

# News Release

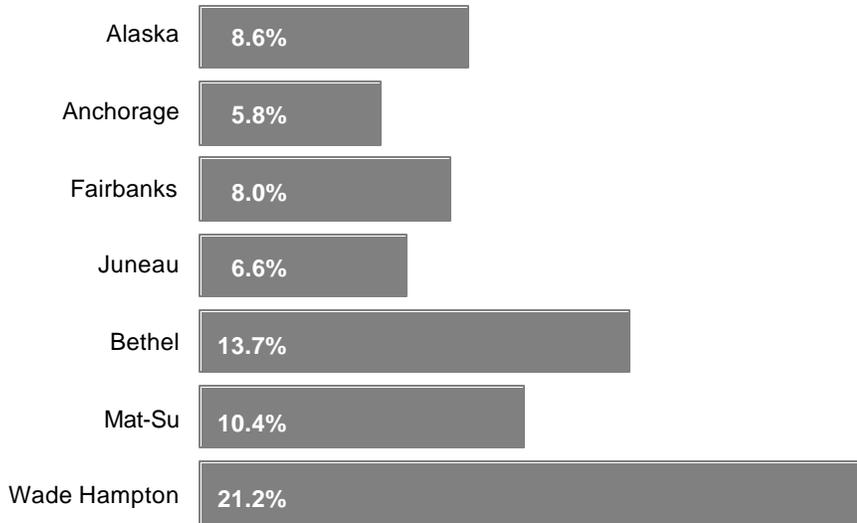
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## January Unemployment is 8.6 Percent

### January Unemployment for Selected Areas



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section  
CA indicates census area; other areas are boroughs. All rates not seasonally adjusted

(Detailed table on reverse)

### Alaska Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment

	preliminary 01/03	revised 12/02	Changes from		
			01/02	12/02	01/02
Total Nonagricultural Employment	277,200	287,400	271,200	-10,200	6,000
Natural Resources & Mining	9,900	9,900	10,500	0	-600
Construction	12,300	14,100	12,200	-1,800	100
Manufacturing	8,200	6,300	8,200	1,900	0
Retail Trade	32,300	34,000	32,000	-1,700	300
Information	7,000	7,200	6,900	-200	100
Financial Activities	13,400	13,500	13,200	-100	200
Leisure and Hospitality	24,800	27,200	24,000	-2,400	800
Government	80,300	83,600	77,800	-3,300	2,500

Government includes employees of public schools, the University of Alaska, and certain federally-recognized tribal entities.

Benchmark date: March 2002

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

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

January 2003:	Alaska 6.9%	U.S. 5.7%
December 2002:	Alaska 8.4%	U.S. 6.0%
January 2002:	Alaska 6.9%	U.S. 5.6%

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Alaska's January unemployment rate was 8.6 percent. Because of a change in how state unemployment rates are calculated, a break in series occurred between December 2002 and January 2003 and the January rate is not directly comparable with December's revised rate, which was also 8.6 percent. The comparable national rate is not yet available. Dan Robinson, a labor economist with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, reported the numbers.

Anchorage's unemployment rate was once again the lowest in the state at 5.8 percent. Juneau's rate was also relatively low at 6.6 percent. Fairbanks' rate was closer to the statewide average at 8.0 percent. The Wade Hampton Census Area recorded the state's highest rate at 21.2 percent.

Newly revised 2002 numbers show that the state has extended its streak of annual job growth to 15 years. Monthly wage and salary employment estimates show a typically large fall in jobs from December to January. From January 2002 to January 2003 the state added approximately 6,000 jobs.

Beginning in January 2003, wage and salary employment estimates are being published under a new classification system. The Standard Industrial Classification system (SIC) has been replaced by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). For more details about the change, see the July 2002 issue of Alaska Economic Trends (also available at our website: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>).

Some of the new categories can be seen in the table at left. Information, for example, is a new category that combines telecommunications, publishing, and internet service industries. Leisure and Hospitality is another new category, one that is especially relevant to Alaska since it combines for the first time most of the industries that rely on the large number of annual visitors to the state, such as hotels, restaurants, and recreation industries.

## Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	01/03	12/02	01/02	01/03	12/02	01/02	01/03	12/02	01/02	01/03	12/02	01/02
Alaska Statewide	334,292	322,147	315,002	28,877	27,660	27,172	8.6	8.6	8.6	305,415	294,487	287,830
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	189,835	184,251	176,442	12,573	12,147	11,219	6.6	6.6	6.4	177,262	172,104	165,223
Municipality of Anchorage	154,035	149,932	144,807	8,862	8,692	8,014	5.8	5.8	5.5	145,173	141,240	136,793
Mat-Su Borough	35,800	34,319	31,635	3,711	3,455	3,205	10.4	10.1	10.1	32,089	30,864	28,430
Gulf Coast Region	32,966	31,403	31,473	4,494	4,669	4,474	13.6	14.9	14.2	28,472	26,734	26,999
Kenai Peninsula Borough	21,740	20,446	20,596	3,161	3,001	2,978	14.5	14.7	14.5	18,579	17,445	17,618
Kodiak Island Borough	6,214	6,248	6,183	563	942	824	9.1	15.1	13.3	5,651	5,306	5,359
Valdez-Cordova CA	5,011	4,710	4,694	769	727	672	15.3	15.4	14.3	4,242	3,983	4,022
Interior Region	49,665	48,653	47,312	4,572	4,289	4,338	9.2	8.8	9.2	45,093	44,364	42,974
Denali Borough	1,247	1,223	1,170	197	189	169	15.8	15.5	14.4	1,050	1,034	1,001
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	43,439	42,589	41,463	3,465	3,261	3,367	8.0	7.7	8.1	39,974	39,328	38,096
Southeast Fairbanks CA	2,664	2,608	2,508	447	427	395	16.8	16.4	15.7	2,217	2,181	2,113
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	2,313	2,232	2,171	462	411	407	20.0	18.4	18.7	1,851	1,821	1,764
Northern Region	9,546	8,956	9,112	1,283	1,242	1,111	13.4	13.9	12.2	8,263	7,714	8,001
Nome Census Area	3,546	3,327	3,385	473	458	410	13.3	13.8	12.1	3,073	2,869	2,975
North Slope Borough	3,485	3,278	3,340	357	358	311	10.2	10.9	9.3	3,128	2,920	3,029
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,515	2,352	2,387	453	427	390	18.0	18.2	16.3	2,062	1,925	1,997
Southeast Region	36,740	35,545	35,948	3,834	3,330	4,126	10.4	9.4	11.5	32,906	32,215	31,822
Haines Borough	1,232	1,188	1,201	215	192	217	17.5	16.2	18.1	1,017	996	984
Juneau Borough	15,861	15,497	15,397	1,051	998	1,075	6.6	6.4	7.0	14,810	14,499	14,322
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,038	6,766	6,888	843	701	897	12.0	10.4	13.0	6,195	6,065	5,991
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	2,705	2,505	2,695	516	362	578	19.1	14.5	21.4	2,189	2,143	2,117
Sitka Borough	4,235	4,157	4,125	322	326	341	7.6	7.8	8.3	3,913	3,831	3,784
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	2,023	1,932	2,035	316	261	384	15.6	13.5	18.9	1,707	1,671	1,651
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,334	3,205	3,305	515	445	579	15.4	13.9	17.5	2,819	2,760	2,726
Yakutat Borough	310	295	301	55	45	54	17.7	15.3	17.9	255	250	247
Southwest Region	15,541	13,339	14,714	2,122	1,982	1,903	13.7	14.9	12.9	13,419	11,357	12,811
Aleutians East Borough	1,705	1,454	1,638	103	98	108	6.0	6.7	6.6	1,602	1,356	1,530
Aleutians West Census Area	2,683	2,267	2,568	345	288	336	12.9	12.7	13.1	2,338	1,979	2,232
Bethel Census Area	6,025	5,182	5,634	823	779	668	13.7	15.0	11.9	5,202	4,403	4,966
Bristol Bay Borough	513	445	527	53	56	88	10.3	12.6	16.7	460	389	439
Dillingham Census Area	1,873	1,608	1,749	248	233	198	13.2	14.5	11.3	1,625	1,375	1,551
Lake & Peninsula Borough	575	491	553	91	81	91	15.8	16.5	16.5	484	410	462
Wade Hampton CA	2,168	1,891	2,045	460	446	415	21.2	23.6	20.3	1,708	1,445	1,630

Benchmark: March 2002

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

• Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. • The official definition of unemployment currently in place 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. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed, because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.