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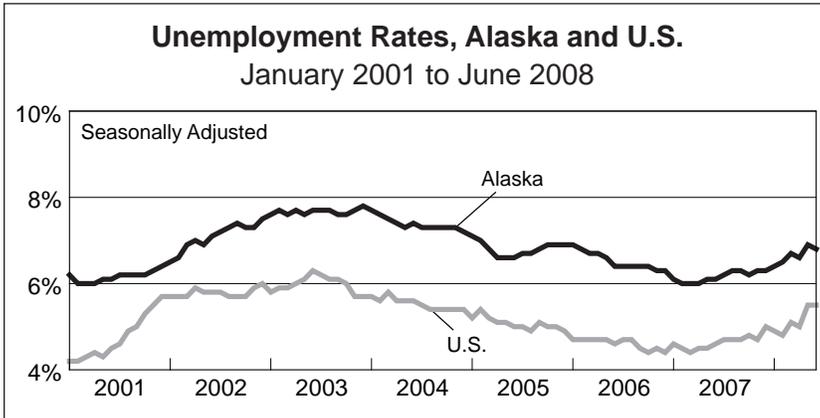
Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Unemployment rate at 6.8 percent in June



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell one-tenth of a percentage point in June to 6.8 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. May's rate was revised to 6.9 percent from the preliminary rate of 7.0 percent.

The unemployment rate had been slowly but steadily rising since early 2007 despite the fact that Alaska has seen consistent job growth over that period. It's too early to tell whether that trend has changed or whether the rate will continue to rise in coming months.

The state's higher 2008 unemployment rates are likely due more to the national slowdown in job growth than to the rate of job creation in Alaska.

When the national economy is weaker relative to Alaska, job seekers in Alaska are less likely to look outside the state for employment and job seekers from outside Alaska are more likely to migrate north in search of work. The result is a higher number of unemployed people in Alaska and higher unemployment rates.

Payroll employment increased by 1,500 over the year behind continued strong growth in the oil and gas industry. Construction and seafood processing were both down 500, the only two major industries with significant losses.

According to Dan Robinson, a Department of Labor economist, the fact that the Alaska economy is still generating job growth distinguishes it from a U.S. economy that may be in recession.

"Although both the Alaska and U.S. unemployment rates have climbed since 2007, Alaska has not seen the corresponding loss in jobs that is generally more problematic for an economy," he said.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 6/08	Revised 5/08	Revised 6/07	Changes from 5/08 6/07	
Total Nonfarm Employment	338,200	323,800	336,700	14,400	1,500
Natural Resources and Mining	15,100	14,900	14,100	200	1,000
Oil and Gas	12,600	12,400	11,500	200	1,100
Construction	19,700	17,300	20,200	2,400	-500
Manufacturing	15,100	10,300	15,700	4,800	-600
Seafood Processing	10,900	6,300	11,400	4,600	-500
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	68,800	66,000	68,600	2,800	200
Retail Trade	38,200	36,900	37,800	1,300	400
Information	6,900	6,800	7,000	100	-100
Financial Activities	15,400	15,100	15,500	300	-100
Professional and Business Services	27,100	26,000	26,700	1,100	400
Educational ² and Health Services	37,100	37,200	37,100	-100	0
Health Care	27,000	27,000	26,800	0	200
Leisure and Hospitality	39,000	33,800	38,900	5,200	100
Accommodations	11,300	8,800	11,300	2,500	0
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	22,300	20,400	22,100	1,900	200
Other Services	11,700	11,800	11,700	-100	0
Government ³	82,300	84,600	81,200	-2,300	1,100

