

St Helens

2011 half year business confidence report



headlines

- June 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in St Helens when compared to any previous June.
- June 2011 saw a new record in net growth in St Helens when compared to any previous June.

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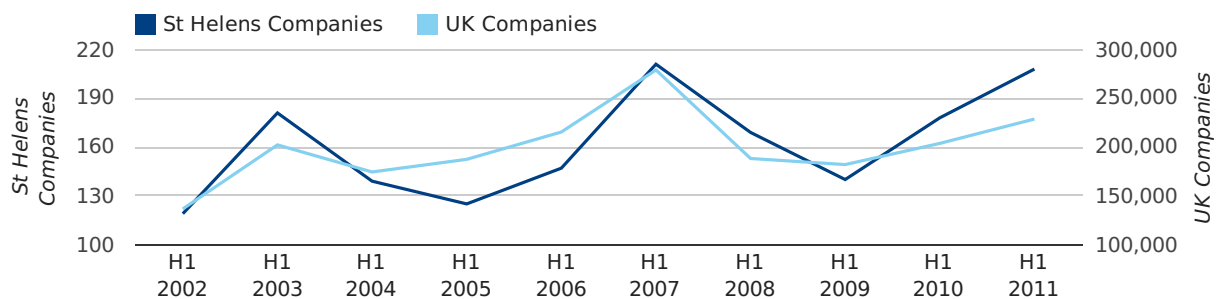
Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2011)

In the first half of 2011 a total of 208 companies were formed in St Helens. This figure is 16.9% higher than last year, which compares well to the UK wide figure of 12.3%.

The highest total for a first half year in St Helens occurred in 2007 when a total of 211 were formed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | ST HELENS | UK |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 208 | 228,735 |
| 2010 | 178 | 203,749 |
| % CHANGE | 16.9% | 12.3% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (211) | 2007 (279,097) |

new companies by half year



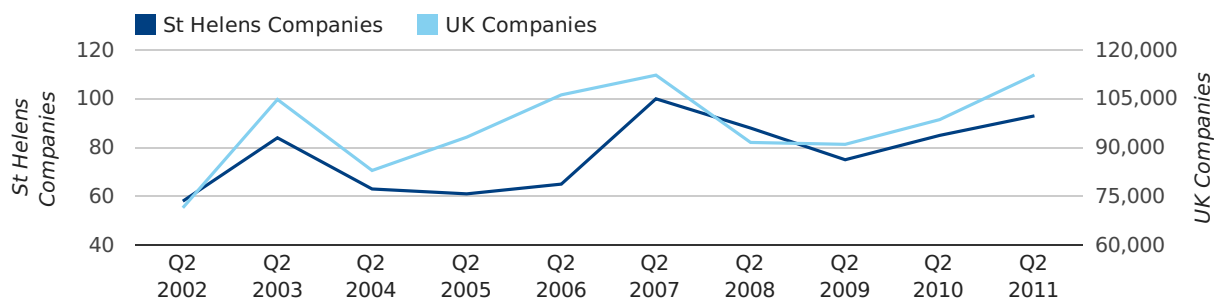
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2011)

A total of 93 companies were registered in St Helens during the second quarter of 2011 (Apr 2011 - Jun 2011).

This figure is an increase of 9.4% versus the same period last year (Q2 2010). This figure compares equally to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 13.9% against the same period last year.

| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2011 - JUN 2011) | ST HELENS | UK |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 93 | 112,344 |
| 2010 | 85 | 98,612 |
| % CHANGE | 9.4% | 13.9% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (100) | 2011 (112,344) |

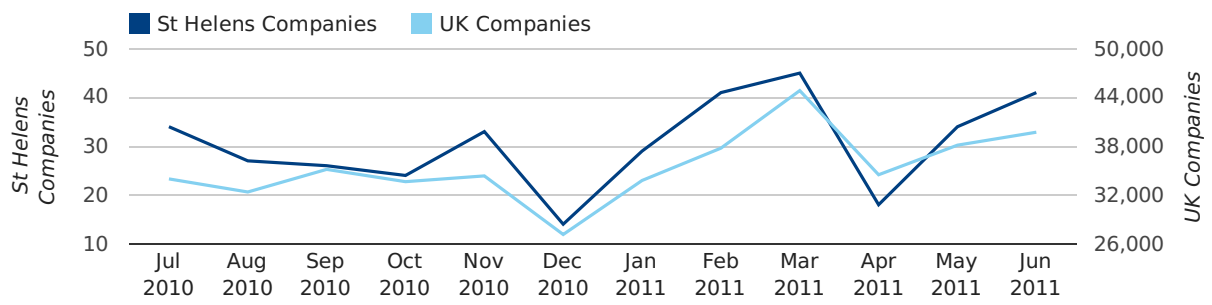
new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2011)

June 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in St Helens when compared to any previous June.

new companies by month



| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2011 | 18 | 34 | 41 |
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2010 | 33 | 22 | 30 |
| % CHANGE | -45.5% | 54.5% | 36.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (43) | 2011 (34) | 2011 (41) |

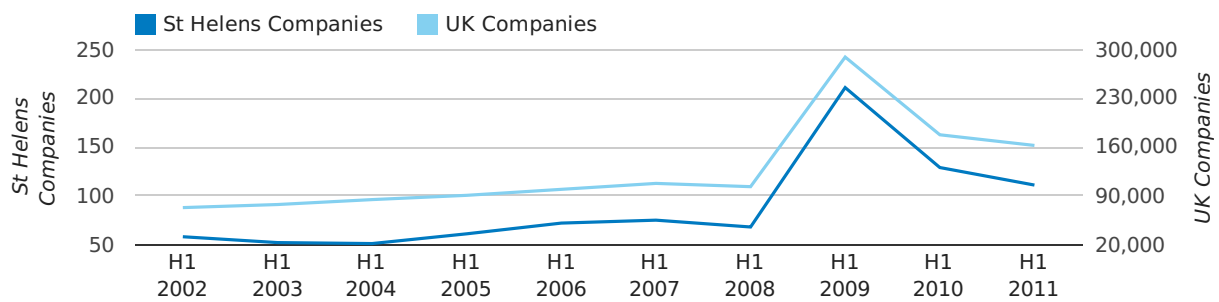
Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2011)

In the first half of 2011 a total of 111 companies were dissolved in St Helens. This figure is 14.0% lower than last year, which compares well to the UK wide change of -8.6%.

The highest total for a first half year in St Helens occurred in 2009 when a total of 211 were closed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | ST HELENS | UK |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 111 | 162,310 |
| 2010 | 129 | 177,631 |
| % CHANGE | -14.0% | -8.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (211) | 2009 (289,236) |

dissolved companies by half year



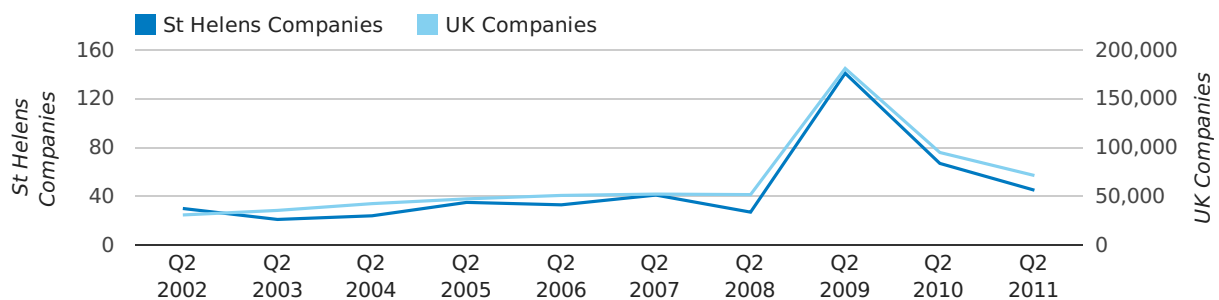
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2011)

A total of 45 companies were dissolved in St Helens during the second quarter of 2011 (Apr 2011 - Jun 2011).

This figure is a decrease of 32.8% versus the same period last year (Q2 2010). This figure compares well to the UK as a whole, which saw a decrease of 24.9% against the same period last year.

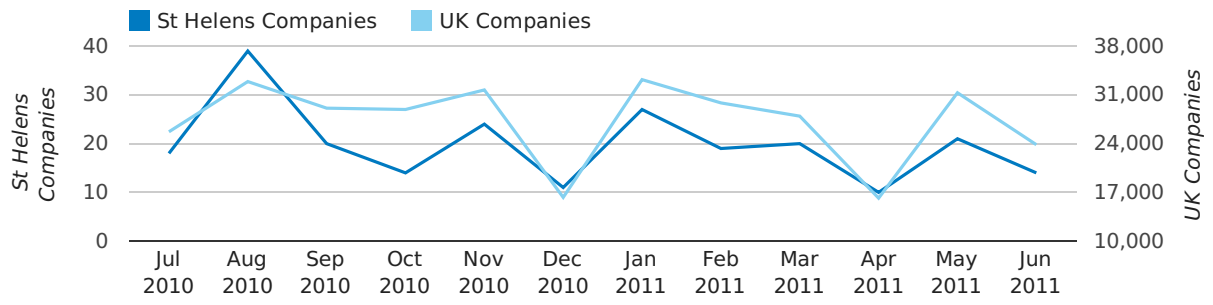
| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2011 - JUN 2011) | ST HELENS | UK |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 45 | 71,324 |
| 2010 | 67 | 94,954 |
| % CHANGE | -32.8% | -24.9% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (141) | 2009 (181,176) |

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2011)

dissolved companies by month



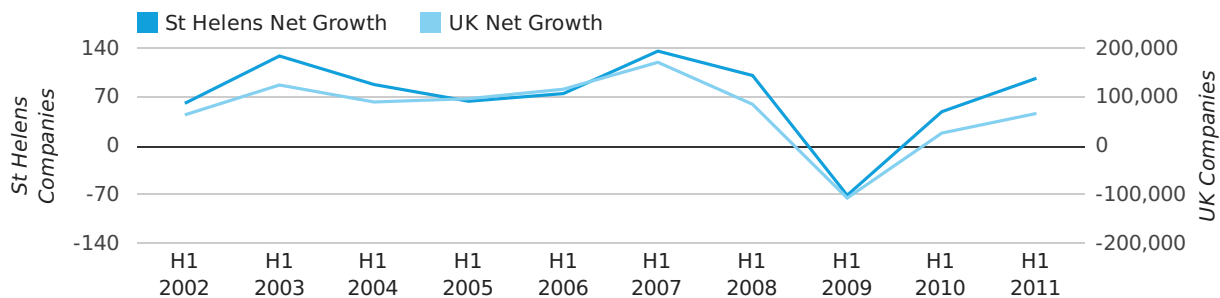
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011 | 10 | 21 | 14 |
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010 | 9 | 32 | 26 |
| % CHANGE | 11.1% | -34.4% | -46% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (39) | 2009 (51) | 2009 (51) |

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2011)

In the first half of 2011 the company register for St Helens increased by 97 companies. This figure is 98.0% higher than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 154.3%.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | ST HELENS | UK |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 97 | 66,425 |
| 2010 | 49 | 26,118 |
| % CHANGE | 98.0% | 154.3% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (136) | 2007 (171,296) |

net growth by half year



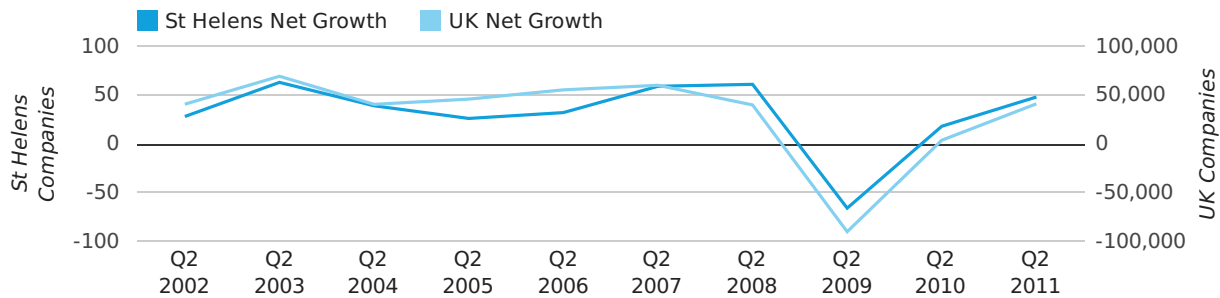
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2011)

Net company growth for St Helens during the second quarter of 2011 (Apr 2011 - Jun 2011) was 48 companies.

