



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: March 10, 2010

Alabama's Unemployment Rate Rises to 11.1%

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's January 2010 unemployment rate rose to 11.1%, up from December's revised rate of 10.9%.

This rate represents 228,105 unemployed persons, and a decline in wage and salary employment of 30,800. Losses occurred in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector, the professional and business services sector, the government sector, the leisure and hospitality sector, the manufacturing sector, and the construction sector. The only monthly gain was the educational and health services sector.

“As we begin a new year, I hope that this great recession is nearing its end, and will allow our nation's and our state's economy to begin to repair itself,” said Surtees. “As that happens, I would like to remind everyone that the unemployment rate is a lagging indicator of economic recovery. Although we at the Department of Industrial Relations are serving record numbers of unemployed workers, we are still able to distribute first payments in a timely manner and are providing thousands of people with employment training and assistance all over the state through our Career Centers.”

The counties with the lowest unemployment rate were: Madison at 8.7%, Shelby at 8.8%, and Coffee at 9.0%. The counties with the highest unemployment rate were: Wilcox at 27.4%, Monroe at 22.4%, and Conecuh at 21.8%.

The average unemployment rate for 2009 was 10.1%. Over the past twelve months, nonagricultural wage and salary employment declined by 70,400. Annual losses occurred in manufacturing (-25,800); trade, transportation, and utilities (-13,900); construction (-12,000); professional and business services (-6,100); financial activities (-4,200); leisure and hospitality (-3,800); information (-2,400); government (-2,200); other services (-2,100); and natural resources and mining (-900). The only annual gains were recorded in educational and health services (+3,000).

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