

2050 Edinburgh City Vision

Edinburgh: a changing city

Edinburgh is a unique and a changing city, continuously evolving in response to the challenges and opportunities it faces. To develop our vision for Edinburgh's future, it is useful to consider the changes our city has faced over the past 30 years. This paper looks at:

- Edinburgh's changing city in numbers – the key numbers that describe how Edinburgh has changed in the years since the early 1980s
- a timeline of change, key events that have shaped our city over the period 1984-2016

Changing city in numbers

Population: moving from decline to growth

- In 1981, Edinburgh's population was in decline. The city was home to 425,256 residents, a total that had fallen by 9% (41,000 people) in the 30 years since the early 1950s.
- This declining trend continued until the mid 1990s. By the time of the 2011 Census, the city's population had risen to 476,600 residents, an increase of 12% (or 51,000 people) over the 1981 level.
- Over the next 20 years, Edinburgh's population is projected to show continued strong growth, expanding by 24% in the years 2015-37. This represents a rate of growth significantly faster than other major cities in the UK (Manchester =17%; Liverpool=10%; Leeds=13%; Birmingham=16%; Bristol=20%; Edinburgh=24%; Glasgow=14%).

Age profile: fewer children, ageing population, increasing life expectancy, working age expansion

- Edinburgh's population has seen significant shifts in the age profile in the on last 30 years.
- In 1981, children aged under 15 accounted for 19.3% of all residents. By the 2011 Census, this had fallen to 15.2%. Overall, the number of children living in the city fell by almost 10,000 over this period.
- In same period, the number of residents aged over 85 has risen markedly. In 1981, only 5,375 Edinburgh residents were aged over 85 (1.3% of the city total). By 2011 this total had risen to almost 9,900 people (2.1%), an increase of over 4,500 residents.
- This growth is in part driven by increasing life expectancy in the city. In the early 1980s life expectancy at birth was 70 years for boys born in Edinburgh, and 76 for girls. By 2015 this had risen to 78 years for boys and 82 for girls.
- The most significant changes in age profile, however, are seen in the working age populations, particularly those aged 25-44. The population in this group grew by 50,000 residents over the 30 years to 2011, rising to account for almost 33% of all residents in the city.

Living arrangements: growing single adult households, growing numbers of lone parent households

- In 1981, an average of 2.56 people lived in each household in Edinburgh. By 2011 this had fallen to only 2.07 people per household.
- This shift has been most clearly driven by growth in the number of single adult households in the city. In 1981 there were only 44,800 single person households in Edinburgh. By 2011 this had risen to 87,200.
- Similarly, the number of lone parent households in the city has risen dramatically. In 1981 this group accounted for 3,900 households, compared to 13,900 in 2011.

- In 1981, married couples made up the most common household type in the city, accounting for 47% of all households. By 2011, this group had fallen to account for only 35% of households. Single or co-habiting couples became the most common living arrangement for households in Edinburgh during this period, accounting for 54% of all households by 2011.

Housing tenure: Growth in private renting

- The major trend in housing patterns over the last 30 years has been the rise in private rented housing, alongside a net falling trend in social renting and, more recently, falling owner occupancy rates.
- In 1981, 15,900 Edinburgh households (9.6% of the total population) were living in properties rented from private sector landlords. By 2011, this total had risen to 49,900 households, or 22.4% of the population.
- Over the same period, the number of social renting households fell from 59,400 in 1981 to 38,000 by 2011 (although this total by itself represents an increase in the last decade since 2001).
- The majority of households in Edinburgh live in owner occupied accommodation. In 1981, owner-occupiers accounted for 52% of all households. By 2011, this share had risen to 59%, though this itself represented a sharp drop from the high point of 69% recorded at the time of the 2001 Census.

Nationality: A more multi-national city

- Since 1981 Edinburgh has increasingly become a more multinational city, with more residents coming from outside the UK to live here.
- 95.7% of all Edinburgh residents in 1981 were born in the UK with this figure having shown little change since the 1930's when consistent data was first recorded.
- By 2011, UK born residents accounted for only 85% of all residents, while only 70% were born in Scotland.
- Selected population groups which have seen significant increases over this period. Residents born in:
 - England: rising from 34,500 in 1981 to 57,700 in 2011
 - non-EU countries (excluding UK & ROI): rising from 2,200 in 1981 to 30,800 in 2011
 - Poland: rising from 755 in 1981 to 11,700 in 2011
 - USA: rising from 993 in 1981 to 3,700 in 2011
 - Africa: rising from 2,410 in 1981 to 7,685 in 2011
 - China: rising from 243 in 1981 to 4,100 in 2011
 - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh or Sri Lanka: rising from 1,800 in 1981 to 8,000 in 2011

Economic Activity: shift to part time work, falling unemployment, increasing full time education

- The past 30 years have seen dramatic shifts in the working patterns of Edinburgh residents. Since 1981, the number of residents in full-time jobs has remained largely unchanged at 149,000 people, while the number of people in part time jobs has risen by 23% (from 34,000 to 34,000 people).
- The number of unemployed Edinburgh residents fell sharply during this period, from 18,600 residents in 1981 (5.4% of the adult population) to a low of fewer than 10,000 in 2001. In the last decade, however, this total has risen again following the 2008/09 recession. By 2011 a total of 14,500 residents (3.9% of the adult population).
- The post-school destinations of school leavers in the city further emphasise this change in working and learning patterns. In 1982/83, only 37% of Edinburgh school leavers went onto further or higher education, with 40% entering employment and 20% becoming unemployed. By 2010/11 this pattern had shifted significantly with those entering further/higher education becoming the largest group, accounting for 60% of all leavers.
- Other significant changes include:

- Self employment –the number of self employed residents more than doubled from 12,400 in 1981 to 29,300 in 2011.
- Disability - the number of residents unavailable for work due to long term sickness or disability rose from 7,000 in 1981 (2.1% of all adults) to 13,500 in 2011 (3.9% of all adults).

Industrial structure: lost manufacturing, growing service sector

- In line with the UK as a whole, the past 30 years have seen a profound restructuring of the Edinburgh economy and the industries and activities within which Edinburgh residents work.
- In 1981, manufacturing sectors still employed 17% of all working residents in Edinburgh. By 2011 this had dropped to only 3.5%, a decline of 28,000 jobs.
- This drop has been counterbalanced by growth in service sector jobs. Since 1981, the number of jobs in sectors such as health, education, financial services and public services has risen by over 50,000 jobs to account for 62% of all employment.
- The city's growth as a tourism and retail centre has also been reflected in employment patterns. Since 1981 the number of people employed in sectors such as hospitality and retailing has risen by almost 10,000.
- These shifts are also reflected in the skills and occupations of Edinburgh workers. In 2011 over 50% of all residents were working in high skilled managerial, professional or technical occupations, compared to only 40% in 1991.
- Over the same period, occupations such as administrative, skilled trades or customer/personal service occupations fell from 45% to only 35% of all residents in employment.