

Hitchin

q1 2012 business confidence report



headlines

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

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 Hitchin when compared to any previous Q1.

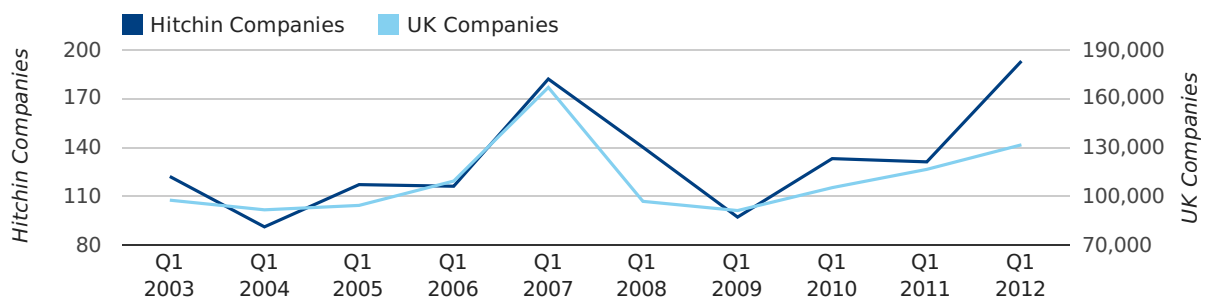
Q1 2012 was a record quarter for company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any quarter in history.

A total of 193 companies were registered in Hitchin during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is an increase of 47.3% versus the same period last year (Q1 2011). This figure compares well 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)	HITCHIN	UK
2012	193	131,491
2011	131	116,391
% CHANGE	47.3%	13.0%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (193)	2007 (166,814)

new companies by quarter

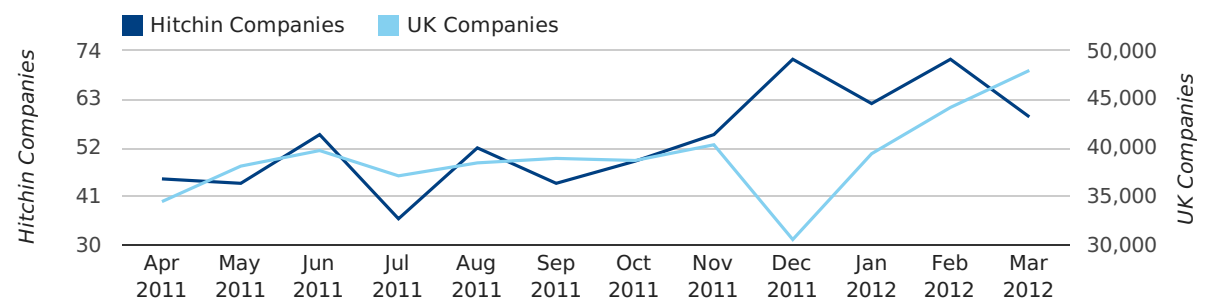


Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

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

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

new companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NEW COMPANIES IN 2012	62	72	59
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	37	42	52
% CHANGE	67.6%	71.4%	13.5%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (62)	2012 (72)	2007 (87)

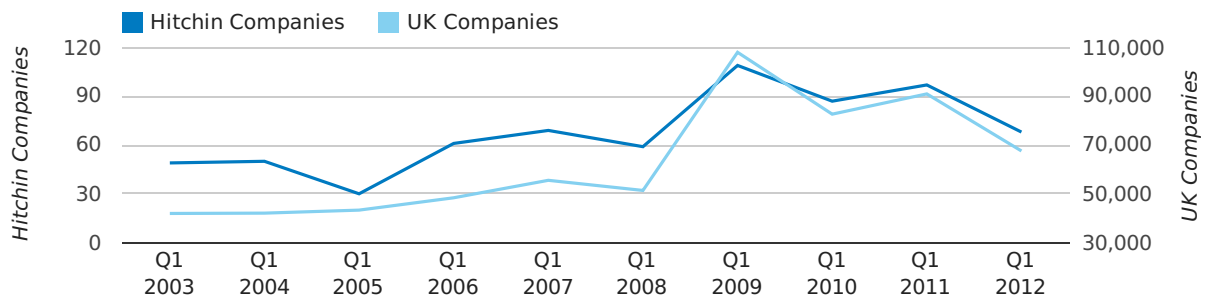
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

A total of 68 companies were dissolved in Hitchin during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is a decrease of 29.9% 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)	HITCHIN	UK
2012	68	67,576
2011	97	90,986
% CHANGE	-29.9%	-25.7%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (109)	2009 (108,060)

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

dissolved companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012	25	13	30
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	36	29	32
% CHANGE	-30.6%	-55.2%	-6%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (36)	2008 (36)	2009 (79)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

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

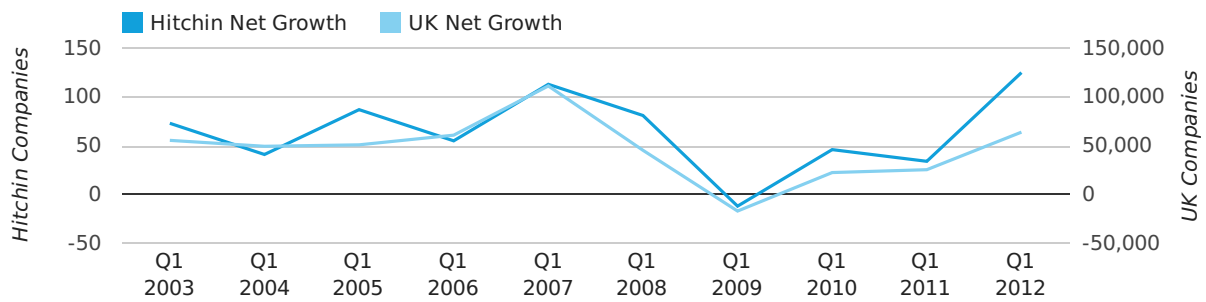
Q1 2012 was a record quarter for net growth in Hitchin when compared to any quarter in history.

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

This represents an increase of 267.6% on the same period last year.

FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	HITCHIN	UK
2012	125	63,915
2011	34	25,405
% CHANGE	267.6%	151.6%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (125)	2007 (111,282)

net growth by quarter

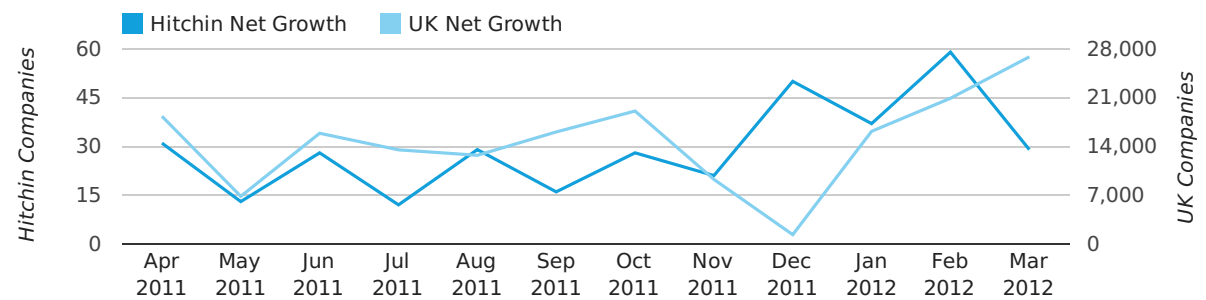


Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

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

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

net growth by month



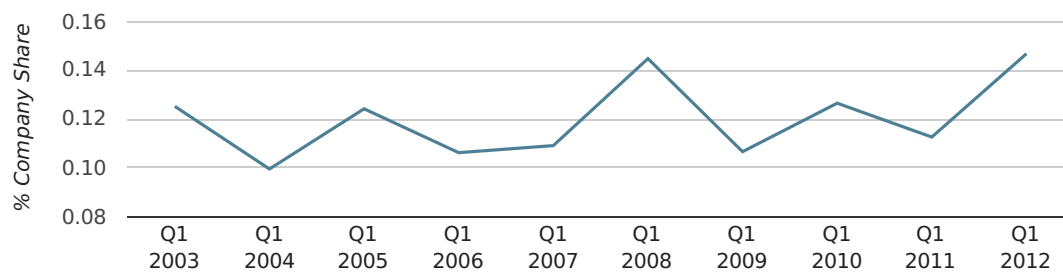
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NET GROWTH IN 2012	37	59	29
NET GROWTH IN 2011	1	13	20
% CHANGE	3,600.0%	353.8%	45.0%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (37)	2012 (59)	2007 (61)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

In the first quarter of 2012, Hitchin formed 0.1% of all UK companies.

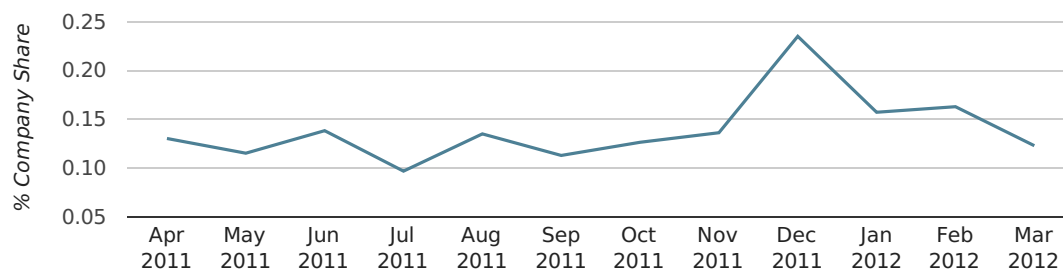
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	HITCHIN
2012	0.1%
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1970 (0.4%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

company share by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
% CHANGE	43.7%	46.7%	6.2%
RECORD YEAR	1962 (0.4%)	1967 (0.4%)	1970 (0.5%)

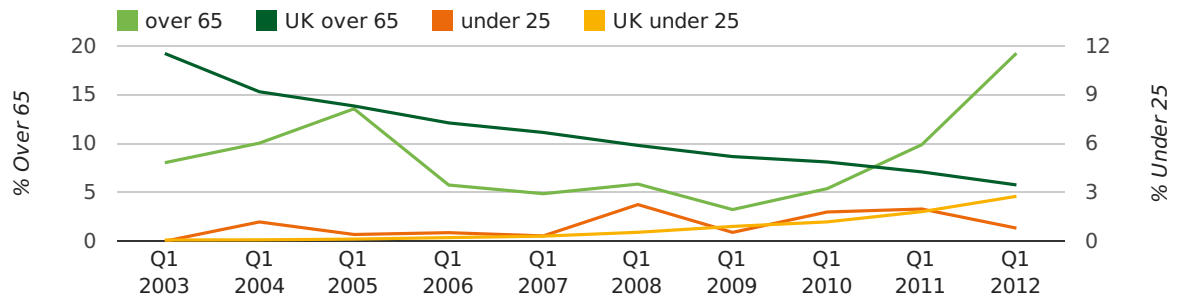
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2012 was 49.4.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 0.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.6%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 19.3% compared to the UK figure of 3.5%.

director age by quarter

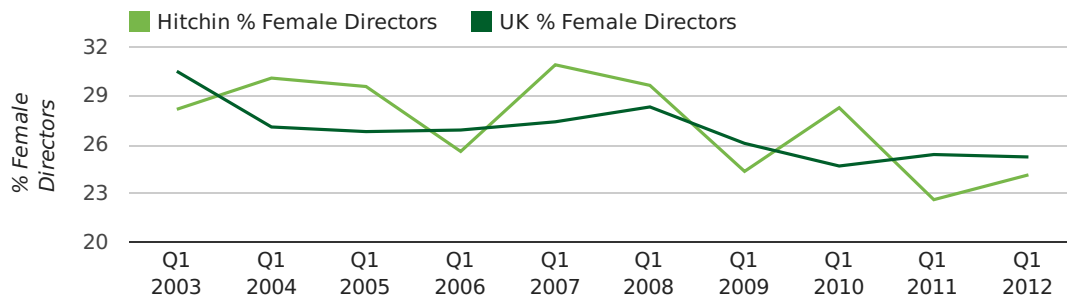


Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

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

24.2% of all director appointments in Hitchin 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
CONSULTING	2.46%	CONSULTING	5.07%
MANAGEMENT	1.80%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
CONSULTANCY	1.14%	CONSULTANCY	3.30%
M	0.76%	PROPERTY	2.37%
PROPERTY	0.76%	TRADING	2.07%
BUSINESS	0.66%	DESIGN	1.93%
DEVELOPMENT	0.66%	ENGINEERING	1.86%
TRADING	0.57%	ASSOCIATES	1.84%
TRADE	0.57%	CONSULTANTS	1.79%
PARTNERS	0.57%	BUSINESS	1.73%
SCHOOL	0.57%	MEDIA	1.72%
GREEN	0.57%	CONSTRUCTION	1.72%
INVESTMENTS	0.57%	LONDON	1.66%
CM&C	0.47%	J	1.54%
IT	0.47%	INVESTMENTS	1.51%
K	0.47%	GLOBAL	1.50%
BUILDING	0.47%	IT	1.40%
/	0.47%	CARE	1.34%
MAINTENANCE	0.47%	PROPERTIES	1.31%
ENTERPRISES	0.47%	ELECTRICAL	1.27%
(HITCHIN)	0.47%	M	1.27%
HITCHIN	0.47%	BUILDING	1.24%
DESIGN	0.38%	ENERGY	1.20%
ASSOCIATES	0.38%	S	1.20%
ESTATES	0.38%	ENTERPRISES	1.19%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	180	216,665
7487 - Other business activities	46	52,735
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	44	35,233
9999 - Dormant Company	30	18,617
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	28	9,892
74990 - Non-trading company	28	9,729
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	26	19,704
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	24	14,303
99999 - Dormant Company	19	25,084
7414 - Business & management consultancy	16	12,113
62090 - Other information technology service activities	15	8,145
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	15	13,637
7499 - Non-trading company	15	9,102
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	11	6,934
9305 - Other service activities	10	8,818
93199 - Other sports activities	9	2,011
7260 - Other computer related activities	8	7,154
93120 - Activities of sport clubs	6	579
98000 - Residents property management	6	3,050
62012 - Business and domestic software development	6	4,356