

**Dianne Blumer**  
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

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

March 13, 2013

No. 13-12

### Unemployment rate at 6.7 percent in January

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in January, essentially unchanged from December's 6.6 percent. The comparable national rate was 7.9 percent, also just one-tenth of a percentage point higher than the previous month.

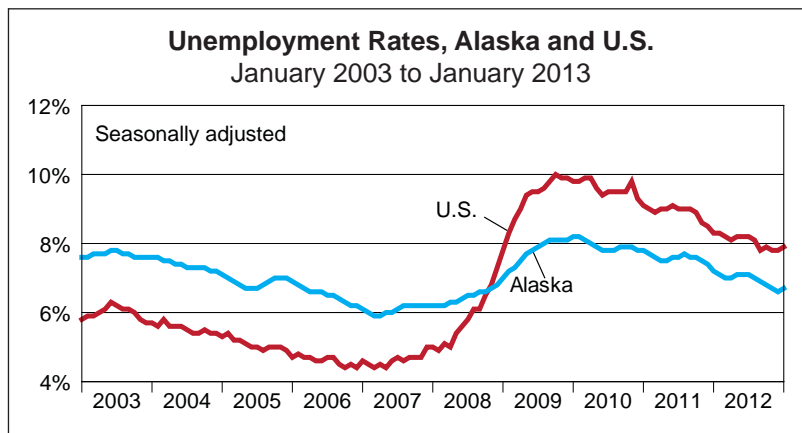
All 2012 unemployment data for both the U.S. and Alaska were revised early this year as part of the normal annual revision process. Alaska's seasonally adjusted rate was revised down substantially for several months mid-year.

Alaska's rate kicked off 2013 at a lower level than in 2012, continuing a bumpy downward trend in the seasonally adjusted rate since its peak in early 2010. Compared to January 2010, the U.S. rate has fallen 1.9 percentage points, and the Alaska rate has fallen 1.5 percentage points.

Not-seasonally adjusted rates increased in all but three of Alaska's boroughs and census areas, which is a normal seasonal occurrence. Kodiak Island and Aleutians East boroughs and Aleutians West Census Area were the only areas where the rate fell due to winter openings in several fisheries.

Area unemployment rates were down over the year in all but nine boroughs or census areas. All the regions with increased unemployment rates are coastal, suggesting that winter fisheries-related hiring may not be as robust in 2013 as it was in 2012.

**Contact: Caroline Schultz, Economist (907) 465-6027**  
Research and Analysis Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	1/13	12/12	1/12
Alaska	6.7%	6.6%	7.2%
U.S.	7.9%	7.8%	8.3%

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

For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

## Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	1/13 <sup>P</sup>	12/12	1/12	Number			Rate		
				1/13 <sup>P</sup>	12/12	1/12	1/13 <sup>P</sup>	12/12	1/12
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>361,580</b>	<b>363,049</b>	<b>362,247</b>	<b>28,090</b>	<b>25,316</b>	<b>29,499</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>201,622</b>	<b>203,758</b>	<b>202,434</b>	<b>12,826</b>	<b>11,460</b>	<b>13,777</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Municipality of Anchorage	157,362	159,323	157,849	8,841	8,047	9,437	5.6	5.1	6.0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,260	44,435	44,585	3,985	3,413	4,340	9.0	7.7	9.7
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>37,891</b>	<b>37,380</b>	<b>38,046</b>	<b>3,630</b>	<b>3,380</b>	<b>3,839</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,294	26,486	26,530	2,572	2,255	2,816	9.8	8.5	10.6
Kodiak Island Borough	6,898	6,274	6,841	487	600	477	7.1	9.6	7.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,699	4,620	4,675	571	525	546	12.2	11.4	11.7
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>52,728</b>	<b>54,261</b>	<b>53,134</b>	<b>4,416</b>	<b>3,911</b>	<b>4,649</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>8.7</b>
Denali Borough	764	793	769	184	163	188	24.1	20.6	24.4
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,481	46,920	45,888	3,256	2,876	3,454	7.2	6.1	7.5
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,403	3,458	3,367	456	397	453	13.4	11.5	13.5
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,080	3,090	3,110	520	475	554	16.9	15.4	17.8
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>13,220</b>	<b>13,079</b>	<b>12,809</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>10.1</b>
Nome Census Area	4,329	4,322	4,175	520	457	512	12.0	10.6	12.3
North Slope Borough	5,674	5,699	5,512	271	265	297	4.8	4.6	5.4
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,217	3,058	3,122	486	430	485	15.1	14.1	15.5
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>37,566</b>	<b>37,441</b>	<b>37,505</b>	<b>3,230</b>	<b>2,772</b>	<b>3,364</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>9.0</b>
Haines Borough	1,093	1,108	1,074	134	118	134	12.3	10.6	12.5
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	850	843	849	216	189	217	25.4	22.4	25.6
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,398	18,160	18,282	1,034	900	1,023	5.6	5.0	5.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,420	7,416	7,439	626	552	683	8.4	7.4	9.2
Petersburg Census Area	1,544	1,567	1,524	243	210	226	15.7	13.4	14.8
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,245	2,214	2,298	392	283	450	17.5	12.8	19.6
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,264	4,359	4,246	304	262	305	7.1	6.0	7.2
Skagway, Municipality of	530	540	557	130	128	158	24.5	23.7	28.4
Wrangell, City and Borough of	962	983	970	121	107	131	12.6	10.9	13.5
Yakutat, City and Borough of	260	251	266	30	23	37	11.5	9.2	13.9
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>18,553</b>	<b>17,131</b>	<b>18,322</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>2,643</b>	<b>2,578</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>14.1</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,394	768	1,371	180	224	162	12.9	29.2	11.8
Aleutians West Census Area	3,704	2,327	3,647	329	465	292	8.9	20.0	8.0
Bethel Census Area	7,342	7,625	7,258	1,172	1,048	1,139	16.0	13.7	15.7
Bristol Bay Borough	464	529	469	48	47	53	10.3	8.9	11.3
Dillingham Census Area	1,925	1,843	1,911	230	203	219	11.9	11.0	11.5
Lake and Peninsula Borough	902	1,086	899	106	89	108	11.8	8.2	12.0
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,822	2,953	2,767	645	567	605	22.9	19.2	21.9

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.

<sup>1</sup>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 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics