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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

January 18, 2013

No. 13-03

Unemployment rate at 6.6 percent in December

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in December, down one-tenth of a percentage point from November's 6.7 percent. The comparable national rate in December was 7.8 percent, unchanged from November.

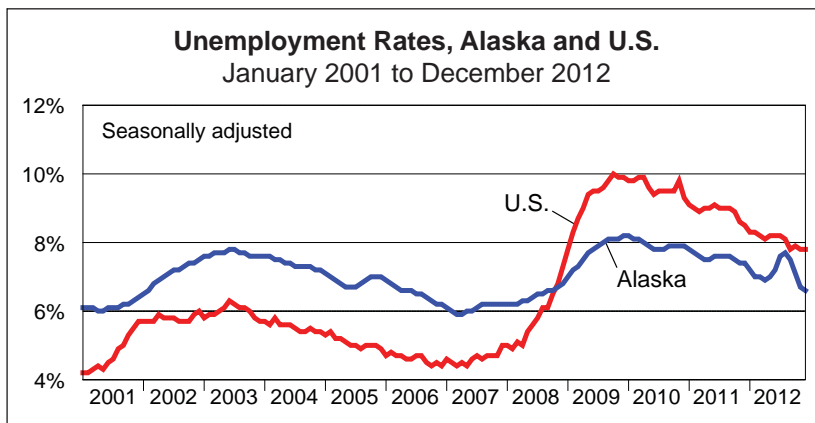
Both the U.S. and Alaska rates fell over the course of 2012 – the U.S. rate declined from 8.3 percent in January to 7.8 percent in December, and the Alaska rate fell from 7.2 percent to 6.6 percent over the same twelve-month period.

Alaska's seasonally adjusted rate of 6.6 percent is the lowest since October, 2008. Coincidentally, that was also the last month that the national unemployment rate was lower than Alaska's.

Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted rate was 7.1 percent in December, up from 6.5 percent in November – a typical seasonal increase. December's 7.1 percent is five-tenths of a percentage point lower than the 2011 not-seasonally adjusted December rate.

Around the state, the highest jobless rate was in the Aleutians East Borough, at 28.6 percent – up almost 10 percentage points from November's 18.7 percent. The lowest rate in December was in the North Slope Borough at 4.6 percent, down slightly from 4.8 percent in November.

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



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	12/12	11/12	12/11
Alaska	6.6%	6.7%	7.4%
U.S.	7.8%	7.8%	8.5%

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

For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	12/12 ^P	11/12	12/11	Number			Rate		
				12/12 ^P	11/12	12/11	12/12 ^P	11/12	12/11
Alaska Statewide	361,727	359,657	365,712	25,581	23,396	27,692	7.1	6.5	7.6
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	200,343	199,009	203,395	11,577	10,793	12,732	5.8	5.4	6.3
Municipality of Anchorage	157,263	156,339	159,419	8,140	7,651	8,797	5.2	4.9	5.5
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,080	42,670	43,976	3,437	3,142	3,935	8.0	7.4	8.9
Gulf Coast Region	38,276	38,375	38,781	3,417	3,048	3,900	8.9	7.9	10.1
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,121	26,772	27,365	2,282	2,097	2,564	8.4	7.8	9.4
Kodiak Island Borough	6,425	6,890	6,636	605	473	803	9.4	6.9	12.1
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,730	4,713	4,780	530	478	533	11.2	10.1	11.2
Interior Region	54,548	54,173	55,222	3,952	3,585	4,251	7.2	6.6	7.7
Denali Borough	803	788	875	165	150	180	20.5	19.0	20.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	47,119	46,762	47,490	2,906	2,635	3,158	6.2	5.6	6.6
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,500	3,483	3,688	401	374	410	11.5	10.7	11.1
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,126	3,140	3,169	480	426	503	15.4	13.6	15.9
Northern Region	13,387	13,146	13,305	1,167	1,107	1,180	8.7	8.4	8.9
Nome Census Area	4,422	4,326	4,351	463	435	472	10.5	10.1	10.8
North Slope Borough	5,838	5,740	5,719	270	275	281	4.6	4.8	4.9
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,127	3,080	3,235	434	397	427	13.9	12.9	13.2
Southeast Region	37,554	37,844	38,361	2,799	2,527	3,077	7.5	6.7	8.0
Haines Borough	1,111	1,145	1,091	119	106	129	10.7	9.3	11.8
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	843	838	844	191	158	184	22.7	18.9	21.8
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,208	18,021	18,495	906	839	925	5.0	4.7	5.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,438	7,620	7,728	559	503	630	7.5	6.6	8.2
Petersburg Census Area	1,588	1,643	1,681	212	178	244	13.4	10.8	14.5
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,197	2,312	2,360	287	278	365	13.1	12.0	15.5
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,373	4,415	4,282	265	235	293	6.1	5.3	6.8
Skagway, Municipality of	545	558	574	128	123	151	23.5	22.0	26.3
Wrangell, City and Borough of	998	1,030	1,052	108	83	122	10.8	8.1	11.6
Yakutat, City and Borough of	253	262	254	24	24	34	9.5	9.2	13.4
Southwest Region	17,621	17,114	16,649	2,668	2,338	2,553	15.1	13.7	15.3
Aleutians East Borough	786	957	778	225	179	214	28.6	18.7	27.5
Aleutians West Census Area	2,391	2,690	2,239	470	373	442	19.7	13.9	19.7
Bethel Census Area	7,848	7,273	7,559	1,059	973	1,010	13.5	13.4	13.4
Bristol Bay Borough	545	556	524	47	35	46	8.6	6.3	8.8
Dillingham Census Area	1,895	1,823	1,853	204	182	202	10.8	10.0	10.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,121	1,056	1,058	90	70	84	8.0	6.6	7.9
Wade Hampton Census Area	3,035	2,759	2,638	573	526	555	18.9	19.1	21.0

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.

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