



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**



# **Company winding up and bankruptcy petition court statistics – fourth quarter 2009**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics bulletin

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## Introduction

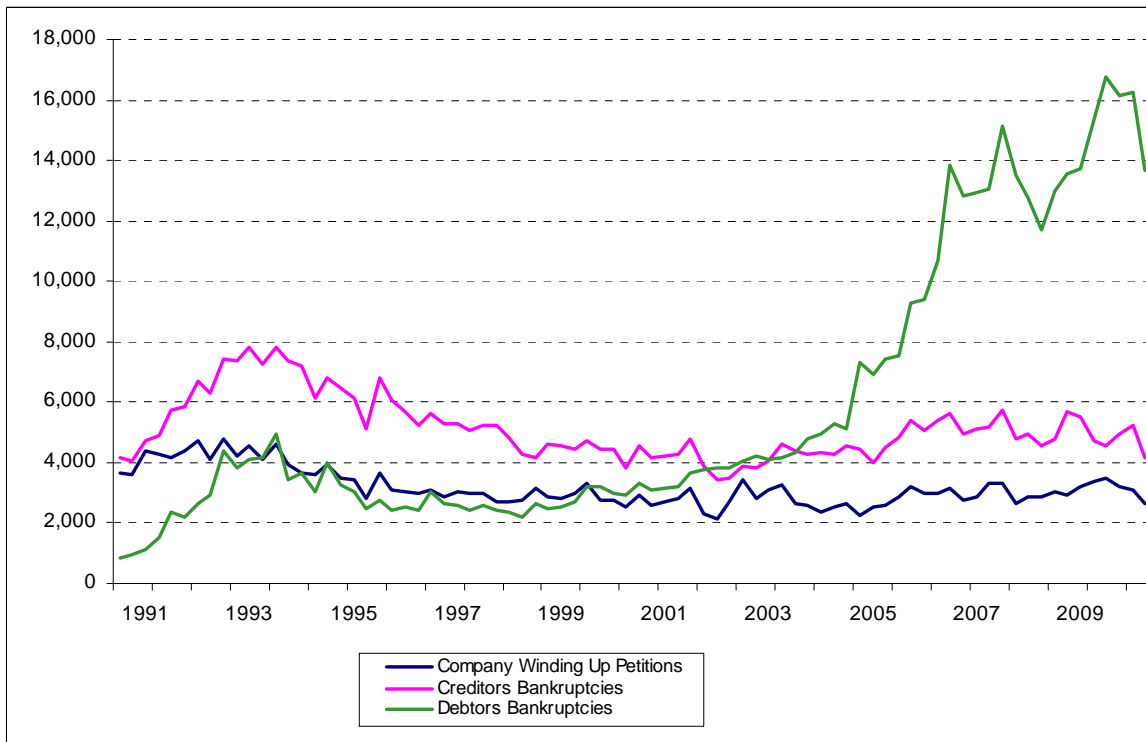
This bulletin presents the numbers of company winding up, and creditors' and debtors' bankruptcy petitions issued in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales for the fourth quarter of 2009.

## Findings

In the fourth quarter of 2009 the following numbers of petitions were issued:

- 2,670 **company winding up petitions** – a decrease of 21% on the same quarter of 2008 and a decrease of 14% on the previous quarter.
- 4,148 **creditors' petitions** – a decrease of 12% on the same quarter of 2008 and a 20% decrease on the previous quarter.
- 13,678 **debtors' petitions** – a decrease of 11% on the same quarter of 2008 and a 16% decrease on the previous quarter.

**Figure 1: Company winding up and bankruptcy petitions filed – England & Wales, 1990 to 2009**



**Table 1: Insolvency and bankruptcy petitions filed in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales, 1995-2009**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Companies winding-up petitions</b>	<b>Creditors bankruptcy petitions</b>	<b>Debtors bankruptcy petitions</b>
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
2005	Q1	2,892	4,861	7,528
	Q2	3,229	5,419	9,285
	Q3	2,977	5,087	9,418
	Q4	3,001	5,410	10,666
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 (p)	4,148 (p)	13,678 (p)

Notes:

All period figures denoted by (p) are based on 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: Insolvency and bankruptcy petitions filed in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales, HMCS regions and HMCS areas, 2009 Q4**

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2009 Q4	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2008 Q4	2009 Q4	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2008 Q4	2009 Q4	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2008 Q4
Croydon	1	-	131	28%	265	-16%
Kingston-upon-Thames	0	-	34	-24%	93	-15%
Romford	0	-	69	-26%	130	-9%
<b>London County Court Group</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<i>Royal Courts of Justice<sup>1</sup></i>	1,513	-22%	1,339	-27%	754	-17%
<b>London</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>-22%</b>	<b>1,573</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>-16%</b>
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⊗ Birmingham	302	-11%	148	2%	304	-22%
Coventry	4	-	42	-5%	173	5%
Warwick	7	-	23	-	41	0%
<b>Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>-13%</b>
Burton-on-Trent	0	-	12	-	88	69%
Dudley	0	-	8	-	49	-11%
Hereford	0	-	3	-	57	-23%
Kidderminster	0	-	11	-	48	-30%
Shrewsbury	0	-	14	-	100	14%
Stafford	1	-	3	-	43	-7%
Stoke-on-Trent	2	-	23	-4%	135	-9%
Stourbridge	1	-	13	-	48	92%
Walsall	0	-	26	-	177	13%
Wolverhampton	4	-	21	-16%	90	-37%
Worcester	1	-	4	-	110	5%
<b>Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Chesterfield	0	-	4	-	68	-26%
Derby	8	-	25	19%	167	46%
Nottingham	0	-	55	-21%	333	-11%
<b>Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Boston	2	-	8	-	95	-19%
Leicester	1	-	23	-23%	166	-31%
Lincoln	1	-	17	-	151	-18%
Northampton	19	-	36	-16%	241	-36%
<b>Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>Midlands</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>2,684</b>	<b>-12%</b>
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Darlington	0	-	7	-	56	-21%
Durham	1	-	3	-	120	7%
Middlesborough	2	-	35	-	151	27%
⊗ Newcastle-upon-Tyne	40	-25%	66	-31%	408	-10%
Sunderland	0	-	13	-	96	-28%
<b>Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>-6%</b>
Barnsley	1	-	4	-	47	-29%
Doncaster	1	-	12	-	105	11%
Gt Grimsby	2	-	6	-	84	-5%
Kingston-upon-Hull	1	-	15	-56%	176	4%
Scunthorpe	1	-	7	-	40	-5%
Sheffield	4	-	27	-56%	286	56%
<b>Humber and South Yorkshire</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>-47%</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>15%</b>
Bradford	2	-	38	0%	126	-17%
Dewsbury	0	-	15	-	88	-10%
Halifax	0	-	9	-	54	64%
Harrogate	0	-	13	-	43	-7%
Huddersfield	2	-	10	-58%	61	-5%
⊗ Leeds	232	-38%	28	-30%	148	8%
Scarborough	0	-	13	-	85	4%
Wakefield	0	-	12	-	111	-27%
York	3	-	6	-	93	-3%
<b>North and West Yorkshire</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>-34%</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>-1%</b>

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2009 Q4	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2008 Q4	2009 Q4	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2008 Q4	2009 Q4	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2008 Q4
Birkenhead	2	-	18	-	53	-30%
Chester	1	-	9	-	56	37%
Crewe	0	-	11	-	41	-48%
☒ Liverpool	47	-48%	48	-43%	330	15%
Macclesfield	1	-	21	-	44	-17%
Warrington	0	-	18	-	115	31%
<b>Cheshire and Merseyside</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>-45%</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>3%</b>
Barrow-in-Furness	0	-	1	-	29	21%
Blackburn	0	-	15	-55%	62	-30%
Blackpool	1	-	9	-	72	11%
Burnley	0	-	11	-	66	-11%
Carlisle	0	-	9	-	28	-7%
Kendal	0	-	3	-	15	-
Lancaster	0	-	6	-	26	-10%
☒ Preston	10	-55%	16	-45%	137	28%
Whitehaven	0	-	2	-	20	-23%
<b>Cumbria and Lancashire</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-52%</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>-37%</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>1%</b>
Bolton	0	-	25	-7%	68	-11%
Bury	2	-	11	-48%	40	-41%
☒ Manchester	218	-21%	64	36%	116	-29%
Oldham	0	-	19	-56%	80	-4%
Salford	0	-	22	-	70	-33%
Stockport	0	-	28	-45%	78	-8%
Tameside	1	-	10	-	54	-27%
Wigan	0	-	0	-	89	-2%
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>-22%</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>-20%</b>
<b>North West</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>-7%</b>
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Bedford	2	-	12	-	39	-20%
Chelmsford	6	-	32	-	88	-2%
Colchester	3	-	18	-28%	134	-4%
Hertford	6	-	56	-	72	-23%
Luton	1	-	24	-8%	108	-27%
Southend-on-Sea	1	-	97	35%	222	-9%
St. Albans	7	-	163	379%	97	-17%
<b>Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>108%</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>-14%</b>
Bury St Edmonds	2	-	9	-	81	3%
Cambridge	5	-	53	-	149	39%
Ipswich	1	-	14	-	107	-10%
King's Lynn	0	-	10	-	62	-3%
Norwich	3	-	27	-10%	227	-10%
Peterborough	9	-	41	86%	151	0%
<b>Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>1%</b>
Canterbury	1	-	34	0%	166	-13%
Maidstone	0	-	4	-	46	-15%
Medway	2	-	32	-3%	87	-50%
Tunbridge Wells	1	-	10	-	76	9%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>-23%</b>
Brighton	4	-	66	-6%	297	-10%
Eastbourne	0	-	5	-	49	-8%
Guildford	1	-	19	-51%	105	-4%
Hastings	1	-	12	-	63	-28%
<b>Surrey and Sussex</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>-20%</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>-12%</b>
Aylesbury	1	-	41	-13%	76	-25%
Banbury	2	-	4	-	32	0%
Newbury	0	-	1	-	28	-30%
Milton Keynes	0	-	13	-	61	-12%
Oxford	7	-	14	-50%	92	-12%
Reading	5	-	27	35%	140	-8%
Slough	2	-	44	5%	101	0%
<b>Thames Valley</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>-12%</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>2,956</b>	<b>-11%</b>
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	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2009 Q4	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2008 Q4	2009 Q4	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2008 Q4	2009 Q4	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2008 Q4
Bath	3	-	12	-	131	6%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bristol	95	-2%	42	5%	319	13%
Taunton	5	-	46	-	70	-18%
Yeovil	2	-	20	-	82	-22%
<b>Avon &amp; Somerset</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>1%</b>
Barnstaple	3	-	7	-	65	-7%
Exeter	3	-	17	-	105	-36%
Plymouth	1	-	11	-	169	-15%
Torquay	3	-	8	-	115	-26%
Truro	3	-	23	-	150	-49%
<b>Devon &amp; Cornwall</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>-32%</b>
Bournemouth	10	-	37	-24%	199	-19%
Cheltenham	1	-	11	-	40	-27%
Gloucester	0	-	38	-	96	-19%
Salisbury	0	-	1	-	31	-26%
Swindon	6	-	11	-	77	-32%
Weymouth	0	-	7	-	58	-3%
<b>Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>-21%</b>
Newport (I.O.W.)	2	-	2	-	30	-33%
Portsmouth	3	-	24	-8%	138	-7%
Southampton	2	-	19	-24%	157	17%
Winchester	0	-	4	-	26	-10%
<b>Hampshire &amp; Isle of Wight</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>-23%</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>South West</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>2,058</b>	<b>-17%</b>
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Aberystwyth	0	-	1	-	7	-
Carmarthen	0	-	8	-	22	-27%
Haverfordwest	0	-	2	-	22	-41%
Neath & Port Talbot	0	-	7	-	39	11%
Swansea	1	-	19	-	93	2%
Welshpool & Newton	0	-	1	-	8	-
<b>Mid and West Wales</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>-15%</b>
Caernarfon	0	-	9	-	36	-29%
Llangefni	0	-	1	-	15	-
Mold	1	-	4	-	32	52%
Rhyl	0	-	4	-	51	34%
Wrexham	0	-	10	-	51	-24%
<b>North Wales</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-43%</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Aberdare	1	-	3	-	11	-76%
Blackwood	0	-	2	-	33	10%
Bridgend	1	-	1	-	34	-23%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cardiff	8	-	18	-60%	76	-31%
Merthyr Tydfil	0	-	2	-	13	-38%
Newport (Gwent)	1	-	22	-15%	97	-3%
Pontypridd	0	-	5	-	31	-49%
<b>South East Wales</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-62%</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>-44%</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>-27%</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-63%</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>-19%</b>
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<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>4,148</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>13,678</b>	<b>-11%</b>

**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.

**Table 3: Insolvency and bankruptcy petitions filed in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales, HMCS regions and HMCS areas, 2008 - 2009**

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2009	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008	2009	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008	2009	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008
Croydon	13	-	454	-1%	1,269	11%
Kingston-upon-Thames	8	-	152	8%	424	18%
Romford	4	-	271	-20%	465	9%
<b>London County Court Group</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>2,158</b>	<b>12%</b>
<i>Royal Courts of Justice<sup>1</sup></i>	6,729	4%	7,452	-13%	3,743	6%
<b>London</b>	<b>6,754</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>8,329</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>5,901</b>	<b>8%</b>
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⊗ Birmingham	1,544	19%	539	-3%	1,614	17%
Coventry	21	0%	145	1%	778	36%
Warwick	11	-	58	53%	199	23%
<b>Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2,591</b>	<b>23%</b>
Burton-on-Trent	3	-	39	3%	350	34%
Dudley	3	-	34	-32%	224	14%
Hereford	2	-	38	-5%	269	6%
Kidderminster	3	-	30	36%	187	12%
Shrewsbury	13	-	60	76%	424	19%
Stafford	2	-	25	-19%	188	7%
Stoke-on-Trent	7	-	83	0%	620	1%
Stourbridge	11	-	48	-8%	190	45%
Walsall	1	-	117	21%	800	43%
Wolverhampton	11	-	92	26%	438	-11%
Worcester	8	-	56	44%	497	18%
<b>Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>4,187</b>	<b>15%</b>
Chesterfield	3	-	37	42%	320	6%
Derby	25	-	95	23%	620	28%
Nottingham	4	-	224	-4%	1,445	25%
<b>Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2,385</b>	<b>23%</b>
Boston	11	-	66	20%	373	12%
Leicester	21	-13%	143	27%	755	-4%
Lincoln	7	-	70	-8%	626	3%
Northampton	63	-	168	3%	1,046	8%
<b>Lincolnshire, Leicestershire &amp; Rutland and Northamptonshire</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>117%</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Midlands</b>	<b>1,774</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>11,963</b>	<b>15%</b>
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Darlington	2	-	38	-5%	268	-9%
Durham	2	-	63	-25%	516	19%
Middlesbrough	8	-	120	30%	695	31%
⊗ Newcastle-upon-Tyne	182	-20%	234	-41%	1,923	14%
Sunderland	5	-	80	-34%	507	4%
<b>Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>-20%</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>3,909</b>	<b>14%</b>
Barnsley	4	-	32	-35%	282	10%
Doncaster	4	-	66	40%	501	21%
Gt Grimsby	7	-	49	-36%	391	13%
Kingston-upon-Hull	14	-	88	-23%	801	15%
Scunthorpe	1	-	28	27%	185	35%
Sheffield	17	-	195	-55%	947	22%
<b>Humber and South Yorkshire</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>-38%</b>	<b>3,107</b>	<b>18%</b>
Bradford	4	-	154	-34%	558	7%
Dewsbury	0	-	56	-37%	322	19%
Halifax	2	-	73	-21%	221	36%
Harrogate	1	-	29	-43%	222	45%
Huddersfield	3	-	51	-29%	252	35%
⊗ Leeds	1,331	-8%	137	-32%	531	-1%
Scarborough	0	-	45	50%	337	12%
Wakefield	2	-	74	7%	431	-9%
York	10	-	50	72%	419	18%
<b>North and West Yorkshire</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>-23%</b>	<b>3,293</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>10,309</b>	<b>14%</b>

