

How Many Brass Bands? – An analysis of the distribution of bands in Britain and Ireland over the last 200 years

Gavin Holman – March 2018

There have been many estimates of the number of brass bands over the years. These have ranged widely and, in most cases, were greatly exaggerated.

My research to date has identified nearly 20,000 distinct brass bands which existed in the British Isles between 1800 and the present. This is not a final figure and, although there are many bands still to unearth, I would be surprised if there were more than 2,000 to 3,000 to be added, based on my research experiences.



During my research for “*Brass Bands of the British Isles*”, the start and end dates for each band was identified – wherever possible. In many cases there were no definitive such dates, so the earliest/latest recorded were used. In the absence of either of the latter, an estimated date was taken.

The largest number of bands concurrently active in the British Isles was 5,045 in 1895. Looking at the bands across the decades, again the 1890s top the table with 7,321 distinct bands active through those ten years.

An interesting future exercise would be to look at the detailed breakdown of the different types of brass band (i.e. town/village, industrial (colliery/mill etc), religious, temperance etc.). Unfortunately, the wide variation of the names of bands precludes any straightforward, accurate method of analysis at present. However, an extraction using a few keywords gave the following, very rough, figures: temperance bands – 1,210, colliery bands – 415, iron/steel works – 125, volunteer bands – 695, oddfellows – 61, foresters – 135, Wesleyan/Methodist – 312, Baptist – 28, railway – 144, mills – 103.

This paper looks at

- the chronological distribution of bands across the various decades, in total, for each country and each county (see appendix 8)
- the ratio of bands per 10,000 population – based on figures from census data for years 1881 and 1901, and a similar exercise for current bands
- graduated maps showing the “band density” across the countries for total number of bands and the per capita ratios for the counties
- a list of the earliest bands (from 1800 to 1829)

Caveats and assumptions

- the number of bands recorded in “*Brass Bands of the British Isles*” is certainly not definitive - by some unknown margin. As research continues, more records become digitised and searchable, our knowledge of the breadth and depth of the brass band movement will grow, and this analysis is merely a snapshot in time – but hopefully a lot more accurate than many of the estimates and assumptions over the years.
- types of bands excluded from “*Brass Bands of the British Isles*”, and therefore not counted, include: Salvation Army bands (the majority), military/brass & reed bands, youth & junior bands, scratch bands (one off's), and ghost bands.
- the actual formation and cessation dates for many of the bands are not known. The dates used are those available in contemporary records, indicating a minimum span for the band's activity. As a result, the number of bands in any one year or period will be greater than the figures given here.
- due to the nature of the information available about many of the bands, and the different names by which they were known or referred to, it is not clear in some cases whether band X is actually the same as band Y (with similar names etc.) or if, in fact they were truly distinct. I estimate perhaps 2% to 5% of the bands fall into this category, so any figures should be viewed with that in mind (and be adjusted downwards if so desired!).
- Where only a single date for a band is recorded, I have added an extra two years to the figures, on the assumption that, in most cases, the bands will have existed for at least that length of time.
- Where records give only a vague date for a band, e.g. “in the 1850s”, an educated guess has been taken for an actual figure to use. In some cases this was relatively straightforward, based on other supporting information and context. Where none was available, I used an early date (e.g. 1850 for “the 1850s” when assessing the earliest appearance of a band), and a late date (e.g. 1859 for “the 1850s” when assessing the latest appearance of a band).
- It is assumed that where a band is recorded as still being active in the 1910s then, in most cases, it will have ceased in or around 1914 rather than continuing through to 1919 – very few bands have documented activity during WW1.
- The county locations of the bands are those of the historical counties of Great Britain (for further details see www.county-wise.org.uk), and those of Ireland.
- The “Islands” include the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands – Isle of Wight is included in Hampshire when appropriate. Shetland and Orkney are individual Scottish counties.
- Population data for the various counties, to give relative sizes, for the total number of bands is taken from the 1881 census for England, Scotland and Wales. Due to the destruction of the equivalent records for Ireland, I have used

the Irish 1901 census data. For the distribution of current brass bands, I used a range of recent population sources, making educated guesses where the current administrative areas no longer matched the historical counties within which the bands were placed. In all cases the data is merely used to give a range of values to indicate density, and strict accuracy is unnecessary.

- In the population comparisons the City of York, being separate to the three Ridings of Yorkshire, has been included in the figures for the West Riding; the Isle of Wight has been included with Hampshire, and the Channel Islands and Isle of Man have been excluded; London and Middlesex have been combined; Dun Laoghaire and Fingal have been included in Dublin.
- There are some 40 bands for which there is no information at present, other than the fact of their existence, or for which no dates are available – these have been excluded from the date analyses.
- The figures in appendices 3 to 7 may not entirely match equivalent figures in the full table, appendix 8, due to conflation of some data between counties.

	1800 – 2018	Current
Total bands	19,634	1,234
England	15,588	981
Scotland	1,350	93
Wales	1,239	87
Northern Ireland	531	41
Eire	872	24
Islands	54	8

The rise and fall of brass bands across the years

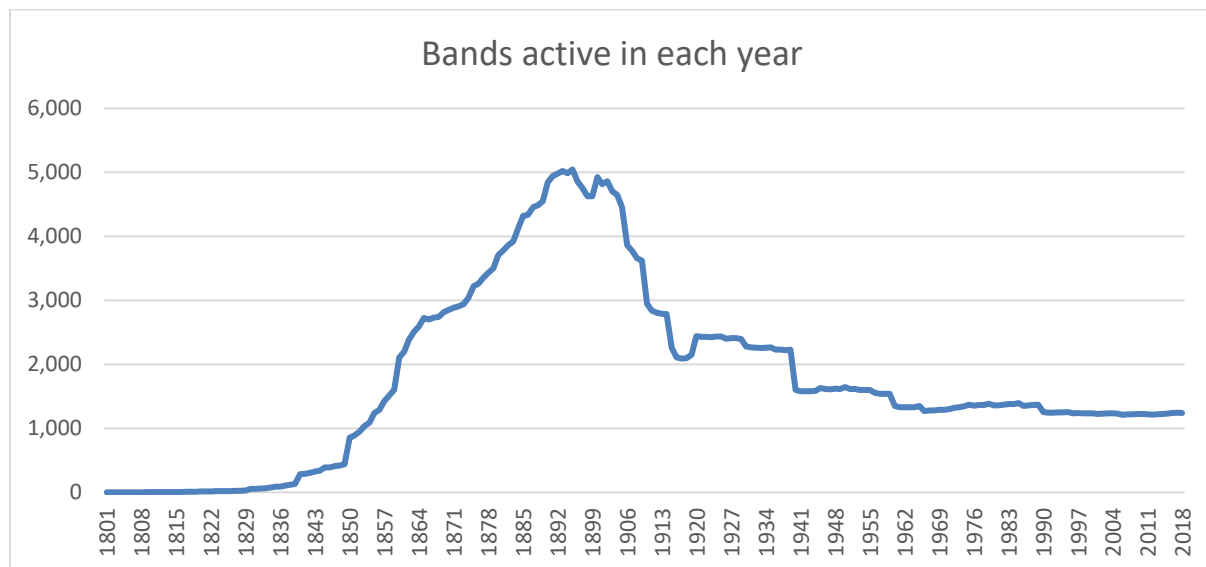
The factors which led to the rapid increase in the number of brass bands in the 19th century - which included the industrial revolution, the advent of saxhorns, increasing leisure time, growing philanthropy, and appetites for public entertainment – culminated in the mid-1890s. At that point, which may have been a saturation level of various factors, there began a decline. Although my figures show a sharp decline across the early 1900s, I suspect this is largely due to the lack of information about many bands, and though many will probably have continued through to WW1, I did not make that assumption in the data.

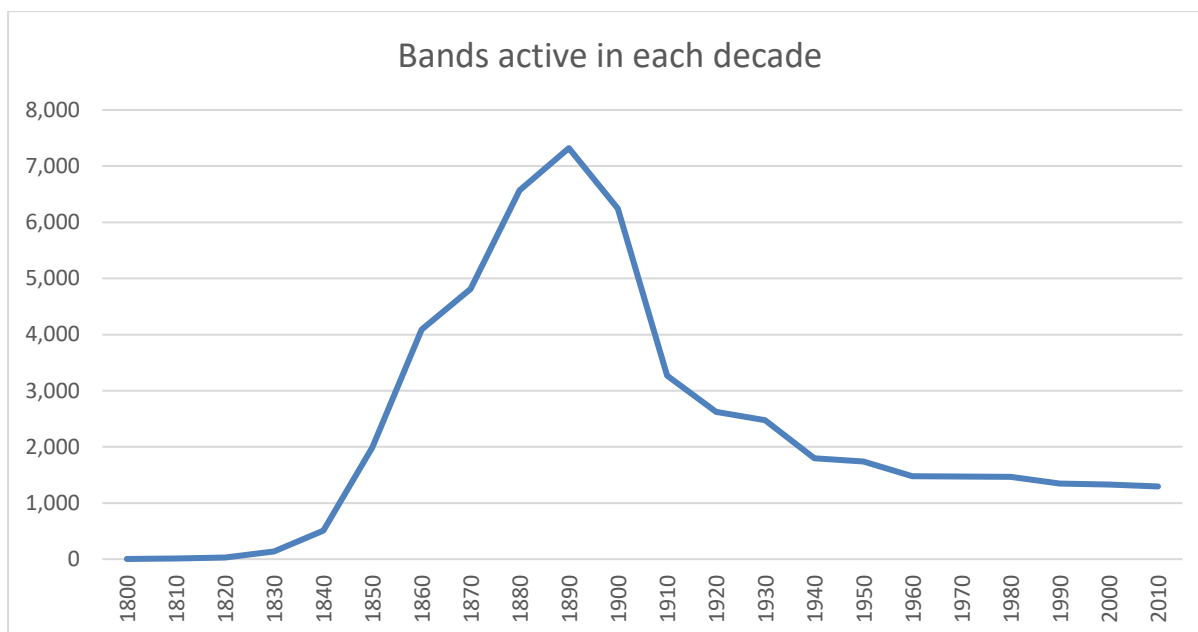
As a result, I would propose that a more accurate representation would show a gradual decline from 1895 through to 1914, and then a much heavier loss of bands than these figures show, following many of the bandsmen signing up to join the armed forces.

A small recovery in the number of bands took place immediately after WW1, as soldiers returned and communities started to rebuild.

A similar drop in bands occurred during WW2, but there was not a corresponding recovery once the war ended – new bands did get established, but there were significantly fewer than those formed after WW1.

An interesting point is that the number of bands since the early 1960s appears to have been relatively static. Despite a general feeling that the decline over the years continued apace, it seems to have levelled off.

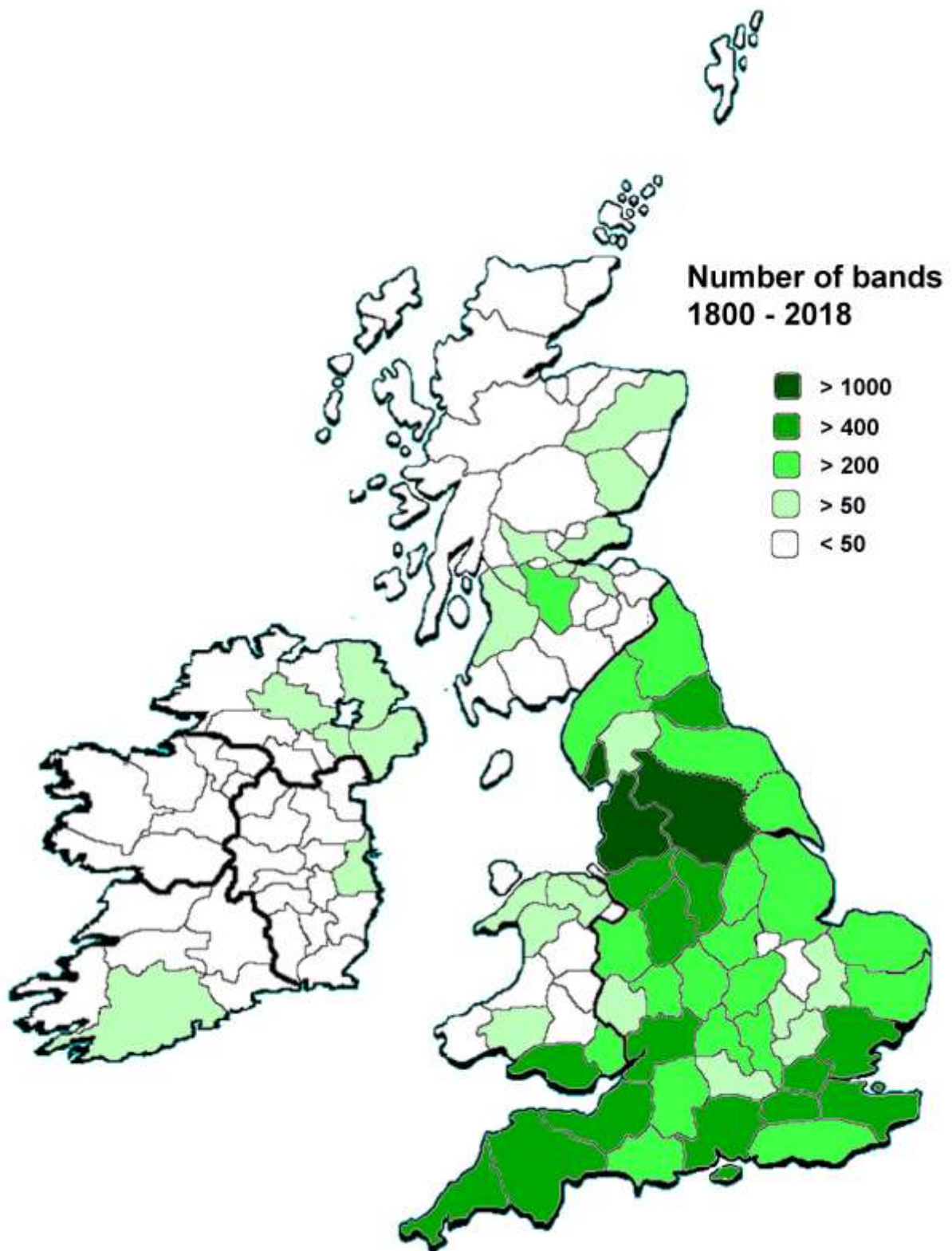




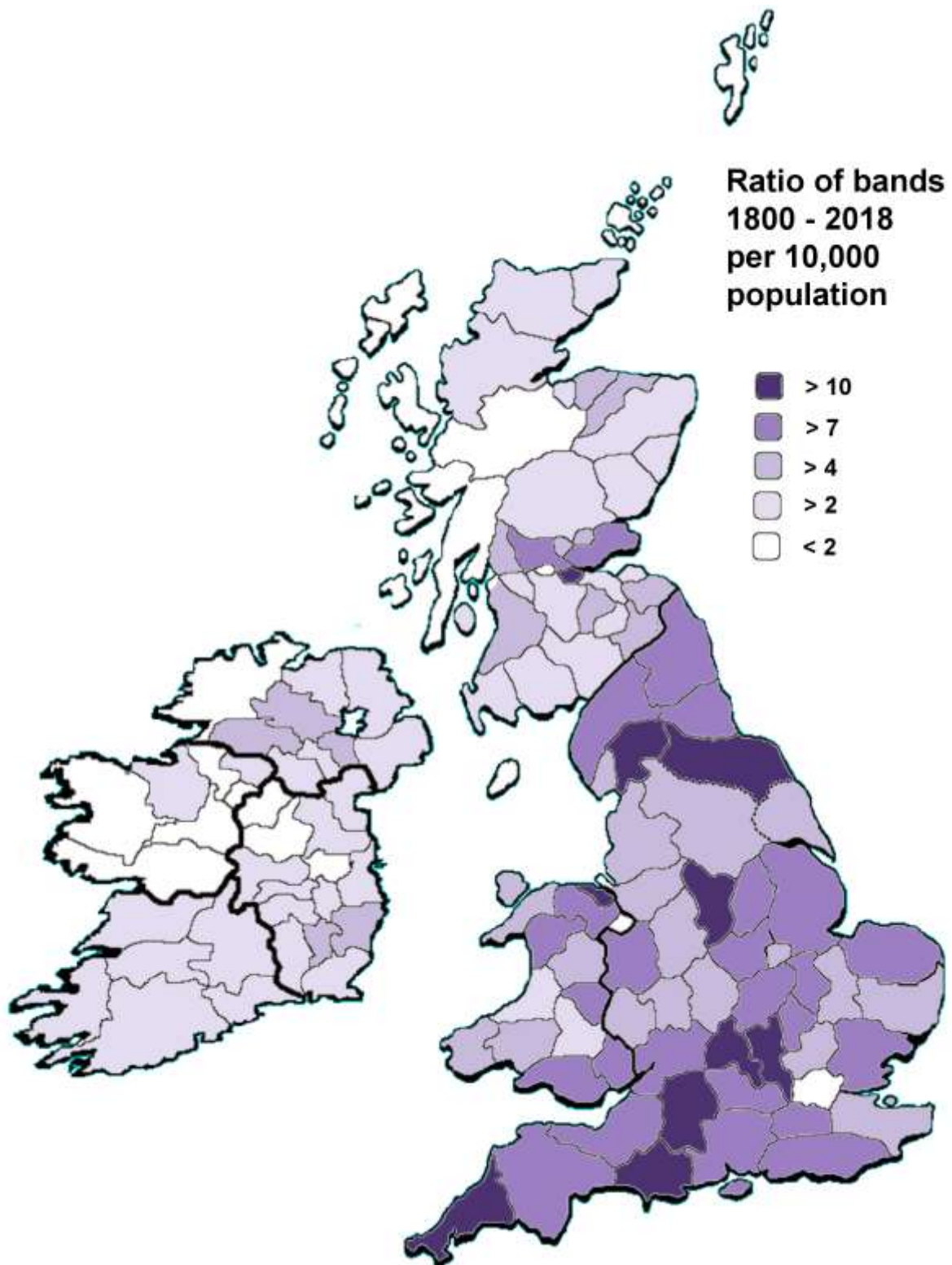
The distribution of brass bands across the land

The industrial heartlands of Yorkshire and Lancashire have always produced the largest number of brass bands – and this is still the case today. Other areas, particularly those with large mining and mill industries, such as Durham, Glamorgan, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, also had a more significant number of bands. However, the southern counties were not left out of the brass band explosion in the mid to late 19th century, with the south west and south east both generating large number of bands. These tended to be less associated with heavy industry, being town/village bands or being aligned with light industries, church and temperance societies.

