

TOP

Which companies are investing; where are the most comprehensive fleets?



Hewden performs well in both cranes and access

This survey is intended as a 'health check' for the industry. If you are considering doing business with a rental company, it is useful to know who is rising through the ranks in our Top 10 each year. It is good to check the rate of investment, number of trained staff and depots and, of course, which company will be able to offer you a good choice of machinery.

Obviously, big is not always beautiful. Smaller companies may sometimes be better placed to give attentive customer service – and may be more interested in keeping your custom than some big players. The way this survey is done allows those companies with lots of units to rank alongside those with only a few large ones. This is the reasoning behind the calculation of total, incorporated boom length, where we ask companies to calculate how large a boom they would have if all their machines were

piled one on top of another. Although it might seem a strange exercise it's useful for you to be able to calculate average boom length.

This time around, Hewden once again heads up the crane Top 10 for corporate boom length, with 25,256 metres in total. This gives an average boom length of 77.7 metres, including extensions.

C&A TOP 10: CRANES

Company	Total boom length (metres)
Hewden	25,256
Ainscough	18,460
Baldwins	16,800
Weldex	15,885
Emerson	8,700
Taylor	5,040
Ruttle	5,000
City Lifting	4,644
Bronzeshield	4,250
William O'Brien	4,000

Source: The C&A Top 10, Cranes & Access Vol 4.4

INVESTMENT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS: CRANES

Company	No of Depots	No of Employees	Investment in last 12 months: £millions
Weldex	4	170	11
Ainscough	24	792	9.2
Baldwins	14	530	6
Hewden	12	425	6
Mammoet	2	30	4
Nationwide Crane Services	1	58	3.8
Marsh Plant	7	110	2.7
Emsley	2	71	2.4
Emerson	2	70	2
John Sutch	2	50	2

Source: The C&A Top 10, Cranes & Access Vol 4.4

In access, Nationwide has somewhat swept the board, including the total boom length figure. At 82,000 metres, this means that the average height of the fleet is 13.3 metres.

We were ready for some surprise results this year. And one of those surprises has turned out to be the lack of movement throughout the survey. Baldwins, despite a turbulent year or so following the collapse of Independent Insurance, has managed to invest an impressive £9.2 million in the last 12 months, compared to £10 million in the period to June 2001.

Weldex continues its strong investment lead – this year spending £11 million. Last year the sum was £16 million – the year before, in 2000, it spent £10.4 million. That year, Baldwins topped the investment survey with a spend of £30 million.

TOP 10

C&A TOP 10: CRANE FLEETS

Company	No of mobile and crawler cranes
Ainscough	438
Baldwins	371
Hewden	325
Weldex	175
Taylor	97
Marsh Plant	88
Quinto	80
King Lifting	55
William O'Brien	54
Bronzeshield	53

Source: The C&A Top 10, Cranes & Access Vol 4.4

Baldwins is still doing well in the annual Top10



As usual, Ainscough is placed in each chart – and maintains the UK's largest crane fleet with 467 mobiles. Baldwins has overtaken Hewden, by adding 51 cranes to its fleet, according to the year on year figures given.

Bronzeshield, Emerson and James Jack all make an appearance for the first time for the ten greatest capacity cranes – although, as ever there is a marked difference between those at the top and the bottom – this case, Ainscough has approximately eight times the amount of stock as those smaller companies. Please note that Easi Up Lift incorporates Height for Hire. ►

GREATEST CAPACITY CRANES

Company	Crane model	Capacity (tonnes)
Baldwins	Gottwald AK 912	1200
Ainscough	Demag AC650	800
Hewden	Demag AC2000	800
Weldex	Demag CC 2800	600
Nationwide Crane Services	Liebherr LTM 1500 Y	500
Crane Hire	Demag AC 1600	500
James Jack	Liebherr LTM 1350	350
Emerson	Demag AC350	350
Bronzeshield	Liebherr LTM 1300	300
William O'Brien	Krupp	250

Source: The C&A Top 10, Cranes & Access Vol 4.4

TOP 10

**Nationwide
swept the board
for this year's
Access Top 10**

INVESTMENT IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS: ACCESS

Company	No of Depots	No of Employees	Investment in last 12 months: £millions
Nationwide	50	663	16.4
Hewden Instant Access	23	200	8.5
A-Plant	16	115	6
Independent	8	70	6
Universal	5	86	2.5
Facelift	6	85	2.5
EPL	8	115	2
Platform Company	5	55	2
Panther	3	40	1.6
Easi Up Lifts	6	105	1.6

Source: The C&A Top 10, Cranes & Access Vol 4.4

TOP 10 ACCESS FLEETS

Company	Total units (vehicle mounts)
Nationwide	6,173 (173)
Universal	3,566 (57)
Hewden Instant Access	2,500
A-Plant	1,700
Independent	1,500
Loxam	1,375 (175)
Easi Up Lifts	1,040 (16)
Platform Company	700
Panther	350 (30)
EPL	397 (222)

Source: The C&A Top 10, Cranes & Access Vol 4.4



C&A TOP 10: ACCESS

Company	Total platform height (metres)
Nationwide	82,000
A-Plant	80,000
Loxam	57,074
Independent	27,859
Platform Company	24,000
Universal	23,400
Hewden Instant Access	19,531
Easi Up Lifts	12,387
EPL	6,134
Facelift	4,194

Source: The C&A Top 10, Cranes & Access Vol 4.4

◀ These are encouraging signs. However, since we started publishing this survey in 2000, there have been major changes in both the access and crane industries. Judge for yourself what it means that the total invested per year in the access top 10 fleets from 2000 to 2002 has fallen from £116 million in 2000, to £60.05 million in 2001 and, this year, £41.64 million.

In crane investment 2000 saw £78.8 million invested in the preceding 12 months by the Top 10, that dropped to £55.8 million in 2001 and further fell to £45.6 million in 2002. Crane fleets in this period have steadily grown in general, although there have been some interesting patterns. Take Ainscough for example, which has reported a 237 strong fleet in 2000, gone up to 467 in 2001, then dropped back again this year to 438.

All in all, the survey shows that those accustomed to ruling the roost are quite safe on their perches. Perhaps the levels of investment in both the crane and access industries during 2000 were unrealistic and have contributed to the present investment slide. It will be interesting to see whether consolidation and a levelling off of hire rates will be achieved this year, and how that will be reflected in the Top 10 2003. ■

TALLEST SINGLE PLATFORM

Company	Model	Height (metres)
Loxam	Bronto S72 HLA	72
Nationwide	Bronto S72 HLA	72
Universal	Bronto Skylift HDT 62	62
Facelift	Bronto Skylift HDT 62	62
EPL	Bronto 42 T1	42
Hewden Instant Access	Genie GS125	38
Independent	Genie GS125	38
Easi Up Lifts	Genie GS125	38
Panther	Bronto Skylift S34	34
Rapid	Multitel 32TJ	32

Source: The C&A Top 10, Cranes & Access Vol 4.4

Our thanks to all those who took part in this 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 77 or email info@vertical.net. Last year's results, and those of our German sister magazine, can be found at www.Vertical.net