



MEDIA RELEASE

Jobs are Alaska's Future



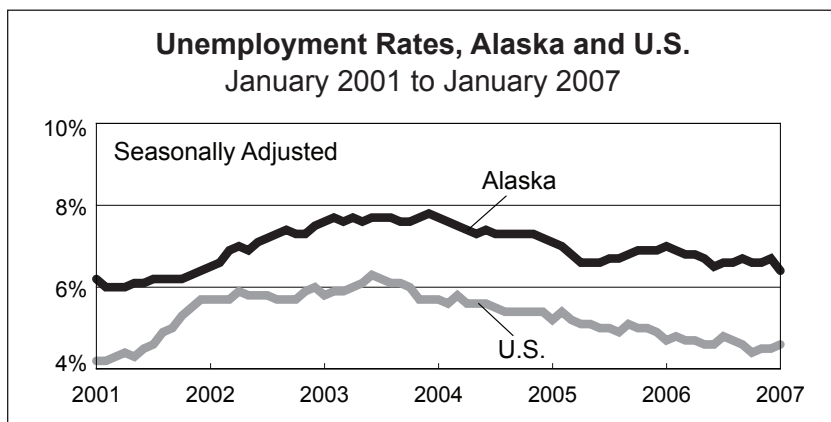
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Click Bishop

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Unemployment rate falls to 6.4 percent in January



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell three-tenths of a percentage point in January to 6.4 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The U.S. rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.6 percent.

The 6.4 percent rate is the lowest since December 2001, but the error range is plus or minus 1 percent so it will take several more months before any conclusions can be drawn about a change in trend. For most of 2005 and 2006 the rate hovered between 6.5 percent and 7 percent.

Payroll employment fell by about 6,300 in January (not seasonally adjusted), typically the low point in the year for Alaska's very seasonal economy.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment

	Preliminary 1/07	Revised 12/06	Revised 1/06	Changes from 12/06	1/06
Total Nonfarm Employment	296,300	302,600	291,600	-6,300	4,700
Natural Resources and Mining	13,000	13,200	11,000	-200	2,000
Oil and Gas	11,000	11,100	9,200	-100	1,800
Construction	14,100	16,100	14,500	-2,000	-400
Manufacturing	10,800	6,400	10,800	4,400	0
Seafood Processing	7,200	2,800	7,300	4,400	-100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	59,700	61,600	59,500	-1,900	200
Retail Trade	34,200	35,500	34,300	-1,300	-100
Information	6,700	6,900	6,900	-200	-200
Financial Activities	14,500	14,700	14,500	-200	0
Professional and Business Services	22,900	23,600	22,200	-700	700
Educational ¹ and Health Services	37,300	37,400	36,400	-100	900
Health Care	26,600	26,700	25,900	-100	700
Leisure and Hospitality	26,500	28,200	25,900	-1,700	600
Accommodations	6,000	6,500	5,800	-500	200
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	16,900	17,900	16,500	-1,000	400
Other Services	11,300	11,500	10,900	-200	400
Government ²	79,500	83,000	79,000	-3,500	500

¹ Private education only

² Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.

Alaska's estimated 296,300 January wage and salary jobs represented a 1.6 percent over-the-year increase, a number that is not markedly different than what the state has seen in recent months and years. If the pattern of moderate employment growth holds, 2007 will be the state's 20th consecutive year of economic expansion.

A large portion of the new jobs have come from the oil and gas industry, which provided an estimated 11,000 jobs in January, an increase of 1,800 from January 2006. Health care has been a regular contributor for years and added another 700 jobs over the 12-month period. Most other industries showed modest growth with a notable exception being construction, which had an over-the-year decline of 400 jobs.

Seasonal Adjustment

Beginning with the release of January's unemployment data, the statewide unemployment rate discussed in this release will be seasonally adjusted. Seasonal adjustment is a statistical technique that eliminates the influences of weather changes, holidays, the opening and closing of schools, and other recurring seasonal events from economic time series such as unemployment rates. Eliminating seasonal fluctuations makes it easier to compare data from month to month and to identify changes in trends.

