# Edinburgh by numbers 2024 - Summary

The City of Edinburgh Council

### People

* Edinburgh's population grew by 8.4% from 2013 to 2023, significantly higher than Scotland's 3.2% growth.
* The city saw increases in working age (8.7%) and older populations (15.9%), while the child population slightly decreased (0.1%).
* Overseas migration has been the primary driver of population growth, with the net effect of migration (41,320) being almost ten times higher than natural change through births and deaths (5,726).
* Edinburgh's population density of 1,987 residents per km² in 2023 was lower than many comparable UK cities, with Manchester having the highest at 5,014 residents per km².

### Health and wellness

* A large majority (81%) of Edinburgh residents rate their health as good or very good, higher than other Scottish cities.
* Edinburgh leads in physical activity, with 76% meeting recommended levels - significantly above other Scottish cities like Aberdeen (70%) and Glasgow (64%).
* The city shows higher participation rates than the Scottish average in most sports, particularly in running (17% vs 10%) and cycling (17% vs 11%).
* Edinburgh maintains the highest life expectancy in Scotland (82.4 years for women, 78.0 for men), with residents spending about 80% of their lives in good health.
* While remaining below the Scottish average (21%), Edinburgh's relative poverty rate has gradually increased from 15.3% to 17% over recent years.

### Work

* Edinburgh maintains the highest employment rate (81.9%) among major UK cities, with notably low economic inactivity (18.1%), mainly attributed to students (38.1%), retirement (18%) and caring responsibilities (12.9%).
* The city's unemployment rate is 3.4% in 2024, up slightly from recent years but still among the lowest of major UK cities, while leading in median hourly pay at £19.33.
* Edinburgh shows strong high-skilled employment (52% of workforce), with a high concentration of employees in health (15.1%) and financial services (11.3%) - the latter being nearly triple the average of comparable UK cities.

### Economy

* Edinburgh's financial and insurance sector dominates the local economy, generating £7.2 billion in GVA - equivalent to the next three largest sectors combined.
* The city leads Scottish cities in GVA per capita at £56,772, significantly higher than Glasgow (£40,933), and ranks second among major UK cities after Manchester.
* After a period of consistent business growth (2011-2019), Edinburgh experienced a brief decline during the pandemic but has returned to positive growth with business births exceeding deaths in 2022-23.
* Business survival rates in Edinburgh (38.6% over five years) align with other major cities like Leeds (38.5%), while hotel room completions have decreased by 19.6% in 2021-23 compared to previous periods.

### Tourism

* Edinburgh experienced strong tourism recovery in 2023, with 5 million total staying visits (representing 40% of Scotland's total), and achieved its highest hotel occupancy rate (81.4%) in six years.
* International visits increased significantly (+29.2%) to 2.3 million in 2023, driving a 31% rise in international spending to £1.5 billion, while domestic visits showed a slight decline (-1.5%).
* The US leads international visitors in both numbers (2.6M nights) and spending (£462.9M), while domestically, the East of Scotland provides the most visitors but London generates the highest spend (£118.2M).
* Edinburgh's cultural attractions showed strong recovery in 2023, with all top 10 venues seeing increased visitors, led by the National Museum of Scotland (2.19M visitors) and Edinburgh Castle (1.90M), while the city's festivals attracted 4.59M total attendees.

### Education

* Edinburgh's education system serves nearly 161,000 students across 349 establishments, with higher education enrolment (73,045 university students) exceeding school enrolment (60,807 pupils).
* The city leads major UK cities in workforce education, with 75.8% educated to degree level or above, significantly higher than comparable cities like Manchester (71.4%) and Bristol (65.9%).
* Edinburgh shows strong international appeal in higher education, with 35.8% of university students being international (29.5% non-EU, 6.3% EU), second only to London among major UK cities.
* The city maintains a high concentration of higher education students (142 per 1,000 population), ranking third among major UK cities behind Manchester (150) and Bristol (146).

### Environment

* Greenhouse gas emissions in Edinburgh fell by 40.9% between 2012 and 2022, with significant reductions in stationary energy and waste sectors. The city had the highest per capita emissions among major UK cities in 2022 at 4.26 tonnes CO2e.
* Edinburgh leads in climate awareness, with 88% of residents viewing climate change as urgent, the highest in Scotland. Renewable energy generation has grown steadily since 2019, reaching 38.5 GWh in 2023. Over 4% of vehicles in Edinburgh are now ultra-low emission.
* The city continues to excel in waste reduction and recycling. Edinburgh generates the lowest household waste per person among Scotland’s four major cities and has the second highest recycling rate (38%).
* Green spaces remain a key asset, with Edinburgh boasting 35 Green Flag parks, over twice as many as any other UK city. 84% of residents visit outdoor spaces weekly, well above the national average, and 92% are satisfied with local green spaces.
* Edinburgh's climate is warming, with temperatures higher than the 1961-1990 average in 10 months of the year. Rainfall patterns have shifted, with April–June now the wettest quarter, unlike previous years.

### Property

* Edinburgh’s housing market is dominated by owner-occupied properties (62%), with 23% privately rented and 15% socially rented, the lowest social rental rate among Scottish cities.
* The average house price in August 2024 was £336,018, increasing 5.6% over the year, making Edinburgh one of the most expensive UK cities outside London.
* Property sales declined in 2023 to 9,820 transactions, with the residential market value reaching £3.4 billion, the highest among Scottish cities.
* More than 10,000 student housing beds have been built since 2014, and housing completions in 2019-2023 tripled compared to 1994-1998.

### Travel and connectivity

* Rail passenger numbers in Edinburgh continue recovering, reaching 26.4 million in 2023/24, closer to the pre-pandemic level of 29.8 million.
* Air travel has strongly rebounded, with Edinburgh Airport handling 14.4 million passengers in 2023, nearly matching the 2019 pre-pandemic figure of 14.7 million.
* In Edinburgh, 60% of travel involves walking or public transport, with leisure activities accounting for 44% of trips. Public transport satisfaction is high at 86%, well above Scotland's 64% average.
* Active travel is prominent, with 68% of journeys under 2 miles made by walking (63%) or cycling (5%), though 63% of households own at least one car.
* Edinburgh residents spend 235 hours driving per year, with 40% of that time due to congestion. A 10km commute typically sees 42-44% extra time added during peak hours.

# Edinburgh by number 2024 - Contents

It contains nine sections: People, Health and wellness, Work, Economy, Tourism and Festivals, Education, Environment, Property, and Travel and Connectivity.

## Introduction

Welcome to the 18th 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 January 2024. We have been unable to update the ‘Healthy Life Expectancy’ and ‘Personal wellbeing’ sections since the datasets for the first one are expected to be released in Spring 2025 and the publication of the second one is temporarily paused.

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.

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 [its@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:its@edinburgh.gov.uk) quoting the unique reference number 25-0229.

For more information and general queries about the report contact: [**data.team@edinburgh.gov.uk**](mailto:strategyandinsight@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## People

### Population and demographic change in Edinburgh

#### Demographic change in Edinburgh, Edinburgh City Region and Scotland from 2013 to 2023 by age group

* Edinburgh:
  + Total: 482,850 in 2013 and 523,250 in 2023 (8.4% increase)
  + Child (0-15): 75,870 in 2013 and 75,761 in 2023 (0.1% decrease)
  + Work age (16-64): 334,740 in 2013 and 363,787 in 2023 (8.7% increase)
  + Over 65: 72,240 in 2013 and 83,702 in 2023 (15.9% increase)
* Edinburgh City Region:
  + Total: 1,325,770 in 2013 and 1,408,900 in 2023 (6.3% increase)
  + Child (0-15): 227,820 in 2013 and 227,773 in 2023 (0.0% change)
  + Work age (16-64): 870,329 in 2013 and 908,385 in 2023 (4.4% increase)
  + Over 65: 227,621 in 2013 and 272,742 in 2023 (19.8% increase)
* Scotland:
  + Total: 5,317,300 in 2013 and 5,490,100 in 2023 (3.2% increase)
  + Child (0-15): 911,490 in 2013 and 894,695 in 2023 (1.8% decrease)
  + Work age (16-64): 3,458,380 in 2013 and 3,479,044 in 2023 (0.6% increase)
  + Over 65: 947,430 in 2013 and 1,116,361 in 2023 (17.8% increase)

#### Density

* Edinburgh: 1,833 (2013) and 1,987 (2023)
* Edinburgh City Region: 170 (2013) and 181 (2023)
* Scotland: 68 (2013) and 70 (2023)  
  Note: Edinburgh city region is defined as Edinburgh, East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian, Fife, and the Scottish Borders.

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

* Edinburgh: 1.6% increase from 1993 to 2003, 8.4% increase from 2003 to 2013, 8.4% increase from 2013 to 2023.
* Edinburgh City Region: 3% increase from 1993 to 2003, 7% increase from 2003 to 2013, 6.3% increase from 2013 to 2023.
* Scotland: -0.5% decrease from 1993 to 2003, 4.9% increase from 2003 to 2013, 3.2% increase from 2013 to 2023.

#### Key Facts

In the ten years to 2023, Edinburgh’s population grew by 8.4% from an estimated 482,850 to an estimated 523,250 people. In the same time period Scotland's population grew by 3.2%. Edinburgh’s population shows growth in each age group except for the child population, which also decreased in Scotland by nearly 2%. Both Edinburgh and Scotland saw large increases in the older population.

Source: [National Records of Scotland - Mid Year Population Estimates](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/population/population-estimates/mid-year-population-estimates)

### Population changes: net migration to Edinburgh by year in the last decade

* 2012-13: Net population change of 3,000
* Net births and deaths: 1,261
* Net Overseas Migration: 1,950
* Net Migration within UK: 1,050
* 2013-14: Net population change of 3,300
* Net births and deaths: 1,420
* Net Overseas Migration: 3,270
* Net Migration within UK: 20
* 2014-15: Net population change of 6,260
* Net births and deaths: 961
* Net Overseas Migration: 6,050
* Net Migration within UK: 210
* 2015-16: Net population change of 7,660
* Net births and deaths: 961
* Net Overseas Migration: 6,790
* Net Migration within UK: 870
* 2016-17: Net population change of 5,090
* Net births and deaths: 771
* Net Overseas Migration: 4,510
* Net Migration within UK: 580
* 2017-18: Net population change of 4,620
* Net births and deaths: 467
* Net Overseas Migration: 4,310
* Net Migration within UK: 320
* 2018-19: Net population change of 5,910
* Net births and deaths: 443
* Net Overseas Migration: 6,710
* Net Migration within UK: -800
* 2019-20: Net population change of 2,890
* Net births and deaths: -239
* Net Overseas Migration: 4,250
* Net Migration within UK: -1,360
* 2020-21: Net population change of -1,380
* Net births and deaths: 37
* Net Overseas Migration: 21,900
* Net Migration within UK: -7,570
* 2021-22: Net population change of 7,970
* Net births and deaths: -356
* Net Overseas Migration: 53,420
* Net Migration within UK: -8,100

#### 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 2012 to 2022 was 5,726. The net effect of migration was almost ten times higher at 41,320. in Edinburgh. The net effect of migration was over five times higher at 53,420.

Edinburgh’s net birth and death rate reduced from a net increase of 1,261 in 2012/13 to a net reduction of 356 in 2021/22. The size of overseas migration to Edinburgh increased in the period 2021/22 (9,390) up from 2020/21 (6,190) while the net migration within UK continued to decrease.

Source: [National Records of Scotland - Migrations](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/migration/migration-statistics/migration-flows/total-migration-to-or-from-scotland)

### Population in 2023, change in population from 2013 (figures and percentage) and density in 2023

* Birmingham has a total population of 1,166,849, with a population change of 71,518 or 6.5% over the past 10 years. The city has a population density of 4,354 residents per km2.
* Bradford has a total population of 560,194, with a population change of 31,482 or 6.0% over the past 10 years. The city has a population density of 1,529 residents per km2.
* Bristol has a total population of 482,988, with a population change of 44,014 or 10.0% over the past 10 years. The city has a population density of 4,404 residents per km2.
* Edinburgh has a total population of 523,250, with a population change of 40,400 or 8.4% over the past 10 years. The city has a population density of 1,987 residents per km2.
* Glasgow has a total population of 631,970, with a population change of 39,660 or 6.7% over the past 10 years. The city has a population density of 3,619 residents per km2.
* Leeds has a total population of 829,413, with a population change of 65,044 or 8.5% over the past 10 years. The city has a population density of 1,503 residents per km2.
* Liverpool has a total population of 503,740, with a population change of 37,925 or 8.1% over the past 10 years. The city has a population density of 4,504 residents per km2.
* Manchester has a total population of 579,917, with a population change of 69,134 or 13.5% over the past 10 years. The city has a population density of 5,014 residents per km2.
* Sheffield has a total population of 573,252, with a population change of 17,999 or 3.2% over the past 10 years. The city has a population density of 4,680 residents per km2.

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.

#### Key Facts

In 2023, Edinburgh's population density was 1,987 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 from 2013 to 2023 of 8.4% was the fourth highest in proportional terms behind Manchester, Bristol and Leeds.

[Source: ONS Population Estimates - NOMIS](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/)

## Health and Wellbeing

### Personal wellbeing in Edinburgh and the top largest cities in UK excluding London

#### Key Facts

Personal Wellbeing is measured across four indicators: Worthwhile, Life Satisfaction, Happiness and Anxiety Edinburgh’s scores for the first three have improved, with ‘the feeling that things done are worthwhile’ measure at its highest point of the last 10 years. Edinburgh scores higher than the rest of the comparable cities in UK in Worthwhile and Life satisfaction.

Source: ONS Personal Wellbeing Estimates

#### Personal wellbeing in Edinburgh for 2013 to 2023

Overall summary:

• Anxiety has shown variability over the years, with values ranging from 2.99 to 3.67.

• Happiness has seen a general decline, dropping from 7.48 in 2013 to 7.10 in 2022, with a slight increase to 7.25 in 2023.

• Life satisfaction experienced minor fluctuations, maintaining within 7.42 and 7.71, before increasing to 7.69 in 2023.

• Worthwhile ratings have been relatively steady, with earlier years hovering around 7.7 and reaching a peak of 7.88 in 2023 after a low of 7.55 in 2022.

Breakdown by year:

• 2013: Anxiety 3.29, Happiness 7.48, Life satisfaction 7.52, Worthwhile 7.77

• 2014: Anxiety 3.26, Happiness 7.47, Life satisfaction 7.56, Worthwhile 7.7

• 2015: Anxiety 3.01, Happiness 7.61, Life satisfaction 7.6, Worthwhile 7.7

• 2016: Anxiety 3.29, Happiness 7.41, Life satisfaction 7.61, Worthwhile 7.82

• 2017: Anxiety 3.49, Happiness 7.35, Life satisfaction 7.61, Worthwhile 7.69

• 2018: Anxiety 3.21, Happiness 7.48, Life satisfaction 7.61, Worthwhile 7.8

• 2019: Anxiety 2.99, Happiness 7.57, Life satisfaction 7.71, Worthwhile 7.8

• 2020: Anxiety 3.64, Happiness 7.38, Life satisfaction 7.6, Worthwhile 7.81

• 2021: Anxiety 3.67, Happiness 7.26, Life satisfaction 7.48, Worthwhile 7.71

• 2022: Anxiety 3.22, Happiness 7.10, Life satisfaction 7.42, Worthwhile 7.55

• 2023: Anxiety 3.55, Happiness 7.25, Life satisfaction 7.69, Worthwhile 7.88

#### Personal wellbeing in UK cities 2023

**Anxiety**

* Birmingham, 3.43
* Bradford, 3.42
* Bristol, 3.44
* Edinburgh, 3.55
* Glasgow, 3.29
* Leeds, 3.15
* Liverpool, 3.28
* Manchester, 3.73
* Sheffield, 3.28

**Happiness**

* Birmingham, 7.18
* Bradford, 7.24
* Bristol, 7.2
* Edinburgh, 7.25
* Glasgow, 7.14
* Leeds, 7.28
* Liverpool, 7.34
* Manchester, 6.85
* Sheffield, 7.33

**Life satisfaction**

* Birmingham, 7.24
* Bradford, 7.2
* Bristol, 7.31
* Edinburgh, 7.69
* Glasgow, 7.24
* Leeds, 7.46
* Liverpool, 7.1
* Manchester, 6.97
* Sheffield, 7.28

**Worthwhile**

* Birmingham, 7.65
* Bradford, 7.64
* Bristol, 7.33
* Edinburgh, 7.88
* Glasgow, 7.41
* Leeds, 7.68
* Liverpool, 7.59
* Manchester, 7.29
* Sheffield, 7.62

### 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 2019-2023 only 14% 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%).   
Source: [Scottish Health Survey](https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-health-survey/) and [Scottish Household Survey](https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-household-survey-publications/)

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

Walking

* Edinburgh, 76%
* Scotland, 71%

Swimming

* Edinburgh, 15%
* Scotland, 13%

Running

* Edinburgh, 17%
* Scotland, 10%

Gym/ weights

* Edinburgh, 20%
* Scotland, 16%

Cycling

* Edinburgh, 17%
* Scotland, 11%

Other

* Edinburgh, 15%
* Scotland, 21%

#### Percentage of population that achieved different levels of activity in main Scottish cities 2018-22

* Meets recommendations: Edinburgh, 76%; Aberdeen, 70%; Glasgow, 64%; Dundee, 63%.
* Very low activity: Dundee, 20%; Aberdeen, 17%; Glasgow, 21%; Edinburgh, 14%.
* Some activity: Dundee, 12%; Glasgow, 11%; Aberdeen, 9%; Edinburgh, 7%.
* Low activity: Edinburgh, 3%; Dundee, 5%; Aberdeen, 4%; Glasgow, 4%.

#### Percentage of population who self-assess their health as good or very good in Scottish cities 2018-22

* Edinburgh: 81%
* Dundee: 74%
* Aberdeen: 78%
* Glasgow: 71%

### Life expectancy and relative poverty in Edinburgh and other Scottish cities

#### Life expectancy in Scottish Cities:

* Aberdeen: Female 81.03, Male 76.93
* Dundee: Female 79.11, Male 73.54
* Edinburgh: Female 82.43, Male 78.00
* Glasgow: Female 78.02, Male 72.96

#### Healthy life expectancy in Scottish Cities:

* + - Aberdeen: Female 61.37, Male 60.23
    - Dundee: Female 59.46, Male 55.89
    - Edinburgh: Female 66.33, Male 62.94
    - Glasgow: Female 56.00, Male 54.75

#### Proportion of life spent in good health in Scottish Cities:

* Aberdeen: Female 75.74, Male 78.28
* Dundee: Female 75.16, Male 76.00
* Edinburgh: Female 80.47, Male 80.69
* Glasgow: Female 71.78, Male 75.04

[Source: National Records of Scotland - Healthy Life Expectancy](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/life-expectancy)

#### Relative poverty in Edinburgh and Scotland from 2014 to 2022

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.

* 2014-17: Edinburgh, 15.3%, Scotland, 18.9%
* 2015-18: Edinburgh, 15.9%, Scotland, 19.6%
* 2016-19: Edinburgh, 15.4%, Scotland, 19.2%
* 2017-20: Edinburgh, 15.1%, Scotland, 19.3%
* 2018-21: Edinburgh, 16%, Scotland, 19%
* 2019-22: Edinburgh, 17%, Scotland, 21%
* 2020-23: Edinburgh, 17%, Scotland, 21%

#### Key Facts

Edinburgh has the highest life expectancy and healthy life expectancy compared with the rest of 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 but has been slowly increasing in the last 5 years.

## Work

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

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.

#### 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. Over four fifths (81.9%) of the population between 16 and 64 years are in employment, 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 (38.1%), being looked after (12.9%) and being long-term sick (11.5%).

#### Economic status of residents in Edinburgh and UK cities 2024 (as a % of population aged 16 to 64 years)

* % of Economically Active:
  + Edinburgh: 81.9%
  + London: 79.2%
  + UK 8 Cities Average: 72.6%
* % of Economically Inactive who do not want a job:
  + Edinburgh: 15.4%
  + London: 16.8%
  + UK 8 Cities Average: 23.1%
* % of Economically Inactive who want a job:
  + Edinburgh: 2.7%
  + London: 3.95%
  + UK 8 Cities Average: 4.27%

#### Main reasons for being economically inactive in Edinburgh and UK cities in 2023

* Reasons for inactivity in Edinburgh:
  + Student: 38.1%
  + Retired: 17.6%
  + Other: 8.4%
  + Looking after: 12.9%
  + Long-term sick: 11.5%
* Reasons for inactivity in UK 8 cities average:
  + Student: 33.2%
  + Retired: 8.1%
  + Other: 10.7%
  + Looking after: 18.2%
  + Long-term sick: 22.7%
* Reasons for inactivity in London:
  + Student: 33.7%
  + Retired: 7.6%
  + Other: 13.1%
  + Looking after: 23.5%
  + Long-term sick: 11.1%

#### Percentage of residents aged 16 to 64 years currently in employment in UK cities in 2024

* Edinburgh, 78.6%
* Leeds, 69.7%
* Bristol, 78.2%
* Sheffield, 72.7%
* London , 75.1%
* Glasgow, 68.1%
* Manchester, 65.9%
* Liverpool, 66.2%
* Bradford, 68.5%
* Birmingham, 66.1%

[Source: Annual Population Survey](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/)

### Model based unemployment data

#### Key Facts

Edinburgh’s unemployment rate, at 3.4%, is lower than it was ten years ago (5% in 2014) but higher than the last two years (2.9% in 2022 and 2.6% in 2023). The median hourly pay has risen to £19.33 which is the highest of the major UK cities excluding London.

#### Did you know?

The median hourly pay has increased ﻿7.2%﻿ in Edinburgh from ﻿2023﻿, which is over the Scottish increase of ﻿5.0%﻿. At more than 50% above the UK Real Living Wage of £12.60 for 2024/25, the median hourly rate exceeds the minimum amount calculated by The Resolution Foundation as needed for a decent standard of living.

#### Model based estimate of unemployment rate in Edinburgh 2015 to 2024

* Jun 2015: Edinburgh, 5%, Scotland, 5.3%
* Jun 2016: Edinburgh, 5.4%, Scotland, 5.2%
* Jun 2017: Edinburgh, 4.5%, Scotland, 3.8%
* Jun 2018: Edinburgh, 4.1%, Scotland, 3.3%
* Jun 2019: Edinburgh, 4.1%, Scotland, 3.8%
* Jun 2020: Edinburgh, 3.4%, Scotland, 3.6%
* Jun 2021: Edinburgh, 4.7%, Scotland, 4.4%
* Jun 2022: Edinburgh, 4.4%, Scotland, 3.4%
* Jun 2023: Edinburgh, 2.9%, Scotland, 3.2%
* Jun 2024: Edinburgh, 3.5%, Scotland, 3.4%

#### Model based estimate of unemployment in major UK cities in 2024

* Manchester, 6.7%
* Liverpool, 6.4%
* Birmingham, 6.2%
* Glasgow, 5.2%
* Bradford, 4.5%
* Leeds, 3.5%
* Edinburgh, 3.4%
* Bristol, 3.3%
* Sheffield, 3.3%

#### Median hourly pay per worker in major UK cities in 2024

* Edinburgh, £19.33
* Bristol, £17.87
* Sheffield, £16.84
* Glasgow, £16.76
* Leeds, £16.74
* Liverpool, £16.29
* Manchester, £15.74
* Birmingham, £15.14
* Bradford, £15.10

### Enterprise sizes and occupations by skills

#### Key Facts

Nearly three quarters of enterprises in Edinburgh (72.2 %) are small companies with up to four employees, while only 1.5% are enterprises with 100 or more employees. Edinburgh has a large proportion of workers in high skilled occupations. Over half of Edinburgh’s workers are in high skilled occupations (52%) while just around 6% work in low skilled occupations.

#### Enterprises by employment size in Edinburgh 2024

* 0 to 4 employees: 13,005 enterprises, which is 72.2% of all enterprises.
* 5 to 9 employees: 2,400 enterprises, which is 13.3% of all enterprises.
* 10 to 19 employees: 1,395 enterprises, which is 7.7% of all enterprises.
* 20 to 99 employees: 940 enterprises, which is 5.2% of all enterprises.
* 100+ employees: 270 enterprises, which is 1.5% of all enterprises.

#### High and Low Skilled occupations by major UK cities April 2023 to March 2024

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.

* Edinburgh: High skill 52%, Low skill 5.7%
* Leeds: High skill 45.8%, Low skill 8.1%
* Bristol: High skill 45%, Low skill 6.3%
* Manchester: High skill 39.5%, Low skill 12%
* Birmingham: High skill 34.9%, Low skill 10.9%
* Sheffield: High skill 34.4%, Low skill 9.2%
* Glasgow: High skill 33.2%, Low skill 11.8%
* Bradford: High skill 30.9%, Low skill 9.2%
* Liverpool: High skill 29.4%, Low skill 4.4%

Source: [NOMIS - Annual Population Survey](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/aps) and [NOMIS - UK Business Counts](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/ukbc)

### People in employment - Industry share

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

56,000 people in Edinburgh are employed in the health industry. This makes up just over 15% of all jobs in Edinburgh. In 2023, over one in ten people employed in Edinburgh worked in finance and insurance. This is close to three times as much as 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.

#### People in employment by industry 2023 in Edinburgh

* Accommodation & food services: Edinburgh 10.2% (38,000), Scotland 8.6%, UK 8 cities average 7.7%
* Agriculture, forestry & fishing: Edinburgh 0.3% (1,250), Scotland 3.4%, UK 8 cities average 0.1%
* Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services: Edinburgh 5.4% (20,000), Scotland 4.4%, UK 8 cities average 3.9%
* Business administration & support services: Edinburgh 6.2% (23,000), Scotland 6.8%, UK 8 cities average 9.1%
* Construction: Edinburgh 2.4% (9,000), Scotland 5.1%, UK 8 cities average 3.6%
* Education: Edinburgh 9.7% (36,000), Scotland 8.2%, UK 8 cities average 9.9%
* Financial & insurance: Edinburgh 11.3% (42,000), Scotland 3.2%, UK 8 cities average 4.5%
* Health: Edinburgh 15.1% (56,000), Scotland 15.6%, UK 8 cities average 15.3%
* Information & communication: Edinburgh 5.4% (20,000), Scotland 3.1%, UK 8 cities average 4.6%
* Manufacturing: Edinburgh 2.7% (10,000), Scotland 6.7%, UK 8 cities average 5.5%
* Mining, quarrying & utilities: Edinburgh 1.1% (4,000), Scotland 2.5%, UK 8 cities average 1.2%
* Motor trades: Edinburgh 1.1% (4,000), Scotland 1.7%, UK 8 cities average 1.4%
* Professional, scientific & technical: Edinburgh 9.1% (34,000), Scotland 7.2%, UK 8 cities average 10.1%
* Property: Edinburgh 1.9% (7,000), Scotland 1.5%, UK 8 cities average 2.0%
* Public administration & defence: Edinburgh 6.2% (23,000), Scotland 6.2%, UK 8 cities average 6.0%
* Retail: Edinburgh 7.0% (26,000), Scotland 8.7%, UK 8 cities average 7.8%
* Transport & storage: Edinburgh 3.2% (12,000), Scotland 4.5%, UK 8 cities average 4.3%
* Wholesale: Edinburgh 1.3% (5,000), Scotland 2.8%, UK 8 cities average 3.4%

Source: [NOMIS - Business Register and Employment Survey](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/bres)

#### Percentage of people working in the finance and insurance sector in UK cities in 2023

* Edinburgh, 11.3%
* Bristol, 6.4%
* Manchester, 5.5%
* Leeds, 5.2%
* Glasgow, 4.5%
* Birmingham, 4.1%
* Sheffield, 3.6%
* Liverpool, 3.5%
* Bradford, 3.0%

## Economy

### Gross Value Added (GVA)

#### Key Facts

The finance and insurance industry in Edinburgh provides as much Gross Value Added (GVA) (£7.2bn) as the next three largest sector combined: real estate activities (£3.0bn), human health and social care (£2.2bn) and professional, scientific and tech (£1.8bn). In terms of GVA per capita, Edinburgh (£56.8k) has almost 40% more per person than Glasgow (£40.9k), the next highest Scottish city.

#### 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.

#### Gross value added by sector in Edinburgh 2022

* Financial and insurance activities: £7.22 billion
* Other: £3.78 billion
* Real estate activities: £2.97 billion
* Human health and social work activities: £2.18 billion
* Professional, scientific and technical activities: £1. 8 billion
* Education: £2.03 billion
* Public admin and defence: £1.45 billion
* Information and communication: £1.45 billion
* Wholesale and retail trade: £1.36 billion
* Manufacturing: £1,12 billion
* Accommodation and food service: £0.84 billion

#### GVA per capita in major UK cities 2022

* Edinburgh: £56,772
* Manchester: £55,371
* Glasgow: £40,933
* Bristol: £40,302
* Leeds: £38,857
* Liverpool: £33,603
* Sheffield: £27,694
* Birmingham: £27,655
* Bradford: £20,647

[Source:](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/) [ONS - Gross Value Added](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva) and [NOMIS - Population Estimates](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/pest)

### 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. In 2022 and 2023 the number of business deaths returned to being below business births, resulting in a small but positive business growth. Despite the previous years’ net decrease in business growth, 38.6% of Edinburgh businesses survived their first 5 years of operation. The period 2021-23 also had a 19.6% reduction in the number of hotel rooms completed.

#### Edinburgh businesses births and deaths from 2012 to 2023

* Year 2023: 1,970 business deaths and 2,105 births
* Year 2022: 2,250 business deaths and 2,270 births
* Year 2021: 2,470 business deaths and 2,220 births
* Year 2020: 2,520 business deaths and 2,010 births
* Year 2019: 2,055 business deaths and 2,590 births
* Year 2018: 1,955 business deaths and 2,550 births
* Year 2017: 2,160 business deaths and 2,405 births
* Year 2016: 1,990 business deaths and 2,695 births
* Year 2015: 2,295 business deaths and 3,060 births
* Year 2014: 1,855 business deaths and 2,765 births
* Year 2013: 1,785 business deaths and 2,730 births
* Year 2012: 1,825 business deaths and 2,145 births

#### Business survival rate over 5 years (2018 to 2023) and Business density rate (registered business per 1,000 residents)

* Bradford: Survival rate of 41.2 and density rate of 33.3
* Sheffield: Survival rate of 44.6 and density rate of 32.9
* Leeds: Survival rate of 38.5 and density rate of 38.6
* Bristol: Survival rate of 43.9 and density rate of 41.8
* Edinburgh: Survival rate of 38.6 and density rate of 37.5
* Glasgow: Survival rate of 36.2 and density rate of 34.9
* Birmingham: Survival rate of 25 and density rate of 36.9
* Liverpool: Survival rate of 29.4 and density rate of 33
* Manchester: Survival rate of 28.9 and density rate of 44.8

#### Hotel development completions in Edinburgh 2009 to 2023 (rooms)

* 2009-2011: 1,270 rooms.
* 2012-2014: 1,581 rooms.
* 2015-2017: 1,739 rooms.
* 2018-2020: 1,807 rooms.
* 2021-2023: 1,452 rooms.

Source: [ONS - Gross Value Added](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossvalueaddedgva) and [NOMIS - Population Estimates](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/sources/pest). Hotel room completions provided by The City of Edinburgh Council.

## Tourism and Festivals

### Visitors to Edinburgh

#### Key Facts

In 2023, Edinburgh experienced a rebound in tourism, representing almost 40% of the total of staying visits in Scotland. Edinburgh reached an occupancy rate of 81.4%, the highest of the last six years. The number of international visits to Edinburgh has increased by nearly 30% in the last year, and although the number of domestic visits has seen a slight dip, the spend increase more than 2%.

#### Staying visits, nights and spend in 2023 and comparison change from 2022

* Staying visits in Edinburgh, domestic: 2.7M in 2023, -1.5% vs 2022
* Staying visits in Edinburgh, international: 2.3M in 2023, +29.2% vs 2022
* Staying visits in Edinburgh, total: 5.0M in 2023, +10.8% vs 2022
* Staying visits in Rest of Scotland, domestic: 10.2M in 2023, -13.1% vs 2022
* Staying visits in Rest of Scotland, international: 2.3M in 2023, +20.2% vs 2022
* Staying visits in Rest of Scotland, total: 12.6M in 2023, -8.4% vs 2022
* Nights in Edinburgh, domestic: 6.9M in 2023, -2.6% vs 2022
* Nights in Edinburgh, international: 13.4M in 2023, +39.2% vs 2022
* Nights in Edinburgh, total: 20.4M in 2023, +21.5% vs 2022
* Nights in Rest of Scotland, domestic: 28.5M in 2023, -10.9% vs 2022
* Nights in Rest of Scotland, international: 16.1M in 2023, +3.0% vs 2022
* Nights in Rest of Scotland, total: 44.5M in 2023, -6.3% vs 2022
* Spend in Edinburgh, domestic: £747.1M in 2023, +2.1% vs 2022
* Spend in Edinburgh, international: £1,497.2M in 2023, +31.0% vs 2022
* Spend in Edinburgh, total: £2,244.3M in 2023, +19.7% vs 2022
* Spend in Rest of Scotland, domestic: £2,441.8M in 2023, -5.9% vs 2022
* Spend in Rest of Scotland, international: £1,463.6M in 2023, -0.5% vs 2022
* Spend in Rest of Scotland, total: £3,905.3M in 2023, -3.9% vs 2022

The volume and value of domestic day visits is not included in the chart or in the next two following pages. since it was not available in time for publication.

#### Number of staying visits in Edinburgh and the rest of Scotland from 2013 to 2023

* **2013** 
  + Edinburgh, £1,315,711
  + Rest of Scotland, £2,553,873
* **2014**
  + Edinburgh, £1,589,693
  + Rest of Scotland, £2,898,902
* **2015**
  + Edinburgh, £1,588,362
  + Rest of Scotland, £2,808,220
* **2016** 
  + Edinburgh, £1,802,928
  + Rest of Scotland, £2,890,382
* **2017** 
  + Edinburgh, £2,193,726
  + Rest of Scotland, £3,376,292
* **2018** 
  + Edinburgh, £2,514,712
  + Rest of Scotland, £3,098,166
* **2019**
  + Edinburgh, £2,206,358
  + Rest of Scotland, £2,869,436
* **2021** 
  + Edinburgh, £199,139
  + Rest of Scotland, £337,105
* **2022**
  + Edinburgh, £1,796,362
  + Rest of Scotland, £2,425,850
* **2023**
  + Edinburgh, £2,323,745
  + Rest of Scotland, £2,336,015

#### Occupancy in hotels and B&Bs in Edinburgh from 2018 to 2023

2018: 69.9%; 2019: 76.5%; 2020: 13.7%; 2021: 32.7%; 2022: 66.4%; 2023: 81.4%

#### Key Facts

Holidays was the main purpose of visiting our city between domestic and international visitors but while it represents 73% of international visitors, it is only 35% of the domestic overnight visitors. In 2022 there were some seasonal differences in the number of staying visits but in 2023 most quarters see a similar affluence of visitors, excluding January to March. However, the highest combined spend continues to take place in the summer months. International business visitors spend the most per night and the majority of international trips last only between one and three nights (86%) but 40% of the domestic ones last between 4 and 7 days.

#### Percentage of staying visits to Edinburgh by purpose in 2023

* **International:** Holiday, 73%; Friends & family, 19%; Business, 6%; Other, 2%.
* **Domestic:** Holiday, 36%; Friends & family, 27%; Business, 6%; Other, 31%.

#### Nightly spend by purpose for domestic and international visits in 2023

* **International:** Holiday, £175; Friends & family, £77; Business, £210; Other, £126.
* **Domestic:** Holiday, £155; Friends & family, £100; Business, £140; Other, £169.

