

Ashford

2011 annual business confidence report



headlines

- 2011 was a record year for company registrations in Ashford when compared to any year in history.
- The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous second half year.
- The second half of 2011 was a record second half year for company registrations in Ashford when compared to any half year in history.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous Q4.
- December 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous December.
- The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Ashford when compared to any previous second half year.
- 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.

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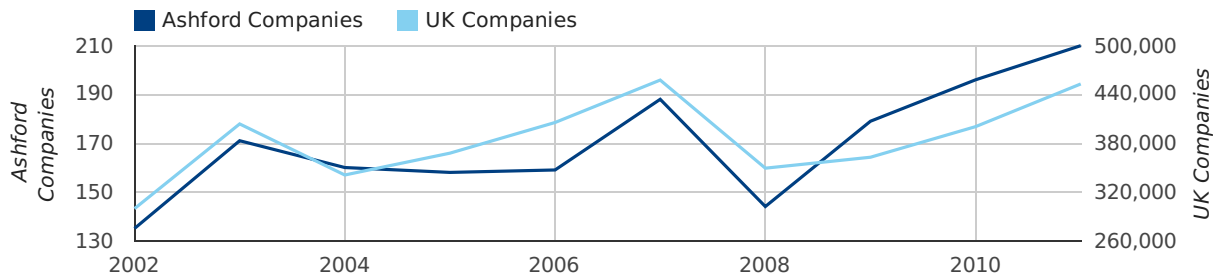
Annual Data (2011)

2011 was a record year for company registrations in Ashford when compared to any year in history.

A total of 210 companies were formed in Ashford in 2011. This total is 7.1% 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	210	452,870
2010	196	400,358
2009	179	362,675
2008	144	349,203
2007	188	457,649
RECORD YEAR	2011 (210)	2007 (457,649)

new companies by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous second half year.

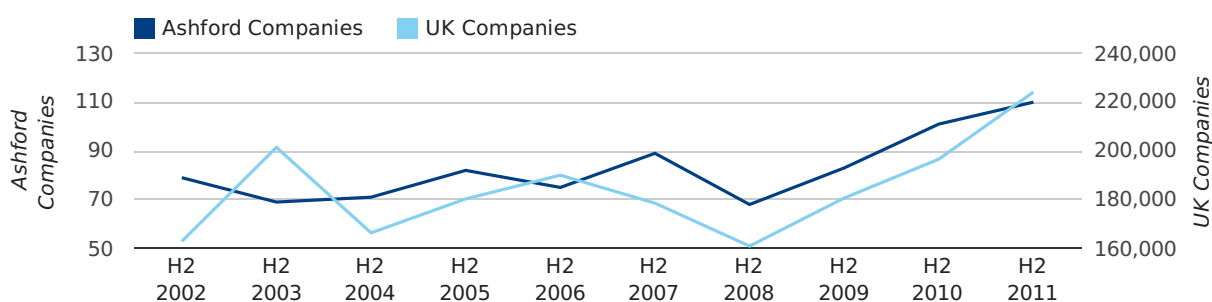
The second half of 2011 was a record second half year for company registrations in Ashford when compared to any half year in history.

In the second half of 2011 a total of 110 companies were formed in Ashford. This figure is 8.9% 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 2011 when a total of 110 were formed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	110	224,135
2010	101	196,609
% CHANGE	8.9%	14.0%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (110)	2011 (224,135)

new companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

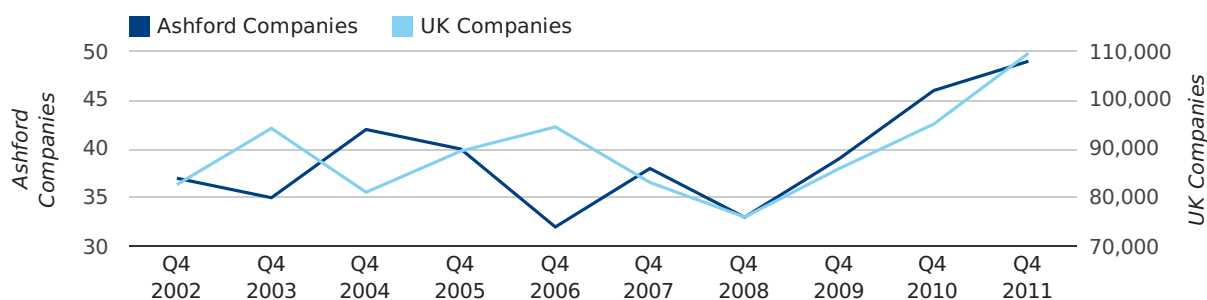
Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 49 companies were registered in Ashford during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 6.5% 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	49	109,623
2010	46	95,117
% CHANGE	6.5%	15.3%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (49)	2011 (109,623)

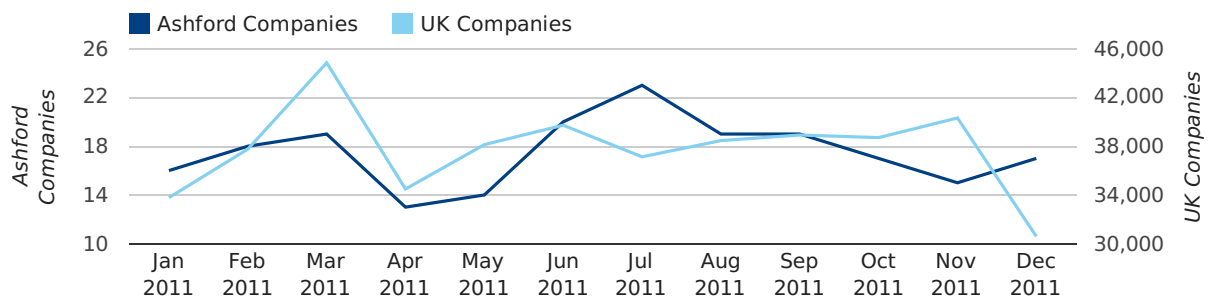
new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

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

new companies by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	17	15	17
NEW COMPANIES IN 2010	18	15	13
% CHANGE	-5.6%	0.0%	30.8%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (21)	2009 (19)	2011 (17)

Annual Data (2011)

A total of 156 companies were dissolved in Ashford in 2011. This total is 20.9% higher than in 2010 and compares favourably to the UK figure of 8.1% decrease compared to the previous year.

YEAR	ASHFORD	UK
2011	156	314,523
2010	129	342,232
2009	166	533,773
2008	83	237,901
2007	112	220,295
RECORD YEAR	2009 (166)	2009 (533,773)

dissolved companies by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

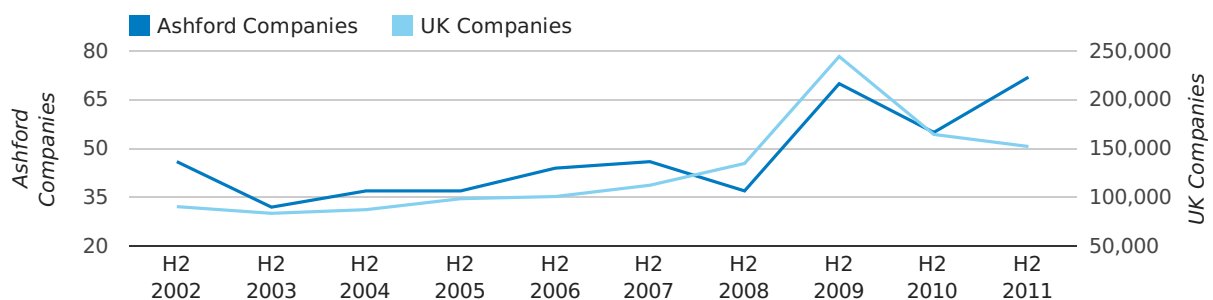
The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Ashford when compared to any previous second half year.

In the second half of 2011 a total of 72 companies were dissolved in Ashford. This figure is 30.9% 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 2011 when a total of 72 were closed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	72	152,213
2010	55	164,601
% CHANGE	30.9%	-7.5%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (72)	2009 (244,537)

dissolved companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

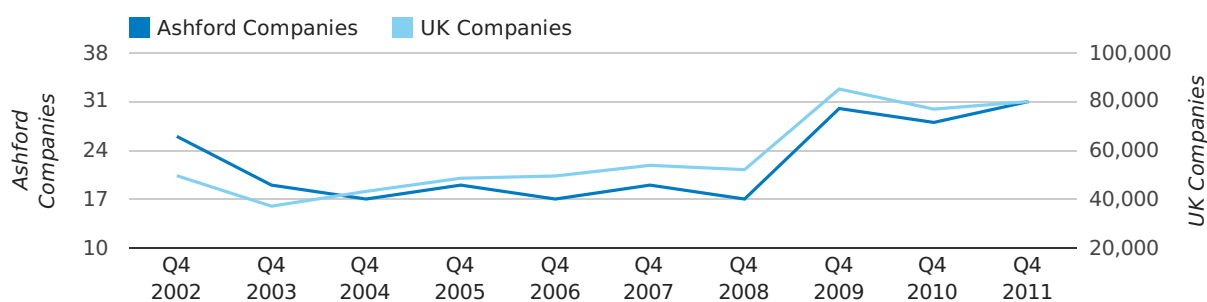
Q4 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Ashford when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 31 companies were dissolved in Ashford during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 10.7% 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	31	79,983
2010	28	76,896
% CHANGE	10.7%	4.0%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (31)	2009 (85,136)

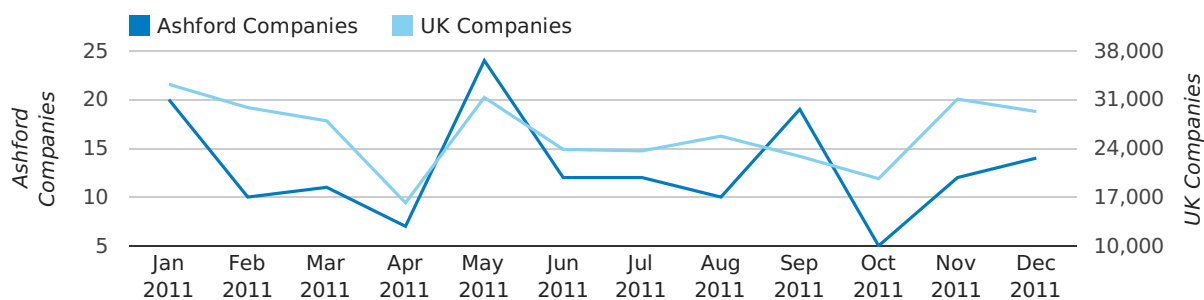
dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

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

dissolved companies by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	5	12	14
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010	8	16	4
% CHANGE	-37.5%	-25.0%	250%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (13)	2010 (16)	2011 (14)

Annual Data (2011)

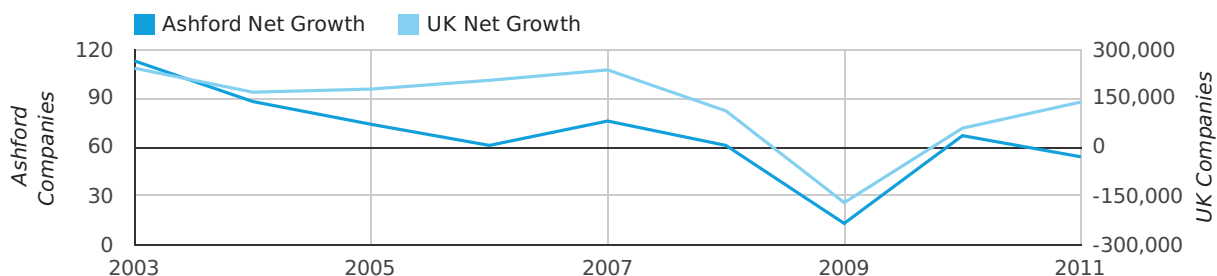
A total of 54 companies were added to the company register for Ashford in 2011. This number represents growth of 27.6% which compares unfavourably to the UK figure of 34.6%.

This number is 13 companies lower 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 113 companies.

YEAR	ASHFORD	UK
2011	54	138,347
2010	67	58,126
2009	13	-171,098
2008	61	111,302
2007	76	237,354
RECORD YEAR	2003 (113)	2003 (242,543)

net growth by year

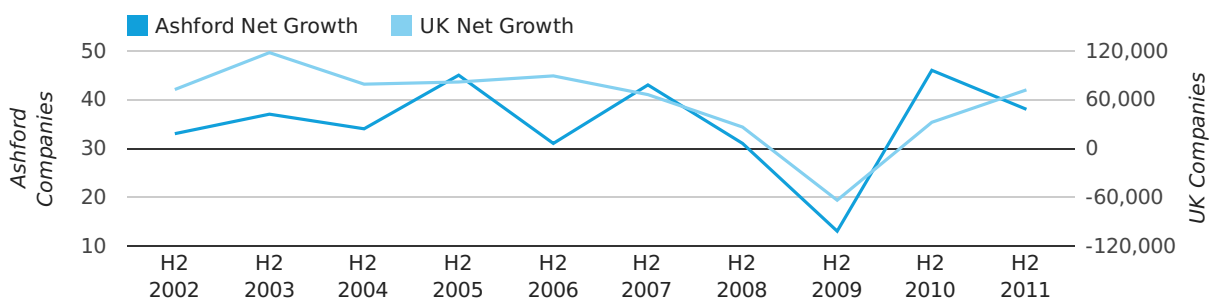


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 the company register for Ashford increased by 38 companies. This figure is 17.4% lower than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 124.7%.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	38	71,922
2010	46	32,008
% CHANGE	-17.4%	124.7%
RECORD YEAR	2010 (46)	2003 (117,772)

net growth by half year



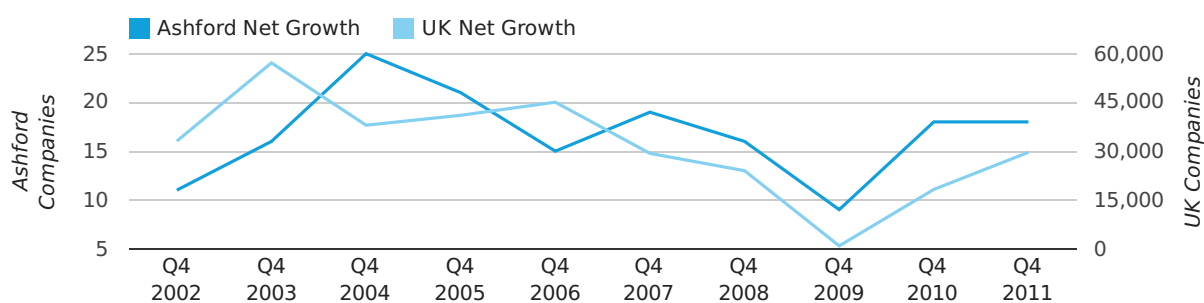
Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

Net company growth for Ashford during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011) was 18 companies.

This represents an increase of 0.0% on the same period last year.

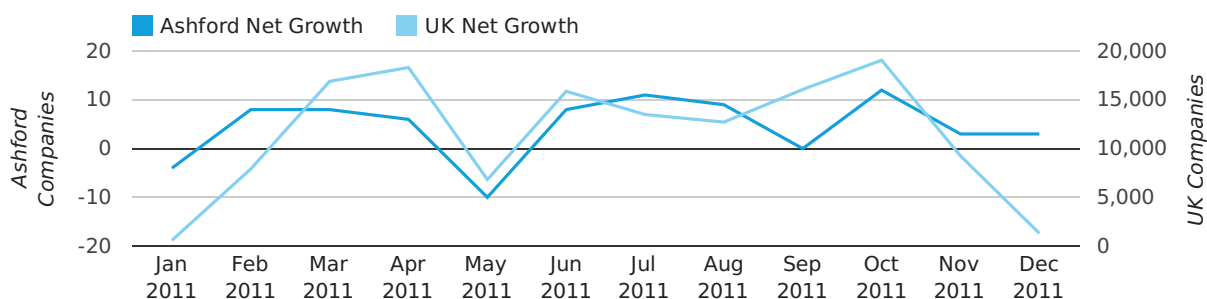
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	ASHFORD	UK
2011	18	29,640
2010	18	18,221
% CHANGE	0.0%	62.7%
RECORD YEAR	2004 (25)	2003 (57,175)

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

net growth by month



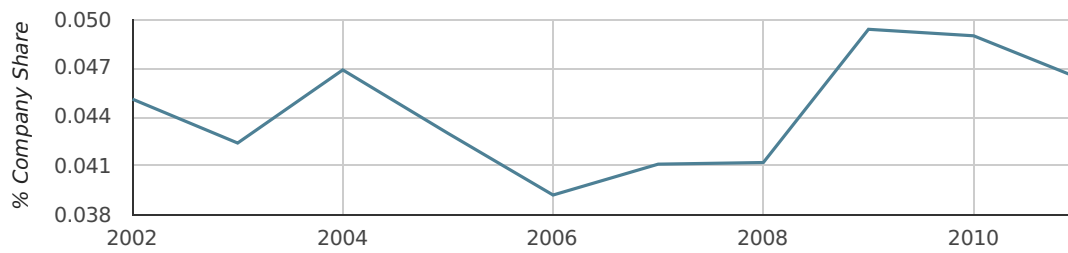
	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NET GROWTH IN 2011	12	3	3
NET GROWTH IN 2010	10	-1	9
% CHANGE	20.0%	-400.0%	-66.7%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (16)	2006 (14)	2008 (13)

Annual Data (2011)

In 2011 Ashford formed 0.0% of all UK companies. This is no change on 2010 when Ashford was responsible for 0.0% of all UK companies.

YEAR	ASHFORD
2011	0.0%
2010	0.0%
2009	0.0%
2008	0.0%
2007	0.0%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1961 (0.1%)

company share by year

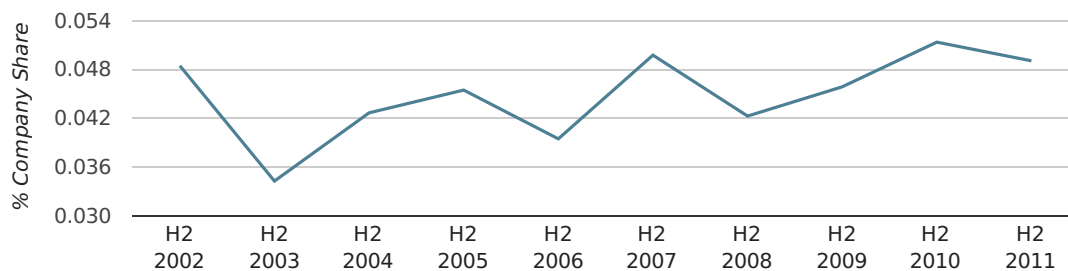


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 Ashford formed 0.0% of all UK companies. This is less than the 2010 figure of 0.1%.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	ASHFORD
2011	0.0%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.0%
2008	0.0%
2007	0.0%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1972 (0.1%)

company share by half year

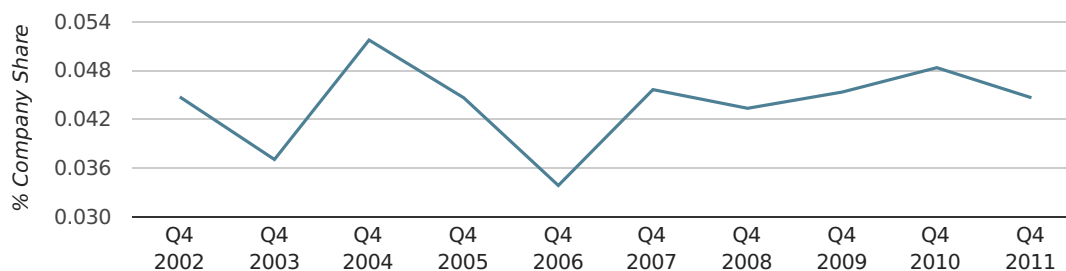


Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

In the fourth quarter of 2011, Ashford formed 0.0% of all UK companies.

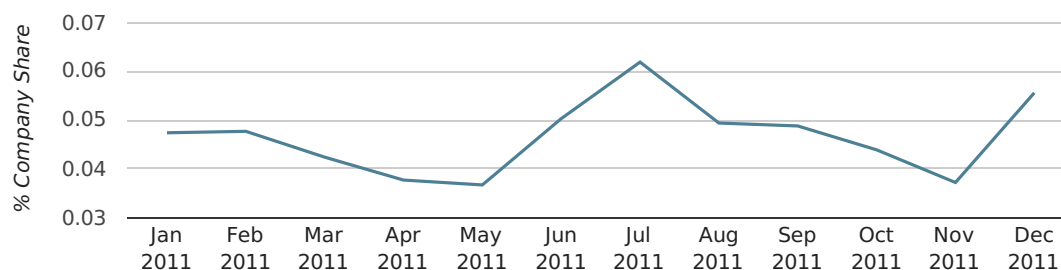
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	ASHFORD
2011	0.0%
2010	0.0%
2009	0.0%
2008	0.0%
2007	0.0%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1985 (0.1%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

company share by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
% CHANGE	-17.9%	-14.9%	16.1%
RECORD YEAR	1969 (0.2%)	1965 (0.2%)	1973 (0.2%)

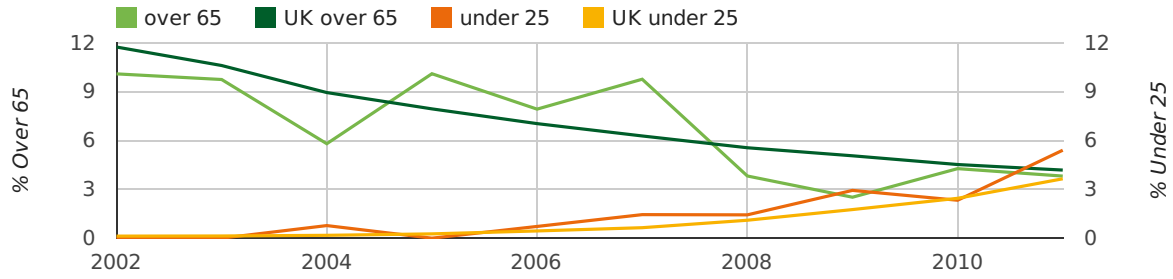
Annual Data (2011)

The average age of a director in 2011 was 41.8.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 5.4% compared to the UK figure of 3.7%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 3.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

