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The fight for survival


## 国 OC\&C

ㅁ․ Strategy Consultants


OC\&C Strategy Consultants is a global consulting firm with extensive expertise in the retail sector.

Clients include leading retailers and investment institutions. The firm advises on group-level and business unit strategy, profit improvement and mergers and acquisitions.

## Retail \& Leisure

# It promises to be a sign of the times on Britain's high street - Sorry, we're closed 

Marcus Leroux looks at the results from the key State of Retail 2008 report compiled for The Times

The next time you stroll through your local town or city centre, with its independent shops, chain stores and coffee shops, take a good look. Some of them might not be around much longer. According to a wide-ranging study
compiled for The Times the wave of compiled for The Times, the wave of consolidation that has swept through industries such as banking is about
break over Britain's high street.
And in an economy in which ret output is estimated to make up about 20 per cent of national gross domestic product, this matters far more than in the merely cosmetic appearance of familiar shops and stores.
OC\&C, the strategy consultancy, has carried out the first sector-wide study of its kind into the profitability and dynamics of the retail industry, culminating in its report State of Retail 2008. It concludes that retailers were travelling in the right direction before adds a chilling caveat "The slightly positive picture is that we're entering positive picture is that we re entering growth," Richard McKenzie, a partner growth, "
at $O C \&$, said. "We're entering it in as good a shape as we could - but that probably isn't good enough." OC\&C
'It is almost inevitable that some retailers will go out of business'
examined the effects of ownership, asking several key questions. Do public companies outperform family businesses? Do private equity owners ruthlessly cut costs at the long-term expeners importing bright ideas to owners importing bright ideas to British business?

The researchers took a close look at the effects of the internet on the industry and, with analysts expecting online sales to provide the only growth in the
retail landscape in 2009 . OC\& C's conclusions (see graphic and facing page) will be disheartening. The report also poses troubling questions on the overall resilience of the sector with the economy on the brink of a recession. All of the trends are pushing towards an acceleration in company failures and distressed takeovers next year. According to Mr McKenzie, "Retail is clearly a low-margin game, which means it is almost inevitable in the current environment that there will be
consolidation and retailers will go out consolidation
Revenue growth of the top 230

retailers is lagging that of the FTSE 250 by 1.7 percentage points. Even more worrying is the divergence in profit margins: margins on earnings before interest and tax (ebit - see panel) is an average of 5 per cent for
retailers. FTSE 250 companies manretailers. FTSE 250 companies manage 10.7 per cent.
OC\&C looked at the accounts of the 233 British retailers with a turnover of more than $£ 35$ million. By delv-
ing into Companies House filings and ing into Companies House filings and
studying the disclosed accounts for studying the disclosed accounts for
public companies, they were able to make like-for-like comparisons.
The index demonstrates the extent of consolidation that has already taken place in the retail sector. The 233 companies that comprise the

## online

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index account for more than three quarters of Britain's total retail spending. The top 20 account for more than 54 per cent of Britain's sales, while the long tail made up of thousands of independents, sole proprietors and small chains claims 24 per cent of the market share of the independents is market share of the independents is
slowly shrinking, yet there are smaller slowly shrinking, yet there are smaller
operators who are bucking the trend operators who are bucking the trend
by posting spectacular profit margins by posting spectacular profit margins
and strong revenue growth - clothes and strong revenue growth - clothes
retailers, in particular, have proved adept at finding niches between the mass-market giants.
Overall, the industry's thin profit margins mean that it is not buffered from the worsening economic climate. Mr McKenzie said: "We were surprised by the enormous proportion of retailers that are very low-margin. That was the biggest single lesson for me. There's no room for error."
The report is intended to shed light on the dynamics of the industry. "We wanted to get under the skin of the
sector," Mr McKenzie said.

## What's in store

- The index of retailers was compiled from the last available accounts of the 233 companies $€ 35$ million
- Profits of companies who own the freehold of their premises have been adjusted by a 7 per cent imputed rent charge. but with 2 per cent added for depreciation
- Non-retail income has been excluded where possible
- Earnings before interest and taxation was used as a measure of underlying operational profit, as it excludes financial costs
- Franchisers and wholesalers have been excluded

