

5 June: World Environment Day

# How satisfied are inhabitants of EU capital cities with the air quality and noise levels?

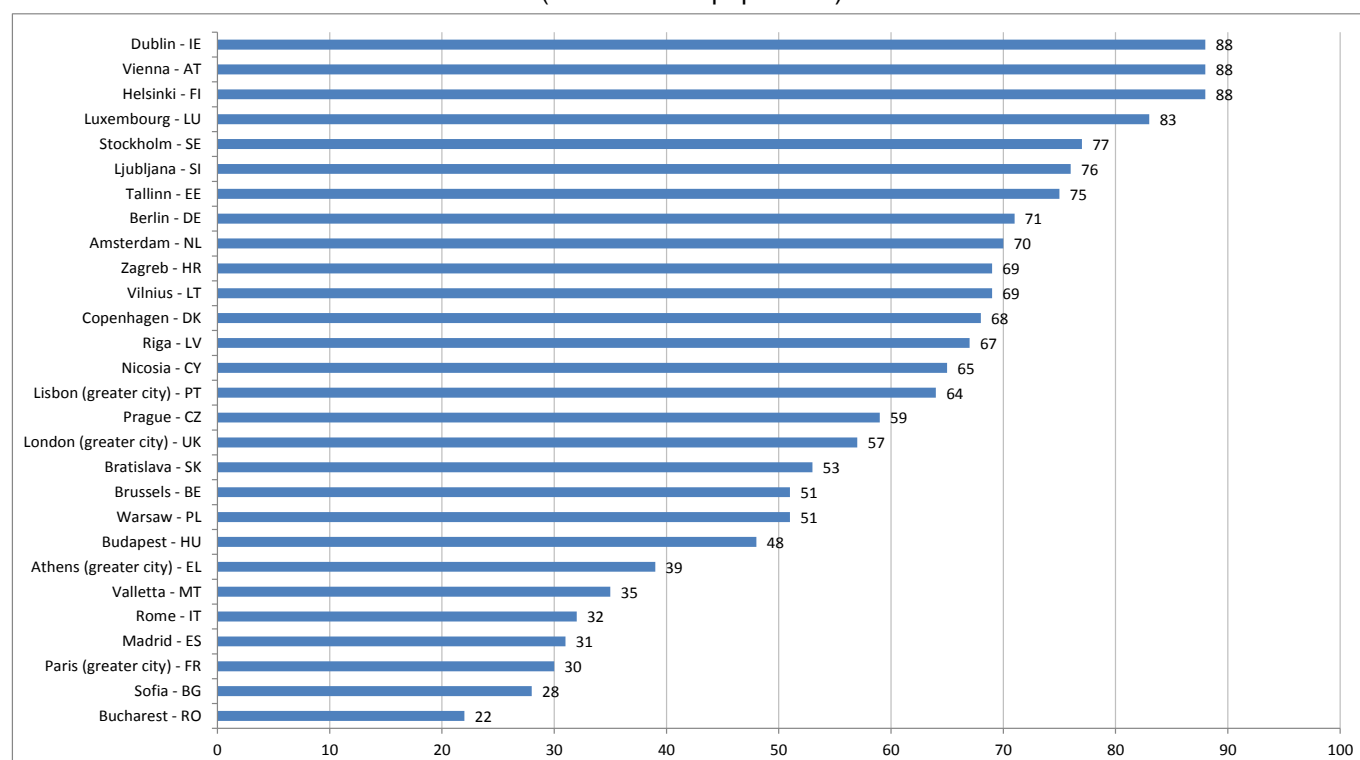
Very or rather satisfied in most EU capital cities

“Generally speaking, please tell me if you are very satisfied, rather satisfied, rather unsatisfied or not at all satisfied with the quality of the air and the noise level in your city?” inhabitants of 83 European cities were asked in 2015. Results show significant disparities between capital cities in the **European Union (EU)**, with levels of satisfaction regarding air quality ranging from 22% to 88% and for noise levels from 31% to 82%.

Nevertheless, in most capitals, inhabitants are generally satisfied with both the quality of the air and the noise level. **Dublin, Helsinki, Vienna** and **Luxembourg** were the EU capital cities with the highest proportions of their inhabitants very or rather satisfied with air quality and noise levels in their town, in contrast notably to inhabitants of **Bucharest** and **Sofia**.

This information, based on perception survey indicators produced by the European Commission, is issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, on the occasion of the World Environment Day. Today also marks the end of the EU Green Week 2016. In addition a large amount of environment related indicators produced by Eurostat are available on its website.

**Satisfaction with the quality of air in EU capital cities, 2015**  
(% of resident population)



The source dataset can be found [here](#).

## Dubliners most satisfied with both air quality and noise levels in their city, inhabitants of Bucharest the least satisfied

