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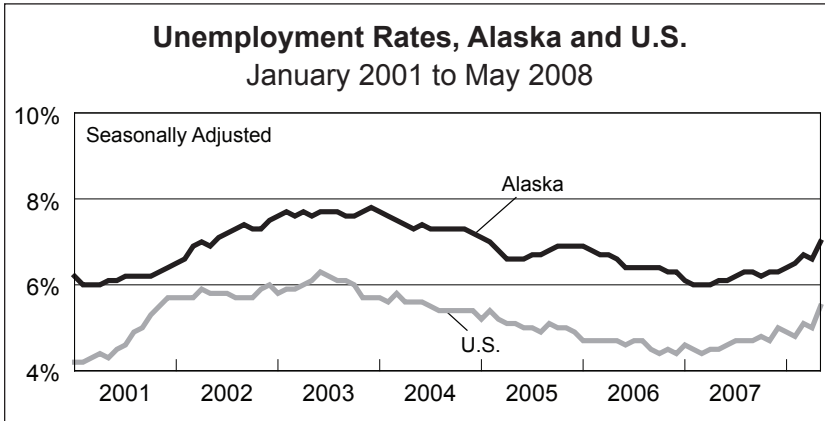
Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Unemployment rate rises to 7.0 percent in May



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose four-tenths of a percentage point in May to 7.0 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The rate has been steadily rising since hitting a low of 6.0 percent in early 2007.

The U.S. unemployment rate has been on a similar course, rising five-tenths of a percentage point in May and fueling recession concerns. The U.S. rate has climbed a full percentage point since May 2007 and Alaska's rate is up nine-tenths of a percentage point.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 5/08	Revised 4/08	Revised 5/07	Changes from	
				4/08	5/07
Total Nonfarm Employment	324,100	312,500	322,400	11,600	1,700
Natural Resources and Mining	14,900	14,800	13,600	100	1,300
Oil and Gas	12,400	12,400	11,200	0	1,200
Construction	17,300	15,300	18,000	2,000	-700
Manufacturing	10,500	10,800	10,500	-300	0
Seafood Processing	6,500	7,000	6,400	-500	100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	66,000	62,700	65,900	3,300	100
Retail Trade	36,900	35,600	36,500	1,300	400
Information	6,800	6,800	6,900	0	-100
Financial Activities	15,100	14,800	15,300	300	-200
Professional and Business Services	26,000	24,700	25,700	1,300	300
Educational ² and Health Services	37,200	37,300	37,300	-100	-100
Health Care	27,000	27,100	26,800	-100	200
Leisure and Hospitality	33,800	29,300	33,600	4,500	200
Accommodations	8,800	6,700	8,800	2,100	0
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	20,400	18,700	20,200	1,700	200
Other Services	11,800	11,500	11,800	300	0
Government ³	84,700	84,500	83,800	200	900

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Private education only

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

An important difference between the U.S. economy and Alaska's, however, is that the U.S. is shedding jobs and Alaska continues to record job growth, although at a reduced rate.

Payroll employment estimates showed over-the-year growth of 1,700 jobs. Most of that growth continues to come from the oil and gas industry, which added 1,200 jobs over the period. Construction jobs fell by 700 over the year, the largest industry decline.

According to Dan Robinson, an economist with the Department of Labor, the oil and gas industry is the main thing keeping Alaska's economy growing while the nation records job losses.

"The oil and gas industry is adding jobs nationwide, but it plays a much larger role in Alaska's economy and for now at least it's helping fuel overall job growth for the state," Robinson said.

