

DEBT STATISTICS – MARCH 2012 SUMMARY

UK PERSONAL DEBT

Outstanding personal debt stood at **£1.456 trillion** at the end of January 2012.

- This is up from £1.452 trillion at the end of January 2011.
- Individuals owed nearly as much as the entire country produced during the whole of 2011.

Outstanding secured (mortgage) lending stood at **£1.248 trillion** at the end of January 2012.

- This is up from £1.240 trillion at the end of January 2011.

Outstanding unsecured (consumer credit) lending stood at **£207 billion** at the end of January 2012.

- This is down from £212 billion at the end of January 2011.

Average household debt in the UK (excluding mortgages) was **£7,975** in January.

- This is up from a revised **£7,951** in December.

Average household debt in the UK (including mortgages) was **£55,988** in January.

- This is up from a revised **£55,843** in December.

The average amount owed per UK adult (including mortgages) was **£29,634** in January. This was around **122%** of average earnings.

Average consumer borrowing (including credit cards, motor and retail finance deals, overdrafts and unsecured loans) per UK adult was **£4,221** in January.

The estimated average outstanding mortgage for the 11.2m households that carry mortgage debt stood at **£111,260** in January.

Based on January 2012 trends, the UK's total interest repayments on personal debt over a 12 month period would have been **£63.2 billion**.

- This is equivalent to **£173 million** per day.
- This means that UK households would have paid an average of **£2,432** in annual interest repayments.

STRIKING NUMBERS

£55,988 was the average household debt (inc. mortgages) in January

£173m was the daily amount of interest paid on personal debt in January

8,652 new debt problems were dealt with by the CAB each working day over the year to September

1,797 people were made redundant every day between Oct and Dec

860,000 people had been unemployed for over a year between Oct and Dec

£16.23m of loans are written-off daily by UK Banks and Building Societies

Every 15 min 28 sec a property is repossessed

Every 4 min 32 sec someone is declared insolvent or bankrupt

£1.222 billion was the daily value of all plastic card purchases made in December

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) predicts that total household debt will reach **£2.045 trillion** in Q1 2017.

- This would mean that average household debt would reach **£78,669** (assuming that the number of households in the UK remained the same between now and Q1 2017).

Net lending by UK Banks and Building Societies rose by **£1.8 billion** in total in January 2012.

- Net secured lending rose by £1.6 billion in the month.
- Net consumer credit lending rose by £0.1 billion.

UK Banks and Building Societies wrote-off **£6.9 billion** of loans to individuals over the 4 quarters to Q4 2011.

- In Q4 2011 itself they wrote-off £1.48 billion (of which £907 million was credit card debt) amounting to a daily write-off of **£16.23m**.

EVERYDAY IN THE UK

Based on the latest available data, Credit Action estimates that every day in the UK:

- **318** people are declared insolvent or bankrupt every day (based on Q4 2011 trends). This is equivalent to **1 person every 62 seconds** during each *working day*.
- **1,473** Consumer County Court Judgements (CCJs) are issued every day (based on Q4 2011 trends). The average value of a Consumer CCJ in Q4 2011 was **£2,949**.
- Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales dealt with **8,652** new debt problems every *working day* during the year ending September 2011.
- It costs an average of **£28.44** per day to raise a child from birth to the age of 21.
- **93** properties are repossessed every day (based on Q4 2011 trends).
- **82** new people a day became unemployed for over 12 months during the year ending December 2011.
- **1,797** people a day reported they had become redundant between October and December 2011.
- The Government's Public Sector Net Debt (including financial interventions) will grow by an average of **£212,100,000** today, equivalent to **£2,454** per second (based on January 2012 data).
- The Government pays an estimated **£137,750,000** of interest each day on the UK's Public Sector Net Debt of £2311.6bn (including financial interventions).
- **196** mortgage possession claims are issued and **149** mortgage possession orders are made every day
- **388** landlord possession claims are issued and **275** landlord possession orders are made every day.
- The UK population is projected to grow by **1,205 people a day** over the next decade.
- **25.9m** plastic card purchase transactions were made every day in December 2011 with a total value of **£1.222 billion**.
- **8.0m** cash withdrawals will be made daily with a total value of **£531m** (based on Q3 2011 trends).
- The average car costs **£18.33 per day** to run.
- It cost **£67.50** to fill a 50 litre tank with unleaded petrol in February.

NATIONAL STATISTICS

- The UK economy **contracted by 0.2%** in the fourth quarter of 2011, according to the most recent estimates from the Office of National Statistics.
- The number of unemployed people in the three months between October and December 2011 was **2.67 million** (8.4%). This is up by 48,000 from the previous three months, and up by 179,000 from a year earlier.
- **164,000** people (**1,797 a day**) reported they had become redundant over the three months. This is up by 17,000 from the previous three months, and also up by 17,000 from a year earlier.
- **860,000** people had been unemployed for over 12 months between October and December, a fall of 8,000 over the previous three months, but a rise of 30,000 (**82 a day**) from a year earlier.

SERVICING DEBT

- Based on *annual* figures to the end of September 2011, Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales are dealing with **8,652** new debt problems every *working day*.
- According to the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), **8,500** properties were taken into possession in Q4 2011 (this is down nearly 9% from 9,300 in Q3 2011, but up 5% from 8,100 in Q4 2010).
- This equates to **93** properties being repossessed every day, or one property being repossessed **every 15 minutes 28 seconds**.
- The Insolvency Service said there were **28,973** individual insolvencies in England and Wales in Q4 2011. This is equivalent to **318** people a day or, one person **every 4 minutes 32 seconds**.

PLASTIC CARDS AND PERSONAL LOANS

- Total credit card debt in January 2012 was **£55.5bn**.
- During December 2011 an average of **300** purchases were made in the UK every second using debit and credit cards, based on figures from the UK Cards Association.
- On a daily basis, purchases using plastic cards were worth **£1.222 billion** during December.

FOR MORE DETAILED FIGURES AND ADDITIONAL STATISTICS, DOWNLOAD A PDF OF THE FULL VERSION OF CREDIT ACTION'S MARCH 2012 DEBT STATISTICS FROM OUR WEBSITE

NOTES

Credit Action's Debt Statistics are compiled by John Davies (johndavies@creditation.org.uk).

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