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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Jan. 11, 2011

No. 11-2

### Department of Labor Releases 2011 Economic Forecast

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development released its annual industry employment forecast for 2011 in the January issue of "Alaska Economic Trends." The forecast — which covers Anchorage, Fairbanks, Southeast and the state as a whole — predicts continued economic recovery this year.

"While Alaska felt the effects of the national recession, we fared much better than most states," Commissioner Click Bishop said in the magazine. Employment levels recovered in 2010 and for the second year in state history, Alaska's unemployment rate was lower than the nation's.

At this time last year, the department reported a 2009 loss of 2,100 jobs statewide and predicted a loss of 1,400 jobs in 2010. Instead, Alaska added 1,900 jobs between 2009 and 2010. The "Trends" forecast for 2011 is similar to the 2010 estimate: modest growth of about 1,800 jobs.

Most industries are likely to remain stable in 2011, with health care providing the largest number of new jobs. The department projects that continued strong commodity prices, a recovering visitor industry, improved consumer confidence, healthy fish harvests, and a strong

fiscal position bode well for employment growth in Alaska this year.

Anchorage's outlook is similar to the statewide forecast. In 2010, Anchorage gained about 500 jobs after losing a similar number in 2009. In 2011, Anchorage is expected to gain 600 jobs, with a variety of industries contributing to this growth, according to department economists.

Fairbanks' long history of growth was briefly interrupted in 2009, but resumed in 2010 and should continue in 2011. According to "Trends," stronger gains would have been likely for Fairbanks, but a major military deployment this year will dampen the outlook.

Unlike the other areas, Southeast may face a slight decline in jobs. Economists expect structural demographic changes and hesitant tourists to erode employment in retail trade, transportation, and leisure and hospitality.

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Research and Analysis Web site: [laborstats.alaska.gov](http://laborstats.alaska.gov)

Alaska Economic Trends, January 2011: [labor.alaska.gov/trends/jan11.pdf](http://labor.alaska.gov/trends/jan11.pdf)

### Alaska Wage and Salary Employment Forecast for 2011

	2009 Monthly Average	2010 Monthly Average <sup>1</sup>	Change 2009 to 2010	Percentage Change 2009 to 2010	2011 Monthly Average	Change 2010 to 2011	Percentage Change 2010 to 2011
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary <sup>2</sup>	321,700	323,600	1,900	0.6%	325,400	1,800	0.6%
Natural Resources and Mining	15,200	14,400	-800	-5.3%	14,400	0	0.0%
Oil and Gas	12,800	11,800	-1,000	-7.8%	11,700	-100	-0.8%
Construction	16,200	16,100	-100	-0.6%	16,100	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	12,800	12,800	0	0.0%	12,800	0	0.0%
Seafood Processing	9,100	9,100	0	0.0%	9,100	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	63,200	62,900	-300	-0.5%	63,000	100	0.2%
Retail Trade	35,600	35,500	-100	-0.3%	35,500	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	21,300	21,100	-200	-0.9%	21,200	100	0.5%
Information	6,600	6,400	-200	-3.0%	6,300	-100	-1.6%
Financial Activities	14,700	14,800	100	0.7%	14,900	100	0.7%
Professional and Business Services	26,200	26,000	-200	-0.8%	25,900	-100	-0.4%
Educational <sup>3</sup> and Health Services	39,800	41,900	2,100	5.3%	43,600	1,700	4.1%
Health Care	28,700	30,100	1,400	4.9%	31,200	1,100	3.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	31,200	31,200	0	0.0%	31,300	100	0.3%
Other Services	11,500	11,900	400	3.5%	12,000	100	0.8%
Government	84,300	85,200	900	1.1%	85,100	-100	-0.1%
Federal Government <sup>4</sup>	17,100	17,400	300	1.8%	17,200	-200	-1.1%
State Government <sup>5</sup>	25,400	26,100	700	2.8%	26,300	200	0.8%
Local Government <sup>6</sup>	41,800	41,700	-100	-0.2%	41,600	-100	-0.2%

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary estimate

<sup>2</sup> Excludes self-employed workers, fishermen, domestic workers, unpaid family workers, and nonprofit volunteers

<sup>3</sup> Private education only

<sup>4</sup> Excludes uniformed military

<sup>5</sup> Includes the University of Alaska

<sup>6</sup> Includes public school systems