

# Birmingham Report

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#### **Executive Summary**

Interest in Birmingham has increased, with new business developments and leisure opportunities. Investment in the city too has grown. More people are relocating from London as a result of high-profile companies such as Lloyds Banking Group, Sainsbury's, and National Express having headquarters there. Additionally, investment has created Grad A office space in a city that is steadily becoming a 'bleisure' hotspot.

# **Birmingham Profile**

Birmingham is a city in the West Midlands, a former market town that became the foundation for a modern industrial society. Consequently, it is the second most populated city in the UK, with over 1.1m as of 2017. The broader metropolitan is also the second largest in the UK with a population of approximately 4.3m.

Birmingham is seen as the 'second city' of the UK, with a thriving commercial centre, outstanding higher education and high amounts of investment.

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It is located approximately 100 miles from central London, it is considered to be the social, cultural, financial and commercial of centre of the Midlands.



#### **Economic Overview**

Birmingham was predominantly a manufacturing and engineering centre; however, investment has seen the city's industries change. The economy is now dominated by the business, professional, and financial services sector with 1 in 5 jobs within these area. Additionally, the services sector contributes to 28.2% of Birmingham's GVA and 8% of the national GDP. Birmingham is fast becoming a hub for the digital and creative industries as well, with over 36k jobs and a contribution of £1.4bn to the

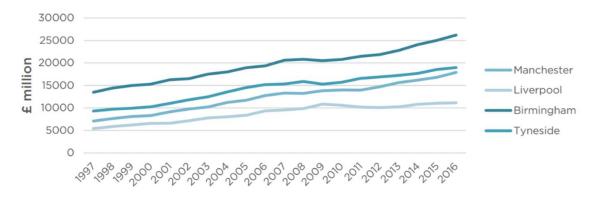
city's GVA. Birmingham is the largest centre in the UK for education and health, with four world-class universities. The regional capital has benefited from a young and talented workforce choosing to relocate to a more affordable city with a good quality of life.



Source: Birmingham City Council

StartUp Britain found that in 2016, over 17k new businesses emerged in Birmingham, the most significant outside of London. Many of these ne businesses have been supported by foreign direct investment (FDI) from over 32 different countries but primarily the USA. During 2017/18, a total of 171 FDI projects were recorded, creating over 9k jobs.

With an expanding rand of sectors and both national and foreign investment in the city, Birmingham has seen its economy flourish.



Source: Birmingham Economic Review 2018

The graph above shows how Birmingham has flourished economically in comparison to three major towns in the surrounding areas.



# **Developments**

The Birmingham City Centre Enterprise Zone is one of the most significant developments in Birmingham, creating over 40k new jobs, and adding £2bn to the economy across 26 sites. The focus of the enterprise zone is to promote the creative, digital, business, professional, and financial service sectors. Improving infrastructure, creating new jobs and homes will



attract more people to work, invest and move their companies to Birmingham.

Three Snowhill is at the centre of the business community in Birmingham, with 17 floors of contemporary office space. As the gateway to the Birmingham Business District, the building is the final element to the Snowhill Estate, a £500m mixed-use development. It is due to open in 2023 with a mainline station and Metro tram stop allowing for commuters to step straight into work. Eventually, there is a plan to connect the Snowhill Estate to Birmingham airport directly.

Birmingham continues to develop its business centre with Two Chamberlain Square, which will offer a Grade A office space located within walking distance of New Street Station. Two Chamberlain Square will provide a modern ad spacious work environment whilst still allowing employees to have amenities such as retail and restaurants nearby.



#### **Transport**

Times				
Location	Rail	Air	Car	
London	1h 10min		2h 14min	
Manchester	1h 29min		1h 48min	
Nottingham	1h 14min		1h 6min	
Cambridge	2h 40min		2h 7min	
Paris		1h 15min		
Amsterdam		1h 10min		
Madrid		2h 25min		
New York		9h 45min		

As the regional centre of the Midlands, Birmingham is well served by easily accessible transport links. With four motorways serving the city, the M6 is arguably yhe longest, finishing just short of the Scottish border and passing Liverpool, Manchester and Lancaster. It is the longest non-stop motorway in the UK and the busiest, allowing for more visitors to enter Birmingham as a result of how easily accessible it is. The M5 links Birmingham to Exeter and passes Cheltenham, Gloucester and bath, all essential cities in the South West. The M40 is a primary route into Birmingham as it connects Birmingham to London and Oxford.

Birmingham Airport served over 12.9m passengers in 2017, making it the UK's third busiest airport outside of London. It offers both domestic and international flights to 143 destinations in North America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Additionally, Birmingham Airport is the base for Flybe and Ryanair, bot budget airlines that have risen in popularity due to their cost-effective flights to Europe and further.

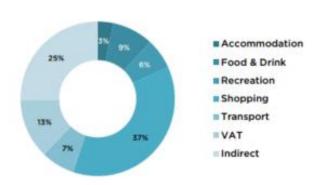
In 2017, Birmingham New Street was the busiest railway station outside of London, both for passenger volume (43.7m) and interchanges (6.8m). This consistently high volume has made Birmingham New Street the national hub for Cross Country, the most extensive long-distance rail network in the UK. Local and regional services operate here, with trains to London Euston, Glasgow and Edinburgh. Birmingham plans to expand its three rail statins with new High-Speed Rail, with 330 miles of track linking to London, Manchester and Leeds. HS2, as it's called, plans to cut journey times by having the fastest operating speed in Europe with 14 services and hour. These trains will serve more than 25 stations, connecting approximately 30m people and creating a link for commuters across the country.



#### **Leisure Overview**

Birmingham has become a popular destination for city breaks, with world-class shopping, Michelin starred cuisine and historical attractions. With the number of Quarters across the city, each one represents a diverse area with much to explore.

A survey in 2017 found that 37% of those who came to Birmingham came to utilise the array of shopping opportunities. With the Bullring & Grand Central offering 200 shops, a distinctive Selfridges, and the world's largest Primark, these are both high street and high-end options. Outside of these shopping centres, Birmingham is known for its brightly coloured, and timelessly elegant arcades. Reminiscent of earlier years, the promote independent retailers with unique offerings for shoppers.



Source: Greater Birmingham Chambers

The new Primark is an attractive feature of Birmingham, with the high street suffering as a result of online retailers, the new store has not faltered. The largest in the worlds from the brand, it is spread over five floors with a barbershop, beauty salon, Disney café (one of three) and personalisation areas. The store itself is marketed as an experience, and because of how close it is to other shopping centres it is an attractive city break idea for those looking to shop.

There is no shortage of entertainment in Birmingham, with the Arena Birmingham, O2 Academy, HMV Institute and several theatres. The city has a comparable music scene to Liverpool, with Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, Duran Duran, and UB40 originating from Birmingham.

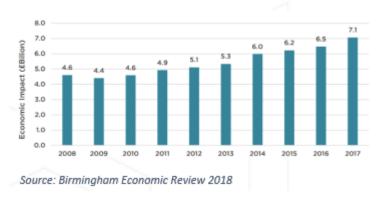
The Arena Birmingham has a seating capacity of over 15k, and hosts concerts, conferences and exhibitions. Another entertainment venue of importance is the Birmingham Hippodrome, with a regular annual attendance of 600k; more seats sold than any other theatre in the country, including London's west End theatre.

Birmingham is one of two cities outside of London to have four Michelin starred restaurants, with classic and modern menus. Outside of the refined restaurant scene, Birmingham has unique food offerings across the world.



# **Tourism**

In 2017, Birmingham welcomed 41.8m visitors, a 6.9% increase from the previous year with a spend of £7.1bn. This high volume made Birmingham the fourth most visited city in the UK. Tourism is an essential industry to Birmingham, as it supports more than 75k jobs and is a steady income for the city. Additionally, high profile events

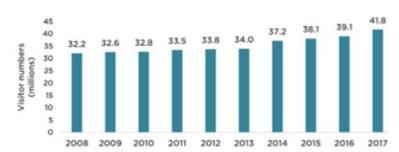


such as Natwest T20 Finals and the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Hobbit, written by JRR Tolkien who grew up in Birmingham.

Between 2008 and 2017, Birmingham has seen an increase in the Economic impact of tourists by £2.5 Billion.

