



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: July 22, 2011

Alabama's June Unemployment Rate is 9.9% *Several Factors Combine to Create Increase, Including Addition of Job-Seekers*

MONTGOMERY- Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's June 2011 unemployment rate rose to 9.9%, up from May's rate of 9.6% and the 9.3% recorded a year ago. June's rate represents 213,975 unemployed persons, compared to 206,578 last month and 197,780 in June 2010.

"While we are disappointed to report any increase in our seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, we keep in mind the contributing factors that led us here," said Surtees. "We still have hundreds of Alabamians unemployed as a direct result of the tornadoes of last April and the national unemployment rate also continues to rise. On the positive side, we have observed an uptick in the number of discouraged workers re-entering the job market in their employment search. There are over 33,000 more Alabamians working in June than in January, but during this same period over 50,000 came into the workforce. "

The counties with the lowest unemployment rates were: Shelby County at 7.7%, Coffee County at 8.4% and Limestone County at 8.7%. The counties with the highest unemployment rates were Wilcox County at 23.4%, Perry County at 19.9% and Dallas County at 19.1%.

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Members of the media needing more information should contact Public Information Specialist Jenna Murphy at (334) 353-1548.