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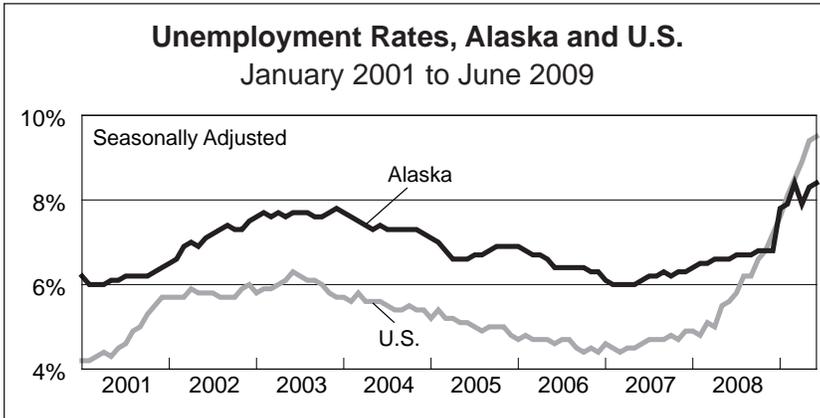
Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 09-39

Unemployment rate at 8.4 percent in June



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in June, rising a statistically insignificant one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.4 percent. May's rate was revised down one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.3 percent.

The state's unemployment rate remains well below the U.S. rate, which also saw little movement in June, rising from 9.4 percent to 9.5 percent. Over the longer term, both the state and nation have seen their rates increase significantly in the past year, although Alaska's has climbed about two percentage points and the U.S. rate has climbed nearly four.

Payroll jobs in Alaska grew by 13,400 in June with most of the growth coming from seafood processing, construction and tourist-related industries. Payroll jobs are those for which a person receives a wage or salary. Fishermen and other self-employed workers are not included in the payroll job numbers.

Since January, Alaska has added 35,000 payroll jobs, but that increase is noticeably smaller than the 39,800 the state has added on average over the previous three years. Alaska had an estimated 1,100 fewer jobs this June than it did in June of 2008.

The industries with the biggest over-the-year declines are construction (-1,200), retail trade (-900) and food services and drinking places (-400). Health care continues to show strong over-the-year growth (+1,100). Government jobs were up 800 over the year and the oil and gas industry was up 400.

As with the unemployment rates, Alaska's job numbers reveal an economic downturn noticeably less severe than what the U.S. as a whole is experiencing. Alaska's loss of 1,100 jobs equates to a decline of 0.3 percent. Comparable numbers for the U.S. show a decline of 5.8 million jobs or 4.2 percent.

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Research and Analysis' Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 6/09	Revised 5/09	Revised 6/08	Changes from 5/09 6/08	
Total Nonfarm Employment ²	339,800	326,400	340,900	13,400	-1,100
Natural Resources and Mining	15,800	15,400	15,500	400	300
Oil and Gas	13,200	13,000	12,800	200	400
Construction	18,700	16,500	19,900	2,200	-1,200
Manufacturing	15,700	10,900	15,800	4,800	-100
Seafood Processing	11,600	6,500	11,600	5,100	0
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	67,500	64,400	69,000	3,100	-1,500
Retail Trade	37,000	35,900	37,900	1,100	-900
Information	7,200	7,100	7,000	100	200
Financial Activities	15,000	15,000	15,200	0	-200
Professional and Business Services	27,800	26,900	27,700	900	100
Educational ³ and Health Services	38,600	38,800	37,500	-200	1,100
Health Care	28,200	28,300	27,100	-100	1,100
Leisure and Hospitality	38,200	34,100	38,800	4,100	-600
Accommodations	11,000	8,900	11,100	2,100	-100
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	21,600	20,500	22,000	1,100	-400
Other Services	11,700	11,500	11,700	200	0
Government ⁴	83,600	85,800	82,800	-2,200	800

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

³ Private education only

⁴ Includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	6/09	5/09	6/08
Alaska	8.4%	8.3%	6.6%
U.S.	9.5%	9.4%	5.6%

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployment					
	6/09 ^P	5/09	6/08	Number			Rate		
				6/09 ^P	5/09	6/08	6/09 ^P	5/09	6/08
Alaska Statewide	366,953	358,939	363,803	31,139	28,852	24,165	8.5	8.0	6.6
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	197,247	194,375	195,129	15,538	14,127	11,636	7.9	7.3	6.0
Municipality of Anchorage	155,924	153,705	154,484	11,444	10,387	8,586	7.3	6.8	5.6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	41,323	40,670	40,645	4,094	3,740	3,050	9.9	9.2	7.5
Gulf Coast Region	40,758	38,822	40,680	3,790	3,586	2,980	9.3	9.2	7.3
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,342	27,305	27,955	2,790	2,664	1,984	9.8	9.8	7.1
Kodiak Island Borough	6,517	6,147	6,696	553	468	609	8.5	7.6	9.1
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,899	5,370	6,029	447	454	387	7.6	8.5	6.4
Interior Region	55,837	55,592	54,753	4,571	4,244	3,644	8.2	7.6	6.7
Denali Borough	2,768	2,273	2,758	88	99	64	3.2	4.4	2.3
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,417	46,782	45,528	3,636	3,324	2,891	7.8	7.1	6.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,743	3,655	3,671	376	365	298	10.0	10.0	8.1
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,909	2,882	2,796	471	456	391	16.2	15.8	14.0
Northern Region	12,211	12,080	11,801	1,291	1,183	1,107	10.6	9.8	9.4
Nome Census Area	3,985	4,065	3,914	550	518	479	13.8	12.7	12.2
North Slope Borough	5,226	5,139	4,940	288	258	248	5.5	5.0	5.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,000	2,876	2,947	453	407	380	15.1	14.2	12.9
Southeast Region	42,113	40,954	42,791	3,177	2,995	2,494	7.5	7.3	5.8
Haines Borough	1,473	1,392	1,506	121	119	114	8.2	8.5	7.6
Juneau Borough	18,843	18,897	19,191	1,199	1,085	895	6.4	5.7	4.7
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	8,809	8,473	8,985	601	591	465	6.8	7.0	5.2
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	2,546	2,339	2,509	375	361	282	14.7	15.4	11.2
Sitka Borough	4,772	4,560	4,844	322	299	265	6.7	6.6	5.5
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	2,470	2,274	2,493	217	217	170	8.8	9.5	6.8
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	2,869	2,661	2,907	319	294	282	11.1	11.0	9.7
Yakutat Borough	331	358	356	23	29	21	6.9	8.1	5.9
Southwest Region	18,788	17,120	18,651	2,774	2,720	2,305	14.8	15.9	12.4
Aleutians East Borough	1,109	840	1,086	116	125	95	10.5	14.9	8.7
Aleutians West Census Area	2,977	2,303	2,951	246	336	183	8.3	14.6	6.2
Bethel Census Area	7,034	6,955	6,993	1,217	1,133	1,071	17.3	16.3	15.3
Bristol Bay Borough	1,774	1,088	1,815	56	57	46	3.2	5.2	2.5
Dillingham Census Area	2,266	1,986	2,204	278	264	220	12.3	13.3	10.0
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,203	1,153	1,277	103	106	81	8.6	9.2	6.3
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,425	2,795	2,325	758	699	609	31.3	25.0	26.2

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.

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

² Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the new borough and census areas will be available in 2010. 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