The city's most visited attraction in 2017 was the MAC Birmingham, an arts complex hosting theatre, dance, comedy and cinema. 1.1m people attended, an average of just over 3k a day when open. The second most visited was the Birmingham Museum of fine art, natural, local, an industrial history. Cadbury World and the National Sea Life Centre are popular attractions for all age ranges.

Birmingham will host the Commonwealth Games in 2022, utilising 12 sporting venues. 95% of the sporting venues are already in place, with Alexander Stadium undergoing renovation to increase its occupancy and install a new track. The successful Gold Coast games brought Queensland, Australia a \$2.5bn economic boost, 1.3m visitors, a broadcasted audience of

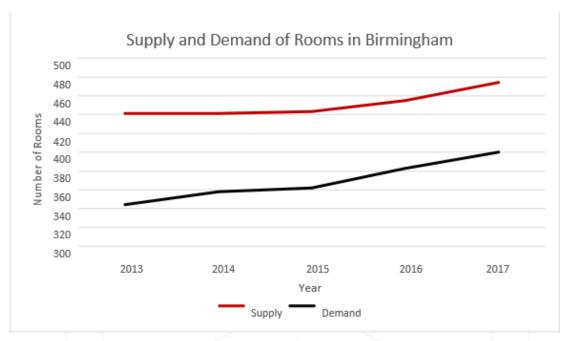


Source: Birmingham Economic Review 2018

1.5bn, and 82% of contracts going to local businesses. These numbers emphasise the impact the Commonwealth Games have on local economies and the widespread attention they bring. Therefore, the Commonwealth Games will bring more attention to Birmingham, which will promote the city as a tourist and business destination.

# **Supply of Rooms**

Source: STR. Republication or other re-use of this data without the express written permission of STR is strictly prohibited.

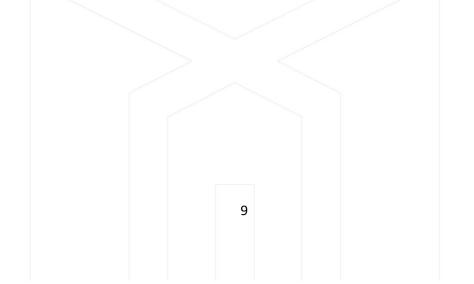


Overall, the graph shows that between 2013 and 2017 the demand for rooms increased more so then the supply of rooms. However, as the demand for rooms increased between 2015 and 2017, the supply of rooms increased to fit this demand.

# **Annual Occupancy Room Yield Figures**

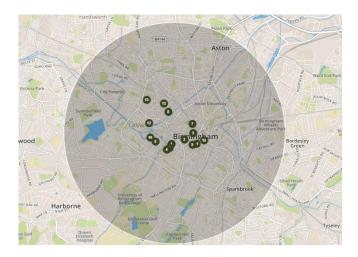
Year	Average Occupancy (%)	RevPAR (£)	Average Daily Rate ADR (£)
2019 (Up to August)	77.0	57.58	74.82
Average	77.0	57.58	74.82

Source: STR. Republication or other re-use of this data without the express written permission of STR is strictly prohibited.



# **Current Local Hospitality Market**

Within a 2-mile radius of Birmingham city centre there are 15 serviced apartment blocks, with a total of 927 rooms. Some of these are operated by StayCity and Staybridge Suites.

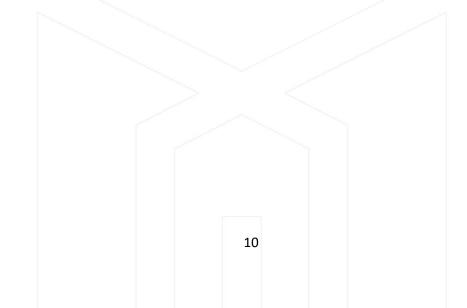


Source: STR. Republication or other re-use of this data without the express written permission of STR is strictly prohibited.

Within a 2-mile radius of Birmingham city centre, there are 3 pipeline serviced apartment developments with a total of 343 rooms. Some of these will be operated by StayBridge Suites and Native.



Source: STR. Republication or other re-use of this data without the express written permission of STR is strictly prohibited.



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