Congleton

2011 annual business confidence report



headlines

- 2011 was a record year for company registrations in Congleton when compared to any year in history.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Congleton when compared to any previous Q4.
- November 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Congleton when compared to any previous November.
- October 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Congleton when compared to any previous October.
- November 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Congleton when compared to any previous November.
- The second half of 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Congleton when compared to any previous second half year.
- The second half of 2011 was a record second half year for net growth in Congleton when compared to any half year in history.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Congleton when compared to any previous Q4.
- October 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Congleton when compared to any previous October.

contents

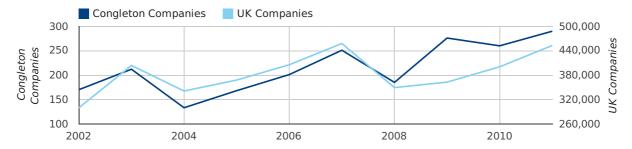
| new company registrations | |
|------------------------------|--|
| closed companies (dissolved) | |
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2011 was a record year for company registrations in Congleton when compared to any year in history.

A total of 290 companies were formed in Congleton in 2011. This total is 11.5% higher than in 2010 and compares equally to the UK figure of a 13.1% growth compared to 400,358 the previous year.

| YEAR | CONGLETON | UK |
|-------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 290 | 452,870 |
| 2010 | 260 | 400,358 |
| 2009 | 276 | 362,675 |
| 2008 | 185 | 349,203 |
| 2007 | 251 | 457,649 |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (290) | 2007 (457,649) |

new companies by year



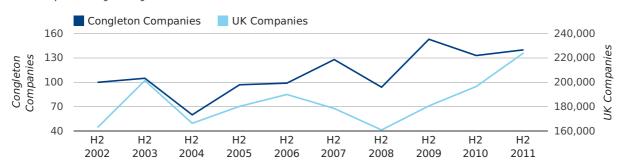
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 a total of 140 companies were formed in Congleton. This figure is 5.3% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide figure of 14.0%.

The highest total for a second half year in Congleton occurred in 2009 when a total of 153 were formed.

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | CONGLETON | UK |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 140 | 224,135 |
| 2010 | 133 | 196,609 |
| % CHANGE | 5.3% | 14.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (153) | 2011 (224,135) |

new companies by half year



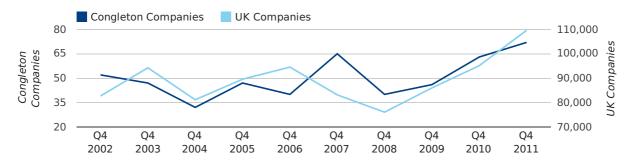
Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Congleton when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 72 companies were registered in Congleton during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 14.3% 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) | CONGLETON | UK |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2011 | 72 | 109,623 |
| 2010 | 63 | 95,117 |
| % CHANGE | 14.3% | 15.3% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (72) | 2011 (109,623) |

new companies by quarter

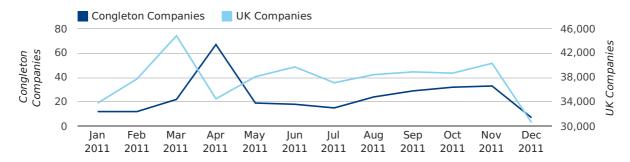


Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

November 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Congleton when compared to any previous November.

October 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Congleton when compared to any previous October.

new companies by month

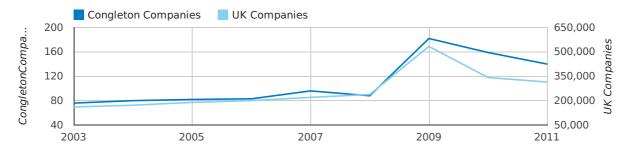


| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2011 | 32 | 33 | 7 |
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2010 | 23 | 17 | 23 |
| % CHANGE | 39.1% | 94.1% | -69.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (32) | 2011 (33) | 2010 (23) |

A total of 140 companies were dissolved in Congleton in 2011. This total is 11.9% lower than in 2010 and compares unfavourably to the UK figure of 8.1% decrease compared to the previous year.

| YEAR | CONGLETON | UK |
|-------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 140 | 314,523 |
| 2010 | 159 | 342,232 |
| 2009 | 182 | 533,773 |
| 2008 | 88 | 237,901 |
| 2007 | 96 | 220,295 |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (182) | 2009 (533,773) |

dissolved companies by year



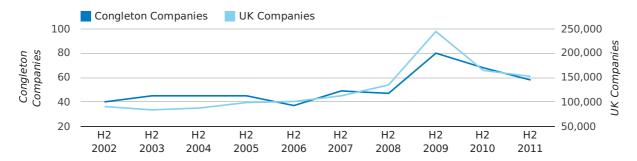
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 a total of 58 companies were dissolved in Congleton. This figure is 14.7% lower than last year, which compares well to the UK wide change of -7.5%.

The highest total for a second half year in Congleton occurred in 2009 when a total of 80 were closed.

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | CONGLETON | UK |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2011 | 58 | 152,213 |
| 2010 | 68 | 164,601 |
| % CHANGE | -14.7% | -7.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (80) | 2009 (244,537) |

dissolved companies by half year

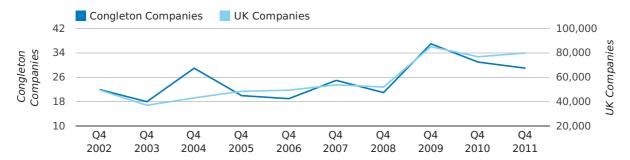


A total of 29 companies were dissolved in Congleton during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is a decrease of 6.5% 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) | CONGLETON | UK |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 2011 | 29 | 79,983 |
| 2010 | 31 | 76,896 |
| % CHANGE | -6.5% | 4.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (37) | 2009 (85,136) |

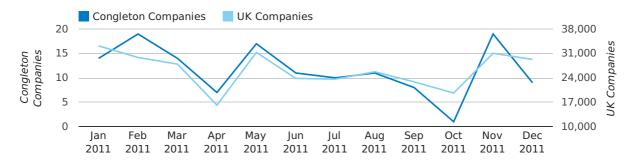
dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

November 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Congleton when compared to any previous November.

dissolved companies by month



| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011 | 1 | 19 | 9 |
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010 | 10 | 14 | 7 |
| % CHANGE | -90.0% | 35.7% | 29% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2004 (12) | 2011 (19) | 2009 (16) |

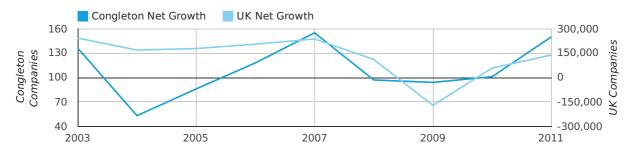
A total of 150 companies were added to the company register for Congleton in 2011. This number represents growth of 57.7% which compares favourably to the UK figure of 34.6%.

This number is 49 companies higher than the previous year.

The highest net company growth figure ever seen in one year came in 2007 when the Congleton company register grew by 155 companies.

| YEAR | CONGLETON | UK |
|-------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 150 | 138,347 |
| 2010 | 101 | 58,126 |
| 2009 | 94 | -171,098 |
| 2008 | 97 | 111,302 |
| 2007 | 155 | 237,354 |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (155) | 2003 (242,543) |

net growth by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

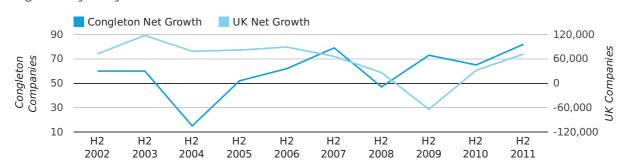
The second half of 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Congleton when compared to any previous second half year.

The second half of 2011 was a record second half year for net growth in Congleton when compared to any half year in history.

In the second half of 2011 the company register for Congleton increased by 82 companies. This figure is 26.2% higher than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 124.7%.

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | CONGLETON | UK |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2011 | 82 | 71,922 |
| 2010 | 65 | 32,008 |
| % CHANGE | 26.2% | 124.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (82) | 2003 (117,772) |

net growth by half year



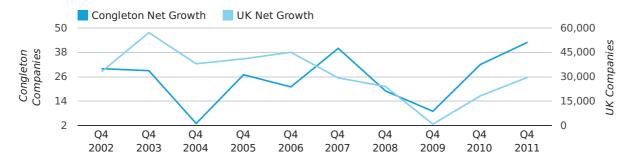
Q4 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Congleton when compared to any previous Q4.

Net company growth for Congleton during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011) was 43 companies.

This represents an increase of 34.4% on the same period last year.

| FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011) | CONGLETON | UK |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 2011 | 43 | 29,640 |
| 2010 | 32 | 18,221 |
| % CHANGE | 34.4% | 62.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (43) | 2003 (57,175) |

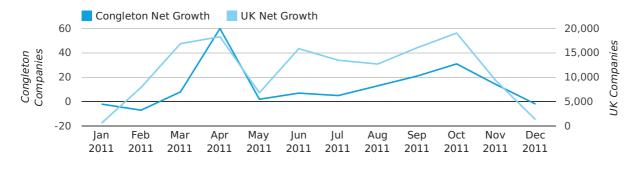
net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

October 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Congleton when compared to any previous October.

net growth by month

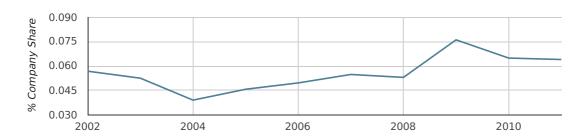


| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | 31 | 14 | -2 |
| NET GROWTH IN 2010 | 13 | 3 | 16 |
| % CHANGE | 138.5% | 366.7% | -112.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (31) | 2007 (15) | 2010 (16) |

In 2011 Congleton formed 0.1% of all UK companies. This is no change on 2010 when Congleton was responsible for 0.1% of all UK companies.

| YEAR | CONGLETON |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2011 | 0.1% |
| 2010 | 0.1% |
| 2009 | 0.1% |
| 2008 | 0.1% |
| 2007 | 0.1% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1979 (0.1%) |

company share by year

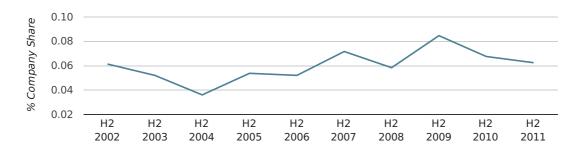


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 Congleton formed 0.1% of all UK companies. This is the same as the 2010 figure of 0.1%.

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | CONGLETON |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2011 | 0.1% |
| 2010 | 0.1% |
| 2009 | 0.1% |
| 2008 | 0.1% |
| 2007 | 0.1% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1965 (0.1%) |

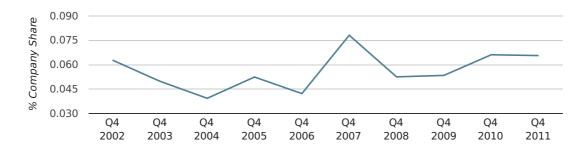
company share by half year



In the fourth quarter of 2011, Congleton formed 0.1% of all UK companies.

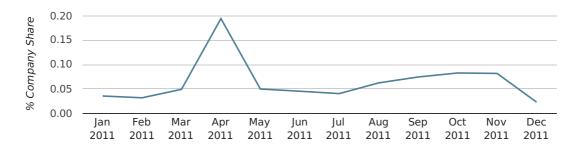
| FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011) | CONGLETON |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2011 | 0.1% |
| 2010 | 0.1% |
| 2009 | 0.1% |
| 2008 | 0.1% |
| 2007 | 0.1% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1969 (0.1%) |

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

company share by month



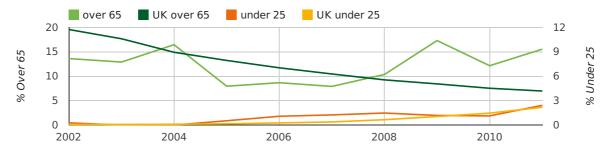
| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.0% |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010 | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.1% |
| % CHANGE | 20.9% | 65.3% | -73.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 1964 (0.3%) | 1969 (0.2%) | 1961 (0.2%) |

The average age of a director in 2011 was 49.4.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.4% compared to the UK figure of 3.7%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 15.6% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

director age by year



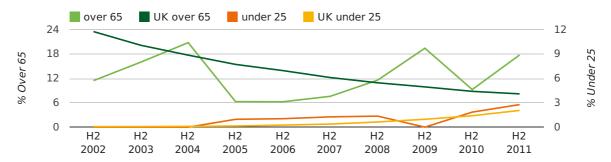
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the second half of 2011 was 51.5.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 17.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by half year

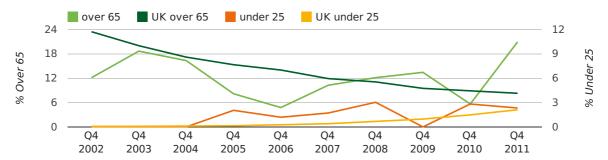


The average age of a director in the fourth quarter of 2011 was 54.5.

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 20.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

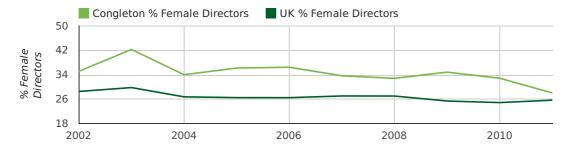
director age by quarter



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

The percentage of female directors in Congleton in 2011 was 35.2%. The average for the UK during this time was 28.6%

director gender by year

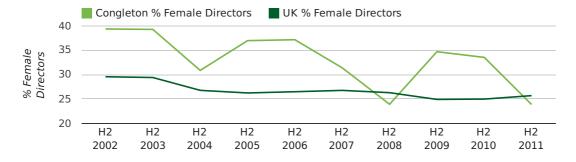


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

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

23.9% of all director appointments in Congleton 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



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

26.6% of all director appointments in Congleton 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



naming trends $\operatorname{duport} \omega$

Previous 12 months (Dec 2010-Dec 2011)

 ${\sf Excluding: LIMITED, LTD, \&, UK, SERVICES, THE, (UK), AND, LTD., A, LLP, SOLUTIONS, COMPANY, OF.}\\$

| WORD | PERCENTAGE | UK WORD | UK PERCENTAGE |
|-------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| CONSULTING | 1.43% | CONSULTING | 5.07% |
| S | 1.23% | MANAGEMENT | 4.74% |
| ELECTRICAL | 1.02% | CONSULTANCY | 3.26% |
| MANAGEMENT | 0.82% | PROPERTY | 2.37% |
| HEATING | 0.61% | TRADING | 2.07% |
| CHESHIRE | 0.61% | DESIGN | 1.92% |
| TRAINING | 0.61% | ASSOCIATES | 1.86% |
| CONSULTANCY | 0.61% | ENGINEERING | 1.78% |
| SALES | 0.61% | BUSINESS | 1.78% |
| TRADE | 0.61% | CONSULTANTS | 1.76% |
| С | 0.61% | CONSTRUCTION | 1.73% |
| J | 0.61% | MEDIA | 1.71% |
| R | 0.61% | LONDON | 1.63% |
| 24-7 | 0.41% | J | 1.51% |
| NTTX | 0.41% | INVESTMENTS | 1.48% |
| TECHNOLOGY | 0.41% | GLOBAL | 1.46% |
| AUSTEN | 0.41% | IT | 1.41% |
| CALLING | 0.41% | CARE | 1.39% |
| CONGLETON | 0.41% | PROPERTIES | 1.29% |
| SECURITY | 0.41% | ELECTRICAL | 1.29% |
| AERIALS | 0.41% | М | 1.27% |
| BUSINESS | 0.41% | BUILDING | 1.26% |
| AGENCY | 0.41% | ENERGY | 1.25% |
| D | 0.41% | S | 1.20% |
| SERVICE | 0.41% | ENTERPRISES | 1.20% |

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Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

| SIC CODE | NUMBER OF COMPANIES | UK COMPANIES |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management | 128 | 17,765 |
| 7487 - Other business activities | 92 | 57,052 |
| None Supplied | 90 | 205,525 |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified | 20 | 32,483 |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy | 12 | 13,034 |
| 7260 - Other computer related activities | 9 | 7,667 |
| 9999 - Dormant Company | 8 | 20,199 |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified | 8 | 11,768 |
| 7499 - Non-trading company | 7 | 9,957 |
| 74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified | 7 | 8,671 |
| 62020 - Information technology consultancy activities | 7 | 12,072 |
| 96020 - Hairdressing and other beauty treatment | 5 | 2,380 |
| 62090 - Other information technology service activities | 5 | 7,493 |
| 9305 - Other service activities | 5 | 9,492 |
| 43390 - Other building completion and finishing | 4 | 2,832 |
| 56302 - Public houses and bars | 4 | 2,308 |
| 4531 - Installation electrical wiring etc. | 4 | 1,967 |
| 99999 - Dormant Company | 4 | 21,846 |
| 62012 - Business and domestic software development | 4 | 3,714 |
| 68209 - Other letting and operating of own or leased real estate | 3 | 4,082 |
| | | |