



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: October 21, 2011

Alabama's September Unemployment Rate Drops to 9.8%

MONTGOMERY- Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's September unemployment rate fell to 9.8%, down from August's rate of 9.9%.

September's rate represents 211,079 unemployed persons, down from 213,222 in August.

"In September we saw some positive indicators," said Surtees. "For the first time in seven months, we are able to report a decline in the number of initial unemployment compensation claims. In addition, the number of benefits being paid out is at the lowest we've seen since October 2008."

"Last month our Career Centers reported an increase in the number of active job orders, and in September we were able to compound on that good news with lower unemployment compensation numbers. It is always a step in the right direction if the employment related numbers go up while the unemployment related numbers come down," Surtees continued.

Unemployed and underemployed Alabamians are encouraged to visit joblink.alabama.gov to view the state's online jobs database or to find the location of their local Career Center for free employment assistance.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rate were: Shelby at 6.8%, Coffee at 7.5%, and Lee at 7.9%. Counties with the highest unemployment rates were: Wilcox at 21.5%, Perry at 18.2%, and Dallas at 18.0%.

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Members of the media needing more information should contact Public Information Officer Jenna Murphy at (334) 353-1548.