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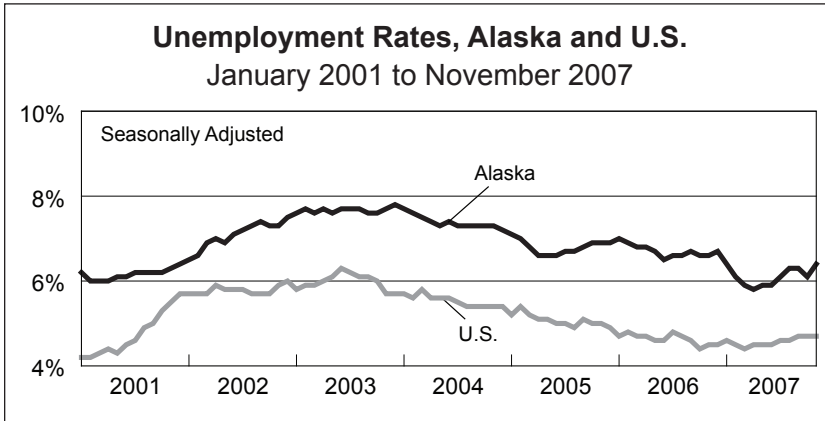
Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Unemployment rate at 6.4 percent in November



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point to 6.4 percent in November, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The comparable national rate was unchanged at 4.7 percent.

After consistent declines in the early part of 2007, the state's unemployment rate has bounced around in the second half of the year and not revealed any clear trend. The 6.4 percent rate is below last November's 6.6 percent, but the gap isn't wide enough to be statistically significant.

At the regional level, Anchorage/Mat-Su had the lowest unemployment rate at 5.4 percent and South-west had the highest at 11 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

Payroll employment estimates for November show a typical seasonal decline of 7,400 jobs, the majority in construction and seafood processing. Over-the-year growth has slowed slightly to just below 1 percent.

The largest gains were in natural resources and mining, led by continued strong growth in the oil and gas industry. Construction was the only category to show significant losses, with an over-the-year decline of 800 jobs.

According to Dan Robinson, a Department of Labor economist, the latest numbers indicate that the economy is relatively stable and not making any sudden shifts either up or down.

"A 6.4 percent unemployment rate is low by historical standards and 2007 will be the 20th consecutive year of job growth, so the overall picture is mostly positive," Robinson said. "Construction jobs have been falling, but strong growth in the oil and gas industry has compensated for those losses."

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 11/07	Revised 10/07	Revised 11/06	Changes from	
				10/07	11/06
Total Nonfarm Employment	308,700	316,100	305,900	-7,400	2,800
Natural Resources and Mining	14,300	14,300	13,200	0	1,100
Oil and Gas	11,800	11,800	11,100	0	700
Construction	16,500	18,900	17,300	-2,400	-800
Manufacturing	8,500	10,800	8,500	-2,300	0
Seafood Processing	4,800	6,900	4,800	-2,100	0
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	62,900	63,300	62,000	-400	900
Retail Trade	36,300	36,000	35,600	300	700
Information	6,900	6,900	6,900	0	0
Financial Activities	14,700	15,100	14,800	-400	-100
Professional and Business Services	24,300	24,800	23,600	-500	700
Educational ² and Health Services	37,600	37,300	37,400	300	200
Health Care	27,000	27,000	26,700	0	300
Leisure and Hospitality	28,200	29,600	27,800	-1,400	400
Accommodations	6,300	7,000	6,300	-700	0
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	18,300	18,900	17,800	-600	500
Other Services	11,500	11,500	11,700	0	-200
Government ³	83,300	83,600	82,700	-300	600

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

November 2007:	Alaska	6.4%	U.S.	4.7%
October 2007:	Alaska	6.1%	U.S.	4.7%
November 2006:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	4.5%

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

Contact: Dan Robinson, Economist (907) 465-6036
Research and Analysis' Web site: almis.labor.state.ak.us

