

# FINANCIAL TIMES



## British cities excel at revival

By ANDREW BOLGER.

British cities have experienced stronger economic improvement over the past decade than those in most other European countries, according to researchers at Glasgow University.

They found Britain filled seven of the top 20 places in the European league of urban employment revival - thanks to the performances of London, Southampton, Derby, Sheffield, Liverpool, Coventry and Newcastle.

All suffered a loss of jobs between 1985 and 1995 - mainly as a result of industrial decline - but they bounced back strongly the following decade through the growth of services.

Former industrial cities had found a new economic purpose, contrary to widespread perceptions that they should be written off.

Professor Ivan Turok said that the recovery in employment had been particularly strong among cities in the north and west of England. But he warned: "It will also be a challenge for the UK government to sustain the recent urban renaissance in the chill winds of economic slowdown."

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