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STATE OF ALASKA

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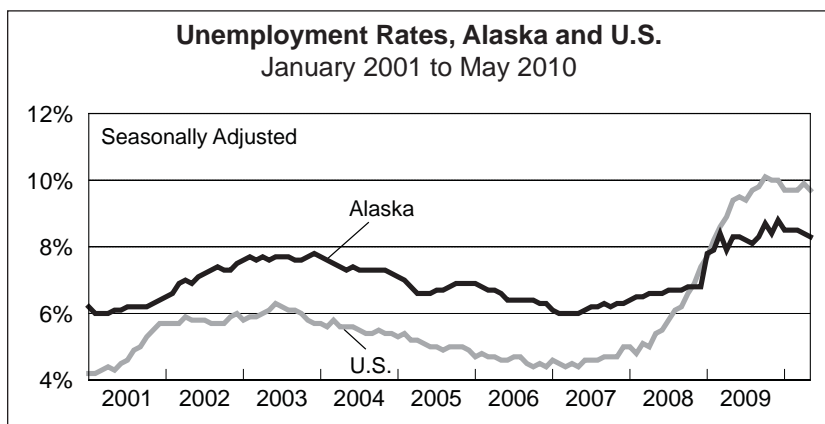
Press Release

June 18, 2010

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 10-43

Unemployment rate at 8.3 percent in May



Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 5/10	Revised 4/10	Revised 5/09	Year-over-year change	
				5/09	90% confidence interval ²
Total Nonfarm Employment ³	326,300	314,900	322,900	3,400	-3,983 10,783
Mining and Logging	17,200	15,600	15,500	1,700	907 2,493
Oil and Gas	12,200	12,200	13,100	-900	- -
Construction	17,000	14,700	16,700	300	-2,283 2,883
Manufacturing	12,600	10,700	10,400	2,200	1,206 3,194
Seafood Processing	6,600	7,700	6,600	0	- -
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	64,400	61,700	64,700	-300	-2,672 2,072
Retail Trade	37,100	35,600	36,000	1,100	-928 3,128
Information	6,400	6,300	6,600	-200	-781 381
Financial Activities	14,000	14,000	14,600	-600	-2,543 1,343
Professional and Business Services	24,500	23,900	26,700	-2,200	-3,993 -407
Educational ⁴ and Health Services	40,100	40,100	39,000	1,100	-168 2,368
Health Care	28,900	29,000	27,900	1,000	- -
Leisure and Hospitality	33,000	29,300	33,100	-100	-2,137 1,937
Accommodations	8,100	6,600	8,300	-200	- -
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	19,900	18,400	19,800	100	- -
Other Services	11,100	11,100	11,600	-500	-3,676 2,676
Government ⁵ -	86,000	87,500	84,000	2,000	- -

Notes:

A dash indicates that confidence intervals are not available at this level of detail.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has implemented a change to the method used to produce statewide wage and salary employment estimates, which has resulted in increased monthly volatility in the wage and salary estimates for many states, including Alaska. Therefore, one should be cautious in interpreting any over-the-year or month-to-month change for these monthly estimates. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages series may be a better information source (<http://labor.alaska.gov/qcew.htm>).

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Based on the margin of error of the estimate, a 90 percent confidence interval statistically determines a range of values within which the "true" value falls with a 90 percent level of confidence. For more information, go to <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/c-i.pdf>.

³ Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

⁴ Private education only

⁵ Includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities

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

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May fell slightly to 8.3 percent. April's preliminary rate was unchanged at 8.4 percent.

The comparable national rate was 9.7 percent for May, down from 9.9 percent in April.

The unemployment rates for both Alaska and the U.S. remain higher than a year ago, but Alaska's picture is still healthier than the nation's. Alaska's rate continues to trend downward from its high of 8.6 percent in December of last year.

The frenzied bustle of May signals the beginning of summer and an upswing in seasonal activity. Construction work is moving into high gear, and Alaska's fishing and visitor industries are mobilizing a work force for three to four months of hyperactivity.

Jobless rates (not seasonally adjusted) fell slightly in most areas of the state but were still higher than year-ago rates for most areas. The lowest May rates were recorded in the Skagway Municipality and Bristol Bay Borough – two communities that experience dramatic seasonal upswings in their work force. Tourism in Skagway and fishing in Bristol Bay are the reasons for the upswing in economic activity.

The other areas of the state with relatively low unemployment rates were the urban communities of Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks and Sitka. However, there were exceptions like the Denali Borough. As it prepared for an influx of summer visitors to Denali National Park, unemployment fell from 15 percent in April to 5.8 percent in May.

The two areas with the highest jobless rates were the Wade Hampton and Bethel census areas. Both areas suffer from chronically high, year-round joblessness. Neither of these areas experiences a major seasonal-bounce in summer employment.

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	5/10	4/10	5/09
Alaska	8.3%	8.4%	7.8%
U.S.	9.7%	9.9%	9.4%

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Research and Analysis' Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	5/10 ^P	4/10	5/09	Number			Rate		
				5/10 ^P	4/10	5/09	5/10 ^P	4/10	5/09
Alaska Statewide	363,446	361,741	360,878	28,655	30,450	27,546	7.9	8.4	7.6
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	197,740	200,527	196,051	14,483	15,319	13,606	7.3	7.6	6.9
Municipality of Anchorage	155,485	157,361	154,006	10,821	11,157	9,983	7.0	7.1	6.5
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,255	43,166	42,045	3,662	4,162	3,623	8.7	9.6	8.6
Gulf Coast Region	39,517	38,405	39,828	3,454	3,886	3,389	8.7	10.1	8.5
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,526	26,781	27,784	2,597	2,941	2,516	9.4	11.0	9.1
Kodiak Island Borough	6,365	6,672	6,401	440	477	448	6.9	7.1	7.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,626	4,952	5,643	417	468	425	7.4	9.5	7.5
Interior Region	56,067	53,731	54,769	4,207	4,464	4,135	7.5	8.3	7.5
Denali Borough	1,892	925	1,826	109	139	101	5.8	15.0	5.5
Fairbanks North Star Borough	47,192	46,014	46,149	3,259	3,421	3,227	6.9	7.4	7.0
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,809	3,697	3,689	365	407	341	9.6	11.0	9.2
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,174	3,095	3,105	474	497	466	14.9	16.1	15.0
Northern Region	12,089	12,393	12,156	1,266	1,273	1,150	10.5	10.3	9.5
Nome Census Area	3,994	4,021	4,025	555	567	516	13.9	14.1	12.8
North Slope Borough	5,135	5,341	5,242	277	272	243	5.4	5.1	4.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,960	3,031	2,889	434	434	391	14.7	14.3	13.5
Southeast Region	41,261	39,094	41,194	2,897	3,166	2,851	7.0	8.1	6.9
Haines Borough	1,444	1,209	1,398	115	134	112	8.0	11.1	8.0
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	1,387	918	1,375	174	181	143	12.5	19.7	10.4
Juneau Borough	18,625	18,524	18,749	1,055	1,106	1,057	5.7	6.0	5.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	8,695	8,114	8,609	605	684	548	7.0	8.4	6.4
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	2,340	2,245	2,372	334	360	347	14.3	16.0	14.6
Sitka Borough	4,801	4,541	4,772	295	281	290	6.1	6.2	6.1
Skagway Municipality ²	728	527	775	18	96	55	2.5	18.2	7.1
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	2,884	2,693	2,804	270	288	265	9.4	10.7	9.5
Yakutat Borough	357	323	340	31	36	34	8.7	11.1	10.0
Southwest Region	16,772	17,592	16,879	2,348	2,341	2,414	14.0	13.3	14.3
Aleutians East Borough	799	1,323	819	103	94	103	12.9	7.1	12.6
Aleutians West Census Area	2,154	2,889	2,186	251	184	269	11.7	6.4	12.3
Bethel Census Area	7,054	7,032	6,991	1,097	1,121	1,050	15.6	15.9	15.0
Bristol Bay Borough	1,045	514	1,044	43	48	41	4.1	9.3	3.9
Dillingham Census Area	1,914	2,120	1,961	216	228	235	11.3	10.8	12.0
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,124	952	1,139	84	95	95	7.5	10.0	8.3
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,682	2,762	2,739	554	571	621	20.7	20.7	22.7

P = Preliminary. As more information becomes available, data are revised every month for the previous month and again at the end of every calendar year.

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.

² Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the Skagway Municipality and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (previously the Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area) became available in 2010. Data for the Wrangell Borough, and Petersburg and Prince of Wales-Hyder census areas will be available in 2011. Until then, data will continue to be published for the old areas.

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