

Debt Facts and Figures - Compiled December 2010

Total UK personal debt

Total UK personal debt at the end of October 2010 stood at **£1,452bn**. The twelve-month growth rate increased 0.1% to 0.8%. **Individuals owe more than what the whole country produces in a year.**

Total lending in October 2010 rose by £1.3bn; secured lending increased by £1.0bn in the month; consumer credit lending increased by £0.3bn (*total lending in Jan 2008 grew by £8.4bn*).

Total secured lending on dwellings at the end of October 2010 stood at **£1,236bn**. The twelve-month growth rate remained at 0.8%.

Total consumer credit lending to individuals at the end of October 2010 was **£216bn**. **The annual growth rate of consumer credit increased 0.4% to 0.6%.**

UK banks and building societies wrote off £9.9bn of loans to individuals in the last 12 months to end Q3 2010. In Q3 2010 they wrote off £1.83bn (£740m of that was credit card debt). **This amounts to a write-off of £20.10m a day.**

Average household debt in the UK is ~ **£8,556** (excluding mortgages). This figure increases to **£17,825** if the average is based on the number of households who actually have some form of unsecured loan.

Average household debt in the UK is ~ **£57,624** (including mortgages).

If you add to this the March 2010 budget report figure for public sector net debt (PSND) expected in 2015-16 (excluding financial interventions) then this figure rises to £109,846 per household.

Average owed by every UK adult is ~ £29,833 (including mortgages). This is 126% of average earnings.

Average outstanding mortgage for the 11.4m households who currently have mortgages now stands at ~ £108,617.

Britain's interest **repayments on personal debt were £65.0bn** in the last 12 months. The average interest paid by each household on their total debt is approximately **£2,580** each year. According to PwC the average household will need to spend approximately 15% of net income purely to service the interest payments arising from this debt.

Average consumer borrowing via credit cards, motor and retail finance deals, overdrafts and unsecured personal loans has risen to **£4,430** per average UK adult at the end of October 2010.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) predicts that household debt will be £1,823bn by end 2015 which is a growth of £159m a day. This would take the average household debt to £72,341 per household.

Striking numbers

9,389

number of new debt problems dealt with by CAB each working day

1,589 people

made redundant daily

817,000

unemployed for > 12 months

£57,624

average household debt (including mortgages)

