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Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 8.7 percent in November



Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 11/09	Revised 10/09	Revised 11/08	Changes from	
				10/09	11/08
Total Nonfarm Employment ²	309,900	317,100	313,200	-7,200	-3,300
Natural Resources and Mining	15,200	15,300	15,700	-100	-500
Oil and Gas	12,800	12,800	13,100	0	-300
Construction	15,100	17,500	16,200	-2,400	-1,100
Manufacturing	9,200	11,000	9,600	-1,800	-400
Seafood Processing	5,000	6,600	5,600	-1,600	-600
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	61,700	62,300	63,200	-600	-1,500
Retail Trade	35,500	35,300	36,200	200	-700
Information	6,800	6,800	7,100	0	-300
Financial Activities	14,300	14,600	14,700	-300	-400
Professional and Business Services	24,600	25,300	24,900	-700	-300
Educational ³ and Health Services	39,400	39,400	37,700	0	1,700
Health Care	28,900	28,900	27,200	0	1,700
Leisure and Hospitality	26,900	27,800	28,100	-900	-1,200
Accommodations	5,700	6,100	6,400	-400	-700
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	16,700	17,300	17,800	-600	-1,100
Other Services	11,600	11,600	11,600	0	0
Government ⁴	85,100	85,500	84,400	-400	700

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

	11/09	10/09	11/08
Alaska	8.7%	8.7%	6.8%
U.S.	10.0%	10.2%	6.8%

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 was 8.7 percent in November. October's preliminary rate of 8.9 percent was revised down two-tenths of a percentage point to 8.7 percent.

Alaska's rate remains well below the national rate, which fell two-tenths of a percentage point in November to 10.0 percent.

Alaska's rate has been up and down for much of 2009, due more likely to statistical variability than real economic swings. November's rate is only slightly higher than March's 8.4 percent, and October's large increase of six-tenths of a percentage point was moderated by the subsequent downward revision.

The bottom line, in terms of what the unemployment rate is saying about the state's labor market, is that things don't appear to be getting significantly worse or better.

As is often the case, the job numbers reveal a clearer picture of what's happening with the state's economy. Total payroll jobs in November were down by about 3,300 compared to November 2008, a decline of 1.1 percent. Nationally, the over-the-year job losses in November remained noticeably higher at 3.4 percent.

Alaska's numbers showed that nearly every sector lost jobs with the exceptions of health care, which was up by an estimated 1,700 jobs over the year, and government, which was up 700.

Shifting to the over-the-month changes, the job numbers showed a large decline from October to November driven mostly by normal seasonal drops in construction and seafood processing. Jobs in accommodations, and food services and drinking places also fell significantly in November, as they typically do.

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

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	11/09 ^P	10/09	11/08	Number			Rate		
				11/09 ^P	10/09	11/08	11/09 ^P	10/09	11/08
Alaska Statewide	356,198	355,713	355,814	30,440	28,897	24,294	8.5	8.1	6.8
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	200,107	198,449	199,134	14,942	14,473	11,762	7.5	7.3	5.9
Municipality of Anchorage	158,061	156,988	157,435	10,833	10,706	8,452	6.9	6.8	5.4
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,046	41,461	41,699	4,109	3,767	3,310	9.8	9.1	7.9
Gulf Coast Region	36,703	36,821	36,029	4,289	3,773	3,191	11.7	10.2	8.9
Kenai Peninsula Borough	25,994	25,978	25,276	3,028	2,802	2,228	11.6	10.8	8.8
Kodiak Island Borough	6,226	6,207	6,069	742	477	488	11.9	7.7	8.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,483	4,636	4,684	519	494	475	11.6	10.7	10.1
Interior Region	52,634	52,374	53,262	4,550	4,187	3,762	8.6	8.0	7.1
Denali Borough	832	897	911	157	141	120	18.9	15.7	13.2
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,050	44,826	45,825	3,572	3,288	2,909	7.9	7.3	6.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,706	3,660	3,656	377	352	326	10.2	9.6	8.9
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,046	2,991	2,870	444	406	407	14.6	13.6	14.2
Northern Region	12,638	12,696	12,386	1,139	1,128	875	9.0	8.9	7.1
Nome Census Area	4,149	4,202	4,039	476	462	369	11.5	11.0	9.1
North Slope Borough	5,467	5,438	5,287	296	312	211	5.4	5.7	4.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,022	3,056	3,060	367	354	295	12.1	11.6	9.6
Southeast Region	37,732	38,198	38,279	3,318	3,118	2,820	8.8	8.2	7.4
Haines Borough	1,118	1,232	1,181	134	125	121	12.0	10.1	10.2
Juneau Borough	17,911	17,731	18,264	1,160	1,136	982	6.5	6.4	5.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	7,684	7,982	7,707	664	613	518	8.6	7.7	6.7
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	2,249	2,350	2,175	363	339	312	16.1	14.4	14.3
Sitka Borough	4,375	4,318	4,387	313	306	260	7.2	7.1	5.9
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	1,502	1,698	1,543	349	307	336	23.2	18.1	21.8
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	2,611	2,564	2,733	302	272	266	11.6	10.6	9.7
Yakutat Borough	282	323	289	33	20	25	11.7	6.2	8.7
Southwest Region	16,382	17,176	16,724	2,201	2,219	1,883	13.4	12.9	11.3
Aleutians East Borough	926	1,096	816	122	114	96	13.2	10.4	11.8
Aleutians West Census Area	2,480	2,923	2,314	201	273	166	8.1	9.3	7.2
Bethel Census Area	7,004	7,036	7,102	990	968	884	14.1	13.8	12.4
Bristol Bay Borough	439	462	827	51	41	54	11.6	8.9	6.5
Dillingham Census Area	1,785	1,925	1,909	207	209	173	11.6	10.9	9.1
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,076	1,062	1,026	84	75	58	7.8	7.1	5.7
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,672	2,672	2,730	546	539	452	20.4	20.2	16.6

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