

Dudley

q1 2011 business confidence report



headlines

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

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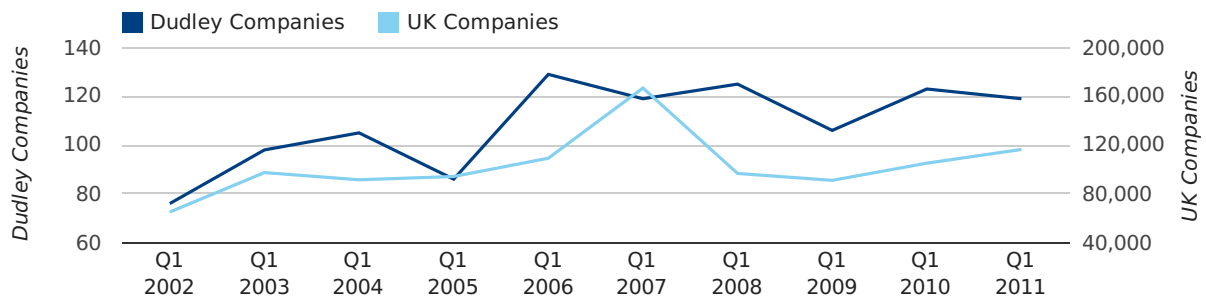
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

A total of 119 companies were registered in Dudley during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011).

This figure is a decrease of 3.3% 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.

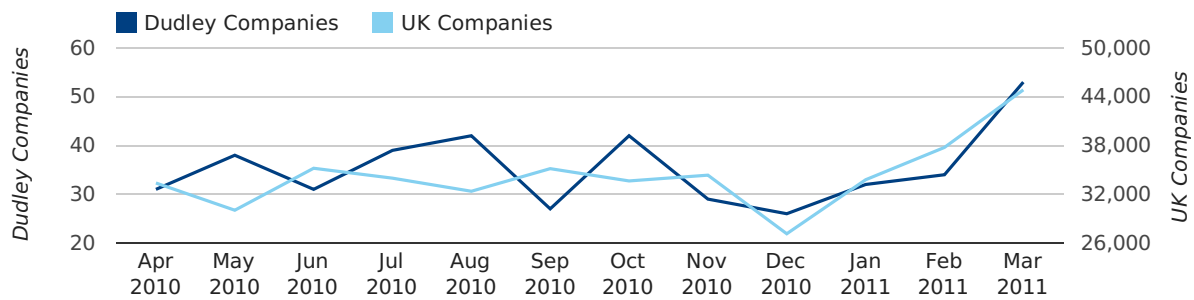
| FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011) | DUDLEY | UK |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 119 | 116,391 |
| 2010 | 123 | 105,137 |
| % CHANGE | -3.3% | 10.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2006 (129) | 2007 (166,814) |

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

new companies by month



| | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2011 | 32 | 34 | 53 |
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2010 | 32 | 38 | 53 |
| % CHANGE | 0.0% | -10.5% | 0.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2004 (41) | 2008 (40) | 2008 (56) |

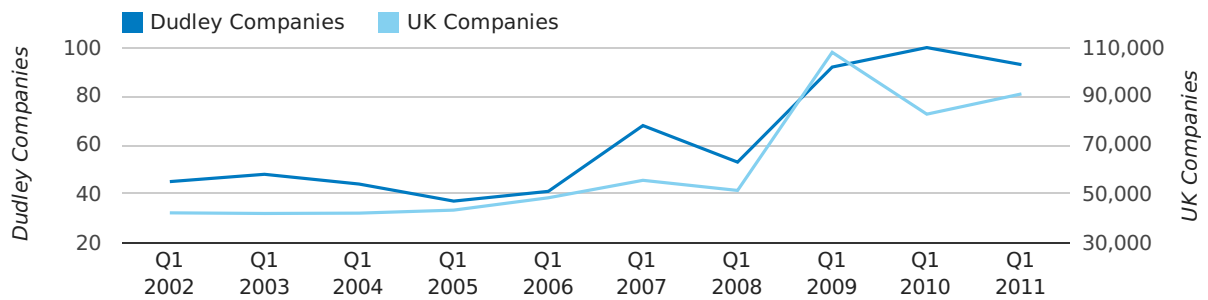
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

A total of 93 companies were dissolved in Dudley during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011).

This figure is a decrease of 7.0% 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) | DUDLEY | UK |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 93 | 90,986 |
| 2010 | 100 | 82,677 |
| % CHANGE | -7.0% | 10.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2010 (100) | 2009 (108,060) |

dissolved companies by quarter

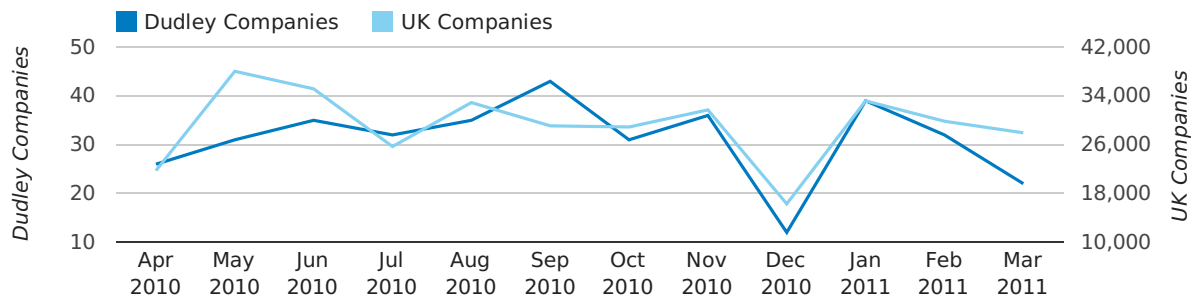


Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

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

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

dissolved companies by month



| | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011 | 39 | 32 | 22 |
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010 | 30 | 25 | 45 |
| % CHANGE | 30.0% | 28.0% | -51% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (39) | 2011 (32) | 2009 (65) |

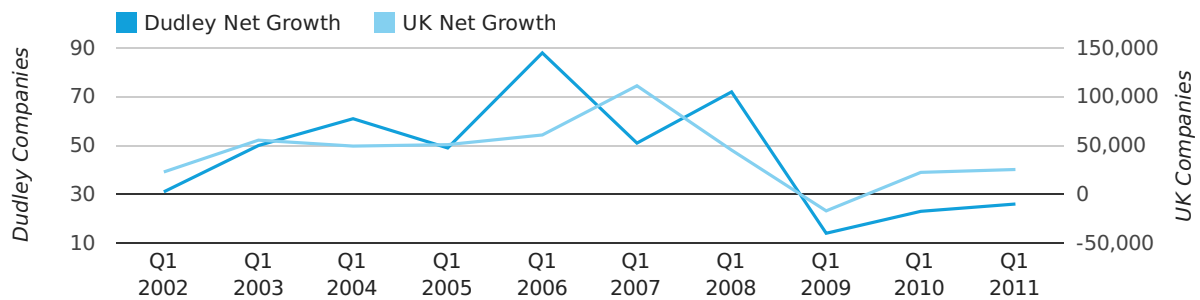
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

Net company growth for Dudley during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011) was 26 companies.

This represents an increase of 13.0% on the same period last year.

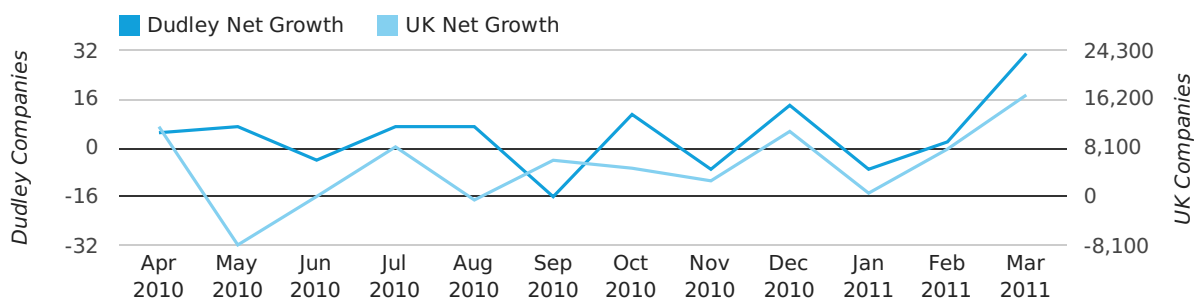
| FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011) | DUDLEY | UK |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2011 | 26 | 25,405 |
| 2010 | 23 | 22,460 |
| % CHANGE | 13.0% | 13.1% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2006 (88) | 2007 (111,282) |

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

net growth by month



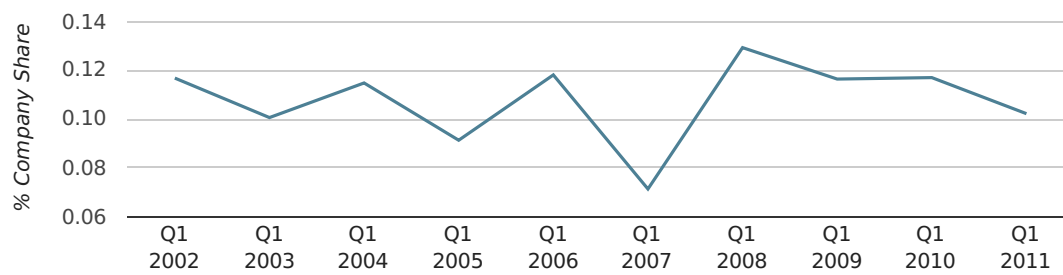
| | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | -7 | 2 | 31 |
| NET GROWTH IN 2010 | 2 | 13 | 8 |
| % CHANGE | -450.0% | -84.6% | 287.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2006 (24) | 2006 (27) | 2008 (53) |

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

In the first quarter of 2011, Dudley formed 0.1% of all UK companies.

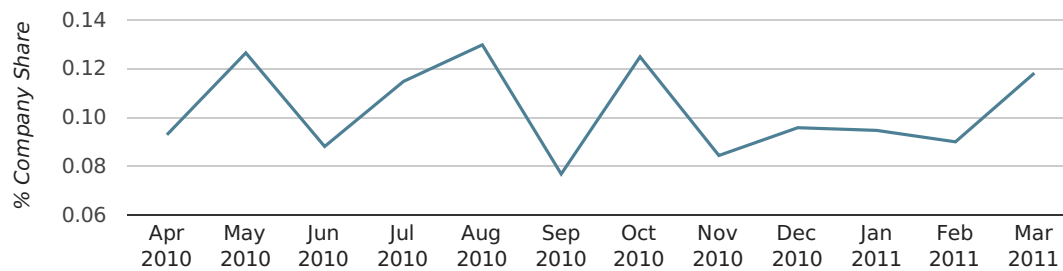
| FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011) | DUDLEY |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2011 | 0.1% |
| 2010 | 0.1% |
| 2009 | 0.1% |
| 2008 | 0.1% |
| 2007 | 0.1% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1974 (0.3%) |

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

company share by month



| | JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| % CHANGE | -13.8% | -21.3% | -4.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 1976 (0.8%) | 1967 (0.6%) | 1962 (0.5%) |

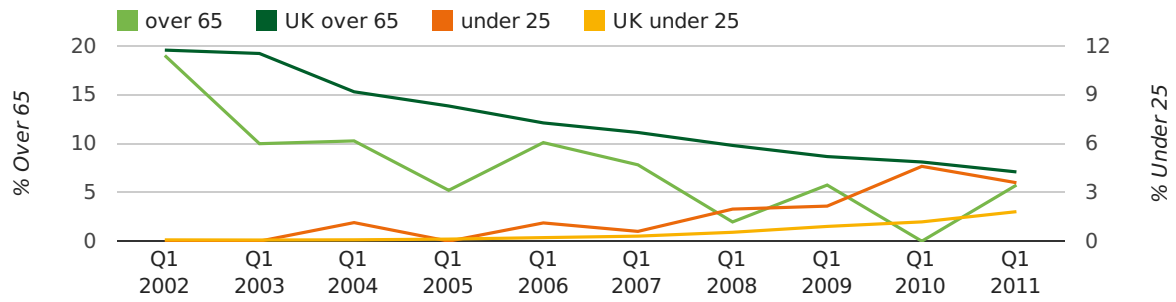
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2011 was 44.9.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 3.6% compared to the UK figure of 3.0%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 5.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.3%.

