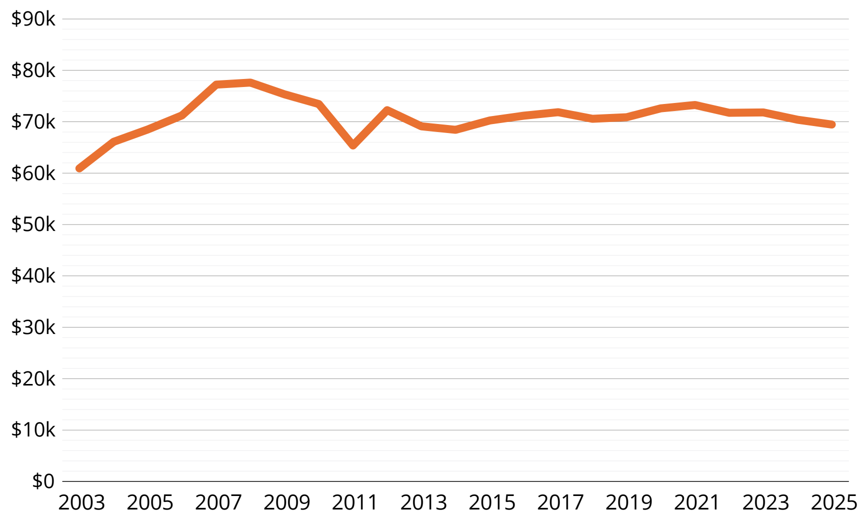
Debt in Alaska hits a decade low

Despite that decline, rising delinquency is a trend to watch

By ROB KREIGER

Per capita debt* in Alaska, 2003-2025



*Adjusted for inflation
Source: State Level Household Debt Statistics 2003-2025, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, February 2026

The average amount of debt per person in Alaska households hit a decade-plus low in 2025. Adjusted for inflation, per capita debt fell to $69,460, the lowest level since 2014.

While debt has been trending downward since 2021, the percentage of balances that are 90 days past due has been rising, suggesting households are having a harder time managing their debt. Delinquency rates in every major category — auto loans, credit cards, mortgages, and student loans — increased in 2025.

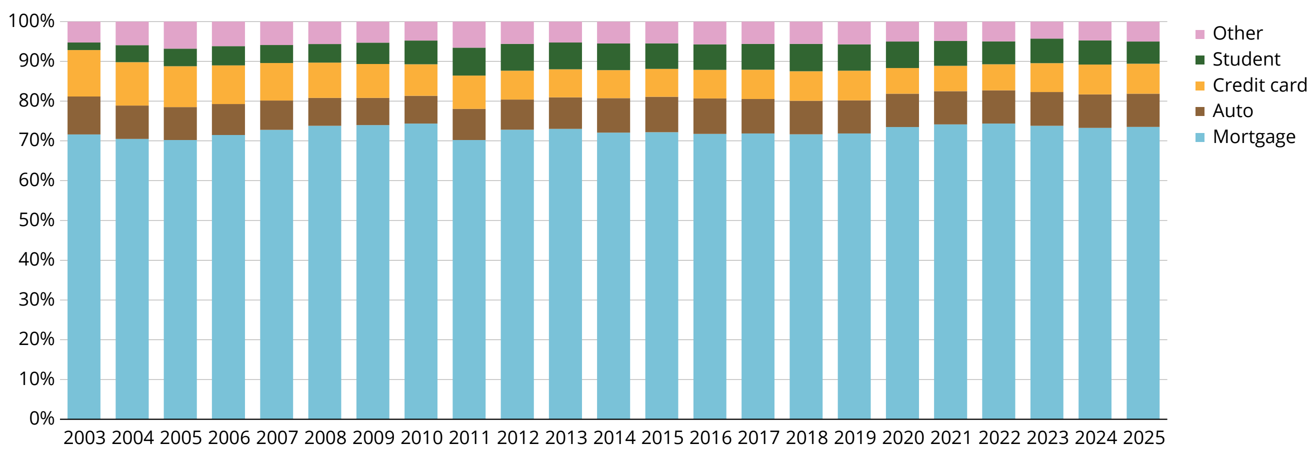
Federal student loan payments, which were suspended during the pandemic, restarted in October 2024. Since then, delinquency rates on student loans have jumped from less than 1 percent to near pre-pandemic levels.

Although Alaska's delinquency rates rose across the board in 2025, the other increases were small.

However, Alaska credit card debt delinquency has risen to its highest level in more than 20 years, and auto and mortgage loan delinquency rates have also crept up to multi-year highs.

Despite rising delinquency, Alaskans are managing

Alaska debt by type, 2003 to 2025



Source: State Level Household Debt Statistics 2003-2025, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, February 2026 debt better than Americans overall. Alaska's debt delinquency rates tend to follow U.S. patterns, but national rates are typically higher, particularly for auto loans and credit cards.

Why debt matters

On its own, the amount of debt a household has doesn't reflect its financial stability. A household can have high debt levels but also high incomes, for example, and a low debt-to-income ratio. On the other hand, debt can be low even when income is low, so the relative debt load can be high and create a greater financial strain.

What matters more is how debt is being managed; that is, whether people are paying it off in a timely way. Regardless of debt or income levels, falling behind on payments signals strain and has consequences.

In extreme cases, missed payments can result in repossession of vehicles or other assets, or foreclosure on homes. But just missing a payment or two can result in higher interest rates, less ability to borrow, and lower credit scores, consequences that can further strain finances.

Alaskans' debt hit its lowest level in more than a decade

Alaska's inflation-adjusted per capita household debt peaked at $77,619 in 2008, and began to drop during the national Great Recession as credit access tightened. In subsequent years, debt levels rose but remained within a tight range.

Household debt consists of five major categories. In addition to mortgage, credit card, auto loan, and student loan debt, the "other" category includes personal loans and retail or store credit cards.

Mortgage debt is the biggest by far, at 73.5 percent of the total in 2025.

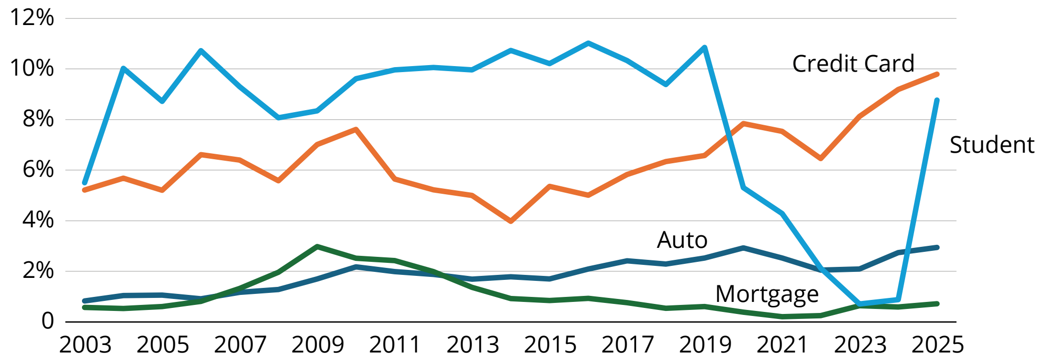
Auto loans and credit card debt have typically been second or third over the years. In 2025, auto loans were the second-largest category at 8.3 percent, followed by credit cards at 7.6 percent. Student loans and "other" were the smallest at 5.6 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

Debt and delinquency by state, 2025

		Delinquency rates			
State	Debt per capita	Auto	Credit card	Mortgage	Student
D.C.	$102,400	13.6%	11.2%	1.0%	5.6%
Colorado	$92,690	4.0%	11.1%	0.8%	7.5%
California	$87,850	4.8%	13.2%	0.6%	7.5%
Washington	$85,880	3.8%	9.3%	0.6%	6.2%
Hawaii	$83,480	3.7%	10.2%	0.6%	8.4%
Utah	$83,350	3.0%	9.5%	0.7%	5.9%
Maryland	$81,390	6.0%	11.7%	1.1%	8.2%
Massachusetts	$77,400	2.6%	10.3%	0.7%	5.7%
Virginia	$77,060	4.6%	9.9%	0.7%	6.7%
Nevada	$71,260	6.2%	16.3%	0.9%	8.4%
Arizona	$70,850	5.6%	13.7%	0.9%	8.1%
Oregon	$69,640	3.6%	9.5%	0.6%	6.9%
New Jersey	$69,550	4.2%	11.4%	1.1%	7.3%
Alaska	**$69,460**	**2.9%**	**9.8%**	**0.7%**	**8.8%**
Idaho	$69,450	3.3%	9.5%	0.7%	6.2%
Connecticut	$67,530	3.1%	10.5%	1.0%	9.1%
New Hampshire	$66,480	3.0%	9.8%	0.6%	4.8%
Delaware	$66,170	6.1%	12.2%	1.1%	9.3%
Minnesota	$63,860	3.0%	8.6%	0.6%	5.8%
U.S.	**$63,200**	**5.2%**	**12.4%**	**0.9%**	**8.3%**
Georgia	$62,070	7.0%	13.9%	1.3%	10.7%
Florida	$61,890	5.5%	14.9%	1.4%	9.2%
N. Carolina	$61,070	6.1%	12.5%	0.9%	10.7%
Rhode Island	$60,090	3.5%	11.4%	1.0%	7.2%
Texas	$60,020	5.8%	14.2%	1.2%	9.5%
S. Carolina	$59,460	6.2%	13.4%	1.2%	11.1%
New York	$59,420	4.3%	12.9%	1.4%	7.7%
Montana	$58,390	4.0%	9.8%	0.5%	9.9%
Wyoming	$57,120	3.5%	10.5%	0.8%	9.6%
Tennessee	$56,690	5.7%	11.6%	0.7%	7.6%
Illinois	$54,050	5.6%	11.6%	1.2%	7.8%
Maine	$53,360	3.1%	9.8%	0.8%	5.6%
N. Dakota	$53,300	2.9%	9.0%	0.9%	7.3%
Vermont	$52,910	2.8%	9.0%	0.6%	7.5%
S. Dakota	$52,270	3.7%	9.1%	0.8%	5.8%
Pennsylvania	$50,360	4.8%	12.3%	1.1%	7.8%
Nebraska	$49,530	3.3%	9.8%	0.7%	7.2%
Missouri	$49,420	5.6%	11.4%	0.8%	6.8%
Indiana	$49,330	6.3%	11.7%	1.1%	8.4%
New Mexico	$49,260	6.1%	11.9%	1.0%	7.9%
Wisconsin	$49,210	3.6%	8.0%	0.5%	4.3%
Alabama	$48,910	6.6%	12.2%	1.2%	11.2%
Louisiana	$48,250	6.6%	14.2%	1.8%	11.9%
Michigan	$48,050	6.3%	11.3%	0.9%	7.7%
Iowa	$47,410	3.5%	10.3%	0.8%	6.6%
Ohio	$46,780	5.3%	11.1%	1.0%	8.5%
Kansas	$46,720	4.0%	10.7%	0.8%	10.0%
Oklahoma	$43,170	5.5%	13.3%	1.3%	8.8%
Kentucky	$43,160	4.9%	11.8%	1.0%	9.2%
Arkansas	$43,090	5.6%	13.8%	1.1%	7.6%
Mississippi	$41,450	7.7%	13.4%	1.7%	13.4%
West Virginia	$37,850	5.3%	13.7%	1.2%	10.8%

Source: State Level Household Debt Statistics 2003-2025, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, February 2026

Alaska debt delinquency rates by category, 2003 to 2025



Source: State Level Household Debt Statistics 2003-2025, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, February 2026

About the data

Per capita debt is a measure of total debt divided by a state's population. However, a "per person" debt amount doesn't reflect personal levels of mortgage, student loan, or other debt.

For example, the average Alaska mortgage holder owes significantly more than the average $51,070 mentioned in this article, because the per capita numbers include people who don't hold mortgage debt, such as children, renters, and people who have paid off their homes. Similarly, the average of $3,860 in student loan debt per capita is much less than the average owed by people who *have* student loan debt.

