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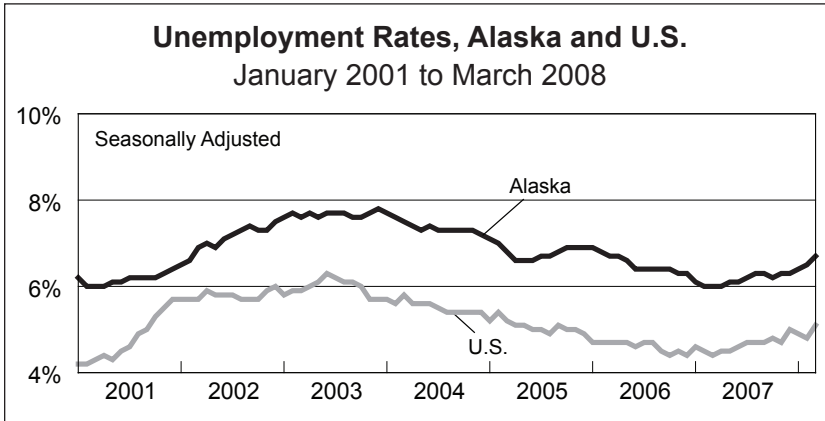
Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Unemployment rate at 6.7 percent in March



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point from February's revised rate to 6.7 percent in March, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The rate has been slowly climbing since April of last year when it stood at 6.0 percent.

The national unemployment rate – which rose three-tenths of a percentage point in March to 5.1 percent – is on a similar course, and was up seven-tenths of a percentage point from March 2007's 4.4 percent rate.

An estimated 26,243 Alaskans were unemployed in March, defined as being both out of work and actively seeking a job. That's a noticeable increase from March 2007's estimate of 23,090.

Alaska added about 2,600 payroll jobs from February to March with the increases coming in relatively small numbers across a variety of industries. Food services and drinking places added 500 jobs and retail trade added 400.

The March increase was similar to the 2,700 jobs added in March 2007, but significantly less than the 4,200 added in 2006.

Over the year, payroll employment was up 1,700, an increase of 0.6 percent. At the industry level, oil and gas continued to register the biggest gains with an over-the-year increase of 900 jobs. Since early 2004, the industry has added 4,000 jobs and grown 50 percent.

Growth elsewhere was more restrained. Retail trade was up 500 jobs, and both food services and drinking places and professional and business services were up 400.

Construction jobs continued to lag behind year-ago numbers. The March estimate of 13,800 construction jobs was down 1,100 from March 2007. Seafood processing, financial activities and government were all down 100 over the year.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 3/08	Revised 2/08	Revised 3/07	Changes from	
				2/08	3/07
Total Nonfarm Employment	307,400	304,800	305,700	2,600	1,700
Natural Resources and Mining	14,300	14,300	13,300	0	1,000
Oil and Gas	12,000	12,000	11,100	0	900
Construction	13,800	13,500	14,900	300	-1,100
Manufacturing	11,800	11,600	11,800	200	0
Seafood Processing	8,000	8,000	8,100	0	-100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	61,200	60,700	60,300	500	900
Retail Trade	34,700	34,300	34,200	400	500
Information	6,900	6,800	6,900	100	0
Financial Activities	14,600	14,600	14,700	0	-100
Professional and Business Services	24,300	24,100	23,900	200	400
Educational ² and Health Services	37,500	37,000	37,300	500	200
Health Care	27,000	26,600	26,900	400	100
Leisure and Hospitality	28,400	27,800	27,900	600	500
Accommodations	6,200	6,200	6,200	0	0
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	18,300	17,800	17,900	500	400
Other Services	11,500	11,400	11,500	100	0
Government ³	83,100	83,000	83,200	100	-100

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Private education only

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

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

March 2008:	Alaska	6.7%	U.S.	5.1%
February 2008:	Alaska	6.5%	U.S.	4.8%
March 2007:	Alaska	6.0%	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

Contact: Dan Robinson, Economist (907) 465-6036
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		
	3/08	2/08	3/07	3/08	2/08	3/07	3/08	2/08	3/07	3/08	2/08	3/07
Alaska Statewide	353,032	350,705	347,794	26,243	26,932	23,090	7.4	7.7	6.6	326,789	323,773	324,704
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	194,814	194,047	192,119	12,494	12,569	10,926	6.4	6.5	5.7	182,320	181,478	181,193
Municipality of Anchorage	154,455	153,854	152,405	8,800	8,872	7,651	5.7	5.8	5.0	145,655	144,982	144,754
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	40,359	40,193	39,714	3,694	3,697	3,275	9.2	9.2	8.2	36,665	36,496	36,439
Gulf Coast Region	36,118	35,778	35,461	3,477	3,642	3,142	9.6	10.2	8.9	32,641	32,136	32,319
Kenai Peninsula Borough	25,186	24,888	24,675	2,546	2,660	2,249	10.1	10.7	9.1	22,640	22,228	22,426
Kodiak Island Borough	6,214	6,218	6,137	377	405	365	6.1	6.5	5.9	5,837	5,813	5,772
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,718	4,672	4,649	554	577	528	11.7	12.4	11.4	4,164	4,095	4,121
Interior Region	52,545	51,886	52,444	3,830	3,982	3,405	7.3	7.7	6.5	48,715	47,904	49,039
Denali Borough	842	756	893	125	140	127	14.8	18.5	14.2	717	616	766
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,465	45,037	45,322	2,853	2,961	2,530	6.3	6.6	5.6	42,612	42,076	42,792
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,444	3,403	3,407	395	403	342	11.5	11.8	10.0	3,049	3,000	3,065
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,794	2,690	2,822	457	478	406	16.4	17.8	14.4	2,337	2,212	2,416
Northern Region	11,869	11,866	11,451	1,066	1,083	944	9.0	9.1	8.2	10,803	10,783	10,507
Nome Census Area	3,929	3,886	3,883	429	452	396	10.9	11.6	10.2	3,500	3,434	3,487
North Slope Borough	4,933	4,988	4,684	229	238	238	4.6	4.8	5.1	4,704	4,750	4,446
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,007	2,992	2,884	408	393	310	13.6	13.1	10.7	2,599	2,599	2,574
Southeast Region	38,765	38,188	38,004	3,137	3,388	2,781	8.1	8.9	7.3	35,628	34,800	35,223
Haines Borough	1,092	1,069	1,044	161	164	125	14.7	15.3	12.0	931	905	919
Juneau Borough	18,608	18,351	18,280	957	996	851	5.1	5.4	4.7	17,651	17,355	17,429
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,669	7,556	7,505	566	631	531	7.4	8.4	7.1	7,103	6,925	6,974
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,203	2,232	2,196	405	465	372	18.4	20.8	16.9	1,798	1,767	1,824
Sitka Borough	4,687	4,485	4,554	300	334	227	6.4	7.4	5.0	4,387	4,151	4,327
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,539	1,568	1,505	325	346	313	21.1	22.1	20.8	1,214	1,222	1,192
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,705	2,688	2,665	393	418	337	14.5	15.6	12.6	2,312	2,270	2,328
Yakutat Borough	262	239	255	30	34	25	11.5	14.2	9.8	232	205	230
Southwest Region	18,921	18,942	18,316	2,240	2,270	1,892	11.8	12.0	10.3	16,681	16,672	16,424
Aleutians East Borough	1,245	1,233	1,209	95	93	70	7.6	7.5	5.8	1,150	1,140	1,139
Aleutians West Census Area	4,196	4,332	4,161	136	139	140	3.2	3.2	3.4	4,060	4,193	4,021
Bethel Census Area	7,176	7,137	6,906	1,037	1,045	844	14.5	14.6	12.2	6,139	6,092	6,062
Bristol Bay Borough	506	513	482	63	65	63	12.5	12.7	13.1	443	448	419
Dillingham Census Area	2,025	1,937	1,970	212	225	184	10.5	11.6	9.3	1,813	1,712	1,786
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,087	1,087	1,016	101	104	72	9.3	9.6	7.1	986	983	944
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,686	2,703	2,572	596	599	519	22.2	22.2	20.2	2,090	2,104	2,053

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