



Press Release

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Unemployment rate remains at 6.7 percent in June

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in June, unchanged from May. The comparable national rate was 4.9 percent, up from May's 4.7 percent.

Alaska's 6.7 percent rate for May and June followed seven consecutive months at 6.6 percent. The rate's gradual change suggests Alaska's economy is responding slowly to the decline in both oil prices and production, and the related challenges for state government.

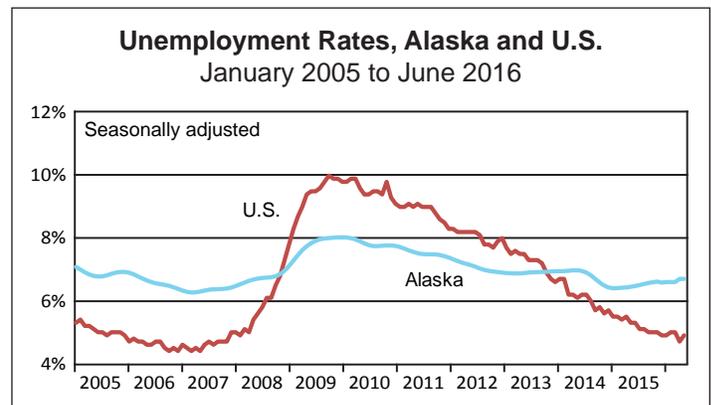
The state's unadjusted rate was 6.8 percent in June, up from 6.6 percent. A rise in the unadjusted rate in the summer may seem counterintuitive, but because of the influx of job seekers after the end of the school year, June is almost always slightly higher than May.

Rates around the state were a mixed bag in June, rising in 11 boroughs and census areas and falling in 17. For the most part, rates increased in areas with a more subdued seasonal employment pattern, and areas where fishing and tourism dominate generated enough additional seasonal employment to offset the increase in unemployment.

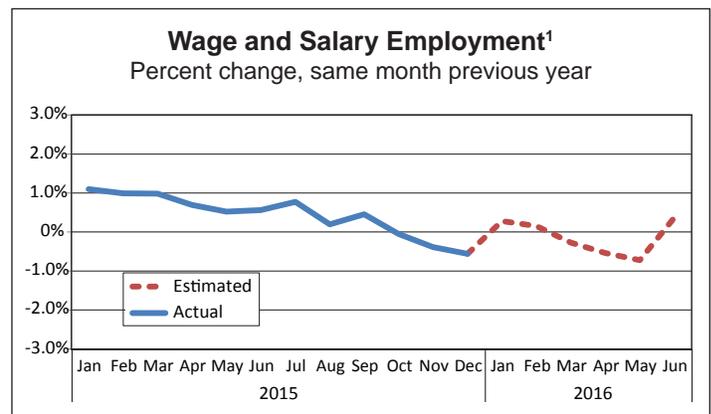
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly employment survey, Alaska employers added 16,500 jobs from May to June. This period typically has the largest over-the-month job increase as the state approaches peak summer employment.

June's employment was 0.4 percent higher than in June 2015. Job losses in the oil and gas, construction, and professional and business services sectors as well as state government were offset by growth in retail trade, health care, and leisure and hospitality. Federal government employment was also higher than 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/.



	6/16	5/16	6/15
Alaska	6.7%	6.7%	6.5%
U.S.	4.9%	4.7%	5.3%



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 ²			Unemployed					
	6/16 ^P	5/16	6/15	Number			Rate		
				6/16 ^P	5/16	6/15	6/16 ^P	5/16	6/15
Alaska	367,523	360,368	371,633	24,837	23,878	24,586	6.8	6.6	6.6
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	204,287	202,217	204,085	12,750	11,943	12,033	6.2	5.9	5.9
Anchorage, Municipality	159,189	157,552	158,982	9,015	8,359	8,424	5.7	5.3	5.3
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	45,098	44,665	45,103	3,735	3,584	3,609	8.3	8.0	8.0
Gulf Coast Region	39,991	38,743	41,243	2,857	2,901	2,880	7.1	7.5	7.0
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,224	27,505	29,069	2,165	2,220	2,135	7.7	8.1	7.3
Kodiak Island Borough	6,344	6,280	6,558	338	296	359	5.3	4.7	5.5
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,423	4,958	5,616	354	385	386	6.5	7.8	6.9
Interior Region	53,132	53,615	53,954	3,417	3,398	3,492	6.4	6.3	6.5
Denali Borough	1,743	1,395	1,740	67	76	72	3.8	5.4	4.1
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,697	46,578	46,508	2,618	2,587	2,656	5.7	5.6	5.7
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,155	3,026	3,166	298	306	321	9.4	10.1	10.1
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,537	2,616	2,540	434	429	443	17.1	16.4	17.4
Northern Region	10,789	10,737	11,550	1,382	1,283	1,343	12.8	11.9	11.6
Nome Census Area	3,910	3,918	4,145	590	524	547	15.1	13.4	13.2
North Slope Borough	3,994	4,042	4,306	287	272	282	7.2	6.7	6.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,885	2,777	3,099	505	487	514	17.5	17.5	16.6
Southeast Region	38,766	37,870	39,851	2,116	2,140	2,386	5.5	5.7	6.0
Haines Borough	1,118	1,043	1,135	94	100	88	8.4	9.6	7.8
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,243	1,160	1,310	108	122	155	8.7	10.5	11.8
Juneau, City and Borough	17,344	17,437	17,804	749	729	841	4.3	4.2	4.7
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,477	7,152	7,697	411	438	470	5.5	6.1	6.1
Petersburg Borough	1,500	1,384	1,536	123	119	128	8.2	8.6	8.3
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,909	2,714	2,988	309	309	327	10.6	11.4	10.9
Sitka, City and Borough	4,799	4,686	4,929	196	195	223	4.1	4.2	4.5
Skagway, Municipality	1,044	978	1,080	38	46	52	3.6	4.7	4.8
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,045	1,036	1,077	70	66	82	6.7	6.4	7.6
Yakutat, City and Borough	287	280	295	18	16	20	6.3	5.7	6.8
Southwest Region	20,561	17,186	20,951	2,317	2,213	2,454	11.3	12.9	11.7
Aleutians East Borough	2,746	1,290	2,800	78	78	93	2.8	6.0	3.3
Aleutians West Census Area	3,630	3,044	3,713	132	164	172	3.6	5.4	4.6
Bethel Census Area	7,648	7,051	7,750	1,129	1,052	1,144	14.8	14.9	14.8
Bristol Bay Borough	520	463	529	32	30	33	6.2	6.5	6.2
Dillingham Census Area	2,581	1,985	2,618	226	203	229	8.8	10.2	8.7
Kusilvak Census Area	2,677	2,689	2,776	628	601	695	23.5	22.4	25.0
Lake and Peninsula Borough	759	664	765	92	85	88	12.1	12.8	11.5

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.

²The labor force is the sum of the unemployed and the employed.

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