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Press Release

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Unemployment rate remains at 6.7 percent in July

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in July, unchanged from the previous month. The comparable national rate was 4.9 percent, also unchanged.

July's unadjusted rate was 6.1 percent, down from June's 6.7 percent. This six-tenths of a percentage point drop is typical of Alaska's summer pattern.

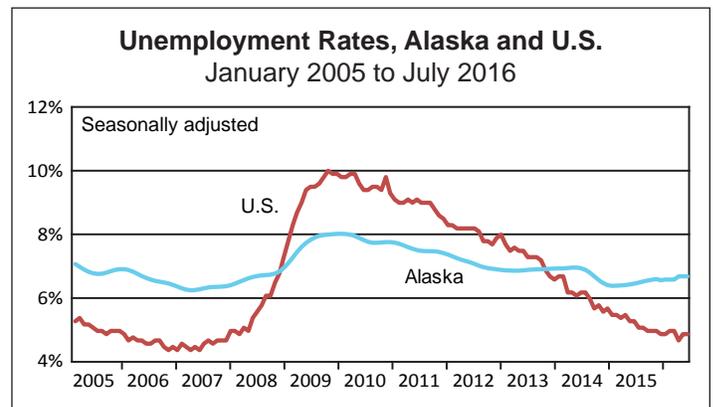
Kusilvak Census Area had the highest rate in July, at 23.3 percent. The lowest rates were also in the Southwest Region, where Aleutians East Borough, Bristol Bay Borough and Aleutians West Census Area were at 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5 percent, respectively.

Parts of the region have very low unemployment rates during the summer because of heavy fishing and seafood processing activity. The more northern parts, such as the Kusilvak and Bethel census areas, don't get the same economic boost and have high unemployment rates year-round.

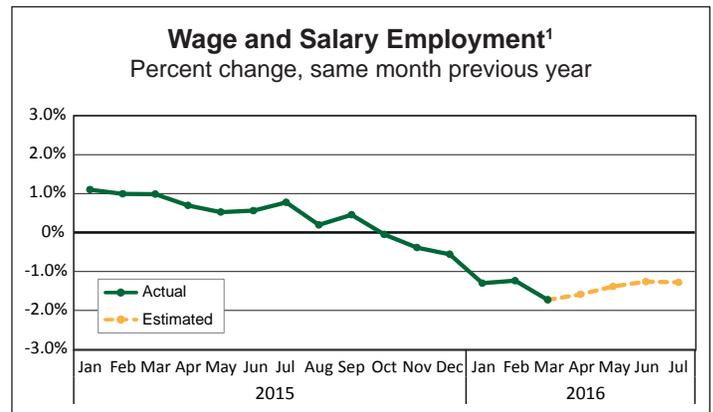
Alaska's job count was down 1.3 percent in July, compared to July 2015. The biggest private-sector losses were in oil and gas, construction, and professional and business services. State government's job count was also down. Health care was the only industry that grew substantially, while other sectors were mostly flat compared to last July.

For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions. For more information on unemployment rates around the state, see live.laborstats.alaska.gov/labforce/.

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	7/16	6/16	7/15
Alaska	6.7%	6.7%	6.5%
U.S.	4.9%	4.9%	5.3%



¹ Excludes military and the self-employed
Note: Actual employment counts through March 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages employment series. Estimated employment counts from April through July 2016 are based on a forecast of the QCEW series.

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

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force ²			Unemployed					
	7/16 ^P	6/16	7/15	Number			Rate		
				7/16 ^P	6/16	7/15	7/16 ^P	6/16	7/15
Alaska	371,496	367,398	374,602	22,816	24,670	21,798	6.1	6.7	5.8
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	202,725	203,657	203,033	11,688	12,473	10,651	5.8	6.1	5.2
Anchorage, Municipality	157,951	158,600	158,267	8,169	8,703	7,439	5.2	5.5	4.7
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,774	45,057	44,766	3,519	3,770	3,212	7.9	8.4	7.2
Gulf Coast Region	41,552	40,547	41,798	2,666	2,884	2,541	6.4	7.1	6.1
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,840	28,604	29,001	2,011	2,186	1,914	7.0	7.6	6.6
Kodiak Island Borough	6,892	6,441	6,918	325	341	291	4.7	5.3	4.2
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,820	5,502	5,879	330	357	336	5.7	6.5	5.7
Interior Region	53,295	52,951	53,978	3,163	3,449	2,971	5.9	6.5	5.5
Denali Borough	1,826	1,737	1,822	63	68	65	3.5	3.9	3.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,112	45,535	46,773	2,452	2,642	2,217	5.3	5.8	4.7
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,140	3,146	3,136	282	301	287	9.0	9.6	9.2
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,217	2,533	2,247	366	438	402	16.5	17.3	17.9
Northern Region	10,551	10,785	11,233	1,286	1,393	1,241	12.2	12.9	11.0
Nome Census Area	3,713	3,909	3,904	541	594	491	14.6	15.2	12.6
North Slope Borough	4,020	3,989	4,273	279	289	250	6.9	7.2	5.9
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,818	2,887	3,056	466	510	500	16.5	17.7	16.4
Southeast Region	41,252	38,882	42,101	1,939	2,134	2,125	4.7	5.5	5.0
Haines Borough	1,478	1,122	1,493	88	95	81	6.0	8.5	5.4
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,293	1,247	1,354	103	109	145	8.0	8.7	10.7
Juneau, City and Borough	17,492	17,395	17,830	694	755	741	4.0	4.3	4.2
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,959	7,500	8,124	367	415	404	4.6	5.5	5.0
Petersburg Borough	1,789	1,504	1,826	107	124	116	6.0	8.2	6.4
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,785	2,918	2,845	281	311	302	10.1	10.7	10.6
Sitka, City and Borough	5,891	4,812	6,000	181	197	193	3.1	4.1	3.2
Skagway, Municipality	1,064	1,048	1,095	35	39	48	3.3	3.7	4.4
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,194	1,048	1,220	65	71	74	5.4	6.8	6.1
Yakutat, City and Borough	307	288	314	18	18	21	5.9	6.3	6.7
Southwest Region	22,118	20,579	22,463	2,073	2,337	2,270	9.4	11.4	10.1
Aleutians East Borough	3,111	2,746	3,100	66	78	80	2.1	2.8	2.6
Aleutians West Census Area	4,229	3,630	4,527	107	133	132	2.5	3.7	2.9
Bethel Census Area	7,826	7,658	7,833	1,035	1,139	1,100	13.2	14.9	14.0
Bristol Bay Borough	1,136	520	1,127	25	32	25	2.2	6.2	2.2
Dillingham Census Area	2,554	2,582	2,540	193	228	199	7.6	8.8	7.8
Kusilvak Census Area	2,455	2,683	2,533	572	634	657	23.3	23.6	25.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	807	760	803	75	93	77	9.3	12.2	9.6

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 in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

¹Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

²The labor force is the sum of the unemployed and the employed.

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