£178m

personal interest paid in UK daily

£20.10m

daily write-offs of loans by banks & building societies

every 15 minutes

a property is repossessed

every 3.87 minutes

someone will be declared insolvent or bankrupt

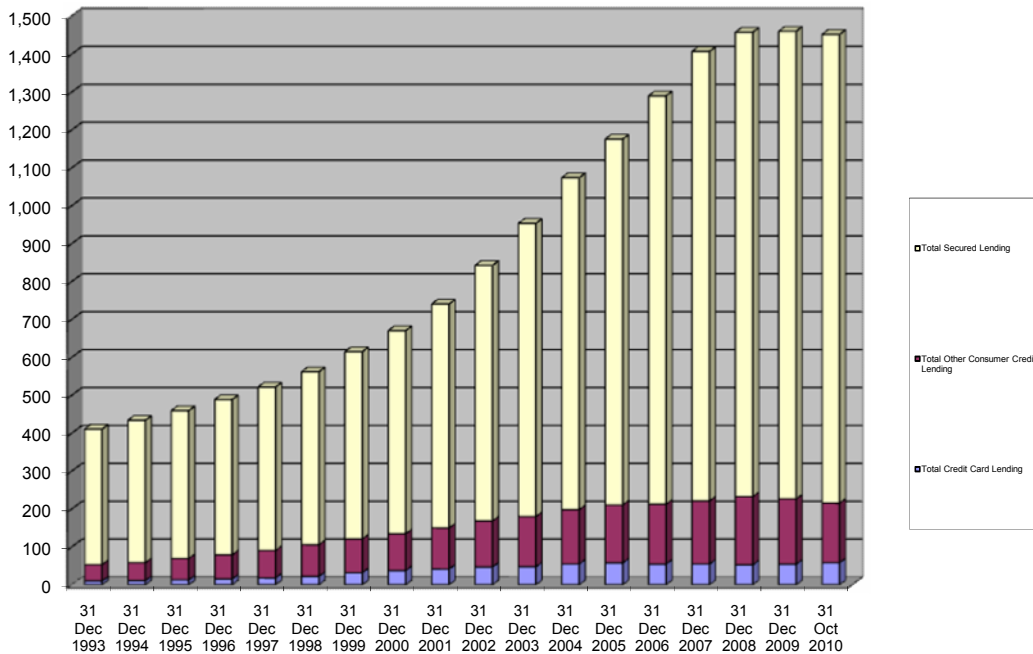
£345,800,000

daily increase in Government national debt (PSDN)

£16.08

daily cost of running the average car

Total UK Personal Debt £bn



Statistical Sources - Unless otherwise indicated statistics in the "Total UK personal debt" section are calculated by Credit Action - primarily using the Bank of England's debt figures.

Today in the UK:

- **372 people everyday of the year** will be declared insolvent or bankrupt. This is equivalent to **1 person every 53 seconds during the working day**.
- 1,716 Consumer County Court Judgements (CCJs) were issued every day during Q3 2010 and the average judgement amount was £3,312.
- Citizen Advice Bureaus dealt with **9,389 new debt problems** every working day in England and Wales
- The average cost of raising a child from birth to the age of 21 is £26 a day.
- **1,000 people are seeking some form of formal debt rescheduling every working day**.
- **98 properties were repossessed every day during Q3 2010**
- **219 people a day became unemployed for more than 12 months** during the 12 months to end September 2010
- **1,589 people reported they had become redundant every day** during 3 months to end September 2010
- £345,800,000 is the amount that the Government Public Sector net debt (PSDN) will grow today (**equivalent to £4,002 per second**).
- **£119,300,000** is the interest the Government has to pay each day on the UK's net debt of £955 bn. This is estimated to rise to £182m a day in 2015-16.
- 207 mortgage possession claims will be issued and 154 mortgage possession orders will be made today
- 372 landlord possession claims will be issued and 248 landlord possession orders will be made today.
- The UK population is projected to grow by 1,178 people a day over the next decade
- 23.0m plastic card purchase transactions will be made today with a total value of £1.148bn.
- 8.0m cash withdrawals will be made today with a total value of £512m
- The average car will cost £16.08 to run today

Other key national statistics:

The UK economy has grown by 0.8% in the third quarter of 2010.

There were 5.7 million working age benefit claimants at May 2010. This is a decrease of 89,000 in the year.

UK base rate fell to a 315 year low when the official bank rate was reduced to 0.5% on 5th March 2009 and has been held at that level for 21 months in a row.

There were 3,974 compulsory liquidations and creditors' voluntary liquidations in total in England and Wales in the third quarter of 2010 (on a seasonally adjusted basis). This was a decrease of 2.2% on the previous quarter and a decrease

of 13.9% on the same period a year ago. In the twelve months ending Q3 2010, **approximately 1 in 133 active companies (or 0.8%) went into liquidation**, which is a slight decrease from the previous quarter, when this figure stood at 1 in 127. Additionally, there were 1,141 other corporate insolvencies in Q3 2010 (not seasonally adjusted) comprising 349 receiverships, 633 administrations and 159 company voluntary arrangements. In total these represented a decrease of 27.7% on the same period a year ago.

In October 2010 the **public sector net debt (PSND) was £955 bn**, equivalent to **64.5%** of gross domestic product and **equivalent to ~ £37,897 per household**. **PSND has increased £126.2 bn in 12 months (equivalent to a growth of £4,002 per second or £5,008 per household)**. **Net borrowing for the month was £9.8 bn**. The interest paid on this debt by the Government in the year April 2010 to October 2010 was £25.4 bn which is equivalent to **~ £1,728 per household / annum**.

According to the **Coalition's June 2010 Budget report** the public sector net debt will peak at 70.3% of GDP in 2013-14, before declining to 67.4% of GDP in 2015-16. **The interest on this debt in 2015-16 is estimated at £66.5bn (equivalent to £182m a day)**.

