



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



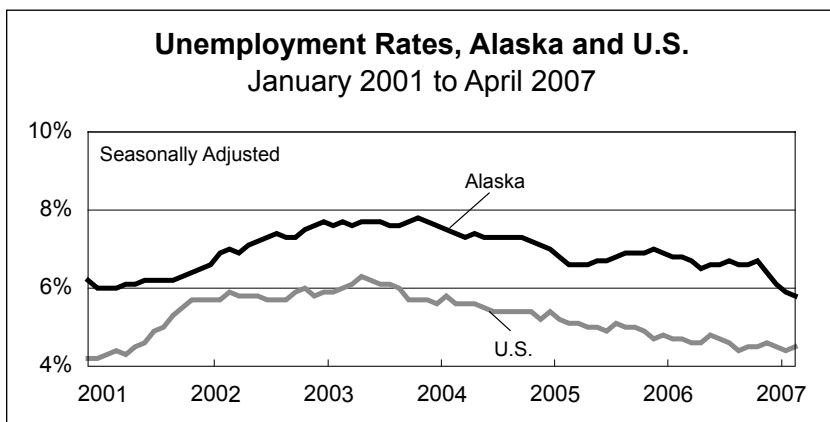
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Click Bishop

May 18, 2007

No. 07-45

Unemployment rate at 5.8 percent in April



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in April at 5.8 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

April's rate was a full percentage point lower than April 2006's rate, with most of that decline coming during the first four months of 2007.

The number of unemployed people fell from 24,516 in April 2006 to 21,290 in April 2007. Employment grew over that period, but not as strongly as unemployment fell, indicating that the lower unemployment rates are being caused by something other than stronger growth in the job market.

Juneau and Sitka had the state's lowest unemployment rates in April at 4.3 percent (not seasonally adjusted). Anchorage's and the North Slope Borough's 4.8 percent rates were also well below the overall state rate. The Wade Hampton Census Area's rate was the state's highest at 20.8 percent.

Payroll employment, which includes nearly all wage and salary jobs but not the self-employed, continued to show moderate over-the-year growth, despite declines in construction and manufacturing. The strongest growth continues to come from the oil and gas industry, which added 1,300 jobs between April 2006 and April 2007.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 4/07	Revised 3/07	Revised 4/06	Changes from	
				3/07	4/06
Total Nonfarm Employment	310,800	306,500	306,800	4,300	4,000
Natural Resources and Mining	13,400	13,300	12,100	100	1,300
Oil and Gas	11,100	11,000	9,800	100	1,300
Construction	16,100	14,800	16,500	1,300	-400
Manufacturing	10,700	12,200	11,300	-1,500	-600
Seafood Processing	7,000	8,500	7,500	-1,500	-500
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	62,200	60,700	61,400	1,500	800
Retail Trade	35,000	34,100	34,800	900	200
Information	7,000	7,000	6,900	0	100
Financial Activities	14,700	14,600	14,700	100	0
Professional and Business Services	24,200	23,700	23,700	500	500
Educational ² and Health Services	38,100	37,800	37,100	300	1,000
Health Care	26,800	26,700	26,400	100	400
Leisure and Hospitality	29,200	28,200	28,300	1,000	900
Accommodations	6,600	6,300	6,300	300	300
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	18,600	17,900	18,000	700	600
Other Services	11,400	11,300	11,300	100	100
Government ³	83,800	82,900	83,500	900	300

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Private education only

³ Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

April 2007:	Alaska	5.8%	U.S.	4.5%
March 2007:	Alaska	5.9%	U.S.	4.4%
April 2006:	Alaska	6.8%	U.S.	4.7%

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

Seasonal Adjustment

Seasonal adjustment is a statistical technique that eliminates the influences of seasonal weather changes, holidays, the opening and closing of schools, and other recurring seasonal events from economic time series such as unemployment rates. Eliminating seasonal fluctuations makes it easier to compare data from month to month and identify changes in trends.

Contact: Dan Robinson, Economist (907) 465-6036
Research and Analysis Web site: almis.labor.state.ak.us

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	4/07	3/07	4/06	4/07	3/07	4/06	4/07	3/07	4/06	4/07	3/07	4/06
Alaska Statewide	340,414	342,815	341,708	21,290	22,693	24,516	6.3	6.6	7.2	319,124	320,122	317,192
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	187,671	189,052	187,241	10,112	10,699	11,510	5.4	5.7	6.1	177,559	178,353	175,731
Municipality of Anchorage	150,377	151,245	150,061	7,288	7,516	8,445	4.8	5.0	5.6	143,089	143,729	141,616
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	37,294	37,807	37,180	2,824	3,183	3,065	7.6	8.4	8.2	34,470	34,624	34,115
Gulf Coast Region	35,432	35,456	35,394	2,851	3,115	3,156	8.0	8.8	8.9	32,581	32,341	32,238
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,522	24,394	24,457	2,032	2,222	2,273	8.3	9.1	9.3	22,490	22,172	22,184
Kodiak Island Borough	6,101	6,308	6,106	355	377	404	5.8	6.0	6.6	5,746	5,931	5,702
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,809	4,754	4,831	464	516	479	9.6	10.9	9.9	4,345	4,238	4,352
Interior Region	51,198	50,774	52,190	3,135	3,393	3,634	6.1	6.7	7.0	48,063	47,381	48,556
Denali Borough	1,212	924	1,252	105	115	95	8.7	12.4	7.6	1,107	809	1,157
Fairbanks North Star Borough	44,023	44,178	44,780	2,334	2,513	2,762	5.3	5.7	6.2	41,689	41,665	42,018
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,224	3,120	3,287	315	357	386	9.8	11.4	11.7	2,909	2,763	2,901
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,739	2,552	2,871	381	408	391	13.9	16.0	13.6	2,358	2,144	2,480
Northern Region	11,042	11,384	10,835	920	917	1,139	8.3	8.1	10.5	10,122	10,467	9,696
Nome Census Area	3,759	3,960	3,909	399	390	519	10.6	9.8	13.3	3,360	3,570	3,390
North Slope Borough	4,454	4,527	4,027	214	228	274	4.8	5.0	6.8	4,240	4,299	3,753
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,829	2,897	2,899	307	299	346	10.9	10.3	11.9	2,522	2,598	2,553
Southeast Region	38,529	37,854	38,738	2,401	2,718	2,800	6.2	7.2	7.2	36,128	35,136	35,938
Haines Borough	1,096	1,050	1,127	104	126	136	9.5	12.0	12.1	992	924	991
Juneau Borough	18,616	18,194	18,514	796	836	934	4.3	4.6	5.0	17,820	17,358	17,580
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,709	7,492	7,664	474	519	526	6.1	6.9	6.9	7,235	6,973	7,138
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,074	2,185	2,253	299	360	358	14.4	16.5	15.9	1,775	1,825	1,895
Sitka Borough	4,438	4,447	4,544	193	218	258	4.3	4.9	5.7	4,245	4,229	4,286
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,577	1,531	1,596	231	295	273	14.6	19.3	17.1	1,346	1,236	1,323
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,715	2,698	2,709	287	338	275	10.6	12.5	10.2	2,428	2,360	2,434
Yakutat Borough	304	257	331	17	26	40	5.6	10.1	12.1	287	231	291
Southwest Region	16,541	18,297	17,313	1,870	1,852	2,279	11.3	10.1	13.2	14,671	16,445	15,034
Aleutians East Borough	1,371	1,291	1,433	71	71	105	5.2	5.5	7.3	1,300	1,220	1,328
Aleutians West Census Area	2,826	4,345	2,910	171	140	211	6.1	3.2	7.3	2,655	4,205	2,699
Bethel Census Area	6,660	6,804	6,968	820	820	1,012	12.3	12.1	14.5	5,840	5,984	5,956
Bristol Bay Borough	510	432	558	53	60	66	10.4	13.9	11.8	457	372	492
Dillingham Census Area	1,961	2,039	2,025	183	184	214	9.3	9.0	10.6	1,778	1,855	1,811
Lake and Peninsula Borough	776	842	855	64	71	78	8.2	8.4	9.1	712	771	777
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,437	2,544	2,564	508	506	593	20.8	19.9	23.1	1,929	2,038	1,971

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

Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted, such as those in this table, should not be compared with those that are, such as the statewide rates on the first page of this release. 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.