



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**



# **Company winding up and bankruptcy petition court statistics – first quarter 2010**

Ministry of Justice  
Statistics bulletin

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## Introduction

This bulletin presents the numbers of company winding up petitions and individual bankruptcy petitions made by creditors and debtors that were issued in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales during the first quarter of 2010.

To obtain a compulsory company winding up order or an individual bankruptcy order, a petition must be presented to a court. Petitions for company winding up orders must be presented by either a creditor, shareholder or director. Petitions for personal bankruptcy can be presented either by a creditor (the person to whom a debt is owed) or by a debtor (the person who owes a debt).

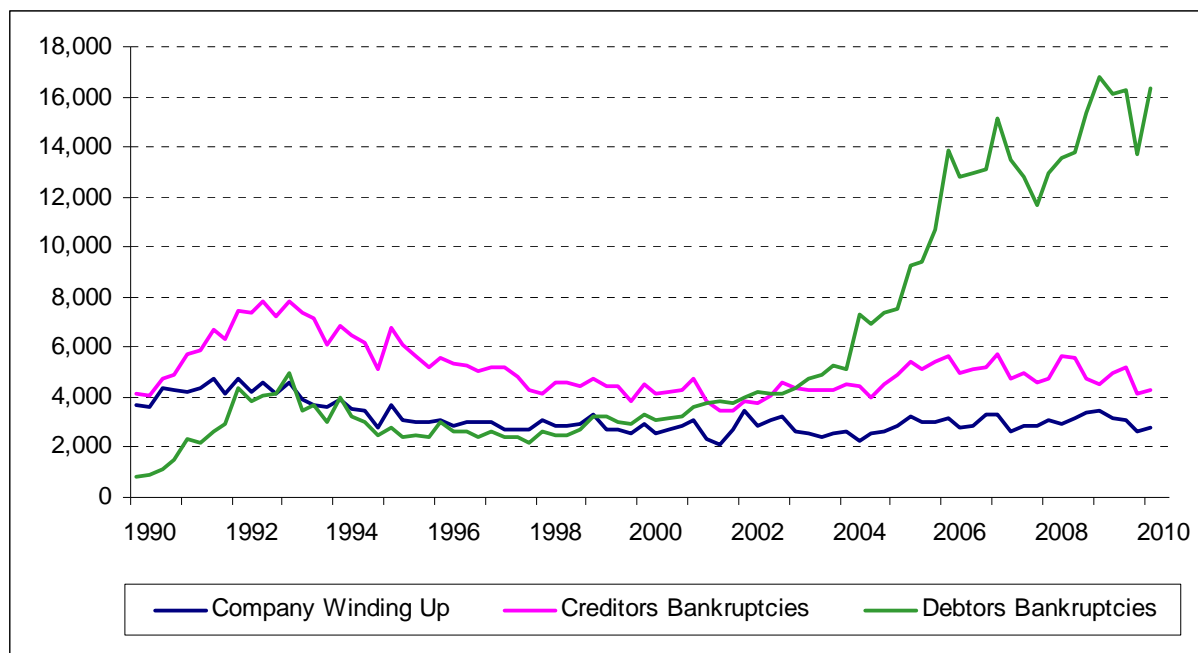
On receipt of the petition, the court issue process includes setting up a judicial hearing. At this hearing, the court may grant a company winding up order or a bankruptcy order. On making such an order, the court will appoint an Official Receiver to take control of relevant assets.

## Findings

In the first quarter of 2010 the following numbers of petitions were issued:

- **2,777 company winding up petitions for dissolving a company that cannot pay its debts, made either by a shareholder, director, or creditor** – a decrease of 20% on the same quarter of 2009 and an increase of 4% on the previous quarter.
- **4,329 individual bankruptcy petitions made by creditors (the person to whom the debt is owed)** – a decrease of 5% on the same quarter of 2009 and a 4% increase on the previous quarter.
- **16,348 individual bankruptcy petitions made by debtors (the person who owes the debt)** – a decrease of 3% on the same quarter of 2009 and a 20% increase on the previous quarter.

**Figure 1: Company winding up and individual bankruptcy petitions issued – England & Wales, 1990 to 2010 Q1**



## Recent developments and statistical revisions

### Increase in fees

Fees relating to The Official Receiver's Deposit towards the costs of administering insolvency cases increased on 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> April and may therefore have resulted in the increase number of petitions being made in Q1 of 2010 compared to recent quarters.

### 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 Q1**

<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
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 (p)	4,329 (p)	16,348 (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: 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 Q1**

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2009 Q1	2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2009 Q1	2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2009 Q1
Croydon	9	-	86	-29%	371	3%
Kingston-upon-Thames	5	-	56	100%	132	29%
Romford	1	-	58	-12%	121	-8%
<b>London County Court Group</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>5%</b>
<i>Royal Courts of Justice<sup>1</sup></i>	1,524	-8%	1,478	-16%	944	1%
<b>London</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>3%</b>
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⊗ Birmingham	238	-55%	131	-6%	412	35%
Coventry	3	-	32	-11%	177	-13%
Warwick	4	-	20	-	47	0%
<b>Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>-54%</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>14%</b>
Burton-on-Trent	2	-	24	-	101	51%
Dudley	1	-	22	-	91	42%
Hereford	1	-	13	-	52	-29%
Kidderminster	1	-	9	-	54	38%
Shrewsbury	2	-	12	-45%	105	2%
Stafford	0	-	10	-	44	-29%
Stoke-on-Trent	1	-	17	-19%	231	17%
Stourbridge	0	-	3	-	51	11%
Walsall	4	-	32	-	196	3%
Wolverhampton	1	-	13	-61%	122	-23%
Worcester	5	-	18	-	150	56%
<b>Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-28%</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>9%</b>
Chesterfield	1	-	13	-	110	47%
Derby	3	-	27	-	168	6%
Nottingham	0	-	48	-16%	357	-16%
<b>Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Boston	0	-	16	-36%	112	19%
Leicester	6	-	37	3%	245	2%
Lincoln	6	-	20	-	138	3%
Northampton	7	-	36	-32%	326	-12%
<b>Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>-2%</b>
<b>Midlands</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>-52%</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>3,289</b>	<b>5%</b>
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Darlington	0	-	11	-	76	0%
Durham	0	-	10	-74%	116	-21%
Middlesborough	1	-	37	68%	141	-27%
⊗ Newcastle-upon-Tyne	38	-41%	60	-10%	470	-4%
Sunderland	0	-	7	-74%	138	-13%
<b>Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>-43%</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>-23%</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>-12%</b>
Barnsley	1	-	2	-	90	-12%
Doncaster	2	-	18	-	127	-2%
Gt Grimsby	1	-	6	-	93	-29%
Kingston-upon-Hull	0	-	19	-39%	240	27%
Scunthorpe	1	-	6	-	51	28%
Sheffield	4	-	29	-52%	241	19%
<b>Humber and South Yorkshire</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-55%</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>-42%</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>6%</b>
Bradford	1	-	33	-13%	180	29%
Dewsbury	0	-	11	-	98	51%
Halifax	0	-	6	-70%	55	-32%
Harrogate	0	-	8	-	50	-15%
Huddersfield	0	-	6	-70%	66	-1%
⊗ Leeds	329	-16%	29	-6%	152	25%
Scarborough	0	-	9	-	88	-11%
Wakefield	0	-	16	-33%	122	12%
York	2	-	11	-	116	5%
<b>North and West Yorkshire</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>-30%</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>0%</b>

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2009 Q1	2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2009 Q1	2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2009 Q1
Birkenhead	4	-	36	-	51	-41%
Chester	0	-	13	-	70	-15%
Crewe	0	-	20	-	58	-13%
☒ Liverpool	56	-43%	48	-27%	335	-2%
Macclesfield	3	-	13	-	44	-35%
Warrington	0	-	13	-	114	31%
<b>Cheshire and Merseyside</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-38%</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Barrow-in-Furness	1	-	2	-	48	26%
Blackburn	0	-	16	-48%	64	-15%
Blackpool	1	-	32	-	110	1%
Burnley	0	-	14	-	75	0%
Carlisle	3	-	8	-	56	33%
Kendal	0	-	0	-	12	-50%
Lancaster	0	-	11	-	26	-10%
☒ Preston	8	-	25	-	126	-11%
Whitehaven	0	-	8	-	31	-30%
<b>Cumbria and Lancashire</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Bolton	4	-	21	-13%	67	-14%
Bury	3	-	26	-	42	-34%
☒ Manchester	234	-33%	33	-27%	143	4%
Oldham	0	-	17	-50%	91	-5%
Salford	0	-	35	75%	142	73%
Stockport	5	-	32	7%	91	8%
Tameside	1	-	13	-	74	-24%
Wigan	1	-	5	-	105	12%
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>-30%</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>North West</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>-32%</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>-3%</b>
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Bedford	5	-	25	-	44	-19%
Chelmsford	3	-	22	-	84	-19%
Colchester	1	-	20	-17%	172	-3%
Hertford	8	-	47	-	94	-3%
Luton	2	-	52	2%	247	69%
Southend-on-Sea	1	-	82	3%	216	-23%
St. Albans	4	-	65	210%	100	-18%
<b>Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Bury St Edmonds	3	-	28	-	82	41%
Cambridge	3	-	22	-29%	121	4%
Ipswich	8	-	30	-	146	23%
King's Lynn	3	-	19	-	66	-11%
Norwich	7	-	38	52%	347	-3%
Peterborough	4	-	21	-	165	-7%
<b>Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>3%</b>
Canterbury	3	-	28	-	184	-28%
Maidstone	3	-	7	-	76	29%
Medway	7	-	35	-49%	192	12%
Tunbridge Wells	2	-	7	-	41	-34%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>-10%</b>
Brighton	4	-	44	-33%	279	-24%
Eastbourne	2	-	0	-	71	6%
Guildford	1	-	16	-48%	131	-19%
Hastings	0	-	10	-	86	4%
<b>Surrey and Sussex</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>-35%</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>-17%</b>
Aylesbury	4	-	47	-2%	129	4%
Banbury	0	-	7	-	36	-3%
Newbury	1	-	4	-	37	-10%
Milton Keynes	2	-	25	-4%	85	-17%
Oxford	6	-	21	-	118	-5%
Reading	2	-	38	-	153	-10%
Slough	0	-	38	-19%	112	-8%
<b>Thames Valley</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>3,614</b>	<b>-6%</b>

