



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

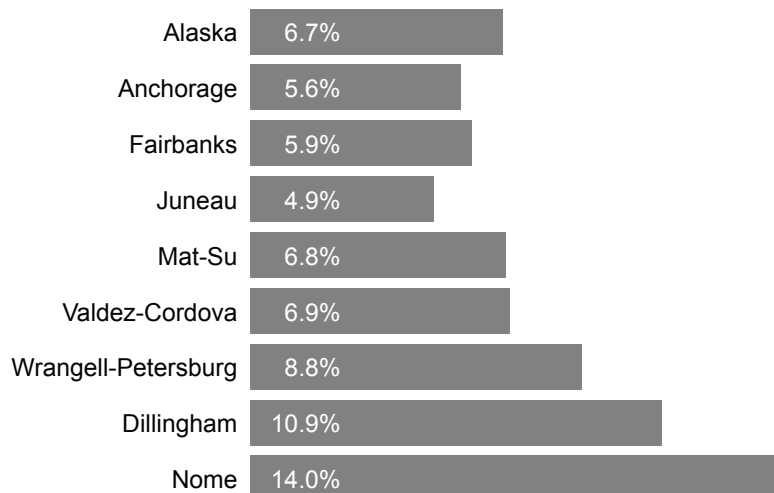
Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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Unemployment rate falls to 6.7 percent in June

June Unemployment for Selected Areas



Alaska's unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point in June to 6.7 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development. Typically, the rate rises at least slightly in June as new graduates and students on summer break begin looking for work. The unusual decline in the unemployment rate is likely due to a slightly later summer break for some school districts.

Anchorage's unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.6 percent, while Fairbanks and Juneau saw small increases to 5.9 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively. The Denali Borough had the state's lowest June unemployment rate at 2.9 percent and the Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest at 25.4 percent.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	Preliminary 06/06	Revised 05/06	Revised 06/05	Changes from	
				05/06	06/05
Total Nonfarm Employment	330,300	317,900	325,500	12,400	4,800
Natural Resources and Mining	11,900	11,700	10,800	200	1,100
Oil and Gas	9,600	9,400	8,500	200	1,100
Construction	21,600	19,200	21,200	2,400	400
Manufacturing	14,400	10,300	14,200	4,100	200
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	67,900	66,000	67,000	1,900	900
Retail Trade	38,300	37,100	37,600	1,200	700
Information	7,000	6,900	7,000	100	0
Financial Activities	15,300	14,800	15,100	500	200
Professional and Business Services	25,600	24,300	25,500	1,300	100
Educational ¹ and Health Services	36,500	36,400	36,100	100	400
Health Care	26,600	26,300	26,100	300	500
Leisure and Hospitality	37,400	32,800	36,700	4,600	700
Accommodation	10,600	8,600	10,600	2,000	0
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	21,800	19,700	21,100	2,100	700
Other Services	11,600	11,600	11,500	0	100
Government ²	81,100	83,900	80,400	-2,800	700

¹ Private education only

² Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates¹

June 2006:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	4.6%
May 2006:	Alaska	7.1%	U.S.	4.6%
June 2005:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	5.0%

¹ All other unemployment rates in this press release are not seasonally adjusted.

Alaska's wage and salary job count increased by 12,400 in June, with most of the increases coming from seasonal sectors such as leisure and hospitality (4,600), seafood processing (3,900) and construction (2,400). The number of government jobs fell by 2,800 in June due to the summer break for the state university system and local schools.

The state's June job count was 4,800 higher than in June 2005 for an over-the-year growth rate of 1.5 percent. Alaska has added jobs at an average rate of about 1.8 percent over the last five years. Although the state continues to add jobs at a moderate rate, the source of the growth has changed, according to Dan Robinson, an economist with the department.

"For the last several years, health care and construction have led the way in job growth, but both industries seem to have cooled in 2006 and the oil and gas industry has picked up the slack," Robinson said.

From June 2005 to June 2006 the oil and gas industry added 1,100 jobs for a strong growth rate of 12.9 percent. Growth in health care has slowed to 1.9 percent after being as high as 6 percent in 2004. Construction growth has also slowed to 1.9 percent after being above 5 percent in 2005.

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

Contact: Dan Robinson, Economist (907) 465-6036
Research and Analysis Web site: almis.labor.state.ak.us

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area

	Labor Force				Unemployment				Rate				Employment			
	06/06	05/06	06/05	06/06	05/06	06/05	06/06	05/06	06/05	06/06	05/06	06/05	06/06	05/06	06/05	
Alaska Statewide	352,403	345,499	344,618	23,533	23,796	23,201	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.9	6.7	328,870	321,703	321,417	
Anchorage/Mat-Su (MSA*)	186,759	185,452	181,617	10,846	11,031	10,604	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	175,913	174,421	171,013	
Municipality of Anchorage	151,325	150,158	147,226	8,429	8,474	8,310	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	142,896	141,684	138,916	
Mat-Su Borough	35,434	35,294	34,391	2,417	2,557	2,294	6.8	7.2	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	33,017	32,737	32,097	
Gulf Coast Region	38,513	35,942	38,864	3,030	3,035	3,015	7.9	8.4	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	35,483	32,907	35,849	
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,791	25,215	26,855	1,929	2,013	2,015	7.2	8.0	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	24,862	23,202	24,840	
Kodiak Island Borough	6,116	5,599	6,185	716	574	559	11.7	10.3	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	5,400	5,025	5,626	
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,606	5,128	5,824	385	448	441	6.9	8.7	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	5,221	4,880	5,383	
Interior Region	55,217	55,040	53,603	3,492	3,559	3,345	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	51,725	51,481	50,258	
Denali Borough	2,536	1,807	2,633	74	78	67	2.9	4.3	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2,462	1,729	2,566	
Fairbanks North Star Borough (MSA*)	45,369	46,245	44,418	2,669	2,705	2,612	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	42,700	43,540	41,806	
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	4,149	3,861	3,332	355	362	298	8.6	9.4	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	3,794	3,499	3,034	
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,163	3,127	3,220	394	414	368	12.5	13.2	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4	2,769	2,713	2,852	
Northern Region	10,814	10,718	10,592	1,284	1,201	1,335	11.9	11.2	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.6	9,530	9,517	9,257	
Nome Census Area	3,975	3,892	3,955	555	512	523	14.0	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	3,420	3,380	3,432	
North Slope Borough	3,757	3,782	3,554	341	324	379	9.1	8.6	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	3,416	3,458	3,175	
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,082	3,044	3,083	388	365	433	12.6	12.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	2,694	2,679	2,650	
Southeast Region	42,826	41,373	41,833	2,563	2,589	2,619	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	40,263	38,784	39,214	
Haines Borough	1,708	1,533	1,621	101	113	107	5.9	7.4	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	1,607	1,420	1,514	
Juneau Borough	18,886	18,975	18,416	921	898	971	4.9	4.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	17,965	18,077	17,445	
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,752	8,094	8,550	485	474	508	5.5	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	8,267	7,620	8,042	
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,599	2,614	2,543	328	337	298	12.6	12.9	11.7	11.7	11.7	11.7	2,271	2,277	2,245	
Sitka Borough	5,141	4,920	4,970	259	269	257	5.0	5.5	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	4,882	4,651	4,713	
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,426	2,123	2,403	190	210	177	7.8	9.9	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	2,236	1,913	2,226	
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,956	2,760	2,956	257	261	277	8.8	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	2,679	2,499	2,679	
Yakutat Borough	378	354	374	22	27	24	5.8	7.6	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	356	327	350	
Southwest Region	18,275	16,971	18,109	2,318	2,379	2,283	12.7	14.0	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.6	15,957	14,592	15,826	
Aleutians East Borough	965	774	985	86	95	108	8.9	12.3	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	879	679	877	
Aleutians West Census Area	2,649	2,305	2,670	179	246	183	6.8	10.7	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	2,470	2,059	2,487	
Bathel Census Area	7,164	6,895	7,080	1,068	1,041	1,004	14.9	15.1	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2	6,096	5,854	6,076	
Bristol Bay Borough	1,312	905	1,576	63	63	57	4.8	7.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,249	842	1,519	
Dillingham Census Area	2,221	1,956	2,236	243	230	249	10.9	11.8	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.1	1,978	1,726	1,987	
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,563	1,360	1,158	70	78	74	4.5	5.7	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	1,493	1,282	1,084	
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,401	2,776	2,404	609	626	608	25.4	22.6	25.3	25.3	25.3	25.3	1,792	2,150	1,796	

* Metropolitan Statistical Area

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