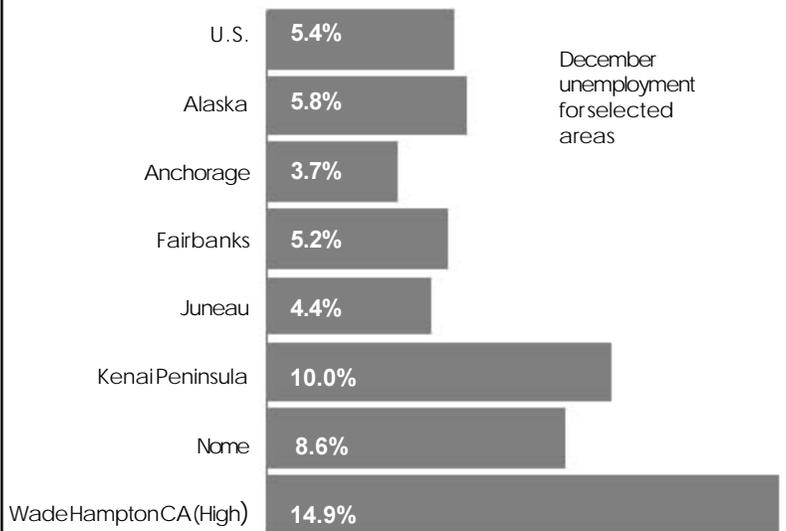


Department of Labor and Workforce Development

News Release

December's Unemployment Rate Up Slightly

Unemployment rate rises to 5.8%



(Detailed table on reverse)

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section
CA indicates census area; other areas are boroughs. All rates not seasonally adjusted

Alaska Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

(table revised 1/22/02)

	Preliminary	Revised		Changes From	
	12/01	11/01	12/00	11/01	12/00
Total Nonagricultural Employment	279,000	282,900	273,700	-3,900	5,300
Mining	10,100	10,300	11,000	-200	-900
Construction	13,100	14,600	12,600	-1,500	500
Manufacturing	7,300	8,900	7,700	-1,600	-400
Transportation, Commun. & Utilities	26,000	26,400	25,400	-400	600
Trade	59,100	59,000	57,700	100	1,400
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	12,600	12,600	12,600	0	0
Services & Misc.	74,100	74,300	71,400	-200	2,700
Government	76,700	76,800	75,300	-100	1,400

Government includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 2000

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research & Analysis Section
Alaska Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment Preliminary Revised

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

December 2001: Alaska 5.7% U.S. 5.8%
November 2001: Alaska 5.7% U.S. 5.7%
December 2000: Alaska 5.9% U.S. 4.0%

Alaska's unemployment rate showed an expected seasonal increase in December, climbing to 5.8% from November's rate of 5.6%. The December rate is three-tenths of a percentage point lower than in December 2000 and substantially lower than both ten-year and twenty-year averages. The comparable national unemployment rate rose from 5.3% to 5.4%

The number of unemployed persons climbed by approximately 600 persons to 18,649, a 3.3% increase from November and a 4.3% decrease from year-ago levels. Initial claims for unemployment fell by more than 300, a 3.8% decrease. Initial claims for the year are down by more than 5,000, a 5% decline from total initial claims in 2000.

Alaska's continued low unemployment rates and moderate employment growth suggest that the state's economy remains healthy, according to Dan Robinson a labor economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Regional unemployment rates throughout the state also followed seasonal trends. Southeast Alaska saw the biggest increase, jumping from 6.2% in November to 7.3% in December. Every borough and census area within the region saw an increase of at least four-tenths of a percentage point, with Juneau recording the smallest increase, moving from 4.3% in November to 4.7% in December.

The state's most populated areas continue to register lower unemployment rates than rural areas. For the second month in a row, Anchorage had the state's lowest unemployment rate, unchanged over the month at 3.7%. Fairbanks saw a minimal increase from 5.1% to 5.2%, and the Mat-Su Borough registered a December rate of 6.7%, up from November's 6.3%. In comparison, the highest rate in December was in the Wade Hampton Census Area at 14.9%. Both Bristol Bay and Kodiak Island Borough saw high rates in a month when a lull is expected in fisheries employment.

Preliminary estimates show that wage and salary employment declined by about 4,000 jobs over the month. The state has added more than 5,300 jobs since December 2000, an increase of 1.9%. The service industries, retail trade, and government account for most of the growth.

Labor Force By Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	P/ 12/01	R/ 11/01	12/00	P/ 12/01	R/ 11/01	12/00	P/ 12/01	R/ 11/01	12/00	P/ 12/01	R/ 11/01	12/00
Alaska Statewide	321,485	324,739	320,588	18,649	18,061	19,547	5.8	5.6	6.1	302,836	306,678	301,041
Anchorage-Mat-Su Region	181,475	182,664	180,474	7,748	7,672	8,385	4.3	4.2	4.6	173,727	174,992	172,089
Municipality of Anchorage	148,649	149,106	148,623	5,539	5,544	6,060	3.7	3.7	4.1	143,110	143,562	142,563
Mat-Su Borough	32,826	33,558	31,851	2,209	2,128	2,325	6.7	6.3	7.3	30,617	31,430	29,526
Gulf Coast Region	31,340	31,903	31,271	3,305	3,141	3,431	10.5	9.8	11.0	28,035	28,762	27,840
Kenai Peninsula Borough	19,959	20,283	19,928	1,988	1,846	2,082	10.0	9.1	10.4	17,971	18,437	17,846
Kodiak Island Borough	6,679	6,847	6,663	862	879	886	12.9	12.8	13.3	5,817	5,968	5,777
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,701	4,772	4,680	455	416	463	9.7	8.7	9.9	4,246	4,356	4,217
Interior Region	49,109	49,310	49,084	2,883	2,870	3,040	5.9	5.8	6.2	46,226	46,440	46,044
Denali Borough	1,161	1,172	1,169	109	115	121	9.4	9.8	10.4	1,052	1,057	1,048
Fairbanks North Star Borough	43,279	43,467	43,216	2,236	2,234	2,334	5.2	5.1	5.4	41,043	41,233	40,882
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,597	2,590	2,602	280	262	294	10.8	10.1	11.3	2,317	2,328	2,308
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,071	2,081	2,097	258	259	291	12.5	12.4	13.9	1,813	1,822	1,806
Northern Region	8,760	8,820	9,256	731	764	800	8.3	8.7	8.6	8,029	8,056	8,456
Nome Census Area	3,295	3,309	3,508	285	288	338	8.6	8.7	9.6	3,010	3,021	3,170
North Slope Borough	3,301	3,331	3,488	199	219	221	6.0	6.6	6.3	3,102	3,112	3,267
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,165	2,180	2,260	248	257	241	11.5	11.8	10.7	1,917	1,923	2,019
Southeast Region	38,393	38,856	37,733	2,787	2,400	2,577	7.3	6.2	6.8	35,606	36,456	35,156
Haines Borough	1,226	1,232	1,200	151	131	138	12.3	10.6	11.5	1,075	1,101	1,062
Juneau Borough	16,552	16,888	16,331	772	731	750	4.7	4.3	4.6	15,780	16,157	15,581
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,431	7,551	7,265	598	555	518	8.0	7.4	7.1	6,833	6,996	6,747
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	3,071	3,000	3,017	376	241	357	12.2	8.0	11.8	2,695	2,759	2,660
Sitka Borough	4,204	4,266	4,110	237	204	193	5.6	4.8	4.7	3,967	4,062	3,917
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,119	2,139	2,087	257	232	248	12.1	10.8	11.9	1,862	1,907	1,839
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	3,481	3,475	3,426	355	274	339	10.2	7.9	9.9	3,126	3,201	3,087
Yakutat Borough	307	307	298	40	33	34	13.0	10.7	11.4	267	274	264
Southwest Region	12,409	13,185	12,770	1,195	1,214	1,313	9.6	9.2	10.3	11,214	11,971	11,457
Aleutians East Borough	1,273	1,362	1,361	49	55	111	3.8	4.0	8.2	1,224	1,307	1,250
Aleutians West Census Area	1,717	1,820	1,793	172	171	215	10.0	9.4	12.0	1,545	1,649	1,578
Bethel Census Area	5,158	5,520	5,281	441	485	462	8.5	8.8	8.7	4,717	5,035	4,819
Bristol Bay Borough	435	442	432	64	46	53	14.7	10.4	12.3	371	396	379
Dillingham Census Area	1,505	1,606	1,509	138	147	112	9.2	9.2	7.4	1,367	1,459	1,397
Lake & Peninsula Borough	522	538	525	62	47	55	11.9	8.7	10.5	460	491	470
Wade Hampton Census Area	1,797	1,897	1,868	268	264	305	14.9	13.9	16.3	1,529	1,633	1,563

2000 Benchmark

P/=Preliminary R/=Revised

Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series produced by Research & Analysis.

The official definition of unemployment currently in place 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. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. They are considered not in the labor force.

Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	11/01	10/01	11/00	11/01	10/01	11/00	11/01	10/01	11/00	11/01	10/01	11/00
Alaska Statewide	324,742	328,410	322,180	18,064	18,372	19,607	5.6	5.6	6.1	306,678	310,038	302,573
Anchorage-Mat-Su Region	182,311	182,128	180,372	7,672	7,879	8,615	4.2	4.3	4.8	174,639	174,249	171,757
Municipality of Anchorage	149,110	148,233	148,466	5,545	5,845	6,276	3.7	3.9	4.2	143,565	142,388	142,190
Mat-Su Borough	33,201	33,895	31,906	2,127	2,034	2,339	6.4	6.0	7.3	31,074	31,861	29,567
Gulf Coast Region	31,969	33,252	31,932	3,142	2,885	3,441	9.8	8.7	10.8	28,827	30,367	28,491
Kenai Peninsula Borough	20,326	21,373	20,250	1,847	1,907	1,986	9.1	8.9	9.8	18,479	19,466	18,264
Kodiak Island Borough	6,861	6,789	6,907	879	488	995	12.8	7.2	14.4	5,982	6,301	5,912
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,782	5,090	4,775	416	490	460	8.7	9.6	9.6	4,366	4,600	4,315
Interior Region	49,496	49,564	48,953	2,872	2,841	2,977	5.8	5.7	6.1	46,624	46,723	45,976
Denali Borough	1,176	1,203	1,172	115	140	126	9.8	11.6	10.8	1,061	1,063	1,046
Fairbanks North Star Borough	43,633	43,660	43,092	2,236	2,175	2,271	5.1	5.0	5.3	41,397	41,485	40,821
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,599	2,633	2,590	262	291	285	10.1	11.1	11.0	2,337	2,342	2,305
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,088	2,068	2,099	259	235	295	12.4	11.4	14.1	1,829	1,833	1,804
Northern Region	8,839	9,251	9,183	764	892	864	8.6	9.6	9.4	8,075	8,359	8,319
Nome Census Area	3,316	3,463	3,465	288	329	346	8.7	9.5	10.0	3,028	3,134	3,119
North Slope Borough	3,338	3,509	3,487	219	280	273	6.6	8.0	7.8	3,119	3,229	3,214
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,185	2,279	2,230	257	283	244	11.8	12.4	10.9	1,928	1,996	1,986
Southeast Region	38,918	40,055	38,279	2,400	2,509	2,463	6.2	6.3	6.4	36,518	37,546	35,816
Haines Borough	1,234	1,260	1,199	131	126	117	10.6	10.0	9.8	1,103	1,134	1,082
Juneau Borough	16,915	17,487	16,646	731	847	773	4.3	4.8	4.6	16,184	16,640	15,873
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,563	7,777	7,396	555	571	522	7.3	7.3	7.1	7,008	7,206	6,874
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketch CA	3,005	3,087	3,015	241	246	305	8.0	8.0	10.1	2,764	2,841	2,710
Sitka Borough	4,273	4,369	4,180	204	186	190	4.8	4.3	4.5	4,069	4,183	3,990
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,142	2,212	2,093	232	248	220	10.8	11.2	10.5	1,910	1,964	1,873
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,480	3,549	3,440	274	253	295	7.9	7.1	8.6	3,206	3,296	3,145
Yakutat Borough	307	314	310	33	32	41	10.7	10.2	13.2	274	282	269
Southwest Region	13,209	14,161	13,463	1,214	1,366	1,248	9.2	9.6	9.3	11,995	12,795	12,215
Aleutians East Borough	1,364	1,441	1,401	55	44	68	4.0	3.1	4.9	1,309	1,397	1,333
Aleutians West Census Area	1,824	1,893	1,902	171	130	219	9.4	6.9	11.5	1,653	1,763	1,683
Bethel Census Area	5,531	5,980	5,590	485	598	452	8.8	10.0	8.1	5,046	5,382	5,138
Bristol Bay Borough	443	460	453	46	36	49	10.4	7.8	10.8	397	424	404
Dillingham Census Area	1,609	1,726	1,602	147	166	113	9.1	9.6	7.1	1,462	1,560	1,489
Lake & Peninsula Borough	539	579	571	47	54	70	8.7	9.3	12.3	492	525	501
Wade Hampton Census Area	1,900	2,083	1,943	264	338	277	13.9	16.2	14.3	1,636	1,745	1,666

P/ = preliminary estimates **R/** = revised estimates Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.

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- The official definition of unemployment currently in place 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. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.