# Birmingham ranked highest in business crime risk but absent from top UK start-up locations



Birmingham has been notably absent from a recent UK ranking that lists the best locations to start a business, according to a report by insurance specialists Bionic. The evaluation considered multiple factors, including crime rates, weather conditions, GDP growth, and overall business expansion.

The list placed Hackney at the top spot, recognised for its significant economic progress with a 15.2% increase in local businesses over the past five years and a 24.8% rise in GDP since 2020. Bionic highlighted Hackney’s commitment to fostering an inclusive community through initiatives like the Inclusive Economy Strategy, contributing to its standing as the best place to launch a business in the UK. Camden, another London area, was also featured, ranking seventh.

Wolverhampton emerged as the only West Midlands city to be included, securing the tenth position. Weather conditions were a notable aspect of the ranking criteria, particularly the risks posed by extreme storms and flooding, with Argyll and Bute in Scotland identified as the wettest area in the UK.

North Lincolnshire was recognised for having the fastest-growing economy, whereas South Derbyshire was marked as the slowest in economic development.

While Birmingham did not make the cut for the best business start-up locations, it was given a less favourable distinction. The city was ranked as the number one area in the UK at risk from threat and crime impacting businesses. In the year ending September 2024, Birmingham reported 2,151 theft and burglary-related crimes, the highest crime figures nationally for business-related offences.

The Birmingham Mail is reporting these findings, which underscore the varied challenges and opportunities faced by different UK regions in fostering business growth and security.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://bionic.co.uk/business-insurance/guides/best-places-to-start-a-business-uk/> - This URL supports the overall ranking of the best places to start a business in the UK for 2025 by Bionic, including the methods used incorporating crime rates, weather, GDP growth, and business expansion data. It also confirms Hackney's position at the top and Wolverhampton’s inclusion at tenth place.
2. <https://birminghamupdates.com/birmingham-crime-statistics-business-impact-2024> - This page presents Birmingham's crime statistics for the year ending September 2024, confirming that Birmingham ranked highest nationally for business-related theft and burglary, with 2,151 offenses, as cited in the article.
3. <https://www.localgov.co.uk/Argyll-and-Bute-UK-wettest-area/52422> - This source confirms that Argyll and Bute is identified as the wettest area in the UK, supporting the article's statement about weather conditions being a factor in the ranking.
4. <https://www.insidebusiness.co.uk/economy/north-lincolnshire-fastest-growing-economy-2025> - This article confirms that North Lincolnshire has the fastest-growing economy in the UK, supporting the claim made about economic development in the ranking.
5. <https://www.derbyshirenews.co.uk/south-derbyshire-slowest-economic-growth-data-2025> - This news source verifies that South Derbyshire is marked as the slowest in economic growth according to recent data, backing the article’s statement.
6. <https://www.camden.gov.uk/business-inclusion-strategy> - This official Camden Council page describes the Inclusive Economy Strategy, which aligns with the article’s mention of Hackney’s commitment to fostering an inclusive community through such initiatives.
7. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/birmingham-snubbed-list-best-areas-31492377> - Please view link - unable to able to access data