

Hertfordshire

q1 2012 business confidence report



headlines

- February 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Hertfordshire when compared to any previous February.
- January 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Hertfordshire when compared to any previous January.
- February 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Hertfordshire when compared to any previous February.
- January 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Hertfordshire when compared to any previous January.

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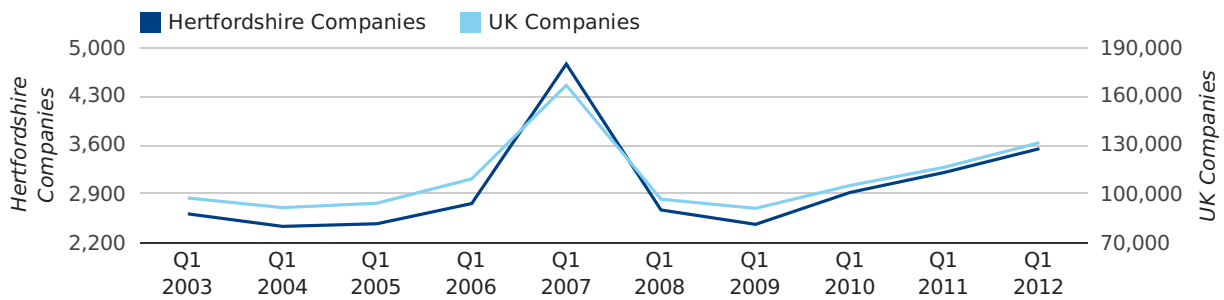
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

A total of 3,548 companies were registered in Hertfordshire during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is an increase of 10.6% versus the same period last year (Q1 2011). This figure compares equally 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)	HERTFORDSHIRE	UK
2012	3,548	131,491
2011	3,208	116,391
% CHANGE	10.6%	13.0%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (4,764)	2007 (166,814)

new companies by quarter

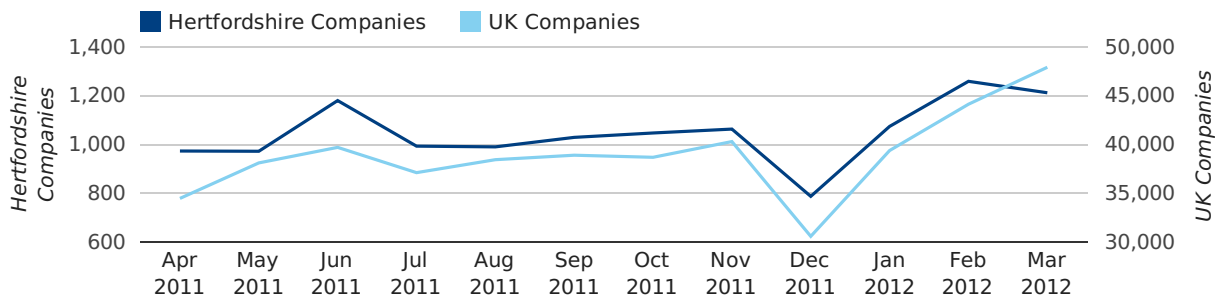


Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

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

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

new companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NEW COMPANIES IN 2012	1,075	1,260	1,213
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	949	1,056	1,203
% CHANGE	13.3%	19.3%	0.8%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (1,075)	2012 (1,260)	2007 (2,674)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

A total of 1,718 companies were dissolved in Hertfordshire during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is a decrease of 25.1% 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.

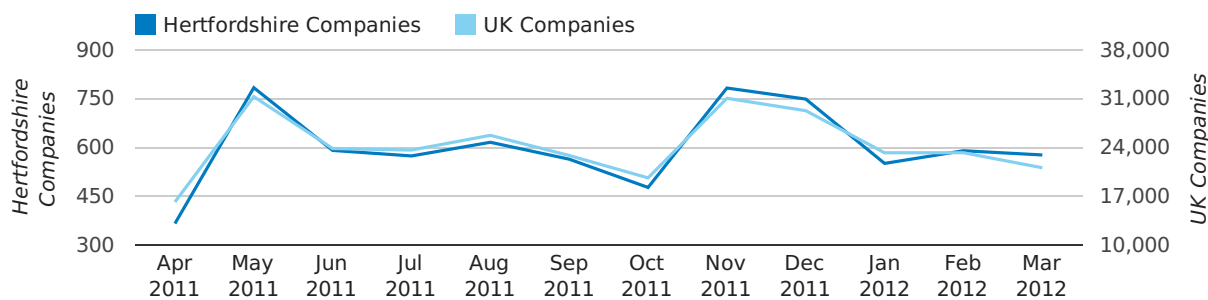
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	HERTFORDSHIRE	UK
2012	1,718	67,576
2011	2,295	90,986
% CHANGE	-25.1%	-25.7%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (3,863)	2009 (108,060)

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

dissolved companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012	551	590	577
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	913	644	738
% CHANGE	-39.6%	-8.4%	-22%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (913)	2009 (793)	2009 (2,528)

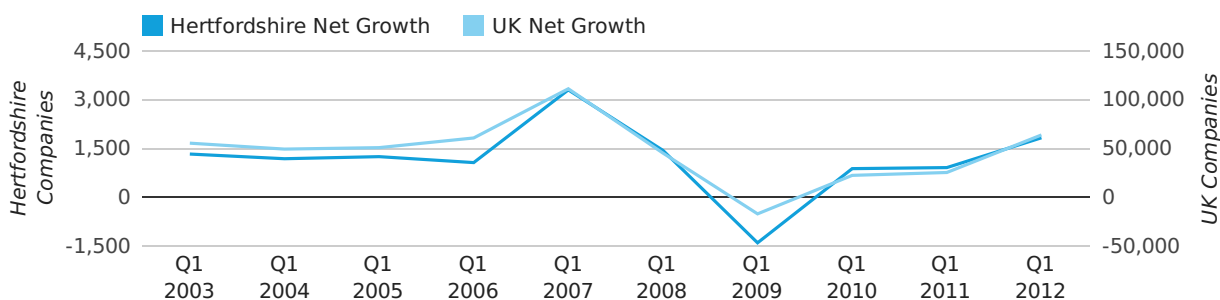
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

Net company growth for Hertfordshire during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012) was 1,830 companies.

This represents an increase of 100.4% on the same period last year.

FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	HERTFORDSHIRE	UK
2012	1,830	63,915
2011	913	25,405
% CHANGE	100.4%	151.6%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (3,304)	2007 (111,282)

net growth by quarter

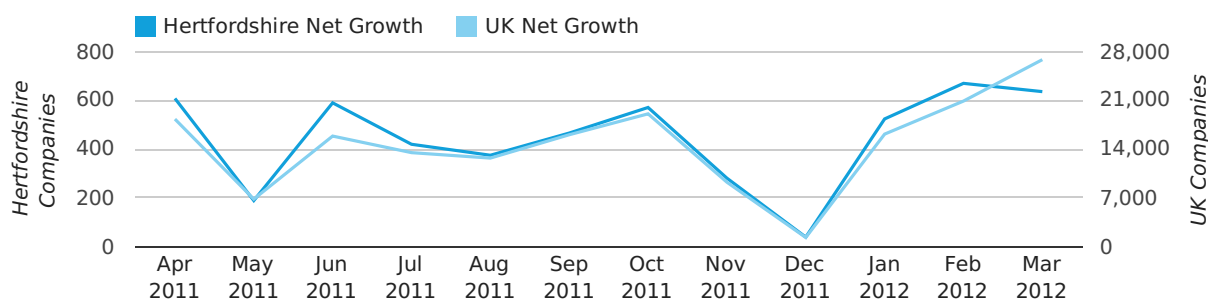


Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

February 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Hertfordshire when compared to any previous February.

January 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Hertfordshire when compared to any previous January.

net growth by month



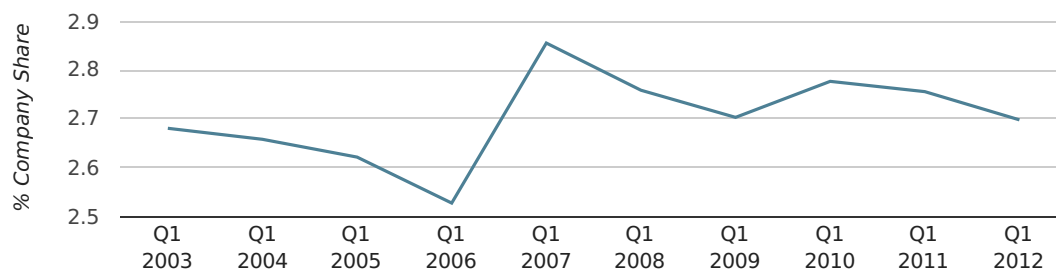
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NET GROWTH IN 2012	524	670	636
NET GROWTH IN 2011	36	412	465
% CHANGE	1,355.6%	62.6%	36.8%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (524)	2012 (670)	2007 (2,203)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

In the first quarter of 2012, Hertfordshire formed 2.7% of all UK companies.

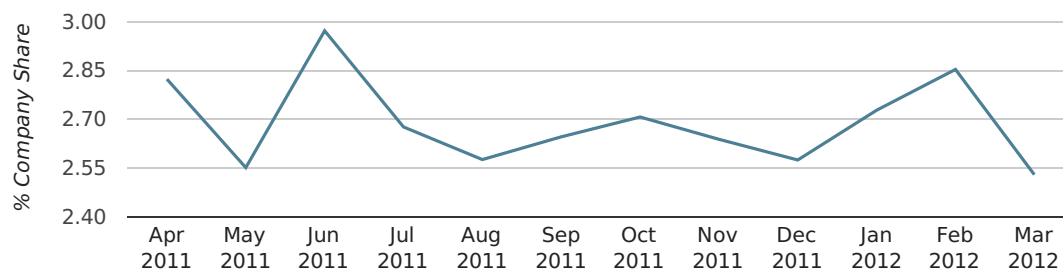
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	HERTFORDSHIRE
2012	2.7%
2011	2.8%
2010	2.8%
2009	2.7%
2008	2.8%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1970 (3.7%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

company share by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012	2.7%	2.9%	2.5%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	2.8%	2.8%	2.7%
% CHANGE	-2.9%	2.1%	-5.7%
RECORD YEAR	1967 (4.2%)	1971 (4.6%)	1963 (4.8%)

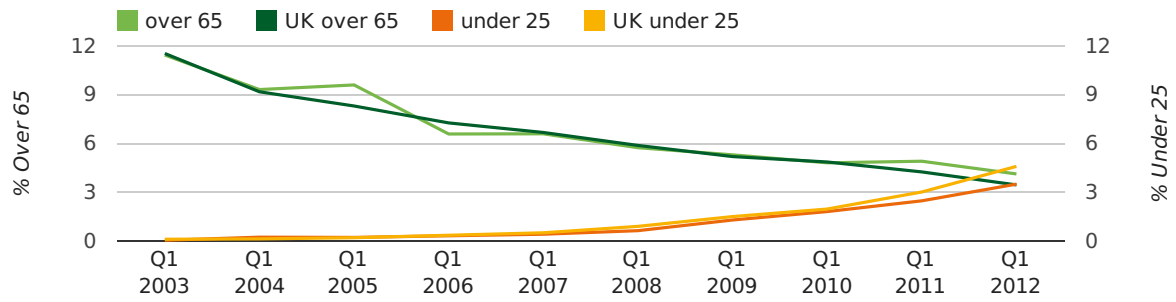
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

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 3.5% compared to the UK figure of 4.6%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 4.1% 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
CONSULTING	2.94%	CONSULTING	5.07%
MANAGEMENT	2.67%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
CONSULTANCY	1.77%	CONSULTANCY	3.30%
PROPERTY	1.18%	PROPERTY	2.37%
ASSOCIATES	1.18%	TRADING	2.07%
CONSTRUCTION	0.98%	DESIGN	1.93%
SALES	0.97%	ENGINEERING	1.86%
BUSINESS	0.89%	ASSOCIATES	1.84%
CONSULTANTS	0.88%	CONSULTANTS	1.79%
INVESTMENTS	0.79%	BUSINESS	1.73%
MEDIA	0.77%	MEDIA	1.72%
DESIGN	0.75%	CONSTRUCTION	1.72%
J	0.74%	LONDON	1.66%
TRADING	0.73%	J	1.54%
LONDON	0.72%	INVESTMENTS	1.51%
ENTERPRISES	0.70%	GLOBAL	1.50%
IT	0.70%	IT	1.40%
GLOBAL	0.63%	CARE	1.34%
M	0.63%	PROPERTIES	1.31%
PROPERTIES	0.58%	ELECTRICAL	1.27%
BUILDING	0.58%	M	1.27%
ELECTRICAL	0.57%	BUILDING	1.24%
CAPITAL	0.57%	ENERGY	1.20%
TRADE	0.56%	S	1.20%
SYSTEMS	0.56%	ENTERPRISES	1.19%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	5,076	216,665
7487 - Other business activities	1,387	52,735
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	968	35,233
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	832	19,704
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	652	14,303
99999 - Dormant Company	588	25,084
7414 - Business & management consultancy	436	12,113
9999 - Dormant Company	418	18,617
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	409	13,637
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	332	6,934
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	309	9,892
74990 - Non-trading company	296	9,729
62090 - Other information technology service activities	259	8,145
9305 - Other service activities	243	8,818
7499 - Non-trading company	233	9,102
7260 - Other computer related activities	206	7,154
98000 - Residents property management	170	3,050
4521 - General construction & civil engineering	151	5,169
86900 - Other human health activities	137	5,066
69201 - Accounting and auditing activities	134	4,132