



## News release

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### RECORD JUDGMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN 2009

In the wake of the credit crunch, court judgments for debt in Northern Ireland reached record levels in the first quarter of 2009, according to figures released today (May 21 2009) by Registry Trust, the non-profit that collects judgment information from Northern Ireland and other jurisdictions in the British Isles and Ireland.

There were 2,909 judgments against people and businesses between January and March, up by two-thirds compared with the first three months of 2008.

The total value of the judgments was a record £5.8 millions, just under ten percent higher than in the first quarter of 2008.

The increase in judgments is paralleled in rising public interest in the register, with a total of 909 searches in the first three months of 2009, almost three times as many as the first quarter of 2008 (307). The main reason is the launch of the website [www.trustonline.org.uk](http://www.trustonline.org.uk), which makes judgment information available to the public instantly online for a small fee. Trustonline already accounts for 86 percent of all searches of the register.

Announcing the statistics, Malcolm Hurlston, chairman of Registry Trust, said, "Judgment records are crucial to both lenders and consumers. The rise in judgments is evidence that, in a worsening economic environment, creditors are increasingly turning to the courts to get their money back.

“At the same time it is now more important than ever for consumers to use the register to check those they may be doing business with. With trustonline it has never been easier”

**Table 1: Northern Ireland judgment numbers**

Quarter	Judgments	Quarter Change (%)
Q1 2008	1,763	-19.5%
Q2 2008	2,772	57.2%
Q3 2008	2,395	-13.6%
Q4 2008	2,466	3.0%
Q1 2009	2,909	18.0%

**Table 2: Northern Ireland judgment amounts**

Quarter	Judgments (£000)	Quarter Change (%)
Q1 2008	5,284	39.8%
Q2 2008	4,977	-5.8%
Q3 2008	4,897	-1.6%
Q4 2008	5,701	16.4%
Q1 2009	5,751	0.9%

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**Notes to editors:**

Registry Trust is a non-profit company established in 1986. It maintains public records of judgment and decree information for most jurisdictions in the British Isles and Ireland. These records are an important factor in avoiding debt and in supporting responsible lending decisions, which in turn underpin a modern and stable economy.

Anyone may search for entries against a named person or business at a stated address or a corporate body in the United Kingdom or the republic of Ireland by submitting a request either via Registry Trust's website [www.trustonline.org.uk](http://www.trustonline.org.uk) or by post to Registry Trust, 173-175 Cleveland Street, London W1T 6QR.