

# Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

# News Release

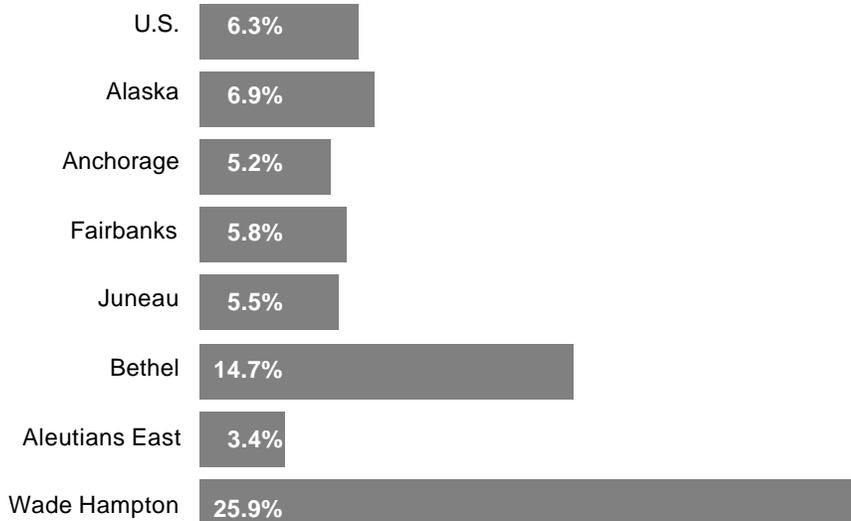
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## Unemployment Declines in July

### July Unemployment for Selected Areas



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section  
All rates not seasonally adjusted

(Detailed table  
on reverse)

Alaska's unemployment rate fell five-tenths of a percentage point in July to 6.9 percent, according to Dan Robinson, a labor economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The decline represents a typical seasonal movement in an economy that nearly always reaches peak employment in July or August. The comparable national rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point to 6.3 percent.

Five of the state's six economic regions saw lower rates in July. The Northern Region, which consists of the Nome Census Area and the North Slope and Northwest Arctic Boroughs, recorded an increase from 17.7 percent to 17.9 percent. Both the Gulf Coast Region and the Southwest Region saw significantly lower rates in July due mostly to summer fishing.

Anchorage's rate fell from 5.4 percent to 5.2 percent. Juneau saw a similar decline, from 5.8 percent to 5.5 percent. Fairbanks' drop was more dramatic, from 6.5 percent down to 5.8 percent in July.

### Alaska Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

|                                  | preliminary<br>07/03 | revised<br>06/03 | 07/02   | Changes from<br>06/03 07/02 |        |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Total Nonfarm Employment         | 319,400              | 311,200          | 317,100 | 8,200                       | 2,300  |
| Natural Resources & Mining       | 10,300               | 10,300           | 11,400  | 0                           | -1,100 |
| Construction                     | 19,600               | 18,800           | 19,100  | 800                         | 500    |
| Manufacturing                    | 17,600               | 11,400           | 18,300  | 6,200                       | -700   |
| Trade, Transportation, Utilities | 65,200               | 64,000           | 65,800  | 1,200                       | -600   |
| Information                      | 7,200                | 7,000            | 7,500   | 200                         | -300   |
| Financial Activities             | 14,600               | 14,100           | 14,100  | 500                         | 500    |
| Professional & Business Services | 25,500               | 24,600           | 24,800  | 900                         | 700    |
| Education & Health Services      | 32,200               | 32,300           | 30,600  | -100                        | 1,600  |
| Leisure & Hospitality            | 35,600               | 34,900           | 35,100  | 700                         | 500    |
| Other Services                   | 13,000               | 12,500           | 12,700  | 500                         | 300    |
| Government                       | 78,800               | 81,300           | 77,600  | -2,500                      | 1,200  |

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.  
Benchmark date: March 2002  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Anchorage and Fairbanks recorded lower rates due to slight declines in total employment, but bigger percentage declines in unemployment. Juneau's rate, on the other hand, fell based on a significant increase in employment and an almost unchanged number of unemployed persons.

