County Down

q1 2012 business confidence report



headlines

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

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Q1 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in County Down when compared to any previous Q1.

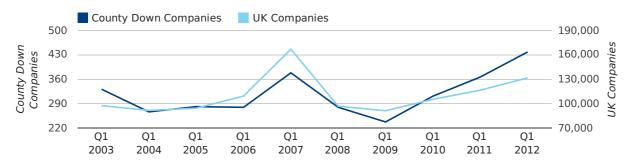
Q1 2012 was a record quarter for company registrations in County Down when compared to any quarter in history.

A total of 438 companies were registered in County Down during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is an increase of 19.7% 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)	COUNTY DOWN	UK
2012	438	131,491
2011	366	116,391
% CHANGE	19.7%	13.0%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (438)	2007 (166,814)

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

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

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

January 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in County Down when compared to any previous January.

new companies by month



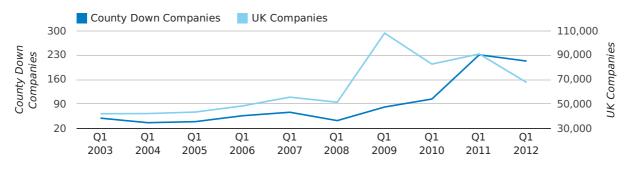
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NEW COMPANIES IN 2012	123	159	156
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	101	107	158
% CHANGE	21.8%	48.6%	-1.3%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (123)	2012 (159)	2011 (158)

A total of 213 companies were dissolved in County Down during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is a decrease of 7.8% 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.

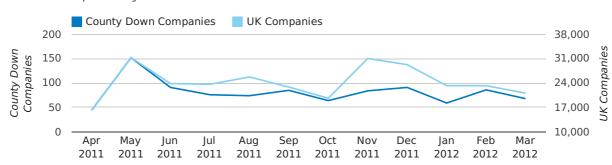
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	COUNTY DOWN	UK
2012	213	67,576
2011	231	90,986
% CHANGE	-7.8%	-25.7%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (231)	2009 (108,060)

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

February 2012 saw a new record in company closures in County Down when compared to any previous February.



dissolved companies by month

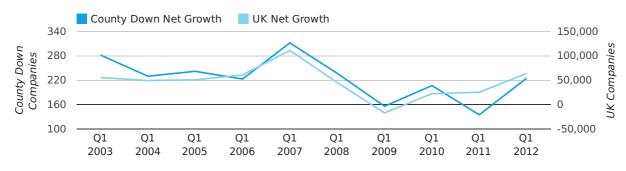
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012	59	86	68
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	66	76	89
% CHANGE	-10.6%	13.2%	-24%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (66)	2012 (86)	2011 (89)

Net company growth for County Down during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012) was 225 companies.

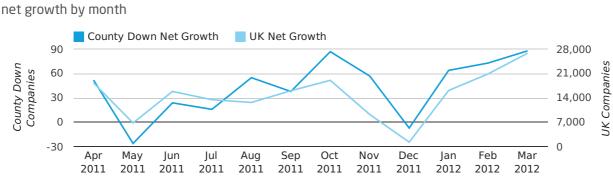
This represents an increase of 66.7% on the same period last year.

FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	COUNTY DOWN	UK
2012	225	63,915
2011	135	25,405
% CHANGE	66.7%	151.6%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (312)	2007 (111,282)

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

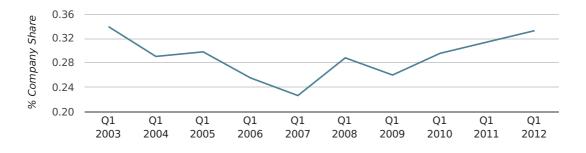


	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NET GROWTH IN 2012	64	73	88
NET GROWTH IN 2011	35	31	69
% CHANGE	82.9%	135.5%	27.5%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (82)	2007 (108)	2003 (125)

In the first quarter of 2012, County Down formed 0.3% of all UK companies.

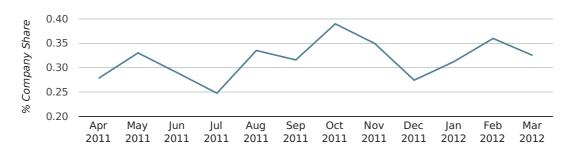
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	COUNTY DOWN
2012	0.3%
2011	0.3%
2010	0.3%
2009	0.3%
2008	0.3%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1977 (0.9%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

company share by month



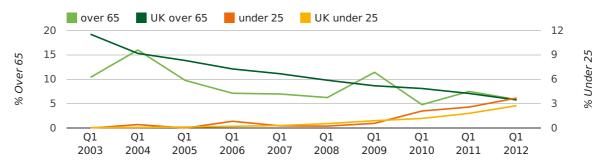
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
% CHANGE	4.4%	27.1%	-7.6%
RECORD YEAR	1964 (0.9%)	1962 (1.3%)	1979 (5.7%)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2012 was 43.7.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 3.7% compared to the UK figure of 4.6%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 5.8% compared to the UK figure of 3.5%.

director age 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)	2.52%	CONSULTING	5.07%
MANAGEMENT	1.37%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
CONSTRUCTION	1.10%	CONSULTANCY	3.30%
TRADING	1.05%	PROPERTY	2.37%
PROPERTIES	0.92%	TRADING	2.07%
ENGINEERING	0.87%	DESIGN	1.93%
(N.I.)	0.82%	ENGINEERING	1.86%
ENERGY	0.78%	ASSOCIATES	1.84%
PROPERTY	0.78%	CONSULTANTS	1.79%
ENTERPRISES	0.78%	BUSINESS	1.73%
DESIGN	0.78%	MEDIA	1.72%
NI	0.73%	CONSTRUCTION	1.72%
RETAIL	0.64%	LONDON	1.66%
CONTRACTS	0.64%]	1.54%
CONSULTANCY	0.64%	INVESTMENTS	1.51%
DEVELOPMENTS	0.60%	GLOBAL	1.50%
COMMUNITY	0.60%	IT	1.40%
GREEN	0.55%	CARE	1.34%
LEISURE	0.55%	PROPERTIES	1.31%
DIRECT	0.55%	ELECTRICAL	1.27%
CARE	0.55%	М	1.27%
CONSULTING	0.55%	BUILDING	1.24%
S	0.55%	ENERGY	1.20%
TRANSPORT	0.50%	S	1.20%
ELECTRICAL	0.50%	ENTERPRISES	1.19%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	500	216,665
7487 - Other business activities	119	52,735
99999 - Dormant Company	94	25,084
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	64	35,233
9999 - Dormant Company	62	18,617
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	37	19,704
41100 - Development of building projects	34	4,984
7414 - Business & management consultancy	31	12,113
74990 - Non-trading company	27	9,729
9305 - Other service activities	27	8,818
68320 - Management of real estate on a fee or contract basis	26	3,448
4521 - General construction & civil engineering	24	5,169
5530 - Restaurants	22	4,633
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	21	14,303
7499 - Non-trading company	21	9,102
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	20	13,637
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	19	9,892
49410 - Freight transport by road	19	2,781
41202 - Construction of domestic buildings	19	3,052
98000 - Residents property management	18	3,050