



# Fact sheet

October 2004

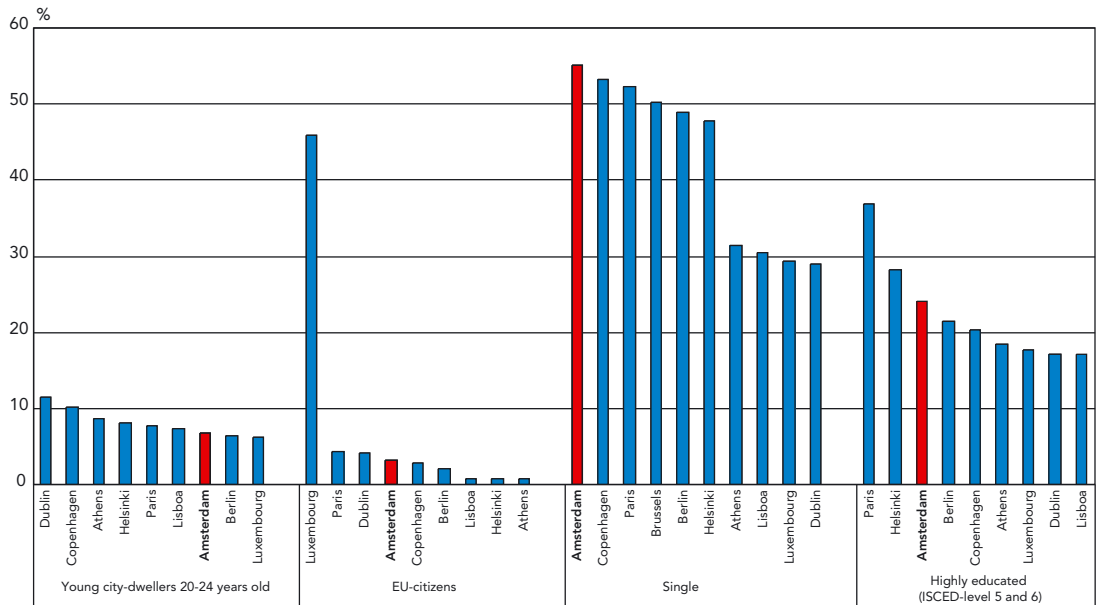
## Urban Audit: Amsterdam in a European perspective

An international comparison, in addition to development on a national level, is becoming more and more relevant to Amsterdam in the present-day Europe of urban regions. The Urban Audit offers these possibilities for a comparison. The choice of reference cities may differ depending on the question at hand: capitals, creative knowledge cities, (air) port cities et cetera. Moreover, there is data available on both an (inner) urban as well as a regional level.

The statistical bureau of the EU, Eurostat, is conducting the Urban Audit under the authority of the European Committee. The object is to make it possible to compare the data of the various national statistical bureaus of the cities in

question and to improve the quality of the data. This is to ultimately lead to benchmarking and comparative analysis. A start was made by collecting data on 58 cities. The number of 'participating' cities has meanwhile

The proportion of young city-dwellers, EU-citizens, singles and people with a higher education in the total number of residents, European capitals 2001



Source: Urban Audit

increased to 258 major (with a population of 250,000 or more) and medium-sized (between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants) cities. The cities are found in 25 EU-member states and Bulgaria and Romania.

The information is gathered on three levels: municipality, district and the catchment area – in the Netherlands, the COROP-area in which the municipality concerned is included. The collection of data has occurred as of 1989, making it possible to visualise developments over a longer period. The data set consists of no less than 333 variables.

As it is, the Urban Audit provides insight into various aspects: demographic (age distribution, nationality, composition of households), social (housing market, health services, criminality) and economic (unemployment, employment, income groups). The Urban Audit also includes data on citizenship (elections and local administration), education and training (level of education of the urban population and the number of students per city), environment (climate, air/water quality and noise pollution), mobility and transport (commuter traffic, public transport and traffic safety), ICT and culture and recreation (cultural activities and tourism).

The Audit does not only cover the statistics that apply, objective (hard) data on the quality of life in European cities, but also the opinions and feelings of the residents. The first survey by telephone was conducted within that scope at the beginning of 2004 in 31 cities. The survey provides insight into, among other things, the residents’

sense of security, their opinions on the integration of foreigners, the environment, the financial situation, et cetera.

A major advantage of Urban Audit is that it enables one to make a comparison time and again between cities that are comparable in a certain respect: capitals, creative knowledge cities, port cities et cetera.

Which position does Amsterdam occupy? A number of answers are provided below.

Modern cities generally have a young, well-educated population of many nationalities with a high number of small households. The figure on page one shows the position of Amsterdam compared to the other capitals.

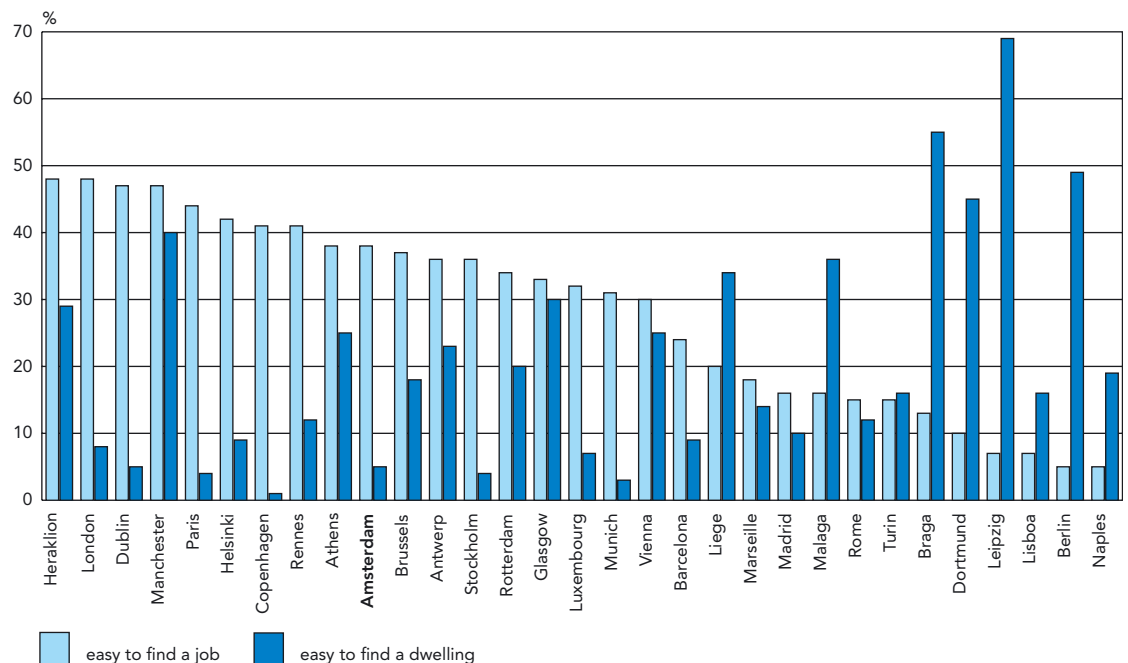
### Amsterdam: one can find a job, just not a house

There is – it turns out – a negative relationship between the accessibility of the labour market and the accessibility of the housing market. If the labour market can be designated as accessible, which means that many jobs are available, then it is more difficult to find a house and vice versa.

Amsterdam can be found in the top-10 of the cities in terms of the accessibility of the labour market, yet it has one of the least accessible housing markets.

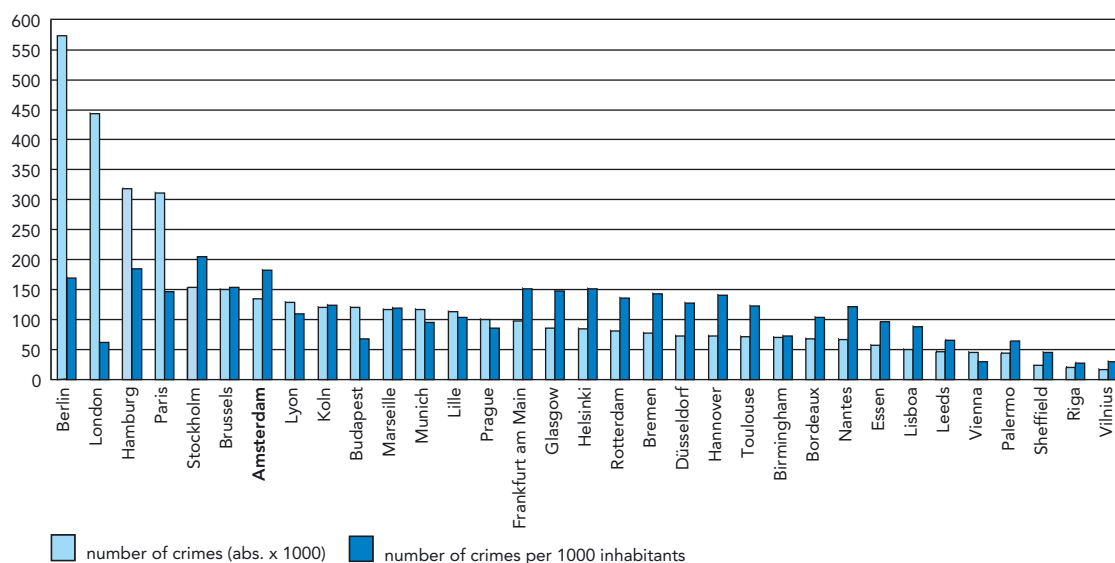
The cities where it is the easiest to find a home include Leipzig, Dortmund, Berlin and the Portuguese Braga. Finding a job there, however, is much more difficult.

Housing/job possibilities in the European cities\*



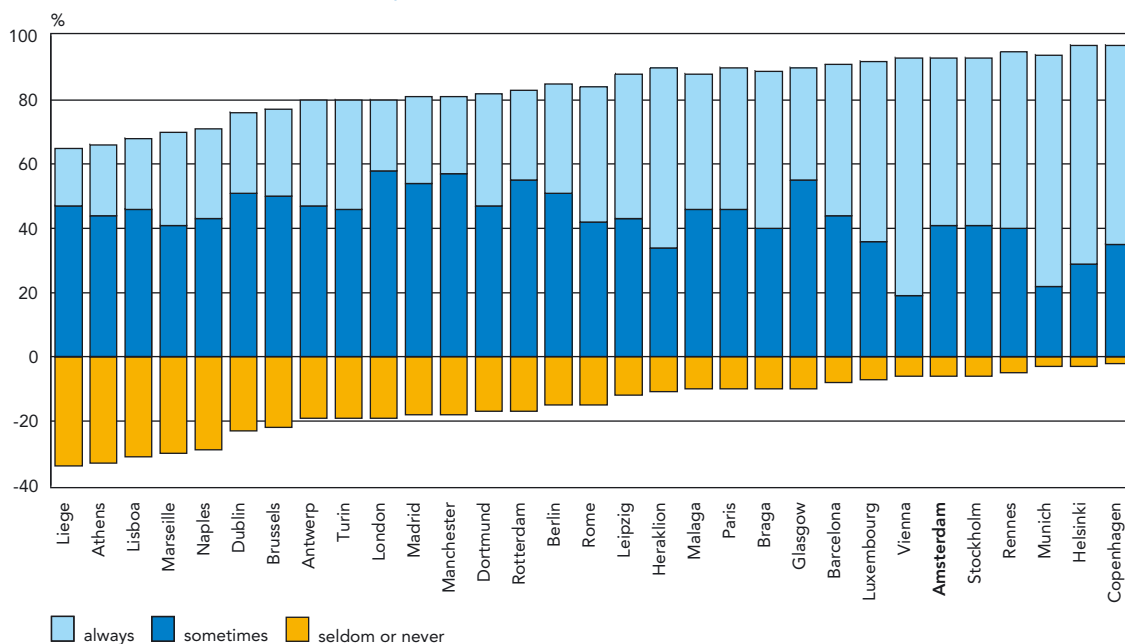
\* survey by telephone 2004 Source: Urban Audit

Registered crimes (absolute and per 1000 residents) in the European cities, 2001



Source: Urban Audit

Do you feel safe in the city?, European cities\*



\* survey by telephone 2004 Source: Urban Audit

## Residents of Amsterdam feel safe

The objective degree of safety can be expressed with the number of registered crimes. Amsterdam scores poorly compared to the other large European cities: the city is in the top-3 of cities with the highest number of registered crimes per 1000 residents, together with Stockholm and Hamburg. Of course, this says little about the seriousness of the crimes. In Amsterdam, 9000 bicycle thefts are reported to the police every year (7% of the total number).

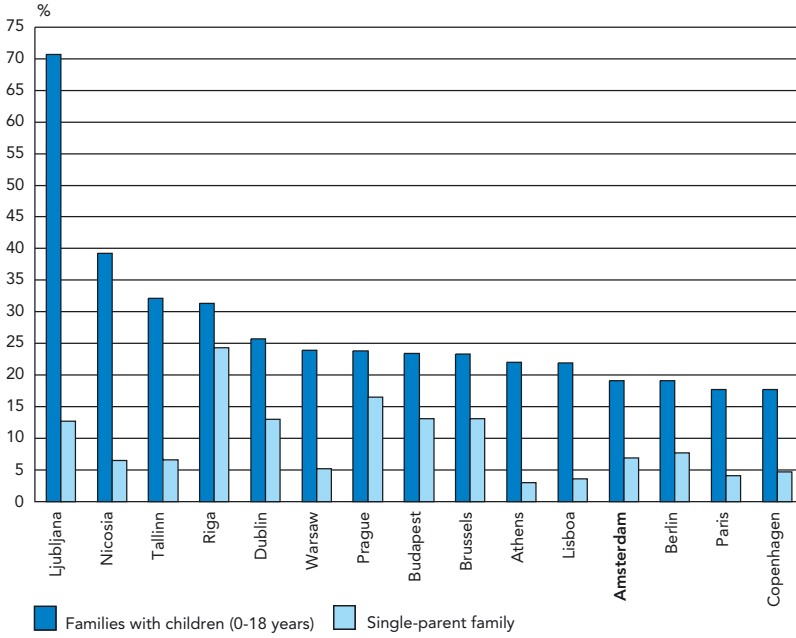
Another explanation for the fact that Amsterdam shows such a high score can be found in the large number of tourists that visits the city – because of this there are more potential victims than would be presumed based on the population. Of

course, other major cities such as Paris and London are familiar with this phenomenon as well, but as the number of crimes is seen in relation to the number of residents and Paris and London have much larger populations (three to ten times larger), the large number of crimes in Amsterdam strikes the eye.

Finally, the willingness to report a crime plays a role as well.

Still, the residents of Amsterdam feel safe. More so than the residents of Barcelona, Paris and Leipzig. The safest city is Copenhagen, followed by Helsinki and Munich. The least safe city is Liege. And so the number of reports of a crime doesn't say a lot about the sense of security.

Proportion families with children (0-18 years old) and single-parent families in the total number of households, European capitals 2001

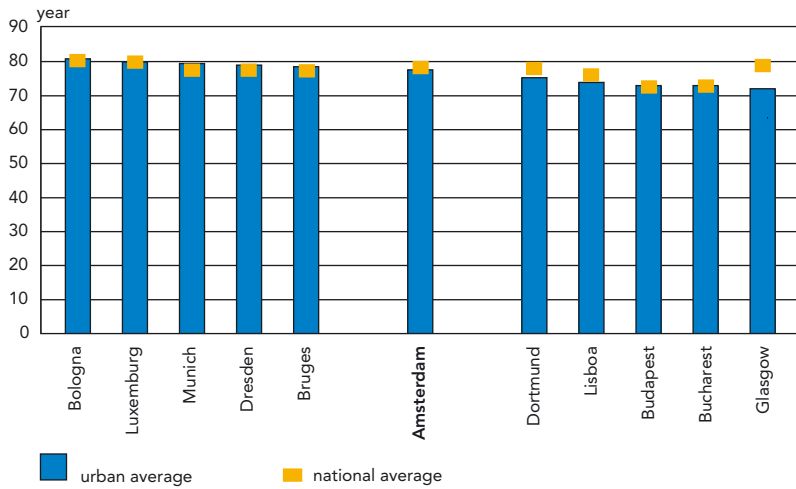


Source: Urban Audit

Population: households with children

The proportion of families with children up to the age of 18 and the proportion of single-parent families in the total number of households of EU-capitals.

Average life expectancy at birth, European cities 2001

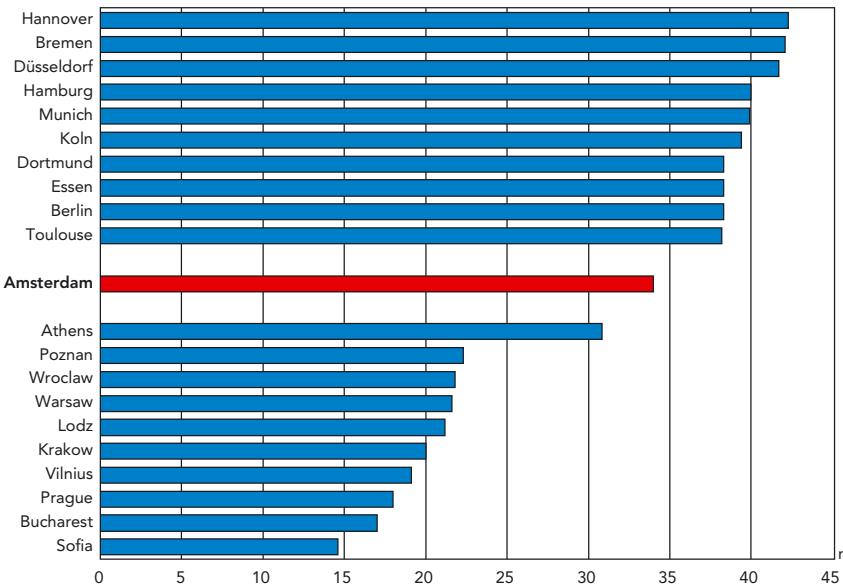


Source: Urban Audit

Social aspects: expected age at birth

The figure shows the life expectancy in cities, with the national average as a comparison. The figure includes the five cities with the highest life expectancy and the five cities with the lowest.

Average size of the homes, European cities 2001



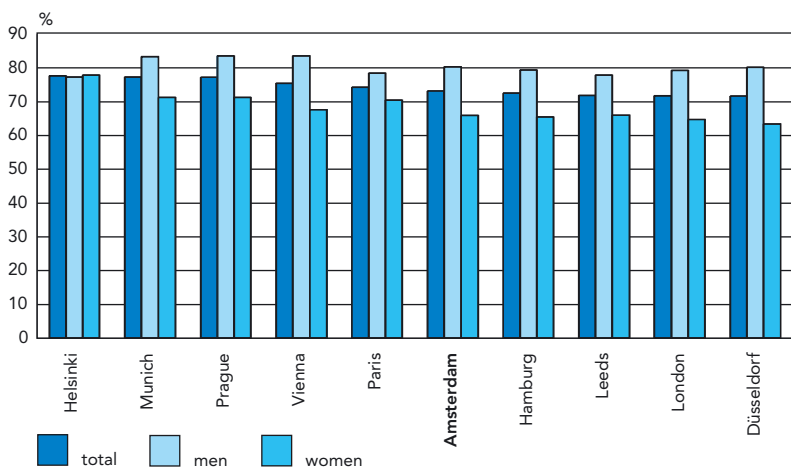
Source: Urban Audit

Social aspects: size of houses

The surface area of homes per person. Amsterdam and the cities with the most ample and the smallest houses are shown.



### Labour participation\*, European cities 2001



\* The number of persons included in the working population compared to the total population in the age group 15-64 years  
Source: Urban Audit