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 2008:	Alaska	6.8%	U.S.	5.5%
May 2008:	Alaska	6.9%	U.S.	5.5%
June 2007:	Alaska	6.1%	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		
	6/08	5/08	6/07	6/08	5/08	6/07	6/08	5/08	6/07	6/08	5/08	6/07
Alaska Statewide	367,002	359,687	358,228	25,325	23,903	22,078	6.9	6.6	6.2	341,677	335,784	336,150
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	196,727	195,100	191,912	12,320	11,446	10,729	6.3	5.9	5.6	184,407	183,654	181,183
Municipality of Anchorage	156,433	155,200	152,698	9,111	8,479	7,952	5.8	5.5	5.2	147,322	146,721	144,746
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	40,294	39,900	39,214	3,209	2,967	2,777	8.0	7.4	7.1	37,085	36,933	36,437
Gulf Coast Region	40,848	38,606	40,242	3,133	3,086	2,655	7.7	8.0	6.6	37,715	35,520	37,587
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,077	26,786	27,657	2,085	2,038	1,894	7.4	7.6	6.8	25,992	24,748	25,763
Kodiak Island Borough	6,657	6,379	6,469	637	619	387	9.6	9.7	6.0	6,020	5,760	6,082
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,114	5,441	6,116	411	429	374	6.7	7.9	6.1	5,703	5,012	5,742
Interior Region	56,231	55,445	53,978	3,678	3,380	3,204	6.5	6.1	5.9	52,553	52,065	50,774
Denali Borough	2,840	1,963	2,799	67	64	68	2.4	3.3	2.4	2,773	1,899	2,731
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,827	46,897	44,778	2,885	2,612	2,473	6.2	5.6	5.5	43,942	44,285	42,305
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,783	3,639	3,693	315	306	289	8.3	8.4	7.8	3,468	3,333	3,404
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,781	2,946	2,708	411	398	374	14.8	13.5	13.8	2,370	2,548	2,334
Northern Region	11,645	11,901	11,110	1,159	1,058	1,093	10.0	8.9	9.8	10,486	10,843	10,017
Nome Census Area	3,636	3,990	3,565	501	441	467	13.8	11.1	13.1	3,135	3,549	3,098
North Slope Borough	4,937	4,974	4,560	258	230	279	5.2	4.6	6.1	4,679	4,744	4,281
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,072	2,937	2,985	400	387	347	13.0	13.2	11.6	2,672	2,550	2,638
Southeast Region	42,551	41,548	42,229	2,625	2,528	2,278	6.2	6.1	5.4	39,926	39,020	39,951
Haines Borough	1,554	1,341	1,530	117	116	79	7.5	8.7	5.2	1,437	1,225	1,451
Juneau Borough	18,990	19,171	18,807	944	864	829	5.0	4.5	4.4	18,046	18,307	17,978
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,912	8,565	8,822	491	461	427	5.5	5.4	4.8	8,421	8,104	8,395
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,461	2,227	2,444	296	305	282	12.0	13.7	11.5	2,165	1,922	2,162
Sitka Borough	4,837	4,895	4,835	280	280	232	5.8	5.7	4.8	4,557	4,615	4,603
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,519	2,224	2,506	178	182	172	7.1	8.2	6.9	2,341	2,042	2,334
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,925	2,809	2,931	297	300	238	10.2	10.7	8.1	2,628	2,509	2,693
Yakutat Borough	353	316	354	22	20	19	6.2	6.3	5.4	331	296	335
Southwest Region	18,999	17,087	18,759	2,409	2,406	2,120	12.7	14.1	11.3	16,590	14,681	16,639
Aleutians East Borough	1,059	891	1,043	100	114	84	9.4	12.8	8.1	959	777	959
Aleutians West Census Area	2,867	2,382	2,879	194	340	181	6.8	14.3	6.3	2,673	2,042	2,698
Bethel Census Area	7,115	7,073	6,933	1,112	1,022	959	15.6	14.4	13.8	6,003	6,051	5,974
Bristol Bay Borough	1,758	1,016	1,783	51	48	59	2.9	4.7	3.3	1,707	968	1,724
Dillingham Census Area	2,123	1,960	2,098	228	207	207	10.7	10.6	9.9	1,895	1,753	1,891
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,383	1,156	1,415	82	83	63	5.9	7.2	4.5	1,301	1,073	1,352
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,694	2,609	2,608	642	592	567	23.8	22.7	21.7	2,052	2,017	2,041

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