

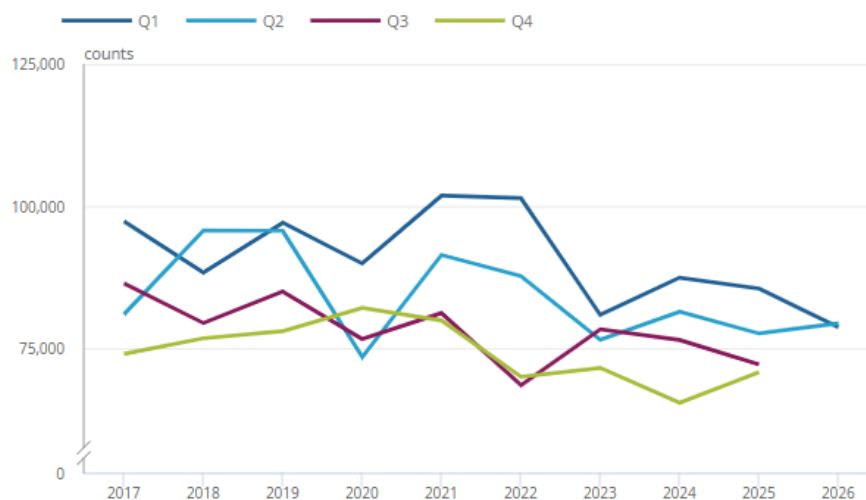
Business Births and Deaths: July 2026 Release

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) released their experimental statistics relating to business births and deaths in July, covering the period up to Q2 (April to June) 2026. The data and publication can be accessed [here](#).

National Findings:

The number of IDBR business creations in the UK in Q2 2026 was 79,325, an increase 2.2% compared to Q2 2025. There were increases in business creations in 9 out of 16 main industrial groups in Q2 2026 compared with Q2 2025. The most significant increase in business creations came from the business administration and support services industry (up 12.3%).

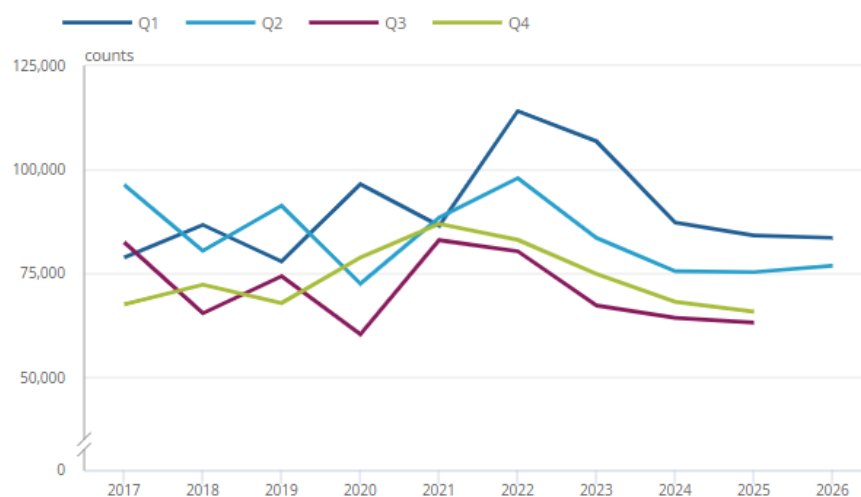
Number of businesses added to the IDBR, quarterly, UK, Q1 2017 to Q2 2026:



Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) from the Office for National Statistics

The number of business closures in the UK in Q2 2026 was 76,840. This is 2.0% higher than in Q2 2025, with an increase in closures in 11 out of 16 main industrial groups. The most significant increase in closures came from the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (up 28.4%).

Number of businesses removed to the IDBR, quarterly, UK, Q1 2017 to Q2 2026:



Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register (IDBR) from the Office for National Statistics

WMCA Analysis:

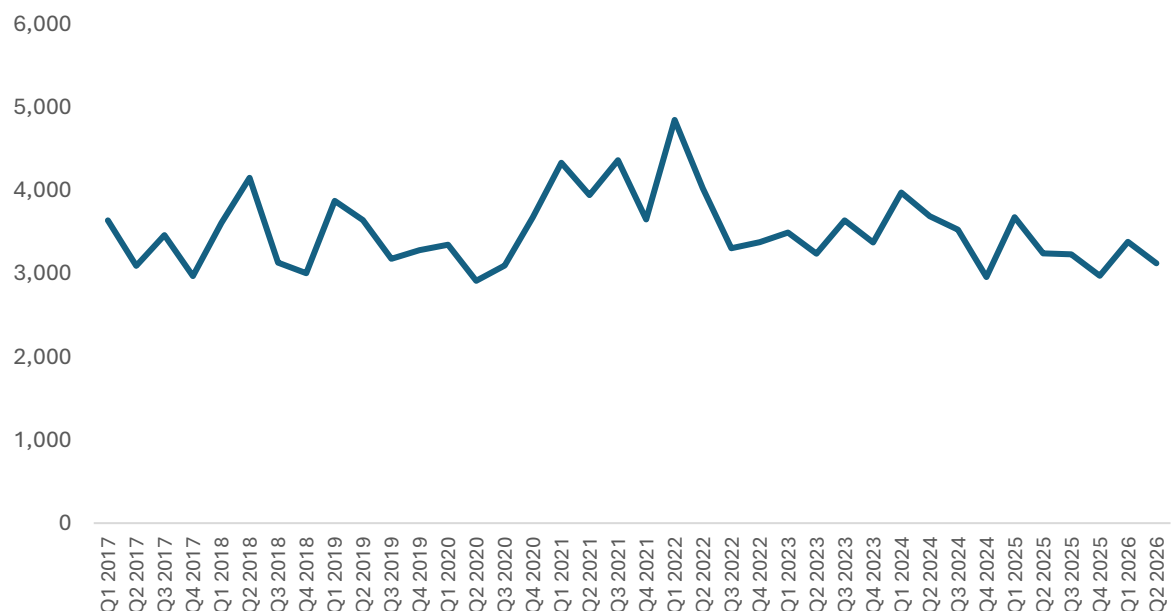
The number of business births in the WMCA area in Q2 2026 was 3,125. This figure was 3.7% (-120) lower than the number of business births in Q2 2025, while the UK increased by 2.2%. Compared to the same quarter in the previous year, business births increased in Coventry (+6.1% or +20), Dudley (+1.7% or +5) and Solihull (+4.2% or +10). Whereas decreases in business births were seen in Birmingham (-5.3% or -75), Sandwell (-7.8% or -30), Walsall (-13.3% or -40) and Wolverhampton (-3.7% or -120).

Quarter on quarter analysis (between Q1 2026 and Q2 2026) shows a decrease of 7.7% (-260) for the WMCA area, while the UK increased by 0.9%. Quarterly decreases were seen in five local authority areas whereas increases were experienced in Dudley (+3.4% or +10) and Solihull (+13.6% or +30).

Recent quarterly business births trends:

	Q2 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q2 2025 - Q2 2026 Change	Q1 2026 – Q2 2026 Change
Birmingham	1,425	1,490	1,350	-5.3%	-9.4%
Coventry	330	385	350	6.1%	-9.1%
Dudley	295	290	300	1.7%	3.4%
Sandwell	385	415	355	-7.8%	-14.5%
Solihull	240	220	250	4.2%	13.6%
Walsall	300	285	260	-13.3%	-8.8%
Wolverhampton	270	295	260	-3.7%	-11.9%
WMCA	3,245	3,385	3,125	-3.7%	-7.7%
UK	77,585	78,655	79,325	2.2%	0.9%

Longer-term quarterly WMCA business births trends:



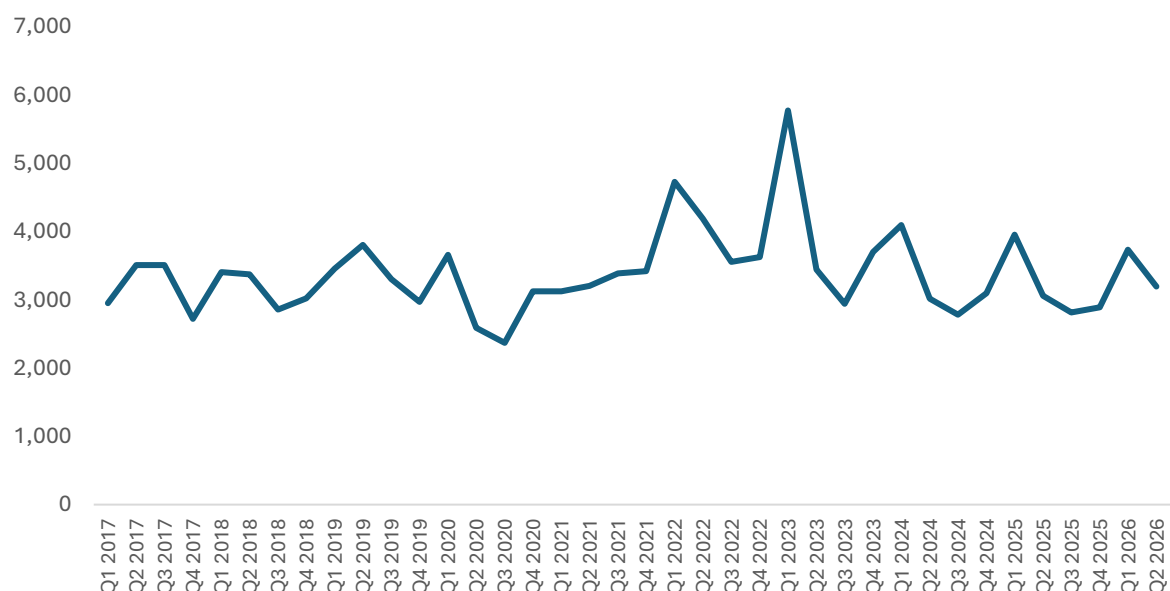
The number of business deaths in the WMCA area in Q2 2026 was 3,195. This figure was 4.4% (+135) higher than the number of business deaths in Q2 2025, exceeding the UK increase of 2.0%. Business deaths increased in five WMCA local authority areas (excluding Sandwell and Wolverhampton as both unchanged) compared to the same quarter in the previous year. The largest percentage increase in business deaths was in Dudley by 14.5% (+40), while Birmingham had the largest number increase business closures (+50 or +3.6%).

Quarter on quarter analysis (between Q1 2026 and Q2 2026) shows a decrease in business deaths of 14.5% (-540) for the WMCA area, exceeding the UK decrease of 8.1%. The largest decrease in business deaths in the WMCA area was in Birmingham (-20.6% or -370), whereas business deaths increased in Dudley (+5.0% or +15) and Walsall (+3.7% or +10).

Recent quarterly business deaths trends:

	Q2 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q2 2025 - Q2 2026 Change	Q1 2026 - Q2 2026 Change
Birmingham	1,380	1,800	1,430	3.6%	-20.6%
Coventry	335	375	340	1.5%	-9.3%
Dudley	275	300	315	14.5%	5.0%
Sandwell	330	400	330	0.0%	-17.5%
Solihull	205	280	225	9.8%	-19.6%
Walsall	265	270	280	5.7%	3.7%
Wolverhampton	270	310	270	0.0%	-12.9%
WMCA	3,060	3,735	3,195	4.4%	-14.5%
UK	75,335	83,575	76,840	2.0%	-8.1%

Longer-term quarterly WMCA business deaths trends:



The latest data shows that WMCA business deaths are above business births:

