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Special Report FT 1000: Europe's Fastest Growing Companies

European companies

The FT 1000: third annual list of Europe's fastest-growing companies

Ranking highlights disrupters and others expanding rapidly at the top line

Ian Smith MARCH 1, 2019

Europe's growth companies have big challenges ahead, from the potential disruption of Brexit to the end of the era of easy money. But this annual FT 1000 ranking — now in its third year — suggests that there are still many routes to increasing revenues at a rapid pace.



The FT 1000, compiled with [Statista](#), lists the European companies that achieved the highest compound annual growth rate in revenue between 2014 and 2017. The hurdle to securing a place was a little higher this year: the bottom-ranked company achieved a growth rate of 37.7 per cent, compared with 34.6 per cent [last year](#).

Food delivery start-up Deliveroo has been edged off the top spot by fellow UK company Blue Motor Finance, which provides point-of-sale car finance. Meal-kit delivery service HelloFresh, which topped the 2017 ranking, is one of 91 companies that have demonstrated consistent turnover growth by making the list for three years running.

The FT 1000 continues to be dominated by the technology sector, which accounts for 149 of the businesses, and that is without counting the fintech and ecommerce categories. Again, Germany has the lion's share of company headquarters at 230, while London remains the top city, with 63 businesses based there — down from last year's 74.

Scroll below the interactive table for a full methodology.

Rank	Company	In 2018 list?	In 2017 list?	Country	Sector	Absolute growth
1	Blue Motor Finance	yes	no	United Kingdom	Financial Services	51.1%
2	Deliveroo	yes	no	United Kingdom	Food & Beverage	15.1%
3	Taxify	no	no	Estonia	Technology	12.1%
4	Solectric	no	no	Germany	Technology	7.1%
5	Psioxus Therapeutics	no	no	United Kingdom	Pharmaceuticals	7.1%
6	Housekeep	no	no	United Kingdom	Technology	6.1%
7	Crep Protect	no	no	United Kingdom	Fashion	5.1%

Feedback

Rank	Company	In 2018 list?	In 2017 list?	Country	Sector	Absolute growth
8	Viajes Libratur (iTravex)	yes	no	Spain	Travel & Leisure	5,1
9	Darktrace	no	no	United Kingdom	Cyber Security	4,1
10	NBWM	no	no	Netherlands	Fintech	4,1
11	Bis Rénovation Energie	no	no	France	Construction	4,1
12	Donatella*	no	no	Germany	Food & Beverage	4,1
13	KUPELA	no	no	France	Food & Beverage	3,1
14	Jungle Creations	no	no	United Kingdom	Media	3,1
15	FIDUCIM	no	no	France	Property	3,1
16	InStaff & Jobs	no	no	Germany	Support Services	3,1
17	Eskimoz	yes	no	France	Support Services	3,1
18	Tantal	no	no	Germany	Ecommerce	3,1

Feedback

** Companies marked with an asterisk had less than 12 months of revenue in the 2014 financial year, but it still passed €100,000 revenue.*

*** Companies marked with a double asterisk have been acquired since the ending of the relevant timeframe.*

Methodology

The FT 1000: Europe's Fastest Growing Companies is a list of the top 1000 companies in Europe that have achieved the highest percentage growth in revenues between 2014 and 2017.

The ranking of the FT 1000 was created through a complex procedure. Although the search was very extensive, the ranking does not claim to be complete, as some companies did not want to make their figures public or did not participate for other reasons.

The project was advertised online and in print, allowing all eligible companies to register via the websites created by Statista and the Financial Times. In addition, through research in company databases and other public sources Statista has identified tens of thousands of companies in Europe as potential candidates for the FT 1000 ranking. These companies were invited to participate in the competition by post, email and telephone.

The application phase ran from September 1 2018 to December 31 2018. The submitted revenue figures had to be certified by the CFO, CEO or a member of the executive committee of the company.

Criteria for inclusion in the list

To be included in the list of Europe's fastest growing companies, a company had to meet the following criteria:

- Revenue of at least €100,000 generated in 2014 (or currency value equivalent according to the average of the actual fiscal year).
- Revenue of at least €1.5 million generated in 2017 (or currency value equivalent according to the average of the actual fiscal year).
- The company is independent (the company is not a subsidiary or branch office of any kind).
- The revenue growth between 2014 and 2017 was primarily organic (ie "internally" stimulated)
- If a company is listed on a stock exchange, its share price has not fallen 50% or more since 2017

Companies from these countries were eligible to participate: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

Calculation of growth rates

The calculation of company growth rates is based on the revenue figures submitted by the companies in the respective national currency. For better comparability in the ranking the revenue figures were converted into euros. The average exchange rate for the financial year indicated by the company was used for this purpose.

The compound annual growth rate (CAGR) was calculated as follows:

$$\left(\frac{\text{revenue}_{2017}}{\text{revenue}_{2014}}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} - 1 = \text{CAGR}$$

The absolute growth between 2014 and 2017 was calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{revenue}_{2017}}{\text{revenue}_{2014}} - 1 = \text{Growth rate}$$

Evaluation and quality assurance

All data reported by the companies was processed and checked by Statista. Missing data entries (employee numbers, address data, etc.) were researched in detail. Companies that did not fulfill the criteria for inclusion in the ranking were deleted.

The minimum average growth rate required to be included in the ranking this year was 37.7 per cent.

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ABOUT THIS SPECIAL REPORT

Now in its third year, this ranking of businesses by revenue growth shows that tech remains king, while a wave of web-savvy retailers are being lifted by consumer trends. London remains the most popular city for these companies, but its number of constituents is falling

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