

# Edison grew most since 1980 census

By KELLY-JANE COTTER  
Home News staff writer

HN 2/25/90

Preliminary census figures reveal that in the past 10 years, Edison's population grew more than that of any other municipality in Middlesex County.

Edison increased by 18,376 people, or 26.2 percent, for a new total of 88,569 residents.

Counties and municipalities in New Jersey and 25 other states yesterday received from the U.S. Census Bureau preliminary, unofficial population figures for review.

Edison Mayor Thomas Paterniti attributed his township's population boom to Edison's school system, municipal services, infrastructure and low tax rate.

"We provide more services than any municipality in the area," Paterniti said. "We have a paid and volunteer fire department, an excellent library system and, up until recently, even our own landfill. Our

industrial tax base kept our tax rate low for the past 10 years.

"And as much as people talk about growth and congestion," he said, "we have a whole series of highways and railroads getting people in and out of Edison every day."

Plainsboro showed the largest percentage increase — a 153 percent jump — probably because of its location along the Princeton corridor and the large crop of condominiums that has sprung up in the rural community. Plainsboro has 14,179 residents this year, compared with the 1980 figure of 5,605.

Other municipalities in the southern part of the county also showed a significant jump in population. Monroe, home to four planned retirement communities, added 6,094 people to its ranks since 1980, a 38.4 percent increase, for a total of 21,952. South Brunswick received 8,519 new residents

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Edison: Statistics

## Our preliminary census data

	1980	1990	CHANGE	%
Carteret	20,598	18,736	-1,862	-9%
Cranbury	1,927	2,462	+535	27.8%
Dunellen	6,593	6,433	+160	0.2%
East Brunswick	37,711	43,333	+5,622	14.9%
Edison	70,193	88,569	+18,376	26.2%
Helmetta	955	NA	NA	NA
Highland Park	13,396	13,120	-276	-2.1%
Jamesburg	4,114	5,210	+1,096	26.6%
Metuchen	13,762	12,830	-932	-6.8%
Middlesex	13,480	13,000	-480	-3.6%
Milltown	7,136	6,960	-176	-2.5%
Monroe	15,858	21,952	+6,094	38.4%
New Brunswick	41,442	41,627	+185	0.5%
North Brunswick	22,220	30,391	+8,171	36.8%
Old Bridge	51,515	56,803	+5,288	10.3%
Perth Amboy	38,951	41,179	+2,228	5.7%
Piscataway	42,223	46,298	+4,075	9.7%
Plainsboro	5,605	14,179	+8,574	153%
Sayreville	29,969	35,197	+5,228	17.5%
South Amboy	8,322	7,545	-777	9.3%
South Brunswick	17,127	25,646	+8,519	49.7%
South Plainfield	20,521	20,434	-87	-0.4%
South River	14,381	13,736	-625	-4.4%
Spotswood	7,840	7,974	+134	1.7%
Woodbridge	90,074	92,857	+2,783	3.1%
<b>Middlesex County</b>	<b>595,893</b>	<b>667,761</b>	<b>+71,868</b>	<b>12.1%</b>

ME Review - Dec. 1, 1989

Edison: Statistics

# Edison grows by 15,307 people

## Population down in Metuchen

No municipality in the state has grown by as many people as Edison has during the 1980s.

According to figures released recently by the state Department of Labor, Edison's resident population grew by 15,307, from 70,193 in the 1980 census to 85,500 in July 1988 estimates — an increase of 21.8 percent.

Metuchen's resident population, on the other hand, fell by 904 between 1980 and 1988 — a decrease of 6.6 percent. It now stands at 12,858.

Edison is one of six municipalities in the state — all of them townships — to gain more than 10,000 people in the first nine years of the decade, according to the Labor Department.

The others are Mount Laurel, Burlington County, which grew by 13,212; Berkeley, Ocean County, 12,172; Howell, Monmouth County, 11,481; Marlboro, Monmouth County,

10,726; and Evesham, Burlington County, 10,299.

While Edison remains the second largest municipality in Middlesex County behind Woodbridge, which has a population estimated to be 93,236, it is now the eighth largest in the state, up from 11th in 1980. Its population now exceeds that of Camden, which is estimated at 81,896; East Orange, 77,204; and Clifton, 76,190.

Newark remains the state's largest city with 313,639 people, followed by Jersey City, 217,380; Paterson, 138,791; Elizabeth, 105,102; Woodbridge; Trenton, 90,990; Hamilton Township, 87,740; and Edison.

Edison's 15,307 new residents accounted for nearly 27 percent of Middlesex County's total increase in population.

