

Heidi Drygas  
Commissioner

[www.labor.alaska.gov](http://www.labor.alaska.gov)



P.O. Box 111149  
Juneau, AK 99811-1149  
907.465.2700  
[commissioner.labor@alaska.gov](mailto:commissioner.labor@alaska.gov)

## Press Release

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For more information: **Conor Bell, Economist**  
907-465-6037, [Conor Bell@Alaska.Gov](mailto:Conor.Bell@Alaska.Gov)

### Unemployment Rate at 6.4 Percent in February

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in February, essentially unchanged from January's 6.5 percent. The comparable national rate was 4.7 percent. The state's seasonally adjusted rate remained steady throughout 2016 and early 2017 despite falling employment.

Preliminary estimates show employment was down by 6,500, or 2.0 percent, compared to the previous February. Substantial job losses continued in oil, construction, state government, and professional and business services, which is tied to oil and construction activity. Retail trade recorded significant losses, suggesting declining consumer spending. The only industries with notable growth were health care and local government.

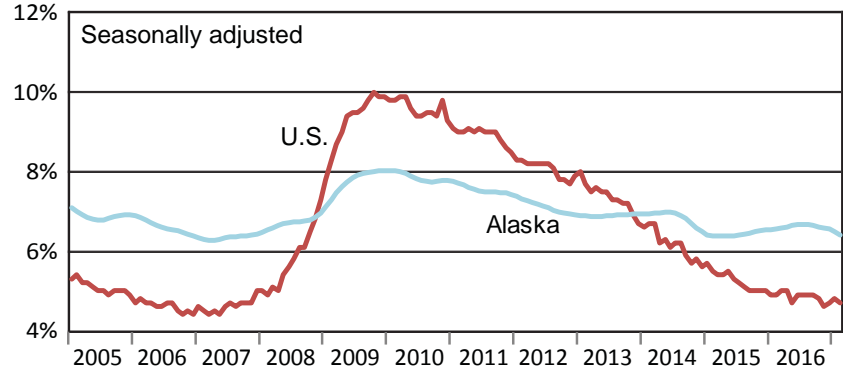
February's not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.4 percent, up two-tenths of a percentage point from January, which is a typical seasonal increase.

Across the state, unemployment rates fell in 10 boroughs and census areas, rose in 18, and remained unchanged in one. Denali Borough had the highest unemployment rate at 21.4 percent, and Aleutians East Borough had the lowest rate at 1.7 percent. Regions with winter fisheries had the lowest rates.

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# Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

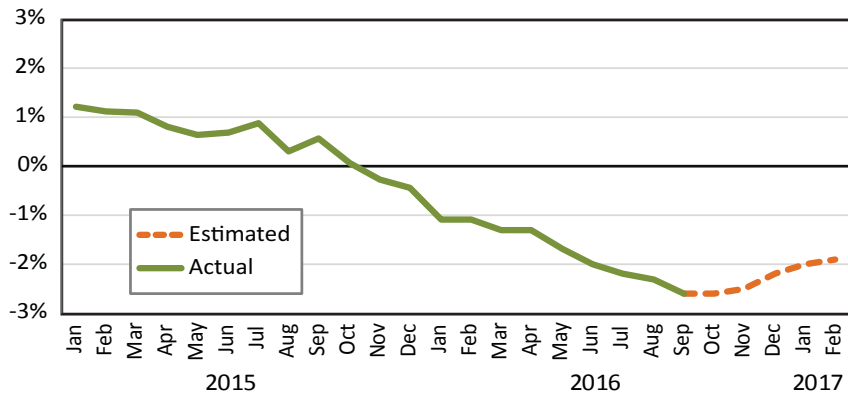
January 2005 to February 2017



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

# Wage and Salary Employment

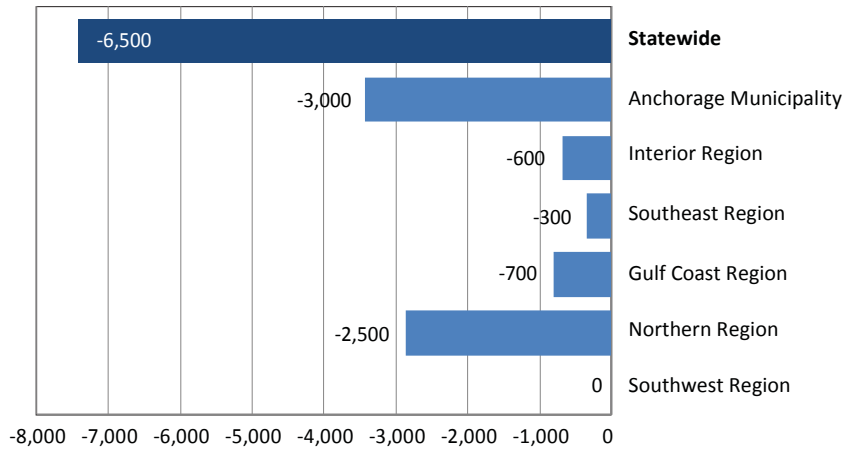
Percent change from same month the previous year



Note: Actual employment counts through June 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages employment series. Estimated employment counts from July through December are based on a forecast of the QCEW series.

# Regional Employment

Change from January 2016 to February 2017



Sources: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages; and Current Employment Statistics

# Employment By Industry

	Average Monthly Employment			Compared to Feb 2016	
	Feb 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Jan 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Feb 2016 <sup>2</sup>	Change	Percent Chg
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>315,200</b>	<b>310,400</b>	<b>321,700</b>	<b>-6,500</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>233,900</b>	<b>230,200</b>	<b>239,500</b>	<b>-5,600</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>
Mining and Logging	12,600	12,500	15,500	-2,900	-18.7%
Oil and Gas	10,200	10,100	12,700	-2,500	-19.7%
Construction	13,100	12,800	14,100	-1,000	-7.1%
Manufacturing	13,100	11,300	13,500	-400	-3.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	60,500	60,600	61,600	-1,100	-1.8%
Wholesale	6,200	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1%
Retail	34,900	35,100	35,500	-600	-1.7%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	19,400	19,300	19,700	-300	-1.5%
Information	6,300	6,200	6,300	0	0.0%
Financial Activity	11,700	11,700	11,600	100	0.9%
Professional and Business Services	26,700	26,300	27,700	-1,000	-3.6%
Education and Health	48,800	48,200	48,200	600	1.2%
Health Care	35,700	35,700	35,000	700	2.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	30,400	29,900	30,300	100	0.3%
Other Services	10,700	10,700	10,700	0	0%
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>81,300</b>	<b>80,200</b>	<b>82,200</b>	<b>-900</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>
Federal	14,600	14,500	14,700	-100	-0.7%
State	24,200	23,800	25,300	-1,100	-4.3%
Local	42,500	41,900	42,200	300	0.7%

<sup>1</sup>Employment estimates for 2017 are based on a forecast of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data.

<sup>2</sup>Employment estimates for 2016 are from the benchmarked Current Employment Statistics employment data.

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

	Civilian Labor Force <sup>2</sup>			Unemployed					
				Number			Rate		
	2/17 <sup>P</sup>	1/17	2/16	2/17 <sup>P</sup>	1/17	2/16	2/17 <sup>P</sup>	1/17	2/16
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>360,285</b>	<b>356,084</b>	<b>357,339</b>	<b>26,802</b>	<b>25,625</b>	<b>26,762</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>204,298</b>	<b>202,486</b>	<b>202,173</b>	<b>13,590</b>	<b>12,897</b>	<b>13,036</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Anchorage, Municipality	157,422	156,099	155,841	9,230	8,730	8,815	5.9	5.6	5.7
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	46,876	46,387	46,332	4,360	4,167	4,221	9.3	9.0	9.1
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>37,110</b>	<b>36,985</b>	<b>36,967</b>	<b>3,289</b>	<b>3,112</b>	<b>3,439</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>9.3</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,207	26,481	26,105	2,524	2,347	2,624	9.6	8.9	10.1
Kodiak Island Borough	6,645	6,278	6,625	299	344	324	4.5	5.5	4.9
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,258	4,226	4,237	466	421	491	10.9	10.0	11.6
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>51,773</b>	<b>51,247</b>	<b>51,027</b>	<b>3,990</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Denali Borough	632	602	602	135	124	123	21.4	20.6	20.4
Fairbanks North Star Borough	45,652	45,288	45,067	2,979	2,970	2,881	6.5	6.6	6.4
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,023	2,947	2,963	361	349	380	11.9	11.8	12.8
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,466	2,410	2,395	515	461	497	20.9	19.1	20.8
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>10,493</b>	<b>10,519</b>	<b>11,294</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>10.9</b>
Nome Census Area	3,801	3,777	4,082	516	479	507	13.6	12.7	12.4
North Slope Borough	3,987	4,015	4,317	261	249	252	6.5	6.2	5.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,705	2,727	2,895	492	450	476	18.2	16.5	16.4
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>35,449</b>	<b>35,334</b>	<b>34,963</b>	<b>2,640</b>	<b>2,597</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Haines Borough	905	879	916	114	118	154	12.6	13.4	16.8
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	990	980	997	176	172	207	17.8	17.6	20.8
Juneau, City and Borough	16,991	17,040	16,644	861	850	862	5.1	5.0	5.2
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,476	6,548	6,411	500	475	568	7.7	7.3	8.9
Petersburg Borough	1,369	1,344	1,355	146	152	164	10.7	11.3	12.1
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,745	2,683	2,739	379	376	435	13.8	14.0	15.9
Sitka, City and Borough	4,140	4,024	4,066	224	212	237	5.4	5.3	5.8
Skagway, Municipality	589	600	605	125	132	154	21.2	22.0	25.5
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,024	1,014	1,013	89	89	101	8.7	8.8	10.0
Yakutat, City and Borough	220	222	217	26	21	28	11.8	9.5	12.9
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>21,164</b>	<b>19,515</b>	<b>20,916</b>	<b>2,024</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>2,262</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>10.8</b>
Aleutians East Borough	3,478	2,538	3,413	60	61	77	1.7	2.4	2.3
Aleutians West Census Area	5,141	4,602	5,026	108	126	119	2.1	2.7	2.4
Bethel Census Area	6,978	7,033	6,904	971	934	1,051	13.9	13.3	15.2
Bristol Bay Borough	246	233	237	34	33	34	13.8	14.2	14.3
Dillingham Census Area	2,053	1,951	2,015	196	183	207	9.5	9.4	10.3
Kusilvak Census Area	2,718	2,622	2,785	570	518	690	21.0	19.8	24.8
Lake and Peninsula Borough	550	536	536	85	83	84	15.5	15.5	15.7

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.

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

<sup>2</sup>The labor force is the sum of the unemployed and the employed.

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