

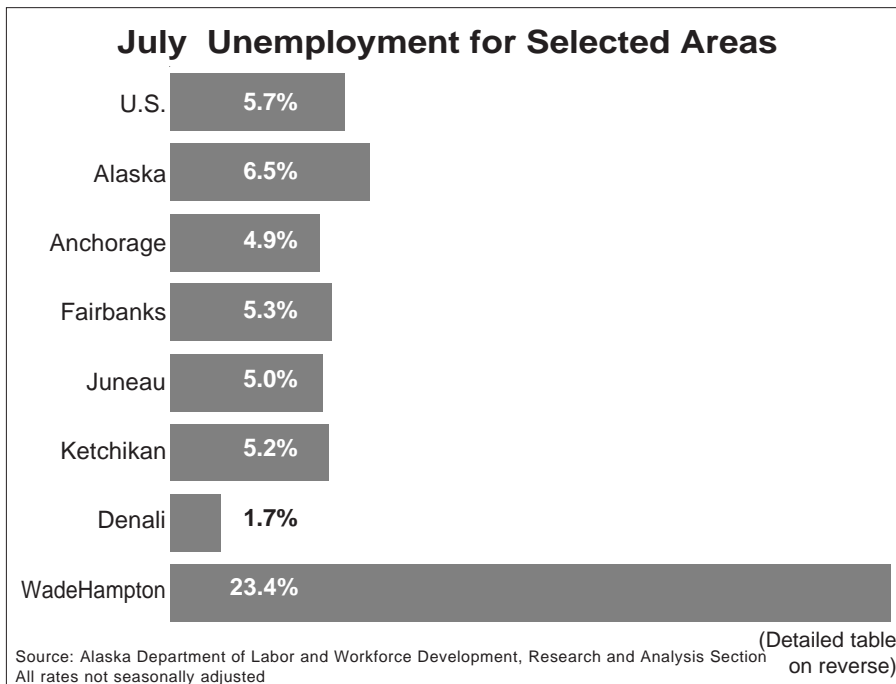
News Release

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July Unemployment Declines



Alaska's unemployment rate fell five-tenths of a percentage point in July to 6.5 percent due to typically strong summer employment gains. Unemployment numbers through the first seven months of 2004 reveal a relatively stable job market characterized by modest but steady employment growth. Dan Robinson, an economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, reported the numbers.

Anchorage's unemployment rate was unchanged in July at 4.9 percent, while Fairbanks saw a drop of five-tenths of a percentage point to 5.3 percent. Juneau's unemployment rate held steady at 5.0 percent.

The Denali Borough recorded the state's lowest unemployment rate in July at 1.7 percent. The borough has one of Alaska's most seasonal economies because of its small population and dependence on summer jobs associated with Denali National Park. Winter unemployment rates have been as high as 17.9 percent in recent years, while summer rates generally fall to three or four percent.

Alaska Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

	preliminary 07/04	revised 06/04	revised 07/03	changes from	
				06/04	07/03
Total Nonfarm Employment	323,500	316,500	319,500	7,000	4,000
Natural Resources & Mining	10,200	10,200	10,300	0	-100
Construction	21,100	20,100	20,200	1,000	900
Manufacturing	20,000	13,900	19,600	6,100	400
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	66,600	65,700	65,800	900	800
Information	7,100	7,000	7,200	100	-100
Financial Activities	15,200	15,000	14,900	200	300
Professional & Business Services	24,500	24,300	24,400	200	100
Education & Health Services	35,200	34,900	33,000	300	2,200
Leisure & Hospitality	35,900	34,400	35,500	1,500	400
Other Services	10,900	10,900	11,500	0	-600
Government	76,800	80,200	77,100	-3,400	-300

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.

Benchmark date: March 2003

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

July 2004:	Alaska 7.2%	U.S. 5.5%
June 2004:	Alaska 7.3%	U.S. 5.6%
July 2003:	Alaska 8.1%	U.S. 6.2%

The state's highest reported unemployment rate in July was the Wade Hampton Census Area at 23.4 percent. Wade Hampton has seen consistently high unemployment rates for several years. The last time it was below 20 percent was in December 2001.

Employment estimates from the monthly payroll survey show that Alaska added 7,000 jobs in July, most of them seasonal. The biggest over-the-month increase was in manufacturing, where July salmon runs boosted seafood processing by more than 6,000 jobs. The construction industry and the leisure and hospitality industry added a combined total of 2,500 jobs in July. Government's large monthly decline is a result of the summer break for public schools.

Over the year, the state has added about 4,000 jobs, an increase of 1.3 percent. Health care employment has shown the most growth over that period. Construction jobs are up 900 jobs compared to July 2003, and manufacturing jobs are up 400. Growth in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector has come mostly from the retail trade industry.

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

Contact: Dan Robinson (907) 465-6036

Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	7/04	6/04	7/03*	7/04	6/04	7/03*	7/04	6/04	7/03*	7/04	6/04	7/03*
Alaska Statewide	357,560	353,279	344,679	23,076	24,784	24,896	6.5	7.0	7.2	334,484	328,495	319,783
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	191,566	192,043	183,518	10,242	10,540	11,201	5.3	5.5	6.1	181,324	181,503	172,317
Municipality of Anchorage	152,711	154,082	147,024	7,410	7,592	8,196	4.9	4.9	5.6	145,301	146,490	138,828
Mat-Su Borough	38,855	37,961	36,494	2,832	2,948	3,005	7.3	7.8	8.2	36,023	35,013	33,489
Gulf Coast Region	38,615	37,447	37,679	2,975	3,483	3,244	7.7	9.3	8.6	35,640	33,964	34,435
Kenai Peninsula Borough	25,522	24,535	25,029	2,166	2,277	2,462	8.5	9.3	9.8	23,356	22,258	22,567
Kodiak Island Borough	7,445	7,484	7,227	426	795	446	5.7	10.6	6.2	7,019	6,689	6,781
Valdez-Cordova CA	5,648	5,429	5,423	383	412	336	6.8	7.6	6.2	5,265	5,017	5,087
Interior Region	55,354	54,988	53,103	3,125	3,533	3,525	5.6	6.4	6.6	52,229	51,455	49,578
Denali Borough	1,201	1,196	1,168	20	33	47	1.7	2.8	4.0	1,181	1,163	1,121
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	49,030	48,556	46,969	2,582	2,796	2,879	5.3	5.8	6.1	46,448	45,760	44,090
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,741	2,738	2,613	239	273	238	8.7	10.0	9.1	2,502	2,465	2,375
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	2,382	2,498	2,351	284	431	360	11.9	17.3	15.3	2,098	2,067	1,991
Northern Region	9,311	9,451	9,321	1,622	1,678	1,671	17.4	17.8	17.9	7,689	7,773	7,650
Nome Census Area	3,470	3,540	3,431	609	648	585	17.6	18.3	17.1	2,861	2,892	2,846
North Slope Borough	3,448	3,448	3,409	534	502	510	15.5	14.6	15.0	2,914	2,946	2,899
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,393	2,463	2,481	479	528	576	20.0	21.4	23.2	1,914	1,935	1,905
Southeast Region	42,858	41,720	42,046	2,531	2,735	2,801	5.9	6.6	6.7	40,327	38,985	39,245
Haines Borough	1,338	1,286	1,313	94	84	102	7.0	6.5	7.8	1,244	1,202	1,211
Juneau Borough	19,278	18,634	18,886	969	935	1,069	5.0	5.0	5.7	18,309	17,699	17,817
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,965	7,795	7,894	417	498	548	5.2	6.4	6.9	7,548	7,297	7,346
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	3,009	2,948	2,925	362	389	349	12.0	13.2	11.9	2,647	2,559	2,576
Sitka Borough	5,109	4,968	4,988	239	260	249	4.7	5.2	5.0	4,870	4,708	4,739
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,165	2,093	2,121	158	153	168	7.3	7.3	7.9	2,007	1,940	1,953
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,676	3,676	3,585	273	386	273	7.4	10.5	7.6	3,403	3,290	3,312
Yakutat Borough	319	318	333	20	29	42	6.3	9.1	12.6	299	289	291
Southwest Region	19,855	17,629	19,014	2,581	2,814	2,455	13.0	16.0	12.9	17,274	14,815	16,559
Aleutians East Borough	2,040	1,763	1,944	85	86	70	4.2	4.9	3.6	1,955	1,677	1,874
Aleutians West Census Area	3,346	2,983	3,215	232	313	230	6.9	10.5	7.2	3,114	2,670	2,985
Bethel Census Area	8,004	7,009	7,600	1,224	1,194	1,100	15.3	17.0	14.5	6,780	5,815	6,500
Bristol Bay Borough	596	541	586	39	63	52	6.5	11.6	8.9	557	478	534
Dillingham Census Area	2,320	2,041	2,198	238	255	202	10.3	12.5	9.2	2,082	1,786	1,996
Lake & Peninsula Borough	679	591	635	91	87	72	13.4	14.7	11.3	588	504	563
Wade Hampton CA	2,871	2,700	2,836	673	815	729	23.4	30.2	25.7	2,198	1,885	2,107

*Benchmark: March 2003 Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. * Comparisons with previous year's numbers are of very limited use because of the magnitude of year-end revisions. 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. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. They are considered not in the labor force.*