

Top Track 100 regional press release

Thursday 5 July 2018



SIXTEEN COMPANIES IN THE MIDLANDS FEATURE ON LEAGUE TABLE OF BRITAIN'S BIGGEST PRIVATE COMPANIES

Published this weekend, the 17th annual **Sunday Times HSBC Top Track 100** league table ranks Britain's 100 private companies with the biggest sales.

The 16 companies headquartered in the Midlands (same number as last year) have made a significant contribution to the regional economy. Together they achieved sales of **£23.8bn** and profits of **£1.9bn** in their last financial year, and collectively employ more than **91,800 people**.

The highest-ranked company in the region is Birmingham-based **2 Sisters Food Group** (No 11) with sales of £3.3bn. The group in the process of restructuring and in April completed the sale of its Goodfella's pizzas division to Nomad Foods for a reported £200m.

The 16 Midlands companies include two new entries: sports car maker **Aston Martin** (No 70), which sold 5,117 cars in 2017 and grew sales 48% to £876m; and **Pertemps Network Group** (No 79), the recruitment consultancy, which grew its sales 8% to a total of £805m last year.

The companies in the Midlands appear with businesses from around the UK, including high-profile, national brands such as **Dyson**, **Harrods**, **McLaren** and **Specsavers**.

This year, the 100 companies reached a record £205bn in total sales, up an average of 16% on the prior year, with record total profits of £23.5bn, up by 10%. An impressive 90 companies increased sales in their latest financial year.

The league table is sponsored by **HSBC**, **Linklaters** and **PwC** and compiled by **Fast Track**, the Oxford-based research and networking events company.

Amanda Murphy, Head of Commercial Banking at HSBC UK, said:

"Once again, Britain's most ambitious private enterprises have shown their mettle by shrugging off uncertainty to grow at an even faster rate than the year before. The businesses in the Top Track 100 are an inspiration to all, showing just what can be achieved with entrepreneurial spirit and a determination to succeed. The 16 companies in the Midlands are the kinds of firms that provide the backbone of our economy, and we at HSBC UK are thrilled to see them thrive."

Biggest private companies in the Midlands, by county and rank

HQ location County	Rank [2017 rank]	Company Activity	Sales £m	Profits £m ‡	Staff	Year end	Main shareholders
Swadlincote Derbyshire	40 [49]	Bloor Investments Builder and motorcycle maker	1,442	215	3,230	Jun 17	John Bloor (100%)
Belper Derbyshire	65 [62]	Bowmer & Kirkland Construction contractor	928	63	1,319	Aug 17	Kirkland family and family trusts
Melton Mowbray Leicestershire	61 [64]	Samworth Brothers Food producer	991	89	8,550	Dec 16	Samworth family trusts (100%)

HQ location County	Rank [2017 rank]	Company Activity	Sales £m	Profits £m ‡	Staff	Year end	Main shareholders
Worksop Nottinghamshire	36 [36]	Wilko Value retailer	1,513	49	11,243	Jan 17	Wilkinson family (100%)
Retford Nottinghamshire	80 [83]	Langley Holdings Engineering equipment maker	792	110	4,332	Dec 17	Tony Langley (100%)
Shrewsbury Shropshire	56 [54]	Greenhous Group Car and van dealer	1,052	5	1,049	Dec 17	Derek Passant (52%), Kerry Fannon (46%), Mike Pawson (2%)
Rocester Staffordshire	17 [17]	JCB Construction machinery manufacturer	2,621	221	9,334	Dec 16	Bamford family interests (100%)
Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire	20 [30]	bet365 Online bookmaker	2,278	557	3,835	Mar 17	Coates family (93%), Will Roseff (7%)
Burton upon Trent Staffordshire	30 [32]	Healthcare at Home Home healthcare provider	1,813	19	1,706	Oct 17	Vitruvian Partners (73%), Hutton Collins (17%), management (10%)
Burton upon Trent Staffordshire	97 [98]	Doncasters Group Engineering components maker	*722	*95	4,200	Dec 17	Dubai International Capital (98%), management (2%)
Stratford-upon- Avon Warwickshire	22 [20]	The Rigby Group Conglomerate	2,167	57	7,265	Mar 17	Sir Peter Rigby and family (100%)
Stratford-upon- Avon Warwickshire	46 [46]	Listers Automotive retailer	*1,230	*20	2,355	Mar 18	Bradshaw family (50%), Lister family (50%)
Gaydon Warwickshire	70 [-]	Aston Martin Sports car maker	876	207	1,753	Dec 17	Institutional investors (95%), Daimler AG (5%)
Meriden Warwickshire	79 [-]	Pertemps Network Group Recruitment consultancy	*805	*21	1,700	Dec 17	Management and employees (53%), LDC (25%), Tim Watts (22%)
Birmingham West Midlands	11 [9]	2 Sisters Food Group Food producer	3,289	159	22,272	Jul 17	Baljinder and Ranjit Boparan (100%)
Willenhall West Midlands	44 [44]	A.F. Blakemore & Son Retail, wholesale and distribution	1,300	17	7,735	Apr 17	Blakemore family (100%)

‡ Profits = EBITDA (Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation)

* Supplied by the company

The national picture

This year's Top Track 100 achieved combined sales growth of 16% to a total of £205bn, a record for the league table, compared with last year's 7% growth and total sales of £185bn. Profits this year grew 10% to a total of £23.5bn, also a record for the table. The companies employ 938,100 staff, having added 49,000 employees to their combined work force in their latest year. Combined debts remained high at £100bn.

The dominant region for company HQs is London (32), followed by the southeast (21) and the Midlands (16). Of the remainder, 11 companies are based in the northwest, six in Scotland, five in the southwest, four in Yorkshire and Humberside, two each in Northern Ireland and the east, and one in Wales.

The full league table is published as a six-page supplement with the business section of **The Sunday Times** on 8 July, both in print and in the digital edition, and on www.fasttrack.co.uk.

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PLEASE CREDIT IN FULL: "THE SUNDAY TIMES HSBC TOP TRACK 100"

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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 21 years. The company was founded and is run by Dr Hamish Stevenson, who also holds an associate fellowship at Green Templeton College, Oxford University.

League table criteria

Companies have to be registered in the UK, unquoted, and not subsidiaries. Companies may have their ultimate holding company offshore.

Companies are ranked by sales as reported in their latest available accounts, or by more up-to-date figures as reported directly to Fast Track by the companies.

Companies with fewer than 100 employees are excluded, as are not-for-profit companies, cooperative societies, member-owned buying groups, mutual societies, provident associations, and partnerships such as lawyers and accountants. The research was carried out by Fast Track between 1 March and 3 July 2018; more than one third (35) of the companies provided up-to-date figures not yet publically available.

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