



# MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



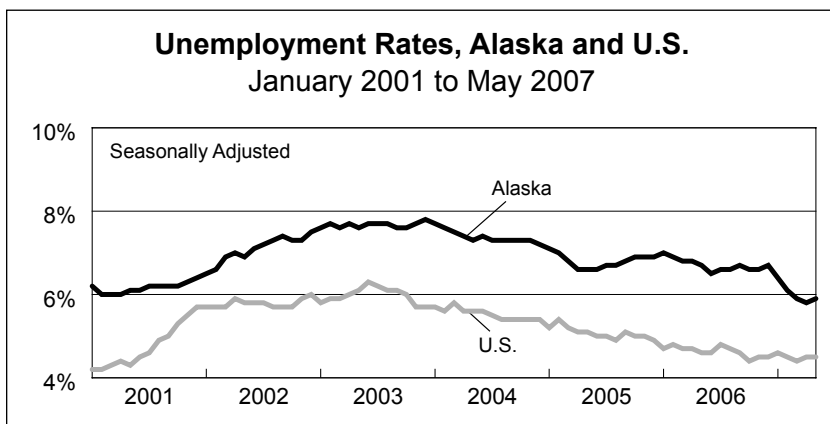
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Click Bishop

June 15, 2007

No. 07-50

## Unemployment rate at 5.9 percent in May



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in May at 5.9 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The unemployment rate showed a slight downward trend during the first three months of this year before flattening out in April and May. Seasonally adjusted rates below 6 percent are unusual for Alaska. Before this year, the last time the rate dipped below 6 percent was April 1998.

During the more volatile 1980s, unemployment rates averaged 9.5 percent. Rates fell during the 1990s to an average of 7.3 percent, and have averaged 6.8 percent since 2000.

During the last 12 months the labor market has tightened throughout most of the state. In Anchorage, the estimated number of unemployed people fell from 8,021 in May 2006 to 6,882 in May 2007, a 14 percent decline.

Fairbanks and Juneau saw similar declines of 15 percent and 17 percent, respectively, while Mat-Su's estimated number of unemployed fell 7 percent. All six of Alaska's economic regions also saw significant drops in unemployment.

Payroll employment grew by 11,700 in May, a typical seasonal increase as construction and tourism-related industries gathered steam.

Over-the-year growth in payroll employment slowed slightly to 1.1 percent. Job counts for both the construction (-500) and seafood processing (-300) industries were down compared to May 2006. The strongest over-the-year growth continued to come from the oil and gas industry, which provided 1,100 more jobs than a year earlier.

### Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment<sup>1</sup>

	Preliminary 5/07	Revised 4/07	Revised 5/06	Changes from	
				4/07	5/06
Total Nonfarm Employment	322,600	310,900	319,200	11,700	3,400
Natural Resources and Mining	13,500	13,600	12,400	-100	1,100
Oil and Gas	11,100	11,200	10,000	-100	1,100
Construction	18,300	16,200	18,800	2,100	-500
Manufacturing	10,200	10,600	10,500	-400	-300
Seafood Processing	6,200	6,800	6,500	-600	-300
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	66,200	62,400	65,600	3,800	600
Retail Trade	36,500	35,100	36,400	1,400	100
Information	7,100	7,000	7,000	100	100
Financial Activities	15,000	14,700	14,900	300	100
Professional and Business Services	25,400	24,100	24,900	1,300	500
Educational <sup>2</sup> and Health Services	37,900	37,900	37,400	0	500
Health Care	26,800	26,700	26,500	100	300
Leisure and Hospitality	33,600	29,200	32,600	4,400	1,000
Accommodations	8,700	6,600	8,400	2,100	300
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	20,100	18,500	19,600	1,600	500
Other Services	11,600	11,400	11,500	200	100
Government <sup>3</sup>	83,800	83,800	83,600	0	200

<sup>1</sup> Not seasonally adjusted

<sup>2</sup> Private education only

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

### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

May 2007:	Alaska	5.9%	U.S.	4.5%
April 2007:	Alaska	5.8%	U.S.	4.5%
May 2006:	Alaska	6.7%	U.S.	4.6%

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.

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Research and Analysis' Web site: [almis.labor.state.ak.us](http://almis.labor.state.ak.us)

# Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	5/07	4/07	5/06	5/07	4/07	5/06	5/07	4/07	5/06	5/07	4/07	5/06
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	344,606	340,414	346,055	19,641	21,290	22,741	5.7	6.3	6.6	324,965	319,124	323,314
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	186,667	187,671	186,897	9,355	10,112	10,690	5.0	5.4	5.7	177,312	177,559	176,207
Municipality of Anchorage	149,772	150,377	150,021	6,882	7,288	8,021	4.6	4.8	5.3	142,890	143,089	142,000
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	36,895	37,294	36,876	2,473	2,824	2,669	6.7	7.6	7.2	34,422	34,470	34,207
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	36,758	35,432	36,848	2,457	2,851	2,865	6.7	8.0	7.8	34,301	32,581	33,983
Kenai Peninsula Borough	25,835	24,522	25,770	1,743	2,032	1,926	6.7	8.3	7.5	24,092	22,490	23,844
Kodiak Island Borough	5,686	6,101	5,821	324	355	527	5.7	5.8	9.1	5,362	5,746	5,294
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,237	4,809	5,257	390	464	412	7.4	9.6	7.8	4,847	4,345	4,845
<b>Interior Region</b>	53,414	51,198	54,059	2,877	3,135	3,335	5.4	6.1	6.2	50,537	48,063	50,724
Denali Borough	2,137	1,212	2,035	71	105	71	3.3	8.7	3.5	2,066	1,107	1,964
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,172	44,023	45,913	2,161	2,334	2,536	4.8	5.3	5.5	43,011	41,689	43,377
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,350	3,224	3,309	286	315	348	8.5	9.8	10.5	3,064	2,909	2,961
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,755	2,739	2,802	359	381	380	13.0	13.9	13.6	2,396	2,358	2,422
<b>Northern Region</b>	10,930	11,042	10,770	960	920	1,121	8.8	8.3	10.4	9,970	10,122	9,649
Nome Census Area	3,670	3,759	3,803	407	399	485	11.1	10.6	12.8	3,263	3,360	3,318
North Slope Borough	4,412	4,454	4,048	226	214	287	5.1	4.8	7.1	4,186	4,240	3,761
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,848	2,829	2,919	327	307	349	11.5	10.9	12.0	2,521	2,522	2,570
<b>Southeast Region</b>	40,805	38,529	40,862	2,081	2,401	2,423	5.1	6.2	5.9	38,724	36,128	38,439
Haines Borough	1,364	1,096	1,388	84	104	106	6.2	9.5	7.6	1,280	992	1,282
Juneau Borough	18,999	18,616	18,877	706	796	846	3.7	4.3	4.5	18,293	17,820	18,031
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,253	7,709	8,194	401	474	438	4.9	6.1	5.3	7,852	7,235	7,756
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,157	2,074	2,309	269	299	308	12.5	14.4	13.3	1,888	1,775	2,001
Sitka Borough	4,675	4,438	4,770	180	193	259	3.9	4.3	5.4	4,495	4,245	4,511
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,190	1,577	2,161	178	231	196	8.1	14.6	9.1	2,012	1,346	1,965
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,843	2,715	2,830	246	287	246	8.7	10.6	8.7	2,597	2,428	2,584
Yakutat Borough	324	304	333	17	17	24	5.2	5.6	7.2	307	287	309
<b>Southwest Region</b>	16,033	16,541	16,620	1,912	1,870	2,309	11.9	11.3	13.9	14,121	14,671	14,311
Aleutians East Borough	734	1,371	799	79	71	118	10.8	5.2	14.8	665	1,300	681
Aleutians West Census Area	2,135	2,826	2,264	201	171	284	9.4	6.1	12.5	1,934	2,655	1,980
Bethel Census Area	6,731	6,660	6,900	825	820	977	12.3	12.3	14.2	5,906	5,840	5,923
Bristol Bay Borough	1,142	510	1,161	48	53	56	4.2	10.4	4.8	1,094	457	1,105
Dillingham Census Area	1,964	1,961	2,032	174	183	213	8.9	9.3	10.5	1,790	1,778	1,819
Lake and Peninsula Borough	945	776	959	61	64	68	6.5	8.2	7.1	884	712	891
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,382	2,437	2,505	524	508	593	22.0	20.8	23.7	1,858	1,929	1,912

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 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.

<sup>1</sup> Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

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