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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

June 21, 2013

No. 13-30

### Unemployment rate at 5.9 percent in May

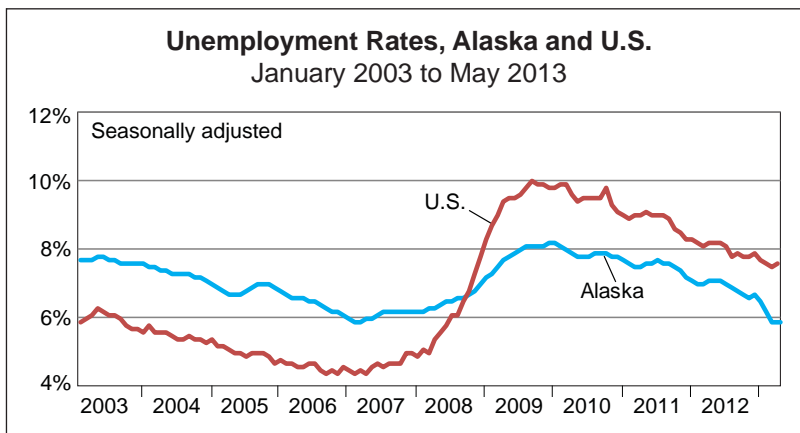
Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.9 percent in May, unchanged from April's revised rate. The comparable U.S. rate was 7.6 percent.

Before April, Alaska's rate had dipped as low as 5.9 percent only once, in the spring of 2007. However, it's worth noting that large revisions are possible at the end of the year.

May's not seasonally adjusted rate was 6.0 percent in May, down two-tenths of a percentage point from April's 6.2 percent. Summer economic activity kicked into gear across the state as unemployment rates fell in 21 out of 29 boroughs and census areas. The biggest declines were in Skagway and the Denali Borough, both heavily dependent on tourism, where rates fell by 11.7 and 9.7 percentage points respectively. Skagway's rate fell to 2.7 percent, the lowest in the state, followed by the Bristol Bay Borough at 3.2 percent.

Rates increased in seven boroughs and census areas and remained the same in one. The largest jumps were in the Aleutians East Borough and Aleutians West Census Area, where rates climbed 11.0 and 5.7 percentage points respectively. May is sandwiched between winter and late-summer western fisheries, and is typically a slow month for the Aleutian chain.

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Research and Analysis Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	5/13	4/13	5/12
Alaska	5.9%	5.9%	7.1%
U.S.	7.6%	7.5%	8.2%

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

For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

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

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	5/13 <sup>P</sup>	4/13	5/12	Number			Rate		
				5/13 <sup>P</sup>	4/13	5/12	5/13 <sup>P</sup>	4/13	5/12
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>364,321</b>	<b>359,422</b>	<b>367,341</b>	<b>21,825</b>	<b>22,438</b>	<b>25,363</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>198,342</b>	<b>198,218</b>	<b>199,969</b>	<b>10,136</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>12,062</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Anchorage, Municipality of	155,408	155,140	156,538	7,351	7,467	8,716	4.7	4.8	5.6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,934	43,078	43,431	2,785	3,033	3,346	6.5	7.0	7.7
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>39,763</b>	<b>38,749</b>	<b>40,039</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>2,756</b>	<b>3,063</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,768	26,919	28,042	1,864	1,991	2,238	6.7	7.4	8.0
Kodiak Island Borough	6,726	6,936	6,721	318	328	385	4.7	4.7	5.7
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,269	4,894	5,276	411	437	440	7.8	8.9	8.3
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>55,393</b>	<b>53,267</b>	<b>55,850</b>	<b>3,304</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>3,833</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Denali Borough	1,638	783	1,623	100	124	124	6.1	15.8	7.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,975	45,988	47,572	2,432	2,512	2,874	5.2	5.5	6.0
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,456	3,306	3,375	330	348	354	9.5	10.5	10.5
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,324	3,190	3,280	442	441	481	13.3	13.8	14.7
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>12,701</b>	<b>13,311</b>	<b>12,564</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>10.1</b>
Nome Census Area	4,179	4,381	4,121	466	451	496	11.2	10.3	12.0
North Slope Borough	5,463	5,799	5,382	256	250	287	4.7	4.3	5.3
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,059	3,131	3,061	425	421	482	13.9	13.4	15.7
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>40,384</b>	<b>38,152</b>	<b>41,113</b>	<b>2,129</b>	<b>2,326</b>	<b>2,557</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Haines Borough	1,322	1,190	1,339	83	96	97	6.3	8.1	7.2
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,369	877	1,402	156	158	179	11.4	18.0	12.8
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,663	18,100	18,934	725	781	854	3.9	4.3	4.5
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,280	7,632	8,435	440	494	532	5.3	6.5	6.3
Petersburg Census Area	1,632	1,589	1,703	120	139	179	7.4	8.7	10.5
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,440	2,346	2,495	288	282	326	11.8	12.0	13.1
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,558	4,607	4,649	209	206	263	4.6	4.5	5.7
Skagway, Municipality of	786	529	798	21	76	27	2.7	14.4	3.4
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,042	1,009	1,059	65	72	74	6.2	7.1	7.0
Yakutat, City and Borough of	292	273	299	22	22	26	7.5	8.1	8.7
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>17,740</b>	<b>17,727</b>	<b>17,806</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>2,309</b>	<b>2,583</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>14.5</b>
Aleutians East Borough	891	1,489	908	163	108	179	18.3	7.3	19.7
Aleutians West Census Area	2,615	2,871	2,619	377	251	382	14.4	8.7	14.6
Bethel Census Area	6,984	6,897	6,971	1,064	1,057	1,060	15.2	15.3	15.2
Bristol Bay Borough	1,063	566	1,076	34	40	44	3.2	7.1	4.1
Dillingham Census Area	2,201	2,148	2,233	192	189	214	8.7	8.8	9.6
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,253	995	1,265	83	83	94	6.6	8.3	7.4
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,733	2,761	2,734	605	581	610	22.1	21.0	22.3

P = Preliminary. As more information becomes available, data are revised every month for the previous month and again at the end of every calendar year.

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 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 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics