



Alaska Employer Unemployment Insurance Tax



Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

Thomas Nelson, Director

JUNEAU CENTRAL OFFICE

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FAX (907) 465-2374
Email: esd_tax@labor.state.ak.us
TDD - Relay Alaska Operator
1-800-770-8973

UI TAX OFFICES

UI Tax Representative
Toll Free 1-888-448-2937

Anchorage UI Tax
3301 Eagle St., Rm. 106
P.O. Box 241767
Anchorage, AK 99524-1767
(907) 269-4850
FAX (907) 269-4845

Fairbanks UI Tax
675 Seventh Ave.
Station L
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4595
(907) 451-2876
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Juneau UI Tax
1111 W. Eighth St.
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(907) 465-2787
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Kenai UI Tax
11312 Kenai Spur Hwy.
Suite 2
Kenai, AK 99611-9106
(907) 283-4478
FAX (907) 283 -5152

Wasilla UI Tax
877 Commercial Drive
Wasilla, AK 99654-6937
(907) 373-2682
FAX (907) 373-2683

2006 UI Tax Rates and Taxable Wage Base

You should have recently received your 2006 employer and employee tax rate notice. The tax rate notice also includes the 2006 taxable wage base. If you have questions about your rate, please call the Employer Account Specialist Unit at our Juneau Central Office at 1-888-448-3527 or 907-465-2757. You can also email UI Tax at esd_tax@labor.state.ak.us.

You Can Reduce Your UI Tax Rate

If you pay bonuses or issue payroll on a biweekly basis, you may be able to reduce your UI Tax rate.

Alaska's rate system is based on **quarterly wage declines**. A decline in quarterly wages exists when the amount of total wages you report reflects a decrease from one quarter to the next. The higher the decline in wages, the higher your tax rate may be. There are several factors that may create **artificial quarterly declines**, such as:

- Bonus payments
- Biweekly payroll systems
- Issuance of lump-sum payments
- Paying a labor dispute settlement
- Changes in your accounting or payroll methods

"Employer Option Forms" are enclosed with your Annual Rate Notice and may be used to help equalize any quarterly declines caused by these variables. Employer Option Forms enable employers to delete or apportion wage payments. This helps to stabilize your payroll from one quarter to the next, thus obtaining a more favorable tax rate.

Questions regarding employer options and requests for Employer Option Forms should be directed to the UI Tax Employer Account Specialist Unit at 1-888-448-3527. Employer Option Forms, in addition to a variety of other UI Tax forms, are available online at:

www.labor.state.ak.us/estax

Keep it Simple with Tax Online Services

Online services are available for employers. These services have been widely popular and are easy to use. For example, employers can:

- Register a new business or change business type
- Update or close an account
- Make payments through electronic funds transfer (EFT)
- View balance and payment history
- Enter wage information for filing single or multiple accounts
- Upload wage details by sending a computer file over the web
- Submit zero or "no wages" reports

Check it out at www.labor.state.ak.us/estax. You will be amazed at what you find!

Oh No, Not Another Audit

Does it seem like you're always being audited by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development? The department has Field Tax auditors, Wage & Hour investigators, Unemployment Insurance Fraud investigators and Unemployment Insurance (UI) Quality Control (QC) auditors. Each may ask you to verify hours worked, employment security taxes paid, new hire information, etc. All auditors work to protect the tax dollars you pay into the UI trust fund.

QC audits are required by the federal government to identify and reduce errors in the payment of UI benefits. Alaska has eight QC auditors statewide which are based in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks. QC auditors investigate randomly selected UI claims from beginning to end. The QC auditor will ask for personnel information and may ask that you provide copies of past payroll records, current payroll records, time sheets and timecards, or to verify employee separation information. All of this information is important in determining whether UI benefits have been properly paid. QC auditors also verify school attendance with training facilities, union status, job registration and work search contacts. By investigating randomly selected UI claims and compiling statistical data, the accuracy of UI payments can be ascertained. If there are any over/underpayments, the responsibility and causes can be determined. This statistical information is loaded into a national database with audits from UI programs in other states. The data is reviewed at a national level. Suggestions for changes in programs and policies are then administered to help the UI program run more efficiently and ensure UI benefits are being paid out properly.

QC auditors have a federally mandated time frame to complete audits. Your prompt response and cooperation are always appreciated. Each QC auditor's phone, fax and email contact information is always provided with any request for information.

Next time you receive a request from a QC auditor, please take the time to assist by meeting the auditor in person or providing the requested documentation by fax or mail. It is a very important step in protecting your UI tax dollar investment.