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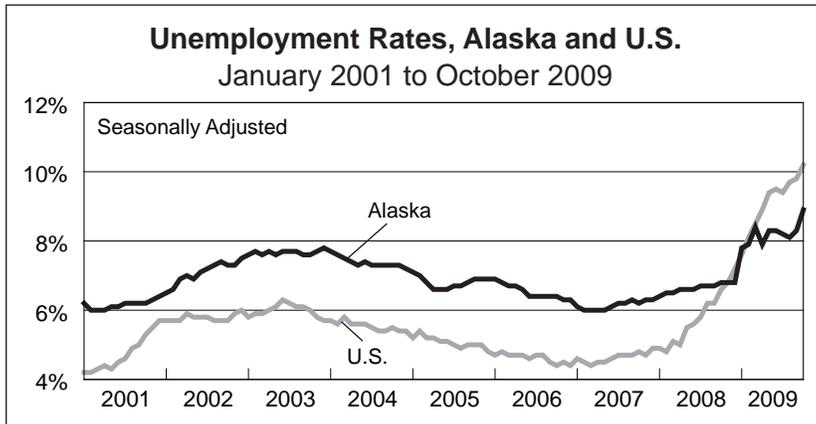
Press Release

November 20, 2009

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 09-65

Unemployment rate at 8.9 percent in October



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose six-tenths of a percentage point in October to 8.9 percent. September's preliminary rate was revised down one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.3 percent.

After bouncing around for much of 2009 without showing a clear trend up or down, the rate has now climbed eight-tenths of a percentage point over the last two months. Alaska's rate remains well below the U.S. rate, however, which was at 10.2 percent in October.

Alaska's October employment estimates show a large seasonal decline of 16,000 jobs from September as activity in seafood processing, construction and tourist-related industries wound down from their peak summer levels.

October's job numbers were down an estimated 3,000 from October 2008. The biggest losses were in construction (-1,000), accommodations (-800), retail trade (-700), and food services and drinking places (-600).

Health care, which was up 1,400 jobs over the year, continued to be one of very few industries showing growth. Government employment was also up by 900 over the year.

Although 2009 will almost certainly end the state's 21-year streak of job growth, Alaska's job losses remain significantly less severe than the nation's. The state's loss of 3,000 jobs represents a decline of 0.9 percent, compared to U.S. job losses of 4.0 percent over that same period.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 10/09	Revised 9/09	Revised 10/08	Changes from	
				9/09	10/08
Total Nonfarm Employment ²	317,700	333,700	320,700	-16,000	-3,000
Natural Resources and Mining	15,300	15,500	15,800	-200	-500
Oil and Gas	12,800	12,900	13,200	-100	-400
Construction	17,600	19,000	18,600	-1,400	-1,000
Manufacturing	11,100	15,000	11,600	-3,900	-500
Seafood Processing	7,100	11,000	7,500	-3,900	-400
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	62,200	65,800	63,700	-3,600	-1,500
Retail Trade	35,100	36,200	35,800	-1,100	-700
Information	6,800	6,900	7,100	-100	-300
Financial Activities	14,700	14,900	15,000	-200	-300
Professional and Business Services	25,100	26,600	25,200	-1,500	-100
Educational ³ and Health Services	39,700	39,300	37,700	400	2,000
Health Care	28,600	28,300	27,200	300	1,400
Leisure and Hospitality	27,600	34,700	29,200	-7,100	-1,600
Accommodations	6,100	9,500	6,900	-3,400	-800
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	17,700	19,700	18,300	-2,000	-600
Other Services	11,600	11,300	11,700	300	-100
Government ⁴	86,000	84,700	85,100	1,300	900

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

	10/09	9/09	10/08
Alaska	8.9%	8.3%	6.8%
U.S.	10.2%	9.8%	6.6%

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

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	10/09 ^P	9/09	10/08	Number			Rate		
				10/09 ^P	9/09	10/08	10/09 ^P	9/09	10/08
Alaska Statewide	356,461	358,305	357,091	29,483	27,218	22,459	8.3	7.6	6.3
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	198,635	193,356	197,979	14,742	13,981	10,896	7.4	7.2	5.5
Municipality of Anchorage	157,126	153,122	156,754	10,910	10,498	8,001	6.9	6.9	5.1
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	41,509	40,234	41,225	3,832	3,483	2,895	9.2	8.7	7.0
Gulf Coast Region	36,863	39,009	36,536	3,861	3,286	2,827	10.5	8.4	7.7
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,005	26,625	25,468	2,871	2,503	2,004	11.0	9.4	7.9
Kodiak Island Borough	6,166	6,516	6,126	488	419	369	7.9	6.4	6.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,692	5,868	4,942	502	364	454	10.7	6.2	9.2
Interior Region	52,981	53,898	53,348	4,269	3,817	3,478	8.1	7.1	6.5
Denali Borough	902	2,263	971	146	77	127	16.2	3.4	13.1
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,523	45,168	45,768	3,351	3,076	2,711	7.4	6.8	5.9
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,574	3,658	3,644	357	292	277	10.0	8.0	7.6
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,982	2,809	2,965	415	372	363	13.9	13.2	12.2
Northern Region	12,562	12,171	12,387	1,153	1,115	871	9.2	9.2	7.0
Nome Census Area	4,125	4,015	4,013	471	462	344	11.4	11.5	8.6
North Slope Borough	5,462	5,234	5,282	320	289	214	5.9	5.5	4.1
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,975	2,922	3,092	362	364	313	12.2	12.5	10.1
Southeast Region	38,055	41,027	39,053	3,179	2,735	2,520	8.4	6.7	6.5
Haines Borough	1,240	1,552	1,229	127	98	104	10.2	6.3	8.5
Juneau Borough	17,752	18,214	18,255	1,158	1,052	909	6.5	5.8	5.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	7,983	8,807	8,010	631	523	473	7.9	5.9	5.9
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	2,327	2,450	2,223	342	334	275	14.7	13.6	12.4
Sitka Borough	4,318	4,647	4,403	315	271	244	7.3	5.8	5.5
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	1,650	2,207	1,759	308	164	245	18.7	7.4	13.9
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	2,486	2,820	2,859	278	272	253	11.2	9.6	8.8
Yakutat Borough	299	330	315	20	21	17	6.7	6.4	5.4
Southwest Region	17,367	18,842	17,788	2,280	2,282	1,867	13.1	12.1	10.5
Aleutians East Borough	1,108	1,171	903	121	114	83	10.9	9.7	9.2
Aleutians West Census Area	2,989	2,906	2,927	296	245	163	9.9	8.4	5.6
Bethel Census Area	7,086	7,074	7,074	986	1,031	893	13.9	14.6	12.6
Bristol Bay Borough	499	1,186	998	43	41	45	8.6	3.5	4.5
Dillingham Census Area	1,926	2,301	1,918	211	217	168	11.0	9.4	8.8
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,078	1,427	1,108	78	80	64	7.2	5.6	5.8
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,681	2,777	2,860	545	554	451	20.3	19.9	15.8

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 Skagway Borough and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area will be available in 2010. Data for the other new boroughs and 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