

VAT registrations: per 10,000 population

Cities with the highest average VAT registrations (1994-2007)

City*	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average
London	44.0	42.9	44.2	49.1	50.9	48.2	47.9	44.0	43.3	46.8	45.9	45.3	45.4	53.3	46.5
Milton Keynes	39.9	37.2	36.9	43.6	42.1	39.4	37.2	36.9	38.4	39.2	43.0	40.0	39.1	49.5	40.2
Brighton	33.0	33.3	36.9	43.2	42.4	37.6	38.1	36.0	36.9	41.7	37.1	38.1	36.6	40.0	37.9
Aldershot	36.4	33.3	35.7	44.0	38.2	40.1	37.6	33.6	36.5	38.5	37.3	36.8	38.3	41.4	37.7
Reading	36.1	35.7	36.3	41.7	39.0	37.3	37.7	33.7	38.1	37.8	35.9	35.3	34.9	43.0	37.3
Crawley	37.4	31.5	34.2	37.4	37.3	35.4	31.0	31.0	33.2	34.1	33.0	31.6	31.1	37.0	34.0
Bournemouth	32.1	30.8	31.6	34.4	34.0	33.4	35.9	33.3	33.9	37.4	32.1	33.0	35.4	36.9	33.9
Southend	29.3	31.0	30.9	36.4	36.1	32.5	36.6	33.3	35.6	35.3	32.6	34.9	30.2	33.8	33.5
Cambridge	32.2	29.7	30.1	34.2	32.1	28.7	34.6	30.0	31.6	29.9	28.3	30.9	25.9	32.5	30.8
Bristol	30.0	27.8	29.9	32.6	33.6	30.9	30.1	28.2	30.5	30.7	28.8	29.7	29.3	36.2	30.6

Cities with the lowest average VAT registrations (1994-2007)

City*	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average
Doncaster	17.6	17.0	16.4	17.3	18.9	17.6	18.3	18.3	17.9	20.9	20.6	19.5	20.5	22.5	18.8
Birkenhead	18.1	16.9	18.4	19.9	17.6	17.8	18.0	17.5	17.8	19.9	19.2	18.9	18.7	24.1	18.8
Belfast	16.5	19.1	17.2	18.0	17.9	17.4	17.6	18.2	18.0	18.9	19.2	20.1	20.1	19.3	18.4
Liverpool	15.6	17.1	16.4	18.0	17.6	16.9	17.6	16.8	17.2	20.4	20.3	19.5	19.5	22.6	18.3
Plymouth	18.4	15.4	18.0	17.9	16.1	17.4	16.3	15.6	18.8	19.9	19.9	18.1	19.5	21.9	18.1
Newcastle	17.5	16.2	15.8	16.6	15.5	16.8	17.2	16.5	18.4	20.4	18.5	19.1	18.5	22.8	17.8
Dundee	16.4	14.4	17.4	16.8	18.4	16.2	18.8	15.8	16.0	17.8	19.0	18.3	16.2	19.3	17.2
Hull	16.1	14.7	16.1	16.2	15.2	15.0	16.1	17.0	18.0	19.1	19.2	17.9	18.1	19.8	17.0
Sunderland	15.1	13.8	14.5	14.3	15.4	15.1	14.0	15.3	16.4	16.3	15.6	15.1	16.6	17.5	15.4
Middlesbrough	15.8	12.8	13.8	13.1	14.0	14.0	14.8	14.2	13.7	17.3	14.0	16.2	15.6	23.3	15.2

*Data is for Primary Urban Areas (PUA) – a measure of the ‘built-up’ area of a city, rather than individual local authority districts.

Note: VAT registration data acts as an indicator only of business start up activity as not all new firms survive to long enough to get themselves into a position to VAT register. Key emphasis here is on the potential for new businesses to create jobs. Firms that do not VAT register are not likely to be high job creators.

Data is now available for total business births, but it only goes back as far as 2004.

Source: Nomis 2009