

State's unemployment hits all-time high in July

Alaska's unemployment rate decreased by three-tenths of 1 percent in the month of July to 10.6 percent, but the decrease was not enough to prevent the state's unemployment rate from being an all-time high for the month of July.

Previously, the highest unemployment rate for July was 9.9 percent, which was recorded in 1978 following the construction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline.

Normally, the number of

unemployed in the work force decreases in July, but that did not occur this July due to the sluggishness of the economy, according to the Alaska Department of Labor.

One year ago unemployment in Alaska was 8.5 percent. The comparable unemployment rate for the United States as a whole in July was 6 percent.

Of Alaska's more populous areas, Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Kenai Peninsula Borough remain among the highest unemployment rates in the state. Both areas had unemployment rates in excess of 14 percent in July.

Unemployment in both of the areas declined from June to July, but unemployment in both areas is considerably higher than a year ago.

Although it had lower unemployment rates than many areas, the Anchorage-MatSu region and the An-

chorage Borough are being hit hard by the recent increases in unemployment.

The 9.2 percent unemployed in Anchorage is the highest unemployment rate recorded for any month since March of 1978, and the 9.9 percent unemployment rate in the Anchorage-MatSu region has been surpassed only twice.

There are in excess of 3,000 more unemployed workers in the Anchorage area than July of last year and 3,600 when the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is added to the Anchorage totals.