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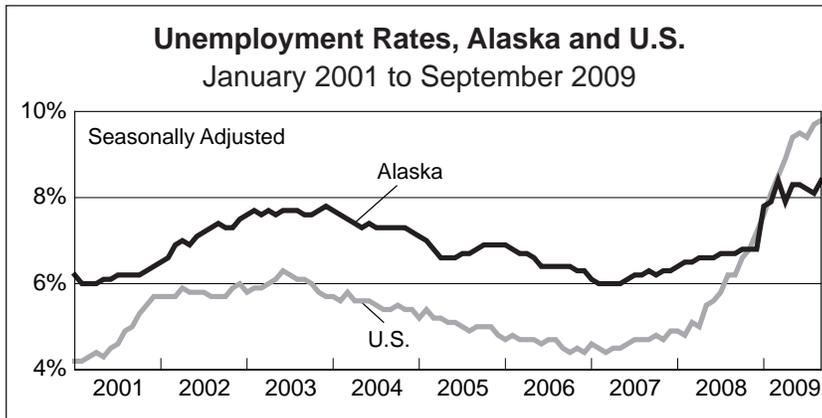
Press Release

October 16, 2009

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 09-58

Unemployment rate at 8.4 percent in September



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point in September to 8.4 percent. August's preliminary rate was revised down two-tenths of a percentage point to 8.1 percent.

It's too early to tell whether the September increase signals a new upward trend in the rate. Since hitting 8.4 percent back in March, the rate hasn't moved consistently either up or down over the last six months.

While Alaska's rate has been essentially flat over that period, the U.S. rate has climbed from 8.5 percent in March to 9.8 percent in September.

The state's job count fell by an estimated 8,600 in September, a fairly typical drop due to seasonal declines in seafood processing, construction and tourism-related industries.

The more telling over-the-year comparisons show that employment in September was down by about 2,000 jobs. Construction was down 900 jobs and retail trade 500.

Oil and gas jobs have also fallen slightly after growing strongly for several years and then remaining mostly stable since the fall of 2008. September estimates show an over-the-year decline of 300 oil and gas jobs.

Health care, which was up 1,000 jobs over the year, was the only private-sector industry showing growth. Government jobs were up by about 700 compared to September 2008.

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

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 9/09	Revised 8/09	Revised 9/08	Changes from	
				8/09	9/08
Total Nonfarm Employment ²	335,000	343,600	337,000	-8,600	-2,000
Natural Resources and Mining	15,500	15,700	16,100	-200	-600
Oil and Gas	13,000	13,200	13,300	-200	-300
Construction	19,100	20,300	20,000	-1,200	-900
Manufacturing	14,900	19,600	15,300	-4,700	-400
Seafood Processing	11,000	15,700	11,100	-4,700	-100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	66,500	68,300	67,100	-1,800	-600
Retail Trade	36,300	37,100	36,800	-800	-500
Information	7,000	7,200	7,100	-200	-100
Financial Activities	14,900	15,100	15,100	-200	-200
Professional and Business Services	27,000	27,700	27,000	-700	0
Educational ³ and Health Services	38,600	38,800	37,500	-200	1,100
Health Care	28,000	28,300	27,000	-300	1,000
Leisure and Hospitality	35,500	39,100	36,100	-3,600	-600
Accommodations	10,000	11,400	10,300	-1,400	-300
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	20,500	21,800	20,800	-1,300	-300
Other Services	11,300	11,500	11,700	-200	-400
Government ⁴	84,700	80,300	84,000	4,400	700

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

³ Private education only

⁴ Includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	9/09	8/09	9/08
Alaska	8.4%	8.1%	6.7%
U.S.	9.8%	9.7%	6.2%

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	9/09 ^P	8/09	9/08	Number			Rate		
				9/09 ^P	8/09	9/08	9/09 ^P	8/09	9/08
Alaska Statewide	359,167	363,197	358,756	27,744	25,754	21,778	7.7	7.1	6.1
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	193,551	192,665	193,169	14,253	13,112	10,869	7.4	6.8	5.6
Municipality of Anchorage	153,264	152,496	153,075	10,701	9,730	8,125	7.0	6.4	5.3
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	40,287	40,169	40,094	3,552	3,382	2,744	8.8	8.4	6.8
Gulf Coast Region	38,675	41,001	38,815	3,354	3,138	2,591	8.7	7.7	6.7
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,463	28,189	26,291	2,558	2,389	1,899	9.7	8.5	7.2
Kodiak Island Borough	6,423	6,676	6,563	423	384	343	6.6	5.8	5.2
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,789	6,136	5,961	373	365	349	6.4	5.9	5.9
Interior Region	54,395	55,592	54,445	3,893	3,618	3,188	7.2	6.5	5.9
Denali Borough	2,300	2,851	2,318	79	70	57	3.4	2.5	2.5
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,632	46,163	45,747	3,136	2,900	2,527	6.9	6.3	5.5
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,673	3,728	3,588	299	291	253	8.1	7.8	7.1
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,790	2,850	2,792	379	357	351	13.6	12.5	12.6
Northern Region	11,801	11,827	11,936	1,135	1,110	966	9.6	9.4	8.1
Nome Census Area	3,877	3,783	3,967	471	485	400	12.1	12.8	10.1
North Slope Borough	5,119	5,094	5,092	293	264	233	5.7	5.2	4.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,805	2,950	2,877	371	361	333	13.2	12.2	11.6
Southeast Region	41,662	43,186	42,040	2,786	2,590	2,209	6.7	6.0	5.3
Haines Borough	1,588	1,878	1,597	98	98	83	6.2	5.2	5.2
Juneau Borough	18,615	18,699	18,869	1,070	980	823	5.7	5.2	4.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	8,781	9,245	8,892	532	495	414	6.1	5.4	4.7
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	2,507	2,405	2,416	342	325	255	13.6	13.5	10.6
Sitka Borough	4,707	4,895	4,731	277	260	227	5.9	5.3	4.8
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	2,278	2,437	2,346	167	162	144	7.3	6.6	6.1
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	2,836	3,288	2,835	278	252	243	9.8	7.7	8.6
Yakutat Borough	350	339	354	22	18	20	6.3	5.3	5.6
Southwest Region	19,084	18,926	18,349	2,324	2,184	1,954	12.2	11.5	10.6
Aleutians East Borough	1,148	1,364	1,127	116	104	87	10.1	7.6	7.7
Aleutians West Census Area	2,903	2,979	2,835	245	151	130	8.4	5.1	4.6
Bethel Census Area	7,061	6,457	6,972	1,047	1,035	939	14.8	16.0	13.5
Bristol Bay Borough	1,159	1,805	1,170	42	40	40	3.6	2.2	3.4
Dillingham Census Area	2,634	2,403	2,231	221	211	182	8.4	8.8	8.2
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,372	1,191	1,291	81	72	68	5.9	6.0	5.3
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,807	2,727	2,723	572	571	508	20.4	20.9	18.7

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.

¹ Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

² 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