

ALASKA ECONOMIC  
**TRENDS**  
NOVEMBER 2019



Fishing jobs decline  
4.9 percent in 2018

ALSO INSIDE  
Yakutat



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Original photo of commercial salmon  
boats at sunset at Pilot Point,  
courtesy of Eco Bear Biohazard  
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# ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

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DECLINE 4.9% in 2018

Decreases, mostly in salmon,  
put a dent in 2017's gains

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Town at top of the panhandle  
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ALASKA'S ECONOMY

*Trends* is a nonpartisan, data-driven magazine  
that covers a range of economic topics in Alaska.

ON THIS SPREAD: The background image for 2019 is an aerial photo of rivers near Circle by Dr. Travis Nelson, who teaches at the Center for Pediatric Dentistry in Seattle. Nelson visited Alaska in May 2010 to provide dental care to children in Venetie, Circle, and Fort Yukon.

# Fishing Jobs Decline 4.9 Percent in 2018

Decreases were mostly in salmon harvesting

By JOSHUA WARREN

Alaska's seafood harvesting employment dropped 4.9 percent in 2018, erasing most of the prior year's gains. While some fisheries added jobs, they weren't enough to offset the losses in salmon fishing, which represents the largest share of the state's harvesting employment. (See exhibits 1 and 2.)

The total decline was about 407 average annual jobs, bringing Alaska's harvesting employment down to 7,924. (See the sidebar on page 6 for more on how we create these estimates.) The loss would have been greater had it not been for increased fishing in September and November.

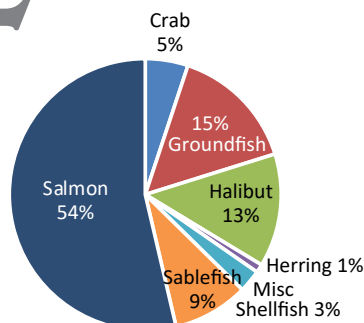
Some months' job levels were the lowest since 2001, when data collection began. The peak months, July and August, were the lowest they'd been since 2009. (See Exhibit 3.)

## Salmon jobs down the most

Salmon harvesting is the most worker-intensive fishery, with more harvesters needed to land the fish per pound, so it represents more than half the state's harvesting jobs.

## 2 Most Jobs Are in Salmon

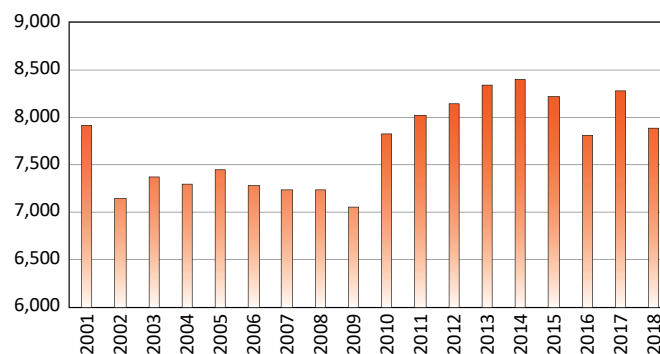
HARVESTING JOBS BY SPECIES, 2018



Sources: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; National Marine Fisheries Service; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

## 1 Annual Seafood Harvesting Jobs

ALASKA, 2001 TO 2018



Sources: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; National Marine Fisheries Service; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Salmon fisheries lost 7.2 percent of their employment in 2018 (a loss of 328 from the year before), with fewer jobs in every month and the heaviest losses in the summer. Total employment dropped to 4,249 (see Exhibit 4).

Groundfish harvesting employment, which had spiked the year before, dropped back to its previous level of about 1,195. While the 9.1 percent drop (-120 jobs) seems like a large loss, 2018's total employment remained high relative to past years.

Halibut harvesting's pattern was similar, with employment growing in 2017 and decreasing in 2018, although this fishery lost less of its prior-year increase. After gaining 298 jobs in 2017, the halibut fishery lost 38 in 2018, settling at 1,068. Halibut harvesting employment also remains above its recent typical levels, which hadn't topped 1,000 in nearly a decade.

Herring was the other fishery to lose jobs in 2018, and while its employment dropped 7.1 percent, the fishery is so small at 79 annual jobs that it's prone to large percent swings. The loss was just six jobs, making the fishery largely stable. Most of the decrease came in the off

# 3

## Seafood Harvesting Employment By Month

PLUS MONTHLY AND ANNUAL AVERAGES, ALASKA, 2001 TO 2018

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
2001	2,972	4,286	4,505	4,681	7,053	18,884	21,571	13,921	8,095	6,194	2,617	726	7,959
2002	3,590	4,047	4,334	4,913	6,715	16,292	18,224	11,975	6,983	5,794	2,632	524	7,168
2003	3,284	3,609	4,378	5,797	6,233	17,610	19,670	11,922	7,191	5,969	2,660	526	7,404
2004	3,594	3,492	4,110	5,050	6,476	17,139	19,634	12,308	7,371	6,023	2,259	509	7,330
2005	3,561	3,150	4,227	5,115	6,283	18,169	20,566	12,889	7,192	4,958	2,768	953	7,486
2006	2,700	3,038	4,573	4,293	5,709	17,748	20,066	13,700	7,719	5,003	2,507	720	7,314
2007	2,584	2,966	3,930	4,348	5,949	17,528	20,137	13,567	7,500	4,738	3,080	791	7,260
2008	2,738	3,138	4,511	4,445	5,572	17,022	20,447	13,634	8,226	4,202	2,708	602	7,270
2009	2,527	2,817	3,126	4,874	5,693	17,609	20,076	13,687	7,148	4,593	2,388	507	7,087
2010	2,668	3,060	4,005	5,255	5,685	18,878	23,128	15,287	7,759	4,992	2,887	850	7,871
2011	2,898	3,214	4,010	4,723	5,610	20,101	23,813	15,574	7,916	5,721	2,303	849	8,061
2012	2,923	3,409	4,609	5,402	6,163	19,237	24,761	16,191	6,988	5,453	2,274	853	8,189
2013	2,818	3,001	4,053	5,285	5,766	21,809	25,859	15,835	7,514	5,118	2,713	895	8,389
2014	2,628	3,247	4,970	5,174	5,866	20,984	24,916	16,614	7,990	5,010	2,808	1,210	8,451
2015	2,599	3,386	4,793	4,261	5,738	20,779	24,805	16,082	7,762	4,940	2,682	1,451	8,273
2016	2,798	3,562	4,991	4,486	5,500	18,458	23,825	15,790	7,533	4,604	1,871	870	7,857
2017	2,595	3,472	4,845	5,362	5,859	20,145	23,917	15,789	8,907	5,658	2,525	894	8,331
2018	2,437	2,929	3,820	4,596	5,369	19,213	23,152	15,138	9,601	5,137	2,899	797	7,924
<b>Average for Month</b>	<b>2,884</b>	<b>3,323</b>	<b>4,322</b>	<b>4,892</b>	<b>5,958</b>	<b>18,756</b>	<b>22,143</b>	<b>14,439</b>	<b>7,744</b>	<b>5,228</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>7,757</b>

Sources: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; National Marine Fisheries Service; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

months. The peak employment month, April, grew 12.3 percent, from 514 to 577 jobs.

### Small job gains in several species

Three fisheries added jobs in 2018. Annual crab harvesting employment grew 5.0 percent (19 jobs), to 403. Most of the increase came in August, when jobs jumped to 370 from just 68 the year before.

Employment harvesting sablefish, or black cod, also grew — unlike for most groundfish species. April and September were particularly strong. The fishery gained 54 jobs overall, or 8.2 percent, reaching 713 annualized jobs.

Other shellfish fisheries had a banner year. Jobs harvesting miscellaneous shellfish increased 7.0 percent (14 jobs), pushing yearly employment up to 213.

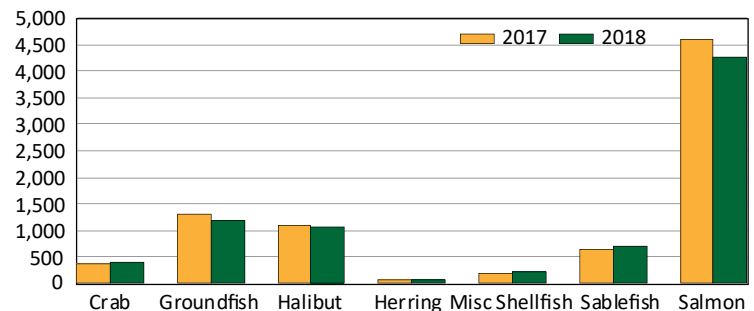
### Aleutians and Pribilofs hit hardest

Among regions, the Aleutians and Pribilof Islands took the biggest hit, with harvesting employment dropping to levels not seen since 2007 and declines in every month.

# 4

## Minor Declines For Most Species

JOBS BY TYPE OF HARVEST, 2017 AND 2018



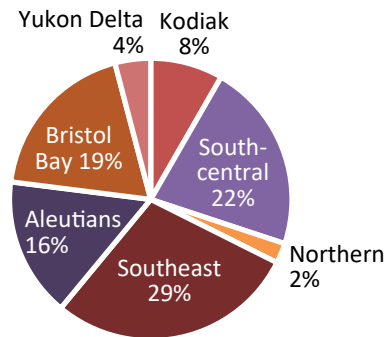
Sources: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; National Marine Fisheries Service; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

The region's annualized loss was a staggering 30.9 percent, dropping total yearly employment to 1,199 due to less fishing. The regions' fisheries are dominated by groundfish, which showed dramatic employment declines statewide.

Kodiak's numbers also hit some of their lowest levels since data collection began in 2001, with an employment decline of 14.5 percent to 623 annualized jobs. Just two months showed gains, and others hit their lowest-ever levels. The record low in July was especially consequential, as it's in the middle of peak harvesting. While June and August were typical, they didn't offset the weak July.

# 5

## Jobs By Region\* SEAFOOD HARVESTING, 2018



\*Excludes unknown/offshore

Sources: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; National Marine Fisheries Service; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

**For detailed harvesting data, visit:**  
<http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/seafood/>

Southcentral also lost jobs, but this was minor compared to the Aleutians and Kodiak. Southcentral's employment level declined 9.2 percent, hitting its lowest point since 2014 (1,632 jobs). Amid that overall downward pattern, July hit a record high.

The Northern Region's year was similar, with overall losses but a record-high July. Despite the July gains, the region's total employment declined by 13 average jobs (6.8 percent), to 174.

Southeast Region's employment decreased slightly early in the year, then jumped during fall and winter. While the high months in the second half of 2018 muted the loss, the region still lost 78 annual jobs, or 3.5 percent, bringing the total down to 2,145.

The Yukon Delta's employment grew all year in 2018 after three years of losses. While the region didn't reach historical highs, it regained some lost ground. Yukon Delta added 23 jobs over the year, or 8.1 percent, reaching 307.

Bristol Bay was the major exception in 2018, with employment approaching a decade high of 1,148. Bristol Bay fishes mostly in June, July, and August, and total employment fluctuates based on how far into August fishing goes, with even-year runs typically later than odd years. In addition to the strong August, employment grew in June, but declined in July.

Continued on page 15

## Why and how we estimate seafood harvesting jobs

Alaska's world-class fisheries are a critical part of the state's economy. Estimated gross earnings in 2018 totaled more than \$1.8 billion, of which nearly \$600 million went to permit holders who were Alaska residents.

But unlike the wage and salary job numbers we and our federal partner the Bureau of Labor Statistics publish each month, the employment generated by fish harvesting is not readily available. Fishermen are considered self-employed, and permit holders are not required to report the number of people they employ in the same way as employers who are under state unemployment insurance laws.

To estimate fisheries employment that's roughly comparable to wage and salary data, we infer jobs in a given month from landings. A landing, or the initial sale of the catch, signals recent fishing activity.

Because fishing permits are associated with a specific type of gear, including boat size, we know about how many people a landing requires under various types of permits. The number of people associated with a certain permit is called the crew factor.

For example, a permit to fish for king crab in Bristol Bay with pot gear on a vessel more than 60 feet long requires about six people, according to a survey of those permit holders. So when crab is landed under that permit, we assume the permit generated six jobs that month. We count each permit only once per month regardless of the number of landings, which is similar to the way people in wage and salary jobs work different numbers of hours.

Most permits designate where specific species can be harvested, so we assign jobs to the harvest location rather than the residence of the permit holder. This approach best approximates wage and salary employment, which is categorized by place of work rather than worker residence. Jobs generated under permits that allow fishing anywhere in the state receive a special harvest area code and are estimated differently.

We produce the job counts by month because, as with location, that comes closest to wage and salary employment data. And because seafood harvesting employment is much higher in summer than winter, as with tourism and construction, averaging employment across all 12 months allows for more meaningful comparisons among job counts in different industries.

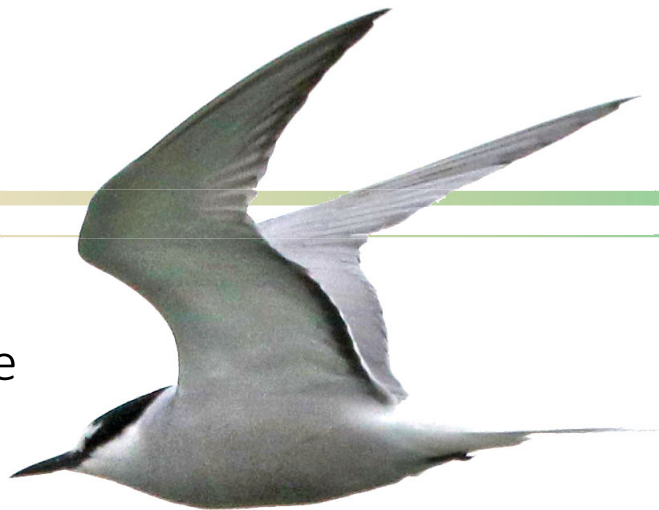
It's important to keep in mind that the numbers in this article cover only jobs and are not relevant in assessing other fisheries-related data such as harvest values and the income and tax revenue they make possible.



# Yakutat

Town at top of the panhandle has several claims to fame

By SARA TEEL



**Y**akutat sits atop a glacier moraine, nestled between diverse protected lands and reachable only by air or sea. While the City and Borough of Yakutat is Southeast's smallest borough at 523 people, it encompasses an area larger than Vermont.

"Yakutat" is derived from the Tlingit *Yaakwdaat*, which means "the place where the canoes rest." While Yakutat was originally Eyak, Athabascan, and Tlingit, it has long been a melting pot. The town is a natural junction between Southeast Alaska and the Interior, and its location and many bays have long encouraged interaction and trade between tribes.

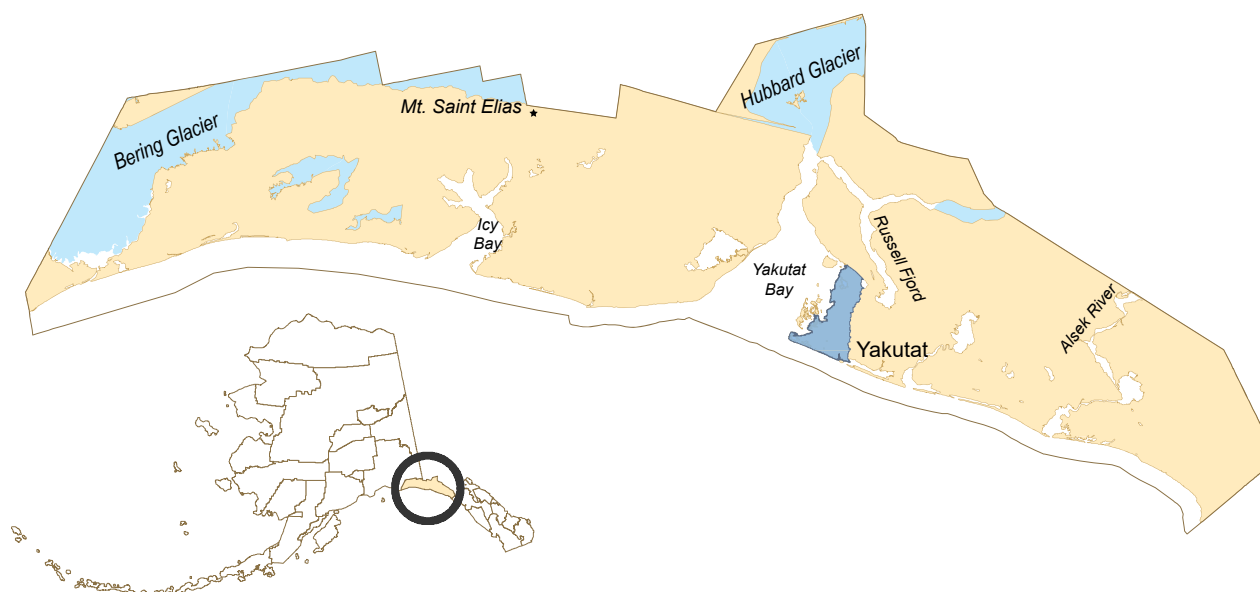
The surroundings are a modern draw as well. Residents and visitors alike can hike in the mountains or tidelands, kayak in lagoons and bays, or fish in freshwater rivers and lakes. But several characteristics make Yakutat stand out from every other scenic destination in Alaska.

*A moraine is created by material a glacier deposits as it retreats: usually unconsolidated rock and sediment.*

## An unexpected surfing destination

While Alaska isn't normally associated with surfing, Yakutat is the exception. The town and its Cannon Beach are known for world-class surfing; of course, in Alaska that means donning wetsuits, gloves, and booties.

The area is also home to Hubbard Glacier, which is unusual because it's advancing while most glaciers are shrinking. (See the photo caption on page 9 for more.) Hubbard is a tidewater glacier that intersects



with Valerie Glacier before flowing into Disenchantment Bay, and it's more than six miles long where it meets the water. The glacier is highly active, and its massive calving causes earthquakes. In less than a week's span during 2015, Hubbard's calving produced 28 glacial quakes.

## Fishing still drives the economy

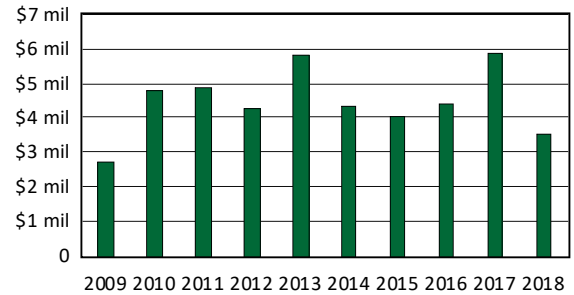
While the area has a history of trade in copper, furs, skins, shells, and canoes, fishing has been the heart of the local economy and culture for many years.

In the early 20th century, the Yakutat and Southern Railroad was built to haul salmon from Situk Landing to a cannery in Yakutat. The railroad is another Alaska outlier in that it's the only railroad in the state that was never linked to mining. The timing of the trains was based on the tides, and the trains ran seasonally for 60 years.

Local fisheries are invaluable for subsistence, and they provide substantial seasonal income through commercial and sport fishing. While halibut, sablefish, rockfish, ling cod, and trout are common harvests, salmon is the biggest by far. All five salmon species — king, sockeye, pink, chum, and coho — run in the area and about 90 percent of commercial harvesters fish for salmon.

# 1 Yakutat Fisheries Earnings Dropped Sharply in 2018

TOTAL EARNINGS,\* 2009 TO 2018



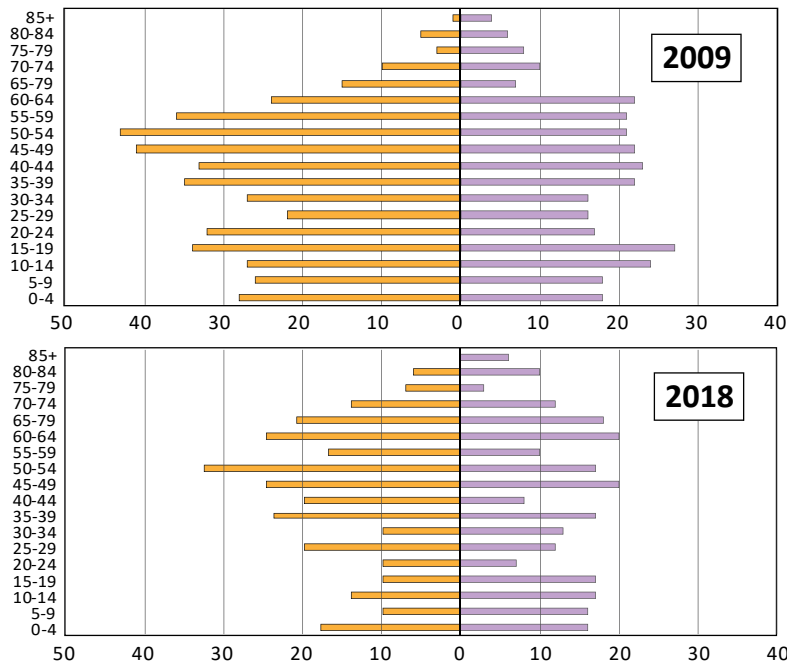
\*All earnings adjusted to 2018 dollars  
Source: Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

According to the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, Yakutat's estimated gross earnings for all fisheries in 2018 were almost \$3.6 million, 42 percent of which came from salmon fisheries.

Like all fishing-dependent villages, Yakutat is subject to fisheries volatility. (See Exhibit 1.) The area felt the shock of the Gulf of Alaska pink salmon disaster in 2016, then was hit again in 2018 by the unprecedented closure of the sockeye salmon fishery due to extremely low returns. (See the article on page 4 for more on 2018 job losses in salmon harvesting.) Landed poundage was 45 percent lower than the year before and down 20 percent from 2009.

# 2 Big Demographic Shifts Over Decade

YAKUTAT, AGE BY GENDER, 2009 AND 2018



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

## More than 200 species of birds nest there

Variety is the word for the local bird population as well. With more than 200 bird species in the area, Yakutat is a popular place for birdwatching. Birders can brave the drive on Dangerous River Road to catch a glimpse of red-breasted sapsuckers in the cottonwoods or watch a multitude of fox sparrows and orange-crowned warblers among the marshes. Visitors can also charter a boat to view marbled murrelets, harlequin ducks, or turnstones along the shoreline.

The most famous seabird that nests in Yakutat is the rare Aleutian tern, a small migratory bird related to gulls. Yakutat is home





*Hubbard Glacier calves in Yakutat Bay. The photographer witnessed calving chunks of ice he estimates were as high as 20-story buildings.*

*Hubbard Glacier is unusual in that unlike other glaciers, it's advancing rather than receding. According to University of Kansas glaciologist Leigh Stearns, this is due to the glacier's large accumulation area, which extends far into the Saint Elias Mountains. Snow that falls in the basin flows down to the terminus. The glacier also sits at a growing moraine, which has created a barrier that stabilizes the glacier and allows it to keep advancing while preventing it from floating.*

*Photo by Flickr user Kenneth Cole Schneider*

to one of the world's largest known breeding colonies of Aleutian terns, and 2020 will mark the 10th annual Yakutat Tern Festival, a four-day spring event not just for birders but for hikers, kayakers, and runners in the annual Wildman Race.

## Population has declined, and Yakutat had no births last year

Like the rest of Southeast, Yakutat has lost population over the decade, and its population is getting older.

2009 was the last year more people moved to Yakutat than left, and the population jumped by 50 residents that year. It's been on a steady decline since, falling 30 percent from a peak of 744 residents in 2009 to 523 in 2018.

Yakutat has the smallest population of all Alaska boroughs and census areas, and it has also seen the greatest population decline in percent terms since the 2010 Census.

Because Yakutat's population is so small, the movements of a small number of people can shift its demographics. Younger people are more likely to move and more likely to have children, so a smaller population has driven a nearly seven-year rise in the median age, from 38.5 to 45.3. (See exhibits 2 and 3.)

Yakutat had the lowest birth rate in the state in 2018, at zero births per 1,000 people. (See

Continued on page 14

## 3 Yakutat Has the Lowest Birth Rate

### BIRTH RATES AND MEDIAN AGE, ALASKA AREAS, 2018

Borough/Census Area	Births Per 1,000	Median Age
Kusilvak Census Area	28.7	24.1
Bethel Census Area	22.8	27.3
Lake and Peninsula Borough	22.2	32.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	19.3	28.2
Nome Census Area	18.3	28.5
Dillingham Census Area	17.1	30.2
Fairbanks North Star Borough	16.7	33.9
North Slope Borough	16.1	33.4
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	15.8	38.1
Skagway Borough, Municipality	14.7	42.0
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>35.2</b>
Anchorage, Municipality	13.9	34.5
Kodiak Island Borough	13.7	34.6
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	13.0	35.6
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	12.8	36.4
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	12.6	40.7
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	12.6	38.8
Kenai Peninsula Borough	12.0	41.5
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	11.6	39.7
Sitka, City and Borough	10.9	39.8
Petersburg Borough	10.6	42.8
Wrangell, City and Borough	10.3	48.0
Juneau, City and Borough	10.2	38.3
Haines Borough	9.7	48.6
Bristol Bay Borough	9.1	43.7
Aleutians West Census Area	6.9	41.3
Denali Borough	5.5	43.2
Aleutians East Borough	4.4	44.1
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2.8	46.8
<b>Yakutat, City and Borough</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45.3</b>

Note: Based on 2018 geography

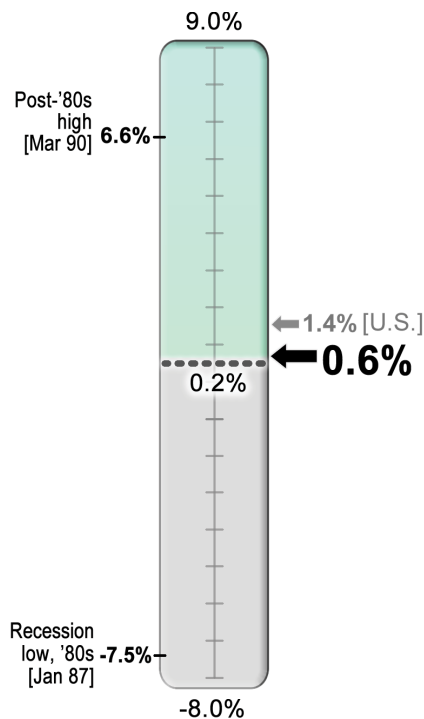
Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Census Bureau

# Gauging Alaska's Economy



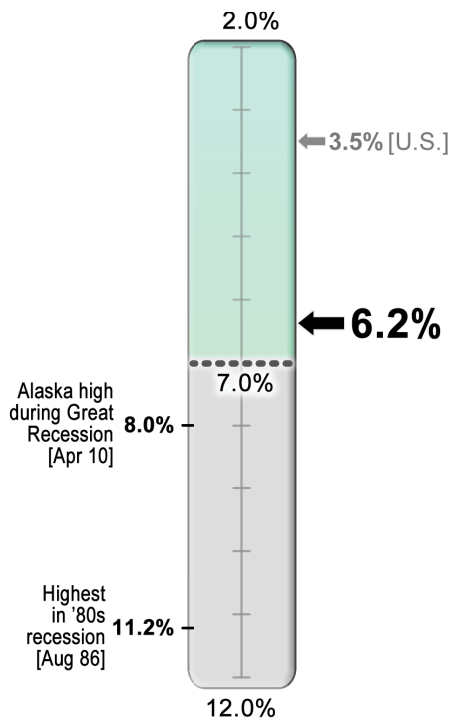
## Job Growth

September 2019  
Over-the-year percent change



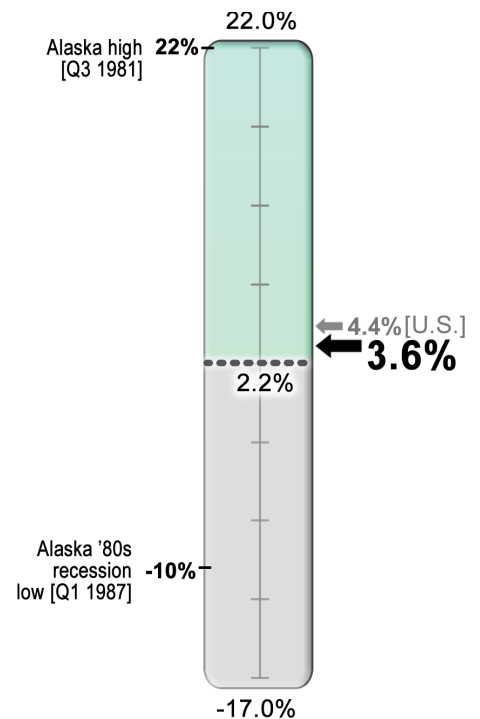
## Unemployment Rate

September 2019  
Seasonally adjusted



## Wage Growth

1st Quarter 2019  
Over-the-year percent change

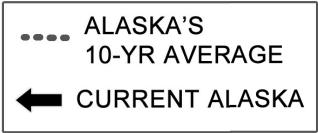


- The state has registered over-the-year job gains for 12 straight months after losing jobs for the prior three years.
- The gains are small so far and almost disappeared in August.
- U.S. job growth remains stable and has been positive since 2010, with the strongest growth in 2015.

- Until April, Alaska's seasonally adjusted rate had spent nearly a year at 6.5 percent.
- Unemployment rates are complicated economic measures and generally less telling at the state level than job or wage growth as indicators of broad economic health.

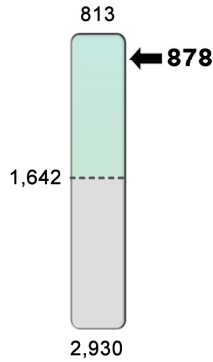
- Wages increased for the sixth straight quarter, and the strongest growth over that period was in 4th quarter 2018.
- Alaska's wage growth rate was slightly below the nation's, but both remained strong.

# Gauging Alaska's Economy



## Initial Claims

Unemployment, week ending Oct. 5, 2019†

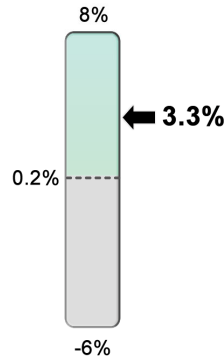


➤ For a variety of reasons, initial claims are well below the 10-year average despite job losses.

† Four-week moving average ending with the specified week

## GDP Growth

1st Quarter 2019  
Over-the-year percent change\*

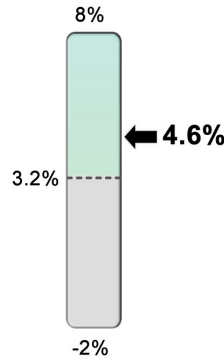


➤ Gross domestic product is the value of the goods and services a state produces. Alaska's GDP has grown for the last 10 quarters after declining for 15 out of the prior 16.

\*In current dollars

## Personal Income Growth

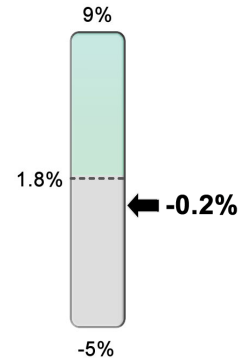
2nd Quarter 2019  
Over-the-year percent change



➤ Personal income includes wages as well as transfer payments (such as Social Security, Medicaid, and the PFD) and investment income. Growth has resumed and is above the 10-year average.

## Change in Home Prices

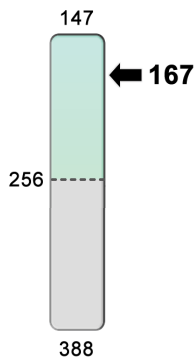
Single-family, 2nd Qtr 2019  
Over-the-year percent change



➤ Home prices include only those for which a commercial loan was used. This indicator tends to be volatile from quarter to quarter.

## Foreclosures

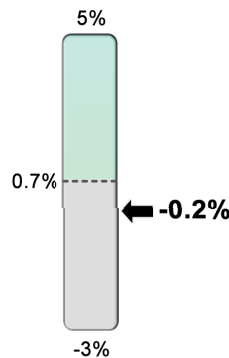
2nd Quarter 2019



➤ Foreclosure rates remain low, highlighting how different the state's recent recession was from the '80s recession when foreclosure rates exceeded 2,000 in some quarters.

## Population Growth

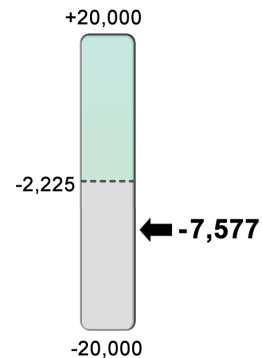
2017 to 2018



➤ The state's population has remained mostly stable during the state's recession, although 2018 was only the second year of population declines since 1988.