#### Number of domestic and international visits to Edinburgh by quarter in 2022 and 2023

* **April – June**
  + Domestic: 0.52M in 2022 and 0.59M in 2023
  + International: 0.39M in 2022 and 0.71M in 2023
  + Total: 0.91M in 2022 and 1.31M in 2023
* **January – March:** 
  + Domestic: 0.62M in 2022 and 0.54M in 2023
  + International: 0.14M in 2022 and 0.38M in 2023
  + Total: 0.76M in 2022 and 0.92M in 2023
* **July – September:** 
  + Domestic: 0.56M in 2022 and 0.6M in 2023
  + International: 0.72M in 2022 and 0.77M in 2023
  + Total: 1.28M in 2022 and 1.37M in 2023
* **October - December**:
  + Domestic: 1.0M in 2022 and 0.93M in 2023
  + International: 0.55M in 2022 and 0.46M in 2023
  + Total: 1.55M in 2022 and 1.39M in 2023

#### Spend by quarter in 2022 and 2023 in Edinburgh for both domestic and international visits

* Domestic spend by quarter
  + April – June: 19.9% in 2022, 21.9% in 2023
  + January – March: 21.4% in 2022, 20.3% in 2023
  + July - September: 22.3% in 2022, 25.9% in 2023
  + October - December: 36.4% in 2022, 31.9% in 2023
* International spend by quarter
  + April – June: 19.9% in 2022, 18.4% in 2023
  + January – March: 7.8% in 2022, 13.4% in 2023
  + July - September: 43.5% in 2022, 43.2% in 2023
  + October - December: 28.8% in 2022, 25.1% in 2023

#### International and domestic visits by duration of trip in 2022 and 2023

* 1-3 nights
  + Domestic: 2.26M in 2022, 2.29M in 2023
  + International: 425k in 2022, 478k in 2023
* 4-7 nights
  + Domestic: 352k in 2022, 281k in 2023
  + International: 687k in 2022, 954k in 2023
* 8-14 nights
  + Domestic: 61k in 2022, 64k in 2023
  + International: 483k in 2022, 602k in 2023
* 15+ nights
  + Domestic: 28k in 2022, 25k in 2023
  + International: 203k in 2022, 290k in 2023

#### Key Facts

The list of countries that produce the largest number of international visitors to Edinburgh are leaded by USA, as it is the list of the countries that spend the most in our city, in total and per night. France follows in number of nights and total spend. In terms of domestic visitors, most of them come from the East of Scotland (over 20%), but the spend in our city is higher from visitors originating from the West of Scotland and London.

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

* From USA: 1.8M in 2022 and 2.6M in 2023.
* From France: 0.7M in 2022 and 0.9M in 2023.
* From Germany: 0.4M in 2022 and 0.8M in 2023.
* From Canada: 0.4M in 2022 and 0.7M in 2023 .
* From Spain: 0.7M in 2022 and 0.4M in 2023.

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

* From East of Scotland: 1M in 2022 and 1.4M in 2023.
* From London: 1M in 2022 and 1.2M in 2023.
* From West of Scotland: 1.1M in 2022 and 0.8M in 2023.
* From South East: 0.7M in 2022 and 0.5M in 2023
* From North West: 0.6M in 2022 and 0.5M in 2023.

#### Top 5 international spenders by total

* From USA: £462.9M
* From France: £100.3M
* From Australia: £97.2M
* From Germany: £87.3M
* From Netherlands: £59.5M

#### Top 5 international spenders by night

* From USA: £199
* From Netherlands: £133
* From France: £128
* From Germany: £111
* From Australia: £96

#### Total spend from domestic staying visits to Edinburgh by origin

* From East of Scotland: 87.7M in 2022 and 97.4M in 2023
* From London: 111.1M in 2022 and 118.2M in 2023
* From West of Scotland: 121.7M in 2022 and 97.1M in 2023
* From the rest of UK: 411.1M in 2022 and 434.4M in 2023
* Total: 731.7M in 2022 and 747.1M in 2023.

Source: [Moffat Centre for Travel and Tourism Business Development](https://www.moffatcentre.com/visitorattractionreports/visitorattractionmonitor/) and [I](https://guide.michelin.com/gb/en/restaurants)[nternational Passenger Survey](https://www.visitbritain.org/research-insights/inbound-visits-and-spend-trends-uk-town) and Visit Scotland. *Visitor spend based on data with a minimum sample of 30*

### Attractions in Edinburgh

#### Top Visitor Attractions in Edinburgh 2023

* National Museum of Scotland
* 2022: 1.97M
* 2023: 2.19M
* Change from 2022 to 2023: +10.8%
* Edinburgh Castle
* 2022: 1.35M
* 2023: 1.90M
* Change from 2022 to 2023: +41.5%
* National Galleries Scotland
* 2022: 1.28M
* 2023: 1.48M
* Change from 2022 to 2023: +43.8%
* St Giles’ Cathedral
* 2022: 1,07M
* 2023: 1,47M
* Change from 2022 to 2023: +37.6%
* Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
* 2022: 997K
* 2023: 1.04M
* Change from 2022 to 2023: +4.5%
* National War Museum
* 2022: 699K
* 2023: 773K
* Change from 2022 to 2023: +10.6%
* Edinburgh Zoo
* 2022: 601K
* 2023: 619K
* Change from 2022 to 2023: +2.9%
* Edinburgh Bus Tours
* 2022: 514K
* 2023: 606K
* Change from 2022 to 2023: +18%
* Scotch Whisky Experience
* 2022: 337K
* 2023: 401K
* Change from 2022 to 2023: +19.2%
* Camera Obscura & World of Illusions
* 2022: 353K
* 2023: 376K
* Change from 2022 to 2023: +6.7%

#### Key Facts

In 2023 some of the most visited attractions in Edinburgh continue their recovery after the pandemic, with all the top 10 most visited attractions increasing their numbers in relation to the visitors in 2022. Edinburgh Castle and the National Galleries of Scotland have shown the strongest rise in the number of visitors.

#### Did you know?

The Michelin Green Star is an annual award that spotlights restaurants for their sustainable practices. The restaurants hold themselves accountable for ethical and environmental standards. The Bib Gourmand show the best value restaurants in the Michelin Guide.

#### Michelin awarded restaurants in UK cities 2024

* Edinburgh:
* 1 or more stars: 5
* Bib Gourmand: 3
* In the Michelin guide: 24
* Total: 32
* Birmingham:
* 1 or more stars: 3
* In the Michelin guide: 16
* Total: 19
* Bristol:
* 1 or more stars: 1
* Bib Gourmand: 6
* Green star: 1
* In the Michelin guide: 8
* Total: 16
* Glasgow:
* 1 or more stars: 2
* Bib Gourmand: 3
* In the Michelin guide: 7
* Total: 12
* Manchester:
* 1 or more stars: 1
* Bib Gourmand: 3
* In the Michelin guide: 7
* Total: 11
* Leeds:
* Bib Gourmand: 1
* In the Michelin guide: 3
* Total: 4
* Liverpool:
* In the Michelin guide: 4
* Total: 4
* Sheffield:
* In the Michelin guide: 2
* Total: 2

### Festivals: number of online and in person attendances at major festivals 2023 with a breakdown by origin of the audience

In 2023 there were 4.59M attendees in total for all festivals.

* Edinburgh Festival Fringe: 0.9M from Edinburgh, 0.4M from the rest of Scotland, 1.2M from outside of Scotland, with a total of 2.45M attendees
* Edinburgh International Jazz Festival: 518K from Edinburgh, 392K from the rest of Scotland, 232K from outside of Scotland, with a total of 1.14M attendees
* Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo: 60K from Edinburgh, 162K from outside of Scotland, with a total of 222K attendees
* Edinburgh Art Festival: 78K from Edinburgh, 41K from the rest of Scotland, 51K from outside of Scotland, with a total of 170K attendees
* Edinburgh International Book Festival: 89K from Edinburgh, 49K from the rest of Scotland, 27K from outside of Scotland, with a total of 165K attendees
* Edinburgh Science Festival: 119K from Edinburgh, 19K from the rest of Scotland, 8K from outside of Scotland, with a total of 146K attendees
* Edinburgh International Festival: 52K from Edinburgh, 34K from the rest of Scotland, 46K from outside of Scotland, with a total of 132K attendees
* Edinburgh's Hogmanay: 13K from Edinburgh, 12K from the rest of Scotland, 65K from outside of Scotland, with a total of 100K attendees
* Scottish International Storytelling Festival: 12K from Edinburgh, 9K from the rest of Scotland, 18K from outside of Scotland, with a total of 40K attendees
* Edinburgh International Children's Festival: 6K from Edinburgh, 2K from the rest of Scotland, 2K from outside of Scotland, with a total of 18K attendees
* Edinburgh International Film Festival: 2K from Edinburgh, 2K from the rest of Scotland, 6K from outside of Scotland, with a total of 10K attendees

## Education

### Number of students in Edinburgh

#### Did you know?

There are 91 Primary Schools, 23 Secondary schools, 10 Special schools, 19 independent, and 206 Early Years centres: a total of 349 establishments.

#### Key Facts

In 2023/24 the number of students enrolled in an Edinburgh university was higher than the number in schools. In 2023/24 there were almost 161,000 pupils or students in Edinburgh based education institutions, including schools, universities and colleges.

#### Number of pupils in Edinburgh 2024

* Primary schools: 23,828
* Secondary schools: 29,523
* Early Years centres: 6,744
* Special education schools or facilities: 712
* Total: 60,807

Note: figures for public primary and secondary schools refer to September 2024 and early learning figure is from October 2024. No data available for independent schools.

#### Number of students enrolled in Edinburgh Universities in 2023/24

* All postgraduate: 25,160
* All undergraduate: 47,885
* Total: 73,045

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.

#### Number of students enrolled in Edinburgh College in 2023/24

* Further education: 21,060
* Higher education: 5,940
* Total: 27,000

### Higher education in Edinburgh and other major UK cities

#### Percentage of workforce educated to degree level or above in major UK cities 2023

* Edinburgh: 75.8%
* Manchester: 71.4%
* Bristol: 65.9%
* Glasgow: 64.2%
* Leeds: 62.2%
* Liverpool: 54.7%
* Sheffield: 54.0%
* Birmingham: 53.4%
* Bradford: 43.3%

#### Percentage of non-UK students in Higher Education in UK cities 2023

* London: 33.4% (Non-European Union), 6% (European Union)
* Edinburgh: 29.5% (Non-European Union), 6.3% (European Union)
* Bradford: 33.8% (Non-European Union), 1.5% (European Union)
* Glasgow: 27.4% (Non-European Union), 3.7% (European Union)
* Bristol: 24.5% (Non-European Union), 2.6% (European Union)
* Manchester: 24.2% (Non-European Union), 2.8% (European Union)
* Sheffield: 23.9% (Non-European Union), 1.7% (European Union)
* Birmingham: 21.8% (Non-European Union), 1.8% (European Union)
* Leeds: 20.9% (Non-European Union), 1.6% (European Union)
* Liverpool: 15.7% (Non-European Union), 2% (European Union)

#### Higher Education students per 1,000 population in UK cities 2023

* Manchester: 150
* Bristol: 146
* Edinburgh: 142
* Glasgow: 143
* Liverpool: 129
* Sheffield: 117
* Leeds: 95
* Birmingham: 85
* Bradford: 23

#### Key Facts

In 2023, 64.2% of higher education students in Edinburgh were from the UK. Compared to other major UK cities, Edinburgh has the third highest proportions of Higher Education students per 1,000 population. In 2023, 75.8% of the Edinburgh workforce in employment is educated to degree level or above.

Source: [Pupil Census](https://www.gov.scot/publications/pupil-census-supplementary-statistics/), [Higher Education Statistics Agency](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/) and [Scottish Funding Council](https://stats.sfc.ac.uk/infact/)

## Environment

### Greenhouse gas emissions

#### Did you know?

In 2023, Edinburgh received its 3rd consecutive [CDP Cities 'A' rating](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/13361/capital-awarded-highest-global-rating-for-climate-action) for its environmental action. The A-list status recognises cities that are taking bold leadership on environmental action and transparency. In May 2024, The City of Edinburgh Council revised the [Advertising and Sponsorship Policy](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory-record/1229205/advertising-and-sponsorship-policy) to prevent promotion of high carbon products such as airlines and airports, fossil fuel companies, non-electric and non-hydrogen cars or cruise holidays.

#### Greenhouse gas emissions estimates (in tonnes CO2e) in Edinburgh 2022 vs 2012

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

* 2012 103k
* 2022 104k

Stationary

* 2012 2,411k
* 2022 1,291k

Transport

* 2012 758k
* 2022 686k

Waste

* 2012 147k
* 2022 111k

Source: [Carbon Disclosure Project](https://data.cdp.net/Emissions/2022-City-wide-Emissions/ba5i-42qf/explore/query/SELECT%0A%20%20%60questionnaire%60%2C%0A%20%20%60organization_number%60%2C%0A%20%20%60organization_name%60%2C%0A%20%20%60city%60%2C%0A%20%20%60country%60%2C%0A%20%20%60cdp_region%60%2C%0A%20%20%60access%60%2C%0A%20%20%60number_of_times_reporting%60%2C%0A%20%20%60c40_city%60%2C%0A%20%20%60gcom_city%60%2C%0A%20%20%60primary_methodology_or%60%2C%0A%20%20%60gases_included%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_question_number%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_question_name%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_column_number%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_column_name%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_row_number%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_row_name%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_response_answer%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_notation_key%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_description%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_data_reported%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_data_group%60%2C%0A%20%20%60emissions_rank%60%2C%0A%20%20%60inventory_year%60%2C%0A%20%20%60inventory_boundary_relative%60%2C%0A%20%20%60population_in_inventory_year%60%2C%0A%20%20%60tool_used_to_compile_inventory%60%2C%0A%20%20%60city_location%60%2C%0A%20%20%60last_update%60%0AWHERE%20%60organization_number%60%20IN%20%28%2231056%22%29/page/filter) and [Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2020)

#### Greenhouse gas emissions per capita (in tonnes CO2e) in major UK cities in 2022 and reduction from 2012

* Manchester: Emissions per capita 3.76, Reduction in emissions 49.3%
* Liverpool: Emissions per capita 3.51, Reduction in emissions 48.5%
* Bristol: Emissions per capita 3.28, Reduction in emissions 43.7%
* Sheffield: Emissions per capita 3.91, Reduction in emissions 41.7%
* Edinburgh: Emissions per capita 4.26, Reduction in emissions 40.9%
* Glasgow: Emissions per capita 4.19, Reduction in emissions 40.9%
* Leeds: Emissions per capita 4.49, Reduction in emissions 39.2%
* Bradford: Emissions per capita 3.63, Reduction in emissions 39%
* Birmingham: Emissions per capita 3.73, Reduction in emissions 36%

#### Source of greenhouse gases in major UK cities 2022 (in thousand tonnes CO2e)

* Birmingham (4,316 total): Transport 1,335, Domestic 1,251, Commercial 1,143, Public Sector 263, Agriculture & LULUCF 30, Waste 288
* Leeds (3,693 total): Transport 1,454, Domestic 958, Commercial 838, Public Sector 175, Agriculture & LULUCF 62, Waste 198
* Glasgow (2,807 total): Transport 797, Domestic 658, Commercial 838, Public Sector 230, Agriculture & LULUCF 78, Waste 207
* Sheffield (2,211 total): Transport 616, Domestic 653, Commercial 569, Public Sector 120, Agriculture & LULUCF 30, Waste 222
* Manchester (2,192 total): Transport 616, Domestic 548, Commercial 542, Public Sector 199, Agriculture & LULUCF 11, Waste 226
* Edinburgh (2,141 total): Transport 658, Domestic 627, Commercial 518, Public Sector 146, Agriculture & LULUCF 104, Waste 111
* Bradford (2,009 total): Transport 539, Domestic 650, Commercial 543, Public Sector 115, Agriculture & LULUCF 78, Waste 75
* Liverpool (1,746 total): Transport 508, Domestic 530, Commercial 466, Public Sector 128, Agriculture & LULUCF 6, Waste 107
* Bristol (1,570 total): Transport 529, Domestic 467, Commercial 359, Public Sector 108, Agriculture & LULUCF 8, Waste 100

### Climate change and use of renewables in UK cities

#### Did you know?

The City of Edinburgh Council has become the first Council in Scotland to endorse the [Plant Based Treaty](https://plantbasedtreaty.org/), a global campaign designed to put food systems at the forefront of combating the climate crisis. In 2024, the Council published it first [Plant-Based Treaty action plan](https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s65215/Item%207.2%20-%20Plant%20Based%20Treaty%20Action%20Plan.pdf).

In August 2024 the new [Climate Ready Edinburgh Plan](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/35638/climate-ready-edinburgh) was approved at committee which sets out a single citywide partnership plan for how we can adapt the city to the effects of climate change.

As of the end of 2024 Lothian Buses had one fully operational retrofitted bus and 40 electric buses in service.

#### Key Facts

The percentage of people who believe that climate change is an urgent problem continues to increase, and it has reached nearly 88% in Edinburgh, the highest percentage in Scotland. The generation of renewable energy is showing a steady growth from 2019. More than 4% of vehicles in Edinburgh are now ultra-low emissions vehicles.

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

* Edinburgh: 88%
* Scotland: 77%
* Glasgow: 74%
* Aberdeen: 73%
* Dundee: 64%

#### Renewable electricity generation (GWh/ year) in Edinburgh in period 2019-2022

* Year 2019, Total 27.33:
  + Bioenergy and waste: 17.17
  + Other renewable sources: 10.16
* Year 2020, Total 30.95:
  + Bioenergy and waste: 19.22
  + Other renewable sources: 11.72
* Year 2021, Total 30.98:
  + Bioenergy and waste: 19.88
  + Other renewable sources: 11.11
* Year 2022, Total 34.3:
  + Bioenergy and waste: 21.5
  + Other renewable sources: 12.8
* Year 2023, Total 38.5:
  + Bioenergy and waste: 20.4
  + Other renewable sources: 18

#### Percentage of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs) in UK cities Q2 2024

* Leeds: 12.18%
* Edinburgh: 4.04%
* Manchester: 3.57%
* Sheffield: 3.44%
* Birmingham: 2.94%
* Bradford: 2.87%
* Bristol: 2.80%
* Glasgow: 2.79%
* Liverpool: 2.38%

Source: [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics), [Department for Transport](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vehicle-licensing-statistics-data-tables) and [Scottish Household Survey](https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-household-survey-publications/)

### Recycling

#### Key Facts

Edinburgh has the lowest amount of household waste generated per person of the four Scottish cities and the second highest amount of household waste recycled per person. It has the second highest rate of recycling of the four cities.

#### Did you know?

In 2024 the Edinburgh active travel network expanded with the opening of new cycle infrastructure from City Centre to East Link and from Roseburn to Union Canal.

#### Tonnes of household waste generated and recycled per person in Scottish cities 2023

* Aberdeen:
  + Generated (tonnes per person): 0.40
  + Recycled (tonnes per person): 0.17
  + Percentage recycled per person: 43%
* Edinburgh:
  + Generated (tonnes per person): 0.37
  + Recycled (tonnes per person): 0.14
  + Percentage recycled per person: 38%
* Dundee:
  + Generated (tonnes per person): 0.42
  + Recycled (tonnes per person): 0.15
  + Percentage recycled per person: 34%
* Glasgow:
  + Generated (tonnes per person): 0.38
  + Recycled (tonnes per person): 0.10
  + Percentage recycled per person: 27%

#### Percentage of household waste recycled in Scottish cities three-year average 2023

* Aberdeen: 42%
* Edinburgh: 38%
* Dundee: 37%
* Glasgow: 27%

Source: [Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/waste/waste-data/waste-data-reporting/waste-data-for-scotland/)

### Parks: use, satisfaction, and green flags

#### 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 Birmingham, 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 74% of people having a green or blue space no more than 5 minutes away, 92% of the population are satisfied with these spaces.

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

* Edinburgh: 84%
* Aberdeen: 79%
* Dundee: 70%
* Scotland: 68%
* Glasgow: 61%

#### Walking distance to the nearest green or blue of space for Edinburgh population 2023

74% of the population in Edinburgh has a blue or green space within a 5 minutes’ walk, 21% within 6-10 minutes and 5% more than 11 minutes away.

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

* Edinburgh: 92%
* Dundee: 88%
* Aberdeen: 87%
* Scotland: 87%
* Glasgow: 85%

#### Green Flag parks in major UK cities 2024

* Edinburgh: 35
* Birmingham: 15
* Sheffield: 14
* Aberdeen: 8
* Bradford: 7
* Leeds: 7
* Manchester: 7
* Liverpool: 2
* Glasgow: 1

Source: [Scottish Household Survey](https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-household-survey-publications/), [LGBF](https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/benchmarking) and [Green Flag Award](https://www.greenflagaward.org/)

### Climate

#### Key Facts

The average temperature in Edinburgh from 2020-2024 compared with the average from 1961-1990 is the same or higher in ten months of the year. A similar amount of rain fell in 2024 compared to the previous five years, but there has been a shift in the rain season: April to June has changed from the driest to the wettest quarter while the amount of rain from July to December has decreased in 2024.

#### Edinburgh weather, range in average max and min temperature (in Celsius), Jan 2024 to December 2024

* January: average min 1.4, average max 6.8
* February: average min 3.1, average max 9.1
* March: average min 2.9, average max 9.4
* April: average min 4.7, average max 12.2
* May: average min 9.5, average max 16
* June: average min 9.2, average max 17.2
* July: average min 11, average max 18.6
* August: average min 11.4, average max 19.1
* September: average min 8.2, average max 15.2
* October: average min 6.8, average max 13.5
* November: average min 3.1, average max 9.8
* December: average min 4.2, average max 9.5

#### Edinburgh weather, difference between average temperature (in Celsius) in 2020-2024 vs average in period 1961-1990

* January 1.0
* February 1.9
* March 0.5
* April -0.4
* May 0.4
* June 0.3
* July -0.1
* August 0.1
* September 0.2
* October 0.5
* November 0.9
* December 0.4

#### Edinburgh weather, number of days per year with when windspeed reached 10 mph or more

* 2020: 175
* 2021: 111
* 2022: 160
* 2023: 125
* 2024: 140

#### Total rainfall during 2024 vs the average for 2019-23 (millimetres)

* Rainfall 2024: 756
  + Jan to Mar: 184
  + Apr to Jun: 289
  + Jul to Sep: 144
  + Oct to Dec: 139
* Rainfall 5-years average: 769
  + Jan to Mar: 166
  + Apr to Jun: 117
  + Jul to Sep: 235
  + Oct to Dec: 251

Source: [Meteostat](https://meteostat.net/en/) and [Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA](https://www2.sepa.org.uk/rainfall#15201))

## Property

### Housing tenure

#### Key Facts

The charts display housing tenure statistics for Edinburgh in 2023, where 62% of households are owner-occupied, 23% are privately rented, and 15% are socially rented. Edinburgh has the second highest percentage of private rentals just after Dundee, and the lowest percentage of social rentals. Owner occupation has the highest prevalence in Edinburgh, aligning closely with the Scottish average.

#### Percentage of households by tenure in Edinburgh 2023

* Owner occupied: 62%
* Private rented: 23%
* Social rented: 15%
* Other: 1%

#### Housing by tenure in Scottish cities 2023

* Aberdeen: owner occupied, 61%; private rented, 21%; social rented, 18%
* Dundee: owner occupied, 44%; private rented, 25%; social rented, 30%
* Edinburgh: owner occupied, 62%; private rented, 23%; social rented, 15%
* Glasgow: owner occupied, 46%; private rented, 20%; social rented, 34%
* Scotland: owner occupied, 64%; private rented, 13%; social rented, 22%

Source:[Scottish Household Survey](https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-household-survey-publications/)

### Average house prices

#### Key Facts

Building types have different average house prices. In Edinburgh the average detached property was sold for £740,223 in August 2024 and the average flat was £256,503.

The average property price in Edinburgh in August 2024 was £336,018 which is higher the rest of major UK cities outside London, except for Bristol. The average property price in Edinburgh has increased by 5.6% over the year to August 2024. The growth has slowed down in most UK cities.

#### Average house prices in UK cities August 2024 and percentage change from average in August 2023

* Birmingham: average price £235,030, 0.8% increase
* Bradford: average price £185,685, 6.1% increase
* Bristol: average price £350,580, 1,6% increase
* Edinburgh: average price £336,018, 5.6% increase
* Glasgow: average price £185,525, 4.4% increase
* Leeds: average price £246,044, 4.2% increase
* Liverpool: average price £180,719, 2.1% increase
* Manchester: average price £249,876, 0.7% increase
* Sheffield: average price £220,960, 2.2% increase

#### Edinburgh average house price by building type August 2024

* Flat: £256,503
* Terraced: £377,546
* Semi-detached: £467,403
* Detached: £740,223

Source: [UK Government - HM Land Registry - UKHPI](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-house-price-index-reports)

### Property sales

#### 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 have since trended downward, reaching 9,820 transactions in 2023.

Compared with the average of 2020-2022, the number of sales shows a noticeable spike in sales during June and a decrease during autumn and winter 2023. The summer months show a higher level of sales.

Source: [UK Government - HM Land Registry - UKHPI](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-house-price-index-reports)

#### 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](https://www.ros.gov.uk/data-and-statistics/house-price-statistics/property-market-report-2021-22) [of Scotland Property Market Report 2023-24](https://www.ros.gov.uk/data-and-statistics/property-market-report-2022-23)

#### House sales in Edinburgh by month

* January: 695 sales in 2023 and 874 average in 2020-22
* February: 528 sales in 2023 and 714 average in 2020-22
* March: 806 sales in 2023 and 969 average in 2020-22
* April: 742 sales in 2023 and 864 average in 2020-22
* May: 819 sales in 2023 and 746 average in 2020-22
* June: 1,041 sales in 2023 and 843 average in 2020-22
* July: 919 sales in 2023 and 962 average in 2020-22
* August: 902 sales in 2023 and 941 average in 2020-22
* September: 887 sales in 2023 and 1,086 average in 2020-22
* October: 811 sales in 2023 and 1,144 average in 2020-22
* November: 844 sales in 2023 and 1,102 average in 2020-22
* December: 826 sales in 2023 and 1,028 average in 2020-22

#### Annual number of property sales in Edinburgh 2019 to 2023 (5 Year Period)

* 2019: 11,467
* 2020: 9,062
* 2021: 12,751
* 2022: 11,374
* 2023: 9,820

### New Developments

#### Student housing development completions 2014 to 2023 (number of beds)

* Year 2014: 1,181
* Year 2015: 1,677
* Year 2016: 2,178
* Year 2017: 1,874
* Year 2018: 440
* Year 2019: 363
* Year 2020: 398
* Year 2021: 497
* Year 2022: 1,204
* Year 2023: 649
* Total: 10,461

#### Number of new build house starts and completions in Edinburgh 1994 to 2023 (five-year periods)

* 1994-1998:
  + Starts: 5.0K (85% other housing, 15% social)
  + Completed: 4.4K (89% other housing, 11% social)
* 1999-2003:
  + Starts: 9.5K (83% other housing, 17% social)
  + Completed: 9.9K (81% other housing, 19% social)
* 2004-2008:
  + Starts: 11.9K (80% other housing, 20% social)
  + Completed: 10.9K (82% other housing, 18% social)
* 2009-2013:
  + Starts: 5.7K (58% other housing, 42% social)
  + Completed: 6.2K (58% other housing, 42% social)
* 2014-2018:
  + Starts: 12.6K (74% other housing, 26% social)
  + Completed: 9.8K (83% other housing, 17% social)
* 2019-2023:
  + Starts: 11.8K (85% other housing, 15% social)
  + Completed: 12.1K (81% other housing, 19% social)

#### Key Facts

More than 10,000 student rooms have been developed in the last decade. The number of new build house starts and completions has been gradually rising over each five-year period since 1994 except for a dip in 2009-2013. The number of completions is almost three times higher in the period 2019-2023 than in 1994-1998.

