






Economic Overview of Harrogate district

2010/11
November 2010

TREND: 😊 Positive 😐 Neutral 😞 Poor 😡 Very poor

Position at end of Quarter 2, 1 July - 30 September 2010, and annual comparison.

	Quarter 1 2010/11	Quarter 1 2009/10	Trend, 10/11 v 09/10	Narrative and annual comparison
Labour Market and Benefits				
Unemployment - JSA claimant* rate, September 2010	1.8 % (1,776)	2.2 % (2,163)	😊	The annual decrease in claimants, by 387 people or 17.9%, continues the positive trend noted in Quarter 1. The Harrogate district saw the largest annual decrease in claimant rate in North Yorkshire.
Unfilled Jobcentre vacancies / JSA claimants per job vacancy, September 2010	n/a	n/a	😐	Jobcentre vacancy data for September 2011 is currently unavailable – problems have been identified with the source data supplied by DWP and publication of data is therefore suspended.
Highest / Lowest ward JSA rate, September 2010	3.7% (153 / 0.4% (10)	4.8% (171) / 0.9% (28)	😊	Reflecting the district wide reduction in claimant rate, ward rates have also seen an annual decrease. The differential between the highest and lowest ward rate has also reduced, from 3.9% points in 2009 to 3.3% points in 2010.
Council Tax Benefit Claimants at Quarter end	9,081	8,622	😐	An annual comparison shows an increase of 459 claimants, or 5.3%. On a positive note the rate of increase is lower than that in Quarter 1, which saw a rise of 598 claimants, or 7%. Since Quarter 1, 2010/11, the number of claimants has risen by 100 or 1.1%.
Housing Benefit Claimants at Quarter end	7,028	6,726	😐	The annual increase in Housing Benefit claims at 302, or 4.5%, is less than that seen for Council Tax Benefit and a lower rate of annual increase than experienced in Quarter 1 (6.5%).
Development Activity				
HBC Sites & Premises, total enquiries received	129	137	😐	Whilst the number of enquiries has reduced, by 8 or 5.8%, it's encouraging to note the rate of decrease has 'slowed' from Quarter 1 (24 or 16%). Given the extent of recent national policy changes, and a challenging worldwide economic climate the data suggests business and investor confidence in the property market remains cautious.
Planning applications, total received	553	514	😊	The rise in planning applications, by 39 or 7.6%, continues the increase noted since Quarter 4, 2009/10 and is an encouraging indicator of renewed confidence amongst householders and developers.
HBC Workspace vacancy rate, at end of quarter	21.9%	23.6%	😊	Vacancy rates have continued to experience a slight annual decrease, by 1.7% points, and have remained at @20% over the past year.
Vacant retail premises (average across district at quarter end)	10.8 %	10.0 %	😐	The 0.8% point annual increase in the district's retail vacancy rate is principally affected by the changes seen in Pateley Bridge, where an additional 2 units have become unoccupied.

	Quarter 1 2010/11	Quarter 1 2009/10	Trend, 10/11 v 09/10	Narrative and annual comparison
Residential property sales (total in quarter) * data is provisional	565*	450		Residential property sales have continued to increase over the year, with provisional data showing a rise of 115 dwellings or 25.6%. Total sales are beginning to reflect the level of activity experienced in 2008 (537 sales in Quarter 2 of 2008-09).
Visitor Economy				
TIC total visitor numbers: Harrogate, Knaresborough, Ripon and Pateley Bridge	79,563	83,882		Overall visitor numbers show an annual decrease of 4,319 or 5%, a contrast to the 7.8% increase reported in Quarter 1. However, it is important to note that visitor numbers for August 2009, at 35,090, were exceptional - a reflection of the good weather and trend for 'staycation' (27,882 August 2008, 30,439 in August 2010). The overall trend remains positive, with an additional 138 or 0.1% of visitors in April - September 2010, compared to the same six months in 2009.
HBC Car parking revenue, total in Quarter 2, on & off street	£1,122,000	£1,127,000		An annual comparison shows a £5,000 (0.4%) decrease in revenue, a continuation of the reduction seen in the previous two quarters. Encouragingly, the amount of decrease has noticeably reduced, from an average of £20,000, or 2.0%, in Quarter 4, 2009/10 and Quarter 1, 2010/11. Reflecting TIC visitor numbers, income from car parking in Quarter 2, 2009/10 was noticeably higher than the same period in 2008, at an additional £53,000 or 4.9%, and this should be taken into account when comparing data.
HBC Sport and Leisure facilities - total visitor numbers	406,439	419,986		Visitor numbers saw an annual reduction of 13,547 or 3.2%, a contrast to the @10% increase noted in Quarter 1. A variety of factors contributed to this, including changes to bookings and a temporary loss of facilities due to maintenance and refurbishment.
HBC Museums and Arts - total visitor numbers	51,586	49,911		Continuing the trend seen throughout 2009/10, visitor numbers have continued to increase, with an annual rise of 1,675 or 3.4%.

Source: EDU, Department of Development Services, Harrogate Borough Council, November 2010 *Provisional data.

Note: Data on reported job losses / jobs created and Housing Completions is currently unavailable.