

By continuing to use this site you consent to the use of cookies on your device as described in our [cookie policy](#) unless you have disabled them. You can change your [cookie settings](#) at any time but parts of our site will not function correctly without them.

Starting a Business

London is top centre for fast-growing EU companies

HelloFresh and Codewise lead new FT1000 ranking of high-growth groups



5 HOURS AGO by: **Owen Walker**

London has emerged as Europe's capital for fast-growing [companies](https://www.ft.com/companies) (<https://www.ft.com/companies>) — ahead of Paris, Milan and Berlin — highlighting its importance as a hub for innovation and commerce in the EU even as the UK prepares to leave the bloc.

The new [FT1000 list of European companies](https://ig.ft.com/ft-1000/) (<https://ig.ft.com/ft-1000/>) with the strongest sales growth between 2012 and 2015, shows that 78 are based in London. Behind the British capital are Paris with 45 companies, Milan with 34 and 32 in Berlin.

“There are lots of young dynamic companies in London, you only have to walk around Old Street [the heart of London's equivalent of Silicon Valley] to see them,” said Henry Lawson, manager of Royal London's UK smaller companies fund. He

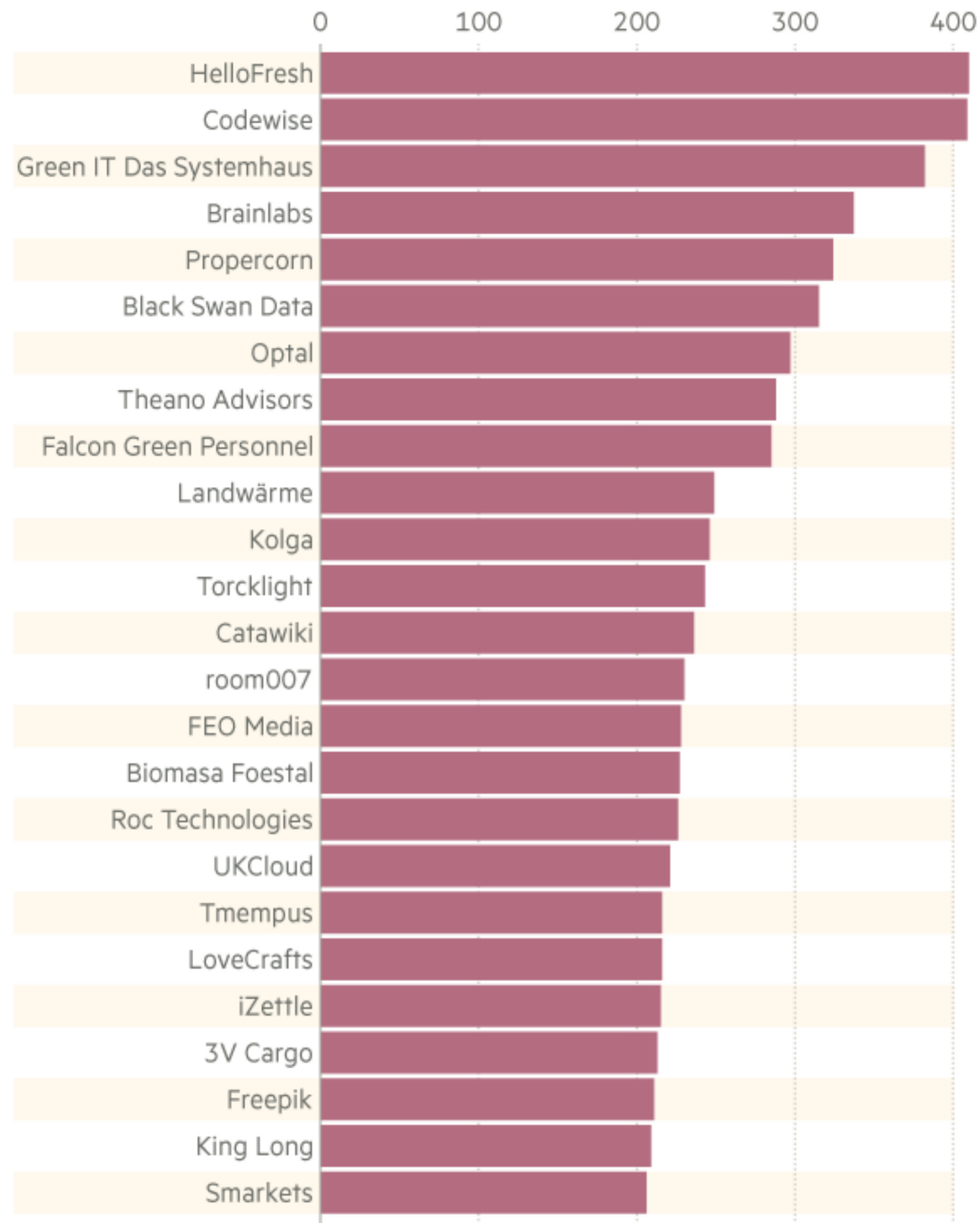
added that access to capital, in particular the London Stock Exchange's Aim, had helped fuel corporate growth.

The inaugural ranking of 1,000 companies from 24 countries was compiled by Statista, a market research company, in collaboration with the Financial Times.

The two fastest-growing companies — [HelloFresh \(https://www.hellofresh.co.uk/tasty/\)](https://www.hellofresh.co.uk/tasty/), a food delivery business headquartered in Berlin; and [Codewise \(https://codewise.com/#\)](https://codewise.com/#), a technology company based in Krakow, Poland — increased revenues by more than 13,000 per cent over the period. Each was founded in 2011, while the average company in the list started in 2004.

FT 1000: Europe's fastest-growing companies

By revenues, 2012-15 (average annual % change)



Source: Financial Times

FT

Companies from Germany and the UK dominated the rankings, with the two countries accounting for a combined 47 per cent of businesses. Italian companies made up 19 per cent, with 14 per cent from France and 10 per cent from Spain.

The FT1000 ranking also displays the number of jobs created and is weighted in

favour of companies that grew organically rather than by acquiring rivals.

Simon Rowe, manager of the European growth fund at Henderson Global Investors, said that acquisitions sometimes provided red flags when analysing whether a company's growth could be sustainable. "The most obvious warning signals can be . . . deals that are too large or acquisitions that take a company away from its area of expertise," he said.

Mr Lowson added: "I would not want to invest in a company if its growth was solely based on acquisitions. However, combining organic and acquisitive growth gives shareholders two bites of the cherry."

Mr Rowe warned that there were other warnings of unsustainable growth that would not be picked up by the calculations used to compile the FT 1000 list. "Softer signals can be arrogant behaviour, perhaps in company meetings, and unexplained departures of experienced managers."

An [FT special report \(http://www.ft.com/ft1000\)](http://www.ft.com/ft1000) on the FT1000 will be published online worldwide and in print in Europe on April 24.

Print a single copy of this article for personal use. Contact us if you wish to print more to distribute to others. © The Financial Times Ltd.

Latest on Starting a Business

Starting a Business

Podcast How to make your start-up idea a reality

Join Jonathan Moules for a bonus episode of Start-up Stories



Philip Delves Broughton

A cannily branded tonic for dismal spirit world

Sipsmith's success is a fine example of the 'never get enough' principle

Starting a Business

Eritrean engineer punches hole in building costs

Refugee inventor had a long journey from idea to market

Latest in European Companies

FTfm

GAM gears up for boardroom battle with activist

RBR Capital is pushing for a radical overhaul of the Zurich-based asset manager

4 HOURS AGO



Special Report

FT 1000: Europe's Fastest Growing Companies

Explore the companies that are the driving force of the European economy

Special Report **FT 1000: Europe's Fastest Growing Companies**

The FT 1000: The complete list

The complete list of Europe's fastest-growing companies

Follow the topics mentioned in this article

European Companies

Berlin

London

Companies

Innovation

Follow the authors of this article

Owen Walker

[Take a tour of myF](#)