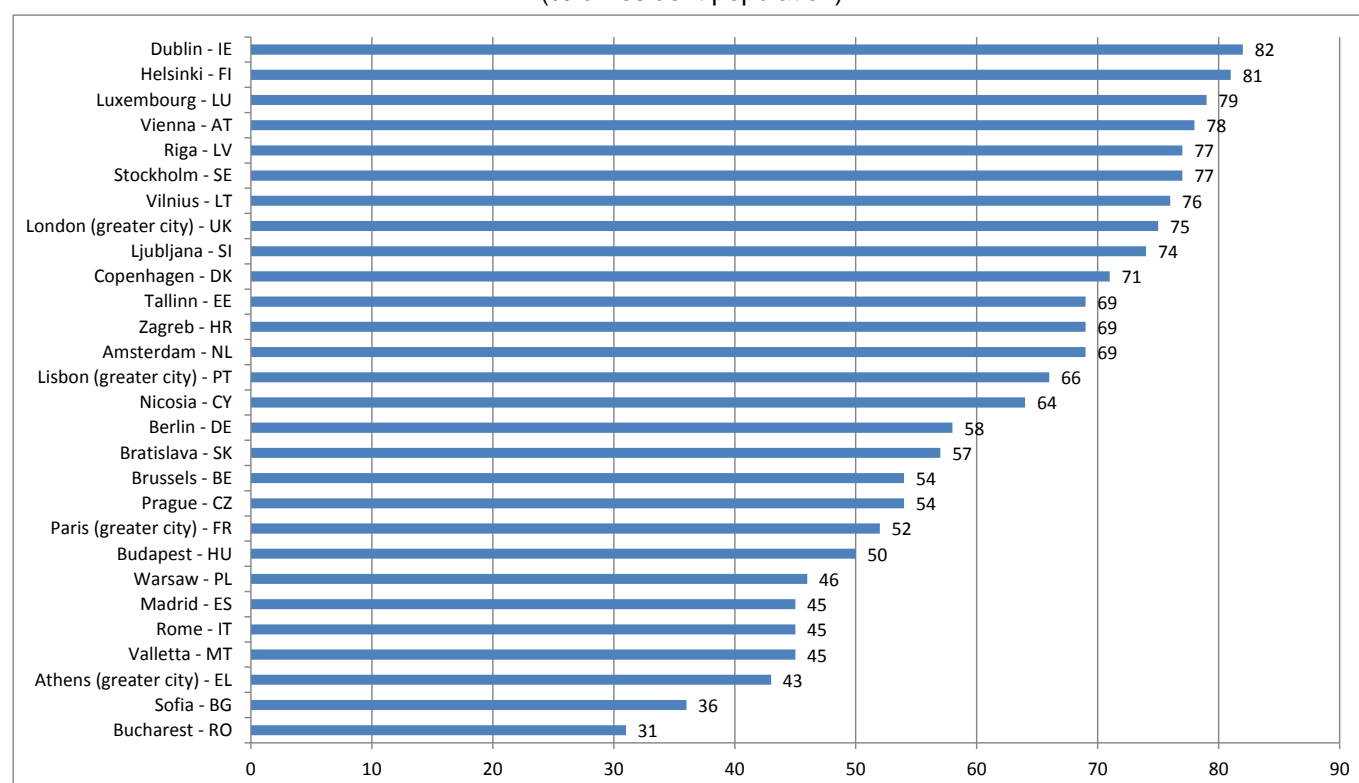
Among EU capital cities in 2015, at least three-quarters of inhabitants were very or rather satisfied with the quality of the air in their city in **Dublin**, **Vienna** and **Helsinki** (all 88%), followed by **Luxembourg** (83%), **Stockholm** (77%), **Ljubljana** (76%) and **Tallinn** (75%). In contrast, the lowest shares of the resident population satisfied with the quality of the air were observed in **Bucharest** (22%), **Sofia** (28%), **Paris** (30%), **Madrid** (31%) and **Rome** (32%).

Overall, a majority of inhabitants were satisfied with air quality in 20 of the 28 EU capital cities.

Regarding the level of noise perceived, **Dublin** registered the highest proportion of the population very or rather satisfied (82%), ahead of **Helsinki** (81%), **Luxembourg** (79%), **Vienna** (78%), **Riga** (77%), **Vilnius** (76%) and **London** (75%). Conversely, **Bucharest** recorded the lowest share of people globally satisfied with the noise level in the city (31%), followed by **Sofia** (36%), **Athens** (43%), **Madrid**, **Rome** and **Valletta** (all 45%) as well as **Warsaw** (46%).

Overall, a majority of inhabitants were satisfied with noise levels in 21 of the 28 EU capital cities.

**Satisfaction with the noise level in EU capital cities, 2015**  
(% of resident population)



The source dataset can be found [here](#).

### Geographical information

The **capital cities** of the EU Member States are: Brussels (Belgium - BE), Sofia (Bulgaria - BG), Prague (Czech Republic - CZ), Copenhagen (Denmark - DK), Berlin (Germany - DE), Tallinn (Estonia - EE), Dublin (Ireland - IE), Athens (Greece - EL), Madrid (Spain - ES), Paris (France - FR), Zagreb (Croatia - HR), Rome (Italy - IT), Nicosia (Cyprus - CY), Riga (Latvia - LV), Vilnius (Lithuania - LT), Luxembourg (Luxembourg - LU), Budapest (Hungary - HU), Valletta (Malta - MT), Amsterdam (Netherlands - NL), Vienna (Austria - AT), Warsaw (Poland - PL), Lisbon (Portugal - PT), Bucharest (Romania - RO), Ljubljana (Slovenia - SI), Bratislava (Slovakia - SK), Helsinki (Finland - FI), Stockholm (Sweden - SE) and London (United Kingdom - UK).

### Methods and definitions

The source of the data is the latest Eurobarometer survey on the "Perception of Quality of Life in European Cities" conducted by the European Commission at the request of the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy to get a snapshot of people's opinion on a range of urban issues, such as employment, environment, housing, transport, culture, city services and immigration.

The survey was conducted in a total of 83 European cities.

For more information

Eurostat website section dedicated to city statistics.

Eurostat database on urban audit, including perception survey results.

European Commission website section dedicated to the perception survey on quality of life in European cities.


Eurostat website section dedicated to environment statistics.

European Commission website dedicated to the EU green week 2016.

UNEP website dedicated to World Environment Day.

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