

Click Bishop
Commissioner

P.O. Box 111149
Juneau, AK 99811-1149
www.labor.alaska.gov



Beth Leschper
Communications Director

907.465.2700
cell: 907.723.1321
beth.leschper@alaska.gov

Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 7.1 percent in February

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged in February, declining one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.1 percent. The comparable national rate was 8.3 percent, unchanged from its January level.

Both rates have shown a general downward trend since peaking in late 2009. While the U.S. rate remains significantly higher than its 10-year average, Alaska's rate is right at its 10-year average.

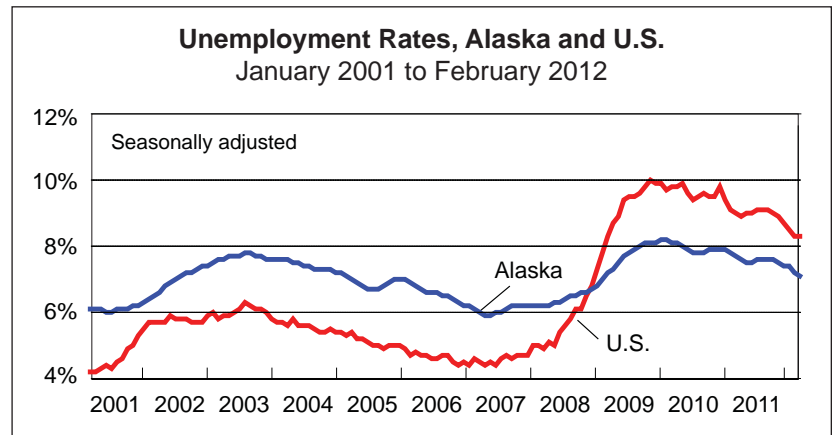
Rates for Alaska's boroughs and census areas — which are not seasonally adjusted — were generally at or near their annual high points in February.

Skagway had the state's highest rate in February at 27.7 percent. The Hoonah-Angoon and Wade Hampton census areas and the Denali Borough also had rates above 20 percent.

The state's lowest jobless rate in February was in the Aleutians West Census Borough at 5.0 percent. Rates were also noticeably lower than average in Anchorage, Juneau, and the North Slope and Kodiak boroughs.

Statewide, 20 boroughs and census areas had unemployment rates of 10 percent or higher and nine had rates in the single digits.

Contact: Alyssa Shanks, Economist (907) 269-4863
Research and Analysis Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	2/12	1/12	2/11
Alaska	7.1%	7.2%	7.7%
U.S.	8.3%	8.3%	9.0%

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

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	2/12 ^P	1/12	2/11	Number			Rate		
				2/12 ^P	1/12	2/11	2/12 ^P	1/12	2/11
Alaska Statewide	363,893	361,764	362,969	29,143	28,891	31,590	8.0	8.0	8.7
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	199,995	200,324	201,304	13,664	13,488	15,220	6.8	6.7	7.6
Municipality of Anchorage	156,536	156,853	157,574	9,337	9,255	10,570	6.0	5.9	6.7
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,459	43,471	43,730	4,327	4,233	4,650	10.0	9.7	10.6
Gulf Coast Region	39,365	38,797	38,113	3,759	3,762	4,183	9.5	9.7	11.0
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,175	27,083	26,381	2,784	2,759	3,123	10.2	10.2	11.8
Kodiak Island Borough	7,314	6,937	7,021	416	467	459	5.7	6.7	6.5
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,876	4,777	4,711	559	536	601	11.5	11.2	12.8
Interior Region	54,035	53,023	53,599	4,585	4,554	4,771	8.5	8.6	8.9
Denali Borough	882	857	854	190	185	177	21.5	21.6	20.7
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,543	45,590	46,182	3,398	3,382	3,541	7.3	7.4	7.7
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,517	3,537	3,502	444	443	476	12.6	12.5	13.6
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,093	3,039	3,061	553	544	577	17.9	17.9	18.9
Northern Region	13,195	13,232	12,725	1,317	1,268	1,328	10.0	9.6	10.4
Nome Census Area	4,312	4,354	4,201	511	501	548	11.9	11.5	13.0
North Slope Borough	5,739	5,661	5,495	313	292	293	5.5	5.2	5.3
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,144	3,217	3,029	493	475	487	15.7	14.8	16.1
Southeast Region	37,956	37,828	37,782	3,329	3,292	3,574	8.8	8.7	9.5
Haines Borough	1,099	1,051	1,103	140	131	145	12.7	12.5	13.1
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	806	815	821	211	214	233	26.2	26.3	28.4
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,435	18,589	18,337	1,013	999	1,136	5.5	5.4	6.2
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,493	7,499	7,437	686	670	715	9.2	8.9	9.6
Petersburg Census Area	1,592	1,554	1,602	207	222	233	13.0	14.3	14.5
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,391	2,290	2,382	468	441	481	19.6	19.3	20.2
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,345	4,255	4,323	300	299	327	6.9	7.0	7.6
Skagway, Municipality of	527	537	533	146	152	157	27.7	28.3	29.5
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,015	990	993	119	129	107	11.7	13.0	10.8
Yakutat, City and Borough of	253	248	251	39	35	40	15.4	14.1	15.9
Southwest Region	19,350	18,561	19,445	2,491	2,527	2,513	12.9	13.6	12.9
Aleutians East Borough	1,322	1,349	1,299	127	159	101	9.6	11.8	7.8
Aleutians West Census Area	4,396	3,766	4,376	219	287	184	5.0	7.6	4.2
Bethel Census Area	7,292	7,289	7,361	1,140	1,116	1,175	15.6	15.3	16.0
Bristol Bay Borough	443	455	449	51	52	55	11.5	11.4	12.2
Dillingham Census Area	2,094	2,002	2,127	225	215	249	10.7	10.7	11.7
Lake and Peninsula Borough	916	914	926	111	106	120	12.1	11.6	13.0
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,887	2,786	2,907	618	592	629	21.4	21.2	21.6

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.

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