



STATISTICS RELEASE:

REGIONAL INDIVIDUAL INSOLVENCY STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, CALENDAR YEARS 2000 TO 2012

Annual Official Statistics showing annual regional individual insolvencies in 2012, and revisions to those for 2000 to 2011, are published today (12 July 2013) by the Insolvency Service.

The statistics, covering England and Wales, comprise tables showing numbers and rates per 10,000 adult population of total individual insolvencies, bankruptcies, debt relief orders (DROs) and individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs) at region, county, unitary authority and local authority levels. The rates from 2009 to 2012 are illustrated in charts at the region level and for 2012 rates are presented in maps at the local authority level; an interactive map is also available on our website covering the entire period from 2000 to 2012. Additional tables for 2008 to 2012 break the statistics down by gender and age group for each insolvency type within each region. Information on the insolvency procedures covered here is provided under note 2 at the end of this document.

The detailed statistical tables may be found here: <http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/regionalstatisticsmenu.htm>

KEY FACTS

- The rate of total individual insolvencies per 10,000 adults¹ in England and Wales followed an increasing trend from 7.2 in 2000 to a peak of 30.9 in 2009; since then the rate has fallen each year to 24.5 in 2012. The pattern described above has been driven by a number of factors including the rapid increase and subsequent decline in consumer bankruptcies over the same period, the rapid increase in registration of IVAs between 2004 and 2006, and the introduction in 2009 and subsequent increase in the number of DROs.
- The regions of England and Wales have broadly followed the same trend exhibited by England and Wales as a whole, with some variation in the peak year for the rate, the steepness of the initial increase and the slope of the following decline.
- The North East had the highest total individual insolvency rate in England and Wales, at 33.3 per 10,000 adults; this region has had the highest rate since 2008, and in 2012 had the highest rate for all three individual insolvency procedures. The North East also showed the largest increase in the rate between 2000 and the peak of 2009, up by 31.2 per 10,000 adults.

¹ A rate of 100 insolvencies per 10,000 adults is equivalent to 1% of the adult population.



- London has had the lowest individual insolvency rate of all regions for each year in the period covered (14.8 in 2012) with the exception of 2005, when only the rate for Wales was lower. London also experienced the smallest increase in the rate between 2000 and the peak of 2009, up by 15.4 per 10,000 adults.
- The individual insolvency rate per 10,000 adults was higher for males than for females (25.3 for males and 23.7 for females) and was highest in the 35-44 age group for England and Wales in 2012.

More detailed information on total individual insolvency rates, and those for each of the three insolvency procedures, is provided in the following pages, and in the detailed tables on our website.

Total Individual Insolvencies (including bankruptcies, DROs and IVAs)

- The rate of total individual insolvencies per 10,000 adults in England and Wales fell to 24.5 in 2012 from 26.9 in 2011, having followed a decreasing trend since the peak of 30.9 in 2009.
- The North East had the highest total individual insolvency rate in 2012 at 33.3 per 10,000 adults (8.8 higher than England and Wales), followed by the South West at 29.3 (4.8 higher than England and Wales). London had the lowest rate in 2012 at 14.8 (9.7 lower than England and Wales).
- The rate for most regions has followed a similar decreasing trend since 2009 to that for England and Wales as a whole, as shown in Figure 1 below. Comparing the rate for each region in 2012 with its peak, the East Midlands showed the largest decrease, at 8.8 per 10,000 adults, while the North West showed the smallest decrease, at 3.8 (compared with a decrease of 6.4 in England and Wales).
- The local authority with the highest total individual insolvency rate in 2012 was Torbay at 53.8, the lowest was Harrow at 9.9 (see Table 1 below; the distribution of local authorities by total individual insolvency rate is given in Figure 3 below)
- Local authorities with lower total individual insolvency rates (represented by lighter shades in Figure 2 below) tended to be concentrated around London and the Home Counties, while many of those local authorities with higher individual insolvency rates (represented by darker shades in Figure 2 below) were in the South West and North East regions.
- The total insolvency rate was lower in 2012 than in 2011 in 270 out of 358 local authorities. The largest decrease in the rate was in Melton at 13.1 per 10,000 adults; the largest increase was in the City of London at 10.2 (though this represented an increase from 5 to 12 insolvencies).



Figure 1: Total individual insolvencies per 10,000 adult population by region, England and Wales, 2009 to 2012

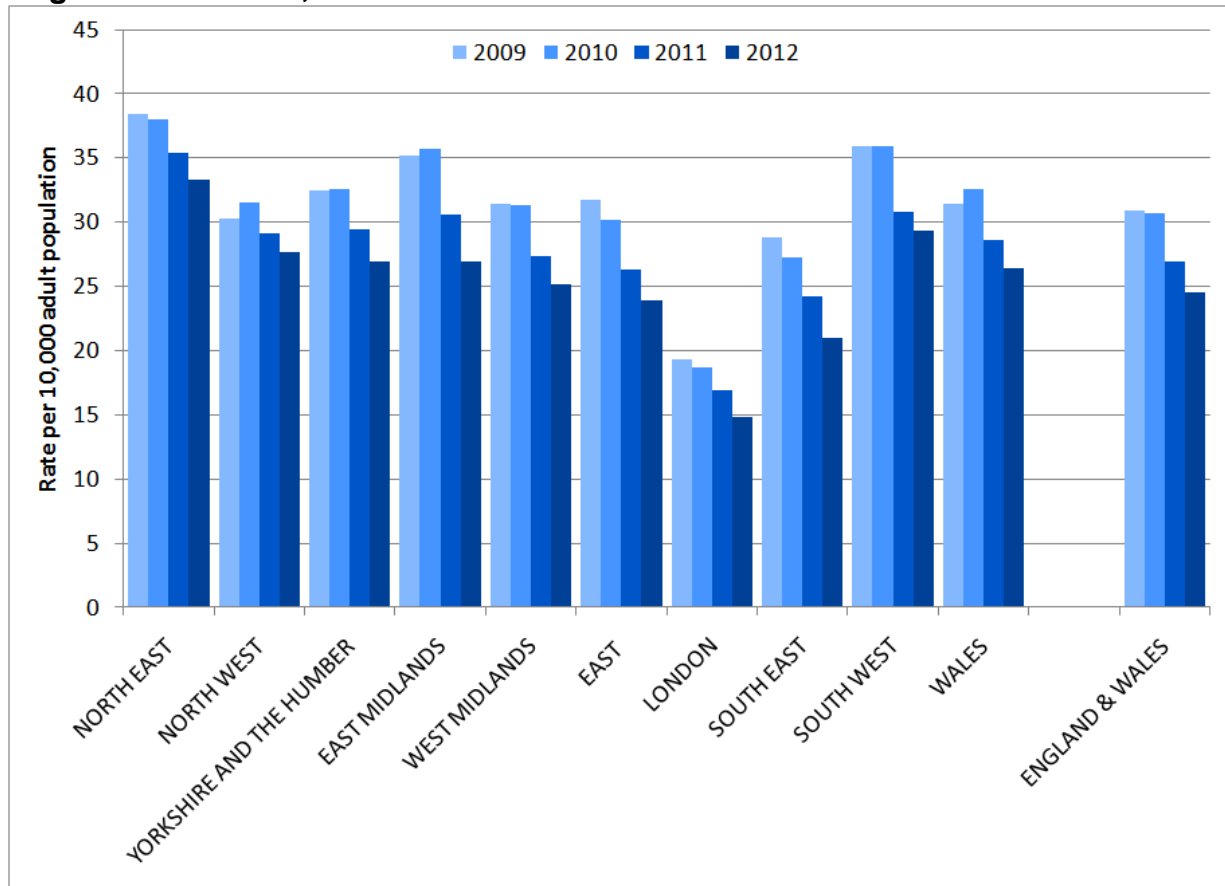




Figure 2: Total individual insolvencies per 10,000 adult population by local authority, England and Wales, 2012

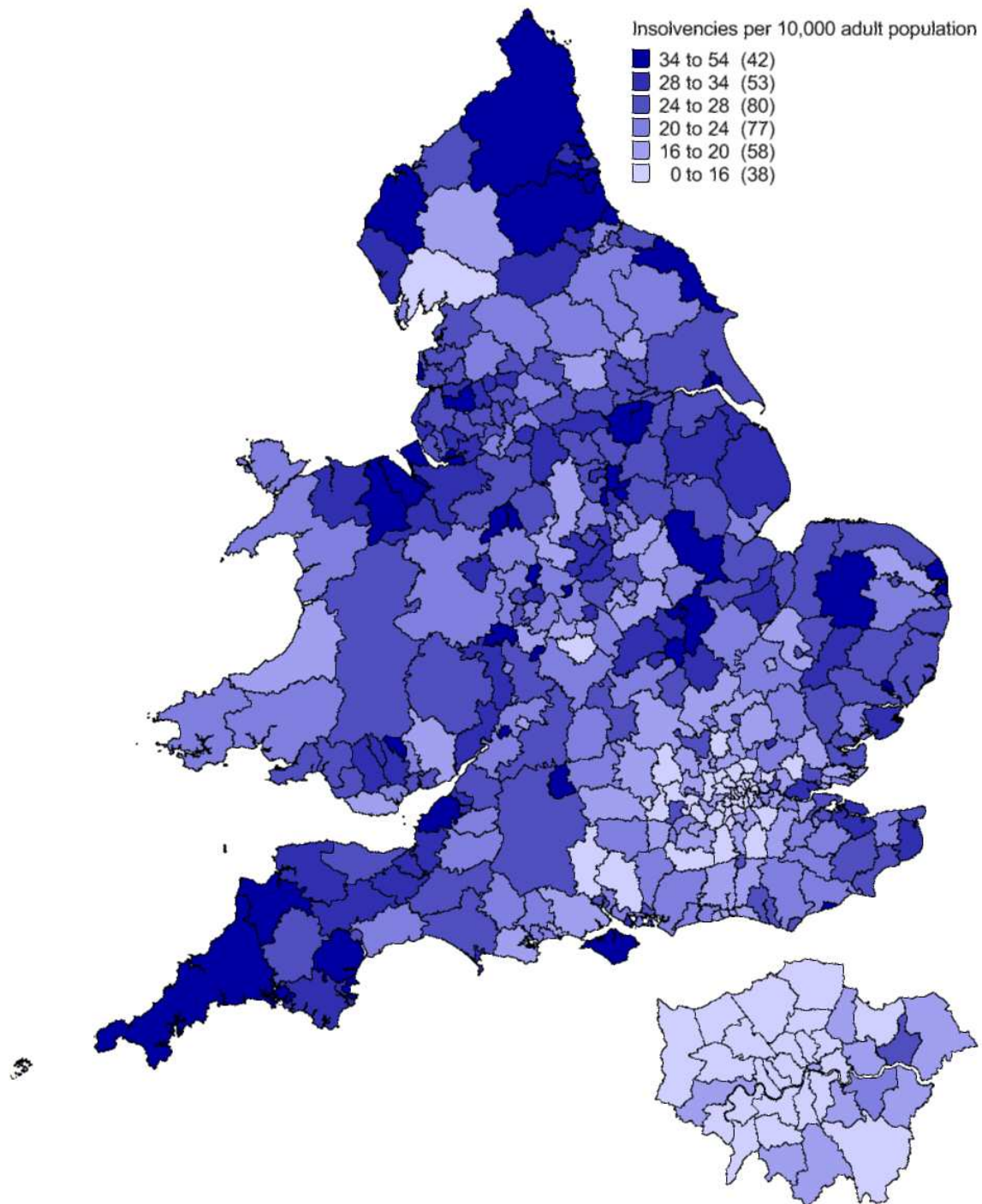




Figure 3: Distribution of total individual insolvency rate by local authority, England and Wales, 2012

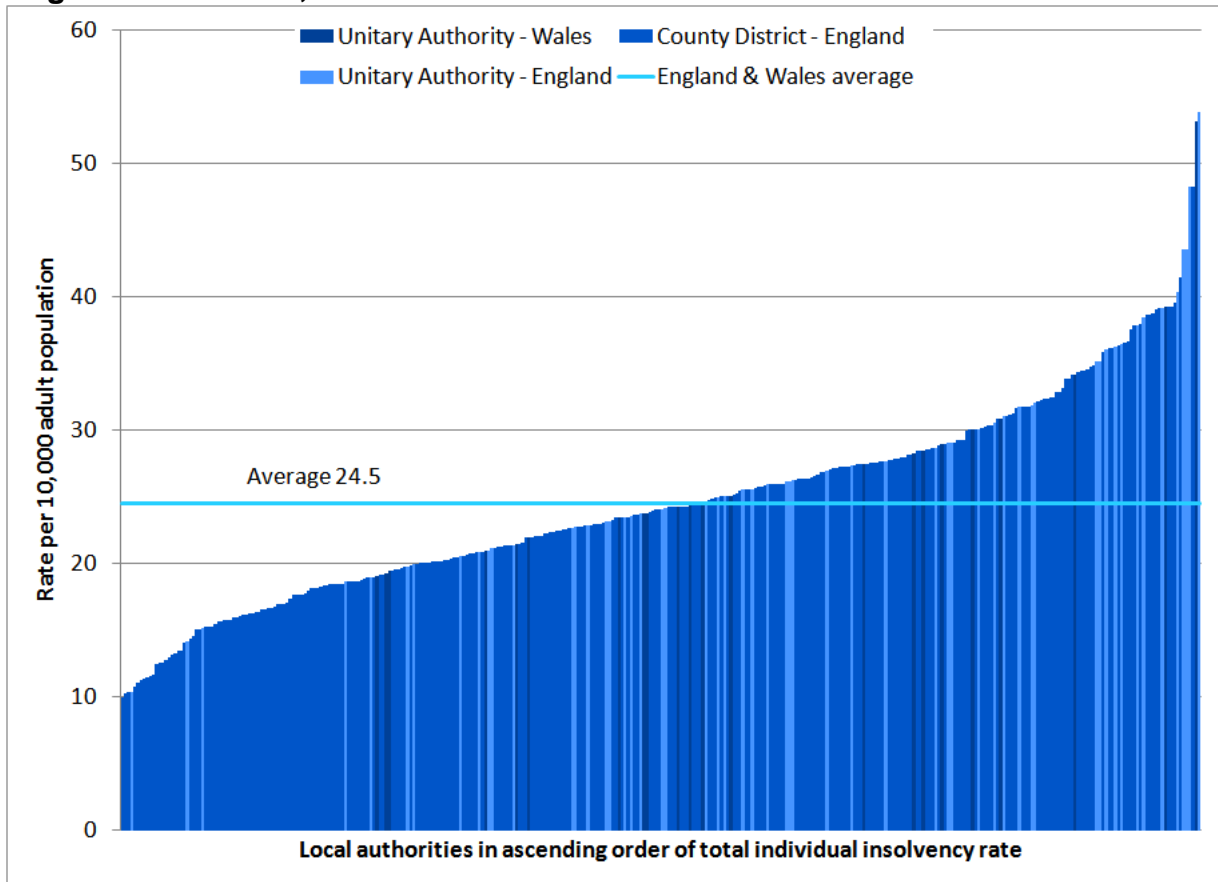


Table 1: Local authorities with the ten highest and lowest individual insolvency rates, England and Wales, 2012

Highest individual insolvency rates			Lowest Individual insolvency rates		
Local authority	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Local authority	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population
Torbay	574	53.8	Harrow	186	9.9
Denbighshire	397	53.1	Westminster	191	10.3
Scarborough	429	48.2	Wandsworth	260	10.3
Blackpool	544	48.2	Wokingham	125	10.4
Kingston upon Hull, City of	881	43.5	St Albans	116	10.8
Stoke-on-Trent	849	43.5	Hammersmith and Fulham	163	11.1
Mansfield	344	41.4	Richmond upon Thames	165	11.2
Halton	394	40.3	Epsom and Ewell	67	11.4
Tamworth	236	39.5	Ealing	301	11.5
Great Yarmouth	305	39.3	Barnet	322	11.6



Bankruptcies

- The rate of bankruptcies per 10,000 adults in England and Wales fell to 7.1 in 2012 from 9.3 in 2011, having followed a decreasing trend since the peak of 17.2 in 2009.
- The North East had the highest bankruptcy rate in 2012 at 8.8 per 10,000 adults (1.7 higher than England and Wales), followed by the South West at 8.5 (1.3 higher than England and Wales). London had the lowest rate in 2012 at 5.0 (2.1 lower than England and Wales).
- The bankruptcy rate for each region has decreased each year since the peak of 2009, as shown in Figure 4 below. Comparing the rate for each region with its peak in 2009, the South West showed the largest decrease, at 13.2 per 10,000 adults, while London showed the smallest decrease, at 5.9 (compared with a decrease of 10.1 in England and Wales).
- The local authority with the highest bankruptcy rate in 2012 was the Isles of Scilly at 15.8, followed by Blackpool at 15.4; the lowest was Wandsworth at 2.9 (see Table 2 below; the distribution of local authorities by bankruptcy rate is given in Figure 6 below).
- Local authorities with lower bankruptcy rates (represented by lighter shades in Figure 5 below) tended to be concentrated around London and the Home Counties, while many of those local authorities with higher bankruptcy rates (represented by darker shades in Figure 5 below) were in the South West, North East and Wales regions, and parts of Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire.
- The bankruptcy rate was lower in 2012 than in 2011 in 325 out of 358 local authorities. The largest decrease in the rate was in Ashfield at 6.8 per 10,000 adults; the largest increase was in the City of London at 4.4 (though this represented an increase from 3 to 6 bankruptcies).



Figure 4: Bankruptcies per 10,000 adult population by region, England and Wales, 2009 to 2012

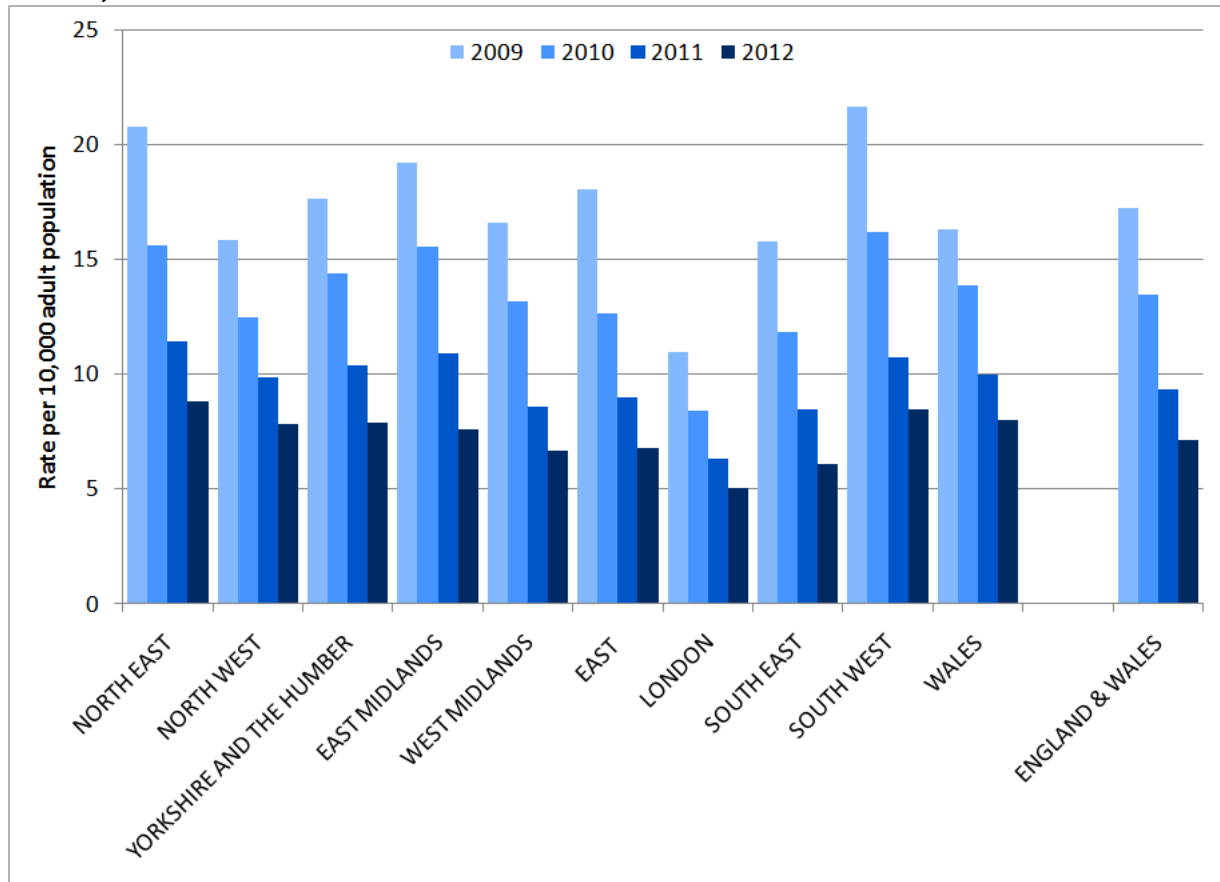




Figure 5: Bankruptcies per 10,000 adult population by local authority, England and Wales, 2012

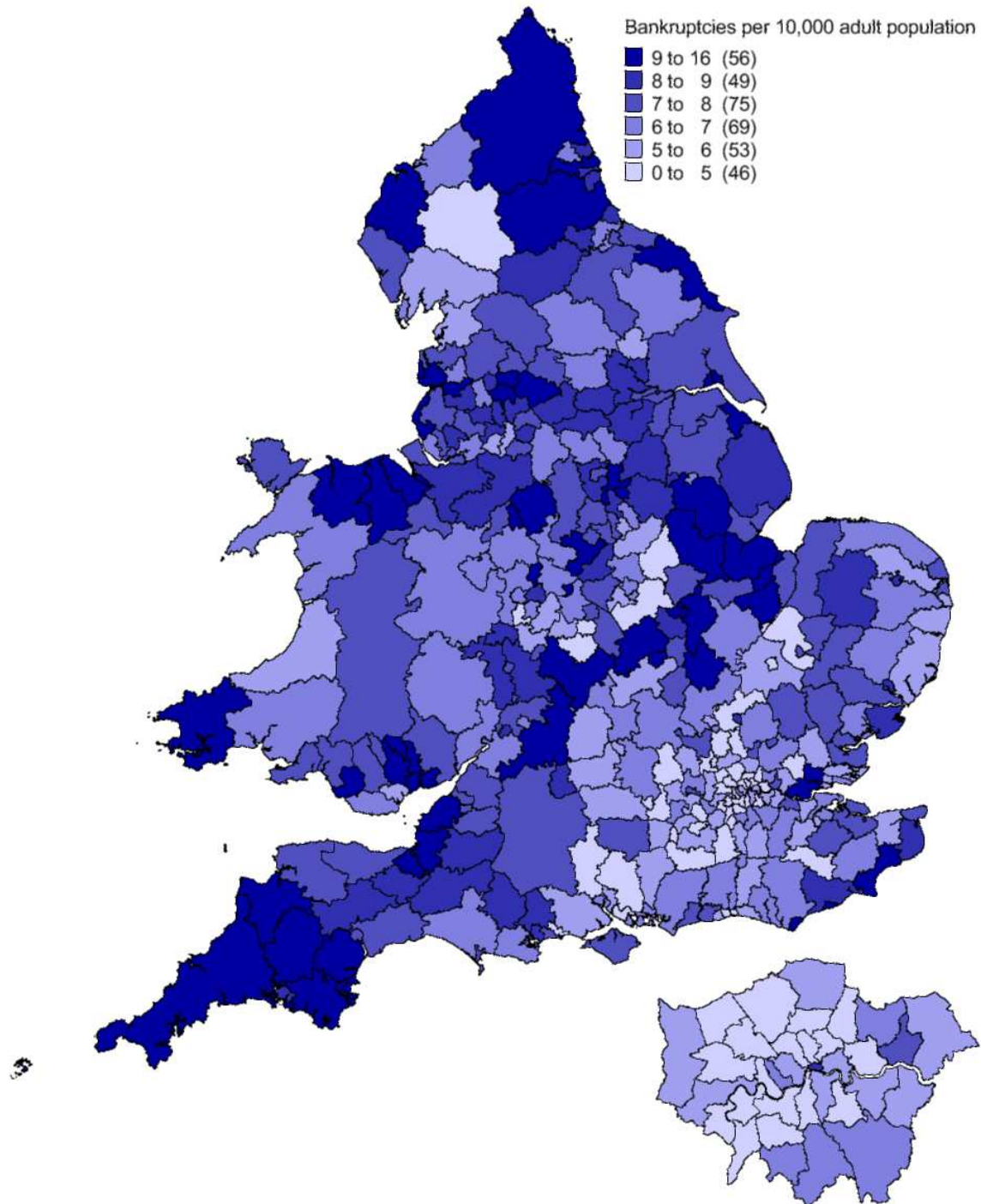




Figure 6: Distribution of bankruptcy rates by local authority, England and Wales, 2012