Clothes shops are not alone in finding size matters

- apoleon famously branded Britain a nation of shopkeepers (Marcus Leroux writes). Not any longer. The State of Retail findings not only show a but also a rapid advance by the big, but also a rapid advance by the big. retail spending happens at Britain's top 20 chains, the report says.
It is not surprising that the biggest companies are making the most money, given nationwide reach and economies of scale, but it is perhaps surprising that they are moving quickest. The profit margins of retailers turning over less than $£ 100$ million was 2.4 per cent, but for companies with a revenue of between $£ 100$ million and $£ 400$ million, margins rose to 3.2 per cent, and to 4.9 per cent for companies turning over more than $£ 400$ million.
Richard McKenzie, of OC\&C, the consultancy behind the report, said: player is critical. By the time you're a c100 million retailer, youre small But the benefits of seale go far above that." In every
In every category, apart from the highly varied DIY, home and gardenboast significantly higher profit margins than the rest (see graphic, eft). "They can invest more money building the right ranges and buy more cheaply from suppliers. They can also employ better-calibre people There is strong logic behind consolidation and in the context of a downturn that will only be amplified."
Grocers, led by the "big four" of Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's and Morrisons, are responsible for 68 per cent of retailers profit growth. Grocers spend to 51 per cent by using their core food businesses as a foundation to advance into non-food, although sales have also been buoyed by the soaring food inflation in the past year
Yet while the tide is moving towards consolidation, there are interesting local currents elsewhere Clothes retailers enjoy the healthiest margins to be found in the industry. Nimbler and smaller operators have proved adept at finding very profitable niches. Nine of the ten highestmargin retailers (see table, left) are clothing or jewellery sellers.
"The ability of smaller retailers to survive comes from the fact it's a high-margin category and because its a repertoire-based area, Mr McKenc reluctant to be seen wearing the same clothes as anyone else."


# Smaller operators challenge counter culture by taking their business online 

Retailers slavishly toe the party line on the subject party line on the subject retail complements shopretail complements shopthreat," they recite in unison (Marcus Leroux writes).
However, OC\&C found a clear correlation between the amount of shopping that is done online for a particular product and the profits of retailers (see graphic, left)
While internet sales are growing, it is the products that are relatively illsuited to online shopping that have the best margins.
Clothing and footwear boast healthy margins, but online sales remain as a small percentage of overall sales because of the reluctance of shoppers to buy items they have not tried on and their objection to the cost of postage and packaging.
Richard Mckenzie said: "In most categories where there's a significant online players are cheaper than the high street. Inevitably, the high street players have to respond because their customers are comparing prices. That in turn, will push into their margins." It raised questions about high street retailers' strategies, Mr McKenzie said. Physical retailers would have to start charging different prices at their online operation and their high street stores. "They need to be clever. You have to be more flexible about pricing. This was the rationale for DSG taking the Dixons name and putting it online. They have a price-competitive brand."
It is an article of faith among some retailers that pricing is uniform say that consumers increasingly are researching their purchasing decisions online, essentially using websites as a showroom, before buying items from a
physical shop. Small retailers are ncreasingly dispensing with the overheads of a bricks-and-mortar address and taking their operations online. Mr each business model needed different each business model needed different
methods to succeed: "A store appeals to people within a mile of the store, a website appeals to people all around the country. Moving online is not going to be a panacea."
A glance at Britain's 20 biggest retailers reveals a mix of listed companies, groups in the hands of private equity, such as Boots, foreign-owned chains, such as Asda, and familyowned businesses, such as River Island. Performance varies across ownership models. Foreign-owned companies fared worst, with margins of only 2.1 per cent and profits declining by an average of 1.3 per cent annually.
Family-owned or family-dominated companies enjoyed margins of 5.6 per figure was 4.5 per cent. The findings suggest that private equity-controlled suggest that private equity-controlled
groups perform in line with listed comgrouies, a conclusion that may trouble the private equity industry since it specialises in turnarounds.
"The figures show that private equity managers are human as well," Mr McKenzie said. "Some of the businesses they have taken over are in difficult positions.
American Golf and eBuyer are two private equity-owned businesses that have undergone a sharp improvement in profitability.
The success of companies owned by families also defies the stereotype of the sedate family business muddling along and resistant to change.
Retail is quite an intuitive game. someone who's been in the market for 40 years," Mr McKenzie said.


## One in four of the big retailers is under threat

Up to a quarter of Britain's biggest retailers will be under threat next year, the State of Retail report suggests.
Retailers are particularly exposed to a downturn because of low margins, but about 60 of the biggest 200 are entering the downturn in a loss-
making position. "Frankly, there are some people out there who haven't moved on and that will drive consolidation," Richard McKenzie, a partner at OC\&C, the strategy consultancy that carried out the report, said. "Around 20 per cent are going to be
vulnerable in their current form over
the medium term. PricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountancy, estimates that up to one in five stores could be empty by the time that the economy picks up.
"Customers in this environment are quite demonstratively becoming very unforgiving of retailers that don't offer

