

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
Contact: Ron Macksoud, 334-242-8616

STATE JOBLESS RATE IS 4.7 PERCENT FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, July 18, 2008 Unemployment in Alabama held steady with a 4.7 percent June unemployment rate, unchanged from May. The state jobless rate was 3.5 percent in June 2007.

“The state unemployment picture mirrors the national scene since the 5.5 percent U.S. unemployment rate in June is also the same as the previous month,” says Tom Surtees, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director.

Over the year, there was a net gain of 1,600 wage and salary jobs in Alabama. The majority of the annual growth occurred in the professional and business services sector (+4,500), followed by government (+1,900), construction (+1,000), and trade, transportation, and utilities (+900). The majority of job losses occurred in manufacturing (-7,200)

The lowest county unemployment rates for June are: Shelby (3.4 percent), Madison (3.9 percent), Baldwin (4.0 percent), Limestone (4.1 percent), and Cullman (4.2 percent). The highest county rates for June are: Chambers (13.9 percent), Wilcox (13.2 percent), Perry (12.0 percent), Lowndes (10.6 percent), and Dallas (10.4 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.