



ALASKA ECONOMIC
TRENDS

FEBRUARY 2025

**Nonresidents and
worker demand**

ALSO INSIDE
Hoonah

FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Recruiting new talent requires new focus and strategies

By Catherine Muñoz, Commissioner

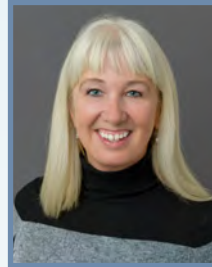
Every year, the Alaska Department of Administration's Division of Personnel publishes the [State of Alaska Workforce Profile](#), a snapshot of the previous year's State of Alaska workforce.

The report provides data and demographic details about each department, such as the number of employees and where they are working, workers' average age, new hire data, and more. The 2024 report showed the state's workforce totaled 14,564 in 115 communities across Alaska.

The report also showed the Department of Labor and Workforce Development had the highest average age at 47.7. We strive to give team members opportunities to obtain training, learn new skills, and advance in their careers, which we think is reflected in our department's average state service of 10.59 years — also the highest among departments. We have work to do with recruitment and hiring, especially as many of our team members will become eligible to retire in the next one to five years.

One strategy the department has pursued is attracting people transitioning out of active military service.

Last year, we became a [SkillBridge](#) program sponsor. SkillBridge is a U.S. Department of Defense program that allows transitioning service members to work for up to six months with local employers. The Department of Defense pays the participant's



salary during the training period. We are also prepared to help Alaska employers start their own SkillBridge program. If your business needs help navigating the enrollment process, our staff can help.

The department also partners with the Army Partnership for Your Success program, or [Army PaYS](#), which is another great tool for transitioning service members. The program provides guaranteed job interviews for Army, National Guard, and Army Reserves members looking for civilian employment during or after their service.

In November, we opened the [Office of Citizenship Assistance](#) to help new arrivals with legal immigrant status secure temporary work. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 11,550 visa workers and their families came to Alaska in federal fiscal year 2023. Our OCA staff are ready to assist with employment, access to English language education, and credential translation. Staff can also answer employers' questions about hiring immigrants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Muñoz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Contact Commissioner Catherine Muñoz at (907) 465-2700 or commissioner.labor@alaska.gov.



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ON THE COVER:

A totem pole in Hoonah, photo by
Flickr user [Clark Harris in Colorado](#)

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AND NONRESIDENTS

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THE ECONOMY

ALASKA
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and WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

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

ON THIS SPREAD: The background image for 2025 is a panorama of snowy tundra at Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.
Photo by Lisa Hupp, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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

Worker demand and nonresidents

Numbers rise across industries, especially construction

By ROB KREIGER

Over the last 30 years, nonresidents have made up about 20 percent of Alaska workers each year on average. While the number does change from year to year, swings of more than a percentage point are unusual.

The few years since the pandemic hit *have* been unusual, however. In 2023, the number of nonresidents working in Alaska climbed to a record 92,664. The nonresident share of the workforce, 22.5 percent, hit its highest level since 1995.

What led to the increase

Nonresident patterns started to move in atypical ways in 2020 when the pandemic caused many industries, especially seasonal ones, to shut down. The nonresident percentage and worker count both plummeted that year, and the decline to 18.3 percent was the largest single-year drop in at least the last 30.

As the economy began to recover, nonresidents returned to work in Alaska in large numbers — and at a faster rate than residents — moving their representation back in line with the historical average. That trend continued over the next two years, with

nonresidents playing an outsized role in the state's economic recovery, and their numbers continued to rise.

Every major industry in Alaska has leaned more on nonresidents in recent years. While some industries such as seafood processing already had high-nonresident workforces, even those that employ mostly Alaskans have hired more outside workers since 2020. State and local governments are examples.

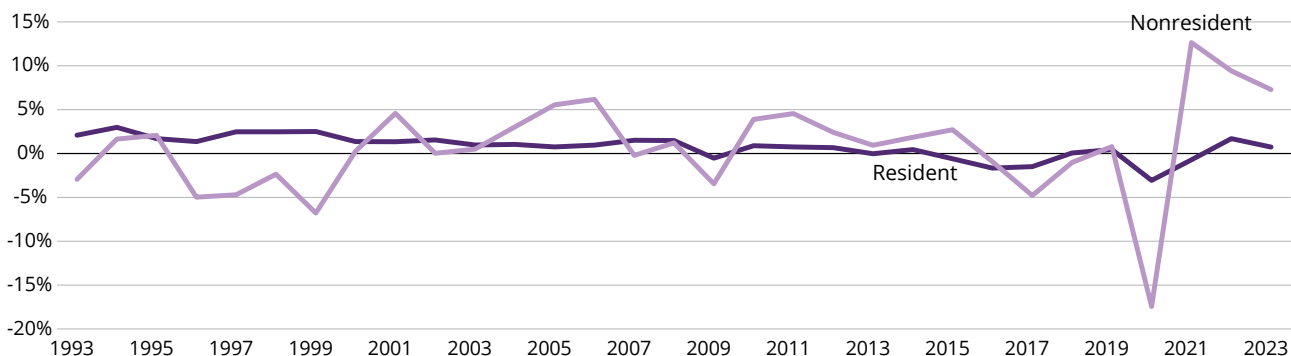
Construction's need for workers put its rise above other industries

Among all of these industries, however, construction stood out in 2023. While construction's total number of nonresidents was far from an all-time high, its percent increase was the largest among industries that year.

The number of nonresidents working in construction jumped 24 percent from the previous year, which was also the construction industry's largest increase in at least 30 years.

