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## Press Release

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### Unemployment rate at 6.5 percent in January



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point from December's revised rate to 6.5 percent in January, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The comparable national rate fell one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.9 percent.

Unemployment rates for both Alaska and the U.S. have been gradually rising since early 2007.

At the regional level, Anchorage/Mat-Su had the state's lowest January rate at 6.3 percent and the Southwest region had the highest at 12.4 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

#### Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment<sup>1</sup>

	Preliminary 1/08	Revised 12/07	Revised 1/07	Changes from 12/07	1/07
Total Nonfarm Employment	298,600	303,400	296,300	-4,800	2,300
Natural Resources and Mining	14,000	14,200	12,900	-200	1,100
Oil and Gas	11,700	11,800	10,900	-100	800
Construction	13,400	15,100	14,300	-1,700	-900
Manufacturing	10,800	6,800	10,800	4,000	0
Seafood Processing	7,100	2,900	7,100	4,200	0
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	60,400	62,000	59,800	-1,600	600
Retail Trade	34,700	35,900	34,300	-1,200	400
Information	6,800	6,900	6,900	-100	-100
Financial Activities	14,500	14,700	14,500	-200	0
Professional and Business Services	23,700	24,100	23,200	-400	500
Educational <sup>2</sup> and Health Services	36,600	36,700	36,600	-100	0
Health Care	26,600	26,700	26,500	-100	100
Leisure and Hospitality	27,300	28,400	26,800	-1,100	500
Accommodations	6,000	6,400	5,900	-400	100
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	17,600	18,200	17,300	-600	300
Other Services	11,200	11,400	11,100	-200	100
Government <sup>3</sup>	79,900	83,100	79,400	-3,200	500

Much higher unemployment rates are sometimes cited for rural Alaska, but to be officially counted as unemployed a person must actively look for a job in the relevant month. People who stop looking for work because they don't believe there are jobs available – sometimes called discouraged workers – are no longer considered unemployed.

Payroll jobs in Alaska fell by 4,800 in January as construction, seafood processing, retail trade, and hotels and restaurants all trimmed seasonal jobs. January is typically the state's least active month with a job count as much as 15 percent lower than July levels.

A decline of 3,200 government jobs in January was due primarily to the winter break for the University of Alaska system.

From January 2007 to January 2008, Alaska added 2,300 jobs, led by continued strong growth in the oil and gas industry. Construction's job count was down 900 over the year, the only major employment category to see significant losses over the period.

#### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

January 2008:	Alaska	6.5%	U.S.	4.9%
December 2007:	Alaska	6.3%	U.S.	5.0%
January 2007:	Alaska	6.1%	U.S.	4.6%

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](http://almis.labor.state.ak.us)

## Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	1/08	12/07	1/07	1/08	12/07	1/07	1/08	12/07	1/07	1/08	12/07	1/07
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	350,084	351,844	348,947	26,243	23,601	24,876	7.5	6.7	7.1	323,841	328,243	324,071
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	194,161	197,082	194,076	12,141	11,135	11,508	6.3	5.6	5.9	182,020	185,947	182,568
Municipality of Anchorage	154,090	156,577	154,015	8,675	8,025	8,162	5.6	5.1	5.3	145,415	148,552	145,853
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	40,071	40,505	40,061	3,466	3,110	3,346	8.6	7.7	8.4	36,605	37,395	36,715
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	35,579	35,299	35,383	3,569	3,200	3,468	10.0	9.1	9.8	32,010	32,099	31,915
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,766	25,026	24,572	2,546	2,206	2,470	10.3	8.8	10.1	22,220	22,820	22,102
Kodiak Island Borough	6,333	5,678	6,270	473	531	430	7.5	9.4	6.9	5,860	5,147	5,840
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,480	4,595	4,541	550	463	568	12.3	10.1	12.5	3,930	4,132	3,973
<b>Interior Region</b>	52,083	53,252	51,787	3,897	3,431	3,658	7.5	6.4	7.1	48,186	49,821	48,129
Denali Borough	779	758	812	142	126	140	18.2	16.6	17.2	637	632	672
Fairbanks North Star Borough	44,944	46,290	44,749	2,901	2,588	2,727	6.5	5.6	6.1	42,043	43,702	42,022
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,592	3,530	3,464	387	331	361	10.8	9.4	10.4	3,205	3,199	3,103
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,768	2,674	2,762	467	386	430	16.9	14.4	15.6	2,301	2,288	2,332
<b>Northern Region</b>	11,866	11,935	11,501	1,018	907	990	8.6	7.6	8.6	10,848	11,028	10,511
Nome Census Area	3,872	4,006	3,877	445	384	407	11.5	9.6	10.5	3,427	3,622	3,470
North Slope Borough	4,996	4,886	4,658	218	218	249	4.4	4.5	5.3	4,778	4,668	4,409
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,998	3,043	2,966	355	305	334	11.8	10.0	11.3	2,643	2,738	2,632
<b>Southeast Region</b>	37,855	38,317	37,912	3,310	2,796	3,172	8.7	7.3	8.4	34,545	35,521	34,740
Haines Borough	1,047	1,092	1,046	165	145	135	15.8	13.3	12.9	882	947	911
Juneau Borough	18,340	18,553	18,346	984	875	977	5.4	4.7	5.3	17,356	17,678	17,369
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,519	7,707	7,481	584	487	583	7.8	6.3	7.8	6,935	7,220	6,898
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,170	2,191	2,206	442	314	411	20.4	14.3	18.6	1,728	1,877	1,795
Sitka Borough	4,401	4,441	4,435	326	286	268	7.4	6.4	6.0	4,075	4,155	4,167
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,563	1,578	1,533	365	334	353	23.4	21.2	23.0	1,198	1,244	1,180
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,578	2,529	2,609	418	331	410	16.2	13.1	15.7	2,160	2,198	2,199
Yakutat Borough	237	226	256	26	24	35	11.0	10.6	13.7	211	202	221
<b>Southwest Region</b>	18,539	15,958	18,290	2,307	2,130	2,081	12.4	13.3	11.4	16,232	13,828	16,209
Aleutians East Borough	1,354	641	1,350	119	143	100	8.8	22.3	7.4	1,235	498	1,250
Aleutians West Census Area	3,899	2,180	3,897	233	300	232	6.0	13.8	6.0	3,666	1,880	3,665
Bethel Census Area	7,060	7,144	6,969	1,010	910	885	14.3	12.7	12.7	6,050	6,234	6,084
Bristol Bay Borough	485	511	477	57	48	63	11.8	9.4	13.2	428	463	414
Dillingham Census Area	2,001	1,822	1,969	210	174	197	10.5	9.5	10.0	1,791	1,648	1,772
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,097	1,031	1,032	104	61	83	9.5	5.9	8.0	993	970	949
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,643	2,629	2,596	574	494	521	21.7	18.8	20.1	2,069	2,135	2,075

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.

<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 the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics