



Press Release

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For more information: Caroline Schultz, Economist
907-465-6027, Caroline.Schultz@Alaska.Gov

Unemployment rate at 6.7 percent in May

JUNEAU, Alaska— Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in May, a small increase from April's 6.6 percent. The comparable national rate was 4.7 percent.

The last time there was a two percentage point gap between the U.S. and Alaska rates was October of 2009, when rates peaked at the height of the great recession – Alaska's at 8.0 percent, and the U.S. at 10.0 percent. But that relationship was unusual. For more than 25 years before the great recession, Alaska's rate averaged close to 2 percentage points above the national level.

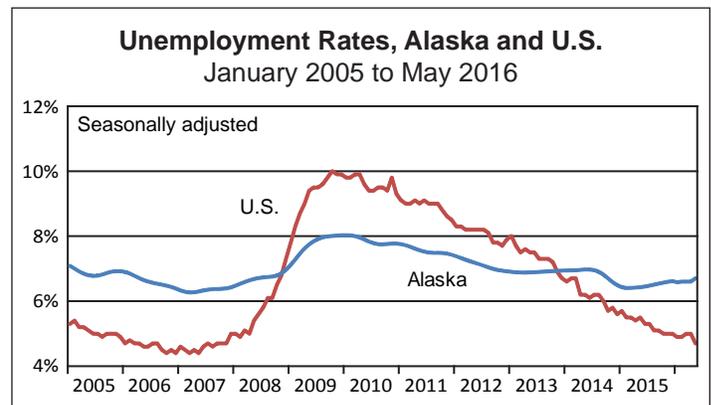
Alaska's unadjusted rate had a typical seasonal decline from 6.9 percent in April to 6.6 percent in May. Unadjusted rates fell in 22 boroughs and census areas from April to May, remained flat in three, and rose in four.

Big swings occurred in May in two areas along with the arrival of the tourism season. The unemployment rate fell 11.5 percentage points to 5.4 percent in the Denali Borough, and 7.8 percentage points to 4.7 percent in the Municipality of Skagway.

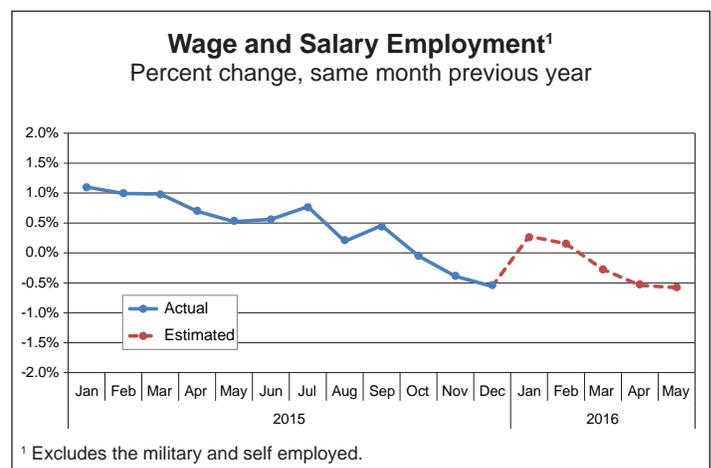
The city and boroughs of Juneau and Sitka shared the lowest rate in the state in May, at 4.2 percent. The highest rate was 22.3 percent in the Kusilvak Census Area.

Preliminary employment estimates show 0.6 percent fewer jobs in May of 2016 compared to the same month in the previous year. Shrinking oil and gas and state government employment have been the main contributors to overall employment losses, which started late last year.

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/.



	5/16	4/16	5/15
Alaska	6.7%	6.6%	6.4%
U.S.	4.7%	5.0%	5.5%



¹ Excludes the military and self employed.

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

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	5/16 ^P	4/16	5/15	Number			Rate		
				5/16 ^P	4/16	5/15	5/16 ^P	4/16	5/15
Alaska	360,509	355,983	364,910	23,834	24,626	22,994	6.6	6.9	6.3
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	202,325	200,975	202,913	11,889	12,173	11,078	5.9	6.1	5.5
Anchorage, Municipality	157,632	156,431	158,096	8,311	8,341	7,707	5.3	5.3	4.9
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	0	44,544	44,817	3,578	3,832	3,371	8.0	8.6	7.5
Gulf Coast Region	38,631	37,549	39,439	2,904	3,126	2,755	7.5	8.3	7.0
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,430	26,522	27,943	2,222	2,370	2,038	8.1	8.9	7.3
Kodiak Island Borough	6,260	6,507	6,437	297	305	328	4.7	4.7	5.1
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,941	4,520	5,059	385	451	389	7.8	10.0	7.7
Interior Region	53,619	51,736	54,533	3,404	3,570	3,245	6.3	6.9	6.0
Denali Borough	1,396	629	1,395	75	106	72	5.4	16.9	5.2
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,574	45,642	47,445	2,594	2,703	2,415	5.6	5.9	5.1
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,030	2,948	3,053	306	328	315	10.1	11.1	10.3
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,619	2,517	2,640	429	433	443	16.4	17.2	16.8
Northern Region	10,830	10,828	11,477	1,285	1,252	1,256	11.9	11.6	10.9
Nome Census Area	3,951	3,842	4,183	525	519	516	13.3	13.5	12.3
North Slope Borough	4,077	4,267	4,330	271	251	253	6.6	5.9	5.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,802	2,719	2,964	489	482	487	17.5	17.7	16.4
Southeast Region	37,856	35,457	38,876	2,141	2,294	2,250	5.7	6.5	5.8
Haines Borough	1,043	963	1,062	100	114	91	9.6	11.8	8.6
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,160	1,032	1,220	123	153	157	10.6	14.8	12.9
Juneau, City and Borough	17,431	16,811	17,868	730	745	751	4.2	4.4	4.2
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,148	6,521	7,313	438	465	432	6.1	7.1	5.9
Petersburg Borough	1,383	1,330	1,423	118	121	123	8.5	9.1	8.6
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,714	2,634	2,810	309	327	339	11.4	12.4	12.1
Sitka, City and Borough	4,684	4,243	4,807	195	200	203	4.2	4.7	4.2
Skagway, Municipality	978	634	1,012	46	79	57	4.7	12.5	5.6
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,036	1,028	1,070	66	75	76	6.4	7.3	7.1
Yakutat, City and Borough	279	261	291	16	15	21	5.7	5.7	7.2
Southwest Region	17,247	19,439	17,672	2,211	2,210	2,411	12.8	11.4	13.6
Aleutians East Borough	1,295	2,711	1,319	78	66	85	6.0	2.4	6.4
Aleutians West Census Area	3,054	4,167	3,140	162	145	204	5.3	3.5	6.5
Bethel Census Area	7,073	7,050	7,211	1,049	1,039	1,100	14.8	14.7	15.3
Bristol Bay Borough	465	282	475	30	31	32	6.5	11.0	6.7
Dillingham Census Area	1,993	1,944	2,019	204	212	202	10.2	10.9	10.0
Kusilvak Census Area	2,699	2,726	2,832	603	621	704	22.3	22.8	24.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	668	559	676	85	96	84	12.7	17.2	12.4

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