Towcester

2011 annual business confidence report



headlines

- The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Towcester when compared to any previous second half year.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Towcester when compared to any previous Q4.
- 2011 was a record year for company closures in Towcester when compared to any year in history.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Towcester when compared to any previous Q4.
- December 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Towcester when compared to any previous December.
- November 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Towcester when compared to any previous November.

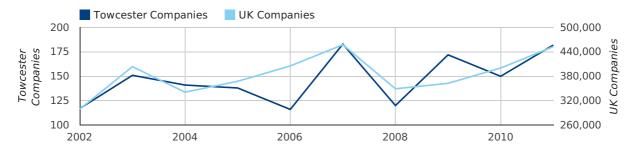
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A total of 182 companies were formed in Towcester in 2011. This total is 21.3% higher than in 2010 and compares poorly to the UK figure of a 13.1% growth compared to 400,358 the previous year.

| YEAR | TOWCESTER | UK |
|-------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 182 | 452,870 |
| 2010 | 150 | 400,358 |
| 2009 | 172 | 362,675 |
| 2008 | 120 | 349,203 |
| 2007 | 183 | 457,649 |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (183) | 2007 (457,649) |

new companies by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

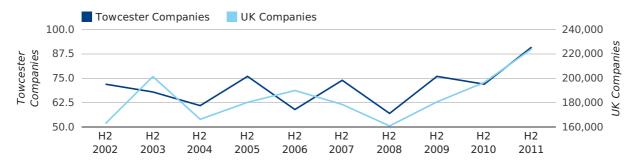
The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Towcester when compared to any previous second half year.

In the second half of 2011 a total of 91 companies were formed in Towcester. This figure is 26.4% higher than last year, which compares well to the UK wide figure of 14.0%.

The highest total for a second half year in Towcester occurred in 2011 when a total of 91 were formed.

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | TOWCESTER | UK |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2011 | 91 | 224,135 |
| 2010 | 72 | 196,609 |
| % CHANGE | 26.4% | 14.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (91) | 2011 (224,135) |

new companies by half year



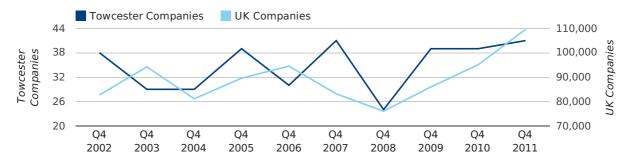
Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Towcester when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 41 companies were registered in Towcester during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 5.1% versus the same period last year (Q4 2010). This figure compares badly to the UK as a whole, which saw an increase of 15.3% against the same period last year.

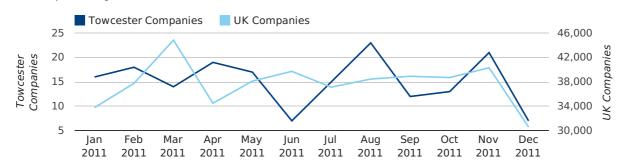
| FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011) | TOWCESTER | UK |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2011 | 41 | 109,623 |
| 2010 | 39 | 95,117 |
| % CHANGE | 5.1% | 15.3% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (41) | 2011 (109,623) |

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

new companies by month



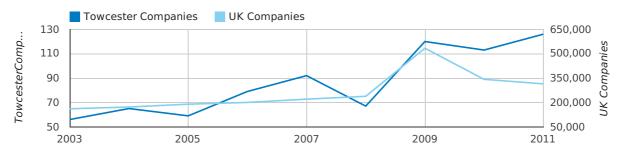
| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2011 | 13 | 21 | 7 |
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2010 | 14 | 18 | 7 |
| % CHANGE | -7.1% | 16.7% | 0.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (16) | 2005 (22) | 2009 (12) |

2011 was a record year for company closures in Towcester when compared to any year in history.

A total of 126 companies were dissolved in Towcester in 2011. This total is 11.5% higher than in 2010 and compares favourably to the UK figure of 8.1% decrease compared to the previous year.

| YEAR | TOWCESTER | UK |
|-------------|------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 126 | 314,523 |
| 2010 | 113 | 342,232 |
| 2009 | 120 | 533,773 |
| 2008 | 67 | 237,901 |
| 2007 | 92 | 220,295 |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (126) | 2009 (533,773) |

dissolved companies by year



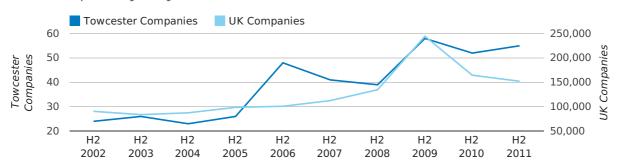
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 a total of 55 companies were dissolved in Towcester. This figure is 5.8% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide change of -7.5%.

The highest total for a second half year in Towcester occurred in 2009 when a total of 58 were closed.

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | TOWCESTER | UK |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2011 | 55 | 152,213 |
| 2010 | 52 | 164,601 |
| % CHANGE | 5.8% | -7.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (58) | 2009 (244,537) |

dissolved companies by half year



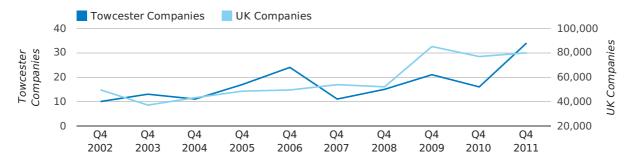
Q4 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Towcester when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 34 companies were dissolved in Towcester during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 112.5% versus the same period last year (Q4 2010). This figure compares poorly 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) | TOWCESTER | UK |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 2011 | 34 | 79,983 |
| 2010 | 16 | 76,896 |
| % CHANGE | 112.5% | 4.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (34) | 2009 (85,136) |

dissolved companies by quarter

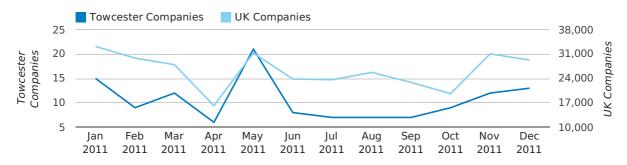


Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

December 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Towcester when compared to any previous December.

November 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Towcester when compared to any previous November.

dissolved companies by month



| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011 | 9 | 12 | 13 |
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010 | 2 | 11 | 3 |
| % CHANGE | 350.0% | 9.1% | 333% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2006 (17) | 2011 (12) | 2011 (13) |

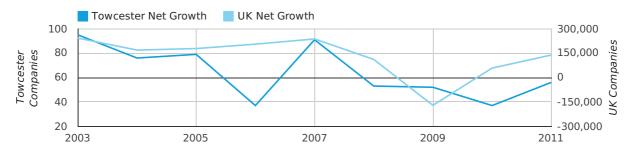
A total of 56 companies were added to the company register for Towcester in 2011. This number represents growth of 37.3% which compares favourably to the UK figure of 34.6%.

This number is 19 companies higher than the previous year.

The highest net company growth figure ever seen in one year came in 2003 when the Towcester company register grew by 95 companies.

| YEAR | TOWCESTER | UK |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2011 | 56 | 138,347 |
| 2010 | 37 | 58,126 |
| 2009 | 52 | -171,098 |
| 2008 | 53 | 111,302 |
| 2007 | 91 | 237,354 |
| RECORD YEAR | 2003 (95) | 2003 (242,543) |

net growth by year

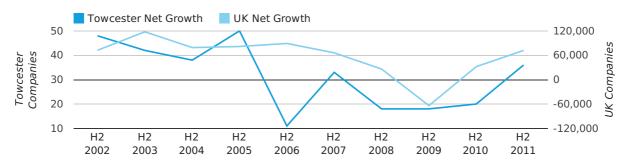


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 the company register for Towcester increased by 36 companies. This figure is 80.0% higher than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 124.7%.

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | TOWCESTER | UK |
|---------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 2011 | 36 | 71,922 |
| 2010 | 20 | 32,008 |
| % CHANGE | 80.0% | 124.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2005 (50) | 2003 (117,772) |

net growth by half year

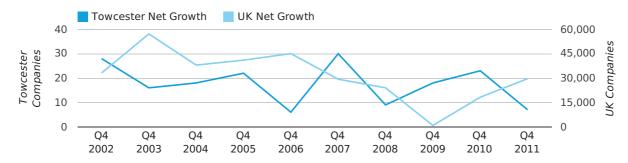


Net company growth for Towcester during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011) was 7 companies.

This represents a decrease of 69.6% on the same period last year.

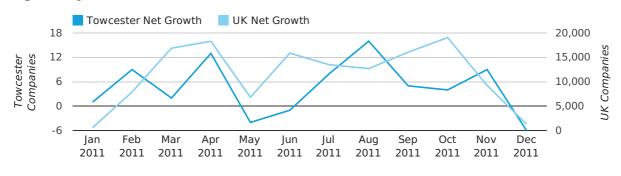
| FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011) | TOWCESTER | UK |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 2011 | 7 | 29,640 |
| 2010 | 23 | 18,221 |
| % CHANGE | -69.6% | 62.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (30) | 2003 (57,175) |

net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

net growth by month

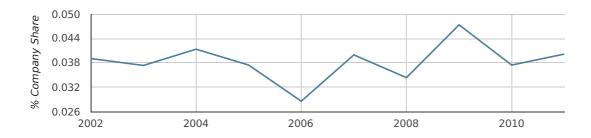


| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | 4 | 9 | -6 |
| NET GROWTH IN 2010 | 12 | 7 | 4 |
| % CHANGE | -66.7% | 28.6% | -250.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2010 (12) | 2005 (16) | 2002 (9) |

In 2011 Towcester formed 0.0% of all UK companies. This is no change on 2010 when Towcester was responsible for 0.0% of all UK companies.

| YEAR | TOWCESTER |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2011 | 0.0% |
| 2010 | 0.0% |
| 2009 | 0.0% |
| 2008 | 0.0% |
| 2007 | 0.0% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1992 (0.1%) |

company share by year

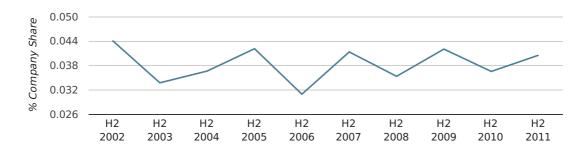


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 Towcester formed 0.0% of all UK companies. This is the same as the 2010 figure of 0.0%.

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | TOWCESTER |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 2011 | 0.0% |
| 2010 | 0.0% |
| 2009 | 0.0% |
| 2008 | 0.0% |
| 2007 | 0.0% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1992 (0.1%) |

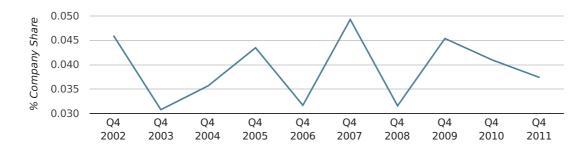
company share by half year



In the fourth quarter of 2011, Towcester formed 0.0% of all UK companies.

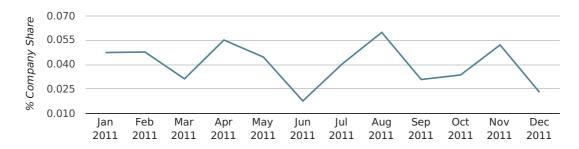
| FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011) | TOWCESTER |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2011 | 0.0% |
| 2010 | 0.0% |
| 2009 | 0.0% |
| 2008 | 0.0% |
| 2007 | 0.0% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1992 (0.1%) |

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

company share by month



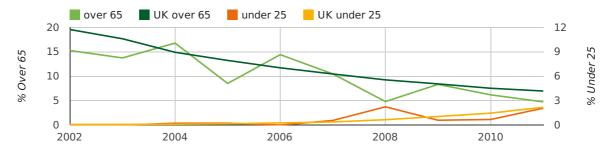
| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 0.0% | 0.1% | 0.0% |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010 | 0.0% | 0.1% | 0.0% |
| % CHANGE | -19.2% | -0.6% | -11.2% |
| RECORD YEAR | 1962 (0.2%) | 1970 (0.2%) | 1979 (0.1%) |

The average age of a director in 2011 was 47.0.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.1% compared to the UK figure of 3.7%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 4.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

director age by year



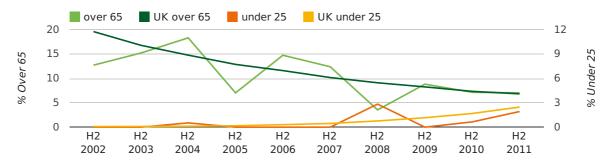
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the second half of 2011 was 47.1.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 1.9% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 7.1% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by half year

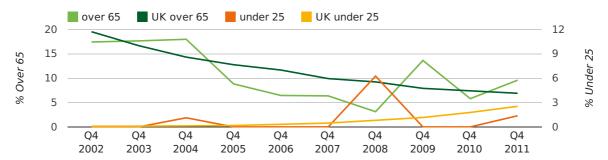


The average age of a director in the fourth quarter of 2011 was 49.5.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 1.4% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 9.6% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

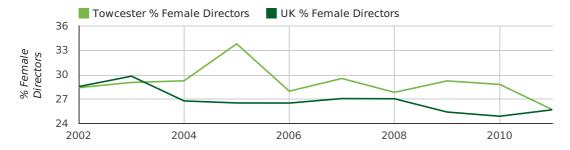
director age by quarter



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

The percentage of female directors in Towcester in 2011 was 28.4%. The average for the UK during this time was 28.6%

director gender by year

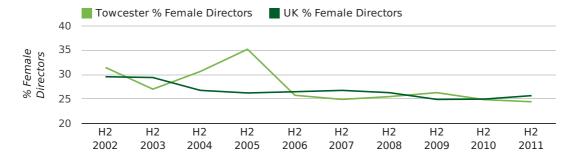


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

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

24.4% of all director appointments in Towcester 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



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

22.8% of all director appointments in Towcester 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)

 ${\sf Excluding: LIMITED, LTD, \&, UK, SERVICES, THE, (UK), AND, LTD., A, LLP, SOLUTIONS, COMPANY, OF.}\\$

| WORD | PERCENTAGE | UK WORD | UK PERCENTAGE |
|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| MANAGEMENT | 2.23% | CONSULTING | 5.07% |
| EWL | 1.39% | MANAGEMENT | 4.74% |
| CONSULTING | 1.11% | CONSULTANCY | 3.26% |
| WR | 0.84% | PROPERTY | 2.37% |
| CONSULTANTS | 0.84% | TRADING | 2.07% |
| PROPERTIES | 0.84% | DESIGN | 1.92% |
| SCH00L | 0.84% | ASSOCIATES | 1.86% |
| CIMEX | 0.84% | ENGINEERING | 1.78% |
| ASSOCIATES | 0.84% | BUSINESS | 1.78% |
| ACADEMY | 0.84% | CONSULTANTS | 1.76% |
| MEDIA | 0.84% | CONSTRUCTION | 1.73% |
| CBG | 0.84% | MEDIA | 1.71% |
| SOLAR | 0.56% | LONDON | 1.63% |
| ACCOUNTS | 0.56% | J | 1.51% |
| EAST | 0.56% | INVESTMENTS | 1.48% |
| FLOORING | 0.56% | GLOBAL | 1.46% |
| IAN | 0.56% | IT | 1.41% |
| PLUS | 0.56% | CARE | 1.39% |
| DEVELOPMENTS | 0.56% | PROPERTIES | 1.29% |
| НОТ | 0.56% | ELECTRICAL | 1.29% |
| HOUSE | 0.56% | М | 1.27% |
| INC | 0.56% | BUILDING | 1.26% |
| SCOTT | 0.56% | ENERGY | 1.25% |
| STYLISH | 0.56% | S | 1.20% |
| TECHNOLOGIES | 0.56% | ENTERPRISES | 1.20% |

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Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

| SIC CODE | NUMBER OF COMPANIES | UK COMPANIES |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| None Supplied | 56 | 205,525 |
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management | 19 | 17,765 |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy | 19 | 13,034 |
| 7487 - Other business activities | 19 | 57,052 |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified | 17 | 32,483 |
| 99999 - Dormant Company | 9 | 21,846 |
| 74990 - Non-trading company | 9 | 8,929 |
| 9999 - Dormant Company | 9 | 20,199 |
| 62020 - Information technology consultancy activities | 8 | 12,072 |
| 74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified | 8 | 8,671 |
| 7222 - Other software consultancy and supply | 7 | 7,398 |
| 62012 - Business and domestic software development | 5 | 3,714 |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified | 4 | 11,768 |
| 5530 - Restaurants | 4 | 5,013 |
| 43390 - Other building completion and finishing | 4 | 2,832 |
| 9305 - Other service activities | 4 | 9,492 |
| 93199 - Other sports activities | 3 | 1,768 |
| 47910 - Retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet | 3 | 2,740 |
| 62090 - Other information technology service activities | 3 | 7,493 |
| 47599 - Retail of furniture, lighting, and similar (not musical instruments or scores) in specialised store | 3 | 741 |