



Individual Insolvencies by Location, Age and Gender, England and Wales, 2018

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We are seeking feedback

We endeavour to provide the most accurate and timely statistical information to meet our user's needs.

As such, we are proposing to incorporate some of the age and gender insolvency statistics included in this release into our quarterly [Individual Insolvency Statistics](#) publication. This will mean age and gender statistics will be available each quarter and the data will be on a more timely basis than is currently available.

Additionally, we are exploring the possibility of bringing forward the release date of this Individual Insolvencies by Location, Age and Gender publication to earlier in the year. As with all statistics, there is a trade-off between timeliness and accuracy: this would mean either using population estimates of the previous year or forecasts of new population estimates in our insolvency rate calculations.

Feedback on these proposals is welcomed at statistics@insolvency.gov.uk.



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1. Main messages

- The total insolvency rate increased for the third successive year, and increased in all regions of England and Wales in 2018.
- The North East continued to have the highest insolvency rates, while London had the lowest.
- Of the 10 local authorities with the lowest insolvency rates, 7 were in London and 3 were in the surrounding Home Counties.
- Six out of the 10 local authorities with the highest insolvency rates were in coastal areas.
- The insolvency rate for females was higher than the male rate for the fifth successive year, and the gap has continued to widen.
- Insolvency rates were highest in the 35 to 44 age group for males and 25 to 34 for females.
- Insolvency rates increased for all age groups with those aged from 25 to 44 showing the biggest rises and those aged over 65 only marginally increasing.



2. Things you need to know about this release

This statistics release contains data on individual insolvencies (people who are unable to pay debts and enter formal procedures) broken down by location age and gender for 2018. More recent individual statistics for England and Wales; Scotland and Northern Ireland can be found in our latest [Individual Insolvency Statistics](#) release.

Methodology and key terms

Table 1: Key terms used in the publication

Individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs)	A voluntary means of repaying creditors some or all of what they are owed. Once approved by 75% or more of creditors, the arrangement is binding on all. IVAs are supervised by licensed Insolvency Practitioners.
Debt relief orders (DROs)	A form of debt relief available to those who have a low income, low assets and less than £20,000 of debt (£15,000 before October 2015). There is no distribution to creditors, and discharge from debts takes place 12 months after the DRO is granted. DROs were introduced in April 2009.
Bankruptcy	A form of debt relief available for anyone who is unable to pay their debts. Assets owned will vest in a trustee in bankruptcy, who will sell them and distribute the proceeds to creditors. Discharge from debts usually takes place 12 months after the bankruptcy order is granted. Bankruptcies result from either Debtor application – where the individual is unable to pay their debts, and applies online to make themselves bankrupt, or Creditor petition – if a creditor is owed £5,000 or more (£750 before October 2015), they can apply to the court to make an individual bankrupt. These statistics relate to petitions where a court order was made as a result, although not all petitions to court result in a bankruptcy order.

Coverage

Statistics are presented only for England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland are not included because of differences in legislation and policy.

Coherence

Numbers of new cases presented in these tables are not consistent with the official, headline quarterly [Individual Insolvency Statistics](#) (designated as a National Statistic) estimates as they have been extracted from a live database at a different point in time and on a different basis. The quarterly National Statistics are the definitive source of the number of new cases each year in England and Wales, and the rate per 10,000 adults.



Detailed information

More detailed methodology and quality information has been published alongside this commentary.



3. Total individual insolvencies

3.1 National trends

The total insolvency rate increased for the third successive year to 25.0 per 10,000 adults, a rate increase of 3.6 per 10,000. Individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs) continued to account for the majority of individual insolvencies and all types of insolvency increased their rate per 10,000 adults.

Figure 1: The total individual insolvency rate continued to increase

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2000-2018



3.2 Regional trends

The North East continued to have the highest rate of insolvency in England and Wales, with 33.2 insolvencies per 10,000 adults. It has been the region with the highest rate of insolvency each year since 2008. It had the highest rate of debt relief orders (DROs) and individual voluntary arrangements, and the joint highest rate of bankruptcy with the South West.

Additionally, the North East had the largest increase in insolvency rate (6.0 per 10,000 adults) while London had the smallest increase in rate (1.5 per 10,000 adults). Regions that already had a larger rate in 2017 tended to see larger rate increases.



Figure 2: The North East had the highest insolvency rate while London had the lowest

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018

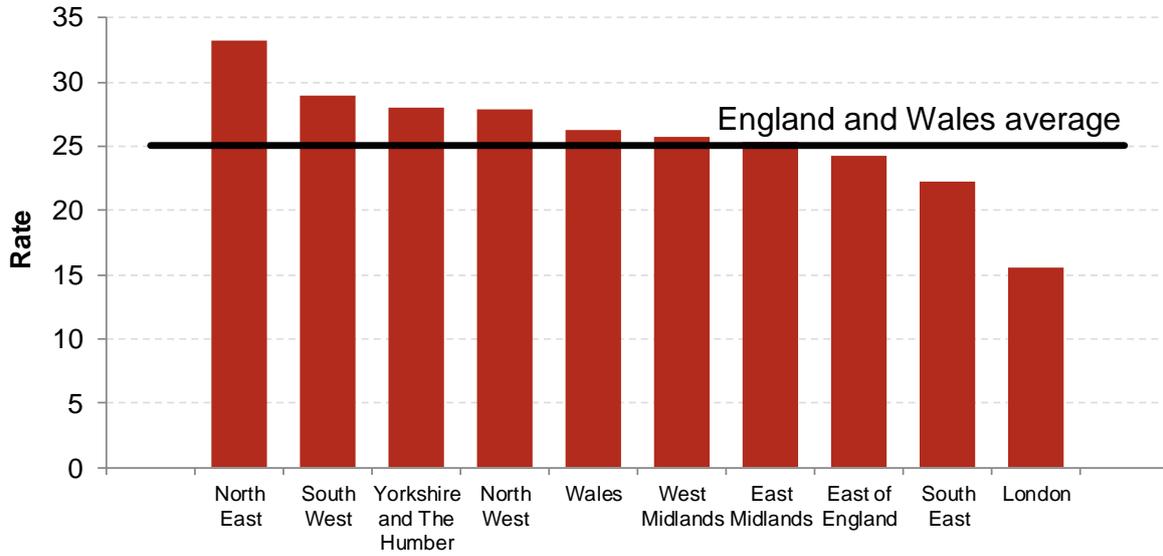
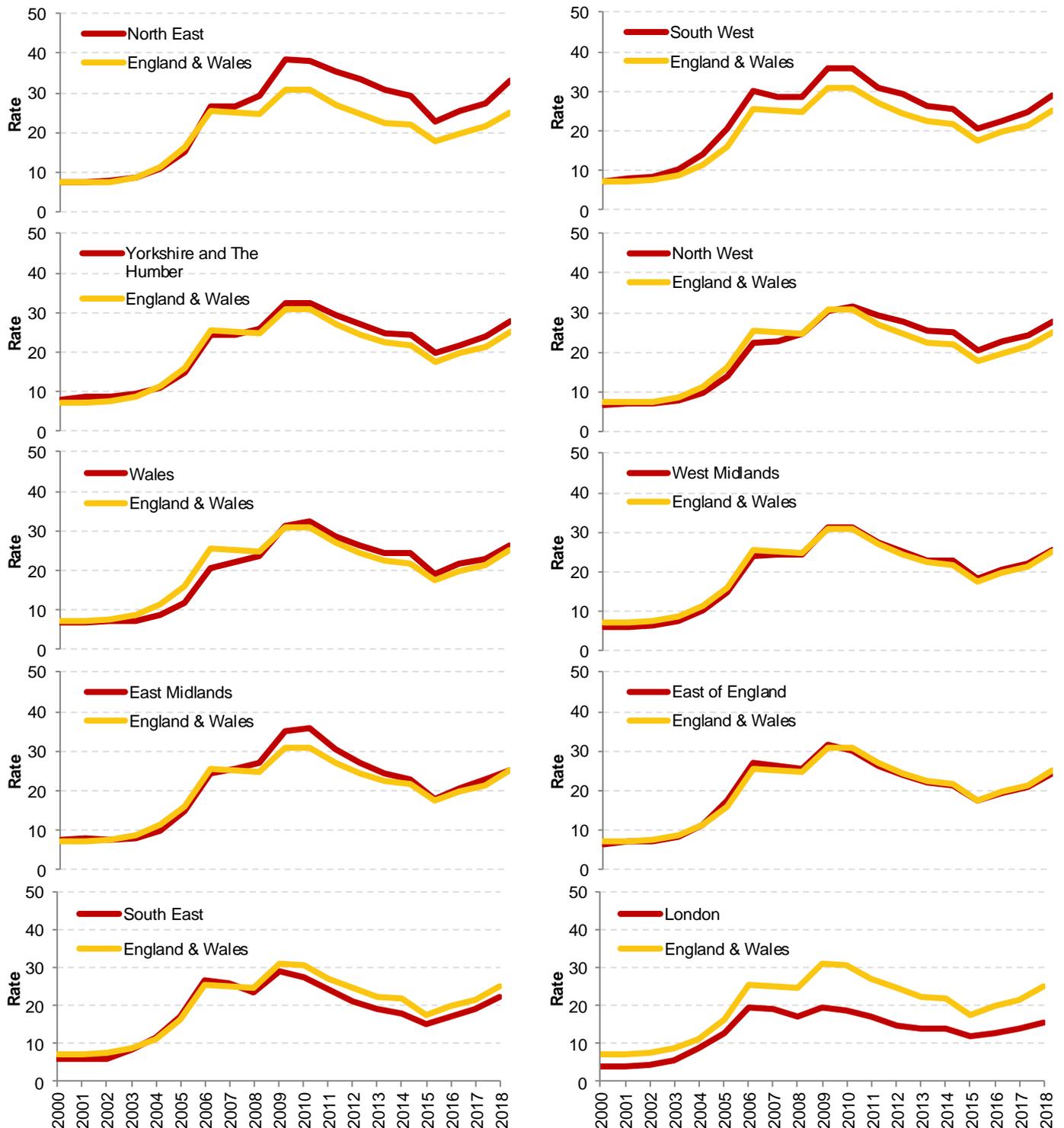




Figure 3: The insolvency rate in each region has followed fairly similar trends compared to England and Wales as a whole

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2000-2018



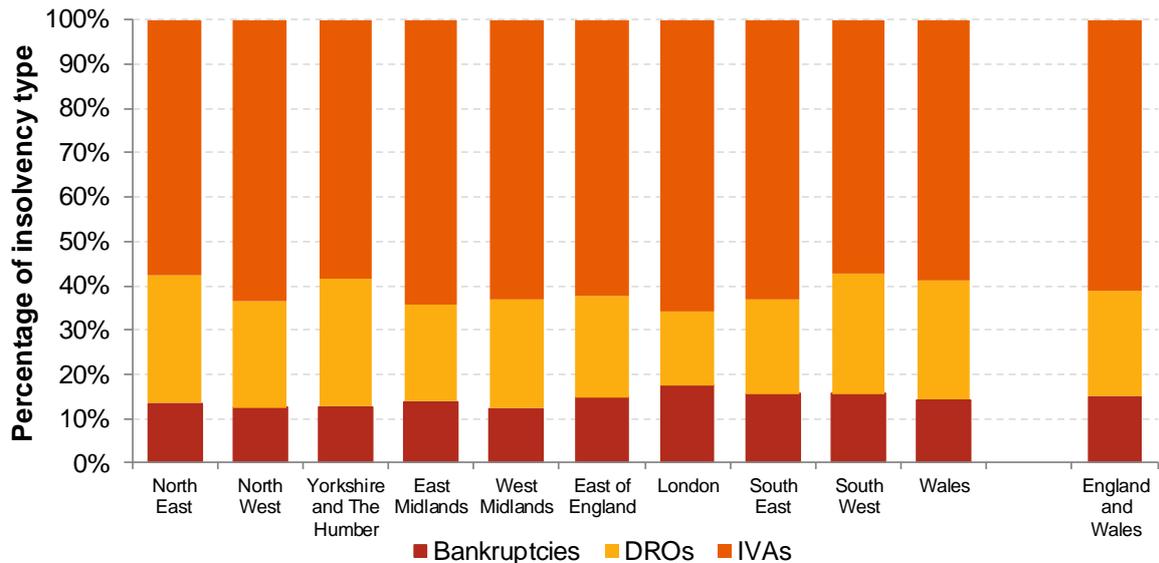
Individual voluntary arrangements were the most common type of insolvency in each region. Debt relief orders were the second most common insolvency type in each region except London, where bankruptcies were more common.



London had the highest proportion of bankruptcies and individual voluntary arrangements (relative to insolvency type), while the highest proportion of debt relief orders were in the North East. The West Midlands had the lowest proportion of bankruptcies (relative to insolvency type); the South West had the lowest proportion of individual voluntary arrangements; and London had the lowest proportion of debt relief orders.

Figure 4: Individual voluntary arrangements were the most common type of insolvency in each region though the mix of insolvency type varied¹

Percentage, England and Wales, 2018



1. The stacked bar chart above shows the percentage of each insolvency type in each region and for England and Wales as a whole for comparison.

3.3 Local authorities

The local authority with the highest total individual insolvency rate in 2018 was Stoke-on-Trent with a rate of 51.9 per 10,000 adults. Stoke-on-Trent also had the highest insolvency rate in 2017. The local authorities with the joint lowest rate in 2018 were Kensington and Chelsea; and Mole Valley with rates of 9.9 per 10,000 adults.

Similarly to last year, 6 out of 10 areas with the highest insolvency rates were located in coastal areas; in comparison, 7 out of the 10 areas with the lowest insolvency rates were in London.



Table 2: The majority of the 10 areas with the lowest insolvency rates were in London

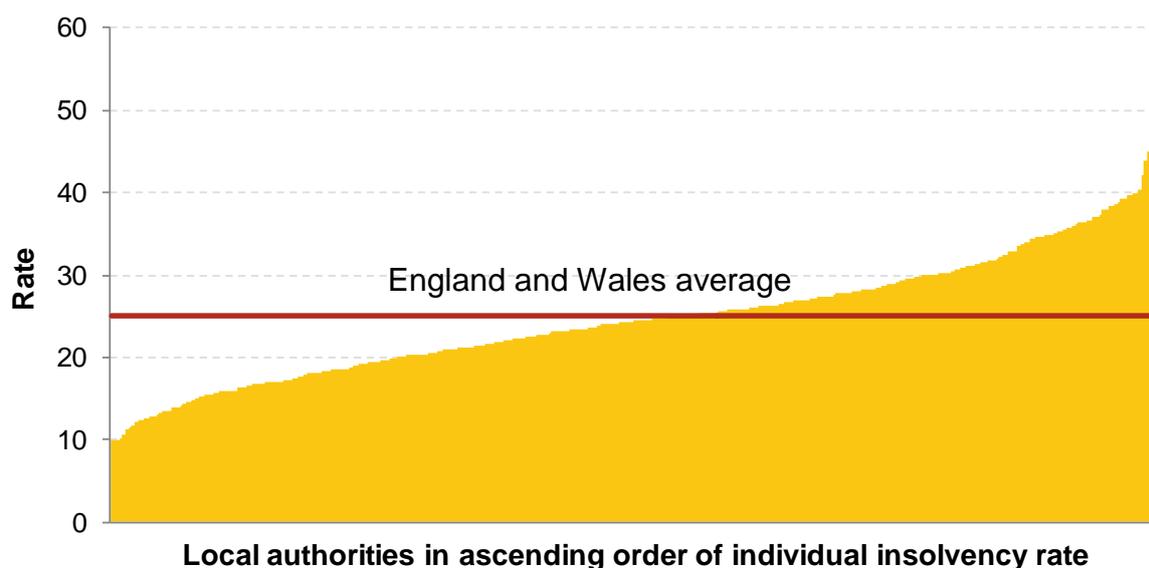
Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018

Highest insolvency rates			Lowest insolvency rates		
Local authority	Number of new cases	per 10,000 adults	Local authority	Number of new cases	per 10,000 adults
Stoke-on-Trent	1029	51.9	Kensington and Chelsea	126	9.9
Scarborough	426	47.8	Mole Valley	69	9.9
Torbay	504	45.7	Camden	211	10.0
Plymouth	952	45.2	Westminster	211	10.2
Kingston upon Hull, City of	915	44.9	Wandsworth	276	10.5
Blackpool	484	43.8	Harrow	217	11.3
Corby	225	42.1	Richmond upon Thames	175	11.6
Burnley	275	40.4	Epsom and Ewell	72	11.7
Barnsley	776	39.9	Brent	308	12.2
Stockton-on-Tees	612	39.8	St Albans	137	12.4

The total insolvency rate was higher in 2018 than in 2017 in 300 out of 348 local authorities (86%). The largest decrease in the rate was in Adur with 8.1 fewer insolvencies per 10,000 adults, followed by York with 4.6. The largest increase, excluding the Isles of Scilly due to low population, was in Hartlepool with 14.8 more insolvencies per 10,000 adults followed by Salford with 11.3 more insolvencies per 10,000 adults.

Figure 5: The insolvency rate varied significantly by local authority

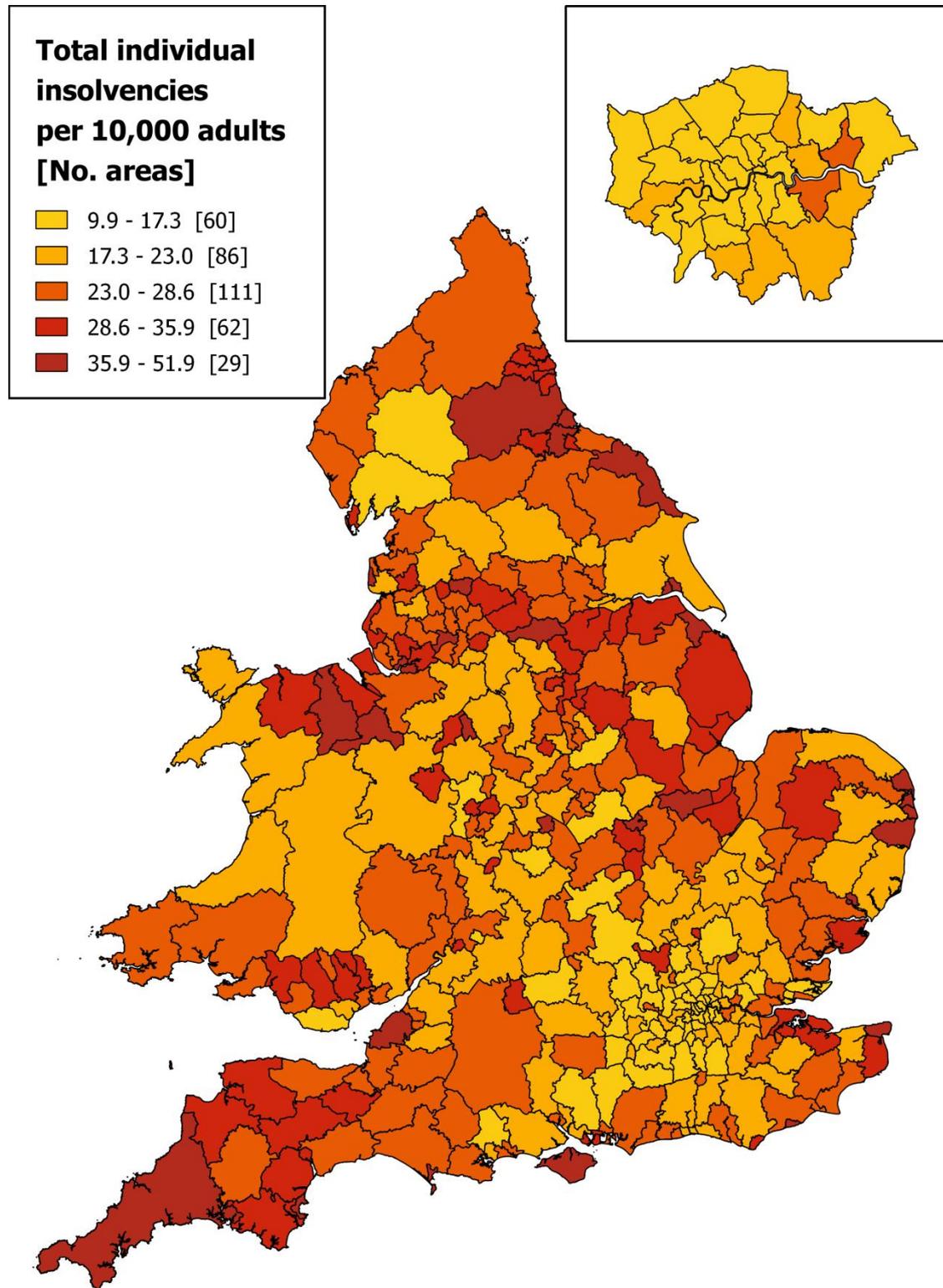
Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018





Map 1: Many of the local authorities with the lowest insolvency rates were found in and around London

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018





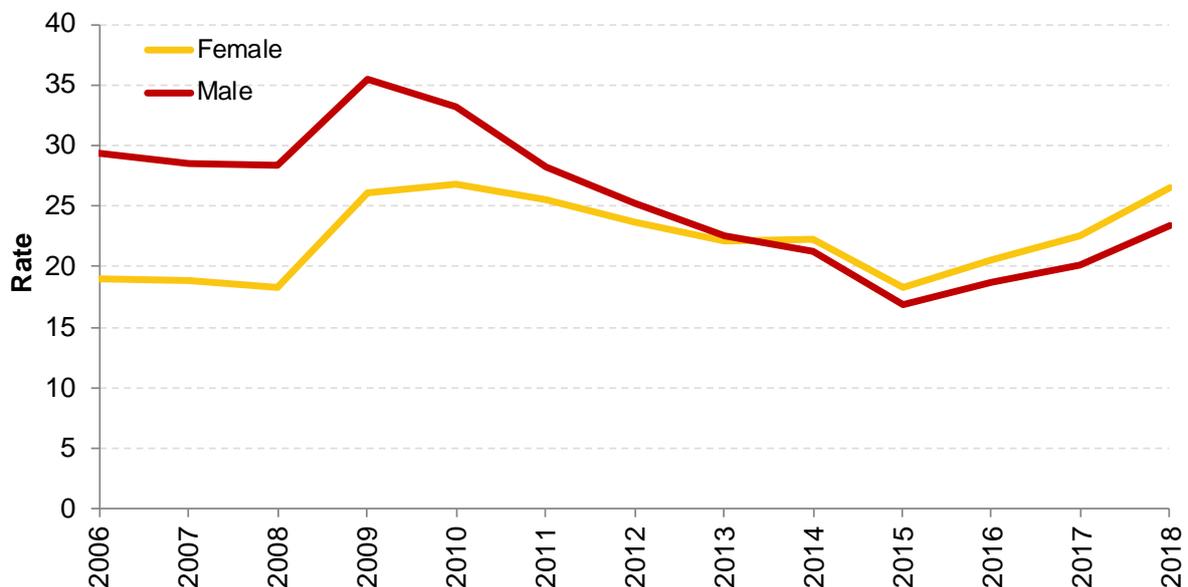
3.4 Gender and age analysis

In 2018, the insolvency rate for females was 26.6 insolvencies per 10,000 adults and was 23.3 for males. This represents a gender gap of 3.2, an increase on last year's gender gap of 1.8.

Historically, males had a higher rate of insolvencies per 10,000 adults than females, but the gender gap noticeably narrowed from 2009 onwards and, by 2014, females began to have higher insolvency rates than males. This change coincided with a decline in the number of bankruptcies (where males have a higher rate of insolvency), the introduction and growth in the number of debt relief orders (where the rate for women is higher), and the narrowing and subsequent reversal of the gender gap for individual voluntary arrangements.

Figure 6: The insolvency rate gender gap¹ continues to widen

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2006-2018



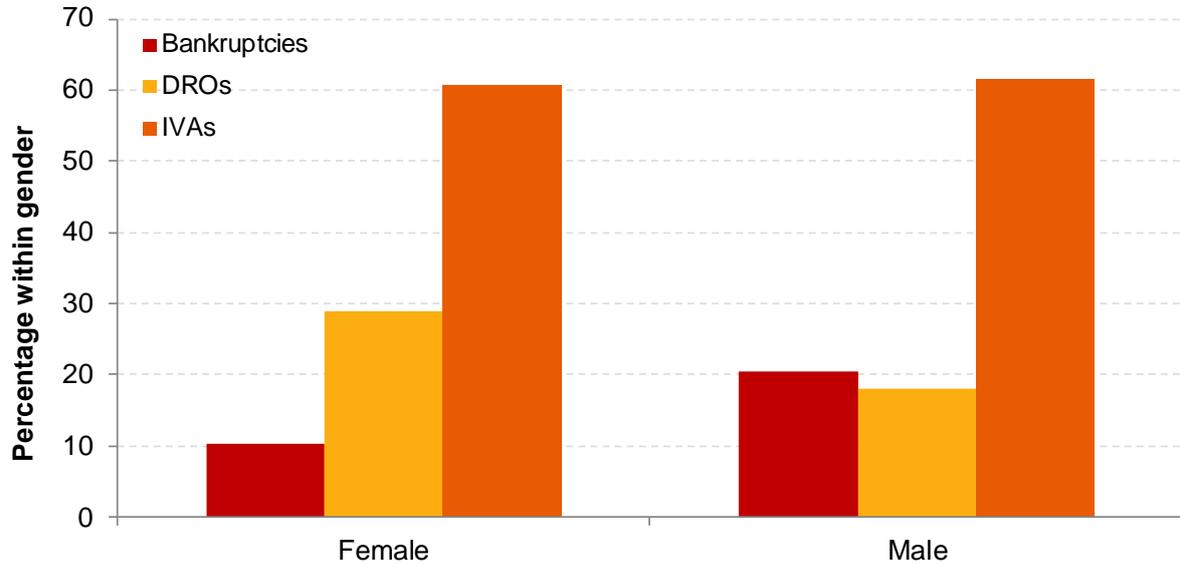
1. This is the difference between the female and male insolvency rate per 10,000 adults.

Individual voluntary arrangements accounted for the highest proportion of male and female insolvencies and were broadly similar (62% for males, 61% for females). However, the relative proportions of debt relief orders and bankruptcies varied by gender. Bankruptcies accounted for the lowest proportion of insolvencies for females (10% of insolvencies), whilst debt relief orders accounted for the lowest proportion in men (18% of insolvencies).



Figure 7: The percentage of debt relief orders and bankruptcies varied by gender

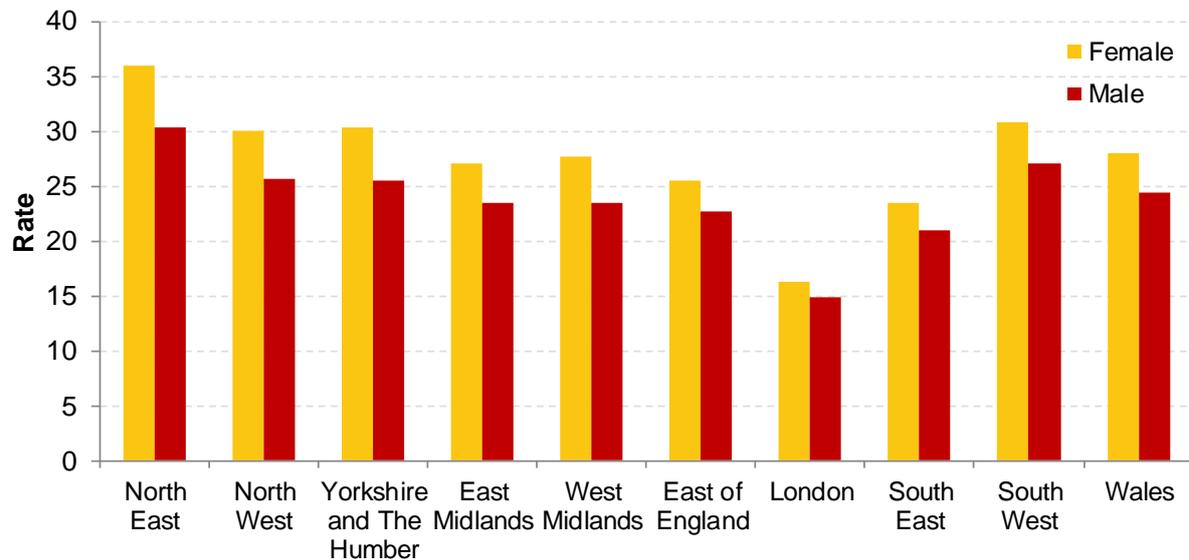
Percentage, England and Wales, 2018



Females had higher insolvency rates in every region of England and Wales. The largest gender gap was in the North East (a difference of 5.6 insolvencies per 10,000 adults) while London had the smallest gap (1.3 insolvencies per 10,000 adults).

Figure 8: Females had a higher insolvency rate in every region of England and Wales

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018



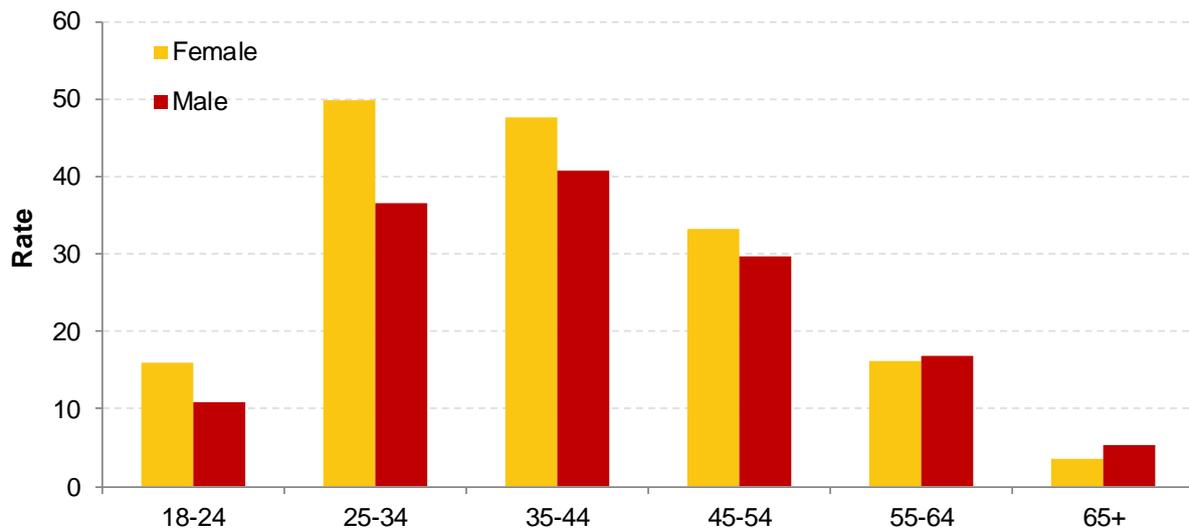


In 2018, the distribution of insolvency rates by age remained broadly similar to 2017. The trend of insolvency rates being lower in younger adults then peaking in middle age before falling again in older adults continues in 2018. This trend has been similar since 2006.

The insolvency rate was higher amongst females under 55 years old, compared to males of the same age. The reverse was true for those aged 55 and over. This pattern was also seen in 2017.

Figure 9: Insolvency rates were lower in younger adults, before rising in middle age and falling again for older adults

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018

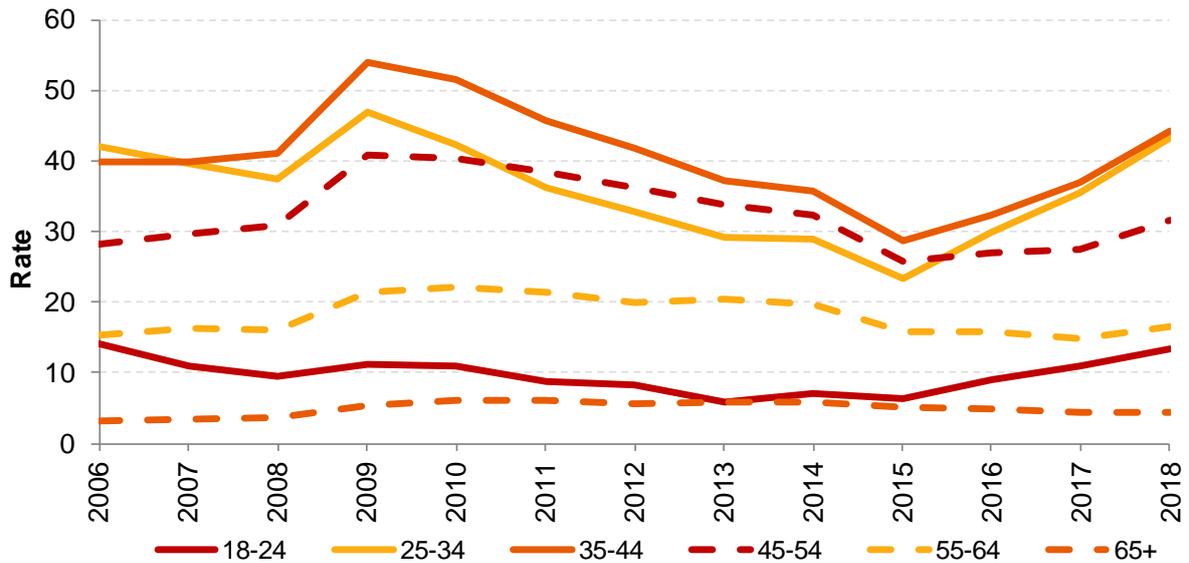


The insolvency rate increased for all age groups in 2018 compared with 2017 except over 65 year olds which were flat. The 25 to 34 year old age group saw the largest rate increase (an increase of 7.6 per 10,000 adults). This is the second year in a row that this age group has had the largest rate increase and the rate for this group continues to get closer to the 35 to 44 year old age group.



Figure 10: Insolvency rates continued to be highest for 35 to 44 year olds

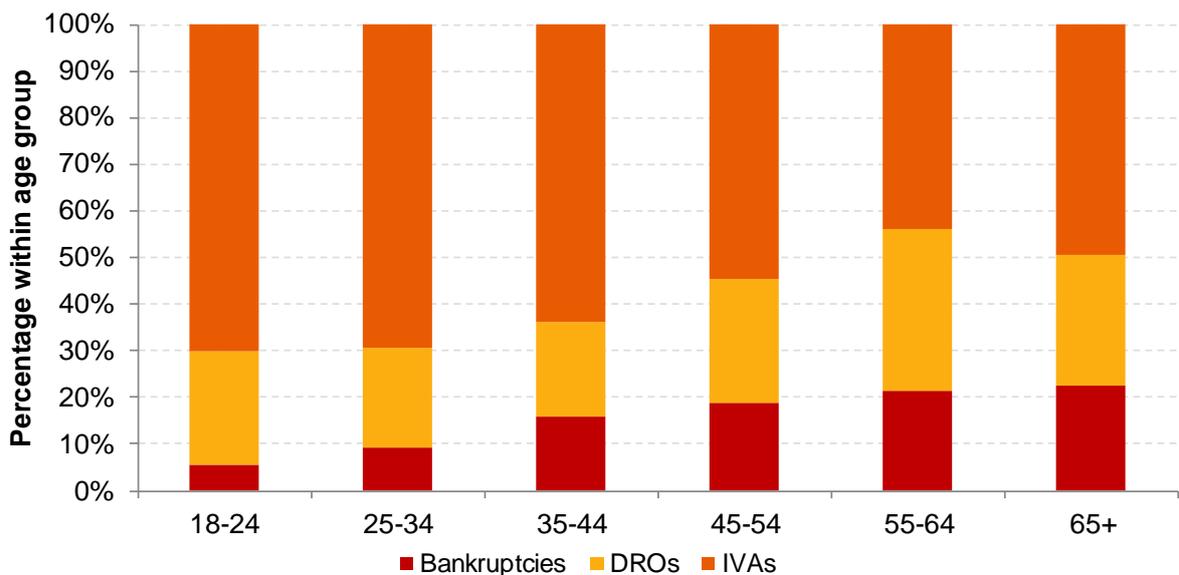
Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2006-2018



Individual voluntary arrangements were the most common type of insolvency in all age groups, but the extent of this varied. Additionally, they tended to be more common amongst younger age groups. The proportion of insolvencies that individual voluntary arrangements accounted for fell with age until the 55 to 64 age group before increasing again for those aged over 65. This is in contrast to bankruptcies, where the proportion increased with age.

Figure 11: The proportion of insolvencies which were bankruptcies increased with age

Percentage, England and Wales, 2018





4. Bankruptcies

Note: legislative changes may have affected these statistics so care should be taken when comparing bankruptcies between years.

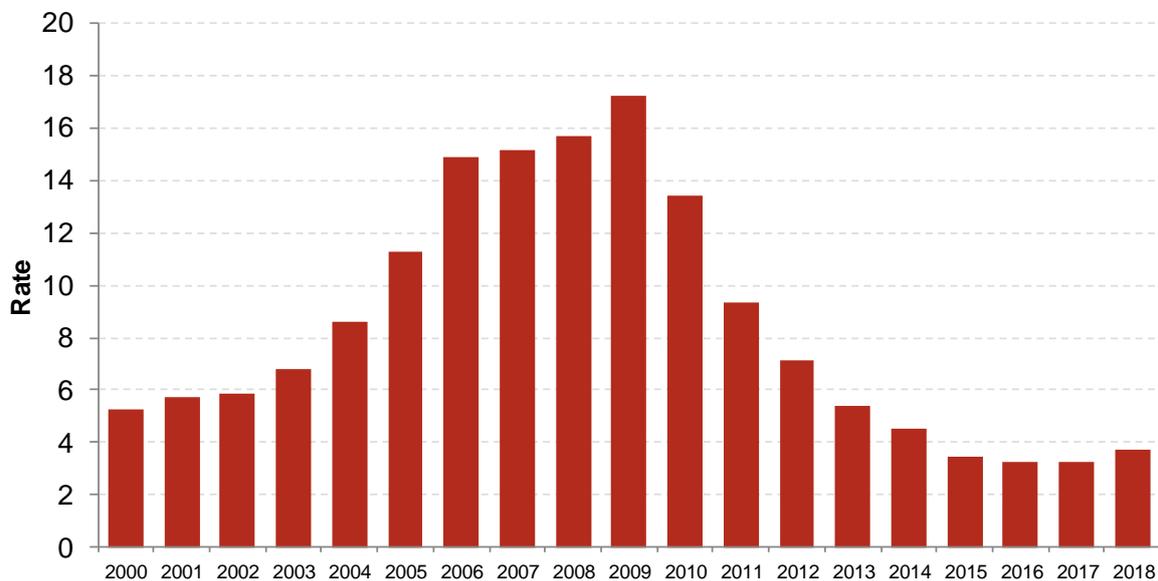
- There has been a change to the process for people making themselves bankrupt, which has removed the courts from the process. Since 6 April 2016, applications must be submitted online via the central UK Government website, <https://www.gov.uk/>, to the adjudicator within the Insolvency Service. The process also allows the costs of the application to be made by instalments.
- There has been a change in the minimum debt a creditor must be owed to make someone bankrupt, which increased from £750 to £5,000 for petitions presented from 1 October 2015.

4.1 National trends

In 2018, the rate of bankruptcies was 3.8 per 10,000 adults in England and Wales, a rate increase of 0.5 compared to 2017. This followed a decreasing trend since the peak of 17.2 in 2009.

Figure 12: The bankruptcy rate increased but remains low

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2000-2018



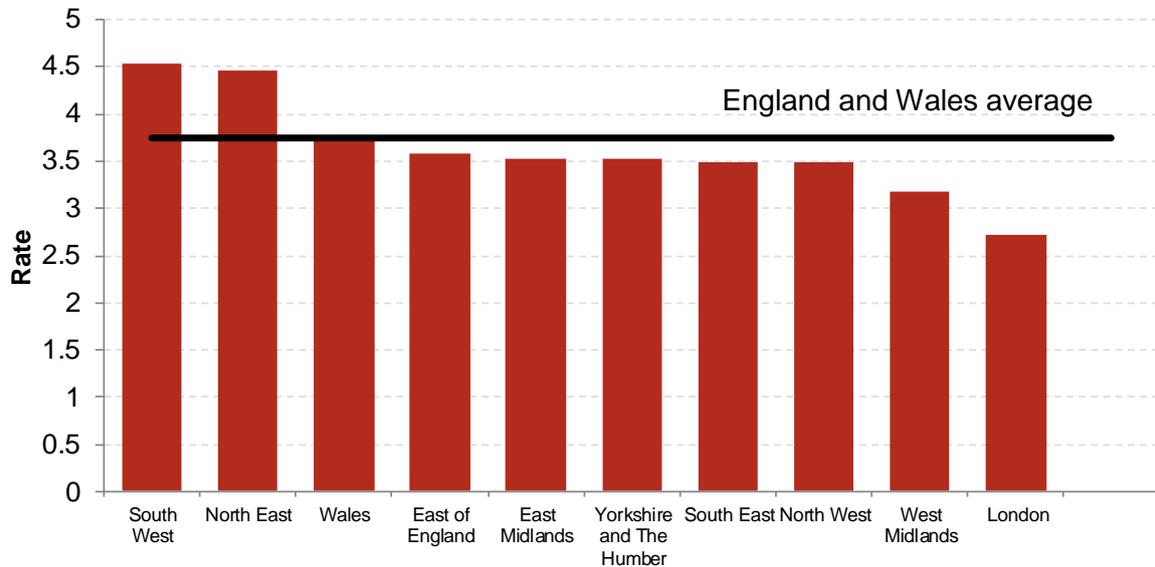


4.2 Regional trends

The North East and South West had the joint highest bankruptcy rate in 2018 at 4.5 per 10,000 adults. London had the lowest rate in 2018 at 2.7.

Figure 13: The bankruptcy rate was joint highest in the North East and South West and lowest in London

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018

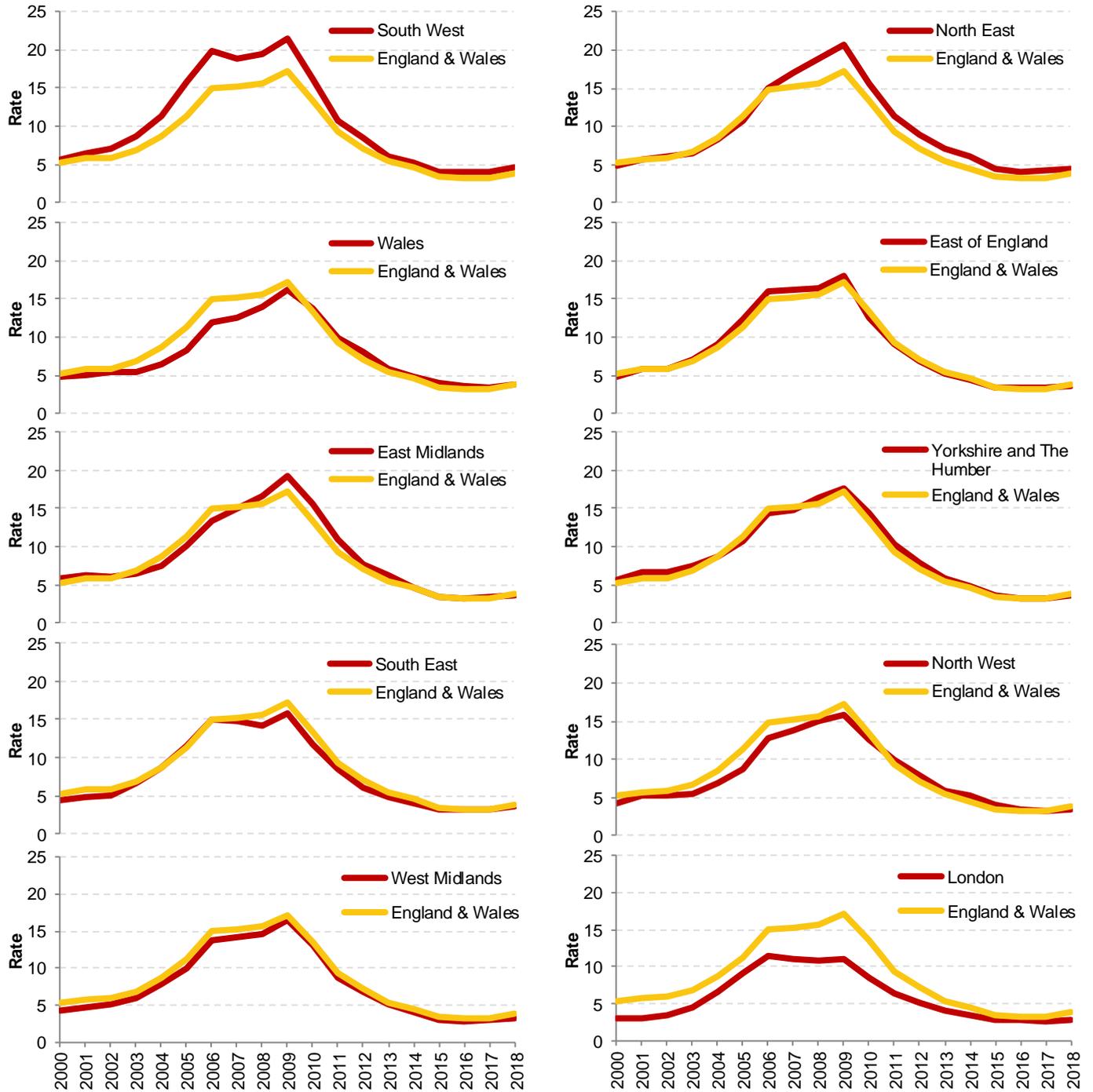


In 2018, the bankruptcy rate increased in all regions of the UK compared to 2017. The North East had the highest rate of bankruptcies each year since 2011 until this year where it shared the highest rate with the South West. Prior to this, the South West had the highest rate since 2000, the beginning of this analysis. London has had the lowest rate each year since 2006.



Figure 14: The bankruptcy rate in each region has followed fairly similar trends compared to England and Wales as a whole

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2000-2018





4.3 Local authorities

The local authority with the highest bankruptcy rate in 2018 was Torbay at 7.9, followed by North Devon at 7.4. The joint lowest rate was in Hammersmith and Fulham; and Eden at 1.8.

The largest increase in bankruptcy rate was in North Devon (a rate increase of 3.7 per 10,000 adults compared to 2017; excluding City of London due to low population) followed by East Northamptonshire (a rate increase of 2.3). The largest decrease was in North West Leicestershire which fell by 2.3 per 10,000 adults followed by East Lindsey which fell by 2.2.

Table 3: Torbay had the highest bankruptcy rate while Hammersmith and Fulham; and Eden had the joint lowest

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018

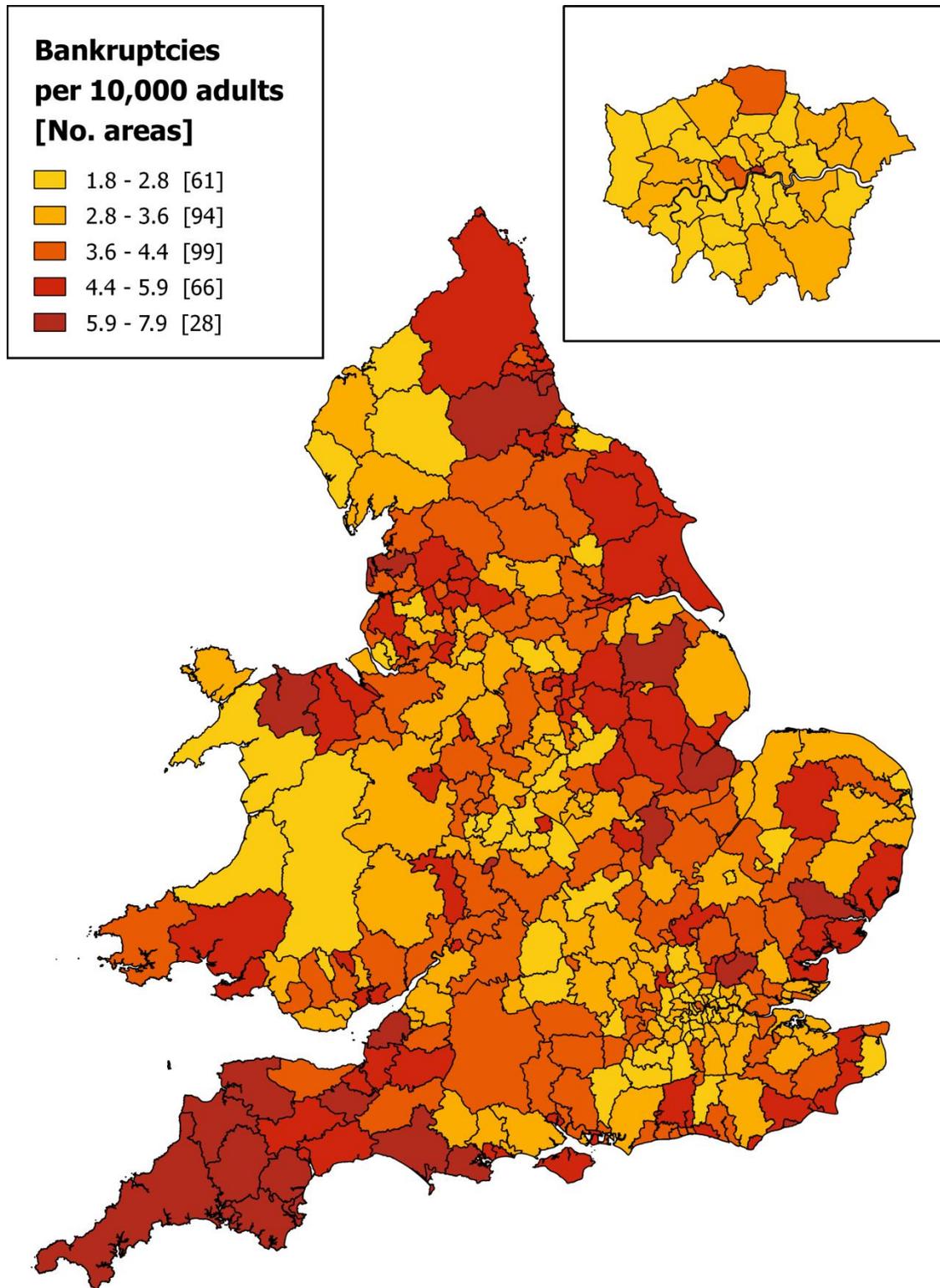
Highest bankruptcy rates			Lowest bankruptcy rates		
Local authority	Number of new cases	per 10,000 adults	Local authority	Number of new cases	per 10,000 adults
Torbay	87	7.9	Hammersmith and Fulham	26	1.8
North Devon	57	7.4	Eden	8	1.8
Weymouth and Portland	38	7.1	Wandsworth	49	1.9
South Hams	50	7.1	St Albans	21	1.9
West Devon	32	7.0	Cambridge	20	2.0
<i>City of London¹</i>	5	6.9	Oadby and Wigston	9	2.0
West Dorset	50	5.9	Knowsley	23	2.0
Cornwall	268	5.8	Mole Valley	14	2.0
Plymouth	123	5.8	Lewisham	48	2.0
Hastings	41	5.6	South Northamptonshire	15	2.1

1. Due to low population the rate of City of London is highly variable.



Map 2: The highest rates of bankruptcy tended to be in the North East and the South West

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018



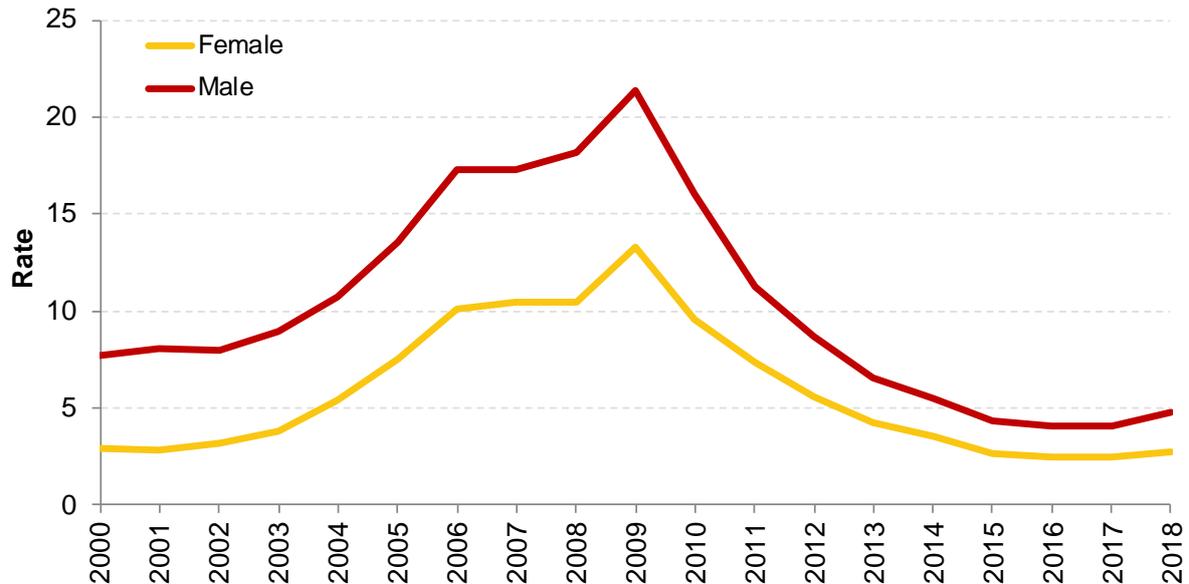


4.4 Gender and age analysis

The bankruptcy rate increased this year for both males and females. Previously, for both males and females, the bankruptcy rate has declined each year since 2009 to a rate of 4.1 for males and 2.5 for females in 2017 – at or near the lowest rates since comparable records by gender began in 2000.

Figure 15: The bankruptcy rate continued to be higher for males than females

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2000-2018

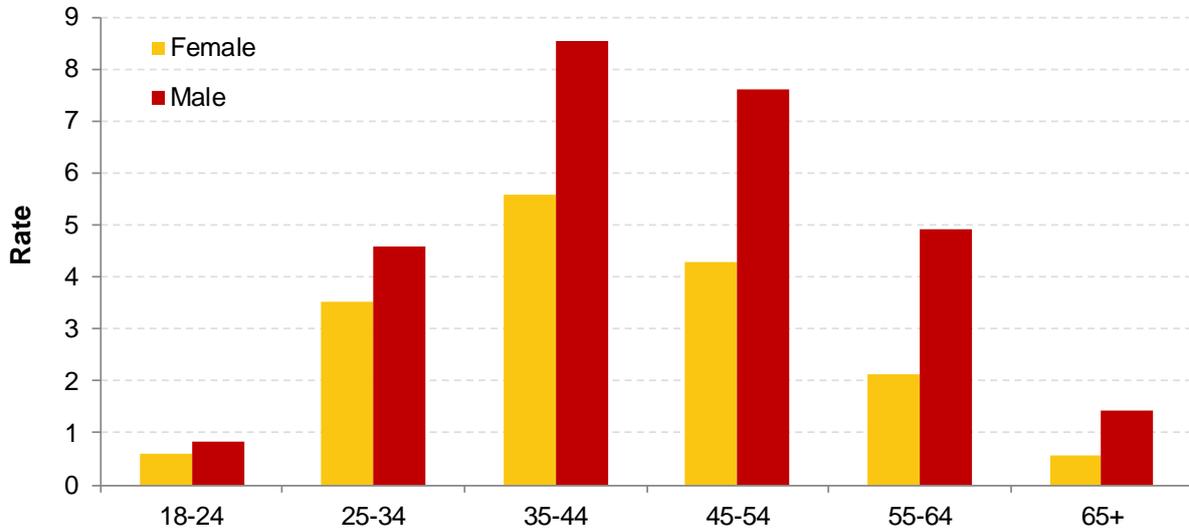


The trend of bankruptcy rates being lower in younger adults then peaking for those aged 35 to 44 before falling again in older adults continues in 2018. This trend has been similar since 2006 and is similar to the trend observed for overall insolvency rates. The rate of bankruptcy per 10,000 adults was higher for males than for females in all age groups, but the gap between rates varied by age group.



Figure 16: The male bankruptcy rate was higher than the female rate for all age groups

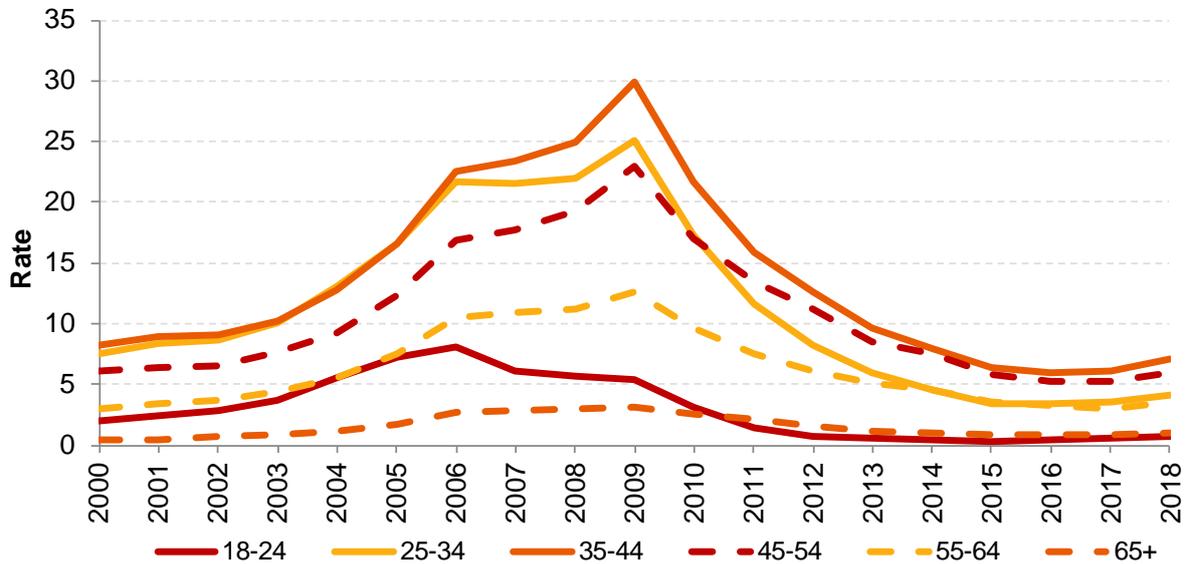
Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018



The bankruptcy rate increased for all age groups, though the increases were smaller for the youngest and oldest age groups.

Figure 17: The bankruptcy rate increased for all age groups but remains low

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2000-2018





5. Debt relief orders

Note: legislative changes may have affected these statistics so care should be taken when comparing debt relief orders between years.

1. In October 2015, the upper limit for qualifying debt was raised from £15,000 to £20,000, and the asset limit was raised from £300 to £1,000. Since that time, about a quarter of debt relief orders have been for amounts between £15,000 and £20,000.

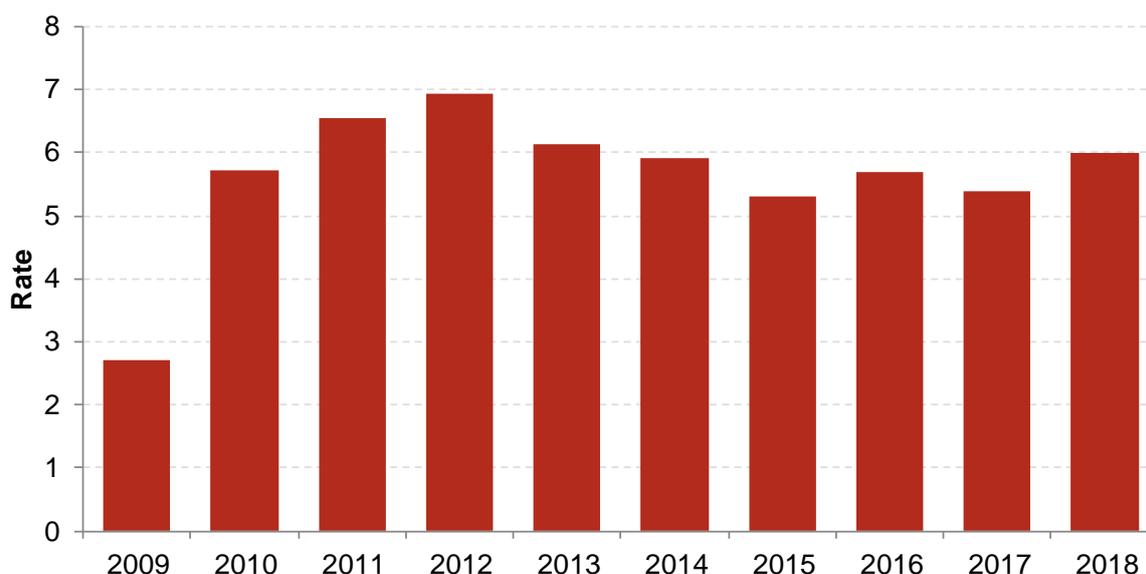
5.1 National trends

Debt relief orders provide debt relief and are available to those who have a low income, low assets and up to £20,000 of debt.

In 2018, the rate of debt relief orders was 6.0 per 10,000 adults in England and Wales, an increase of 0.6 in the 2017 rate.

Figure 18: The debt relief order rate increased in 2018 but remains around historic levels

Rate per 10,000, England and Wales, 2009-2018

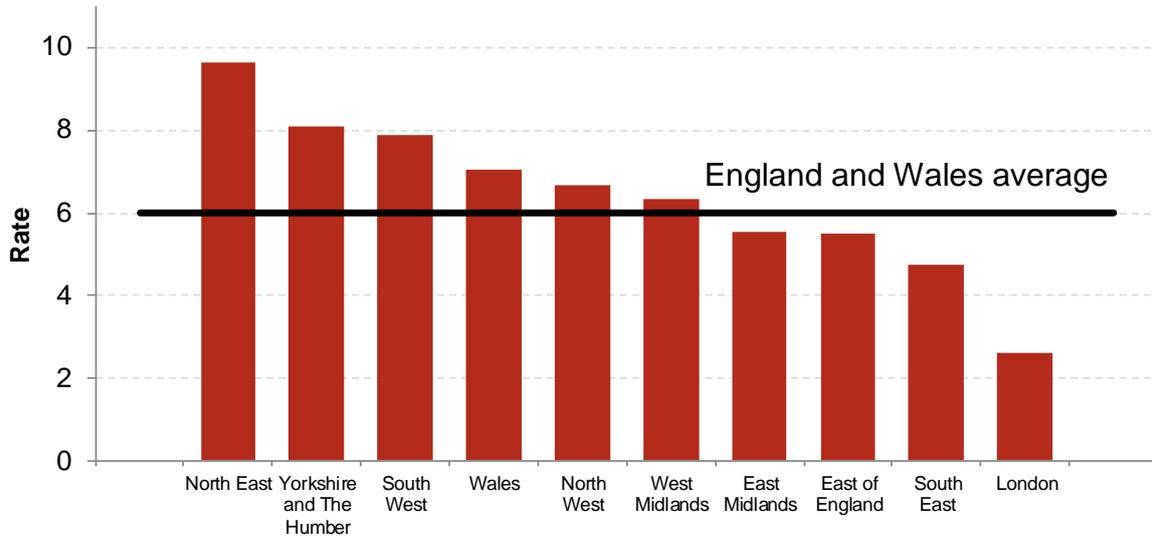


5.2 Regional trends

The North East had the highest debt relief order rate in 2018 at 9.6 per 10,000 adults (3.6 higher than England and Wales) This is the third successive year in which the North East has had the highest debt relief order rate. London had the lowest rate in 2018 at 2.6 (3.4 lower than England and Wales) and has been the region with the lowest rate in each year since the introduction of debt relief orders in 2009.



Figure 19: The North East continues to have the highest debt relief order rate
Rate per 10,000, England and Wales, 2018

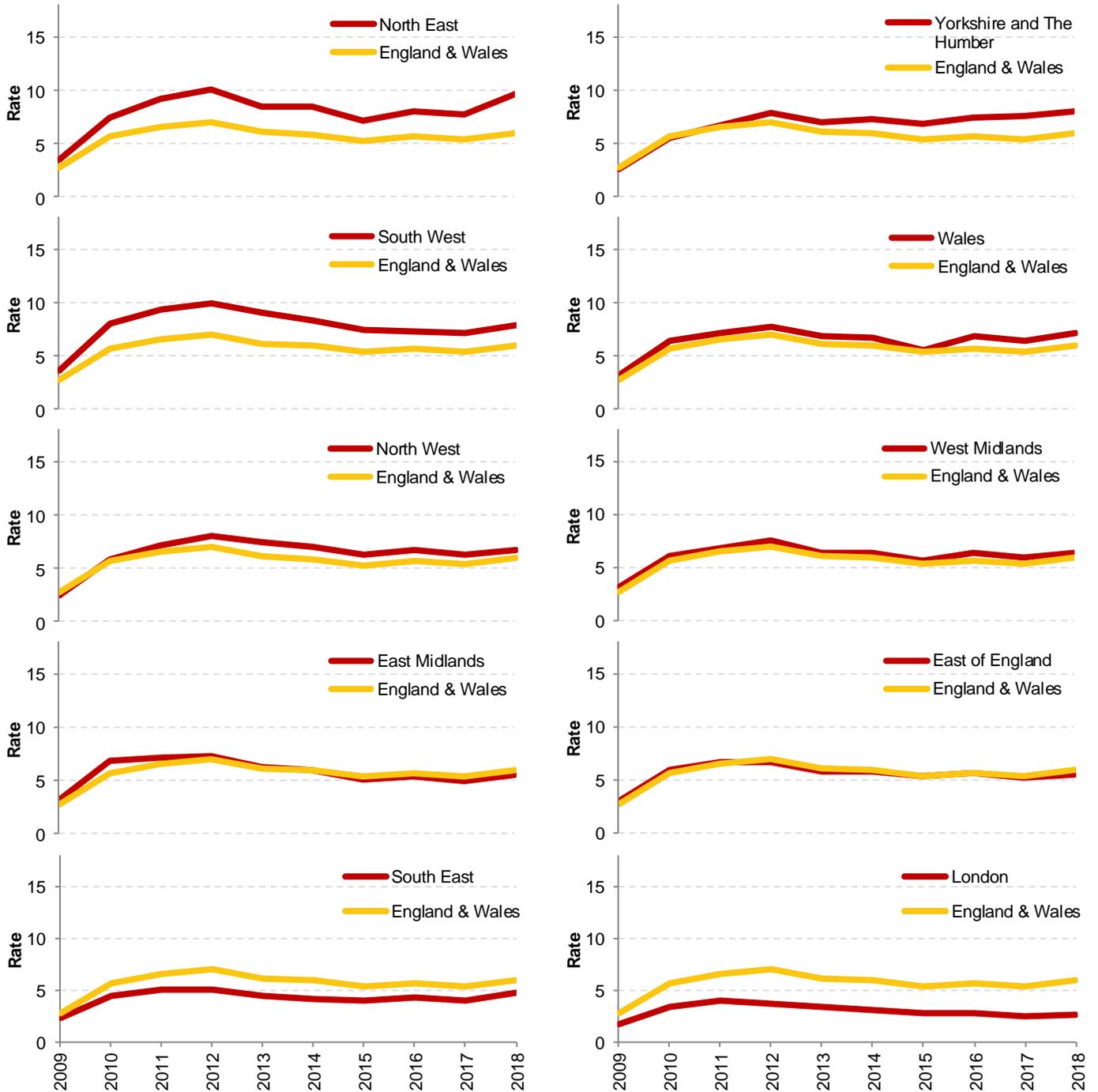


Compared with 2017, the debt relief order rate increased in each region of England and Wales. The biggest increase was in the North East which increased by 1.9 per 10,000 adults. The joint smallest increase was in London and East of England, which both increased by 0.2 per 10,000.



Figure 20: After their introduction in 2009, the debt relief order rate increased before stabilising in recent years

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2009-2018





5.3 Local authorities

The local authority with the highest debt relief order rate in 2018 was Scarborough at 25.0 (and has been local authority with the highest rate per 10,000 adults since 2013); the lowest, excluding the Isles of Scilly due to low population, was Harrow with 1.0 debt relief order per 10,000 adults.

The debt relief order rate was higher in 2018 than in 2017 in 220 out of 348 local authorities (63%). The largest increase was in Stockton-On-Tees, which had a rate increase of 6.5 per 10,000 adults. The largest decrease in rate was in Tamworth which fell by 4.5 per 10,000.

Table 4: Scarborough had the highest debt relief order rate for the fifth consecutive year

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018

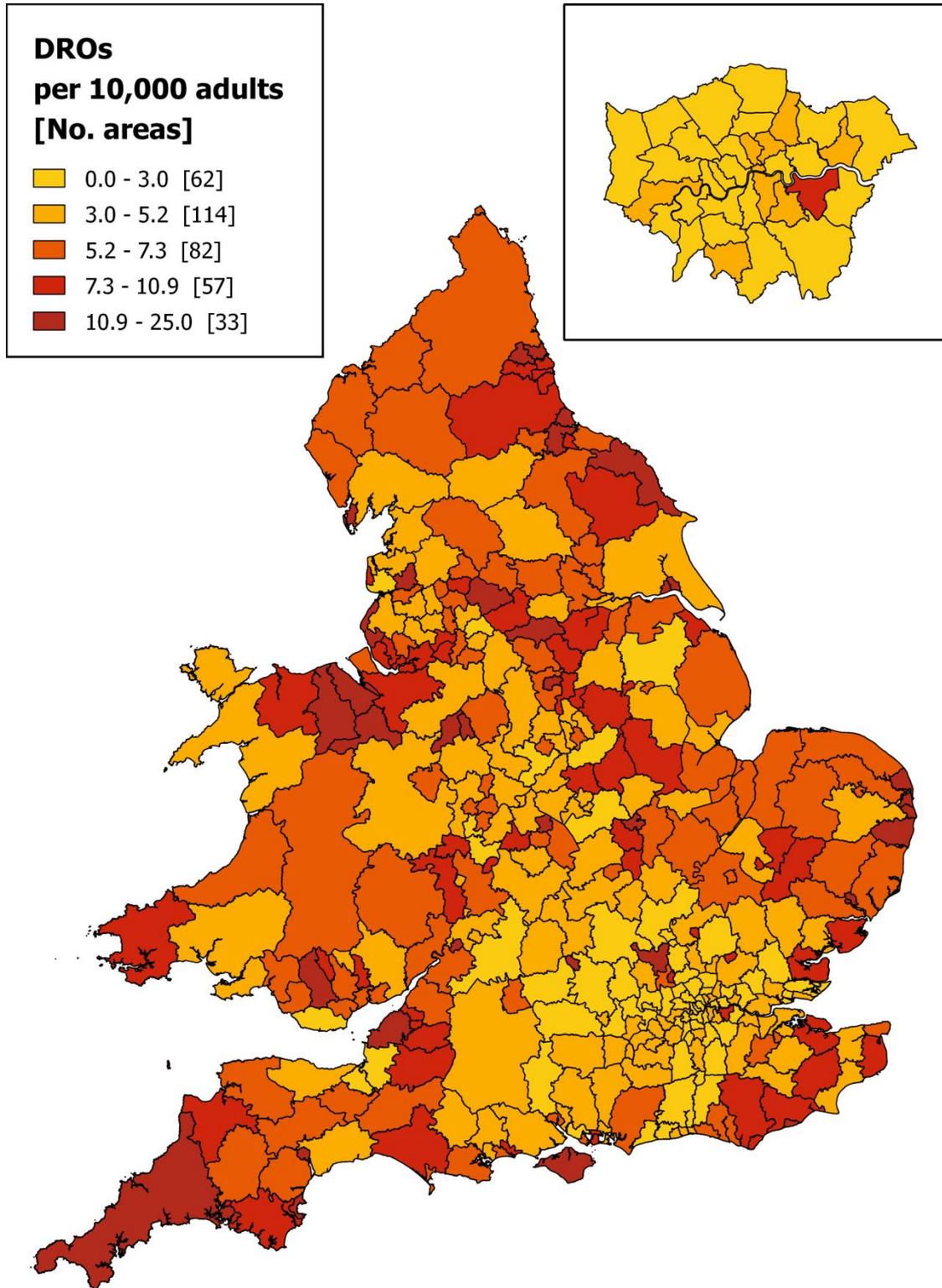
Highest debt relief order rates			Lowest debt relief order rates		
Local authority	Number of new cases	per 10,000 adults	Local authority	Number of new cases	per 10,000 adults
Scarborough	223	25.0	<i>Isles of Scilly</i>	0	0.0
Stoke-on-Trent	454	22.9	Harrow	19	1.0
Isle of Wight	220	18.9	Castle Point	8	1.1
Kingston upon Hull, City of	381	18.7	Westminster	27	1.3
Stockton-on-Tees	246	16.0	Brent	33	1.3
North Somerset	269	15.8	Enfield	33	1.3
Wrexham	162	15.2	Ealing	36	1.4
Nuneaton and Bedworth	150	14.9	Hillingdon	34	1.5
Calderdale	243	14.8	Wandsworth	39	1.5
Sefton	320	14.4	Redbridge	35	1.5

1. Due to low population the rate of Isles of Scilly is highly variable.



Map 3: Many of the local authorities with the lowest debt relief order rates were found in and around London and the Midlands

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018





5.4 Gender and age analysis

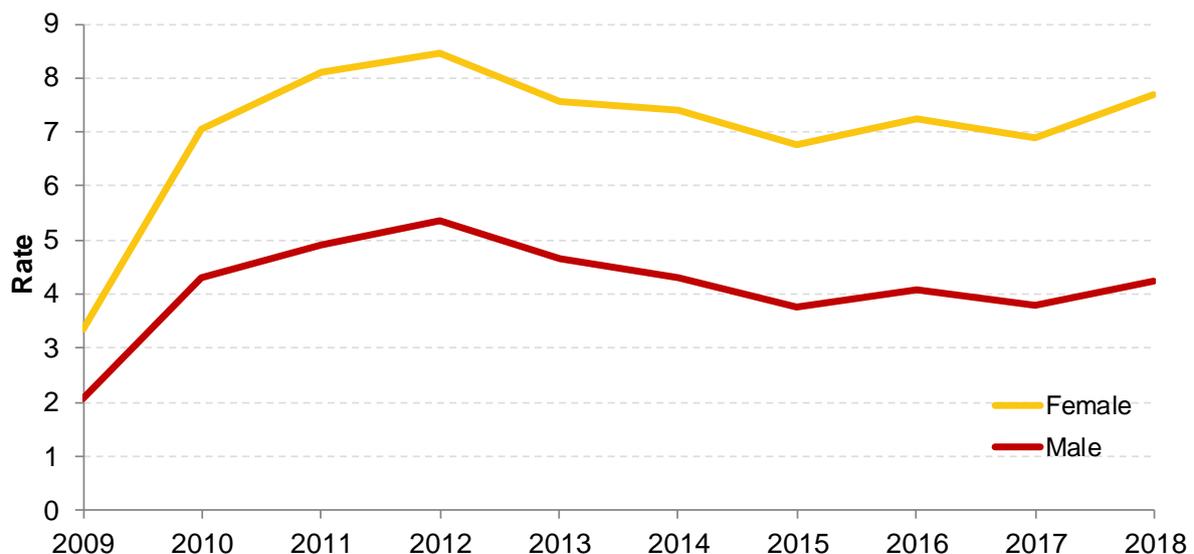
In 2018, the rate of debt relief orders was 7.7 per 10,000 adults for females and 4.2 per 10,000 for males. This represents a gender gap of 3.5, an increase of 0.4 on the gender gap of 3.1 per 10,000 adults in 2017.

For females, the debt relief order rate increased by 0.8 adults per 10,000 compared with 2017, while for males this rate increase was 0.4 per 10,000. Since debt relief orders were introduced in 2009, the rate for females has been consistently higher than for males and both genders have followed the national trend in increases and decreases.

The higher rate of debt relief orders amongst females contributes to the higher rate of overall insolvencies amongst females. The introduction of debt relief orders coincides with the gender gap narrowing and subsequently reversing between male and female overall insolvency rates.

Figure 21: The debt relief order rate continued to be higher for females than for males and this contributed to higher total rates of insolvency

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2009-2018

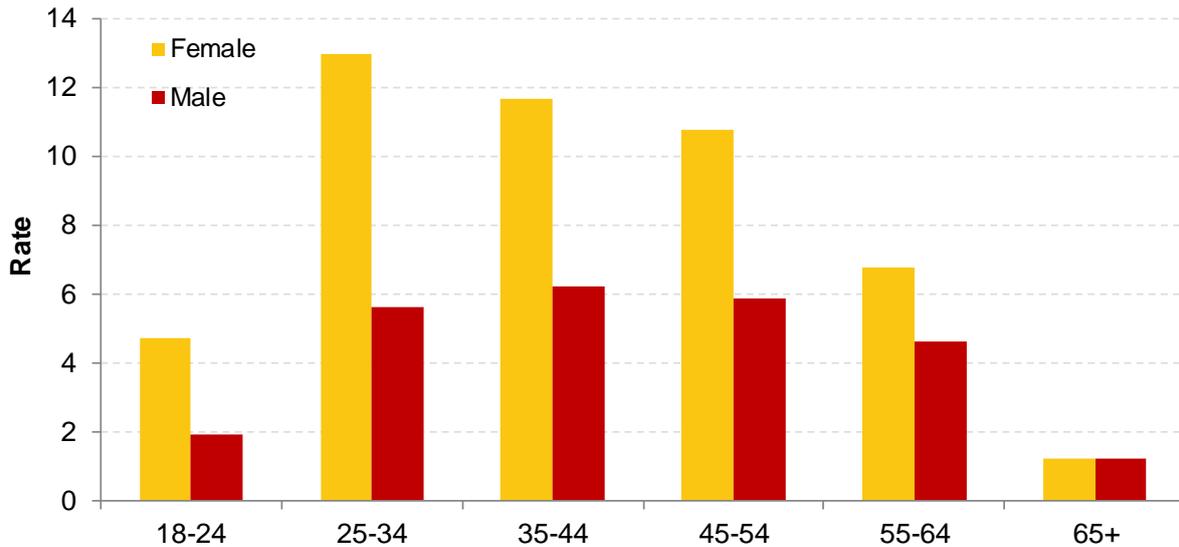


Females had a significantly higher rate for debt relief orders in all categories of ages except in the age group over 65 where the rate was broadly equal.



Figure 22: The debt relief order rate was larger for females under 65 years old

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018

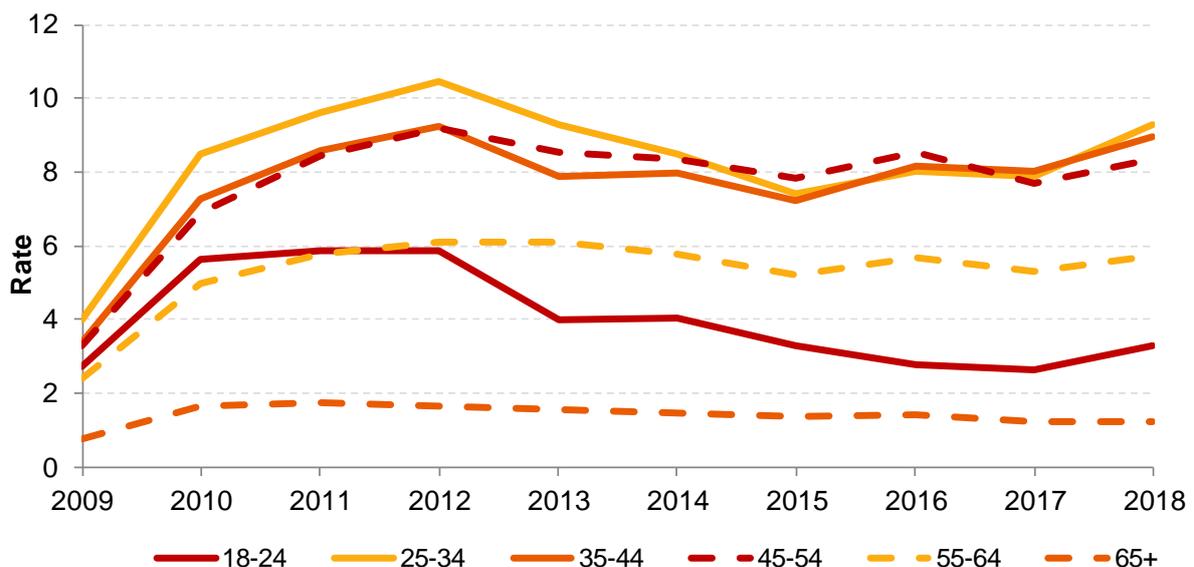


The 25 to 34 year old age group had the highest rate of debt relief orders in 2018, in contrast to 2017, when the 35 to 44 year old age group had the highest rate. Since their introduction in 2009, age groups between 25 and 54 years old have had the highest rates while those over 54 and those under 25 had lower rates. This was similar to the pattern observed in insolvencies as a whole but the rate peaks at a slightly lower age.

All age groups under 65 saw increases in their debt relief order rate. For those over 65 the rate was flat compared to 2017.

Figure 23: 25 to 34 year olds became the age group with the highest debt relief order rate, surpassing 35 to 44 year olds

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2009-2018





6. Individual voluntary arrangements

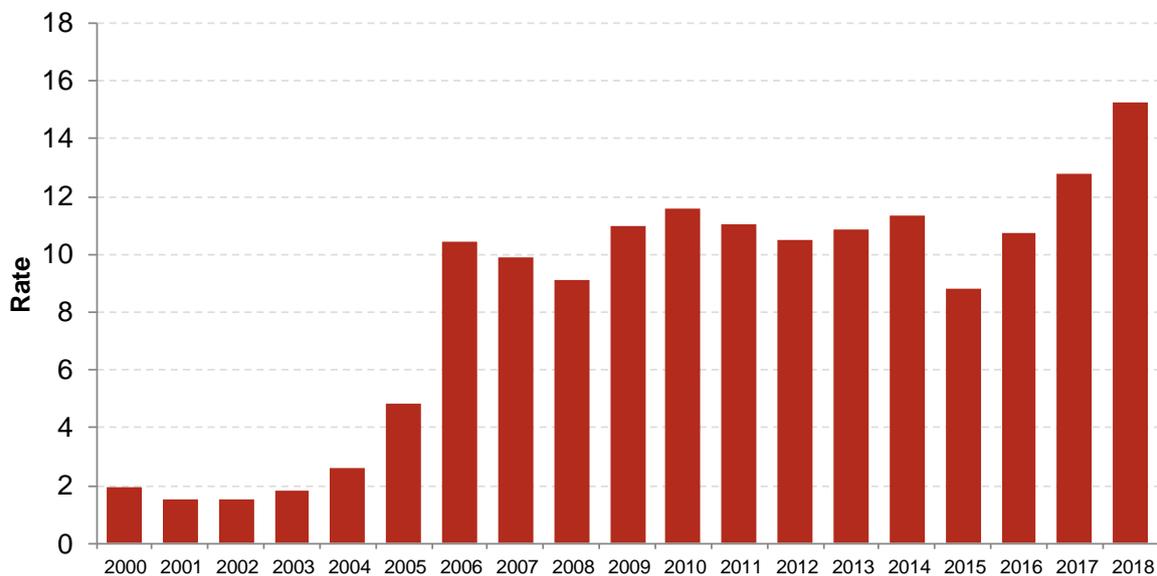
6.1 National trends

In 2018, the rate of individual voluntary arrangements was 15.3 per 10,000 adults in England and Wales. This was an increase of 2.5 in the rate of individual voluntary arrangements per 10,000 adults, from 12.8 in 2017.

This year was a record high for the individual voluntary arrangement rate, exceeding the previous record in 2017.

Figure 24: The individual voluntary arrangement rate reached a record annual high in 2018

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2000-2018



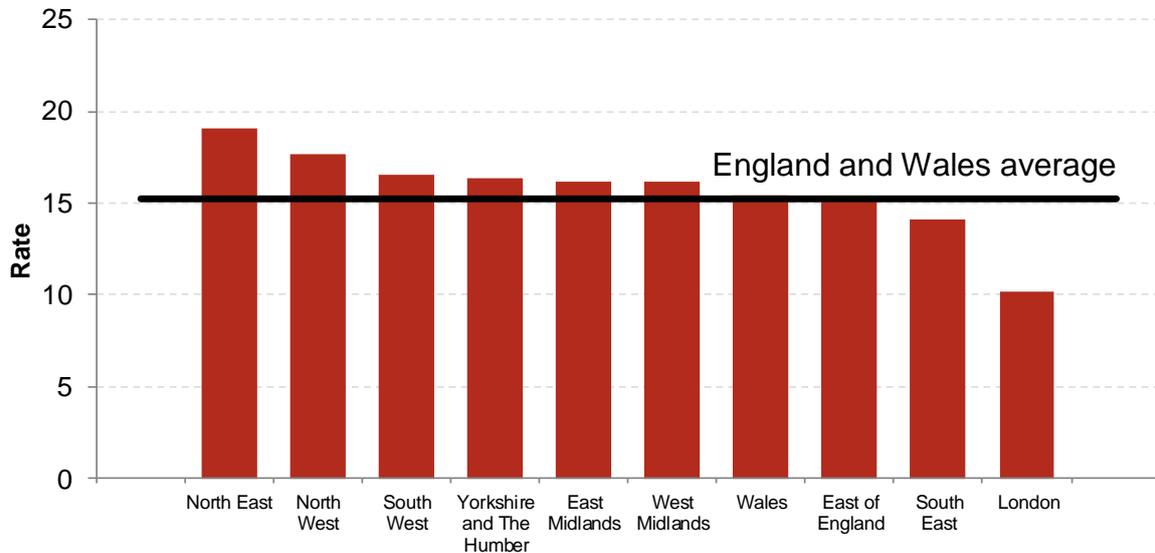
6.2 Regional trends

The North East had the highest individual voluntary arrangement rate in 2017 at 19.1 per 10,000 adults (1.3 higher than England and Wales), followed by the North West with 17.7 per 10,000 adults. London had the lowest rate in 2018.



Figure 25: The individual voluntary arrangement rate was highest in the North East and lowest in London

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018



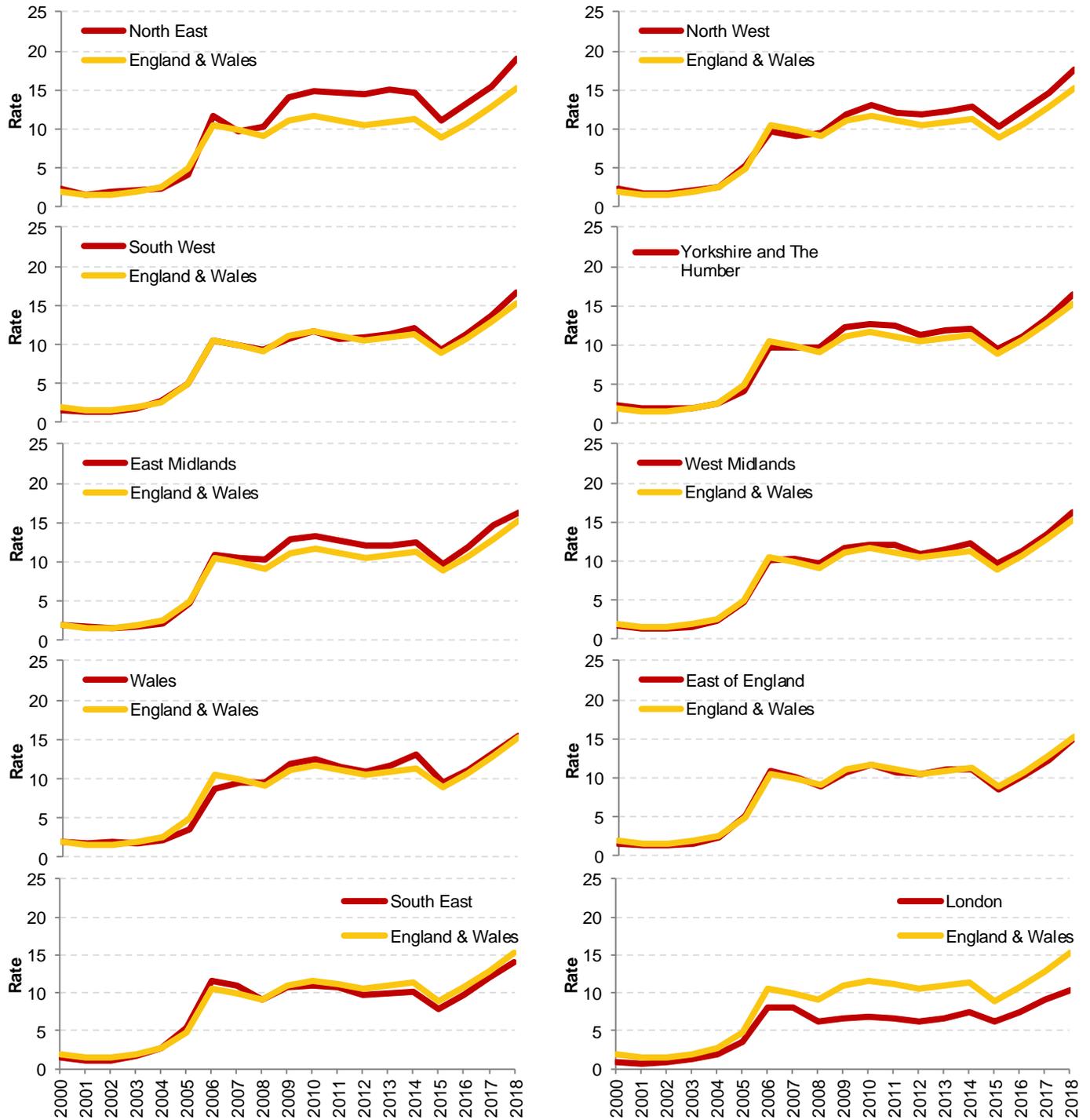
In 2018, the North East had the largest annual increase in individual voluntary arrangement rate, increasing by 3.7 adults per 10,000. The smallest increase was in London (1.1 per 10,000 adults). These compare to a national increase of 2.5 individual voluntary arrangements per 10,000 adults.

London has had the lowest rate each year since comparable records began in 2000, while the North East has had the highest rate each year since 2009. All regions saw a rise in their individual voluntary arrangement rate in 2016, 2017, and 2018.



Figure 26: The regional individual voluntary arrangement rate has broadly followed the England and Wales trend

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2000-2018





6.3 Local authorities

The local authority with the highest individual voluntary arrangement rate in 2018 was Blackpool at 28.4, which has had the highest rate every year since 2015; the lowest, excluding the City of London due to low population, was Kensington and Chelsea with 4.6 per 10,000 adults.

The individual voluntary arrangement rate was higher in 2018 than in 2017 in 310 out of 348 local authorities (89%). The largest increase, excluding the Isles of Scilly due to low population, was in Peterborough, which had a rate increase of 10.1 per 10,000 adults. The largest decrease in rate was in Adur which fell by 4.9 per 10,000.

Table 5: Blackpool had the highest individual voluntary arrangement rate for the fourth successive year

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018

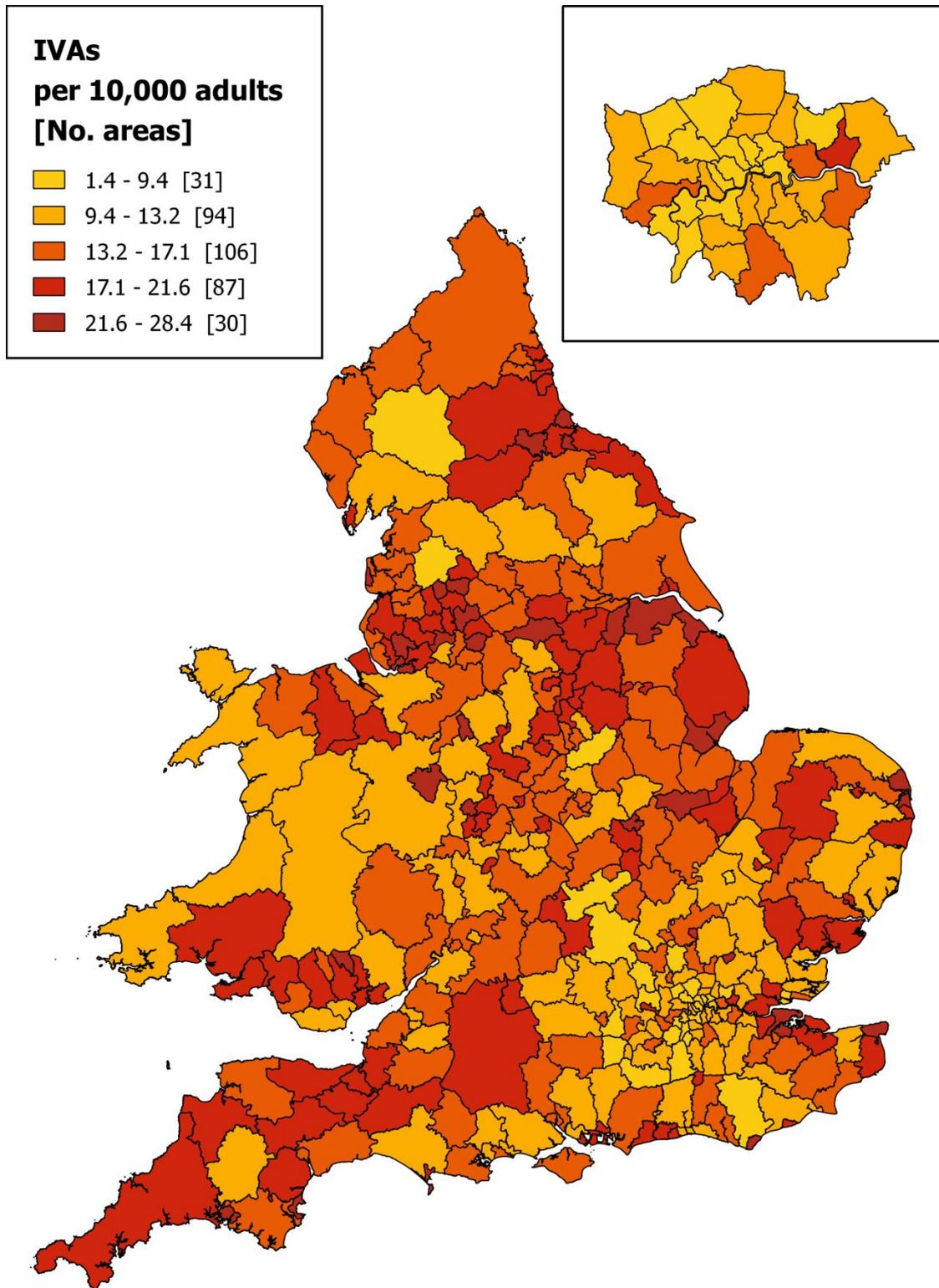
Highest individual voluntary arrangement rates			Lowest individual voluntary arrangement rates		
Local authority	Number of new cases	per 10,000 adults	Local authority	Number of new cases	per 10,000 adults
Blackpool	314	28.4	<i>City of London¹</i>	1	1.4
Burnley	189	27.8	Kensington and Chelsea	59	4.6
Corby	147	27.5	Westminster	108	5.2
Peterborough	410	27.4	Camden	118	5.6
Thanet	302	27.0	Mole Valley	42	6.0
Harlow	176	26.9	Richmond upon Thames	104	6.9
Plymouth	565	26.8	Wandsworth	188	7.2
Weymouth and Portland	138	25.7	Chiltern	53	7.2
Tameside	445	25.4	Epsom and Ewell	45	7.3
Halton	251	25.1	Waverley	72	7.4

1. Due to low population the rate of the City of London is highly variable.



Map 4: Local authorities with a lower individual voluntary arrangement rate tended to be in London and the Home Counties

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018



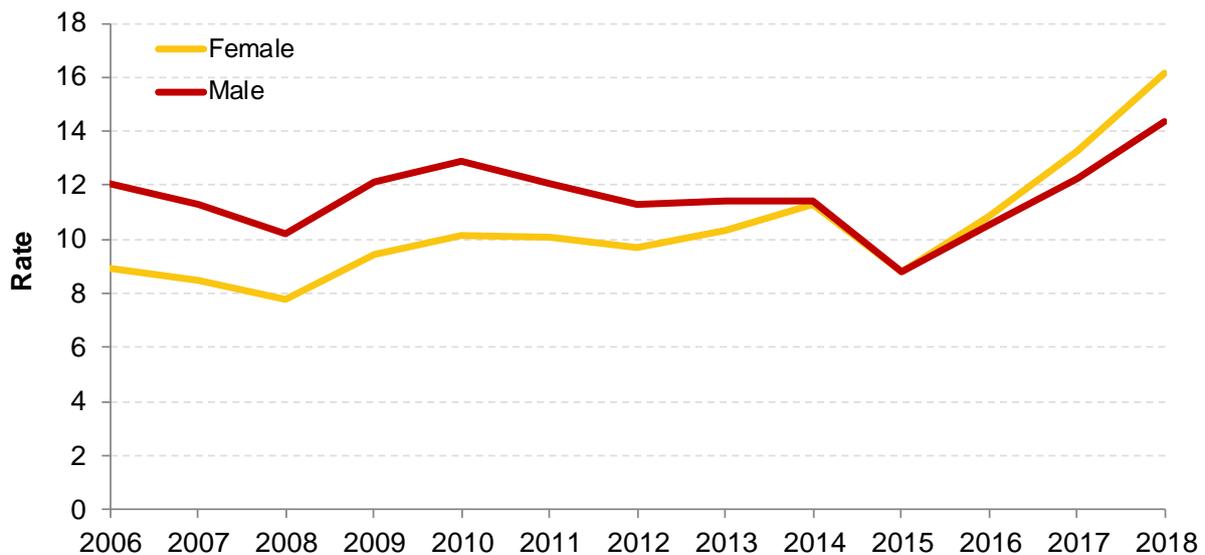


6.4 Gender and age analysis

In 2018, the individual voluntary arrangement rate for females was 16.1 and was 14.4 for males. This represents a gender gap of 1.8 and is a widening of last year's gender gap of 1.0. Historically, males had a higher rate of individual voluntary arrangements per 10,000 adults than females, but the gender gap noticeably narrowed from 2010; and in 2015, females and males had the same rate.

Figure 27: Males historically had a higher rate of individual voluntary arrangements but this has reversed

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2006-2018¹



1. Due to data quality issues in individual voluntary arrangements at lower levels prior to 2006, these charts begin from 2006. Time series data from individual voluntary arrangements back to 2000 can be found in the accompanying tables.

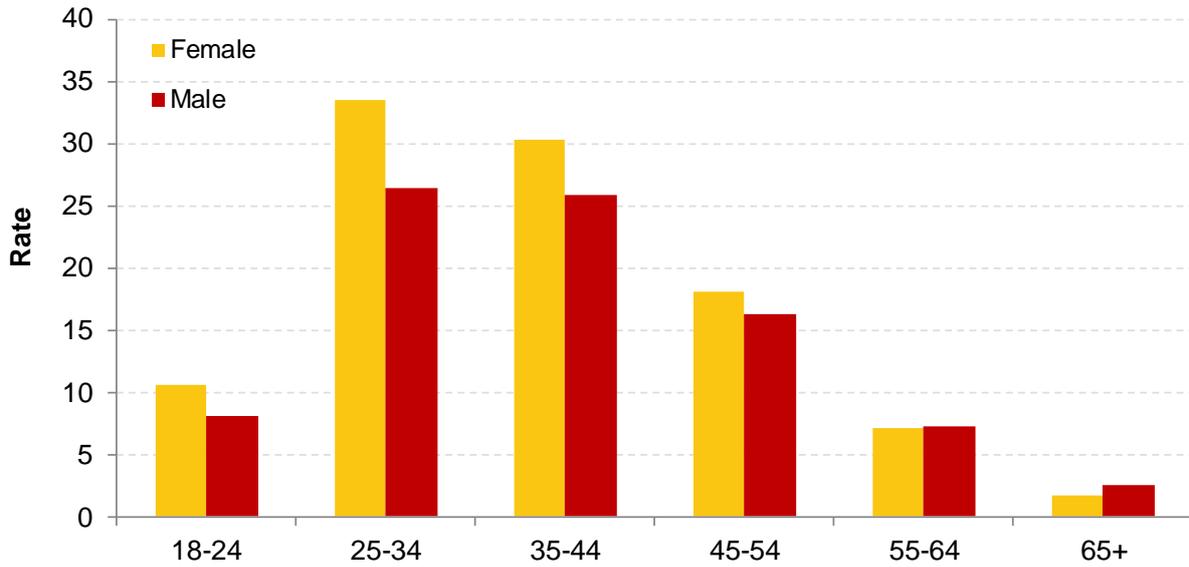
In 2018, the 25 to 34 year old age group had the largest individual voluntary arrangement rate, at 29.9 per 10,000 adults, while the over 65 age group had the lowest rate at 2.1.

The individual voluntary arrangement rate per 10,000 adults was higher for females than males in all age groups up to 45 to 54 year olds and higher for males than females in the 55 to 64 year old and over 65 age groups.



Figure 28: Females under 55 had a larger individual voluntary arrangement rate than males but the reverse was true for over 55s

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2018



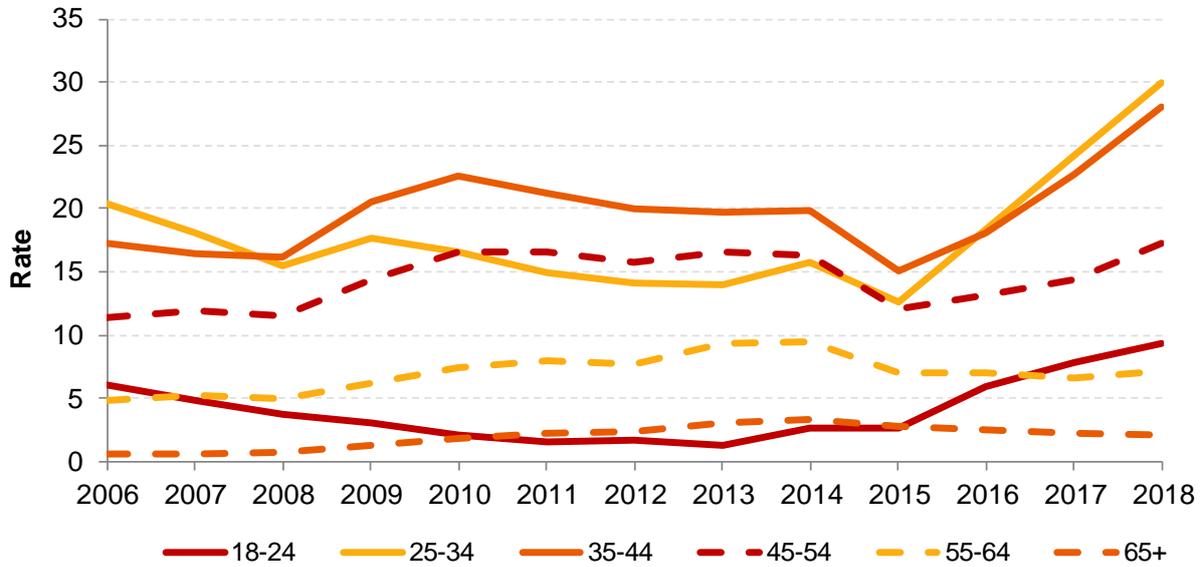
Previously, the 35 to 44 year old age group recorded the highest rate each year between 2008 and 2015. Between 2011 and 2015, the 18 to 24 age group had the lowest rate of individual voluntary arrangements; in 2016 the over 65 age group replaced the 18 to 24 age group as the age group with lowest rate.

All age groups under 65 had an increase in their individual voluntary arrangement rates with those aged 25 to 44 having the largest rate increases. Those aged over 65 were the only age group who saw a decrease in rate (0.1 per 10,000 adults).



Figure 29: Much like insolvencies as a whole, the individual voluntary arrangement rate tends to peak in middle age and fall for older adults

Rate per 10,000 adults, England and Wales, 2006-2018¹



1. Due to data quality issues in individual voluntary arrangements at lower levels prior to 2006, these charts begin from 2006. Time series data from individual voluntary arrangements back to 2000 can be found in the accompanying tables.



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