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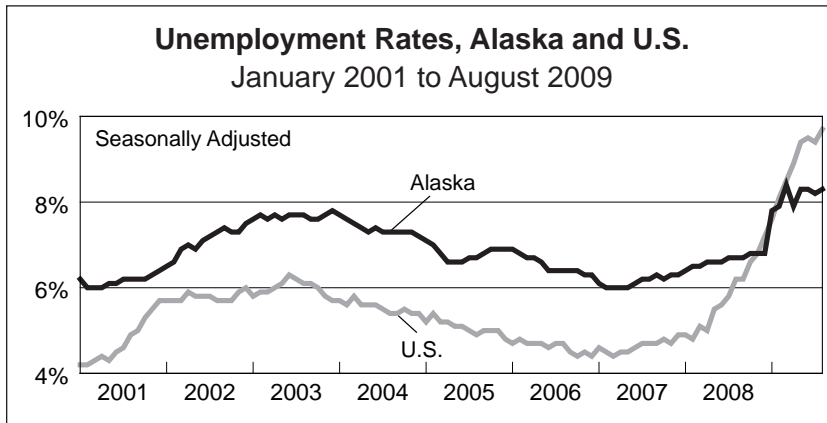
## Press Release

September 18, 2009

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### Unemployment rate at 8.3 percent in August



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point in August to 8.3 percent. July's preliminary rate was revised down one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.2 percent.

The state's unemployment rate has moved very little in the last four months, halting what had been a clear upward trend dating back to early 2007.

The direction of the U.S. rate is less clear. It leveled off at around 9.5 percent for a few months, but then rose to 9.7 percent in August. The nation's unemployment rate has climbed 3.5 percentage points since August 2008 compared to a rate increase of 1.6 percentage points in Alaska.

The state's job count fell slightly in August to an estimated 344,100, primarily due to a typical seasonal decline in seafood processing employment. More telling are the over-the-year comparisons, which show small declines for the fourth month in a row.

Construction, accommodations, retail trade, and food services and drinking places are all down noticeably from their August 2008 levels. All four of those industries have also seen moderate to severe job losses at the national level.

Partially offsetting those losses are over-the-year gains in health care and government. Altogether, the state's August job count was down 900 compared to August 2008, or three-tenths of a percent. Nationally, the losses continue to be more severe with an August over-the-year decline of 6 million jobs, or 4.4 percent.

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Research and Analysis' Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

#### Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment<sup>1</sup>

	Preliminary 8/09	Revised 7/09	Revised 8/08	Changes from	
				7/09	8/08
Total Nonfarm Employment <sup>2</sup>	344,100	345,500	345,000	-1,400	-900
Natural Resources and Mining	15,700	15,900	16,000	-200	-300
Oil and Gas	13,200	13,400	13,200	-200	0
Construction	20,300	19,700	21,100	600	-800
Manufacturing	19,600	21,700	19,900	-2,100	-300
Seafood Processing	15,700	17,800	15,700	-2,100	0
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	68,700	68,800	69,500	-100	-800
Retail Trade	37,000	37,700	37,600	-700	-600
Information	7,200	7,200	7,000	0	200
Financial Activities	15,100	15,100	15,400	0	-300
Professional and Business Services	27,400	28,200	27,600	-800	-200
Educational <sup>3</sup> and Health Services	39,000	38,900	37,700	100	1,300
Health Care	28,200	28,500	27,200	-300	1,000
Leisure and Hospitality	39,300	39,500	39,800	-200	-500
Accommodations	11,200	11,500	12,000	-300	-800
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	21,700	21,800	22,100	-100	-400
Other Services	11,700	11,700	11,700	0	0
Government <sup>4</sup>	80,100	78,800	79,300	1,300	800

<sup>1</sup> Not seasonally adjusted

<sup>2</sup> Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

<sup>3</sup> Private education only

<sup>4</sup> Includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities

#### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	8/09	7/09	8/08
Alaska	8.3%	8.2%	6.7%
U.S.	9.7%	9.4%	6.2%

## Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployment					
	8/09 <sup>P</sup>	7/09	8/08	Number			Rate		
				8/09 <sup>P</sup>	7/09	8/08	8/09 <sup>P</sup>	7/09	8/08
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>363,904</b>	<b>367,841</b>	<b>363,406</b>	<b>26,289</b>	<b>26,945</b>	<b>21,765</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>192,705</b>	<b>194,747</b>	<b>192,319</b>	<b>13,381</b>	<b>13,652</b>	<b>10,699</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Municipality of Anchorage	152,521	154,052	152,385	9,938	10,060	7,976	6.5	6.5	5.2
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	40,184	40,695	39,934	3,443	3,592	2,723	8.6	8.8	6.8
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>41,453</b>	<b>41,429</b>	<b>41,308</b>	<b>3,209</b>	<b>3,241</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,400	28,586	28,083	2,443	2,452	1,815	8.6	8.6	6.5
Kodiak Island Borough	6,803	6,605	6,876	391	402	325	5.7	6.1	4.7
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,250	6,238	6,349	375	387	342	6.0	6.2	5.4
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>55,539</b>	<b>55,917</b>	<b>55,156</b>	<b>3,697</b>	<b>3,887</b>	<b>3,203</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Denali Borough	2,795	2,892	2,830	74	82	53	2.6	2.8	1.9
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,402	46,467	46,027	2,957	3,084	2,541	6.4	6.6	5.5
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,629	3,796	3,588	300	320	262	8.3	8.4	7.3
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,713	2,762	2,711	366	401	347	13.5	14.5	12.8
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>11,888</b>	<b>11,573</b>	<b>11,896</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>8.4</b>
Nome Census Area	3,807	3,615	3,841	495	497	437	13.0	13.7	11.4
North Slope Borough	5,110	4,996	5,090	269	262	224	5.3	5.2	4.4
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,971	2,962	2,965	369	395	337	12.4	13.3	11.4
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>43,357</b>	<b>43,613</b>	<b>43,912</b>	<b>2,642</b>	<b>2,709</b>	<b>2,239</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Haines Borough	1,880	1,876	1,913	98	100	91	5.2	5.3	4.8
Juneau Borough	18,744	18,970	19,091	1,002	1,023	812	5.3	5.4	4.3
Ketchikan Gateway Borough <sup>2</sup>	9,260	9,401	9,425	499	520	417	5.4	5.5	4.4
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area <sup>2</sup>	2,424	2,409	2,333	334	339	266	13.8	14.1	11.4
Sitka Borough	4,908	4,842	4,960	267	275	243	5.4	5.7	4.9
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area <sup>2</sup>	2,443	2,422	2,506	165	172	149	6.8	7.1	5.9
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area <sup>2</sup>	3,359	3,336	3,334	259	265	238	7.7	7.9	7.1
Yakutat Borough	339	357	350	18	15	23	5.3	4.2	6.6
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>18,965</b>	<b>20,562</b>	<b>18,816</b>	<b>2,229</b>	<b>2,301</b>	<b>2,144</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.4</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,370	1,418	1,333	108	103	88	7.9	7.3	6.6
Aleutians West Census Area	2,986	3,024	2,963	155	167	138	5.2	5.5	4.7
Bethel Census Area	6,483	6,657	6,479	1,054	1,061	1,023	16.3	15.9	15.8
Bristol Bay Borough	1,807	2,643	1,809	40	44	37	2.2	1.7	2.0
Dillingham Census Area	2,404	2,564	2,344	214	226	202	8.9	8.8	8.6
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,197	1,526	1,138	76	78	67	6.3	5.1	5.9
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,718	2,730	2,750	582	622	589	21.4	22.8	21.4

P = Preliminary. As more information becomes available, data are revised every month for the previous month and again at the end of every calendar year.

Note: The official definition of unemployment excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Many individuals in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

<sup>1</sup> Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

<sup>2</sup> Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the new borough and census areas will be available in 2010. Until then, data will continue to be published for the old areas.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics