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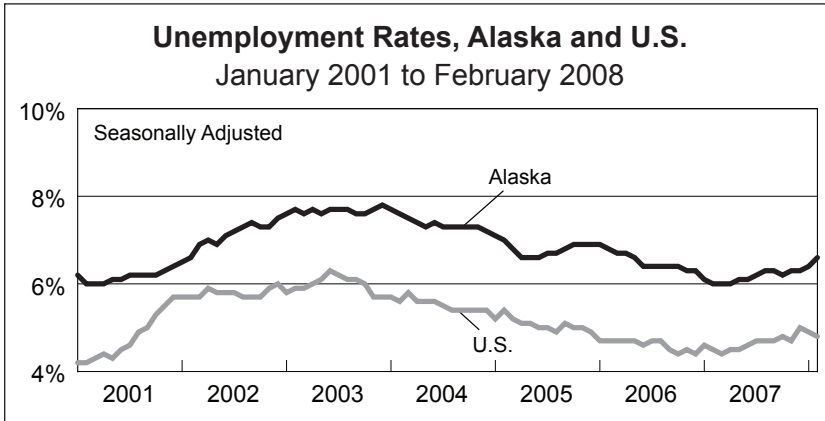
Press Release

March 21, 2008

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 08-47

Unemployment rate at 6.6 percent in February



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point in February to 6.6 percent, according to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The comparable national rate fell one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.8 percent.

Although February's increase is too small to be statistically significant, Alaska's rates have been gradually rising for nearly a year now and the 6.6 percent rate was six-tenths of a percentage point higher than the February 2007 rate.

At the local level, nearly all the state's boroughs and census areas showed at least slightly higher rates than a year ago (rates for boroughs and census areas are not seasonally adjusted).

The Aleutians West Census Area had the state's lowest February rate at 3.4 percent and the Wade Hampton Census Area had the highest at 22.4 percent.

The rising unemployment rates correspond to slowing payroll employment growth. February estimates show over-the-year growth of just 1,600 jobs. That equates to 0.5 percent growth, about half of what the state averaged in 2007.

The oil and gas industry continued to show strong growth with an increase of 800 jobs and construction had the biggest decline with a loss of 1,200.

Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 2/08	Revised 1/08	Revised 2/07	Changes from	
				1/08	2/07
Total Nonfarm Employment	304,600	298,500	303,000	6,100	1,600
Natural Resources and Mining	14,200	14,100	13,200	100	1,000
Oil and Gas	11,900	11,700	11,100	200	800
Construction	13,600	13,400	14,800	200	-1,200
Manufacturing	11,600	10,800	11,700	800	-100
Seafood Processing	7,900	7,100	8,000	800	-100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	60,700	60,700	59,800	0	900
Retail Trade	34,200	34,800	33,800	-600	400
Information	6,800	6,800	6,900	0	-100
Financial Activities	14,600	14,500	14,600	100	0
Professional and Business Services	24,000	23,500	23,700	500	300
Educational ² and Health Services	37,100	36,700	37,100	400	0
Health Care	26,700	26,600	26,800	100	-100
Leisure and Hospitality	27,600	27,200	27,300	400	300
Accommodations	6,100	6,100	6,000	0	100
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	17,600	17,500	17,600	100	0
Other Services	11,400	11,200	11,400	200	0
Government ³	83,000	79,600	82,500	3,400	500

¹ Not seasonally adjusted

² Private education only

³ Government includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities.

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

February 2008:	Alaska	6.6%	U.S.	4.8%
January 2008:	Alaska	6.5%	U.S.	4.9%
February 2007:	Alaska	6.0%	U.S.	5.0%

Contact: Dan Robinson, Economist (907) 465-6036
Research and Analysis' Web site: almis.labor.state.ak.us

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	2/08	1/08	2/07	2/08	1/08	2/07	2/08	1/08	2/07	2/08	1/08	2/07
Alaska Statewide	351,004	349,768	348,438	27,275	25,914	24,932	7.8	7.4	7.2	323,729	323,854	323,506
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	194,219	194,187	192,962	12,744	11,988	11,699	6.6	6.2	6.1	181,475	182,199	181,263
Municipality of Anchorage	153,977	154,123	153,104	8,997	8,565	8,294	5.8	5.6	5.4	144,980	145,558	144,810
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	40,242	40,064	39,858	3,747	3,423	3,405	9.3	8.5	8.5	36,495	36,641	36,453
Gulf Coast Region	35,752	35,401	35,510	3,689	3,524	3,455	10.3	10.0	9.7	32,063	31,877	32,055
Kenai Peninsula Borough	24,915	24,640	24,659	2,689	2,514	2,487	10.8	10.2	10.1	22,226	22,126	22,172
Kodiak Island Borough	6,190	6,274	6,190	410	467	379	6.6	7.4	6.1	5,780	5,807	5,811
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,647	4,487	4,661	590	543	589	12.7	12.1	12.6	4,057	3,944	4,072
Interior Region	52,104	51,807	52,189	4,026	3,847	3,714	7.7	7.4	7.1	48,078	47,960	48,475
Denali Borough	786	762	839	144	140	138	18.3	18.4	16.4	642	622	701
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,030	44,868	45,078	2,991	2,864	2,746	6.6	6.4	6.1	42,039	42,004	42,332
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,485	3,443	3,451	409	382	384	11.7	11.1	11.1	3,076	3,061	3,067
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,803	2,734	2,821	482	461	446	17.2	16.9	15.8	2,321	2,273	2,375
Northern Region	11,856	11,829	11,486	1,092	1,005	1,018	9.2	8.5	8.9	10,764	10,824	10,468
Nome Census Area	3,891	3,879	3,863	456	440	421	11.7	11.3	10.9	3,435	3,439	3,442
North Slope Borough	4,968	4,961	4,699	239	215	260	4.8	4.3	5.5	4,729	4,746	4,439
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,997	2,989	2,924	397	350	337	13.2	11.7	11.5	2,600	2,639	2,587
Southeast Region	38,181	37,804	37,824	3,423	3,271	3,048	9.0	8.7	8.1	34,758	34,533	34,776
Haines Borough	1,069	1,039	1,022	166	163	132	15.5	15.7	12.9	903	876	890
Juneau Borough	18,372	18,330	18,287	1,007	972	948	5.5	5.3	5.2	17,365	17,358	17,339
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,563	7,479	7,443	635	577	587	8.4	7.7	7.9	6,928	6,902	6,856
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	2,223	2,184	2,210	472	436	407	21.2	20.0	18.4	1,751	1,748	1,803
Sitka Borough	4,472	4,419	4,426	336	322	255	7.5	7.3	5.8	4,136	4,097	4,171
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,565	1,541	1,547	346	362	334	22.1	23.5	21.6	1,219	1,179	1,213
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	2,680	2,573	2,647	427	413	353	15.9	16.1	13.3	2,253	2,160	2,294
Yakutat Borough	237	239	242	34	26	32	14.3	10.9	13.2	203	213	210
Southwest Region	18,892	18,739	18,465	2,302	2,279	1,997	12.2	12.2	10.8	16,590	16,460	16,468
Aleutians East Borough	1,199	1,414	1,215	93	117	75	7.8	8.3	6.2	1,106	1,297	1,140
Aleutians West Census Area	4,296	3,960	4,325	144	230	147	3.4	5.8	3.4	4,152	3,730	4,178
Bethel Census Area	7,146	7,102	6,944	1,058	998	905	14.8	14.1	13.0	6,088	6,104	6,039
Bristol Bay Borough	497	495	475	64	57	64	12.9	11.5	13.5	433	438	411
Dillingham Census Area	1,939	1,998	1,877	227	207	193	11.7	10.4	10.3	1,712	1,791	1,684
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,090	1,106	1,010	105	103	80	9.6	9.3	7.9	985	1,003	930
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,725	2,664	2,619	611	567	533	22.4	21.3	20.4	2,114	2,097	2,086

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 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.

¹ 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 the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics