



## Alabama Department of Labor

### News Release

For Immediate Release: November 18, 2016

### **Alabama's October Unemployment Rate is 5.7%** *Both Unemployment Measures Reach their Highest Points of 2016*

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Secretary Fitzgerald Washington announced today that Alabama's preliminary, seasonally adjusted October unemployment rate is 5.7%, up from September's rate of 5.4%, and well below October 2015's rate of 6.1%. October's rate represents 123,892 unemployed persons, compared to 117,100 in September and 131,421 in October 2015.

"An extremely large increase in the number of people who are looking for work combined with an increase in the number of people working in October led to an increase in our unemployment rate," said Washington. "More than 16,000 people entered the workforce in October, and nearly 10,000 more people found work. Compared to last year, nearly 40,000 more people are in the work force and almost 50,000 more people are working. This shows a marked increase in the confidence level of jobseekers."

The number of people in the Civilian Labor Force (CLF) increased in October to 2,182,384, representing an increase of 16,755 over the month. Over the year, the CLF increased by 39,805.

The number of people who were counted as employed increased 9,963 over the month. Over the year, the number of people counted as employed increased 47,334.

"Our other measure of employment, the establishment survey, is also at its highest point of the year," continued Washington. "This survey tells us that Alabama's employers have more people on the payroll than they have at any time since September 2008."

Wage and salary employment measured 1,982,400 in October, representing an increase of 11,900 over the month. Monthly gains were seen in the government sector (+5,000), the trade, transportation, and utilities sector (+4,100), and the professional and business services sector (+2,300), among others.

Over the year, wage and salary employment increased 24,500, with gains in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector (+8,200), the manufacturing sector (+6,500), and the government sector (+5,300), among others.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby County at 4.5%, Lee County at 5.1%, and Cullman, Elmore, and Madison Counties at 5.2%. Counties with the highest unemployment rates are: Wilcox County at 13.8%, Clarke County at 10.9%, and Lowndes County at 10.4%.

Major cities with the lowest unemployment rates are: Vestavia Hills at 4.0%, Homewood at 4.1%, and Hoover at 4.4%. Major cities with the highest unemployment rates are: Selma at 10.3%, Bessemer at 10.2%, and Prichard at 9.5%.

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*Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.*

*“Seasonal adjustment” refers to BLS’s practice of anticipating certain trends in the labor force, such as hiring during the holidays or the surge in the labor force when students graduate in the spring, and removing their effects to the civilian labor force.*

*The Current Population (CPS), or the household survey, is conducted by the Census Bureau and identifies members of the work force and measures how many people are working or looking for work.*

*The establishment survey, which is conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), a division of the U.S. Department of Labor, surveys employers to measure how many jobs are in the economy. This is also referred to as wage and salary employment.*