



## Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

### News Release

For Immediate Release: July 2, 2009

### Unemployment Compensation Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount Rises

*New Claimants Will See Increase of \$10*

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that the maximum weekly Unemployment Compensation benefit amount will increase by ten dollars for claimants who file new claims on or after July 5<sup>th</sup>.

The maximum benefit amount will increase from \$255 a week to \$265 a week beginning July 5<sup>th</sup>. The increase is the second of two that were enacted by the Legislature in 2008.

“We’re glad to see this increase go into effect,” said Surtees. “I know that during these tough economic times, every dollar helps. I hope that this increase will help struggling families until such a time as they can find new employment.”

All claimants are also receiving an additional \$25 a week, which is part of the Federal Stimulus package. These \$25 additional benefits are expected to continue through the end of 2009.

It’s important to note that **ONLY CLAIMS FILED ON OR AFTER JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>** will be eligible for this increase.

Unemployed Alabamians can file for unemployment compensation benefits in two ways: either by phone at 1-866-234-5382, or online at [www.dir.alabama.gov](http://www.dir.alabama.gov).

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