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Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 7.2 percent in January

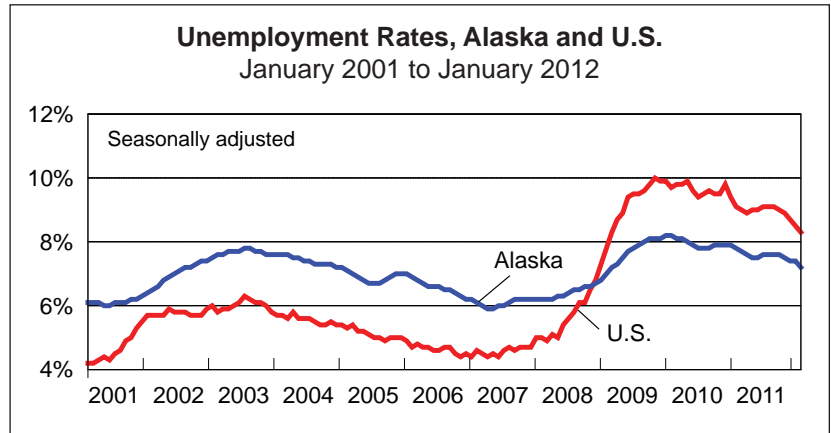
Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 7.2 percent in January, down two-tenths of a percentage point from December's revised rate.

The comparable national rate for January was 8.3 percent, down slightly from 8.5 percent in December. In January of 2011, the national unemployment rate was 9.1 percent, compared to 7.8 percent for Alaska. If current trends continue, 2012 would represent the third straight year of declining rates for both the U.S. and Alaska.

Due mostly to the severity of the national recession, 2009 was the first year in Alaska's history that the state's annual jobless rate was lower than the nation's. The U.S. rate remained higher than Alaska's in 2010 and 2011, although the gap has narrowed in recent months.

Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates tend to climb through February, and January rates increased as expected in four of the state's six regions and in 24 of the 29 boroughs and census areas. There were a number of exceptions, all in the Southwest and Gulf Coast regions. Rates fell in Kodiak, Aleutians East Borough, and Aleutians West Census Area when fishing began in January for pollock, cod, mackerel, and tanner crab.

In January, the North Slope Borough had the lowest unemployment rate and Skagway had the highest. North Slope activity tends to be less seasonal, and Skagway is an extreme



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted			
	1/12	12/11	1/11
Alaska	7.2%	7.4%	7.8%
U.S.	8.3%	8.5%	9.1%

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

example of seasonality. Four areas' rates exceeded 20 percent in January, indicative of the typical economic lull in Alaska at this time each year.

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

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	1/12 ^P	12/11	1/11	Number			Rate		
				1/12 ^P	12/11	1/11	1/12 ^P	12/11	1/11
Alaska Statewide	361,993	365,712	362,174	29,233	27,692	31,896	8.1	7.6	8.8
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	200,554	203,235	201,926	13,651	12,732	15,306	6.8	6.3	7.6
Municipality of Anchorage	157,019	159,292	158,029	9,368	8,797	10,601	6.0	5.5	6.7
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43,535	43,943	43,897	4,283	3,935	4,705	9.8	9.0	10.7
Gulf Coast Region	38,640	38,870	37,804	3,808	3,900	4,183	9.9	10.0	11.1
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,803	27,263	26,478	2,792	2,564	3,146	10.4	9.4	11.9
Kodiak Island Borough	7,063	6,812	6,668	473	803	446	6.7	11.8	6.7
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,774	4,795	4,658	543	533	591	11.4	11.1	12.7
Interior Region	53,071	55,137	53,194	4,610	4,251	4,899	8.7	7.7	9.2
Denali Borough	841	857	849	187	180	199	22.2	21.0	23.4
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,690	47,446	45,876	3,424	3,158	3,644	7.5	6.7	7.9
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,467	3,595	3,489	449	410	484	13.0	11.4	13.9
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	3,073	3,239	2,980	550	503	572	17.9	15.5	19.2
Northern Region	13,095	13,182	12,727	1,284	1,180	1,272	9.8	9.0	10.0
Nome Census Area	4,218	4,268	4,233	507	472	538	12.0	11.1	12.7
North Slope Borough	5,764	5,747	5,413	296	281	276	5.1	4.9	5.1
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,113	3,167	3,081	481	427	458	15.5	13.5	14.9
Southeast Region	38,061	38,681	38,085	3,324	3,077	3,675	8.7	8.0	9.6
Haines Borough	1,055	1,102	1,080	132	129	154	12.5	11.7	14.3
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	813	846	820	214	184	221	26.3	21.7	27.0
Juneau, City and Borough of	18,696	18,630	18,662	1,011	925	1,140	5.4	5.0	6.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,547	7,812	7,560	676	630	758	9.0	8.1	10.0
Petersburg Census Area	1,561	1,698	1,606	224	244	280	14.3	14.4	17.4
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,301	2,383	2,294	446	365	453	19.4	15.3	19.7
Sitka, City and Borough of	4,307	4,312	4,284	303	293	344	7.0	6.8	8.0
Skagway, Municipality of	535	575	553	152	151	170	28.4	26.3	30.7
Wrangell, City and Borough of	994	1,062	972	130	122	114	13.1	11.5	11.7
Yakutat, City and Borough of	252	261	254	36	34	41	14.3	13.0	16.1
Southwest Region	18,572	16,608	18,438	2,556	2,553	2,561	13.8	15.4	13.9
Aleutians East Borough	1,370	836	1,306	161	214	129	11.8	25.6	9.9
Aleutians West Census Area	3,779	2,289	3,692	290	442	248	7.7	19.3	6.7
Bethel Census Area	7,256	7,404	7,276	1,129	1,010	1,158	15.6	13.6	15.9
Bristol Bay Borough	459	535	452	52	46	53	11.3	8.6	11.7
Dillingham Census Area	2,000	1,817	1,998	217	202	232	10.9	11.1	11.6
Lake and Peninsula Borough	924	1,066	914	107	84	115	11.6	7.9	12.6
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,784	2,661	2,800	600	555	626	21.6	20.9	22.4

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