.
1996	191,000		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1996 p. 94
1997	193,000		Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1997 p. 118
1998	194,000		Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1998 p. 78
1999	201,000		Accounts for the year ended 31 March 1999 p. 86
2000	207,000		Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2000 p. 46
2001	220,000		Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2001 p. 44
2002	221,654		Estimate based on average figure for 2001 and 2003
2003	223,309		Royal Mail Group report ended 31 March 2004 p. 41 (period end employees)

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2004	212,310		Royal Mail Group report ended 31 March 2004 p. 41 (period end employees)
2005	212,156		Royal Mail Group report ended 31 March 2005 p. 48 (period end employees)
2006	208,866		Royal Mail Group report ended 31 March 2006 p. 13
2007	201,496		Royal Mail Group report ended 31 March 2007 p. 14
2008	198,724		Royal Mail Group report ended 31 March 2008 p. 14
2009	193,653		Royal Mail Group report ended 31 March 2009 p. 13
2010	185,602		Royal Mail Group report ended 31 March 2010 p. 13