



## Alabama Department of Labor

### News Release

For Immediate Release: January 24, 2014

### Alabama's December 2013 Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.1%

MONTGOMERY—Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's December 2013 preliminary unemployment rate is 6.1%, down from November's rate of 6.2%, and below December 2012's rate of 6.8%. December's rate represents 129,743 unemployed persons, down from 132,301 in November, and 145,613 in December 2012.

The last time the state's unemployment rate was at or below 6.1% was in October 2008, when the rate was 5.9%.

“While we are certainly pleased to announce that our unemployment rate is at a five year low, we know that we are not in a perfect situation, employment wise,” said Surtees. “There are still more than 120,000 Alabamians who want a job, and we must focus our efforts on helping those people find work.”

“We continue to see record numbers of job orders on the state's free online jobs database, [www.joblink.alabama.gov](http://www.joblink.alabama.gov), and I'd like to personally encourage anyone who is searching for a job to visit the site, or, for more personalized and targeted assistance, visit their local career center.”

Approximately 18,000 active job orders were placed on JobLink in December, and nearly 50,000 job ads were placed online statewide over various online job sites, including JobLink.

Free services provided at Alabama's career centers include: résumé assistance, job search assistance, educational assistance, job training, and many other services. A listing of career centers can be found at [www.labor.alabama.gov](http://www.labor.alabama.gov) or on JobLink.

“Although we saw a slight decrease in the number of jobs in the economy in December, over the year, we saw a gain of more than 10,000 jobs,” continued Surtees. “Our manufacturing industry continues to grow at one of the best rates in the country, adding nearly 6,000 jobs to Alabama's economy in 2013.”

Wage and salary employment decreased 1,400 from November to December 2013, but increased 10,500 over the past 12 months. The industries with the largest increases were: manufacturing (+5,900), leisure and hospitality (+5,600), trade, transportation, and utilities (+3,900), and construction (+400).

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby County at 3.8%, Lee County at 4.7%, and St. Clair and Cullman Counties at 4.8%. The counties with the highest unemployment rates are: Wilcox County at 14.2%, Bullock County at 11.6%, and Perry County at 11.4%.

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*Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.*