



Alabama Department of Labor

News Release

For Immediate Release: April 8, 2013

Alabama Losing Nine Weeks of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Benefits Due to Lower Unemployment Rate

Total Number of Weeks Available Now 54

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama is no longer eligible for nine weeks of federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) benefits. Alabama no longer meets the eligibility requirements for this particular tier of benefits, known as Tier 3, because the state’s average three month unemployment rate fell below 7.0% with January 2013’s rate announcement.

Following federal end-of-year revisions, Alabama’s November 2012 rate (6.9%), December 2012 rate (6.8%), and January 2013 rate (6.9%) average to a rate of 6.9%, which is below the 7.0% threshold needed to qualify for these weeks of benefits.

Unemployed Alabamians are now currently eligible for up to 54 weeks of unemployment compensation (UC) benefits. The state of Alabama is responsible for paying up to the first 26 weeks of benefits, known as “regular” UC. Any additional weeks are paid by the federal government. After losing Tier 3, Alabama remains eligible for Tier 1, which is 14 weeks, and Tier 2, which is 14 weeks.

“We are no longer eligible for some weeks of federal emergency unemployment compensation benefits,” said Surtees. “We understand that could prove to be a difficulty for our long term unemployed. That’s why we would like to encourage anyone looking for a job to come in to one of our Career Centers to obtain assistance in finding a job. Also, visit www.joblink.alabama.gov and apply for one of the 13,000+ jobs currently available.”

Claimants who are currently receiving Tier 3 benefits will be allowed to “phase-out” of the program and collect their remaining benefits, as long as all other eligibility requirements are met. Claimants who are currently enrolled in or who exhaust Tier 2 benefits for any week ending after April 13, 2013 will no longer be eligible to collect Tier 3 benefits.

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.