

Lancashire

2012 half year business confidence report



headlines

- The first half of 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Lancashire when compared to any previous first half year.
- The first half of 2012 was a record first half year for company registrations in Lancashire when compared to any half year in history.
- Q2 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Lancashire when compared to any previous Q2.

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Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

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

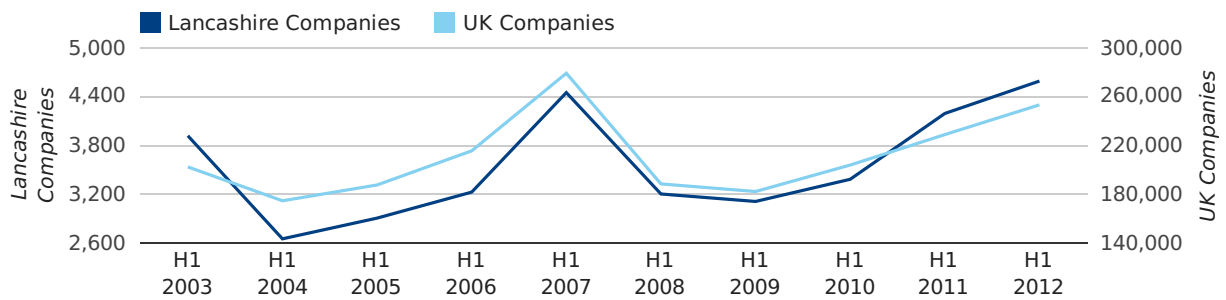
The first half of 2012 was a record first half year for company registrations in Lancashire when compared to any half year in history.

In the first half of 2012 a total of 4,590 companies were formed in Lancashire. This figure is 9.5% higher than last year, which compares equally to the UK wide figure of 10.7%.

The highest total for a first half year in Lancashire occurred in 2012 when a total of 4,590 were formed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | LANCASHIRE | UK |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 4,590 | 253,150 |
| 2011 | 4,191 | 228,735 |
| % CHANGE | 9.5% | 10.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2012 (4,590) | 2007 (279,097) |

new companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

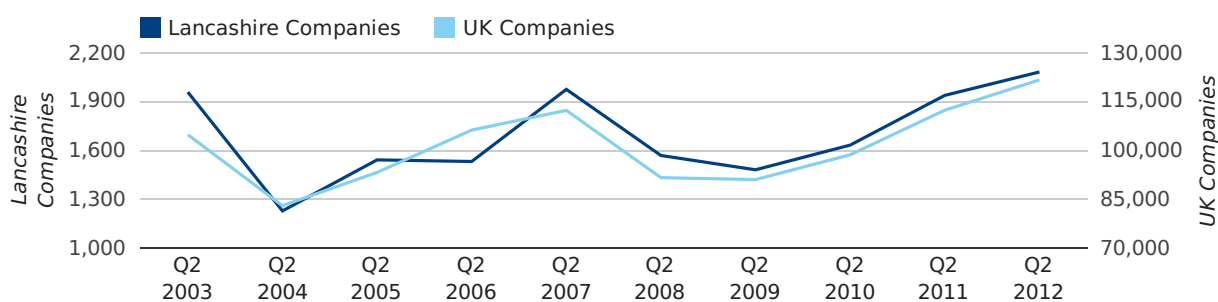
Q2 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Lancashire when compared to any previous Q2.

A total of 2,082 companies were registered in Lancashire during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 7.4% 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.

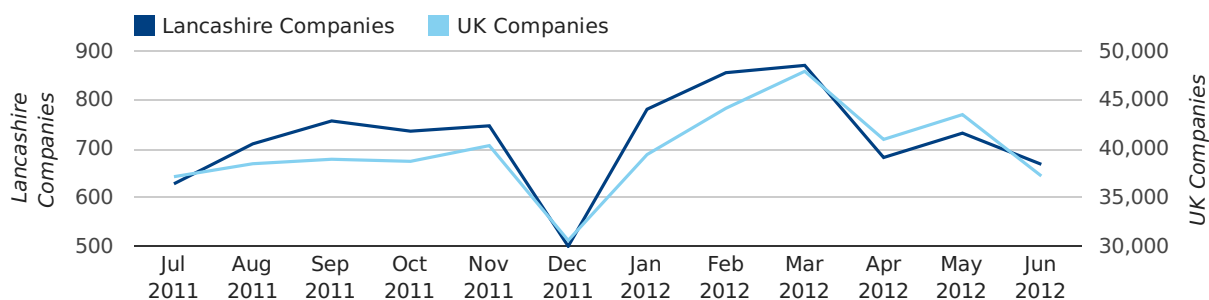
| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | LANCASHIRE | UK |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 2,082 | 121,659 |
| 2011 | 1,938 | 112,344 |
| % CHANGE | 7.4% | 8.3% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2012 (2,082) | 2012 (121,659) |

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

new companies by month



| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2012 | 682 | 732 | 668 |
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2011 | 605 | 648 | 685 |
| % CHANGE | 12.7% | 13.0% | -2.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (730) | 2000 (809) | 2011 (685) |

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 a total of 2,436 companies were dissolved in Lancashire. This figure is 3.0% higher than last year, which compares well to the UK wide change of -8.9%.

The highest total for a first half year in Lancashire occurred in 2009 when a total of 3,971 were closed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | LANCASHIRE | UK |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 2,436 | 147,793 |
| 2011 | 2,365 | 162,310 |
| % CHANGE | 3.0% | -8.9% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (3,971) | 2009 (289,236) |

dissolved companies by half year



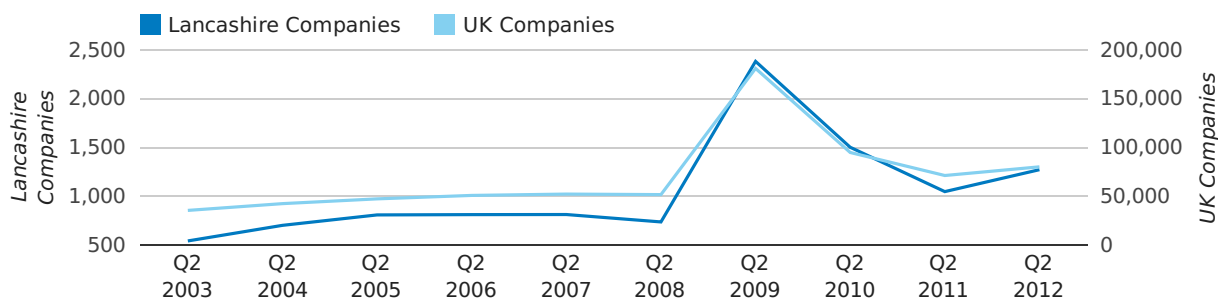
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

A total of 1,273 companies were dissolved in Lancashire during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 21.5% 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.

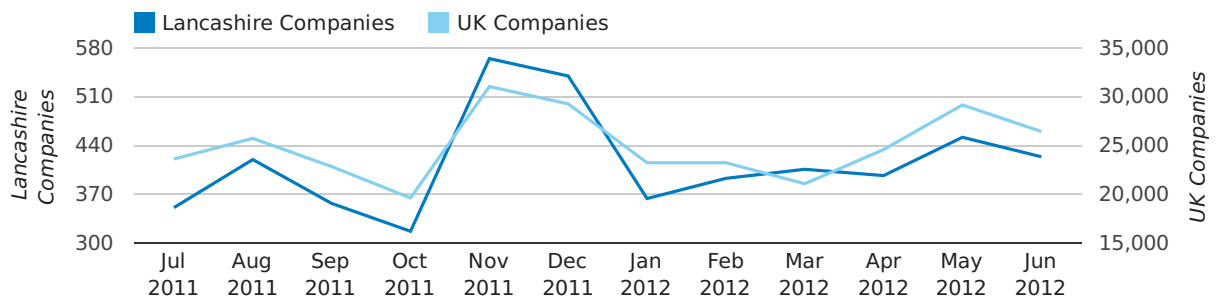
| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | LANCASHIRE | UK |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 1,273 | 80,217 |
| 2011 | 1,048 | 71,324 |
| % CHANGE | 21.5% | 12.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (2,384) | 2009 (181,176) |

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

dissolved companies by month



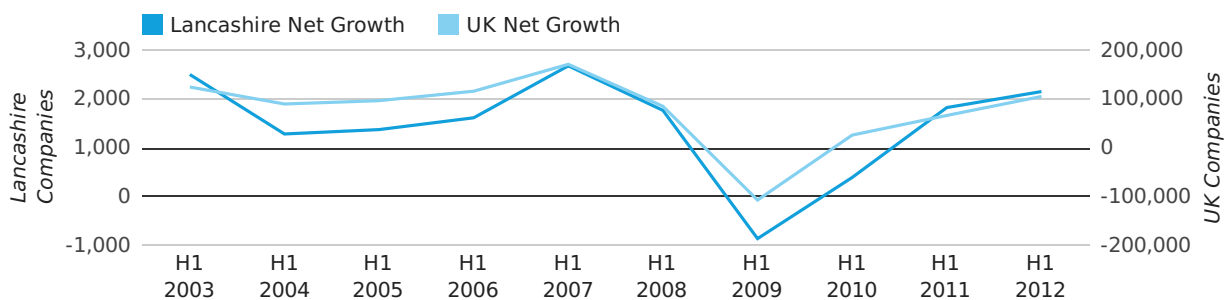
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012 | 397 | 452 | 424 |
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011 | 216 | 475 | 357 |
| % CHANGE | 83.8% | -4.8% | 19% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (614) | 2009 (1,002) | 2009 (768) |

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 the company register for Lancashire increased by 2,154 companies. This figure is 18.0% higher than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 58.6%.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | LANCASHIRE | UK |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 2,154 | 105,357 |
| 2011 | 1,826 | 66,425 |
| % CHANGE | 18.0% | 58.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (2,682) | 2007 (171,296) |

net growth by half year



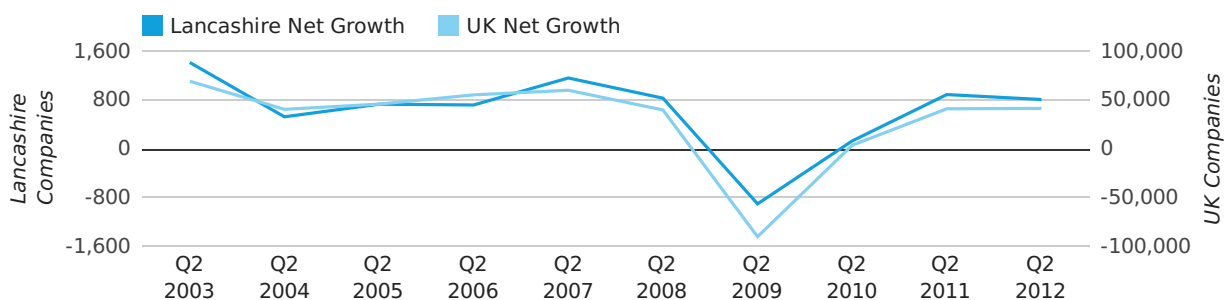
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

Net company growth for Lancashire during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012) was 809 companies.

This represents a decrease of 9.1% on the same period last year.

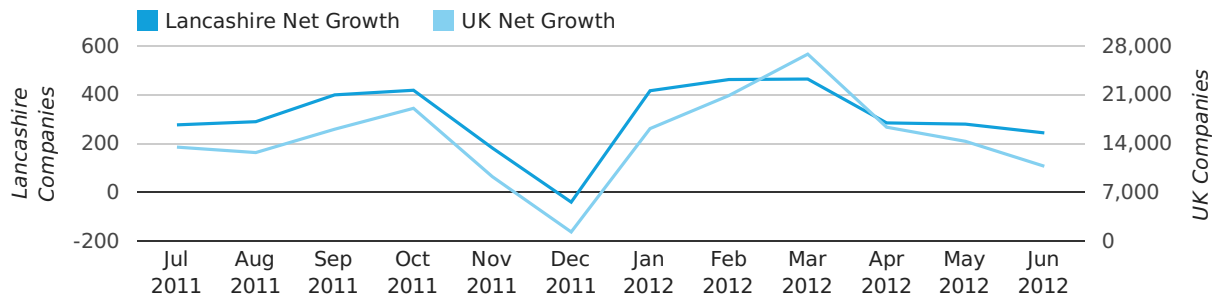
| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | LANCASHIRE | UK |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2012 | 809 | 41,442 |
| 2011 | 890 | 41,020 |
| % CHANGE | -9.1% | 1.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2003 (1,416) | 2003 (69,274) |

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

net growth by month



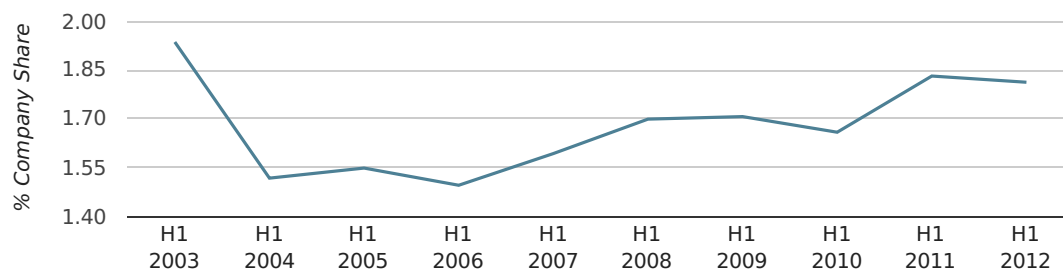
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2012 | 285 | 280 | 244 |
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | 389 | 173 | 328 |
| % CHANGE | -26.7% | 61.8% | -25.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (538) | 2000 (731) | 2003 (467) |

