



Ministry of
JUSTICE



Statistics on company winding up and bankruptcy petitions issued in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales – second quarter 2010

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Introduction

This quarterly bulletin presents statistics on the numbers of company winding up petitions and individual bankruptcy petitions made by creditors and debtors which are issued in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales. It provides provisional figures for the latest quarter (April to June 2010). Supplementary statistical tables which include breakdowns by court are also published in a spreadsheet format on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/companywindingupandbankruptcy.htm

There are two main methods of winding up (or dissolving) a company which cannot pay its creditor(s), to whom debt is owed. The first commences by a creditor, shareholder or director presenting a petition to a court for a compulsory company winding up order. The second is for the company itself to pass a resolution, subject to the approval of a creditors' meeting, that the company be wound up voluntarily, or for the company to come to a binding agreement with its creditors. This is known as a voluntary company winding up.

An individual insolvency, where a person is unable to pay his or her debts, can also be made on a compulsory or voluntary basis. The process for a compulsory bankruptcy order commences with either the debtor (the person who owes the debt) or one or more of his creditors presenting a petition to a court. Alternatively, an individual voluntary arrangement can be made through debtors coming to an agreement with their creditors.

The statistics provide a summary overview of volumes over time of the number of such petitions issued in the High Court and the county courts, and broken down by individual court. They are the only source of sub-national insolvency information. In addition to monitoring court workloads, they are used by local authorities to assess the economic wellbeing of areas.

Statistics on the actual numbers of company windings up and bankruptcies occurring are published by the Insolvency Service. On receipt of a petition, the court issue process includes setting up a judicial hearing. At this hearing, once satisfied that there is no prospect of the debt(s) being paid, the court grants a company winding up order or a bankruptcy order and appoints an Official Receiver to take control of relevant assets. The Insolvency Service statistics (which for each quarter are released six days ahead of the Ministry of Justice statistics due to the extra time needed for compilation of the latter) can be accessed on their website at:

www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm

The **Recent developments and statistical revisions** section contains information on recent changes to court and insolvency processes which may impact on the statistics.

The **Explanatory Notes** section provides further information about the statistics, how they were compiled, and the symbols and conventions used in the bulletin.

If you have any feedback or questions about this statistical bulletin, or requests for further information, please direct them to the appropriate contact provided at the end of this report.

The High Court and county courts of England and Wales also process many other types of cases. These include other types of civil law matters such as those relating to debt, personal injury and possession, as well as those relating to family matters such as divorce, parental disputes and the protection of children. The Ministry of Justice also publishes several other related statistical publications which include statistics on activity in the courts:

- The quarterly bulletin “Mortgage and landlord possession statistics” provides detailed data on the number of such county court cases and is published at the same time as this bulletin:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgatelandlordpossession.htm

- The statistical bulletins “Court Statistics Quarterly” and “Judicial and Court Statistics” provide data on all civil and family law cases dealt with in the county courts on a quarterly basis and in the High Court and county courts on a calendar year basis respectively:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/courtstatisticsquarterly.htm

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/judicialandcourtstatistics.htm

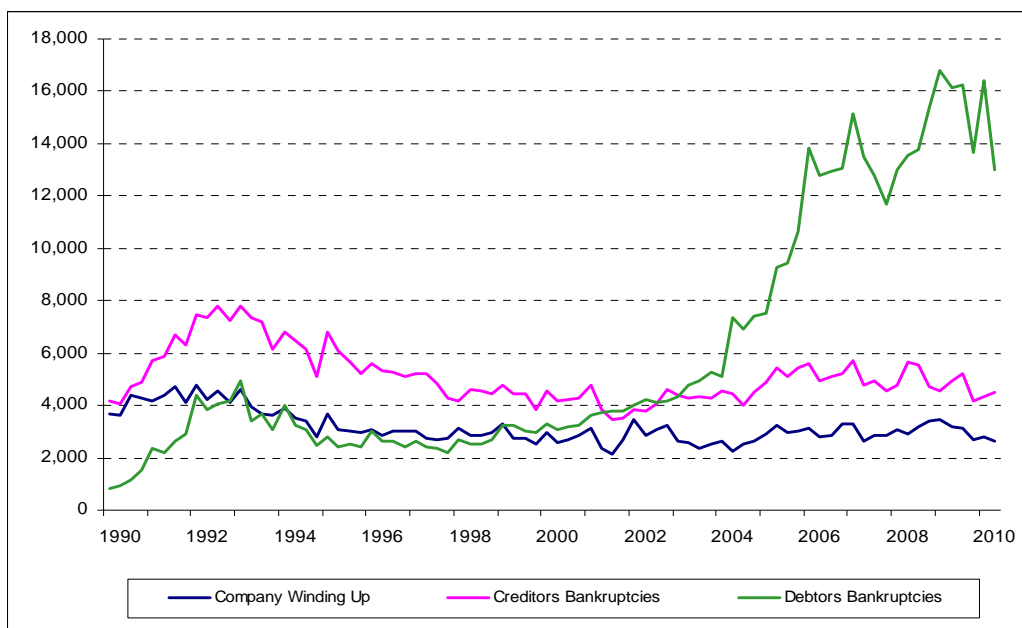
Findings

The analysis in this report mainly consists of comparisons made between the latest quarter with the previous quarter and with the equivalent quarter of the previous year. Seasonal variations affecting the workload of the courts may impact on comparisons between periods; however the statistics are not seasonally adjusted.

The main findings (figures available in Tables 1, 2 and 3, and see Figure 1) are as follows:

- The number of company winding up petitions issued for dissolving a company that cannot pay its debts has been around 3,000 per quarter in each of the last five years. In the second quarter of 2010, 2,635 were issued, a decrease of 17% on the same quarter of 2009 and a decrease of 5% on the previous quarter.
- The number of individual bankruptcy petitions made by creditors (the person to whom the debt is owed) has generally fallen since 2006. In the second quarter of 2010, 4,494 were issued, a decrease of 9% on the same quarter of 2009 and a fall of less than 1% compared to the previous quarter.
- The number of individual bankruptcy petitions made by debtors (the person who owes the debt) has generally been on an upward trend between 2000 and 2009, rising five fold over this time. However there was a fall in the number of such petitions in the second quarter of 2010 compared to recent previous quarters; 13,004 were issued, a decrease of 19% on the same quarter of 2009 and a 21% decrease on the previous quarter.

Figure 1: Company winding up and individual bankruptcy petitions issued – England & Wales, 1990 to 2010 Q2 (Apr-Jun)



- The 17% fall in company winding up petitions compared to the same quarter in 2009 reflected decreases in the HMCS regions of North East England (30%), North West England (20%), the Midlands (17%) and London (16%), and rises in Wales (107%), South East England excluding London (92%) and South West England (17%). Although the rises in Wales and South East England (excluding London) were proportionately large, they only accounted for 7% of company winding up petitions.
- The 9% decrease in bankruptcy petitions made by creditors compared with the second quarter of 2009 reflected falls in the HMCS regions of London (30%), North East (6%), South East England excluding London (5%) and South West England (3%) and rises in the Midlands (31%), Wales (30%), and North West England (5%).
- The 19% fall in bankruptcy petitions made by debtors compared with the same quarter in 2009 comprised decreases in all HMCS regions. These were greatest in South East England excluding London (26%), London (25%), South West England (19%) and least in North West England (16%), the Midlands (15%), North East England (14%) and Wales (7%).

Recent developments

Increase in fees

Fees relating to The Official Receiver's Deposit towards the costs of administering insolvency cases increased on 6th April 2010; for debtors' bankruptcy petitions from £360 to £450, creditors' bankruptcy petitions from £430 to £600, and company winding up petitions from £715 to £1,000. This created an incentive for companies and individuals to present petitions to the courts before 6th April and may therefore have resulted in an increased number of petitions being made in Q1 of 2010 and a decreased number of petitions being made in Q2 of 2010.

Introduction of Debt Relief Orders

Debt Relief Orders (DROs) were introduced on 6 April 2009 through the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. DROs provide debt relief, subject to some restrictions, and are suitable for people domiciled in England and Wales who do not own their own home, have little surplus income (no more than £50 a month), assets (other than possibly a car) not exceeding £300, and less than £15,000 of debt. As DROs offer an alternative route into personal insolvency, they are likely to have had a downward impact on the number of bankruptcies

Table 1: Company winding up and individual bankruptcy petitions issued in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales, 1995-2010 Q2 (Apr-Jun)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Companies winding-up petitions</u>	<u>Creditors bankruptcy petitions</u>	<u>Debtors bankruptcy petitions</u>
1995		12,757	23,765	10,139
1996		11,980	21,268	10,689
1997		11,158	19,543	9,636
1998		11,771	17,755	10,380
1999		11,315	17,496	12,393
2000		11,028	17,220	12,757
2001		10,265	15,571	14,984
2002		12,634	16,330	16,507
2003		10,146	17,258	19,323
2004		10,006	17,459	26,776
2005		12,099	20,777	36,897
2006		12,108	20,891	52,678
2007		11,676	19,987	53,080
2008		12,559	20,678	55,663
2009		12,419	18,852	62,864
2006	Q1	3,151	5,615	13,843
	Q2	2,775	4,966	12,811
	Q3	2,878	5,107	12,950
	Q4	3,304	5,203	13,074
2007	Q1	3,302	5,712	15,127
	Q2	2,643	4,770	13,502
	Q3	2,859	4,938	12,772
	Q4	2,872	4,567	11,679
2008	Q1	3,054	4,771	12,985
	Q2	2,927	5,655	13,565
	Q3	3,196	5,539	13,749
	Q4	3,382	4,713	15,364
2009	Q1	3,461	4,535	16,775
	Q2	3,187	4,955	16,145
	Q3	3,101	5,214	16,266
	Q4	2,670	4,148	13,678
2010	Q1	2,777	4,510 (r)	16,383 (r)
	Q2	2,635 (p)	4,494 (p)	13,004 (p)

Notes:

Figures denoted by (r) are revised data, and those denoted by (p) are provisional data

Figures in this table are not seasonally adjusted. Care should be taken when drawing comparisons between periods that do not cover the same parts of the year, as any difference may in part be a result of seasonal effects

Table 2: Company winding up and individual bankruptcy petitions issued in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales, HMCS regions and HMCS areas, 2010 Q2 (Apr-Jun)

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2010 Q2	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q2	2010 Q2	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q2	2010 Q2	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q2
Croydon	6	-	85	-27%	207	-30%
Kingston-upon-Thames	14	-	106	93%	101	-6%
Romford	2	-	49	-11%	77	12%
London County Court Group	22	-	240	6%	385	-19%
<i>Royal Courts of Justice¹</i>	1,391	-17%	1,525	-33%	666	-28%
London	1,413	-16%	1,765	-30%	1,051	-25%

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birmingham	274	-26%	102	-9%	352	-33%
Coventry	1	-	35	-3%	171	-23%
Warwick	6	-	20	-	37	-29%
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	281	-25%	157	-4%	560	-30%
Burton-on-Trent	4	-	10	-	90	29%
Dudley	2	-	19	-	72	31%
Hereford	3	-	11	-	60	-21%
Kidderminster	3	-	8	-	22	-52%
Shrewsbury	2	-	19	-	75	-35%
Stafford	5	-	19	-	65	59%
Stoke-on-Trent	2	-	14	-33%	121	-12%
Stourbridge	0	-	8	-	54	20%
Walsall	1	-	69	123%	141	-42%
Wolverhampton	4	-	25	-	88	0%
Worcester	8	-	18	-	98	-19%
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	34	-	220	58%	886	-14%
Chesterfield	2	-	33	-	102	23%
Derby	7	-	61	177%	128	14%
Nottingham	2	-	35	-55%	280	-18%
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	11	-	129	21%	510	-5%
Boston	6	-	20	-	88	-4%
Leicester	8	-	65	35%	176	4%
Lincoln	6	-	30	-	178	-1%
Northampton	10	-	57	58%	149	-20%
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire	30	20%	172	61%	591	-6%
Midlands	356	-17%	678	31%	2,547	-15%

Darlington	2	-	21	-	62	-13%
Durham	1	-	19	-	121	10%
Middlesborough	2	-	25	9%	147	-20%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newcastle-upon-Tyne	30	-19%	47	2%	415	-17%
Sunderland	0	-	7	-68%	75	-40%
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	35	-17%	119	0%	820	-17%
Barnsley	0	-	10	-	46	-36%
Doncaster	0	-	12	-	144	0%
Gt Grimsby	1	-	6	-	61	-31%
Kingston-upon-Hull	0	-	16	-38%	155	-32%
Scunthorpe	1	-	2	-	51	-15%
Sheffield	0	-	22	-59%	220	-16%
Humber and South Yorkshire	2	-	68	-45%	677	-21%
Bradford	0	-	33	-21%	115	-12%
Dewsbury	4	-	22	-	81	7%
Halifax	1	-	20	-13%	93	107%
Harrogate	0	-	3	-	39	-41%
Huddersfield	1	-	17	-	55	41%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leeds	230	-32%	38	6%	120	-15%
Scarborough	1	-	12	-	77	8%
Wakefield	0	-	42	-	94	1%
York	1	-	17	-	97	-22%
North and West Yorkshire	238	-30%	204	19%	771	-2%
North East	275	-30%	391	-6%	2,268	-14%

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2010 Q2	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q2	2010 Q2	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q2	2010 Q2	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q2
Birkenhead	6	-	58	-	76	6%
Chester	1	-	11	-	35	-48%
Crewe	0	-	6	-	67	-6%
☒ Liverpool	45	-42%	63	-29%	301	-26%
Macclesfield	3	-	21	-	43	-30%
Warrington	1	-	12	-45%	83	1%
Cheshire and Merseyside	56	-30%	171	-1%	605	-21%
Barrow-in-Furness	0	-	3	-	19	-17%
Blackburn	1	-	8	-	42	-55%
Blackpool	4	-	17	-	61	-19%
Burnley	0	-	14	-	56	-15%
Carlisle	0	-	6	-	49	-6%
Kendal	0	-	3	-	18	-
Lancaster	0	-	9	-	27	8%
Penrith	0	-	1	-	0	-
☒ Preston	14	-	17	-	108	-23%
Whitehaven	0	-	1	-	35	-8%
Cumbria and Lancashire	19	-	79	-9%	415	-22%
Bolton	5	-	33	65%	59	4%
Bury	6	-	21	-	45	-24%
☒ Manchester	181	-22%	42	-29%	103	-10%
Oldham	0	-	18	-14%	91	0%
Salford	1	-	13	-38%	53	-36%
Stockport	0	-	31	-	65	-11%
Tameside	2	-	24	-	79	32%
Wigan	2	-	22	-8%	105	4%
Greater Manchester	197	-20%	204	17%	600	-6%
North West	272	-20%	454	5%	1,620	-16%
Bedford	4	-	22	-	38	-25%
Chelmsford	12	-	22	-4%	55	-36%
Colchester	11	-	46	109%	174	-7%
Hertford	3	-	10	-	72	-23%
Luton	20	-	74	147%	189	29%
Southend-on-Sea	6	-	77	-19%	171	-24%
St. Albans	5	-	52	33%	88	-39%
Watford	0	-	0	-	31	-
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	61	-	303	29%	818	-12%
Bury St Edmonds	4	-	12	-	66	-20%
Cambridge	5	-	12	-	102	-31%
Ipswich	17	-	25	-	90	-17%
King's Lynn	3	-	15	-	68	0%
Norwich	19	-	51	-	176	-42%
Peterborough	2	-	27	-	121	-24%
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	50	-	142	129%	623	-28%
Canterbury	0	-	16	-45%	142	-53%
Maidstone	2	-	12	-	52	13%
Medway	3	-	32	-42%	138	-26%
Tunbridge Wells	0	-	7	-	35	-55%
Kent	5	-	67	-35%	367	-40%
Brighton	1	-	41	-45%	265	-33%
Eastbourne	6	-	1	-	41	-55%
Guildford	1	-	17	-75%	86	-32%
Hastings	4	-	20	-	72	6%
Surrey and Sussex	12	-	79	-51%	464	-32%
Aylesbury	1	-	21	-34%	62	-33%
Banbury	1	-	7	-	30	-17%
Newbury	0	-	5	-	29	-17%
Milton Keynes	2	-	18	-25%	50	-48%
Oxford	1	-	10	-52%	77	-13%
Reading	4	-	21	-38%	133	-11%
Slough	1	-	22	-54%	91	-14%
Thames Valley	10	-64%	104	-40%	472	-22%
South East	138	92%	695	-5%	2,744	-26%

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2010 Q2	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q2	2010 Q2	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q2	2010 Q2	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q2
Bath	9	-	26	-21%	133	24%
☒ Bristol	63	-16%	42	8%	316	10%
Taunton	4	-	15	-	74	-27%
Yeovil	4	-	18	-	81	-26%
Avon & Somerset	80	4%	101	4%	604	0%
Barnstaple	1	-	6	-	35	-56%
Exeter	0	-	5	-75%	76	-38%
Plymouth	13	-	20	-	179	-23%
Torquay	2	-	14	-	65	-49%
Truro	2	-	27	13%	206	16%
Devon & Cornwall	18	-	72	-5%	561	-24%
Bournemouth	10	-	34	-8%	177	-27%
Cheltenham	0	-	0	-	0	-100%
Gloucester	7	-	15	-	146	43%
Salisbury	0	-	3	-	29	-19%
Swindon	6	-	14	-	109	-33%
Weymouth	1	-	1	-	44	-42%
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	24	-	67	-22%	505	-25%
Newport (I.O.W.)	2	-	8	-	41	-25%
Portsmouth	1	-	18	-10%	116	-35%
Southampton	0	-	21	-	112	-32%
Winchester	0	-	3	-	27	0%
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	3	-	50	25%	296	-30%
South West	125	17%	290	-3%	1,966	-19%
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Aberystwyth	0	-	0	-	6	-
Carmarthen	0	-	3	-	16	-27%
Haverfordwest	1	-	6	-	29	-24%
Neath & Port Talbot	0	-	7	-	45	-32%
Swansea	5	-	25	9%	68	-4%
Welshpool & Newton	0	-	0	-	19	-17%
Mid and West Wales	6	-	41	-7%	183	-19%
Caernarfon	0	-	16	-	48	2%
Llangefni	0	-	6	-	9	-
Mold	1	-	2	-	26	18%
Rhyl	1	-	3	-	50	-21%
Wrexham	0	-	6	-	39	-38%
North Wales	2	-	33	6%	172	-17%
Aberdare	2	-	13	-	17	-73%
Blackwood	0	-	17	-	62	182%
Bridgend	1	-	12	-	66	-4%
☒ Cardiff	44	-	84	95%	105	2%
Merthyr Tydfil	0	-	8	-	28	-
Newport (Gwent)	1	-	8	-64%	131	8%
Pontypridd	0	-	5	-	44	-14%
South East Wales	48	140%	147	55%	453	4%
Wales	56	107%	221	30%	808	-7%
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England & Wales	2,635	-13%	4,494	-12%	13,004	-19%

☒ **Provincial High Court Centre**

- 1 The Royal Courts of Justice located in Central London, is the headquarters of the High Court. The Court has nationwide jurisdiction but handles a particularly large proportion of the insolvency work originating in London, and is therefore included in the London regional total.
- 2 The percentage change figures shown in this table reflect, where necessary, revised data for earlier years. They may therefore not be consistent with previously published data for these earlier time periods. Percentages are not shown where the number of petitions in the same quarter a year ago is fewer than 20.
- 3 Figures in this table are not seasonally adjusted

Table 3: Company winding up and individual bankruptcy petitions issued in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales, HMCS regions and HMCS areas, 2009 Q3 (Jul-Sep) – 2010 Q2 (Apr-Jun)

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2009 Q3 - 2010 Q2	% Change ² in total from 2008 Q3 - 2009 Q2	2009 Q3 - 2010 Q2	% Change ² in total from 2008 Q3 - 2009 Q2	2009 Q3 - 2010 Q2	% Change ² in total from 2008 Q3 - 2009 Q2
Croydon	21	-	388	-16%	1,191	-4%
Kingston-upon-Thames	23	-	231	43%	447	8%
Romford	4	-	257	-13%	463	9%
London County Court Group	48	55%	876	-5%	2,101	1%
<i>Royal Courts of Justice</i> ¹	6,171	-14%	6,537	-21%	3,321	-13%
London	6,219	-14%	7,413	-20%	5,422	-8%

☒ Birmingham	1,160	-25%	702	32%	1,581	0%
Coventry	15	-35%	140	-1%	702	-2%
Warwick	18	-	71	42%	184	1%
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	1,193	-24%	913	26%	2,467	0%
Burton-on-Trent	6	-	53	23%	404	50%
Dudley	6	-	58	21%	268	17%
Hereford	5	-	37	-3%	232	-17%
Kidderminster	6	-	37	68%	178	-6%
Shrewsbury	6	-	61	49%	386	-2%
Stafford	6	-	40	54%	194	-5%
Stoke-on-Trent	9	-	72	-27%	637	1%
Stourbridge	1	-	38	-16%	204	36%
Walsall	5	-	168	89%	705	-3%
Wolverhampton	9	-	81	-16%	402	-20%
Worcester	15	-	65	51%	528	21%
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	74	16%	710	20%	4,138	3%
Chesterfield	4	-	64	100%	374	11%
Derby	23	-	145	73%	646	31%
Nottingham	2	-	173	-34%	1,315	-4%
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	29	-9%	382	1%	2,335	6%
Boston	10	-	68	26%	387	1%
Leicester	21	-25%	161	2%	767	-4%
Lincoln	13	-	90	36%	629	-1%
Northampton	57	128%	172	-2%	965	-17%
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire & Rutland and Northamptonshire	101	40%	491	8%	2,748	-7%
Midlands	1,397	-19%	2,496	16%	11,688	0%

Darlington	3	-	51	31%	259	-13%
Durham	2	-	36	-62%	496	3%
Middlesborough	9	-	137	51%	606	-4%
☒ Newcastle-upon-Tyne	149	-28%	228	-13%	1,813	-4%
Sunderland	0	-	45	-50%	438	-19%
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	163	-28%	497	-14%	3,612	-6%
Barnsley	2	-	24	-43%	244	-18%
Doncaster	4	-	65	30%	498	2%
Gt Grimsby	5	-	30	-48%	325	-16%
Kingston-upon-Hull	4	-	66	-42%	778	4%
Scunthorpe	3	-	26	24%	187	6%
Sheffield	10	-	132	-42%	944	10%
Humber and South Yorkshire	28	-45%	343	-33%	2,976	1%
Bradford	5	-	140	-16%	583	7%
Dewsbury	4	-	57	-22%	360	24%
Halifax	1	-	56	-36%	243	16%
Harrogate	0	-	25	-32%	186	-12%
Huddersfield	3	-	45	-30%	267	34%
☒ Leeds	1,163	-20%	137	-7%	540	-1%
Scarborough	1	-	51	76%	332	4%
Wakefield	2	-	95	34%	445	-9%
York	6	-	50	11%	397	-8%
North and West Yorkshire	1,185	-19%	656	-9%	3,353	3%
North East	1,376	-21%	1,496	-17%	9,941	-1%

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	% Change ² in		% Change ² in		% Change ² in	
	2009 Q3 - 2010 Q2	total from 2008 Q3 - 2009 Q2	2009 Q3 - 2010 Q2	total from 2008 Q3 - 2009 Q2	2009 Q3 - 2010 Q2	total from 2008 Q3 - 2009 Q2
Birkenhead	12	-	135	90%	296	-9%
Chester	3	-	46	-10%	221	-6%
Crewe	0	-	64	0%	214	-30%
☒ Liverpool	198	-41%	240	-25%	1,270	0%
Macclesfield	7	-	76	13%	198	-9%
Warrington	3	-	58	12%	408	26%
Cheshire and Merseyside	223	-35%	619	-1%	2,607	-3%
Barrow-in-Furness	1	-	8	-	128	12%
Blackburn	1	-	57	-37%	259	-21%
Blackpool	7	-	75	-15%	341	3%
Burnley	1	-	49	-33%	267	-3%
Carlisle	4	-	33	32%	178	11%
Kendal	0	-	8	-	48	-16%
Lancaster	0	-	30	43%	106	8%
Penrith	0	-	1	-	0	-
☒ Preston	42	-13%	79	16%	495	2%
Whitehaven	1	-	13	-	118	-23%
Cumbria and Lancashire	57	-17%	353	-13%	1,940	-3%
Bolton	10	-	109	33%	282	11%
Bury	12	-	77	60%	191	-21%
☒ Manchester	845	-21%	192	5%	489	-14%
Oldham	0	-	90	-22%	367	2%
Salford	1	-	100	47%	327	-3%
Stockport	5	-	127	-14%	318	-5%
Tameside	5	-	63	50%	283	3%
Wigan	3	-	46	-41%	428	14%
Greater Manchester	881	-20%	804	5%	2,685	-2%
North West	1,161	-23%	1,776	-1%	7,232	-3%
Bedford	13	-	73	74%	175	-14%
Chelmsford	24	-	89	59%	339	1%
Colchester	17	-	101	5%	639	-2%
Hertford	20	-	133	111%	344	-1%
Luton	29	-	196	29%	713	26%
Southend-on-Sea	9	-	347	-27%	856	-13%
Watford	0	-	0	-	31	-
St. Albans	17	-	342	138%	368	-27%
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	129	102%	1,281	24%	3,465	-3%
Bury St Edmonds	10	-	67	24%	318	10%
Cambridge	16	-	107	81%	483	7%
Ipswich	29	-	78	117%	464	2%
King's Lynn	7	-	61	27%	259	1%
Norwich	38	-	146	60%	1,029	-13%
Peterborough	15	-	111	56%	575	-7%
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	115	167%	570	59%	3,128	-4%
Canterbury	6	-	102	-4%	662	-28%
Maidstone	7	-	37	-	248	18%
Medway	15	-40%	168	-11%	624	-14%
Tunbridge Wells	3	-	39	-24%	222	-16%
Kent	31	-23%	346	-5%	1,756	-17%
Brighton	19	-5%	227	-19%	1,196	-15%
Eastbourne	8	-	12	-50%	240	-6%
Guildford	5	-77%	62	-64%	439	-14%
Hastings	6	-	49	40%	298	1%
Surrey and Sussex	38	-14%	350	-31%	2,173	-12%
Aylesbury	9	-	144	-18%	376	-6%
Banbury	3	-	21	-28%	151	6%
Newbury	1	-	21	-	132	-8%
Milton Keynes	5	-	69	-23%	288	-18%
Oxford	18	-	74	-27%	379	-12%
Reading	17	-	115	20%	603	2%
Slough	10	-	161	-9%	423	0%
Thames Valley	63	-23%	605	-12%	2,352	-5%
South East	376	38%	3,152	7%	12,874	-7%

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	% Change ² in		% Change ² in		% Change ² in	
	2009 Q3 - 2010 Q2	2008 Q3 - 2009 Q2	2009 Q3 - 2010 Q2	2008 Q3 - 2009 Q2	2009 Q3 - 2010 Q2	2008 Q3 - 2009 Q2
Bath	17	-	75	9%	502	-1%
☒ Bristol	324	-38%	222	28%	1,338	14%
Taunton	15	-	103	164%	307	-13%
Yeovil	8	-	64	42%	343	-19%
Avon & Somerset	364	-31%	464	42%	2,490	2%
Barnstaple	11	-	23	-30%	227	-20%
Exeter	9	-	55	-14%	425	-29%
Plymouth	14	-	55	-8%	753	-12%
Torquay	10	-	41	-27%	423	-31%
Truro	11	-50%	90	13%	708	-24%
Devon & Cornwall	55	0%	264	-10%	2,536	-23%
Bournemouth	48	85%	151	5%	841	-9%
Cheltenham	3	-	22	-27%	105	-54%
Gloucester	15	-	100	72%	513	8%
Salisbury	0	-	15	-	143	7%
Swindon	16	-	56	6%	437	0%
Weymouth	7	-	10	-74%	232	-7%
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	89	98%	354	8%	2,271	-7%
Newport (I.O.W.)	5	-	16	-43%	171	-16%
Portsmouth	13	-	102	1%	630	-8%
Southampton	5	-	69	-22%	612	-6%
Winchester	0	-	17	-	121	3%
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	23	-12%	204	-12%	1,534	-8%
South West	531	-19%	1,286	9%	8,831	-10%
Aberystwyth	0	-	1	-	27	-39%
Carmarthen	0	-	19	-	87	-16%
Haverfordwest	1	-	24	-11%	138	5%
Neath & Port Talbot	1	-	26	18%	184	-8%
Swansea	9	-	86	18%	377	10%
Welshpool & Newton	3	-	12	-	63	-20%
Mid and West Wales	14	-	168	7%	876	-3%
Caernarfon	1	-	40	8%	165	-31%
Llangefni	0	-	17	-	56	4%
Mold	6	-	12	-	137	36%
Rhyl	6	-	24	-52%	230	11%
Wrexham	0	-	34	-32%	186	-28%
North Wales	13	-	127	-23%	774	-10%
Aberdare	3	-	17	-	60	-21%
Blackwood	0	-	31	-	226	12%
Bridgend	5	-	26	-30%	203	-6%
☒ Cardiff	76	90%	237	60%	397	11%
Merthyr Tydfil	0	-	16	-	87	67%
Newport (Gwent)	10	-	97	35%	535	34%
Pontypridd	2	-	28	17%	185	-16%
South East Wales	96	50%	452	37%	1,693	11%
Wales	123	40%	747	15%	3,343	2%
England & Wales	11,183	-15%	18,366	-7%	59,331	-4%

☒ Provincial High Court Centre

- The Royal Courts of Justice located in Central London, is the headquarters of the High Court. The Court has nationwide jurisdiction but handles a particularly large proportion of the insolvency work originating in London, and is therefore included in the London regional total.
- The percentage change figures shown in this table reflect, where necessary, revised data for earlier years. They may therefore not be consistent with previously published data for these earlier time periods. Percentages are not shown where the number of petitions in the same period a year ago is fewer than 20.

Explanatory notes

Introduction

1. This is a National Statistics publication produced by the Ministry of Justice. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
2. Figures on the numbers of company winding up petitions and individual bankruptcy petitions issued in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales are published on a quarterly basis.
3. **Insolvency:** A company or individual with debts that they are unable to pay is said to be 'insolvent'. Insolvencies can either be made on a compulsory basis through court orders being made, or on a voluntary basis through an agreement between the company or individual **debtor** (who owes the debt) and **creditor(s)** (to whom the debt is owed).
4. **Company winding up:** When a company's existence is terminated because it is unable to pay its' creditor(s), to whom debt is owed. To obtain a compulsory company winding up order, a creditor, shareholder or director must first present a petition to a court. Company winding up proceedings will normally be commenced at the court centre local to the registered office of the company, which will not necessarily be situated in the same geographical area as the company's base or operational area. The relative regional levels of winding-up activity do not therefore necessarily reflect the geographical distribution of the companies involved.
5. There is a restriction on proceedings commenced in county courts based on the paid-up capital of the company. Well over half of winding up proceedings are commenced and handled in the Chancery Division of the High Court at the Royal Courts of Justice in London and at the eight provincial High Court centres. These centres are flagged [X] in Tables 2 and 3.
6. **Individual bankruptcy:** where a person is unable to pay his or her debts. To obtain an individual bankruptcy order, the debtor or one or more of his creditors must first present a petition to a court. Proceedings for bankruptcy can be commenced at county courts with the appropriate jurisdiction, or in the Chancery Division of the High Court.

Presentation

7. Percentage changes are not provided where there are fewer than 20 observations in the past period.

Revisions

8. The 2010 Q2 figures are provisional, and are therefore liable to revision to take account of any late amendments to the databases from which these statistics are sourced. The standard process for revising the published statistics to account for these late amendments is as follows. An initial revision to the statistics for the latest quarter may be made when the next edition of this bulletin is published. Final figures for this quarter, and for other quarters in the same calendar year, will be published in the bulletin presenting the statistics for the second quarter of the following year.

Production process and quality assurance procedures

9. The statistics in this bulletin are sourced from manual counts made by court staff. Since April 2009 these have been recorded in the One Performance Truth (OPT) database, a web-based data monitoring system allowing direct inputting of performance data by court staff. Prior to April 2009 they were inputted into the Business Management System, designed for the purpose of monitoring and assessing court workloads. Quality assurance measures are in place to ensure that data are of sufficient quality. These include querying with the courts where counts look unusually high or low and obtaining corrected figures if errors are identified.

Insolvency Service data

10. Statistics on the actual numbers of company compulsory liquidations (winding up orders) and individual bankruptcy orders are published by the Insolvency Service. On receipt of a petition, the court issue process includes setting up a judicial hearing. At this hearing, once satisfied that there is no prospect of the debt(s) being paid, the court grants a company winding up order or a bankruptcy order and appoints an Official Receiver to take control of relevant assets. The Insolvency Service data are derived from administrative records of the Insolvency Service and Companies House, two executive agencies of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). These statistics (released six days before the Ministry of Justice data for the same quarter due to the extra preparation time needed for the latter) can be accessed on their website at:

www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm

11. The Insolvency Service also releases statistics showing the numbers of voluntary insolvencies. A voluntary company winding up can occur by the company passing a resolution, subject to the approval of a creditors' meeting that it be wound up voluntarily, or by the company coming to a binding agreement with its creditors. An individual voluntary arrangement can be made through debtors coming to an agreement with their creditors.

Symbols and conventions

The following symbol has been used in the tables of this bulletin:

(p) = Provisional data

(r) = Revised data

Contact points for further information

Current and previous editions of this publication are available for download at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/companywindingupandbankruptcy.htm

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Other National Statistics publications, and general information about the official statistics system of the UK, are available from www.statistics.gov.uk

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