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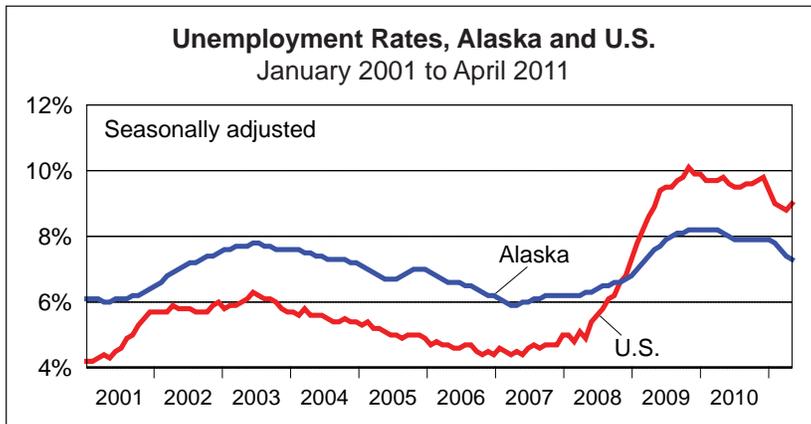
Press Release

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Unemployment rate at 7.3 percent in April



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April fell slightly to 7.3 percent, down from March's unchanged revised rate of 7.4 percent. National unemployment rose to 9.0 percent in April, up from 8.8 percent in March.

Jobless rates for Alaska and the nation remain below where they were a year ago, but Alaska's picture is still considerably brighter than the nation's. However, despite the minor increase in the national rate between March and April, U.S. employment has been growing for eight months.

The not seasonally adjusted jobless rates around the state fell in all but one region, Southwest — a typical seasonal occurrence as some of its ground fisheries and crabbing seasons wind down. In most cases, April's rates were less than one percentage point below year-ago levels. Anchorage's unemployment rate was down 0.9 percentage point to 6.2 percent in April, while Fairbanks and Juneau each saw moderate over-the-year declines of a half a percentage point.

The North Slope Borough's 4.1 percent unemployment rate was the lowest in the state for April. The Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest rate, at 20.6 percent. However, these numbers should continue to improve in the coming months as Alaska's construction, fishing, and visitor industries power up for the season.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 4/11	Revised 3/11	Revised 4/10	Year-over-year change		
				4/10	90% confi- dence interval ²	
Total Nonfarm Employment ³	322,000	317,400	314,800	7,200	-183	14,583
Mining and Logging	15,900	15,700	14,800	1,100	307	1,893
Oil and Gas	13,000	12,900	12,200	800	-	-
Construction	14,500	12,800	14,100	400	-2,183	2,983
Manufacturing	10,600	12,500	11,000	-400	-1,394	594
Seafood Processing	7,600	9,000	7,400	200	-	-
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	62,800	60,900	60,500	2,300	-72	4,672
Retail Trade	35,100	33,900	34,600	500	-1,528	2,528
Information	6,400	6,400	6,200	200	-381	781
Financial Activities	15,100	15,100	14,500	600	-1,343	2,543
Professional and Business Services	26,000	25,400	25,300	700	-1,093	2,493
Educational ⁴ and Health Services	43,100	43,200	41,500	1,600	332	2,868
Health Care	31,400	31,200	29,700	1,700	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	30,400	29,400	28,500	1,900	-137	3,937
Accommodations	6,000	6,300	6,300	-300	-	-
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	19,600	19,100	18,200	1,400	-	-
Other Services	11,500	11,300	11,300	200	-2,976	3,376
Government ⁵	85,700	84,700	87,100	-1,400	-	-

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

¹Not seasonally adjusted

²Based 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>.

³Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

⁴Private education only

⁵Includes public schools, the University of Alaska, and federally recognized tribal entities

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	4/11	3/11	4/10
Alaska	7.3%	7.4%	8.1%
U.S.	9.0%	8.8%	9.8%

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

Beginning with the production of preliminary estimates for March 2011, production of state and metropolitan area Current Employment Statistics estimates has transitioned from state workforce agencies to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Concurrent with this transition, the BLS implemented several changes to the methods to help standardize estimation across states. While these changes reduce the potential for statistical bias in state and metropolitan area estimates, they may increase month-to-month variability. More detailed information on the CES changes is available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/sac/cesprocs.htm>.

