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top 20 hire companies

After Weeks of calls, emails, faxes and pleading we finally have to draw the line on our research and publish the results of our annual survey on the top Crane, Powered access and telehandler rental companies in the UK and Ireland.

This is our seventh year of collating this information, we are continuing to add to and cross check the information in order to continually improve its accuracy and usefulness. As in past years we have obliged to draw the line on our research before having received input from every company, so while the vast majority of data has been supplied by the company itself and then cross checked, some inevitably has been estimated.

Cranes

This year's top 20 listings actually include 25 companies as we have included the near misses as a first step towards expanding the survey to 25. Our findings this year indicate a stability in crane hire fleet numbers, certainly investment in new cranes has been high, yet much of the spending appears to have been made on fleet upgrades and replacements, rather than expansion. The UK's leading crane hirer Ainscough is a good example of this trend, it has almost doubled its investment in new cranes and yet the number of units in its fleet has reduced marginally to just under 500.

This year we have listed Mobiles and crawlers separately, although showing the crawlers owned by the leading mobile crane owners.

The top ten Mobile and crawler crane hirers has not changed since last year. The greatest activity is in the lower half of the chart, where a number of small to mid sized crane hirers appear to be doing well and expanding while others are finding it difficult. The full effects of this are likely to show up significantly in next year's survey.

TOP 20 MOBILE CRANE HIRERS

Company	Mobiles	Crawlers	Total
Ainscough	485	1	486
Hewden	292	0	292
Quinto	85	0	85
GBK	84	0	84
Marsh Plant	77	0	77
Bronzeshield	66	0	66
King Lifting	60	0	60
Baldwins	56	4	60
Emsley	52	0	52
William O'Brien	50	5	55
James Jack	48	0	48
Mamoet UK	40	0	40
Brynn Thomas	39	0	39
Nationwide	36	0	36
Kavanagh crane	36	0	36
McNallys	35	1	36
Terranova	45	0	45
Sparrow	33	15	48
Crane Hire Dublin	32	0	32
Quigley	31	0	31
Select	25	35	60
NMT	25	0	25
Kier Plant	20	20	40
Dewsbury&Proud	20	0	20
Beck&Politzer	23	0	23
Bob Francis	22	0	22

LARGEST CRANES

company	model	capacity
Sarens UK	Demag PC9600	2,000
Ainscough	Liebherr 11000DS	1,000
Baldwins	Liebherr 11000DS	1,000
McNallys	Demag TC2800-1	1,000
Quigley Cane Hire	Demag AC700	800
Weldex	Liebherr LR1750	800
James Jack Lifting	Grove GMK7550	550
Nationwide	Liebherr LTM 1500	500
Crane Hire Dublin	Demag AC1600	500
Kavanagh Crane Hire	Demag AC500-1	500
Bryn Thomas	Grove GMK7450	450
William O'Brian	LTM400	400
NMT	Demag AC350	400
Terranova	Demag AC350-1	350
Hewden	Terex Demag AC 300	300
Bronzeshield	Liebherr LTM1300/1	300
Mamoet UK	Liebherr LTM1300/1	300

TOWER CRANES

Company	Units	Manufacturer	Model
Select Plant	337	Comedil	CTL630
HTC	202	Wolff	500B
Airtek	110	Arcomet	A45B
Kier Plant	90	Potain	MD345B
City Lifting	86	Comansa	10LC140
Ladybird	65	Potain	Igo 50
Irish Cranes & Lifting	30	Liebherr	280EC H16



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Cranes continued

TOTAL FLEET BOOM LENGTH

Company	Total Boom Length	Company	Total Boom Length
Ainscough	18,000	Brynn Thomas	1,950
Hewden	12,936	BPH	1,849
Weldex	8,400	James Jack	1,799
Select	3,700	Nationwide	1,600
Marsh Plant	3,600	Kavanagh crane	1,600
NRC	3,500	McNallys	1,560
Baldwins	3,157	Terranova	1,400
King Lifting	2,950	Quigley	1,250
Bronzeshield	2,900	Sarens UK	1,140
William O'Brien	2,550	NMT	1,125
Quinto	2,500	Sparrow	990
Emsley	2,500	Beck&Politzer	920
Mamoet UK	2,200	Bob Francis	880
Crane Hire Dublin	2,008	Dewsbury&Proud	700
Kier Plant	2,000		

CRAWLER CRANES

Company	Total	Crawlers	Minis
Weldex	143	143	0
AGD	110	60	50
NRC	68	52	16
BPH	45	45	0
Select	35	35	0
Keir Plant	20	30	0

COMPANY DETAILS & INVESTMENT

Company	Investment £	Depots	Employees
Ainscough	16,750,000	25	908
Hewden	7,000,000	22	434
Weldex	6,000,000	4	158
Crane Hire Dublin	3,800,000	1	45
Brynn Thomas	3,000,000	3	76
NMT	3,000,000	3	40
Quinto	2,300,000	6	163
AGD	2,000,000	1	52
City Lifting	2,000,000	2	60
NRC	1,600,000	2	55
Sparrow	1,500,000	4	50
Dewsbury&Proud	1,000,000	2	29
Select	-	4	-
Marsh Plant	1,700,000	7	155
Terranova	1,000,000	2	80
Baldwins	-	6	94
King Lifting	-	7	138
Bronzeshield	-	3	-
William O'Brien	-	3	-
Emsley	-	2	78
Mammooet UK	-	2	60
James Jack	-	6	90
Nationwide	3,000,000	1	60
Kavanagh crane	-	4	70
Quigley	-	3	-
Sarens UK	-	1	65

Telehandlers

This is only the second time that we have included the Telehandler survey. It is still in its infancy compared to the cranes and access surveys. Obtaining good information has proved challenging, some of this does relate to the fact that telehandler rental is, with a few notable exceptions, not a specialised rental business and is integrated within general plant hire fleets.

It is our aim to expand on this between now and 2006. In the meantime a trend that we have noticed this year is the number of access rental companies that are now including telehandlers in their ranges. This trend is far more noticeable in Ireland where two of our top ten entries this year run large fleets of both Telehandlers and access. GPT is a general plant/telehandler hirer that is now big in powered access, while Easi Uplifts/Height for hire is an example of an access rental company that now has a significant telehandler fleet.



TOP 10 ACCESS FLEETS

Top 10 Telehandler fleets	Units	Largest	Depots	Employees
Hewden Plant Hire	1,700	Cat 580B	360	3,600
UK Forks	1,200	Dieci Pegasus	6	100
GE Capital	750	JCB 540 170	26	300
A-Plant	649	JCB 540 170	203	2000+
GPT	500	Manitou MRT2150	10	150
Hessle	450	Manitou MRT2540	3	65
Fork Rent	300	Manitou MRT2150	1	20
Easi Uplifts	205	Manitou MRT2150	5	125
Hawk Plant	200	Terex G3518	4	400
Charles Wilson	203	Manitou MRT2150	11	205

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 c&a top 20

Access

Unlike the crane market, activity in the powered access hire market has been far more dynamic this past year, with a number of companies from last year having run into financial difficulties resulting in substantial fleet reductions or even elimination. On the other hand a number of well run small to mid sized companies have grown substantially, boosting the number of fleets with over a thousand units to 12, up from ten last year. The UK also now supports four companies with fleets of over 2,000 units with AFI joining Nationwide, Hewden and the Platform Company.

Our Top 20 fleets in unit terms has now increased to 27 and we have also added a few additional categories, including van mounts and specials. While also showing more details of the largest units in each fleet.

TOP 25 ACCESS FLEETS

Company	Total Units	Booms	Scissors	Special	Truck mount	Van Mount	Trailer lifts
Nationwide	5924	2676	3060	3	174	0	11
Hewden	2,590	1230	1280	0	0	0	80
Platform Co	2229	838	1341	0	40	0	10
AFI	2000	720	1272	0	0	0	8
Easi Uplifts	1654	1,006	543	35	25	15	30
A-Plant	1581	651	819	81	0	0	30
Loxam	1500	600	650	0	100	150	0
Wizard *	1336	384	952	0	0	0	0
Panther	1260	400	800	20	10	20	10
HSS	1180	190	590	220	0	0	180
GPT	1110	450	650	0	0	0	10
Universal	1045	450	550	20	25	0	0
Access Rentals	1021	328	689	4	0	0	0
UK Platforms	870	485	385	0	0	0	0
Hi-Reach	816	270	520	0	0	0	26
Kimberly	684	220	464	10	0	0	0
Charles Wilson	625	250	375	10	0	0	10
Skylift Hire	607	297	300	5	0	0	5
Higher Platforms	560	200	350	10	0	0	0
ALL Access	550	250	300	0	0	0	0
SGB	450	200	250	0	0	0	0
AMP	439	139	265	17	4	6	8
EPL	408	97	56	2	103	150	0
UpLift	381	101	278	0	0	0	2
Kestrell	356	91	247	0	0	9	9
Facelift	346	35	110	10	76	25	90
GT Access	332	120	206	1	0	0	5

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TOTAL PLATFORM HEIGHT	
Company	Platform height
Nationwide	81,027m
Platform Co	19,800m
Loxam	19,600m
Panther	14,000m
UK Platforms	13,150m
AFI	12,750m
Hi Reach	11,000m
Easi UpLifts	11,350m
A-Plant	12,750m
Wizard	9,500m
Universal	8,500m
Access rentals	8,500m
HSS	6,700m
ALL Access	6,600m
Skylift Hire	5,900m
EPL	5,600m
Charles Wilson	4,600m
AMP	4,550m
Higher Platforms	4,400m
SGB	4,400m
UpLift	3,651m

LARGEST MACHINES				
Company	Boom	Scissor	Trailer	Truck
Hi-Reach	41m Genie 135/70	32m Liftlux 320	N/A	N/A
Easi UpLifts	41m Genie Z135/70	20.5 Liftlux SL205	42M Falcon FS420	50M Bronto 55MDT
Platform co	41m JLG 1350	30m Terex 100ft	15m UpRight TL49	21m Oil&Steel Snake 2190
Nationwide	38m Genie S125	26m Liftlux SL260	N/A	72m Bronto 72HLA
AFI	26m JLG 860SJ	24.5m Liftlux 245	N/A	N/A
Panther	30m Teupen	13m Liftlux 153/12	15m Nifty NL170	44m Oil&Steel Eagle
Skylift Hire	41m Genie Z135/70	21m JLG/Liftlux	30m Omme	N/A
Access Rentals	39m Grove AMZ131	19.5M Holland Lift B-195	N/A	N/A
EPL	26m Genie S85	12m JLG 40RTS	N/A	43m Wumag WT450
Wizard	38m Genie S125	20m Liftlux SL205	N/A	N/A
UK Platforms	41m JLG 1350	18m Haulotte 185SDX	NA	NA
Facelift	16m Haulotte HA16	10m Skyjack 4632	29m Omme 29	62m Bronto 62MDT
Kimberly	30m Haulotte HA32PX	31.5m Holland Lift G-300	11.5m UpRight TL38	N/A
A-Plant	26m JLG 80HX	15m JLG 500RTS	15m Nifty NL170	N/A
UpLift	23m Haulotte H25PX	15.3m Liftlux 153.12	N/A	N/A
Loxam	36m JLG 120HX	20.5m Liftlux SL205	N/A	72m Bronto 72HLA
AMP	26m Genie S85	15m JLG 50RTS	22m Aerial K22	21m CTE 232E
Charles Wilson	38m Genie S125	-	N/A	N/A
Kestrel	14m Genie Z45/35	12m UpRight LX41	15m Nifty NL170	N/A
Universal	46m JLG 150HAX	32m Liftlux FL320	N/A	62m Bronto 562MDT

COMPANY DETAILS & INVESTMENT			
Company	Investment £	Depots	Employees
Easi UpLift	not disclosed	5	125
Access Rentals	9,000,000	7	45
Platform Co	6,000,000	8	155
Nationwide	5,000,000	48	570
Panther	4,000,000	6	72
Hi-Reach	3,750,000	6	44
Skylift Hire	£3,400,000	3	25
Facelift	3,000,000	5	115
UK Platforms	3,000,000	6	50
UpLift	3,000,000	2	32
Charles Wilson	3,000,000	11	205
A-Plant	2,750,000	12	80
HSS	2,500,000	550	ND
AMP	2,000,000	4	50
EPL	1,500,000	8	122
Kestrel	1,000,000	1	26
Wizard	600,000	9	72
AFI	not disclosed	12	145
Loxam	not disclosed	17	140
GT Access	0	3	22
Kimberly	-	3	34



Ireland's largest truck mount 50m Bronto 55MDT owned by Easi-UpLifts