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Press Release

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Unemployment Rate at 6.8 Percent in November

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in November, essentially unchanged from October's revised 6.9 percent. Alaska's adjusted rate has been trending higher throughout 2016. The comparable national rate was 4.6 percent.

November's unadjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent, up two-tenths of a percentage point, which is a typical seasonal increase.

Unadjusted rates were up in 23 out of 29 boroughs and census areas, following the statewide trend. The largest increase was 8.8 percentage points in the Denali Borough, which has a busy summer season followed by a dramatic winter slowdown. Denali Borough also had the highest rate at 19.3 percent.

The lowest rate was 4.3 percent in the Aleutians East Borough and in the City and Borough of Sitka. Urban areas' rates were all below the statewide average, which is typical in the winter. Juneau was the lowest at 4.6 percent, followed by Anchorage at 5.2 percent and Fairbanks at 5.7 percent.

Preliminary estimates show statewide payroll employment fell by 8,400 jobs, or 2.6 percent, compared to November 2015. The oil and gas industry lost the most at 2,900 jobs, followed by construction and professional and business services, which were also affected by the oil industry slowdown.

Job losses extended beyond natural resource development and included the trade, transportation and utilities sector, which lost 1,500 jobs. Other service industries were also down. Health care was the only source of private sector growth, with 500 more jobs than the previous November.

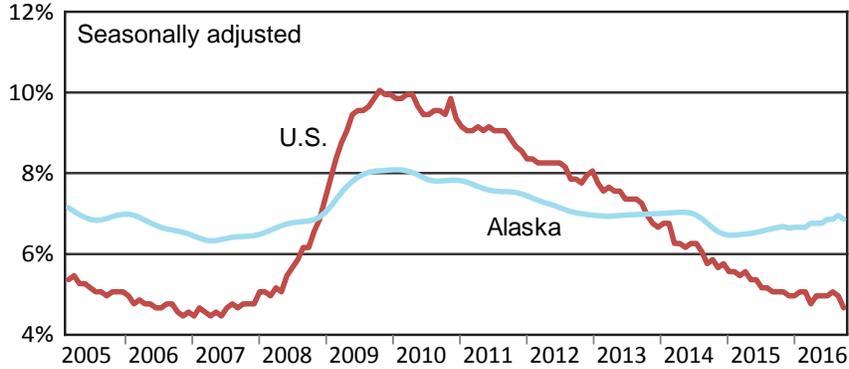
State government employment was down 1,300 jobs from the prior year, while federal and local job counts grew slightly.

Regional employment estimates for November show the same trends around the state, but the magnitude of job losses varied by an area's industry mix. The Northern Region sustained the biggest loss at 12.8 percent, or 2,900 jobs. Job loss in other regions ranged from 1 to 2 percent except in the Gulf Coast Region, where employment was essentially flat.

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Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

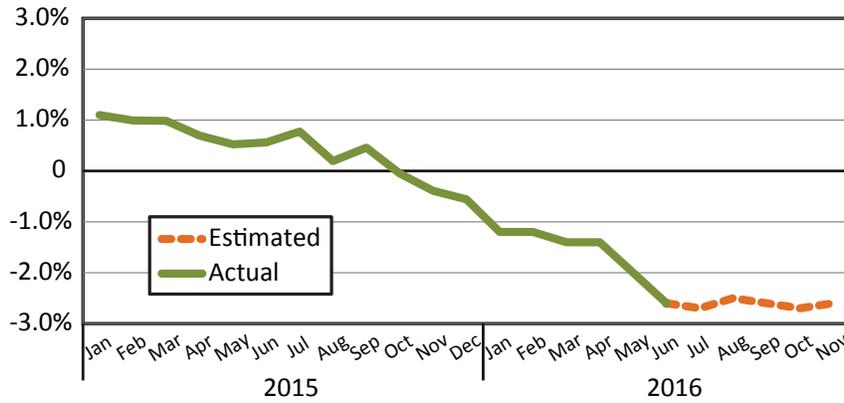
January 2005 to November 2016



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

Wage and Salary Employment

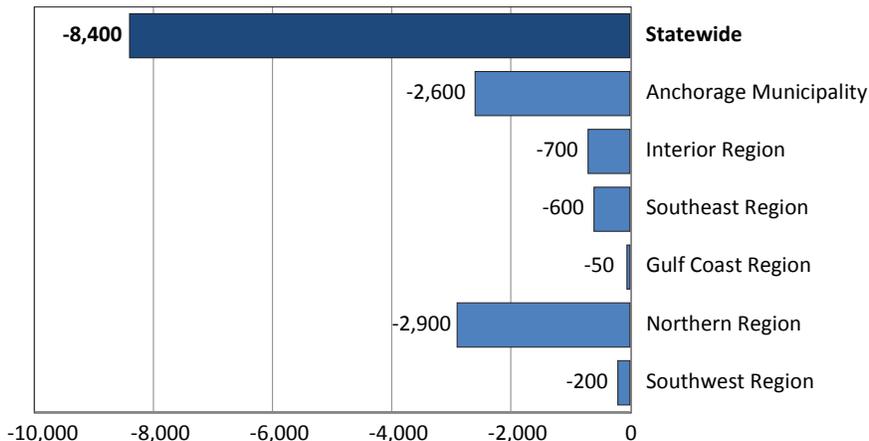
Percent change from same month the previous year



Note: Actual employment counts through June 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages employment series. Estimated employment counts from July through November are based on a forecast of the QCEW series.

Regional Employment

Change from November 2015 to November 2016



Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages; and Current Employment Statistics

Employment By Industry

	Average Monthly Employment			Compared to Nov 2015	
	Nov 2016 ¹	Oct 2016 ¹	Nov 2015 ²	Change	Percent Chg
Total Nonfarm Employment	316,400	325,100	324,800	-8,400	-2.6%
Total Private	234,700	244,000	242,100	-7,400	-3.1%
Mining and Logging	13,500	13,500	16,400	-2,900	-17.7%
Oil and Gas	10,400	10,100	13,300	-2,900	-21.8%
Construction	14,600	16,500	16,100	-1,500	-9.3%
Manufacturing	8,700	11,300	8,700	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	62,600	64,500	64,100	-1,500	-2.3%
Wholesale	6,200	6,300	6,400	-200	-3.1%
Retail	36,500	36,700	37,600	-1,100	-2.9%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	19,900	21,500	20,100	-200	-1.0%
Information	6,300	6,300	6,300	0	0%
Financial Activity	11,700	11,900	11,900	-200	-1.7%
Professional and Business Services	27,400	28,100	28,800	-1,400	-4.9%
Education and Health	48,000	48,100	47,500	500	1.1%
Health Care	35,100	35,300	34,600	500	1.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	30,400	33,000	30,600	-200	-0.7%
Other Services	11,500	10,800	11,700	-200	-1.7%
Total Government	81,700	81,100	82,700	-1,000	-1.2%
Federal	14,900	15,000	14,700	200	1.4%
State	24,300	24,000	25,600	-1,300	-5.1%
Local	42,500	42,100	42,400	100	0.2%

¹Employment estimates for 2016 are based on a forecast of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data.

²Employment estimates for 2015 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics employment data.

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force ²			Unemployed					
	11/16 ^P	10/16	11/15	Number			Rate		
				11/16 ^P	10/16	11/15	11/16 ^P	10/16	11/15
Alaska	354,457	355,355	360,156	23,297	22,607	23,410	6.6	6.4	6.5
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	203,215	200,193	205,540	11,846	11,448	11,506	5.8	5.7	5.6
Anchorage, Municipality	158,375	156,052	160,238	8,249	8,036	8,003	5.2	5.1	5.0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,840	44,141	45,302	3,597	3,412	3,503	8.0	7.7	7.7
Gulf Coast Region	36,835	37,886	37,136	2,856	2,752	2,896	7.8	7.3	7.8
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,296	26,711	26,857	2,146	2,069	2,158	8.2	7.7	8.0
Kodiak Island Borough	6,234	6,639	6,046	310	287	304	5.0	4.3	5.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,305	4,536	4,233	400	396	434	9.3	8.7	10.3
Interior Region	52,020	52,218	52,643	3,444	3,239	3,471	6.6	6.2	6.6
Denali Borough	600	1,038	564	116	109	98	19.3	10.5	17.4
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,002	45,879	46,740	2,643	2,477	2,634	5.7	5.4	5.6
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,049	2,956	2,825	300	282	315	9.8	9.5	11.2
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,369	2,345	2,514	385	371	424	16.3	15.8	16.9
Northern Region	10,414	10,514	11,618	1,132	1,191	1,082	10.9	11.3	9.3
Nome Census Area	3,817	3,950	4,217	454	476	424	11.9	12.1	10.1
North Slope Borough	3,924	3,835	4,448	260	258	247	6.6	6.7	5.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,673	2,729	2,953	418	457	411	15.6	16.7	13.9
Southeast Region	34,559	36,197	35,367	2,194	2,080	2,476	6.3	5.7	7.0
Haines Borough	913	985	943	97	96	109	10.6	9.7	11.6
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	937	1,919	980	137	122	161	14.6	6.4	16.4
Juneau, City and Borough	16,344	16,479	16,865	744	722	797	4.6	4.4	4.7
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,447	6,575	6,471	420	394	494	6.5	6.0	7.6
Petersburg Borough	1,321	1,359	1,397	116	103	129	8.8	7.6	9.2
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,708	2,693	2,710	300	295	337	11.1	11.0	12.4
Sitka, City and Borough	4,125	4,201	4,154	178	166	211	4.3	4.0	5.1
Skagway, Municipality	603	771	621	105	99	130	17.4	12.8	20.9
Wrangell, City and Borough	945	967	986	76	66	83	8.0	6.8	8.4
Yakutat, City and Borough	216	248	240	21	17	25	9.7	6.9	10.4
Southwest Region	17,412	18,348	17,852	1,824	1,898	1,977	10.5	10.3	11.1
Aleutians East Borough	1,469	2,212	1,573	63	59	80	4.3	2.7	5.1
Aleutians West Census Area	3,279	3,565	3,687	145	133	143	4.4	3.7	3.9
Bethel Census Area	7,349	7,170	7,259	887	948	910	12.1	13.2	12.5
Bristol Bay Borough	238	262	247	30	25	31	12.6	9.5	12.6
Dillingham Census Area	1,711	1,737	1,728	165	173	188	9.6	10.0	10.9
Kusilvak Census Area	2,783	2,773	2,806	461	494	547	16.6	17.8	19.5
Lake and Peninsula Borough	583	629	552	73	66	78	12.5	10.5	14.1

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.

²The labor force is the sum of the unemployed and the employed.

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