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Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 6.6 percent in January

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in January, unchanged from December's revised rate. The comparable national rate was 4.9 percent.

The not-seasonally adjusted rate was 7.3 percent, up six-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month. Large swings in the unadjusted rate are typical in January.

Rates increased in 24 out of 29 Alaska's boroughs and census areas, and jumped by more than a percentage point in 17. The most dramatic was the Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, where the rate climbed 3.9 percentage points. The Kusilvak Census Area had the highest January rate at 23.9 percent.

Most of the five areas that bucked the seasonal higher unemployment trend are heavily influenced by the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries, which kick off in January.

January's job growth was dampened by losses in the oil and gas and construction industries and in state government. There were about 1,000 fewer oil industry jobs in Anchorage and the Northern and Gulf Coast regions in January than in January 2015. Construction losses were spread across the state, with the majority in Southcentral and Interior. The largest state government job losses were in Southeast, followed by Anchorage and the Interior.



	1/16	12/15	1/15
Alaska	6.6%	6.6%	6.4%
U.S.	4.9%	5.0%	5.7%

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

Growth in federal and local government combined with private-sector growth in health care, retail trade, and leisure and hospitality nearly offset losses, resulting in fairly flat total employment in the first month of 2016, compared to a year earlier.

Revised employment and unemployment data for 2015 and earlier are now available at <http://laborstats.alaska.gov/>.

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

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Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	1/16 ^P	12/15	1/15	Number			Rate		
				1/16 ^P	12/15	1/15	1/16 ^P	12/15	1/15
Alaska	357,042	360,050	360,112	26,156	24,133	26,023	7.3	6.7	7.2
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	202,909	207,489	203,616	12,711	11,778	12,228	6.3	5.7	6.0
Anchorage, Municipality	157,769	161,604	158,379	8,608	8,061	8,341	5.5	5.0	5.3
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	45,140	45,885	45,237	4,103	3,717	3,887	9.1	8.1	8.6
Gulf Coast Region	36,847	36,753	37,374	3,324	3,135	3,312	9.0	8.5	8.9
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,514	26,752	26,830	2,496	2,291	2,402	9.4	8.6	9.0
Kodiak Island Borough	6,158	5,833	6,273	343	402	390	5.6	6.9	6.2
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,175	4,168	4,271	485	442	520	11.6	10.6	12.2
Interior Region	51,166	52,391	51,828	3,888	3,515	3,896	7.6	6.7	7.5
Denali Borough	595	587	591	132	114	123	22.2	19.4	20.8
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,231	46,529	45,851	2,909	2,653	2,870	6.4	5.7	6.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,936	2,789	2,949	377	321	391	12.8	11.5	13.3
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,404	2,486	2,437	470	427	512	19.6	17.2	21.0
Northern Region	11,281	11,417	11,642	1,181	1,057	1,216	10.5	9.3	10.4
Nome Census Area	4,008	4,084	4,140	487	430	503	12.2	10.5	12.1
North Slope Borough	4,404	4,406	4,552	236	204	251	5.4	4.6	5.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,869	2,927	2,950	458	423	462	16.0	14.5	15.7
Southeast Region	34,908	35,395	35,553	2,843	2,564	2,980	8.1	7.2	8.4
Haines Borough	899	902	937	134	120	148	14.9	13.3	15.8
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	972	962	1,025	191	170	227	19.7	17.7	22.1
Juneau, City and Borough	16,807	16,833	17,092	856	796	919	5.1	4.7	5.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,318	6,528	6,410	556	494	559	8.8	7.6	8.7
Petersburg Borough	1,448	1,390	1,481	165	143	174	11.4	10.3	11.7
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,653	2,833	2,690	438	356	430	16.5	12.6	16.0
Sitka, City and Borough	4,020	4,105	4,102	236	225	261	5.9	5.5	6.4
Skagway, Municipality	611	617	618	136	142	130	22.3	23.0	21.0
Wrangell, City and Borough	956	992	969	105	92	103	11.0	9.3	10.6
Yakutat, City and Borough	224	233	229	26	26	29	11.6	11.2	12.7
Southwest Region	19,931	16,606	20,098	2,208	2,084	2,388	11.1	12.5	11.9
Aleutians East Borough	2,533	1,386	2,535	81	87	88	3.2	6.3	3.5
Aleutians West Census Area	4,846	2,859	4,877	135	172	173	2.8	6.0	3.5
Bethel Census Area	7,134	7,110	7,203	1,034	958	1,107	14.5	13.5	15.4
Bristol Bay Borough	224	269	244	31	30	48	13.8	11.2	19.7
Dillingham Census Area	1,958	1,645	1,962	192	181	194	9.8	11.0	9.9
Kusilvak Census Area	2,722	2,817	2,753	650	582	685	23.9	20.7	24.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	514	520	524	85	74	93	16.5	14.2	17.7

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.

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