

State of Alaska

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Note corrected year in the end of the first paragraph.

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CORRECTION: Employment Down 1.3 Percent, Unemployment Rate Unchanged

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's total employment was down by an estimated 1.3 percent in September compared to September 2016, a loss of about 4,600 jobs. Over-the-year job losses have gradually gotten smaller in 2017, however. The largest losses during the current downturn were in the fall of 2016 at -2.6 percent.

Oil and gas employment and construction were both down 6.7 percent. The only industries to add jobs were health care (1.4 percent), leisure and hospitality (0.3 percent), and local government (0.2 percent). Federal employment was flat, and other industries showed mostly modest losses.

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 7.2 percent in September was unchanged from the prior month and remains elevated from September of last year, when it was 6.6 percent. The comparable national rate for September was 4.2 percent.

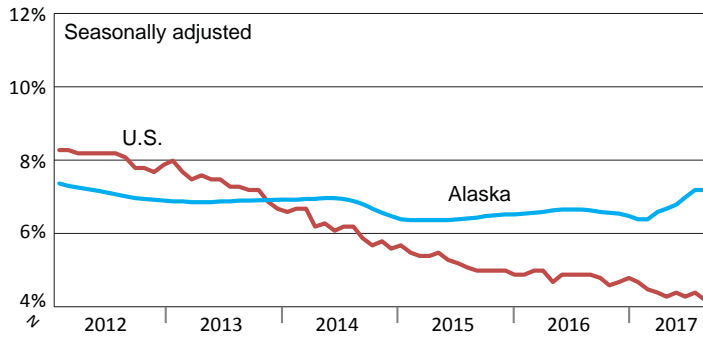
Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted rate was 6.6 percent, up three-tenths of a percentage point from August, which is typical as seasonal work wraps up around the state. Unemployment rates were up in 21 of 29 boroughs and census areas, with notable increases in areas dependent on tourism and fishing. The largest increase was in Bristol Bay, whose rate doubled from 3.6 percent in August to 7.2 percent in September.

Unemployment rates fell in seven boroughs and census areas, and the North Slope Borough's rate was flat. The largest decline was in Kusilvak Census Area, although Kusilvak's rate remained the state's highest at 17.8 percent.

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Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

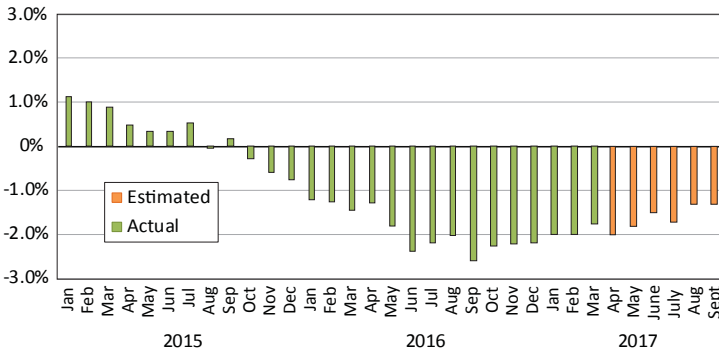
January 2012 to September 2017



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

Wage and Salary Employment

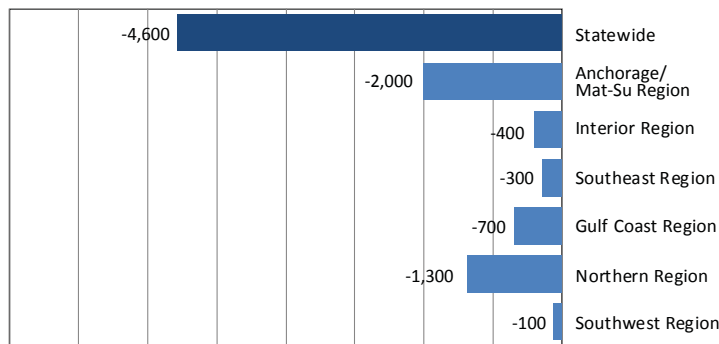
Percent change from same month the previous year



Note: Actual employment counts for 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages employment series. Estimated employment counts from 2017 are based on a forecast of the QCEW series.

