Smethwick

2011 annual business confidence report



headlines

- 2011 was a record year for company registrations in Smethwick when compared to any year in history.
- The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Smethwick when compared to any previous second half year.
- The second half of 2011 was a record second half year for company registrations in Smethwick when compared to any half year in history.
- November 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Smethwick when compared to any previous November.

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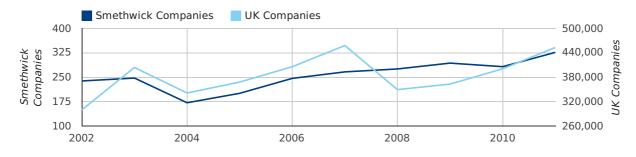
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2011 was a record year for company registrations in Smethwick when compared to any year in history.

A total of 326 companies were formed in Smethwick in 2011. This total is 15.6% higher than in 2010 and compares poorly to the UK figure of a 13.1% growth compared to 400,358 the previous year.

YEAR	SMETHWICK	UK
2011	326	452,870
2010	282	400,358
2009	293	362,675
2008	275	349,203
2007	266	457,649
RECORD YEAR	2011 (326)	2007 (457,649)

new companies by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Smethwick when compared to any previous second half year.

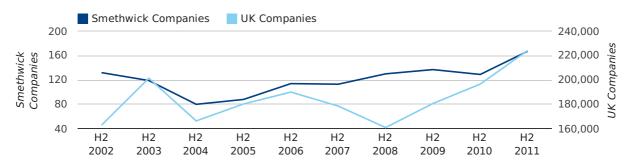
The second half of 2011 was a record second half year for company registrations in Smethwick when compared to any half year in history.

In the second half of 2011 a total of 167 companies were formed in Smethwick. This figure is 29.5% higher than last year, which compares well to the UK wide figure of 14.0%.

The highest total for a second half year in Smethwick occurred in 2011 when a total of 167 were formed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	SMETHWICK	UK
2011	167	224,135
2010	129	196,609
% CHANGE	29.5%	14.0%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (167)	2011 (224,135)

new companies by half year

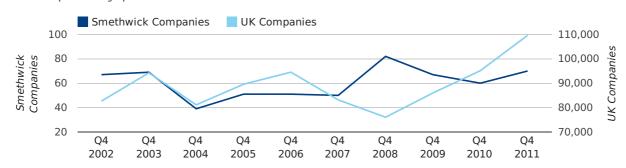


Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

A total of 70 companies were registered in Smethwick during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 16.7% versus the same period last year (Q4 2010). This figure compares equally to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 15.3% against the same period last year.

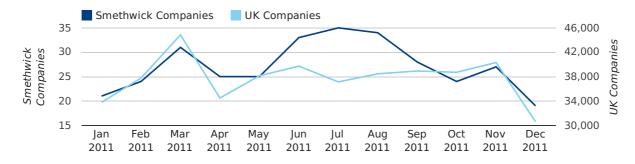
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	SMETHWICK	UK
2011	70	109,623
2010	60	95,117
% CHANGE	16.7%	15.3%
RECORD YEAR	2008 (82)	2011 (109,623)



new companies by guarter

Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

November 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Smethwick when compared to any previous November.



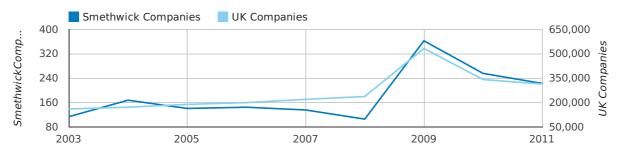
new companies by month

	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	24	27	19
NEW COMPANIES IN 2010	21	26	13
% CHANGE	14.3%	3.8%	46.2%
RECORD YEAR	2008 (35)	2011 (27)	2008 (22)

A total of 223 companies were dissolved in Smethwick in 2011. This total is 12.9% lower than in 2010 and compares unfavourably to the UK figure of 8.1% decrease compared to the previous year.

YEAR	SMETHWICK	UK
2011	223	314,523
2010	256	342,232
2009	363	533,773
2008	106	237,901
2007	136	220,295
RECORD YEAR	2009 (363)	2009 (533,773)

dissolved companies by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 a total of 100 companies were dissolved in Smethwick. This figure is 20.0% lower than last year, which compares well to the UK wide change of -7.5%.

The highest total for a second half year in Smethwick occurred in 2009 when a total of 186 were closed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	SMETHWICK	UK
2011	100	152,213
2010	125	164,601
% CHANGE	-20.0%	-7.5%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (186)	2009 (244,537)

dissolved companies by half year

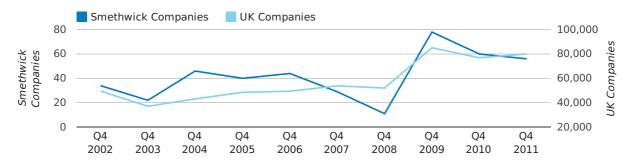


A total of 56 companies were dissolved in Smethwick during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is a decrease of 6.7% versus the same period last year (Q4 2010). This figure compares well to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 4.0% against the same period last year.

FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	SMETHWICK	UK
2011	56	79,983
2010	60	76,896
% CHANGE	-6.7%	4.0%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (78)	2009 (85,136)

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)



dissolved companies by month

	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	16	18	22
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010	21	30	9
% CHANGE	-23.8%	-40.0%	144%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (24)	2010 (30)	2009 (28)

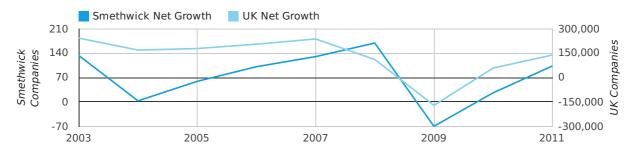
A total of 103 companies were added to the company register for Smethwick in 2011. This number represents growth of 36.5% which compares favourably to the UK figure of 34.6%.

This number is 77 companies higher than the previous year.

The highest net company growth figure ever seen in one year came in 2008 when the Smethwick company register grew by 169 companies.

YEAR	SMETHWICK	UK
2011	103	138,347
2010	26	58,126
2009	-70	-171,098
2008	169	111,302
2007	130	237,354
RECORD YEAR	2008 (169)	2003 (242,543)

net growth by year

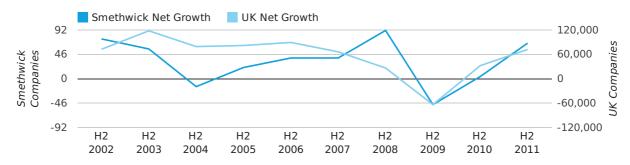


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 the company register for Smethwick increased by 67 companies. This figure is 1,575.0% higher than last year, which compares well to a UK increase of 124.7%.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	SMETHWICK	UK
2011	67	71,922
2010	4	32,008
% CHANGE	1,575.0%	124.7%
RECORD YEAR	2008 (91)	2003 (117,772)

net growth by half year

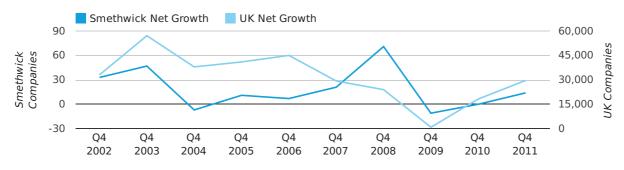


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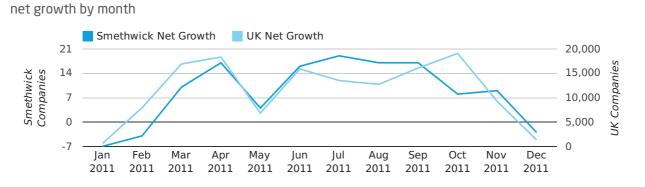
This represents an increase of 0.0% on the same period last year.

FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	SMETHWICK	UK
2011	14	29,640
2010	0	18,221
% CHANGE	0.0%	62.7%
RECORD YEAR	2008 (71)	2003 (57,175)

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)



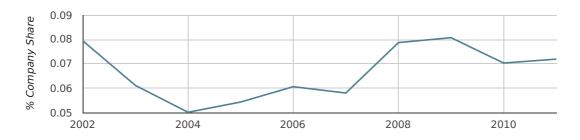
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	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NET GROWTH IN 2011	8	9	-3
NET GROWTH IN 2010	0	-4	4
% CHANGE	0.0%	-325.0%	-175.0%
RECORD YEAR	2003 (17)	2008 (24)	2003 (16)

In 2011 Smethwick formed 0.1% of all UK companies. This is no change on 2010 when Smethwick was responsible for 0.1% of all UK companies.

YEAR	SMETHWICK
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
2007	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1969 (0.1%)

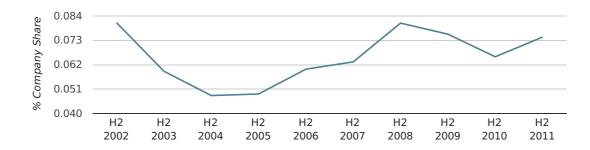
company share by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 Smethwick formed 0.1% of all UK companies. This is the same as the 2010 figure of 0.1%.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	SMETHWICK
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
2007	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1969 (0.2%)

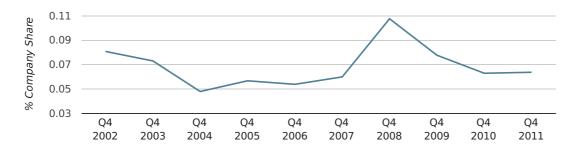


company share by half year

In the fourth quarter of 2011, Smethwick formed 0.1% of all UK companies.

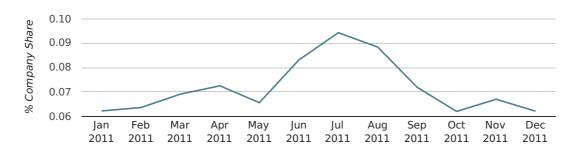
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	SMETHWICK
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
2007	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1962 (0.2%)





Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

company share by month



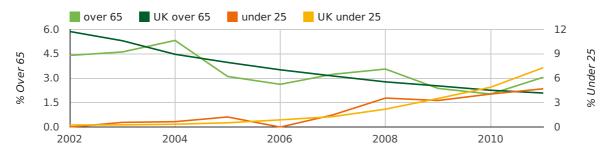
	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
% CHANGE	-0.6%	-11.5%	29.6%
RECORD YEAR	1975 (0.3%)	1962 (0.5%)	1965 (0.2%)

The average age of a director in 2011 was 40.5.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 4.7% compared to the UK figure of 3.7%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 3.1% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

director age by year

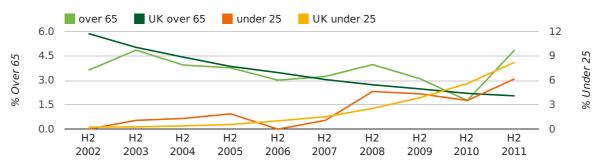


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the second half of 2011 was 41.3.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 6.2% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 4.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.



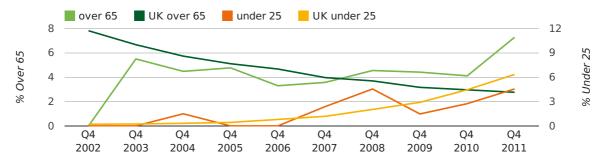
director age by half year

The average age of a director in the fourth quarter of 2011 was 42.6.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 4.5% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 7.3% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by quarter



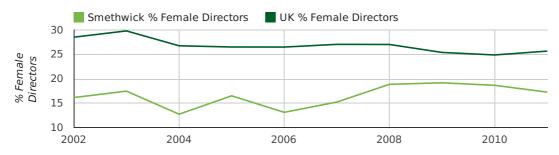
director gender

Annual Data (2011)

The record year for female directors in Smethwick was 1857 when 36.4% of all directors were female.

The percentage of female directors in Smethwick in 2011 was 16.2%. The average for the UK during this time was 28.6%

director gender by year

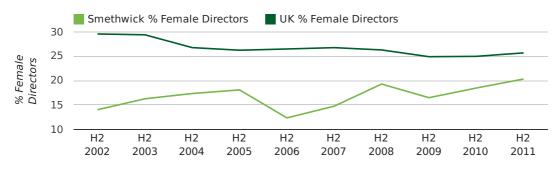


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The record second half year for female directors in Smethwick was 1860 when 42.9% of all directors were female.

20.3% of all director appointments in Smethwick in the second half of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.7% for the same period.

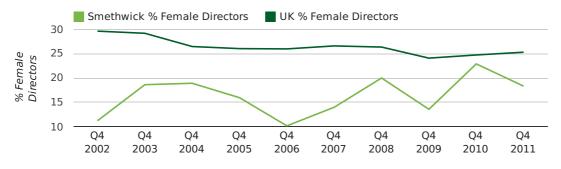
director gender by half year



The record fourth quarter for female directors in Smethwick was in 1977 when 31.1% of all directors were female.

18.3% of all director appointments in Smethwick in the fourth quarter of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.3% for the same period.

director gender by quarter



Previous 12 months (Dec 2010-Dec 2011)

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

WORD	PERCENTAGE	UK WORD	UK PERCENTAGE
PROPERTY	1.16%	CONSULTING	5.07%
CONSTRUCTION	0.99%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
TRANSPORT	0.83%	CONSULTANCY	3.26%
MANAGEMENT	0.83%	PROPERTY	2.37%
COMMUNITY	0.83%	TRADING	2.07%
CLAIM	0.66%	DESIGN	1.92%
SECURITY	0.66%	ASSOCIATES	1.86%
EXPRESS	0.66%	ENGINEERING	1.78%
2	0.66%	BUSINESS	1.78%
CARE	0.66%	CONSULTANTS	1.76%
AUTO	0.66%	CONSTRUCTION	1.73%
BACK	0.66%	MEDIA	1.71%
CAR	0.66%	LONDON	1.63%
D	0.66%	J	1.51%
CO	0.66%	INVESTMENTS	1.48%
J	0.66%	GLOBAL	1.46%
TRADING	0.66%	IT	1.41%
HOUSE	0.50%	CARE	1.39%
VICTORIA	0.50%	PROPERTIES	1.29%
BAR	0.50%	ELECTRICAL	1.29%
TRAINING	0.50%	М	1.27%
FITNESS	0.50%	BUILDING	1.26%
RTM	0.50%	ENERGY	1.25%
S	0.50%	S	1.20%
ACADEMY	0.50%	ENTERPRISES	1.20%



Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	238	205,525
7487 - Other business activities	31	57,052
5530 - Restaurants	10	5,013
9999 - Dormant Company	9	20,199
86900 - Other human health activities	8	4,457
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	8	32,483
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	7	11,768
5212 - Other retail non-specialised stores	7	1,088
7414 - Business & management consultancy	5	13,034
47110 - Retail sale in non-specialised stores with food, beverages or tobacco predominating	5	1,385
49410 - Freight transport by road	5	2,392
5540 - Bars	5	2,147
99999 - Dormant Company	5	21,846
68209 - Other letting and operating of own or leased real estate	4	4,082
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	4	12,072
7032 - Manage real estate, fee or contract	4	2,198
70100 - Activities of head offices	4	2,662
7260 - Other computer related activities	4	7,667
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	4	17,765
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	4	7,398