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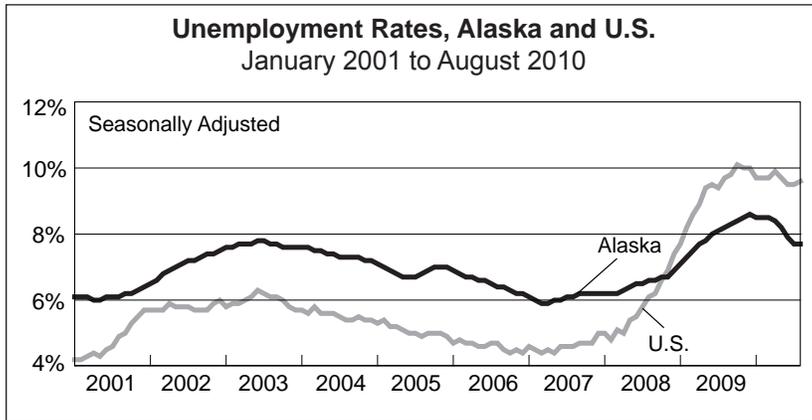
## Press Release

September 17, 2010

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 10-59

### Unemployment rate at 7.7 percent in August



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 7.7 percent. July's preliminary rate did not change—staying at 7.7 percent.

The comparable national jobless rate for August was 9.6 percent, up slightly from 9.5 percent in July. One year ago, the national unemployment rate was 9.7 percent compared to 8.2 percent for Alaska. August was the 22nd consecutive month that Alaska's rate was lower than the nation's.

Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased slightly in August for all six of the state's regions. Last month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 192 out of 372 of the nation's metropolitan areas had unemployment rates higher than one year ago. Alaska's metropolitan areas, the Anchorage/Mat-Su MSA and Fairbanks North Star Borough, have less unemployment than one year ago.

In August, the Bristol Bay Borough and Skagway Municipality had the lowest unemployment rates; the Wade Hampton and Bethel census areas had the highest unemployment rates.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has implemented a change to the method used to produce statewide wage and salary employment estimates. That change has resulted in increased monthly volatility in the wage and salary estimates for many states, including Alaska. Therefore, one should be very cautious in interpreting any over-the-year or month-to-month change for these monthly estimates. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages series may be a better source of information for trends analysis (<http://labor.alaska.gov/qcew.htm>).

#### Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment<sup>1</sup>

	Preliminary 8/10	Revised 7/10	Revised 8/09	Year-over-year change		
				8/09	90% confidence interval <sup>2</sup>	
Total Nonfarm Employment <sup>3</sup>	340,400	350,800	342,600	-2,200	-9,583	5,183
Mining and Logging	14,700	17,800	15,400	-700	-1,493	93
Oil and Gas	12,000	12,000	12,700	-700	-	-
Construction	19,400	20,000	19,800	-400	-2,983	2,183
Manufacturing	22,100	25,400	20,400	1,700	706	2,694
Seafood Processing	16,500	19,300	16,400	100	-	-
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	66,000	68,100	68,000	-2,000	-4,372	372
Retail Trade	36,900	38,400	37,300	-400	-2,428	1,628
Information	6,400	6,400	6,600	-200	-781	381
Financial Activities	15,000	14,100	15,300	-300	-2,243	1,643
Professional and Business Services	26,500	26,000	27,400	-900	-2,693	893
Educational <sup>4</sup> and Health Services	40,500	40,600	39,400	1,100	-168	2,368
Health Care	29,200	28,900	28,500	700	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	36,500	40,100	37,800	-1,300	-3,337	737
Accommodations	10,300	11,600	10,900	-600	-	-
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	21,000	22,800	21,200	-200	-	-
Other Services	11,700	10,900	11,700	0	-3,176	3,176
Government <sup>5</sup>	81,600	81,400	80,800	800	-	-

Notes:

A dash indicates that confidence intervals are not available at this level of detail.

