UK's Top Digital Tech Cities │ 2020

THE DATA CITY

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Introduction

In early 2019 The Data City reached a key milestone; successfully classifying, using machine learning and AI, over 1 million UK organisations into their relevant industries. Using its unique dataset, The Data City has completed analysis of the emerging technologies and sectors landscape and made comparisons across the UK in terms of organisations and events and made global comparisons in terms of academic activity. The work involved the analysis of 400 thousand technology events and 800,000 UK registered companies.

There was also further research to uncover the affordability of businesses locating to UK cities. The open data we used for this was Rateable Value[1]. The latest datasets published 1st April 2017, hold rating list information for 2 million current commercial properties and corresponding 1.9 million summary valuations. This data is available from VOA rating list downloads.

In this report we have ranked the top ten cities in the UK by the quantity of organisations which constitute as a digital organisation, then subsequently ranked their quantity of events and the average rateable value per standardised city. The ranks have been awarded points before being summed together to create an overall score. The higher the combined score the higher the overall ranking. If the combined score for a given city is the same value as another city, the overall rank is decided by the amount of organisations.

This report was created in partnership with MIDAS and GMCA to help identify the industry strengths of Manchester in comparison to other areas of the UK.

The collected values included in this research can be accessed here:
Organisations Explorer
Events Explorer

Background

The Data City uses the web, open & licensed data integrated with data science, machine learning and artificial intelligence to create a unique dataset. Our research has, for the first time, allowed us to provide data and insight for emerging technologies, that traditional economic data SIC Codes do not provide.

The boundaries used in this report have been standardised by the OECD. For more information on these boundaries see: ODI OECD12 and OECD.

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[1] http://bit.ly/2NnJBoH

Findings summary – The top 10 cities

Top ten ranking results from the UK's largest 29 cities: Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Dundee, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Lancaster, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Milton-Keynes, Newcastle, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford-Didcot, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Reading, Sheffield, Swansea & York

	Overall Rank	Events Count	Rank (Score)	Organisations Count	Rank (Score)	Average RV (£/m2)	Rank (Score)
Manchester	1st	1789	2 (9)	18926	2 (9)	130	5 (6)
London	2nd	23404	1 (10)	235479	1 (10)	270	10 (1)
Birmingham	3rd	932	5 (6)	11911	6 (5)	125	3 (8)
Bristol	4th	1576	4 (7)	8005	8 (3)	125	3 (8)
Milton Keynes	5th	405	10 (1)	15367	5 (6)	90	1 (10)
Leeds	6th	675	8 (3)	8691	7 (4)	105	2 (9)
Edinburgh	7th	1691	3 (8)	6487	9 (2)	N/A	5 (6)
Brighton	8th	876	6 (5)	18391	3 (8)	140	9 (2)
Reading	9th	745	7 (4)	17618	4 (7)	135	8 (3)
Glasgow	10th	556	9 (2)	5968	10 (1)	N/A	5 (6)

Note: The table above ranks Manchester first due to the average rateable value of commercial property within Manchester, however it should be noted that London's sheer quantity of organisations will almost inevitably top these tables.

This data shows that:

1. Manchester is clearly the UK's top digital technology city. The data relating to organisations shows that it outperforms all cities outside London across the board, not only in the individual sectors, which means that Manchester's digital technology sector is broad and deep and is ranked first when we considered cost factors such as rateable value.

2. When you consider the number and comparable research institutions in London, the relative levels of government investment and overall imbalance of investment towards London,

arguably cities like Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol are punching way above their weight.

3. We have clear evidence to demonstrate that in the emerging sectors and growth sectors of the future e.g. Cyber, AI and Data, IoT, Advanced Digital, Ecommerce, FinTech, MedTech - Manchester has a broad and deep capacity and capability. It's worth noting that Brighton and Reading also have a large number of organisations with skills in these sectors.

4. The events data shows that the Manchester digital data & technology eco-systems are established and functioning at a level above all other cities in the UK except London. We have significant evidence of user groups and technology meetups for all aspects of the digital tech system. Manchester, London ,Bristol and Edinburgh demonstrate collaborative environments which are an essential ingredient for successful digital sectors and businesses to thrive.

For more information please visit us at:
www.thedatacity.com