

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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ALABAMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FALLS TO 4.9 PERCENT IN AUGUST

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, September 19, 2008 Unemployment in Alabama declined to 4.9 percent in August, compared to 5.1 percent in July. The Alabama jobless rate in August 2007 was 3.6 percent.

“The number of employed Alabamians increased by 3,200 from July to August, while there were over 3,800 fewer unemployed,” says Tom Surtees, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director.

The national unemployment rate rose to 6.1 percent in August, compared to 5.7 percent in July.

Over the year, there was a net gain of 5,500 wage and salary jobs in Alabama. The majority of the annual growth occurred in the government sector (+5,500), followed by professional and business services (+5,300), and construction (+1,100). The majority of job losses occurred in manufacturing (-8,300).

The lowest county unemployment rates for August are: Shelby (3.6 percent), Madison (3.8 percent), Blount (4.1 percent), Baldwin (4.2 percent) and Limestone (4.3 percent). The highest county rates for August are: Chambers (14.3 percent), Wilcox (13.4 percent), Bullock (12.2 percent), Dallas (11.5 percent), and Perry (11.3 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.