

News Release

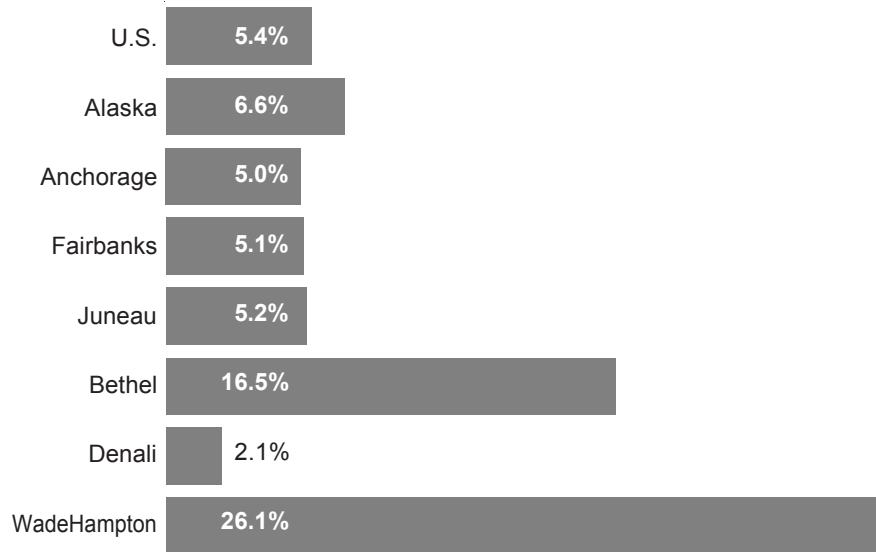
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September 17, 2004
No. 05-14

August Unemployment Essentially Unchanged

August Unemployment for Selected Areas



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section (Detailed table on reverse)
All rates not seasonally adjusted

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	preliminary 08/04	revised 07/04	revised 08/03	changes from	
				07/04	08/03
Total Nonfarm Employment	323,500	324,000	319,400	-500	4,100
Natural Resources & Mining	10,500	10,300	10,400	200	100
Construction	21,900	21,100	20,700	800	1,200
Manufacturing	17,900	20,300	17,900	-2,400	0
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	66,600	66,800	65,800	-200	800
Information	7,000	7,100	7,000	-100	0
Financial Activities	15,200	15,100	15,100	100	100
Professional & Business Services	24,800	24,400	24,700	400	100
Education & Health Services	35,300	35,200	33,200	100	2,100
Leisure & Hospitality	36,100	36,000	35,500	100	600
Other Services	10,700	10,800	11,500	-100	-800
Government	77,500	77,000	77,800	500	-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

August 2004:	Alaska 7.6%	U.S. 5.4%
July 2004:	Alaska 7.2%	U.S. 5.5%
August 2003:	Alaska 8.1%	U.S. 6.1%

Alaska's unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point in August to 6.6 percent and nonfarm payroll employment fell by 500, according to Dan Robinson, an economist at the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Both Anchorage and Juneau saw small increases in their unemployment rates, Anchorage from 4.8 percent to 5.0 percent and Juneau from 5.0 percent to 5.2 percent. Fairbanks recorded a decline of two-tenths of a percentage point from 5.3 percent to 5.1 percent.

The Denali Borough, which has enjoyed a strong summer visitor season, had the state's lowest unemployment rate in August at 2.1 percent. The Wade Hampton Census Area recorded the highest rate at 26.1 percent.

Preliminary August payroll estimates showed a monthly decline of 2,400 manufacturing jobs due to an expected seasonal slowdown in seafood processing. Jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities declined by 200 with most of the losses in retail trade employment.

The construction industry added 800 jobs in August, a noticeably larger increase than the 500 jobs added in August 2003. Over the year growth in construction has been strong throughout the summer, averaging almost 5 percent since June.

Professional and business services added 400 jobs in August, most of them in the sub-category of administrative and support services, which includes everything from temporary help agencies to landscaping and janitorial service companies.

Preparations for the new academic year lifted local government employment by about 900 in August, more than making up for small monthly declines in federal and state government.

Compared to August of last year, total employment was up 1.3 percent. Health care, retail trade, construction, and the leisure and hospitality industries continue to provide most of the new jobs.

