

Top Track 250 Wales press release

Thursday 24 September

SIX COMPANIES IN WALES FEATURE IN THE LEAGUE TABLE OF BRITAIN'S LEADING MID-MARKET PRIVATE COMPANIES

Published this weekend, the **16th annual Sunday Times PwC Top Track 250** league table ranks Britain's leading mid-market private companies with the biggest sales – before the pandemic struck.

Although some are making job cuts as a result of the crisis, it highlights their continuing contribution to the economy at this difficult time. It also gives examples of how they have stepped up to support their communities and the NHS.

The six companies headquartered in **Wales** (compared to seven in 2019) increased their combined sales by 29% to £1.2bn and operating profits 29% to £90m, and employed more than 4,000 people.

Examples of their positive responses to the crisis include **Castell Howell Foods** (No 171), the food wholesaler which set up a contactless click-and-collect service for customers and produced gloves and aprons for healthcare workers. Others include timber product wholesaler **Premier Forest Group** (No 173), which supplied materials to the Nightingale and Dragon hospitals.

The companies in Wales appear alongside businesses from around the UK, including **Barbour**, **BrewDog** and **Gymshark**, which was valued at more than £1bn in August.

The Top Track 250 is sponsored by **PwC** and **Lloyds Bank**, and compiled by **Fast Track**, the Oxford-based research and networking events firm.

Arif Ahmad, a Private Business Partner at PwC UK, the title sponsor of the league table, commented:

“There’s no doubt that 2020 has posed unprecedented challenges. But time and again, we’ve seen business leaders rising to that challenge, adapting their plans and taking the opportunity to innovate. This year, it’s more important than ever to recognise and congratulate the companies featured in the Top Track 250. They are the backbone of the UK economy and it’s our pleasure to work with them, at every stage of their journeys.”

Wales mid-market private companies, ordered by county and rank

HQ location and county	Rank [2019 rank]	Company Activity	Sales £m	Profit £m [^]	Staff	Year end	Main shareholders
Llanelli Carmarthenshire	61	Tinopolis Film and television producer	272	21	544	Sep 19	Management (100%)
Llanelli Carmarthenshire	171 [228]	Castell Howell Foods Food wholesaler & manufacturer	143	5	776	Oct 19	Brian Jones (50%), Simon Jones (25%), Kathryn Jones (25%)
Deeside Flintshire	154 [204]	Ralawise.com Clothing distributor	156	10	617	Dec 19	Batson family (100%)
Ewloe Flintshire	229	Anwyl Group Housebuilder	114	12	196	Jun 19	Anwyl family (100%)
Newport Gwent	173	Premier Forest Group Timber product wholesaler	141	5	364	Apr 19	Dilwyn Howells (33.3%), Terry Edgell (33.3%), Nigel Williams (33.3%)
Anglesey Isle of Anglesey	39	Huws Gray Builders' merchant	*379	*36	1,661	Dec 19	Management and others (c65%), Inflexion (c35%)

[^] Profit = operating profit

* Supplied by company

The national picture

Top Track 250 complements our **Top Track 100**, published in July, which features Britain's private companies with the biggest sales. It ranks the next 250-biggest companies by sales, provided they meet our criteria of min. 5% growth in sales or profits (see below). The 250 companies grew combined sales by 17% to £59.7bn, operating profits by 25% to £5.1bn and employees by 15% to 405,000, prior to the pandemic.

The 250 companies are headquartered across the country. London is home to the highest number of companies, with 60 businesses, followed by the southeast with 44. Of the remainder, 36 are based in the Midlands, 33 in the northeast and Yorkshire, 24 in the northwest of England, 24 in Scotland, 8 each in the southwest and the East of England, 7 in Northern Ireland and 6 in Wales.

16 years of Top Track 250

Over the 16 years, the **Top Track 250** league table has featured many of Britain's most successful mid-market private companies. Past stars 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 £4.4bn. **Ocado**, which last appeared in 2008 with sales of £273m, listed in 2010 and has since seen its value increase more than 20 times to £20bn. **The Hut Group** first featured in 2013 with sales of £157m, and floated this month valued at £5.4bn.

The full league table is published as a 10-page broadsheet supplement within the business section of **The Sunday Times** on 27 September, both in print and in the digital edition, and on www.fasttrack.co.uk.

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PLEASE CREDIT IN FULL: "SUNDAY TIMES PWC TOP TRACK 250"

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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 23 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 are ranked by sales in their latest available accounts.

Companies are required to have operating margins that exceed 2%. Sales in the latest year must have grown by 5% or more for companies with the highest sales, graduated to 10% or more for those with lower sales; or profit growth must have been more 5% or more.

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. Some exceptions were made to the qualification criteria.

The research was carried out by Fast Track and accounts filed later than 17 July 2020 may not have been considered in compiling the league table.

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