director age by year



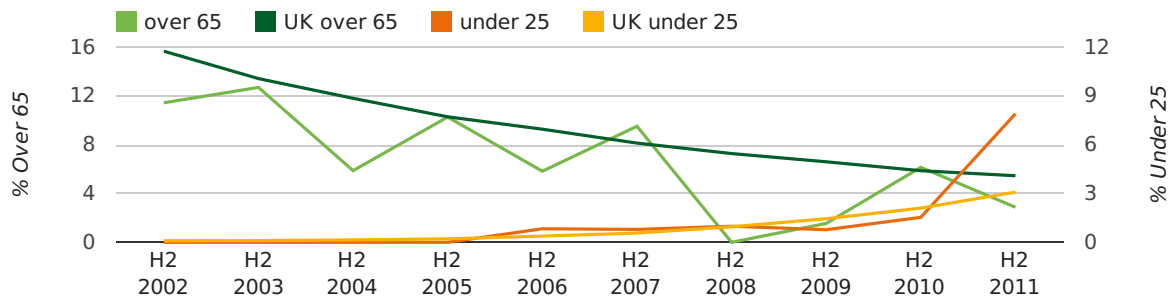
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the second half of 2011 was 40.6.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 7.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 2.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by half year



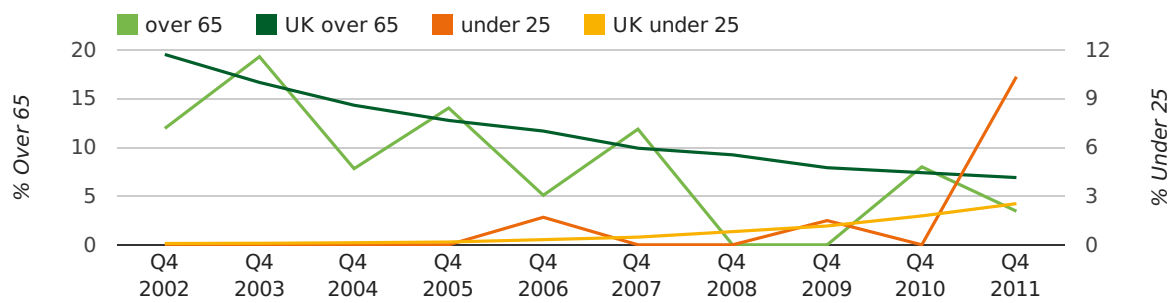
Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the fourth quarter of 2011 was 41.4.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 10.3% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 3.4% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by quarter

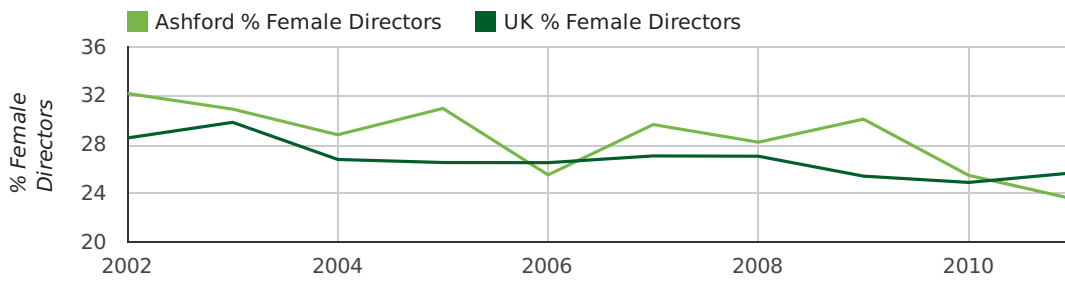


Annual Data (2011)

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 32.2%. The average for the UK during this time was 28.6%

director gender by year

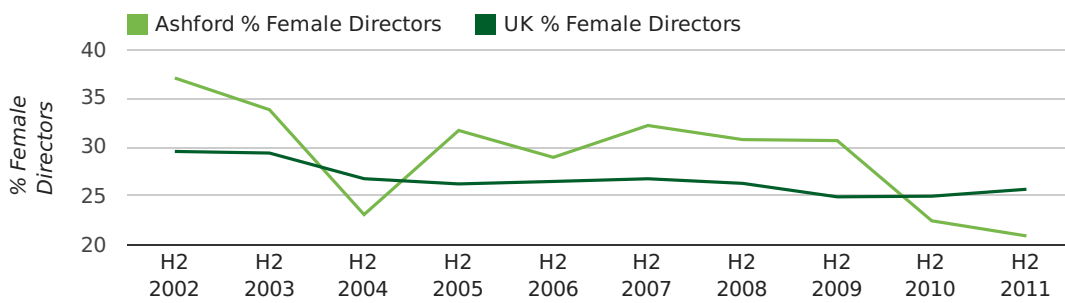


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

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

20.9% 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

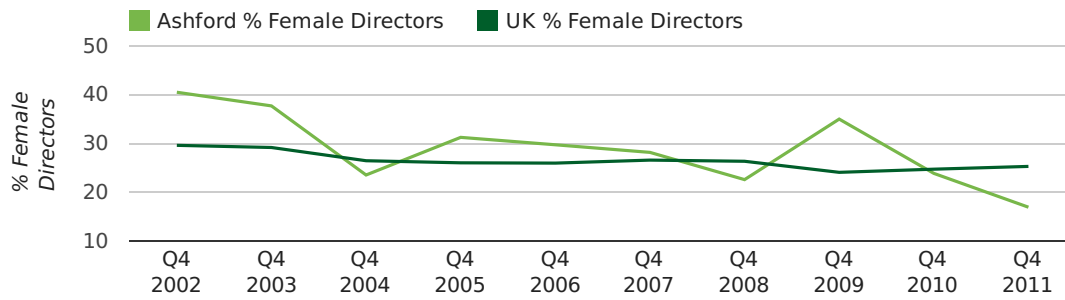


Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

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

16.9% 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, &, UK, SERVICES, THE, (UK), AND, LTD., A, LLP, SOLUTIONS, COMPANY, OF.

WORD	PERCENTAGE	UK WORD	UK PERCENTAGE
CONSULTING	1.64%	CONSULTING	5.07%
MANAGEMENT	1.64%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
LOGISTICS	1.64%	CONSULTANCY	3.26%
TRADING	1.17%	PROPERTY	2.37%
MAINTENANCE	0.94%	TRADING	2.07%
J	0.94%	DESIGN	1.92%
IT	0.94%	ASSOCIATES	1.86%
PROPERTY	0.94%	ENGINEERING	1.78%
CONSTRUCTION	0.70%	BUSINESS	1.78%
ENERGY	0.70%	CONSULTANTS	1.76%
TRANSPORT	0.70%	CONSTRUCTION	1.73%
COMMUNICATIONS	0.70%	MEDIA	1.71%
FILM	0.70%	LONDON	1.63%
CONSULTANTS	0.70%	J	1.51%
ASSOCIATES	0.70%	INVESTMENTS	1.48%
CONSULTANCY	0.70%	GLOBAL	1.46%
CARE	0.70%	IT	1.41%
SERVICE	0.47%	CARE	1.39%
ENGINEERING	0.47%	PROPERTIES	1.29%
HOME	0.47%	ELECTRICAL	1.29%
IMPROVEMENTS	0.47%	M	1.27%
GREEN	0.47%	BUILDING	1.26%
BLUE	0.47%	ENERGY	1.25%
COMMODITY	0.47%	S	1.20%
BUILDING	0.47%	ENTERPRISES	1.20%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	81	205,525
7487 - Other business activities	40	57,052
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	12	12,072
9999 - Dormant Company	12	20,199
99999 - Dormant Company	12	21,846
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	9	32,483
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	9	11,768
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	8	17,765
52230 - Service activities incidental to air transportation	8	137
47990 - Other retail sale not in stores, stalls or markets	6	2,699
49410 - Freight transport by road	6	2,392
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	6	7,398
9305 - Other service activities	6	9,492
62012 - Business and domestic software development	5	3,714
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	5	8,671
5242 - Retail sale of clothing	4	1,643
6024 - Freight transport by road	4	2,280
43999 - Other specialised construction activities not elsewhere classified	4	3,342
74990 - Non-trading company	4	8,929
56302 - Public houses and bars	4	2,308