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Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 7.0 percent in May

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 7.0 percent, and the national rate was 8.2 percent. Both rates were essentially unchanged from April, up one-tenth of a percentage point.

The rates for both Alaska and the U.S. remain well below their year-ago levels. Alaska's rate is also below its historical average, and it remains lower than the rates in most states. In April (the most recent month available for all states), 28 states had higher rates, 19 had lower rates and two were the same as Alaska. State rates ranged from a low of 3.0 percent in North Dakota to a high of 11.7 percent in Nevada.

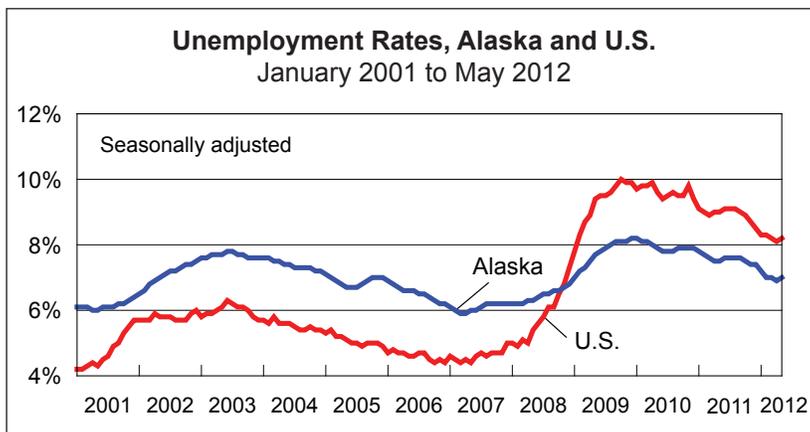
Alaska was one of only seven states that had more jobs in April than in December 2007, the start of the recent recession. Nationally, the job count is still 5 million lower than it was in 2007.

Regional rates, which are not seasonally adjusted, were down in four of six regions. This is typical in May as seasonal work picks up. Two examples are Skagway and the Denali Borough — both major tourist destinations and homes to national parks. Skagway had one of the state's highest unemployment rates in April at 15.4 percent, and then one of the lowest in May at 3.6 percent. Denali's rate dropped from 16.2 percent in April to 7.6 percent in May.

The highest jobless rate was 21.8 percent in the Wade Hampton Census Area, which tends to have high unemployment year-round.

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Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov



	5/12	4/12	5/11
Alaska	7.0%	6.9%	7.5%
U.S.	8.2%	8.1%	9.0%

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

For detailed employment estimates, see labor.alaska.gov/research/ces/ces.htm. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	5/12 ^P	4/12	5/11	Number			Rate		
				5/12 ^P	4/12	5/11	5/12 ^P	4/12	5/11
Alaska Statewide	367,076	362,887	366,935	26,007	26,247	26,841	7.1	7.2	7.3
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	198,489	198,764	199,674	12,363	12,467	13,158	6.2	6.3	6.6
Municipality of Anchorage	155,989	155,981	156,919	8,952	8,809	9,574	5.7	5.6	6.1
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,500	42,783	42,755	3,411	3,658	3,584	8.0	8.6	8.4
Gulf Coast Region	40,420	39,091	39,649	3,146	3,251	3,316	7.8	8.3	8.4
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,307	27,088	27,736	2,299	2,379	2,415	8.1	8.8	8.7
Kodiak Island Borough	6,677	7,000	6,617	394	403	465	5.9	5.8	7.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,436	5,003	5,296	453	469	436	8.3	9.4	8.2
Interior Region	55,593	54,703	56,278	3,932	4,079	3,969	7.1	7.5	7.1
Denali Borough	1,679	938	1,580	128	152	109	7.6	16.2	6.9
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,792	46,892	47,933	2,946	3,032	3,017	6.3	6.5	6.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,765	3,589	3,588	363	389	364	9.6	10.8	10.1
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,357	3,284	3,177	495	506	479	14.7	15.4	15.1
Northern Region	13,039	13,093	12,464	1,299	1,251	1,227	10.0	9.6	9.8
Nome Census Area	4,249	4,226	4,096	508	480	510	12.0	11.4	12.5
North Slope Borough	5,559	5,646	5,308	297	282	275	5.3	5.0	5.2
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,231	3,221	3,060	494	489	442	15.3	15.2	14.4
Southeast Region	42,063	39,258	41,462	2,620	2,732	2,714	6.2	7.0	6.5
Haines Borough	1,418	1,277	1,397	99	117	101	7.0	9.2	7.2
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,362	932	1,336	185	184	180	13.6	19.7	13.5
Juneau, City and Borough of	19,348	18,703	19,094	872	894	946	4.5	4.8	5.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,710	7,788	8,593	547	559	577	6.3	7.2	6.7
Petersburg Census Area	1,755	1,631	1,703	184	152	159	10.5	9.3	9.3
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,513	2,411	2,477	332	359	334	13.2	14.9	13.5
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,754	4,586	4,678	270	252	270	5.7	5.5	5.8
Skagway, Municipality of	782	566	776	28	87	35	3.6	15.4	4.5
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,092	1,057	1,080	76	101	82	7.0	9.6	7.6
Yakutat, City and Borough of	329	307	328	27	27	30	8.2	8.8	9.1
Southwest Region	17,472	17,985	17,405	2,647	2,470	2,457	15.1	13.7	14.1
Aleutians East Borough	860	1,444	837	184	133	157	21.4	9.2	18.8
Aleutians West Census Area	2,389	2,990	2,341	394	306	326	16.5	10.2	13.9
Bethel Census Area	6,954	7,084	6,982	1,085	1,068	1,072	15.6	15.1	15.4
Bristol Bay Borough	1,100	722	1,105	45	52	37	4.1	7.2	3.3
Dillingham Census Area	2,099	1,889	2,117	218	208	219	10.4	11.0	10.3
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,198	1,013	1,207	96	100	93	8.0	9.9	7.7
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,872	2,843	2,816	625	603	553	21.8	21.2	19.6

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 in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

¹Unemployment 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 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics