



## Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

### News Release

For Immediate Release: April 17, 2009

### Alabama's March Unemployment Rate is 9.0% *DIR Offers Valuable Services to the Unemployed*

MONTGOMERY—Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's unemployment rate for March 2009 is 9.0%. This is an increase from the February rate of 8.4%.

Although the state has experienced a significant gain of jobs over the past few years, the national recessionary economic climate is taking a toll on Alabama's economy. As the state is seeing more unemployed workers, the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations is working diligently to provide them with services to help them regain employment in the shortest time possible.

"The Alabama Career Centers, which are located all over the state, provide a wealth of services to the unemployed and underemployed," said Surtees. "I'd like to encourage anyone who may be in need of these services to visit their local Career Center to get some help finding a job, or receive specialized training, or even get their GED. There are so many ways we can help those who have found themselves unemployed."

The Alabama Career Centers, which operate through a partnership between the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, the Governor's Office of Workforce Development, AIDT, and the two-year college system, offer a variety of services to the unemployed, including career planning, job referral, job training, occupational and educational training assistance, and veterans services.

Also, in an effort to serve more Alabamians, DIR's two Unemployment Compensation Call Centers have added staff and are working on state holidays.

March's unemployment rate represents 193,403 unemployed people in the state. Sectors experiencing job losses included manufacturing, other services, educational and health services, and information.

The counties with the lowest unemployment rates were Shelby at 6.3%, Madison at 6.5%, and Coffee at 7.1%. Counties with the highest rates were Wilcox at 22.5%, Dallas and Chambers at 18.1%, and Lowndes at 17.6%.

The rates of our bordering states are as follows: Georgia, 9.2%, Mississippi, 9.4%, Florida, 9.7%, and Tennessee, 9.6%.

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