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Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 6.8 percent in June

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in June. May's rate was revised down one-tenth of a percentage point to 6.7 percent. Since 2013, Alaska's rate has remained fairly stable and close to its 10-year average.

The national unemployment rate was 5.3 percent in June, down slightly from 5.5 percent in May.

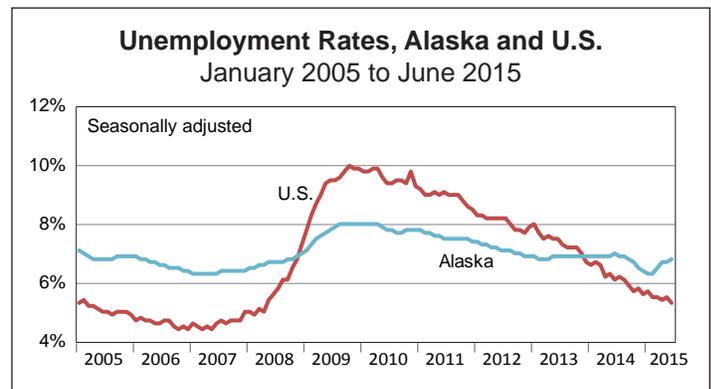
Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted rate rose from 6.6 percent in May to 6.9 percent in June, which is typical after the school year ends. June's unadjusted rate was one-tenth of a percentage point lower than June of last year.

Unadjusted rates increased in 13 boroughs and census areas, stayed flat in one, and fell in 15. For the most part, areas with elevated June rates are more urban and have less seasonal economies. Areas with falling rates tend to be less populous and driven by highly seasonal industries such as tourism and fishing.

The lowest unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in Bristol Bay Borough, a tiny borough dominated by the seafood industry. Denali Borough, which relies on tourism, had the second-lowest rate at 4.3 percent. The highest rate was 25.7 percent in Kusilvak Census Area, which was recently renamed from Wade Hampton Census Area.

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

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	6/15	5/15	6/14
Alaska	6.8%	6.7%	7.0%
U.S.	5.3%	5.5%	6.1%

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

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	6/15 ^P	5/15	6/14	Number			Rate		
				6/15 ^P	5/15	6/14	6/15 ^P	5/15	6/14
Alaska	371,596	366,569	375,435	25,532	24,059	26,313	6.9	6.6	7.0
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	205,405	203,903	205,711	12,473	11,565	12,652	6.1	5.7	6.2
Anchorage, Municipality	160,927	159,764	161,197	8,773	8,086	8,958	5.5	5.1	5.6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,478	44,139	44,514	3,700	3,479	3,694	8.3	7.9	8.3
Gulf Coast Region	41,306	39,392	42,380	3,000	2,889	3,037	7.3	7.3	7.2
Kenai Peninsula Borough	29,233	28,086	29,917	2,218	2,132	2,183	7.6	7.6	7.3
Kodiak Island Borough	6,511	6,311	6,739	377	347	432	5.8	5.5	6.4
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,562	4,995	5,724	405	410	422	7.3	8.2	7.4
Interior Region	53,961	55,109	54,385	3,643	3,413	3,836	6.8	6.2	7.1
Denali Borough	1,692	1,475	1,727	73	74	85	4.3	5.0	4.9
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,581	48,040	46,822	2,777	2,543	2,879	6.0	5.3	6.1
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,028	2,907	3,121	334	330	389	11.0	11.4	12.5
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,660	2,687	2,715	459	466	483	17.3	17.3	17.8
Northern Region	11,362	11,378	11,584	1,394	1,316	1,420	12.3	11.6	12.3
Nome Census Area	4,102	4,130	4,167	569	541	564	13.9	13.1	13.5
North Slope Borough	4,220	4,253	4,297	291	264	291	6.9	6.2	6.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,040	2,995	3,120	534	511	565	17.6	17.1	18.1
Southeast Region	39,323	38,644	40,455	2,483	2,357	2,640	6.3	6.1	6.5
Haines Borough	1,129	1,067	1,171	90	91	104	8.0	8.5	8.9
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,338	1,247	1,356	162	167	148	12.1	13.4	10.9
Juneau, City and Borough	17,652	17,730	18,152	876	790	924	5.0	4.5	5.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,507	7,160	7,749	483	445	538	6.4	6.2	6.9
Petersburg Borough*	1,600	1,514	1,645	145	140	154	9.1	9.2	9.4
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,765	2,757	2,842	331	346	354	12.0	12.5	12.5
Sitka, City and Borough	4,922	4,775	5,065	235	215	254	4.8	4.5	5.0
Skagway, Municipality	1,041	991	1,060	54	59	49	5.2	6.0	4.6
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,081	1,112	1,109	87	82	87	8.0	7.4	7.8
Yakutat, City and Borough	288	291	306	20	22	28	6.9	7.6	9.2
Southwest Region	20,236	18,144	20,920	2,538	2,521	2,727	12.5	13.9	13.0
Aleutians East Borough	1,869	1,541	1,931	94	89	104	5.0	5.8	5.4
Aleutians West Census Area	3,975	3,269	4,151	177	212	239	4.5	6.5	5.8
Bethel Census Area	7,405	7,080	7,641	1,185	1,153	1,276	16.0	16.3	16.7
Bristol Bay Borough	945	517	975	35	34	37	3.7	6.6	3.8
Dillingham Census Area	2,510	2,191	2,580	238	212	241	9.5	9.7	9.3
Lake and Peninsula Borough	727	669	765	89	85	107	12.2	12.7	14.0
Kusilvak Census Area*	2,805	2,877	2,877	720	736	723	25.7	25.6	25.1

*In July 2015, Wade Hampton Census Area was renamed Kusilvak Census Area, and Petersburg Census Area became a borough.

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