

Welwyn Garden City

2011 annual business confidence report



headlines

- The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Welwyn Garden City when compared to any previous second half year.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Welwyn Garden City when compared to any previous Q4.
- Q4 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Welwyn Garden City when compared to any previous Q4.
- December 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Welwyn Garden City when compared to any previous December.
- October 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Welwyn Garden City when compared to any previous October.

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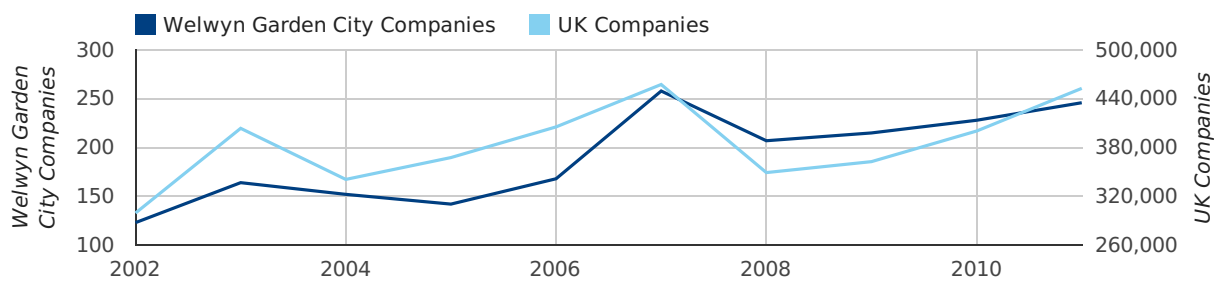
sic data

Annual Data (2011)

A total of 246 companies were formed in Welwyn Garden City in 2011. This total is 7.9% higher than in 2010 and compares equally to the UK figure of a 13.1% growth compared to 400,358 the previous year.

| YEAR | WELWYN GARDEN CITY | UK |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 246 | 452,870 |
| 2010 | 228 | 400,358 |
| 2009 | 215 | 362,675 |
| 2008 | 207 | 349,203 |
| 2007 | 258 | 457,649 |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (258) | 2007 (457,649) |

new companies by year



Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

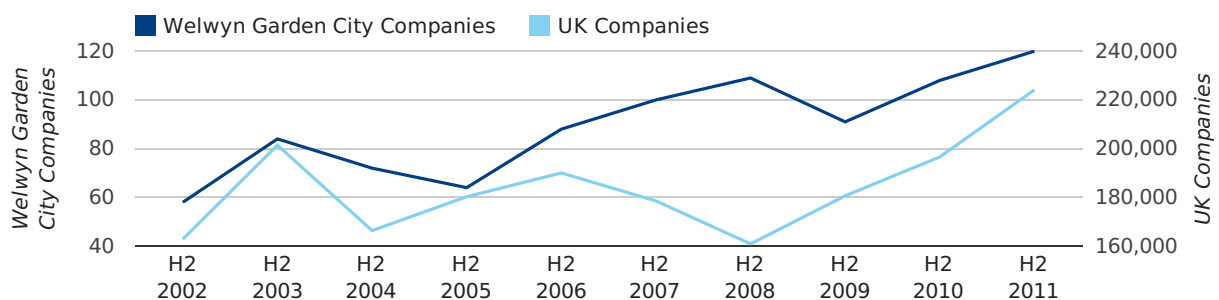
The second half of 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Welwyn Garden City when compared to any previous second half year.

In the second half of 2011 a total of 120 companies were formed in Welwyn Garden City. This figure is 11.1% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide figure of 14.0%.

The highest total for a second half year in Welwyn Garden City occurred in 2011 when a total of 120 were formed.

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | WELWYN GARDEN CITY | UK |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 120 | 224,135 |
| 2010 | 108 | 196,609 |
| % CHANGE | 11.1% | 14.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (120) | 2011 (224,135) |

new companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

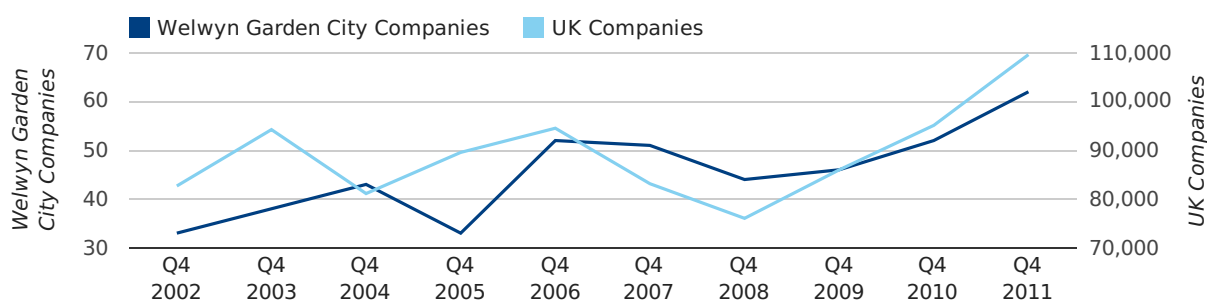
Q4 2011 saw a new record in company registrations in Welwyn Garden City when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 62 companies were registered in Welwyn Garden City during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 19.2% 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.

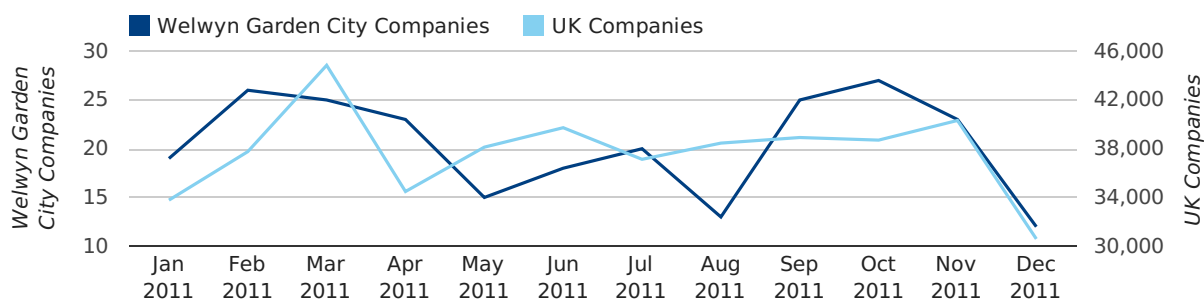
| FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011) | WELWYN GARDEN CITY | UK |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 62 | 109,623 |
| 2010 | 52 | 95,117 |
| % CHANGE | 19.2% | 15.3% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (62) | 2011 (109,623) |

new companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

new companies by month



| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2011 | 27 | 23 | 12 |
| NEW COMPANIES IN 2010 | 20 | 17 | 15 |
| % CHANGE | 35.0% | 35.3% | -20.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2006 (28) | 2007 (25) | 2010 (15) |

Annual Data (2011)

A total of 151 companies were dissolved in Welwyn Garden City in 2011. This total is 5.0% lower than in 2010 and compares favourably to the UK figure of 8.1% decrease compared to the previous year.

| YEAR | WELWYN GARDEN CITY | UK |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 151 | 314,523 |
| 2010 | 159 | 342,232 |
| 2009 | 221 | 533,773 |
| 2008 | 86 | 237,901 |
| 2007 | 111 | 220,295 |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (221) | 2009 (533,773) |

dissolved companies by year



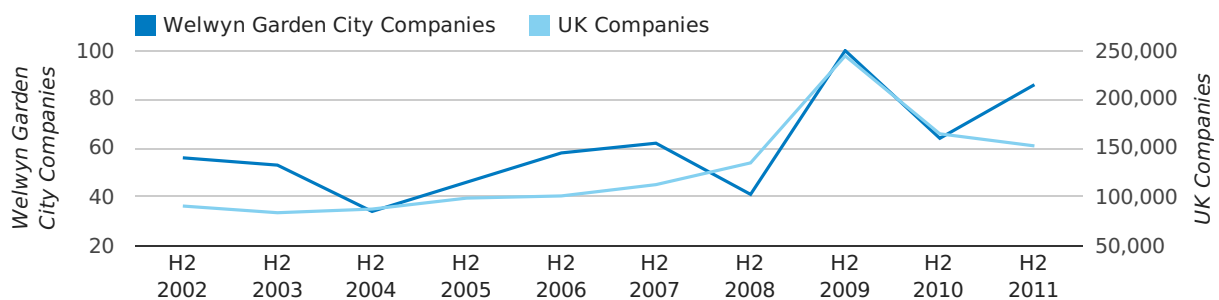
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 a total of 86 companies were dissolved in Welwyn Garden City. This figure is 34.4% higher than last year, which compares badly to the UK wide change of -7.5%.

The highest total for a second half year in Welwyn Garden City occurred in 2009 when a total of 100 were closed.

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | WELWYN GARDEN CITY | UK |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 86 | 152,213 |
| 2010 | 64 | 164,601 |
| % CHANGE | 34.4% | -7.5% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (100) | 2009 (244,537) |

dissolved companies by half year



Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

Q4 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Welwyn Garden City when compared to any previous Q4.

A total of 46 companies were dissolved in Welwyn Garden City during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011).

This figure is an increase of 84.0% 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) | WELWYN GARDEN CITY | UK |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 2011 | 46 | 79,983 |
| 2010 | 25 | 76,896 |
| % CHANGE | 84.0% | 4.0% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (46) | 2009 (85,136) |

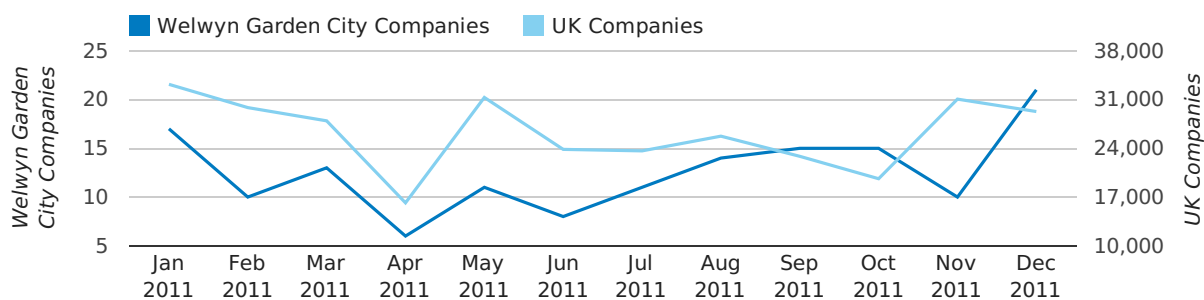
dissolved companies by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

December 2011 saw a new record in company closures in Welwyn Garden City when compared to any previous December.

dissolved companies by month



| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2011 | 15 | 10 | 21 |
| CLOSED COMPANIES IN 2010 | 9 | 12 | 4 |
| % CHANGE | 66.7% | -16.7% | 425% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2009 (23) | 2006 (19) | 2011 (21) |

Annual Data (2011)

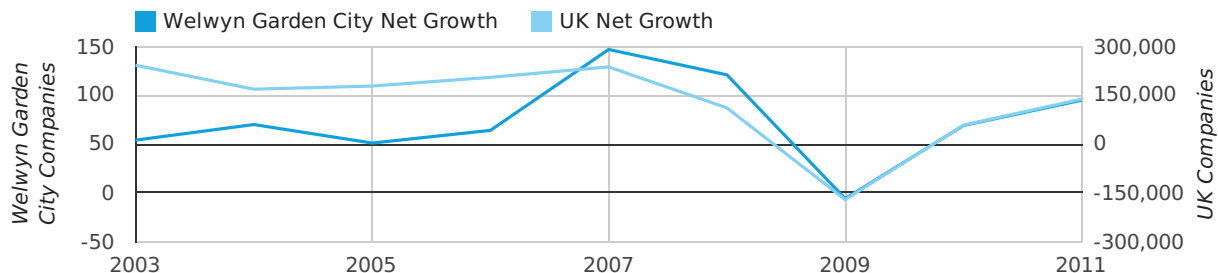
A total of 95 companies were added to the company register for Welwyn Garden City in 2011. This number represents growth of 41.7% which compares favourably to the UK figure of 34.6%.

This number is 26 companies higher than the previous year.

The highest net company growth figure ever seen in one year came in 2007 when the Welwyn Garden City company register grew by 147 companies.

| YEAR | WELWYN GARDEN CITY | UK |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 95 | 138,347 |
| 2010 | 69 | 58,126 |
| 2009 | -6 | -171,098 |
| 2008 | 121 | 111,302 |
| 2007 | 147 | 237,354 |
| RECORD YEAR | 2007 (147) | 2003 (242,543) |

net growth by year

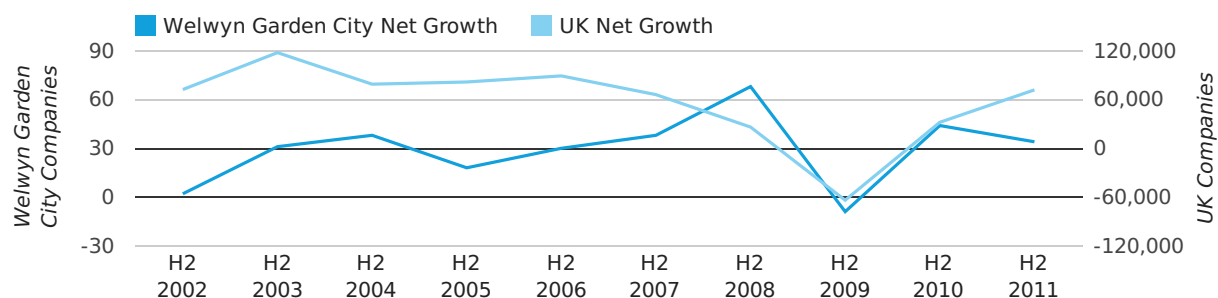


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

In the second half of 2011 the company register for Welwyn Garden City increased by 34 companies. This figure is 22.7% lower than last year, which compares badly to a UK increase of 124.7%.

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | WELWYN GARDEN CITY | UK |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 2011 | 34 | 71,922 |
| 2010 | 44 | 32,008 |
| % CHANGE | -22.7% | 124.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2008 (68) | 2003 (117,772) |

net growth by half year



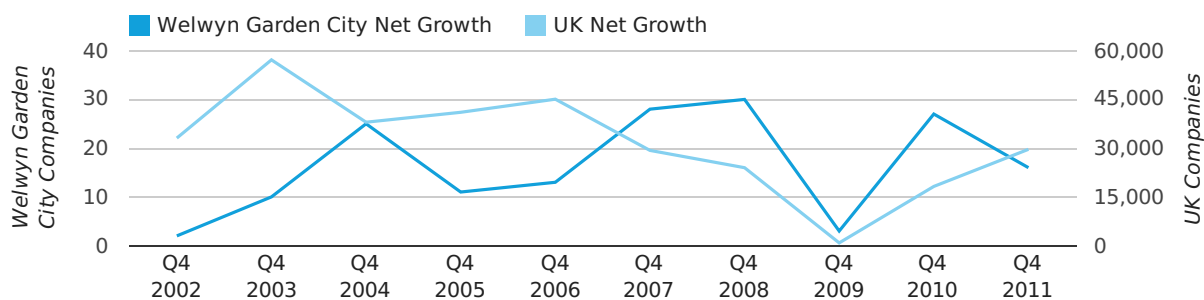
Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

Net company growth for Welwyn Garden City during the fourth quarter of 2011 (Oct 2011 - Dec 2011) was 16 companies.

This represents a decrease of 40.7% on the same period last year.

| FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011) | WELWYN GARDEN CITY | UK |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 2011 | 16 | 29,640 |
| 2010 | 27 | 18,221 |
| % CHANGE | -40.7% | 62.7% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2008 (30) | 2003 (57,175) |

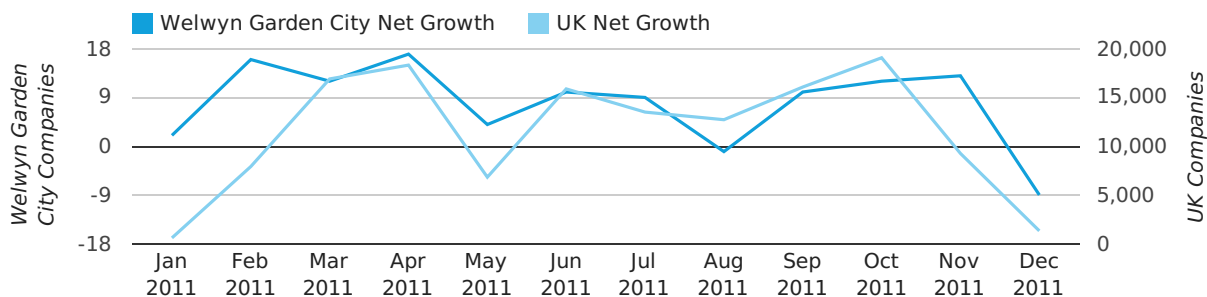
net growth by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

October 2011 saw a new record in net growth in Welwyn Garden City when compared to any previous October.

net growth by month



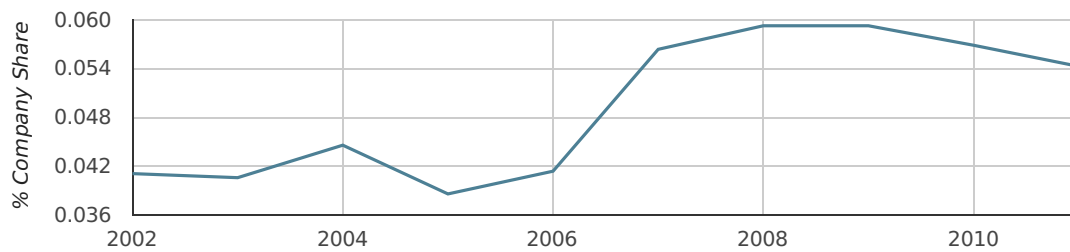
| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| NET GROWTH IN 2011 | 12 | 13 | -9 |
| NET GROWTH IN 2010 | 11 | 5 | 11 |
| % CHANGE | 9.1% | 160.0% | -181.8% |
| RECORD YEAR | 2011 (12) | 2007 (15) | 2008 (12) |

Annual Data (2011)

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

| YEAR | WELWYN GARDEN CITY |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 2011 | 0.1% |
| 2010 | 0.1% |
| 2009 | 0.1% |
| 2008 | 0.1% |
| 2007 | 0.1% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1966 (0.2%) |

company share by year

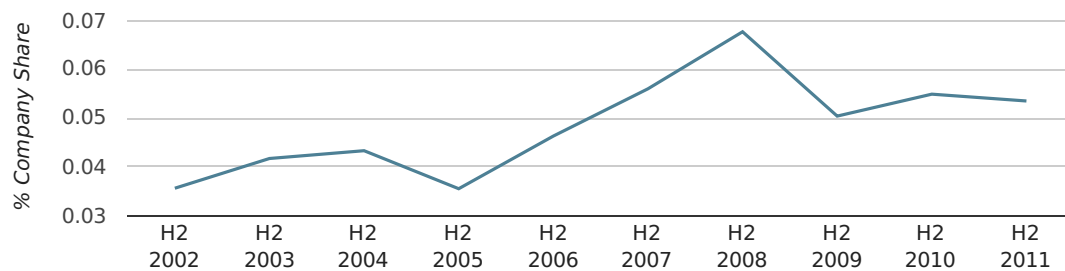


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

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

| HALF YEAR (JUL-DEC) | WELWYN GARDEN CITY |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 2011 | 0.1% |
| 2010 | 0.1% |
| 2009 | 0.1% |
| 2008 | 0.1% |
| 2007 | 0.1% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1966 (0.2%) |

company share by half year

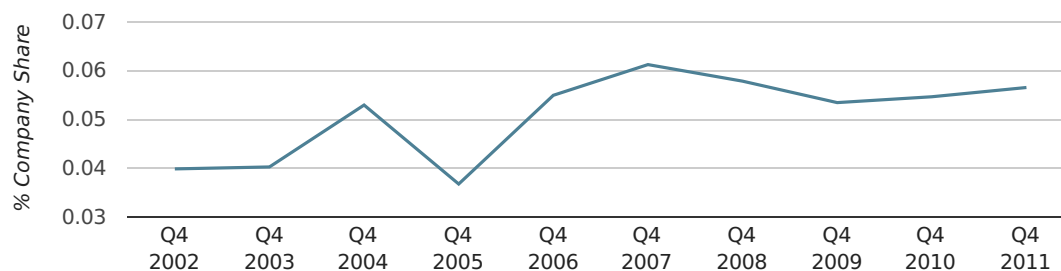


Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

In the fourth quarter of 2011, Welwyn Garden City formed 0.1% of all UK companies.

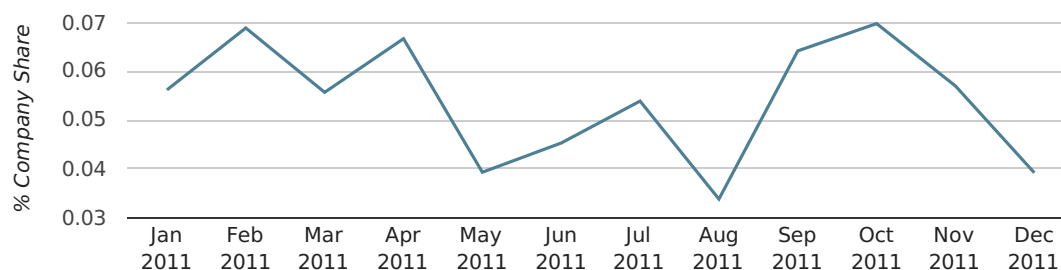
| FOURTH QUARTER (OCT 2011 - DEC 2011) | WELWYN GARDEN CITY |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2011 | 0.1% |
| 2010 | 0.1% |
| 2009 | 0.1% |
| 2008 | 0.1% |
| 2007 | 0.1% |
| RECORD YEAR (SINCE 1960) | 1985 (0.2%) |

company share by quarter



Monthly Data (Oct, Nov & Dec 2011)

company share by month



| | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2011 | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.0% |
| UK FORMATION SHARE IN 2010 | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.1% |
| % CHANGE | 17.3% | 15.2% | -29.1% |
| RECORD YEAR | 1968 (0.2%) | 1966 (0.2%) | 1966 (0.2%) |

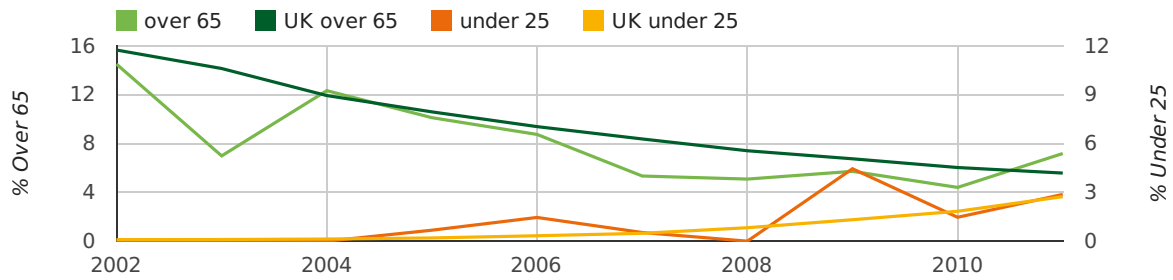
Annual Data (2011)

The average age of a director in 2011 was 45.3.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 2.9% compared to the UK figure of 3.7%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 7.2% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

director age by year



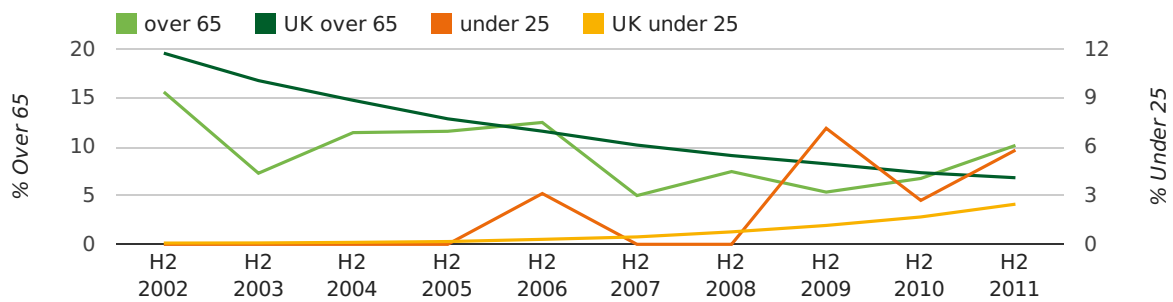
Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the second half of 2011 was 46.2.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 5.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 10.1% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by half year



