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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### Unemployment rate at 7.1 percent in October

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.1 percent in October, according to preliminary estimates. October's rate was four-tenths of a percentage point lower than September's 7.5 percent.

The significant decline in the October seasonally adjusted unemployment rate reversed the summer's upturn. No definitive trend in Alaska's rate in either direction has been evident this year.

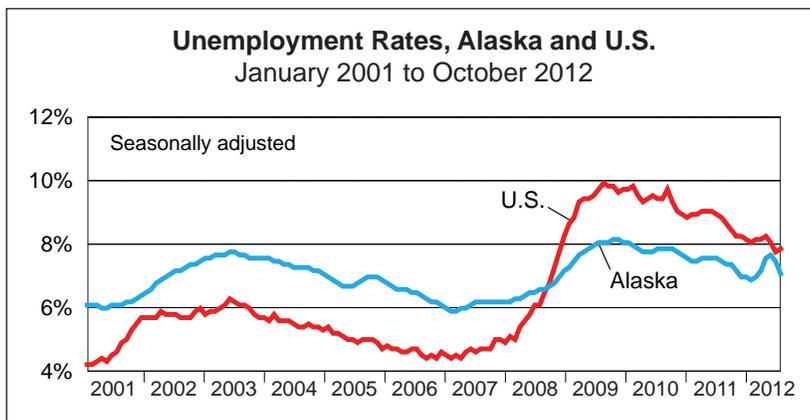
The national seasonally adjusted rate was 7.9 percent in October, which was essentially unchanged from September's 7.8 percent. The U.S. rate has fallen more than two percentage points from its recession high of 10.0 percent in 2009, although it remains well above pre-recession levels. October marks the 48th consecutive month that the national rate has been higher than Alaska's.

October rates for Alaska's boroughs and census areas – which are not seasonally adjusted – varied widely. The highest rate was in Wade Hampton Census Area at 19.2 percent. The City and Borough of Juneau had the lowest unemployment rate in October, at 4.3 percent.

The biggest over-the-month change was in the Municipality of Skagway, where September's 2.4 percent unemployment jumped to 17.3 percent in October with the end of the tourism season.

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Research and Analysis Web site: [laborstats.alaska.gov](http://laborstats.alaska.gov)



	10/12	9/12	10/11
Alaska	7.1%	7.5%	7.5%
U.S.	7.9%	7.8%	8.9%

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

For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

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

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	10/12 <sup>P</sup>	9/12	10/11	Number			Rate		
				10/12 <sup>P</sup>	9/12	10/11	10/12 <sup>P</sup>	9/12	10/11
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>361,593</b>	<b>365,860</b>	<b>366,250</b>	<b>21,604</b>	<b>23,190</b>	<b>25,453</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>196,713</b>	<b>194,962</b>	<b>201,373</b>	<b>10,011</b>	<b>10,975</b>	<b>12,358</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Municipality of Anchorage	154,786	153,370	158,228	7,294	8,022	8,908	4.7	5.2	5.6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	41,927	41,592	43,145	2,717	2,953	3,450	6.5	7.1	8.0
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>39,211</b>	<b>40,839</b>	<b>39,037</b>	<b>2,739</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>3,175</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,251	27,650	27,287	1,934	2,081	2,303	7.1	7.5	8.4
Kodiak Island Borough	7,085	7,455	6,788	360	365	393	5.1	4.9	5.8
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,875	5,734	4,962	445	398	479	9.1	6.9	9.7
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>55,181</b>	<b>56,061</b>	<b>55,270</b>	<b>3,211</b>	<b>3,408</b>	<b>3,818</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Denali Borough	836	1,852	940	128	97	148	15.3	5.2	15.7
Fairbanks North Star Borough	47,675	47,404	47,423	2,371	2,543	2,867	5.0	5.4	6.0
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,487	3,600	3,662	323	344	354	9.3	9.6	9.7
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,183	3,205	3,245	389	424	449	12.2	13.2	13.8
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>13,050</b>	<b>12,852</b>	<b>12,928</b>	<b>1,088</b>	<b>1,245</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Nome Census Area	4,317	4,244	4,246	426	476	473	9.9	11.2	11.1
North Slope Borough	5,609	5,488	5,493	269	307	316	4.8	5.6	5.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,124	3,120	3,189	393	462	441	12.6	14.8	13.8
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>39,027</b>	<b>42,032</b>	<b>39,219</b>	<b>2,257</b>	<b>2,321</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Haines Borough	1,284	1,761	1,303	85	84	103	6.6	4.8	7.9
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	927	1,374	933	107	164	131	11.5	11.9	14.0
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,237	18,416	18,403	782	796	937	4.3	4.3	5.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,947	9,158	8,062	464	481	542	5.8	5.3	6.7
Petersburg Census Area	1,719	1,788	1,680	145	126	142	8.4	7.0	8.5
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,439	2,638	2,466	254	331	331	10.4	12.5	13.4
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,407	4,602	4,341	202	221	259	4.6	4.8	6.0
Skagway, Municipality of	636	794	658	110	19	144	17.3	2.4	21.9
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,103	1,154	1,098	85	79	103	7.7	6.8	9.4
Yakutat, City and Borough of	328	347	275	23	20	23	7.0	5.8	8.4
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>18,406</b>	<b>19,117</b>	<b>18,426</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>2,397</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>11.7</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,166	1,253	1,126	131	139	118	11.2	11.1	10.5
Aleutians West Census Area	3,389	3,060	2,844	349	237	204	10.3	7.7	7.2
Bethel Census Area	7,446	7,176	7,813	1,002	1,110	997	13.5	15.5	12.8
Bristol Bay Borough	567	1,201	581	34	36	41	6.0	3.0	7.1
Dillingham Census Area	1,845	2,196	1,903	180	198	195	9.8	9.0	10.2
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,187	1,286	1,109	63	71	71	5.3	5.5	6.4
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,806	2,945	3,050	538	606	531	19.2	20.6	17.4

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 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.

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