



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: June 18, 2010

Alabama's May Unemployment Rate Drops to 10.8%

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's May unemployment rate fell to 10.8%. This is down from April's rate of 11.0%.

Wage and salary employment increased by 13,700 over the month with the upturn resulting from gains in the following sectors: government (due to the addition of temporary census workers), leisure and hospitality, construction, professional and business services, manufacturing, other services, and natural resources and mining.

Since the beginning of the year, wage and salary employment in Alabama has increased by 44,400.

"Our unemployment rate has shown a decline and that's obviously good news," said Surtees. "We continue to hope that the positive signs we are seeing in the state's economy, such as adding to the wage and salary employment numbers and the drop in first time payments to unemployment compensation beneficiaries, are indicative of a positive trend. Unfortunately, we are unsure at this time how much of an impact the Gulf Oil Spill will have on our unemployment rate."

The number of first payments to UC beneficiaries is down significantly from 2009 levels, and is approaching 2008 levels. In May 2010, the number of first time payments made to claimants was 8,594 compared to 12,915 in May 2009.

The counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby at 7.3%, Madison at 7.5%, and Coffee at 7.6%. Counties with the highest rates are: Wilcox at 24.0%, Monroe at 18.5%, and Dallas at 17.9%.

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