

# Top Track 100 regional press release



Thursday 2 July 2020

## THIRTEEN COMPANIES IN THE MIDLANDS WIN PLACES ON SPECIAL COVID-19 EDITION OF LEAGUE TABLE OF BRITAIN'S BIGGEST PRIVATE COMPANIES

Published this weekend, the **19th annual Sunday Times HSBC Top Track 100** league table ranks Britain's 100 private companies with the biggest sales, and before Covid-19 struck. Although some are planning to make substantial job cuts as a result of coronavirus, 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 13 companies headquartered in the **Midlands** have together achieved sales of £23.8bn and profits of £1.8bn in their latest financial year, and collectively employ more than 85,300 people.

Examples of positive responses to the Covid-19 crisis include **Rigby Group** (No 20), the Stratford-upon-Avon conglomerate headed by Sir Peter Rigby. It owns IT services firm SCC, which enabled 12,000 doctors to do video consultations in just one week, and helped NHS Trusts arrange digital staff meetings.

Other examples include Leicestershire food group **Samworth Brothers** (No 66), which provided its Ginsters pasties and Soreen malt loaves to frontline workers at NHS Nightingale and other hospitals; and Derbyshire's **Bloor Investments** (No 39), whose Bloor Homes division donated thousands of face masks and goggles to the NHS.

The region's top-ranked company is **JCB** (No 10), which has distributed more than 35,000 free meals to vulnerable people across Staffordshire and helped produce medical-grade visors for the NHS using 3D printers. Its 2018 sales were a record £4.1bn, but it recently announced job losses as a result of the coronavirus crisis.

The companies in the Midlands appear alongside well-known British names, including **Dyson, Iceland, John Lewis Partnership, Nando's** and **Specsavers**.

This year, the 100 companies reached a record £237bn in total sales, up 8% on the prior year, with total profits of £28bn, up by 7%. Three in four companies (74) increased sales in their latest financial year.

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

Amanda Murphy, Head of Commercial Banking, HSBC UK, commented:

*"Uncertainty and volatility remain watchwords in the current climate but we at HSBC UK are confident that Britain's business leaders, such as those at the helm of the companies in the Midlands on this year's Top Track 100, will rise to the challenge. The country has found new reserves of energy in the face of adversity and the businesses that can harness that energy and pace of change will thrive in the 'new normal'."*

### Biggest private companies in the Midlands, by county and rank

HQ location County	Rank [2019 rank]	Company Activity	Sales £m	Profits £m ‡	Staff	Year end	Main shareholders
Swadlincote Derbyshire	39 [35]	<b>Bloor Investments</b> Builder and motorcycle maker	1,696	233	3,867	Jun 19	John Bloor (100%)

HQ location County	Rank [2019 rank]	Company Activity	Sales £m	Profits £m ‡	Staff	Year end	Main shareholders
Belper Derbyshire	80 [70]	<b>Bowmer + Kirkland</b> Construction contractor	938	62	1,489	Aug 18	Kirkland family and family trusts
Melton Mowbray Leicestershire	66 [56]	<b>Samworth Brothers</b> Food producer	1,064	58	9,300	Dec 18	Samworth family trusts (100%)
Worksop Nottinghamshire	44 [34]	<b>Wilko</b> Homes and garden retailer	1,468	49	10,974	Feb 20	Wilkinson family (100%)
Shrewsbury Shropshire	57 [54]	<b>Greenhous Group</b> Car and van dealer	*1,170	*10	1,436	Dec 19	Derek Passant (52%), Kerry Finnon (46%), Mike Pawson (2%)
Rocester Staffordshire	10 [11]	<b>JCB</b> Construction equipment manufacturer	4,119	376	11,508	Dec 18	Bamford family interests (100%)
Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire	14 [16]	<b>bet365</b> Online bookmaker	†3,006	†798	4,708	Mar 19	Coates family (93%), Will Roseff (7%)
Burton upon Trent Staffordshire	41 [30]	<b>Healthcare at Home</b> Home healthcare provider	1,541	22	1,552	Oct 19	Vitruvian Partners (73%), Erebus Holdings (17%), management (10%)
Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire	20 [22]	<b>Rigby Group</b> Conglomerate	2,772	65	8,138	Mar 19	Sir Peter Rigby (60%), family trusts (40%)
Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire	54 [49]	<b>Listers</b> Automotive retailer	*1,207	*17	2,331	Mar 20	Bradshaw family (50%), Lister family (50%)
Meriden Warwickshire	85 [74]	<b>Pertemps Network Group</b> Recruitment consultancy	896	21	1,800	Dec 18	Management and employees (42%), Tim Watts (31%), LDC (27%)
Birmingham West Midlands	22 [12]	<b>2 Sisters Food Group</b> Food producer	2,741	92	20,746	Jul 19	Baljinder and Ranjit Boparan (100%)
Willenhall West Midlands	60 [44]	<b>A.F. Blakemore &amp; Son</b> Retail, wholesale and distribution	1,136	27	7,493	Apr 19	Blakemore family (100%)

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

\* Supplied by the company

† Annualised figure

## The national picture

This year's Top Track 100 achieved combined sales growth of 8% to a record total of £237bn compared with last year's 14% growth and total sales of £220bn. Profits grew 7% to a total of £28bn, also a record for the table. The companies employed 980,000 staff, having added 35,000 employees to their combined work force in their latest year. However, some, like **Arcadia, Clarks, Harrods, Heathrow, JCB, McLaren** and **Wates**, have recently announced significant job cuts as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

The dominant region for company HQs is London (32), followed by the southeast (17) and the Midlands (13). Of the remainder, 12 companies are based in the northwest, nine in Scotland, eight in the southwest, three in Northern Ireland, three in Yorkshire and the northeast, two in the East of England, and one in Wales.

The full league table is published as a 6-page supplement with the business section of **The Sunday Times** on 5 July, both in print and in the digital edition, and on [www.fasttrack.co.uk](http://www.fasttrack.co.uk).

**ENDS**

**PLEASE CREDIT IN FULL: "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 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 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 April and 1 July 2020; more than one third (35) of the companies provided up-to-date figures not yet publically available.

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