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	11/07	10/07	11/06	11/07	10/07	11/06	11/07	10/07	11/06	11/07	10/07	11/06
Alaska Statewide	348,084	346,054	345,163	21,728	18,585	21,653	6.2	5.4	6.3	326,356	327,469	323,510
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	193,189	191,175	192,158	10,363	8,947	10,074	5.4	4.7	5.2	182,826	182,228	182,084
Municipality of Anchorage	155,027	153,620	154,126	7,693	6,768	7,390	5.0	4.4	4.8	147,334	146,852	146,736
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	38,162	37,555	38,032	2,670	2,179	2,684	7.0	5.8	7.1	35,492	35,376	35,348
Gulf Coast Region	35,645	35,309	35,019	2,881	2,345	2,996	8.1	6.6	8.6	32,764	32,964	32,023
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,678	24,564	24,605	1,988	1,650	1,986	8.1	6.7	8.1	22,690	22,914	22,619
Kodiak Island Borough	6,220	6,021	5,677	439	316	542	7.1	5.2	9.5	5,781	5,705	5,135
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,747	4,724	4,737	454	379	468	9.6	8.0	9.9	4,293	4,345	4,269
Interior Region	52,183	51,369	51,851	3,180	2,629	3,231	6.1	5.1	6.2	49,003	48,740	48,620
Denali Borough	813	983	974	120	101	117	14.8	10.3	12.0	693	882	857
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,538	45,009	44,860	2,376	1,968	2,419	5.2	4.4	5.4	43,162	43,041	42,441
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,334	2,746	3,193	297	238	341	8.9	8.7	10.7	3,037	2,508	2,852
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,498	2,631	2,824	387	322	354	15.5	12.2	12.5	2,111	2,309	2,470
Northern Region	11,713	11,604	11,383	948	903	986	8.1	7.8	8.7	10,765	10,701	10,397
Nome Census Area	3,975	3,863	4,022	403	369	403	10.1	9.6	10.0	3,572	3,494	3,619
North Slope Borough	4,828	4,856	4,376	254	251	276	5.3	5.2	6.3	4,574	4,605	4,100
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,910	2,885	2,985	291	283	307	10.0	9.8	10.3	2,619	2,602	2,678
Southeast Region	38,531	39,267	38,062	2,501	2,085	2,554	6.5	5.3	6.7	36,030	37,182	35,508
Haines Borough	1,159	1,339	1,203	118	100	116	10.2	7.5	9.6	1,041	1,239	1,087
Juneau Borough	18,430	18,453	18,033	828	744	837	4.5	4.0	4.6	17,602	17,709	17,196
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,766	7,874	7,558	459	392	479	5.9	5.0	6.3	7,307	7,482	7,079
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,220	2,212	2,263	292	238	313	13.2	10.8	13.8	1,928	1,974	1,950
Sitka Borough	4,475	4,527	4,556	266	218	218	5.9	4.8	4.8	4,209	4,309	4,338
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,657	1,817	1,503	275	188	280	16.6	10.3	18.6	1,382	1,629	1,223
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,584	2,729	2,700	241	192	285	9.3	7.0	10.6	2,343	2,537	2,415
Yakutat Borough	240	316	246	22	13	26	9.2	4.1	10.6	218	303	220
Southwest Region	16,823	17,330	16,692	1,854	1,678	1,814	11.0	9.7	10.9	14,969	15,652	14,878
Aleutians East Borough	906	984	825	77	68	104	8.5	6.9	12.6	829	916	721
Aleutians West Census Area	2,723	3,277	2,596	166	121	202	6.1	3.7	7.8	2,557	3,156	2,394
Bethel Census Area	6,959	7,062	7,079	849	771	805	12.2	10.9	11.4	6,110	6,291	6,274
Bristol Bay Borough	515	493	533	43	33	47	8.3	6.7	8.8	472	460	486
Dillingham Census Area	1,861	1,955	1,994	175	163	164	9.4	8.3	8.2	1,686	1,792	1,830
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,138	1,174	1,019	58	49	49	5.1	4.2	4.8	1,080	1,125	970
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,721	2,385	2,646	486	473	443	17.9	19.8	16.7	2,235	1,912	2,203

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