



a widely accepted currency. The Bank soon rose to be the leading commercial bank of the day.

### A GROWING INDUSTRY

In 1826, Parliament relaxed the laws governing who could own banks. This made 'joint stock banking' possible – allowing the owners of UK banks to spread lending risk among a number of proprietors. The Industrial Revolution saw a rapid growth of banking. High street banks appeared, merchant banks opened for business and other financial institutions followed. The world of banking that we recognise today had arrived.

### DRIVING THE ECONOMY

In the 20th century, technological advances changed the way banks and their customers do business: credit cards, computing systems and new services arrived, while deregulation

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increased banks’ competitiveness. Today it’s difficult to think of a world without banks – without banknotes and coins, debit cards and cash dispensers, foreign currency exchange, personal loans and mortgages, or travel, home or life insurance. In the 21st century, the financial services sector is a vital part of the UK economy, producing around nine per cent of national GDP. And yet, after all the innovation, the Roman concept of banking – to receive deposits and advance credit – remains at the heart of the industry.

### WORLD CENTRE FOR FINANCE

- More than **3,000** finance and insurance enterprises operate in the City of London.
- **241** foreign banks do business in the City.
- More than **one million** people across the UK work in the financial sector.
- **Nine per cent** of the UK’s total national income comes from the financial services industry.
- The total tax contribution provided by the industry is around **£63bn**.