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Press Release

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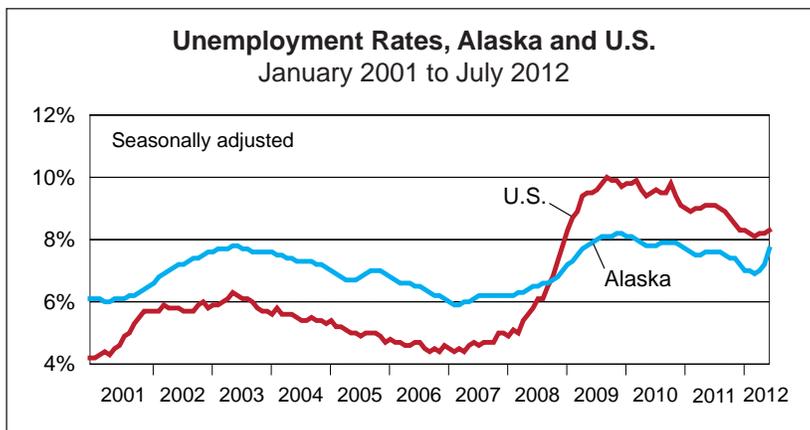
Unemployment rate at 7.7 percent in July

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose five-tenths of a percentage point in July to 7.7 percent. The comparable national rate went up one-tenth of a percentage point, to 8.3 percent.

Alaska's rate has risen seven-tenths of a percentage point since May. July's increase is relatively high historically, but it might be overstated. When doing level comparisons, it is important to note that preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rates are subject to monthly and annual revisions that can substantially change their value. Large month-to-month rate changes are more frequent prior to these revisions.

Twenty-four states had lower rates than Alaska in June, the most recent month for which all states' data are available. This middle-of-the-pack position is relatively new for Alaska; in June 2007 before the recession, 47 states and the District of Columbia had lower rates.

July's rates across Alaska, which are not seasonally adjusted, show summer in full swing. Twenty-seven out of 29 borough and census area rates declined in July. The highest and lowest rates were in Southwest, which is typical in the summer. The lowest rate was 1.4 percent in Bristol Bay Borough, and the highest was 24.9 percent in the Wade Hampton Census Area.



	7/12	6/12	7/11
Alaska	7.7%	7.2%	7.6%
U.S.	8.3%	8.2%	9.1%

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

For detailed employment estimates, see labor.alaska.gov/research/ces/ces.htm. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

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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					
	7/12 ^P	6/12	7/11	Number			Rate		
				7/12 ^P	6/12	7/11	7/12 ^P	6/12	7/11
Alaska Statewide	376,353	374,909	375,083	27,307	28,576	25,537	7.3	7.6	6.8
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	196,728	199,751	197,506	13,202	13,716	12,644	6.7	6.9	6.4
Municipality of Anchorage	154,572	156,886	155,309	9,589	9,921	9,270	6.2	6.3	6.0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,156	42,865	42,197	3,613	3,795	3,374	8.6	8.9	8.0
Gulf Coast Region	43,817	42,754	43,528	3,257	3,455	3,102	7.4	8.1	7.1
Kenai Peninsula Borough	29,985	29,497	29,800	2,370	2,493	2,268	7.9	8.5	7.6
Kodiak Island Borough	7,473	7,195	7,431	458	507	457	6.1	7.0	6.1
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,359	6,062	6,297	429	455	377	6.7	7.5	6.0
Interior Region	55,882	56,442	55,977	4,077	4,265	3,740	7.3	7.6	6.7
Denali Borough	2,417	2,360	2,395	109	117	92	4.5	5.0	3.8
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,743	46,972	47,018	3,104	3,227	2,856	6.6	6.9	6.1
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,715	3,823	3,618	390	411	343	10.5	10.8	9.5
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,007	3,287	2,946	474	510	449	15.8	15.5	15.2
Northern Region	12,691	13,016	12,265	1,425	1,490	1,289	11.2	11.4	10.5
Nome Census Area	3,808	4,209	3,705	550	577	524	14.4	13.7	14.1
North Slope Borough	5,559	5,532	5,396	348	361	311	6.3	6.5	5.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,324	3,275	3,164	527	552	454	15.9	16.9	14.3
Southeast Region	44,961	42,823	44,039	2,745	2,869	2,531	6.1	6.7	5.7
Haines Borough	2,018	1,465	1,970	102	101	92	5.1	6.9	4.7
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,529	1,455	1,487	181	187	164	11.8	12.9	11.0
Juneau, City and Borough of	19,153	19,237	18,769	966	988	893	5.0	5.1	4.8
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9,634	9,302	9,457	561	597	532	5.8	6.4	5.6
Petersburg Census Area	1,943	1,735	1,881	172	188	138	8.9	10.8	7.3
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,819	2,518	2,769	361	371	350	12.8	14.7	12.6
Sitka, City and Borough of	5,415	4,828	5,305	284	297	254	5.2	6.2	4.8
Skagway, Municipality of	883	839	871	20	27	24	2.3	3.2	2.8
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,216	1,083	1,187	71	83	60	5.8	7.7	5.1
Yakutat, City and Borough of	351	361	343	27	30	24	7.7	8.3	7.0
Southwest Region	22,274	20,120	21,770	2,603	2,780	2,233	11.7	13.8	10.3
Aleutians East Borough	1,454	1,148	1,423	130	153	107	8.9	13.3	7.5
Aleutians West Census Area	3,298	3,099	3,211	241	263	182	7.3	8.5	5.7
Bethel Census Area	7,200	7,287	6,996	1,212	1,262	1,039	16.8	17.3	14.9
Bristol Bay Borough	3,145	2,171	3,107	43	46	33	1.4	2.1	1.1
Dillingham Census Area	2,754	2,217	2,725	226	232	210	8.2	10.5	7.7
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,727	1,333	1,710	81	95	76	4.7	7.1	4.4
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,696	2,865	2,598	670	729	586	24.9	25.4	22.6

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 in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

¹Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics