

News Release

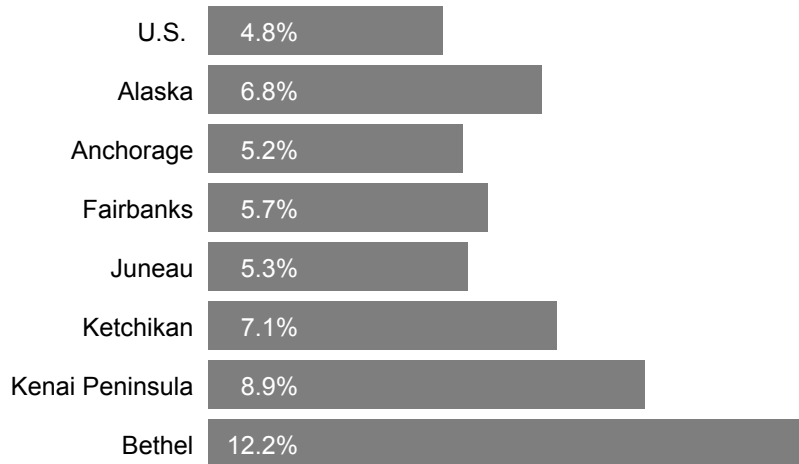


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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Unemployment rate shows seasonal increase in November

November Unemployment for Selected Areas



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

Alaska's unemployment rate rose six-tenths of a percentage point in November to 6.8 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The increase is in line with expectations for November, a month when seasonal employment continues to decline and unemployment continues to rise correspondingly. The rate was five-tenths of a percentage point lower than November 2004's rate of 7.3 percent and the lowest November rate since 2001.

Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau all followed the statewide pattern, recording moderate monthly increases to their unemployment rates in November. All three continue to have lower rates in 2005 than for the same period in 2004. Anchorage's 5.2 percent unemployment rate in November was the lowest in the state and Juneau's 5.3 percent rate was second-lowest. The Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area recorded the state's highest unemployment rate in November at 19.3 percent.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	preliminary	revised	revised	changes from	
	11/05	10/05	11/04	10/05	11/04
Total Nonfarm Employment	300,600	310,000	295,900	-9,400	4,700
Natural Resources and Mining	10,500	10,700	9,800	-200	700
Construction	17,700	20,400	17,300	-2,700	400
Manufacturing	7,800	10,700	7,600	-2,900	200
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	61,500	62,500	60,600	-1,000	900
Information	6,900	6,900	6,800	0	100
Financial Activities	14,800	15,000	14,600	-200	200
Professional and Business Services	23,600	24,000	22,900	-400	700
Education and Health Services	35,800	35,800	34,800	0	1,000
Leisure and Hospitality	28,100	29,800	27,500	-1,700	600
Other Services	11,600	11,700	11,700	-100	-100
Government	82,300	82,500	82,300	-200	0

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

Preliminary estimates show growth of 4,700 jobs from November 2004 to November 2005 and a typically large monthly decline of 9,400 jobs from October 2005. Growth continues to be strongest in the education and health services category, but nearly every economic sector showed gains over November 2004.

A comparison of Alaska employment with the U.S. as a whole from September 2004 to September 2005 shows slightly stronger growth for Alaska in the education and health care category – 3.5 percent in Alaska and 2.7 percent for the nation. Other sectors where Alaska's growth rate exceeded the nation's included retail trade, financial activities, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality.

Both the state and the U.S. recorded strong construction growth of about 3.8 percent. Alaska's strong 6.1 percent growth in mining employment, which includes the oil and gas industry, was exceeded by national mining growth of an even more robust 7.9 percent. Total employment growth for Alaska was slightly higher than for the U.S. as a whole over the period.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

November 2005:	Alaska	7.0%	U.S.	5.0%
October 2005:	Alaska	6.8%	U.S.	5.0%
November 2004:	Alaska	7.6%	U.S.	5.4%

Labor Force By Borough and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	11/05	10/05	11/04	11/05	10/05	11/04	11/05	10/05	11/04	11/05	10/05	11/04
	Alaska Statewide	341,436	342,596	331,576	23,353	21,148	24,233	6.8	6.2	7.3	318,083	321,448
Anchorage/Mat-Su MSA*	188,732	186,331	182,789	10,672	9,552	11,002	5.7	5.1	6.0	178,060	176,779	171,787
Municipality of Anchorage	153,960	152,303	149,160	7,981	7,384	8,334	5.2	4.8	5.6	145,969	144,919	140,826
Mat-Su Borough	34,782	34,028	33,629	2,691	2,168	2,668	7.7	6.4	7.9	32,091	31,860	30,961
Gulf Coast Region	34,624	35,464	34,690	3,405	2,955	3,588	9.8	8.3	10.3	31,219	32,509	31,102
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,194	24,592	24,116	2,158	1,997	2,309	8.9	8.1	9.6	22,036	22,595	21,807
Kodiak Island Borough	5,823	5,915	5,811	757	484	719	13.0	8.2	12.4	5,066	5,431	5,092
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,607	4,957	4,763	490	474	560	10.6	9.6	11.8	4,117	4,483	4,203
Interior Region	52,786	53,298	50,763	3,427	3,050	3,541	6.5	5.7	7.0	49,359	50,248	47,222
Denali Borough	934	1,734	948	113	107	126	12.1	6.2	13.3	821	1,627	822
Fairbanks MSA*	45,658	45,201	43,954	2,592	2,312	2,695	5.7	5.1	6.1	43,066	42,889	41,259
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,273	3,314	2,755	357	301	334	10.9	9.1	12.1	2,916	3,013	2,421
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,921	3,049	3,106	365	330	386	12.5	10.8	12.4	2,556	2,719	2,720
Northern Region	10,983	10,966	10,496	1,126	1,150	1,125	10.3	10.5	10.7	9,857	9,816	9,371
Nome Census Area	4,141	4,146	3,972	456	434	408	11.0	10.5	10.3	3,685	3,712	3,564
North Slope Borough	3,597	3,560	3,562	338	357	357	9.4	10.0	10.0	3,259	3,203	3,205
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,245	3,260	2,962	332	359	360	10.2	11.0	12.2	2,913	2,901	2,602
Southeast Region	38,025	39,025	36,979	2,770	2,563	3,020	7.3	6.6	8.2	35,255	36,462	33,959
Haines Borough	1,185	1,361	1,099	132	121	138	11.1	8.9	12.6	1,053	1,240	961
Juneau Borough	17,837	17,755	17,294	954	889	1,034	5.3	5.0	6.0	16,883	16,866	16,260
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,398	7,957	7,266	522	509	601	7.1	6.4	8.2	6,876	7,448	6,685
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,419	2,468	2,419	329	308	318	13.6	12.5	13.1	2,090	2,160	2,101
Sitka Borough	4,606	4,654	4,451	251	228	294	5.4	4.9	6.6	4,355	4,426	4,157
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,555	1,709	1,442	300	272	271	19.3	15.9	18.8	1,255	1,437	1,171
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,713	2,778	2,721	250	218	324	9.2	7.8	11.9	2,463	2,560	2,397
Yakutat Borough	312	343	267	32	18	40	10.3	5.2	15.0	280	325	227
Southwest Region	16,289	17,512	15,861	1,954	1,879	1,958	12.0	10.7	12.3	14,335	15,633	13,903
Aleutians East Borough	527	823	585	89	82	89	16.9	10.0	15.2	438	741	496
Aleutians West Census Area	2,655	3,432	2,497	183	134	222	6.9	3.9	8.9	2,472	3,298	2,275
Bathel Census Area	7,150	7,068	7,045	869	867	832	12.2	12.3	11.8	6,281	6,201	6,213
Bristol Bay Borough	616	622	658	57	46	59	9.3	7.4	9.0	559	576	599
Dillingham Census Area	1,918	1,977	1,868	197	190	198	10.3	9.6	10.6	1,721	1,787	1,670
Lake & Peninsula Borough	784	894	717	72	64	92	9.2	7.2	12.8	712	830	625
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,639	2,696	2,491	487	496	466	18.5	18.4	18.7	2,152	2,200	2,025

* 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.