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STATE OF ALASKA

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Press Release

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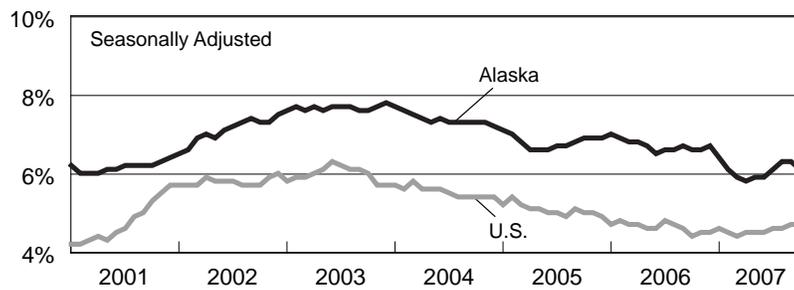
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 08-29

Unemployment rate at 6.1 percent in October

Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

January 2001 to October 2007



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point to 6.1 percent in October, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The comparable national rate was unchanged at 4.7 percent.

The Aleutians West Census Area had the state's lowest October rate at 3.7 percent and the Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest at 19.8 percent (rates for boroughs and census areas are not seasonally adjusted).

All six of the state's economic regions recorded at least slightly lower unemployment rates than in October 2006. The largest regional decline was in the Northern region where bustling North Slope activity has lowered the region's rate by eight-tenths of a percentage point and the North Slope Borough's rate by 1.5 percentage points.

Payroll employment fell precipitously but predictably by 16,600 jobs in October as large numbers of seafood processing, construction and tourism-related jobs ended for the season. The October decline is typically the biggest of the year, although the job count will continue to fall in smaller increments until it reaches its seasonal low point in January.

Over-the-year growth slowed slightly in October to 1.0 percent. The bright spot continues to be the oil and gas industry, which added 700 jobs since last October and also accounted for many of the 800 additional jobs in the professional and business services category.

Also contributing to the state's modest overall job growth were retail trade and the leisure and hospitality sector, both of which added 600 jobs. Construction jobs were down 700 and both manufacturing and government showed no growth.

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

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 10/07	Revised 9/07	Revised 10/06	Changes from 9/07 10/06	
Total Nonfarm Employment	316,500	333,100	313,300	-16,600	3,200
Natural Resources and Mining	14,200	14,200	13,100	0	1,100
Oil and Gas	11,700	11,600	11,000	100	700
Construction	19,000	20,500	19,700	-1,500	-700
Manufacturing	10,800	15,200	10,800	-4,400	0
Seafood Processing	6,900	11,200	6,900	-4,300	0
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	63,500	66,700	63,000	-3,200	500
Retail Trade	36,200	36,600	35,600	-400	600
Information	7,000	7,000	6,900	0	100
Financial Activities	15,100	15,200	14,900	-100	200
Professional and Business Services	24,800	26,400	24,000	-1,600	800
Educational ² and Health Services	37,500	37,500	37,000	0	500
Health Care	27,000	27,100	26,700	-100	300
Leisure and Hospitality	29,800	36,100	29,200	-6,300	600
Accommodations	7,000	9,900	6,900	-2,900	100
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	19,000	21,400	18,500	-2,400	500
Other Services	11,600	11,600	11,500	0	100
Government ³	83,200	82,700	83,200	500	0

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

October 2007:	Alaska	6.1%	U.S.	4.7%
September 2007:	Alaska	6.3%	U.S.	4.7%
October 2006:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	4.4%

