

Ashford

2012 half year business confidence report



headlines

- The first half of 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous first half year.
- The first half of 2012 was a record first half year for company registrations in Ashford when compared to any half year in history.
- Q2 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous Q2.
- May 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous May.
- April 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous April.
- Q2 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Ashford when compared to any previous Q2.
- May 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Ashford when compared to any previous May.
- April 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Ashford when compared to any previous April.

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Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

The first half of 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous first half year.

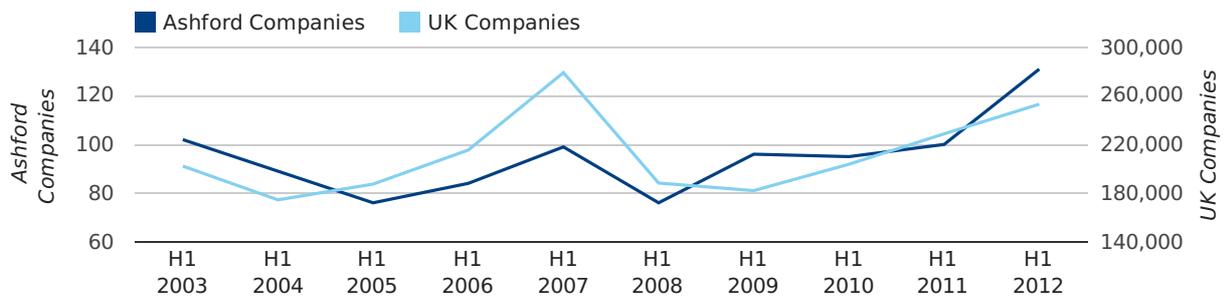
The first half of 2012 was a record first half year for company registrations in Ashford when compared to any half year in history.

In the first half of 2012 a total of 131 companies were formed in Ashford. This figure is 31.0% higher than last year, which compares well to the UK wide figure of 10.7%.

The highest total for a first half year in Ashford occurred in 2012 when a total of 131 were formed.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	ASHFORD	UK
2012	131	253,150
2011	100	228,735
% CHANGE	31.0%	10.7%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (131)	2007 (279,097)

new companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

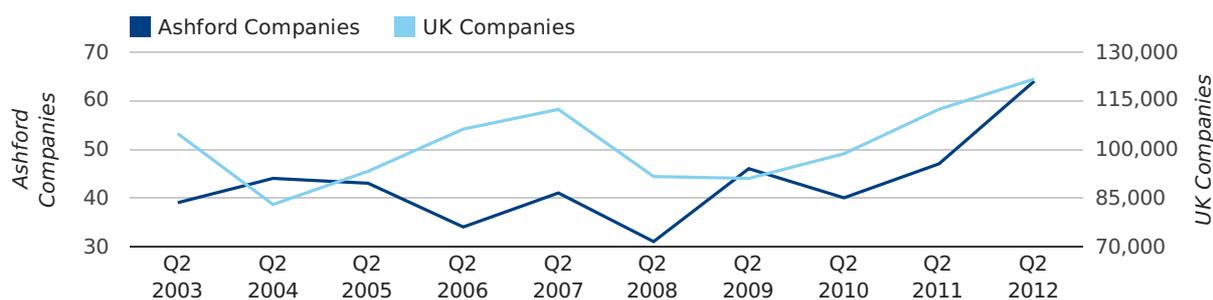
Q2 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous Q2.

A total of 64 companies were registered in Ashford during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 36.2% versus the same period last year (Q2 2011). This figure compares well to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 8.3% against the same period last year.

SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012)	ASHFORD	UK
2012	64	121,659
2011	47	112,344
% CHANGE	36.2%	8.3%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (64)	2012 (121,659)

new companies by quarter

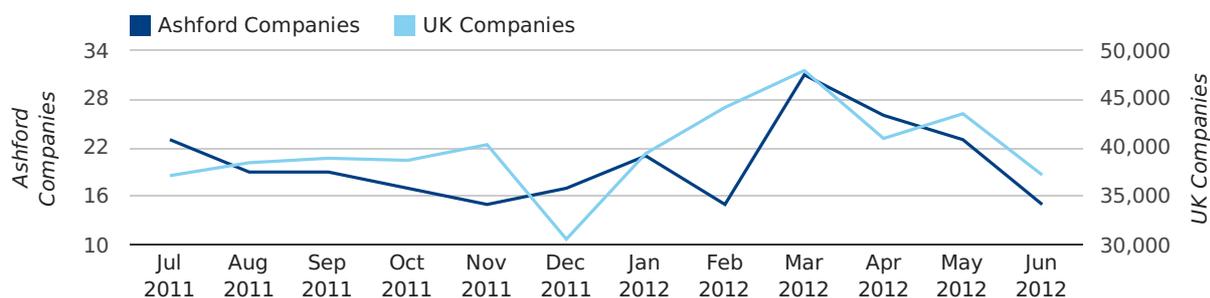


Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

May 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous May.

April 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Ashford when compared to any previous April.

new companies by month



	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
NEW COMPANIES IN 2012	26	23	15
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	13	14	20
% CHANGE	100.0%	64.3%	-25.0%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (26)	2012 (23)	2011 (20)

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 a total of 56 companies were dissolved in Ashford. This figure is 33.3% lower than last year, which compares well to the UK wide change of -8.9%.

The highest total for a first half year in Ashford occurred in 2009 when a total of 96 were closed.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	ASHFORD	UK
2012	56	147,793
2011	84	162,310
% CHANGE	-33.3%	-8.9%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (96)	2009 (289,236)

dissolved companies by half year



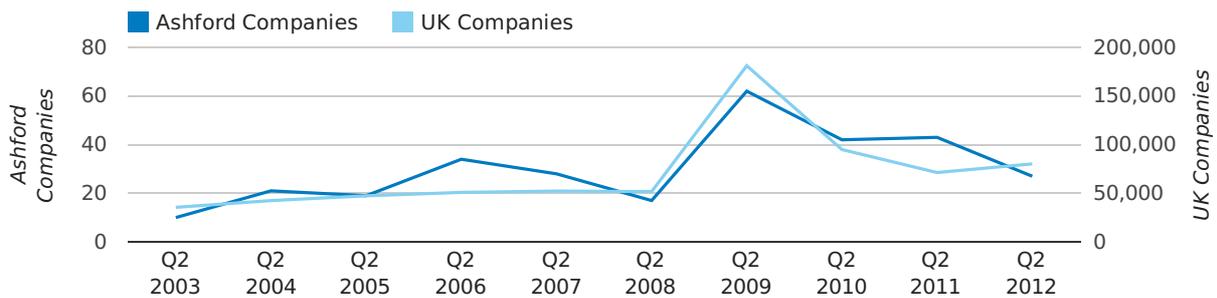
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

A total of 27 companies were dissolved in Ashford during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is a decrease of 37.2% versus the same period last year (Q2 2011). This figure compares well to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 12.5% against the same period last year.

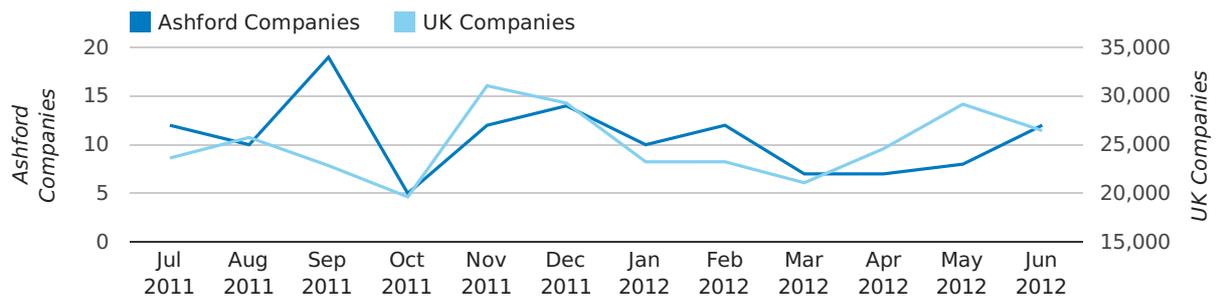
SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012)	ASHFORD	UK
2012	27	80,217
2011	43	71,324
% CHANGE	-37.2%	12.5%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (62)	2009 (181,176)

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

dissolved companies by month



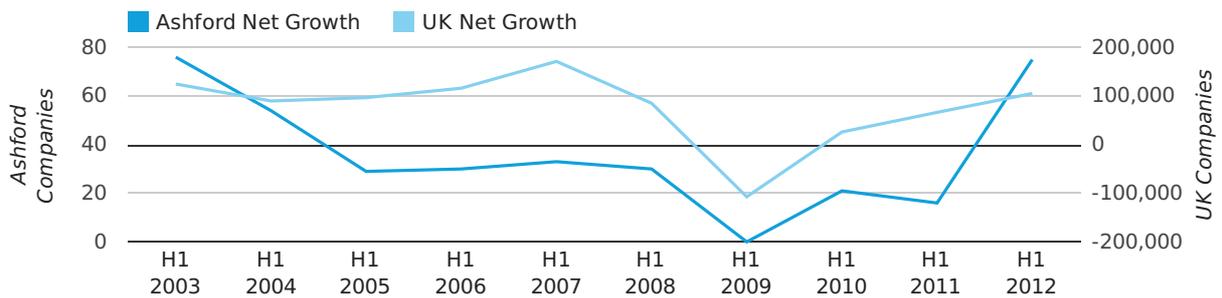
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012	7	8	12
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	7	24	12
% CHANGE	0.0%	-66.7%	0%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (23)	2011 (24)	2009 (17)

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 the company register for Ashford increased by 75 companies. This figure is 368.8% higher than last year, which compares well to a UK increase of 58.6%.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	ASHFORD	UK
2012	75	105,357
2011	16	66,425
% CHANGE	368.8%	58.6%
RECORD YEAR	2003 (76)	2007 (171,296)

net growth by half year



Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

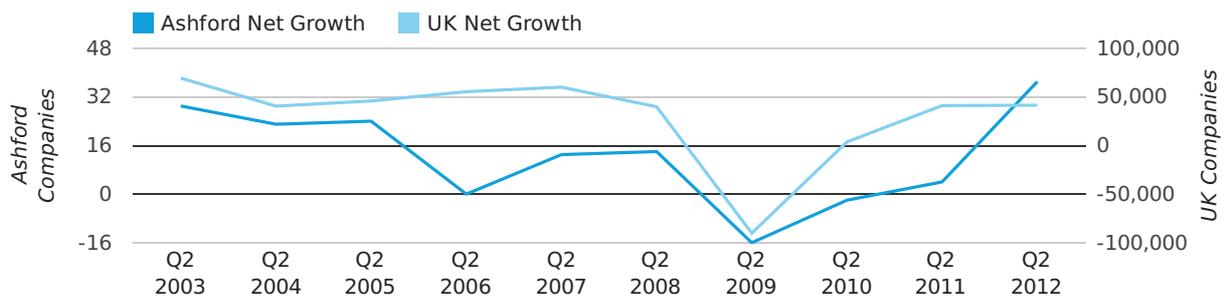
Q2 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Ashford when compared to any previous Q2.

Net company growth for Ashford during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012) was 37 companies.

This represents an increase of 825.0% on the same period last year.

SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012)	ASHFORD	UK
2012	37	41,442
2011	4	41,020
% CHANGE	825.0%	1.0%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (37)	2003 (69,274)

net growth by quarter

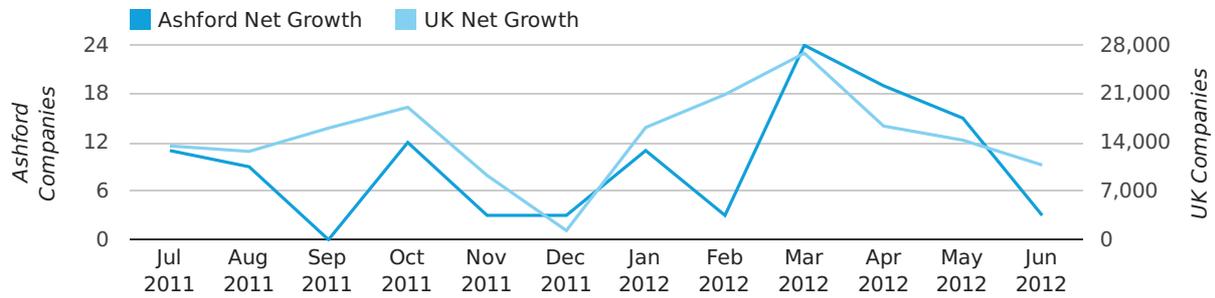


Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

May 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Ashford when compared to any previous May.

April 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Ashford when compared to any previous April.

net growth by month



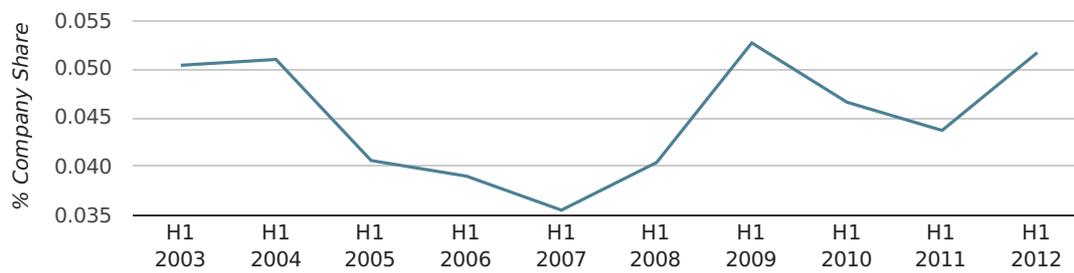
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
NET GROWTH IN 2012	19	15	3
NET GROWTH IN 2011	6	-10	8
% CHANGE	216.7%	-250.0%	-62.5%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (19)	2012 (15)	2003 (12)

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 Ashford formed 0.1% of all UK companies. This is more than the 2011 figure of 0.0%.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	ASHFORD
2012	0.1%
2011	0.0%
2010	0.0%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.0%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1967 (0.1%)

company share by half year

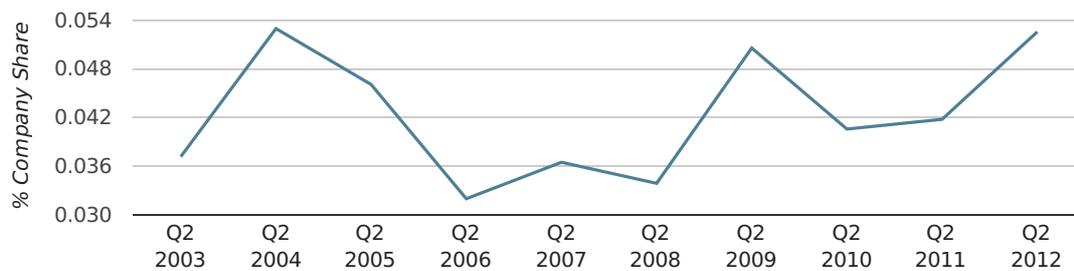


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

In the second quarter of 2012, Ashford formed 0.1% of all UK companies.

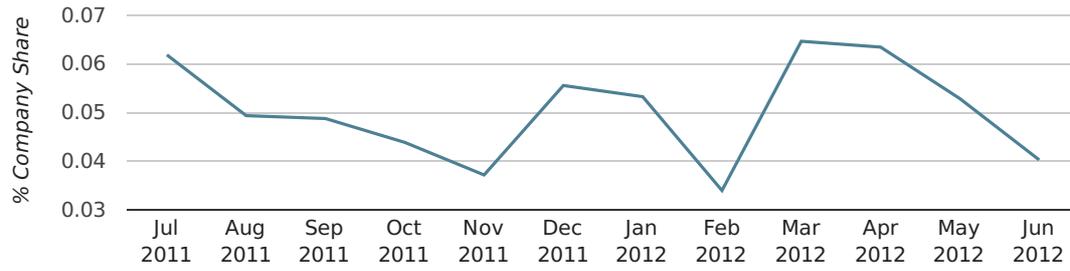
SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012)	ASHFORD
2012	0.1%
2011	0.0%
2010	0.0%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.0%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1961 (0.2%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

company share by month



	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
% CHANGE	68.4%	44.1%	-19.9%
RECORD YEAR	1967 (0.2%)	1970 (0.3%)	1961 (0.3%)

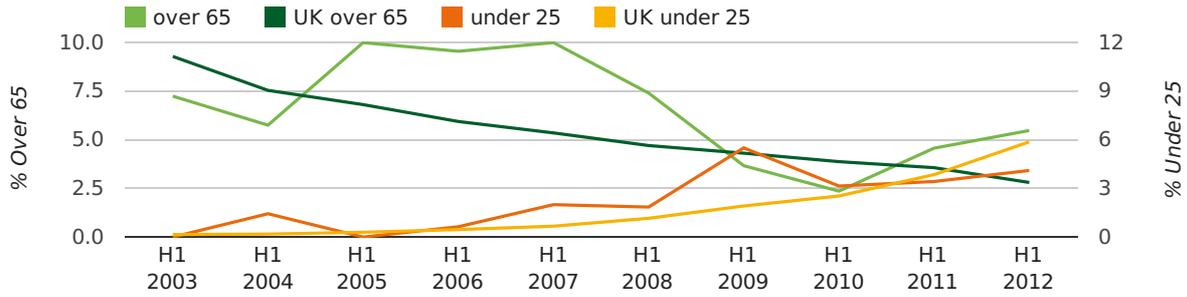
Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the first half of 2012 was 40.3.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 4.1% compared to the UK figure of 4.9%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 5.5% compared to the UK figure of 3.4%.

director age by half year



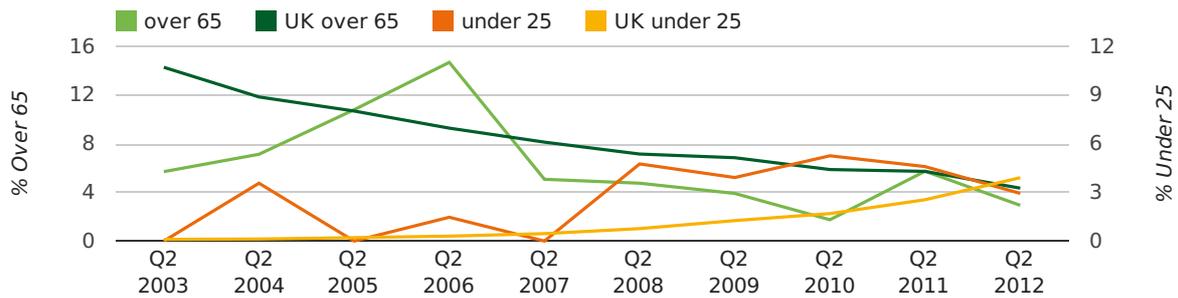
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the second quarter of 2012 was 39.6.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.9% compared to the UK figure of 5.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 2.9% compared to the UK figure of 3.3%.

director age by quarter

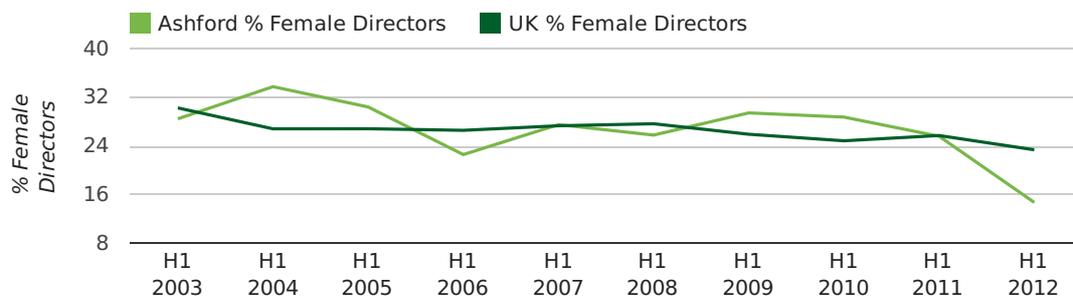


Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

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

14.7% of all director appointments in Ashford in the first half of 2012 were female. This compares to a UK average of 23.4% for the same period.

director gender by half year

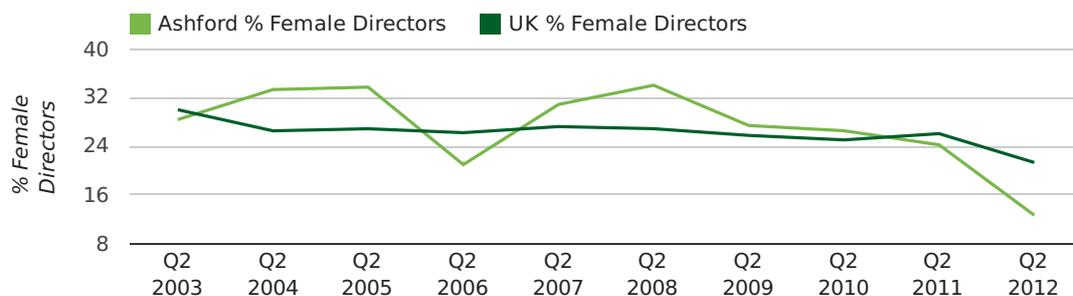


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

The record second quarter for female directors in Ashford was in 1866 when 66.7% of all directors were female.

12.7% of all director appointments in Ashford in the second quarter of 2012 were female. This compares to a UK average of 21.3% for the same period.

director gender by quarter



Previous 12 months (Jun 2011-Jun 2012)

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

WORD	PERCENTAGE	UK WORD	UK PERCENTAGE
CONSULTING	1.45%	CONSULTING	5.07%
FINANCIAL	1.04%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
CONSTRUCTION	1.04%	CONSULTANCY	3.28%
TRADING	0.83%	PROPERTY	2.35%
RECRUITMENT	0.83%	TRADING	2.10%
J	0.83%	DESIGN	1.89%
PROPERTY	0.83%	ENGINEERING	1.87%
ASSOCIATES	0.83%	ASSOCIATES	1.82%
MEDIA	0.83%	CONSULTANTS	1.78%
MANAGEMENT	0.83%	CONSTRUCTION	1.71%
CARPENTRY	0.83%	BUSINESS	1.70%
DESIGN	0.83%	MEDIA	1.69%
ELECTRICAL	0.83%	LONDON	1.68%
TO	0.62%	J	1.57%
LOGISTICS	0.62%	GLOBAL	1.51%
ASHFORD	0.62%	INVESTMENTS	1.48%
CARE	0.62%	IT	1.42%
SERVICE	0.62%	CARE	1.31%
PLUMBING	0.62%	PROPERTIES	1.31%
MOBILE	0.62%	M	1.26%
CONSULTANCY	0.62%	ELECTRICAL	1.23%
ENERGY	0.62%	BUILDING	1.23%
INSTALLATIONS	0.62%	SECURITY	1.19%
SPORTS	0.41%	S	1.18%
BEAUTY	0.41%	ENTERPRISES	1.17%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	100	244,457
7487 - Other business activities	35	47,029
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	15	15,280
99999 - Dormant Company	15	26,088
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	11	35,447
9999 - Dormant Company	10	16,469
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	9	14,220
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	8	20,390
62012 - Business and domestic software development	6	4,742
9305 - Other service activities	5	7,926
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	5	6,356
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	5	10,271
49410 - Freight transport by road	5	2,912
69202 - Bookkeeping activities	4	1,327
47990 - Other retail sale not in stores, stalls or markets	4	3,233
5242 - Retail sale of clothing	4	1,347
52230 - Service activities incidental to air transportation	3	138
4534 - Other building installation	3	1,741
98000 - Residents property management	3	3,001
53202 - Unlicensed carrier	3	431