



# MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

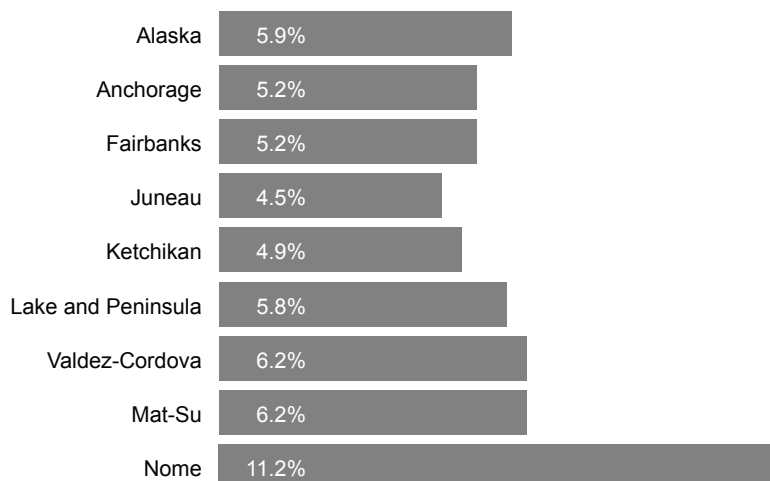
Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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## Unemployment rate rises to 5.9 percent in September

### September Unemployment for Selected Areas



Alaska's unemployment rate rose four-tenths of a percentage point in September to 5.9 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development.

If the rate follows a typical seasonal pattern, as it has for most of 2006, it will continue to rise for the next several months until it reaches a high point in January or February. September's 5.9 percent unemployment rate was slightly below September 2005's 6.0 percent.

Payroll employment fell by 7,200 in September as Alaska's seasonal employers began trimming employment following the peak months of summer. Seafood processing employment fell by 4,100 jobs, accommodations by 1,600, and food services and drinking places by 1,000. Retail trade also saw a predictable seasonal decline of 800 jobs.

### Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	Preliminary 9/06	Revised 8/06	Revised 9/05	Changes from	
				8/06	9/05
Total Nonfarm Employment	330,000	337,200	325,600	-7,200	4,400
Natural Resources and Mining	12,400	12,200	11,200	200	1,200
Oil and Gas	10,000	9,700	8,900	300	1,100
Construction	21,800	22,900	21,700	-1,100	100
Manufacturing	14,700	19,000	15,000	-4,300	-300
Seafood Processing	10,600	14,700	10,900	-4,100	-300
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	67,300	69,600	66,500	-2,300	800
Retail Trade	37,700	38,500	37,000	-800	700
Information	7,000	7,100	6,900	-100	100
Financial Activities	15,400	15,500	15,200	-100	200
Professional and Business Services	25,500	26,200	25,100	-700	400
Educational <sup>1</sup> and Health Services	36,300	36,500	35,500	-200	800
Health Care	26,300	26,600	25,700	-300	600
Leisure and Hospitality	35,600	38,600	35,000	-3,000	600
Accommodations	9,800	11,400	9,700	-1,600	100
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	20,900	21,900	20,400	-1,000	500
Other Services	11,800	11,800	11,600	0	200
Government <sup>2</sup>	82,200	77,800	81,900	4,400	300

<sup>1</sup> Private education only

<sup>2</sup> Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.

Over-the-year comparisons show at least some growth in nearly every major employment category. The biggest gains, both in terms of number and percentage, came from the oil and gas industry, which added 1,100 jobs from September 2005 to September 2006. That number equates to a strong 12 percent growth rate.

Other notable areas of growth included retail trade and health care, which were up 700 jobs and 600 jobs, respectively, compared to September 2005. The only major category showing an over-the-year decline was manufacturing, where the losses were concentrated in the seafood processing industry.

According to Dan Robinson, an economist with the department, September's numbers conform to Alaska's long-running pattern of modest growth.

"There have been noticeable changes in the sources of job growth in recent months – construction activity has leveled off, for example, and the oil and gas industry has picked up the slack – but Alaska's economy continues to create jobs, as it has done fairly consistently for almost 20 years."

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates<sup>1</sup>

September 2006:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	4.6%
August 2006:	Alaska	6.5%	U.S.	4.7%
September 2005:	Alaska	6.8%	U.S.	5.1%

<sup>1</sup> All other unemployment rates in this press release are not seasonally adjusted.

## Labor Force by Borough and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	9/06	8/06	9/05	9/06	8/06	9/05	9/06	8/06	9/05	9/06	8/06	9/05
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>348,770</b>	<b>351,873</b>	<b>341,311</b>	<b>20,659</b>	<b>19,352</b>	<b>20,513</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>328,111</b>	<b>332,521</b>	<b>320,798</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su</b>	<b>187,173</b>	<b>183,543</b>	<b>181,534</b>	<b>10,022</b>	<b>9,247</b>	<b>9,718</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>177,151</b>	<b>174,296</b>	<b>171,816</b>
Municipality of Anchorage	151,736	148,683	147,160	7,835	7,101	7,592	5.2	4.8	5.2	143,901	141,582	139,568
Mat-Su Borough	35,437	34,860	34,374	2,187	2,146	2,126	6.2	6.2	6.2	33,250	32,714	32,248
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>36,523</b>	<b>38,896</b>	<b>36,418</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>2,611</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>34,058</b>	<b>36,664</b>	<b>33,807</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,951	26,480	24,873	1,706	1,553	1,809	6.8	5.9	7.3	23,245	24,927	23,064
Kodiak Island Borough	6,001	6,305	5,941	413	364	413	6.9	5.8	7.0	5,588	5,941	5,528
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,571	6,111	5,604	346	315	389	6.2	5.2	6.9	5,225	5,796	5,215
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>54,341</b>	<b>56,373</b>	<b>53,284</b>	<b>3,033</b>	<b>2,921</b>	<b>2,892</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>51,308</b>	<b>53,452</b>	<b>50,392</b>
Denali Borough	2,325	2,874	2,191	72	62	70	3.1	2.2	3.2	2,253	2,812	2,121
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,363	46,826	44,562	2,363	2,244	2,257	5.2	4.8	5.1	43,000	44,582	42,305
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,949	3,944	3,412	283	302	259	7.2	7.7	7.6	3,666	3,642	3,153
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,704	2,729	3,119	315	313	306	11.6	11.5	9.8	2,389	2,416	2,813
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>10,621</b>	<b>10,433</b>	<b>10,543</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>1,168</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>9,540</b>	<b>9,378</b>	<b>9,375</b>
Nome Census Area	3,774	3,526	3,823	421	450	427	11.2	12.8	11.2	3,353	3,076	3,396
North Slope Borough	3,908	3,940	3,648	313	280	365	8.0	7.1	10.0	3,595	3,660	3,283
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,939	2,967	3,072	347	325	376	11.8	11.0	12.2	2,592	2,642	2,696
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>42,315</b>	<b>44,668</b>	<b>41,469</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>2,104</b>	<b>2,247</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>40,087</b>	<b>42,564</b>	<b>39,222</b>
Haines Borough	1,847	2,290	1,825	84	80	95	4.5	3.5	5.2	1,763	2,210	1,730
Juneau Borough	18,533	18,840	18,029	834	754	837	4.5	4.0	4.6	17,699	18,086	17,192
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,836	9,428	8,465	436	413	419	4.9	4.4	4.9	8,400	9,015	8,046
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,523	2,597	2,639	289	285	289	11.5	11.0	11.0	2,234	2,312	2,350
Sitka Borough	4,905	5,139	4,896	207	207	218	4.2	4.0	4.5	4,698	4,932	4,678
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,194	2,390	2,116	145	145	145	6.6	6.1	6.9	2,049	2,245	1,971
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	3,100	3,608	3,130	216	200	222	7.0	5.5	7.1	2,884	3,408	2,908
Yakutat Borough	377	376	369	17	20	22	4.5	5.3	6.0	360	356	347
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>17,796</b>	<b>17,960</b>	<b>18,061</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>1,792</b>	<b>1,877</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>15,966</b>	<b>16,168</b>	<b>16,184</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,027	1,183	1,050	75	74	84	7.3	6.3	8.0	952	1,109	966
Aleutians West Census Area	2,956	3,140	3,030	132	120	144	4.5	3.8	4.8	2,824	3,020	2,886
Bethel Census Area	6,959	6,462	7,056	857	822	872	12.3	12.7	12.4	6,102	5,640	6,184
Bristol Bay Borough	1,197	1,666	1,140	46	44	50	3.8	2.6	4.4	1,151	1,622	1,090
Dillingham Census Area	2,137	2,186	2,113	193	192	188	9.0	8.8	8.9	1,944	1,994	1,925
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,106	1,102	1,167	64	54	62	5.8	4.9	5.3	1,042	1,048	1,105
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,414	2,221	2,505	463	486	477	19.2	21.9	19.0	1,951	1,735	2,028

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