

Alaskans working multiple jobs

Having another job became slightly more common before recession

By JOSHUA WARREN

More people in Alaska are working multiple jobs, and they're holding additional jobs for shorter periods on average than they did earlier in the decade.

In 2015, 11.2 percent of the state's workers held multiple jobs, up from 10.7 percent in 2010.

While just 32.3 percent had worked in their second job for a year or less in 2010, by 2015 it was 44.8 percent. Those who held multiple jobs for a moderate period, three to six years, also declined over those five years but the longest-term multiple job holders, seven years or more, increased. (See Exhibit 1.)

The increase in multiple job holders predates the state recession, which began around the fourth quarter of 2015. The most likely explanation is that Alaska reached peak employment in recent years, so to fill positions, many employers had to hire someone who already had a job. Most of the occupations with high shares of multiple job holders were also the occupations that grew significantly between 2010 and 2015.

They aren't making more than people with one job

While yearly wages grew for all Alaska workers from 2010 to 2015, they increased less on average for those who held multiple jobs.

1 Shorter Second Job Duration

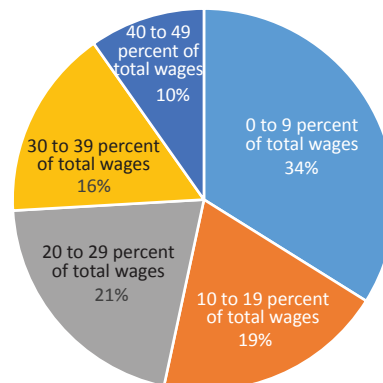
MULTIPLE JOB HOLDERS, 2010 AND 2015

Years held	2010		2015	
	Workers	Percent	Workers	Percent
1	14,139	32.3%	21,128	44.8%
2	8,943	20.4%	9,916	21.0%
3	6,053	13.8%	4,912	10.4%
4	4,313	9.9%	2,980	6.3%
5	3,260	7.4%	1,936	4.1%
6	2,606	6.0%	1,248	2.6%
7	4,458	10.2%	5,052	10.7%

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

2 Small Share of Total Wages

MULTIPLE JOB HOLDERS' OTHER JOBS, 2015



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

People who held extra jobs in 2010 earned almost \$2,000 more than those who worked just one. But although multiple job holders' overall wages had increased by 2015, they were earning about \$250 less than their single-job counterparts.

The fact that people are holding secondary jobs for shorter time periods is a likely reason for the decrease in average wages, as a larger percentage don't stay long enough to move past entry-level pay.

The percentage of total wages people get from their secondary jobs has remained about the same, though, and for most, a second job accounts for a small slice of total income. (See Exhibit 2.)

A majority earned less than 20 percent of their total wages from an additional job in 2015, and only about 10.1 percent came close to earning equal amounts from their primary and secondary jobs.

3 Top Secondary Occupations ALASKA, 2015

	Workers	Avg wage	Total from primary and secondary jobs
Retail Salespeople	2,705	\$4,900	\$30,859
Personal Care Aides	2,074	\$7,621	\$34,444
Cashiers	1,647	\$4,770	\$27,262
Waiters and Waitresses	1,564	\$6,087	\$31,677
Janitors and Cleaners, Exc Maids/Housekeepers	1,292	\$6,407	\$31,489
Food Prep and Serving Workers, Incl Fast Food	1,029	\$4,392	\$23,679
Construction Laborers	775	\$7,711	\$41,536
Office and Administrative Support Workers	773	\$6,944	\$37,947
Laborers/Freight, Stock, and Mail Movers, Hand	722	\$7,065	\$37,115
Bartenders	705	\$4,698	\$31,246

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

4 Wages by Gender ALASKA, 2015

	Workers	% of workers	Total wages	% of wages
Men	20,359	45.8%	\$958,146,269	53.0%
Women	24,055	54.2%	\$848,786,523	47.0%
Total	44,414		\$1,806,932,792	

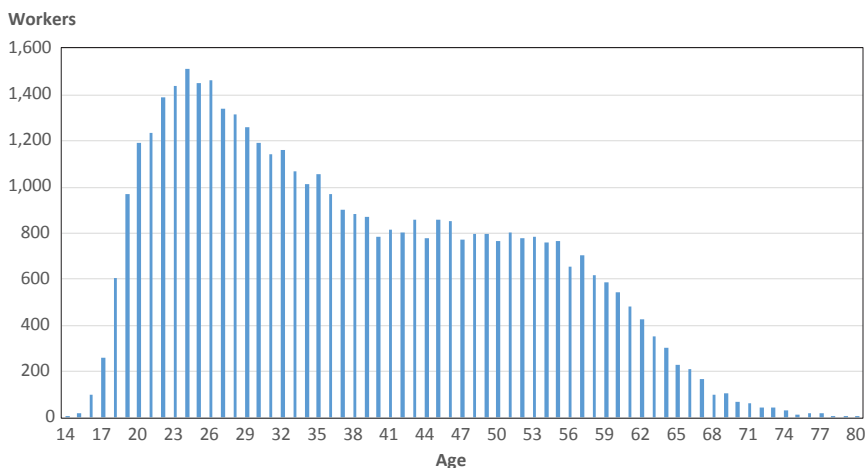
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Service industries are most common

The most common secondary occupations didn't change much between 2010 and 2015. They tend to be lower-paying and lower-skill occupations, possibly because many have flexible hours that allow for work outside the typical business day and also have fewer education and training requirements.

The five most common secondary occupations were retail salespeople, personal care aides, cashiers, waiters and waitresses, and janitors or cleaners. (See Exhibit 3.)

5 Most Multiple Job Holders Are Young ALASKA, 2015



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

Workers tend to go outside of their primary job's industry when getting a second job, with the exception of health care and private education, with most finding additional work in the same field. Construction also had a large percentage who worked more than one construction job. At the opposite end, few state government workers held more than one state government job.

Still mostly young and female

Another characteristic that didn't change much over the five-year period was that women are much more likely than men to hold a second job.

In Alaska, just 45.8 percent of multiple job holders were men — that’s nearly 4,000 fewer men than women working a second job. However, men earned a disproportionate share of total secondary wages, at 53 percent. (See Exhibit 4.)

Multiple job holders also remained young on average (see Exhibit 5), although the average age skewed a percentage point or two lower from 2010 to 2015.

In 2010, a higher percentage of multiple job holders were in their 40s and 50s, but in 2015, more were in the younger age groups or over 60. Older workers still tend to make more than their younger counterparts, though, regardless of the type of work or number of jobs held.

Most areas aren’t far from the average

The percentage of multiple job holders by region shifted modestly, with the Lake and Peninsula Borough’s increase the highest at 2.2 percentage points. Multiple job holders were down the most in the Denali Borough and Yakutat, dropping by 3.5 and 4.0 percentage points, respectively. (See Exhibit 6.)

In most regions, between 10 percent and 14 percent of workers hold multiple jobs. Bristol Bay and Aleutians East were the lowest; in fact, just 3.4 percent of workers in Bristol Bay worked a second job in 2015. This is likely somewhat misleading, though, as people in those regions often work second jobs in seafood harvesting, which isn’t included in the data because it’s considered self-employment.

Yakutat, Nome, and the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area had the highest rates of secondary employment, although none of those areas were much higher than average. The highest was Nome at 15.6 percent.

Joshua Warren is an economist in Juneau. Reach him at (907) 465-6032 or joshua.warren@alaska.gov.

6 Multiple Job Holders by Area

CHANGE FROM 2010 TO 2015

Region	Borough or census area	2015		Percent who held multiple jobs	
		Multiple job holders	Had just one job	2010	2015
Anc/Mat-Su	Anchorage, Municipality	20,633	148,298	11.1%	12.2%
Anc/Mat-Su	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	3,178	27,245	9.8%	10.4%
Gulf Coast	Kenai Peninsula Borough	2,982	25,653	9.7%	10.4%
Gulf Coast	Kodiak Island Borough	1,028	6,878	13.0%	13.0%
Gulf Coast	Valdez-Cordova Census Area	783	6,841	9.0%	10.3%
Interior	Denali Borough	372	4,025	12.0%	8.5%
Interior	Fairbanks North Star Borough	4,900	41,145	10.7%	10.6%
Interior	Southeast Fairbanks CA	292	2,921	8.9%	9.1%
Interior	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	493	2,935	14.0%	14.4%
Northern	Nome Census Area	916	4,950	15.8%	15.6%
Northern	North Slope Borough	1,710	22,108	7.0%	7.2%
Northern	Northwest Arctic Borough	504	4,001	11.7%	11.2%
Southeast	Haines Borough	220	1,481	12.1%	12.9%
Southeast	Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	121	963	13.0%	11.2%
Southeast	Juneau, City and Borough of	2,775	18,425	13.5%	13.1%
Southeast	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	1,084	8,490	11.1%	11.3%
Southeast	Petersburg Census Area	205	1,554	10.8%	11.7%
Southeast	Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	365	3,090	10.8%	10.6%
Southeast	Sitka, City and Borough	769	5,211	12.0%	12.9%
Southeast	Skagway, Municipality	207	1,279	14.8%	13.9%
Southeast	Wrangell, City and Borough	133	1,073	11.5%	11.0%
Southeast	Yakutat, City and Borough	56	338	18.2%	14.2%
Southwest	Aleutians East Borough	205	3,754	4.8%	5.2%
Southwest	Aleutians West Census Area	449	4,578	8.1%	8.9%
Southwest	Bethel Census Area	1,336	9,166	12.3%	12.7%
Southwest	Bristol Bay Borough	120	3,362	3.4%	3.4%
Southwest	Dillingham Census Area	397	3,289	11.0%	10.8%
Southwest	Lake and Peninsula Borough	192	1,378	10.0%	12.2%
Southwest	Kusilvak Census Area	482	3,021	15.6%	13.8%

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

About the data

Most of this article’s data are quarterly, which can make it hard to tell whether someone had multiple jobs or simply transitioned from one job to another if they worked two jobs in a single quarter.

To avoid counting people simply changing jobs, we only included workers whose jobs overlapped for multiple quarters — with one exception. A person who held the same job all year but worked an additional job for a single quarter is also considered a multiple job holder.