Contact: Dan Robinson, Economist (907) 465-6036

Research and Analysis' Web site: almis.labor.state.ak.us

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

May 2008:	Alaska	7.0%	U.S.	5.5%
April 2008:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	5.0%
May 2007:	Alaska	6.1%	U.S.	4.5%

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	5/08	4/08	5/07	5/08	4/08	5/07	5/08	4/08	5/07	5/08	4/08	5/07
Alaska Statewide	359,986	354,036	350,776	24,138	24,874	20,356	6.7	7.0	5.8	335,848	329,162	330,420
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	194,985	195,099	190,808	11,607	11,899	9,732	6.0	6.1	5.1	183,378	183,200	181,076
Municipality of Anchorage	155,100	154,949	151,800	8,600	8,591	7,139	5.5	5.5	4.7	146,500	146,358	144,661
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	39,885	40,150	39,008	3,007	3,308	2,593	7.5	8.2	6.6	36,878	36,842	36,415
Gulf Coast Region	38,518	36,573	37,295	3,124	3,186	2,516	8.1	8.7	6.7	35,394	33,387	34,779
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,755	25,374	25,907	2,069	2,333	1,791	7.7	9.2	6.9	24,686	23,041	24,116
Kodiak Island Borough	6,345	6,266	6,034	620	347	320	9.8	5.5	5.3	5,725	5,919	5,714
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,418	4,933	5,354	435	506	405	8.0	10.3	7.6	4,983	4,427	4,949
Interior Region	55,620	53,490	54,145	3,418	3,595	2,926	6.1	6.7	5.4	52,202	49,895	51,219
Denali Borough	1,991	984	1,944	63	119	77	3.2	12.1	4.0	1,928	865	1,867
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,901	46,162	45,732	2,645	2,685	2,199	5.6	5.8	4.8	44,256	43,477	43,533
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,733	3,529	3,571	307	353	285	8.2	10.0	8.0	3,426	3,176	3,286
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,995	2,815	2,898	403	438	365	13.5	15.6	12.6	2,592	2,377	2,533
Northern Region	11,893	11,880	11,068	1,073	1,039	998	9.0	8.7	9.0	10,820	10,841	10,070
Nome Census Area	3,991	3,846	3,770	448	437	422	11.2	11.4	11.2	3,543	3,409	3,348
North Slope Borough	4,968	5,002	4,452	233	212	236	4.7	4.2	5.3	4,735	4,790	4,216
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,934	3,032	2,846	392	390	340	13.4	12.9	11.9	2,542	2,642	2,506
Southeast Region	41,752	39,433	40,928	2,556	2,829	2,141	6.1	7.2	5.2	39,196	36,604	38,787
Haines Borough	1,366	1,210	1,337	117	137	83	8.6	11.3	6.2	1,249	1,073	1,254
Juneau Borough	19,268	18,710	18,949	873	905	723	4.5	4.8	3.8	18,395	17,805	18,226
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,573	7,933	8,362	461	535	418	5.4	6.7	5.0	8,112	7,398	7,944
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,245	2,208	2,205	315	346	279	14.0	15.7	12.7	1,930	1,862	1,926
Sitka Borough	4,912	4,706	4,759	284	284	186	5.8	6.0	3.9	4,628	4,422	4,573
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,242	1,661	2,226	185	272	188	8.3	16.4	8.4	2,057	1,389	2,038
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,820	2,705	2,764	301	327	246	10.7	12.1	8.9	2,519	2,378	2,518
Yakutat Borough	326	300	326	20	23	18	6.1	7.7	5.5	306	277	308
Southwest Region	17,219	17,560	16,531	2,362	2,326	2,042	13.7	13.2	12.4	14,857	15,234	14,489
Aleutians East Borough	898	1,460	862	102	96	100	11.4	6.6	11.6	796	1,364	762
Aleutians West Census Area	2,348	2,698	2,250	291	231	248	12.4	8.6	11.0	2,057	2,467	2,002
Bethel Census Area	7,111	7,155	6,813	1,032	1,042	858	14.5	14.6	12.6	6,079	6,113	5,955
Bristol Bay Borough	1,019	496	1,001	46	55	53	4.5	11.1	5.3	973	441	948
Dillingham Census Area	1,972	1,904	1,896	209	204	177	10.6	10.7	9.3	1,763	1,700	1,719
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,217	1,108	1,157	82	93	64	6.7	8.4	5.5	1,135	1,015	1,093
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,654	2,739	2,552	600	605	542	22.6	22.1	21.2	2,054	2,134	2,010

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.

¹ 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