

# State of Alaska

## Department of Labor & Workforce Development



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### **Employment Down 0.7 Percent, Unemployment Rate Unchanged**

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's total employment was down an estimated 0.7 percent in February from February 2017, a loss of about 2,300 jobs.

As a percentage, oil and gas employment's decline of 6.8 percent was the largest (-700 jobs). Retail was down 2.3 percent (-800 jobs). Construction fell 0.8 percent (-100 jobs), a smaller loss than in recent months. Employment fell in all three sectors of government: federal by 0.7 percent, state by 1.7 percent and local by 0.7 percent. Local government's declines were in public education.

The manufacturing sector and the transportation, warehousing and utilities sector both gained a modest 100 jobs. Health care continued to be the outlier, adding 1,000 jobs since February 2017 for a 2.7 percent increase.

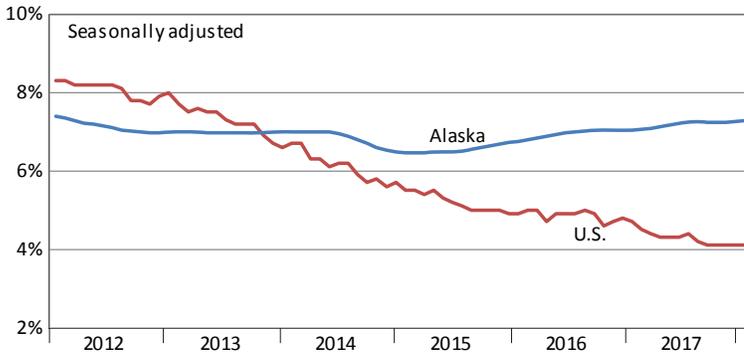
Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 7.3 percent in February. The comparable national rate was 4.1 percent.

Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted rate was 8.2 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from January. Unemployment rates rose in 16 of 29 boroughs and census areas and remained the same in three. The lowest rates were in the Aleutians East Borough (1.9 percent) and the Aleutians West Census Area (2.4 percent), which is typical for areas with winter fisheries. Rates were highest in Skagway, which depends on summer tourism and always has higher rates in the off-season (24.8 percent), followed by rural areas with limited job opportunities year-round.

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# Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

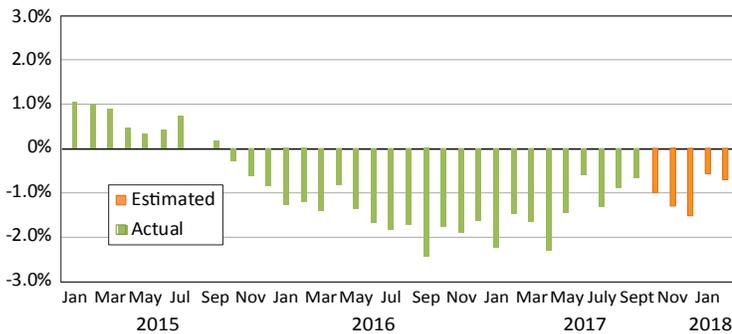
January 2012 to February 2018



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

# Wage and Salary Employment

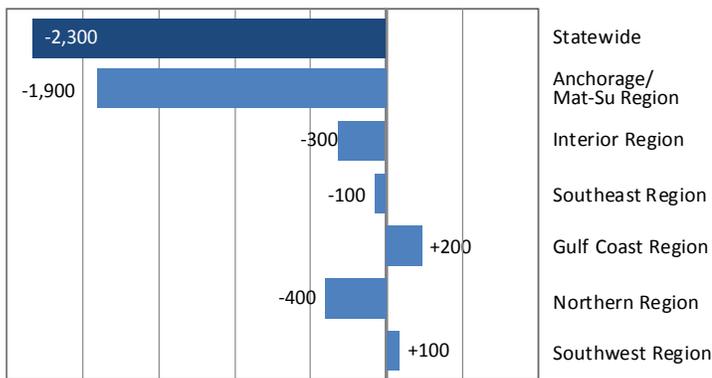
Percent change from same month the previous year



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

# Regional Employment

Change from same month the previous year



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

# Area Unemployment Rates

Not seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup>

|                                 | Rate              |             |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                 | 2/18 <sup>P</sup> | 1/17        | 2/17        |
| <b>Alaska</b>                   | <b>8.2</b>        | <b>8.1</b>  | <b>7.9</b>  |
| <b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>  | <b>7.4</b>        | <b>7.1</b>  | <b>7.1</b>  |
| Anchorage, Municipality         | 6.7               | 6.4         | 6.3         |
| Matanuska-Susitna Borough       | 10.0              | 9.6         | 9.8         |
| <b>Gulf Coast Region</b>        | <b>9.7</b>        | <b>9.9</b>  | <b>9.5</b>  |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough         | 10.3              | 10.1        | 10.3        |
| Kodiak Island Borough           | 5.4               | 8.4         | 4.8         |
| Valdez-Cordova Census Area      | 12.2              | 11.4        | 11.8        |
| <b>Interior Region</b>          | <b>8.5</b>        | <b>8.5</b>  | <b>8.2</b>  |
| Denali Borough                  | 19.3              | 21.1        | 22.7        |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough    | 7.4               | 7.4         | 6.9         |
| Southeast Fairbanks Census Area | 12.8              | 12.3        | 13.0        |
| Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area       | 21.4              | 20.7        | 22.0        |
| <b>Northern Region</b>          | <b>12.4</b>       | <b>11.7</b> | <b>12.2</b> |
| Nome Census Area                | 13.7              | 13.1        | 13.1        |
| North Slope Borough             | 7.2               | 6.8         | 7.2         |
| Northwest Arctic Borough        | 17.1              | 16.4        | 17.6        |
| <b>Southeast Region</b>         | <b>8.3</b>        | <b>8.2</b>  | <b>8.0</b>  |
| Haines Borough                  | 16.9              | 17.2        | 13.4        |
| Hoonah-Angoon Census Area       | 22.2              | 21.3        | 19.1        |
| Juneau, City and Borough        | 5.4               | 5.4         | 5.4         |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough       | 8.1               | 8.3         | 8.2         |
| Petersburg Borough              | 12.3              | 12.9        | 11.9        |
| Prince of Wales-Hyder CA        | 15.9              | 14.6        | 14.6        |
| Sitka, City and Borough         | 5.3               | 5.6         | 5.9         |
| Skagway, Municipality           | 24.8              | 23.5        | 22.4        |
| Wrangell, City and Borough      | 10.5              | 10.6        | 9.7         |
| Yakutat, City and Borough       | 12.2              | 12.2        | 12.2        |
| <b>Southwest Region</b>         | <b>10.5</b>       | <b>11.2</b> | <b>10.0</b> |
| Aleutians East Borough          | 1.9               | 3.2         | 1.7         |
| Aleutians West Census Area      | 2.4               | 3.0         | 2.3         |
| Bethel Census Area              | 14.6              | 14.3        | 14.1        |
| Bristol Bay Borough             | 18.2              | 17.0        | 15.8        |
| Dillingham Census Area          | 10.5              | 10.2        | 10.1        |
| Kusilvak Census Area            | 22.3              | 21.0        | 21.2        |
| Lake and Peninsula Borough      | 16.6              | 17.0        | 14.9        |

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.

<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

# Employment By Industry

|  | Average Monthly Employment |                |                | Compared to Feb 2017 |              |
|--|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|
|  | Feb 2018                   | Jan 2018       | Feb 2017       | Change               | Percent      |
| <b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>            | <b>315,000</b>             | <b>308,700</b> | <b>317,300</b> | <b>-2,300</b>        | <b>-0.7%</b> |
| <b>Total Private</b>                       | <b>233,600</b>             | <b>228,600</b> | <b>235,100</b> | <b>-1,500</b>        | <b>-0.6%</b> |
| Mining and Logging                         | 12,600                     | 12,600         | 13,100         | -500                 | -3.8%        |
| Oil and Gas                                | 9,600                      | 9,600          | 10,300         | -700                 | -6.8%        |
| Construction                               | 12,700                     | 11,900         | 12,800         | -100                 | -0.8%        |
| Manufacturing                              | 12,800                     | 9,500          | 12,700         | 100                  | 0.8%         |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities       | 60,100                     | 60,700         | 61,000         | -900                 | -1.5%        |
| Wholesale                                  | 6,100                      | 6,100          | 6,300          | -200                 | -3.2%        |
| Retail                                     | 34,300                     | 35,000         | 35,100         | -800                 | -2.3%        |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | 19,700                     | 19,600         | 19,600         | 100                  | 0.5%         |
| Information                                | 5,800                      | 5,800          | 6,100          | -300                 | -4.9%        |
| Financial Activities                       | 11,600                     | 11,500         | 11,700         | -100                 | -0.9%        |
| Professional and Business Services         | 27,000                     | 26,300         | 27,400         | -400                 | -1.5%        |
| Education and Health                       | 50,300                     | 49,900         | 49,400         | 900                  | 1.8%         |
| Health Care                                | 38,000                     | 37,800         | 37,000         | 1,000                | 2.7%         |
| Leisure and Hospitality                    | 29,900                     | 29,700         | 30,100         | -200                 | -0.7%        |
| Other Services                             | 10,800                     | 10,700         | 10,800         | 0                    | 0.0%         |
| <b>Total Government</b>                    | <b>81,400</b>              | <b>80,100</b>  | <b>82,200</b>  | <b>-800</b>          | <b>-1.0%</b> |
| Federal <sup>1</sup>                       | 14,500                     | 14,300         | 14,600         | -100                 | -0.7%        |
| State <sup>2</sup>                         | 23,800                     | 23,400         | 24,200         | -400                 | -1.7%        |
| Local <sup>3</sup>                         | 43,100                     | 42,400         | 43,400         | -300                 | -0.7%        |

<sup>1</sup>Excludes uniformed military

<sup>2</sup>Includes the University of Alaska

<sup>3</sup>Includes public schools and tribal government

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section