

# State of Alaska

## Department of Labor & Workforce Development



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### **Employment Down 1.3 Percent, Unemployment Rate Unchanged**

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's total employment was down by an estimated 1.3 percent in October compared to October 2016, a loss of about 4,100 jobs. While the state continues to shed jobs, over-the-year losses have gradually slowed in 2017. The largest loss during the current downturn was -2.6 percent in fall 2016.

Oil and gas employment was down by 7.8 percent, followed by construction (-7.2 percent). The only industries to add jobs were health care (2.0 percent) and local government (0.2 percent), which includes public schools and tribal government. Federal employment was down 1.3 percent and state government was down 2.0 percent.

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 7.2 percent in October was unchanged from the prior two months but higher than last October, when it was 6.6 percent. The comparable national rate for October was 4.1 percent.

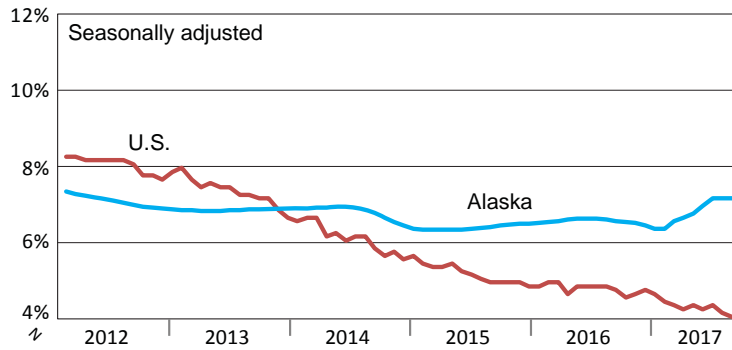
Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted rate was 6.7 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from September, which is typical in the fall. Unemployment rates were up in 21 of 29 boroughs and census areas, with notable increases in areas dependent on tourism. The largest increases were in Skagway and the Denali Borough.

Unemployment rates fell in six boroughs and census areas and stayed the same in two. Unemployment rates fell around half a percentage point in each of the three areas in the Northern Region: the Nome Census Area, North Slope Borough, and Northwest Arctic Borough.

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# Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

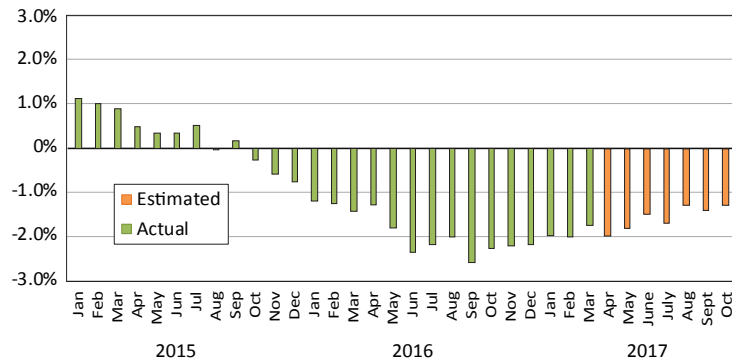
January 2012 to October 2017



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

# Wage and Salary Employment

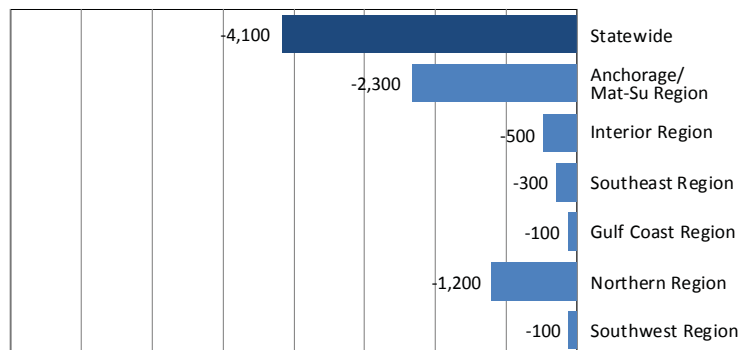
Percent change from same month the previous year



Note: Actual employment counts for 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages employment series. Estimated employment counts from 2017 are based on a forecast of the QCEW series.

# Regional Employment

Change from October 2016 to October 2017



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

# Area Unemployment Rates

Not seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Rate		
	10/17 <sup>P</sup>	9/17	10/16
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Anchorage, Municipality	5.6	5.8	5.1
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	7.8	7.9	7.4
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	7.9	7.3	7.7
Kodiak Island Borough	4.8	4.6	4.3
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	8.2	6.3	8.6
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Denali Borough	10.3	4.1	10.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	5.8	5.8	5.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	9.5	8.2	9.0
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	15.9	15.5	15.1
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>
Nome Census Area	11.2	11.8	11.9
North Slope Borough	7.6	8.1	6.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	16.0	16.6	16.3
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Haines Borough	9.2	6.6	9.4
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	12.5	7.8	6.1
Juneau, City and Borough	4.7	4.6	4.3
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6.2	5.1	5.9
Petersburg Borough	8.0	7.3	7.5
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	10.8	10.1	10.6
Sitka, City and Borough	4.8	4.4	3.8
Skagway, Municipality	13.5	3.8	12.4
Wrangell, City and Borough	7.2	6.6	6.5
Yakutat, City and Borough	10.0	8.5	6.4
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.2</b>
Aleutians East Borough	2.6	2.6	2.7
Aleutians West Census Area	4.6	4.4	3.6
Bethel Census Area	12.9	13.6	13.0
Bristol Bay Borough	11.1	7.2	9.1
Dillingham Census Area	10.1	9.1	10.0
Kusilvak Census Area	19.3	17.9	17.5
Lake and Peninsula Borough	13.1	9.7	10.2

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.

<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

# Employment By Industry

	Average Monthly Employment			Compared to Oct 2016	
	Oct 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Sep 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Oct 2016 <sup>2</sup>	Change	Percent
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>322,800</b>	<b>337,400</b>	<b>326,900</b>	<b>-4,100</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>240,900</b>	<b>256,100</b>	<b>244,400</b>	<b>-3,500</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>
Mining and Logging	12,900	13,000	13,600	-700	-5.1%
Oil and Gas	9,500	9,600	10,300	-800	-7.8%
Construction	15,500	16,800	16,700	-1,200	-7.2%
Manufacturing	10,200	13,500	10,800	-600	-5.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	64,000	66,800	64,400	-400	-0.6%
Wholesale	6,200	6,400	6,300	-100	-1.6%
Retail	36,300	37,200	36,900	-600	-1.6%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	21,500	23,500	21,600	-100	-0.5%
Information	6,000	6,000	6,200	-200	-3.2%
Financial Activities	11,800	11,900	12,000	-200	-1.7%
Professional and Business Services	27,400	28,400	27,900	-500	-1.8%
Education and Health	49,200	49,200	48,700	500	1.0%
Health Care	36,300	36,400	35,600	700	2.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	33,000	39,600	33,100	-100	-0.3%
Other Services	10,900	10,900	11,000	-100	-0.9%
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>81,900</b>	<b>81,300</b>	<b>82,500</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>
Federal <sup>3</sup>	14,800	15,600	15,000	-200	-1.3%
State <sup>4</sup>	24,000	24,100	24,500	-500	-2.0%
Local <sup>5</sup>	43,100	41,600	43,000	100	0.2%

<sup>1</sup>Employment estimates for 2017 are based on a forecast of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data.

<sup>2</sup>Employment estimates for October 2016 are QCEW data adjusted to Current Employment Statistics definitions.

<sup>3</sup>Excludes uniformed military

<sup>4</sup>Includes the University of Alaska

<sup>5</sup>Includes public schools and tribal government