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		
	8/04	7/04	8/03*	8/04	7/04	8/03*	8/04	7/04	8/03*	8/04	7/04	8/03*
Alaska Statewide	353,077	357,552	340,221	23,256	23,068	23,695	6.6	6.5	7.0	329,821	334,484	316,526
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	189,882	191,751	181,930	10,383	10,238	10,693	5.5	5.3	5.9	179,499	181,513	171,237
Municipality of Anchorage	151,150	153,068	145,637	7,569	7,409	7,969	5.0	4.8	5.5	143,581	145,659	137,668
Mat-Su Borough	38,732	38,683	36,293	2,814	2,829	2,724	7.3	7.3	7.5	35,918	35,854	33,569
Gulf Coast Region	37,774	38,582	36,760	3,138	2,974	3,141	8.3	7.7	8.5	34,636	35,608	33,619
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,732	25,501	24,314	2,034	2,166	2,282	8.2	8.5	9.4	22,698	23,335	22,032
Kodiak Island Borough	7,556	7,438	7,107	735	426	486	9.7	5.7	6.8	6,821	7,012	6,621
Valdez-Cordova CA	5,486	5,643	5,340	369	383	373	6.7	6.8	7.0	5,117	5,260	4,967
Interior Region	55,180	55,352	52,660	3,068	3,125	3,272	5.6	5.6	6.2	52,112	52,227	49,388
Denali Borough	1,203	1,201	1,160	25	20	43	2.1	1.7	3.7	1,178	1,181	1,117
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	48,819	49,028	46,579	2,475	2,582	2,658	5.1	5.3	5.7	46,344	46,446	43,921
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,761	2,741	2,602	264	239	236	9.6	8.7	9.1	2,497	2,502	2,366
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	2,397	2,382	2,320	304	284	336	12.7	11.9	14.5	2,093	2,098	1,984
Northern Region	9,255	9,298	9,161	1,579	1,621	1,635	17.1	17.4	17.8	7,676	7,677	7,526
Nome Census Area	3,422	3,465	3,366	566	609	566	16.5	17.6	16.8	2,856	2,856	2,800
North Slope Borough	3,446	3,443	3,419	537	534	567	15.6	15.5	16.6	2,909	2,909	2,852
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,387	2,389	2,376	476	478	502	19.9	20.0	21.1	1,911	1,911	1,874
Southeast Region	42,796	42,684	41,988	2,502	2,529	2,622	5.8	5.9	6.2	40,294	40,155	39,366
Haines Borough	1,319	1,333	1,311	76	94	97	5.8	7.1	7.4	1,243	1,239	1,214
Juneau Borough	19,301	19,199	18,893	1,007	968	1,021	5.2	5.0	5.4	18,294	18,231	17,872
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,009	7,933	7,843	467	417	475	5.8	5.3	6.1	7,542	7,516	7,368
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	2,968	2,997	2,935	323	361	351	10.9	12.0	12.0	2,645	2,636	2,584
Sitka Borough	5,065	5,087	5,001	199	238	247	3.9	4.7	4.9	4,866	4,849	4,754
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,145	2,157	2,114	139	158	155	6.5	7.3	7.3	2,006	1,999	1,959
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,655	3,661	3,568	255	273	246	7.0	7.5	6.9	3,400	3,388	3,322
Yakutat Borough	335	318	323	36	20	31	10.7	6.3	9.6	299	298	292
Southwest Region	18,191	19,885	17,722	2,586	2,580	2,332	14.2	13.0	13.2	15,605	17,305	15,390
Aleutians East Borough	1,841	2,044	1,809	75	85	67	4.1	4.2	3.7	1,766	1,959	1,742
Aleutians West Census Area	3,040	3,351	2,958	227	232	184	7.5	6.9	6.2	2,813	3,119	2,774
Bethel Census Area	7,336	8,015	7,105	1,211	1,223	1,064	16.5	15.3	15.0	6,125	6,792	6,041
Bristol Bay Borough	548	597	546	45	39	50	8.2	6.5	9.2	503	558	496
Dillingham Census Area	2,114	2,324	2,062	233	238	207	11.0	10.2	10.0	1,881	2,086	1,855
Lake & Peninsula Borough	624	680	588	93	91	64	14.9	13.4	10.9	531	589	524
Wade Hampton CA	2,687	2,875	2,654	701	673	696	26.1	23.4	26.2	1,986	2,202	1,958

*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.*