

[home](#) > [business](#)

[Email to a friend](#) | [Read later](#)
Tuesday, 28th November 2006

Arndale back in the top ten

MANCHESTER'S Arndale centre has made it back into the list of the UK's top 10 shopping centres.



The centre, which has just completed a £170m revamp, is back after plunging to 24th place in 2004, as it struggled to cope with building works.

PHASE 2: Completion

But the 1.4m sq ft Arndale is still five places behind the Trafford Centre, which holds the fourth place in the UK league - and still three places behind the position it held in 1998, when it was sixth.

According to the 2006 shopping centre analyses carried out by Trevor Wood Associates in conjunction with surveyors Savills, the country's top shopping centres are all out of-town.

The research shows how traditional high street shopping has now been eclipsed in popularity by shopping centres on city fringes, often with massive car parking facilities.

Topping the list is Gateshead's Metrocentre, with Sheffield's Meadowhall in third place.

Maximum

The MetroCentre received maximum scores throughout many of the categories in the report, which ranks shopping centres by overall attractiveness to shoppers, retailers and investors.

Specific categories include quality of tenants, gross lettable retail area, whether a centre is open to the elements, covered or enclosed, and if it has a food court or crèche.

Chris Blair, director at Savills, comments: "The changes to this year's shopping centre rankings perfectly demonstrate that schemes need to be constantly

concentrating on asset management in order to survive.

"Schemes are quick to evolve, and the competition is high. Manchester Arndale is a good example of this.

"It was ranked at 21 in 2004 - however, since undergoing a substantial redevelopment and enhancing its overall tenant mix, it has moved up to ninth position in 2006."

After 12 years of planning and development, the revamped Arndale is now the largest in-town shopping centre in the UK - bigger than Birmingham's Bull-ring. With some 1.4m sq ft of retail space and over 200 stores, cafés and restaurants, it is back at the heart of Manchester's retail offer.

The centre has improved its tenant line-up, as Top Shop opened its largest store outside London in the latest phase of the Arndale Centre extension in April, and Spanish fashion label Bershka has opened its first store outside London.

The latest mall links Exchange Court, home to Next and River Island, with the new-concept Wintergarden.

© Copyright 2006 Manchester Evening News. If you wish to use this article for commercial purposes please contact our [syndication department](#).

Search

Search this site or Google, Yahoo and Ask

The web

GO!