

Belfast

q1 2011 business confidence report



headlines

- Q1 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous Q1.
- March 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous March.
- March 2011 was a record month for company registrations in Belfast when compared to any month in history.
- February 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous February.
- January 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous January.
- Q1 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Belfast when compared to any previous Q1.
- March 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Belfast when compared to any previous March.
- February 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Belfast when compared to any previous February.
- January 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Belfast when compared to any previous January.

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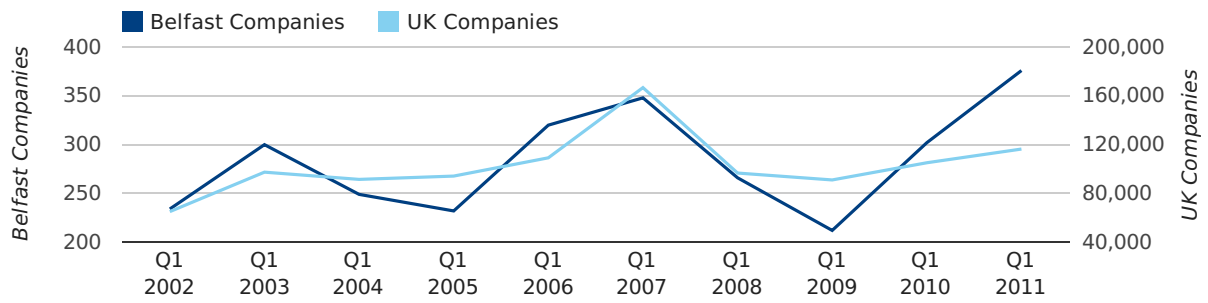
Q1 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous Q1.

A total of 376 companies were registered in Belfast during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011).

This figure is an increase of 24.5% versus the same period last year (Q1 2010). This figure compares well to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 10.7% against the same period last year.

FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	BELFAST	UK
2011	376	116,391
2010	302	105,137
% CHANGE	24.5%	10.7%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (376)	2007 (166,814)

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

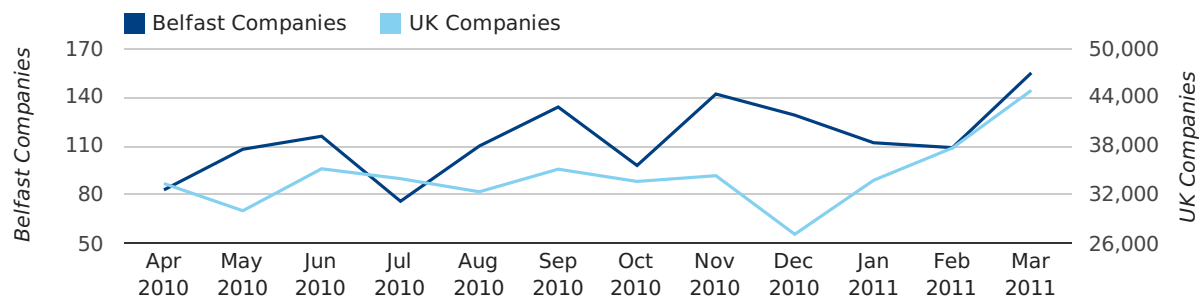
March 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous March.

March 2011 was a record month for company registrations in Belfast when compared to any month in history.

February 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous February.

January 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous January.

new companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	112	109	155
NEW COMPANIES IN 2010	78	93	131
% CHANGE	43.6%	17.2%	18.3%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (112)	2011 (109)	2011 (155)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

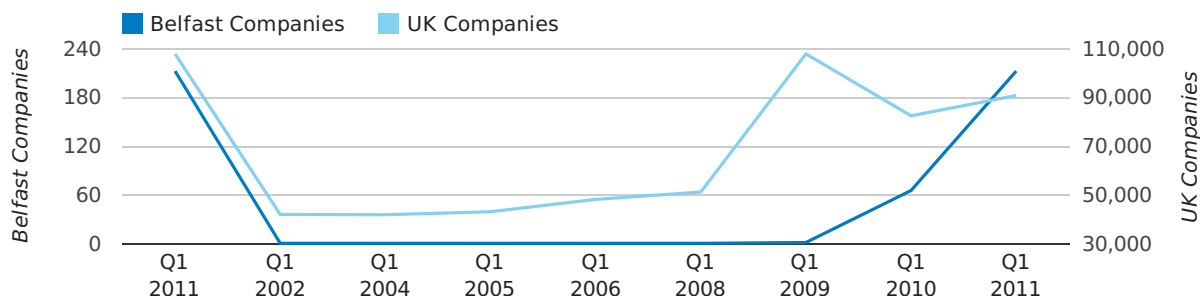
Q1 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Belfast when compared to any previous Q1.

A total of 213 companies were dissolved in Belfast during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011).

This figure is an increase of 222.7% versus the same period last year (Q1 2010). This figure compares poorly to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 10.0% against the same period last year.

FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	BELFAST	UK
2011	213	90,986
2010	66	82,677
% CHANGE	222.7%	10.0%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (213)	2009 (108,060)

dissolved companies by quarter



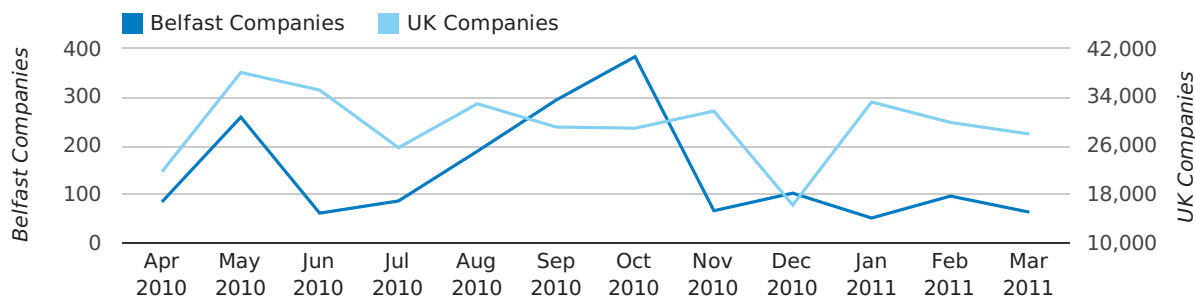
Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

March 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Belfast when compared to any previous March.

February 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Belfast when compared to any previous February.

January 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Belfast when compared to any previous January.

dissolved companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	52	97	64
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010	5	5	56
% CHANGE	940.0%	1,840.0%	14%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (52)	2011 (97)	2011 (64)

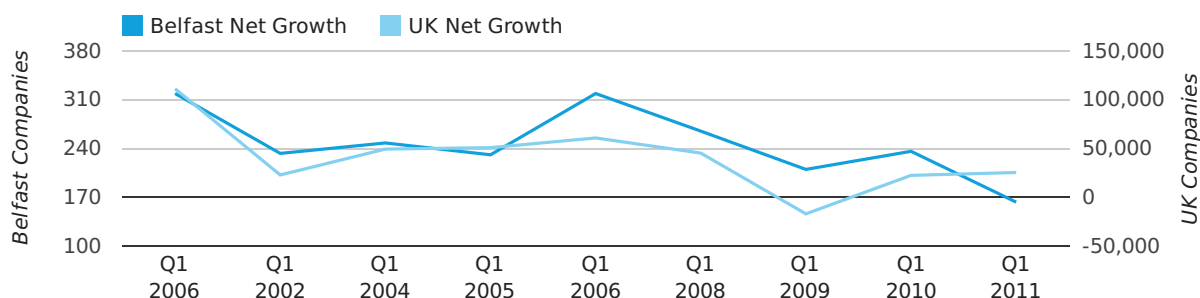
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

Net company growth for Belfast during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011) was 163 companies.

This represents a decrease of 30.9% on the same period last year.

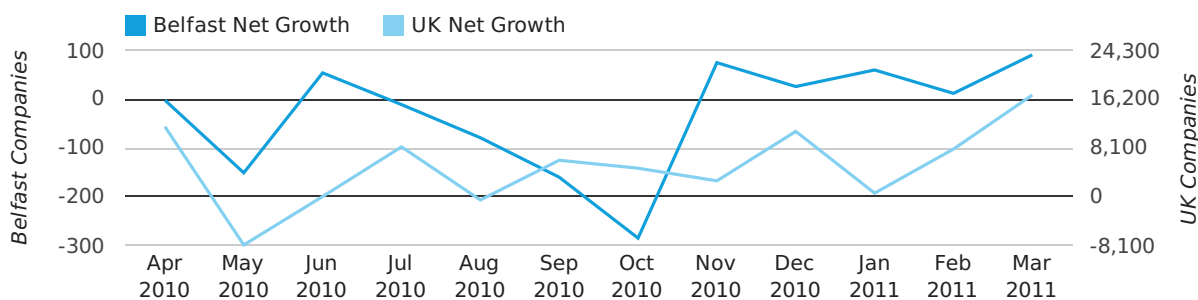
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	BELFAST	UK
2011	163	25,405
2010	236	22,460
% CHANGE	-30.9%	13.1%
RECORD YEAR	2006 (319)	2007 (111,282)

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

net growth by month



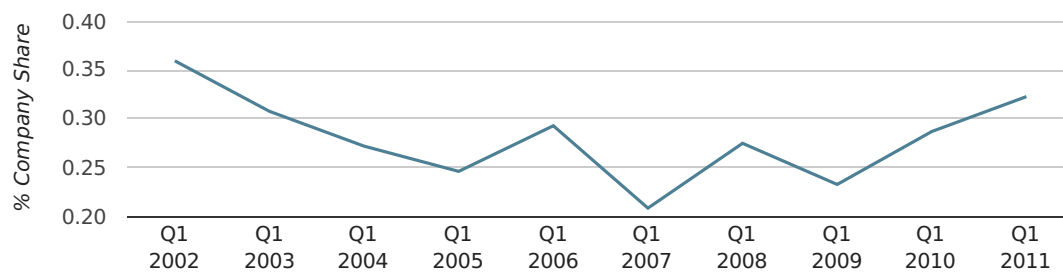
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NET GROWTH IN 2011	60	12	91
NET GROWTH IN 2010	73	88	75
% CHANGE	-17.8%	-86.4%	21.3%
RECORD YEAR	2004 (89)	2006 (99)	2000 (104)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

In the first quarter of 2011, Belfast formed 0.3% of all UK companies.

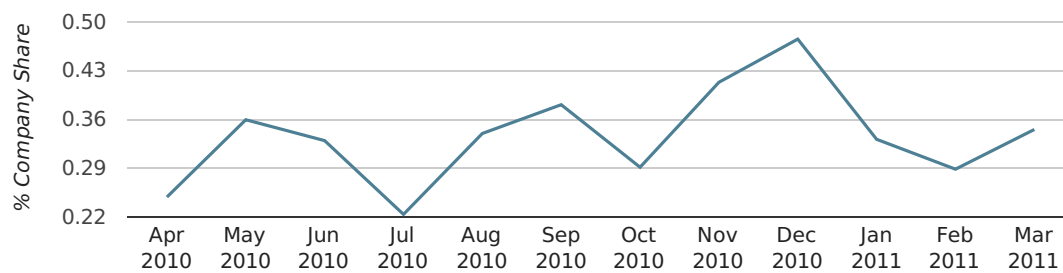
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	BELFAST
2011	0.3%
2010	0.3%
2009	0.2%
2008	0.3%
2007	0.2%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1968 (1.2%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

company share by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
% CHANGE	23.9%	3.1%	12.9%
RECORD YEAR	1968 (1.8%)	1964 (1.2%)	1979 (13.0%)

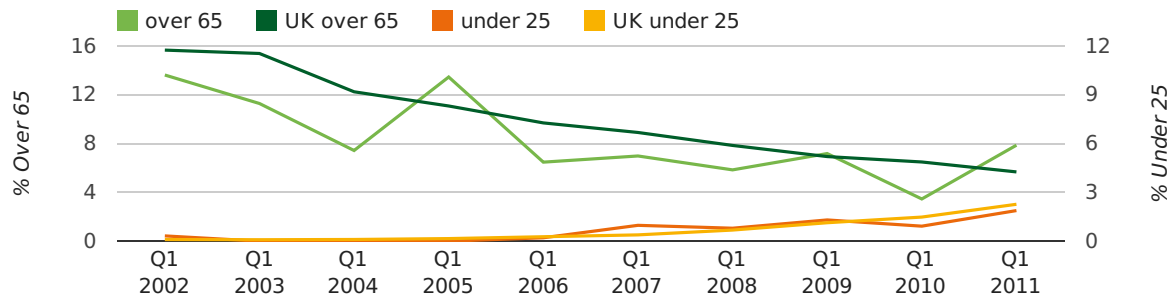
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2011 was 46.0.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 1.9% compared to the UK figure of 3.0%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 7.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.3%.

director age by quarter

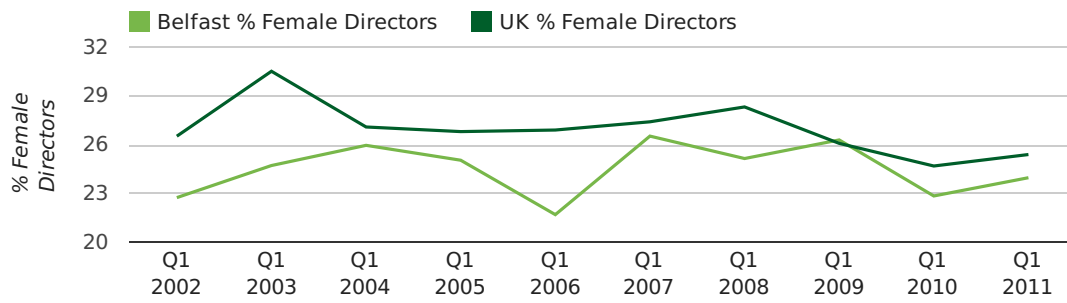


Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

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

24.0% of all director appointments in Belfast in the first quarter of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.4% for the same period.

director gender by quarter



Previous 12 months (Mar 2010-Mar 2011)

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

WORD	PERCENTAGE	UK WORD	UK PERCENTAGE
(NI)	2.54%	CONSULTING	5.04%
DR.	2.44%	MANAGEMENT	4.97%
MANAGEMENT	2.39%	CONSULTANCY	3.16%
LAGAN	1.39%	PROPERTY	2.38%
BELFAST	1.34%	TRADING	2.10%
TRADING	1.09%	DESIGN	1.93%
NI	1.04%	ASSOCIATES	1.92%
IRELAND	1.00%	BUSINESS	1.87%
(N.I.)	0.85%	CONSTRUCTION	1.80%
ENTERPRISES	0.80%	CONSULTANTS	1.76%
CONSULTING	0.75%	MEDIA	1.69%
MR.	0.70%	ENGINEERING	1.61%
M	0.70%	LONDON	1.60%
PROPERTIES	0.70%	CARE	1.45%
CO	0.70%	J	1.45%
(2010)	0.65%	GLOBAL	1.44%
C.I.C.	0.65%	INVESTMENTS	1.43%
PROPERTY	0.65%	IT	1.41%
DESIGN	0.60%	PROPERTIES	1.36%
CONSTRUCTION	0.60%	BUILDING	1.34%
NORTHERN	0.60%	M	1.30%
PRODUCTIONS	0.60%	ELECTRICAL	1.28%
DEVELOPMENTS	0.60%	S	1.24%
CARE	0.55%	INTERNATIONAL	1.23%
PROF.	0.55%	SYSTEMS	1.23%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	512	202,798
7487 - Other business activities	141	60,968
9999 - Dormant Company	83	19,765
99999 - Dormant Company	77	18,336
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	52	30,253
98000 - Residents property management	38	3,154
86210 - General medical practice activities	36	1,874
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	31	16,150
74990 - Non-trading company	27	8,695
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	26	10,085
41100 - Development of building projects	24	3,921
68320 - Management of real estate on a fee or contract basis	20	3,220
7414 - Business & management consultancy	20	12,916
5530 - Restaurants	19	4,898
8512 - Medical practice activities	19	1,699
56101 - Licensed restaurants	18	2,736
9305 - Other service activities	18	8,740
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	18	7,000
7415 - Holding companies including head offices	17	1,769
62090 - Other information technology service activities	17	6,996