



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



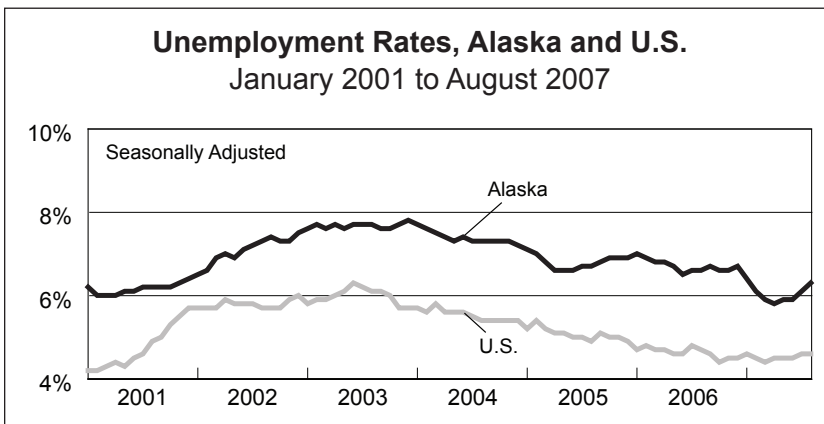
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Click Bishop

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Unemployment rate at 6.3 percent in August



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point in August to 6.3 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The comparable national rate was unchanged at 4.6 percent.

It was the second straight month of small increases for the Alaska rate, but with an error range of plus or minus eight-tenths of a percentage point, the numbers don't support strong conclusions about a change in the general trend. The state's unemployment rate has been gradually falling since early 2004.

The Denali Borough had the state's lowest August unemployment rate at 1.8 percent (rates for boroughs and census areas are not seasonally adjusted). The Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest at 20.3 percent.

Regionally, the Southwest and Northern regions continued to record noticeably higher unemployment rates than the rest of the state at 9.7 percent and 8.6 percent, respectively. The Northern region would have a significantly higher unemployment rate if not for the North Slope Borough's strong oil-related growth and relatively low unemployment rate (5.5 percent). The region also includes the Nome Census Area and the Northwest Arctic Borough.

Payroll employment estimates showed over-the-year growth of 4,700 jobs in August. The financial activities sector, which has seen large declines nationally as a result of the housing slowdown, was the only major category with over-the-year job losses.

The strongest growth continues to come from the oil and gas industry, which has added 1,100 jobs since last August. Oil and gas activity also accounts for some of the growth in the professional and business services sector, where engineering firms and other technical support employers are categorized.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 8/07	Revised 7/07	Revised 8/06	Changes from	
				7/07	8/06
Total Nonfarm Employment	342,000	342,400	337,100	-400	4,700
Natural Resources and Mining	14,200	14,100	12,900	100	1,300
Oil and Gas	11,600	11,500	10,500	100	1,100
Construction	21,700	21,600	21,600	100	100
Manufacturing	20,500	22,500	20,200	-2,000	300
Seafood Processing	16,300	18,200	16,100	-1,900	200
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	69,800	69,700	68,900	100	900
Retail Trade	38,000	38,100	37,300	-100	700
Information	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0
Financial Activities	15,400	15,400	15,500	0	-100
Professional and Business Services	26,800	27,000	25,800	-200	1,000
Educational ² and Health Services	37,700	37,600	37,300	100	400
Health Care	27,300	27,000	26,900	300	400
Leisure and Hospitality	39,500	39,600	38,700	-100	800
Accommodations	11,500	11,600	11,500	-100	0
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	22,600	22,700	21,900	-100	700
Other Services	11,500	11,500	11,500	0	0
Government ³	77,800	76,400	77,800	1,400	0

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Private education only

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

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

August 2007:	Alaska	6.3%	U.S.	4.6%
July 2007:	Alaska	6.1%	U.S.	4.6%
August 2006:	Alaska	6.6%	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

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

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	8/07	7/07	8/06	8/07	7/07	8/06	8/07	7/07	8/06	8/07	7/07	8/06
Alaska Statewide	352,751	357,111	352,576	18,974	19,230	20,376	5.4	5.4	5.8	333,777	337,881	332,200
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	185,317	187,798	183,238	9,364	9,337	9,926	5.1	5.0	5.4	175,953	178,461	173,312
Municipality of Anchorage	148,902	150,731	147,121	7,107	6,915	7,454	4.8	4.6	5.1	141,795	143,816	139,667
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	36,415	37,067	36,117	2,257	2,422	2,472	6.2	6.5	6.8	34,158	34,645	33,645
Gulf Coast Region	39,789	39,962	39,936	2,192	2,292	2,334	5.5	5.7	5.8	37,597	37,670	37,602
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,399	27,497	27,383	1,581	1,619	1,658	5.8	5.9	6.1	25,818	25,878	25,725
Kodiak Island Borough	6,382	6,329	6,386	302	349	358	4.7	5.5	5.6	6,080	5,980	6,028
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,008	6,136	6,167	309	324	318	5.1	5.3	5.2	5,699	5,812	5,849
Interior Region	53,884	54,623	55,106	2,690	2,786	3,017	5.0	5.1	5.5	51,194	51,837	52,089
Denali Borough	2,892	2,886	2,960	53	60	62	1.8	2.1	2.1	2,839	2,826	2,898
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,098	45,955	45,998	2,072	2,131	2,329	4.6	4.6	5.1	43,026	43,824	43,669
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,155	3,107	3,325	248	263	316	7.9	8.5	9.5	2,907	2,844	3,009
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,739	2,675	2,823	317	332	310	11.6	12.4	11.0	2,422	2,343	2,513
Northern Region	11,128	10,743	10,942	957	1,005	1,071	8.6	9.4	9.8	10,171	9,738	9,871
Nome Census Area	3,591	3,386	3,705	411	427	464	11.4	12.6	12.5	3,180	2,959	3,241
North Slope Borough	4,560	4,420	4,173	249	261	275	5.5	5.9	6.6	4,311	4,159	4,189
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,977	2,937	3,064	297	317	332	10.0	10.8	10.8	2,680	2,620	2,732
Southeast Region	44,103	44,107	44,442	1,968	1,979	2,168	4.5	4.5	4.9	42,135	42,128	42,274
Haines Borough	2,317	2,228	2,337	75	71	83	3.2	3.2	3.6	2,242	2,157	2,254
Juneau Borough	18,725	18,717	18,714	728	715	788	3.9	3.8	4.2	17,997	18,002	17,926
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9,027	9,263	9,183	360	360	422	4.0	3.9	4.6	8,667	8,903	8,761
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,221	2,371	2,431	230	252	283	10.4	10.6	11.6	1,991	2,119	2,148
Sitka Borough	5,218	5,072	5,211	227	218	221	4.4	4.3	4.2	4,991	4,854	4,990
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,424	2,433	2,401	134	144	146	5.5	5.9	6.1	2,290	2,289	2,255
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	3,797	3,677	3,802	198	205	205	5.2	5.6	5.4	3,599	3,472	3,597
Yakutat Borough	374	346	363	16	14	20	4.3	4.0	5.5	358	332	343
Southwest Region	18,531	19,878	18,911	1,803	1,830	1,861	9.7	9.2	9.8	16,728	18,048	17,050
Aleutians East Borough	1,226	1,419	1,263	78	71	85	6.4	5.0	6.7	1,148	1,348	1,178
Aleutians West Census Area	3,136	3,229	3,219	118	117	131	3.8	3.6	4.1	3,018	3,112	3,088
Bethel Census Area	6,375	6,541	6,601	839	857	858	13.2	13.1	13.0	5,536	5,684	5,743
Bristol Bay Borough	1,618	2,703	1,653	37	41	41	2.3	1.5	2.5	1,581	2,662	1,612
Dillingham Census Area	2,289	2,434	2,350	171	172	195	7.5	7.1	8.3	2,118	2,262	2,155
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,394	1,403	1,349	55	46	49	3.9	3.3	3.6	1,339	1,357	1,300
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,493	2,149	2,476	505	526	502	20.3	24.5	20.3	1,988	1,623	1,974

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.

¹ 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