## Top retailers

| Company | Sector | Ownership | Latest ebit* ( 5 m ) | ebit margin (\%) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tesco | Grocery | Major UK plc | 1,605.7 | 4.6\% |
| Marks \& Spencer | Mixed goods | Major UK ple | 813.0 | 9.8\% |
| Next | Clothing, footwear and accessories | Major UK ple | 532.8 | 16.0\% |
| Boots | Opticians, pharmacles, health and beauty | Private equity | 507.9 | 8.3\% |
| Argos | Mixed goods | Major UK pic | 310.1 | 7.6\% |
| Wm Morrison | Grocery | Major UK ple | 259.7 | 2.0\% |
| Asda | Grocery | Other foreign owned | 258.0 | 1.5\% |
| 1 Sainsbury | Grocery | Major UK ple | 231.0 | 1.3\% |
| Arcadia Group | Clothing, footwear and accessories | Family or closely owned | 219.0 | 11.8\% |
| Primark | Clothing, footwear and accessories | Major UK ple | 186.3 | 9.6\% |
| Debenhams | Mixed goods | Major UK ple | 170.0 | 9.2\% |
| John Lewis | Mixed goods | Other UK listed | 145.2 | 6.3\% |
| DSG | Electricals | Major UK ple | 135.3 | 2.9\% |
| River Island | Clothing, footwear and accessories | Family or closely owned | 134.3 | 20.6\% |
| Loyds Pharmacy | Opticians, pharmacles, health and beauty | Other foreign owned | 125.4 | 7.9\% |

value for money," Mr McKenzie said. Britain can, therefore, expect fierce price competition in certain sectors and a lot of very noisy marketing. "A retailer can batten down the hatches and cut |marketingl costs," Mr McKenzie said, "but only if you've demonstrated your value-for-money credentials. The challenge comes if you're not value for money: these are Some companies will take defensive positions on promotions and advertispositions on promotions and advertising, while otherid pending, he said.
This may explain squabbling among the major supermarkets. Justin King, The Times last we J Sainsbury, told saying that Tesco were the most reces sion-proof business. It's interesting it was published at a time when they're the weakest-trading of the big four." The recession of the early 1990s provided a springboard for the biggest supermarkets to expand even further. On the basis of the State of Retail findings, it would not be wise to bet against them doing so
MARCUS LEROUX

# HECOVIINDIT: 

# The top UK retail companies ranked <br> by profit 2008 

EBIT Pre-Freehold Adjustment ${ }^{1}$

EBIT Post-Freehold Adjustment

| Rank/company Se |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Tesco | Gr |
| 2 | Marks and Spencer | Mi |
| 3 | Next | Clo |
| 4 | Boots | Op |
| 5 | Argos | Mi |
| 6 | WM Morrison | Gr |
| 7 | Asda | Gr |
| 8 | J Sainsbury | Gr |
| 9 | Arcadia Group | Clo |
| 10 | Primark | Clo |
| 11 | Debenhams | Mi |
| 12 | John Lewis | Mi |
| 13 | DSG | Ele |
| 14 | River Island | Clo |
| 15 | Lloyds Pharmacy | Op |
| 16 | Waitrose | Gr |
| 17 | Co-Op | Gr |
| 18 | Carphone Warehouse | Ph |
| 19 | Halfords Group | Ot |
| 20 | Matalan | Clo |
| 21 | New Look | Clo |
| 22 | Sports Direct | Clo |
| 23 | N Brown Group | Mi |
| 24 | Ikea | DI |
| 25 | Iceland | Gr |
| 26 | Findel | Mi |
| 27 | WH Smith | Bo |
|  | Game Group | M |
| 29 | C\&J Clark (Clark's) | Clo |
| 30 | B\&Q | DI |

31 Wickes Building Supplies
32 Somerfie

34 L Rowland
35 Monsoon Accessorize
36 Dunelm
37 CarpetRight
$\begin{array}{ll}38 & \text { DFS } \\ 39 & \text { John David Group }\end{array}$
40 (JD Sports) 41 Wilkinson 42 HMV
43 Pets at Home 44 Harrods
45 Mothercare Group
46 Topps Tiles
47 TK Maxx
48 Homebase
49 TJ Morris

|  | (Home Bargains) |
| :---: | :--- |
| 50 | Freemans | Mixed Goods

${ }^{1}$ Adjusted for other income and exceptionals


The Times | 17 November 2008 | OC\&C State of Retail 2008 | 5

| Rank/company | Sector | Ownership | Latest Accounts | Latest UK Revenues | Revenue Growth | Latest EBIT $(£ m)$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { EBIT } \\ \text { Margin } \\ \text { (\%) } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Latest } \\ \text { EBIT } \\ \text { (Em) } \end{gathered}$ | EBIT Margin (\%) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { EBIT } \\ & \text { Margin } \\ & \text { Growth } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 124 Empire Direct | Electricals | Family or closely-owned | 31/03/08 | 152.3 | 26.7\% | 4.7 | 3.1\% | 4.4 | 2.9\% | (0.6\%) |
| 125 JH Leeke | DIV, Home \& Gardening | Family or closely-owned | 31/03/07 | 66.9 | 3.9\% | 5.7 | 8.6\% | 4.2 | 6.3\% | 2.4\% |
| 126 Austin Reed | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Major UK PLC | 31/01/08 | 110.4 | 2.1\% | 4.2 | 3.8\% | 4.2 | 3.8\% | 0.7\% |
| 127 Jacques Vert | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Major UK PLC | 26/04/08 | 96.5 | (2.1\%) | 4.1 | 4.3\% | 4.1 | 4.3\% | (1.1\%) |
| 128 Oldrid \& Co | Mixed Goods | Family or closely-owned | 02/02/08 | 51.9 | 3.4\% | 5.2 | 10.0\% | 4.1 | 7.9\% | 3.8\% |
| 129 HI Weldrick | Opticians, Pharmacies, Health \& Beauty | Family or closely-owned | 30/04/07 | 59.5 | 17.8\% | 4.2 | 7.1\% | 4.1 | 6.9\% | (3.0\%) |
| 130 Robert Dyas | Mixed Goods | Private equity | 31/03/07 | 104.0 | (1.1\%) | 4.1 | 4.0\% | 4.1 | 3.9\% | (0.4\%) |
| 131 Dabs.Com | Electricals | Major UK PLC | 31/03/08 | 199.1 | 18.4\% | 4.1 | 2.0\% | 3.9 | 2.0\% | 0.3\% |
| 132 Foot Locker UK | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | UK subsidiary of global | 31/12/07 | 78.7 | (0.5\%) | 3.8 | 4.9\% | 3.8 | 4.9\% | 1.9\% |
| 133 Snow \& Rock | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 31/08/07 | 37.3 | 4.3\% | 3.6 | 9.6\% | 3.3 | 8.8\% | 2.0\% |
| 134 Ryman Group | Books \& Stationery | Family or closely-owned | 31/03/07 | 95.2 | 2.3\% | 3.4 | 3.5\% | 3.3 | 3.4\% | (2.3\%) |
| 135 The Book People Group | Books \& Stationery | Family or closely-owned | 31/12/07 | 87.8 | 12.4\% | 3.6 | 4.2\% | 3.2 | 3.7\% | (2.3\%) |
| 136 Hobbycraft Group | Other | Family or closely-owned | 25/02/07 | 54.4 | 6.3\% | 3.2 | 5.8\% | 3.1 | 5.8\% | 1.7\% |
| 137 Hughes Electrical | Electricals | Family or closely-owned | 31/03/07 | 50.0 | 20.1\% | 3.6 | 7.3\% | 3.1 | 6.2\% | 1.1\% |
| 138 eBuyer | Electricals | Private equity | 30/09/07 | 212.5 | 11.0\% | 3.1 | 1.5\% | 3.1 | 1.5\% | 5.5\% |
| 139 The Works | Books \& Stationery | Family or closely-owned | 29/04/06 | 96.4 | 4.3\% | 3.2 | 3.3\% | 3.2 | 3.3\% | (1.2\%) |
| 140 D\&A Professional Servic | Opticians, Pharmacies, Health \& Beauty | Other foreign-owned | 29/12/07 | 99.7 | 0.9\% | 2.7 | 2.7\% | 2.7 | 2.7\% | 3.1\% |
| 141 Levi Strauss | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | UK subsidiary of global | 30/11/07 | 63.8 | 1.7\% | 3.3 | 5.1\% | 2.7 | 4.2\% | 2.2\% |
| 142 Jones Bootmaker | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 28/01/07 | 50.9 | 6.4\% | 3.0 | 5.9\% | 2.7 | 5.2\% | 0.0\% |
| 143 F Hinds | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 30/03/08 | 53.0 | 6.8\% | 2.5 | 4.7\% | 2.2 | 4.2\% | 3.2\% |
| 144 Timberland | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | UK subsidiary of global | 31/12/06 | 81.0 | (40.7\%) | 2.0 | 2.5\% | 2.0 | 2.5\% | (1.0\%) |
| 145 The White Company | DIV, Home \& Gardening | Family or closely-owned | 31/03/07 | 61.3 | 24.0\% | 2.0 | 3.2\% | 2.0 | 3.2\% | 1.4\% |
| 146 TJ Hughes | Mixed Goods | Private equity | 26/01/08 | 239.5 | 0.0\% | 2.9 | 1.2\% | 1.7 | 0.7\% | 1.0\% |
| 147 Orange Retail | Phones | UK subsidiary of global | 31/12/06 | 297.0 | (4.2\%) | 2.0 | 0.7\% | 1.7 | 0.6\% | 0.3\% |
| 148 Jaeger | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 23/02/08 | 79.8 | 16.2\% | 1.6 | 2.0\% | 1.6 | 2.0\% | 0.2\% |
| 149 Ann Summers | Other | Family or closely-owned | 30/06/07 | 112.8 | 1.7\% | 1.9 | 1.7\% | 1.6 | 1.4\% | 0.9\% |
| 150 Hammonds Furniture | DIY, Home \& Gardening | Family or closely-owned | 30/06/07 | 65.4 | 9.6\% | 1.7 | 2.6\% | 1.6 | 2.4\% | 2.8\% |
| 151 Barker \& Stonehouse | DIV, Home \& Gardening | Family or closely-owned | 31/03/07 | 57.7 | 4.7\% | 1.9 | 3.2\% | 1.4 | 2.4\% | (0.6\%) |
| 152 Dobbies Garden Centres | DIV, Home \& Gardening | Major UK PLC | 31/10/07 | 83.5 | 21.4\% | 7.0 | 8.3\% | 1.4 | 1.6\% | (0.9\%) |
| 153 Twinmar (Sole Trader) | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 30/06/07 | 37.1 | (4.6\%) | 1.3 | 3.6\% | 1.3 | 3.6\% | (2.9\%) |
| 154 Mole Valley Farmers | DIV, Home \& Gardening | Other UK listed | 30/09/07 | 176.4 | 6.1\% | 1.7 | 1.0\% | 1.2 | 0.7\% | (0.4\%) |
| 155 Bennetts | Electricals | Family or closely-owned | 31/01/07 | 62.8 | 18.9\% | 1.1 | 1.8\% | 1.1 | 1.7\% | 0.3\% |
| 156 American Golf | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Private equity | 27/01/08 | 64.2 | 10.8\% | 1.0 | 1.6\% | 0.9 | 1.5\% | 5.6\% |
| 157 Alfred Jones (Spar) | Grocery | Family or closely-owned | 29/04/07 | 109.5 | 2.3\% | 1.0 | 0.9\% | 0.9 | 0.8\% | (0.1\%) |
| 158 Cotton Traders | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 31/01/08 | 64.9 | 8.7\% | 0.9 | 1.4\% | 0.8 | 1.3\% | (2.8\%) |
| 159 Waynes Foods (Spar) | Grocery | Family or closely-owned | 30/04/08 | 122.5 | 2.1\% | 1.0 | 0.8\% | 0.8 | 0.6\% | (0.7\%) |
| 160 Dune | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 30/06/07 | 42.9 | 19.2\% | 0.8 | 1.9\% | 0.8 | 1.8\% | 1.5\% |
| 161 99p Stores | Mixed Goods | Private equity | 31/01/08 | 94.0 | 16.3\% | 0.8 | 0.9\% | 0.7 | 0.8\% | 0.3\% |
| 162 Botterills (Spar) | Grocery | Family or closely-owned | 31/05/08 | 74.4 | 9.8\% | 0.8 | 1.0\% | 0.7 | 1.0\% | (0.2\%) |
| 163 Blacks Group | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Major UK PLC | 01/03/08 | 294.4 | (1.5\%) | 0.9 | 0.3\% | 0.7 | 0.2\% | (0.9\%) |
| 164 Fopp | Music, Video and Gaming | Family or closely-owned | 29/04/06 | 40.2 | 17.7\% | 0.6 | 1.6\% | 0.6 | 1.5\% | 1.5\% |
| 165 W Boyes \& Co | Mixed Goods | Family or closely-owned | 26/01/08 | 50.6 | 2.5\% | 1.1 | 2.2\% | 0.5 | 1.0\% | (1.2\%) |
| 166 Lloyd Shoe Co | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 31/08/07 | 59.9 | (8.8\%) | 0.5 | 0.8\% | 0.5 | 0.8\% | (1.7\%) |
| 167 Snax 24 | Grocery | Family or closely-owned | 30/09/07 | 191.6 | (2.3\%) | 0.5 | 0.3\% | 0.4 | 0.2\% | 0.0\% |
| 168 QD Stores | Mixed Goods | Family or closely-owned | 28/02/07 | 52.2 | (11.0\%) | 1.6 | 3.1\% | 0.4 | 0.8\% | (1.8\%) |
