

Belfast

q1 2012 business confidence report



headlines

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

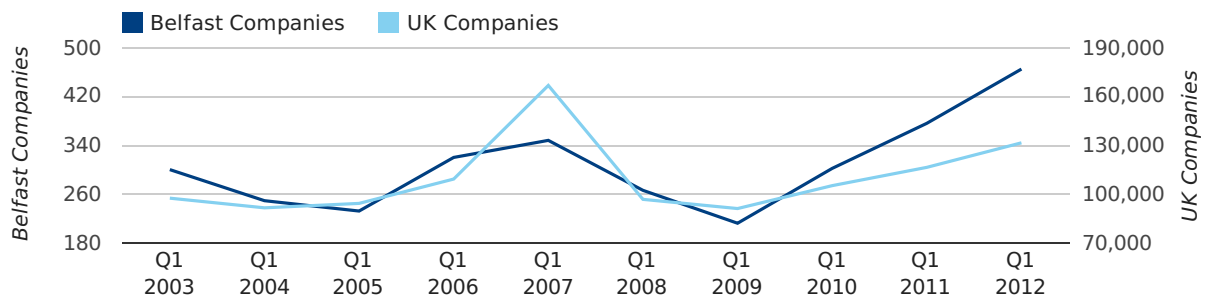
Q1 2012 was a record quarter for company registrations in Belfast when compared to any quarter in history.

A total of 465 companies were registered in Belfast during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is an increase of 23.7% 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)	BELFAST	UK
2012	465	131,491
2011	376	116,391
% CHANGE	23.7%	13.0%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (465)	2007 (166,814)

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

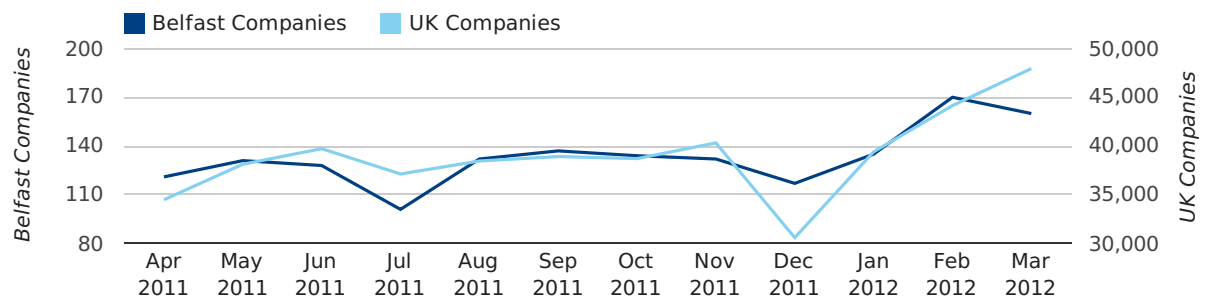
March 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Belfast when compared to any previous March.

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

February 2012 was a record month for company registrations in Belfast when compared to any month in history.

January 2012 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 2012	135	170	160
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	112	109	155
% CHANGE	20.5%	56.0%	3.2%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (135)	2012 (170)	2012 (160)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

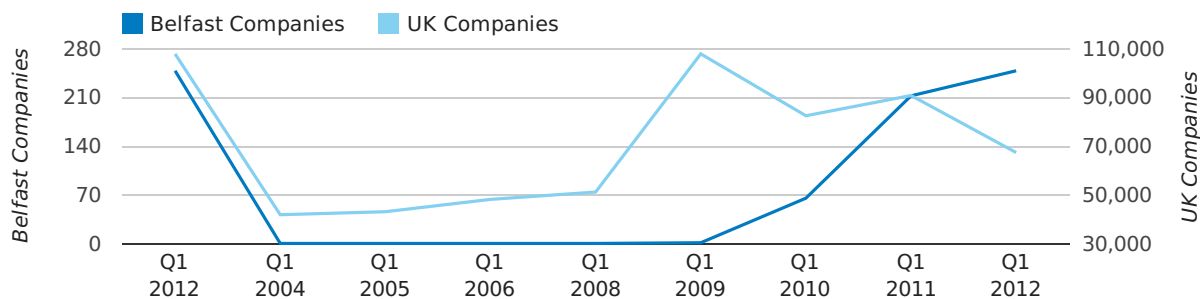
Q1 2012 saw a new record in company closures in Belfast when compared to any previous Q1.

A total of 249 companies were dissolved in Belfast during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is an increase of 16.9% 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)	BELFAST	UK
2012	249	67,576
2011	213	90,986
% CHANGE	16.9%	-25.7%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (249)	2009 (108,060)

dissolved companies by quarter

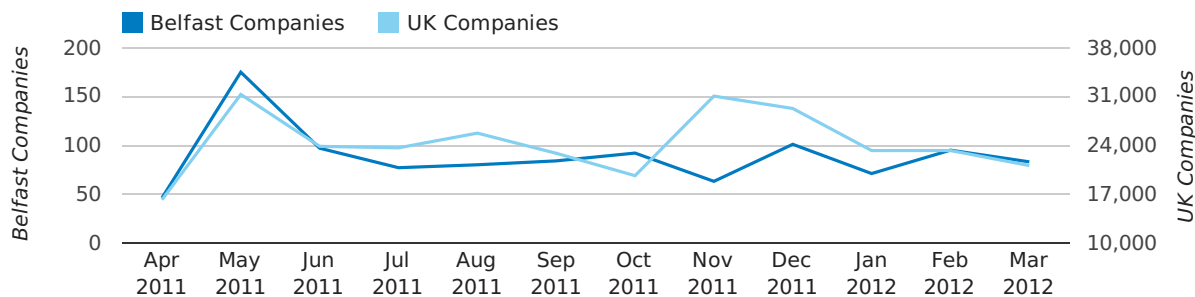


Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

March 2012 saw a new record in company closures in Belfast when compared to any previous March.

January 2012 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 2012	71	95	83
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	52	97	64
% CHANGE	36.5%	-2.1%	30%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (71)	2011 (97)	2012 (83)

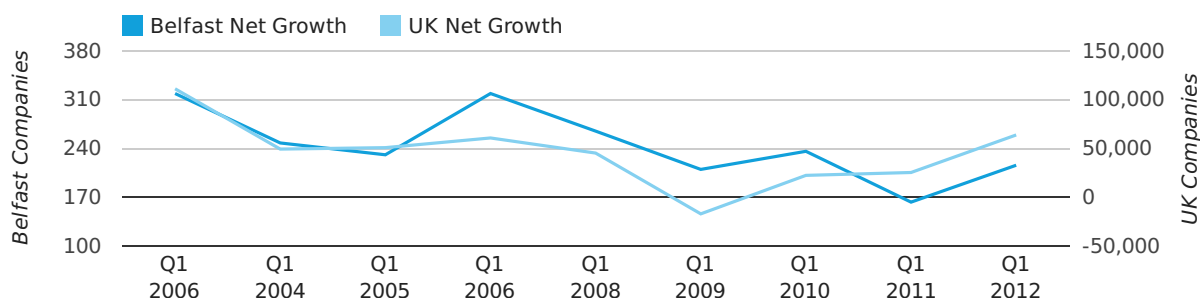
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

Net company growth for Belfast during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012) was 216 companies.

This represents an increase of 32.5% on the same period last year.

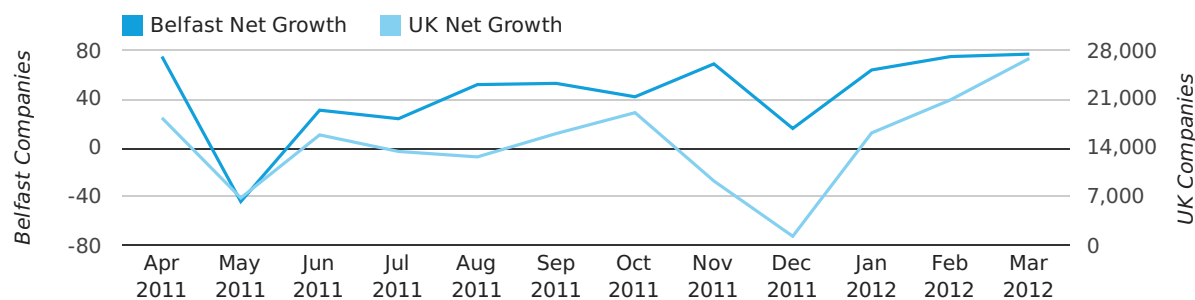
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	BELFAST	UK
2012	216	63,915
2011	163	25,405
% CHANGE	32.5%	151.6%
RECORD YEAR	2006 (319)	2007 (111,282)

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

net growth by month



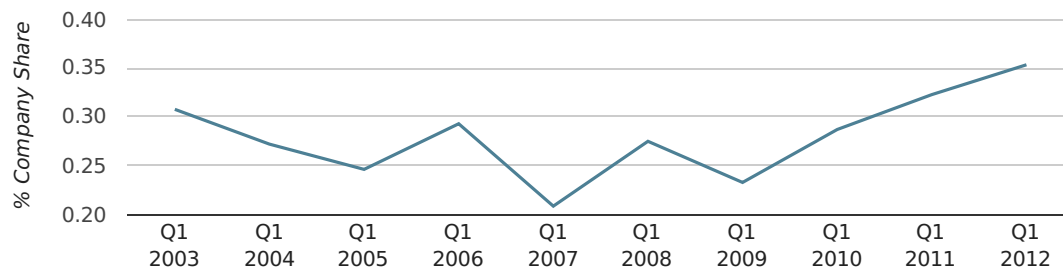
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NET GROWTH IN 2012	64	75	77
NET GROWTH IN 2011	60	12	91
% CHANGE	6.7%	525.0%	-15.4%
RECORD YEAR	2004 (89)	2006 (99)	2000 (104)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

In the first quarter of 2012, Belfast formed 0.4% of all UK companies.

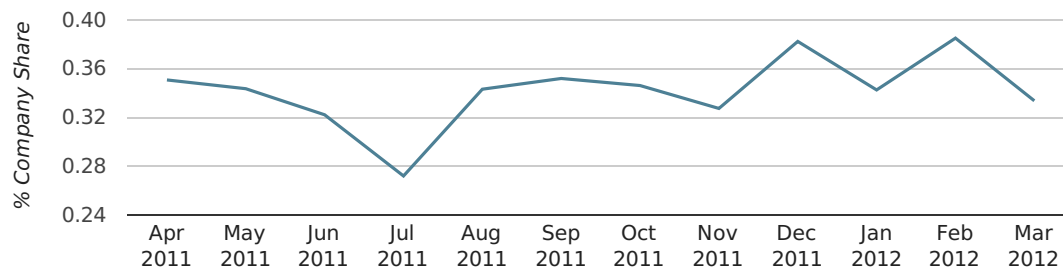
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	BELFAST
2012	0.4%
2011	0.3%
2010	0.3%
2009	0.2%
2008	0.3%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1968 (1.2%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

company share by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
% CHANGE	3.3%	33.4%	-3.4%
RECORD YEAR	1968 (1.8%)	1964 (1.2%)	1979 (13.0%)

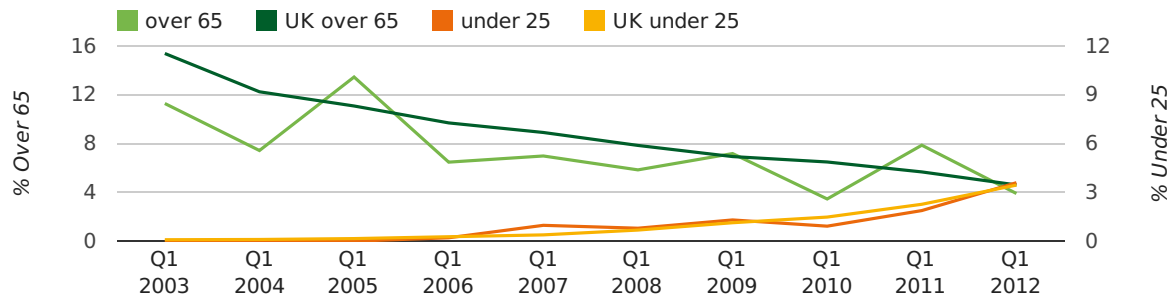
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2012 was 43.9.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 3.6% compared to the UK figure of 4.6%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 3.9% compared to the UK figure of 3.5%.

director age by quarter

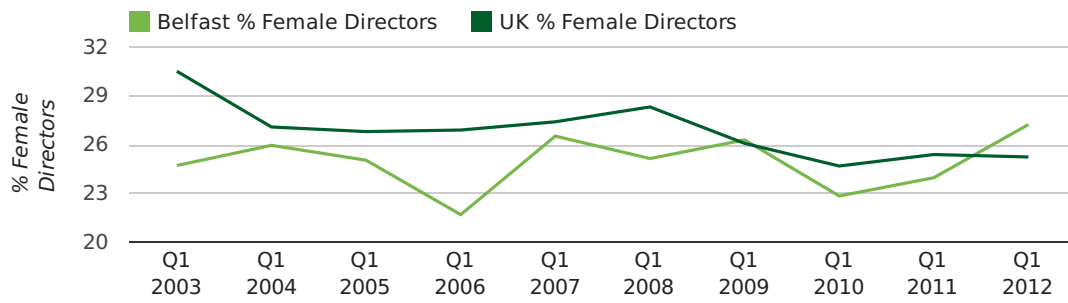


Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

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

27.2% of all director appointments in Belfast 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
(NI)	2.66%	CONSULTING	5.07%
MANAGEMENT	2.35%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
BELFAST	1.59%	CONSULTANCY	3.30%
CONSULTING	1.15%	PROPERTY	2.37%
DR.	1.15%	TRADING	2.07%
MEDICAL	1.11%	DESIGN	1.93%
(N.I.)	1.11%	ENGINEERING	1.86%
TRADING	0.93%	ASSOCIATES	1.84%
IRELAND	0.89%	CONSULTANTS	1.79%
ENTERPRISES	0.89%	BUSINESS	1.73%
DEVELOPMENTS	0.80%	MEDIA	1.72%
LAGAN	0.75%	CONSTRUCTION	1.72%
CONSULTANCY	0.75%	LONDON	1.66%
PROPERTY	0.75%	J	1.54%
PROPERTIES	0.71%	INVESTMENTS	1.51%
JCA	0.62%	GLOBAL	1.50%
CONTRACTS	0.62%	IT	1.40%
CAPITAL	0.58%	CARE	1.34%
J	0.58%	PROPERTIES	1.31%
ENERGY	0.58%	ELECTRICAL	1.27%
CENTRE	0.58%	M	1.27%
MAINTENANCE	0.53%	BUILDING	1.24%
CONSTRUCTION	0.53%	ENERGY	1.20%
CONSULTANTS	0.53%	S	1.20%
ENGINEERING	0.53%	ENTERPRISES	1.19%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	463	216,665
7487 - Other business activities	114	52,735
86210 - General medical practice activities	105	2,594
99999 - Dormant Company	104	25,084
9999 - Dormant Company	70	18,617
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	54	35,233
74990 - Non-trading company	45	9,729
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	45	13,637
41100 - Development of building projects	35	4,984
98000 - Residents property management	29	3,050
35110 - Production of electricity	28	826
7415 - Holding companies including head offices	28	1,595
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	28	9,892
8512 - Medical practice activities	27	2,116
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	27	19,704
86900 - Other human health activities	27	5,066
56101 - Licensed restaurants	25	1,885
5530 - Restaurants	25	4,633
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	25	14,303
7499 - Non-trading company	24	9,102