

# The Star Business Top 100 Companies

**BARBER HARRISON & PLATT**  
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## Tough year for businesses

Only eight firms make enough turnover to secure a place in the top 100 listing

**B**ARNSLEY businesses have faced a tough year.

Last year eight of the ten Barnsley businesses to secure positions in the Top 100 made profits.

This year, only eight Barnsley businesses have turnover's high enough to secure Top 100 places and half of them are making losses.

That said, electronics retailer Maplin's apparent plunge down the Top 100 from 30th last year to 79th should be taken with a pinch of salt.

The company was sold to Montagu Private Equity for £244 million in September, 2004, and the available figures only

TOP COMPANIES - BARNLSLEY			
BY PRE-TAX PROFIT			
Top 100 2005	Top 100 2004	Company name	Pretax profit £000's
73		Cortonwood Retail Park Ltd	29,821
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Maplin Electronics (Holdings) Ltd</b>	<b>12,164</b>
35	39	Redfearn Glass Ltd	5,240
<b>61</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>The Yorkshire Traction Company Ltd</b>	<b>1,464</b>
93		John Dennis (Barnsley) Ltd	1,410
<b>81</b>		<b>Riverside Motors Holdings Ltd</b>	<b>687</b>
26	37	Premdor U.K. Holdings Ltd	607
<b>58</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>T. Hayselden Ltd</b>	<b>440</b>

cover the 17 weeks trading from the date of that refinancing

deal to the end of the company's financial year on

December 31. Illustrative figures produced by the company for the full year suggest turnover of around £120 million - up from £99 million in the previous year - which would have put Maplin in 25th or 26th position in the Top 100 and compare with the quoted 17 week figure of £45.8 million.

Pre-tax profit, meanwhile, was estimated to be around £17 million, which would have made Maplin Barnsley's most profitable company and compares with £16 million the previous year and a 17 week loss of £9.9 million actually recorded for 2004.

Maplin's next set of accounts - for the full year to the end of

2005 - should paint the true picture, but, until they are available, the only figures available for the Top 100 are those for 2004. As it is, Premdor, the U.K. division of one of the world's leading door manufacturer, Masonite group, which last year slipped from fourth to seventh place among Barnsley's most profitable Top 100 companies, has regained much, if not all, of the £3 million fall in profits which caused that drop.

As a result, the company has shot to the top of the table ahead of Top 100 newcomer, training company Protocol Skills, which goes straight into second place in the Barnsley profit rankings.

Meanwhile, last year's new entrant, John Dennis (Barnsley), has risen from fifth to third place

The company, which supplies fresh fruit, vegetables, salad, flowers and plants from around the world to its own retail franchises within Kwik Save supermarkets and to other retail outlets throughout the UK, saw profits increase from £1.4 million to £1.7 million.

Redfearn Glass, on the other hand, has slipped from third to fourth on profits down from £5.2 million to £374,000, having previously topped the table in 2002, when it was known as Rexam.

### Louise joins accountancy

LEADING Sheffield independent Chartered Accountancy firm Barber Harrison & Platt has appointed Louise Barraclough as practice development coordinator.

She will be responsible for marketing and promoting the practice and will work closely with John Warner, BHP's partner responsible for practice development.

Louise Barraclough has nearly ten years' experience of professional services marketing with local firms, starting her marketing career at Sheffield law firm DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary LLP, moving to accountancy firm Grant Thornton, prior to joining Barber Harrison & Platt.

## TC Harrison joins top 10

Motor dealer in third position after £1.1m rise in its pre-tax profits

EXPANSION of the geographical area covered by the Top 100 last year brought Bakewell-based motor dealer TC Harrison into the the Chesterfield top ten as the town's third most profitable company and this year sees it topping the table, following a £1.1 million increase in pre-tax profits.

Following close behind after a switch from profit to loss at refractories giant Vesuvius, is Global Brands the drinks group which was not so very long ago rated the third fastest growing private company in Britain.

Global, run by 2002 Entrepreneur of the Year and successful rally driver Steve Perez, makes VK Vodka Kick and a number of other mixer drinks.

Motor dealer Gilders has also climbed the table - up from seventh in 2005 to third, after increasing profits from £925,000 last year to almost £2.7 million.

Eyre and Elliston Holdings, the independent electrical wholesale distributor, which has 46 branches throughout the UK, has climbed a place, while another G K Group becomes the third motor dealer

among the five most profitable firms in Chesterfield.

Newcomers to the Chesterfield top 10 are Schmolz and Bickenbach (UK), the Staveley-based steel stockholders, and CCS Media Holdings, the IT products and services group, which has been supplying customers in the private and public sector with computer-related products and services for more than 20 years.

The company lays claim to being Europe's leading specialist in magnetic media.

### TOP COMPANIES - CHESTERFIELD

BY PRE-TAX PROFIT			
Top 100 2005	Top 100 2004	Company name	Pretax profit £000's
22	49	Tensil Holdings Ltd	10,147
<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Vesuvius Uk Ltd</b>	<b>6,291</b>
14		T. C. Harrison Group Ltd	4,500
<b>49</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>Global Brands Ltd</b>	<b>4,246</b>
75	87	Eyre & Elliston Holdings Ltd	1,434
<b>53</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>Huntson Holdings Plc</b>	<b>1,224</b>
43		Gilder Group Ltd	939
<b>80</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>Banner Holdings Ltd</b>	<b>925</b>
19	32	Gordon Lamb Holdings Ltd	634
<b>20</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>G K Group Ltd</b>	<b>516</b>

## One Day

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As various communication technologies move inexorably towards convergence, access to the Internet will become available through so many different ways.

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### Firms 'abusing' human rights

JUST under half of large UK companies could be abusing their employee's Human Rights because they snoop on their email.

Messaging security provider Proofpoint says 38 per cent of large UK companies employ a 'corporate snoop' to read employee email and more than 60 per cent perform regular audits of outbound email, but only half of UK companies have an adequate email policy.

Proofpoint managing director for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Mark Hughes, said: "If you don't make your staff fully aware of how and why you monitor their messages, you are snooping on them."

### Law firm joins legal advisers

THE Sheffield office of law firm Nabarro Nathanson has won a place on British Waterways' panel of legal advisers.

### IN BRIEF Business

Nabarro Nathanson has been advising British Waterways on property and property litigation issues for 10 years as part of a large panel of law firms.

British Waterways has now reduced the number of firms on the panel to 15.

### Unfair treatment for mums-to-be

BABIES can be a bit of a bother for some employers, says Business Link Derbyshire, which is urging them to find out the facts before being panicked into taking the wrong decision.

According to the Equal Opportunities Commission, at least seven in every ten pregnant women experience unfair treatment at work and over 30,000 women each year lose their jobs because of pregnancy. Now

Business Link Derbyshire is advice in the form of a web-based questionnaire to help employers get to grips with their responsibilities. It is available on [www.businesslinkderbyshire.co.uk](http://www.businesslinkderbyshire.co.uk)

### Finance Act is 'more complex'

THIS year's Finance Act, which received Royal Assent on July 19, 2006, has yet again increased the complexity of the tax system according to the Institute of Chartered Accountants' "Big Ben Statutory Tax Burden" monitor.

Chris Manners, regional manager for Yorkshire and Humber for The Institute of Chartered Accountants, said "Finance Acts today are typically three times as big as they were 25 years ago."

This year's Finance Act is 506 pages containing 180 sections and 26 schedules. In 1979 when the Institute started measuring Finance Acts there were just 16 pages, 25 sections and 5 schedules.

