EDINBVRGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL



Edinburgh by Numbers

2025

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The City of Edinburgh Council

Welcome to the 19th edition of Edinburgh by Numbers. Produced by the City of Edinburgh Council, the publication provides an annual statistical overview of Edinburgh and how we compare against other cities in Scotland and across the UK.

The data included here covers our population and how it is changing, our economy and our environment, alongside data on how people live, work and visit our city.

The figures appearing in this publication are the most up-to-date available to the editorial team as of February 2025. We have been unable to update some of the datasets from the Scottish Household Survey since they have become biennial publications. These include practice of sport, attitude to climate change, visiting the outdoors and satisfaction with parks. A new page has been added with population projections data.

While every effort has been made to ensure a high degree of accuracy, the City of Edinburgh Council accepts no liability for any errors or misinterpretations. Some values may not sum to their respective totals due to rounding.

HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

If you would like this document in another language or format such as Braille, large print or a translation, please email the Interpretation and Translation Service at ots@edinburgh.gov.uk quoting the unique reference number 24.977.

For more information, feedback and general queries about the report contact: **data.team@edinburgh.gov.uk**

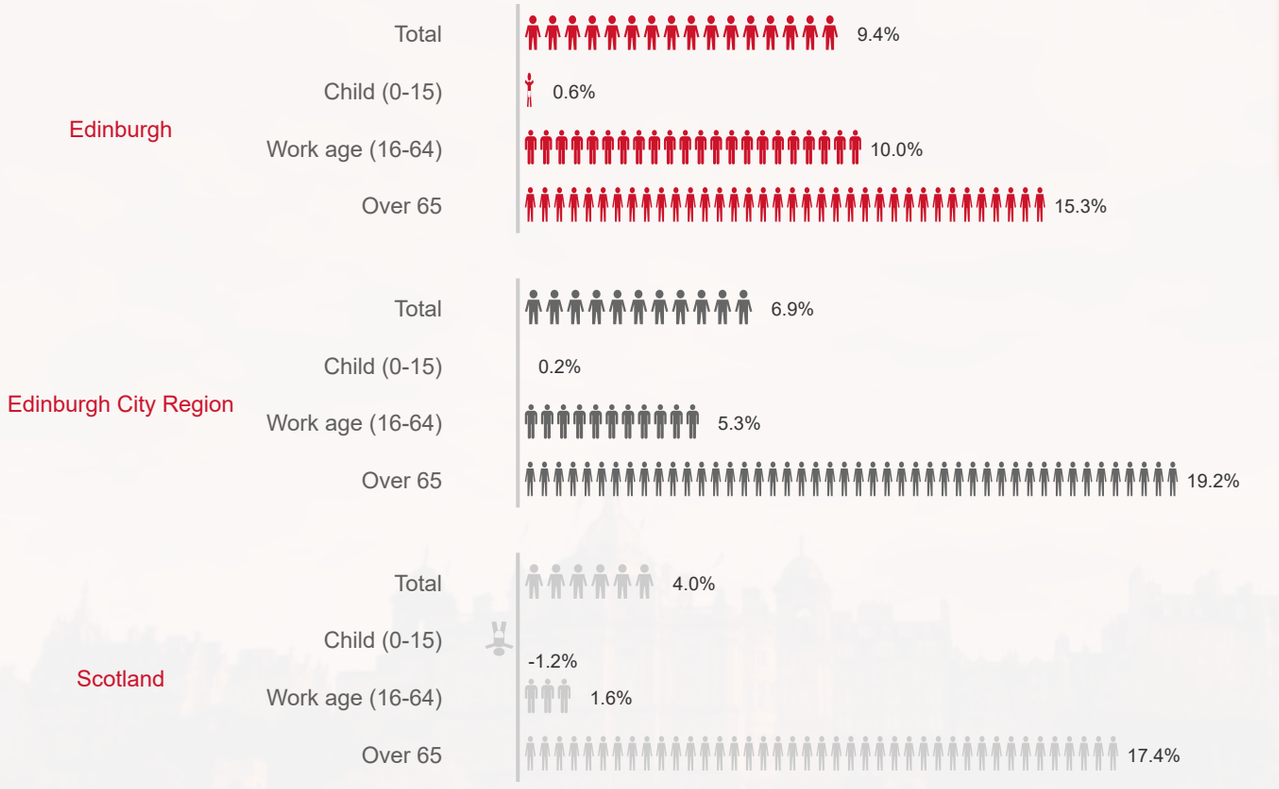
Designed by The City of Edinburgh Council, Strategy and Communications. Cover photo by Alba Torrent. Rest of pictures by Nieves Nieto. Icons by Freepik



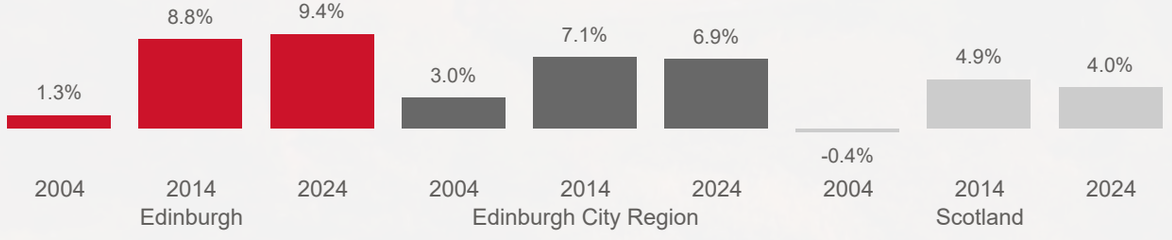
People

Population and demographic change in Edinburgh

Population change 2014 to 2024: Edinburgh, the Edinburgh city region and Scotland



Population change in Edinburgh, the Edinburgh city region and Scotland by decade



Source: National Records of Scotland - Mid Year Population Estimates

Key Facts

In the ten years to 2024, Edinburgh's population grew by 9.4% from an estimated 485,270 to an estimated 530,680 people. In the same time period Scotland's population grew by 4%. Edinburgh's population shows growth in each age group, including a small growth in the child population. Child population decreased in Scotland by 1.2%. Edinburgh and Scotland saw increases of over 15% in the older population.

Demographic change in Edinburgh, the Edinburgh City Region and Scotland from 2014 to 2024

	2014	2024
Edinburgh		
Total	485K	531K
Child (0-15)	76K	76K
Work age (16-64)	336K	369K
Over 65	74K	85K
Edinburgh City Region		
Total	1332K	1424K
Child (0-15)	228K	228K
Work age (16-64)	871K	917K
Over 65	234K	279K
Scotland		
Total	5.33M	5.55M
Child (0-15)	0.91M	0.90M
Work age (16-64)	3.45M	3.51M
Over 65	0.97M	1.14M
Density (km²)		
Edinburgh	1,842	2,015
Edinburgh City Region	171	183
Scotland	68	71

Note: Edinburgh city region is defined as Edinburgh, East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian, Fife, and the Scottish Borders.

Population changes: net migration, births and deaths

Key Facts

Overseas migration continues to be the main driver of population change in Edinburgh. The net effect of births and deaths on Edinburgh's population from 2013 to 2023 was 4,485. The net effect of migration was more than ten times higher at 51,540.

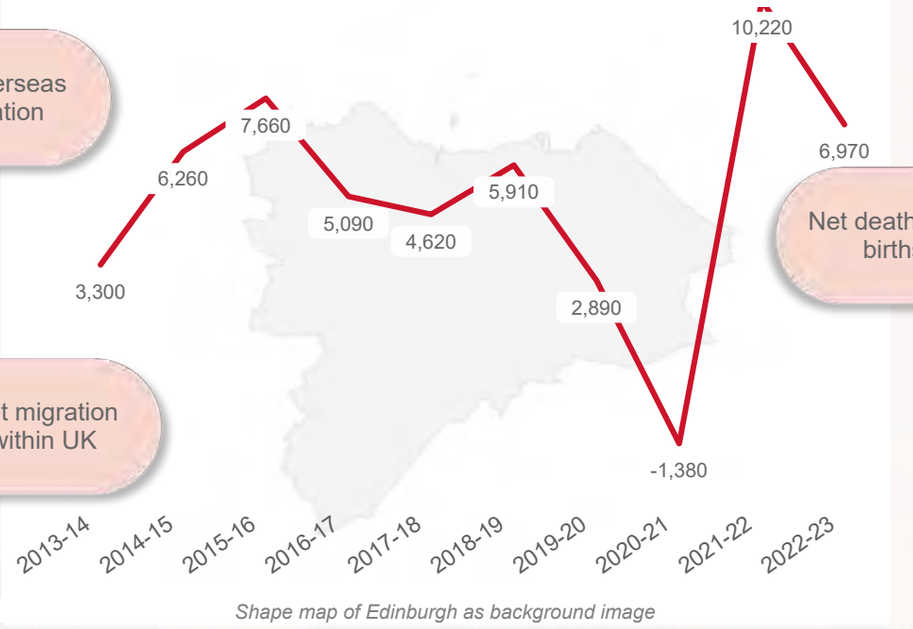
Edinburgh's net birth and death rate reduced from a net increase of 1,261 in 2013/14 to a net increase of 20 in 2022/23. The size of overseas migration to Edinburgh reduced from the period 2021/22 (12,130) to 7,920 in 2022/23, while the net migration within UK continued to decrease.

62,130 Net overseas migration

-10,590 Net migration within UK

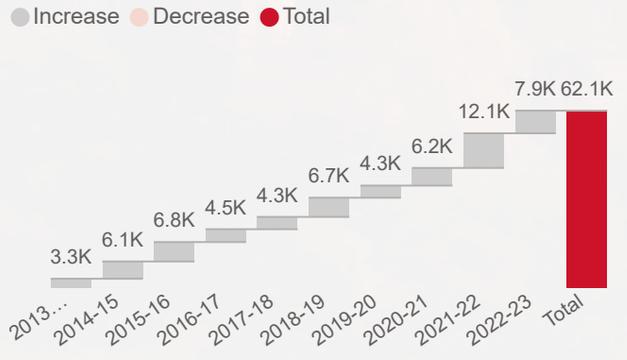
4,485 Net deaths and births

Net population change in Edinburgh by year in the last decade

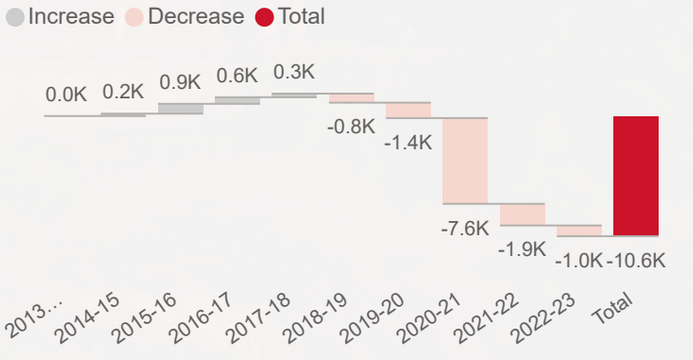


Shape map of Edinburgh as background image

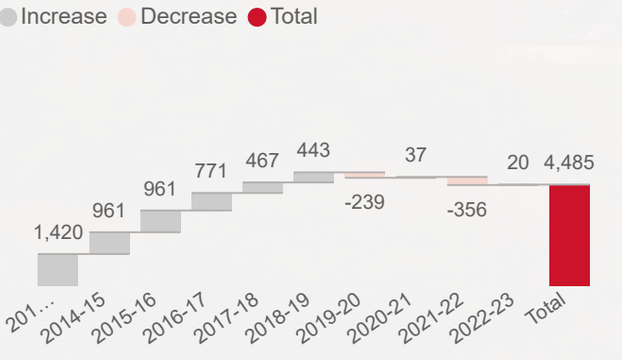
Net overseas migration to Edinburgh in the last decade



Net migration to Edinburgh within UK in the last decade



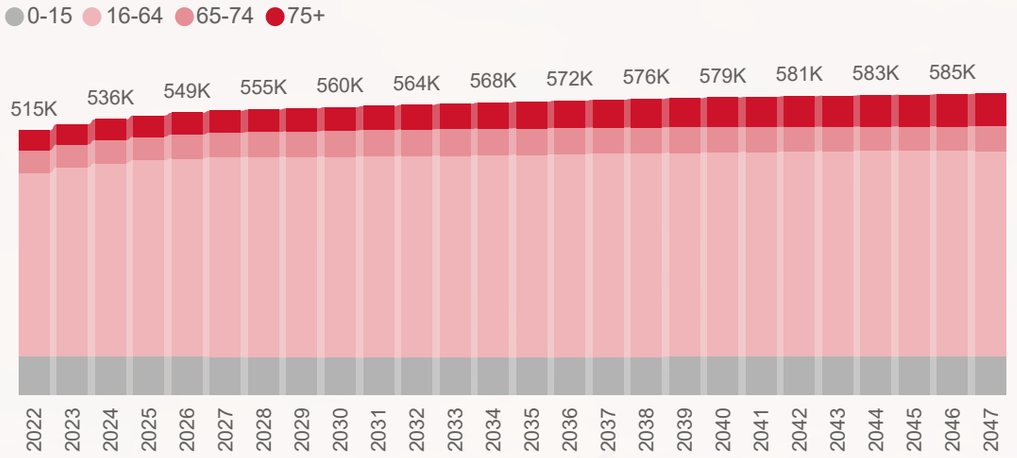
Net births and deaths in Edinburgh in the last decade



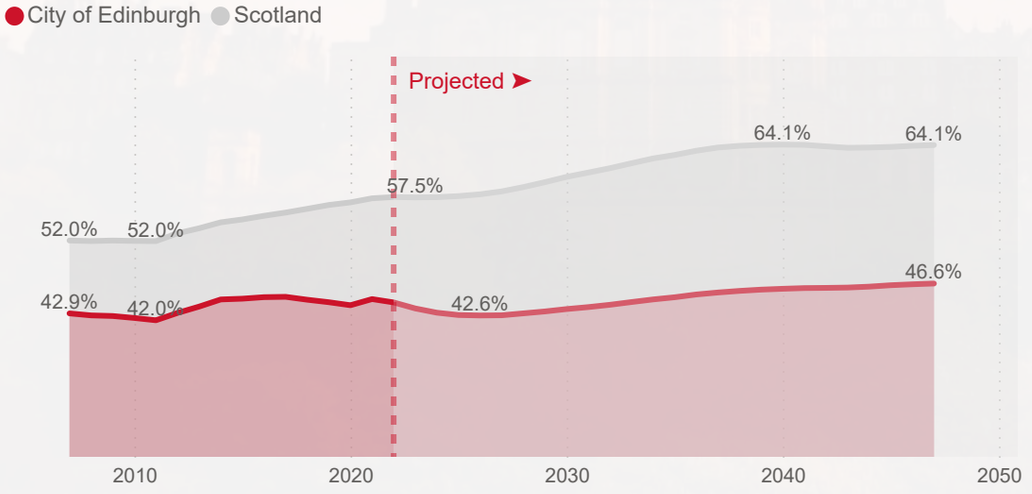
Source: National Records of Scotland - Migrations

Population estimates and projections

Projected population of Edinburgh by age group 2022 to 2047 (2022-based projections)



Edinburgh and Scotland dependency rate (0-15 years old and 0-64 years old divided by working age population) from 2007 to 2047

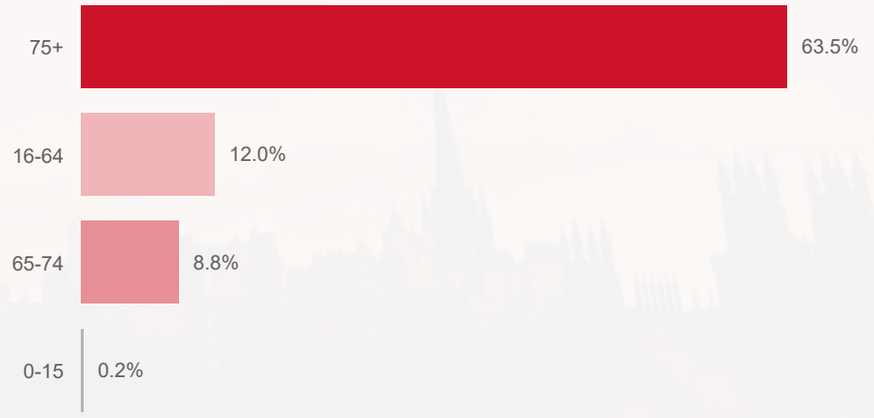


Source: Subnational Population Projections: 2022-based - National Records of Scotland (NRS)

Did you know...?

The dependency rate is calculated by dividing the persons aged under 16 and over 64 by the working age (16 to 64) population. The rate describes how much pressure an economy faces in supporting its non working age population.

Projected percentage change in population from 2022 to 2047 by age group



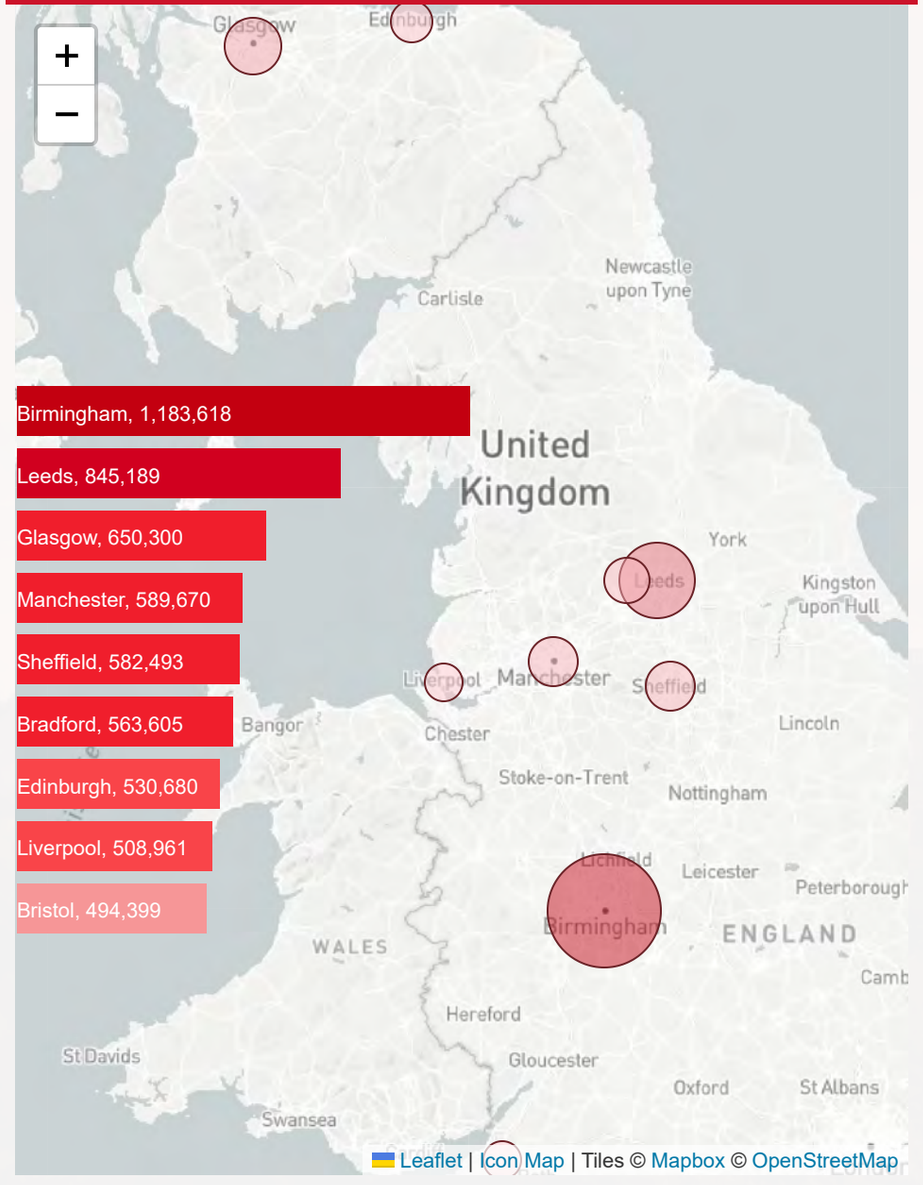
Key Facts

Edinburgh population is projected to grow to 585,838 by 2047. According to these projections, the proportion of dependants in Edinburgh will represent almost half of the population. The dependency rate, currently at 42.6%, is expected to rise up to 46.6%. This figure is lower than both the current and projected dependency rate in Scotland.

Population in Edinburgh and the top eight largest cities in the UK excluding London

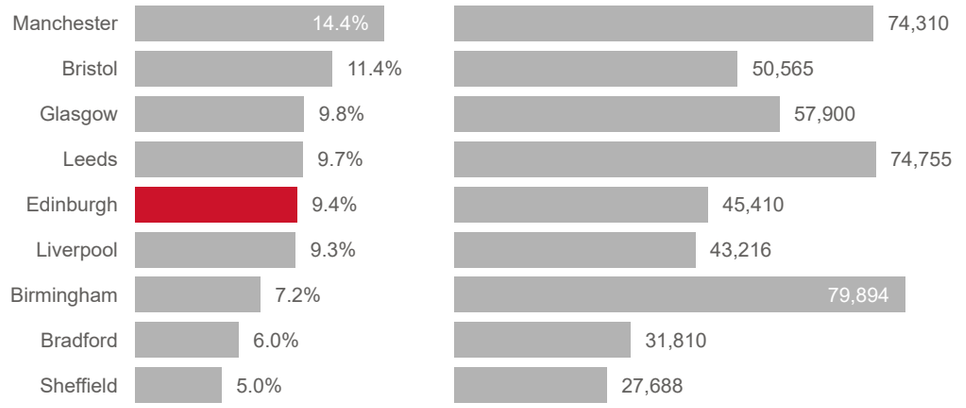
- People
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- Economy
- Tourism and festivals
- Education
- Environment
- Property
- Travel and connectivity

Population in UK cities in 2024



Source: *ONS Population Estimates - NOMIS*

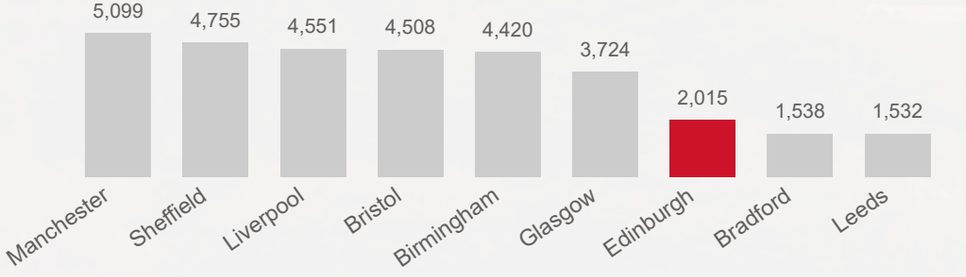
Population change for UK cities, % and number from 2014 to 2024



Key Facts

In 2024 Edinburgh's population density was 2,015 residents per square kilometre. Cities like Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield have over twice the population density level of Edinburgh. Edinburgh's population increase of 9.4% between 2014 to 2024 was the fifth highest in proportional terms behind Manchester, Bristol, Glasgow and Leeds.

Population density (residents per square km) in Edinburgh and major UK cities in 2023



Note: For information in this section the administrative geography for Edinburgh and Glasgow defined as Council area, Bristol as Unitary authority area and Manchester Liverpool, Birmingham, Sheffield, Bradford and Leeds are defined as Metropolitan District area.



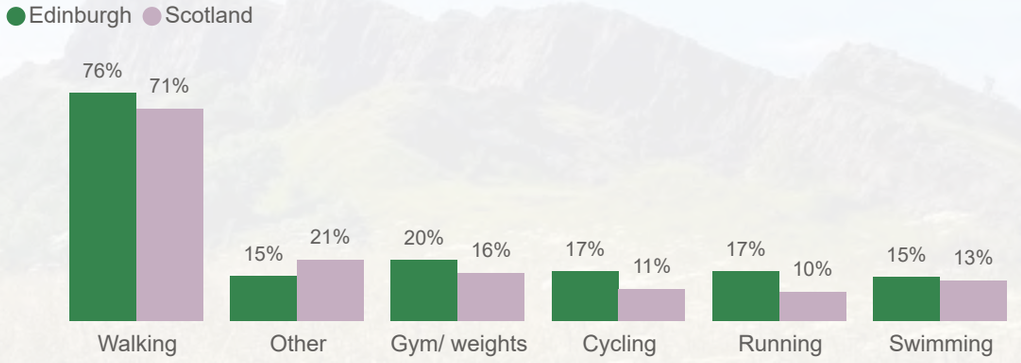
Health and Wellness

Being well

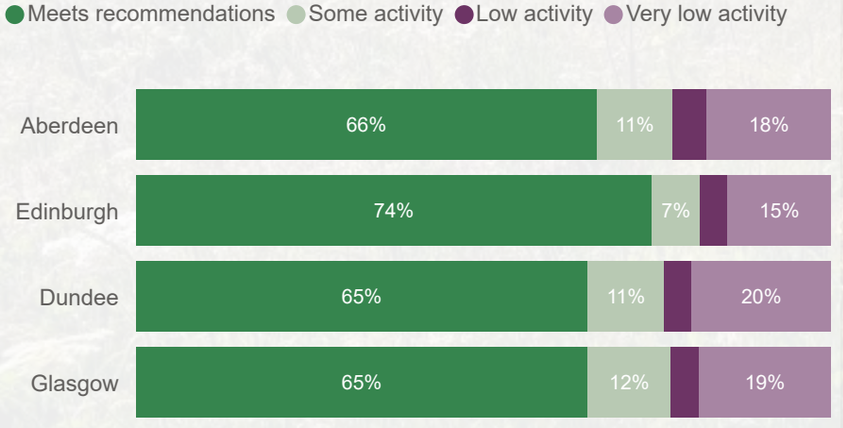
Key Facts

Most people in Edinburgh self-assess their own health as good or very good (81% of the population). During the period 2021-2024 only 15% of people in Edinburgh said that they did very low levels of activity. The percentage of the population in Edinburgh who walk for fitness (76%) is higher than the average for Scotland (71%).

Percentage of population who practices some kind of sport in Edinburgh and Scotland 2023*

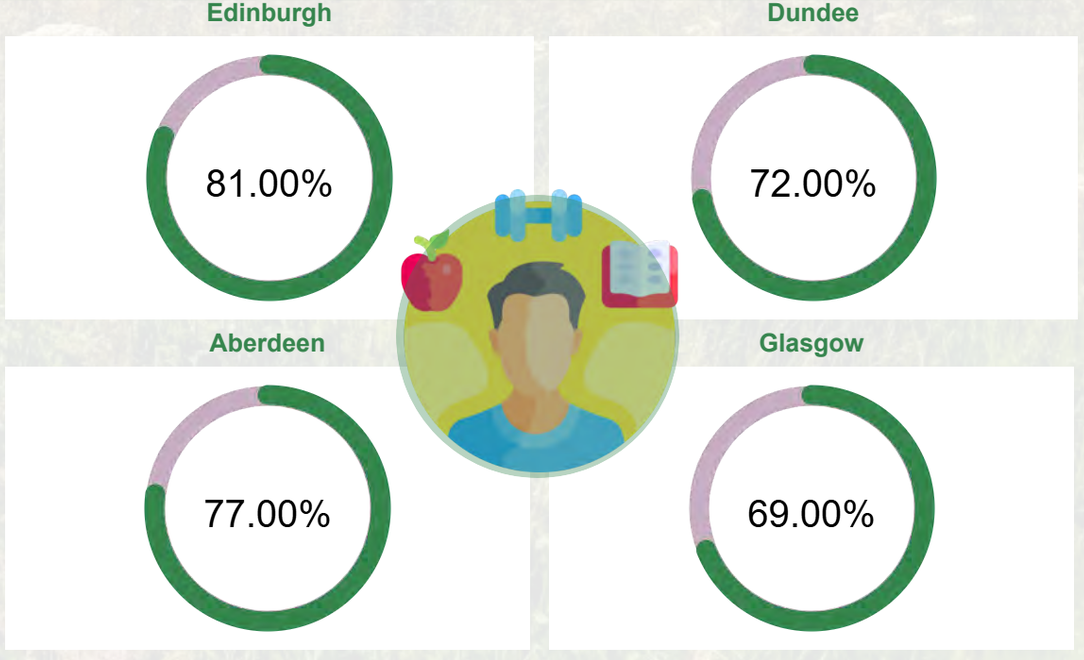


Percentage of population that achieved different levels of activity in main Scottish cities 2021-24



85.9% of people in Edinburgh participate in some kind of sport or fitness activity, including walking.

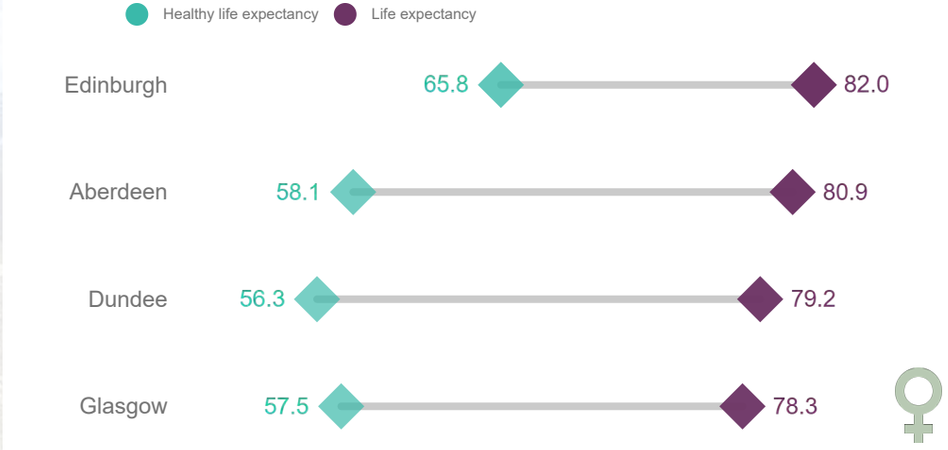
Percentage of population who self-assess their health as good or very good in Scottish cities 2021-24



*Source: Scottish Health Survey and Scottish Household Survey. *This dataset is updated biennially.*

Life expectancy and relative poverty in Edinburgh and other Scottish cities

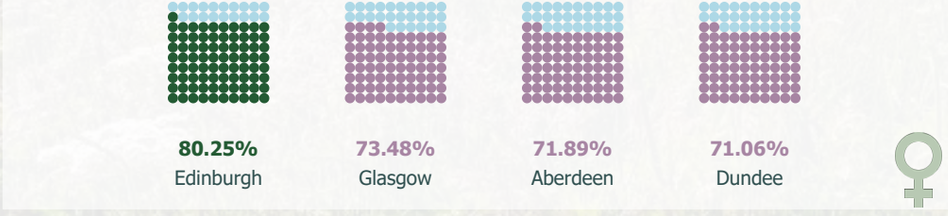
Female life and healthy life expectancy in Scottish Cities 2021-23 (years)



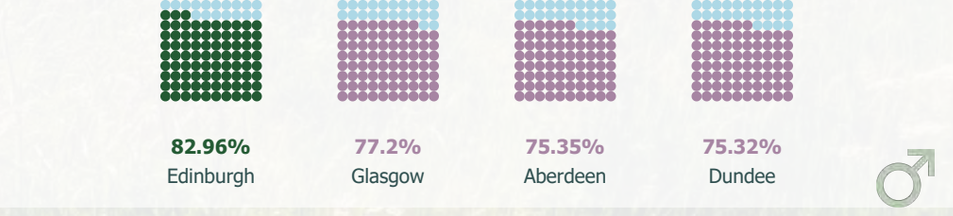
Male life and healthy life expectancy in Scottish Cities 2021-23 (years)



Proportion of life spent in good health (females) in Scottish Cities 2021-23



Proportion of life spent in good health (males) in Scottish Cities 2021-23



Healthy life expectancy refers to the estimate of lifetime spent in "very good" or "good" health, based on how individuals perceive their own general health, according to the Office for National Statistics.

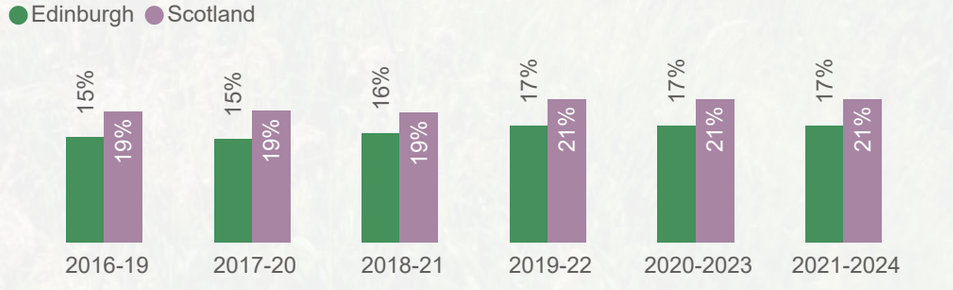
Key Facts

Edinburgh has the highest life expectancy and healthy life expectancy compared with other Scottish cities, with female population expected to live to an average of just over 82 years old and male population to 78 years old. Both male and female population spend an average of around 80% of their lives in good health.

The percentage of people in relative poverty in Edinburgh continues to sit below the Scottish average and has not changed in the last 5 years.

Source: National Records of Scotland - Healthy Life Expectancy

Relative poverty in Scotland and Edinburgh 2016-2024



Relative poverty (Individuals living in households whose equivalised income is below 60% of UK median income in the same year) for all ages and after housing costs.



Work

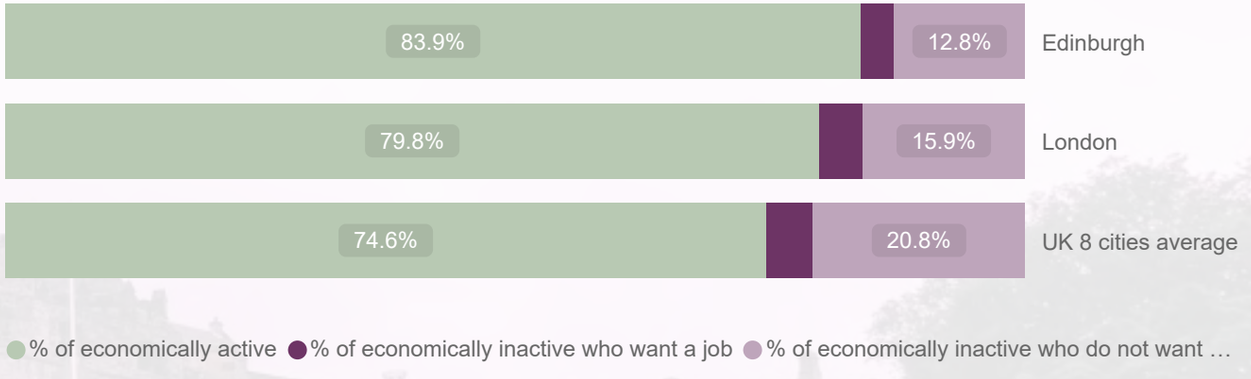
Economic status of Edinburgh residents and employment compared with other UK cities

Key Facts

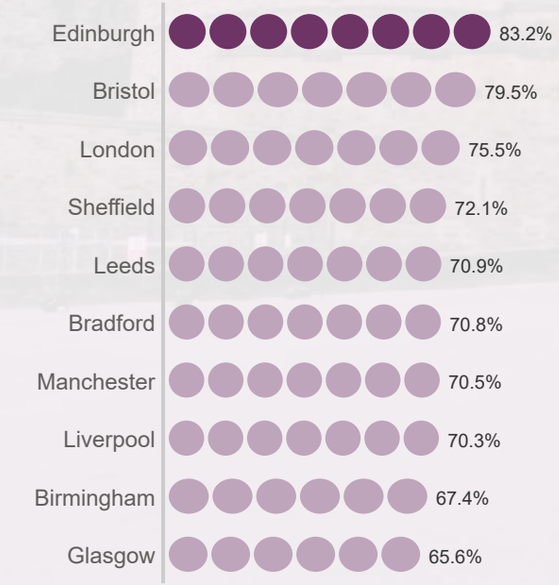
The proportion of people in Edinburgh who are economically inactive but want a job is lower than the average of major UK cities at 3.25%. Over four fifths (83.9%) of the population between 16 and 64 years are economically active, which is the highest percentage of the eight main cities in UK. The main reasons for being economically inactive in Edinburgh include being a student (33.5%), being long-term sick (21.6%) and looking after someone (16.2%).

Note: Major UK Cities average is based on the top eight largest populated cities in the UK excluding London, which are: Bradford, Bristol, Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, and Sheffield. The year refers to the 12 months prior to last June.

Economic status of residents in Edinburgh and UK cities 2025 (as a % of population aged 16 to 64 years)



Percentage of residents aged 16 to 64 years currently in employment in UK cities in 2025



Main reasons for being economically inactive in Edinburgh and UK cities in 2025



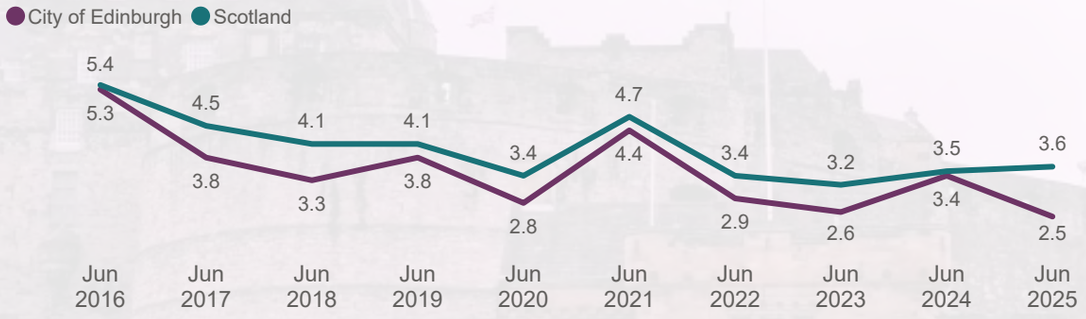
Source: Annual Population Survey

Model based unemployment data

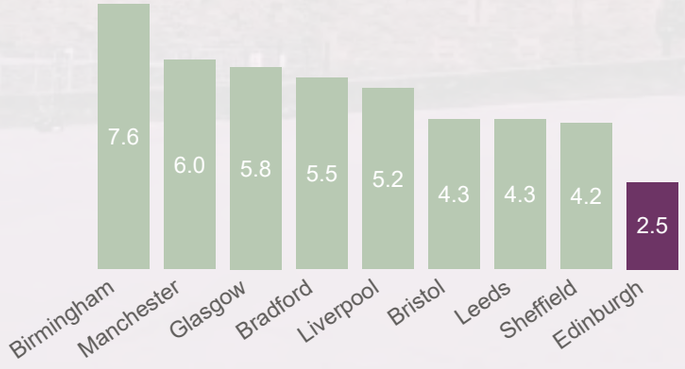
Key Facts

Edinburgh's unemployment rate, at 2.5%, is lower than it has been at any point in the last decade. Ten years ago, the unemployment rate was more than double. The median hourly pay has risen to £20.49 which is the highest of the major UK cities excluding London.

Model based estimate of unemployment rate in Edinburgh 2016 to 2025



Model based estimate of unemployment in major UK cities in 2025



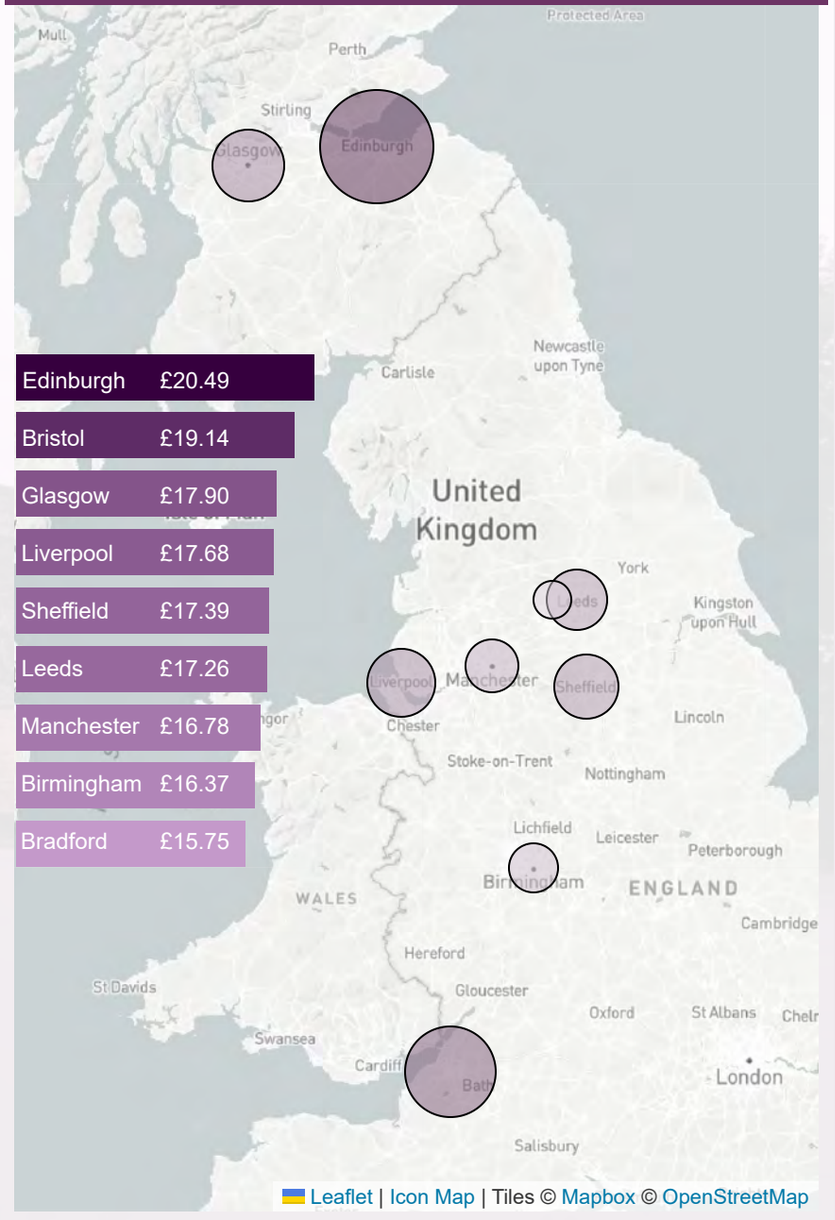
Did you know...?

The median hourly pay has increased 6.1% in Edinburgh from 2024, which is over the Scottish increase of 5.4%. At more than 50% above the UK Real Living Wage of £13.45 for 2025/26, the median hourly rate exceeds the minimum amount calculated by The Resolution Foundation as needed for a decent standard of living.

Note: Model based estimate of unemployment in charts above refers to a 12 month moving average to June.

Source: NOMIS - Annual Population Survey and NOMIS - Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings

Median hourly pay per worker in major UK cities 2025

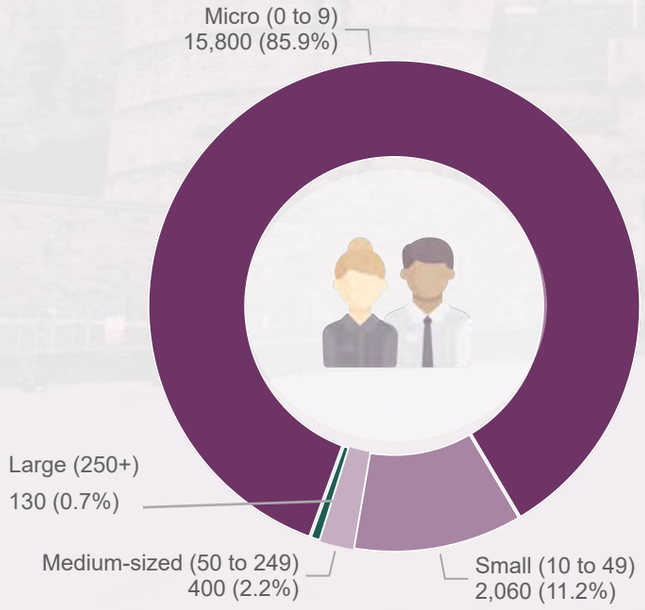


Enterprise sizes and occupations by skill

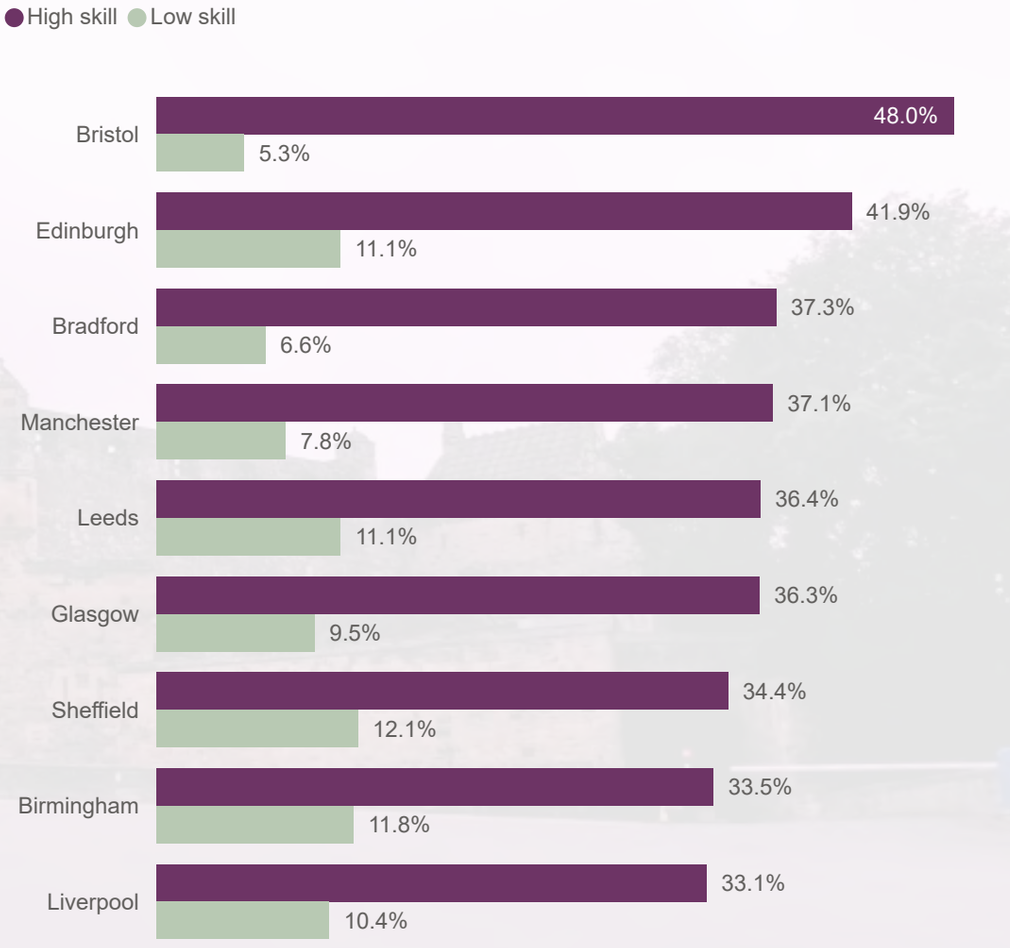
Key Facts

Over 85% of enterprises in Edinburgh are small companies with under 10 employees, while less than 1% are enterprises with 250 or more employees. Edinburgh has a large proportion of workers in high skilled occupations. Nearly half of Edinburgh's workers are in high skilled occupations (42%) while just around 11% work in low skilled occupations.

Enterprises in Edinburgh by employment size 2025



High and Low Skilled occupations by major UK cities April 2024 to March 2025



Note: Skilled occupation level by occupation type is defined from the sub-major groups of SOC2020 Office of National Statistics - Table 1; High Skilled Occupations defined by following SOC 2020 sub-major groups (Level 4 skill level): Corporate managers and directors; Science, research, engineering and technology professionals; Health professionals, Teaching and educational professionals; Business, media and public service professionals. Low skilled (Level 1 skill level) is defined by: Elementary trades and related occupations; Elementary administration and service occupations.

Source: NOMIS - Annual Population Survey and NOMIS - UK Business Counts

People in employment - Industry share

People in employment by industry 2024 Edinburgh, Scotland and average of UK cities

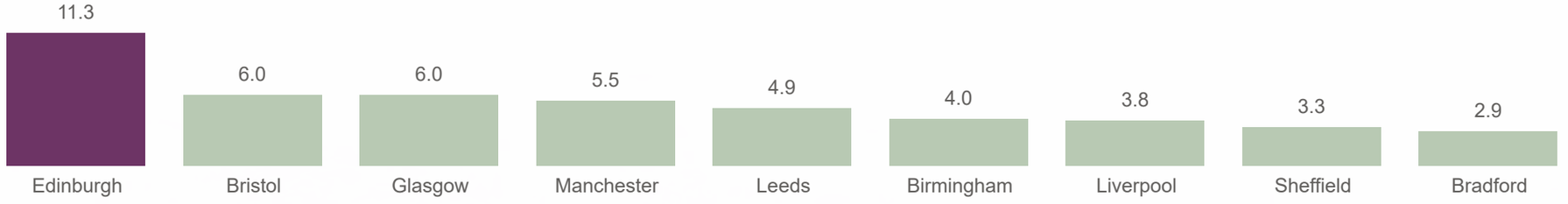
Industry Sectors	City of Edinburgh		Scotland	UK 8 cities average
		%	%	%
Health	57,000	15.3	16.2	15.8
Financial & insurance	42,000	11.3	3.4	4.6
Education	37,000	9.9	8.3	9.6
Accommodation & food services	36,000	9.7	8.1	7.3
Professional, scientific & technical	34,000	9.1	7.2	10.5
Public administration & defence	26,000	7.0	6.5	6.1
Retail	25,000	6.7	8.1	7.3
Business administration & support services	24,000	6.4	6.4	8.8
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	20,000	5.4	4.9	4.1
Information & communication	18,000	4.8	2.7	4.2
Transport & storage	12,000	3.2	4.1	4.4
Construction	11,000	2.9	5.9	3.7
Manufacturing	10,000	2.7	6.9	5.3
Property	8,000	2.1	1.6	2.1
Wholesale	5,000	1.3	2.6	3.3
Motor trades	4,000	1.1	1.7	1.4
Mining, quarrying & utilities	3,500	0.9	2.5	1.1
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	900	0.2	3.1	0.1

Major UK city average includes the eight largest populated UK cities (excluding London). These are, Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield.

Key Facts

57,000 people in Edinburgh are employed in the health industry. This makes up just over 15% of all jobs in Edinburgh. In 2024, over one in ten people employed in Edinburgh worked in finance and insurance (11.3%). This is more than double the average across other major UK cities. Edinburgh relative to other UK cities has higher employment in accommodation and food services, information and communication and arts, entertainment, recreation and other services but less relative employment in construction and manufacturing.

Percentage of people working in the finance and insurance sector in UK cities 2024



Source: NOMIS - Business Register and Employment Survey

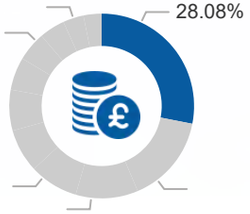


Economy

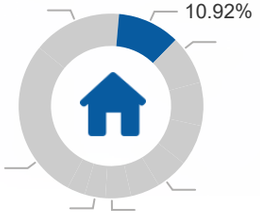
Gross Value Added (GVA)

Did you know...?

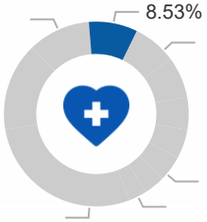
Gross Value Added (GVA) is the value generated by an area, industry or sector of an economy engaged in the production of goods and services. These pie charts show GVA in Edinburgh for 2023.



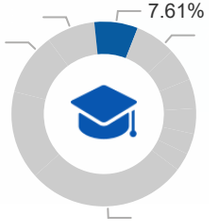
£8.8bn
Financial and insurance



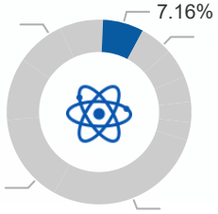
£3.4bn
Real estate activities



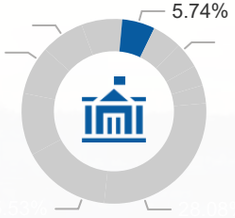
£2.7bn
Human health and social work



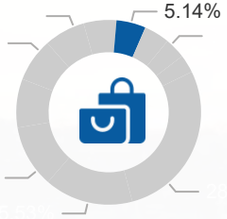
£2.4bn
Education



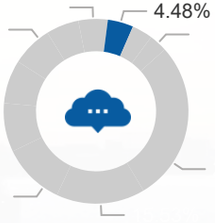
£2.2bn
Professional, scientific and tech



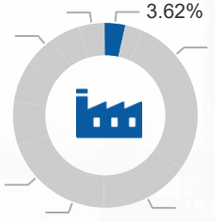
£1.8bn
Public admin and defence



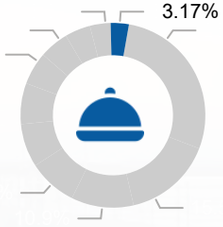
£1.6bn
Wholesale/ retail trade



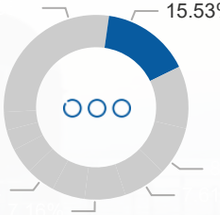
£1.4bn
Information and communication



£1.1bn
Manufacturing

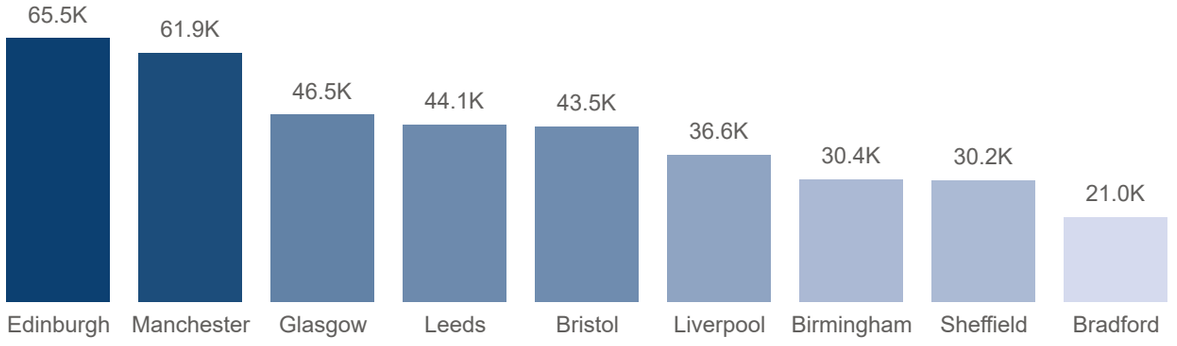


£997M
Accommodation & food service



£4.9bn
Other

GVA per capita in major UK cities 2023



Key Facts

The finance and insurance industry in Edinburgh provides more Gross Value Added (GVA) (£8.8bn) than the next three largest sector combined: real estate activities (£3.4bn), human health and social care (£2.7bn) and education (£2.4bn). In terms of GVA per capita, Edinburgh (£65.5k) has 40% more per person than Glasgow (£46.5k), the next highest Scottish city.

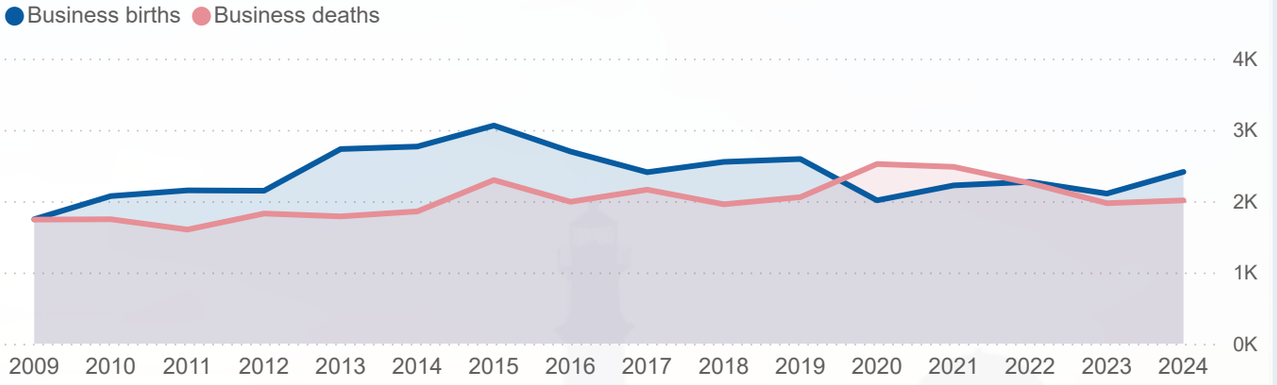
Source: ONS - Gross Value Added and NOMIS - Population Estimates

Business demography and hotel completions

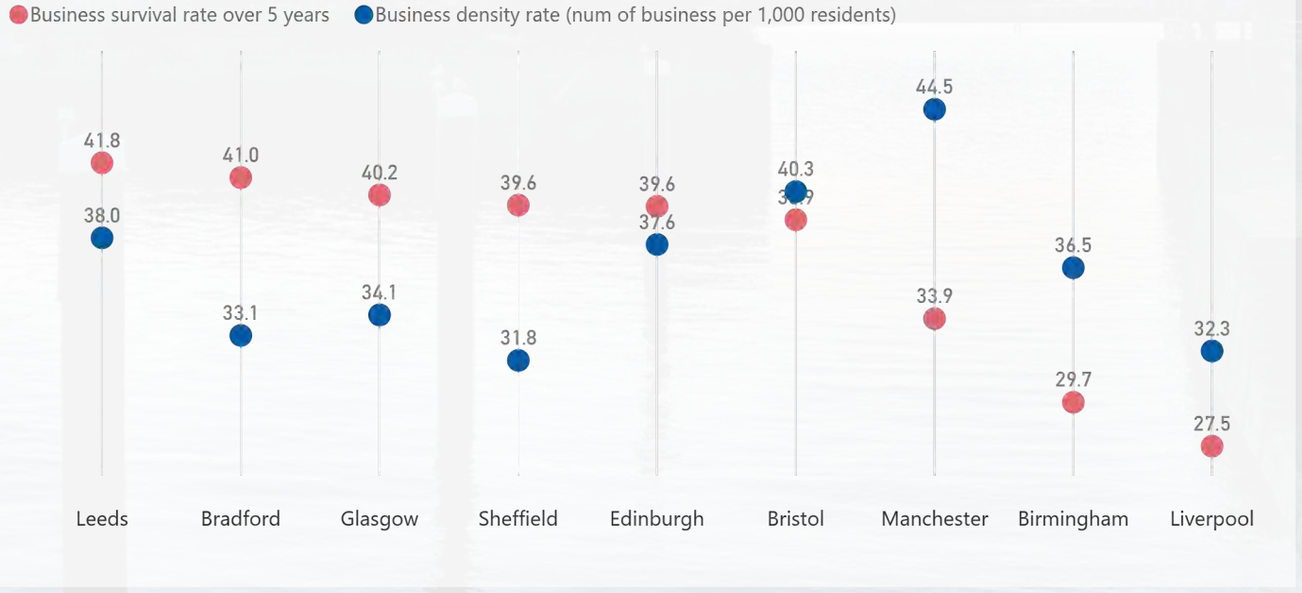
Key Facts

The years 2011-2019 represented a period of growth in the number of businesses in Edinburgh. However, as a likely impact of the pandemic, business deaths overtook births during 2020 and 2021. The trend is changing again, with the number of business deaths returned to being below business births and resulting in a positive business growth. Last year, 39.6% of Edinburgh businesses survived their first 5 years of operation. The period 2022-24 had a 45% reduction in the number of hotel rooms completed from the previous triennium.

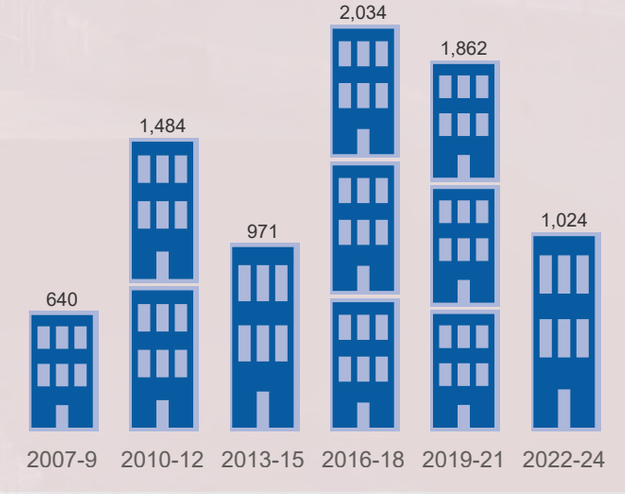
Edinburgh businesses births and deaths from 2009 to 2024



Business survival rate over 5 years (2019 to 2024) and Business density rate (registered business per 1,000 residents)



Hotel development completions in Edinburgh 2009 to 2024 (number of rooms)



Source: ONS - Gross Value Added and NOMIS - Population Estimates. Hotel room completions provided by The City of Edinburgh Council.


Tourism and
Festivals

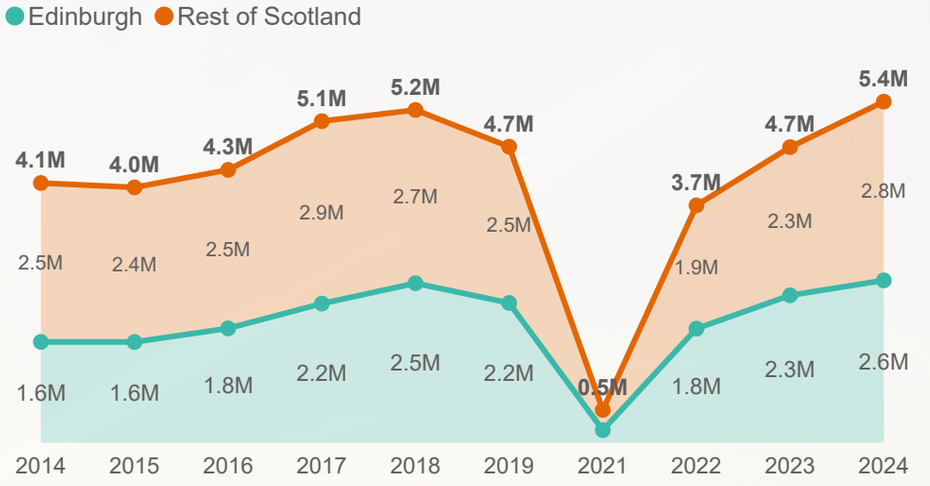
Visitors to Edinburgh

Staying visits, nights and spend in 2024 and comparison change from 2023

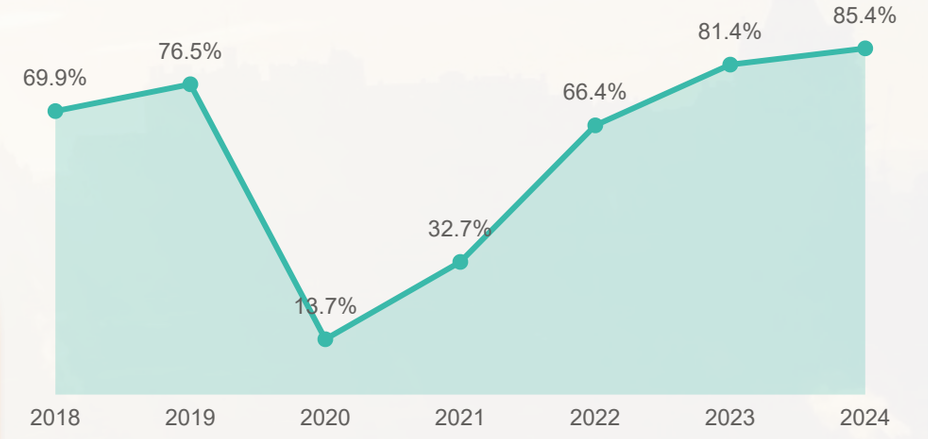
		Edinburgh		Rest of Scotland	
		In 2024	vs 2023	In 2024	vs 2023
Staying visits					
	Domestic	2.5M ▼	-6.4%	8.9M ▼	-12.9%
	International	2.6M ▲	10.1%	2.8M ▲	20.6%
	Total	**5.0M**	**1.3%**	**11.7M**	**-6.7%**
Nights					
	Domestic	6.2M ▼	-9.8%	23.2M ▼	-18.4%
	International	11.5M ▼	-14.0%	19.2M ▲	19.6%
	Total	**17.8M**	**-12.6%**	**42.5M**	**-4.7%**
Spend					
	Domestic	929.3M ▲	24.4%	2,407.0M ▼	-1.4%
	International	1,635.8M ▲	9.3%	2,345.0M ▲	60.2%
	Total	**2,565.1M**	**14.3%**	**4,751.9M**	**21.7%**

The volume and value of domestic day visits is not included.

Number of international staying visits in Edinburgh and the rest of Scotland from 2014 to 2024



Occupancy in hotels and B&Bs in Edinburgh from 2018 to 2024



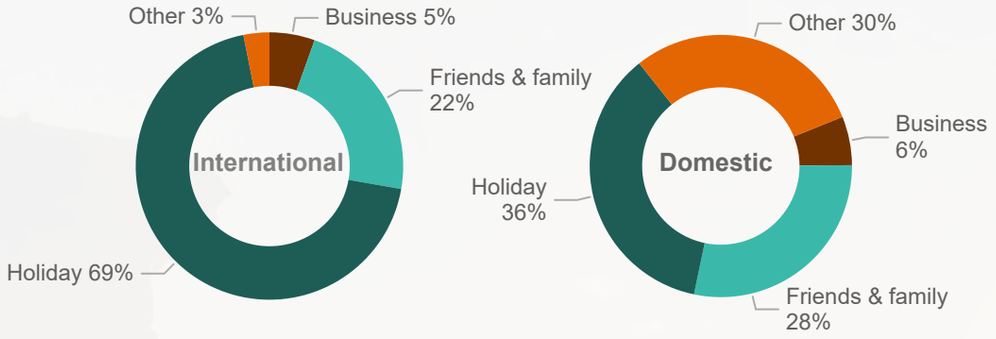
Key Facts

In 2024, Edinburgh continued to see an increase in international visits, and these represent almost 50% of the total of international visits in Scotland. The number of international visits to Edinburgh has increased by 10% in the last year, and although the number of domestic visits has seen a dip, the spend increased more than 24%. Edinburgh reached an occupancy rate of 85.4%, the highest of the last seven years.

Source: International Passenger Survey , Moffat Centre (2024): Scottish Visitor Attraction Barometer Report: November 2024/2023, Glasgow School for Business and Society, Glasgow Caledonian University: Glasgow, UK.

Visitors to Edinburgh

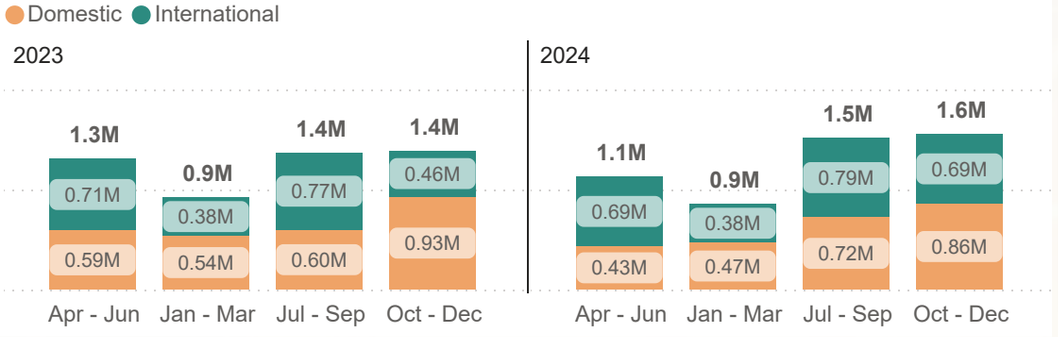
Percentage of staying visits to Edinburgh by purpose in 2024



Nightly spend by purpose for domestic and international visits in 2024



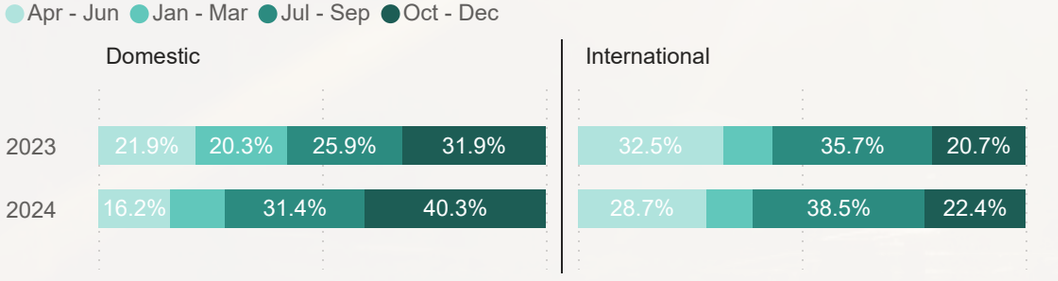
Number of domestic and international visits to Edinburgh by quarter in 2023 and 2024



Key Facts

The primary reason for visiting Edinburgh for both domestic (36% of total visits) and international visitors (69%) is to come on holiday. The quarterly distribution of visitors in 2024 was similar to 2023, with lower numbers in Jan-Mar compared to the other quarters in both years. The highest combined spend still occurs in summer. Domestic business visitors spend the most per night. Most domestic trips (88%) last 1–3 nights, while 40% of international trips last 4–7 days.

Spend by quarter in 2023 and 2024 in Edinburgh for both domestic and international visits



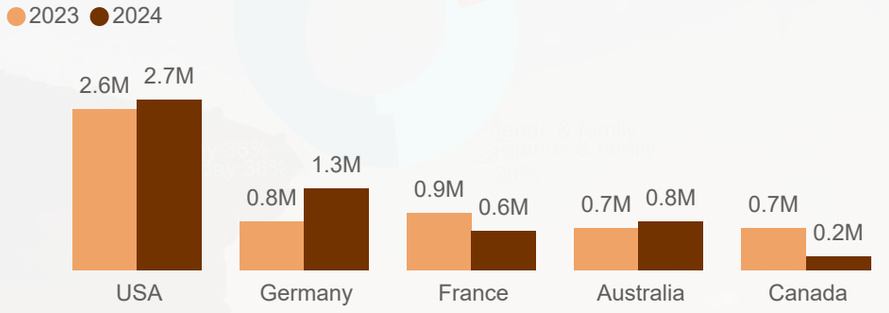
International and domestic visits by duration of trip in 2023 and 2024

	Domestic		International	
Duration	2023	2024	2023	2024
1-3 nights	2,290K	2,187K	478K	683K
4-7 nights	281K	209K	954K	1,032K
8-14 nights	64K	82K	602K	613K
15+ nights	25K	11K	290K	232K

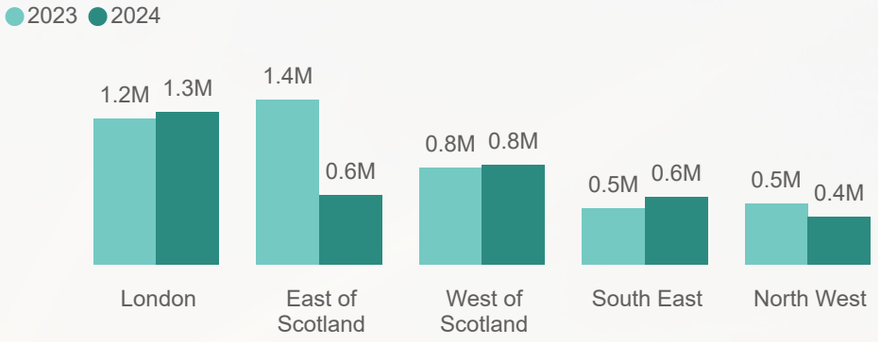
Source: International Passenger Survey and Visit Scotland

Visitors to Edinburgh

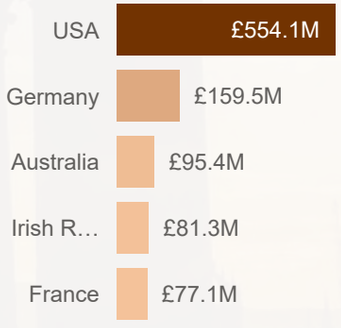
Total nights from international staying visits to Edinburgh by origin (top 5)



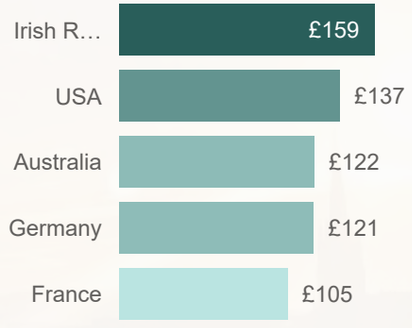
Total nights from domestic staying visits to Edinburgh by origin (top 5)



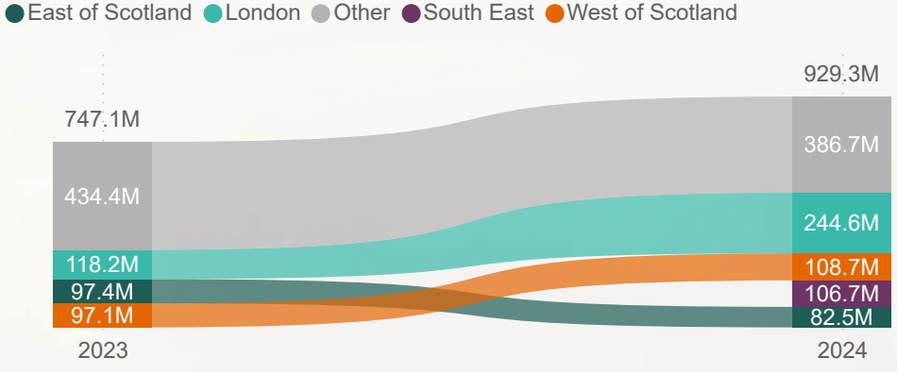
Top 5 international spenders by total



Top 5 international spenders by night



Total spend from domestic staying visits to Edinburgh by origin



Key Facts

The USA leads in both the number of international visitors to Edinburgh and total spend. However, visitors from Ireland spend the most per night. Germany ranks second for both total nights and total spend. Among domestic visitors, nearly 35% come from London. East Scotland has seen a significant decline in both visitor nights and spend.

Source: International Passenger Survey and Visit Scotland. Visitor spend based on data with a minimum sample of 30

Attractions in Edinburgh

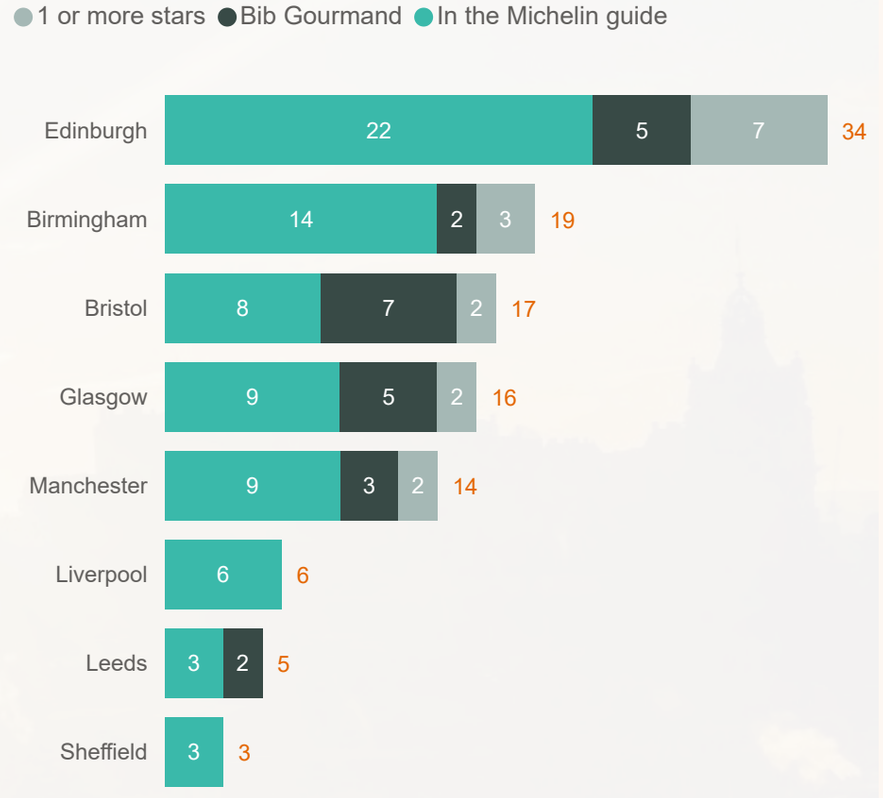
Top visitor attractions in Edinburgh 2024



Did you know...?

The Michelin Green Star was an annual award that spotlighted restaurants for their sustainable practices. This is no longer reported as a separate star in the Michelin Guide as of the end of 2025. The Bib Gourmand show the best value restaurants in the Michelin Guide.

Michelin awarded restaurants in UK cities 2025



Key Facts

In 2024 many of the top 10 visited attractions in Edinburgh continued seeing an increase in the number of visitors, with St Giles Cathedral and Gladstone's Land showing the strongest rise in the number of visitors.

Source: Michelin Guide - Restaurants 2025, Moffat Centre (2025): Scottish Visitor Attraction Barometer Report: November 2023/2024, Glasgow School for Business and Society, Glasgow Caledonian University: Glasgow, UK.

People

Health and wellness

Work

Economy

Tourism and festivals

Education

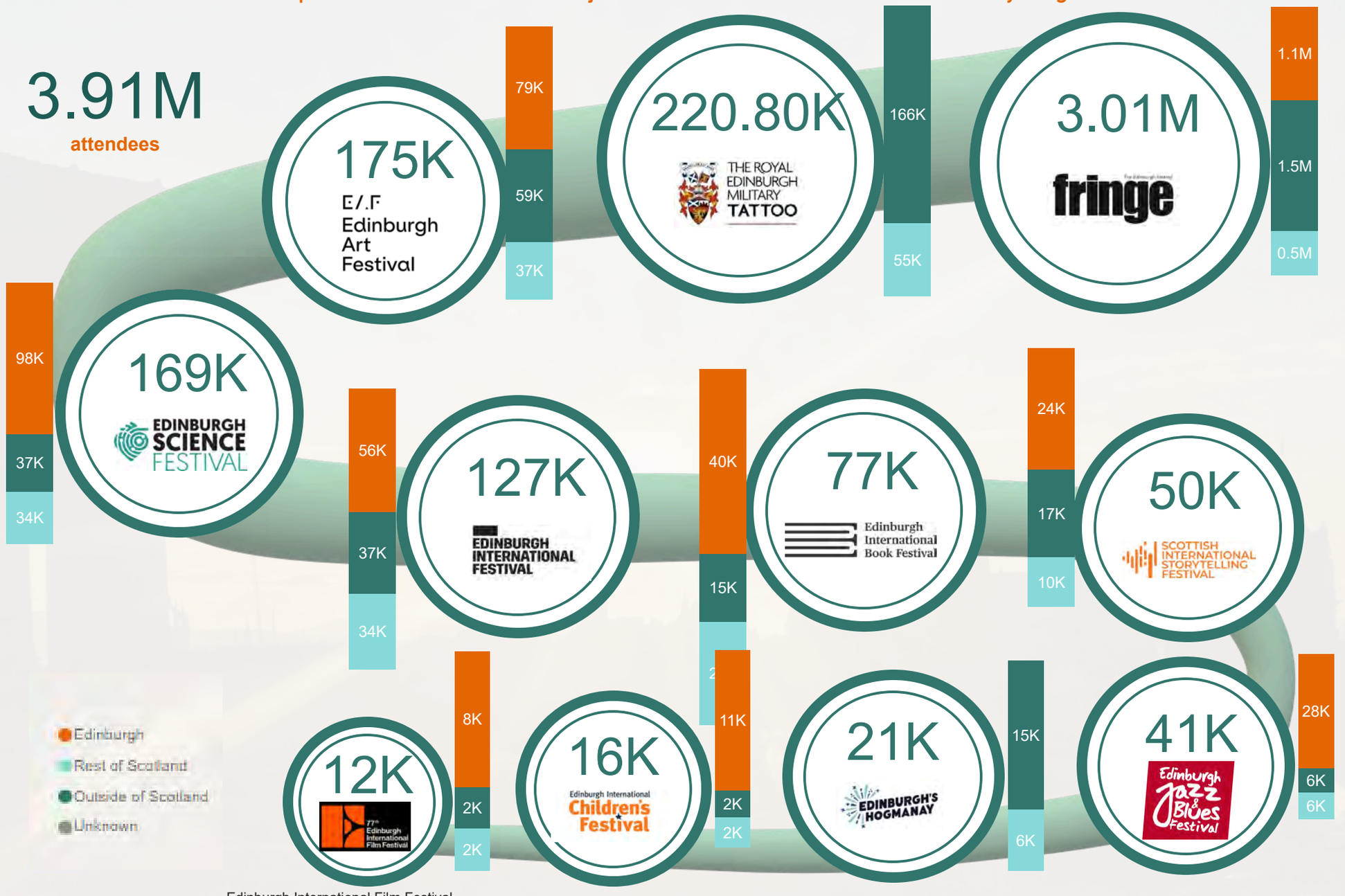
Environment

Property

Travel and connectivity

Number of online and in person attendances at major festivals 2024 with a breakdown by origin of the audience

3.91M
attendees



Edinburgh International Film Festival



Education

Number of students in Edinburgh

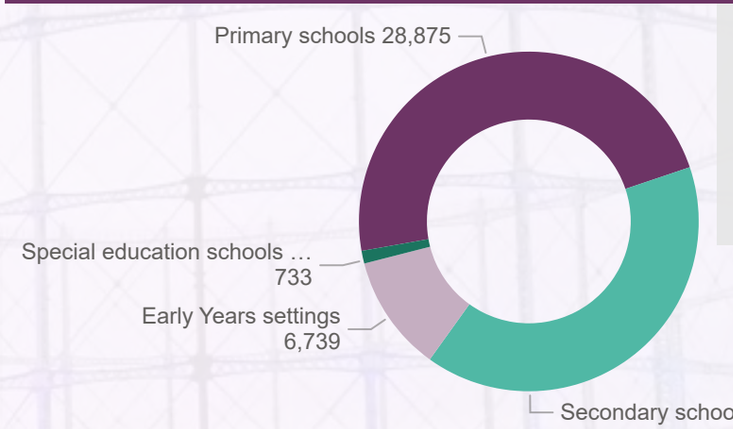
Did you know...?

There are 91 Primary Schools, 23 Secondary schools, 10 Special schools, 19 independent, and 203 Early Years centres: a total of 346 establishments.

Key Facts

In 2024/25 the number of students enrolled in an Edinburgh university was higher than the number in schools. In 2024/25 there were almost 160,000 pupils or students in Edinburgh based education institutions, including schools, universities and colleges.

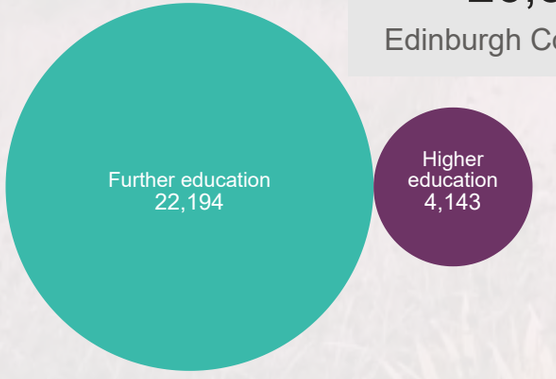
Number of pupils in Edinburgh schools 2025



60,657
Total Pupils in Schools

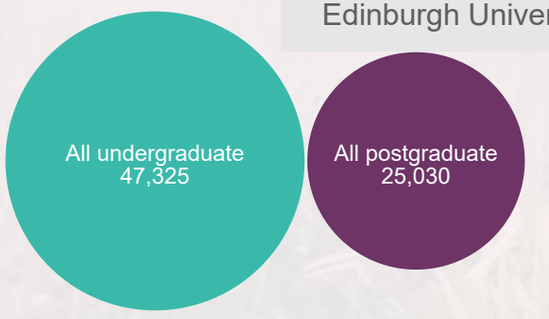
Note: figures for public primary and secondary schools refer to September 2025 and early learning figure is from October 2025. No data is available for independent schools.

Students at Edinburgh College 2024



26,337
Edinburgh College Total

Students enrolled in higher education in Edinburgh 2024



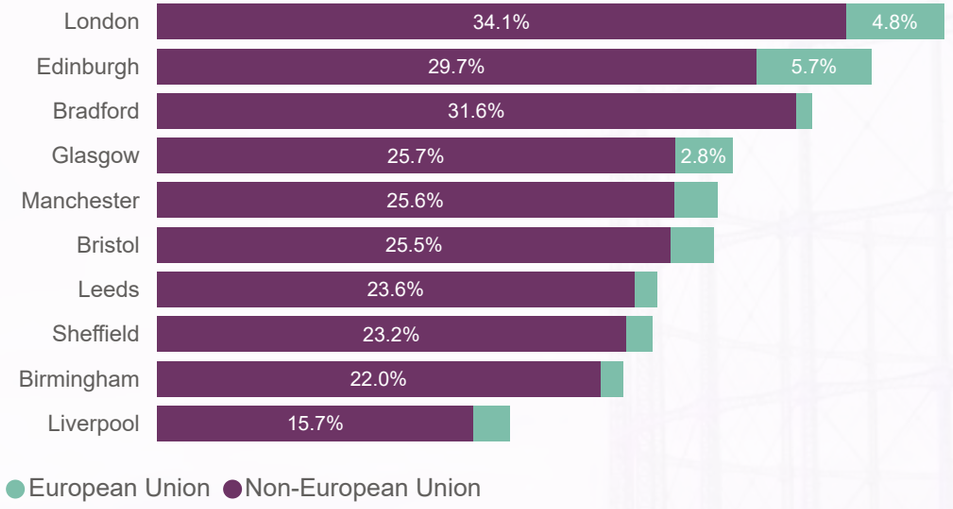
72,365
Edinburgh Universities Total

Source: Pupil Census, Higher Education Statistics Agency and Scottish Funding Council

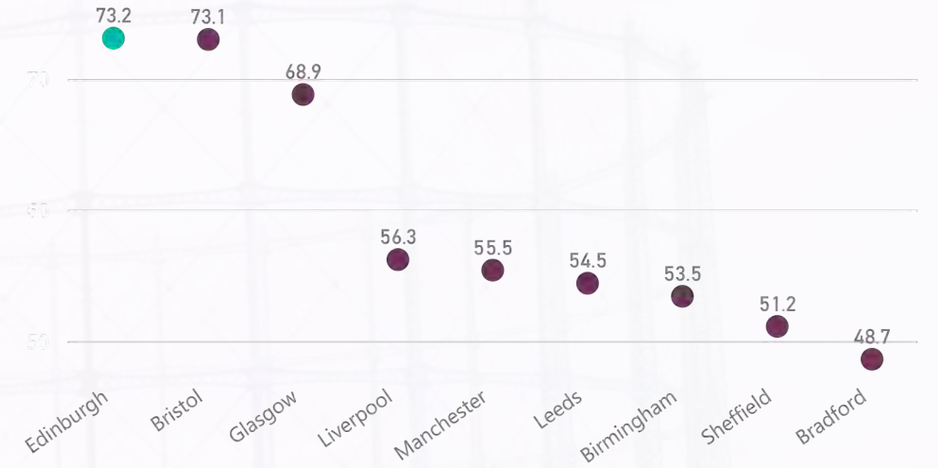
Queen Margaret University - Edinburgh is included in the count although is located in Musselburgh. SRUC is not included since there isn't a split available by campus.

Higher education in Edinburgh and other major UK cities

Percentage of non-UK students in Higher Education in UK cities 2024



Percentage of workforce educated to degree level or above in major UK cities 2024



Key Facts

In 2024, 64.6% of higher education students in Edinburgh were from the UK. Compared to other major UK cities, Edinburgh has the second highest proportions of Higher Education students per 1,000 population. In 2024, 73.2% of the Edinburgh workforce in employment is educated to degree level or above.

Higher Education students per 1,000 population in UK cities 2024



Source: Pupil Census, Higher Education Statistics Agency and Scottish Funding Council



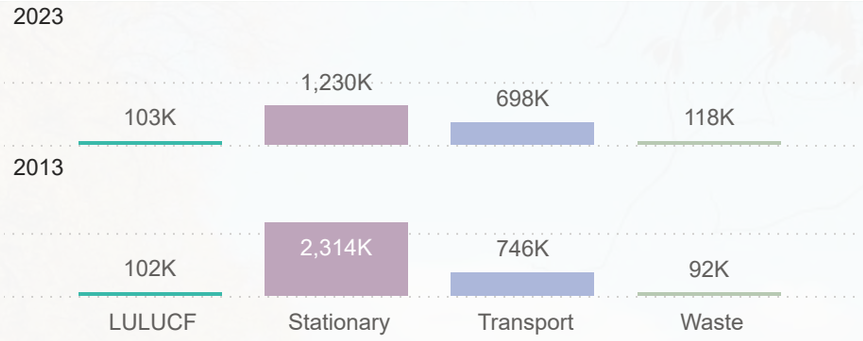
Environment

Greenhouse gas emissions

Did you know...?

In 2025, Edinburgh was ranked joint with Glasgow and Bristol with the highest scores outside of London in the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This recognises Edinburgh's strong leadership and transparency in taking climate action, with the Council scoring highly in buildings & heating, planning and land use and waste reduction and food.

Greenhouse gas emissions estimates (in tonnes CO2e) in Edinburgh

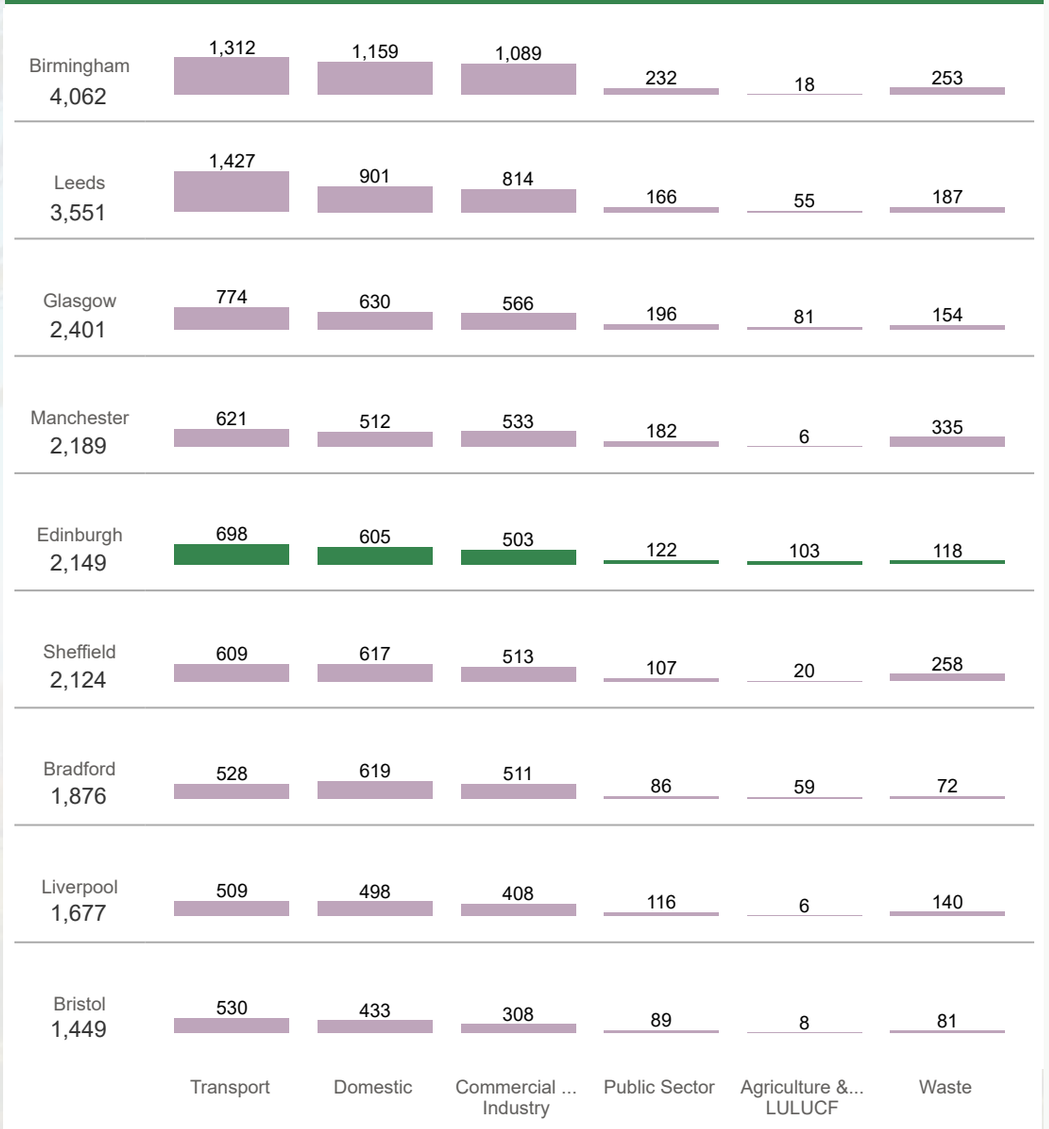


Note: Stationary energy covers energy consumption from domestic buildings; industrial, institutional and commercial buildings & facilities as well as industrial processes and fuel consumption from agriculture. CO2e describes different greenhouse gases in a common unit. For any quantity and type of greenhouse gas, CO2e signifies the amount of CO2 which would have the equivalent global warming impact." – from Ecometrica. LULUCF: Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

Greenhouse gas emissions per capita (in tonnes CO2e) in major UK cities in 2023 and reduction from 2013

	Emissions per capita	Reduction in emissions
Liverpool	3.33	48.5%
Manchester	3.77	48.0%
Bristol	3.00	47.6%
Sheffield	3.71	44.7%
Glasgow	3.80	43.6%
Bradford	3.35	41.7%
Edinburgh	4.11	41.4%
Leeds	4.28	40.1%
Birmingham	3.48	39.1%

Source of greenhouse gases in major UK cities 2023 (in thousand tonnes CO2e)



Source: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

People

Health and wellness

Work

Economy

Tourism and festivals

Education

Environment

Property

Travel and connectivity

Climate change and use of renewables in UK cities

Did you know...?

In 2025, we launched a new cycle hire scheme in Edinburgh with Voi. As of February 2026, nearly 200,000 rides have been taken on the 700 e-bikes across the city.

Proportion of people who believe climate change is an immediate and urgent problem 2023*

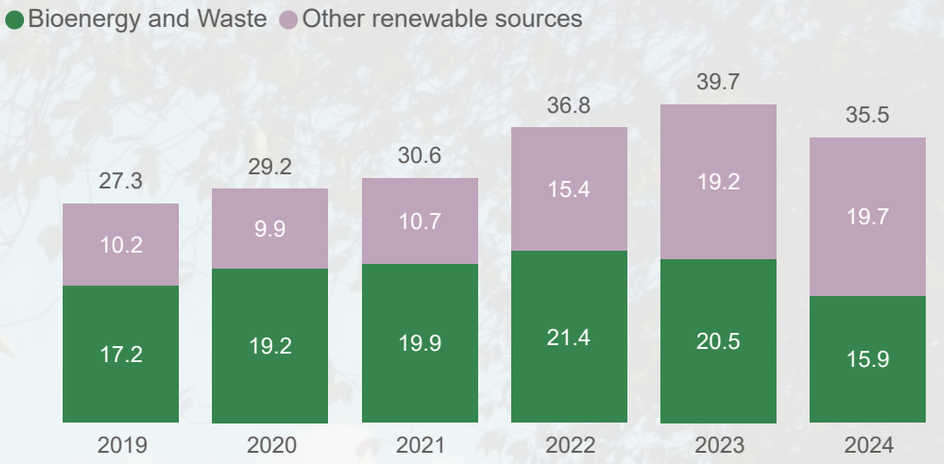


Key Facts

The generation of renewable energy is showing a steady growth from 2019, but it shows a slight dip in 2025, caused by the reduction in bioenergy and waste electricity generation. More than 5% of vehicles in Edinburgh are now ultra-low emissions vehicles.

*Source: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Department for Transport and Scottish Household Survey. *This is a biennial consultation.*

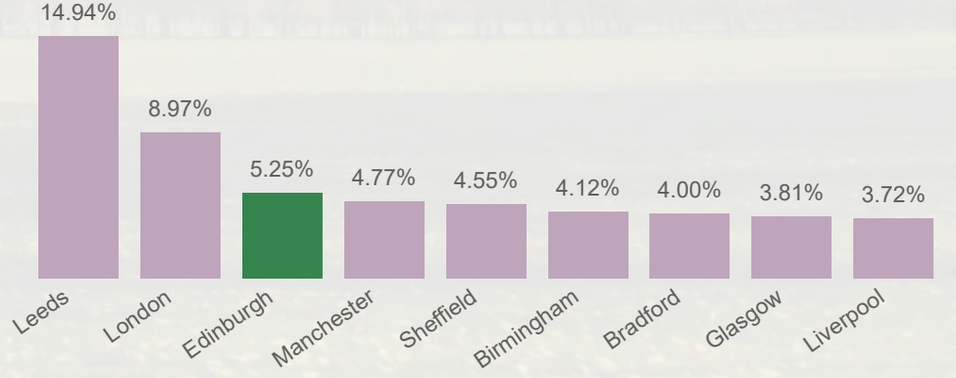
Renewable electricity generation (GWh/ year) in Edinburgh in period 2019-2024



Did you know...?

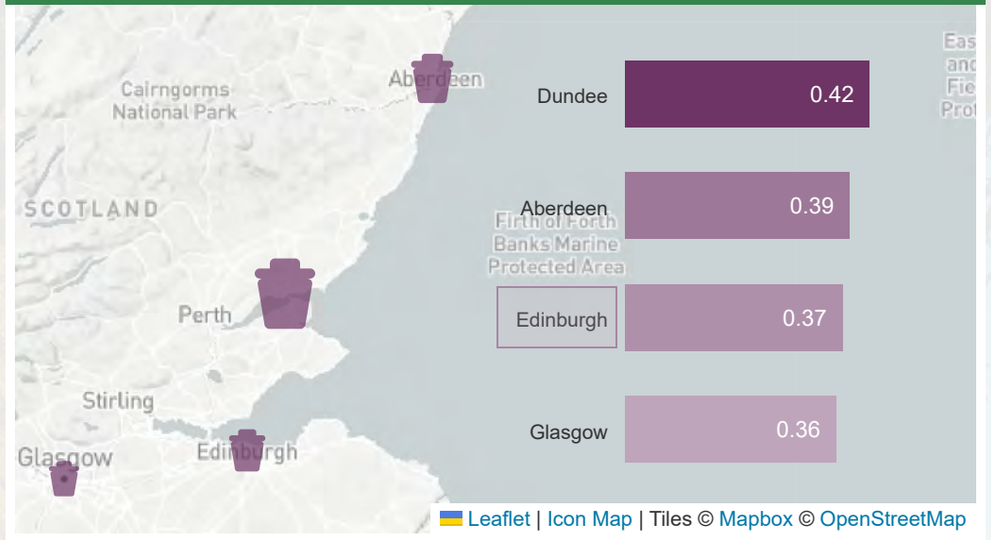
Lothian Buses currently have 103 electric buses with more on their way. Across city operation, the fleet is now 20% electric.

Percentage of ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs) in UK cities Q2 2025

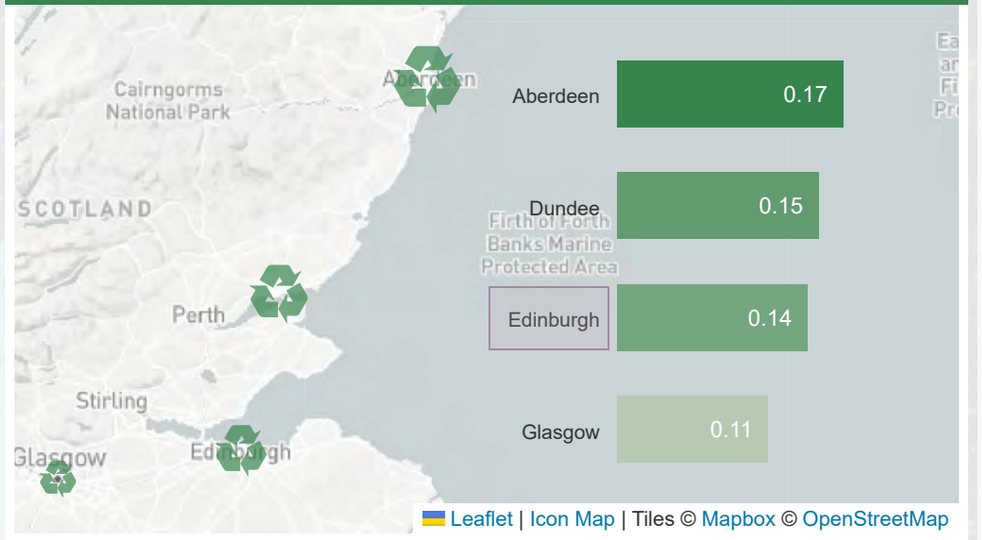


Recycling

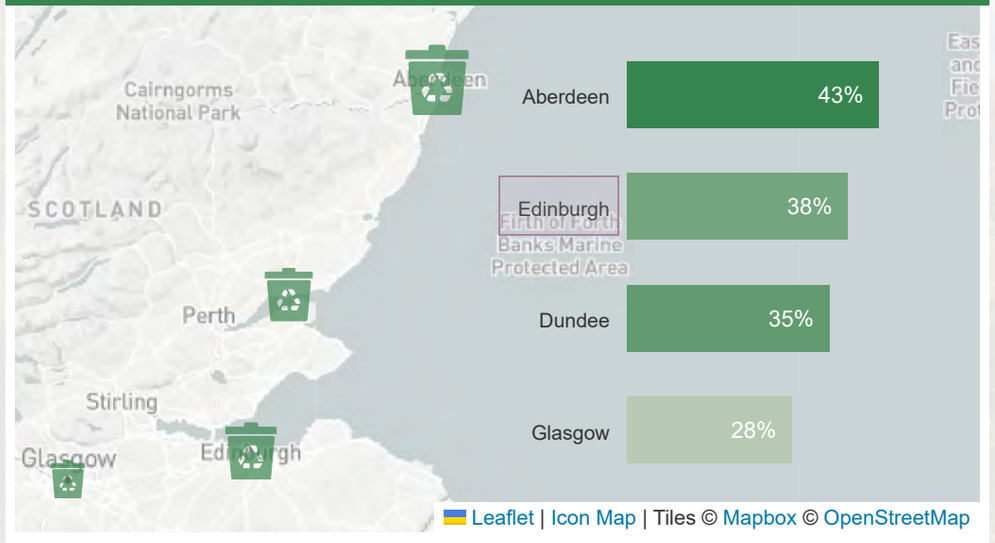
Tonnes of household waste generated per person in Scottish cities 2024



Tonnes of household waste recycled per person in Scottish cities 2024



Percentage of household waste recycled in Scottish cities three year average 2022-24



Percentage of waste per person recycled in Scottish cities 2024



43% Aberdeen

35% Dundee

38% Edinburgh

31% Glasgow

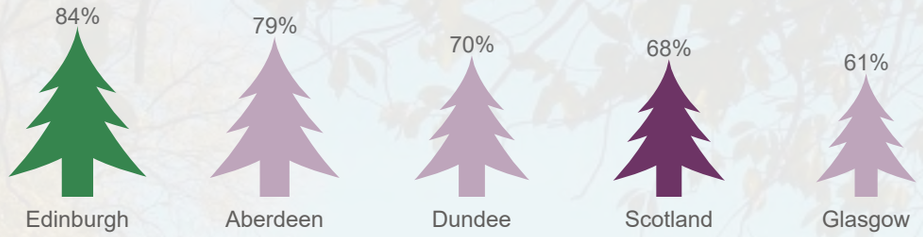
Key Facts

Edinburgh has the second lowest amount of household waste generated per person of the four Scottish cities and the second highest rate of percentage recycled per person of the four cities, just below Aberdeen.

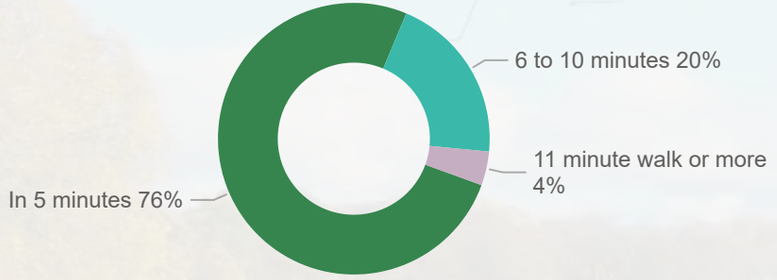
Source: Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Parks: use, satisfaction and green flags

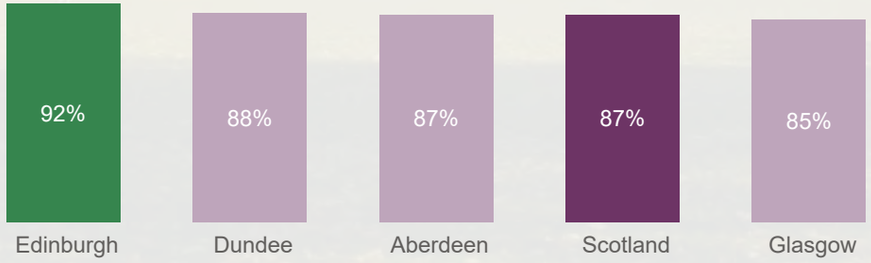
Percentage of population who visits the outdoors once or more times a week 2023*



Walking distance to the nearest green or blue of space for Edinburgh population 2024



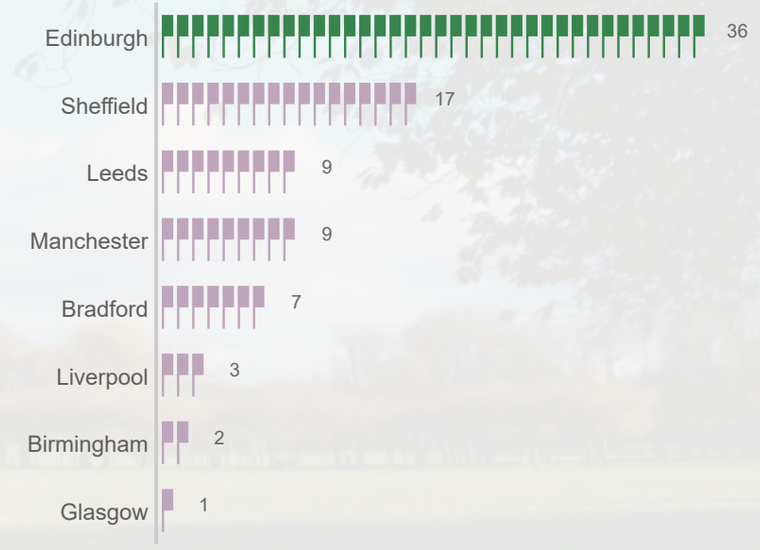
Percentage of population satisfied with their nearest green or blue space 2023*



Key Facts

The Green Flag award is a signifier of well managed parks and open spaces that ensure people have access no matter where they live and the needs of communities are met in the parks. Edinburgh has over twice as many parks with Green Flags as Sheffield, the city with the next highest number of parks with the award. The percentage of population in Edinburgh who visited the outdoors in 2023 is 16% over the Scottish average. With 76% of people having a green or blue space no more than 5 minutes away, 92% of the population are satisfied with these spaces.

Green Flag parks in major UK cities 2025



Did you know...?

In 2024/25 we had an increase of 22,792 more trees in the city Council area as part of our Million Tree City project.

*Source: Scottish Household Survey, LGBF and Green Flag Award. *This is a biennial consultation with data updated every second year*

People

Health and wellness

Work

Economy

Tourism and festivals

Education

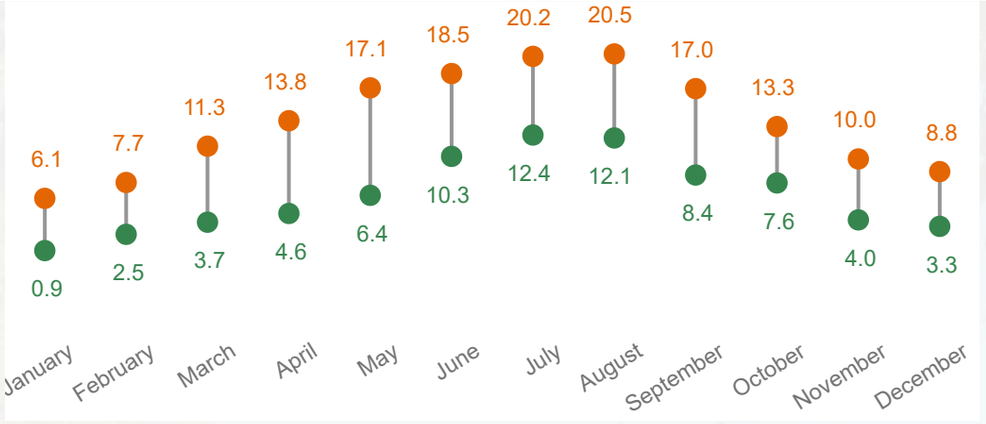
Environment

Property

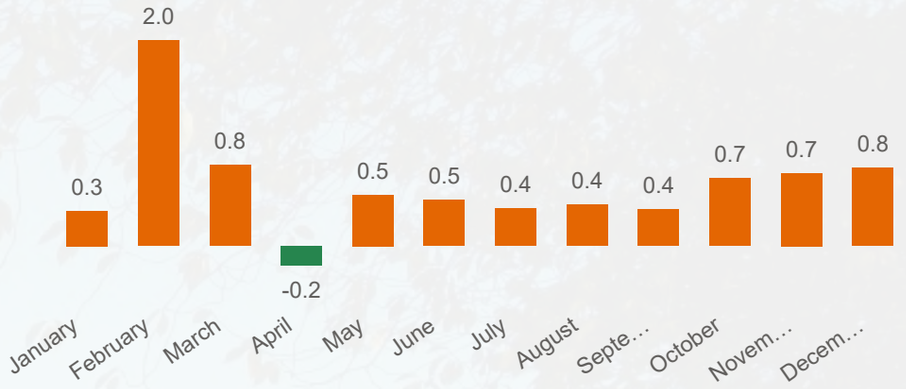
Travel and connectivity

Edinburgh weather

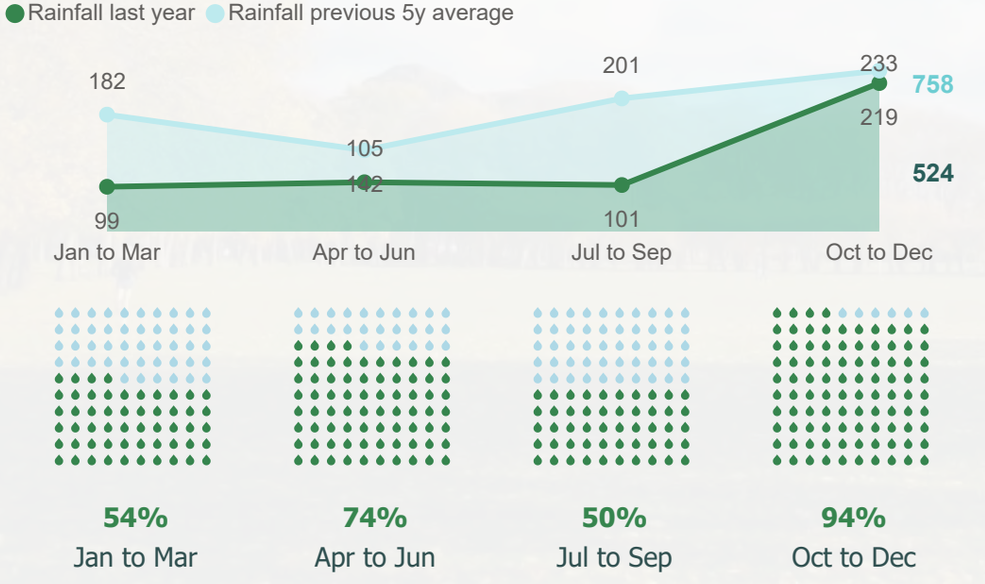
Edinburgh weather, range in average max and min temperature (in Celsius), January 2025 to December 2025



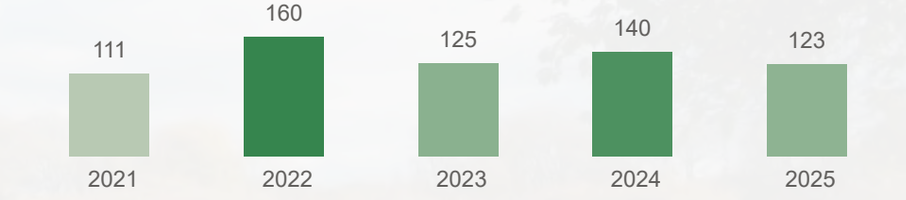
Edinburgh weather, difference between average temperature (in Celsius) in 2021-2025 vs average in period 1961-1990



Total rainfall per quarter during 2025 vs the average for 2020-24 (millimeters and % over previous period)



Edinburgh weather, number of days per year when wind speed reached 10 mph or more



Key Facts

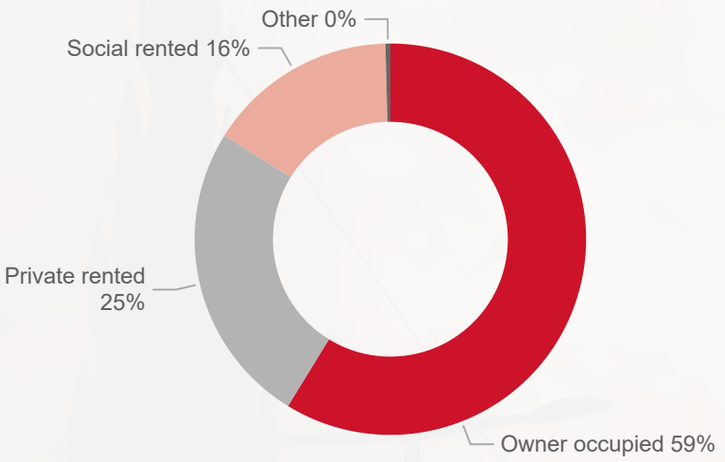
The average temperature in Edinburgh from 2021-2025 compared with the average from 1961-1990 is the same or higher in almost every month but April, with February increasing by 2C. During 2025 the rainfall went down to 524mm from the average of 750mm during the previous 5 years. Only the quarter from October to December registered a similar amount of rainfall.

Source: Meteostat and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

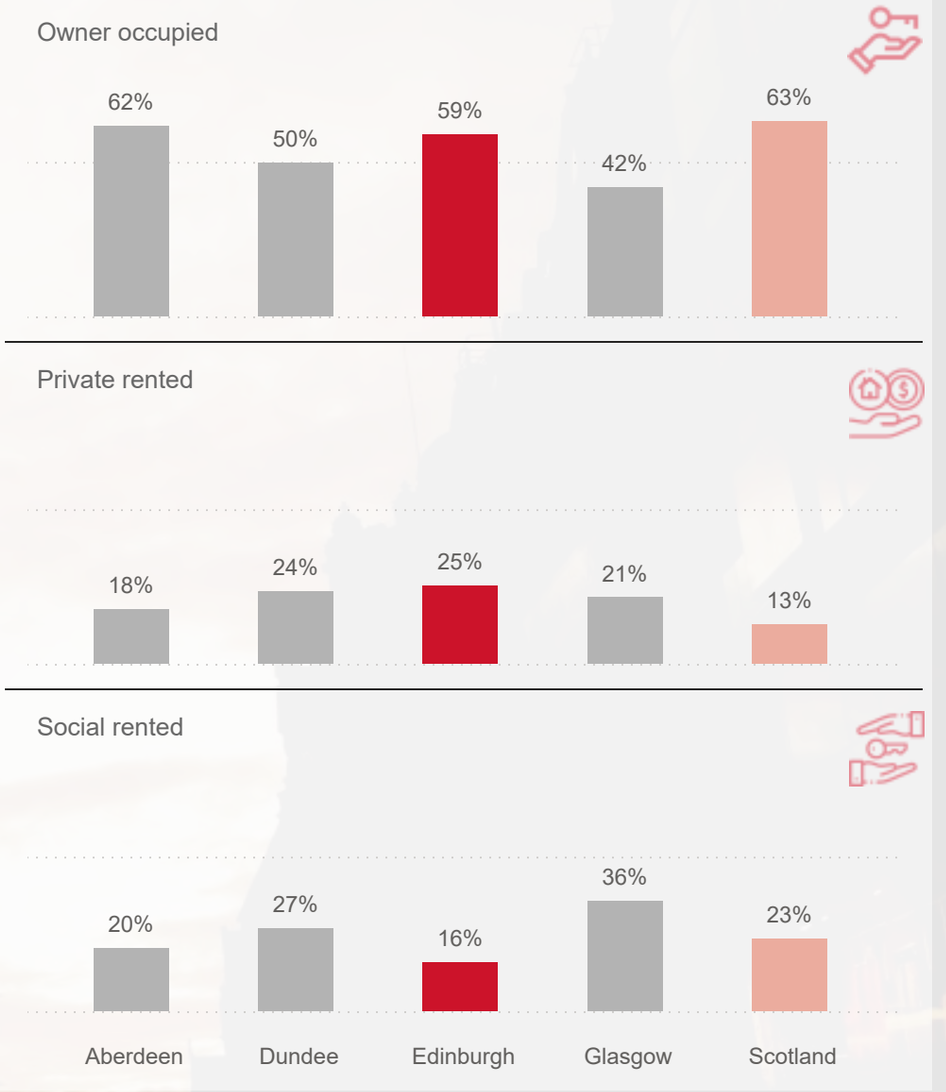

Property

Housing tenure

Percentage of households by tenure in Edinburgh 2024



Housing by tenure in Scottish cities 2024



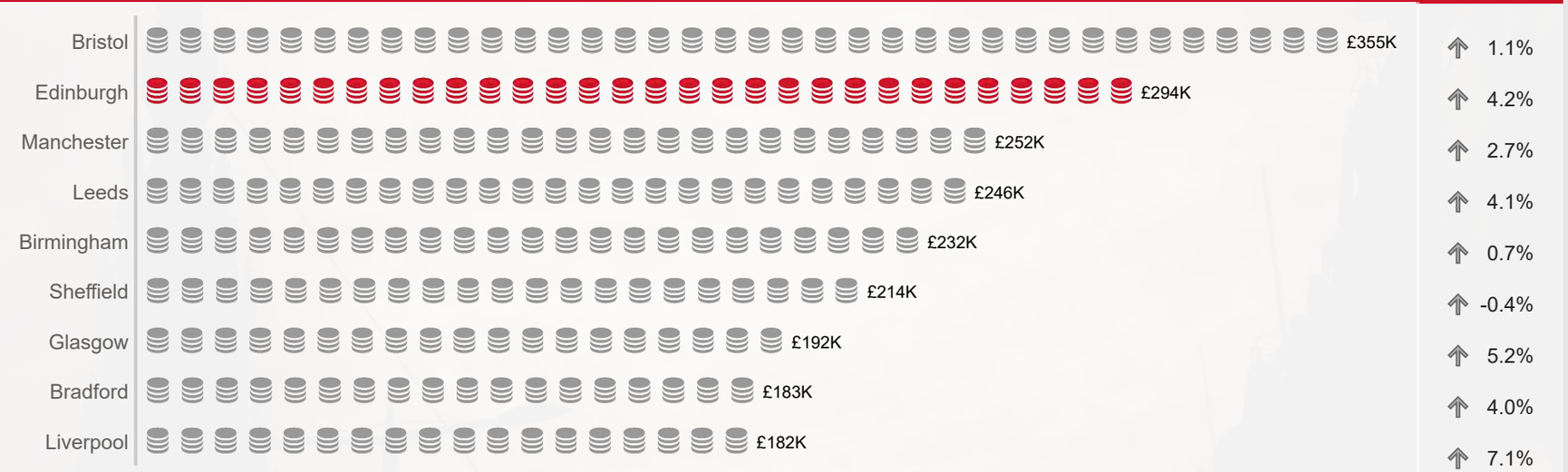
Key Facts

The charts display housing tenure statistics for Edinburgh in 2024, where 59% of households are owner-occupied, 25% are privately rented, and 16% are socially rented. Edinburgh has the second highest percentage of private rentals, almost a quarter of households, and the lowest percentage of social rentals. Owner occupation has the highest prevalence in Edinburgh, not far from the Scottish average.

