

Why does the UK have so many companies?

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I have researched company data in the UK twice before, [once in 2011](#) and [again in 2014](#). I am doing it again. There is always a broader motive, linked to the tax gap, but the data does, in itself pose questions. Start with the most basic one, which is, why do we need so many companies? This is the data, based on my long-term collection of Companies House information:

We've almost tripled the number of UK companies since 1998. Tax partly explains that. There is tax avoidance and tax evasion written all over this.

So is job insecurity writ large here: this is the world of consulting and faux self-employment on display.

But is that all? It's a question I will be looking at, and because I will generate more data than I can possibly use in any report I will be sharing some of it here.