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Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 6.7 percent in July

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in July, essentially unchanged from June's 6.8 percent. The comparable national rate was 5.3 percent.

Alaska's seasonally adjusted rate has remained level through the past four months. The adjusted rate smooths out the swings from summer to winter employment, which makes it easier to detect underlying economic trends.

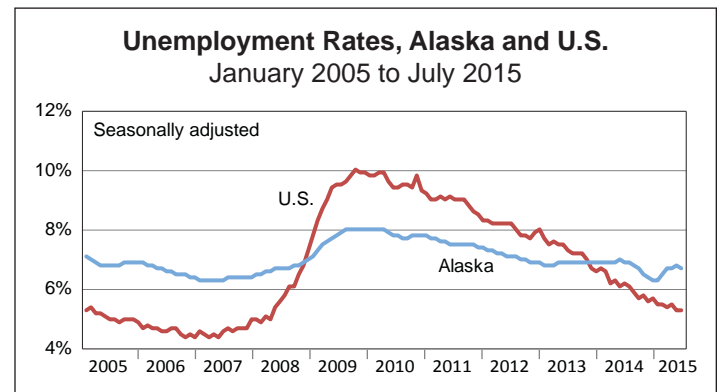
July's unadjusted rate was 5.9 percent, one whole percentage point lower than June's 6.9 percent. Large drops in the unadjusted rate from June to July are typical as Alaska's summer economy heats up.

Unadjusted rates fell in nearly every borough and census area in the state. July is one of the few months in the year when rates throughout the state move in the same direction due to increased activity in construction, tourism, and fishing.

The lowest rate was 2.1 percent in the Bristol Bay Borough, where commercial fishing dominates. The highest rate was in the recently renamed Kusilvak Census Area, at 26.9 percent. The unemployment rate in this economically depressed area was more than 10 percentage points higher than the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area and the Northwest Arctic Borough, which shared the next highest July rate at 16.5 percent.

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

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Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	7/15	6/15	7/14
Alaska	6.7%	6.8%	6.9%
U.S.	5.3%	5.5%	6.2%

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

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	7/15 ^P	6/15	7/14	Number			Rate		
				7/15 ^P	6/15	7/14	7/15 ^P	6/15	7/14
Alaska	374,708	371,587	378,906	22,285	25,495	23,995	5.9	6.9	6.3
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	204,024	205,377	206,002	10,870	12,453	11,549	5.3	6.1	5.6
Anchorage, Municipality	159,966	160,906	161,470	7,627	8,760	8,125	4.8	5.4	5.0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,058	44,471	44,532	3,243	3,693	3,424	7.4	8.3	7.7
Gulf Coast Region	42,669	41,434	42,424	2,602	2,995	2,779	6.1	7.2	6.6
Kenai Peninsula Borough	30,068	29,322	29,821	1,956	2,214	1,984	6.5	7.6	6.7
Kodiak Island Borough	6,844	6,532	6,862	300	377	402	4.4	5.8	5.9
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,757	5,580	5,741	346	404	393	6.0	7.2	6.8
Interior Region	53,610	53,866	54,966	3,051	3,638	3,465	5.7	6.8	6.3
Denali Borough	1,699	1,686	1,753	65	72	77	3.8	4.3	4.4
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,449	46,502	47,552	2,281	2,772	2,590	4.9	6.0	5.4
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,967	3,022	3,089	293	334	358	9.9	11.1	11.6
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,495	2,656	2,572	412	460	440	16.5	17.3	17.1
Northern Region	11,358	11,399	11,577	1,269	1,393	1,320	11.2	12.2	11.4
Nome Census Area	3,921	4,115	4,010	505	568	535	12.9	13.8	13.3
North Slope Borough	4,339	4,234	4,411	253	291	259	5.8	6.9	5.9
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,098	3,050	3,156	511	534	526	16.5	17.5	16.7
Southeast Region	41,548	39,424	42,419	2,176	2,482	2,383	5.2	6.3	5.6
Haines Borough	1,449	1,132	1,487	81	90	96	5.6	8.0	6.5
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,356	1,341	1,359	149	162	133	11.0	12.1	9.8
Juneau, City and Borough	17,733	17,697	18,080	760	875	837	4.3	4.9	4.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,900	7,527	8,069	407	483	469	5.2	6.4	5.8
Petersburg Borough	2,074	1,604	2,124	127	145	143	6.1	9.0	6.7
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,812	2,772	2,932	304	331	335	10.8	11.9	11.4
Sitka, City and Borough	5,659	4,935	5,767	200	235	224	3.5	4.8	3.9
Skagway, Municipality	1,067	1,043	1,080	48	54	46	4.5	5.2	4.3
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,192	1,084	1,210	78	87	77	6.5	8.0	6.4
Yakutat, City and Borough	306	289	311	22	20	23	7.2	6.9	7.4
Southwest Region	21,503	20,086	21,517	2,320	2,535	2,500	10.8	12.6	11.6
Aleutians East Borough	2,611	1,854	2,602	82	94	92	3.1	5.1	3.5
Aleutians West Census Area	4,323	3,942	4,347	133	176	185	3.1	4.5	4.3
Bethel Census Area	7,157	7,353	7,153	1,127	1,184	1,208	15.7	16.1	16.9
Bristol Bay Borough	1,248	938	1,252	26	35	30	2.1	3.7	2.4
Dillingham Census Area	2,772	2,491	2,763	204	238	211	7.4	9.6	7.6
Kusilvak Census Area	2,497	2,786	2,485	672	719	672	26.9	25.8	27.0
Lake and Peninsula Borough	895	722	915	76	89	102	8.5	12.3	11.1

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