

Somerset

2012 half year business confidence report



headlines

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

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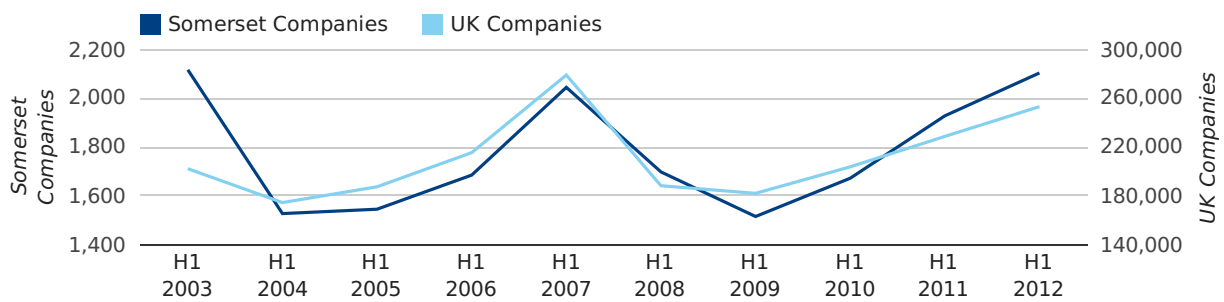
Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 a total of 2,104 companies were formed in Somerset. This figure is 9.1% higher than last year, which compares equally to the UK wide figure of 10.7%.

The highest total for a first half year in Somerset occurred in 2003 when a total of 2,117 were formed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | SOMERSET | UK |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 2,104 | 253,150 |
| 2011 | 1,928 | 228,735 |
| % CHANGE | 9.1% | 10.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2003 (2,117) | 2007 (279,097) |

new companies by half year



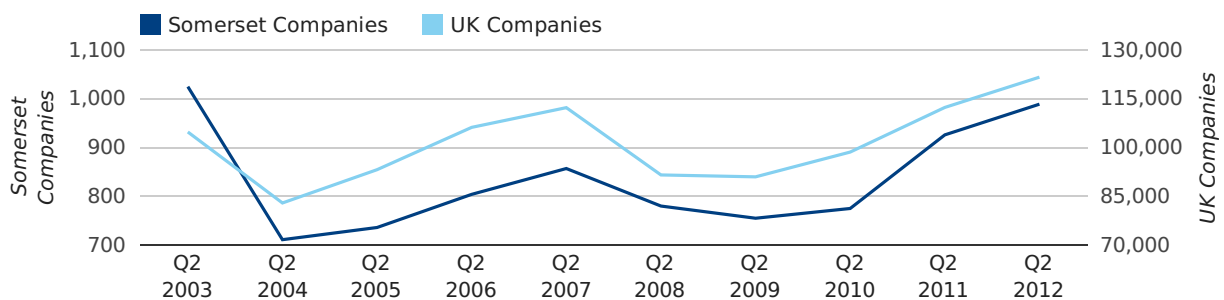
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

A total of 989 companies were registered in Somerset during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 6.8% 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) | SOMERSET | UK |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 989 | 121,659 |
| 2011 | 926 | 112,344 |
| % CHANGE | 6.8% | 8.3% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2003 (1,025) | 2012 (121,659) |

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

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

new companies by month



| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2012 | 360 | 358 | 271 |
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2011 | 305 | 334 | 287 |
| % CHANGE | 18.0% | 7.2% | -5.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2003 (366) | 2012 (358) | 2003 (307) |

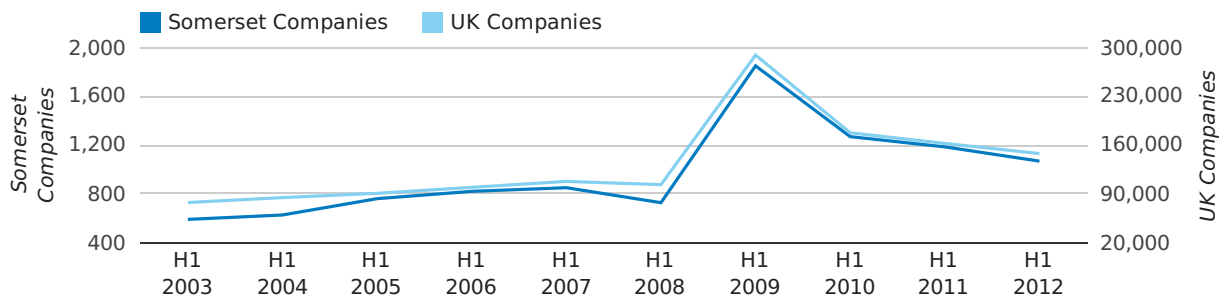
Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 a total of 1,068 companies were dissolved in Somerset. This figure is 9.9% lower than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide change of -8.9%.

The highest total for a first half year in Somerset occurred in 2009 when a total of 1,850 were closed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | SOMERSET | UK |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 1,068 | 147,793 |
| 2011 | 1,185 | 162,310 |
| % CHANGE | -9.9% | -8.9% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (1,850) | 2009 (289,236) |

dissolved companies by half year



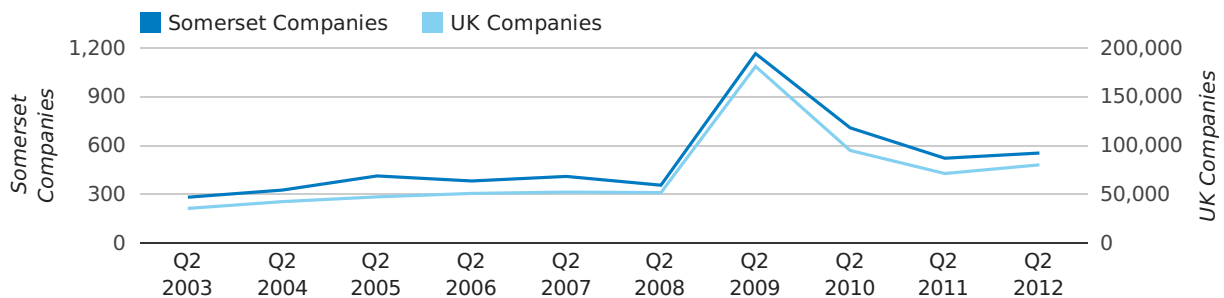
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

A total of 554 companies were dissolved in Somerset during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 6.1% 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) | SOMERSET | UK |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 554 | 80,217 |
| 2011 | 522 | 71,324 |
| % CHANGE | 6.1% | 12.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (1,166) | 2009 (181,176) |

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

dissolved companies by month



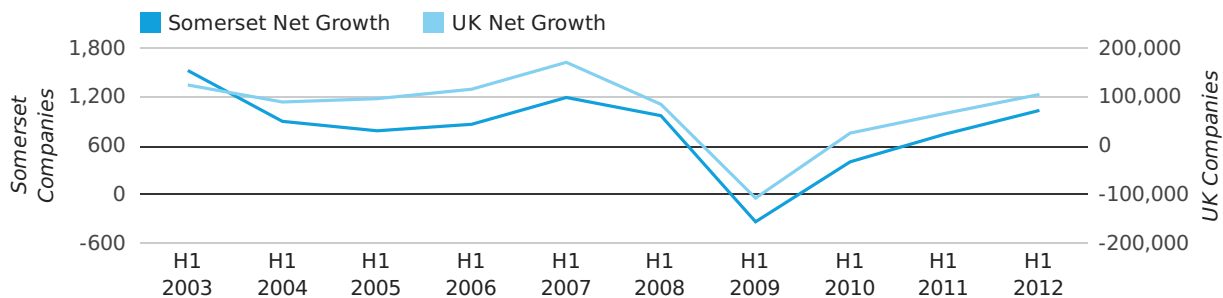
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2012 | 162 | 210 | 182 |
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011 | 105 | 250 | 167 |
| % CHANGE | 54.3% | -16.0% | 9% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (297) | 2009 (549) | 2009 (320) |

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 the company register for Somerset increased by 1,036 companies. This figure is 39.4% higher than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 58.6%.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | SOMERSET | UK |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 1,036 | 105,357 |
| 2011 | 743 | 66,425 |
| % CHANGE | 39.4% | 58.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2003 (1,527) | 2007 (171,296) |

net growth by half year



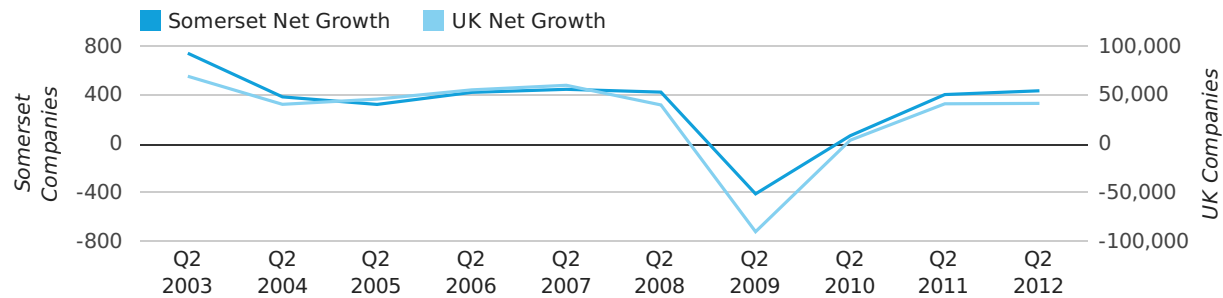
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

Net company growth for Somerset during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012) was 435 companies.

This represents an increase of 7.7% on the same period last year.

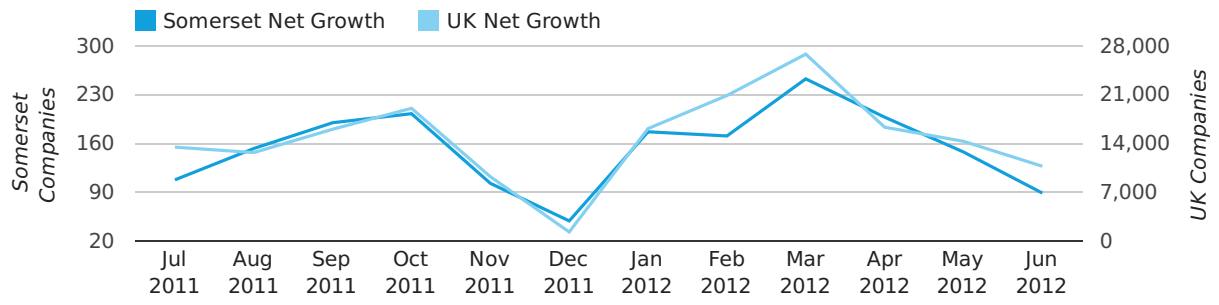
| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | SOMERSET | UK |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 2012 | 435 | 41,442 |
| 2011 | 404 | 41,020 |
| % CHANGE | 7.7% | 1.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2003 (743) | 2003 (69,274) |

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

net growth by month



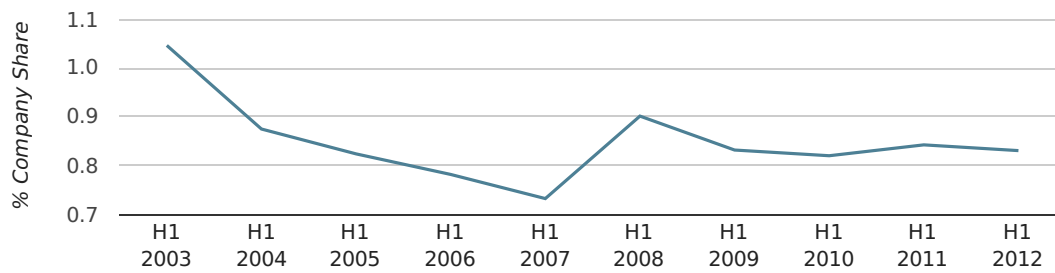
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2012 | 198 | 148 | 89 |
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | 200 | 84 | 120 |
| % CHANGE | -1.0% | 76.2% | -25.8% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2003 (274) | 2003 (268) | 2008 (212) |

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 Somerset formed 0.8% of all UK companies. This is the same as the 2011 figure of 0.8%.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | SOMERSET |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2012 | 0.8% |
| 2011 | 0.8% |
| 2010 | 0.8% |
| 2009 | 0.8% |
| 2008 | 0.9% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1981 (1.4%) |

company share by half year

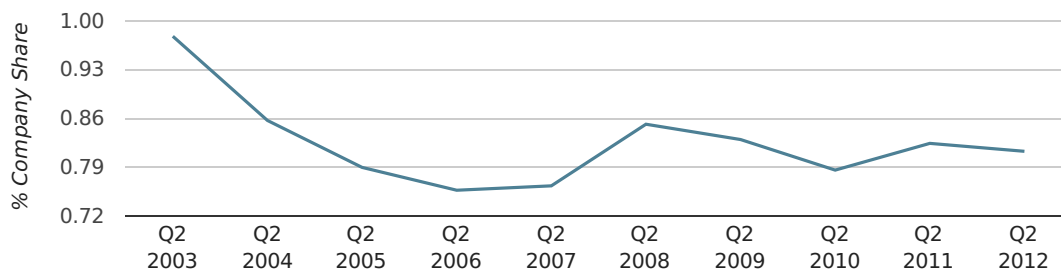


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

In the second quarter of 2012, Somerset formed 0.8% of all UK companies.

| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | SOMERSET |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2012 | 0.8% |
| 2011 | 0.8% |
| 2010 | 0.8% |
| 2009 | 0.8% |
| 2008 | 0.9% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1981 (1.3%) |

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

company share by month



| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012 | 0.9% | 0.8% | 0.7% |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 0.9% | 0.9% | 0.7% |
| % CHANGE | -0.6% | -6.1% | 0.8% |
| RECORD YEAR | 1970 (1.6%) | 1980 (1.3%) | 1976 (1.6%) |

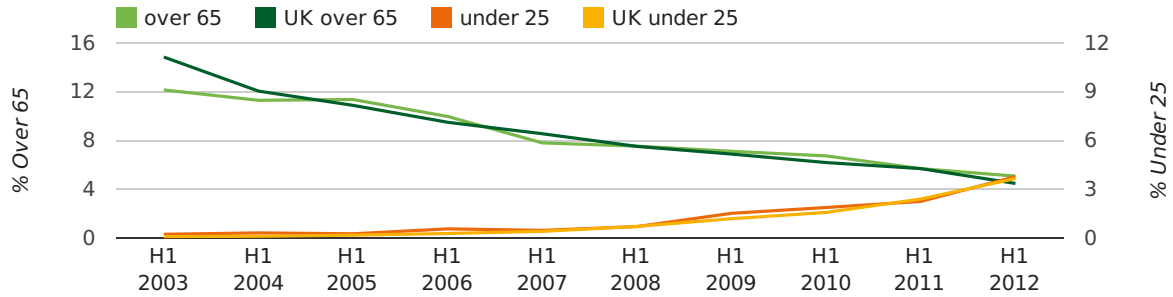
Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the first half of 2012 was 45.5.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 3.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.9%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 5.1% compared to the UK figure of 3.4%.

director age by half year



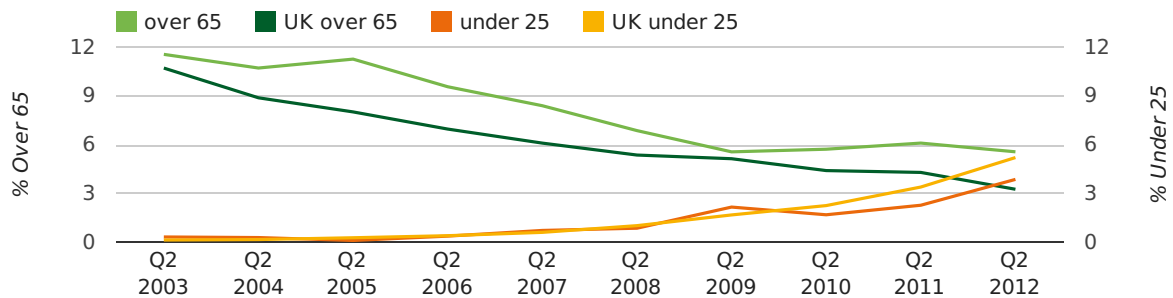
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the second quarter of 2012 was 45.6.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 3.9% compared to the UK figure of 5.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 5.6% compared to the UK figure of 3.3%.

director age by quarter

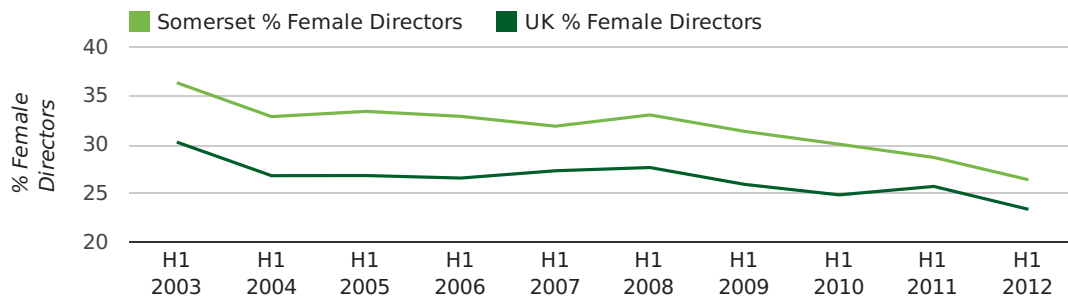


Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

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

26.4% of all director appointments in Somerset 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 |
|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| MANAGEMENT | 2.07% | CONSULTING | 5.07% |
| CONSULTING | 1.65% | MANAGEMENT | 4.74% |
| CONSULTANCY | 1.21% | CONSULTANCY | 3.28% |
| WEST | 0.86% | PROPERTY | 2.35% |
| ENGINEERING | 0.82% | TRADING | 2.10% |
| HOUSE | 0.82% | DESIGN | 1.89% |
| BATH | 0.82% | ENGINEERING | 1.87% |
| SOMERSET | 0.78% | ASSOCIATES | 1.82% |
| J | 0.76% | CONSULTANTS | 1.78% |
| ASSOCIATES | 0.74% | CONSTRUCTION | 1.71% |
| PROPERTY | 0.74% | BUSINESS | 1.70% |
| TRAINING | 0.66% | MEDIA | 1.69% |
| SOUTH | 0.66% | LONDON | 1.68% |
| DESIGN | 0.64% | J | 1.57% |
| ELECTRICAL | 0.62% | GLOBAL | 1.51% |
| CONSTRUCTION | 0.62% | INVESTMENTS | 1.48% |
| BUSINESS | 0.62% | IT | 1.42% |
| ENTERPRISES | 0.60% | CARE | 1.31% |
| (SOUTH | 0.58% | PROPERTIES | 1.31% |
| MEDIA | 0.58% | M | 1.26% |
| WEST) | 0.56% | ELECTRICAL | 1.23% |
| CENTRE | 0.52% | BUILDING | 1.23% |
| CONSULTANTS | 0.52% | SECURITY | 1.19% |
| SYSTEMS | 0.52% | S | 1.18% |
| FARM | 0.50% | ENTERPRISES | 1.17% |

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

| SIC CODE | NUMBER OF COMPANIES | UK COMPANIES |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| None Supplied | 1,510 | 244,457 |
| 7487 - Other business activities | 319 | 47,029 |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified | 219 | 35,447 |
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management | 215 | 20,390 |
| 99999 - Dormant Company | 189 | 26,088 |
| 9999 - Dormant Company | 116 | 16,469 |
| 74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified | 114 | 10,271 |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy | 111 | 10,978 |
| 62020 - Information technology consultancy activities | 108 | 15,280 |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified | 91 | 14,220 |
| 41100 - Development of building projects | 72 | 5,149 |
| 74990 - Non-trading company | 64 | 9,706 |
| 62090 - Other information technology service activities | 62 | 8,258 |
| 9305 - Other service activities | 61 | 7,926 |
| 68209 - Other letting and operating of own or leased real estate | 60 | 4,535 |
| 7222 - Other software consultancy and supply | 60 | 6,356 |
| 69201 - Accounting and auditing activities | 53 | 4,295 |
| 43999 - Other specialised construction activities not elsewhere classified | 51 | 4,091 |
| 7499 - Non-trading company | 50 | 8,023 |
| 68320 - Management of real estate on a fee or contract basis | 48 | 3,365 |