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Unemployment rate at 8.0 percent in November



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November inched up slightly to 8.0 percent. October's rate was 7.9 percent.

The comparable national jobless rate for November was 9.8 percent, up from 9.6 percent in October. Exactly a year ago, the U.S. rate was 10.0 percent, and Alaska's was 8.5 percent.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in all the state's regions in November except one, Northern, where it remained unchanged. In most cases, the jobless numbers were close to year-ago levels. For example, the Interior's rate rose to 7.8 percent in November, up from 7.3 percent in October but down a bit from a year ago, when it was 8.2 percent.

In November, the areas with both the highest and lowest unemployment rates were similar to October. The North Slope Borough and Juneau again had the lowest rates, and the Denali Borough and Skagway had the highest. Both the Denali Borough and Skagway are among the most dependent on visitors, which leads to some of the state's most dramatic seasonal swings.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 11/10	Revised 10/10	Revised 11/09	Year-over-year change		
				11/09	90% confidence interval ²	
Total Nonfarm Employment ³	315,600	318,800	311,800	3,800	-3,583	11,183
Mining and Logging	14,600	14,500	14,700	-100	-893	693
Oil and Gas	12,000	12,100	12,300	-300	-	-
Construction	14,400	16,900	14,700	-300	-2,883	2,283
Manufacturing	9,300	11,600	9,100	200	-794	1,194
Seafood Processing	4,700	6,200	4,900	-200	-	-
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	62,100	61,100	61,600	500	-1,872	2,872
Retail Trade	36,200	34,700	35,800	400	-1,628	2,428
Information	6,200	6,300	6,500	-300	-881	281
Financial Activities	14,400	15,200	14,300	100	-1,843	2,043
Professional and Business Services	26,000	25,200	24,700	1,300	-493	3,093
Educational ⁴ and Health Services	42,300	42,000	39,600	2,700	1,432	3,968
Health Care	30,700	30,400	28,500	2,200	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	29,000	27,900	29,100	-100	-2,137	1,937
Accommodations	6,400	6,200	6,000	400	-	-
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	18,900	18,000	18,500	400	-	-
Other Services	11,200	11,700	11,400	-200	-3,376	2,976
Government ⁵	86,100	86,400	86,100	0	-	-

Notes:

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

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

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	11/10	10/10	11/09
Alaska	8.0%	7.9%	8.5%
U.S.	9.8%	9.6%	10.0%

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

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. That change has resulted in increased monthly volatility in the wage and salary estimates for many states, including Alaska. Therefore, one should be very 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 source of information for trends analysis (<http://labor.alaska.gov/qcew.htm>).

Contact: Neal Fried, Economist (907) 269-4861
Research and Analysis Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	11/10 ^P	10/10	11/09	Number			Rate		
				11/10 ^P	10/10	11/09	11/10 ^P	10/10	11/09
Alaska Statewide	361,293	360,769	359,159	28,503	27,015	29,103	7.9	7.5	8.1
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	201,798	200,082	201,025	14,114	13,597	14,338	7.0	6.8	7.1
Municipality of Anchorage	158,307	157,294	157,733	10,148	10,082	10,361	6.4	6.4	6.6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,491	42,788	43,292	3,966	3,515	3,977	9.1	8.2	9.2
Gulf Coast Region	37,977	38,109	37,410	3,778	3,416	4,035	9.9	9.0	10.8
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,374	26,189	26,308	2,698	2,511	2,863	10.2	9.6	10.9
Kodiak Island Borough	6,632	6,717	6,404	582	436	690	8.8	6.5	10.8
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,971	5,203	4,698	498	469	482	10.0	9.0	10.3
Interior Region	54,336	54,132	53,749	4,265	3,937	4,391	7.8	7.3	8.2
Denali Borough	805	946	810	157	137	161	19.5	14.5	19.9
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,910	46,485	46,532	3,253	3,052	3,420	6.9	6.6	7.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,633	3,649	3,503	385	347	362	10.6	9.5	10.3
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,988	3,052	2,904	470	401	448	15.7	13.1	15.4
Northern Region	12,412	12,348	12,471	1,154	1,151	1,119	9.3	9.3	9.0
Nome Census Area	4,199	4,194	4,077	500	495	496	11.9	11.8	12.2
North Slope Borough	5,039	5,002	5,475	275	271	265	5.5	5.4	4.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,174	3,152	2,919	379	385	358	11.9	12.2	12.3
Southeast Region	38,317	38,954	38,107	3,078	2,847	3,170	8.0	7.3	8.3
Haines Borough	1,208	1,397	1,131	122	112	128	10.1	8.0	11.3
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	892	951	983	172	129	234	19.3	13.6	23.8
City and Borough of Juneau	18,196	18,101	18,114	1,059	1,033	1,109	5.8	5.7	6.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	7,693	7,992	7,720	630	593	622	8.2	7.4	8.1
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	2,417	2,363	2,300	346	308	353	14.3	13.0	15.3
City and Borough of Sitka	4,411	4,489	4,420	290	275	310	6.6	6.1	7.0
Skagway Municipality ²	569	603	531	148	122	93	26.0	20.2	17.5
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	2,663	2,760	2,606	277	250	282	10.4	9.1	10.8
Yakutat Borough	268	298	302	34	25	39	12.7	8.4	12.9
Southwest Region	16,450	17,143	16,395	2,112	2,068	2,050	12.8	12.1	12.5
Aleutians East Borough	808	1,028	918	103	82	102	12.7	8.0	11.1
Aleutians West Census Area	2,439	2,600	2,509	189	206	212	7.7	7.9	8.4
Bethel Census Area	7,249	7,297	6,983	992	980	923	13.7	13.4	13.2
Bristol Bay Borough	504	535	455	41	36	37	8.1	6.7	8.1
Dillingham Census Area	1,840	1,853	1,803	196	192	193	10.7	10.4	10.7
Lake and Peninsula Borough	871	1,090	1,042	76	75	80	8.7	6.9	7.7
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,739	2,740	2,685	515	497	503	18.8	18.1	18.7

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.

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; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics