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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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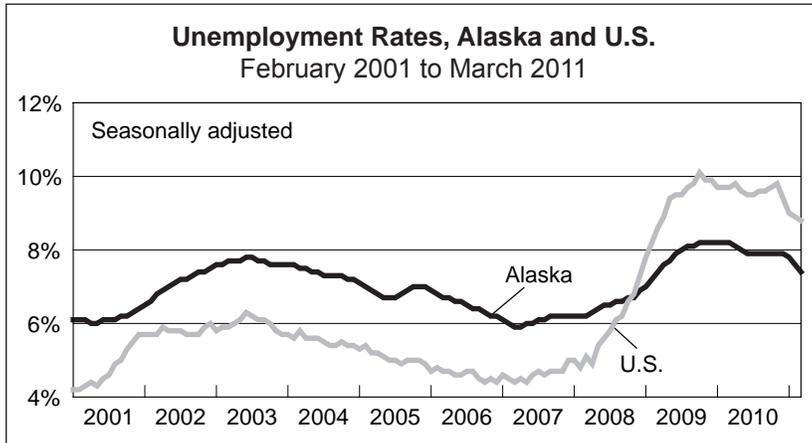
Press Release

April 22, 2011

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 11-24

Unemployment rate at 7.4 percent in March



Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment¹

	Preliminary 3/11	Revised 2/11	Revised 3/10	Year-over-year change		
				3/10	90% confidence interval ²	
Total Nonfarm Employment ³	317,600	315,500	309,500	8,100	717	15,483
Mining and Logging	15,700	15,400	14,500	1,200	407	1,993
Oil and Gas	12,900	12,900	12,200	700	-	-
Construction	12,800	12,200	12,900	-100	-2,683	2,483
Manufacturing	12,500	12,500	12,000	500	-494	1,494
Seafood Processing	9,000	8,700	8,600	400	-	-
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	60,800	60,400	59,000	1,800	-572	4,172
Retail Trade	33,900	33,800	33,700	200	-1,828	2,228
Information	6,300	6,400	6,300	0	-581	581
Financial Activities	15,100	15,000	14,300	800	-1,143	2,743
Professional and Business Services	25,500	25,500	25,200	300	-1,493	2,093
Educational ⁴ and Health Services	43,200	43,200	41,300	1,900	632	3,168
Health Care	31,100	31,000	29,600	1,500	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	29,400	28,500	27,200	2,200	163	4,237
Accommodations	6,500	6,300	6,000	500	-	-
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	19,300	18,700	17,600	1,700	-	-
Other Services	11,300	11,300	11,100	200	-2,976	3,376
Government ⁵	85,000	85,100	85,700	-700	-	-

Notes:

A dash indicates that confidence intervals are not available at this level of detail.

¹Not seasonally adjusted

²Based on the margin of error of the estimate, a 90 percent confidence interval statistically determines a range of values within which the "true" value falls with a 90 percent level of confidence. For more information, go to <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/c-i.pdf>.

³Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

⁴Private education only

⁵Includes public schools, the University of Alaska, and federally recognized tribal entities

Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	3/11	2/11	3/10
Alaska	7.4%	7.6%	8.2%
U.S.	8.8%	8.9%	9.7%

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 7.4 percent, down from February's revised rate of 7.6 percent. The comparable national rate in March was 8.8 percent, a slight decrease from the revised rate of 8.9 percent in February. The Alaska and U.S. rates for March both came in below year-ago levels, and both have trended downward for many months.

The peak jobless rate for the nation was 10.1 percent in October of 2009, and Alaska's unemployment hit 8.2 percent during the last three months of 2009 and the first three months of 2010.

As of March, Alaska's jobless rate has been lower than the nation's for 28 months in a row. However, the difference between the two has narrowed in recent months. Both rates are still above average, but show an improving labor market for job seekers.

The not-seasonally adjusted jobless rates around the state either did not change or fell slightly in March, which is typical of this time of year. While rates declined slightly in four Alaska regions and held steady in the remaining three in March, all regional rates are below year-ago levels. By April or May, unemployment rates will probably begin to fall as the busy summer season begins.

Beginning with the production of preliminary estimates for March 2011, production of state and metropolitan area Current Employment Statistics estimates has transitioned from state workforce agencies to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Concurrent with this transition, the BLS implemented several changes to the methods to help standardize estimation across states. While these changes reduce the potential for statistical bias in state and metropolitan area estimates, they may increase month-to-month variability. More detailed information on the CES changes is available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/cesprocs.htm>.

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Research and Analysis Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	3/11 ^P	2/11	3/10	Number			Rate		
				3/11 ^P	2/11	3/10	3/11 ^P	2/11	3/10
Alaska Statewide	361,089	360,092	358,425	29,945	30,184	32,966	8.3	8.4	9.2
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	198,912	198,784	197,400	14,596	14,541	16,517	7.3	7.3	8.4
Municipality of Anchorage	155,389	155,238	154,287	10,168	10,075	11,771	6.5	6.5	7.6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,523	43,546	43,113	4,428	4,466	4,746	10.2	10.3	11.0
Gulf Coast Region	38,074	37,664	37,862	3,911	3,999	4,257	10.3	10.6	11.2
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,428	26,206	26,382	2,922	2,986	3,237	11.1	11.4	12.3
Kodiak Island Borough	6,747	6,735	6,691	440	439	481	6.5	6.5	7.2
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,899	4,723	4,789	549	574	539	11.2	12.2	11.3
Interior Region	53,876	53,911	53,539	4,521	4,587	4,924	8.4	8.5	9.2
Denali Borough	854	905	826	161	171	155	18.9	18.9	18.8
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,170	46,274	46,212	3,385	3,408	3,778	7.3	7.4	8.2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,671	3,691	3,539	436	452	458	11.9	12.2	12.9
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,181	3,041	2,962	539	556	533	16.9	18.3	18.0
Northern Region	12,904	12,844	12,587	1,243	1,238	1,307	9.6	9.6	10.4
Nome Census Area	4,230	4,201	4,244	522	526	571	12.3	12.5	13.5
North Slope Borough	5,568	5,565	5,291	245	246	287	4.4	4.4	5.4
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,106	3,078	3,052	476	466	449	15.3	15.1	14.7
Southeast Region	38,596	38,062	38,365	3,323	3,417	3,578	8.6	9.0	9.3
Haines Borough	1,145	1,053	1,177	128	138	156	11.2	13.1	13.3
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ²	880	856	857	218	224	205	24.8	26.2	23.9
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,490	18,466	18,356	1,083	1,086	1,205	5.9	5.9	6.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ²	7,539	7,449	7,538	667	680	749	8.8	9.1	9.9
Petersburg Census Area ²	1,648	1,630	-	208	223	-	12.6	13.7	-
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area ²	2,472	2,438	-	452	464	-	18.3	19.0	-
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area ²	-	-	2,321	-	-	434	-	-	18.7
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,629	4,429	4,559	307	312	317	6.6	7.0	7.0
Skagway, Municipality of ²	530	539	530	122	149	128	23.0	27.6	24.2
Wrangell, City and Borough of ²	949	935	-	96	102	-	10.1	10.9	-
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ²	-	-	2,721	-	-	344	-	-	12.6
Yakutat, City and Borough of	314	267	306	42	39	40	13.4	14.6	13.1
Southwest Region	18,733	18,826	18,673	2,354	2,402	2,383	12.6	12.8	12.8
Aleutians East Borough	1,265	1,253	1,251	96	93	90	7.6	7.4	7.2
Aleutians West Census Area	4,119	4,168	4,101	160	166	158	3.9	4.0	3.9
Bethel Census Area	6,994	7,131	7,006	1,109	1,131	1,132	15.9	15.9	16.2
Bristol Bay Borough	484	472	479	50	53	51	10.3	11.2	10.6
Dillingham Census Area	2,141	2,120	2,142	246	240	248	11.5	11.3	11.6
Lake and Peninsula Borough	938	888	909	111	114	104	11.8	12.8	11.4
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,792	2,794	2,785	582	605	600	20.8	21.7	21.5

P = Preliminary. As more information becomes available, data are revised every month for the previous month and again at the end of every calendar year.

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 in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

¹Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

²Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the Skagway Municipality and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (previously the Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area) became available in 2010. Data for the City and Borough of Wrangell, Petersburg Census Area, and Prince of Wales-Hyder went into effect in January 2011. Prior to January 2011, data were published for Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area and Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area.

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