



**East Hampshire
Conservatives**

14a Butts Rd, Alton
Hants GU34 1ND

**NEWS
RELEASE**

20 Jan 2009:
immediate release

Local jobless rise is twice the national average

Data released this month show that unemployment in our area has risen at a faster rate than either the national or regional rise.

The figure of 902 Jobseekers Allowance claimants in the East Hampshire area at the end of last year is 62% higher than a year before, almost double the rate of increase for the UK as a whole.

The detailed breakdown confirms that although the south-east and south-west have relatively low levels of unemployment claimants, they are seeing much higher percentage increases than places in the north and Scotland. London has so far been weathering the recession, in terms of rising unemployment, better than many had expected.

Commenting on the figures, local parliamentary candidate Damian Hinds said: “These are very worrying trends. Though the actual level of unemployment here is, thankfully, still relatively low, these statistics confirm that we are now seeing it increase proportionately much more than elsewhere. Getting credit moving again is vital, but more is needed to help East Hampshire businesses – and the families whose jobs depend on them. Small and medium sized businesses are the backbone of our local economy. Government must now urgently address their needs, and ease the burden of taxes and regulations.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) claimant count by Parliamentary constituency (current boundaries)

	Claimant count on 13 Nov 2008	% Change vs prior year	% of Population
UK	1.06m	34%	2.8%
London	151,031	14%	3.0%
South East	94,802	47%	1.9%
East Hampshire	902	62%	1.5%

- Source: ONS, Regional Labour Market Statistics
- Please note: the total number of people out of work is higher than just those claiming JSA