July estimates of wage and salary employment show an increase of 8,200 jobs since June. Most of the jobs added in July were in seafood processing, although the visitor industries also continued to make seasonal hires.

Alaska has added approximately 2,300 jobs over the year. The growth has come from a variety of industries, though nearly half of the new jobs are in the category of health care and social assistance. Some of the growth in those industries is due to the privatization of institutions that were formerly counted as part of government employment. Employment in the oil and gas industry is down more than 1,000 jobs over the year and seafood processing employment is down by more than 500.

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate

|            |             |           |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| July 2003: | Alaska 7.9% | U.S. 6.2% |
| June 2003: | Alaska 7.9% | U.S. 6.4% |
| July 2002: | Alaska 8.0% | U.S. 5.8% |

URL Address: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

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## Labor Force by Region and Census Area

|                              | Labor Force |         |         | Unemployment |        |        | Rate  |       |       | Employment |         |         |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|--------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------------|---------|---------|
|                              | 07/03       | 06/03   | 07/02   | 07/03        | 06/03  | 07/02  | 07/03 | 06/03 | 07/02 | 07/03      | 06/03   | 07/02   |
| Alaska Statewide             | 357,693     | 353,549 | 335,076 | 24,545       | 26,321 | 23,254 | 6.9   | 7.4   | 6.9   | 333,148    | 327,228 | 311,822 |
| Anchorage/Mat-Su Region      | 193,181     | 193,493 | 178,661 | 11,060       | 11,544 | 10,360 | 5.7   | 6.0   | 5.8   | 182,121    | 181,949 | 168,301 |
| Municipality of Anchorage    | 156,033     | 156,638 | 145,827 | 8,103        | 8,404  | 7,628  | 5.2   | 5.4   | 5.2   | 147,930    | 148,234 | 138,199 |
| Mat-Su Borough               | 37,148      | 36,855  | 32,834  | 2,957        | 3,140  | 2,732  | 8.0   | 8.5   | 8.3   | 34,191     | 33,715  | 30,102  |
| Gulf Coast Region            | 38,275      | 37,055  | 36,724  | 3,194        | 3,657  | 3,143  | 8.3   | 9.9   | 8.6   | 35,081     | 33,398  | 33,581  |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough      | 25,316      | 24,270  | 24,201  | 2,425        | 2,477  | 2,288  | 9.6   | 10.2  | 9.5   | 22,891     | 21,793  | 21,913  |
| Kodiak Island Borough        | 7,401       | 7,368   | 7,063   | 438          | 739    | 398    | 5.9   | 10.0  | 5.6   | 6,963      | 6,629   | 6,665   |
| Valdez-Cordova CA            | 5,557       | 5,416   | 5,460   | 331          | 440    | 457    | 6.0   | 8.1   | 8.4   | 5,226      | 4,976   | 5,003   |
| Interior Region              | 55,099      | 55,649  | 51,519  | 3,477        | 3,891  | 3,359  | 6.3   | 7.0   | 6.5   | 51,622     | 51,758  | 48,160  |
| Denali Borough               | 1,249       | 1,259   | 1,165   | 46           | 53     | 43     | 3.7   | 4.2   | 3.7   | 1,203      | 1,206   | 1,122   |
| Fairbanks North Star Bor.    | 48,602      | 49,072  | 45,357  | 2,840        | 3,189  | 2,664  | 5.8   | 6.5   | 5.9   | 45,762     | 45,883  | 42,693  |
| Southeast Fairbanks CA       | 2,773       | 2,800   | 2,656   | 235          | 255    | 288    | 8.5   | 9.1   | 10.8  | 2,538      | 2,545   | 2,368   |
| Yukon-Koyukuk CA             | 2,475       | 2,519   | 2,341   | 356          | 394    | 364    | 14.4  | 15.6  | 15.5  | 2,119      | 2,125   | 1,977   |