#### Did you know?

In addition to the student rooms completed in 2023 there were a further 1,333 bedspaces under construction across 5 new city developments.

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

## Travel and Connectivity

### Rail travel

#### Rail passenger numbers in Edinburgh stations from 2018 to 2024

* Apr 2018 to Mar 2019: 29.8M
  + - All other stations: 2,848,452
    - Haymarket: 3,068,112
    - Waverley: 23,872,996
* Apr 2019 to Mar 2020: 28.8M
  + - All other stations: 2,746,572
    - Haymarket: 2,980,386
    - Waverley: 23,087,646
* Apr 2020 to Mar 2021: 3.8M
  + - All other stations: 410,504
    - Haymarket: 448,460
    - Waverley: 2,957,732
* Apr 2021 to Mar 2022: 16.2M
  + - All other stations: 1,120,052
    - Haymarket: 1,500,672
    - Waverley: 13,617,536
* Apr 2022 to Mar 2023: 22.1M
  + - All other stations: 1,546,318
    - Haymarket: 2,308,416
    - Waverley: 18,212,628
* Apr 2023 to Mar 2024: 26.4M
  + - All other stations: 2,074,510
    - Haymarket: 2,981,170
    - Waverley: 21,307,916

#### Travel times to Edinburgh from

* Glasgow: by car 1 hr 04 min, by train 46 min
* Manchester: by car 4 hr 07 min, by train 3 hr 10 min
* Leeds: by car 4 hr 13 min, by train 2 hr 57 min
* Liverpool: by car 4 hr 17 min, by train 3 hr 28 min
* Bradford: by car 4 hr 27 min, by train 3 hr 31 min
* Sheffield: by car 4 hr 49 min, by train 3 hr 21 min
* Birmingham: by car 5 hr 23 min, by train 4 hr 14 min
* Bristol: by car 6 hr 43 min, by train 6h hr 21 min
* London: by car 7h 45 min, by train 4h 00 min

Car travel times based on leaving Edinburgh at 9am on Monday 30/12/2024. Train times based on shortest available trip on the same date.

#### 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 steadily recover and reached 26.4 million passengers in 2023/24, getting closer to the pre-pandemic number.

[Source:](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/) [Office of Rail and Road](https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/), [Scotrail](http://www.scotrail.co.uk/) and [Google Maps](https://www.google.co.uk/maps)

### Air travel

#### Passenger numbers (millions) Edinburgh airport 2019 to 2023

* 2019: 7.96 million domestic, 6.78 million international, 14.74 million total
* 2020: 1.88 million domestic, 1.60 million international, 3.47 million total
* 2021: 1.78 million domestic, 1.24 million international, 3.02 million total
* 2022: 5.19 million domestic, 6.06 million international, 11.25 million total
* 2023: 7.15 million domestic, 7.25 million international, 14.40 million total

#### Top ten international countries from Edinburgh Airport by passenger numbers 2023

* Spain: 1,45 million
* Ireland: 0,92 million
* France: 0,88 million
* Germany: 0,74 million
* Italy: 0,65 million
* Netherlands: 0,65 million
* United States: 0,43 million
* Brazil: 0,43 million
* Poland: 0,42 million
* Turkey: 0,37 million

#### Top ten international cities from Edinburgh Airport by passenger numbers 2023

* Dublin: 723 thousand
* Amsterdam: 594 thousand
* Paris: 470 thousand
* Tenerife: 320 thousand
* Doha: 292 thousand
* New York: 274 thousand
* Alicante: 244 thousand
* Frankfurt: 243 thousand
* Copenhagen: 222 thousand
* Barcelona: 219 thousand

#### Top five domestic destinations from Edinburgh Airport by passenger numbers 2023

* London: 2,77 million
* Belfast: 0,55 million
* Bristol: 0,42 million
* Birmingham: 0,22 million
* Southampton: 90 thousand

#### 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 with passenger numbers reaching 14.4 million in 2023.

[Source:](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/) [Civil Aviation Authority](https://www.caa.co.uk/data-and-analysis/uk-aviation-market/airports/uk-airport-data/)

### Travel within the city

#### Key facts

In 2023, over 60% of Edinburgh's travel involved walking or public transport, with leisure activities as the primary purpose in 44% of the trips. Public transport satisfaction stood at 86%, more than 20% over the Scottish average. Despite this good use of sustainable travel, 63% of households owned at least one car.

#### Main mode of travel in Edinburgh 2023

Car or taxi, 37%; walking, 35%; bus or bicycle, 23%; rail or other, 4%.

#### Percentage of households that have at least one car in Scottish cities 2023

* Aberdeen, 73%
* Scotland, 74%
* Edinburgh, 63%
* Dundee, 65%
* Glasgow, 55%

#### Main purpose of travel in Edinburgh 2023

* Shopping, eating out or entertainment, 44%
* Commuting/ Business, 23%
* Other, 13%
* Holiday, day trip or walk, 8%
* Visiting friends or relatives, 7%
* Education, 5%

#### Percentage of population satisfied with public transport in Scottish cities 2023

* Edinburgh, 86%
* Glasgow, 70%
* Aberdeen, 56%
* Scotland, 64%
* Dundee, 59%

[Source:](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/) [Transport Scotland Scottish Household Survey](https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/transport-and-travel-in-scotland-2022/)

### Active travel within the city

#### Key Facts

Almost 70% of the short trips made by people in Edinburgh in 2023 were either cycling or walking. A large proportion of residents (61%) walk between 3 and 5 days every week, just over half of them walk as a method of transport but the rest (27%) do it for pleasure. The percentage walking for pleasure increases to 31% for people who walk almost every day of the week. Nearly 40% of the households in Edinburgh own at least one bike, which sits just over the Scottish average.

#### Days per week people walk in Edinburgh 2023

* 18% of people do not walk as transport and 24% people do not walk for leisure either.
* 18% of people walk 1 or 2 days a week as a means of transport and 39% for pleasure.
* 27% of people walk 3 to 5 days a week as a means of transport and 34% for pleasure.
* 27% of people walk 6 to 7 days a week as a means of transport and 31% for pleasure.

#### Proportion of short journeys that are made walking or cycling in Scottish cities 2023

* In Edinburgh, 68% of journeys under 2 miles are made either cycling (5%) or walking (63%).
* In Edinburgh, 66% of journeys under 2 miles are made either cycling (1%) or walking (65%).
* In Aberdeen, 57% of journeys under 2 miles are made either cycling (1%) or walking (56%).
* In Scotland overall, 52% of journeys under 2 miles are made either cycling (1%) or walking (51%).
* In Glasgow, 52% of journeys under 2 miles are made either cycling (1%) or walking (51%).

#### Percentage of households that have at least one bike in Scottish cities 2023

* Scotland: 35%
* Aberdeen: 28%
* Edinburgh: 38%
* Dundee: 22%
* Glasgow: 24%

[Source:](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/) [Transport Scotland Scottish Household Survey](https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/transport-and-travel-in-scotland-2022/)

### Driving in Edinburgh

#### Key Facts

On average, the time spent driving per person in Edinburgh during 2024 was 235 hours, and 94 of them are due to congestion. The extra time added to a 10km commute in Edinburgh represents more than 40% the optimal time, but it’s still better than most major cities for evening peak time.

#### Time in hours spent driving per person (yearly figure) in 2024

* London: 353 hours, of which 32% were due to congestion.
* Manchester: 294 hours, of which 32% were due to congestion.
* Bristol: 256 hours, of which 34% were due to congestion.
* Liverpool: 246 hours, of which 35% were due to congestion.
* Edinburgh: 235 hours, of which 40% were due to congestion.
* Leeds-Bradford: 228 hours, of which 31.1% were due to congestion.
* Birmingham: 234 hours, of which 38% were due to congestion.
* Glasgow: 235 hours, of which 35.1% were due to congestion.

#### Extra time added to a 10 km commute during the morning and evening peak times

* London: Extra time added morning 46% (+18 min), evening 48% (+19 min).
* Bristol: Extra time added morning 46% (+13 min), evening 46% (+13 min).
* Manchester: Extra time added morning 41% (+12 min), evening 48% (+16 min).
* Edinburgh: Extra time added morning 42% (+13 min), evening 44% (+14 min).
* Liverpool: Extra time added morning 38% (+11 min), evening 40% (+12 min).
* Birmingham: Extra time added morning 48% (+12 min), evening 55% (+16 min).
* Glasgow: Extra time added morning 40% (+10 min), evening 46% (+13 min).
* Leeds-Bradford: Extra time added morning 27% (+6 min), evening 33% (+8 min).

[Source:](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/) [INRX Global Traffic Scorecard](https://inrix.com/scorecard/#:~:text=The%202022%20Global%20Traffic%20Scorecard,patterns%20within%20each%20metro%20area.) and [TomTom Traffic Index](https://www.tomtom.com/traffic-index/)

## Tell us what you think

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