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## Press Release

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### Unemployment rate at 6.6 percent in August

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in August, essentially unchanged from July's 6.7 percent. August's adjusted rate was just below Alaska's three-year average of 6.8 percent.

The seasonally adjusted U.S. rate was 5.1 percent in August, continuing its steady decline toward pre-recession levels.

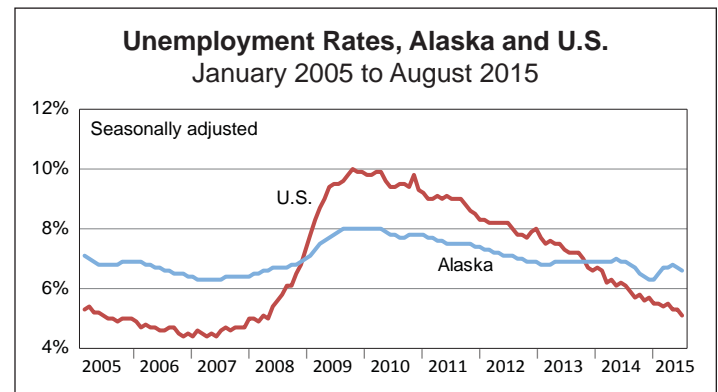
Alaska's unadjusted unemployment rate was 5.5 percent in August, down from July's 5.9 percent. August is typically the lowest month for the unadjusted rate, reflecting peak economic activity in most of the state.

Unadjusted rates fell from July to August in 26 of 29 boroughs and census areas, with most reaching their lowest rate of the year. The three areas where rates climbed were in the Bristol Bay region, where economic activity slowed after the July peak for salmon fisheries. Seven had unemployment rates below 4 percent, including the Kodiak, Denali, Juneau, Sitka, Aleutians East and Bristol Bay boroughs and the Aleutians West Census Area.

Rates remained high in some areas of the state in August. Six boroughs and census areas had an unemployment rate above 10 percent, including the Yukon-Koyukuk, Nome, Bethel and Kusilvak census areas and the Northwest Arctic and Lake and Peninsula boroughs.

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			
	8/15	7/15	8/14
Alaska	6.6%	6.7%	6.9%
U.S.	5.1%	5.3%	6.1%

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 Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	8/15 <sup>P</sup>	7/15	8/14	Number			Rate		
				8/15 <sup>P</sup>	7/15	8/14	8/15 <sup>P</sup>	7/15	8/14
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>368,517</b>	<b>374,501</b>	<b>373,392</b>	<b>20,229</b>	<b>22,251</b>	<b>22,559</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>199,711</b>	<b>203,988</b>	<b>202,507</b>	<b>9,899</b>	<b>10,855</b>	<b>10,922</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Anchorage, Municipality	156,727	159,939	158,898	7,010	7,617	7,793	4.5	4.8	4.9
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,984	44,049	43,609	2,889	3,238	3,129	6.7	7.4	7.2
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>42,139</b>	<b>42,570</b>	<b>41,903</b>	<b>2,365</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>2,615</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	29,601	29,992	29,406	1,792	1,953	1,917	6.1	6.5	6.5
Kodiak Island Borough	6,812	6,833	6,783	268	301	333	3.9	4.4	4.9
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,726	5,745	5,714	305	345	365	5.3	6.0	6.4
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>54,214</b>	<b>53,738</b>	<b>54,949</b>	<b>2,842</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Denali Borough	1,696	1,700	1,721	62	65	72	3.7	3.8	4.2
Fairbanks North Star Borough	47,039	46,576	47,638	2,139	2,277	2,427	4.5	4.9	5.1
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,999	2,967	3,066	270	292	325	9.0	9.8	10.6
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,480	2,495	2,524	371	412	396	15.0	16.5	15.7
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>11,193</b>	<b>11,142</b>	<b>11,526</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>1,207</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Nome Census Area	3,976	3,849	4,108	448	504	499	11.3	13.1	12.1
North Slope Borough	4,264	4,252	4,374	230	252	250	5.4	5.9	5.7
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,953	3,041	3,044	425	510	458	14.4	16.8	15.0
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>41,097</b>	<b>41,588</b>	<b>42,062</b>	<b>1,972</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Haines Borough	1,418	1,450	1,450	72	80	82	5.1	5.5	5.7
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,362	1,356	1,371	133	148	123	9.8	10.9	9.0
Juneau, City and Borough	17,815	17,752	18,208	694	759	798	3.9	4.3	4.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,812	7,907	8,009	371	406	455	4.7	5.1	5.7
Petersburg Borough	1,980	2,077	2,030	117	127	138	5.9	6.1	6.8
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,800	2,813	2,920	274	302	312	9.8	10.7	10.7
Sitka, City and Borough	5,411	5,665	5,522	182	199	208	3.4	3.5	3.8
Skagway, Municipality	1,047	1,068	1,060	44	48	40	4.2	4.5	3.8
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,157	1,193	1,184	67	78	75	5.8	6.5	6.3
Yakutat, City and Borough	295	307	308	18	22	25	6.1	7.2	8.1
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>20,164</b>	<b>21,475</b>	<b>20,443</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>2,315</b>	<b>2,339</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.4</b>
Aleutians East Borough	2,360	2,607	2,390	69	81	96	2.9	3.1	4.0
Aleutians West Census Area	4,208	4,317	4,279	115	132	177	2.7	3.1	4.1
Bethel Census Area	7,085	7,148	7,170	998	1,125	1,123	14.1	15.7	15.7
Bristol Bay Borough	672	1,246	684	26	26	31	3.9	2.1	4.5
Dillingham Census Area	2,469	2,769	2,485	191	204	202	7.7	7.4	8.1
Kusilvak Census Area	2,760	2,494	2,800	585	671	622	21.2	26.9	22.2
Lake and Peninsula Borough	610	894	635	65	76	88	10.7	8.5	13.9

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