

business start-ups in Edinburgh are above the Scottish average, as is the dynamic corporate sector with more businesses per resident.

The key sectors in Edinburgh include financial services, tourism, life sciences (including biotechnology and translational medicine) and the creative industries.

Home to finance

The financial services industry is one of the most important in Scotland's economy, with the sector performing strongly against UK and international benchmarks. Although the sector has recently been directly affected by the international financial crisis, over the period 1998-2007, growth in Gross Domestic Product in Scotland's financial services has outstripped that of the Scottish and UK economies as a whole, as well as UK financial services. Between 2000 and 2006, the industry in Scotland grew by over 50%, 20% faster than in the UK as a whole.

The City of Edinburgh is widely acknowledged as the UK's second financial centre following London, and is ranked fifth in Europe. Around 43,000 people work in the financial services sector in Edinburgh representing an increase of 35% since 1998. Edinburgh accounts for around 40% of all financial services employment in Scotland.

With a critical mass in banking, fund management, life insurance, securities, corporate finance, broking, asset servicing and support services, financial companies are opting to move their businesses to the Edinburgh city region. Edinburgh is home to two of the world's leading banks – Royal Bank of Scotland and HBOS – and leading life and pensions providers including Standard Life, Scottish Widows and

Aegon UK. The city also attracts international players including HSBC, Citigroup and a growing asset administration sector populated by top international firms including State Street and Bank of New York.

Capital attractions

Tourism is one of Scotland's largest business sectors, providing direct employment for 200,000 people and generating visitor spending of more than £4bn a year. The tourism industry is also a key sector of Edinburgh's economy, currently worth £1.7bn per year and attracting around four million visitors a year. Tourism related employment accounted for 10.2% of the workforce in the City of Edinburgh. Attractions include the Edinburgh Summer Festivals, of which Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the largest arts festival in the world, and the Hogmanay celebrations.

Working together for growth

The Scottish Government's Economic Strategy³ sets out the ambitions for the Scottish economy and how it will meet its objective of raising Scotland's sustainable economic growth rate. The Strategy emphasises the importance of Edinburgh, alongside the City of Glasgow, to the Scottish economy and highlights the benefits that greater links between the two cities would bring to businesses and the wider economy.

Tel. 0131 244 3474
www.scotland.gov.uk



¹ Based on GVA
² Source: Experian Business Strategies
³ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/12115041/0>



Royal Bank of Scotland



Standard Life Building Exterior

Aegon UK

