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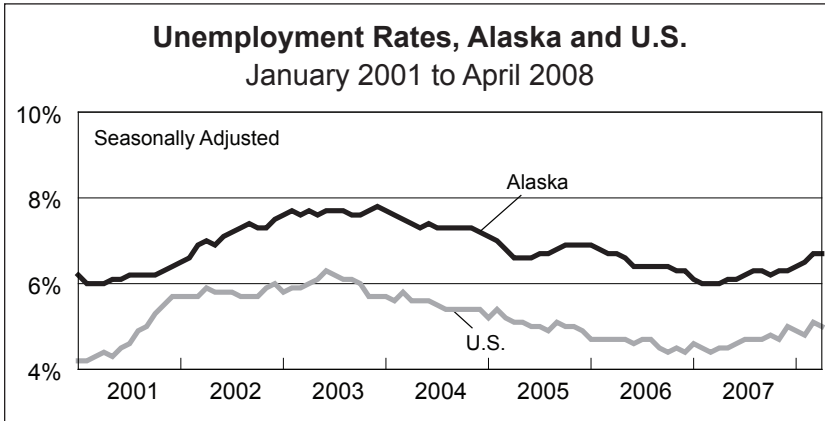
# Press Release

May 16, 2008

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 08-53

## Unemployment rate holds at 6.7 percent in April



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.7 percent in April, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Payroll employment continued to show modest growth with an over-the-year increase of 2,200 jobs.

Taken together, the two core economic statistics suggest an economy that has slowed a little over the last year. The unemployment rate alone can be an unreliable indicator of economic health because Alaska's rate is affected by the national job market – which has been shedding jobs in 2008 – and by the relative attractiveness of the job markets in Washington, California and Oregon in particular.

But according to Dan Robinson, a Department of Labor economist, the slowdown in payroll job growth sends a clearer signal of a cooling economy.

“Through the first four months of the year, the state has averaged over-the-year payroll job growth of just 0.6 percent, which is less than half the 1.3 percent growth the state saw over the same period in 2007,” he said.

“The oil and gas industry has added jobs at an impressive rate over the last few years, but construction jobs have fallen significantly over that same period and health care jobs have leveled off after more than a decade of strong gains,” Robinson said. “So far, though, the issue for Alaska has been a slowdown in growth as opposed to the actual job losses the national economy is experiencing.”

### Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment<sup>1</sup>

	Preliminary 4/08	Revised 3/08	Revised 4/07	Changes from	
				3/08	4/07
Total Nonfarm Employment	312,100	307,100	309,900	5,000	2,200
Natural Resources and Mining	14,700	14,400	13,500	300	1,200
Oil and Gas	12,300	12,000	11,300	300	1,000
Construction	15,200	14,100	16,000	1,100	-800
Manufacturing	10,800	11,600	11,000	-800	-200
Seafood Processing	6,900	7,900	7,100	-1,000	-200
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	62,800	61,300	61,700	1,500	1,100
Retail Trade	35,600	34,700	34,800	900	800
Information	6,800	6,800	6,800	0	0
Financial Activities	14,800	14,500	14,900	300	-100
Professional and Business Services	24,500	24,200	24,300	300	200
Educational <sup>2</sup> and Health Services	37,300	37,400	37,300	-100	0
Health Care	27,000	26,900	26,900	100	100
Leisure and Hospitality	29,400	28,200	29,200	1,200	200
Accommodations	6,700	6,300	6,700	400	0
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	18,700	18,300	18,500	400	200
Other Services	11,500	11,500	11,400	0	100
Government <sup>3</sup>	84,300	83,100	83,800	1,200	500

<sup>1</sup> Not seasonally adjusted

<sup>2</sup> Private education only

<sup>3</sup> Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.

### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

April 2008:	Alaska	6.7%	U.S.	5.0%
March 2008:	Alaska	6.7%	U.S.	5.1%
April 2007:	Alaska	6.0%	U.S.	4.5%

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

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

## Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	4/08	3/08	4/07	4/08	3/08	4/07	4/08	3/08	4/07	4/08	3/08	4/07
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	354,130	352,768	346,282	25,129	25,962	21,942	7.1	7.4	6.3	329,001	326,806	324,340
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	195,016	194,379	191,168	12,056	12,335	10,462	6.2	6.3	5.5	182,960	182,044	180,706
Municipality of Anchorage	154,882	154,128	151,888	8,716	8,694	7,523	5.6	5.6	5.0	146,166	145,434	144,365
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	40,134	40,251	39,280	3,340	3,641	2,939	8.3	9.0	7.5	36,794	36,610	36,341
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	36,760	36,266	35,718	3,210	3,435	2,918	8.7	9.5	8.2	33,550	32,831	32,800
Kenai Peninsula Borough	25,521	25,357	24,672	2,354	2,513	2,085	9.2	9.9	8.5	23,167	22,844	22,587
Kodiak Island Borough	6,294	6,181	6,201	349	372	352	5.5	6.0	5.7	5,945	5,809	5,849
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,945	4,728	4,845	507	550	481	10.3	11.6	9.9	4,438	4,178	4,364
<b>Interior Region</b>	53,524	52,779	52,551	3,627	3,792	3,183	6.8	7.2	6.1	49,897	48,987	49,368
Denali Borough	987	892	1,015	119	127	112	12.1	14.2	11.0	868	765	903
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,991	45,605	45,196	2,711	2,823	2,376	5.9	6.2	5.3	43,280	42,782	42,820
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,647	3,374	3,513	355	392	308	9.7	11.6	8.8	3,292	2,982	3,205
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,899	2,908	2,827	442	450	387	15.2	15.5	13.7	2,457	2,458	2,440
<b>Northern Region</b>	11,700	11,936	11,229	1,052	1,055	961	9.0	8.8	8.6	10,648	10,881	10,268
Nome Census Area	3,792	3,948	3,750	442	424	416	11.7	10.7	11.1	3,350	3,524	3,334
North Slope Borough	4,873	4,984	4,576	214	229	225	4.4	4.6	4.9	4,659	4,755	4,351
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,035	3,004	2,903	396	402	320	13.0	13.4	11.0	2,639	2,602	2,583
<b>Southeast Region</b>	39,507	38,627	38,644	2,850	3,119	2,473	7.2	8.1	6.4	36,657	35,508	36,171
Haines Borough	1,215	1,097	1,160	137	157	103	11.3	14.3	8.9	1,078	940	1,057
Juneau Borough	18,739	18,513	18,400	912	951	812	4.9	5.1	4.4	17,827	17,562	17,588
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,945	7,631	7,759	539	566	491	6.8	7.4	6.3	7,406	7,065	7,268
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,218	2,225	2,172	350	398	312	15.8	17.9	14.4	1,868	1,827	1,860
Sitka Borough	4,713	4,648	4,583	286	297	203	6.1	6.4	4.4	4,427	4,351	4,380
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,663	1,522	1,610	271	330	245	16.3	21.7	15.2	1,392	1,192	1,365
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,711	2,729	2,659	332	390	289	12.2	14.3	10.9	2,379	2,339	2,370
Yakutat Borough	303	262	301	23	30	18	7.6	11.5	6.0	280	232	283
<b>Southwest Region</b>	17,622	18,782	16,970	2,333	2,228	1,945	13.2	11.9	11.5	15,289	16,554	15,025
Aleutians East Borough	1,484	1,236	1,438	95	93	76	6.4	7.5	5.3	1,389	1,143	1,362
Aleutians West Census Area	2,670	4,172	2,659	224	134	182	8.4	3.2	6.8	2,446	4,038	2,477
Bethel Census Area	7,172	7,140	6,852	1,050	1,031	852	14.6	14.4	12.4	6,122	6,109	6,000
Bristol Bay Borough	504	485	510	54	65	58	10.7	13.4	11.4	450	420	452
Dillingham Census Area	1,918	2,004	1,903	206	210	187	10.7	10.5	9.8	1,712	1,794	1,716
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,123	1,078	1,009	94	102	65	8.4	9.5	6.4	1,029	976	944
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,751	2,667	2,599	610	593	525	22.2	22.2	20.2	2,141	2,074	2,074

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. 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.

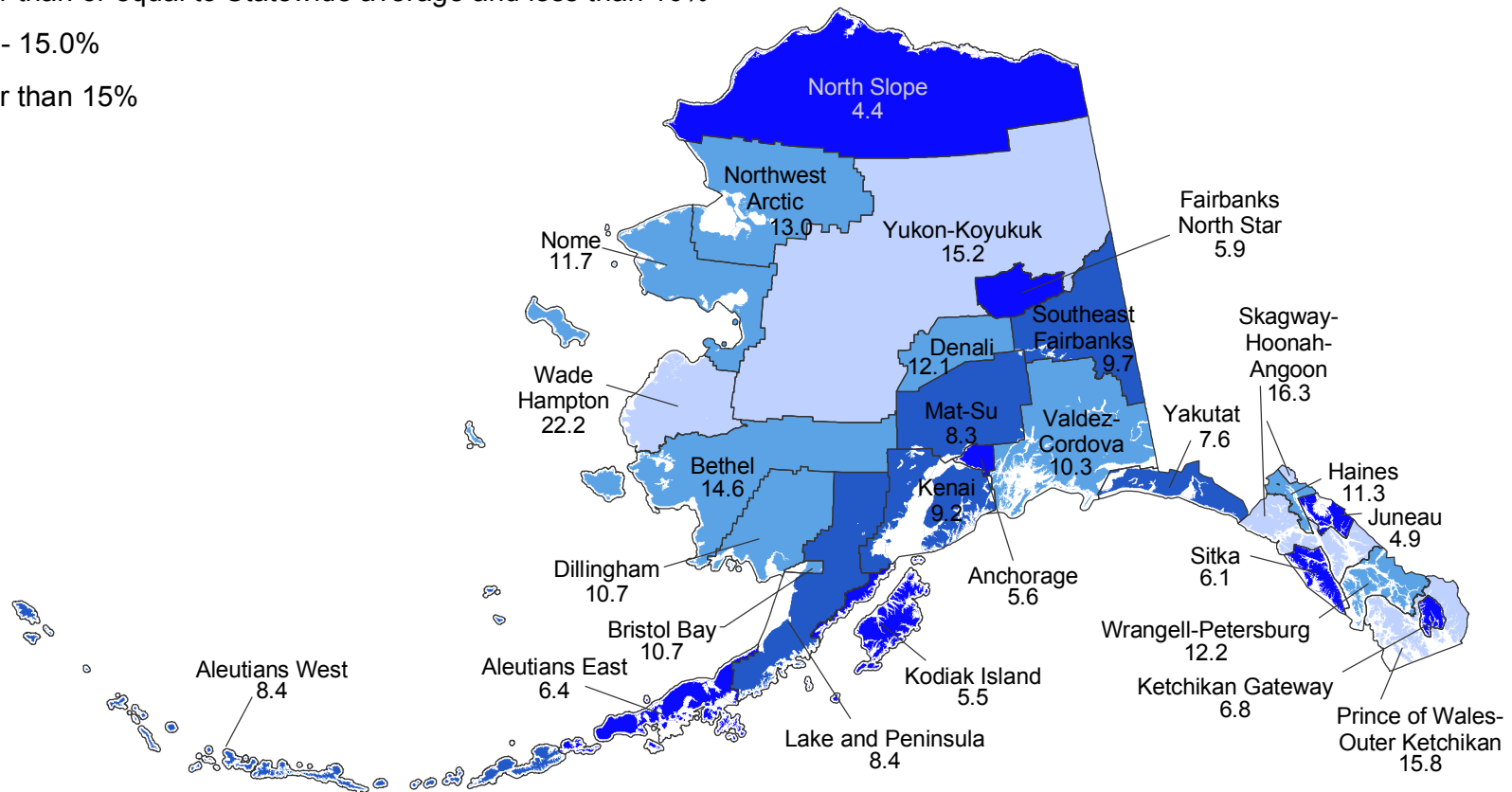
<sup>1</sup> Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

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

# April 2008 Unemployment Rate Not Seasonally Adjusted

## Unemployment Rate Range

- Less than Statewide average of 7.1%
- Greater than or equal to Statewide average and less than 10%
- 10.0% - 15.0%
- Greater than 15%



Statewide Unemployment Rate for April 2008 is 7.1%