[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Use British English](/wiki/Template:Use_British_English) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox settlement](/wiki/Template:Infobox_settlement) **Birmingham** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en)) is a major [city](/wiki/City_status_in_the_United_Kingdom) and [metropolitan borough](/wiki/Metropolitan_borough) in the [West Midlands](/wiki/West_Midlands_(county)) of England. It is the largest and [most populous British city](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_the_United_Kingdom) outside [London](/wiki/London), with a population in 2014 of 1,101,360.[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) The city is in the [West Midlands Built-up Area](/wiki/West_Midlands_conurbation), the [third most populous](/wiki/List_of_urban_areas_in_the_United_Kingdom) urban area in the United Kingdom, with a population of 2,440,986 at the 2011 census. Birmingham is the [second most populous](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_in_the_United_Kingdom) metropolitan area in the UK with a population of 3.8 million. This also makes Birmingham the [9th most populous](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_areas_in_Europe) metropolitan area in Europe.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) A medium-sized [market town](/wiki/Market_town) in the medieval period, Birmingham grew to international prominence in the 18th century at the heart of the [Midlands Enlightenment](/wiki/Midlands_Enlightenment) and subsequent [Industrial Revolution](/wiki/Industrial_Revolution), which saw the town at the forefront of worldwide advances in science, technology and economic development, producing a series of innovations that laid many of the foundations of modern [industrial society](/wiki/Industrial_society).[[5]](#cite_note-5) By 1791 it was being hailed as "the first manufacturing town in the world".[[6]](#cite_note-6) Birmingham's distinctive economic profile, with thousands of small workshops practising a wide variety of specialised and highly skilled trades, encouraged exceptional levels of creativity and innovation and provided a diverse and resilient economic base for industrial prosperity that was to last into the final quarter of the 20th century. Perhaps the most important invention in British history, the industrial steam engine, was invented in Birmingham.[[7]](#cite_note-7) Its resulting high level of [social mobility](/wiki/Social_mobility) also fostered a culture of broad-based [political radicalism](/wiki/Political_radicalism), that under leaders from [Thomas Attwood](/wiki/Thomas_Attwood) to [Joseph Chamberlain](/wiki/Joseph_Chamberlain) was to give it a political influence unparalleled in Britain outside London, and a pivotal role in the development of British democracy.[[8]](#cite_note-8) From the summer of 1940 to the spring of 1943, Birmingham was bombed heavily by the [German Luftwaffe](/wiki/Luftwaffe) in what is known as the [Birmingham Blitz](/wiki/Birmingham_Blitz). The damage done to the city's infrastructure, in addition to a deliberate policy of demolition and new building by planners, led to extensive demolition and redevelopment in subsequent decades.

Today Birmingham's economy is dominated by the [service sector](/wiki/Service_sector).[[9]](#cite_note-9) The city is a major international commercial centre, ranked as a [beta− world city](/wiki/Global_city#GaWC_study) by the [Globalization and World Cities Research Network](/wiki/Globalization_and_World_Cities_Research_Network);[[10]](#cite_note-10) and an important transport, retail, events and conference hub. Its [metropolitan economy](/wiki/Metropolitan_economy) is the [second largest in the United Kingdom](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_economies_in_the_United_Kingdom) with a [GDP](/wiki/GDP) of $121.1bn (2014),[[11]](#cite_note-11) and its six universities make it the largest centre of [higher education](/wiki/Higher_education) in the country outside London.[[12]](#cite_note-12) Birmingham's major cultural institutions – including the [City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/City_of_Birmingham_Symphony_Orchestra), the [Birmingham Royal Ballet](/wiki/Birmingham_Royal_Ballet), the [Birmingham Repertory Theatre](/wiki/Birmingham_Repertory_Theatre), the [Library of Birmingham](/wiki/Library_of_Birmingham) and the [Barber Institute of Fine Arts](/wiki/Barber_Institute_of_Fine_Arts) – enjoy international reputations,[[13]](#cite_note-13) and the city has vibrant and influential grassroots [art](/wiki/Art_of_Birmingham), [music](/wiki/Popular_music_of_Birmingham), [literary](/wiki/Literature_of_Birmingham) and [culinary](/wiki/Food_and_drink_in_Birmingham) scenes.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Birmingham is the fourth-most visited city in the UK by foreign visitors.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Birmingham's sporting heritage can be felt worldwide, with the concept of the Football League and lawn tennis both originating from the city. Its most successful football club [Aston Villa](/wiki/Aston_Villa_F.C.) has won seven league titles and one European Cup with the other professional club being [Birmingham City](/wiki/Birmingham_City_F.C.).

People from Birmingham are called [Brummies](/wiki/Brummie), a term derived from the city's nickname of Brum. This originates from the city's dialect name, [Brummagem](/wiki/Brummagem),[[16]](#cite_note-16) which may in turn have been derived from one of the city's earlier names, Bromwicham.[[17]](#cite_note-17) There is a distinctive [Brummie](/wiki/Brummie) [accent](/wiki/Accent_(dialect)) and [dialect](/wiki/Dialect).

