



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: December 18, 2009

Alabama's Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.5%

First Decrease in 27 Months

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's November unemployment rate dropped to 10.5%. This is a decrease from October's rate of 10.9%. This is the first decrease in the rate since September 2007.

The rate represents 217,350 unemployed persons, compared to 226,466 in October. Wage and salary employment increased by 5,200 over the month with most of the increase in the sectors of: trade, transportation, and utilities; professional and business services; educational and health services; and manufacturing. Monthly losses occurred in the following sectors: financial activities; other services, and leisure and hospitality.

"We are certainly glad to see a drop in the unemployment rate, but we need to keep in mind that a one month drop is not a trend," said Surtees. "I also want to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the services to assist the unemployed and underemployed that are available at our area Career Centers throughout the state," Surtees added. "The trained employees at the Career Centers can provide assistance in finding a job, getting trained for a job, or finishing a high school education, along with many other valuable resources."

A complete listing of the Career Centers in Alabama is available at www.dir.alabama.gov or at www.joblink.alabama.gov.

The counties with the lowest unemployment rate in November were: Shelby at 7.3%, Madison at 7.3%, Coffee at 7.8%, and Pike at 8.2%. Counties with the highest rates were: Wilcox at 24.3%, Monroe at 21.1%, and Dallas at 20.3%.

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Members of the media needing more information should contact Public Information Officer Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.