



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: October 16, 2009

Alabama's Unemployment Rate Rises to 10.7%

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's September unemployment rate rose to 10.7%, up from the revised rate of 10.3% in August. The rate represents 223,165 unemployed persons.

“While we are certainly disappointed that our unemployment rate has continued to rise, we realize that we are not alone in this situation,” said Surtees. “The entire country is experiencing increases in unemployment rates due to the effects of this worldwide recession. However, this month we did see initial claims drop to their lowest level this year. That indicates that fewer people are filing for new unemployment compensation benefits.”

There were 28,000 initial claims for unemployment benefits in September, compared to the year's high of 61,000 in January.

Wage and salary employment for the month of September registered losses in the sectors of leisure and hospitality, trade, transportation and utilities, manufacturing, and financial activities. Gains were registered in the sectors of government, educational and health services, construction, and professional and business services.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates were: Madison at 7.5%, Shelby at 7.6%, and Coffee at 8.5%. Counties with the highest unemployment rates were: Wilcox at 25.6%, Dallas at 21.1%, and Perry at 19.8%.

The Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, in conjunction with the Alabama Career Center System, offers a wide variety of services to the unemployed and underemployed. There are 43 Career Centers located throughout the state of Alabama. These Centers provide job training, job search assistance, and educational opportunities for those that need assistance in obtaining a job. For a complete listing of the Career Center locations, please visit www.dir.alabama.gov.

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