

# State of Alaska

## Department of Labor & Workforce Development



**Heidi Drygas**  
Commissioner

**Heather Beaty**  
Communications  
Director

907.269.3569  
heather.beaty@alaska.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 15, 2017

No. 17-35

**For more information:** Neal Fried, Economist  
907-269-4861, [Neal.Fried@Alaska.Gov](mailto:Neal.Fried@Alaska.Gov)

### **Unemployment Rate at 7.2 Percent in August**

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.2 percent in August, up two-tenths of a percentage point from July. The comparable national rate was 4.4 percent.

August employment was down by an estimated 1.4 percent, or 4,800 jobs, compared to August 2016. Preliminary estimates show job losses spread across most industries, although the losses remain concentrated in industries closely tied to oil or oil revenue.

Oil and gas led employment losses (-1,000 jobs), followed by construction (-1,000), professional and business services (-800), manufacturing (-600), and state government (-600). Health care, local government, and federal government were all up slightly over August 2016 levels.

August’s not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.3 percent, down three-tenths of a percentage point from July. Although August is the tail end of summer, employment typically remains high as tourism, fishing, and construction continue to drive seasonal employment.

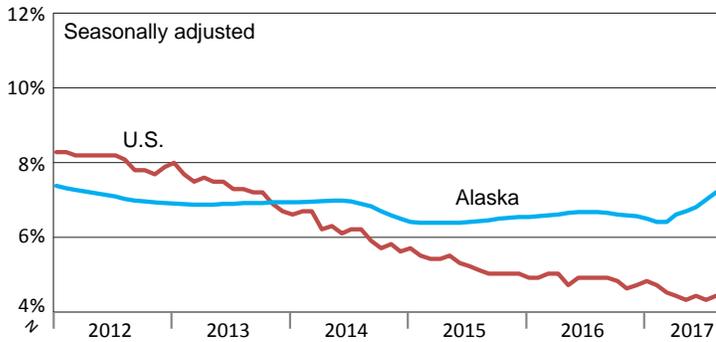
Across the state, unemployment rates fell or remained the same compared to July in 24 of 29 boroughs and census areas. Fishing and tourism drove the lowest rates around the state, with Aleutians East and West at 1.7 percent and 2.7 percent respectively, and Skagway and Denali Borough at 2.8 percent and 3.4 percent. Kusilvak Census Area had the highest rate at 21.2 percent.

Although rates generally fell from July to August because of Alaska’s normal seasonal patterns, the rates are mostly higher than year-ago levels. Among the state’s six economic regions, only Gulf Coast — Kenai Peninsula Borough, Kodiak Island Borough, and Valdez Cordova Census Area — did not register higher unemployment rates in August 2017 than in August 2016.

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# Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

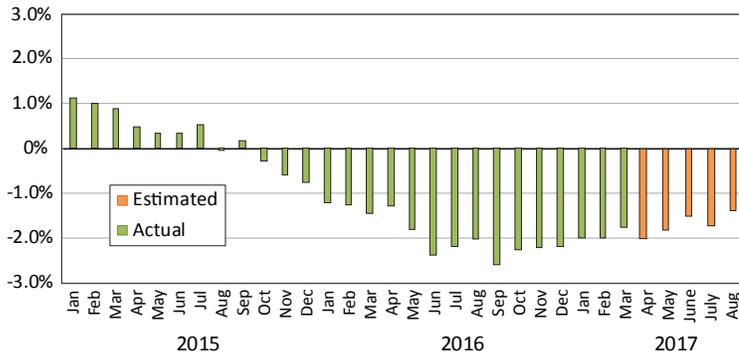
January 2012 to August 2017



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

# Wage and Salary Employment

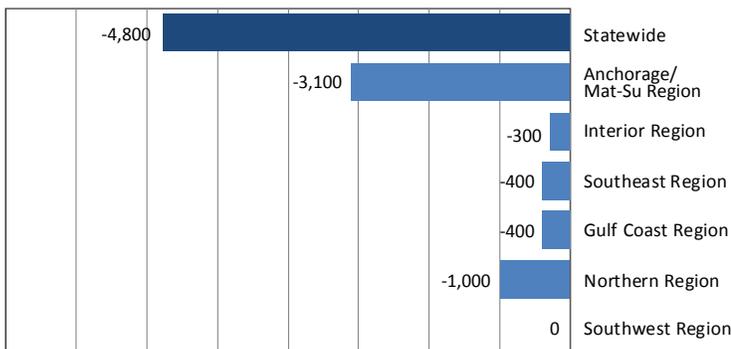
Percent change from same month the previous year



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 August 2016 to August 2017



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

# Area Unemployment Rates

Not seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Rate		
	8/17 <sup>P</sup>	7/17	8/16
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Anchorage, Municipality	5.5	5.6	4.9
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	7.8	8.1	7.2
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	6.8	7.0	6.7
Kodiak Island Borough	4.1	4.9	4.8
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5.0	5.2	5.0
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Denali Borough	3.4	3.9	3.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	5.5	5.8	4.8
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	8.4	8.5	8.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	16.6	17.5	14.9
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Nome Census Area	13.7	14.9	13.4
North Slope Borough	7.7	8.0	7.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	17.0	18.2	14.7
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Haines Borough	5.5	5.8	6.1
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	7.7	7.4	7.1
Juneau, City and Borough	4.1	4.4	3.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	4.6	4.8	4.3
Petersburg Borough	7.1	7.1	6.1
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	9.7	9.6	9.0
Sitka, City and Borough	3.8	4.0	3.1
Skagway, Municipality	2.8	3.0	2.9
Wrangell, City and Borough	6.4	5.9	5.5
Yakutat, City and Borough	8.2	7.4	6.7
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>9.4</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1.7	1.9	1.7
Aleutians West Census Area	2.7	2.8	2.2
Bethel Census Area	14.9	15.4	14.0
Bristol Bay Borough	3.6	1.6	4.3
Dillingham Census Area	7.9	7.9	8.1
Kusilvak Census Area	21.2	24.5	20.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	11.3	11.5	8.9

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.

<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

# Employment By Industry

	Average Monthly Employment			Compared to Aug 2016	
	Aug 2017 <sup>1</sup>	July 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Aug 2016 <sup>2</sup>	Change	Percent
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>348,000</b>	<b>350,400</b>	<b>352,800</b>	<b>-4,800</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>270,900</b>	<b>274,500</b>	<b>275,700</b>	<b>-4,800</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>
Mining and Logging	13,000	13,000	14,100	-1,100	-7.8%
Oil and Gas	9,600	9,600	10,600	-1,000	-9.4%
Construction	18,100	18,400	19,100	-1,000	-5.2%
Manufacturing	19,700	23,500	20,300	-600	-3.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	69,300	68,600	70,100	-800	-1.1%
Wholesale	6,400	6,400	6,600	-200	-3.0%
Retail	38,000	38,300	38,500	-500	-1.3%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	24,900	24,600	25,000	-100	-0.4%
Information	6,100	6,100	6,400	-300	-4.7%
Financial Activities	12,700	12,800	12,800	-100	-0.8%
Professional and Business Services	29,000	28,800	29,800	-800	-2.7%
Education and Health	49,400	49,400	48,900	500	1.0%
Health Care	36,500	36,500	35,900	600	1.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	42,700	42,800	43,100	-400	-0.9%
Other Services	10,900	11,100	11,100	-200	-1.8%
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>78,100</b>	<b>75,900</b>	<b>78,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Federal <sup>3</sup>	15,800	16,000	15,700	100	0.6%
State <sup>4</sup>	23,100	22,600	23,700	-600	-2.5%
Local <sup>5</sup>	38,200	37,300	37,700	500	1.3%

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

<sup>2</sup>Employment estimates for 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics employment data.

<sup>3</sup>Excludes uniformed military

<sup>4</sup>Includes the University of Alaska

<sup>5</sup>Includes public schools and tribal government