

# NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA  
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News For Immediate Release  
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## ALABAMA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASES TO 5.3 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, October 17, 2008 . . . . . Alabama recorded a net increase of jobs during the month of September even as the state's unemployment rate increased to 5.3 percent from the August rate of 4.9 percent.

“Even with this slight increase in the unemployment rate, Alabama’s economy remains strong due to the continued creation of jobs in our state. Alabama remains well below the national unemployment rate of 6.1 percent and continues to have one of the lowest rates in the South.” says Tom Surtees, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director.

Over the month, there was a net increase of 2,500 wage and salary jobs in Alabama. The majority of the monthly growth occurred in the educational component of state and local government (+9,700).

The lowest county unemployment rates for September are: Shelby (3.6 percent), Madison (3.8 percent), Baldwin (4.3 percent), Tuscaloosa (4.3 percent) and Blount (4.3 percent). The highest county rates for September are: Chambers (14.5 percent), Wilcox (13.4 percent), Bullock (11.5 percent), Dallas (11.1 percent), and Perry (10.7 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.