



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: November 19, 2010

Alabama's October Unemployment Rate Holds Steady

Rate Remains Below National Average; Marks Nine Months of No Increase

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's October unemployment rate remained unchanged at 8.9%. This rate is below the national average of 9.6%, and well below last year's state rate of 10.8%.

October's rate represents 189,358 unemployed persons, down from 224,708 at the same time last year.

"For nine consecutive months we have been able to announce that Alabama hasn't seen an increase in its monthly unemployment rate," said Surtees. "That is certainly a statistic that makes us happy. The Department is continuing to pay less in benefits, and initial claims remain below 2008 and 2009 levels. These are all positive signs for Alabama's economic recovery."

Alabama's monthly unemployment rate has remained unchanged or dropped since January 2010, when the rate was 11.1%. Initial claims for October 2010 were 27,058, compared to 31,496 in October 2009, and 31,444 in October 2008. Monthly benefit payments were \$31,194,425, compared to this year's high of \$52,229,706.

Wage and salary employment increased 1,800 over the month, with most of the upturn resulting from gains in the government and construction industries.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates were: Shelby at 6.8%, Coffee at 7.1%, and Madison at 7.1%. Counties with the highest unemployment rates were: Wilcox at 20.1%, Greene at 18.4%, and Dallas at 17.2%.

###

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