

# News Release

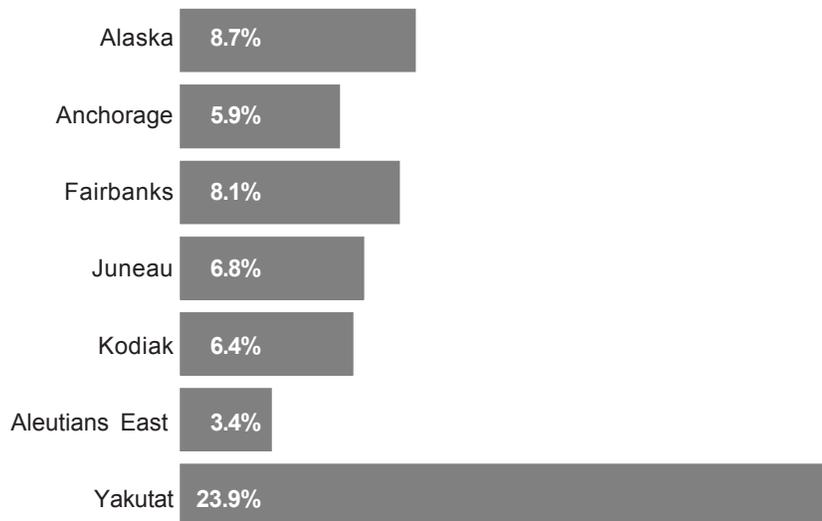
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## Unemployment Rate Up Slightly in February

### February Unemployment for Selected Areas



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section  
CA indicates census area; other areas are boroughs. All rates not seasonally adjusted

(Detailed table on reverse)

### Alaska Non-farm Wage & Salary Employment

	preliminary	revised		Changes	from
	02/03	01/03	02/02	01/03	02/02
Total Nonagricultural Employment	285,000	277,500	280,400	7,500	4,600
Natural Resources & Mining	10,100	10,100	10,700	0	-600
Construction	12,500	12,200	12,400	300	100
Manufacturing	11,500	8,200	11,900	3,300	-400
Retail Trade	32,500	32,400	31,900	100	600
Information	7,000	6,900	6,800	100	200
Financial Activities	13,200	13,200	13,200	0	0
Leisure and Hospitality	25,200	24,700	24,800	500	400
Government	82,600	80,900	80,400	1,700	2,200

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.  
Benchmark date: March 2002

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

February 2003:	Alaska	7.0%	U.S.	5.8%
January 2003:	Alaska	6.9%	U.S.	5.7%
February 2002:	Alaska	7.1%	U.S.	5.6%

Alaska's unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point in February to 8.7 percent, according to Dan Robinson, a labor economist with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Alaska typically records its highest unemployment rates of the year in January and February before seasonal employment begins to pick up in March, leading to lower rates.

Although a break in series between 2002 and 2003 unemployment rates means the numbers aren't strictly comparable, February 2002's rate was 8.8 percent. The comparable national rate (not seasonally adjusted) for February 2003 is not yet available.

February's seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.8 percent. Alaska's seasonally adjusted rate also rose one-tenth of a percentage point and is now 7.0 percent.

Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau all saw slightly higher unemployment rates in February. Anchorage's rate increased from 5.7 percent to 5.9 percent; Fairbanks saw an increase from 7.9 percent to 8.1 percent; and Juneau's rate rose from 6.6 percent to 6.8 percent. Yakutat had the state's highest rate in February at 23.9 percent. The lowest unemployment rate for the month was recorded in the Aleutians East Borough at 3.4 percent.

Preliminary wage and salary employment estimates indicate that Alaska has added about 4,600 jobs over the last twelve months. The majority of the employment growth is in government, the leisure and hospitality industries, and retail trade. The new government jobs are a combination of federal airport security positions and growth in both state university and local public school employment.

Fewer jobs in the oil industry led to over-the-year declines in the natural resources and mining sector of Alaska's economy. Likewise, a decline in seafood processing jobs was the primary cause for lower overall employment in the manufacturing sector.

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## Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	02/03	01/03	02/02	02/03	01/03	02/02	02/03	01/03	02/02	02/03	01/03	02/02
Alaska Statewide	337,001	334,285	316,021	29,384	28,870	27,844	8.7	8.6	8.8	307,617	305,415	288,177
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	188,841	189,453	174,752	12,892	12,567	11,763	6.8	6.6	6.7	175,949	176,886	162,989
Municipality of Anchorage	153,040	154,482	143,308	9,074	8,861	8,434	5.9	5.7	5.9	143,966	145,621	134,874
Mat-Su Borough	35,801	34,971	31,444	3,818	3,706	3,329	10.7	10.6	10.6	31,983	31,265	28,115
Gulf Coast Region	33,230	32,913	31,797	4,465	4,493	4,347	13.4	13.7	13.7	28,765	28,420	27,450
Kenai Peninsula Borough	22,032	21,705	20,969	3,262	3,160	3,057	14.8	14.6	14.6	18,770	18,545	17,912
Kodiak Island Borough	6,101	6,204	6,034	391	563	586	6.4	9.1	9.7	5,710	5,641	5,448
Valdez-Cordova CA	5,097	5,003	4,793	812	769	703	15.9	15.4	14.7	4,285	4,234	4,090
Interior Region	50,751	49,885	47,810	4,710	4,572	4,373	9.3	9.2	9.1	46,041	45,313	43,437
Denali Borough	1,275	1,253	1,188	202	197	176	15.8	15.7	14.8	1,073	1,056	1,012
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	44,397	43,634	41,828	3,582	3,465	3,322	8.1	7.9	7.9	40,815	40,169	38,506
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,709	2,675	2,541	445	447	406	16.4	16.7	16.0	2,264	2,228	2,135
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	2,371	2,322	2,252	481	462	469	20.3	19.9	20.8	1,890	1,860	1,783
Northern Region	9,499	9,517	9,221	1,330	1,282	1,198	14.0	13.5	13.0	8,169	8,235	8,023
Nome Census Area	3,533	3,535	3,444	495	473	460	14.0	13.4	13.4	3,038	3,062	2,984
North Slope Borough	3,451	3,474	3,379	359	357	342	10.4	10.3	10.1	3,092	3,117	3,037
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,515	2,507	2,398	476	452	396	18.9	18.0	16.5	2,039	2,055	2,002
Southeast Region	37,060	36,895	35,911	3,821	3,833	4,293	10.3	10.4	12.0	33,239	33,062	31,618
Haines Borough	1,237	1,236	1,190	210	214	213	17.0	17.3	17.9	1,027	1,022	977
Juneau Borough	16,049	15,931	15,361	1,089	1,051	1,131	6.8	6.6	7.4	14,960	14,880	14,230
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,031	7,067	6,934	773	842	981	11.0	11.9	14.1	6,258	6,225	5,953
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	2,746	2,715	2,736	535	516	633	19.5	19.0	23.1	2,211	2,199	2,103
Sitka Borough	4,289	4,254	4,093	336	322	333	7.8	7.6	8.1	3,953	3,932	3,760
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,031	2,031	2,007	306	316	367	15.1	15.6	18.3	1,725	1,715	1,640
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,340	3,348	3,283	492	515	574	14.7	15.4	17.5	2,848	2,833	2,709
Yakutat Borough	339	311	305	81	55	60	23.9	17.7	19.7	258	256	245
Southwest Region	17,620	15,621	16,529	2,166	2,122	1,870	12.3	13.6	11.3	15,454	13,499	14,659
Aleutians East Borough	1,909	1,715	1,808	64	103	58	3.4	6.0	3.2	1,845	1,612	1,750
Aleutians West Census Area	2,896	2,697	2,698	203	345	144	7.0	12.8	5.3	2,693	2,352	2,554
Bethel Census Area	6,946	6,056	6,471	955	823	788	13.7	13.6	12.2	5,991	5,233	5,683
Bristol Bay Borough	597	516	603	67	53	101	11.2	10.3	16.7	530	463	502
Dillingham Census Area	2,128	1,882	1,986	257	248	211	12.1	13.2	10.6	1,871	1,634	1,775
Lake & Peninsula Borough	681	578	635	123	91	106	18.1	15.7	16.7	558	487	529
Wade Hampton CA	2,463	2,178	2,327	497	460	462	20.2	21.1	19.9	1,966	1,718	1,865

Benchmark: March 2002

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. \* Comparisons between different time periods are not as

meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. • The official definition of unemployment currently in place 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. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.