The number of **unemployed people in the three months to September 2010 was 2.45 million (7.7%)**. **This is down 9,000** from the previous three months and down 17,000 from a year earlier. **145,000 people (1,589 a day) reported they had become redundant** in the three months down 17,000 from the previous three months and down 59,000 from a year earlier.

The number of people unemployed for more than 12 months increased by 20,000 (219 a day) over the quarter and increased 186,000 (29.4%) over the year to reach 817,000. The number of economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64 decreased by 83,000 over the quarter but increased by 23,000 over the year to reach 9.27 million in the three months to September 2010.

Public sector employment decreased by 22,000 in the second quarter of 2010, to 6.051 million compared with the previous quarter.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) budget forecast for the number of general Government employees estimates a reduction from 5.53m in 2010/11 to 4.92m in 2015/16. They estimate that for the whole economy employment will rise from 28.89m to 30.23m.

In the year to October, the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 3.2%, up from 3.1% in September. **The Retail Prices Index rose by 4.5% in October 2010 down from 4.6% in September**.

New car registrations fell 22.2% in October to 131,495 units.

UK retail sales values increased 0.8% on a like-for-like basis and increased 2.4% on a total basis, from October 2009.

Christmas is coming: Money.co.uk has revealed that 40% of households are planning to cut back on Christmas as a direct result of the Government's Spending Review, and are planning to cut their budgets by an average of 32%. 3% of households (nearly 300,000) have cancelled Christmas altogether. However, overall spending has still leapt £3.8bn from last year, and only 14% of households say that their Christmas spending will be funded with money saved specifically for Christmas.

Despite tough economic times, moneysupermarket.com say that 1 in 10 parents will spend over £250 on their children this Christmas, with an average spend of £136 child. 30% of parents feel pressurised to spend more than they can afford, and 28% say this level of spending will leave them in debt.

Research from NS&I suggests that the British population is pessimistic about its ability to save before the end of the year. 28% of Britons said they were less likely to save during run up to Christmas, with 7% of these much less likely.

R3 estimated that almost a third (31%) of personal insolvencies that occurred in March were triggered by overspending during the festive season.

According to a poll by MyVoucherCodes.co.uk, **7% of the respondents are still currently paying off debt that they accumulated last Christmas** and a further 9% finished paying the debt from last Christmas between June and July. In addition almost 1 in 5 (19%) of those asked are intending on paying for the expense of Christmas by borrowing money

Servicing Debt: Citizens Advice Bureaux across England and Wales dealt with 589,615 enquiries about debt in the 3 months ending September 2010, a 1% increase on the same period last year. Debt is the second largest advice category behind 'Benefits and tax credits'. Enquiries about Debt Relief Orders jumped 29% in the period from 28,273 to 36,363. Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales are currently dealing with **~ 9,389 new debt problems every working day**.

Mortgage lenders took 8,900 properties into possession in Q3 2010 down from 9,400 in Q2 2010 according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. This equates to **98 properties being repossessed every day or 1 property being repossessed every 15 minutes**.

In terms of payment difficulties, 176,100 mortgages ended Q3 2010 with arrears equivalent to at least 2.5% of the outstanding mortgage balance. This was down from 178,200 at the end of Q2 2010.

These figures are consistent with CML's prediction that 175,000 mortgages will end the year 2.5% or more in arrears, lower than the original forecast of 205,000. A total of 28,400 repossessions have taken place so far in 2010, trending below the CML's revised forecast of 39,000 repossessions for 2010 as a whole, and significantly below the original forecast of 53,000.

The FSA estimate that at the end of Q2 2010 there were **351,000 loan accounts in reportable arrears (> 1.5% of current loan balance)**, a decrease of 3% from Q1 2010. At the end of Q2 2010, loans in arrears represented 3.11% of the value of the residential loan book.

The Insolvency Service said there were 33,935 individual insolvencies in England and Wales (**372 people a day or 1 every 3.87 minutes**) in Q3 2010. This was a decrease of 2.3% on the previous quarter and a **decrease of 3.7%** on the same period a year ago.

