



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



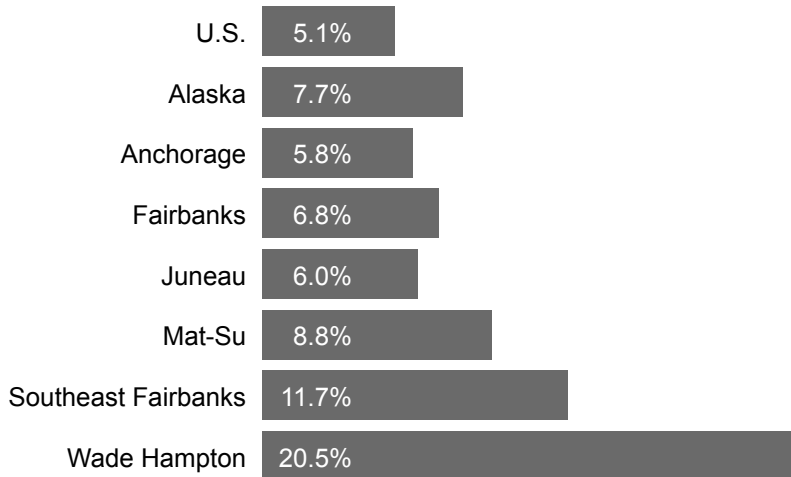
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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January's unemployment rate rises to 7.7 percent

January Unemployment for Selected Areas



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

Alaska's unemployment rate rose eight-tenths of a percentage point in January to 7.7 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development. The increase was typical for January, the low point of the year for employment activity. Over the longer term, unemployment rates have shown a gradual downward trend since the summer of 2004.

Anchorage's January rate of 5.8 percent was the second lowest in the state, behind only the Aleutians West Census Area's 5.4 percent. Groundfish and crab fishery activity in the Aleutians and Kodiak pushed unemployment rates down dramatically in those areas. Kodiak's rate fell from 13.5 percent in December to 7.7 percent in January, and the Aleutian East Borough's rate dropped from 19.0 percent to 8.0 percent.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	preliminary 01/06	revised 12/05	revised 01/05	changes from	
				12/05	01/05
Total Nonfarm Employment	292,600	298,500	288,400	-5,900	4,200
Natural Resources and Mining	10,700	11,000	9,900	-300	800
Oil and Gas	8,900	9,000	8,400	-100	500
Construction	14,900	16,400	14,600	-1,500	300
Manufacturing	10,700	5,900	10,800	4,800	-100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	59,300	61,600	58,300	-2,300	1,000
Retail Trade	34,500	36,200	33,800	-1,700	700
Information	6,800	6,900	6,800	-100	0
Financial Activities	14,400	14,600	14,200	-200	200
Professional and Business Services	22,500	23,300	21,800	-800	700
Education ¹ and Health Services	35,900	36,100	35,100	-200	800
Health Care	26,100	26,200	25,400	-100	700
Leisure and Hospitality	26,600	28,100	25,800	-1,500	800
Accommodation	5,900	6,500	5,700	-600	200
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	17,000	18,000	16,600	-1,000	400
Other Services	11,000	11,300	10,800	-300	200
Government ²	79,900	83,300	80,300	-3,400	-400

¹ Private education only

² Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities. Benchmark date: March 2005

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

Juneau and Fairbanks recorded rates of 6.0 and 6.8 percent, respectively. Both areas have been following the statewide pattern of moderate but consistent unemployment declines, indicating a slightly tighter labor market in the state's population centers.

Preliminary estimates of January payroll employment show a monthly decline of 5,900 jobs. Every major industry sector had lower employment in January except manufacturing, where seafood processing kicked back into gear after a typically inactive December.

A comparison of the January 2006 total job count with January 2005's shows an increase of 4,200 jobs. Natural resources and mining continued to show impressive growth, adding 800 jobs over the period. The oil and gas industry was responsible for most of that increase, but mineral mining also contributed about 200 jobs. Government's decline was due to a timing change for the University of Alaska's winter break. State and local government have both been growing slightly and that pattern is expected to resume when February numbers are released.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

January 2006:	Alaska	6.7%	U.S.	4.7%
December 2005:	Alaska	6.9%	U.S.	4.9%
January 2005:	Alaska	7.1%	U.S.	5.2%

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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		
	01/06	12/05	01/05	01/06	12/05	01/05	01/06	12/05	01/05	01/06	12/05	01/05
Alaska Statewide	337,521	338,850	333,970	26,116	23,418	26,779	7.7%	6.9%	8.0%	311,405	315,432	307,191
Anchorage/Mat-Su (MSA*)	186,032	188,635	183,010	11,839	10,543	11,794	6.4	5.6	6.4	174,193	178,092	171,216
Municipality of Anchorage	150,167	152,431	147,794	8,668	7,765	8,714	5.8	5.1	5.9	141,499	144,666	139,080
Mat-Su Borough	35,865	36,204	35,216	3,171	2,778	3,080	8.8	7.7	8.7	32,694	33,426	32,136
Gulf Coast Region	34,225	33,890	34,813	3,597	3,476	3,763	10.5	10.3	10.8	30,628	30,414	31,050
Kenai Peninsula Borough	23,700	23,897	23,977	2,557	2,249	2,625	10.8	9.4	10.9	21,143	21,648	21,352
Kodiak Island Borough	6,054	5,441	6,135	465	734	501	7.7	13.5	8.2	5,589	4,707	5,634
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,471	4,552	4,701	575	493	637	12.9	10.8	13.6	3,896	4,059	4,064
Interior Region	50,978	52,318	50,047	3,959	3,426	4,091	7.8	6.5	8.2	47,019	48,892	45,956
Denali Borough	795	819	807	134	110	155	16.9	13.4	19.2	661	709	652
Fairbanks North Star Borough (MSA*)	43,721	45,072	43,219	2,993	2,592	3,072	6.8	5.8	7.1	40,728	42,480	40,147
Southwest Fairbanks Census Area	3,526	3,424	2,927	411	356	426	11.7	10.4	14.6	3,115	3,068	2,501
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,936	3,003	3,094	421	368	438	14.3	12.3	14.2	2,515	2,635	2,656
Northern Region	10,841	11,132	10,759	1,160	1,082	1,221	10.7	9.7	11.3	9,681	10,050	9,538
Nome Census Area	3,884	3,939	4,026	504	467	488	13.0	11.9	12.1	3,380	3,472	3,538
North Slope Borough	3,488	3,683	3,681	324	295	359	9.3	8.0	9.8	3,164	3,388	3,322
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,469	3,510	3,052	332	320	374	9.6	9.1	12.3	3,137	3,190	2,678
Southeast Region	37,139	37,477	36,887	3,342	2,931	3,646	9.0	7.8	9.9	33,797	34,546	33,241
Haines Borough	1,022	1,102	1,009	148	135	166	14.5	12.3	16.5	874	967	843
Juneau Borough	17,949	18,008	17,667	1,075	968	1,146	6.0	5.4	6.5	16,874	17,040	16,521
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,011	7,118	7,119	633	547	707	9.0	7.7	9.9	6,378	6,571	6,412
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,372	2,431	2,440	421	387	466	17.7	15.9	19.1	1,951	2,044	1,974
Sitka Borough	4,446	4,447	4,332	304	257	328	6.8	5.8	7.6	4,142	4,190	4,004
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,502	1,475	1,456	321	299	317	21.4	20.3	21.8	1,181	1,176	1,139
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,585	2,618	2,597	389	295	453	15.0	11.3	17.4	2,196	2,323	2,144
Yakutat Borough	252	278	267	51	43	63	20.2	15.5	23.6	201	235	204
Southwest Region	18,305	15,398	18,458	2,219	1,960	2,267	12.1	12.7	12.3	16,086	13,438	16,191
Aleutians East Borough	1,352	548	1,456	108	104	140	8.0	19.0	9.6	1,244	444	1,316
Aleutians West Census Area	3,972	1,900	4,071	214	191	262	5.4	10.1	6.4	3,758	1,709	3,809
Bathel Census Area	7,292	7,248	7,176	979	860	931	13.4	11.9	13.0	6,313	6,388	6,245
Bristol Bay Borough	456	637	448	74	64	66	16.2	10.0	14.7	382	573	382
Dillingham Census Area	1,785	1,854	1,792	210	189	238	11.8	10.2	13.3	1,575	1,665	1,554
Lake and Peninsula Borough	853	595	927	101	73	103	11.8	12.3	11.1	752	522	824
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,595	2,616	2,588	533	479	527	20.5	18.3	20.4	2,062	2,137	2,061

* Metropolitan Statistical Area

Source: Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section • Benchmark: 2005

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.