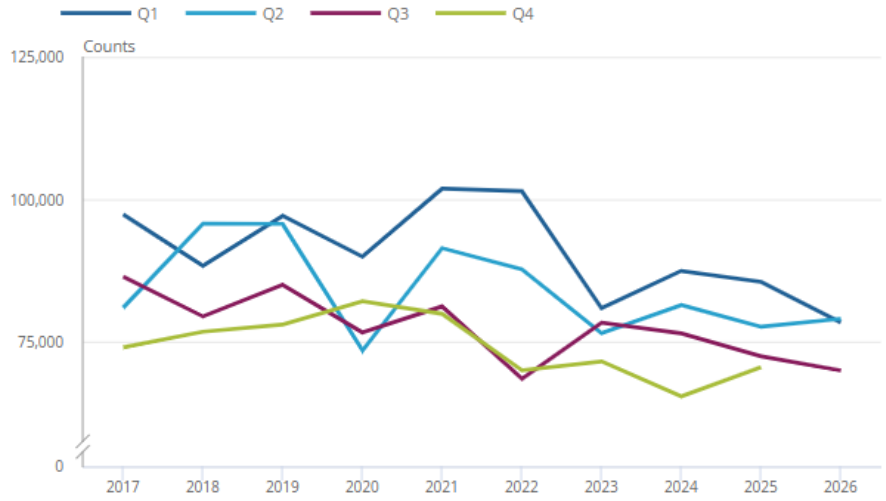
Business Births and Deaths: October 2026 Release

ONS released their experimental statistics relating to business births and deaths in October, covering the period up to Q3 (July to September) 2026. The data and publication can be accessed here.

National Findings:

The number of IDBR business creations in the UK in Q3 2026 was 69,895, a decrease of 3.5% compared to Q3 2025. The number of business creations decreased in 11 out of 16 main industrial groups in Q3 2026 compared with Q3 2025. The most significant decreases in business creations came from the health and social care industry (down 26.4%) and the accommodation and food services industry (down 16.2%).

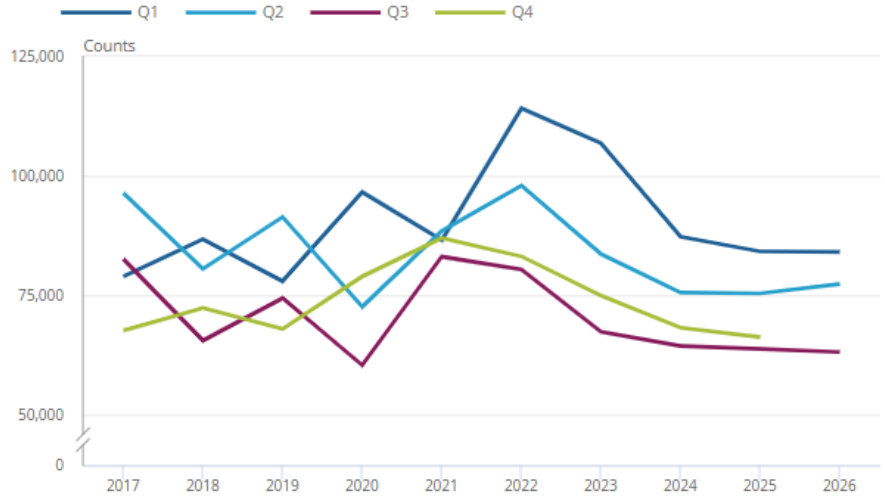
Number of businesses added to the IDBR, quarterly, UK, Q1 2017 to Q3 2026:



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

The number of business closures in the UK in Q3 2026 was 63,035. This is 1.1% lower than in Q3 2025, with a decrease in closures in 8 out of 16 main industrial groups. The most significant decrease in closures came from the business administration and support services industry (down 16.7%).

Number of businesses removed to the IDBR, quarterly, UK, Q1 2017 to Q3 2026:



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

WMCA Analysis:

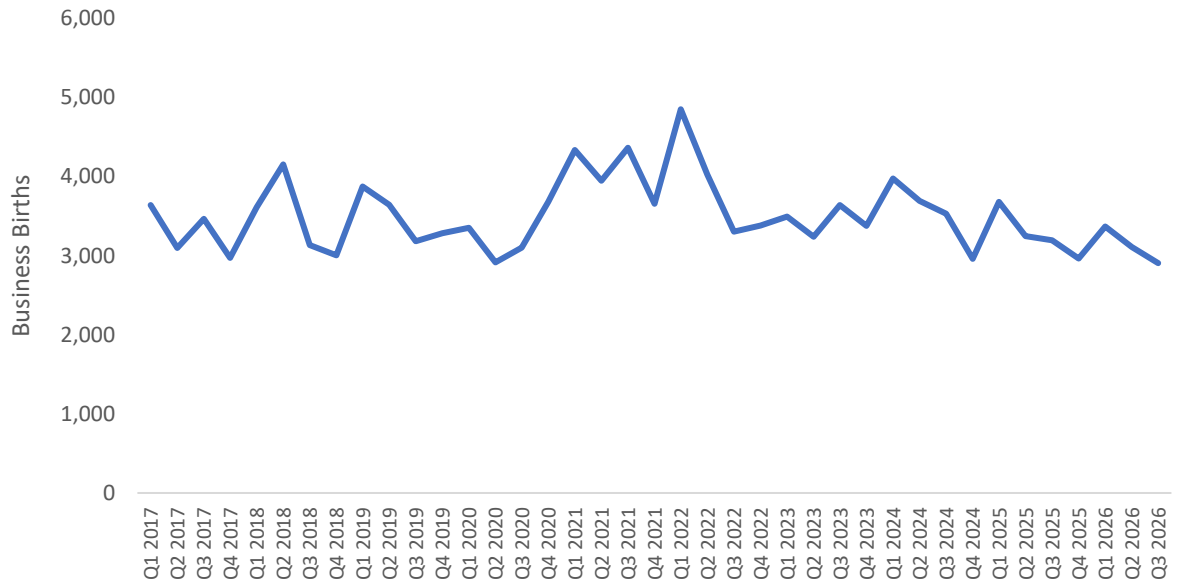
The number of business births in the WMCA area in Q3 2026 was 2,905. This figure was 9.1% (-290) lower than the number of business births in Q3 2025, while the UK decreased by 3.5%. Compared to the same quarter in the previous year, business births increased in Dudley (+16.0% or +40) and business births remained the same in Walsall. Whereas decreases in business births were seen in Birmingham (-14.8% or -210), Coventry (-4.3% or -15), Sandwell (-9.9% or -40), Solihull (-19.1% or -45) and Wolverhampton (-5.1% or -15).

Quarter on quarter analysis (between Q2 2026 and Q3 2026) shows a decrease of 6.6% (-205) for the WMCA area, while the UK decreased by 11.5%. Quarterly decreases were seen in all local authority areas except for Sandwell (+2.8% or +10) and Wolverhampton (+7.7% or +20).

Recent quarterly business births trends:

	Q3 2025	Q2 2026	Q3 2026	Q3 2025 - Q3 2026 Change	Q2 2026 - Q3 2026 Change
WMCA	**3,195**	**3,110**	**2,905**	**-9.1%**	**-6.6%**
Birmingham	1,415	1,340	1,205	-14.8%	-10.1%
Coventry	350	345	335	-4.3%	-2.9%
Dudley	250	300	290	16.0%	-3.3%
Sandwell	405	355	365	-9.9%	2.8%
Solihull	235	250	190	-19.1%	-24.0%
Walsall	245	260	245	0.0%	-5.8%
Wolverhampton	295	260	280	-5.1%	7.7%
UK	**72,400**	**78,995**	**69,895**	**-3.5%**	**-11.5%**

Longer-term quarterly WMCA business births trends:



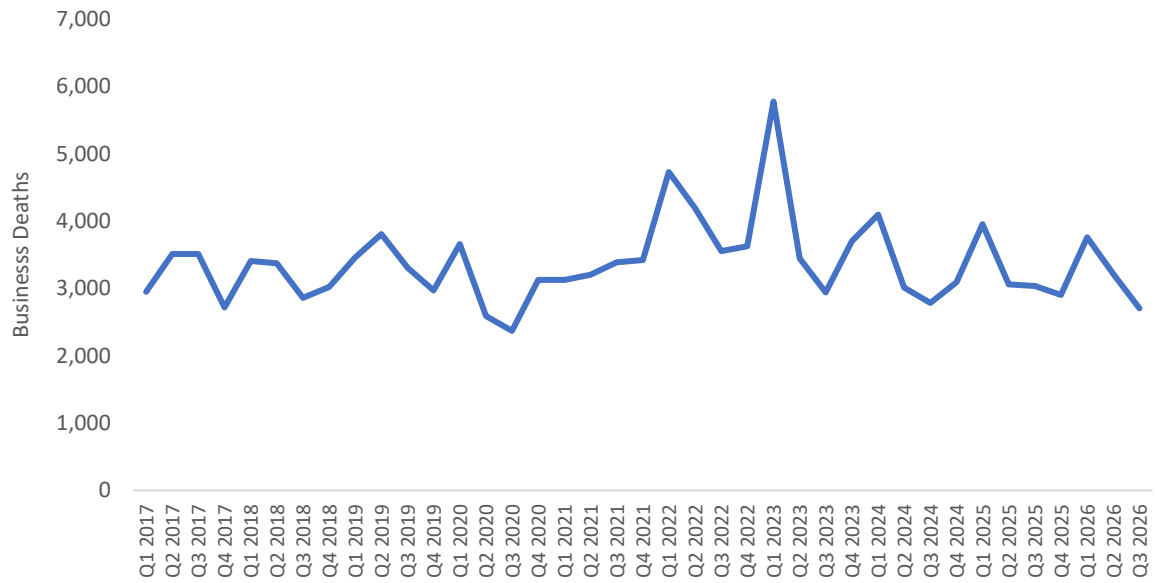
The number of business deaths in the WMCA area in Q3 2026 was 2,705. This figure was 10.9% (-330) lower than the number of business deaths in Q3 2025, exceeding the UK decrease of 1.1%. Business deaths decreased in all WMCA local authority areas except for Dudley (unchanged) and Solihull (+2.9% or +5) compared to the same quarter in the previous year. The largest decrease in business deaths in Q3 2026 was in Birmingham (-15.4% or -235) when compared to Q3 2025.

Quarter on quarter analysis (between Q2 2026 and Q3 2026) shows a decrease in business deaths of 15.7% (-505) for the WMCA area, while the UK decreased by 18.4%. Compared to the previous quarter, business deaths decreased in all WMCA local authority areas, with the largest decrease in business deaths seen in Birmingham (-10.4% or -150), while the largest percentage decrease in business deaths was in Dudley (-29.7% or -95).

Recent quarterly business deaths trends:

	Q3 2025	Q2 2026	Q3 2026	Q3 2025 - Q3 2026 Change	Q2 2026 - Q3 2026 Change
WMCA	**3,035**	**3,210**	**2,705**	**-10.9%**	**-15.7%**
Birmingham	1,525	1,440	1,290	-15.4%	-10.4%
Coventry	300	340	280	-6.7%	-17.6%
Dudley	225	320	225	0.0%	-29.7%
Sandwell	330	330	290	-12.1%	-12.1%
Solihull	175	230	180	2.9%	-21.7%
Walsall	220	285	210	-4.5%	-26.3%
Wolverhampton	260	270	230	-11.5%	-14.8%
UK	**63,720**	**77,270**	**63,035**	**-1.1%**	**-18.4%**

Longer-term quarterly WMCA business deaths trends:



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

