



Individual Insolvencies by Location, England and Wales, 2014: Parliamentary Constituency Supplement

Coverage

England and Wales

This statistical release provides breakdowns of individual insolvencies in England and Wales, at parliamentary constituency Level for 2000 to 2014.

Release date

15 December 2015

This is a supplement to the [Individual Insolvencies by Location, Age and Gender, England and Wales, 2014](#) (published 14 July 2015), and should be read alongside the context and notes provided with the previous publication.

Frequency of release

Annual

Next update

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Main messages

- **Total insolvency rates were highest in parliamentary constituencies by the coast, and in the South West, North East, Merseyside and parts of Yorkshire and East Midlands.**
- **Total insolvency rates were lowest in parliamentary constituencies in London, the South East and parts of the North West.**
- **Comparisons of rates between years at this local level should take into account that small changes in the number of insolvencies can have a large impact on the rate.**

Revisions to 2013 insolvency rates by parliamentary constituency

Insolvency rates for 2013 have been revised, as a result of revisions to the underlying population data published by the Office for National Statistics. Numbers of insolvencies in each parliamentary constituency area are unchanged.

The largest increase in the insolvency rate in 2013 as a result of this change was in West Suffolk (+0.7 individual insolvencies per 10,000 people); the largest decrease was in South West Norfolk (-0.3).

Designation:

Official Statistics not designated as National Statistics

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1. Definitions

Bankruptcy

A form of debt relief available for anyone who is unable to pay their debts. Assets owned will transfer to a trustee in bankruptcy who will realise them and distribute the proceeds to creditors. Discharge from debts usually takes place 12 months after the bankruptcy order is granted. A trustee may be a licensed insolvency practitioner or may be the official receiver.

Debt relief order (DRO)

A form of debt relief available to those who have a low income, low assets and less than £20,000 of debt.¹ There is no distribution to creditors, and discharge from debts takes place 12 months after the DRO is granted.

Individual voluntary arrangement (IVA)

A voluntary means of repaying creditors some or all of what they are owed. Once approved by 75% or more of the creditors, the arrangement is binding on all. IVAs are supervised by licensed insolvency practitioners.

Rate per 10,000 adults

The number of insolvencies divided by the number of people aged 18 or over, multiplied by 10,000. A rate of 100 insolvencies per 10,000 adults is equivalent to 1% of the adult population.

Total individual insolvencies

The sum of bankruptcies, DROs and IVAs.

2. Introduction

The [Individual Insolvencies by Location, Age and Gender 2014](#) (published 14 July 2015) provides information on trends in individual insolvency at England and Wales, and regional, level; as well as breakdowns of individual insolvencies at regional and local authority area level. It also includes breakdowns by age and gender at regional level.

These statistics, covering parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales, are a supplement to the earlier release, and comprise tables showing numbers and rates per 10,000 adult population of total individual insolvencies, bankruptcies, debt relief orders (DROs) and individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs) at parliamentary constituency level.

¹ The eligibility criteria for DROs changed on 1 October 2015. DROs are now available to people with up to £20,000 debt (up from £15,000) and £1,000 assets (up from £300). The surplus income limit for DROs was unchanged at £50 per month.

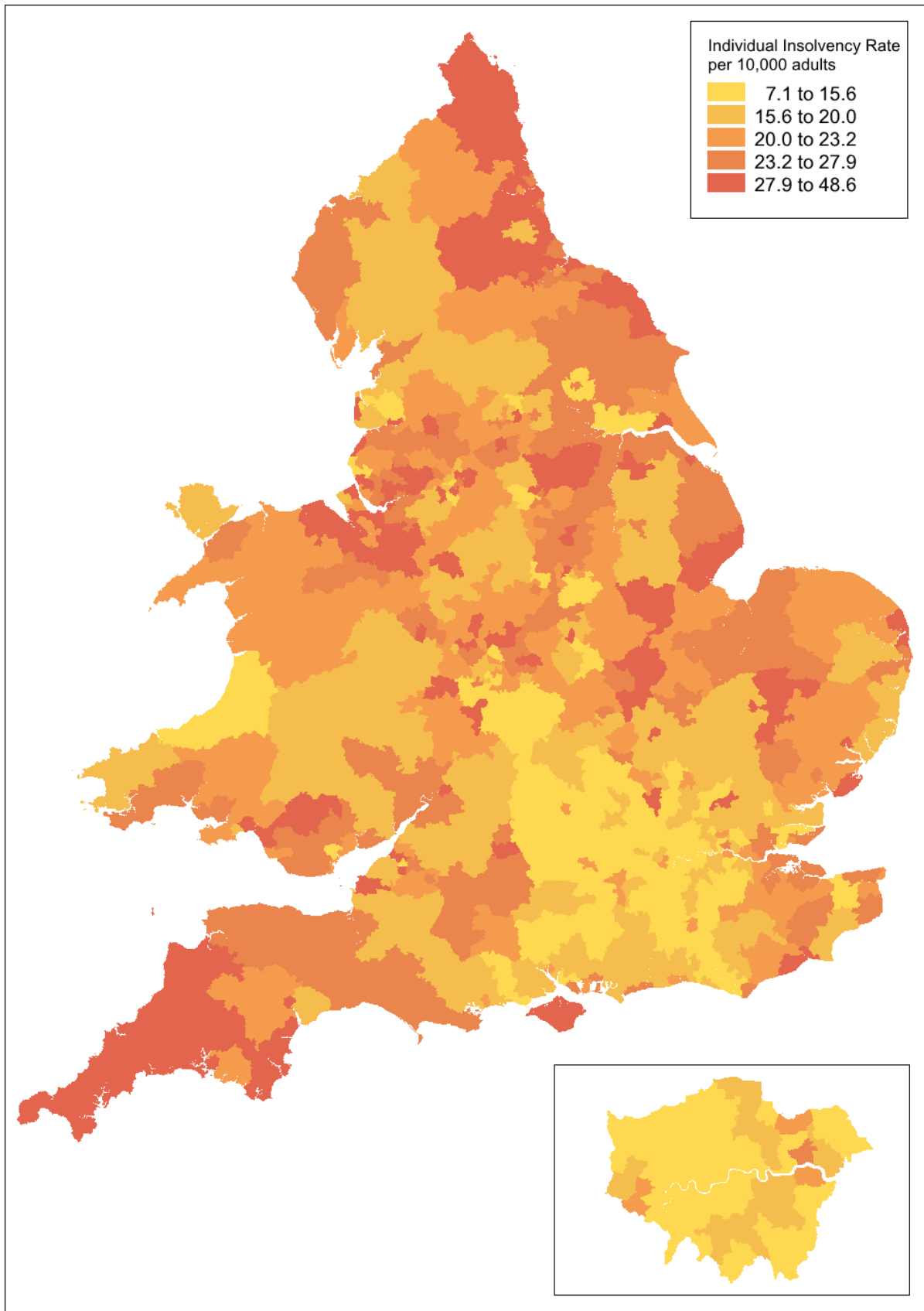
3. Total Individual Insolvencies (including bankruptcies, DROs and IVAs)

- The rate of total individual insolvencies per 10,000 adults in England and Wales fell to 21.8 in 2014 from 22.4 in 2013, having followed a decreasing trend since the peak of 30.9 in 2009.
- The parliamentary constituency with the highest total individual insolvency rate in 2014 was Vale of Clwyd with a rate of 48.6 per 10,000 adult population (in 2013 Vale of Clwyd also had the highest total individual insolvency rate, at 49.3), the lowest was Battersea at 7.2 (see Table 1 below; the distribution of parliamentary constituencies by total individual insolvency rate is given in Figure 1 below).
- Five out of the ten parliamentary constituencies with the highest total individual insolvencies were in or adjacent to coastal areas and three were in Stoke-on-Trent.
- Eight of the ten parliamentary constituencies with the lowest total individual insolvencies were within London.
- Parliamentary constituencies with lower total individual insolvency rates (represented by lighter shades in Figure 1 below) tended to be concentrated around London, West Wales and the Home Counties while many of those parliamentary constituencies with higher individual insolvency rates (represented by darker shades in Figure 1 below) were in the South West, North East and areas within the East Midlands, North Wales and Merseyside.
- The total insolvency rate was lower in 2014 than in 2013 in 331 out of 573 Parliamentary Constituencies. The largest decrease in the rate was in Cannock Chase at 11.9 per 10,000 adults; the largest increase was in Stoke-on-Trent South at 11.3 per 10,000 adults.

