

ALMR Press Release

Insolvency Statistics Sound Warning for Government, ALMR Says

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Release: Immediate

Official insolvency statistics highlight the dangers of implementing Government plans for a mandatory alcohol code, leading pub and bar group, the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (*ALMR*) said today.

New figures released by the Government's Insolvency Service show that the number of bar companies entering insolvency jumped by 45% between the Q3 and Q4 of 2008. In addition, the statistics show that, compared to the same period in 2007, bar company insolvencies in Q3 of 2008 increased by almost a third (31%).

Commenting, *ALMR* Chief Executive Nick Bish says:

"These figures speak for themselves. They reflect the growing toll of the downturn on Britain's pub and bar industry. These companies are not just individual pubs; each one will operate a number of outlets which employ at least 10 staff.

"The Government's own statistics demonstrate the strain that pubs are already under. Whitehall should take a long, hard look at its proposals to introduce an alcohol code of practice. There can be no blanket conditions without there being further job losses. Every pound spent on compliance costs is a pound not re-invested in a business that employs people.

"If they continue punishing pubs regardless, it is Downing Street who will be responsible for forcing more pubs and bars into liquidation and the consequent job losses."

<<ENDS>>

Notes for editors

- *ALMR* is the only national trade body solely dedicated to representing the interests of pub and bar operators, and to providing them with business support and advice. It has almost 100 member companies, operating over 15,000 outlets.
- The full statistics can be found online at <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=392022&NewsAreaID=2>
- Figures show that the number of bar companies entering voluntary insolvency in Q4 2008 rose to 45, up from 31 in Q3 2008 or an increase of 45%. The figures also show an increase

in the number of insolvencies in Q3 2008 compared to Q3 2007, 84 and 64 respectively. This equates to an increase of 31%.

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