

Dartford

q1 2012 business confidence report



headlines

- Q1 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Dartford when compared to any previous Q1.
- Q1 2012 was a record quarter for company registrations in Dartford when compared to any quarter in history.
- March 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Dartford when compared to any previous March.
- March 2012 was a record month for company registrations in Dartford when compared to any month in history.
- January 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Dartford when compared to any previous January.
- Q1 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Dartford when compared to any previous Q1.
- Q1 2012 was a record quarter for net growth in Dartford when compared to any quarter in history.
- March 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Dartford when compared to any previous March.
- March 2012 was a record month for net growth in Dartford when compared to any month in history.

contents

new company registrations

closed companies (dissolved)

net company growth

uk company share

director age

director gender

naming trends

sic data

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

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

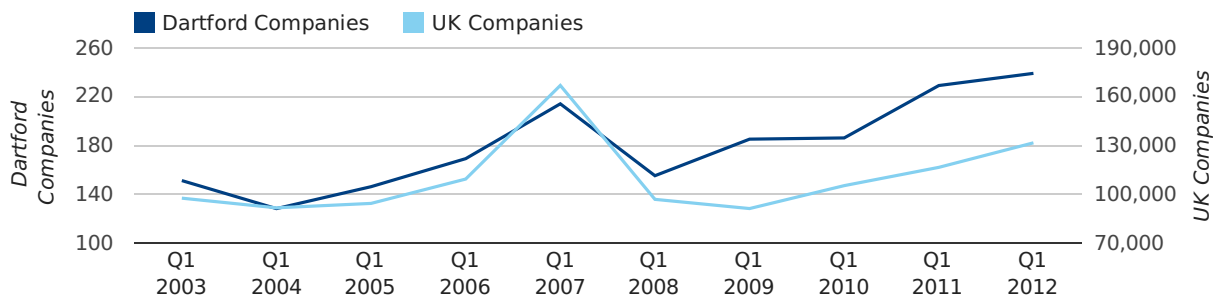
Q1 2012 was a record quarter for company registrations in Dartford when compared to any quarter in history.

A total of 239 companies were registered in Dartford during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is an increase of 4.4% versus the same period last year (Q1 2011). This figure compares badly 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) | DARTFORD | UK |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 239 | 131,491 |
| 2011 | 229 | 116,391 |
| % CHANGE | 4.4% | 13.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2012 (239) | 2007 (166,814) |

new companies by quarter



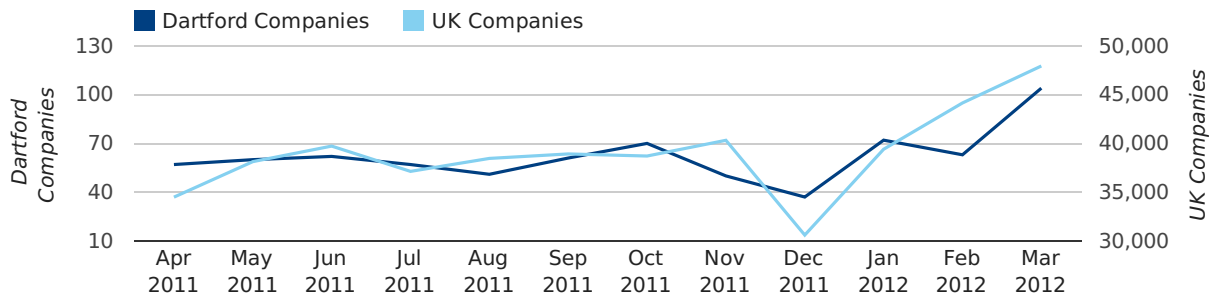
Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

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

March 2012 was a record month for company registrations in Dartford when compared to any month in history.

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

new companies by month



| | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2012 | 72 | 63 | 104 |
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2011 | 56 | 81 | 92 |
| % CHANGE | 28.6% | -22.2% | 13.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2012 (72) | 2011 (81) | 2012 (104) |

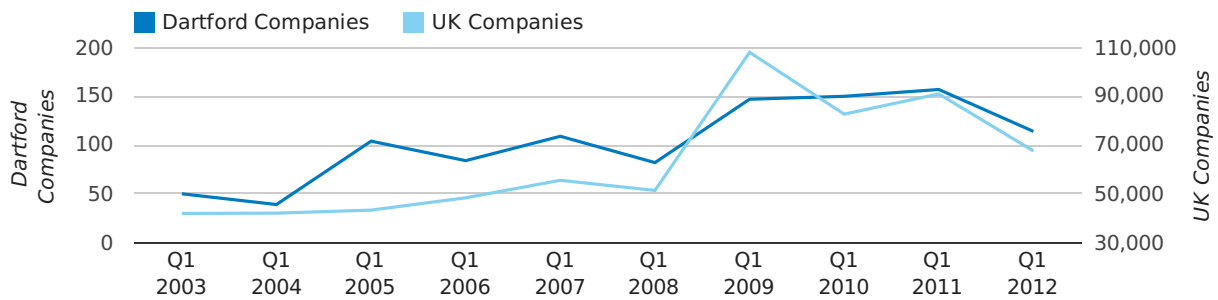
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

A total of 114 companies were dissolved in Dartford during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is a decrease of 27.4% versus the same period last year (Q1 2011). This figure compares well to the UK as a whole, which saw a decrease of 25.7% against the same period last year.

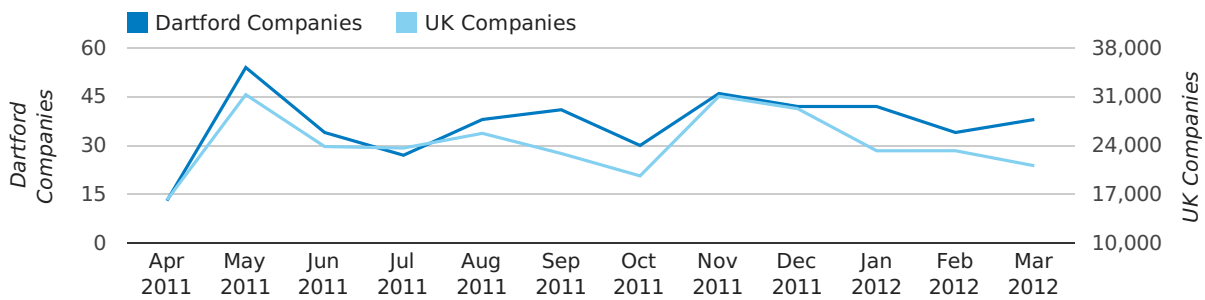
| FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012) | DARTFORD | UK |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 114 | 67,576 |
| 2011 | 157 | 90,986 |
| % CHANGE | -27.4% | -25.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (157) | 2009 (108,060) |

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

dissolved companies by month



| | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012 | 42 | 34 | 38 |
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011 | 71 | 44 | 42 |
| % CHANGE | -40.8% | -22.7% | -10% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (71) | 2010 (49) | 2009 (100) |

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

Q1 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Dartford when compared to any previous Q1.

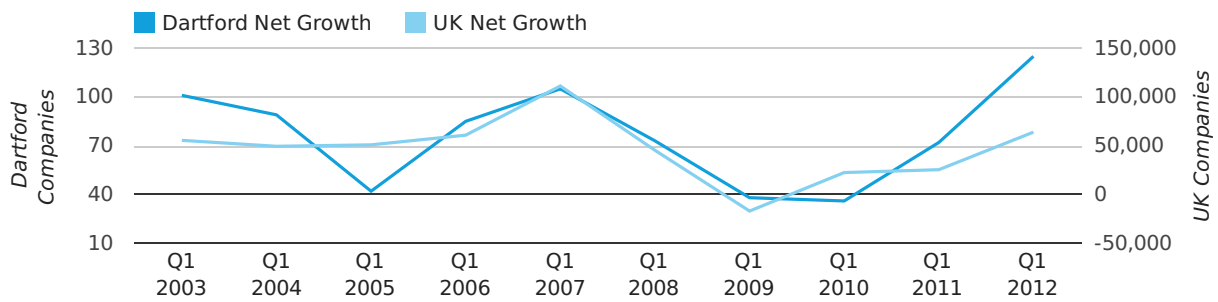
Q1 2012 was a record quarter for net growth in Dartford when compared to any quarter in history.

Net company growth for Dartford during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012) was 125 companies.

