



Tel: 0207 391 4583

Email: [unaf@cccs.co.uk](mailto:unaf@cccs.co.uk)

Website: [www.cccs.co.uk](http://www.cccs.co.uk)

## **Press Release**

### **Men the new underclass as recession impacts disproportionately**

A combination of rising unemployment, a slower rate of salary increases and rising household expenditure has led to a massive increase in the numbers of men seeking debt advice in the last three years, according to the UK's largest debt charity, Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS).

These findings were published today (June 7) in Q1 2010 of the charity's quarterly Debt Dashboard which reports that despite falling debt levels and earning more than women, men are less able to repay their debts while an increasing proportion lack the means to meet basic living costs.

The key findings of CCCS's Q1 2010 Debt Dashboard are:

- The number of men contacting CCCS for debt advice has increased by 51 percent since 2007;
- Almost half (48.05 percent) attribute the cause of their debt to reduced income, including redundancy or unemployment;
- Men's debt levels are dropping, from an average of £30,000 in 2007 and 8 to £26,957 last year;
- Despite this the average male CCCS client in 2009 had a negative surplus of minus £42

Commenting on the findings chairman Malcolm Hurlston said:

"Men have been hard hit by the recession and are emerging as the new underclass. Debt alone is no longer the problem; it is loss of income and other

rising costs. This deterioration in the economic circumstances for men, still the main breadwinner in most homes, has serious implications for many households.

“At the same time, the proposed cut backs in the public sector, traditionally a major employer of women, may well impact on their earnings as well.”

For a full copy of the report, [click here](#), or visit:

[www.cccs.co.uk/Mediacentre/Researchandreports.aspx](http://www.cccs.co.uk/Mediacentre/Researchandreports.aspx)

- ends -

**Media enquiries:**

All media enquiries should be directed to:

Frances Walker - [francesw@cccs.co.uk](mailto:francesw@cccs.co.uk)

Una Farrell - [unaf@cccs.co.uk](mailto:unaf@cccs.co.uk)

Tom Howard - [tomh@cccs.co.uk](mailto:tomh@cccs.co.uk)

Tel: 0207 391 4583 (07507 880478 outside office hours)

**Notes for editors:**

1. CCCS has a free phone helpline (0800 138 1111), open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday
2. CCCS operates Debt Remedy, an online counselling service available round the clock at [www.cccs.co.uk](http://www.cccs.co.uk) for those who prefer an anonymous option
3. CCCS's ethos is to help the “can't pays”, not the “won't pays”, and does not condone debt avoidance. CCCS always aims to help its clients pay back what they owe, in a realistic timescale and manner that is suited to each individual's situation
4. *Debt Dashboard* is produced quarterly and based on data from over 100,000 people spread throughout the United Kingdom. It juxtaposes clients' levels of debt and their ability to repay against broader economic variables
5. ‘CCCS clients’ in this report are people who have received a full, in-depth counselling session from the charity