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## Press Release

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### Unemployment rate at 6.3 percent in January

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in January, essentially unchanged from December's revised rate of 6.4 percent. The comparable national rate was 5.7 percent.

Not-seasonally adjusted rates increased in 24 out of Alaska's 29 boroughs and census areas from December to January, typical for that time of year. Areas that bucked the seasonal trend included the Aleutians East and Kodiak Island boroughs and the Aleutians West Census Area, where economic activity accelerates in January at the onset of the pollock season and other winter fisheries. As a result, the Aleutians East Borough and Aleutians West Census Area were home to the two lowest jobless rates in January, at 2.4 and 2.8 percent respectively.

The state's urban areas tend to have lower rates year-round with less seasonality. The Municipality of Anchorage, City and Borough of Juneau and Fairbanks North Star Borough were well below the statewide unadjusted rate of 7.1 percent at 5.2, 5.5 and 6.3 percent respectively. The highest rate in the state was in the Wade Hampton Census Area at 24.5 percent.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce and Development works with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to produce statewide and substate labor force estimates, including unemployment rates. Each decade, BLS redesigns the estimation methods to improve accuracy, and these methods underwent significant changes beginning in 2015. The statewide series will be recreated back to 1976 and will be available by March 20 at [laborstats.alaska.gov/labforce/](http://laborstats.alaska.gov/labforce/). The recreated substate data will go back to 2010 and will be available by March 27. Substate data before 2010 will not be comparable to the recreated series.

For more information on the BLS changes to the estimation methods, see [www.bls.gov/lau/lauschanges2015.htm](http://www.bls.gov/lau/lauschanges2015.htm) or contact Caroline Schultz.

**Contact: Caroline Schultz, Economist (907) 465-6027**  
Research and Analysis Web site: [laborstats.alaska.gov](http://laborstats.alaska.gov)

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#### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	1/15	12/14	1/14
Alaska	6.3%	6.4%	6.9%
U.S.	5.7%	5.6%	6.6%

Sources: 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 Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	1/15 <sup>P</sup>	12/14	1/14	Number			Rate		
				1/15 <sup>P</sup>	12/14	1/14	1/15 <sup>P</sup>	12/14	1/14
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>362,347</b>	<b>362,508</b>	<b>362,485</b>	<b>25,773</b>	<b>23,305</b>	<b>27,920</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>203,914</b>	<b>206,419</b>	<b>202,932</b>	<b>12,082</b>	<b>10,872</b>	<b>12,682</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Anchorage, Municipality	159,574	161,789	158,662	8,292	7,515	8,687	5.2	4.6	5.5
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,340	44,630	44,270	3,790	3,357	3,995	8.5	7.5	9.0
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>37,754</b>	<b>37,723</b>	<b>37,557</b>	<b>3,284</b>	<b>2,996</b>	<b>3,542</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>9.4</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,783	27,282	26,583	2,380	2,137	2,481	8.9	7.8	9.3
Kodiak Island Borough	6,691	6,078	6,666	388	396	475	5.8	6.5	7.1
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,280	4,363	4,308	516	463	586	12.1	10.6	13.6
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>51,583</b>	<b>53,330</b>	<b>52,174</b>	<b>3,878</b>	<b>3,510</b>	<b>4,236</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Denali Borough	581	564	623	119	109	155	20.5	19.3	24.9
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,719	47,324	46,093	2,862	2,600	3,035	6.3	5.5	6.6
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,793	2,842	2,884	387	343	459	13.9	12.1	15.9
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,490	2,600	2,574	510	458	587	20.5	17.6	22.8
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>11,559</b>	<b>11,735</b>	<b>11,302</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>12.0</b>
Nome Census Area	4,205	4,357	4,091	498	443	525	11.8	10.2	12.8
North Slope Borough	4,363	4,321	4,203	245	212	248	5.6	4.9	5.9
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,991	3,057	3,008	459	414	580	15.3	13.5	19.3
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>35,137</b>	<b>35,685</b>	<b>35,825</b>	<b>2,957</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>3,319</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>
Haines Borough	935	909	965	143	115	152	15.3	12.7	15.8
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	987	972	1,011	227	188	238	23.0	19.3	23.5
Juneau, City and Borough	16,761	16,831	16,975	916	849	998	5.5	5.0	5.9
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,458	6,692	6,587	543	516	617	8.4	7.7	9.4
Petersburg Census Area	1,437	1,504	1,496	182	158	221	12.7	10.5	14.8
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,615	2,754	2,700	422	368	479	16.1	13.4	17.7
Sitka, City and Borough	4,174	4,201	4,252	261	227	305	6.3	5.4	7.2
Skagway, Municipality	600	610	636	129	132	156	21.5	21.6	24.5
Wrangell, City and Borough	938	980	964	105	102	120	11.2	10.4	12.4
Yakutat, City and Borough	232	232	239	29	25	33	12.5	10.8	13.8
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>22,395</b>	<b>17,614</b>	<b>22,699</b>	<b>2,368</b>	<b>2,177</b>	<b>2,789</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>12.3</b>
Aleutians East Borough	3,581	1,751	3,596	87	91	129	2.4	5.2	3.6
Aleutians West Census Area	6,276	3,203	6,316	174	191	256	2.8	6.0	4.1
Bethel Census Area	7,043	7,273	7,174	1,098	1,005	1,260	15.6	13.8	17.6
Bristol Bay Borough	248	302	258	47	44	54	19.0	14.6	20.9
Dillingham Census Area	1,955	1,759	1,990	194	184	236	9.9	10.5	11.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	516	524	540	87	77	111	16.9	14.7	20.6
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,776	2,802	2,825	681	585	743	24.5	20.9	26.3

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.

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