

ALASKA ECONOMIC *TRENDS*

OCTOBER 2021

ALSO INSIDE

How household
income in Alaska
measures up

The GENDER
WAGE GAP



FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Disability inclusion crucial to healthy economy, businesses

By Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter, Commissioner

October is National Disability Awareness Month, and its purpose is to commemorate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities to America's workplaces and economy. This year's theme, "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion," emphasizes the importance of community involvement and job access for those with disabilities during the nation's pandemic recovery.

Our country has made many strides toward better education, training, and job opportunities for people with disabilities, and Alaska is a leader in this area. Several other states look to Alaska for best practices and innovative ways to deliver services.

I am particularly grateful to Duane Mayes, the director of our department's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, for his guidance and outstanding leadership. Alaska's DVR director was recently selected by his peers from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to be the regional representative for a prominent national trade organization, The Council on State Administrators for Vocational Rehabilitation.

Director Mayes established the first-ever Deaf Professional Network, gathering leaders from all 50 states on the council's behalf to address career opportunities for Americans who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind. He also co-chairs the council's performance and accountability committee.

Recognition of this important work helps the department promote full employment access for people with disabilities, which is critical to the nation's economy and, more importantly, to the



state's economic recovery. To highlight the value that Alaskans with disabilities bring to the workplace, Gov. Mike Dunleavy proclaimed Oct. 3-9 "Alaska Employ People With Disabilities Week."

Study after study shows that hiring people with disabilities is good for business.

The most recent Accenture Report, which analyzes the disability practices and financial performance of 140 companies, shows that businesses emphasizing disability inclusion enjoy lower turnover rates, equal or better attendance, and even higher revenues and profit margins.

If you are an employer challenged with filling vacancies, I encourage you to reach out to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. They can help you take advantage of this untapped, qualified labor pool. Call (907) 269-2060 or toll-free (800) 478-4467.

Further reading:

[*The New York Times: Hiring People With Disabilities Is Good Business.*](#)

[*Forbes: People With Disabilities Want Paychecks Not Pity. Here's How Businesses Are Helping.*](#)

[*Accenture: Getting to Equal, The Disability Inclusion Advantage.*](#)

Contact Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter, Commissioner, at (907) 465-2700 or commissioner.labor@alaska.gov.



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ON THE COVER:

Army Spc. Tori Luedde packs up her parachute during an airborne operation on Malemute drop zone at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in late 2018. U.S. Air Force photo by Justin Connaher

ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT of LABOR
and WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

Governor
Mike Dunleavy

Commissioner
Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter

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

ON THIS SPREAD: The background image for 2021 is a cloudy sunset in Wasilla.
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If you have questions or comments, contact the authors listed at the end of each article or the editor at sara.whitney@alaska.gov or (907) 465-6561. This material is public information, and with appropriate credit it may be reproduced without permission. To sign up for a free electronic subscription, read past issues, or purchase a print subscription, visit labor.alaska.gov/trends.

The gender wage gap in 2019

After state recession, women made 72 cents on the dollar

By **KARINNE WIEBOLD**

In 2019, the average woman working in Alaska made \$38,000, with a roughly 50 percent chance she worked in health care or in state or local government. She was likely more educated than the average man, worked the same number of quarters, and earned 72 percent of what he did — an improvement by historical standards.

Although the genders participate in the workforce at nearly equal rates, men earn more in almost 80 percent of Alaska’s occupations and at every age and educational level. Women represented 49 percent of the state’s workers in 2019 but received 40 percent of total wages.

and took home 35 percent of the wages. Total wages paid to women reached a high of 41 percent in 2018, then dipped to 40 percent the following year.

Women’s wages as a percent of men’s, sometimes expressed as “earning 72 cents on the dollar,” is called the earnings ratio. That ratio hit a low of 62 percent in the late 1980s, when Alaska was emerging from a deep recession, then grew to between 65 and 66 percent during the 1990s.

The gap continued to shrink into the 21st century, with the earnings ratio bouncing between 65 percent and 68 percent, but it wasn’t until the pre-pandemic statewide recession that the ratio moved noticeably.

Picture better than the '80s, but little movement until recently

Women's wages and workforce presence have grown in recent decades, albeit slowly. In the late 1980s, women represented 47 percent of workers

Recent gains mainly from men's losses during state recession

Between 2014 — right before the recession — and 2016, women’s average earnings grew from 67 percent of men’s to 71 percent.

Women's wages and historical representation in the Alaska workplace

	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2019
Percent of workers																
Women	46%	46%	46%	47%	47%	47%	48%	48%	48%	48%	48%	48%	48%	48%	49%	49%
Men	54%	54%	54%	53%	53%	53%	52%	52%	52%	52%	52%	52%	52%	52%	51%	51%
Percent of wages																
Women	35%	36%	36%	36%	37%	37%	38%	38%	38%	37%	38%	38%	38%	39%	41%	40%
Men	65%	64%	64%	64%	63%	63%	62%	62%	62%	63%	62%	62%	62%	61%	59%	60%
Average annual wages																
Women	\$16,046	\$17,840	\$18,721	\$18,512	\$19,917	\$20,354	\$21,978	\$23,389	\$25,189	\$27,230	\$29,063	\$30,805	\$32,760	\$34,311	\$36,394	\$37,643
Men	\$26,084	\$27,550	\$28,461	\$28,353	\$30,303	\$30,803	\$32,756	\$34,552	\$37,807	\$41,823	\$43,317	\$45,962	\$49,010	\$48,571	\$50,498	\$52,477
Earnings ratio*																
	62%	65%	66%	65%	66%	66%	67%	68%	67%	65%	67%	67%	67%	71%	72%	72%

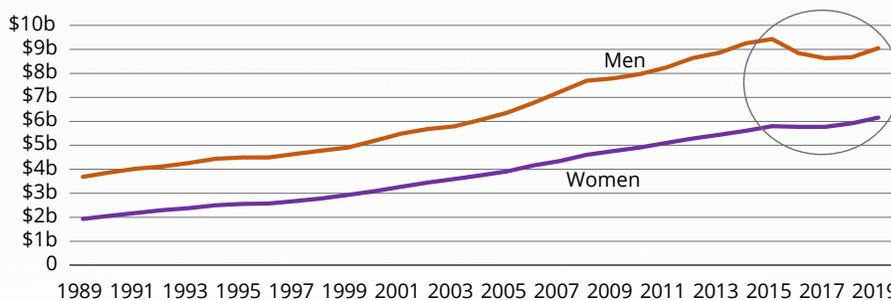
*What women earned on average that year as a percentage of what men earned

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

As the line graph at right shows, the gap narrowed because men's wages fell during the state recession, which largely spared women because of the jobs and industries hurt most.

Nearly 11,000 Alaskans lost a job between 2015 and 2018, and more than two-thirds of them were men. The jobs they lost also tended to be high-paying, taking an additional bite from men's total wages.

Men's wages dipped during 3-year state recession



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

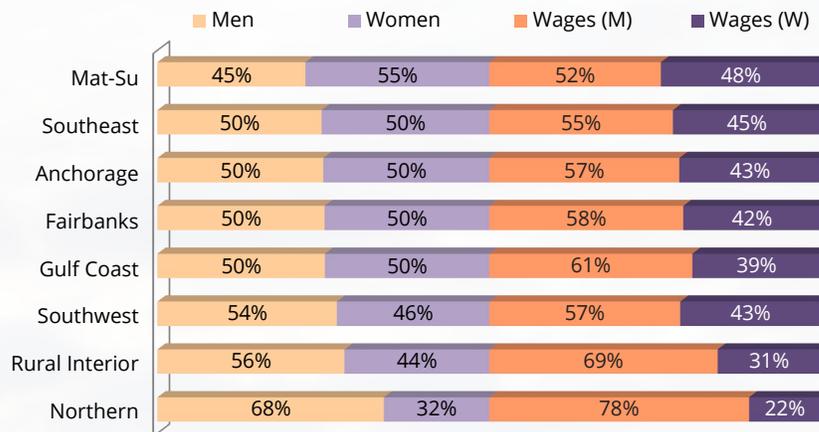
A note on COVID and this article's scope

When we wrote about men and the recent state recession in the [April issue of Trends](#), we included a preview of the pandemic's effects by gender, which suggested an opposite story was unfolding.

While the disparate hit men took during the downturn of the mid-to-late 2010s shrank the gender gap, preliminary data show the pandemic has hit women harder than men.

Text continues on page 7

Regional wages and workers by gender in 2019



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

About the gender wage gap and limitations of the data

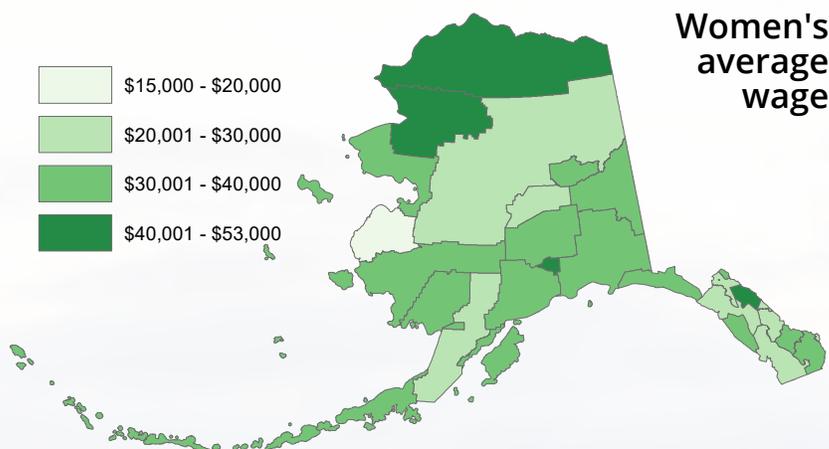
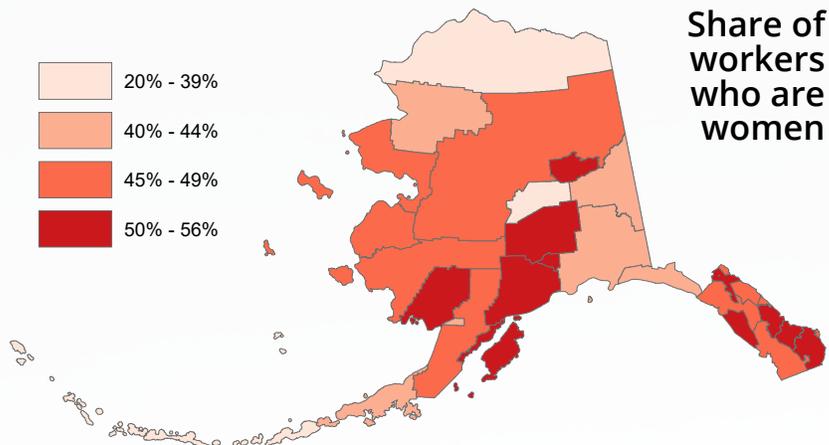
The difference between women's and men's wages is referred to as the gender wage gap, and it's influenced by many factors including experience, training, education, hours worked, job and industry choice, and discrimination. Many studies have attempted to measure and explain the reasons for the wage gap. While that type of analysis is mostly outside the scope of this article, the data shown here can suggest where further research would be most promising.

For this article, we examined the total wages earned by each gender and the differences in their average annual wages. (Women's average wages divided by men's is also called the earnings ratio.) We matched occupational data the Department of Labor and Workforce Development collects through the state's unemployment insurance program with demographic data from Permanent Fund Dividend applications.

These two sources allow a range of comparisons, but they have limitations. The biggest drawback is they don't allow us to differentiate between full-time and part-time or seasonal workers, and including part-time and seasonal workers brings down the average for yearly wages. Second, because we included only those who were eligible for unemployment insurance and applied for a dividend, this analysis doesn't cover most nonresidents, who make up about 20 percent of the state's annual workforce. It also excludes those who didn't specify a gender, the self-employed, and federal civilian and military workers.

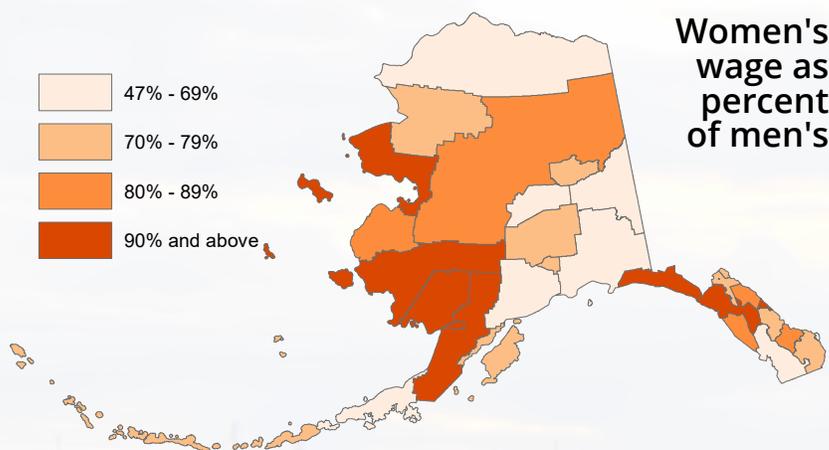
How women's shares of the workforce and wages varied by Alaska area in 2019

Borough or census area	Percent women	Women's avg wage	Earnings ratio*
Aleutians East	42%	\$30,889	69%
Aleutians West	38%	\$39,007	70%
Anchorage	50%	\$42,636	75%
Bethel	47%	\$30,496	98%
Bristol Bay	41%	\$30,488	97%
Denali	39%	\$28,868	47%
Dillingham	50%	\$33,770	104%
Fairbanks	50%	\$35,398	72%
Haines	52%	\$25,712	74%
Hoonah-Angoon	49%	\$21,445	94%
Juneau	49%	\$40,088	81%
Kenai Peninsula	51%	\$31,868	63%
Ketchikan	52%	\$34,471	76%
Kodiak	50%	\$32,457	76%
Kusilvak	48%	\$15,689	86%
Lake and Pen	45%	\$24,994	92%
Mat-Su	55%	\$30,288	75%
Nome	47%	\$37,593	100%
North Slope	22%	\$52,917	60%
NW Arctic	42%	\$40,366	73%
Petersburg	56%	\$28,213	76%
POW-Hyder	48%	\$27,447	69%
Sitka	53%	\$35,447	84%
Skagway	48%	\$30,576	72%
SE Fairbanks	42%	\$32,890	57%
Valdez-Cordova	43%	\$32,742	61%
Wrangell	54%	\$31,835	88%
Yakutat	43%	\$32,214	97%
Yukon-Koyukuk	48%	\$22,465	86%



*What women earned on average that year as a percentage of what men earned

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

However, we won't have reliable, comprehensive data on earnings by gender during COVID for a few more months.

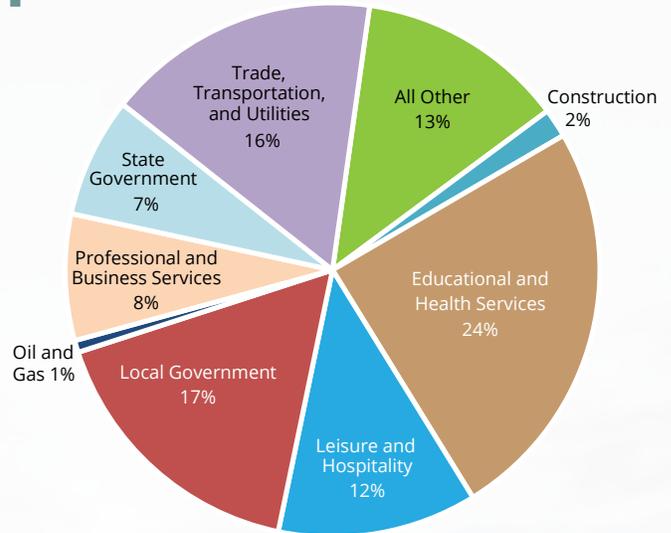
This article's gender analysis is based on 2019 data, which are the most recent complete numbers available. While they don't capture the pandemic's impacts, they provide a comprehensive snapshot of working women in the state right before the pandemic hit.

The reasons for the gender wage gap, which are complex and not entirely known, are mostly outside the scope of this article. Relevant factors include job experience, training, education, hours worked, the choice of a job or industry, and current and historical discrimination. (See the sidebar on page 6 for more about the data.)

Gender gap smallest in Alaska's urban areas

While women are 49 percent of the workforce statewide, the percentage varies considerably by region. In the most populated areas — Anchorage, Fairbanks, and most of the Gulf Coast — they're

Where women worked in 2019



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

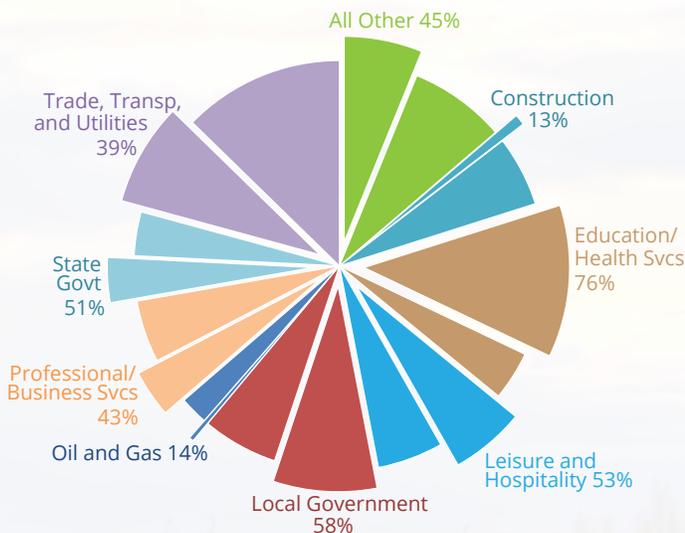
equally represented at 50 percent. In some places, their total wages aren't far behind.

Alaska's cities have a significant number of

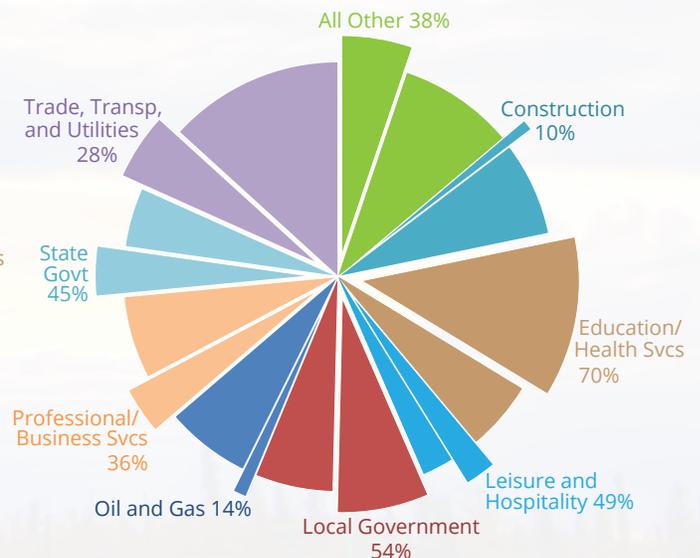
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Women's shares of total jobs and earnings by Alaska industry in 2019

Percent of workers who are women



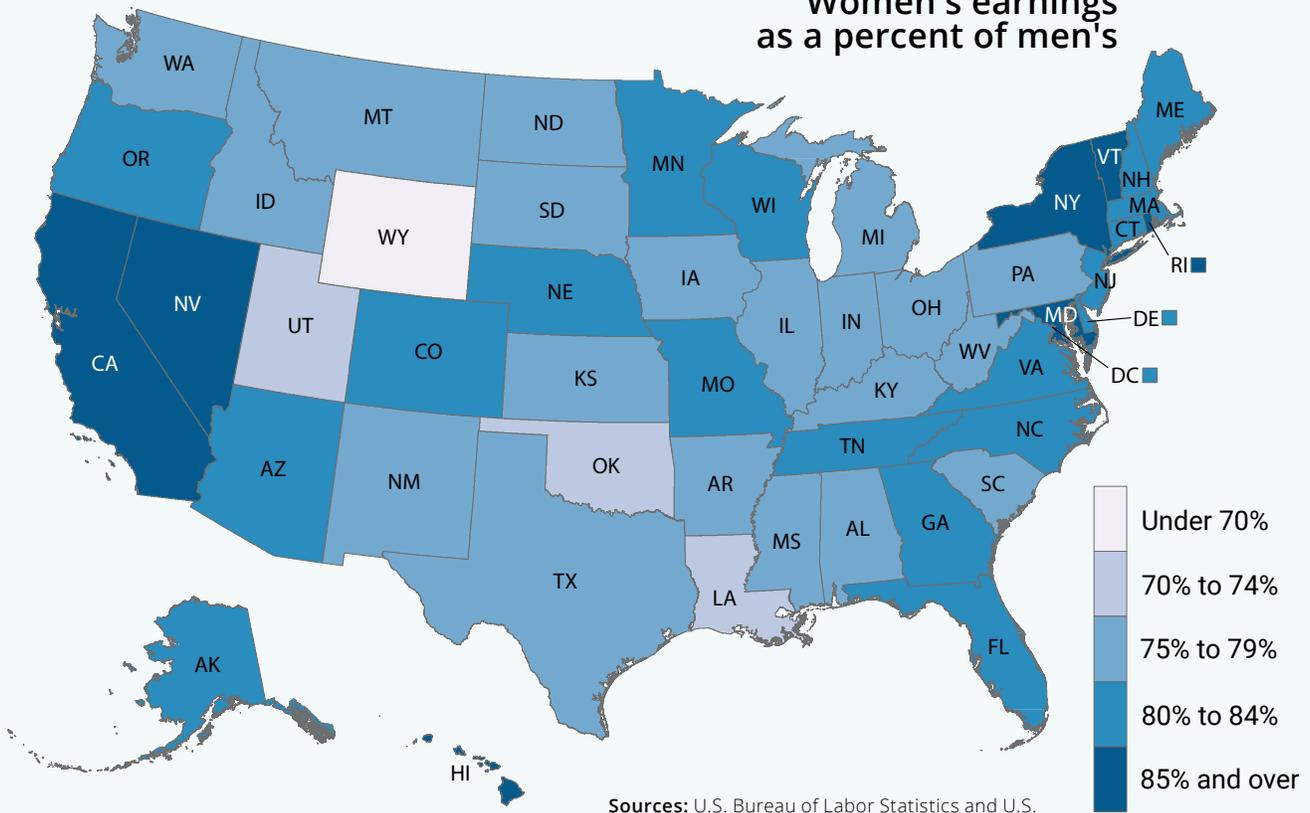
Percent of wages earned by women



Note: The size of each industry's colored slices reflects total workers or wages by industry, and the exploded slices show women's shares.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Women's earnings as a percent of men's



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and U.S. Census Bureau, One-Year American Community Survey, 2019

How Alaska's gender wage gap measures up nationally

National data on the gender wage gap aren't comparable to the Alaska numbers in this article because the national data sources, such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, are survey-based, use median wages instead of average, and limit data to full-time workers.

The size of the gap varies by data source, but the same basic story emerges: that women earn significantly less than men.

Last time we wrote about this topic (in the [March 2017 issue](#), using 2015 data) Alaska's wage gap was bigger than the nation's and that of most states. However, by 2019, Alaska had jumped from 33rd place to 10th.

Alaska's 2015-2018 recession hurt male-dominated industries — oil and gas, construction, and professional and business services — far more than the industries that disproportionately employ women, such as health

care and local government. Much of Alaska's increase in the earnings ratio in recent years was caused by the hit men took over that period rather than a significant increase in women's earnings. (See the [April 2021 issue](#) for more.)

For median wages, U.S. data show Alaska women's earnings were among the nation's highest, coming in seventh among states. The American Community Survey put Alaska women's median wage at \$50,853, which was 83 percent of a man's median wage in 2019 (\$61,173).

Vermont topped the earnings ratio list at 91 percent — in other words, a Vermont woman earned 91 cents on a man's dollar — and Wyoming, another oil industry state, was last at 63 percent.

Nationwide, the earnings ratio was 81 percent, with \$43,394 in median wages for women and \$53,544 for men.

Alaska workers and wages by gender and select industries in 2019

	Total		Women			
	Workers	Wages	Workers	Percent	Wages	Percent
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,828	\$46,603,309	653	36%	\$11,640,517	25%
Mining	11,603	\$1,388,758,033	1,577	14%	\$185,513,291	13%
Oil and Gas	3,133	\$662,710,780	675	22%	\$121,895,533	18%
Oilfield Services (drilling support svcs)	5,535	\$470,874,023	514	9%	\$35,719,718	8%
Utilities	2,600	\$214,746,204	692	27%	\$41,214,112	19%
Construction	21,410	\$1,206,507,883	2,856	13%	\$126,185,059	10%
Manufacturing	10,595	\$380,100,510	3,387	32%	\$88,983,732	23%
Seafood Processing	6,116	\$167,452,990	2,042	33%	\$46,633,197	28%
Wholesale Trade	6,949	\$375,447,165	1,714	25%	\$72,789,966	19%
Retail Trade	40,036	\$1,106,887,584	18,557	46%	\$423,056,687	38%
Transportation and Warehousing	20,205	\$1,082,819,799	6,153	30%	\$228,062,689	21%
Air Transportation	6,176	\$346,385,911	2,181	35%	\$82,431,268	24%
Information	5,676	\$346,254,067	2,105	37%	\$111,400,685	32%
Finance and Insurance	7,291	\$469,656,011	5,159	71%	\$281,192,706	60%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6,356	\$230,191,673	2,685	42%	\$86,144,217	37%
Professional, Scientific and Tech Services	13,121	\$802,523,224	6,282	48%	\$297,026,821	37%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	2,241	\$194,683,540	1,342	60%	\$98,476,766	51%
Admin Support/Waste Mgmt, Remediation	13,562	\$492,465,727	4,888	36%	\$145,448,700	30%
Educational Services	2,499	\$78,202,161	1,548	62%	\$40,945,101	52%
Health Care and Social Assistance	50,701	\$2,532,386,487	38,715	76%	\$1,776,747,520	70%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5,227	\$84,800,873	2,729	52%	\$43,313,727	51%
Accommodation and Food Services	31,854	\$606,833,815	16,995	53%	\$298,440,489	49%
Accommodation	7,765	\$174,644,274	4,420	57%	\$87,786,663	50%
Food Services and Drinking Places	23,765	\$428,095,410	12,392	52%	\$208,401,902	49%
Other Services	10,787	\$359,503,235	5,988	56%	\$177,151,250	49%
Other/Unknown	687	\$16,886,229	297	43%	\$6,955,597	41%
Local Government	47,447	\$1,945,142,157	27,421	58%	\$1,049,837,597	54%
State Government	23,469	\$1,251,194,206	11,882	51%	\$568,831,962	45%
Total	336,144	15,212,593,890	163,625	49%	6,159,359,192	40%

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

high-paying jobs in the private sector as well as in state and local government, where the wage gap is smaller and where women are likely to work.

The Gulf Coast Region's workers are 50 percent women, but they bring in just 39 percent of the area's wages. The region's high-paying oil and gas industry is one of the industries in which women are least likely to work. (See the occupation and industry sections for more.)

In many smaller areas, women make up a larger percentage of the workforce because they're concentrated in local government — particularly public schools — and health care. But rural areas with remote work sites, such as the Northern and Rural Interior regions, have higher percentages of men. Mining, oil extraction, and oilfield services workers are predominately men, and those jobs also pay well.

For example, the North Slope Borough's workforce is just 22 percent women, and those women make 60 cents on a man's dollar. Women in the borough

tend to work in local government, and most men work in high-wage oil jobs on the Slope. The relatively small number of women who do work in the North Slope Borough make the highest wages in the state on average for women, however.

Women in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough represent 55 percent of the workforce, which is among the highest in the state, and take in 48 percent of total wages. Petersburg, Wrangell, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough top the state for the highest percentages of female workers, ranging from 54 to 56 percent.

Mat-Su's high percentage of women needs some context, however, as it's mostly because the borough exports working men. This article classifies people by where they work rather than where they live, and almost a third of Mat-Su residents commute. Nearly 12,000 work in Anchorage, where wages are higher, and 60 percent of them are men. More than 2,600 commute to the North Slope (91 percent are men) and more than 300 work in Kenai

Text continues on page 13

How women fared in the state's largest occupations in 2019

	Workers	Women	Men	Percent women	Women's avg wages	Men's avg wages	Earnings ratio*
Retail Salespersons	14,344	7,830	6,514	55%	\$18,964	\$25,524	74%
Fast Food and Counter Workers	8,118	5,062	3,056	62%	\$13,857	\$14,698	94%
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	7,837	5,702	2,135	73%	\$32,420	\$29,880	109%
Cashiers	7,637	4,899	2,738	64%	\$16,670	\$20,483	81%
Registered Nurses	6,066	5,273	793	87%	\$69,977	\$80,716	87%
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	5,590	2,013	3,577	36%	\$18,916	\$23,624	80%
Office Clerks, General	5,337	3,990	1,347	75%	\$31,131	\$30,482	102%
Construction Laborers	5,274	570	4,704	11%	\$27,334	\$36,067	76%
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	4,852	696	4,156	14%	\$17,268	\$29,390	59%
Personal Care Aides	4,414	3,442	972	78%	\$21,883	\$24,868	88%
Waiters and Waitresses	4,246	3,025	1,221	71%	\$21,463	\$22,426	96%
General and Operations Managers	4,032	1,573	2,459	39%	\$75,263	\$106,243	71%
Food Preparation Workers	4,008	2,054	1,954	51%	\$14,939	\$14,722	101%
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	3,932	3,318	614	84%	\$39,454	\$42,406	93%
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	3,813	1,342	2,471	35%	\$18,549	\$19,254	96%
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	3,649	231	3,418	6%	\$50,481	\$68,237	74%
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	3,537	2,721	816	77%	\$18,377	\$22,264	83%
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	3,482	210	3,272	6%	\$30,979	\$50,089	62%
Secretaries and Admin Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	3,472	3,114	358	90%	\$36,138	\$32,161	112%
Teachers and Instructors, All Other	3,397	2,466	931	73%	\$30,434	\$38,354	79%
Stockers and Order Fillers	2,970	867	2,103	29%	\$21,406	\$25,786	83%
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	2,891	175	2,716	6%	\$44,100	\$59,475	74%
Managers, All Other	2,871	1,440	1,431	50%	\$74,789	\$104,315	72%
Carpenters	2,868	73	2,795	3%	\$29,600	\$48,495	61%
Customer Service Representatives	2,851	1,905	946	67%	\$30,268	\$32,683	93%
Receptionists and Information Clerks	2,746	2,476	270	90%	\$28,734	\$24,868	116%
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	2,590	2,215	375	86%	\$45,045	\$45,608	99%
Transportation Workers, All Other	2,585	716	1,869	28%	\$30,842	\$54,019	57%
Security Guards	2,541	522	2,019	21%	\$24,364	\$33,533	73%
Cooks, Restaurant	2,538	603	1,935	24%	\$17,648	\$21,646	82%
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	2,502	2,017	485	81%	\$58,896	\$61,092	96%
Chief Executives	2,376	1,074	1,302	45%	\$87,074	\$150,350	58%
Sales and Related Workers, All Other	2,260	981	1,279	43%	\$22,518	\$33,986	66%
Nursing Assistants	2,192	1,889	303	86%	\$33,161	\$35,662	93%
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	2,175	1,160	1,015	53%	\$37,219	\$46,152	81%
Teaching Assts, Preschool, Elem, Middle, Secondary (exc Spec Ed)	2,100	1,746	354	83%	\$18,819	\$17,923	105%
Secondary School Teachers, Exc Special and Career/Tech Education	2,059	1,315	744	64%	\$60,229	\$66,237	91%
Medical Assistants	2,006	1,776	230	89%	\$37,078	\$37,362	99%
Accountants and Auditors	1,889	1,340	549	71%	\$66,030	\$76,548	86%
Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers, All Other	1,870	977	893	52%	\$15,544	\$20,220	77%
Child Care Workers	1,870	1,659	211	89%	\$15,493	\$11,722	132%
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Admin Support Workers	1,850	1,377	473	74%	\$49,252	\$52,371	94%
Electricians	1,849	68	1,781	4%	\$56,096	\$75,840	74%
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	1,845	60	1,785	3%	\$35,666	\$45,143	79%
Dishwashers	1,603	273	1,330	17%	\$10,320	\$12,371	83%
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	1,581	274	1,307	17%	\$12,794	\$17,955	71%
Teaching Assistants, Special Education	1,542	1,296	246	84%	\$22,455	\$23,884	94%
Material Moving Workers, All Other	1,503	112	1,391	7%	\$37,966	\$52,172	73%
Light Truck Drivers	1,483	137	1,346	9%	\$31,939	\$44,975	71%
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	1,401	179	1,222	13%	\$65,579	\$82,368	80%

*The earnings ratio is women's average earnings as a percentage of what men earn.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Alaska occupations with high percentages of women or men in 2019

At least 70 percent women	Percent women		Men	Women's avg annual wages	Men's avg annual wages	Earnings ratio
	Women	Men				
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	94%	844	55	\$24,325	\$36,483	67%
Dental Assistants	92%	1,112	100	\$34,391	\$40,268	85%
Receptionists and Information Clerks	90%	2,476	270	\$28,734	\$24,868	116%
Secretaries and Admin Assts, Exc Legal, Medical, Executive	90%	3,114	358	\$36,138	\$32,161	112%
Child Care Workers	89%	1,659	211	\$15,493	\$11,722	132%
Medical Assistants	89%	1,776	230	\$37,078	\$37,362	99%
Billing and Posting Clerks	88%	1,156	154	\$42,141	\$42,846	98%
Registered Nurses	87%	5,273	793	\$69,977	\$80,716	87%
Nursing Assistants	86%	1,889	303	\$33,161	\$35,662	93%
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	86%	2,215	375	\$45,045	\$45,608	99%
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	84%	3,318	614	\$39,454	\$42,406	93%
Teaching Assistants, Special Education	84%	1,296	246	\$22,455	\$23,884	94%
Teaching Assistants, All Other	84%	971	189	\$19,777	\$18,303	108%
Teaching Assts, Preschool, Elemetry, Middle, Secondary, exc Spec Ed	83%	1,746	354	\$18,819	\$17,923	105%
Home Health Aides	81%	908	218	\$22,355	\$26,311	85%
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	81%	2,017	485	\$58,896	\$61,092	96%
Reservation and Transp Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks	80%	908	224	\$31,570	\$28,864	109%
Health Care Support Workers, All Other	80%	893	225	\$35,497	\$37,668	94%
Hosts/Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop	79%	806	211	\$13,332	\$13,223	101%
Tellers	79%	848	232	\$30,030	\$31,031	97%
Personal Care Aides	78%	3,442	972	\$21,883	\$24,868	88%
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	77%	2,721	816	\$18,377	\$22,264	83%
Office Clerks, General	75%	3,990	1,347	\$31,131	\$30,482	102%
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Admin Support Wkrs	74%	1,377	473	\$49,252	\$52,371	94%
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	74%	791	275	\$17,301	\$20,456	85%
Administrative Services Managers	74%	967	347	\$54,361	\$64,315	85%
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	73%	5,702	2,135	\$32,420	\$29,880	109%
Teachers and Instructors, All Other	73%	2,466	931	\$30,434	\$38,354	79%
Waiters and Waitresses	71%	3,025	1,221	\$21,463	\$22,426	96%
Accountants and Auditors	71%	1,340	549	\$66,030	\$76,548	86%

At least 70 percent men

Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	2%	33	1,324	\$40,723	\$72,076	56%
Carpenters	3%	73	2,795	\$29,600	\$48,495	61%
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	3%	60	1,785	\$35,666	\$45,143	79%
1st-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Wkrs	4%	35	925	\$61,975	\$104,819	59%
Electricians	4%	68	1,781	\$56,096	\$75,840	74%
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	5%	69	1,203	\$53,217	\$65,892	81%
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	6%	210	3,272	\$30,979	\$50,089	62%
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	6%	175	2,716	\$44,100	\$59,475	74%
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equip Operators	6%	231	3,418	\$50,481	\$68,237	74%
Construction and Related Workers, All Other	7%	81	1,104	\$40,341	\$48,373	83%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, All Other	7%	90	1,161	\$52,736	\$63,464	83%
Material Moving Workers, All Other	7%	112	1,391	\$37,966	\$52,172	73%
Airline Pilots, Copilots, and Flight Engineers	8%	100	1,150	\$135,239	\$138,820	97%
Light Truck Drivers	9%	137	1,346	\$31,939	\$44,975	71%
Construction Managers	11%	124	1,033	\$85,641	\$106,881	80%
Construction Laborers	11%	570	4,704	\$27,334	\$36,067	76%
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	13%	179	1,222	\$65,579	\$82,368	80%
Firefighters	13%	126	810	\$37,349	\$82,820	45%
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	14%	696	4,156	\$17,268	\$29,390	59%
Grounds Maintenance Workers, All Other	17%	218	1,102	\$13,584	\$21,903	62%
Dishwashers	17%	273	1,330	\$10,320	\$12,371	83%
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	17%	274	1,307	\$12,794	\$17,955	71%
Engineers, All Other	19%	200	864	\$103,849	\$128,500	81%
Correctional Officers and Jailers	20%	264	1,039	\$55,022	\$61,035	90%
Security Guards	21%	522	2,019	\$24,364	\$33,533	73%
Driver/Sales Workers	23%	307	1,038	\$17,137	\$27,055	63%
Cooks, Restaurant	24%	603	1,935	\$17,648	\$21,646	82%
Civil Engineers	25%	278	836	\$75,364	\$92,978	81%
Transportation Workers, All Other	28%	716	1,869	\$30,842	\$54,019	57%
Stockers and Order Fillers	29%	867	2,103	\$21,406	\$25,786	83%

Notes: The earnings ratio is women's average earnings as a percentage of what men earn. Shows only occupations with at least 100 workers.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

High-paying occupations with large numbers of women in 2019

	Women	Men	Percent Women	Total wages paid to women	Total wages paid to men	Percent women's wages	Women's avg annual wages	Men's avg annual wages	Earnings ratio
General/Operations Managers	1,573	2,459	39%	\$118,389,435	\$261,250,377	31%	\$75,263	\$106,243	71%
Chief Executives	1,074	1,302	45%	\$93,517,323	\$195,755,822	32%	\$87,074	\$150,350	58%
Medical/Health Svcs Managers	782	241	76%	\$67,508,862	\$26,249,670	72%	\$86,328	\$108,920	79%
Financial Managers	707	355	67%	\$65,079,465	\$48,604,554	57%	\$92,050	\$136,914	67%
Lawyers	510	469	52%	\$51,158,626	\$56,009,521	48%	\$100,311	\$119,423	84%
Nurse Practitioners	360	37	91%	\$33,612,683	\$4,107,851	89%	\$93,369	\$111,023	84%
Loan Officers	340	152	69%	\$26,612,359	\$15,837,507	63%	\$78,272	\$104,194	75%
Physician Assistants	305	183	63%	\$32,782,237	\$22,179,626	60%	\$107,483	\$121,200	89%
Human Resources Managers	295	98	75%	\$27,735,304	\$10,503,788	73%	\$94,018	\$107,182	88%
Education Administrators, K-12	278	282	50%	\$25,785,614	\$27,437,446	48%	\$92,754	\$97,296	95%
Civil Engineers	278	836	25%	\$20,921,119	\$77,729,555	21%	\$75,364	\$92,978	81%
Family Medicine Physicians	237	153	61%	\$35,672,160	\$30,419,849	54%	\$150,515	\$198,823	76%
Pharmacists	212	147	59%	\$21,745,223	\$16,298,792	57%	\$102,572	\$110,876	93%
Engineers, All Other	200	864	19%	\$20,769,817	\$111,024,400	16%	\$103,849	\$128,500	81%
Computer Systems Analysts	166	354	32%	\$12,772,823	\$30,288,201	30%	\$76,945	\$85,560	90%
Veterinarians	144	38	79%	\$11,205,893	\$3,958,063	74%	\$77,819	\$104,160	75%
Physicians, All Other	139	193	42%	\$28,766,291	\$49,060,512	37%	\$206,952	\$254,200	81%
Dentists, General	138	133	51%	\$12,929,774	\$20,469,471	39%	\$93,694	\$153,906	61%
Financial and Investment Analysts	130	108	55%	\$13,685,889	\$13,956,008	50%	\$105,276	\$129,222	81%
Construction Managers	124	1,033	11%	\$10,619,455	\$110,407,564	9%	\$85,641	\$106,881	80%

Notes: These occupations pay at least \$75,000 a year. The earnings ratio is women's average earnings as a percentage of what men earn.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

High-paying occupations with large numbers of men in 2019

	Women	Men	Percent Women	Total wages paid to women	Total wages paid to men	Percent women's wages	Women's avg annual wages	Men's avg annual wages	Earnings ratio
General/Operations Managers	1,573	2,459	39%	\$118,389,435	\$261,250,377	31%	\$75,263	\$106,243	71%
Electricians	68	1,781	4%	\$3,814,549	\$135,071,334	3%	\$56,096	\$75,840	74%
Managers, All Other	1,440	1,431	50%	\$107,696,220	\$149,274,553	42%	\$74,789	\$104,315	72%
Chief Executives	1,074	1,302	45%	\$93,517,323	\$195,755,822	32%	\$87,074	\$150,350	58%
Police/ Sheriff's Patrol Officers	179	1,222	13%	\$11,738,699	\$100,653,156	10%	\$65,579	\$82,368	80%
Pilots, Copilots, Flight Egrs	100	1,150	8%	\$13,523,942	\$159,642,552	8%	\$135,239	\$138,820	97%
Construction Managers	124	1,033	11%	\$10,619,455	\$110,407,564	9%	\$85,641	\$106,881	80%
Supervisors of Const/Extraction	35	925	4%	\$2,169,111	\$96,957,227	2%	\$61,975	\$104,819	59%
Engineers, All Other	200	864	19%	\$20,769,817	\$111,024,400	16%	\$103,849	\$128,500	81%
Civil Engineers	278	836	25%	\$20,921,119	\$77,729,555	21%	\$75,364	\$92,978	81%
Firefighters	126	810	13%	\$4,706,014	\$67,084,213	7%	\$37,349	\$82,820	45%
Registered Nurses	5,273	793	87%	\$368,987,491	\$64,007,779	85%	\$69,977	\$80,716	87%
Mobile Heavy Equip Mechanics	8	726	1%	\$576,924	\$62,329,805	1%	\$72,116	\$85,854	84%
Production Workers, All Other	88	721	11%	\$7,039,502	\$93,950,776	7%	\$79,994	\$130,306	61%
Telecomm Installers/Repairers	81	642	11%	\$6,103,482	\$54,249,416	10%	\$75,352	\$84,501	89%
Business Operations Specialists	761	581	57%	\$47,896,197	\$50,077,054	49%	\$62,938	\$86,191	73%
Service Unit Operators, Oil and Gas	34	580	6%	\$4,127,589	\$73,330,207	5%	\$121,400	\$126,431	96%
Supervisors of Mechanics/Installers	33	552	6%	\$2,035,208	\$46,330,550	4%	\$61,673	\$83,932	73%
Underground Mining Mach Oper	53	551	9%	\$3,664,195	\$47,755,595	7%	\$69,136	\$86,671	80%
Accountants and Auditors	1,340	549	71%	\$88,480,307	\$42,024,667	68%	\$66,030	\$76,548	86%

Notes: These occupations pay at least \$75,000 a year. The earnings ratio is women's average earnings as a percentage of what men earn.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

(72 percent men).

Those shares used to be even higher. The state recession's outsized bite from oil and gas, construction, and professional and business services reduced the number of Mat-Su commuters.

Women concentrated in a handful of industries

Women work in every industry but are concentrated in a few. Nearly one in four works in health care and social assistance.

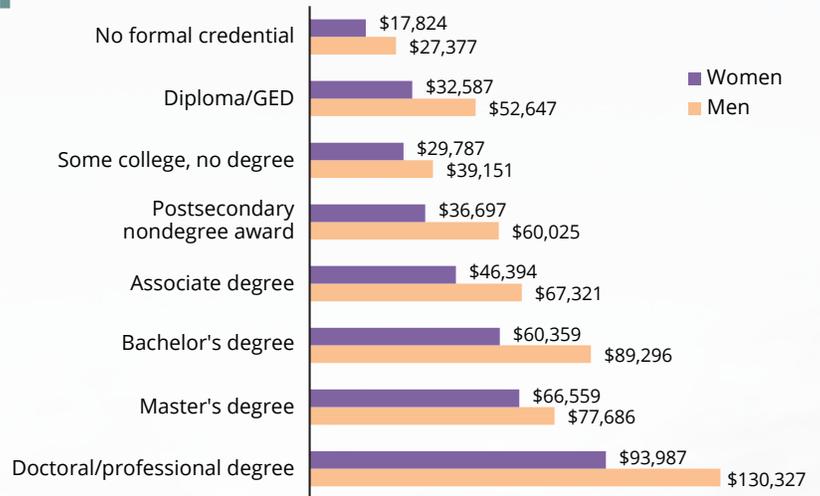
The next-largest industry groups for women are local government — which includes public school teachers — and retail trade.

Oil and gas and construction, industries with high average wages, employ just 2.5 percent of working women.

Women make up more than half of workers in health care and social assistance, leisure and hospitality, and state and local government. They are the minority in construction; oil and gas; professional and business services; and trade, transportation, and utilities.

In all major industry groups, women earn

Men earned more at all education levels, 2019



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

proportionally less than men. Although women make up 76 percent of health care and social assistance, for example, they bring home 70 percent of the wages.

When women are majority, gap is smaller but wages often lower

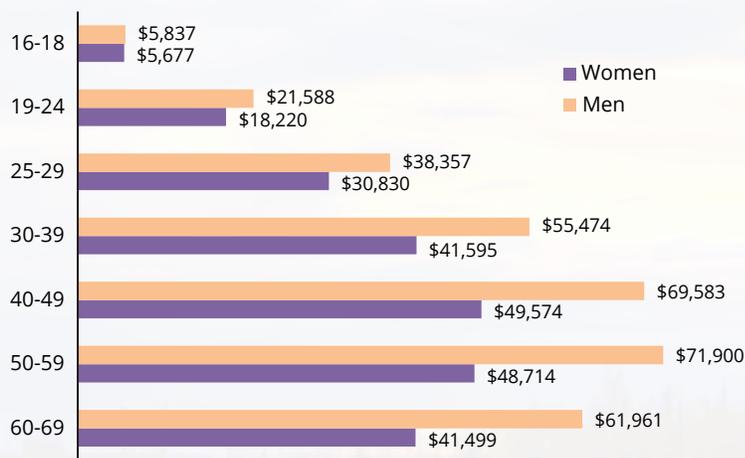
Women are the majority in 28 of the 50 largest occupations, ranging from a high of 90 percent in positions such as receptionists and information clerks, secretaries, and administrative assistants to less than 5 percent in occupations such as electricians (4 percent), automotive service techs and mechanics (3 percent), and carpenters (3 percent).

Generally, the higher the percentage of women in an occupation, the smaller the wage gap. While wages are closer to equal, though, overall wages are lower in most of these jobs.

Registered nurses, accountants and auditors, and teachers are exceptions. But while 87 percent of registered nurses are women, their male counterparts outearn them by an average of \$11,000 a year.

Women earn more than men in about 20 percent of occupations. Examples

Men earned more in all age groups, 2019



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

include office and administrative support such as office clerks, receptionists, and secretaries; and service workers such as food preparation workers, teaching assistants, and child care workers.

Alaska's high-wage jobs are mainly held by men

Fewer women work in high-wage occupations (those paying \$75,000 or more), and those who do earn less than the men. In 2019, 10,365 women held high-wage jobs in Alaska. They made \$95,000 on average while men made \$111,000.

Of Alaska's 800-plus occupations, 111 pay women \$75,000 or more a year. Nearly twice as many occupations pay men at least that much.

In the 195 occupations where men earned at least \$75,000 a year, women represented four out of every 10 workers and earned \$26,000 less on average than the men.

Men earn more at every level of education required

Men earn more at every level of education required for employment, and the gap is largest in jobs with minimal requirements. Two-thirds of Alaska's workers hold jobs that require a high school diploma or less. At the other end of the spectrum, it's 20 percent for bachelor's degrees and only 3 percent for graduate degrees.

Jobs requiring no formal education pay men an average of \$10,000 more per year than women — an earnings ratio of 65 percent. When a high school diploma is required, women earn 62 percent, which is an average of \$20,000 less.

Much of the discrepancy is due to the jobs they hold. Most men whose jobs require a high school diploma or less hold low-paying positions such as retail salespeople (\$26,000), construction laborers (\$36,000), hand laborers (\$29,000), and janitors and cleaners (\$24,000). However, many hold high-wage positions in oilfield and construction, such as petroleum pump systems operators (\$141,000); production workers (\$130,000); service unit operators in oil, gas, and mining (\$126,000); and first-line supervisors of construction trades and extraction workers (\$105,000). These jobs increase men's

average wage considerably.

The vast majority of women in jobs with minimal education requirements work in the lower-paying occupations. The data show 3,628 men but only 68 women in jobs that require minimal education but average more than \$100,000. Women were mainly retail salespeople (\$19,000), office and administrative support (\$32,000), fast food and counter workers (\$14,000), cashiers (\$17,000), and home health and personal care aides (\$22,000).

At the upper end of the education spectrum, while the top occupations for highly educated men and women are similar (legal and health care professionals), men outearn them by an average of \$36,000.

Jobs requiring a doctoral or professional degree pay the highest wages to both men and women but at an earnings ratio of 72 percent, which is a larger gap than for master's degrees but smaller than for bachelor's degrees.

The largest numbers of women with doctoral or professional degrees work as lawyers (\$100,000), physical therapists (\$68,000), family medicine physicians (\$151,000), pharmacists (\$103,000), and other physicians (\$206,000).

The top jobs for highly educated men include lawyers (\$119,000), other physicians (\$266,000), physical therapists (\$84,000), family medicine physicians (\$199,000), and pharmacists (\$111,000).

Gender wage gap widens with age

Wage parity changes considerably by age group, with the genders making almost the same on average among the youngest workers to an earnings ratio of just 67 percent among the oldest workers. Still, men outearn women at every age.

For teens between 16 and 18, the ratio is 97 percent, although wages are low for both and the work is limited mainly to low-paying summer jobs in food preparation and serving or sales. It's also the only age group with more females.

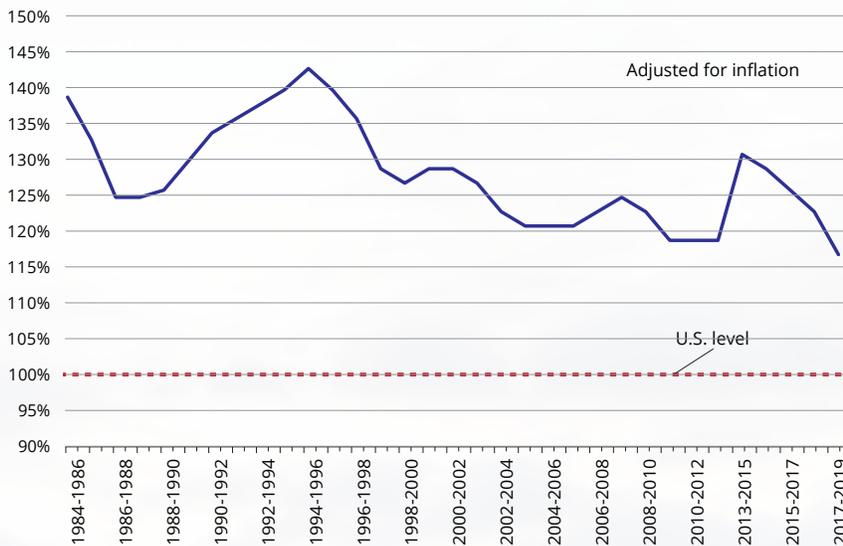
Women in their 50s make 68 cents on the dollar. For women, earnings peak in their 40s and fall slightly in their 50s, while men's earnings peak a decade later.

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Trends in household income

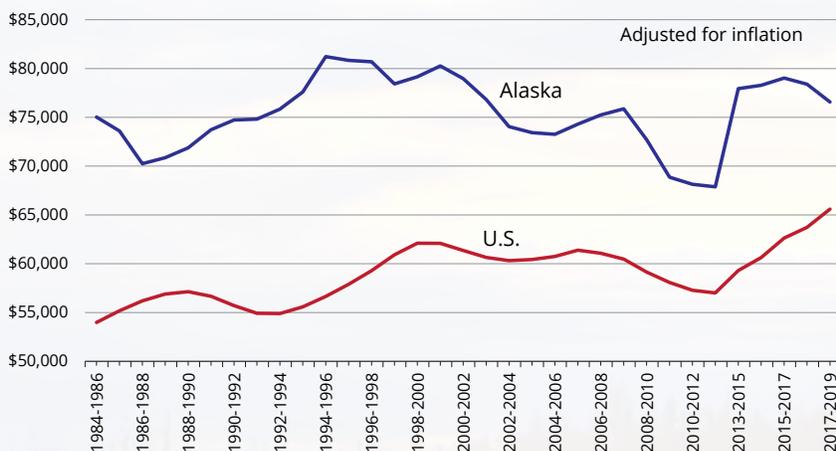
Alaska remains above the U.S., but the gap has narrowed

Household income as percent of U.S. has dropped



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

... but Alaska household income is still above U.S.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey

By NEAL FRIED

Alaska's household income hasn't changed much from the mid-1980s, when adjusted for inflation. It was \$75,032 for the 1984-1986 period and 35 years later, for 2017-2019, it was \$76,570.

Household income bounced around over those decades, however, from a low of \$67,878 in 2011-2013 to a peak of \$81,229 for 1994-1996. It showed no clear pattern, either, although one apparent small factor was the size of Permanent Fund Dividends.

In general, median household income began to grow in the late 1980s, peaked in the mid-to-late 1990s, then began to fall in the early 2000s until bottoming out in 2012-2013. Since recovering that following year, it's held fairly steady.

Alaska, U.S. patterns didn't always track

The national trend has been clearer. U.S. median household income grew through the early 2000s, plateaued until the late 2000s, then took a dive when the national recession hit. That recession ended in 2009, and it took several years for income to recover. But by 2016-2018,

Alaska's household income ranks 12th

State	Median	
1	Maryland	\$86,738
2	Massachusetts	\$85,843
3	New Jersey	\$85,751
4	Hawaii	\$83,102
5	California	\$80,440
6	Connecticut	\$78,833
7	Washington	\$78,687
8	New Hampshire	\$77,933
9	Colorado	\$77,127
10	Virginia	\$76,456
11	Utah	\$75,780
12	Alaska	\$75,463
13	Minnesota	\$74,593
14	New York	\$72,108
15	Rhode Island	\$71,169
16	Delaware	\$70,176
17	Illinois	\$69,187
18	Oregon	\$67,058
	U.S.	\$65,712
19	Wyoming	\$65,003
20	North Dakota	\$64,577
21	Wisconsin	\$64,168
22	Texas	\$64,034
23	Pennsylvania	\$63,463
24	Nevada	\$63,276
25	Nebraska	\$63,229
26	Vermont	\$63,001
27	Kansas	\$62,087
28	Arizona	\$62,055
29	Georgia	\$61,980
30	Iowa	\$61,691
31	Idaho	\$60,999
32	Michigan	\$59,584
33	South Dakota	\$59,533
34	Florida	\$59,227
35	Maine	\$58,924
36	Ohio	\$58,642
37	Indiana	\$57,603
38	Missouri	\$57,409
39	North Carolina	\$57,341
40	Montana	\$57,153
41	South Carolina	\$56,227
42	Tennessee	\$56,071
43	Oklahoma	\$54,449
44	Kentucky	\$52,295
45	New Mexico	\$51,945
46	Alabama	\$51,734
47	Louisiana	\$51,073
48	Arkansas	\$48,952
49	West Virginia	\$48,850
50	Mississippi	\$45,792

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, One-Year American Community Survey, 2019

national household income had hit new heights.

Alaska's household income has long been and remains above the nation's, but the gap has been shrinking since about the mid-1990s, especially with Alaska's poor economic performance in recent years.

Alaska's advantage spiked in 1994-1996 at about 143 percent of the national figure, then hit a historical low of 117 percent in 2017-2019. As the U.S. level rose throughout the mid-to-late-2010s, Alaska was mired in a three-year state recession. Then, in 2019, Alaska recorded just one year of weak recovery.

Our income ranking has fallen, but Alaska's income *equality* ranking remains high

For that most recent three-year span, 2017-2019, Alaska's household income ranked 10th or 12th among states, depending on the data series. (The Census Bureau's Current Population Survey ranked us 10th, and its American Community Survey ranked us 12th.)

In nine of the 15 years before the 1999-2001 period, Alaska ranked first. That trend held for other income measures, too, including per capita income and annual wages.

About household income data

Household income includes almost everyone and covers nearly everything. It comprises work earnings; investment income such as dividends, interest, and rents; all private and public retirement income, including Social Security; public assistance, such as welfare; and all types of transfer payments, including unemployment checks. In Alaska's case, it also includes Permanent Fund Dividends, with one significant omission – the income of household members under 15 is excluded.

A household includes everyone who occupies a housing unit, whether they're related or not. Alaska has 253,346 households with an average of 2.8 occupants each.

Because it's so comprehensive, median household income is considered one of the better measures of economic well-being. By measuring the midpoint instead of the average, the median is a better choice for gauging income because the extremes on both sides of the spectrum have less influence.

This article uses two sources for median household income data, both from the U.S. Census Bureau. The Current Population Survey is a three-year series, adjusted for inflation, that begins in 1984 and provides the longer-term trends. The American Community Survey provides the remainder of this article's data.

Although we've lost some ground nationally, Alaska's household income ranked fifth for income *equality* in 2019, after Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

The measure of income distribution is called the Gini coefficient. It ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 being perfect equality (everyone's income is the same) and 1 as perfect inequality (one person gets all the income). Alaska's Gini coefficient was 0.438, and the national average was 0.48.

Likely reasons include the fact that Alaska is a young state and isn't home to a significant number of extremely wealthy people. Permanent Fund Dividends also play a role.

Alaska's median household income varies widely by area

Still, Alaska's income disparity between areas is notable and often split along rural and urban lines. While there are exceptions, income in Alaska's rural areas typically falls below state and national averages because of fewer economic opportunities, lower education levels, and higher unemployment.

Juneau's median household income was Alaska's highest in recent years, at \$88,390.

At \$87,466, the rural Aleutians West Census Area was a close second, and Kusilvak Census Area was lowest at \$36,754. These two areas represent the income extremes, and being rural is where their similarity ends.

Aleutians West has a population of 5,544, with 82 percent living in Unalaska, the home port for one of the world's most lucrative fisheries. The rest of the population mostly live in St. George, St. Paul, Adak, Atka, a handful of other small communities, and one small military installation on Shemya Island (Eareckson Air Station).

Kusilvak has 13 dispersed, isolated communities with a total population of 8,088. Just one has more than 1,000 people, and the area's lack of jobs is endemic. Demographics also play a big role. Kusilvak is the youngest area of the state, with a median age of 24 in 2020. (In Aleutians West, it was 41.) That means it has fewer working-age people who are earning wages and boosting household income.

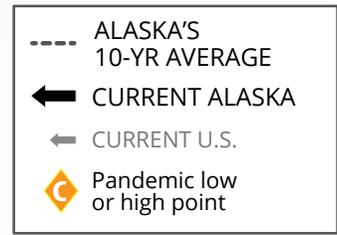
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Median household income by Alaska area in 2015-19

Area	Median household income
Alaska	\$77,640
Aleutians East Borough	\$69,250
Aleutians West Census Area	\$87,466
Anchorage Municipality	\$84,928
Bethel Census Area	\$53,553
Bristol Bay Borough	\$79,808
Denali Borough	\$81,719
Dillingham Census Area	\$56,898
Fairbanks North Star Borough	\$76,992
Haines Borough	\$58,059
Hoonah-Angoon Census	\$59,803
Juneau City and Borough	\$88,390
Kenai Peninsula Borough	\$66,064
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	\$72,728
Kodiak Island Borough	\$85,839
Kusilvak Census Area	\$36,754
Lake and Peninsula Borough	\$44,135
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	\$75,493
Nome Census Area	\$61,048
North Slope Borough	\$79,306
Northwest Arctic Borough	\$60,906
Petersburg Borough	\$69,948
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	\$52,379
Sitka City and Borough	\$73,682
Skagway Municipality	\$73,906
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	\$70,056
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	\$79,867
Wrangell City and Borough	\$53,894
Yakutat City and Borough	\$71,607
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	\$41,413

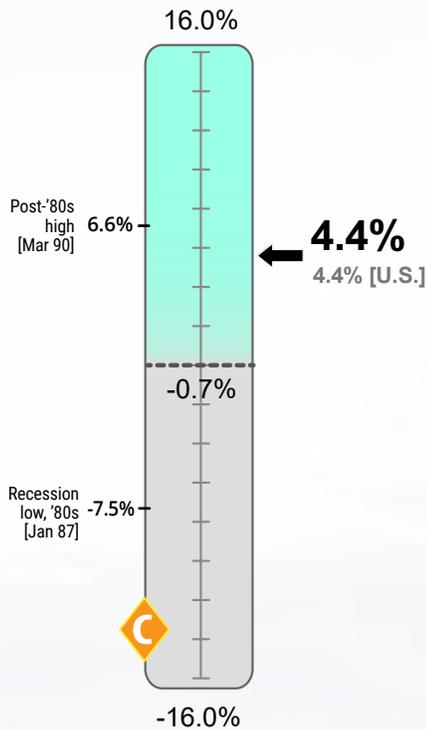
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Five-Year American Community Survey, 2015 to 2019

Gauging The Economy



Job Growth

August 2021
Over-the-year percent change

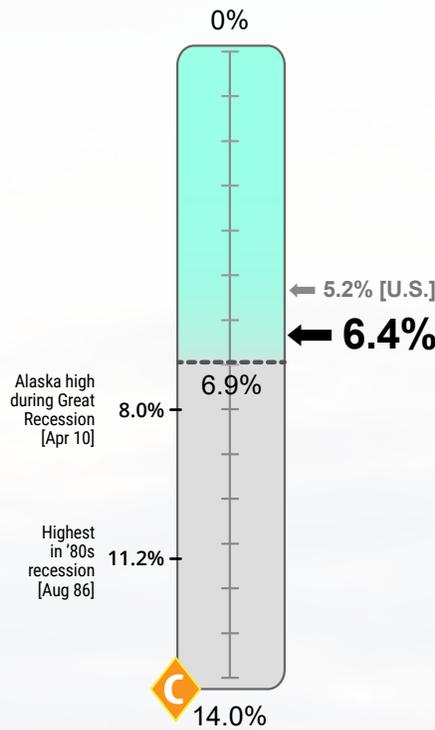


The spread of COVID-19 caused a rapid drop in employment beginning in April 2020. April 2021 marked the first comparison to a month in 2020 that had COVID-related job loss.

Although employment is up significantly from that low period, it was still 8.4 percent below the same month's job levels in 2019. U.S. employment levels were 2.8 percent below August 2019.

Unemployment Rate

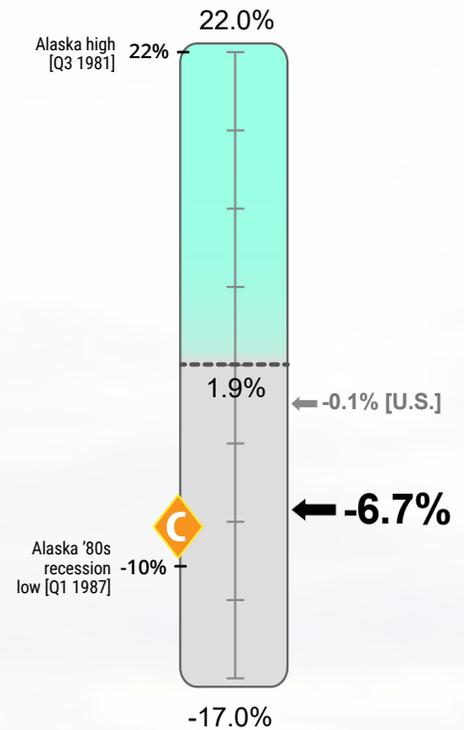
August 2021
Seasonally adjusted



Alaska's unemployment rate has been difficult to calculate during the pandemic and is less useful as an economic measure than it normally would be.

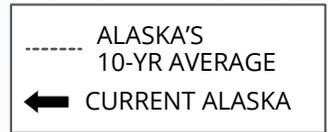
Wage Growth

1st Quarter 2021
Over-the-year percent change



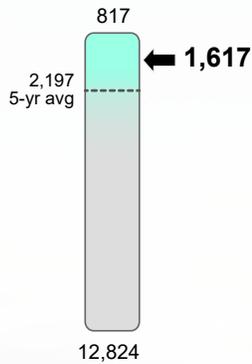
After being well down during the second and third quarters of 2020, total wages paid by Alaska employers climbed above year-ago levels in the fourth quarter, then fell again in the first quarter of this year.

Gauging The Economy



Initial Claims

Unemployment, week ending Sep. 4, 2021*

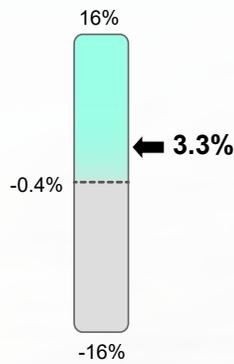


Unemployment claims jumped in the spring of 2020 with the pandemic as many businesses shut down or limited services. Pandemic-driven claims loads are on the decline, and new claims for benefits are back down into the long-term average range.

*Four-week moving average ending with specified week

GDP Growth

1st Quarter 2021 Over-the-year percent change*

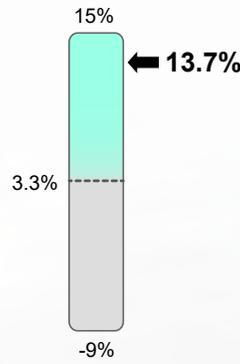


Gross domestic product is the value of the goods and services a state produces. Alaska's GDP dropped significantly when COVID-19 hit, but is slowly recovering.

*In current dollars

Personal Income Growth

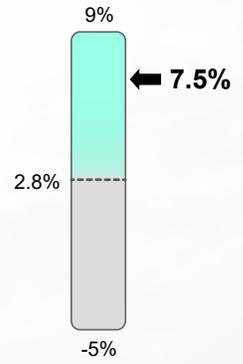
1st Quarter 2021 Over-the-year percent change



Personal income jumped well above year-ago levels, largely because of federal COVID-19 relief funding. Wages were relatively flat over the period.

Change in Home Prices

Single-family, percent change from prior year, Q2 2021*

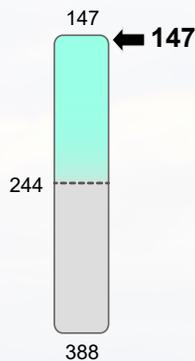


Home prices include only those for which a commercial loan was used. This indicator tends to be volatile from quarter to quarter.

*Four-quarter moving average ending with specified quarter

Foreclosures

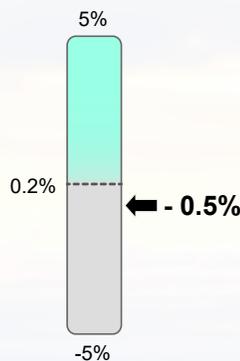
1st Quarter 2020



Because of the pandemic, there has been an indefinite moratorium on foreclosures since the second quarter of 2020.

Population Growth

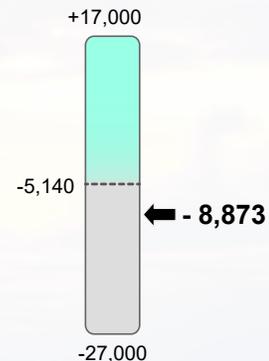
2019 to 2020



This was the fourth straight year of population decline.

Net Migration

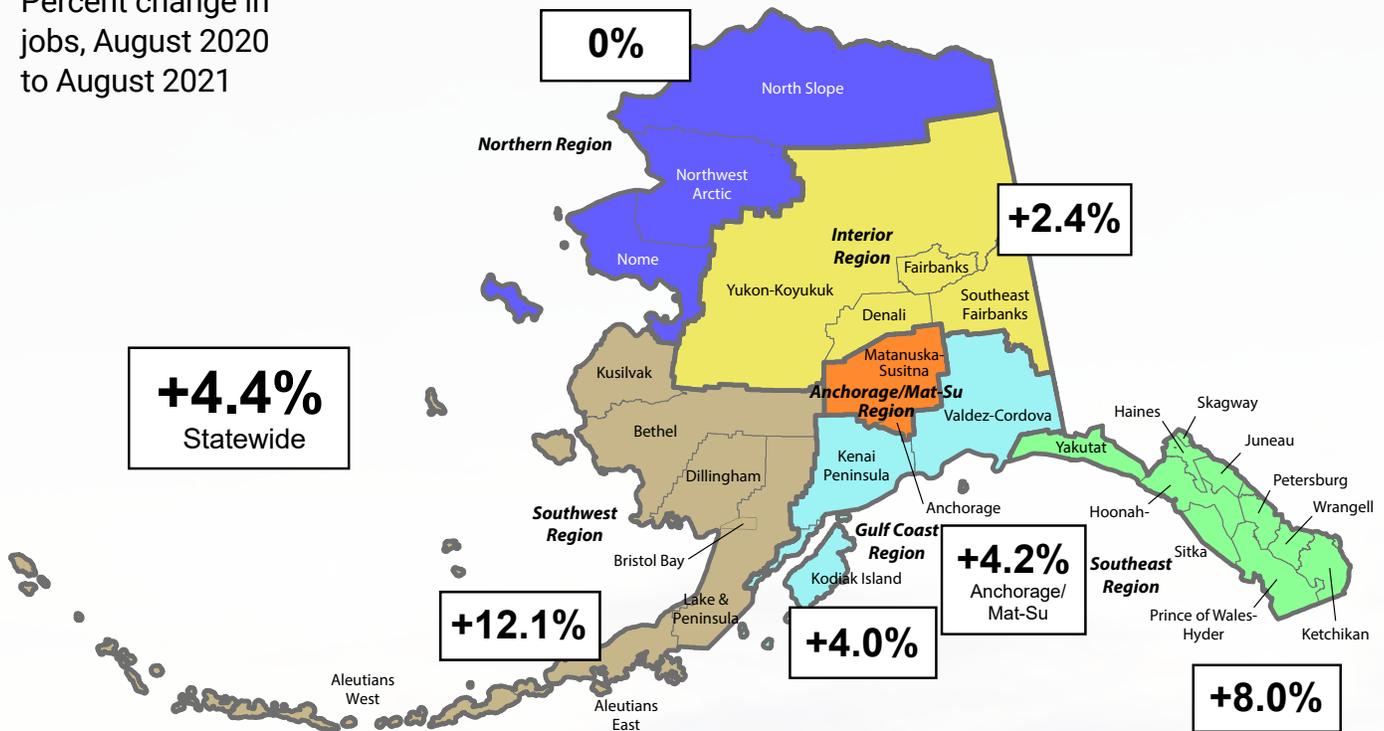
2019 to 2020



The state had net migration losses for the eighth consecutive year in 2020. Net migration is the number who moved to Alaska minus the number who left.

Employment by Region

Percent change in jobs, August 2020 to August 2021



Seasonally adjusted

	Prelim.	Revised	
	08/21	07/21	08/20
United States	5.2	5.4	8.4
Alaska	6.4	6.6	7.2

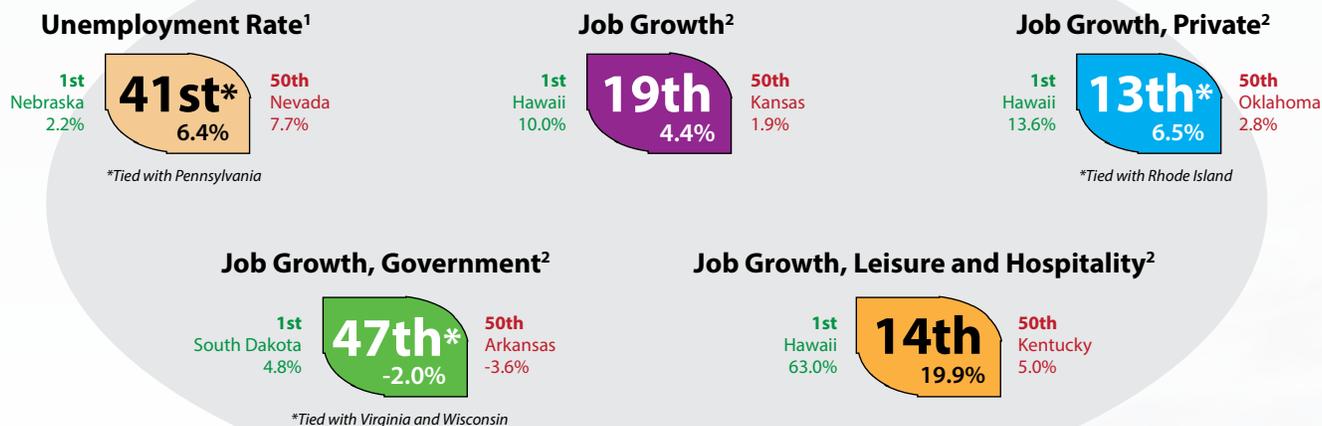
Not seasonally adjusted

	Prelim.	Revised	
	08/21	07/21	08/20
United States	5.3	5.7	8.5
Alaska	5.1	5.9	6.2

Regional, not seasonally adjusted

	Prelim.	Revised			Prelim.	Revised			Prelim.	Revised	
	08/21	07/21	08/20		08/21	07/21	08/20		08/21	07/21	08/20
Interior Region	4.3	5.0	5.1	Southwest Region	7.7	8.1	6.9	Southeast Region	4.5	5.4	6.4
Denali Borough	7.6	8.6	10.2	Aleutians East Borough	1.3	1.4	1.8	Haines Borough	7.4	8.1	10.9
Fairbanks N Star Borough	3.9	4.5	4.8	Aleutians West	2.1	2.4	2.1	Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	6.1	7.3	9.5
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	5.5	6.4	4.9	Aleutians West Census Area				Juneau, City and Borough	3.6	4.3	5.5
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	9.4	11.6	8.9	Bethel Census Area	11.3	12.3	9.8	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	5.7	6.8	7.7
Northern Region	8.6	10.4	7.8	Bristol Bay Borough	3.0	1.5	4.2	Petersburg Borough	5.2	5.7	5.1
Nome Census Area	9.8	11.4	8.7	Dillingham Census Area	6.3	5.8	6.1	Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	6.2	7.5	6.6
North Slope Borough	5.7	6.7	5.1	Kusilvak Census Area	18.0	21.9	16.0	Sitka, City and Borough	2.9	3.8	4.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	9.8	13.0	9.4	Lake and Peninsula Borough	6.9	6.8	6.1	Skagway, Municipality	8.6	11.0	17.1
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	4.9	5.8	6.4	Gulf Coast Region	5.0	5.9	5.8	Wrangell, City and Borough	5.3	6.1	6.5
Anchorage, Municipality	4.8	5.6	6.3	Kenai Peninsula Borough	5.4	6.5	6.5	Yakutat, City and Borough	5.7	6.5	5.8
Mat-Su Borough	5.5	6.4	6.4	Kodiak Island Borough	3.9	4.5	4.0				
				Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4.2	5.0	4.4				

How Alaska Ranks



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

¹August seasonally adjusted unemployment rates

²August employment, 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
Urban Alaska Consumer Price Index (CPI-U, base yr 1982=100)	232.679	225.049	+3.4%
Commodity prices			
Crude oil, Alaska North Slope, * per barrel	\$70.28	\$43.39	+61.97%
Natural gas, Henry Hub, per thousand cubic feet (mcf)	\$4.03	\$2.34	+72.22%
Gold, per oz. COMEX	\$1,763.80	\$1,910.60	-7.68%
Silver, per oz. COMEX	\$22.34	\$24.52	-8.89%
Copper, per lb. COMEX	\$4.25	\$3.06	+38.89%
Zinc, per lb.	\$1.394	\$1.08	+28.70%
Lead, per lb.	\$0.99	\$0.83	+19.28%
Bankruptcies			
Business	65	76	-14.47%
Personal	6	5	+20.00%
Unemployment insurance claims			
Initial filings	6,562	21,548	-69.55%
Continued filings	28,261	150,521	-81.22%
Claimant count	6,216	36,099	-82.78%

*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; U.S. Energy Information Administration; Kitco; U.S. Census Bureau; COMEX; NASDAQ; Alaska Department of Revenue; and U.S. Courts, 9th Circuit

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