

## Press Release

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### Unemployment rate at 6.6 percent in March

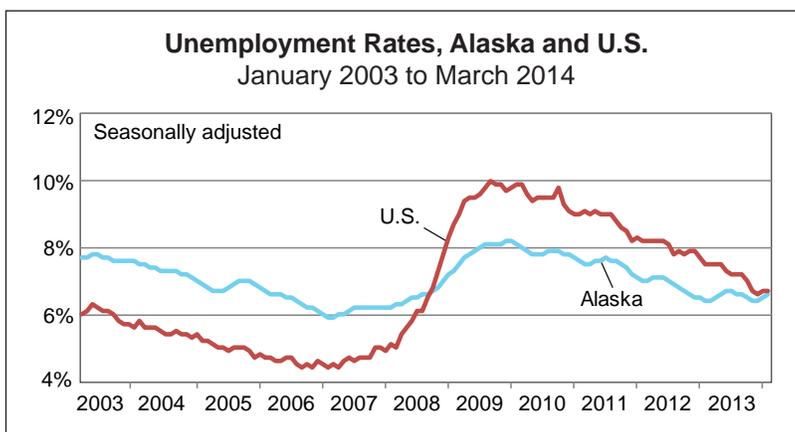
Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in March, up one-tenth of a percentage point from February. The comparable national rate was 6.7 percent.

As the national rate has crept down, it has become increasingly evident it will soon drop below Alaska's rate after a long stretch of being higher. That says more about the U.S. economy's continuing recovery than about any fundamental change for Alaska. The state's rate had always been higher than the nation's until the recession pushed the U.S. rate close to double its pre-recession level. Alaska's rate climbed too, but less dramatically, and returned more quickly to its historical average.

Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.4 percent in March, down from 7.7 percent in February. Along with longer days and hints of spring, March heralds the beginning of the unadjusted rate's descent into summer lows as seasonal work picks up. Rates fell in 26 of 29 boroughs and census areas from February to March.

The North Slope Borough continued to have the lowest rate in the state in March, at 4.3 percent. Wade Hampton Census Area narrowly eclipsed Hoonah-Angoon Census Area for the highest rate statewide, at 25.8 and 25.7 percent respectively.

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Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	3/14	2/14	3/13
Alaska	6.6%	6.5%	6.4%
U.S.	6.7%	6.7%	7.5%

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					
	3/14 <sup>P</sup>	2/14	3/13	Number			Rate		
				3/14 <sup>P</sup>	2/14	3/13	3/14 <sup>P</sup>	2/14	3/13
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>363,819</b>	<b>362,081</b>	<b>359,354</b>	<b>27,031</b>	<b>27,801</b>	<b>25,090</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>201,077</b>	<b>200,264</b>	<b>199,274</b>	<b>12,504</b>	<b>12,699</b>	<b>11,614</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Anchorage, Municipality of	156,644	156,019	155,315	8,650	8,816	8,038	5.5	5.7	5.2
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,433	44,245	43,959	3,854	3,883	3,576	8.7	8.8	8.1
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>39,694</b>	<b>39,088</b>	<b>38,262</b>	<b>3,364</b>	<b>3,471</b>	<b>3,171</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,877	27,434	26,843	2,442	2,487	2,322	8.8	9.1	8.7
Kodiak Island Borough	6,901	6,943	6,719	356	394	346	5.2	5.7	5.1
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,916	4,711	4,700	566	590	503	11.5	12.5	10.7
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>52,726</b>	<b>52,613</b>	<b>52,424</b>	<b>4,012</b>	<b>4,219</b>	<b>3,843</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Denali Borough	734	715	751	137	153	163	18.7	21.4	21.7
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,367	45,341	45,219	2,862	3,011	2,788	6.3	6.6	6.2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,336	3,348	3,271	449	469	403	13.5	14.0	12.3
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,289	3,209	3,183	564	586	489	17.1	18.3	15.4
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>13,268</b>	<b>13,205</b>	<b>12,770</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9.7</b>
Nome Census Area	4,285	4,234	4,120	536	534	487	12.5	12.6	11.8
North Slope Borough	5,767	5,739	5,615	249	258	277	4.3	4.5	4.9
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,216	3,232	3,035	563	585	469	17.5	18.1	15.5
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>37,493</b>	<b>37,274</b>	<b>37,321</b>	<b>3,103</b>	<b>3,301</b>	<b>2,775</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Haines Borough	1,183	1,095	1,174	140	149	121	11.8	13.6	10.3
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	919	901	877	236	237	193	25.7	26.3	22.0
Juneau, City and Borough of	17,861	17,875	17,862	969	990	884	5.4	5.5	4.9
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,398	7,407	7,389	613	646	571	8.3	8.7	7.7
Petersburg Census Area	1,551	1,506	1,553	193	182	192	12.4	12.1	12.4
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,375	2,366	2,256	439	478	316	18.5	20.2	14.0
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,429	4,318	4,440	260	305	256	5.9	7.1	5.8
Skagway, Municipality of	560	571	542	122	146	103	21.8	25.6	19.0
Wrangell, City and Borough of	984	996	993	100	134	107	10.2	13.5	10.8
Yakutat, City and Borough of	233	239	235	31	34	32	13.3	14.2	13.6
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>19,562</b>	<b>19,637</b>	<b>19,305</b>	<b>2,701</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>2,457</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>12.7</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,333	1,346	1,338	108	116	116	8.1	8.6	8.7
Aleutians West Census Area	4,324	4,445	4,334	208	227	217	4.8	5.1	5.0
Bethel Census Area	7,385	7,337	7,271	1,250	1,265	1,137	16.9	17.2	15.6
Bristol Bay Borough	477	476	474	45	53	42	9.4	11.1	8.9
Dillingham Census Area	2,133	2,130	2,109	226	218	211	10.6	10.2	10.0
Lake and Peninsula Borough	990	1,002	975	112	115	97	11.3	11.5	9.9
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,920	2,901	2,804	752	741	637	25.8	25.5	22.7

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