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## Press Release

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### Unemployment rate at 7.8 percent in August

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point in August to 7.8 percent. July's rate was revised down one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.6 percent. Alaska's rate has been climbing since June.

The comparable national rate was 8.1 percent in August, down two-tenths of a percentage point from July. The U.S. rate has been higher than Alaska's for 46 consecutive months, but August marks the narrowest gap since late 2007, when the U.S. rate crept above Alaska's for the first time since the early 1980s. Although the national rate has been inching downward, it has a long way to fall to reach pre-recession levels.

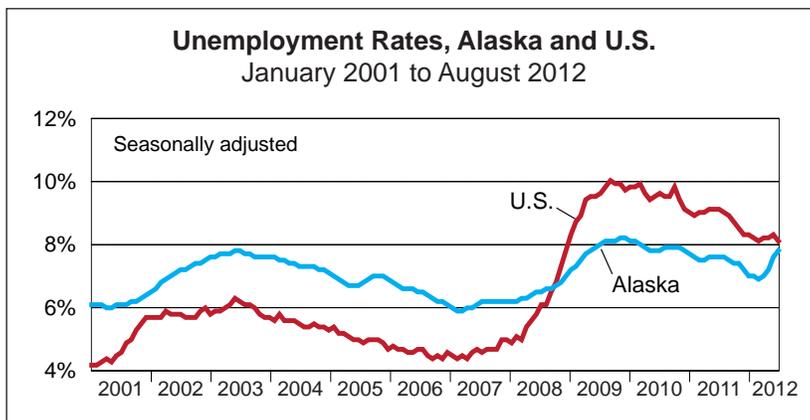
Seasonally adjusting Alaska's unemployment rate allows it to be compared with the national rate. Seasonal adjustment attempts to smooth out typical seasonal changes in the numbers so non-seasonal trends in the economy can be identified.

Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted rate was 6.6 percent in August, down from 7.2 percent in July. August typically has the lowest nonadjusted rate during the year, as summer activity reaches its peak. August's nonadjusted rate was down one-tenth of a percentage point from the previous year.

Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted high and low were rates both in the western part of the state. The lowest rate was in Bristol Bay Borough at 2.2 percent, and the highest was 22.5 percent in the Wade Hampton Census area.

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Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	8/12	7/12	8/11
Alaska	7.8%	7.6%	7.6%
U.S.	8.1%	8.3%	9.1%

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

For detailed employment estimates, see [labor.alaska.gov/research/ces/ces.htm](http://labor.alaska.gov/research/ces/ces.htm). The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

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

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	8/12 <sup>P</sup>	7/12	8/11	Number			Rate		
				8/12 <sup>P</sup>	7/12	8/11	8/12 <sup>P</sup>	7/12	8/11
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>370,971</b>	<b>376,773</b>	<b>372,189</b>	<b>24,551</b>	<b>27,002</b>	<b>25,113</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>6.7</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>194,103</b>	<b>197,378</b>	<b>196,056</b>	<b>11,781</b>	<b>13,051</b>	<b>12,431</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Municipality of Anchorage	152,693	155,093	154,255	8,661	9,477	9,193	5.7	6.1	6.0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	41,410	42,285	41,801	3,120	3,574	3,238	7.5	8.5	7.7
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>43,306</b>	<b>43,408</b>	<b>43,551</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>3,018</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	29,260	29,707	29,487	2,140	2,342	2,234	7.3	7.9	7.6
Kodiak Island Borough	7,658	7,402	7,651	405	454	414	5.3	6.1	5.4
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,388	6,299	6,413	384	424	370	6.0	6.7	5.8
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>55,921</b>	<b>55,980</b>	<b>55,830</b>	<b>3,616</b>	<b>4,032</b>	<b>3,713</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Denali Borough	2,319	2,416	2,356	99	108	85	4.3	4.5	3.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,739	46,857	46,564	2,734	3,070	2,847	5.8	6.6	6.1
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,682	3,707	3,715	346	386	341	9.4	10.4	9.2
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,181	3,000	3,195	437	468	440	13.7	15.6	13.8
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>12,724</b>	<b>12,682</b>	<b>12,425</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>
Nome Census Area	4,092	3,803	4,035	500	544	506	12.2	14.3	12.5
North Slope Borough	5,476	5,560	5,336	315	344	299	5.8	6.2	5.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,156	3,319	3,054	489	522	449	15.5	15.7	14.7
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>44,613</b>	<b>44,837</b>	<b>44,555</b>	<b>2,453</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>2,493</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Haines Borough	1,994	2,013	1,985	85	101	86	4.3	5.0	4.3
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,479	1,525	1,468	156	180	150	10.5	11.8	10.2
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,739	19,099	18,706	866	955	884	4.6	5.0	4.7
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9,715	9,608	9,713	499	554	517	5.1	5.8	5.3
Petersburg Census Area	1,949	1,938	1,914	153	170	119	7.9	8.8	6.2
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,818	2,810	2,853	325	357	362	11.5	12.7	12.7
Sitka, City and Borough of	5,452	5,400	5,453	242	281	249	4.4	5.2	4.6
Skagway, Municipality of	872	881	879	25	20	34	2.9	2.3	3.9
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,239	1,213	1,227	77	70	66	6.2	5.8	5.4
Yakutat, City and Borough of	356	350	357	25	27	26	7.0	7.7	7.3
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>20,302</b>	<b>22,490</b>	<b>19,774</b>	<b>2,467</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>2,204</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>11.1</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,390	1,470	1,358	127	130	110	9.1	8.8	8.1
Aleutians West Census Area	3,328	3,332	3,224	229	238	186	6.9	7.1	5.8
Bethel Census Area	7,091	7,261	6,894	1,155	1,199	1,028	16.3	16.5	14.9
Bristol Bay Borough	1,852	3,183	1,812	41	42	33	2.2	1.3	1.8
Dillingham Census Area	2,605	2,785	2,569	210	223	209	8.1	8.0	8.1
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,225	1,746	1,207	72	80	73	5.9	4.6	6.0
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,811	2,713	2,710	633	662	565	22.5	24.4	20.8

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 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.

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