

Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators (51-8031)

Occupation description: Operate or control an entire process or system of machines, often through the use of control boards, to transfer or treat water or wastewater.

Employment and Job Openings

	Employment			Average annual openings		
	2016 estimate	2026 projection	Percent change	Labor force exits	Occupation transfers	Total
Alaska	494	518	4.9	14	27	43
United States	119,200	115,400	-3.2	3,300	6,200	9,120

Job outlook

Alaska: Alaska's employment growth is low with moderate employment opportunities. [Read more.](#)

2019 Wages

	Mean Wage	Wage by Percentile				
	Mean	10th	25th	Median	75th	90th
United States	24.28	13.87	17.66	22.96	29.43	37.31
Alaska	31.47	20.37	25.63	30.80	38.01	44.84
Anchorage/Mat-Su Area	36.73	23.17	32.05	38.11	44.30	48.02
Fairbanks North Star Borough	36.19	25.80	28.82	36.35	43.89	48.11
Balance of State	29.42	19.65	24.74	29.03	35.00	40.38

Labor Force Indicators

2016 Worker Characteristics

Total workers	Nonresident workers	Percent nonresident	Percent age 45 plus	Percent age 50 plus
729	52	7.1	46.7	36.6

2016 Potential Supply

Qualified but working in another occupation	210
Currently employed in a lower paid occupation	133
UI claimants previously working in occupation	94

2016 ALEXsys Employment Data

Number of registrants	260
Number of job position postings	41
Ratio of registrants to job position postings	6.3

Alaska Licensing Information

Water and Wastewater Systems Operator – [View licensing requirements and number licensed](#)

Typical Entry-level Education, Experience, and/or On-the-job Training

Education: High school diploma or equivalent

Work experience: None

On-the-job training: Long-term on-the-job training

Training Resources

	Degree
Alaska Job Corps (Palmer)	
Wastewater Treatment	
NTL Alaska, Inc. (Fairbanks)	
Alaska Water Treatment Systems - Intermediate	
Introduction to Alaska Small Wastewater Systems	
Introduction to Alaska Small Water Systems	
Water Distribution Systems 1&2	
University of Alaska Fairbanks, Bristol Bay (Dillingham)	
Rural Waste Management Spill Response	OEC
Zender Environmental Health & Research Group (Anchorage)	
Qualified Sampler Training (Water Quality and Soil Sampling)	