However, there remains something of a 'debt iceberg' with many more people in unrecorded Debt Management Plans which are not included in today's statistics. According to estimates by R3 this could amount to 500,000 people, more than double the number in formal insolvency procedures. Below them, under the waterline are another 574,000 who are struggling financially but have contacted their creditors informally. More worrying is another group further down comprising of 961,000 individuals who are struggling with debts but have not sought help. This group could find themselves in formal insolvency procedures unless they take swift action.

Research by More Than Legal Services has revealed that the total amount of unpaid debt between family and friends stands at £44.6bn, with 32% of people saying this has caused rifts which may never be repaired. 40% admitted they wouldn't be able to repay the money lent, and 24% admitted to borrowing money with no intention of ever paying it back.

A YouGov survey for the Institute of Financial Planning found that 43% of people worry about money "more often than not" and 17% worry about it "all the time". Strikingly, the survey also found that **47% of respondents found it difficult to make their money stretch to their next payday**, and 25% never set out a clear budget.

Legal and General's MoneyMood Survey has revealed that around 11.5 million homes, half of UK households, are budgeting on a fine line between managing to pay bills and sinking into debt. 30% of households had to find extra money to pay for unexpected bills each month, at an average cost of £178.

In 2008, there were around 4.5m fuel poor households in the UK, up from 4.0m in 2007. In England, there were around 3.3m fuel poor households up from 2.8m in 2007.

A recent survey by Christians Against Poverty amongst its debt advice clients showed that:

- 77% of clients in relationships said debt affected their relationship, with 28% saying it caused relationship to break down entirely
- 38% considered or attempted suicide as a way out
- 74% visited GP, with 44% of all clients being prescribed medication to help them cope
- 72% sacrificed meals – 30% of all clients did so regularly
- 48% feared losing their home and further 15% did actually lose their home
- 65% of clients with children said debt affected their ability to provide for them, either making them unable to clothe or feed them adequately.
- 92% of clients rated CAP's service as "life transforming" or a "great help"

Four in ten adults in Britain (almost 19m people) are worried about their debt, according to research by R3. For those who worry about their debts 51% were most concerned by their credit cards, 32% were most concerned by their overdraft and 19% worried most about bank loans and mortgages payments.

Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) figures show that **one in eight** (14,446) people who contacted the charity during the first half of 2010 for help with their unsecured debts were claiming JSA. On average, clients claiming JSA owe £15,412 to five different creditors.

Over the first six months of 2010, almost a quarter of people contacting CCCS (22.4 percent) cited unemployment as a reason.

ONS said household disposable income was 1.6% lower in Q2 2010 than in Q1 2010. They also said household savings ratio had dropped to 3.2% in Q2 2010 from 5.5% in Q1 2010.

The CCCS centre, which specialises in dealing with the personal finances of the self employed, has helped over 6,500 people this year. However, only 1,600 were in a position to enter into a debt management plan (DMP) and repay their debts as over half of callers had a deficit budget and therefore no money to start repaying their debts.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills estimate that in the UK, one person in ten is struggling to manage his or her debts.

Plastic card / Personal Loans: Research by Sainsbury's indicates that **1.2 million people are spending over £1000 per month online on credit cards**, with the average online spend being £192 a month

Research from moneysupermarket.com reveals 41% of credit card users have had a balance outstanding on their main credit card **for a year or more, with a shocking 14% saying they have held debt on their card for over five years**. Almost one in ten (9%) of credit card holders admit they only pay off the minimum amount each month - this equates to over three million people in the UK. The average length of time a balance is left outstanding on cards is currently a whopping 21 months.

Confused.com estimate that 26% of credit card holders have been charged at least once in the last year for missing a minimum payment (costing an average of £12 per time), 8.5% have been charged three or more times in the last 12 months and 1.2% have been charged ten or more times in the last 12 months - that's over £100 each in charges.

There were 143.7m debit, credit or charge cards in circulation in the UK at the end of 2009 according to the UK Payments Council. **An average 266 plastic card purchases were made in the UK every second** during Q2 2010 using debit and credit cards (equal to £13,293 /second). 93 cash withdrawals were made every second (equal to £5,936 / second) from UK's 62,238 cash machines during Q2 2010.

There are **more credit cards in the UK than people** according to the UK Payments Council. At the end of 2009 there were 64.4m credit and charge cards in the UK compared with around 62m people in the country.

Total credit card debt in October 2010 was **£58.3bn**.

The average interest rate on credit card lending is currently **18.52%, which is 18.02% above base rate (0.5%)**.

According to the BBA the proportion of balances bearing interest is 70%.

Young people - the IPOD generation: Citizens Advice report that 729,825 young people aged under 25 sought help from them over the year ending March 2010. This is an increase of 21% on the year before. Four issues accounted for 80% of problems: debt (which was the subject of a third of enquiries), benefits (a quarter), employment (12%) and housing (10%). The biggest single issue that under 25s sought help on was personal loans.

The unemployment rate for economically active 18 to 24 year olds decreased 12,000 (1.7%) in the last 3 months to reach 712,000. **This means that 17.1% of all economically active 18 to 24 year olds are unemployed**. 309,000 (43%) have been unemployed for > 6 months. 189,000 **have been out of work for over 12 months** which is an increase of 5,000 (2.7%) over the last 3 months and an increase of 18,000 (10.7%) over the last 12 months.

The number of 18-24 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) at the end Q3 2010 was 885,000 (18.7%). The number of 16-18 year NEETs stood at 266,000 (13.8%) at the end of Q3 2010. **The total of 16 – 24 classed as NEETS now stands at 1,026,000**.

A study by M&S Money has revealed that the UK's parents are still worried about whether the next generation will be able to manage their own money. A quarter think it will be easier for their children to get into debt than it was for them, and a third believe their children will be less able to handle money than they are. 19% said that their children will be ill equipped to deal with their own finances as there is too much jargon to wade through and not enough practical guidance in school. However, a third believed imparting their own experiences could help children learn and improve their chances.

71% of parents of undergraduate students have concerns about providing financially for their son or daughter while they are at university. Moreover, a third (33%) of all parents are very or extremely concerned according to the research by the Consumer Financial Education Body (CFEB).

The average student starting university in 2010 is expected to graduate with £24,702 of debt.

Research from Halifax reveals that the average pocket money in 2010 is £5.89 per week, compared to £6.24 in 2009. The last time pocket money fell below £6.00 was in 2003, where the average amount was £5.79 per week. This is £2.48 lower than the highest level of £8.37 in 2005.

Pensioners / Pensions: A survey by YouGov for the Institute of Financial Planning has found that only 22% of people are clear how much they have to save and for how long in order to achieve the standard of living they want in retirement.

Figures from the Alliance Trust Research Centre show that those in the 65-74 year old age group face an inflation rate of 3.9% while over 75s face an inflation rate of 3.6%. This is compared to the headline rate of 3.2%. However, for the thirteenth consecutive month those in the 50-64 year old age group face the highest rate of inflation – 4.1% this month.

Research from Age UK suggests that more than half of over 60s are dreading the cold this winter, with those at the bottom of the social scale twice as likely to be fearful as those at the top. Two in five people aged over 60 (4.6 million people) say they are concerned about being able to afford their energy bills.

The number of people aged 50+ out of work is 393,000, which is a increase of 0.6% over the last quarter and an increase of 4.9% (18,000) over last year. The number of people over 65 in work continues to rise – with an increase of 28,000 in the three months to the end of September to 850,000, **a rise of 98,000 (13%) over the previous year.**

Two in five 50-plus unemployed workers (43.5%) - a total of 171,000 people - have been out of work for over a year. 78,000 have been unemployed for more than 2 years

At May 2010, there were 12.7m people of state pension age claiming a DWP benefit, an increase of 229,000 since May 2009. Of these, 67% were claiming State Pension (SP) only.

When the country is celebrating the Olympics in 2012, baby boomers will be turning 65 in record numbers. Over 800,000 of them - **a staggering 150,000 more than in 2011** - will reach this key milestone.

The proportion of retired households in the population rose from 22% in 1977 to 26% in 2008/09. There are 8.6m pensioner units in the UK (single pensioners over state pension age or pensioner couples, married or cohabiting pensioners, where one or more are over state pension age). In 2008/09, pensioner couples received average income of **£564 per week**, compared with £304 per week for single men pensioners and £264 per week for single women pensioners.

Pensions provide modest levels of annual income for many pensioner households. In 2008/09, 53% of single pensioners had total pension income (state benefit income and private pension income) of **less than £10,000**, while 36% of pensioner couples had less than £15,000.

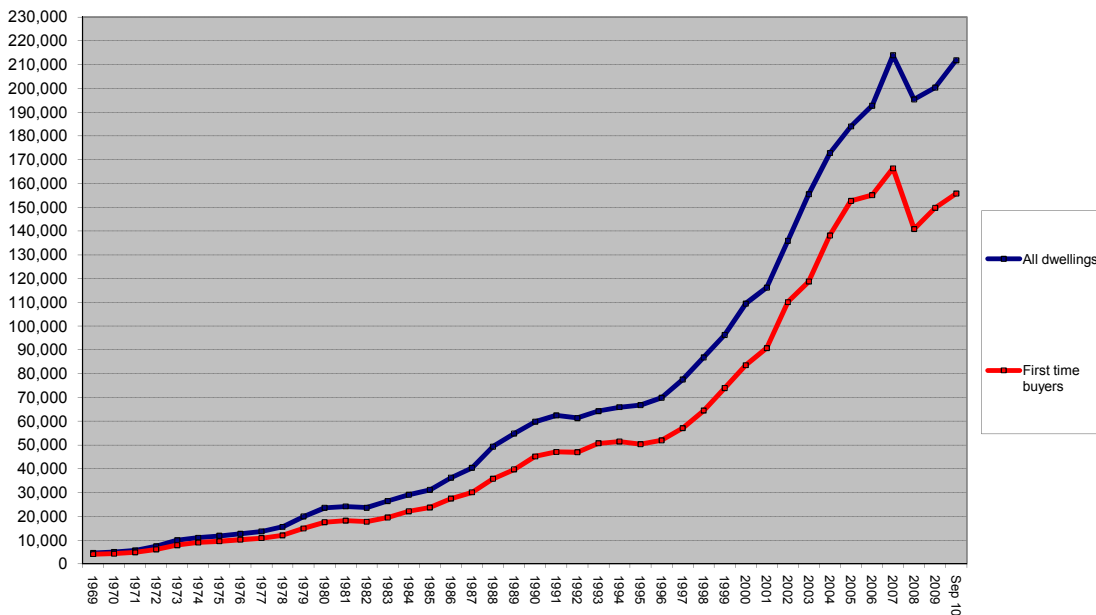
The Money Sickness Syndrome report published by AXA shows that some nine million pensioners in the UK are enduring the harsh effects of financial worries in their later years as they face symptoms of finance-related stress including anxiety (43%), lack of concentration (22%), insomnia (24%) and feeling depressed (21%).

More than a third of equity release customers have used the extra cash to help clear their debts, whilst almost half have put it towards essential house maintenance, according to research by Age UK.

Housing: According to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) the average house price in the UK in September 2010 now stands at **£211,815** (£219,145 in England). The annual rate of UK house-price inflation is 6.1%. **The annual rate of house-price inflation in London is 9.0%.**

Average UK house prices were 0.7% lower over the quarter to September 2010 compared to a quarterly increase of 1.6% in June (seasonally adjusted).

UK Average House Prices £



The average Mortgage Interest rate is 3.51%.

Gross mortgage lending totalled an estimated £12.4 billion in October, unchanged from September and down 9% from October 2009 (£13.6 billion). This is the lowest October total since 2000 (£9.9 billion).

Halifax said that house prices rose by £2,945 in October 2010. **This is a monthly rise of 1.8%**. Prices fell 1.2% over the quarter and rose 1.2% over the year.

The October RICS Housing Market Survey continued to show more surveyors reporting falling rather than rising prices. The Survey also reports a slight fall in the number of new instructions coming to market (after 8 months of growth), while the number of new buyer enquiries continued to decline.

Hometrack monthly survey of over 5,100 agents and surveyors highlights how falling demand and rising supply continue to put house prices under downward pressure. Demand for housing dropped by -2.0% in October. This is the fourth month in a row that demand has fallen. Despite the weakening outlook, the supply of homes coming to market continues to grow. October saw supply grow by 1.9%. Over the past six months the supply of homes for sale has grown by 14% while demand has fallen by 8%.

Rightmove said new sellers cut average asking prices by 3.2% (£7,470). **This is the biggest monthly drop since December 2007.**

According to the NAEA the number of house-hunters registered per branch decreased on average from 247 in September to 218 in October, the number of sales agreed per branch remained the same at 7 in September and 7 in October and the average number of properties available for sale per branch decreased from 72 in September to 67 in October.

House purchase approvals (30,766) were marginally lower in October, reflecting weak mortgage market activity according to the British Bankers Association. The average loan approved for house purchase rose in October to **£144,900 which is 2% higher than a year ago.**

Existing home sales across the United States (including single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops) decreased 2.2% over last month and fell 25.9% year on year in October 2010. The **average price decreased 0.9% year on year** to \$170,500. RealtyTrac® said there were a total of 332,172 foreclosure filings — default notices, auction sale notices and bank repossessions — were reported on U.S. properties in October 2010, a 4% decrease in total properties from last month and almost exactly the same total reported in October 2009. The report also shows that one in every 389 of all U.S. housing units received a foreclosure filing during the month. October was the 20th consecutive month in which over 300,000 U.S. homeowners received a foreclosure notice.

Citizens Advice say that they dealt with 14% more housing problems in the three months between July and September than they did in the same period last year.

Research by Shelter suggests that 1 in every 6 mortgage holders, equivalent to 3 million people across the country, face a constant struggle to pay their mortgage.

Housing First Time Buyers (FTB) & Buy-to-let: The average house price in the UK in September 2010 for first time buyers now stands at **£155,738** which is an **annual increase of 4.6%**.

Genworth financial research shows that in 2009, there were 28,000 mortgage advances to first time buyers who did not have more than a 10% deposit; down from 245,000 in 2006. This is a drop of almost 90%.

As at the end of September, there were 1.29 million buy-to-let mortgages outstanding, worth a total of £150 bn. By value, buy-to-let mortgages accounted for 12.1% of all mortgages.

The typical first-time buyer deposit in September was **24% (£37,352)**. The average first-time buyer borrowed 3.26 times their income and the average first-time buyer loan was £118,280.

According to the RICS Residential Lettings Survey for Q2, tenant demand increased at a moderately slower pace than the previous quarter. 26% more surveyors reported a rise in demand for property than a fall. This was marginally down from the previous quarter when 30% reported a rise.

Money Education: A survey by M&S Money has found that some 14-18 year olds are given no help on basic money matters by their parents. 19% of parents have never discussed how to spend money with their teenagers, and 32% have yet to discuss how to budget or even describe what one is.

Lack of financial education has cost Brits nearly £250 million in charges and penalties alone, with almost a quarter (24%) having been hit by charges because they don't understand the terms and conditions of financial products, according to research from uSwitch.com. Moreover, almost three quarters of Brits (71%) say that a lack of basic personal financial understanding is to blame for debt.

The same survey also found that less than one in ten people (7%) think we are financially educated as a nation. Despite the fact that consumers can take out financial products such as credit cards and loans as soon as they hit 18, worryingly, on average most people don't become knowledgeable about personal finance until they are 27 years old.

AXA estimate the number of adults afflicted by Money Sickness Syndrome has doubled since 2006. **87% of people have suffered from financial stress. More than one in 10 suffers from financial stress all the time**, over a quarter frequently and one third sometimes. Over the past 12 months 63% of adults have felt their financial stress increase. The hardest hit were those in junior managerial and supervisory jobs, with 66% complaining of rising stress levels over money in the last year. However, one in five (21%) of high-level managers and professionals complained of suffering constant money-related stress.

Aviva's Feel-Good Insight Study, produced in conjunction with a leading psychologist at City University, London, indicates a **strong link between financial behaviour and self esteem - but proves money doesn't buy happiness**. In short, those with sensible financial plans in place are happier overall and have a stronger sense of "financial wellbeing", regardless of their salary.

Research by NatWest's 2010 MoneySense Research Panel reveals that the recession has had a profound, and encouraging, impact on the attitudes, beliefs and behaviours of British teenagers around money. It shows that, compared to 12 months ago, they are now significantly more considered now in how they plan, budget, spend and save. As many as 67% of young people surveyed thought their money management skills had improved from last year.

Spending: A survey by Bright Grey has suggested that almost 7 million UK adults (14%) are living beyond their means in order to fund their lifestyle. A further 4.9 million (10%) have no idea how much they spend every month in relation to their earnings. 29% of people said that spending sometimes put a strain on household finances, and 8% (equivalent to 3.9 million adults) admitted that their spending had pushed their household finances into debt.

With Prince William and Kate Middleton preparing for their big day in April, Weddingplan estimates that the average cost of a wedding is now in excess of £21,000.

The average new family car now costs £5,869 annually to keep on the road, equating to £112.87 per week or 48.91p per mile.

uSwitch estimate that 4 m British women are in the grips of shopaholicism , resulting in unsecured debts of £13 bn. Shopaholics have an average personal shopping debt of £3,353 - nearly three times the national average of £1,147.

74% use a combination of credit cards, storecards, overdrafts and loans to feed their addiction and 41% will ignore their overdraft limit to purchase a 'must have' item .

According to Defra **17% of all the food purchases that could have been eaten were wasted in 2008.**

Brits fork out more than £18,500 a year on bills according to Confused.com. Each month, the average household parts with £1,541.91 on utility bills, rent or mortgage payments, the weekly shop and other bills. That's a total of £18,502.86 a year or £962,148.72 between the ages of 18 and 70. The study revealed that the cost of living has risen by £642.12 in the past 12 months, from £17,860.74 last year.

Figures from moneysupermarket.com show that Britons use an average of 2.4 million discount vouchers for goods and services every day - an increase of 25% on last year.

The annual survey from insurance and investment group LV= on the Cost of a Child, now in its seventh year, shows that, for the first time, parents are likely to have to shell out more than £201,000 on raising a child from birth to the age of 21. This equates to £9,610 a year, £800 a month or £26 a day.

Savings: A report by Standard Life suggests that only 51% of adults currently save, while an alarming 28% actively choose not to do so.

According to research from the Skipton Building Society people could achieve financial happiness simply by saving an extra £6.75 a week, equivalent to the cost of a daily chocolate bar. When people were asked how much they needed to save to feel happy about their financial situation, the average amount given was £194 a month. On average, people save £167 a month, meaning they are only falling £27 short of their happiness target, or £6.75 a week.

15 million Britons could not survive until the weekend on savings. HSBC research reveals that 30% of adults have less than five day's average pay in savings (£249) set aside as a financial safety net.

According to research from Schroder's, in the past year, 31% of UK adults have drawn on a collective £60 million in savings and investments to supplement their income, while Scottish Widows has found that almost one in 10 adult children have had to bail out their parents in the past year.

56% of Brits who responded to a poll by moneysupermarket.com revealed that they have dipped into their savings accounts when they hadn't planned to.

Research from Aviva estimates that without further borrowing, the average British household could get their hands on only £914 of disposable cash, less than two weeks of the average weekly household expenditure of £471. One in four (24%) of British households say they could only access £100 without further borrowing.

Compiled monthly by John Davies. [johndavies@creditaction.org.uk](mailto: johndavies@creditaction.org.uk). If you would like to receive regular monthly updates of these statistics then please register using the "Register to receive Debt Statistics" link at <http://www.creditaction.org.uk/debt-statistics.html> Note: new / changed statistics are at the start of each section.

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