



# MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



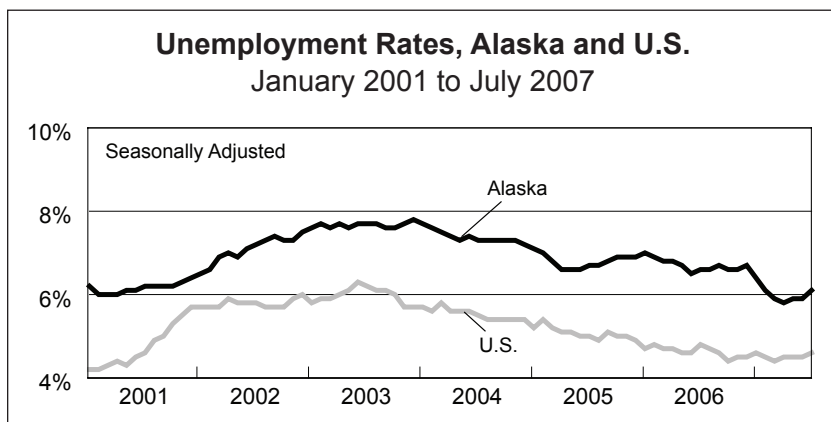
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Click Bishop

August 17, 2007

No. 08-08

## Unemployment rate at 6.1 percent in July



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point in July to 6.1 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The comparable national rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.6 percent.

The state's unemployment rate has hovered around 6 percent since February, which is down from 2006's average rate of 6.7 percent. The state has seen modest employment growth over the year, but a larger percentage decline in unemployment.

The Bristol Bay Borough had the state's lowest July unemployment rate at 1.5 percent (rates for boroughs and census areas aren't seasonally adjusted). The Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest at 24.5 percent. Unemployment rates throughout the state were generally lower in July than in July 2006.

Payroll employment rose by 5,900 in July, led by a large seasonal increase in seafood processing. July is typically the busiest season of the year for processing the state's huge salmon harvest.

Over-the-year employment growth of 1.2 percent is similar to what estimates have shown throughout the first half of 2007. Barring some unforeseen shock to the economy, 2007 looks to be the 20th consecutive year of employment growth for the state.

According to Dan Robinson, a Department of Labor economist, July's unemployment rate and payroll employment estimates indicate that the state's labor market is generally favorable for job seekers.

"Alaska continues to generate modest job growth and the number of unemployed people is falling. Overall, the demand for workers appears to have grown a little faster than the supply in 2007," Robinson said.

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

	Preliminary 7/07	Revised 6/07	Revised 7/06	Changes from	
				6/07	7/06
Total Nonfarm Employment	341,500	335,600	337,600	5,900	3,900
Natural Resources and Mining	13,900	13,700	12,900	200	1,000
Oil and Gas	11,400	11,200	10,400	200	1,000
Construction	21,500	20,700	21,400	800	100
Manufacturing	22,200	16,400	22,300	5,800	-100
Seafood Processing	18,100	12,300	18,200	5,800	-100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	69,700	68,800	68,900	900	800
Retail Trade	38,100	37,900	37,600	200	500
Information	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0
Financial Activities	15,300	15,300	15,400	0	-100
Professional and Business Services	27,000	27,000	25,900	0	1,100
Educational <sup>2</sup> and Health Services	37,700	37,900	37,200	-200	500
Health Care	27,100	27,100	26,900	0	200
Leisure and Hospitality	39,600	38,500	38,700	1,100	900
Accommodations	11,600	10,900	11,700	700	-100
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	22,600	22,300	21,700	300	900
Other Services	11,600	11,600	11,500	0	100
Government <sup>3</sup>	76,000	78,700	76,400	-2,700	-400

<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

July 2007:	Alaska	6.1%	U.S.	4.6%
June 2007:	Alaska	5.9%	U.S.	4.5%
July 2006:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	4.8%

Sources for graph and tables: Alaska Department of Labor and 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](http://almis.labor.state.ak.us)

## Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	7/07	6/07	7/06	7/07	6/07	7/06	7/07	6/07	7/06	7/07	6/07	7/06
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	357,111	352,582	356,629	19,230	21,379	21,876	5.4	6.1	6.1	337,881	331,203	334,753
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	187,798	187,948	185,856	9,337	10,321	10,576	5.0	5.5	5.7	178,461	177,627	175,280
Municipality of Anchorage	150,731	150,826	149,103	6,915	7,682	7,850	4.6	5.1	5.3	143,816	143,144	141,253
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	37,067	37,122	36,753	2,422	2,639	2,726	6.5	7.1	7.4	34,645	34,483	34,027
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	39,962	39,546	40,181	2,292	2,594	2,516	5.7	6.6	6.3	37,670	36,952	37,665
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,497	27,390	27,625	1,619	1,848	1,794	5.9	6.7	6.5	25,878	25,542	25,831
Kodiak Island Borough	6,329	6,194	6,424	349	386	382	5.5	6.2	5.9	5,980	5,808	6,042
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,136	5,962	6,132	324	360	340	5.3	6.0	5.5	5,812	5,602	5,792
<b>Interior Region</b>	54,623	53,674	54,425	2,786	3,150	3,238	5.1	5.9	5.9	51,837	50,524	51,187
Denali Borough	2,886	2,735	2,938	60	64	68	2.1	2.3	2.3	2,826	2,671	2,870
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,955	45,117	45,431	2,131	2,434	2,491	4.6	5.4	5.5	43,824	42,683	42,940
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,107	3,197	3,292	263	289	338	8.5	9.0	10.3	2,844	2,908	2,954
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,675	2,625	2,764	332	363	341	12.4	13.8	12.3	2,343	2,262	2,423
<b>Northern Region</b>	10,743	11,009	10,689	1,005	1,049	1,174	9.4	9.5	11.0	9,738	9,960	9,515
Nome Census Area	3,386	3,697	3,573	427	448	509	12.6	12.1	14.2	2,959	3,249	3,064
North Slope Borough	4,420	4,434	4,051	261	270	295	5.9	6.1	7.3	4,159	4,164	3,756
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,937	2,878	3,065	317	331	370	10.8	11.5	12.1	2,620	2,547	2,695
<b>Southeast Region</b>	44,107	41,702	44,906	1,979	2,220	2,311	4.5	5.3	5.1	42,128	39,482	42,595
Haines Borough	2,228	1,561	2,306	71	79	93	3.2	5.1	4.0	2,157	1,482	2,213
Juneau Borough	18,717	18,572	19,073	715	810	862	3.8	4.4	4.5	18,002	17,762	18,211
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9,263	8,524	9,385	360	417	426	3.9	4.9	4.5	8,903	8,107	8,959
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,371	2,381	2,509	252	269	286	10.6	11.3	11.4	2,119	2,112	2,223
Sitka Borough	5,072	4,924	5,149	218	222	233	4.3	4.5	4.5	4,854	4,702	4,916
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,433	2,366	2,440	144	166	160	5.9	7.0	6.6	2,289	2,200	2,280
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	3,677	3,031	3,683	205	238	230	5.6	7.9	6.2	3,472	2,793	3,453
Yakutat Borough	346	343	361	14	19	21	4.0	5.5	5.8	332	324	340
<b>Southwest Region</b>	19,878	18,703	20,571	1,830	2,045	2,061	9.2	10.9	10.0	18,048	16,658	18,510
Aleutians East Borough	1,419	1,060	1,480	71	83	88	5.0	7.8	5.9	1,348	977	1,392
Aleutians West Census Area	3,229	2,856	3,333	117	168	135	3.6	5.9	4.1	3,112	2,688	3,198
Bethel Census Area	6,541	7,041	6,890	857	923	963	13.1	13.1	14.0	5,684	6,118	5,927
Bristol Bay Borough	2,703	1,932	2,746	41	59	47	1.5	3.1	1.7	2,662	1,873	2,699
Dillingham Census Area	2,434	2,195	2,506	172	204	201	7.1	9.3	8.0	2,262	1,991	2,305
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,403	1,218	1,397	46	60	60	3.3	4.9	4.3	1,357	1,158	1,337
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,149	2,401	2,219	526	548	567	24.5	22.8	25.6	1,623	1,853	1,652

Note: 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.

<sup>1</sup> Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

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