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Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 6.4 percent in September

JUNEAU, Alaska— Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in September, down slightly from August's 6.6 percent. The comparable national rate was 5.1 percent.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has not shown a clear, sustained trend up or down in 2015. Despite looming economic challenges, the rate does not indicate that the broader economy had been noticeably affected through September.

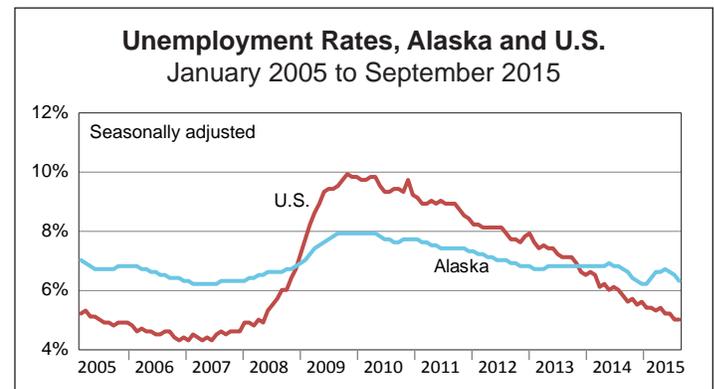
Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted rate began its annual autumnal climb, from August's 5.5 percent to 5.7 percent in September, as summer activity winds down.

Around the state, unadjusted rates increased in 21 out of 29 boroughs and census areas. The largest increases were in the Bristol Bay Borough and Dillingham Census Area, where rates climbed by 2.1 and 2.5 percentage points, respectively. These areas typically have large seasonal swings because of their dependence on summer salmon fisheries.

The highest unemployment rate in September was in the Kusilvak Census Area at 19.5 percent. The lowest was in the Aleutians West Census Area at 2.9 percent.

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

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Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	9/15	8/15	9/14
Alaska	6.4%	6.6%	6.8%
U.S.	5.1%	5.3%	5.9%

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

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	9/15 ^P	8/15	9/14	Number			Rate		
				9/15 ^P	8/15	9/14	9/15 ^P	8/15	9/14
Alaska	362,812	368,589	367,603	20,710	20,197	22,754	5.7	5.5	6.2
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	200,287	199,865	202,214	10,293	9,884	10,922	5.1	4.9	5.4
Anchorage, Municipality	157,229	156,851	158,656	7,333	7,000	7,786	4.7	4.5	4.9
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,058	43,014	43,558	2,960	2,884	3,136	6.9	6.7	7.2
Gulf Coast Region	39,739	42,135	40,210	2,463	2,361	2,675	6.2	5.6	6.7
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,962	29,597	28,271	1,882	1,789	1,990	6.7	6.0	7.0
Kodiak Island Borough	6,603	6,813	6,670	261	268	307	4.0	3.9	4.6
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,174	5,725	5,269	320	304	378	6.2	5.3	7.2
Interior Region	53,542	54,293	54,270	2,910	2,838	3,269	5.4	5.2	6.0
Denali Borough	1,457	1,690	1,471	67	63	74	4.6	3.7	5.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,691	47,149	47,252	2,206	2,135	2,421	4.7	4.5	5.1
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,850	2,986	2,939	259	270	339	9.1	9.0	11.5
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,544	2,468	2,608	378	370	435	14.9	15.0	16.7
Northern Region	11,304	11,181	11,434	1,094	1,101	1,206	9.7	9.8	10.5
Nome Census Area	4,141	3,972	4,218	429	447	499	10.4	11.3	11.8
North Slope Borough	4,247	4,260	4,246	240	230	233	5.7	5.4	5.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,916	2,949	2,970	425	424	474	14.6	14.4	16.0
Southeast Region	38,730	41,015	39,765	1,949	1,970	2,273	5.0	4.8	5.7
Haines Borough	1,270	1,415	1,318	72	72	87	5.7	5.1	6.6
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,209	1,359	1,245	118	133	130	9.8	9.8	10.4
Juneau, City and Borough	17,381	17,779	17,793	695	693	787	4.0	3.9	4.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,389	7,795	7,614	378	370	479	5.1	4.7	6.3
Petersburg Borough	1,682	1,977	1,746	117	117	144	7.0	5.9	8.2
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,812	2,794	2,904	269	274	316	9.6	9.8	10.9
Sitka, City and Borough	4,690	5,401	4,794	178	182	196	3.8	3.4	4.1
Skagway, Municipality	968	1,045	985	42	44	40	4.3	4.2	4.1
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,026	1,155	1,056	63	67	75	6.1	5.8	7.1
Yakutat, City and Borough	303	295	310	17	18	19	5.6	6.1	6.1
Southwest Region	19,212	20,099	19,711	2,003	2,045	2,408	10.4	10.2	12.2
Aleutians East Borough	2,067	2,352	2,106	72	69	95	3.5	2.9	4.5
Aleutians West Census Area	4,092	4,194	4,187	117	115	177	2.9	2.7	4.2
Bethel Census Area	7,219	7,063	7,411	983	996	1,185	13.6	14.1	16.0
Bristol Bay Borough	519	670	533	31	26	34	6.0	3.9	6.4
Dillingham Census Area	1,812	2,460	1,851	184	190	206	10.2	7.7	11.1
Kusilvak Census Area	2,832	2,751	2,922	553	584	625	19.5	21.2	21.4
Lake and Peninsula Borough	671	609	701	63	65	86	9.4	10.7	12.3

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