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# c&a TOP 20

## Chart toppers

Just in case you were sat there wondering who has invested in what this year, or who currently operates the UK and Ireland's largest crane and access platform rental fleets, then look no further – C&A presents its annual industry health-check.

### C&A TOP 20: CRANE FLEETS

COMPANY	MOBILE AND CRAWLER FLEET SIZE		TOTAL
	(MOBILES)	(CRAWLERS)	
Ainscough Crane Hire	524	-	524
Hewden Crane Hire	277	-	277
Weldex	-	170	170
JD Crane Group	103	-	103
AGD	-	102	102
Marsh Plant	84	-	84
Quinto Crane & Plant	80	-	80
King Lifting	58	-	58
William O'Brien	50	5	55
Sparrow Crane Hire	38	17	55
Emsley Crane Hire	53	-	53
Bronzeshield Lifting	52	-	52
Select Plant Hire	10	38	48
BPH Equipment	-	47	47
NRC Plant	-	47	47
Mammoet UK	39	-	39
Bryn Thomas Crane Hire	36	-	36
Nationwide Crane Hire	36	-	36
Crane Hire (Ire)	33	-	33
Emerson Crane Hire	32	1	33

Source: The C&A Top 20, Cranes & Access Vol 5.5

### C&A TOP 20: CRANES

COMPANY	TOTAL BOOM LENGTH (METRES)
Ainscough	18,221
Weldex	15,000 <sup>e</sup>
Hewden Crane Hire	11,000
Bronzeshield Lifting	8,595
Emerson Crane Hire	8,000
JD Crane Group	5,000
Emsley Crane Hire	4,000 <sup>e</sup>
Mammoet UK	3,705 <sup>e</sup>
Marsh Plant	3,553
Nationwide Crane Hire	3,425
Sarens	3,196 <sup>e</sup>
AGD Equipment	3,014 <sup>e</sup>
Select Plant Hire	2,836 <sup>e</sup>
NRC Plant	2,825
BPH Equipment	2,781
William O'Brien	2,500
Quinto Crane & Plant	2,232 <sup>e</sup>
Sparrow Crane Hire	2,100
McNally's Crane Hire	1,864
Bryn Thomas Crane Hire	1,566

Source: The C&A Top 20, Cranes & Access Vol 5.5

THOSE READERS familiar with our annual survey may have already noticed one major difference to this year's Top 10, that is, it is no longer a Top 10. This year we have bumped it up to included a further ten positions to each category. So, welcome to the first C&A Top 20.

One thing that should be made clear from the start is that the object of the listing is not to place an outright winner on a podium, stick a laurel wreath around its neck and shower them with champagne. The nature of the beast is rather to provide an indication into what the UK and Ireland's most prominent rental companies have been up to during the last 12 months and to provide a 'snap-analysis' of both the lifting and access markets. And, we believe that the information provided under each category provides a fair representation in doing so.

In one particular section, we ask participants to supply a total boom length for crane fleets, and a total platform height for platform fleets, the relevance of which, it has to be said, has been questioned more than once while compiling the survey. The logic is simple. The results allow the rental company with a few larger machines to be ranked alongside the rental company with the bigger fleet that is maybe made up a smaller units, Sarens UK being a prime example. Despite operating two of the UK and

### TOWER CRANES

COMPANY	NO OF TOWER CRANES	BIGGEST TOWER	CAPACITY (T)
Select Plant Hire	310	Terex Comedil CTL	24
HTC Plant	188	Wolff 60140B	45
Falcon Crane Hire	165	n/a	n/a
Mantis Cranes	110	Potain HDT 80	8
Kier Plant	95	Liebherr 280	12
City Lifting	60	Liebherr 200-HC	10

Source: The C&A Top 20, Cranes & Access Vol 5.5

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**INVESTMENT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS: CRANES**

COMPANY	NO OF DEPOTS	NO OF EMPLOYEES	INVESTMENT IN LAST 12 MONTHS: £MILLIONS
Ainscough Crane Hire	24	1,010	34.5
Hewden Crane Hire	12	400	8
Sarens	1	40	5.5
NRC Plant	2	60	5
Nationwide Crane Hire	1	57	4.8
Bryn Thomas Crane Hire	3	60	3.5
Bronzeshield Lifting	3	90	3.5
JD Crane Group	6	140	3.5
Emsley Crane Hire	2	79	3
William O'Brien	4	70	2.9
Quinto Crane Hire	6	150	2.5
King Lifting	7	110	2.5
Marsh Plant	7	110	2.2
AGD Equipment	3	50	2
Sparrow Crane Hire	1	60	2
McNally's Crane Hire	3	50	1.8
Emerson Crane Hire	1	60	1.6
John Sutch Crane Hire	2	50	1.5
Crane Hire (Ire)	1	49	1.5
BPH Equipment	1	60	1.3

Source: The C&A Top 20, Cranes & Access Vol 5.5



NRC Plant currently operates a fleet of 47 crawler cranes and is expecting to take delivery of a two new 90 tonne capacity Hitachi Sumitomo SCX900-2 units by the end of the year. Pictured is the 70 tonne capacity SCX700.



Ireland's largest capacity cranes, the 2000 tonne Demag PC 9600 and the 1200 tonne Gottwald AK 680, the company fails to secure a place in the Top 20 fleet size category. Does that make it a big or small rental company? The reader is invited to make up his/her own mind. But don't be rash, as a decision should not be made until the full set of stats for each entry has been viewed.

At a glance, Hewden Crane Hire falls from the number one spot in 2002 in the largest total boom length category this year, falling to 11 kilometres from a figure of 25.2 kilometres reported last year. Its access division Hewden Instant Access falls short of only Nationwide Access in both the total platform height and total unit categories in the access Top 20.

Ainscough tops the mobile/crawler fleet size category for the 3rd consecutive year with 524 units, up 84 cranes on last year's total – probably something to do with its £34.5 million investment figure, the

**HEAVY LIFT CRANES (ALL MOBILE CRANE TYPES)**

COMPANY	CRANE MODEL	CAPACITY (T)
Sarens	Demag PC 9600	2000
Sarens	Gottwald AK 680	1200
Ainscough	LTM11000DS	1000
Sarens	Liebherr LTM 1800 D	1000
McNally's Crane Hire	Demag TC3300	1000*1
Ainscough	Demag AC 2000	800
JD Crane Group	Demag AC 800	800
Sarens	Demag CC 4000	800
Sarens	Demag TC 3200	800
Sarens	Demag CC 26H	800

\*1 manufacturers rated capacity 500 tonnes

Source: The C&A Top 20, Cranes & Access Vol 5.5

Emerson Crane Hire invested a total of £1.6 million during the last 12 months and just makes it into the Top 20 greatest capacity crane list with its 250 tonne capacity Demag AC 665.



**GREATEST CAPACITY CRANES: MOBILE/CRAWLERS**

COMPANY	CRANE MODEL	CAPACITY (T)
Ainscough	Liebherr LTM 11000D	1000
McNally's Crane Hire	Demag TC3300	1000*
JD Crane Group	Demag AC 800	800
Weldex	Demag CC 2800	600
Mammoth UK	Liebherr LTM 1500	500
Nationwide Crane Hire	Liebherr LTM 1500	500
Crane Hire (Ire)	Demag AC 1600	500
Kavanah Crane Hire	Demag AC 500-1	500
William O'Brien	Liebherr LTM 400	400
Terranova	Demag AC 350	350
Hewden Crane Hire	Demag AC 300	300
Bryn Thomas	Demag AC 300	300
Quigley Crane Hire (Ire)	Demag HC 920	300
Gabriel O'Brien Crane Hire	Demag AC 300	300
John Sutch Crane Hire	Liebherr LTM 1300/1	300
Bronzeshield Lifting	Liebherr LTM 1300/1	300
Emerson Crane Hire	Demag AC 665	250
Select Plant Hire	Demag AC 250	250
NRC Plant	Sumitomo 1500 SL	230

\*manufacturers rated capacity 500 tonnes

Source: The C&A Top 20, Cranes & Access Vol 5.5

highest reported this year, and the acquisition of a fair chunk of Baldwins Industrial Services' fleet to boot. It has to be said that Ainscough's weighty investment is probably the reason why the total investment of the top 10 crane rental companies for the last 12 months is almost equal to that of £78.8 million made by the top 10 companies back in 2000, the highest

**TOP 20 ACCESS FLEETS**

COMPANY	TOTAL UNITS
Nationwide Access	6,180
Hewden Instant Access	2,080
Independent Access Supplies	1,910
A-Plant	1,600
Universal	1,598
UK Platforms	1,500
Loxam	1,250
Height for Hire (Ire)	1,057
The Platform Company	1,000
AFI	950
Loxam	900
Meek	900
UK Platforms	800
Panther	600
All Access	503
GT Access	400
EPL	400
SGB	400
AMP Access	320
Aerial Platform Hire	300