| Northern Region              | 9,191       | 9,302   | 9,033   | 1,642        | 1,644  | 1,393  | 17.9  | 17.7  | 15.4  | 7,549      | 7,658   | 7,640   |
| Nome Census Area             | 3,381       | 3,422   | 3,321   | 574          | 574    | 480    | 17.0  | 16.8  | 14.5  | 2,807      | 2,848   | 2,841   |
| North Slope Borough          | 3,359       | 3,395   | 3,308   | 501          | 496    | 416    | 14.9  | 14.6  | 12.6  | 2,858      | 2,899   | 2,892   |
| Northwest Arctic Borough     | 2,451       | 2,485   | 2,404   | 567          | 574    | 497    | 23.1  | 23.1  | 20.7  | 1,884      | 1,911   | 1,907   |
| Southeast Region             | 43,388      | 41,350  | 41,573  | 2,763        | 2,927  | 2,791  | 6.4   | 7.1   | 6.7   | 40,625     | 38,423  | 38,782  |
| Haines Borough               | 1,357       | 1,289   | 1,291   | 101          | 101    | 92     | 7.4   | 7.8   | 7.1   | 1,256      | 1,188   | 1,199   |
| Juneau Borough               | 19,338      | 18,354  | 18,431  | 1,054        | 1,061  | 976    | 5.5   | 5.8   | 5.3   | 18,284     | 17,293  | 17,455  |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough    | 8,189       | 7,867   | 7,898   | 541          | 633    | 597    | 6.6   | 8.0   | 7.6   | 7,648      | 7,234   | 7,301   |
| Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan | 3,046       | 2,877   | 2,987   | 344          | 321    | 407    | 11.3  | 11.2  | 13.6  | 2,702      | 2,556   | 2,580   |
| Sitka Borough                | 5,077       | 4,850   | 4,843   | 246          | 281    | 231    | 4.8   | 5.8   | 4.8   | 4,831      | 4,569   | 4,612   |
| Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA     | 2,274       | 2,139   | 2,181   | 166          | 145    | 169    | 7.3   | 6.8   | 7.7   | 2,108      | 1,994   | 2,012   |
| Wrangell-Petersburg CA       | 3,749       | 3,625   | 3,599   | 269          | 333    | 276    | 7.2   | 9.2   | 7.7   | 3,480      | 3,292   | 3,323   |
| Yakutat Borough              | 357         | 350     | 344     | 42           | 52     | 43     | 11.8  | 14.9  | 12.5  | 315        | 298     | 301     |
| Southwest Region             | 18,559      | 16,701  | 17,566  | 2,409        | 2,659  | 2,208  | 13.0  | 15.9  | 12.6  | 16,150     | 14,042  | 15,358  |
| Aleutians East Borough       | 1,996       | 1,760   | 1,877   | 68           | 83     | 43     | 3.4   | 4.7   | 2.3   | 1,928      | 1,677   | 1,834   |
| Aleutians West Census Area   | 3,038       | 2,808   | 2,934   | 224          | 361    | 258    | 7.4   | 12.9  | 8.8   | 2,814      | 2,447   | 2,676   |
| Bethel Census Area           | 7,341       | 6,599   | 6,917   | 1,080        | 1,155  | 963    | 14.7  | 17.5  | 13.9  | 6,261      | 5,444   | 5,954   |
| Bristol Bay Borough          | 604         | 543     | 566     | 51           | 62     | 40     | 8.4   | 11.4  | 7.1   | 553        | 481     | 526     |
| Dillingham Census Area       | 2,153       | 1,934   | 2,060   | 198          | 234    | 201    | 9.2   | 12.1  | 9.8   | 1,955      | 1,700   | 1,859   |
| Lake & Peninsula Borough     | 654         | 584     | 617     | 71           | 77     | 63     | 10.9  | 13.2  | 10.2  | 583        | 507     | 554     |
| Wade Hampton CA              | 2,773       | 2,473   | 2,592   | 718          | 686    | 638    | 25.9  | 27.7  | 24.6  | 2,055      | 1,787   | 1,954   |

*Benchmark: March 2002*      *Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.*      • Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis.      • The official definition of unemployment currently in place 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. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.