Stevenage

2011 annual business confidence report



headlines

- 2011 was a record year for company registrations in Stevenage when compared to any year in history.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Stevenage when compared to any previous Q4.
- December 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Stevenage when compared to any previous December.
- November 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Stevenage when compared to any previous November.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Stevenage when compared to any previous Q4.
- December 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Stevenage when compared to any previous December.

contents

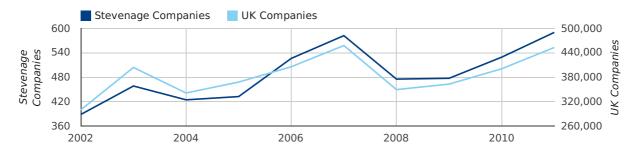
new company registrations
closed companies (dissolved)
net company growth
uk company share
director age
director gender
naming trends
sic data

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

A total of 590 companies were formed in Stevenage in 2011. This total is 11.5% higher than in 2010 and compares equally to the UK figure of a 13.1% growth compared to 400,358 the previous year.

YEAR	STEVENAGE	UK
2011	590	452,870
2010	529	400,358
2009	477	362,675
2008	475	349,203
2007	582	457,649
RECORD YEAR	2011 (590)	2007 (457,649)

new companies by year



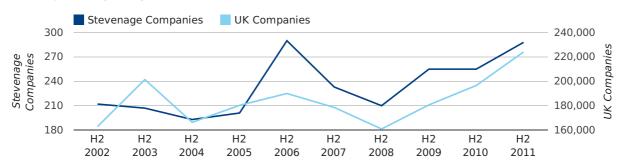
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 a total of 288 companies were formed in Stevenage. This figure is 12.9% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide figure of 14.0%.

The highest total for a second half year in Stevenage occurred in 2006 when a total of 290 were formed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	STEVENAGE	UK
2011	288	224,135
2010	255	196,609
% CHANGE	12.9%	14.0%
RECORD YEAR	2006 (290)	2011 (224,135)

new companies by half year

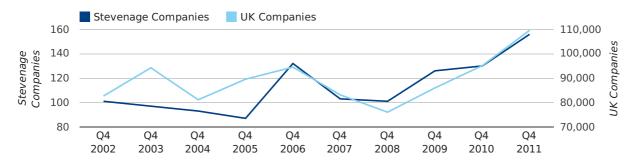


Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Stevenage when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 156 companies were registered in Stevenage during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 20.0% 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)	STEVENAGE	UK
2011	156	109,623
2010	130	95,117
% CHANGE	20.0%	15.3%
RECORD YEAR	2011 (156)	2011 (109,623)

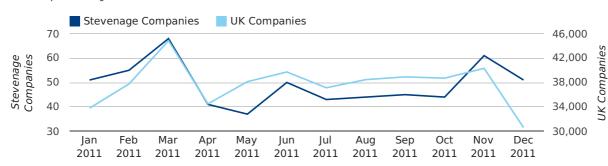


new companies by quarter

Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

December 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Stevenage when compared to any previous December.

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



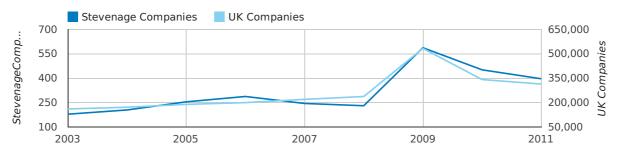
new companies by month

	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NEW COMPANIES IN 2011	44	61	51
NEW COMPANIES IN 2010	39	60	31
% CHANGE	12.8%	1.7%	64.5%
RECORD YEAR	2006 (49)	2011 (61)	2011 (51)

A total of 397 companies were dissolved in Stevenage in 2011. This total is 12.2% lower than in 2010 and compares unfavourably to the UK figure of 8.1% decrease compared to the previous year.

YEAR	STEVENAGE	UK
2011	397	314,523
2010	452	342,232
2009	588	533,773
2008	231	237,901
2007	245	220,295
RECORD YEAR	2009 (588)	2009 (533,773)

dissolved companies by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 a total of 196 companies were dissolved in Stevenage. This figure is 18.0% lower than last year, which compares well to the UK wide change of -7.5%.

The highest total for a second half year in Stevenage occurred in 2009 when a total of 257 were closed.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	STEVENAGE	UK
2011	196	152,213
2010	239	164,601
% CHANGE	-18.0%	-7.5%
RECORD YEAR	2009 (257)	2009 (244,537)

dissolved companies by half year

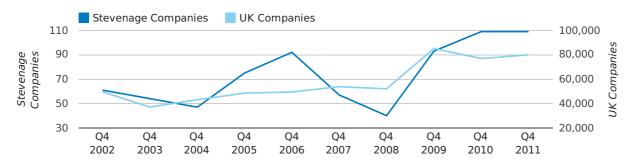


Q4 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Stevenage when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 109 companies were dissolved in Stevenage during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 0.0% 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.

