

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

November 21, 2014

No. 14-44

### Unemployment rate at 6.8 percent in October

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in October, unchanged from September and August. The comparable national rate was 5.8 percent.

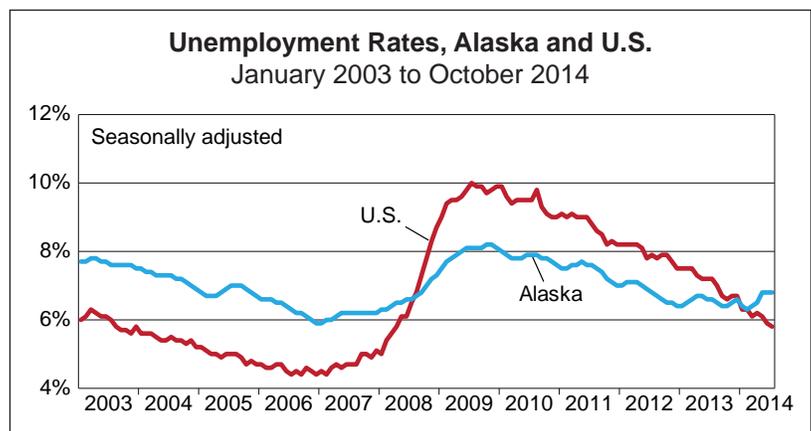
With the national rate now a whole percentage point below Alaska's, the difference is getting closer to normal pre-recession levels. In the five years before the U.S. rate spiked above Alaska's, the national rate averaged 1.6 percentage points below Alaska's.

Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted rate was 6.0 percent in October, up from 5.8 percent in September. September's rate will almost certainly end up being the lowest point in the year. Now that the unadjusted rate has turned the corner from summer, historical patterns suggest it will continue to climb for the rest of the year.

Following the statewide trend, unadjusted rates increased in 21 out of 29 boroughs and census areas. Skagway Municipality stood out among all areas for the largest change in either direction, with a 12.7 percentage point increase from September to October. Skagway's economy changes drastically after the last cruise ship of the season leaves port, reflected in the October jobless rate.

The highest October unemployment rate was in Wade-Hampton Census Area, at 19.4 percent. The lowest rate was in the North Slope Borough, at 4.0 percent. The North Slope Borough is the most counter-cyclical area to the rest of the state because its construction season occurs in the winter, which results in low wintertime jobless rates.

**Contact: Caroline Schultz, Economist (907) 465-6027**  
Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	10/14	9/14	10/13
Alaska	6.8%	6.8%	6.6%
U.S.	5.8%	5.9%	7.2%

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 <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

## Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	10/14 <sup>P</sup>	9/14	10/13	Number			Rate		
				10/14 <sup>P</sup>	9/14	10/13	10/14 <sup>P</sup>	9/14	10/13
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>364,598</b>	<b>367,176</b>	<b>361,542</b>	<b>21,822</b>	<b>21,264</b>	<b>22,273</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>200,551</b>	<b>197,708</b>	<b>198,413</b>	<b>10,163</b>	<b>10,090</b>	<b>10,267</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Anchorage, Municipality of	156,827	154,783	155,085	7,409	7,539	7,426	4.7	4.9	4.8
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,724	42,925	43,328	2,754	2,551	2,841	6.3	5.9	6.6
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>40,257</b>	<b>41,435</b>	<b>40,104</b>	<b>2,650</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>2,769</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,386	28,538	28,048	1,937	1,880	1,965	6.8	6.6	7.0
Kodiak Island Borough	6,858	7,107	7,059	280	286	334	4.1	4.0	4.7
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,013	5,790	4,997	433	352	470	8.6	6.1	9.4
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>54,435</b>	<b>54,880</b>	<b>53,593</b>	<b>3,316</b>	<b>3,103</b>	<b>3,295</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Denali Borough	1,356	2,183	1,261	97	70	123	7.2	3.2	9.8
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,776	46,278	45,746	2,481	2,301	2,393	5.3	5.0	5.2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,261	3,396	3,329	324	321	346	9.9	9.5	10.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,042	3,023	3,257	414	411	433	13.6	13.6	13.3
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>13,008</b>	<b>12,654</b>	<b>13,100</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.1</b>
Nome Census Area	4,324	4,178	4,428	450	473	449	10.4	11.3	10.1
North Slope Borough	5,478	5,364	5,453	221	218	271	4.0	4.1	5.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,206	3,112	3,219	423	447	473	13.2	14.4	14.7
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>38,275</b>	<b>41,726</b>	<b>38,126</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>2,143</b>	<b>2,305</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Haines Borough	1,165	1,675	1,146	97	80	93	8.3	4.8	8.1
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,103	1,505	963	125	142	113	11.3	9.4	11.7
Juneau, City and Borough of	17,597	18,067	17,859	799	741	781	4.5	4.1	4.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,916	8,867	7,904	490	449	465	6.2	5.1	5.9
Petersburg Census Area	1,598	1,828	1,605	124	154	143	7.8	8.4	8.9
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,423	2,674	2,353	321	288	269	13.2	10.8	11.4
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,360	4,744	4,311	198	186	216	4.5	3.9	5.0
Skagway, Municipality of	732	887	654	105	14	110	14.3	1.6	16.8
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,057	1,161	1,047	97	71	95	9.2	6.1	9.1
Yakutat, City and Borough of	324	318	284	24	18	20	7.4	5.7	7.0
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>18,072</b>	<b>18,773</b>	<b>18,203</b>	<b>2,218</b>	<b>2,272</b>	<b>2,444</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>13.4</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,188	1,193	1,097	95	91	134	8.0	7.6	12.2
Aleutians West Census Area	2,843	2,934	3,076	231	170	355	8.1	5.8	11.5
Bethel Census Area	7,611	7,173	7,618	1,036	1,118	1,083	13.6	15.6	14.2
Bristol Bay Borough	563	1,243	560	33	33	37	5.9	2.7	6.6
Dillingham Census Area	1,883	2,059	1,866	188	193	188	10.0	9.4	10.1
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,118	1,305	1,114	78	79	76	7.0	6.1	6.8
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,866	2,866	2,872	557	588	571	19.4	20.5	19.9

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.

<sup>1</sup>Unemployment 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