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# Press Release

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## Unemployment rate stays at 6.4 percent in October

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 6.4 percent in October, unchanged from the month before. The comparable national rate was 5.0 percent.

The unadjusted rate increased four-tenths of a percentage point for the state, from 5.7 percent in September to 6.1 percent in October. This increase reflects the normal taper of Alaska's economy as seasonal industries wind down for winter.

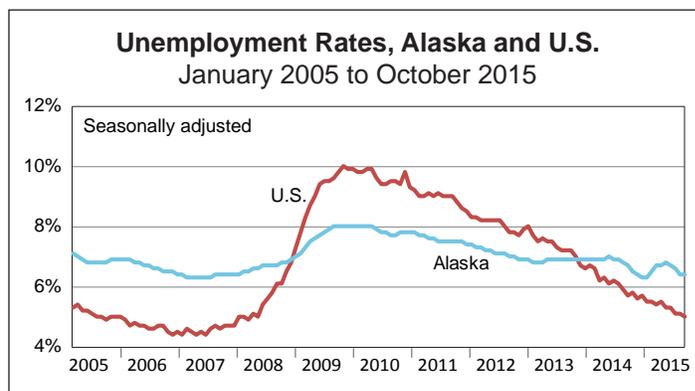
Around the state, unadjusted rates rose from September to October in 23 out of 29 boroughs and census areas, consistent with the statewide trend. Anchorage's rate remained unchanged at 4.7 percent.

All three parts of the Northern Region — the Nome Census Area and the Northwest Arctic and North Slope boroughs — bucked the statewide trend and had slightly lower unemployment rates in October. That's partly due to those areas having fewer seasonal jobs in industries like tourism and seafood processing.

The largest rate increase was in Skagway, where it climbed from 4.3 to 15.8 percent. Skagway's economy is heavily dependent on cruise ship tourism, which ends in September.

For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

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	10/15	9/15	10/14
Alaska	6.4%	6.4%	6.7%
U.S.	5.0%	5.1%	5.7%

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

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

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	10/15 <sup>P</sup>	9/15	10/14	Number			Rate		
				10/15 <sup>P</sup>	9/15	10/14	10/15 <sup>P</sup>	9/15	10/14
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>360,661</b>	<b>362,904</b>	<b>363,930</b>	<b>21,867</b>	<b>20,684</b>	<b>22,496</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>203,416</b>	<b>200,512</b>	<b>203,276</b>	<b>10,618</b>	<b>10,280</b>	<b>10,605</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Anchorage, Municipality	159,595	157,408	159,418	7,476	7,323	7,480	4.7	4.7	4.7
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,821	43,104	43,858	3,142	2,957	3,125	7.2	6.9	7.1
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>38,601</b>	<b>39,925</b>	<b>39,082</b>	<b>2,729</b>	<b>2,459</b>	<b>2,718</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,526	28,081	27,797	2,040	1,879	1,981	7.4	6.7	7.1
Kodiak Island Borough	6,510	6,641	6,590	267	261	291	4.1	3.9	4.4
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,565	5,203	4,695	422	319	446	9.2	6.1	9.5
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>53,065</b>	<b>53,587</b>	<b>53,769</b>	<b>3,206</b>	<b>2,906</b>	<b>3,362</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Denali Borough	999	1,451	994	94	67	99	9.4	4.6	10.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,778	46,763	47,245	2,438	2,203	2,514	5.2	4.7	5.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,765	2,838	2,924	279	258	328	10.1	9.1	11.2
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,523	2,535	2,606	395	378	421	15.7	14.9	16.2
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>11,110</b>	<b>11,047</b>	<b>11,923</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>9.4</b>
Nome Census Area	4,072	4,048	4,498	411	428	456	10.1	10.6	10.1
North Slope Borough	4,171	4,147	4,178	231	240	228	5.5	5.8	5.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,867	2,852	3,247	403	424	434	14.1	14.9	13.4
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>35,627</b>	<b>38,792</b>	<b>36,398</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>1,948</b>	<b>2,430</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Haines Borough	984	1,271	1,004	90	72	101	9.1	5.7	10.1
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	999	1,211	990	133	118	143	13.3	9.7	14.4
Juneau, City and Borough	16,646	17,392	16,848	745	695	818	4.5	4.0	4.9
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,609	7,394	6,771	453	378	502	6.9	5.1	7.4
Petersburg Borough	1,479	1,684	1,604	115	117	132	7.8	6.9	8.2
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,656	2,836	2,773	301	268	329	11.3	9.4	11.9
Sitka, City and Borough	4,282	4,704	4,322	189	178	202	4.4	3.8	4.7
Skagway, Municipality	742	969	785	117	42	95	15.8	4.3	12.1
Wrangell, City and Borough	974	1,027	986	70	63	83	7.2	6.1	8.4
Yakutat, City and Borough	256	304	315	15	17	25	5.9	5.6	7.9
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>18,837</b>	<b>19,043</b>	<b>19,482</b>	<b>2,039</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>11.6</b>
Aleutians East Borough	2,109	2,048	2,243	71	72	96	3.4	3.5	4.3
Aleutians West Census Area	3,959	4,053	3,842	166	117	234	4.2	2.9	6.1
Bethel Census Area	7,278	7,158	7,729	940	982	1,055	12.9	13.7	13.6
Bristol Bay Borough	280	515	293	33	31	33	11.8	6.0	11.3
Dillingham Census Area	1,756	1,796	1,897	191	183	192	10.9	10.2	10.1
Kusilvak Census Area	2,840	2,808	2,860	567	552	570	20.0	19.7	19.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	615	665	618	71	63	83	11.5	9.5	13.4

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