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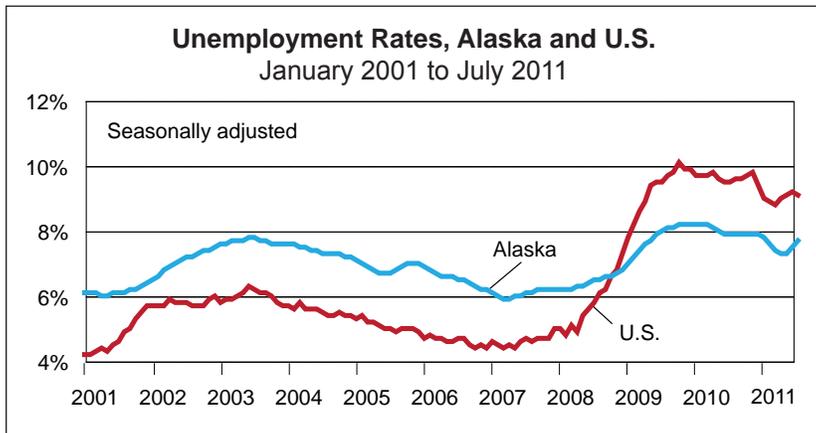
Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 7.7 percent in July



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July was 7.7 percent, up slightly from June's revised rate of 7.5 percent. The comparable national rate was 9.1 percent.

The unemployment rates for Alaska and the nation are both lower than they were a year ago, but neither rate has changed much during 2011. The state's jobless rate is still above its 10-year average of 7.1 percent, although it remains considerably healthier than the national rate.

The contrast between Alaska and the nation is even more pronounced in terms of jobs. Although employment in the nation began to recover in 2010 and has continued to improve modestly this year, the July employment number of 130.9 million puts the nation at 2004's level — that means the U.S. has a long way to go in making up those job losses.

In Alaska, 2011 represents an all-time high, with July employment at 355,100. Employment in Alaska has grown every year since 1988, with one exception: 2009, the tail end of the national recession. Employment declined by a four-tenths of a percent that year, but Alaska made up those small losses promptly in 2010 — then surpassed them.

The not seasonally adjusted jobless rates fell in every region in the state in July, as July is probably the top month for economic and labor force activity in Alaska. Construction, seafood processing, and the visitor industry hit or approach their peak this time of year. Six areas' rates were below 5 percent; the lowest was Bristol Bay at 1.1 percent. Eight areas had double-digit unemployment rates, with Wade Hampton Census Area the highest at 24.6 percent. Wade Hampton's unemployment rate has topped 20 percent in five of the past 10 years.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 7/11	Revised 6/11	Revised 7/10	Year-over-year change		
				7/10	90% confidence interval ²	
Total Nonfarm Employment ³	355,100	349,500	348,200	6,900	-483	14,283
Mining and Logging	17,400	17,000	16,400	1,000	207	1,793
Oil and Gas	13,600	13,500	13,300	300	-	-
Construction	19,100	18,900	19,600	-500	-3,083	2,083
Manufacturing	25,000	17,100	22,600	2,400	1,406	3,394
Seafood Processing	17,700	10,800	18,800	-1,100	-	-
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	69,300	68,100	67,400	1,900	-472	4,272
Retail Trade	37,900	37,600	37,200	700	-1,328	2,728
Information	6,600	6,500	6,500	100	-481	681
Financial Activities	15,000	14,900	15,400	-400	-2,343	1,543
Professional and Business Services	28,300	28,000	27,600	700	-1,093	2,493
Educational ⁴ and Health Services	42,400	43,100	41,800	600	-668	1,868
Health Care	31,700	31,800	30,300	1,400	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	41,300	39,100	38,100	3,200	1,163	5,237
Accommodations	8,300	8,100	10,900	-2,600	-	-
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	24,500	23,400	21,700	2,800	-	-
Other Services	11,600	12,100	11,900	-300	-3,476	2,876
Government ⁵	79,100	84,700	80,900	-1,800	-	-

Notes: A dash indicates that confidence intervals are not available at this level of detail.

¹Not seasonally adjusted

²Based on the margin of error of the estimate, a 90 percent confidence interval statistically determines a range of values within which the "true" value falls with a 90 percent level of confidence. For more information, go to <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/c-i.pdf>.

³Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

⁴Private education only

⁵Includes public schools, the University of Alaska, and federally recognized tribal entities

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	7/11	6/11	7/10
Alaska	7.7%	7.5%	7.9%
U.S.	9.1%	9.2%	9.5%

Sources for graph and tables: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Beginning with the production of preliminary estimates for March 2011, production of state and metropolitan area Current Employment Statistics estimates has transitioned from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Research and Analysis Section to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Concurrent with this transition, the BLS implemented several changes to the methods to help standardize estimation across states. While these changes reduce the potential for statistical bias in state and metropolitan area estimates, they may increase month-to-month variability. More detailed information on the CES changes is available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/cesprocs.htm>.

Contact: Neal Fried, Economist (907) 269-4861
Research and Analysis Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	7/11 ^P	6/11	7/10	Number			Rate		
				7/11 ^P	6/11	7/10	7/11 ^P	6/11	7/10
Alaska Statewide	375,399	372,587	369,062	25,918	28,995	25,843	6.9	7.8	7.0
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	197,913	200,013	193,017	12,828	14,342	13,179	6.5	7.2	6.8
Municipality of Anchorage	155,206	156,771	151,601	9,379	10,483	9,908	6.0	6.7	6.5
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,707	43,242	41,416	3,449	3,859	3,271	8.1	8.9	7.9
Gulf Coast Region	42,835	42,434	42,589	3,150	3,532	3,069	7.4	8.3	7.2
Kenai Peninsula Borough	29,534	29,611	29,380	2,304	2,586	2,281	7.8	8.7	7.8
Kodiak Island Borough	7,197	6,827	7,102	463	504	432	6.4	7.4	6.1
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,104	5,996	6,107	383	442	356	6.3	7.4	5.8
Interior Region	56,264	56,433	55,348	3,829	4,278	3,672	6.8	7.6	6.6
Denali Borough	2,288	2,314	2,380	93	102	85	4.1	4.4	3.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	47,992	47,469	46,703	2,932	3,313	2,895	6.1	7.0	6.2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,392	3,558	3,577	344	369	310	10.1	10.4	8.7
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,592	3,092	2,688	460	494	382	17.7	16.0	14.2
Northern Region	12,435	12,537	12,265	1,272	1,366	1,217	10.2	10.9	9.9
Nome Census Area	3,712	4,005	3,745	533	580	553	14.4	14.5	14.8
North Slope Borough	5,529	5,426	5,439	276	279	272	5.0	5.1	5.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,194	3,106	3,081	463	507	392	14.5	16.3	12.7
Southeast Region	44,651	41,844	44,681	2,573	2,926	2,581	5.8	7.0	5.8
Haines Borough	1,870	1,499	1,926	93	101	89	5.0	6.7	4.6
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	1,526	1,462	1,514	168	192	142	11.0	13.1	9.4
Juneau, City and Borough of	19,341	18,795	19,178	908	1,022	955	4.7	5.4	5.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	9,598	8,922	9,640	535	619	520	5.6	6.9	5.4
Petersburg Census Area ²	1,907	1,726	-	142	155	-	7.4	9.0	-
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area ²	2,836	2,611	-	359	406	-	12.7	15.5	-
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	-	-	2,597	-	-	330	-	-	12.7
Sitka, City and Borough of	5,255	4,689	5,364	259	300	270	4.9	6.4	5.0
Skagway, Municipality of ²	861	807	863	24	25	17	2.8	3.1	2.0
Wrangell, City and Borough of ²	1,105	1,008	-	60	77	-	5.4	7.6	-
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	-	-	3,251	-	-	231	-	-	7.1
Yakutat, City and Borough of	352	325	348	25	29	27	7.1	8.9	7.8
Southwest Region	21,300	19,327	21,166	2,265	2,551	2,127	10.6	13.2	10.0
Aleutians East Borough	1,359	1,075	1,343	104	119	82	7.7	11.1	6.1
Aleutians West Census Area	3,081	2,867	2,940	173	212	160	5.6	7.4	5.4
Bethel Census Area	6,965	7,145	6,960	1,063	1,199	1,046	15.3	16.8	15.0
Bristol Bay Borough	3,095	1,896	3,113	33	37	30	1.1	2.0	1.0
Dillingham Census Area	2,680	2,247	2,742	216	247	189	8.1	11.0	6.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,680	1,310	1,667	75	86	72	4.5	6.6	4.3
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,440	2,787	2,401	601	651	548	24.6	23.4	22.8

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 in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

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

²Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the Skagway Municipality and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (previously the Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area) became available in 2010. Data for the City and Borough of Wrangell, Petersburg Census Area, and Prince of Wales-Hyder went into effect in January 2011. Prior to January 2011, data were published for Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area and Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area.

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