

Press Release

December 12 2011

West Country identified as bankruptcy hub

National debt charity Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) has identified the West Country as England's bankruptcy hub.

Figures obtained by the charity from the Insolvency Service found that Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Dorset and Somerset have some of the highest rates of [bankruptcy](#) per county as well as some of the fastest growing. Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have the highest number of people going bankrupt of any English county, while Dorset scored the highest rate of growth during the first decade of the 21st century.

In 2009, the most recent available figures for bankruptcy per county, 24 people per 10,000 went bankrupt in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. This compared to Greater London, which had the lowest number of people going bankrupt at 11 people per 10,000. Devon had the third highest number at 23 people per 10,000, Dorset had the sixth highest number at 21.9 people per 10,000 and Somerset had the seventh highest number at 21.8 people per 10,000.

Comparing increases in the rate of bankruptcies per county over the past ten years, Dorset saw the fastest growth during that period with a five-fold increase from 4.3 per 10,000 in 2000 to 2009.

Commenting on the findings, CCCS external affairs director Delroy Corinaldi says:

“While all parts of the country have experienced high rates of bankruptcy over the past decade, this trend is particularly marked in the West Country. This is likely to result from a mix of factors such as high debt levels and less job opportunities than you would find in large urban areas.

“Another issue could be that people are waiting longer to seek debt help and are deeper into their debt problem when they do.”

CCCS has produced a free online guide for anyone wanting to know more about bankruptcy and what it involves. It can be downloaded at: [Bankruptcy info](#)

<u>Top ten counties for bankruptcy rates</u>	<u>Top ten counties for bankruptcy rates</u>
1. Cornwall & Isles of Scilly (24 people per 10,000)	1. Dorset (Number of bankruptcies in 2009 was 21.9, up from 4.3 in 2000)
2. Northumberland (23.5 people per 10,000)	2. Staffordshire (Number of bankruptcies in 2009 was 18.9, up from 4.1 in 2000)
3. Devon (23.4 people per 10,000)	3. Northumberland (Number of bankruptcies in 2009 was 23.5, up from 5.1 in 2000)
4. Lincolnshire (22.8 people per 10,000)	4. Cheshire (Number of bankruptcies in 2009 was 16.3, up from 3.7 in 2000)
5. Tyne & Wear (22.4 people per 10,000)	5. Tyne & Wear (Number of bankruptcies in 2009 was 22.4, up from 5.2 in 2000)
6. Dorset (21.9 people per 10,000)	6. Gloucestershire (Number of bankruptcies in 2009 was 17.8, up from 4.2 in 2000)
7. Somerset (21.8 people per 10,000)	7. Essex (Number of bankruptcies in 2009 was 20.7, up from 4.9 in 2000)
8. Durham (21.3 people per 10,000)	8. Merseyside (Number of bankruptcies in 2009 was 17.3, up from 4.1 in 2000)
9. Worcestershire (21.1 people per 10,000)	9. Warwickshire (Number of bankruptcies in 2009 was 16, up from 3.8 in 2000)
10. Essex (20.7 people per 10,000)	10. Somerset (Number of bankruptcies in 2009 was 21.8, up from 5.2 in 2000)

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Notes to editors:

1. Bankruptcy rates are available at: <http://www.insolvencydirect.bis.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/regionalstats/Bankruptcy rates.xls>
2. An infographic showing England’s bankruptcy hotspots is available at <http://www.cccs.co.uk/Infographics/PersonalbankruptcyinEngland.aspx>
3. CCCS’s ethos is to help the “can’t pay”, not the “won’t pay”, 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. CCCS is self-funding. Lenders share with the charity the benefit they receive from its operation, making a donation from the money repaid to them. This allows CCCS to retain its independence and ensure that its advice is always in the best interest of the client.
5. The CCCS free phone helpline 0800 138 1111 is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday.
6. CCCS *Debt Remedy* is available at www.cccs.co.uk
7. Follow us on Twitter: @CCCSPressOffice

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