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## Press Release

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### Unemployment Rate at 6.4 Percent in March

JUNEAU, Alaska— Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in March, unchanged from February. The comparable national rate was 4.5 percent.

Preliminary estimates show employment was down by 7,100 jobs, or 2.2 percent, compared to March 2016. Substantial losses continued in oil, construction, state government, and professional and business services, which is tied to oil and construction activity. Health care, local government, and leisure and hospitality were the only industries with job growth.

While Alaska has been losing jobs for over a year now, employment loss doesn't necessarily lead to higher unemployment rates. To be counted as unemployed, a person must remain in the state and be actively seeking work.

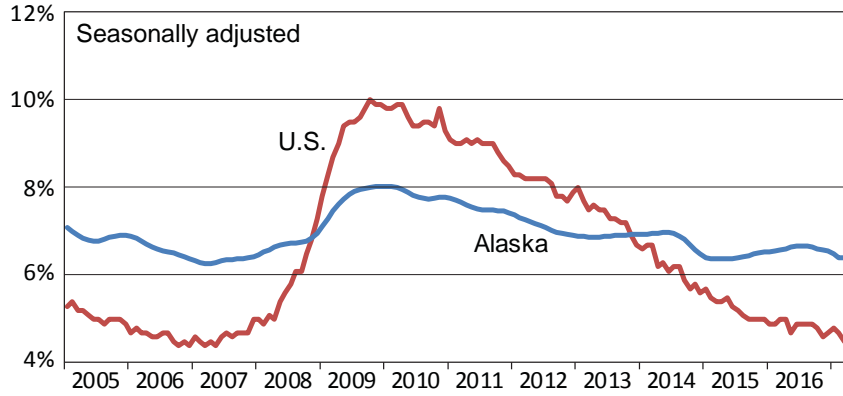
March's not-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 7.2 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from February, which is a typical seasonal change.

Unadjusted rates fell in all but four boroughs and census areas. Kusilvak Census Area had the highest unemployment rate at 20.4 percent. Aided by winter fisheries, Aleutians East Borough had the lowest rate at 1.8 percent.

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# Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.

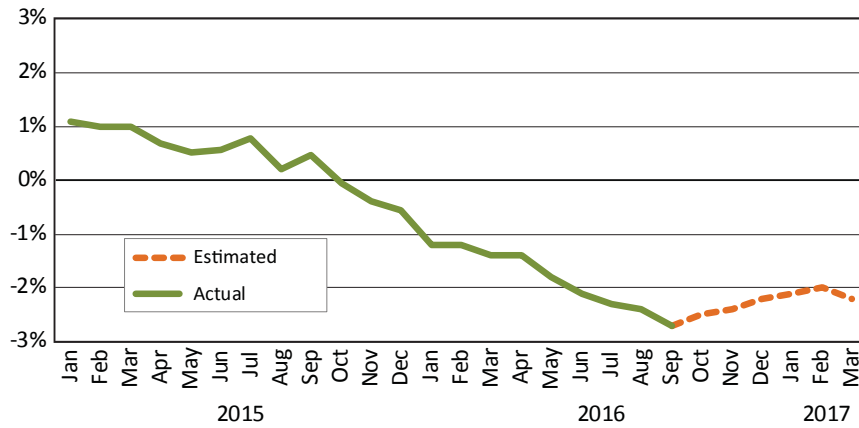
January 2005 to March 2017



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

# Wage and Salary Employment

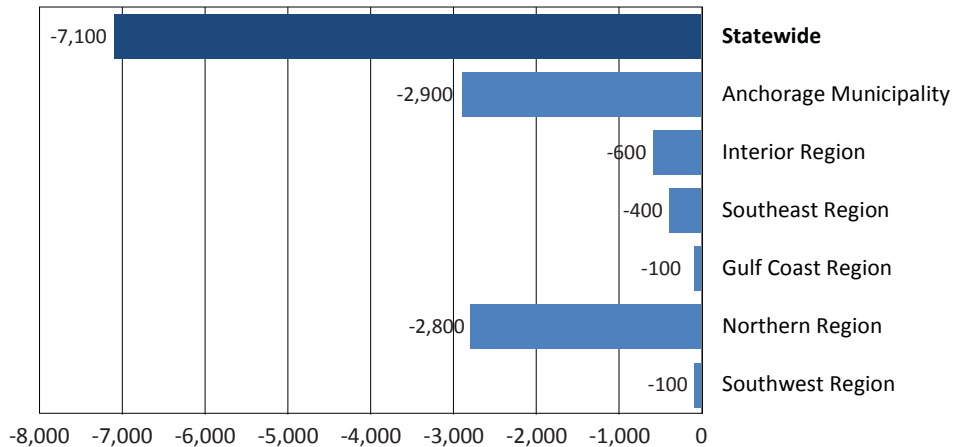
Percent change from same month the previous year



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 March 2016 to March 2017



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

# Employment By Industry

	Average Monthly Employment			Compared to March 2016	
	March 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Feb 2017 <sup>1</sup>	March 2016 <sup>2</sup>	Change	Percent Chg
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>316,400</b>	<b>315,200</b>	<b>323,500</b>	<b>-7,100</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>235,000</b>	<b>233,900</b>	<b>241,200</b>	<b>-6,200</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>
Mining and Logging	13,000	13,000	15,600	-2,600	-16.7%
Oil and Gas	10,300	10,300	12,700	-2,400	-18.9%
Construction	13,100	13,000	14,300	-1,200	-8.4%
Manufacturing	13,300	13,000	13,700	-400	-2.9%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	60,500	60,500	61,800	-1,300	-2.1%
Wholesale	6,200	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1%
Retail	34,800	34,900	35,600	-800	-2.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	19,500	19,400	19,800	-300	-1.5%
Information	6,200	6,200	6,200	0	0.0%
Financial Activity	11,700	11,700	11,700	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	26,600	26,700	27,700	-1,100	-4.0%
Education and Health	49,200	48,900	48,500	700	1.4%
Health Care	36,400	35,800	35,500	900	2.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	31,000	30,400	30,800	200	0.6%
Other Services	10,400	10,500	10,900	-500	-4.6%
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>81,400</b>	<b>81,300</b>	<b>82,300</b>	<b>-900</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>
Federal	14,700	14,600	14,800	-100	-0.7%
State	24,200	24,200	25,400	-1,200	-4.7%
Local	42,500	42,500	42,100	400	1.0%

<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					
	3/17 <sup>P</sup>	2/17	3/16	Number			Rate		
				3/17 <sup>P</sup>	2/17	3/16	3/17 <sup>P</sup>	2/17	3/16
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>362,198</b>	<b>360,469</b>	<b>357,230</b>	<b>26,169</b>	<b>26,770</b>	<b>25,741</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.2</b>
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>204,887</b>	<b>204,345</b>	<b>201,532</b>	<b>13,477</b>	<b>13,568</b>	<b>12,591</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Anchorage, Municipality	157,950	157,462	155,410	9,161	9,215	8,497	5.8	5.9	5.5
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	46,937	46,883	46,122	4,316	4,353	4,094	9.2	9.3	8.9
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>37,755</b>	<b>37,532</b>	<b>36,988</b>	<b>3,172</b>	<b>3,286</b>	<b>3,318</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>9.0</b>
Kenai Peninsula Borough	26,634	26,487	26,128	2,423	2,522	2,531	9.1	9.5	9.7
Kodiak Island Borough	6,708	6,736	6,531	296	298	297	4.4	4.4	4.5
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,413	4,309	4,329	453	466	490	10.3	10.8	11.3
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>52,171</b>	<b>51,705</b>	<b>51,266</b>	<b>3,806</b>	<b>3,984</b>	<b>3,734</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>
Denali Borough	628	629	596	126	134	113	20.1	21.3	19.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,086	45,603	45,338	2,878	2,976	2,789	6.2	6.5	6.2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	3,021	3,014	2,962	326	360	359	10.8	11.9	12.1
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,436	2,459	2,370	476	514	473	19.5	20.9	20.0
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>10,432</b>	<b>10,377</b>	<b>11,382</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>10.7</b>
Nome Census Area	3,811	3,762	4,171	482	518	510	12.6	13.8	12.2
North Slope Borough	3,937	3,939	4,301	256	261	244	6.5	6.6	5.7
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,684	2,676	2,910	472	491	466	17.6	18.3	16.0
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>35,963</b>	<b>35,462</b>	<b>35,325</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>2,639</b>	<b>2,669</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Haines Borough	939	904	944	107	113	141	11.4	12.5	14.9
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	986	989	982	166	176	185	16.8	17.8	18.8
Juneau, City and Borough	17,160	16,998	16,757	840	859	800	4.9	5.1	4.8
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,517	6,479	6,430	484	500	535	7.4	7.7	8.3
Petersburg Borough	1,364	1,369	1,341	140	146	149	10.3	10.7	11.1
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,793	2,746	2,756	361	380	388	12.9	13.8	14.1
Sitka, City and Borough	4,320	4,142	4,246	200	224	219	4.6	5.4	5.2
Skagway, Municipality	586	591	589	115	127	133	19.6	21.5	22.6
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,067	1,024	1,049	89	89	93	8.3	8.7	8.9
Yakutat, City and Borough	231	220	231	21	25	26	9.1	11.4	11.3
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>20,990</b>	<b>21,048</b>	<b>20,737</b>	<b>1,983</b>	<b>2,024</b>	<b>2,211</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>10.7</b>
Aleutians East Borough	3,354	3,457	3,285	60	60	71	1.8	1.7	2.2
Aleutians West Census Area	5,022	5,111	4,903	109	108	112	2.2	2.1	2.3
Bethel Census Area	7,141	6,943	7,068	960	972	1,045	13.4	14.0	14.8
Bristol Bay Borough	241	244	237	31	34	35	12.9	13.9	14.8
Dillingham Census Area	1,963	2,041	1,930	191	196	205	9.7	9.6	10.6
Kusilvak Census Area	2,697	2,704	2,748	550	569	654	20.4	21.0	23.8
Lake and Peninsula Borough	572	548	566	82	85	89	14.3	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