

Bedfordshire

q1 2012 business confidence report



headlines

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

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Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

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

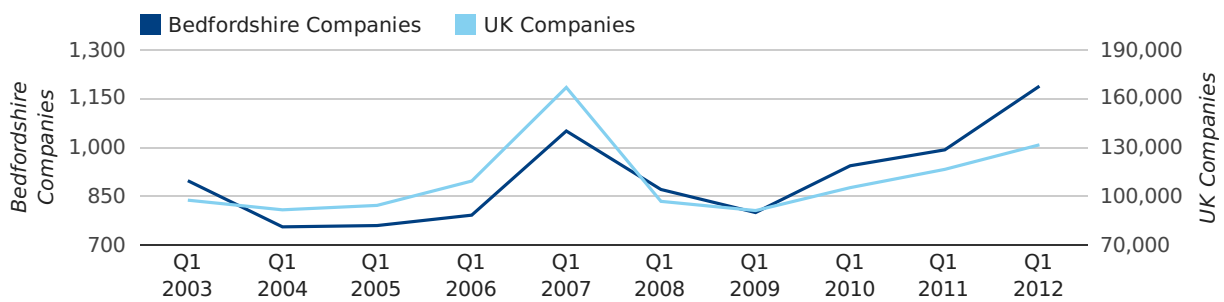
Q1 2012 was a record quarter for company registrations in Bedfordshire when compared to any quarter in history.

A total of 1,188 companies were registered in Bedfordshire during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is an increase of 19.8% versus the same period last year (Q1 2011). This figure compares well 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)	BEDFORDSHIRE	UK
2012	1,188	131,491
2011	992	116,391
% CHANGE	19.8%	13.0%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (1,188)	2007 (166,814)

new companies by quarter

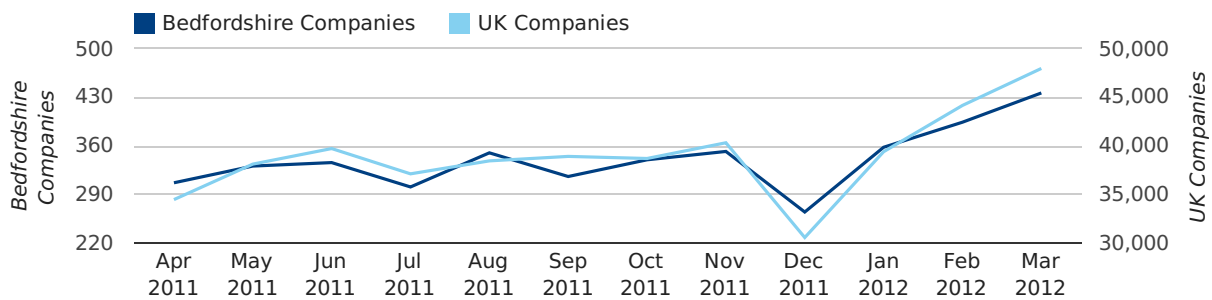


Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

February 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Bedfordshire when compared to any previous February.

January 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Bedfordshire when compared to any previous January.

new companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NEW COMPANIES IN 2012	358	394	436
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	269	340	383
% CHANGE	33.1%	15.9%	13.8%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (358)	2012 (394)	2007 (492)

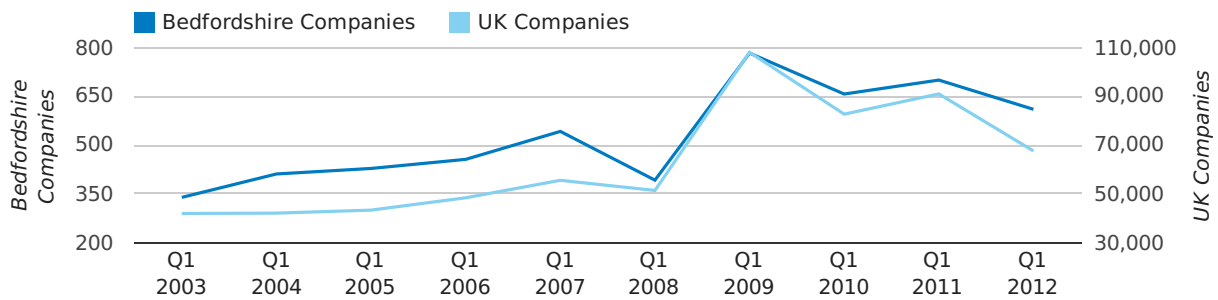
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

A total of 610 companies were dissolved in Bedfordshire during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is a decrease of 12.9% 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)	BEDFORDSHIRE	UK
2012	610	67,576
2011	700	90,986
% CHANGE	-12.9%	-25.7%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (783)	2009 (108,060)