While other data sets show how a person's student loan debt compares with other students and the average level of mortgage debt among mortgage borrowers, the numbers in this article are for broad, population-wide comparisons over time for Alaska.

Debt highest in D.C., lowest in W. Virginia

Debt varies widely by state. The two highest in 2025 were Washington, D.C., at $102,400, and Colorado at $92,690. Alaska was 14th at $69,460. The two lowest were West Virginia at $37,850 and Mississippi at $41,450. (See the table on the previous page.)

On their own, these rankings don't show how well a state's residents are managing debt. Adding delinquency rates to the equation can make places with similar debt levels, such as D.C. and Colorado, look different.

Delinquency rates clarify the picture

Delinquency rates in this article are the percentage of the total debt balance at least 90 days past due in 2025.

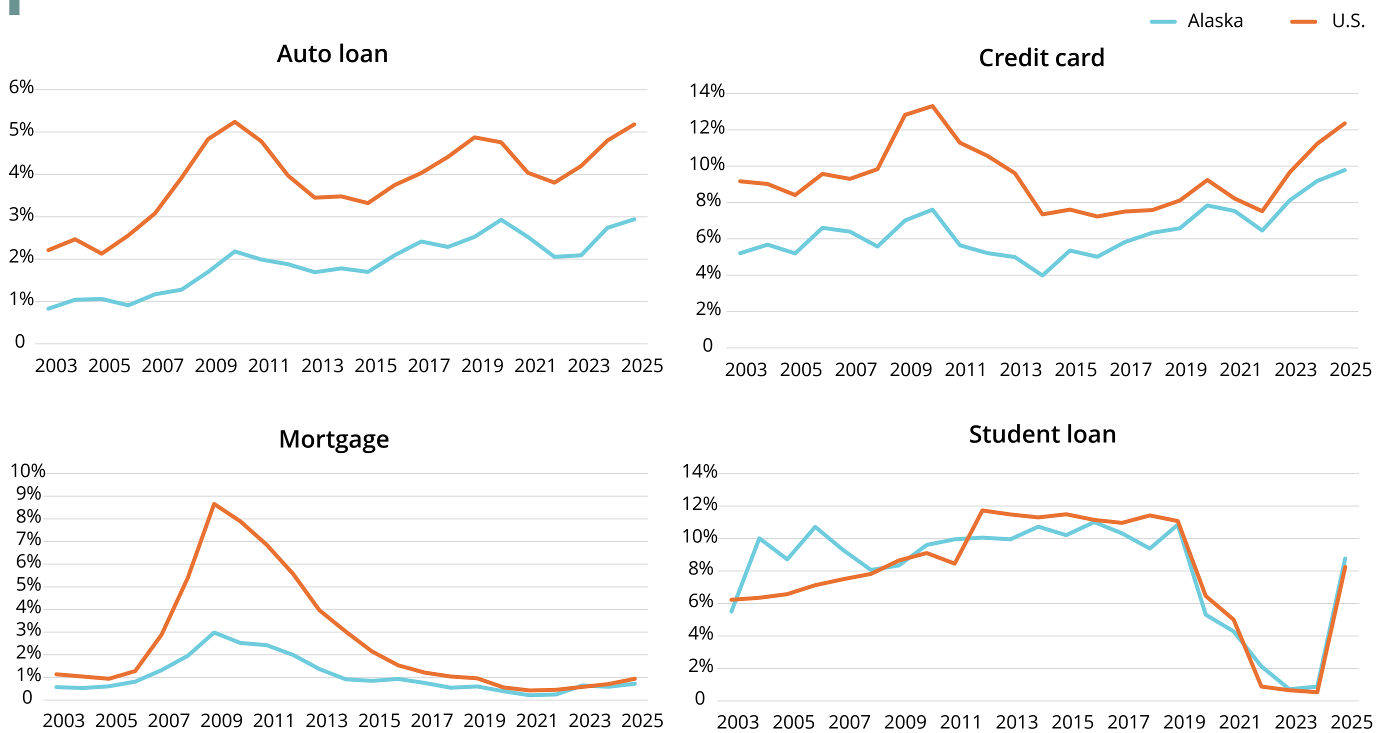
In D.C., where overall debt was highest in the country, auto loan delinquency was also highest at 13.6 percent, about two-and-a-half times the U.S. rate. Mortgage delinquency was slightly higher than the national average, and credit card and student loan debt were lower. Together, these factors suggest that D.C. households have high levels of debt, and auto loan payments are a challenge.