This represents an increase of 73.6% on the same period last year.

| FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012) | DARTFORD | UK |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 125 | 63,915 |
| 2011 | 72 | 25,405 |
| % CHANGE | 73.6% | 151.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2012 (125) | 2007 (111,282) |

net growth by quarter

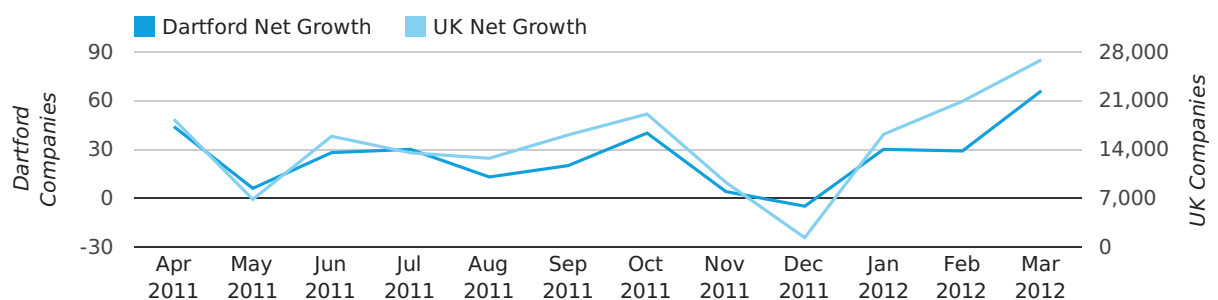


Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

March 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Dartford when compared to any previous March.

March 2012 was a record month for net growth in Dartford when compared to any month in history.

net growth by month



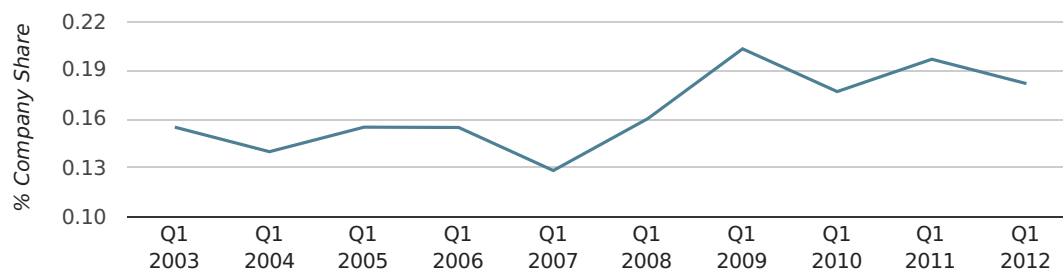
| | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2012 | 30 | 29 | 66 |
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | -15 | 37 | 50 |
| % CHANGE | -300.0% | -21.6% | 32.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (31) | 2007 (48) | 2012 (66) |

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

In the first quarter of 2012, Dartford formed 0.2% of all UK companies.

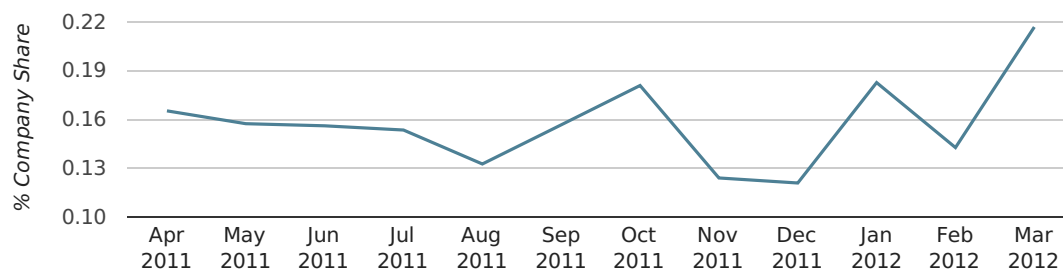
| FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012) | DARTFORD |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2012 | 0.2% |
| 2011 | 0.2% |
| 2010 | 0.2% |
| 2009 | 0.2% |
| 2008 | 0.2% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1971 (0.4%) |

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

company share by month



| | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012 | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| % CHANGE | 10.2% | -33.5% | 5.8% |
| RECORD YEAR | 1971 (0.9%) | 1968 (0.6%) | 1966 (0.5%) |

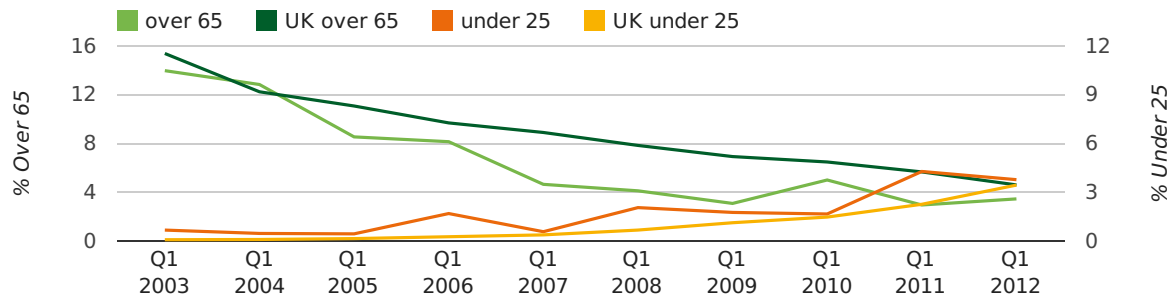
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2012 was 41.4.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 3.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.6%.