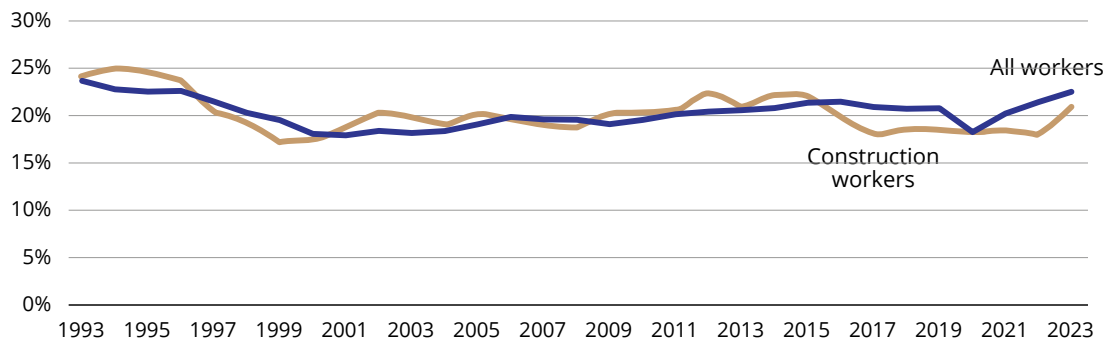
Despite the historically large over-the-year rise, though, construction's nonresident number and percentage have been higher many times in the past.

Growth in nonresident workers outpaces resident growth post-COVID



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

Nonresident percentages of construction, all workers increase



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

It's not unusual for the construction industry to hire large numbers of nonresidents periodically. Construction is project-based, often needing a workforce that exceeds the supply of qualified available residents. Short durations can also make it harder to hire residents, if there isn't enough time to train them.

Throughout Alaska's history, nonresident construction worker counts have spiked numerous times for major projects, then dropped again over the subsequent years.

Construction industry's change in nonresidents, by area 2022-2023

Area	2023	2022	Change
North Slope Borough	745	255	490
Kenai Peninsula Borough	571	289	282
Fairbanks N Star Borough	732	626	106
Anchorage, Municipality	1,299	1,211	88
Southeast Fairbanks CA	77	30	47
Kodiak Island Borough	118	72	46
Juneau, City and Borough	262	216	46
Northwest Arctic Borough	200	156	44
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	88	59	29
Skagway, Municipality	34	16	18
Petersburg Borough	31	24	7
Bethel Census Area	96	89	7
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	37	32	5
Kusilvak Census Area	14	12	2
Aleutians East Borough	5	4	1
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	9	9	0
Lake and Peninsula Borough	18	18	0
Sitka, City and Borough	62	62	0
Yakutat, City and Borough	1	1	0
Nome Census Area	42	43	-1
Chugach Census Area	93	95	-2
Wrangell, City and Borough	5	7	-2
Copper River Census Area	30	36	-6
Haines Borough	24	30	-6
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	18	27	-9
Dillingham Census Area	15	25	-10
Bristol Bay Borough	19	31	-12
Aleutians West Census Area	73	95	-22
Denali Borough	52	97	-45
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	492	553	-61

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

Building the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System in the 1970s is the most extreme example, but nonresident counts also jumped in the mid-2000s to support new residential and commercial construction. Major military and oil and gas projects over the last few decades have also required more nonresidents to build.

Construction, oil and gas projects, and worker demand ramp up

Numerous projects are raising demand for workers right now, especially in construction.

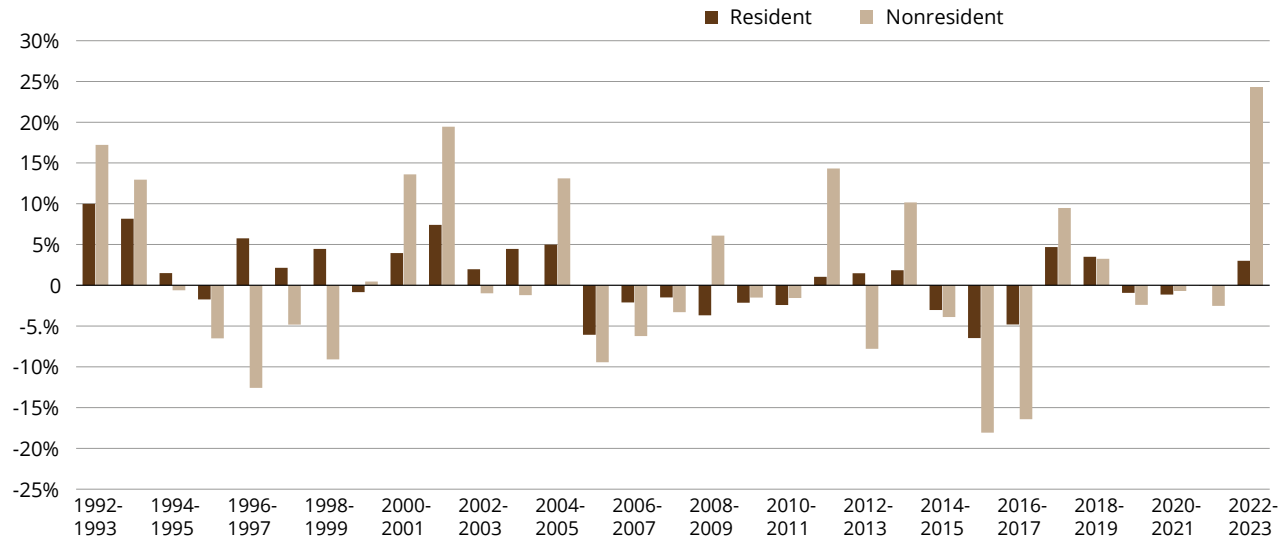
The federal infrastructure act passed in 2021 is injecting billions into Alaska for construction projects, an increasing number of which are entering their on-the-ground phases. (For more on infrastructure projects in Alaska, [see the January issue of Trends.](#))

Oil and gas activity has also increased recently, and many construction companies work on oil and gas projects.

The number of nonresident construction workers rose the most on the North Slope in 2023, by nearly 200 percent, bringing the total to 745. The remoteness and atypical shifts on the North Slope allow workers from outside Alaska to spend weeks or months on the Slope while maintaining a residence elsewhere.

The Kenai Peninsula's nonresident construction workforce also nearly doubled, from 289 workers in 2022 to 571 in 2023, likely linked to oil and gas.

Nonresident construction worker counts tend to be volatile



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

Kenai and the North Slope Borough accounted for almost two-thirds of all new nonresident construction workers in 2023.

The industry's need for nonresidents is also clear in its mix of occupations. Nonresidents are often

hired into specialized positions employers can't find qualified residents to fill.

While the list of top construction jobs for nonresidents in 2023 did include high-skill occupations such as carpenters and operating engineers, construction laborers topped the list, suggesting less-skilled workers are also in short supply locally.

Top construction jobs for nonresidents

Occupation in 2023	Nonresidents
Construction Laborers	830
Carpenters	574
Operating Engineers, Other Const Equip Operators	533
Maintenance and Repair Workers	243
Construction and Related, Other	189
Electricians	177
Plumbers, Pipefitters, Steamfitters	157
Boilermakers	154
1st-Line Supervisors, Construction and Extraction	128
Painters, Construction/Maintenance	113
Cement Masons, Concrete Finishers	111
Construction Managers	103
Helpers: Construction Trades, Other	102
Chief Executives	85
Heavy/Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	83
Roofers	75
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, Brazers	72
Helpers: Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, Steamfitters	70
Helpers: Carpenters	65
Office and Admin Support	55
Structural Iron and Steel Workers	54
Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrig Mechanics/Installers	41
Millwrights	39
Office Clerks, General	38

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

The worker shortage is broad and set to persist

The recent struggle to find workers and the rise in nonresident hires go beyond the construction industry, which despite its notable increase only employed about 6 percent of the nonresidents who worked in Alaska in 2023.

Around 21 percent worked in manufacturing, mainly seafood processing, which has long relied on nonresidents to fill the majority of its positions. Nineteen percent worked in leisure and hospitality, which is tied to tourism, and 10 percent worked in transportation.

All industries will continue to grapple with a shortage of workers and likely look to nonresidents to fill gaps.

An ongoing decline in the working-age

population, ages 18 to 64, linked to both demographic changes and the streak of net migration losses that has lasted more than a decade, will further reduce the supply of resident workers.

Historically low unemployment rates and record-low claims for unemployment benefits further suggest the worker shortage will persist, forcing more employers to look outside Alaska for labor.

In the [February 2024 issue of Trends](#), we examined the labor shortage in the context of worker movements and how to interpret them and assessed the role nonresidents were playing in Alaska's post-pandemic economic recovery.

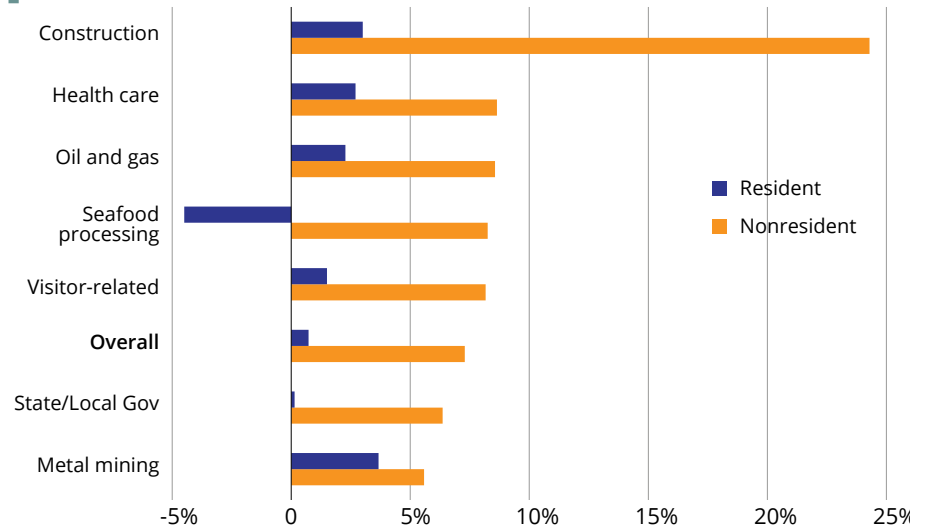
In 2023, like the year before, the numbers of resident and nonresident workers both rose. That's usually a sign of economic growth, but the fact that nonresident worker counts climbed much faster than residents suggests the supply of Alaskans wasn't sufficient to meet the demand for labor.

Migration patterns, especially among working-age Alaskans, will be important to monitor and understand over the next several years, as any increase in people leaving the state or fewer moving in would further restrict the supply of residents.

For more on the working-age population decline and the reasons behind it, including net migration losses, [see the March 2023 issue](#).

Rob Kreiger is an economist in Juneau. Reach him at (907) 465-6039 or rob.kreiger@alaska.gov.

Resident, nonresident growth by industry in 2023



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

Determining residency and its limitations

This article uses residency data and definitions from our *Nonresidents Working in Alaska* report, which considers workers residents if they applied for an Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend in either of the two most recent years.

To be eligible for a PFD, someone must live in the state for the full calendar year — a more rigorous residency criterion than what's required to register to vote or obtain a license to drive, hunt, or fish.

To calculate nonresident employment and wages, we match PFD applicants with quarterly reports Alaska employers file as required by state unemployment insurance laws. Federal workers, the military, and the self-employed are not part of those wage records because they are not covered by state unemployment insurance laws.

Residents by other definitions — those who have recently moved to Alaska, bought or rented a home, registered to vote, and obtained an Alaska driver's license — will initially be identified as nonresidents here. Nonresidents in this article are, in other words, a combination of new residents and nonresidents who work in the state but primarily live in another state. Some won't stay long enough to meet the PFD criteria for residency.

Because the PFD is unique among states and nearly every eligible person applies, only Alaska can publish such a comprehensive report on working nonresidents. Other states could use driver's licenses or voter registration to get a partial accounting of nonresidents working in their state, but neither of those sources would be as complete as PFD applications.

Hoonah carves a niche in the region

Southeast town's strong visitor draw stands out, keeps growing

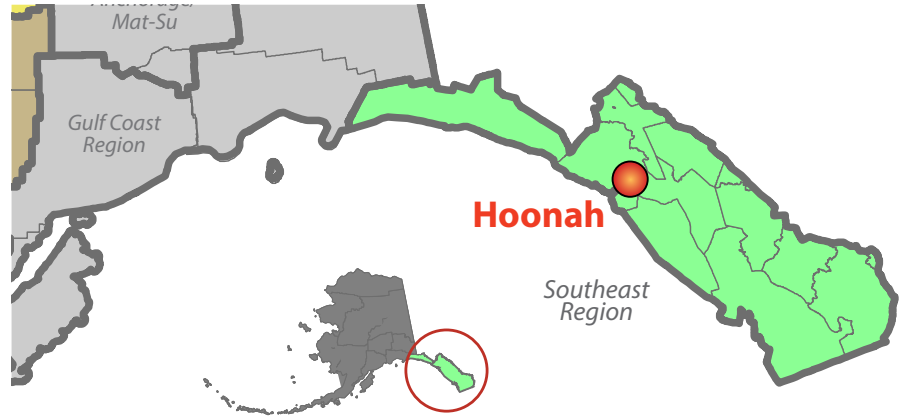
By SARA WHITNEY

It took the early census takers decades to figure it out. The Southeast Alaska community first appeared in the 1880 Census as Koudekan, then as Huna in 1890 and Hooniah in 1900. By 1910, the name established when the post office opened just after the turn of the century managed to stick.

Hoonah, the phonetic spelling of the Tlingit *Xunaa*, was recorded in 1910 with 462 residents. By 2020, the town had 931, a 22 percent increase from just 10 years earlier.

Hoonah made big changes in the new millennium, capitalizing on its natural beauty and cementing its place among the region's other ports to host a burgeoning cruise ship industry. The local Native corporation, Huna Totem, established a major adventure park and visitor center less than two miles outside of town.

Icy Strait Point broke ground in 2001 and continued to grow. Two new cruise ship docks came amid multiple expansions: the first in 2016 and the second a few years later, although the pandemic delayed completion.



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

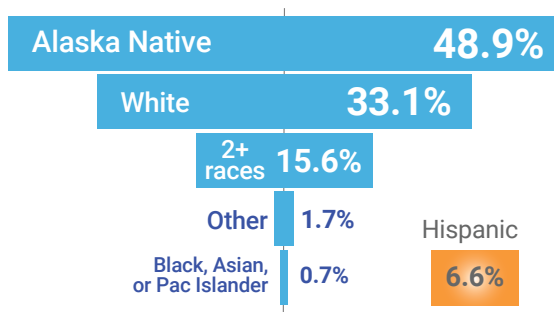
Today, the site features everything from a museum, shopping center, restaurants, and myriad tours to one of the world's most extreme zip lines.

The ZipRider, which opened in 2007, begins at the old Hoonah Air Force Station, a Cold War-era White Alice Communications System. With its launch point higher than the Empire State Building in New York City, six cables extend nearly 5,500 feet. Riders reach 60 miles per hour as they fly downward on a 60 percent grade.

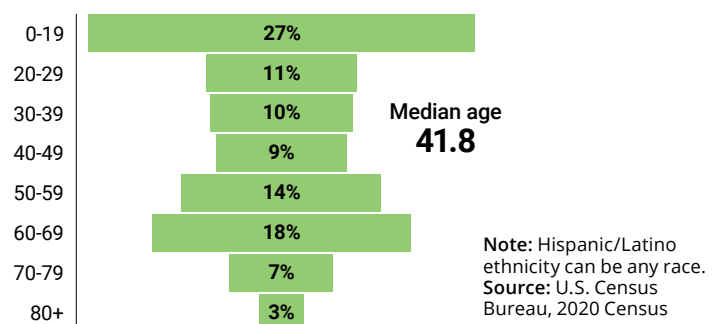
Today, Icy Strait Point is now among the busiest Alaska cruise ship ports. It received nearly half a million visitors in 2023. (See the table on page 10.)

Racial makeup and age structure of Hoonah's population in 2020 Census

Race and ethnicity



Age structure





Above, the visitor facilities at Icy Strait Point outside of Hoonah, owned and operated by the Huna Totem Corporation, include a museum at the old cannery, restaurants, shopping, multiple excursions, and a zip line with six cables that travels more than 5,500 feet. Zip line riders are visible over the mountainside in the background. Photo by Flickr user [Jay Galvin](#). At left, riders on the zip line, photo by Flickr user [Kent Quirk](#).

The Hoonah of centuries ago

The community, also called *Xunniyaa* and *Gaaw Yat'ak Aan*, goes back much further than the 1880 tally and has been home to hundreds of Tlingit since the Little Ice Age that peaked in the mid-1700s.

The Huna Tlingit came from Glacier Bay, where the advancing glaciers eventually pushed them out. They relocated to the new spot about 30 miles west of Juneau on Chichagof Island, the fifth-largest island in the United States.

Named for its mild climate, *Xunaa* means “protected from the north wind.”

Change came quickly around the turn of the 20th century. A large cannery called the Hoonah Packing Company opened in the early 1900s at the site that is now Icy Strait Point, joining a rapidly expanding list of salmon canneries in Southeast Alaska.

The cannery continued to operate through 1953 after changing hands several times, then served as a storage and maintenance facility for seiners until 1999. Today, the old cannery holds shops and a museum.

Hoonah area jobs by industry

Industry	Jobs in 2023
Total, All Industries	520
Total, Private-Sector	382
Construction	8
Manufacturing (incl Seafood Processing)	47
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	55
Retail Trade	36
Transportation and Warehousing	13
Education and Health Services	32
Health Care	29
Leisure and Hospitality	236
Accommodation	69
State Government	6
Local Government (includes public school)	113

Notes: Includes Elfin Cove, Gull Cove, Idaho Inlet, Lisianski, Pelican, Port Althorp, Port Frederick, and Yakobi Island. Excludes industries with three or fewer jobs, so industry job counts will not sum to the employment totals. The self-employed, such as commercial fish harvesters, are also not part of this data set.

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



Above, Cannery Road connects Hoonah and Icy Strait Point, photo by Flickr user [Clark Harris](#). At right, Hoonah, photo by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.



The people and economy now

While the area's population rises in the summer, the town is home year-round to a majority Alaska Native population. In the recent census, just under half of its 931 residents reported they were Alaska Native alone and another 15.6 percent were mixed race. The exhibits on pages 8 and 11 give a range of details about Hoonah's population, from demographics to education and income.

Icy Strait Point provides hundreds of jobs to its residents. The Huna Totem Corporation reports that 85 percent of its employees at the site are Hoonah Tlingits. Icy Strait Point is just one of the corporation's ventures, and its profits serve nearly 1,600 shareholders with roots in Hoonah.

Cruise passengers by port, 2023

Port	Passengers
Juneau	1,669,500
Ketchikan	1,497,200
Skagway	1,195,100
Glacier Bay	677,100
Sitka	588,400
Icy Strait Point (Hoonah)	484,200
Whittier	223,500
Seward	191,500
Haines	73,200
Valdez	44,900
Wrangell	23,000
Kodiak	12,600

Source: McKinley Research Group: Alaska Visitor Volume, Summer 2023 and Winter 2023-24

A fire destroyed most of the town in 1944, damage compounded by the loss of many tribal artifacts.

The town includes more businesses, such as restaurants, totem carvers, artists, accommodations, and a brewery, making leisure and hospitality Hoonah's largest sector. The second-largest is a combination of transportation and retail, also tied to visitors and the town's ferry and airport services that connect to Juneau.

Like other small towns in Alaska, Hoonah has some jobs in basic resident services such as government and health care. It also has manufacturing, which is mostly employment at a handful of seafood processing and cold storage facilities.

Fishing has long been a mainstay of the town, both commercially and as subsistence. Most Hoonah residents rely to some degree on subsistence foods, as they have for centuries.

Fishermen aren't included in the employment table on page 9 because they're considered self-employed, but state permit and harvest data show that in 2023, the most recent year available, 40 Hoonah harvesters grossed nearly \$1.6 million. The biggest harvest by far was salmon, followed by halibut and crab.

Hoonah also has a notable amount of self-employment beyond commercial fishing. While no reliable,

detailed data on self-employment are available for a population this small, the number of business licenses gives some sense of sole proprietors' role in the economy. As of January, Hoonah residents held 108 active business licenses.

Hoonah borough petition approved but faces obstacles before vote

After multiple failed attempts, the City of Hoonah's most recent petition to form a borough was narrowly approved last November by the Local Boundary Commission and is scheduled for a resident vote this summer. The most recent new borough in Alaska, Petersburg, was formed in 2013.

If Hoonah prevails this time, it will become Alaska's 20th borough, called Xunaa. The petition faces headwinds, however.

The city says a borough designation would give it more control in developing Hoonah's cruise ship industry, but it faces opposition from some surrounding communities over boundary and taxation questions as well as a dissenting report from several commission members.

According to KTOO, the City of Gustavus may file for a reconsideration of the petition with the commission. Gustavus, Pelican, and Tenakee Springs excluded themselves from the potential new borough.

Significant hydropower boost on the horizon with recent grant

Improving hydropower is also on the agenda this

More Hoonah characteristics, 2023

Employed (age 16+)	57.8%	Education (age 25+)	
Private-sector	54.8%	Less than 9th grade	1.1%
Government	39.2%	9th to 12th grade	3.5%
Unemployed	12.6%	Diploma/GED	40.7%
		Some college	26.4%
Per capita income	\$42,061	Associate degree	9.3%
Household income*	\$81,406	Bachelor's degree	13.6%
		Grad/prof degree	5.4%

*Median

Note: Margins of error can be significant for places this small.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2023

The new hydropower addition will double Hoonah's average capacity, cutting its reliance on diesel.



The Gartina Falls Hydroelectric run-of-river system near Hoonah currently provides 25-30 percent of the city's power, on average. Photo by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

year. In January, a rural clean power grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded \$7.4 million to the Inside Passage Electric Cooperative to develop a second run-of-river hydropower system, technology that doesn't require dams.

The co-op's goal is to generate enough additional hydroelectricity to power 543 Hoonah homes. The city's current hydropower averages 25-30 percent, and the addition will bump it up to 50-60 percent.

According to IPEC CEO and general manager Brandon Shaw, construction on the two-year project could begin as early as this fall, if permitting can be completed quickly.

"It will significantly reduce our diesel dependence, allowing us at times to be on 100 percent hydropower," Shaw said. "That would be a first for Hoonah."

The addition will be within a mile of the existing Gartina Falls creek infrastructure, so it will be easy and cost-effective to connect the new "salmon-friendly" project, he said, which will be built well above spawning grounds.

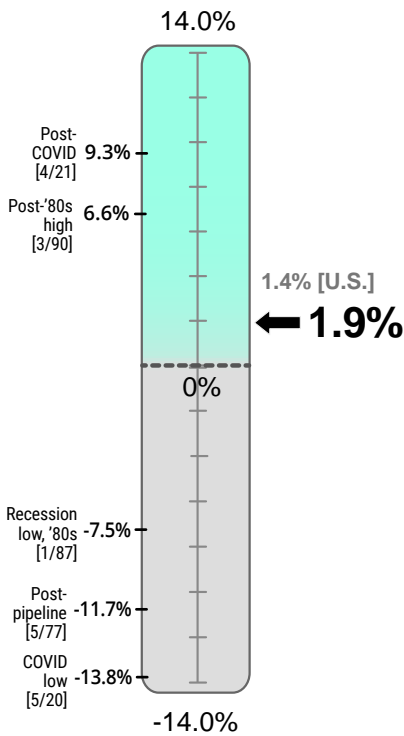
Sara Whitney is the editor of *Alaska Economic Trends*. Reach her in Juneau at (907) 465-6561 or sara.whitney@alaska.gov.

Gauging The Economy



Job Growth

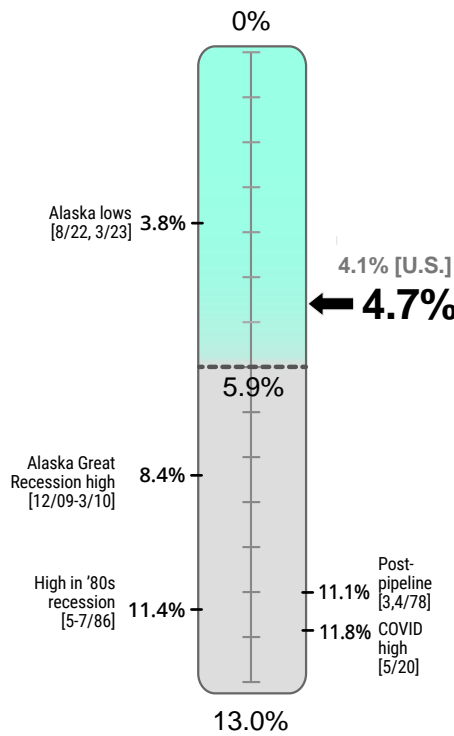
December 2024
Over-the-year percent change



Alaska's December employment was 1.9 percent above last December while national employment was up 1.4 percent over the same period.

Unemployment Rate

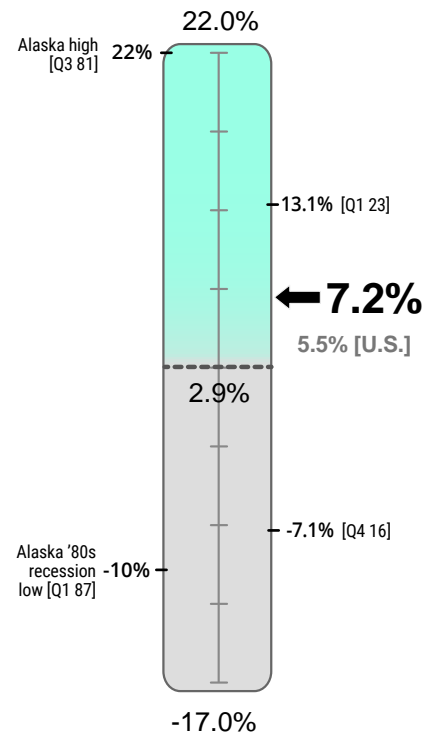
December 2024
Seasonally adjusted



Alaska's unemployment rate has climbed nearly a percentage point since early 2023 but remains well below its 10-year average.

Wage Growth

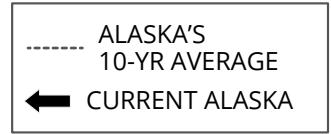
2nd Quarter 2024
Over-the-year percent change



Total wages paid by Alaska employers have shown strong growth in recent quarters.

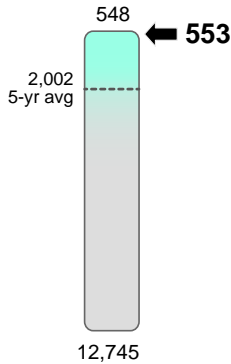
Wages were up 7.2 percent from year-ago levels in the second quarter of 2024 — well above the 5.5 percent growth for the U.S. — and 26.9 percent above second quarter 2019.

Gauging The Economy



Initial Claims

Unemployment, week ending Jan. 11, 2025*

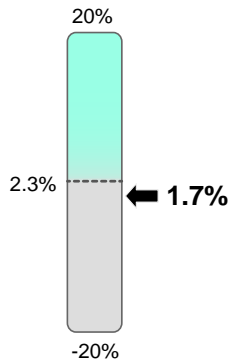


Pandemic-driven high claims loads have fallen, and new claims for benefits are well below their long-term average.

*Four-week moving average ending with specified week

GDP Growth

3rd Quarter 2024
Over-the-year percent change*

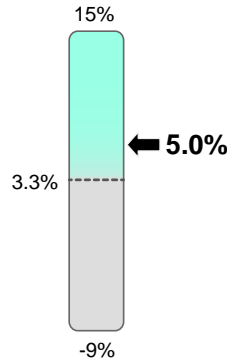


Gross domestic product is the value of the goods and services a state produces. It's an important economic measure but also a volatile one for Alaska because commodity prices influence the numbers so much — especially oil prices.

*In current dollars

Personal Income Growth

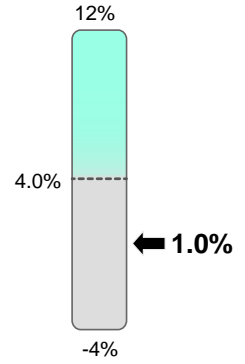
3rd Quarter 2024
Over-the-year percent change



Personal income consists of three main parts: 1) wages and salaries; 2) dividends, interest, and rents; and 3) transfer payments (payments from governments to individuals).

Change in Home Prices

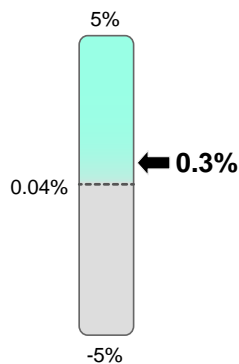
Single-family, percent change from prior year, Q3 2024



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

Population Growth

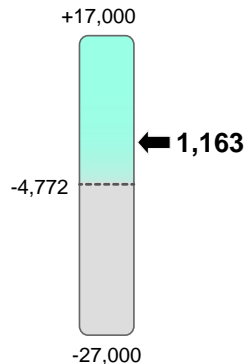
2023 to 2024



After four years of decline, Alaska's population has grown slightly in each of the last four years as natural increase (births minus deaths) has slightly exceeded migration losses.

Net Migration

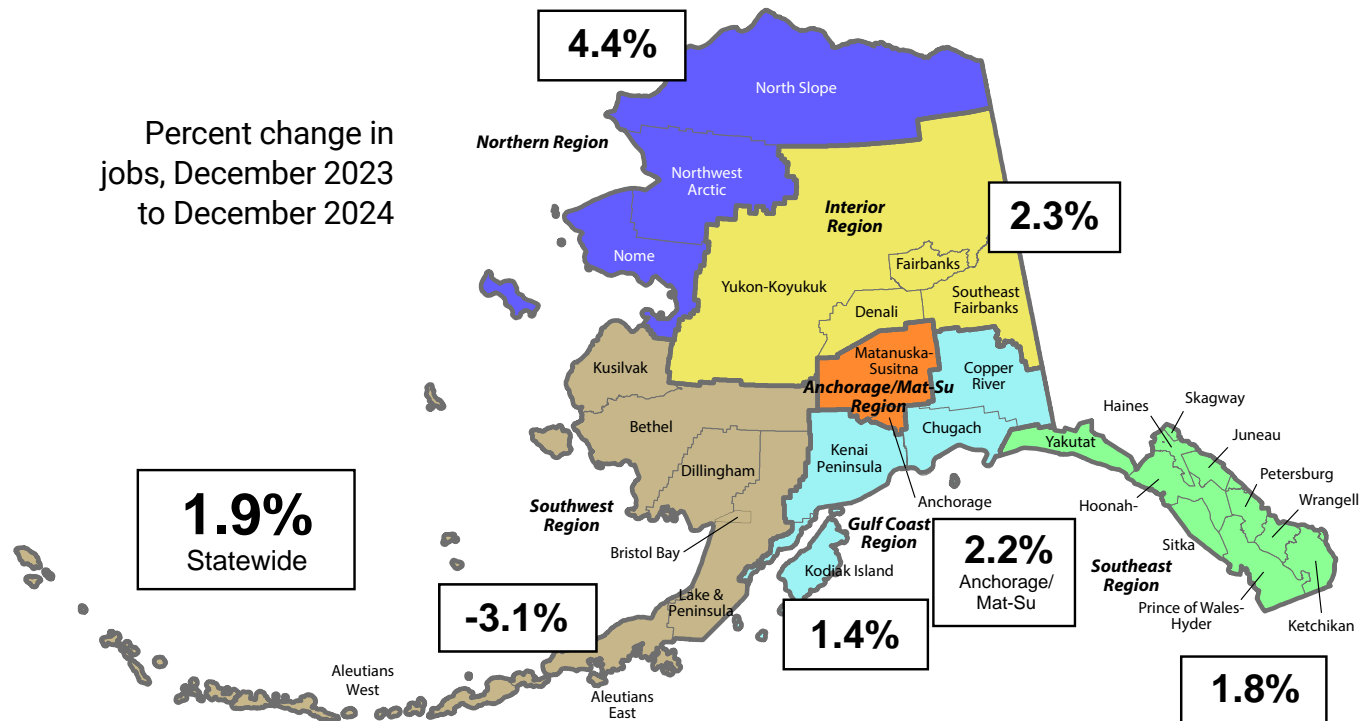
2023 to 2024



The state had net migration losses for the 12th consecutive year in 2024. Losses were on par with 2023 and significantly smaller than the late 2010s. Net migration is the number who moved to Alaska minus the number who left.

Employment Growth by Region

Percent change in jobs, December 2023 to December 2024



Unemployment Rates

Seasonally adjusted

	Prelim.		Revised
	12/24	11/24	12/23
United States	4.1	4.2	3.8
Alaska	4.7	4.6	4.6

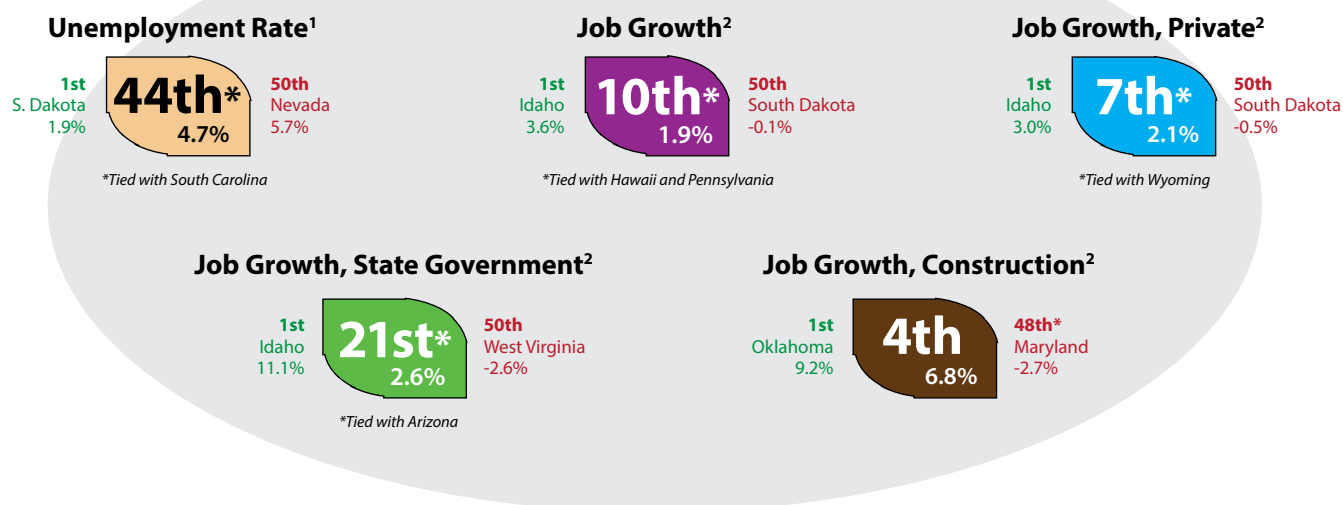
Not seasonally adjusted

	Prelim.		Revised
	12/24	11/24	12/23
United States	3.8	4.0	3.5
Alaska	4.7	4.9	4.6

Regional, not seasonally adjusted

	Prelim.			Revised		
	12/24	11/24	12/23	12/24	11/24	12/23
Interior Region	4.6	4.8	4.5			
Denali Borough	14.7	12.2	12.2			
Fairbanks N Star Borough	4.1	4.4	4.2			
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	5.5	5.5	5.6			
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	10.7	10.0	8.8			
Northern Region	7.5	7.8	7.1			
Nome Census Area	8.1	7.8	7.3			
North Slope Borough	5.6	5.9	4.6			
Northwest Arctic Borough	8.9	9.7	9.6			
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	4.0	4.2	4.0			
Anchorage, Municipality	3.7	3.9	3.6			
Mat-Su Borough	4.9	5.2	5.1			
Southwest Region	9.5	9.5	8.8			
Aleutians East Borough	5.8	4.9	5.9			
Aleutians West Census Area	4.8	5.2	5.1			
Bethel Census Area	9.9	10.2	9.6			
Bristol Bay Borough	6.8	8.6	5.6			
Dillingham Census Area	9.0	8.8	6.5			
Kusilvak Census Area	15.4	15.6	13.9			
Lake and Peninsula Borough	8.8	8.4	7.2			
Gulf Coast Region	5.6	5.8	6.0			
Kenai Peninsula Borough	5.2	5.4	5.3			
Kodiak Island Borough	7.2	6.1	8.6			
Chugach Census Area	6.3	7.6	6.6			
Copper River Census Area	7.7	8.8	9.5			
Southeast Region	4.7	4.8	4.5			
Haines Borough	9.5	8.6	9.8			
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	6.3	7.6	8.2			
Juneau, City and Borough	3.6	3.8	3.6			
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	4.6	5.2	4.2			
Petersburg Borough	9.4	8.1	6.2			
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	7.0	7.3	6.2			
Sitka, City and Borough	3.1	3.1	3.5			
Skagway, Municipality	15.8	13.7	12.9			
Wrangell, City and Borough	4.4	5.3	5.8			
Yakutat, City and Borough	6.4	7.4	5.9			

How Alaska Ranks



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

¹December seasonally adjusted unemployment rates

²December employment, over-the-year percent change

*Two states don't produce construction job estimates: Delaware and Hawaii.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Other Economic Indicators

	Current		Year ago	Change
Urban Alaska Consumer Price Index (CPI-U, base: 1982-84=100)	268.039	2nd half 2024	262.806	+2.0%
Commodity prices				
Crude oil, Alaska North Slope,* per barrel	\$71.66	Dec 2024	\$78.55	-8.8%
Natural gas, Henry Hub, per thousand cubic feet (mcf)	\$3.41	Dec 2024	\$2.54	+34.2%
Gold, per oz. COMEX	\$2,767.60	1/22/2024	\$2,019.80	+37.0%
Silver, per oz. COMEX	\$31.24	1/22/2024	\$22.16	+41.0%
Copper, per lb. COMEX	\$4.27	1/22/2024	\$3.76	+13.6%
Bankruptcies				
Business	56	Q3 2024	48	+16.7%
Personal	14	Q3 2024	7	+100%
	42	Q3 2024	41	+2.4%
Unemployment insurance claims				
Initial filings	3,319	Dec 2024	4,065	-18.4%
Continued filings	30,964	Dec 2024	30,373	2.0%
Claimant count	6,894	Dec 2024	7,614	-9.5%

*Department of Revenue estimate

Sources for this page and the preceding three pages include Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; Bloomberg; U.S. Census Bureau; Yahoo Finance: COMEX; Alaska Department of Revenue; and U.S. Courts, 9th Circuit