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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 20, 2017

No. 17-03

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Unemployment Rate at 6.7 Percent in December

JUNEAU, Alaska— Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in December, essentially unchanged from November's 6.8 percent. The comparable national rate was 4.7 percent.

December's not-seasonally adjusted rate was 6.5 percent, down from November's 6.6 percent. The unadjusted rate does not typically fall from November to December, but a one-tenth of a percentage point change is not significant enough to suggest a reversal of normal trends.

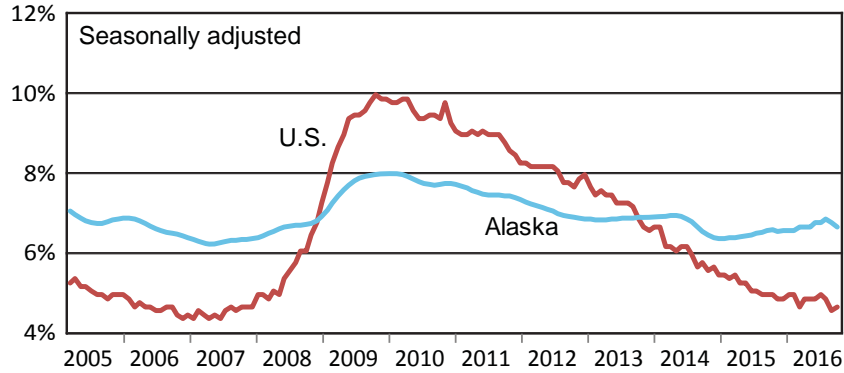
Around the state, unemployment rates fell in eight boroughs and census areas, rose in 16, and were unchanged in five. Skagway had the highest unemployment rate in December at 20.3 percent, and Sitka had the lowest rate at 4.3 percent.

Preliminary employment estimates for December show a decline of 7,600 jobs compared to the same month in the previous year, for a loss of 2.4 percent. The oil and gas, construction and professional business services sectors shared the bulk of private sector losses, while state government drove public sector losses. The only industry with notable growth in December was health care.

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Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

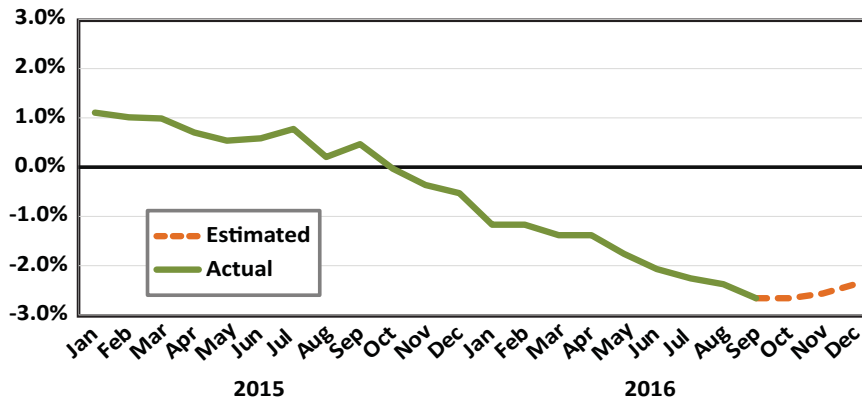
January 2005 to December 2016



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

Wage and Salary Employment

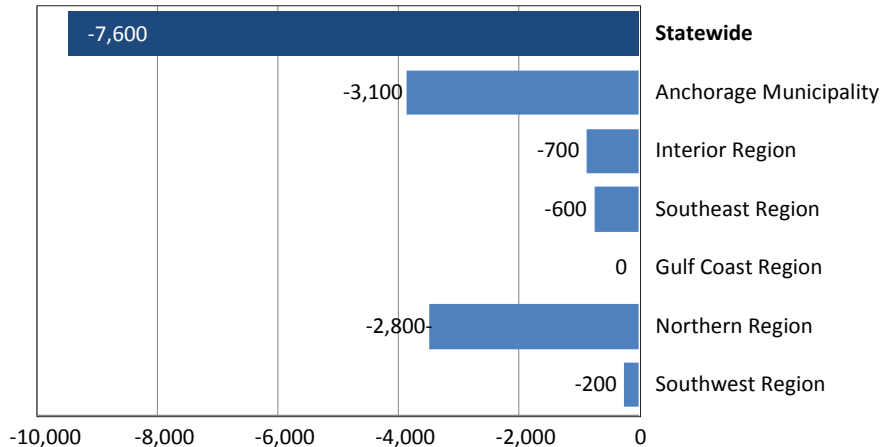
Percent change from same month the previous year



Note: Actual employment counts through June 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages employment series. Estimated employment counts from July through December are based on a forecast of the QCEW series.

Regional Employment

Change from December 2015 to December 2016



Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages; and Current Employment Statistics

Employment By Industry

	Average Monthly Employment			Compared to Dec 2015	
	Dec 2016 ¹	Nov 2016 ¹	Dec 2015 ²	Change	Percent Chg
Total Nonfarm Employment	313,400	316,400	321,000	-7,600	-2.4%
Total Private	232,200	234,700	238,500	-6,300	-2.6%
Mining and Logging	12,800	12,900	16,300	-3,500	-21.5%
Oil and Gas	10,100	10,100	13,200	-3,100	-23.5%
Construction	13,800	14,600	15,000	-1,200	-8.0%
Manufacturing	7,600	8,600	7,600	0	0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	63,000	62,600	63,900	-900	-1.4%
Wholesale	6,200	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1%
Retail	36,800	36,500	37,500	-700	-1.9%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	20,000	20,000	20,000	0	0%
Information	6,200	6,300	6,300	-100	-1.6%
Financial Activity	11,700	11,700	11,700	0	0%
Professional and Business Services	27,000	27,400	28,300	-1,300	-4.6%
Education and Health	48,700	48,500	47,900	800	1.7%
Health Care	35,800	35,600	34,900	900	2.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	30,500	30,600	30,600	-100	-0.3%
Other Services	10,900	11,000	10,900	0	0%
Total Government	81,200	81,700	82,500	-1,300	-1.6%
Federal	15,000	14,900	14,900	100	0.7%
State	24,000	24,300	25,300	-1,300	-5.1%
Local	42,200	42,500	42,300	-100	-0.2%

¹Employment estimates for 2016 are based on a forecast of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data.

²Employment estimates for 2015 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics employment data.

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force ²			Unemployed					
	12/16 ^P	11/16	12/15	Number			Rate		
				12/16 ^P	11/16	12/15	12/16 ^P	11/16	12/15
Alaska	353,728	354,427	360,050	23,161	23,270	24,133	6.5	6.6	6.7
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	203,839	202,830	207,489	11,691	11,830	11,778	5.7	5.8	5.7
Anchorage, Municipality	158,713	158,073	161,604	8,022	8,238	8,061	5.1	5.2	5.0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	45,126	44,757	45,885	3,669	3,592	3,717	8.1	8.0	8.1
Gulf Coast Region	36,580	36,905	36,753	2,912	2,852	3,135	8.0	7.7	8.5
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,488	26,345	26,752	2,118	2,143	2,291	8.0	8.1	8.6
Kodiak Island Borough	5,781	6,246	5,833	390	309	402	6.7	4.9	6.9
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,311	4,314	4,168	404	400	442	9.4	9.3	10.6
Interior Region	52,080	52,223	52,391	3,451	3,440	3,515	6.6	6.6	6.7
Denali Borough	664	597	587	122	116	114	18.4	19.4	19.4
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,034	46,231	46,529	2,624	2,640	2,653	5.7	5.7	5.7
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,054	3,036	2,789	307	300	321	10.1	9.9	11.5
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,328	2,359	2,486	398	384	427	17.1	16.3	17.2
Northern Region	10,314	10,477	11,417	1,083	1,131	1,057	10.5	10.8	9.3
Nome Census Area	3,724	3,840	4,084	429	454	430	11.5	11.8	10.5
North Slope Borough	3,890	3,949	4,406	230	260	204	5.9	6.6	4.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,700	2,688	2,927	424	417	423	15.7	15.5	14.5
Southeast Region	34,740	34,586	35,395	2,236	2,197	2,564	6.4	6.4	7.2
Haines Borough	925	913	902	104	97	120	11.2	10.6	13.3
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	947	937	962	133	137	170	14.0	14.6	17.7
Juneau, City and Borough	16,408	16,356	16,833	733	743	796	4.5	4.5	4.7
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,426	6,451	6,528	415	420	494	6.5	6.5	7.6
Petersburg Borough	1,339	1,322	1,390	132	116	143	9.9	8.8	10.3
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,702	2,710	2,833	317	300	356	11.7	11.1	12.6
Sitka, City and Borough	4,193	4,128	4,105	182	178	225	4.3	4.3	5.5
Skagway, Municipality	620	607	617	126	109	142	20.3	18.0	23.0
Wrangell, City and Borough	958	946	992	74	76	92	7.7	8.0	9.3
Yakutat, City and Borough	222	216	233	20	21	26	9.0	9.7	11.2
Southwest Region	16,178	17,405	16,606	1,788	1,821	2,084	11.1	10.5	12.5
Aleutians East Borough	1,245	1,468	1,386	57	63	87	4.6	4.3	6.3
Aleutians West Census Area	2,901	3,277	2,859	131	144	172	4.5	4.4	6.0
Bethel Census Area	6,999	7,347	7,110	845	886	958	12.1	12.1	13.5
Bristol Bay Borough	232	238	269	31	30	30	13.4	12.6	11.2
Dillingham Census Area	1,563	1,710	1,645	174	165	181	11.1	9.6	11.0
Kusilvak Census Area	2,674	2,782	2,817	478	460	582	17.9	16.5	20.7
Lake and Peninsula Borough	564	583	520	72	73	74	12.8	12.5	14.2

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.

²The labor force is the sum of the unemployed and the employed.

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