

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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ONLINE FILING OF UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS NOW AVAILABLE IN ALABAMA

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, October 27, 2006 Filing for unemployment in Alabama has entered the computer age. As of October 25, unemployed workers in the state have begun filing new, additional and reopened claims for unemployment insurance electronically.

“Application for benefits online is now available through the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Web site at <http://dir.alabama.gov/uc/claims>,” says Phyllis Kennedy, Industrial Relations director. “The process is similar to the telephone system utilized in four Unemployment Compensation Call Centers across Alabama since 2002. In fact, when an electronic claim is filed, the claimant’s information is received in the same system.”

So, through that technology, a claimant may contact a Call Center representative to confirm a successful filing, add information, or change information, on the same day that a claim is filed electronically.

“Early indications are that Internet filing will quickly become the preferred method for many unemployment claimants in Alabama,” says Kennedy.

Information received online will be processed in the same manner as telephone claims. Internet claims may not be made from Friday, 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, 12:00 a.m.

Instructions for filing weekly claims is provided via the Internet application. When required, claimants will be automatically registered with Alabama JobLink, the state’s free Internet job search Web site. A few types of claims must continue to be processed through a Call Center. Further information is available by calling (toll free) 1-866-234-5382.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers’ Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.