

Hitchin

2011 annual business confidence report



headlines

- 2011 was a record year for company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any year in history.
- The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous second half year.
- The second half of 2011 was a record second half year for company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any half year in history.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous Q4.
- December 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous December.
- November 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous November.
- November 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Hitchin when compared to any previous November.
- The second half of 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Hitchin when compared to any previous second half year.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Hitchin when compared to any previous Q4.
- December 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Hitchin when compared to any previous December.
- November 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Hitchin when compared to any previous November.

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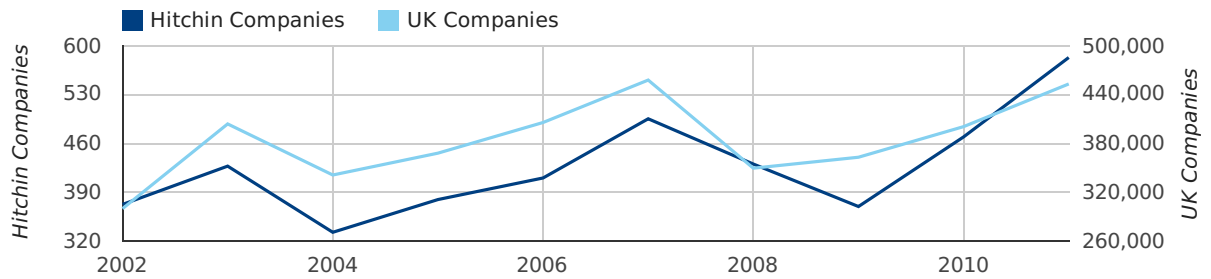
Annual Data (2011)

2011 was a record year for company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any year in history.

A total of 583 companies were formed in Hitchin in 2011. This total is 24.3% higher than in 2010 and compares poorly to the UK figure of a 13.1% growth compared to 400,358 the previous year.

YEAR	HITCHIN	UK
2011	583	452,870
2010	469	400,358
2009	369	362,675
2008	430	349,203
2007	495	457,649
RECORD YEAR	2011 (583)	2007 (457,649)

new companies by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous second half year.

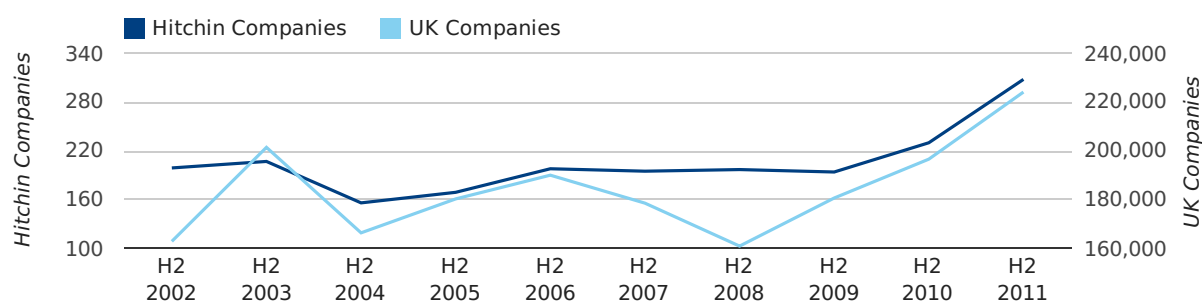
The second half of 2011 was a record second half year for company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any half year in history.

In the second half of 2011 a total of 308 companies were formed in Hitchin. This figure is 33.9% higher than last year, which compares well to the UK wide figure of 14.0%.

