



## Alaska unemployment rate still rising

*Associated Press - January 22, 2010 4:14 PM ET*

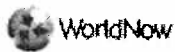
JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) - Alaska's unemployment rate hit 8.8 percent last month, its highest level since September 1992. The rate was 6.8 percent in December 2008.

The state labor department cites several factors for the increase over the year, including job losses in the oil, construction, hospitality and leisure industries. It also attributes the rise in part to the growth in job seekers from other states coming to Alaska to find work.

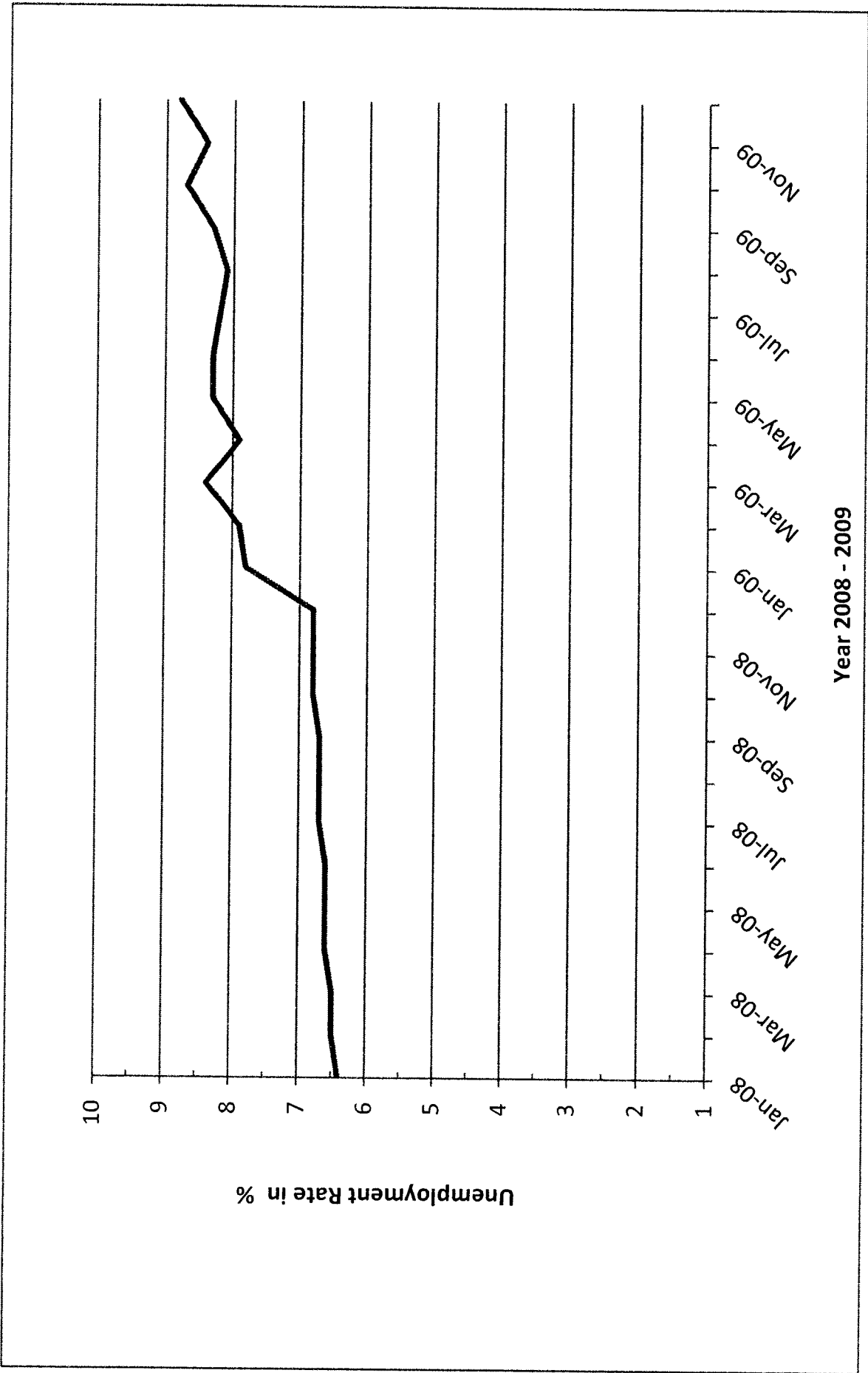
The department says the state stayed below the national unemployment rate for 12 months, something it says hasn't happened since the early '80s, when the U.S. was going through a recession and Alaska was enjoying a boom.

The national unemployment rate in December was 10 percent.

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US Department of Labour  
Bureau of Labour Statistics

Year	Period	labor force	employment	unemployment	rate
2008	Jan	354345	331761	22584	6.4
2008	Feb	355101	332079	23022	6.5
2008	Mar	355551	332399	23152	6.5
2008	Apr	356247	332721	23526	6.6
2008	May	356621	333037	23584	6.6
2008	Jun	356982	333330	23652	6.6
2008	Jul	357440	333605	23835	6.7
2008	Aug	357906	333858	24048	6.7
2008	Sep	358231	334093	24138	6.7
2008	Oct	358776	334320	24456	6.8
2008	Nov	359103	334542	24561	6.8
2008	Dec	359328	334761	24567	6.8
2009	Jan	358893	330880	28013	7.8
2009	Feb	358704	330359	28345	7.9
2009	Mar	358322	328351	29971	8.4
2009	Apr	358717	330379	28338	7.9
2009	May	359246	329499	29747	8.3
2009	Jun	359320	329537	29783	8.3
2009	Jul	358054	328785	29269	8.2
2009	Aug	357637	328560	29077	8.1
2009	Sep	357945	328342	29603	8.3
2009	Oct	357889	326641	31248	8.7
2009	Nov	358041	327959	30082	8.4
2009	Dec	357904(P)	326354(P)	31550(P)	8.8(P)

Alaska Statewide -- Seasonally Adjusted