

Lancashire

q1 2012 business confidence report



headlines

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

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Q1 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Lancashire when compared to any previous Q1.

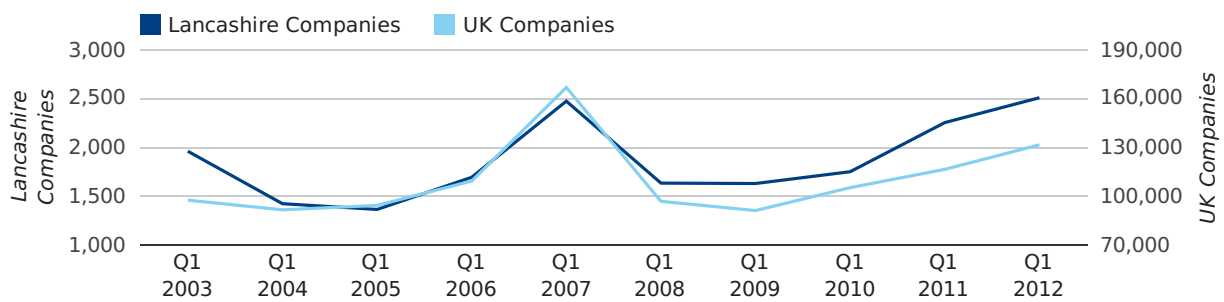
Q1 2012 was a record quarter for company registrations in Lancashire when compared to any quarter in history.

A total of 2,508 companies were registered in Lancashire during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is an increase of 11.3% 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)	LANCASHIRE	UK
2012	2,508	131,491
2011	2,253	116,391
% CHANGE	11.3%	13.0%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (2,508)	2007 (166,814)

new companies by quarter

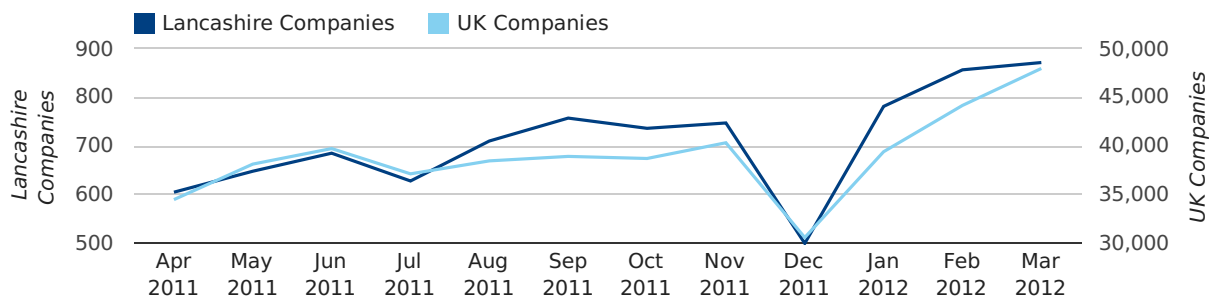


Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

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

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

new companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NEW COMPANIES IN 2012	781	856	871
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	641	780	832
% CHANGE	21.8%	9.7%	4.7%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (781)	2012 (856)	2007 (1,058)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

A total of 1,163 companies were dissolved in Lancashire during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012).

This figure is a decrease of 11.7% 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.

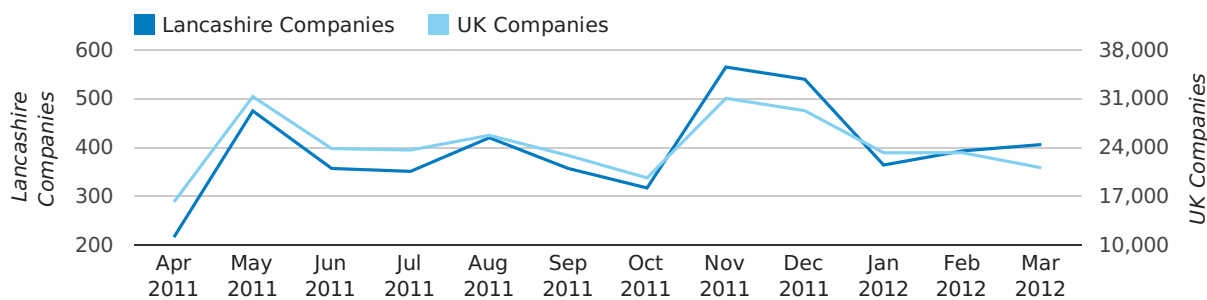
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	LANCASHIRE	UK
2012	1,163	67,576
2011	1,317	90,986
% CHANGE	-11.7%	-25.7%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (1,587)	2009 (108,060)

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

dissolved companies by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012	364	393	406
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	512	392	413
% CHANGE	-28.9%	0.3%	-2%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (512)	2010 (413)	2009 (978)

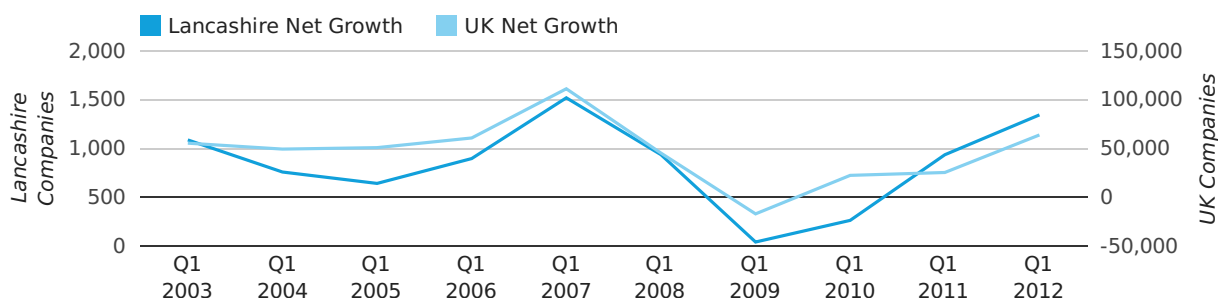
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

Net company growth for Lancashire during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan 2012 - Mar 2012) was 1,345 companies.

This represents an increase of 43.7% on the same period last year.

FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	LANCASHIRE	UK
2012	1,345	63,915
2011	936	25,405
% CHANGE	43.7%	151.6%
RECORD YEAR	2007 (1,520)	2007 (111,282)

net growth by quarter

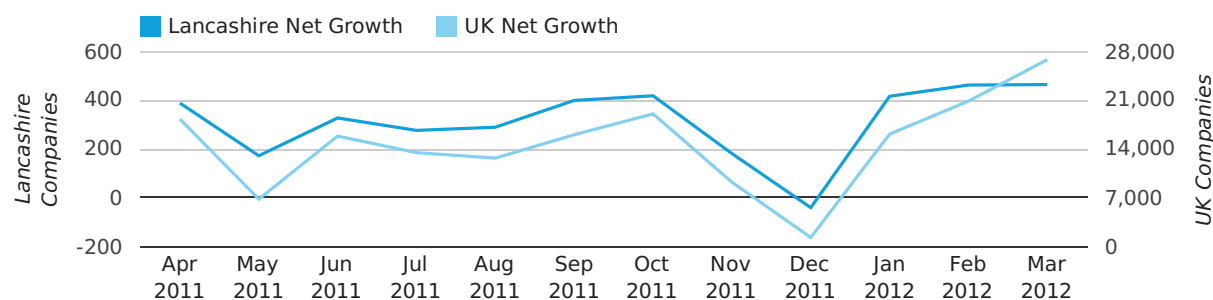


Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

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

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

net growth by month



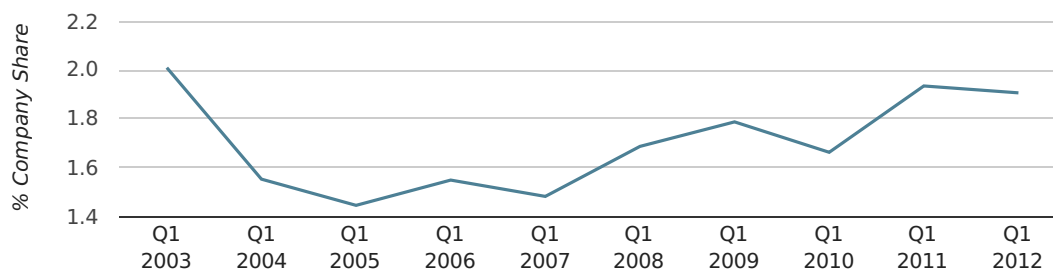
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
NET GROWTH IN 2012	417	463	465
NET GROWTH IN 2011	129	388	419
% CHANGE	223.3%	19.3%	11.0%
RECORD YEAR	2012 (417)	2012 (463)	2007 (752)

Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

In the first quarter of 2012, Lancashire formed 1.9% of all UK companies.

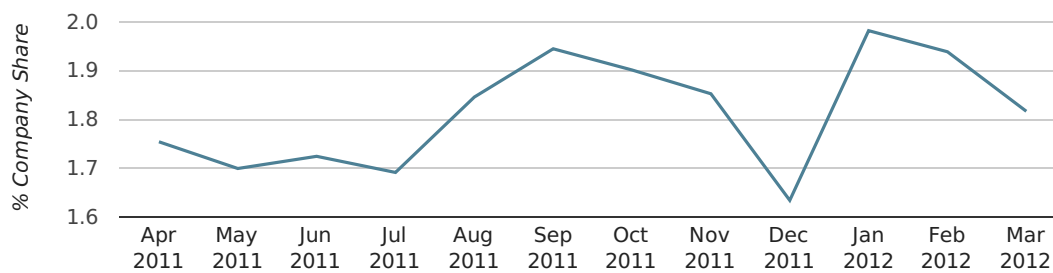
FIRST QUARTER (JAN 2012 - MAR 2012)	LANCASHIRE
2012	1.9%
2011	1.9%
2010	1.7%
2009	1.8%
2008	1.7%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1967 (2.1%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Jan, Feb & Mar 2012)

company share by month



	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	1.9%	2.1%	1.9%
% CHANGE	4.5%	-6.1%	-2.1%
RECORD YEAR	1966 (2.4%)	1965 (2.4%)	1974 (2.6%)

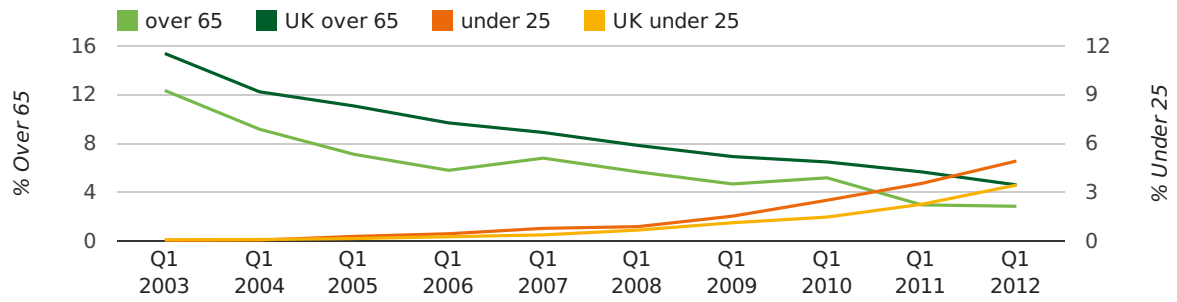
Quarterly Data (Q1 Jan-Mar 2012)

The average age of a director in the first quarter of 2012 was 42.5.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 4.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.6%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 2.9% 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	2.09%	CONSULTING	5.07%
MANAGEMENT	1.86%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
ENGINEERING	1.60%	CONSULTANCY	3.30%
CONSULTANCY	1.39%	PROPERTY	2.37%
DESIGN	1.07%	TRADING	2.07%
ELECTRICAL	0.96%	DESIGN	1.93%
PROPERTY	0.95%	ENGINEERING	1.86%
NORTH	0.92%	ASSOCIATES	1.84%
BUSINESS	0.86%	CONSULTANTS	1.79%
(NW)	0.86%	BUSINESS	1.73%
WEST	0.83%	MEDIA	1.72%
J	0.80%	CONSTRUCTION	1.72%
MEDIA	0.79%	LONDON	1.66%
ASSOCIATES	0.79%	J	1.54%
CARE	0.77%	INVESTMENTS	1.51%
TRAINING	0.76%	GLOBAL	1.50%
CONSTRUCTION	0.71%	IT	1.40%
IT	0.70%	CARE	1.34%
CONSULTANTS	0.69%	PROPERTIES	1.31%
M	0.66%	ELECTRICAL	1.27%
S	0.65%	M	1.27%
R	0.63%	BUILDING	1.24%
TRADING	0.63%	ENERGY	1.20%
PROPERTIES	0.62%	S	1.20%
ENTERPRISES	0.56%	ENTERPRISES	1.19%

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	3,453	216,665
7487 - Other business activities	865	52,735
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	571	35,233
99999 - Dormant Company	326	25,084
9999 - Dormant Company	270	18,617
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	270	19,704
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	247	13,637
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	244	14,303
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	203	9,892
7414 - Business & management consultancy	157	12,113
7499 - Non-trading company	144	9,102
74990 - Non-trading company	135	9,729
9305 - Other service activities	132	8,818
62090 - Other information technology service activities	130	8,145
7260 - Other computer related activities	120	7,154
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	108	6,934
86900 - Other human health activities	107	5,066
45200 - Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles	88	2,832
43210 - Electrical installation	85	3,573
56302 - Public houses and bars	83	2,795