



Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 6.8 percent in August

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in August, up slightly from July's 6.7 percent. The comparable national rate was 4.9 percent, unchanged from the previous month.

Although the one-tenth of a percentage point change is not large enough to be statistically significant, Alaska's rate has been rising gradually since early 2015.

August's unadjusted rate was 5.9 percent, down from July's 6.1 percent. August is typically the month with the lowest statewide unemployment rate as construction, fishing and tourism reach their seasonal peak.

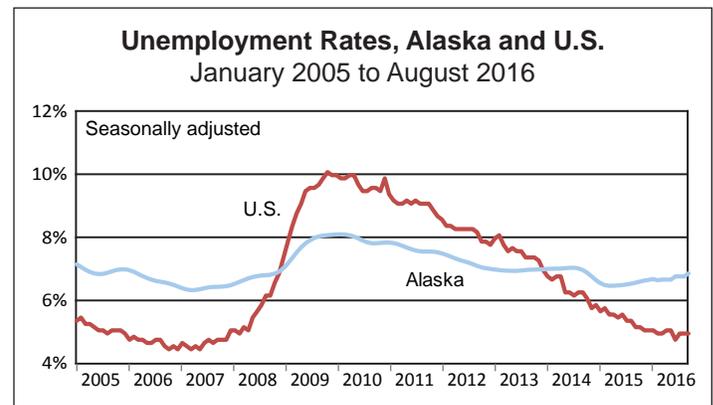
Unadjusted rates fell or were flat in most areas around the state in August. The notable exception was the Bristol Bay Borough, where the unemployment rate rose three percentage points—from 2.2 percent to 5.2 percent—as the Bristol Bay sockeye harvest and processing wound down.

Most boroughs and census areas with dramatic seasonal patterns still had very low rates in August. The Aleutians East Borough and Aleutians West Census Area were at 1.9 and 2.2 percent, respectively. Sitka and Skagway were both at 3.0 percent, and the Denali Borough was at 3.1 percent. The highest rate was 22.1 percent in the Kusilvak Census Area.

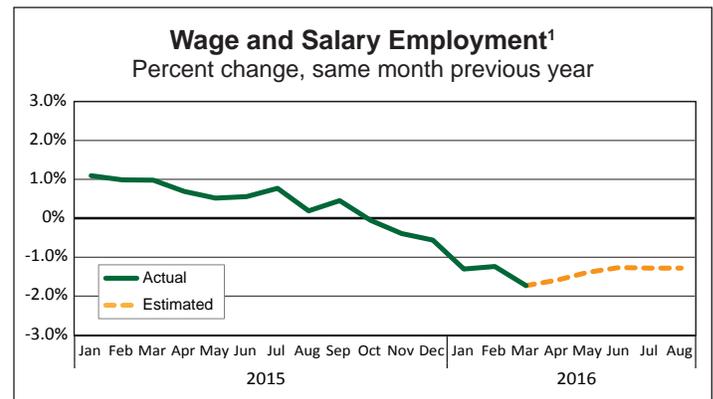
Payroll employment was down 4,600 jobs from August 2015, a decline of 1.3 percent over the year. Employers in the oil and gas, construction, and professional and business services industries shed the majority of the private sector's lost jobs. The public sector's decline was entirely in state government. Health care was the only industry that grew substantially, up an estimated 900 jobs in August from the same month last year. Federal government employment was also up from August 2015.

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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/.



	8/16	7/16	8/15
Alaska	6.8%	6.7%	6.5%
U.S.	4.9%	4.9%	5.1%



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					
	8/16 ^P	7/16	8/15	Number			Rate		
				8/16 ^P	7/16	8/15	8/16 ^P	7/16	8/15
Alaska	366,534	371,469	369,377	21,776	22,790	20,742	5.9	6.1	5.6
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	200,079	202,905	199,841	11,016	11,622	10,172	5.5	5.7	5.1
Anchorage, Municipality	156,028	158,137	155,891	7,778	8,162	7,171	5.0	5.2	4.6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,051	44,768	43,950	3,238	3,460	3,001	7.4	7.7	6.8
Gulf Coast Region	40,764	41,327	41,599	2,581	2,649	2,418	6.3	6.4	5.8
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,193	28,690	28,771	1,945	1,998	1,836	6.9	7.0	6.4
Kodiak Island Borough	6,901	6,852	7,016	329	324	272	4.8	4.7	3.9
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,670	5,785	5,812	307	327	310	5.4	5.7	5.3
Interior Region	53,393	53,220	54,169	2,976	3,160	2,900	5.6	5.9	5.4
Denali Borough	1,731	1,822	1,737	54	63	65	3.1	3.5	3.7
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,383	46,057	47,160	2,289	2,450	2,181	4.9	5.3	4.6
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,039	3,134	3,032	269	285	275	8.9	9.1	9.1
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,240	2,207	2,240	364	362	379	16.3	16.4	16.9
Northern Region	10,539	10,595	11,353	1,280	1,300	1,131	12.1	12.3	10.0
Nome Census Area	3,857	3,723	4,115	534	541	457	13.8	14.5	11.1
North Slope Borough	3,898	4,031	4,228	269	278	239	6.9	6.9	5.7
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,784	2,841	3,010	477	481	435	17.1	16.9	14.5
Southeast Region	40,905	41,299	41,606	1,825	1,925	2,019	4.5	4.7	4.9
Haines Borough	1,466	1,480	1,475	84	88	75	5.7	5.9	5.1
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,309	1,294	1,364	96	103	136	7.3	8.0	10.0
Juneau, City and Borough	17,619	17,508	17,905	644	684	708	3.7	3.9	4.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,813	7,969	7,946	352	365	385	4.5	4.6	4.8
Petersburg Borough	1,804	1,779	1,846	94	94	114	5.2	5.3	6.2
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,829	2,799	2,869	278	291	286	9.8	10.4	10.0
Sitka, City and Borough	5,536	5,900	5,624	164	181	185	3.0	3.1	3.3
Skagway, Municipality	1,051	1,067	1,078	32	35	45	3.0	3.3	4.2
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,187	1,195	1,204	64	65	67	5.4	5.4	5.6
Yakutat, City and Borough	291	308	295	17	19	18	5.8	6.2	6.1
Southwest Region	20,854	22,127	20,808	2,096	2,136	2,103	10.1	9.7	10.1
Aleutians East Borough	3,057	3,056	3,062	58	66	71	1.9	2.2	2.3
Aleutians West Census Area	4,385	4,462	4,397	95	109	120	2.2	2.4	2.7
Bethel Census Area	7,292	7,737	7,229	1,070	1,067	1,021	14.7	13.8	14.1
Bristol Bay Borough	407	1,115	410	21	24	26	5.2	2.2	6.3
Dillingham Census Area	2,360	2,514	2,344	205	195	196	8.7	7.8	8.4
Kusilvak Census Area	2,594	2,448	2,613	574	599	600	22.1	24.5	23.0
Lake and Peninsula Borough	759	795	753	73	76	69	9.6	9.6	9.2

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 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