

Dianne Blumer

Commissioner

P.O. Box 111149

Juneau, AK 99811-1149

www.labor.alaska.gov



Beth Leschper

Communications Director

907.465.2700

cell: 907.723.1321

beth.leschper@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2013

No. 13-51

For more information: Caroline Schultz, Economist
(907) 465-6027 or Caroline.Schultz@Alaska.Gov

Alaska employment grows by 0.5 percent

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's average monthly employment grew 0.5 percent in the first half of 2013, gaining 1,766 average monthly jobs. Modest growth in the private sector offset a 1.3 percent decline in government employment from the first half of 2012.

Wage growth was commensurate with the increase in jobs. Alaska employers paid \$8.3 billion in wages in the first half of 2013, a 0.5 percent gain from the first half of 2012.

Private-sector job growth was driven largely by the education and health services industry and the natural resources and mining industry, which increased by 939 and 731 jobs respectively. The leisure and hospitality industry and wholesale trade added close to 400 jobs each.

Industries that lost jobs included retail trade, information, transportation and warehousing, and construction, which lost between 100 and 200 jobs each in the first half of 2013. Private-sector declines weren't as severe as losses in federal and local government. Federal employment fell by a monthly average of 840 jobs in the first six months of 2013, and local government decreased by 450 jobs.

Some of the large shifts were due to administrative coding changes rather than economic conditions. For example, most of the gains in professional and business services and losses in financial activities were due to these differences in codes. Though these coding changes can distort trends in the short run, they better reflect industry composition.

Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Alaska Employment and Wages by Industry

First Half 2012 and First Half 2013

Industry	Average Monthly Employment		Employment Change, 2012 to 2013		Wages Paid (2013 Dollars)		Change in Wages, 2012 to 2013	
	1st half 2012	1st half 2013	By Number	By Percent	2012 (millions)	2013 (millions)	By Amount (mil)	By Percent
Total, All Industries	328,380	330,146	1,766	0.5%	\$8,264	\$8,309	\$44	0.5%
Total Private Sector	244,696	247,537	2,842	1.2%	\$6,037	\$6,101	\$64	1.1%
Natural Resources and Mining	17,123	17,853	731	4.3%	\$1,036	\$1,076	\$40	3.9%
Construction	14,981	14,870	-111	-0.7%	\$518	\$513	-\$4	-0.8%
Manufacturing	13,188	13,207	20	0.1%	\$260	\$258	-\$2	-0.8%
Wholesale Trade	6,143	6,543	400	6.5%	\$166	\$171	\$5	3.0%
Retail Trade	35,096	34,920	-176	-0.5%	\$519	\$512	-\$7	-1.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	19,018	18,900	-118	-0.6%	\$576	\$561	-\$15	-2.6%
Utilities	2,074	2,105	32	1.5%	\$83	\$85	\$2	2.7%
Information	6,216	6,053	-163	-2.6%	\$186	\$184	-\$2	-1.0%
Financial Activities	14,105	12,891	-1,213	-8.6%	\$389	\$337	-\$52	-13.4%
Professional and Business Services	28,087	29,720	1,633	5.8%	\$802	\$859	\$57	7.1%
Education and Health Services	45,139	46,078	939	2.1%	\$1,000	\$1,028	\$28	2.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	31,643	32,045	403	1.3%	\$315	\$322	\$6	2.0%
Other Services	11,656	11,784	128	1.1%	\$184	\$186	\$2	1.2%
Total Government	83,684	82,609	-1,076	-1.3%	\$2,227	\$2,207	-\$20	-0.9%
Federal Government	16,433	15,593	-840	-5.1%	\$605	\$573	-\$32	-5.3%
State Government	25,905	26,119	214	0.8%	\$680	\$686	\$6	0.9%
Local Government	41,346	40,897	-450	-1.1%	\$943	\$949	\$6	0.6%

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages