

NEWS RELEASE

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More Mississippians Working in January than December

JACKSON, Miss. — The Mississippi Department of Employment Security announced today that more Mississippians were employed in January 2013 than in December 2012, about 4,600 more according to preliminary numbers. The gain continues the upward trend in the state. The number of people employed in Mississippi in January 2013 is up 14,700 from a year ago in January 2012.

At the same time, the preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the state was 9.3 percent, up from 8.6 percent the month before. A year ago, the rate for January 2012 was 10 percent.

The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January 2013 was 7.9 percent.

“Although it may seem strange that the number of people working and the unemployment rate can both move upward, the fact is that those two figures are calculated using two separate surveys by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics,” comments Mark Henry, MDES Executive Director. “Unemployment is calculated by a random survey of households and the number of people working is based on a survey of employers.”

Additionally, BLS does not count someone who is out of work but not looking for a job as unemployed. The latest Mississippi figures indicate more people are beginning to search for jobs; therefore, they are now counted as unemployed.

MDES offers free job search assistance to people searching for jobs or looking for better jobs. Individuals can obtain assistance at their local WIN Job Center or by visiting the agency website at mdes.ms.gov.

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MDES news releases are available at mdes.ms.gov

An equal opportunity employer and program, MDES has auxiliary aids and services available upon request to those with disabilities. Those needing TTY assistance may call 800-582-2233. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor through the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, a proud member of America's Workforce Network.

MDES: Helping Mississippians Get Jobs