

# Edinburgh's Census 2001 - City Comparisons

## Introduction

This report focuses on how Edinburgh compares with other major UK cities, in terms of key indicators from the 2001 Census. Local authority data from the Census were released on February 13<sup>th</sup> 2003, and more detailed data is expected to be available from March onwards. This will provide information for wards and other sub-city geographies.

The cities selected for comparison with Edinburgh in the attached tables are a combination of major regional centres and historic / heritage cities. Whilst the list is by no means comprehensive, it does provide a reasonable basis for identifying the social, demographic and economic features which give Edinburgh its distinctive character. All the figures need to be interpreted in the context of definitions and classifications adopted for the Census, and it should be borne in mind that these differ slightly in Scotland from England and Wales. For most of the topics covered here, this will have a negligible effect.

Over the coming months, it is hoped to publish further summary results for Edinburgh, focussing on other aspects.

The following points highlight some of the more significant conclusions and findings which can be drawn from the city comparison tables.

## Headline findings

### Population and demographic characteristics (Tables 1 – 2)

- Edinburgh's population rose by 7.1% to 448,624 in the period 1991 to 2001. This **rate of growth** is greater than for any other Scottish city but slower than the university cities of Oxford (22%) and Cambridge (18%) and of London (11%) and York (9%).
- The main urban authorities in order of size are now London, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Glasgow, Bradford, Edinburgh, Liverpool and Manchester.
- Edinburgh's **age structure** is typical of dynamic urban areas with expanding economies, having
  - A low proportion of dependent children (16%),
  - A high proportion of students and young working adults (47%)
- This structure is very similar to Inner London (21% & 43%); Aberdeen (16% & 46%); Cambridge (15% & 53%) and Oxford (16% & 53%).

- Edinburgh's population now comprises 95.9% white, down from 97.6% in 1991, with some 1.6% from ethnic groups of the Indian sub-continent, less than 1% Chinese and 1.8% from other **ethnic groups**.
- The representation of **ethnic minorities** is much lower in Edinburgh and Scotland than in the selected English and Welsh cities. Only the historic heritage cities of Bath, Chester, Norwich and York have a lower proportion of ethnic minority groups than Edinburgh.
- Nearly a quarter of Edinburgh's population was **born outside Scotland**, indicative of the attraction of Edinburgh to people from other countries. England provides the largest share of in-migrants with 12% (up from 10% in 1991) but 5½% of Edinburgh's citizens were born outside the European Union countries. While there are some 410,000 people born in England now resident in Scotland, the number of Scots born people resident in England and Wales is nearly twice that number. (818,966)
- Edinburgh's people are mobile with one-sixth of its citizens moving home in the year before the Census was taken. Edinburgh's is the most **mobile population** of the Scottish local authorities and significantly higher than the Scottish and UK averages but lower than Oxford, Cambridge, Nottingham and Southampton. Residential mobility is very much a feature of University cities and those with a young working age group.
- Nearly 2% of those migrating into Edinburgh originated from outside the UK.

### **Religion (Table 3)**

For the first time the Census asked questions on religion. In Key Statistics for Scotland, the Christian religion was further divided into Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic and other Christian, but in the published statistics for England and Wales there was no subdivision of Christianity.

- Nowhere in the selected urban authorities did the proportion of Christians fall below 50% although Aberdeen with 50.5% came particularly close.
- England and Wales (72%) had a higher proportion of Christians than Scotland (65%). In Scotland, 42% of the population gave its allegiance to the Church of Scotland and 16% to the Roman Catholic Church.
- In Edinburgh, 35% were Church of Scotland, 11% Roman Catholic and 9% other Christian.
- Of the other religions, only Muslim in Edinburgh was higher than 1%.
- In Edinburgh 41% either had no religion or did not answer the question (The questions on religion were the only voluntary questions in the Census). This compares with 33% in Scotland and 22% in England and Wales. Aberdeen had by far the largest percentage of atheists. (42%)

### **Housing and Households (Tables 4-7)**

- The proportion of **vacant dwellings** in Edinburgh is higher than for Scotland and England and Wales.

