

Ashford

q1 2011 business confidence report



headlines

- Q1 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Ashford when compared to any previous Q1.
- January 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Ashford when compared to any previous January.

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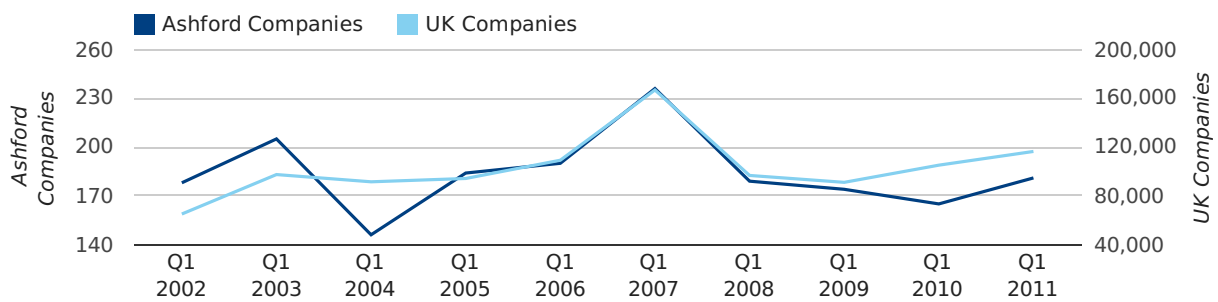
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

A total of 181 companies were registered in Ashford during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011).

This figure is an increase of 9.7% versus the same period last year (Q1 2010). This figure compares equally to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 10.7% against the same period last year.

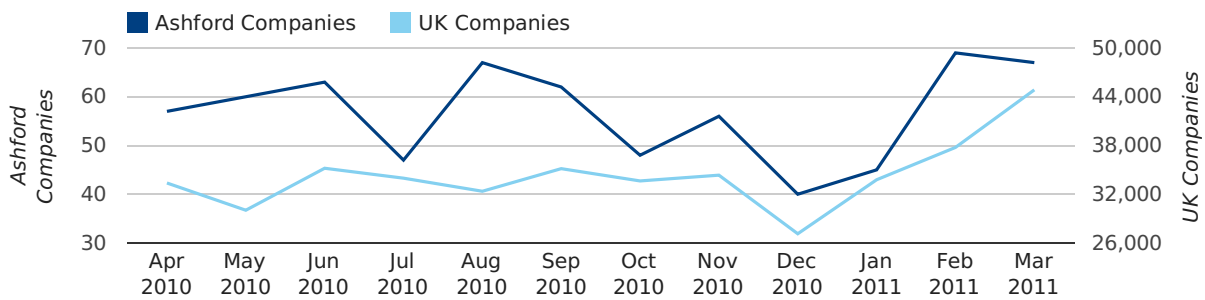
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	181	116,391
2010	165	105,137
% CHANGE	9.7%	10.7%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (236)	2007 (166,814)

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

new companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	45	69	67
NEW COMPANIES IN 2010	34	53	78
% CHANGE	32.4%	30.2%	-14.1%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (72)	2003 (73)	2007 (94)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

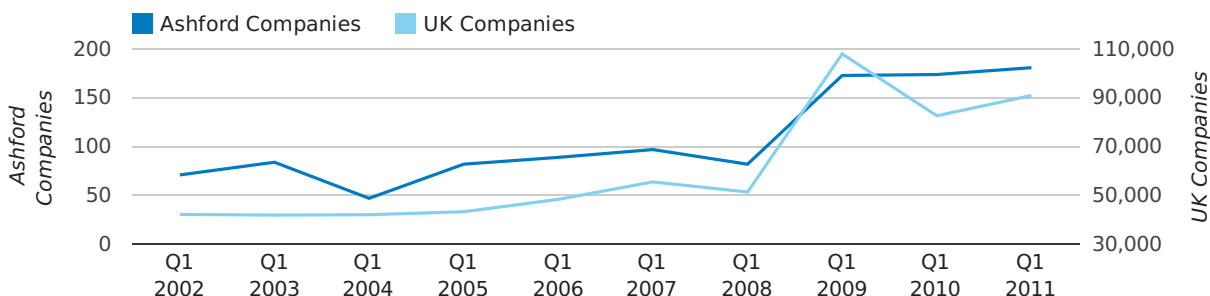
Q1 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Ashford when compared to any previous Q1.

A total of 181 companies were dissolved in Ashford during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011).

This figure is an increase of 4.0% versus the same period last year (Q1 2010). This figure compares well to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 10.0% against the same period last year.

FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	181	90,986
2010	174	82,677
% CHANGE	4.0%	10.0%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (181)	2009 (108,060)

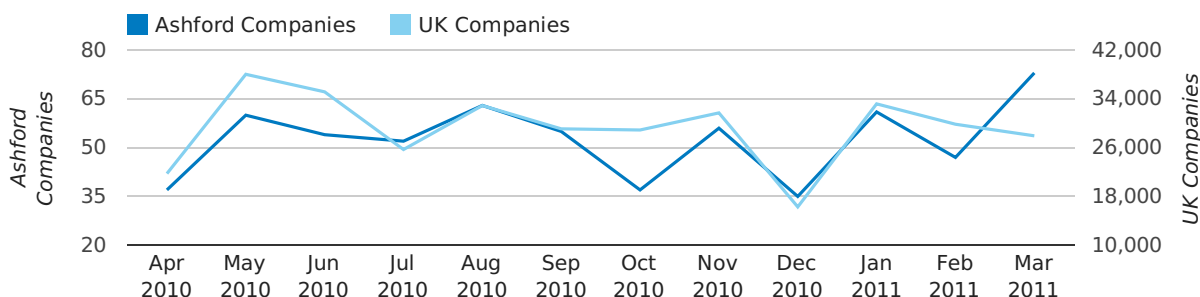
dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

January 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Ashford when compared to any previous January.

dissolved companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	61	47	73
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010	46	55	73
% CHANGE	32.6%	-14.5%	0%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (61)	2010 (55)	2009 (110)

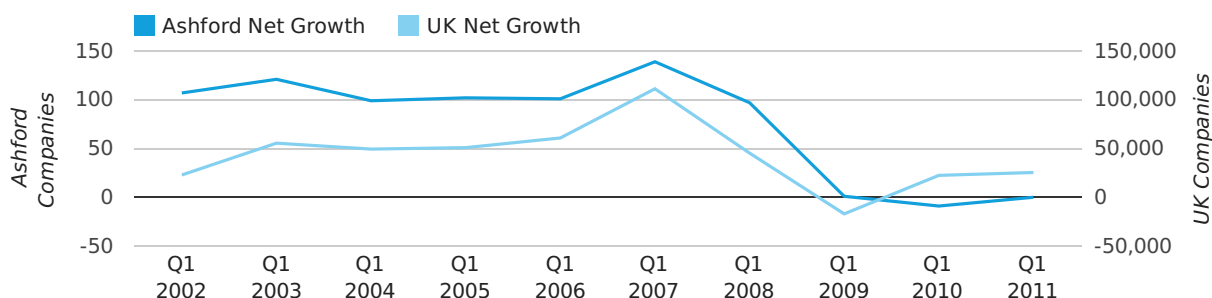
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

Net company growth for Ashford during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011) was 0 companies.

This represents an increase of 100.0% on the same period last year.

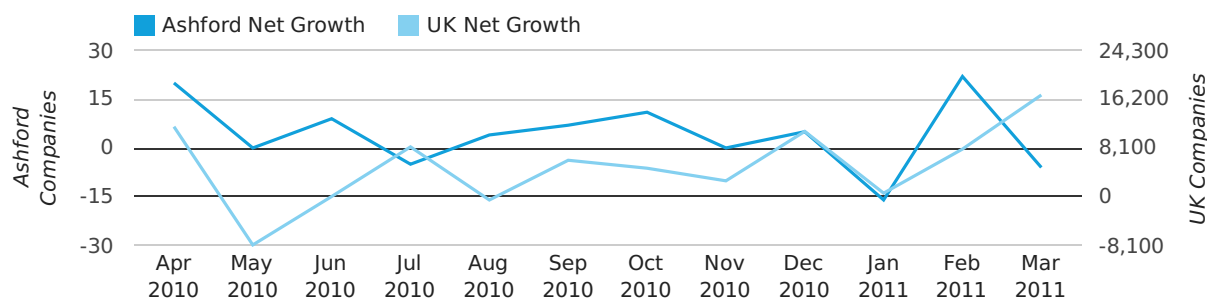
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	0	25,405
2010	-9	22,460
% CHANGE	-100.0%	13.1%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (139)	2007 (111,282)

