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Press Release

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Unemployment Rate at 6.7 Percent in May

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in May, essentially unchanged from April's 6.6 percent. The comparable national rate was 4.3 percent. The gap between the national rate and the Alaska rate has steadily increased over the last several years.

Preliminary employment estimates show May was down by 6,000 jobs, or 1.8 percent, from May 2016. Oil and gas continued to show the largest over-the-year losses, followed closely by construction, professional and business services, and state government.

Although most sectors lost jobs, health care employment continued to grow as did leisure and hospitality. Local and federal government jobs were also up over the year. Most of the local government growth came from tribal government jobs, which are included in the local government numbers.

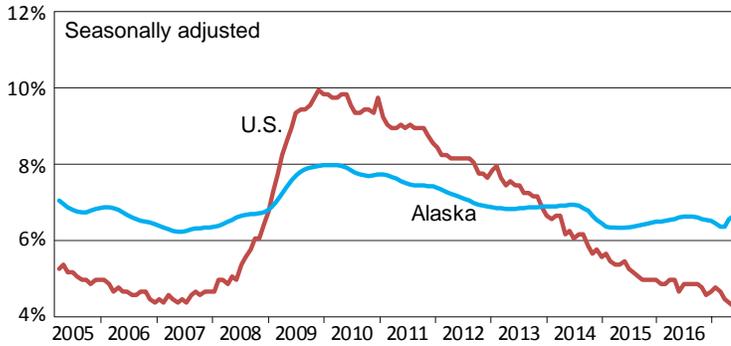
May's not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from April. From April to May, it is typical to see a decline in the unadjusted rate as tourism and construction ramp up for summer.

Across the state, unadjusted rates fell or remained the same in 19 of 29 boroughs and census areas. The lowest rates were in Juneau (4.1 percent), Sitka (4.1 percent), and Skagway (4.2 percent) as Southeast prepares for summer visitors. Kusilvak Census Area had the highest rate at 21.1 percent.

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Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

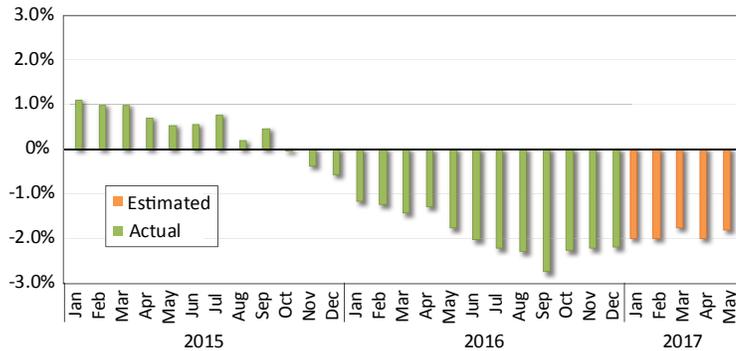
January 2005 to May 2017



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

Wage and Salary Employment

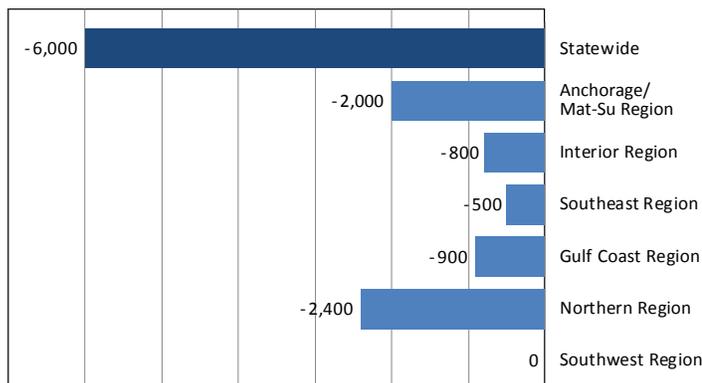
Percent change from same month the previous year



Note: Actual employment counts for 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages employment series. Estimated employment counts from 2017 are based on a forecast of the QCEW series.

Regional Employment

Change from May 2016 to May 2017



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Area Unemployment Rates

Not seasonally adjusted¹

	Rate		
	5/17 ^P	4/17	5/16
Alaska	6.8	7.0	6.6
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	6.3	6.4	5.9
Anchorage, Municipality	5.8	5.8	5.3
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	8.2	8.7	7.8
Gulf Coast Region	7.0	7.7	7.5
Kenai Peninsula Borough	7.6	8.3	8.0
Kodiak Island Borough	4.6	4.6	4.7
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6.8	8.4	7.9
Interior Region	6.7	7.1	6.3
Denali Borough	6.2	16.2	5.1
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.0	6.1	5.5
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	8.6	9.7	10.0
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	17.0	18.1	17.1
Northern Region	12.9	12.4	11.7
Nome Census Area	13.7	13.3	12.9
North Slope Borough	7.5	7.0	6.9
Northwest Arctic Borough	18.9	18.6	16.6
Southeast Region	5.2	5.9	5.6
Haines Borough	7.4	9.2	8.7
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	9.6	13.4	10.1
Juneau, City and Borough	4.1	4.5	4.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	5.7	6.3	5.9
Petersburg Borough	6.7	7.4	8.5
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	9.0	10.1	11.1
Sitka, City and Borough	4.1	3.9	4.3
Skagway, Municipality	4.2	11.8	4.7
Wrangell, City and Borough	5.9	6.2	6.1
Yakutat, City and Borough	6.5	6.4	6.2
Southwest Region	12.5	10.3	13.3
Aleutians East Borough	4.7	2.3	5.7
Aleutians West Census Area	5.7	3.6	5.8
Bethel Census Area	14.9	13.7	15.4
Bristol Bay Borough	5.2	7.8	6.0
Dillingham Census Area	10.0	9.7	10.7
Kusilvak Census Area	21.1	20.3	22.7
Lake and Peninsula Borough	11.6	13.8	13.3

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.

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

Employment By Industry

	Average Monthly Employment			Compared to May 2016	
	May 2017 ¹	April 2017 ¹	May 2016 ²	Change	Percent
Total Nonfarm Employment	333,000	322,100	339,000	-6,000	-1.8%
Total Private	250,700	239,900	256,000	-5,300	-2.1%
Mining and Logging	13,200	13,200	15,000	-1,800	-12.0%
Oil and Gas	10,200	10,200	11,700	-1,500	-12.8%
Construction	15,800	14,100	17,200	-1,400	-8.1%
Manufacturing	10,600	12,400	10,700	-100	-0.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	66,500	62,500	67,900	-1,400	-2.1%
Wholesale	6,300	6,200	6,500	-200	-3.1%
Retail	36,900	35,500	37,700	-800	-2.1%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	23,300	20,800	23,700	-400	-1.7%
Information	6,200	6,300	6,400	-200	-3.1%
Financial Activities	11,900	11,700	12,000	-100	-0.8%
Professional and Business Services	27,900	27,000	29,300	-1,400	-4.8%
Education and Health	49,600	49,500	48,700	900	1.8%
Health Care	36,400	36,300	35,500	900	2.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	38,000	32,400	37,500	500	1.3%
Other Services	11,000	10,800	11,300	-300	-2.7%
Total Government	82,300	82,200	83,000	-700	-0.8%
Federal	15,600	14,900	15,500	100	0.6%
State	23,500	24,200	24,900	-1,400	-5.6%
Local	43,200	43,100	42,600	600	1.4%

¹Employment estimates for 2017 are based on a forecast of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data.

²Employment estimates for 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics employment data.