

**Labour Market Information
Unemployment**

<p>Claimant Count (Unemployment) (April 09 data)</p> <p><i>Steadily rising from historically low levels.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadly speaking, the claimant count in the city has been regularly rising since its historically low level achieved back in November 2007 (921 for a rate of 1.1%) It is now standing at 2,405, up 91 on the previous month and also up 1,374 on the figure for September 2007, when the downturn began. • In absolute terms, this is the highest volume since February 1999. • The monthly increase of 3.9% compares with a national rise of 2.4%. • The claimant count rate in the city now stands at 2.9% (2.8% last month), compared with 4.1% nationally.
<p>Age and Duration (April 09 data)</p> <p><i>JSA claimants tend to be middle aged and claiming for less than 6 months but numbers of younger claimants is on the rise.</i></p> <p><i>See table 1 for sought occupation See tables 4,5 and 6 for trends over the past 6 months.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33.2% of JSA claimants are aged 18-24 • 50.6% of JSA claimants are aged 25-49 • 13.9% of JSA claimants are aged over 50 <p>The age mix compared with one year ago confirms a slight shift towards 18-24 (30.8% in April 08).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82.0% of JSA claimants have been claiming for less than 6 months compared with 81.1% in April 2008. Numerically there has been an increase of 1,150 claimants of less than 6 months duration. • 13.8% have been claiming for 6-12 months. • 3.9% have been claiming for 1-2 years. • 0.3% have been claiming for over 2 years.
<p>Claimant Flows and Volumes (April 09 data)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claimant on-flows during April 2009 were 81.4% higher than for the same period in 2008. Regionally the increase was 87.6% and nationally the increase was 72.3%. • Off flows rose by 46.9% in April 2009 when compared with the same period last year. Regionally the increase was 65.4% and the nationally the increase was 47.1%.
<p>Incapacity Benefit (August 08 data) Latest information available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August 2008 there were around 1,080 IB only claimants in Exeter, representing 1.3% of the resident working age population. • This is a 3.6% decrease on May 2008 and a fall of 12.2% since August 2007.
<p>Income Support (August 08 data) Latest information available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August 2008, 1,170 people in Exeter were claiming Income Support (IS)/ Pension Credit (PC) only. • This is a 0.9% increase on May 2008, but a fall of 4.1% since August 2007.
<p>Lone Parents (November 08 data)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 1,070 lone parents claiming benefits in the city as of November 2008, around 1.3% of the resident working age population.

Vacancies and Employment

Vacancies Notified

(April 09 data)

See [table 2](#) & [3](#) for details of vacancies notified by occupation and Industry.

- There were 1,037 vacancies notified in Exeter during April 2009.
- This compares with 1,143 for April last year, a decrease of 9.3%.
- 798 (76.9%) of the vacancies notified in Exeter during April 2009 were for full-time positions while 239 (23.1%) were part-time posts.
- This compares with 861 FT (75.3%) positions and 282 PT (24.7%) for the same period last year.

Employment

(Q3 2008 data)

Relatively high employment rate.

- The employment rate for Exeter stood at 75.7% for Q3 2008.
- This figure was 75.4% the previous quarter and 72% in with the same period last year.
- The national (E&W) employment rate is currently 74.3%, South West (78.5%) and EHOD (81%).

CAB Enquiry Volume Data

Exeter Citizens Advice Bureau

Debt and welfare benefits enquiries have increased significantly between the last quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009.

April data shows a reduction in the number of enquiries relating to overdrafts, credit cards and loans

- There were 1,555 client enquiries relating to debt in Q1 2009, an increase of 81.9% on Q4 2008. (855).
- There were 458 client enquiries relating to debt in April 2009, a decrease of 24.8% on the record number of 609 enquiries made in March 2009.
- Of the debt related enquiries, 40.8% were concerned with overdrafts, credit card debt & unsecured loans and 2.4% for mortgage arrears (this compares with 46.5% and 3.4% in March).
- There were 1,146 client enquiries relating to welfare benefits in Q1 2009, an increase of 66.6% on the 688 enquiries recorded in the last quarter of 2008 whilst enquiries for April 09 reached 318 (+107 or 50.7%) compared with 211 a year ago.
- Disability living allowance benefits made up a little over a quarter of all welfare enquiries.

Company winding up/Bankruptcy Petition statistics

Insolvency proceedings

(1st Quarter 2009 data)

Caution: Note that these figures represent court activity and not the actual numbers of individual or business insolvencies. (see also [Notes](#)).

- There were 5 companies winding up in Q1 2009 in Exeter, with no percentage change in total since Q1 2008.
- There were 13 creditors bankruptcy petitions (again no change on Q1 2008).
- There were 166 debtors bankruptcy petitions, a 4% increase in total since Q1 2008.

Repossession statistics

Possessions orders (1st Quarter 2009 data)

Caution: figures should be used with care as they do not indicate how many properties have actually been repossessed. Repossession can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession. (see also [Notes](#)).

- 74 mortgage repossessions **claims** were issued in Q1 2009 (89 in Q4 2009), -24% on Q1 2008.
- A total of 384 mortgage repossessions **claims** have been issued since Q2 2008, about 3% less than claims levels for the same period Q2 2007-Q1 2008.
- 45 mortgage repossessions **orders** were made in Q1 2009 (82 in Q4 08), -44% on Q1 2008).
- There were a total of 327 mortgage repossessions **orders** made by the courts in Exeter between Q2 08 and Q1 09, an increase of 12% on the same period for 07-08, in line with the South West rate but slightly higher than the national average (9%).
- 129 landlord repossessions **orders** were made in Q1 2009, a decrease of -8% on 2008 levels, significantly higher than the regional and national decrease (both at -2%).

Housing statistics

Land Registry data (1st Quarter 2009 data)

This is the third consecutive fall on the overall average house price since Q2 2008. Exeter's average house prices still remain high and have yet to fall further to impact on earning ratio, currently standing at 8.5 times residential median full time earnings.

- The overall average house price for Exeter for **Q1 2009** stands at £180,400, a decrease of around 15.7% on Q1 2008 (£214,000). This is a little more than the decreases witnessed locally (-13.3%), regionally (-10.9%) and nationally (-9%).
- The *adjusted* average for Q1 2009 is £186,800, a decrease of around 16.4% on Q1 2008 (£223,400).
- Only 174 homes changed hands in Exeter during Q1 2009 compared to around 355 during Q1 2008, representing a 51% drop.
- Between Q1 2008 and Q1 2009, 1,496 properties changed hands in the city. This compares with 2,818 transactions between Q1 2007/08, a drop of 46.9%.
- Analysis reveals that the total value of properties sold in Exeter in Q1 2009 has significantly dropped compared with Q1 2008, from nearly £76M to just £31M. (-59.2%).

Notes:

Important note - Introduction of Mortgage Pre-Action Protocol (MPAP) on 19 November 2008

A new mortgage pre action protocol (MPAP), approved by the Master of the Rolls, was introduced for repossession claims in the County Courts with effect from 19 November 2008. The MPAP gives clear guidance on what the courts expect lenders and borrowers to have done prior to a claim being issued.

Evidence from administrative records from October to December 2008 suggests that this date coincided with a fall of around 50% in the daily and weekly numbers of new mortgage repossession claims being issued in the courts.

It therefore seems highly likely that the launch of the MPAP has led to a marked fall in the number of new claims being issued during the latter part of the period covered by this bulletin. However, given the apparent cause, users should exercise caution in drawing broader inferences from the fall in mortgage repossession claims issued in Q4 2008.

Mortgage repossession orders are typically made (where necessary) around 8 weeks after the corresponding claims are issued. For this reason, the impact of the MPAP is yet to have visible effect on the statistics on repossession orders made. However, we would expect this occur during the early months of 2009.

At this early stage is not clear to what extent the launch of the MPAP has led to a permanent fall in the numbers of new mortgage repossession claims being issued, as opposed to some merely being postponed. This will become clearer as statistics for 2009 are published.

