



# MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



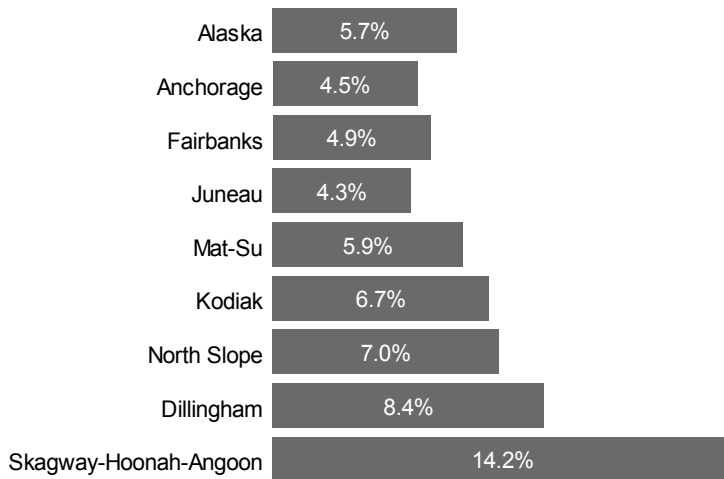
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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No. 07-20

## Unemployment rate at 5.7 percent in October

### October Unemployment for Selected Areas



Alaska's unemployment rate fell two-tenths of a percentage point in October to 5.7 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development.

Although the rate normally rises slightly in October, the amount of the decline is well within the statistical margin of error. In fact, for much of 2006 the unemployment rate has failed to send clear or consistent signals of changes in the labor market.

According to Dan Robinson, an economist with the department, the lack of a discernible pattern in recent months' unemployment rates is in itself telling.

"Just like no news can sometimes be good news, the fact that the rate hasn't been consistently rising or falling suggests that the long-running trend of steady but modest job growth is continuing," he said.

Payroll employment fell by 15,300 in October, a large but typical decline marking a distinct shift to the off-season for many of Alaska's seasonal employers. Jobs in the leisure and hospitality category, for example, fell by 5,400 and seafood processing dropped 4,000 jobs.

Looking at over-the-year changes, growth remained particularly strong in the oil and gas industry. It added 1,500 jobs between October 2005 and October 2006, and with total employment of 10,500, it's at a level not seen since the early 1990s.

Health care, the state's most consistent source of employment growth over the last two decades, added 900 jobs in the last 12 months. On the other hand, the construction industry, which has also been a consistent source of job growth, had an October job count 400 lower than in October 2005.

### Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	Preliminary 10/06	Revised 9/06	Revised 10/05	Changes from	
				9/06	10/05
Total Nonfarm Employment	315,800	331,100	310,600	-15,300	5,200
Natural Resources and Mining	12,800	12,800	11,200	0	1,600
Oil and Gas	10,500	10,400	9,000	100	1,500
Construction	19,700	21,400	20,100	-1,700	-400
Manufacturing	10,700	14,800	10,700	-4,100	0
Seafood Processing	6,800	10,800	6,900	-4,000	-100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	64,300	67,300	62,900	-3,000	1,400
Retail Trade	36,600	37,200	36,000	-600	600
Information	7,000	7,000	6,900	0	100
Financial Activities	15,000	15,400	14,900	-400	100
Professional and Business Services	24,300	25,200	24,000	-900	300
Educational <sup>1</sup> and Health Services	36,800	36,900	35,500	-100	1,300
Health Care	26,600	26,600	25,700	0	900
Leisure and Hospitality	30,400	35,800	29,700	-5,400	700
Accommodations	7,700	9,900	7,600	-2,200	100
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	18,600	20,800	18,200	-2,200	400
Other Services	11,700	11,700	11,600	0	100
Government <sup>2</sup>	83,100	82,800	83,100	300	0

<sup>1</sup> Private education only

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

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

October 2006:	Alaska	6.4%	U.S.	4.4%
September 2006:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	4.6%
October 2005:	Alaska	6.9%	U.S.	4.9%

<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		
	10/06	9/06	10/05	10/06	9/06	10/05	10/06	9/06	10/05	10/06	9/06	10/05
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>346,400</b>	<b>348,770</b>	<b>339,445</b>	<b>19,677</b>	<b>20,659</b>	<b>20,355</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>326,723</b>	<b>328,111</b>	<b>319,090</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Municipality of Anchorage</b>	<b>190,672</b>	<b>187,173</b>	<b>184,856</b>	<b>9,174</b>	<b>10,022</b>	<b>9,184</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>181,498</b>	<b>177,151</b>	<b>175,672</b>
<b>Mat-Su Borough</b>	<b>154,458</b>	<b>151,736</b>	<b>149,799</b>	<b>7,025</b>	<b>7,835</b>	<b>7,099</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>147,433</b>	<b>143,901</b>	<b>142,700</b>
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>36,214</b>	<b>35,437</b>	<b>35,057</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>2,085</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>34,065</b>	<b>33,250</b>	<b>32,972</b>
<b>Kenai Peninsula Borough</b>	<b>35,325</b>	<b>36,523</b>	<b>35,252</b>	<b>2,552</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>2,844</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>32,773</b>	<b>34,058</b>	<b>32,408</b>
<b>Kodiak Island Borough</b>	<b>24,652</b>	<b>24,951</b>	<b>24,309</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>1,706</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>22,920</b>	<b>22,245</b>	<b>22,388</b>
<b>Valdez-Cordova Census Area</b>	<b>5,785</b>	<b>6,001</b>	<b>6,046</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>5,395</b>	<b>5,588</b>	<b>5,580</b>
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>4,888</b>	<b>5,571</b>	<b>4,897</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>4,458</b>	<b>5,225</b>	<b>4,440</b>
<b>Denali Borough</b>	<b>52,919</b>	<b>54,341</b>	<b>52,693</b>	<b>2,917</b>	<b>3,033</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>50,002</b>	<b>51,308</b>	<b>49,757</b>
<b>Fairbanks North Star Borough</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>2,253</b>	<b>1,424</b>
<b>Southeast Fairbanks Census Area</b>	<b>45,121</b>	<b>45,363</b>	<b>44,558</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>2,363</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>42,932</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>42,335</b>
<b>Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area</b>	<b>3,605</b>	<b>3,949</b>	<b>3,504</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>3,308</b>	<b>3,666</b>	<b>3,214</b>
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>3,103</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>2,784</b>
<b>Nome Census Area</b>	<b>11,187</b>	<b>10,621</b>	<b>10,948</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10,187</b>	<b>9,540</b>	<b>9,839</b>
<b>North Slope Borough</b>	<b>3,949</b>	<b>3,774</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>3,554</b>	<b>3,353</b>	<b>3,489</b>
<b>Northwest Arctic Borough</b>	<b>4,302</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>3,616</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>4,001</b>	<b>3,595</b>	<b>3,273</b>
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>2,939</b>	<b>3,424</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>2,632</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>3,077</b>
<b>Haines Borough</b>	<b>38,729</b>	<b>42,315</b>	<b>38,421</b>	<b>2,325</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>2,472</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>36,404</b>	<b>40,087</b>	<b>35,949</b>
<b>Juneau Borough</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>1,105</b>	<b>1,763</b>	<b>1,188</b>
<b>Ketchikan Gateway Borough</b>	<b>18,248</b>	<b>18,533</b>	<b>17,733</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>17,455</b>	<b>17,699</b>	<b>16,877</b>
<b>Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area</b>	<b>7,816</b>	<b>8,836</b>	<b>7,547</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>7,352</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>7,057</b>
<b>Sitka Borough</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>2,498</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>2,234</b>	<b>2,220</b>
<b>Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area</b>	<b>4,535</b>	<b>4,905</b>	<b>4,627</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4,327</b>	<b>4,698</b>	<b>4,408</b>
<b>Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>2,194</b>	<b>1,681</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>1,419</b>
<b>Yakutat Borough</b>	<b>2,757</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>2,742</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>2,884</b>	<b>2,532</b>
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>288</b>
<b>Aleutians East Borough</b>	<b>17,573</b>	<b>17,796</b>	<b>17,277</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>15,862</b>	<b>15,966</b>	<b>15,465</b>
<b>Aleutians West Census Area</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>924</b>
<b>Bethel Census Area</b>	<b>3,231</b>	<b>2,956</b>	<b>3,193</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>3,064</b>
<b>Bristol Bay Borough</b>	<b>7,089</b>	<b>6,959</b>	<b>7,142</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>6,289</b>	<b>6,102</b>	<b>6,308</b>
<b>Dillingham Census Area</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>605</b>
<b>Lake and Peninsula Borough</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>2,137</b>	<b>1,978</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>1,793</b>
<b>Wade Hampton Census Area</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>1,106</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>661</b>
	<b>2,488</b>	<b>2,414</b>	<b>2,587</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>2,043</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>2,110</b>

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.