## Net Migration

2017 to 2018

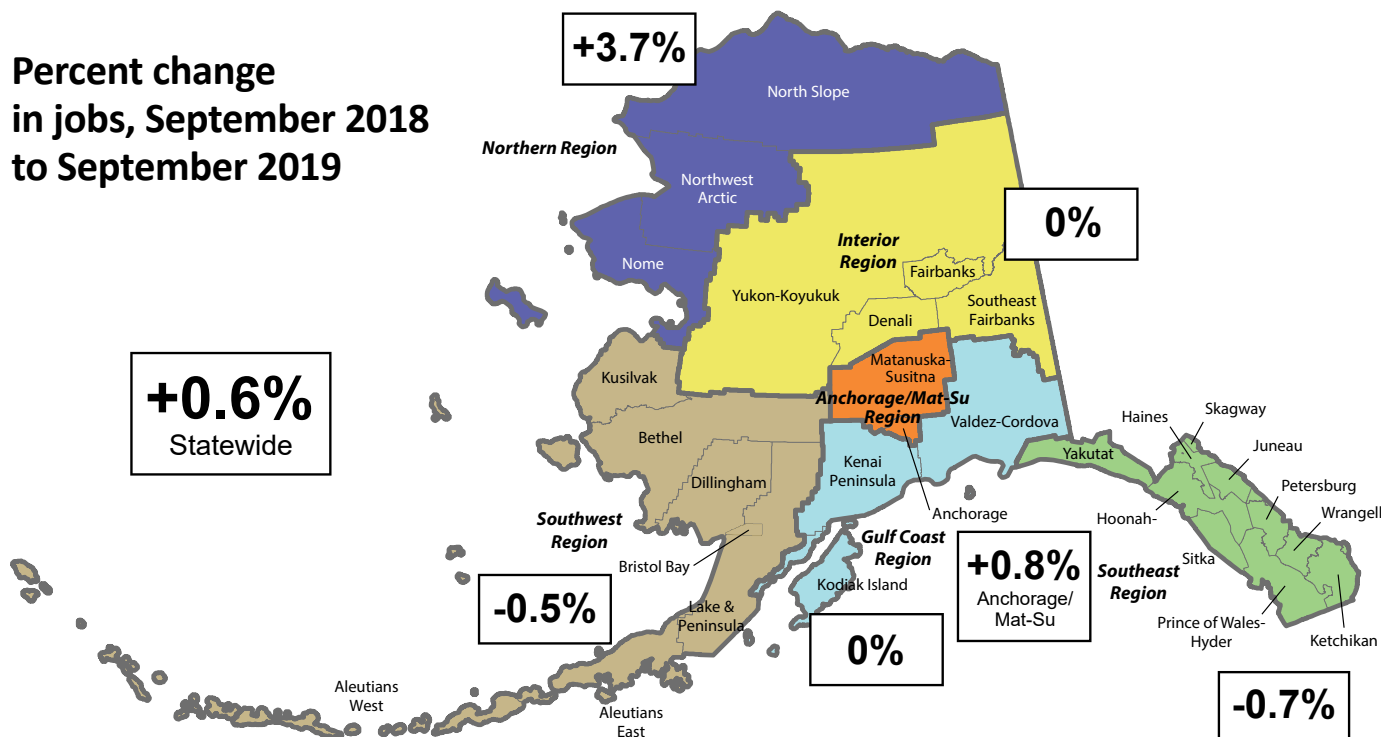


➤ The state had net migration losses for the sixth consecutive year in 2018. Net migration is the number who moved to Alaska minus the number who left.



# Employment by Region

Percent change  
in jobs, September 2018  
to September 2019



## Unemployment Rates

Seasonally adjusted

Not seasonally adjusted

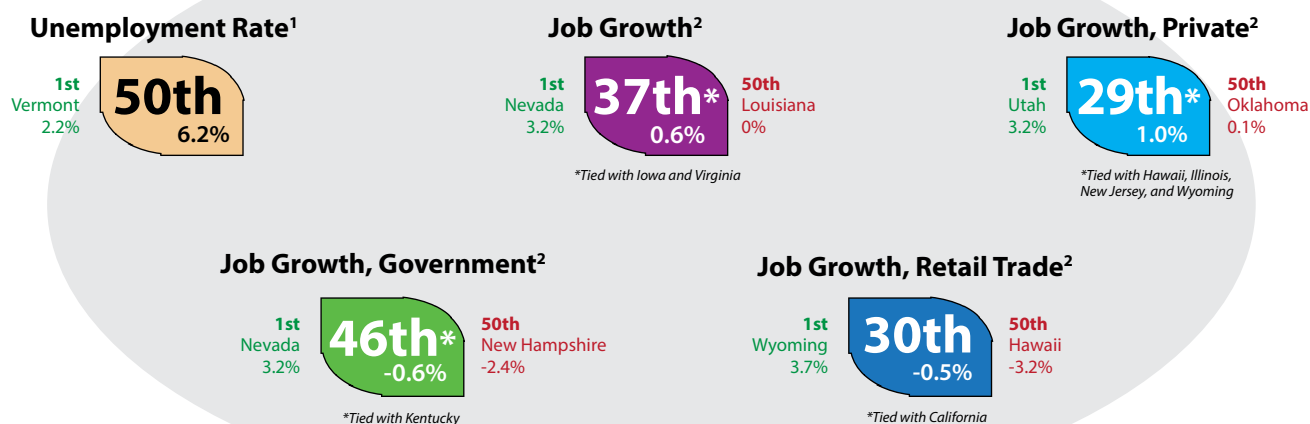
	Prelim.		Revised
	09/19	08/19	09/18
United States	3.5	3.7	3.7
Alaska	6.2	6.2	6.5

	Prelim.		Revised
	09/19	08/19	09/18
United States	3.3	3.8	3.6
Alaska	5.6	5.3	5.9

Regional, not seasonally adjusted

	Prelim.			Revised				Prelim.			Revised			
	09/19	08/19	09/18	09/19	08/19	09/18		09/19	08/19	09/18	09/19	08/19	09/18	
<b>Interior Region</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>Southwest Region</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>Southeast Region</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.9</b>			
Denali Borough	4.3	3.2	3.7	Aleutians East Borough	2.2	1.9	2.7	Haines Borough	5.3	4.8	6.3			
Fairbanks N Star Borough	4.9	4.5	5.1	Aleutians West Census Area	3.1	2.6	3.6	Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	6.7	6.1	6.9			
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	7.1	6.9	7.8	Bethel Census Area	13.1	13.6	12.4	Juneau, City and Borough	4.0	3.8	4.0			
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	11.8	11.7	12.0	Bristol Bay Borough	6.7	3.9	4.8	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	5.0	4.4	5.0			
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	Dillingham Census Area	8.3	6.8	8.2	Petersburg Borough	7.4	6.7	6.9			
Nome Census Area	9.9	10.3	10.3	Kusilvak Census Area	16.2	18.4	17.2	Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	8.2	8.1	8.8			
North Slope Borough	7.5	6.7	7.6	Lake and Peninsula Borough	7.8	7.5	9.7	Sitka, City and Borough	3.7	3.4	3.7			
Northwest Arctic Borough	13.5	13.6	12.9	<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>	Skagway, Municipality	3.1	2.6	3.3			
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>	Kenai Peninsula Borough	5.9	5.3	6.6	Wrangell, City and Borough	6.1	5.8	5.5			
Anchorage, Municipality	5.0	4.6	5.2	Kodiak Island Borough	4.4	4.1	5.2	Yakutat, City and Borough	6.6	5.9	6.5			
Mat-Su Borough	6.3	5.9	6.7	Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5.9	4.3	5.4							

# How Alaska Ranks



Note: Government employment includes federal, state, and local government plus public schools and universities.

<sup>1</sup>September seasonally adjusted unemployment rates

<sup>2</sup>September aemployment, over-the-year percent change

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

## Other Economic Indicators

	Current		Year ago	Change
<b>Urban Alaska Consumer Price Index</b> (CPI-U, base yr 1982=100)	228.858	1st half 2019	223.099	+2.6%
<b>Commodity prices</b>				
Crude oil, Alaska North Slope,* per barrel	\$63.83	Sep 2019	\$77.63	-17.78%
Natural gas, residential, per thousand cubic feet	\$15.29	July 2019	\$13.77	+11.04%
Gold, per oz. COMEX	\$1,497.50	10/23/2019	\$1,236.80	+21.08%
Silver, per oz. COMEX	\$17.57	10/23/2019	\$14.79	+18.80%
Copper, per lb. COMEX	\$2.62	10/23/2019	\$2.76	-4.86%
Zinc, per MT	\$2,467.50	10/22/2019	\$2,669.00	-7.55%
Lead, per lb.	\$1.02	10/23/2019	\$0.91	+11.54%
<b>Bankruptcies</b>				
	106	Q2 2019	105	+0.95%
Business	9	Q2 2019	6	+50%
Personal	97	Q2 2019	99	-2.02%
<b>Unemployment insurance claims</b>				
Initial filings	4,179	Sep 2019	4,410	-5.24%
Continued filings	22,531	Sep 2019	24,579	-8.33%
Claimant count	5,274	Sep 2019	6,481	-18.62%

\*Department of Revenue estimate

Sources for this page and the preceding three pages include Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; Kitco; U.S. Census Bureau; COMEX; Bloomberg; Infomine; Alaska Department of Revenue; and U.S. Courts, 9th Circuit

# 4

## More Yakutat Facts And Statewide Comparisons

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, VARIOUS PRODUCTS

	Alaska	Yakutat*
<b>Race and Ethnicity as of July 1, 2018</b>		
White	65.3%	35.9%
Black	3.8%	2.0%
Alaska Native	15.4%	39.6%
Asian	6.6%	6.8%
Pacific Islander	1.4%	1.3%
Two or more races	7.4%	14.4%
Hispanic or Latino (ethnicity)	7.2%	4.6%
White and not Hispanic	60.3%	32.6%
<b>Population Characteristics</b>		
Veterans, 2013-2017	67,004	50
Foreign-born, 2013-2017	7.6%	6.0%
<b>Housing</b>		
Housing units, July 1, 2018	318,336	459
Owner-occupied units, 2013-2017	63.7%	60.4%
Median value, owner-occupied, 2013-2017	\$261,900	\$185,000
<b>Families and Living Arrangements</b>		
Households, 2013-2017	252,536	255
Household size, 2013-2017	2.81	2.4
<b>Computer and Internet Use</b>		
Households with a computer, 2013-2017	92.4%	89.0%
Households with broadband Internet, 2013-17	82.9%	69.8%
<b>Education</b>		
High school graduate or higher, 2013-2017	92.4%	91.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher, 2013-2017	29.0%	19.6%
<b>Health</b>		
With a disability, under 65, 2013-2017	8.5%	4.9%
Without health insurance, under 65, 2013-17	14.3%	18.6%
<b>Transportation</b>		
Mean travel time to work, 2013-2017	18.8 min	6.5 min
<b>Income and Poverty</b>		
Median household income,** 2013-17	\$76,114	\$64,583
Below federal poverty threshold	10.9%	15.3%
<b>Geography</b>		
People per square mile, 2010	1.2	0.1
Land area in square miles, 2010	570,641	7,649

\*Margins of error are significant for small areas like Yakutat.

\*\*In 2017 dollars

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau: 2018 estimates, American Community Survey 2013-2017, and 2010 Census

## YAKUTAT

Continued from page 9

Exhibit 3.) While a low birthrate is common with an older population, not having any registered births in a year is unusual, even in a small place.

True to its indigenous roots, Yakutat is 40 percent Alaska Native, which is nearly three times the state's percentage. Yakutat also has almost twice the share of residents who identify as multiracial. For more details about the population and how it compares to Alaska overall, see Exhibit 4.

### Government jobs play a major role

Government jobs play an important role in Yakutat, as they do in most Alaska villages where they provide basic services. They are also a source of stable income because they aren't seasonal like tourism or fishing.

Thirty-nine percent of Yakutat's wage and salary jobs were in government in 2018 compared to 24 percent statewide. While the federal shares were about the same for Yakutat and Alaska as a whole, at around 20 percent, Yakutat had a much higher share of local government, at 66 percent. In Alaska overall, 51 percent of government jobs were in local government.

Tribal government is included in local government, and the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe runs the local senior center, community health center, and culture camp. The tribe also manages multiple grants in areas such as housing and water quality studies.

In the last decade, the levels of federal and state jobs have remained essentially the same while local government employment has fallen 34 percent. The increasingly smaller population suggests less demand and revenue for those services.

### Earnings haven't taken a big hit

Yakutat's total employment and earnings have also declined over the past decade, but to a lesser degree. While population dropped 30 percent from 2009 to 2018, employment declined just 15 percent. The difference was mainly due to an uptick in jobs in 2018, primarily in health and social services.

Overall earnings have declined just 5 percent since 2009, in 2018 dollars. While government has been in decline, private sector earnings have increased 5 percent, mostly through tourism. Earnings in accommodation alone jumped 40 percent over that decade.

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## FISHING EMPLOYMENT

Continued from page 6

### What to expect for 2019 numbers

Fish harvesting employment will likely benefit from a much larger salmon catch in 2019, and in Bristol Bay in particular. The timing of the catch and whether more permits were fished will influence how much of the increased harvest translates into higher job numbers. (See

the sidebar on page 6 for details on how we estimate fishing jobs.)

Downward pressure on jobs will likely come from the ongoing decline of Pacific cod stocks and corresponding reduced catches. As noted earlier, 2018 job numbers were down dramatically in groundfish fisheries, especially in the Aleutians. If stocks continue to fall, more job losses are likely in 2019.

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## EMPLOYER RESOURCES

# Veterans and Military Spouses JOB FAIR

**10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Friday,  
Nov. 22, 2019**  
**University Center Mall**  
3801 Old Seward Highway, Anchorage

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**  
Make connections. Dress for success. Bring copies of resumé and business cards.

**FOR DETAILS: (907) 269-4777**  
**[Jobs.Alaska.Gov](http://Jobs.Alaska.Gov)**



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

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