More details about the protocol can be viewed using the link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/civil/procrules_fin/contents/protocols/prot_mha.htm

Company winding up and bankruptcy petition statistics:

1. This is a National Statistics publication produced by the Ministry of Justice. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

2. No assumption should be made from these statistics about the number of companies that go into liquidation, or the number of individuals made bankrupt. The figures published by the Ministry of Justice show the number of company winding-up petitions and bankruptcy petitions presented to the court. This information is taken from court administrative systems and is different to the quarterly statistics published by the Insolvency Service. The Insolvency Service figures, showing the number of company winding-up orders and bankruptcy orders, are derived from administrative records of the BERR Insolvency Service and Companies House Executive Agencies. The statistics published by the Insolvency Service can be found using the link: www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm

3. The 2009 Q1 figures are provisional and therefore liable to revision to take account of any late amendments.

4. Percentage changes are not provided where there are less than 20 observations in the past period.

5. **Insolvency:** A company or individual with debts that they are unable to pay is said to be 'insolvent'.

6. **Company winding up:** When it becomes necessary to terminate a company's existence, whether owing to insolvency or for some other reason, the process is called 'winding up'.

7. There is a restriction on proceedings that may be commenced in county courts, which is based on the paid-up capital of the company. Well over half of winding up proceedings are commenced and handled in the Chancery Division of the High Court at the Royal Courts of Justice in London and at the eight provincial High Court centres. These centres are flagged [□] in Tables 2 and 3.

8. Company winding up proceedings will normally be commenced at the court centre local to the **registered office** of the company, which will not necessarily be situated in the same geographical area as the company's base or operational area. The relative regional levels of winding-up activity do not therefore necessarily reflect the geographical distribution of the companies involved.

9. **Individual bankruptcy:** Being bankrupt means you are or have been subjected to a bankruptcy order. A court makes a bankruptcy order only after a petition has been presented.

10. Proceedings for bankruptcy can be commenced at county courts with the appropriate jurisdiction, or in the Chancery Division of the High Court, either by a **creditor** (the person to whom the debt is owed) or by a **debtor** (the person who owes the debt).

Current and previous editions of this publication are available for download at:
www.justice.gov.uk/publications/companywindingupandbankruptcy.htm

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Sources:

Nomis, Crown Copyright, Ministry of Justice-Q1 2009 Mortgage & Landlord Possessions statistics, Express and Echo, SWRDA Economics Review Issue 16-2nd quarter.

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Table 1. Claimant count by Sought Occupation, Apr08/Apr09

Occupation	April 2008		April 2009	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
0 : Occupation unknown	0	0.0%	5	0.2%
1 : Managers and Senior Officials	35	3.5%	115	4.8%
2 : Professional Occupations	30	3.0%	80	3.3%
3 : Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	40	4.0%	140	5.8%
4 : Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	105	10.4%	310	12.9%
5 : Skilled Trades Occupations	115	11.4%	285	11.9%
6 : Personal Service Occupations	60	6.0%	135	5.6%
7 : Sales and Customer Service occupations	155	15.4%	390	16.3%
8 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	85	8.5%	225	9.4%
9 : Elementary Occupations	380	37.8%	715	29.8%
Total	1,005	100%	2,400	100%

Source: ONS Crown Copyright

Table 2. Vacancies notified by Occupation, Apr08/Apr09

Sought Occupation	April 2008		April 2009	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
1 : Managers and Senior Officials	63	5.5%	70	6.8%
2 : Professional Occupations	19	1.7%	92	8.9%
3 : Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	118	10.3%	278	26.8%
4 : Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	214	18.7%	150	14.5%
5 : Skilled Trades Occupations	80	7.0%	61	5.9%
6 : Personal Service Occupations	76	6.6%	68	6.6%
7 : Sales and Customer Service occupations	209	18.3%	142	13.7%
8 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	98	8.6%	37	3.6%
9 : Elementary Occupations	266	23.3%	139	13.4%
Total	1,143	100%	1,037	100%

Source: ONS Crown Copyright

Table 3. Vacancies notified by Industry, Mar08/Mar09

Industry	April 2008		April 2009	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
1 : Agriculture and fishing (SIC A,B)	0	0.0%	15	1.4%
2 : Energy and water (SIC C,E)	29	2.5%	11	1.1%
3 : Manufacturing (SIC D)	38	3.3%	9	0.9%
4 : Construction (SIC F)	17	1.5%	30	2.9%
5 : Distribution, hotels and restaurants (SIC G,H)	170	14.9%	124	12.0%
6 : Transport and communications (SIC I)	19	1.7%	5	0.5%
7 : Banking, finance and insurance, etc (SIC J,K)	558	48.8%	436	42.0%
8 : Public administration, education & health (SIC L,M,N)	278	24.3%	243	23.4%
9 : Other services (SIC O,P,Q)	34	3.0%	164	15.8%
Total	1,143	100%	1,037	100%

Source: ONS Crown Copyright. (2003 Standard Industrial Classification, Broad Industrial Groups)

Table 4. Trends in Claimant count by Sought Occupation, Oct08/Apr09

Claimant Sought Occupation	Oct08	Nov08	Dec08	Jan09	Feb09	Mar09	Apr09
0 : Occupation Unknown	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
1 : Managers and Senior Officials	3.9%	4.2%	4.5%	4.9%	4.8%	5.0%	4.8%
2 : Professional Occupations	4.6%	4.5%	3.6%	3.6%	3.9%	3.0%	3.3%
3 : Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	5.3%	5.8%	5.7%	5.5%	6.4%	6.3%	5.8%
4 : Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	12.3%	11.5%	11.4%	11.8%	11.8%	12.1%	12.9%
5 : Skilled Trades Occupations	11.3%	12.2%	13.3%	13.2%	13.2%	12.4%	11.9%
6 : Personal Service Occupations	6.3%	6.4%	6.6%	6.6%	5.9%	6.1%	5.6%
7 : Sales and Customer Service occupations	14.4%	14.4%	14.8%	15.1%	15.0%	15.6%	16.3%
8 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	8.8%	9.6%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%	9.1%	9.4%
9 : Elementary Occupations	32.7%	31.1%	30.7%	30.1%	29.6%	29.7%	29.8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: ONS Crown Copyright

Table 5. Trends in Vacancies notified by Occupation, Oct08/Mar09

Vacancies Sought Occupation	Oct08	Nov08	Dec08	Jan09	Feb09	Mar09	Apr09
0 : Occupation Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
1 : Managers and Senior Officials	4.9%	4.6%	5.9%	13.0%	4.1%	5.1%	6.8%
2 : Professional Occupations	3.1%	4.2%	5.2%	4.4%	4.6%	3.4%	8.9%
3 : Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	8.2%	12.6%	11.9%	12.1%	12.4%	21.4%	26.8%
4 : Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	7.8%	9.2%	11.1%	9.5%	16.6%	9.7%	14.5%
5 : Skilled Trades Occupations	6.1%	5.3%	7.0%	6.6%	5.4%	5.9%	5.9%
6 : Personal Service Occupations	6.9%	8.2%	10.0%	8.2%	13.9%	17.4%	6.6%
7 : Sales and Customer Service occupations	25.4%	24.8%	16.3%	16.6%	16.4%	18.2%	13.7%
8 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	4.1%	10.3%	10.9%	6.2%	11.0%	6.6%	3.6%
9 : Elementary Occupations	33.6%	20.9%	21.8%	23.4%	15.5%	12.3%	13.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: ONS Crown Copyright

Table 6. Trends in Vacancies notified by Industry, Oct08/Mar09

Vacancies by Industry	Oct08	Nov08	Dec08	Jan09	Feb09	Mar09	Apr09
1 : Agriculture and fishing (SIC A,B)	0.0%	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%	1.2%	4.7%	1.4%
2 : Energy and water (SIC C,E)	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	1.1%	0.4%	0.2%	1.1%
3 : Manufacturing (SIC D)	1.0%	1.4%	0.2%	0.7%	6.8%	0.9%	0.9%
4 : Construction (SIC F)	2.9%	3.3%	0.8%	1.3%	3.8%	1.7%	2.9%
5 : Distribution, hotels and restaurants (SIC G,H)	21.7%	20.1%	15.0%	12.1%	10.1%	8.2%	12.0%
6 : Transport and communications (SIC I)	16.2%	3.0%	2.4%	4.0%	1.8%	3.9%	0.5%
7 : Banking, finance and insurance, etc (SIC J,K)	39.7%	57.3%	60.9%	60.0%	55.8%	59.2%	42.0%
8 : Public administration, education & health (SIC L,M,N)	10.2%	9.1%	17.8%	15.0%	11.8%	16.4%	23.4%
9 : Other services (SIC O,P,Q)	8.2%	5.1%	2.3%	5.7%	8.3%	4.8%	15.8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: ONS Crown Copyright