Staffordshire

2012 half year business confidence report



headlines

- The first half of 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Staffordshire when compared to any previous first half year.
- The first half of 2012 was a record first half year for company registrations in Staffordshire when compared to any half year in history.
- Q2 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Staffordshire when compared to any previous Q2.
- May 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Staffordshire when compared to any previous May.
- April 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Staffordshire when compared to any previous April.

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The first half of 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Staffordshire when compared to any previous first half year.

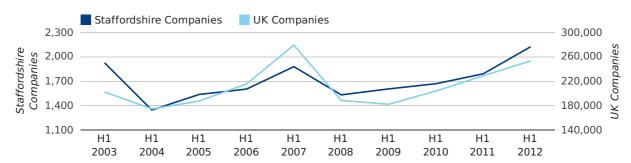
The first half of 2012 was a record first half year for company registrations in Staffordshire when compared to any half year in history.

In the first half of 2012 a total of 2,123 companies were formed in Staffordshire. This figure is 18.6% higher than last year, which compares well to the UK wide figure of 10.7%.

The highest total for a first half year in Staffordshire occurred in 2012 when a total of 2,123 were formed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | STAFFORDSHIRE | UK |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 2,123 | 253,150 |
| 2011 | 1,790 | 228,735 |
| % CHANGE | 18.6% | 10.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2012 (2,123) | 2007 (279,097) |

new companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

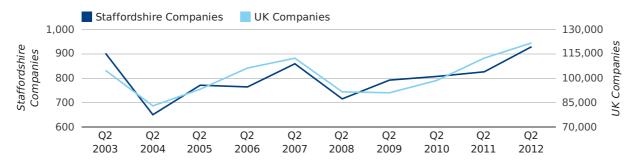
Q2 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Staffordshire when compared to any previous Q2.

A total of 929 companies were registered in Staffordshire during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 12.5% 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) | STAFFORDSHIRE | UK |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 929 | 121,659 |
| 2011 | 826 | 112,344 |
| % CHANGE | 12.5% | 8.3% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2012 (929) | 2012 (121,659) |

new companies by quarter

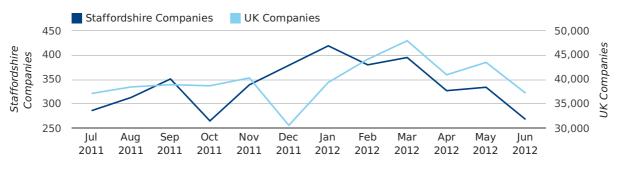


Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

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

April 2012 saw a new record in company registrations in Staffordshire when compared to any previous April.

new companies by month



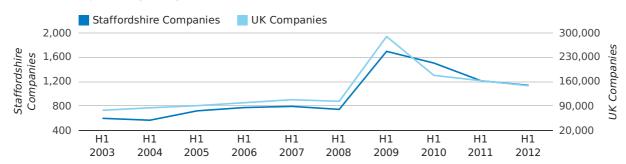
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2012 | 327 | 334 | 268 |
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2011 | 260 | 266 | 300 |
| % CHANGE | 25.8% | 25.6% | -10.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2012 (327) | 2012 (334) | 2010 (315) |

In the first half of 2012 a total of 1,138 companies were dissolved in Staffordshire. This figure is 6.0% lower than last year, which compares well to the UK wide change of -8.9%.

The highest total for a first half year in Staffordshire occurred in 2009 when a total of 1,695 were closed.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | STAFFORDSHIRE | UK |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 1,138 | 147,793 |
| 2011 | 1,211 | 162,310 |
| % CHANGE | -6.0% | -8.9% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (1,695) | 2009 (289,236) |

dissolved companies by half year



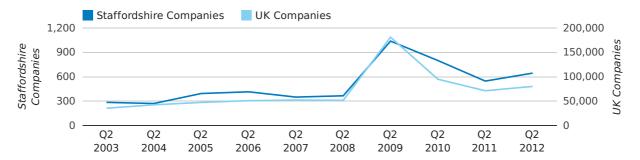
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

A total of 645 companies were dissolved in Staffordshire during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012).

This figure is an increase of 17.9% 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) | STAFFORDSHIRE | UK |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 645 | 80,217 |
| 2011 | 547 | 71,324 |
| % CHANGE | 17.9% | 12.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (1,039) | 2009 (181,176) |

dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

dissolved companies by month

% CHANGE

RECORD YEAR



-6.6%

2009 (460)

68.8%

2009 (284)

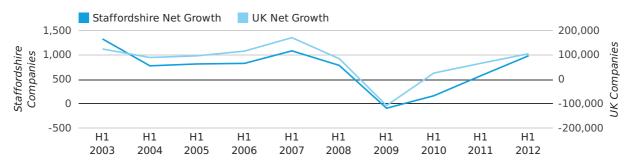
22%

2009 (295)

In the first half of 2012 the company register for Staffordshire increased by 985 companies. This figure is 70.1% higher than last year, which compares well to a UK increase of 58.6%.

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | STAFFORDSHIRE | UK |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 2012 | 985 | 105,357 |
| 2011 | 579 | 66,425 |
| % CHANGE | 70.1% | 58.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2003 (1,330) | 2007 (171,296) |

net growth by half year



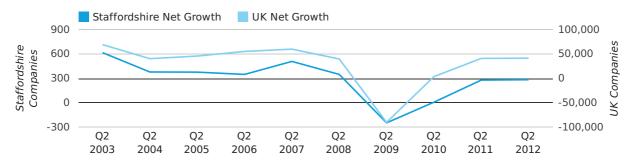
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

Net company growth for Staffordshire during the second quarter of 2012 (Apr 2012 - Jun 2012) was 284 companies.

This represents an increase of 1.8% on the same period last year.

| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | STAFFORDSHIRE | UK |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2012 | 284 | 41,442 |
| 2011 | 279 | 41,020 |
| % CHANGE | 1.8% | 1.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2003 (617) | 2003 (69,274) |

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

net growth by month

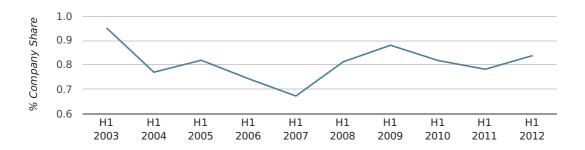


| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2012 | 143 | 95 | 46 |
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | 151 | 10 | 118 |
| % CHANGE | -5.3% | 850.0% | -61.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (217) | 2003 (237) | 2008 (196) |

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

| HALF YEAR (JAN-JUN) | STAFFORDSHIRE |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 2012 | 0.8% |
| 2011 | 0.8% |
| 2010 | 0.8% |
| 2009 | 0.9% |
| 2008 | 0.8% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1981 (1.2%) |

company share by half year

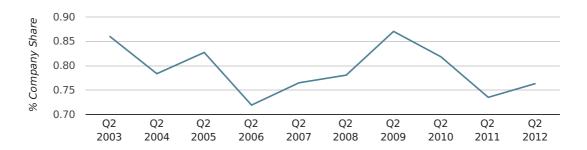


Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

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

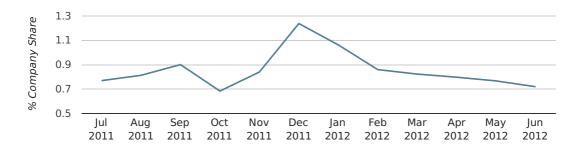
| SECOND QUARTER (APR 2012 - JUN 2012) | STAFFORDSHIRE |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 2012 | 0.8% |
| 2011 | 0.7% |
| 2010 | 0.8% |
| 2009 | 0.9% |
| 2008 | 0.8% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1981 (1.2%) |

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Apr, May & Jun 2012)

company share by month



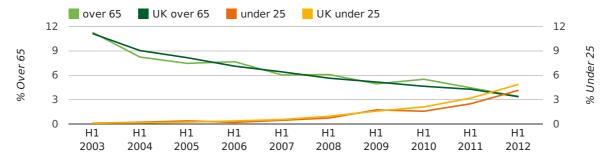
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2012 | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.7% |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 0.8% | 0.7% | 0.8% |
| % CHANGE | 5.9% | 10.1% | -4.6% |
| RECORD YEAR | 1971 (1.5%) | 1962 (1.5%) | 1981 (1.3%) |

The average age of a director in the first half of 2012 was 43.3.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 4.2% compared to the UK figure of 4.9%.

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

director age by half year



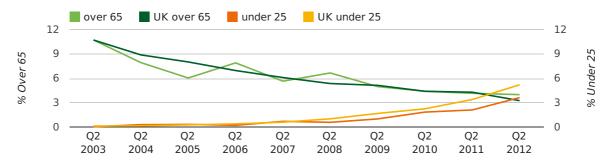
Quarterly Data (Q2 Apr-Jun 2012)

The average age of a director in the second quarter of 2012 was 43.8.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 3.6% compared to the UK figure of 5.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 4.0% compared to the UK figure of 3.3%.

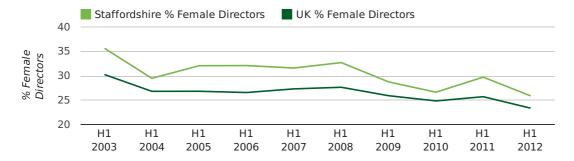
director age by quarter



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

25.9% of all director appointments in Staffordshire 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



naming trends $\operatorname{duport} \omega$

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 |
|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| ENGINEERING | 1.93% | CONSULTING | 5.07% |
| MANAGEMENT | 1.70% | MANAGEMENT | 4.74% |
| CONSULTANCY | 1.21% | CONSULTANCY | 3.28% |
| J | 1.09% | PROPERTY | 2.35% |
| PROPERTY | 0.97% | TRADING | 2.10% |
| М | 0.97% | DESIGN | 1.89% |
| С | 0.94% | ENGINEERING | 1.87% |
| CONSULTING | 0.90% | ASSOCIATES | 1.82% |
| S | 0.84% | CONSULTANTS | 1.78% |
| TRAINING | 0.80% | CONSTRUCTION | 1.71% |
| TRADING | 0.78% | BUSINESS | 1.70% |
| ELECTRICAL | 0.74% | MEDIA | 1.69% |
| R | 0.74% | LONDON | 1.68% |
| DESIGN | 0.72% | J | 1.57% |
| G | 0.70% | GLOBAL | 1.51% |
| D | 0.66% | INVESTMENTS | 1.48% |
| ASSOCIATES | 0.62% | IT | 1.42% |
| BUSINESS | 0.60% | CARE | 1.31% |
| CENTRE | 0.60% | PROPERTIES | 1.31% |
| CONSTRUCTION | 0.60% | М | 1.26% |
| PROPERTIES | 0.58% | ELECTRICAL | 1.23% |
| BUILDING | 0.55% | BUILDING | 1.23% |
| GREEN | 0.55% | SECURITY | 1.19% |
| MEDIA | 0.53% | S | 1.18% |
| STAFFORDSHIRE | 0.53% | 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 | 1,682 | 244,457 |
| 7487 - Other business activities | 312 | 47,029 |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified | 172 | 35,447 |
| 99999 - Dormant Company | 170 | 26,088 |
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management | 165 | 20,390 |
| 9999 - Dormant Company | 109 | 16,469 |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified | 107 | 14,220 |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy | 96 | 10,978 |
| 74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified | 90 | 10,271 |
| 62020 - Information technology consultancy activities | 84 | 15,280 |
| 74990 - Non-trading company | 65 | 9,706 |
| 7499 - Non-trading company | 63 | 8,023 |
| 9305 - Other service activities | 60 | 7,926 |
| 43210 - Electrical installation | 58 | 3,557 |
| 43999 - Other specialised construction activities not elsewhere classified | 55 | 4,091 |
| 49410 - Freight transport by road | 52 | 2,912 |
| 96020 - Hairdressing and other beauty treatment | 49 | 2,993 |
| 4521 - General construction & civil engineering | 49 | 4,644 |
| 62090 - Other information technology service activities | 48 | 8,258 |
| 86900 - Other human health activities | 47 | 5,222 |
| | | |