

Unemployment rate now 11.6%

The Alaska unemployment rate increased in January by four-tenths of 1 percent to 11.6 percent unemployed, according to the Alaska Department of Labor.

Last January, the unemployment rate in Alaska was 11.7 percent. Typically, the unemployment rate is highest in January and February.

Alaska continues to experience higher unemployment than most of the nation. In January, the comparable national unemployment rate was 7.3 percent.

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Angoon census area had the highest unemployment rate in the state at 26.8 percent unemployed.

Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan was second with 23.4 percent, followed by Yukon-Koyukuk with 21.5 percent and Wrangell-Petersburg with 21.1 percent.

At the other end of the spectrum, the lowest unemployment rates were in the Aleutian Islands census area with 4.5

percent, the North Slope Borough with 6.7 percent and Kodiak Island Borough with 8.1 percent.

Employment declined in January by 6,300 jobs. The trade industry experienced the largest declines, as post-holiday season layoffs took place in retail stores.

Construction employment was the next largest employment loser, followed by government.