

Heidi Drygas
Commissioner

www.labor.alaska.gov



P.O. Box 111149
Juneau, AK 99811-1149
907.465.2700
commissioner.labor@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2017

No. 17-25

For more information: **Conor Bell, Economist**
907-465-6037, Conor.Bell@Alaska.Gov

Unemployment Rate at 6.6 Percent in April

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in April, two-tenths of a percentage point higher than March. The comparable national rate in April was 4.4 percent. Alaska's rate has been the highest or second-highest among states for more than a year.

Preliminary estimates show April employment was down by 6,600 jobs, or 2.0 percent, compared to April 2016. The biggest losses were in oil and gas, which was down by 1,800 jobs, a 15 percent drop. Construction employment was down by 1,300 (an 8.4 percent decline), state government was down by 1,500 jobs (-5.8 percent), and professional and business services jobs were down by 1,600 (-5.6 percent).

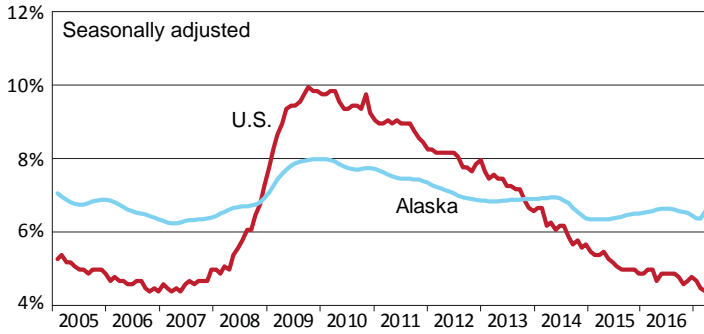
Most industries lost jobs over the year, with three exceptions. Health care was up by 900 jobs from its April 2016 level (2.5 percent), local government was up by 600 jobs (1.4 percent), and leisure and hospitality was up by 400 jobs (1.3 percent).

April's not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.0 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from March. Across the state, unemployment rates fell in 21 of 29 boroughs and census areas as most areas added seasonal jobs. Kusilvak Census Area had the highest rate at 19.9 percent. Buoyed by spring fisheries, Aleutians East Borough had the lowest rate at 2.3 percent.

###

Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

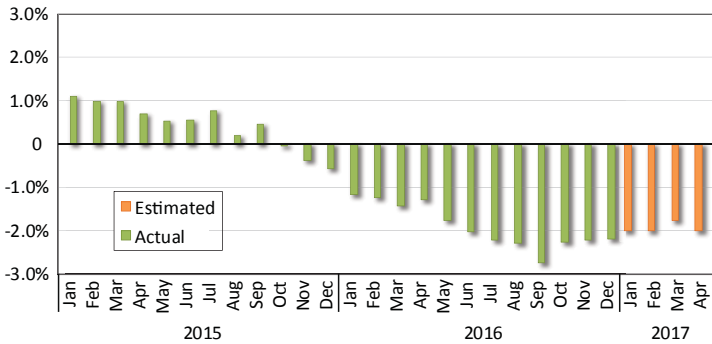
January 2005 to April 2017



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

Wage and Salary Employment

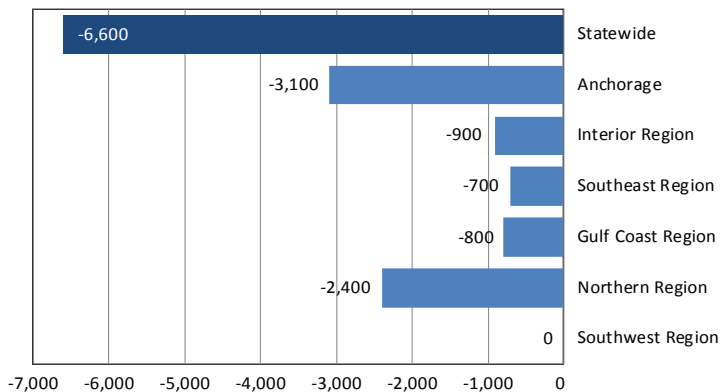
Percent change from same month the previous year



Note: Actual employment counts through December 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages employment series. Estimated employment counts from January through April 2017 are based on a forecast of the QCEW series.

Regional Employment

Change from April 2016 to April 2017



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Area Unemployment Rates

Not seasonally adjusted¹

	Rate		
	4/17 ^P	3/17	4/16
Alaska	7.0	7.2	6.8
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	6.4	6.6	6.0
Anchorage, Municipality	5.7	5.8	5.3
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	8.6	9.2	8.3
Gulf Coast Region	8.0	8.4	8.2
Kenai Peninsula Borough	8.6	9.1	8.8
Kodiak Island Borough	4.9	4.4	4.7
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	8.8	10.2	9.5
Interior Region	7.0	7.3	6.8
Denali Borough	16.1	20.1	15.1
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.1	6.2	5.8
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	10.1	10.8	11.1
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	18.1	19.6	17.5
Northern Region	12.4	11.7	11.2
Nome Census Area	13.4	12.7	12.6
North Slope Borough	7.0	6.5	6.1
Northwest Arctic Borough	18.5	17.7	16.4
Southeast Region	6.1	7.0	6.3
Haines Borough	9.2	11.4	11.0
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	14.2	16.8	14.9
Juneau, City and Borough	4.5	4.9	4.3
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6.3	7.4	6.8
Petersburg Borough	9.2	10.3	8.7
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	11.4	12.9	11.9
Sitka, City and Borough	4.1	4.6	4.6
Skagway, Municipality	11.6	19.8	12.2
Wrangell, City and Borough	6.8	8.3	6.7
Yakutat, City and Borough	7.0	9.1	5.7
Southwest Region	10.3	9.4	11.3
Aleutians East Borough	2.3	1.8	2.3
Aleutians West Census Area	3.6	2.2	3.6
Bethel Census Area	13.5	13.4	14.7
Bristol Bay Borough	8.0	12.9	9.5
Dillingham Census Area	9.7	9.7	10.8
Kusilvak Census Area	19.9	20.3	22.4
Lake and Peninsula Borough	14.3	14.4	16.1

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.

¹Unemployment 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 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment By Industry

	Average Monthly Employment			Compared to April 2016	
	April 2017 ¹	March 2017 ¹	April 2016 ²	Change	Percent
Total Nonfarm Employment	322,100	317,400	328,700	-6,600	-2.0%
Total Private	239,900	235,800	245,500	-5,600	-2.3%
Mining and Logging	13,200	13,400	15,100	-1,900	-12.6%
Oil and Gas	10,200	10,300	12,000	-1,800	-15.0%
Construction	14,100	13,200	15,400	-1,300	-8.4%
Manufacturing	12,400	13,500	12,500	-100	-0.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	62,500	60,800	64,000	-1,500	-2.3%
Wholesale	6,200	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1%
Retail	35,500	34,800	36,400	-900	-2.5%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	20,800	19,800	21,200	-400	-1.9%
Information	6,300	6,100	6,400	-100	-1.6%
Financial Activities	11,700	11,600	11,800	-100	-0.8%
Professional and Business Services	27,000	26,200	28,600	-1,600	-5.6%
Education and Health	49,500	49,300	48,600	900	1.9%
Health Care	36,300	36,300	35,400	900	2.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	32,400	31,100	32,000	400	1.3%
Other Services	10,800	10,600	11,100	-300	-2.7%
Total Government	82,200	81,600	83,200	-1,000	-1.2%
Federal	14,900	14,900	15,000	-100	-0.7%
State	24,200	24,100	25,700	-1,500	-5.8%
Local	43,100	42,600	42,500	600	1.4%

¹Employment estimates for 2017 are based on a forecast of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data.

²Employment estimates for 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics employment data.