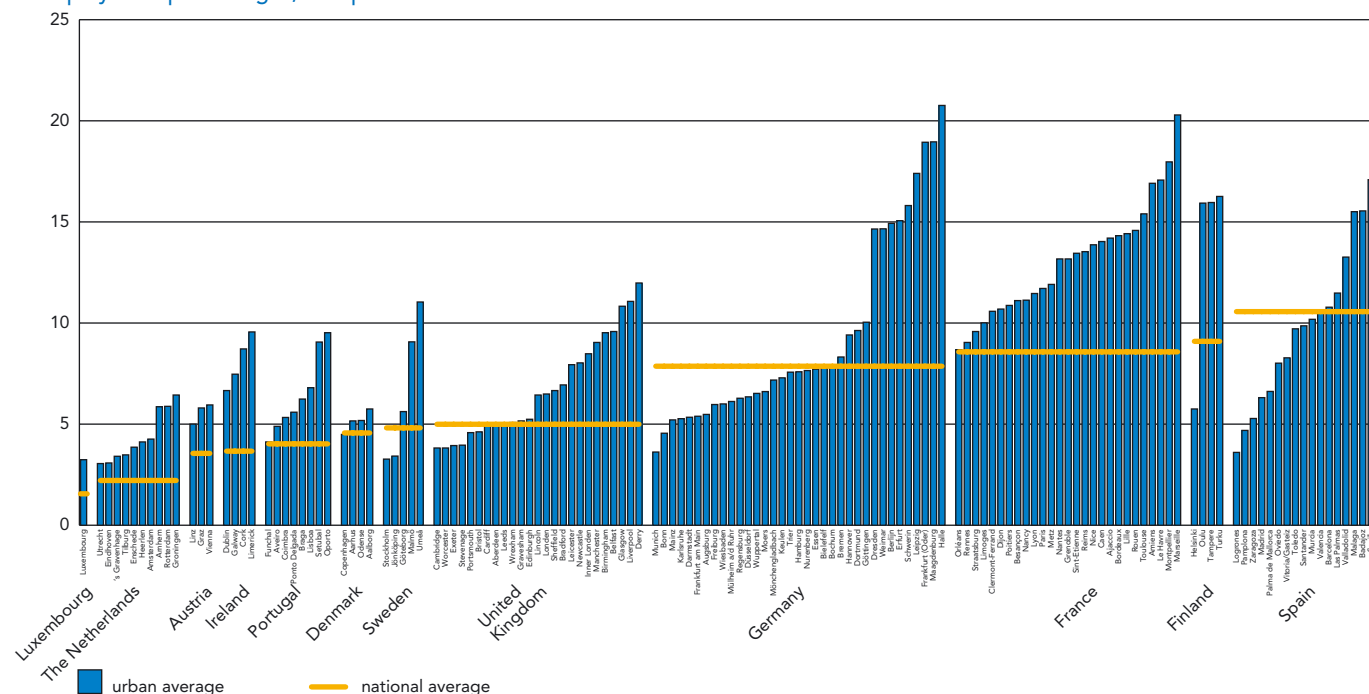
### Labour market: labour participation

The gross labour participation in 2001. The participation of men, women and the average participation were examined.

### Labour market: unemployment

The unemployment percentage; the audit examines the position of the cities within a country compared to the national average and the position of other countries.

### Unemployment percentage\*, European cities 2001

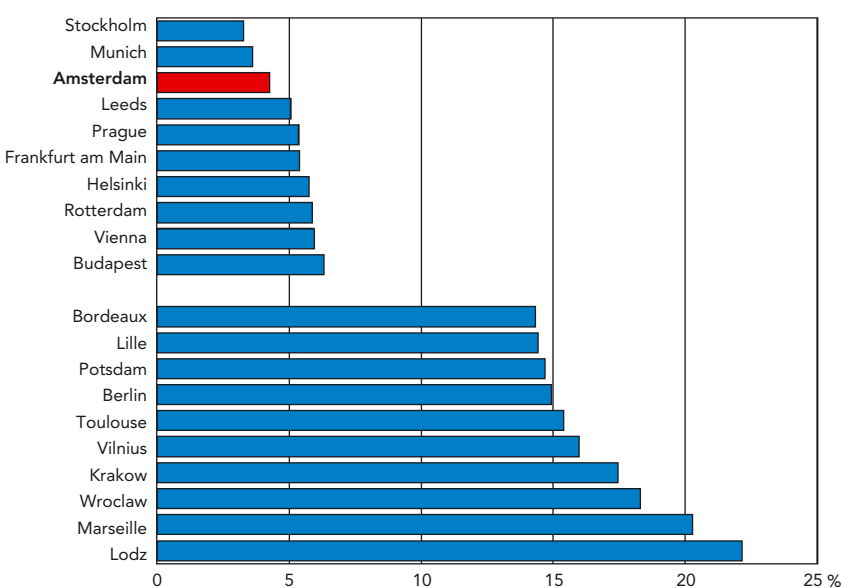


\* The number of unemployed persons compared to the working population  
Bron: Urban Audit

### Labour market: unemployment

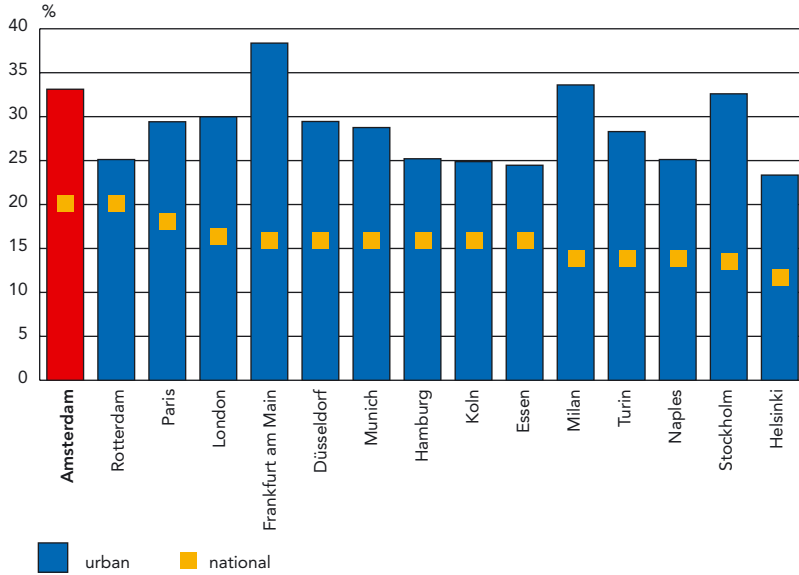
This figure shows the unemployment percentages of cities with at least 500,000 inhabitants. It includes the cities with the highest and the cities with the lowest unemployment percentages.

### Unemployment\* in major\*\* European cities 2001



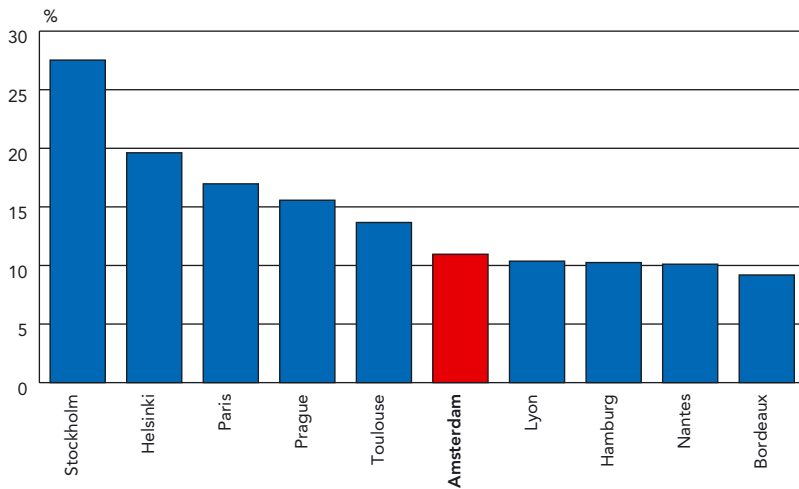
\* The number of unemployed persons compared to the working population  
\*\* Cities with at least 500,000 inhabitants  
Source: Urban Audit

Proportion of persons employed in the financial institutes sector and the commercial services sector compared to the total number of employed persons in major European cities, 2001



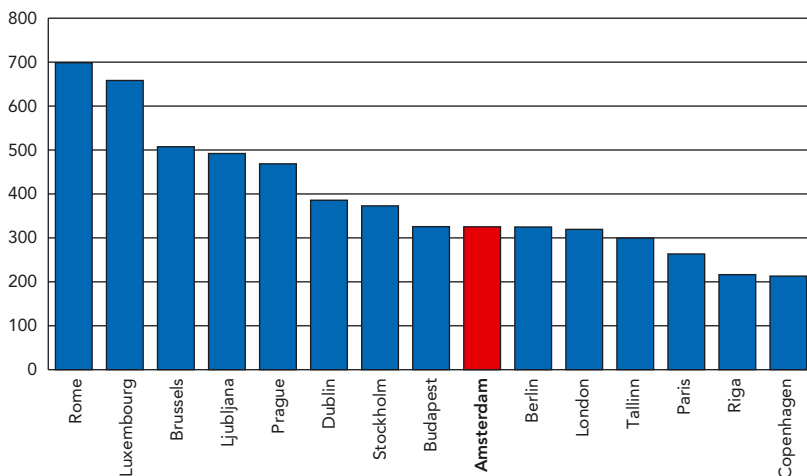
Source: Urban Audit

Proportion of persons employed in the ICT-sector compared to the total number of employed persons\*, European cities 2001



\* cities with at least 500,000 inhabitants Source: Urban Audit

Number of cars per 1000 residents, European capitals 2001



Source: Urban Audit

Economy: employment in the services sector and financial institutes

The proportion of the employment in the financial institutes sector and the commercial services sector in cities with at least 500,000 inhabitants. The cities have been ranged according to the proportion in this sector on a national level.

Economy: employment in the ICT-sector

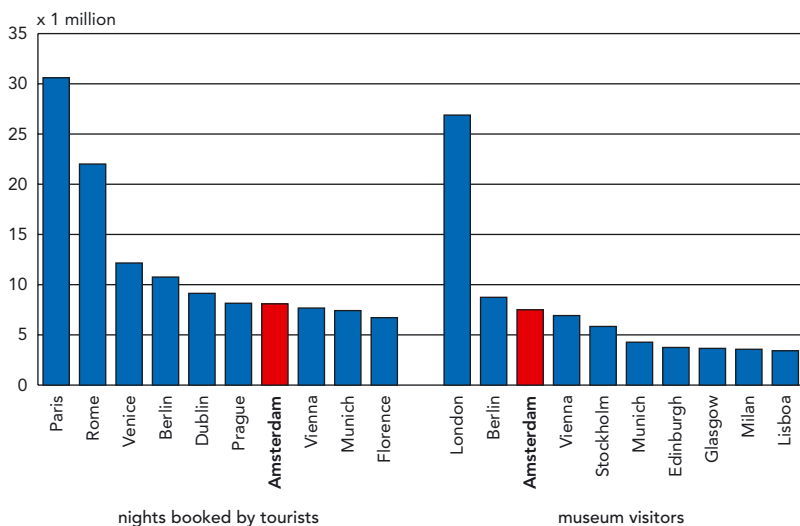
The number of people who are employed in the ICT-sector in relation to the total number of people employed.

