

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

June 20, 2014

No. 14-28

### Unemployment rate at 6.4 percent in May

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in May, unchanged from April's rate. The comparable national rate was 6.3 percent, also unchanged from the previous month.

The adjusted rate in Alaska has leveled off since late 2012, fluctuating within three-tenths of a percentage point over the past 19 months.

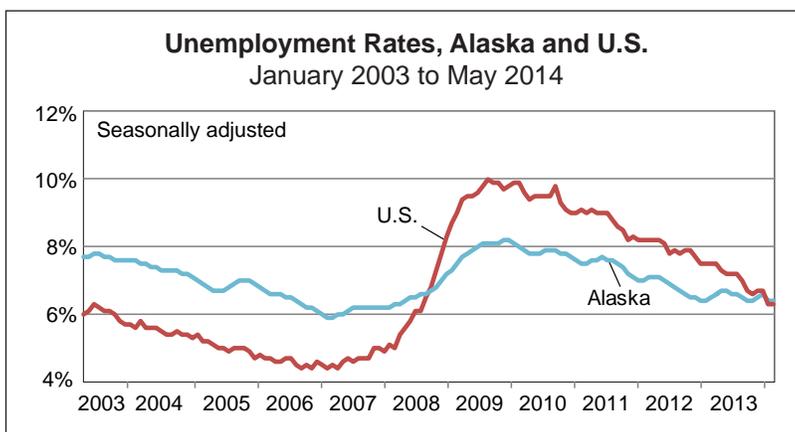
Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted rate was 6.1 percent in May, down from April's 6.4 percent and slightly below last year's 6.3 percent.

The seasonal decline in unemployment was reflected around the state, with 24 out of 29 boroughs and census areas posting lower rates for May. In most of those areas, jobless rates fell less than one percentage point, but fluctuations were much larger in highly seasonal areas.

In the Municipality of Skagway and the Denali Borough, where tourism dominates the summer economy, rates fell by 9.6 and 10.1 percentage points, respectively. The Hoonah-Angoon Census Area's rate dropped 9.4 percentage points in May, also due to summer tourism.

Preparation for summer salmon runs reduced the jobless rate in the Bristol Bay Borough by 4.5 percentage points and by 3.1 percentage points in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. The opposite was true farther west, where the unemployment rate increased by 6.1 and 6.3 percentage points in the Aleutians East Borough and Aleutians West Census Area, respectively. Rates jumped in these areas because of the tapering of the winter pollock season.

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Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov



**Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted**

	5/14	4/14	5/13
Alaska	6.4%	6.4%	6.5%
U.S.	6.3%	6.3%	7.5%

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 <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

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

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	5/14 <sup>P</sup>	4/14	5/13	Number			Rate		
				5/14 <sup>P</sup>	4/14	5/13	5/14 <sup>P</sup>	4/14	5/13
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>367,372</b>	<b>360,434</b>	<b>365,007</b>	<b>22,282</b>	<b>23,181</b>	<b>23,170</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>200,377</b>	<b>199,270</b>	<b>199,060</b>	<b>10,423</b>	<b>10,803</b>	<b>10,765</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Anchorage, Municipality of	156,686	155,578	155,573	7,608	7,667	7,797	4.9	4.9	5.0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,691	43,692	43,487	2,815	3,136	2,968	6.4	7.2	6.8
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>41,067</b>	<b>39,557</b>	<b>40,461</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>2,869</b>	<b>2,754</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,918	27,735	28,484	1,886	2,090	1,977	6.5	7.5	6.9
Kodiak Island Borough	6,738	6,867	6,607	328	329	342	4.9	4.8	5.2
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,411	4,955	5,370	380	450	435	7.0	9.1	8.1
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>55,088</b>	<b>52,558</b>	<b>54,402</b>	<b>3,367</b>	<b>3,435</b>	<b>3,504</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Denali Borough	1,720	764	1,772	80	113	106	4.7	14.8	6.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,806	45,316	45,963	2,475	2,455	2,580	5.3	5.4	5.6
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,355	3,295	3,413	350	375	349	10.4	11.4	10.2
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,207	3,183	3,254	462	492	469	14.4	15.5	14.4
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>12,751</b>	<b>12,901</b>	<b>12,539</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Nome Census Area	4,084	4,133	4,037	474	483	494	11.6	11.7	12.2
North Slope Borough	5,526	5,662	5,446	251	221	271	4.5	3.9	5.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,141	3,106	3,056	483	499	450	15.4	16.1	14.7
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>40,480</b>	<b>38,247</b>	<b>40,555</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Haines Borough	1,359	1,202	1,359	99	111	89	7.3	9.2	6.5
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,445	966	1,467	146	188	165	10.1	19.5	11.2
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,470	18,031	18,509	756	815	768	4.1	4.5	4.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,341	7,630	8,358	462	510	467	5.5	6.7	5.6
Petersburg Census Area	1,631	1,647	1,624	140	162	128	8.6	9.8	7.9
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,445	2,442	2,437	320	326	305	13.1	13.3	12.5
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,583	4,431	4,602	211	212	222	4.6	4.8	4.8
Skagway, Municipality of	860	573	856	28	74	22	3.3	12.9	2.6
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,043	1,043	1,043	72	76	69	6.9	7.3	6.6
Yakutat, City and Borough of	303	282	300	26	25	23	8.6	8.9	7.7
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>17,611</b>	<b>17,901</b>	<b>17,992</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>2,371</b>	<b>2,674</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>14.9</b>
Aleutians East Borough	834	1,524	911	103	96	174	12.4	6.3	19.1
Aleutians West Census Area	2,394	3,157	2,508	295	188	400	12.3	6.0	15.9
Bethel Census Area	7,001	6,876	7,125	1,069	1,096	1,130	15.3	15.9	15.9
Bristol Bay Borough	1,185	546	1,201	33	40	35	2.8	7.3	2.9
Dillingham Census Area	2,167	2,030	2,189	199	202	204	9.2	10.0	9.3
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,262	990	1,271	86	98	88	6.8	9.9	6.9
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,768	2,778	2,787	644	651	643	23.3	23.4	23.1

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.

<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 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics