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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
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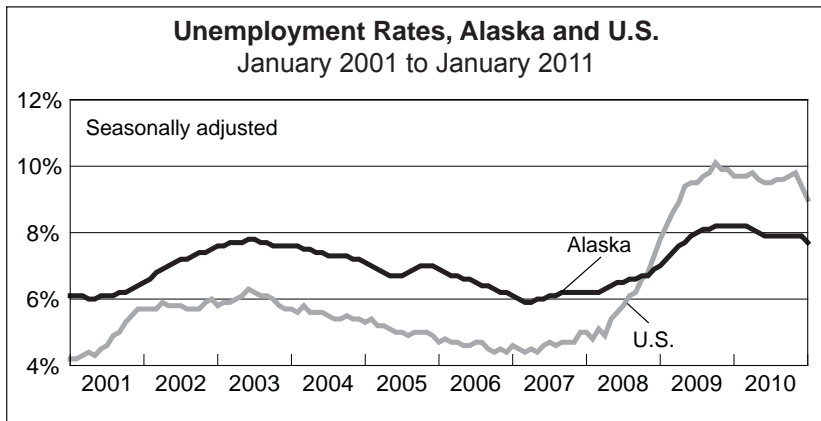
## Press Release

March 11, 2011

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 11-12

### Unemployment rate at 7.7 percent in January



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

	Preliminary 1/11	Revised 12/10	Revised 1/10	Year-over-year change	
				1/10	90% confidence interval <sup>2</sup>
Total Nonfarm Employment <sup>3</sup>	311,300	313,400	302,900	8,400	1,017 15,783
Mining and Logging	14,800	15,700	14,000	800	7 1,593
Oil and Gas	12,500	13,100	12,000	500	- -
Construction	12,500	13,400	12,800	-300	-2,883 2,283
Manufacturing	11,200	6,700	10,400	800	-194 1,794
Seafood Processing	7,700	3,100	7,100	600	- -
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	60,500	61,800	58,900	1,600	-772 3,972
Retail Trade	34,200	35,000	34,000	200	-1,828 2,228
Information	6,200	6,400	6,300	-100	-681 481
Financial Activities	15,200	15,400	14,600	600	-1,343 2,543
Professional and Business Services	24,900	25,500	24,700	200	-1,593 1,993
Educational <sup>4</sup> and Health Services	42,700	42,400	40,800	1,900	632 3,168
Health Care	30,800	30,400	29,400	1,400	- -
Leisure and Hospitality	28,600	29,000	26,400	2,200	163 4,237
Accommodations	6,400	6,800	5,900	500	- -
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	18,200	17,100	16,900	1,300	- -
Other Services	11,400	11,200	10,900	500	-2,676 3,676
Government <sup>5</sup>	83,300	85,900	83,100	200	- -

Notes:

A dash indicates that confidence intervals are not available at this level of detail.

<sup>1</sup> Not seasonally adjusted

<sup>2</sup> Based on the margin of error of the estimate, a 90 percent confidence interval statistically determines a range of values within which the "true" value falls with a 90 percent level of confidence. For more information, go to <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/c-i.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

<sup>4</sup> Private education only

<sup>5</sup> Includes public schools, the University of Alaska, and federally recognized tribal entities

#### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	1/11	12/10	1/10
Alaska	7.7%	7.9%	8.2%
U.S.	9.0%	9.4%	9.7%

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January fell to 7.7 percent, down from December's rate of 7.9 percent. December's rate was revised from 8.1 percent.

The comparable national jobless rate for January was 9.0 percent, down from 9.4 percent in December. Exactly a year ago, the national unemployment rate was 9.7 percent, compared to 8.2 percent for Alaska. Unemployment rates in Alaska and the nation are apparently improving in concert, and three months of strong recovery in the U.S. rate should bode well for Alaska's job seekers. As the employment picture improves in the Lower 48, fewer job seekers will venture to Alaska to look for work. More opportunities in the Lower 48 might also attract more Alaskan job seekers south.

The year 2009 was the first in Alaska's history that the annual unemployment rate was lower than the nation's. This trend continued in 2010, and it appears strong in 2011. However, if the nation's jobless rate continues to recover and approaches normal levels, the differences between Alaska and the rest of the U.S. will likely narrow, and could eventually reverse.

Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates normally climb at least through February in most areas, and this year is following that pattern. January's rates increased in a majority of the state, but there were a number of exceptions. Unemployment fell in Kodiak, the Aleutians East Borough, and the Aleutians West census area as they entered the groundfish and opilio crab seasons.

In January, the North Slope Borough and Juneau had the lowest unemployment rates, and the Hoonah-Angoon census area and Skagway had the highest.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has implemented a change to the method used to produce statewide wage and salary employment estimates. That change has resulted in increased monthly volatility in the wage and salary estimates for many states, including Alaska. Therefore, one should be very cautious in interpreting any over-the-year or month-to-month change for these monthly estimates. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages series may be a better source of information for trends analysis (<http://labor.alaska.gov/qcew.htm>).

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Research and Analysis Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>

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

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	1/11 <sup>P</sup>	12/10	1/10	Number			Rate		
				1/11 <sup>P</sup>	12/10	1/10	1/11 <sup>P</sup>	12/10	1/10
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>359,278</b>	<b>359,651</b>	<b>357,288</b>	<b>30,497</b>	<b>29,060</b>	<b>33,289</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>9.3</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>200,103</b>	<b>202,320</b>	<b>199,078</b>	<b>14,655</b>	<b>14,167</b>	<b>16,305</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Municipality of Anchorage	156,248	158,312	155,530	10,135	10,068	11,525	6.5	6.4	7.4
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,855	44,008	43,548	4,520	4,099	4,780	10.3	9.3	11.0
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>37,551</b>	<b>36,879</b>	<b>37,317</b>	<b>3,999</b>	<b>3,992</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.7</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,192	25,981	26,215	3,009	2,788	3,360	11.5	10.7	12.8
Kodiak Island Borough	6,625	6,123	6,507	427	695	461	6.4	11.4	7.1
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,734	4,775	4,595	563	509	555	11.9	10.7	12.1
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>53,295</b>	<b>54,302</b>	<b>52,846</b>	<b>4,702</b>	<b>4,342</b>	<b>5,177</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>9.8</b>
Denali Borough	833	853	820	189	151	184	22.7	17.7	22.4
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,950	46,772	45,671	3,504	3,310	3,985	7.6	7.1	8.7
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,544	3,671	3,539	459	397	475	13.0	10.8	13.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,968	3,006	2,816	550	484	533	18.5	16.1	18.9
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>12,819</b>	<b>12,782</b>	<b>12,466</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>9.8</b>
Nome Census Area	4,198	4,151	4,201	519	493	545	12.4	11.9	13.0
North Slope Borough	5,522	5,513	5,225	230	253	273	4.2	4.6	5.2
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,099	3,118	3,040	440	368	405	14.2	11.8	13.3
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>37,561</b>	<b>32,828</b>	<b>32,799</b>	<b>3,505</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>3,007</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>9.2</b>
Haines Borough	1,066	1,167	1,059	146	143	154	13.7	12.3	14.5
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area <sup>2</sup>	823	845	835	210	185	214	25.5	21.9	25.6
City and Borough of Juneau	18,278	18,180	18,350	1,091	1,055	1,283	6.0	5.8	7.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough <sup>2</sup>	7,429	7,502	7,479	719	662	786	9.7	8.8	10.5
Petersburg Census Area <sup>2</sup>	1,638	N/A	N/A	267	N/A	N/A	16.3	N/A	N/A
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area <sup>2</sup>	2,357	N/A	N/A	434	N/A	N/A	18.4	N/A	N/A
City and Borough of Sitka	4,257	4,306	4,261	330	319	357	7.8	7.4	8.4
Skagway Municipality <sup>2</sup>	539	561	548	161	154	166	29.9	27.5	30.3
Wrangell Borough <sup>2</sup>	919	N/A	N/A	107	N/A	N/A	11.6	N/A	N/A
Yakutat Borough	255	267	267	40	38	47	15.7	14.2	17.6
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>17,953</b>	<b>15,553</b>	<b>17,827</b>	<b>2,449</b>	<b>2,192</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>13.2</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,272	607	1,256	120	107	104	9.4	17.6	8.3
Aleutians West Census Area	3,604	1,878	3,603	225	225	220	6.2	12.0	6.1
Bethel Census Area	7,074	7,287	7,002	1,117	1,001	1,074	15.8	13.7	15.3
Bristol Bay Borough	451	502	459	51	46	55	11.3	9.2	12.0
Dillingham Census Area	1,980	1,701	1,981	225	201	230	11.4	11.8	11.6
Lake and Peninsula Borough	852	861	857	107	93	106	12.6	10.8	12.4
Wade Hampton Census Area	2720	2717	2669	604	519	556	22.2	19.1	20.8

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 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.

<sup>2</sup> Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the Skagway Municipality and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (previously the Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area) became available in 2010. Data for Wrangell Borough, Petersburg Census Area, and Prince of Wales-Hyder went into effect in January 2011. Prior to January 2011, data were published for Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area and Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area.

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