

Hitchin

2012 half year business confidence report



headlines

- The first half of 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous first half year.
- The first half of 2012 was a record first half year for company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any half year in history.
- Q2 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous Q2.
- June 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous June.
- May 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous May.
- April 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous April.
- The first half of 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Hitchin when compared to any previous first half year.
- The first half of 2012 was a record first half year for net growth in Hitchin when compared to any half year in history.
- June 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Hitchin when compared to any previous June.

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Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

The first half of 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous first half year.

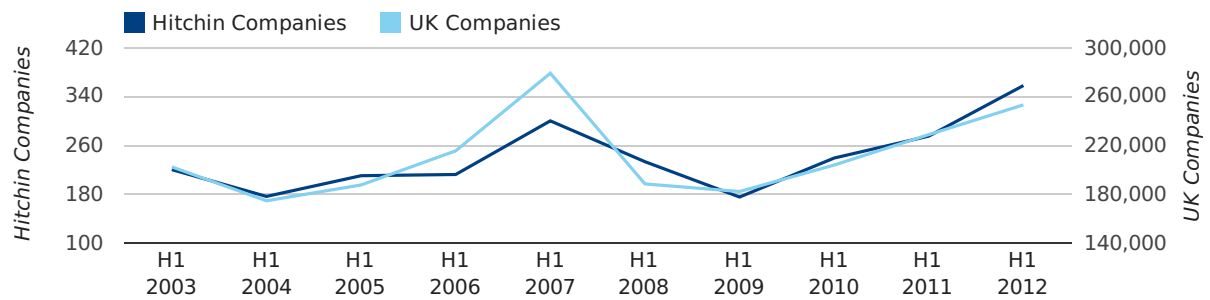
The first half of 2012 was a record first half year for company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any half year in history.

In the first half of 2012 a total of 358 companies were formed in Hitchin. This figure is 30.2% higher than last year, which compares well to the UK wide figure of 10.7%.

The highest total for a first half year in Hitchin occurred in 2012 when a total of 358 were formed.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	HITCHIN	UK
2012	358	253,150
2011	275	228,735
% CHANGE	30.2%	10.7%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (358)	2007 (279,097)

new companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

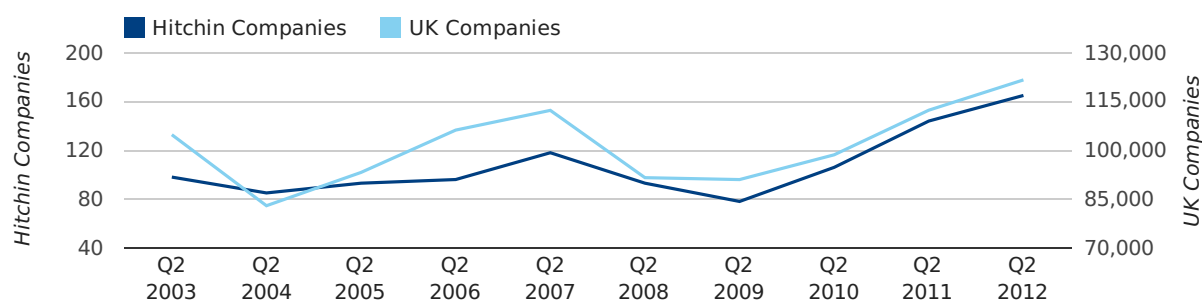
Q2 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Hitchin when compared to any previous Q2.

A total of 165 companies were registered in Hitchin during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 14.6% versus the same period last year (Q2 2011). This figure compares equally to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 8.3% against the same period last year.

SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012)	HITCHIN	UK
2012	165	121,659
2011	144	112,344
% CHANGE	14.6%	8.3%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (165)	2012 (121,659)

new companies by quarter



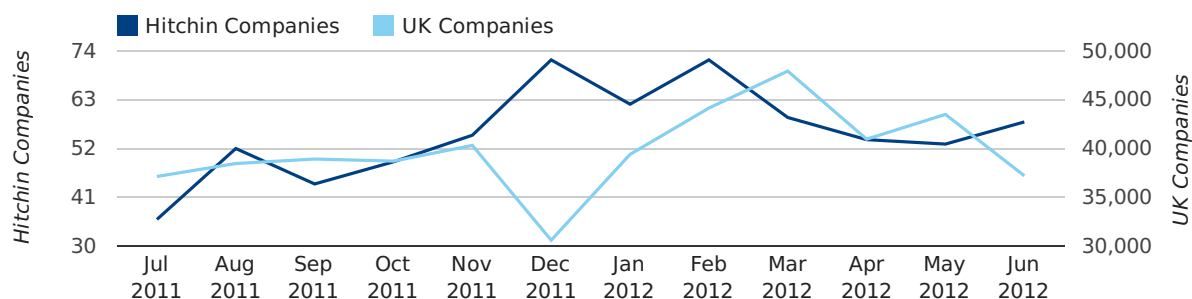
Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

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

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

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

new companies by month



	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
NEW COMPANIES IN 2012	54	53	58
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	45	44	55
% CHANGE	20.0%	20.5%	5.5%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (54)	2012 (53)	2012 (58)

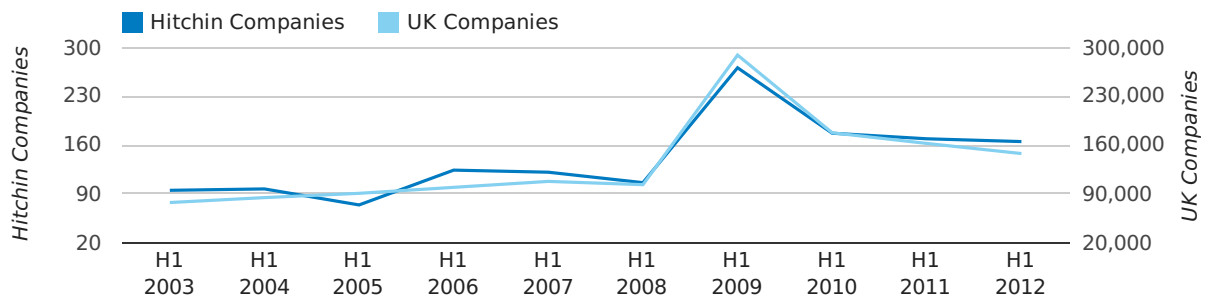
Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 a total of 165 companies were dissolved in Hitchin. This figure is 2.4% lower than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide change of -8.9%.

The highest total for a first half year in Hitchin occurred in 2009 when a total of 271 were closed.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	HITCHIN	UK
2012	165	147,793
2011	169	162,310
% CHANGE	-2.4%	-8.9%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (271)	2009 (289,236)

dissolved companies by half year



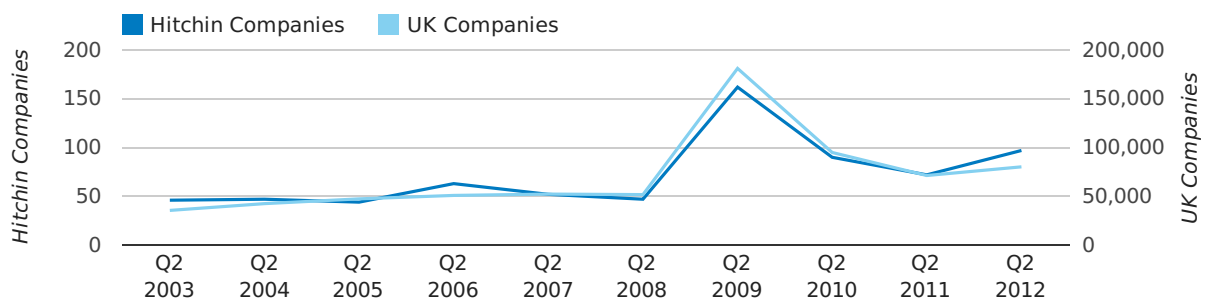
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

A total of 97 companies were dissolved in Hitchin during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 34.7% versus the same period last year (Q2 2011). This figure compares poorly to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 12.5% against the same period last year.

SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012)	HITCHIN	UK
2012	97	80,217
2011	72	71,324
% CHANGE	34.7%	12.5%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (162)	2009 (181,176)

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

dissolved companies by month



	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012	34	38	25
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	14	31	27
% CHANGE	142.9%	22.6%	-7%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (48)	2009 (70)	2009 (44)

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

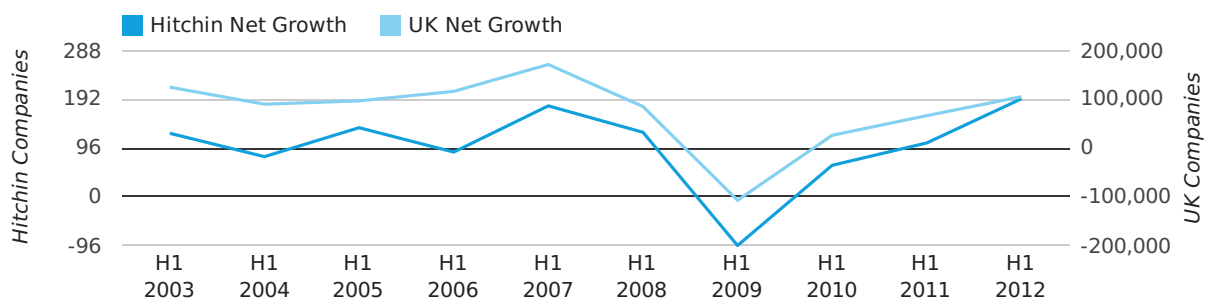
The first half of 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Hitchin when compared to any previous first half year.

The first half of 2012 was a record first half year for net growth in Hitchin when compared to any half year in history.

In the first half of 2012 the company register for Hitchin increased by 193 companies. This figure is 82.1% higher than last year, which compares well to a UK increase of 58.6%.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	HITCHIN	UK
2012	193	105,357
2011	106	66,425
% CHANGE	82.1%	58.6%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (193)	2007 (171,296)

net growth by half year



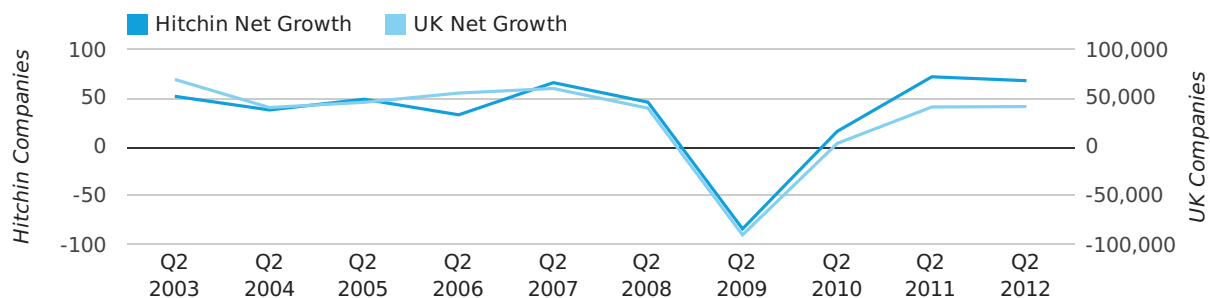
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

Net company growth for Hitchin during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012) was 68 companies.

This represents a decrease of 5.6% on the same period last year.

SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012)	HITCHIN	UK
2012	68	41,442
2011	72	41,020
% CHANGE	-5.6%	1.0%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (72)	2003 (69,274)

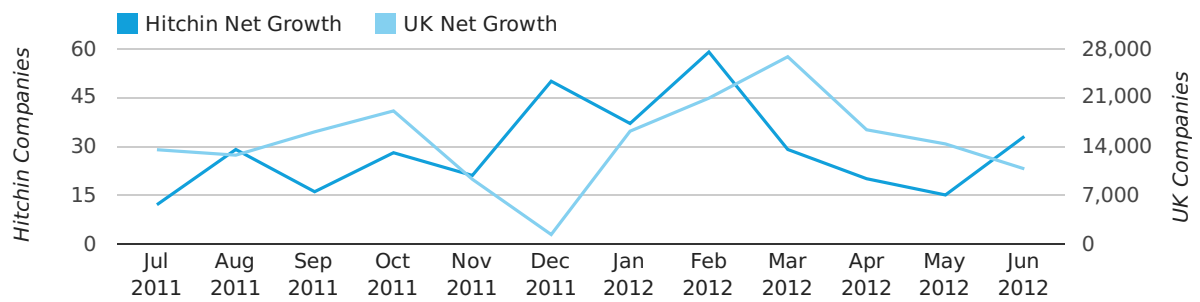
net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

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

net growth by month



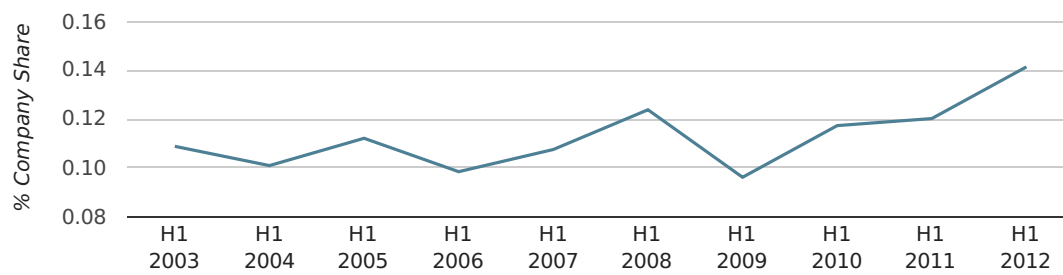
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
NET GROWTH IN 2012	20	15	33
NET GROWTH IN 2011	31	13	28
% CHANGE	-35.5%	15.4%	17.9%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (31)	2007 (26)	2012 (33)

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 Hitchin formed 0.1% of all UK companies. This is the same as the 2011 figure of 0.1%.

HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN)	HITCHIN
2012	0.1%
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1974 (0.2%)

company share by half year

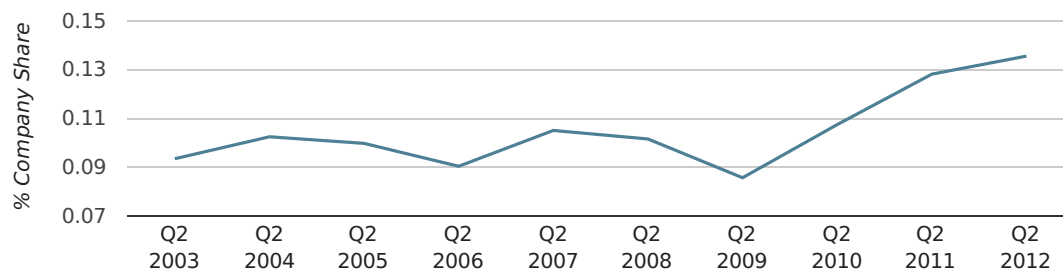


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

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

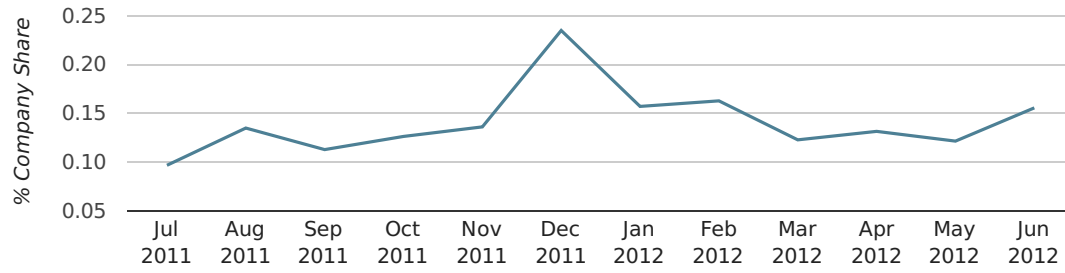
SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012)	HITCHIN
2012	0.1%
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1974 (0.3%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

company share by month



	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
% CHANGE	1.0%	5.5%	12.6%
RECORD YEAR	1976 (0.4%)	1965 (0.3%)	1974 (0.5%)

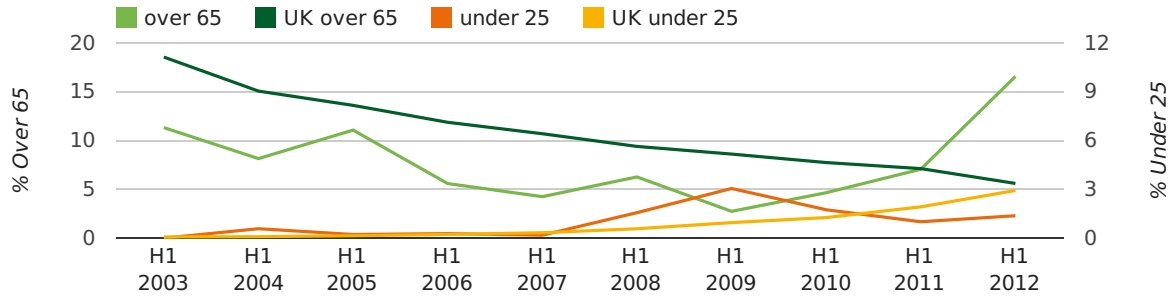
Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the first half of 2012 was 47.9.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 1.4% compared to the UK figure of 4.9%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 16.6% compared to the UK figure of 3.4%.

director age by half year



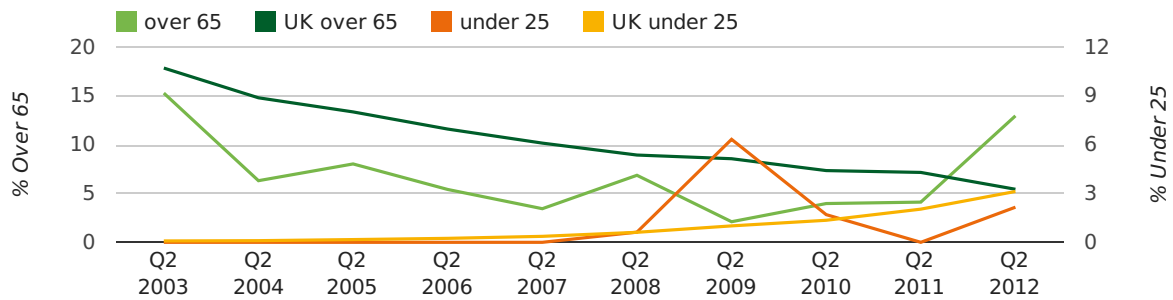
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the second quarter of 2012 was 45.9.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.2% compared to the UK figure of 5.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 13.0% compared to the UK figure of 3.3%.

director age by quarter

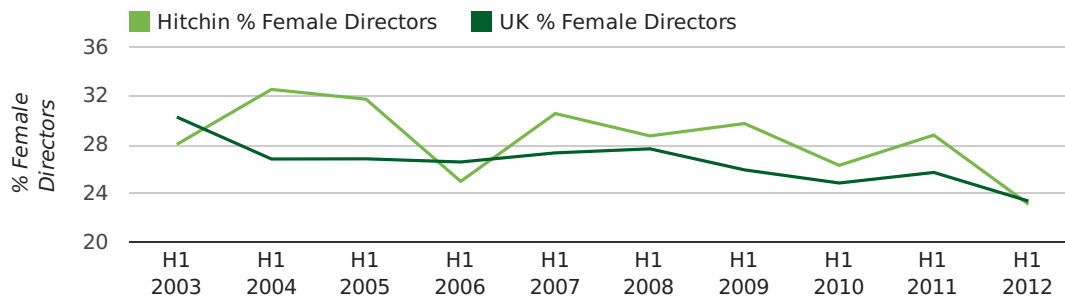


Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

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

23.1% of all director appointments in Hitchin in the first half of 2012 were female. This compares to a UK average of 23.4% for the same period.

director gender by half year

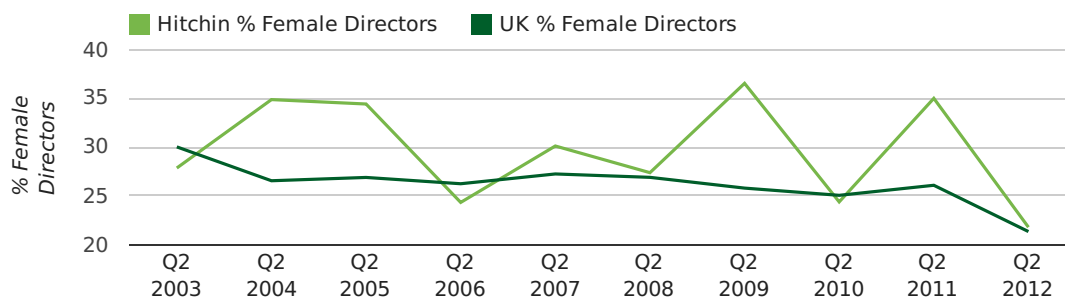


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

The record second quarter for female directors in Hitchin was in 1866 when 66.7% of all directors were female.

21.8% of all director appointments in Hitchin in the second quarter of 2012 were female. This compares to a UK average of 21.3% for the same period.

director gender by quarter



Previous 12 months (Jun 2011-Jun 2012)

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

WORD	PERCENTAGE	UK WORD	UK PERCENTAGE
CONSULTING	2.25%	CONSULTING	5.07%
MANAGEMENT	1.87%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
CONSULTANCY	1.50%	CONSULTANCY	3.28%
TRADE	0.75%	PROPERTY	2.35%
DEVELOPMENT	0.66%	TRADING	2.10%
SKIP	0.66%	DESIGN	1.89%
HIRE	0.66%	ENGINEERING	1.87%
(HITCHIN)	0.66%	ASSOCIATES	1.82%
GLOBAL	0.56%	CONSULTANTS	1.78%
IT	0.56%	CONSTRUCTION	1.71%
SCHOOL	0.56%	BUSINESS	1.70%
M	0.56%	MEDIA	1.69%
BUILDING	0.56%	LONDON	1.68%
ENTERPRISES	0.56%	J	1.57%
MINI	0.47%	GLOBAL	1.51%
BUSINESS	0.47%	INVESTMENTS	1.48%
MAINTENANCE	0.47%	IT	1.42%
PROPERTY	0.47%	CARE	1.31%
J	0.47%	PROPERTIES	1.31%
HITCHIN	0.47%	M	1.26%
MIDI	0.47%	ELECTRICAL	1.23%
HOLDINGS	0.47%	BUILDING	1.23%
INVESTMENTS	0.47%	SECURITY	1.19%
ENGINEERING	0.47%	S	1.18%
CONSTRUCTION	0.47%	ENTERPRISES	1.17%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	216	244,457
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	43	35,447
7487 - Other business activities	41	47,029
74990 - Non-trading company	32	9,706
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	32	10,271
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	31	20,390
9999 - Dormant Company	28	16,469
99999 - Dormant Company	25	26,088
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	19	15,280
62090 - Other information technology service activities	18	8,258
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	16	14,220
7499 - Non-trading company	14	8,023
7414 - Business & management consultancy	14	10,978
9305 - Other service activities	10	7,926
93199 - Other sports activities	9	2,095
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	9	6,356
74100 - specialised design activities	7	2,028
7260 - Other computer related activities	7	6,456
93120 - Activities of sport clubs	6	577
47910 - Retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet	6	3,818