Source: The C&A Top 20, Cranes & Access Vol 5.5

## Vehicle mounted platforms

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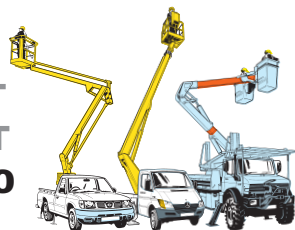


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## C&a TOP 20

### C&A TOP 20: ACCESS

COMPANY	TOTAL PLATFORM HEIGHT (METRES)
Nationwide Access	72,360
Hewden Instant Access	50,960e
Loxam	48,750e
Independent	41,3638e
UK Platforms	35,020e
A-Plant	22,192e
Height for Hire (Ire)	13,180
AFI	12,303e
The Platform Company	11,100e
All Access	9,087
GT Access	7,156e
SGB	7,120e
EPL	6,250e
Panther	6,000
AMP Access	5,970e
Facelift	4,000
Aerial Platform Hire	2,730e
Universal	2,403
AJ Access	1,419
North East Access	834

Source: The C&A Top 20, Cranes & Access Vol 5.5



All Access snaps up 14th place in the 'total units' category and is currently taking delivery of 90 new Skyjack platforms which will be distributed among the company's depots across the UK.

**c&a  
TOP 20**

recorded figure in the survey's four-year history.

A total investment sum of £40.5 million by the top 10 access companies this year, however, continues a three-year downward trend for the access industry and is the lowest investment since the staggering sum of £116 million was recorded in 2000's survey. Indeed, a familiar pattern is emerging across the board. And, apart from the Ainscough-fuelled year-on-

### TALLEST SINGLE PLATFORM

COMPANY	MODEL	HEIGHT (METRES)
Nationwide Access	Bronto T72B	72
Loxam	Bronto T72B	72
Universal	Bronto S62 MDT	62
Facelift	Bronto S62 MDT	62
All Access	Bronto 55 T1	55
Hewden Instant Access	JLG 1350	43
Aerial Platform Hire	JLG 1350	43
EPL	Bronto 402T1	42
Independent	JLG 1350 SJP	41.2
Height for Hire (Ire)	Grove AMZ 131xt	40.2
Rapid Platforms	Multitel 40 TJ	40
UK Platforms	Snorkel	38.4
AMP Access	Bronto S34	34
Panther	Bronto S34	34
GT Access	Teupen Leo 30	30
The Platform Company	Genie S85	28
AJ Access	Genie S85	28
A-Plant	Grove MZ90	27.7
SGB	n/a	27.7
North East Access	UpRight SB80	26.4

Source: The C&A Top 20, Cranes & Access Vol 5.5

## INVESTMENT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS: ACCESS

COMPANY	NO OF DEPOTS	NO OF EMPLOYEES	INVESTMENT IN LAST 12 MONTHS: £MILLIONS
UK Platforms	15	200	12
Hewden Instant Access	26	200	8
Loxam	16	150	6
All Access	4	19	4.2
Panther	4	45	2
EPL	8	125	2
Universal	6	90	2
Facelift	7	88	1.8
Height for Hire	5	105	1.5
A-Plant	12	104	1
Aerial Platform Hire	3	28	1
AMP Access	3	35	0.75
Rapid Platforms	1	27	0.2
Easy Access	2	30	0.1
North East Access	1	9	0.03
The Platform Company	5	70	n/a
GT Access	4	60	n/a
Independent	8	110	n/a
Nationwide Access	50	600	n/a
AJ Access	1	4	n/a
AFI	8	55	n/a

Source: The C&A Top 20, Cranes & Access Vol 5.5

Hewden Crane Hire this year is knocked off the number one spot in the total boom length chart for the first time in four years.



c&a  
TOP 20

## VEHICLE MOUNT FLEETS

COMPANY	TOTAL UNITS
EPL	350
Loxam	197
Nationwide	181
Facelift	112
Universal	60
Height for Hire	28
All Access	19
AMP Access	16

Source: The C&A Top 20, Cranes & Access Vol 5.5

year investment increase by this year's Top 10 crane rental companies, the survey is yet to show a time during the last three years where the total investment made by the combined cranes or access rental companies exceeds the previous year's figure. It will be interesting see if the trend continues in the Top 20 2004, and keep an eye out for next year's crane investment figure as this year's will take some beating.

C&A would like to thank all those who took part in the survey. Where we have estimated a figure it appears in italics. All other information is as it was provided by the participating company. If you feel that your company should have appeared, please contact the Editor on fax 01273 88 44 22 or e-mail info@vertikal.net. Last year's results, and those of our German sister magazine Kran & Buhne, can be found at www.Vertikal.net.



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