

Chester

q1 2011 business confidence report



headlines

- February 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Chester when compared to any previous February.
- January 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Chester when compared to any previous January.

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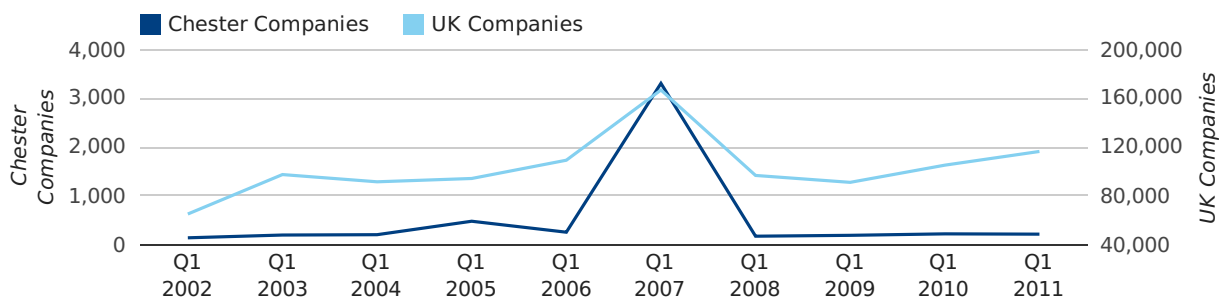
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

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

This figure is a decrease of 2.7% versus the same period last year (Q1 2010). This figure compares badly to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 10.7% against the same period last year.

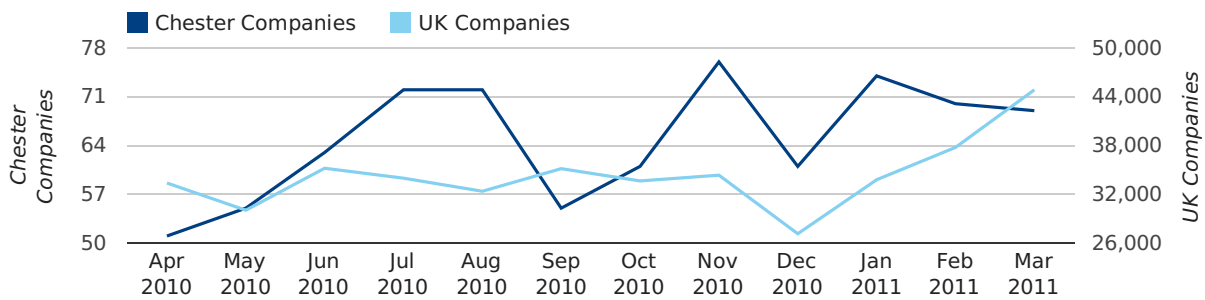
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	CHESTER	UK
2011	213	116,391
2010	219	105,137
% CHANGE	-2.7%	10.7%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (3,307)	2007 (166,814)

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

new companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	74	70	69
NEW COMPANIES IN 2010	63	76	80
% CHANGE	17.5%	-7.9%	-13.8%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (95)	2007 (561)	2007 (2,651)

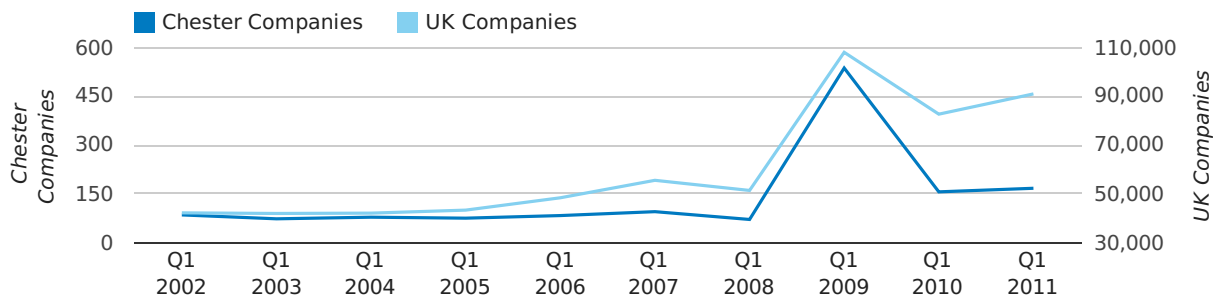
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

A total of 167 companies were dissolved in Chester during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011).