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

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	4/11 ^P	3/11	4/10	Number			Rate		
				4/11 ^P	3/11	4/10	4/11 ^P	3/11	4/10
Alaska Statewide	358,797	360,689	357,542	27,756	29,710	29,707	7.7	8.2	8.3
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	197,862	198,965	196,249	13,577	14,481	14,984	6.9	7.3	7.6
Municipality of Anchorage	154,867	155,438	153,733	9,671	10,085	10,916	6.2	6.5	7.1
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	42,995	43,527	42,516	3,906	4,396	4,068	9.1	10.1	9.6
Gulf Coast Region	37,873	38,241	38,233	3,579	3,880	3,789	9.5	10.1	9.9
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,413	26,481	26,714	2,637	2,900	2,872	10.0	11.0	10.8
Kodiak Island Borough	6,569	6,821	6,601	443	436	464	6.7	6.4	7.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,891	4,939	4,918	499	544	453	10.2	11.0	9.2
Interior Region	53,894	53,602	53,953	4,146	4,484	4,351	7.7	8.4	8.1
Denali Borough	895	840	896	136	160	135	15.2	19.0	15.1
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,366	46,140	46,371	3,119	3,357	3,336	6.7	7.3	7.2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,522	3,545	3,549	396	432	396	11.2	12.2	11.2
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,111	3,077	3,137	495	535	484	15.9	17.4	15.4
Northern Region	12,893	12,879	12,462	1,209	1,233	1,241	9.4	9.6	10.0
Nome Census Area	4,248	4,220	4,179	518	517	555	12.2	12.3	13.3
North Slope Borough	5,558	5,561	5,283	227	244	264	4.1	4.4	5.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,087	3,098	3,000	464	472	422	15.0	15.2	14.1
Southeast Region	38,998	38,334	39,297	2,900	3,299	3,059	7.4	8.6	7.8
Haines Borough	1,239	1,136	1,261	119	127	132	9.6	11.2	10.5
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	940	873	938	183	218	174	19.5	25.0	18.6
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,464	18,469	18,532	981	1,075	1,067	5.3	5.8	5.8
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	7,718	7,499	7,787	590	662	660	7.6	8.8	8.5
Petersburg Census Area ²	1,719	1,635	-	180	206	-	10.5	12.6	-
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area ²	2,532	2,453	-	372	448	-	14.7	18.3	-
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	-	-	2,502	-	-	349	-	-	13.9
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,536	4,498	4,642	266	305	270	5.9	6.8	5.8
Skagway, Municipality of ²	557	526	564	90	122	93	16.2	23.2	16.5
Wrangell, City and Borough of ²	994	941	-	82	95	-	8.2	10.1	-
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	-	-	2,770	-	-	280	-	-	10.1
Yakutat, City and Borough of	299	304	301	37	41	34	12.4	13.5	11.3
Southwest Region	17,278	18,671	17,345	2,346	2,335	2,281	13.6	12.5	13.2
Aleutians East Borough	1,237	1,263	1,229	122	96	88	9.9	7.6	7.2
Aleutians West Census Area	2,910	4,108	2,897	219	158	177	7.5	3.8	6.1
Bethel Census Area	6,900	6,972	6,930	1,071	1,100	1,097	15.5	15.8	15.8
Bristol Bay Borough	509	483	526	49	50	46	9.6	10.4	8.7
Dillingham Census Area	2,085	2,135	2,102	225	244	222	10.8	11.4	10.6
Lake and Peninsula Borough	941	934	953	105	110	93	11.2	11.8	9.8
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,696	2,776	2,708	555	577	558	20.6	20.8	20.6

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.

¹Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

²Because 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 the City and Borough of Wrangell, 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