

Sheffield and the British Steel Industry reached its height in terms of production and labour force in the late 1960's. In the '70's and '80's many closures occurred as British Steel was rationalised and sold off to the Private Sector (Corus and Tata) run by overseas multinational companies. This led to high rates of unemployment in Sheffield and a knock-on effect as subsidiary industries and the supply chain were hit.

This decline was caused by global factors such as overproduction of cheap steel, especially in China, where cheap labour and low production costs allow them to flood the market and undercut British made steel. In Sheffield the decline was also caused by the dis-economies of agglomeration, congestion and dereliction as well as high wages and the strength of trade unions.

De-industrialisation of the UK and other High Income Countries (HIC's) led to them entering the post industrial / post modern stage. Primary and Secondary employment has reduced rapidly while Tertiary (Service) and Quaternary (Research and development) sectors grew. This NIDL (New international Division of Labour) led to the growth of manufacturing industries in newly Emerging Economies (NEE's) and Newly Industrialising Countries (NIC's) such as China, India and Brazil, while Head Offices, research and development and innovation is located in HIC's.

UK Government policies have attempted to overcome the decline in manufacturing industries such as steel. Development Area Policies and Enterprise Zones have been set up to encourage industry, technology and business to develop in or move to depressed and deprived areas such as Sheffield. These higher-tech replacement industries were attracted by tax incentives, help with capital investment and the easing of planning regulations.

CHANGING PLACES SHEFFIELD DE-INDUSTRIALISATION

These new initiatives have often been set up on brownfield sites where old steel plants have shut. These new 'Sunrise' industries as opposed to the old 'smokestack' industries and are found at places like the Sheffield Enterprise Zone. Examples are advanced manufacturing, Aerospace, Pharmaceuticals and low carbon industries that attract MNC's (Multinational Corporations /TNC's) such as Boeing. The industries locate here to have links to Sheffield University and Advanced Research Centres to give excellent education/training/innovation links and are near the M1 giving links to ports and other major population centres.

Recently the British Government has introduced the Northern powerhouse, linking the all major cities of northern England as a rival to London. The aim is to boost the economy of cities like Sheffield and involves skill development, innovation, transport and culture. Levelling up policies have also been introduced to offer funding to small businesses in places like Sheffield. However, some transport initiatives have been cancelled (HS2).

Kelham Island, the old, original heart of industrial development in Sheffield is an example of these changes. The old, traditional industries have closed and new high-tech industry, retail and leisure have taken their place. Now a vibrant site, it offers independent shops, restaurants, pubs, a brewery, eco-housing and a local feel.

The use of brownfield sites in Sheffield has been successful in cleaning up old, polluted, derelict factory sites, bringing jobs to deprived areas and linking with existing industries. It has also protected the Green Belt. Meadowhall Retail park sits on the site of an old steelworks and has excellent links by rail and the M1 motorway. The nearby Magna Science Adventure is a tourist facility located in an old steel mill. The Kelham Island and Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet museum and heritage centres offer other tourist attractions.

