



## Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

### News Release

For Immediate Release: April 16, 2010

### Alabama's Unemployment Rate Falls to 11.0%

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's March unemployment rate fell to 11.0%. This is down from February's rate of 11.1%.

March's rate represents 227,273 unemployed persons.

Wage and salary employment increased by 12,100 over the month, with most of the upturn resulting from gains in the leisure and hospitality sector, the trade, transportation, and utilities sector, the government sector, the professional and business services sector, and the educational and health services sector.

“While we are certainly pleased to see a small decrease in the unemployment rate, I want to caution everyone that we are not out of the woods just yet,” said Surtees. “For the second month in a row, we have seen an increase in wage and salary employment, and that's a good sign. Hopefully, these positive signs will continue to come our way as we continue to pay benefits in an extremely timely manner to Alabamians that need them.”

According to data provided from the U.S. Department of Labor, Alabama paid 94.3% of first time claimants in 21 days or less during the last quarter of 2009. In the first quarter of 2010, those numbers remained at 94%. Alabama has the highest percentage in the entire Southeastern region.

The counties with the lowest unemployment rates were: Madison at 8.0%, Shelby at 8.1%, and Coffee at 8.3%. The counties with the highest unemployment rates were Wilcox at 24.8%, Monroe at 20.4%, and Conecuh at 19.4%.

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