

# Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies Index | 2015



investing  
in **your** future  
European Regional Development Fund  
European Union



*think* Sandwell





# Introduction

**Think Sandwell is an initiative that seeks to add value and make it easier for businesses to locate to and do business in Sandwell. It is committed to supporting all businesses right from the very beginning of their growth journey as a start up or an established company. Whether it is help in sourcing funding for expansion or opportunities to build relationships with key stakeholders, Think Sandwell provides tailored programmes to suit each individual business's needs.**

We have helped to secure millions of pounds in funding for new and existing businesses in Sandwell; which has resulted in hundreds of jobs being created and safeguarded; organised dozens of different events for networking opportunities; and helped companies make strategic business contacts resulting in new commercial partnerships and contracts.

As part of our continued drive to provide critical support to Sandwell's businesses and showcase the region's business strength, we have identified 50 of the fastest growing companies in the borough. This report celebrates these companies and recognises the vital contribution they are making to Sandwell and the wider region's economic prosperity.

#### **Disclaimer**

The companies included in the Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies were selected by conducting an initial search of FAME for companies with registered offices in Sandwell. We took the fastest growing 50 companies by turnover, based on the most recent filed accounts. The current year financial information is based on the most recent filed accounts available on FAME, with the previous year comparatives based on the previous year's financial results for 50 companies.

To produce the financial information we analysed the data contained within FAME, with no consolidation adjustments. Depending on the accounts filed, some of our figures will be based on consolidated accounts and some on entity-only accounts. In addition, some of the financial information will be based on UK generally accepted accounting principles accounts and others will be based on International Financial Reporting Standards accounts. The financial information in this report has been compiled exclusively from publicly available information under the key assumptions and limitations outlined in the first two paragraphs.

It has been designed solely to illustrate trends in revenue growth of the top 50 fastest growing companies in Sandwell. Sandwell Council and Marketing Birmingham have not carried out any verification work on the financial information in this report and give no opinion on the financial information. Sandwell Council and Marketing Birmingham make no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the contents of this report. No reliance should be placed on the information contained in this report and, to the fullest extent permitted by law, Sandwell Council and Marketing Birmingham do not accept or assume any responsibility or liability to anyone for the information contained in this report. Sandwell Council and Marketing Birmingham do not, and cannot, warrant the completeness or accuracy of the adjustments made during the aggregation.





**Sandwell has grown from strength to strength, and the borough we see today is vastly different from what we witnessed just a decade ago.**

*Sandwell has some of the UK's brightest minds in design, advanced manufacturing, engineering and the built environment*

As a council, we have worked hard to capitalise on Sandwell's business strengths and transform the borough into a diverse and sustainable economy with productive and innovative companies and a highly skilled workforce.

This has involved building an environment that supports business confidence, development and growth, and provides local and regional people with attractive job opportunities.

But, we are not being complacent. More work yet needs to be done to showcase Sandwell's business opportunity and talent.

We have, therefore, launched an annual Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies Index, which celebrates the success of Sandwell's fastest growing companies, according to their rate of growth in turnover.

These businesses are contributing significantly to Sandwell's business and economic success, employing over 12,000 people and helping to build a formidable reputation for the borough as a business and investment destination, with interest both locally and abroad.

The index clearly demonstrates Sandwell's strength in the manufacturing, construction and automotive sectors. These key sectors are the UK's engine for growth and Sandwell plays a vital, national role in growing these key, traditional sectors.

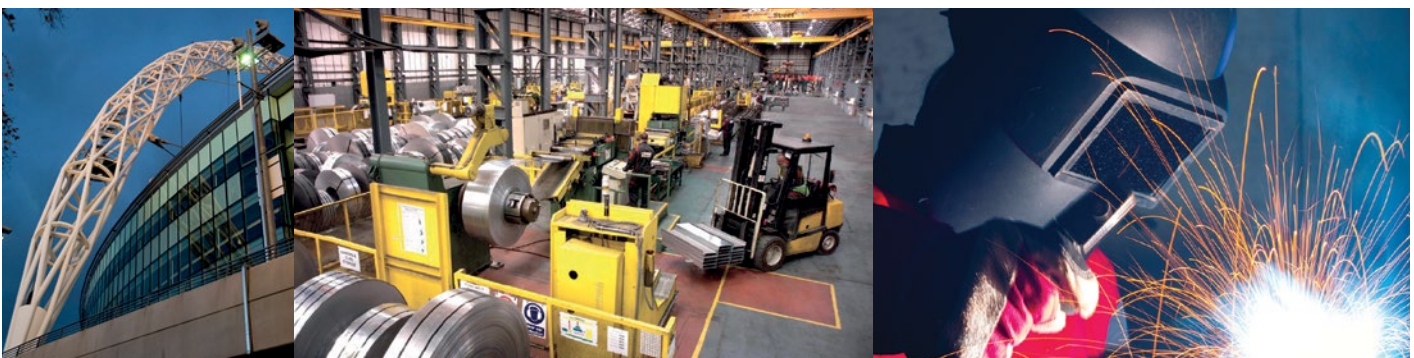
In fact, just under half of the top 50 companies come from the manufacturing sector. Sandwell has a long manufacturing tradition spanning centuries and has, over the years, developed significant expertise in advanced manufacturing, which has helped us to become the UK's supply chain capital.

In automotive for instance, 16 of the world's top 20 first tier suppliers and more than 1,500 second and third tier suppliers can be found in the West Midlands region, with many of them in Sandwell due to our proximity to the automotive supply chain and strategic location in the heart of the UK.

Sandwell has some of the UK's brightest minds in design, advanced manufacturing, engineering and the built environment, and we are committed to showcasing our talent, experience and expertise both here and abroad.

We are also proud of our support for SMEs. Since the recession, SMEs have driven the UK's economic recovery. Sandwell has always encouraged entrepreneurship. Three out of five companies in the top 50 are SMEs.

We are proud of what Sandwell has achieved over the years. And, we are proud of our businesses and workforce. We aim to continue this upward trajectory and develop into an even more attractive destination for business – our top 50 fastest growing companies will help us achieve that.





# Findings at a glance





12,000

STAFF  
EMPLOYED  
BY TOP 50  
COMPANIES ↙

68% ↗

HIGHEST REVENUE GROWTH  
RATE IN TOP 50 EXPERIENCED BY  
CAB AUTOMOTIVE

20+%

REVENUE  
GROWTH RATE BY  
TOP 18 COMPANIES ↗

NEARLY  
30 companies ↗

EXPERIENCED  
DOUBLE DIGIT  
GROWTH

# Case studies

## GROWTH IN THE FAST LANE



*"We have worked closely with Think Sandwell. We value the support provided by the council and look forward to working with them in the future"*

**As the fastest growing company in Sandwell according to the index, Cab Automotive is a leading supplier of interior solutions to the automotive industry. With best-in-class interior seats and trims for the world's most prestigious brands, the company has created a solid foundation for new product development and entry into new markets, including caravans and military equipment.**

Since securing funding from the Regional Growth Fund via support from Think Sandwell, Cab Automotive has invested over £4 million to buy its facility in Tipton, giving the company the flexibility and stability to meet the needs of its growing customer base. Together with bank lending, the funding and tax rebates on R&D have supported the company in investing in new plant and equipment, resulting in sustainable growth and job creation for the wider region.

Commenting on the index's findings, Richard Semmens, Managing Director, said: "We are delighted to be recognised as the fastest growing company in Sandwell. Since 2005, we have grown our business to become a leading international player in the automotive industry, providing premium brands with high quality interior solutions.

"Throughout our time as a business, we have worked closely with Think Sandwell. We value the support provided by the council and look forward to working with them in the future."

The company, which employs 580 people in Tipton, had a turnover of £33 million last year, representing an increase of 67.9 per cent on the previous year's trading.

## GLOBAL ROLLING GROWTH



**With its focus on investment and research and development, the Hadley Group has distinguished itself from its peers. For instance, its Group Technology Academy, the largest of its kind in the UK, has helped it be at the forefront of advanced technological development in cold roll forming.**

One of the company's most successful inventions is the internationally patented Ultra STEEL® process, which won the Queen's Award for Enterprise Innovation. This process has revolutionised the production of steel section components - used primarily in the construction industry - throughout the world.

Stewart Towe, Managing Director and Chair of the Black Country LEP, believes Sandwell's Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies Index confirms the borough's reputation as the supply chain capital of the UK:

"The Top 50 index demonstrates the major contribution that businesses in Sandwell are making to the manufacturing, construction and automotive sectors, not just in the UK but around the world. We have a strong partnership with Think Sandwell and will continue to work with them to enhance the area's growing reputation as the supply chain capital of the UK."

The company, which employs 500 people in Smethwick, is the UK's largest independent manufacturer of cold rolled metal sections and profiles. It had a turnover of £99 million last year, representing an increase of 5.4 per cent on the previous year's trading.





**LOCKING IN GROWTH WITH BIG BRANDS**



**Based in Tipton, Huf UK Ltd has gone from strength to strength having benefitted from the region's successful automotive industry. In the last year, the German automotive manufacturer has expanded its customer base, supplying the world's leading brands, including Daimler, Jaguar Land Rover and Nissan, with bespoke door handle solutions and electronic locking systems.**

To deal with the rise in order volumes, the company has significantly invested in its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility and equipment, and added to its talented workforce. In the last year alone, it recruited over 70 staff members, bringing its staff total to over 350 full time and 30 temporary employees.

Commenting on Sandwell's Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies Index, Ömer Hamza, Managing Director at Huf UK, said:

"In the last year, we have experienced substantial growth on the back of increased demands from current customers as well as new business. We are the supplier of door handles and lockset solutions to the world's leading car manufacturers, and have invested heavily in the company state-of-the-art facilities and staff."

Huf UK Ltd have achieved an increase of 35 per cent growth in turnover to around £29m in the previous year.

**DELIVERING PERFECT GROWTH CURVE**



**Investment in key pieces of equipment enables The Angle Ring Company to drive financial growth by expanding its unique plate bending operation.**

After securing a Regional Growth Fund grant with support from Think Sandwell, Angle Ring embarked on an expansion programme to complement its portfolio of metal bending services, including section and induction bending, press braking and welding services.

The expansion boosted the company's competitive advantage, providing customers with greater choice.

The company's investment in a unique plate rolling machine, capable of bending a three-metre wide plate over 130mm thick, provides UK customers with the unique proposition of now placing orders with The Angle Ring rather than overseas suppliers. Other new plate rolling equipment has boosted production speeds giving the company a competitive edge over firms using manual-based systems.

David Springthorpe, Managing Director, said: "We have continued to evolve our plate bending offering over the last 15 years. Our recent investment significantly strengthened our portfolio and provided the catalyst to drive growth. With the widest range of plate bending services in the UK, we are well placed to win more domestic and export work."

The company, which employs approximately 100 people in Tipton, enjoyed a turnover of just over £8 million, representing an increase of 6.4 per cent on the previous year's trading.

*Our recent investment significantly strengthened our portfolio and provided the catalyst to drive growth*

# Top 50 Fastest Growing Companies

COUNT	COMPANY NAME	SECTOR	TURNOVER £000s LAST AVAILABLE YEAR (N)	TURNOVER £000s IN PRIOR YEAR (N-1)	% GROWTH IN TURNOVER	LATEST ACCOUNTS DATE
1	CAB Automotive Limited.	Motor trades	32,648	19,443	67.9	31/12/2013
2	Generation (UK) Limited	Construction	68,951	46,295	48.9	31/08/2014
3	Steel & Alloy Processing Limited	Motor trades	153,484	109,896	39.7	31/12/2013
4	Darlaston Builders Merchants Limited	Construction	15,562	11,386	36.7	30/06/2014
5	HUF U.K. Limited	Motor trades	28,839	21,416	34.7	31/12/2013
6	Dukehill Limited	Property	19,113	14,424	32.5	31/12/2013
7	Primetake Limited	Manufacturing	4,466	3,432	30.1	30/06/2013
8	Arcelormittal Tailored Blanks Birmingham Limited	Manufacturing	13,554	10,464	29.5	31/12/2013
9	Stanford Industrial Concrete Flooring Limited	Construction	19,690	15,228	29.3	31/03/2014
10	Keltruck Limited	Motor trades	138,894	108,280	28.3	31/12/2013
11	Pargat & Co Limited	Manufacturing	27,736	21,699	27.8	30/09/2013
12	Lift And Engineering Services Limited	Manufacturing	10,666	8,448	26.3	31/03/2014
13	Alutrade Limited	Recycling	15,710	12,486	25.8	31/03/2014
14	International Tyres & Trading Limited	Motor trades	16,263	13,060	24.5	28/02/2014
15	Geopost UK Limited	Transport & storage	492,252	396,592	24.1	31/12/2013
16	Jerseytex Limited.	Manufacturing	14,729	12,077	22.0	31/05/2014
17	Harper Group Construction Limited	Construction	2,682	2,227	20.4	31/12/2013
18	Newby Foundries Limited	Manufacturing	11,724	9,773	20.0	31/12/2013
19	The Independent Coatings Group Limited	Manufacturing	9,155	8,019	14.2	31/03/2014
20	<i>Company not disclosed</i>	Manufacturing	7,744	6,794	14.0	31/01/2014
21	Corrugated Box Supplies Limited	Manufacturing	12,311	10,840	13.6	31/12/2013
22	Olympus Distribution Limited	Wholesale & retail	14,816	13,056	13.5	31/03/2014
23	Kee Safety Logistics Limited	Construction	13,027	11,578	12.5	31/12/2013
24	Direct Corporate Clothing PLC	Wholesale & retail	15,026	13,451	11.7	30/09/2013
25	Signature Limited	Manufacturing	12,148	10,878	11.7	31/12/2013
26	Robinson Brothers Limited	Manufacturing	31,484	28,290	11.3	31/12/2013
27	Joseph And Jesse Siddons Limited	Manufacturing	6,531	5,871	11.2	30/06/2014
28	J.H. Lavender & Company Limited	Manufacturing	13,276	12,061	10.1	31/10/2013
29	Sheldon Clayton Logistics Limited	Transport & storage	14,471	13,317	8.7	31/03/2014
30	B.T.C. Activewear Limited	Wholesale & retail	47,981	44,320	8.3	31/12/2013
31	Dalair Limited	Manufacturing	10,791	10,024	7.7	31/12/2013
32	Midshire Business Systems Limited	Other services	11,490	10,706	7.3	31/08/2013
33	Ash & Lacy Building Systems Limited	Manufacturing	24,632	22,971	7.2	31/12/2013
34	Access Technologies Limited	Manufacturing	4,638	4,340	6.9	31/12/2013
35	A.Clarke & Co.(Smethwick) Limited	Transport & storage	34,588	32,368	6.9	31/03/2014
36	BHJ Ingredients UK Limited	Food	13,468	12,610	6.8	31/12/2013
37	East End Foods PLC	Food	170,276	159,598	6.7	30/04/2014
38	Diamond Box Limited	Manufacturing	21,541	20,198	6.6	30/11/2013
39	Angle Ring Company Limited (The)	Manufacturing	8,082	7,595	6.4	31/03/2014
40	Thyssenkrupp Materials (UK) Limited	Wholesale & retail	160,758	151,220	6.3	30/09/2013
41	Forkers Limited	Construction	28,591	26,898	6.3	31/03/2014
42	Beeswift Limited	Wholesale & retail	35,368	33,365	6.0	30/09/2013
43	Exol Lubricants Limited	Manufacturing	70,466	66,634	5.8	31/12/2013
44	Lowes Transport Group Limited	Transport & storage	5,015	4,746	5.7	30/09/2013
45	Hadley Industries PLC	Manufacturing	98,599	93,509	5.4	30/04/2014
46	Briggs Amasco Limited	Construction	36,974	35,141	5.2	31/12/2013
47	Voestalpine Metsec PLC	Manufacturing	75,535	71,931	5.0	31/03/2014
48	Cuxson Gerrard & Company Limited	Manufacturing	8,633	8,225	5.0	31/03/2014
49	H. & E. Knowles (LYE) Limited	Manufacturing	7,942	7,567	5.0	31/01/2014
50	Brockhouse Group Limited	Manufacturing	9,897	9,435	4.9	31/03/2014