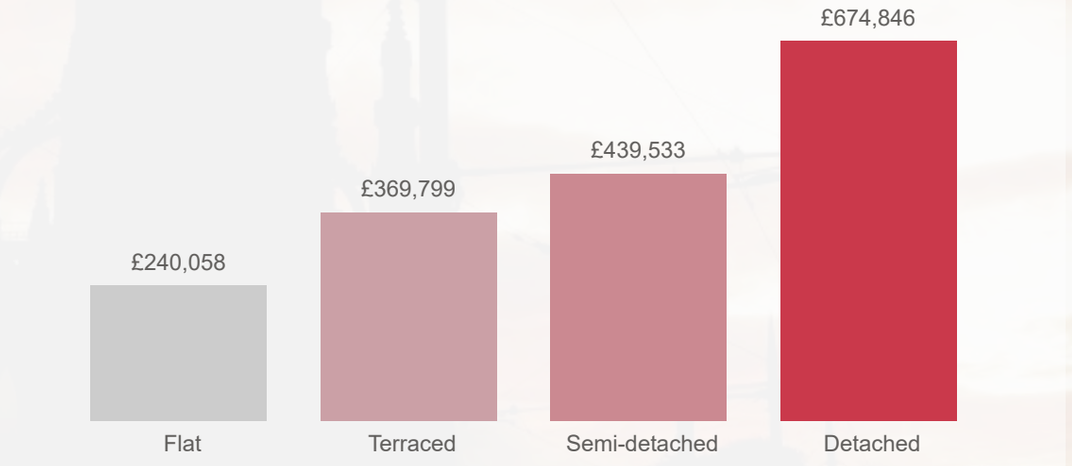
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Average house prices

Average house prices in UK cities September 2025 and percentage change from average in September 2024



Edinburgh average house price by building type September 2025



Key Facts

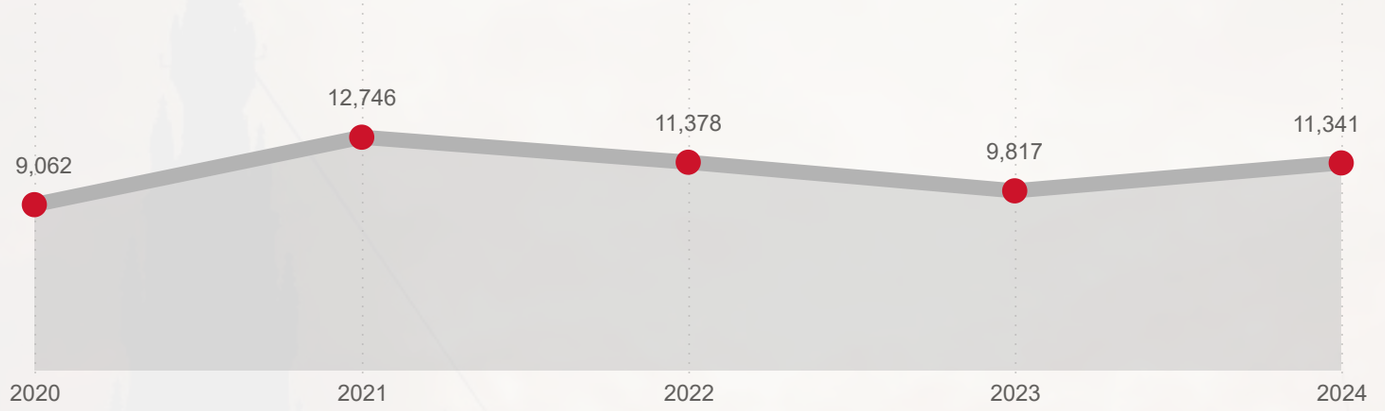
Building types have different average house prices. In Edinburgh the average detached property was sold for £674,846 in September 2025 and the average flat was £240,058.

The average property price in Edinburgh in September 2025 was £294,488 which is higher than the rest of the major UK cities outside London, except for Bristol. The average property price in Edinburgh has increased by 4.2% over the year to September 2025. The growth in prices has slowed down in most UK cities.

Source: UK Government - HM Land Registry - UKHPI

Property sales

Annual number of property sales in Edinburgh 2020 to 2024



Did you know...?

The market value of residential property sales in 2023-24 was £3.4 billion in Edinburgh, the highest residential market value of all of Scotland's cities. This represents 46% of the residential market value of all Scottish cities and 15% of the market value of the whole of Scotland in 2023-24.

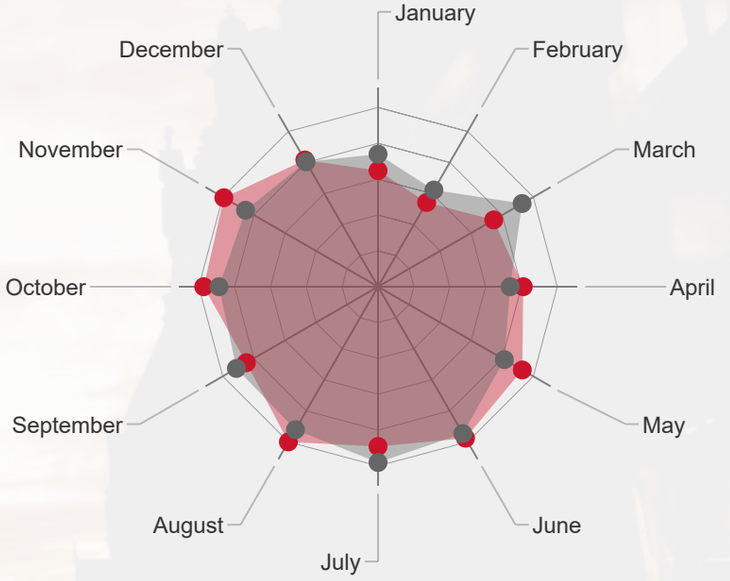
Source: Registers of Scotland Property Market Report 2023-24

Key Facts

House sales experienced a significant decline during the pandemic, dropping to just over 9,000 transactions in 2020. While the market rebounded in 2021, sales trended downward for a few years. It went up again in 2024, reaching 11,341 transactions.

Compared with the average of 2021-2023, sales in 2024 spiked during spring and autumn months, which accounted for the highest number of transactions.

House sales in Edinburgh by month 2024 vs average 2021-23



Month	2024	Avg 2021-23
January	722	825
February	605	695
March	831	1,035
April	903	822
May	1,036	907
June	1,088	1,055
July	994	1,094
August	1,115	1,027
September	946	1,017
October	1,084	989
November	1,107	951
December	910	897

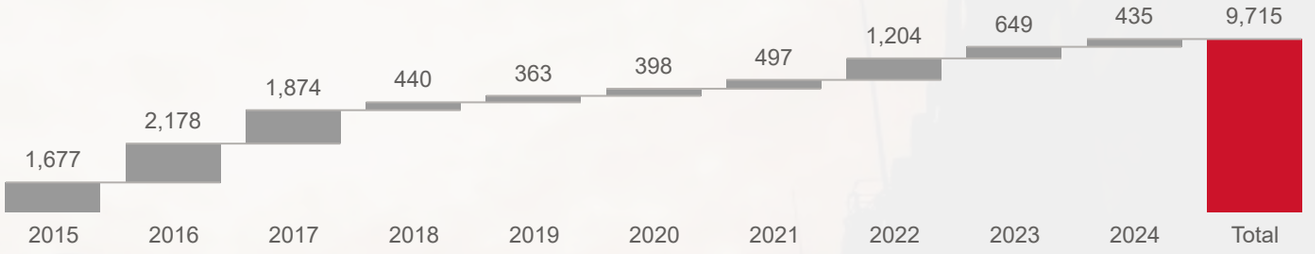
Source: UK Government - HM Land Registry - UKHPI

New developments

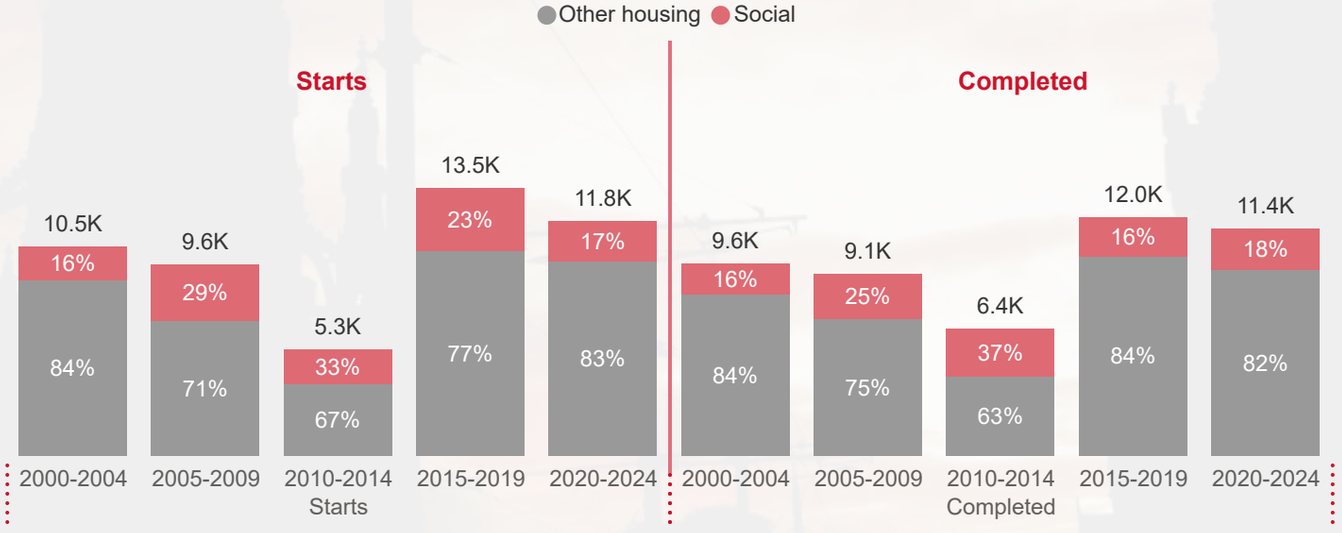
Did you know...?

In addition to the student rooms completed in 2024 there were a further 1,691 bedspaces under construction across 8 new city developments

Student housing development completions 2014 to 2023 (number of rooms)



Number of new build house starts and completions in Edinburgh 2000 to 2024 (five year periods)



Key Facts

Nearly 10,000 student rooms have been developed in the last decade. Both the number of starts and completions were gradually declining from 2000 to 2014 but presented a sharp rise during the period 2015-2019. From 2019 the figures started to slowly decrease again but are still higher than any of the periods pre-2015.

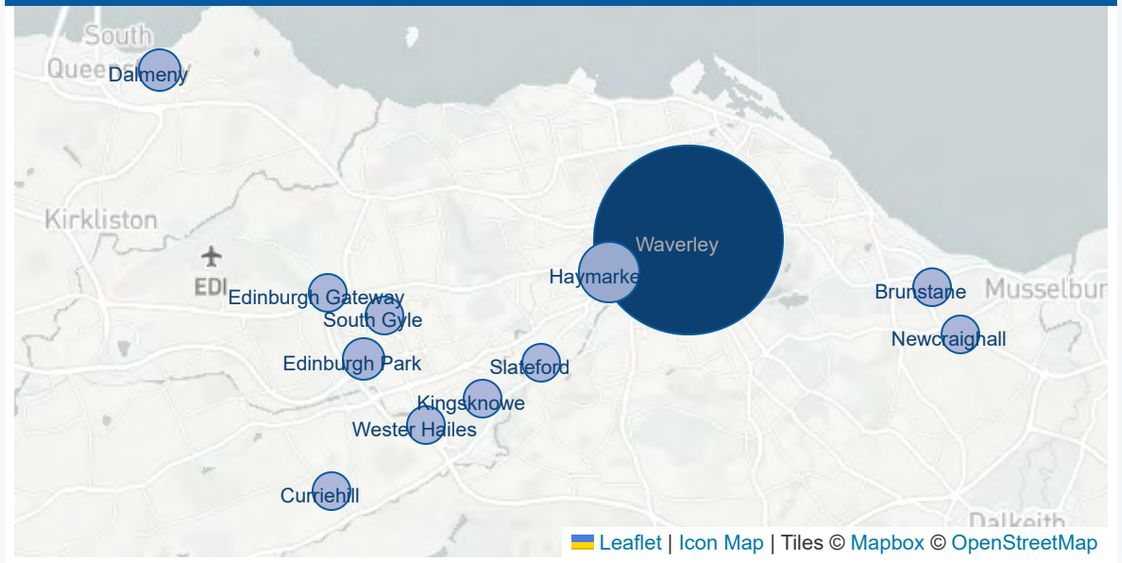
Source: Student housing data provided by The City of Edinburgh Council. Housing starts and completions from Scottish Government - Housing Statistics



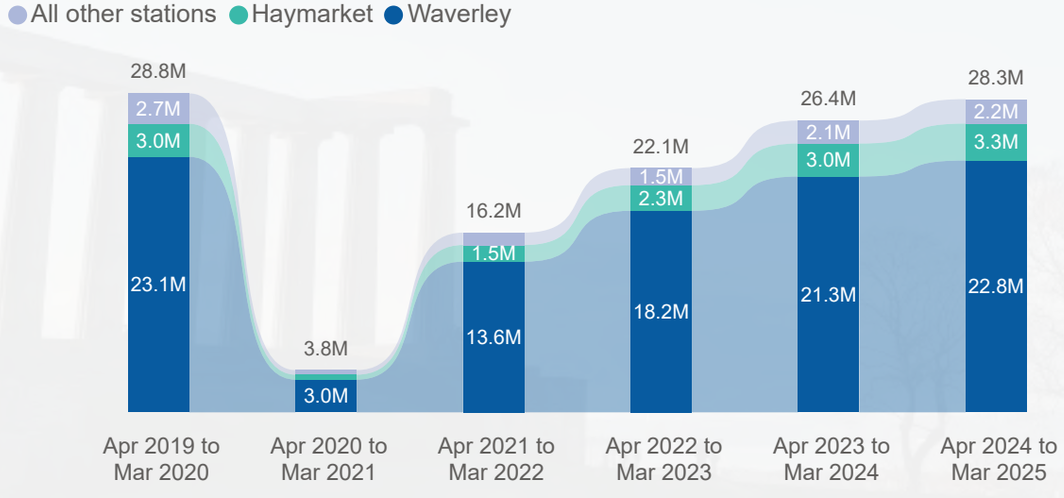
Travel and Connectivity

Rail and plane passengers

Volume of rail passengers by station in Edinburgh from Apr 24 to Mar 25



Rail passenger numbers in Edinburgh stations from 2019 to 2025



Travel times to Edinburgh

City	By car	By train
Glasgow	1 hr 15 min	40 min
Manchester	4 hr 20 min	3 hr 5 min
Leeds	4 hr 30 min	2 hr 57 min
Liverpool	4 hr 30 min	3 hr 23 min
Bradford	4 hr 40 min	3 hr 31 min
Sheffield	4 hr 50 min	3 hr 21 min
Birmingham	5 hr 40 min	4 hr 8 min
Bristol	6 hr 59 min	6 hr 13 min
London	7 hr 45 min	4 hr 00 min

Car travel times based on leaving Edinburgh at 9 am on Mon 17/11/2025. Train times based on shortest trip available on same morning.

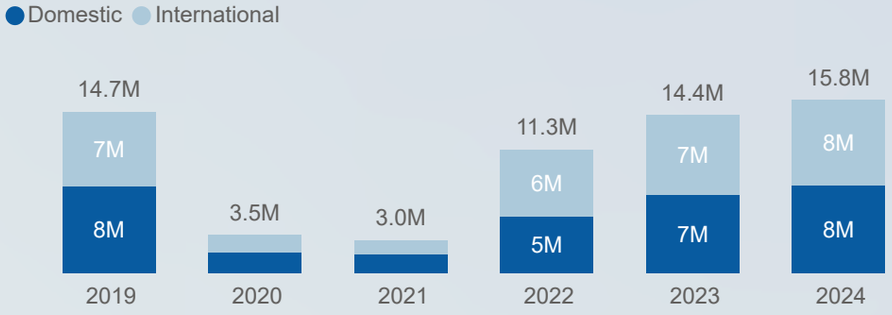
Key Facts

The number of rail passengers travelling to and from Edinburgh fell in 2020/21 to less than 4 million passengers from almost 29 million the previous year. Passenger numbers continue to grow and have nearly recovered, reaching 28.3 million passengers in 2024/25. Train continues to be a quicker option than the car from Edinburgh to other major cities in UK.

Source: Office of Rail and Road, Scotrail and Google Maps

Domestic and international passengers

Passenger numbers (millions) Edinburgh airport 2019 to 2024



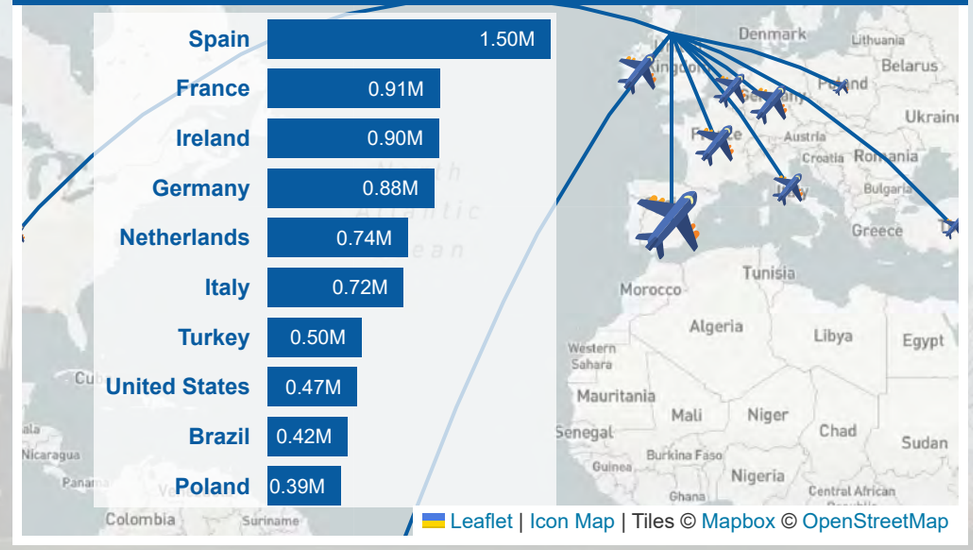
Key Facts

Due to the Pandemic the number of passengers arriving in Edinburgh fell to a low of 3 million in 2021. However, figures for 2022 and 2023 have shown a strong recovery, and in 2024 passenger numbers have surpassed the figure of 2019, with 15.8M.

