

Dianne Blumer
Commissioner
P.O. Box 111149
Juneau, AK 99811-1149
www.labor.alaska.gov



Beth Leschper
Communications Director
907.465.2700
cell: 907.723.1321
beth.leschper@alaska.gov

Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 6.5 percent in August

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.5 percent in August, up two-tenths of a percentage point from July's rate. The comparable national rate was 7.3 percent.

Alaska's rate declined substantially during the first half of the year, but it reversed course in June, putting August closer to early-2013 levels. The rate's volatility in recent months is common for preliminary rates, and August's increase is not big enough by itself to suggest a change in 2013's overall trend.

August's not seasonally adjusted rate was 5.7 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from July, and half a percentage point from a year earlier. August's unadjusted rate is frequently the lowest of the year, although September and October lows are not unprecedented historically.

Bristol Bay Borough had the lowest unemployment rate in August at 1.9 percent, followed by the Municipality of Skagway at 2.5 percent. Rates in both places increased from July, however, as fishing and tourism wound down from their July peak. The normal decline of the Southwest summer fishing season also caused rates to increase in the Aleutians East and Lake and Peninsula boroughs and the Dillingham Census Area.

Contact: Caroline Schultz, Economist (907) 465-6027
Research and Analysis Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	8/13	7/13	8/12
Alaska	6.5%	6.3%	7.0%
U.S.	7.3%	7.4%	8.1%

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 Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	8/13 ^P	7/13	8/12	Number			Rate		
				8/13 ^P	7/13	8/12	8/13 ^P	7/13	8/12
Alaska Statewide	369,287	373,528	369,816	20,924	21,955	22,960	5.7	5.9	6.2
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	195,281	198,146	196,754	9,893	10,446	11,022	5.1	5.3	5.6
Anchorage, Municipality of	153,164	155,259	154,195	7,324	7,600	8,084	4.8	4.9	5.2
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,117	42,887	42,559	2,569	2,846	2,938	6.1	6.6	6.9
Gulf Coast Region	42,656	43,275	42,706	2,421	2,548	2,738	5.7	5.9	6.4
Kenai Peninsula Borough	29,235	29,729	29,274	1,770	1,818	1,999	6.1	6.1	6.8
Kodiak Island Borough	7,066	7,201	7,120	297	358	380	4.2	5.0	5.3
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,355	6,345	6,312	354	372	359	5.6	5.9	5.7
Interior Region	55,095	55,232	55,402	3,130	3,288	3,383	5.7	6.0	6.1
Denali Borough	2,405	2,477	2,340	83	88	92	3.5	3.6	3.9
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,970	46,236	46,334	2,334	2,409	2,560	5.1	5.2	5.5
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,426	3,335	3,433	311	335	324	9.1	10.0	9.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,294	3,184	3,295	402	456	407	12.2	14.3	12.4
Northern Region	12,708	12,645	12,572	1,181	1,207	1,214	9.3	9.5	9.7
Nome Census Area	4,036	3,912	3,972	471	480	467	11.7	12.3	11.8
North Slope Borough	5,508	5,533	5,454	271	284	291	4.9	5.1	5.3
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,164	3,200	3,146	439	443	456	13.9	13.8	14.5
Southeast Region	43,766	43,458	43,146	2,050	2,153	2,297	4.7	5.0	5.3
Haines Borough	1,750	1,729	1,719	82	87	80	4.7	5.0	4.7
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,574	1,601	1,574	130	145	145	8.3	9.1	9.2
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,689	18,628	18,385	746	761	814	4.0	4.1	4.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9,507	9,430	9,376	398	436	466	4.2	4.6	5.0
Petersburg Census Area	1,814	1,784	1,818	100	100	143	5.5	5.6	7.9
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,709	2,673	2,691	269	276	306	9.9	10.3	11.4
Sitka, City and Borough of	5,269	5,174	5,175	208	222	226	3.9	4.3	4.4
Skagway, Municipality of	934	939	922	23	21	22	2.5	2.2	2.4
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,182	1,172	1,154	75	84	72	6.3	7.2	6.2
Yakutat, City and Borough of	338	328	332	19	21	23	5.6	6.4	6.9
Southwest Region	19,777	20,773	19,237	2,247	2,313	2,307	11.4	11.1	12.0
Aleutians East Borough	1,207	1,358	1,176	111	116	118	9.2	8.5	10.0
Aleutians West Census Area	3,186	3,116	3,093	206	222	214	6.5	7.1	6.9
Bethel Census Area	7,098	6,877	6,898	1,073	1,106	1,080	15.1	16.1	15.7
Bristol Bay Borough	1,646	2,757	1,594	32	29	38	1.9	1.1	2.4
Dillingham Census Area	2,455	2,634	2,387	186	192	197	7.6	7.3	8.3
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,341	1,588	1,310	66	68	68	4.9	4.3	5.2
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,844	2,443	2,779	573	580	592	20.1	23.7	21.3

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.

¹Unemployment 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