

# NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA  
Department of Industrial Relations  
**News For Immediate Release**  
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## ALABAMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASES TO 5.1 PERCENT

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, August 15, 2008 . . . . . Alabama's unemployment rate rose to 5.1 percent in July following 4.7 percent rates the previous two months. In July 2007, the Alabama jobless rate was 3.6 percent.

"July's 5.1 percent unemployment rate represents 111,903 unemployed persons compared to 102,553 in June," says Tom Surtees, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director. "Wage and salary employment declined 13,200 from June to July with most of the monthly downturn due to seasonal losses in the education component of local government."

The comparable national rate for July is 5.7 percent, an increase from 5.5 percent in June.

Over the year, there was a net gain of 11,900 wage and salary jobs in Alabama. The majority of the annual growth occurred in the government sector (+7,200), followed by professional and business services (+6,500), and trade, transportation, and utilities (+2,000). The majority of job losses occurred in manufacturing (-7,700).

The lowest county unemployment rates for July are: Shelby (3.7 percent), Madison (4.1 percent), Baldwin (4.3 percent), Blount and Limestone (4.5 percent), and Marshall (4.6 percent). The highest county rates for July are: Chambers (14.4 percent), Wilcox (13.3 percent), Perry (11.9 percent), Dallas (11.3 percent), and Lowndes and Bullock (10.9 percent).

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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.