

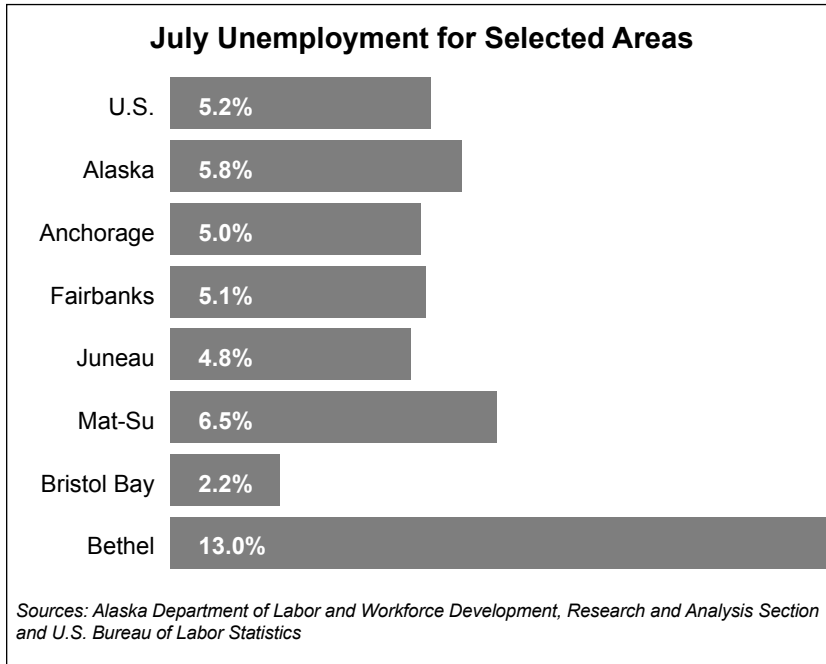
News Release



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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Unemployment rate falls to 5.8 percent in July



Alaska's unemployment rate fell seven-tenths of a percentage point in July to 5.8 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. As expected in July, seasonal employers including seafood processors, construction companies, hotels and restaurants added a significant number of jobs over the month, pushing the rate lower.

Through the first seven months of 2005, unemployment rates have been noticeably lower than in 2004, and July's 5.8 percent rate is the lowest since May 2001. According to Dan Robinson, an economist with the Department, the state's labor market may be heating up. "There were fewer unemployed Alaskans in July than there have been for almost four years and preliminary estimates indicate that payroll employment growth is stronger than in recent years," Robinson said.

Anchorage's unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in July, while Fairbanks and Juneau reported rates of 5.1 and 4.8 percent, respectively. The Denali Borough had the state's lowest rate at 2.0 percent and Wade Hampton had the highest at 25.4 percent.

Preliminary estimates of payroll employment show an over-the-month increase of 8,000 jobs. Seafood processing added 6,900 jobs in July as the salmon fisheries neared peak production, while the construction and hospitality industries hit full stride as well. Government employment fell by 4,000 in July due mostly to the summer academic break.

Since July 2004 the state has added 4,900 jobs for a growth rate of 1.5 percent. Industry leaders continue to be health care, construction, retail trade and restaurants.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	preliminary	revised	revised	changes from	
	07/05	06/05	07/04	06/05	07/04
Total Nonfarm Employment	331,700	323,700	326,800	8,000	4,900
Natural Resources & Mining	10,700	10,600	10,500	100	200
Construction	22,200	20,900	21,300	1,300	900
Manufacturing	21,600	14,700	21,200	6,900	400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	68,100	67,000	67,200	1,100	900
Information	7,100	7,000	6,900	100	200
Financial Activities	15,300	15,300	15,000	0	300
Professional & Business Services	25,000	24,800	24,700	200	300
Education & Health Services	36,100	36,200	34,600	-100	1,500
Leisure & Hospitality	37,900	35,700	36,900	2,200	1,000
Other Services	11,600	11,400	11,800	200	-200
Government	76,100	80,100	76,700	-4,000	-600

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska and certain federally recognized tribal entities. Benchmark date: March 2004

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

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

July 2005:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	5.0%
June 2005:	Alaska	6.3%	U.S.	5.0%
July 2004:	Alaska	7.4%	U.S.	5.5%

Contact: Dan Robinson, Economist (907) 465-6036
Research & Analysis Web site: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

Labor Force By Borough and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	07/05	06/05	07/04	07/05	06/05	07/04	07/05	06/05	07/04	07/05	06/05	07/04
Alaska Statewide	351,163	347,583	341,502	20,480	22,620	22,529	5.8	6.5	6.6	330,683	324,963	318,973
Anchorage/Mat-Su MSA*	182,164	184,422	176,052	9,590	10,347	10,490	5.3	5.6	6.0	172,574	174,075	165,562
Municipality of Anchorage	148,906	150,811	143,882	7,434	8,109	8,159	5.0	5.4	5.7	141,472	142,702	135,723
Mat-Su Borough	33,258	33,611	32,170	2,156	2,238	2,331	6.5	6.7	7.2	31,102	31,373	29,839
Gulf Coast Region												
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,948	27,354	27,599	1,752	1,966	2,033	6.3	7.2	7.4	26,196	25,388	25,566
Kodiak Island Borough	6,213	6,346	6,249	382	545	425	6.1	8.6	6.8	5,831	5,801	5,824
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,172	5,886	6,251	379	430	415	6.1	7.3	6.6	5,793	5,456	5,836
Interior Region												
Denali Borough	2,785	2,568	2,582	57	65	65	2.0	2.5	2.5	2,728	2,503	2,517
Fairbanks MSA*	45,323	44,178	44,219	2,298	2,549	2,559	5.1	5.8	5.8	43,025	41,629	41,660
Southwest Fairbanks Census Area	3,199	3,284	2,712	269	289	264	8.4	8.8	9.7	2,930	2,995	2,448
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,103	3,262	3,139	315	358	330	10.2	11.0	10.5	2,788	2,904	2,809
Northern Region												
Nome Census Area	3,900	3,919	3,827	466	509	474	11.9	13.0	12.4	3,434	3,410	3,353
North Slope Borough	3,728	3,743	3,541	355	369	408	9.5	9.9	11.5	3,373	3,374	3,133
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,598	2,753	2,614	366	422	383	14.1	15.3	14.7	2,232	2,331	2,231
Southeast Region												
Haines Borough	2,214	1,518	2,171	95	103	112	4.3	6.8	5.2	2,119	1,415	2,059
Juneau Borough	18,521	18,313	18,207	880	948	954	4.8	5.2	5.2	17,641	17,365	17,253
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9,170	8,433	9,079	429	494	485	4.7	5.9	5.3	8,741	7,939	8,594
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,621	2,740	2,586	260	289	309	9.9	10.5	11.9	2,361	2,451	2,277
Sitka Borough	5,051	4,912	4,879	227	249	250	4.5	5.1	5.1	4,824	4,663	4,629
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,286	2,299	2,235	153	173	175	6.7	7.5	7.8	2,143	2,126	2,060
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	3,534	2,991	3,420	241	270	309	6.8	9.0	9.0	3,293	2,721	3,111
Yakutat Borough	345	304	365	17	23	16	4.9	7.6	4.4	328	281	349
Southwest Region												
Aleutians East Borough	1,410	1,111	1,402	87	104	97	6.2	9.4	6.9	1,323	1,007	1,305
Aleutians West Census Area	3,312	2,788	3,081	139	178	162	4.2	6.4	5.3	3,173	2,610	2,919
Bathel Census Area	6,672	7,157	6,659	866	979	931	13.0	13.7	14.0	5,806	6,178	5,728
Bristol Bay Borough	2,114	1,320	2,521	47	55	59	2.2	4.2	2.3	2,067	1,265	2,462
Dillingham Census Area	2,374	2,156	2,402	214	242	217	9.0	11.2	9.0	2,160	1,914	2,185
Lake & Peninsula Borough	2,307	1,706	1,625	66	72	85	2.9	4.2	5.2	2,241	1,634	1,540
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,089	2,121	2,086	530	592	523	25.4	27.9	25.1	1,559	1,529	1,563

* Metropolitan Statistical Area
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. • Benchmark: 2004
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 individuals in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.