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

director age by quarter

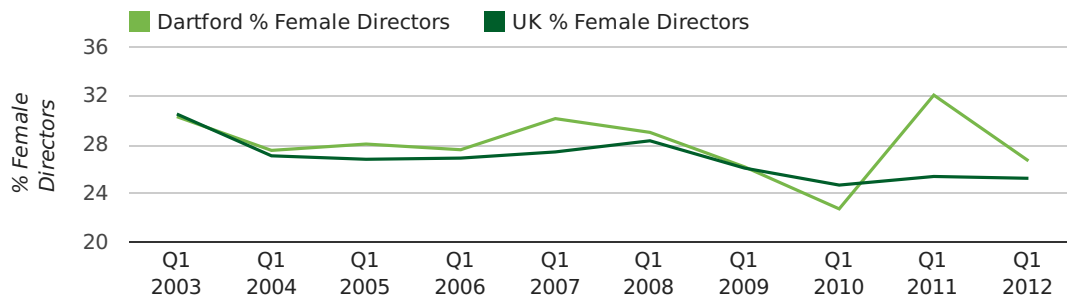


Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

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

26.7% of all director appointments in Dartford 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 |
|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| ASSOCIATES | 1.57% | CONSULTING | 5.07% |
| MANAGEMENT | 1.40% | MANAGEMENT | 4.74% |
| CONSULTING | 1.16% | CONSULTANCY | 3.30% |
| CONSULTANCY | 1.07% | PROPERTY | 2.37% |
| CONSULTANTS | 0.99% | TRADING | 2.07% |
| LONDON | 0.91% | DESIGN | 1.93% |
| CONSTRUCTION | 0.83% | ENGINEERING | 1.86% |
| TRADING | 0.74% | ASSOCIATES | 1.84% |
| PROPERTY | 0.74% | CONSULTANTS | 1.79% |
| BUSINESS | 0.66% | BUSINESS | 1.73% |
| GREEN | 0.58% | MEDIA | 1.72% |
| IT | 0.58% | CONSTRUCTION | 1.72% |
| INC | 0.58% | LONDON | 1.66% |
| MEDICAL | 0.50% | J | 1.54% |
| GLOBAL | 0.50% | INVESTMENTS | 1.51% |
| SALES | 0.50% | GLOBAL | 1.50% |
| M | 0.50% | IT | 1.40% |
| CO | 0.50% | CARE | 1.34% |
| KENT | 0.50% | PROPERTIES | 1.31% |
| ENERGY | 0.50% | ELECTRICAL | 1.27% |
| ELECTRICAL | 0.50% | M | 1.27% |
| SCHOOL | 0.50% | BUILDING | 1.24% |
| CONTRACTORS | 0.41% | ENERGY | 1.20% |
| ENTERPRISES | 0.41% | S | 1.20% |
| BUILDING | 0.41% | ENTERPRISES | 1.19% |

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

| SIC CODE | NUMBER OF COMPANIES | UK COMPANIES |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| None Supplied | 430 | 216,665 |
| 7487 - Other business activities | 70 | 52,735 |
| 99999 - Dormant Company | 31 | 25,084 |
| 9305 - Other service activities | 29 | 8,818 |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified | 29 | 35,233 |
| 62020 - Information technology consultancy activities | 25 | 14,303 |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified | 24 | 13,637 |
| 43999 - Other specialised construction activities not elsewhere classified | 23 | 3,931 |
| 9999 - Dormant Company | 23 | 18,617 |
| 4521 - General construction & civil engineering | 21 | 5,169 |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy | 19 | 12,113 |
| 7499 - Non-trading company | 19 | 9,102 |
| 43390 - Other building completion and finishing | 18 | 3,228 |
| 43210 - Electrical installation | 18 | 3,573 |
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management | 17 | 19,704 |
| 41100 - Development of building projects | 17 | 4,984 |
| 74990 - Non-trading company | 16 | 9,729 |
| 62090 - Other information technology service activities | 15 | 8,145 |
| 86900 - Other human health activities | 15 | 5,066 |
| 7260 - Other computer related activities | 13 | 7,154 |