

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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ALABAMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASES TO 5.6 PERCENT IN OCTOBER

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, NOVEMBER 21, 2008.Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's October unemployment rate increased slightly but continued to be well below the national unemployment rate.

Alabama's rate of 5.6 percent unemployment in October is considerably lower than the national rate of 6.5 percent. Alabama's September rate was 5.3 percent.

"While the October rate does represent an increase from last month, Alabama is still one of the most fortunate states in the region because we continue recording job growth in Alabama," said Tom Surtees. "Annually, we've seen a large boost of jobs in several areas, like professional and business services, financial activities, and leisure and hospitality."

October's rate represents 120,590 unemployed persons, compared to 115,333 in September.

The counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby (3.6 percent), Madison (3.8 percent), Tuscaloosa (4.1 percent), and Blount (4.2 percent). The counties with the highest rates are: Chambers (14.3 percent), Wilcox (12.8 percent), Bullock (12.0 percent), and Lowndes (11.0 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.

