



Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

March 18, 2016

No. 16-14

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Unemployment rate remains at 6.6 percent in February

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in February, unchanged from the previous month. The comparable U.S. rate was also unchanged at 4.9 percent.

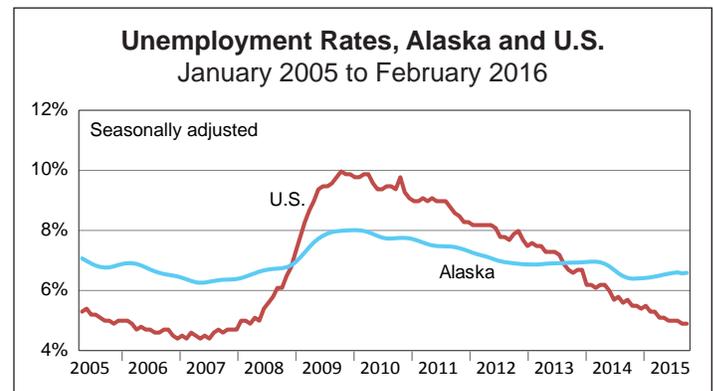
The state's seasonally adjusted rate has remained fairly steady since the beginning of 2015, which suggests the wake from the drop in oil prices still hasn't hit Alaska's economy on a broad scale.

The not-seasonally adjusted rate in February was 7.7 percent, up from 7.3 percent in January. This increase was larger than the average between January and February, but not outside of historical norms.

Unadjusted rates increased or were flat in 25 out of 29 boroughs and census areas in February, following the normal winter pattern. Rates fell in the Aleutians East and Kodiak Island boroughs and the Aleutians West Census Area because of the winter groundfish season, making them the lowest rates in the state.

Employment was flat or fell in all of Alaska's economic regions in February versus the same month in 2015. Job levels in Anchorage, the Interior and Southwest were essentially the same as in February 2015. Losses in the Northern and Gulf Coast regions were driven largely by declining employment in the oil and construction industries, while Southeast faced declining state government employment.

Other major sectors either grew slightly or were on



	2/16	1/16	2/15
Alaska	6.6%	6.6%	6.4%
U.S.	4.9%	4.9%	5.5%

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

par with the previous year. The retail trade, health care and leisure and hospitality sectors were up slightly in February over the previous year, and manufacturing was flat. While state government losses dragged down public sector employment, growth in federal and local government employment nearly offset the losses.

For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions. For more information on unemployment rates around the state, see live.laborstats.alaska.gov/labforce/.

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Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	2/16 ^P	1/16	2/15	Number			Rate		
				2/16 ^P	1/16	2/15	2/16 ^P	1/16	2/15
Alaska	357,095	357,087	360,580	27,567	26,108	26,620	7.7	7.3	7.4
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	201,692	202,804	202,615	13,430	12,685	12,495	6.7	6.3	6.2
Anchorage, Municipality	156,753	157,690	157,605	9,115	8,591	8,508	5.8	5.4	5.4
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,939	45,114	45,010	4,315	4,094	3,987	9.6	9.1	8.9
Gulf Coast Region	37,249	36,828	37,687	3,543	3,317	3,391	9.5	9.0	9.0
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,455	26,501	26,682	2,699	2,491	2,505	10.2	9.4	9.4
Kodiak Island Borough	6,580	6,155	6,696	335	342	344	5.1	5.6	5.1
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,214	4,172	4,309	509	484	542	12.1	11.6	12.6
Interior Region	51,033	51,129	51,742	4,001	3,880	3,912	7.8	7.6	7.6
Denali Borough	584	594	586	127	132	129	21.7	22.2	22.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,036	45,202	45,736	2,969	2,903	2,867	6.6	6.4	6.3
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,948	2,933	2,943	393	376	390	13.3	12.8	13.3
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,465	2,400	2,477	512	469	526	20.8	19.5	21.2
Northern Region	11,273	11,309	11,795	1,271	1,179	1,310	11.3	10.4	11.1
Nome Census Area	4,013	4,018	4,200	522	486	541	13.0	12.1	12.9
North Slope Borough	4,433	4,416	4,635	261	236	260	5.9	5.3	5.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,827	2,875	2,960	488	457	509	17.3	15.9	17.2
Southeast Region	35,015	34,962	35,616	2,993	2,844	3,049	8.5	8.1	8.6
Haines Borough	938	901	946	160	134	155	17.1	14.9	16.4
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,009	973	1,053	214	191	245	21.2	19.6	23.3
Juneau, City and Borough	16,724	16,832	17,027	882	855	914	5.3	5.1	5.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,296	6,327	6,397	584	555	588	9.3	8.8	9.2
Petersburg Borough	1,445	1,449	1,472	170	164	176	11.8	11.3	12.0
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,682	2,655	2,715	449	437	446	16.7	16.5	16.4
Sitka, City and Borough	4,118	4,026	4,195	245	236	253	5.9	5.9	6.0
Skagway, Municipality	620	616	615	157	141	146	25.3	22.9	23.7
Wrangell, City and Borough	953	958	962	105	105	99	11.0	11.0	10.3
Yakutat, City and Borough	230	225	234	27	26	27	11.7	11.6	11.5
Southwest Region	20,829	20,057	21,123	2,328	2,204	2,461	11.2	11.0	11.7
Aleutians East Borough	3,141	2,551	3,168	79	81	79	2.5	3.2	2.5
Aleutians West Census Area	4,829	4,881	4,902	123	135	155	2.5	2.8	3.2
Bethel Census Area	7,217	7,177	7,350	1,082	1,032	1,162	15.0	14.4	15.8
Bristol Bay Borough	230	225	250	35	31	53	15.2	13.8	21.2
Dillingham Census Area	2,044	1,971	2,049	214	192	204	10.5	9.7	10.0
Kusilvak Census Area	2,841	2,735	2,866	707	648	713	24.9	23.7	24.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	527	517	538	88	85	95	16.7	16.4	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