This figure is an increase of 7.1% versus the same period last year (Q1 2010). This figure compares well 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)	CHESTER	UK
2011	167	90,986
2010	156	82,677
% CHANGE	7.1%	10.0%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (537)	2009 (108,060)

dissolved companies by quarter

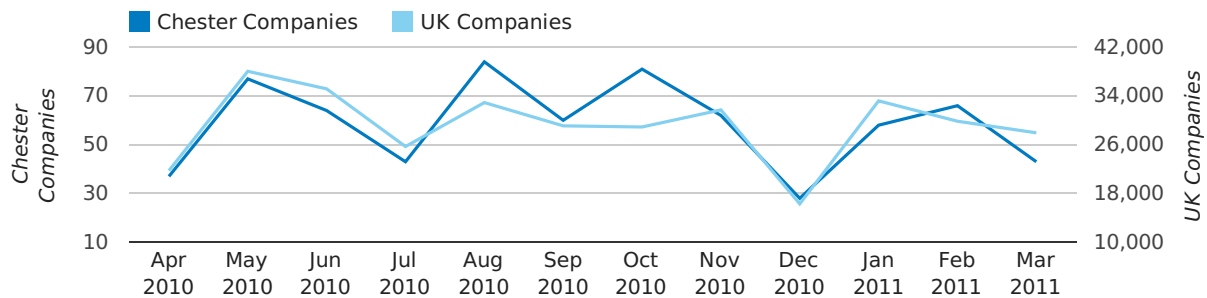


Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

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

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

dissolved companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	58	66	43
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010	41	38	77
% CHANGE	41.5%	73.7%	-44%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (58)	2011 (66)	2009 (482)

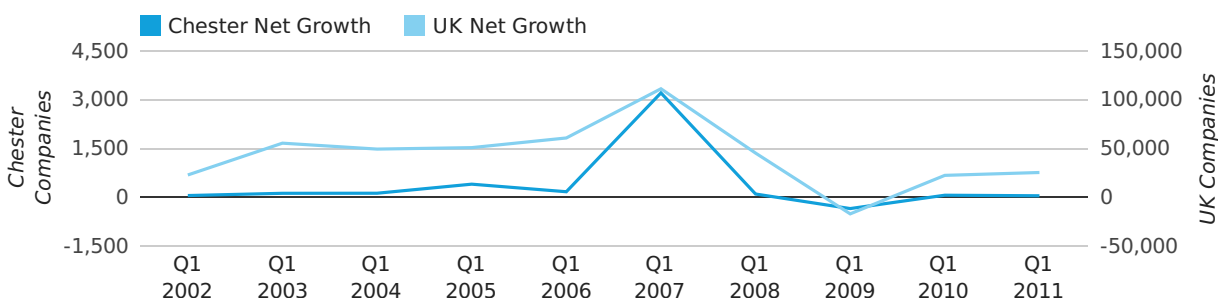
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

Net company growth for Chester during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011) was 46 companies.

This represents a decrease of 27.0% on the same period last year.

