



# Alaska Unemployment Insurance Actuarial Report

## 2015



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# Executive Summary

As of 2015, unemployment insurance claims and dollars paid out had both decreased for five straight years. The number of weeks filed was down considerably in 2015, falling by 36.8 percent (-334,195) from its peak in 2010. That decrease in claims coincided with a similar 37.4 percent decrease in benefit costs over the same period.

## Benefit costs

Alaska disbursed \$159.7 million in unemployment compensation payments in 2015, of which \$112.9 million was chargeable to the trust fund for tax calculation purposes. The remainder went mostly to reimbursable employers and to those with wages from multiple states.

This was the fifth consecutive year that over-the-year benefit costs have decreased, with payments falling by \$27.2 million from the \$186.9 million disbursed in 2014.

In 2016, we expect roughly \$132 million in chargeable benefit costs. (See Chapter 1 for details.)

## Revenues

In 2015, employers and employees contributed a combined \$133.59 million in UI taxes, with an average combined total tax rate of 2.10 percent — 0.57 percent for employees and 1.53 percent for employers — assessed on taxable wages (\$38,700 in 2015).

In addition, the trust fund earned \$9.8 million in interest, which offsets future contribution rates.

## Fund balance

The unemployment insurance trust fund had \$448.2 million in reserves at the end of 2015, an increase of roughly \$42 million from 2014's ending balance

of \$406.5 million. The resulting reserve ratio at the year's end was 3.42 percent.

## Claimant statistics

Roughly 42,000 individuals collected unemployment compensation in 2015, a decrease of 15.5 percent from 2014, or roughly 7,700.

The average duration a person received regular benefits was 10.9 weeks, and the average weekly payment was \$248.82.

## Covered employment and wages

Alaska's nonagricultural wage and salary employment continued to grow moderately in 2015, adding 1,438 average annual jobs. This growth rate of 0.42 percent marked the second consecutive year of below-trend growth and the third-lowest in the past decade after 2014's 0.39 percent and the -0.29 percent drop in 2009.

Meanwhile, the combined wages of taxable and reimbursable employment increased 3.0 percent (well below the 3.7 percent annual average over the last 10 years) to reach \$17 billion. Taxable wages grew 3.2 percent over the same period, totaling just over \$8 billion.

In 2016, we expect to see the first declines in both covered employment and total wages since the 1980s. (See Chapter 3 for details.)

## Unemployment rates

The statewide unemployment rate averaged 6.5 percent in 2015. The insured unemployment rate, or IUR, averaged 3.42 percent for the year and ranged from a high of 4.59 percent in February to a low of 2.32 percent in late September and early October.

## Chapter 1

# Unemployment Insurance Benefit Financing System

## Trust fund used to pay benefits

Every state has a trust fund designated solely to pay unemployment insurance liabilities. To meet those liabilities, a UI system must function well and maintain its solvency.

In 1980, the Alaska Legislature implemented the bulk of the current auto-adjusting system. Tax rates adjust annually to reflect changes in benefit costs, wages, and the trust fund reserve ratio while the base on which taxes are assessed adjusts to changes in statewide average earnings.

These components provide both forward-looking and backward-looking parameters for maintaining fund solvency. The system is backward-looking in the sense that it looks at costs already borne by UI payments and attributes a rate of recapture based on three years of data. It is forward-looking in that it seeks to maintain a certain amount of wages — 3.0 to 3.3 percent — in case of a future downturn. The final tax rate applied in any given year takes into account both cost recapture and future readiness.

## Benefit payments drive bulk of revenue needs

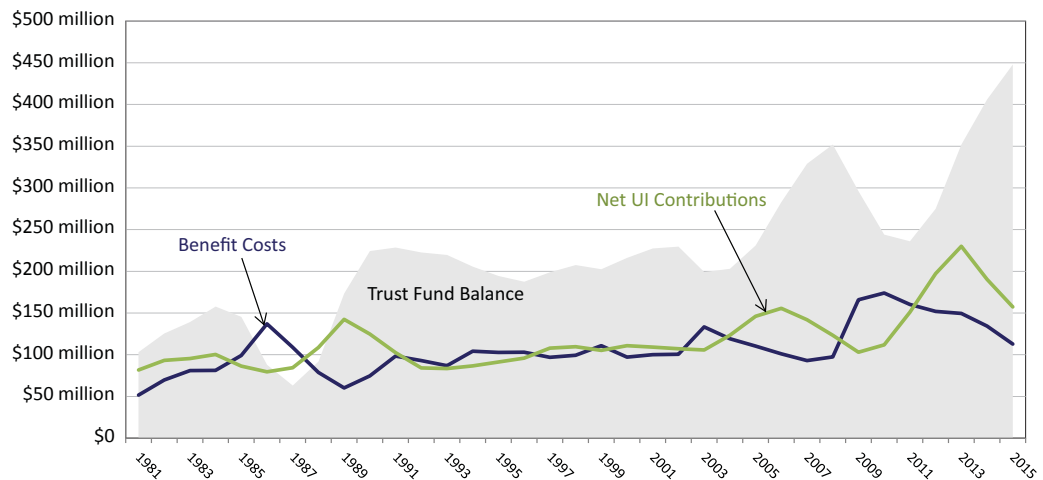
The UI system is designed to cover benefit costs. Those costs are expressed as a ratio of benefits paid to total wages, and for tax calculation purposes are referred to as the benefit cost rate, or BCR.

In 2015, Alaska's BCR was 1.0 percent. Over the past decade, it has averaged 1.3 percent. (See Table 1.1.) In general, the average benefit cost rate in Alaska is higher than in other states due to Alaska's highly seasonal employment and its relatively large portion of the unemployed receiving UI benefits (the recipient rate).

Figure 1.1

## UI Trust Fund End-of-Year Balance

BENEFIT COSTS AND PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS, 1981 TO 2015



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

## Payroll taxes are fund's main income source

Alaska's UI taxes assessed on employers and employees are the principal source of income for the UI trust fund. Tax contributions totaled \$157.4 million in 2015. This equates to roughly 78 percent of total revenue from all sources, including penalties and interest. Tax contributions in 2015 were down 17.4 percent from 2014 and down 31.6 percent from 2013. (See Table 1.2.)

Alaska's UI taxes are assessed on wages up to a taxable wage base, defined in AS 23.20.175(c) as 75 percent of the average annual earnings in covered employment for the immediately preceding state fiscal year, ending June 30. The state taxable wage base was set at \$38,700 in 2015.

## How tax rates are calculated

Alaska's UI taxes on employers and employees have three components: (1) the average benefit cost rate, or ABCR; (2) individual employer experience factors; and (3) the trust

fund solvency adjustment, or TFSA. Tax rates are calculated in November and apply to the following calendar year. Below is the formula for calculating tax rates as set forth in AS 23.20.290.

- Employer tax rate =  $(0.73 \times \text{ABCR}) \times \text{experience factor} + \text{TFSA}$
- Employee tax rate =  $(0.27 \times \text{ABCR})$

The average benefit cost rate is similar to the benefit cost rate, but for tax rate calculation the average benefit cost rate is the cost of benefits (minus interest earnings) over the most recent three state fiscal years, divided by the total payroll of contributing employers over the first three of the last four SFYs, inflated by the ratio of taxable to total wages of contributing employers in the most recent state fiscal year. (See Table 1.5.)

The average benefit cost rate measures benefit payments that must be replaced by tax contributions. Basing tax rate calculations on a three-year period helps mitigate single-year changes and provides a more stable rate from year to year. But it also requires a buffer, or reserve, to allow for a smoothed cost recapture.

Employers pay 73 percent of the average benefit cost rate, and employees pay the remaining 27 percent. Employee rates are uniform because they are not experience-rated. Employer rates, however, vary according to an experience rating system and may also include a surtax or credit to help maintain the solvency of the trust fund.

## Experience rating assigns employers to 20 tax rate classes

Employers with more worker layoffs will typically generate more unemployment and higher payout of UI benefits. Each state has an experience rating system to recognize that such employers should contribute a larger share to the UI trust fund.

Alaska has three types of employers that pay taxes. Most are in the experience-rated group, the “E class.” To qualify, they must have at least four quarters of wage history prior to June 30 of the year preceding the tax year .

The industry-rated group, or “I class,” contains new employers or those with fewer than four quarters of wage history; they pay a standard industry tax rate.

The penalty-rated group, “P class,” includes employers that either failed to report on a timely basis or are delinquent in their payments. P class employers are taxed at the maximum rate, which can be no less than 5.4 percent.

In 2015, 88.9 percent of all contributing employers were experience-rated, 9.5 percent were industry-rated, and 1.6 percent were penalty-rated. (See Table 1.4.)

The State of Alaska uses a payroll decline method of experience rating. While this is an indirect measure of experience with unemployment, its advantage is in its simplicity and cost-effectiveness. The logic is that employers with larger changes in payroll are most likely responsible for more compensable unemployment and should therefore contribute more to cover the higher benefit costs of their former employees.

In a payroll decline rating system, each employer’s percent decline in payroll from one quarter to the next is averaged for the prior four to 12 quarters. The resulting decline quotients of all employers are then arrayed in ascending order and divided into 21 rate classes. Each class accounts for roughly 5 percent of the total statewide payroll except the two highest classes, 20th and 21st, which account for 4.99 percent and 0.01 percent, respectively.

Class 21 is the “standard rate class,” added in 1984 in response to federal legislation requiring a standard tax rate of 5.4 percent from which the state could reduce tax rates in accordance with experience. In practice, no employer is assigned Class 21 by experience rating alone, but rather by direct assignment under administrative penalty — therefore, in practice, it is used as a penalty class.

Experience factors are assigned to each rate class — the higher the rate class, the greater the experience factor. Experience factors range from 0.4 to 1.65, according to a schedule in AS 23.20.290(c). (See Table 1.5.)

## Trust fund solvency

The UI system financing discussed so far has focused on cost recapture, or backward-looking components, and the equitable distribution of such costs by experience rating. While cost recapture is vital to keeping the system whole, anticipating future benefit costs is also necessary. To be prepared for possible elevated claims loads, a readiness component (forward-looking element) is also incorporated into the UI financing system.

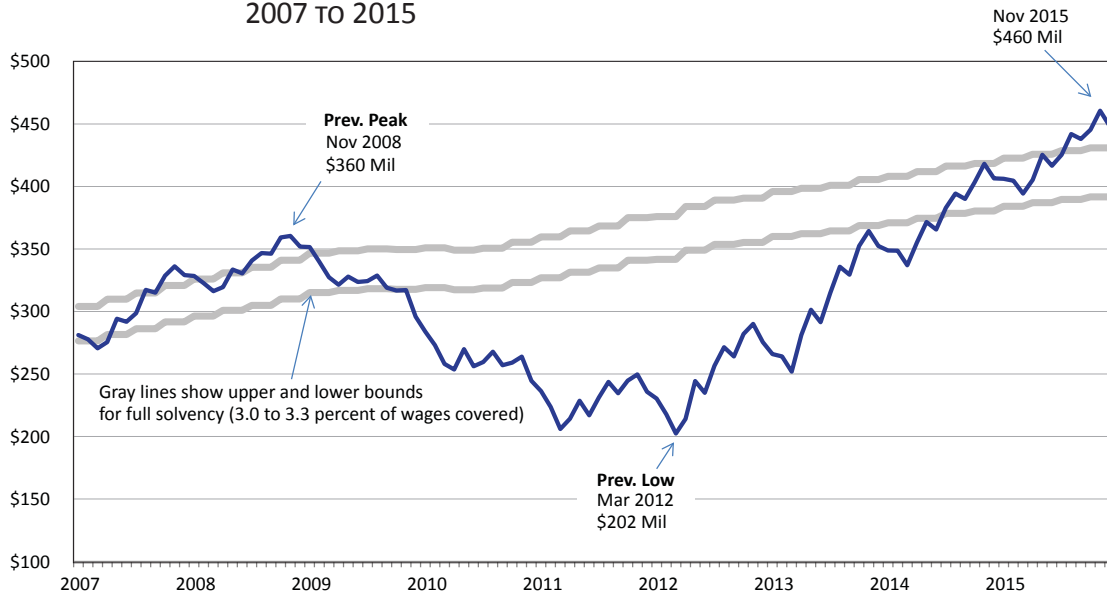
While the average benefit cost ratio accounts for cost recapture, the final rate may also incorporate a solvency adjustment to help keep the fund balance within an ideal range. To absorb benefit payments in periods of elevated demand, the fund targets a reserve of between 3.0 and 3.3 percent of covered wages.

## Application of solvency adjustment

Because trying to recapture an entire solvency shortfall in a

**Figure 1.2 UI Trust Fund Balance, Monthly**

2007 TO 2015



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

single year would be burdensome and unnecessary, statute dictates that the solvency tax may not increase by more than 0.3 percentage points from one year to the next. This limit prevents more dramatic tax increases from year to year and allows a multi-year recovery, replenishing the fund incrementally and preparing the system for the next cycle of elevated benefit demand.

The trust fund solvency adjustment, or TFSA, applies uniformly to all employers and ranges from -0.4 percent to 1.1 percent depending on the trust fund reserve rate, according to a formula in AS 23.20.290(f).

The solvency tax was 0 during 2015 because the reserve ratio was 3.09 percent: within its ideal range of 3.0 to 3.3 percent. In 2016, a -0.07 percent solvency credit was applied because the fund had fully recovered from the past recession and exceeded the 3.30 percent reserve ratio. The reserve ratio was 3.37 percent at tax calculation time.

## Administration of the UI program funded by a federal tax

Separate from state-imposed taxes used solely to finance benefit payments, employers pay an additional federal tax to cover the costs of administering the UI program.

The Federal Unemployment Tax Act, or FUTA, imposes a tax of 6.0 percent on a base of \$7,000 in wages. However, as long as state law conforms to federal law, employers receive an offsetting credit of 5.4 percent on the FUTA tax rate, making the effective tax rate 0.6 percent. The net result is a

maximum \$42 tax for each employee. The federal government estimates that in federal fiscal year 2015, employers in Alaska contributed \$13.2 million in FUTA tax revenues. (See Table 1.6.)

The purpose of the FUTA credit is to encourage state programs to comply with federal guidelines; as a result, conformity to federal law is frequently the reason for adopting new state provisions. Alaska's Employment Security Act conforms to federal law.

The federal government pays for the administration of each state's unemployment program through administrative grants. In federal fiscal year 2015, Alaska received \$32.6 million in administrative grants, including \$25.6 million for unemployment insurance administrative costs and \$7.0 million for employment services. Alaska's total administrative grants amounted to 247.0 percent of state FUTA contributions. In other words, the state receives roughly \$2.47 in grant funding for every \$1.00 paid in FUTA taxes. (See Table 1.6.)

## Trust fund revenue includes direct reimbursements

While the state trust fund disburses all regular benefits, extended benefits, and supplemental state benefits, they differ in the way they are financed. As mentioned earlier, employer taxes are the fund's major source of revenue — but revenues also come from a variety of other sources.

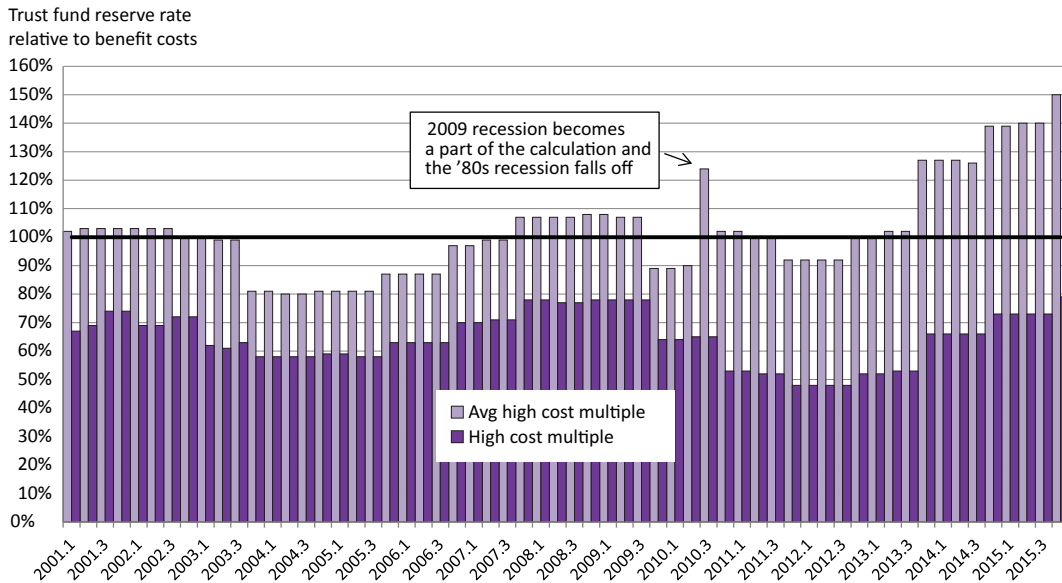
The federal government reimburses the trust fund for 100 percent of regular and extended benefits paid to former



Figure 1.3

## Other Measures of Trust Fund Adequacy

COST MULTIPLES, 1ST QUARTER 2001 THROUGH 4TH QUARTER 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, UI Data Summary

federal employees through its UCFE program and former military employees through its UCX program, as well as a portion (about 50 percent) of all nonfederal extended benefit payments.

The federal government also pays interest on the trust fund balance. In 2015, the trust fund earned roughly \$9.8 million in interest, which helped to offset benefit costs and mitigate solvency taxes. (See Table 1.2.)

Nonprofit organizations and state and local government agencies that opt to reimburse the trust fund directly instead of paying taxes reimburse 100 percent of the regular UI benefits and extended benefits paid to their former employees. Through 1988, nonprofit agencies reimbursed only half the extended benefits, but the Alaska Legislature changed the law in 1989. Reimbursable employers paid back \$9.4 million in 2015. (See tables 1.2 and 1.7.)

### Training programs receive a share of employee's UI tax contributions

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development administers two employment training programs that are supported by a share of the unemployment insurance taxes employees pay.

The State Training and Employment Program, or STEP, created in 1989, was reauthorized six times and made per-

manent in 2009. The Technical and Vocational Education Program, TVEP, was enacted in 2000. Both programs began with identical funding definitions (AS 23.15.630 and AS 23.15.835, respectively), providing an amount equal to 0.10 percent of taxable wages.

While the STEP program funding rate has remained constant, the rate for TVEP has increased twice since inception. The first increase, effective in 2009, was by 50 percent to 0.15 percent of taxable wages. In 2015, the TVEP rate was increased by an additional 1/100th of a percentage point to 0.16 percent.

For 2015 and beyond, at the employee minimum UI tax rate of 0.5 percent, the share of employee tax contributions allocated for STEP (0.10 / 0.5) is 20 percent and for TVEP (0.16 / 0.5) is 32 percent. As a result, at the minimum employee tax, 52 percent of collected employee tax contributions are dedicated to the two training programs and therefore not deposited into the UI trust fund. However, as the employee tax moves away from the minimum rate, the resulting percentage of the total tax paid allocated to training programs decreases.

In calendar year 2014, STEP and TVEP received \$19.6 million, and in 2015 they received \$20.5 million. During the last five years, employee tax contributions have provided more than \$94 million in support for the training programs from the UI financing system.

## Table 1.1 Benefit Cost Rate

2005 TO 2015

Year	Taxable Employment			Reimbursable Employment		
	Benefits Paid (In Thousands)	Total Wages (Lagged 1 Yr) (In Thousands)	Benefit Cost Rate (Percent)	Benefits Paid (In Thousands)	Total Wages (Lagged 1 Yr) (In Thousands)	Benefit Cost Rate (Percent)
2005	\$121,260	\$8,170,491	1.5%	\$9,890	\$2,411,561	0.4%
2006	\$113,787	\$8,629,441	1.3%	\$8,284	\$2,519,453	0.3%
2007	\$107,410	\$9,214,930	1.2%	\$7,897	\$2,600,402	0.3%
2008	\$114,155	\$9,877,150	1.2%	\$7,826	\$2,691,732	0.3%
2009	\$179,562	\$10,507,640	1.7%	\$12,108	\$2,826,216	0.4%
2010	\$185,124	\$10,637,463	1.7%	\$15,169	\$3,024,074	0.5%
2011	\$169,400	\$10,898,425	1.6%	\$14,033	\$3,163,922	0.4%
2012	\$159,040	\$11,390,626	1.4%	\$12,868	\$3,274,322	0.4%
2013	\$157,746	\$11,999,195	1.3%	\$12,201	\$3,372,235	0.4%
2014	\$144,436	\$12,364,344	1.2%	\$11,012	\$3,467,292	0.3%
2015	\$122,741	\$12,814,900	1.0%	\$9,379	\$3,691,886	0.3%

Note: Taxable employment benefits paid includes Net UI + SSB, state share EB, and net wage combining interstate.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: Unemployment Insurance Financial Transaction Summary, ETA 2112 report to the U.S. Department of Labor; Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

**Table 1.2 Trust Fund Deposits and Disbursements**

2005 TO 2015

**Deposits**

Year	U.I. Tax Contributions <sup>1</sup> (ex. reimb.)	Federal Share Extended Benefits	Amounts Rec'd From Reimb. Employers	Interstate Benefits Wage Combining	Federal Emerg. Comp <sup>2</sup>	Net Penalty <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Trust Fund Interest Earned	Total Revenue Deposited <sup>5</sup>
2005	\$145,990,785	\$1,978,258	\$10,692,011	\$1,435,969	\$235,400	\$11,120,449	\$4,703,701	\$10,050,126	\$186,206,698
2006	\$155,630,450	0	\$9,101,144	\$1,143,862	0	\$12,130,828	\$3,719,601	\$11,922,978	\$193,648,864
2007	\$141,857,022	0	\$7,769,782	\$1,381,191	\$16,900	\$12,728,892	\$3,534,700	\$14,555,870	\$181,844,357
2008	\$123,294,511	\$1,760,900	\$8,498,168	\$1,139,703	\$9,857,900	\$14,773,157	\$4,160,400	\$16,226,742	\$179,711,481
2009	\$102,925,167	\$24,725,886	\$10,912,421	\$2,628,686	\$57,078,819	\$16,649,388	\$11,794,907	\$14,800,781	\$241,516,056
2010	\$111,699,985	\$37,397,073	\$15,332,275	\$4,046,388	\$98,633,056	\$16,923,833	\$18,325,023	\$11,037,930	\$313,395,563
2011	\$150,876,106	\$18,306,737	\$14,860,497	\$2,748,887	\$104,680,250	\$17,868,163	\$8,902,300	\$8,195,716	\$326,438,656
2012	\$197,162,141	\$5,132,361	\$13,155,741	\$2,127,352	\$96,153,600	\$18,656,384	\$6,894,300	\$6,813,917	\$346,095,795
2013	\$230,041,831	\$432	\$12,745,377	\$2,691,038	\$67,091,600	\$19,606,134	\$6,725,700	\$7,579,692	\$346,481,804
2014	\$190,467,739	\$255,594	\$12,174,813	\$1,999,803	\$1,615,375	\$20,351,281	\$5,200,344	\$8,933,794	\$240,998,743
2015	\$157,355,840	-\$107,100	\$9,403,554	\$1,469,663	-\$1,012,000	\$21,105,260	\$3,503,600	\$9,778,835	\$201,497,652

**Disbursements**

Year	Regular Benefits + SSB	Extended Benefit Payments	Reimb. Benefit Payments	Interstate Benefits Wage Combining	Federal Emerg. Comp. <sup>2</sup>	Training And Building Fund	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total Benefits Disbursed <sup>5</sup>	Reserve Fund Balance <sup>6</sup>
2005	\$108,545,340	\$4,079,233	\$9,890,482	\$12,114,777	-\$270,168	\$11,295,341	\$12,536,018	\$158,191,022	\$230,973,776
2006	\$102,806,753	-\$305,756	\$8,284,330	\$12,277,205	-\$448,030	\$12,041,918	\$6,758,048	\$141,414,467	\$283,208,172
2007	\$95,880,401	-\$4,260	\$7,897,265	\$12,912,576	\$31,663	\$12,628,147	\$6,678,243	\$136,024,035	\$329,028,495
2008	\$100,630,213	\$3,464,794	\$7,825,589	\$12,949,475	\$10,835,942	\$14,756,828	\$9,626,379	\$160,089,219	\$351,909,621
2009	\$160,374,040	\$26,367,374	\$12,107,607	\$17,957,371	\$58,175,601	\$16,606,203	\$5,899,685	\$297,487,880	\$295,937,797
2010	\$171,463,019	\$37,684,897	\$15,168,986	\$17,011,630	\$97,845,340	\$16,994,436	\$8,562,741	\$364,731,049	\$244,602,311
2011	\$157,292,889	\$17,236,761	\$14,032,924	\$14,976,753	\$103,591,824	\$17,846,713	\$10,210,225	\$335,188,089	\$235,852,878
2012	\$144,796,244	\$3,428,825	\$12,867,725	\$16,379,383	\$96,768,472	\$18,259,636	\$13,946,753	\$306,447,039	\$275,501,635
2013	\$143,947,724	-\$340,746	\$12,201,378	\$16,534,278	\$67,022,264	\$19,553,480	\$10,652,784	\$269,571,161	\$352,412,278
2014	\$130,377,061	-\$229,250	\$11,012,079	\$16,087,402	-\$891,989	\$20,369,479	\$10,216,055	\$186,940,838	\$406,470,183
2015	\$107,260,211	-\$131,256	\$9,379,205	\$16,973,554	-\$981,221	\$21,132,710	\$6,047,462	\$159,680,666	\$448,287,169

<sup>2</sup>TEUC: Temporary Emergency Unemployment Compensation, March 2002 to April 2004

EUC-08: Emergency Unemployment Compensation 2008, July 2008 to April 2011

<sup>3</sup>Net collections of penalties and fines

<sup>4</sup>PSE, DUA, TRA, transfer to Training and Building fund, prior year refunds, child support withholding transfers, federal UCFE and UCX benefits and receipts, federal share of regular benefits

<sup>5</sup>Deposits from all sources including federal and all disbursements made to claimants

<sup>6</sup>Amount available for benefits in trust fund on December 31

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: Unemployment Insurance Financial Transaction Summary, ETA 2112 report to the U.S. Department of Labor



**Table 1.3 Tax Base, Average Employer and Employee Tax Rates, and Ratio of Taxable to Total Wages**

2005 TO 2015

Year	Wages in Taxable Employment (Thousands)		Taxable wages as a percentage of Total Wages	Tax Base	Average Employer Tax Rate		Average Employee Tax Rate	
	Total Wages	Taxable Wages			Percent of Taxable Wages	Percent of Total Wages	Percent of Taxable Wages	Percent of Total Wages
2005	\$8,629,441	\$5,436,868	63.0%	\$27,900	2.50%	1.58%	0.50%	0.3%
2006	\$9,214,930	\$5,720,285	62.1%	\$28,700	2.43%	1.51%	0.51%	0.3%
2007	\$9,877,150	\$6,074,631	61.5%	\$30,100	1.94%	1.19%	0.50%	0.3%
2008	\$10,506,492	\$6,391,729	60.8%	\$31,300	1.50%	0.91%	0.50%	0.3%
2009	\$10,636,240	\$6,455,222	60.7%	\$32,700	1.15%	0.70%	0.50%	0.3%
2010	\$10,897,265	\$6,718,998	61.7%	\$34,100	1.31%	0.81%	0.50%	0.3%
2011	\$11,390,626	\$6,963,554	61.1%	\$34,600	1.87%	1.14%	0.58%	0.4%
2012	\$11,999,195	\$7,327,255	61.1%	\$35,800	2.38%	1.45%	0.66%	0.4%
2013	\$12,364,344	\$7,608,675	61.5%	\$36,900	2.64%	1.62%	0.68%	0.4%
2014	\$12,806,848	\$7,745,447	60.5%	\$37,400	1.97%	1.19%	0.62%	0.4%
2015	\$13,087,798	\$8,001,869	61.1%	\$38,700	1.53%	0.94%	0.57%	0.3%

Note: Data revised for 2015 report.

Sources: Alaska Statutes 23.20.175 and 23.20.290, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

**Table 1.4 Employer Accounts by Rate Type and Average Tax Rates by Industry**

2015 Employers by Rate Type									
Industry	Experience Rated		Industry Rated		Penalty Rated		Total Rated Employers		Grand Total
	E-Rated No.	Percent of E-Rated	I-Rated No.	Percent of I-Rated	P-Rated No.	Percent of P-Rated	Total No.		
	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>1</sup> and Hunting	179	1.1%	23	1.3%	1	0.3%	203	
Mining	193	1.2 %	20	1.1%	4	1.4%	217	1.2%	
Utilities	81	0.5%	8	0.5%	0	0	89	0.5%	
Construction	2,306	14.1%	273	15.7%	30	10.3%	2,609	14.2%	
Manufacturing	446	2.7%	37	2.1%	10	3.4%	493	2.7%	
Wholesale Trade	582	3.6%	29	1.7%	7	2.4%	618	3.4%	
Retail Trade	1,743	10.7%	115	6.6%	19	6.6%	1,877	10.2%	
Transportation and Warehousing	793	4.9%	76	4.4%	17	5.9%	886	4.8%	
Information	259	1.6%	54	3.1%	1	0.3%	314	1.7%	
Finance and Insurance	489	3.0%	52	3.0%	4	1.4%	545	3.0%	
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	586	3.6%	62	3.6%	8	2.8%	656	3.6%	
Professional and Technical Services	1,778	10.9%	251	14.4%	13	4.5%	2,042	11.1%	
Management of Companies	49	0.3%	10	0.6%	0	0	59	0.3%	
Administrative and Waste Services	952	5.8%	94	5.4%	23	7.9%	1,069	5.8%	
Educational Services	243	1.5%	31	1.8%	5	1.7%	279	1.5%	
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,653	10.1%	109	6.3%	36	12.4%	1,798	9.8%	
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	497	3.0%	48	2.8%	14	4.8%	559	3.0%	
Accommodations and Food Services	1,615	9.9%	146	8.4%	42	14.5%	1,803	9.8%	
Other Services, except Public Administration	1,373	8.4%	186	10.7%	18	6.2%	1,577	8.6%	
Public Administration	331	2.0%	3	0.2%	18	6.2%	352	1.9%	
Unclassified	172	1.1%	117	6.7%	20	6.9%	309	1.7%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,320</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,744</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18,354</b>	<b>100%</b>	
Percent of Grand Total		88.9%		9.5%		1.6%		100.0%	

Employer Average Tax Rates (Experience Rated Firms)								
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>1</sup> and Hunting	1.81	1.99	2.65	3.23	3.58	2.82	2.32	1.98
Mining	1.62	1.75	2.37	2.94	3.23	2.49	2.01	1.75
Utilities	1.34	1.44	1.88	2.34	2.69	1.97	1.58	1.36
Construction	1.80	1.95	2.63	3.24	3.51	2.74	2.21	1.88
Manufacturing	1.60	1.77	2.41	2.97	3.20	2.44	1.96	1.69
Wholesale Trade	1.49	1.61	2.20	2.70	3.93	2.22	1.78	1.56
Retail Trade	1.46	1.60	2.17	2.65	2.91	2.19	1.75	1.54
Transportation and Warehousing	1.52	1.67	2.25	2.73	2.97	2.27	1.84	1.58
Information	1.37	1.51	2.02	2.54	2.78	2.14	1.74	1.59
Finance and Insurance	1.39	1.51	2.01	2.49	2.73	2.02	1.64	1.45
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1.47	1.60	2.14	2.64	2.86	2.15	1.72	1.51
Professional and Technical Services	1.50	1.63	2.19	2.72	2.99	2.28	1.84	1.61
Management of Companies	1.54	1.71	2.22	2.85	3.01	2.39	1.92	1.61
Administrative and Waste Services	1.60	1.75	2.34	2.88	3.12	2.40	1.94	1.69
Educational Services	1.55	1.70	2.29	2.79	3.08	2.37	1.95	1.70
Health Care and Social Assistance	1.28	1.38	1.83	2.27	2.55	1.87	1.51	1.36
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1.70	1.81	2.46	3.01	3.29	2.52	2.05	1.79
Accommodations and Food Services	1.58	1.70	2.27	2.79	3.05	2.32	1.87	1.62
Other Services, except Public Administration	1.39	1.51	2.04	2.50	2.77	2.05	1.63	1.44
Public Administration	1.44	1.58	2.16	2.67	2.94	2.21	1.74	1.53
Unclassified	1.71	1.80	2.40	2.97	3.21	2.46	1.97	1.73

Notes: Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Experience-rated firms have at least four quarters of reported wages to qualify for experience rating. Experienced employers are assigned to one of 20 rate classes based on their average payroll decline experience (regardless of their industry). Industry-rated firms are newer employers with fewer than four quarters of reportable wages. They are assigned to the tax class that is closest to their industry average. Penalty-rated firms are those who have failed to submit quarterly reports or pay taxes on schedule.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Taxable Wages within Size of Payroll Code, Report BTA4310P

## Table 1.5 UI Tax Rate Calculations and Tax Rates by Rate Class

2016

### Tax Rate Calculations

	SFY 2012	SFY 2013	SFY 2014	SFY 2015
(1) Benefit Cost (Ben-Reimb-Int)		153,899,815	142,761,564	115,441,001
(2) Total Wages (taxable employers)	11,788,443,005	12,149,196,392	12,615,297,917	12,981,311,866
(3) Taxable Wages				7,891,148,986
(4) Benefit Cost for 3 Prev SFY				\$412,102,380
(5) Total Wages, First 3 of Last 4 SFY				\$36,552,937,314
(6) 3-Yr Benefit Cost/Total Payroll (4)/(5)				0.011274
(7) Taxable/Total Wages, Last SFY (3)/(2)				0.607885
(8) Average Benefit Cost Rate (6)/(7)				0.018546
(9) UI Trust Fund Balance, Sep 30				437,904,072
(10) Total Wages, Last SFY				\$12,981,311,866
(11) UI Trust Fund Reserve Rate (9)/(10)				0.033733
(12) Solvency Adjustment				-0.0007
<b>Tax Rates (the Percent of Taxable Wages)</b>				
(13) Average Employer Tax Rate: $(0.73 \times \text{ABCR}) + \text{TFSA} = (0.73 \times \#8) + \#12$				<b>1.28%</b>
(14) Average Employee Tax Rate: $(0.27 \times \text{ABCR}) = (0.27 \times \#8)$				<b>0.50%</b>

### Tax Rates for Employees and Experience Rated Employers

Rate Class	Experience Factor	Employee Tax Rate Percent	Employer Tax Rate Percent	Total Tax Rate Percent
1	0.40	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
2	0.45	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
3	0.50	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
4	0.55	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
5	0.60	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
6	0.65	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
7	0.70	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
8	0.80	0.50%	1.01%	1.51%
9	0.90	0.50%	1.15%	1.65%
<b>10</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.50%</b>	<b>1.28%</b>	<b>1.78%</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>0.50%</b>	<b>1.28%</b>	<b>1.78%</b>
12	1.10	0.50%	1.42%	1.92%
13	1.20	0.50%	1.55%	2.05%
14	1.30	0.50%	1.69%	2.19%
15	1.35	0.50%	1.76%	2.26%
16	1.40	0.50%	1.83%	2.33%
17	1.45	0.50%	1.89%	2.39%
18	1.50	0.50%	1.96%	2.46%
19	1.55	0.50%	2.03%	2.53%
20	1.60	0.50%	2.10%	2.60%
21	1.65	0.50%	5.40%	5.90%

Notes: Total payroll, taxable payroll, and UI benefit costs are all for employees (current or former) of contributing (taxable) employers only. Reimbursable employers are excluded.

Employee Tax Rate: Statutory minimum tax rate for employee is 0.50%. (Line 14)

Employer Tax Rate: Statutory minimum tax rate for employer is 1.00%.

Sources: Alaska Statutes 23.20.290

Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW);

Unemployment Insurance Financial Transaction Summary, ETA 2-112 report



**Table 1.6 Administrative Costs**

2004 TO 2015

Federal Fiscal Year <sup>1</sup>	FUTA Collections (in millions)	UI Admin. Grants (in millions)	Employment Security Admin. Grants (In millions)	Other Grants (In millions)	Total Administrative Grants	
					(In millions)	As a Percentage of FUTA
2004	\$14.7	\$21.3	\$7.8	\$1.9	\$29.1	198.0%
2005	\$15.4	\$21.3	\$7.7	\$2.0	\$29.0	188.3%
2006	\$16.1	\$19.1	\$7.6	\$1.9	\$26.7	165.8%
2007	\$16.3	\$20.6	\$7.4	\$1.4	\$28.0	171.8%
2008	\$16.5	\$22.1	\$7.4	\$1.2	\$29.5	178.8%
2009	\$16.3	\$27.8	\$8.5	\$1.2	\$36.3	222.7%
2010	\$16.4	\$25.5	\$10.6	\$1.3	\$36.1	220.1%
2011	\$16.6	\$25.6	\$7.4	\$1.3	\$33.0	198.8%
2012	\$12.8	\$24.2	\$7.4	\$1.2	\$31.6	246.9%
2013	\$12.9	\$23.8	\$7.3	\$1.1	\$31.1	241.1%
2014	\$13.2	\$26.8	\$7.0	\$1.1	\$33.8	256.1%
2015	\$13.2	\$25.6	\$7.0	\$1.0	\$32.6	247.0%

<sup>1</sup>The federal fiscal year is a 12-month period beginning Oct. 1 of the prior year, ending Sept. 30 of the following year. For example, FFY 2013 would include activity between Oct. 1, 2012 and Sept. 30, 2013. The data table presented here uses a revised data series for 1981 to 2007, issued by USDOL in January 2009.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Workforce Security  
 Web site: [www.ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/budget.asp](http://www.ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/budget.asp). Select the link: "Estimated FUTA Receipts vs. Amounts Returned."

**Table 1.7 Collections, UI Regular Benefits Paid**

REIMBURSABLE EMPLOYMENT, 2006 TO 2015

Year	Collections			Benefits Paid			Total Collections Less Benefits Paid
	Total	Private Nonprofit	Government (State & Local)	Total	Private Nonprofit	Government (State & Local)	
2006	\$9,101,144	\$1,199,128	\$7,902,016	\$8,284,330	\$850,751	\$7,433,579	\$816,814
2007	\$7,769,782	\$990,146	\$6,779,635	\$7,897,265	\$917,077	\$6,980,188	-\$127,484
2008	\$8,498,168	\$1,220,277	\$7,277,891	\$7,825,589	\$889,612	\$6,935,977	\$672,579
2009	\$10,912,421	\$1,272,116	\$9,640,305	\$12,107,607	\$1,147,965	\$10,959,642	-\$1,195,186
2010	\$15,332,275	\$1,735,071	\$13,597,204	\$15,168,986	\$1,481,034	\$13,687,952	\$163,290
2011	\$14,860,497	\$1,863,240	\$12,997,257	\$14,032,924	\$1,649,717	\$12,383,207	\$827,574
2012	\$13,155,741	\$2,173,057	\$10,982,684	\$12,867,725	\$1,842,133	\$11,025,593	\$288,016
2013	\$12,745,377	\$2,322,614	\$10,422,764	\$12,201,378	\$1,862,748	\$10,338,629	\$544,000
2014	\$12,174,813	\$2,165,050	\$10,009,763	\$11,012,079	\$1,620,903	\$9,391,177	\$1,162,733
2015	\$9,403,554	\$1,819,213	\$7,584,340	\$9,379,205	\$1,389,881	\$7,989,324	\$24,349
<b>10-Year Total</b>							<b>3,176,685</b>

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: Unemployment Insurance Financial Transaction Summary, ETA 2-112 report to the U.S. Department of Labor

**Table 1.8 Collections, Benefits Paid, Trust Fund Reserves, and Average Employer Tax Rate as a Percentage of Wages**  
1985 TO 2015

Year	Percent of Total Wages				Percent of Taxable Wages			
	Collections	Benefits Paid	Year-End Reserve	Average Employer Tax Rate	Collections	Benefits Paid	Year-End Reserve	Average Employer Tax Rate
1985	1.9%	2.6%	3.3%	1.47%	2.9%	3.8%	4.8%	2.17%
1986	2.0%	3.7%	2.2%	1.59%	2.9%	5.4%	3.2%	2.34%
1987	2.3%	3.1%	1.7%	1.96%	3.3%	4.6%	2.5%	2.88%
1988	2.8%	2.2%	2.4%	2.49%	4.3%	3.3%	3.6%	3.67%
1989	3.2%	1.6%	3.9%	2.76%	4.8%	2.4%	5.9%	4.14%
1990	2.7%	1.9%	4.8%	2.34%	4.1%	3.0%	7.4%	3.51%
1991	2.1%	2.3%	4.7%	1.72%	3.2%	3.5%	7.2%	2.66%
1992	1.7%	2.3%	4.4%	1.40%	2.6%	3.6%	6.8%	2.15%
1993	1.6%	1.9%	4.2%	1.26%	2.5%	3.0%	6.5%	1.96%
1994	1.6%	2.2%	3.7%	1.28%	2.4%	3.3%	5.7%	1.98%
1995	1.6%	2.1%	3.4%	1.33%	2.5%	3.2%	5.3%	2.04%
1996	1.7%	2.0%	3.3%	1.42%	2.6%	3.1%	5.0%	2.17%
1997	1.8%	1.9%	3.3%	1.52%	2.8%	2.9%	5.2%	2.33%
1998	1.7%	1.8%	3.3%	1.46%	2.7%	2.8%	5.2%	2.25%
1999	1.6%	1.9%	3.2%	1.31%	2.6%	3.0%	4.9%	2.06%
2000	1.6%	1.6%	3.2%	1.38%	2.5%	2.5%	4.9%	2.14%
2001	1.5%	1.6%	3.1%	1.35%	2.4%	2.5%	5.0%	2.08%
2002	1.4%	1.5%	3.1%	1.25%	2.3%	2.4%	4.9%	1.99%
2003	1.4%	1.9%	2.6%	1.16%	2.2%	3.0%	4.1%	1.85%
2004	1.5%	1.6%	2.5%	1.38%	2.4%	2.5%	4.0%	2.19%
2005	1.7%	1.4%	2.7%	1.57%	2.7%	2.2%	4.2%	2.50%
2006	1.7%	1.2%	3.1%	1.53%	2.7%	2.0%	5.0%	2.43%
2007	1.4%	1.1%	3.3%	1.20%	2.3%	1.8%	5.4%	1.94%
2008	1.2%	1.1%	3.3%	0.92%	1.9%	1.8%	5.5%	1.50%
2009	1.0%	1.7%	2.8%	0.70%	1.6%	2.8%	4.6%	1.15%
2010	1.0%	1.7%	2.2%	0.80%	1.7%	2.8%	3.6%	1.31%
2011	1.3%	1.5%	2.1%	1.15%	2.2%	2.4%	3.4%	1.87%
2012	1.6%	1.3%	2.3%	1.45%	2.7%	2.2%	3.8%	2.38%
2013	1.9%	1.3%	2.9%	1.61%	3.0%	2.1%	4.6%	2.64%
2014	1.5%	1.1%	3.2%	1.78%	2.5%	1.9%	5.2%	2.90%
2015	1.2%	0.9%	3.4%	0.93%	2.0%	1.5%	5.6%	1.53%

Note: Net benefits paid by taxable employers include regular unemployment benefits plus all state supplemental benefit payments plus Alaska's share of extended benefit payments for taxable employers plus the net of benefits paid minus receipts for interstate wage combining.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: Unemployment Insurance Financial Transaction Summary, ETA 2-112 report to the U.S. Department of Labor; Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

# Claims, Claimants, and Benefit Payments by Industry

## Regular UI benefits

Created by the Employment Security Act of 1937, the regular benefits program was loosely modeled after work separation benefit programs in Europe at the time.

In 2015, Alaska’s unemployment insurance system covered 316,730 jobs, and 42,138 individuals filed claims and collected at least one week of benefits. (See Figure 2.4.)

Average weekly claims totaled 8,757 in 2015, down 17.8 percent from 2014.

## Monetary eligibility

Eligibility for regular benefits requires a person to have earned at least \$2,500 in the “base period” with at least \$250 earned outside the highest wage quarter of the base period. A claimant’s base period is defined as the first four of the five most recently completed quarters.

While base period wages are directly related to a claimant’s actual wages over a given period, they aren’t always identical. To compute benefits payable, base period wages are determined as follows:

- If 90 percent or more of wages are paid in one calendar

quarter, base period wages are calculated as the sum of the remaining wages in the other three quarters multiplied by 10; or

- If less than 90 percent of wages are paid in one calendar quarter, base period wages are simply the wages during the base period.

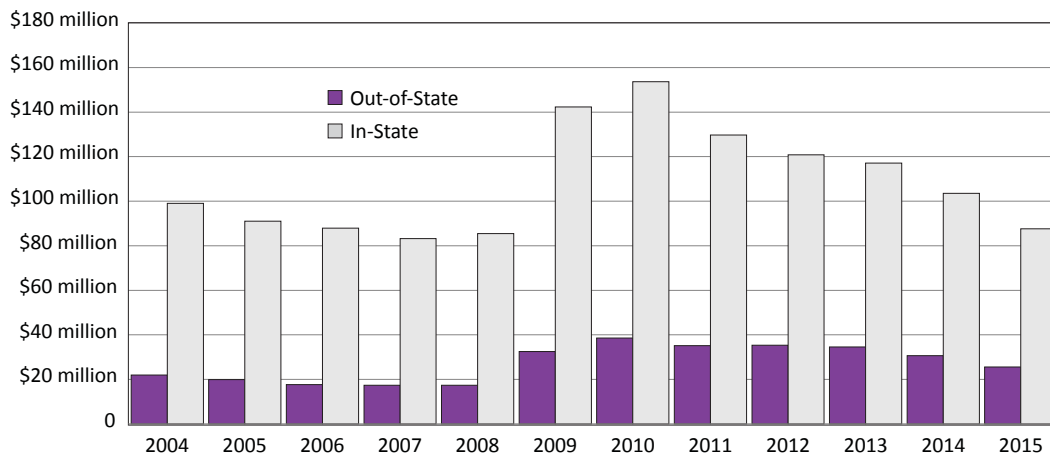
The weekly benefit amount, shown on the benefit schedule, depends directly on the base period wages. The minimum weekly benefit amount in the schedule is \$56, which corresponds to \$2,500 in base period wages and increases by \$2 increments for each additional \$250 in wages. The maximum weekly benefit amount is \$370 for base period wages of \$41,750 or more. (See Table 2.3.)

The average weekly benefit in Alaska was \$248.82 in 2015, and claimants were eligible for an average of 21.0 weeks of benefits. The average actual duration for which benefits were claimed was 10.9 weeks. (See Table 2.5.)

## Claimants with children receive an additional allowance

Alaska is one of 13 states that provide additional benefits to UI claimants with dependents. The allowance increases the maximum amount of benefits payable because it is added

**Figure 2.1 Amount of UI Payments, Regular Benefits 2004 to 2015**

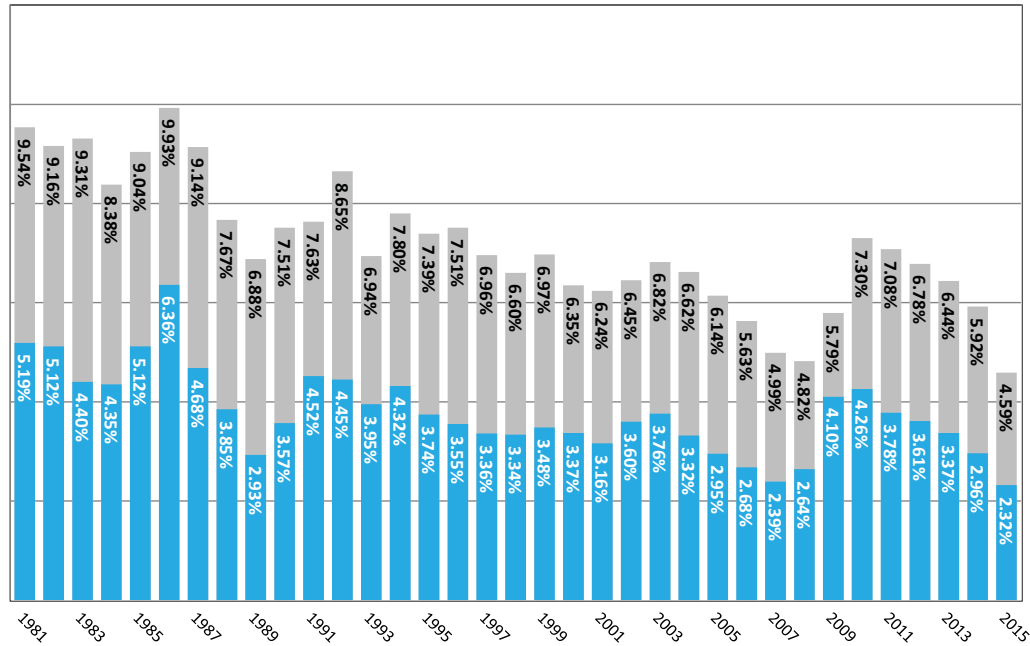


Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section



Figure 2.2 Insured Unemployment Rate

HIGHEST AND LOWEST WEEKS, 1981 TO 2015



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

to the basic weekly benefit.

Dependent benefits add the concept of need into a system that is fundamentally an insurance program. In Alaska, for example, the dependent allowance can exceed the base weekly benefit amount for individuals earning less than \$4,500 during their base period.

Claimants are eligible to receive \$24 per dependent per week up to a maximum of \$72 (or three dependents). To qualify for dependent benefits, a claimant’s child must be younger than 18 and be an unmarried child or stepchild who is lawfully in the claimant’s physical custody at the time of the claim or depends on the claimant for more than 50 percent of his or her support.

A dependent may also be a legal ward of the claimant of any age who depends on the claimant for more than 50 percent of his or her support and is physically or mentally unable to work.

In 2015, the UI program paid \$7.5 million in dependent benefits to roughly 15,000 people who received regular UI benefits. Dependent allowance recipients accounted for 36.3 percent of all regular UI claimants. (See Table 2.13.)

Claimants who received the maximum three-dependent allowance represented 9.1 percent of all claimants. Total dependent allowances paid in 2015 amounted to 6.3 percent of the regular UI benefit dollars paid that year.

## Duration depends on work stability

The length of time a person may claim benefits varies in each state, and in Alaska, it varies with each claimant. Alaska sets the potential duration of benefits for each claimant by dividing the amount of base period earnings by the amount of earnings in the highest quarter. The intent is to provide a benefit duration that reflects the duration of employment — the higher the ratio, the more stable the earnings and therefore the higher the potential duration of benefits.

The potential benefit duration is defined by a schedule in AS 23.20.350(e) and ranges from 16 weeks with a ratio of less than 1.50 to 26 weeks with a ratio of 3.50 or more. (See Table 2.4.) Claimants with a ratio of less than 1.50 have earned more than two-thirds of their wages in one quarter.

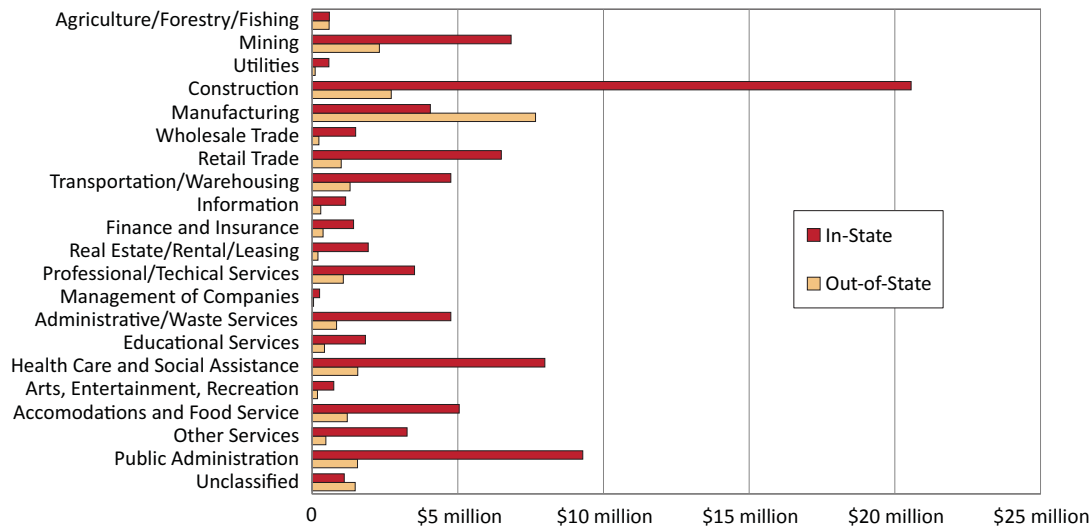
In Alaska’s highly seasonal economy, the amount paid to claimants in the late winter is frequently double the amount disbursed in the late summer. The state’s duration schedule factors in this high winter claims load by providing a minimum of 16 weeks of benefits to claimants without a disqualification.

## Shorter duration if worker quit or was fired

All states either disqualify or postpone benefits for claimants who voluntarily quit work without good cause or

## Figure 2.3 UI Regular Benefit Payments by Industry

FOR IN-STATE AND OUT-OF-STATE CLAIMANTS, 2015



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

are fired, and 46 states have decided to disqualify such claimants. To requalify for benefits, claimants in those states must obtain another job, work for a specific period, then become unemployed again for a nondisqualifying reason.

Alaska and two other states postpone or reduce benefits, or both. Claimants in Alaska who voluntarily quit or are fired must wait six weeks for their benefits to begin, including the one-week waiting period for all claimants. Their total benefit is also reduced by an amount equal to three times their weekly benefit amount.

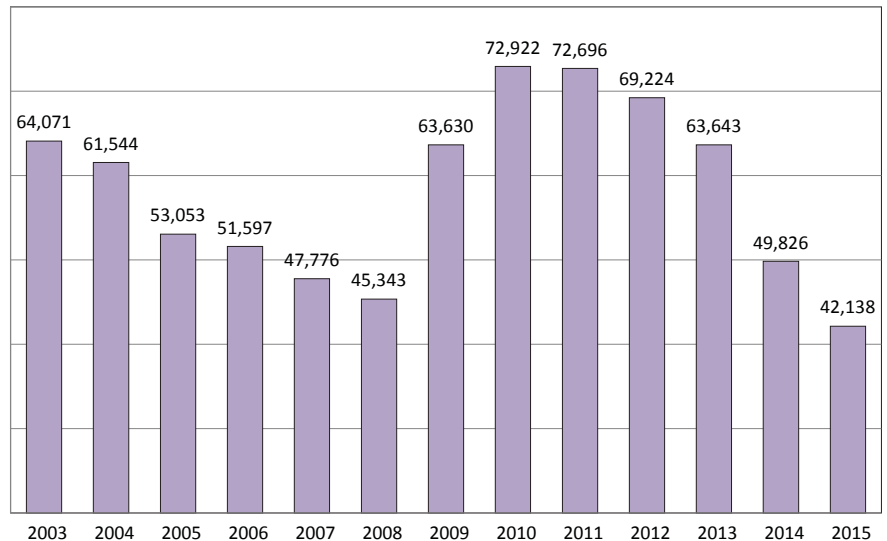
Alaska's policy is the most lenient in the nation. The primary argument for the six-week waiting period is that the disqualification should be no longer than it takes the average person to find work. The rationale is that after the six-week waiting period, workers' continuing unemployment is no longer due to their reasons for leaving an employer but to the unavailability of work.

### 22.6 percent of payments went out of state

In 2015, Alaska sent 22.6 percent of its regular benefit payments, or \$25.6 million, to claimants living outside the

## Figure 2.4 Claimants Receiving At Least One Week's Benefit Payment During Year

2003 TO 2015



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

state, versus 22.9 percent the year before. (See Table 2.11.) Interstate claimants are people who earned wages in Alaska during their base period but lived out of state when UI benefits were paid.

Of the benefits sent out of state in 2015, 46.2 percent went to the West Coast: Washington (19.9 percent), California (19.8 percent), and Oregon (6.5 percent).

**Table 2.1 Insured Unemployment**  
1977 TO 2015

Year	Covered Employment	Insured Unemployment	Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) Percent
1977	120,091	14,682	12.2%
1978	144,445	13,421	9.3%
1979	148,342	11,323	7.6%
1980	150,004	11,167	7.4%
1981	165,485	10,460	6.3%
1982	180,666	11,111	6.2%
1983	193,323	11,446	5.9%
1984	202,183	11,907	5.9%
1985	207,672	14,224	6.8%
1986	197,829	16,620	8.4%
1987	187,025	13,301	7.1%
1988	191,039	10,485	5.5%
1989	203,423	9,056	4.5%
1990	214,644	11,170	5.2%
1991	218,367	13,237	6.1%
1992	221,795	13,880	6.3%
1993	226,475	12,213	5.4%
1994	223,455	13,554	6.1%
1995	237,816	12,885	5.4%
1996	239,746	13,120	5.5%
1997	244,255	12,095	5.0%
1998	250,251	12,140	4.9%
1999	252,228	12,866	5.1%
2000	254,310	12,290	4.8%
2001	265,463	12,224	4.6%
2002	270,525	13,980	5.2%
2003	274,706	14,259	5.2%
2004	279,151	13,471	4.8%
2005	285,560	12,443	4.4%
2006	291,179	11,649	4.0%
2007	294,001	10,503	3.6%
2008	298,443	10,995	3.7%
2009	296,814	14,277	4.8%
2010	299,311	13,896	4.6%
2011	305,016	13,325	4.4%
2012	311,059	12,520	4.0%
2013	313,278	11,959	3.8%
2014	315,332	10,659	3.4%
2015	316,730	8,757	2.8%

Notes: Insured unemployment is a weekly average of claimants derived from total weeks claimed in a calendar year divided by 52. Covered employment excludes the federal government.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW); ETA 5-159 report to the U.S. Department of Labor, Line 201-10 and 201-11

## Table 2.2 UI Claimant Characteristics

2015

	Number	Percent of Total		Number	Percent of Total
Total Claimants	42,138	100.0%	<b>Occupation:</b>		
<b>Gender:</b>			Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	637	1.5%
Male	26,790	63.6%	Benchwork	152	0.4%
Female	15,249	36.2%	Clerical and Sales	5,338	12.7%
Indeterminate	2	0	Machine Trades	1,120	2.7%
<b>did not answer</b>	97	0.2%	Processing	3,801	9.0%
<b>Age:</b>			Professional, Technical, Managerial Service	4,943	11.7%
Less than 21	407	1.0%	Structural Work	5,886	14.0%
21 - 24	2,779	6.6%	Miscellaneous and Unknown	9,406	22.3%
25 - 34	12,000	28.5%		10,855	25.8%
35 - 44	9,084	21.6%	<b>Average Annual Earnings (\$):</b>		
45 - 54	9,214	21.9%	0 - 9,999	6,131	14.5%
55 - 64	7,116	16.9%	10,000 - 19,999	8,937	21.2%
<b>65 or over</b>	1,538	3.6%	20,000 - 29,999	7,734	18.4%
<b>Number of Dependents:</b>			30,000 - 39,999	5,639	13.4%
0	26,837	63.7%	40,000 - 49,999	3,971	9.4%
1	6,571	15.6%	50,000 - 59,999	2,677	6.4%
2	4,903	11.6%	60,000 - 69,999	1,998	4.7%
<b>3 or more</b>	3,827	9.1%	70,000 - 79,999	1,401	3.3%
			80,000 - 89,999	1,065	2.5%
			90,000 +	2,585	6.1%
<b>Ethnic Background:</b>			<b>Geographic Location:</b>		
Alaska Native or American Indian	10,071	23.9%	Aleutians East Borough	375	0.9%
Asian and Pacific Islander	4,127	9.8%	Aleutians West Census Area	305	0.7%
Black	2,203	5.2%	Anchorage, Municipality	10,771	25.6%
Hispanic	685	1.6%	Bethel Census Area	1,356	3.2%
White	23,078	54.8%	Bristol Bay Borough	43	0.1%
Other	1,351	3.2%	Denali Borough	147	0.3%
<b>No Information</b>	623	1.5%	Dillingham Census Area	256	0.6%
<b>Industry:</b>			Fairbanks North Star Borough	3,593	8.5%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	447	1.1%	Haines Borough	162	0.4%
Mining	2,711	6.4%	Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	261	0.6%
Oil and Gas	483	1.1%	Juneau, City and Borough	1,090	2.6%
Other Mining	2,228	5.3%	Kenai Peninsula Borough	3,138	7.4%
Utilities	199	0.5%	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	671	1.6%
Construction	7,271	17.3%	Kodiak Island Borough	690	1.6%
Manufacturing	5,697	13.5%	Kusilvak Census Area	873	2.1%
Food Products	5,187	12.3%	Lake and Peninsula Borough	108	0.3%
Wood Products	86	0.2%	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	4,944	11.7%
Other Manufacturing	424	1.0%	Nome Census Area	644	1.5%
Trade	3,948	9.4%	North Slope Borough	262	0.6%
Transportation and Warehousing	2,335	5.5%	Northwest Arctic Borough	579	1.4%
Information	393	0.9%	Petersburg Census Area	209	0.5%
Finance and Insurance	593	1.4%	Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	450	1.1%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	796	1.9%	Sitka, City and Borough	326	0.8%
Professional and Technical Service	1,479	3.5%	Skagway, Municipality	139	0.3%
Management of Companies	90	0.2%	Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	411	1.0%
Administrative and Waste Services	2,059	4.9%	Valdez-Cordova Census Area	555	1.3%
Educational Services	836	2.0%	Wrangell, City and Borough	117	0.3%
Health Care & Social Assistance	3,379	8.0%	Yakutat, City and Borough	34	0.1%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	428	1.0%	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	595	1.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	3,365	8.0%	Alaska Area Unknown	187	0.4%
Other Services, except Public Admin	1,348	3.2%			
Public Administration	3,795	9.0%			
Unclassified/Unknown	969	2.3%	<b>Total In-State</b>	<b>33,291</b>	<b>79.0%</b>
			Out-of-State	8,847	21.0%

<sup>1</sup>Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment.  
Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: UI Claimant Characteristics Files

# Table 2.3 Schedule of UI Weekly Benefit Amounts

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009

Base Period Wages		Weekly Benefit Amount	Base Period Wages		Weekly Benefit Amount	Base Period Wages		Weekly Benefit Amount
At Least	Less Than		At Least	Less Than		At Least	Less Than	
0	\$2,500	0	\$15,250	\$15,500	\$158	\$28,250	\$28,500	\$262
\$2,500	\$2,750	\$56	\$15,500	\$15,750	\$160	\$28,500	\$28,750	\$264
\$2,750	\$3,000	\$58	\$15,750	\$16,000	\$162	\$28,750	\$29,000	\$266
\$3,000	\$3,250	\$60	\$16,000	\$16,250	\$164	\$29,000	\$29,250	\$268
\$3,250	\$3,500	\$62	\$16,250	\$16,500	\$166	\$29,250	\$29,500	\$270
\$3,500	\$3,750	\$64	\$16,500	\$16,750	\$168	\$29,500	\$29,750	\$272
\$3,750	\$4,000	\$66	\$16,750	\$17,000	\$170	\$29,750	\$30,000	\$274
\$4,000	\$4,250	\$68	\$17,000	\$17,250	\$172	\$30,000	\$30,250	\$276
\$4,250	\$4,500	\$70	\$17,250	\$17,500	\$174	\$30,250	\$30,500	\$278
\$4,500	\$4,750	\$72	\$17,500	\$17,750	\$176	\$30,500	\$30,750	\$280
\$4,750	\$5,000	\$74	\$17,750	\$18,000	\$178	\$30,750	\$31,000	\$282
\$5,000	\$5,250	\$76	\$18,000	\$18,250	\$180	\$31,000	\$31,250	\$284
\$5,250	\$5,500	\$78	\$18,250	\$18,500	\$182	\$31,250	\$31,500	\$286
\$5,500	\$5,750	\$80	\$18,500	\$18,750	\$184	\$31,500	\$31,750	\$288
\$5,750	\$6,000	\$82	\$18,750	\$19,000	\$186	\$31,750	\$32,000	\$290
\$6,000	\$6,250	\$84	\$19,000	\$19,250	\$188	\$32,000	\$32,250	\$292
\$6,250	\$6,500	\$86	\$19,250	\$19,500	\$190	\$32,250	\$32,500	\$294
\$6,500	\$6,750	\$88	\$19,500	\$19,750	\$192	\$32,500	\$32,750	\$296
\$6,750	\$7,000	\$90	\$19,750	\$20,000	\$194	\$32,750	\$33,000	\$298
\$7,000	\$7,250	\$92	\$20,000	\$20,250	\$196	\$33,000	\$33,250	\$300
\$7,250	\$7,500	\$94	\$20,250	\$20,500	\$198	\$33,250	\$33,500	\$302
\$7,500	\$7,750	\$96	\$20,500	\$20,750	\$200	\$33,500	\$33,750	\$304
\$7,750	\$8,000	\$98	\$20,750	\$21,000	\$202	\$33,750	\$34,000	\$306
\$8,000	\$8,250	\$100	\$21,000	\$21,250	\$204	\$34,000	\$34,250	\$308
\$8,250	\$8,500	\$102	\$21,250	\$21,500	\$206	\$34,250	\$34,500	\$310
\$8,500	\$8,750	\$104	\$21,500	\$21,750	\$208	\$34,500	\$34,750	\$312
\$8,750	\$9,000	\$106	\$21,750	\$22,000	\$210	\$34,750	\$35,000	\$314
\$9,000	\$9,250	\$108	\$22,000	\$22,250	\$212	\$35,000	\$35,250	\$316
\$9,250	\$9,500	\$110	\$22,250	\$22,500	\$214	\$35,250	\$35,500	\$318
\$9,500	\$9,750	\$112	\$22,500	\$22,750	\$216	\$35,500	\$35,750	\$320
\$9,750	\$10,000	\$114	\$22,750	\$23,000	\$218	\$35,750	\$36,000	\$322
\$10,000	\$10,250	\$116	\$23,000	\$23,250	\$220	\$36,000	\$36,250	\$324
\$10,250	\$10,500	\$118	\$23,250	\$23,500	\$222	\$36,250	\$36,500	\$326
\$10,500	\$10,750	\$120	\$23,500	\$23,750	\$224	\$36,500	\$36,750	\$328
\$10,750	\$11,000	\$122	\$23,750	\$24,000	\$226	\$36,750	\$37,000	\$330
\$11,000	\$11,250	\$124	\$24,000	\$24,250	\$228	\$37,000	\$37,250	\$332
\$11,250	\$11,500	\$126	\$24,250	\$24,500	\$230	\$37,250	\$37,500	\$334
\$11,500	\$11,750	\$128	\$24,500	\$24,750	\$232	\$37,500	\$37,750	\$336
\$11,750	\$12,000	\$130	\$24,750	\$25,000	\$234	\$37,750	\$38,000	\$338
\$12,000	\$12,250	\$132	\$25,000	\$25,250	\$236	\$38,000	\$38,250	\$340
\$12,250	\$12,500	\$134	\$25,250	\$25,500	\$238	\$38,250	\$38,500	\$342
\$12,500	\$12,750	\$136	\$25,500	\$25,750	\$240	\$38,500	\$38,750	\$344
\$12,750	\$13,000	\$138	\$25,750	\$26,000	\$242	\$38,750	\$39,000	\$346
\$13,000	\$13,250	\$140	\$26,000	\$26,250	\$244	\$39,000	\$39,250	\$348
\$13,250	\$13,500	\$142	\$26,250	\$26,500	\$246	\$39,250	\$39,500	\$350
\$13,500	\$13,750	\$144	\$26,500	\$26,750	\$248	\$39,500	\$39,750	\$352
\$13,750	\$14,000	\$146	\$26,750	\$27,000	\$250	\$39,750	\$40,000	\$354
\$14,000	\$14,250	\$148	\$27,000	\$27,250	\$252	\$40,000	\$40,250	\$356
\$14,250	\$14,500	\$150	\$27,250	\$27,500	\$254	\$40,250	\$40,500	\$358
\$14,500	\$14,750	\$152	\$27,500	\$27,750	\$256	\$40,500	\$40,750	\$360
\$14,750	\$15,000	\$154	\$27,750	\$28,000	\$258	\$40,750	\$41,000	\$362
\$15,000	\$15,250	\$156	\$28,000	\$28,250	\$260	\$41,000	\$41,250	\$364
						\$41,250	\$41,500	\$366
						\$41,500	\$41,750	\$368
						\$41,750	\$42,000	\$370
						\$42,000		\$370

Source: Alaska Statute 23.20.350(d)



## Table 2.4 Schedule of Weekly Benefits Duration

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 1980

<u>Ratio of Base Period Earnings to High Quarter Earnings</u>	<u>Duration of Benefits (in Weeks)</u>
Less than 1.50	16
1.50-1.99	18
2.00-2.49	20
2.50-2.99	22
3.00-3.49	24
3.50 or more	26

Source: Alaska Statute 23.20.350(e)

## Table 2.5 UI Regular Benefits

2004 TO 2015

Year	Weeks Claimed	Number of Final Payments	Average Duration in Weeks			Avg Weekly Benefit	Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount	
			Potential	Actual	Actual for Exhausts		Benefits Without Dependents	Benefits With Dependents
2004	841,885	20,192	20.9	12.0	19.3	\$193.71	\$248	\$320
2005	770,712	17,847	20.8	12.4	19.4	\$193.91	\$248	\$320
2006	714,443	16,069	20.8	11.6	19.2	\$197.63	\$248	\$320
2007	652,529	15,015	21.0	11.4	19.4	\$200.09	\$248	\$320
2008	678,301	15,736	21.0	12.3	19.6	\$202.16	\$248	\$320
2009	898,931	20,809	21.1	13.0	19.9	\$241.12	\$370	\$442
2010	907,657	25,653	20.9	12.7	19.5	\$239.37	\$370	\$442
2011	846,908	21,941	20.8	12.4	19.5	\$241.92	\$370	\$442
2012	835,609	20,771	20.9	11.9	19.6	\$244.59	\$370	\$442
2013	794,811	19,560	20.9	11.9	19.7	\$250.04	\$370	\$442
2014	703,193	16,398	20.8	11.5	20.8	\$236.58	\$370	\$442
2015	573,462	11,863	21.0	10.9	21.0	\$248.82	\$370	\$442

Notes: Payment data are for taxable and reimbursable benefits.

Exhaustion: Those receiving payments for the maximum number of weeks available to them in a particular program.

Dependents benefit is \$24 per dependent, to a maximum of three (total maximum \$72).

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: ETA 5159 report to the U.S. Department of Labor; and Claimant Characteristics Report

## Table 2.6 Extended Benefits

2004 TO 2015

Year	Number of Weeks Claimed	Number of Final Payments	Average Weekly Benefit
2004	56,042	3,131	\$187.26
2005	33,585	1,199	\$181.06
2006	0	0	\$254.00
2007	0	0	0
2008	27,065	1,172	\$192.59
2009	141,499	6,877	\$218.21
2010	182,948	8,237	\$230.76
2011	87,681	3,930	\$225.09
2012	28,571	475	\$223.96
2013	11	1	\$80.86
2014	0	0	N/A
2015	0	0	N/A

## Table 2.7 State Supplemental Benefits

2004 TO 2015

Year	Number of Weeks Claimed	Number of Final Payments	Average Weekly Benefit
2004	1,423	114	\$99.62
2005	1,165	73	\$101.79
2006	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0
2008	846	52	\$98.97
2009	2,766	201	\$105.93
2010	2,316	93	\$120.53
2011	1,115	40	\$121.63
2012	528	0	\$130.82
2013	29	0	\$125.92
2014	0	0	N/A
2015	0	0	N/A

Sources for Tables 2.6 and 2.7: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and Claims and Payment Activities, ETA 5159 report to the U.S. Department of Labor

**Table 2.8 UI Regular Benefit Payments by Industry**

INTRASTATE, 2012 TO 2015

Industry	Number of Weeks Paid				Number of First Payments			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	3,992	3,164	3,170	2,684	293	247	223	214
Mining	24,028	27,279	18,124	21,208	1,804	1,765	1,229	1,771
Utilities	2,572	2,718	2,665	2,234	172	182	177	149
Construction	87,302	81,580	77,817	70,396	6,161	5,761	5,805	5,303
Manufacturing	38,479	35,742	29,768	21,063	2,709	2,456	2,183	1,684
Wholesale Trade	8,173	7,605	6,685	5,905	548	447	468	418
Retail Trade	56,758	52,948	46,345	34,187	3,548	3,313	3,040	2,487
Transportation and Warehousing	32,465	29,243	26,124	20,559	2,268	2,086	1,855	1,574
Information	6,381	5,693	4,270	3,906	368	329	280	266
Finance and Insurance	10,725	9,626	8,946	6,017	630	612	517	413
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	13,222	12,834	10,800	9,146	858	757	686	622
Professional and Technical Services	16,805	17,885	14,404	12,593	1,163	1,148	940	961
Management of Companies	739	756	735	906	48	51	56	73
Administrative and Waste Services	31,021	30,162	26,367	21,458	2,067	1,925	1,783	1,554
Educational Services	14,346	13,985	12,203	9,112	928	981	827	682
Health Care and Social Assistance	52,426	50,944	47,787	33,290	3,229	3,149	2,931	2,231
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7,820	7,429	6,076	4,331	516	497	399	341
Accommodation and Food Services	51,755	43,717	37,725	28,544	3,403	2,962	2,604	2,250
Other Services, except Public Administration	22,120	19,255	17,985	14,732	1,464	1,278	1,211	1,018
Public Administration	52,192	61,358	52,880	43,860	3,318	4,050	3,506	2,966
Unclassified	6,039	9,182	7,351	5,185	431	627	515	390

Industry	Amount of Payments				Payment Percent Distribution			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$815,522	\$645,783	\$624,050	\$586,959	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%
Mining	\$7,475,352	\$8,450,810	\$5,599,545	\$6,829,086	6.4%	7.2%	5.4%	7.8%
Utilities	\$658,962	\$701,315	\$678,481	\$570,834	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%
Construction	\$24,210,388	\$22,551,481	\$21,842,265	\$20,557,379	20.7%	19.3%	21.2%	23.5%
Manufacturing	\$6,696,677	\$6,334,585	\$5,221,655	\$4,056,266	5.7%	5.4%	5.1%	4.6%
Wholesale Trade	\$1,877,160	\$1,799,479	\$1,605,248	\$1,492,651	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%	1.7%
Retail Trade	\$10,344,951	\$9,727,794	\$8,416,157	\$6,490,106	8.8%	8.3%	8.2%	7.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	\$6,918,343	\$6,386,371	\$5,894,427	\$4,757,236	5.9%	5.5%	5.7%	5.4%
Information	\$1,698,548	\$1,558,702	\$1,161,870	\$1,144,926	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%	1.3%
Finance and Insurance	\$2,582,670	\$2,321,400	\$2,101,323	\$1,418,497	2.2%	2.0%	2.0%	1.6%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$2,702,265	\$2,734,187	\$2,270,416	\$1,918,845	2.3%	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%
Professional and Technical Services	\$4,263,859	\$4,686,673	\$3,815,958	\$3,512,577	3.6%	4.0%	3.7%	4.0%
Management of Companies	\$213,711	\$201,317	\$191,443	\$249,915	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Administrative and Waste Services	\$6,384,867	\$6,432,844	\$5,596,730	\$4,761,192	5.5%	5.5%	5.4%	5.4%
Educational Services	\$2,856,633	\$2,843,232	\$2,489,296	\$1,826,421	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$11,685,554	\$11,800,087	\$11,299,943	\$7,983,326	10.0%	10.1%	11.0%	9.1%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$1,172,941	\$1,188,017	\$1,014,776	\$740,330	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$8,410,854	\$7,303,685	\$6,437,987	\$5,044,703	7.2%	6.2%	6.2%	5.8%
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$4,365,438	\$3,897,091	\$3,734,210	\$3,256,574	3.7%	3.3%	3.6%	3.7%
Public Administration	\$10,362,525	\$13,355,432	\$11,383,634	\$9,285,962	8.9%	11.4%	11.0%	10.6%
Unclassified	\$1,234,704	\$2,138,570	\$1,642,920	\$1,102,364	1.1%	1.8%	1.6%	1.3%

Notes: Payment data include taxable and reimbursable.  
 Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment.  
 Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: UC-217 report, Benefit Payments by Industry and Area

Table 2.8 (cont.)

**UI Regular Benefit Payments by Industry**

INTRASTATE, 2012 TO 2015

Industry	Average Weekly Payments				Average Duration in Weeks			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$204.29	\$204.10	\$196.86	\$218.69	13.6	12.8	14.2	12.5
Mining	\$311.11	\$309.79	\$308.96	\$322.01	13.3	15.5	14.7	12.0
Utilities	\$256.21	\$258.03	\$254.59	\$255.52	15.0	14.9	15.1	15.0
Construction	\$277.32	\$276.43	\$280.69	\$292.02	14.2	14.2	13.4	13.3
Manufacturing	\$174.03	\$177.23	\$175.41	\$192.58	14.2	14.6	13.6	12.5
Wholesale Trade	\$229.68	\$236.62	\$240.13	\$252.78	14.9	17.0	14.3	14.1
Retail Trade	\$182.26	\$183.72	\$181.60	\$189.84	16.0	16.0	15.2	13.7
Transportation and Warehousing	\$213.10	\$218.39	\$225.63	\$231.39	14.3	14.0	14.1	13.1
Information	\$266.19	\$273.79	\$272.10	\$293.12	17.3	17.3	15.3	14.7
Finance and Insurance	\$240.81	\$241.16	\$234.89	\$235.75	17.0	15.7	17.3	14.6
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$204.38	\$213.04	\$210.22	\$209.80	15.4	17.0	15.7	14.7
Professional and Technical Services	\$253.73	\$262.04	\$264.92	\$278.93	14.4	15.6	15.3	13.1
Management of Companies	\$289.19	\$266.29	\$260.47	\$275.84	15.4	14.8	13.1	12.4
Administrative and Waste Services	\$205.82	\$213.28	\$212.26	\$221.88	15.0	15.7	14.8	13.8
Educational Services	\$199.12	\$203.31	\$203.99	\$200.44	15.5	14.3	14.8	13.4
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$222.90	\$231.63	\$236.46	\$239.81	16.2	16.2	16.3	14.9
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$149.99	\$159.92	\$167.01	\$170.94	15.2	14.9	15.2	12.7
Accommodation and Food Services	\$162.51	\$167.07	\$170.66	\$176.73	15.2	14.8	14.5	12.7
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$197.35	\$202.39	\$207.63	\$221.05	15.1	15.1	14.9	14.5
Public Administration	\$198.55	\$217.66	\$215.27	\$211.72	15.7	15.2	15.1	14.8
Unclassified	\$204.46	\$232.91	\$223.50	\$212.61	14.0	14.6	14.3	13.3

Notes: Payment data include taxable and reimbursable.  
 Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment.  
 Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: UC-217 report, Benefit Payments by Industry and Area

**Table 2.9 UI Regular Benefit Payments<sup>1</sup> by Industry**

INTERSTATE, 2012 TO 2015

Industry	Number of Weeks Paid				Number of First Payments			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	3,312	3,813	2,875	1,929	210	227	159	118
Mining	7,447	7,762	5,793	6,644	476	500	337	536
Utilities	295	369	539	300	20	27	31	16
Construction	9,873	8,662	8,337	8,381	588	532	533	540
Manufacturing	54,031	50,559	47,777	38,155	3,504	3,416	3,283	2,863
Wholesale Trade	1,381	1,458	1,297	815	81	76	69	39
Retail Trade	9,039	8,143	6,594	4,186	500	428	341	250
Transportation and Warehousing	8,050	7,427	6,287	5,098	506	473	392	337
Information	1,115	1,191	1,050	877	62	65	60	36
Finance and Insurance	2,114	2,035	1,670	1,286	100	116	92	71
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	1,180	1,259	846	748	70	70	47	35
Professional and Technical Services	4,137	4,424	3,781	3,516	238	266	253	219
Management of Companies	140	105	67	147	9	6	4	12
Administrative and Waste Services	5,163	5,234	4,056	3,238	319	295	226	207
Educational Services	3,168	2,735	2,368	1,595	155	143	143	78
Health Care and Social Assistance	10,167	10,338	8,400	5,527	529	552	428	302
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,355	1,063	905	839	80	70	55	64
Accommodation and Food Services	11,306	11,148	8,957	6,356	708	690	561	434
Other Services, except Public Administration	2,238	2,128	1,819	1,698	112	120	107	98
Public Administration	5,511	8,491	7,942	5,626	305	509	451	374
Unclassified	8,384	10,087	7,691	6,351	566	647	495	439

Industry	Amount of Payments				Payment Percent Distribution			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	\$884,620	\$1,087,270	\$878,462	\$578,295	2.6%	3.1%	2.9%	2.3%
Mining	\$2,447,241	\$2,609,570	\$1,957,644	\$2,306,886	7.2%	7.5%	6.4%	9.0%
Utilities	\$93,809	\$113,266	\$160,617	\$99,414	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%
Construction	\$2,950,141	\$2,622,828	\$2,602,923	\$2,714,094	8.7%	7.6%	8.5%	10.6%
Manufacturing	\$10,221,255	\$9,656,202	\$9,216,844	\$7,662,359	30.2%	27.9%	30.2%	30.0%
Wholesale Trade	\$364,841	\$400,234	\$365,425	\$226,905	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%	0.9%
Retail Trade	\$1,923,791	\$1,791,551	\$1,472,609	\$994,237	5.7%	5.2%	4.8%	3.9%
Transportation and Warehousing	\$1,890,947	\$1,763,027	\$1,566,087	\$1,300,328	5.6%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%
Information	\$307,039	\$326,813	\$324,920	\$290,328	0.9%	0.9%	1.1%	1.1%
Finance and Insurance	\$596,176	\$598,687	\$470,647	\$371,073	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$306,340	\$322,182	\$214,111	\$198,783	0.9%	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%
Professional and Technical Services	\$1,202,737	\$1,267,905	\$1,103,184	\$1,066,273	3.6%	3.7%	3.6%	4.2%
Management of Companies	\$44,364	\$33,835	\$24,031	\$41,049	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Administrative and Waste Services	\$1,218,520	\$1,251,893	\$1,019,182	\$836,836	3.6%	3.6%	3.3%	3.3%
Educational Services	\$824,787	\$685,028	\$598,246	\$423,443	2.4%	2.0%	2.0%	1.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$2,735,047	\$2,816,891	\$2,326,930	\$1,562,702	8.1%	8.1%	7.6%	6.1%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$235,641	\$199,897	\$197,803	\$184,029	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$1,933,312	\$1,991,031	\$1,663,401	\$1,201,024	5.7%	5.8%	5.4%	4.7%
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$515,557	\$517,226	\$464,402	\$468,813	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.8%
Public Administration	\$1,476,530	\$2,338,237	\$2,234,107	\$1,558,348	4.4%	6.8%	7.3%	6.1%
Unclassified	\$1,640,518	\$2,220,586	\$1,681,312	\$1,478,265	4.9%	6.4%	5.5%	5.8%

<sup>1</sup>Payment data include taxable and reimbursable.

<sup>2</sup>Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment.

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: UC-217 report, Benefit Payments by Industry and Area



Table 2.9 (cont.)

UI Regular Benefit Payments<sup>1</sup> by Industry

INTERSTATE, 2012 TO 2015

Industry	Average Weekly Payments				Average Duration in Weeks			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	\$267.10	\$285.15	\$305.55	\$299.79	15.8	16.8	18.1	16.3
Mining	\$328.62	\$336.20	\$337.93	\$347.21	15.6	15.5	17.2	12.4
Utilities	\$318.00	\$306.95	\$297.99	\$331.38	14.8	13.7	17.4	18.8
Construction	\$298.81	\$302.80	\$312.21	\$323.84	16.8	16.3	15.6	15.5
Manufacturing	\$189.17	\$190.99	\$192.91	\$200.82	15.4	14.8	14.6	13.3
Wholesale Trade	\$264.19	\$274.51	\$281.75	\$278.41	17.0	19.2	18.8	20.9
Retail Trade	\$212.83	\$220.01	\$223.33	\$237.51	18.1	19.0	19.3	16.7
Transportation and Warehousing	\$234.90	\$237.38	\$249.10	\$255.07	15.9	15.7	16.0	15.1
Information	\$275.37	\$274.40	\$309.45	\$331.05	18.0	18.3	17.5	24.4
Finance and Insurance	\$282.01	\$294.20	\$281.82	\$288.55	21.1	17.5	18.2	18.1
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$259.61	\$255.90	\$253.09	\$265.75	16.9	18.0	18.0	21.4
Professional and Technical Services	\$290.73	\$286.60	\$291.77	\$303.26	17.4	16.6	14.9	16.1
Management of Companies	\$316.89	\$322.24	\$358.67	\$279.24	15.6	17.5	16.8	12.3
Administrative and Waste Services	\$236.01	\$239.18	\$251.28	\$258.44	16.2	17.7	17.9	15.6
Educational Services	\$260.35	\$250.47	\$252.64	\$265.48	20.4	19.1	16.6	20.4
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$269.01	\$272.48	\$277.02	\$282.74	19.2	18.7	19.6	18.3
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$173.90	\$188.05	\$218.57	\$219.34	16.9	15.2	16.5	13.1
Accommodation and Food Services	\$171.00	\$178.60	\$185.71	\$188.96	16.0	16.2	16.0	14.6
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$230.37	\$243.06	\$255.31	\$276.10	20.0	17.7	17.0	17.3
Public Administration	\$267.92	\$275.38	\$281.30	\$276.99	18.1	16.7	17.6	15.0
Unclassified	\$195.67	\$220.14	\$218.61	\$232.76	14.8	15.6	15.5	14.5

<sup>1</sup>Payment data include taxable and reimbursable.

<sup>2</sup>Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: UC-217 report, Benefit Payments by Industry and Area

**Table 2.10 UI Regular Benefit Payments<sup>1</sup> by Industry**

INTRASTATE AND INTERSTATE TOTAL, 2012 TO 2015

Industry	Number of Weeks Paid				Number of First Payments			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	7,304	6,977	6,045	4,613	503	474	382	332
Mining	31,475	35,041	23,917	27,852	2,280	2265	1,566	2,307
Utilities	2,867	3,087	3,204	2,534	192	209	208	165
Construction	97,175	90,242	86,154	78,777	6,749	6293	6,338	5,843
Manufacturing	92,510	86,301	77,545	59,218	6,213	5872	5,466	4,547
Wholesale Trade	9,554	9,063	7,982	6,720	629	523	537	457
Retail Trade	65,797	61,091	52,939	38,373	4,048	3741	3,381	2,737
Transportation and Warehousing	40,515	36,670	32,411	25,657	2,774	2559	2,247	1,911
Information	7,496	6,884	5,320	4,783	430	394	340	302
Finance and Insurance	12,839	11,661	10,616	7,303	730	728	609	484
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	14,402	14,093	11,646	9,894	928	827	733	657
Professional and Technical Services	20,942	22,309	18,185	16,109	1,401	1414	1,193	1,180
Management of Companies	879	861	802	1,053	57	57	60	85
Administrative and Waste Services	36,184	35,396	30,423	24,696	2,386	2220	2,009	1,761
Educational Services	17,514	16,720	14,571	10,707	1,083	1124	970	760
Health Care and Social Assistance	62,593	61,282	56,187	38,817	3,758	3701	3,359	2,533
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	9,175	8,492	6,981	5,170	596	567	454	405
Accommodation and Food Services	63,061	54,865	46,682	34,900	4,111	3652	3,165	2,684
Other Services, except PA	24,358	21,383	19,804	16,430	1,576	1398	1,318	1,116
Public Administration	57,703	69,849	60,822	49,486	3,623	4559	3,957	3,340
Unclassified	14,423	19,269	15,042	11,536	997	1274	1,010	829

Industry	Amount of Payments				Payment Percent Distribution			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	\$1,700,142	\$1,733,053	\$1,502,512	\$1,165,254	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
Mining	\$9,922,593	\$11,060,380	\$7,557,189	\$9,135,972	6.6%	7.3%	5.7%	8.1%
Utilities	\$752,771	\$814,581	\$839,098	\$670,248	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Construction	\$27,160,529	\$25,174,309	\$24,445,188	\$23,271,473	18.0%	16.6%	18.3%	20.6%
Manufacturing	\$16,917,932	\$15,990,787	\$14,438,499	\$11,718,625	11.2%	10.5%	10.8%	10.4%
Wholesale Trade	\$2,242,001	\$2,199,713	\$1,970,673	\$1,719,556	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Retail Trade	\$12,268,742	\$11,519,345	\$9,888,766	\$7,484,343	8.1%	7.6%	7.4%	6.6%
Transportation and Warehousing	\$8,809,290	\$8,149,398	\$7,460,514	\$6,057,564	5.8%	5.4%	5.6%	5.4%
Information	\$2,005,587	\$1,885,515	\$1,486,790	\$1,435,254	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.3%
Finance and Insurance	\$3,178,846	\$2,920,087	\$2,571,970	\$1,789,570	2.1%	1.9%	1.9%	1.6%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$3,008,605	\$3,056,369	\$2,484,527	\$2,117,628	2.0%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%
Professional and Technical Services	\$5,466,596	\$5,954,578	\$4,919,142	\$4,578,850	3.6%	3.9%	3.7%	4.0%
Management of Companies	\$258,075	\$235,152	\$215,474	\$290,964	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Administrative and Waste Services	\$7,603,387	\$7,684,737	\$6,615,912	\$5,598,028	5.0%	5.1%	5.0%	4.9%
Educational Services	\$3,681,420	\$3,528,260	\$3,087,542	\$2,249,864	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$14,420,601	\$14,616,978	\$13,626,873	\$9,546,028	9.6%	9.6%	10.2%	8.4%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$1,408,582	\$1,387,914	\$1,212,579	\$924,359	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$10,344,166	\$9,294,716	\$8,101,388	\$6,245,727	6.9%	6.1%	6.1%	5.5%
Other Services, except PA	\$4,880,995	\$4,414,317	\$4,198,612	\$3,725,387	3.2%	2.9%	3.1%	3.3%
Public Administration	\$11,839,055	\$15,693,669	\$13,617,741	\$10,844,310	7.9%	10.3%	10.2%	9.6%
Unclassified	\$2,875,222	\$4,359,156	\$3,324,232	\$2,580,629	1.9%	2.9%	2.5%	2.3%

<sup>1</sup>Payment data include taxable and reimbursable.

<sup>2</sup>Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment.

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: UC-217 report, Benefit Payments by Industry and Area

Table 2.10 (cont.) **UI Regular Benefit Payments<sup>1</sup> by Industry**

INTRASTATE AND INTERSTATE TOTAL, 2012 TO 2015

Industry	Average Weekly Payments				Average Duration in Weeks			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	\$232.77	\$248.40	\$248.55	\$252.60	14.5	14.7	15.8	13.9
Mining	\$315.25	\$315.64	\$315.98	\$328.02	13.8	15.5	15.3	12.1
Utilities	\$262.56	\$263.87	\$261.89	\$264.50	14.9	14.8	15.4	15.4
Construction	\$279.50	\$278.96	\$283.74	\$295.41	14.4	14.3	13.6	13.5
Manufacturing	\$182.88	\$185.29	\$186.20	\$197.89	14.9	14.7	14.2	13.0
Wholesale Trade	\$234.67	\$242.71	\$246.89	\$255.89	15.2	17.3	14.9	14.7
Retail Trade	\$186.46	\$188.56	\$186.80	\$195.04	16.3	16.3	15.7	14.0
Transportation and Warehousing	\$217.43	\$222.24	\$230.18	\$236.10	14.6	14.3	14.4	13.4
Information	\$267.55	\$273.90	\$279.47	\$300.07	17.4	17.5	15.6	15.8
Finance and Insurance	\$247.59	\$250.41	\$242.27	\$245.05	17.6	16.0	17.4	15.1
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$208.90	\$216.87	\$213.34	\$214.03	15.5	17.0	15.9	15.1
Professional and Technical Services	\$261.04	\$266.91	\$270.51	\$284.24	14.9	15.8	15.2	13.7
Management of Companies	\$293.60	\$273.11	\$268.67	\$276.32	15.4	15.1	13.4	12.4
Administrative and Waste Services	\$210.13	\$217.11	\$217.46	\$226.68	15.2	15.9	15.1	14.0
Educational Services	\$210.20	\$211.02	\$211.90	\$210.13	16.2	14.9	15.0	14.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$230.39	\$238.52	\$242.53	\$245.92	16.7	16.6	16.7	15.3
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	\$153.52	\$163.44	\$173.70	\$178.79	15.4	15.0	15.4	12.8
Accommodation and Food Services	\$164.03	\$169.41	\$173.54	\$178.96	15.3	15.0	14.7	13.0
Other Services, except PA	\$200.39	\$206.44	\$212.01	\$226.74	15.5	15.3	15.0	14.7
Public Administration	\$205.17	\$224.68	\$223.89	\$219.14	15.9	15.3	15.4	14.8
Unclassified	\$199.35	\$226.23	\$221.00	\$223.70	14.5	15.1	14.9	13.9

<sup>1</sup>Payment data include taxable and reimbursable.

<sup>2</sup>Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: UC-217 report, Benefit Payments by Industry and Area

**Table 2.11 UI Regular Benefits Payments<sup>1</sup> by Industry**

INTERSTATE AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL, 2012 TO 2015

Industry	Percentage of Weeks Paid to Interstate				Percentage of First Payments to Interstate				Percentage of Payments to Interstate			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
Totals (including unclassified)	21.7%	22.1%	22.0%	21.8%	20.3%	21.0%	20.5%	20.5%	22.4%	22.8%	22.9%	22.6%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	45.3%	54.7%	47.6%	41.8%	41.7%	47.9%	41.6%	35.5%	52.0%	62.7%	58.5%	49.6%
Mining	23.7%	22.2%	24.2%	23.9%	20.9%	22.1%	21.5%	23.2%	24.7%	23.6%	25.9%	25.3%
Utilities	10.3%	12.0%	16.8%	11.8%	10.4%	12.9%	14.9%	9.7%	12.5%	13.9%	19.1%	14.8%
Construction	10.2%	9.6%	9.7%	10.6%	8.7%	8.5%	8.4%	9.2%	10.9%	10.4%	10.6%	11.7%
Manufacturing	58.4%	58.6%	61.6%	64.4%	56.4%	58.2%	60.1%	63.0%	60.4%	60.4%	63.8%	65.4%
Wholesale Trade	14.5%	16.1%	16.2%	12.1%	12.9%	14.5%	12.8%	8.5%	16.3%	18.2%	18.5%	13.2%
Retail Trade	13.7%	13.3%	12.5%	10.9%	12.4%	11.4%	10.1%	9.1%	15.7%	15.6%	14.9%	13.3%
Transportation and Warehousing	19.9%	20.3%	19.4%	19.9%	18.2%	18.5%	17.4%	17.6%	21.5%	21.6%	21.0%	21.5%
Information	14.9%	17.3%	19.7%	18.3%	14.4%	16.5%	17.6%	11.9%	15.3%	17.3%	21.9%	20.2%
Finance and Insurance	16.5%	17.5%	15.7%	17.6%	13.7%	15.9%	15.1%	14.7%	18.8%	20.5%	18.3%	20.7%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	8.2%	8.9%	7.3%	7.6%	7.5%	8.5%	6.4%	5.3%	10.2%	10.5%	8.6%	9.4%
Professional and Technical Services	19.8%	19.8%	20.8%	21.8%	17.0%	18.8%	21.2%	18.6%	22.0%	21.3%	22.4%	23.3%
Management of Companies	15.9%	12.2%	8.4%	14.0%	15.8%	10.5%	6.7%	14.1%	17.2%	14.4%	11.2%	14.1%
Administrative and Waste Services	14.3%	14.8%	13.3%	13.1%	13.4%	13.3%	11.2%	11.8%	16.0%	16.3%	15.4%	14.9%
Educational Services	18.1%	16.4%	16.3%	14.9%	14.3%	12.7%	14.7%	10.3%	22.4%	19.4%	19.4%	18.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	16.2%	16.9%	15.0%	14.2%	14.1%	14.9%	12.7%	11.9%	19.0%	19.3%	17.1%	16.4%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	14.8%	12.5%	13.0%	16.2%	13.4%	12.3%	12.1%	15.8%	16.7%	14.4%	16.3%	19.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	17.9%	20.3%	19.2%	18.2%	17.2%	18.9%	17.7%	16.2%	18.7%	21.4%	20.5%	19.2%
Other Services, except Public Administration	9.2%	10.0%	9.2%	10.3%	7.1%	8.6%	8.1%	8.8%	10.6%	11.7%	11.1%	12.6%
Public Administration	9.6%	12.2%	13.1%	11.4%	8.4%	11.2%	11.4%	11.2%	12.5%	14.9%	16.4%	14.4%
Unclassified	58.1%	52.3%	51.1%	55.1%	56.8%	50.8%	49.0%	53.0%	57.1%	50.9%	50.6%	57.3%

<sup>1</sup>Data include both taxable and reimbursable.

<sup>2</sup>Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment.

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: UC-217 report, Benefit Payments by Industry and Area

**Table 2.12 Amount of UI Benefit Payments by Borough or Census Area**  
2015

<b>Census Areas</b>	<b>Regular UI</b>	<b>EB</b>	<b>EUC 08</b>	<b>SSB</b>	<b>All ProgramsTotal</b>
Aleutians East Borough	\$197,624	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$197,624
Aleutians West Census Area	\$460,389	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$460,389
Anchorage, Municipality	\$29,379,373	\$0	\$1,392	\$0	\$29,380,765
Bethel Census Area	\$3,129,427	\$0	\$549	\$0	\$3,129,976
Bristol Bay Borough	\$160,778	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160,778
Denali Borough	\$399,879	\$0	\$25	\$0	\$399,904
Dillingham Census Area	\$602,518	\$0	\$164	\$0	\$602,682
Fairbanks North Star Borough	\$10,142,794	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,142,794
Haines Borough	\$403,493	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$403,493
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	\$527,329	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$527,329
Juneau, City and Borough	\$2,611,131	\$0	\$929	\$0	\$2,612,060
Kenai Peninsula Borough	\$8,959,712	\$0	\$201	\$0	\$8,959,913
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	\$1,434,702	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,434,702
Kodiak Island Borough	\$1,216,719	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,216,719
Lake and Peninsula Borough	\$213,484	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$213,484
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	\$14,647,784	\$0	\$6	\$0	\$14,647,790
Nome Census Area	\$1,537,451	\$0	\$370	\$0	\$1,537,821
North Slope Borough	\$685,844	\$0	\$117	\$0	\$685,961
Northwest Arctic Borough	\$1,543,122	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,543,122
Petersburg Census Area	\$463,458	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$463,458
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	\$1,241,900	\$75	\$0	\$0	\$1,241,975
Sitka, City and Borough	\$743,445	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$743,445
Skagway, Municipality	\$317,057	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$317,057
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	\$1,079,664	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,079,664
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	\$1,545,572	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,545,572
Kusilvak Census Area	\$1,965,291	\$0	\$148	\$0	\$1,965,439
Wrangell, City and Borough	\$307,861	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$307,861
Yakutat, City and Borough	\$86,068	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$86,068
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	\$1,350,537	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,350,537
Area Unknown	\$231,743	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$231,743

Note: The EUC program began in July 2008 and was effective through 2013.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: UC-217 report, Benefit Payments by Industry and Area



## Table 2.13 Claimants With Dependents

2006 TO 2015

Year	Number of Claimants with Dependents	All Reg UI Claimants	Percent Claimants with Dependents	Weeks Compensated with Dependents	All Weeks Compensated	Percent Weeks Compensated with Dependents	Amount of Dependent Benefits
2006	20,437	51,597	39.6%	245,339	598,796	41.0%	\$11,050,296
2007	18,589	47,776	38.9%	217,065	542,965	40.0%	\$9,692,664
2008	17,751	45,343	39.1%	220,911	556,108	39.7%	\$9,880,752
2009	21,059	58,369	36.1%	277,671	755,797	36.7%	\$12,146,136
2010	22,635	63,551	35.6%	295,842	806,017	36.7%	\$12,890,472
2011	22,157	61,449	36.1%	285,021	763,482	37.3%	\$12,435,480
2012	20,871	57,532	36.3%	254,922	681,872	37.4%	\$11,166,600
2013	20,201	55,265	36.6%	248,314	657,650	37.8%	\$10,886,424
2014	18,254	49,826	36.6%	217,023	574,016	37.8%	\$9,563,832
2015	15,301	42,138	36.3%	171,310	461,162	37.1%	\$7,577,808

Notes: The allowance is \$24.00 per dependent per week, with a maximum of \$72.00.  
Data are for state regular UI program only.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: annual claimant characteristics report

Table 2.14

**Average Weekly Percentage of Unemployed Receiving Benefits**

2015

<b>State</b>	<b>Average Weekly Unemployed</b>	<b>Average Weeks Compensated</b>	<b>Compensated as Percent of Unemployed</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Alabama	129,975	18,121	13.9%	42
Alaska	24,075	8,888	36.9%	5
Arizona	191,475	24,935	13.0%	46
Arkansas	70,900	15,658	22.1%	29
California	1,177,425	340,066	28.9%	14
Colorado	113,125	25,545	22.6%	28
Connecticut	108,050	40,930	37.9%	4
Delaware	22,225	6,052	27.2%	18
Dist. of Columbia	27,150	7,348	27.1%	19
Florida	519,150	42,645	8.2%	52
Georgia	282,625	29,470	10.4%	48
Hawaii	25,000	6,702	26.8%	20
Idaho	32,000	6,881	21.5%	31
Illinois	382,625	104,960	27.4%	17
Indiana	161,175	25,969	16.1%	40
Iowa	63,275	22,626	35.8%	7
Kansas	63,550	13,744	21.6%	30
Kentucky	103,625	21,046	20.3%	33
Louisiana	135,900	18,315	13.5%	43
Maine	31,000	7,675	24.8%	23
Maryland	163,750	34,086	20.8%	32
Massachusetts	170,200	65,688	38.6%	3
Michigan	253,450	57,625	22.7%	27
Minnesota	113,325	37,213	32.8%	10
Mississippi	82,650	9,745	11.8%	47
Missouri	162,650	26,193	16.1%	41
Montana	21,475	6,865	32.0%	11
Nebraska	28,400	5,601	19.7%	34
Nevada	96,575	22,120	22.9%	26
New Hampshire	26,550	4,433	16.7%	39
New Jersey	263,725	101,854	38.6%	2
New Mexico	59,350	11,038	18.6%	36
New York	516,000	152,769	29.6%	12
North Carolina	268,900	22,803	8.5%	51
North Dakota	11,975	6,556	54.7%	1
Ohio	279,925	54,960	19.6%	35
Oklahoma	77,675	17,981	23.1%	25
Oregon	111,650	28,333	25.4%	21
Pennsylvania	329,725	121,307	36.8%	6
Puerto Rico	136,875	25,278	18.5%	37
Rhode Island	32,425	9,296	28.7%	15
South Carolina	138,275	11,914	8.6%	50
South Dakota	15,525	1,562	10.1%	49
Tennessee	179,950	23,717	13.2%	45
Texas	568,300	142,955	25.2%	22
Utah	51,250	8,851	17.3%	38
Vermont	12,650	4,521	35.7%	8
Virginia	192,475	25,501	13.2%	44
Washington	198,175	46,664	23.5%	24
West Virginia	53,375	14,824	27.8%	16
Wisconsin	141,300	41,402	29.3%	13
Wyoming	12,725	4,443	34.9%	9
<b>United States</b>	<b>8,540,500</b>	<b>1,936,401</b>	<b>22.7%</b>	

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: UI Data Summary, Quarters 1-4, 2015, Produced by the U.S. Department of Labor

## Chapter 3

# UI Covered Employment and Wages

### 98 percent of workers are covered

State and federal unemployment insurance programs covered about 98 percent of all Alaska nonagriculture wage and salary workers in 2015 — an average of 331,685 workers. (See Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1.) State programs covered 93.6 percent, and federal programs covered 4.4 percent.

The remaining 2 percent included full-commission salespeople, elected and appointed officials, and unpaid family workers. Fishermen who worked on a share basis were also excluded, and as of 2006, real estate workers have also been excluded.

### Most employers pay UI taxes

In Alaska, most employers are assigned tax rates each calendar year and pay taxes each quarter on the taxable wages of their employees. However, a few select employers, such as nonprofit organizations and state and local government agencies, exercise their option to reimburse the state directly for any UI benefits paid to their former employees. Reimbursable employment accounted for

roughly one-fifth of covered employment in 2015, or 22.3 percent. (See Table 3.2.)

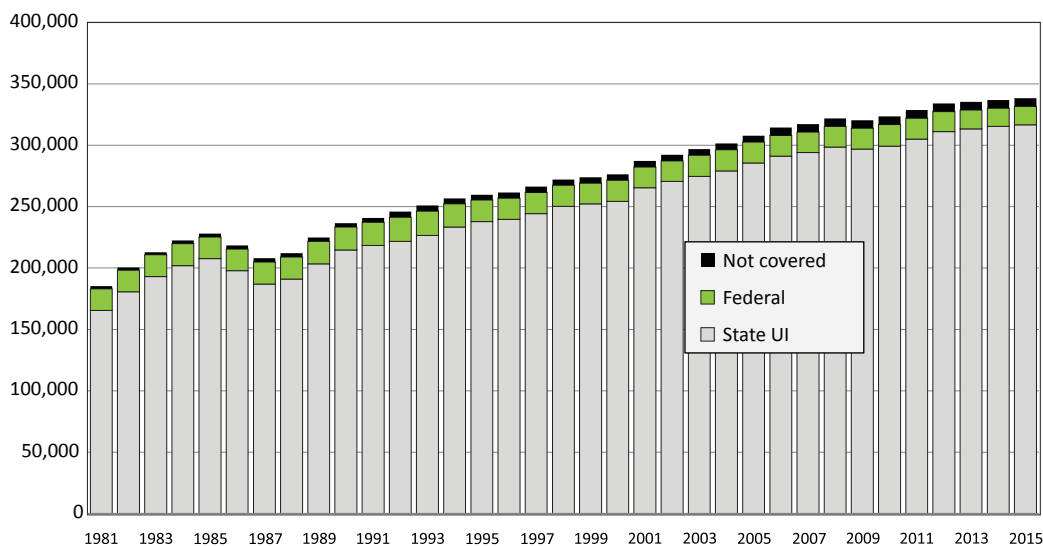
### Covered employment grew slightly

Average monthly covered employment (which excludes federal government but includes reimbursable employers) rose by 1,398 jobs, or 0.4 percent — from 315,332 in 2014 to 316,730 in 2015.

The year had continued slow job growth and some decline in a handful of industries. The largest losses were in state government and mining. Manufacturing, professional/technical and administrative and waste services also lost jobs over the year.

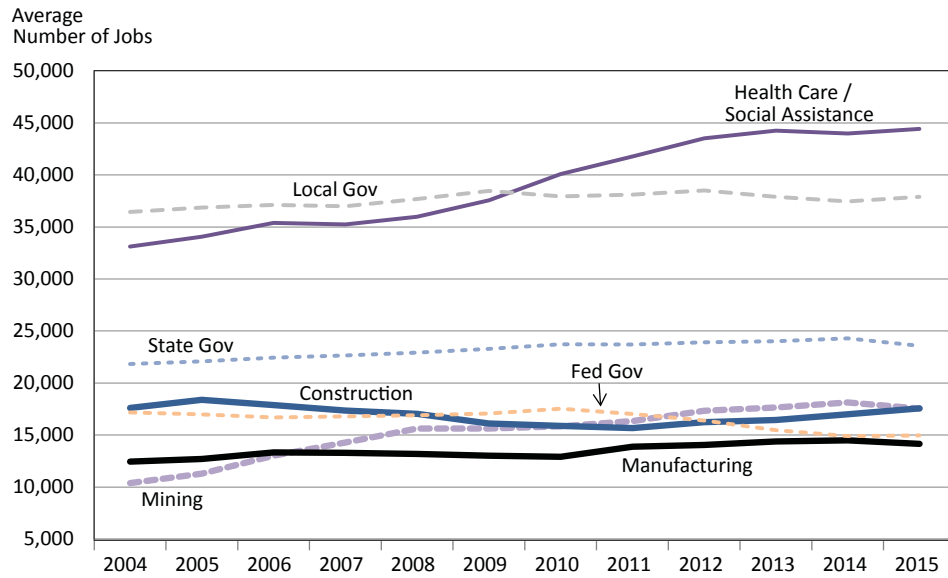
Eleven of the 20 main private industries gained jobs or held steady, with the highest increases in accommodations/food service (+954), trade (+691), construction (+555), health care (+451) and transportation/warehousing (+228). On the other end of the spectrum, mining (mostly oil and gas) lost 581 jobs. (See Table 3.2.)

**Figure 3.1** Employment by Type of UI Coverage  
1981 TO 2015



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

**Figure 3.2 Average Monthly Covered Employment**  
2004 to 2015



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

## Covered wages grew 3 percent

Total covered wages grew by \$502.7 million (3.1 percent) in 2015, to just over \$17 billion. Private industry wages grew by \$446.5 million (3.3 percent) while state and local government wages grew by a combined \$56 million (1.7 percent). Private sector and government wage growth was muted by losses in oil and gas (-\$18.3 million) and state government (-\$13.1 million).

In the private sector, manufacturing's gains were the strongest percentage-wise at 9.1 percent over the year while the accommodations and food service sector was second at 8 percent. Other notable increases were in utilities, construction, and health care. (See Table 3.3 and Figure 3.3.)

Meanwhile, taxable wages grew 3.22 percent (by \$249.9 million) in 2015, nearly double the previous year's rate.

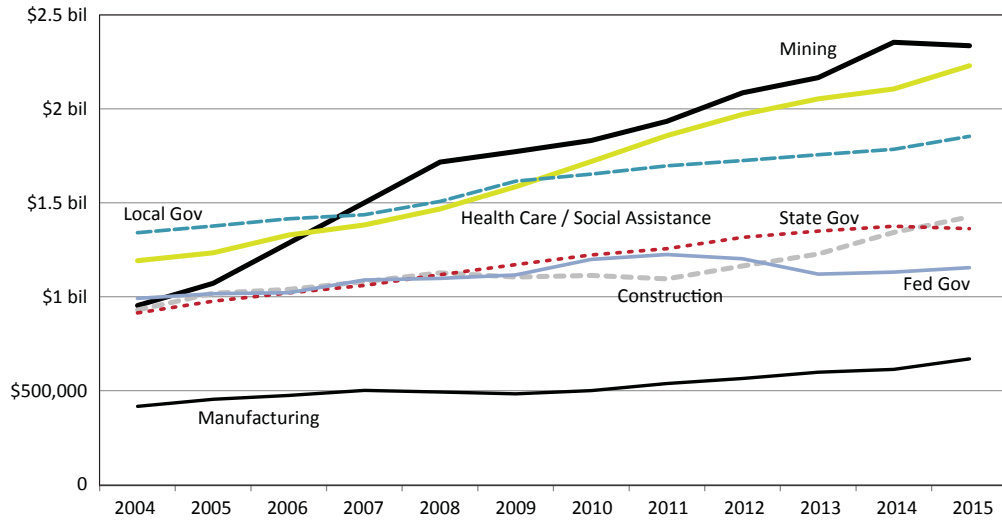
However, the health care and social assistance wages subject to UI taxes declined again in 2015, by 4.0 percent (-\$36.3 million).

## Average wages continued to increase

On average, wages grew by \$1,356, or 2.6 percent, to \$53,704 in 2015.

By industry, mining's average wages were highest at \$133,138. At the other end of the spectrum, arts, entertainment, and recreation posted the lowest average at \$21,307. The public sector's total wage growth was 2.05 percent — 2.69 percent for state and local government. For those two levels of government, 2015's average wages were \$57,786 and \$48,930, respectively. (See Table 3.6.)

**Figure 3.3 Total Covered Wages**  
2004 to 2015



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

**Table 3.1 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment**  
COVERED AND NONCOVERED, 2003 TO 2015

Year	Total Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment	State UI Taxable and Reimbursable Employment	Percent of Total	Alaska Federal Government Employment	Percent of Total	Noncovered Employment	Percent of Total
2003	296,860	274,706	92.5%	17,105	5.8%	5,049	1.7%
2004	301,466	279,151	92.6%	17,175	5.7%	5,140	1.7%
2005	307,847	285,560	92.8%	16,977	5.5%	5,310	1.7%
2006	314,338	291,179	92.6%	16,698	5.3%	6,461	2.1%
2007	317,217	294,001	92.7%	16,806	5.3%	6,410	2.0%
2008	321,765	298,443	92.8%	16,897	5.3%	6,425	2.0%
2009	320,342	296,814	92.7%	17,064	5.3%	6,464	2.0%
2010	323,412	299,311	92.5%	17,544	5.4%	6,557	2.0%
2011	328,676	305,016	92.8%	17,037	5.2%	6,623	2.0%
2012	334,025	311,059	93.1%	16,391	4.9%	6,575	2.0%
2013	335,385	313,278	93.4%	15,473	4.6%	6,634	2.0%
2014	336,814	315,332	93.6%	14,895	4.4%	6,587	2.0%
2015	338,252	316,730	93.6%	14,955	4.4%	6,567	1.9%

Note: Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

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



**Table 3.2 Average Monthly Covered Employment by Industry/Ownership**  
2012 TO 2015

	Employment				Percent			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Total Taxable and Reimbursable</b>	<b>311,059</b>	<b>313,278</b>	<b>315,332</b>	<b>316,730</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Private Industry</b>	<b>248,652</b>	<b>251,380</b>	<b>253,581</b>	<b>255,258</b>	<b>79.9%</b>	<b>80.2%</b>	<b>80.4%</b>	<b>80.6%</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	1,100	1,098	1,123	1,136	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Mining	17,324	17,648	18,127	17,545	7.0%	7.0%	7.1%	6.9%
Utilities	2,215	2,243	2,231	2,280	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
Construction	16,235	16,449	17,003	17,558	6.5%	6.5%	6.7%	6.9%
Manufacturing	14,048	14,391	14,497	14,155	5.6%	5.7%	5.7%	5.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	19,531	19,357	19,280	19,508	7.9%	7.7%	7.6%	7.6%
Trade	42,423	42,916	43,690	44,381	17.1%	17.1%	17.2%	17.4%
Information	6,329	6,293	6,419	6,419	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Finance and Insurance	8,350	7,068	6,957	6,996	3.4%	2.8%	2.7%	2.7%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	4,767	4,838	4,852	4,821	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
Professional and Technical Services	14,041	14,209	14,072	13,937	5.6%	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%
Management of Companies	1,209	2,395	2,347	2,436	0.5%	1.0%	0.9%	1.0%
Administrative and Waste Services	12,560	12,579	12,817	12,635	5.1%	5.0%	5.1%	5.0%
Educational Services	2,215	2,289	2,290	2,352	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	43,523	44,262	43,981	44,432	17.5%	17.6%	17.3%	17.4%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4,829	4,832	4,783	4,775	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	27,777	28,240	28,657	29,610	11.2%	11.2%	11.3%	11.6%
Other Services, except Public Administration	9,916	10,002	10,093	9,928	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	3.9%
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	258	271	363	354	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
<b>State Government</b>	<b>23,910</b>	<b>24,013</b>	<b>24,288</b>	<b>23,572</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>
Education	5,772	5,809	5,972	5,741	24.1%	24.2%	24.6%	24.4%
Public Administration	17,049	17,173	17,298	16,828	71.3%	71.5%	71.2%	71.4%
All Other	1,089	1,031	1,019	1,004	4.6%	4.3%	4.2%	4.3%
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>38,498</b>	<b>37,886</b>	<b>37,463</b>	<b>37,900</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>
Education	21,502	21,120	20,638	20,885	55.9%	55.7%	55.1%	55.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,199	1,261	1,299	1,316	3.1%	3.3%	3.5%	3.5%
Public Administration	15,169	14,949	14,976	15,137	39.4%	39.5%	40.0%	39.9%
All Other	627	555	550	561	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%

**Table 3.2 (cont.) Average Monthly Covered Employment by Industry/Ownership**

2012 TO 2015

	Employment				Percent			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Reimbursables Only</b>	<b>66,931</b>	<b>66,816</b>	<b>68,956</b>	<b>70,739</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>22.3%</b>
<b>Private Industry</b>	<b>13,248</b>	<b>13,460</b>	<b>15,742</b>	<b>17,965</b>	<b>19.8%</b>	<b>20.1%</b>	<b>22.8%</b>	<b>25.4%</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	37	40	40	44	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%
Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Warehousing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information	55	57	56	52	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Finance and Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional and Technical Services	178	188	195	199	1.3%	1.4%	1.2%	1.1%
Management of Companies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative and Waste Services	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	0
Educational Services	311	261	249	255	2.4%	1.9%	1.6%	1.4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	11,648	11,746	14,024	16,232	87.9%	87.3%	89.1%	90.4%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	115	120	124	117	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	0	24	30	27	0	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Other Services, except Public Administration	902	1,023	1,023	1,036	6.8%	7.6%	6.5%	5.8%
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>State Government</b>	<b>23,598</b>	<b>23,699</b>	<b>23,991</b>	<b>23,288</b>	<b>35.3%</b>	<b>35.5%</b>	<b>34.8%</b>	<b>32.9%</b>
Education	5,771	5,808	5,972	5,740	24.5%	24.5%	24.9%	24.6%
Public Administration	17,049	17,173	17,298	16,828	72.2%	72.5%	72.1%	72.3%
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>30,085</b>	<b>29,656</b>	<b>29,223</b>	<b>29,486</b>	<b>44.9%</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>42.4%</b>	<b>41.7%</b>
Education	21,502	21,120	20,638	20,885	71.5%	71.2%	70.6%	70.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,101	1,154	1,190	1,204	3.7%	3.9%	4.1%	4.1%
Public Administration	7,482	7,382	7,394	7,398	24.9%	24.9%	25.3%	25.1%

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

**Table 3.3 Total Covered Wages by Industry/Ownership**

2012 TO 2015

	Wages in Thousands				Percent			
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Total Taxable and Reimbursable</b>	<b>\$15,373,162</b>	<b>\$15,831,852</b>	<b>\$16,506,787</b>	<b>\$17,009,499</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Private Industry</b>	<b>\$12,332,174</b>	<b>\$12,725,580</b>	<b>\$13,346,406</b>	<b>\$13,792,934</b>	<b>80.2%</b>	<b>80.4%</b>	<b>80.9%</b>	<b>81.1%</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$51,215	\$54,570	\$55,770	\$56,391	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Mining	\$2,085,481	\$2,166,884	\$2,354,298	\$2,335,924	16.9%	17.0%	17.6%	16.9%
Utilities	\$177,780	\$184,632	\$184,818	\$198,387	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%
Construction	\$1,164,406	\$1,227,117	\$1,342,537	\$1,425,310	9.4%	9.6%	10.1%	10.3%
Manufacturing	\$565,626	\$598,441	\$613,801	\$669,930	4.6%	4.7%	4.6%	4.9%
Transportation and Warehousing	\$1,162,621	\$1,167,789	\$1,194,726	\$1,219,248	9.4%	9.2%	9.0%	8.8%
Trade	\$1,397,556	\$1,430,022	\$1,490,449	\$1,544,077	11.3%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%
Information	\$371,426	\$376,965	\$397,432	\$411,617	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Finance and Insurance	\$513,477	\$413,418	\$423,422	\$442,765	4.2%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$184,641	\$191,478	\$199,332	\$203,535	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Professional and Technical Services	\$968,097	\$1,002,429	\$1,030,012	\$1,024,835	7.9%	7.9%	7.7%	7.4%
Management of Companies	\$93,121	\$188,421	\$198,013	\$207,074	0.8%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Administrative and Waste Services	\$515,466	\$517,327	\$553,927	\$559,492	4.2%	4.1%	4.2%	4.1%
Educational Services	\$68,049	\$71,321	\$69,587	\$72,099	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$1,970,680	\$2,053,178	\$2,105,969	\$2,230,244	16.0%	16.1%	15.8%	16.2%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$92,232	\$96,234	\$98,987	\$101,745	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$584,564	\$606,764	\$642,519	\$694,008	4.7%	4.8%	4.8%	5.0%
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$355,935	\$369,439	\$375,377	\$381,868	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	\$9,803	\$9,151	\$15,428	\$14,384	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
<b>State Government</b>	<b>\$1,316,317</b>	<b>\$1,349,700</b>	<b>\$1,375,314</b>	<b>\$1,362,152</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
Education	\$311,705	\$312,836	\$325,679	\$316,818	23.7%	23.2%	23.7%	23.3%
Public Administration	\$930,393	\$968,287	\$980,511	\$976,813	70.7%	71.7%	71.3%	71.7%
All Other	\$74,220	\$68,576	\$69,125	\$68,521	5.6%	5.1%	5.0%	5.0%
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$1,724,671</b>	<b>\$1,756,572</b>	<b>\$1,785,066</b>	<b>\$1,854,413</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>
Education	\$951,868	\$968,045	\$975,237	\$1,006,322	55.2%	55.1%	54.6%	54.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$66,895	\$72,198	\$78,143	\$82,201	3.9%	4.1%	4.4%	4.4%
Public Administration	\$674,824	\$688,872	\$706,334	\$736,813	39.1%	39.2%	39.6%	39.7%
All Other	\$31,083	\$27,457	\$25,352	\$29,077	1.8%	1.6%	1.4%	1.6%

Table 3.3 (cont.) **Total Covered Wages by Industry/Ownership**

2012 to 2015

	Wages in Thousands				Percent			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Reimbursables Only</b>	<b>\$3,372,741</b>	<b>\$3,467,295</b>	<b>\$3,714,092</b>	<b>\$3,911,533</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>22.5%</b>	<b>23.0%</b>
<b>Private Industry</b>	<b>\$632,617</b>	<b>\$663,405</b>	<b>\$863,610</b>	<b>\$1,016,291</b>	<b>18.8%</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>23.3%</b>	<b>26.0%</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	\$1,580	\$1,796	\$1,839	\$1,966	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Warehousing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Information	\$2,296	\$2,466	\$2,586	\$2,555	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Finance and Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional and Technical Services	\$9,215	\$10,028	\$32,746	0	1.5%	1.5%	3.8%	0
Management of Companies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative and Waste Services	\$34	\$27	\$6	\$82	0	0	0	0
Educational Services	\$9,420	\$7,877	\$7,696	\$7,836	1.5%	1.2%	0.9%	0.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$581,086	\$607,031	\$783,340	\$965,340	91.9%	91.5%	90.7%	95.0%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$3,604	\$3,792	\$4,038	\$4,614	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	0	\$654	\$838	\$851	0	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$25,382	\$29,736	\$30,520	\$33,046	4.0%	4.5%	3.5%	3.3%
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>State Government</b>	<b>\$1,295,431</b>	<b>\$1,328,470</b>	<b>\$1,354,937</b>	<b>\$1,342,992</b>	<b>38.4%</b>	<b>38.3%</b>	<b>36.5%</b>	<b>34.3%</b>
Education	\$311,677	\$312,816	\$325,679	\$316,805	24.1%	23.5%	24.0%	23.6%
Public Administration	\$930,393	\$968,287	\$980,511	\$976,813	71.8%	72.9%	72.4%	72.7%
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$1,444,693</b>	<b>\$1,475,420</b>	<b>\$1,495,545</b>	<b>\$1,552,250</b>	<b>42.8%</b>	<b>42.6%</b>	<b>40.3%</b>	<b>39.7%</b>
Education	\$951,868	\$968,045	\$975,237	\$1,006,322	65.9%	65.6%	65.2%	64.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$62,222	\$66,678	\$72,827	\$76,889	4.3%	4.5%	4.9%	5.0%
Public Administration	\$430,602	\$440,697	\$447,481	\$469,039	29.8%	29.9%	29.9%	30.2%

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

**Table 3.4 Taxable Wages by Industry/Ownership**

2012 TO 2015

	Wages in Thousands				Percent			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,330,479</b>	<b>\$7,612,142</b>	<b>\$7,751,931</b>	<b>\$8,001,869</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Private Industry</b>	<b>\$7,108,644</b>	<b>\$7,389,066</b>	<b>\$7,523,213</b>	<b>\$7,765,035</b>	<b>97.0%</b>	<b>97.1%</b>	<b>97.0%</b>	<b>97.0%</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	\$37,804	\$39,532	\$41,384	\$41,678	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
Mining	\$751,516	\$783,622	\$805,623	\$789,839	10.6%	10.6%	10.7%	10.2%
Utilities	\$81,503	\$84,534	\$85,115	\$89,665	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
Construction	\$734,008	\$777,316	\$826,547	\$882,047	10.3%	10.5%	11.0%	11.4%
Manufacturing	\$430,399	\$469,473	\$476,037	\$529,251	6.1%	6.4%	6.3%	6.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	\$630,179	\$639,908	\$654,439	\$684,809	8.9%	8.7%	8.7%	8.8%
Trade	\$1,063,605	\$1,094,938	\$1,145,132	\$1,185,865	15.0%	14.8%	15.2%	15.3%
Information	\$204,509	\$211,028	\$218,259	\$227,402	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%
Finance and Insurance	\$279,895	\$245,435	\$245,502	\$254,511	3.9%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$134,927	\$140,887	\$144,884	\$148,062	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
Professional and Technical Services	\$503,454	\$520,504	\$521,901	\$536,523	7.1%	7.0%	6.9%	6.9%
Management of Companies	\$45,139	\$87,095	\$88,489	\$94,301	0.6%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
Administrative and Waste Services	\$369,499	\$371,641	\$385,536	\$397,104	5.2%	5.0%	5.1%	5.1%
Educational Services	\$44,171	\$49,806	\$48,340	\$50,205	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$933,021	\$979,287	\$899,435	\$863,060	13.1%	13.3%	12.0%	11.1%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$78,615	\$81,745	\$82,955	\$86,047	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$536,053	\$556,931	\$585,499	\$634,038	7.5%	7.5%	7.8%	8.2%
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$242,836	\$247,867	\$255,607	\$259,636	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.3%
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	\$7,509	\$7,516	\$12,528	\$10,992	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
<b>State Government</b>	<b>\$11,344</b>	<b>\$11,604</b>	<b>\$11,480</b>	<b>\$11,022</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
Education	\$28	\$21	0	\$14	0.2%	0.2%	0	0.1%
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other	\$11,316	\$11,584	\$11,480	\$11,008	99.8%	99.8%	100.0%	99.9%
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$210,491</b>	<b>\$211,472</b>	<b>\$217,239</b>	<b>\$225,812</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$3,281	\$3,615	\$3,629	\$4,041	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.8%
Public Administration	\$185,671	\$188,780	\$194,218	\$202,111	88.2%	89.3%	89.4%	89.5%
All Other	\$21,538	\$19,078	\$19,392	\$19,660	10.2%	9.0%	8.9%	8.7%

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

Table 3.5

**Taxable as a Share of Total Wages by Industry/Ownership**

2012 TO 2015

	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Total</b>	<b>47.7%</b>	<b>48.1%</b>	<b>47.0%</b>	<b>47.0%</b>
<b>Private Industry</b>	<b>57.6%</b>	<b>58.1%</b>	<b>56.4%</b>	<b>56.3%</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	73.8%	72.4%	74.2%	73.9%
Mining	36.0%	36.2%	34.2%	33.8%
Utilities	45.8%	45.8%	46.1%	45.2%
Construction	63.0%	63.3%	61.6%	61.9%
Manufacturing	76.1%	78.4%	77.6%	79.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	54.2%	54.8%	54.8%	56.2%
Trade	76.1%	76.6%	76.8%	76.8%
Information	55.1%	56.0%	54.9%	55.2%
Finance and Insurance	54.5%	59.4%	58.0%	57.5%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	73.1%	73.6%	72.7%	72.7%
Professional and Technical Services	52.0%	51.9%	50.7%	52.4%
Management of Companies	48.5%	46.2%	44.7%	45.5%
Administrative and Waste Services	71.7%	71.8%	69.6%	71.0%
Educational Services	64.9%	69.8%	69.5%	69.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	47.3%	47.7%	42.7%	38.7%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	85.2%	84.9%	83.8%	84.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	91.7%	91.8%	91.1%	91.4%
Other Services, except Public Administration	68.2%	67.1%	68.1%	68.0%
Public Administration	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	76.6%	82.1%	81.2%	76.4%
<b>State Government</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
Education	0	0	0	0
Public Administration	0	0	0	0
All Other	15.2%	16.9%	16.6%	16.1%
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>
Education	0	0	0	0
Health Care and Social Assistance	4.9%	5.0%	4.6%	4.9%
Public Administration	27.5%	27.4%	27.5%	27.4%
All Other	69.3%	69.5%	76.5%	67.6%

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



Table 3.6

**Avg Annual Wages in Covered Employment by Industry/Ownership**

2012 TO 2015

	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$49,422</b>	<b>\$50,536</b>	<b>\$52,347</b>	<b>\$53,704</b>
<b>Private Industry</b>	<b>\$49,596</b>	<b>\$50,623</b>	<b>\$52,632</b>	<b>\$54,035</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, <sup>2</sup> and Hunting	\$46,559	\$49,681	\$49,658	\$49,655
Mining	\$120,379	\$122,783	\$129,881	\$133,138
Utilities	\$80,262	\$82,327	\$82,853	\$87,005
Construction	\$71,721	\$74,604	\$78,957	\$81,177
Manufacturing	\$40,263	\$41,585	\$42,339	\$47,329
Transportation and Warehousing	\$59,526	\$60,330	\$61,969	\$62,501
Trade	\$32,943	\$33,321	\$34,114	\$34,791
Information	\$58,683	\$59,898	\$61,919	\$64,130
Finance and Insurance	\$61,492	\$58,495	\$60,861	\$63,291
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$38,730	\$39,578	\$41,087	\$42,215
Professional and Technical Services	\$68,950	\$70,548	\$73,198	\$73,534
Management of Companies	\$77,012	\$78,675	\$84,354	\$84,994
Administrative and Waste Services	\$41,041	\$41,126	\$43,217	\$44,280
Educational Services	\$30,721	\$31,154	\$30,387	\$30,659
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$45,279	\$46,387	\$47,884	\$50,195
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$19,099	\$19,917	\$20,697	\$21,307
Accommodation and Food Services	\$21,045	\$21,486	\$22,421	\$23,438
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$35,895	\$36,935	\$37,193	\$38,463
Public Administration	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unclassified	\$37,971	\$33,799	\$42,483	\$40,670
<b>State Government</b>	<b>\$55,053</b>	<b>\$56,207</b>	<b>\$56,624</b>	<b>\$57,786</b>
Education	\$54,006	\$53,855	\$54,537	\$55,188
Public Administration	\$54,571	\$56,386	\$56,684	\$58,047
All Other	\$68,154	\$66,482	\$67,841	\$68,265
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$44,799</b>	<b>\$46,365</b>	<b>\$47,649</b>	<b>\$48,930</b>
Education	\$44,268	\$45,835	\$47,253	\$48,184
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$55,773	\$57,243	\$60,180	\$62,443
Public Administration	\$44,486	\$46,080	\$47,166	\$48,676
All Other	\$49,607	\$49,473	\$46,074	\$51,800

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

# Data Sources and Limitations

## Limitations of data

The data in this report are derived from several sources, each with its own limitations. While reports may be generated from the same initial source and/or appear similar, they are not necessarily directly comparable.

Readers should also be aware that percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. Monetary data are reported to the full dollar amount whenever possible, but the dollar amounts in some tables may be rounded to the nearest \$1,000 because of space limitations.

Average monthly employment is an estimate based on the number of active jobs in a month for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Readers should be cautious when deriving annual wages from these figures, as they represent average annual wages per job, not per worker. Wages, in contrast, are the total wages paid during each quarter.

## Chapter 1 sources

Chapter 1 discusses financial transactions, Alaska's unemployment insurance trust fund, and Alaska's benefit financing structure. Chapter 1 draws heavily from the Employment Training Administration (ETA) 2112 report and the U.S. Department of Labor's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) quarterly reports.

## Chapter 2 sources

Chapter 2 focuses on benefit payment data derived from both ETA reports and special runs on the state's mainframe system.

Payments by industry and area, Tables 2.8 through 2.12, are derived from the interdepartmental UC217 report, which is a monthly compilation of data by two-digit North America Industry Classification System (NAICS) code and a three-digit Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) geographic code.

Data in Tables 2.5 through 2.7 are derived from the U.S. Department of Labor's Claims Activity Report (ETA 5159).

Data in Table 2.2 are derived from the Claimant Characteristics file. This file results from a special compilation of information on all claimants who received unemployment compensation during a specified year. Occupations are listed according to classifications in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) codes. Ethnic information is voluntarily submitted at the time of initial filing.

## Chapter 3 sources

Chapter 3 provides information on employment and wage data derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages report and presents industries according to NAICS sectors.

QCEW is based on quarterly payroll data Alaska employers submit to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The department derives some QCEW information from estimates for delinquent employers.

The QCEW data include all employers covered by Alaska's unemployment insurance system and consists of reported average monthly employment, total wages, and taxable wages. The data also include employers' tax assessments, to be paid into the UI trust fund.

# Summary of Major Changes In the Alaska Employment Security Act

## Part 1: Coverage Provisions of the Alaska Employment Security Act, 1937–2014

<b>April 2, 1937</b>	Alaska Employment Security Law enacted. Employers with eight or more employees in 20 weeks of the year are liable for taxes. The following types of employment are excluded from coverage: agriculture; domestic service; officers and crews on vessels; service performed by a parent, spouse, or child under 21; government; nonprofit organizations; and those covered under a federal unemployment program. Employers not subject to the law may elect coverage with permission of the commission. Ch. 4, ESLA 1937
<b>July 1, 1945</b>	Coverage extended to employers of one or more people at any time. Ch.7, SLA 1945
<b>Mar. 20, 1947</b>	List of excluded services extended. Additional exclusions include newsboys and students. Any employment liable for a tax under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) will be automatically covered under the state U.I. law. Ch. 48, SLA 1947
<b>Mar. 17, 1959</b>	Employees in finance, insurance, and real estate paid on a commission basis are excluded from coverage. Ch. 46, SLA 1959
<b>April 17, 1961</b>	Faculty of nonprofit universities excluded. Ch. 108, SLA 1961
<b>Jan. 1, 1972</b>	Coverage made mandatory for employees of nonprofit organizations, state hospitals, and institutes of higher education employing four or more in 20 weeks of the year. These employers are allowed to elect coverage on a reimbursable basis. Reimbursable financing also made available, by election, to any political subdivision. Ch. 94, SLA 1971
<b>Jan. 1, 1972</b>	Fishermen covered. Ch. 94, SLA 1971
<b>April 1, 1977</b>	Fishermen earning wages on a share basis excluded from coverage. Ch. 122, SLA 1977
<b>Jan. 1, 1978</b>	Coverage made mandatory for most employees of state and local governments. Coverage also extended to certain domestic and agricultural workers. Ch. 122, SLA 1977
<b>July 1, 1984</b>	Executive officers of nongovernmental corporations are excluded. Ch. 106, SLA 1984
<b>Sept. 27, 1995</b>	Certain direct sellers of consumer products are excluded. Ch. 97, SLA 1995
<b>May 28, 2009</b>	Reimbursable financing available to federally recognized tribes. Ch. 27, SLA 2009

## Part 2: Financing Provisions of the Alaska Employment Security Act, 1937–2014

<b>April 2, 1937</b>	All wages paid to employees covered under the law are assessed a uniform tax of 1.8 percent. Ch. 4, ESLA 1937
<b>Jan. 1, 1938</b>	Uniform tax increased to 2.7 percent of total covered wages. Ch. 4, ESLA 1937
<b>Mar. 26, 1941</b>	Taxable wages limited to first \$3,000 of wages paid to an employee. Ch. 40, SLA 1941
<b>June 30, 1947</b>	Credits against the tax are available to qualified employers if there is a fund surplus. The credit is based on the individual employer's annual payroll decline. Ch. 74, SLA 1947

<b>Jan. 1, 1955</b>	Tax base increased to first \$3,600 of wages. An employee tax of 0.5 percent is also assessed. Employer tax credit is eliminated. Ch. 5, ESLA 1955
<b>April 4, 1957</b>	Tax base increased to first \$4,200 of wages. Ch. 169, SLA 1957
<b>Mar. 30, 1960</b>	Uniform employer tax increased to 2.9 percent. Uniform employee tax increased to 0.6 percent. Tax base increased to \$7,200. Ch. 60, SLA 1960
<b>Oct. 1, 1960</b>	Individual employer and employee tax rates made variable depending on quarterly payroll declines of employer. Employer tax rates range from 1.5 percent to 4.0 percent with an average tax rate of 2.9 percent. Employee tax rates range from 0.3 percent to 0.9 percent averaging 0.65 percent. Ch. 60, SLA 1960
<b>Jan. 1, 1974</b>	Employee tax made uniform and employer tax left variable. The tax base is \$10,000. There are 10 alternative tax rate schedules with the appropriate schedule determined by the "reserve multiple," which measures the ability of the fund to meet potential benefit payments. Ch. 43, SLA 1973
<b>Jan. 1, 1981</b>	Tax base will be 60 percent of the average annual wage for calendar years 1981 and 1982 and will be 75 percent of the average annual wage for future years. Ten alternative tax rate schedules are replaced with 20 "experience factors." An employer's yearly rate calculation will be 82 percent of the benefit cost rate times the experience factor. A solvency tax will be added across the board if the "reserve ratio" of the fund is under 3.2 percent. Employee tax will be a uniform 18 percent of the benefit cost rate. Ch. 9, SLA 1980
<b>Oct. 1, 1984</b>	The amount of interest earned on the trust fund balance will be deducted from the amount of benefits in the calculation of average benefit cost rate. Ch. 106, SLA 1984
<b>Jan. 1, 1985</b>	A new rate class, Class 21, is established and assigned an experience rating of 1.65 and a minimum employer tax rate of 5.4 percent. Solvency adjustments changed to provide a surcharge if the trust fund reserve rate falls below 3.0 percent and a credit if the reserve rate equals or exceeds 3.3 percent. Ch. 106, SLA 1984
<b>Sept. 13, 1987</b>	Interest on funds borrowed from the federal government to cover shortfalls in the trust fund may be paid out of employee contributions. Ch. 82, SLA 1987
<b>July 1, 1989</b>	Training programs pilot project to be funded by transfer of 0.1 percent of taxable wages from amount contributed by employees. Ch. 95, SLA 1989
<b>June 30, 1993</b>	Training programs pilot project extended until 1996. Ch.17, SLA 1993
<b>July 1, 1996</b>	Training programs (STEP) extended until June 30, 2002. Ch.116, SLA 1996
<b>Jan. 1, 1997</b>	Employer's yearly rate calculation will be 80 percent of the benefit cost rate times the experience factor. (No change in the solvency tax provision). Employee tax will be a uniform 20 percent of the benefit cost rate. Ch.116, SLA 1996
<b>July 1, 2000</b>	Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) created. Program to be funded by transfer of 0.1 percent of taxable wages from amount contributed by employees. Ch. 132, SLA 2000
<b>July 1, 2002</b>	Training programs (STEP) extended until June 30, 2003. Ch.86, SLA 2002
<b>July 1, 2003</b>	Training programs (STEP) extended until June 30, 2004. Ch.49, SLA 2003
<b>July 1, 2004</b>	Training programs (STEP) extended until June 30, 2008. Ch.89, SLA 2004
<b>July 1, 2008</b>	Training programs (STEP) extended until June 30, 2010. Ch.46, SLA 2008
<b>July 1, 2008</b>	Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) expanded. Program to be funded by transfer of 0.15 percent (from 0.10) of taxable wages from amount contributed by employees. Ch. 47, SLA 2008

<b>Jan. 1, 2009</b>	For 2009, the employer's yearly rate calculation will be 76 percent of the benefit cost rate times the experience factor (no change in the solvency tax provision). The 2009 employee tax will be a uniform 24 percent of the benefit cost rate. For 2010 and future years, the employer's yearly rate calculation will be 73 percent of the benefit cost rate times the experience factor, and the employee tax will be a uniform 27 percent of the benefit cost rate. Ch.45, SLA 2008
<b>June 24, 2009</b>	Training programs (STEP) made permanent. Ch 36, SLA 2009
<b>July 1, 2013</b>	A limitation on the decrease in the solvency surcharge was removed from AS 23.20.290(f). Table identifying the previous solvency surcharge to be implemented has been removed and replaced with a formula calculating out to 1/100th of a percentage point. Ch.50, SLA 2013
<b>July 1, 2013</b>	AS. 23.20.291 was adopted to give the department's commissioner the discretion to prevent tax rate increases, in whole or in part, if the average high cost multiple is .8 or greater. Ch.50, SLA 2013
<b>July 1, 2014</b>	Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP) expanded. Program to be funded by transfer of 0.16 percent (from 0.15) of taxable wages from amount contributed by employees. Takes effect January 2015. Ch 15, SLA 2014
<b>July 1, 2016</b>	AS. 23.20.291 is repealed.

### **Part 3: Benefit Provisions of the Alaska Employment Security Act, 1937 to 2015**

<b>April 2, 1937</b>	Benefits first made payable Jan. 1, 1939. Minimum payment is \$5; maximum is \$15. Weekly benefit amount (WBA) set at 50 percent of full-time weekly wage. Total benefit payments not to exceed 16 times the WBA. Ch. 4, ELSA 1937
<b>Jan. 17, 1939</b>	Minimum payment is \$5; maximum is \$16. WBA set at one-twentieth of high quarter wages. Total benefit payments not to exceed either 16 times the WBA or a third of base year earnings. Ch. 1, SLA 1939
<b>Oct. 1, 1946</b>	Minimum payment is \$8; maximum is \$25. Maximum reduced to \$20 if the fund balance is less than \$2 million on Jan. 1. Total benefit payments not to exceed either 25 times the WBA or a third of base year earnings. Ch. 32, ELSA 1946
<b>July 1, 1949</b>	WBA is increased by 20 percent for each dependent of the claimant, up to three. Ch. 25, SLA 1949
<b>July 1, 1951</b>	Minimum payment is \$8; maximum is \$30. Ch. 11, SLA 1951
<b>July 1, 1953</b>	Minimum payment is \$8; maximum is \$35. WBA now based on total wages in base year. Total benefit payments limited to 26 times the WBA for most claimants. Ch. 99, SLA 1953
<b>July 3, 1955</b>	Minimum payment is \$10; maximum is \$45. Maximum limited to \$25 for claimants residing outside the territory. WBA is increased by \$5 for each dependent of the claimant, up to five. Claimants with dependents residing outside the territory are disqualified for the dependent allowance. Ch. 5, ELSA 1955
<b>Mar. 30, 1960</b>	Maximum WBA for interstate claimants reduced to \$20. Ch. 60, SLA 1960
<b>July 1, 1966</b>	Minimum payment is \$10; maximum is \$55. Total benefit payments limited to 28 times the WBA for most claimants. Ch. 112, SLA 1966
<b>July 1, 1969</b>	Minimum payment is \$18; maximum is \$60. Ch. 106, SLA 1969
<b>Jan. 29, 1971</b>	Depending on the level of national and state unemployment rates, benefit payments may be extended. Extended benefit payments not to exceed one-half of total benefits available under the regular program. Ch. 106, SLA 1971

<b>Jan. 1, 1972</b>	Discrimination against nonresident claimants ends. Ch. 106, SLA 1971
<b>July 1, 1973</b>	Minimum payment is \$18; maximum is \$90. Dependent allowance set at \$10 per dependent, up to three. Ch. 43, SLA 1973
<b>Oct. 1, 1980</b>	Minimum payment is \$34; maximum payment is \$150 for basic WBA. Dependent allowance set at \$24 per dependent, up to three. Dependent allowance increases if an additional dependent is acquired by birth or adoption. Potential duration of benefits (16 to 26 weeks) is determined by the ratio of total base period wages to high quarter wages. Ch 9, SLA 1980
<b>Oct. 31, 1981</b>	Weekly benefits are reduced dollar for dollar upon receipt of periodic payments based on wages used to establish a benefit year. Ch. 114, SLA 1981
<b>Sept. 26, 1982</b>	Child support obligations may be deducted from weekly benefit checks. Ch. 115, SLA 1982
<b>Jan. 1, 1983</b>	Minimum payment is \$34; maximum payment is \$156 for basic WBA. Ch. 115, SLA 1982
<b>Oct. 1, 1984</b>	Minimum payment is \$38; maximum payment is \$188 for basic WBA. Ch. 106, SLA 1984
<b>Oct. 1, 1990</b>	Minimum payment is \$44; maximum payment is \$212 for basic WBA. Ch. 167, SLA 1990
<b>Jan. 1, 1997</b>	Minimum payment is \$44; maximum payment is \$248 for basic WBA. Ch. 116, SLA 1996
<b>Jan. 1, 2009</b>	Minimum payment is \$56; maximum payment is \$370 for basic WBA. Ch. 45, SLA 2008

#### **Part 4: Qualifying Provisions of the Alaska Employment Security Act, 1937–2014**

<b>April 2, 1937</b>	To qualify for benefits, a claimant must have: 1) been unemployed in two of the last 13 weeks preceding claim; 2) have wages in the first three of the last four calendar quarters totaling more than 16 times the WBA; and 3) be ready and able to work. The claimant is disqualified for five additional weeks upon quitting the last employment without good cause. Ch. 4, ESLA 1937
<b>Jan. 17, 1939</b>	Total wages in base year must equal or exceed 25 times the WBA. Ch. 1, SLA 1939
<b>Mar. 26, 1941</b>	Claimant must have been unemployed for two weeks in the benefit year including the week in which the claim was filed. Ch. 40, SLA 1941
<b>July 1, 1945</b>	Women are disqualified during the last two months of pregnancy and the month following pregnancy. Ch. 50, SLA 1945
<b>Oct. 1, 1946</b>	Minimum required wages in base year set at \$150. Ch. 32, SLA 1946
<b>June 30, 1947</b>	Waiting period reduced to one week. Ch. 74, SLA 1947
<b>July 1, 1953</b>	Minimum wage requirement set at \$300. Seasonal workers are disqualified for benefits for unemployment not occurring during their regular working season. Ch. 99, SLA 1953
<b>July 3, 1955</b>	Minimum wage requirement set at \$450 or 1.25 times high quarter wages. Women are disqualified until they subsequently earn \$120 if they leave work: 1) to get married; 2) to live with their husband; or 3) due to pregnancy. Any week of unemployment due to a labor dispute is disqualified. A claimant found guilty of fraud is disqualified for 26 weeks. Ch. 5, ESLA 1955
<b>April 4, 1957</b>	Minimum wage requirement set at \$500 or 1.25 times high quarter wages. Ch. 169, SLA 1957
<b>April 7, 1962</b>	Claimants are not disqualified while attending a training course to improve their skills. Ch. 63, SLA 1962
<b>July 1, 1969</b>	Minimum wage requirement set at \$750, \$100 of which must have been earned outside the quarter with the highest wages. Ch. 106, SLA 1969



<b>Jan. 1, 1972</b>	Women no longer disqualified during pregnancy. Ch. 106, SLA 1971
<b>Oct. 1, 1980</b>	Minimum wage requirement set at \$1,000 with at least 10 percent earned outside the quarter of highest wages. If a claimant earns more than 90 percent of the base period wages in one quarter, base period wages used for determining benefits will be reduced to 10 times the wages paid in the base period outside the high quarter. The six-week disqualification for voluntary quit and misconduct includes a reduction of potential benefits by three times the basic WBA. The six-week disqualification is lifted if the claimant returns to work and earns eight times the WBA. Ch. 9, SLA 1980
<b>Oct. 31, 1981</b>	A waiting week must be served for each new benefit year. Extended benefit claimants must actively seek work and may not refuse an offer of "suitable" work. Claimants filing for extended benefits from a state not triggered onto extended benefits are eligible for no more than two weeks of benefits. Ch. 114, SLA 1981
<b>June 26, 1982</b>	The national "on" and "off" trigger indicators for extended benefits are repealed in conformity with federal law. Ch. 115, SLA 1982
<b>Sept. 26, 1982</b>	In conformity with federal law, the state "on" indicator for extended benefits is increased to 6 percent insured unemployment rate. In conformity with federal law, a claimant is not eligible for extended benefits unless total base period wages equal or exceed 40 times the weekly benefit entitlement including dependent benefits. Supplemental state benefits are provided for claimants otherwise eligible for extended benefits except for the new 40 times the WBA requirement. All other conditions of extended benefits apply to supplemental state benefits. Ch. 115, SLA 182
<b>June 16, 1984</b>	State interim benefits provided for noncertified teachers of indigenous languages and school employees in other than an instructional, research or principal capacity. Ch. 106, SLA 1984
<b>July 2, 1989</b>	An insured worker is ineligible for benefits for one year if discharged for commission of a felony or theft in connection with work. Ch. 100, SLA 1989
<b>Nov. 15, 1991</b>	An agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor allows the temporary payment of benefits under the Emergency Unemployment Act of 1991 (PL 102-162) in place of extended benefits.
<b>July 1, 1993</b>	The implementation of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program, 26 U.S.C. 3304. Eligibility for supplemental state benefits (SSB) remains in effect during a period in which extended benefits (EB) are triggered "off," but during which EUC benefits are payable. The eligibility for extended benefits set Oct. 3, 1993 requires the claimant meet the existing 40 times WBA requirement, or have a total of 1.5 times the base period high quarter wage.
	The total amount of extended benefits payable is the lowest of: (1) 80 percent of total regular benefits, (2) 20 times the WBA or (3) 46 times the WBA minus total regular benefits paid.
	In addition to the existing extended benefits triggers, extended benefits are "on" if the state three-month total unemployment rate (TUR) is 6.5 percent, and is 110 percent of the same three-month period in either of the prior two years. Extended benefits are "off" if there is no "on" indicator, or if the state is eligible for the EUC program. Ch. 28, SLA 1993
<b>Jan. 1, 2009</b>	Minimum wage requirement set (from \$1,000) to \$2,500, with at least 10 percent (\$250) in a second quarter. Ch. 45, SLA 2008.
<b>Jan. 1, 2010</b>	Alternative Base Period (last four completed quarters) created for those who fail to qualify for a benefit with the standard base period. Ch. 27 SLA 2009

# Glossary

**Alaska geography (area definitions):** Geographic entities within Alaska. (1) Largest areas are the boroughs (legal boundaries) and census areas (statistical boundaries, equivalent to boroughs). (2) Cities are defined by their legal descriptions. (3) Census designated places (CDPs) are unincorporated established communities.

**alternate base period:** The most recent completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of an individual's benefit year. The alternate base period is a secondary examination for qualifying wages (a safety net), and is used only when an individual fails to qualify for a benefit with the traditional base period. Alaska adopted the alternate base period to begin in 2010. (See "base period.")

**average annual wages:** Total wages in covered employment, divided by average monthly covered employment.

**average high cost rate:** The average of the three highest calendar benefit cost rates (from last 20 years, or a period including three recessions, if longer). Part of a federal solvency measure. (See "average high cost multiple.")

**average high cost multiple (AHCM):** A federal solvency measure. The reserve ratio divided by the average high cost rate. One of two federal solvency measures used to evaluate and compare the states.

**average monthly covered employment:** The sum of all reported covered employment for a 12-month period, divided by 12.

**average weekly benefit amount (AWBA):** A UI program statistical measure: the total benefits paid for full-time unemployment, divided by the number of weeks compensated.

**average weekly wages:** Average annual wages in covered employment, divided by 52.

**base period:** The earliest four of the five most recently completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of an individual's benefit year. (See "alternate base period.")

**base period wages:** (1) If workers were paid 90 percent or more of their wages in a single quarter of the base period, the BPW are the wages in the other three quarters times 10. (2) If the workers were not paid 90 percent or more of their wages in a single quarter of the base period, the BPW are the wages during the base period.

**benefit:** Monetary amount payable (weekly) to an individual under AS.23.20.

**benefit cost rate:** A cost of benefits measure (percent) calculated as the ratio of regular benefits paid in the current year, divided by total wages in the previous year.

**benefit year:** A one-year period beginning with the Sunday of the week an insured worker files a request for determination of insured status.

**claimant:** An individual who has filed a request for determination of insured status, a notice of unemployment, a certification for waiting week credit, or a claim for benefits.

**combined wages (interstate wage combining):** Earnings during a base period that were paid in more than one state for determining the share of liability in each state.

**coverage:** The determination, by the state, whether an employing unit should be considered an employer subject to the state's unemployment insurance laws.

**covered employment:** The number of people employed during the pay period that included the 12th of each month, by place of work. Workers who are not covered include agricultural workers, self-employed workers, some employed students, most fishermen, full-commissioned sales workers, private railroad workers, and elected and appointed officials.

**decline quotient:** An estimate of an employer's experience with unemployment, determined by dividing the decline in payroll within two consecutive quarters by the payroll of the earlier quarter. An employer's annual quotient is the average of all declines for the last 12 quarters, with a minimum of four quarters' wage records required for the calculation.

**dependent benefits (or dependents' allowance [DA]):** Benefits in addition to the weekly benefit amount paid to claimants with dependents, up to three dependents per claimant. Alaska's DA is \$24, and the maximum for three is \$72.

**Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA):** A federal program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in which UI benefits are authorized by the President of the United States for individuals unemployed as a result of a major disaster.

**duration:** The number of weeks in which payments were received by an individual (actual), or qualified for (potential), for each program. Average duration is the number of weeks paid per program in a 12-month period, divided by the number of first payments received in that program during that period.

**earnings replacement:** The proportion of average weekly wages replaced by the UI weekly benefit amount. In general, the U.S. unemployment insurance system's goal is 50 percent.

**Emergency Unemployment Compensation (1991) (EUC):** A federally funded program similar to extended benefits, paying additional weeks of benefits, beginning November 17, 1991 and ending April 30, 1994. Alaska elected to pay EUC benefits instead of EB during that time.

**Emergency Unemployment Compensation 2008 (EUC08):** A federally funded program similar to the 1990s EUC program. Benefits were first payable for the week ending July 12, 2008, and the last week payable (first extended to April 30, 2011) was re-extended to June 9, 2012 and extended again to the end of 2012. The four tiers of the program provided up to 20, 14, 13, and six weeks of benefits, for a total of up to 53 maximum available weeks. Tiers three and four were available for Alaska based on the state's total unemployment rate figures (three-month average TUR  $\geq$  6.0 for tier three, and  $\geq$  8.5 for tier four). Tier four payments ended July 3, 2010 and were again paid in 2011 from Jan. 16 to June 11, and in 2012 from Jan 22 to May 12. One hundred percent federal funding for EB was also provided during most of this period (through 2011 to phase out in 2012).

**Employment and Training Administration (ETA):** A division of the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Employment Security Act:** Title 23, Chapter 20 of the Alaska Statutes (AS 23.20), which governs the Unemployment Insurance Program. It started in 1937. Appendix B contains a summary of changes.

**exhausts:** A person was paid all the weeks available for a specific UI benefit program.

**experience rating:** A method of measuring an employer's experience with unemployment. Alaska's employers (those eligible for experience rating) are ranked by their average quarterly decline quotient and are assigned to one of 20 tax rate classes, each with an experience factor between 0.40 and 1.60. A special penalty class 21 (with a factor of 1.65) was created in 1985 for firms that are delinquent in filing quarterly reports or making tax payments. New employers are assigned tax rates based on an industry average rate.

**extended benefits (EB):** Additional benefits available after regular state UI benefits have been exhausted, but only when an extended benefits period is in effect. EB was enacted by Congress in 1970, and by Alaska in 1971.

**extended benefits period:** A period during which extended benefit payments are authorized, usually defined as a period of 13 weeks or more as determined by unemployment rate data. Section 23.20.408 of the Alaska Employment Security Act defines the conditions required for an extended benefits period.

**Federal Additional Compensation (FAC):** Part of the 2009 federal economic stimulus programs. FAC provided an additional \$25 to the weekly benefit amount of all recipients. The first Alaska FAC payable was the week ending Feb. 28, 2009. The last Alaska week payable (originally July 3, 2010) was Dec.11, 2010.

**federal fiscal year:** Oct. 1 of the prior calendar year through Sept. 30 of the current calendar year. For example: federal fiscal year 2014 is from Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2014.

**Federal Supplemental Benefits (FSB):** A federally funded program similar to the Federal Supplemental Compensation (FSC) that was in effect between 1975 and 1978.

**Federal Supplemental Compensation (FSC):** A federally funded program in effect from October 1982 to April 1985 that provided additional payments after regular benefits had been exhausted and extended benefits had been exhausted or an extended benefits period was not in effect.

**final payment:** The last payment of a weekly benefits entitlement. (See "exhausts.")

**first payment:** The first payment for a week of unemployment claimed under a specific program.

**Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA):** U.S. employers pay a national FUTA tax, and receive credit (reduction of FUTA tax owed) for UI taxes paid to approved state UI programs.

**high cost rate:** The highest benefit cost rate of historical record (for Alaska = 4.33% for year 1958).

**high cost multiple (HCM):** A measure of trust fund adequacy, TF as a percentage of total wages divided by the high cost rate. The high cost rate is the highest historical ratio of benefits to wages for a 12-month period.

**high quarter:** The quarter of the base period with the greatest reported wages.

**high unemployment period (HUP):** A definition in the trigger for extended benefits that increases the maximum number of EB weeks payable from 13 to 20. The HUP is in effect if the three-month average total unemployment rate (TUR) is 8.0 percent or greater. HUP was in effect from 2009 week 19 through 2010 week 42, and again in 2011 for weeks 8 through 20.

**industry:** The classification of an employer establishment by primary economic activity, according to a government coding system (NAICS). (See “North American Industry Classification System.”)

**insured unemployment:** The number of people filing continued claims for full regular benefits or partial regular benefits, or who are in a waiting week status during a given week.

**insured unemployment rate (IUR):** Ratio of insured unemployed, expressed as a percentage of average covered employment. It is computed as the average insured unemployment for a 13-week period, divided by average covered employment lagged six months. The IUR is computed weekly.

**interstate claims, payments:** Claims made by, or payments made to, people residing in other states who worked in Alaska, and for which Alaska is at least partially liable for unemployment compensation.

**intrastate claims, payments:** Claims made by, or payments made to, people residing within Alaska, including payments from other liable states.

**Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS):** A federal-state cooperative statistical program that provides labor force and unemployment rate data for areas within the state.

**local offices:** Unemployment insurance (UI) claims centers. Until December 1995, there were 20 offices, including the mail claims and interstate unit. Beginning in late 1996, the local offices were reorganized into three UI call centers for UI claims purposes. Most claims are now filed through the Internet or by phone.

**mail claims:** Claims that were filed by mail to the mail claims center by people residing more than 55 miles from the nearest local office. Claims from rural areas are now handled through the call center system.

**North American Industry Classification System (NAICS):** A national standardized system to classify employers into industries. The first year of NAICS-based data in Alaska was 2003.

**nonagricultural wage and salary employment:** Employment that does not include self-employed workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, most fishermen, and agricultural workers, by place of work rather than residence.

**ownership:** Classification of employers according to legal proprietorship (private industry or federal, state, or local government) rather than by type of economic activity.

**regular benefits (or state UI program):** The main benefits program in the UI system, financed by a state-administered tax system.

**reimbursable:** A contribution system where certain employers can elect to reimburse the state UI trust fund directly for benefits paid to former employees, rather than pay taxes under the experience rating system. Eligible employers include state and local governments, schools, nonprofits, tribal corporations, and hospitals (nonprofit, tribal, or government).

**reserve rate:** The measure of UI Trust Fund Solvency, computed as the balance of the fund on September 30 divided by total wages paid by taxable employers during the last state fiscal year. The reserve rate determines the inclusion of a solvency tax or credit, if any, for the next tax year, according to the table in AS 23.20.290 (f).

**reserve ratio:** In general, it is the trust fund balance as a percent of total wages. See “reserve rate” for Alaska

program specifics. The reserve ratio is used in several prevalent solvency measures.

**solvency adjustment:** A *surcharge* added to employer taxes when the trust fund balance falls below 3.0 percent of the total payroll, or a *credit* lowering taxes when the balance rises above 3.3 percent.

**Standard Industrial Classification System (SIC):** A national standardized system to classify employers into industries, in effect through 2002. It was succeeded by NAICS.

**state fiscal year:** July 1 of the prior calendar year through June 30 of the current calendar year. For example, state fiscal year 2014 is from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

**State Interim Benefits (SIB):** A special Alaska program (started in 1984) which, for a few years, paid benefits to certain noninstructional educational employees between sessions.

**State Supplemental Benefits (SSB):** A special Alaska program (created in 1982) that pays benefits to claimants who have been denied extended benefits because they do not meet the federal requirement that they earn 40 times their weekly benefit amount in their base period.

**State Training and Employment Program (STEP):** A state administered training program, started in July 1989, funded by a share of worker UI tax funds, as defined by AS 23.15.620 – 645. (See “TVEP.”)

**state UI regular program:** An insurance program designed to provide temporary compensation for those who are involuntarily unemployed, funded through employer and employee taxes and reimbursements.

**supplemental payments:** Payments made to claimants who were paid previously but may have been underpaid for various reasons.

**tax base:** The maximum amount of each employee’s wages subject to state unemployment insurance taxes. It is calculated (for each tax year) as 75 percent of the average annual wage (using last state fiscal year data).

**tax rate class:** Alaska’s experience-rated employers are assigned to one of 20 tax rate classes, or to a 21st penalty class. New employers are assigned to the rate class closest to the mathematical average tax rate of experience-rated employers in the same industry. Classes 10 and 11 contain the average tax rate for the tax year. There is one tax rate for all employees.

**taxable wages:** The portion of total wages (payroll) of employers within the experience rating system that is subject to state unemployment tax provisions. Since 1983, the taxable wage base is defined as 75 percent of the average annual wage (using last state fiscal year data).

**Technical and Vocational Education Program (TVEP):** A state administered training program, started in July 2000, funded by a share of worker UI tax funds, as defined by AS 23.15.820 – 850. (See “STEP.”)

**Temporary Emergency Unemployment Compensation (TEUC):** A federal program enacted by Congress following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Benefits were first payable the week ending March 16, 2002. The last week for new claims was the week ending Dec. 27, 2003. The last week the program paid claims for was the week ending April 3, 2004.

**total labor force:** All people age 16 and older residing in a specific area who are either employed, unemployed



and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

**total unemployment:** All people age 16 and older who did not work during the survey week, but were available and seeking work or were waiting to report for work within 30 days.

**total unemployment rate (TUR):** An expression of the number of unemployed people as a percent of the total civilian labor force. It is defined as the total unemployment divided by the total labor force. The TUR is the “official” quoted rate of unemployment, issued monthly.

**total wages:** The total of all wages and salaries (taxable and reimbursable) paid by covered employers. It includes bonuses, tips, cash value of meals, lodging, and other gratuities furnished with the job.

**trade readjustment allowance (TRA):** An allowance authorized under the federal Trade Act of 1974 for providing benefits and training to workers whose employment opportunities have been impacted by adjustments to federal regulations on international trade.

**Training and Building Fund:** An account separate from the UI trust fund that receives interest and penalties paid by taxed employers. It is used to support training and to provide office space.

**trust fund:** A state fund (at the U.S. Treasury) to receive and disburse unemployment insurance funds.

**trust fund reserve:** As an accounting definition, it is the sum of amounts in the trust fund, plus balances in the state’s clearing account and benefit payment account, as well as interest credited for the last quarter of the calendar year. The reserve of the trust fund, programmatically, is the amount beyond current inflows and outflows, designed to maintain fund solvency in recession when tax revenues lag far behind benefit payments.

**Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE):** A federally funded insurance program designed to provide temporary compensation for former employees of the federal government who are involuntarily unemployed.

**Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemen (UCX):** A federally funded insurance program, similar to UCFE, designed to provide temporary unemployment compensation for former members of the armed forces.

**UI:** Unemployment insurance

**UI claims center (or call center):** Offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau (including mail claims and interstate claims centers) that process UI claims. In-person claims filing was phased out in 1996 and 1997. In-state claims are filed through the Internet, on an automated telephone system (VICTOR), and by mail.

**waiting week:** The first week of claimed unemployment, for which there is no disqualification. No payment is made for the waiting week, but is made for subsequent qualifying weeks. States that have no waiting week provision will not receive the federal share for the first week of any claimant’s extended benefits payment.

**weekly benefit amount (WBA):** The benefit paid (actual) or entitled to (potential) per week.

**week claimed:** A claim for a waiting week credit, or benefit, for a week of unemployment.

**weeks paid:** The number of weeks claimed that received a benefit payment.