- Edinburgh is a compact city with over half of its households housed in **tenements** or **blocks of flats**. Glasgow has an even higher reliance on flats than Edinburgh, but the comparator cities in England and Wales exhibit a different pattern. Semi-detached and terraced dwellings make up a much greater share of housing in England and Wales than Edinburgh and Scotland as a whole.
- The proportions of Edinburgh households in detached, semi-detached and terraced dwellings are a little over half the corresponding figures for Scotland.
- **Home ownership** in Edinburgh is closer to the pattern in England and Wales than Scotland. The other Scottish cities, and Scotland as a whole have a much greater reliance on local authority rented housing than Edinburgh. The level of **private rented housing** is high in Edinburgh compared to the rest of Scotland.
- One in three households in Edinburgh consists of a single adult. All of the Scottish Cities have a high proportion of **single person households**. Of the comparator cities in England and Wales, only Inner London and Manchester have more single person households.
- Having many universities and colleges, Edinburgh has a high proportion of **student only households**. Of the comparator cities, only Nottingham, Oxford and Southampton have a higher proportion of student only households.
- The proportion of residents of **communal establishments** with a limiting long term illness is significantly lower in Edinburgh than the average for Scotland and England and Wales.

### **Economic Activity (Tables 8 – 10)**

- The Census confirms that Edinburgh has a **distinctive economic profile**, with a pronounced reliance on the service sector, particularly financial and business services, and a large labour pool of highly educated, professional workers. Female participation in the workforce is high compared with many other cities.
- At 67%, the **economic activity rate** is similar to London and higher than that in most regional cities. This partly reflects the relatively buoyant economy, which encourages more people to participate in the labour force. In comparison, the activity rate in Glasgow is 60%. Aberdeen has one of the highest rates for any major city (68%).
- The overall rate is particularly boosted by the **high economic activity rate for women**: the Edinburgh and Lothian figures outstrip those in all the other cities reviewed here, apart from Northampton. The wide range of opportunities available in the financial and electronics sectors is a major contributory factor.
- The proportion of working age groups in **full-time employment** is likewise well above average for females, but close to the norm for males..
- **Self-employment** is on a par with the Scottish average (about 6½%), but this lags behind England and Wales (8%).
- At 2001 the **unemployment rate** in Edinburgh stood at 4.3% (based on Census definitions). This was below the level recorded in most larger conurbations and cities, although a number of smaller ‘heritage’ cities had rates of about 3 to 4% (Bath, Cambridge, Chester, Oxford, York). Male unemployment was recorded as 5.4% and female unemployment as 3.1%.

- A corollary of high economic activity rates is the low proportion of the Edinburgh working-age population whose main function is ‘looking after the home or family’ (i.e. neither in paid employment, unemployed, studying, retired, or permanently sick). At 4.4% this was lower than all the other comparator cities apart from Cambridge and Oxford.
- Although the City of Glasgow has a larger population than Edinburgh, **Edinburgh has a larger number of resident workers**. This is because of the relatively high rates of unemployment and permanent sickness / disability in Glasgow.
- The average **number of hours worked** tends to be slightly less than average for Edinburgh males, and greater than average for females. This is largely a consequence of the service-dominated economy. The length of the working week is considerably greater in London than in most other cities, for both males and females.

### **Employment Structure (Tables 11 – 14)**

- The balance of jobs in Edinburgh has been **shifting steadily from manufacturing** to services for a long time, but the Census reveals that this trend has progressed further here than in any other regional city, by a fairly large margin. Only 7.5% of the workforce remain in the manufacturing sector, compared with at least 10% in all the other cities examined (apart from Inner London).
- With other ‘production’ sectors also under-represented (i.e. agriculture, minerals, energy supply, construction etc.), Edinburgh has one of the most **service-oriented economies** of any urban area – comparable only with London. Some 80% of Edinburgh males and 93% of females work in the service sector, the former being substantially higher than the national average (cf. Scotland 62%, England & Wales 65% for males).
- Within the services sector, **financial services** and **business services** are particularly dominant in Edinburgh. Financial services are a far bigger component of Edinburgh’s economy than in any other city, employing 11.3% of residents. The closest comparisons are Inner London (8.8%), Norwich (7.6%), Northampton (6.7%), Bristol (6.7%) and Leeds (6.5%). Business services, employing 16.1% of residents, do not match the concentration found in London but exceed that in most regional cities, apart from the major academic centres of Cambridge and Oxford.
- **Public administration, education** and **health** are other services which are well represented in Edinburgh, though not excessively so.
- Although a smaller component of employment in absolute terms, **hotels and catering** feature more prominently in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen than most of the larger English cities (Manchester being a notable exception).
- Service activities which provide fewer than average jobs in Edinburgh are retailing, wholesaling, transport and communications.

