

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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## STATE OF ALABAMA

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### Alabama's February Unemployment Rate Holds Steady at 6.2%

#### *CPS Employment Continues to Top Two Million*

MONTGOMERY – Governor Robert Bentley on Friday announced that Alabama's preliminary, seasonally adjusted February unemployment rate is 6.2%.

"The momentum that we are seeing in our employment numbers continues to be encouraging," Governor Robert Bentley said. "Our mission to provide all Alabamians with a job remains my top priority. The growth that we are consistently seeing, combined with the regular announcements of new jobs coming to the state, is helping us to achieve that goal. Our economy is supporting 106,900 more jobs now than when I took office in January 2011. But there's still a lot of work to do, and I remain committed to doing that work."

"No change in the unemployment rate is good news this month," Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Fitzgerald Washington said. "We continue to see high numbers of employed people, which again is topping two million. We have consistently seen over two million employed people for 21 straight months. Additionally, a high number of people are in the workforce, which tells us that people are confident in the labor market. People haven't shown this level of confidence in the job market in over three years."

CPS employment has been at or above two million since June 2014, when it registered 2,000,174.

According to the CPS survey, the number of people counted as employed in February was 2,033,386 (seasonally adjusted). The last time this many people were counted as employed was in August 2008, when there were 2,042,834 employed.

There were 2,167,723 people counted in the labor force in February. The last time this many people were in the labor force was in October 2012, when the number measured 2,167,852.

“Wage and salary employment continues to show growth as well,” Washington added. “Like January, this is our best February since 2008, with a job growth percentage of 1.25% - the second highest growth percentage of the last five years.”

Wage and salary employment measured 1,946,300 in February. The last time it was at this level or higher during February was in 2008, when it measured 1,994,500.

Over the year, wage and salary employment increased 24,100, with gains in the education and health services sector (+5,900), the trade, transportation, and utilities sector (+5,400), and the professional and business services sector (+5,000), among others.

Wage and salary employment increased in February by 12,300. Monthly gains were seen in the education and health services sector (+3,000), the professional and business services sector (+2,900), and the leisure and hospitality sector (+2,800), among others.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby County at 4.7%, Elmore County at 5.4%, and Lee County at 5.5%.

Major cities with the lowest unemployment rates are: Vestavia Hills at 4.1%, Homewood at 4.4%, and Hoover at 4.5%.

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

*“Seasonal adjustment” refers to BLS’s practice of anticipating certain trends in the labor force, such as hiring during the holidays or the surge in the labor force when students graduate in the spring, and removing their effects to the civilian labor force.*

*The Current Population (CPS), or the household survey, is conducted by the Census Bureau and identifies members of the work force and measures how many people are working or looking for work.*

*The establishment survey, which is conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), a division of the U.S.*

*Department of Labor, surveys employers to measure how many jobs are in the economy. This is also referred to as wage and salary employment.*