

## DEBT STATISTICS – MAY 2012 SUMMARY

### UK PERSONAL DEBT

Outstanding personal debt stood at **£1.458 trillion** at the end of March 2012.

- This is up from £1.451 trillion at the end of March 2011.
- Individuals owed nearly as much as the entire country produced during the whole of 2011.

Outstanding secured (mortgage) lending stood at **£1.250 trillion** at the end of March 2012.

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

Outstanding unsecured (consumer credit) lending stood at **£208 billion** at the end of March 2012.

- This is down from £211 billion at the end of March 2011.

Average household debt in the UK (excluding mortgages) was **£7,903** in March.

- This up from a revised **£7,884** in February.

Average household debt in the UK (including mortgages) was **£55,436** in March.

- This is up from a revised **£55,384** in February.

The average amount owed per UK adult (including mortgages) was **£29,681** in March. This was around **123%** of average earnings.

Average consumer borrowing (including credit cards, motor and retail finance deals, overdrafts and unsecured loans) per UK adult was **£4,231** in March.

The estimated average outstanding mortgage for the 11.2m households that carry mortgage debt stood at **£111,419** in March.

Based on March 2012 trends, the UK's total interest repayments on personal debt over a 12 month period would have been **£62.8 billion**.

- This is equivalent to **£172 million** per day.
- This means that UK households would have paid an average of **£2,387** in annual interest repayments.

### STRIKING NUMBERS

**£55,436** was the average household debt (inc. mortgages) in March

**£172m** was the daily amount of interest paid on personal debt in March

**8,518** new debt problems were dealt with by the CAB each working day over the year to December

**1,907** people were made redundant every day between Dec and Feb

**883,000** people had been unemployed for over a year between Dec and Feb

**£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 35 sec** someone is declared insolvent or bankrupt

**£1.501 billion** was the daily value of all plastic card purchases made in February

**Statistical Note:** This month we started using a new estimate for the number of households in the UK. As a result some statistics may appear to have changed a lot if compared to last month, but this does not reflect any underlying trend.

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) predicts that total household debt will reach **£2.044 trillion** in Q1 2017.

- This would mean that average household debt would reach **£77,719** (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 **£1.4 billion** in total in March 2012.

- Net secured lending rose by £1.0 billion in the month.
- Net consumer credit lending rose by £0.4 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:

- **314** people are declared insolvent or bankrupt every day (based on Q1 2012 trends). This is equivalent to **1 person every 63 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 **8,518** new debt problems every *working day* during the year ending December 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).
- **104** new people a day became unemployed for over 12 months during the year ending February 2012.
- **1,907** people a day reported they had become redundant between December and February.
- The Government's Public Sector Net Debt (including financial interventions) will fall by an average of **£189,100,000** today, equivalent to **£2,188** per second (based on March 2012 data).
- The Government pays an estimated **£128,690,000** of interest each day on the UK's Public Sector Net Debt of £2181.0bn (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 growing by an estimated **1,342 people a day**.
- **30.4m** plastic card purchase transactions were made every day in February 2012 with a total value of **£1.501 billion**.
- **8.1m** cash withdrawals will be made daily with a total value of **£547m** (based on Q4 2011 trends).
- The average car costs **£18.33 per day** to run.
- It cost **£71.25** to fill a 50 litre tank with unleaded petrol in April.

## NATIONAL STATISTICS

- The UK economy **contracted by 0.2%** in the first quarter of 2012, according to preliminary estimates from the Office of National Statistics.
- The number of unemployed people in the three months between December 2011 and February 2012 was **2.65 million** (8.3%). This is down by 35,000 from the previous three months, but up by 172,000 from a year earlier.
- **174,000** people (**1,907 a day**) reported they had become redundant over the three months. This is up by 11,000 from the previous three months, and up by 47,000 from a year earlier.
- **883,000** people had been unemployed for over 12 months between December and February, a rise of 26,000 over the previous three months, and a rise of 38,000 (**104 a day**) from a year earlier.

## SERVICING DEBT

- Based on *annual* figures to the end of December 2011, Citizens Advice Bureaux in England and Wales are dealing with **8,518** 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 **28,723** individual insolvencies in England and Wales in Q1 2012. This is equivalent to **314** people a day or, one person **every 4 minutes 35 seconds**.

## PLASTIC CARDS AND PERSONAL LOANS

- Total credit card debt in March 2012 was **£55.3bn**.
- During February 2012 an average of **352** 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 **£1.501 billion** during February.

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

## NOTES

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

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