### **Occupational Structure (Tables 15 – 18)**

- The occupational group which particularly characterises Edinburgh is the ‘**professional**’ group. More than one sixth of the resident working population fall into this category – well above the level in other regional cities apart from the academic centres of Cambridge and Oxford, and even marginally higher than in London.

- Including both professionals and the related category of ‘associate professional and technical staff’, these groups account for over one-third of Edinburgh’s workforce.
- **Managers and senior officials** are also an important element in the city’s occupational structure, although London takes the lead here, and one or two other cities also have a larger managerial component (e.g. Chester, Bath, Northampton).
- **Administrative and secretarial** workers are another well represented occupational group, although Edinburgh is far from unique in this respect. Other cities with a similarly high proportion in this group include London, Liverpool, Bristol, Leeds, Cardiff and Northampton.
- Occupations which do not feature prominently in Edinburgh, compared with other cities, are plant and machine operators, and skilled trades. This is not surprising given the very limited scale of manufacturing and construction industry based in the city.
- The **proportion of females in managerial and professional occupations** compares favourably with the national (UK) average, although Inner London, Manchester, Liverpool and Dundee also perform well on this score, and Glasgow leads the field in terms of higher career opportunities for women. Scotland as a whole has a higher proportion of females in managerial and professional occupations than England and Wales.

### Qualifications / Students (Table 19)

- Edinburgh is distinguished by having one of the most highly qualified workforces in the country, certainly for a city of its size. Nearly one-third of the working age population have degrees and / or professional qualifications, compared with the national average of 20%.
- The categorisation of qualifications differs slightly in the Scottish and English / Welsh censuses, so comparisons must be interpreted with caution.. However, the only major urban areas with a higher proportion of degrees / professional qualifications are Cambridge, Oxford and Inner London. Many other cities score below the national average on this indicator, and the only other comparator cities which approach Edinburgh’s level are Chester (28%), Bath (26%), Cardiff (25%) and Bristol (25%).
- For a city of its size, Edinburgh also has a high proportion of its working age population engaged in full-time study (12%). This is well in excess of the national average of 7% (for both Scotland and England / Wales). Aberdeen and Dundee have a similarly high proportion of students. As might be expected, Cambridge and Oxford are well in front of other cities on this measure (both about 25%), but Manchester (unitary authority), Nottingham and Southampton are also very much centres of learning (about 16%).

### Transport and Travel (Tables 21 – 22)

- Around 40% of all households in Edinburgh have **no access to a car or van**. This is a higher figure than the Scottish average (34%) and that for England and Wales (27%).
- The proportion of **households with just one car** is similar in Edinburgh (44%) to both the Scottish average and the figure for England and Wales.

- Edinburgh has lower **car ownership** than nationally, but higher than Glasgow and Dundee. Of the Scottish Cities, Aberdeen has the highest figure for car ownership.

In Scotland, the Census questions included details of the **mode of travel to place of study**, as well as **place of work**, for all people aged between 16 and 74. Accordingly all school journeys for those under 16 are not included in this table nor commentary. In England and Wales, only travel to place of work was asked. School children and students tend to travel more by walking and cycling than the working population so this will make the figures less directly comparable across the UK.

- Of the selected comparable urban authorities, only in London and Glasgow do a higher proportion of the population **travel by public transport**.
- In Edinburgh a higher proportion **travel by bus** than anywhere else and only in London do a lower proportion travel by **private car or van**.
- Nearly one-quarter of Edinburgh's citizens use the healthy options of **walking** or **cycling**, but this is surpassed in Cambridge, Oxford, Norwich and York.