The county, according to the Labor Department, now has 653,218 residents, an increase of 9.6 percent over the 1980 census figure. It remains the third largest in the state.

Municipalities in the county that experienced the most rapid growth

between 1980 and 1988 are Plainsboro, up 136.1 percent to 13,236; South Brunswick, up 48.5 percent to 25,441; Monroe, up 36.6 percent to 21,665; and Helmetta, up 33.3 percent to 1,273.

After Woodbridge and Edison, the county's largest municipalities are Old Bridge with 56,908 residents; East Brunswick, 44,674; Piscataway, 44,126; New Brunswick, 39,459; Perth Amboy, 36,767; and Sayreville, 35,881.

"Most of the municipalities in the central and seashore counties reflected their counties' fast-growing trends in the 1980s," said Charles Serraino, labor commissioner.

At the same time, population declines in the state's older industrial cities have slowed, according to Labor Department officials.

"For example, while Newark still leads the state in population decline, losing an estimated 15,600 persons from 1980 to 1988, this represents a far lower annual average rate — 0.6 percent — than occurred during the 1970s," said Arthur J. O'Neal, assistant commissioner. "In the previous decade, Newark fell by 52,862 persons, or 1.5 percent annually."

Similar trends occurred in other cities of northeastern New Jersey, such as Jersey City, Elizabeth and Bayonne.

And a few suburban townships which had experienced population declines in the 1970s, such as Woodbridge, have turned to positive population changes in the 1980s, the department noted.

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Edison:  
Statistics

# CENSUS: 16 Middlesex towns grew, 8 shrank

Continued from Page A1

and now boasts a population of 25,646, a 49.7 percent increase. Cranbury increased 27.8 percent and now is home to 2,462 people.

Ten years ago, the southern end of the county was largely undeveloped.

Established suburban municipalities kept growing, too. East Brunswick, Old Bridge and Sayreville each showed increases of at least 5,000 residents. Piscataway grew by 4,075 residents since 1980.

In Somerset County, Franklin Township added 11,189 new residents, for a 1990 total of 42,547.

Sixteen municipalities in Middlesex County saw increases in population; eight municipalities saw decreases.

The sharpest loss was 9 percent in Carteret, which lost 1,862 residents, for a new

total of 18,736. Population decreased by less than 1,000 people in the remaining seven — Highland Park, Metuchen, Middlesex Borough, Milltown, South Amboy, South Plainfield and South River.

The Middlesex County Census Committee computed the average household size in the county as 2.76 people, down from 2.93 in 1980 and 3.40 in 1970.

The preliminary census figures for New Jersey show a population gain that lags behind estimates and may cost the state one of its 14 congressional seats.

The rough tallies, which could increase, place New Jersey's population at more than 7.61 million, a gain of more than 252,000 people since 1980. However, state officials said that figure is about 100,000 less than what was estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau earlier this year.

"It's not particularly good news for states such as New Jersey," said Alex DeSherbinin, a spokesman for the Population Reference Bureau, a Washington research firm. "But these are very preliminary figures."

The U.S. Census Bureau has released preliminary figures for 26 states. The numbers have been sent to local governments to allow them to double-check for a possible undercount. Officials say it is impossible to say exactly how New Jersey stands because the figures of all 50 states are not in.

"Based on early projections, New Jersey was going to lose one (congressional) seat," said Dean Plotnick, spokesman for Election Data Services, a research firm.

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

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# SCHOOLS & LIBRARIES

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**SCHOOLS**

## Elementary (K-6)

No. 8, Lincoln, Brookville Road, 287-2320.

No. 9, Washington, Winthrop and Cambridge Roads, 985-1102.

No. 10, James Madison, New Dover Road, 549-9440.

No. 11, Benjamin Franklin, 2485 Woodbridge Ave., 985-7330.

No. 13, John Marshall, Cornell Street, 985-3377.

No. 14, Menlo Park, Monroe Avenue, 548-3903.

No. 15, James Monroe, Sharp Road, 225-3170.

No. 16, Lindeneau, Blossom Street, 985-7011.

No. 17, Woodbrook, Robin

Road, 548-3875.

No. 18, Martin Luther King, Tingley Lane and Inman Avenue, 754-4289.

No. 20, James Madison, New Dover Road, 549-4852.

Cerebral Palsy Center School, Roosevelt Park, 225-3060.

## Junior high schools

John Adams, New Dover Road, 549-9257.

Thomas Jefferson, Division Street, 985-2500.

Herbert Hoover, Jackson Avenue, 225-9390.

Woodrow Willson, Woodrow Wilson Drive, 548-2550.

## High schools

Edison High School, Boul-

Edison: Statistics  
evarad of the Eagles,  
985-2900.

John P. Stevens High School, Grove Avenue, 549-5543.

## LIBRARIES

Main Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., 287-2298.

North Edison Branch, Library Place and Grove Avenue, 548-3045.

Clara Barton Branch, Hoover and Pleasant Aves., 738-0096.

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# In Edison, a Crossroads of Diversity

Edison: Statistics

By ROBERT HANLEY

Special to The New York Times

EDISON, N.J. — The racial and ethnic mix achieved here and in the surrounding towns of Middlesex County in the 1980's suggests to many experts the direction in which the counties around New York City are heading.

In a swath of suburbia where Indian immigrants sell not only saris and jewelry but also videos and baseball cards, Middlesex is aggressively addressing issues like racial harmony, school curriculums for immigrants and new voting blocs.

At the crossroads of the Garden State Parkway, the New Jersey Turnpike, Interstate 287 and Route 1, the county underwent a boom in new offices, housing and jobs in the 1980's and grew by about 76,000 people to nearly 596,000, one of the largest increases for any county in the region.

But Middlesex's population also stood at a crossroads. Counties closer to New York lost population or did not grow, as a decline in the number of whites of European or Middle East-

## Immigrants sell saris, and baseball cards.

*NY Times 4/17/91*

ern background outweighed an increase in black, Hispanic and Asian residents. The counties farther out had large population increases, fueled mainly by an increase in whites. Middlesex, in between, grew by attracting people of every race.

### Half of Newcomers Are Asian

Of its total increase of 76,000 people, 72,000 were Asian, Hispanic or black, the 1990 census found. The county's population is 8.9 percent Hispanic, 7.4 percent black, 6.5 percent Asian and 76.9 percent white.

Edison, a centerless community laced with highways, grew in the last decade by 18,000 people to nearly 89,000. Half the newcomers were

Asian.

Ripples of change are everywhere. Young Indian and Chinese mothers struggling with English now flock with their preschool children to reading programs in the library in the north end of town, the area of greatest growth. The library has done such brisk business that it plans to double its size.

In the schools, 22 extra classrooms were built in mid-decade and 26 more are to be finished by fall, partly to provide more space for bilingual and English remedial classes for newly arriving Indians, Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos and Nicaraguans, as well as Hungarians and Poles.

### Sari Shops and Card Store

"We have 70 different languages in our schools," said Charles A. Boyle, the Superintendent.

On Oak Tree Road in Edison, Indian businessmen now own gas stations, jewelry and sari shops, electronics stores, groceries and restaurants. There is even a baseball card store, Nicky's Sports Collectibles, owned by Naresh Kapadia, who says he never touched a baseball until he came to the United States seven years ago.

Indian residents in Edison are raising money to convert an old warehouse into a temple. And they have formed a business association to press their political agenda and a cultural group to celebrate traditional Indian holidays as well as Christmas, Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July.

"Our kids are brought up here and we want to mix in all the cultures and know more about them," said Pradip Kothari, a travel agent on Oak Tree Road and a leader of the Indian community. "We want to be identified as a mainstream group."

The growth of the Indian business community has heartened Bharti Patel, who opened a grocery store 13 years ago. "Before, I was alone here and I was a little bit scared," she said. "Now I can leave the door open."

### Perfecting New Language

In the 80's, Middlesex County College in Edison increased its English classes for newcomers to 75 from 10. Students perfecting their new language in the English labs one recent day were a snapshot of the new diversity. There were Allies Yeh and Kuei-Mei Yang, young mothers from Taiwan; Gloria Zuluaga, a Nicaraguan studying business; Nalini Patel, an Indian whose family moved here from Jersey City after thugs beat her brother; Yun Sook, wife of a Korean clothier, and Tung Trang, who fled Vietnam on a boat with 75 people four years ago and now drives a forklift at a chewing-gum factory.

"Everybody here feels like family, even if we're not from the same country or the same continent," said Hector Rodriguez, a 21-year-old who came from the Dominican Republic a year ago. "We're all together, trying to help each other."

Martin Spritzer, a lawyer in Edison, has created a countywide human relations commission, with Indian, black, Chinese, Hispanic and Jewish members. He plans to add Hungarian and Polish members soon and to urge all municipalities in the county to create similar commissions at the local level.

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Edison: Statistics

TABLE II

GROWTH OF POPULATION IN EDISON TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>Percent of Increase or Decrease</u>
1673*	97	-
1870**	3160	-
1875	3647	+15
1880	3789	+ 4
1885	3656	- 4
1890***	3018	-17
1895****	3914	+30
1900	2801	-28
1905	2612	- 7
1910	2707	+ 4
1915	3412	+26
1920	5419	+59
1930	10025	+85.
1940	11470	+14
1950	16348	+43
1960	45578	+179
1970	67,120 (HN 2/28/81)	
<del>1978</del>	<del>74000</del>	
1980	70,193 (HN 2/28/81)	
1989	82,190 (HN 3/14/89)	

\* Piscataway, 43 men; Woodbridge, 54 men.

\*\* Raritan Township formed.

\*\*\*Loss of Metuchen

\*\*\*\*Loss of Highland Park

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<sup>69</sup>Information for this table was obtained from (1) Clayton, op. cit., p. 841; (2) New Jersey, Department of State, Census Bureau, Compendium of Censuses 1726-1905 Together With The Tabulated Returns of 1905 (Trenton: The John L. Murphy Publishing Company, 1906), 71 pp.; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, op. cit., pp. 7 and 523.

Per Town Hall, April, 1986:

Oldest building....St. James Episcopal Church

Tallest building....Mid-Atlantic Bank, Metro Park---  
14 stories

Newest completed building.....Plaza Center 1, 2 & 3,  
Rte. 27

## EDISON TWP. FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

### POPULATION:

1985...79,331 (estimate)

Increase of 3,200 from  
July 1984--July 1985

1986 - 81,934 (NT 10/16/87)  
(from Home News 10/11/86)

# Statistics (Edison History)

## STATISTICS-- Edison

Altitude.....Approximately 90 feet above sea level.

Area.....32 square miles

Distance to New

York City.....Approximately 35 miles

Incorporated.....March 17, 1870 (as Raritan Township)

Latitude.....40° 44' N.

Longitude.....74° 10' W.

Name changed to

Edison Township.1954 - Population - 26,000

Population:

1920.....5,419

1960.....45,578

1930.....10,025

1970.....67,120

1940.....11,470

1980.....70,193

1950.....16,342

July 1984.....76,132 (estimate)

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Per Town Hall, April, 1986:

Oldest building.....St. James Episcopal Church  
Tallest building.....Mid-Atlantic Bank, Metro Park--  
14 stories  
Newest completed building.....Plaza Center 1, 2 & 3,  
Rte. 27

POPULATION:

1985...79,331 (estimate)

Increase of 3,200 from  
July 1984--July 1985

1986-81,934-NT 10/16/87  
(from Home News 10/11/86)

EPISCOPAL PUBLIC LIBRARY



**ANTHONY M. YELENCICS**

Edison mayor

NT 3/14/89

**EDISON**

*Edison: Statistics*

**Population: 82,190**

**Area: 32 square miles**

**Mayor: Anthony M. Yelencsics (D)**

**Council: Henry Cackowski (D), president**

**Dorothy Drwal (D)**

**Sidney Frankel (D)**

**Angelo Orlando Jr. (D)**

**John Hogan (D)**

**George Asprocolas (D)**

**Thomas J. McGotty (D)**

**Municipal complex:**

100 Municipal Blvd., off

Route 27; 287-0900

**Business administrator: Lawrence P. Pollex**

**Clerk: Adelaide Searfoss**

**Police chief: Richard Kermes**

**Fire department:**

Richard Latham, chief

**REPORTING FIRES:**

287-0100.

**First aid squads:**

Emergencies: 287-0700

**1989 Municipal budget: \$57,131,307**

**1989 tax rate: Estimate: \$1.42 per \$100 of assessed property value including**

**School portion: 84 cents**

**Municipal portion: 12 cents**

**County portion: 37 cents**

**Garbage service: 9 cents**

**Planning Board:**

Valentine S. Meszaros

Charles Kavcsak

Zoltan Oros

Marlon Tekejian

Richard Kermes

John R. Fox Jr.

**Zoning Board of Adjustment:**

David Annien

Helen Gottlieb

Marjorie L. Szebeni

Salvatore Pizzi

Lawrence Cimminio

Edward Williams

Charles Searfoss

Thomas Swales II

**SCHOOLS**

**Budget: \$43,783,286**

**Board of Education:**

287-4400

John White, president

Ralph Bayard

John L. Tudor

Paul Wilf

Nancy Levin

Charles Andreasen

Claire Minnig

**Superintendent of schools: Charles A. Boyle**

**Post offices:**

**Edison: 2101 Route 27,**

287-4311

**Menlo Park: Route 1**

**and Parsonage Road,**

548-4603

**Nixon: 2079 Wood-**

**bridge Avenue,**

985-3442

**ZIP codes: South Edi-**

**son 08817**

Clara Barton 08837

North Edison 08820

Edison P.O. Boxes

08818