

## The biggest cities in the UK

Coventry is 9<sup>th</sup> biggest city in England, 11<sup>th</sup> biggest city in the UK

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By population size, Coventry is now estimated to be the 9<sup>th</sup> biggest city in England and the 11<sup>th</sup> biggest city in the UK in terms of the size of its usually resident population. This compares Coventry as an urban area, not just the local authority area, with all other towns and cities in the UK measured on the same basis. The mid-2015 estimated population of Coventry as an urban area is 352,900 usual residents. This figure is a little higher than the local authority area population of 345,400 which is the official figure to use.

At the time of the Census 2011 Coventry's population was the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in England and 13<sup>th</sup> largest in the UK. Between 2011 and 2015 Coventry's population has been growing at a rate amongst the fastest in the UK outside London. Since 2011 Coventry's population has grown by 8.9% compared to 3.2% across England overall.

UK rank 2015	Major towns and cities <sup>1</sup> - top 20	Mid-year population estimate 2015 <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>
1	London	8,638,200
2	Birmingham	1,121,800
3	Glasgow <sup>2</sup>	591,600
4	Liverpool	564,900
5	Bristol	561,600
6	Manchester	539,100
7	Sheffield	534,500
8	Leeds	493,200
9	Edinburgh <sup>2</sup>	465,000
10	Leicester	403,400
11	Coventry	352,900
12	Bradford	351,000
13	Cardiff	345,300
14	Belfast <sup>3</sup>	338,900
15	Nottingham	302,800
16	Kingston upon Hull	288,300
17	Newcastle upon Tyne	278,600
18	Stoke-on-Trent	272,400
19	Southampton	266,800
20	Plymouth	265,400

Source: 2015 mid-year population estimates for small areas (experimental statistics), Office for National Statistics (ONS)<sup>4</sup>

The table above shows the ranking of the most populous 'Major Towns and Cities' in England & Wales. This uses a new geography named '[Major Towns and Cities](#)' developed by the Office for National Statistics for the purpose of producing statistics based on comparable definitions of towns and cities. The aim when creating this geography was to provide a precise definition, with a focus on the "core" built up area of a town or city rather than its surrounding area. So this does not conform to local

<sup>1</sup> For places in England and Wales this is the population estimates for mid-2015 for the ONS geography 'Major towns and cities'

<sup>2</sup> The geography 'Major towns and cities' only covers places in England and Wales - for places in Scotland a similar geography called 'localities' is used, here for Glasgow and Edinburgh. The most recent estimates for localities are for mid-2012 – so the estimates for Glasgow and Edinburgh are older estimates than for other towns and cities, they may have grown in the years since 2012.

<sup>3</sup> There isn't an equivalent geography for places in Northern Ireland, 'urban areas' in Northern Ireland are similar to 'built-up areas' in England & Wales, which are broadly conurbations. For Belfast the best alternative is to use the 2015 mid-year population estimate for the council area of Belfast – so the estimate for Belfast is on a different basis.

<sup>4</sup> The 2015 mid-year population estimates for Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in England and Wales were used to calculate the 2015 mid-year population of all usual residents of 'Major towns and cities' by aggregating using [the ONS developed lookup file between 2011 LSOAs and 'Major towns and cities'](#), how they are defined by their constituent LSOAs

authority boundaries, it is a development of the 'built-up area sub-divisions' geography developed for the Census 2011. The data is not collected in the same way for Scottish and Northern Irish towns and cities so the best alternative data is used. For Glasgow and Edinburgh the Scottish geography of 'localities' is used. For Northern Irish towns and cities there isn't a comparable equivalent so the population quoted here for Belfast is for the local authority area of Belfast.

There is no one single way of defining the boundaries of towns and cities for the purposes of comparing population size. This method was chosen because it was independently developed by the ONS and uses consistent criteria for defining major towns and cities. This may give some surprise results on the face of it, for example some may expect Manchester and Newcastle to rank higher. In these examples it is because this definition looks at distinct parts of a large conurbation separately. Tyneside as a conurbation includes other large major towns additional to Newcastle, in particular Gateshead. Greater Manchester includes a number of other large major towns additional to Manchester itself, for example Salford.



Coventry City Council

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