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Press Release

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Unemployment rate at 6.5 percent in March

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.5 percent in March, up slightly from February's 6.3 percent. The comparable national rate was 5.5 percent.

The not-seasonally adjusted rate was 7.5 percent, down slightly from 7.6 percent in February. The unadjusted rate typically falls in March and will likely continue to drop through May as Alaska's seasonal economy heats up.

The highest March rate was in the Wade Hampton Census Area, at 26.6 percent. The lowest rates were in the Aleutians West Census Area and the Aleutians East Borough, at 2.6 and 3.2 percent respectively, due to the busy winter pollock season.

Regional jobs report

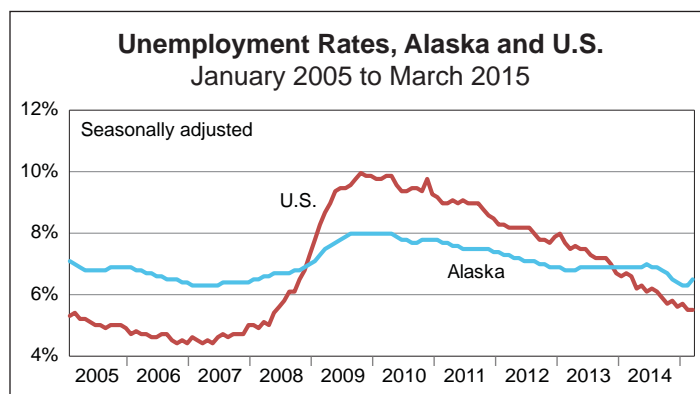
Job numbers around the state were generally down during the first three months of the year compared to the same period in 2014.

Anchorage had a small overall decline with a mix of modest losses and smaller gains at the industry level that continued the trend from late 2014. Retail trade remains the biggest source of new jobs. The largest losses were in professional and business services. Other sectors, such as leisure and hospitality, posted smaller declines. Some of the weakness in leisure and hospitality is likely tied to the lack of snow this season, which cut into winter recreation.

Southeast began its typical employment climb in February and March, as employers added jobs in anticipation of summer. However, total employment was down compared to the same period last year due to less-than-usual growth in construction and seafood processing plus continued declines in government.

Southwest saw seasonal growth from winter pollock fishing, but job levels were down slightly from last year. Government jobs have fallen, with tribal government in particular down from last year's job levels.

In the **Gulf Coast**, growth in seafood processing, mining, and leisure and hospitality balanced out losses in health care and government for modest overall job growth. Leisure and hospitality began its annual climb in anticipation of the tourist season, and seafood processing was up due to higher-than-average winter pollock processing employment.



	3/15	2/15	3/14
Alaska	6.5%	6.3%	6.9%
U.S.	5.5%	5.5%	6.6%

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

The **Interior**, which includes Fairbanks, lost a small number of total jobs compared to the first three months of 2014. The region's health care employment is growing again after losing ground in 2014. State and federal jobs were also down from this period last year.

In the **Northern** Region, job levels were up from the same period in 2014. Health care employment has continued to grow. Federal employment remained on a slow decline like the rest of the state, but the region's local governments added enough jobs to offset the loss.

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Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

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For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	3/15 ^P	2/15	3/14	Number			Rate		
				3/15 ^P	2/15	3/14	3/15 ^P	2/15	3/14
Alaska	363,089	362,202	363,392	27,153	27,668	27,470	7.5	7.6	7.6
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	203,545	202,988	203,177	12,958	12,957	12,803	6.4	6.4	6.3
Anchorage, Municipality	159,220	158,783	158,974	8,855	8,872	8,784	5.6	5.6	5.5
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,325	44,205	44,203	4,103	4,085	4,019	9.3	9.2	9.1
Gulf Coast Region	38,207	38,171	38,022	3,464	3,526	3,404	9.1	9.2	9.0
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,021	26,963	26,833	2,567	2,604	2,467	9.5	9.7	9.2
Kodiak Island Borough	6,672	6,841	6,669	339	358	360	5.1	5.2	5.4
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,514	4,367	4,520	558	564	577	12.4	12.9	12.8
Interior Region	52,469	52,203	52,753	3,877	4,086	4,037	7.4	7.8	7.7
Denali Borough	604	599	626	118	133	138	19.5	22.2	22.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,524	46,312	46,685	2,834	2,998	2,877	6.1	6.5	6.2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,812	2,777	2,869	397	405	452	14.1	14.6	15.8
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,529	2,515	2,573	528	550	570	20.9	21.9	22.2
Northern Region	11,703	11,696	11,510	1,337	1,363	1,364	11.4	11.7	11.9
Nome Census Area	4,196	4,215	4,100	560	564	540	13.3	13.4	13.2
North Slope Borough	4,536	4,493	4,444	253	267	252	5.6	5.9	5.7
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,971	2,988	2,966	524	532	572	17.6	17.8	19.3
Southeast Region	35,695	35,554	36,193	2,965	3,172	3,140	8.3	8.9	8.7
Haines Borough	981	938	986	145	158	143	14.8	16.8	14.5
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	997	1,069	1,007	229	256	231	23.0	23.9	22.9
Juneau, City and Borough	16,889	16,913	17,103	924	955	981	5.5	5.6	5.7
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,440	6,412	6,540	581	603	624	9.0	9.4	9.5
Petersburg Census Area	1,463	1,468	1,480	182	191	186	12.4	13.0	12.6
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,636	2,700	2,676	425	459	442	16.1	17.0	16.5
Sitka, City and Borough	4,452	4,251	4,523	233	264	262	5.2	6.2	5.8
Skagway, Municipality	575	597	597	122	151	140	21.2	25.3	23.5
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,032	967	1,042	99	107	100	9.6	11.1	9.6
Yakutat, City and Borough	230	239	239	25	28	31	10.9	11.7	13.0
Southwest Region	21,470	21,588	21,738	2,553	2,562	2,723	11.9	11.9	12.5
Aleutians East Borough	2,529	2,489	2,568	81	85	107	3.2	3.4	4.2
Aleutians West Census Area	5,927	6,200	6,010	153	164	207	2.6	2.6	3.4
Bethel Census Area	7,220	7,112	7,329	1,185	1,209	1,262	16.4	17.0	17.2
Bristol Bay Borough	250	268	244	52	54	44	20.8	20.1	18.0
Dillingham Census Area	2,105	2,119	2,128	213	213	227	10.1	10.1	10.7
Lake and Peninsula Borough	529	524	551	95	95	115	18.0	18.1	20.9
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,910	2,876	2,908	774	742	761	26.6	25.8	26.2

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