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

net growth by month



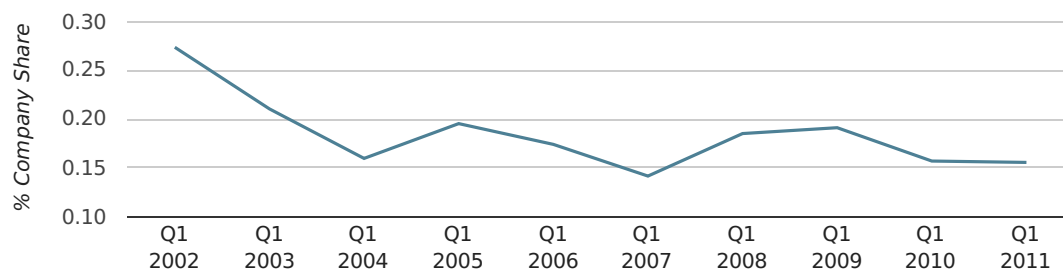
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NET GROWTH IN 2011	-16	22	-6
NET GROWTH IN 2010	-12	-2	5
% CHANGE	33.3%	-1,200.0%	-220.0%
RECORD YEAR	2003 (36)	2007 (51)	2008 (70)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

In the first quarter of 2011, Ashford formed 0.2% of all UK companies.

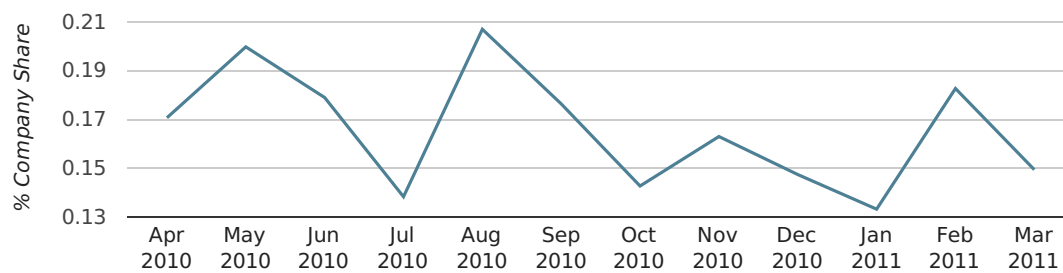
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	ASHFORD
2011	0.2%
2010	0.2%
2009	0.2%
2008	0.2%
2007	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1971 (0.4%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

company share by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
% CHANGE	14.1%	14.5%	-18.0%
RECORD YEAR	1971 (0.7%)	1967 (0.4%)	1970 (0.3%)

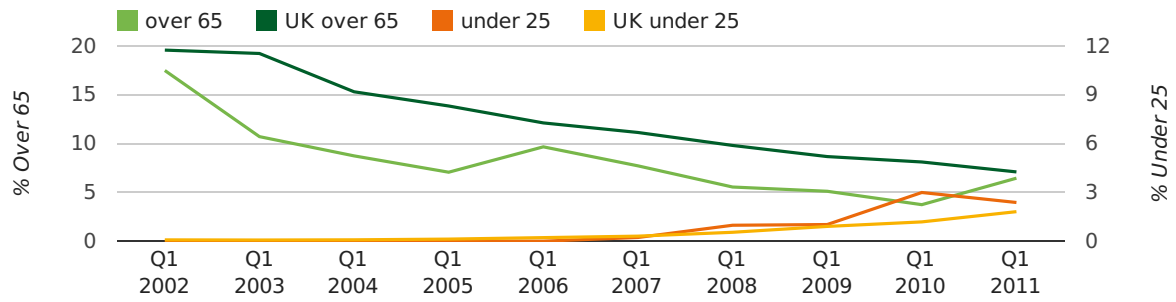
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2011 was 46.4.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.4% compared to the UK figure of 3.0%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 6.5% compared to the UK figure of 4.3%.

director age by quarter

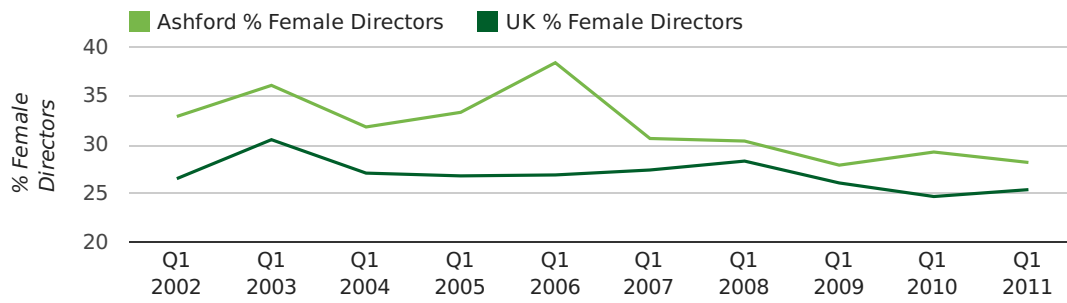


Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

The record first quarter for female directors in Ashford was in 1861 when 40.0% of all directors were female.

28.2% of all director appointments in Ashford in the first quarter of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.4% for the same period.

director gender by quarter



Previous 12 months (Mar 2010-Mar 2011)

Excluding: LIMITED, LTD, &, UK, SERVICES, THE, (UK), AND, LTD., A, LLP, SOLUTIONS, COMPANY, OF.

WORD	PERCENTAGE	UK WORD	UK PERCENTAGE
FOODS	3.18%	CONSULTING	5.04%
J	1.15%	MANAGEMENT	4.97%
MANAGEMENT	1.06%	CONSULTANCY	3.16%
CONSULTANCY	0.97%	PROPERTY	2.38%
BUILDING	0.88%	TRADING	2.10%
S	0.88%	DESIGN	1.93%
ASHFORD	0.88%	ASSOCIATES	1.92%
TRAINING	0.79%	BUSINESS	1.87%
PROPERTY	0.71%	CONSTRUCTION	1.80%
GREEN	0.71%	CONSULTANTS	1.76%
CONSULTING	0.71%	MEDIA	1.69%
CONTRACTORS	0.71%	ENGINEERING	1.61%
KENT	0.71%	LONDON	1.60%
ENGINEERING	0.62%	CARE	1.45%
(KENT)	0.62%	J	1.45%
NORMAS	0.62%	GLOBAL	1.44%
CONSULTANTS	0.62%	INVESTMENTS	1.43%
ELECTRICAL	0.62%	IT	1.41%
SHOP	0.53%	PROPERTIES	1.36%
CONSTRUCTION	0.53%	BUILDING	1.34%
BUSINESS	0.44%	M	1.30%
INVESTMENTS	0.44%	ELECTRICAL	1.28%
TRADING	0.44%	S	1.24%
CAFE	0.44%	INTERNATIONAL	1.23%
LOGISTICS	0.44%	SYSTEMS	1.23%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	264	202,798
7487 - Other business activities	120	60,968
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	55	30,253
7414 - Business & management consultancy	37	12,916
9999 - Dormant Company	34	19,765
99999 - Dormant Company	30	18,336
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	29	16,150
5132 - Wholesale of meat and meat products	23	200
9305 - Other service activities	20	8,740
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	20	10,085
74990 - Non-trading company	20	8,695
7499 - Non-trading company	19	11,316
32990 - Other manufacturing not elsewhere classified	18	1,484
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	17	10,246
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	15	7,788
62090 - Other information technology service activities	14	6,996
7260 - Other computer related activities	14	7,789
73110 - Advertising agencies	10	1,597
4521 - General construction & civil engineering	10	6,183
43210 - Electrical installation	9	3,172