

Dianne Blumer
Commissioner
P.O. Box 111149
Juneau, AK 99811-1149
www.labor.alaska.gov



Beth Leschper
Communications Director
907.465.2700
cell: 907.723.1321
beth.leschper@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

October 19, 2012

No. 12-52

Unemployment rate at 7.5 percent in September

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point in September to 7.5 percent. August's rate was revised down one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.7 percent.

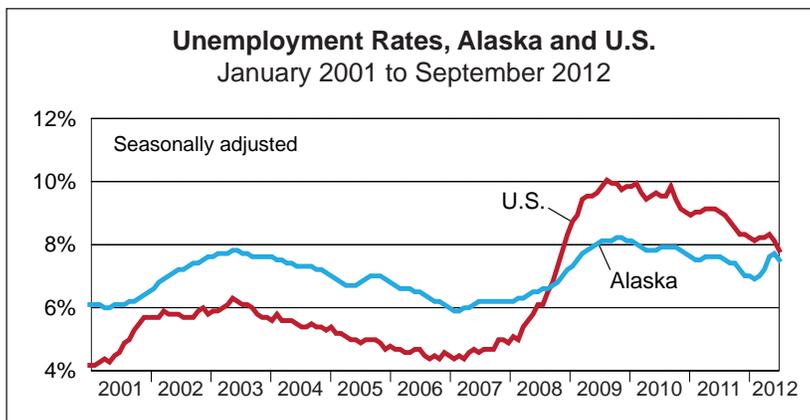
September's decline ended a four-month stretch of rate increases. Rates so far in 2012 — which will be revised at the end of the year when more information is available — do not show a clear trend up or down.

The national seasonally adjusted rate was 7.8 percent in September, down from August's 8.1 percent. The U.S. rate remains about a percentage point above its 10-year average, while Alaska's is near its 10-year average.

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

Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted rate was 6.4 percent in September, down slightly from August's revised rate of 6.5 percent. September 2011's not-seasonally adjusted rate was 6.9 percent.

Across the state, the not-seasonally adjusted rates fell over the year in five of six regions. The largest decline was in the Anchorage/Mat-Su region, where the rate declined from 6.3 percent in September 2011 to 5.7 percent for September 2012. September's rate was also down from last year in the Northern, Southeast, Gulf Coast and



	9/12	8/12	9/11
Alaska	7.5%	7.7%	7.6%
U.S.	7.8%	8.1%	9.0%

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. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

Interior regions. In Southwest Alaska, the only region with an over-the-year increase, the rate rose from 11.8 percent in September 2011 to 12.8 percent in September 2012.

Contact: Caroline Schultz, Economist
(907) 465-6027

Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	9/12 ^P	8/12	9/11	Number			Rate		
				9/12 ^P	8/12	9/11	9/12 ^P	8/12	9/11
Alaska Statewide	366,423	370,646	369,025	23,437	24,257	25,437	6.4	6.5	6.9
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	195,601	194,670	198,178	11,097	11,638	12,564	5.7	6.0	6.3
Municipality of Anchorage	153,872	153,149	155,935	8,116	8,556	9,302	5.3	5.6	6.0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	41,729	41,521	42,243	2,981	3,082	3,262	7.1	7.4	7.7
Gulf Coast Region	40,596	42,488	40,951	2,872	2,894	3,076	7.1	6.8	7.5
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,492	28,714	27,721	2,103	2,114	2,275	7.6	7.4	8.2
Kodiak Island Borough	7,405	7,509	7,488	367	400	405	5.0	5.3	5.4
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,699	6,265	5,742	402	380	396	7.1	6.1	6.9
Interior Region	56,173	56,278	56,060	3,444	3,572	3,733	6.1	6.3	6.7
Denali Borough	1,860	2,353	1,918	98	98	95	5.3	4.2	5.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	47,477	46,973	47,262	2,570	2,701	2,824	5.4	5.8	6.0
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,616	3,734	3,625	347	342	352	9.6	9.2	9.7
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,220	3,218	3,255	429	431	462	13.3	13.4	14.2
Northern Region	12,897	12,568	12,638	1,258	1,290	1,271	9.8	10.3	10.1
Nome Census Area	4,258	4,042	4,194	481	495	491	11.3	12.2	11.7
North Slope Borough	5,504	5,408	5,394	310	312	315	5.6	5.8	5.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,135	3,118	3,050	467	483	465	14.9	15.5	15.2
Southeast Region	42,186	44,727	42,000	2,345	2,424	2,520	5.6	5.4	6.0
Haines Borough	1,768	2,000	1,760	85	84	93	4.8	4.2	5.3
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,379	1,483	1,351	165	155	150	12.0	10.5	11.1
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,480	18,790	18,414	805	856	886	4.4	4.6	4.8
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9,194	9,740	9,134	487	493	503	5.3	5.1	5.5
Petersburg Census Area	1,790	1,953	1,785	122	151	138	6.8	7.7	7.7
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,653	2,823	2,633	338	321	347	12.7	11.4	13.2
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,618	5,465	4,617	224	239	258	4.9	4.4	5.6
Skagway, Municipality of	797	874	810	19	24	41	2.4	2.7	5.1
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,159	1,242	1,144	80	76	79	6.9	6.1	6.9
Yakutat, City and Borough of	348	357	352	20	25	25	5.7	7.0	7.1
Southwest Region	18,969	19,916	19,199	2,421	2,439	2,275	12.8	12.2	11.8
Aleutians East Borough	1,244	1,364	1,254	141	126	125	11.3	9.2	10.0
Aleutians West Census Area	3,029	3,264	3,044	238	227	200	7.9	7.0	6.6
Bethel Census Area	7,137	6,958	7,242	1,122	1,141	1,076	15.7	16.4	14.9
Bristol Bay Borough	1,188	1,815	1,214	36	40	35	3.0	2.2	2.9
Dillingham Census Area	2,174	2,554	2,228	200	208	209	9.2	8.1	9.4
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,272	1,201	1,303	71	71	79	5.6	5.9	6.1
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,925	2,760	2,914	613	626	551	21.0	22.7	18.9

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.

¹Unemployment 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