



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



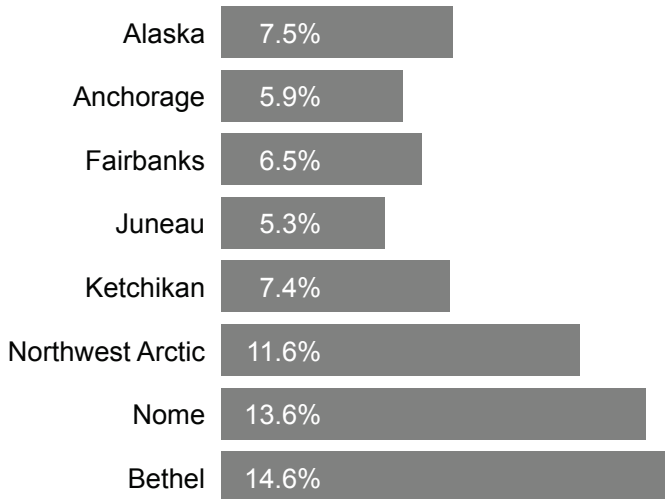
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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No. 06-47

Unemployment rate falls to 7.5 percent in April

April Unemployment for Selected Areas



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

Alaska's unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point in April to 7.5 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development. The decline was less than usual for April, though not by a significant amount. April's 7.5 percent rate is four-tenths of a percentage point higher than April 2005's rate.

April numbers can be misleading, however, since it is the last month before the beginning of Alaska's summer visitor season and the timing of employers' preparations can vary from year to year. The April job count for construction, an industry also characterized by strong summer hiring, can also fluctuate significantly from year to year depending on the weather. The most telling comparisons will come during the peak months of July and August.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	Preliminary 04/06	Revised 03/06	Revised 04/05	Changes from	
				03/06	04/05
Total Nonfarm Employment	305,400	300,500	301,000	4,900	4,400
Natural Resources and Mining	11,700	11,700	10,400	0	1,300
Oil and Gas	9,500	9,500	8,400	0	1,100
Construction	17,200	15,600	17,000	1,600	200
Manufacturing	9,900	11,600	10,100	-1,700	-200
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	61,800	60,000	60,800	1,800	1,000
Retail Trade	35,500	34,600	34,800	900	700
Information	6,900	6,800	6,900	100	0
Financial Activities	14,600	14,500	14,400	100	200
Professional and Business Services	22,900	22,600	22,800	300	100
Educational ¹ and Health Services	36,300	36,200	35,800	100	500
Health Care	26,300	26,300	25,700	0	600
Leisure and Hospitality	28,600	27,200	28,200	1,400	400
Accommodation	6,500	6,100	6,400	400	100
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	18,000	17,300	17,800	700	200
Other Services	11,600	11,300	11,300	300	300
Government ²	83,900	83,000	83,300	900	600

¹ Private education only

² Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.
Sources: Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Anchorage's unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.9 percent in April, while Fairbanks and Juneau saw moderate declines of three-tenths and four-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. Juneau's 5.3 percent unemployment rate was the lowest in the state for April. The Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest rate at 23.8 percent.

April's job count was 4,400 higher than in April 2005, an over-the-year growth rate of 1.5 percent. The year-ago comparisons show job growth in most employment categories.

The oil and gas industry provided 1,100 more jobs in April than it did a year earlier. The industry's growth rate over that period was an impressive 13 percent. Other industries showing strong over-the-year growth include retail trade and health care.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

April 2006:	Alaska	7.0%	U.S.	4.7%
March 2006:	Alaska	7.0%	U.S.	4.7%
April 2005:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	5.1%

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Research and Analysis Web site: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	04/06	03/06	04/05	04/06	03/06	04/05	04/06	03/06	04/05	04/06	03/06	04/05
Alaska Statewide	337,962	339,339	333,928	25,222	26,291	23,719	7.5	7.7	7.1	312,740	313,048	310,209
Anchorage/Mat-Su (MSA*)	184,647	185,393	181,592	11,715	12,130	10,752	6.3	6.5	5.9	172,932	173,263	170,840
Municipality of Anchorage	149,227	149,490	146,946	8,753	8,747	8,171	5.9	5.9	5.6	140,474	140,743	138,775
Mat-Su Borough	35,420	35,903	34,646	2,962	3,383	2,581	8.4	9.4	7.4	32,458	32,520	32,065
Gulf Coast Region	34,199	34,628	34,992	3,248	3,474	3,212	9.5	10.0	9.2	30,951	31,154	31,780
Kenai Peninsula Borough	23,790	23,993	24,081	2,310	2,497	2,231	9.7	10.4	9.3	21,480	21,496	21,850
Kodiak Island Borough	5,690	6,043	5,992	435	425	452	7.6	7.0	7.5	5,255	5,618	5,540
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,719	4,592	4,919	503	552	529	10.7	12.0	10.8	4,216	4,040	4,390
Interior Region	52,275	51,814	51,509	3,801	4,014	3,611	7.3	7.7	7.0	48,474	47,800	47,898
Denali Borough	978	870	1,036	104	115	115	10.6	13.2	11.1	874	755	921
Fairbanks North Star Borough (MSA*)	44,585	44,415	44,206	2,884	3,041	2,740	6.5	6.8	6.2	41,701	41,374	41,466
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,623	3,554	3,074	392	412	364	10.8	11.6	11.8	3,231	3,142	2,710
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,089	2,975	3,193	421	446	392	13.6	15.0	12.3	2,668	2,529	2,801
Northern Region	10,760	10,967	10,625	1,191	1,196	1,204	11.1	10.9	11.3	9,569	9,771	9,421
Nome Census Area	3,937	3,901	3,994	536	535	486	13.6	13.7	12.2	3,401	3,366	3,508
North Slope Borough	3,776	3,683	3,613	301	313	343	8.0	8.5	9.5	3,475	3,370	3,270
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,047	3,383	3,018	354	348	375	11.6	10.3	12.4	2,693	3,035	2,643
Southeast Region	39,039	38,069	38,513	2,935	3,249	2,786	7.5	8.5	7.2	36,104	34,820	35,727
Haines Borough	1,227	1,113	1,193	142	160	140	11.6	14.4	11.7	1,085	953	1,053
Juneau Borough	18,266	18,183	18,013	960	1,045	954	5.3	5.7	5.3	17,306	17,138	17,059
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,511	7,109	7,452	556	604	567	7.4	8.5	7.6	6,955	6,505	6,885
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,608	2,483	2,533	388	460	308	14.9	18.5	12.2	2,220	2,023	2,225
Sitka Borough	4,666	4,616	4,595	265	281	255	5.7	6.1	5.5	4,421	4,335	4,340
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,607	1,506	1,553	291	326	231	18.1	21.6	14.9	1,316	1,180	1,322
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,786	2,796	2,836	292	329	301	10.5	11.8	10.6	2,494	2,467	2,535
Yakutat Borough	348	263	338	41	44	30	11.8	16.7	8.9	307	219	308
Southwest Region	17,041	18,469	16,698	2,331	2,229	2,154	13.7	12.1	12.9	14,710	16,240	14,544
Aleutians East Borough	1,191	1,124	1,215	95	87	105	8.0	7.7	8.6	1,096	1,037	1,110
Aleutians West Census Area	2,492	4,120	2,549	184	159	196	7.4	3.9	7.7	2,308	3,961	2,353
Bathel Census Area	7,216	7,142	7,010	1,057	985	912	14.6	13.8	13.0	6,159	6,157	6,098
Bristol Bay Borough	438	484	511	73	81	60	16.7	16.7	11.7	365	403	451
Dillingham Census Area	1,880	2,084	1,927	225	233	240	12.0	11.2	12.5	1,655	1,851	1,687
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,243	868	935	84	97	88	6.8	11.2	9.4	1,159	771	847
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,581	2,647	2,551	613	587	553	23.8	22.2	21.7	1,968	2,060	1,998

* Metropolitan Statistical Area

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