



## **AUSTRALIA NEEDS SKILLS FACT SHEET**

### **MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM**

Located in the county of Lancashire, Manchester was chosen as a location for an *Australia Needs Skills* expo because it is situated at the centre of the most densely populated area of England.

Manchester is widely recognised as a centre for the arts, media, higher education and commerce, with its significant financial and banking sector one of the biggest employers in the city.

Manchester's industries include textiles, chemical production, pharmaceutical production and research industries. It is also the centre of printing and publishing in North England.

During a consultation process with Australian employers and industry groups, considerable interest was shown in holding an expo in the United Kingdom outside of London and in Scotland. Given its proximity to Scotland and several other major cities such as Liverpool and Birmingham, Manchester was chosen as a location for an *Australia Needs Skills* expo in 2006.

#### **SKILLS ANALYSIS**

Industry sectors employing the highest proportion of skills in the following locations are as follows:

- Glasgow:** manufacturing, heavy engineering, financial and business services, communications, biosciences, creative industries, healthcare, retail and tourism
- Edinburgh:** services - particularly financial and business services
- Liverpool:** services – business and property, retail trade, hospitality
- Birmingham:** services – business and property, retail trade, production, public administration, construction

According to the most recent Census report, the United Kingdom's top three major employment sectors and employment percentages of the total labour force available for those sectors, are:

#### Percentage of total labour force

- |                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| • services – property and business | 82 per cent |
| • manufacturing                    | 12 per cent |
| • construction                     | 5 per cent  |

In 2005/06, the top 10 occupations in demand in Australia, filled by migrants from the United Kingdom, were:

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. registered nurses    | 6. carpenter and joiners |
| 2. general electricians | 7. bricklayers           |
| 3. accountants          | 8. fitters               |
| 4. hairdressers         | 9. general plumbers      |
| 5. motor mechanics      | 10. chefs                |



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#### OTHER FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM

**Capital:** London, 12 653 500 (metro. area), 7 465 100 (city proper)

**Largest cities:** Glasgow, 1 099 400; Birmingham, 971 800; Liverpool, 461 900; Edinburgh, 460 000; Leeds, 417 000; Bristol, 406 500; Manchester, 437 000; Bradford, 288 400.

**Principal languages:** English, Welsh, Scots Gaelic

**Literacy rate:** 99 per cent (2003 est.)

**Economic summary:** **GDP/PPP** (2005 est.): \$1.83 trillion; per capita \$30 300. **Real growth rate:** 1.8 per cent. **Inflation:** 2.1 per cent. **Unemployment:** 4.7 per cent. **Arable land:** 23 per cent.

- **Agriculture:** cereals, oilseed, potatoes, vegetables; cattle, sheep, poultry; fish.
- **Labour force:** 30.07 million; agriculture 0.5 per cent, industry 19.1 per cent, services 79.5 per cent (2004).

**Industries:** machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals, coal, petroleum, paper and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing, and other consumer goods.

**Natural resources:** coal, petroleum, natural gas, tin, limestone, iron ore, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, lead, silica, arable land.

**Exports:** \$372.7 billion (f.o.b., 2005 est.): manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals; food, beverages, tobacco.

**Major trading partners:** United States, Germany, France, Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium, Spain (2005).

The main industrial and commercial areas of the United Kingdom are the regions where approximately one third of the country's population lives. The administrative and financial centre and most important port is Greater London, which also has various manufacturing industries. London is Europe's foremost financial city.

Metal goods, vehicles, aircraft, synthetic fibres and electronic equipment are made in the West Midlands region, which with the addition of Coventry roughly corresponds to the former metropolitan county of West Midlands.

Greater Manchester has cotton and synthetic textiles, coal, and chemical industries and is a transport and warehousing centre. Liverpool, Britain's second port, along with Southport and Saint Helens are part of the Merseyside region. Leeds, Bradford, and the neighbouring metropolitan districts are Britain's main centre of woollen, worsted and other textile production. The Tyneside-Wearside region, with Newcastle upon Tyne at its centre and Sunderland its main city, has coal mines and steel, electrical engineering, chemical and shipbuilding and repair industries.