Mobility: number of cars per 1000 residents

The number of cars per 1000 residents in European capitals.



### Number of nights booked and visits to museums by tourists (annually), European cities 2001

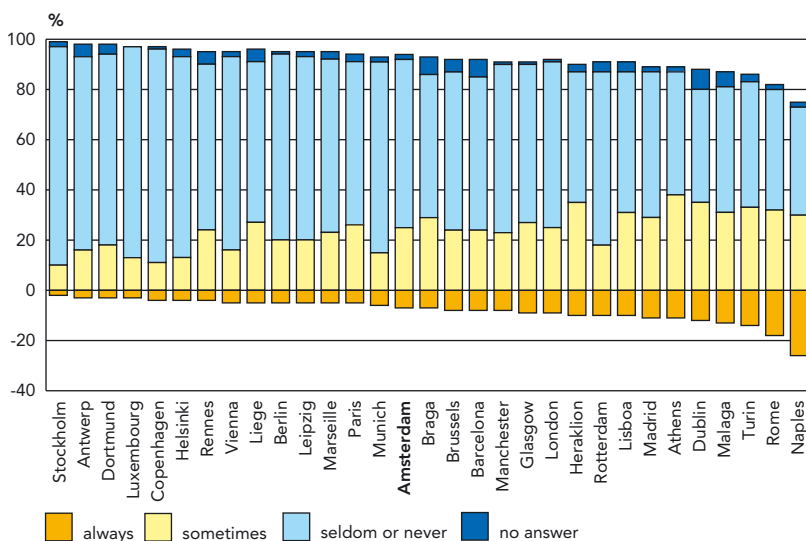


Source: Urban Audit

### Culture and tourism

The number of nights booked and visits to museums in 2001 in the top-10 cities.

### It is difficult to pay bills at the end of the month, European cities\*

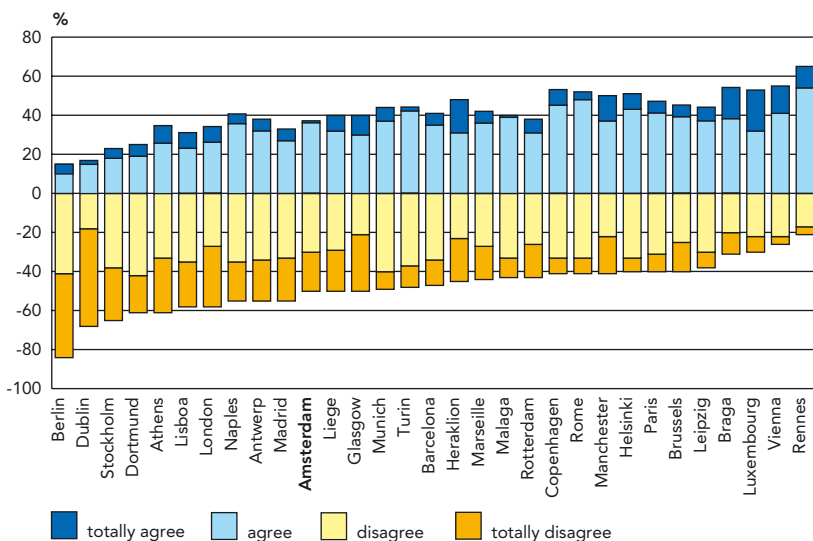


\* survey by telephone 2004 Source: Urban Audit

### Perception survey: finances

The inhabitants of the 31 European cities were asked to indicate whether or not they have difficulty managing with their income.

### The city spends its budget in a sensible fashion, European cities\*



\* survey by telephone 2004 Source: Urban Audit

### Perception survey: budget spending

The inhabitants of the 31 EU-cities were asked to indicate whether or not they feel the city spends its budget sensibly.



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