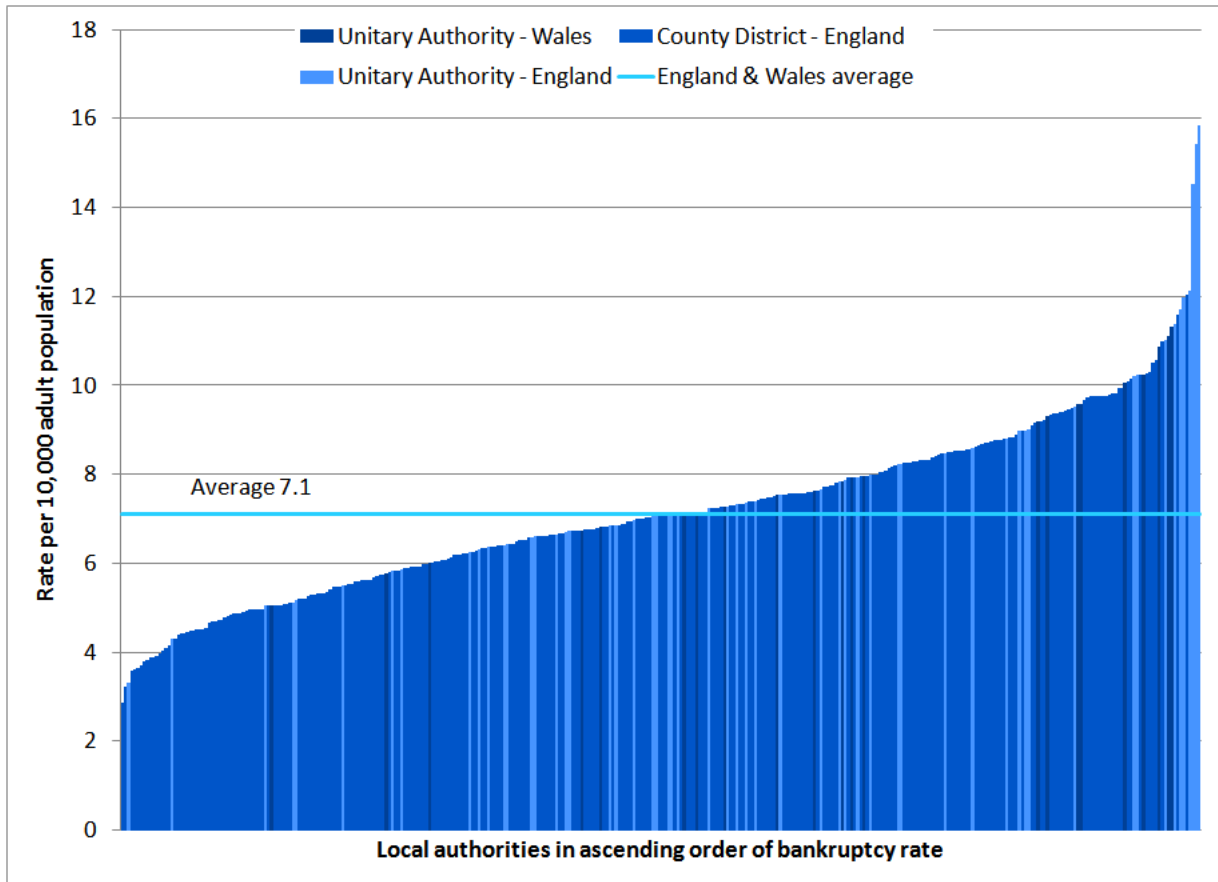


Table 2: Local authorities with the ten highest and lowest bankruptcy rates, England and Wales, 2012

Highest bankruptcy rates			Lowest bankruptcy rates		
Local authority	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Local authority	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population
Isles of Scilly	3	15.8	Wandsworth	72	2.9
Blackpool	174	15.4	Adur	16	3.2
Torbay	155	14.5	Wokingham	40	3.3
North Somerset	197	12.1	Warwick	40	3.6
Tamworth	72	12.0	Brent	88	3.6
North East Lincolnshire	150	12.0	Harrow	68	3.6
Kingston upon Hull, City of	237	11.7	Test Valley	34	3.7
Allerdale	90	11.6	Christchurch	15	3.8
Thurrock	137	11.4	Lambeth	95	3.8
Blaenau Gwent	63	11.3	Richmond upon Thames	57	3.9



Debt Relief Orders (DROs)

- The rate of DROs per 10,000 adults in England and Wales increased to 7.0 in 2012 from 6.6 in 2011, having followed an increasing trend since their introduction in April 2009.
- The North East had the highest DRO rate in 2012 at 10.1 per 10,000 adults (3.1 higher than England and Wales), followed by the South West at 10.0 (3.0 higher than England and Wales); this is different to 2011, when the South West had a higher rate than the North East. London had the lowest rate in 2012 at 3.7 (3.3 lower than England and Wales).
- The rate for each region has increased each year since 2009, with the exception of London where the rate peaked in 2011 and has since decreased (see Figure 7 below). Comparing the rate for each region since the introduction of DROs in April 2009, the North East showed the largest increase, at 6.5 per 10,000 adults, while London showed the smallest increase, at 2.3 to its peak in 2011 (compared with an increase of 4.2 in England and Wales between 2009 and 2012).
- The local authority with the highest DRO rate in 2012 was Denbighshire at 30.4 followed by Torbay at 27.9, the lowest was the Isles of Scilly at 0.0, followed by Harrow at 0.7 (see Table 3 below; the distribution of local authorities by DRO rate is given in Figure 9 below).
- Local authorities with lower DRO rates (represented by lighter shades in Figure 8 below) tended to be concentrated around London and the Home Counties, parts of the West Midlands and the North West, while many of those local authorities with higher DRO rates (represented by darker shades in Figure 8 below) were in the South West, Wales, the East and the North East.
- The DRO rate was higher in 2012 than in 2011 in 212 out of 358 local authorities. The largest decrease in the rate was in Pembrokeshire at 8.4 per 10,000 adults; the largest increase was in St Edmundsbury at 8.1.



Figure 7: DROs per 10,000 adult population by region, England and Wales, 2012

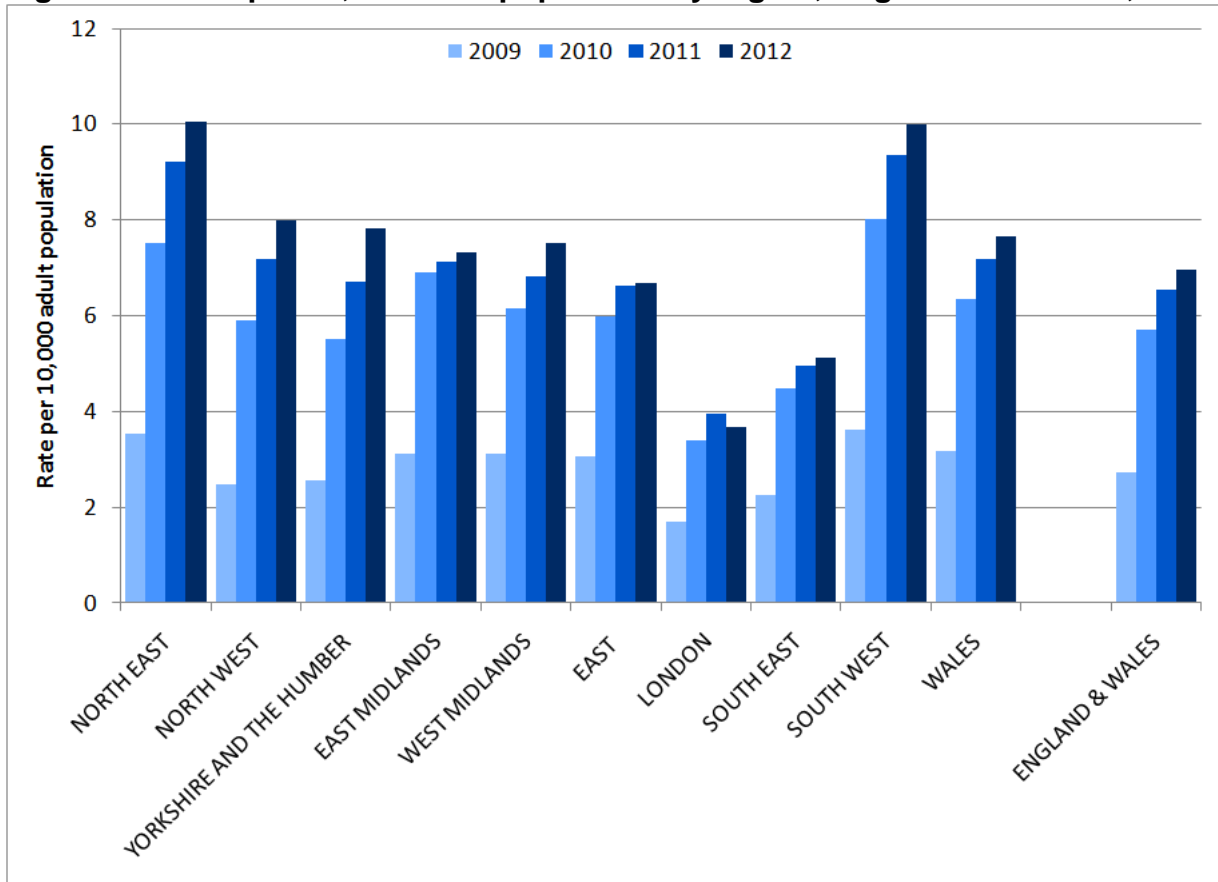




Figure 8: DROs per 10,000 adult population by local authority, England and Wales, 2012

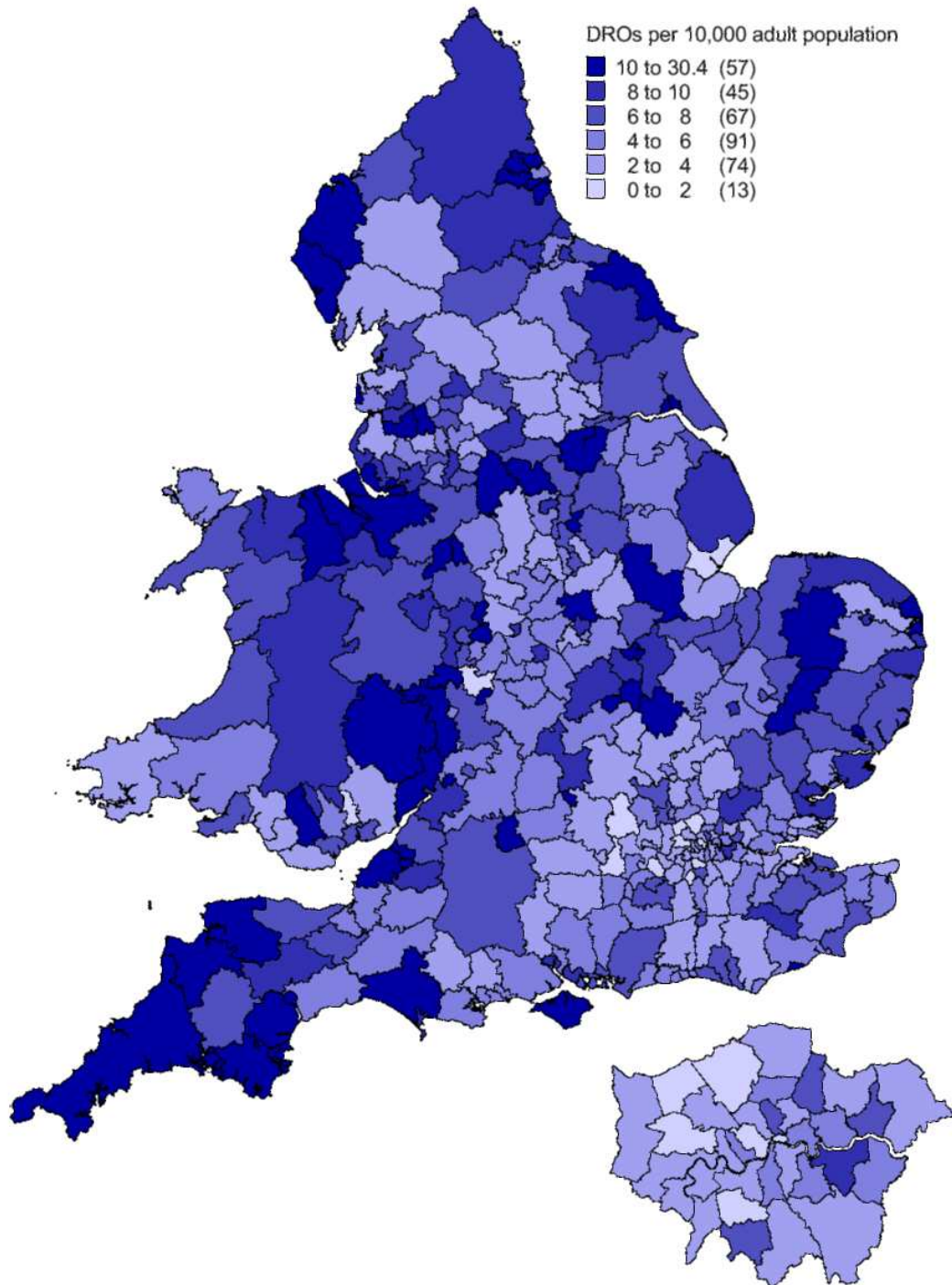




Figure 9: Distribution of DRO rates by local authority, England and Wales, 2012

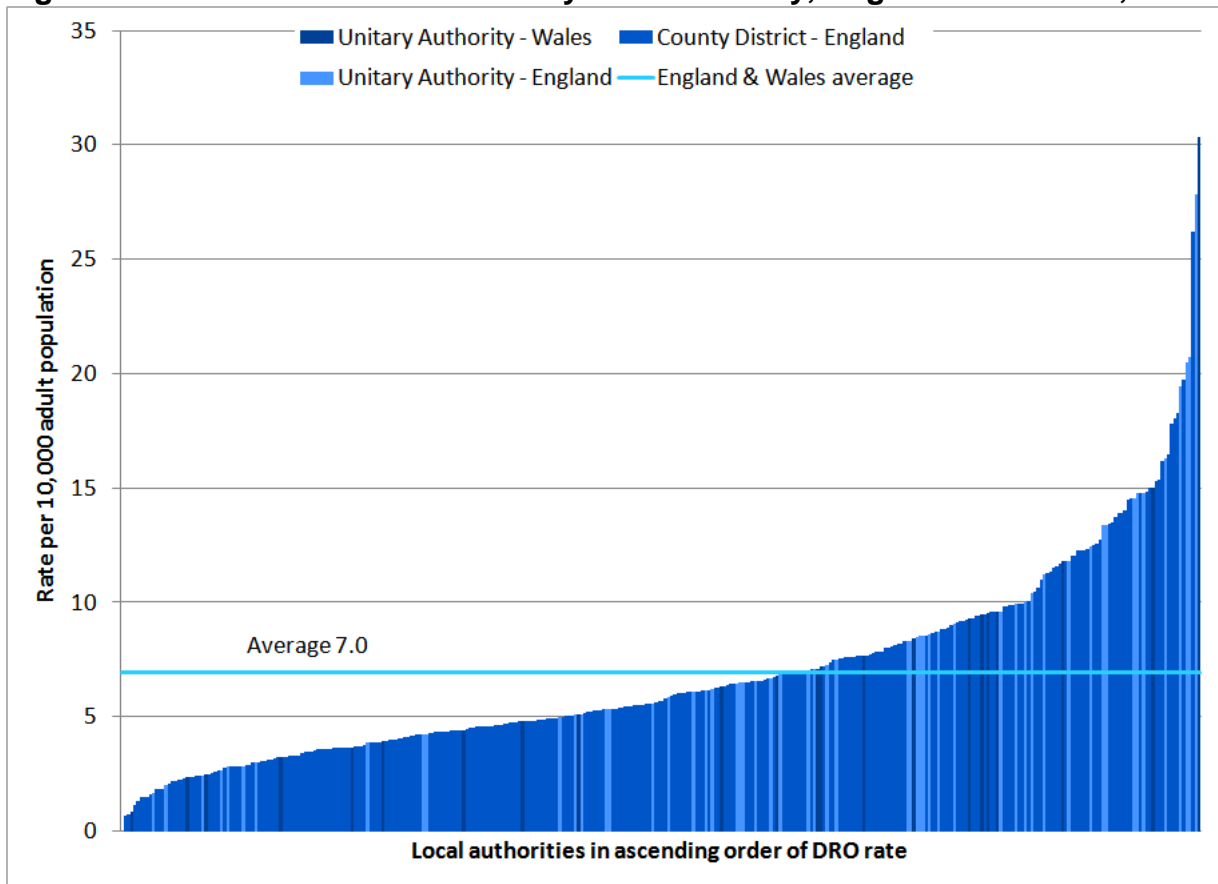


Table 3: Local authorities with the ten highest and lowest DRO rates, England and Wales, 2012

Highest DRO rates			Lowest DRO rates		
Local authority	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Local authority	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population
Denbighshire	227	30.4	Isles of Scilly	0	0.0
Torbay	297	27.9	Harrow	13	0.7
Scarborough	233	26.2	Runnymede	5	0.8
Stoke-on-Trent	404	20.7	Torfaen	6	0.8
Kingston upon Hull, City of	414	20.5	Boston	6	1.2
Mansfield	164	19.7	Barnet	37	1.3
Isle of Wight	219	19.4	Bromsgrove	11	1.5
Great Yarmouth	142	18.3	City of London	1	1.5
Gloucester	173	18.1	Wycombe	20	1.5
Redditch	117	17.8	Merton	25	1.6



Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs)

- The rate of IVAs per 10,000 adults in England and Wales fell to 10.5 in 2012 from 11.1 in 2011, having followed a decreasing trend since the peak of 11.6 in 2010.
- The North East had the highest IVA rate in 2012 at 14.4 per 10,000 adults (4.0 higher than England and Wales), followed by the East Midlands at 12.0 (1.5 higher than England and Wales). London had the lowest rate in 2012 at 6.1 (4.3 lower than England and Wales).
- The rate for each region has followed a similar trend to that for England and Wales as a whole, reaching a peak in 2010 and then falling away by 2012; the exception being the South West which has seen a slight increase between 2011 and 2012 (see Figure 10 below). Comparing the rate for each region in 2012 with its peak in 2010, Wales and Yorkshire and the Humber jointly showed the largest decrease, at 1.5 per 10,000 adults, while the North East showed the smallest decrease, at 0.4 (compared with a decrease of 1.1 in England and Wales).
- The local authorities with the highest IVA rates in 2012 were Bolsover and Tamworth, both at 18.6, the lowest was Kensington and Chelsea at 2.6 (see Table 4 below; the distribution of local authorities by IVA rate is given in Figure 12 below).
- Local authorities with lower IVA rates in 2012 (represented by lighter shades in figure 11 below) tended to be concentrated around London and the Home Counties, while many of those local authorities with higher IVA rates (represented by darker shades in figure 11 below) were in the North East, parts of the East Midlands and parts of Merseyside, Lancashire and South Yorkshire.
- The IVA rate was lower in 2012 than in 2011 in 213 out of 358 local authorities. The largest decrease in the rate was in Forest Heath at 6.8 per 10,000 adults; the largest increase was in Hartlepool at 6.6.



Figure 10: IVAs per 10,000 adult population by region, England and Wales, 2012

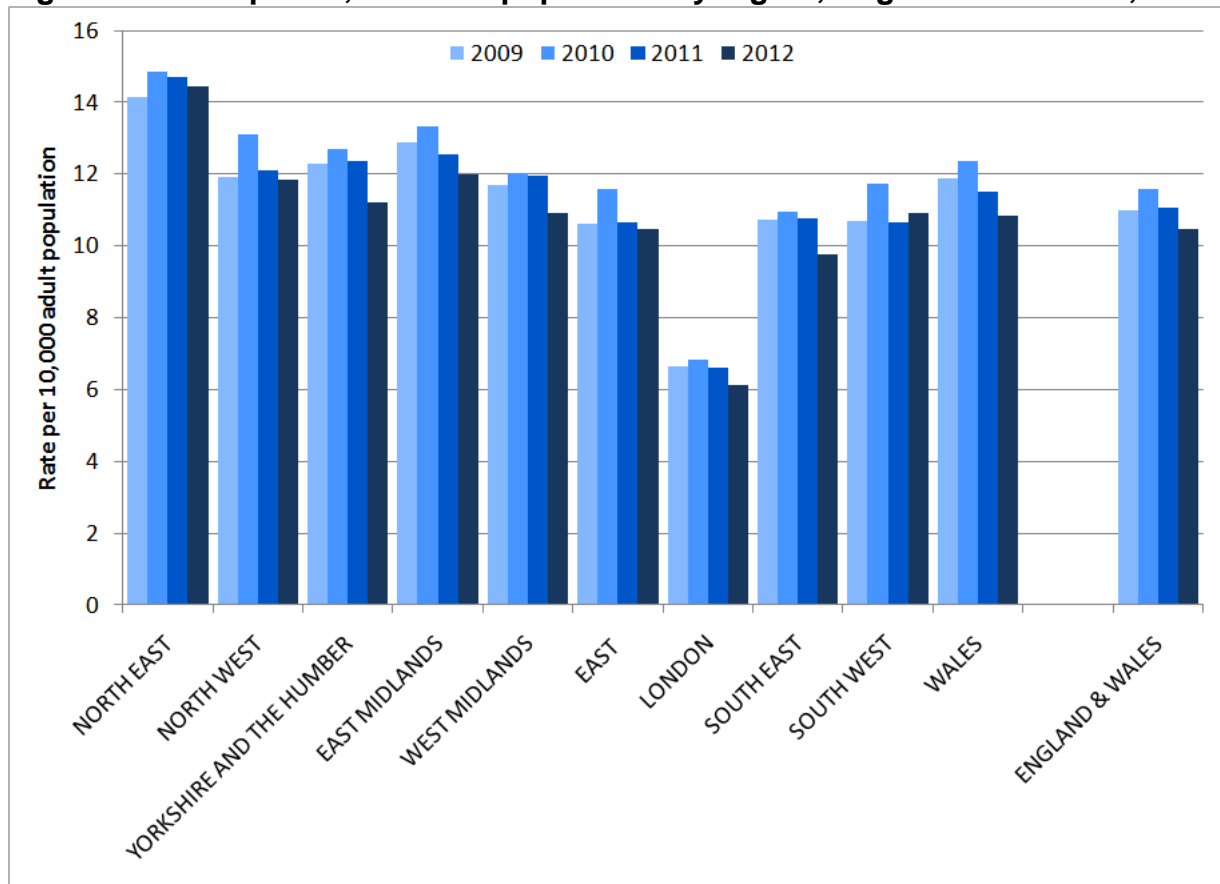




Figure 11: IVAs per 10,000 adult population by local authority, England and Wales, 2012

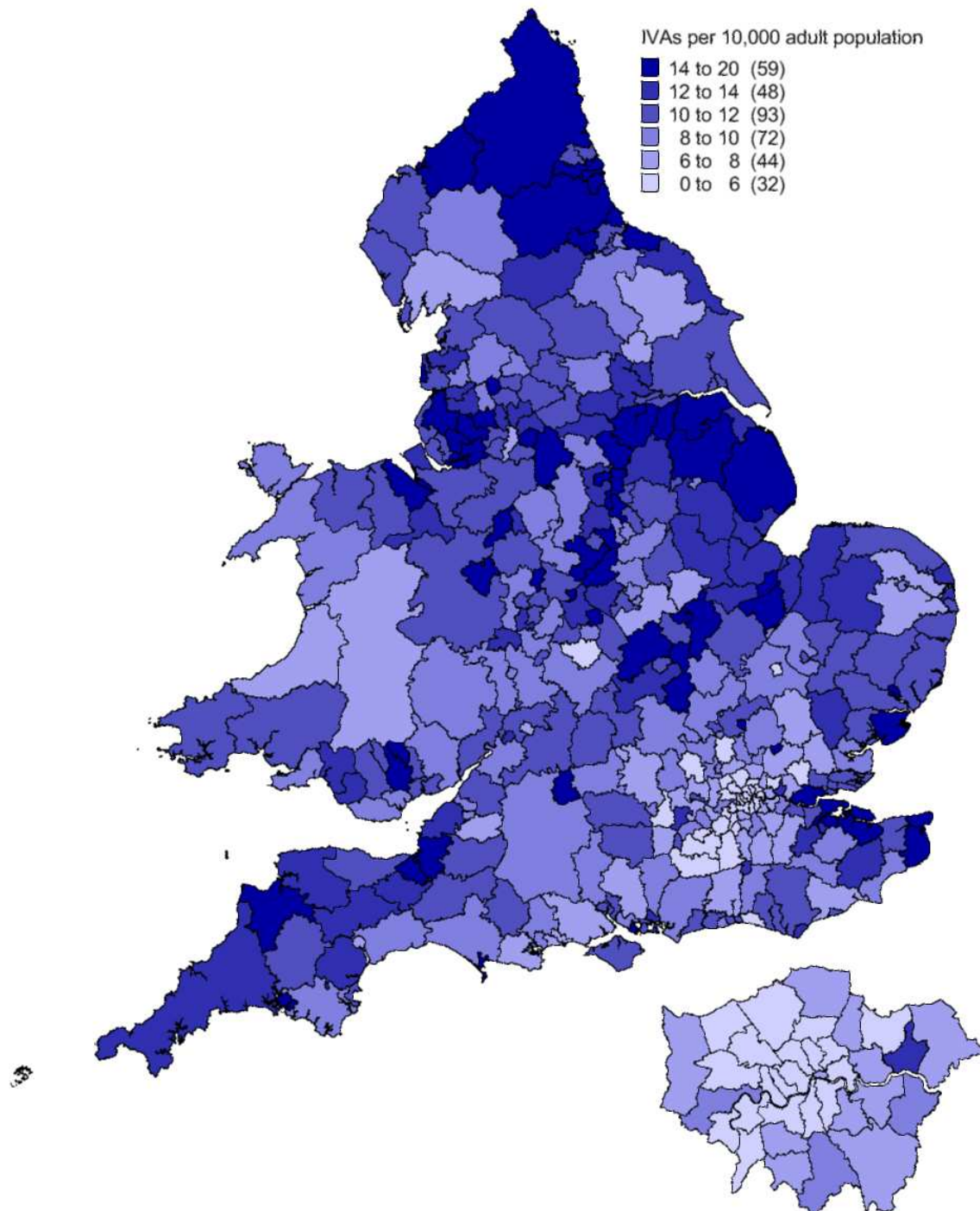




Figure 12: Distribution of DRO rates by local authority, England and Wales, 2012

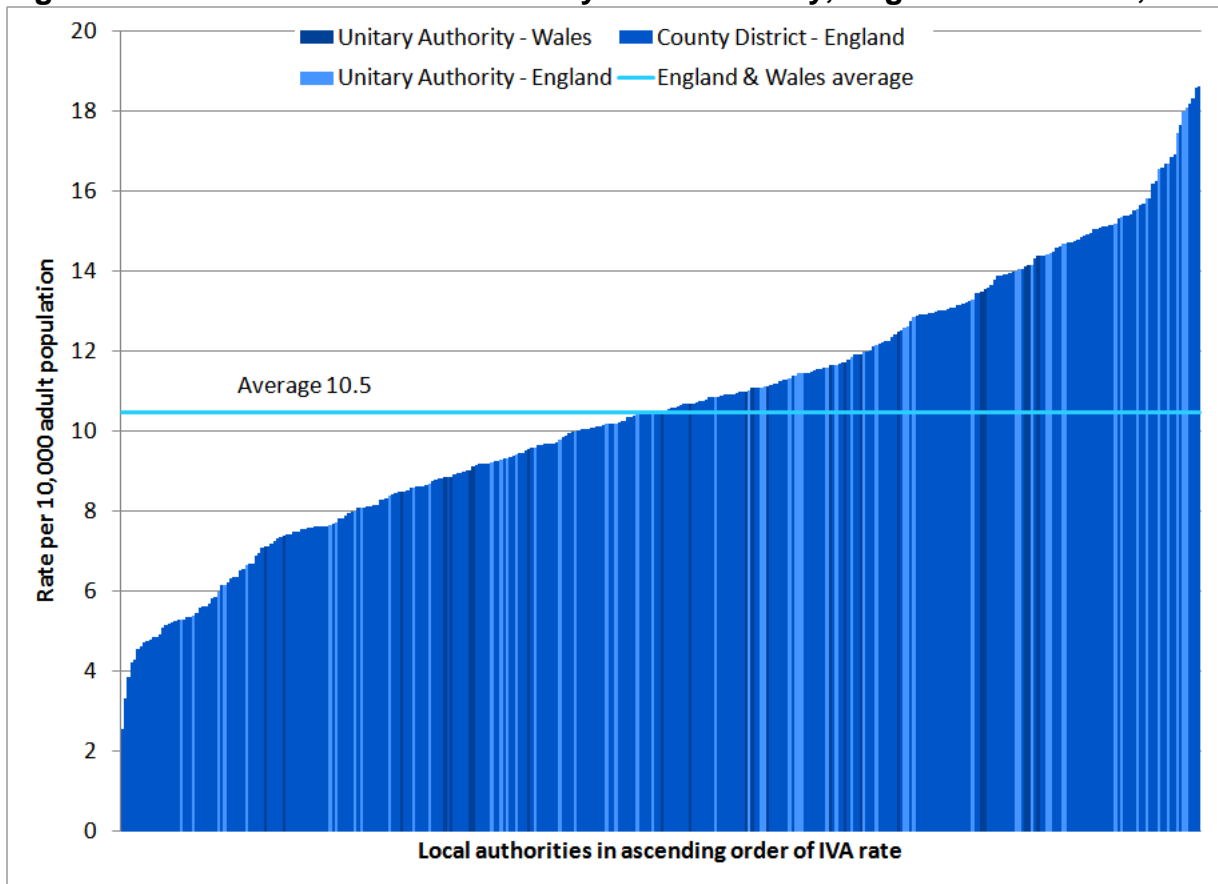


Table 4: Local authorities with the ten highest and lowest IVA rates, England and Wales, 2012

Highest IVA rates			Lowest IVA rates		
Local authority	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Local authority	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population
Bolsover	113	18.6	Kensington and Chelsea	33	2.6
Tamworth	111	18.6	Westminster	62	3.3
Gosport	119	18.3	Camden	71	3.9
Harlow	115	18.2	Islington	73	4.2
Hartlepool	130	18.1	Richmond upon Thames	63	4.3
Blackpool	203	18.0	Hammersmith and Fulham	67	4.6
Corby	85	17.6	Cambridge	48	4.6
County Durham	722	17.4	Mole Valley	32	4.7
Sunderland	374	16.9	Guildford	53	4.8
Erewash	151	16.8	Tower Hamlets	98	4.8



Age and Gender Analysis

In England and Wales in 2012:

- The individual insolvency rate per 10,000 adults was higher for males than for females across all regions (25.3 for males and 23.7 for females);
- The individual insolvency rate was highest in the 35-44 age group for both males and females (43.2 for males, 40.5 for females and 41.9 in total); this was true across all regions of England and Wales;
- For the younger age groups, 18-24 and 25-34, the insolvency rate was higher among females than males; the reverse was true for those age groups over 35 (see Figure 13 below). This was also the case for most regions.

The patterns varied to some extent between different types of insolvency procedure:

- The rates of bankruptcies and IVAs per 10,000 adults were higher for males than for females across all regions of England and Wales overall, and for those age groups over 35. However, for younger age groups in many regions, bankruptcy rates and IVA rates were higher for females than males. In common with total individual insolvencies, the bankruptcy rate and IVA rate were highest in the 35-44 age group;
- By contrast, the rate of DROs was highest amongst females in all regions of England and Wales, and, within regions, DRO rates were higher for females than males for most age groups. The DRO rate was also higher for younger age bands when compared against other insolvency procedures, with the rate highest for the 25-35 age group across all regions, rather than 35-44 age group.

The difference between the individual insolvency rate in England and Wales for females and for males has reduced over the last five years, as illustrated in Figure 14 below.

- In 2008, the rate for females was 18.3 per 10,000 adults, 10.2 lower than the rate of 28.4 for males; in 2012, the rate for females was 23.7, 1.6 lower than the rate of 25.3 for males.
- The reduction in the difference can partly be explained by the introduction in 2009 and subsequent increase in the number of DROs, for which, as described above, a higher proportion of individual debtors were female in comparison with IVAs and bankruptcies.



Figure 13: Rate per 10,000 adult population by insolvency procedure, age group and gender in 2012, England and Wales

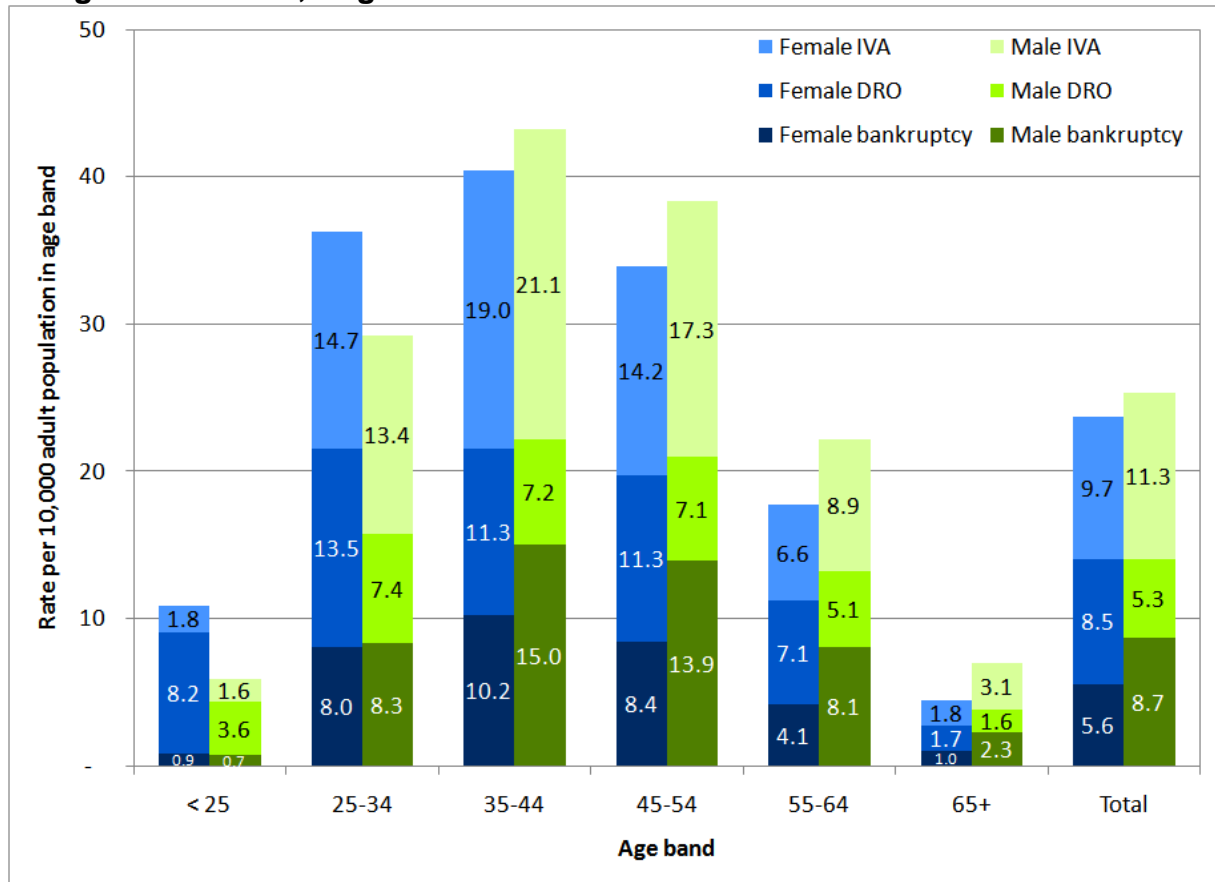
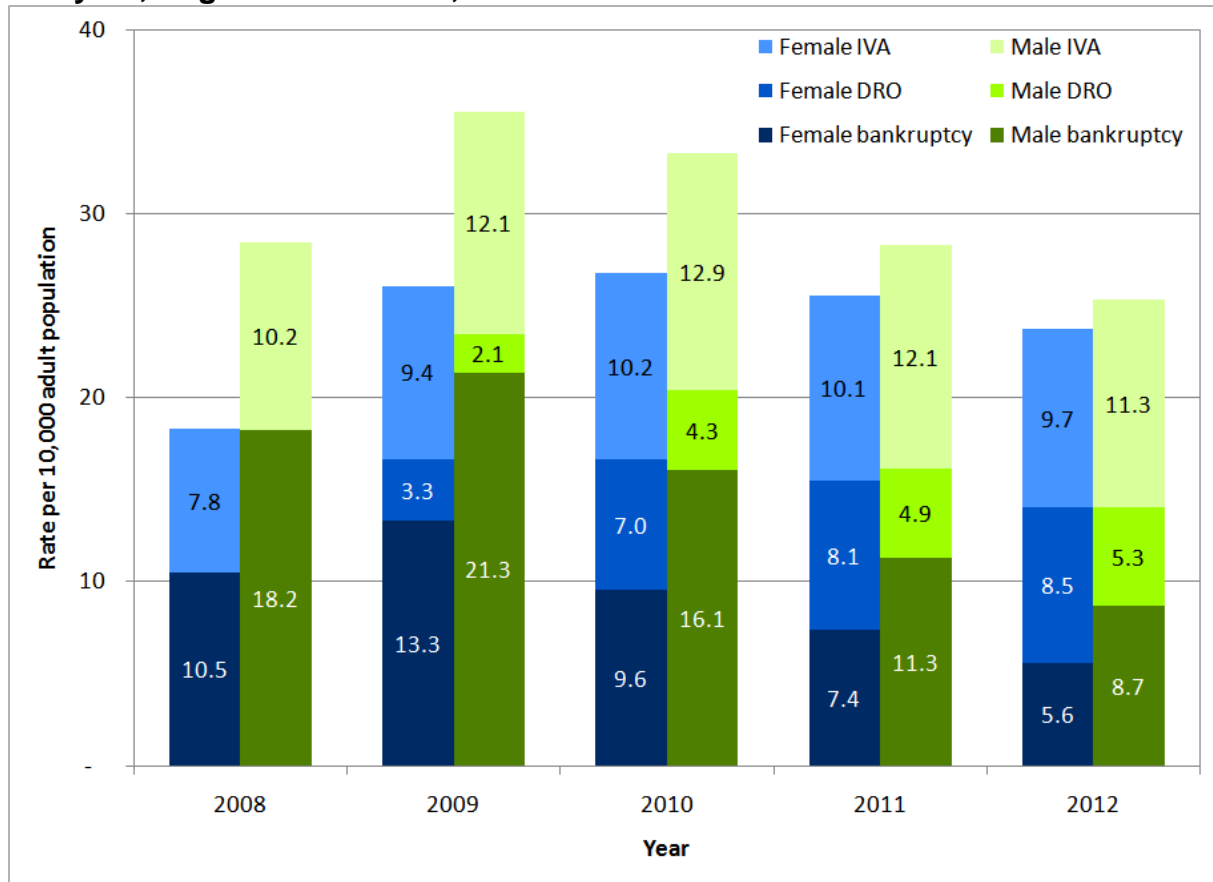




Figure 14: Rate per 10,000 adult population by insolvency procedure, gender and year, England and Wales, 2008 to 2012





Notes to accompany the Regional Individual Insolvency Statistics for England and Wales

1. The figures are Official Statistics, compiled and released in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and the Pre-release to Official Statistics Order 2008.
2. Individual insolvency procedures include bankruptcy, debt relief orders (with effect from 6 April 2009) and individual voluntary arrangements:
 - a) Bankruptcy - a form of debt relief available for anyone who is unable to pay the debts they owe. Any assets owned will vest in a trustee in bankruptcy who will sell them and distribute the proceeds to creditors in accordance with the order laid down by statute.
 - b) Debt Relief Order (DRO) - a form of debt relief available to those who owe £15,000 or less and have little by way of assets or income. There is no distribution to creditors, and discharge from debts takes place 12 months after the DRO is granted.
 - c) Individual Voluntary Arrangements - a voluntary means of repaying creditors some or all of what they are owed. Once approved by the majority of creditors, the arrangement is binding on all. Such arrangements are supervised by a licensed Insolvency Practitioner.Additional information on all aspects of insolvency may be found on the Insolvency Service website here : <http://www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency>
3. The Insolvency Service has policy responsibility for individual insolvency in England and Wales only; the extent of coverage of these statistics reflects this.
4. The statistics are numbers of new insolvency cases and rates per 10,000 adult population of England and Wales, annually for each calendar year from 2000 to 2012. More information on the methods of calculation and the population data is provided within the Notes sheet of the published tables.
5. The geographic levels presented are regions, counties, unitary authorities and county districts. More information on the geographical boundaries is available within the Notes sheet of the published tables and additional information on geography more generally may be found on the Neighbourhood Statistics website here : <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=nessgeography/ness-geography.htm>
6. The regional individual insolvency statistics for 2000 to 2012 will be hosted on the Office for National Statistics' Neighbourhood Statistics website. This site provides the scope for further interactive analysis at the local area across many data series.
7. The number of cases and the rate per 10,000 adults in each geographical area have been revised for 2000 to 2011, reflecting:
 - a) An updated postcode directory, meaning more cases can be attributed to a region or local authority (though the number of cases for England and Wales is not affected; and
 - b) Revisions by the Office for National Statistics to population estimates for 2002 to 2011, reflecting data available from the 2011 Census, which have had consequent effects on the rate of personal insolvency per 10,000 adults.



The Insolvency Service

8. Headline company and individual insolvency figures are published quarterly by the Insolvency Service as a National Statistics release. The most recent such figures relate to Q1 2013, published on 3 May 2013 here:
<http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolvency-statistics.htm> .
9. Numbers of new cases presented in these tables are not consistent with the official, headline National Statistics published as they have been extracted from a live database at a different point in time and on a different basis. The 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.
10. Sources: Insolvency Service, and Population Estimates Unit, ONS: Crown Copyright.

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