



Alaska Unemployment Insurance ACTUARIAL REPORT

2023

Alaska Unemployment Insurance Actuarial Report 2023

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Executive Summary

Under AS 23.20.022, the commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development submits this actuarial study of the unemployment tax and benefit structures to the governor every other year.

In 2023, the unemployment insurance trust fund — maintained for the sole purpose of paying benefits — continued to grow significantly in both value and as a percentage of wages covered. Specifically, the ratio of reserves to covered wages has increased considerably. The fund began the year with \$544.9 million and ended with \$656.6 million, a net increase of \$111.7 million.

Benefit costs and tax rates

Alaska disbursed \$87.1 million in unemployment benefits in 2023, up slightly from \$83.4 million the previous year. Chargeable benefit payments, required to be recouped by tax contributions, totaled \$44.5 million. The reflected benefit cost rate, defined as chargeable benefits paid as a percentage of wages covered by the program, was 0.4 percent. That was essentially no change from the benefit cost rate of 2022 and continued the trend rates well below pre-pandemic levels.

Annual benefit costs continued to fall from pandemic levels in 2023. As a result, the average tax rate for employers decreased from 1.53 percent in 2022 to 1.04 percent in 2023 on taxable wages while the uniform employee rate decreased from 0.56 percent to 0.51 percent.

Revenues and fund balance

In 2023, employers and employees contributed a combined \$183.8 million in UI taxes. These contributions reflected an average combined tax rate of 1.55 percent (0.51 percent for employees and 1.04 percent for employers), assessed on taxable wages of \$47,100.

The \$183.8 million deposited into the trust fund does not, however, reflect the total amount collected from employers and employees in the same year. A portion of employee taxes are deposited into two training fund accounts, called STEP and TVEP. Chapter 1 explains these in detail. The trust fund also earned \$13.4 million in interest, which offset future tax rates.

The trust fund continued to grow beyond actuarial targets. At this level (\$656 million in reserves at the end of 2023), the fund far exceeded the explicit funding goals necessary to maintain solvency. While the statutory target range for full trust fund solvency points to a reserve ratio (balance

of the fund as a percentage of wages) of between 3.0 and 3.3 percent, the reflected reserve ratio at year's end was nearly 4.16 percent. In dollar terms, the fund had roughly \$136 million more than it needed to meet actuarial targets.

Claimant statistics

In 2023, 19,460 people collected at least one week of benefits. The average duration for regular benefits was 10 weeks, and the average weekly payment was \$277.03.

The statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained historically low, averaging 4.2 percent throughout 2023 and ranging from a high of 4.6 percent to a low of 3.8 percent.

The insured unemployment rate averaged 1.63 percent for the year, ranging from a seasonal high of 2.20 percent in February to a seasonal low of 1.11 percent in September.

Covered employment and wages

Alaska had 328,533 nonagricultural wage and salary jobs in 2023, a 9,239 job increase from 2022. State UI taxable and reimbursable employment totaled 307,926 jobs, an increase of 8,885. Federal employment increased for the first time in three years, by an annual average of 200 jobs. (See Table 3.1.)

Wages for taxable and reimbursable employment, totaling \$20.8 billion, increased by \$1.6 billion or 8.2 percent from the previous year. Wages attached solely to reimbursable employers rose from \$4.6 billion in 2022 to just under \$5 billion in 2023. Taxable wages increased by roughly \$738 million, from \$9.1 billion to \$9.9 billion.

Actuarial trends and concerns

Current trends suggest unemployment claims in Alaska will continue to decrease as a percentage of the covered workforce, which will result in an even lower benefit cost rate. In the short term, the primary driver of low costs is a strong labor market. Compounding this trend is a growing mismatch between current wage levels and the benefit amounts claimants receive.

A recent *Alaska Economic Trends* article, in the August 2024 issue, touched on the diminishing value of the weekly benefit amount and the fact that the benefit schedule hasn't been updated in 16 years. Chapter 4 will explain how these trends have impacted the health of the UI system in the absence of legislative changes.

Unemployment Insurance Benefit Financing System

Trust fund used for paying benefits

Every state has a trust fund designated solely to pay unemployment insurance liabilities. To meet those liabilities, the financial structure of the system must function well, working to maintain solvency.

In 1980, the Alaska Legislature implemented the bulk of the current 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 also forward-looking in that it seeks to maintain a certain ratio of wages — 3.0 to 3.3 percent — in case of a future downturn. The final tax rate applied in any given year directly reflects both cost recapture and future readiness.

Benefit payments drive the bulk of revenue needs

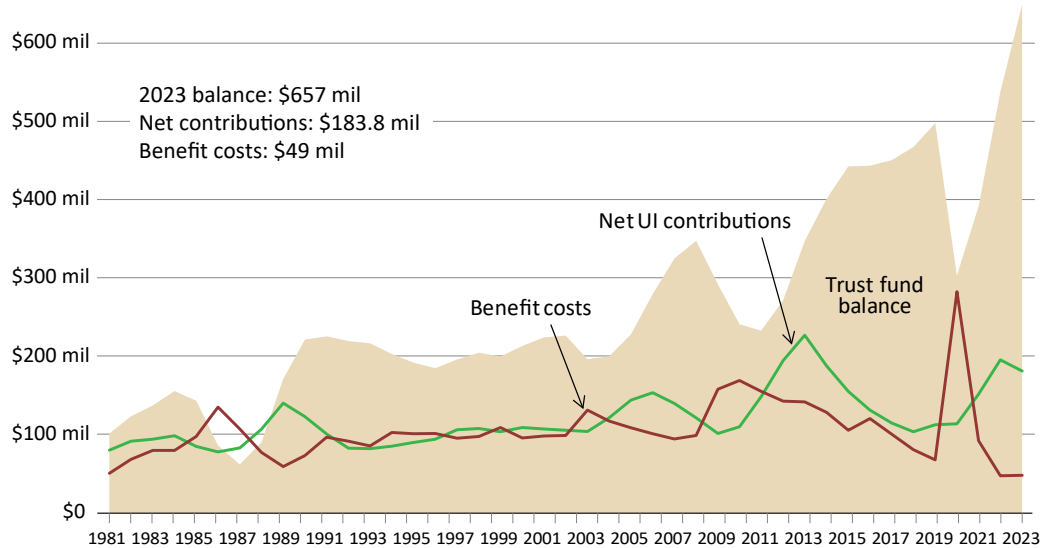
Benefit payments (for tax calculation purposes) are expressed as a ratio of benefits paid to the total wages of tax-paying employers. This ratio is the benefit cost rate, or BCR. To smooth out tax rates in any given year, a three-year ratio is calculated. (See Table 1.5 for a detailed breakdown of the most recent year's tax rate calculation.)

Over the past decade, Alaska's benefit cost rate has averaged 1.0 percent. This rate fell each year until 2019,

Figure 1.1

UI Trust Fund End-of-Year Balance

Benefit Costs and Payroll Contributions, 1981 to 2023



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

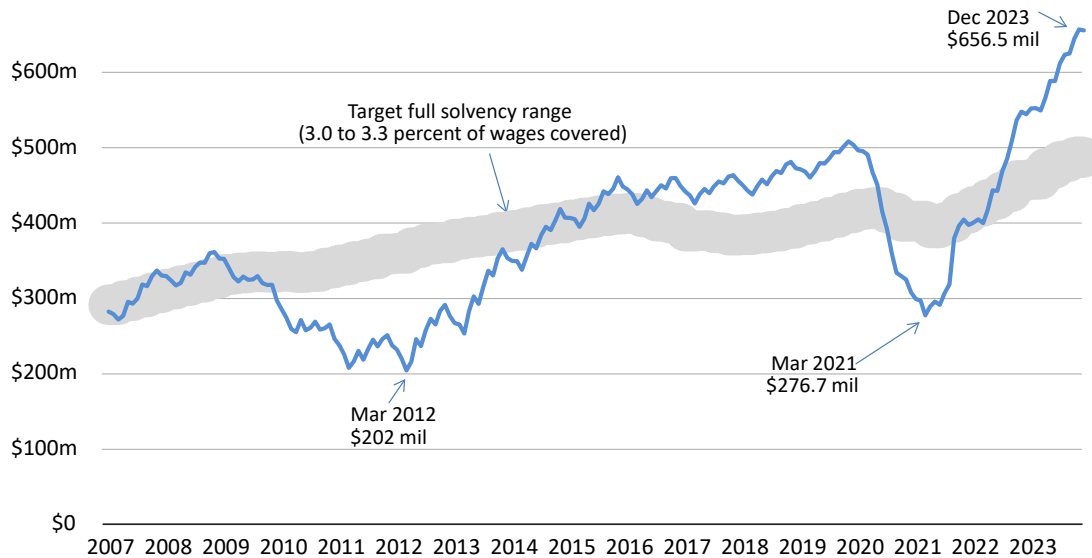
reaching a low of 0.7 percent before the pandemic hit. In 2020, the pandemic significantly increased benefit costs, and the BCR reached 2.3 percent. In 2023, the rate was at its lowest level on record for a second year (0.4 percent). (See Table 1.1.)

Payroll tax contributions are the fund's main income source

Alaska's UI taxes assessed on employers and employees are the principal source of income for the trust fund. Tax contributions totaled \$183.8 million in 2023, 7.3 percent less than in 2022. In addition to payroll deductions, the fund earned \$13.4 million in interest. (See Table 1.2.) Interest earnings offset benefit costs in the tax rate calculation.

Alaska assesses UI taxes on wages up to a taxable wage base, defined in Alaska Statute 23.20.175(c) as 75 percent of the average annual earnings for covered employment during the preceding state fiscal year (ending June 30). The taxable wage base was set at \$47,100 in 2023.

Figure 1.2 UI Trust Fund Balance, Monthly
2007 to 2023



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

How yearly 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 calculated in November apply to the next calendar year. Below is the current formula for calculating tax rates.

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 ABCR is defined as 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 state fiscal years, inflated by the ratio of taxable to total wages of contributing employers in the most recent state fiscal year. (See Table 1.5.)

The ABCR measures benefit payments that must be replaced by taxes. Basing tax rates on a three-year average mitigates single-year rate changes and provides a more stable contribution rate from year to year, a key feature of the system but one that requires a buffer (or reserve) to allow for a smoothed cost recapture.

As of 2010, employers pay 73 percent of the average benefit cost rate and employees pay the remaining 27 percent. Employee rates are not experience-rated and are

therefore uniform. Employer rates, however, vary according to an experience rating system and may also include a surtax or credit to help maintain fund solvency. However, employers and employees are subject to minimum rates of 1.00 percent and 0.50 percent and maximums of 6.50 percent and 1.00 percent, respectively.

Experience rating assigns employers to 20 tax rate classes

Employers with more layoffs generally have a larger impact on unemployment and the payment of UI benefits. Federal guidelines require that all states have an experience rating system.

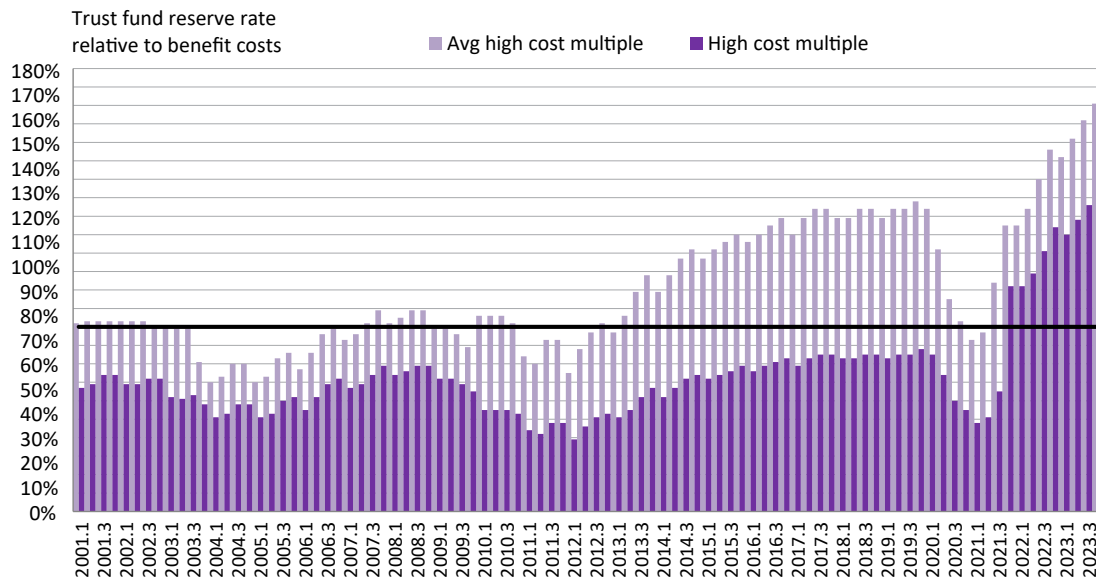
Alaska has three broad tax rate groups. Most employers fall into the experience-rated group, or "E class." Those that qualify as an experience-rated firm have at least four quarters of wage history before June 30 of the year preceding the tax year.

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. The P class employers are taxed at what is considered the "standard" rate, which can be no less than 5.4 percent.

In 2023, 87.4 percent of all contributing employers were experience-rated, 10.5 percent were industry-rated, and

Figure 1.3 Other Measures of Trust Fund Adequacy
Cost Multiples, 1st Quarter 2001 Through 4th Quarter 2023



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

2.1 percent were penalty-rated. (See Table 1.4.)

Alaska uses a payroll decline method of experience rating. While this is an indirect measure of experience with unemployment, this method's advantage is its simplicity and cost-effectiveness to administer. The logic is that employers with larger changes in payroll are likely responsible for more compensable unemployment than employers with a lower payroll decline 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 for the 20th and 21st rate classes, 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 according to experience. 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 the penalty "P 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

Financing of the UI system discussed so far revolves around cost recapture, or backward-looking components, and the equitable distribution of such costs by experience rating. While cost recapture is vital in keeping the system whole, anticipating future benefit costs is also necessary. To prepare for a reasonable number of elevated claims load scenarios, the financing system also incorporates a readiness component, or forward-looking component.

While the average benefit cost rate accounts for this cost recapture, the final rate may also incorporate a solvency adjustment to keep the fund balance within an ideal range — either a surcharge or a credit. To absorb benefit payments during elevated demand, the fund targets a reserve of between 3.0 and 3.3 percent of covered wages.

This target percentage has been determined by the historical benefit costs that proved appropriate during Alaska's most severe recession to date: in the 1980s when the single-year costs in 1986 rose as high as 3.38 percent of covered wages. However, as the benefit schedule has become more and more outdated without legislative updates, this reserve ratio has proven to be excessive in modern times.

Table 1.1 Benefit Cost Rate
2014 to 2023

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)
2014	\$144,436	\$12,364,557	1.2%	\$11,012	\$3,467,295	0.3%
2015	\$122,741	\$12,814,900	1.0%	\$9,379	\$3,691,886	0.3%
2016	\$140,678	\$13,086,381	1.1%	\$9,154	\$3,921,715	0.2%
2017	\$120,092	\$12,338,999	1.0%	\$8,371	\$3,978,218	0.2%
2018	\$98,957	\$12,195,754	0.8%	\$7,678	\$3,914,749	0.2%
2019	\$84,027	\$12,624,032	0.7%	\$6,381	\$4,047,112	0.2%
2020	\$307,982	\$13,261,534	2.3%	\$22,222	\$4,124,721	0.5%
2021	\$108,517	\$12,767,746	0.8%	\$9,721	\$4,331,712	0.2%
2022	\$55,694	\$13,390,490	0.4%	\$4,779	\$4,449,124	0.1%
2023	\$57,924	\$14,549,178	0.4%	\$4,093	\$4,631,959	0.1%

Note: 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 2112 report to the U.S. Department of Labor; Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

Application of the solvency adjustment

State statute dictates that the solvency surcharge may not increase by more than 0.3 percentage points from one year to the next. This limit allows for a multi-year recovery and prevents dramatic tax rate rises from year to year. Given a sufficient reserve pre-recession, the goal is to replenish the fund incrementally, allowing the system to be prepared for the next cycle of elevated demand for benefits.

The trust fund solvency adjustment applies uniformly to all employers, regardless of the assigned rate class. This adjustment ranges from -0.4 percent to 1.1 percent depending on the trust fund reserve rate, according to AS 23.20.290(f).

In 2023, Alaska applied a -0.34 percent surcharge to the fundamental cost-based tax rate for employers.

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 an official tax of 6.0 percent on a base of \$7,000 in wages. However, as long as state law conforms to federal law

and there are no outstanding loans to the trust fund, 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 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.

Trust fund revenue includes direct employer reimbursements

While the state trust fund disburses all regular benefits, extended benefits, and supplemental state benefits, they are financed differently.

The federal government reimburses the trust fund for 100 percent of regular and extended benefits paid to former federal employees through its UCFE program and former military employees through its UCX program, as well as a portion (50 percent) of all nonfederal extended benefit payments.

The federal government also pays interest on the trust fund balance. As mentioned earlier, the trust fund earned roughly \$13.4 million in interest in 2023, which both offsets benefit costs and mitigates 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 and extended benefits paid to their former employees. Through 1988, nonprofit agencies reimbursed only half of the extended benefits paid to their former employees, but the Alaska Legislature changed the law in 1989 to require full reimbursement.

Reimbursable employers paid back \$4.1 million in 2023. (See Table 1.7.)

Training programs receive a share of employees' UI tax contributions

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development administers two employment training programs that are supported by a portion of the unemployment insurance taxes that employees pay. This is legally possible because it is taken from employee contributions. By federal law, no employer contributions to the UI system can be used for anything but paying unemployment benefits.

The State Training and Employment Program, or STEP, created in 1989, was reauthorized six times and made permanent 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) that provide an amount equal to 0.10 percent of taxable wages.

While the STEP program funding rate has remained constant, the rate for TVEP through 2023 has increased twice since its inception. The first increase, effective in 2009, was by 50 percent to 0.15 percent of taxable wages. In 2015, the state increased the TVEP rate by an additional 1/100th of a percentage point, to 0.16 percent.

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, a combined 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 increases from the minimum rate, the resulting percentage of the total tax that is allocated to training programs decreases.

In 2023, STEP and TVEP received \$25.4 million. During the last five years, employee tax contributions have provided more than \$109.9 million to these training programs.

Table 1.2 Trust Fund Deposits and Disbursements
2010 to 2023

Deposits

Year	UI Tax Contributions (ex. reimb.)	Federal Share Extended Benefits	Amounts Rec'd From Reimb. Employers	Interstate Benefits Wage Combining	Federal Emerg. Comp. ¹	Net Penalty ²	Other ³	Trust Fund Interest Earned	Total Revenue Deposited ⁴
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
2016	\$133,321,498	-\$92,300	\$9,285,108	\$3,371,640	-\$868,809	\$20,896,798	\$2,837,000	\$9,951,769	\$178,702,705
2017	\$116,565,296	\$664,130	\$8,490,108	\$1,425,846	-\$485,927	\$20,371,703	\$2,754,263	\$9,983,472	\$159,768,892
2018	\$105,361,536	\$1,359,928	\$7,826,381	\$1,548,831	-\$431,849	\$20,641,194	\$2,415,485	\$10,475,047	\$149,196,553
2019	\$114,308,510	-\$41,539	\$6,507,862	\$1,219,164	-\$205,112	\$10,398,414	\$1,985,376	\$11,602,374	\$145,775,048
2020	\$115,527,314	\$6,625,879	\$15,165,614	\$4,040,628	\$591,058,956	\$382,812	\$14,994,626	\$9,745,050	\$757,540,878
2021	\$153,850,344	\$7,893,494	\$6,235,664	\$3,842,257	\$351,450,143	\$422,013	\$81,889,346	\$6,074,583	\$611,657,845
2022	\$198,269,699	-\$111,826	\$5,444,136	\$1,068,781	-\$1,572,906	\$477,604	\$20,351,562	\$7,455,021	\$231,382,072
2023	\$183,825,411	\$101,844	\$4,095,885	\$1,080,280	-\$5,485,992	\$638,484	\$1,158,722	\$13,425,272	\$198,839,906

Disbursements

Year	Regular Benefits + SSB	Extended Benefit Payments	Reimb. Benefit Payments	Interstate Benefits Wage Combining	Federal Emerg. Comp. ¹	Training And Building Fund	Other ³	Total Benefits Disbursed ⁴	Reserve Fund Balance ⁵
2010	\$171,463,019	\$695,395	\$15,168,986	\$17,011,630	\$97,845,340	\$16,994,436	\$45,552,243	\$364,731,049	\$244,602,311
2011	\$157,292,889	-\$120,273	\$14,032,924	\$14,976,753	\$103,591,824	\$17,846,713	\$27,567,259	\$335,188,089	\$235,852,878
2012	\$144,796,244	-\$8,611	\$12,867,725	\$16,379,383	\$96,700,230	\$18,259,636	\$17,452,431	\$306,447,039	\$275,501,635
2013	\$143,947,724	-\$45,253	\$12,201,378	\$16,534,278	\$66,981,882	\$19,553,480	\$10,397,673	\$269,571,161	\$352,412,278
2014	\$130,377,061	-\$28,211	\$11,012,079	\$16,087,402	-\$926,924	\$20,369,479	\$10,049,951	\$186,940,838	\$406,470,183
2015	\$107,260,211	-\$22,797	\$9,379,205	\$16,973,554	-\$1,006,121	\$21,132,710	\$5,963,904	\$159,680,666	\$448,287,169
2016	\$122,273,218	-\$9,935	\$9,154,423	\$21,786,658	-\$928,223	\$20,844,232	\$4,690,732	\$177,811,107	\$449,178,767
2017	\$102,109,821	\$701,252	\$8,370,751	\$18,706,661	-\$493,488	\$20,439,742	\$3,367,214	\$153,201,955	\$455,745,704
2018	\$81,825,592	\$1,638,878	\$7,678,237	\$16,886,908	-\$434,260	\$20,628,189	\$4,129,787	\$132,353,332	\$472,697,596
2019	\$69,134,015	-\$19,287	\$6,381,133	\$16,131,736	-\$199,322	\$21,312,672	\$1,956,012	\$114,696,959	\$503,775,686
2020	\$286,236,248	\$30,007	\$22,222,251	\$15,838,231	\$596,077,317	\$20,539,511	\$13,282,064	\$954,225,628	\$306,913,813
2021	\$93,819,931	\$5,986	\$12,302,557	\$18,533,686	\$360,994,209	\$21,594,577	\$7,698,744	\$514,949,689	\$396,897,802
2022	\$48,264,984	-\$15,328	\$4,779,198	\$8,513,014	-\$3,510,113	\$23,898,359	\$1,452,764	\$83,382,879	\$544,896,995
2023	\$49,049,773	-\$5,127	\$4,092,941	\$9,959,770	-\$3,078,536	\$25,990,308	\$1,086,293	\$87,095,422	\$656,641,479

¹EUC-08: Emergency Unemployment Compensation 2008, July 2008 to December 2013; and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC): March 2020 to December 2020

²Net collections of penalties and fees

³PSE, 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

⁴Deposits from all sources including federal and all disbursements made to claimants

⁵Amount available for benefits in trust fund on Dec. 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
2014 to 2023

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
2014	\$12,814,900	\$7,751,931	60.5%	\$37,400	1.97%	1.19%	0.62%	0.4%
2015	\$13,086,381	\$8,003,041	61.2%	\$38,700	1.53%	0.94%	0.57%	0.3%
2016	\$12,338,999	\$7,840,089	63.5%	\$39,700	1.28%	0.81%	0.50%	0.3%
2017	\$12,195,754	\$7,766,520	63.7%	\$39,800	1.01%	0.64%	0.50%	0.3%
2018	\$12,624,032	\$7,852,702	62.2%	\$39,500	1.00%	0.62%	0.50%	0.3%
2019	\$13,261,534	\$8,122,825	61.3%	\$39,900	1.00%	0.61%	0.50%	0.3%
2020	\$12,767,746	\$7,779,812	60.9%	\$41,500	1.00%	0.61%	0.50%	0.3%
2021	\$13,390,490	\$8,323,859	62.2%	\$43,600	1.41%	0.88%	0.50%	0.3%
2022	\$14,549,178	\$9,112,892	62.6%	\$45,200	1.53%	0.96%	0.56%	0.4%
2023	\$15,776,141	\$9,523,498	60.4%	\$47,100	1.04%	0.63%	0.51%	0.3%

Sources: Alaska Statutes 23.20.175 and 23.20.290; and 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

2022 Employers, Assigned to 2023 Tax Rates, By Rate Type

Industry	Experience Rated		Industry Rated		Penalty Rated		Total Rated Employers	
	E-Rated No.	Percent of E-Rated	I-Rated No.	Percent of I-Rated	P-Rated No.	Percent of P-Rated	Total No.	Total Percent
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	247	1.3%	14	0.6%	5	1.1%	266	1.2%
Mining	193	1.0%	17	0.8%	2	0.4%	212	1.0%
Utilities	90	0.5%	3	0.1%	4	0.9%	97	0.5%
Construction	2,318	12.4%	244	10.9%	61	13.4%	2,623	12.3%
Manufacturing	539	2.9%	63	2.8%	7	1.5%	609	2.8%
Wholesale Trade	580	3.1%	33	1.5%	11	2.4%	624	2.9%
Retail Trade	1,695	9.1%	93	4.2%	37	8.1%	1,825	8.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	890	4.8%	92	4.1%	10	2.2%	992	4.6%
Information	381	2.0%	69	3.1%	13	2.9%	463	2.2%
Finance and Insurance	571	3.1%	75	3.3%	14	3.1%	660	3.1%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	623	3.3%	54	2.4%	12	2.6%	689	3.2%
Professional and Technical Services	2,415	12.9%	532	23.8%	46	10.1%	2,993	14.0%
Management of Companies	78	0.4%	17	0.8%	4	0.9%	99	0.5%
Administrative and Waste Services	1,284	6.9%	245	10.9%	31	6.8%	1,560	7.3%
Educational Services	331	1.8%	58	2.6%	6	1.3%	395	1.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,903	10.2%	185	8.3%	32	7.0%	2,120	9.9%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	604	3.2%	40	1.8%	14	3.1%	658	3.1%
Accommodations and Food Services	1,755	9.4%	119	5.3%	34	7.5%	1,908	8.9%
Other Services, except Public Administration	1,466	7.8%	156	7.0%	31	6.8%	1,653	7.7%
Public Administration	340	1.8%	2	0.1%	21	4.6%	363	1.7%
Unclassified	375	2.0%	129	5.8%	59	13.0%	563	2.6%
Total	18,678	100.0%	2,240	100.0%	454	100.0%	21,372	100.0%
Percent of Grand Total		87.4%		10.5%		2.1%		100.0%

Average Tax Rates For Experience Rated Firms

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, ¹ and Hunting	1.98%	1.64%	1.25%	1.19%	1.05%	1.85%	2.10%	1.62%
Mining	1.75%	1.50%	1.19%	1.17%	1.04%	1.82%	2.15%	1.61%
Utilities	1.36%	1.20%	1.04%	1.03%	1.01%	1.43%	1.54%	1.24%
Construction	1.88%	1.55%	1.20%	1.17%	1.04%	1.84%	2.12%	1.59%
Manufacturing	1.69%	1.39%	1.13%	1.10%	1.03%	1.70%	1.91%	1.44%
Wholesale Trade	1.56%	1.30%	1.08%	1.07%	1.01%	1.58%	1.78%	1.36%
Retail Trade	1.54%	1.29%	1.09%	1.08%	1.02%	1.61%	1.76%	1.34%
Transportation and Warehousing	1.58%	1.34%	1.11%	1.10%	1.02%	1.57%	1.76%	1.40%
Information	1.59%	1.27%	1.07%	1.06%	1.01%	1.48%	1.67%	1.35%
Finance and Insurance	1.45%	1.23%	1.06%	1.04%	1.01%	1.49%	1.67%	1.34%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1.51%	1.28%	1.08%	1.07%	1.01%	1.57%	1.76%	1.37%
Professional and Technical Services	1.61%	1.35%	1.11%	1.09%	1.02%	1.59%	1.79%	1.40%
Management of Companies	1.61%	1.35%	1.08%	1.06%	1.01%	1.54%	1.74%	1.41%
Administrative and Waste Services	1.69%	1.42%	1.14%	1.12%	1.03%	1.69%	1.94%	1.48%
Educational Services	1.70%	1.39%	1.12%	1.10%	1.02%	1.69%	1.89%	1.44%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1.36%	1.17%	1.04%	1.03%	1.01%	1.47%	1.59%	1.25%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1.79%	1.49%	1.19%	1.17%	1.05%	1.87%	2.15%	1.62%
Accommodations and Food Services	1.62%	1.36%	1.13%	1.11%	1.03%	1.78%	1.99%	1.50%
Other Services, except Public Administration	1.44%	1.23%	1.07%	1.05%	1.01%	1.53%	1.66%	1.31%
Public Administration	1.53%	1.27%	1.06%	1.04%	1.00%	1.49%	1.68%	1.32%
Unclassified	1.73%	1.43%	1.16%	1.14%	1.03%	1.74%	1.91%	1.48%

Notes: Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment, which is generally not covered by unemployment insurance. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Experience-rated firms have at least four quarters of reported wages. Experienced employers are assigned to one of 20 rate classes based on their average payroll decline experience, regardless of 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 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
2024

Tax Rate Calculations

	SFY 2020	SFY 2021	SFY 2022	SFY 2023
(1) Benefit Cost (Ben-Reimb-Int)	\$167,295,250	\$226,438,547	\$65,839,182	\$45,487,371
(2) Total Wages (taxable employers)	\$13,111,748,796	\$12,701,056,958	\$14,010,159,662	\$15,269,221,865
(3) Taxable Wages				\$9,687,848,047
(4) Benefit Cost for 3 Prev SFY				\$337,765,100
(5) Total Wages, First 3 of Last 4 SFY				\$39,822,965,416
(6) 3-Yr Benefit Cost/Total Payroll (4)/(5)				0.008482
(7) Taxable/Total Wages, Last SFY (3)/(2)				0.634469
(8) Average Benefit Cost Rate (6)/(7)				0.013368
(9) UI Trust Fund Balance, Sep 30				\$625,692,845
(10) Total Wages, Last SFY				\$15,269,221,865
(11) UI Trust Fund Reserve Rate (9)/(10)				0.040977
(12) Solvency Adjustment				-0.0040
Tax Rates (the Percent of Taxable Wages)				
(13) Average Employer Tax Rate: $(0.73 \times \text{ABCR}) + \text{TFSA} = (0.73 \times \#8) + \#12$ (or statutory minimum)				0.58%
(14) Average Employee Tax Rate: $(0.27 \times \text{ABCR}) = (0.27 \times \#8)$ (or statutory minimum)				0.36%

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%	1.00%	1.50%
9	0.90	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
10	1.00	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
11	1.00	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
12	1.10	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
13	1.20	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
14	1.30	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
15	1.35	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
16	1.40	0.50%	1.00%	1.50%
17	1.45	0.50%	1.02%	1.52%
18	1.50	0.50%	1.06%	1.56%
19	1.55	0.50%	1.11%	1.61%
20	1.60	0.50%	1.16%	1.66%
21	1.65	0.50%	5.40%	5.90%

Notes: Total wages, taxable wages, 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%. (Line 13)

Sources: Alaska Statutes 23.20.290; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW); Unemployment Insurance Financial Transaction Summary, ETA 2112 report to the U.S. Department of Labor

Table 1.6 Administrative Costs
2014 to 2023

Federal Fiscal Year ¹	FUTA Collections (in millions)	UI Admin. Grants (in millions)	Employment Services Admin. Grants (In millions)	Other Grants (In millions)	Total Administrative Grants	
					(In millions)	As a Percentage of FUTA
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%
2016	\$13.3	\$24.7	\$7.0	\$1.3	\$31.7	238.3%
2017	\$12.8	\$24.7	\$7.1	\$1.2	\$31.8	248.4%
2018	\$13.5	\$23.5	\$7.0	\$1.3	\$30.5	225.9%
2019	\$13.0	\$22.0	\$7.0	\$1.4	\$29.0	223.1%
2020	\$12.4	\$31.5	\$7.0	\$1.2	\$38.5	310.5%
2021	\$13.0	\$26.8	\$7.0	\$1.3	\$33.8	260.0%
2022	\$12.9	\$23.3	\$7.1	\$0.6	\$30.4	235.7%
2023	\$13.8	\$23.4	\$7.1	\$0.6	\$30.5	221.0%

¹The 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 2023 would include activity between Oct. 1, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2023.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Workforce Security
Web site: https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/futa_receipts.asp. Select the link: "Estimated FUTA Receipts vs. Amounts Returned."

Table 1.7 Collections, UI Regular Benefits Paid
Reimbursable Employment, 2014 to 2023

Year	Collections			Benefits Paid			Total Collections Less Benefits Paid
	Total	Private Nonprofit	Government (State & Local)	Total	Private Nonprofit	Government (State & Local)	
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
2016	\$9,285,108	\$2,004,230	\$7,280,878	\$9,154,423	\$3,376,093	\$5,778,330	\$130,685
2017	\$8,490,108	\$2,177,043	\$6,313,065	\$8,370,751	\$5,610,879	\$2,759,872	\$119,357
2018	\$7,826,381	\$2,101,671	\$5,724,710	\$7,565,158	\$3,371,588	\$4,193,570	\$261,223
2019	\$6,507,862	\$1,864,279	\$4,643,583	\$6,381,133	\$1,507,739	\$4,873,394	\$126,730
2020	\$15,165,614	\$4,064,632	\$11,100,982	\$22,222,251	\$5,095,631	\$17,126,620	-\$7,056,637
2021	\$6,235,664	\$1,557,810	\$4,677,854	\$9,720,746	\$1,919,561	\$7,801,186	-\$3,485,082
2022	\$5,444,136	\$1,574,588	\$3,869,548	\$4,779,198	\$1,049,945	\$3,729,253	\$664,938
2023	\$4,095,885	\$1,139,497	\$2,956,388	\$4,092,941	\$829,460	\$3,263,480	\$2,944
10-Year Total							-\$8,048,760

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 1.8 Collections, Benefits Paid, Trust Fund Reserves, and Average Employer Tax Rate as a Percentage of Wages 1992 to 2023

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
1992	1.66%	2.30%	4.38%	1.38%	2.58%	3.58%	6.82%	2.15%
1993	1.58%	1.95%	4.16%	1.26%	2.46%	3.03%	6.46%	1.96%
1994	1.57%	2.16%	3.72%	1.29%	2.41%	3.33%	5.72%	1.98%
1995	1.62%	2.08%	3.44%	1.34%	2.47%	3.17%	5.26%	2.04%
1996	1.67%	2.03%	3.28%	1.42%	2.56%	3.11%	5.01%	2.17%
1997	1.82%	1.90%	3.35%	1.51%	2.80%	2.94%	5.16%	2.33%
1998	1.74%	1.80%	3.30%	1.43%	2.74%	2.82%	5.19%	2.25%
1999	1.65%	1.94%	3.17%	1.33%	2.55%	3.01%	4.91%	2.06%
2000	1.63%	1.64%	3.18%	1.39%	2.52%	2.53%	4.91%	2.14%
2001	1.51%	1.58%	3.15%	1.31%	2.39%	2.51%	4.99%	2.08%
2002	1.43%	1.53%	3.06%	1.25%	2.27%	2.43%	4.86%	1.99%
2003	1.37%	1.88%	2.58%	1.17%	2.17%	2.98%	4.09%	1.85%
2004	1.51%	1.59%	2.48%	1.38%	2.41%	2.54%	3.96%	2.19%
2005	1.69%	1.41%	2.68%	1.58%	2.69%	2.23%	4.25%	2.50%
2006	1.69%	1.23%	3.07%	1.51%	2.72%	1.99%	4.95%	2.43%
2007	1.44%	1.09%	3.33%	1.19%	2.34%	1.77%	5.42%	1.94%
2008	1.17%	1.09%	3.35%	0.91%	1.93%	1.79%	5.51%	1.50%
2009	0.97%	1.69%	2.78%	0.70%	1.59%	2.78%	4.58%	1.15%
2010	1.03%	1.70%	2.24%	0.81%	1.66%	2.76%	3.64%	1.31%
2011	1.32%	1.49%	2.07%	1.14%	2.17%	2.43%	3.39%	1.87%
2012	1.64%	1.33%	2.30%	1.45%	2.69%	2.17%	3.76%	2.38%
2013	1.86%	1.28%	2.85%	1.63%	3.02%	2.07%	4.63%	2.64%
2014	1.49%	1.13%	3.17%	1.19%	2.46%	1.86%	5.24%	1.97%
2015	1.20%	0.94%	3.43%	0.94%	1.97%	1.53%	5.60%	1.53%
2016	1.08%	1.14%	3.64%	0.81%	1.70%	1.79%	5.73%	1.28%
2017	0.96%	0.84%	3.74%	0.64%	1.50%	1.31%	5.87%	1.01%
2018	0.83%	0.65%	3.75%	0.62%	1.34%	1.04%	6.02%	1.00%
2019	0.86%	0.52%	3.80%	0.61%	1.41%	0.85%	6.20%	1.00%
2020	0.91%	2.24%	2.40%	0.61%	1.49%	3.68%	3.95%	1.00%
2021	1.15%	0.70%	2.96%	0.88%	1.85%	1.13%	4.77%	1.41%
2022	1.37%	0.33%	3.75%	0.96%	2.18%	0.53%	5.99%	1.53%
2023	1.17%	0.31%	4.16%	0.63%	1.93%	0.52%	6.89%	1.04%

Note: 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 2112 report to the U.S. Department of Labor; Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

Chapter 2

Claims, Claimants, and Benefit Payments by Industry

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 2023, 19,460 individuals filed for and collected at least one week of UI benefits — 2,452 fewer than the year before. (See Figure 2.4.)

Weekly claims averaged 4,874, down 7.7 percent from 5,279 in 2022. However, Alaska has a highly seasonal economy. Claims vary significantly by week, with the low usually coming in the late summer and the peak hitting at the beginning or end of the year. In 2023, the low in weekly claims came in late August at 3,095 and the peak was 6,927 in the last week of the year.

Monetary eligibility

Eligibility for regular benefits requires a person to earn at least \$2,500 in wages in the base period with at least \$250 earned outside the highest wage quarter of the base period.

A claimant’s base period is the first four of the five most recently completed quarters. While base period wages

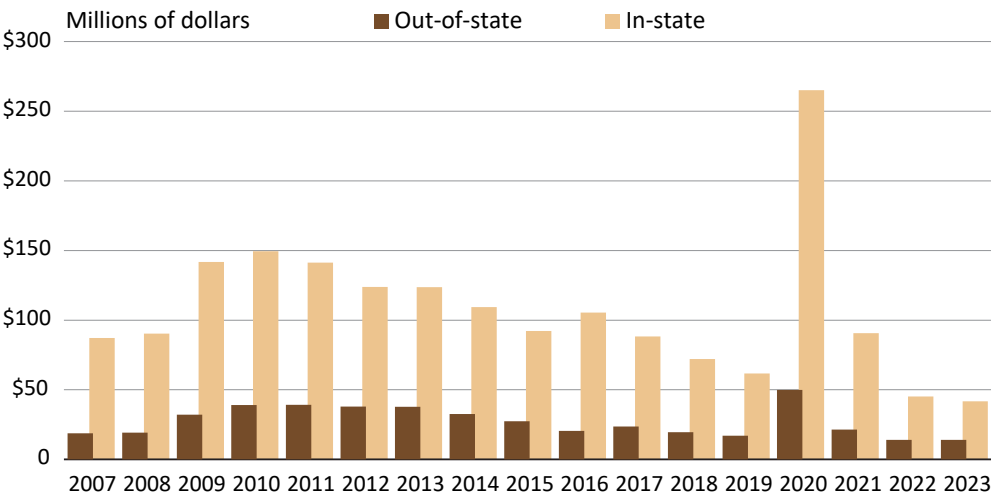
are directly related to a claimant’s actual wages over a given period, they aren’t always identical. For computing benefits payable, base period wages are determined as follows:

- If 90 percent or more of wages are paid in one quarter, base period wages are calculated as the sum of the remaining wages in the other three quarters multiplied by 10; or
- If the insured worker is paid less than 90 percent of their wages in one calendar quarter, base period wages are simply the wages during the base period.

The weekly benefit amount depends on the base period wages as shown in the benefits schedule. As of 2009 (the last time the Legislature updated the schedule), the minimum weekly benefit amount is \$56, which corresponds to \$2,500 in base period wages and increases by \$2 increments for each additional \$250 in wages. The maximum is \$370 for base period wages of \$41,750 or more. (See Table 2.3.)

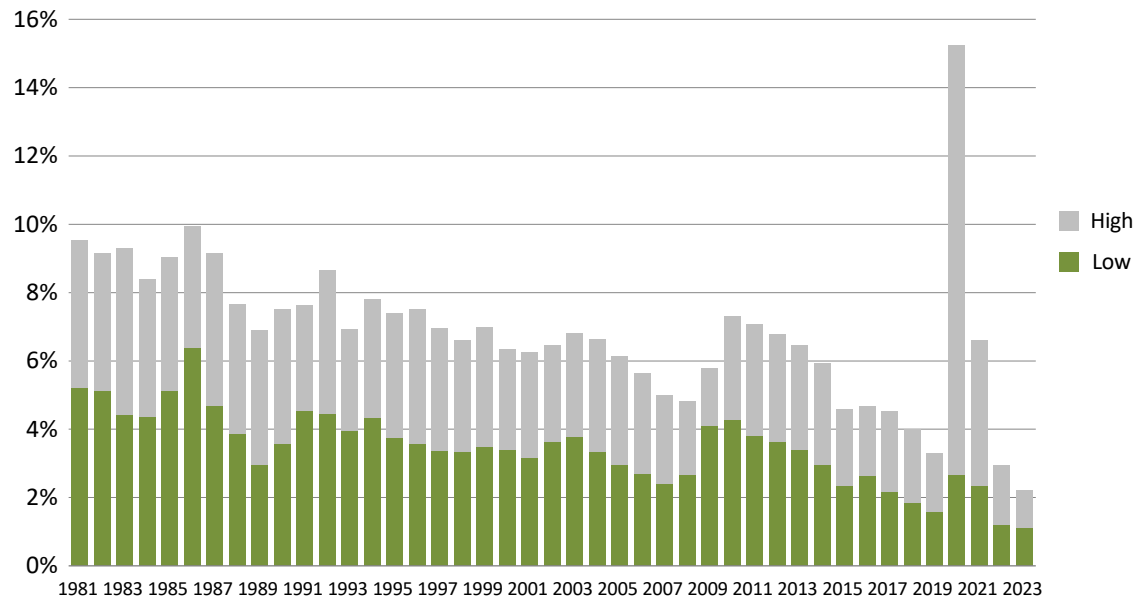
The average weekly benefit amount in Alaska in 2023 was \$277.03. While claimants were eligible for an average of

Figure 2.1 Amount of UI Payments, Regular Benefits 2007 to 2023



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

Figure 2.2 Insured Unemployment Rate
Highest and Lowest Weeks, 1981 to 2023



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

20.8 weeks of benefits, the actual average duration was 10 weeks. (See Table 2.5.)

Claimants with children receive an additional weekly allowance

Alaska is one of 13 states that provide additional benefits to UI claimants with dependents. This allowance increases the maximum amount payable during the claim because it is added to the basic weekly benefit that is based on wages. Dependent benefits add the concept of need into a system that is fundamentally an employment loss insurance program.

Claimants are eligible to receive \$24 per dependent per week, to a maximum of \$72 for three. To qualify for dependent benefits, the child must be younger than 18 and be an unmarried child or stepchild of the claimant 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 the claimant's legal ward, of any age, who is dependent on the claimant for more than 50 percent of his or her support and is physically or mentally unable to work.

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 base period earnings by the

earnings in the highest quarter. The intent is to provide a duration of benefits that reflects the duration of employment; the assumption is the higher the ratio, the more stable the earnings.

The potential duration of benefits 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.

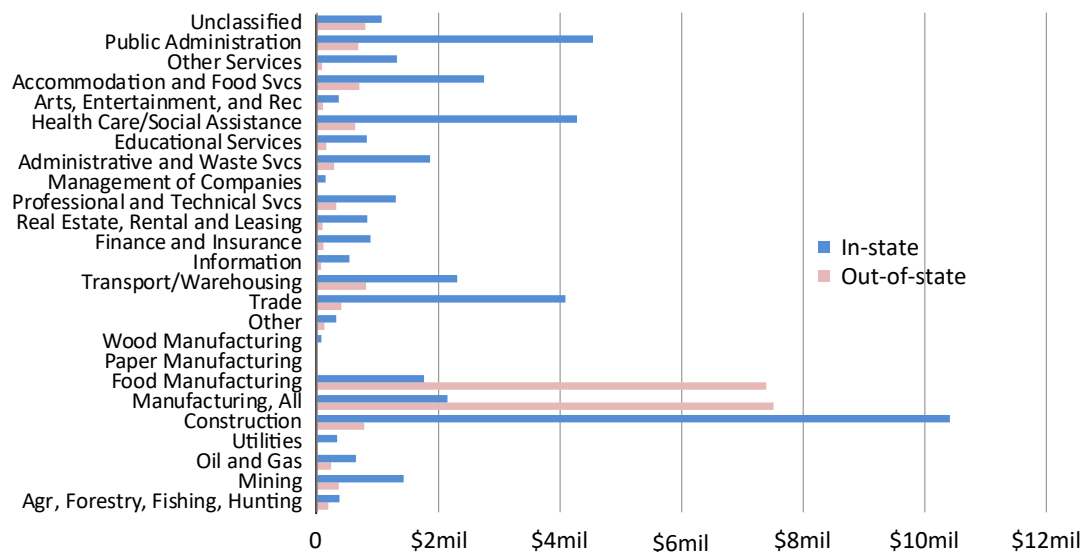
Duration shorter for claimants who quit or were fired

All states either disqualify or postpone benefits for claimants who quit work without good cause or are fired for misconduct. Forty-six states deny benefits to someone who quits or is fired from their job.

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

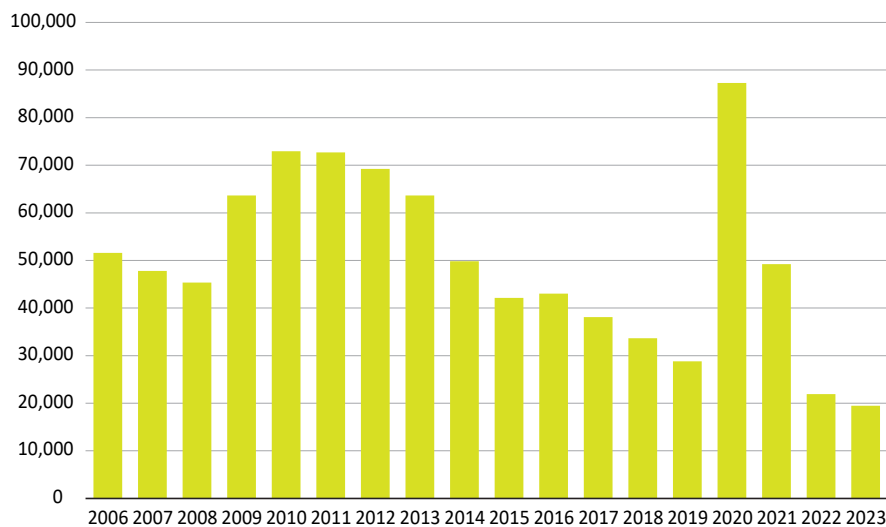
Alaska's policy on work separation is the most lenient in the nation. The primary argument for the six-week waiting period is that the disqualification should be no longer than it takes the average person to find work. The

Figure 2.3 UI Regular Benefit Payments by Industry
For In-State and Out-of-State Claimants, 2023



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

Figure 2.4 Claimants Receiving at Least One Week's Benefit Payment During Year
2006 to 2023



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

rationale is that after six weeks, a worker's continuing unemployment is due to the unavailability of work rather than the reason for leaving the employer.

Alaska sent 23.5 percent of its regular UI payments outside Alaska in 2023

Alaska paid \$21.8 million in benefit payments to claimants living outside the state in 2023. In 2022, \$21.3 million went outside Alaska. (See Table 2.9.) Interstate claimants are people who earned wages in Alaska during their base period but lived out of state when benefits were paid.

Over 50 percent of the benefits sent out of state in 2023 went to four states/territories: California (24.6 percent), Washington (14.2 percent), Puerto Rico (7.6 percent), and Texas (7.0 percent).

Table 2.1 Insured Unemployment
1994 to 2023

Year	Covered Employment	Insured Unemployment	Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR)
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%
2016	311,090	9,431	3.0%
2017	307,063	8,460	2.8%
2018	306,167	7,172	2.3%
2019	308,867	6,130	2.0%
2020	282,372	27,029	9.6%
2021	290,236	9,116	3.1%
2022	299,041	4,217	1.4%
2023	307,926	3,886	1.3%

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 5159 report to the U.S. Department of Labor, Line 201-10 and 201-11

Table 2.2 **UI Claimant Characteristics**
2023

	Number	Percent of Total		Number	Percent of Total
Total Claimants	19,460	100.0%	Occupation:		
Gender:			Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	330	1.7%
Male	11,775	60.5%	Benchwork	78	0.4%
Female	7,538	38.7%	Clerical and Sales	2,458	12.6%
Indeterminate	107	0.5%	Machine Trades	453	2.3%
Did not answer	40	0.2%	Processing	1,987	10.2%
Age:			Professional, Technical, Managerial Services	2,393	12.3%
Less than 21	333	1.7%	Structural Work	2,521	13.0%
21 - 24	1,130	5.8%	Miscellaneous and Unknown	3,874	19.9%
25 - 34	4,855	24.9%		5,366	27.6%
35 - 44	5,099	26.2%	Average Annual Earnings:		
45 - 54	3,809	19.6%	\$0 - \$9,999	1,758	9.0%
55 - 64	3,330	17.1%	\$10,000 - \$19,999	3,030	15.6%
65 or over	904	4.6%	\$20,000 - \$29,999	3,392	17.4%
Number of Dependents:			\$30,000 - \$39,999	2,990	15.4%
0	13,614	70.0%	\$40,000 - \$49,999	2,391	12.3%
1	2,501	12.9%	\$50,000 - \$59,999	1,671	8.6%
2	1,744	9.0%	\$60,000 - \$69,999	1,164	6.0%
3 or more	1,601	8.2%	\$70,000 - \$79,999	834	4.3%
Ethnic Background:			\$80,000 - \$89,999	626	3.2%
Alaska Native or American Indian	5,117	26.3%	\$90,000+	1,604	8.2%
Asian and Pacific Islander	2,014	10.3%	Location:		
Black	1,147	5.9%	Aleutians East Borough	32	0.2%
Hispanic	21	0.1%	Aleutians West Census Area	128	0.7%
White	9,417	48.4%	Anchorage, Municipality	4681	24.1%
Other	560	2.9%	Bethel Census Area	755	3.9%
No Information	1,184	6.1%	Bristol Bay Borough	18	0.1%
Industry:			Chugach Census Area	206	1.1%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	190	1.0%	Copper River Census Area	254	1.3%
Mining	525	2.7%	Denali Borough	81	0.4%
Oil and Gas	260	1.3%	Dillingham Census Area	98	0.5%
Other Mining	265	1.4%	Fairbanks North Star Borough	1639	8.4%
Utilities	111	0.6%	Haines Borough	101	0.5%
Construction	3,333	17.1%	Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	93	0.5%
Manufacturing	3,163	16.3%	Juneau, City and Borough	462	2.4%
Food Products	2,977	15.3%	Kenai Peninsula Borough	1411	7.3%
Wood Products	25	0.1%	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	233	1.2%
Other Manufacturing	161	0.8%	Kodiak Island Borough	410	2.1%
Trade	1,828	9.4%	Kusilvak Census Area	429	2.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	1,165	6.0%	Lake and Peninsula Borough	45	0.2%
Information	172	0.9%	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	2523	13.0%
Finance and Insurance	307	1.6%	Nome Census Area	370	1.9%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	315	1.6%	North Slope Borough	79	0.4%
Professional and Technical Services	494	2.5%	Northwest Arctic Borough	300	1.5%
Management of Companies	39	0.2%	Petersburg Borough	108	0.6%
Administrative and Waste Services	817	4.2%	Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	177	0.9%
Educational Services	363	1.9%	Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	77	0.4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,670	8.6%	Sitka, City and Borough	95	0.5%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	225	1.2%	Skagway, Municipality	78	0.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	1,583	8.1%	Unknown	1	0
Other Services, except Public Admin	522	2.7%	Wrangell, City and Borough	40	0.2%
Public Administration	1,909	9.8%	Yakutat, City and Borough	20	0.1%
Unclassified/Unknown	729	3.7%	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	276	1.4%
			Total in state	15,220	78.2%
			Total out of state	4,240	21.8%

Notes: Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment, which is generally not covered by unemployment insurance. 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

Ratio of Base Period Earnings to High Quarter Earnings	Duration of Benefits (in Weeks)
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**
2014 to 2023

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
2014	703,193	16,746	20.8	11.5	20.8	\$236.58	\$370	\$442
2015	573,462	12,068	21.0	10.9	21.0	\$248.82	\$370	\$442
2016	604,889	12,522	21.2	11.6	21.5	\$258.83	\$370	\$442
2017	536,330	11,482	21.1	11.1	16.1	\$253.37	\$370	\$442
2018	454,717	9,607	20.5	10.6	14.4	\$242.99	\$370	\$442
2019	389,566	7,282	21.0	10.5	16.1	\$262.29	\$370	\$442
2020	1,410,618	20,146	21.5	13.4	22.0	\$243.85	\$370	\$595
2021	560,572	11,859	20.9	10.5	19.4	\$248.33	\$370	\$442
2022	273,220	4,097	20.7	9.6	20.7	\$267.55	\$370	\$442
2023	256,639	3,241	20.8	10.0	20.4	\$277.03	\$370	\$442

Notes: Payment data are for taxable and reimbursable benefits. Exhaustion means a person received the maximum number of weeks' payments available in a particular program. Dependent benefit is \$24 per dependent, to a maximum of three (\$72), but in 2020 the dependent allowance was increased to \$75 each because of the pandemic.

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
2014 to 2023

Year	Number of Weeks Claimed	Number of Final Payments	Average Weekly Benefit
2014	0	0	NA
2015	0	0	NA
2016	0	0	NA
2017	7,367	1	\$246.70
2018	16,024	964	\$235.23
2019	0	0	NA
2020	36,820	191	\$211.72
2021	43,478	3	\$265.93
2022	28	0	\$289.05
2023	0	0	NA

Table 2.7 State Supplemental Benefits
2014 to 2023

Year	Number of Weeks Claimed	Number of Final Payments	Average Weekly Benefit
2014	0	0	NA
2015	0	0	NA
2016	19	0	NA
2017	73	0	\$70.50
2018	116	0	\$67.74
2019	12	0	NA
2020	453	3	\$69.36
2021	391	0	\$181.17
2022	0	0	NA
2023	0	0	NA

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

Table 2.8 **UI Regular Benefit Payments by Industry**
Intrastate, 2018 to 2023

Number of Weeks Paid						
Industry	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	1,213	1,046	4,838	2,701	1,219	1,384
Mining, All	9,079	6,219	42,056	11,938	4,667	4,292
Oil and Gas	5,767	3,253	36,906	8,678	2,369	1,881
Utilities	1,688	1,929	3,369	1,851	1,393	1,168
Construction	54,687	47,511	100,126	62,838	37,553	31,142
Manufacturing, All	22,542	17,429	48,614	22,413	9,779	8,002
Food Products	18,682	14,214	35,020	17,884	7,836	6,600
Paper Products	20	0	2	0	0	0
Wood Products	627	414	1,296	632	292	281
Other Products	3,213	2,801	12,296	3,897	1,651	1,121
Trade	35,275	28,134	130,482	40,188	17,059	16,940
Transportation and Warehousing	16,897	16,183	79,378	19,639	9,437	8,306
Information	3,206	2,987	9,579	2,704	1,841	1,561
Finance and Insurance	4,909	4,157	11,861	5,563	2,643	2,972
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	5,834	4,911	16,073	6,441	3,122	3,187
Professional and Technical Services	8,908	6,706	27,473	10,217	4,609	4,263
Management of Companies	880	847	2,140	826	438	432
Administrative and Waste Services	13,886	11,709	49,051	18,172	7,424	6,965
Educational Services	5,823	5,531	30,062	7,215	3,505	3,321
Health Care and Social Assistance	26,824	24,175	110,953	34,781	17,106	14,780
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,871	3,666	22,218	3,766	1,814	1,787
Accommodation and Food Services	24,813	20,203	189,763	34,276	10,851	12,053
Other Services, exc Public Administration	10,708	8,355	41,522	12,048	5,379	4,931
Public Administration	29,614	26,044	56,440	36,416	20,923	18,036
Unclassified	4,641	3,834	19,587	8,650	3,273	3,879

Amount of Payments						
Industry	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$304,776	\$266,769	\$1,187,694	\$719,248	\$319,792	\$367,336
Mining, All	\$3,058,566	\$1,975,715	\$16,454,495	\$4,285,906	\$1,576,989	\$1,424,259
Oil and Gas	\$2,019,309	\$1,046,877	\$14,753,464	\$3,206,561	\$835,120	\$639,646
Utilities	\$457,474	\$531,377	\$1,049,446	\$513,534	\$401,080	\$330,571
Construction	\$17,267,720	\$15,021,280	\$33,608,826	\$21,181,240	\$12,429,248	\$10,411,850
Manufacturing, All	\$4,580,331	\$3,633,625	\$11,271,720	\$5,229,686	\$2,365,216	\$2,145,483
Food Products	\$3,513,693	\$2,724,961	\$7,447,629	\$3,937,607	\$1,816,651	\$1,758,480
Paper Products	\$3,936	0	\$846	0	0	0
Wood Products	\$169,278	\$104,701	\$338,473	\$192,251	\$74,544	\$71,702
Other Products	\$893,424	\$803,963	\$3,484,772	\$1,099,828	\$474,021	\$315,301
Trade	\$7,876,424	\$6,250,193	\$30,653,708	\$9,004,189	\$4,024,274	\$4,088,311
Transportation and Warehousing	\$4,159,049	\$4,110,133	\$22,553,917	\$5,200,037	\$2,500,906	\$2,307,397
Information	\$1,017,713	\$935,086	\$2,596,536	\$821,884	\$611,207	\$533,670
Finance and Insurance	\$1,388,899	\$1,194,383	\$3,843,021	\$1,686,255	\$777,615	\$877,677
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$1,362,298	\$1,227,249	\$4,361,861	\$1,758,865	\$852,132	\$827,281
Professional and Technical Services	\$2,507,218	\$1,886,007	\$8,190,379	\$3,141,141	\$1,390,526	\$1,295,614
Management of Companies	\$268,908	\$254,066	\$682,237	\$252,287	\$152,897	\$140,171
Administrative and Waste Services	\$3,368,703	\$2,832,869	\$12,747,148	\$4,700,278	\$1,963,786	\$1,860,805
Educational Services	\$1,317,301	\$1,290,447	\$6,768,422	\$1,737,425	\$894,887	\$819,235
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$7,017,532	\$6,440,593	\$32,107,366	\$9,255,407	\$4,807,478	\$4,276,142
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$693,268	\$666,643	\$4,411,463	\$716,441	\$309,358	\$355,081
Accommodation and Food Services	\$4,745,140	\$4,096,849	\$42,002,099	\$6,392,186	\$2,280,096	\$2,747,095
Other Services, exc Public Administration	\$2,665,958	\$2,030,294	\$10,629,715	\$2,939,000	\$1,431,570	\$1,313,865
Public Administration	\$6,793,718	\$6,089,082	\$15,019,224	\$8,818,310	\$5,213,442	\$4,542,065
Unclassified	\$1,175,742	\$1,015,024	\$4,873,822	\$2,000,458	\$837,306	\$1,061,023

Table 2.8 (cont.) UI Regular Benefit Payments by Industry
Intrastate, 2018 to 2023

Average Weekly Payment						
Industry	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$251.26	\$255.04	\$245.49	\$266.29	\$262.34	\$265.42
Mining, All	\$336.88	\$317.69	\$391.25	\$359.01	\$337.90	\$331.84
Oil and Gas	\$350.15	\$321.82	\$399.76	\$369.50	\$352.52	\$340.06
Utilities	\$271.02	\$275.47	\$311.50	\$277.44	\$287.93	\$283.02
Construction	\$315.76	\$316.16	\$335.67	\$337.08	\$330.98	\$334.33
Manufacturing, All	\$203.19	\$208.48	\$231.86	\$233.33	\$241.87	\$268.12
Food Products	\$188.08	\$191.71	\$212.67	\$220.17	\$231.83	\$266.44
Paper Products	\$196.80	NA	\$423.00	NA	NA	NA
Wood Products	\$269.98	\$252.90	\$261.17	\$304.19	\$255.29	\$255.17
Other Products	\$278.07	\$287.03	\$283.41	\$282.22	\$287.11	\$281.27
Trade	\$223.29	\$222.16	\$234.93	\$224.05	\$235.90	\$241.34
Transportation and Warehousing	\$246.14	\$253.98	\$284.13	\$264.78	\$265.01	\$277.80
Information	\$317.44	\$313.05	\$271.07	\$303.95	\$332.00	\$341.88
Finance and Insurance	\$282.93	\$287.32	\$324.00	\$303.12	\$294.22	\$295.32
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$233.51	\$249.90	\$271.38	\$273.07	\$272.94	\$259.58
Professional and Technical Services	\$281.46	\$281.24	\$298.12	\$307.44	\$301.70	\$303.92
Management of Companies	\$305.58	\$299.96	\$318.80	\$305.43	\$349.08	\$324.47
Administrative and Waste Services	\$242.60	\$241.94	\$259.88	\$258.65	\$264.52	\$267.17
Educational Services	\$226.22	\$233.31	\$225.15	\$240.81	\$255.32	\$246.68
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$261.61	\$266.42	\$289.38	\$266.11	\$281.04	\$289.32
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$179.09	\$181.84	\$198.55	\$190.24	\$170.54	\$198.70
Accommodation and Food Services	\$191.24	\$202.78	\$221.34	\$186.49	\$210.13	\$227.92
Other Services, exc Public Administration	\$248.97	\$243.00	\$256.00	\$243.94	\$266.14	\$266.45
Public Administration	\$229.41	\$233.80	\$266.11	\$242.15	\$249.17	\$251.83
Unclassified	\$253.34	\$264.74	\$248.83	\$231.27	\$255.82	\$273.53

Notes: Payment data include taxable and reimbursable. 2020 data do not include FPUC add-on. Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment, which is generally not covered by unemployment insurance. Some line values are subsets of other lines, e.g., Mining and Manufacturing.

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

Table 2.9 **UI Regular Benefit Payments by Industry**
Interstate, 2018 to 2023

Number of Weeks Paid						
Industry	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	580	464	1,176	786	596	560
Mining, All	2,598	1,997	21,919	3,883	1,185	966
Oil and Gas	1,713	1,167	20,589	3,272	766	620
Utilities	150	136	207	85	43	15
Construction	4,852	3,719	8,427	5,112	2,853	2,193
Manufacturing, All	30,196	27,595	46,418	33,186	25,208	25,456
Food Products	29,682	27,203	45,107	32,528	24,905	25,111
Paper Products	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wood Products	42	42	122	46	23	0
Other Products	472	350	1,189	612	280	345
Trade	3,365	3,009	10,060	3,395	1,466	1,383
Transportation and Warehousing	4,451	4,241	13,900	3,766	2,260	2,590
Information	571	462	853	371	254	187
Finance and Insurance	806	655	1,106	499	339	289
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	520	468	1,177	760	336	255
Professional and Technical Services	1,831	1,703	6,014	2,168	911	945
Management of Companies	129	126	151	82	66	1
Administrative and Waste Services	2,359	1,823	6,544	1,967	1,181	950
Educational Services	1,221	863	2,687	877	560	455
Health Care and Social Assistance	3,821	2,633	9,090	3,845	2,054	1,850
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	625	533	3,608	530	225	383
Accommodation and Food Services	4,574	3,983	18,345	3,599	2,083	2,566
Other Services, exc Public Administration	985	654	2,390	715	275	253
Public Administration	4,116	3,301	5,106	3,433	2,266	2,009
Unclassified	3,542	2,871	8,840	3,780	2,790	2,774

Amount of Payments						
Industry	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$171,801	\$151,218	\$330,628	\$249,981	\$201,049	\$183,602
Mining, All	\$932,438	\$718,966	\$8,795,811	\$1,450,951	\$433,346	\$358,702
Oil and Gas	\$620,148	\$417,109	\$8,300,490	\$1,212,298	\$283,689	\$232,232
Utilities	\$52,610	\$39,281	\$71,667	\$27,724	\$15,022	\$3,870
Construction	\$1,698,942	\$1,296,801	\$3,034,377	\$1,835,135	\$1,020,152	\$777,898
Manufacturing, All	\$7,357,410	\$6,854,673	\$12,198,929	\$8,940,179	\$7,102,901	\$7,511,864
Food Products	\$7,217,111	\$6,735,898	\$11,809,034	\$8,746,538	\$6,997,004	\$7,391,077
Paper Products	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Wood Products	\$15,476	\$8,882	\$37,567	\$16,668	\$7,273	\$0
Other Products	\$124,823	\$109,893	\$352,328	\$176,973	\$98,624	\$120,787
Trade	\$872,113	\$803,461	\$2,611,270	\$895,882	\$422,981	\$398,061
Transportation and Warehousing	\$1,324,929	\$1,271,632	\$3,981,368	\$1,197,892	\$715,223	\$808,162
Information	\$204,078	\$161,304	\$288,735	\$122,367	\$95,271	\$66,706
Finance and Insurance	\$267,960	\$219,995	\$374,826	\$165,008	\$121,496	\$103,993
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$176,976	\$144,423	\$384,018	\$248,043	\$112,318	\$88,598
Professional and Technical Services	\$611,771	\$580,302	\$2,151,038	\$751,389	\$296,445	\$315,704
Management of Companies	\$46,407	\$44,105	\$56,564	\$29,187	\$23,842	\$370
Administrative and Waste Services	\$697,676	\$479,129	\$2,048,847	\$651,765	\$369,260	\$280,880
Educational Services	\$381,609	\$259,246	\$779,166	\$255,050	\$184,564	\$150,640
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$1,136,868	\$837,336	\$2,918,332	\$1,215,941	\$675,258	\$629,356
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$145,199	\$135,677	\$772,888	\$118,048	\$58,654	\$97,759
Accommodation and Food Services	\$1,021,908	\$899,326	\$4,221,385	\$827,921	\$515,152	\$694,483
Other Services, exc Public Administration	\$332,914	\$203,124	\$684,721	\$186,107	\$79,345	\$82,822
Public Administration	\$1,246,378	\$1,079,989	\$1,663,162	\$1,196,440	\$736,498	\$677,807
Unclassified	\$896,668	\$807,031	\$2,624,519	\$1,047,465	\$766,610	\$793,496

Table 2.9 (cont.)

UI Regular Benefit Payments by Industry

Interstate, 2018 to 2023

Average Weekly Payment

Industry	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$296.21	\$325.90	\$281.15	\$318.04	\$337.33	\$327.86
Mining, All	\$358.91	\$360.02	\$401.29	\$373.67	\$365.69	\$371.33
Oil and Gas	\$362.02	\$357.42	\$403.15	\$370.51	\$370.35	\$374.57
Utilities	\$350.73	\$288.83	\$346.22	\$326.16	\$349.35	\$258.00
Construction	\$350.15	\$348.70	\$360.08	\$358.99	\$357.57	\$354.72
Manufacturing, All	\$243.66	\$248.40	\$262.81	\$269.40	\$281.77	\$295.09
Food Products	\$243.15	\$247.62	\$261.80	\$268.89	\$280.95	\$294.34
Paper Products	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Wood Products	\$368.48	\$211.48	\$307.93	\$362.35	\$316.22	NA
Other Products	\$264.46	\$313.98	\$296.32	\$289.17	\$352.23	\$350.11
Trade	\$259.17	\$267.02	\$259.57	\$263.88	\$288.53	\$287.82
Transportation and Warehousing	\$297.67	\$299.84	\$286.43	\$318.08	\$316.47	\$312.03
Information	\$357.40	\$349.14	\$338.49	\$329.83	\$375.08	\$356.72
Finance and Insurance	\$332.46	\$335.87	\$338.90	\$330.68	\$358.40	\$359.84
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$340.34	\$308.60	\$326.27	\$326.37	\$334.28	\$347.44
Professional and Technical Services	\$334.12	\$340.75	\$357.67	\$346.58	\$325.41	\$334.08
Management of Companies	\$359.74	\$350.04	\$374.60	\$355.94	\$361.24	\$370.00
Administrative and Waste Services	\$295.75	\$262.82	\$313.09	\$331.35	\$312.67	\$295.66
Educational Services	\$312.54	\$300.40	\$289.98	\$290.82	\$329.58	\$331.08
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$297.53	\$318.02	\$321.05	\$316.24	\$328.75	\$340.19
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$232.32	\$254.55	\$214.22	\$222.73	\$260.68	\$255.25
Accommodation and Food Services	\$223.42	\$225.79	\$230.11	\$230.04	\$247.31	\$270.65
Other Services, exc Public Administration	\$337.98	\$310.59	\$286.49	\$260.29	\$288.53	\$327.36
Public Administration	\$302.81	\$327.17	\$325.73	\$348.51	\$325.02	\$337.39
Unclassified	\$253.15	\$281.10	\$296.89	\$277.11	\$274.77	\$286.05

Notes: Payment data include taxable and reimbursable. 2020 data do not include FPUC add-on. Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment, which is generally not covered by unemployment insurance. Some lines are subsets of other lines, e.g., Mining and Manufacturing.

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

Table 2.10 UI Regular Benefit Payments by Industry
Intrastate and Interstate Total, 2018 to 2023

Number of Weeks Paid						
Industry	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	1,793	1,510	6,014	3,487	1,815	1,944
Mining, All	11,677	8,216	63,975	15,821	5,852	5,258
Oil and Gas	7,480	4,420	57,495	11,950	3,135	2,501
Utilities	1,838	2,065	3,576	1,936	1,436	1,183
Construction	59,539	51,230	108,553	67,950	40,417	33,335
Manufacturing, All	52,738	45,024	95,032	55,599	35,017	33,458
Food Products	48,364	41,417	80,127	50,412	32,771	31,711
Paper Products	20	0	2	0	0	0
Wood Products	669	456	1,418	678	315	281
Other Products	3,685	3,151	13,485	4,509	1,931	1,466
Trade	38,640	31,143	140,542	43,583	18,525	18,323
Transportation and Warehousing	21,348	20,424	93,278	23,405	11,697	10,896
Information	3,777	3,449	10,432	3,075	2,095	1,748
Finance and Insurance	5,715	4,812	12,967	6,062	2,982	3,261
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	6,354	5,379	17,250	7,201	3,458	3,442
Professional and Technical Services	10,739	8,409	33,487	12,385	5,520	5,208
Management of Companies	1,009	973	2,291	908	504	433
Administrative and Waste Services	16,245	13,532	55,595	20,139	8,605	7,915
Educational Services	7,044	6,394	32,749	8,092	4,065	3,776
Health Care and Social Assistance	30,645	26,808	120,043	38,626	19,160	16,630
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4,496	4,199	25,826	4,296	2,039	2,170
Accommodation and Food Services	29,387	24,186	208,108	37,875	12,934	14,619
Other Services, exc Public Administration	11,693	9,009	43,912	12,763	5,654	5,184
Public Administration	33,730	29,345	61,546	39,849	23,195	20,045
Unclassified	8,148	6,690	28,407	12,307	6,063	6,747

Amount of Payments						
Industry	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$476,577	\$417,987	\$1,518,322	\$969,229	\$520,841	\$550,938
Mining, All	\$3,991,004	\$2,694,681	\$25,250,306	\$5,736,857	\$2,010,335	\$1,782,961
Oil and Gas	\$2,639,457	\$1,463,986	\$23,053,954	\$4,418,859	\$1,118,809	\$871,878
Utilities	\$510,084	\$570,658	\$1,121,113	\$541,258	\$416,102	\$334,441
Construction	\$18,966,662	\$16,318,081	\$36,643,203	\$23,016,375	\$13,453,470	\$11,189,748
Manufacturing, All	\$11,937,741	\$10,488,298	\$23,470,649	\$14,169,865	\$9,475,521	\$9,657,347
Food Products	\$10,730,804	\$9,460,859	\$19,256,663	\$12,684,145	\$8,821,059	\$9,149,557
Paper Products	\$3,936	\$0	\$846	\$0	\$0	\$0
Wood Products	\$184,754	\$113,583	\$376,040	\$208,919	\$81,817	\$71,702
Other Products	\$1,018,247	\$913,856	\$3,837,100	\$1,276,801	\$572,645	\$436,088
Trade	\$8,748,537	\$7,053,654	\$33,264,978	\$9,900,071	\$4,447,255	\$4,486,372
Transportation and Warehousing	\$5,483,978	\$5,381,765	\$26,535,285	\$6,397,929	\$3,216,129	\$3,115,559
Information	\$1,221,791	\$1,096,390	\$2,885,271	\$944,251	\$706,478	\$600,376
Finance and Insurance	\$1,656,859	\$1,414,378	\$4,217,847	\$1,851,263	\$899,111	\$981,670
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$1,539,274	\$1,371,672	\$4,745,879	\$2,006,908	\$964,450	\$915,879
Professional and Technical Services	\$3,118,989	\$2,466,309	\$10,341,417	\$3,892,530	\$1,686,971	\$1,611,318
Management of Companies	\$315,315	\$298,171	\$738,801	\$281,474	\$176,739	\$140,541
Administrative and Waste Services	\$4,066,379	\$3,311,998	\$14,795,995	\$5,352,043	\$2,333,046	\$2,141,685
Educational Services	\$1,698,910	\$1,549,693	\$7,547,588	\$1,992,475	\$1,079,451	\$969,875
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$8,154,400	\$7,277,929	\$35,025,698	\$10,471,348	\$5,482,736	\$4,905,498
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$838,467	\$802,320	\$5,184,351	\$834,489	\$368,012	\$452,840
Accommodation and Food Services	\$5,767,048	\$4,996,175	\$46,223,484	\$7,220,107	\$2,795,248	\$3,441,578
Other Services, exc Public Administration	\$2,998,872	\$2,233,418	\$11,314,436	\$3,125,107	\$1,510,915	\$1,396,687
Public Administration	\$8,040,096	\$7,169,071	\$16,682,386	\$10,014,750	\$5,952,160	\$5,219,872
Unclassified	\$2,064,096	\$1,818,365	\$7,490,941	\$3,025,022	\$1,603,916	\$1,885,405

Table 2.10 (cont.) UI Regular Benefit Payments by Industry
Intrastate and Interstate Total, 2018 to 2023

Average Weekly Payment						
Industry	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$265.80	\$276.81	\$252.46	\$277.95	\$286.96	\$283.40
Mining, All	\$341.78	\$327.98	\$394.69	\$362.61	\$343.53	\$339.09
Oil and Gas	\$352.87	\$331.22	\$400.97	\$369.78	\$356.88	\$348.61
Utilities	\$277.52	\$276.35	\$313.51	\$279.58	\$289.76	\$282.71
Construction	\$318.56	\$318.53	\$337.56	\$338.73	\$332.87	\$335.68
Manufacturing, All	\$226.36	\$232.95	\$246.98	\$254.86	\$270.60	\$288.64
Food Products	\$221.88	\$228.43	\$240.33	\$251.61	\$269.17	\$288.53
Paper Products	\$196.80	0	NA	0	NA	NA
Wood Products	\$276.16	\$249.09	\$265.19	\$308.14	\$259.74	\$255.17
Other Products	\$276.32	\$290.02	\$284.55	\$283.17	\$296.55	\$297.47
Trade	\$226.41	\$226.49	\$236.69	\$227.15	\$240.07	\$244.85
Transportation and Warehousing	\$256.88	\$263.50	\$284.48	\$273.36	\$274.95	\$285.94
Information	\$323.48	\$317.89	\$276.58	\$307.07	\$337.22	\$343.46
Finance and Insurance	\$289.91	\$293.93	\$325.28	\$305.39	\$301.51	\$301.03
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$242.25	\$255.01	\$275.12	\$278.70	\$278.90	\$266.09
Professional and Technical Services	\$290.44	\$293.29	\$308.82	\$314.29	\$305.61	\$309.39
Management of Companies	\$312.50	\$306.45	\$322.48	\$309.99	\$350.67	\$324.58
Administrative and Waste Services	\$250.32	\$244.75	\$266.14	\$265.76	\$271.13	\$270.59
Educational Services	\$241.19	\$242.37	\$230.47	\$246.23	\$265.55	\$256.85
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$266.09	\$271.48	\$291.78	\$271.10	\$286.16	\$294.98
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$186.49	\$191.07	\$200.74	\$194.25	\$180.49	\$208.68
Accommodation and Food Services	\$196.24	\$206.57	\$222.11	\$190.63	\$216.12	\$235.42
Other Services, exc Public Administration	\$256.47	\$247.91	\$257.66	\$244.86	\$267.23	\$269.42
Public Administration	\$238.37	\$244.30	\$271.06	\$251.32	\$256.61	\$260.41
Unclassified	\$253.33	\$271.80	\$263.70	\$245.80	\$264.54	\$279.44

Notes: Payment data include taxable and reimbursable. 2020 data do not include FPUC add-on. Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment, which is generally not covered by unemployment insurance. Some line values are subsets of other lines, e.g., Mining and Manufacturing.

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

Table 2.11 UI Regular Benefit Payments by Borough/Census Area
2023

Borough/Census Area	Regular UI	Extended Benefits	State Supp Benefits	PEUC*	All ProgramsTotal
Aleutians East Borough	\$104,573	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$104,573
Aleutians West Census Area	\$277,241	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$277,241
Anchorage, Municipality	\$12,876,760	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,876,760
Bethel Census Area	\$1,985,625	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,985,625
Bristol Bay Borough	\$58,493	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$58,493
Chugach Census Area	\$606,679	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$606,679
Copper River Census Area	\$822,102	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$822,102
Denali Borough	\$207,034	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$207,034
Dillingham Census Area	\$277,921	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$277,921
Fairbanks North Star Borough	\$4,496,212	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,496,212
Haines Borough	\$245,402	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$245,402
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	\$230,043	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$230,043
Juneau, City and Borough	\$1,157,205	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,157,205
Kenai Peninsula Borough	\$3,864,255	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,864,255
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	\$556,993	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$556,993
Kodiak Island Borough	\$940,063	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$940,063
Kusilvak Census Area	\$992,125	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$992,125
Lake and Peninsula Borough	\$94,786	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$94,786
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	\$7,542,970	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,542,970
Nome Census Area	\$920,069	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$920,069
North Slope Borough	\$225,937	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$225,937
Northwest Arctic Borough	\$875,858	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$875,858
Petersburg Census Area	\$256,705	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$256,705
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	\$509,081	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$509,081
Sitka, City and Borough	\$230,275	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$230,275
Skagway, Municipality	\$172,845	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$172,845
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	\$236,303	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$236,303
Wrangell, City and Borough	\$97,959	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$97,959
Yakutat, City and Borough	\$70,768	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70,768
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	\$817,457	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$817,457
Area Unknown	\$1,480	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,480

*The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program began in April 2020 and was effective through most of 2021.

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

Table 2.12 Claimants With Dependents
2014 to 2023

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
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
2016	15,427	43,017	35.9%	183,047	498,109	36.7%	\$8,055,648
2017	13,576	38,086	35.6%	153,802	422,218	36.4%	\$6,785,184
2018	11,758	33,664	34.9%	129,347	356,668	36.3%	\$5,741,976
2019	9,757	28,781	33.9%	105,945	302,889	35.0%	\$4,787,112
2020	25,315	87,288	29.0%	353,727	1,163,925	30.4%	\$57,043,350
2021	12,403	39,762	31.2%	135,692	417,044	32.5%	\$19,677,600
2022	6,900	21,912	31.5%	66,940	211,130	31.7%	\$2,997,480
2023	5,846	19,460	30.0%	60,320	195,575	30.8%	\$2,706,600

Notes: The allowance is \$24 per dependent per week, with a maximum of \$72. The dependent allowance was increased to \$75 each in 2020 because of the pandemic. Data are for state regular UI program only.

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

UI Covered Employment and Wages

98% of Alaska’s workers are covered

State and federal unemployment insurance programs covered 323,129 jobs in Alaska in 2023 — 98.3 percent of all nonagricultural wage and salary jobs. (See Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1.) State programs covered 93.7 percent of Alaska’s jobs and federal programs covered 4.6 percent.

The remaining 1.6 percent of jobs not covered by UI insurance include full-commission salespeople, elected and appointed officials, and unpaid family workers. Fishermen who work on a share basis are also excluded. As of 2006, real estate jobs are also not covered.

Most employers pay UI taxes

In Alaska, most employers are assigned tax rates each calendar year and pay their contributions 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 benefits paid to their former employees.

Reimbursable employers made up 0.9 percent of all employers in the state but their employment accounted for roughly one-fifth of all jobs in 2023: 70,380, or 22.8 percent of total jobs. (See Table 3.2.)

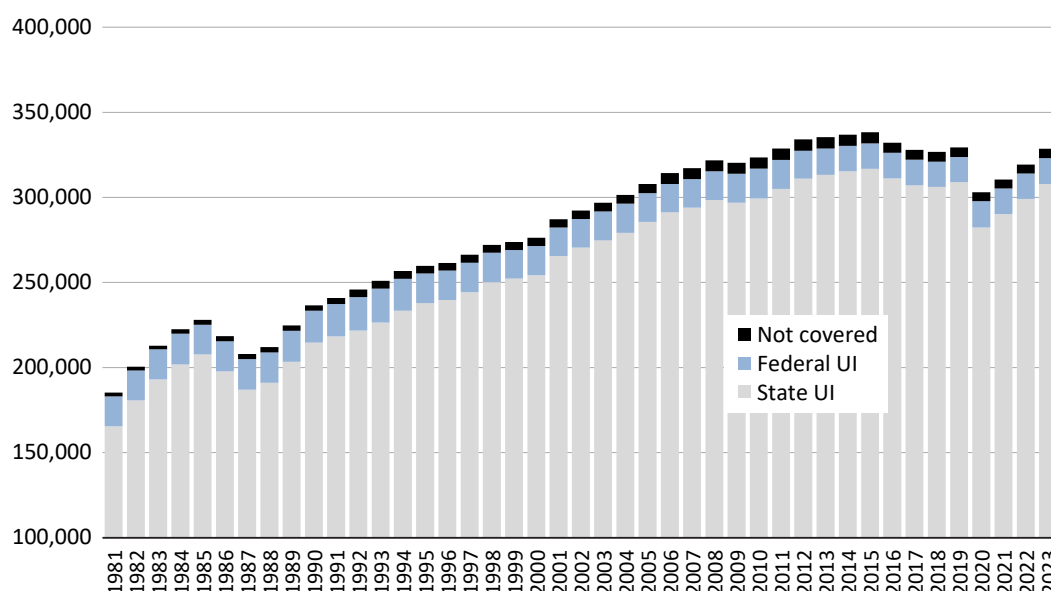
Covered jobs and wages grew in 2023

Average monthly covered employment (which excludes the federal government but includes reimbursable employers) increased by 8,887, or roughly 3.0 percent, in 2023. (See Table 3.2.)

Total covered wages rose by \$ 1.6 billion (8.3 percent), to just under \$20.8 billion. Private industry wages increased by \$1.3 billion while state and local government wages grew by roughly \$250 million. (See Table 3.3.)

Wages subject to UI taxation jumped by \$738 million (8.1 percent). Growth was strongest in the arts, enter-

Figure 3.1 **Employment by Type of UI Coverage**
1981 to 2023



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

tainment, and recreation sector at nearly 15 percent, which came on the heels of a 38 percent increase the year before. Construction's covered wage growth was second-strongest.

Average wages continue to grow

Average annual wages per job increased again in 2023, by \$3,299, or 5.1 percent, to \$67,441. That growth followed a strong increase of 4.4 percent the previous year. Since 2019, average annual wages have gone up by \$11,000.

In terms of wage gains by industry, the construction sector's wages grew the most at 10 percent, with average earnings rising from \$84,870 to \$93,371 (see Table 3.6) while the average increase for the entire private sector was 5.1 percent, roughly matching overall employment growth.

Average wages declined in just one industry, finance and insurance (-0.6 percent), where wages also fell by 3.7 percent the previous year.

Average state government wages rose 8.6 percent while local government wages increased 2.8 percent.

Table 3.1 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
Covered and Noncovered, 2014 to 2023

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
2014	336,814	315,332	93.6%	14,895	4.4%	6,587	2.0%
2015	338,280	316,758	93.6%	14,955	4.4%	6,567	1.9%
2016	332,143	311,090	93.7%	15,190	4.6%	5,863	1.8%
2017	327,945	307,063	93.6%	15,055	4.6%	5,827	1.8%
2018	326,781	306,167	93.7%	14,868	4.6%	5,746	1.8%
2019	329,384	308,867	93.8%	14,840	4.5%	5,677	1.7%
2020	302,994	282,372	93.2%	15,413	5.1%	5,209	1.7%
2021	310,523	290,236	93.5%	15,058	4.8%	5,229	1.7%
2022	319,294	299,041	93.7%	15,003	4.7%	5,250	1.6%
2023	328,533	307,926	93.7%	15,203	4.6%	5,404	1.6%

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) report to the U.S. Department of Labor

Table 3.2 Average Monthly Covered Employment by Industry/Ownership
2020 to 2023

	Employment				Percent			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Taxable and Reimbursable	282,372	290,236	299,041	307,928	100%	100%	100%	100%
Private Industry	225,279	232,549	241,111	249,001	79.8%	80.1%	80.6%	80.9%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	1,585	1,650	1,612	1,551	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%
Mining	11,070	10,285	10,804	11,505	4.9%	4.4%	4.5%	4.6%
Utilities	2,297	2,467	2,476	2,516	1.0%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%
Construction	15,841	15,927	16,166	17,128	7.0%	6.8%	6.7%	6.9%
Manufacturing	11,788	12,201	12,126	12,777	5.2%	5.2%	5.0%	5.1%
Trade	39,711	40,462	41,185	41,613	17.6%	17.4%	17.1%	16.7%
Transportation and Warehousing	17,038	18,078	20,082	21,389	7.6%	7.8%	8.3%	8.6%
Information	4,895	4,792	4,769	4,564	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%
Finance and Insurance	6,437	6,317	6,308	6,193	2.9%	2.7%	2.6%	2.5%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	4,112	4,248	4,377	4,350	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%
Professional and Technical Services	12,564	12,877	13,150	13,513	5.6%	5.5%	5.5%	5.4%
Management of Companies	2,648	2,852	2,900	2,961	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
Administrative and Waste Services	10,870	10,757	11,377	11,705	4.8%	4.6%	4.7%	4.7%
Educational Services	2,200	2,436	2,601	2,656	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	46,498	47,423	46,862	48,238	20.6%	20.4%	19.4%	19.4%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,330	3,799	4,742	5,127	1.5%	1.6%	2.0%	2.1%
Accommodation and Food Services	23,278	26,587	29,527	30,590	10.3%	11.4%	12.2%	12.3%
Other Services, except Public Administration	9,085	9,326	9,888	10,429	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%	4.2%
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	32	65	159	196	0	0	0.1%	0.1%
State Government	21,137	21,361	21,097	21,572	7.5%	7.4%	7.1%	7.0%
Education	4,807	4,917	4,898	5,218	22.7%	23.0%	23.2%	24.2%
Public Administration	15,439	15,564	15,256	15,394	73.0%	72.9%	72.3%	71.4%
All Other	891	880	943	960	4.2%	4.1%	4.5%	4.5%
Local Government	35,956	36,326	36,833	37,355	12.7%	12.5%	12.3%	12.1%
Education	18,511	18,649	18,964	19,074	51.5%	51.3%	51.5%	51.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,258	1,344	1,363	1,451	3.5%	3.7%	3.7%	3.9%
Public Administration	15,573	15,741	15,921	16,241	43.3%	43.3%	43.2%	43.5%
All Other	614	592	585	589	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%

Table 3.2 (cont.) Average Monthly Covered Employment by Industry/Ownership
2020 to 2023

	Employment				Percent			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reimbursables Only	67,851	68,390	68,426	70,380	24.0%	23.6%	22.9%	22.9%
Private Industry	19,908	20,079	20,111	21,087	29.3%	29.4%	29.4%	30.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	42	43	43	44	0.2%	0.2%	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
Trade	0	11	176	164	0	0.1%	0.9%	0.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	0	3	8	8	0	0	0	0
Information	55	55	53	57	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Finance and Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	59	58	57	60	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Professional and Technical Services	695	732	727	786	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%	3.7%
Management of Companies	30	29	28	30	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Administrative and Waste Services	3	4	5	4	0	0	0	0
Educational Services	293	342	392	375	1.5%	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	17,768	17,884	17,647	18,518	89.3%	89.1%	87.7%	87.8%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	102	98	105	122	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	31	31	32	32	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Other Services, except Public Administration	830	789	838	887	4.2%	3.9%	4.2%	4.2%
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Government	20,830	21,043	20,779	21,255	30.7%	30.8%	30.4%	30.2%
Education	4,807	4,917	4,898	5,218	23.1%	23.4%	23.6%	24.5%
Public Administration	15,404	15,527	15,214	15,349	74.0%	73.8%	73.2%	72.2%
All Other	619	599	667	688	3.0%	2.8%	3.2%	3.2%
Local Government	27,113	27,268	27,536	28,038	40.0%	39.9%	40.2%	39.8%
Education	18,511	18,649	18,964	19,074	68.3%	68.4%	68.9%	68.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,258	1,344	1,363	1,451	4.6%	4.9%	4.9%	5.2%
Public Administration	7,335	7,266	7,199	7,503	27.1%	26.6%	26.1%	26.8%

Note: Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment, which is generally not covered by unemployment insurance.

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
2020 to 2023

	Wages in Thousands				Percent			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Taxable and Reimbursable	\$17,099,459	\$17,839,614	\$19,181,137	\$20,767,107	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Private Industry	\$13,710,870	\$14,395,984	\$15,647,951	\$16,984,305	80.2%	80.7%	81.6%	81.8%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$74,482	\$74,814	\$81,100	\$78,671	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Mining	\$1,710,769	\$1,622,919	\$1,673,834	\$1,855,210	12.5%	11.3%	10.7%	10.9%
Utilities	\$222,380	\$247,088	\$252,776	\$271,283	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%
Construction	\$1,303,527	\$1,298,374	\$1,372,003	\$1,599,264	9.5%	9.0%	8.8%	9.4%
Manufacturing	\$657,031	\$710,250	\$794,947	\$888,866	4.8%	4.9%	5.1%	5.2%
Trade	\$1,571,731	\$1,659,627	\$1,786,037	\$1,874,039	11.5%	11.5%	11.4%	11.0%
Transportation and Warehousing	\$1,364,398	\$1,475,620	\$1,714,304	\$1,843,254	10.0%	10.3%	11.0%	10.9%
Information	\$363,585	\$373,890	\$384,649	\$376,158	2.7%	2.6%	2.5%	2.2%
Finance and Insurance	\$495,758	\$532,069	\$511,794	\$499,295	3.6%	3.7%	3.3%	2.9%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$209,874	\$215,305	\$233,411	\$249,399	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Professional and Technical Services	\$964,882	\$999,682	\$1,078,502	\$1,194,372	7.0%	6.9%	6.9%	7.0%
Management of Companies	\$260,948	\$273,749	\$300,825	\$323,669	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
Administrative and Waste Services	\$564,360	\$550,905	\$626,919	\$683,711	4.1%	3.8%	4.0%	4.0%
Educational Services	\$89,302	\$99,151	\$111,944	\$120,345	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$2,778,817	\$2,974,253	\$3,181,567	\$3,414,756	20.3%	20.7%	20.3%	20.1%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$80,612	\$100,476	\$135,319	\$155,679	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$588,910	\$755,552	\$916,696	\$1,000,043	4.3%	5.2%	5.9%	5.9%
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$408,195	\$428,712	\$481,174	\$542,704	3.0%	3.0%	3.1%	3.2%
Public Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	0.1%	0.1%
Unclassified	\$1,306	\$3,549	\$10,153	\$13,589	0	0	0.1%	0.1%
State Government	\$1,334,247	\$1,375,668	\$1,404,007	\$1,562,317	7.8%	7.7%	7.3%	7.5%
Education	\$301,380	\$297,850	\$300,294	\$335,733	22.6%	21.7%	21.4%	21.5%
Public Administration	\$967,670	\$1,012,168	\$1,032,249	\$1,151,020	72.5%	73.6%	73.5%	73.7%
All Other	\$65,197	\$65,650	\$71,464	\$75,564	4.9%	4.8%	5.1%	4.8%
Local Government	\$2,054,342	\$2,067,961	\$2,129,178	\$2,220,486	12.0%	11.6%	11.1%	10.7%
Education	\$1,025,799	\$1,047,346	\$1,084,799	\$1,102,904	49.9%	50.6%	50.9%	49.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$99,448	\$110,842	\$115,869	\$127,168	4.8%	5.4%	5.4%	5.7%
Public Administration	\$890,380	\$870,667	\$887,274	\$945,673	43.3%	42.1%	41.7%	42.6%
All Other	\$38,715	\$39,107	\$41,236	\$44,740	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%

Table 3.3 (cont.) Total Covered Wages by Industry/Ownership
2020 to 2023

	Wages in Thousands				Percent			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Reimbursables Only	\$4,331,712	\$4,449,124	\$4,631,959	\$4,990,966	25.3%	24.9%	24.1%	24.0%
Private Industry	\$1,344,898	\$1,422,833	\$1,547,242	\$1,680,378	31.0%	32.0%	33.4%	33.7%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$1,670	\$1,751	\$1,822	\$2,034	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
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
Trade	\$0	\$197	\$4,614	\$4,487	0	0	0.3%	0.3%
Transportation and Warehousing	\$0	\$61	\$196	\$190	0	0	0	0
Information	\$3,204	\$3,207	\$3,166	\$3,636	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Finance and Insurance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$3,056	\$3,051	\$3,261	\$3,646	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Professional and Technical Services	\$57,447	\$57,512	\$66,041	\$71,755	4.3%	4.0%	4.3%	4.3%
Management of Companies	\$2,917	\$2,502	\$2,378	\$2,670	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Administrative and Waste Services	\$82	\$286	\$422	\$364	0	0	0	0
Educational Services	\$10,955	\$12,132	\$15,821	\$15,681	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$1,230,611	\$1,307,320	\$1,412,620	\$1,533,670	91.5%	91.9%	91.3%	91.3%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$4,450	\$4,327	\$4,646	\$5,351	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$1,255	\$1,401	\$1,377	\$1,338	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$29,250	\$29,086	\$30,878	\$35,555	2.2%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%
Public Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0	0	0
State Government	\$1,313,906	\$1,354,641	\$1,381,974	\$1,539,538	30.3%	30.4%	29.8%	30.8%
Education	\$301,380	\$297,850	\$300,294	\$335,733	22.9%	22.0%	21.7%	21.8%
Public Administration	\$965,760	\$1,010,027	\$1,029,790	\$1,148,305	73.5%	74.6%	74.5%	74.6%
All Other	\$46,765	\$46,763	\$51,889	\$55,501	38.6%	37.6%	36.8%	35.5%
Local Government	\$1,672,909	\$1,671,650	\$1,702,743	\$1,771,051	38.6%	37.6%	36.8%	35.5%
Education	\$1,025,799	\$1,047,346	\$1,084,799	\$1,102,904	61.3%	62.7%	63.7%	62.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$99,448	\$110,842	\$115,869	\$127,168	5.9%	6.6%	6.8%	7.2%
Public Administration	\$546,637	\$512,451	\$500,992	\$539,596	32.7%	30.7%	29.4%	30.5%

Note: Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment, which is generally not covered by unemployment insurance.

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
2020 to 2023

	Wages in Thousands				Percent			
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	\$7,779,812	\$8,323,859	\$9,112,892	\$9,850,664	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Private Industry	\$7,493,634	\$8,018,193	\$8,784,082	\$9,507,758	96.3%	96.3%	96.4%	96.5%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$57,597	\$58,996	\$62,164	\$60,820	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%
Mining	\$646,797	\$573,302	\$616,247	\$677,363	8.6%	7.2%	7.0%	7.1%
Utilities	\$97,417	\$108,569	\$113,484	\$120,130	1.3%	1.4%	1.3%	1.3%
Construction	\$792,230	\$813,077	\$852,265	\$969,468	10.6%	10.1%	9.7%	10.2%
Manufacturing	\$502,803	\$560,632	\$623,616	\$693,266	6.7%	7.0%	7.1%	7.3%
Trade	\$1,186,805	\$1,261,505	\$1,345,545	\$1,418,797	15.8%	15.7%	15.3%	14.9%
Transportation and Warehousing	\$679,655	\$762,283	\$897,183	\$981,374	9.1%	9.5%	10.2%	10.3%
Information	\$192,900	\$198,755	\$205,459	\$202,792	2.6%	2.5%	2.3%	2.1%
Finance and Insurance	\$259,590	\$267,692	\$280,416	\$282,075	3.5%	3.3%	3.2%	3.0%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$145,656	\$153,480	\$167,044	\$174,881	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%
Professional and Technical Services	\$503,050	\$533,424	\$566,113	\$608,216	6.7%	6.7%	6.4%	6.4%
Management of Companies	\$117,935	\$131,253	\$138,908	\$146,504	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%
Administrative and Waste Services	\$388,388	\$393,555	\$446,218	\$482,175	5.2%	4.9%	5.1%	5.1%
Educational Services	\$53,811	\$62,235	\$69,770	\$73,391	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$991,273	\$1,070,806	\$1,115,667	\$1,197,620	13.2%	13.4%	12.7%	12.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$65,752	\$83,004	\$114,698	\$131,488	0.9%	1.0%	1.3%	1.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	\$536,371	\$688,870	\$834,154	\$910,626	7.2%	8.6%	9.5%	9.6%
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$274,438	\$294,006	\$327,943	\$367,500	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.9%
Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	\$1,166	\$2,747	\$7,189	\$9,274	0	0	0.1%	0.1%
State Government	\$12,637	\$13,674	\$14,688	\$15,004	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Administration	\$1,359	\$1,576	\$1,778	\$1,871	10.8%	11.5%	12.1%	12.5%
All Other	\$11,278	\$12,098	\$12,910	\$13,134	89.2%	88.5%	87.9%	87.5%
Local Government	\$273,540	\$291,992	\$314,122	\$327,902	3.5%	3.5%	3.4%	3.3%
Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health Care and Social Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Administration	\$252,085	\$269,861	\$291,765	\$303,556	92.2%	92.4%	92.9%	92.6%
All Other	\$21,455	\$22,131	\$22,358	\$24,346	7.8%	7.6%	7.1%	7.4%

Note: Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment, which is generally not covered by unemployment insurance.

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
2020 to 2023

	Percent			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	45.5%	46.7%	47.5%	47.4%
Private Industry	54.7%	55.7%	56.1%	56.0%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	77.3%	78.9%	76.7%	77.3%
Mining	37.8%	35.3%	36.8%	36.5%
Utilities	43.8%	43.9%	44.9%	44.3%
Construction	60.8%	62.6%	62.1%	60.6%
Manufacturing	76.5%	78.9%	78.4%	78.0%
Trade	75.5%	76.0%	75.3%	75.7%
Transportation and Warehousing	49.8%	51.7%	52.3%	53.2%
Information	53.1%	53.2%	53.4%	53.9%
Finance and Insurance	52.4%	50.3%	54.8%	56.5%
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	69.4%	71.3%	71.6%	70.1%
Professional and Technical Services	52.1%	53.4%	52.5%	50.9%
Management of Companies	45.2%	47.9%	46.2%	45.3%
Administrative and Waste Services	68.8%	71.4%	71.2%	70.5%
Educational Services	60.3%	62.8%	62.3%	61.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	35.7%	36.0%	35.1%	35.1%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	81.6%	82.6%	84.8%	84.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	91.1%	91.2%	91.0%	91.1%
Other Services, except Public Administration	67.2%	68.6%	68.2%	67.7%
Public Administration	0	0	0	0
Unclassified	89.2%	77.4%	70.8%	68.2%
State Government	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Education	0	0	0	0
Public Administration	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
All Other	17.3%	18.4%	18.1%	17.4%
Local Government	13.3%	14.1%	14.8%	14.8%
Education	0	0	0	0
Health Care and Social Assistance	0	0	0	0
Public Administration	28.3%	31.0%	32.9%	32.1%
All Other	55.4%	56.6%	54.2%	54.4%

Note: Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment, which is generally not covered by unemployment insurance.

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
2020 to 2023

	Percent			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	\$60,556	\$61,466	\$64,142	\$67,441
Private Industry	\$60,862	\$61,905	\$64,899	\$68,210
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	\$46,992	\$45,342	\$50,310	\$50,723
Mining	\$154,541	\$157,795	\$154,927	\$161,252
Utilities	\$96,813	\$100,157	\$102,090	\$107,823
Construction	\$82,288	\$81,520	\$84,870	\$93,371
Manufacturing	\$55,737	\$58,212	\$65,557	\$69,568
Trade	\$39,579	\$41,017	\$43,366	\$45,035
Transportation and Warehousing	\$80,080	\$81,625	\$85,365	\$86,178
Information	\$74,277	\$78,024	\$80,656	\$82,418
Finance and Insurance	\$77,017	\$84,228	\$81,134	\$80,622
Real Estate, Rental, and Leasing	\$51,039	\$50,684	\$53,327	\$57,333
Professional and Technical Services	\$76,797	\$77,633	\$82,015	\$88,387
Management of Companies	\$98,545	\$95,985	\$103,733	\$109,311
Administrative and Waste Services	\$51,919	\$51,214	\$55,104	\$58,412
Educational Services	\$40,592	\$40,702	\$43,039	\$45,311
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$59,762	\$62,718	\$67,892	\$70,790
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$24,208	\$26,448	\$28,536	\$30,364
Accommodation and Food Services	\$25,299	\$28,418	\$31,046	\$32,692
Other Services, except Public Administration	\$44,931	\$45,970	\$48,662	\$52,038
Public Administration	NA	NA	NA	NA
Unclassified	\$40,826	\$54,604	\$63,854	\$69,334
State Government	\$63,124	\$64,401	\$66,550	\$72,423
Education	\$62,696	\$60,576	\$61,310	\$64,341
Public Administration	\$62,677	\$65,033	\$67,662	\$74,771
All Other	\$73,173	\$74,602	\$75,784	\$78,712
Local Government	\$57,135	\$56,928	\$57,806	\$59,443
Education	\$55,416	\$56,161	\$57,203	\$57,822
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$79,052	\$82,472	\$85,011	\$87,642
Public Administration	\$57,175	\$55,312	\$55,730	\$58,228
All Other	\$63,053	\$66,058	\$70,489	\$75,959

Note: Fishing excludes nearly all commercial fish harvesting employment, which is generally not covered by unemployment insurance.

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

Actuarial Trends and Concerns

Another year of very low benefit costs

The single-year benefit cost rate mentioned in Chapter 1, costs as a percentage of wages covered, remained at an all-time low of 0.4 percent for a second straight year. The state was heading in this direction before the pandemic, with a rate of 0.7 percent in 2019.

The measure used for calculating tax rates incorporates a three-year average, and this measure has also trended downward in the long-term. After peaking in 1989 at 4.0 percent, rates are now consistently below 2.0 percent and rapidly approaching 1.0 percent as the elevated pandemic values fall out of the average. (See Figure 4.1.)

The short-term reasons claims and costs continue to drop

Short-term, the labor market has largely recovered from the pandemic, and in 2023, Alaska fell back in line with its pre-pandemic UI claim trends.

Fewer and fewer people have collected benefits over the past two years, and when they did, it was for shorter periods. The rate of claims among covered employment

was 1.4 percent, which was the lowest in program history. (See Table 2.1 for a series going back to 1993.) The average duration has also been decreasing, and in 2023 it hit an all-time low of 9.6 weeks.

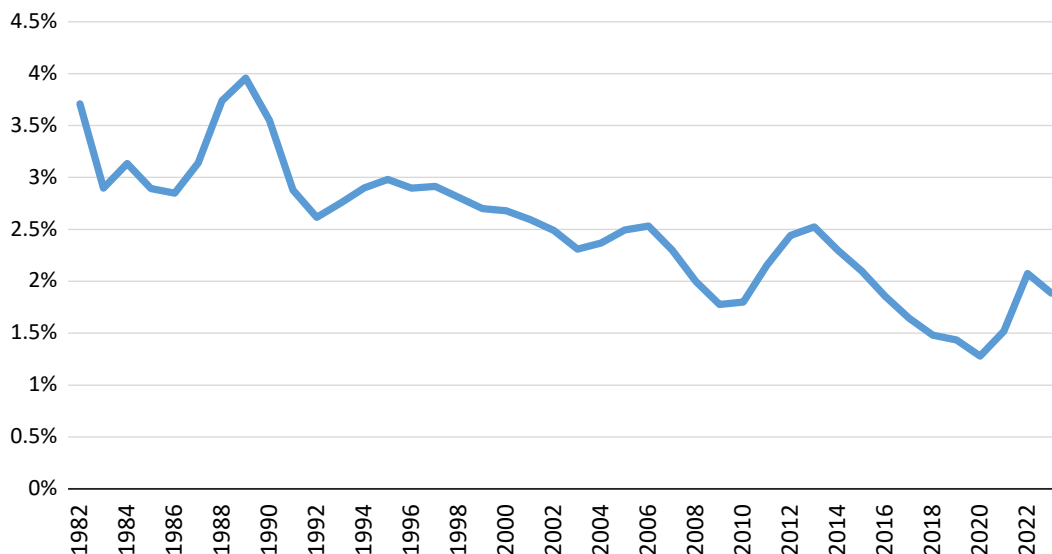
The long-term reasons claims and costs are dropping

In the long-term, trends show decreasing use of the UI program. While the state's economy is still heavily seasonal and claims fluctuate from summer to winter, the rate at which these workers file is declining every year.

This is evident in the insured unemployment rate over several decades. Even during recessions, when claims have increased, they have done so at lower and lower levels. This is partly because recessions have been shallower with better policy management but also because people are simply using the system less. (See Figure 4.2.)

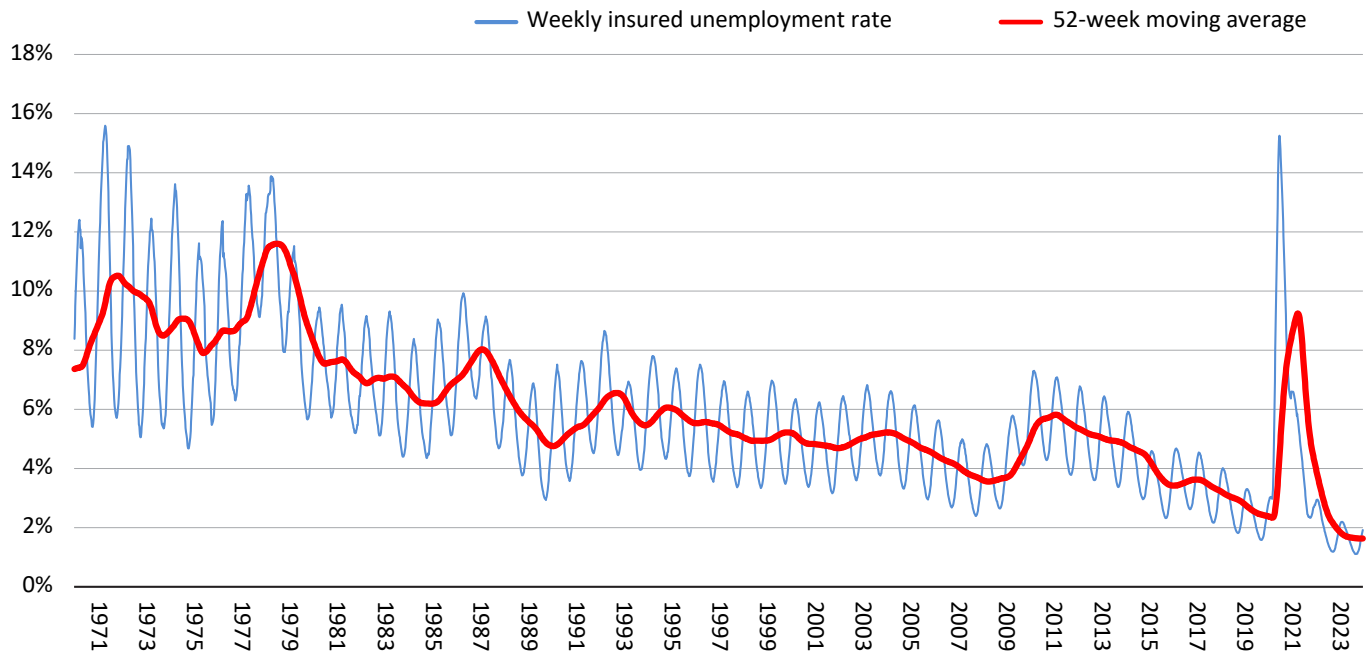
The pandemic that began in 2020 was the clear historical outlier. Major disruptions combined with temporary boosts to program aid resulted in massive influxes to claimants to the program, demonstrating its ability to effectively distribute resources to those who need it most.

Figure 4.1 **Average Benefit Cost Rate**
1982 to 2023



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

Figure 4.2 **Weekly Insured Unemployment Rate**
1982 to 2023



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

Program structure also contributes

Without legislative updates to certain parts of the program, the state will continue to see fewer people use the UI system.

The benefit schedule that outlines how much money a claimant may collect hasn't been updated since 2008 and has been effective since January 2009. (See Table 2.3.) The current maximum is \$370 per week. It would require just \$41,750 in wages to qualify for the maximum amount, which resulted in a wage replacement rate of 46 percent in 2023. (For a more in-depth discussion, [see the August 2024 Trends article "Jobless Benefits Are Out of Sync."](#))

For example, the average covered wage in 2023 was \$68,210 (see Table 3.6), meaning that the average earner could replace only 28.2 percent of their lost weekly wage. The longer the current benefit schedule remains in place, the more the wage replacement value of Alaska's UI benefits will continue to fall, and along with it, the utilization of the program.

But it isn't just claimants who are negatively affected by out-of-date benefit amounts. The tax system has lost its responsiveness to payments at such low levels and is pulling in more money, quarter after quarter and year after year, than is necessary to pay these ultra-low benefits.

Financing is no longer able to adapt

With qualifying benefit amounts fixed in statute, and with a financing structure that uses a combination of indexing or inputs as well as minimum contribution rates, the system has become increasingly unresponsive to these ultra-low costs. As a result, the fund balance continues to grow beyond need while serving fewer and fewer people.

The three specific concerns about the system's ability to function in the future as it's currently structured are:

1. Excessive program funding from the growing disconnect between benefit payment structure and financing. While financing is indexed to wages, the payment structure is fixed in statute.
2. The current rate minimums in statute cannot accommodate benefit costs at such low levels, which were not anticipated when the framework was created.
3. The experience rating of employers breaks down when most tax classes become subject to the minimum 1 percent rate.

Fund balance shows system out of sync

The balance of the UI trust fund can be examined from

several angles: its value in dollars, as a percentage of wages (the reserve ratio), and as a reflection of the potential liabilities the system has faced (cost multiples).

We covered dollar balances and reserve ratios in Chapter 1, which leaves cost multiples. Figure 1.3 doesn't get as much attention as some of the other charts in that chapter, but it's arguably one of the most important metrics in determining whether a fund balance can withstand a shock to the labor market.

The federal government's Employment and Training Administration points to both the average high cost multiple and the high cost multiple as two of the most appropriate metrics to determine trust fund adequacy.

The average high cost multiple is the fund reserve ratio divided by the average high cost rate (that is, the average benefit cost ratio of the three highest-cost 12-month benefit periods over multiple decades). First we'll break this calculation down and then provide an example.

The average high cost multiple determines whether the fund balance as a percentage of wages covered can absorb an equivalent cost period (in the form of a benefit cost rate). In other words, let's assume the current reserve ratio is at our target of 3.15 percent. This ratio would put us right in the middle of our target window for full fund solvency. If at the same time the average of the three highest cost periods in program history as a percentage of wages covered at the time of those costs also equals 3.15 percent, the resulting average high cost multiple would be 1 ($3.15 \text{ reserve ratio} / 3.15 \text{ average high cost rate} = 1$). This multiple tells you whether the fund balance can absorb an average high-cost period using our own state's experience. As mentioned previously, Figure 1.3 shows the average high cost multiple over time. At the end of 2023, the value was 2.21, or 221 percent. That means we have more than double the money the trust fund needs to handle the average high-cost period, in Alaska's experience.

A more aggressive measure of trust fund adequacy is the high cost multiple. This uses the same trust fund reserve ratio as the average high cost multiple but uses a different denominator: instead of the average of three recent periods of elevated costs, it uses our all-time-high cost rate. Even with this higher bar for solvency, the state ended the year with 176 percent, nearly double the needed balance.

So as benefit amounts become increasingly out of date for the wages they are covering and the financing system moves further into territory it was not designed to face, without action to address the problems, the trust fund will continue to balloon to unprecedented levels.

Summary of Major Changes in the Alaska Employment Security Act

Part 1: Coverage Provisions of the Alaska Employment Security Act Since 1937

April 2, 1937	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
July 1, 1945	Coverage extended to employers of one or more people at any time. Ch. 7, SLA 1945
Mar. 20, 1947	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
Mar. 17, 1959	Employees in finance, insurance, and real estate paid on a commission basis are excluded from coverage. Ch. 46, SLA 1959
April 17, 1961	Faculty of nonprofit universities excluded. Ch. 108, SLA 1961
Jan. 1, 1972	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
Jan. 1, 1972	Fishermen covered. Ch. 94, SLA 1971
April 1, 1977	Fishermen earning wages on a share basis excluded from coverage. Ch. 122, SLA 1977
Jan. 1, 1978	Coverage made mandatory for most employees of state and local governments. Coverage also extended to certain domestic and agricultural workers. Ch. 122, SLA 1977
July 1, 1984	Executive officers of nongovernmental corporations are excluded. Ch. 106, SLA 1984
Sept. 27, 1995	Certain direct sellers of consumer products are excluded. Ch. 97, SLA 1995
May 28, 2009	Reimbursable financing available to federally recognized tribes. Ch. 27, SLA 2009

Part 2: Financing Provisions of the Alaska Employment Security Act Since 1937

April 2, 1937	All wages paid to employees covered under the law are assessed a uniform tax of 1.8 percent. Ch. 4, ESLA 1937
Jan. 1, 1938	Uniform tax increased to 2.7 percent of total covered wages. Ch. 4, ESLA 1937
Mar. 26, 1941	Taxable wages limited to first \$3,000 of wages paid to an employee. Ch. 40, SLA 1941
June 30, 1947	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

Jan. 1, 1955	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
April 4, 1957	Tax base increased to first \$4,200 of wages. Ch. 169, SLA 1957
Mar. 30, 1960	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
Oct. 1, 1960	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
Jan. 1, 1974	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
Jan. 1, 1981	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
Oct. 1, 1984	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
Jan. 1, 1985	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
Sept. 13, 1987	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
July 1, 1989	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
June 30, 1993	Training programs pilot project extended until 1996. Ch. 17, SLA 1993
July 1, 1996	Training programs (STEP) extended until June 30, 2002. Ch. 116, SLA 1996
Jan. 1, 1997	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
July 1, 2000	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
July 1, 2002	Training programs (STEP) extended until June 30, 2003. Ch. 86, SLA 2002
July 1, 2003	Training programs (STEP) extended until June 30, 2004. Ch. 49, SLA 2003
July 1, 2004	Training programs (STEP) extended until June 30, 2008. Ch. 89, SLA 2004
July 1, 2008	Training programs (STEP) extended until June 30, 2010. Ch. 46, SLA 2008
July 1, 2008	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

Jan. 1, 2009	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
June 24, 2009	Training programs (STEP) made permanent. Ch. 36, SLA 2009
July 1, 2013	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
July 1, 2013	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
July 1, 2014	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
July 1, 2016	AS. 23.20.291 is repealed.

Part 3: Benefit Provisions of the Alaska Employment Security Act Since 1937

April 2, 1937	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
Jan. 17, 1939	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
Oct. 1, 1946	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
July 1, 1949	WBA is increased by 20 percent for each dependent of the claimant, up to three. Ch. 25, SLA 1949
July 1, 1951	Minimum payment is \$8; maximum is \$30. Ch. 11, SLA 1951
July 1, 1953	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
July 3, 1955	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
Mar. 30, 1960	Maximum WBA for interstate claimants reduced to \$20. Ch. 60, SLA 1960
July 1, 1966	Minimum payment is \$10; maximum is \$55. Total benefit payments limited to 28 times the WBA for most claimants. Ch. 112, SLA 1966
July 1, 1969	Minimum payment is \$18; maximum is \$60. Ch. 106, SLA 1969
Jan. 29, 1971	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
Jan. 1, 1972	Discrimination against nonresident claimants ends. Ch. 106, SLA 1971

July 1, 1973	Minimum payment is \$18; maximum is \$90. Dependent allowance set at \$10 per dependent, up to three. Ch. 43, SLA 1973
Oct. 1, 1980	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
Oct. 31, 1981	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
Sept. 26, 1982	Child support obligations may be deducted from weekly benefit checks. Ch. 115, SLA 1982
Jan. 1, 1983	Minimum payment is \$34; maximum payment is \$156 for basic WBA. Ch. 115, SLA 1982
Oct. 1, 1984	Minimum payment is \$38; maximum payment is \$188 for basic WBA. Ch. 106, SLA 1984
Oct. 1, 1990	Minimum payment is \$44; maximum payment is \$212 for basic WBA. Ch. 167, SLA 1990
Jan. 1, 1997	Minimum payment is \$44; maximum payment is \$248 for basic WBA. Ch. 116, SLA 1996
Jan. 1, 2009	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 Since 1937

April 2, 1937	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
Jan. 17, 1939	Total wages in base year must equal or exceed 25 times the WBA. Ch. 1, SLA 1939
Mar. 26, 1941	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
July 1, 1945	Women are disqualified during the last two months of pregnancy and the month following pregnancy. Ch. 50, SLA 1945
Oct. 1, 1946	Minimum required wages in base year set at \$150. Ch. 32, SLA 1946
June 30, 1947	Waiting period reduced to one week. Ch. 74, SLA 1947
July 1, 1953	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
July 3, 1955	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
April 4, 1957	Minimum wage requirement set at \$500 or 1.25 times high quarter wages. Ch. 169, SLA 1957
April 7, 1962	Claimants are not disqualified while attending a training course to improve their skills. Ch. 63, SLA 1962
July 1, 1969	Minimum wage requirement set at \$750, \$100 of which must have been earned outside the quarter with the highest wages. Ch. 106, SLA 1969
Jan. 1, 1972	Women no longer disqualified during pregnancy. Ch. 106, SLA 1971

Oct. 1, 1980	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
Oct. 31, 1981	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
June 26, 1982	The national “on” and “off” trigger indicators for extended benefits are repealed in conformity with federal law. Ch. 115, SLA 1982
Sept. 26, 1982	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
June 16, 1984	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
July 2, 1989	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
Nov. 15, 1991	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.
July 1, 1993	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
Jan. 1, 2009	Minimum wage requirement set (from \$1,000) to \$2,500, with at least 10 percent (\$250) in a second quarter. Ch. 45, SLA 2008.
Jan. 1, 2010	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

Updated November 2011

Appendix B

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 the 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 extended benefits are in effect. Congress enacted EB in 1970, and Alaska enacted them 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, Alaska reorganized the local offices into three UI call centers for UI claims purposes. Most claims are now filed online 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. The call center now handles claims from rural areas.

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS): A nationally 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. Several prevalent solvency measures use the reserve ratio.

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 nationally standardized system to classify employers into industries, in effect through 2002, and 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) that, 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 assigns experience-rated employers to one of 20 tax rate classes, or a 21st penalty class. New employers enter 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 has been 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 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 supports training and provides 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 online, through an automated telephone system (VICTOR), and by mail.

waiting week: The first week of claimed unemployment, for which there is no disqualification. There is no payment for the waiting week, but claimants receive payments 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.

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