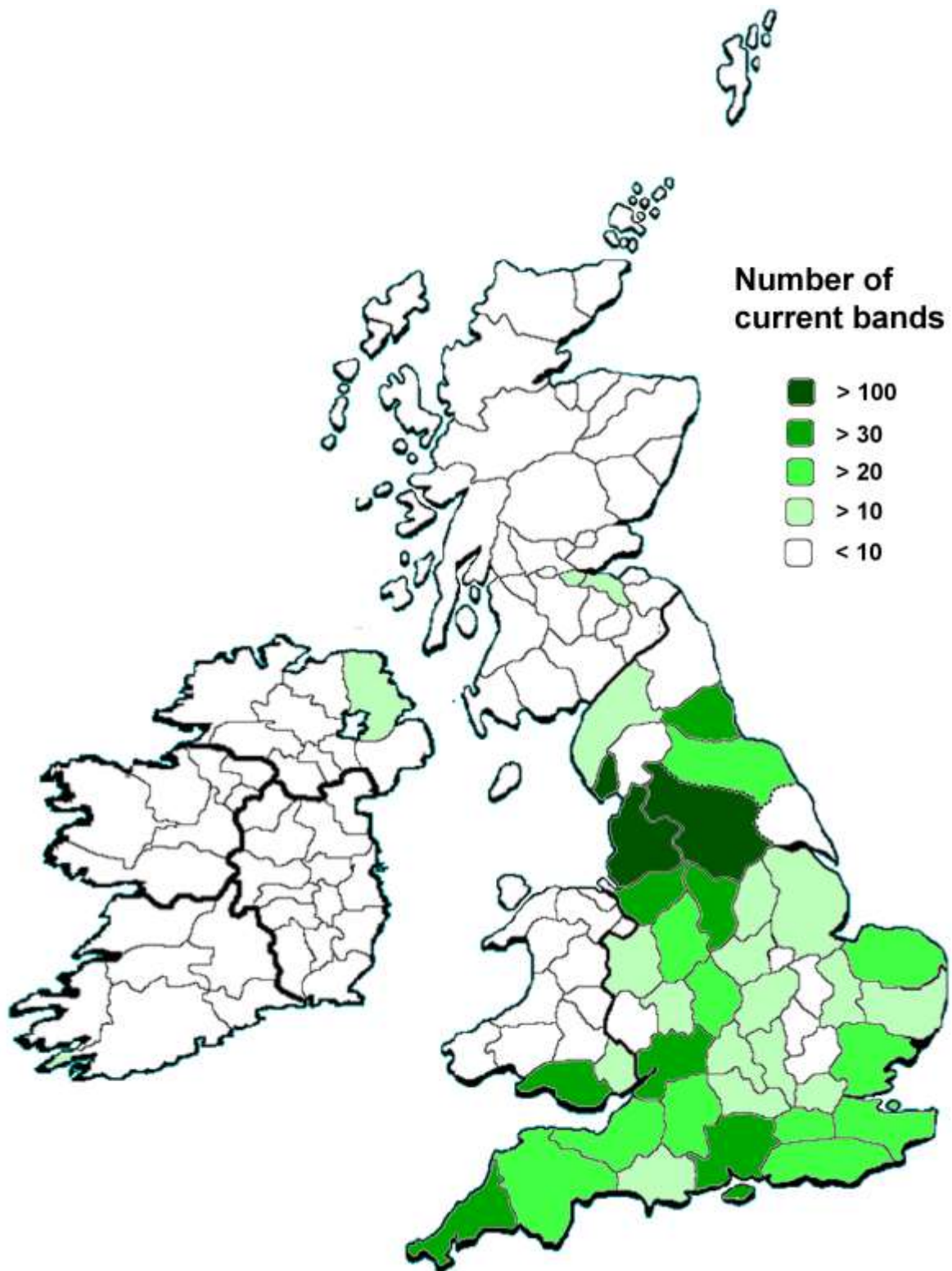
This first map shows the number of bands in existence in each county between 1800-2018



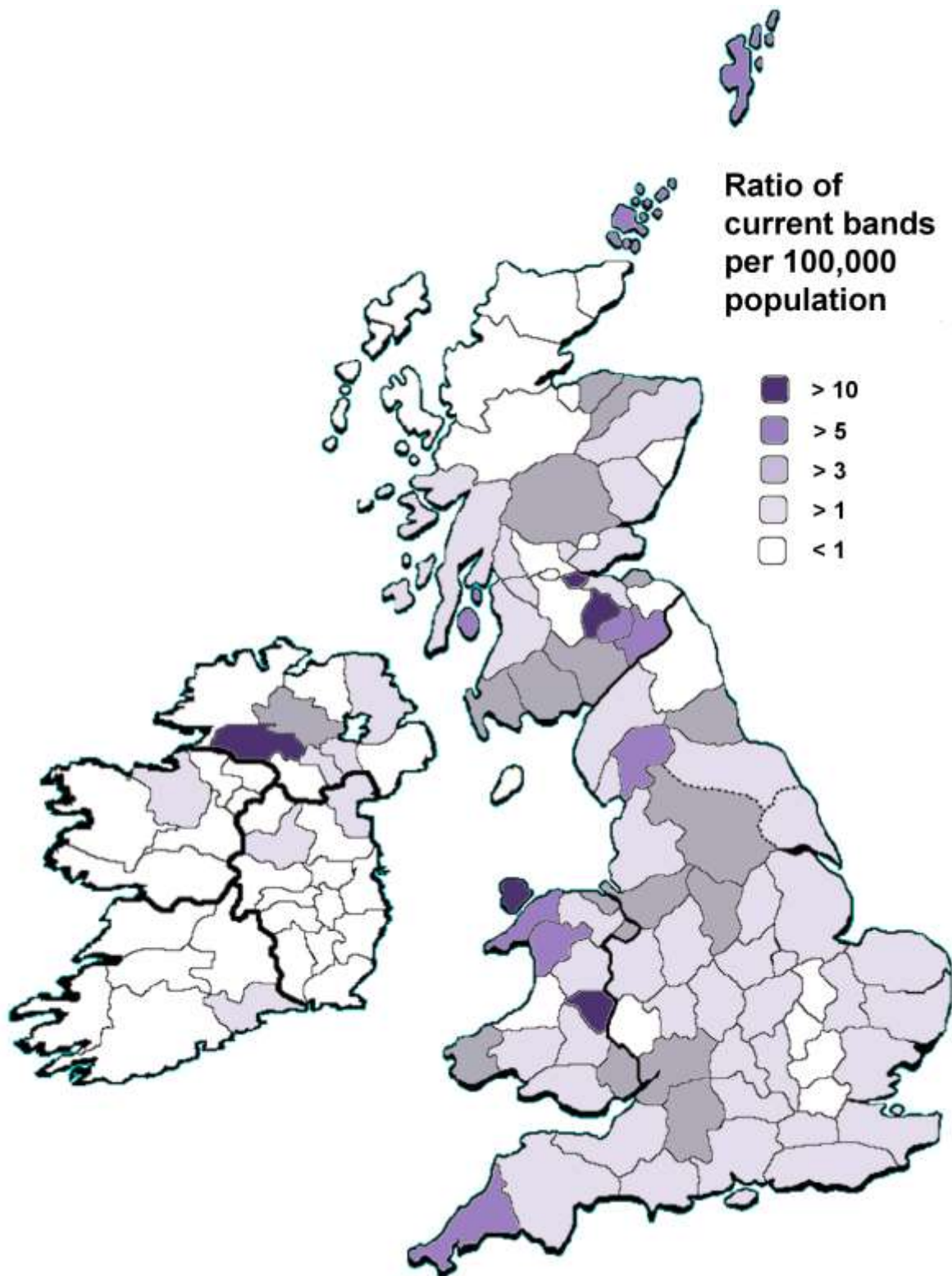
This map shows the ratio of bands in existence in each county between 1800-2018 compared with the county populations in the late 19th century



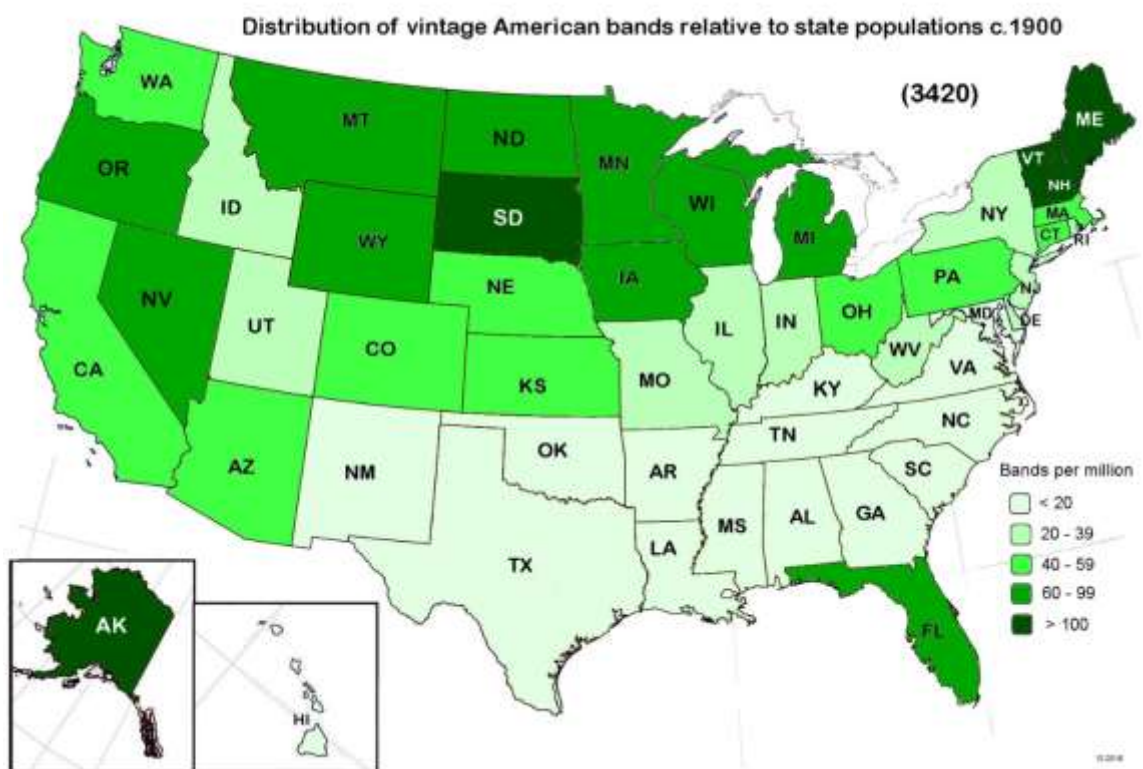
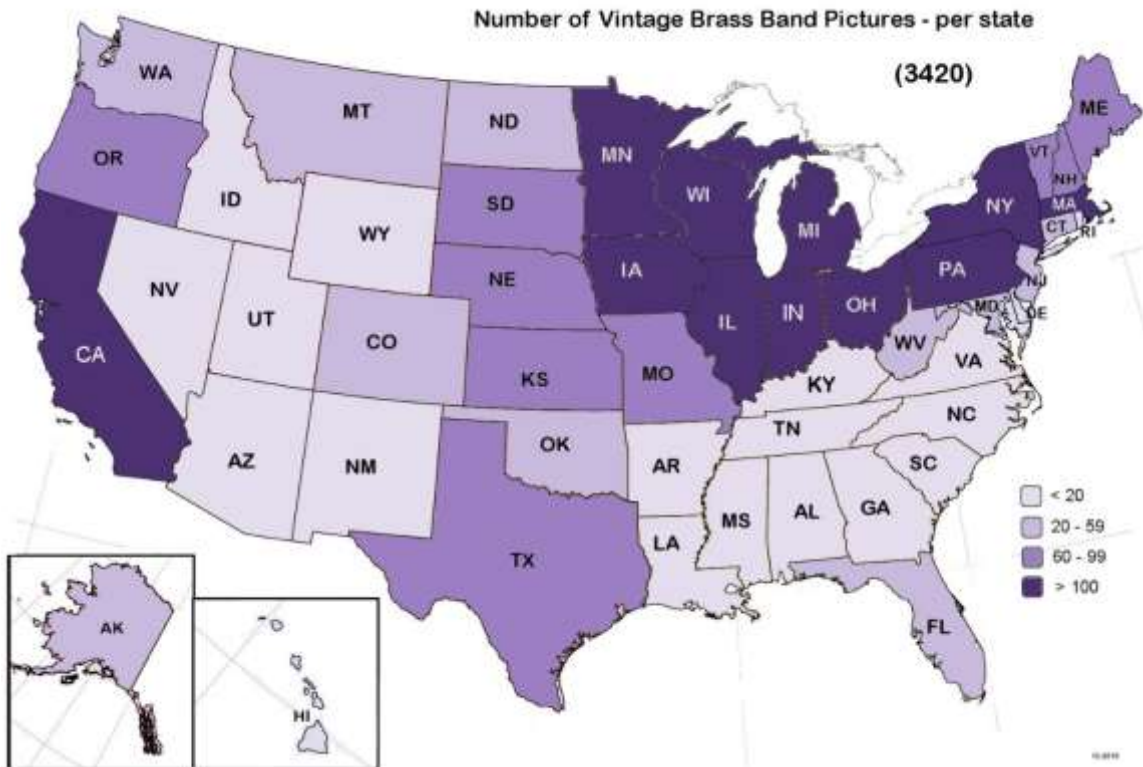
This map shows the number of bands currently active in 2018 in each county



This map shows the ratio of current bands in each county compared with the latest county populations



Some years ago I carried out a similar exercise on “band density” on the U.S.A., working with a significantly smaller set of data, based on the photographs and postcards of bands in the IBEW “*Vintage Band Pictures*”, dating largely from the 1890 to 1920 period. Following the production of my upcoming “*Brass Bands of the World*”, later in 2018, I would hope to update these distribution maps accordingly.



Appendix 1

Year	# bands	Year	# bands	Year	# bands	Year	# bands
1801	1	1856	1,291	1911	2,842	1966	1,271
1802	1	1857	1,425	1912	2,807	1967	1,280
1803	1	1858	1,513	1913	2,789	1968	1,279
1804	1	1859	1,600	1914	2,786	1969	1,291
1805	1	1860	2,108	1915	2,261	1970	1,292
1806	1	1861	2,194	1916	2,108	1971	1,302
1807	1	1862	2,387	1917	2,092	1972	1,318
1808	2	1863	2,509	1918	2,095	1973	1,328
1809	3	1864	2,593	1919	2,152	1974	1,343
1810	4	1865	2,726	1920	2,441	1975	1,368
1811	4	1866	2,700	1921	2,428	1976	1,353
1812	5	1867	2,731	1922	2,428	1977	1,363
1813	5	1868	2,740	1923	2,424	1978	1,366
1814	5	1869	2,817	1924	2,435	1979	1,384
1815	7	1870	2,853	1925	2,434	1980	1,358
1816	7	1871	2,888	1926	2,401	1981	1,359
1817	8	1872	2,906	1927	2,408	1982	1,372
1818	10	1873	2,941	1928	2,409	1983	1,378
1819	12	1874	3,041	1929	2,395	1984	1,380
1820	15	1875	3,222	1930	2,281	1985	1,393
1821	17	1876	3,262	1931	2,265	1986	1,352
1822	17	1877	3,357	1932	2,258	1987	1,360
1823	18	1878	3,431	1933	2,256	1988	1,363
1824	19	1879	3,503	1934	2,259	1989	1,370
1825	20	1880	3,706	1935	2,264	1990	1,255
1826	21	1881	3,781	1936	2,230	1991	1,245
1827	23	1882	3,863	1937	2,231	1992	1,246
1828	26	1883	3,919	1938	2,218	1993	1,249
1829	29	1884	4,122	1939	2,231	1994	1,252
1830	54	1885	4,322	1940	1,599	1995	1,253
1831	54	1886	4,334	1941	1,579	1996	1,233
1832	59	1887	4,454	1942	1,578	1997	1,240
1833	67	1888	4,484	1943	1,582	1998	1,236
1834	74	1889	4,545	1944	1,587	1999	1,235
1835	90	1890	4,847	1945	1,628	2000	1,236
1836	92	1891	4,940	1946	1,613	2001	1,227
1837	103	1892	4,983	1947	1,608	2002	1,230
1838	120	1893	5,021	1948	1,619	2003	1,234
1839	130	1894	4,986	1949	1,616	2004	1,237
1840	285	1895	5,045	1950	1,643	2005	1,228
1841	288	1896	4,857	1951	1,614	2006	1,208
1842	306	1897	4,758	1952	1,617	2007	1,219
1843	323	1898	4,628	1953	1,600	2008	1,222
1844	342	1899	4,628	1954	1,599	2009	1,227
1845	389	1900	4,925	1955	1,601	2010	1,224
1846	388	1901	4,817	1956	1,553	2011	1,218
1847	412	1902	4,859	1957	1,539	2012	1,216
1848	418	1903	4,705	1958	1,539	2013	1,221
1849	438	1904	4,644	1959	1,540	2014	1,225
1850	853	1905	4,452	1960	1,349	2015	1,232
1851	892	1906	3,863	1961	1,329	2016	1,239
1852	949	1907	3,774	1962	1,329	2017	1,243
1853	1,037	1908	3,656	1963	1,328	2018	1,242
1854	1,088	1909	3,620	1964	1,331		
1855	1,240	1910	2,944	1965	1,349		

Appendix 2

Decade		Bands in each decade
1800	1809	3
1810	1819	12
1820	1829	29
1830	1839	136
1840	1849	507
1850	1859	1,988
1860	1869	4,091
1870	1879	4,812
1880	1889	6,571
1890	1899	7,321
1900	1909	6,245
1910	1919	3,269
1920	1929	2,625
1930	1939	2,477
1940	1949	1,794
1950	1959	1,740
1960	1969	1,476
1970	1979	1,472
1980	1989	1,465
1990	1999	1,347
2000	2009	1,327
2010	2019	1,292

Appendix 3

England

County	Total bands 1800-2018	Bands in 2018
Bedfordshire	132	6
Berkshire	185	12
Buckinghamshire	218	13
Cambridgeshire	122	12
Cheshire	433	44
Cornwall	420	46
Cumberland	225	11
Derbyshire	537	39
Devon	446	28
Dorset	207	13
Durham	756	41
Essex	430	24
Gloucestershire	494	40
Hampshire	433	45
Herefordshire	55	1
Hertfordshire	141	9
Huntingdonshire	45	1
Kent	491	23
Lancashire	1,765	105
Leicestershire	301	18
Lincolnshire	363	18
London & Middlesex	698	18
Norfolk	310	20
Northamptonshire	269	16
Northumberland	340	6
Nottinghamshire	316	18
Oxfordshire	216	17
Rutland	12	1
Shropshire	208	13
Somerset	435	26
Staffordshire	574	22
Suffolk	218	19
Surrey	457	21
Sussex	353	23
Warwickshire	346	22
Westmorland	70	6
Wiltshire	281	23
Worcestershire	213	10
Yorkshire (East Riding)	245	8
Yorkshire (North Riding)	338	27
Yorkshire (West Riding)	1,380	116

Appendix 4

Scotland

County	Total bands 1800-2018	Bands in 2018
Aberdeenshire	86	5
Angus	78	8
Argyllshire	12	1
Ayrshire	109	5
Banffshire	27	2
Berwickshire	15	0
Buteshire	4	1
Caithness	12	0
Clackmannanshire	12	1
Dumfriesshire	25	4
Dunbartonshire	38	6
East Lothian	15	2
Fife	132	8
Inverness-shire	10	0
Kincardineshire	10	0
Kinrossshire	4	0
Kirkcudbrightshire	10	1
Lanarkshire	302	7
Midlothian	101	11
Morayshire	21	2
Nairnshire	3	0
Orkney	4	1
Peeblesshire	7	2
Perthshire	38	4
Renfrewshire	61	4
Ross-shire	16	0
Roxburghshire	24	3
Selkirkshire	9	2
Shetland	5	1
Stirlingshire	83	0
Sutherland	9	0
West Lothian	56	11
Wigtownshire	8	1

Appendix 5

Wales

County	Total bands 1800-2018	Bands in 2018
Anglesey	20	3
Brecknockshire	18	1
Caernarfonshire	85	7
Cardiganshire	28	1
Carmarthenshire	66	3
Denbighshire	102	6
Flintshire	82	6
Glamorgan	477	30
Merioneth	58	3
Monmouthshire	208	18
Montgomeryshire	35	2
Pembrokeshire	34	5
Radnorshire	17	2

Appendix 6

Northern Ireland

County	Total bands 1800-2018	Bands in 2018
County Antrim	153	17
County Armagh	69	5
County Derry	46	1
County Down	84	5
County Fermanagh	36	7
County Tyrone	80	6

