St Albans

2012 half year business confidence report



headlines

- May 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in St Albans when compared to any previous May.
- June 2012 saw a new record in company closures in St Albans when compared to any previous June.

contents

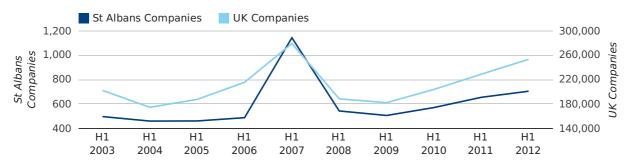
| new company registrations |
|------------------------------|
| closed companies (dissolved) |
| net company growth |
| uk company share |
| director age |
| director gender |
| naming trends |
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In the first half of 2012 a total of 704 companies were formed in St Albans. This figure is 7.6% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide figure of 10.7%.

The highest total for a first half year in St Albans occurred in 2007 when a total of 1,143 were formed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | ST ALBANS | UK |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 704 | 253,150 |
| 2011 | 654 | 228,735 |
| % CHANGE | 7.6% | 10.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (1,143) | 2007 (279,097) |

new companies by half year

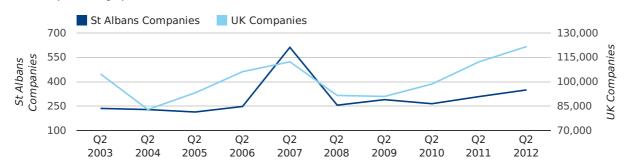


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

A total of 350 companies were registered in St Albans during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 13.3% 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) | ST ALBANS | UK |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 350 | 121,659 |
| 2011 | 309 | 112,344 |
| % CHANGE | 13.3% | 8.3% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (612) | 2012 (121,659) |



new companies by quarter

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

30.1%

2007 (406)



43.8%

2012 (128)

-20.5%

2011 (127)

new companies by month

% CHANGE

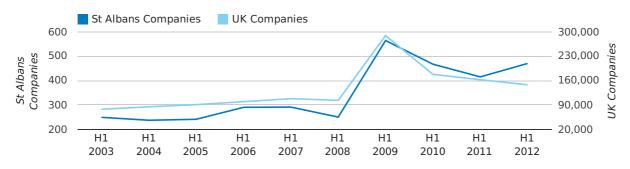
RECORD YEAR

In the first half of 2012 a total of 470 companies were dissolved in St Albans. This figure is 13.3% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide change of -8.9%.

The highest total for a first half year in St Albans occurred in 2009 when a total of 564 were closed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | ST ALBANS | UK |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 470 | 147,793 |
| 2011 | 415 | 162,310 |
| % CHANGE | 13.3% | -8.9% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (564) | 2009 (289,236) |

dissolved companies by half year



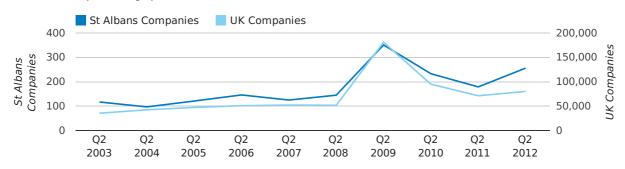
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

A total of 256 companies were dissolved in St Albans during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

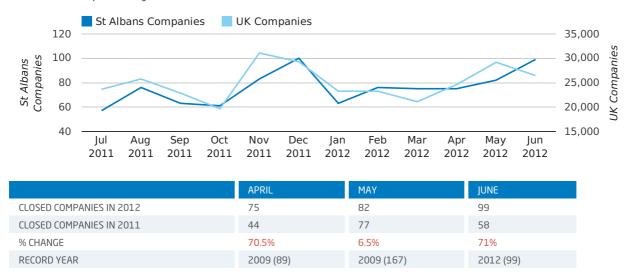
This figure is an increase of 43.0% versus the same period last year (Q2 2011). This figure compares poorly to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 12.5% against the same period last year.

| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | ST ALBANS | UK |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 256 | 80,217 |
| 2011 | 179 | 71,324 |
| % CHANGE | 43.0% | 12.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (351) | 2009 (181,176) |

dissolved companies by quarter



June 2012 saw a new record in company closures in St Albans when compared to any previous June.



