



# Press Release

# COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

November 18, 2016

No. 16-41

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## Unemployment rate at 6.8 percent in October

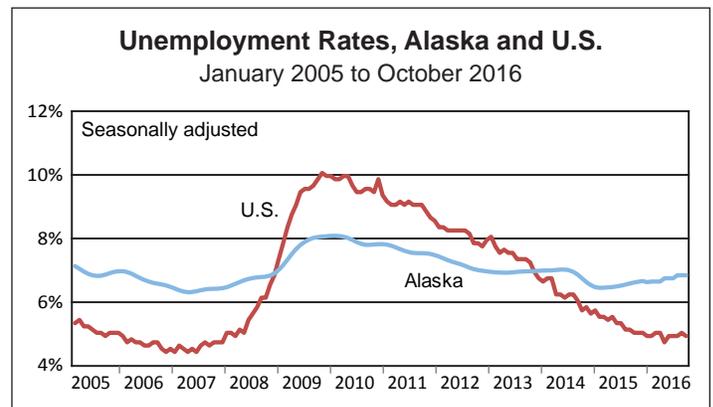
JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in October, unchanged from September's rate, which was revised down one-tenth of a percentage point. The comparable national rate was 4.9 percent.

October's unadjusted rate was 6.3 percent, which was one-tenth of a percentage point lower than September. It is unusual for the unadjusted rate to fall from September to October, given typical seasonality, but changes that small aren't necessarily significant.

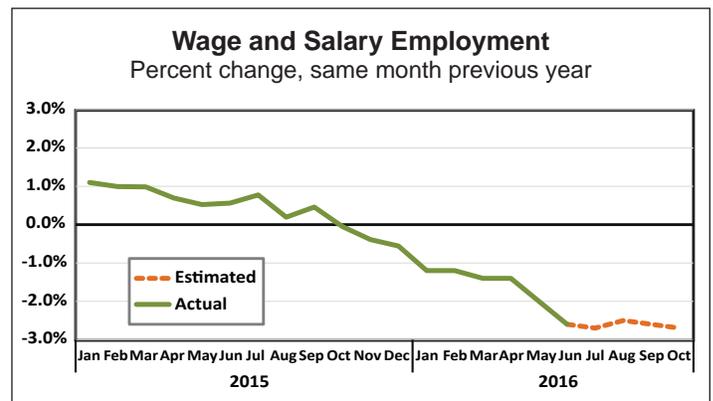
Around the state, unemployment rates were flat or fell in 10 boroughs and census areas in October. Areas that followed the statewide trend tended to be larger and more urban, such as Anchorage and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Rates rose in 19 boroughs and census areas, which were mostly smaller and more seasonal. Rate increases were especially large in Skagway and the Denali Borough following the end of tourism season.

Preliminary estimates show payroll employment was down 2.7 percent in October compared to the same month in 2015. Nearly all major sectors were flat or down in October as the effects of oil industry and state government cuts rippled through the economy.

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	10/16	9/16	10/15
Alaska	6.8%	6.8%	6.6%
U.S.	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%



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					
	10/16 <sup>P</sup>	9/16	10/15	Number			Rate		
				10/16 <sup>P</sup>	9/16	10/15	10/16 <sup>P</sup>	9/16	10/15
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>356,491</b>	<b>360,640</b>	<b>361,078</b>	<b>22,621</b>	<b>22,926</b>	<b>22,367</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>202,125</b>	<b>199,788</b>	<b>203,415</b>	<b>11,466</b>	<b>11,840</b>	<b>10,878</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Anchorage, Municipality	157,571	155,866	158,645	8,049	8,452	7,631	5.1	5.4	4.8
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,554	43,922	44,770	3,417	3,388	3,247	7.7	7.7	7.3
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>37,720</b>	<b>39,102</b>	<b>38,223</b>	<b>2,753</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>2,782</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,605	27,135	27,293	2,071	2,045	2,086	7.8	7.5	7.6
Kodiak Island Borough	6,603	6,937	6,428	287	335	269	4.3	4.8	4.2
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,512	5,030	4,502	395	343	427	8.8	6.8	9.5
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>52,239</b>	<b>53,242</b>	<b>52,862</b>	<b>3,240</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>3,267</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Denali Borough	1,042	1,512	1,007	108	66	97	10.4	4.4	9.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,870	46,505	46,545	2,478	2,598	2,482	5.4	5.6	5.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,971	2,982	2,774	282	279	285	9.5	9.4	10.3
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,356	2,243	2,536	372	353	403	15.8	15.7	15.9
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>10,628</b>	<b>10,438</b>	<b>11,641</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>9.2</b>
Nome Census Area	3,992	3,919	4,264	477	463	420	11.9	11.8	9.8
North Slope Borough	3,878	3,870	4,377	258	279	238	6.7	7.2	5.4
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,758	2,649	3,000	458	429	411	16.6	16.2	13.7
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>35,320</b>	<b>38,330</b>	<b>36,116</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>2,282</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Haines Borough	986	1,315	997	96	84	93	9.7	6.4	9.3
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,012	1,207	1,007	122	100	136	12.1	8.3	13.5
Juneau, City and Borough	16,500	17,121	16,888	724	745	759	4.4	4.4	4.5
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,582	7,384	6,702	394	377	466	6.0	5.1	7.0
Petersburg Borough	1,361	1,571	1,462	103	104	111	7.6	6.6	7.6
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,696	2,831	2,726	295	265	313	10.9	9.4	11.5
Sitka, City and Borough	4,206	4,672	4,326	166	186	191	3.9	4.0	4.4
Skagway, Municipality	761	971	762	87	34	128	11.4	3.5	16.8
Wrangell, City and Borough	968	969	985	66	67	70	6.8	6.9	7.1
Yakutat, City and Borough	248	289	261	17	18	15	6.9	6.2	5.7
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>18,458</b>	<b>19,743</b>	<b>18,817</b>	<b>1,898</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>2,087</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>11.1</b>
Aleutians East Borough	2,227	2,736	2,104	59	76	73	2.6	2.8	3.5
Aleutians West Census Area	3,585	4,048	3,950	130	138	170	3.6	3.4	4.3
Bethel Census Area	7,214	7,159	7,273	950	958	962	13.2	13.4	13.2
Bristol Bay Borough	263	299	279	25	26	33	9.5	8.7	11.8
Dillingham Census Area	1,747	1,869	1,753	173	179	195	9.9	9.6	11.1
Kusilvak Census Area	2,790	2,843	2,843	495	468	580	17.7	16.5	20.4
Lake and Peninsula Borough	632	789	615	66	73	74	10.4	9.3	12.0

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 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