

News Release

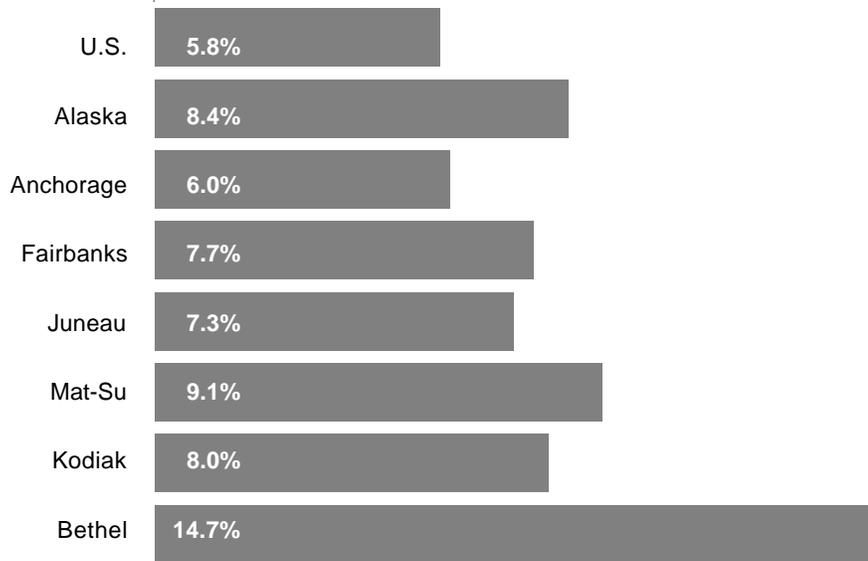
Frank H. Murkowski, Governor
Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

P.O. Box 21149
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1149
Telephone: (907) 465-2700
Fax: (907) 465-2784

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Unemployment Rate Changes Little

February Unemployment for Selected Areas



Alaska's unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point from January's revised rate to 8.4 percent. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, which removes normal seasonal patterns from the rate's calculation, fell one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.2 percent. The seasonally adjusted rate has drifted down over the last several months, reaching its lowest level since July 2002.

Anchorage's unemployment rate rose slightly from 5.8 percent to 6.0 percent in February (seasonally adjusted rates are not available below the statewide level). Both Fairbanks and Juneau recorded increases of one-tenth of a percentage point, Fairbanks to 7.7 percent and Juneau to 7.3 percent. Rates in Anchorage and Fairbanks are slightly lower than year-ago levels, while Juneau's is the same.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section
All rates not seasonally adjusted (Detailed table on reverse)

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	preliminary 02/05	revised 01/05	revised 02/04	changes from	
				01/05	02/04
Total Nonfarm Employment	291,700	288,500	286,700	3,200	5,000
Natural Resources & Mining	10,000	9,800	9,700	200	300
Construction	14,300	14,300	13,800	0	500
Manufacturing	11,400	10,500	11,500	900	-100
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	58,300	58,600	57,000	-300	1,300
Information	6,700	6,700	6,800	0	-100
Financial Activities	14,300	14,300	14,000	0	300
Professional & Business Services	22,100	22,000	21,800	100	300
Education & Health Services	35,200	34,800	34,200	400	1,000
Leisure & Hospitality	26,000	25,700	25,300	300	700
Other Services	11,200	11,100	10,800	100	400
Government	82,200	80,700	81,800	1,500	400

Preliminary February wage and salary employment estimates show a monthly increase of 3,200 jobs. Seven of the eleven major sectors added jobs, and only the trade, transportation, and utilities sector lost jobs over the month. The other three sectors were unchanged. The biggest over-the-month gain came from government, which added 1,500 jobs. The growth was evenly split between state and local governments, and represents a normal seasonal increase.

Over-the-year comparisons show broad-based growth of 1.7 percent, or 5,000 jobs. Only the information and manufacturing sectors employed fewer people than in February 2004. The trade, transportation, and utilities sector led the way, adding 1,300 jobs (1,100 of them in retail trade). The education and health services sector, which is dominated by the health care industry, contributed 1,000 additional jobs, and the leisure and hospitality sector added 700.

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.

Benchmark date: March 2004

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

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

February 2005:	Alaska 7.2%	U.S. 5.4%
January 2005:	Alaska 7.3%	U.S. 5.2%
February 2004:	Alaska 7.7%	U.S. 5.6%

URL Address: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

Contact: Dan Robinson (907) 465-6036

Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate (not seasonally adjusted)			Employment		
	02/05	01/05	02/04	02/05	01/05	02/04	02/05	01/05	02/04	02/05	01/05	02/04
Alaska Statewide	333,293	331,011	329,720	28,014	27,446	28,939	8.4	8.3	8.8	305,279	303,565	300,781
Anchorage/Mat-Su MSA*	189,517	189,042	187,116	12,404	12,093	12,977	6.5	6.4	6.9	177,113	176,949	174,139
Municipality of Anchorage	154,410	153,993	152,299	9,217	8,935	9,544	6.0	5.8	6.3	145,193	145,058	142,755
Mat-Su Borough	35,107	35,049	34,817	3,187	3,158	3,433	9.1	9.0	9.9	31,920	31,891	31,384
Gulf Coast Region												
Kenai Peninsula Borough	21,853	21,569	21,684	2,788	2,690	2,969	12.8	12.5	13.7	19,065	18,879	18,715
Kodiak Island Borough	6,091	6,040	5,961	488	514	497	8.0	8.5	8.3	5,603	5,526	5,464
Valdez-Cordova CA	4,764	4,606	4,714	708	652	698	14.9	14.2	14.8	4,056	3,954	4,016
Interior Region												
Denali Borough	812	797	776	160	158	188	19.7	19.8	24.2	652	639	588
Fairbanks MSA*	42,166	41,697	40,804	3,257	3,149	3,423	7.7	7.6	8.4	38,909	38,548	37,381
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,509	2,496	2,391	446	437	440	17.8	17.5	18.4	2,063	2,059	1,951
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	3,290	3,242	3,129	458	448	490	13.9	13.8	15.7	2,832	2,794	2,639
Northern Region												
Nome Census Area	3,853	3,785	3,798	534	500	500	13.9	13.2	13.2	3,319	3,285	3,298
North Slope Borough	3,517	3,514	3,544	371	368	408	10.5	10.5	11.5	3,146	3,146	3,136
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,533	2,578	2,772	390	382	400	15.4	14.8	14.4	2,143	2,196	2,372
Southeast Region												
Haines Borough	1,000	1,007	967	187	170	197	18.7	16.9	20.4	813	837	770
Juneau Borough	16,454	16,338	16,981	1,201	1,174	1,233	7.3	7.2	7.3	15,253	15,164	15,748
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,881	6,910	6,830	718	724	756	10.4	10.5	11.1	6,163	6,186	6,074
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	2,340	2,356	2,277	472	478	463	20.2	20.3	20.3	1,868	1,878	1,814
Sitka Borough	4,019	3,977	4,092	346	335	377	8.6	8.4	9.2	3,673	3,642	3,715
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	1,302	1,242	1,386	338	325	309	26.0	26.2	22.3	964	917	1,077
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	2,387	2,372	2,547	433	464	493	18.1	19.6	19.4	1,954	1,908	2,054
Yakutat Borough	291	303	280	57	65	53	19.6	21.5	18.9	234	238	227
Southwest Region												
Aleutians East Borough	1,248	1,423	1,186	111	144	97	8.9	10.1	8.2	1,137	1,279	1,089
Aleutians West Census Area	4,323	3,860	4,068	187	268	164	4.3	6.9	4.0	4,136	3,592	3,904
Bethel Census Area	6,480	6,518	6,638	955	954	889	14.7	14.6	13.4	5,525	5,564	5,749
Bristol Bay Borough	636	622	570	73	67	78	11.5	10.8	13.7	563	555	492
Dillingham Census Area	2,122	1,826	2,040	260	243	233	12.3	13.3	11.4	1,862	1,583	1,807
Lake & Peninsula Borough	621	577	694	100	106	112	16.1	18.4	16.1	521	471	582
Wade Hampton CA	2,283	2,314	2,475	572	539	496	25.1	23.3	20.0	1,711	1,775	1,979

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section. * Metropolitan Statistical Area • Benchmark: March 2004
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 individuals in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.