Auto loan delinquency in Colorado was just 4 percent, and rates in all other categories were also below national averages, despite Colorado having the second-highest overall debt level in the country, suggesting Colorado households are managing their debt relatively well.

On the other hand, West Virginia and Mississippi had higher-than-average delinquency rates in every category, despite having the lowest debt per capita, so borrowers in these states were more likely to be behind on payments across the board.

In Alaska, delinquency rates were lower than average in auto loans, credit cards, and mortgages, but student loan

How Alaska and the nation compare for delinquency rates by category



Source: State Level Household Debt Statistics 2003-2025, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, February 2026

delinquency was slightly higher. For the most part, Alaska's delinquency trends have tracked with the nation over time, although Alaska's rates have remained below the national averages in most debt categories.

Still, delinquency rates in Alaska and nationally have risen in recent years, and both hit multi-year highs in all categories in 2025.

Delinquency up broadly in Alaska

Each delinquency category in Alaska rose in 2025. While rates fell in 2021 and 2022 during the pandemic, they began to creep up in 2023, except for student loans. Federal student loan payments remained on pause most of that year as part of pandemic relief.

Aside from student loans, Alaska credit card delinquency rates rose the most from 2022 to 2025, followed by auto loans and mortgages. Although the delinquency rate increase for credit cards has slowed since 2023, delinquency recently hit its highest level in more than 20 years.

Alaska auto loan delinquency has been rising since 2023, and last year the rate tied its previous high of 2.9 percent in 2020.

Mortgage delinquency has remained under 1 percent for more than a decade. After peaking at 3.0 percent in 2009, the rate declined steadily for years and then settled into a tight range. The rate increased in 2025, but marginally.

The federal moratorium on student loan repayments ended in October 2023, and borrowers had an "on-ramp" period for additional protection over the following year.

Because payments were paused, student loan delinquency in Alaska fell from 10.9 percent in 2019 to under 1 percent in 2023 and 2024. As payments resumed in late 2024 and 2025, the delinquency rate spiked, although not as high as it was in 2019.

Lower delinquency in Alaska for most debt categories

The graphs above show how Alaska's delinquency rates compare to the national numbers.

Auto loan delinquency rates are a good example of the way Alaska's pattern tends to match the U.S., but at lower rates.

In 2025, the U.S. rate hit its previous peak of 5.2 percent, set in 2010 in the wake of the nationwide financial crisis. Although Alaska's auto loan delinquency picked up in 2010, it remained far below the national rate.

Auto delinquency in Alaska hit its highest level in 2020 and 2025, at 2.9 percent.

Credit card debt in Alaska and the nation has been on an upward trajectory since 2022. After dropping in the two years after COVID-19 hit, credit card delinquency climbed rapidly, and in 2025, Alaska's rate reached a new peak of 9.8 percent. As with auto loans, the late 2000s were harder on the rest of the nation; U.S. credit card delinquency peaked at 13.3 percent in 2010.

Mortgage delinquency in Alaska has been almost identical to the nation in recent years, but it looked very different in the mid-to-late 2000s, again because of the national housing crash, which didn't hit Alaska as hard. In short, Alaska had less speculative real estate development and subprime lending, which contributed to the housing bubble that burst in the late 2000s. Nationally, mortgage delinquency peaked at 8.7 percent in 2009. Alaska also peaked that year, but at just 3.0 percent. Rates for both have also risen in recent years, but only slightly.

Alaska's student loan debt delinquency is close to the nation's, although it's also the only category where Alaska's rate was higher last year. Delinquency rose across the U.S. as payments were restarted. Delinquency shot up to 8.8 percent in Alaska and 8.3 percent nationally in 2025.

While student loan delinquency wasn't high historically in 2025, resumption of federal student loan payments added a layer of debt obligation to Alaska households they hadn't had since 2020.

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