

News Release

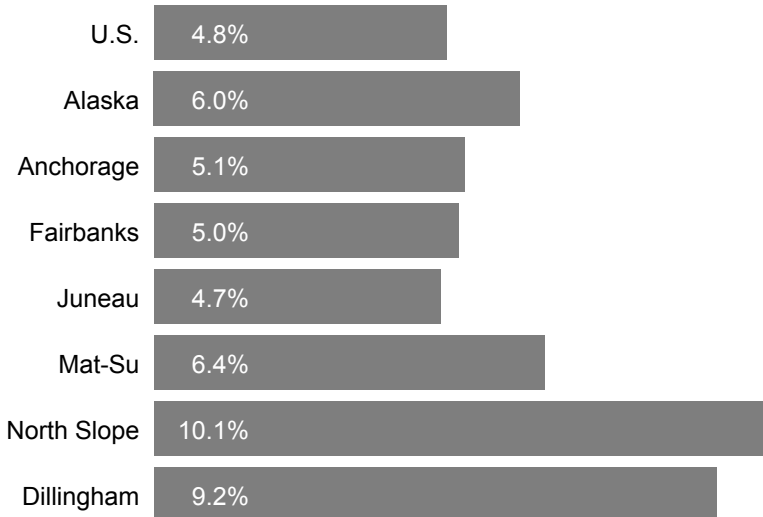


ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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Unemployment rate rises to 6 percent in September

September 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 rose three-tenths of a percentage point in September to 6.0 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Despite the monthly increase, the rate remains below last September's rate of 6.5 percent. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, which attempts to remove seasonal hires and layoffs from the numbers and reflect more structural changes in the labor market, declined steadily through the first half of 2005 from January's high of 7.3 percent to a low of 6.3 percent in June. Since June the rate has increased half a percentage point to 6.8 percent.

With a few exceptions, unemployment rates in the state's boroughs and census areas generally increased slightly or remained at the same levels. Anchorage saw a small increase from 4.9 percent to 5.1 percent, while the rate in Fairbanks rose from 4.6 percent to 5.0 percent. Juneau's unemployment rate stayed at 4.7 percent. Denali had the lowest September rate at 2.7 percent and Wade Hampton had the highest at 19.5 percent.

Preliminary estimates of wage and salary employment show that the state has added about 5,000 jobs since September 2004. The growth has come from almost every economic sector, but has been strongest in the education and health services category, which is made up mostly of health care and social services jobs.

The construction and leisure and hospitality sectors have also added a significant number of jobs and gains in seafood processing pushed manufacturing numbers higher. An over-the-year increase of more than 300 oil and gas jobs combined with strong interest in mineral mining to create 500 more jobs in the natural resources and mining sector.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	preliminary	revised	revised	changes from	
	09/05	08/05	09/04	08/05	09/04
Total Nonfarm Employment	324,600	330,000	319,600	-5,400	5,000
Natural Resources & Mining	10,800	10,700	10,300	100	500
Construction	21,700	22,600	20,900	-900	800
Manufacturing	14,800	19,000	14,300	-4,200	500
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	65,700	67,700	65,200	-2,000	500
Information	7,100	7,000	6,900	100	200
Financial Activities	15,100	15,400	15,000	-300	100
Professional & Business Services	24,700	24,900	24,400	-200	300
Education & Health Services	36,200	36,000	34,700	200	1,500
Leisure & Hospitality	35,100	37,700	34,500	-2,600	600
Other Services	11,700	11,600	11,900	100	-200
Government	81,700	77,400	81,500	4,300	200

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

September 2005:	Alaska	6.8%	U.S.	5.1%
August 2005:	Alaska	6.5%	U.S.	4.9%
September 2004:	Alaska	7.5%	U.S.	5.4%

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

Labor Force By Borough and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	09/05	08/05	09/04	09/05	08/05	09/04	09/05	08/05	09/04	09/05	08/05	09/04
Alaska Statewide	344,518	347,309	332,440	20,611	19,691	21,497	6.0	5.7	6.5	323,907	327,618	310,943
Anchorage/Mat-Su MSA*	182,579	180,309	175,695	9,774	9,310	10,112	5.4	5.2	5.8	172,805	170,999	165,583
Municipality of Anchorage	149,297	147,392	143,714	7,636	7,211	7,973	5.1	4.9	5.5	141,661	140,181	135,741
Mat-Su Borough	33,282	32,917	31,981	2,138	2,099	2,139	6.4	6.4	6.7	31,144	30,818	29,842
Gulf Coast Region												
Kenai Peninsula Borough	25,378	26,552	24,958	1,819	1,705	1,971	7.2	6.4	7.9	23,559	24,847	22,987
Kodiak Island Borough	5,946	6,254	5,919	414	373	443	7.0	6.0	7.5	5,532	5,881	5,476
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,601	6,161	5,613	391	356	411	7.0	5.8	7.3	5,210	5,805	5,202
Interior Region												
Denali Borough	2,549	2,773	2,336	68	56	73	2.7	2.0	3.1	2,481	2,717	2,263
Fairbanks MSA*	45,687	46,486	43,689	2,270	2,157	2,390	5.0	4.6	5.5	43,417	44,311	41,299
Southwest Fairbanks Census Area	3,274	3,209	2,765	259	250	251	7.9	7.8	9.1	3,015	2,959	2,514
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,223	3,276	3,221	307	292	311	9.5	8.9	9.7	2,916	2,984	2,910
Northern Region												
Nome Census Area	3,956	3,771	3,809	429	444	426	10.8	11.8	11.2	3,527	3,327	3,383
North Slope Borough	3,627	3,732	3,496	367	353	369	10.1	9.5	10.6	3,260	3,379	3,127
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,711	2,664	2,656	377	355	370	13.9	13.3	13.9	2,334	2,309	2,286
Southeast Region												
Haines Borough	1,783	2,235	1,737	95	92	99	5.3	4.1	5.7	1,688	2,143	1,638
Juneau Borough	17,785	18,005	17,413	842	844	931	4.7	4.7	5.3	16,943	17,161	16,482
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,472	9,197	8,351	419	417	464	4.9	4.5	5.6	8,053	8,780	7,887
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,720	2,692	2,605	290	265	271	10.7	9.8	10.4	2,430	2,427	2,334
Sitka Borough	4,920	5,099	4,695	217	214	221	4.4	4.2	4.7	4,703	4,885	4,474
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,161	2,255	2,080	145	141	160	6.7	6.3	7.7	2,016	2,114	1,920
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	3,236	3,656	3,156	223	224	283	6.9	6.1	9.0	3,013	3,432	2,873
Yakutat Borough	368	359	384	22	17	18	6.0	4.7	4.7	346	342	366
Southwest Region												
Aleutians East Borough	1,184	1,202	1,166	85	82	89	7.2	6.8	7.6	1,099	1,120	1,077
Aleutians West Census Area	3,344	3,451	3,079	145	129	158	4.3	3.7	5.1	3,199	3,322	2,921
Bathel Census Area	7,068	6,589	6,887	875	825	868	12.4	12.5	12.6	6,193	5,764	6,019
Bristol Bay Borough	1,035	1,263	1,225	50	44	57	4.8	3.5	4.7	985	1,219	1,168
Dillingham Census Area	2,051	2,021	2,087	188	193	217	9.2	9.5	10.4	1,863	1,828	1,870
Lake & Peninsula Borough	1,402	1,863	981	62	63	72	4.4	3.4	7.3	1,340	1,800	909
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,460	2,256	2,439	480	490	463	19.5	21.7	19.0	1,980	1,766	1,976

* 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.