



News release

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LENDERS RUSH TO JUDGMENT IN 2009

Lenders have seen increasing merits in registering judgments in 2009 according to figures released today (May 13 2009) from Irish Judgments.

Nearly €100 millions worth of debt was registered by lenders at the Four Courts in Dublin between January and March this year. Of this €51 million was against consumers and €41 millions against businesses.

This compares with €15 million registered in the first quarter of 2008, divided two-thirds/one-third between consumers and businesses.

The numbers of judgments registered at the Four Courts tell a similar if less dramatic tale. A total of 1390 judgments was registered in the first quarter of 2009 compared with 800 in the same period of 2008.

The increase in lenders' use of the courts and of registration in particular has been paralleled in public interest.

The number of people searching the judgment information held on the registers rose sixfold comparing quarters. More people carried out searches in the first quarter of 2009 (827) than in the whole of 2008 (753).

A major factor was that consumers can now search online. The not for profit company Registry Trust, which operates Irish Judgments, introduced [trustonline](http://www.trustonline.org.uk) (www.trustonline.org.uk) in the fourth quarter of 2008. It has proved exceptionally popular accounting for 790 out of the 827 searches in the first quarter of 2009.

Announcing the statistics, the chairman of Registry Trust, Malcolm Hurlston, said:
 "Lenders and consumers agree how important it is to register judgments and to use judgment information in determining future access to credit.

"It will take time for the economy to come right. In the meantime we can expect more judgments to be registered and increasing numbers of people checking with the register before undertaking transactions. Who wants to run the risk of trading with someone with a bad judgment record?"

"We are delighted to have introduced trustonline at this time, when easy access to judgment information is important as never before. Through trustonline enquirers can have access not only to judgments registered at the Four Courts, but other court judgments and - as necessary - similar information from the United Kingdom, Jersey and the Isle of Man.

"The service is fast and inexpensive and open to all."

Table 1: Registered Judgment amounts

Quarter	Consumer (€000)	Commercial		Total (€000)	Quarter Change (%)
		Corporate (€000)	Non-Corporate (€000)		
Q1 2008	9,727	3,592	1,399	14,718	-49.5%
Q2 2008	12,356	4,292	1,867	18,515	25.8%
Q3 2008	14,768	6,581	1,904	23,253	25.6%
Q4 2008	20,240	10,323	2,524	33,087	42.3%
Q1 2009	50,945	10,369	30,349	91,663	177.0%

Table 2: Registered Judgment numbers

Quarter	Consumer	Commercial		Total	Quarter Change (%)
		Corporate	Non-Corporate		
Q1 2008	544	162	94	800	3.0%
Q2 2008	1,096	235	129	1,460	82.5%
Q3 2008	732	203	121	1,056	-27.7%
Q4 2008	896	293	142	1,331	26.0%
Q1 2009	854	358	178	1,390	4.4%

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Notes to editors:

Registry Trust is a non-profit company established in 1986 which operates registers of judgments in Ireland and the British Isles. These records are an important factor in avoiding debt and in supporting responsible lending decisions, which in turn underpin a modern and stable economy.

It collects Irish Judgment information both from the Four Courts – where lenders have chosen to pay for judgment registration – and from courts throughout the country.

Anyone may search for entries against a named person or business at a stated address or a corporate body in any of the jurisdictions covered via Registry Trust's website www.trustonline.org.uk or by post to Irish Judgments, 2nd Floor, 13 Baggot Street, Business Reply, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.