

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
Contact: Ron Macksoud, 334-242-8616

FEBRUARY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO 3.7 PERCENT

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, March 28, 2008 Unemployment in Alabama fell to 3.7 percent in February compared to 4.0 percent in January. In February 2007 the state recorded a 3.3 percent unemployment rate.

“The February jobless figure represents 82,040 unemployed persons compared to 89,078 in January, and 72,006 in February 2007,” says Tom Surtees, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director. “From January to February wage and salary employment increased 7,800, with a gain of 3,300 jobs in the government sector leading the way.”

The comparable February U.S. jobless rate is 4.8 percent, a decrease from 4.9 percent in January. The national rate in February 2007 was 4.5 percent.

Over the year there was a net gain of 18,000 wage and salary jobs in Alabama. The majority of the annual growth occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (+6,900), government (+5,900), professional and business services (+4,400), educational and health services (+2,400), and construction (+2,300). Manufacturing (-5,800) experienced the majority of job losses.

The lowest county unemployment rates for February are: Shelby (2.7 percent), Madison (3.0 percent), Blount and Tuscaloosa (3.3 percent), and Houston and Baldwin (3.4 percent). The highest county rates for February are: Wilcox (10.2 percent), Chambers and Perry (8.5 percent), Dallas (7.6 percent), Bullock (7.3 percent), and Henry (7.2 percent).

The Alabama unemployment rate for March is scheduled for release April 18.

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on “Alabama Labor Market Information Division” under “Quick Links” & follow prompts.