

Belfast

2011 annual business confidence report



headlines

- 2011 was a record year for company registrations in Belfast when compared to any year in history.
- The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous second half year.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous Q4.

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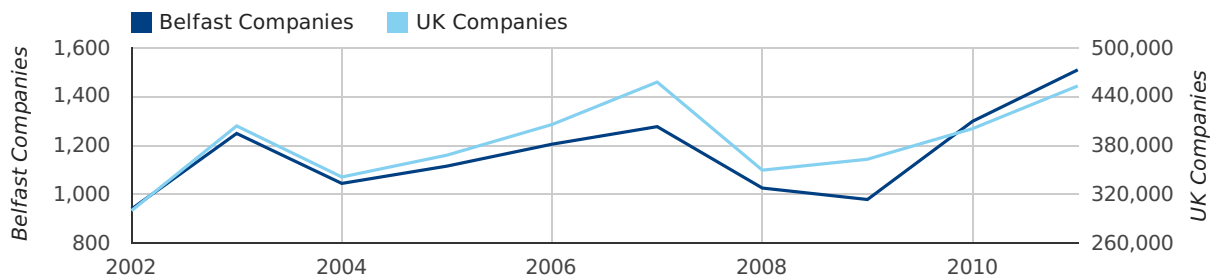
Annual Data (2011)

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

A total of 1,509 companies were formed in Belfast in 2011. This total is 16.3% higher than in 2010 and compares poorly to the UK figure of a 13.1% growth compared to 400,358 the previous year.

YEAR	BELFAST	UK
2011	1,509	452,870
2010	1,298	400,358
2009	977	362,675
2008	1,024	349,203
2007	1,276	457,649
RECORD YEAR	2011 (1,509)	2007 (457,649)

new companies by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

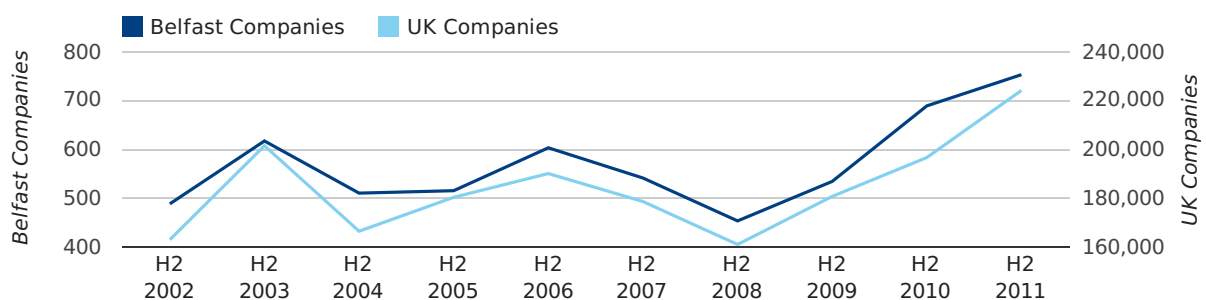
The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous second half year.

In the second half of 2011 a total of 753 companies were formed in Belfast. This figure is 9.3% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide figure of 14.0%.

The highest total for a second half year in Belfast occurred in 2011 when a total of 753 were formed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	BELFAST	UK
2011	753	224,135
2010	689	196,609
% CHANGE	9.3%	14.0%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (753)	2011 (224,135)

new companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

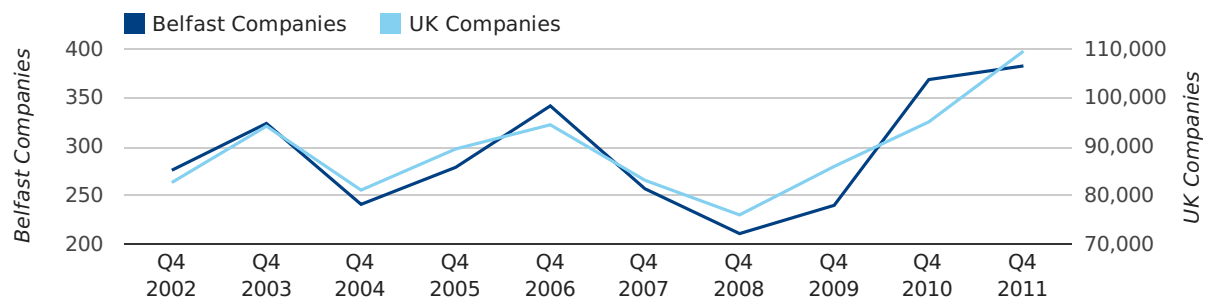
Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 383 companies were registered in Belfast during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 3.8% versus the same period last year (Q4 2010). This figure compares badly to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 15.3% against the same period last year.

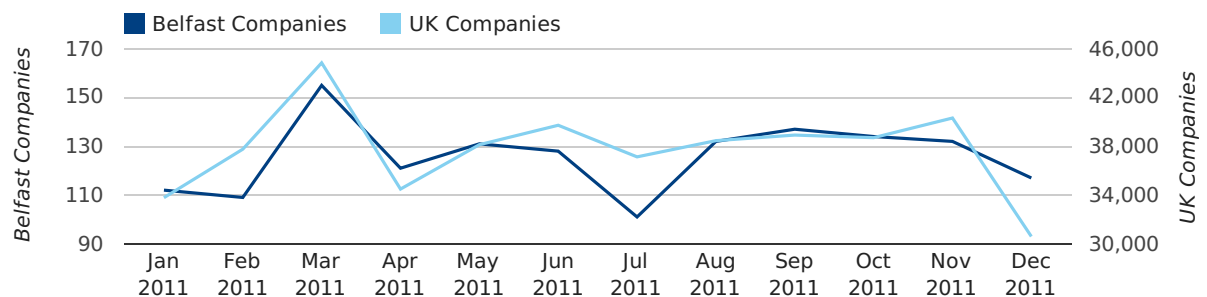
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	BELFAST	UK
2011	383	109,623
2010	369	95,117
% CHANGE	3.8%	15.3%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (383)	2011 (109,623)

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

new companies by month



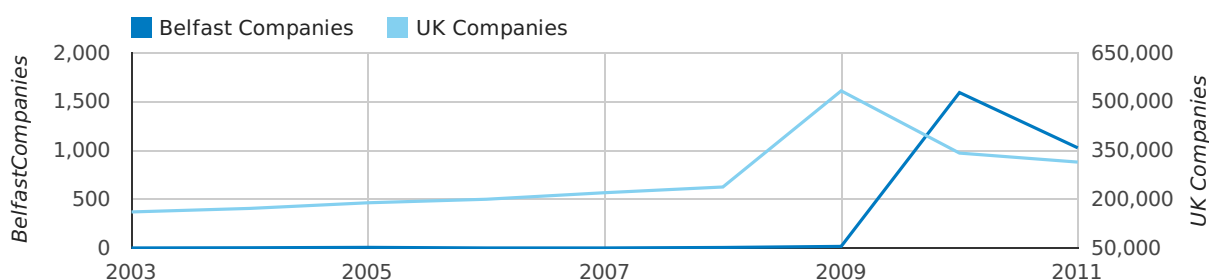
	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	134	132	117
NEW COMPANIES IN 2010	98	142	129
% CHANGE	36.7%	-7.0%	-9.3%
RECORD YEAR	2003 (138)	2010 (142)	2010 (129)

Annual Data (2011)

A total of 1,028 companies were dissolved in Belfast in 2011. This total is 35.5% lower than in 2010 and compares unfavourably to the UK figure of 8.1% decrease compared to the previous year.

YEAR	BELFAST	UK
2011	1,028	314,523
2010	1,595	342,232
2009	17	533,773
2008	6	237,901
2007	1	220,295
RECORD YEAR	2010 (1,595)	2009 (533,773)

dissolved companies by year



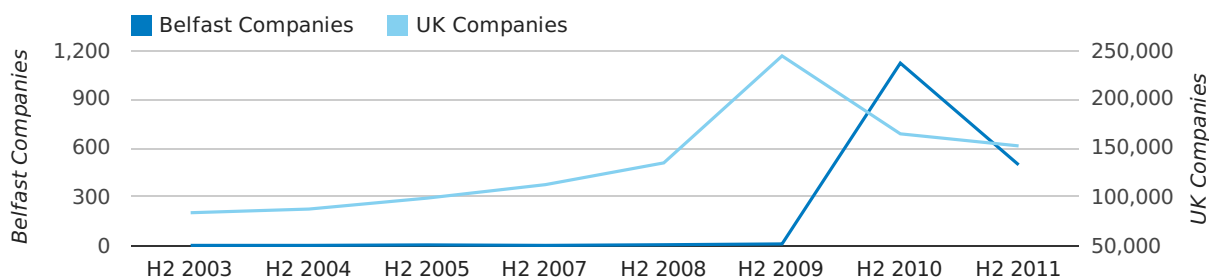
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 a total of 497 companies were dissolved in Belfast. This figure is 55.7% lower than last year, which compares well to the UK wide change of -7.5%.

The highest total for a second half year in Belfast occurred in 2010 when a total of 1,123 were closed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	BELFAST	UK
2011	497	152,213
2010	1,123	164,601
% CHANGE	-55.7%	-7.5%
RECORD YEAR	2010 (1,123)	2009 (244,537)

dissolved companies by half year



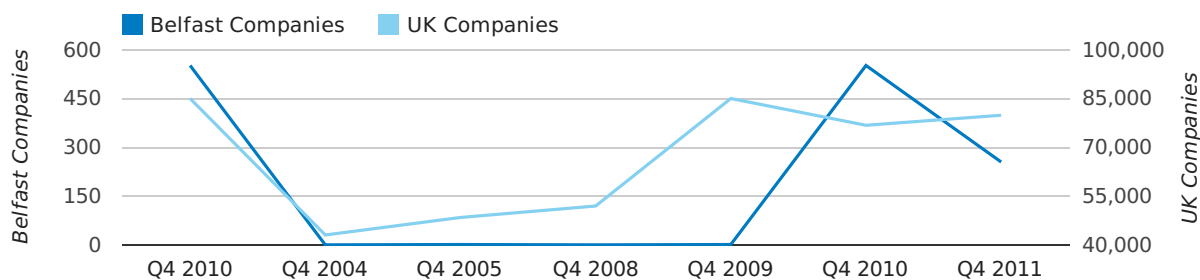
Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

A total of 256 companies were dissolved in Belfast during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is a decrease of 53.7% versus the same period last year (Q4 2010). This figure compares well to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 4.0% against the same period last year.

FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	BELFAST	UK
2011	256	79,983
2010	553	76,896
% CHANGE	-53.7%	4.0%
RECORD YEAR	2010 (553)	2009 (85,136)

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

dissolved companies by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	92	63	101
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010	383	67	103
% CHANGE	-76.0%	-6.0%	-2%
RECORD YEAR	2010 (383)	2010 (67)	2010 (103)

Annual Data (2011)

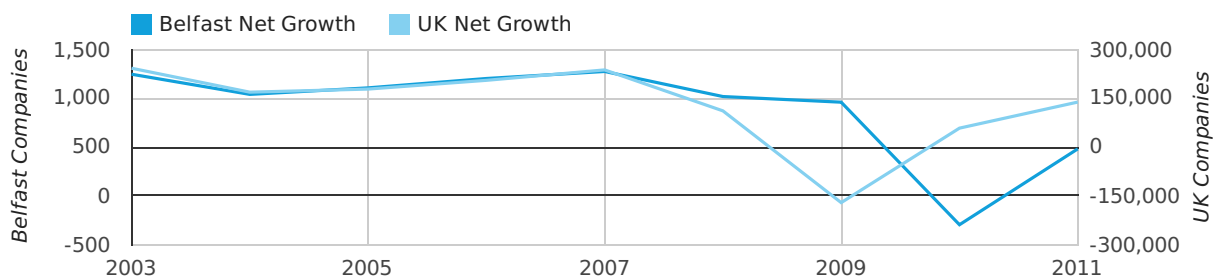
A total of 481 companies were added to the company register for Belfast in 2011. This number represents growth of 37.1% which compares favourably to the UK figure of 34.6%.

This number is 778 companies higher than the previous year.

The highest net company growth figure ever seen in one year came in 2007 when the Belfast company register grew by 1,275 companies.

YEAR	BELFAST	UK
2011	481	138,347
2010	-297	58,126
2009	960	-171,098
2008	1,018	111,302
2007	1,275	237,354
RECORD YEAR	2007 (1,275)	2003 (242,543)

net growth by year

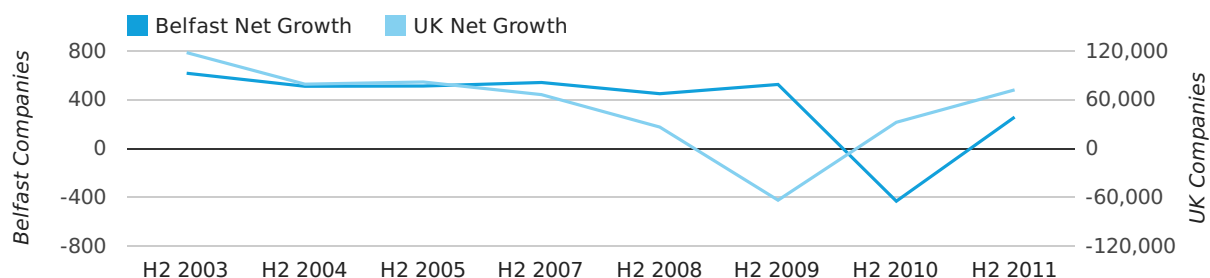


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 the company register for Belfast increased by 256 companies. This figure is 159.0% lower than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 124.7%.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	BELFAST	UK
2011	256	71,922
2010	-434	32,008
% CHANGE	-159.0%	124.7%
RECORD YEAR	2003 (616)	2003 (117,772)

net growth by half year



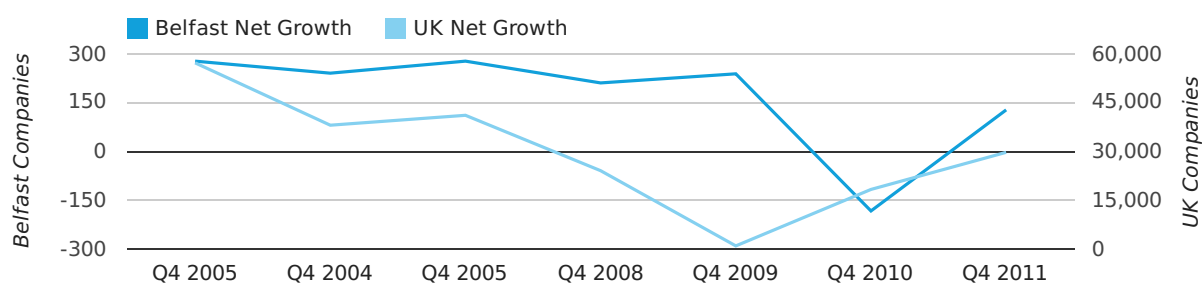
Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

Net company growth for Belfast during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011) was 127 companies.

This represents an increase of 169.0% on the same period last year.

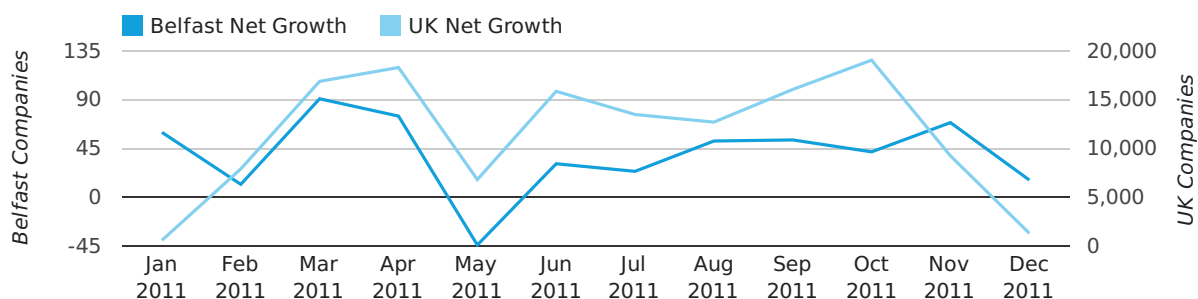
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	BELFAST	UK
2011	127	29,640
2010	-184	18,221
% CHANGE	-169.0%	62.7%
RECORD YEAR	2005 (277)	2003 (57,175)

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

net growth by month



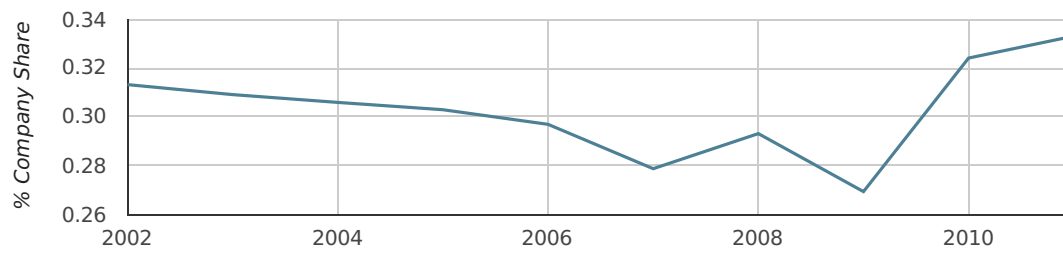
	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NET GROWTH IN 2011	42	69	16
NET GROWTH IN 2010	-285	75	26
% CHANGE	-114.7%	-8.0%	-38.5%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (70)	2005 (105)	2009 (88)

Annual Data (2011)

In 2011 Belfast formed 0.3% of all UK companies. This is no change on 2010 when Belfast was responsible for 0.3% of all UK companies.

YEAR	BELFAST
2011	0.3%
2010	0.3%
2009	0.3%
2008	0.3%
2007	0.3%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1968 (1.4%)

company share by year

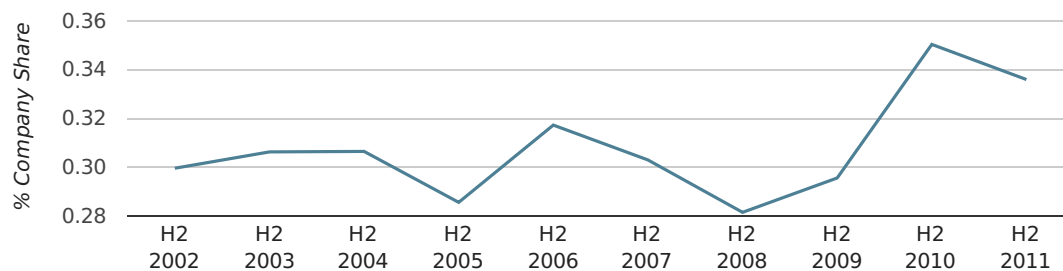


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 Belfast formed 0.3% of all UK companies. This is less than the 2010 figure of 0.4%.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	BELFAST
2011	0.3%
2010	0.4%
2009	0.3%
2008	0.3%
2007	0.3%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1968 (1.4%)

company share by half year

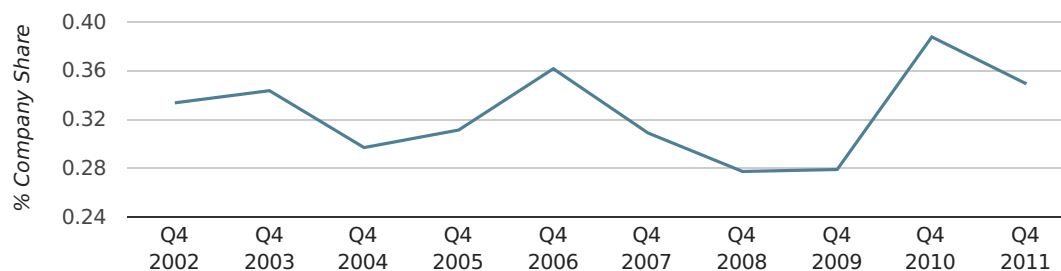


Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

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

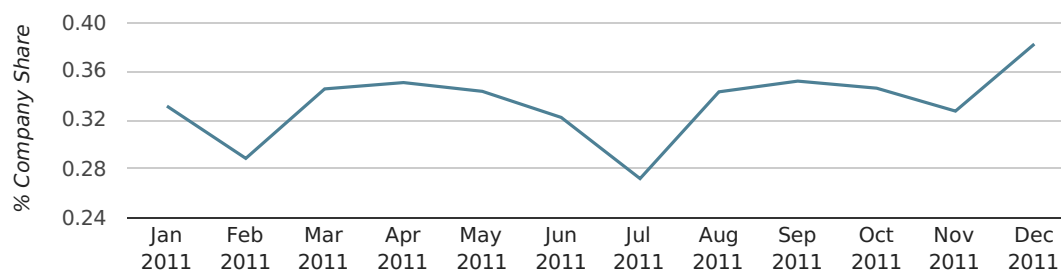
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	BELFAST
2011	0.3%
2010	0.4%
2009	0.3%
2008	0.3%
2007	0.3%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1968 (1.6%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

company share by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%
% CHANGE	18.8%	-20.8%	-19.6%
RECORD YEAR	1985 (2.4%)	1968 (1.6%)	1967 (1.6%)

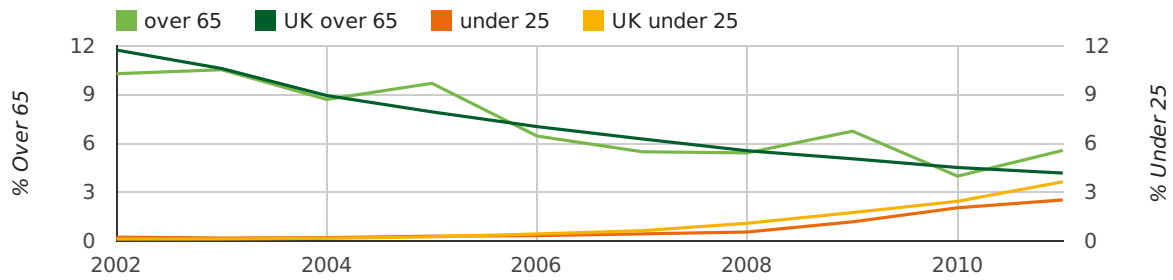
Annual Data (2011)

The average age of a director in 2011 was 45.0.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.5% compared to the UK figure of 3.7%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 5.6% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

director age by year



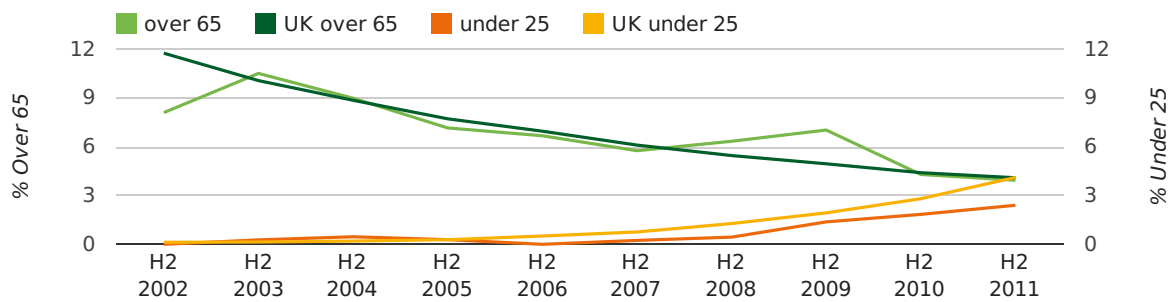
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the second half of 2011 was 43.9.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.4% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 3.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by half year



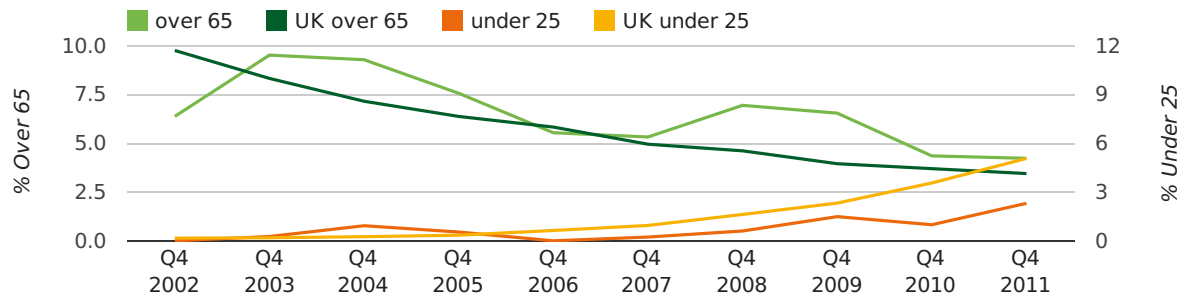
Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the fourth quarter of 2011 was 43.8.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.3% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 4.2% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by quarter

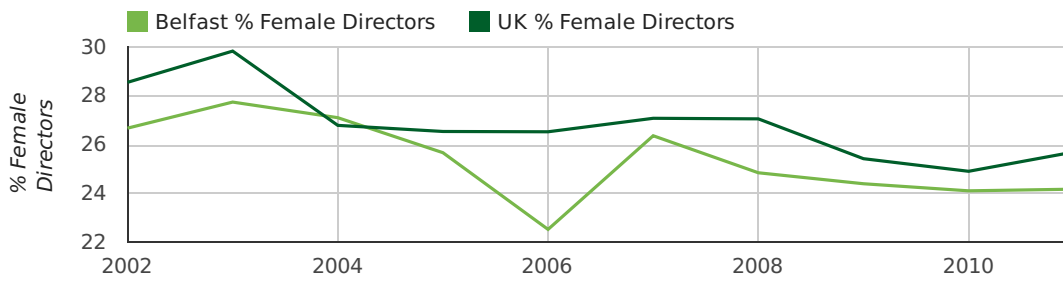


Annual Data (2011)

The record year for female directors in Belfast was 1857 when 36.4% of all directors were female.

The percentage of female directors in Belfast in 2011 was 26.7%. The average for the UK during this time was 28.6%

director gender by year

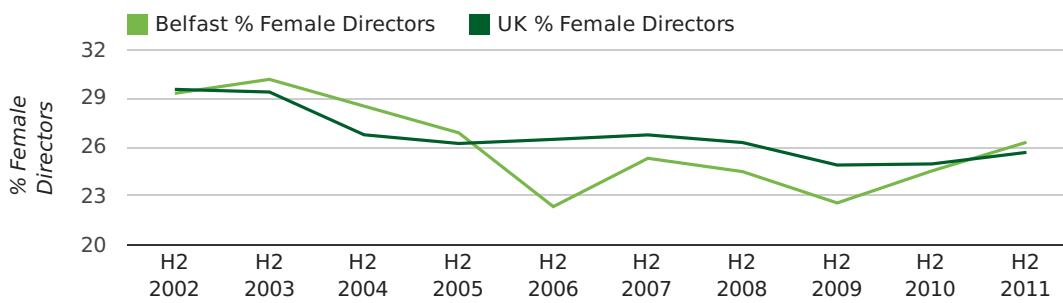


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The record second half year for female directors in Belfast was 1860 when 42.9% of all directors were female.

26.3% of all director appointments in Belfast in the second half of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.7% for the same period.

director gender by half year

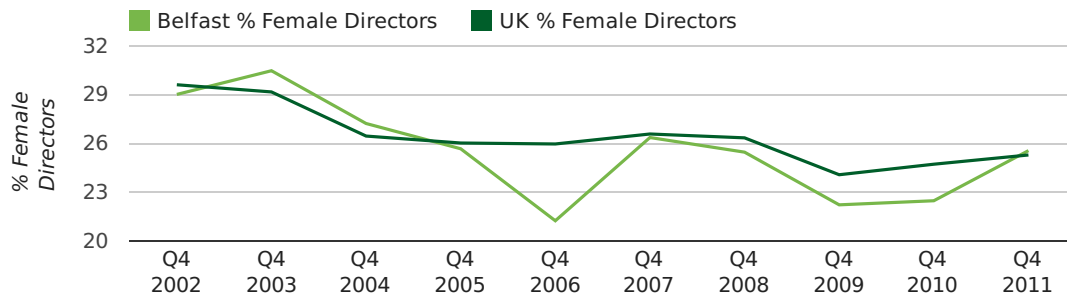


Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

The record fourth quarter for female directors in Belfast was in 1977 when 31.1% of all directors were female.

25.6% of all director appointments in Belfast in the fourth quarter of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.3% for the same period.

director gender by quarter



Previous 12 months (Dec 2010-Dec 2011)

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

WORD	PERCENTAGE	UK WORD	UK PERCENTAGE
(NI)	2.61%	CONSULTING	5.07%
MANAGEMENT	2.47%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
BELFAST	1.40%	CONSULTANCY	3.26%
DR.	1.30%	PROPERTY	2.37%
(N.I.)	1.26%	TRADING	2.07%
MEDICAL	1.12%	DESIGN	1.92%
LAGAN	1.07%	ASSOCIATES	1.86%
TRADING	1.07%	ENGINEERING	1.78%
ENTERPRISES	0.93%	BUSINESS	1.78%
CONSULTING	0.93%	CONSULTANTS	1.76%
IRELAND	0.93%	CONSTRUCTION	1.73%
DEVELOPMENTS	0.84%	MEDIA	1.71%
CONSULTANCY	0.84%	LONDON	1.63%
NI	0.74%	J	1.51%
ELECTRICAL	0.65%	INVESTMENTS	1.48%
PROPERTY	0.65%	GLOBAL	1.46%
MAINTENANCE	0.61%	IT	1.41%
CO	0.56%	CARE	1.39%
CAPITAL	0.56%	PROPERTIES	1.29%
CONTRACTS	0.56%	ELECTRICAL	1.29%
INVESTMENTS	0.56%	M	1.27%
DESIGN	0.51%	BUILDING	1.26%
MEDIA	0.51%	ENERGY	1.25%
ENERGY	0.51%	S	1.20%
CONSTRUCTION	0.51%	ENTERPRISES	1.20%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	420	205,525
7487 - Other business activities	126	57,052
86210 - General medical practice activities	97	2,285
99999 - Dormant Company	87	21,846
9999 - Dormant Company	73	20,199
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	48	32,483
74990 - Non-trading company	45	8,929
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	35	11,768
98000 - Residents property management	30	2,874
41100 - Development of building projects	30	4,331
7415 - Holding companies including head offices	28	1,653
8512 - Medical practice activities	28	2,224
35110 - Production of electricity	26	671
7414 - Business & management consultancy	25	13,034
5530 - Restaurants	25	5,013
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	24	17,765
7499 - Non-trading company	24	9,957
4521 - General construction & civil engineering	24	5,558
56101 - Licensed restaurants	23	2,159
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	22	8,671