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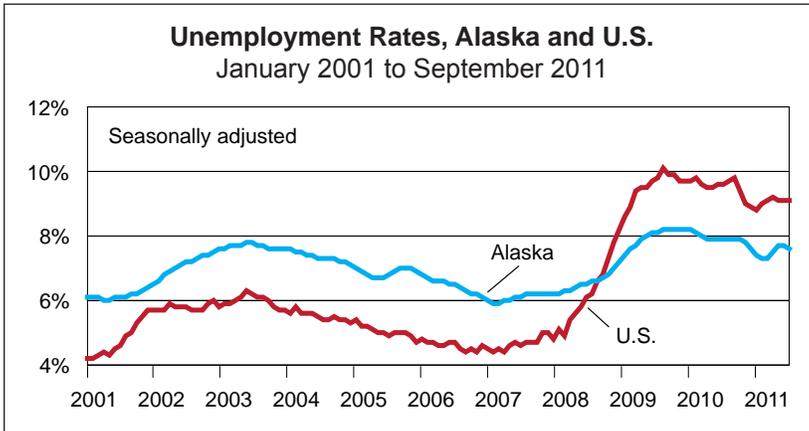
Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 11-50

Unemployment rate at 7.6 percent in September



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September was essentially unchanged, declining one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.6.

The comparable national rate for September was noticeably higher at 9.1 percent, unchanged from August. The U.S. rate is down slightly compared to September 2010's 9.6 percent, but has shown no clear trend up or down for most of 2011.

Alaska's rate is also lower than the nearest other states, including Washington (9.1 percent), Oregon (9.6 percent), and California (12.1 percent). Hawaii was the only "close" state whose unemployment rate was lower than Alaska's, at 6.2 percent.

Preliminary employment estimates, which are subject to potentially large revisions, show growth of 3,700 jobs in Alaska from September 2010.

Although Alaska and U.S. job numbers were both up by about 1 percent over September 2010 levels, the national numbers remain significantly below pre-recession highs while Alaska has more than recovered its relatively small recession-related losses.

Unemployment rates for September (not seasonally adjusted) increased slightly over the month in half the state's regions. In four regions, rates fell slightly below year-ago levels. For example, Fairbanks' unemployment rate was 5.8 percent versus 6.2 percent last September. The Northern and Southwest regions were the only areas whose rates were slightly higher than at this time last year.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 9/11	Revised 8/11	Revised 9/10	Year-over-year change		
				9/10	90% confidence interval ²	
Total Nonfarm Employment ³	342,900	352,300	339,200	3,700	-2,377	9,777
Mining and Logging	17,100	17,200	16,300	800	-435	2,035
Oil and Gas	13,700	13,600	13,300	400	-	-
Construction	18,600	19,000	19,000	-400	-1,913	1,113
Manufacturing	13,900	22,300	14,400	-500	-2,859	1,859
Retail Trade	37,000	37,800	35,800	1,200	416	1,984
Information	6,600	6,600	6,400	200	-75	475
Financial Activities	14,800	15,000	15,000	-200	-1,067	667
Professional and Business Services	28,100	28,600	27,400	700	-656	2,056
Educational ⁴ and Health Services	43,500	42,900	41,700	1,800	665	2,935
Health Care	32,000	31,900	30,100	1,900	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	36,800	40,800	35,200	1,600	-1,069	4,269
Other Services	11,100	11,100	11,800	-700	-1,521	121
Government ⁵	85,300	79,200	87,000	-1,700	-	-

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.

Only select categories are included, so sector values will not sum to the total employment.

⁴Private education only.

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

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	9/11	8/11	9/10
Alaska	7.6%	7.7%	7.9%
U.S.	9.1%	9.1%	9.6%

Beginning with the production of preliminary estimates for March 2011, production of employment 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, 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 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 Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	9/11 ^P	8/11	9/10	Number			Rate		
				9/11 ^P	8/11	9/10	9/11 ^P	8/11	9/10
Alaska Statewide	369,168	372,614	363,124	24,888	24,625	26,094	6.7	6.6	7.2
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	197,831	197,379	195,151	12,291	12,177	13,477	6.2	6.2	6.9
Municipality of Anchorage	155,262	154,897	153,367	9,077	8,978	10,228	5.8	5.8	6.7
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,569	42,482	41,784	3,214	3,199	3,249	7.6	7.5	7.8
Gulf Coast Region	40,396	42,324	40,409	3,012	2,965	3,132	7.5	7.0	7.8
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,503	29,045	27,577	2,229	2,193	2,376	8.1	7.6	8.6
Kodiak Island Borough	7,118	7,050	7,075	396	408	381	5.6	5.8	5.4
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,775	6,229	5,757	387	364	375	6.7	5.8	6.5
Interior Region	56,622	56,367	55,444	3,680	3,677	3,694	6.5	6.5	6.7
Denali Borough	1,883	2,303	1,915	93	85	83	4.9	3.7	4.3
Fairbanks North Star Borough	48,102	47,558	46,803	2,790	2,825	2,899	5.8	5.9	6.2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,542	3,567	3,640	341	330	326	9.6	9.3	9.0
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,095	2,939	3,086	456	437	386	14.7	14.9	12.5
Northern Region	12,746	12,584	12,369	1,214	1,197	1,159	9.5	9.5	9.4
Nome Census Area	4,158	3,922	4,081	483	498	497	11.6	12.7	12.2
North Slope Borough	5,520	5,514	5,364	275	257	271	5.0	4.7	5.1
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,068	3,148	2,924	456	442	391	14.9	14.0	13.4
Southeast Region	42,615	44,753	41,580	2,468	2,452	2,524	5.8	5.5	6.1
Haines Borough	1,617	1,847	1,633	91	83	89	5.6	4.5	5.5
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	1,353	1,485	1,323	146	148	132	10.8	10.0	10.0
Juneau, City and Borough of	19,371	19,185	18,657	868	869	949	4.5	4.5	5.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	8,956	9,667	8,766	489	504	517	5.5	5.2	5.9
Petersburg Census Area ²	1,771	1,949	-	140	119	-	7.9	6.1	-
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area ²	2,628	2,928	-	339	360	-	12.9	12.3	-
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	-	-	2,474	-	-	306	-	-	12.4
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,731	5,328	4,771	254	246	257	5.4	4.6	5.4
Skagway, Municipality of ²	783	856	762	39	33	28	5.0	3.9	3.7
Wrangell, City and Borough of ²	1,042	1,148	-	76	64	-	7.3	5.6	-
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	-	-	2,832	-	-	224	-	-	7.9
Yakutat, City and Borough of	363	360	362	26	26	22	7.2	7.2	6.1
Southwest Region	18,959	19,206	18,171	2,222	2,158	2,108	11.7	11.2	11.6
Aleutians East Borough	1,082	1,253	1,046	117	103	84	10.8	8.2	8.0
Aleutians West Census Area	2,731	2,876	2,663	185	171	187	6.8	5.9	7.0
Bethel Census Area	7,573	7,117	7,099	1,059	1,015	1,028	14.0	14.3	14.5
Bristol Bay Borough	1,193	1,817	1,164	33	31	33	2.8	1.7	2.8
Dillingham Census Area	2,208	2,368	2,171	207	208	192	9.4	8.8	8.8
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,306	1,143	1,259	76	71	70	5.8	6.2	5.6
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,866	2,632	2,769	545	559	514	19.0	21.2	18.6

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