

Fourth Edition 2015



AEDC

Anchorage Economic  
Development Corporation

# Anchorage Employment Report

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All data referenced in this employment report is from the State of Alaska, Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development website: [www.laborstats.alaska.gov](http://www.laborstats.alaska.gov) and from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov).

**Report compiled by Anchorage Economic Development Corp. Research Department.**

**Report generously sponsored by First National Bank Alaska.**

If you are interested in learning more about this data or are interested in how AEDC can help you develop a report, call AEDC at 907.258.3700.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT

The non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Anchorage in May was 5.1 percent, a 0.2 drop from the April revised rate. This is 0.2 percent lower than the national rate of 5.3 and 1.5 percent lower than the statewide rate of 6.6 percent. The May unemployment rate for Anchorage was 0.1 percent lower than May of 2014. *As always, it should be noted that these are preliminary survey figures for May and will be revised next month.*

### YEAR-TO-DATE UNEMPLOYMENT

The average year-to-date (YTD) non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Anchorage was 5.3 percent at the end of May, 0.1 percent lower than at this time last year. **An increase of 1,100 in the employment total and 954 in the Anchorage labor force during the YTD period has resulted in the reported unemployment total decreasing by 146.** The total number of unemployed people in Anchorage for the month of May is estimated at 8,099 (those actively looking for jobs), 259 less than May 2014. In the Mat-Su Borough, the YTD average monthly employment rate is down 1.0 percent from 2014 YTD, while the Kenai Peninsula Borough rate remains unchanged during this time (see charts at the end of this report for more details).

*It is important to note that these Anchorage unemployment numbers represent the labor force residing in Anchorage, and does not describe the number of filled positions in Anchorage. The industry employment estimates referenced in the remainder of this report are representative of the number of jobs in the Municipality of Anchorage, regardless of the job holder's place of residency.*

### ANCHORAGE INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

The Anchorage employment estimate for May, which includes total jobs in Anchorage held by city residents and commuters, is 158,400; 300 fewer jobs than in May 2014. **The YTD average for 2015 is 154,560, 240 jobs less when compared to YTD 2014.** This represents a 0.16 percent decrease in the total monthly average over the same period.

The private sector (total jobs minus government jobs) shrunk by 300 jobs during this time, while Government employment increased by 60. Federal and State Government employment decreased by 120 and 40 jobs, respectively, while Local Government increased by 180.

In the Goods Producing category, the Mining & Logging industry (which includes Oil & Gas employment), remains the only industry showing growth. Service Providing industries that have positive growth so far this year are Trade/Transportation/Utilities (TTU), Information and Government.

# 158,400

Total jobs in Anchorage  
May 2015 (preliminary)

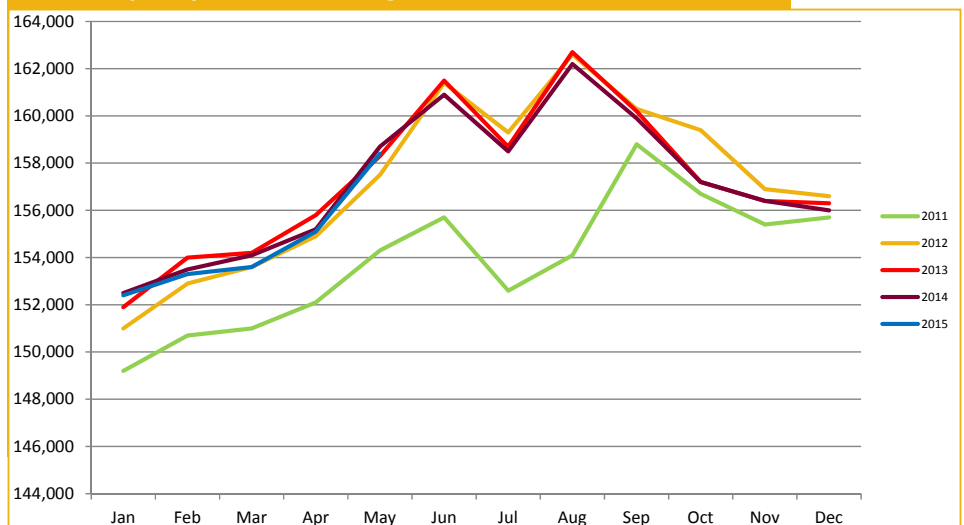
# 5.1%

May 2015  
Unemployment Rate  
for Anchorage

# 5.3%

2015 YTD  
Unemployment Rate  
for Anchorage

### ANCHORAGE EMPLOYMENT Municipality of Anchorage 2011-Present



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONTINUED

### MONTHLY REVISIONS

Each month, the Alaska Department of Labor's Research and Analysis Division revises the previous month employment numbers based on the availability of newer or late arriving data. The following tables show the revision changes in Anchorage's and Alaska's April job totals by industry.

Most adjustments are relatively minor; however, some changes do occur which are significant. Changes such as these are normally the result of rounding errors, job classification modifications, sample size or modeling issues, or errors within the industry.

#### APRIL 2015 REVISIONS, ANCHORAGE

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Preliminary Total</i>	<i>Revised Total</i>	<i>Net Change</i>
Goods Producing	13,200	13,400	+200
Construction	7,300	7,500	+200
Services Providing	142,000	141,700	-300
Trade/Transportation/Utilities	33,000	33,100	+100
Professional & Business Services	19,400	19,500	+100
Education & Health Services	25,200	24,900	-300
Health Care	19,000	18,800	-200
Leisure & Hospitality	16,400	16,600	+200
Accommodation	3,000	3,100	+100
Other Services	6,200	6,100	-100

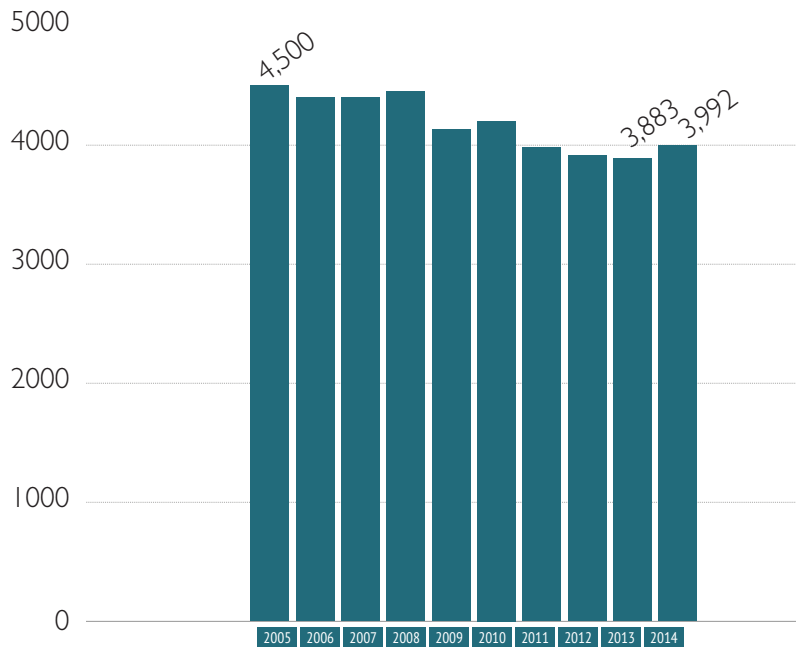
#### APRIL 2015 REVISIONS, ALASKA

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Preliminary Total</i>	<i>Revised Total</i>	<i>Net Change</i>
Goods Producing	46,600	46,800	+200
Mining & Logging	17,500	17,600	+100
Construction	16,500	16,600	+100
Manufacturing	---	---	---
Seafood Processing	8,400	8,500	+100
Services Providing	286,900	286,700	-200
Trade/Transportation/Utilities	64,800	64,500	-300
Wholesale Trade	6,500	6,400	-100
Trans., Warehouse, Utilities	21,200	21,000	-200
Air Transportation	5,900	6,000	+100
Professional & Business Services	28,700	28,600	-100
Leisure & Hospitality	31,200	31,500	+300
Accommodation	8,000	8,100	+100
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	19,100	19,200	+100
Other Services	12,000	11,900	-100

## ANCHORAGE ECONOMY HIGHLIGHT: INSIDE THE INFORMATION INDUSTRY

While the estimated 4,080 jobs in the Information industry account for only 2.6 percent of jobs in Anchorage, the year-to-date growth rate over last year for this group is 3.55 percent and is the fastest growing segment in our region. Over the past ten years, annual Information job estimates have dropped from 4,500 in 2005 to 3,883 in 2013, with a slight increase in 2014 to 3,992.

### ANNUAL ESTIMATE OF INFORMATION INDUSTRY JOBS ANCHORAGE, 2005-2014



The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics defines the main components of the Information industry as comprising of the publishing industries, including software publishing, and both traditional publishing and publishing exclusively on the Internet; the motion picture and sound recording industries; the broadcasting industries, including traditional broadcasting and those broadcasting exclusively over the Internet; the telecommunications industries; Web search portals, data processing industries, and the information services industries.

*From: About the Information Sector, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.  
23 June 2015. [www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag51.htm](http://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag51.htm)*

**In Anchorage, more than 70 percent of Information industry jobs are in telecommunications.**

### Jobs and Wages in Telecommunications

The 2014 Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages survey estimated that in Anchorage, the average monthly employment total in the telecommunications sector was 2,860 jobs. On average, these jobs provide an average monthly wage of \$5,675, the most of any Service Providing industry.

Typical jobs in telecommunications are telecommunications equipment installers and repairers, telecommunications line installers and repairers, customer service representatives, electronics engineers (except computer engineers), first-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers and telephone operators.

The Alaska Department of Labor predicts that employment growth in the state for electronics engineers, first-line supervisors and telephone operators will be at or above national averages into 2022. Average wages in the Anchorage Metropolitan Statistical Area (which includes the Mat-Su Borough) for these jobs range from 5.6 to 9 percent higher than the national average as well.

# GOODS PRODUCING JOBS

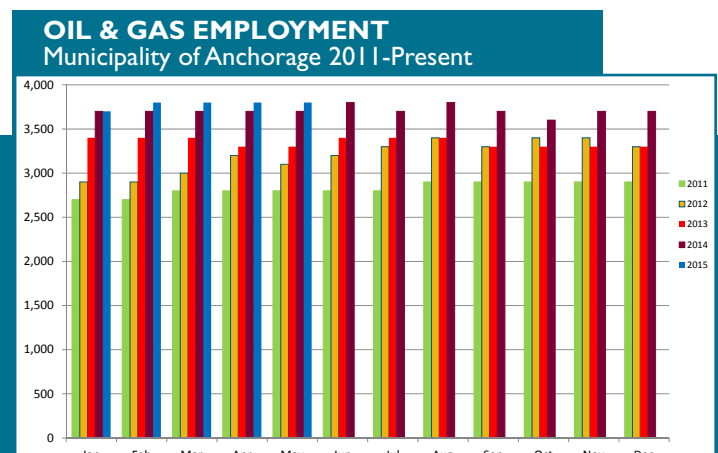
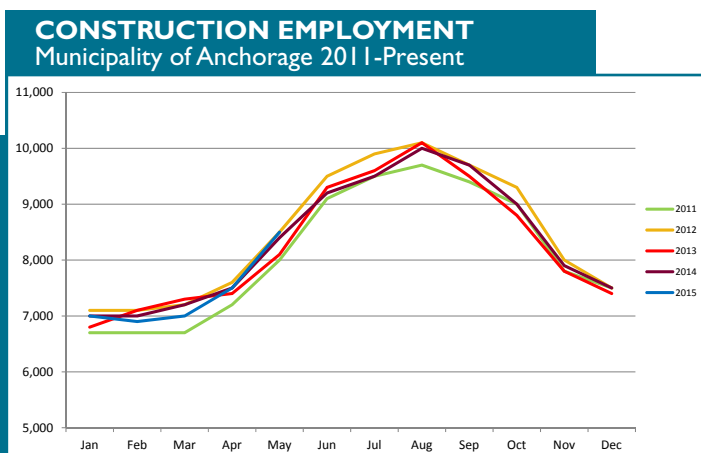
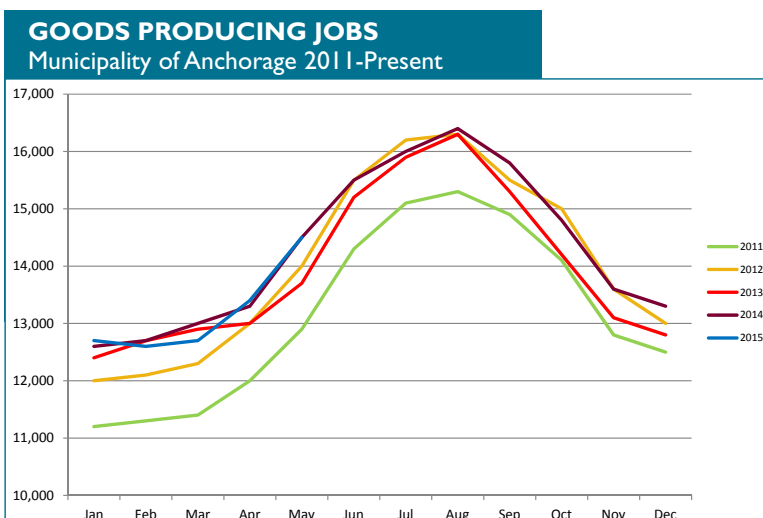
## CONSTRUCTION WORK, MINING, OIL & GAS PRODUCTION, MANUFACTURING

With a job total of 13,180 YTD, employment in the Goods Producing<sup>1</sup> group has declined by 40 jobs compared to the same period a year ago. The only industry to gain jobs in the group has been Mining & Logging, gaining 60 jobs in 2015 when compared against the same period of 2014. In Anchorage, YTD Construction employment is down 40 jobs and Manufacturing is down 80 jobs.

The Oil & Gas sector is part of the Mining & Logging industry. The job total for the Oil & Gas sector is up 80 this year when compared to 2014 YTD. This continues a trend of slow growth each month this year. While the current U.S. Energy Information Administration's forecast of \$61 per barrel for Brent crude for 2015 and \$67 in 2016 may cause some companies to reconsider future operations, there are signs that Alaska investments may not decrease dramatically. ConocoPhillips recently decreased their overall 2015 operations budget by more than 30 percent, but their Alaska budget was reduced by only 12.5 percent.

The Construction industry, as noted earlier, is showing a YTD decline of 40 jobs from the 2014 YTD total. **The monthly estimate of 8,500 jobs in May is up 100 jobs over May of 2014—the first time this year where a 2015 monthly estimate has been above its 2014 counterpart.** In fact, this is the second highest May estimate since it reached 9,000 in 2009. YTD permit applications at the Municipality of Anchorage building safety agency show units within multi-unit residential developments are up by 33 percent over last year, while duplex units have declined by over 50 percent. This may indicate a shift in the priorities of developers from small residential projects to larger complexes, a positive sign for the Anchorage housing market.

<sup>1</sup>Those jobs that are specifically tied to production, not those which support the production or maintenance of the production jobs.



## SERVICES PROVIDING JOBS

ENGINEERING, RETAIL, TOURISM, HEALTH CARE, ETC.

### Service Providing jobs in Anchorage totaled 143,900 for May-300 less than May 2014.

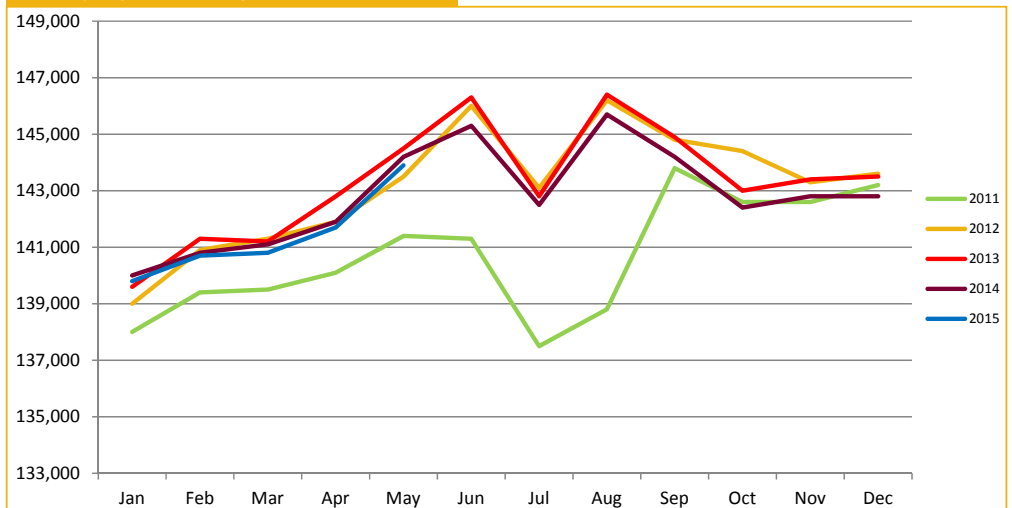
Overall, the YTD average is down 220 jobs from 2014. The Information industry has a growth rate of 3.55 percent YTD, compared to the same period a year ago, making it the fastest growing industry this year. The May job total of 4,100 is at the same level as it has been for the previous three months, a good indication of stability. See page five for more information on this industry.

The Trade/Transportation/Utilities industry is also showing positive growth, up 0.98 percent over 2014 YTD. Job totals in the Retail Trade sector continue to climb, the May estimate is 18,300, 500 more than May 2014.

The long awaited improvement in Leisure & Hospitality monthly estimates finally occurred in May, gaining 500 jobs over April for a total of 17,100. This is the first month this year showing an increase over the same month of the previous year. The April YTD change was down 150 from 2014, but May's is only down 60, a significant development that gives some hope that the end of year total may show improvement over 2014.

The monthly average for Government jobs is up 60 jobs from 2014 YTD. Local Education continues to be the leader in this industry and is up 220 jobs YTD. The Federal Government sector is averaging 120 fewer jobs than this point last year, and State Government jobs are showing a slight decline of 40 positions over the same period. This sector would be up if not for a loss of 80 jobs YTD in State Education. Significant cuts in the upcoming state budget are expected to result in job losses in many departments that will affect Anchorage, including some at the University of Alaska. On the positive side, a restoration of state funds for local education has resulted in additional teaching positions being added to the Anchorage School District for 2016.

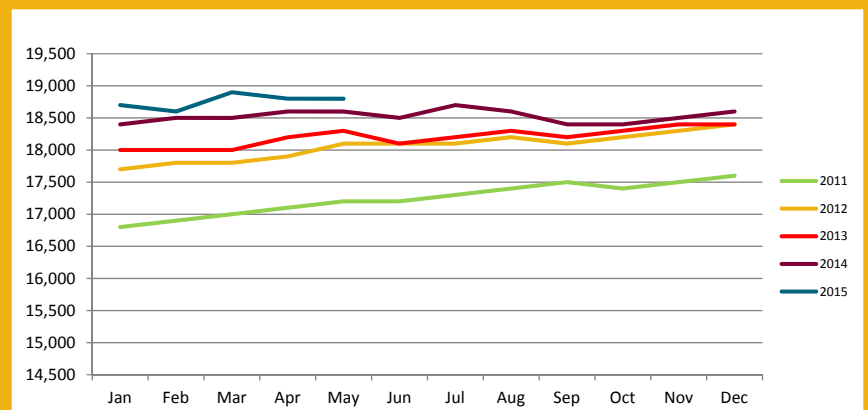
**SERVICES PROVIDING JOBS**  
Municipality of Anchorage 2011-Present



## HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT

Health Care employment continues to show a sizable improvement over 2014 YTD, up 240 jobs, or 1.3 percent. The May estimate of 18,800 is 200 more jobs than May 2014. Local staffing agencies are still seeing a high demand for registered nurses and experienced office personnel.

**HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT**  
Municipality of Anchorage 2011-Present



## SERVICES PROVIDING JOBS, CONT.

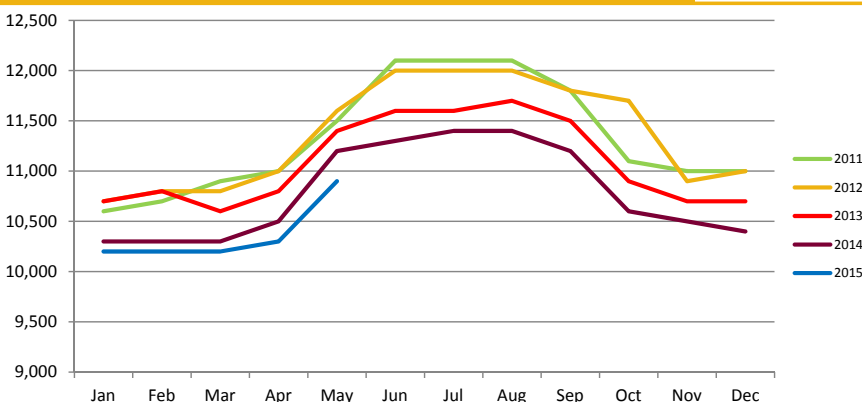
### TRANSPORTATION

The Trade/Transportation/Utilities industry continues to see YTD growth in May, but at a slightly lower level than April. The industry is up 320 jobs YTD compared to this time last year, and the May total of 34,100 jobs is up 100 over May of 2014. **Retail Trade is still leading the way with 560 more YTD jobs than 2014.**

Jobs in the Transportation/Warehouse/Utilities sector increased by 600 from April to May, but the YTD total is still 160 below the level reached last year at this time. Local trucking industry leaders have recently gone on record as saying they have more work than they can handle right now, and the single biggest issue they're facing is on the labor front.<sup>2</sup> They are concerned that there are not enough people receiving the required training to replace retirement and attrition losses.

<sup>2</sup>Alaska Business Monthly, June 2015: Truck Drivers Wanted in Alaska by Susan Harrington

### TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYMENT Municipality of Anchorage 2011-Present



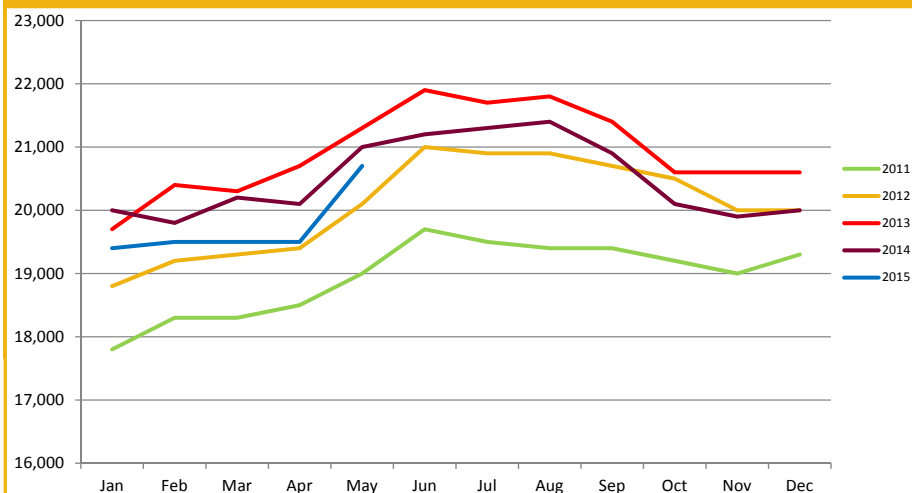
**10,900**  
**TRANSPORTATION JOBS**  
May 2015 (preliminary)

### PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES

ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, LEGAL SERVICES, ACCOUNTING, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, WASTE MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The YTD average in this industry is down 500 jobs from 2014, and although the May job estimate of 20,700 is 300 jobs less than May 2014, the increase of 1,200 jobs from April to May 2015 is the largest single month increase since this category was created in 2001. This industry usually sees a jump in employment each May in the administrative and support services sector. These jobs include freight and material movers, janitors, groundskeepers and office clerks. These positions are generally filled through September and then decline each month until November, when they traditionally level off.

### PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES EMPLOYMENT Municipality of Anchorage 2011-Present

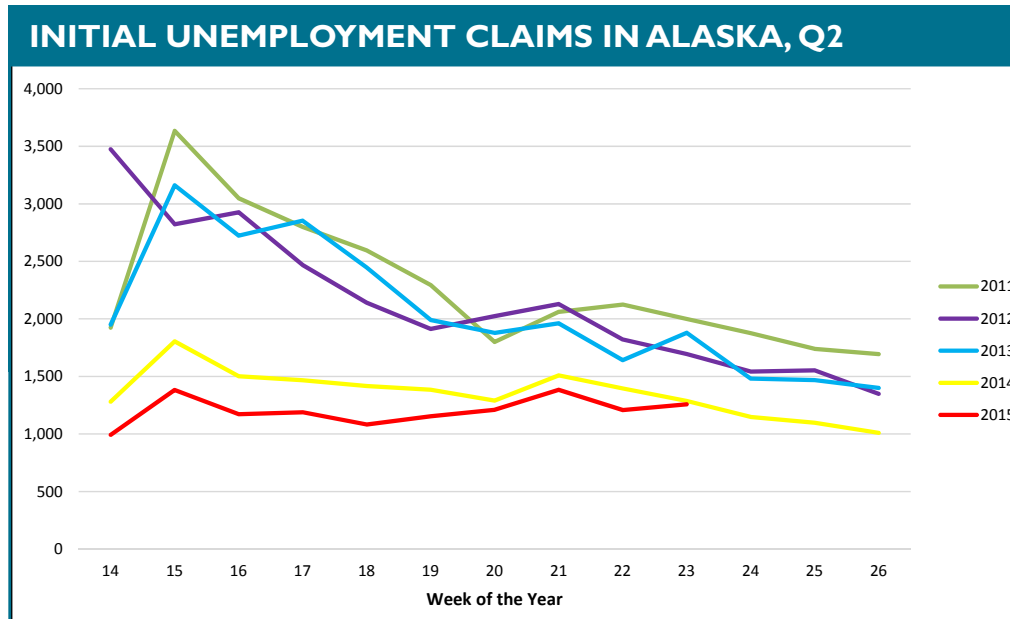


**20,700**  
**PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES JOBS**  
May 2015 (preliminary)

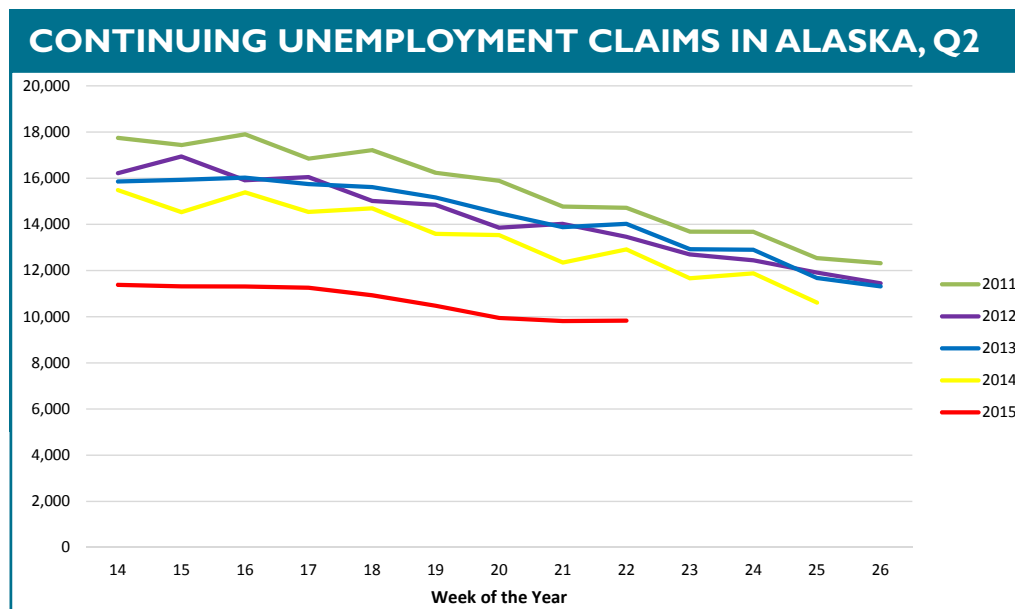


## UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

Initial unemployment claim applications can be interpreted as a proxy for layoffs. They tend to fall as job growth accelerates and climb as workers encounter difficulties finding employment. Statewide totals for the second quarter of 2015 have remained below 2014 every week. Starting in early May, however, totals have become much more in line with 2014 levels and there are indications that they will reach or exceed the previous year's totals in late June. Additionally, the second quarter's weekly totals have been slowly trending upwards, where they usually start the quarter high and steadily decline. This is a development that bears observation in the coming weeks.



Continuing claims figures help to show how well unemployed workers are re-entering the workforce. This total does not include workers receiving extended benefits from the federal government. Weekly totals dipped below 10,000 in mid-May, much earlier than in recent years. The totals for the last three weeks of May have leveled off, but are expected to continue to decline through the summer. Given the increase in initial claims, however, there is a chance that continuing claims may remain flat over the coming weeks.



## UNEMPLOYMENT ANALYSIS (YTD, 2015)

Anchorage, Mat-Su, Kenai Peninsula Borough

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	15 YTD Avg	14 YTD Avg	15 vs 14 (YTD)
<b>Municipality of Anchorage</b>					Preliminary										
Labor Force	160,158	158,783	159,357	159,050	159,650								159,400	158,446	954
Employment	151,886	149,911	150,517	150,599	151,551								150,893	149,793	1,100
Unemployment	8,272	8,872	8,840	8,451	8,099								8,507	8,653	(146)
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.6%	5.5%	5.3%	5.1%								5.34%	5.46%	-0.12%
<b>Mat-Su Borough</b>															
Labor Force	44,502	44,205	44,356	44,033	44,109								44,241	43,975	266
Employment	40,715	40,120	40,261	40,308	40,625								40,406	40,120	286
Unemployment	3,787	4,085	4,095	3,725	3,484								3,835	3,855	(20)
Unemployment Rate	8.5%	9.2%	9.2%	8.5%	7.9%								8.67%	8.77%	-0.10%
<b>Kenai Peninsula Borough</b>															
Labor Force	27,057	26,963	26,984	27,002	28,229								27,247	27,011	236
Employment	24,682	24,359	24,420	24,706	26,093								24,852	24,636	216
Unemployment	2,375	2,604	2,564	2,296	2,136								2,395	2,375	20
Unemployment Rate	8.8%	9.7%	9.5%	8.5%	7.6%								8.79%	8.79%	0.00%
<b>Southcentral Region</b>															
Labor Force	231,717	229,951	230,697	230,085	231,988								230,888	229,431	1,457
Employment	217,283	214,390	215,198	215,613	218,269								216,151	214,548	1,602
Unemployment	14,434	15,561	15,499	14,472	13,719								14,737	14,883	(146)
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.8%	6.7%	6.3%	5.9%								6.38%	6.49%	-0.10%
<b>State of Alaska</b>															
Labor Force	362,290	362,202	363,153	362,298	366,327								363,254	364,199	(945)
Employment	336,571	334,534	336,041	337,018	342,229								337,279	337,260	19
Unemployment	25,719	27,668	27,112	25,280	24,098								25,975	26,939	(963)
Unemployment Rate	7.1%	7.6%	7.5%	7.0%	6.6%								7.15%	7.40%	-0.25%

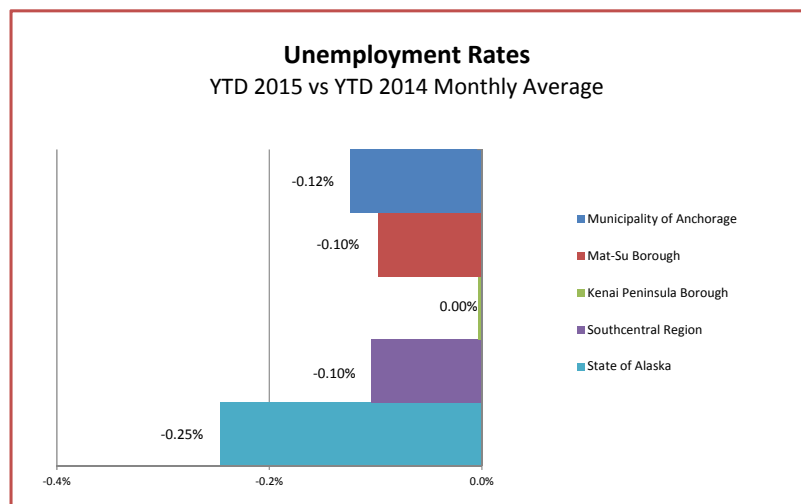
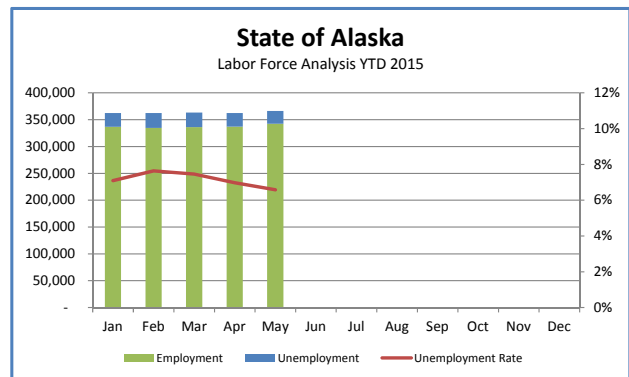
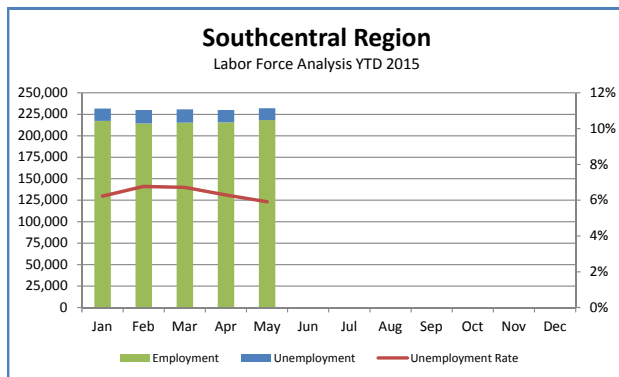
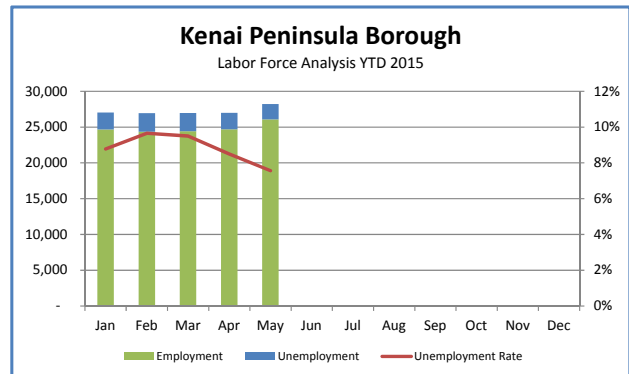
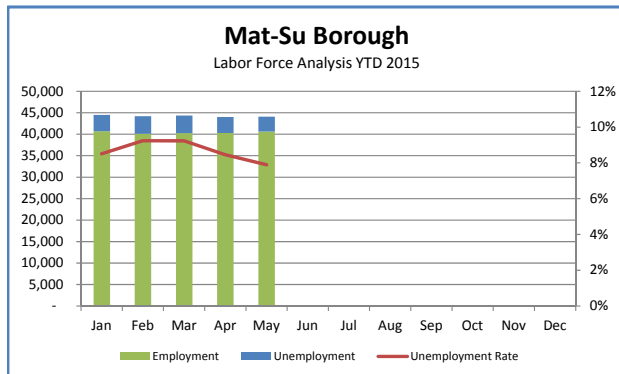
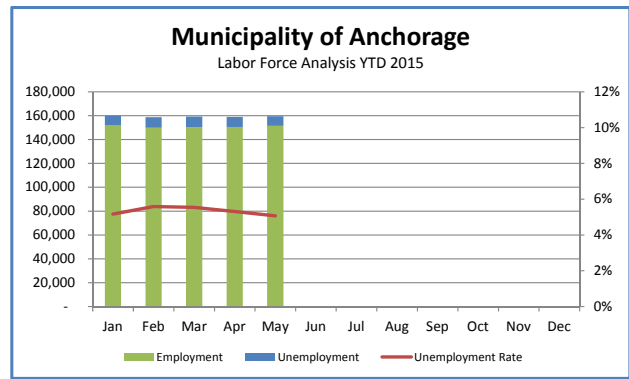
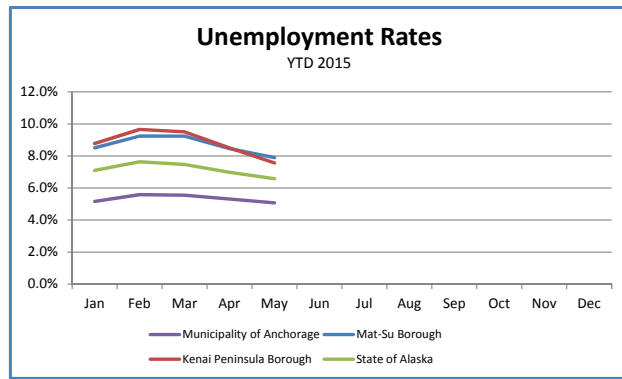
**\*Note:** These numbers reflect employment, unemployment, etc. for only those people that are residence of the specified City/Region, thus are not inclusive of people who commute to another city for their jobs. (Ex: Someone lives in Wasilla but works in Anchorage. They would be counted in the Mat-Su Borough's labor force and employment numbers, not the Municipality of Anchorage numbers)



**AEDC**  
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# INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES 2015

## Municipality of Anchorage

Industry	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2015 YTD Avg.	2014 YTD Avg.	2015 vs 2014 YTD Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	152,400	153,300	153,600	155,100	158,400								154,560	154,800	-240	-0.16%
Goods Producing	12,700	12,600	12,700	13,400	14,500								13,180	13,220	-40	-0.30%
Services Providing	139,800	140,700	140,800	141,700	143,900								141,380	141,600	-220	-0.16%
Mining and Logging <sup>2</sup>	3,800	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900								3,880	3,820	60	1.57%
Oil & Gas	3,700	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800								3,780	3,700	80	2.16%
Construction	7,000	6,900	7,000	7,500	8,500								7,380	7,420	-40	-0.54%
Manufacturing	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900	2,100								1,880	1,960	-80	-4.08%
Trade/Transportation/Utilities	32,600	32,700	32,500	33,100	34,100								33,000	32,680	320	0.98%
Wholesale Trade	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,800	4,900								4,760	4,800	-40	-0.83%
Retail Trade	17,800	17,800	17,600	18,000	18,300								17,900	17,340	560	3.23%
Trans/Warehouse/Utilities	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,300	10,900								10,360	10,520	-160	-1.52%
Information	4,000	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100								4,080	3,940	140	3.55%
Financial Activities	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,400	7,500								7,360	7,500	-140	-1.87%
Professional & Business Svcs	19,400	19,500	19,500	19,500	20,700								19,720	20,220	-500	-2.47%
Educational & Health Services	24,500	24,800	25,100	24,900	24,900								24,840	24,940	-100	-0.40%
Health Care	18,700	18,600	18,900	18,800	18,800								18,760	18,520	240	1.30%
Leisure & Hospitality	16,200	16,200	16,400	16,600	17,100								16,500	16,560	-60	-0.36%
Accommodation	3,000	3,100	3,000	3,100	3,200								3,080	3,160	-80	-2.53%
Food Svcs & Drinking Places	10,800	10,800	10,900	11,200	11,500								11,040	11,120	-80	-0.72%
Other Services	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100								6,100	6,040	60	0.99%
Government	29,700	29,900	29,800	30,200	29,300								29,780	29,720	60	0.20%
Federal Government	8,400	8,400	8,300	8,500	8,400								8,400	8,520	-120	-1.41%
State Government	10,800	11,000	10,900	11,000	10,400								10,820	10,860	-40	-0.37%
State Education	2,800	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,300								2,760	2,840	-80	-2.82%
Local Government	10,500	10,600	10,500	10,700	10,500								10,560	10,380	180	1.73%
Local Education	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,900	7,900								7,780	7,560	220	2.91%

- Nonfarm Wage & Salary excludes self-employed workers, fishers, domestics, and unpaid family workers.

- All totals are seasonally non-adjusted totals.

- Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

- Beginning January 2001, wage and salary employment estimates were published under a new classification system. The Standard Industrial Classification system (SIC) has been replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Data prior to 2001 are comparable only at the Total Nonfarm and Government levels.

<sup>1/</sup> As of January 2001, certain federally-recognized tribal entities were moved to Local Government, which created a series break for Total Government and Local Government. Please see the April 2002 Alaska Economic Trends publication for a detailed explanation.

<sup>2/</sup> This category was called "Natural Resources and Mining" in previous years. The change is in name only; the industries it includes remain the same.

- Some totals may not equal components due to rounding.

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

\* **Note:** The above numbers are representative of all people employed in the Municipality of Anchorage, this is inclusive of workers who claim residence outside of the Municipality of Anchorage. (Ex: someone who lives in the Mat-Su, but works in Anchorage would be included in these number)

### Quick Comparisons

15 vs 14 May	-300	-0.19%
15 vs 14		
1st Qtr	-267	-0.17%
15 vs 14		
2nd Qtr	-200	-0.13%
15 vs 14		
3rd Qtr.	-	-
15 vs 14		
4th Qtr.	-	-

# INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES 2015

## State of Alaska

Industry	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2015 YTD Avg.	2014 YTD Avg.	2015 vs 2014 YTD Change	% Change
	Revised	Revised	Revised	Revised	Preliminary											
Total Nonfarm	323,000	325,500	327,000	333,500	342,700								330,340	327,860	2,480	0.76%
Goods Producing	43,600	44,400	45,000	46,800	47,500								45,460	45,540	-80	-0.18%
Services Providing	279,400	281,100	282,000	286,700	295,200								284,880	282,320	2,560	0.91%
Mining and Logging <sup>2</sup>	17,200	17,300	17,600	17,600	17,600								17,460	17,260	200	1.16%
Mining	17,100	17,100	17,400	17,300	17,300								17,240	17,020	220	1.29%
Oil & Gas	14,700	14,800	15,000	14,900	14,700								14,820	14,280	540	3.78%
Construction	15,100	14,900	15,100	16,600	18,300								16,000	15,260	740	4.85%
Manufacturing	11,300	12,200	12,300	12,600	11,600								12,000	13,020	-1,020	-7.83%
Seafood Processing	7,400	8,500	8,600	8,500	7,400								8,080	9,420	-1,340	-14.23%
Trade/Transportation/Utilities	62,600	62,400	62,600	64,500	68,400								64,100	62,160	1,940	3.12%
Wholesale Trade	6,100	6,200	6,200	6,400	6,700								6,320	6,440	-120	-1.86%
Retail Trade	36,100	35,900	36,000	37,100	38,700								36,760	35,440	1,320	3.72%
Food & Beverage Stores	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,200								6,040	6,080	-40	-0.66%
General Merchandise Stores	9,800	9,600	9,500	9,700	9,900								9,700	9,580	120	1.25%
Trans/Warehouse/Utilities	20,400	20,300	20,400	21,000	23,000								21,020	20,280	740	3.65%
Air Transportation	5,600	5,600	5,700	6,000	6,400								5,860	5,620	240	4.27%
Information	6,200	6,300	6,200	6,100	6,200								6,200	6,220	-20	-0.32%
Telecommunications	4,200	4,300	4,300	4,200	4,300								4,260	4,080	180	4.41%
Financial Activities	11,900	12,000	11,700	11,900	11,800								11,860	11,920	-60	-0.50%
Professional & Business Svcs	28,100	28,200	28,200	28,600	29,400								28,500	29,260	-760	-2.60%
Educational & Health Services	47,200	47,300	48,000	48,300	48,200								47,800	46,840	960	2.05%
Health Care	34,100	34,000	34,600	34,600	34,600								34,380	33,800	580	1.72%
Leisure & Hospitality	29,900	30,100	30,600	31,500	35,400								31,500	31,280	220	0.70%
Accommodation	7,800	7,800	7,800	8,100	9,500								8,200	7,020	1,180	16.81%
Food Svcs & Drinking Places	18,300	18,300	18,700	19,200	20,800								19,060	19,880	-820	-4.12%
Other Services	11,600	11,700	11,600	11,900	12,100								11,780	11,600	180	1.55%
Government	81,900	83,100	83,100	83,900	83,700								83,140	83,040	100	0.12%
Federal Government	14,200	14,200	14,400	14,500	15,100								14,480	14,760	-280	-1.90%
State Government	26,300	26,600	26,700	26,900	25,800								26,460	26,800	-340	-1.27%
State Education	8,200	8,600	8,600	8,600	7,400								8,280	8,480	-200	-2.36%
Local Government	41,400	42,300	42,000	42,500	42,800								42,200	41,480	720	1.74%
Local Education	23,500	24,100	23,900	24,300	24,000								23,960	23,840	120	0.50%
Tribal Government <sup>1</sup>	3,400	3,400	3,500	3,600	3,800								3,540	3,480	60	1.72%

- Nonfarm Wage & Salary excludes self-employed workers, fishers, domestics, and unpaid family workers.

- All totals are non-seasonally adjusted totals.

- Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

- Beginning January 2001, wage and salary employment estimates were published under a new classification system. The Standard Industrial Classification system (SIC) has been replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Data prior to 2001 are comparable only at the Total Nonfarm and Government levels.

<sup>1/</sup> As of January 2001, certain federally-recognized tribal entities were moved to Local Government, which created a series break for Total Government and Local Government. Please see the April 2002 Alaska Economic Trends publication for a detailed explanation.

<sup>2/</sup> This category was called "Natural Resources and Mining" in previous years. The change is in name only; the industries it includes remain the same.

- Totals may not equal sub-sections due to rounding.

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

### Quick Comparisons

15 vs 14 May	-500	-0.15%
15 vs 14 1st Qtr	3,333	1.04%
15 vs 14 2nd Qtr	1,200	0.36%
15 vs 14 3rd Qtr.		
15 vs 14 4th Qtr		

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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### Unemployment rate at 6.8 percent in May

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.8 percent in May, essentially unchanged from April's 6.7 percent. The comparable national rate was 5.5 percent.

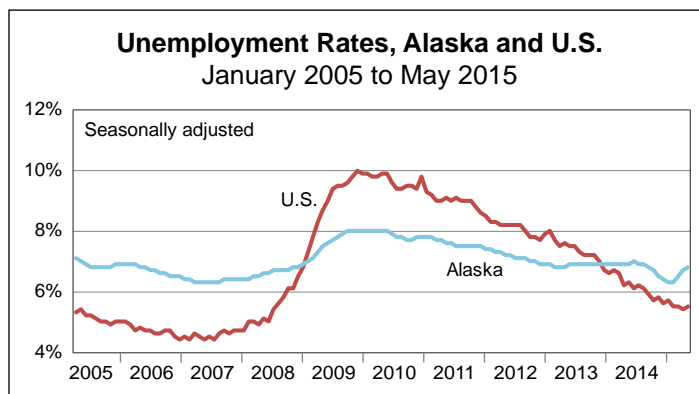
In fall 2014, the adjusted rate started to decline temporarily after a policy change in unemployment insurance eligibility, but it has since returned to typical levels.

The not-seasonally adjusted rate was 6.6 percent in May, down four-tenths of a percentage point from April's level. Alaska's unadjusted rate has large swings in the spring and fall, reflecting the highly seasonal economy that kicks into high gear around most of the state in May. Unadjusted rates fell in 25 out of 29 boroughs and census areas. The most dramatic drop was in the Denali Borough, where it fell 11.9 percentage points from April.

Areas that bucked the statewide trend included the North Slope Borough, Kodiak Island Borough, Aleutians East Borough and Aleutians West Census Area. The North Slope's rate is fairly stable throughout the year, with a slight bump in the summer because of its unusual winter construction season. Kodiak and the Aleutians also have an atypical seasonal pattern, with fishing seasons in winter and summer combined with economic lulls in the spring and fall.

For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

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#### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	5/15	4/15	5/14
Alaska	6.8%	6.7%	6.9%
U.S.	5.5%	5.4%	6.3%

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 Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	5/15 <sup>P</sup>	4/15	5/14	Number			Rate		
	5/15 <sup>P</sup>	4/15	5/14	5/15 <sup>P</sup>	4/15	5/14	5/15 <sup>P</sup>	4/15	5/14
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>366,327</b>	<b>362,298</b>	<b>369,053</b>	<b>24,098</b>	<b>25,280</b>	<b>25,095</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>203,759</b>	<b>203,083</b>	<b>204,427</b>	<b>11,583</b>	<b>12,176</b>	<b>11,856</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Anchorage, Municipality	159,650	159,050	160,249	8,099	8,451	8,353	5.1	5.3	5.2
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,109	44,033	44,178	3,484	3,725	3,503	7.9	8.5	7.9
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>39,599</b>	<b>38,233</b>	<b>40,135</b>	<b>2,893</b>	<b>3,097</b>	<b>2,902</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	28,229	27,002	28,549	2,136	2,296	2,105	7.6	8.5	7.4
Kodiak Island Borough	6,348	6,593	6,477	347	314	368	5.5	4.8	5.7
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5,022	4,638	5,109	410	487	429	8.2	10.5	8.4
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>54,913</b>	<b>52,619</b>	<b>55,198</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>3,572</b>	<b>3,743</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Denali Borough	1,477	631	1,502	75	107	90	5.1	17.0	6.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	47,838	46,532	47,959	2,547	2,625	2,746	5.3	5.6	5.7
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,910	2,802	2,981	331	344	390	11.4	12.3	13.1
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,688	2,654	2,756	466	496	517	17.3	18.7	18.8
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>11,367</b>	<b>11,514</b>	<b>11,456</b>	<b>1,318</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.8</b>
Nome Census Area	4,127	4,142	4,130	542	566	527	13.1	13.7	12.8
North Slope Borough	4,247	4,418	4,290	264	253	283	6.2	5.7	6.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,993	2,954	3,036	512	512	539	17.1	17.3	17.8
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>38,600</b>	<b>36,285</b>	<b>39,199</b>	<b>2,361</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>2,532</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Haines Borough	1,064	992	1,089	91	108	113	8.6	10.9	10.4
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,246	1,059	1,239	167	190	148	13.4	17.9	11.9
Juneau, City and Borough	17,710	17,080	17,990	792	858	847	4.5	5.0	4.7
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,151	6,594	7,308	446	516	520	6.2	7.8	7.1
Petersburg Census Area	1,512	1,515	1,534	140	153	153	9.3	10.1	10.0
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,755	2,758	2,768	346	369	347	12.6	13.4	12.5
Sitka, City and Borough	4,770	4,357	4,851	216	211	236	4.5	4.8	4.9
Skagway, Municipality	990	611	997	59	88	56	6.0	14.4	5.6
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,111	1,053	1,121	82	84	82	7.4	8.0	7.3
Yakutat, City and Borough	291	266	302	22	24	30	7.6	9.0	9.9
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>18,087</b>	<b>20,563</b>	<b>18,639</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>2,713</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>14.6</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,535	2,888	1,593	89	81	113	5.8	2.8	7.1
Aleutians West Census Area	3,258	4,969	3,440	212	191	325	6.5	3.8	9.4
Bethel Census Area	7,058	6,956	7,232	1,154	1,151	1,193	16.4	16.5	16.5
Bristol Bay Borough	515	366	527	34	45	38	6.6	12.3	7.2
Dillingham Census Area	2,184	2,009	2,240	212	208	223	9.7	10.4	10.0
Lake and Peninsula Borough	667	549	693	85	87	99	12.7	15.8	14.3
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,870	2,826	2,914	737	741	722	25.7	26.2	24.8

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.

<sup>1</sup>Unemployment 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



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