



# MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



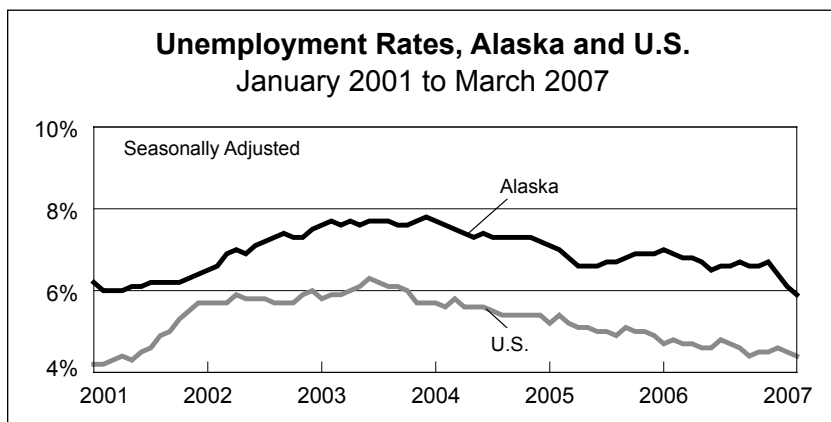
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Click Bishop

April 20, 2007

No. 07-39

## Unemployment rate falls to 5.9 percent in March



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point in March to 5.9 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

After hovering between 6.5 percent and 7 percent during 2006, the rate has fallen every month so far in 2007. The 5.9 percent rate is the lowest since September 1999, although the error range for the March number is plus or minus eight-tenths of a percentage point.

The Aleutians West Census Area had the state's lowest unemployment rate in March at 3.2 percent and the Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest at 19.9 percent (rates for boroughs and census areas are not seasonally adjusted).

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 3,400 in March, led by seasonal hires in construction, trade and transportation, leisure and hospitality, and government.

Over the year, payroll employment was up 4,100 jobs. Oil and gas employment rose by 1,600, a 17 percent jump. Leisure and hospitality jobs increased by 800 and trade, transportation and utilities rose by 700. Construction employment was down 400 over the year and seafood processing was down 200.

### Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment<sup>1</sup>

	Preliminary 3/07	Revised 2/07	Revised 3/06	Changes from	
				2/07	3/06
Total Nonfarm Employment	306,400	303,000	302,300	3,400	4,100
Natural Resources and Mining	13,300	13,200	11,500	100	1,800
Oil and Gas	11,000	10,900	9,400	100	1,600
Construction	14,900	14,300	15,300	600	-400
Manufacturing	12,300	12,000	12,500	300	-200
Seafood Processing	8,700	8,500	8,900	200	-200
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	60,700	59,800	60,000	900	700
Retail Trade	34,200	33,900	34,000	300	200
Information	7,000	6,900	7,000	100	0
Financial Activities	14,600	14,500	14,600	100	0
Professional and Business Services	23,800	23,600	23,200	200	600
Educational <sup>2</sup> and Health Services	37,400	37,500	37,000	-100	400
Health Care	26,700	26,700	26,300	0	400
Leisure and Hospitality	28,000	27,400	27,200	600	800
Accommodations	6,400	6,100	6,100	300	300
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	17,700	17,400	17,300	300	400
Other Services	11,300	11,300	11,200	0	100
Government <sup>3</sup>	83,100	82,500	82,800	600	300

<sup>1</sup> Not seasonally adjusted

<sup>2</sup> Private education only

<sup>3</sup> Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.

### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

March 2007:	Alaska	5.9%	U.S.	4.4%
February 2007:	Alaska	6.1%	U.S.	4.5%
March 2006:	Alaska	6.8%	U.S.	4.7%

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

### Seasonal Adjustment

Seasonal adjustment is a statistical technique that eliminates the influences of seasonal weather changes, holidays, the opening and closing of schools, and other recurring seasonal events from economic time series such as unemployment rates. Eliminating seasonal fluctuations makes it easier to compare data from month to month and identify changes in trends.

