



# Epsom and Ewell Leads South East in Small Business Growth

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| Region                   | % Growth in Small Businesses (2023 to 2024) in the Region | Top Authority          | Small business number 2023 | Small business number 2024 | % Growth in Small Businesses (2023 to 2024) |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| East Midlands            | -1  | Grady and Wigton       | 2060                       | 2155                       | 4.61  |
| East of England          | 0.4   | Harrow                 | 3215                       | 3360                       | 4.51  |
| West Midlands            | -1.35   | Solihull               | 7815                       | 8145                       | 4.22  |
| London                   | 0.55  | Carndon                | 33930                      | 35290                      | 4.01  |
| <b>South East</b>        | <b>-0.09</b>  | <b>Epsom and Ewell</b> | <b>3470</b>                | <b>3570</b>                | <b>2.88</b>                                 |
| North West               | -0.53   | Fylde                  | 3250                       | 3330                       | 2.46  |
| South West               | -0.24   | Tewkesbury             | 4180                       | 4260                       | 2.39  |
| Scotland                 | 0.38  | Nà h-Eileanan Siar     | 1170                       | 1195                       | 2.14  |
| Northern Ireland         | 0.85  | Mid and East Antrim    | 8960                       | 9085                       | 1.9   |
| Wales                    | -1.72   | Site of Anglesey       | 2610                       | 2560                       | 1.53  |
| North East               | -0.77   | Stockton-on-Tees       | 5285                       | 5350                       | 1.23  |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | -1.51   | Erkines                | 15070                      | 15070                      | 0   |

Epsom and Ewell has emerged as the fastest-growing local authority in the South East of England for small businesses, according to new data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) analysed by BusinessFinancing.co.uk. The borough gained 100 new small businesses in 2024, representing a 2.88% increase—the highest growth rate in the region.

This growth is particularly significant given that the South East as a whole experienced a slight decline in the number of small businesses, with a recorded drop of -0.09%. Epsom and Ewell's performance stands in contrast to this regional trend, highlighting the borough's resilience and business-friendly environment.

The latest analysis was conducted by BusinessFinancing.co.uk, which examined data from the ONS to determine small business growth rates across local authorities in the UK. Their study identifies the areas where entrepreneurial activity is thriving, despite the economic challenges of recent years, including Brexit-related trading difficulties and the lingering impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The strong performance of Epsom and Ewell may be attributed to its strategic location, well-connected transport links, and the continued support for local enterprise initiatives. Business owners in the borough have also benefited from improved access to credit, as financial institutions report an increase in successful loan applications for small firms.

Local business leaders have welcomed the findings, seeing them as an encouraging sign that Epsom and Ewell remains an attractive destination for entrepreneurs. "It's fantastic to see our borough leading the South East in small business growth," said **Richard Excell** of Epsom based **Excell Design & Marketing** and the **Epsom Business Club**, "This reflects the hard work and resilience of our local entrepreneurs who continue to drive innovation and employment in our community."

BusinessFinancing.co.uk has also created a nationwide map showcasing their findings across the UK, which illustrates the varying rates of small business growth. Their analysis highlights Aberdeen as the UK's leading city for small business expansion, with a 1.95% increase.

With Epsom and Ewell bucking the regional trend and proving to be a hub for entrepreneurial activity, the future looks promising for small businesses in the borough. Continued investment in local infrastructure and support networks will be key to sustaining this momentum and ensuring long-term prosperity for the area's business community.