The highest total for a second half year in Hitchin occurred in 2011 when a total of 308 were formed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	HITCHIN	UK
2011	308	224,135
2010	230	196,609
% CHANGE	33.9%	14.0%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (308)	2011 (224,135)

new companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

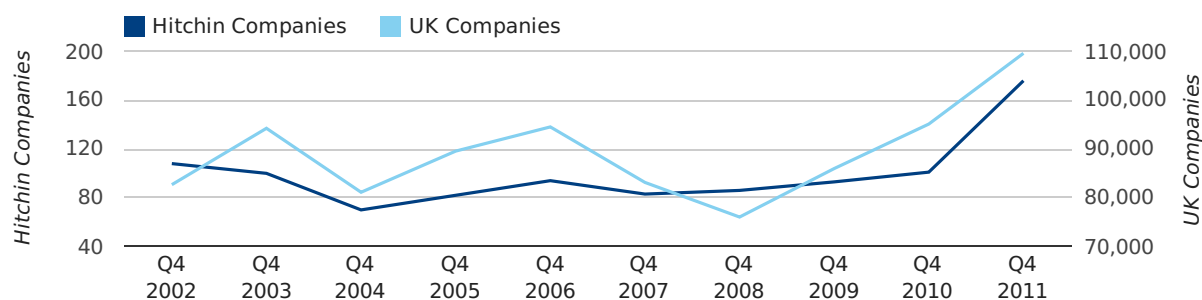
Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 176 companies were registered in Hitchin during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 74.3% versus the same period last year (Q4 2010). This figure compares well to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 15.3% against the same period last year.

FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	HITCHIN	UK
2011	176	109,623
2010	101	95,117
% CHANGE	74.3%	15.3%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (176)	2011 (109,623)

new companies by quarter

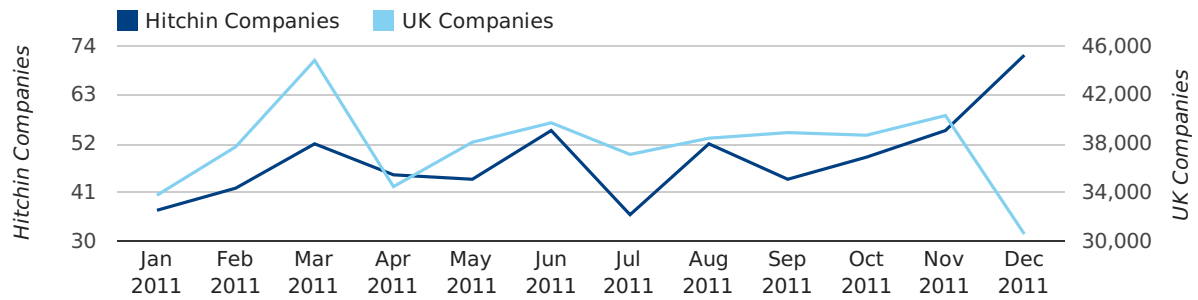


Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

December 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous December.

November 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous November.

new companies by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	49	55	72
NEW COMPANIES IN 2010	42	33	26
% CHANGE	16.7%	66.7%	176.9%
RECORD YEAR	2002 (51)	2011 (55)	2011 (72)

Annual Data (2011)

A total of 321 companies were dissolved in Hitchin in 2011. This total is 1.2% lower than in 2010 and compares favourably to the UK figure of 8.1% decrease compared to the previous year.

YEAR	HITCHIN	UK
2011	321	314,523
2010	325	342,232
2009	483	533,773
2008	227	237,901
2007	213	220,295
RECORD YEAR	2009 (483)	2009 (533,773)

dissolved companies by year



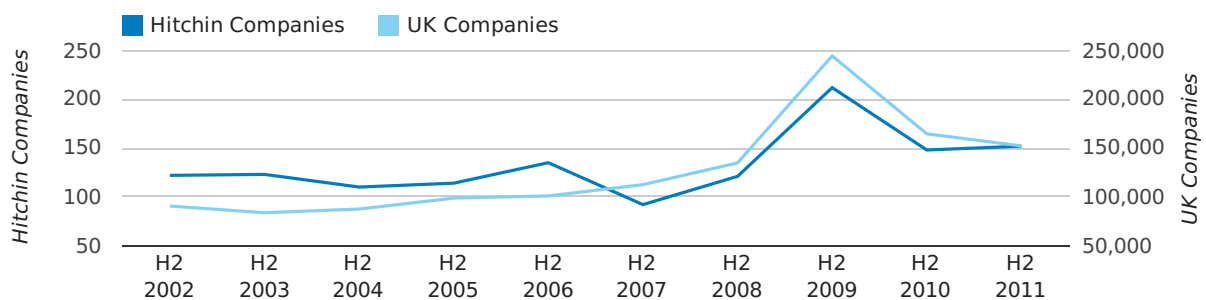
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 a total of 152 companies were dissolved in Hitchin. This figure is 2.7% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide change of -7.5%.

The highest total for a second half year in Hitchin occurred in 2009 when a total of 212 were closed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	HITCHIN	UK
2011	152	152,213
2010	148	164,601
% CHANGE	2.7%	-7.5%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (212)	2009 (244,537)

dissolved companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

A total of 77 companies were dissolved in Hitchin during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 11.6% versus the same period last year (Q4 2010). This figure compares poorly to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 4.0% against the same period last year.

FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	HITCHIN	UK
2011	77	79,983
2010	69	76,896
% CHANGE	11.6%	4.0%
RECORD YEAR	2006 (80)	2009 (85,136)

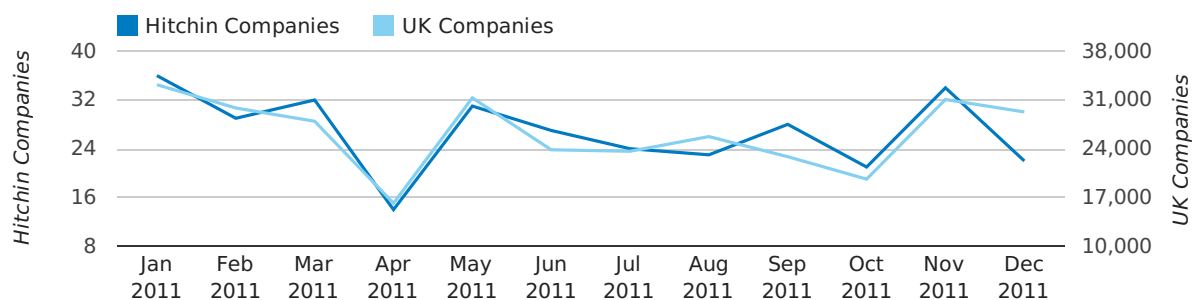
dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

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

dissolved companies by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	21	34	22
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010	22	32	15
% CHANGE	-4.5%	6.3%	47%
RECORD YEAR	2006 (39)	2011 (34)	2009 (33)

Annual Data (2011)

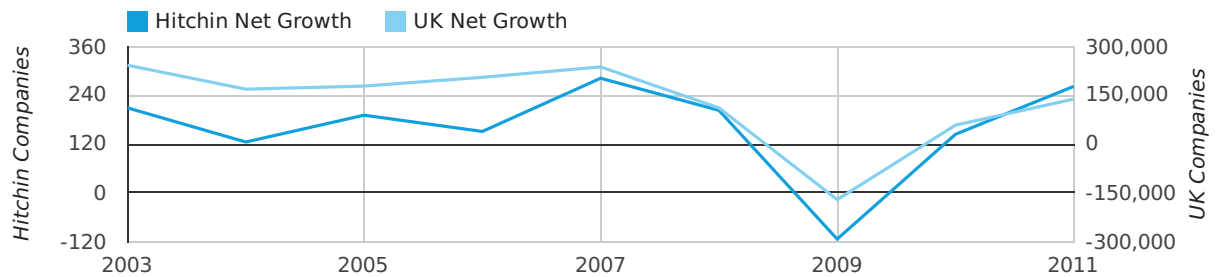
A total of 262 companies were added to the company register for Hitchin in 2011. This number represents growth of 55.9% which compares favourably to the UK figure of 34.6%.

This number is 118 companies higher than the previous year.

The highest net company growth figure ever seen in one year came in 2007 when the Hitchin company register grew by 282 companies.

YEAR	HITCHIN	UK
2011	262	138,347
2010	144	58,126
2009	-114	-171,098
2008	203	111,302
2007	282	237,354
RECORD YEAR	2007 (282)	2003 (242,543)

net growth by year



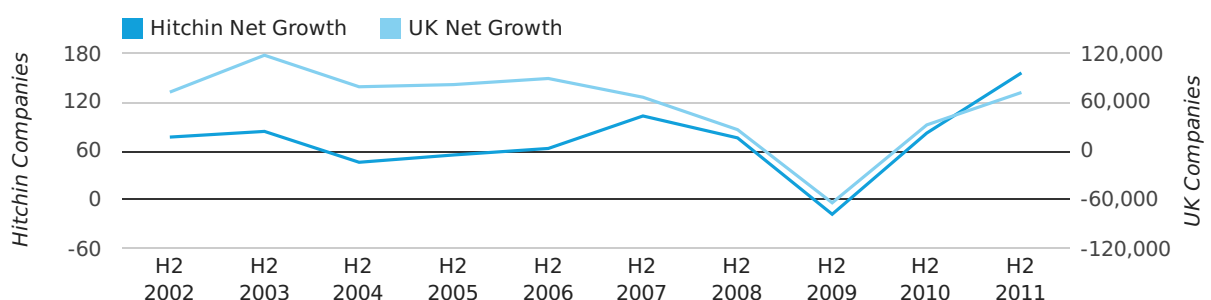
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The second half of 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Hitchin when compared to any previous second half year.

In the second half of 2011 the company register for Hitchin increased by 156 companies. This figure is 90.2% higher than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 124.7%.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	HITCHIN	UK
2011	156	71,922
2010	82	32,008
% CHANGE	90.2%	124.7%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (156)	2003 (117,772)

net growth by half year



Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

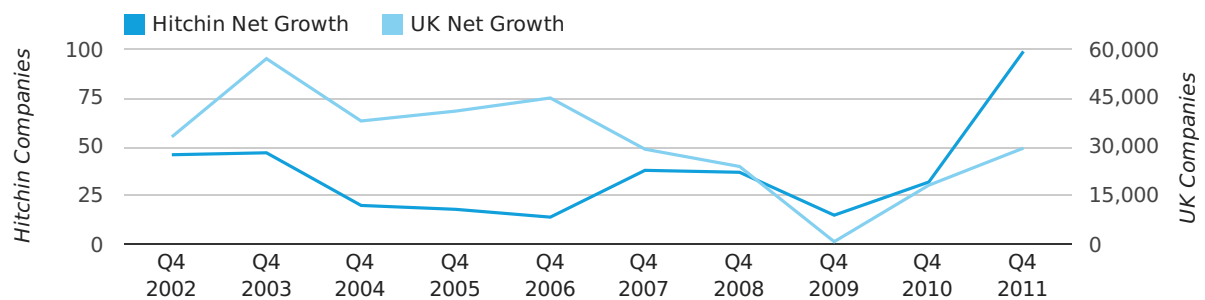
Q4 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Hitchin when compared to any previous Q4.

Net company growth for Hitchin during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011) was 99 companies.

This represents an increase of 209.4% on the same period last year.

FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	HITCHIN	UK
2011	99	29,640
2010	32	18,221
% CHANGE	209.4%	62.7%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (99)	2003 (57,175)

net growth by quarter

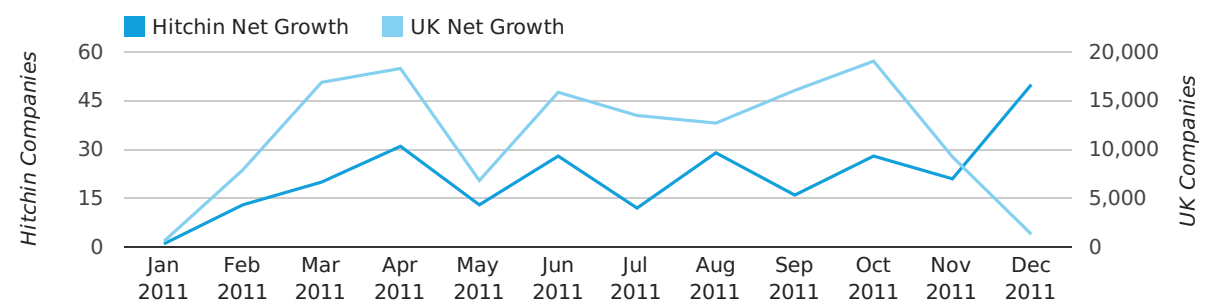


Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

December 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Hitchin when compared to any previous December.

November 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Hitchin when compared to any previous November.

net growth by month



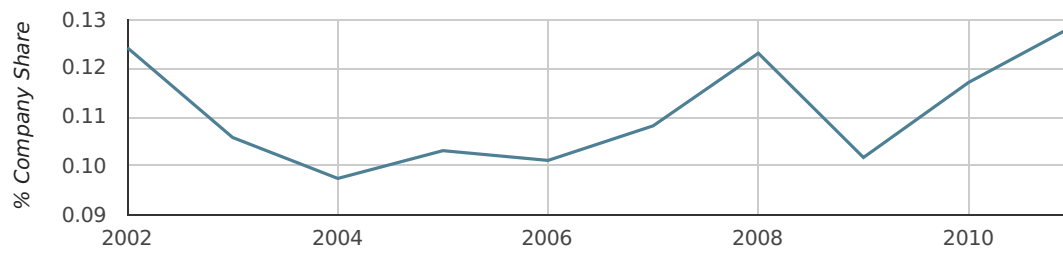
	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NET GROWTH IN 2011	28	21	50
NET GROWTH IN 2010	20	1	11
% CHANGE	40.0%	2,000.0%	354.5%
RECORD YEAR	2002 (36)	2003 (21)	2011 (50)

Annual Data (2011)

In 2011 Hitchin formed 0.1% of all UK companies. This is no change on 2010 when Hitchin was responsible for 0.1% of all UK companies.

YEAR	HITCHIN
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
2007	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1974 (0.2%)

company share by year

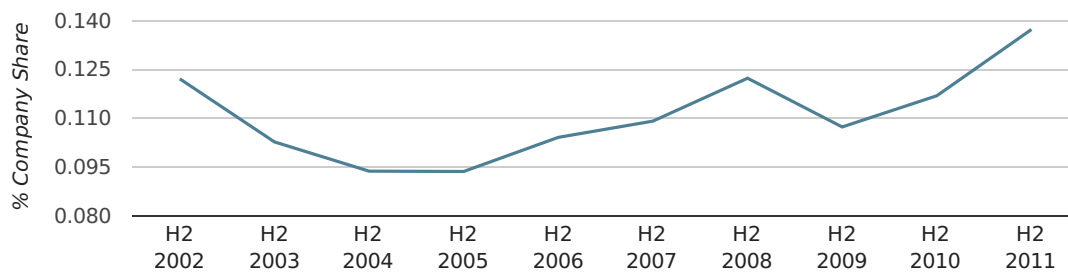


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 Hitchin formed 0.1% of all UK companies. This is the same as the 2010 figure of 0.1%.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	HITCHIN
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
2007	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1976 (0.2%)

company share by half year

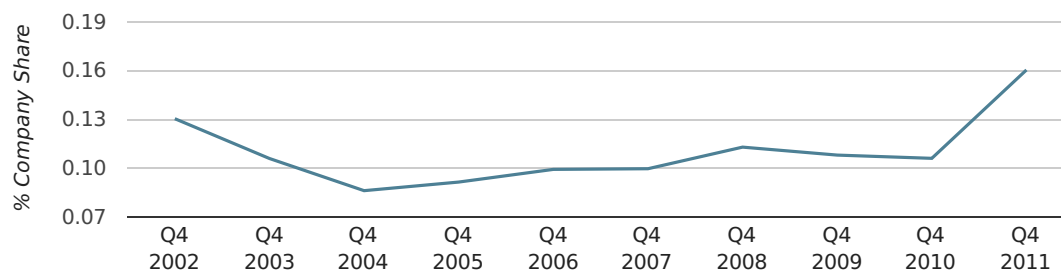


Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

In the fourth quarter of 2011, Hitchin formed 0.2% of all UK companies.

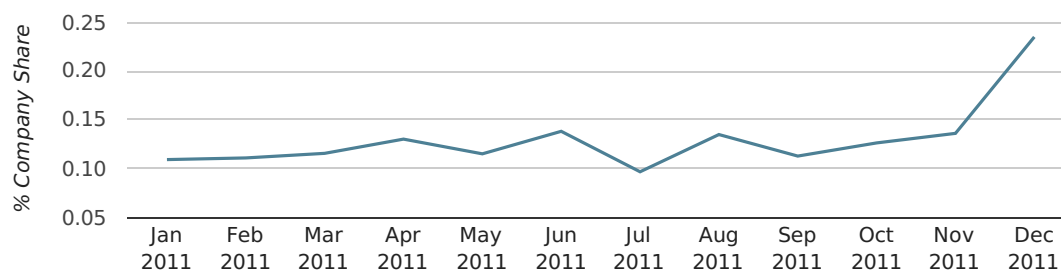
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	HITCHIN
2011	0.2%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
2007	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1968 (0.2%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

company share by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
% CHANGE	1.4%	41.9%	145.6%
RECORD YEAR	1975 (0.4%)	1963 (0.3%)	1964 (0.3%)

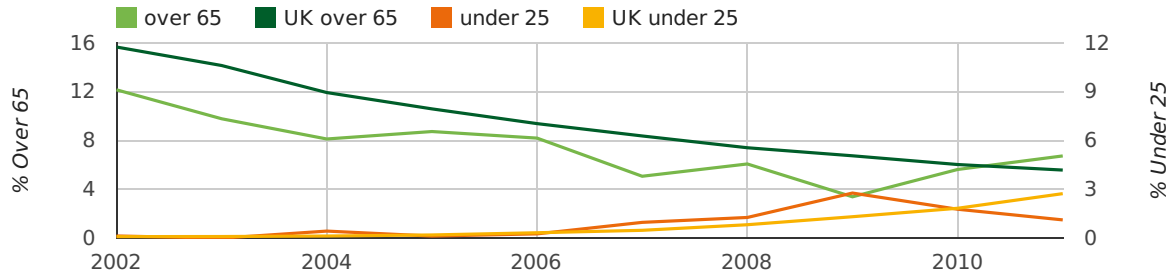
Annual Data (2011)

The average age of a director in 2011 was 46.7.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 1.1% compared to the UK figure of 3.7%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 6.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

director age by year



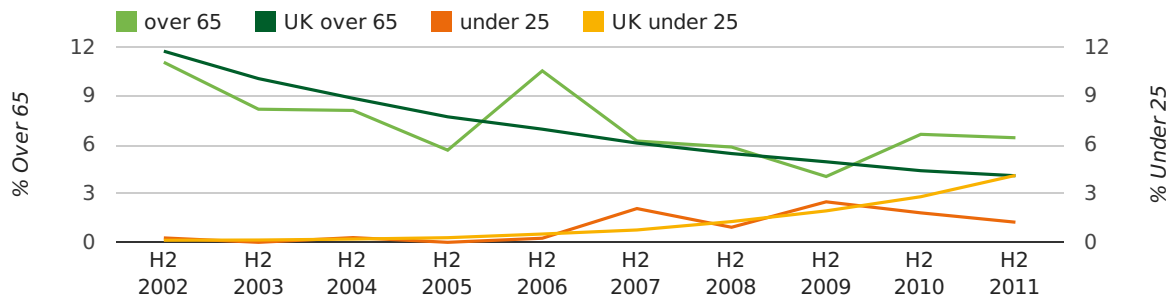
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the second half of 2011 was 46.2.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 1.2% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 6.4% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by half year



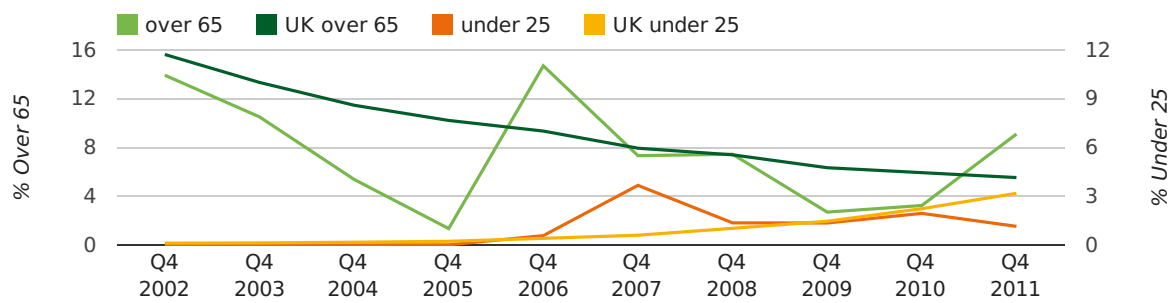
Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the fourth quarter of 2011 was 45.5.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 1.1% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 9.1% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by quarter

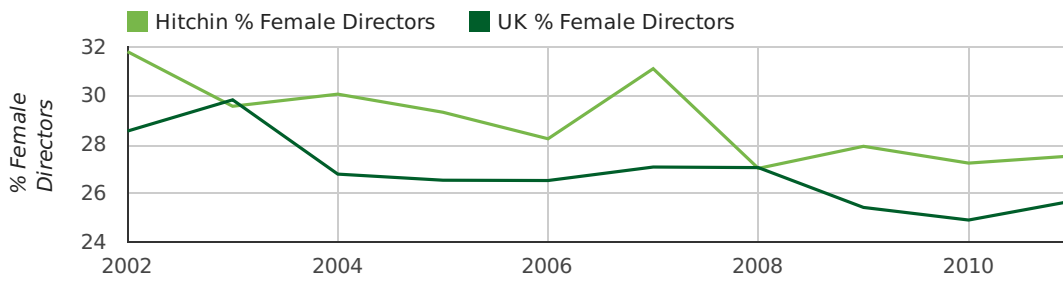


Annual Data (2011)

The record year for female directors in Hitchin was 1857 when 36.4% of all directors were female.

The percentage of female directors in Hitchin in 2011 was 31.8%. The average for the UK during this time was 28.6%

director gender by year

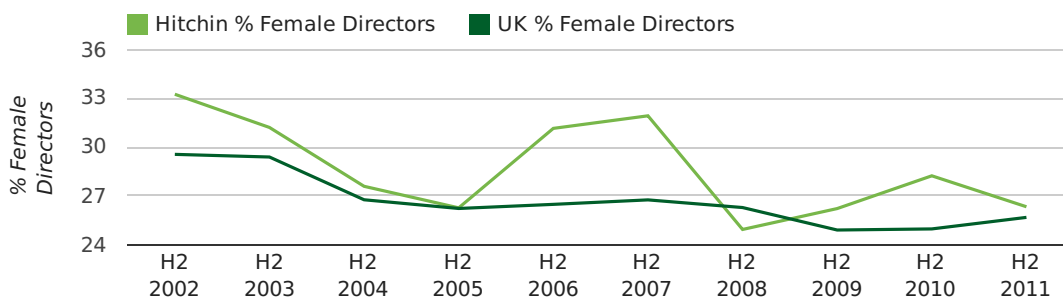


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The record second half year for female directors in Hitchin was 1860 when 42.9% of all directors were female.

26.3% of all director appointments in Hitchin in the second half of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.7% for the same period.

director gender by half year

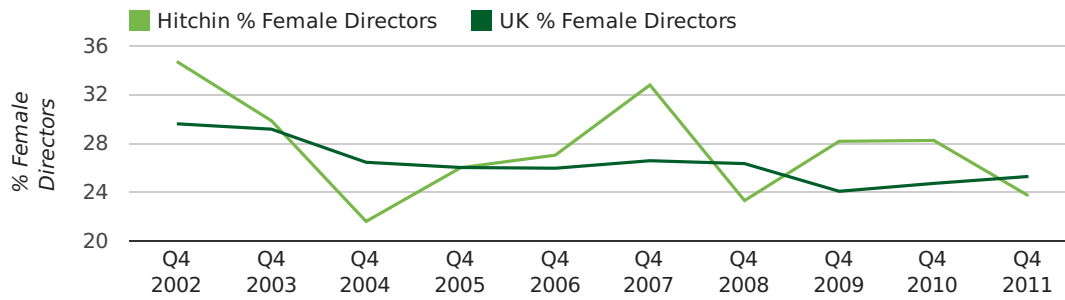


Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

The record fourth quarter for female directors in Hitchin was in 1977 when 31.1% of all directors were female.

23.7% of all director appointments in Hitchin in the fourth quarter of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.3% for the same period.

director gender by quarter



Previous 12 months (Dec 2010-Dec 2011)

Excluding: LIMITED, LTD, &, UK, SERVICES, THE, (UK), AND, LTD., A, LLP, SOLUTIONS, COMPANY, OF.

WORD	PERCENTAGE	UK WORD	UK PERCENTAGE
CONSULTING	2.36%	CONSULTING	5.07%
MANAGEMENT	2.15%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
CONSULTANCY	0.82%	CONSULTANCY	3.26%
TRADING	0.72%	PROPERTY	2.37%
DESIGN	0.72%	TRADING	2.07%
M	0.72%	DESIGN	1.92%
BUSINESS	0.62%	ASSOCIATES	1.86%
SCHOOL	0.62%	ENGINEERING	1.78%
PROPERTY	0.62%	BUSINESS	1.78%
GREEN	0.62%	CONSULTANTS	1.76%
(HITCHIN)	0.51%	CONSTRUCTION	1.73%
INVESTMENTS	0.51%	MEDIA	1.71%
K	0.51%	LONDON	1.63%
PROJECTS	0.51%	J	1.51%
PARTNERS	0.51%	INVESTMENTS	1.48%
MATRIX	0.41%	GLOBAL	1.46%
RECRUITMENT	0.41%	IT	1.41%
INSTALLATIONS	0.41%	CARE	1.39%
TRADE	0.41%	PROPERTIES	1.29%
MEDIA	0.41%	ELECTRICAL	1.29%
ASSOCIATES	0.41%	M	1.27%
PRODUCTIONS	0.41%	BUILDING	1.26%
GLOBAL	0.41%	ENERGY	1.25%
ELECTRICAL	0.41%	S	1.20%
INTERNATIONAL	0.41%	ENTERPRISES	1.20%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	173	205,525
7487 - Other business activities	52	57,052
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	48	32,483
9999 - Dormant Company	33	20,199
74990 - Non-trading company	25	8,929
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	21	8,671
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	20	17,765
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	20	12,072
7499 - Non-trading company	16	9,957
99999 - Dormant Company	16	21,846
7414 - Business & management consultancy	16	13,034
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	14	11,768
62090 - Other information technology service activities	11	7,493
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	11	7,398
9305 - Other service activities	10	9,492
7260 - Other computer related activities	9	7,667
7430 - Technical testing and analysis	6	505
43220 - Plumbing, heat and air-conditioning installation	6	2,372
49410 - Freight transport by road	6	2,392
62012 - Business and domestic software development	5	3,714