| 169 Beaverbrooks |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Jewellers | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 01/03/08 | 82.4 | 6.9\% | 1.1 | 1.4\% | 0.3 | 0.4\% | 0.2\% |
| 170 Tie Rack | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Other foreign-owned | 02/03/08 | 43.0 | 2.5\% | 0.3 | 0.8\% | 0.3 | 0.7\% | 7.5\% |
| 171 Roys of Wroxham | Mixed Goods | Family or closely-owned | 26/01/08 | 44.9 | (5.8\%) | 1.0 | 2.2\% | 0.2 | 0.4\% | 0.3\% |
| 172 Julian Graves | Grocery | Private equity | 31/03/08 | 69.7 | 13.3\% | 0.2 | 0.3\% | 0.1 | 0.1\% | (0.4\%) |
| 173 Farmfoods | Grocery | Family or closely-owned | 31/12/07 | 369.4 | (7.7\%) | 1.7 | 0.5\% | 0.1 | 0.0\% | 0.2\% |
| 174 The Entertainer | Other | Family or closely-owned | 02/02/08 | 50.6 | 10.4\% | 0.2 | 0.4\% | (0.0) | (0.0\%) | (0.4\%) |
| 175 Sit-Up <br> (Bid TV, Price Drop TV) | Mixed Goods | Other foreign-owned | 31/12/07 | 237.1 | 5.3\% | (0.1) | (0.1\%) | (0.1) | (0.1\%) | 1.4\% |
| 176 Damartex UK | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | UK subsidiary of global | 30/06/07 | 86.6 | (8.0\%) | (0.0) | (0.0\%) | (0.3) | (0.3\%) | (4.6\%) |
| 177 Apollo 2000 | Electricals | Major UK PLC | 30/04/08 | 35.2 | (4.7\%) | (0.3) | (0.9\%) | (0.4) | (1.1\%) | (0.7\%) |
| 178 Bodycare | Opticians, Pharmacies, Health \& Beauty | Family or closely-owned | 31/12/07 | 56.7 | 1.0\% | (0.4) | (0.7\%) | (0.4) | (0.7\%) | (0.2\%) |
| 179 Multiyork Furniture | DIY, Home \& Gardening | Family or closely-owned | 30/09/07 | 47.4 | 4.3\% | (0.2) | (0.3\%) | (0.5) | (1.1\%) | 1.6\% |
| 180 Notcutts | DIV, Home \& Gardening | Family or closely-owned | 31/08/07 | 37.2 | 8.1\% | 0.5 | 1.3\% | (0.6) | (1.6\%) | 1.0\% |
| 181 Tchibo GB | Mixed Goods | UK subsidiary of global | 31/12/06 | 50.0 | 14.0\% | (0.6) | (1.3\%) | (0.6) | (1.3\%) | 24.5\% |
| 182 Mamas \& Papas | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 30/03/08 | 67.7 | 5.5\% | (0.8) | (1.2\%) | (0.8) | (1.2\%) | 1.0\% |
| 183 Instore (Poundstretcher) | DIV, Home \& Gardening | Major UK PLC | 24/02/07 | 296.8 | 6.0\% | (0.8) | (0.3\%) | (0.8) | (0.3\%) | 2.6\% |
| 184 Wine Cellar | Other | Family or closely-owned | 27/01/08 | 62.6 | 2.4\% | (0.9) | (1.4\%) | (0.9) | (1.5\%) | 1.4\% |
| 185 The Officers Club | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 31/08/07 | 52.5 | (8.9\%) | (0.9) | (1.8\%) | (0.9) | (1.8\%) | 0.0\% |
| 186 Jessops | Electricals | Major UK PLC | 30/09/07 | 325.5 | (7.0\%) | (1.0) | (0.3\%) | (1.2) | (0.4\%) | (5.0\%) |
| 187 Jigsaw | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 29/09/07 | 84.7 | (5.6\%) | (1.2) | (1.4\%) | (1.6) | (1.9\%) | (7.7\%) |
| 188 Moss Bros | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Private equity | 26/01/08 | 130.2 | (2.8\%) | (1.5) | (1.1\%) | (1.6) | (1.3\%) | (3.0\%) |
| 189 Hampsons, Sayers | Grocery | Private equity | 30/09/06 | 89.1 | (6.5\%) | (1.3) | (1.4\%) | (1.7) | (1.9\%) | (2.1\%) |
| 190 Motor World | Other | Family or closely-owned | 31/12/07 | 50.6 | (4.1\%) | (1.8) | (3.5\%) | (1.8) | (3.5\%) | (2.2\%) |
| 191 Speciality Retail Group | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Private equity | 28/01/07 | 65.4 | (9.5\%) | (1.4) | (2.1\%) | (1.9) | (2.9\%) | (0.5\%) |


| Rank/company |  | Ownership | Accounts | Revenues | Growth | $\begin{aligned} & \text { EBIT } \\ & (\mathrm{Em}) \end{aligned}$ | Margin (\%) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { EBIT } \\ & \text { ( } \mathrm{Em} \text { ) } \end{aligned}$ | Margin <br> (\%) | Margin Growth |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 192 Beales | Mixed Goods | Major UK PLC | 11/03/07 | 59.1 | (1.2\%) | (0.9) | (1.5\%) | (1.9) | (3.2\%) | (2.4\%) |
| 193 Rippleglen | Other | Family or closely-owned | 31/07/07 | 87.9 | (10.7\%) | (1.9) | (2.1\%) | (2.0) | (2.2\%) | 0.4\% |
| 194 Netto | Grocery | UK subsidiary of global | 31/12/07 | 696.4 | 11.0\% | 9.3 | 1.3\% | (2.5) | (0.4\%) | 0.9\% |
| 195 D2 Trading | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Private equity | 31/01/07 | 50.7 | 2.2\% | (2.8) | (5.5\%) | (2.8) | (5.5\%) | (0.9\%) |
| 196 Whittard of Chelsea | Grocery | Private equity | 31/03/07 | 45.5 | 19.4\% | (3.0) | (6.5\%) | (3.0) | (6.6\%) | 3.1\% |
| 197 Pier Retail Group | DIY, Home \& Gardening | Other foreign-owned | 03/03/07 | 42.7 | 3.4\% | (3.0) | (7.1\%) | (3.0) | (7.1\%) | 5.2\% |
| 198 Zara | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Other foreign-owned | 31/01/07 | 202.2 | 30.2\% | 0.1 | 0.0\% | (3.1) | (1.5\%) | 4.8\% |
| 199 Virgin Vie at Home | Opticians, Pharmacies, Health \& Beauty | Family or closely-owned | 31/03/08 | 48.5 | (13.9\%) | (3.2) | (6.5\%) | (3.2) | (6.5\%) | (5.5\%) |
| 200 Bowie-Castlebank | Other | Family or closely-owned | 31/03/07 | 62.9 | (15.9\%) | (3.1) | (4.9\%) | (3.7) | (5.8\%) | 0.4\% |
| 201 Mackays | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Family or closely-owned | 22/02/08 | 170.6 | 1.7\% | 0.1 | 0.1\% | (4.3) | (2.5\%) | (3.6\%) |
| 202 Blockbuster | Music, Video and Gaming | UK subsidiary of global | 06/01/08 | 303.0 | 24.9\% | (4.3) | (1.4\%) | (4.3) | (1.4\%) | 4.9\% |
| 203 Homeform Group | DIY, Home \& Gardening | Private equity | 31/12/05 | 180.4 | (16.8\%) | (4.3) | (2.4\%) | (4.6) | (2.6\%) | (5.4\%) |
| 204 Land of Leather | DIV, Home \& Gardening | Major UK PLC | 03/08/08 | 232.0 | (3.3\%) | (3.4) | (1.5\%) | (4.7) | (2.0\%) | (6.5\%) |
| 205 Faith Footwear | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Private equity | 30/06/07 | 89.0 | (0.6\%) | (4.8) | (5.4\%) | (4.8) | (5.4\%) | 2.1\% |
| 206 Rosebys | DIV, Home \& Gardening | Private equity | 29/03/08 | 111.1 | (23.8\%) | (4.8) | (4.3\%) | (4.8) | (4.3\%) | (0.9\%) |
| 207 The Disney Store | Other | UK subsidiary of global | 29/09/07 | 91.7 | 2.7\% | (5.4) | (5.9\%) | (5.5) | (6.0\%) | (0.6\%) |
| 208 Celebrations Group | Books \& Stationery | Family or closely-owned | 02/07/05 | 78.6 | (5.7\%) | (5.4) | (6.8\%) | (5.6) | (7.1\%) | (13.0\%) |
| 209 Mexx | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Other foreign-owned | 31/12/06 | 35.7 | 1.8\% | (6.1) | (17.2\%) | (6.5) | (18.2\%) | (1.5\%) |
| 210 Brantano | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | UK subsidiary of global | 31/12/07 | 115.0 | 6.2\% | (6.9) | (6.0\%) | (7.1) | (6.2\%) | (3.4\%) |
| 211 Fortnum \& Mason | Mixed Goods | Family or closely-owned | 15/07/07 | 39.4 | 4.4\% | (5.7) | (14.5\%) |  | (18.0\%) | (6.2\%) |
