
















Economic Overview of Harrogate district

2010/11
July 2010

TREND:  Positive  Neutral  Poor  Very poor

Position at end of Quarter 1, 1 Apr - 30 Jun 2010, and annual comparison.
Report for information, CMT 26 August 2010

	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, June 2010	1.9% (1,821)	2.1% (2,024)		For the first time since January 2009 the district's JSA claimant rate has fallen to below 2.0%, from a peak of 2.4% in January 2010. This decrease is seen across North Yorkshire and is also reflected in a lower claimant count for Great Britain of 3.8%, from above 4.4% in June 2009.
Unfilled Jobcentre vacancies / JSA claimants per job vacancy, June 2010	1,118 / 1.6	764 / 2.6		The 46% increase in Jobcentre vacancies is a positive indicator and reverses the downward trend noted in 2009, and reported in Q4 2009/10.
Highest / Lowest ward JSA rate, June 2010	3.8% (141) / 0.3% (7)	4.2% (151) / 0.6% (13)		Reflecting the district wide reduction in JSA claimant rate, both the highest and lowest ward rates have decreased. However, the differential between the two rates remains unchanged at 3.5 percentage points. As in June 2009, the Low Harrogate ward experiences the highest rate of unemployment and Nidd Valley the lowest.
Council Tax Benefit Claimants at Quarter end	8,981	8,383		An annual comparison shows a 7% (598) rise in Council Tax Benefit claimants and continues the trend noted in 2009/10.
Housing Benefit Claimants at Quarter end	6,990	6,566		As with Council Tax Benefit, the number of Housing Benefit claimants has risen over the past year, with an increase of 6.5% (424). Data for the first three months of 2010/11 indicates a slowing down in the rate of growth, with a 0.6% increase in total caseload compared to more than 1% for the same period in 2009/10.
Development Activity				
HBC Sites & Premises, total enquiries received in Q1	123	147		Sites and Premises enquiries reduced by 16% over the year (24), indicating business confidence remains low. This may be a reflection of the uncertainty generated by the General Election in May. However, news in July on the restart of major commercial developments in Leeds suggests a return of investor confidence, which may be shown in local data for Q2 and Q3.
Planning applications, total received in Q1	611	525		A positive indicator has been the 16% (86) rise in planning applications, continuing the increase noted in the previous quarter (Q4, 2009/10). Whilst still below the numbers experienced prior to the 'economic downturn' of late 2008 these early indicators remain encouraging.
HBC Workspace vacancy rate, at end of quarter	15.1%	22.8%		The letting of units in Summerbridge, Pateley Bridge and Knaresborough has resulted in a 7.7% point annual decrease in the vacancy rate. This continues the reduction in vacancies noted in Q4 2009/10 and demonstrates the value of providing local workspace and employment opportunities.

	Quarter 1 2010/11	Quarter 1 2009/10	Trend, 10/11 v 09/10	Narrative and annual comparison
Vacant retail premises (average across district at quarter end)	10.9 %	8.9 %		Retail vacancies have continued to rise over the past year, continuing a trend noted in previous quarterly overviews. The increase of 2 percentage points represents an additional 11 vacant units plus a further 11 units no longer in the total 'stock'. Most notable is the significant increase in Pateley Bridge, from 2.4% to 9.8%, with 3 additional units becoming vacant.
<i>Residential property sales (total in quarter) * data is provisional</i>	403*	316		Residential property sales have experienced a 28% (87) increase in the past year, sustaining the upward trend first noted in Q3 of 2009/10.
Visitor Economy				
TIC total visitor numbers in Q1: Harrogate, Knaresborough, Ripon and Pateley Bridge	61,342	56,885		The 7.8% annual increase (4,457) in visitor numbers reinforces the popularity of the district as a destination and continues the rise in visitor numbers experienced throughout 2009.
HBC Car parking revenue, total in Q1, on & off street	£1,060,000	£1,080,000		The £20,000 (1.9%) decrease in revenue continues the reduction noted in the previous quarter (a decrease of £21,000, 2.1%).
HBC Sport and Leisure facilities – visitor numbers, total in Q1	230,121	209,751		The near 10% increase in visitor numbers (20,370) is in marked contrast to the decrease experienced throughout 2009/10 (8.6% annual reduction).
HBC Museums and Arts – visitor numbers, total in Q1	23,636	23,607		Visitor numbers in Q1 show a slight annual increase of 0.1% (29). This initial data continues the significant rise experienced in 2009/10 (12.2% annual increase), but at a reduced rate.

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

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