



## **Press Release**

31 March 2010

### **Many still in the red as the green shoots of economic recovery start to show**

According to research carried out by the British Banker's Association, £1.3bn in consumer loans was issued in February 2010, which is an increase of £100m on the previous month and the highest on record since September 2009.

The Bank of England's figures also showed an increase in the amount of unsecured debt taken on by consumers during February, which rose by £528m. Within this total, credit card debt rose by £374m, a level not seen since November 2008, while borrowing through loans and overdrafts also reached a 15-month high of £154m.

David Rodger, Managing Director of Debt Advice Foundation comments: "The easing of the purse strings by UK banks is good news for the economy but we must make sure that we've learnt our lessons and that we don't return to the bad old days of papering over the cracks by borrowing against the value of our homes and living beyond our means."

"Let's not forget that the desperate need for impartial debt advice hasn't gone away, with much of the third sector turning people away after being unable to cope with a 28 percent jump in demand. As a charity, Debt Advice Foundation offers a free, confidential [debt helpline](#) to anyone worried about debt; importantly, we also aim to prevent future debt problems through our research and financial education initiatives in UK school."

Those who need help with debt problems can visit [www.debtadvicefoundation.org/help](http://www.debtadvicefoundation.org/help) or call Debt Advice Foundation on 0800 043 40 50 for free advice and support

## **Ends**

Further information:

Contact the press office on 0800 779 71 36 / 0788 973 60 44 or email  
pressoffice@debtadvicefoundation.org

## **Editors Notes**

### **About Debt Advice Foundation**

- Debt Advice Foundation's telephone helpline service is available six days a week on 0800 043 40 50, lines are open from 8am-8pm Mon-Fri and 9am – 5pm on Saturdays.
- Debt Advice Foundation is a registered charity, with the following objectives:
  - Provide free, impartial and appropriate advice to people with unaffordable debt.
  - Help people with debt problems to gain free access to solutions that will help them.
  - Promote the education of young people in money management so as to reduce the likelihood they will mis-use debt later in their lives.
  - Undertake or fund research to understand why problem debt happens and its effect on individuals, families and the wider UK economy.
  - To use this evidence to become a force for beneficial change within the credit and debt solutions industry and to work with government to bring about legislative change to benefit UK consumers.
- Debt Advice Foundation features on the FSA (Financial Services Authority) consumer website – Money Made Clear ([www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk](http://www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk)) and Direct Gov ([www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)) as a source of free and impartial debt advice.