

# A look at Alaska's hourly wages

## Pay for specific occupations in 2023 and how we compare

### Average wages in 2023

State/territory	Hourly	Yearly
District of Columbia	\$51.07	\$106,230
Massachusetts	\$38.62	\$80,330
New York	\$37.80	\$78,620
Washington	\$37.56	\$78,130
California	\$37.00	\$76,960
New Jersey	\$35.57	\$73,980
Connecticut	\$35.45	\$73,740
Maryland	\$35.40	\$73,620
Colorado	\$34.60	\$71,960
Virginia	\$33.68	\$70,050
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>\$33.60</b>	<b>\$69,880</b>
Illinois	\$32.27	\$67,130
Minnesota	\$32.07	\$66,700
Oregon	\$32.07	\$66,710
Rhode Island	\$32.02	\$66,610
New Hampshire	\$31.78	\$66,110
Delaware	\$31.73	\$65,990
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>\$31.48</b>	<b>\$65,470</b>
Hawaii	\$31.27	\$65,030
Arizona	\$30.31	\$63,040
Vermont	\$30.18	\$62,780
Pennsylvania	\$29.77	\$61,920
Georgia	\$29.45	\$61,250
Texas	\$29.44	\$61,240
Utah	\$29.36	\$61,070
Michigan	\$29.13	\$60,600
Florida	\$28.95	\$60,210
Maine	\$28.85	\$60,000
Ohio	\$28.79	\$59,890
North Carolina	\$28.71	\$59,730
Wisconsin	\$28.61	\$59,500
North Dakota	\$28.39	\$59,050
Nevada	\$28.32	\$58,900
Nebraska	\$27.92	\$58,080
Wyoming	\$27.85	\$57,930
Missouri	\$27.68	\$57,580
New Mexico	\$27.65	\$57,520
Indiana	\$27.12	\$56,420
Iowa	\$27.12	\$56,400
Kansas	\$27.05	\$56,270
Tennessee	\$26.94	\$56,030
Montana	\$26.88	\$55,920
Idaho	\$26.75	\$55,640
South Carolina	\$26.08	\$54,250
Kentucky	\$25.97	\$54,030
Oklahoma	\$25.70	\$53,450
Louisiana	\$25.69	\$53,440
Alabama	\$25.67	\$53,400
South Dakota	\$25.59	\$53,230
West Virginia	\$25.10	\$52,200
Arkansas	\$24.64	\$51,250
Virgin Islands	\$24.34	\$50,620
Mississippi	\$22.87	\$47,570
Guam	\$20.29	\$42,210
Puerto Rico	\$16.40	\$34,120

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages Program

By SAMANTHA JENKINS

While the previous article looked extensively at jobs and wages from an industry perspective, adding a second data set allows us to narrow the focus to specific occupations and what they pay per hour in Alaska.

Most of the data we provide on jobs are by industry, but a program we conduct with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates hourly wages for 550 to 600 specific job titles each year in the state. Alaska publishes numbers for four areas: statewide, Anchorage/Mat-Su, Fairbanks, and "balance of state." This federal-state program also covers the nation, states, and some cities, allowing for broad comparisons. (See the sidebar on the next page for more.)

Alaska's average hourly wage, \$33.60 in 2023, equals \$69,880 a year. The median, which uses the middle value to reduce the influence of very high and low pay, was about \$26.99 an hour or \$56,140 a year.

Alaska's average wage ranked 11th among states. The national average was \$31.48 per hour, or \$65,470 annually. (See the table on the left.)

### What the largest occupations in Alaska pay

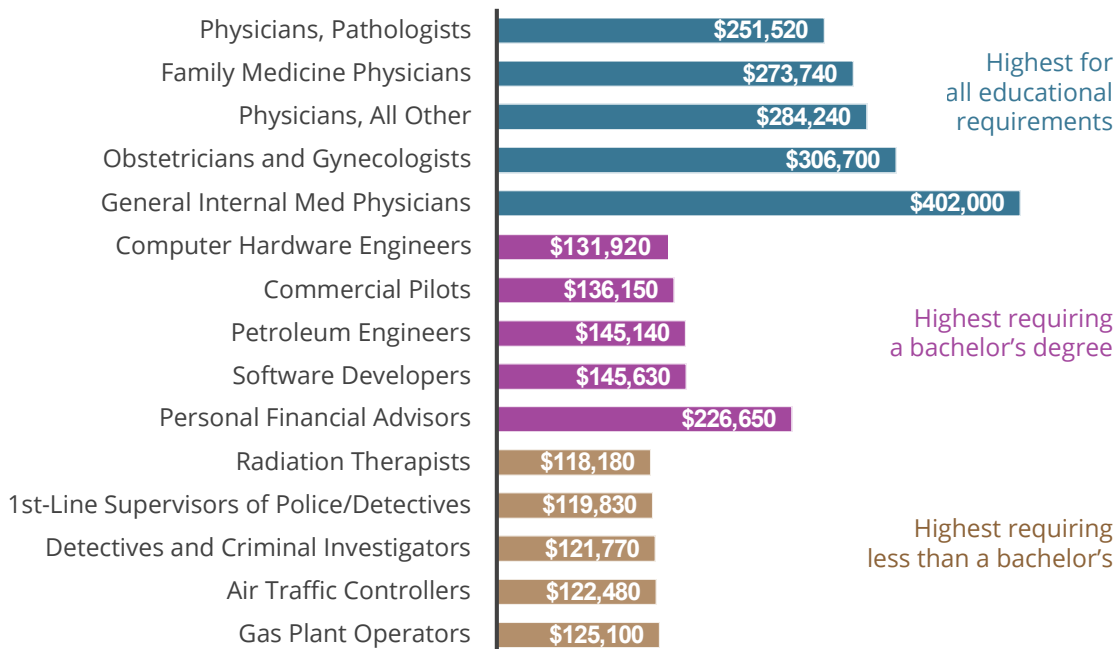
The 10 largest occupations in Alaska represented roughly a fifth of all jobs in 2023. See the table below for the list and their hourly wages.

### Wages for the largest occupations in 2023

Occupation	Hourly
Retail Salespersons	\$18.95
Stockers and Order Fillers	\$19.89
Registered Nurses	\$52.51
General and Operations Managers	\$58.09
Fast Food and Counter Workers	\$14.91
Cashiers	\$17.04
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	\$18.53
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeepers	\$18.50
1st-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$32.73
Office Clerks, General	\$23.41

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages Program

## Highest-paying Alaska occupations by education required in 2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages Program

Eight of the 10 paid lower-than-average wages, as they are service jobs with low educational requirements. The two largest were retail salespeople and stockers/order fillers.

Registered nurses, however, made 56 percent more than the average statewide wage, and general and operations managers earned about 73 percent more.

### Pay, education, and how they compare

The exhibit above shows Alaska's highest-wage occupations in a few different ways.

The bottom grouping shows the highest wages for nonmanagement jobs that require less than a bachelor's degree. All of these have low job counts in Alaska.

The middle grouping shows those that do require a bachelor's degree. Two of the top five in this category are STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) positions, showing the earning potential of many jobs in the STEM fields.

The top grouping shows the highest-wage occupations in Alaska regardless of education requirements. It's dominated by medical occupations that require a graduate degree, with general internal medicine physicians topping the list at about \$402,000 a year.

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### About hourly wage data by occupation

The Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics Program, or OEWS, produces occupation, employment, and wage data for more than 800 occupations in 600-plus metropolitan areas, every state, and the nation.

OEWS estimates wages and jobs through a survey and statistical analysis, so because these are estimates, they should be treated as approximations rather than actual counts.

More data and program information are available on the [Bureau of Labor statistics website for OEWS](#) or [our website](#). For a complete listing of occupations and wages in Alaska and its areas on our OEWS site, click that link and select "download CSV file."