

**China tops table for pace of growth in business numbers – increasing total stock by almost a fifth in a year**

Rank	Country	Number of businesses in 2015	Number of businesses in 2016	Amount change in number of businesses	% change in number of businesses
1	China	21,982,000	26,115,000	4,134,000	18.8%
2	Pakistan	73,000	81,000	8,000	11.3%
3	Vietnam	442,000	485,000	42,000	9.6%
4	Malta	88,000	95,000	7,000	8.1%
-	<b>World</b>	<b>68,246,000</b>	<b>73,501,000</b>	<b>5,255,000</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
5	India	1,070,000	1,143,000	73,000	6.8%
6	United Kingdom	3,679,000	3,897,000	218,000	5.9%
7	Denmark	297,000	308,000	11,000	3.7%
8	Israel	270,000	279,000	10,000	3.6%
9	Rep. of Ireland	198,000	205,000	7,000	3.3%
10	Russia	4,886,000	5,044,000	158,000	3.2%
11	France	4,836,000	4,973,000	137,000	2.8%
12	Australia	2,121,000	2,172,000	50,000	2.4%
-	<b>Major Western economies*</b>	<b>31,208,000</b>	<b>31,898,000</b>	<b>690,000</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
-	<b>Europe</b>	<b>21,186,000</b>	<b>21,647,000</b>	<b>461,000</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
13	United States	10,816,000	11,046,000	230,000	2.1%
14	Spain	3,512,000	3,586,000	73,000	2.1%
15	Japan	5,269,000	5,360,000	91,000	1.7%
16	Belgium	634,000	642,000	8,000	1.2%
17	Germany	3,469,000	3,503,000	34,000	1.0%
18	Poland	151,000	150,000	-1,000	-0.5%
19	Italy	3,139,000	3,120,000	-20,000	-0.6%
20	Portugal	1,181,000	1,169,000	-12,000	-1.1%
21	UAE (Dubai)	131,000	129,000	-3,000	-2.0%

\*France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, United States

Notes on the figures (rounded to the nearest thousand):

Japan – 2015 figure is an estimate based on 2014 and 2016 figures; UK – figures have a year-end of 31 March 2016 and 2017, and are figures from UK's Companies House on new incorporations and dissolved companies; Germany – 2016 figure is an estimate based on new registrations and de-registrations for 2016; Belgium – figures are for 2014 and 2015, the most up-to-date figures available; Vietnam – 2016 figure is an estimate based on annual growth rate 2010-15; Australia – Year end June 30 June 2015 and 2016; Pakistan – figures are for fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17 and measure the number of companies registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).