



# Press Release

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## Unemployment rate at 6.9 percent in September

JUNEAU, Alaska— Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.9 percent in September, up slightly from August's 6.8 percent. The comparable national rate was 5.0 percent. Alaska's rate has been rising throughout the year.

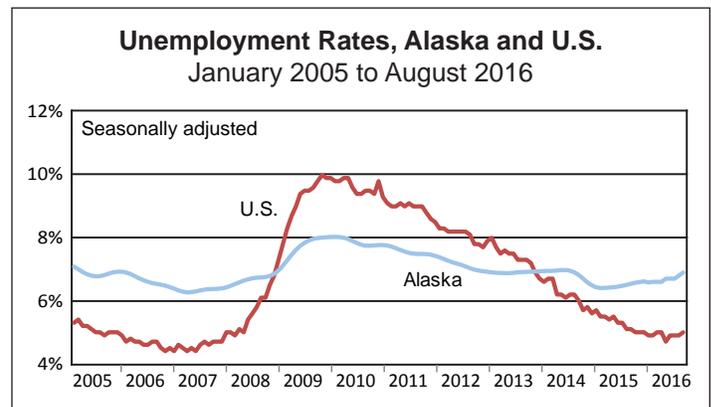
The unadjusted rate for September was 6.4 percent, up from August's 5.9 percent. This half-percentage-point increase was larger than is typical for this time of year. The unadjusted rate was six-tenths of a percentage point higher than it was in September 2015.

Unadjusted rates rose in 21 out of 29 boroughs and census areas, following the statewide trend. The remaining areas, where rates held steady or fell, were mostly rural and sparsely populated. The exception was Kodiak, where the rate was flat.

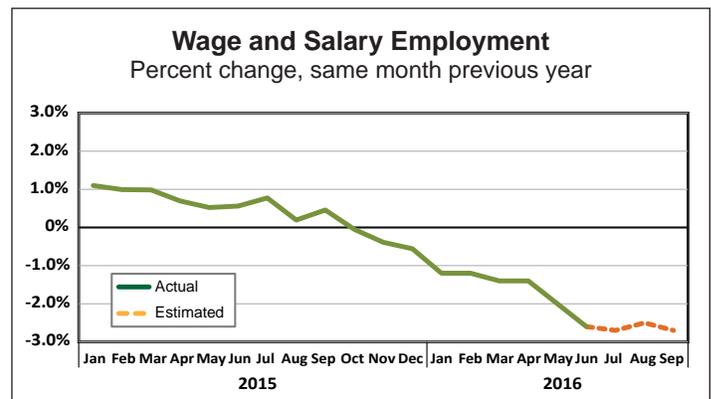
Kusilvak Census Area had the highest unemployment rate, at 16.4 percent, followed by Northwest Arctic Borough and Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area at 16.2 and 15.8 percent, respectively. The lowest rate was in the Aleutians East Borough, at 2.8 percent, with Aleutians West Census Area and Skagway second-lowest at 3.4 percent.

Alaska wage and salary employment estimates show September's job count was down 2.6 percent from the previous September. Substantial job losses in oil- and construction-related industries and in state government made up most of the decline, but losses have extended to other industries, including retail trade. The only sectors to grow in September were health care and federal government.

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	9/16	8/16	9/15
Alaska	6.9%	6.8%	6.5%
U.S.	5.0%	4.9%	5.1%



Note: Actual employment counts through June 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages employment series. Estimated employment counts from July through September are based on a forecast of the QCEW series.

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

	Civilian Labor Force <sup>2</sup>			Unemployed					
	9/16 <sup>P</sup>	8/16	9/15	Number			Rate		
				9/16 <sup>P</sup>	8/16	9/15	9/16 <sup>P</sup>	8/16	9/15
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>360,468</b>	<b>366,122</b>	<b>363,813</b>	<b>22,948</b>	<b>21,627</b>	<b>21,229</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>199,658</b>	<b>199,732</b>	<b>200,636</b>	<b>11,853</b>	<b>11,001</b>	<b>10,573</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Anchorage, Municipality	155,765	155,726	156,564	8,462	7,738	7,498	5.4	5.0	4.8
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,893	44,006	44,072	3,391	3,263	3,075	7.7	7.4	7.0
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>38,973</b>	<b>40,614</b>	<b>39,391</b>	<b>2,725</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,047	28,090	27,327	2,046	1,934	1,928	7.6	6.9	7.1
Kodiak Island Borough	6,913	6,875	7,007	335	330	263	4.8	4.8	3.8
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,013	5,649	5,057	344	306	326	6.9	5.4	6.4
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>53,174</b>	<b>53,501</b>	<b>53,424</b>	<b>3,298</b>	<b>2,970</b>	<b>2,968</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Denali Borough	1,506	1,733	1,537	66	56	70	4.4	3.2	4.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,462	46,492	46,576	2,600	2,282	2,249	5.6	4.9	4.8
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,971	3,032	3,005	279	263	263	9.4	8.7	8.8
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,235	2,244	2,306	353	369	386	15.8	16.4	16.7
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>10,421</b>	<b>10,522</b>	<b>11,522</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Nome Census Area	3,913	3,852	4,304	464	525	438	11.9	13.6	10.2
North Slope Borough	3,864	3,903	4,263	279	268	248	7.2	6.9	5.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,644	2,767	2,955	429	457	434	16.2	16.5	14.7
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>38,384</b>	<b>40,907</b>	<b>38,967</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Haines Borough	1,316	1,469	1,326	84	86	75	6.4	5.9	5.7
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,209	1,310	1,243	100	96	120	8.3	7.3	9.7
Juneau, City and Borough	17,147	17,624	17,364	746	643	709	4.4	3.6	4.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,396	7,805	7,530	378	343	393	5.1	4.4	5.2
Petersburg Borough	1,573	1,814	1,604	104	103	111	6.6	5.7	6.9
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,835	2,817	2,888	265	265	283	9.3	9.4	9.8
Sitka, City and Borough	4,679	5,537	4,742	187	164	180	4.0	3.0	3.8
Skagway, Municipality	971	1,053	999	33	32	44	3.4	3.0	4.4
Wrangell, City and Borough	970	1,187	979	67	64	62	6.9	5.4	6.3
Yakutat, City and Borough	288	291	292	18	17	17	6.3	5.8	5.8
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>19,858</b>	<b>20,847</b>	<b>19,874</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>2,058</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>10.4</b>
Aleutians East Borough	2,753	3,068	2,739	76	59	76	2.8	1.9	2.8
Aleutians West Census Area	4,073	4,401	4,026	138	96	123	3.4	2.2	3.1
Bethel Census Area	7,199	7,270	7,209	959	1,026	1,006	13.3	14.1	14.0
Bristol Bay Borough	302	409	307	27	23	33	8.9	5.6	10.7
Dillingham Census Area	1,879	2,353	1,878	179	190	188	9.5	8.1	10.0
Kusilvak Census Area	2,858	2,588	2,932	468	561	566	16.4	21.7	19.3
Lake and Peninsula Borough	794	758	783	73	70	66	9.2	9.2	8.4

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.

<sup>2</sup>The labor force is the sum of the unemployed and the employed.

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