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 Lancashire formed 1.8% of all UK companies. This is the same as the 2011 figure of 1.8%.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | LANCASHIRE |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2012 | 1.8% |
| 2011 | 1.8% |
| 2010 | 1.7% |
| 2009 | 1.7% |
| 2008 | 1.7% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1974 (2.1%) |

company share by half year

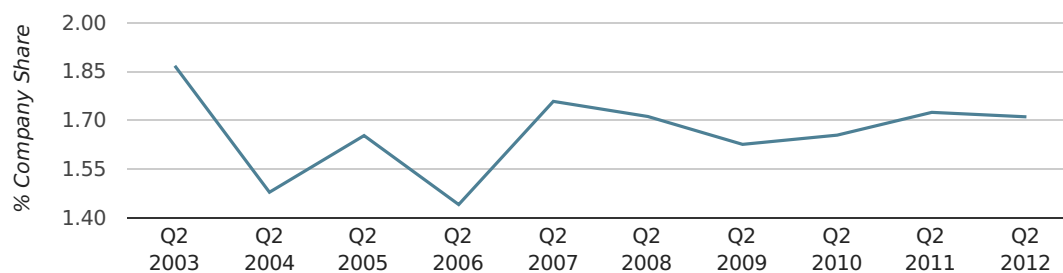


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

In the second quarter of 2012, Lancashire formed 1.7% of all UK companies.

| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | LANCASHIRE |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2012 | 1.7% |
| 2011 | 1.7% |
| 2010 | 1.7% |
| 2009 | 1.6% |
| 2008 | 1.7% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 2000 (2.2%) |

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

company share by month



| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012 | 1.7% | 1.7% | 1.8% |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 1.8% | 1.7% | 1.7% |
| % CHANGE | -5.1% | -1.0% | 4.1% |
| RECORD YEAR | 1968 (2.5%) | 2000 (3.6%) | 1967 (2.4%) |

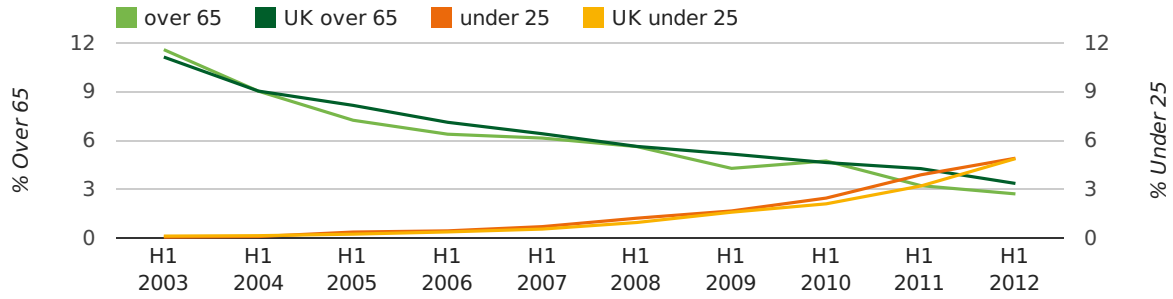
Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the first half of 2012 was 42.4.

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

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 2.7% compared to the UK figure of 3.4%.

director age by half year



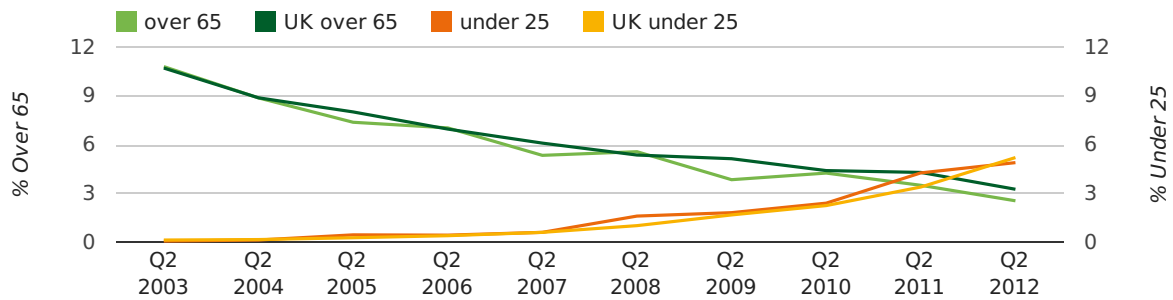
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the second quarter of 2012 was 42.2.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 4.9% compared to the UK figure of 5.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 2.6% compared to the UK figure of 3.3%.

director age by quarter

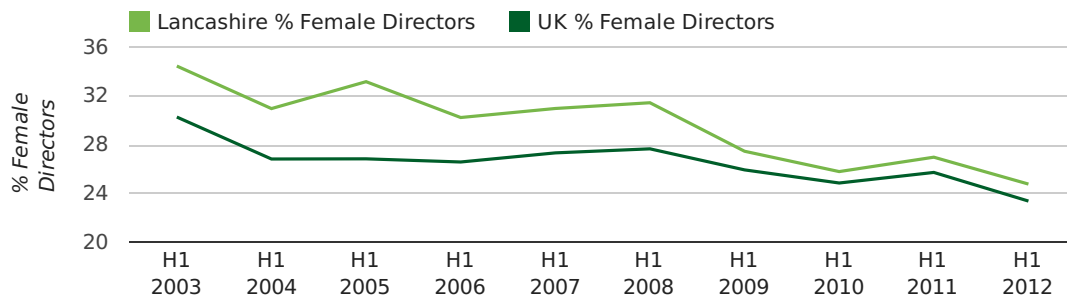


Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

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

24.8% of all director appointments in Lancashire 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



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 | 2.05% | CONSULTING | 5.07% |
| MANAGEMENT | 1.85% | MANAGEMENT | 4.74% |
| ENGINEERING | 1.58% | CONSULTANCY | 3.28% |
| CONSULTANCY | 1.47% | PROPERTY | 2.35% |
| DESIGN | 1.05% | TRADING | 2.10% |
| PROPERTY | 1.00% | DESIGN | 1.89% |
| ELECTRICAL | 0.98% | ENGINEERING | 1.87% |
| BUSINESS | 0.87% | ASSOCIATES | 1.82% |
| WEST | 0.86% | CONSULTANTS | 1.78% |
| NORTH | 0.86% | CONSTRUCTION | 1.71% |
| ASSOCIATES | 0.84% | BUSINESS | 1.70% |
| CARE | 0.80% | MEDIA | 1.69% |
| CONSULTANTS | 0.78% | LONDON | 1.68% |
| IT | 0.78% | J | 1.57% |
| TRAINING | 0.77% | GLOBAL | 1.51% |
| MEDIA | 0.76% | INVESTMENTS | 1.48% |
| (NW) | 0.75% | IT | 1.42% |
| M | 0.75% | CARE | 1.31% |
| DEVELOPMENTS | 0.74% | PROPERTIES | 1.31% |
| J | 0.73% | M | 1.26% |
| TRADING | 0.70% | ELECTRICAL | 1.23% |
| CONSTRUCTION | 0.65% | BUILDING | 1.23% |
| R | 0.64% | SECURITY | 1.19% |
| S | 0.62% | S | 1.18% |
| PROPERTIES | 0.61% | ENTERPRISES | 1.17% |

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

| SIC CODE | NUMBER OF COMPANIES | UK COMPANIES |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| None Supplied | 3,944 | 244,457 |
| 7487 - Other business activities | 785 | 47,029 |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified | 570 | 35,447 |
| 99999 - Dormant Company | 329 | 26,088 |
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management | 280 | 20,390 |
| 62020 - Information technology consultancy activities | 273 | 15,280 |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified | 257 | 14,220 |
| 9999 - Dormant Company | 250 | 16,469 |
| 74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified | 208 | 10,271 |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy | 142 | 10,978 |
| 74990 - Non-trading company | 138 | 9,706 |
| 62090 - Other information technology service activities | 129 | 8,258 |
| 7499 - Non-trading company | 128 | 8,023 |
| 9305 - Other service activities | 116 | 7,926 |
| 86900 - Other human health activities | 108 | 5,222 |
| 7260 - Other computer related activities | 103 | 6,456 |
| 7222 - Other software consultancy and supply | 103 | 6,356 |
| 43210 - Electrical installation | 102 | 3,557 |
| 45200 - Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles | 91 | 2,880 |
| 47910 - Retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet | 88 | 3,818 |