

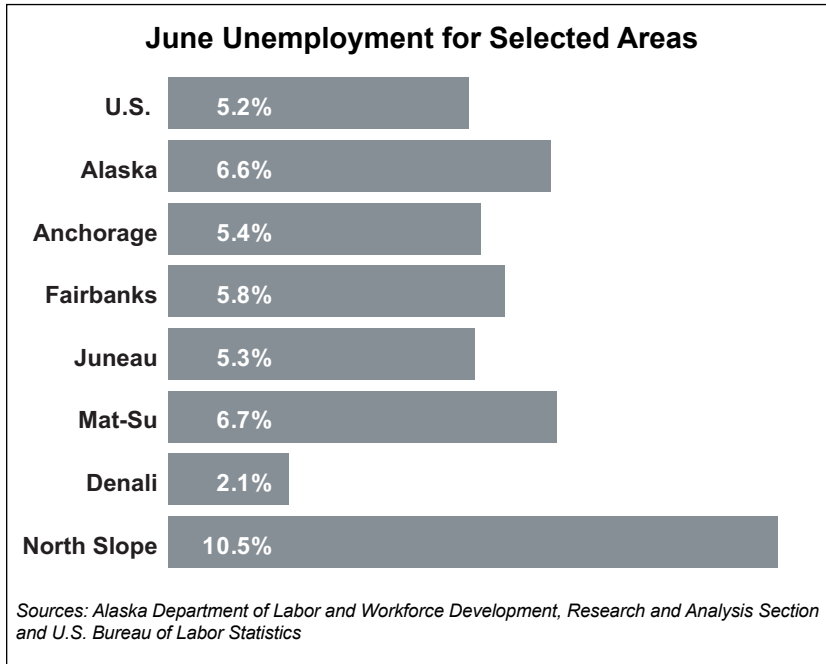
# News Release



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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## Unemployment rate shows predictable June increase



Alaska's unemployment rate rose four-tenths of a percentage point in June to 6.6 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. A higher rate is typical for June as the labor market takes some time to absorb school-age summer job seekers. Unemployment is down significantly from June 2004's rate of 7.8 percent.

Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau all mirrored the state in registering small monthly increases in unemployment for June, but lower rates than in June 2004. At 5.4, 5.8 and 5.3 percent, respectively, all three cities also have unemployment rates noticeably lower than the state as a whole.

The Denali Borough had the state's lowest June unemployment rate at 2.1 percent and the Bristol Bay Borough followed close behind at 3.3 percent. Both areas see dramatic swings in employment and unemployment because each is dominated by a single highly seasonal industry. The state's highest unemployment rate in June was in the Wade Hampton Census Area at 30.5 percent.

Preliminary wage and salary employment estimates for June show an increase of more than 12,000 jobs since May. Seafood processing accounted for 4,000 of that number, while construction contributed 2,400 and accommodations 2,300.

The state's 323,400 wage and salary jobs in June constitute an over-the-year increase of 4,400, or 1.4 percent. Health care, construction, retail trade and restaurants/drinking places continue to lead the way, combining to provide 3,000 of the new jobs. Nine of the state's 11 major economic sectors have grown over the year. Government employment is at the same level as a year ago and the miscellaneous category known as "other services" is down 400.

Regionally, the Anchorage/MatSu region has supplied the bulk of the job growth. Since June 2004 the region has added 3,700 jobs, producing the state's strongest growth rate at 2.2 percent. Despite concerns in Fairbanks about the potential closure of Eielson Air Force Base, healthy economic activity over the last year has created 700 new jobs. The remainder of the state is largely maintaining the status quo, although there have been signs of improvement for the fishing industry and employment in the North Slope oil fields has increased marginally from last June.

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### Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	preliminary	revised	revised	changes from	
	06/05	05/05	06/04	05/05	06/04
Total Nonfarm Employment	323,400	311,200	319,000	12,200	4,400
Natural Resources & Mining	10,500	10,500	10,400	0	100
Construction	20,700	18,300	20,100	2,400	600
Manufacturing	14,500	10,400	14,300	4,100	200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	66,700	64,200	65,900	2,500	800
Information	7,000	6,900	6,900	100	100
Financial Activities	15,400	14,900	15,100	500	300
Professional & Business Services	24,700	23,700	24,400	1,000	300
Education & Health Services	36,300	36,300	34,900	0	1,400
Leisure & Hospitality	35,900	31,800	34,900	4,100	1,000
Other Services	11,300	11,100	11,700	200	-400
Government	80,400	83,100	80,400	-2,700	0

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

June 2005:	Alaska	6.4%	U.S.	5.0%
May 2005:	Alaska	6.4%	U.S.	5.1%
June 2004:	Alaska	7.4%	U.S.	5.6%

## Labor Force By Borough and Census Area

	Labor Force				Unemployment				Rate				Employment			
	06/05	05/05	06/04	06/05	05/05	06/04	06/05	05/05	06/04	06/05	06/04	06/05	05/05	06/04		
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	347,727	338,727	339,018	22,813	21,073	26,302	6.6	6.2	7.8	324,914	317,654	312,716				
Anchorage/Mat-Su MSA*	183,814	181,459	178,343	10,435	9,573	11,968	5.7	5.3	6.7	173,379	171,886	166,375				
Municipality of Anchorage	150,310	148,307	145,716	8,178	7,399	9,326	5.4	5.0	6.4	142,132	140,908	136,390				
Mat-Su Borough	33,504	33,152	32,627	2,257	2,174	2,642	6.7	6.6	8.1	31,247	30,978	29,985				
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>																
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,751	25,830	27,117	1,983	1,891	2,419	7.1	7.3	8.9	25,768	23,939	24,698				
Kodiak Island Borough	6,544	6,063	6,480	550	496	629	8.4	8.2	9.7	5,994	5,567	5,851				
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,098	5,375	6,008	434	437	494	7.1	8.1	8.2	5,664	4,938	5,514				
<b>Interior Region</b>																
Denali Borough	3,150	1,948	2,382	66	76	81	2.1	3.9	3.4	3,084	1,872	2,301				
Fairbanks MSA*	44,653	45,506	43,266	2,570	2,376	3,055	5.8	5.2	7.1	42,083	43,130	40,211				
Southwest Fairbanks Census Area	3,184	3,070	2,845	292	287	319	9.2	9.3	11.2	2,892	2,783	2,526				
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,605	3,718	3,353	361	348	433	10.0	9.4	12.9	3,244	3,370	2,920				
<b>Northern Region</b>																
Nome Census Area	3,926	3,881	4,049	513	452	715	13.1	11.6	17.7	3,413	3,429	3,334				
North Slope Borough	3,547	3,521	3,539	372	337	349	10.5	9.6	9.9	3,175	3,184	3,190				
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,734	2,846	2,673	426	362	350	15.6	12.7	13.1	2,308	2,484	2,323				
<b>Southeast Region</b>																
Haines Borough	1,437	1,292	1,505	105	115	126	7.3	8.9	8.4	1,332	1,177	1,379				
Juneau Borough	18,085	17,881	18,098	956	851	1,085	5.3	4.8	6.0	17,129	17,030	17,013				
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,355	7,893	8,376	499	468	589	6.0	5.9	7.0	7,856	7,425	7,787				
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,793	2,629	2,722	292	266	358	10.5	10.1	13.2	2,501	2,363	2,364				
Sitka Borough	4,767	4,628	4,745	252	219	299	5.3	4.7	6.3	4,515	4,409	4,446				
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,153	1,929	2,239	174	172	199	8.1	8.9	8.9	1,979	1,757	2,040				
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,885	2,749	2,940	273	250	384	9.5	9.1	13.1	2,612	2,499	2,556				
Yakutat Borough	297	285	311	23	26	24	7.7	9.1	7.7	274	259	287				
<b>Southwest Region</b>																
Aleutians East Borough	1,103	966	1,115	110	96	105	9.4	10.9	10.0	1,010	882	993				
Aleutians West Census Area	2,661	2,119	2,633	180	212	222	6.8	10.0	8.4	2,481	1,907	2,411				
Bathel Census Area	7,126	6,812	7,188	987	881	1,024	13.7	12.8	14.4	6,201	5,997	6,102				
Bristol Bay Borough	1,692	1,191	1,583	55	51	78	3.3	4.3	4.9	1,637	1,140	1,505				
Dillingham Census Area	2,241	1,916	2,183	244	221	253	10.9	11.5	11.6	1,997	1,695	1,930				
Lake & Peninsula Borough	1,099	691	1,224	73	71	95	6.6	10.3	7.8	1,026	620	1,129				
Wade Hampton Census Area	1,955	2,440	2,178	597	526	645	30.5	21.6	29.6	1,358	1,914	1,533				

\* Metropolitan Statistical Area

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. • Benchmark: May 2004

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 individuals in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.