

# Bedford

q1 2012 business confidence report



## headlines

- Q1 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Bedford when compared to any previous Q1.
- Q1 2012 was a record quarter for company registrations in Bedford when compared to any quarter in history.
- February 2012 saw a new record in company closures in Bedford when compared to any previous February.

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### Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

Q1 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Bedford when compared to any previous Q1.

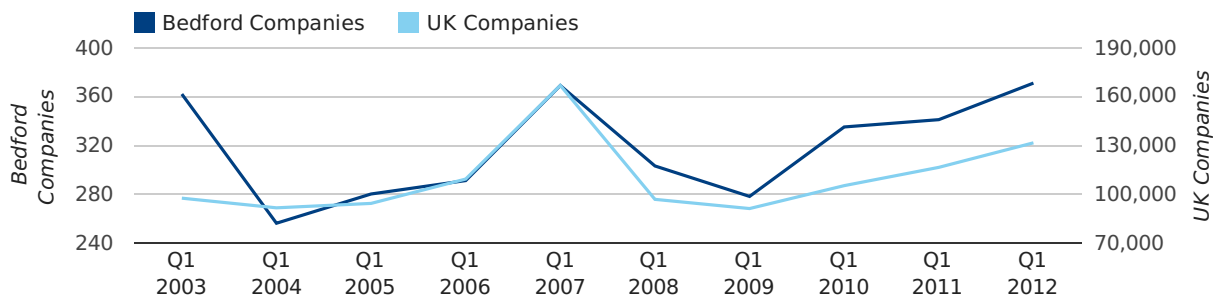
Q1 2012 was a record quarter for company registrations in Bedford when compared to any quarter in history.

A total of 371 companies were registered in Bedford during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is an increase of 8.8% versus the same period last year (Q1 2011). This figure compares equally to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 13.0% against the same period last year.

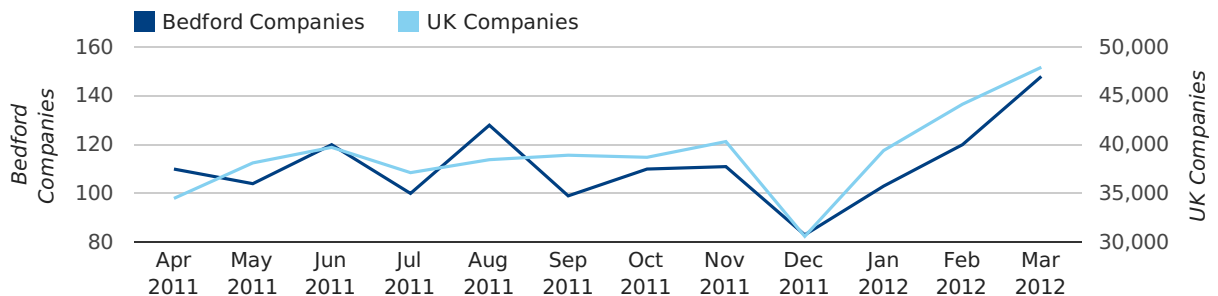
| FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012) | BEDFORD    | UK             |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2012                                | 371        | 131,491        |
| 2011                                | 341        | 116,391        |
| % CHANGE                            | 8.8%       | 13.0%          |
| RECORD YEAR                         | 2012 (371) | 2007 (166,814) |

### new companies by quarter



### Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

#### new companies by month



|                       | JANUARY    | FEBRUARY   | MARCH      |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2012 | 103        | 120        | 148        |
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2011 | 84         | 114        | 143        |
| % CHANGE              | 22.6%      | 5.3%       | 3.5%       |
| RECORD YEAR           | 2007 (104) | 2003 (122) | 2007 (156) |

### Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

A total of 251 companies were dissolved in Bedford during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is an increase of 3.7% versus the same period last year (Q1 2011). This figure compares poorly to the UK as a whole, which saw a decrease of 25.7% against the same period last year.

| FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012) | BEDFORD    | UK             |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2012                                | 251        | 67,576         |
| 2011                                | 242        | 90,986         |
| % CHANGE                            | 3.7%       | -25.7%         |
| RECORD YEAR                         | 2009 (271) | 2009 (108,060) |

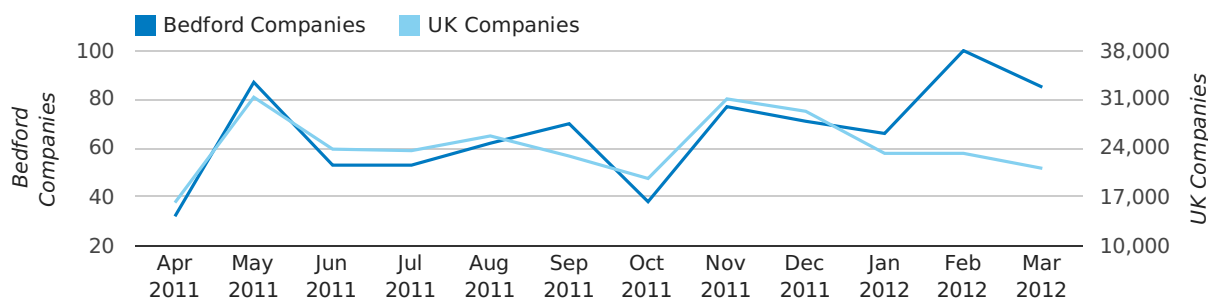
### dissolved companies by quarter



### Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

February 2012 saw a new record in company closures in Bedford when compared to any previous February.

### dissolved companies by month



|                          | JANUARY    | FEBRUARY   | MARCH      |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012 | 66         | 100        | 85         |
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011 | 100        | 63         | 79         |
| % CHANGE                 | -34.0%     | 58.7%      | 8%         |
| RECORD YEAR              | 2011 (100) | 2012 (100) | 2009 (183) |

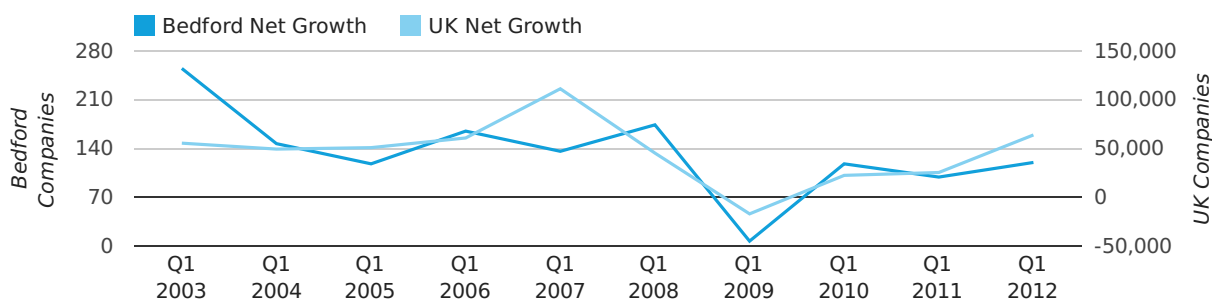
### Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

Net company growth for Bedford during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012) was 120 companies.

This represents an increase of 21.2% on the same period last year.

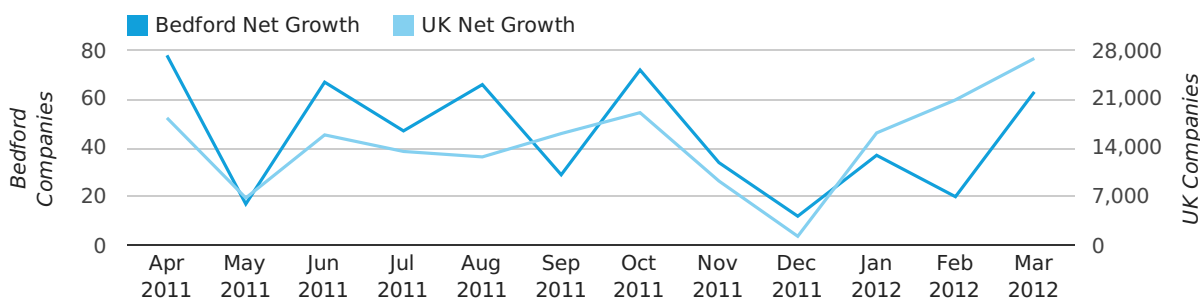
| FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012) | BEDFORD    | UK             |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2012                                | 120        | 63,915         |
| 2011                                | 99         | 25,405         |
| % CHANGE                            | 21.2%      | 151.6%         |
| RECORD YEAR                         | 2003 (255) | 2007 (111,282) |

### net growth by quarter



### Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

### net growth by month



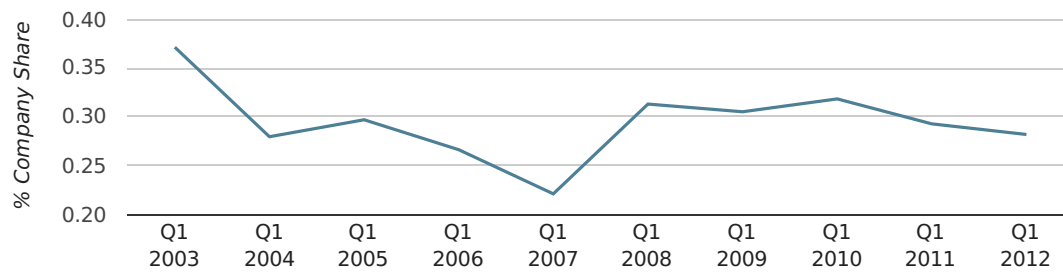
|                    | JANUARY   | FEBRUARY  | MARCH      |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2012 | 37        | 20        | 63         |
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | -16       | 51        | 64         |
| % CHANGE           | -331.3%   | -60.8%    | -1.6%      |
| RECORD YEAR        | 2003 (65) | 2003 (91) | 2008 (104) |

### Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

In the first quarter of 2012, Bedford formed 0.3% of all UK companies.

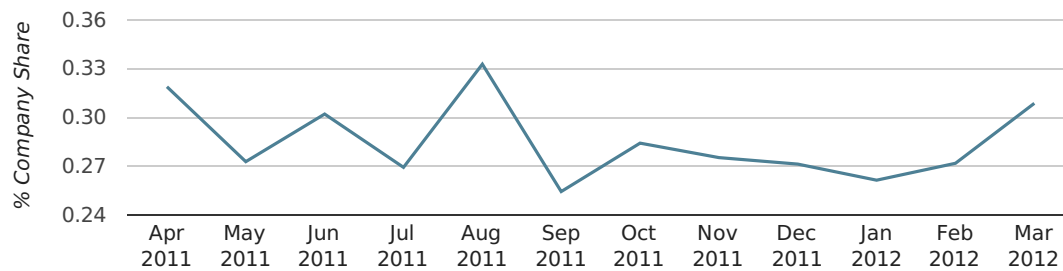
| FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012) | BEDFORD     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2012                                | 0.3%        |
| 2011                                | 0.3%        |
| 2010                                | 0.3%        |
| 2009                                | 0.3%        |
| 2008                                | 0.3%        |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)            | 1965 (0.6%) |

### company share by quarter



### Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

### company share by month



|                            | JANUARY     | FEBRUARY    | MARCH       |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012 | 0.3%        | 0.3%        | 0.3%        |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 0.2%        | 0.3%        | 0.3%        |
| % CHANGE                   | 5.1%        | -10.0%      | -3.2%       |
| RECORD YEAR                | 1982 (0.7%) | 1965 (0.9%) | 1970 (0.7%) |

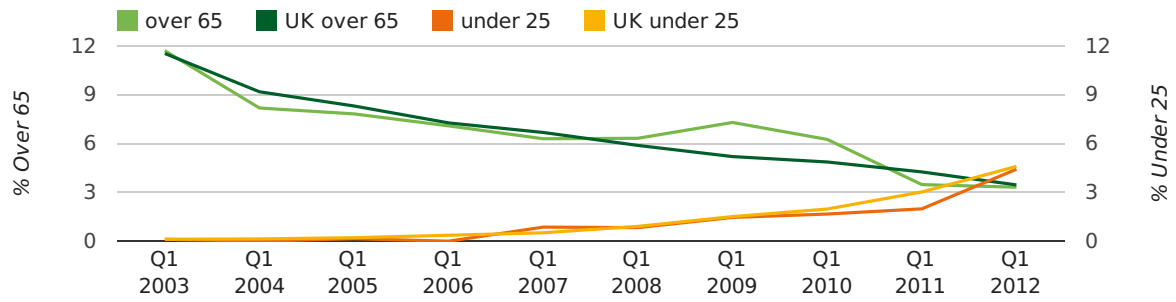
### Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2012 was 43.8.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 4.4% compared to the UK figure of 4.6%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 3.3% compared to the UK figure of 3.5%.

### director age by quarter

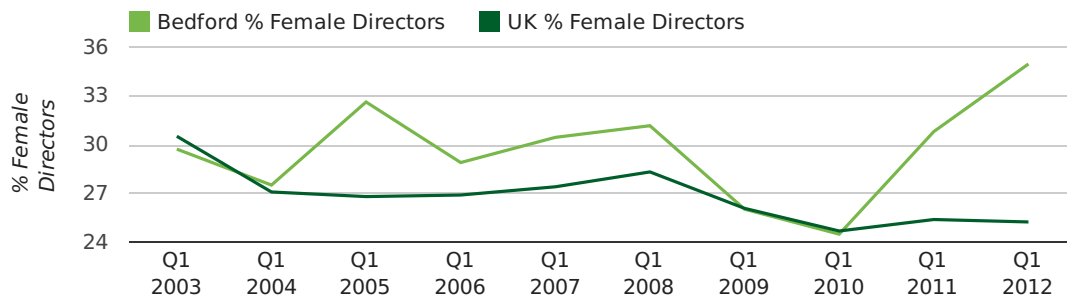


### Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

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

35.0% of all director appointments in Bedford in the first quarter of 2012 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.3% for the same period.

### director gender by quarter





Previous 12 months (Mar 2011-Mar 2012)

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

| WORD          | PERCENTAGE | UK WORD      | UK PERCENTAGE |
|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| MANAGEMENT    | 1.79%      | CONSULTING   | 5.07%         |
| CONSULTING    | 1.69%      | MANAGEMENT   | 4.74%         |
| CONSULTANCY   | 1.64%      | CONSULTANCY  | 3.30%         |
| BEDFORD       | 0.87%      | PROPERTY     | 2.37%         |
| PROPERTY      | 0.87%      | TRADING      | 2.07%         |
| J             | 0.82%      | DESIGN       | 1.93%         |
| BUILDING      | 0.73%      | ENGINEERING  | 1.86%         |
| D             | 0.68%      | ASSOCIATES   | 1.84%         |
| ENGINEERING   | 0.68%      | CONSULTANTS  | 1.79%         |
| ELECTRICAL    | 0.63%      | BUSINESS     | 1.73%         |
| ASSOCIATES    | 0.63%      | MEDIA        | 1.72%         |
| DESIGN        | 0.63%      | CONSTRUCTION | 1.72%         |
| CONSULTANTS   | 0.58%      | LONDON       | 1.66%         |
| S             | 0.58%      | J            | 1.54%         |
| M             | 0.58%      | INVESTMENTS  | 1.51%         |
| R             | 0.53%      | GLOBAL       | 1.50%         |
| (BEDFORD)     | 0.53%      | IT           | 1.40%         |
| ACADEMY       | 0.48%      | CARE         | 1.34%         |
| CO            | 0.48%      | PROPERTIES   | 1.31%         |
| P             | 0.48%      | ELECTRICAL   | 1.27%         |
| INTERNATIONAL | 0.48%      | M            | 1.27%         |
| SECURITY      | 0.44%      | BUILDING     | 1.24%         |
| CARS          | 0.39%      | ENERGY       | 1.20%         |
| CENTRE        | 0.39%      | S            | 1.20%         |
| TRAINING      | 0.39%      | ENTERPRISES  | 1.19%         |

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

| SIC CODE   | NUMBER OF COMPANIES | UK COMPANIES |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| None Supplied  | 546                 | 216,665      |
| 7487 - Other business activities   | 136                 | 52,735       |
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management                | 90                  | 19,704       |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified               | 82                  | 35,233       |
| 99999 - Dormant Company  | 70                  | 25,084       |
| 9999 - Dormant Company   | 58                  | 18,617       |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy   | 47                  | 12,113       |
| 62020 - Information technology consultancy activities                                    | 44                  | 14,303       |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified                                | 43                  | 13,637       |
| 62090 - Other information technology service activities                                  | 36                  | 8,145        |
| 7499 - Non-trading company   | 31                  | 9,102        |
| 7260 - Other computer related activities   | 30                  | 7,154        |
| 74990 - Non-trading company  | 29                  | 9,729        |
| 43220 - Plumbing, heat and air-conditioning installation                                 | 26                  | 2,693        |
| 7222 - Other software consultancy and supply   | 24                  | 6,934        |
| 74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified | 22                  | 9,892        |
| 43999 - Other specialised construction activities not elsewhere classified               | 21                  | 3,931        |
| 9305 - Other service activities  | 21                  | 8,818        |
| 4521 - General construction & civil engineering  | 18                  | 5,169        |
| 64999 - Financial intermediation not elsewhere classified                                | 17                  | 3,136        |