

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Unemployment rate at 6.5 percent in February

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.5 percent in February, essentially unchanged from January's 6.4 percent. The comparable national rate was 6.7 percent in February.

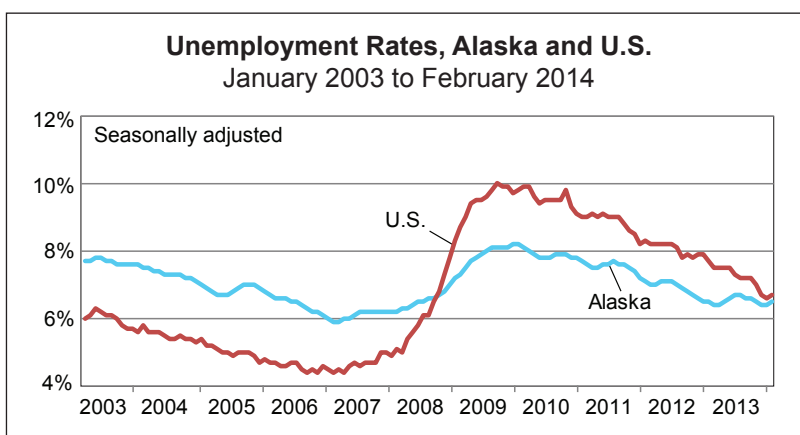
The national rate was two-tenths of a percentage point above Alaska's for the second month in a row. This is the closest the national rate has come to Alaska's since surpassing it in November 2008.

Alaska's not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.8 percent, up from January's 7.4 percent. Alaska's unadjusted rate typically peaks in February.

Rates increased in 23 out of 29 boroughs and census areas, which is typical for February. Exceptions to this pattern were the Haines, Petersburg, Kodiak Island and Aleutians East boroughs and the Aleutians West and Dillingham census areas. Several fisheries boost employment in these areas in the late winter.

The lowest unemployment rate in February was in the North Slope Borough, at 4.5 percent. The Hoonah-Angoon Census area had the highest rate, 26.6 percent, followed by 25.9 percent in Skagway and 25.8 percent in the Wade Hampton Census Area.

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Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	2/14	1/14	2/13
Alaska	6.5%	6.4%	6.5%
U.S.	6.7%	6.6%	7.7%

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					
	2/14 ^P	1/14	2/13	Number			Rate		
				2/14 ^P	1/14	2/13	2/14 ^P	1/14	2/13
Alaska Statewide	362,569	362,147	360,495	28,250	26,748	26,575	7.8	7.4	7.4
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	200,198	201,707	200,632	12,904	12,059	12,106	6.4	6.0	6.0
Anchorage, Municipality of	155,947	157,114	156,300	8,957	8,276	8,343	5.7	5.3	5.3
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,251	44,593	44,332	3,947	3,783	3,763	8.9	8.5	8.5
Gulf Coast Region	39,382	38,907	38,133	3,527	3,414	3,372	9.0	8.8	8.8
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,640	27,419	26,760	2,528	2,397	2,459	9.1	8.7	9.2
Kodiak Island Borough	6,994	6,813	6,825	400	456	380	5.7	6.7	5.6
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,748	4,675	4,548	599	561	533	12.6	12.0	11.7
Interior Region	52,774	52,411	52,488	4,288	4,098	4,140	8.1	7.8	7.9
Denali Borough	719	704	736	155	149	175	21.6	21.2	23.8
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,452	45,281	45,288	3,060	2,941	3,014	6.7	6.5	6.7
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,370	3,265	3,319	477	444	428	14.2	13.6	12.9
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,233	3,161	3,145	596	564	523	18.4	17.8	16.6
Northern Region	13,263	13,185	12,631	1,399	1,302	1,306	10.5	9.9	10.3
Nome Census Area	4,254	4,286	4,065	542	506	517	12.7	11.8	12.7
North Slope Borough	5,759	5,656	5,528	262	239	283	4.5	4.2	5.1
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,250	3,243	3,038	595	557	506	18.3	17.2	16.7
Southeast Region	37,236	37,136	37,142	3,353	3,186	3,078	9.0	8.6	8.3
Haines Borough	1,096	1,052	1,090	152	146	135	13.9	13.9	12.4
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	901	912	880	240	236	215	26.6	25.9	24.4
Juneau, City and Borough of	17,847	17,866	17,890	1,006	960	956	5.6	5.4	5.3
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,398	7,454	7,393	656	590	615	8.9	7.9	8.3
Petersburg Census Area	1,506	1,534	1,539	185	228	213	12.3	14.9	13.8
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,368	2,301	2,275	486	440	386	20.5	19.1	17.0
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,312	4,229	4,310	310	294	288	7.2	7.0	6.7
Skagway, Municipality of	572	569	548	148	136	122	25.9	23.9	22.3
Wrangell, City and Borough of	996	975	978	136	125	115	13.7	12.8	11.8
Yakutat, City and Borough of	240	244	239	34	31	33	14.2	12.7	13.8
Southwest Region	19,716	18,801	19,471	2,779	2,688	2,575	14.1	14.3	13.2
Aleutians East Borough	1,350	1,298	1,352	118	125	124	8.7	9.6	9.2
Aleutians West Census Area	4,457	3,792	4,458	230	250	238	5.2	6.6	5.3
Bethel Census Area	7,369	7,441	7,255	1,285	1,213	1,183	17.4	16.3	16.3
Bristol Bay Borough	478	470	465	54	52	43	11.3	11.1	9.2
Dillingham Census Area	2,139	1,977	2,129	222	227	224	10.4	11.5	10.5
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,006	956	990	117	107	101	11.6	11.2	10.2
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,917	2,867	2,822	753	714	662	25.8	24.9	23.5

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