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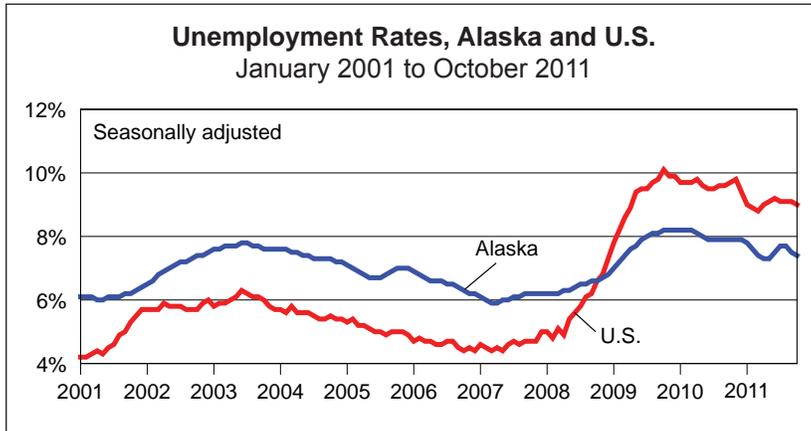
## Press Release

November 18, 2011

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 11-56

### Unemployment rate at 7.4 percent in October



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October was essentially unchanged, declining one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.4 percent. September's rate was revised down slightly, to 7.5 percent.

The comparable national rate for October was 9.0 percent, also showing little change from September. The U.S. and Alaska rates have both fallen moderately in the last year. The national rate is seven-tenths of a percentage point lower than in October 2010, and Alaska's rate is down half a percentage point.

Alaska's rate has been below the nation's for exactly three years now, an unusual relationship after decades of the state's rate being one to two percentage points higher than the nation's.

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

	Preliminary 10/11	Revised 9/11	Revised 10/10	Year-over-year change		
				10/10	90% confidence interval <sup>2</sup>	
Total Nonfarm Employment <sup>3</sup>	327,100	343,300	324,800	2,300	-3,777	8,377
Mining and Logging	16,800	17,100	16,300	500	-735	1,735
Oil and Gas	13,600	13,700	13,300	300	-	-
Construction	17,500	18,600	17,600	-100	-1,613	1,413
Manufacturing	9,500	14,100	9,700	-200	-2,559	2,159
Retail Trade	35,800	36,900	34,900	900	116	1,684
Information	6,500	6,500	6,400	100	-175	375
Financial Activities	15,100	14,800	15,500	-400	-1,267	467
Professional and Business Services	26,900	28,300	26,300	600	-756	1,956
Educational <sup>4</sup> and Health Services	43,900	43,300	42,200	1,700	565	2,835
Health Care	31,900	31,900	30,200	1,700	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	30,700	37,200	29,900	800	-1,869	3,469
Other Services	11,300	11,100	11,900	-600	-1,421	221
Government <sup>5</sup>	85,600	85,300	86,800	-1,200	-	-

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.

Only select categories are included, so sector values will not sum to the total employment.

<sup>4</sup>Private education only.

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

Not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in all but one of the state's regions in October. This is typical as the job market continues its annual transition from summer to winter. October's figures show the high seasonality of the visitor industry in particular, with Denali Borough's and Skagway's rates increasing from 5.0 percent in both areas in September to 16.2 percent and 21.7 percent respectively in October.

Employment in construction and leisure and hospitality took a sharp seasonal downturn in October. Construction employment fell by more than 1,000, and leisure and hospitality lost more than 6,000 jobs. Over the year, total payroll employment was up by an estimated 2,300, with the largest share of new jobs coming from health care.

Beginning with the production of preliminary estimates for March 2011, production of employment estimates has transitioned from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Research and Analysis Section to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Concurrent with this transition, BLS implemented several changes to the methods to help standardize estimation across states. While these changes reduce the potential for statistical bias in state and metropolitan area estimates, they may increase month-to-month variability. More detailed information on the changes is available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/cesprocs.htm>.

#### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	10/11	9/11	10/10
Alaska	7.4%	7.5%	7.9%
U.S.	9.0%	9.1%	9.7%

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

Contact: Neal Fried, Economist (907) 269-4861  
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					
	10/11 <sup>P</sup>	9/11	10/10	Number			Rate		
	10/11 <sup>P</sup>	9/11	10/10	10/11 <sup>P</sup>	9/11	10/10	10/11 <sup>P</sup>	9/11	10/10
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>366,667</b>	<b>369,004</b>	<b>359,757</b>	<b>25,176</b>	<b>24,668</b>	<b>26,257</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>201,374</b>	<b>197,773</b>	<b>199,331</b>	<b>12,218</b>	<b>12,178</b>	<b>13,244</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.6</b>
Municipality of Anchorage	157,816	155,221	156,438	8,782	8,993	9,822	5.6	5.8	6.3
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,558	42,552	42,893	3,436	3,185	3,422	7.9	7.5	8.0
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>38,881</b>	<b>40,607</b>	<b>37,792</b>	<b>3,145</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>3,322</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>8.8</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,161	27,603	26,231	2,281	2,208	2,446	8.4	8.0	9.3
Kodiak Island Borough	6,796	7,193	6,633	390	394	423	5.7	5.5	6.4
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,924	5,811	4,928	474	385	453	9.6	6.6	9.2
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>55,389</b>	<b>56,248</b>	<b>54,159</b>	<b>3,806</b>	<b>3,646</b>	<b>3,755</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Denali Borough	911	1,851	911	148	92	133	16.2	5.0	14.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	47,792	47,785	46,711	2,863	2,764	2,966	6.0	5.8	6.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,550	3,524	3,577	346	338	335	9.7	9.6	9.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,136	3,088	2,960	449	452	388	14.3	14.6	13.1
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>13,055</b>	<b>12,724</b>	<b>12,859</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>8.7</b>
Nome Census Area	4,282	4,150	4,204	469	479	480	11.0	11.5	11.4
North Slope Borough	5,567	5,513	5,529	279	272	263	5.0	4.9	4.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,206	3,061	3,126	437	452	373	13.6	14.8	11.9
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>39,540</b>	<b>42,355</b>	<b>38,731</b>	<b>2,691</b>	<b>2,447</b>	<b>2,745</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Haines Borough	1,307	1,610	1,396	103	90	109	7.9	5.6	7.8
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area <sup>2</sup>	952	1,348	922	131	145	124	13.8	10.8	13.4
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,623	19,064	18,070	929	861	994	5.0	4.5	5.5
Ketchikan Gateway Borough <sup>2</sup>	8,100	9,009	7,928	532	484	569	6.6	5.4	7.2
Petersburg Census Area <sup>2</sup>	1,709	1,766	-	142	136	-	8.3	7.7	-
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area <sup>2</sup>	2,529	2,626	-	331	339	-	13.1	12.9	-
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area <sup>2</sup>	-	-	2,338	-	-	299	-	-	12.8
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,356	4,739	4,433	258	252	264	5.9	5.3	6.0
Skagway, Municipality of <sup>2</sup>	645	780	611	140	39	120	21.7	5.0	19.6
Wrangell, City and Borough of <sup>2</sup>	1,030	1,041	-	102	75	-	9.9	7.2	-
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area <sup>2</sup>	-	-	2,726	-	-	241	-	-	8.8
Yakutat, City and Borough of	289	372	307	23	26	25	8.0	7.0	8.1
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>18,427</b>	<b>19,297</b>	<b>16,887</b>	<b>2,129</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>2,009</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>11.9</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,090	1,114	1,011	113	117	78	10.4	10.5	7.7
Aleutians West Census Area	2,921	2,725	2,554	192	185	200	6.6	6.8	7.8
Bethel Census Area	7,639	7,646	7,194	993	1,051	955	13.0	13.7	13.3
Bristol Bay Borough	689	1,253	527	40	33	34	5.8	2.6	6.5
Dillingham Census Area	1,959	2,301	1,826	194	205	186	9.9	8.9	10.2
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,163	1,394	1,076	68	76	73	5.8	5.5	6.8
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,966	2,864	2,699	529	540	483	17.8	18.9	17.9

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.

<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 City and Borough of Wrangell, Petersburg Census Area, and Prince of Wales-Hyder went into effect in January 2011. Prior to January 2011, data were published for Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area and Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area.

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