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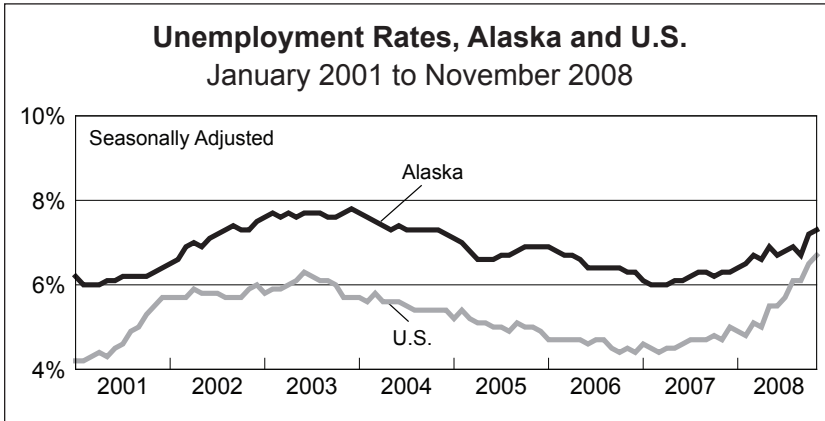
Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 7.3 percent in November



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point in November to 7.3 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. October's rate was revised down two-tenths of a percentage point to 7.2 percent.

The November increase is not big enough to be statistically significant in itself, but it's still revealing. After an unexpectedly large increase in October's unemployment rate, it wasn't clear whether the jump signaled a change in trend, or whether the increase was just a temporary spike caused by volatility in the survey that helps generate the rates.

The second straight month of rates above 7 percent makes it more likely that unemployment is on the rise. November claims for unemployment insurance were about 10 percent higher than in November 2007 after being up 9 percent in October and 3 percent in September.

National unemployment rates have been on a clear upward trend for almost a year. November's 6.7 percent U.S. rate was two full percentage points higher than November 2007's 4.7 percent.

U.S. payroll jobs, the other major indicator of labor force health, were down by more than 2 million over-the-year in November, a decline of 1.5 percent. Payroll jobs in Alaska were up 3,300 over-the-year, an increase of 1.1 percent.

According to Dan Robinson, an economist with the Alaska Department of Labor, the state's growth in payroll jobs continues to mark an important difference between Alaska's economy and the nation's.

"One of the main signals that an economy is in recession is the loss of payroll jobs. Alaska's economy has held up well so far in that respect," Robinson said.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 11/08	Revised 10/08	Revised 11/07	Changes from	
				10/08	11/07
Total Nonfarm Employment	310,700	317,700	307,400	-7,000	3,300
Natural Resources and Mining	15,500	15,400	14,400	100	1,100
Oil and Gas	13,000	13,000	11,800	0	1,200
Construction	16,200	18,600	16,400	-2,400	-200
Manufacturing	8,900	11,000	9,000	-2,100	-100
Seafood Processing	5,000	6,800	5,100	-1,800	-100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	62,800	62,900	62,200	-100	600
Retail Trade	36,000	35,800	35,900	200	100
Information	6,900	7,000	6,900	-100	0
Financial Activities	14,400	14,700	14,700	-300	-300
Professional and Business Services	24,900	25,500	24,200	-600	700
Educational ² and Health Services	37,200	37,200	36,500	0	700
Health Care	27,100	27,100	26,600	0	500
Leisure and Hospitality	28,300	29,300	28,400	-1,000	-100
Accommodations	6,200	6,700	6,300	-500	-100
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	18,300	18,500	18,400	-200	-100
Other Services	11,600	11,800	11,400	-200	200
Government ³	84,000	84,300	83,300	-300	700

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Private education only

³ Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	11/08	10/08	11/07
Alaska	7.3%	7.2%	6.3%
U.S.	6.7%	6.5%	4.7%

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

Contact: Dan Robinson, Economist (907) 465-6036
Research and Analysis' Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	11/08	10/08	11/07	11/08	10/08	11/07	11/08	10/08	11/07	11/08	10/08	11/07
Alaska Statewide	357,376	358,093	351,751	25,368	23,433	21,208	7.1	6.5	6.0	332,008	334,660	330,543
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	198,746	197,186	195,571	12,360	11,451	10,175	6.2	5.8	5.2	186,386	185,735	185,396
Municipality of Anchorage	157,826	156,810	155,639	8,923	8,427	7,527	5.7	5.4	4.8	148,903	148,383	148,112
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	40,920	40,376	39,932	3,437	3,024	2,648	8.4	7.5	6.6	37,483	37,352	37,284
Gulf Coast Region	36,096	36,594	35,721	3,349	2,957	2,786	9.3	8.1	7.8	32,747	33,637	32,935
Kenai Peninsula Borough	25,427	25,626	24,923	2,335	2,093	1,929	9.2	8.2	7.7	23,092	23,533	22,994
Kodiak Island Borough	5,952	6,035	6,045	504	384	420	8.5	6.4	6.9	5,448	5,651	5,625
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,717	4,933	4,753	510	480	437	10.8	9.7	9.2	4,207	4,453	4,316
Interior Region	54,152	54,246	53,127	3,819	3,519	3,080	7.1	6.5	5.8	50,333	50,727	50,047
Denali Borough	948	1,026	810	121	134	118	12.8	13.1	14.6	827	892	692
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,614	46,401	46,227	2,931	2,713	2,301	6.3	5.8	5.0	43,683	43,688	43,926
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,704	3,774	3,461	342	292	286	9.2	7.7	8.3	3,362	3,482	3,175
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,886	3,045	2,629	425	380	375	14.7	12.5	14.3	2,461	2,665	2,254
Northern Region	12,240	12,278	12,016	915	910	924	7.5	7.4	7.7	11,325	11,368	11,092
Nome Census Area	4,031	4,045	4,038	381	358	393	9.5	8.9	9.7	3,650	3,687	3,645
North Slope Borough	5,103	5,098	5,011	223	223	246	4.4	4.4	4.9	4,880	4,875	4,765
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,106	3,135	2,967	311	329	285	10.0	10.5	9.6	2,795	2,806	2,682
Southeast Region	39,121	39,859	38,629	2,963	2,636	2,434	7.6	6.6	6.3	36,158	37,223	36,195
Haines Borough	1,236	1,278	1,172	128	108	113	10.4	8.5	9.6	1,108	1,170	1,059
Juneau Borough	18,483	18,452	18,520	1,031	952	806	5.6	5.2	4.4	17,452	17,500	17,714
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,854	8,142	7,767	543	496	445	6.9	6.1	5.7	7,311	7,646	7,322
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,280	2,352	2,238	330	288	284	14.5	12.2	12.7	1,950	2,064	1,954
Sitka Borough	4,483	4,494	4,503	272	255	260	6.1	5.7	5.8	4,211	4,239	4,243
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,603	1,829	1,616	351	255	276	21.9	13.9	17.1	1,252	1,574	1,340
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,880	2,994	2,566	279	264	228	9.7	8.8	8.9	2,601	2,730	2,338
Yakutat Borough	302	318	247	29	18	22	9.6	5.7	8.9	273	300	225
Southwest Region	17,022	17,930	16,692	1,963	1,959	1,812	11.5	10.9	10.9	15,059	15,971	14,880
Aleutians East Borough	815	864	853	94	88	75	11.5	10.2	8.8	721	776	778
Aleutians West Census Area	2,385	3,059	2,667	179	179	158	7.5	5.9	5.9	2,206	2,880	2,509
Bethel Census Area	7,239	7,241	7,050	919	931	831	12.7	12.9	11.8	6,320	6,310	6,219
Bristol Bay Borough	882	986	547	60	48	42	6.8	4.9	7.7	822	938	505
Dillingham Census Area	1,943	1,939	1,884	181	176	170	9.3	9.1	9.0	1,762	1,763	1,714
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,030	1,118	1,044	62	67	57	6.0	6.0	5.5	968	1,051	987
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,728	2,723	2,647	468	470	479	17.2	17.3	18.1	2,260	2,253	2,168

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 individuals in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

¹ 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