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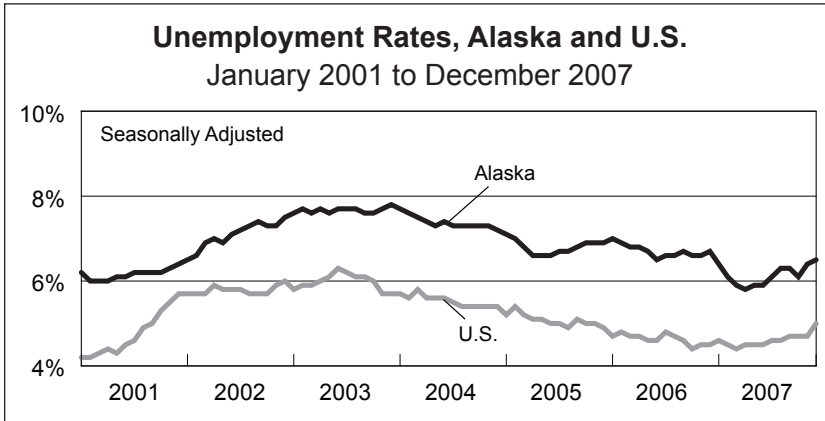
Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Unemployment rate at 6.5 percent in December



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point to 6.5 percent in December, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The comparable national rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.0 percent.

Alaska's rate has been slowly climbing since hitting a low point of 5.8 percent in April. Over that period, the seasonally adjusted number of unemployed people has risen from 20,139 to 22,966, and although employment has grown, it's done so at a slightly slower rate.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 12/07	Revised 11/07	Revised 12/06	Changes from	
				11/07	12/06
Total Nonfarm Employment	304,500	308,000	302,600	-3,500	1,900
Natural Resources and Mining	14,200	14,300	13,200	-100	1,000
Oil and Gas	11,800	11,800	11,100	0	700
Construction	15,200	16,300	16,100	-1,100	-900
Manufacturing	6,400	8,600	6,400	-2,200	0
Seafood Processing	2,800	4,800	2,800	-2,000	0
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	62,200	62,500	61,600	-300	600
Retail Trade	35,900	36,000	35,500	-100	400
Information	6,900	6,900	6,900	0	0
Financial Activities	14,600	14,700	14,700	-100	-100
Professional and Business Services	24,200	24,300	23,600	-100	600
Educational ² and Health Services	37,600	37,400	37,400	200	200
Health Care	26,800	26,700	26,700	100	100
Leisure and Hospitality	28,300	28,100	28,200	200	100
Accommodations	6,600	6,400	6,500	200	100
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	17,900	18,000	17,900	-100	0
Other Services	11,400	11,500	11,500	-100	-100
Government ³	83,500	83,400	83,000	100	500

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Private education only

³ Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.

At 5.1 percent, Anchorage's December unemployment rate is about the same as December 2006's 5.0 percent rate (not seasonally adjusted). The state's other population centers, including Mat-Su, Fairbanks and Juneau, also saw little over-the-year change to their unemployment rates.

The Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area had December's highest rate at 21.1 percent and the North Slope Borough had the lowest at 4.5 percent.

Payroll employment estimates for December fell by 3,500, due mostly to expected seasonal declines in seafood processing and construction. Over-the-year growth has slowed in the second half of the year, however, and was just 0.6 percent in December.

The most noticeable restraint on growth has been construction, which was down 900 jobs from December 2006 levels. Oil and gas continues to show strong over-the-year growth, with 700 more jobs in December than a year ago, but most of those gains came earlier in the year.

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

December 2007:	Alaska	6.5%	U.S.	5.0%
November 2007:	Alaska	6.4%	U.S.	4.7%
December 2006:	Alaska	6.7%	U.S.	4.4%

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

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Research and Analysis' Web site: almis.labor.state.ak.us

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	12/07	11/07	12/06	12/07	11/07	12/06	12/07	11/07	12/06	12/07	11/07	12/06
Alaska Statewide	347,660	348,084	346,730	23,318	21,728	23,700	6.7	6.2	6.8	324,342	326,356	323,030
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	194,855	193,189	194,571	11,020	10,363	10,894	5.7	5.4	5.6	183,835	182,826	183,677
Municipality of Anchorage	156,115	155,027	155,891	7,968	7,693	7,871	5.1	5.0	5.0	148,147	147,334	148,020
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	38,740	38,162	38,680	3,052	2,670	3,023	7.9	7.0	7.8	35,688	35,492	35,657
Gulf Coast Region	34,978	35,645	34,696	3,192	2,881	3,391	9.1	8.1	9.8	31,786	32,764	31,305
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,760	24,678	24,773	2,203	1,988	2,256	8.9	8.1	9.1	22,557	22,690	22,517
Kodiak Island Borough	5,675	6,220	5,298	525	439	633	9.3	7.1	11.9	5,150	5,781	4,665
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,543	4,747	4,625	464	454	502	10.2	9.6	10.9	4,079	4,293	4,123
Interior Region	52,286	52,183	51,922	3,442	3,180	3,487	6.6	6.1	6.7	48,844	49,003	48,435
Denali Borough	824	813	945	125	120	126	15.2	14.8	13.3	699	693	819
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,588	45,538	44,894	2,594	2,376	2,594	5.7	5.2	5.8	42,994	43,162	42,300
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,417	3,334	3,171	333	297	368	9.7	8.9	11.6	3,084	3,037	2,803
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,457	2,498	2,912	390	387	399	15.9	15.5	13.7	2,067	2,111	2,513
Northern Region	11,849	11,713	11,416	899	948	942	7.6	8.1	8.3	10,950	10,765	10,474
Nome Census Area	3,955	3,975	4,000	380	403	386	9.6	10.1	9.7	3,575	3,572	3,614
North Slope Borough	4,897	4,828	4,449	219	254	248	4.5	5.3	5.6	4,678	4,574	4,201
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,997	2,910	2,967	300	291	308	10.0	10.0	10.4	2,697	2,619	2,659
Southeast Region	37,966	38,531	38,352	2,792	2,501	2,962	7.4	6.5	7.7	35,174	36,030	35,390
Haines Borough	1,054	1,159	1,182	145	118	133	13.8	10.2	11.3	909	1,041	1,049
Juneau Borough	18,425	18,430	18,238	882	828	884	4.8	4.5	4.8	17,543	17,602	17,354
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,592	7,766	7,611	482	459	529	6.3	5.9	7.0	7,110	7,307	7,082
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,151	2,220	2,232	315	292	391	14.6	13.2	17.5	1,836	1,928	1,841
Sitka Borough	4,453	4,475	4,592	284	266	275	6.4	5.9	6.0	4,169	4,209	4,317
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,543	1,657	1,561	325	275	328	21.1	16.6	21.0	1,218	1,382	1,233
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,525	2,584	2,691	335	241	389	13.3	9.3	14.5	2,190	2,343	2,302
Yakutat Borough	223	240	245	24	22	33	10.8	9.2	13.5	199	218	212
Southwest Region	15,728	16,823	15,773	1,973	1,854	2,024	12.5	11.0	12.8	13,755	14,969	13,749
Aleutians East Borough	611	906	600	94	77	137	15.4	8.5	22.8	517	829	463
Aleutians West Census Area	2,121	2,723	2,108	209	166	284	9.9	6.1	13.5	1,912	2,557	1,824
Bethel Census Area	7,015	6,959	6,998	898	849	849	12.8	12.2	12.1	6,117	6,110	6,149
Bristol Bay Borough	504	515	528	49	43	58	9.7	8.3	11.0	455	472	470
Dillingham Census Area	1,799	1,861	1,865	171	175	172	9.5	9.4	9.2	1,628	1,686	1,693
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,050	1,138	974	60	58	52	5.7	5.1	5.3	990	1,080	922
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,628	2,721	2,700	492	486	472	18.7	17.9	17.5	2,136	2,235	2,228

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.

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