

Third Edition 2015



AEDC

Anchorage Economic
Development Corporation

Anchorage Employment Report

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All data referenced in this employment report is from the State of Alaska, Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development website: www.laborstats.alaska.gov and from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: www.bls.gov.

Report compiled by Anchorage Economic Development Corp. Research Department.

Report generously sponsored by First National Bank Alaska.

If you are interested in learning more about this data or are interested in how AEDC can help you develop a report, call AEDC at 907.258.3700.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT

The non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Anchorage in April was 5.3 percent, a 0.2 percent drop from the March revised rate. This is 0.2 percent higher than the national rate of 5.1 percent and 1.7 percent lower than the statewide rate of 7.0 percent. The April unemployment rate for Anchorage was unchanged from the same time in 2014. *As always, it should be noted that these are preliminary survey figures for April and will be revised next month.*

5.3%

April 2015
Unemployment Rate
for Anchorage

YEAR-TO-DATE UNEMPLOYMENT

The average year-to-date (YTD) non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Anchorage was 5.4 percent at the end of April, 0.1 percent lower than at this time last year. **An increase of 1,320 in the employment total and 1,205 in the Anchorage labor force during the YTD period has resulted in the reported unemployment total decreasing by 115.** The total number of unemployed people in Anchorage for the month of April is estimated at 8,464 (those actively looking for jobs), 94 more than April 2014. In the Mat-Su and Kenai Peninsula Boroughs, the YTD average monthly employment rate is down 1.0 percent from 2014 YTD for both communities (see the charts at the end of this report for more details).

5.4%

2015 YTD
Unemployment Rate
for Anchorage

It is important to note that these Anchorage unemployment numbers represent the labor force residing in Anchorage, and does not describe the number of filled positions in Anchorage. The industry employment estimates referenced in the remainder of this report are representative of the number of jobs in the Municipality of Anchorage, regardless of the job holder's place of residency.

ANCHORAGE INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

The Anchorage employment estimate for April, which includes total jobs in Anchorage held by city residents and commuters, is 155,100; 100 fewer jobs than in April 2014. **The YTD average for 2015 is 153,600, 225 jobs less when compared to YTD 2014.** This represents a 0.15 percent decrease in the total monthly average over the same period.

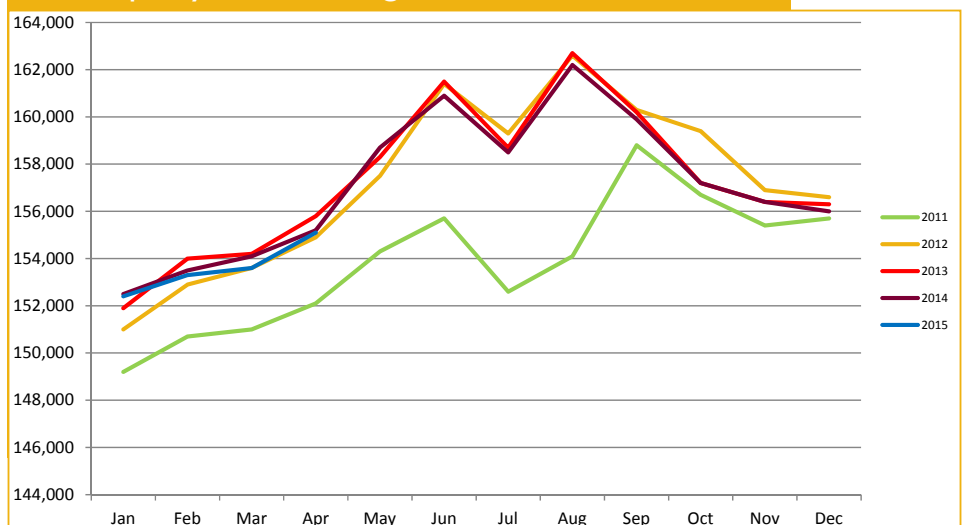
The private sector (total jobs minus government jobs) has shrunk by 375 jobs during this time, while Government employment has increased by 150. Federal jobs have declined by 100 so far, but Local Government jobs have increased by 200, occurring entirely in the Local Education sector.

In the Goods Producing category, the Mining & Logging industry (which includes Oil & Gas employment) is the only industry showing growth. Service Providing industries that have positive growth so far this year are Trade/Transportation/Utilities (TTU), Information and Government. Five of the ten major industries job estimates for April 2015 are at or above April 2014 totals.

155,100

Total jobs in Anchorage
April 2015 (preliminary)

ANCHORAGE EMPLOYMENT Municipality of Anchorage 2011-Present



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CONTINUED

MONTHLY REVISIONS

Each month, the Alaska Department of Labor's Research and Analysis Division revises the previous month employment numbers based on the availability of newer or late arriving data. The following tables show the revision changes to Anchorage and Alaska job totals in March, by industry.

Most adjustments are relatively minor; however, some changes do occur which are significant. Changes such as these are normally the result of rounding errors, job classification modifications, sample size or modeling issues, or errors within the industry.

MARCH 2015 REVISIONS, ANCHORAGE

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Preliminary Total</i>	<i>Revised Total</i>	<i>Net Change</i>
Goods Producing	12,700	12,800	+100
Manufacturing	1,800	1,900	+100
Services Providing	---	---	---
Trade/Transportation/Utilities	32,500	32,600	+100
Education & Health Services	25,100	25,200	+100
Government	---	---	---
Local Government	10,500	10,600	+100

MARCH 2015 REVISIONS, ALASKA

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Preliminary Total</i>	<i>Revised Total</i>	<i>Net Change</i>
Total Nonfarm	327,000	327,500	+500
Goods Producing	45,000	45,200	+200
Construction	15,100	15,300	+200
Services Providing	282,000	282,300	+300
Trade/Transportation/Utilities	62,600	62,700	+100
Retail Trade	36,000	36,100	+100
Financial Activities	11,700	11,800	+100
Professional & Business Services	28,200	28,100	-100
Education & Health Services	48,000	47,900	-100
Health Care	34,600	34,500	-100
Leisure & Hospitality	30,600	30,700	+100
Food Serv. & Drinking Places	18,700	18,800	+100
Other Services	11,600	11,700	+100
Government	83,100	83,200	+100
Local Government	42,000	42,100	+100
Local Education	23,900	24,000	+100

ANCHORAGE ECONOMY OVERVIEW

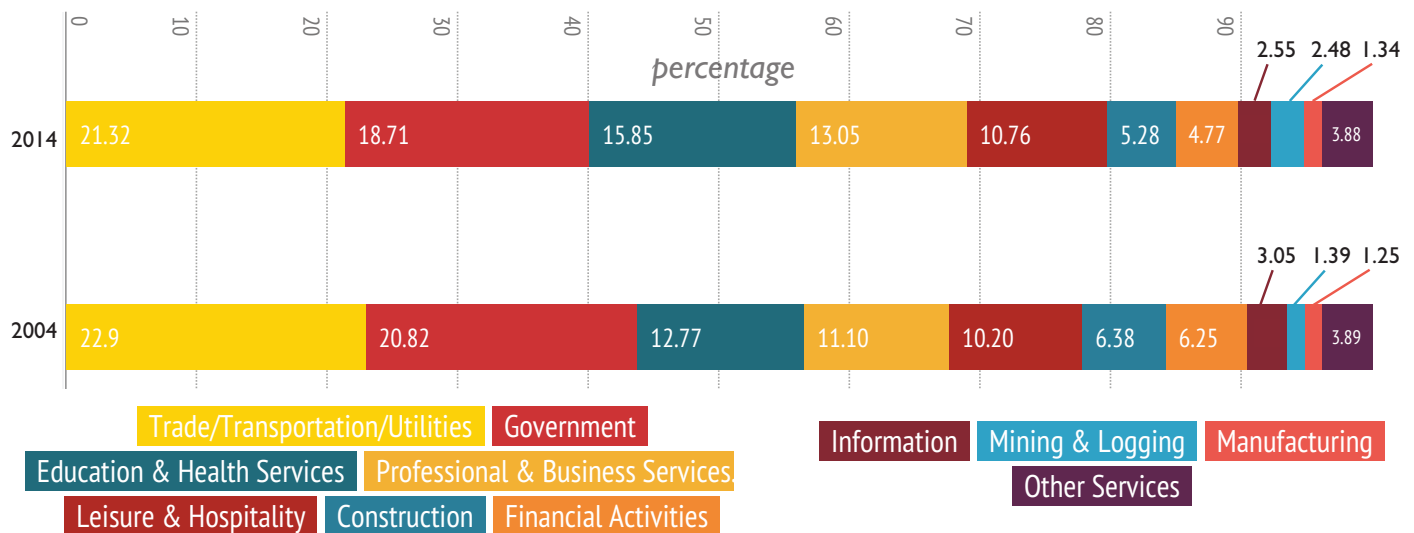
Many people describe Alaska's economy as a "three-legged stool" made up of three industry groups: Petroleum, Federal Government and Everything Else. The same holds true for Anchorage.

These basic sector industries, which grow the overall economy by bringing money into Alaska, are key to expanding the support industries in the state. Support industries are those that depend on the recirculation of money within Alaska.

These support industry jobs span the entire range of employment, including Trade, Construction, Transportation and Health Care sectors. When spending and employment by the Federal Government or businesses in the Petroleum sectors declines, this has a negative effect on all of these other job types. Lessening the State's dependence on these two sectors by growing the other basic industry sectors helps to mitigate the impact of fluctuations in the Petroleum and Federal Government groups and makes our economy more stable.

From the time AEDC was founded in 1987, one of our primary goals has been the diversification of Anchorage's economy. Attracting businesses, assisting entrepreneurs and improving the quality of life in our city are some of the ways AEDC works to accomplish this. Because employment data collection has changed since 1987, it's not possible to compare job count statistics from then to now. But, looking at comparable data from ten years ago, there are signs that employment diversification is occurring.

**INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT, BY SHARE OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT
ANCHORAGE MUNICIPALITY, 2004 & 2014**



As this chart shows, the overall share of employment in the Government industry has fallen over the last ten years, offset by gains in Educational & Health Services and Professional & Business Services.

This is a positive development for three key reasons:

1. This is direct evidence that the diversification of employment in Anchorage is happening. Jobs are shifting away from public to private employment, improving the economy's ability to absorb cuts in government spending.
2. Jobs in these developing sectors are predominantly high-skill, high-paying positions, and are key to growing other support industries like Leisure & Hospitality or the Retail sector.
3. These fields attract people in the critical "Creative Class," a group of knowledge-based workers thought to be the new leaders in innovation and entrepreneurship.

While these sectors are generally considered part of the support industries, the fact that they are growing indicates that consumers are substituting local services for those they had been sourcing from outside of the state. This helps to keep money cycling through our local economy rather than it "leaking" out of state, further fueling economic growth.

Although the development of "other" basic sectors is occurring slowly, the growth of the Anchorage economy, coupled with the reduction of the region's dependency on Government employment over the last ten years are encouraging signs that we're on the right path. As long as local economic development organizations continue to support business growth and expansion and the community remains committed to making the city America's #1 place to live, work and play, we can be confident that our city's economy will become more and more diverse in the coming years.

GOODS PRODUCING JOBS

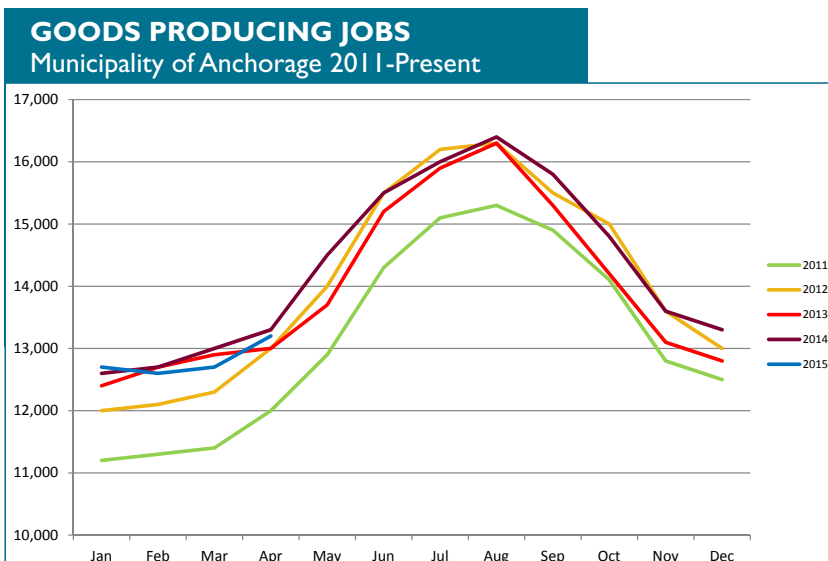
CONSTRUCTION WORK, MINING, OIL & GAS PRODUCTION, MANUFACTURING

With a job total of 13,200, employment in the Goods Producing* group has declined by 100 jobs compared to the same period a year ago. The only industry to gain jobs in the group has been Mining & Logging, gaining 50 jobs in 2015 when compared against the same period of 2014. Year-to-date in Anchorage, Construction employment is down 125 jobs and Manufacturing is down 75 jobs.

The Oil & Gas sector is part of the Mining & Logging industry. The job total for the Oil & Gas sector is up 75 this year when compared to 2014 YTD. It has been growing slowly each month this year. There's a chance that the Dalton Highway flooding could slow work on the North Slope and have a negative impact on monthly employment in the near future.

The Construction industry, as noted earlier, is showing a YTD decline of 125 jobs from the 2014 YTD total. The monthly estimate of 7,300 Construction jobs in April is 200 jobs less than the same period in 2014. This indicates that the ramping up of construction employment before the summer season is slower this year. Local construction firms are indicating that there is a noticeable reduction in projects to bid this year, and have resorted to submitting bids on smaller projects to stay busy. **On the positive side, this summer's road construction season is on track to be one of the largest in recent history and may provide some improvement in the jobs total.**

*Those jobs that are specifically tied to production, not those which support the production or maintenance of the production jobs.



In Anchorage:

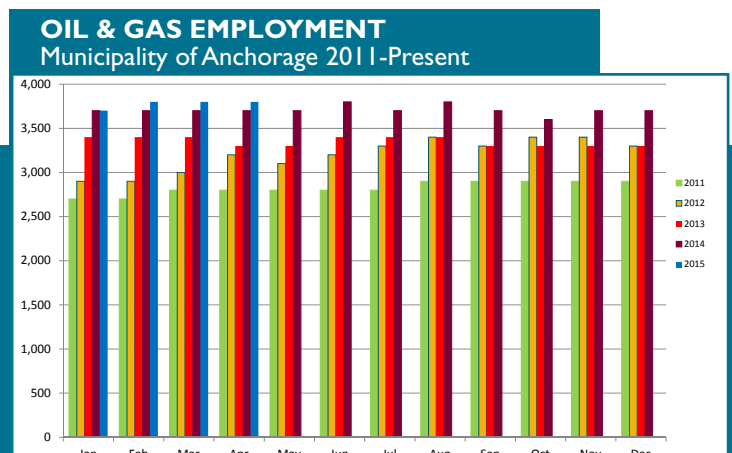
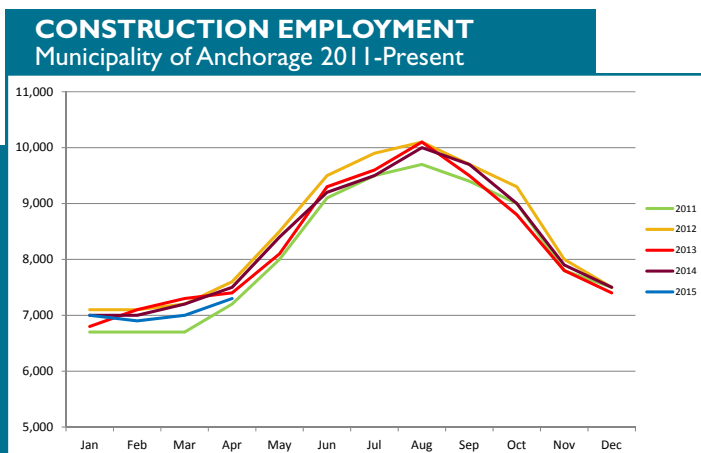
13,200
GOODS PRODUCING JOBS
April 2015 (preliminary)



7,300
CONSTRUCTION JOBS
April 2015 (preliminary)



3,800
OIL & GAS JOBS
April 2015 (preliminary)



SERVICES PROVIDING JOBS

ENGINEERING, RETAIL, TOURISM, HEALTH CARE, ETC.

Services Providing jobs in Anchorage totaled 142,000 for April.

Overall, the YTD average is down 125 jobs from 2014.

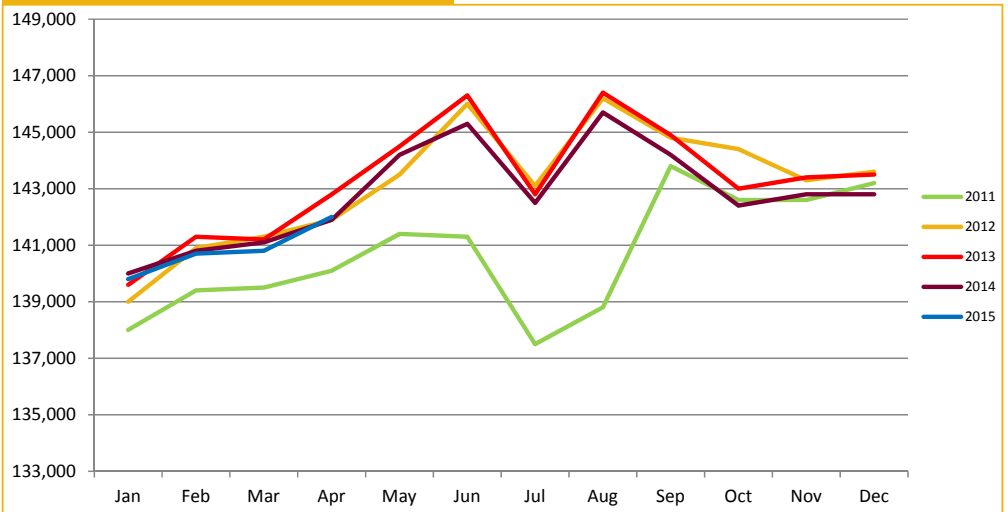
The Information industry has a growth rate of 3.82 percent YTD, compared to the same period a year ago, making it the fastest growing industry this year. The job total of 4,100 in April is the highest monthly total since June 2010 when it reached 4,200.

The Trade/Transportation/Utilities industry is also showing positive growth, up 1.08 percent over 2014 YTD. This increase is being led by very strong job numbers in the Retail Trade sector; the 18,000 Retail jobs in April is the highest estimate for the month on record and is likely to continue growing into August.

Surprisingly, Leisure & Hospitality YTD number are continuing to decline. March showed a YTD decline of 133 jobs; April is showing a YTD decline of 150 jobs. Despite the YTD employment losses—this industry is expected to improve. Steady hotel bookings and a strong U.S. economy are validating forecasts that call for a strong tourist season in Anchorage this summer. Job totals generally begin to grow significantly from May to July. Data over the next couple months will provide meaningful insight into final estimates for the year.

The monthly average for Government jobs is up 150 jobs from 2014 YTD. This is due to a growth of 200 jobs YTD in Local Education positions. The Federal Government sector is averaging 100 fewer jobs than this point last year, while State Government positions remain unchanged. State Education jobs, a subset of State Government, has decreased by 75 YTD. The 2016 budget for the State Fiscal Year goes into effect on July first. All indications point to sizable reductions in all departmental funding which will most likely lead to positions being cut. UAA has already announced furloughs for 67 employees will take place in July which may show up in the data as a loss of jobs that month, depending on when the data is collected.

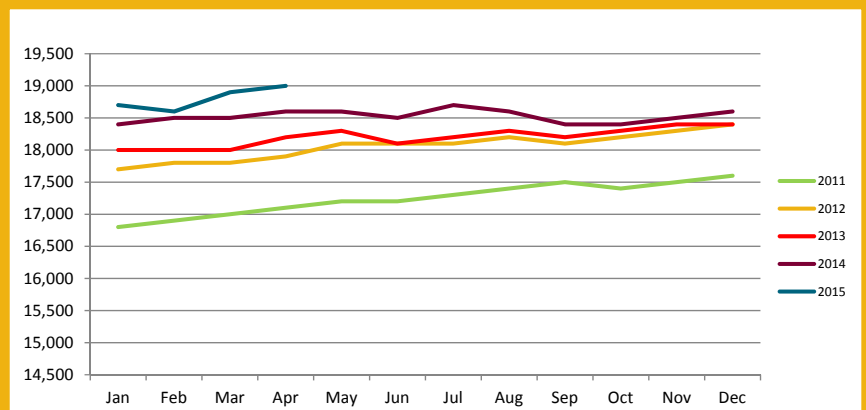
SERVICES PROVIDING JOBS
Municipality of Anchorage 2011-Present



HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT

Employment in the Health Care sector continues to be strong, reaching 19,000 jobs in April for the first time. The YTD total is up 300 jobs from 2014 YTD. According to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Health Care job growth in 2014 occurred mainly in Out-Patient Health Care and it is likely that this is the case in 2015.

HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT
Municipality of Anchorage 2011-Present



SERVICES PROVIDING JOBS, CONT.

TRANSPORTATION

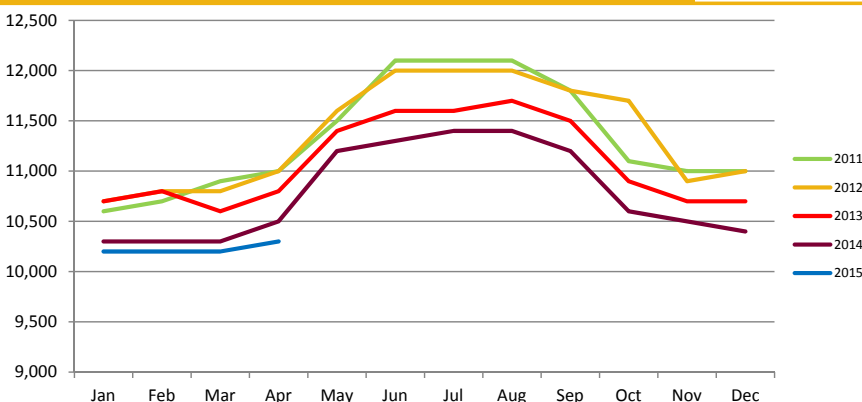
The Trade/Transportation/Utilities industry has seen a sizable growth in its YTD monthly average with 350 more jobs than at this time last year. The growth can be attributed to the Retail Trade sector. The overall industry job numbers would be down 225 jobs if the Retail Trade sector had not added 575 jobs.

The Transportation/Warehouse/Utilities sector lost 300 jobs in 2014 and continues to contract in 2015. Compared to this time last year, the sector shows a loss of 125 jobs. Despite declining job numbers,

first quarter tonnage totals are up 48.3 percent at the Alaska Railroad from this time last year; the Port

of Anchorage is up more than 15 percent and Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport is reporting a 2.8 percent increase in deplaning cargo for the same period. The productivity of the current transportation workforce will likely reach its maximum if these trends continue, hopefully resulting in additional hiring.

TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYMENT Municipality of Anchorage 2011-Present



10,300
TRANSPORTATION JOBS
April 2015 (preliminary)

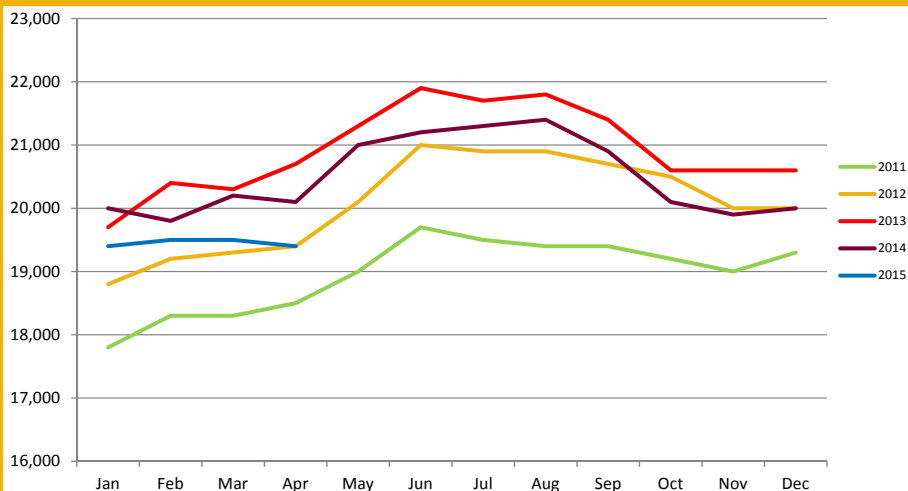
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES

ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, LEGAL SERVICES, ACCOUNTING, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, WASTE MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

After a slight bump in February and March, the monthly job estimate in this industry dropped by 100 from March to April. In April 2015 there were 19,400 Professional & Business Service jobs; 700 fewer than April of 2014.

The YTD average of 19,450 is 575 jobs lower than this point last year. Overall, this industry has been trending down since March 2013 and the decline has accelerated since August of last year. A slowdown in new Oil & Gas projects, construction and State capital spending have reduced opportunities for businesses in this industry.

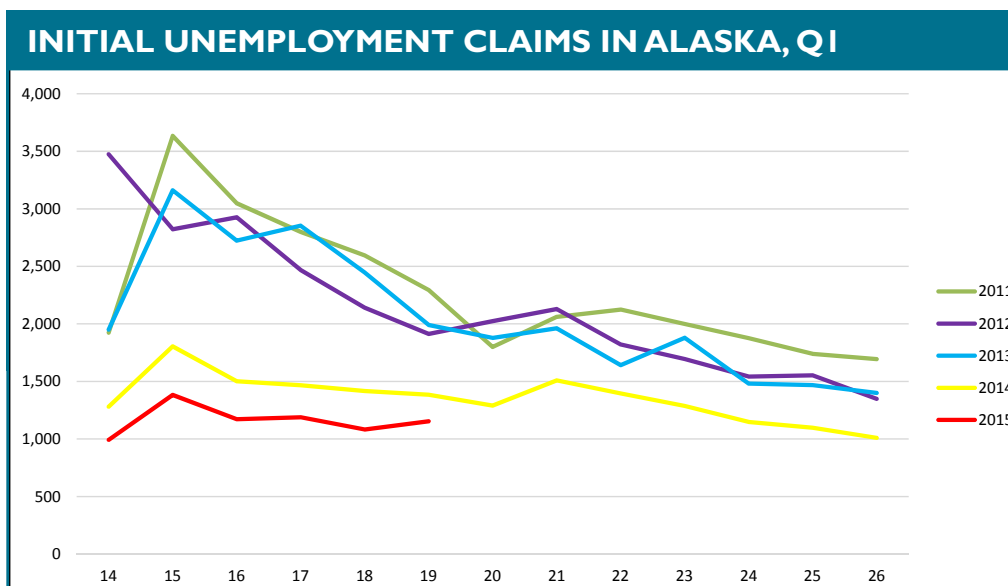
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES EMPLOYMENT Municipality of Anchorage 2011-Present



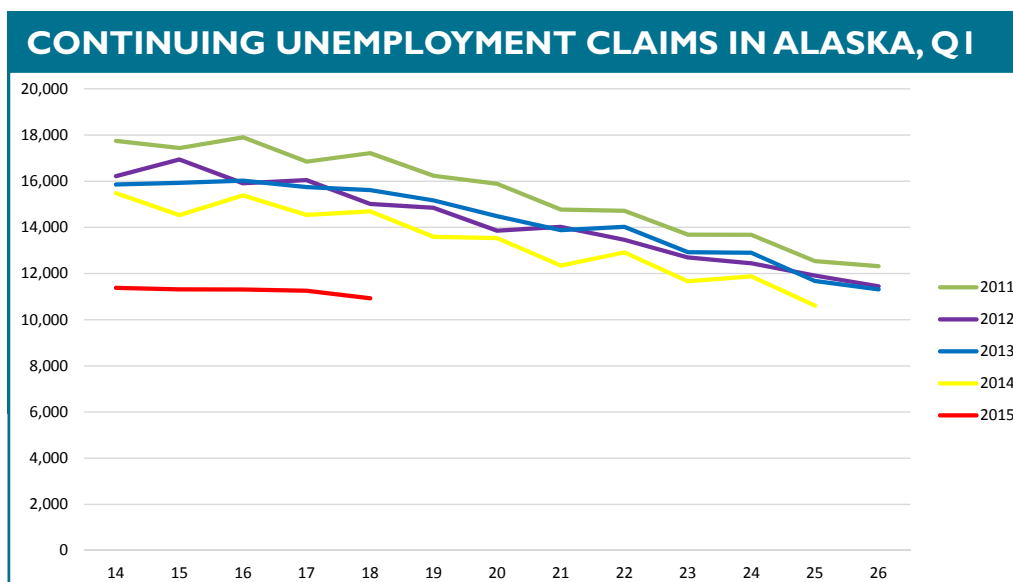
19,400
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES JOBS
April 2015 (preliminary)

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

Initial unemployment claim applications can be interpreted as a proxy for layoffs. They tend to fall as job growth accelerates and climb as workers encounter difficulties finding employment. Statewide totals for the second quarter of 2015 have remained below 2014 every week. Recent weekly totals have leveled out, which may be an indication of the numbers hitting the statistical floor; a level where even high employment demand can't bring the claim total any lower.



Continuing claims figures help to show how well unemployed workers are re-entering the workforce. This total does not include workers receiving extended benefits from the federal government. The year started with weekly claims averaging nearly 4,000 below 2014 each week. This trend has continued into the second quarter. If this continues, the weekly count may reach as low as 8,000 by mid-summer. With statewide employment's YTD growth up 3,225 jobs over this time last year, the opportunity for employment seems to be remaining high in many communities.



UNEMPLOYMENT ANALYSIS (YTD, 2015)

Anchorage, Mat-Su, Kenai Peninsula Borough

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	15 YTD Avg	14 YTD Avg	15 vs 14 (YTD)
Municipality of Anchorage				Preliminary											
Labor Force	Revised 160,158	Revised 158,783	Revised 159,357	158,971									159,317	158,112	1,205
Employment	151,886	149,911	150,517	150,507									150,705	149,386	1,320
Unemployment	8,272	8,872	8,840	8,464									8,612	8,727	(115)
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.6%	5.5%	5.3%									5.41%	5.52%	-0.11%
Mat-Su Borough															
Labor Force	44,502	44,205	44,356	44,015									44,270	43,957	313
Employment	40,715	40,120	40,261	40,283									40,345	40,013	332
Unemployment	3,787	4,085	4,095	3,732									3,925	3,945	(20)
Unemployment Rate	8.5%	9.2%	9.2%	8.5%									8.87%	8.97%	-0.11%
Kenai Peninsula Borough															
Labor Force	27,057	26,963	26,984	27,135									27,035	26,648	387
Employment	24,682	24,359	24,420	24,836									24,574	24,204	370
Unemployment	2,375	2,604	2,564	2,299									2,461	2,443	17
Unemployment Rate	8.8%	9.7%	9.5%	8.5%									9.10%	9.17%	-0.07%
Southcentral Region															
Labor Force	231,717	229,951	230,697	230,121									230,622	228,717	1,905
Employment	217,283	214,390	215,198	215,626									215,624	213,603	2,022
Unemployment	14,434	15,561	15,499	14,495									14,997	15,114	(117)
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	6.8%	6.7%	6.3%									6.50%	6.61%	-0.11%
State of Alaska															
Labor Force	362,290	362,202	363,153	362,228									362,468	362,057	411
Employment	336,571	334,534	336,041	336,909									336,014	335,964	50
Unemployment	25,719	27,668	27,112	25,319									26,455	26,094	361
Unemployment Rate	7.1%	7.6%	7.5%	7.0%									7.30%	7.21%	0.09%

***Note:** These numbers reflect employment, unemployment, etc. for only those people that are residence of the specified City/Region, thus are not inclusive of people who commute to another city for their jobs. (Ex: Someone lives in Wasilla but works in Anchorage. They would be counted in the Mat-Su Borough's labor force and employment numbers, not the Municipality of Anchorage numbers)



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INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES 2015

Municipality of Anchorage

Industry	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2015 YTD Avg.	2014 YTD Avg.	2015 vs 2014 YTD Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	Revised 152,400	Revised 153,300	Revised 153,600	Preliminary 155,100									153,600	153,825	-225	-0.15%
Goods Producing	129,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	129,800	-100	-0.78%
Services Providing	139,800	139,800	139,800	139,800	139,800	139,800	139,800	139,800	139,800	139,800	139,800	139,800	139,800	139,800	-125	-0.09%
Mining and Logging ²	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	50	1.31%
Oil & Gas	3,700	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,775	3,700	75	2.03%
Construction	7,000	6,900	7,000	7,300									7,050	7,175	-125	-1.74%
Manufacturing	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900									1,825	1,900	-75	-3.95%
Trade/Transportation/Utilities	32,600	32,700	32,500	33,000									32,700	32,350	350	1.08%
Wholesale Trade	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,800									4,725	4,775	-50	-1.05%
Retail Trade	17,800	17,800	17,600	18,000									17,800	17,225	575	3.34%
Trans/Warehouse/Utilities	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,300									10,225	10,350	-125	-1.21%
Information	4,000	4,100	4,100	4,100									4,075	3,925	150	3.82%
Financial Activities	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,400									7,325	7,475	-150	-2.01%
Professional & Business Svcs	19,400	19,500	19,500	19,400									19,450	20,025	-575	-2.87%
Educational & Health Services	24,500	24,800	25,100	25,200									24,900	24,950	-50	-0.20%
Health Care	18,700	18,600	18,900	19,000									18,800	18,500	300	1.62%
Leisure & Hospitality	16,200	16,200	16,400	16,400									16,300	16,450	-150	-0.91%
Accommodation	3,000	3,100	3,000	3,000									3,025	3,150	-125	-3.97%
Food Svcs & Drinking Places	10,800	10,800	10,900	11,200									10,925	11,025	-100	-0.91%
Other Services	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,200									6,125	6,025	100	1.66%
Government	29,700	29,900	29,800	30,200									29,900	29,750	150	0.50%
Federal Government	8,400	8,400	8,300	8,500									8,400	8,500	-100	-1.18%
State Government	10,800	11,000	10,900	11,000									10,925	10,925	0	0.00%
State Education	2,800	2,900	2,900	2,900									2,875	2,950	-75	-2.54%
Local Government	10,500	10,600	10,500	10,700									10,575	10,375	200	1.93%
Local Education	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,900									7,750	7,550	200	2.65%

- Nonfarm Wage & Salary excludes self-employed workers, fishers, domestics, and unpaid family workers.

- All totals are seasonally non-adjusted totals.

- Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

- Beginning January 2001, wage and salary employment estimates were published under a new classification system. The Standard Industrial Classification system (SIC) has been replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Data prior to 2001 are comparable only at the Total Nonfarm and Government levels.

^{1/} As of January 2001, certain federally-recognized tribal entities were moved to Local Government, which created a series break for Total Government and Local Government. Please see the April 2002 Alaska Economic Trends publication for a detailed explanation.

^{2/} This category was called "Natural Resources and Mining" in previous years. The change is in name only; the industries it includes remain the same.

- Some totals may not equal components due to rounding.

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

*** Note:** The above numbers are representative of all people employed in the Municipality of Anchorage, this is inclusive of workers who claim residence outside of the Municipality of Anchorage. (Ex: someone who lives in the Mat-Su, but works in Anchorage would be included in these number)

Quick Comparisons

15 vs 14 April	-100	-0.06%
15 vs 14 1st Qtr	-267	-0.17%
15 vs 14 2nd Qtr	-100	-0.06%
15 vs 14 3rd Qtr	-	-
15 vs 14 4th Qtr	-	-

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES 2015

State of Alaska

Industry	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2015 YTD Avg.	2014 YTD Avg.	2015 vs 2014 YTD Change	% Change
	Revised	Revised	Revised	Preliminary												
Total Nonfarm	323,000	325,500	327,000	333,500									327,250	324,025	3,225	1.00%
Goods Producing	43,600	44,400	45,000	46,600									44,900	45,075	-175	-0.39%
Services Providing	279,400	281,100	282,000	286,900									282,350	278,950	3,400	1.22%
Mining and Logging ²	17,200	17,300	17,600	17,500									17,400	17,125	275	1.61%
Mining	17,100	17,100	17,400	17,300									17,225	16,925	300	1.77%
Oil & Gas	14,700	14,800	15,000	14,900									14,850	14,225	625	4.39%
Construction	15,100	14,900	15,100	16,500									15,400	14,700	700	4.76%
Manufacturing	11,300	12,200	12,300	12,600									12,100	13,250	-1,150	-8.68%
Seafood Processing	7,400	8,500	8,600	8,400									8,225	9,725	-1,500	-15.42%
Trade/Transportation/Utilities	62,600	62,400	62,600	64,800									63,100	60,900	2,200	3.61%
Wholesale Trade	6,100	6,200	6,200	6,500									6,250	6,400	-150	-2.34%
Retail Trade	36,100	35,900	36,000	37,100									36,275	34,975	1,300	3.72%
Food & Beverage Stores	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000									6,000	6,025	-25	-0.41%
General Merchandise Stores	9,800	9,600	9,500	9,700									9,650	9,550	100	1.05%
Trans/Warehouse/Utilities	20,400	20,300	20,400	21,200									20,575	19,525	1,050	5.38%
Air Transportation	5,600	5,600	5,700	5,900									5,700	5,500	200	3.64%
Information	6,200	6,300	6,200	6,100									6,200	6,200	0	0.00%
Telecommunications	4,200	4,300	4,300	4,200									4,250	4,075	175	4.29%
Financial Activities	11,900	12,000	11,700	11,900									11,875	11,875	0	0.00%
Professional & Business Svcs	28,100	28,200	28,200	28,700									28,300	28,925	-625	-2.16%
Educational & Health Services	47,200	47,300	48,000	48,300									47,700	46,825	875	1.87%
Health Care	34,100	34,000	34,600	34,600									34,325	33,775	550	1.63%
Leisure & Hospitality	29,900	30,100	30,600	31,200									30,450	29,900	550	1.84%
Accommodation	7,800	7,800	7,800	8,000									7,850	6,375	1,475	23.14%
Food Svcs & Drinking Places	18,300	18,300	18,700	19,100									18,600	19,400	-800	-4.12%
Other Services	11,600	11,700	11,600	12,000									11,725	11,525	200	1.74%
Government	81,900	83,100	83,100	83,900									83,000	82,800	200	0.24%
Federal Government	14,200	14,200	14,400	14,500									14,325	14,650	-325	-2.22%
State Government	26,300	26,600	26,700	26,900									26,625	26,875	-250	-0.93%
State Education	8,200	8,600	8,600	8,600									8,500	8,675	-175	-2.02%
Local Government	41,400	42,300	42,000	42,500									42,050	41,275	775	1.88%
Local Education	23,500	24,100	23,900	24,300									23,950	23,825	125	0.52%
Tribal Government ¹	3,400	3,400	3,500	3,600									3,475	3,400	75	2.21%

- Nonfarm Wage & Salary excludes self-employed workers, fishers, domestics, and unpaid family workers.

