

= Manchester =

Manchester (local / ˈmæntʃəstə /) is a major city and metropolitan borough in Greater Manchester , England , with a population of 514 @, @ 417 as of 2013 . It lies within the United Kingdom 's second @-@ most populous urban area , with a population of 2 @. @ 55 million . Manchester is fringed by the Cheshire Plain to the south , the Pennines to the north and east and an arc of towns with which it forms a continuous conurbation . The local authority is Manchester City Council .

The recorded history of Manchester began with the civilian settlement associated with the Roman fort of Mamucium or Mancunium , which was established in about 79 AD on a sandstone bluff near the confluence of the rivers Medlock and Irwell . It was historically a part of Lancashire , although areas of Cheshire south of the River Mersey were incorporated during the 20th century . Throughout the Middle Ages Manchester remained a manorial township but began to expand " at an astonishing rate " around the turn of the 19th century . Manchester 's unplanned urbanisation was brought on by a boom in textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution , and resulted in it becoming the world 's first industrialised city .

Manchester achieved city status in 1853 . The Manchester Ship Canal opened in 1894 , creating the Port of Manchester and linking the city to sea , 36 miles (58 km) to the west . Its fortunes declined after the Second World War , owing to deindustrialisation . The city centre was devastated in a bombing in 1996 , but it led to extensive investment and regeneration that has since helped it turn into a thriving ' reborn ' modern city .

In 2014 , the Globalization and World Cities Research Network ranked Manchester as a beta world city , the highest @-@ ranked British city apart from London . Manchester is the third @-@ most visited city in the UK . It is notable for its architecture , culture , musical exports , media links , scientific and engineering output , social impact , sports clubs and transport connections . Manchester Liverpool Road railway station was the world 's first inter @-@ city passenger railway station and in the city scientists first split the atom and developed the stored @-@ program computer .

= = Name = =

The name Manchester originates from the Latin name Mamucium or its variant Mancunium and the citizens are still referred to as Mancunians (/ məˈkʃjuːn??nz /) . These are generally thought to represent a Latinisation of an original Brittonic name , either from mamm- (" breast " , in reference to a " breast @-@ like hill ") or from mamma (" mother " , in reference to a local river goddess) . Both meanings are preserved in languages derived from Common Brittonic , mam meaning " breast " in Irish and " mother " in Welsh . The suffix -chester is a survival of Old English ceaster (" fort ; fortified town ") .

= = History = =

= = = Early history = = =

The Brigantes were the major Celtic tribe in what is now Northern England ; they had a stronghold in the locality at a sandstone outcrop on which Manchester Cathedral now stands , opposite the banks of the River Irwell . Their territory extended across the fertile lowland of what is now Salford and Stretford . Following the Roman conquest of Britain in the 1st century , General Agricola ordered the construction of a fort named Mamucium in the year 79 to ensure that Roman interests in Deva Victrix (Chester) and Eboracum (York) were protected from the Brigantes . Central Manchester has been permanently settled since this time . A stabilised fragment of foundations of the final version of the Roman fort is visible in Castlefield . The Roman habitation of Manchester probably ended around the 3rd century ; its civilian settlement appears to have been abandoned by the mid @-@ 3rd century , although the fort may have supported a small garrison until the late 3rd

or early 4th century . After the Roman withdrawal and Saxon conquest , the focus of settlement shifted to the confluence of the Irwell and Irk sometime before the arrival of the Normans after 1066 . Much of the wider area was laid waste in the subsequent Harrying of the North .

Thomas de la Warre , lord of the manor , founded and constructed a collegiate church for the parish in 1421 . The church is now Manchester Cathedral ; the domestic premises of the college house Chetham 's School of Music and Chetham 's Library . The library , which opened in 1653 and is still open to the public today , is the oldest free public reference library in the United Kingdom .

Manchester is mentioned as having a market in 1282 . Around the 14th century , Manchester received an influx of Flemish weavers , sometimes credited as the foundation of the region 's textile industry . Manchester became an important centre for the manufacture and trade of woollens and linen , and by about 1540 , had expanded to become , in John Leland 's words , " The fairest , best builded , quickest , and most populous town of all Lancashire . " The cathedral and Chetham 's buildings are the only significant survivors of Leland 's Manchester .

During the English Civil War Manchester strongly favoured the Parliamentary interest . Although not long @-@ lasting , Cromwell granted it the right to elect its own MP . Charles Worsley , who sat for the city for only a year , was later appointed Major General for Lancashire , Cheshire and Staffordshire during the Rule of the Major Generals . He was a diligent puritan , turning out ale houses and banning the celebration of Christmas ; he died in 1656 .

Significant quantities of cotton began to be used after about 1600 , firstly in linen / cotton fustians , but by around 1750 pure cotton fabrics were being produced and cotton had overtaken wool in importance . The Irwell and Mersey were made navigable by 1736 , opening a route from Manchester to the sea docks on the Mersey . The Bridgewater Canal , Britain 's first wholly artificial waterway , was opened in 1761 , bringing coal from mines at Worsley to central Manchester . The canal was extended to the Mersey at Runcorn by 1776 . The combination of competition and improved efficiency halved the cost of coal and halved the transport cost of raw cotton . Manchester became the dominant marketplace for textiles produced in the surrounding towns . A commodities exchange , opened in 1729 , and numerous large warehouses , aided commerce . In 1780 , Richard Arkwright began construction of Manchester 's first cotton mill . In the early 1800s , John Dalton formulated his atomic theory in Manchester .

= = = Industrial Revolution = = =

Manchester 's history is concerned with textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution . The great majority of cotton spinning took place in the towns of south Lancashire and north Cheshire , and Manchester was for a time the most productive centre of cotton processing , and later the world 's largest marketplace for cotton goods . Manchester was dubbed " Cottonopolis " and " Warehouse City " during the Victorian era . In Australia , New Zealand and South Africa , the term " manchester " is still used for household linen : sheets , pillow cases , towels , etc . The industrial revolution brought about huge change in Manchester and was key to the increase in Manchester 's population .

Manchester began expanding " at an astonishing rate " around the turn of the 19th century as people flocked to the city for work from Scotland , Wales , Ireland and other areas of England as part of a process of unplanned urbanisation brought on by the Industrial Revolution . It developed a wide range of industries , so that by 1835 " Manchester was without challenge the first and greatest industrial city in the world . " Engineering firms initially made machines for the cotton trade , but diversified into general manufacture . Similarly , the chemical industry started by producing bleaches and dyes , but expanded into other areas . Commerce was supported by financial service industries such as banking and insurance .

Trade , and feeding the growing population , required a large transport and distribution infrastructure : the canal system was extended , and Manchester became one end of the world 's first intercity passenger railway ? the Liverpool and Manchester Railway . Competition between the various forms of transport kept costs down . In 1878 the GPO (the forerunner of British Telecom) provided its first telephones to a firm in Manchester .

The Manchester Ship Canal was built between 1888 and 1894 , in some sections by canalisation of the Rivers Irwell and Mersey , running 36 miles (58 km) from Salford to Eastham Locks on the tidal Mersey . This enabled oceangoing ships to sail right into the Port of Manchester . On the canal 's banks , just outside the borough , the world 's first industrial estate was created at Trafford Park . Large quantities of machinery , including cotton processing plant , were exported around the world .

A centre of capitalism , Manchester was once the scene of bread and labour riots , as well as calls for greater political recognition by the city 's working and non @-@ titled classes . One such gathering ended with the Peterloo Massacre of 16 August 1819 . The economic school of Manchester capitalism developed there , and Manchester was the centre of the Anti @-@ Corn Law League from 1838 onward .

Manchester has a notable place in the history of Marxism and left @-@ wing politics ; being the subject of Friedrich Engels ' work The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844 ; Engels spent much of his life in and around Manchester , and when Karl Marx visited Manchester , they met at Chetham 's Library . The economics books Marx was reading at the time can be seen in the library , as can the window seat where Marx and Engels would meet . The first Trades Union Congress was held in Manchester (at the Mechanics ' Institute , David Street) , from 2 to 6 June 1868 . Manchester was an important cradle of the Labour Party and the Suffragette Movement .

At that time , it seemed a place in which anything could happen ? new industrial processes , new ways of thinking (the Manchester School , promoting free trade and laissez @-@ faire) , new classes or groups in society , new religious sects , and new forms of labour organisation . It attracted educated visitors from all parts of Britain and Europe . A saying capturing this sense of innovation survives today : " What Manchester does today , the rest of the world does tomorrow . " Manchester 's golden age was perhaps the last quarter of the 19th century . Many of the great public buildings (including Manchester Town Hall) date from then . The city 's cosmopolitan atmosphere contributed to a vibrant culture , which included the Hallé Orchestra . In 1889 , when county councils were created in England , the municipal borough became a county borough with even greater autonomy .

Although the Industrial Revolution brought wealth to the city , it also brought poverty and squalor to a large part of the population . Historian Simon Schama noted that " Manchester was the very best and the very worst taken to terrifying extremes , a new kind of city in the world ; the chimneys of industrial suburbs greeting you with columns of smoke " . An American visitor taken to Manchester 's blackspots saw " wretched , defrauded , oppressed , crushed human nature , lying and bleeding fragments " .

The number of cotton mills in Manchester itself reached a peak of 108 in 1853 . Thereafter the number began to decline and Manchester was surpassed as the largest centre of cotton spinning by Bolton in the 1850s and Oldham in the 1860s . However , this period of decline coincided with the rise of city as the financial centre of the region . Manchester continued to process cotton , and in 1913 , 65 % of the world 's cotton was processed in the area . The First World War interrupted access to the export markets . Cotton processing in other parts of the world increased , often on machines produced in Manchester . Manchester suffered greatly from the Great Depression and the underlying structural changes that began to supplant the old industries , including textile manufacture .

= = = Manchester Blitz = = =

Like most of the UK , the Manchester area was mobilised extensively during the Second World War . For example , casting and machining expertise at Beyer , Peacock and Company 's locomotive works in Gorton was switched to bomb making ; Dunlop 's rubber works in Chorlton @-@ on @-@ Medlock made barrage balloons ; and just outside the city in Trafford Park , engineers Metropolitan @-@ Vickers made Avro Manchester and Avro Lancaster bombers and Ford built the Rolls @-@ Royce Merlin engines to power them . Manchester was thus the target of bombing by the Luftwaffe , and by late 1940 air raids were taking place against non @-@ military targets . The biggest took place during the " Christmas Blitz " on the nights of 22 / 23 and 24 December 1940 , when an estimated 474 tonnes (467 long tons) of high explosives plus over 37 @,@ 000 incendiary bombs

were dropped . A large part of the historic city centre was destroyed , including 165 warehouses , 200 business premises , and 150 offices . 376 were killed and 30 000 houses were damaged . Manchester Cathedral was among the buildings seriously damaged ; its restoration took 20 years .

= = = Post Second World War = = =

Cotton processing and trading continued to fall in peacetime , and the exchange closed in 1968 . By 1963 the port of Manchester was the UK 's third largest , and employed over 3 000 men , but the canal was unable to handle the increasingly large container ships . Traffic declined , and the port closed in 1982 . Heavy industry suffered a downturn from the 1960s and was greatly reduced under the economic policies followed by Margaret Thatcher 's government after 1979 . Manchester lost 150 000 jobs in manufacturing between 1961 and 1983 .

Regeneration began in the late 1980s , with initiatives such as the Metrolink , the Bridgewater Concert Hall , the Manchester Arena , and (in Salford) the rebranding of the port as Salford Quays . Two bids to host the Olympic Games were part of a process to raise the international profile of the city .

Manchester has a history of attacks attributed to Irish Republicans , including the Manchester Martyrs of 1867 , arson in 1920 , a series of explosions in 1939 , and two bombs in 1992 . On Saturday 15 June 1996 , the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) carried out the 1996 Manchester bombing , the detonation of a large bomb next to a department store in the city centre . The largest to be detonated on British soil , the bomb injured over 200 people , heavily damaged nearby buildings , and broke windows 1 ½ mile (800 m) away . The cost of the immediate damage was initially estimated at £ 50 million , but this was quickly revised upwards . The final insurance payout was over £ 400 million ; many affected businesses never recovered from the loss of trade .

Spurred by the investment after the 1996 bomb , and aided by the XVII Commonwealth Games , Manchester 's city centre has undergone extensive regeneration . New and renovated complexes such as The Printworks and The Triangle have become popular shopping and entertainment destinations . The Manchester Arndale is the UK 's largest city centre shopping centre .

Large sections of the city dating from the 1960s have been either demolished and redeveloped or modernised with the use of glass and steel . Old mills have been converted into modern apartments , Hulme has undergone extensive regeneration programmes , and million pound loftstyle apartments have since been developed . The 169 metre tall , 47 storey Beetham Tower , completed in 2006 , is the tallest building in the UK outside London and when finished was the highest residential accommodation in Europe . In January 2007 , the independent Casino Advisory Panel awarded Manchester a licence to build the only supercasino in the UK , however plans were officially abandoned in February 2008 .

Since around the turn of the 21st century , Manchester has been regarded by sections of the international press , British public , and government ministers as being the second city of the United Kingdom . The BBC reports that redevelopment of recent years has heightened claims that Manchester is the second city of the UK . Manchester and Birmingham have traditionally competed as frontrunners for this unofficial title .

= = Governance = =

The City of Manchester is governed by the Manchester City Council . The earlier Greater Manchester County Council was abolished in 1986 so it is effectively a unitary authority . Manchester has been a member of the English Core Cities Group since its inception in 1995 .

The town of Manchester was granted a charter by Thomas Grelley in 1301 , but lost its borough status in a court case of 1359 . Until the 19th century local government was largely in the hands of manorial courts , the last of which was dissolved in 1846 .

From a very early time , the township of Manchester lay within the historic or ceremonial county boundaries of Lancashire . Pevsner wrote " That [neighbouring] Stretford and Salford are not administratively one with Manchester is one of the most curious anomalies of England " . A stroke of

a Norman baron 's pen is said to have divorced Manchester and Salford , though it was not Salford that became separated from Manchester , it was Manchester , with its humbler line of lords , that was separated from Salford . It was this separation that resulted in Salford becoming the judicial seat of Salfordshire , which included the ancient parish of Manchester . Manchester later formed its own Poor Law Union using the name " Manchester " . In 1792 , Commissioners ? usually known as " Police Commissioners " ? were established for the social improvement of Manchester . Manchester regained its borough status in 1838 , and comprised the townships of Beswick , Cheetham Hill , Chorlton upon Medlock and Hulme . By 1846 , with increasing population and greater industrialisation , the Borough Council had taken over the powers of the " Police Commissioners " . In 1853 , Manchester was granted " city status " in the United Kingdom .

In 1885 , Bradford , Harpurhey , Rusholme and parts of Moss Side and Withington townships became part of the City of Manchester . In 1889 , the city became a county borough as did many larger Lancashire towns , and therefore not governed by Lancashire County Council . Between 1890 and 1933 , more areas were added to the city which had been administered by Lancashire County Council , including former villages such as Burnage , Chorlton @-@ cum @-@ Hardy , Didsbury , Fallowfield , Levenshulme , Longsight , and Withington . In 1931 , the Cheshire civil parishes of Baguley , Northenden and Northern Etchells from the south of the River Mersey were added . In 1974 , by way of the Local Government Act 1972 , the City of Manchester became a metropolitan district of the metropolitan county of Greater Manchester . That year , Ringway , the town where the Manchester Airport is located , was added to the City .

In November 2014 it was announced that Greater Manchester would receive a new directly elected Mayor . The Mayor would have fiscal control over health , transport , housing and police in the area . The move was dubbed " Devo Manc " , a play on the phrase Devo Max .

= = Geography = =

At 53 ° 28 ? 0 ? N 2 ° 14 ? 0 ? W , 160 miles (260 km) northwest of London , Manchester lies in a bowl @-@ shaped land area bordered to the north and east by the Pennines , a mountain chain that runs the length of northern England , and to the south by the Cheshire Plain . Manchester is 35 @. @ 0 miles (56 @. @ 3 km) north @-@ east of Liverpool and 35 @. @ 0 miles (56 @. @ 3 km) north @-@ west of Sheffield , making the city the halfway point between the two . The city centre is on the east bank of the River Irwell , near its confluences with the Rivers Medlock and Irk , and is relatively low @-@ lying , being between 35 to 42 metres (115 to 138 feet) above sea level . The River Mersey flows through the south of Manchester . Much of the inner city , especially in the south , is flat , offering extensive views from many highrise buildings in the city of the foothills and moors of the Pennines , which can often be capped with snow in the winter months . Manchester 's geographic features were highly influential in its early development as the world 's first industrial city . These features are its climate , its proximity to a seaport at Liverpool , the availability of water power from its rivers , and its nearby coal reserves .

The name Manchester , though officially applied only to the metropolitan district within Greater Manchester , has been applied to other , wider divisions of land , particularly across much of the Greater Manchester county and urban area . The " Manchester City Zone " , " Manchester post town " and the " Manchester Congestion Charge " are all examples of this .

For purposes of the Office for National Statistics , Manchester forms the most populous settlement within the Greater Manchester Urban Area , the United Kingdom 's third @-@ largest conurbation . There is a mixture of high @-@ density urban and suburban locations in Manchester . The largest open space in the city , at around 260 hectares (642 acres) , is Heaton Park . Manchester is contiguous on all sides with several large settlements , except for a small section along its southern boundary with Cheshire . The M60 and M56 motorways pass through the south of Manchester , through Northenden and Wythenshawe respectively . Heavy rail lines enter the city from all directions , the principal destination being Manchester Piccadilly station

= = = Climate = = =

Manchester experiences a temperate Oceanic climate , like much of the British Isles , with mild summers and cool winters . Summer daytime temperatures regularly top 20 Celsius , typically reaching 25 Celsius on sunny days throughout July and August in particular . In more recent years , temperatures now reach over 30 Celsius on occasions . In Winter , temperatures rarely dip below freezing anymore . There is regular but generally light precipitation throughout the year . The city 's average annual rainfall is 806 @. @ 6 millimetres (31 @. @ 76 in) compared to the UK average of 1 @. @ 125 @. @ 0 millimetres (44 @. @ 29 in) , and its mean rain days are 140 @. @ 4 per annum , compared to the UK average of 154 @. @ 4 . Manchester however has a relatively high humidity level and this , along with the abundant supply of soft water , was one of the factors that led to the localisation of the textile industry in the area . Snowfalls are not common in the city , due to the urban warming effect . However , the Pennine and Rossendale Forest hills that surround the city to its east and north receive more snow and roads leading out of the city can be closed due to snow. notably the A62 road via Oldham and Standedge , the A57 (Snake Pass) towards Sheffield , and the M62 over Saddleworth Moor .

