

2011 Census, Edinburgh : Transport and travel summary

January 2014

Context

Transport and travel data from the 2011 Census were released in December 2013 and the Planning service has now published an analysis of the data from an Edinburgh perspective, looking at trends since the 2001 Census and drawing comparisons with the wider Scottish picture and other local authorities across Scotland.

The findings will help to monitor the effectiveness of existing land use and transportation policies, and inform future strategies across a range of Council services. This Bulletin summarises some of the key findings set out in a detailed report which is now available on the Census pages of the Council's web site.

The report covers responses to two Census questions on transport issues:

- (i) the number of cars or vans available to households ; and
- (ii) the usual method of travel to work or place of study (i.e. bus, train, walk, cycle, car etc.)

In due course the Census will also provide 'origin / destination' data which will yield new insights into commuting flows between and within local authorities. However, these are not expected to be published until late 2014, and will be the subject of a separate report.

Key findings

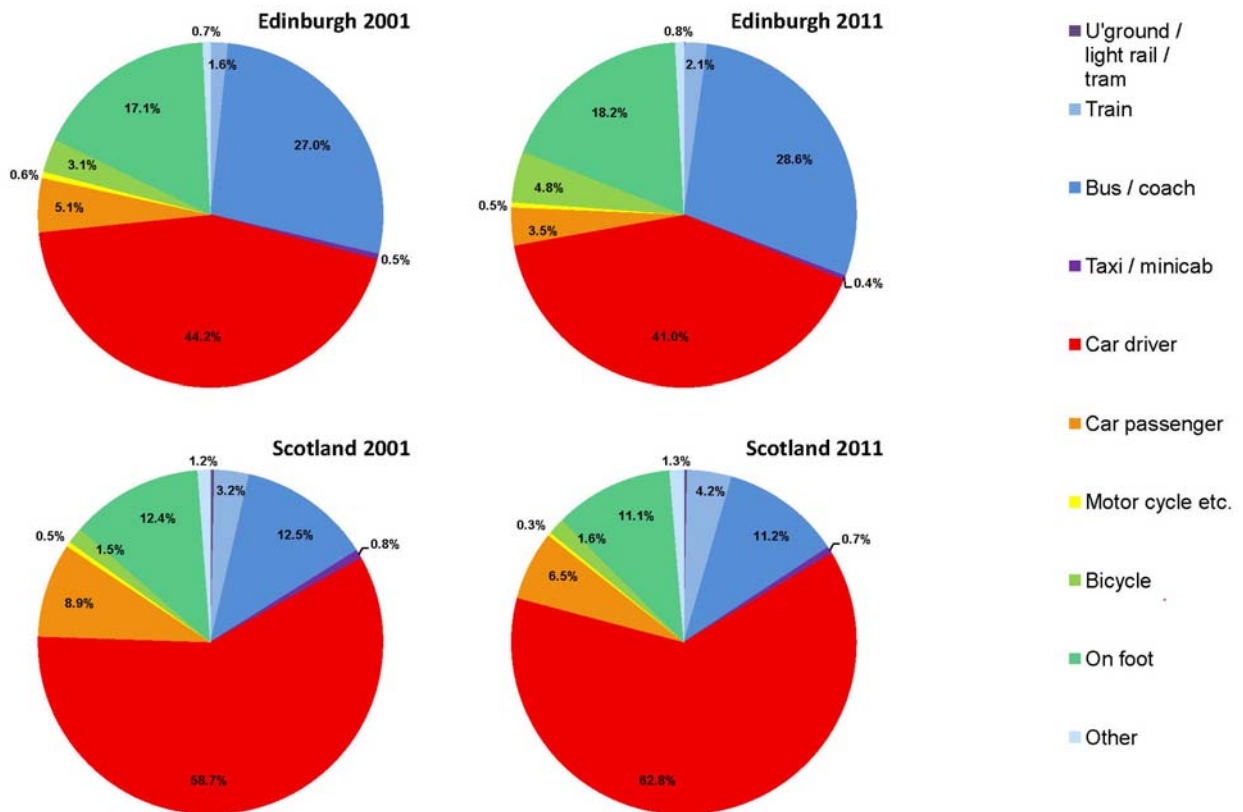
- The latest census results demonstrate clearly that Edinburgh has made **significant strides towards the uptake of sustainable transport modes** over the last decade: The proportion of people travelling to work by bus has grown since 2001, in contrast to a decline everywhere else in Scotland. Rail travel has grown rapidly. The growth of cycling has far exceeded the national average. And, contrary to the national trend, more people in the city are now walking to work compared with 2001.
- Edinburgh now has **higher proportions of people who walk, cycle and take the bus to work than anywhere else in Scotland**. Edinburgh also has the highest proportion of full-time students who cycle to their place of study.
- Commuting by public transport is more prevalent in Edinburgh and Glasgow than in any other major UK city outside London. **Edinburgh ranks first among UK cities in terms of bus travel**.
- Conversely, **Edinburgh has one of the lowest proportions of people driving to work of any larger city in the UK** (notable exceptions being London, Cambridge and Oxford).
- Unique among local authorities in Scotland, Edinburgh has seen both a **rising proportion of households who don't own a car, and a declining proportion of people who drive to work**.
- Nearly 40% of households in Edinburgh do not own or have access to their own car or van –

well above the Scottish average of 34% and exceeded only by Glasgow (51%) and Dundee (42%). **The number of Edinburgh households without a car (over 89,000) is higher than at any time since the 1970s.**

- The **total number of cars owned by city residents has nearly doubled over the last 30 years**, from 94,000 in 1981 to 181,000 in 2011. **However the pace of growth has slowed down over the last decade**, with the additional number of cars closely matching the growth in households, so the average number of cars per household has remained unchanged at 0.81.
- The proportion of Edinburgh residents travelling to work by bus has grown from 27.0% in 2001 to 28.6% in 2011. Over the same period walking increased from 17.1% to 18.2%, cycling from 3.1% to 4.8%, and train travel from 1.6% to 2.1%. In contrast, those driving to work declined from 44.2% to 41.0%, while car passengers reduced from 5.1% to 3.5% (see pie charts below).

Comparative modes of travel to work, Edinburgh and Scotland, 2001 and 2011

(% of employed persons aged 16-74, excluding those who work mainly at / from home)



- Edinburgh is only marginally behind Glasgow in terms of overall usage of public transport for travel to work (30.9% of all work journeys in Glasgow, 30.8% in Edinburgh – nearly twice the Scottish average of 15.7%). However, **the proportion using public transport has fallen by 2% in Glasgow since 2001, whereas it has grown by 2% in Edinburgh.**
- **‘Active’ modes of travel to work are more prevalent in Edinburgh than anywhere else in Scotland.** Cycling in particular is now a distinctive feature of commuting in the city, with no other Scottish local authority coming near the city’s figure of 4.8% of all journeys to work.

More detailed information

The full report “2011 Census Edinburgh : Transport and travel topic summary” may be accessed via the following link : http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/696/census_information/1318/census_2011

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