



Alaska Employer

Newsletter

Unemployment Insurance Tax



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Mike Dunleavy, Governor

Catherine Muñoz, Commissioner

Paloma Harbour, Director

September 2024

Questions about your rate, account or contributions?

CONTACTS

Juneau Central Office

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Toll free: (888) 448-3527
Fax: (907) 465-2374
Email: ESD.Tax@Alaska.Gov
Relay Alaska: (800) 770-8973

FIELD TAX OFFICES

Anchorage

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Mat-Su

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Wasilla, AK 99654-6937
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Fax: (907) 352-2581

UI Tax Representative

Toll free: (888) 448-2937

Scam alert

Be aware of possible fraudulent activity requesting payments. If you are contacted by a third party demanding a payment regarding your Employment Security Tax account, disregard the request. If you are unsure of the authenticity of the request for payment, please contact the Employment Security Tax office. Employment Security Tax does not use a third party to seize property, file levies and/or liens, or collect payments from employers. Payments should only be made directly to our agency either in-person, by mail, or online using TaxWeb. To check the status of your account, sign into TaxWeb through myAlaska at tos.dol.alaska.gov/tos. Instructions to sign into TaxWeb can also be found on our website at labor.alaska.gov/estax.

Enroll in SIDES

Alaska's Unemployment Insurance (UI) program is proud to offer the State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES) for employers to respond quickly and securely to UI separation information and earnings verification requests. Using SIDES reduces paperwork and administrative costs, eliminates postage fees, minimizes UI rates, and ensures information is exchanged securely and accurately. SIDES and SIDES eResponse are web-based programs developed through a partnership between the U.S. Department of Labor and state UI agencies to simplify and streamline requests and responses for UI information. SIDES is free of charge! If you are interested in using SIDES, please send an email to dol.sides@alaska.gov and provide the following information: Your business name, FEIN, contact name, phone number and the email address where you would like information requests to be sent.

Power of Attorney form update

Our updated Power of Attorney form is available on our website and is now fillable. If only box 7, to enroll in SIDES, and box 8, requesting notification of UI matters, are checked, the form should be emailed to jnu.uitech@alaska.gov. If boxes 7 and 8 are checked in addition to other boxes on the form, the form should be emailed to both jnu.uitech@alaska.gov and esd.tax@alaska.gov.

Alaska Economic Trends Magazine is a monthly publication that covers a broad range of economic issues. To view the electronic magazine, search articles and archives, and sign up for a FREE electronic subscription visit labor.alaska.gov/trends.

Penalty rates are avoidable

Does your account have missing quarterly contribution reports or contributions due through the quarter ending July 31, 2024? If you use a third party, do not assume all required quarterly reports and payments have been submitted. Ensure you receive a 2025 experience tax rate instead of a penalty tax rate by double-checking all quarterly contribution reports and payments have been submitted through July 31, 2024. If you are not sure, give us a call.

For 2024, 299 Alaska employers received a penalty rate. Experience rates for 2024 range from one to 1.16%. At a taxable wage base of \$49,700, Alaska employers at a 1.16% rate will pay a maximum of \$576.52 per employee this year. Currently, 82% of Alaska employers are at an experience rate of one to 1.16% and pay \$497-\$576.52 per employee. A penalty-rated employer is taxed at 5.4% and can be liable for up to \$2,684 per employee, more than four times the amount of the highest rate for an experience-rated employer and more than five times the amount for the lowest experience-rated employer.



If you are having difficulty paying the contribution due, reach out to your Field Auditor or call our agency directly to discuss the possibility of a deferred payment plan which may prevent your account from receiving the penalty rate for 2025.

Pre-filing zero wage reports electronically

Take advantage and file your zero quarterly reports early! If you are a seasonal employer who traditionally files "zero" reports for quarters your business is not actively in operation (quarters where no wages were paid), why not make those reports part of your closing ritual? Zero reports can now be pre-filled electronically through TaxWeb. Access TaxWeb directly at tos.dol.alaska.gov or through our website at labor.alaska.gov/estax and then click "Online Employer Services." You may also file your reports early on paper and mail them to our agency. The Alaska Quarterly Contribution Report can be located on our website at labor.alaska.gov/estax/forms/toc_forms.htm.

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**Third quarter reports and payments
are due by Oct. 31, 2024.**