| 212 Blackwell | Books \& Stationery | Family or closely-owned | 30/06/07 | 77.2 | (3.1\%) | (7.3) | (9.5\%) | (7.3) | (9.5\%) | (0.8\%) |
| 213 Allied Carpets | DIV, Home \& Gardening | Other foreign-owned | 29/12/07 | 206.8 | 6.5\% | (6.8) | (3.3\%) | (7.4) | (3.6\%) | 0.1\% |
| 214 Steinhoff <br> (Harveys Furniture) | DIV, Home \& Gardening | UK subsidiary of global | 30/06/07 | 383.6 | (11.3\%) | (7.7) | (2.0\%) | (7.7) | (2.0\%) | 0.9\% |
| 215 USC | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Private equity | 27/01/07 | 105.2 | 3.7\% | (8.6) | (8.2\%) | (8.6) | (8.2\%) | 0.0\% |
| 216 Oddbins | Other | Other foreign-owned | 31/12/07 | 94.6 | (22.0\%) | (8.7) | (9.2\%) | (8.7) | (9.2\%) | (1.2\%) |
| 217 Budgens | Grocery | Other foreign-owned | 31/12/06 | 444.5 | (2.8\%) | (9.1) | (2.0\%) | (9.1) | (2.1\%) | (0.2\%) |
| 218 Martin McColl | Other | Private equity | 25/11/07 | 699.9 | 2.9\% | (8.6) | (1.2\%) | (9.4) | (1.3\%) | 0.1\% |
| 219 Habitat UK | DIY, Home \& Gardening | Other foreign-owned | 25/03/07 | 91.1 | (11.3\%) | (10.4) | (11.4\%) | (10.4) | (11.4\%) | (9.2\%) |
| 220 Alpha Retail | Other | Major UK PLC | 31/01/07 | 201.3 | 4.9\% | (10.3) | (5.1\%) | (11.3) | (5.6\%) | (3.4\%) |
| 221 Borders | Books \& Stationery | UK subsidiary of global | 02/03/07 | 215.0 | 2.7\% | (9.5) | (4.4\%) | (11.7) | (5.4\%) | (12.0\%) |
| 222 French Connection | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Major UK PLC | 31/12/07 | 97.8 | 1.9\% | (12.2) | (12.5\%) | (12.2) | (12.5\%) | 5.9\% |
| $\begin{aligned} & 223 \text { Stylo } \\ & \text { (Barratts, PriceLess) } \end{aligned}$ | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Major UK PLC | 02/02/08 | 223.3 | (6.8\%) | (10.3) | (4.6\%) | (12.8) | (5.7\%) | (2.9\%) |
| 224 Staples | Books \& Stationery | UK subsidiary of global | 02/03/07 | 361.1 | 1.8\% | (12.4) | (3.4\%) | (13.9) | (3.8\%) | 3.1\% |
| 225 Focus DIY | DIV, Home \& Gardening | Private equity | 24/03/08 | 414.0 | (12.7\%) | (14.5) | (3.5\%) | (14.5) | (3.5\%) | (2.7\%) |
| 226 Redcats (Empire, La Redoute) | Mixed Goods | Other foreign-owned | 29/12/07 | 137.3 | (8.4\%) | (16.6) | (12.1\%) | (16.6) | (12.1\%) | (10.7\%) |
| 227 Thresher Group | Other | Private equity | 30/06/07 | 774.1 | (0.9\%) | (18.7) | (2.4\%) | (19.3) | (2.5\%) | (0.6\%) |
| 228 Comet | Electricals | Major UK PLC | 31/01/08 | 1,731.6 | 3.3\% | (24.2) | (1.4\%) | (24.2) | (1.4\%) | (0.5\%) |
| 229 QS Group (QS, Bewise) | Clothing, Footwear \& Accessories | Other foreign-owned | 29/03/08 | 94.7 | (4.7\%) | (24.5) | (25.9\%) | (24.6) | (25.9\%) | 0.1\% |
| 230 Savers Health and Beauty | Opticians, Pharmacies, Health \& Beauty | Other foreign-owned | 29/12/07 | 180.3 | (43.0\%) | (33.3) | (18.5\%) | (33.4) | (18.5\%) | (14.8\%) |
| 231 Grattan | Mixed Goods | Other foreign-owned | 28/02/08 | 384.5 | 0.5\% | (43.3) | (11.3\%) | (44.4) | (11.5\%) | (7.7\%) |
| 232 Zavvi | Music, Video and Gaming | Family or closely-owned | 31/03/07 | 315.3 | 0.0\% | (47.3) | (15.0\%) | (47.5) | (15.1\%) | (3.2\%) |

Adjusted for other income and exceptionals

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