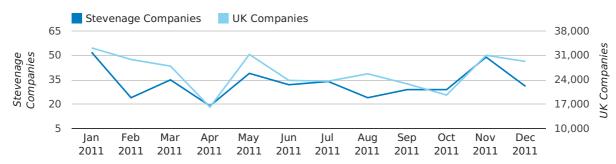
FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	STEVENAGE	UK
2011	109	79,983
2010	109	76,896
% CHANGE	0.0%	4.0%
RECORD YEAR	2010 (109)	2009 (85,136)



dissolved companies by quarter

Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

dissolved companies by month



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011	29	49	31
CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010	39	51	19
% CHANGE	-25.6%	-3.9%	63%
RECORD YEAR	2006 (42)	2010 (51)	2009 (33)

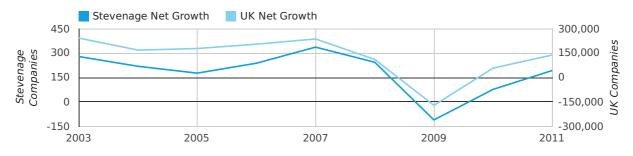
A total of 193 companies were added to the company register for Stevenage in 2011. This number represents growth of 36.5% which compares favourably to the UK figure of 34.6%.

This number is 116 companies higher than the previous year.

The highest net company growth figure ever seen in one year came in 2007 when the Stevenage company register grew by 337 companies.

YEAR	STEVENAGE	UK
2011	193	138,347
2010	77	58,126
2009	-111	-171,098
2008	244	111,302
2007	337	237,354
RECORD YEAR	2007 (337)	2003 (242,543)

net growth by year

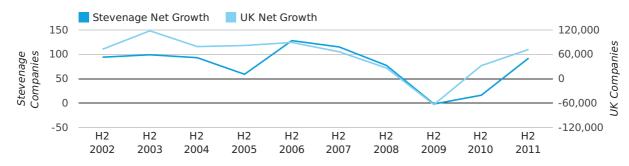


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 the company register for Stevenage increased by 92 companies. This figure is 475.0% higher than last year, which compares well to a UK increase of 124.7%.

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	STEVENAGE	UK
2011	92	71,922
2010	16	32,008
% CHANGE	475.0%	124.7%
RECORD YEAR	2006 (128)	2003 (117,772)

net growth by half year

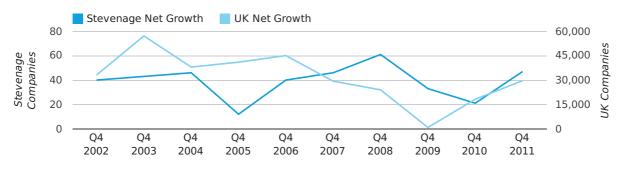


Net company growth for Stevenage during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011) was 47 companies.

This represents an increase of 123.8% on the same period last year.

FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	STEVENAGE	UK
2011	47	29,640
2010	21	18,221
% CHANGE	123.8%	62.7%
RECORD YEAR	2008 (61)	2003 (57,175)

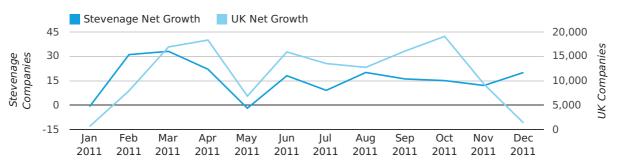
net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

December 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Stevenage when compared to any previous December.

net growth by month



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	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
NET GROWTH IN 2011	15	12	20
NET GROWTH IN 2010	0	9	12
% CHANGE	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%
RECORD YEAR	2008 (30)	2008 (26)	2011 (20)

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

YEAR	STEVENAGE
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
2007	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1976 (0.2%)

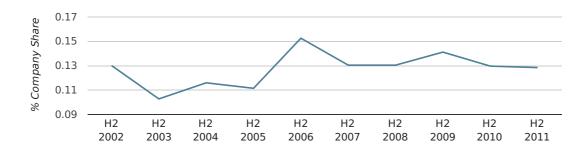
company share by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

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

HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC)	STEVENAGE
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
2007	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1976 (0.2%)

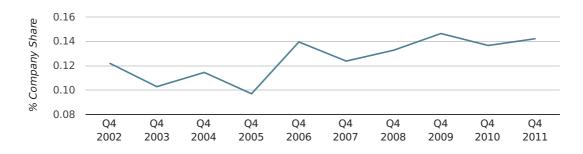


company share by half year

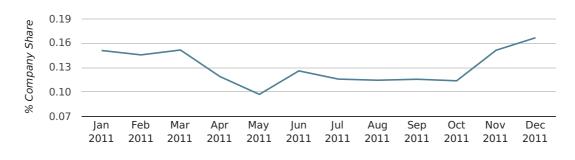
In the fourth quarter of 2011, Stevenage formed 0.1% of all UK companies.

FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011)	STEVENAGE
2011	0.1%
2010	0.1%
2009	0.1%
2008	0.1%
2007	0.1%
RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960)	1965 (0.2%)

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)



	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
% CHANGE	-1.9%	-13.4%	46.0%
RECORD YEAR	1963 (0.3%)	1996 (0.2%)	1977 (0.4%)

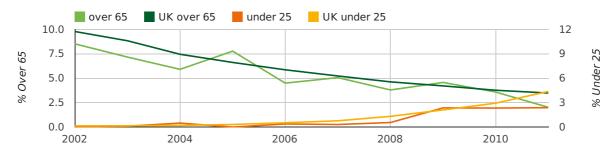
company share by month

The average age of a director in 2011 was 44.2.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.4% compared to the UK figure of 3.7%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 2.0% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

director age by year

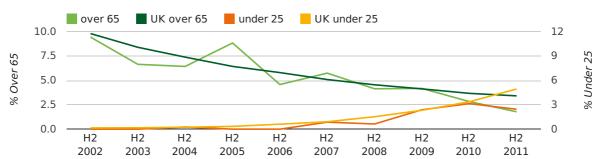


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the second half of 2011 was 45.1.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.4% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 1.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.



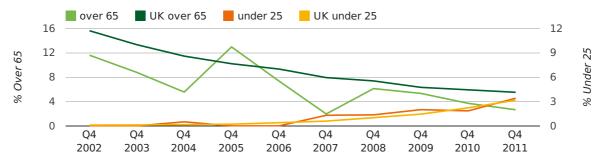
director age by half year

The average age of a director in the fourth quarter of 2011 was 46.7.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 3.4% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 2.7% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by quarter



director gender

Annual Data (2011)

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

The percentage of female directors in Stevenage in 2011 was 30.2%. The average for the UK during this time was 28.6%

director gender by year

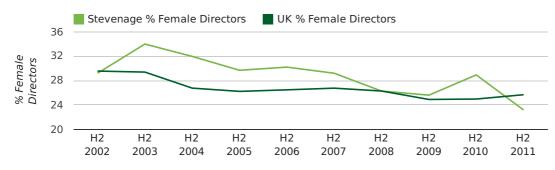


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

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

23.2% of all director appointments in Stevenage in the second half of 2011 were female. This compares to a UK average of 25.7% for the same period.

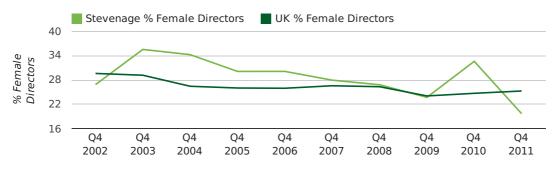
director gender by half year



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

19.7% of all director appointments in Stevenage 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
MANAGEMENT	2.95%	CONSULTING	5.07%
INVESTMENT	1.18%	MANAGEMENT	4.74%
CONSULTING	0.98%	CONSULTANCY	3.26%
PROPERTY	0.88%	PROPERTY	2.37%
CONSULTANCY	0.88%	TRADING	2.07%
CONSULTANTS	0.79%	DESIGN	1.92%
IT	0.79%	ASSOCIATES	1.86%
ASSOCIATES	0.79%	ENGINEERING	1.78%
М	0.69%	BUSINESS	1.78%
MEDIA	0.69%	CONSULTANTS	1.76%
STEVENAGE	0.69%	CONSTRUCTION	1.73%
PROJECT	0.59%	MEDIA	1.71%
J	0.59%	LONDON	1.63%
TRAINING	0.59%	J	1.51%
GREEN	0.59%	INVESTMENTS	1.48%
PRODUCTIONS	0.59%	GLOBAL	1.46%
BUSINESS	0.59%	IT	1.41%
HERTS	0.59%	CARE	1.39%
INTERNATIONAL	0.49%	PROPERTIES	1.29%
BUILDING	0.49%	ELECTRICAL	1.29%
ALLIANCE	0.49%	М	1.27%
CARE	0.49%	BUILDING	1.26%
ENGINEERING	0.49%	ENERGY	1.25%
ENTERPRISES	0.49%	S	1.20%
DEVELOPMENTS	0.39%	ENTERPRISES	1.20%

sic data



Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

SIC CODE	NUMBER OF COMPANIES	UK COMPANIES
None Supplied	233	205,525
7487 - Other business activities	81	57,052
82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified	37	32,483
70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management	36	17,765
99999 - Dormant Company	30	21,846
96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified	28	11,768
62020 - Information technology consultancy activities	24	12,072
9305 - Other service activities	22	9,492
7260 - Other computer related activities	20	7,667
9999 - Dormant Company	19	20,199
7414 - Business & management consultancy	17	13,034
7499 - Non-trading company	16	9,957
74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified	15	8,671
62090 - Other information technology service activities	15	7,493
74990 - Non-trading company	13	8,929
7222 - Other software consultancy and supply	12	7,398
4521 - General construction & civil engineering	11	5,558
41202 - Construction of domestic buildings	8	2,598
69201 - Accounting and auditing activities	8	3,633
43220 - Plumbing, heat and air-conditioning installation	7	2,372