



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future

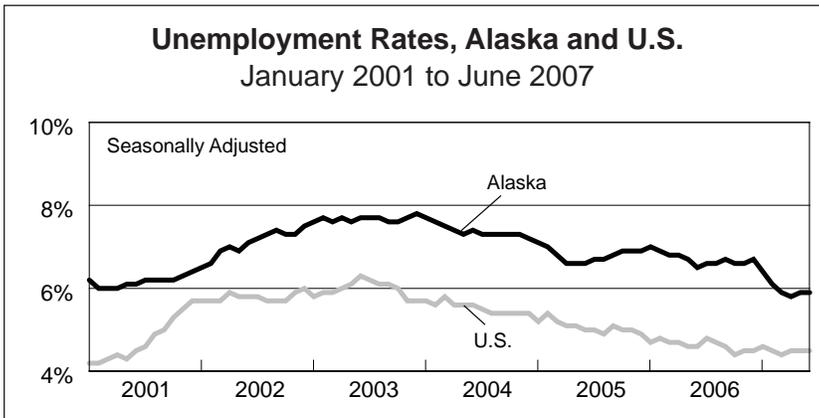


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
Commissioner Click Bishop

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Unemployment rate at 5.9 percent in June



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in June at 5.9 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The comparable national rate was also unchanged at 4.5 percent.

Alaska's unemployment rates tend to be between one and two percentage points higher than the nation's, but not necessarily because the state's economy is consistently less healthy. Alaska's very seasonal employment patterns create more short-term unemployment as job seekers and employers match themselves up every year for seasonal work.

The Denali Borough had the state's lowest unemployment rate in June at 2.3 percent (rates for boroughs and census areas are not seasonally adjusted). The Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest at 22.8 percent.

Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau all registered unemployment rates for June that were about half a percentage point lower than in June 2006.

Among the state's six economic regions, Southeast had the lowest aggregate unemployment rate, although the region has seen little employment growth. The lower rates are being caused instead by a decline in unemployment that is likely due to a combination of economic factors including the migration of workers and the aging of the work force.

Payroll employment rose by 15,400 in June, led by seasonal hires in construction, seafood processing and tourism-related businesses. Over-the-year comparisons show growth of 2,500 jobs, a little lower than in recent months.

The oil and gas industry continued to lead the way, adding 800 jobs from June 2006 to June 2007. Seafood processing, construction and government all had over-the-year declines.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 6/07	Revised 5/07	Revised 6/06	Changes from	
				5/07	6/06
Total Nonfarm Employment	337,600	322,200	335,100	15,400	2,500
Natural Resources and Mining	13,700	13,600	12,700	100	1,000
Oil and Gas	11,100	11,100	10,300	0	800
Construction	20,500	18,500	20,900	2,000	-400
Manufacturing	16,200	10,000	16,700	6,200	-500
Seafood Processing	11,900	6,100	12,500	5,800	-600
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	69,100	66,200	68,400	2,900	700
Retail Trade	37,800	36,500	37,700	1,300	100
Information	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0
Financial Activities	15,400	15,000	15,300	400	100
Professional and Business Services	26,600	25,400	25,900	1,200	700
Educational ² and Health Services	38,000	37,900	37,500	100	500
Health Care	27,200	26,800	26,900	400	300
Leisure and Hospitality	38,200	33,500	37,700	4,700	500
Accommodations	11,000	8,700	10,800	2,300	200
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	22,100	20,100	21,600	2,000	500
Other Services	11,600	11,500	11,500	100	100
Government ³	81,300	83,600	81,500	-2,300	-200

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Private education only

³ Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

June 2007:	Alaska	5.9%	U.S.	4.5%
May 2007:	Alaska	5.9%	U.S.	4.5%
June 2006:	Alaska	6.5%	U.S.	4.6%

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

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Research and Analysis' Web site: almis.labor.state.ak.us

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	6/07	5/07	6/06	6/07	5/07	6/06	6/07	5/07	6/06	6/07	5/07	6/06
Alaska Statewide	352,582	344,606	352,389	21,379	19,641	23,312	6.1	5.7	6.6	331,203	324,965	329,077
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	187,948	186,667	187,449	10,321	9,355	10,943	5.5	5.0	5.8	177,627	177,312	176,506
Municipality of Anchorage	150,826	149,772	150,534	7,682	6,882	8,293	5.1	4.6	5.5	143,144	142,890	142,241
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	37,122	36,895	36,915	2,639	2,473	2,650	7.1	6.7	7.2	34,483	34,422	34,265
Gulf Coast Region	39,546	36,758	39,652	2,594	2,457	2,974	6.6	6.7	7.5	36,952	34,301	36,678
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,390	25,835	27,205	1,848	1,743	1,929	6.7	6.7	7.1	25,542	24,092	25,276
Kodiak Island Borough	6,194	5,686	6,488	386	324	679	6.2	5.7	10.5	5,808	5,362	5,809
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,962	5,237	5,959	360	390	366	6.0	7.4	6.1	5,602	4,847	5,593
Interior Region	53,674	53,414	53,302	3,150	2,877	3,412	5.9	5.4	6.4	50,524	50,537	49,890
Denali Borough	2,735	2,137	2,792	64	71	70	2.3	3.3	2.5	2,671	2,066	2,722
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,117	45,172	44,364	2,434	2,161	2,619	5.4	4.8	5.9	42,683	43,011	41,745
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,197	3,350	3,314	289	286	351	9.0	8.5	10.6	2,908	3,064	2,963
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,625	2,755	2,832	363	359	372	13.8	13.0	13.1	2,262	2,396	2,460
Northern Region	11,009	10,930	10,812	1,049	960	1,238	9.5	8.8	11.5	9,960	9,970	9,574
Nome Census Area	3,697	3,670	3,845	448	407	540	12.1	11.1	14.0	3,249	3,263	3,305
North Slope Borough	4,434	4,412	4,002	270	226	315	6.1	5.1	7.9	4,164	4,186	3,687
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,878	2,848	2,965	331	327	383	11.5	11.5	12.9	2,547	2,521	2,582
Southeast Region	41,702	40,805	41,902	2,220	2,081	2,486	5.3	5.1	5.9	39,482	38,724	39,416
Haines Borough	1,561	1,364	1,589	79	84	100	5.1	6.2	6.3	1,482	1,280	1,489
Juneau Borough	18,572	18,999	18,609	810	706	916	4.4	3.7	4.9	17,762	18,293	17,693
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,524	8,253	8,551	417	401	468	4.9	4.9	5.5	8,107	7,852	8,083
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,381	2,157	2,449	269	269	304	11.3	12.5	12.4	2,112	1,888	2,145
Sitka Borough	4,924	4,675	4,962	222	180	258	4.5	3.9	5.2	4,702	4,495	4,704
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,366	2,190	2,374	166	178	178	7.0	8.1	7.5	2,200	2,012	2,196
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	3,031	2,843	3,020	238	246	243	7.9	8.7	8.0	2,793	2,597	2,777
Yakutat Borough	343	324	348	19	17	19	5.5	5.2	5.5	324	307	329
Southwest Region	18,703	16,033	19,273	2,045	1,912	2,258	10.9	11.9	11.7	16,658	14,121	17,015
Aleutians East Borough	1,060	734	1,095	83	79	93	7.8	10.8	8.5	977	655	1,002
Aleutians West Census Area	2,856	2,135	2,899	168	201	174	5.9	9.4	6.0	2,688	1,934	2,725
Bethel Census Area	7,041	6,731	7,229	923	825	1,048	13.1	12.3	14.5	6,118	5,906	6,181
Bristol Bay Borough	1,932	1,142	1,956	59	48	52	3.1	4.2	2.7	1,873	1,094	1,904
Dillingham Census Area	2,195	1,964	2,261	204	174	232	9.3	8.9	10.3	1,991	1,790	2,029
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,218	945	1,304	60	61	62	4.9	6.5	4.8	1,158	884	1,242
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,401	2,382	2,529	548	524	597	22.8	22.0	23.6	1,853	1,858	1,932

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 individuals in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

¹ Unemployment 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 the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics