

Heidi Drygas
Commissioner

www.labor.alaska.gov



P.O. Box 111149
Juneau, AK 99811-1149
907.465.2700
commissioner.labor@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

May 22, 2015

No. 15-18

For more information: Neal Fried, Economist
907-269-4861, Neal.Fried@Alaska.Gov

Unemployment rate at 6.7 percent in April

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in April, up two-tenths of a percentage point from March. The comparable national rate was 5.4 percent.

The recent dip and subsequent recovery in the rate make it difficult to identify a clear trend, but other indicators suggest that 2015 has been on a similar trajectory to the previous year.

The not-seasonally adjusted rate was 7.0 percent. That's down from March's 7.5 percent, a normal seasonal drop as the state's summer economy heats up. For comparison, the 2014 unadjusted rate for April was 7.1 percent, down from the previous month's 7.6 percent. Unadjusted rates fell in 24 out of 29 boroughs and census areas in April, following the statewide trend.

Monthly Jobs Report

Employment grew in all of Alaska's economic regions from March to April except Southwest, where winter Bering Sea fisheries wound down. April is usually the first month of the year with substantial seasonal job growth.

Compared with the same month last year, statewide employment was relatively flat, with some regions gaining and some regions losing jobs.

Southeast Alaska's jobs are down compared to April 2014, largely driven by losses in state government as well as smaller losses in federal and local government. The Interior, which includes Fairbanks, showed a similar trend, though its federal government employment was actually up compared to last year. Southwest employment was also down, due in part to particularly high seafood manufacturing employment in April 2014.

April employment was down slightly in the Municipality of Anchorage from the previous year, but due to private sector losses rather than government. The largest growth industries



	4/15	3/15	4/14
Alaska	6.7%	6.5%	6.9%
U.S.	5.4%	5.5%	6.2%

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

in Anchorage were health care and retail, but those gains were overshadowed by losses in the construction and professional and businesses services sectors.

The Gulf Coast's employment was up moderately from the prior April, driven by gains in retail trade, with other industries generally flat. Employment was also up in the Northern region, led by gains in local government and the private sector.

For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

###

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	4/15 ^P	3/15	4/14	Number			Rate		
				4/15 ^P	3/15	4/14	4/15 ^P	3/15	4/14
Alaska	362,228	363,153	362,852	25,319	27,112	25,664	7.0	7.5	7.1
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	202,986	203,713	202,172	12,196	12,935	12,068	6.0	6.3	6.0
Anchorage, Municipality	158,971	159,357	158,359	8,464	8,840	8,365	5.3	5.5	5.3
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,015	44,356	43,813	3,732	4,095	3,703	8.5	9.2	8.5
Gulf Coast Region	38,419	38,149	38,307	3,100	3,460	3,162	8.1	9.1	8.3
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,135	26,984	26,996	2,299	2,564	2,299	8.5	9.5	8.5
Kodiak Island Borough	6,624	6,660	6,661	313	339	364	4.7	5.1	5.5
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,660	4,505	4,650	488	557	499	10.5	12.4	10.7
Interior Region	52,491	52,390	52,788	3,578	3,868	3,759	6.8	7.4	7.1
Denali Borough	629	602	650	107	117	124	17.0	19.4	19.1
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,430	46,456	46,531	2,630	2,829	2,684	5.7	6.1	5.8
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,789	2,807	2,886	344	396	410	12.3	14.1	14.2
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,643	2,525	2,721	497	526	541	18.8	20.8	19.9
Northern Region	11,708	11,747	11,490	1,333	1,335	1,322	11.4	11.4	11.5
Nome Census Area	4,209	4,211	4,097	566	559	529	13.4	13.3	12.9
North Slope Borough	4,498	4,554	4,404	254	252	244	5.6	5.5	5.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,001	2,982	2,989	513	524	549	17.1	17.6	18.4
Southeast Region	36,154	35,714	36,799	2,602	2,962	2,747	7.2	8.3	7.5
Haines Borough	989	981	1,008	108	145	125	10.9	14.8	12.4
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,056	996	1,068	190	228	192	18.0	22.9	18.0
Juneau, City and Borough	17,016	16,897	17,326	859	923	898	5.0	5.5	5.2
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,570	6,445	6,711	516	580	564	7.9	9.0	8.4
Petersburg Census Area	1,509	1,466	1,533	153	182	163	10.1	12.4	10.6
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,748	2,636	2,760	369	424	359	13.4	16.1	13.0
Sitka, City and Borough	4,341	4,455	4,431	211	233	232	4.9	5.2	5.2
Skagway, Municipality	610	576	626	88	123	101	14.4	21.4	16.1
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,050	1,032	1,064	84	99	85	8.0	9.6	8.0
Yakutat, City and Borough	265	230	272	24	25	28	9.1	10.9	10.3
Southwest Region	20,466	21,435	21,297	2,508	2,550	2,607	12.3	11.9	12.2
Aleutians East Borough	2,872	2,525	3,013	81	80	104	2.8	3.2	3.5
Aleutians West Census Area	4,942	5,917	5,150	191	152	204	3.9	2.6	4.0
Bethel Census Area	6,925	7,214	7,208	1,153	1,185	1,205	16.6	16.4	16.7
Bristol Bay Borough	365	250	373	45	52	43	12.3	20.8	11.5
Dillingham Census Area	1,999	2,101	2,084	208	212	223	10.4	10.1	10.7
Lake and Peninsula Borough	547	529	586	87	95	110	15.9	18.0	18.8
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,816	2,899	2,883	743	774	718	26.4	26.7	24.9

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

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