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Special Report FT 1000: Europe's Fastest Growing Companie

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## FT 1000: the seventh annual ranking of Europe's fastest-growing companies

A UK-based mobile games maker takes top spot as London maintains its lead as a growth







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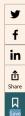
The latest FT/Statista ranking of Europe's fastest-growing companies has been published just as Russia's war in Ukraine enters its second year — but it is the enduring impact of Covid-19 that is evident in this survey.

As it is based on revenue growth at European companies in the three years to 2021, the ranking below shows how many businesses thrived despite the pandemic — or, in many cases, because of it.

As Covid-19 restrictions and global supply chain disruptions lasted into a second year, companies across Europe suffered a double blow of lost sales and rising costs in 2021. In particular, consumer-facing businesses involved in tourism, hospitality, and retail struggled to survive the impact of lockdowns despite government aid programmes.

But, for others — notably in technology and ecommerce — lockdowns were a boon to business, as homebound consumers working and shopping online accelerated digitalisation across sectors. Investors ploughed a record €109bn of venture capital into European companies in 2021, according to deal data provider PitchBook, with more than a third of that concentrated on IT and software as demand for cloud-based tech surged.

This seventh annual FT 1000 ranking, compiled with data provider Statista, identifies those groups that have flourished and expanded, many of them benefiting as corporate and consumer demands shifted with the ebb and flow of the pandemic.



A special report to accompany this ranking, to be published on March 21, will examine how sustainable that pace of growth is for some companies, and assess the new pressures set to reshape the corporate landscape once again.

The ranking lists those European companies that achieved the highest compound annual growth rate in revenue between 2018 and 2021. The minimum average growth rate required to be included on the list was 36.2 per cent — marginally less than the 36.5 per cent last time round.

UK-based Tripledot Studio tops the FT 1000 list of Europe's fastest-growing businesses, with a CAGR of 794.7 per cent. Launched in 2017 with a focus on the single-player card game patience, the mobile games maker benefited as people turned to PCs and phones for their entertainment during lockdowns and beyond. But it was one of only seven companies in the leisure and entertainment category to make the ranking, which is once again dominated by IT & software groups.

Marshmallow, a UK Insure-tech business, comes second with 659.8 per cent CAGR, while lithium battery maker WeCo of Italy sits in third place with a CAGR of 433.1 per cent. The growth rates achieved by these two companies demonstrate, respectively, the ongoing digitalisation of finance and the shift away from fossil fuels — trends that will only accelerate.

However, persistent inflation, the end of cheap borrowing, and a slide in the value of technology stocks are making investors more cautious. Venture capital investment fell 16 per cent year-on-year in 2022, to  $\mathfrak{C}91.6$ bn, according to PitchBook. Though still significantly higher than before the pandemic, a "combination of high inflation, rising interest rates, weak economic growth, and renewed geopolitical tension" have hurt sentiment, its analysts recently wrote — meaning some start-ups will have to fight harder for funding.

As Russia's <u>war in Ukraine</u> continues and countries across Europe face a threat of economic recession, these drags on growth are set to increase.

In this year's FT1000 ranking, 356 of the companies featured were also ranked last year, and 125 have been in the list for three consecutive years.

Although the UK hosts four out of the top five groups in the ranking, it remains the third most-represented country with 155 fast-growing companies, behind Italy, with 260, and Germany with 217 — leaving the country placings unchanged from last year.

But London has retained its position as the city with the largest number of fast-growing companies, for the seventh consecutive year, with 83 businesses listed, followed by Paris (34) and Milan (33).

Companies interested in participating in the next edition of the FT 1000 can register here. The application period will start in October 2023.

Scroll to the bottom of the interactive table for the full methodology.

305	save NRG	No	No	Italy	Energy & Utilities	499.5	81.7	5,518,832	920,607	15	3	20:
306	Sweetcare.Com	No	No	Portugal	Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics	498.0	81.5	11,900,000	1,990,000	30	9	20
307	Consorzio Blu	No	No	Italy	Healthcare & Life Sciences	495.8	81.3	57,803,933	9,702,670	106	71	20
308	Marfreight	No	No	Italy	Logistics & Transportation	495.0	81.2	15,452,435	2,597,020	11	3	20
309	Enerfin	No	No	Italy	Energy & Utilities	493.1	81.0	47,787,720	8,057,230	9	7	2
310	InfinityHub	No	No	Italy	Energy & Utilities	492.7	81.0	4,172,264	704,000	11	1	2
311	sunextrusion	No	No	Germany	Manufacturing	489.3	80.6	12,701,382	2,155,498	40	17	- 2
312	Zebra Bi	No	No	Slovenia	IT & Software	489.2	80.6	3,086,696	523,911	27	5	
313	Revo Costruzioni	No	No	Italy	Construction & Engineering	488.4	80.5	5,620,784	955,261	8	8	
314	Floer	Yes	No	The Netherlands	Wholesale	487.1	80.4	4,414,160	751,914	21	3	
315	Eushipments.Com	No	No	Bulgaria	Logistics & Transportation	486.9	80.4	3,975,807	677,462	37	22	
316	bestbion dx	Yes	No	Germany	Education & Social Services	486.3	80.3	29,037,000	4,953,000	34	21	
317	Citrusmade	No	No	Italy	Food & Beverages	481.6	79.8	10,883,460	1,871,190	14	2	
318	Lacertosus	No	No	Italy	Ecommerce	479.2	79.6	13,727,427	2,369,943	22	13	
319	Eskalia	No	No	France	Retail	477.5	79.4	3,116,002	539,566	10	3	
320	Appwise	No	No	Belgium	IT & Software	475.9	79.2	6,444,387	1,118,977	66	15	
321	Spiideo	Yes	Yes	Sweden	IT & Software	474.7	79.1	5,675,994	999,405	37	13	
322	Solaris and more	Yes	No	Germany	Construction & Engineering	474.6	79.1	7,249,606	1,261,590	44	8	
323	Funnel	Yes	Yes	Sweden	Advertising & Marketing	472.9	78.9	16,767,432	2,961,552	228	65	
324	Superior Wellness	Yes	No	UK	Retail	467.3	78.4	68,175,827	11,250,350	70	26	
325	Oxehealth	No	No	UK	IT & Software	463.4	77.9	2,738,931	455,123	97	32	
326	Journi Print	Yes	No	Austria	IT & Software	460.8	77.7	7,780,506	1,387,460	28	16	
327	Hyntelo	No	No	Italy	IT & Software	460.4	77.6	6,399,432	1,142,014	34	3	
328	locoli	No	No	Italy	Construction & Engineering	459.4	77.5	3,377,386	603,739	32	8	
329	Energetic Efficiency	Yes	No	Italy	Energy & Utilities	458.1	77.4	4,238,973	759,541	22	7	
330	Tarhanbau	Yes	No	Germany	Construction & Engineering	456.7	77.2	3,479,344	625,000	25	15	
331	Pentagon Sales	No	No	Germany	Wholesale	455.8	77.1	30,091,016	5,414,485	10	8	
332	TSL	No	No	UK	Construction & Engineering	455.0	77.0	694,891,333	117,221,788	232	127	
333	Luoto Company	Yes	No	Finland	IT & Software	454.7	77.0	19,497,446	3,514,905	65	18	
334	Carranco	Yes	No	Spain	Food & Beverages	454.1	77.0	7,039,975	1,270,626	7	6	
335	HiFi Extra	Yes	No	Germany	Wholesale	451.7	76.7	104,004,607	18,853,232	34	17	
336	Xalient	Yes	No	UK	IT & Software	451.2	76.6	31,266,886	5,311,056	107	42	
337	Leogra Trading	Yes	No	Germany	Ecommerce	450.7	76.6	9,404,801	1,707,678	12	5	