



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: March 26, 2010

Employment Increased in State by 11,300 in February *Alabama's Unemployment Rate Remains Unchanged at 11.1%*

MONTGOMERY – Employment in Alabama increased for the first time in three months during February, according to the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations.

Director Tom Surtees announced today that wage and salary employment in the state increased by 11,300 over the month with the majority of the monthly upturn resulting from employment gains in professional and business services, government, leisure and hospitality, manufacturing, and educational and health services.

Surtees also announced that Alabama's unemployment rate for February remains unchanged at 11.1%. This rate represents 227,717 unemployed persons.

“We are starting to see some consistent signs that our economy has begun a rebound,” said Surtees. “Our state showed employment gains for the first time in three months. In addition, new unemployment benefit claims have fallen 61% since the third week of January,” said Surtees.

The number of people filing new claims in February 2010 is estimated to be 25,000. Comparatively, new claims for February 2009 were 41,000, while new claims in February 2008 were 20,000.

“We're seeing nearly half the amount of people signing up for unemployment assistance this year than we were a year ago,” said Surtees. “We are hopeful that this is a positive sign, pointing towards some relief from this recession.”

The counties with the lowest unemployment rates were: Madison at 8.3%, Shelby at 8.5%, and Coffee at 8.5%. The counties with the highest unemployment rates were Wilcox at 27.0%, Monroe at 21.4%, and Conecuh at 20.3%.

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Members of the media needing more information should contact Public Information Officer Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.