

November jobless rate increases to nine percent

JUNEAU — Alaska's unemployment continued to accelerate during the month of November, according to John Boucher, a Juneau-based labor economist with the Alaska Department of Labor.

The November statewide rate increased by six-tenths of a percentage point — to 9 percent unemployed — compared to the October rate.

The rate for November 1987, however, was 9.8 percent.

An unemployment rate of 9 percent translates into more than 21,200 jobless Alaskans during November. The comparable unemployment rate for the United States in November was 5.2 percent, Boucher said.

November unemployment data point out that males were nearly four times as likely to have joined the ranks of the unemployed in November than were females.

"Alaska's seasonal industries — particularly the construction, fishing and timber industries — tend to employ males to a much greater extent than less seasonal industries such as trade, government and services," Boucher said. "When the male dominated seasonal industries begin to wind down during winter months, males are much more likely to find themselves unemployed than females."

While unemployment rates for males and females are not produced on a monthly basis, Alaska has tended to have a lower unemployment rate for females than males. For example, in 1987 the unemployment rate for males was 11.7 percent while the unemployment rate for females was 9.6 percent.