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

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### Pre-history and medieval[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Birmingham's early history is that of a remote and marginal area. The main centres of population, power and wealth in the pre-industrial [English Midlands](/wiki/English_Midlands) lay in the fertile and accessible river valleys of the [Trent](/wiki/River_Trent), the [Severn](/wiki/River_Severn) and the [Avon](/wiki/River_Avon_(Warwickshire)). The area of modern Birmingham lay in between, on the upland [Birmingham Plateau](/wiki/Birmingham_Plateau) and within the densely wooded and sparsely populated [Forest of Arden](/wiki/Forest_of_Arden).[[18]](#cite_note-18) There is evidence of [early human](/wiki/Homo) activity in the Birmingham area dating back 10,000 years,[[19]](#cite_note-19) with [stone age](/wiki/Stone_age) artefacts suggesting seasonal settlements, overnight hunting parties and woodland activities such as tree felling.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The many [burnt mounds](/wiki/Burnt_mound) that can still be seen around the city indicate that [modern humans](/wiki/Anatomically_modern_humans) first intensively settled and cultivated the area during the [bronze age](/wiki/Bronze_age), when a substantial but short-lived influx of population occurred between 1700 BC and 1000 BC, possibly caused by conflict or immigration in the surrounding area.[[21]](#cite_note-21) During the 1st-century [Roman conquest of Britain](/wiki/Roman_conquest_of_Britain), the forested country of the Birmingham Plateau formed a barrier to the advancing Roman legions,[[22]](#cite_note-22) who built the large [Metchley Fort](/wiki/Metchley_Fort) in the area of modern-day [Edgbaston](/wiki/Edgbaston) in AD 48,[[23]](#cite_note-23) and made it the focus of a network of [Roman roads](/wiki/Roman_roads_in_Britain).[[24]](#cite_note-24) [thumb|left|The charters of 1166 and 1189 that established Birmingham as a](/wiki/File:Birmingham_Market_Charters_1166_and_1189.jpg) [market town](/wiki/Market_town) and [seigneurial borough](/wiki/Seigneurial_borough) Birmingham as a settlement dates from the [Anglo-Saxon](/wiki/Anglo-Saxon_England) era. The city's name comes from the [Old English](/wiki/Old_English) *Beormingahām*, meaning the home or settlement of the [*Beormingas*](/wiki/Beormingas) – indicating that Birmingham was established in the 6th or early 7th century as the primary settlement of an [Anglian](/wiki/Angles) tribal grouping and [*regio*](/wiki/Regiones) of that name.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Despite this early importance, by the time of the [Domesday Book](/wiki/Domesday_Book) of 1086 the manor of Birmingham was one of the poorest and least populated in [Warwickshire](/wiki/Warwickshire), valued at only 20 [shillings](/wiki/Shilling),[[26]](#cite_note-26) with the area of the modern city divided between the counties of Warwickshire, [Staffordshire](/wiki/Staffordshire) and [Worcestershire](/wiki/Worcestershire).[[27]](#cite_note-27) The development of Birmingham into a significant urban and commercial centre began in 1166, when the [Lord of the Manor](/wiki/Lord_of_the_Manor) [Peter de Bermingham](/wiki/Peter_de_Bermingham) obtained a charter to hold a market at [his castle](/wiki/Birmingham_Manor_House), and followed this with the creation of a planned [market town](/wiki/Market_town) and [seigneurial borough](/wiki/Seigneurial_borough) within his [*demesne*](/wiki/Demesne) or manorial estate, around the site that became the [Bull Ring](/wiki/Bull_Ring,_Birmingham).[[28]](#cite_note-28) This established Birmingham as the primary commercial centre for the Birmingham Plateau at a time when the area's economy was expanding rapidly, with population growth nationally leading to the clearance, cultivation and settlement of previously marginal land.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Within a century of the charter Birmingham had grown into a prosperous urban centre of merchants and craftsmen.[[30]](#cite_note-30) By 1327 it was the third-largest town in Warwickshire,[[31]](#cite_note-31) a position it would retain for the next 200 years.[[32]](#cite_note-32)

### Early modern[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

The principal governing institutions of medieval Birmingham – including the [Guild of the Holy Cross](/wiki/Guild_of_the_Holy_Cross) and the [lordship](/wiki/Lord_of_the_Manor) of the [de Birmingham family](/wiki/De_Birmingham_family) – collapsed between 1536 and 1547,[[33]](#cite_note-33) leaving the town with an unusually high degree of social and economic freedom and initiating a period of transition and growth.[[34]](#cite_note-34) By 1700 Birmingham's population had increased fifteenfold and the town was the fifth-largest in England and Wales.[[35]](#cite_note-35) The importance of the manufacture of [iron](/wiki/Iron) goods to Birmingham's economy was recognised as early as 1538, and grew rapidly as the century progressed.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Equally significant was the town's emerging role as a centre for the [iron merchants](/wiki/Ironmongers) who organised finance, supplied raw materials and traded and marketed the industry's products.[[37]](#cite_note-37) By the 1600s Birmingham formed the commercial hub of a network of [forges](/wiki/Forge) and [furnaces](/wiki/Furnace) stretching from [South Wales](/wiki/South_Wales) to [Cheshire](/wiki/Cheshire)[[38]](#cite_note-38) and its merchants were selling finished manufactured goods as far afield as the [West Indies](/wiki/West_Indies).[[39]](#cite_note-39) These trading links gave Birmingham's metalworkers access to much wider markets, allowing them to diversify away from lower-skilled trades producing basic goods for local sale, towards a broader range of specialist, higher-skilled and more lucrative activities.[[40]](#cite_note-40) [thumb|left|Birmingham in 1732.](/wiki/File:Westley---East-Prospect-of-Birmingham-1732.jpg) By the time of the [English Civil War](/wiki/English_Civil_War) Birmingham's booming economy, its expanding population, and its resulting high levels of [social mobility](/wiki/Social_mobility) and [cultural pluralism](/wiki/Cultural_pluralism), had seen it develop new social structures very different from those of more established areas.[[41]](#cite_note-41) Relationships were built around pragmatic commercial linkages rather than the rigid paternalism and deference of [feudal society](/wiki/Feudalism), and loyalties to the traditional hierarchies of the [established church](/wiki/Church_of_England) and [aristocracy](/wiki/British_nobility) were weak.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The town's reputation for [political radicalism](/wiki/Political_radicalism) and its strongly [Parliamentarian](/wiki/Roundhead) sympathies saw it attacked by [Royalist](/wiki/Cavalier) forces in the [Battle of Birmingham](/wiki/Battle_of_Birmingham) in 1643,[[42]](#cite_note-42) and it developed into a centre of [Puritanism](/wiki/Puritanism) in the 1630s[[41]](#cite_note-41) and as a haven for [Nonconformists](/wiki/Nonconformist) from the 1660s.[[43]](#cite_note-43) The 18th century saw this tradition of free-thinking and collaboration blossom into the cultural phenomenon now known as the [Midlands Enlightenment](/wiki/Midlands_Enlightenment).[[44]](#cite_note-44) The town developed into a notable centre of [literary](/wiki/Literature_of_Birmingham), [musical](/wiki/Classical_music_of_Birmingham), [artistic](/wiki/Art_of_Birmingham) and [theatrical](/wiki/Theatre_of_Birmingham) activity;[[45]](#cite_note-45) and its leading citizens – particularly the members of the [Lunar Society of Birmingham](/wiki/Lunar_Society_of_Birmingham) – became influential participants in the circulation of [philosophical](/wiki/Philosophy) and [scientific](/wiki/Science) ideas among Europe's intellectual elite.[[46]](#cite_note-46) The close relationship between Enlightenment Birmingham's leading thinkers and its major manufacturers[[47]](#cite_note-47) – in men like [Matthew Boulton](/wiki/Matthew_Boulton) and [James Keir](/wiki/James_Keir) they were often in fact the same people[[48]](#cite_note-48) – made it particularly important for the exchange of knowledge between pure science and the practical world of manufacturing and technology.[[49]](#cite_note-49) This created a "chain reaction of innovation",[[50]](#cite_note-50) forming a pivotal link between the earlier [Scientific Revolution](/wiki/Scientific_Revolution) and the [Industrial Revolution](/wiki/Industrial_Revolution) that would follow.[[51]](#cite_note-51)

### Industrial Revolution[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|upright|left|](/wiki/File:Matthew_Boulton_-_Carl_Frederik_von_Breda.jpg)[Matthew Boulton](/wiki/Matthew_Boulton)

Birmingham's explosive industrial expansion started earlier than that of the [textile-manufacturing towns](/wiki/Mill_town) of the [North of England](/wiki/North_of_England),[[52]](#cite_note-52) and was driven by different factors. Instead of the [economies of scale](/wiki/Economies_of_scale) of a low-paid, unskilled workforce producing a single bulk [commodity](/wiki/Commodity) such as cotton or wool in large, mechanised units of production, Birmingham's industrial development was built on the adaptability and creativity of a highly paid workforce with a strong [division of labour](/wiki/Division_of_labour), practising a broad variety of skilled specialist trades and producing a constantly diversifying range of products, in a highly [entrepreneurial](/wiki/Entrepreneurial) economy of small, often self-owned workshops.[[53]](#cite_note-53) This led to exceptional levels of inventiveness: between 1760 and 1850 – the core years of the [Industrial Revolution](/wiki/Industrial_Revolution) – Birmingham residents registered over three times as many [patents](/wiki/Patent) as those of any other British town or city.[[54]](#cite_note-54) The demand for [capital](/wiki/Capital_(economics)) to feed rapid economic expansion also saw Birmingham grow into a major [financial centre](/wiki/Financial_centre) with extensive international connections.[[55]](#cite_note-55) [Lloyds Bank](/wiki/Lloyds_Bank) was founded in the town in 1765,[[56]](#cite_note-56) and [Ketley's Building Society](/wiki/Ketley's_Building_Society), the world's first [building society](/wiki/Building_society), in 1775.[[57]](#cite_note-57) By 1800 the West Midlands had more banking offices per head than any other region in Britain, including London.[[55]](#cite_note-55) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Soho_Manufactory_ca_1800.jpg) [Soho Manufactory](/wiki/Soho_Manufactory) of 1765 – pioneer of the [factory system](/wiki/Factory_system) and the [industrial steam engine](/wiki/Watt_steam_engine). Innovation in 18th-century Birmingham often took the form of incremental series of small-scale improvements to existing products or processes,[[58]](#cite_note-58) but also included major developments that lay at the heart of the emergence of [industrial society](/wiki/Industrial_society).[[5]](#cite_note-5) In 1709 the Birmingham-trained [Abraham Darby I](/wiki/Abraham_Darby_I) moved to [Coalbrookdale](/wiki/Coalbrookdale) in [Shropshire](/wiki/Shropshire) and built the first [blast furnace](/wiki/Blast_furnace) to successfully smelt iron ore with [coke](/wiki/Coke_(fuel)), transforming the quality, volume and scale on which it was possible to produce [cast iron](/wiki/Cast_iron).[[59]](#cite_note-59) In 1732 [Lewis Paul](/wiki/Lewis_Paul) and [John Wyatt](/wiki/John_Wyatt_(inventor)) invented [roller spinning](/wiki/Roller_spinning), the "one novel idea of the first importance" in the development of the [mechanised cotton industry](/wiki/Textile_manufacture_during_the_Industrial_Revolution).[[60]](#cite_note-60) In 1741 they opened the [world's first cotton mill](/wiki/Upper_Priory_Cotton_Mill) in Birmingham's Upper Priory.[[61]](#cite_note-61) In 1746 [John Roebuck](/wiki/John_Roebuck) invented the [lead chamber process](/wiki/Lead_chamber_process), enabling the large-scale manufacture of [sulphuric acid](/wiki/Sulphuric_acid),[[62]](#cite_note-62) and in 1780 [James Keir](/wiki/James_Keir) developed a process for the bulk manufacture of [alkali](/wiki/Sodium_Carbonate),[[63]](#cite_note-63) together marking the birth of the modern [chemical industry](/wiki/Chemical_industry).[[64]](#cite_note-64) In 1765 [Matthew Boulton](/wiki/Matthew_Boulton) opened the [Soho Manufactory](/wiki/Soho_Manufactory), pioneering the combination and mechanisation under one roof of previously separate manufacturing activities through a system known as "rational manufacture".[[65]](#cite_note-65) As the largest manufacturing unit in Europe this come to symbolise the emergence of the [factory system](/wiki/Factory_system).[[66]](#cite_note-66) Most significant, however, was the development in 1776 of the [industrial steam engine](/wiki/Watt_steam_engine) by [James Watt](/wiki/James_Watt) and [Matthew Boulton](/wiki/Matthew_Boulton).[[67]](#cite_note-67) Freeing for the first time the manufacturing capacity of human society from the limited availability of hand, water and animal power, this was arguably the pivotal moment of the entire [industrial revolution](/wiki/Industrial_revolution) and a key factor in the worldwide increases in productivity that would follow over the following century.[[68]](#cite_note-68)

### Regency and Victorian[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Benjamin_Haydon_-_Meeting_of_the_Birmingham_Political_Union.jpg)[Thomas Attwood](/wiki/Thomas_Attwood) addressing a 200,000-strong meeting of the [Birmingham Political Union](/wiki/Birmingham_Political_Union) during the [Days of May](/wiki/Days_of_May), 1832 Birmingham rose to national political prominence in the campaign for political reform in the early 19th century, with [Thomas Attwood](/wiki/Thomas_Attwood) and the [Birmingham Political Union](/wiki/Birmingham_Political_Union) bringing the country to the brink of civil war during the [Days of May](/wiki/Days_of_May) that preceded the passing of the [Great Reform Act](/wiki/Great_Reform_Act) in 1832.[[69]](#cite_note-69) The Union's meetings on [Newhall Hill](/wiki/Newhall_Street) in 1831 and 1832 were the largest political assemblies Britain had ever seen.[[70]](#cite_note-70) [Lord Durham](/wiki/John_Lambton,_1st_Earl_of_Durham), who drafted the Act, wrote that "the country owed Reform to Birmingham, and its salvation from revolution".[[71]](#cite_note-71) This reputation for having "shaken the fabric of privilege to its base" in 1832 led [John Bright](/wiki/John_Bright) to make Birmingham the platform for his successful campaign for the [Second Reform Act](/wiki/1867_Reform_Act) of 1867, which extended voting rights to the urban working class.[[72]](#cite_note-72) Birmingham's tradition of innovation continued into the 19th century. Birmingham was the terminus for both of the world's first two long-distance railway lines: the 82 mile [Grand Junction Railway](/wiki/Grand_Junction_Railway) of 1837 and the 112 mile [London and Birmingham Railway](/wiki/London_and_Birmingham_Railway) of 1838.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Birmingham schoolteacher [Rowland Hill](/wiki/Rowland_Hill) invented the [postage stamp](/wiki/Postage_stamp) and created the first modern universal [postal system](/wiki/Mail) in 1839.[[74]](#cite_note-74) [Alexander Parkes](/wiki/Alexander_Parkes) invented the first man-made [plastic](/wiki/Plastic) in the [Jewellery Quarter](/wiki/Jewellery_Quarter) in 1855.[[75]](#cite_note-75) By the 1820s, an [extensive canal system](/wiki/Canals_of_the_United_Kingdom) had been constructed, giving greater access to natural resources and fuel for industries. During the [Victorian era](/wiki/Victorian_era), the population of Birmingham grew rapidly to well over half a million<ref name=historicpopulation>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and Birmingham became the second largest population centre in England. Birmingham was granted [city status](/wiki/City_status_in_the_United_Kingdom) in 1889 by [Queen Victoria](/wiki/Queen_Victoria).[[76]](#cite_note-76) [Joseph Chamberlain](/wiki/Joseph_Chamberlain), mayor of Birmingham and later an MP, and his son [Neville Chamberlain](/wiki/Neville_Chamberlain), who was Lord Mayor of Birmingham and later the British Prime Minister, are two of the most well-known political figures who have lived in Birmingham. The city established [its own university](/wiki/University_of_Birmingham) in 1900.[[77]](#cite_note-77)

### 20th century and contemporary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|left|Destruction of the](/wiki/File:Bull_Ring_Blitz.jpg) [Bull Ring](/wiki/Bull_Ring,_Birmingham) during the [Birmingham Blitz](/wiki/Birmingham_Blitz), 1940 Birmingham suffered heavy bomb damage during [World War II's](/wiki/World_War_II) "[Birmingham Blitz](/wiki/Birmingham_Blitz)". The city was also the scene of two scientific discoveries that were to prove critical to the outcome of the war.[[78]](#cite_note-78) [Otto Frisch](/wiki/Otto_Frisch) and [Rudolf Peierls](/wiki/Rudolf_Peierls) first described how a practical [nuclear weapon](/wiki/Nuclear_weapon) could be constructed in the [Frisch–Peierls memorandum](/wiki/Frisch–Peierls_memorandum) of 1940,[[79]](#cite_note-79) the same year that the [cavity magnetron](/wiki/Cavity_magnetron), the key component of [radar](/wiki/Radar) and later of [microwave ovens](/wiki/Microwave_oven), was invented by [John Randall](/wiki/John_Randall_(physicist)) and [Henry Boot](/wiki/Henry_Boot).[[80]](#cite_note-80) Details of these two discoveries, together with an outline of the first [jet engine](/wiki/Jet_engine) invented by [Frank Whittle](/wiki/Frank_Whittle) in nearby [Rugby](/wiki/Rugby,_Warwickshire), were taken to the United States by the [Tizard Mission](/wiki/Tizard_Mission) in September 1940, in a single black box later described by an official American historian as "the most valuable cargo ever brought to our shores".[[81]](#cite_note-81) The city was extensively redeveloped during the 1950s and 1960s.[[82]](#cite_note-82) This included the construction of large [tower block](/wiki/Tower_block) estates, such as [Castle Vale](/wiki/Castle_Vale). The [Bull Ring](/wiki/Bull_Ring,_Birmingham) was reconstructed and [New Street station](/wiki/Birmingham_New_Street_station) was redeveloped. In the decades following World War II, the ethnic makeup of Birmingham changed significantly, as it received waves of immigration from the [Commonwealth of Nations](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations) and beyond.[[83]](#cite_note-83) The city's population peaked in 1951 at 1,113,000 residents.<ref name=historicpopulation/>

[thumb|right|World leaders meet in Birmingham for the](/wiki/File:G8_Summit_Birmingham_1998.jpg) [1998 G8 Summit](/wiki/24th_G8_summit)Birmingham remained by far Britain's most prosperous provincial city as late as the 1970s,[[84]](#cite_note-84) with household incomes exceeding even those of London and the South East,[[85]](#cite_note-85) but its economic diversity and capacity for regeneration declined in the decades that followed World War II as [Central Government](/wiki/Government_of_the_United_Kingdom) sought to restrict the city's growth and disperse industry and population to the stagnating areas of Scotland, Wales and [Northern England](/wiki/Northern_England).[[86]](#cite_note-86) These measures hindered "the natural self-regeneration of businesses in Birmingham, leaving it top-heavy with the old and infirm",[[87]](#cite_note-87) and the city became increasingly dependent on the [motor industry](/wiki/Automotive_industry_in_the_United_Kingdom). The [recession of the early 1980s](/wiki/Early_1980s_recession) saw Birmingham's economy collapse, with unprecedented levels of unemployment and [outbreaks of social unrest](/wiki/1985_Handsworth_riots) in inner-city districts.[[88]](#cite_note-88) In recent years, many parts of Birmingham has been transformed, with the redevelopment of the [Bullring Shopping Centre](/wiki/Bullring,_Birmingham)[[89]](#cite_note-89) and regeneration of old industrial areas such as [Brindleyplace](/wiki/Brindleyplace), [The Mailbox](/wiki/The_Mailbox) and the [International Convention Centre](/wiki/International_Convention_Centre,_Birmingham). Old streets, buildings and canals have been restored, the pedestrian subways have been removed and the [Inner Ring Road](/wiki/A4400_road) has been rationalised. In 1998 Birmingham hosted the [24th G8 summit](/wiki/24th_G8_summit).

## Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Victoria_Square,_Birmingham_at_dusk.jpg) [Council House](/wiki/Council_House,_Birmingham), headquarters of [Birmingham City Council](/wiki/Birmingham_City_Council) [Birmingham City Council](/wiki/Birmingham_City_Council) is the largest[Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify) local authority in Europe with 120 [councillors](/wiki/Councillor) representing 40 [wards](/wiki/Ward_(politics)).[[90]](#cite_note-90) Its headquarters are at the [Council House](/wiki/Council_House,_Birmingham) in [Victoria Square](/wiki/Victoria_Square,_Birmingham). [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), the council has a [Labour Party](/wiki/Labour_Party_(UK)) majority and is led by Sir [Albert Bore](/wiki/Albert_Bore), replacing the previous [Conservative](/wiki/Conservative_Party_(UK))/[Liberal Democrat](/wiki/Liberal_Democrats) coalition at the May 2012 elections. The honour and dignity of a [Lord Mayoralty](/wiki/Lord_Mayors_of_Birmingham) was conferred on Birmingham by [Letters Patent](/wiki/Letters_Patent) on 3 June 1896.

Birmingham's ten [parliamentary constituencies](/wiki/Constituency) are represented in the [House of Commons](/wiki/British_House_of_Commons) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) by one [Conservative](/wiki/Conservative_Party_(UK)) and nine [Labour](/wiki/British_Labour_Party) [MPs](/wiki/Member_of_Parliament_(United_Kingdom)).[[91]](#cite_note-91) In the [European Parliament](/wiki/European_Parliament) the city forms part of the [West Midlands](/wiki/West_Midlands_(European_Parliament_constituency)) [European Parliament constituency](/wiki/European_Parliament_constituency), which elects six [Members of the European Parliament](/wiki/Member_of_the_European_Parliament).[[92]](#cite_note-92) Birmingham was originally part of [Warwickshire](/wiki/Warwickshire), but expanded in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, absorbing parts of [Worcestershire](/wiki/Worcestershire) to the south and [Staffordshire](/wiki/Staffordshire) to the north and west. The city absorbed [Sutton Coldfield](/wiki/Sutton_Coldfield) in 1974 and became a metropolitan borough in the new [West Midlands county](/wiki/West_Midlands_(county)). Until 1986, the [West Midlands County Council](/wiki/West_Midlands_County_Council) was based in [Birmingham City Centre](/wiki/Birmingham_City_Centre).

Since 2011, Birmingham has formed part of the [Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership](/wiki/Greater_Birmingham_&_Solihull_Local_Enterprise_Partnership) along with neighbouring authorities [Bromsgrove](/wiki/Bromsgrove_District), [Cannock Chase](/wiki/Cannock_Chase_District), [East Staffordshire](/wiki/East_Staffordshire_District_Council), [Lichfield](/wiki/Lichfield_District_Council), [Redditch](/wiki/Redditch), [Solihull](/wiki/Solihull_Metropolitan_Borough_Council), [Tamworth](/wiki/Tamworth_(borough)), [Wyre Forest](/wiki/Wyre_Forest_District).

A top-level government body, the [West Midlands Combined Authority](/wiki/West_Midlands_Combined_Authority), will be formed in April 2016. The WMCA will gain devolved powers in transport, development planning, and economic growth. The authority will be governed by a directly-elected Mayor, similar to the [Mayor of London](/wiki/Mayor_of_London).

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|Birmingham and the wider](/wiki/File:ISS_Birmingham_at_night.jpg) [West Midlands Built-up Area](/wiki/West_Midlands_Built-up_Area) seen from the [International Space Station](/wiki/International_Space_Station) at night from the south westBirmingham is located in the centre of the [West Midlands region](/wiki/West_Midlands_region) of England on the [Birmingham Plateau](/wiki/Birmingham_Plateau) – an area of relatively high ground, ranging between 500 and 1,000 feet (150–300 m) [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level) and crossed by Britain's main north-south [watershed](/wiki/Water_divide) between the basins of the Rivers [Severn](/wiki/River_Severn) and [Trent](/wiki/River_Trent). To the south west of the city lie the [Lickey Hills](/wiki/Lickey_Hills),[[93]](#cite_note-93) [Clent Hills](/wiki/Clent_Hills) and [Walton Hill](/wiki/Walton_Hill), which reach [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and have extensive views over the city. Birmingham is drained only by minor rivers and brooks, primarily the [River Tame](/wiki/River_Tame,_West_Midlands) and its tributaries the [Cole](/wiki/River_Cole,_West_Midlands) and the [Rea](/wiki/River_Rea).

The City of Birmingham forms a [conurbation](/wiki/Conurbation) with the largely residential borough of [Solihull](/wiki/Metropolitan_Borough_of_Solihull) to the south east, and with the city of [Wolverhampton](/wiki/Wolverhampton) and the industrial towns of the [Black Country](/wiki/Black_Country) to the north west, which form the [West Midlands Built-up Area](/wiki/West_Midlands_Built-up_Area) covering [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Surrounding this is Birmingham's [metropolitan area](/wiki/Metropolitan_area) – the area to which it is closely economically tied through [commuting](/wiki/Commuting) – which includes the former [Mercian](/wiki/Mercia) capital of [Tamworth](/wiki/Tamworth,_Staffordshire) and the cathedral city of [Lichfield](/wiki/Lichfield) in Staffordshire to the north; the industrial city of [Coventry](/wiki/Coventry) and the [Warwickshire](/wiki/Warwickshire) towns of [Nuneaton](/wiki/Nuneaton), [Warwick](/wiki/Warwick) and [Leamington Spa](/wiki/Leamington_Spa) to the east; and the [Worcestershire](/wiki/Worcestershire) towns of [Redditch](/wiki/Redditch) and [Bromsgrove](/wiki/Bromsgrove) to the south west.[[94]](#cite_note-94) Much of the area now occupied by the city was originally a northern reach of the ancient [Forest of Arden](/wiki/Forest_of_Arden), whose former presence can still be felt in the city's dense [oak](/wiki/Oak) tree-cover and in the large number of districts such as [Moseley](/wiki/Moseley), [Saltley](/wiki/Saltley), [Yardley](/wiki/Yardley,_Birmingham), [Stirchley](/wiki/Stirchley,_West_Midlands) and [Hockley](/wiki/Hockley,_Birmingham) with names ending in "-ley": the [Old English](/wiki/Old_English) *-lēah* meaning "woodland clearing".[[95]](#cite_note-95) [thumb|800px|center|View across the city from the](/wiki/File:Birmingham_panorama_from_the_Lickey_Hills.jpg) [Lickey Hills](/wiki/Lickey_Hills), with [Longbridge](/wiki/Longbridge_plant) in the foreground.

### Geology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

Geologically, Birmingham is dominated by the *Birmingham Fault* which runs diagonally through the city from the [Lickey Hills](/wiki/Lickey_Hills) in the south west, passing through [Edgbaston](/wiki/Edgbaston) and the [Bull Ring](/wiki/Bull_Ring,_Birmingham), to [Erdington](/wiki/Erdington) and [Sutton Coldfield](/wiki/Sutton_Coldfield) in the north east.<ref name=JPS/> To the south and east of the fault the ground is largely softer [Mercia Mudstone](/wiki/Mercia_Mudstone_Group), interspersed with beds of [Bunter pebbles](/wiki/Bunter_(geology)) and crossed by the valleys of the Rivers [Tame](/wiki/River_Tame,_West_Midlands), [Rea](/wiki/River_Rea) and [Cole](/wiki/River_Cole,_West_Midlands) and their tributaries.[[96]](#cite_note-96) To the north and west of the fault, between 150 and 600 feet (45–180 m) higher than the surrounding area and underlying much of the city centre, lies a long ridge of harder [Keuper](/wiki/Keuper) [Sandstone](/wiki/Sandstone).[[97]](#cite_note-97)[[98]](#cite_note-98) The bedrock underlying Birmingham was mostly laid down during the [Permian](/wiki/Permian) and [Triassic](/wiki/Triassic) periods.<ref name=JPS>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

Birmingham has a [temperate](/wiki/Temperate) [maritime climate](/wiki/Oceanic_climate), like much of the British Isles, with average maximum temperatures in summer (July) being around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert); and in winter (January) around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[99]](#cite_note-99) Between 1971 and 2000 the warmest day of the year on average was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)[[100]](#cite_note-100) and the coldest night typically fell to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[101]](#cite_note-101) Some 11.2 days each year rose to a temperature of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) or above[[102]](#cite_note-102) and 51.6 nights reported an air frost.[[103]](#cite_note-103) The highest recorded temperature, set during August 1990, was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[104]](#cite_note-104) Like most other large cities, Birmingham has a considerable [urban heat island](/wiki/Urban_heat_island) effect.[[105]](#cite_note-105) During the coldest night recorded, 14 January 1982, the temperature fell to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at [Birmingham Airport](/wiki/Birmingham_Airport,_England) on the city's eastern edge, but just [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at [Edgbaston](/wiki/Edgbaston), near the city centre.[[106]](#cite_note-106) Birmingham is a snowy city relative to other large UK conurbations, due to its inland location and comparatively high elevation.[[106]](#cite_note-106) Between 1961 and 1990 [Birmingham Airport](/wiki/Birmingham_Airport) averaged 13.0 days of snow lying annually,[[107]](#cite_note-107) compared to 5.33 at [London Heathrow](/wiki/London_Heathrow).[[108]](#cite_note-108) Snow showers often pass through the city via the [Cheshire gap](/wiki/Cheshire_Plain) on north westerly airstreams, but can also come off the [North Sea](/wiki/North_Sea) from north easterly airstreams.[[106]](#cite_note-106) Extreme weather is rare but the city has been known to experience [tornados](/wiki/Tornado) – the most recent being in [July 2005](/wiki/Birmingham_Tornado_(UK)) in the south of the city, damaging homes and businesses in the area.[[109]](#cite_note-109) [Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

### Environment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Birmingham_Botanical_Gardens._-_geograph.org.uk_-_835643.jpg)[Birmingham Botanical Gardens](/wiki/Birmingham_Botanical_Gardens) There are 571 parks within Birmingham[[110]](#cite_note-110) – more than any other European city[[111]](#cite_note-111) – totalling over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of public open space.[[110]](#cite_note-110) The city has over six million trees,[[111]](#cite_note-111) and 250 miles of urban brooks and streams.[[110]](#cite_note-110) [Sutton Park](/wiki/Sutton_Park), which covers [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the north of the city,[[112]](#cite_note-112) is the largest urban park in Europe and a [National Nature Reserve](/wiki/National_Nature_Reserves_in_England).[[110]](#cite_note-110) [Birmingham Botanical Gardens](/wiki/Birmingham_Botanical_Gardens), located close to the city centre, retains the [regency](/wiki/Regency_era) landscape of its original design by [J. C. Loudon](/wiki/J._C._Loudon) in 1829,[[113]](#cite_note-113) while the [Winterbourne Botanic Garden](/wiki/Winterbourne_Botanic_Garden) in [Edgbaston](/wiki/Edgbaston) reflects the more informal [Arts and Crafts](/wiki/Arts_and_Crafts_Movement) tastes of its [Edwardian](/wiki/Edwardian_era) origins.[[114]](#cite_note-114) Birmingham has many areas of wildlife that lie in both informal settings such as the [Project Kingfisher](/wiki/Kingfisher_Country_Park) and [Woodgate Valley Country Park](/wiki/Woodgate_Valley_Country_Park) and in a selection of parks such as [Lickey Hills Country Park](/wiki/Lickey_Hills_Country_Park), [Handsworth Park](/wiki/Handsworth_Park), [Kings Heath Park](/wiki/Kings_Heath_Park), and [Cannon Hill Park](/wiki/Cannon_Hill_Park); the latter also housing the [Birmingham Nature Centre](/wiki/Birmingham_Nature_Centre).[[115]](#cite_note-115)

## Demography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|left|Historical population of Birmingham, between 1651 and 2011](/wiki/File:Birmingham_population.PNG)[[116]](#cite_note-116)

The 2012 mid-year estimate for the population of Birmingham was 1,085,400. This was an increase of 11,200, or 1.0%, since the same time in 2011. Since 2001, the population has grown by 99,500, or 10.1%. Birmingham is the largest local Authority area and city outside London. The population density is 10,391 inhabitants per square mile (4,102/km²) compared to the 976.9 inhabitants per square mile (377.2/km²) for England. Based on the [2011 census](/wiki/United_Kingdom_Census_2011), Birmingham's population is projected to reach 1,160,100 by 2021, an increase of 8.0%. This compares with an estimated rate of 9.1% for the previous decade.<ref name=birm.govpop>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

The [West Midlands conurbation](/wiki/West_Midlands_conurbation) had a population of 2,441,00 (2011 est.,), and 2,762,700 people live in the [West Midlands (county)](/wiki/West_Midlands_(county)) (2012 est.,).

[Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box)

According to figures from the [2011 census](/wiki/United_Kingdom_Census_2011), 57.9% of the population was [White](/wiki/White_people) (53.1% [White British](/wiki/White_British), 2.1% [White Irish](/wiki/Irish_migration_to_Great_Britain), 2.7% [Other White](/wiki/Other_White)), 4.4% of [mixed race](/wiki/Mixed_(United_Kingdom_ethnicity_category)) (2.3% White and Black Caribbean, 0.3% White and Black African, 1.0% White and Asian, 0.8% Other Mixed), 26.6% [Asian](/wiki/British_Asian) (13.5% [Pakistani](/wiki/British_Pakistanis), 6.0% [Indian](/wiki/British_Indian), 3.0% [Bangladeshi](/wiki/British_Bangladeshi), 1.2% [Chinese](/wiki/British_Chinese), 2.9% Other Asian), 8.9% [Black](/wiki/Black_British) (2.8% African, 4.4% [Caribbean](/wiki/British_African-Caribbean_people), 1.7% [Other Black](/wiki/Other_Black)), 1.0% [Arab](/wiki/British_Arab) and 1.0% of other ethnic heritage.[[117]](#cite_note-117) 57% of primary and 52% of secondary pupils are from non-white British families.[[118]](#cite_note-118) 238,313 Birmingham residents were born overseas, of these, 44% (103,682) have been resident in the UK for less than 10 years. Countries new to the twenty most reported countries of birth for Birmingham residents since 2001 include, Iran, Zimbabwe, Philippines and Nigeria. Established migrants outnumbered newer migrants in all wards except for, Edgbaston, Ladywood, Nechells and Selly Oak.

In Birmingham 60.4% of the population was aged between 16 and 74, compared to 66.7% in England as a whole.<ref name=KS>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> There are generally more females than males in each single year of age, except for the youngest ages (0-18) and late 30's and late 50's. Females represented 51.6% of the population whilst men represented 48.4%. The differences are most marked in the oldest age group reflecting greater female longevity, where more women were 70 or over.[[119]](#cite_note-119) The bulge around the early 20's is due largely to students coming to the city's Universities. Children around age 10 are a relatively small group, reflecting the decline in birth rates around the turn of the century. There is a large group of children under the age of five which reflecting high numbers of births in recent years. Births are up 20% since 2001, increasing from 14,427 to 17,423 in 2011.

In 2011 of all households in Birmingham, 0.12% were same-sex [civil partnership](/wiki/Civil_union) households, compared to the English national average of 0.16%.[[120]](#cite_note-120) 25.9% of all households owned their accommodation outright, another 29.3% owned their accommodation with a mortgage or loan. These figures were below the national average.<ref name=census2011>["Neighbourhood Statistics"](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadKeyFigures.do?a=7&b=6275020&c=Birmingham&d=13&e=62&g=6363493&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&o=362&m=0&r=1&s=1393454290862&enc=1) ONS</ref>

45.5% of people said they were in very good health which was below the national average. Another 33.9% said they were in good health, which was also below the national average. 9.1% of people said their day-to-day activities were limited a lot by their health which was higher than the national average.<ref name=census2011/>

The Birmingham [Larger Urban Zone](/wiki/Larger_Urban_Zone), a [Eurostat](/wiki/Eurostat) measure of the functional city-region approximated to local government districts, has a population of 2,357,100 in 2004.[[121]](#cite_note-121) In addition to Birmingham itself, the LUZ includes the Metropolitan Boroughs of [Dudley](/wiki/Metropolitan_Borough_of_Dudley), [Sandwell](/wiki/Sandwell), [Solihull](/wiki/Metropolitan_Borough_of_Solihull) and [Walsall](/wiki/Metropolitan_Borough_of_Walsall), along with the districts of [Lichfield](/wiki/Lichfield_(district)), [Tamworth](/wiki/Tamworth,_Staffordshire), [North Warwickshire](/wiki/North_Warwickshire) and [Bromsgrove](/wiki/Bromsgrove_(district)).[[122]](#cite_note-122)

## Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box) [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity) is the largest religion within Birmingham, with 46.1% of residents identifying as Christians in the [2011 Census](/wiki/United_Kingdom_Census_2011).[[123]](#cite_note-123) The city's religious profile is highly diverse, however: outside London, Birmingham has the United Kingdom's largest [Muslim](/wiki/Islam), [Sikh](/wiki/Sikhism) and [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhism) communities; its second largest [Hindu](/wiki/Hinduism) community; and its seventh largest [Jewish](/wiki/Judaism) community.[[123]](#cite_note-123) Between the 2001 and 2011 censuses, the proportion of Christians in Birmingham decreased from 59.1% to 46.1%, while the proportion of Muslims increased from 14.3% to 21.8% and the proportion of people with no religious affiliation increased from 12.4% to 19.3%. All other religions remained proportionately similar.[[124]](#cite_note-124) [St Philip's Cathedral](/wiki/St_Philip's_Cathedral,_Birmingham) was upgraded from church status when the [Anglican Diocese of Birmingham](/wiki/Anglican_Diocese_of_Birmingham) was created in 1905. There are two other cathedrals: [St Chad's](/wiki/Cathedral_of_Saint_Chad,_Birmingham), seat of the [Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_Birmingham) and the [Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Dormition of the Mother of God and St Andrew](/wiki/Birmingham_Orthodox_Cathedral). The [Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Midlands](/wiki/Coptic_Orthodox_Diocese_of_the_Midlands_and_Affiliated_Areas_U.K.) is also based at Birmingham, with a cathedral under construction. The original parish church of Birmingham, [St Martin in the Bull Ring](/wiki/St_Martin_in_the_Bull_Ring), is [Grade II\* listed](/wiki/Listed_building). A short distance from [Five Ways](/wiki/Five_Ways,_Birmingham) the [Birmingham Oratory](/wiki/Birmingham_Oratory) was completed in 1910 on the site of [Cardinal Newman's](/wiki/Cardinal_Newman) original foundation.

The oldest surviving synagogue in Birmingham is the 1825 [Greek Revival](/wiki/Greek_Revival) [Severn Street Synagogue](/wiki/Severn_Street_Synagogue), now a [Freemasons'](/wiki/Freemason) Lodge hall. It was replaced in 1856 by the [Grade II\* listed](/wiki/Listed_building) [Singers Hill Synagogue](/wiki/Singers_Hill_Synagogue). [Birmingham Central Mosque](/wiki/Birmingham_Central_Mosque), one of the largest in Europe, was constructed in the 1960s.[[125]](#cite_note-125) During the late 1990s [Ghamkol Shariff Masjid](/wiki/Ghamkol_Shariff_Masjid) was built in [Small Heath](/wiki/Small_Heath,_Birmingham).[[126]](#cite_note-126) The Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha [Sikh](/wiki/Sikhism) [Gurdwara](/wiki/Gurdwara) was built on Soho Road in Handsworth in the late 1970s and the [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhism) Dhammatalaka [Peace Pagoda](/wiki/Peace_Pagoda) near [Edgbaston Reservoir](/wiki/Edgbaston_Reservoir) in the 1990s. [Winners' Chapel](/wiki/Winners'_Chapel) also maintains physical presence in [Digbeth](/wiki/Digbeth).

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:ColmoreRowBirmingham.jpg)[Colmore Row](/wiki/Colmore_Row), at the heart of Birmingham's Business District, is traditionally the most prestigious business address in the city.[[127]](#cite_note-127)Birmingham grew to prominence as a manufacturing and engineering centre, but its economy today is dominated by the [service sector](/wiki/Tertiary_sector_of_industry), which in 2012 accounted for 88% of the city's employment.[[9]](#cite_note-9) Birmingham is the largest centre in Great Britain for employment in [public administration](/wiki/Public_administration), [education](/wiki/Education) and [health](/wiki/Health_care);[[128]](#cite_note-128) and after [Leeds](/wiki/Leeds) the second largest centre outside London for employment in [financial and other business services](/wiki/Financial_services).[[129]](#cite_note-129) It is ranked as a [beta- world city](/wiki/Global_city#GaWC_study) by the [Globalization and World Cities Research Network](/wiki/Globalization_and_World_Cities_Research_Network), the third highest ranking in the country after [London](/wiki/London) and [Manchester](/wiki/Manchester),[[10]](#cite_note-10) and its wider [metropolitan economy](/wiki/Metropolitan_economy) is the [second-largest in the United Kingdom](/wiki/List_of_metropolitan_economies_in_the_United_Kingdom) with a [GDP](/wiki/GDP) of $121.1bn (2014 est., [PPP](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity)).[[11]](#cite_note-11) Two [FTSE100](/wiki/FTSE100) companies ([Severn Trent](/wiki/Severn_Trent) and [IMI plc](/wiki/IMI_plc), which is currently a [FTSE250](/wiki/FTSE_250_Index) company) have their corporate headquarters within Birmingham, with two more based in the wider metropolitan area, together forming the largest concentration outside London and the South East.[[130]](#cite_note-130) With major facilities such as the [National Exhibition Centre](/wiki/National_Exhibition_Centre) and [International Convention Centre](/wiki/International_Convention_Centre,_Birmingham) Birmingham attracts 42% of the UK's total conference and exhibition trade.[[131]](#cite_note-131) [thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Paris_Motor_Show_2012_(8065248951).jpg) [Jaguar F-Type](/wiki/Jaguar_F-Type), made by [Jaguar Land Rover](/wiki/Jaguar_Land_Rover) at [Castle Bromwich Assembly](/wiki/Castle_Bromwich_Assembly). Manufacturing accounted for 8% of employment within Birmingham in 2012, a figure beneath the average for the UK as a whole.[[9]](#cite_note-9) Major industrial plants within the city include [Jaguar Land Rover](/wiki/Jaguar_Land_Rover) in [Castle Bromwich](/wiki/Castle_Bromwich) and [Cadbury](/wiki/Cadbury) in [Bournville](/wiki/Bournville), with large local producers also supporting a [supply chain](/wiki/Supply_chain) of precision-based small manufacturers and craft industries.[[132]](#cite_note-132) More traditional industries also remain: 40% of the [jewellery](/wiki/Jewellery) made in the UK is still produced by the 300 independent manufacturers of the city's [Jewellery Quarter](/wiki/Jewellery_Quarter),[[133]](#cite_note-133) continuing a trade first recorded in Birmingham in 1308.[[31]](#cite_note-31)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Nominal GVA for Birmingham 2008–2013. Note 2013 is provisional*[[134]](#cite_note-134) | |
|  | GVA  (£ million) || Growth (%) |
| 2008 | 21,015 | [Template:Nochange](/wiki/Template:Nochange) |
| 2009 | 20,646 | [Template:Decrease](/wiki/Template:Decrease)[Template:0](/wiki/Template:0)1.8% |
| 2010 | 21,557 | [Template:Increase](/wiki/Template:Increase)[Template:0](/wiki/Template:0)4.4% |
| 2011 | 22,230 | [Template:Increase](/wiki/Template:Increase)[Template:0](/wiki/Template:0)3.1% |
| 2012 | 22,708 | [Template:Increase](/wiki/Template:Increase)[Template:0](/wiki/Template:0)2.2% |
| 2013 | 24,067 | [Template:Increase](/wiki/Template:Increase)[Template:0](/wiki/Template:0)6.0% |

Birmingham's [GVA](/wiki/Gross_Value_Added) was £24.1bn (2013 est.,), and the economy grew relatively slowly between 2002 and 2012, where growth was 30% below the national average.[[135]](#cite_note-135) The value of manufacturing output in the city declined by 21% in real terms between 1997 and 2010, but the value of financial and insurance activities more than doubled.[[136]](#cite_note-136) With 16,281 [start-ups](/wiki/Startup_company) registered during 2013 Birmingham has the highest level of entrepreneurial activity outside London,[[137]](#cite_note-137) while the number of registered businesses in the city grew by 1.6% during 2012.[[138]](#cite_note-138) Birmingham was behind only [London](/wiki/London) and [Edinburgh](/wiki/Edinburgh) for private sector job creation between 2010 and 2013.[[139]](#cite_note-139) Economic inequality within Birmingham is greater than in any other major English city, and is exceeded only by [Glasgow](/wiki/Glasgow) in the United Kingdom.[[140]](#cite_note-140) Levels of unemployment are among the highest in the country, with 14.4% of the economically active population unemployed (Dec 2013).[[141]](#cite_note-141) In the inner-city wards of Aston and Washwood Heath, the figure is higher than 30%. Two-fifths of Birmingham's population live in areas classified as in the 10% most deprived parts of England, and overall Birmingham is the most deprived local authority in England in terms of income and employment deprivation.[[142]](#cite_note-142) The city's infant mortality rate is high, around 60% worse than the national average.<ref name=econbir>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> Meanwhile, just 49% of women have jobs, compared to 65% nationally,<ref name=econbir/> and only 28% of the working-age population in Birmingham have degree level qualifications in contrast to the average of 34% across other Core Cities.[[143]](#cite_note-143)