

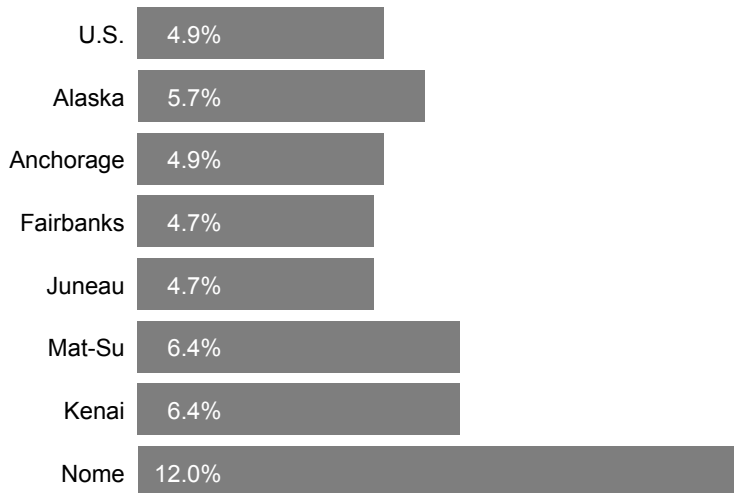
News Release



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

September 16, 2005 **Unemployment rate falls to 5.7 percent in August**
No. 06-07

August Unemployment for Selected Areas



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

Alaska's unemployment rate fell one-tenth of a percentage point in August to 5.7 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The small decline continues the trend in 2005 of noticeably lower unemployment than the last three years. The rate was down eight-tenths of a percentage point from August 2004's rate of 6.5 percent.

Anchorage and Fairbanks also recorded slightly lower unemployment rates in August. The rate in Anchorage fell from 5.0 percent to 4.9 percent, while Fairbanks' rate fell from 5.0 percent to 4.7 percent. Juneau's rate remained at 4.7 percent. The Wade Hampton Census Area had the state's highest unemployment rate at 21.8 percent and the Denali Borough had the lowest at 2.1 percent.

Preliminary estimates of payroll employment show an over-the-month decline of about 1,200 jobs. Other than a large seasonal drop-off in seafood processing employment and a small decline in retail trade, most industries either added jobs in August or showed little change.

The more revealing over-the-year comparisons show growth in every industry sector except government and the miscellaneous category called other services, which includes such disparate employers as auto repair shops, hair salons and churches. The construction and health care industries continue to show the strongest growth, adding jobs at well over 4 percent a year.

Regionally, the Anchorage/Mat-Su area accounts for about three-fourths of the state's payroll employment growth, with a disproportionately large share of that amount coming from Mat-Su. The bulk of the remaining growth is in Fairbanks, although the Southeast, Gulf Coast and Southwest regions have all added at least a small number of jobs since August 2004. Only the Northern region has lost jobs over the year.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	preliminary 08/05	revised 07/05	revised 08/04	changes from	
				07/05	08/04
Total Nonfarm Employment	330,100	331,300	325,400	-1,200	4,700
Natural Resources & Mining	10,900	10,800	10,700	100	200
Construction	22,500	22,000	21,500	500	1,000
Manufacturing	19,000	21,700	18,400	-2,700	600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	67,900	68,200	67,000	-300	900
Information	7,000	7,000	6,900	0	100
Financial Activities	15,400	15,300	15,300	100	100
Professional & Business Services	24,900	24,900	24,800	0	100
Education & Health Services	36,100	36,100	34,400	0	1,700
Leisure & Hospitality	37,600	37,600	37,200	0	400
Other Services	11,600	11,400	11,900	200	-300
Government	77,200	76,300	77,300	900	-100

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska and certain federally recognized tribal entities. Benchmark date: March 2004

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

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

August 2005:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	4.9%
July 2005:	Alaska	6.5%	U.S.	5.0%
August 2004:	Alaska	7.5%	U.S.	5.4%

Contact: Dan Robinson, Economist (907) 465-6036
Research & Analysis Web site: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

Labor Force By Borough and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	08/05	07/05	08/04	08/05	07/05	08/04	08/05	07/05	08/04	08/05	07/05	08/04
Alaska Statewide	347,487	350,969	337,709	19,818	20,333	21,889	5.7	5.8	6.5	327,669	330,636	315,820
Anchorage/Mat-Su MSA*	181,026	182,070	174,780	9,370	9,521	10,248	5.2	5.2	5.9	171,656	172,549	164,532
Municipality of Anchorage	147,976	148,832	142,891	7,257	7,381	8,012	4.9	5.0	5.6	140,719	141,451	134,879
Mat-Su Borough	33,050	33,238	31,889	2,113	2,140	2,236	6.4	6.4	7.0	30,937	31,098	29,653
Gulf Coast Region												
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,614	27,932	26,342	1,716	1,740	1,956	6.4	6.2	7.4	24,898	26,192	24,386
Kodiak Island Borough	6,284	6,209	6,363	375	379	518	6.0	6.1	8.1	5,889	5,830	5,845
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6,130	6,169	6,234	359	376	399	5.9	6.1	6.4	5,771	5,793	5,835
Interior Region												
Denali Borough	2,756	2,785	2,557	57	57	64	2.1	2.0	2.5	2,699	2,728	2,493
Fairbanks MSA*	45,892	45,300	44,776	2,171	2,281	2,436	4.7	5.0	5.4	43,721	43,019	42,340
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,211	3,196	2,721	252	267	257	7.8	8.4	9.4	2,959	2,929	2,464
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,272	3,101	3,314	293	313	317	9.0	10.1	9.6	2,979	2,788	2,997
Northern Region												
Nome Census Area	3,728	3,897	3,627	447	463	436	12.0	11.9	12.0	3,281	3,434	3,191
North Slope Borough	3,842	3,725	3,628	355	352	392	9.2	9.4	10.8	3,487	3,373	3,236
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,626	2,595	2,627	357	364	362	13.6	14.0	13.8	2,269	2,231	2,265
Southeast Region												
Haines Borough	2,238	2,213	2,185	92	95	101	4.1	4.3	4.6	2,146	2,118	2,084
Juneau Borough	18,000	18,513	17,714	850	874	939	4.7	4.7	5.3	17,150	17,639	16,775
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9,198	9,165	9,109	419	426	477	4.6	4.6	5.2	8,779	8,739	8,632
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,692	2,619	2,627	267	258	283	9.9	9.9	10.8	2,425	2,361	2,344
Sitka Borough	5,104	5,049	4,924	216	225	231	4.2	4.5	4.7	4,888	4,824	4,693
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,245	2,295	2,188	142	152	161	6.6	6.6	7.4	2,103	2,143	2,027
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	3,700	3,531	3,585	226	239	286	6.1	6.8	8.0	3,474	3,292	3,299
Yakutat Borough	359	345	381	17	17	21	4.7	4.9	5.5	342	328	360
Southwest Region												
Aleutians East Borough	1,190	1,402	1,200	83	86	90	6.9	6.1	7.6	1,117	1,323	1,100
Aleutians West Census Area	3,450	3,311	3,194	129	138	157	3.7	4.2	4.9	3,321	3,173	3,037
Bathel Census Area	6,540	6,665	6,505	830	860	899	12.7	12.9	13.8	5,710	5,805	5,606
Bristol Bay Borough	1,264	2,113	1,506	44	47	57	3.5	2.2	3.8	1,220	2,066	1,449
Dillingham Census Area	2,018	2,372	2,049	194	212	210	9.6	8.9	10.2	1,824	2,160	1,839
Lake & Peninsula Borough	1,856	2,307	1,308	63	66	82	3.4	2.9	6.3	1,793	2,241	1,226
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,262	2,085	2,274	493	526	510	21.8	25.2	22.4	1,769	1,559	1,764

* Metropolitan Statistical Area

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. • Benchmark: 2004

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 individuals in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.