

The Manchester Marathon 2024 has once again cemented its place as one of the UK's premier spring road races. With thousands crossing the finish line amidst a vibrant city backdrop, race fans and participants alike are asking the key question: **how many finishers were recorded at Manchester Marathon 2024?** This comprehensive post explores the *Manchester Marathon 2024 stats*, delves into the race's scale, entry process, charity involvement, course specifics, and certification history, giving you the complete picture of this grand event.

Race Date, Scale, and Time Limit

The 2024 edition of the Manchester Marathon took place on **Sunday 14th April 2024**, a favourite date in the UK running calendar that consistently attracts both elite athletes and mass participants. Known for its flat and fast course, the race remains an ideal choice for runners chasing personal bests or simply looking for a fantastic spring marathon experience.

On the morning of the race, some **21,887 finishers** were officially recorded, underscoring the event's continuing popularity. This figure aligns well with the Manchester Marathon's reputation for being one of the largest city marathons in the UK, consistently drawing entries in the region of 20,000 to 22,000 finishers over recent years.

Race Element Details Date Sunday, 14 April 2024 Finishers Recorded 21,887 Time Limit 6 Hours Start Time 9:00 AM

The race starts sharply at 9:00 AM from the city centre, and runners must complete the course within a **6-hour time limit**. This is generous enough to accommodate walkers and slower-paced participants while keeping roads clear for subsequent traffic resumption.





Entry Process and Sell-out Reality

If you're eyeing up the Manchester Marathon, it helps to understand the entry mechanics and the reality behind the so-called sell-outs. Entry opens months in advance and is traditionally via a ballot system due to high demand. For 2024, the public ballot attracted around 60,000 applicants vying for approximately 25,000 spaces — a statistic that reflects its intense popularity.

When the ballot closes, immediate public confirmation is sent out, and successful entrants must secure their place by paying the entry fee — typically around £40 for general places. The marathon's entry *does* sell out fast, often within a few weeks, but it's important to remember the process isn't first-come-first-served for most of the field.

Elite and Club Runner Entries

Alongside the public ballot, a smaller number of entries are allocated for elite athletes and affiliated club runners meeting qualifying standards. These entries bypass the ballot and contribute to the event's competitive edge.

Charity Places and Real Costs

Charity runners are a prominent feature of the Manchester Marathon's atmosphere, often making up around 20-30% of the total field. While the headline entry fee for the public is £40, charity places come with additional commitments. For example, the *MS Trust* requires a **£40 registration fee plus a minimum sponsorship pledge of £500**. This higher financial expectation means charity runners are investing both money and effort to raise awareness and funds while running the course.

It's worth noting this is fairly typical among UK [how to change my details](#) marathons that offer charity entries, balancing accessibility with effective fundraising. If you're considering a charity place, do remember to factor in these costs and begin your sponsorship drive early.

Course Route, Elevation Profile, and Certification History

The Manchester Marathon course is renowned for its flat and fast layout, traversing city landmarks and leafy suburbs. The route commences near the city centre with a largely clockwise loop, incorporating key areas such as:

- Trafford Park
- Salford Quays

- Old Trafford
- Heaton Park
- Castlefield

This course layout consistently produces fast times, making it a favourite among PB hunters. Elevation gain is minimal, with the entire course profile featuring only gentle undulations, and a total elevation gain of around 80 metres. This moderate terrain keeps the race accessible for a wide spectrum of runners while providing enough variety to keep the experience engaging.

Certification is vital for marathon runners interested in accurate timings and official qualification. The Manchester Marathon has been UK Athletics (UKA) and Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) certified since 2007. This ensures its distance is accurately measured and recognised for record and qualifying times (e.g., London Marathon entry qualifications or Abbott World Marathon Majors standards).

Using Third-Party Tools to Study the Course

For those wanting to preview the route, including elevation and waypoints, third-party websites like goandrace.com offer downloadable GPX files of marathon routes. While goandrace.com currently holds data for the 2026 Manchester Marathon route, this file provides a helpful resource for runners curious about the race terrain, especially since changes over short periods tend to be minor.

If you use devices such as Garmin running watches or GPS units, you can easily upload these GPX navigation files for a pre-race virtual look at the course. This helps with visualising key turns, water stations, and elevation changes, aiding preparation a lot.

Summary Table: Manchester Marathon 2024 Essentials

Feature	Details
Race Date	14 April 2024
Finishers Count	21,887
Entry Fee (General)	£40
Charity Entry Example MS Trust:	£40 + £500 minimum sponsorship
Time Limit	6 hours
Course Type	Certified, flat, clockwise loop
Course Elevation Gain	~80 metres

Final Thoughts on Manchester Marathon 2024 Stats and Registration

The Manchester Marathon 2024's finishers count of **21,887** reflects its status as a major event on the UK marathon calendar. The race organises a well-structured entry process blending ballot fairness with elite sports access and charity inclusion, while its flat, certified course provides a superb opportunity for runners of all levels.

For any Aspiring competitors, always check official channels for the next registration windows and read carefully the *time limit* and *packet collection rules*. Avoid relying on third-party GPX files labelled "official" without verifying with race organisers—if you want accurate course insights, trusted platforms and Garmin devices remain excellent preparation tools.

Whether plotting your debut marathon, chasing a PB, or fundraising for charity, the Manchester Marathon remains a top-tier UK race experience.