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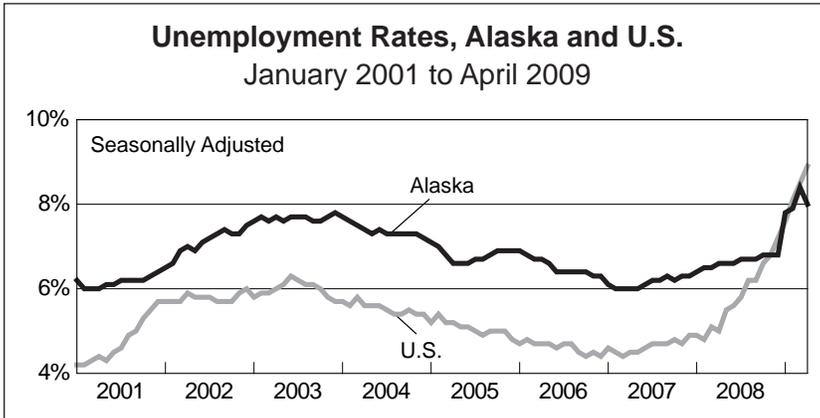
Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Unemployment rate at 8.0 percent in April



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell four-tenths of a percentage point in April to 8.0 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. March's rate was revised down one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.4 percent.

Regular claims for unemployment insurance (excluding special programs in place to extend unemployment benefits) fell from 98,788 in March to 80,424 in April. The decline was a typical seasonal drop, although claims are well above recent years' levels.

The U.S. unemployment rate rose four-tenths of a percentage point in April to 8.9 percent and payroll employment continued to fall. Since the recession began in December 2007, the nation's total job count has fallen by 5.7 million jobs.

The state added 3,600 jobs from March to April as seasonal hiring accelerated in construction and tourist-related industries. The April increase was smaller than in recent years and over-the-year growth in payroll jobs has slowed to 0.3 percent after averaging 1.4 percent in 2008.

Through March, the only other states besides Alaska still showing over-the-year job growth were Louisiana and North Dakota (employment was also up in the District of Columbia).

Alaska industries with significant over-the-year growth in April were oil and gas, which was up 600 jobs, and health care, which was up 700.

Jobs in construction were down 800 over the year. Seafood processing, retail trade, financial activities, and food services and drinking places were down by smaller margins.

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Research and Analysis' Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 4/09	Revised 3/09	Revised 4/08	Changes from	
				3/09	4/08
Total Nonfarm Employment	313,900	310,300	312,900	3,600	1,000
Natural Resources and Mining	15,400	15,400	14,800	0	600
Oil and Gas	13,000	13,000	12,400	0	600
Construction	14,900	14,300	15,700	600	-800
Manufacturing	10,100	11,600	10,600	-1,500	-500
Seafood Processing	6,400	8,200	6,800	-1,800	-400
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	62,000	61,600	62,500	400	-500
Retail Trade	35,000	34,800	35,300	200	-300
Information	7,000	7,100	6,900	-100	100
Financial Activities	14,500	14,400	14,600	100	-100
Professional and Business Services	25,500	24,600	25,400	900	100
Educational ² and Health Services	38,600	38,200	37,500	400	1,100
Health Care	27,700	27,500	27,000	200	700
Leisure and Hospitality	28,800	27,900	28,900	900	-100
Accommodations	6,700	6,400	6,700	300	0
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	18,100	17,500	18,300	600	-200
Other Services	11,300	11,200	11,400	100	-100
Government ³	85,800	84,000	84,600	1,800	1,200

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

	4/09	3/09	4/08
Alaska	8.0%	8.4%	6.6%
U.S.	8.9%	8.5%	5.0%

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	4/09 ^P	3/09	4/08	4/09 ^P	3/09	4/08	4/09 ^P	3/09	4/08	4/09 ^P	3/09	4/08
Alaska Statewide	354,757	354,732	351,648	29,839	32,495	23,036	8.4	9.2	6.6	324,918	322,237	328,612
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	196,540	196,034	194,148	14,441	15,608	10,949	7.3	8.0	5.6	182,099	180,426	183,199
Municipality of Anchorage	155,184	154,425	153,553	10,394	10,965	7,888	6.7	7.1	5.1	144,790	143,460	145,665
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	41,356	41,609	40,595	4,047	4,643	3,061	9.8	11.2	7.5	37,309	36,966	37,534
Gulf Coast Region	36,504	36,293	36,528	3,881	4,246	2,942	10.6	11.7	8.1	32,623	32,047	33,586
Kenai Peninsula Borough	25,584	25,525	25,345	2,909	3,189	2,158	11.4	12.5	8.5	22,675	22,336	23,187
Kodiak Island Borough	6,163	6,112	6,245	454	452	321	7.4	7.4	5.1	5,709	5,660	5,924
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,757	4,656	4,938	518	605	463	10.9	13.0	9.4	4,239	4,051	4,475
Interior Region	52,930	52,721	52,945	4,320	4,868	3,425	8.2	9.2	6.5	48,610	47,853	49,520
Denali Borough	1,094	1,043	950	127	175	108	11.6	16.8	11.4	967	868	842
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,112	45,183	45,670	3,306	3,729	2,587	7.3	8.3	5.7	41,806	41,454	43,083
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,799	3,649	3,552	410	454	325	10.8	12.4	9.1	3,389	3,195	3,227
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,925	2,846	2,773	477	510	405	16.3	17.9	14.6	2,448	2,336	2,368
Northern Region	12,306	12,529	11,856	1,183	1,209	964	9.6	9.6	8.1	11,123	11,320	10,892
Nome Census Area	4,074	4,239	3,988	533	537	407	13.1	12.7	10.2	3,541	3,702	3,581
North Slope Borough	5,267	5,287	4,996	249	265	198	4.7	5.0	4.0	5,018	5,022	4,798
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,965	3,003	2,872	401	407	359	13.5	13.6	12.5	2,564	2,596	2,513
Southeast Region	39,407	38,650	39,343	3,355	4,039	2,609	8.5	10.5	6.6	36,052	34,611	36,734
Haines Borough	1,184	1,073	1,193	159	188	127	13.4	17.5	10.6	1,025	885	1,066
Juneau Borough	18,721	18,533	18,720	1,149	1,331	834	6.1	7.2	4.5	17,572	17,202	17,886
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	7,920	7,704	7,880	667	784	492	8.4	10.2	6.2	7,253	6,920	7,388
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	2,369	2,351	2,290	418	511	319	17.6	21.7	13.9	1,951	1,840	1,971
Sitka Borough	4,529	4,516	4,596	281	357	261	6.2	7.9	5.7	4,248	4,159	4,335
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	1,629	1,551	1,595	319	416	254	19.6	26.8	15.9	1,310	1,135	1,341
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	2,710	2,642	2,742	331	403	301	12.2	15.3	11.0	2,379	2,239	2,441
Yakutat Borough	345	280	327	31	49	21	9.0	17.5	6.4	314	231	306
Southwest Region	17,072	18,506	16,829	2,660	2,526	2,147	15.6	13.6	12.8	14,412	15,980	14,682
Aleutians East Borough	1,268	1,274	1,248	105	103	88	8.3	8.1	7.1	1,163	1,171	1,160
Aleutians West Census Area	2,599	4,063	2,605	267	165	207	10.3	4.1	7.9	2,332	3,898	2,398
Bethel Census Area	6,910	6,982	6,832	1,158	1,141	965	16.8	16.3	14.1	5,752	5,841	5,867
Bristol Bay Borough	526	450	539	63	70	50	12.0	15.6	9.3	463	380	489
Dillingham Census Area	2,007	2,076	1,951	261	267	190	13.0	12.9	9.7	1,746	1,809	1,761
Lake and Peninsula Borough	959	952	959	120	125	87	12.5	13.1	9.1	839	827	872
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,803	2,709	2,695	686	655	560	24.5	24.2	20.8	2,117	2,054	2,135

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 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.

² Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the new borough and census areas will be available in 2010. Until then, data will continue to be published for the old areas.

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