Table 1: Parliamentary Constituencies with the ten highest and lowest individual insolvency rates, England and Wales, 2014

Highest Total Insolvency rates			Lowest Total Insolvency rates		
Parliamentary Constituency	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Parliamentary Constituency	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population
Vale of Clwyd	275	48.6	Battersea	66	7.2
Stoke-on-Trent North	333	44.2	Harrow East	60	7.2
Torbay	350	43.8	Chelsea and Fulham	63	7.3
Wythenshawe and Sale East	359	43.6	Hampstead and Kilburn	82	7.5
Stoke-on-Trent South	298	42.6	Tooting	67	7.8
Kingston upon Hull East	304	42.4	Cities of London and Westminster	82	8.1
Plymouth, Moor View	300	41.4	Wimbledon	62	8.1
Stoke-on-Trent Central	269	40.5	Richmond Park	78	8.3
Scarborough and Whitby	319	40.4	Sutton Coldfield	69	9.1
Grantham and Stamford	345	40.3	Sheffield, Hallam	70	9.4

Figure 1: Total individual insolvencies per 10,000 adult population by Parliamentary Constituency, England and Wales, 2014



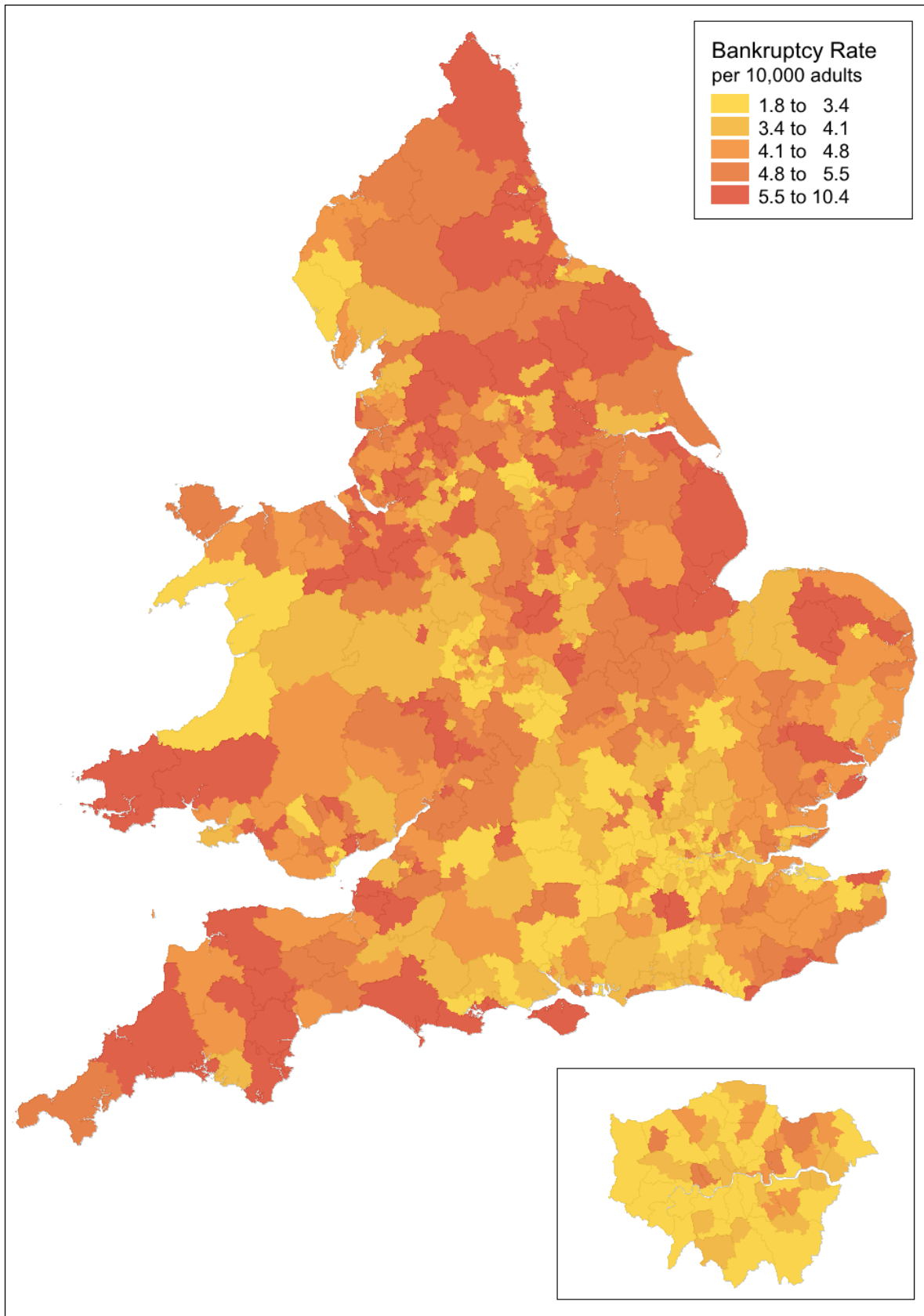
4. Bankruptcies

- The rate of bankruptcies per 10,000 adults in England and Wales fell to 4.5 in 2014 from 5.4 in 2013, having followed a decreasing trend since the peak of 17.2 in 2009.
- The parliamentary constituency with the highest bankruptcy rate in 2014 was Wythenshawe and Sale East at 10.3, followed by Torbay at 9.8; the lowest was Chesham and Amersham at 1.8 followed by Battersea at 1.9 (see Table 2 below; the distribution of parliamentary constituencies by bankruptcy rate is given in Figure 2 below).
- The parliamentary constituencies with lower bankruptcy rates (represented by lighter shades in Figure 2 below) tended to be concentrated around London and the Home Counties, while many of those parliamentary constituencies with higher bankruptcy rates (represented by darker shades in Figure 2 below) were in the South West, North East and Wales regions, and parts of Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, North Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.
- Seven out of the ten parliamentary constituencies with the highest bankruptcy rates were in or adjacent to coastal areas, in comparison seven of the ten lowest bankruptcy rates were in London.
- The bankruptcy rate was lower in 2014 than in 2013 in 438 out of 573 parliamentary constituencies. The largest decrease in the rate was in Walsall North at 4.9 per 10,000 adults; the largest increase was in Wythenshawe and Sale East at 5.1 per 10,000 adults.

Table 2: Parliamentary Constituencies with the ten highest and lowest bankruptcy rates, England and Wales, 2014

Highest bankruptcy rates			Lowest bankruptcy rates		
Parliamentary Constituency	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Parliamentary Constituency	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population
Wythenshawe and Sale East	85	10.3	Chesham and Amersham	13	1.8
Torbay	78	9.8	Battersea	17	1.9
Berwick-upon-Tweed	57	9.1	Vauxhall	19	1.9
Blackpool South	55	8.7	Harrow East	16	1.9
North Cornwall	63	8.7	Oxford West and Abingdon	17	2.0
Hyndburn	59	8.3	Tooting	17	2.0
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	56	8.3	Bexleyheath and Crayford	14	2.0
Bishop Auckland	57	8.1	Spelthorne	16	2.1
Washington and Sunderland West	56	8.0	Nottingham South	20	2.1
Jarrow	53	8.0	Old Bexley and Sidcup	15	2.1

Figure 2: Bankruptcies per 10,000 adult population by Parliamentary Constituency, England and Wales, 2014



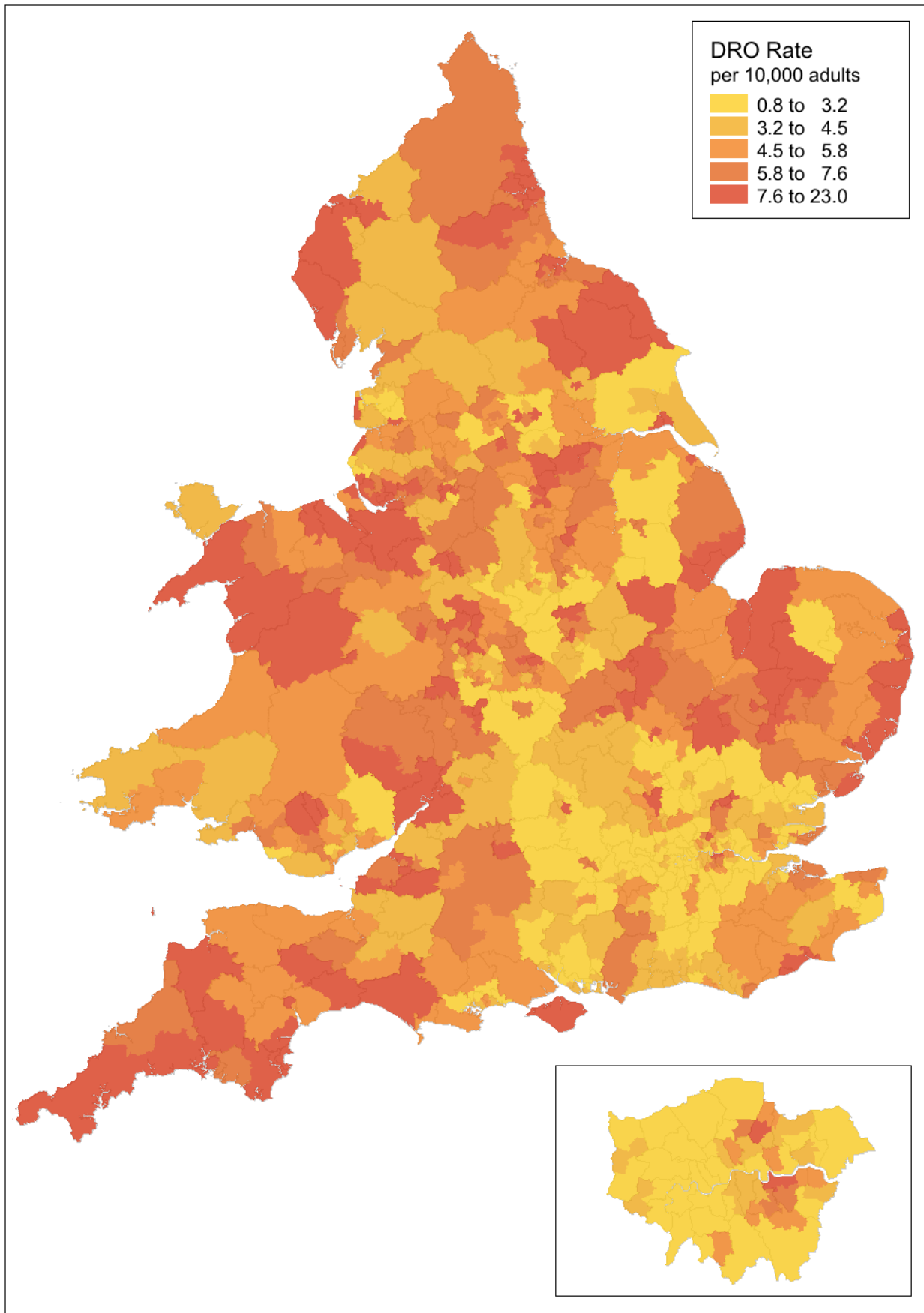
5. Debt Relief Orders (DROs)

- The rate of DROs per 10,000 adults in England and Wales decreased to 5.9 in 2014 from 6.1 in 2013, there has been a decreasing trend since 2012.
- The Parliamentary Constituency with the highest DRO rate in 2014 was Scarborough and Whitby with a rate of 22.9 per 10,000 adult population, the second highest being the Vale of Clwyd at 22.1 (in 2012 and 2013 Vale of Clwyd had the highest DRO rate, at 33.9 and 27.0), the lowest was Ealing, Southall at 0.8 (see Table 3 below; the distribution of parliamentary constituencies by total individual insolvency rate is given in Figure 3 below).
- Five out of the ten parliamentary constituencies with the highest DRO rates were in or adjacent to coastal areas Seven out of the ten constituencies with the lowest DRO rates were in London.
- Parliamentary constituencies with lower DRO rates (represented by lighter shades in Figure 3 below) tended to be concentrated around London and the Home Counties and parts of the West Midlands, while many of those parliamentary constituencies with higher DRO rates (represented by darker shades in Figure 3 below) were in the South West, Merseyside, parts of Wales, the East and the North East.
- The DRO rate was lower in 2014 than in 2013 in 311 out of 573 parliamentary constituencies. The largest decrease in the rate was in Weaver Vale at 7.4 per 10,000 adults; the largest increase was in Stoke-on-Trent South at 6.9 per 10,000 adults.

Table 3: Parliamentary Constituencies with the ten highest and lowest DRO rates, England and Wales, 2014

Highest DRO rates			Lowest DRO rates		
Parliamentary Constituency	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Parliamentary Constituency	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population
Scarborough and Whitby	181	22.9	Ealing, Southall	6	0.8
Vale of Clwyd	125	22.1	Sutton Coldfield	7	0.9
Kingston upon Hull East	145	20.2	Epsom and Ewell	8	1.0
Grantham and Stamford	165	19.3	Harrow East	8	1.0
Stoke-on-Trent North	145	19.3	Beckenham	7	1.0
Stoke-on-Trent South	134	19.2	Brent North	11	1.1
Preston	140	19.0	Cities of London and Westminster	12	1.2
Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle	126	18.4	Wokingham	10	1.2
Torbay	146	18.3	Wimbledon	10	1.3
Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough	143	17.9	Rushcliffe	11	1.4

Figure 3: DROs per 10,000 adult population by Parliamentary Constituency, England and Wales, 2014



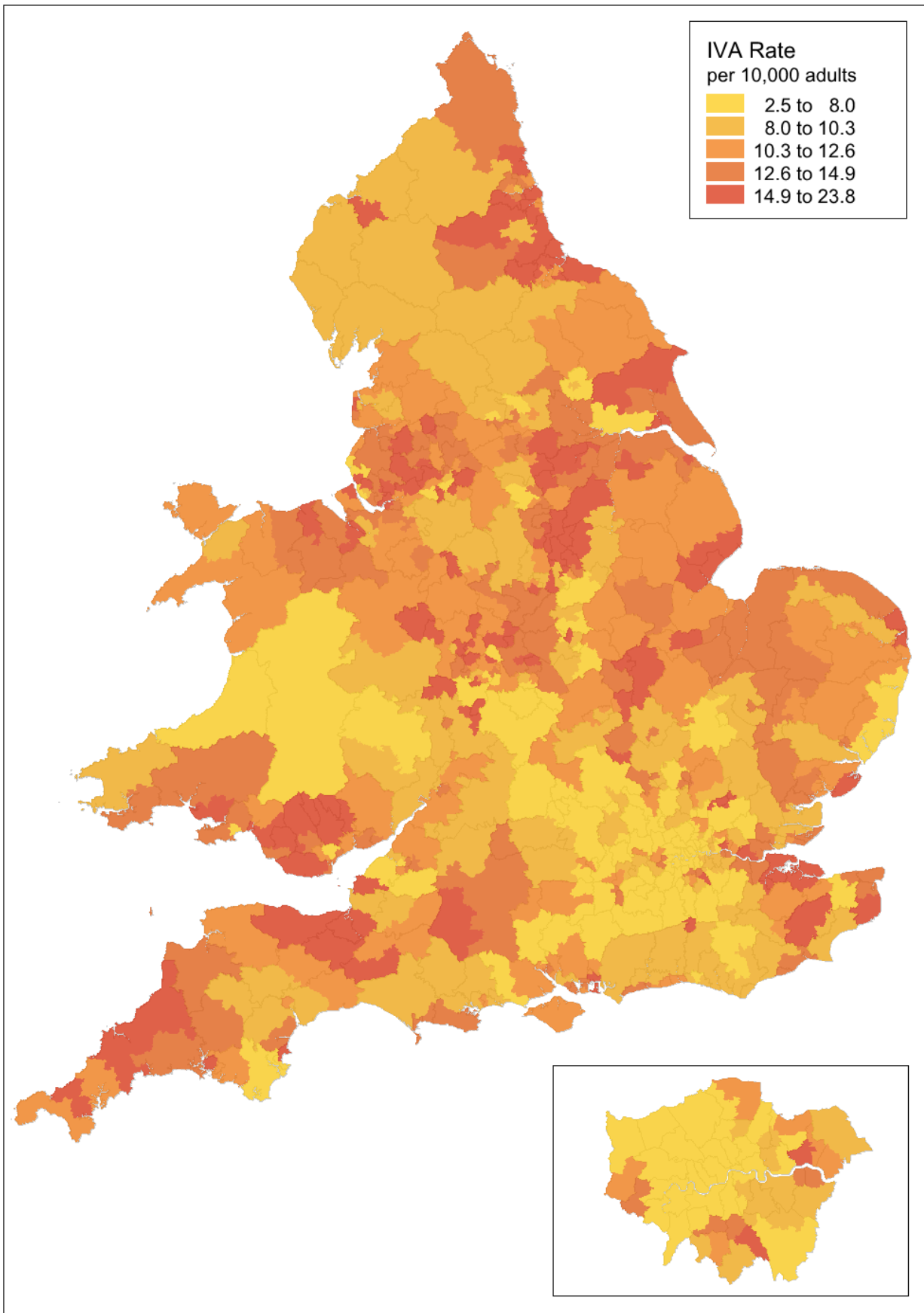
6. Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs)

- The rate of IVAs per 10,000 adults in England and Wales increased to 11.4 in 2014 from 10.9 in 2013, the second consecutive increase and 0.2 less than the peak in 2010.
- The parliamentary constituency with the highest IVA rate in 2014 was Telford, at 23.7.
- The parliamentary constituency with the lowest IVA rates was Chelsea and Fulham at 2.6.
- Six out of the ten parliamentary constituencies with the highest IVA rates bordered the coast.
- Eight out of ten of the parliamentary constituencies with the lowest IVA rates were in London.
- Parliamentary constituencies with lower IVA rates (represented by lighter shades in figure 4 below) tended to be concentrated around London, mid-Wales, Cumbria and the Home Counties, while many of those parliamentary constituencies with higher IVA rates (represented by darker shades in figure 4 below) were in the North East, South Wales, parts of the East Midlands and parts of Merseyside, Lancashire, Kent and South Yorkshire.
- The IVA rate was lower in 2013 than in 2012 in 227 out of 573 parliamentary constituencies. The largest decrease in the rate was in Folkestone and Hythe at 7.3 per 10,000 adults; the largest increase was in Telford at 7.5.

Table 4: Parliamentary constituencies with the ten highest and lowest IVA rates, England and Wales, 2014

Highest IVA rates			Lowest IVA rates		
Parliamentary Constituency	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population	Parliamentary Constituency	Number of new cases	Rate per 10,000 adult population
Telford	166	23.7	Chelsea and Fulham	22	2.6
Plymouth, Moor View	170	23.5	Sheffield, Hallam	23	3.1
Easington	150	22.8	Wimbledon	24	3.1
Scunthorpe	153	21.7	Cities of London and Westminster	32	3.1
Vale of Clwyd	119	21.0	Bristol West	37	3.4
Worsley and Eccles South	162	20.9	Hampstead and Kilburn	38	3.5
Aberavon	110	20.6	Kensington	34	3.7
Leigh	164	20.0	Westminster North	36	3.7
Houghton and Sunderland South	140	19.9	Battersea	35	3.8
Makerfield	152	19.5	Richmond Park	37	4.0

Figure 4: IVAs per 10,000 adult population by Parliamentary Constituency, England and Wales, 2014



7. Notes to accompany the Individual Insolvency Statistics by Location: Parliamentary Constituency Supplement

For general notes on individual insolvency statistics in England and Wales please see the quarterly *Insolvency Statistics* publication, which is the definitive source of the number of new cases each year in England and Wales, and the rate per 10,000 adults. The latest publication is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/insolvency-statistics-july-to-september-2015>.

Data sources and methodology

Details of individual insolvencies are sourced from administrative records held by the Insolvency Service. Extracts from these records, including postcode, date of birth, date of insolvency, and gender, are taken to derive the breakdowns used in this publication.

Postcode data are matched against the [National Statistics Postcode Lookup](#), to determine the region, local authority and parliamentary constituency of each individual. These data are then aggregated to produce counts of insolvencies in each geographical area. The National Statistics Postcode Lookup is derived from data from the Office for National Statistics and Ordnance Survey.

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Geographical boundary definitions are sourced from the Office for National Statistics and are based on Ordnance Survey data.

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Population statistics are sourced from the Office for National Statistics publication [Population Estimates for UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, Mid-2014](#), and [Annual Small Area Population Estimates, 2014](#) (and related statistics for previous years). These statistics are used as the denominator when calculating insolvency rates per 10,000 adult population.

Quality

This section provides information on the quality of the *Individual Insolvency Statistics by Region*, to enable users to judge whether or not the data are of sufficient quality for their intended use. The section is structured in terms of the six quality dimensions of the [European Statistical System](#).

Relevance (*the degree to which the statistical product meets user needs for both coverage and content*)

The Insolvency Service has policy responsibility for individual insolvency in England and Wales only; the extent of the coverage of these statistics reflects this.

Individual insolvency figures at national (England and Wales) level are published quarterly by the Insolvency Service as a National Statistics release. The most recent such figures relate to Q3 2015, published on 29 October at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/insolvency-statistics-july-to-september-2015>. The annual statistics in this publication provide breakdowns by parliamentary constituency.

Users of insolvency statistics include the Insolvency Service itself, which has policy responsibility for insolvency in England and Wales and for the non-devolved areas within Scotland and Northern Ireland; other government departments; parliament; the insolvency profession; debt advice agencies; media organisations; academics; the financial sector; the business community and the general public.

The views of users have been taken into account when making changes to this publication. In October 2014, the Insolvency Service launched a user feedback survey to obtain the views of users on the usefulness of the statistics, and where improvements could be made. The survey closed in late December 2014 and was followed by a meeting with users and the publication of a summary of user feedback.

Accuracy and Completeness (*including the closeness between an estimated or stated result and the [unknown] true value*)

The latest data relate to the calendar year 2014. National-level statistics covering this period were published on 29 January 2015 as part of the quarterly *Insolvency Statistics* publication – though the *Individual Insolvency Statistics by Region* is not consistent with the quarterly publication (see Coherence, below).

Accuracy and completeness of geographic data

Individual insolvents have been classified into geographic areas on the basis of the postcode supplied by the individual. As some postcodes supplied are missing or incomplete, or have not matched the National Statistics Postcode Lookup, some individuals have not been matched to geographic areas.

Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12% in 2000 to less than 1% in 2014 in the case of bankruptcies and decreasing from around 15% in 2000 to 0.5% in 2014 in the case of IVAs. The proportion for DROs is between 0.1%. A postcode quality file is provided as a separate table.

Postcodes are assigned to areas using the centroid of the postcode area. As postcode boundaries are not contiguous with other geographic boundaries, these postcode boundaries could span several geographic boundaries.

It is possible an individual changed place of residence in order to cut costs and attempt to get out of financial difficulty. Where this failed and the individual was declared insolvent, it will be the address at the time of the insolvency which is recorded and used to classify the insolvent's location, where this can be determined. Where more than one address has been provided and the address at the time of insolvency is not known, an address has been chosen at random.

Timeliness and Punctuality (*Timeliness refers to the elapsed time between publication and the period to which the data refer. Punctuality refers to the time lag between the actual and planned dates of publication.*)

The latest data relate to the calendar year 2014. National-level statistics covering this period were published on 29 January 2015 as part of the quarterly *Insolvency Statistics* publication – though the *Individual Insolvency Statistics by Region* is not consistent with the quarterly publication (see Coherence, below).

The key statistics in this publication relate to the rate of individual insolvency per 10,000 adult population, which is dependent on population estimates at parliamentary constituency level for the denominator in this calculation. The Office for National Statistics released [Annual Small Area Population Estimates, 2014](#) on 25 November 2015. The period between these source statistics being released, and publication of these statistics, is the minimum required to ensure outputs can be produced to the required standard.

The date of publication was announced on the National Statistics Publication Hub with a provisional date of November-December 2015. The final release date of 15 December 2015 was announced on the Hub on 16 November 2015.

Accessibility and Clarity (*Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data. It also relates to the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice*)

The Insolvency Statistics are available free of charge to the end user on the GOV.UK website. They are also linked via the Publication Hub and they meet the standards required under the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and the Insolvency Service's own website accessibility policy. Related data are available at the same GOV.UK location.

This publication consists of a statistics release, which contains key results and commentary to help interpret the data, and detailed data tables in Excel format.

If you have any queries about the publication or would like it in a different format, please email statistics@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk

Comparability (*the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain*)

Numbers of individual insolvencies in each geographical area each year, and the underlying population data, are categorised according to constituency boundaries as at May 2015, allowing for comparisons to be made between time periods and between geographical areas.

Coherence (*the degree to which data which are derived from different sources or methods, but which refer to the same phenomenon, are similar*)

Numbers of new cases presented in these tables are not consistent with the official, headline quarterly National Statistics published as they have been extracted from a live database at a different point in time and on a different basis. The quarterly National Statistics are the definitive source of the number of new cases each year in England and Wales, and the rate per 10,000 adults.



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