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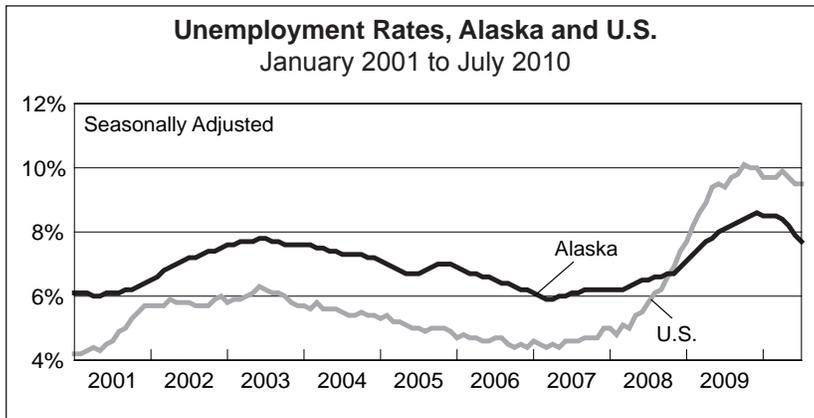
Press Release

August 20, 2010

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 10-52

Unemployment rate at 7.7 percent in July



Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 7/10	Revised 6/10	Revised 7/09	Year-over-year change	
				7/09	90% confidence interval ²
Total Nonfarm Employment ³	351,300	344,100	343,700	7,600	217 14,983
Mining and Logging	17,700	17,500	15,300	2,400	1,607 3,193
Oil and Gas	12,000	12,000	12,700	-700	- -
Construction	19,900	19,000	19,500	400	-2,183 2,983
Manufacturing	26,200	18,000	23,100	3,100	2,106 4,094
Seafood Processing	19,300	11,900	19,100	200	- -
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	67,900	67,300	67,600	300	-2,072 2,672
Retail Trade	38,300	37,900	37,300	1,000	-1,028 3,028
Information	6,400	6,400	6,600	-200	-781 381
Financial Activities	14,100	14,000	15,300	-1,200	-3,143 743
Professional and Business Services	25,800	25,500	27,600	-1,800	-3,593 -7
Educational ⁴ and Health Services	40,500	39,900	39,300	1,200	-68 2,468
Health Care	29,000	28,500	28,400	600	- -
Leisure and Hospitality	40,100	38,000	37,800	2,300	263 4,337
Accommodations	11,600	10,400	11,000	600	- -
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	22,600	22,000	21,100	1,500	- -
Other Services	11,000	11,100	11,700	-700	-3,876 2,476
Government ⁵	81,700	87,400	79,900	1,800	- -

Notes:

A dash indicates that confidence intervals are not available at this level of detail.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has implemented a change to the method used to produce statewide wage and salary employment estimates, which has resulted in increased monthly volatility in the wage and salary estimates for many states, including Alaska. Therefore, one should be cautious in interpreting any over-the-year or month-to-month change for these monthly estimates. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages series may be a better information source (<http://labor.alaska.gov/qcew.htm>).

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² 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>.

³ Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

⁴ Private education only

⁵ Includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities

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

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July was 7.7 percent. June's preliminary unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.9 percent. The comparable national rate was 9.5 percent. The unemployment rate for Alaska is 0.4 percent lower than last year at this time, but the U.S. rate is about the same – it was 9.4 percent one year ago. Alaska's unemployment rate continues to trend downward from its high of 8.6 percent in December of last year.

The number of weeks claimed for regular unemployment insurance benefits fell in July and was 5 percent below year ago levels. However, weeks claimed for Alaska's unemployment extension programs are running 90 percent higher than one year ago – a growing number of claimants are filing for extended benefits. These types of programs are a result of the national recession, and the increase in filers is a reminder that the broader job market remains very competitive.

Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates fell in every region in the state in July – a predictable occurrence for this time of the year. During six of the last ten years, Alaska's employment has peaked in July. Construction, seafood processing, and visitor industry related jobs reach their peak or near peak level of activity in July.

As in June, the lowest rates were recorded in the Skagway Municipality and Bristol Bay Borough. July's unemployment rates were similar to year ago levels for most areas of the state. The Wade Hampton and Nome census areas had the highest jobless rates. Six areas in the state had double-digit unemployment rates in July.

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	7/10	6/10	7/09
Alaska	7.7%	7.9%	8.1%
U.S.	9.5%	9.5%	9.4%

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Research and Analysis' Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	7/10 ^P	6/10	7/09	Number			Rate		
				7/10 ^P	6/10	7/09	7/10 ^P	6/10	7/09
Alaska Statewide	373,857	368,737	370,893	25,619	28,068	26,949	6.9	7.6	7.3
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	198,157	198,446	193,628	13,031	14,206	13,710	6.6	7.2	7.1
Municipality of Anchorage	155,921	156,062	152,108	9,781	10,622	10,080	6.3	6.8	6.6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,236	42,384	41,520	3,250	3,584	3,630	7.7	8.5	8.7
Gulf Coast Region	42,286	41,495	42,892	3,048	3,328	3,202	7.2	8.0	7.5
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,768	28,501	29,266	2,262	2,491	2,418	7.9	8.7	8.3
Kodiak Island Borough	6,843	6,815	6,875	426	454	396	6.2	6.7	5.8
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,675	6,179	6,751	360	383	388	5.4	6.2	5.7
Interior Region	56,017	56,052	55,695	3,643	4,049	3,961	6.5	7.2	7.1
Denali Borough	2,075	2,222	2,444	86	96	92	4.1	4.3	3.8
Fairbanks North Star Borough	47,399	46,956	46,592	2,867	3,185	3,130	6.0	6.8	6.7
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,691	3,736	3,737	310	334	317	8.4	8.9	8.5
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,852	3,138	2,922	380	434	422	13.3	13.8	14.4
Northern Region	11,833	11,887	12,053	1,203	1,304	1,165	10.2	11.0	9.7
Nome Census Area	3,735	3,779	3,719	546	578	534	14.6	15.3	14.4
North Slope Borough	5,028	5,042	5,288	268	290	251	5.3	5.8	4.7
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,070	3,066	3,046	389	436	380	12.7	14.2	12.5
Southeast Region	44,112	41,725	44,888	2,590	2,816	2,726	5.9	6.7	6.1
Haines Borough	2,049	1,539	2,046	88	103	102	4.3	6.7	5.0
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	1,517	1,470	1,550	143	155	124	9.4	10.5	8.0
Juneau Borough	18,578	18,305	19,050	960	1,034	1,043	5.2	5.6	5.5
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	9,723	9,074	9,957	524	586	510	5.4	6.5	5.1
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	2,548	2,439	2,578	328	333	339	12.9	13.7	13.1
Sitka Borough	5,143	4,800	5,018	272	294	283	5.3	6.1	5.6
Skagway Municipality ²	821	790	881	17	21	47	2.1	2.7	5.3
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	3,403	2,969	3,465	232	261	250	6.8	8.8	7.2
Yakutat Borough	330	339	343	26	29	28	7.9	8.6	8.2
Southwest Region	21,458	19,131	21,737	2,106	2,363	2,185	9.8	12.4	10.1
Aleutians East Borough	1,426	1,048	1,453	83	93	95	5.8	8.9	6.5
Aleutians West Census Area	3,115	2,927	3,173	160	190	169	5.1	6.5	5.3
Bethel Census Area	7,160	6,956	7,173	1,030	1,134	1,007	14.4	16.3	14.0
Bristol Bay Borough	3,171	1,917	3,151	31	39	32	1.0	2.0	1.0
Dillingham Census Area	2,795	2,233	2,856	189	226	217	6.8	10.1	7.6
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,402	1,423	1,489	72	85	78	5.1	6.0	5.2
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,389	2,627	2,442	541	596	587	22.6	22.7	24.0

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 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.

² 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 Wrangell Borough, and Petersburg and Prince of Wales-Hyder census areas will be available in 2011. Until then, data will continue to be published for the old areas.

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