Regional Employment

Change from September 2016 to September 2017



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Area Unemployment Rates

Not seasonally adjusted¹

	Rate		
	9/17 ^P	8/17	9/16
Alaska	6.6	6.3	6.1
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	6.3	6.0	5.7
Anchorage, Municipality	5.8	5.5	5.2
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	7.9	7.8	7.3
Gulf Coast Region	6.8	6.1	6.7
Kenai Peninsula Borough	7.4	6.8	7.2
Kodiak Island Borough	4.7	4.1	4.8
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6.3	5.0	6.8
Interior Region	6.3	6.1	5.9
Denali Borough	4.1	3.4	4.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	5.8	5.5	5.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	8.2	8.4	8.8
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	15.5	16.7	14.3
Northern Region	11.7	13.0	10.4
Nome Census Area	11.7	14.2	10.7
North Slope Borough	8.0	8.0	7.2
Northwest Arctic Borough	16.4	17.6	14.1
Southeast Region	5.4	4.9	4.9
Haines Borough	6.6	5.5	6.8
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	7.9	7.7	7.6
Juneau, City and Borough	4.6	4.1	4.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	5.1	4.6	4.8
Petersburg Borough	7.4	7.1	6.5
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	10.2	9.7	9.2
Sitka, City and Borough	4.4	3.8	3.8
Skagway, Municipality	3.6	2.8	3.4
Wrangell, City and Borough	6.7	6.4	6.3
Yakutat, City and Borough	8.5	8.2	6.6
Southwest Region	10.0	10.0	9.4
Aleutians East Borough	2.6	1.8	2.8
Aleutians West Census Area	4.3	2.7	3.3
Bethel Census Area	13.5	14.9	12.9
Bristol Bay Borough	7.2	3.6	8.2
Dillingham Census Area	9.1	7.9	9.2
Kusilvak Census Area	17.8	21.2	16.2
Lake and Peninsula Borough	9.7	11.3	9.0

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.

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

Employment By Industry

	Average Monthly Employment			Compared to Sep 2016	
	Sep 2017 ¹	Aug 2017 ¹	Sep 2016 ²	Change	Percent
Total Nonfarm Employment	337,500	348,100	342,100	-4,600	-1.3%
Total Private	256,200	270,800	260,400	-4,200	-1.6%
Mining and Logging	13,000	13,000	13,800	-800	-5.8%
Oil and Gas	9,800	9,800	10,500	-700	-6.7%
Construction	16,800	17,700	18,000	-1,200	-6.7%
Manufacturing	13,500	19,500	14,100	-600	-4.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	66,800	69,400	67,800	-1,000	-1.5%
Wholesale	6,400	6,500	6,500	-100	-1.5%
Retail	36,900	38,000	37,700	-800	-2.1%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	23,500	24,900	23,600	-100	-0.4%
Information	6,000	6,000	6,300	-300	-4.8%
Financial Activities	11,900	12,600	12,100	-200	-1.7%
Professional and Business Services	28,500	29,100	29,000	-500	-1.7%
Education and Health	49,200	49,200	48,700	500	1.0%
Health Care	36,400	36,400	35,900	500	1.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	39,600	43,400	39,500	100	0.3%
Other Services	10,900	10,900	11,100	-200	-1.8%
Total Government	81,300	77,300	81,700	-400	-0.5%
Federal ³	15,600	15,900	15,600	0	0.0%
State ⁴	24,100	23,100	24,600	-500	-2.0%
Local ⁵	41,600	38,300	41,500	100	0.2%

¹Employment estimates for 2017 are based on a forecast of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data.

²Employment estimates for 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics employment data.

³Excludes uniformed military

⁴Includes the University of Alaska

⁵Includes public schools and tribal government