dissolved companies by month

net growth by half year

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2012)

In the first half of 2012 the company register for St Albans increased by 234 companies. This figure is 2.1% lower than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 58.6%.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | ST ALBANS | UK |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 234 | 105,357 |
| 2011 | 239 | 66,425 |
| % CHANGE | -2.1% | 58.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (852) | 2007 (171,296) |

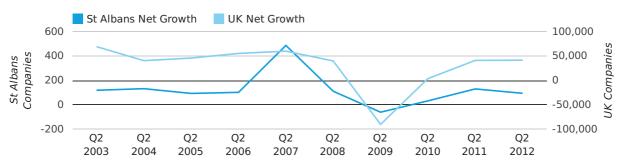
St Albans Net Growth UK Net Growth 900 200,000 UK Companies St Albans Companies 100,000 600 300 0 0 -100,000 -300 -200,000 Η1 2003 2010 2012 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2011

Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

Net company growth for St Albans during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012) was 94 companies.

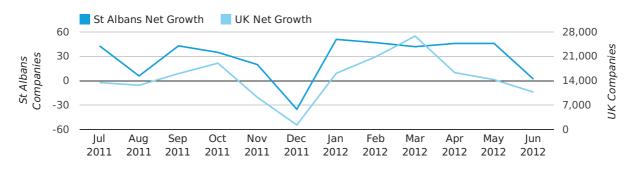
This represents a decrease of 27.7% on the same period last year.

| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | ST ALBANS | UK |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 2012 | 94 | 41,442 |
| 2011 | 130 | 41,020 |
| % CHANGE | -27.7% | 1.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (487) | 2003 (69,274) |



net growth by quarter

Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)



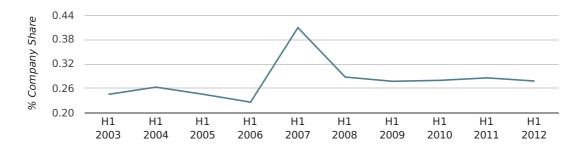
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2012 | 46 | 46 | 2 |
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | 49 | 12 | 69 |
| % CHANGE | -6.1% | 283.3% | -97.1% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (370) | 2003 (50) | 2007 (72) |

net growth by month

In the first half of 2012 St Albans formed 0.3% of all UK companies. This is the same as the 2011 figure of 0.3%.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | ST ALBANS |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2012 | 0.3% |
| 2011 | 0.3% |
| 2010 | 0.3% |
| 2009 | 0.3% |
| 2008 | 0.3% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1967 (0.7%) |

company share by half year

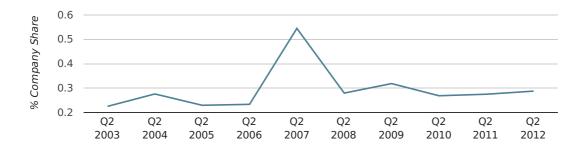


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

In the second quarter of 2012, St Albans formed 0.3% of all UK companies.

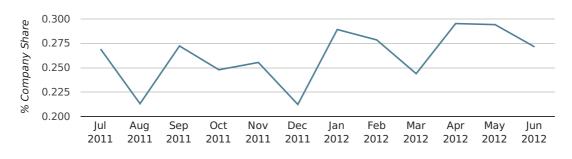
| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | ST ALBANS |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2012 | 0.3% |
| 2011 | 0.3% |
| 2010 | 0.3% |
| 2009 | 0.3% |
| 2008 | 0.3% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1967 (0.8%) |

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

company share by month



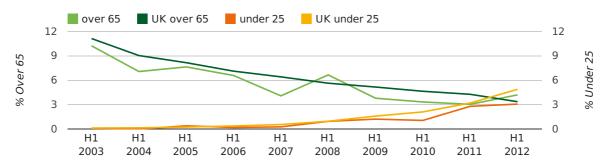
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012 | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.3% |
| % CHANGE | 9.5% | 26.1% | -15.1% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (1.0%) | 1967 (0.8%) | 1967 (1.1%) |

The average age of a director in the first half of 2012 was 43.6.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 3.1% compared to the UK figure of 4.9%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 4.2% compared to the UK figure of 3.4%.

director age by half year



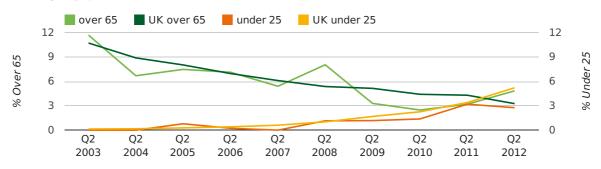
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the second quarter of 2012 was 43.7.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.8% compared to the UK figure of 5.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 4.8% compared to the UK figure of 3.3%.

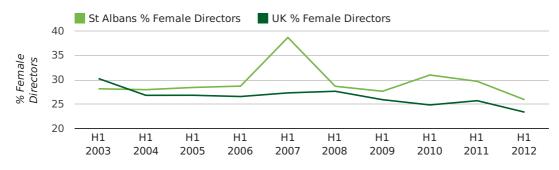
director age by quarter



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

25.9% of all director appointments in St Albans 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 St Albans was in 1866 when 66.7% of all directors were female.

25.8% of all director appointments in St Albans 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 | 2.75% | CONSULTING | 5.07% |
| MEDICAL | 1.90% | MANAGEMENT | 4.74% |
| CONSULTANCY | 1.32% | CONSULTANCY | 3.28% |
| ASSOCIATES | 1.00% | PROPERTY | 2.35% |
| PROPERTY | 0.85% | TRADING | 2.10% |
| MANAGEMENT | 0.85% | DESIGN | 1.89% |
| CONSTRUCTION | 0.74% | ENGINEERING | 1.87% |
| J | 0.74% | ASSOCIATES | 1.82% |
| DESIGN | 0.69% | CONSULTANTS | 1.78% |
| CONSULTANTS | 0.69% | CONSTRUCTION | 1.71% |
| М | 0.53% | BUSINESS | 1.70% |
| RECRUITMENT | 0.53% | MEDIA | 1.69% |
| MEDIA | 0.53% | LONDON | 1.68% |
| LONDON | 0.53% | J | 1.57% |
| ENTERPRISES | 0.53% | GLOBAL | 1.51% |
| S | 0.42% | INVESTMENTS | 1.48% |
| IT | 0.42% | IT | 1.42% |
| EVENTS | 0.42% | CARE | 1.31% |
| К | 0.42% | PROPERTIES | 1.31% |
| MARKETING | 0.42% | М | 1.26% |
| CENTRE | 0.42% | ELECTRICAL | 1.23% |
| PROPERTIES | 0.37% | BUILDING | 1.23% |
| INVESTMENTS | 0.37% | SECURITY | 1.19% |
| FINANCIAL | 0.37% | S | 1.18% |
| PARTNERS | 0.37% | ENTERPRISES | 1.17% |



Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

| SIC CODE | NUMBER OF COMPANIES | UK COMPANIES |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| None Supplied | 520 | 244,457 |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified | 157 | 35,447 |
| 7487 - Other business activities | 133 | 47,029 |
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management | 108 | 20,390 |
| 86101 - Hospital activities | 93 | 1,455 |
| 99999 - Dormant Company | 76 | 26,088 |
| 62020 - Information technology consultancy activities | 61 | 15,280 |
| 74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified | 57 | 10,271 |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy | 53 | 10,978 |
| 8511 - Hospital activities | 46 | 833 |
| 7222 - Other software consultancy and supply | 31 | 6,356 |
| 9999 - Dormant Company | 29 | 16,469 |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified | 29 | 14,220 |
| 62090 - Other information technology service activities | 27 | 8,258 |
| 4521 - General construction & civil engineering | 24 | 4,644 |
| 7260 - Other computer related activities | 20 | 6,456 |
| 41100 - Development of building projects | 19 | 5,149 |
| 43210 - Electrical installation | 19 | 3,557 |
| 59113 - Television programme production activities | 19 | 1,104 |
| 7499 - Non-trading company | 18 | 8,023 |