With construction one of the hardest hit sectors in the current downturn, 2009 promises to be a very tough year for many m&e companies. EMC's analysis of leading contractors' past financial performance may offer a pointer as to who will emerge from the recession in the best shape.

Construction forecaster Martin Hewes reels off the numbers

Top 30 companies 2006/07

	Company	Year end	Sector	Turnover £000	
				2007	2006
1.	NG Bailey	Feb 07	M&E, FM	466,721	491,902
2.	Dalkia	Dec 07	M&E, energy management	428,311	385,014
3.	Emcor Group ^a	Dec 06	M&E, FM	378,699	415,304
4.	Skanska Rashleigh Weatherfoil	Dec 07	M&E, FM	325,468	261,162
5.	Balfour Kilpatrick	Dec 07	M&E	316,100	279,800
6.	Southern Electric Contracting	Mar 07	M&E, FM	306,151	283,456
7.	Haden Young ^b	Dec 06	M&E	288,999	196,588
8.	Mitie Engineering Services ^c	Mar 07	M&E, FM	281,600	256,100
9.	Crown House	Mar 07	M&E	211,873	176,571
10.	Lorne Stewart	Dec 07	M&E, FM	206,079	225,428
11.	T Clarke	Dec 07	M&E	193,845	186,334
12.	Interserve Specialist Services ^d	Dec 07	M&E, security, soft FM	190,200	134,700
13.	Imtech Technical Services	Dec 07	M&E, FM	179,051	109,474
14.	GSH ^e	Jul 07	FM, BM, engineering services, energy management	157,401	135,756
15.	Integral UK ^f	Dec 07	FM	147,531	134,435
16.	Staveley Engineering Services ⁹	May 07	M&E, FM	146,522	149,506
17.	Inviron	Dec 07	M&E, FM, marine services	119,750	109,107
18.	Briggs & Forrester	Oct 07	M&E, FM	114,333	91,281
19.	Forth Holdings	Aug 07	M&E, FM, data services	104,006	122,143
20.	Gratte Brothers ^h	Mar 07	M&E, FM	102,664	96,772
21.	Michael J Lonsdale	Mar 07	M&E, environmental services	99,985	58,867
22.	Shepherd Engineering Services	Jun 07	M&E, FM	88,849	91,382
23.	Dodd Group	Mar 07	M&E, FM, property services	75,881	62,485
24.	EIC	Dec 07	M&E	72,828	74,797
25.	Thermal Transfer ⁱ	Dec 07	M&E, air-conditioning, clean rooms	67,015	76,375
26.	Mears ^j	Dec 07	M&E	61,181	49,069
27.	Environmental Property Services	Mar 07	FM, M&E	59,624	56,361
28.	Norstead M&E Engineering k	Dec 07	M&E	51,394	33,474
29.	Nomenca	Dec 07	M&E in civil engineering market	45,312	36,361
30.	Derry Building Services	Aug 07	M&E	40,849	43,016

Notes: Data from companies' reports and accounts. Firms are selected according to stated operations, namely those that report they provide mechanical and electrical services to the construction industry. Both new work (installation) and maintenance (facilities management, etc) operators are included. The list is an indicative, not definitive, measure of the top 30 mechanical and electrical companies operating in the UK. 2006 data less than 12 months has been adjusted to 12 months. Data compiled by Hewes & Associates in August 2008 (www.hewes-associates.com)

Sector total

Annual growth

5,328,222 4,823,019

Major companies excluded because they do not yet have 2007 data or have insufficient data

Company	Year end		Turnover £000		
			2007	2006	
Planned Maintenance Engineering	Dec 06	FM, M&E	na	195,971	
Elyo	Dec 06	Energy management, mechanical and electrical services	na	120,391	
Spie Matthew Hall	Dec 07	M&E, FM	339,453	na	

- a Loss relates to the rail division (which delivered an operating loss of £12.36m), which has been discontinued
- b Data refers to Haden Young only. Results for Haden Building Management (FM) not
- yet available (2006 £148,046) Engineering Services is the m&e division of Mitie plc
- d Interserve data relates to its Specialist Services division, and includes soft FM services of a non-m&e nature
- e FM accounts for close to 80% of turnover
- f 2006 data is for eight months only (has been adjusted to 12 months) g 2006 data for 11 months only (has been adjusted to 12 months)
- h 2006 data for six months only (has been adjusted to 12 months) 2006 data for nine months only (has been adjusted to 12 months)
 - Data refers to the m&e operations of Mears. Employment, wages and directors' pay data refers to Haydon Mechanical & Electrical, which accounts for the majority of Mears' m&e operations
 - k Data taken from parent company (Metnor) accounts. Wages, employment and
 - directors' pay are for parent company (Metnor Group)

Pre-tax profit £000		Operating profit £000		Number of e	Number of employees		Wages £000		Highest-paid director £000	
2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	
17,695	19,708	12,089	8,812	3,752	3,802	120,113	115,347	704	476	
8,811	10,888	11,172	11,901	3,589	3,451	104,684	94,021	377	487	
-4,595	5,760	-6,138	4,312	3,167	3,358	104,141	105,113	331	326	
9,304	14,633	4,149	11,598	1,268	1,185	47,667	34,675	216	209	
na	na	na	na	2,040	1,873	na	na	na	na	
23,469	19,372	22,515	18,649	3,268	2,975	92,852	79,897	323	259	
12,291	9,908	7,441	5,402	1,676	1,405	60,862	45,772	497	359	
8,300	7,200	7,800	6,400	1,241	1,297	na	na	357	191	
5,362	9,848	5,244	9,747	na	na	na	na	na	na	
7,836	6,367	6,011	5,046	1,749	1,867	58,998	58,329	400	370	
8,166	6,576	8,116	6,723	1,541	1,529	52,081	49,699	219	200	
na	na	6,700	6,600	2,995	1128	na	na	na	na	
11,313	8,337	9,696	7,245	783	305	27,003	13,187	278	327	
8,039	7,211	8,113	6,807	1,759	1,500	48,953	44,387	408	295	
3,819	3,002	5,461	4,557	2,411	2,231	55,644	47,769	238	228	
1,044	851	2,918	2,820	1,083	1,123	38,008	39,662	238	219	
1,474	79	1,224	6	994	942	35,065	33,184	145	138	
4,102	1,634	3,327	1,265	572	544	20,933	17,583	510	267	
5,565	3,447	5,346	3,281	1,244	1,100	38,182	34,097	341	287	
4,15	428	381	438	589	577	22,553	21,764	263	328	
3,673	172	3,455	97	108	88	3,910	3,269	401	560	
1,303	812	1,545	1,114	663	664	21,135	20,498	na	na	
4,104	3,425	3,427	2,907	692	649	19,762	18,431	562	649	
4,364	2,158	3,978	2,011	552	562	20,580	18,829	396	205	
2,055	2,012	1,538	2,199	309	346	11,259	9,291	146	141	
1,870	1,549	2,587	1,793	229	208	7,349	6,502	145	145	
2,263	1,121	3,288	2,255	477	454	14,074	12,879	155	150	
na	na	2,705	1,378	281	382	11,108	12,709	246	380	
1,327	914	1,385	914	na	na	182	185	161	128	
1,169	1,155	966	1,029	222	223	7,056	7,007	186	167	
154,538	148,566	146,439	137,306	39,254	35,768	1,044,154	944,086	8,243	7,491	
4.0%		6.7%		9.7%		10.6%		10.0%		

Pre-tax profit £000		Operating	Operating profit £000		Number of employees		Wages £000		Highest-paid director £000	
2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	
na	14,312	na	13,957	na	2,198	na	71,168	na	154	
na	5,446	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	
na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	