



TrustOnline

News release

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Fall in judgments is good news for NI economy

There was welcome news for Northern Ireland's economy this week as statistics from Registry Trust revealed significant decreases in the number and value of default and small claims judgments.

Registry Trust is the non-profit organisation which collects judgment information from jurisdictions across the British Isles and Ireland. All judgment records collected are made available for the public to search at www.trustonline.org.uk. A judgment record held against a business or individual shows failure to pay and can therefore serve as a simple indicator of creditworthiness.

Registry Trust statistics show that the total value of default and small claims judgments in Northern Ireland fell to £4.144m in the third quarter of 2013, down by nearly half a million (10.7 percent) from the previous quarter and £1.213m (22.6 percent) compared with the third quarter of 2012.

The total number of default and small claims judgments decreased to 2,050, a quarterly fall of over 20 percent and a year-on-year reduction of over 14 percent. The average judgment value stood at £2,021 in Q3 2013, down £209 (9.4 percent) compared with the same period last year.

The news is also good for High Court judgments. After spiking to £21.573m in the first quarter of 2013, the total value of these judgments fell markedly to £6.609m in the latest quarter, a decrease of just under 70 percent. Percentages can be unduly influenced by individual cases given the small numbers of High Court judgments. There were 72 High Court judgments in Q3 2013, compared with 127 in Q3 2012.

Releasing the statistics Trust chairman Malcolm Hurlston CBE commented: "We can now report a clear downward trend in the debt problems of both people and businesses in N Ireland. This gives strong hope for further economic recovery."

Last quarter a total of 4,363 search requests about judgments registered in Northern Ireland were received by the online database, demonstrating the wide interest in judgment data.

For more information please contact

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Notes to editors

Registry Trust is a non-profit company established in 1985. 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.

It operates the Register of Judgments, Orders and Fines for England and Wales on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. The Register includes county court judgments, high court judgments, CSA liability orders, fine defaults and tribunal awards for England and Wales.

Anyone may search for entries against a named person or business at a stated address or a corporate body in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by visiting Registry Trust's website www.trustonline.org.uk or by writing to Registry Trust, 153-157 Cleveland Street, London W1T 6QW.