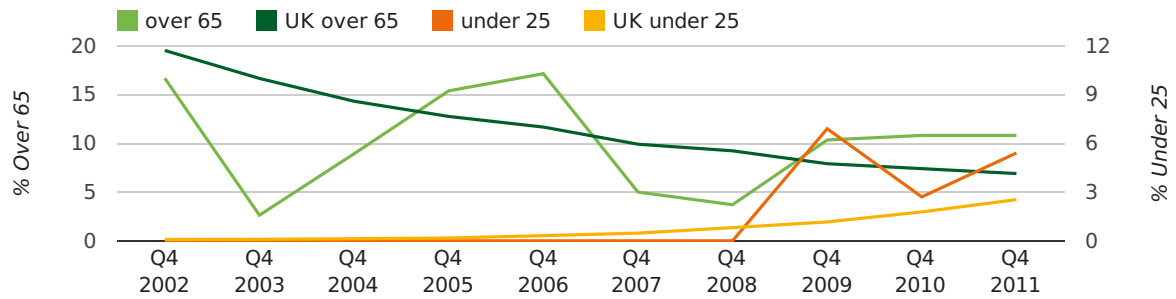
Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

The average age of a director in the fourth quarter of 2011 was 46.5.

The percentage of directors under the age of 25 was 5.4% compared to the UK figure of 4.2%.

The percentage of directors over the age of 65 was 10.8% compared to the UK figure of 4.1%.

director age by quarter

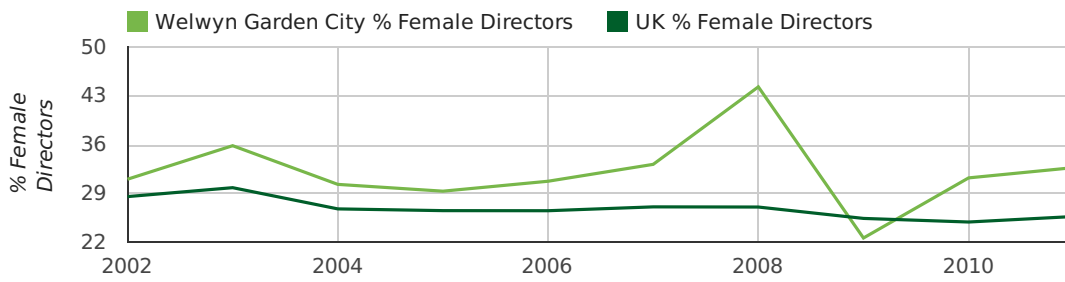


Annual Data (2011)

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

The percentage of female directors in Welwyn Garden City in 2011 was 31.1%. The average for the UK during this time was 28.6%

director gender by year

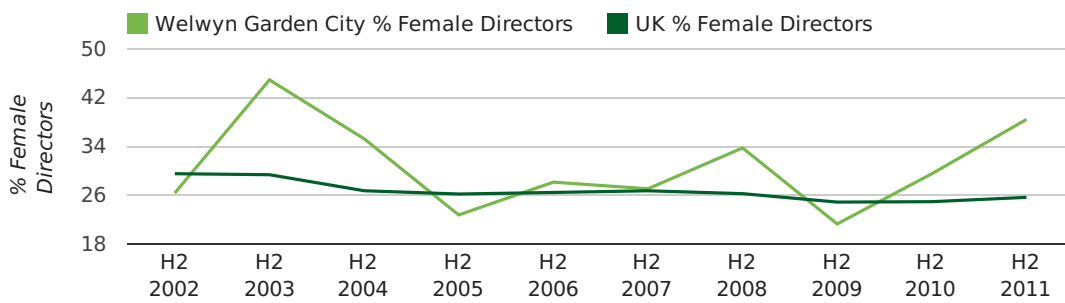


Half Year Data (Jul-Dec 2011)

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

38.5% of all director appointments in Welwyn Garden City 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

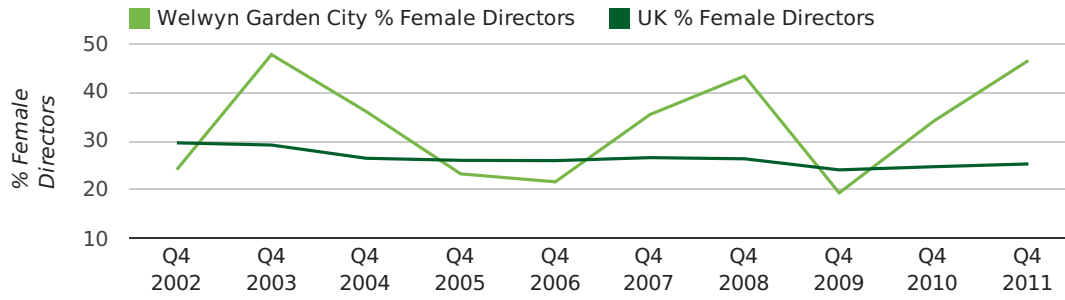


Quarterly Data (Q4 Oct-Dec 2011)

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

46.5% of all director appointments in Welwyn Garden City 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 |
|-------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| CONSULTING | 1.59% | CONSULTING | 5.07% |
| MANAGEMENT | 1.36% | MANAGEMENT | 4.74% |
| CONSULTANCY | 1.36% | CONSULTANCY | 3.26% |
| CONSULTANTS | 1.13% | PROPERTY | 2.37% |
| VANTAGE | 0.91% | TRADING | 2.07% |
| TRADING | 0.91% | DESIGN | 1.92% |
| (2012) | 0.91% | ASSOCIATES | 1.86% |
| SYSTEMS | 0.91% | ENGINEERING | 1.78% |
| BUSINESS | 0.91% | BUSINESS | 1.78% |
| CLEANING | 0.91% | CONSULTANTS | 1.76% |
| SUPPORT | 0.68% | CONSTRUCTION | 1.73% |
| SOFTWARE | 0.68% | MEDIA | 1.71% |
| MEDIA | 0.68% | LONDON | 1.63% |
| TRAVEL | 0.68% | J | 1.51% |
| ENTERPRISE | 0.68% | INVESTMENTS | 1.48% |
| WAY | 0.68% | GLOBAL | 1.46% |
| SOLAR | 0.68% | IT | 1.41% |
| GROUP | 0.45% | CARE | 1.39% |
| BUILDING | 0.45% | PROPERTIES | 1.29% |
| PUB | 0.45% | ELECTRICAL | 1.29% |
| DELIVERY | 0.45% | M | 1.27% |
| ELECTRICAL | 0.45% | BUILDING | 1.26% |
| BACK | 0.45% | ENERGY | 1.25% |
| DEAN | 0.45% | S | 1.20% |
| CARE | 0.45% | ENTERPRISES | 1.20% |

Previous 36 months, excluding companies less than 12 months old

| SIC CODE | NUMBER OF COMPANIES | UK COMPANIES |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| None Supplied | 93 | 205,525 |
| 7487 - Other business activities | 30 | 57,052 |
| 62020 - Information technology consultancy activities | 16 | 12,072 |
| 99999 - Dormant Company | 14 | 21,846 |
| 74909 - Other professional, scientific and technical activities not elsewhere classified | 11 | 8,671 |
| 9999 - Dormant Company | 11 | 20,199 |
| 70229 - Management consultancy activities other than financial management | 11 | 17,765 |
| 55300 - Recreational vehicle parks, trailer parks and camping grounds | 10 | 93 |
| 7222 - Other software consultancy and supply | 9 | 7,398 |
| 7414 - Business & management consultancy | 9 | 13,034 |
| 82990 - Other business support service activities not elsewhere classified | 8 | 32,483 |
| 9305 - Other service activities | 6 | 9,492 |
| 74990 - Non-trading company | 6 | 8,929 |
| 8514 - Other human health activities | 6 | 2,637 |
| 62090 - Other information technology service activities | 6 | 7,493 |
| 86900 - Other human health activities | 5 | 4,457 |
| 96090 - Other service activities not elsewhere classified | 5 | 11,768 |
| 7499 - Non-trading company | 4 | 9,957 |
| 4531 - Installation electrical wiring etc. | 4 | 1,967 |
| 7260 - Other computer related activities | 4 | 7,667 |