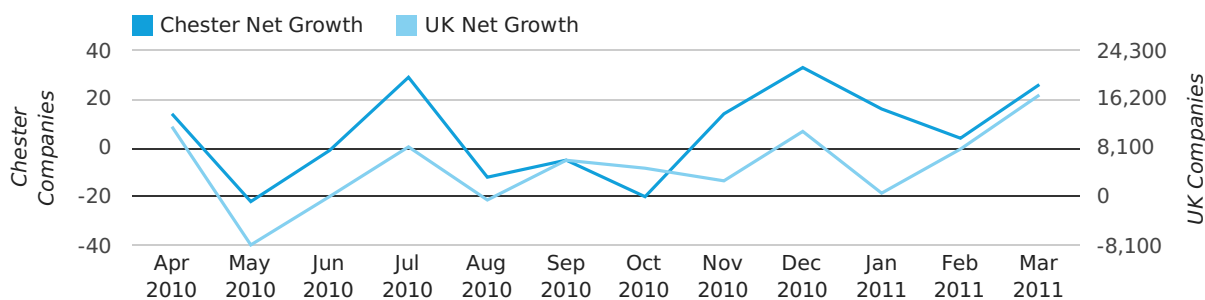
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	CHESTER	UK
2011	46	25,405
2010	63	22,460
% CHANGE	-27.0%	13.1%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (3,212)	2007 (111,282)

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

net growth by month



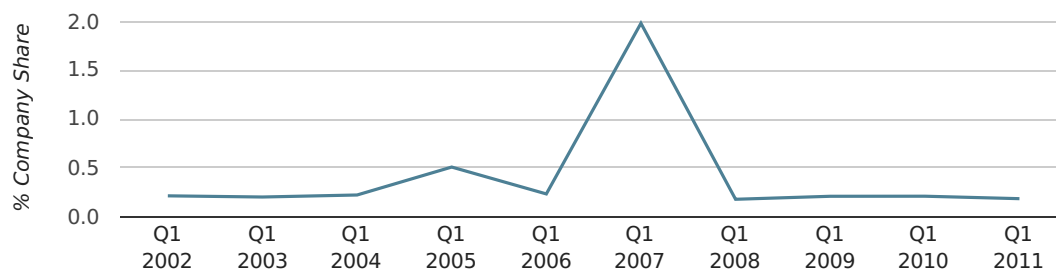
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NET GROWTH IN 2011	16	4	26
NET GROWTH IN 2010	22	38	3
% CHANGE	-27.3%	-89.5%	766.7%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (69)	2007 (533)	2007 (2,610)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

In the first quarter of 2011, Chester formed 0.2% of all UK companies.

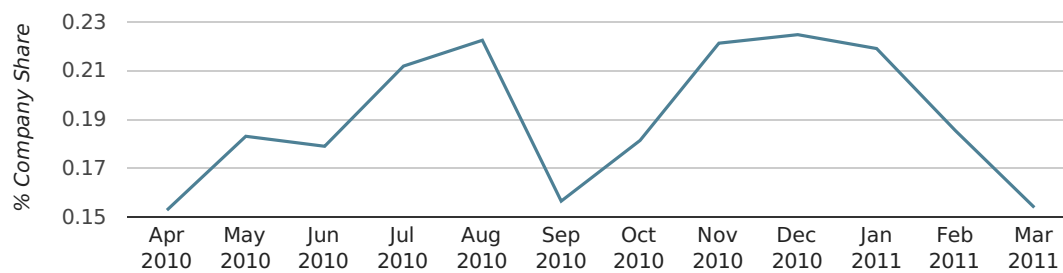
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	CHESTER
2011	0.2%
2010	0.2%
2009	0.2%
2008	0.2%
2007	2.0%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	2007 (2.0%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

company share by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
% CHANGE	1.3%	-19.0%	-17.7%
RECORD YEAR	1962 (0.6%)	2007 (1.0%)	2007 (3.9%)

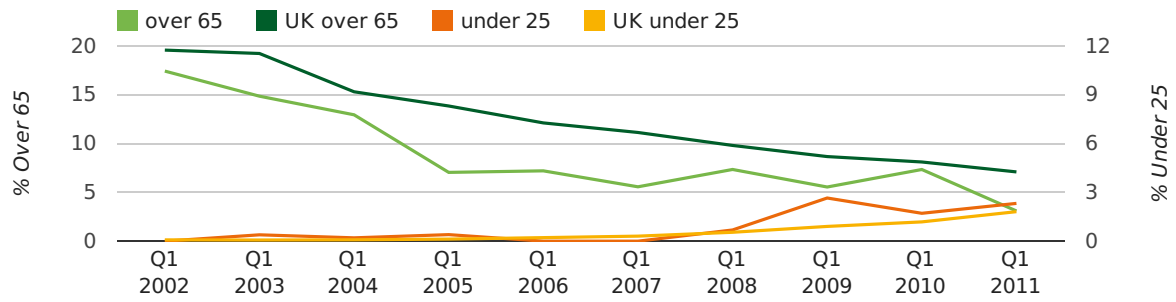
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2011 was 46.2.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.3% compared to the UK figure of 3.0%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 3.1% compared to the UK figure of 4.3%.

director age by quarter

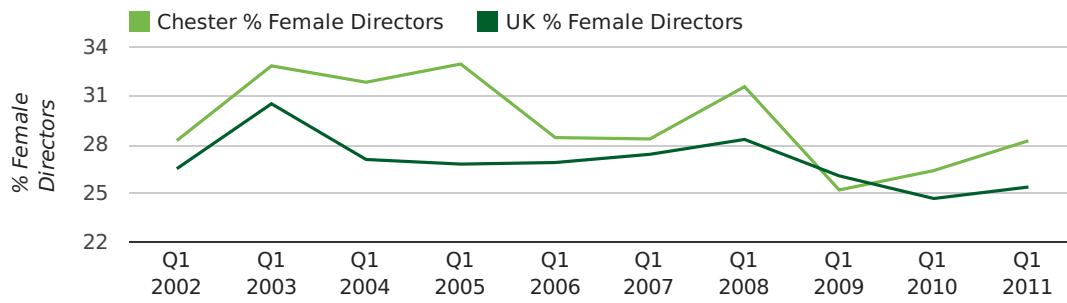


Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

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

28.3% of all director appointments in Chester 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
CHESTER	2.80%	CONSULTING	5.04%
MANAGEMENT	1.68%	MANAGEMENT	4.97%
CONSULTING	1.28%	CONSULTANCY	3.16%
MEDIA	0.96%	PROPERTY	2.38%
CONSULTANTS	0.88%	TRADING	2.10%
BUSINESS	0.80%	DESIGN	1.93%
CONSULTANCY	0.80%	ASSOCIATES	1.92%
ASSOCIATES	0.72%	BUSINESS	1.87%
ENGINEERING	0.72%	CONSTRUCTION	1.80%
J	0.64%	CONSULTANTS	1.76%
TRAINING	0.64%	MEDIA	1.69%
CHESHIRE	0.56%	ENGINEERING	1.61%
D	0.56%	LONDON	1.60%
(NW)	0.56%	CARE	1.45%
R	0.56%	J	1.45%
MARKETING	0.56%	GLOBAL	1.44%
FINANCE	0.48%	INVESTMENTS	1.43%
COMMERCIAL	0.48%	IT	1.41%
PRODUCTS	0.48%	PROPERTIES	1.36%
CARE	0.48%	BUILDING	1.34%
(CHESTER)	0.48%	M	1.30%
CESTRIAN	0.48%	ELECTRICAL	1.28%
C	0.40%	S	1.24%
NETWORK	0.40%	INTERNATIONAL	1.23%
DESIGN	0.40%	SYSTEMS	1.23%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	315	202,798
7487 - Other business activities	127	60,968
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	60	30,253
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	54	16,150
7414 - Business & management consultancy	40	12,916
9999 - Dormant Company	31	19,765
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	31	7,788
99999 - Dormant Company	27	18,336
7499 - Non-trading company	21	11,316
62090 - Other information technology service activities	20	6,996
74990 - Non-trading company	20	8,695
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	20	10,085
7260 - Other computer related activities	17	7,789
5530 - Restaurants	16	4,898
9305 - Other service activities	16	8,740
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	16	10,246
4521 - General construction & civil engineering	13	6,183
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	12	7,000
86900 - Other human health activities	12	4,092
41100 - Development of building projects	11	3,921