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Research and Analysis Web site: [almis.labor.state.ak.us](http://almis.labor.state.ak.us)

## Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	3/07	2/07	3/06	3/07	2/07	3/06	3/07	2/07	3/06	3/07	2/07	3/06
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	342,815	342,990	341,866	22,693	24,998	25,824	6.6	7.3	7.6	320,122	317,992	316,042
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	189,052	189,768	187,618	10,699	11,676	12,052	5.7	6.2	6.4	178,353	178,092	175,566
Municipality of Anchorage	151,245	151,814	150,007	7,516	8,295	8,524	5.0	5.5	5.7	143,729	143,519	141,483
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	37,807	37,954	37,611	3,183	3,381	3,528	8.4	8.9	9.4	34,624	34,573	34,083
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	35,456	35,106	35,181	3,115	3,496	3,405	8.8	10.0	9.7	32,341	31,610	31,776
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,394	24,282	24,254	2,222	2,517	2,475	9.1	10.4	10.2	22,172	21,765	21,779
Kodiak Island Borough	6,308	6,164	6,203	377	400	399	6.0	6.5	6.4	5,931	5,764	5,804
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,754	4,660	4,724	516	579	531	10.9	12.4	11.2	4,238	4,081	4,193
<b>Interior Region</b>	50,774	50,959	51,558	3,393	3,763	3,887	6.7	7.4	7.5	47,381	47,196	47,671
Denali Borough	924	892	896	115	132	111	12.4	14.8	12.4	809	760	785
Fairbanks North Star Borough	44,178	44,097	44,599	2,513	2,774	2,940	5.7	6.3	6.6	41,665	41,323	41,659
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,120	3,336	3,300	357	401	409	11.4	12.0	12.4	2,763	2,935	2,891
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,552	2,634	2,763	408	456	427	16.0	17.3	15.5	2,144	2,178	2,336
<b>Northern Region</b>	11,384	11,328	10,900	917	1,001	1,157	8.1	8.8	10.6	10,467	10,327	9,743
Nome Census Area	3,960	3,912	4,010	390	418	527	9.8	10.7	13.1	3,570	3,494	3,483
North Slope Borough	4,527	4,556	3,964	228	251	288	5.0	5.5	7.3	4,299	4,305	3,676
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,897	2,860	2,926	299	332	342	10.3	11.6	11.7	2,598	2,528	2,584
<b>Southeast Region</b>	37,854	37,386	37,848	2,718	3,058	3,158	7.2	8.2	8.3	35,136	34,328	34,690
Haines Borough	1,050	1,017	1,066	126	138	160	12.0	13.6	15.0	924	879	906
Juneau Borough	18,194	18,155	18,119	836	959	1,021	4.6	5.3	5.6	17,358	17,196	17,098
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,492	7,267	7,402	519	583	582	6.9	8.0	7.9	6,973	6,684	6,820
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,165	2,203	2,340	360	403	428	16.5	18.3	18.3	1,825	1,800	1,912
Sitka Borough	4,447	4,352	4,485	218	255	284	4.9	5.9	6.3	4,229	4,097	4,201
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,531	1,591	1,516	295	328	320	19.3	20.6	21.1	1,236	1,263	1,196
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,698	2,557	2,647	338	360	317	12.5	14.1	12.0	2,360	2,197	2,330
Yakutat Borough	257	244	273	26	32	46	10.1	13.1	16.8	231	212	227
<b>Southwest Region</b>	18,297	18,442	18,763	1,852	2,002	2,166	10.1	10.9	11.5	16,445	16,440	16,597
Aleutians East Borough	1,291	1,363	1,309	71	78	91	5.5	5.7	7.0	1,220	1,285	1,218
Aleutians West Census Area	4,345	4,418	4,344	140	149	158	3.2	3.4	3.6	4,205	4,269	4,186
Bathel Census Area	6,804	6,872	6,989	820	896	965	12.1	13.0	13.8	5,984	5,976	6,024
Bristol Bay Borough	432	472	501	60	63	76	13.9	13.3	15.2	372	409	425
Dillingham Census Area	2,039	1,978	2,097	184	199	224	9.0	10.1	10.7	1,855	1,779	1,873
Lake and Peninsula Borough	842	801	893	71	80	84	8.4	10.0	9.4	771	721	809
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,544	2,538	2,630	506	537	568	19.9	21.2	21.6	2,038	2,001	2,062

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

Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted, such as those in this table, should not be compared with those that are, such as the statewide rates on the first page of this release. 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.