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Press Release

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Alaska employment grew 0.4 percent in third quarter 2015

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's average monthly employment grew by 0.4 percent in the third quarter of 2015 compared to the previous year, according to recently published data. July through September employment averaged 354,204 jobs, which was 1,551 more than the same period in 2014. Third quarter is the peak of Alaska's highly seasonal employment pattern.

Employers paid \$4.6 billion in wages during the third quarter of 2015, which was 2.4 percent more than the third quarter of 2014, when adjusted for inflation.

Overall, the private sector added more than 1,900 jobs between the third quarters of 2014 and 2015 while the public sector shrunk by about 400.

Public sector losses were driven by state government, which was down 850 jobs from the prior year, or 3 percent. Local government gained just over 200 jobs. Federal government, which had been a long-term damper on job growth, added 262 jobs for its first quarter of gains since 2010.

Total private sector employment was up 0.7 percent, despite oil industry and related losses. Code changes overstate 2015 oil industry job losses, with some oil jobs moved to construction, but the two industries combined shed nearly 800 jobs between third quarters of 2014 and 2015.

Losses were offset by strong growth in retail and leisure and hospitality as well as continued growth in health care. Retail was up by more than 700 jobs, mostly due to new stores. The leisure and hospitality industry, which includes restaurants, bars, hotels, and recreation, added more than 1,100 jobs with a record number of summer tourists. Private health care, which excludes municipal hospitals, added 762 jobs.

Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

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Alaska Employment by Industry

Industry	3rd Qtr 2014	3rd Qtr 2015	Change	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	352,653	354,204	1,551	0.4%
Total Private	278,942	280,869	1,928	0.7%
Natural Resources and Mining	19,730	18,872	-858	-4.3%
Oil and Gas Industry	15,154	14,084	-1,069	-7.1%
Construction	20,147	20,423	275	1.4%
Manufacturing	20,427	20,689	262	1.3%
Seafood Product Manufacturing	16,391	16,540	149	0.9%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	69,168	70,140	972	1.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	21,982	22,231	249	1.1%
Retail Trade	38,363	39,067	704	1.8%
Wholesale Trade	6,649	6,656	7	0.1%
Utilities	2,175	2,187	12	0.6%
Information	6284	6294	10	0.2%
Financial Activities	13,306	13,551	245	1.8%
Professional and Business Services	31,242	31,115	-128	-0.4%
Education and Health Services	45,667	46,268	601	1.3%
Health Care	33,692	34,454	762	2.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	40,204	41,346	1,142	2.8%
Other Services	12,135	11,767	-368	-3.0%
Total Government	73,711	73,335	-376	-0.5%
Federal Government	15,271	15,533	262	1.7%
State Government	26,005	25,156	-850	-3.3%
Local Government	32,434	32,646	211	0.7%

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages 2015