



COFFEE TO COPE: Belfast named as the coffee capital of the UK

- 11 coffees drunk per second as Brits endure pandemic and coffee sales boom
- Over 360 million take away coffees were purchased in the last 12 months
- Meaning 11 coffees were drunk per second
- Map reveals which cities love coffee the most

Us Brits love nothing more than a hot drink, but new research has revealed the prevalence of coffee being used to cope with the pandemic across the country instead of tea – with Belfast revealed as the capital of coffee.

During lockdowns implemented because of the Covid pandemic, Brits turned to coffee to cope – with sales booming around key lockdown dates.

Coffee reigned supreme over tea, even though many think tea is quintessentially British and part of our national identity, coffee was purchased five times more according to figures from the [British Sandwich and Food to Go Association \(www.lovesarnies.com\)](http://www.lovesarnies.com) in association with Kantar Group.

Over the last twelve months 360 million cups of takeaway coffee were purchased - that's 11 per second across the nation. Whereas only 65 million were tea to go.

The experts found from their research that those living in Belfast love coffee the most in the last 12 months crowing it the capital - with 61 per cent of people choosing coffee over tea - that equates to 6 in ten people.

It's followed by Glasgow and Brighton where 57 per cent and 56 per cent of people respectively chose a cup of joe in the last 12 months.

In Cardiff it's 56 per cent, Bristol and London are at 54 per cent and Nottingham comes in at 53 per cent.

Coffee was still the drink of choice in Newcastle with 52 per cent of people slurping away, and finally people in the Leeds and Manchester came in at 51 per cent.

Furthermore, takeaway coffee and tea sales overall across the nation are still on the rise – up by 10% YOY.

One finding that the experts at [British Sandwich and Food to Go Association](http://www.lovesarnies.com) said stood out the most is us Brits are known for our tea drinking, whereas coffee is now more popular.

Jim Winship director of the [British Sandwich & Food to Go Association](http://www.lovesarnies.com) said: “It’s not surprising that us Brits turned to coffee in lockdown. There is much comfort in a hot cup of

coffee alongside its abilities to wake us up, sharpen the mind and even boost metabolism. The pandemic has shifted our purchasing power away from tea and has now seen coffee become the hot drink of choice. But regardless of your own preference, in our opinion either is a 'brew-tiful' way to start the day."

Are there any health benefits to a cup of coffee?

What is it about coffee that means many of us can't start the day without them? And, more importantly, are there any health benefits to kicking off breakfast with a hot cup of joe?

Some people drink coffee because they kickstart their metabolism, and there are studies that have found that caffeine can help the body to [burn fat more efficiently and boost metabolism](#).

Other studies say that drinking coffee or tea regularly could reduce cognitive decline by as much as 37 percent as you get older and other benefits have been highlighted too, including a reduced risk of diabetes and some cancers.

"For many people, a hot drink such as a coffee is their key to starting the day," says Jenna Hope, an expert nutritionist. "There are certainly benefits to this. Hot drinks are a great way to support hydration."

ENDS

- Data has been sourced from Kantar Group, the British Sandwich and Food to Go Association and Google search data.

**For additional information, images and interview requests, please contact:
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Or visit the media hub here: <https://lovesarnies.com/index.php/media-hub>

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#YourBreakfastIsWaiting

Editors Notes

The British Sandwich & Food to Go Association is a trade body established in 1990 to represent the interests of all those businesses involved and the food on the move industry. Members range from supermarkets and food to go manufacturers to sandwich bars, cafes and the suppliers of ingredients and equipment for the industry. As well as representing the interests of members to Government, the Association sets industry standards as well as organising events such as British Sandwich Week and the annual British Sandwich Industry Awards, also known as the 'Sammies'.