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### **Ohio Recognized for Issuing Unemployment Compensation Quickly and Accurately**

**COLUMBUS, OHIO** – Ohio has been named the top-performing large state for quickly and accurately disbursing unemployment compensation benefits, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) announced today.

Quality reviewers from the U.S. Department of Labor and other states examined unemployment benefit decisions made in Ohio between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010, and determined that Ohio was the leader in quality, integrity and timeliness among the large states. Ohio issued benefits quickly while still employing effective safeguards against improper payments, inaccurate payments and fraud.

“Despite rising caseloads, Ohio has been named the top performing large state for the second time in the last three years,” said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin. “This award is a credit to our staff members, who have worked throughout the national recession to make sure out-of-work Ohioans can count on this crucial source of income.”

Ohio was also the top performing large state in 2008.

To date in 2010, ODJFS has disbursed more than \$4.8 billion dollars in unemployment compensation to more than 674,000 Ohioans.

As the number of Ohioans filing for unemployment compensation rose in 2008 and 2009, ODJFS kept its call centers open later and on Saturdays when necessary, transferred staff from other offices to work as unemployment compensation customer service representatives, and implemented an automatic call-back feature to reduce call wait times.

Ohio’s unemployment rate was 9.8 percent in November, down from 9.9 percent in October.