= = Demography = =

Historically the population of Manchester began to increase rapidly during the Victorian era , peaking at 766 @. @ 311 in 1931 . From then the population began to decrease rapidly , due to slum clearance and the increased building of social housing overspill estates by Manchester City Council after the Second World War such as Hattersley and Langley .

The 2012 Mid @-@ Year Estimate for the population of Manchester was 510 @. @ 700 . This was an increase of 7 @. @ 900 , or 1 @. @ 6 % , since the 2011 MYE . Since 2001 , the population has grown by 87 @. @ 900 , or 20 @. @ 8 % . Manchester was the third fastest @-@ growing of the areas in the 2011 census . The city experienced the greatest percentage population growth outside London , with an increase of 19 % to over 500 @. @ 000 . Manchester 's population is projected to reach 532 @. @ 200 by 2021 , an increase of 5 @. @ 8 % from 2011 . This represents a slower rate of growth than the previous decade .

The Greater Manchester Built @-@ up Area had a population of 2 @. @ 553 @. @ 400 (2011 est . ,) . An estimated 2 @. @ 702 @. @ 200 people live in Greater Manchester (2012 est . ,) . 6 @. @ 547 @. @ 000 people live within 30 miles (50 km) of Manchester (2012 est . ,) and 11 @. @ 694 @. @ 000 within 50 miles (80 km) (2012 est . ,) .

Between the beginning of July 2011 and end of June 2012 (Mid @-@ Year Estimate date) , births exceeded deaths by 4 @. @ 800 . Migration (internal and international) and other changes accounted for a net increase of 3 @. @ 100 people between July 2011 and June 2012 . Compared to Greater Manchester and England , Manchester has a younger population , with a particularly large 20 ? 35 age group .

There were 76 @. @ 095 under- and post @-@ graduate students at the Manchester Metropolitan University , the University of Manchester and Royal Northern College of Music during the academic year 2011 / 12 .

Since the 2001 census , the proportion of Christians in Manchester has decreased by 22 % from 62 @. @ 4 % to 48 @. @ 7 % . The proportion of people with no religious affiliation increased by 58 @. @ 1 % from 16 % to 25 @. @ 3 % , whilst the proportion of Muslims increased by 73 @. @ 6 % from 9 @. @ 1 % to 15 @. @ 8 % . The size of the Jewish population in Greater Manchester is the largest in Britain outside London .

Manchester has a disproportionately high number of gay and lesbian people . Of all households in Manchester , 0 @. @ 23 % were Same @-@ Sex Civil Partnership couple households , compared to the English national average of 0 @. @ 16 % in 2011 .

In terms of ethnic composition , the City of Manchester has the highest non @-@ white proportion of any district in Greater Manchester . Statistics from the 2011 census showed that 66 @. @ 7 % of the population was White (59 @. @ 3 % White British , 2 @. @ 4 % White Irish , 0 @. @ 1 % Gypsy or Irish Traveller , 4 @. @ 9 % Other White ? although those of mixed European and British ancestry

is unknown ; there are reportedly over 25 @, @ 000 Mancunians of at least partial Italian descent alone which represents 5 @. @ 5 % of the city 's population) . 4 @. @ 7 % were mixed race (1 @. @ 8 % White and Black Caribbean , 0 @. @ 9 % White and Black African , 1 @. @ 0 % White and Asian , 1 @. @ 0 % Other Mixed) , 17 @. @ 1 % Asian (2 @. @ 3 % Indian , 8 @. @ 5 % Pakistani , 1 @. @ 3 % Bangladeshi , 2 @. @ 7 % Chinese , 2 @. @ 3 % Other Asian) , 8 @. @ 6 % Black (5 @. @ 1 % African , 1 @. @ 6 % Other Black) , 1 @. @ 9 % Arab and 1 @. @ 2 % of other ethnic heritage .

Kidd identifies Moss Side , Longsight , Cheetham Hill , Rusholme , as centres of population for ethnic minorities . Manchester 's Irish Festival , including a St Patrick 's Day parade , is one of Europe 's largest . There is also a well @-@ established Chinatown in the city with a substantial number of oriental restaurants and Chinese supermarkets . The area also attracts large numbers of Chinese students to the city who , in attending the local universities , contribute to Manchester having the third @-@ largest Chinese population in Europe .

The Manchester Larger Urban Zone , a Eurostat measure of the functional city @-@ region approximated to local government districts , has a population of 2 @, @ 539 @, @ 100 in 2004 . In addition to Manchester itself , the LUZ includes the remainder of the county of Greater Manchester . The Manchester LUZ is the second largest within the United Kingdom , behind that of London .

= = Economy = =

The Office for National Statistics does not produce economic data for the City of Manchester alone , but includes four other metropolitan boroughs , Salford , Stockport , Tameside , Trafford , in an area named Greater Manchester South , which had a GVA of £ 34.8bn. The economy grew relatively strongly between 2002 and 2012 , where growth was 2 @. @ 3 % above the national average . With a GDP of \$ 88.3bn (2012 est . , PPP) the wider metropolitan economy is the third @-@ largest in the United Kingdom . It is ranked as a beta world city by the Globalization and World Cities Research Network .

As the UK economy continues to recover from the downturn experienced in 2008 ? 10 , Manchester compares favourably to other geographies according to the latest figures . In 2012 it is shown the strongest annual growth in business stock (5 %) of all the Core Cities . The city experienced a relatively sharp increase in the number of business deaths , the largest increase of all the Core Cities , however this was offset by strong growth in new businesses which resulted in a strong net growth .

Manchester 's civic leadership has a reputation for business acumen . It owns two of the country 's four busiest airports and uses its earnings to fund local projects . Meanwhile , KPMG 's competitive alternative report found that in 2012 Manchester had the 9th lowest tax cost of any industrialised city in the world , and fiscal devolution has come earlier to Manchester than to any other British city : it can keep half the extra taxes it gets from transport investment .

KPMG 's competitive alternative report also found that Manchester was Europe 's most affordable city featured , ranking slightly better than Dutch cities , Rotterdam and Amsterdam , who all have a cost of living index less than 95 .

Manchester is a city of contrast , where some of the country 's most deprived and most affluent neighbourhoods can be found . According to the 2010 Indices of Multiple Deprivation Manchester is the 4th most deprived local council in the England . Unemployment throughout 2012 ? 13 averaged 11 @. @ 9 % , which was above the national average , but lower than some of the country 's other comparable large cities . On the other hand , Greater Manchester is home to more multi @-@ millionaires than anywhere outside London , with the City of Manchester taking up most of the tally . In 2013 Manchester was ranked 6th in the UK for quality of life , according to a rating of the UK 's 12 largest cities .

Women fare better in Manchester than the rest of the country in terms of equal pay to men . The per hours worked gender pay gap is 3 @. @ 3 % , in contrast to 11 @. @ 1 % for Great Britain . 37 % of the working @-@ age population in Manchester have degree level qualifications in contrast to the average of 33 % across other Core Cities , although schools under @-@ perform slightly when

compared to the national average .

Manchester has the largest UK office market outside London according to GVA Grimley with a quarterly office uptake (averaged over 2010 ? 14) of approximately 250 @,@ 000 square ft ? equivalent to the quarterly office uptake of Leeds , Liverpool and Newcastle combined and 90 @,@ 000 square feet more than the nearest rival Birmingham . The strong office market in Manchester has been partly attributed to ' Northshoring ' , (from offshoring) which entails the relocation or alternative creation of jobs away from the overheated South to areas where office space is possibly cheaper and workforce market may not be as saturated .

= = Landmarks = =

Manchester 's buildings display a variety of architectural styles , ranging from Victorian to contemporary architecture . The widespread use of red brick characterises the city , much of the architecture of which harks back to its days as a global centre for the cotton trade . Just outside the immediate city centre is a large number of former cotton mills , some of which have been left virtually untouched since their closure while many have been redeveloped into apartment buildings and office space . Manchester Town Hall , in Albert Square , was built in the Gothic revival style and is considered to be one of the most important Victorian buildings in England .

Manchester also has a number of skyscrapers built during the 1960s and 1970s , the tallest of which was the CIS Tower located near Manchester Victoria station until the Beetham Tower was completed in 2006 ; it is an example of the new surge in high @-@ rise building and includes a Hilton hotel , a restaurant , and apartments . It remains the tallest building outside London and has been described as the United Kingdom 's only true skyscraper outside the capital . The Green Building , opposite Oxford Road station , is a pioneering eco @-@ friendly housing project , while the recently completed One Angel Square , is one of the most sustainable large buildings in the world . The award @-@ winning Heaton Park in the north of the city borough is one of the largest municipal parks in Europe , covering 610 acres (250 ha) of parkland . The city has 135 parks , gardens , and open spaces .

Two large squares hold many of Manchester 's public monuments . Albert Square has monuments to Prince Albert , Bishop James Fraser , Oliver Heywood , William Ewart Gladstone , and John Bright . Piccadilly Gardens has monuments dedicated to Queen Victoria , Robert Peel , James Watt and the Duke of Wellington . The cenotaph in St Peter 's Square , by Edwin Lutyens , is Manchester 's main memorial to its war dead . The Alan Turing Memorial in Sackville Park commemorates his role as the father of modern computing . A larger @-@ than @-@ life statue of Abraham Lincoln by George Gray Barnard in the eponymous Lincoln Square (having stood for many years in Platt Fields) was presented to the city by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Phelps Taft of Cincinnati , Ohio , to mark the part that Lancashire played in the cotton famine and American Civil War of 1861 ? 1865 . A Concorde is on display near Manchester Airport .

Manchester has six designated Local Nature Reserves which are Chorlton Water Park , Blackley Forest , Clayton Vale and Chorlton Ees , Ivy Green , Boggart Hole Clough and Highfield Country Park .

= = Transport = =

= = = Rail = = =

Manchester Liverpool Road was the world 's first purpose @-@ built passenger and goods railway station , and served as the Manchester terminus on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway ? the world 's first inter @-@ city passenger railway . Today the city is well served by the rail network , and is at the centre of an extensive countywide railway network , including the West Coast Main Line , with two mainline stations : Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Victoria . The Manchester station group ? comprising Manchester Piccadilly , Manchester Victoria , Manchester Oxford Road

and Deansgate ? is the fourth busiest in the United Kingdom , with 41 @. @ 7 million passengers recorded in 2013 . On 7 February 2014 , construction of the £ 600m Northern Hub project , which aims to increase capacity and reduce journey times across the North , began with construction work commencing on a 4th platform at Manchester Airport railway station . The High Speed 2 link to Birmingham and London is also planned , which , if built , will include a 12 km (7 mi) tunnel under Manchester on the final approach into an upgraded Piccadilly station .

== = Metrolink (tram) = = =

Manchester became the first city in the UK to acquire a modern light rail tram system when the Manchester Metrolink opened in 1992 . 25 million passenger journeys were made on the system in 2012 / 13 . The present system mostly runs on former commuter rail lines converted for light rail use , and crosses the city centre via on @- @ street tram lines . The 45 @. @ 6 mi (73 @. @ 4 km) -network consists of six lines with 69 stations (including five on @- @ street tram stops in the centre) . An expansion programme is underway which will create four new lines to add to the current three and will be at least 99 stops , 62 more than in 2010 . Manchester city centre is also serviced by over a dozen heavy and light rail @- @ based park and ride sites .

== = Bus = = =

The city has one of the most extensive bus networks outside London with over 50 bus companies operating in the Greater Manchester region radiating from the city . In 2011 , 80 % of public transport journeys in Greater Manchester were made by bus , amounting to 220 million passenger journeys by bus each year . Following deregulation in 1986 , the bus system was taken over by GM Buses , which after privatisation was split into GM Buses North and GM Buses South and at a later date these were taken over by First Greater Manchester and Stagecoach Manchester respectively . First Greater Manchester also operates a three route zero @- @ fare bus service , called Metroshuttle , which carries 2 @. @ 8 million commuters a year around Manchester 's business districts . Stagecoach Manchester is the Stagecoach Group 's largest subsidiary and operates around 690 buses . One of its services is the 192 bus service , the busiest bus route in the UK .

== = Air = = =

Manchester , Northern England and North Wales are served by Manchester Airport . The airport is the third busiest in the United Kingdom and the largest outside the London region . Airline services exist to many destinations in Europe , North America , the Caribbean , Africa , the Middle East and Asia (with more destinations from Manchester than any other airport in Britain) . A second runway was opened in 2001 and there have been continued terminal improvements . The airport has the highest rating available : " Category 10 " , encompassing an elite group of airports which are able to handle " Code F " aircraft including the Airbus A380 and Boeing 747 @- @ 8 . From September 2010 the airport became one of only 17 airports in the world and the only UK airport other than Heathrow Airport to operate the Airbus A380 .

A smaller airfield , City Airport Manchester , also exists 9 @. @ 3 km (6 mi) to the west of Manchester city centre . It was Manchester 's first municipal airport , and became the site of the first Air traffic control tower in the UK , and the first municipal airfield in the UK to be licensed by the Air Ministry . Today , private charter flights and general aviation use the airfield , it also has a flight school , and both the Greater Manchester Police Air Support Unit and the North West Air Ambulance have helicopters based at the airfield .

== = Canal = = =

An extensive canal network , including the Manchester Ship Canal , was built to carry freight from the Industrial Revolution onward ; the canals are still maintained , though now largely repurposed to

leisure use . In 2012 , plans were approved to introduce a water taxi service between Manchester city centre and MediaCityUK at Salford Quays .

= = Culture = =

= = = Music = = =

Bands that have emerged from the Manchester music scene include The Smiths , Buzzcocks , Joy Division and its successor group New Order , The Fall , 10cc , Oasis , Elbow , Doves , The Charlatans , M People and Take That . Manchester was credited as the main regional driving force behind indie bands of the 1980s including Happy Mondays , Inspiral Carpets , James , and The Stone Roses . These groups came from what became known as the " Madchester " scene that also centred on The Hacienda nightclub developed by founder of Factory Records Tony Wilson . Although from southern England , The Chemical Brothers subsequently formed in Manchester . Ex @-@ Smiths Morrissey continues a successful solo career . Notable Manchester acts of the 1960s include The Hollies , Herman 's Hermits , and Davy Jones of the Monkees (famed in the mid @-@ 1960s for not only their albums but also their American TV show) and the earlier Bee Gees , who grew up in Chorlton . Another notable contemporary band from Manchester is The Courteeners consisting of Liam Fray and four close friends . Singer @-@ songwriter Ren Harvieu is also from Greater Manchester .

Its main pop music venue is the Manchester Arena with over 21 @,@ 000 seats , the largest arena of its type in Europe which was voted International Venue of the Year in 2007 . In terms of concert goers , it is the busiest indoor arena in the world ahead of Madison Square Garden in New York and The O2 Arena in London , the second and third busiest respectively . Other major venues include the Manchester Apollo , Albert Hall and the Manchester Academy . Smaller venues are the Band on the Wall , the Night and Day Café , the Ruby Lounge , and The Deaf Institute .

Manchester has two symphony orchestras , the Hallé and the BBC Philharmonic . There is also a chamber orchestra , the Manchester Camerata . In the 1950s , the city was home to the so @-@ called " Manchester School " of classical composers , which comprised Harrison Birtwistle , Peter Maxwell Davies , David Ellis and Alexander Goehr . Manchester is a centre for musical education , with the Royal Northern College of Music , which celebrates its 40th Anniversary since its merger , and Chetham 's School of Music . Forerunners of the RNCM were the Northern School of Music (founded 1920) and the Royal Manchester College of Music (founded 1893) , which were merged in 1973 . One of the earliest instructors and classical music pianists / conductors at the RNCM , shortly after its founding was the famous Russian @-@ born Arthur Friedheim , (1859 ? 1932) , who later had the music library at the famed Peabody Institute conservatory of music in Baltimore , Maryland , named for him . The main classical music venue was the Free Trade Hall on Peter Street , until the opening in 1996 of the 2 @,@ 500 seat Bridgewater Hall .

Brass band music , a tradition in the north of England , is an important part of Manchester 's musical heritage ; some of the UK 's leading bands , such as the CWS Manchester Band and the Fairey Band , are from Manchester and surrounding areas , and the Whit Friday brass band contest takes place annually in the neighbouring areas of Saddleworth and Tameside .

= = = Performing arts = = =

Manchester has a thriving theatre , opera and dance scene , and is home to a number of large performance venues , including the Manchester Opera House , which feature large @-@ scale touring shows and West End productions ; the Palace Theatre ; and the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester 's former cotton exchange . The Royal Exchange is the largest theatre in the round space in the UK .

Smaller performance spaces include the Contact Theatre ; Z @-@ arts in Hulme and Studio Salford . The Dancehouse on Oxford Road is dedicated to dance productions . In 2014 , HOME , a new

custom built arts complex opened in the City . Housing two theatre spaces , five cinemas and an art exhibition space , it replaced the Cornerhouse and The Library Theatre

Since 2007 the city has hosted the Manchester International Festival , a biennial international arts festival with a specific focus on original new work , which has included major new commissions by artists including Bjork . In Chancellor George Osborne 's 2014 autumn statement he announced a £ 78 million grant to fund a new " large @-@ scale , ultra @-@ flexible arts space " for the city . The theatre , to be called The Factory , after Manchester 's Factory Records , will provide a permanent home for the Manchester International Festival .

= = = Museums and galleries = = =

Manchester 's museums celebrate Manchester 's Roman history , rich industrial heritage and its role in the Industrial Revolution , the textile industry , the Trade Union movement , women 's suffrage and football . A reconstructed part of the Roman fort of Mamucium is open to the public in Castlefield . The Museum of Science and Industry , housed in the former Liverpool Road railway station , has a large collection of steam locomotives , industrial machinery , aircraft and a replica of the world 's first stored computer program (known as The Baby) . The Museum of Transport displays a collection of historic buses and trams . Trafford Park in the neighbouring borough of Trafford is home to Imperial War Museum North . The Manchester Museum opened to the public in the 1880s , has notable Egyptology and natural history collections .

The municipally owned Manchester Art Gallery on Mosley Street houses a permanent collection of European painting , and has one of Britain 's most significant collections of Pre @-@ Raphaelite paintings .

In the south of the city , the Whitworth Art Gallery displays modern art , sculpture and textiles and was recently voted Museum of the Year in 2015 . Other exhibition spaces and museums in Manchester include Islington Mill in Salford , the National Football Museum at Urbis , Castlefield Gallery , the Manchester Costume Gallery at Platt Fields Park , the People 's History Museum and the Manchester Jewish Museum .

The works of Stretford @-@ born painter L. S. Lowry , known for his " matchstick " paintings of industrial Manchester and Salford , can be seen in both the city and Whitworth Manchester galleries , and at the Lowry art centre in Salford Quays (in the neighbouring borough of Salford) devotes a large permanent exhibition to his works .

= = = Literature = = =

Manchester is known for possessing a " radical literary history " . In the 19th century , Manchester featured in works highlighting the changes that industrialisation had brought to Britain . These included Elizabeth Gaskell 's novel Mary Barton : A Tale of Manchester Life (1848) , and studies such as The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844 , written by Friedrich Engels while living and working in Manchester . Manchester was the meeting place of Engels and Karl Marx . The two began writing The Communist Manifesto in Chetham 's Library . The library was founded in 1653 and lays claim to being the oldest public library in the English @-@ speaking world . Elsewhere in the city , the John Rylands Library holds an extensive collection of early printing . The Rylands Library Papyrus P52 , believed to be the earliest extant New Testament text , is on permanent display in the library .

Charles Dickens is reputed to have set his novel Hard Times in the city , and while it is partly modelled on Preston , it shows the influence of his friend Mrs Gaskell . Gaskell penned all her novels , with the exception of Mary Barton , at her residence on Plymouth Grove . On numerous occasions Gaskell 's house played host to influential authors including Dickens , Charlotte Brontë , Harriet Beecher Stowe and Charles Eliot Norton . It is now open as a literary museum . Also closely associated with the city is Victorian poet and novelist Isabella Banks , most famed for her 1876 novel The Manchester Man . Anglo @-@ American author Frances Hodgson Burnett was born in the city 's Cheetham Hill district in 1849 , and wrote much of her classic children 's novel The Secret

Garden while visiting nearby Salford 's Buile Hill Park .

Among 20th century writers from Manchester is Anthony Burgess , who wrote the dystopian satire A Clockwork Orange in 1962 . Dame Carol Ann Duffy , the current Poet Laureate , moved to the city in 1996 and lives in West Didsbury . Poet , novelist and academic Jackie Kay also lives in the city .

= = = Nightlife = = =

The night @-@ time economy of Manchester has expanded significantly since about 1993 , with investment from breweries in bars , public houses and clubs , along with active support from the local authorities . The more than 500 licensed premises in the city centre have a capacity to deal with more than 250 @,@ 000 visitors , with 110 ? 130 @,@ 000 people visiting on a typical weekend night . The night @-@ time economy has a value of about £ 100 million and supports 12 @,@ 000 jobs .

The Madchester scene of the 1980s , from which groups including New Order , The Smiths , The Stone Roses , the Happy Mondays , Inspiral Carpets , 808 State , James and The Charlatans emerged , was based on clubs such as the world famous The Hacienda . The period was the subject of the film 24 Hour Party People . Many of the big clubs suffered problems with organised crime at that time ; Haslam describes one where staff were so completely intimidated that free admission and drinks were demanded (and given) and drugs were openly dealt . Following a series of drug @-@ related violent incidents , The Hacienda closed in 1998 . In 1988 , Manchester was often referred to as Madchester for its rave scene . Owned by Tony Wilson 's Factory Records , it was given the catalogue number FAC51 and official club name , FAC51 The Hacienda . Known for developing many talented 80s influential acts , it also influenced the graphic design industry via Factory artists such as Peter Saville (PSA) , Octavo (8vo) , Central Design Station , etc . The memorabilia from this club holds a high value among collectors and fans of these artists and the club . Peter Saville was most notable for his minimalistic influence that still affects contemporary graphic design everywhere .

= = = Gay village = = =

Public houses in the Canal Street area have had a gay clientele since at least 1940 , and now form the centre of Manchester 's gay community . Since the opening of new bars and clubs , the area attracts 20 @,@ 000 visitors each weekend and has hosted a popular festival , Manchester Pride , each August since 1991 .

= = Education = =

There are three universities in the City of Manchester . The University of Manchester , Manchester Metropolitan University and Royal Northern College of Music . The University of Manchester is the largest full @-@ time non @-@ collegiate university in the United Kingdom and was created in 2004 by the merger of Victoria University of Manchester founded in 1904 and UMIST , founded in 1956 , though the university 's logo appears to claim it was established in 1824 . It includes the Manchester Business School , which offered the first MBA course in the UK in 1965 . Manchester Metropolitan University was formed as Manchester Polytechnic on the merger of three colleges in 1970 . It gained university status in 1992 , and in the same year absorbed Crewe and Alsager College of Higher Education in South Cheshire . The University of Law , the largest provider of vocation legal training in Europe , has a campus in the city .

The three Universities are grouped around Oxford Road on the southern side of the city centre , which forms Europe 's largest urban higher education precinct . Together they have a combined population of 76 @,@ 025 students in higher education as of 2015 , although almost 6 @,@ 000 of them were based at Manchester Metropolitan University 's campuses at Crewe and Alsager in Cheshire .

One of Manchester 's most notable secondary schools is the Manchester Grammar School .

Established in 1515 , as a free grammar school next to what is now the Cathedral , it moved in 1931 to Old Hall Lane in Fallowfield , south Manchester , to accommodate the growing student body . In the post @-@ war period , it was a direct grant grammar school (i.e. partially state funded) , but it reverted to independent status in 1976 after abolition of the direct @-@ grant system . Its previous premises are now used by Chetham 's School of Music . There are three schools nearby : William Hulme 's Grammar School , Withington Girls ' School and Manchester High School for Girls .

In 2010 , the Manchester Local Education Authority was ranked last out of Greater Manchester 's ten LEAs ? and 147th out of 150 in the country LEAs ? based on the percentage of pupils attaining at least five A * -C grades at General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) including maths and English (38 @.@ 6 % compared with the national average of 50 @.@ 7 %) . The LEA also had the highest occurrence of absences , with 11 @.@ 11 % of " half @-@ day sessions missed by pupils " , above the national average of 5 @.@ 8 % . Of the schools in the LEA with 30 or more pupils , four had 90 % or more pupils achieving at least five A * ? C grades at GCSE including maths and English : (Manchester High School for Girls , St Bede 's College , Manchester Islamic High School for Girls , and The King David High School) while three managed 25 % or below (Plant Hill Arts College , North Manchester High School for Boys , Brookway High School and Sports College) .

= = Sport = =

Manchester is well known for being a city of sport . Two Premier League football clubs bear the city name ? Manchester United and Manchester City . Manchester United play its home games at Old Trafford , in the neighbouring Greater Manchester borough of Trafford , the largest club football ground in the United Kingdom . Manchester City 's home ground is the City of Manchester Stadium (also known as the Etihad Stadium for sponsorship purposes) ; its former ground , Maine Road was demolished in 2003 . The City of Manchester Stadium was initially built as the main athletics stadium for the 2002 Commonwealth Games and was subsequently reconfigured into a football stadium before Manchester City 's arrival . Manchester has hosted domestic , continental and international football competitions at Fallowfield Stadium , Maine Road , Old Trafford and the City of Manchester Stadium . Competitions hosted in city include the FIFA World Cup (1966) , UEFA European Football Championship (1996) , Olympic Football (2012) , UEFA Champions League Final (2003) , UEFA Cup Final (2008) , four FA Cup Finals (1893 , 1911 , 1915 , 1970) and three League Cup Finals (1977 , 1978 , 1984) .

First class sporting facilities were built for the 2002 Commonwealth Games , including the City of Manchester Stadium , the National Squash Centre and the Manchester Aquatics Centre . Manchester has competed twice to host the Olympic Games , beaten by Atlanta for 1996 and Sydney for 2000 . The National Cycling Centre includes a velodrome , BMX Arena and Mountainbike trials and is the home of British Cycling , UCI ProTeam Team Sky and Sky Track Cycling . The Manchester Velodrome was built as a part of the bid for the 2000 games and has become a catalyst for British success in cycling . The velodrome hosted the UCI Track Cycling World Championships for a record third time in 2008 . The National Indoor BMX Arena (2 @,@ 000 capacity) adjacent to the velodrome opened in 2011 . The Manchester Arena hosted the FINA World Swimming Championships in 2008 . Manchester Cricket Club evolved into Lancashire County Cricket Club and play at Old Trafford Cricket Ground . Manchester also hosted the World Squash Championships in 2008 , and also hosted the 2010 World Lacrosse Championship in July 2010 . Recent sporting events hosted by Manchester include the 2013 Ashes series , 2013 Rugby League World Cup and the 2015 Rugby World Cup .

= = Media = =

The ITV franchisee Granada Television is partially headquartered in the old Granada Studios site on Quay Street and the new location at MediaCityUK as part of the initial phase of its migration to Salford Quays . It produces Coronation Street , local news and programmes for North West England

. Although its influence has waned Granada had been described as ' the best commercial television company in the world ' .

Manchester was one of the BBC 's three main centres in England . Programmes including Mastermind , and Real Story , were made at New Broadcasting House . The Cutting It series set in the city 's Northern Quarter and The Street were set in Manchester as was Life on Mars . The first edition of Top of the Pops was broadcast from a studio in Rusholme on New Year 's Day 1964 . Manchester was the regional base for BBC One North West Region programmes before it relocated to MediaCityUK in nearby Salford Quays . The Manchester television channel , Channel M , owned by the Guardian Media Group operated from 2000 but closed in 2012 . Manchester is also covered by two internet television channels : Quays News and Manchester.tv. The city will also have a new terrestrial channel from January 2014 when YourTV Manchester , who won the OFCOM licence bid in February 2013 begins its first broadcast but in 2015 when That 's Manchester took over to air on 31 May and launched on the freeview channel 8 service slot .

The city has the highest number of local radio stations outside London including BBC Radio Manchester , Key 103 , Galaxy , Piccadilly Magic 1152 , Real Radio North West , 100 @. @ 4 Smooth FM , Capital Gold 1458 , 96 @. @ 2 The Revolution , NMFM (North Manchester FM) and Xfm . Student radio stations include Fuse FM at the University of Manchester and MMU Radio at the Manchester Metropolitan University . A community radio network is coordinated by Radio Regen , with stations covering Ardwick , Longsight and Levenshulme (All FM 96 @. @ 9) and Wythenshawe (Wythenshawe FM 97 @. @ 2) . Defunct radio stations include Sunset 102 , which became Kiss 102 , then Galaxy Manchester) , and KFM which became Signal Cheshire (now Imagine FM) . These stations and pirate radio played a significant role in the city 's house music culture , the Madchester scene , which was based in clubs like The Hacienda .

The Guardian newspaper was founded in 1821 as The Manchester Guardian . Its head office is still in the city , though many of its management functions were moved to London in 1964 . Its sister publication , the Manchester Evening News , has the largest circulation of a UK regional evening newspaper . It is free in the city centre on Thursdays and Fridays , but paid for in the suburbs . Despite its title , it is available all day . The Metro North West is available free at Metrolink stops , rail stations and other busy locations . The MEN group distributes several local weekly free papers . For many years most of the national newspapers had offices in Manchester : The Daily Telegraph , Daily Express , Daily Mail , The Daily Mirror , The Sun . Only The Daily Sport remains based in Manchester . At its height , 1 @, @ 500 journalists were employed , though in the 1980s office closures began and today the " second Fleet Street " is no more . An attempt to launch a Northern daily newspaper , the North West Times , employing journalists made redundant by other titles , closed in 1988 . Another attempt was made with the North West Enquirer , which hoped to provide a true " regional " newspaper for the North West , much in the same vein as the Yorkshire Post does for Yorkshire or The Northern Echo does for the North East ; it folded in October 2006 .

= = Twin cities and consulates = =

Manchester has formal twinning arrangements (or " friendship agreements ") with several places . In addition , the British Council maintains a metropolitan centre in Manchester . Although not an official twin city , Tampere , Finland is known as " the Manchester of Finland " ? or " Manse " for short . Similarly , Osaka is nicknamed as " The Manchester of Japan " , Joinville , Brazil is known as " the Manchester of Santa Catarina (state) " . Being centres of textile industries Ahmedabad is known as " the Manchester of India " and Coimbatore is known as " the Manchester of South India " .

Ayd?n , Turkey
Bilwi , Nicaragua
Chemnitz , Germany (1983)
Córdoba , Spain
Leskovac , Serbia
Faisalabad , Pakistan (1997)

Los Angeles , United States (2009)

Rehovot , Israel

Amsterdam , (2007)

Saint Petersburg , Russia (1962)

Wuhan , China (1986)

Manchester is home to the largest group of consuls in the UK outside London . The expansion of international trade links during the Industrial Revolution led to the introduction of the first consuls in the 1820s and since then over 800 , from all parts of the world , have been based in Manchester . Manchester has remained (in consular terms at least) the second city of the UK for two centuries , and hosts consular services for most of the north of England .