



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



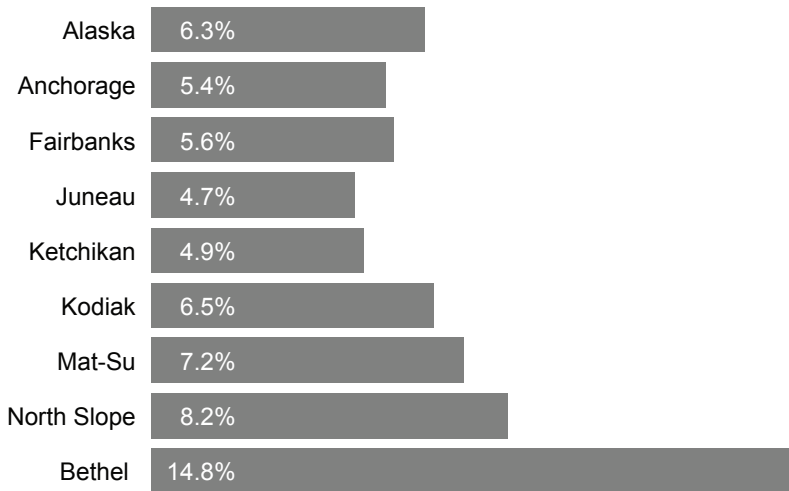
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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Unemployment rate falls to 6.3 percent in July

July Unemployment for Selected Areas



Alaska's unemployment rate fell four-tenths of a percentage point in July to 6.3 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development. In a typical year, the rate falls even more in July – from eight to nine-tenths of a percentage point – but June's rate was unusually low due to small changes in the timing of the academic calendar for some of the state's school districts.

July's 6.3 percent rate is four-tenths of a percent higher than in July 2005. With the exception of June, the unemployment rate has been marginally higher than year-ago levels since March. The numbers are small enough to be of limited significance, however, and the rate remains relatively low by historical standards.

Anchorage's and Juneau's rates each fell two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.4 percent and 4.7 percent, respectively, and Fairbanks' rate fell three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.6 percent. The Wade Hampton Census Area had the state's highest unemployment rate in July at 27.7 percent; Bristol Bay Borough had the lowest at 1.9 percent.

Payroll employment climbed to 337,500 in July, an increase of 7,200 from June. The main contributor to the seasonal jump was seafood processing, which accounted for all 6,600 of manufacturing's increase. Construction also saw a large increase, adding 1,100 jobs in July as the building season neared its annual peak.

The state's July job count was 4,300 higher than in July 2005 for an over-the-year growth rate of 1.3 percent. The oil and gas industry continues to lead the way – from July 2005 to July 2006 the industry added 1,200 jobs and grew by an impressive 14 percent. According to Dan Robinson, an economist with the department, strong oil and gas growth is part of a national trend.

“U.S employment numbers for the oil and gas industry have been growing at about the same rate as Alaska's,” he said. “Strong national and global demand for both oil and natural gas is stimulating exploration and development, and is creating a lot of new jobs for the industry nationwide and in Alaska.”

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	Preliminary 7/06	Revised 6/06	Revised 7/05	Changes from	
				6/06	7/05
Total Nonfarm Employment	337,500	330,300	333,200	7,200	4,300
Natural Resources and Mining	12,200	12,000	11,100	200	1,100
Oil and Gas	10,000	9,800	8,800	200	1,200
Construction	22,500	21,400	22,300	1,100	200
Manufacturing	21,000	14,400	21,400	6,600	-400
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	69,600	68,200	68,600	1,400	1,000
Retail Trade	38,500	38,100	37,900	400	600
Information	7,000	7,000	6,900	0	100
Financial Activities	15,400	15,200	15,200	200	200
Professional and Business Services	25,900	25,900	25,600	0	300
Educational ¹ and Health Services	36,700	36,600	35,700	100	1,000
Health Care	26,600	26,600	26,000	0	600
Leisure and Hospitality	38,800	37,000	38,400	1,800	400
Accommodation	11,400	10,600	11,400	800	0
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	22,100	21,300	21,700	800	400
Other Services	11,900	11,700	11,700	200	200
Government ²	76,500	80,900	76,300	-4,400	200

¹ Private education only

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

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates¹

July 2006:	Alaska	7.0%	U.S.	4.8%
June 2006:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	4.6%
July 2005:	Alaska	6.7%	U.S.	5.0%

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

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

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Research and Analysis Web site: almis.labor.state.ak.us

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	7/06	6/06	7/05	7/06	6/06	7/05	7/06	6/06	7/05	7/06	6/06	7/05
Alaska Statewide	357,524	352,403	348,848	22,586	23,533	20,731	6.3	6.7	5.9	334,938	328,870	328,117
Anchorage/Mat-Su (MSA*)	186,324	186,759	180,433	10,711	10,846	9,698	5.7	5.8	5.4	175,613	175,913	170,735
Municipality of Anchorage	150,798	151,325	146,208	8,146	8,429	7,518	5.4	5.6	5.1	142,652	142,896	138,690
Mat-Su Borough	35,526	35,434	34,225	2,565	2,417	2,180	7.2	6.8	6.4	32,961	33,017	32,045
Gulf Coast Region	39,935	38,513	39,816	2,612	3,030	2,545	6.5	7.9	6.4	37,323	35,483	37,271
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,594	26,791	27,547	1,827	1,929	1,773	6.6	7.2	6.4	25,767	24,862	25,774
Kodiak Island Borough	6,440	6,116	6,342	419	716	387	6.5	11.7	6.1	6,021	5,400	5,955
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,901	5,606	5,927	366	385	385	6.2	6.9	6.5	5,535	5,221	5,542
Interior Region	56,092	55,217	54,606	3,399	3,492	2,974	6.1	6.3	5.4	52,693	51,725	51,632
Denali Borough	2,962	2,536	2,773	72	74	59	2.4	2.9	2.1	2,890	2,462	2,714
Fairbanks North Star Borough (MSA*)	46,362	45,369	45,288	2,604	2,669	2,323	5.6	5.9	5.1	43,758	42,700	42,965
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,996	4,149	3,468	352	355	273	8.8	8.6	7.9	3,644	3,794	3,195
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,772	3,163	3,077	371	394	319	13.4	12.5	10.4	2,401	2,769	2,758
Northern Region	10,595	10,814	10,350	1,250	1,284	1,204	11.8	11.9	11.6	9,345	9,530	9,146
Nome Census Area	3,592	3,975	3,563	536	555	472	14.9	14.0	13.2	3,056	3,420	3,091
North Slope Borough	3,918	3,757	3,635	322	341	360	8.2	9.1	9.9	3,596	3,416	3,275
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,085	3,082	3,152	392	388	372	12.7	12.6	11.8	2,693	2,694	2,780
Southeast Region	44,858	42,826	44,023	2,450	2,563	2,336	5.5	6.0	5.3	42,408	40,263	41,687
Haines Borough	2,279	1,708	2,249	97	101	97	4.3	5.9	4.3	2,182	1,607	2,152
Juneau Borough	19,111	18,886	18,702	896	921	891	4.7	4.9	4.8	18,215	17,965	17,811
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9,454	8,752	9,094	459	485	435	4.9	5.5	4.8	8,995	8,267	8,659
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,599	2,599	2,650	312	328	265	12.0	12.6	10.0	2,287	2,271	2,385
Sitka Borough	5,089	5,141	5,071	241	259	229	4.7	5.0	4.5	4,848	4,882	4,842
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,452	2,426	2,353	175	190	155	7.1	7.8	6.6	2,277	2,236	2,198
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	3,495	2,936	3,541	247	257	245	7.1	8.8	6.9	3,248	2,679	3,296
Yakutat Borough	379	378	363	23	22	19	6.1	5.8	5.2	356	356	344
Southwest Region	19,722	18,275	19,619	2,166	2,318	1,976	11.0	12.7	10.1	17,556	15,957	17,643
Aleutians East Borough	1,318	965	1,342	83	86	89	6.3	8.9	6.6	1,235	879	1,253
Aleutians West Census Area	3,074	2,649	3,127	144	179	141	4.7	6.8	4.5	2,930	2,470	2,986
Bathel Census Area	6,831	7,164	6,766	1,009	1,068	877	14.8	14.9	13.0	5,822	6,096	5,889
Bristol Bay Borough	2,733	1,312	2,587	53	63	48	1.9	4.8	1.9	2,680	1,249	2,539
Dillingham Census Area	2,436	2,221	2,418	214	243	216	8.8	10.9	8.9	2,222	1,978	2,202
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,163	1,563	1,238	68	70	68	5.7	4.5	5.5	1,115	1,493	1,170
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,147	2,401	2,141	595	609	537	27.7	25.4	25.1	1,552	1,792	1,604

* 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.