<sup>1</sup> Not seasonally adjusted

<sup>2</sup> Based on the margin of error of the estimate, a 90 percent confidence interval statistically determines a range of values within which the "true" value falls with a 90 percent level of confidence. For more information, go to <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/c-i.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

<sup>4</sup> Private education only

<sup>5</sup> Includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities

#### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	8/10	7/10	8/09
Alaska	7.7%	7.7%	8.2%
U.S.	9.6%	9.5%	9.7%

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Research and Analysis' Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>

## Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	8/10 <sup>P</sup>	7/10	8/09	Number			Rate		
				8/10 <sup>P</sup>	7/10	8/09	8/10 <sup>P</sup>	7/10	8/09
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>368,342</b>	<b>373,487</b>	<b>366,831</b>	<b>26,174</b>	<b>25,312</b>	<b>26,334</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.2</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>196,188</b>	<b>197,692</b>	<b>192,422</b>	<b>13,378</b>	<b>12,874</b>	<b>13,441</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Municipality of Anchorage	154,426	155,561	151,237	10,115	9,665	9,948	6.6	6.2	6.6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	41,762	42,131	41,185	3,263	3,209	3,493	7.8	7.6	8.5
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>41,733</b>	<b>42,282</b>	<b>42,392</b>	<b>3,099</b>	<b>3,014</b>	<b>3,187</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.5</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,778	28,736	28,359	2,312	2,236	2,417	8.3	7.8	8.5
Kodiak Island Borough	7,206	6,860	7,195	415	423	390	5.8	6.2	5.4
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,749	6,686	6,838	372	355	380	5.5	5.3	5.6
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>55,240</b>	<b>55,988</b>	<b>56,056</b>	<b>3,719</b>	<b>3,598</b>	<b>3,773</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Denali Borough	2,448	2,215	2,382	82	85	80	3.3	3.8	3.4
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,244	47,251	47,088	2,936	2,831	3,003	6.3	6.0	6.4
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,710	3,680	3,722	321	306	301	8.7	8.3	8.1
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,838	2,842	2,864	380	376	389	13.4	13.2	13.6
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>11,884</b>	<b>11,857</b>	<b>12,034</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>9.4</b>
Nome Census Area	3,831	3,722	3,857	540	539	519	14.1	14.5	13.5
North Slope Borough	5,018	5,076	5,183	276	265	255	5.5	5.2	4.9
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,035	3,059	2,994	403	384	353	13.3	12.6	11.8
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>43,745</b>	<b>44,021</b>	<b>44,405</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>2,557</b>	<b>2,656</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Haines Borough	2,036	2,044	2,050	88	87	99	4.3	4.3	4.8
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area <sup>2</sup>	1,497	1,514	1,516	137	141	117	9.2	9.3	7.7
Juneau Borough	18,142	18,529	18,573	989	948	1,012	5.5	5.1	5.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough <sup>2</sup>	9,570	9,712	9,871	529	516	503	5.5	5.3	5.1
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area <sup>2</sup>	2,503	2,539	2,520	327	324	333	13.1	12.8	13.2
Sitka Borough	5,320	5,139	5,109	277	269	278	5.2	5.2	5.4
Skagway Municipality <sup>2</sup>	817	821	863	22	17	44	2.7	2.1	5.1
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area <sup>2</sup>	3,511	3,393	3,545	235	229	241	6.7	6.7	6.8
Yakutat Borough	349	330	358	27	26	29	7.7	7.9	8.1
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>19,551</b>	<b>21,645</b>	<b>19,525</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>11.0</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,358	1,428	1,362	84	81	95	6.2	5.7	7.0
Aleutians West Census Area	2,998	3,160	3,022	147	159	163	4.9	5.0	5.4
Bethel Census Area	6,917	7,180	6,858	1,047	1,018	1,023	15.1	14.2	14.9
Bristol Bay Borough	1,815	3,199	1,865	33	30	32	1.8	0.9	1.7
Dillingham Census Area	2,694	2,839	2,658	195	186	206	7.2	6.6	7.8
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,151	1,448	1,148	71	71	76	6.2	4.9	6.6
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,618	2,391	2,612	550	535	556	21.0	22.4	21.3

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. 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.

<sup>1</sup> Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

<sup>2</sup> Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the Skagway Municipality and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (previously the Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area) became available in 2010. Data for the Wrangell Borough, and Petersburg and Prince of Wales-Hyder census areas will be available in 2011. Until then, data will continue to be published for the old areas.

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