

Top Track 250 regional press release

Thursday 28 September 2017



EIGHT COMPANIES IN THE EAST MIDLANDS FEATURE IN LEAGUE TABLE OF BRITAIN'S LEADING PRIVATE MID-MARKET GROWTH COMPANIES

Published this weekend, the 13th annual **Sunday Times Grant Thornton Top Track 250** league table ranks Britain's private mid-market growth companies with the biggest sales.

The eight companies headquartered in the **East Midlands** (compared to 13 last year) have made a strong contribution to the local economy. The companies increased combined sales 20% to £2.1bn and operating profits by an impressive 31% to £83m, and they employ more than 7,700 people.

The biggest mid-market growth company in the region is **Northampton-based Winvic Construction**, which builds commercial and retail space for companies such as Amazon, Debenhams, and Sports Direct. Sales rose 83% in 2016 to £418m, and profits more than doubled to £22m.

The company is one of the three new league table entrants in the East Midlands; the two others are fuel forecourt operator **HKS Retail**, based in **Leicester**, and **Addo Food Group**, based in **Nottingham**, which produces more than 256m pork pies, quiches and scotch eggs a year. Its sales were £236m last year, up 49%, partly as a result of its acquisition of Kerry Foods' chilled savoury pastry division in 2014.

The companies in the East Midlands appear with businesses from around the UK, including **Aston Martin**, **Holland & Barrett**, **Travelodge**, **Lush** and **PureGym**.

The league table and awards programme is sponsored by **Grant Thornton** and **Lloyds Banking Group**, and compiled by **Fast Track**, the Oxford-based research and networking events company.

Chris Frostwick, Partner at Grant Thornton UK LLP, the title sponsor of the league table, praised the companies for their performance:

"The UK may be at a pivotal point in its history, but the Top Track 250 clearly demonstrates what can be achieved by exciting dynamic businesses. These companies think locally and act globally, they innovate to grow and embrace an entrepreneurial spirit that this country needs to secure a positive post-Brexit future. At Grant Thornton we are seeking to stimulate ideas and actions that can help shape a vibrant UK economy that thrives. We can all learn a lot from the Top Track 250."

Ordered by county and rank: Mid-market private growth companies in the East Midlands

HQ location County	Rank [2016 rank]	Company Activity	Sales £m	Profit £m [^]	Staff	Year end	Main shareholders
Ilkeston Derbyshire	160 [211]	Belfield Furnishings Furniture and furnishings manufacturer	*162	*8	1,888	Dec 16	NorthEdge (>60%), management (<40%)
Chesterfield Derbyshire	176 [230]	CCS Media IT & services reseller	153	4	380	Dec 16	Robert Tomlinson (80%), Alan Honarmand (10%), Terry Betts (10%)
Castle Donington Leicestershire	50 [58]	AvailableCar Car dealer	341	8	717	Dec 16	Graham & Alison Bell (100%)
Leicester Leicestershire	103	HKS Retail Fuel forecourt operator	*225	*7	653	May 17	Thakrar family (100%)

HQ location County	Rank [2016 rank]	Company Activity	Sales £m	Profit £m [^]	Staff	Year end	Main shareholders
Northampton Northamptonshire	32	Winvic Construction Construction contractor	*462	*29	175	Jan 17	David Ward (27%), Simon Girardier (27%), Simon Hunt (27%), other (19%)
Towcester Northamptonshire	62 [133]	Randall Parker Food Group Meat distributor	*303	*6	830	Sep 16	Ron Randall & family (67%), W & J Parker (33%)
Wellingborough Northamptonshire	82 [111]	Whitworth Bros Flour miller	259	11	520	Mar 17	Martin George and family (100%)
Nottingham Nottinghamshire	92	Addo Food Group Food producer	236	10	2,564	Mar 16	LDC (>50%), management (<50%)

[^] Profit = operating profit * Supplied by the company

The national picture

The Sunday Times Grant Thornton Top Track 250 complements the Top Track 100, published in July, which features Britain's biggest private companies. It ranks the next 250-biggest companies by sales, provided they meet our growth and profitability criteria (see below). The 250 companies grew combined sales by 16% to £62.4bn, operating profits by 34% to a record £5.4bn, and staff by 10% to 384,200.

There are 120 companies that were not on the league table in 2016, 39 of which have appeared on the league table previously, while the remaining 81 make their debuts this year.

The 250 companies are headquartered across the country. London is home to 68 companies and the southeast 46. Yorkshire has 29, Scotland 22, the northwest 21, the West Midlands 17, east 15, southwest 11, the East Midlands 8, Northern Ireland 7, and Wales and the northeast have 3 each.

The full league table is published as a 10-page broadsheet supplement with the business section of **The Sunday Times** on 1 October, both in print and in the digital edition, and on www.fasttrack.co.uk.

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Notes for editors

Fast Track has published league tables of the UK's top-performing private companies with **The Sunday Times** for the past 20 years. The company was founded and is run by Dr Hamish Stevenson, who also holds an associate fellowship at Green Templeton College, Oxford University.

Previous Top Track 250 success stories include appliance maker Dyson, which first featured in 2005 with sales of just £277m, and this year featured on our Top Track 100 with sales of £2.5bn and profits of £631m. Virgin Money also debuted in 2005 when its sales were £241m; its market cap now is £1.2bn, having floated in November 2014. And B&M, the value retailer, first featured in 2009 with sales of £256m and floated in June 2014 with a market capitalisation of £2.7bn. Dental care provider Oasis Dental Care first appeared in 2013 with sales of £149m and was acquired by Bupa last November for £835m. And last year, Skyscanner made its debut on the table with £120m in sales, and was sold two months later, in November, to China's CTrip for a reported £1.4bn.

League table criteria:

Companies are ranked by sales in their latest available accounts. The league table complements the Top Track 100 league table of Britain's biggest private companies by listing the next 250 growth firms.

Companies are required to have operating margins that exceed 2% and sales must be growing year-on-year by 5% or more for the highest turnover companies, graduated to 10% or more for those with the lowest turnover. If sales growth was insufficient we considered profit growth using the same procedure.

Companies have to be limited and registered in the UK, unquoted, and not subsidiaries. Companies may have their ultimate holding company offshore. Companies where the majority of turnover is generated by a quoted subsidiary are excluded, as are not-for-profit companies, cooperative societies, member-owned buying groups, mutual societies, provident associations, betting exchanges, and partnerships such as lawyers and accountants.

The research was carried out by Fast Track and accounts filed later than 21 July 2017 may not have been considered in compiling the league table.

The sponsors do not endorse, guarantee or recommend investment in any of the companies and some exceptions were made to the qualification criteria.

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