

Cities Outlook 2016



Innovation

- 61 per cent of all patents granted in the UK in 2014 were registered in cities.
- London was the city with the highest absolute number of patents in 2014 – its total of 370 represented 16 per cent of the UK total.
- Cambridge had by far the highest number of patents per 100,000 population, with almost 102. Aberdeen, the second ranked city, recorded 19.7 patents per 100,000 population in the same year.
- Small cities were the most innovative on this measure, with seven of the top 10 cities having fewer than 250,000 residents.

Box 6: Measuring Innovation

Patent data is widely used to measure innovation. There are a number of limitations with the patent data used here:

- Data is for patents granted through the UK Intellectual Property Office only, and so does not capture patents registered with the European Patent Office.
- The address of the patentee does not confirm that the innovative activity occurred at that address.
- Patents also only demonstrate more technical innovations and exclude process innovations, trademarks and creative innovation, much of which takes place within service sector businesses.

Despite its limitations, the data still offers some insight into where innovation occurs across the UK and, as shown in the tables, there is a great deal of variation across the country.

Table 5
UK patents granted per 100,000 population

Rank	City	UK patents granted per 100,000 residents, 2014
<i>10 cities with highest number of UK patents granted</i>		
1	Cambridge	101.9
2	Aberdeen	19.7
3	Aldershot	18.6
4	Coventry	17.5
5	Slough	15.2
6	Crawley	10.9
7	Peterborough	10.5
8	Oxford	8.9
9	Milton Keynes	8.5
10	Bristol	8.0
<i>10 cities with lowest number of UK patents granted</i>		
54	Glasgow	1.3
55	Leeds	1.3
56	Wigan	1.2
57	Hull	1.2
58	Sunderland	1.1
59	Middlesbrough	1.1
60	Belfast	1.1
61	Wakefield	0.9
62	Birkenhead	0.3
63	Chatham	0.0
	United Kingdom	3.6

Source: Intellectual Property Office 2015, FOI release: Patents granted registered by postcode, 2014 data. NOMIS 2015, Population estimates, 2014 data.