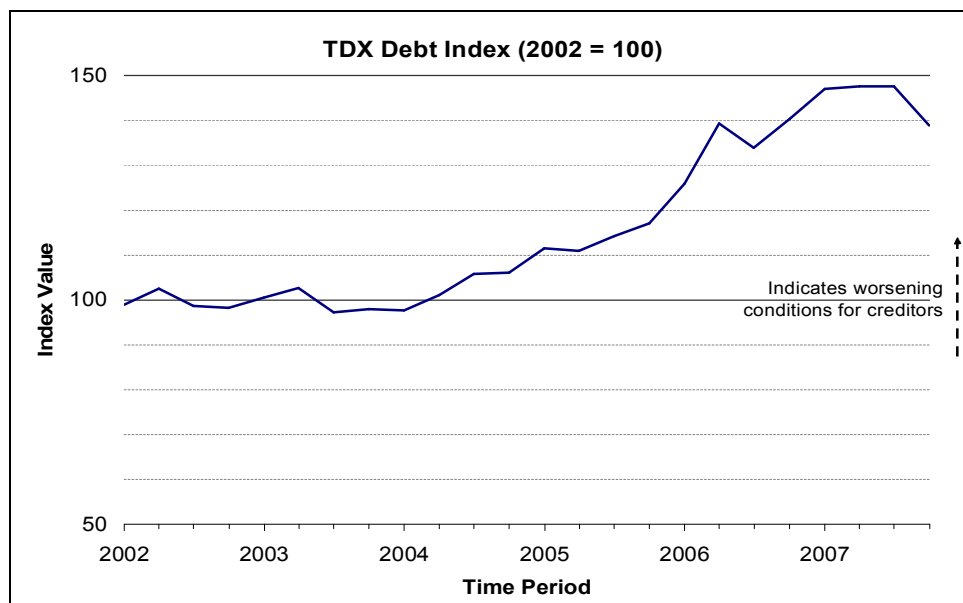


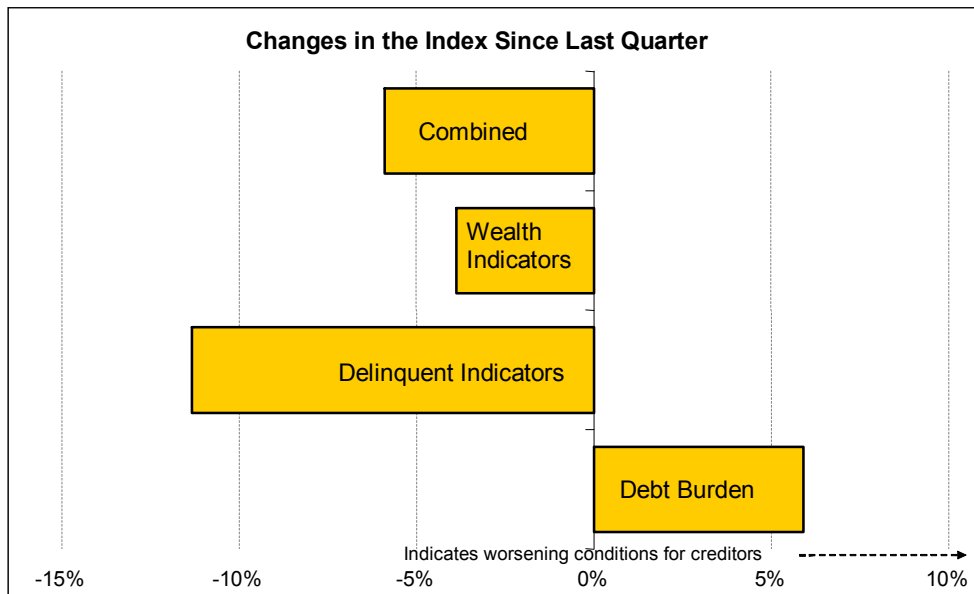
TDX Group Debt Index drops for the first time since Q3 2006

Reduction of insolvencies and unsecured write-off rates are causes of fall

For the first quarter since Q3 2006 the TDX Group Debt Index has dropped, representing marginally improved conditions for creditors. The 6% decrease in Q4 2007 was largely driven by improved write-off rates on unsecured lending along with continued reductions in the numbers of insolvencies; the write-off rate indicator is known to be particularly volatile and it is certainly too early to read this quarters improvements as a trend.

The improvements in the index mask underlying worsening in the interbank lending rate and a slowing in the increase of secured property value. TDX Group expects both of these factors to negatively impact the TDX Debt Index over the next quarter. The impact of the global "Credit Crunch" is reflected in the continuing rise in the cost-of-servicing component of the Debt Index, although this component continues to rise sharply its low weighting means it has not overly influenced the Index.





* Based on data trends through the end of Q3 2007

About The Debt Index

The Debt Index has been developed by TDX Group to represent the impact of current macroeconomic and credit sector factors on creditors' efforts to collect on their outstanding balances. The index is based on 2002 = 100 and has been calibrated such that a rise in the index value represents worsening conditions from a creditor's perspective. The index comprises of a number of macroeconomic variables and industry performance measures which are weighted based on their predicted impact. Each variable is assigned to one of three categories, with each category representing an underlying cause for a worsening debt market;

Debt Burden Indicators: This category contains factors that indicate the overall levels of personal debt and the difficulty that a typical household will be experiencing meeting those debt commitments.

Delinquent Indicators: This category contains factors that indicate levels of adverse behaviour within the debtor population and the population as a whole, such as insolvencies and unemployment.

Wealth Indicators: This category contains factors that indicate the overall wealth level of the UK population and due to the nature of the index, an increase in relative wealth causes a decrease in this category's contribution to the index.