



## NEWS RELEASE

### For immediate release

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# HAMPSHIRE UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS BUT FUTURE UNCERTAIN

The number of people unemployed in Hampshire fell by 1,899 to 15,365 in the three months leading to July. The figures are part of the monthly employment data, published by the Office for National Statistics, which indicate that overall unemployment in Hampshire has fallen for the seventh month in a row.

Commenting on the labour market figures published today by the ONS, Gill Edinburgh, Deputy Chief Executive at North Hampshire Enterprise, said:

“While recent positive labour market trends in Hampshire are welcome, there is no room for complacency. Today the governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King, warned of a “choppy recovery” and the Bank expects the economy to grow by 2.5% in 2011, which we think is a reasonable expectation. Its previous forecast of 3.4% was unrealistic and would have generated inflation. We have to get out of the psyche that mega-growth is what we should target. Give us boring, sustainable, stable 2.5% growth with low inflation and low interest rates.

“Mervyn King also warns that bank lending will limit economic growth. Again we want responsible lending, not the irresponsible lending of 5 years ago. The economy has not yet seen the negative impact on jobs that will result from the tough measures announced in the Budget. It is crucial that the Government does everything in its power to allow the private sector to create jobs and to offset the unavoidable cut-backs in the public sector. That means reducing pointless regulation and bureaucracy.”

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**Notes to Editors:**

1. North Hampshire Enterprise is the chamber of commerce for **the Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester** and Test Valley areas. Accredited by the British Chambers of Commerce it exists to help Hampshire businesses prosper and develop by providing expert business help and advice. As a membership organization it is owned by and accountable to the local business community. Visit [www.northhampshireenterprise.co.uk](http://www.northhampshireenterprise.co.uk)
2. Claimant Count with rates and proportions for North Hampshire from January to July 2010 are given below (Source ONS). Rate is proportion of resident working age population estimates.

Area	January 2010		February 2010		March 2010		April 2010		May 2010		June 2010		July 2010	
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Hampshire	20,722	2.5	20,011	2.5	19,111	2.3	18,374	2.3	17,264	2.1	15,813	1.9	15,365	1.9
Basingstoke and Deane	2,949	2.7	2,974	2.8	2,966	2.8	2,799	2.6	2,705	2.5	2,473	2.3	2,419	2.2
Hart	1,049	1.8	1,032	1.8	974	1.7	895	1.5	823	1.4	762	1.3	736	1.3
Rushmoor	1,961	3.2	1,880	3.1	1,763	2.9	1,693	2.7	1,615	2.6	1,497	2.4	1,444	2.3
Test Valley	1,484	2.1	1,393	1.9	1,315	1.8	1,240	1.7	1,198	1.7	1,115	1.6	1,097	1.5
Winchester	1,283	1.8	1,240	1.7	1,177	1.6	1,118	1.6	1,051	1.5	933	1.3	934	1.3