

News Release

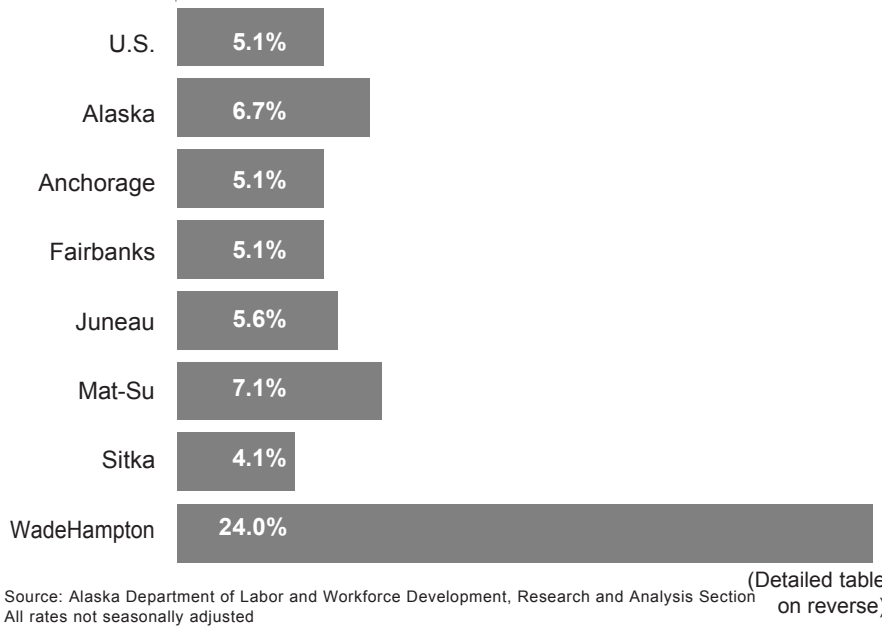
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September Unemployment Follows Trends

September Unemployment for Selected Areas



Alaska's unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point in September to 6.7 percent and nonfarm payroll employment fell by 6,000, according to Dan Robinson, an economist at the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The comparable national unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) fell three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.1 percent. The unadjusted national rate typically falls in September as Alaska's rate rises because of different seasonal patterns.

Anchorage's unemployment rate rose very slightly from 5.0 to 5.1 percent and Fairbanks' rate was unchanged at 5.1 percent. Juneau's unemployment rate rose four-tenths of a percentage point to 5.6 percent. Wade Hampton recorded the state's highest rate at 24.0 percent and Sitka the lowest at 4.1 percent.

The decline of 6,000 jobs over the month was a typical drop for Alaska at the end of summer. In 2003 jobs fell by 6,100 in September and in 2002 by 6,200. This year's biggest monthly declines were in manufacturing (4,300), due to less seafood processing activity, and in the leisure and hospitality sector (2,400), due to the winding down of the summer visitor season. A new academic year helped raise government employment by 4,700 in September.

Over-the-year comparisons show that September's estimate of 317,400 payroll jobs is 4,100 higher than in September 2003, a growth rate of 1.3 percent. Construction continues to show strong growth, up 1,000 jobs over the year to 21,200. Employment in health care and social assistance, which makes up most of the education and health services sector seen in the payroll employment table at the left, has also been robust over the year. September's estimate of 32,800 jobs is up 2,100 since September 2003, a growth rate of 6.8 percent.

The state had about 600 fewer government jobs this September than it did in September 2003. Local government saw the biggest decline, dropping from 40,300 to 39,800, a loss of 500 jobs. The remaining 100 jobs lost were in state government.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	preliminary 09/04	revised 08/04	revised 09/03	changes from	
				08/04	09/03
Total Nonfarm Employment	317,400	323,400	313,300	-6,000	4,100
Natural Resources & Mining	10,500	10,800	10,200	-300	300
Construction	21,200	21,600	20,200	-400	1,000
Manufacturing	13,600	17,900	13,700	-4,300	-100
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	65,000	66,800	63,800	-1,800	1,200
Information	7,000	7,000	6,900	0	100
Financial Activities	14,800	15,200	14,700	-400	100
Professional & Business Services	23,600	24,800	23,600	-1,200	0
Education & Health Services	34,900	35,100	32,900	-200	2,000
Leisure & Hospitality	33,700	36,100	33,300	-2,400	400
Other Services	11,000	10,700	11,400	300	-400
Government	82,100	77,400	82,700	4,700	-600

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.

Benchmark date: March 2003

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

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

September 2004:	Alaska 7.6%	U.S. 5.4%
August 2004:	Alaska 7.6%	U.S. 5.4%
September 2003:	Alaska 8.0%	U.S. 6.1%

URL Address: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

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Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	9/04	8/04	9/03*	9/04	8/04	9/03*	9/04	8/04	9/03*	9/04	8/04	9/03*
Alaska Statewide	348,712	353,079	335,220	23,328	23,258	23,259	6.7	6.6	6.9	325,384	329,821	311,961
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	191,998	190,010	182,927	10,540	10,385	10,606	5.5	5.5	5.8	181,458	179,625	172,321
Municipality of Anchorage	153,234	150,936	147,697	7,777	7,568	7,935	5.1	5.0	5.4	145,457	143,368	139,762
Mat-Su Borough	38,764	39,074	35,230	2,763	2,817	2,671	7.1	7.2	7.6	36,001	36,257	32,559
Gulf Coast Region	34,769	37,981	33,797	3,123	3,139	3,170	9.0	8.3	9.4	31,646	34,842	30,627
Kenai Peninsula Borough	22,899	24,867	22,432	2,160	2,034	2,361	9.4	8.2	10.5	20,739	22,833	20,071
Kodiak Island Borough	6,753	7,597	6,407	521	736	376	7.7	9.7	5.9	6,232	6,861	6,031
Valdez-Cordova CA	5,117	5,516	4,958	442	369	434	8.6	6.7	8.8	4,675	5,147	4,524
Interior Region	54,502	54,833	52,699	3,104	3,066	3,237	5.7	5.6	6.1	51,398	51,767	49,462
Denali Borough	1,229	1,195	1,198	67	25	80	5.5	2.1	6.7	1,162	1,170	1,118
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	48,154	48,510	46,607	2,445	2,473	2,620	5.1	5.1	5.6	45,709	46,037	43,987
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,736	2,744	2,593	273	264	223	10.0	9.6	8.6	2,463	2,480	2,370
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	2,385	2,383	2,300	320	304	313	13.4	12.8	13.6	2,065	2,079	1,987
Northern Region	9,376	9,301	9,075	1,569	1,580	1,554	16.7	17.0	17.1	7,807	7,721	7,521
Nome Census Area	3,470	3,439	3,281	565	566	483	16.3	16.5	14.7	2,905	2,873	2,798
North Slope Borough	3,448	3,463	3,446	489	537	596	14.2	15.5	17.3	2,959	2,926	2,850
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,459	2,399	2,347	515	477	474	20.9	19.9	20.2	1,944	1,922	1,873
Southeast Region	40,575	42,758	39,736	2,491	2,502	2,524	6.1	5.9	6.4	38,084	40,256	37,212
Haines Borough	1,257	1,318	1,245	82	76	97	6.5	5.8	7.8	1,175	1,242	1,148
Juneau Borough	18,318	19,283	17,868	1,028	1,007	974	5.6	5.2	5.5	17,290	18,276	16,894
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,590	8,002	7,398	462	467	433	6.1	5.8	5.9	7,128	7,535	6,965
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	2,788	2,966	2,805	288	323	362	10.3	10.9	12.9	2,500	2,643	2,443
Sitka Borough	4,797	5,060	4,740	198	199	246	4.1	3.9	5.2	4,599	4,861	4,494
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,041	2,143	1,987	145	139	135	7.1	6.5	6.8	1,896	2,004	1,852
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,473	3,652	3,396	259	255	256	7.5	7.0	7.5	3,214	3,397	3,140
Yakutat Borough	312	335	296	29	36	20	9.3	10.7	6.8	283	299	276
Southwest Region	17,492	18,197	16,987	2,499	2,586	2,168	14.3	14.2	12.8	14,993	15,611	14,819
Aleutians East Borough	1,776	1,842	1,747	79	75	70	4.4	4.1	4.0	1,697	1,767	1,677
Aleutians West Census Area	2,948	3,041	2,845	246	227	174	8.3	7.5	6.1	2,702	2,814	2,671
Bethel Census Area	7,052	7,339	6,794	1,167	1,211	977	16.5	16.5	14.4	5,885	6,128	5,817
Bristol Bay Borough	542	549	526	58	45	48	10.7	8.2	9.1	484	504	478
Dillingham Census Area	2,076	2,115	1,995	269	233	209	13.0	11.0	10.5	1,807	1,882	1,786
Lake & Peninsula Borough	589	624	573	79	93	69	13.4	14.9	12.0	510	531	504
Wade Hampton CA	2,509	2,687	2,507	601	701	621	24.0	26.1	24.8	1,908	1,986	1,886

*Benchmark: March 2003 Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. * Comparisons with previous year's numbers are of very limited use because of the magnitude of year-end revisions. 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. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. They are considered not in the labor force.*