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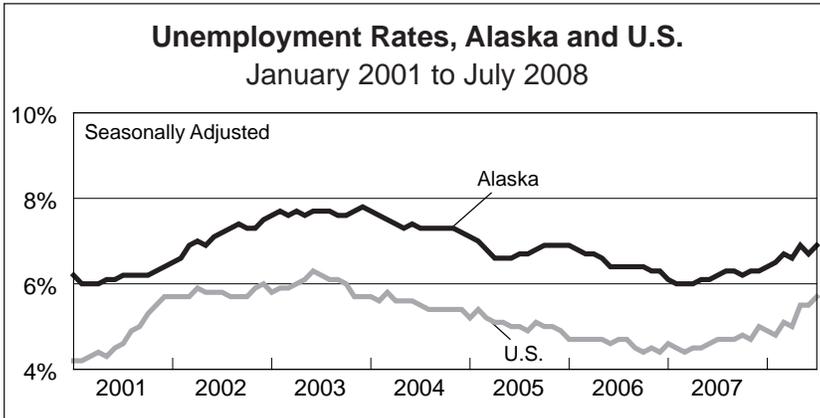
## Press Release

Aug. 15, 2008

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### Unemployment rate at 6.9 percent in July



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point in July to 6.9 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. June's rate was revised to 6.7 percent from the preliminary rate of 6.8 percent.

Alaska's rate has shown no clear trend over the last four months, but July's rate was up seven-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

The U.S. unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point in July to 5.7 percent and was a full percentage point higher than in July 2007.

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

	Preliminary 7/08	Revised 6/08	Revised 7/07	Changes from 6/08	7/07
Total Nonfarm Employment	342,300	338,700	339,400	3,600	2,900
Natural Resources and Mining	15,200	15,100	14,100	100	1,100
Oil and Gas	12,800	12,600	11,500	200	1,300
Construction	20,500	19,900	20,700	600	-200
Manufacturing	21,500	15,600	22,200	5,900	-700
Seafood Processing	17,200	11,400	17,900	5,800	-700
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	69,900	68,800	69,100	1,100	800
Retail Trade	38,700	38,200	38,100	500	600
Information	7,000	6,900	7,000	100	0
Financial Activities	15,500	15,400	15,500	100	0
Professional and Business Services	27,100	27,100	26,400	0	700
Educational <sup>2</sup> and Health Services	37,000	37,300	36,700	-300	300
Health Care	27,000	27,100	26,800	-100	200
Leisure and Hospitality	39,300	38,700	39,600	600	-300
Accommodations	11,900	11,300	12,000	600	-100
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	22,100	22,100	22,100	0	0
Other Services	11,700	11,700	11,700	0	0
Government <sup>3</sup>	77,600	82,200	76,400	-4,600	1,200

<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 2008:	Alaska	6.9%	U.S.	5.7%
June 2008:	Alaska	6.7%	U.S.	5.5%
July 2007:	Alaska	6.2%	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

The Bristol Bay Borough had the state's lowest unemployment rate in July at 1.5 percent and the Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest at 26.8 percent (rates for boroughs and census areas are not seasonally adjusted).

Anchorage's July unemployment rate was 5.3 percent and the Mat-Su Borough's was 7.3 percent. Both rates were up about half a percentage point over the year. Fairbanks and Juneau saw similar over-the-year increases to 5.5 percent and 4.3 percent, respectively.

Alaska added 3,600 payroll jobs from June to July, primarily due to a large seasonal increase in seafood processing employment. Over-the-year growth of 2,900 remains modest, but remarkably consistent. Strong gains in oil and gas have more than compensated for lower job counts in seafood processing, construction, and leisure and hospitality.

While the country as a whole has shed jobs every month so far in 2008, Alaska is one of a handful of states that has continued to see employment growth. The state's 1.3 percent growth rate from December to June, the most recent month for which data from all 50 states are available, trails only Montana and Texas over that period.

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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		
	7/08	6/08	7/07	7/08	6/08	7/07	7/08	6/08	7/07	7/08	6/08	7/07
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	369,602	366,857	361,702	22,690	25,038	20,200	6.1	6.8	5.6	346,912	341,819	341,502
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	195,389	196,420	188,672	11,146	12,165	9,868	5.7	6.2	5.2	184,243	184,255	178,804
Municipality of Anchorage	155,429	156,195	150,129	8,238	8,994	7,283	5.3	5.8	4.9	147,191	147,201	142,846
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	39,960	40,225	38,543	2,908	3,171	2,585	7.3	7.9	6.7	37,052	37,054	35,958
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	41,103	41,175	40,983	2,615	3,100	2,395	6.4	7.5	5.8	38,488	38,075	38,588
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,353	28,189	28,169	1,890	2,063	1,694	6.7	7.3	6.0	26,463	26,126	26,475
Kodiak Island Borough	6,382	6,781	6,454	345	630	358	5.4	9.3	5.5	6,037	6,151	6,096
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,368	6,205	6,360	380	407	343	6.0	6.6	5.4	5,988	5,798	6,017
<b>Interior Region</b>	56,194	55,869	55,422	3,323	3,636	2,883	5.9	6.5	5.2	52,871	52,233	52,539
Denali Borough	2,789	2,724	2,968	61	68	63	2.2	2.5	2.1	2,728	2,656	2,905
Fairbanks North Star Borough	47,164	46,732	46,057	2,597	2,852	2,217	5.5	6.1	4.8	44,567	43,880	43,840
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,667	3,697	3,761	280	311	265	7.6	8.4	7.0	3,387	3,386	3,496
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,574	2,716	2,636	385	405	338	15.0	14.9	12.8	2,189	2,311	2,298
<b>Northern Region</b>	11,604	11,684	11,174	1,083	1,146	1,059	9.3	9.8	9.5	10,521	10,538	10,115
Nome Census Area	3,650	3,716	3,475	481	494	444	13.2	13.3	12.8	3,169	3,222	3,031
North Slope Borough	4,879	4,901	4,636	231	256	277	4.7	5.2	6.0	4,648	4,645	4,359
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,075	3,067	3,063	371	396	338	12.1	12.9	11.0	2,704	2,671	2,725
<b>Southeast Region</b>	44,850	42,420	45,135	2,333	2,597	2,069	5.2	6.1	4.6	42,517	39,823	43,066
Haines Borough	2,285	1,542	2,291	96	117	72	4.2	7.6	3.1	2,189	1,425	2,219
Juneau Borough	19,239	18,942	19,286	825	933	745	4.3	4.9	3.9	18,414	18,009	18,541
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9,641	8,881	9,701	430	485	378	4.5	5.5	3.9	9,211	8,396	9,323
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,410	2,454	2,396	303	294	265	12.6	12.0	11.1	2,107	2,160	2,131
Sitka Borough	4,992	4,826	5,067	254	277	232	5.1	5.7	4.6	4,738	4,549	4,835
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,580	2,513	2,621	151	176	153	5.9	7.0	5.8	2,429	2,337	2,468
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	3,329	2,911	3,403	253	293	209	7.6	10.1	6.1	3,076	2,618	3,194
Yakutat Borough	374	351	370	21	22	15	5.6	6.3	4.1	353	329	355
<b>Southwest Region</b>	20,460	19,286	20,318	2,188	2,393	1,927	10.7	12.4	9.5	18,272	16,893	18,391
Aleutians East Borough	1,359	1,070	1,380	87	98	73	6.4	9.2	5.3	1,272	972	1,307
Aleutians West Census Area	3,214	2,927	3,179	150	199	122	4.7	6.8	3.8	3,064	2,728	3,057
Bethel Census Area	6,929	7,162	6,822	1,044	1,108	909	15.1	15.5	13.3	5,885	6,054	5,913
Bristol Bay Borough	2,839	1,799	2,868	42	48	42	1.5	2.7	1.5	2,797	1,751	2,826
Dillingham Census Area	2,485	2,141	2,476	199	227	178	8.0	10.6	7.2	2,286	1,914	2,298
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,416	1,496	1,402	72	83	50	5.1	5.5	3.6	1,344	1,413	1,352
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,218	2,691	2,191	594	630	553	26.8	23.4	25.2	1,624	2,061	1,638

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