

Hitchin

q1 2011 business confidence report



headlines

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

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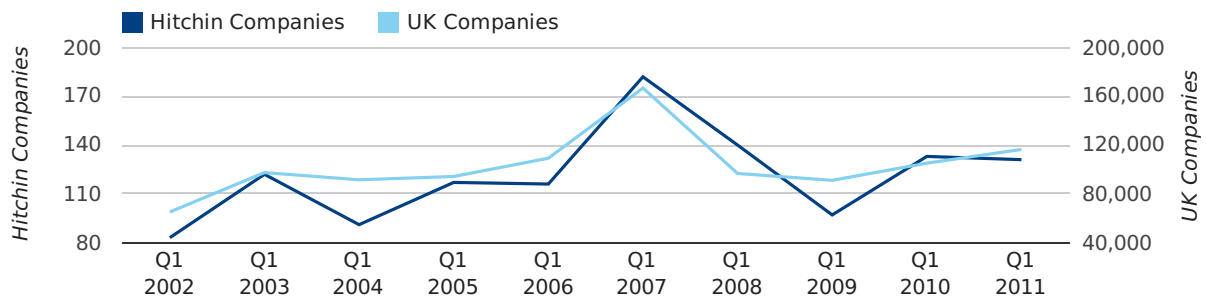
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

A total of 131 companies were registered in Hitchin during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011).

This figure is a decrease of 1.5% 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.

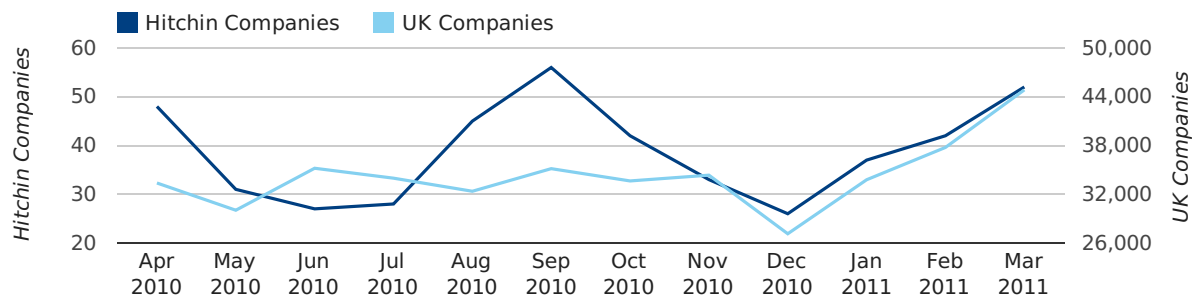
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	HITCHIN	UK
2011	131	116,391
2010	133	105,137
% CHANGE	-1.5%	10.7%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (182)	2007 (166,814)

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

new companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	37	42	52
NEW COMPANIES IN 2010	41	35	57
% CHANGE	-9.8%	20.0%	-8.8%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (51)	2008 (45)	2007 (87)

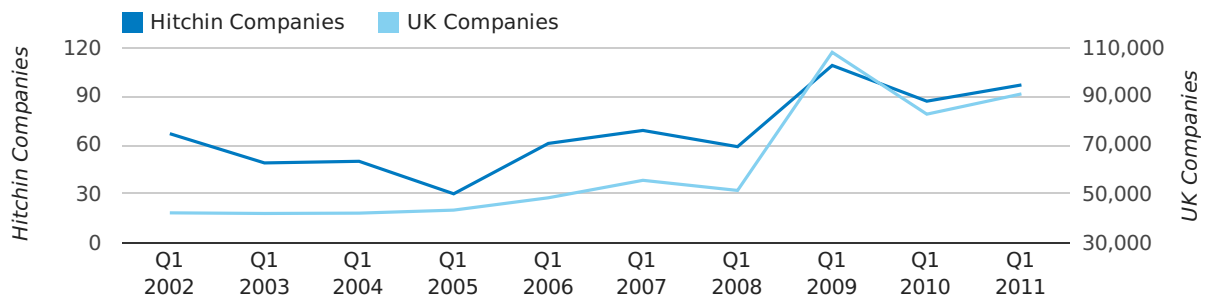
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

A total of 97 companies were dissolved in Hitchin during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011).

This figure is an increase of 11.5% versus the same period last year (Q1 2010). This figure compares poorly 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)	HITCHIN	UK
2011	97	90,986
2010	87	82,677
% CHANGE	11.5%	10.0%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (109)	2009 (108,060)

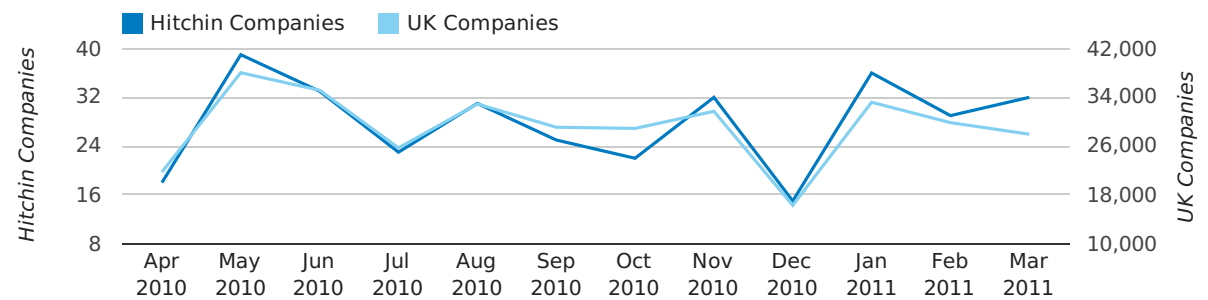
dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

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

dissolved companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	36	29	32
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010	22	25	40
% CHANGE	63.6%	16.0%	-20%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (36)	2008 (36)	2009 (79)

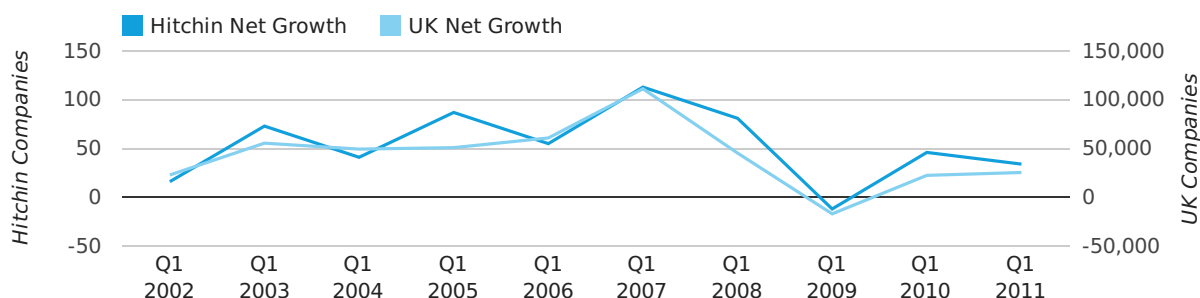
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

Net company growth for Hitchin during the first quarter of 2011 (Jan 2011 - Mar 2011) was 34 companies.

This represents a decrease of 26.1% on the same period last year.

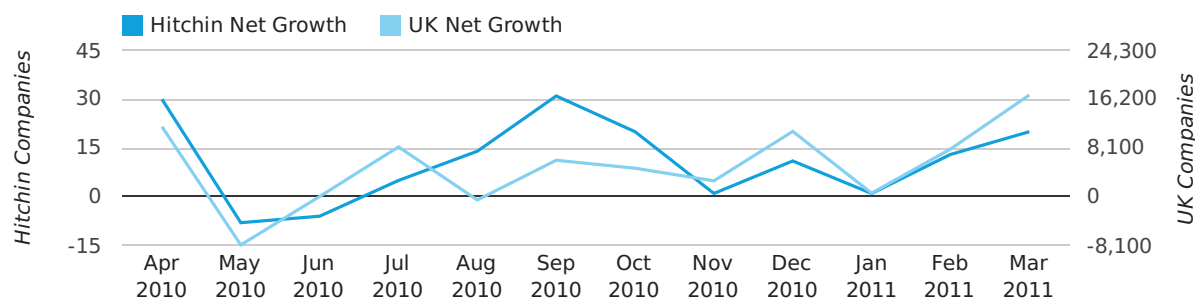
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	HITCHIN	UK
2011	34	25,405
2010	46	22,460
% CHANGE	-26.1%	13.1%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (113)	2007 (111,282)

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2011)

net growth by month



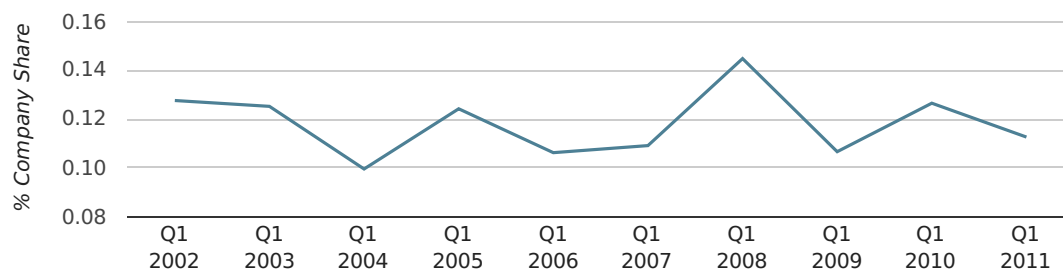
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NET GROWTH IN 2011	1	13	20
NET GROWTH IN 2010	19	10	17
% CHANGE	-94.7%	30.0%	17.6%
RECORD YEAR	2005 (23)	2005 (41)	2007 (61)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

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

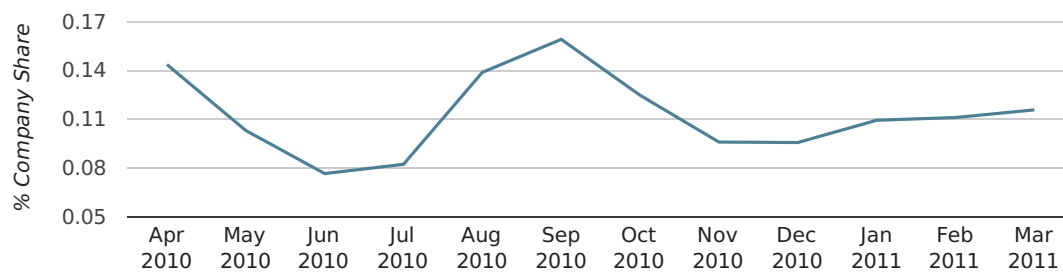
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2011 - MAR 2011)	HITCHIN
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
2007	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1970 (0.4%)

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	-22.2%	5.5%	-13.0%
RECORD YEAR	1962 (0.4%)	1967 (0.4%)	1970 (0.5%)

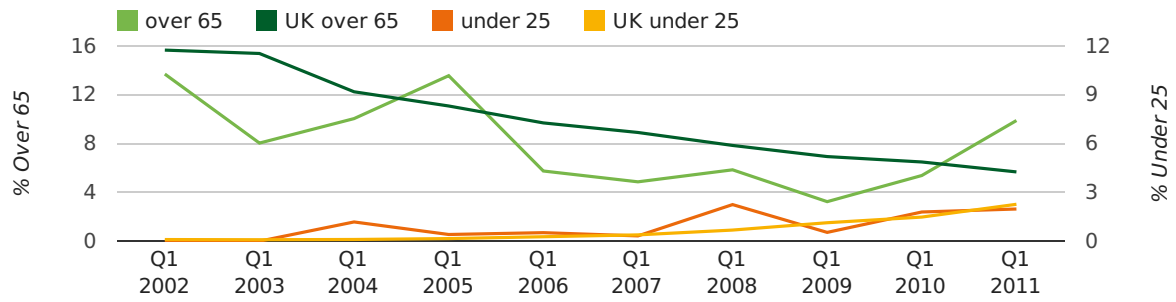
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2011 was 48.0.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.0% compared to the UK figure of 3.0%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 9.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.3%.

director age by quarter

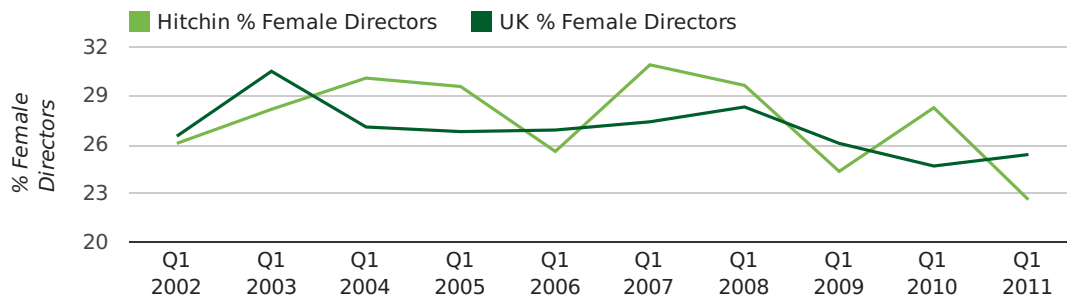


Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2011)

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

22.6% of all director appointments in Hitchin 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
MANAGEMENT	1.56%	CONSULTING	5.04%
CONSULTING	1.44%	MANAGEMENT	4.97%
GROUP	0.96%	CONSULTANCY	3.16%
CONSULTANCY	0.96%	PROPERTY	2.38%
ASSOCIATES	0.84%	TRADING	2.10%
RM	0.72%	DESIGN	1.93%
CONSULTANTS	0.72%	ASSOCIATES	1.92%
CONSTRUCTION	0.72%	BUSINESS	1.87%
TRADING	0.72%	CONSTRUCTION	1.80%
DESIGN	0.60%	CONSULTANTS	1.76%
MOSSACK	0.60%	MEDIA	1.69%
CO	0.60%	ENGINEERING	1.61%
BUSINESS	0.60%	LONDON	1.60%
FONSECA	0.60%	CARE	1.45%
EUROPE	0.60%	J	1.45%
SYSTEMS	0.60%	GLOBAL	1.44%
AVIATION	0.48%	INVESTMENTS	1.43%
MATRIX	0.48%	IT	1.41%
INTERNATIONAL	0.48%	PROPERTIES	1.36%
MAYDENCROFT	0.48%	BUILDING	1.34%
HERTS	0.48%	M	1.30%
REDG	0.48%	ELECTRICAL	1.28%
RECRUITMENT	0.48%	S	1.24%
INTERIORS	0.48%	INTERNATIONAL	1.23%
HOLDINGS	0.48%	SYSTEMS	1.23%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	174	202,798
7487 - Other business activities	55	60,968
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	50	30,253
9999 - Dormant Company	30	19,765
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	23	16,150
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	21	7,788
7499 - Non-trading company	20	11,316
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	18	10,246
74990 - Non-trading company	17	8,695
7414 - Business & management consultancy	16	12,916
7260 - Other computer related activities	15	7,789
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	15	10,085
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	14	7,000
62090 - Other information technology service activities	14	6,996
99999 - Dormant Company	13	18,336
9305 - Other service activities	9	8,740
96020 - Hairdressing and other beauty treatment	7	2,073
7032 - Manage real estate, fee or contract	7	2,143
43220 - Plumbing, heat and air-conditioning installation	6	2,312
4521 - General construction & civil engineering	6	6,183