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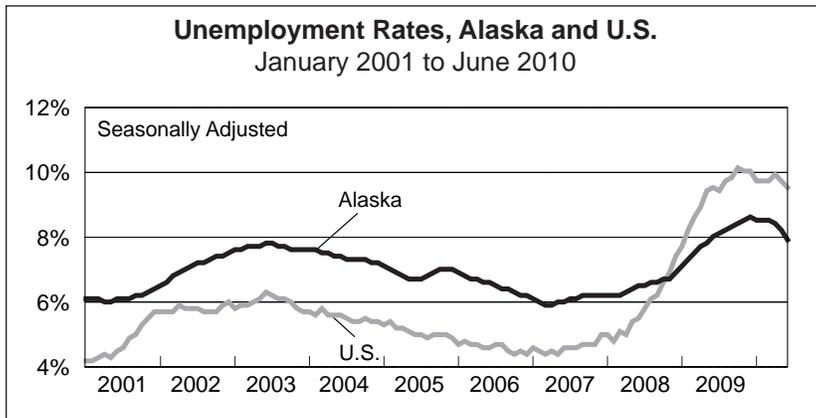
## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

July 16, 2010

No. 10-47

### Unemployment rate at 7.9 percent in June



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for June fell slightly to 7.9 percent. May's preliminary rate was revised down one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.2 percent.

The comparable national jobless rate for June was 9.5 percent, down from 9.7 percent in May. Alaska's unemployment rate fell below 8 percent for the first time in 13 months, and it was the 20th consecutive month that Alaska's rate was lower than the nation's.

Alaska's unemployed workers filed for fewer unemployment insurance benefits during the month of June. Between May and June, the number of regular weeks claimed for benefits decreased from 95,793 to 63,362, a 32.5 percent reduction. This count of regular weeks claimed for benefits was lower than in June 2009 and nearly identical to June 2008 numbers.

Unemployment continues to trend downward for both Alaska and the nation. The nation's nonfarm employment declined in June for the first time in six months. At this point, it is too early to tell whether the decline in nonfarm employment represents a slowdown for the nation's labor market.

Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates fell last month in most areas of the state. June is the first summer month of the year and seasonal activity is on the upswing. Construction, seafood processing, and leisure and hospitality experience the greatest gains in seasonal employment.

The Bristol Bay Borough and the Skagway Municipality had the lowest jobless rates in June. The highest unemployment rates were in the Wade Hampton and Bethel census areas. There are 47 small villages in these two census areas and employment opportunities remain scarce for residents of these villages – even during the summer months.

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

|  | Preliminary<br>6/10 | Revised<br>5/10 | Revised<br>6/09 | Year-over-year change |                                      |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  |                     |                 |                 | 6/09                  | 90% confidence interval <sup>2</sup> |
| Total Nonfarm Employment <sup>3</sup>        | 342,400             | 325,200         | 338,200         | 4,200                 | -3,183 11,583                        |
| Mining and Logging                           | 17,600              | 16,600          | 15,800          | 1,800                 | 1,007 2,593                          |
| Oil and Gas                                  | 12,000              | 12,200          | 13,300          | -1,300                | – –                                  |
| Construction                                 | 19,200              | 17,000          | 18,700          | 500                   | -2,083 3,083                         |
| Manufacturing                                | 17,000              | 11,200          | 15,800          | 1,200                 | 206 2,194                            |
| Seafood Processing                           | 12,700              | 6,900           | 11,800          | 900                   | – –                                  |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities          | 66,900              | 64,500          | 66,700          | 200                   | -2,172 2,572                         |
| Retail Trade                                 | 37,600              | 37,000          | 37,000          | 600                   | -1,428 2,628                         |
| Information                                  | 6,400               | 6,400           | 6,600           | -200                  | -781 381                             |
| Financial Activities                         | 14,100              | 13,900          | 15,000          | -900                  | -2,843 1,043                         |
| Professional and Business Services           | 25,200              | 24,800          | 27,500          | -2,300                | -4,093 -507                          |
| Educational <sup>4</sup> and Health Services | 40,000              | 40,100          | 39,100          | 900                   | -368 2,168                           |
| Health Care                                  | 28,100              | 28,800          | 28,100          | 0                     | – –                                  |
| Leisure and Hospitality                      | 37,500              | 33,300          | 36,500          | 1,000                 | -1,037 3,037                         |
| Accommodations                               | 10,100              | 7,300           | 10,000          | 100                   | – –                                  |
| Food Svcs. and Drinking Places               | 21,700              | 20,500          | 21,000          | 700                   | – –                                  |
| Other Services                               | 11,100              | 11,100          | 11,600          | -500                  | -3,676 2,676                         |
| Government <sup>5</sup>                      | 87,400              | 86,300          | 84,900          | 2,500                 | – –                                  |

#### Notes:

A dash indicates that confidence intervals are not available at this level of detail.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has implemented a change to the method used to produce statewide wage and salary employment estimates, which has resulted in increased monthly volatility in the wage and salary estimates for many states, including Alaska. Therefore, one should be cautious in interpreting any over-the-year or month-to-month change for these monthly estimates. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages series may be a better information source (<http://labor.alaska.gov/qcew.htm>).

<sup>1</sup> Not seasonally adjusted

<sup>2</sup> Based on the margin of error of the estimate, a 90 percent confidence interval statistically determines a range of values within which the "true" value falls with a 90 percent level of confidence. For more information, go to <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/c-i.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

<sup>4</sup> Private education only

<sup>5</sup> Includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities

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

#### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

|        | 6/10 | 5/10 | 5/09 |
|--------|------|------|------|
| Alaska | 7.9% | 8.2% | 8.0% |
| U.S.   | 9.5% | 9.7% | 9.5% |

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Research and Analysis' Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>

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

|  | Civilian Labor Force |                |                | Unemployed        |               |               |                   |             |             |
|--|----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
|  | 6/10 <sup>P</sup>    | 5/10           | 6/09           | Number            |               |               | Rate              |             |             |
|  |                      |                |                | 6/10 <sup>P</sup> | 5/10          | 6/09          | 6/10 <sup>P</sup> | 5/10        | 6/09        |
| <b>Alaska Statewide</b>                                  | <b>368,536</b>       | <b>362,753</b> | <b>367,985</b> | <b>28,337</b>     | <b>28,337</b> | <b>29,820</b> | <b>7.7</b>        | <b>7.8</b>  | <b>8.1</b>  |
| <b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>                           | <b>198,820</b>       | <b>197,748</b> | <b>196,133</b> | <b>14,341</b>     | <b>14,321</b> | <b>14,941</b> | <b>7.2</b>        | <b>7.2</b>  | <b>7.6</b>  |
| Municipality of Anchorage                                | 156,348              | 155,500        | 154,016        | 10,719            | 10,702        | 10,982        | 6.9               | 6.9         | 7.1         |
| Matanuska-Susitna Borough                                | 42,472               | 42,248         | 42,117         | 3,622             | 3,619         | 3,959         | 8.5               | 8.6         | 9.4         |
| <b>Gulf Coast Region</b>                                 | <b>41,600</b>        | <b>39,669</b>  | <b>42,210</b>  | <b>3,362</b>      | <b>3,419</b>  | <b>3,609</b>  | <b>8.1</b>        | <b>8.6</b>  | <b>8.6</b>  |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough                                  | 28,587               | 27,696         | 28,943         | 2,516             | 2,569         | 2,656         | 8.8               | 9.3         | 9.2         |
| Kodiak Island Borough                                    | 6,825                | 6,384          | 7,002          | 459               | 438           | 527           | 6.7               | 6.9         | 7.5         |
| Valdez-Cordova Census Area                               | 6,188                | 5,589          | 6,265          | 387               | 412           | 426           | 6.3               | 7.4         | 6.8         |
| <b>Interior Region</b>                                   | <b>55,940</b>        | <b>56,313</b>  | <b>55,194</b>  | <b>4,088</b>      | <b>4,161</b>  | <b>4,446</b>  | <b>7.3</b>        | <b>7.4</b>  | <b>8.1</b>  |
| Denali Borough   | 2,403                | 1,895          | 2,357          | 97                | 108           | 93            | 4.0               | 5.7         | 3.9         |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough                             | 46,599               | 47,445         | 45,996         | 3,214             | 3,223         | 3,527         | 6.9               | 6.8         | 7.7         |
| Southeast Fairbanks Census Area                          | 3,774                | 3,802          | 3,691          | 338               | 361           | 353           | 9.0               | 9.5         | 9.6         |
| Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area                                | 3,164                | 3,171          | 3,150          | 439               | 469           | 473           | 13.9              | 14.8        | 15.0        |
| <b>Northern Region</b>                                   | <b>11,922</b>        | <b>12,075</b>  | <b>12,256</b>  | <b>1,318</b>      | <b>1,249</b>  | <b>1,250</b>  | <b>11.1</b>       | <b>10.3</b> | <b>10.2</b> |
| Nome Census Area   | 3,786                | 3,997          | 3,854          | 585               | 547           | 555           | 15.5              | 13.7        | 14.4        |
| North Slope Borough                                      | 5,060                | 5,118          | 5,341          | 293               | 273           | 272           | 5.8               | 5.3         | 5.1         |
| Northwest Arctic Borough                                 | 3,076                | 2,960          | 3,061          | 440               | 429           | 423           | 14.3              | 14.5        | 13.8        |
| <b>Southeast Region</b>                                  | <b>40,962</b>        | <b>40,178</b>  | <b>42,653</b>  | <b>2,843</b>      | <b>2,864</b>  | <b>3,040</b>  | <b>6.9</b>        | <b>7.1</b>  | <b>7.1</b>  |
| Haines Borough   | 1,547                | 1,440          | 1,552          | 104               | 113           | 118           | 6.7               | 7.8         | 7.6         |
| Hoonah-Angoon Census Area <sup>2</sup>                   | 1,453                | 1,364          | 1,496          | 158               | 172           | 144           | 10.9              | 12.6        | 9.6         |
| Juneau Borough   | 17,858               | 18,078         | 18,834         | 1,043             | 1,043         | 1,169         | 5.8               | 5.8         | 6.2         |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough <sup>2</sup>                   | 8,756                | 8,298          | 9,184          | 591               | 598           | 566           | 6.7               | 7.2         | 6.2         |
| Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area <sup>2</sup> | 2,447                | 2,342          | 2,509          | 336               | 331           | 358           | 13.7              | 14.1        | 14.3        |
| Sitka Borough  | 4,793                | 4,748          | 4,895          | 298               | 292           | 314           | 6.2               | 6.1         | 6.4         |
| Skagway Municipality <sup>2</sup>                        | 779                  | 715            | 848            | 21                | 18            | 57            | 2.7               | 2.5         | 6.7         |
| Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area <sup>2</sup>             | 3,000                | 2,871          | 2,985          | 263               | 267           | 281           | 8.8               | 9.3         | 9.4         |
| Yakutat Borough  | 329                  | 322            | 350            | 29                | 30            | 33            | 8.8               | 9.3         | 9.4         |
| <b>Southwest Region</b>                                  | <b>19,291</b>        | <b>16,770</b>  | <b>19,537</b>  | <b>2,385</b>      | <b>2,323</b>  | <b>2,532</b>  | <b>12.4</b>       | <b>13.9</b> | <b>13.0</b> |
| Aleutians East Borough                                   | 1,038                | 822            | 1,071          | 94                | 102           | 108           | 9.1               | 12.4        | 10.1        |
| Aleutians West Census Area                               | 2,922                | 2,174          | 3,009          | 192               | 248           | 234           | 6.6               | 11.4        | 7.8         |
| Bethel Census Area                                       | 6,995                | 7,022          | 7,043          | 1,145             | 1,086         | 1,121         | 16.4              | 15.5        | 15.9        |
| Bristol Bay Borough                                      | 1,950                | 1,046          | 1,932          | 39                | 42            | 42            | 2.0               | 4.0         | 2.2         |
| Dillingham Census Area                                   | 2,239                | 1,916          | 2,285          | 227               | 213           | 258           | 10.1              | 11.1        | 11.3        |
| Lake and Peninsula Borough                               | 1,432                | 1,126          | 1,442          | 86                | 83            | 95            | 6.0               | 7.4         | 6.6         |
| Wade Hampton Census Area                                 | 2,715                | 2,664          | 2,755          | 602               | 549           | 674           | 22.2              | 20.6        | 24.5        |

P = Preliminary. As more information becomes available, data are revised every month for the previous month and again at the end of every calendar year.

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.

<sup>2</sup> Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the Skagway Municipality and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (previously the Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area) became available in 2010. Data for the Wrangell Borough, and Petersburg and Prince of Wales-Hyder census areas will be available in 2011. Until then, data will continue to be published for the old areas.

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