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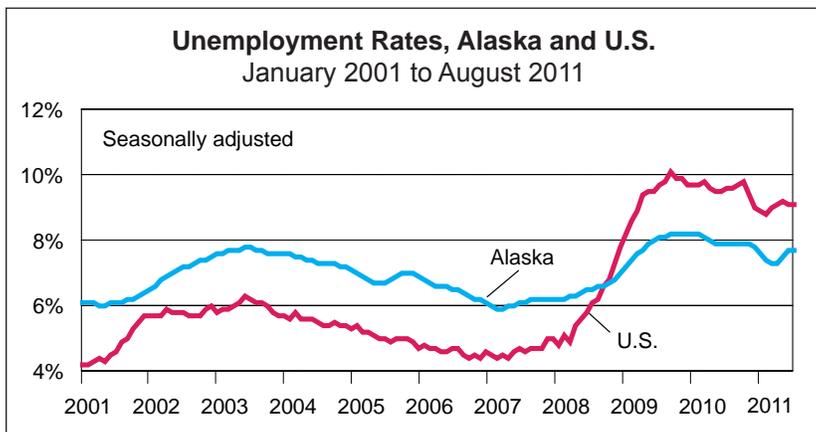
# Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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## Unemployment rate at 7.7 percent in August



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 7.7 percent, unchanged from July's revised rate. The national rate was 9.1 percent, also unchanged from the prior month. These jobless rates have also remained relatively static throughout 2011. In January, the nation's rate was 9.0 percent, and the state's rate was 7.8 percent.

It's not unusual for the state's jobless rate to follow the national trend. Because Alaska's employment picture remains brighter than in most of the nation, fewer Alaskan job seekers are leaving the state and more people are heading north looking for work, putting upward pressure on the state's unemployment rate. This is evidenced by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's recently released intercensal data, which show the decade's largest population gains were in 2009 and 2010. These trends are highly likely to continue throughout 2011.

Even though unemployment hasn't dropped in 2011, Alaska remains in an enviable place among most states with a July rate that was 17th lowest in the nation. This is a historically unusual place for Alaska, whose unemployment ranked second-highest in the nation as recently as August 2007.

In August, Alaska's nonseasonally adjusted regional unemployment rates fell slightly in five of six regions. Southeast's rates were lowest in August as fishing and tourism remained at or near peak levels. Although Southwest was home to the areas with both the highest and lowest unemployment rates, that region had the highest overall unemployment and the only rate that increased in August.

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

	Preliminary 8/11	Revised 7/11	Revised 8/10	Year-over-year change		
				8/10	90% confidence interval <sup>2</sup>	
Total Nonfarm Employment <sup>3</sup>	352,400	355,300	346,400	6,000	-1,383	13,383
Mining and Logging	17,200	17,200	16,500	700	-93	1,493
Oil and Gas	13,600	13,600	13,400	200	-	-
Construction	19,100	19,000	19,800	-700	-3,283	1,883
Manufacturing	22,200	24,800	19,800	2,400	1,406	3,394
Seafood Processing	15,000	17,500	16,000	-1,000	-	-
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	69,700	69,400	67,500	2,200	-172	4,572
Retail Trade	37,900	37,900	36,900	1,000	-1,028	3,028
Information	6,600	6,600	6,400	200	-381	781
Financial Activities	15,000	15,000	15,400	-400	-2,343	1,543
Professional and Business Services	28,700	28,600	27,600	1,100	-693	2,893
Educational <sup>4</sup> and Health Services	42,900	42,700	41,600	1,300	32	2,568
Health Care	31,900	31,800	30,200	1,700	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	40,800	41,400	38,200	2,600	563	4,637
Accommodations	8,300	8,300	10,900	-2,600	-	-
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	24,000	24,400	21,800	2,200	-	-
Other Services	11,000	11,600	11,900	-900	-4,076	2,276
Government <sup>5</sup>	79,200	79,000	81,700	-2,500	-	-

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

<sup>1</sup>Not seasonally adjusted

<sup>2</sup>Based 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>.

<sup>3</sup>Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

<sup>4</sup>Private education only

<sup>5</sup>Includes public schools, the University of Alaska, and federally recognized tribal entities

### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	8/11	7/11	8/10
Alaska	7.7%	7.7%	7.9%
U.S.	9.1%	9.1%	9.6%

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>.

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

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Research and Analysis Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>

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

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	8/11 <sup>P</sup>	7/11	8/10	Number			Rate		
				8/11 <sup>P</sup>	7/11	8/10	8/11 <sup>P</sup>	7/11	8/10
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>372,889</b>	<b>375,280</b>	<b>366,895</b>	<b>24,811</b>	<b>25,678</b>	<b>25,854</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>197,449</b>	<b>198,365</b>	<b>192,413</b>	<b>12,269</b>	<b>12,707</b>	<b>13,262</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Municipality of Anchorage	154,946	155,568	151,171	9,044	9,290	10,020	5.8	6.0	6.6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,503	42,797	41,242	3,225	3,417	3,242	7.6	8.0	7.9
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>41,944</b>	<b>42,603</b>	<b>42,292</b>	<b>2,988</b>	<b>3,124</b>	<b>3,054</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,820	29,365	28,989	2,211	2,284	2,283	7.7	7.8	7.9
Kodiak Island Borough	6,903	7,151	7,066	411	461	409	6.0	6.4	5.8
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,221	6,087	6,237	366	379	362	5.9	6.2	5.8
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>57,062</b>	<b>56,239</b>	<b>56,390</b>	<b>3,704</b>	<b>3,792</b>	<b>3,663</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Denali Borough	2,356	2,350	2,372	85	92	78	3.6	3.9	3.3
Fairbanks North Star Borough	48,096	47,695	47,371	2,846	2,904	2,897	5.9	6.1	6.1
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,615	3,499	3,664	333	340	315	9.2	9.7	8.6
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,995	2,695	2,983	440	456	373	14.7	16.9	12.5
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>12,622</b>	<b>12,383</b>	<b>12,411</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Nome Census Area	3,924	3,703	3,918	501	528	534	12.8	14.3	13.6
North Slope Borough	5,543	5,512	5,451	260	274	273	4.7	5.0	5.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,155	3,168	3,042	445	458	398	14.1	14.5	13.1
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>44,602</b>	<b>44,587</b>	<b>44,398</b>	<b>2,470</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Haines Borough	1,833	1,874	1,860	84	92	87	4.6	4.9	4.7
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area <sup>2</sup>	1,482	1,522	1,467	149	166	133	10.1	10.9	9.1
Juneau, City and Borough of	19,120	19,318	18,891	876	900	966	4.6	4.7	5.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough <sup>2</sup>	9,570	9,580	9,560	507	530	514	5.3	5.5	5.4
Petersburg Census Area <sup>2</sup>	1,941	1,903	-	120	141	-	6.2	7.4	-
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area <sup>2</sup>	2,918	2,829	-	363	356	-	12.4	12.6	-
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area <sup>2</sup>	-	-	2,580	-	-	322	-	-	12.5
Sitka, City and Borough of	5,382	5,246	5,460	248	257	270	4.6	4.9	4.9
Skagway, Municipality of <sup>2</sup>	854	860	842	33	24	21	3.9	2.8	2.5
Wrangell, City and Borough of <sup>2</sup>	1,143	1,103	-	64	59	-	5.6	5.3	-
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area <sup>2</sup>	-	-	3,384	-	-	231	-	-	6.8
Yakutat, City and Borough of	359	352	354	26	25	27	7.2	7.1	7.6
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>19,210</b>	<b>21,102</b>	<b>18,992</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>2,102</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>11.1</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,257	1,347	1,238	104	103	80	8.3	7.6	6.5
Aleutians West Census Area	2,874	2,912	2,842	172	171	143	6.0	5.9	5.0
Bethel Census Area	7,112	6,977	6,984	1,021	1,053	1,039	14.4	15.1	14.9
Bristol Bay Borough	1,816	3,109	1,793	32	32	32	1.8	1.0	1.8
Dillingham Census Area	2,373	2,731	2,355	210	214	192	8.8	7.8	8.2
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,142	1,591	1,183	71	75	71	6.2	4.7	6.0
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,636	2,435	2,597	563	596	545	21.4	24.5	21.0

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.

<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 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