

# Ashford

2011 annual business confidence report



## headlines

- Q4 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Ashford when compared to any previous Q4.
- December 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Ashford when compared to any previous December.
- November 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Ashford when compared to any previous November.
- November 2011 was a record month for company closures in Ashford when compared to any month in history.

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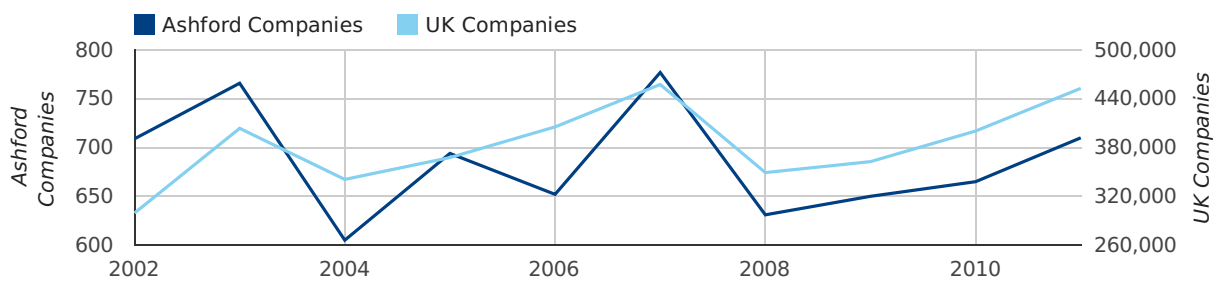
sic data

### Annual Data (2011)

A total of 710 companies were formed in Ashford in 2011. This total is 6.8% higher than in 2010 and compares equally to the UK figure of a 13.1% growth compared to 400,358 the previous year.

YEAR	ASHFORD	UK
2011	710	452,870
2010	665	400,358
2009	650	362,675
2008	631	349,203
2007	777	457,649
RECORD YEAR	2007 (777)	2007 (457,649)

### new companies by year



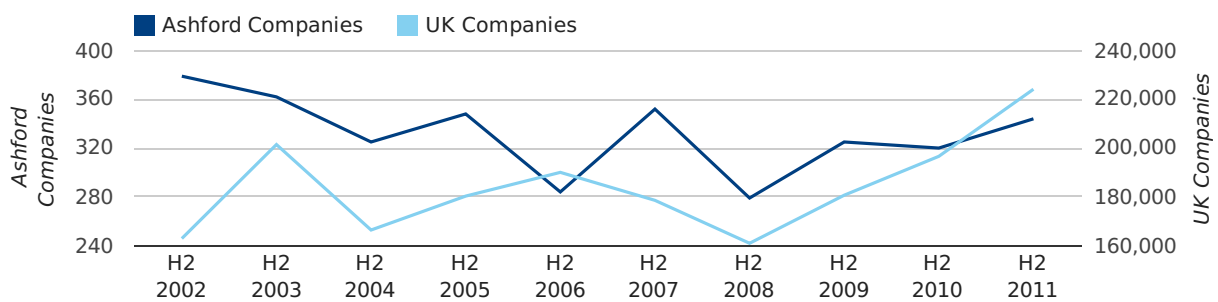
### Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 a total of 344 companies were formed in Ashford. This figure is 7.5% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide figure of 14.0%.

The highest total for a second half year in Ashford occurred in 2002 when a total of 379 were formed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	344	224,135
2010	320	196,609
% CHANGE	7.5%	14.0%
RECORD YEAR	2002 (379)	2011 (224,135)

### new companies by half year



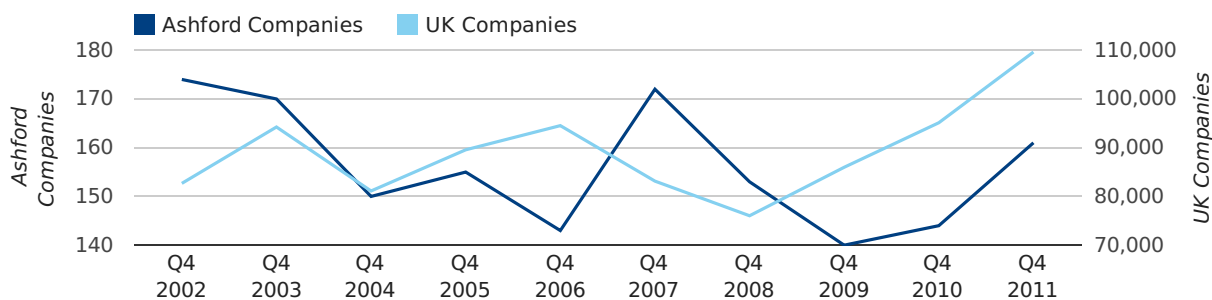
## Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

A total of 161 companies were registered in Ashford during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 11.8% versus the same period last year (Q4 2010). This figure compares badly to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 15.3% against the same period last year.

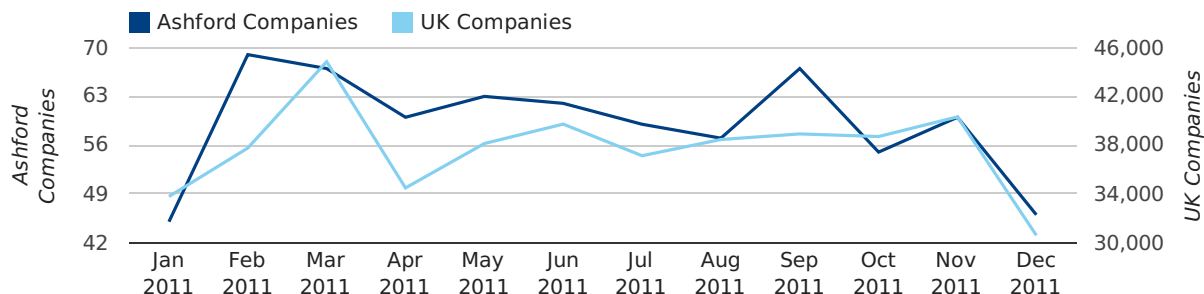
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	161	109,623
2010	144	95,117
% CHANGE	11.8%	15.3%
RECORD YEAR	2002 (174)	2011 (109,623)

### new companies by quarter



## Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

### new companies by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	55	60	46
NEW COMPANIES IN 2010	48	56	40
% CHANGE	14.6%	7.1%	15.0%
RECORD YEAR	2002 (75)	2007 (70)	2005 (51)

### Annual Data (2011)

A total of 626 companies were dissolved in Ashford in 2011. This total is 0.5% higher than in 2010 and compares favourably to the UK figure of 8.1% decrease compared to the previous year.

YEAR	ASHFORD	UK
2011	626	314,523
2010	623	342,232
2009	772	533,773
2008	375	237,901
2007	367	220,295
RECORD YEAR	2009 (772)	2009 (533,773)

### dissolved companies by year



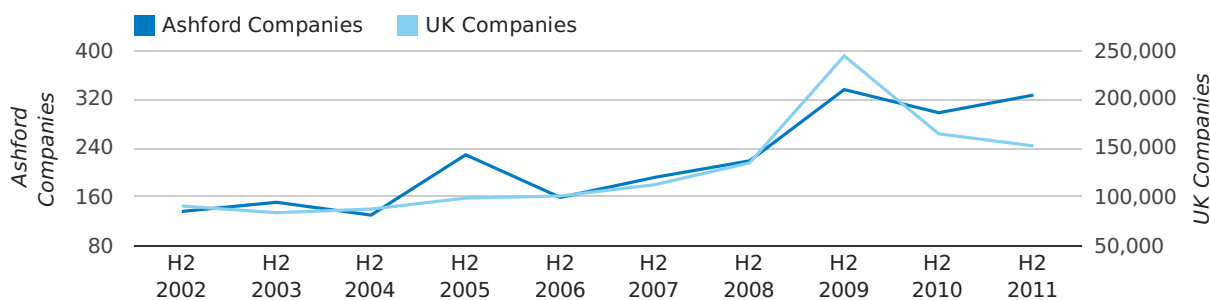
### Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 a total of 327 companies were dissolved in Ashford. This figure is 9.7% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide change of -7.5%.

The highest total for a second half year in Ashford occurred in 2009 when a total of 336 were closed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	327	152,213
2010	298	164,601
% CHANGE	9.7%	-7.5%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (336)	2009 (244,537)

### dissolved companies by half year



## Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

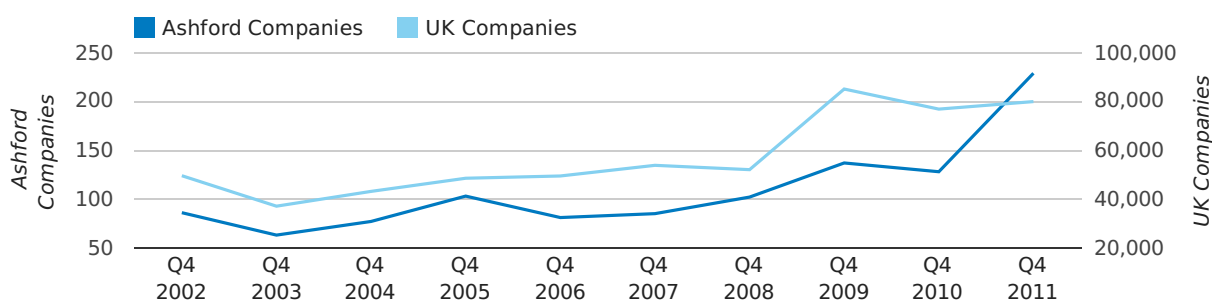
Q4 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Ashford when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 229 companies were dissolved in Ashford during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 78.9% versus the same period last year (Q4 2010). This figure compares poorly to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 4.0% against the same period last year.

FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	229	79,983
2010	128	76,896
% CHANGE	78.9%	4.0%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (229)	2009 (85,136)

### dissolved companies by quarter



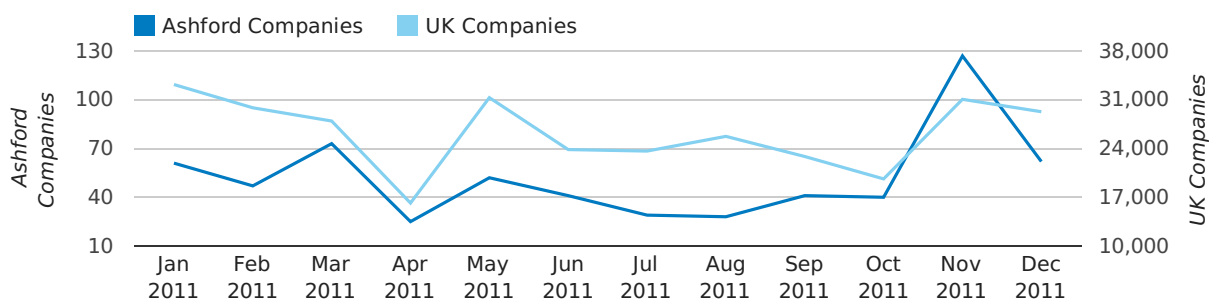
## Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

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

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

November 2011 was a record month for company closures in Ashford when compared to any month in history.

### dissolved companies by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	40	127	62
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010	37	56	35
% CHANGE	8.1%	126.8%	77%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (44)	2011 (127)	2009 (62)

### Annual Data (2011)

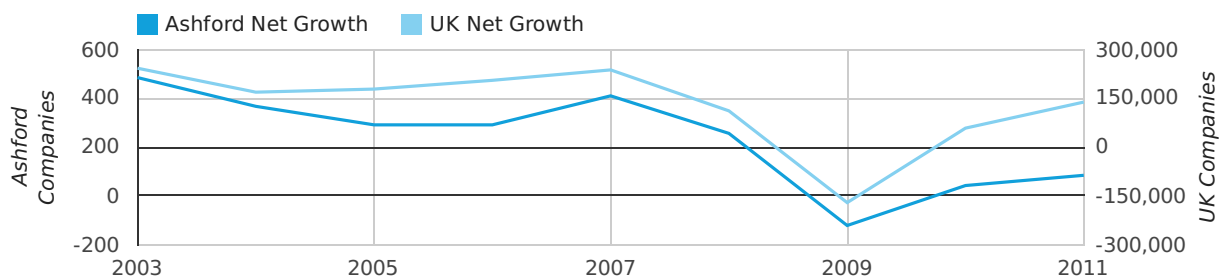
A total of 84 companies were added to the company register for Ashford in 2011. This number represents growth of 12.6% which compares unfavourably to the UK figure of 34.6%.

This number is 42 companies higher than the previous year.

The highest net company growth figure ever seen in one year came in 2003 when the Ashford company register grew by 485 companies.

YEAR	ASHFORD	UK
2011	84	138,347
2010	42	58,126
2009	-122	-171,098
2008	256	111,302
2007	410	237,354
RECORD YEAR	2003 (485)	2003 (242,543)

### net growth by year

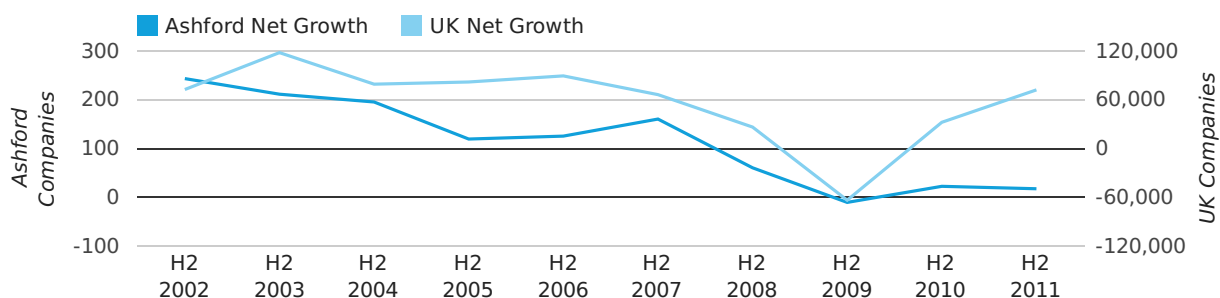


### Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 the company register for Ashford increased by 17 companies. This figure is 22.7% lower than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 124.7%.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	17	71,922
2010	22	32,008
% CHANGE	-22.7%	124.7%
RECORD YEAR	2002 (243)	2003 (117,772)

### net growth by half year



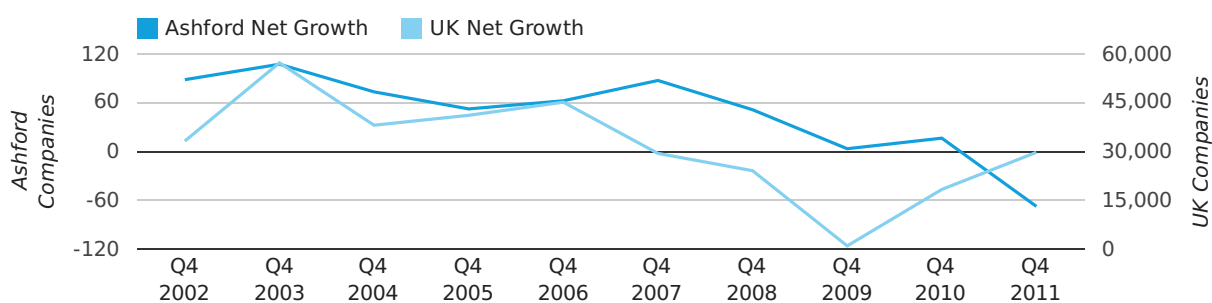
## Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

Net company growth for Ashford during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011) was -68 companies.

This represents a decrease of 525.0% on the same period last year.

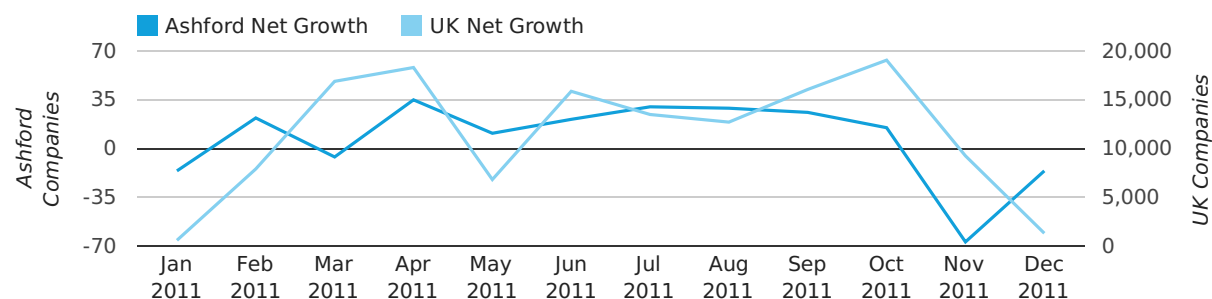
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	-68	29,640
2010	16	18,221
% CHANGE	-525.0%	62.7%
RECORD YEAR	2003 (107)	2003 (57,175)

### net growth by quarter



## Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

### net growth by month



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	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NET GROWTH IN 2011	15	-67	-16
NET GROWTH IN 2010	11	0	5
% CHANGE	36.4%	0.0%	-420.0%
RECORD YEAR	2003 (52)	2007 (38)	2007 (28)

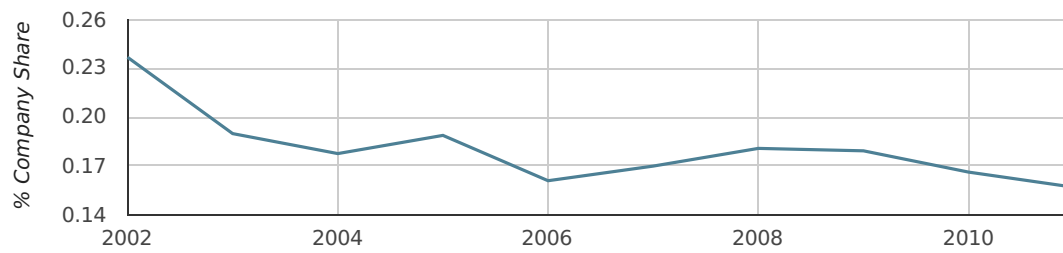


### Annual Data (2011)

In 2011 Ashford formed 0.2% of all UK companies. This is no change on 2010 when Ashford was responsible for 0.2% of all UK companies.

YEAR	ASHFORD
2011	0.2%
2010	0.2%
2009	0.2%
2008	0.2%
2007	0.2%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	2002 (0.2%)

### company share by year

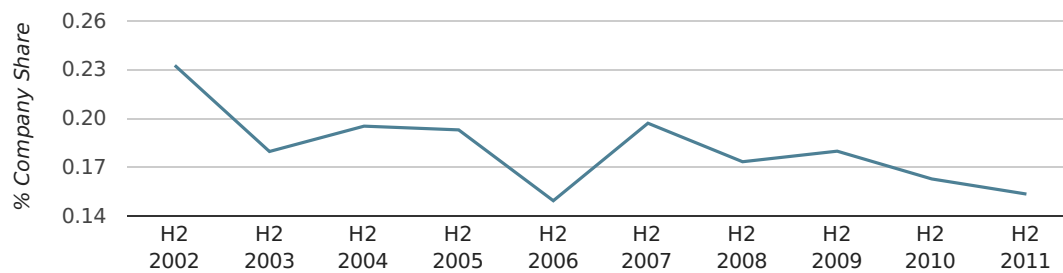


### Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 Ashford formed 0.2% of all UK companies. This is the same as the 2010 figure of 0.2%.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	ASHFORD
2011	0.2%
2010	0.2%
2009	0.2%
2008	0.2%
2007	0.2%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1976 (0.2%)

### company share by half year

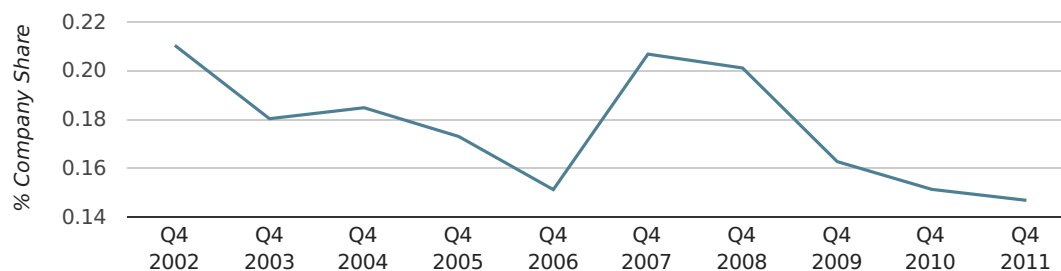


## Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

In the fourth quarter of 2011, Ashford formed 0.1% of all UK companies.

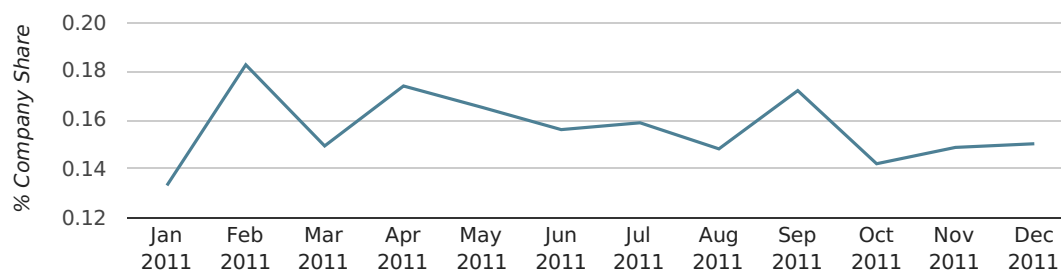
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	ASHFORD
2011	0.1%
2010	0.2%
2009	0.2%
2008	0.2%
2007	0.2%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1970 (0.4%)

### company share by quarter



## Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

### company share by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
% CHANGE	-0.4%	-8.7%	2.0%
RECORD YEAR	1961 (0.4%)	1980 (0.4%)	1970 (0.4%)

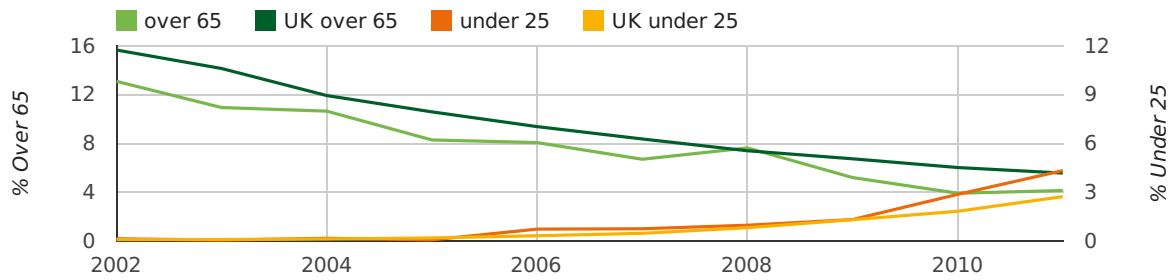
### Annual Data (2011)

The average age of a director in 2011 was 45.6.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 4.3% compared to the UK figure of 3.7%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 4.2% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

#### director age by year



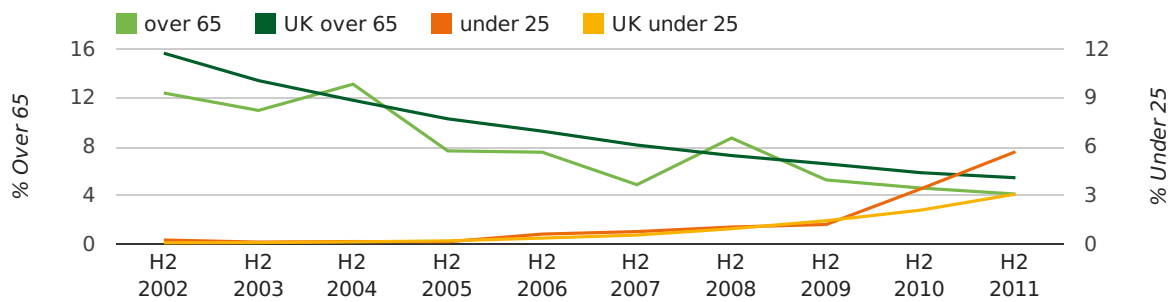
### Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the second half of 2011 was 45.7.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 5.7% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 4.1% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

#### director age by half year



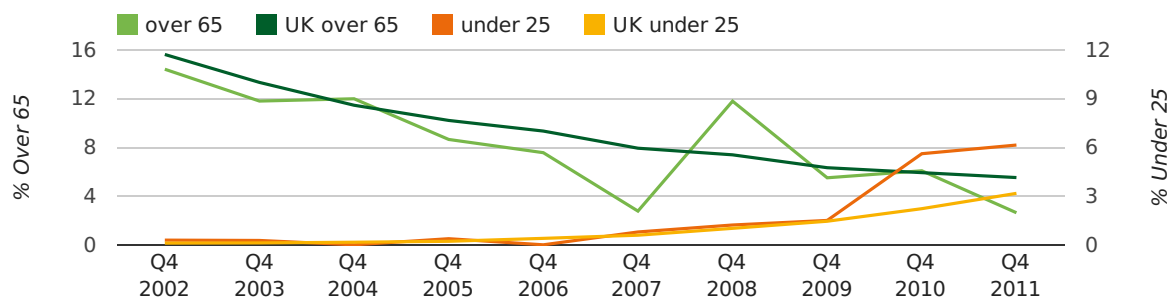
## Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the fourth quarter of 2011 was 44.0.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 6.1% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 2.6% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

### director age by quarter

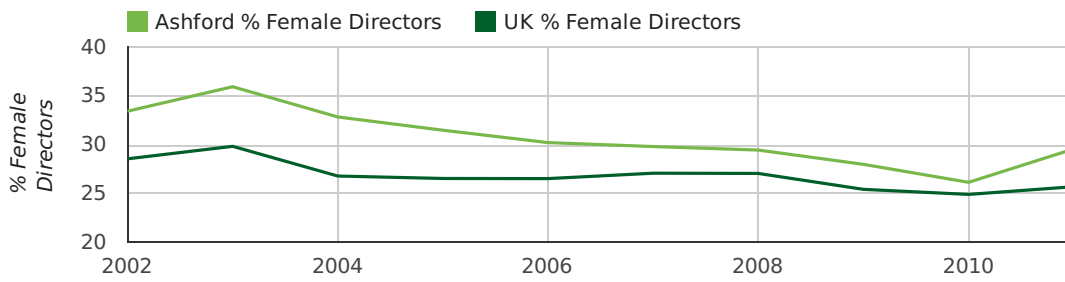


### Annual Data (2011)

The record year for female directors in Ashford was 1857 when 36.4% of all directors were female.

The percentage of female directors in Ashford in 2011 was 33.4%. The average for the UK during this time was 28.6%

#### director gender by year

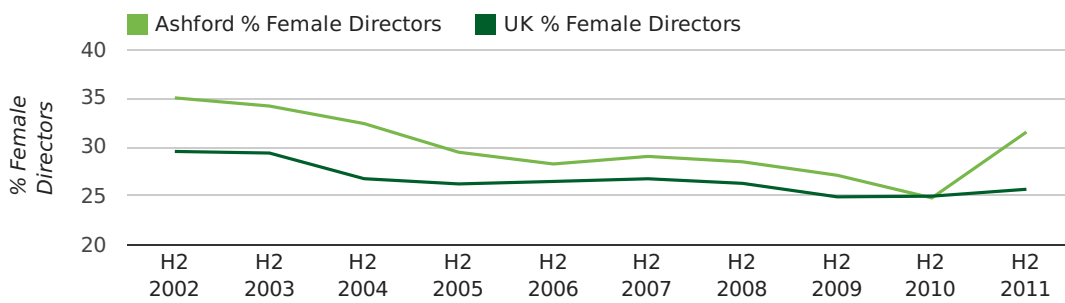


### Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The record second half year for female directors in Ashford was 1860 when 42.9% of all directors were female.

31.5% of all director appointments in Ashford in the second half of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.7% for the same period.

#### director gender by half year

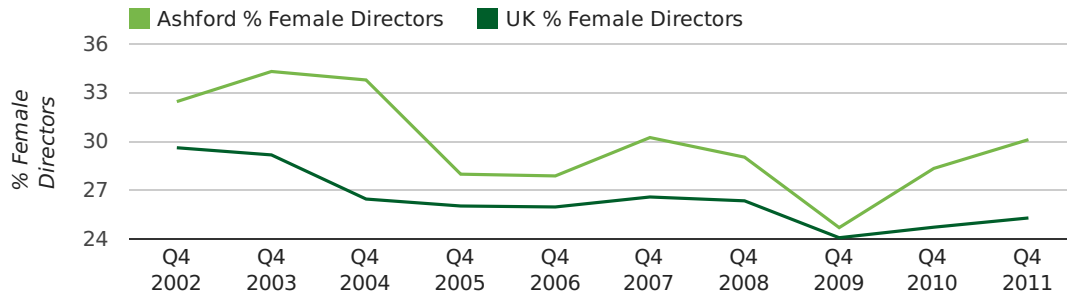


## Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

The record fourth quarter for female directors in Ashford was in 1977 when 31.1% of all directors were female.

30.1% of all director appointments in Ashford in the fourth quarter of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.3% for the same period.

### director gender by quarter



## Previous 12 months (Dec 2010-Dec 2011)

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

WORD	PERCENTAGE	UK WORD	UK PERCENTAGE
CONSULTING	1.51%	CONSULTING	5.07%
PROPERTY	1.18%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
ASHFORD	1.01%	CONSULTANCY	3.26%
MANAGEMENT	0.93%	PROPERTY	2.37%
CONSULTANCY	0.93%	TRADING	2.07%
(KENT)	0.93%	DESIGN	1.92%
GREEN	0.93%	ASSOCIATES	1.86%
KENT	0.84%	ENGINEERING	1.78%
J	0.76%	BUSINESS	1.78%
BUSINESS	0.76%	CONSULTANTS	1.76%
EAST	0.76%	CONSTRUCTION	1.73%
SOUTH	0.67%	MEDIA	1.71%
IT	0.67%	LONDON	1.63%
ELECTRICAL	0.67%	J	1.51%
B	0.67%	INVESTMENTS	1.48%
JUDITH	0.50%	GLOBAL	1.46%
CONTRACTORS	0.50%	IT	1.41%
DESIGN	0.50%	CARE	1.39%
GRACE	0.50%	PROPERTIES	1.29%
PARTNERSHIP	0.50%	ELECTRICAL	1.29%
CONSTRUCTION	0.42%	M	1.27%
PROJECT	0.42%	BUILDING	1.26%
SOLAR	0.42%	ENERGY	1.25%
ASSOCIATES	0.42%	S	1.20%
(ASHFORD)	0.42%	ENTERPRISES	1.20%

## Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	258	205,525
7487 - Other business activities	119	57,052
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	56	32,483
5132 - Wholesale of meat and meat products	44	219
99999 - Dormant Company	34	21,846
9999 - Dormant Company	31	20,199
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	29	17,765
7414 - Business & management consultancy	24	13,034
7499 - Non-trading company	20	9,957
74990 - Non-trading company	18	8,929
46320 - Wholesale of meat and meat products	18	176
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	17	8,671
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	17	12,072
9305 - Other service activities	16	9,492
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	16	11,768
32990 - Other manufacturing not elsewhere classified	14	1,594
73110 - Advertising agencies	12	1,823
62090 - Other information technology service activities	12	7,493
62012 - Business and domestic software development	11	3,714
7260 - Other computer related activities	11	7,667