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		
	10/07	9/07	10/06	10/07	9/07	10/06	10/07	9/07	10/06	10/07	9/07	10/06
Alaska Statewide	346,054	350,400	345,696	18,585	19,756	19,742	5.4	5.6	5.7	327,469	330,644	325,954
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	191,175	187,402	190,281	8,947	9,852	9,333	4.7	5.3	4.9	182,228	177,550	180,948
Municipality of Anchorage	153,620	150,640	152,849	6,768	7,558	7,028	4.4	5.0	4.6	146,852	143,082	145,821
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	37,555	36,762	37,432	2,179	2,294	2,305	5.8	6.2	6.2	35,376	34,468	35,127
Gulf Coast Region	35,309	37,995	35,402	2,345	2,349	2,536	6.6	6.2	7.2	32,964	35,646	32,866
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,564	26,075	24,741	1,650	1,690	1,740	6.7	6.5	7.0	22,914	24,385	23,001
Kodiak Island Borough	6,021	6,251	5,797	316	332	372	5.2	5.3	6.4	5,705	5,919	5,425
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,724	5,669	4,864	379	327	424	8.0	5.8	8.7	4,345	5,342	4,440
Interior Region	51,369	53,237	52,222	2,629	2,763	2,890	5.1	5.2	5.5	48,740	50,474	49,332
Denali Borough	983	2,562	1,420	101	60	104	10.3	2.3	7.3	882	2,502	1,316
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,009	44,683	44,654	1,968	2,161	2,174	4.4	4.8	4.9	43,041	42,522	42,480
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,746	3,108	3,264	238	235	298	8.7	7.6	9.1	2,508	2,873	2,966
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,631	2,884	2,884	322	307	314	12.2	10.6	10.9	2,309	2,577	2,570
Northern Region	11,604	11,454	11,401	903	948	976	7.8	8.3	8.6	10,701	10,506	10,425
Nome Census Area	3,863	3,891	4,124	369	404	393	9.6	10.4	9.5	3,494	3,487	3,731
North Slope Borough	4,856	4,639	4,300	251	250	287	5.2	5.4	6.7	4,605	4,389	4,013
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,885	2,924	2,977	283	294	296	9.8	10.1	9.9	2,602	2,630	2,681
Southeast Region	39,267	42,125	38,776	2,085	2,082	2,279	5.3	4.9	5.9	37,182	40,043	36,497
Haines Borough	1,339	1,916	1,273	100	81	95	7.5	4.2	7.5	1,239	1,835	1,178
Juneau Borough	18,453	18,664	18,157	744	783	786	4.0	4.2	4.3	17,709	17,881	17,371
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,874	8,790	7,804	392	370	448	5.0	4.2	5.7	7,482	8,420	7,356
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,212	2,273	2,283	238	243	277	10.8	10.7	12.1	1,974	2,030	2,006
Sitka Borough	4,527	4,829	4,571	218	236	208	4.8	4.9	4.6	4,309	4,593	4,363
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,817	2,292	1,609	188	133	219	10.3	5.8	13.6	1,629	2,159	1,390
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,729	2,996	2,754	192	221	228	7.0	7.4	8.3	2,537	2,775	2,526
Yakutat Borough	316	365	325	13	15	18	4.1	4.1	5.5	303	350	307
Southwest Region	17,330	18,185	17,615	1,678	1,761	1,729	9.7	9.7	9.8	15,652	16,424	15,886
Aleutians East Borough	984	1,032	983	68	80	84	6.9	7.8	8.5	916	952	899
Aleutians West Census Area	3,277	3,042	3,154	121	131	144	3.7	4.3	4.6	3,156	2,911	3,010
Bethel Census Area	7,062	6,788	7,024	771	833	799	10.9	12.3	11.4	6,291	5,955	6,225
Bristol Bay Borough	493	1,067	574	33	37	40	6.7	3.5	7.0	460	1,030	534
Dillingham Census Area	1,955	2,294	2,081	163	171	170	8.3	7.5	8.2	1,792	2,123	1,911
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,174	1,349	1,129	49	52	48	4.2	3.9	4.3	1,125	1,297	1,081
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,385	2,613	2,670	473	457	444	19.8	17.5	16.6	1,912	2,156	2,226

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