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2009	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008	2009	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008	2009	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008
Birkenhead	2	-	74	0%	328	3%
Chester	4	-	47	-19%	265	54%
Crewe	0	-	69	-25%	227	-16%
☒ Liverpool	273	-26%	284	-29%	1,386	26%
Macclesfield	5	-	73	28%	240	53%
Warrington	2	-	67	56%	380	28%
<b>Cheshire and Merseyside</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>2,826</b>	<b>22%</b>
Barrow-in-Furness	0	-	10	-	122	15%
Blackburn	4	-	81	0%	321	14%
Blackpool	2	-	55	-43%	354	16%
Burnley	2	-	56	-38%	277	18%
Carlisle	2	-	38	23%	167	33%
Kendal	0	-	14	-	60	58%
Lancaster	3	-	14	-64%	107	26%
☒ Preston	41	-36%	58	-43%	543	23%
Whitehaven	3	-	8	-	134	-6%
<b>Cumbria and Lancashire</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>19%</b>
Bolton	5	-	99	60%	291	19%
Bury	8	-	45	-29%	227	20%
☒ Manchester	1,010	10%	221	23%	495	-12%
Oldham	2	-	110	-4%	372	9%
Salford	4	-	93	45%	297	-12%
Stockport	1	-	110	-17%	319	1%
Tameside	2	-	44	-33%	287	22%
Wigan	5	-	55	-34%	413	12%
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2,701</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>North West</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>1,725</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>7,612</b>	<b>14%</b>
Bedford	9	-	46	7%	198	7%
Chelmsford	13	-	73	14%	390	34%
Colchester	12	-	81	-26%	658	29%
Hertford	12	-	109	76%	368	17%
Luton	11	-	151	-11%	569	13%
Southend-on-Sea	8	-	363	-18%	975	6%
St. Albans	10	-	285	94%	446	-20%
<b>Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>3,604</b>	<b>10%</b>
Bury St Edmonds	4	-	54	-8%	311	5%
Cambridge	11	-	113	169%	524	38%
Ipswich	13	-	43	5%	455	0%
King's Lynn	1	-	60	76%	267	9%
Norwich	20	-	96	-11%	1,165	19%
Peterborough	18	-	92	23%	625	19%
<b>Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>205%</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>3,347</b>	<b>16%</b>
Canterbury	7	-	106	4%	898	24%
Maidstone	4	-	26	-4%	225	29%
Medway	16	-24%	224	43%	652	-4%
Tunbridge Wells	2	-	51	6%	285	23%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>13%</b>
Brighton	25	14%	283	17%	1,415	18%
Eastbourne	0	-	24	-11%	287	53%
Guildford	17	-	129	-9%	511	13%
Hastings	2	-	33	-3%	291	-2%
<b>Surrey and Sussex</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>17%</b>
Aylesbury	10	-	156	-8%	401	20%
Banbury	3	-	21	-28%	158	15%
Newbury	4	-	22	-	142	7%
Milton Keynes	10	-	76	-24%	353	29%
Oxford	18	-	83	-16%	397	-10%
Reading	22	-	109	18%	636	22%
Slough	19	-	196	14%	448	15%
<b>Thames Valley</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>3,105</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>14,050</b>	<b>14%</b>



	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2009	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008	2009	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008	2009	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008
Bath	8	-	75	79%	521	14%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bristol	375	-64%	193	-7%	1,355	25%
Taunton	7	-	86	197%	314	-2%
Yeovil	4	-	57	54%	407	13%
<b>Avon &amp; Somerset</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>-63%</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>2,597</b>	<b>17%</b>
Barnstaple	14	-	22	-57%	305	26%
Exeter	14	-	74	4%	522	-9%
Plymouth	3	-	57	-16%	824	11%
Torquay	7	-	46	5%	563	24%
Truro	18	-	90	25%	767	-11%
<b>Devon &amp; Cornwall</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>115%</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>2,981</b>	<b>4%</b>
Bournemouth	27	4%	141	-15%	890	-3%
Cheltenham	4	-	36	33%	234	18%
Gloucester	9	-	77	38%	433	9%
Salisbury	0	-	7	-	138	-7%
Swindon	10	-	49	-25%	430	9%
Weymouth	0	-	22	-49%	269	14%
<b>Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>2,394</b>	<b>4%</b>
Newport (I.O.W.)	5	-	17	-37%	199	0%
Portsmouth	8	-	94	-25%	668	5%
Southampton	10	-	82	-6%	692	21%
Winchester	1	-	12	-57%	113	13%
<b>Hampshire &amp; Isle of Wight</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>-23%</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>South West</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>-55%</b>	<b>1,237</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>9,644</b>	<b>8%</b>
Aberystwyth	0	-	4	-	29	-45%
Carmarthen	0	-	25	-	88	-10%
Haverfordwest	0	-	22	-	128	19%
Neath & Port Talbot	1	-	16	-60%	220	36%
Swansea	12	-	89	29%	350	11%
Welshpool & Newton	3	-	12	-	81	3%
<b>Mid and West Wales</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>10%</b>
Caernarfon	2	-	26	-43%	206	13%
Llangefni	0	-	13	-	58	61%
Mold	4	-	18	-	143	72%
Rhyl	5	-	31	-43%	224	34%
Wrexham	2	-	32	-40%	238	1%
<b>North Wales</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>23%</b>
Aberdare	4	-	6	-	66	18%
Blackwood	0	-	17	-23%	220	24%
Bridgend	5	-	31	0%	230	43%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cardiff	40	-29%	173	15%	356	-4%
Merthyr Tydfil	0	-	8	-	52	-19%
Newport (Gwent)	8	-	77	7%	504	52%
Pontypridd	1	-	27	-16%	192	-16%
<b>South Wales</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>3,385</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>12,419</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>18,852</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>62,864</b>	<b>13%</b>

#### 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 period a year ago is fewer than 20.

## Explanatory notes

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. No assumption should be made from these statistics about the number of companies that go into liquidation, or the number of individuals made bankrupt. The figures published by the Ministry of Justice show the number of company winding-up petitions and bankruptcy petitions presented to the court. This information is taken from the courts and is different to the quarterly statistics published by the Insolvency Service. The Insolvency Service figures, showing the number of company winding-up orders and bankruptcy orders, are derived from administrative records of the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)' Insolvency Service and Companies House Executive Agencies. The statistics published by the Insolvency Service can be found using the link:  
[www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm](http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm)
3. The 2009 Q4 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.
4. The statistics in this bulletin are sourced from manual counts made by court staff. Since April 2009 these have been keyed into the One Performance (OPT) database, a web-based data monitoring system allowing direct inputting of performance data by court staff. Prior to April 2009 they were keyed into Business Management System, designed for the purpose of monitoring and assessing court workloads. The counts are less robust than those generated from the main administrative system (CaseMan) in the county courts and District Registries, this being used by court staff for case management purposes. However, 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
5. Percentage changes are not provided where there are fewer than 20 observations in the past period.

6. **Insolvency:** A company or individual with debts that they are unable to pay is said to be 'insolvent'.
7. **Company winding up:** When it becomes necessary to terminate a company's existence, whether owing to insolvency or for some other reason, the process is called 'winding up'.
8. There is a restriction on proceedings commenced in county courts, which is 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 [☒] in Tables 2 and 3.
9. 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.
10. **Individual bankruptcy:** Being bankrupt means you are or have been subjected to a bankruptcy order. A court makes a bankruptcy order only after a petition has been presented.
11. Proceedings for bankruptcy can be commenced at county courts with the appropriate jurisdiction, or in the Chancery Division of the High Court, either by a **creditor** (the person to whom the debt is owed) or by a **debtor** (the person who owes the debt).

## Symbols and conventions

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

(p) = Provisional 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](http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/companywindingupandbankruptcy.htm)

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