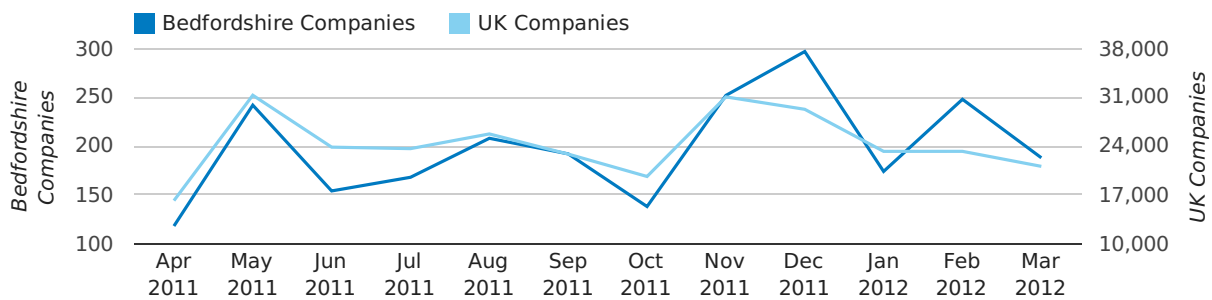
dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

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

dissolved companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012	174	248	188
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	305	184	211
% CHANGE	-43.0%	34.8%	-11%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (305)	2012 (248)	2009 (531)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

Q1 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Bedfordshire when compared to any previous Q1.

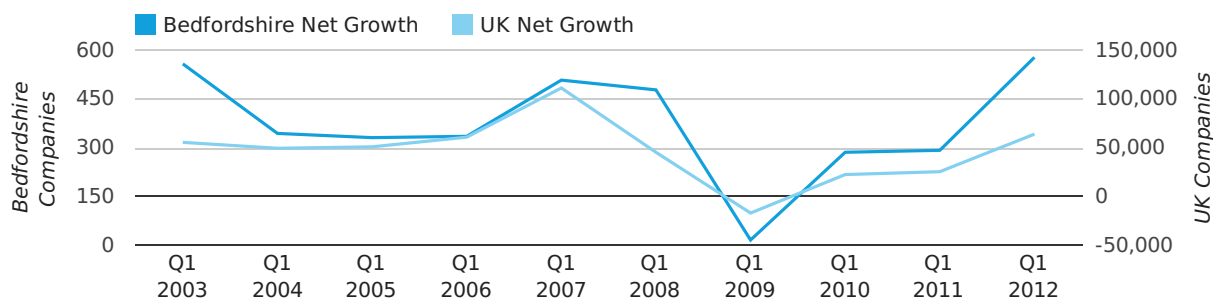
Q1 2012 was a record quarter for net growth in Bedfordshire when compared to any quarter in history.

Net company growth for Bedfordshire during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012) was 578 companies.

This represents an increase of 97.9% on the same period last year.

FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	BEDFORDSHIRE	UK
2012	578	63,915
2011	292	25,405
% CHANGE	97.9%	151.6%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (578)	2007 (111,282)

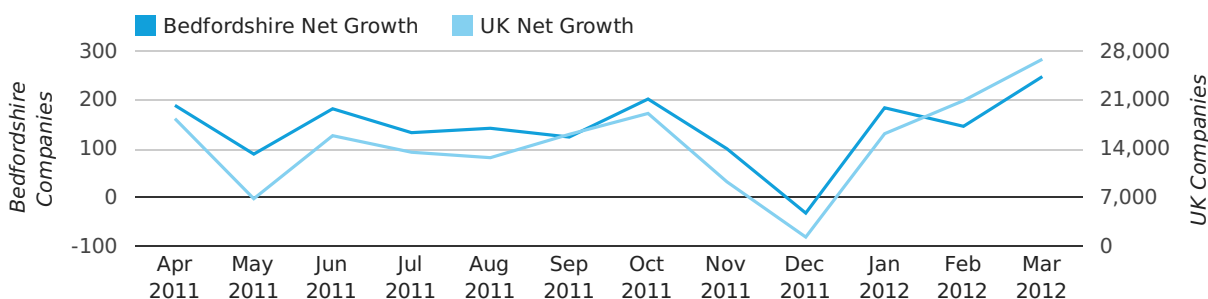
net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

January 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Bedfordshire when compared to any previous January.

net growth by month



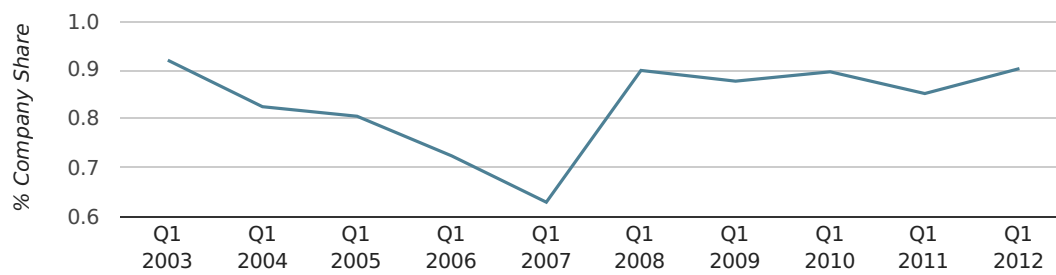
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NET GROWTH IN 2012	184	146	248
NET GROWTH IN 2011	-36	156	172
% CHANGE	-611.1%	-6.4%	44.2%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (184)	2003 (166)	2007 (312)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

In the first quarter of 2012, Bedfordshire formed 0.9% of all UK companies.

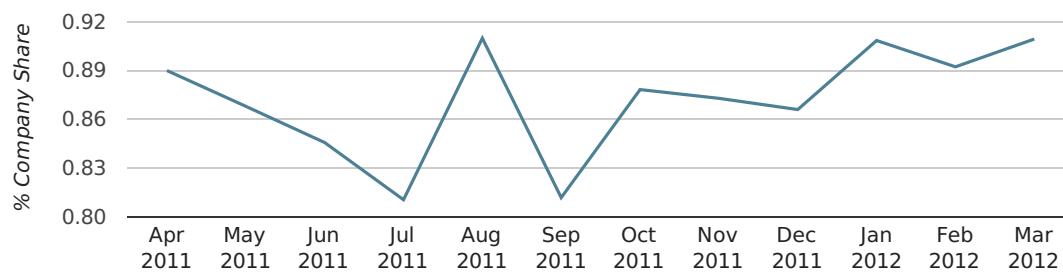
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	BEDFORDSHIRE
2012	0.9%
2011	0.9%
2010	0.9%
2009	0.9%
2008	0.9%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1968 (1.5%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

company share by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%
% CHANGE	14.1%	-0.9%	6.5%
RECORD YEAR	1979 (1.7%)	1964 (1.7%)	1968 (1.6%)

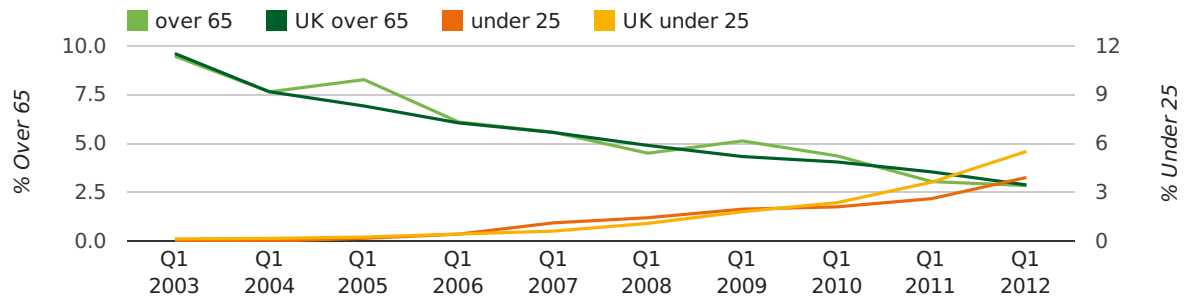
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2012 was 42.4.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 3.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.6%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 2.9% compared to the UK figure of 3.5%.

director age 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
CONSULTING	1.75%	CONSULTING	5.07%
MANAGEMENT	1.71%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
CONSULTANCY	1.51%	CONSULTANCY	3.30%
PROPERTY	1.09%	PROPERTY	2.37%
J	0.83%	TRADING	2.07%
CONSULTANTS	0.83%	DESIGN	1.93%
ASSOCIATES	0.79%	ENGINEERING	1.86%
M	0.79%	ASSOCIATES	1.84%
LUTON	0.71%	CONSULTANTS	1.79%
IT	0.69%	BUSINESS	1.73%
BUILDING	0.69%	MEDIA	1.72%
S	0.67%	CONSTRUCTION	1.72%
CONSTRUCTION	0.66%	LONDON	1.66%
DESIGN	0.64%	J	1.54%
R	0.62%	INVESTMENTS	1.51%
ENGINEERING	0.62%	GLOBAL	1.50%
ELECTRICAL	0.62%	IT	1.40%
SECURITY	0.62%	CARE	1.34%
BUSINESS	0.60%	PROPERTIES	1.31%
D	0.58%	ELECTRICAL	1.27%
ACADEMY	0.56%	M	1.27%
TRADING	0.56%	BUILDING	1.24%
TRAINING	0.56%	ENERGY	1.20%
MEDIA	0.54%	S	1.20%
CARE	0.52%	ENTERPRISES	1.19%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	1,820	216,665
7487 - Other business activities	336	52,735
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	223	35,233
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	212	19,704
99999 - Dormant Company	186	25,084
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	146	14,303
9999 - Dormant Company	144	18,617
7414 - Business & management consultancy	115	12,113
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	115	13,637
62090 - Other information technology service activities	97	8,145
7260 - Other computer related activities	81	7,154
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	78	6,934
7499 - Non-trading company	71	9,102
74990 - Non-trading company	70	9,729
9305 - Other service activities	69	8,818
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	59	9,892
5530 - Restaurants	58	4,633
49410 - Freight transport by road	56	2,781
41100 - Development of building projects	49	4,984
43999 - Other specialised construction activities not elsewhere classified	48	3,931