director age by quarter

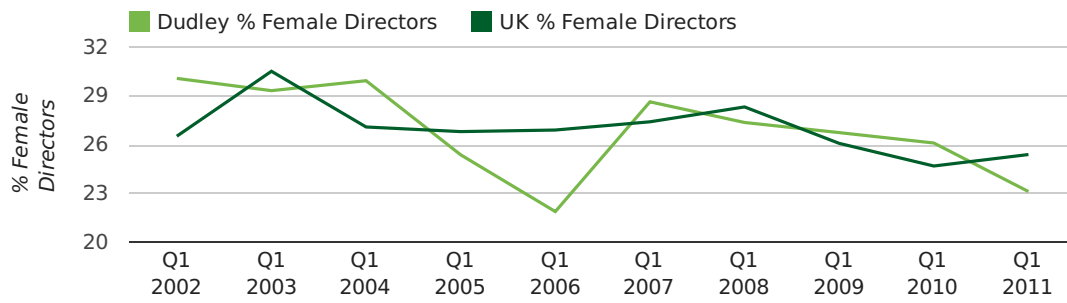


Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

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

23.1% of all director appointments in Dudley 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 |
|--------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| ELECTRICAL | 1.32% | CONSULTING | 5.04% |
| M | 1.19% | MANAGEMENT | 4.97% |
| D | 0.93% | CONSULTANCY | 3.16% |
| MIDLANDS | 0.79% | PROPERTY | 2.38% |
| PROPERTY | 0.79% | TRADING | 2.10% |
| (MIDLANDS) | 0.79% | DESIGN | 1.93% |
| PLUMBING | 0.79% | ASSOCIATES | 1.92% |
| CONSTRUCTION | 0.79% | BUSINESS | 1.87% |
| HEATING | 0.66% | CONSTRUCTION | 1.80% |
| C | 0.66% | CONSULTANTS | 1.76% |
| BUILDING | 0.66% | MEDIA | 1.69% |
| DESIGN | 0.66% | ENGINEERING | 1.61% |
| CONSULTANCY | 0.66% | LONDON | 1.60% |
| BUSINESS | 0.66% | CARE | 1.45% |
| (DUDLEY) | 0.66% | J | 1.45% |
| ASSOCIATES | 0.66% | GLOBAL | 1.44% |
| DUDLEY | 0.53% | INVESTMENTS | 1.43% |
| CENTRE | 0.53% | IT | 1.41% |
| B | 0.53% | PROPERTIES | 1.36% |
| LOGISTICS | 0.53% | BUILDING | 1.34% |
| CONSULTING | 0.53% | M | 1.30% |
| (2011) | 0.53% | ELECTRICAL | 1.28% |
| R | 0.53% | S | 1.24% |
| EUROPE | 0.53% | INTERNATIONAL | 1.23% |
| IT | 0.53% | SYSTEMS | 1.23% |

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

| SIC CODE | NUMBER OF COMPANIES | UK COMPANIES |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| None Supplied | 204 | 202,798 |
| 7487 - Other business activities | 57 | 60,968 |
| 9999 - Dormant Company | 33 | 19,765 |
| 99999 - Dormant Company | 24 | 18,336 |
| 4521 - General construction & civil engineering | 18 | 6,183 |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified | 17 | 30,253 |
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management | 13 | 16,150 |
| 7499 - Non-trading company | 13 | 11,316 |
| 74990 - Non-trading company | 13 | 8,695 |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified | 12 | 10,085 |
| 43999 - Other specialised construction activities not elsewhere classified | 10 | 3,097 |
| 43210 - Electrical installation | 10 | 3,172 |
| 9305 - Other service activities | 9 | 8,740 |
| 45200 - Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles | 9 | 2,259 |
| 43220 - Plumbing, heat and air-conditioning installation | 8 | 2,312 |
| 41100 - Development of building projects | 8 | 3,921 |
| 9262 - Other sporting activities | 7 | 1,571 |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy | 6 | 12,916 |
| 49410 - Freight transport by road | 6 | 2,167 |
| 7260 - Other computer related activities | 6 | 7,789 |