

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

October 17, 2014

No. 14-42

### Unemployment rate at 6.8 percent in September

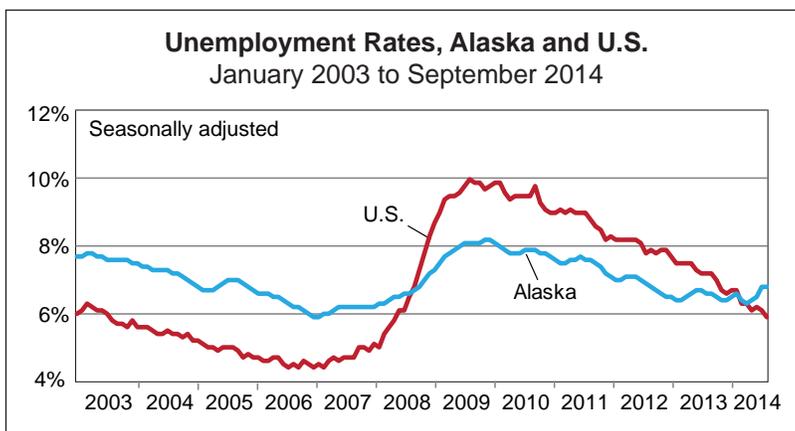
Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in September, unchanged from August. The comparable national rate was 5.9 percent.

Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted jobless rate was 5.9 percent in September, down from August's 6.2 percent. The lowest rate in the year typically falls in September, as school resumes and summer economic activity hasn't fully tapered off.

Around the state, unadjusted rates fell in 17 of 29 boroughs and census areas. The 12 with increasing or flat rates are smaller areas where the beginning of the school year wasn't enough to compensate for slowing, heavily seasonal industries such as tourism or fishing.

The last cruise ships arrive in September, and the Municipality of Skagway's low rate of 1.7 percent reflected that. The highest rate was in the Wade Hampton Census Area at 20.5 percent.

**Contact: Neal Fried, Economist (907) 269-4861**  
Research and Analysis Web site: [laborstats.alaska.gov](http://laborstats.alaska.gov)



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	9/14	8/14	9/13
Alaska	6.8%	6.8%	6.6%
U.S.	5.9%	6.1%	7.2%

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 <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. 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					
	9/14 <sup>P</sup>	8/14	9/13	Number			Rate		
				9/14 <sup>P</sup>	8/14	9/13	9/14 <sup>P</sup>	8/14	9/13
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>367,686</b>	<b>371,881</b>	<b>365,250</b>	<b>21,516</b>	<b>23,009</b>	<b>21,287</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>197,990</b>	<b>196,974</b>	<b>196,569</b>	<b>10,210</b>	<b>11,023</b>	<b>9,949</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Anchorage, Municipality of	154,999	154,102	153,730	7,627	8,166	7,269	4.9	5.3	4.7
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,991	42,872	42,839	2,583	2,857	2,680	6.0	6.7	6.3
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>41,361</b>	<b>43,478</b>	<b>40,847</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>2,536</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,491	30,043	28,078	1,902	1,973	1,854	6.7	6.6	6.6
Kodiak Island Borough	7,092	7,096	7,031	289	341	302	4.1	4.8	4.3
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,778	6,339	5,738	356	371	380	6.2	5.9	6.6
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>54,872</b>	<b>55,164</b>	<b>54,522</b>	<b>3,141</b>	<b>3,334</b>	<b>3,120</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Denali Borough	2,173	2,515	2,175	71	73	86	3.3	2.9	4.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,299	46,084	45,951	2,329	2,518	2,293	5.0	5.5	5.0
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,385	3,464	3,362	325	335	317	9.6	9.7	9.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,015	3,101	3,034	416	408	424	13.8	13.2	14.0
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>12,663</b>	<b>12,741</b>	<b>12,676</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,241</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>9.6</b>
Nome Census Area	4,182	4,130	4,141	478	517	462	11.4	12.5	11.2
North Slope Borough	5,365	5,426	5,383	220	254	270	4.1	4.7	5.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,116	3,185	3,152	451	470	488	14.5	14.8	15.5
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>41,802</b>	<b>43,893</b>	<b>41,661</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>2,316</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Haines Borough	1,679	1,849	1,684	81	82	83	4.8	4.4	4.9
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,507	1,648	1,493	143	151	134	9.5	9.2	9.0
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,096	18,446	18,064	749	819	744	4.1	4.4	4.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,883	9,455	8,825	454	465	395	5.1	4.9	4.5
Petersburg Census Area	1,833	1,868	1,802	157	142	124	8.6	7.6	6.9
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,681	2,788	2,659	292	328	268	10.9	11.8	10.1
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,752	5,338	4,754	188	214	204	4.0	4.0	4.3
Skagway, Municipality of	889	971	894	15	12	23	1.7	1.2	2.6
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,163	1,201	1,164	72	77	72	6.2	6.4	6.2
Yakutat, City and Borough of	319	329	322	18	26	19	5.6	7.9	5.9
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>18,996</b>	<b>19,631</b>	<b>18,973</b>	<b>2,301</b>	<b>2,409</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>12.6</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,206	1,265	1,244	92	101	139	7.6	8.0	11.2
Aleutians West Census Area	2,968	3,060	3,016	172	186	244	5.8	6.1	8.1
Bethel Census Area	7,259	7,289	7,216	1,132	1,156	1,144	15.6	15.9	15.9
Bristol Bay Borough	1,258	1,561	1,249	34	32	33	2.7	2.0	2.6
Dillingham Census Area	2,084	2,452	2,060	196	208	184	9.4	8.5	8.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,322	1,189	1,297	80	88	70	6.1	7.4	5.4
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,899	2,815	2,891	595	638	582	20.5	22.7	20.1

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