Local Unemployment Rates ¹	1/07	1/06
Anchorage	5.4%	5.8%
Mat-Su Borough	8.9%	9.2%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.3%	6.8%
Juneau Borough	5.5%	6.0%
North Slope Borough	5.5%	7.7%

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

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

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Research and Analysis Web site: almis.labor.state.ak.us

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	1/07	12/06	1/06	1/07	12/06	1/06	1/07	12/06	1/06	1/07	12/06	1/06
Alaska Statewide	344,818	346,730	341,449	25,393	23,700	26,507	7.4	6.8	7.8	319,425	323,030	314,942
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	190,789	194,571	188,881	11,677	10,894	12,164	6.1	5.6	6.4	179,112	183,677	176,717
Municipality of Anchorage	152,641	155,891	151,112	8,300	7,871	8,701	5.4	5.0	5.8	144,341	148,020	142,411
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	38,148	38,680	37,769	3,377	3,023	3,463	8.9	7.8	9.2	34,771	35,657	34,306
Gulf Coast Region	35,440	34,696	34,983	3,574	3,391	3,665	10.1	9.8	10.5	31,866	31,305	31,318
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,577	24,773	24,261	2,537	2,256	2,638	10.3	9.1	10.9	22,040	22,517	21,623
Kodiak Island Borough	6,167	5,298	6,095	449	633	454	7.3	11.9	7.4	5,718	4,665	5,641
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,696	4,625	4,627	588	502	573	12.5	10.9	12.4	4,108	4,123	4,054
Interior Region	51,336	51,922	50,935	3,784	3,487	3,963	7.4	6.7	7.8	47,552	48,435	46,972
Denali Borough	880	945	830	143	126	131	16.3	13.3	15.8	737	819	699
Fairbanks North Star Borough	44,317	44,894	44,031	2,807	2,594	2,990	6.3	5.8	6.8	41,510	42,300	41,041
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,427	3,171	3,341	385	368	422	11.2	11.6	12.6	3,042	2,803	2,919
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,712	2,912	2,733	449	399	420	16.6	13.7	15.4	2,263	2,513	2,313
Northern Region	11,495	11,416	10,916	1,010	942	1,148	8.8	8.3	10.5	10,485	10,474	9,768
Nome Census Area	3,898	4,000	4,027	417	366	516	10.7	9.7	12.8	3,481	3,614	3,511
North Slope Borough	4,591	4,449	3,957	251	248	306	5.5	5.6	7.7	4,340	4,201	3,651
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,006	2,967	2,932	342	308	326	11.4	10.4	11.1	2,664	2,659	2,606
Southeast Region	37,726	38,352	37,658	3,232	2,962	3,370	8.6	7.7	8.9	34,494	35,390	34,288
Haines Borough	1,064	1,182	1,071	143	133	151	13.4	11.3	14.1	921	1,049	920
Juneau Borough	18,223	18,238	18,162	1,003	884	1,087	5.5	4.8	6.0	17,220	17,354	17,075
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,427	7,611	7,409	597	529	628	8.0	7.0	8.5	6,830	7,082	6,781
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,356	2,232	2,346	417	417	410	17.7	17.5	17.5	1,939	1,841	1,936
Sitka Borough	4,332	4,592	4,364	269	275	309	6.2	6.0	7.1	4,063	4,317	4,055
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,453	1,561	1,486	346	328	340	23.2	21.0	22.9	1,147	1,233	1,146
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,575	2,691	2,548	423	389	395	16.4	14.5	15.5	2,152	2,302	2,153
Yakutat Borough	266	245	272	34	33	50	13.3	13.5	18.4	222	212	222
Southwest Region	18,030	15,773	18,075	2,115	2,024	2,199	11.7	12.8	12.2	15,915	13,749	15,876
Aleutians East Borough	1,401	600	1,404	103	137	108	7.4	22.8	7.7	1,298	463	1,296
Aleutians West Census Area	3,847	2,108	3,811	237	284	210	6.2	13.5	5.5	3,610	1,824	3,601
Bethel Census Area	7,017	6,998	7,088	895	849	984	12.8	12.1	13.9	6,122	6,149	6,104
Bristol Bay Borough	467	528	470	66	58	70	14.1	11.0	14.9	401	470	400
Dillingham Census Area	1,878	1,865	1,884	203	172	210	10.8	9.2	11.1	1,675	1,693	1,674
Lake and Peninsula Borough	850	974	854	84	52	89	9.9	5.3	10.4	766	922	765
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,570	2,700	2,564	527	472	528	20.5	17.5	20.6	2,043	2,228	2,036

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

Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted, such as those in this table, should not be compared with those that are, such as the statewide rates on the first page of this release. 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.