

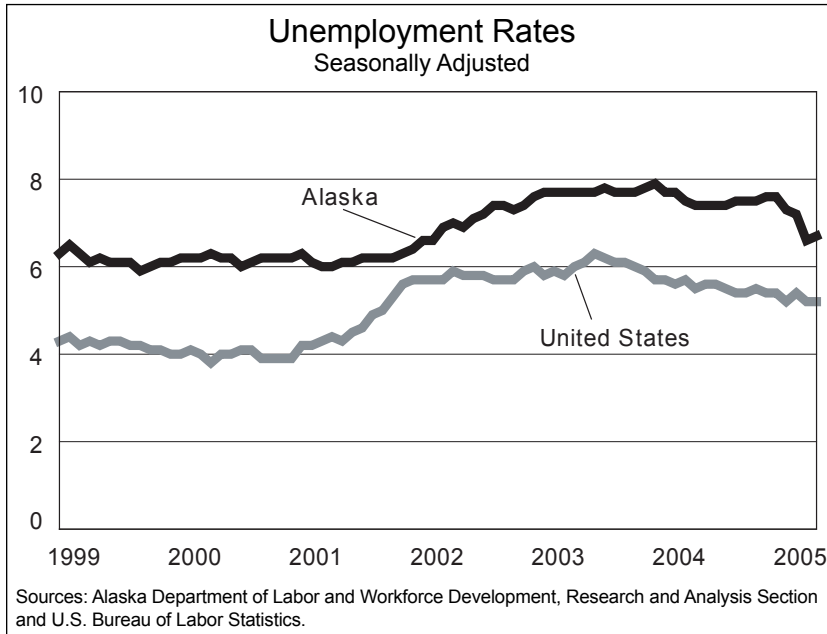
News Release



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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April unemployment shows little change



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point in April to 6.7 percent, a statistically insignificant change. The state's rate has been down noticeably in 2005 after two years of relatively high levels in 2003 and 2004. A similar decline can be seen in the national unemployment rate which has fallen from a high of 6.3 percent in June 2003 to 5.2 percent in April 2005.

The state's unadjusted rate fell three-tenths of a percentage point to 7.1 percent as seasonal employers began adding jobs. Unemployment rates for Alaska's cities, boroughs, and census areas are unavailable at the time of this release due to a major revision in the method used by states and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to calculate the rates. The numbers will be made available as soon as the revision process is complete.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	preliminary	revised	revised	changes from	
	04/05	03/05	04/04	03/05	04/04
Total Nonfarm Employment	299,300	295,700	295,200	3,600	4,100
Natural Resources & Mining	10,300	10,100	10,200	200	100
Construction	16,100	14,800	15,300	1,300	800
Manufacturing	10,000	11,400	10,100	-1,400	-100
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	60,100	58,900	59,500	1,200	600
Information	6,900	6,800	6,800	100	100
Financial Activities	14,600	14,400	14,500	200	100
Professional & Business Services	23,100	22,700	22,600	400	500
Education & Health Services	36,200	35,900	34,800	300	1,400
Leisure & Hospitality	27,900	26,600	27,100	1,300	800
Other Services	10,800	10,800	11,200	0	-400
Government	83,300	83,300	83,100	0	200

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities. Benchmark date: March 2004

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

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

April 2005:	Alaska	6.7%	U.S.	5.2%
March 2005:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	5.2%
April 2004:	Alaska	7.4%	U.S.	5.5%

Preliminary wage and salary employment estimates show an increase of 3,600 jobs from March to April. Most of the growth came in construction (1,300), leisure and hospitality (1,300), and trade, transportation, and utilities (1,200). Manufacturing, which typically sees lower numbers in April due to a lull in seafood processing activity, was the only industry sector to show an over-the-month decline.

Alaska has added 4,100 jobs since April 2004, which equates to a 1.4 percent growth rate. Nine of the state's eleven industry sectors have added jobs over that period. Only manufacturing and the catch-all category called other services show declines. The largest share of the new jobs are a result of health care's ongoing expansion, a remarkable number of military and other public construction projects, and continuing expansion of the state's leisure and hospitality sector.

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