



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: May 21, 2010

Alabama's April Unemployment Rate Remains Unchanged at 11.0%

MONTGOMERY – Wage and salary employment in Alabama increased 14,200 over the month of April, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today.

These employment gains helped Alabama's April unemployment rate remain unchanged at 11.0% for the second straight month. April's rate represents 228,333 unemployed persons.

"We've seen relatively little change in the rate over the past six months," said Surtees. "While I am not yet ready to call the leveling out of the unemployment rate a trend, we are certainly cautiously optimistic that the rise in unemployment has ceased and we'll eventually see a decline."

Most of the upturn resulting from gains in the leisure and hospitality sector, the construction sector, the professional and business services sector, the government sector, the manufacturing sector, the educational and health services sector, and the trade, transportation, and utilities sector.

Alabama's unemployment rates for the past six months are as follows: April 2010 11.0%, March 2010 11.0%, February 2010 11.1%, January 2010 11.1%, December 2009 10.9%, November 2009 10.9%.

The counties with the lowest unemployment rates were: Madison at 7.6%, Shelby at 7.7%, and Coffee at 7.7%. The counties with the highest unemployment rates were: Wilcox at 24.5%, Monroe at 20.0%, and Dallas at 18.7%.

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