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Press Release

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Unemployment Rate at 6.5 Percent in January

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.5 percent in January, essentially unchanged from December's revised 6.6 percent. The comparable national rate was 4.8 percent.

January's not-seasonally adjusted rate was 7.2 percent, up six-tenths of a percentage point from December, which is a typical seasonal increase.

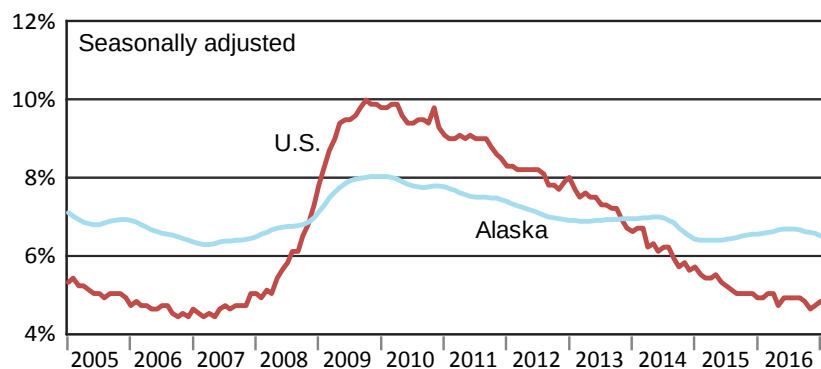
Unadjusted rates rose in 25 out of 29 boroughs and census areas and jumped by a percentage point or more in 15. Winter fisheries buoyed the boroughs and census areas with January rate decreases. Skagway had the highest unemployment rate at 21.2 percent, and Aleutians East Borough was lowest at 2.4 percent.

Preliminary estimates show employment was down 6,800 jobs, or 2.1 percent, compared to the previous January. Substantial losses in oil, construction, and state government made up most of the decline. Professional and business services, which is tied to both oil and construction activity, also recorded significant losses. Health care and local government were the only industries to add net jobs.

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Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

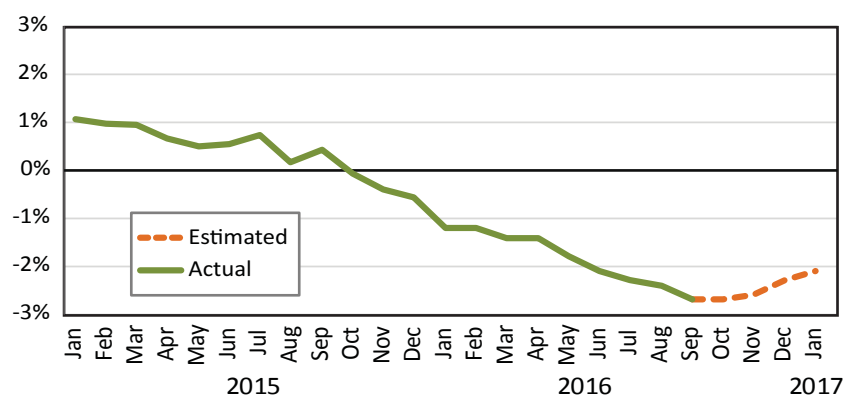
January 2005 to January 2017



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

Wage and Salary Employment

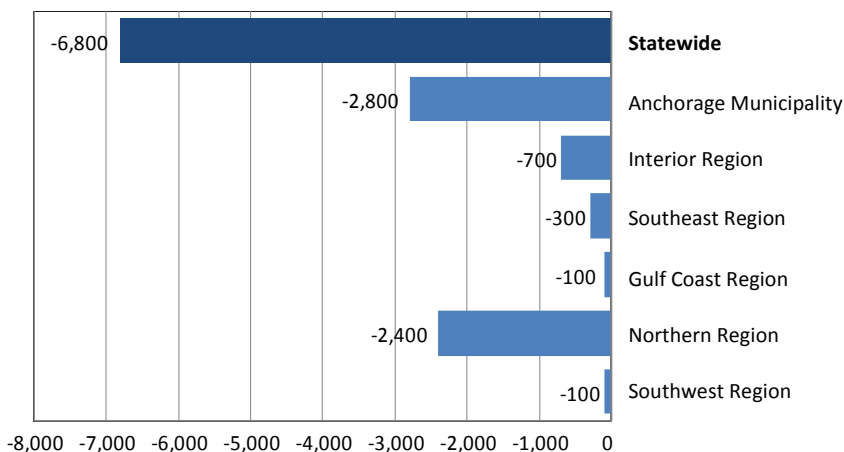
Percent change from same month the previous year



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 January 2016 to January 2017



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

Employment By Industry

	Average Monthly Employment			Compared to Jan 2016	
	Jan 2017 ¹	Dec 2016 ¹	Jan 2016 ²	Change	Percent Chg
Total Nonfarm Employment	310,400	313,600	317,200	-6,800	-2.1%
Total Private	230,200	232,200	236,000	-5,800	-2.5%
Mining and Logging	12,500	12,800	15,700	-3,200	-20.4%
Oil and Gas	10,100	10,100	12,900	-2,800	-21.7%
Construction	12,800	13,800	13,900	-1,100	-7.9%
Manufacturing	11,300	7,500	11,500	-200	-1.7%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	60,600	62,800	61,500	-900	-1.5%
Wholesale	6,200	6,300	6,400	-200	-3.1%
Retail	35,100	36,600	35,700	-600	-1.7%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	19,300	19,900	19,400	-100	-0.5%
Information	6,200	6,300	6,200	0	0%
Financial Activity	11,700	11,700	11,700	0	0%
Professional and Business Services	26,300	27,000	27,600	-1,300	-4.7%
Education and Health	48,200	48,700	47,300	900	1.9%
Health Care	35,700	35,700	34,800	900	2.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	29,900	30,700	29,900	0	0%
Other Services	10,700	10,900	10,700	0	0%
Total Government	80,200	81,400	81,200	-1,000	-1.2%
Federal	14,500	15,100	14,600	-100	-0.7%
State	23,800	23,900	24,900	-1,100	-4.4%
Local	41,900	42,400	41,700	200	0.5%

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					
				Number			Rate		
	1/17 ^P	12/16	1/16	1/17 ^P	12/16	1/16	1/17 ^P	12/16	1/16
Alaska	355,920	355,793	356,376	25,668	23,311	25,900	7.2	6.6	7.3
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	202,623	205,097	203,117	12,925	11,788	12,579	6.4	5.7	6.2
Anchorage, Municipality	156,202	158,326	156,606	8,749	8,052	8,486	5.6	5.1	5.4
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	46,421	46,771	46,511	4,176	3,736	4,093	9.0	8.0	8.8
Gulf Coast Region	37,005	36,881	36,391	3,117	2,937	3,293	8.4	8.0	9.0
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,496	26,728	26,100	2,351	2,142	2,476	8.9	8.0	9.5
Kodiak Island Borough	6,281	5,818	6,111	344	390	339	5.5	6.7	5.5
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,228	4,335	4,180	422	405	478	10.0	9.3	11.4
Interior Region	50,892	52,208	51,138	3,910	3,470	3,846	7.7	6.6	7.5
Denali Borough	602	676	603	124	123	131	20.6	18.2	21.7
Fairbanks North Star Borough	44,929	46,043	45,203	2,974	2,642	2,879	6.6	5.7	6.4
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,949	3,114	2,940	350	305	371	11.9	9.8	12.6
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,412	2,375	2,392	462	400	465	19.2	16.8	19.4
Northern Region	10,526	10,458	11,383	1,181	1,086	1,169	11.2	10.4	10.3
Nome Census Area	3,779	3,778	4,083	480	432	482	12.7	11.4	11.8
North Slope Borough	4,018	3,947	4,353	250	231	233	6.2	5.9	5.4
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,729	2,733	2,947	451	423	454	16.5	15.5	15.4
Southeast Region	35,350	35,255	34,837	2,597	2,257	2,827	7.3	6.4	8.1
Haines Borough	880	934	876	118	104	132	13.4	11.1	15.1
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	982	965	980	173	135	190	17.6	14.0	19.4
Juneau, City and Borough	17,053	16,665	16,681	851	742	853	5.0	4.5	5.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,553	6,519	6,491	476	420	553	7.3	6.4	8.5
Petersburg Borough	1,345	1,359	1,328	153	133	162	11.4	9.8	12.2
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,685	2,735	2,689	377	318	432	14.0	11.6	16.1
Sitka, City and Borough	4,022	4,251	3,961	213	180	234	5.3	4.2	5.9
Skagway, Municipality	594	632	600	126	130	141	21.2	20.6	23.5
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,014	972	1,007	89	75	103	8.8	7.7	10.2
Yakutat, City and Borough	222	223	224	21	20	27	9.5	9.0	12.1
Southwest Region	19,525	15,899	19,511	1,939	1,775	2,187	9.9	11.2	11.2
Aleutians East Borough	2,539	1,222	2,522	61	57	80	2.4	4.7	3.2
Aleutians West Census Area	4,603	2,851	4,544	125	131	133	2.7	4.6	2.9
Bethel Census Area	7,037	6,879	7,036	935	838	1,025	13.3	12.2	14.6
Bristol Bay Borough	233	225	227	33	30	30	14.2	13.3	13.2
Dillingham Census Area	1,952	1,540	1,933	183	175	191	9.4	11.4	9.9
Kusilvak Census Area	2,624	2,630	2,718	519	474	645	19.8	18.0	23.7
Lake and Peninsula Borough	537	552	531	83	70	83	15.5	12.7	15.6

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