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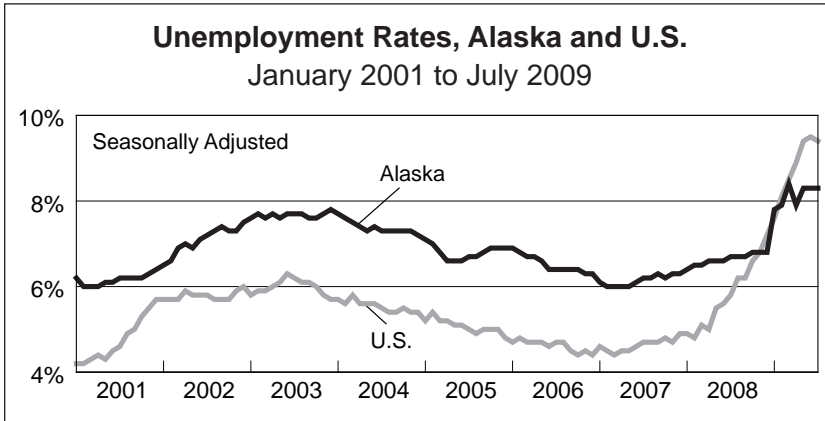
Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 09-49

Unemployment rate at 8.3 percent in July



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in July, holding at 8.3 percent. June's preliminary rate was revised down one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.3 percent.

The rate appears to have stabilized in recent months after climbing from a cyclical low point of 6 percent in early 2007 to its current level. Alaska's unemployment rate remains well below the national rate, which fell one-tenth of a percentage point in July to 9.4 percent. Before this year, the last time Alaska's unemployment rate was lower than the nation's was in 1983.

Alaska added an estimated 5,100 payroll jobs in July, a typical seasonal increase led by seafood processing and tourism-related industries. The job numbers remained below 2008 levels for the third consecutive month, however.

Several industries contributed to the over-the-year decline of 1,300 jobs. The biggest losses came from construction (-1,300), retail trade (-900), accommodations (-500), and food services and drinking places (-400). Partially offsetting those losses were gains of 1,000 health care jobs and 800 government jobs.

Taken together, the unemployment rate and job numbers continue to show that the national recession is hurting Alaska's economy, but to a lesser degree than in most states.

The primary reasons are because Alaska has few of the types of manufacturing jobs that have been disappearing in other parts of the country and also because the state's critical oil industry has been remarkably resilient. Since reaching an all-time high of 13,300 jobs in September 2008, the industry's job count has fallen by just 100 over the last 10 months despite volatile oil prices and recession-induced fluctuations in demand.

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Research and Analysis' Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

| | Preliminary 7/09 | Revised 6/09 | Revised 7/08 | Changes from 6/09 7/08 | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------|
| Total Nonfarm Employment ² | 345,000 | 339,900 | 346,300 | 5,100 | -1,300 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 15,800 | 15,600 | 15,800 | 200 | 0 |
| Oil and Gas | 13,200 | 13,200 | 13,000 | 0 | 200 |
| Construction | 19,300 | 18,900 | 20,600 | 400 | -1,300 |
| Manufacturing | 22,100 | 15,700 | 22,100 | 6,400 | 0 |
| Seafood Processing | 17,900 | 11,600 | 17,800 | 6,300 | 100 |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 68,200 | 67,400 | 69,800 | 800 | -1,600 |
| Retail Trade | 37,200 | 37,000 | 38,100 | 200 | -900 |
| Information | 7,000 | 7,200 | 7,100 | -200 | -100 |
| Financial Activities | 15,100 | 15,000 | 15,300 | 100 | -200 |
| Professional and Business Services | 28,100 | 27,800 | 27,800 | 300 | 300 |
| Educational ³ and Health Services | 38,800 | 38,500 | 37,700 | 300 | 1,100 |
| Health Care | 28,300 | 28,300 | 27,300 | 0 | 1,000 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 39,800 | 38,500 | 40,200 | 1,300 | -400 |
| Accommodations | 11,500 | 11,000 | 12,000 | 500 | -500 |
| Food Svcs. and Drinking Places | 21,900 | 21,500 | 22,300 | 400 | -400 |
| Other Services | 11,900 | 11,700 | 11,800 | 200 | 100 |
| Government ⁴ | 78,900 | 83,600 | 78,100 | -4,700 | 800 |

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

³ Private education only

⁴ Includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

| | 7/09 | 6/09 | 7/08 |
|--------|------|------|------|
| Alaska | 8.3% | 8.3% | 6.7% |
| U.S. | 9.4% | 9.5% | 5.8% |

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

| | Civilian Labor Force | | | Unemployment | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 7/09 ^P | 6/09 | 7/08 | Number | | | Rate | | |
| | | | | 7/09 ^P | 6/09 | 7/08 | 7/09 ^P | 6/09 | 7/08 |
| Alaska Statewide | 368,324 | 366,399 | 367,188 | 27,551 | 30,531 | 21,957 | 7.5 | 8.3 | 6.0 |
| Anchorage/Mat-Su Region | 194,938 | 196,320 | 194,495 | 13,963 | 15,217 | 10,700 | 7.2 | 7.8 | 5.5 |
| Municipality of Anchorage | 154,189 | 155,207 | 154,020 | 10,293 | 11,209 | 7,882 | 6.7 | 7.2 | 5.1 |
| Matanuska-Susitna Borough | 40,749 | 41,113 | 40,475 | 3,670 | 4,008 | 2,818 | 9.0 | 9.7 | 7.0 |
| Gulf Coast Region | 41,186 | 41,232 | 41,121 | 3,309 | 3,728 | 2,520 | 8.0 | 9.0 | 6.1 |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough | 28,497 | 28,518 | 28,247 | 2,501 | 2,742 | 1,825 | 8.8 | 9.6 | 6.5 |
| Kodiak Island Borough | 6,516 | 6,625 | 6,604 | 410 | 542 | 333 | 6.3 | 8.2 | 5.0 |
| Valdez-Cordova Census Area | 6,173 | 6,089 | 6,270 | 398 | 444 | 362 | 6.4 | 7.3 | 5.8 |
| Interior Region | 55,963 | 56,056 | 54,914 | 3,976 | 4,484 | 3,318 | 7.1 | 8.0 | 6.0 |
| Denali Borough | 2,884 | 2,793 | 2,873 | 84 | 88 | 58 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 2.0 |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | 46,603 | 46,530 | 45,791 | 3,155 | 3,559 | 2,623 | 6.8 | 7.6 | 5.7 |
| Southeast Fairbanks Census Area | 3,719 | 3,784 | 3,609 | 325 | 370 | 265 | 8.7 | 9.8 | 7.3 |
| Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area | 2,757 | 2,949 | 2,641 | 412 | 467 | 372 | 14.9 | 15.8 | 14.1 |
| Northern Region | 11,671 | 11,956 | 11,538 | 1,173 | 1,263 | 1,056 | 10.1 | 10.6 | 9.2 |
| Nome Census Area | 3,624 | 3,943 | 3,640 | 506 | 533 | 473 | 14.0 | 13.5 | 13.0 |
| North Slope Borough | 5,067 | 5,007 | 4,972 | 263 | 283 | 226 | 5.2 | 5.7 | 4.5 |
| Northwest Arctic Borough | 2,980 | 3,006 | 2,926 | 404 | 447 | 357 | 13.6 | 14.9 | 12.2 |
| Southeast Region | 43,851 | 42,058 | 44,530 | 2,774 | 3,117 | 2,251 | 6.3 | 7.4 | 5.1 |
| Haines Borough | 1,924 | 1,469 | 1,965 | 104 | 120 | 93 | 5.4 | 8.2 | 4.7 |
| Juneau Borough | 19,020 | 18,838 | 19,374 | 1,053 | 1,176 | 793 | 5.5 | 6.2 | 4.1 |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough ² | 9,422 | 8,814 | 9,632 | 534 | 592 | 416 | 5.7 | 6.7 | 4.3 |
| Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ² | 2,410 | 2,538 | 2,365 | 340 | 372 | 291 | 14.1 | 14.7 | 12.3 |
| Sitka Borough | 4,871 | 4,749 | 4,940 | 280 | 308 | 245 | 5.7 | 6.5 | 5.0 |
| Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ² | 2,495 | 2,460 | 2,534 | 176 | 212 | 148 | 7.1 | 8.6 | 5.8 |
| Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ² | 3,346 | 2,859 | 3,346 | 271 | 314 | 243 | 8.1 | 11.0 | 7.3 |
| Yakutat Borough | 363 | 331 | 374 | 16 | 23 | 22 | 4.4 | 6.9 | 5.9 |
| Southwest Region | 20,713 | 18,778 | 20,588 | 2,354 | 2,722 | 2,110 | 11.4 | 14.5 | 10.2 |
| Aleutians East Borough | 1,420 | 1,091 | 1,407 | 105 | 116 | 86 | 7.4 | 10.6 | 6.1 |
| Aleutians West Census Area | 2,985 | 2,963 | 3,049 | 171 | 237 | 136 | 5.7 | 8.0 | 4.5 |
| Bethel Census Area | 6,759 | 7,100 | 6,675 | 1,081 | 1,194 | 1,010 | 16.0 | 16.8 | 15.1 |
| Bristol Bay Borough | 2,644 | 1,788 | 2,705 | 43 | 52 | 37 | 1.6 | 2.9 | 1.4 |
| Dillingham Census Area | 2,571 | 2,253 | 2,558 | 233 | 275 | 193 | 9.1 | 12.2 | 7.5 |
| Lake and Peninsula Borough | 1,540 | 1,185 | 1,435 | 80 | 103 | 69 | 5.2 | 8.7 | 4.8 |
| Wade Hampton Census Area | 2,794 | 2,398 | 2,759 | 641 | 745 | 579 | 22.9 | 31.1 | 21.0 |

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 new borough and census areas will be available in 2010. 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