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Press Release

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Some Alaskans Eligible for Maximum Extended, Emergency Unemployment Benefits

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska will soon resume paying the maximum weeks of benefits to eligible unemployed Alaska workers – up to 99 weeks.

Beginning Feb. 13, Alaska will be in a “High Unemployment Period,” defined in state law as a seasonally adjusted total unemployment rate of at least 8 percent. During a HUP, state extended benefits are increased.

In mid-January Alaska again became eligible to pay the fourth tier of Emergency Unemployment Compensation, a federal extension program. Alaska fell below the unemployment rate required to pay tier four in July 2010.

The addition of these two levels of benefits brings the potential total available weeks of regular, state extended and federal emergency benefits to 99.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits in Alaska – Up to 99 Weeks

<u>State – Regular and Extended</u>		<u>Federal – Emergency Unemployment Compensation</u>	
Regular unemployment benefits	up to 26 weeks	EUC-Tier 1	up to 20 weeks
State extended benefits	up to 13 weeks	EUC-Tier 2	up to 14 weeks
HUP state extended benefits	up to 7 weeks	EUC-Tier 3	up to 13 weeks
		EUC-Tier 4	up to 6 weeks

After exhausting regular benefits, unemployed workers may be eligible for state extended benefits when Alaska is in an extended benefit “on” period. In HUP, these state extended benefits are increased by up to seven weeks.

The federal EUC provides four levels of benefits. Tiers one and two, up to 20 and 14 weeks respectively, are not dependent on the unemployment rate. Alaska has been paying tier three, which provides up to 13 weeks of additional benefits, since it was passed by Congress at the end of 2009.

Alaskans who have a claim that may be affected by the availability of any additional benefits will be notified by mail. The letter will include any steps they may need to take to claim additional benefits.

All Alaska job seekers should visit the Alaska Job Center Network at one of 23 statewide job centers or online at Jobs.Alaska.Gov/offices or call 877-724-2539. Job centers offer comprehensive employment resources including Alaska’s online job bank ALEXsys for conducting local or statewide job searches, work skills assessments to help determine job readiness and reemployment services orientation to help choose the best career path.

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Alaska Job Center Network
Jobs.Alaska.Gov/offices

File Unemployment Benefits Online
Labor.Alaska.Gov