

# News Release

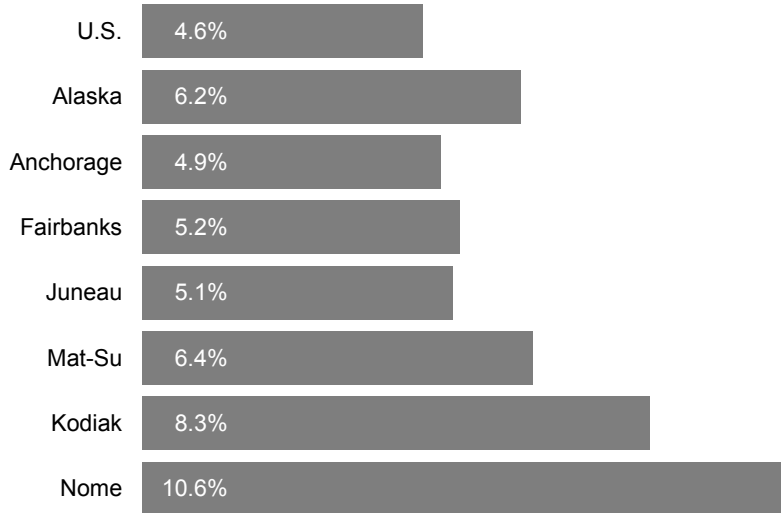


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

November 18, 2005  
No. 06-17

## Unemployment rate shows little change in October

### October Unemployment for Selected Areas



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

Alaska's unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point in October to 6.2 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The state's unemployment rate continues to be moderately lower in 2005 than it was in 2004 – October 2004's rate was six-tenths of a percentage point higher at 6.8 percent. The national trend is similar. October's 4.6 percent unemployment rate for the U.S. was five-tenths of a percentage point lower than October 2004's 5.1 percent rate.

At the local level, communities that rely most heavily on seasonal employment from the visitor industry or fisheries recorded large increases in unemployment rates, as expected. The Denali Borough's rate increased from 2.7 percent to 6.2 percent, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon saw an increase from 6.8 to 15.8 percent and Bristol Bay's rate rose from 4.8 percent to 7.3 percent in October.

### Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	preliminary 10/05	revised 09/05	revised 10/04	changes from	
				09/05	10/04
Total Nonfarm Employment	310,400	325,400	304,900	-15,000	5,500
Natural Resources & Mining	10,800	10,900	10,100	-100	700
Construction	20,300	21,700	19,700	-1,400	600
Manufacturing	10,900	14,600	10,900	-3,700	0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	62,400	66,100	61,600	-3,700	800
Information	7,000	6,900	6,900	100	100
Financial Activities	15,000	15,200	14,800	-200	200
Professional & Business Services	24,100	25,000	23,300	-900	800
Education & Health Services	35,900	35,900	34,700	0	1,200
Leisure & Hospitality	29,800	35,500	28,900	-5,700	900
Other Services	11,700	11,700	11,900	0	-200
Government	82,500	81,900	82,100	600	400

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 the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Rates in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau changed little in October and all three communities have unemployment rates about half a percentage point lower than in October 2004. The combined Anchorage/Mat-Su region has the lowest rate in the state at 5.2 percent, while the Northern and Southwest regions have the highest at 10.6 and 10.7 percent, respectively.

Preliminary estimates of payroll employment show over-the-year growth of 5,500 and a typically large monthly decline of 15,000. Job growth has accelerated in 2005 and the state is nearly certain to extend its streak of employment growth to 18 years at the end of 2005.

Nearly every sector of the economy has contributed to the growth in 2005. Two notable exceptions are the air transportation industry, which has lost 300 jobs since October 2004, and the federal government, which was down 200 jobs over the same period. Health care employers have added 1,000 jobs over the year, more than any other industry. Growth has also been strong in mining, construction, retail trade and restaurants.

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

October 2005:	Alaska	6.9%	U.S.	5.0%
September 2005:	Alaska	6.8%	U.S.	5.1%
October 2004:	Alaska	7.5%	U.S.	5.5%

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Research and Analysis Web site: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

## Labor Force By Borough and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	10/05	09/05	10/04	10/05	09/05	10/04	10/05	09/05	10/04	10/05	09/05	10/04
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	342,801	344,480	331,523	21,321	20,763	22,397	6.2	6.0	6.8	321,480	323,717	309,126
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su MSA*</b>	186,606	182,550	179,968	9,633	9,846	10,178	5.2	5.4	5.7	176,973	172,704	169,790
Municipality of Anchorage	152,525	149,270	147,078	7,447	7,692	7,889	4.9	5.2	5.4	145,078	141,578	139,189
Mat-Su Borough	34,081	33,280	32,890	2,186	2,154	2,289	6.4	6.5	7.0	31,895	31,126	30,601
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	35,444	36,924	35,421	2,980	2,644	3,207	8.4	7.2	9.1	32,464	34,280	32,214
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,571	25,377	24,334	2,014	1,832	2,129	8.2	7.2	8.7	22,557	23,545	22,205
Kodiak Island Borough	5,906	5,946	6,016	488	418	553	8.3	7.0	9.2	5,418	5,528	5,463
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,967	5,601	5,071	478	394	394	9.6	7.0	10.4	4,489	5,207	4,546
<b>Interior Region</b>	53,240	54,723	50,853	3,077	2,925	3,182	5.8	5.3	6.3	50,163	51,798	47,671
Denali Borough	1,731	2,548	1,494	108	69	113	6.2	2.7	7.6	1,623	2,479	1,381
Fairbanks MSA*	45,144	45,677	43,321	2,332	2,286	2,415	5.2	5.0	5.6	42,812	43,391	40,906
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,270	3,275	2,792	304	261	290	9.3	8.0	10.4	2,966	3,014	2,502
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,095	3,223	3,246	333	309	364	10.8	9.6	11.2	2,762	2,914	2,882
<b>Northern Region</b>	10,943	10,297	10,475	1,160	1,182	1,154	10.6	11.5	11.0	9,783	9,115	9,321
Nome Census Area	4,141	3,957	3,985	438	432	405	10.6	10.9	10.2	3,703	3,525	3,580
North Slope Borough	3,561	3,628	3,530	360	370	379	10.1	10.2	10.7	3,201	3,258	3,151
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,241	2,712	2,960	362	380	370	11.2	14.0	12.5	2,879	2,332	2,590
<b>Southeast Region</b>	38,931	41,438	37,755	2,578	2,268	2,762	6.6	5.5	7.3	36,353	39,170	34,993
Haines Borough	1,362	1,782	1,253	122	95	122	9.0	5.3	9.7	1,240	1,687	1,131
Juneau Borough	17,733	17,781	17,176	896	848	994	5.1	4.8	5.8	16,837	16,933	16,182
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,925	8,470	7,771	514	422	553	6.5	5.0	7.1	7,411	8,048	7,218
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,462	2,721	2,441	311	292	287	12.6	10.7	11.8	2,151	2,429	2,154
Sitka Borough	4,641	4,919	4,437	230	219	237	5.0	4.5	5.3	4,411	4,700	4,200
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,694	2,161	1,576	267	146	240	15.8	6.8	15.2	1,427	2,015	1,336
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,772	3,236	2,808	220	224	293	7.9	6.9	10.4	2,552	3,012	2,515
Yakutat Borough	342	368	293	18	22	36	5.3	6.0	12.3	324	346	257
<b>Southwest Region</b>	17,636	18,548	17,049	1,895	1,898	1,911	10.7	10.2	11.2	15,741	16,650	15,138
Aleutians East Borough	822	1,183	914	82	85	77	10.0	7.2	8.4	740	1,098	837
Aleutians West Census Area	3,519	3,343	3,214	135	146	185	3.8	4.4	5.8	3,384	3,197	3,029
Bathel Census Area	7,076	7,072	6,974	874	882	843	12.4	12.5	12.1	6,202	6,190	6,131
Bristol Bay Borough	641	1,035	669	47	50	54	7.3	4.8	8.1	594	985	615
Dillingham Census Area	1,970	2,052	1,937	192	190	208	9.7	9.3	10.7	1,778	1,862	1,729
Lake & Peninsula Borough	911	1,402	803	65	62	79	7.1	4.4	9.8	846	1,340	724
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,697	2,461	2,538	500	483	465	18.5	19.6	18.3	2,197	1,978	2,073

\* 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.