This represents an increase of 166.7% on the same period last year.

| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2011 - JUN 2011) | ST HELENS | UK |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 2011 | 48 | 41,020 |
| 2010 | 18 | 3,658 |
| % CHANGE | 166.7% | 1,021.4% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2003 (63) | 2003 (69,274) |

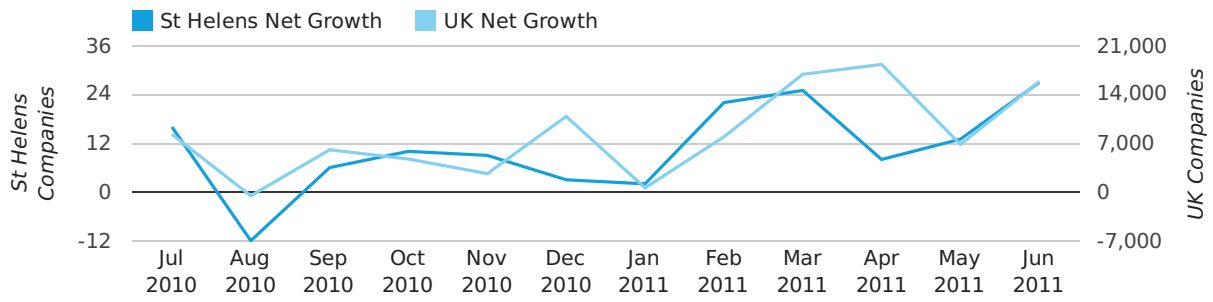
net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2011)

June 2011 saw a new record in net growth in St Helens when compared to any previous June.

net growth by month



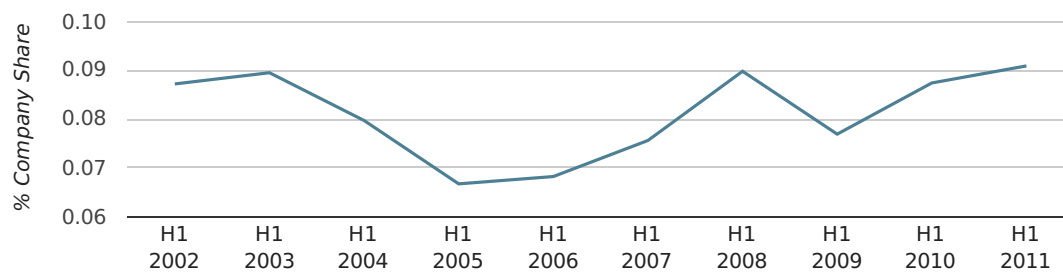
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | 8 | 13 | 27 |
| NET GROWTH IN 2010 | 24 | -10 | 4 |
| % CHANGE | -66.7% | -230.0% | 575.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (38) | 2003 (26) | 2011 (27) |

Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2011)

In the first half of 2011 St Helens formed 0.1% of all UK companies. This is the same as the 2010 figure of 0.1%.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | ST HELENS |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2011 | 0.1% |
| 2010 | 0.1% |
| 2009 | 0.1% |
| 2008 | 0.1% |
| 2007 | 0.1% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1976 (0.3%) |

company share by half year

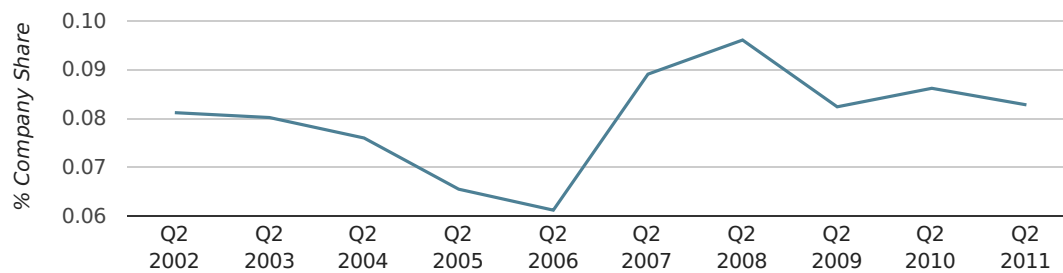


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2011)

In the second quarter of 2011, St Helens formed 0.1% of all UK companies.

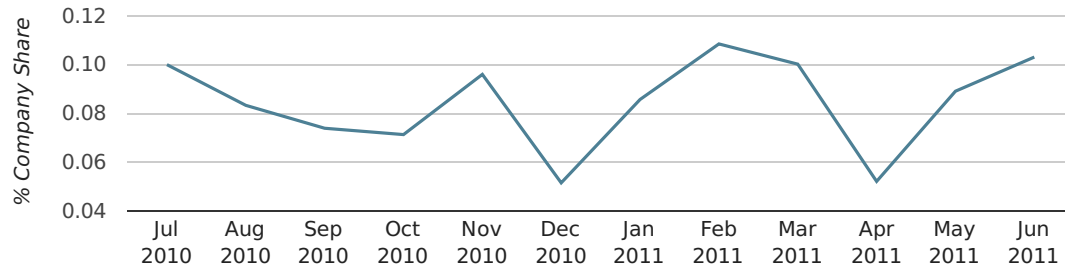
| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2011 - JUN 2011) | ST HELENS |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2011 | 0.1% |
| 2010 | 0.1% |
| 2009 | 0.1% |
| 2008 | 0.1% |
| 2007 | 0.1% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1976 (0.4%) |

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2011)

company share by month



| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| % CHANGE | -47.2% | 21.7% | 21.1% |
| RECORD YEAR | 1961 (0.3%) | 1964 (0.4%) | 1976 (0.6%) |

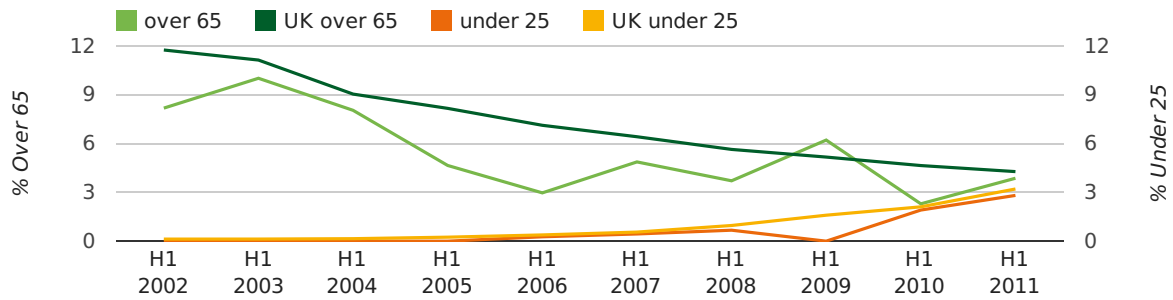
Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2011)

The average age of a director in the first half of 2011 was 43.8.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.8% compared to the UK figure of 3.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 3.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.3%.

director age by half year



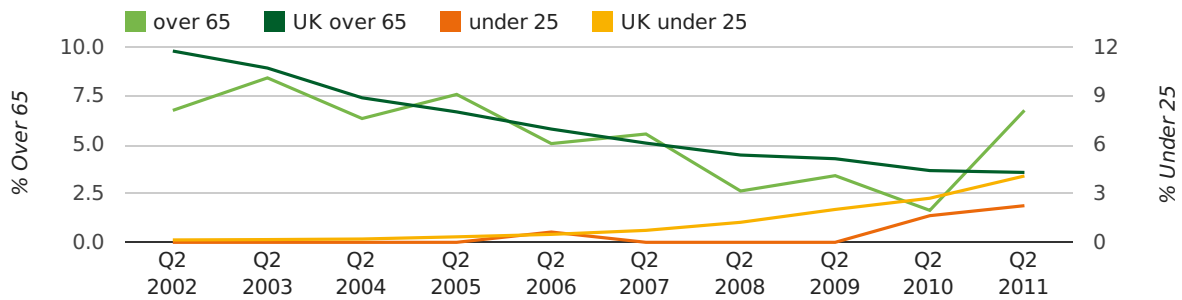
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2011)

The average age of a director in the second quarter of 2011 was 46.8.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.3% compared to the UK figure of 3.4%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 6.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.3%.

director age by quarter

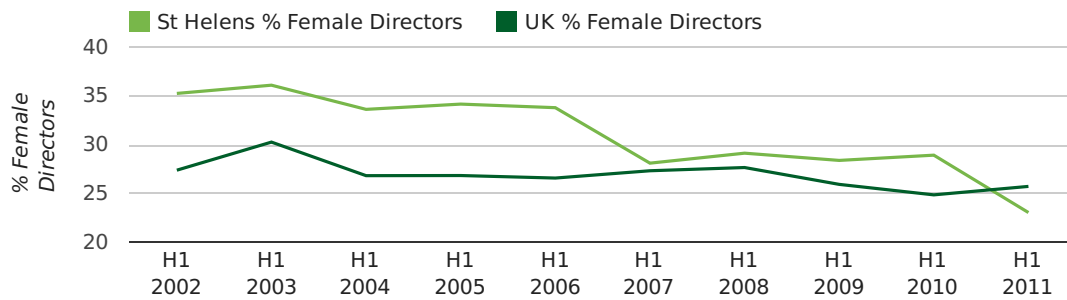


Half Year Data (Jan-Jun 2011)

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

23.1% of all director appointments in St Helens in the first half of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.7% for the same period.

director gender by half year

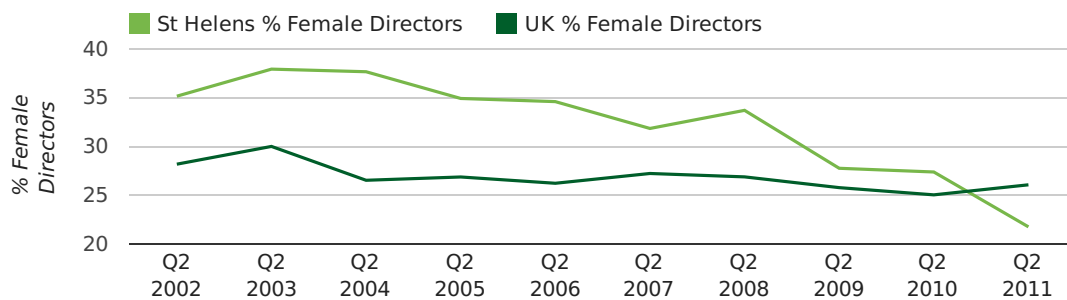


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2011)

The record second quarter for female directors in St Helens was in 1866 when 66.7% of all directors were female.

21.8% of all director appointments in St Helens in the second quarter of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 26.1% for the same period.

director gender by quarter



Previous 12 months (Jun 2010-Jun 2011)

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

| WORD | PERCENTAGE | UK WORD | UK PERCENTAGE |
|-------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| SYSTEMS | 1.18% | CONSULTING | 5.09% |
| CONSULTANCY | 1.18% | MANAGEMENT | 4.86% |
| CONSULTANTS | 1.03% | CONSULTANCY | 3.17% |
| S | 1.03% | PROPERTY | 2.43% |
| J | 0.88% | TRADING | 2.05% |
| NORTH | 0.88% | DESIGN | 1.94% |
| L | 0.88% | ASSOCIATES | 1.92% |
| P | 0.74% | BUSINESS | 1.87% |
| PROPERTY | 0.74% | CONSTRUCTION | 1.77% |
| WEST | 0.74% | CONSULTANTS | 1.76% |
| BUSINESS | 0.74% | MEDIA | 1.73% |
| MANAGEMENT | 0.74% | ENGINEERING | 1.67% |
| (NW) | 0.74% | LONDON | 1.60% |
| SECURITY | 0.59% | GLOBAL | 1.46% |
| D | 0.59% | J | 1.44% |
| R | 0.59% | CARE | 1.44% |
| BOLD | 0.59% | INVESTMENTS | 1.42% |
| ELECTRICAL | 0.59% | IT | 1.39% |
| LEISURE | 0.59% | BUILDING | 1.32% |
| ENTERPRISES | 0.59% | PROPERTIES | 1.31% |
| ENGINEERING | 0.59% | ELECTRICAL | 1.30% |
| HAIR | 0.59% | M | 1.27% |
| PRODUCTIONS | 0.44% | S | 1.23% |
| POWER | 0.44% | ENTERPRISES | 1.20% |
| DIRECT | 0.44% | SYSTEMS | 1.20% |

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

| SIC CODE | NUMBER OF COMPANIES | UK COMPANIES |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| None Supplied | 146 | 202,072 |
| 7487 - Other business activities | 41 | 60,758 |
| 9999 - Dormant Company | 17 | 20,111 |
| 62020 - Information technology consultancy activities | 13 | 10,545 |
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management | 12 | 16,419 |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified | 11 | 30,647 |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy | 11 | 13,053 |
| 7499 - Non-trading company | 9 | 10,955 |
| 4521 - General construction & civil engineering | 8 | 5,928 |
| 69201 - Accounting and auditing activities | 7 | 3,394 |
| 99999 - Dormant Company | 7 | 18,918 |
| 9305 - Other service activities | 6 | 9,063 |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified | 6 | 10,322 |
| 41100 - Development of building projects | 6 | 3,852 |
| 7260 - Other computer related activities | 6 | 7,849 |
| 4531 - Installation electrical wiring etc. | 6 | 2,037 |
| 49410 - Freight transport by road | 5 | 2,142 |
| 47910 - Retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet | 5 | 2,258 |
| 74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified | 5 | 7,835 |
| 86900 - Other human health activities | 4 | 4,154 |