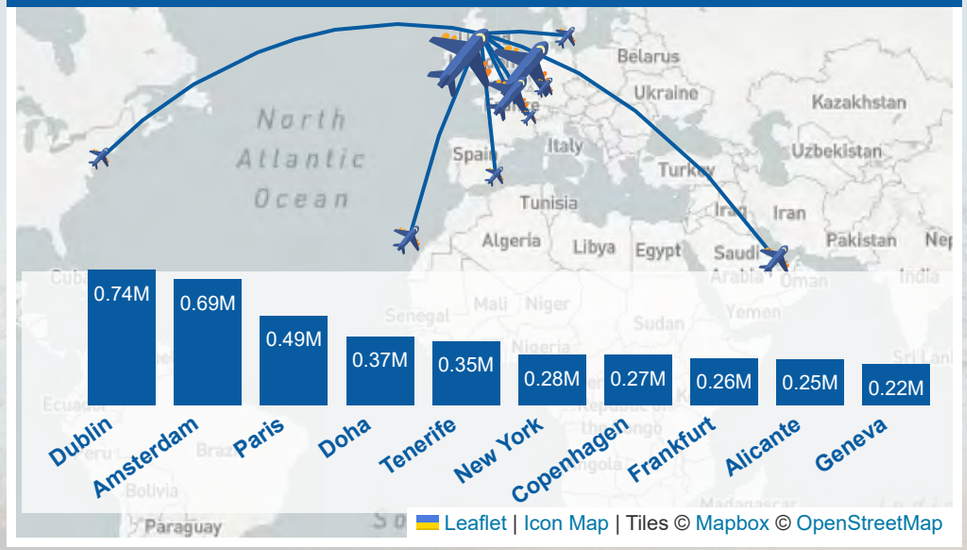
Top five domestic destinations from Edinburgh Airport by passenger numbers 2024



Top ten international countries from Edinburgh Airport by passenger numbers 2024



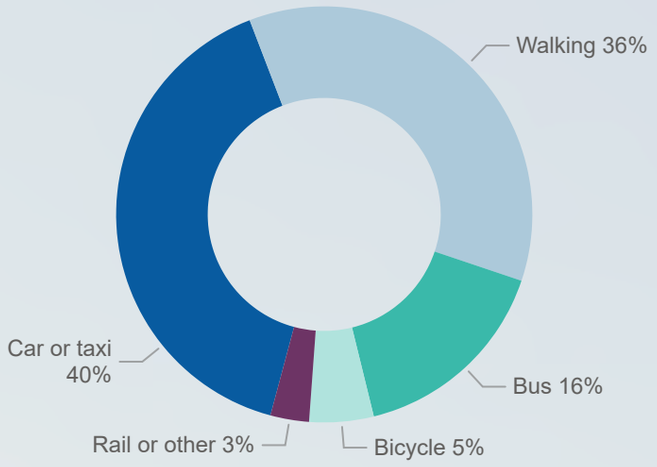
Top ten international cities from Edinburgh Airport by passenger numbers 2024



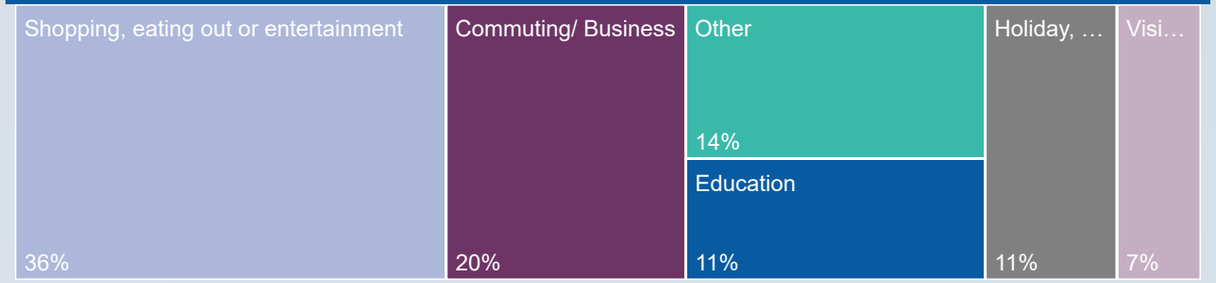
Source: Civil Aviation Authority

Travel within the city

Main mode of travel in Edinburgh 2024



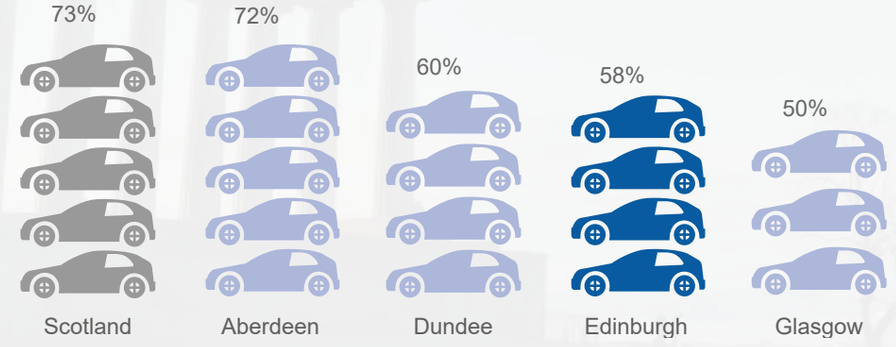
Main purpose of travel in Edinburgh 2024



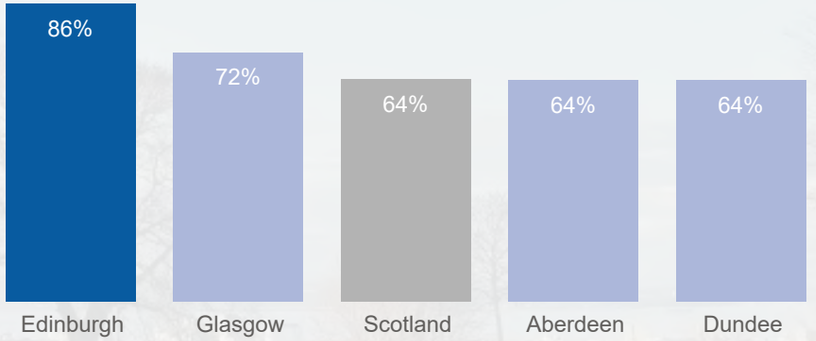
Key Facts

In 2024, around 60% of Edinburgh's travel involved walking or public transport, with leisure activities as the primary purpose in 36% of the trips. Public transport satisfaction stood at 86%, more than 20% over the Scottish average. Despite this good use of sustainable travel, 58% of households owned at least one car.

Percentage of households who have at least one car in Scottish cities 2024



Percentage of population satisfied with public transport in Scottish cities 2024



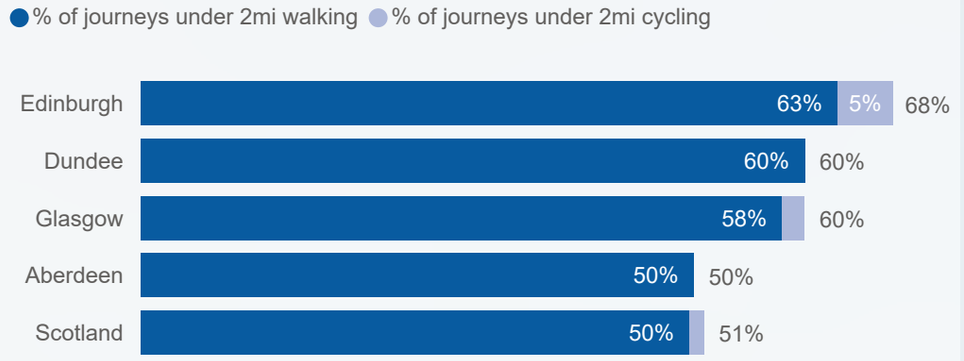
Source: Transport Scotland Scottish Household Survey

Active travel within the city

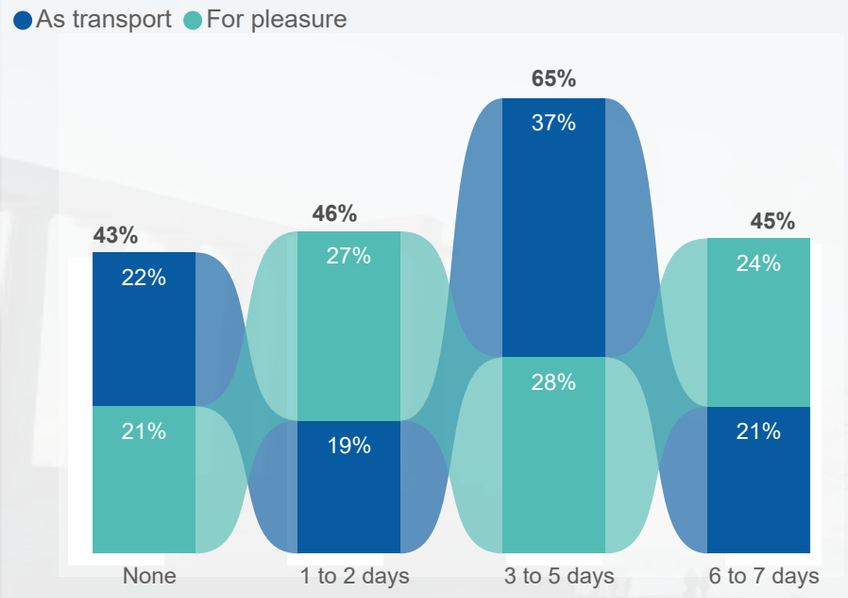
Key Facts

Almost 70% of the short trips made by people in Edinburgh in 2024 were either cycling or walking. A large proportion of residents (65%) walk between 3 and 5 days every week, just over half of them walk as a method of transport but the rest (28%) do it for pleasure. Of the people who walk almost every day of the week, more than half do it for pleasure. 36% of the households in Edinburgh own at least one bike, which sits just over the Scottish average.

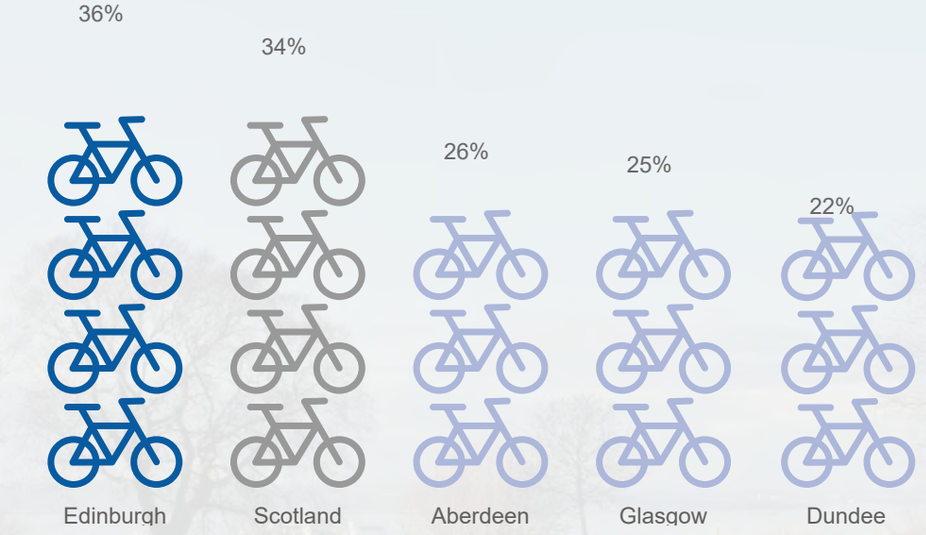
Proportion of short journeys that are made walking or cycling in Scottish cities 2024



Days per week people walk in Edinburgh 2024



Percentage of households that have at least one bike in Scottish cities 2024



Source: Transport Scotland Scottish Household Survey

Driving in Edinburgh

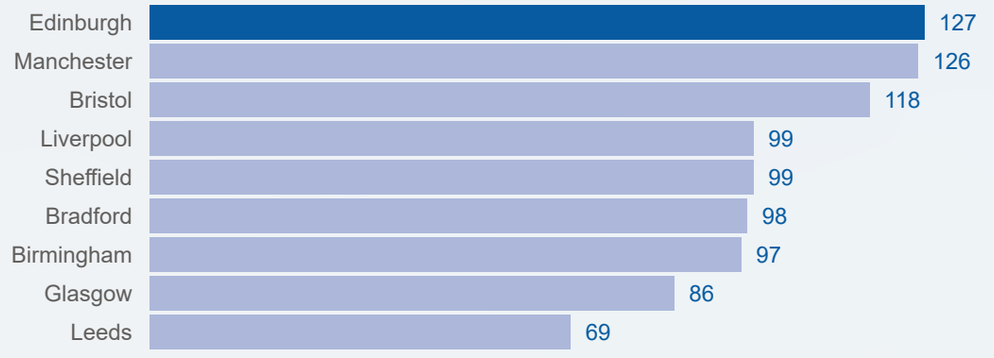
Key Facts

In 2025, Edinburgh commuters lost 127 days to rush hour delays. A 6-mile commute takes nearly 10% longer in the morning and over 16% longer in the evening. However, Edinburgh's evening peak times are still better than most major cities.

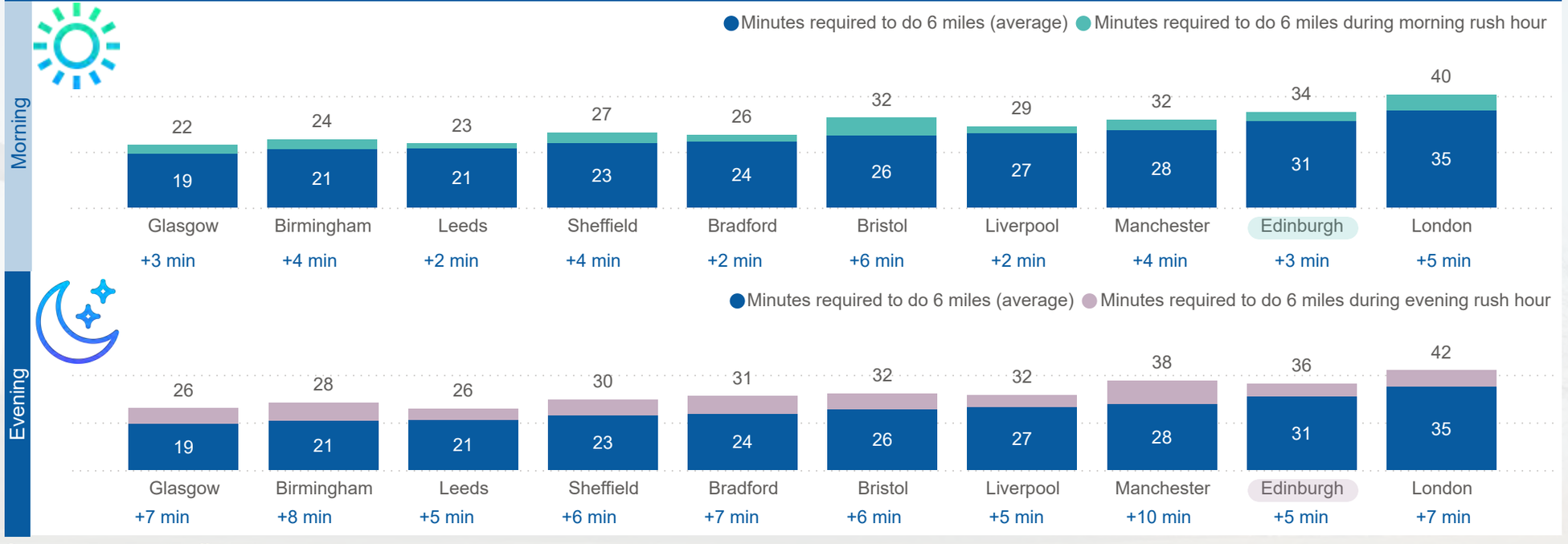
Did you know?

Time lost during rush hour refers to the average time spent driving a 6mi/10km trip twice a day at peak hours (working days). This is the time lost to rush hour commutes across the entire year.

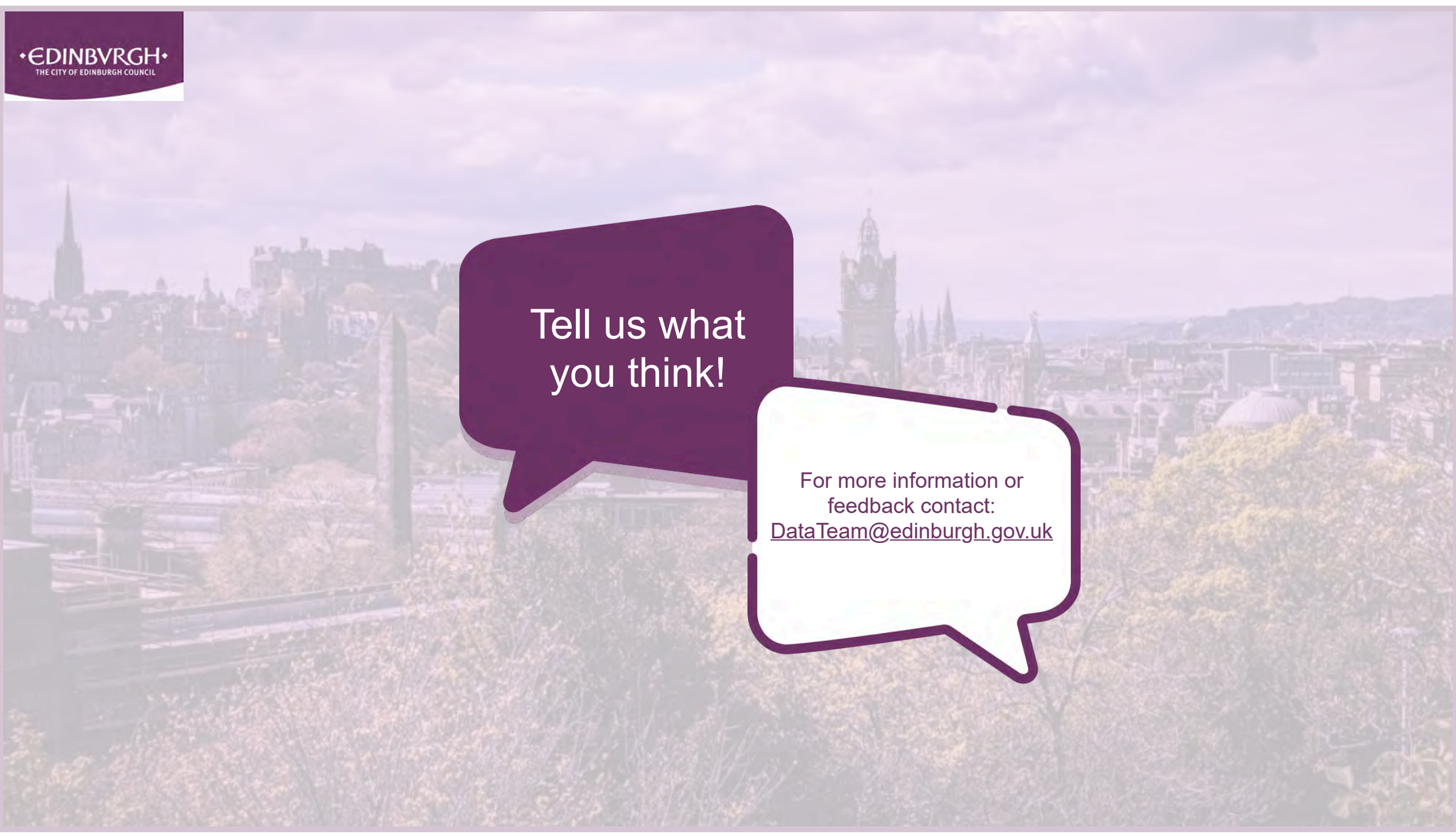
Time lost during rush hour in 2025 (days)



Time (minutes) required to cover a 6 miles commute (on average and during peak times)



Source: *TomTom Traffic Index*


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