

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
Contact: Ron Macksoud
334-242-8616

LABOR MARKET TUTORIAL AVAILABLE ONLINE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, August 9, 2006 Good business and personnel decisions often depend on having the right data. A project providing instructions in accessing and using comprehensive Alabama economic data, developed by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Market Information (LMI) Division, is now available on the Internet.

The free course, "Alabama LMI Tutorial: Better Informed Decision Making through New Tools and Techniques," offers the means for economic developers, state and county officials, educators, students, job seekers, and others to learn how to locate, analyze, and adapt workforce information specific to Alabama, including key industries, top occupations, and socio-demographic conditions by using a variety of workforce and economic intelligence Web site sources. The tutorial may be accessed through the LMI Web site, <http://dir.alabama.gov/lmi>.

"The user-friendly tutorial facilitates as much hands-on training, without attending an in-person session, as possible," says Phyllis Kennedy, Industrial Relations director.

The tutorial uses voice instructions to guide participants in working at their own pace to reach the objectives of six different "modules." Among those objectives are: identifying the metropolitan statistical areas and workforce information areas within the State of Alabama; using Business Employment Dynamics to identify national industries that are expanding (or opening) and contracting (or closing); understanding the demographics of workers in various industries; using the America's Career Information Network; locating and analyzing employment, earnings and unemployment data for Alabama and its various labor markets; and using federal and private databases to help paint the picture of a local economy and local community.

There is no time limit and an unlimited number of attempts to achieve the tutorial passing score of 90 percent. Once the tutorial is successfully completed, an online Certificate of Completion may be printed. The tutorial is also in the process of being translated into Spanish.

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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 Industrial Relations, visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.