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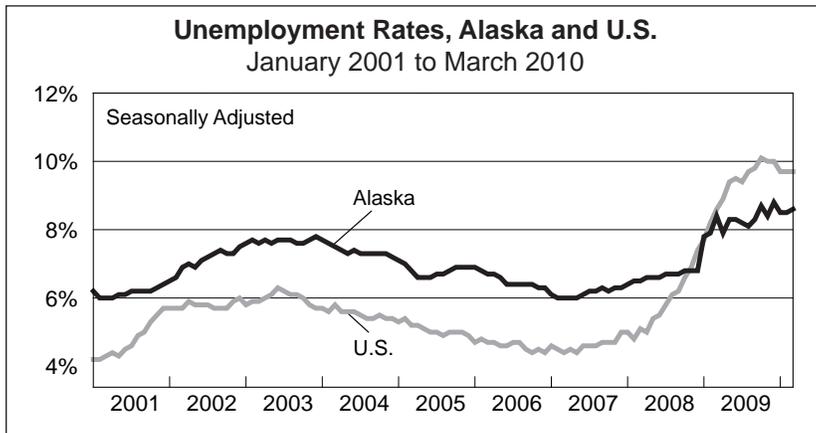
## Press Release

April 16, 2010

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 10-25

### Unemployment rate at 8.6 percent in March



Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 8.6 percent. February's revised rate was 8.5 percent, the same as its preliminary rate.

The comparable national rate for March was 9.7 percent.

The jobless rates for both Alaska and the U.S remain higher than they were in March 2009, but Alaska's picture is still better than the nation's – and its rate is still below the nation's.

The number of Alaska's unemployed in March was 4,400 higher than it was in March 2009.

There is, however, some potentially good news with unemployment claimants. The total number of unemployment weeks claimed through all programs fell between February and March to below year-ago levels for the first time since the national recession began in December 2007. More months of data will be necessary to see if that's a permanent trend or monthly aberration.

The lowest rate (not seasonally adjusted) was in the Aleutians West Census Area, which is anchored by the communities of Sand Point and King Cove, where the groundfish season is in full swing. The Aleutians East and Kodiak Island boroughs are also benefiting from groundfish activity.

Most of the other areas with relatively low unemployment rates were in the urban communities of Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks and Sitka.

The two areas with the highest jobless rates were the Denali Borough and the Skagway Municipality, possibly two of the state's most visitor-dependent places. There's little doubt those rates will come down as the year progresses and the visitor season kicks into high gear. With this year's prospect of fewer cruise ship passengers, those areas, along with others that depend on cruise ship passengers, will likely have higher jobless rates than in past years.

#### Alaska Nonfarm Payroll Employment<sup>1</sup>

	Preliminary 3/10	Revised 2/10	Revised 3/09	Year-over-year change		
				3/09	90% confidence interval <sup>5</sup>	
Total Nonfarm Employment <sup>2</sup>	313,100	311,100	309,000	4,100	-3,283	11,483
Mining and Logging	15,100	15,000	15,500	-400	-1,193	393
Oil and Gas	12,700	12,700	13,400	-700	-	-
Construction	13,200	13,000	13,600	-400	-2,983	2,183
Manufacturing	13,200	13,400	11,900	1,300	306	2,294
Seafood Processing	9,400	9,400	8,400	1,000	-	-
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	61,200	60,500	60,000	1,200	-1,172	3,572
Retail Trade	35,300	34,800	33,800	1,500	-528	3,528
Information	6,400	6,400	6,700	-300	-881	281
Financial Activities	13,700	13,900	14,300	-600	-2,543	1,343
Professional and Business Services	24,000	23,600	25,500	-1,500	-3,293	293
Educational <sup>3</sup> and Health Services	40,200	40,300	38,500	1,700	432	2,968
Health Care	29,300	29,200	27,700	1,600	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	27,700	27,500	27,500	200	-1,837	2,237
Accommodations	6,000	6,100	6,100	-100	-	-
Food Svcs. and Drinking Places	17,700	17,500	17,500	200	-	-
Other Services	11,400	11,200	11,200	200	-2,976	3,376
Government <sup>4</sup>	87,000	86,300	84,300	2,700	-	-

#### Notes:

A dash indicates that confidence intervals are not available at this level of detail.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has implemented a change to the method used to produce statewide wage and salary employment estimates, which has resulted in increased monthly volatility in the wage and salary estimates for many states, including Alaska. Therefore, one should be cautious in interpreting any over-the-year or month-to-month change for these monthly estimates. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages series may be a better information source (<http://labor.alaska.gov/qcew.htm>).

<sup>1</sup> Not seasonally adjusted

<sup>2</sup> Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers

<sup>3</sup> Private education only

<sup>4</sup> Includes public schools, the University of Alaska and federally recognized tribal entities

<sup>5</sup> Based on the margin of error of the estimate, a 90 percent confidence interval statistically determines a range of values within which the "true" value falls with a 90 percent level of confidence. For more information, go to <http://labor.alaska.gov/research/c-i.pdf>.

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

#### Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	3/10	2/10	3/09
Alaska	8.6%	8.5%	7.5%
U.S.	9.7%	9.7%	8.6%

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Research and Analysis' Web site: <http://laborstats.alaska.gov>

## Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	3/10 <sup>P</sup>	2/10	3/09	Number			Rate		
				3/10 <sup>P</sup>	2/10	3/09	3/10 <sup>P</sup>	2/10	3/09
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	<b>363,184</b>	<b>361,725</b>	<b>355,725</b>	<b>34,906</b>	<b>34,939</b>	<b>29,632</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>202,259</b>	<b>201,841</b>	<b>196,866</b>	<b>17,453</b>	<b>17,174</b>	<b>14,288</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Municipality of Anchorage	158,321	157,990	154,162	12,434	12,213	10,034	7.9	7.7	6.5
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,938	43,851	42,704	5,019	4,961	4,254	11.4	11.3	10.0
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>38,064</b>	<b>37,433</b>	<b>37,016</b>	<b>4,506</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>3,825</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,524	26,300	25,835	3,422	3,499	2,869	12.9	13.3	11.1
Kodiak Island Borough	6,722	6,632	6,485	508	514	414	7.6	7.8	6.4
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,818	4,501	4,696	576	607	542	12.0	13.5	11.5
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>53,339</b>	<b>53,290</b>	<b>52,722</b>	<b>5,217</b>	<b>5,296</b>	<b>4,499</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>8.5</b>
Denali Borough	575	663	868	166	183	155	28.9	27.6	17.9
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,218	46,073	45,514	4,001	4,028	3,435	8.7	8.7	7.5
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,676	3,636	3,550	485	502	408	13.2	13.8	11.5
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,870	2,918	2,790	565	583	501	19.7	20.0	18.0
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>12,541</b>	<b>12,520</b>	<b>12,522</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>9.1</b>
Nome Census Area	4,143	4,055	4,010	604	601	505	14.6	14.8	12.6
North Slope Borough	5,548	5,538	5,564	303	296	245	5.5	5.3	4.4
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,850	2,927	2,948	476	469	384	16.7	16.0	13.0
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>38,230</b>	<b>37,932</b>	<b>37,988</b>	<b>3,818</b>	<b>3,963</b>	<b>3,630</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>9.6</b>
Haines Borough	1,134	1,121	1,109	164	162	169	14.5	14.5	15.2
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area <sup>2</sup>	868	868	916	219	237	259	25.2	27.3	28.3
Juneau Borough	18,216	18,137	18,171	1,290	1,323	1,214	7.1	7.3	6.7
Ketchikan Gateway Borough <sup>2</sup>	7,668	7,511	7,517	800	799	691	10.4	10.6	9.2
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area <sup>2</sup>	2,367	2,357	2,361	461	473	467	19.5	20.1	19.8
Sitka Borough	4,474	4,382	4,458	341	362	326	7.6	8.3	7.3
Skagway Municipality <sup>2</sup>	515	531	487	135	162	102	26.2	30.5	20.9
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area <sup>2</sup>	2,710	2,749	2,679	366	400	356	13.5	14.6	13.3
Yakutat Borough	278	276	290	42	45	46	15.1	16.3	15.9
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>18,753</b>	<b>18,712</b>	<b>18,608</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>2,521</b>	<b>2,257</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>12.1</b>
Aleutians East Borough	1,228	1,218	1,245	99	97	88	8.1	8.0	7.1
Aleutians West Census Area	4,158	4,230	4,184	170	193	158	4.1	4.6	3.8
Bethel Census Area	7,133	7,156	6,952	1,196	1,171	1,026	16.8	16.4	14.8
Bristol Bay Borough	435	414	435	55	56	55	12.6	13.5	12.6
Dillingham Census Area	2,157	2,104	2,129	263	258	239	12.2	12.3	11.2
Lake and Peninsula Borough	817	773	923	110	117	114	13.5	15.1	12.4
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,825	2,817	2,740	635	629	577	22.5	22.3	21.1

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 individuals in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

<sup>1</sup> Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

<sup>2</sup> Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the Skagway Municipality and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (previously the Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area) became available in 2010. Data for the Wrangell Borough, and Petersburg and Prince of Wales-Hyder census areas will be available in 2011. Until then, data will continue to be published for the old areas.

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