



Alabama Department of Labor

News Release

For Immediate Release: October 29, 2015

2015 Wage & Salary Employment Exceeding Economists' Projections *35,500 Jobs Added Through September*

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Fitzgerald Washington announced today that Alabama's 2015 wage and hour employment growth has surpassed earlier expectations. Wage and salary employment, which is the measure of how many jobs Alabama's economy supports, has increased by 35,500 through September. The Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at the University of Alabama projected in January that wage and salary employment would grow by 33,800 over the year.

"With three months left to go in the year, we are beyond excited to announce that we've already bypassed earlier expectations of job growth," said Washington. "We've been seeing steady improvement all year long, and this news is so encouraging. We still have the holiday hiring season ahead of us, so we are hopeful this number will get even larger by the time 2015 rolls to an end."

CBER predicted a job growth percentage of 1.8%, and wage and salary's growth percentage is currently at 1.9%.

The majority of the job growth is in the construction sector and the leisure and hospitality sector. Construction jobs have grown by 10.62%, and leisure and hospitality jobs have grown by 7.38%.

"These numbers are great news, and we are excited about them," continued Washington.

"However, until every Alabamian who wants a job has one, our work is not finished. We will continue with our efforts to put Alabamians back to work."

"It's always a good thing when the state economy performs better than expected, so we hope that this continues through the rest of the year," said Samuel N. Addy, Ph.D., CBER Director and Research Economist.

CBER's projections were published in the 2015 Alabama Economic Outlook, which can be found online at: <http://cber.cba.ua.edu/news.html#conference>.

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