Northampton

2012 half year business confidence report



headlines

- Q2 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Northampton when compared to any previous Q2.
- June 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Northampton when compared to any previous June.
- May 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Northampton when compared to any previous May.
- May 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Northampton when compared to any previous May.

contents

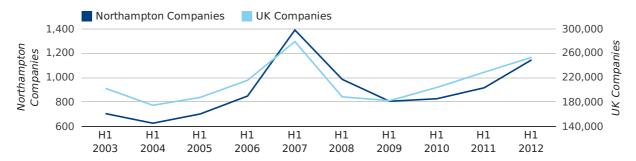
| new company registrations | |
|------------------------------|--|
| closed companies (dissolved) | |
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In the first half of 2012 a total of 1,145 companies were formed in Northampton. This figure is 25.0% higher than last year, which compares well to the UK wide figure of 10.7%.

The highest total for a first half year in Northampton occurred in 2007 when a total of 1,390 were formed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | NORTHAMPTON | UK |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 1,145 | 253,150 |
| 2011 | 916 | 228,735 |
| % CHANGE | 25.0% | 10.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (1,390) | 2007 (279,097) |

new companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

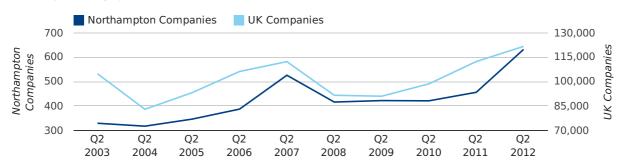
Q2 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Northampton when compared to any previous Q2.

A total of 632 companies were registered in Northampton during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 38.6% versus the same period last year (Q2 2011). This figure compares well 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) | NORTHAMPTON | UK |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 632 | 121,659 |
| 2011 | 456 | 112,344 |
| % CHANGE | 38.6% | 8.3% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2012 (632) | 2012 (121,659) |

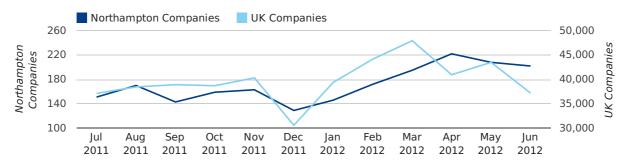
new companies by quarter



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

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

new companies by month



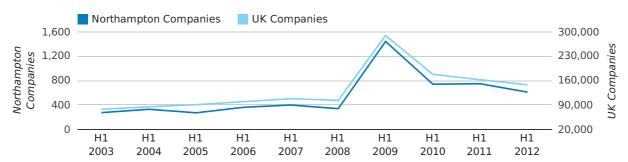
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2012 | 222 | 208 | 202 |
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2011 | 143 | 165 | 148 |
| % CHANGE | 55.2% | 26.1% | 36.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (242) | 2012 (208) | 2012 (202) |

In the first half of 2012 a total of 609 companies were dissolved in Northampton. This figure is 18.5% lower than last year, which compares well to the UK wide change of -8.9%.

The highest total for a first half year in Northampton occurred in 2009 when a total of 1,441 were closed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | NORTHAMPTON | UK |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 609 | 147,793 |
| 2011 | 747 | 162,310 |
| % CHANGE | -18.5% | -8.9% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (1,441) | 2009 (289,236) |

dissolved companies by half year



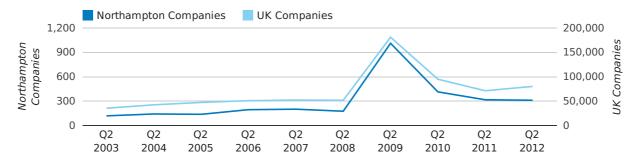
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

A total of 311 companies were dissolved in Northampton during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

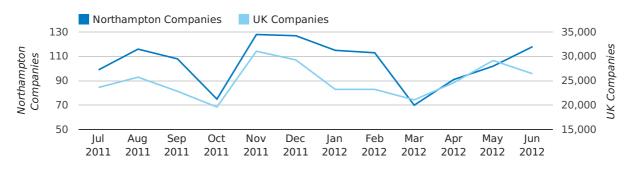
This figure is a decrease of 1.9% versus the same period last year (Q2 2011). This figure compares well to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 12.5% against the same period last year.

| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | NORTHAMPTON | UK |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 311 | 80,217 |
| 2011 | 317 | 71,324 |
| % CHANGE | -1.9% | 12.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (1,012) | 2009 (181,176) |

dissolved companies by quarter



dissolved companies by month

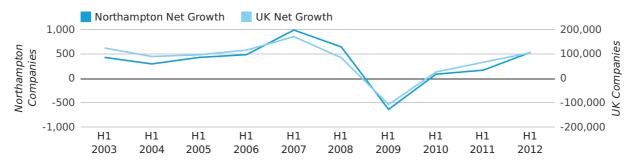


| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012 | 91 | 102 | 118 |
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011 | 55 | 129 | 133 |
| % CHANGE | 65.5% | -20.9% | -11% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (177) | 2009 (604) | 2009 (231) |

In the first half of 2012 the company register for Northampton increased by 536 companies. This figure is 217.2% higher than last year, which compares well to a UK increase of 58.6%.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | NORTHAMPTON | UK |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 536 | 105,357 |
| 2011 | 169 | 66,425 |
| % CHANGE | 217.2% | 58.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (992) | 2007 (171,296) |

net growth by half year



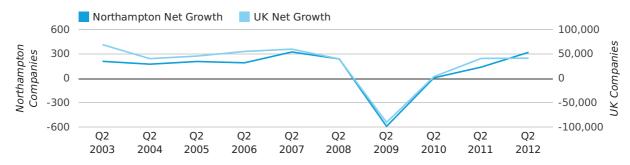
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

Net company growth for Northampton during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012) was 321 companies.

This represents an increase of 130.9% on the same period last year.

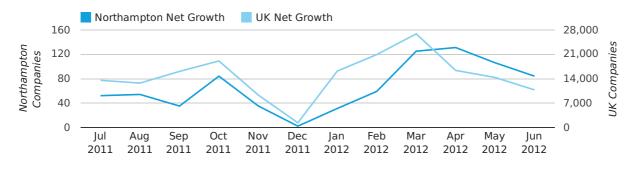
| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | NORTHAMPTON | UK |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2012 | 321 | 41,442 |
| 2011 | 139 | 41,020 |
| % CHANGE | 130.9% | 1.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (325) | 2003 (69,274) |

net growth by quarter



May 2012 saw a new record in net growth in Northampton when compared to any previous May.

net growth by month

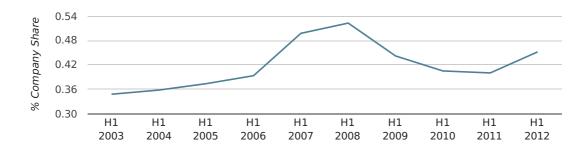


| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2012 | 131 | 106 | 84 |
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | 88 | 36 | 15 |
| % CHANGE | 48.9% | 194.4% | 460.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (190) | 2012 (106) | 2008 (107) |

In the first half of 2012 Northampton formed 0.5% of all UK companies. This is more than the 2011 figure of 0.4%.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | NORTHAMPTON |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2012 | 0.5% |
| 2011 | 0.4% |
| 2010 | 0.4% |
| 2009 | 0.4% |
| 2008 | 0.5% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1968 (0.6%) |

company share by half year

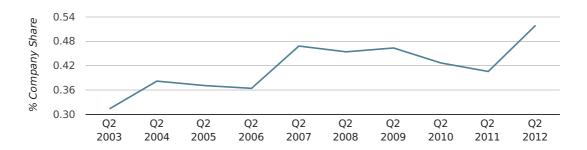


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

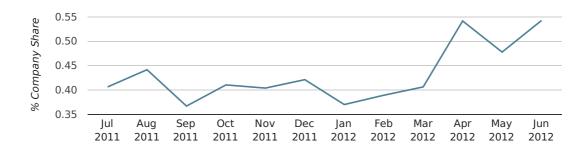
In the second quarter of 2012, Northampton formed 0.5% of all UK companies.

| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | NORTHAMPTON |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2012 | 0.5% |
| 2011 | 0.4% |
| 2010 | 0.4% |
| 2009 | 0.5% |
| 2008 | 0.5% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1965 (0.7%) |

company share by quarter



company share by month



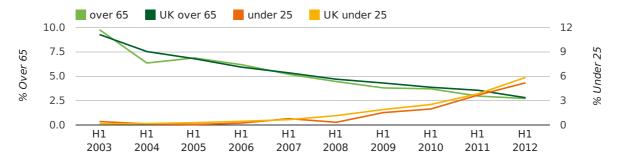
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012 | 0.5% | 0.5% | 0.5% |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| % CHANGE | 30.7% | 10.5% | 45.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 1978 (0.8%) | 1975 (0.8%) | 1965 (1.4%) |

The average age of a director in the first half of 2012 was 41.4.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 5.2% 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



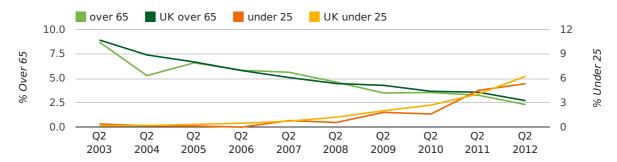
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the second quarter of 2012 was 41.4.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 5.4% compared to the UK figure of 5.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 2.3% compared to the UK figure of 3.3%.

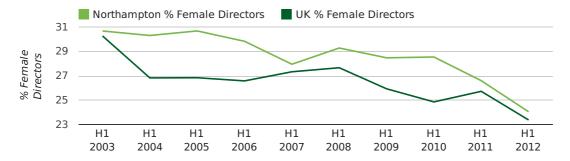
director age by quarter



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

24.1% of all director appointments in Northampton 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 Northampton was in 1866 when 66.7% of all directors were female.

23.6% of all director appointments in Northampton 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 | 1.87% | CONSULTING | 5.07% |
| MANAGEMENT | 1.12% | MANAGEMENT | 4.74% |
| CONSULTANCY | 0.92% | CONSULTANCY | 3.28% |
| TRANSPORT | 0.88% | PROPERTY | 2.35% |
| BUSINESS | 0.82% | TRADING | 2.10% |
| ASSOCIATES | 0.65% | DESIGN | 1.89% |
| PROPERTY | 0.61% | ENGINEERING | 1.87% |
| IT | 0.61% | ASSOCIATES | 1.82% |
| CARE | 0.61% | CONSULTANTS | 1.78% |
| NORTHAMPTON | 0.58% | CONSTRUCTION | 1.71% |
| TRAINING | 0.58% | BUSINESS | 1.70% |
| TRADING | 0.58% | MEDIA | 1.69% |
| FARM | 0.58% | LONDON | 1.68% |
| MEDIA | 0.54% | J | 1.57% |
| ELECTRICAL | 0.51% | GLOBAL | 1.51% |
| R | 0.48% | INVESTMENTS | 1.48% |
| (NORTHAMPTON) | 0.48% | IT | 1.42% |
| WIND | 0.48% | CARE | 1.31% |
| ENGINEERING | 0.44% | PROPERTIES | 1.31% |
| HOUSE | 0.41% | M | 1.26% |
| CONSTRUCTION | 0.41% | ELECTRICAL | 1.23% |
| EVENTS | 0.41% | BUILDING | 1.23% |
| DESIGN | 0.41% | SECURITY | 1.19% |
| EUROPE | 0.37% | S | 1.18% |
| INVESTMENTS | 0.37% | ENTERPRISES | 1.17% |

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Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

| SIC CODE | NUMBER OF COMPANIES | UK COMPANIES |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| None Supplied | 984 | 244,457 |
| 7487 - Other business activities | 170 | 47,029 |
| 99999 - Dormant Company | 112 | 26,088 |
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management | 111 | 20,390 |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified | 103 | 35,447 |
| 9999 - Dormant Company | 96 | 16,469 |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy | 61 | 10,978 |
| 62020 - Information technology consultancy activities | 56 | 15,280 |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified | 48 | 14,220 |
| 74990 - Non-trading company | 44 | 9,706 |
| 49410 - Freight transport by road | 43 | 2,912 |
| 74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified | 41 | 10,271 |
| 6024 - Freight transport by road | 35 | 1,933 |
| 7260 - Other computer related activities | 34 | 6,456 |
| 62090 - Other information technology service activities | 34 | 8,258 |
| 7499 - Non-trading company | 34 | 8,023 |
| 7222 - Other software consultancy and supply | 31 | 6,356 |
| 9305 - Other service activities | 30 | 7,926 |
| 86900 - Other human health activities | 29 | 5,222 |
| 45200 - Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles | 26 | 2,880 |
| | | |