

Bedford

2012 half year business confidence report



headlines

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

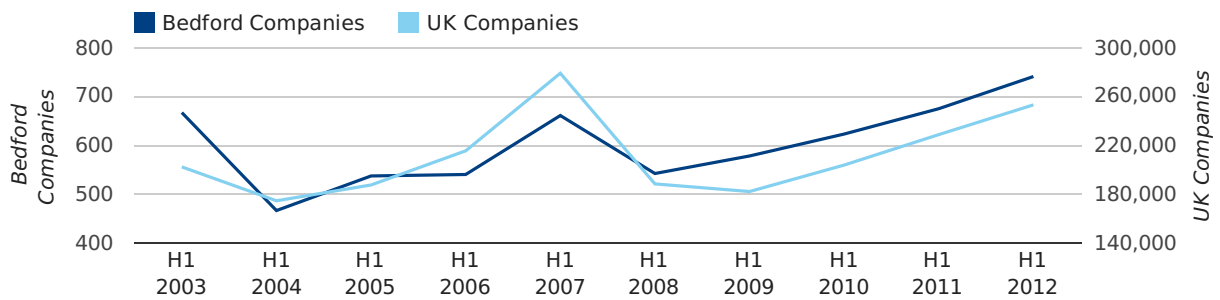
The first half of 2012 was a record first half year for company registrations in Bedford when compared to any half year in history.

In the first half of 2012 a total of 741 companies were formed in Bedford. This figure is 9.8% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide figure of 10.7%.

The highest total for a first half year in Bedford occurred in 2012 when a total of 741 were formed.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	BEDFORD	UK
2012	741	253,150
2011	675	228,735
% CHANGE	9.8%	10.7%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (741)	2007 (279,097)

new companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

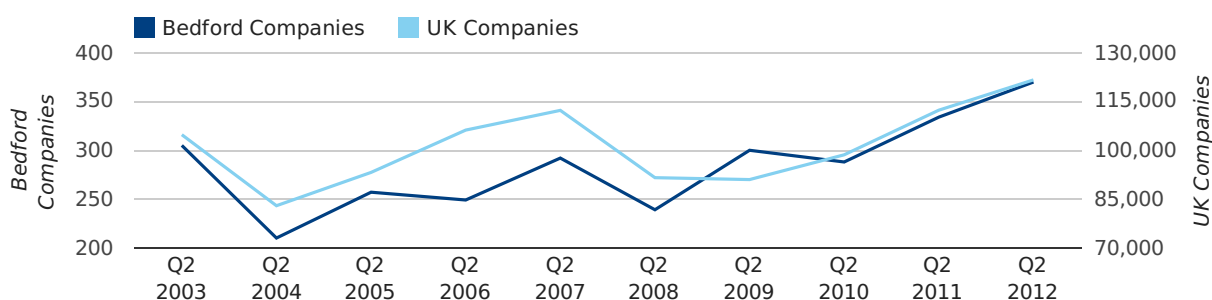
Q2 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Bedford when compared to any previous Q2.

A total of 370 companies were registered in Bedford during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 10.8% versus the same period last year (Q2 2011). This figure compares equally 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)	BEDFORD	UK
2012	370	121,659
2011	334	112,344
% CHANGE	10.8%	8.3%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (370)	2012 (121,659)

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

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

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

new companies by month



	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
NEW COMPANIES IN 2012	122	130	118
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	110	104	120
% CHANGE	10.9%	25.0%	-1.7%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (122)	2012 (130)	2011 (120)

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 a total of 487 companies were dissolved in Bedford. This figure is 17.6% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide change of -8.9%.

The highest total for a first half year in Bedford occurred in 2009 when a total of 716 were closed.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	BEDFORD	UK
2012	487	147,793
2011	414	162,310
% CHANGE	17.6%	-8.9%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (716)	2009 (289,236)

dissolved companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

A total of 236 companies were dissolved in Bedford during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 37.2% versus the same period last year (Q2 2011). This figure compares poorly 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)	BEDFORD	UK
2012	236	80,217
2011	172	71,324
% CHANGE	37.2%	12.5%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (445)	2009 (181,176)

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

dissolved companies by month



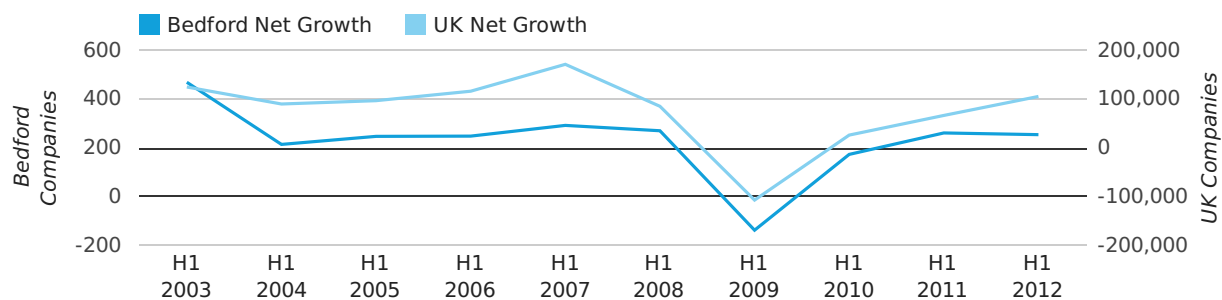
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012	87	76	73
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	32	87	53
% CHANGE	171.9%	-12.6%	38%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (129)	2009 (195)	2009 (121)

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 the company register for Bedford increased by 254 companies. This figure is 2.7% lower than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 58.6%.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	BEDFORD	UK
2012	254	105,357
2011	261	66,425
% CHANGE	-2.7%	58.6%
RECORD YEAR	2003 (469)	2007 (171,296)

net growth by half year



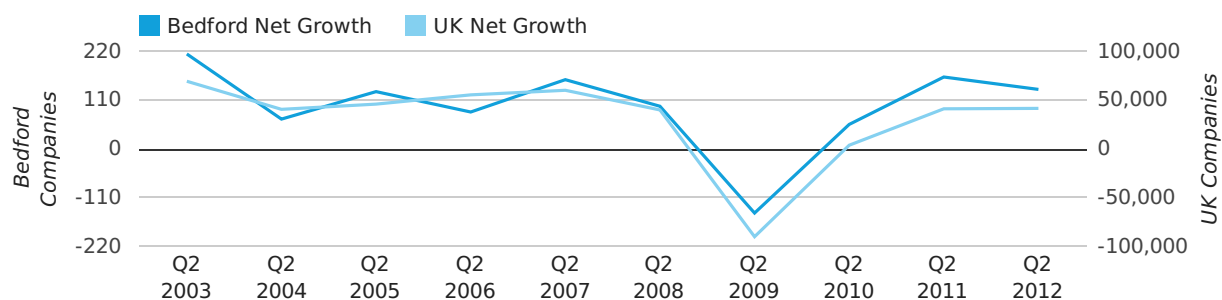
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

Net company growth for Bedford during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012) was 134 companies.

This represents a decrease of 17.3% on the same period last year.

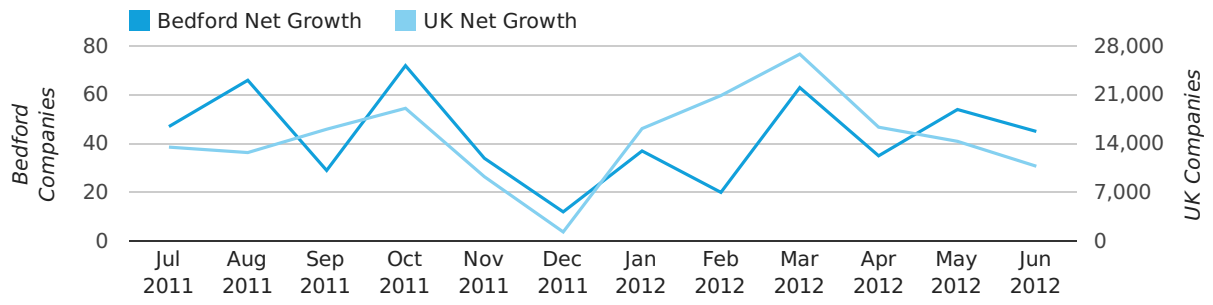
SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012)	BEDFORD	UK
2012	134	41,442
2011	162	41,020
% CHANGE	-17.3%	1.0%
RECORD YEAR	2003 (214)	2003 (69,274)

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

net growth by month



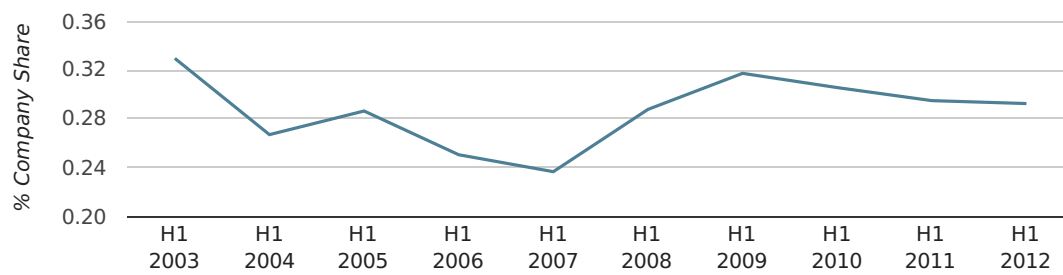
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
NET GROWTH IN 2012	35	54	45
NET GROWTH IN 2011	78	17	67
% CHANGE	-55.1%	217.6%	-32.8%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (78)	2003 (77)	2008 (70)

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 Bedford formed 0.3% of all UK companies. This is the same as the 2011 figure of 0.3%.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	BEDFORD
2012	0.3%
2011	0.3%
2010	0.3%
2009	0.3%
2008	0.3%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1970 (0.5%)

company share by half year

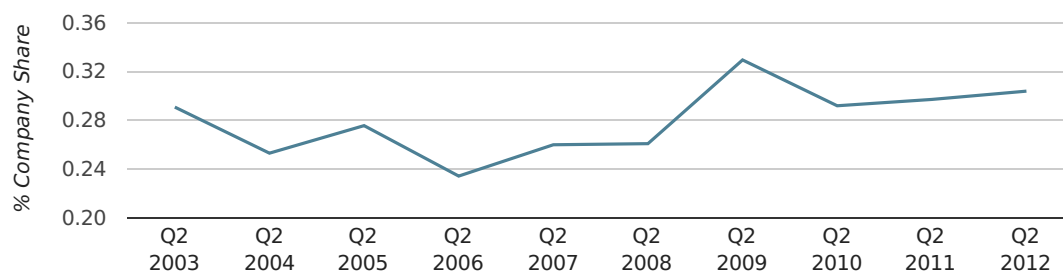


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

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

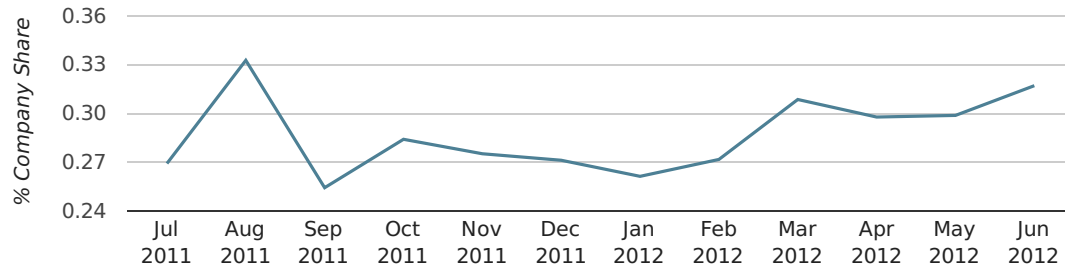
SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012)	BEDFORD
2012	0.3%
2011	0.3%
2010	0.3%
2009	0.3%
2008	0.3%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1970 (0.6%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

company share by month



	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
% CHANGE	-6.6%	9.6%	5.0%
RECORD YEAR	1968 (1.0%)	1971 (0.9%)	1970 (0.8%)

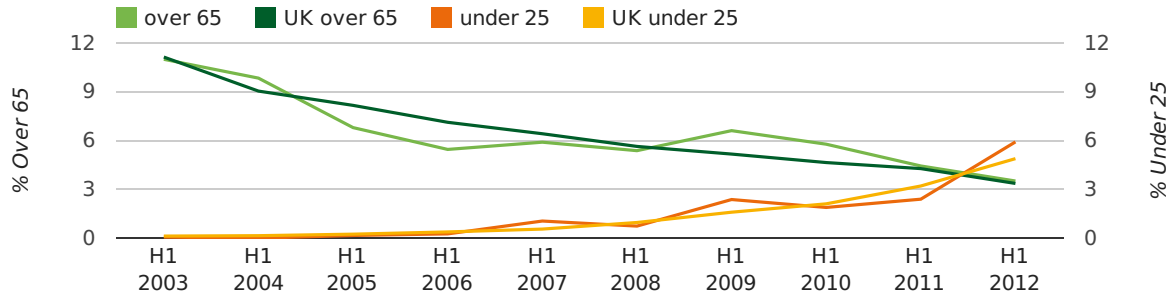
Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the first half of 2012 was 43.4.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 5.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.9%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 3.5% compared to the UK figure of 3.4%.

director age by half year



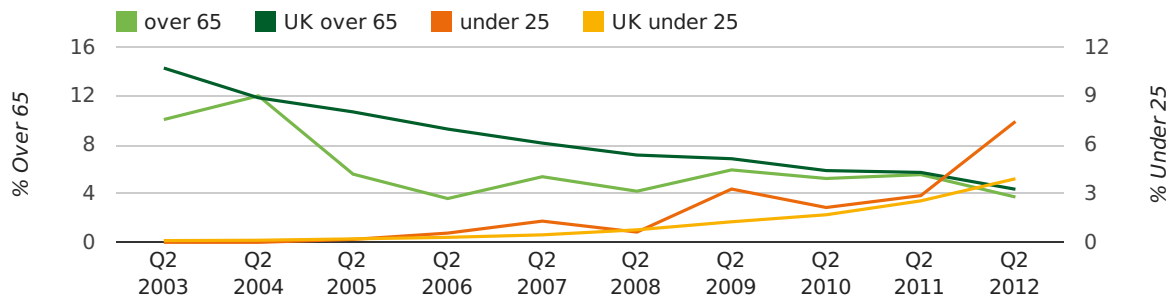
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the second quarter of 2012 was 42.9.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 7.4% compared to the UK figure of 5.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 3.7% compared to the UK figure of 3.3%.

director age by quarter

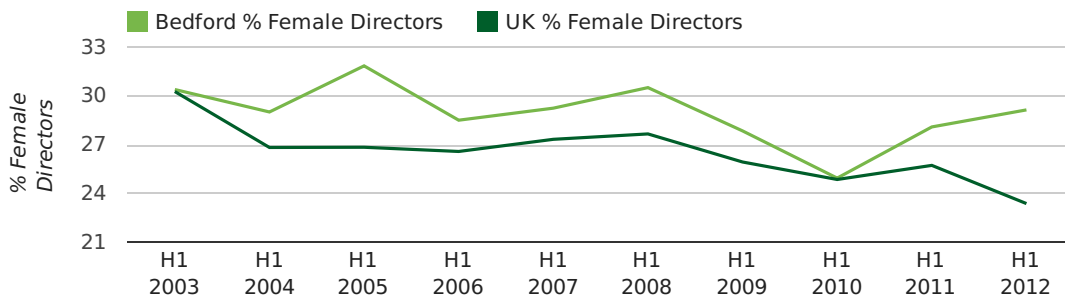


Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

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

29.1% of all director appointments in Bedford 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

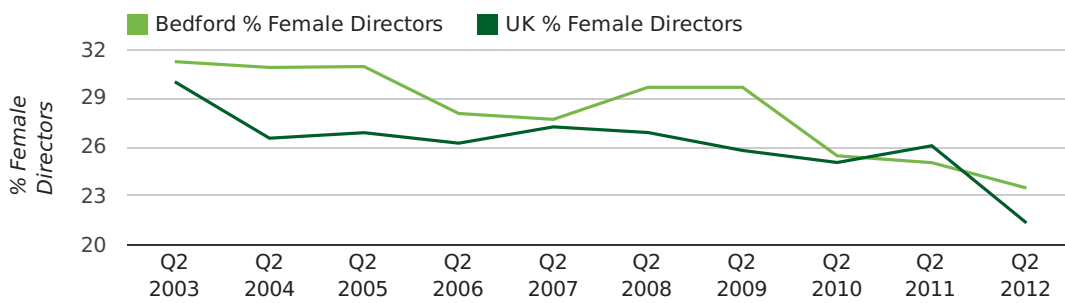


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

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

23.5% of all director appointments in Bedford 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
MANAGEMENT	1.99%	CONSULTING	5.07%
CONSULTANCY	1.61%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
CONSULTING	1.56%	CONSULTANCY	3.28%
BUILDING	0.90%	PROPERTY	2.35%
PROPERTY	0.76%	TRADING	2.10%
S	0.71%	DESIGN	1.89%
D	0.71%	ENGINEERING	1.87%
BEDFORD	0.71%	ASSOCIATES	1.82%
DESIGN	0.66%	CONSULTANTS	1.78%
ELECTRICAL	0.66%	CONSTRUCTION	1.71%
J	0.62%	BUSINESS	1.70%
R	0.62%	MEDIA	1.69%
M	0.57%	LONDON	1.68%
CONSULTANTS	0.52%	J	1.57%
CARS	0.52%	GLOBAL	1.51%
CAR	0.52%	INVESTMENTS	1.48%
ENGINEERING	0.52%	IT	1.42%
ASSOCIATES	0.52%	CARE	1.31%
CENTRE	0.47%	PROPERTIES	1.31%
HOME	0.43%	M	1.26%
IT	0.43%	ELECTRICAL	1.23%
ROAD	0.43%	BUILDING	1.23%
BUSINESS	0.43%	SECURITY	1.19%
TRADING	0.43%	S	1.18%
(BEDFORD)	0.43%	ENTERPRISES	1.17%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	636	244,457
7487 - Other business activities	122	47,029
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	99	20,390
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	83	35,447
99999 - Dormant Company	69	26,088
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	50	15,280
9999 - Dormant Company	49	16,469
7414 - Business & management consultancy	44	10,978
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	40	14,220
62090 - Other information technology service activities	33	8,258
7499 - Non-trading company	29	8,023
7260 - Other computer related activities	28	6,456
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	27	10,271
43220 - Plumbing, heat and air-conditioning installation	26	2,716
74990 - Non-trading company	25	9,706
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	23	6,356
43999 - Other specialised construction activities not elsewhere classified	19	4,091
9305 - Other service activities	17	7,926
47910 - Retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet	17	3,818
4521 - General construction & civil engineering	16	4,644