



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future

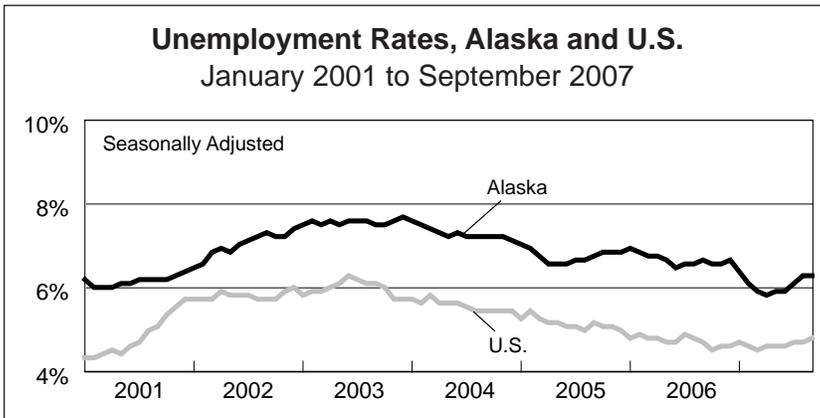


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Commissioner Click Bishop

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Unemployment rate unchanged at 6.3 percent in September



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.3 percent in September, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The comparable national rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.7 percent.

Through the first nine months of 2007 the unemployment rate has averaged 6.1 percent, a noticeable decline from the 6.7 percent average for the same nine months in 2006. The declines came in the early part of the year, however, and the rate has inched up five-tenths of a percentage point since April's 5.8 percent.

The Denali Borough had the state's lowest September unemployment rate at 2.3 percent (rates for boroughs and census areas are not seasonally adjusted). The Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest at 17.5 percent.

Most of the state's six economic regions mirrored the statewide trend of slight over-the-year declines in their unemployment rates. The exception was the Northern region's larger decline. September's 8.3 percent rate was more than a full percentage point lower than September 2006's 9.4 percent rate.

Payroll employment fell by 7,600 in September (not seasonally adjusted). The decline was typical for September and payroll jobs will likely continue to drop until the state reaches its seasonal low point for employment in February.

Over-the-year growth remained moderate at 1.2 percent led by an increase of 1,100 jobs in the oil and gas industry and 900 jobs in professional and business services. Food services and drinking places also saw stronger than average growth with 700 more jobs in September than a year earlier.

The only major categories with over-the-year losses were construction and government, both of which provided 100 fewer jobs than in September 2006.

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Research and Analysis' Web site: almis.labor.state.ak.us

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 9/07	Revised 8/07	Revised 9/06	Changes from	
				8/07	9/06
Total Nonfarm Employment	333,900	341,500	329,900	-7,600	4,000
Natural Resources and Mining	14,300	14,200	13,000	100	1,300
Oil and Gas	11,700	11,600	10,600	100	1,100
Construction	21,000	21,600	21,100	-600	-100
Manufacturing	15,500	20,500	15,200	-5,000	300
Seafood Processing	11,400	16,200	11,200	-4,800	200
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	67,000	69,500	66,400	-2,500	600
Retail Trade	36,700	37,900	36,300	-1,200	400
Information	7,000	7,000	6,900	0	100
Financial Activities	15,100	15,500	15,100	-400	0
Professional and Business Services	26,400	26,800	25,500	-400	900
Educational ² and Health Services	37,600	37,600	37,100	0	500
Health Care	27,100	27,000	26,700	100	400
Leisure and Hospitality	36,200	39,400	35,400	-3,200	800
Accommodations	9,800	11,500	9,800	-1,700	0
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	21,600	22,500	20,900	-900	700
Other Services	11,500	11,600	11,700	-100	-200
Government ³	82,500	77,900	82,600	4,600	-100

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Private education only

³ Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

September 2007:	Alaska	6.3%	U.S.	4.7%
August 2007:	Alaska	6.3%	U.S.	4.6%
September 2006:	Alaska	6.7%	U.S.	4.6%

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

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	9/07	8/07	9/06	9/07	8/07	9/06	9/07	8/07	9/06	9/07	8/07	9/06
Alaska Statewide	350,400	352,751	347,852	19,756	18,974	20,550	5.6	5.4	5.9	330,644	333,777	327,302
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	187,402	185,317	185,792	9,852	9,364	10,150	5.3	5.1	5.5	177,550	175,953	175,642
Municipality of Anchorage	150,640	148,902	149,309	7,558	7,107	7,764	5.0	4.8	5.2	143,082	141,795	141,545
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	36,762	36,415	36,483	2,294	2,257	2,386	6.2	6.2	6.5	34,468	34,158	34,097
Gulf Coast Region	37,995	39,789	37,383	2,349	2,192	2,438	6.2	5.5	6.5	35,646	37,597	34,945
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,075	27,399	25,518	1,690	1,581	1,721	6.5	5.8	6.7	24,385	25,818	23,797
Kodiak Island Borough	6,251	6,382	6,232	332	302	385	5.3	4.7	6.2	5,919	6,080	5,847
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,669	6,008	5,633	327	309	332	5.8	5.1	5.9	5,342	5,699	5,301
Interior Region	53,237	53,884	53,587	2,763	2,690	2,971	5.2	5.0	5.5	50,474	51,194	50,616
Denali Borough	2,562	2,892	2,561	60	53	70	2.3	1.8	2.7	2,502	2,839	2,491
Fairbanks North Star Borough	44,683	45,098	44,936	2,161	2,072	2,317	4.8	4.6	5.2	42,522	43,026	42,619
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,108	3,155	3,178	235	248	283	7.6	7.9	8.9	2,873	2,907	2,885
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,884	2,739	2,912	307	317	301	10.6	11.6	10.3	2,577	2,422	2,611
Northern Region	11,454	11,128	11,006	948	957	1,037	8.3	8.6	9.4	10,506	10,171	9,969
Nome Census Area	3,891	3,591	3,883	404	411	412	10.4	11.4	10.6	3,487	3,180	3,471
North Slope Borough	4,639	4,560	4,170	250	249	290	5.4	5.5	7.0	4,389	4,311	3,880
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,924	2,977	2,953	294	297	335	10.1	10.0	11.3	2,630	2,680	2,618
Southeast Region	42,125	44,103	41,919	2,082	1,968	2,159	4.9	4.5	5.2	40,043	42,135	39,760
Haines Borough	1,916	2,317	1,895	81	75	85	4.2	3.2	4.5	1,835	2,242	1,810
Juneau Borough	18,664	18,725	18,476	783	728	817	4.2	3.9	4.4	17,881	17,997	17,659
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,790	9,027	8,768	370	360	416	4.2	4.0	4.7	8,420	8,667	8,352
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,273	2,221	2,363	243	230	266	10.7	10.4	11.3	2,030	1,991	2,097
Sitka Borough	4,829	5,218	4,807	236	227	212	4.9	4.4	4.4	4,593	4,991	4,595
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,292	2,424	2,241	133	134	135	5.8	5.5	6.0	2,159	2,290	2,106
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,996	3,797	3,008	221	198	213	7.4	5.2	7.1	2,775	3,599	2,795
Yakutat Borough	365	374	361	15	16	15	4.1	4.3	4.2	350	358	346
Southwest Region	18,185	18,531	18,169	1,761	1,803	1,796	9.7	9.7	9.9	16,424	16,728	16,373
Aleutians East Borough	1,032	1,226	1,040	80	78	83	7.8	6.4	8.0	952	1,148	957
Aleutians West Census Area	3,042	3,136	3,040	131	118	142	4.3	3.8	4.7	2,911	3,018	2,898
Bethel Census Area	6,788	6,375	6,928	833	839	831	12.3	13.2	12.0	5,955	5,536	6,097
Bristol Bay Borough	1,067	1,618	1,098	37	37	41	3.5	2.3	3.7	1,030	1,581	1,057
Dillingham Census Area	2,294	2,289	2,247	171	171	187	7.5	7.5	8.3	2,123	2,118	2,060
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,349	1,394	1,270	52	55	59	3.9	3.9	4.6	1,297	1,339	1,211
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,613	2,493	2,546	457	505	453	17.5	20.3	17.8	2,156	1,988	2,093

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 individuals in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

¹ 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 the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics