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## COMPANY WINDING UP AND BANKRUPTCY PETITION COURT STATISTICS FOR THIRD QUARTER 2006

The Department for Constitutional Affairs today publishes statistics for company winding up, and creditors' and debtors' bankruptcy petitions issued in the High Court and county courts of England and Wales during the third quarter of 2006.

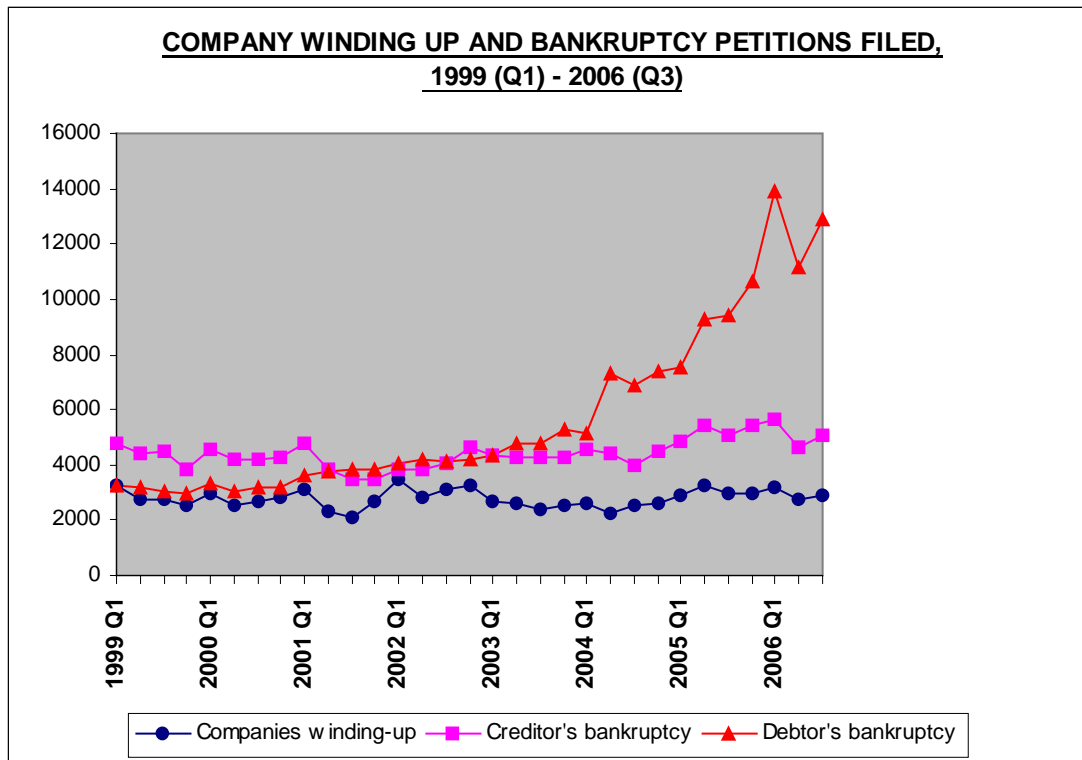
In the third quarter of 2006 the following number of petitions were issued:

- 2,877 *company winding up petitions* - a decrease of 3% on the petitions in the same quarter of 2005;
- 5,099 *creditors' petitions* – an increase of 0.2% on the petitions in the same quarter of 2005;
- 12,923 *debtors' petitions* - an increase of 37% on the petitions in the same quarter of 2005.

Table 1 (see pg. 3 below) shows the number of company windings up, and creditors' and debtors' bankruptcy petitions issued for each year by quarter, since 1999.

A breakdown of the figures by county court, county and region for the third quarter of 2006 and the corresponding figures for 2005 appears in Table 2. A similar breakdown for the first three quarters of 2006 and 2005 appears in Table 3. (Both tables 2 & 3 are available online at <http://www.dca.gov.uk/statistics/cjust.htm#part2>).

Figures on insolvency petitions are published on a quarterly basis. The publication date for the figures covering the fourth quarter of 2006 will be Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2007.



### Notes for Editors

- No assumption can 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 Department of Constitutional Affairs show the number of company winding-up petitions and bankruptcy petitions presented to the court. This information is different to the quarterly statistics published by the Insolvency Service, which show the number of company winding-up orders (compulsory liquidations) and bankruptcy orders made by the court, these can be found at <http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm>
- INSOLVENCY:** - A company or individual with debts that they are unable to pay is said to be 'insolvent'.
- 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'.
- 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 [X] in Table 2 & 3
- 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- Any further media enquiries on this news release should be directed to Paul Halford at the DCA Press Office on Tel. 020 7210 1398 or 8695. Any public enquiries should be made on Tel. 020 7210 8846 or 8818.

**INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY PETITIONS FILED**

Table 1

Year	Quarter	Companies winding-up petitions	Creditors bankruptcy petitions	Debtors bankruptcy petitions
1999	1	3 294	4 748	3 230
	2	2 748	4 433	3 221
	3	2 748	4 466	3 006
	4	2 525	3 849	2 936
		<hr/> 11 315	<hr/> 17 496	<hr/> 12 393
2000	1	2 940	4 546	3 314
	2	2 560	4 166	3 074
	3	2 699	4 229	3 158
	4	2 829	4 279	3 211
		<hr/> 11 028	<hr/> 17 220	<hr/> 12 757
2001	1	3 124	4 775	3 633
	2	2 333	3 866	3 742
	3	2 127	3 444	3 806
	4	2 681	3 486	3 803
		<hr/> 10 265	<hr/> 15 571	<hr/> 14 984
2002	1	3 448	3 857	4 022
	2	2 837	3 803	4 206
	3	3 092	4 069	4 105
	4	3 257	4 601	4 174
		<hr/> 12 634	<hr/> 16 330	<hr/> 16 507
2003	1	2 650	4 366	4 357
	2	2 577	4 271	4 776
	3	2 385	4 320	4 922
	4	2 534	4 301	5 268
		<hr/> 10 146	<hr/> 17 258	<hr/> 19 323
2004	1	2 617	4 555	5 124
	2	2 233	4 422	7 337
	3	2 542	3 980	6 901
	4	2 614	4 502	7 414
		<hr/> 10 006	<hr/> 17 459	<hr/> 26 776
2005	1	2 892	4 861	7 528
	2	3 229	5 419	9 285
	3	2 977	5 087	9 418
	4	3 001	5 410	10 666
		<hr/> 12 099	<hr/> 20 777	<hr/> 36 897
2006	1	3 150	5 615	13 897
	2	2 748	4 649	11 147
	3	2 877	5 099	12 923

**ENDS**