

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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ALABAMA POSTS 4.1 PERCENT MARCH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, April 18, 2008 Unemployment in Alabama rose to 4.1 percent in March, following February's 3.7 percent rate. In March 2007, the state unemployment rate was 3.4 percent.

"Despite the increase, Alabama continues to post jobless rates below the national rates," says Tom Surtees, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director. "It has been nearly seven years since the national unemployment rate was lower than our state unemployment rate."

The comparable March U.S. jobless rate is 5.1 percent, an increase from 4.8 percent in February. The national unemployment rate in March 2007 was 4.4 percent.

"From February to March, the number of unemployed persons increased from 81,984 to 91,145," says Surtees. "The number of unemployed was 74,128 in March 2007."

Over the year, there was a net gain of 11,200 wage and salary jobs in Alabama. The majority of the annual growth occurred in government (+5,300), trade, transportation, and utilities (+4,900), and professional and business services (+3,000). Manufacturing (-5,800) experienced the majority of job losses.

The lowest county unemployment rates for March are: Shelby (2.8 percent), Madison (3.0 percent), and Limestone, Tuscaloosa and Baldwin (3.3 percent). The highest county rates for March are: Chambers (10.6 percent), Wilcox (10.5 percent), and Perry (8.4 percent).

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on "Alabama Labor Market Information Division" under "Quick Links" & follow prompts.