

Press Release

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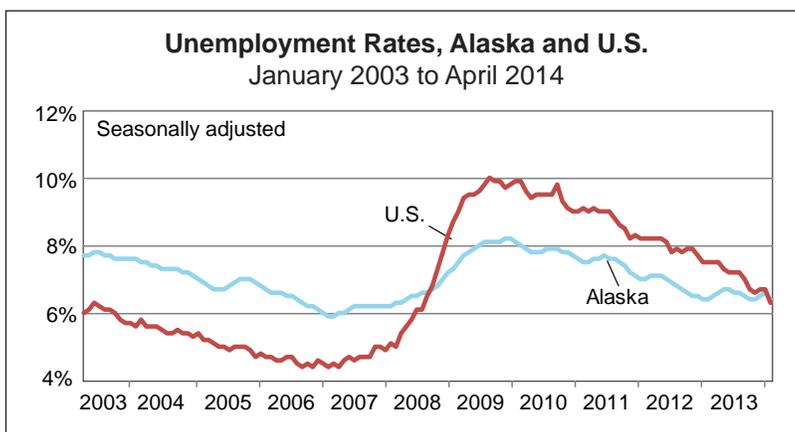
Unemployment rate at 6.4 percent in April

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in April, down from 6.6 percent in March. The comparable national rate was 6.3 percent, down from March's 6.7 percent.

The significant decline in the U.S. rate pushed it below Alaska's for the first time in nearly five-and-a-half years. While this reversal may seem noteworthy in the context of recent history, it is really just a return to normalcy. Alaska's rate was higher than the nation's from 1983 until 2008.

Alaska's not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.5 percent in April, down eight-tenths of a percentage point from March. Large drops in the unadjusted rate are typical in April.

Not-seasonally adjusted rates fell in all but one of Alaska's boroughs and census areas. The lone rate increase was in the Aleutians West Census Area with the wrap-up of the winter pollock season. The largest rate declines were in Southeast, where momentum was building for the upcoming cruise ship season. The unemployment rate fell from 21.6 to 13.1 percent in Skagway, which was the biggest change around the state.



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	4/14	3/14	4/13
Alaska	6.4%	6.6%	6.4%
U.S.	6.3%	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.

Contact: Dan Robinson, Economist (907) 465-6040

Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	4/14 ^P	3/14	4/13	Number			Rate		
				4/14 ^P	3/14	4/13	4/14 ^P	3/14	4/13
Alaska Statewide	360,602	363,566	359,761	23,478	26,644	23,774	6.5	7.3	6.6
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	199,660	201,397	199,156	10,942	12,326	11,132	5.5	6.1	5.6
Anchorage, Municipality of	155,873	156,912	155,468	7,765	8,527	7,905	5.0	5.4	5.1
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,787	44,485	43,688	3,177	3,799	3,227	7.3	8.5	7.4
Gulf Coast Region	39,477	39,011	38,898	2,906	3,314	2,923	7.4	8.5	7.5
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,682	27,406	27,237	2,117	2,407	2,108	7.6	8.8	7.7
Kodiak Island Borough	6,849	6,777	6,780	333	350	352	4.9	5.2	5.2
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,946	4,828	4,881	456	557	463	9.2	11.5	9.5
Interior Region	52,732	52,713	52,495	3,479	3,955	3,622	6.6	7.5	6.9
Denali Borough	766	721	789	114	135	131	14.9	18.7	16.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,482	45,485	45,190	2,487	2,821	2,658	5.5	6.2	5.9
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,297	3,277	3,335	380	443	368	11.5	13.5	11.0
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,187	3,230	3,181	498	556	465	15.6	17.2	14.6
Northern Region	12,928	13,208	12,644	1,218	1,328	1,184	9.4	10.1	9.4
Nome Census Area	4,143	4,263	4,057	489	528	476	11.8	12.4	11.7
North Slope Borough	5,670	5,744	5,592	224	245	264	4.0	4.3	4.7
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,115	3,201	2,995	505	555	444	16.2	17.3	14.8
Southeast Region	38,141	37,623	38,070	2,529	3,058	2,466	6.6	8.1	6.5
Haines Borough	1,198	1,186	1,197	112	138	102	9.3	11.6	8.5
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	966	919	941	190	234	167	19.7	25.5	17.7
Juneau, City and Borough of	17,976	17,935	17,978	824	954	827	4.6	5.3	4.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,608	7,426	7,611	516	605	524	6.8	8.1	6.9
Petersburg Census Area	1,644	1,554	1,625	165	189	148	10.0	12.2	9.1
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,438	2,378	2,403	330	433	297	13.5	18.2	12.4
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,418	4,447	4,419	215	256	219	4.9	5.8	5.0
Skagway, Municipality of	572	560	577	75	121	81	13.1	21.6	14.0
Wrangell, City and Borough of	1,040	987	1,039	77	99	77	7.4	10.0	7.4
Yakutat, City and Borough of	281	231	280	25	29	24	8.9	12.6	8.6
Southwest Region	17,661	19,613	18,499	2,401	2,662	2,447	13.6	13.6	13.2
Aleutians East Borough	1,499	1,338	1,587	97	107	114	6.5	8.0	7.2
Aleutians West Census Area	3,109	4,348	3,326	191	205	265	6.1	4.7	8.0
Bethel Census Area	6,790	7,394	7,105	1,110	1,231	1,121	16.3	16.6	15.8
Bristol Bay Borough	537	480	569	40	44	42	7.4	9.2	7.4
Dillingham Census Area	2,000	2,140	2,084	204	223	199	10.2	10.4	9.5
Lake and Peninsula Borough	976	993	1,010	99	111	89	10.1	11.2	8.8
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,750	2,920	2,818	660	741	617	24.0	25.4	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.

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