



Ministry of
JUSTICE



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

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Contents

Introduction	1
Findings	4
Recent developments	6
Tables	7
Explanatory notes	14

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 (July to September 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. 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

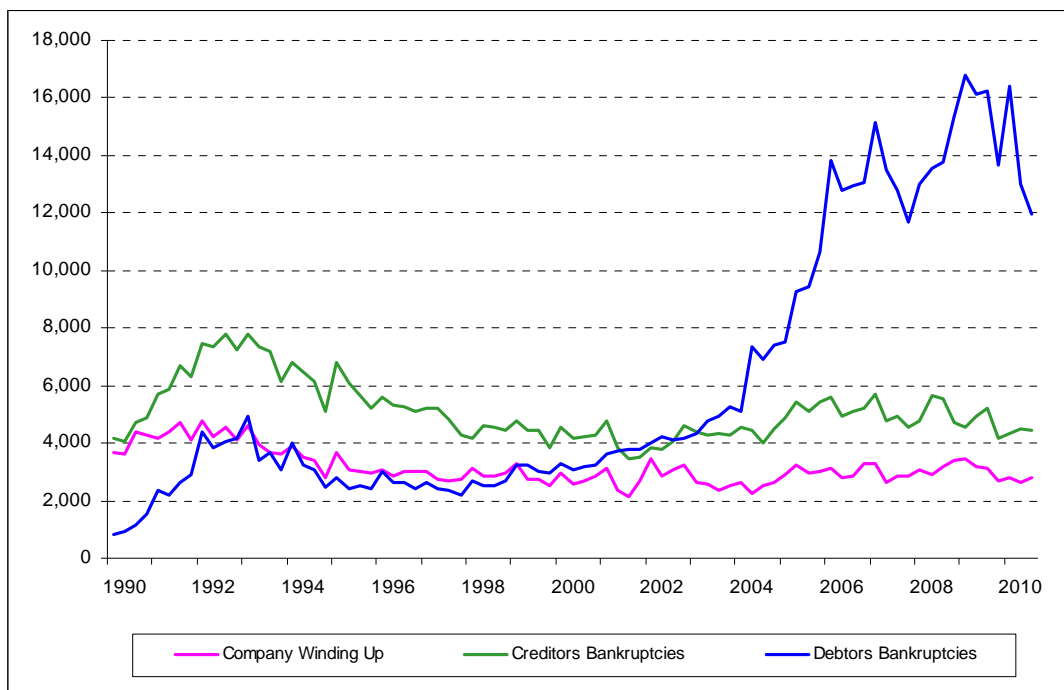
Findings

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) are as follows:

- The number of company winding up petitions issued for dissolving a company that cannot pay its debts has averaged around 3,000 per quarter in each of the last five years. In the third quarter of 2010, 2,801 were issued, a decrease of 10 per cent on the same quarter of 2009 and an increase of 6 per cent 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 third quarter of 2010, 4,455 were issued, a decrease of 15 per cent on the same quarter of 2009 and a fall of 1 per cent 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 were 11,959 such petitions in the third quarter of 2010, a decrease of 26 per cent on the same quarter of 2009 and an 8 per cent decrease on the previous quarter.

Figure 1: Company winding up and individual bankruptcy petitions issued – England & Wales, 1990 to 2010 Q3 (Jul-Sep)



- The 10 per cent fall in company winding up petitions compared to the same quarter in 2009 reflected at HMCS region level:
 - falls in North East England (31 per cent), the Midlands (19 per cent) and London (13 per cent)
 - rises in South East England excluding London (58 per cent), Wales (46 per cent), North West England (23 per cent) and South West England (19 per cent).

Although the percentage rises in South East England (excluding London) and Wales were particularly large, they still only accounted for 6 per cent of company winding up petitions

- The 15 per cent decrease in bankruptcy petitions made by creditors compared with the second quarter of 2009 reflected at HMCS region level:
 - falls in London (30 per cent), South East England excluding London (12 per cent), North East (11 per cent), Wales (11 per cent), and South West England (5 per cent),
 - rises in North West England (14 per cent) and the Midlands (13 per cent).
- The 26 per cent fall in bankruptcy petitions made by debtors compared with the same quarter of 2009 reflected fairly similar decreases across all HMCS regions. The greatest fall was in South West England (33 per cent) followed by London (32 per cent), the Midlands (26 per cent), South East England excluding London (25 per cent), North East England (24 per cent), Wales (24 per cent) and North West England (21 per cent).

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 and Q3.

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 Q3 (Jul-Sep)

Year	Quarter	Companies winding-up petitions	Creditors bankruptcy petitions	Debtors bankruptcy petitions
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	16,383
	Q2	2,635	4,494	13,004
	Q3	2,801 (p)	4,455 (p)	11,959 (p)

Notes:

Figures 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 Q3 (Jul-Sep)

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2010 Q3	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q3	2010 Q3	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q3	2010 Q3	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q3
Croydon	11	-	160	86%	236	-32%
Kingston-upon-Thames	9	-	71	103%	109	-10%
Romford	9	-	64	-21%	91	-33%
London County Court Group	29	-	295	46%	436	-28%
<i>Royal Courts of Justice¹</i>	1,488	-15%	1,374	-37%	621	-35%
London	1,517	-13%	1,669	-30%	1,057	-32%
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☒ Birmingham	234	-32%	94	-33%	291	-39%
Coventry	3	-	25	-19%	143	-21%
Warwick	3	-	6	-	41	-31%
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	240	-32%	125	-30%	475	-34%
Burton-on-Trent	0	-	10	-	53	-58%
Dudley	0	-	13	-	51	-9%
Hereford	3	-	10	-	52	-17%
Kidderminster	1	-	15	-	37	-31%
Shrewsbury	2	-	15	-	79	-25%
Stafford	2	-	8	-	27	-36%
Stoke-on-Trent	6	-	53	-	122	-19%
Stourbridge	2	-	12	-	36	-29%
Walsall	5	-	29	-29%	132	-31%
Wolverhampton	2	-	11	-50%	66	-35%
Worcester	5	-	20	-20%	71	-58%
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	28	-	196	9%	726	-35%
Chesterfield	1	-	26	-	68	-28%
Derby	11	-	28	-13%	120	-34%
Nottingham	11	-	92	163%	349	1%
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	23	-	146	80%	537	-14%
Boston	2	-	13	-46%	90	-2%
Leicester	16	-	79	119%	175	-3%
Lincoln	0	-	31	35%	153	-6%
Northampton	17	-19%	48	12%	169	-32%
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire	35	21%	171	36%	587	-14%
Midlands	326	-19%	638	13%	2,325	-26%
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Darlington	0	-	10	-	59	-9%
Durham	5	-	11	-	109	-22%
Middlesborough	10	-	68	70%	123	-26%
☒ Newcastle-upon-Tyne	29	-29%	66	20%	322	-38%
Sunderland	0	-	13	-	87	-33%
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	44	-4%	168	30%	700	-31%
Barnsley	0	-	4	-	46	-25%
Doncaster	3	-	9	-61%	79	-35%
Gt Grimsby	2	-	5	-	66	-24%
Kingston-upon-Hull	5	-	14	-	143	-31%
Scunthorpe	2	-	6	-	41	-9%
Sheffield	2	-	29	-46%	242	23%
Humber and South Yorkshire	14	-	67	-46%	617	-14%
Bradford	2	-	14	-61%	111	-31%
Dewsbury	2	-	21	-	64	-31%
Halifax	2	-	12	-43%	59	44%
Harrogate	0	-	4	-	28	-48%
Huddersfield	1	-	13	-	52	-39%
☒ Leeds	221	-41%	17	-60%	106	-12%
Scarborough	1	-	10	-	31	-62%
Wakefield	3	-	32	28%	116	-2%
York	5	-	28	-	82	-10%
North and West Yorkshire	237	-37%	151	-16%	649	-23%
North East	295	-31%	386	-11%	1,966	-24%

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2010 Q3	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q3	2010 Q3	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q3	2010 Q3	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q3
Birkenhead	4	-	25	9%	88	-24%
Chester	2	-	9	-	43	-28%
Crewe	2	-	10	-63%	52	8%
☒ Liverpool	92	84%	138	70%	256	-16%
Macclesfield	1	-	8	-62%	33	-51%
Warrington	0	-	6	-	73	-24%
Cheshire and Merseyside	101	91%	196	9%	545	-21%
Barrow-in-Furness	0	-	3	-	29	-9%
Blackburn	3	-	15	-	60	-34%
Blackpool	3	-	40	-	76	-22%
Burnley	0	-	12	-	43	-39%
Carlisle	0	-	3	-	20	-56%
Kendal	0	-	9	-	8	-
Lancaster	0	-	28	-	23	-15%
Penrith	0	-	0	-	0	-
☒ Preston	22	-	44	110%	106	-15%
Whitehaven	0	-	0	-	27	-16%
Cumbria and Lancashire	28	-	154	79%	392	-25%
Bolton	4	-	31	3%	42	-52%
Bury	8	-	29	-	34	-47%
☒ Manchester	187	-12%	35	-34%	97	-24%
Oldham	1	-	26	-28%	101	-4%
Salford	1	-	20	-33%	81	31%
Stockport	3	-	39	8%	65	-23%
Tameside	5	-	18	-	66	-13%
Wigan	8	-	29	-	115	-11%
Greater Manchester	217	1%	227	-5%	601	-18%
North West	346	23%	577	14%	1,538	-21%
Bedford	0	-	24	-	43	-20%
Chelmsford	4	-	15	-	54	-52%
Colchester	9	-	26	-	178	12%
Hertford	2	-	25	25%	65	-39%
Luton	7	-	44	-4%	83	-51%
Southend-on-Sea	7	-	101	11%	253	2%
St. Albans	22	-	52	-16%	74	-11%
Watford	0	-	0	-	31	-
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	51	-	287	9%	781	-16%
Bury St Edmonds	3	-	10	-	57	-36%
Cambridge	1	-	21	5%	78	-30%
Ipswich	12	-	17	-	104	-14%
King's Lynn	2	-	10	-	46	-27%
Norwich	5	-	23	-23%	188	-33%
Peterborough	6	-	16	-27%	111	-20%
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	29	-	97	-16%	584	-27%
Canterbury	0	-	28	17%	166	-2%
Maidstone	1	-	10	-	57	-23%
Medway	7	-	26	-62%	126	-39%
Tunbridge Wells	0	-	25	-	45	-36%
Kent	8	-	89	-27%	394	-24%
Brighton	5	-	31	-59%	183	-48%
Eastbourne	6	-	1	-	46	-42%
Guildford	8	-	50	-	148	26%
Hastings	1	-	5	-	59	-23%
Surrey and Sussex	20	-	87	-12%	436	-31%
Aylesbury	3	-	22	-37%	72	-34%
Banbury	0	-	4	-	16	-70%
Newbury	1	-	12	-	36	-5%
Milton Keynes	2	-	8	-	38	-59%
Oxford	2	-	15	-48%	74	-20%
Reading	2	-	25	-14%	161	-9%
Slough	2	-	40	-30%	77	-35%
Thames Valley	12	-43%	126	-29%	474	-30%
South East	120	58%	686	-12%	2,669	-25%

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2010 Q3	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q3	2010 Q3	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q3	2010 Q3	% Change ² in total since 2009 Q3
Bath	8	-	17	-	101	-19%
☒ Bristol	76	-31%	29	-55%	260	-40%
Taunton	6	-	15	-	81	25%
Yeovil	2	-	13	-	72	-24%
Avon & Somerset	92	-19%	74	-30%	514	-28%
Barnstaple	3	-	10	-	51	-32%
Exeter	0	-	9	-63%	84	-34%
Plymouth	12	-	28	-	97	-49%
Torquay	1	-	5	-	80	-38%
Truro	6	-	16	-33%	146	-31%
Devon & Cornwall	22	-	68	-14%	458	-38%
Bournemouth	17	-	32	-27%	139	-41%
Cheltenham	0	-	0	-	0	-100%
Gloucester	1	-	20	-	119	13%
Salisbury	0	-	4	-	33	-34%
Swindon	4	-	17	-	91	-29%
Weymouth	1	-	6	-	44	-41%
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	23	-	79	-8%	426	-35%
Newport (I.O.W.)	2	-	7	-	39	-30%
Portsmouth	9	-	44	57%	128	-24%
Southampton	8	-	34	70%	104	-38%
Winchester	0	-	6	-	12	-60%
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	19	-	91	60%	283	-33%
South West	156	19%	312	-5%	1,681	-33%
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Aberystwyth	0	-	2	-	6	-
Carmarthen	0	-	4	-	20	-
Haverfordwest	0	-	8	-	30	-3%
Neath & Port Talbot	0	-	3	-	33	-41%
Swansea	4	-	28	0%	67	-26%
Welshpool & Newton	0	-	8	-	22	0%
Mid and West Wales	4	-	53	10%	178	-19%
Caernarfon	0	-	10	-	35	-5%
Llangefni	0	-	0	-	4	-
Mold	0	-	6	-	33	-35%
Rhyl	0	-	16	-	47	-11%
Wrexham	3	-	25	-	67	43%
North Wales	3	-	57	104%	186	-8%
Aberdare	1	-	4	-	17	-78%
Blackwood	0	-	6	-	35	-
Bridgend	1	-	7	-	46	-28%
☒ Cardiff	31	-	42	-52%	97	-8%
Merthyr Tydfil	0	-	3	-	22	10%
Newport (Gwent)	1	-	8	-65%	85	-56%
Pontypridd	0	-	7	-	57	0%
South East Wales	34	-	77	-43%	359	-32%
Wales	41	46%	187	-11%	723	-24%
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England & Wales	2,801	-10%	4,455	-15%	11,959	-26%

☒ **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 Q4 (Oct-Dec) – 2010 Q3(Jul-Sep)

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	2009 Q4 - 2010 Q3	% Change ² in total from 2008 Q4 - 2009 Q3	2009 Q4 - 2010 Q3	% Change ² in total from 2008 Q4 - 2009 Q3	2009 Q4 - 2010 Q3	% Change ² in total from 2008 Q4 - 2009 Q3
Croydon	27	-	462	9%	1,079	-18%
Kingston-upon-Thames	28	-	267	64%	435	-1%
Romford	12	-	240	-19%	419	-12%
London County Court Group	67	97%	969	10%	1,933	-14%
<i>Royal Courts of Justice</i> ¹	5,916	-17%	5,716	-28%	2,985	-23%
London	5,983	-17%	6,685	-24%	4,918	-20%
⊗ Birmingham	1,048	-34%	656	22%	1,394	-18%
Coventry	11	-58%	134	-9%	664	-14%
Warwick	20	-	69	50%	166	-17%
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	1,079	-33%	859	18%	2,224	-17%
Burton-on-Trent	6	-	56	51%	332	6%
Dudley	3	-	62	44%	263	14%
Hereford	7	-	37	-8%	221	-23%
Kidderminster	5	-	43	95%	161	-23%
Shrewsbury	6	-	60	11%	359	-13%
Stafford	8	-	40	48%	179	-6%
Stoke-on-Trent	11	-	107	27%	609	-4%
Stourbridge	3	-	36	-25%	189	13%
Walsall	10	-	156	42%	646	-17%
Wolverhampton	11	-	70	-27%	366	-25%
Worcester	19	-	60	0%	429	-13%
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	89	25%	727	17%	3,754	-11%
Chesterfield	4	-	76	100%	348	1%
Derby	29	45%	141	55%	583	3%
Nottingham	13	-	230	-4%	1,319	-11%
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	46	70%	447	21%	2,250	-6%
Boston	10	-	57	-14%	385	-3%
Leicester	31	15%	204	36%	762	-8%
Lincoln	13	-	98	40%	620	-6%
Northampton	53	15%	177	1%	885	-25%
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire & Rutland and Northamptonshire	107	22%	536	16%	2,652	-14%
Midlands	1,321	-27%	2,569	18%	10,880	-12%
Darlington	2	-	49	11%	253	-11%
Durham	7	-	43	-46%	466	-8%
Middlesborough	15	-	165	59%	562	-15%
⊗ Newcastle-upon-Tyne	137	-30%	239	-9%	1,615	-18%
Sunderland	0	-	40	-48%	396	-27%
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	161	-24%	536	-5%	3,292	-17%
Barnsley	2	-	20	-51%	229	-24%
Doncaster	6	-	51	-16%	455	-7%
Gt Grimsby	6	-	23	-60%	304	-23%
Kingston-upon-Hull	6	-	64	-40%	714	-10%
Scunthorpe	5	-	21	-16%	183	-2%
Sheffield	10	-	107	-53%	989	17%
Humber and South Yorkshire	35	-29%	286	-45%	2,874	-5%
Bradford	5	-	118	-23%	532	-9%
Dewsbury	6	-	69	19%	331	0%
Halifax	3	-	47	-41%	261	31%
Harrogate	0	-	28	12%	160	-29%
Huddersfield	4	-	46	-29%	234	-8%
⊗ Leeds	1,012	-31%	112	-25%	526	1%
Scarborough	2	-	44	7%	281	-16%
Wakefield	3	-	102	36%	443	-6%
York	11	-	62	22%	388	-8%
North and West Yorkshire	1,046	-30%	628	-10%	3,156	-6%
North East	1,242	-29%	1,450	-19%	9,322	-10%

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	% Change ² in		% Change ² in		% Change ² in	
	2009 Q4 - 2010 Q3	2008 Q4 - 2009 Q3	2009 Q4 - 2010 Q3	2008 Q4 - 2009 Q3	2009 Q4 - 2010 Q3	2008 Q4 - 2009 Q3
Birkenhead	16	-	137	101%	268	-24%
Chester	4	-	42	-16%	204	-18%
Crewe	2	-	47	-37%	218	-18%
☒ Liverpool	240	-24%	297	-7%	1,222	-9%
Macclesfield	8	-	63	-9%	164	-34%
Warrington	1	-	49	-13%	385	9%
Cheshire and Merseyside	271	-17%	635	0%	2,461	-12%
Barrow-in-Furness	1	-	9	-	125	7%
Blackburn	4	-	54	-45%	228	-34%
Blackpool	9	-	98	61%	319	-8%
Burnley	0	-	51	-19%	240	-16%
Carlisle	3	-	26	-19%	153	-9%
Kendal	0	-	15	-	53	-2%
Lancaster	0	-	54	-	102	-7%
Penrith	0	-	1	-	0	-
☒ Preston	54	2%	102	44%	477	-7%
Whitehaven	0	-	11	-	113	-19%
Cumbria and Lancashire	71	3%	421	12%	1,810	-13%
Bolton	13	-	110	9%	236	-21%
Bury	19	-	87	58%	161	-37%
☒ Manchester	820	-23%	174	-15%	459	-15%
Oldham	1	-	80	-40%	363	-3%
Salford	2	-	90	3%	346	4%
Stockport	8	-	130	-2%	299	-8%
Tameside	9	-	65	35%	273	-11%
Wigan	11	-	56	-23%	414	0%
Greater Manchester	883	-20%	792	-5%	2,551	-11%
North West	1,225	-18%	1,848	0%	6,822	-12%
Bedford	11	-	83	84%	164	-21%
Chelmsford	25	-	91	72%	281	-28%
Colchester	24	-	110	25%	658	-1%
Hertford	19	-	138	109%	303	-22%
Luton	30	-	194	27%	627	3%
Southend-on-Sea	15	-	357	6%	862	-13%
Watford	0	-	0	-	62	-
St. Albans	38	-	332	113%	359	-23%
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	162	153%	1,305	45%	3,316	-11%
Bury St Edmonds	12	-	59	11%	286	-7%
Cambridge	14	-	108	61%	450	-7%
Ipswich	38	-	86	139%	447	-4%
King's Lynn	8	-	54	-8%	242	-10%
Norwich	34	-	139	40%	938	-21%
Peterborough	21	-	105	44%	548	-12%
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	127	149%	551	42%	2,911	-13%
Canterbury	4	-	106	0%	658	-29%
Maidstone	6	-	33	18%	231	-1%
Medway	19	-10%	125	-44%	543	-26%
Tunbridge Wells	3	-	49	4%	197	-29%
Kent	32	-6%	313	-23%	1,629	-25%
Brighton	14	-44%	182	-37%	1,024	-29%
Eastbourne	14	-	7	-74%	207	-29%
Guildford	11	-	102	-32%	470	-9%
Hastings	6	-	47	52%	280	-11%
Surrey and Sussex	45	2%	338	-32%	1,981	-23%
Aylesbury	9	-	131	-19%	339	-21%
Banbury	3	-	22	0%	114	-28%
Newbury	2	-	22	-21%	130	-16%
Milton Keynes	6	-	64	-22%	234	-35%
Oxford	16	-	60	-38%	361	-12%
Reading	13	-	111	9%	587	-10%
Slough	5	-78%	144	-26%	381	-15%
Thames Valley	54	-33%	554	-19%	2,146	-18%
South East	420	54%	3,061	7%	11,983	-17%

	Companies winding-up		Creditors bankruptcy		Debtors bankruptcy	
	% Change ² in total from		% Change ² in total from		% Change ² in total from	
	2009 Q4 - 2010 Q3	2008 Q4 - 2009 Q3	2009 Q4 - 2010 Q3	2008 Q4 - 2009 Q3	2009 Q4 - 2010 Q3	2008 Q4 - 2009 Q3
Bath	24	-	73	-8%	479	-7%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bristol	290	-23%	187	-2%	1,167	-11%
Taunton	19	-	102	127%	323	-2%
Yeovil	10	-	70	67%	320	-26%
Avon & Somerset	343	-12%	432	21%	2,289	-12%
Barnstaple	12	-	28	-13%	203	-35%
Exeter	4	-	40	-44%	381	-35%
Plymouth	26	-	65	12%	659	-23%
Torquay	9	-	38	-31%	375	-38%
Truro	17	-19%	82	-2%	643	-30%
Devon & Cornwall	68	15%	253	-16%	2,261	-31%
Bournemouth	64	191%	139	-9%	746	-20%
Cheltenham	1	-	12	-65%	40	-84%
Gloucester	14	-	105	94%	527	16%
Salisbury	0	-	15	-	126	-15%
Swindon	19	-	61	11%	400	-14%
Weymouth	8	-	15	-46%	201	-26%
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	106	152%	347	5%	2,040	-19%
Newport (I.O.W.)	6	-	19	-17%	154	-28%
Portsmouth	21	-	118	23%	589	-13%
Southampton	12	-	83	-6%	549	-18%
Winchester	0	-	18	-	103	-11%
Hampshire & Isle of Wight	39	70%	238	8%	1,395	-17%
South West	556	8%	1,270	5%	7,985	-21%
Aberystwyth	0	-	3	-	29	-26%
Carmarthen	0	-	20	-	90	-6%
Haverfordwest	1	-	27	0%	137	-4%
Neath & Port Talbot	0	-	24	-	161	-25%
Swansea	11	-	86	-3%	354	2%
Welshpool & Newton	1	-	13	-	63	-29%
Mid and West Wales	13	-	173	1%	834	-10%
Caernarfon	0	-	46	70%	163	-26%
Llangefni	0	-	12	-	45	-22%
Mold	4	-	14	-	119	-10%
Rhyl	1	-	33	-28%	224	6%
Wrexham	3	-	51	42%	206	-19%
North Wales	8	-	156	11%	757	-14%
Aberdare	4	-	21	-	63	-20%
Blackwood	0	-	31	-	184	-21%
Bridgend	5	-	27	-21%	185	-23%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cardiff	95	94%	192	-4%	389	0%
Merthyr Tydfil	0	-	18	-	89	48%
Newport (Gwent)	10	-	82	1%	428	-16%
Pontypridd	1	-	24	-8%	185	-17%
South East Wales	115	51%	395	4%	1,523	-12%
Wales	136	25%	724	4%	3,114	-12%
England & Wales	10,883	-17%	17,607	-9%	55,024	-15%

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. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed

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 Q3 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 on weekly basis. These are aggregated for each period of 13 weeks to produce the quarterly figures. As such they represent quarterly periods which are not exactly the same as traditional calendar quarters (covering January to March, April to June, July to September and October to December).
10. Since April 2009 the manual counts 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 input 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 measures include querying with the courts where counts look unusually high or low and obtaining corrected figures if errors are identified.

Insolvency Service data

11. 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

12. 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

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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