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2009 Q1	2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2009 Q1	2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total since 2009 Q1
Bath	4	-	18	-	114	-28%
☒ Bristol	56	-41%	74	54%	272	-15%
Taunton	4	-	26	-	98	26%
Yeovil	2	-	19	-	85	-29%
<b>Avon &amp; Somerset</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>-33%</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>-16%</b>
Barnstaple	5	-	5	-	52	-40%
Exeter	1	-	9	-	116	-30%
Plymouth	0	-	6	-	214	-8%
Torquay	3	-	11	-	115	-40%
Truro	6	-	16	-	141	-38%
<b>Devon &amp; Cornwall</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-44%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-31%</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>-29%</b>
Bournemouth	27	-	36	57%	231	8%
Cheltenham	0	-	1	-	0	-100%
Gloucester	6	-	32	-	166	28%
Salisbury	0	-	7	-	33	57%
Swindon	3	-	19	-	123	95%
Weymouth	6	-	1	-	55	-8%
<b>Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>8%</b>
Newport (I.O.W.)	0	-	2	-	44	-24%
Portsmouth	8	-	32	45%	207	13%
Southampton	2	-	9	-68%	176	-14%
Winchester	0	-	5	-	38	27%
<b>Hampshire &amp; Isle of Wight</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>-2%</b>
<b>South West</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>2,280</b>	<b>-13%</b>
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Aberystwyth	0	-	0	-	10	-
Carmarthen	0	-	5	-	32	19%
Haverfordwest	0	-	11	-	56	51%
Neath & Port Talbot	0	-	7	-	44	-25%
Swansea	1	-	14	-	126	31%
Welshpool & Newton	1	-	4	-	14	-50%
<b>Mid and West Wales</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>8%</b>
Caernarfon	0	-	11	-	44	-49%
Llangefni	0	-	5	-	17	-
Mold	2	-	2	-	28	-26%
Rhyl	0	-	10	-	76	33%
Wrexham	0	-	10	-	49	-36%
<b>North Wales</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>-22%</b>
Aberdare	0	-	1	-	18	-61%
Blackwood	0	-	6	-	54	100%
Bridgend	2	-	7	-	39	-38%
☒ Cardiff	12	-	48	92%	111	54%
Merthyr Tydfil	0	-	5	-	26	-
Newport (Gwent)	7	-	44	-	115	22%
Pontypridd	1	-	7	-	53	0%
<b>South East Wales</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>107%</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>2%</b>
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<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>2,777</b>	<b>-20%</b>	<b>4,329</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>16,348</b>	<b>-3%</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.
- 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 Q2 – 2010 Q1**

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2009 Q2 - 2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008 Q2 - 2009 Q1	2009 Q2 - 2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008 Q2 - 2009 Q1	2009 Q2 - 2010 Q1	% Change <sup>2</sup> in total from 2008 Q2 - 2009 Q1
Croydon	17	-	419	-8%	1,280	5%
Kingston-upon-Thames	12	-	180	22%	454	24%
Romford	3	-	263	-20%	455	1%
<b>London County Court Group</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>8%</b>
<i>Royal Courts of Justice<sup>1</sup></i>	6,595	-2%	7,174	-17%	3,754	5%
<b>London</b>	<b>6,627</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>8,036</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>5,943</b>	<b>6%</b>
⊗ Birmingham	1,254	-14%	531	1%	1,720	25%
Coventry	19	-	141	6%	752	16%
Warwick	13	-	66	69%	199	12%
<b>Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire</b>	<b>1,286</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>2,671</b>	<b>21%</b>
Burton-on-Trent	3	-	52	27%	384	41%
Dudley	4	-	51	19%	251	15%
Hereford	3	-	38	-17%	248	-7%
Kidderminster	4	-	34	62%	202	15%
Shrewsbury	6	-	50	19%	426	14%
Stafford	1	-	27	4%	170	-14%
Stoke-on-Trent	7	-	79	-19%	653	0%
Stourbridge	7	-	38	-24%	195	35%
Walsall	4	-	130	46%	806	30%
Wolverhampton	6	-	72	-23%	402	-26%
Worcester	12	-	58	32%	551	35%
<b>Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4,288</b>	<b>11%</b>
Chesterfield	3	-	39	5%	355	8%
Derby	22	-	106	33%	630	25%
Nottingham	4	-	215	-12%	1,378	4%
<b>Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>2,363</b>	<b>9%</b>
Boston	8	-	57	-12%	391	9%
Leicester	27	29%	144	7%	760	-5%
Lincoln	7	-	74	3%	630	5%
Northampton	54	170%	151	-19%	1,002	-12%
<b>Lincolnshire, Leicestershire &amp; Rutland and Northamptonshire</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>2,783</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>Midlands</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>2,153</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>12,105</b>	<b>9%</b>
Darlington	2	-	40	-5%	268	-12%
Durham	1	-	35	-62%	485	-1%
Middlesborough	8	-	135	53%	642	5%
⊗ Newcastle-upon-Tyne	156	-26%	227	-35%	1,901	7%
Sunderland	3	-	60	-37%	487	-5%
<b>Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>3,783</b>	<b>2%</b>
Barnsley	2	-	23	-56%	270	-7%
Doncaster	5	-	71	39%	498	6%
Gt Grimsby	5	-	38	-45%	353	-10%
Kingston-upon-Hull	8	-	76	-38%	852	22%
Scunthorpe	2	-	27	17%	196	33%
Sheffield	14	-	164	-50%	986	23%
<b>Humber and South Yorkshire</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>-38%</b>	<b>3,155</b>	<b>13%</b>
Bradford	5	-	149	-15%	598	9%
Dewsbury	0	-	52	-24%	355	29%
Halifax	2	-	59	-34%	195	-3%
Harrogate	0	-	28	-40%	213	19%
Huddersfield	2	-	37	-46%	251	23%
⊗ Leeds	1,270	-10%	135	-16%	561	6%
Scarborough	0	-	47	57%	326	-2%
Wakefield	2	-	66	-10%	444	-12%
York	8	-	51	59%	424	12%
<b>North and West Yorkshire</b>	<b>1,289</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>3,367</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>10,305</b>	<b>7%</b>



	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	% Change <sup>2</sup> in		% Change <sup>2</sup> in		% Change <sup>2</sup> in	
	2009 Q2 - 2010 Q1	2008 Q2 - 2009 Q1	2009 Q2 - 2010 Q1	2008 Q2 - 2009 Q1	2009 Q2 - 2010 Q1	2008 Q2 - 2009 Q1
Birkenhead	6	-	92	23%	292	-10%
Chester	3	-	47	-18%	253	20%
Crewe	0	-	74	-6%	218	-23%
☒ Liverpool	231	-36%	266	-31%	1,378	14%
Macclesfield	5	-	73	26%	216	12%
Warrington	2	-	68	70%	407	26%
<b>Cheshire and Merseyside</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>-33%</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>8%</b>
Barrow-in-Furness	1	-	10	-	132	11%
Blackburn	1	-	66	-26%	310	3%
Blackpool	3	-	77	-16%	355	7%
Burnley	2	-	53	-38%	277	7%
Carlisle	4	-	39	39%	181	30%
Kendal	0	-	9	-	48	-6%
Lancaster	0	-	23	-34%	104	9%
☒ Preston	39	-44%	70	-16%	528	17%
Whitehaven	2	-	14	-	121	-21%
<b>Cumbria and Lancashire</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-42%</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>-20%</b>	<b>2,056</b>	<b>8%</b>
Bolton	8	-	96	26%	280	11%
Bury	10	-	63	21%	205	-9%
☒ Manchester	897	-15%	209	15%	501	-14%
Oldham	1	-	93	-21%	367	2%
Salford	2	-	108	52%	357	0%
Stockport	5	-	112	-24%	326	-2%
Tameside	3	-	45	-34%	264	-2%
Wigan	3	-	48	-29%	424	16%
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>2,724</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>North West</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>1,755</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>7,544</b>	<b>5%</b>
Bedford	11	-	59	51%	188	-2%
Chelmsford	16	-	90	61%	370	14%
Colchester	11	-	77	-13%	652	13%
Hertford	17	-	141	117%	365	9%
Luton	10	-	152	-18%	670	27%
Southend-on-Sea	6	-	365	-26%	911	-10%
St. Albans	13	-	329	137%	424	-15%
<b>Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>3,580</b>	<b>3%</b>
Bury St Edmonds	7	-	65	-2%	335	12%
Cambridge	12	-	104	93%	529	31%
Ipswich	20	-	56	33%	482	8%
King's Lynn	4	-	62	48%	259	2%
Norwich	21	-	109	4%	1,154	4%
Peterborough	18	-	94	25%	613	5%
<b>Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>183%</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>3,372</b>	<b>9%</b>
Canterbury	8	-	115	21%	825	3%
Maidstone	6	-	27	35%	242	23%
Medway	13	-52%	191	9%	673	-4%
Tunbridge Wells	3	-	49	7%	264	10%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>-35%</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>4%</b>
Brighton	23	5%	261	3%	1,325	3%
Eastbourne	2	-	22	0%	291	39%
Guildford	6	-74%	114	-17%	480	-4%
Hastings	2	-	34	-3%	294	-4%
<b>Surrey and Sussex</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-30%</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>4%</b>
Aylesbury	9	-	155	-19%	406	5%
Banbury	3	-	24	-17%	157	9%
Newbury	3	-	21	-	138	3%
Milton Keynes	9	-	75	-32%	335	5%
Oxford	21	-	85	-17%	391	-10%
Reading	24	-	128	36%	619	12%
Slough	12	-	187	10%	438	5%
<b>Thames Valley</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>13,830</b>	<b>5%</b>

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	% Change <sup>2</sup> in		% Change <sup>2</sup> in		% Change <sup>2</sup> in	
	2009 Q2 - 2010 Q1	total from 2008 Q2 - 2009 Q1	2009 Q2 - 2010 Q1	total from 2008 Q2 - 2009 Q1	2009 Q2 - 2010 Q1	total from 2008 Q2 - 2009 Q1
Bath	8	-	82	86%	476	-6%
☒ Bristol	336	-60%	219	15%	1,308	11%
Taunton	11	-	98	197%	334	3%
Yeovil	6	-	61	33%	372	-7%
<b>Avon &amp; Somerset</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>-58%</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>3%</b>
Barnstaple	11	-	23	-41%	271	-1%
Exeter	10	-	70	0%	472	-19%
Plymouth	1	-	46	-30%	806	0%
Torquay	9	-	42	-26%	486	-16%
Truro	13	-	87	21%	680	-25%
<b>Devon &amp; Cornwall</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>-14%</b>
Bournemouth	47	62%	154	3%	908	-1%
Cheltenham	4	-	32	19%	158	-31%
Gloucester	12	-	97	64%	469	4%
Salisbury	0	-	14	-	150	10%
Swindon	11	-	59	5%	490	33%
Weymouth	6	-	17	-64%	264	10%
<b>Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>2,439</b>	<b>4%</b>
Newport (I.O.W.)	4	-	12	-60%	185	-8%
Portsmouth	14	-	104	-5%	692	3%
Southampton	10	-	63	-29%	664	5%
Winchester	0	-	15	-44%	121	5%
<b>Hampshire &amp; Isle of Wight</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>South West</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>-48%</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>9,306</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Aberystwyth	0	-	2	-	26	-52%
Carmarthen	0	-	24	-	93	-7%
Haverfordwest	0	-	25	19%	147	20%
Neath & Port Talbot	1	-	21	-38%	205	16%
Swansea	8	-	84	24%	380	10%
Welshpool & Newton	3	-	15	-	67	-24%
<b>Mid and West Wales</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>4%</b>
Caernarfon	1	-	29	-22%	164	-28%
Llangefni	0	-	15	-	59	20%
Mold	6	-	17	-	133	37%
Rhyl	5	-	28	-49%	243	32%
Wrexham	2	-	36	-25%	210	-14%
<b>North Wales</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>-22%</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>1%</b>
Aberdare	2	-	5	-	63	0%
Blackwood	0	-	19	-	228	23%
Bridgend	4	-	25	-29%	206	6%
☒ Cardiff	46	24%	196	46%	395	6%
Merthyr Tydfil	0	-	12	-	68	13%
Newport (Gwent)	14	-	111	63%	525	48%
Pontypridd	2	-	32	28%	192	-19%
<b>South East Wales</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>1,677</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3,404</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>11,735</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>18,646</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>62,437</b>	<b>5%</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 individual bankruptcy petitions issued by the High Court and county courts. This information is taken from court databases and is different to the quarterly statistics published by the Insolvency Service. The Insolvency Service figures, showing the number of company compulsory liquidations (winding-up orders) and individual 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: <http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm>
3. The 2010 Q1 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 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.
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 issued.
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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Other National Statistics publications, and general information about the official statistics system of the UK, are available from [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

