



Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

May 20, 2016

No. 16-21

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Unemployment rate remains at 6.6 percent in April

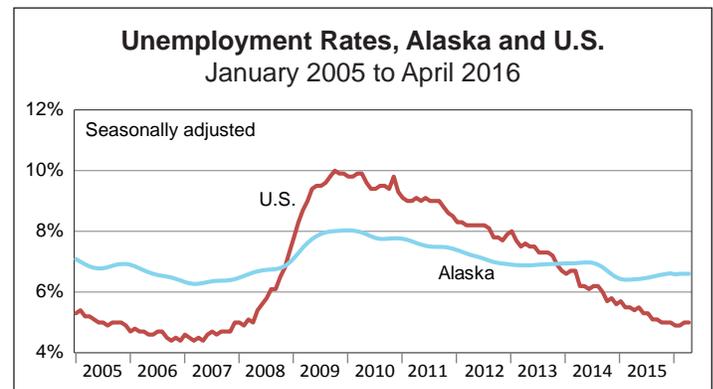
JUNEAU, Alaska— Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in April, unchanged from the previous month. The comparable U.S. rate was 5.0 percent.

The state's adjusted rate has held steady at 6.6 percent since October of last year. This suggests that the impacts of job losses in the oil and gas industry and state government have not yet spread through the broader economy.

April's unadjusted rate was 6.9 percent, down four-tenths of a percentage point from March's 7.3 percent. This is a typical seasonal decrease in the unadjusted rate as Alaska's economy gears up for summer construction, fishing and tourism.

Around the state, unadjusted unemployment rates fell in most boroughs and census areas in April. The eight areas where rates rose were in the southwest and northern parts of the state that have different seasonal patterns due to winter groundfish fisheries and construction.

Preliminary estimates of Alaska's April job counts show a loss of 2,500 jobs from the same month in 2015, driven by large declines in oil and gas industry and state government employment. Employment levels in



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	4/16	3/16	4/15
Alaska	6.6%	6.6%	6.4%
U.S.	5.0%	5.0%	5.4%

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

the construction and professional and business services sectors also shrank, likely due to oil-related cuts. Losses were partially offset by job growth in the health care and retail sectors.

For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions. For more information on unemployment rates around the state, see live.laborstats.alaska.gov/labforce/.

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Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	4/16 ^P	3/16	4/15	Number			Rate		
				4/16 ^P	3/16	4/15	4/16 ^P	3/16	4/15
Alaska	355,786	355,942	359,279	24,654	26,035	23,709	6.9	7.3	6.6
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	200,787	200,707	201,621	12,187	12,734	11,441	6.1	6.3	5.7
Anchorage, Municipality	156,282	156,075	157,044	8,350	8,624	7,903	5.3	5.5	5.0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,505	44,632	44,577	3,837	4,110	3,538	8.6	9.2	7.9
Gulf Coast Region	37,578	37,546	37,772	3,131	3,356	2,900	8.3	8.9	7.7
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,542	26,531	26,666	2,374	2,556	2,154	8.9	9.6	8.1
Kodiak Island Borough	6,513	6,689	6,543	305	303	292	4.7	4.5	4.5
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,523	4,326	4,563	452	497	454	10.0	11.5	9.9
Interior Region	51,696	51,130	52,270	3,574	3,781	3,333	6.9	7.4	6.4
Denali Borough	632	575	624	107	115	101	16.9	20.0	16.2
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,573	45,164	46,170	2,705	2,822	2,448	5.9	6.2	5.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,961	2,955	2,938	328	365	321	11.1	12.4	10.9
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,530	2,436	2,538	434	479	463	17.2	19.7	18.2
Northern Region	10,828	11,050	11,658	1,254	1,235	1,250	11.6	11.2	10.7
Nome Census Area	3,841	3,942	4,136	519	516	527	13.5	13.1	12.7
North Slope Borough	4,267	4,357	4,608	252	249	242	5.9	5.7	5.3
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,720	2,751	2,914	483	470	481	17.8	17.1	16.5
Southeast Region	35,454	35,055	36,373	2,298	2,697	2,437	6.5	7.7	6.7
Haines Borough	963	963	978	114	144	105	11.8	15.0	10.7
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,033	978	1,079	154	187	179	14.9	19.1	16.6
Juneau, City and Borough	16,808	16,604	17,231	746	804	801	4.4	4.8	4.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,521	6,337	6,687	466	539	488	7.1	8.5	7.3
Petersburg Borough	1,330	1,435	1,373	122	153	134	9.2	10.7	9.8
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,634	2,646	2,717	327	394	351	12.4	14.9	12.9
Sitka, City and Borough	4,241	4,275	4,331	200	222	196	4.7	5.2	4.5
Skagway, Municipality	634	588	651	79	134	83	12.5	22.8	12.7
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,028	1,002	1,052	75	95	78	7.3	9.5	7.4
Yakutat, City and Borough	262	227	274	15	25	22	5.7	11.0	8.0
Southwest Region	19,442	20,457	19,586	2,211	2,234	2,347	11.4	10.9	12.0
Aleutians East Borough	2,712	3,072	2,720	66	71	75	2.4	2.3	2.8
Aleutians West Census Area	4,167	4,743	4,205	145	112	180	3.5	2.4	4.3
Bethel Census Area	7,052	7,113	7,087	1,039	1,056	1,078	14.7	14.8	15.2
Bristol Bay Borough	282	236	295	31	36	42	11.0	15.3	14.2
Dillingham Census Area	1,944	1,952	1,929	212	208	193	10.9	10.7	10.0
Kusilvak Census Area	2,727	2,785	2,800	622	660	694	22.8	23.7	24.8
Lake and Peninsula Borough	558	556	550	96	91	85	17.2	16.4	15.5

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