Appendix 7

Eire

County	Total bands 1800-2018	Bands in 2018
Carlow	18	0
Cavan	36	0
Clare	24	1
Cork	93	5
Donegal	32	1
Dublin	164	3
Galway	28	2
Kerry	37	1
Kildare	24	0
Kilkenny	18	0
Laois	14	0
Leitrim	5	0
Limerick	30	0
Longford	9	0
Louth	19	2
Mayo	16	0
Meath	20	1
Monaghan	26	1
Offaly	12	0
Roscommon	19	0
Sligo	17	1
Tipperary	44	1
Waterford	26	2
Westmeath	3	1
Wexford	28	1
Wicklow	24	1

Appendix 8 – bands per county per decade

County	1800-2018	Current bands	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Bedfordshire	132	6	0	0	0	0	2	9	27	23	41	63	46	25	20	19	13	14	11	9	11	8	6	6
Berkshire	186	12	0	0	0	0	10	17	29	44	65	71	57	27	25	27	17	16	14	14	15	12	12	12
Buckinghamshire	218	13	0	0	0	1	8	22	45	47	86	107	89	53	40	29	18	20	13	17	16	15	15	13
Cambridgeshire	122	12	0	0	0	1	3	10	23	23	38	44	43	26	27	22	17	18	15	16	19	15	14	13
Cheshire	435	44	1	1	1	3	10	45	101	104	131	154	131	81	65	77	59	54	45	45	39	41	50	49
Cornwall	421	46	0	0	0	4	12	42	94	121	156	163	144	102	86	76	60	48	43	43	47	44	46	47
Cumberland	227	11	0	0	1	3	6	35	63	61	68	98	48	37	27	30	18	20	20	14	12	12	11	11
Derbyshire	540	39	0	1	2	7	24	61	119	135	199	252	205	116	94	90	54	58	52	45	45	43	44	41
Devon	449	28	0	0	1	4	23	60	121	89	139	182	138	72	58	45	33	34	28	27	28	28	30	30
Dorset	207	13	0	0	0	4	4	15	61	56	71	68	61	30	28	24	14	16	14	16	17	13	13	14
Durham	761	41	1	1	3	10	22	71	154	205	254	275	240	168	147	138	87	88	72	62	55	49	49	42
Essex	436	24	0	0	0	0	5	18	52	50	118	175	161	84	56	66	43	38	30	30	27	27	25	24
Gloucestershire	495	40	0	0	0	3	13	55	120	98	151	185	168	98	72	70	55	51	45	44	43	43	46	40
Hampshire	384	39	0	0	0	0	6	20	60	65	108	122	136	54	45	37	26	28	29	40	37	39	44	42
Hampshire (Isle of Wight)	51	6	0	0	0	3	4	9	12	5	8	15	15	4	4	2	3	4	2	2	3	3	7	7
Herefordshire	55	1	0	0	0	0	3	10	19	17	19	17	12	3	3	4	4	3	2	4	2	2	1	1
Hertfordshire	142	9	0	0	0	0	1	7	18	22	44	55	50	25	24	24	18	14	18	18	17	11	11	9
Huntingdonshire	45	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	8	11	9	12	13	10	6	4	3	4	3	3	4	1	1	1
Kent	496	23	0	0	0	4	17	43	112	95	115	181	152	65	58	51	35	36	27	27	26	23	23	23
Lancashire	1775	105	0	3	4	14	43	167	343	445	623	592	558	313	262	287	202	171	145	146	145	130	118	110
Leicestershire	305	18	0	0	0	1	8	34	68	80	124	129	98	61	47	43	27	27	24	26	29	24	20	19
Lincolnshire	365	18	0	0	0	2	16	56	83	69	106	122	117	68	56	38	29	28	29	31	28	24	22	18
London	55	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	10	3	6	13	16	13	8	6	6	6	4	1	2	2	4	4
Middlesex	644	14	0	0	0	0	1	13	96	128	209	240	197	62	49	49	32	27	23	21	15	14	14	14
Norfolk	311	20	0	0	0	1	8	21	33	33	102	125	97	24	23	28	21	25	18	25	21	23	23	21
Northamptonshire	269	16	0	0	0	0	4	21	62	67	109	129	100	62	43	40	28	24	22	22	22	19	16	16
Northumberland	341	6	1	1	2	3	5	35	92	108	114	122	118	77	54	46	36	34	26	20	13	8	10	6
Nottinghamshire	318	18	0	0	0	1	9	45	67	81	108	104	98	64	36	38	32	26	19	16	16	16	18	19
Oxfordshire	217	17	0	0	0	2	17	34	53	53	77	88	63	24	18	19	16	18	14	19	19	20	17	17
Rutland	12	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	3	5	4	5	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Shropshire	209	13	0	0	0	0	8	35	54	49	55	63	60	28	23	24	14	17	16	15	17	15	16	14
Somerset	438	26	0	0	0	2	4	35	115	117	159	169	127	67	66	47	34	31	34	29	29	29	27	28
Staffordshire	577	22	0	0	0	1	6	54	150	152	179	170	151	78	53	57	28	31	23	26	29	21	21	23
Suffolk	221	19	0	0	0	1	4	8	20	34	36	70	81	77	36	23	23	12	16	17	20	20	19	19
Surrey	463	21	0	0	0	2	7	18	48	66	142	173	181	75	53	44	28	29	21	18	17	17	19	21
Sussex	357	23	0	0	0	1	3	22	64	69	104	147	154	69	54	50	34	34	27	30	26	25	23	23
Warwickshire	346	22	0	0	1	1	8	22	72	65	88	108	105	79	54	42	32	35	23	26	27	22	21	22
Westmorland	70	6	0	0	1	3	9	24	24	22	19	25	15	7	6	7	5	6	5	5	4	4	5	6
Wiltshire	282	23	0	0	0	2	10	48	82	83	113	118	113	46	40	39	32	28	25	20	22	22	23	23
Worcestershire	214	10	0	0	0	0	4	35	56	50	75	71	52	25	15	14	7	9	7	8	13	12	10	10

County	1800-2018		Current bands																								
	2018	Current bands	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010			
Yorkshire	40	5	0	0	0	3	3	7	8	5	12	13	11	7	4	5	5	5	3	3	4	4	4	5			
Yorkshire (East Riding)	245	8	0	0	0	0	9	48	68	59	74	69	68	42	28	30	11	8	10	11	8	9	9	10			
Yorkshire (North Riding)	339	22	0	1	1	6	16	62	107	108	127	134	107	68	53	41	24	26	24	24	25	25	21	23			
Yorkshire (West Riding)	1373	116	0	0	1	10	45	258	365	432	460	481	415	252	222	222	186	175	136	138	152	134	129	123			
SCOTLAND																											
Aberdeenshire	86	5	0	0	0	0	0	11	22	22	31	36	31	15	10	6	4	4	4	4	4	5	8	5	5		
Angus	78	8	0	0	0	0	0	12	22	20	20	31	25	14	10	9	7	6	8	7	5	7	8	8	8		
Argyllshire	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1		
Ayrshire	109	5	0	0	0	1	2	21	40	38	42	33	30	17	12	11	10	7	8	16	19	11	7	5	5		
Banffshire	27	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	6	11	13	9	4	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	2	2		
Berwickshire	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	6	6	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Buteshire	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1		
Caithness	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	5	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Clackmannanshire	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	5	6	7	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	1	1	1		
Dumfriesshire	25	4	0	1	1	2	2	8	8	9	10	7	7	6	5	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	4		
Dunbartonshire	38	6	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	10	15	16	17	13	13	11	7	7	4	5	5	5	6	6	6		
East Lothian	15	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	10	9	6	4	4	4	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2		
Fife	133	8	0	0	0	2	2	14	26	44	51	52	49	37	28	22	22	22	15	12	8	9	7	8	8		
Invernesshire	10	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	4	5	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Kincardineshire	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	6	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Kinrosshire	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Kirkcudbrightshire	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	5	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1		
Lanarkshire	302	7	0	1	2	2	4	21	63	68	88	115	123	61	56	44	31	27	17	11	14	8	5	8	8		
Midlothian	101	11	0	0	0	1	2	7	17	22	37	45	40	17	17	12	9	10	10	8	11	9	12	12	12		
Morayshire	21	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	8	8	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	2		
Nairnshire	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Orkney	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Peeblesshire	8	2	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
Pertshire	39	4	0	0	0	1	2	8	14	17	17	17	12	9	5	4	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	3	4		
Renfrewshire	61	4	0	1	1	2	4	14	14	14	22	17	18	6	6	6	4	4	4	4	4	7	5	4	4		
Ross-shire	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	7	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Roxburghshire	24	3	0	0	0	0	1	6	9	6	4	11	10	3	4	4	4	5	4	3	3	3	3	4	4		
Selkirkshire	9	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2		
Shetland	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Stringflesh	84	0	0	0	0	1	2	12	22	22	32	40	39	25	17	15	7	7	7	1	1	2	0	0	0		
Sutherland	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
West Lothian	56	11	0	0	0	1	1	7	14	15	21	24	21	9	10	10	9	10	10	10	10	11	10	11	11		
Wigtownshire	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	4	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1		
WALES																											
Anglesey	20	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	4	9	11	5	6	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3		
Brecknockshire	18	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	4	2	5	10	7	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		

County	1800-2018	Current bands	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Caernarfonshire	86	7	0	0	0	3	5	9	19	35	36	34	33	18	19	17	11	8	9	8	7	7	9	7
Cardiganshire	28	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	12	15	11	8	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	1
Carmarthenshire	67	3	0	0	0	0	1	5	5	15	22	22	28	20	10	6	6	5	5	5	5	6	5	4
Denbighshire	102	6	0	0	0	0	2	14	25	30	44	42	30	17	13	15	13	11	8	5	5	4	6	6
Flintshire	82	6	0	0	1	1	2	8	15	27	30	33	30	14	12	11	10	10	7	9	8	6	6	7
Glamorgan	479	30	0	0	0	2	11	30	54	81	133	236	152	96	78	74	55	51	41	39	31	33	32	33
Merioneth	59	3	0	0	0	0	1	5	18	32	27	26	17	10	9	7	8	7	4	3	3	3	3	3
Monmouthshire	211	18	0	1	2	2	12	33	38	52	62	76	55	29	21	20	21	22	22	23	21	21	20	21
Montgomeryshire	36	2	0	0	0	2	3	5	9	17	21	12	9	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2
Pembrokeshire	34	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	13	7	9	7	1	1	1	1	0	3	2	5	6	6	6	5
Radnorshire	17	2	0	0	0	0	3	4	3	3	4	7	6	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
NORTHERN IRELAND																								
County Antrim	177	17	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	43	38	42	40	8	13	13	18	21	20	21	23	22	19	17
County Armagh	78	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	29	29	14	16	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	5
County Derry	48	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	16	19	12	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
County Down	96	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	13	33	29	16	24	3	4	4	6	11	12	10	9	7	5	5
County Fermanagh	43	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	10	14	6	12	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	7	7
County Tyrone	89	6	0	0	0	0	1	2	6	23	36	32	17	2	2	2	3	3	5	6	6	7	6	6
ISLANDS																								
Isle of Guernsey	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Isle of Jersey	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	9	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Isle of Man	35	5	0	0	0	2	2	0	7	14	15	16	9	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
EIRE																								
Carlow	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	12	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cavan	41	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	11	18	13	15	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Clare	26	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	17	10	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Cork	113	5	0	0	0	1	1	1	18	35	50	44	20	7	6	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	6
Donegal	34	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	12	21	12	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dublin	159	3	0	0	1	1	1	3	26	66	55	79	41	3	1	3	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
Dun Laoghaire	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fingal	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Galway	32	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	12	14	8	4	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	2	2
Kerry	45	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	10	21	15	6	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kildare	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	12	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kilkenny	19	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	5	14	11	5	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
Laois	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	11	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leitrim	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limerick	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	21	17	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Longford	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	20	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	9	8	5	3	2	2	2	4	4	3	3	3	2	2
Mayo	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	10	7	5	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

County	1800-2018	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Meath	24	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	6	11	8	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Monaghan	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	12	16	10	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Offaly	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	10	4	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roscommon	19	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	7	13	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sligo	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	6	9	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tipperary	45	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	15	27	22	11	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Waterford	28	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	11	13	10	6	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2
Westmeath	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wexford	29	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	12	12	13	11	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wicklow	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	14	11	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

Appendix 9

The earliest bands – formed before 1830

Band	Current	Year founded
Coxlodge Colliery Brass Band		1808
Stalybridge Old Band	*	1809
Brindle Brass Band	*	1810
New Mills Band	*	1812
Kirkbymoorside Town Brass Band	*	1815
Langholm Town Band	*	1815
Blaina Brass Band		1817
Besses o' th' Barn Band	*	1818
Denton and Haughton Brass Band		1818
Airdrie Union Brass Band		1819
Barrhead Burgh Band	*	1819
Cwmbran Brass	*	1820
Haverhill Brass Band		1820
Royal Buckley Town Band	*	1820
Kirkburton Old Band		1821
Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band		1821
Stanhope Silver Band	*	1823
Chryston Brass Band		1824
Cockermouth Mechanics Band	*	1825
Blanchardstown Brass Band	*	1826
Barlow Old Brass Band		1827
Haltwhistle Brass Band		1827
Graignamanagh Brass Band		1828
Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band	*	1828
Stand Band		1828
Barnard Castle Subscription Band		1829
Duntocher Brass Band		1829
Sanderson's Brass Band (Stoneleigh)		1829