- All totals are non-seasonally adjusted totals.

- Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

- Beginning January 2001, wage and salary employment estimates were published under a new classification system. The Standard Industrial Classification system (SIC) has been replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Data prior to 2001 are comparable only at the Total Nonfarm and Government levels.

^{1/} As of January 2001, certain federally-recognized tribal entities were moved to Local Government, which created a series break for Total Government and Local Government. Please see the April 2002 Alaska Economic Trends publication for a detailed explanation.

^{2/} This category was called "Natural Resources and Mining" in previous years. The change is in name only; the industries it includes remain the same.

- Totals may not equal sub-sections due to rounding.

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

Quick Comparisons

15 vs 14
April

2,900

0.88%

15 vs 14
1st Qtr

3,333

1.04%

15 vs 14
2nd Qtr

2,900

0.88%

15 vs 14
3rd Qtr.

15 vs 14

4th Qtr

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

May 22, 2015

No. 15-18

For more information: Neal Fried, Economist
907-269-4861, Neal.Fried@Alaska.Gov

Unemployment rate at 6.7 percent in April

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in April, up two-tenths of a percentage point from March. The comparable national rate was 5.4 percent.

The recent dip and subsequent recovery in the rate make it difficult to identify a clear trend, but other indicators suggest that 2015 has been on a similar trajectory to the previous year.

The not-seasonally adjusted rate was 7.0 percent. That's down from March's 7.5 percent, a normal seasonal drop as the state's summer economy heats up. For comparison, the 2014 unadjusted rate for April was 7.1 percent, down from the previous month's 7.6 percent. Unadjusted rates fell in 24 out of 29 boroughs and census areas in April, following the statewide trend.

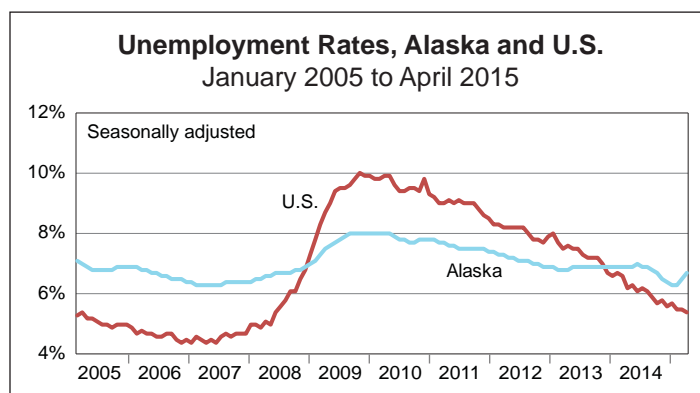
Monthly Jobs Report

Employment grew in all of Alaska's economic regions from March to April except Southwest, where winter Bering Sea fisheries wound down. April is usually the first month of the year with substantial seasonal job growth.

Compared with the same month last year, statewide employment was relatively flat, with some regions gaining and some regions losing jobs.

Southeast Alaska's jobs are down compared to April 2014, largely driven by losses in state government as well as smaller losses in federal and local government. The Interior, which includes Fairbanks, showed a similar trend, though its federal government employment was actually up compared to last year. Southwest employment was also down, due in part to particularly high seafood manufacturing employment in April 2014.

April employment was down slightly in the Municipality of Anchorage from the previous year, but due to private sector losses rather than government. The largest growth industries



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted

	4/15	3/15	4/14
Alaska	6.7%	6.5%	6.9%
U.S.	5.4%	5.5%	6.2%

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

in Anchorage were health care and retail, but those gains were overshadowed by losses in the construction and professional and businesses services sectors.

The Gulf Coast's employment was up moderately from the prior April, driven by gains in retail trade, with other industries generally flat. Employment was also up in the Northern region, led by gains in local government and the private sector.

For detailed employment estimates, see <http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/ces/>. The estimates are preliminary and subject to potentially large revisions.

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Labor Force by Borough and Census Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

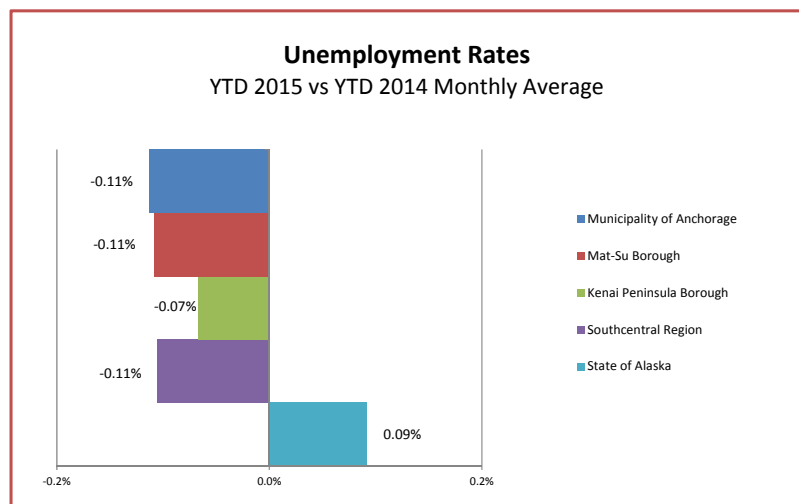
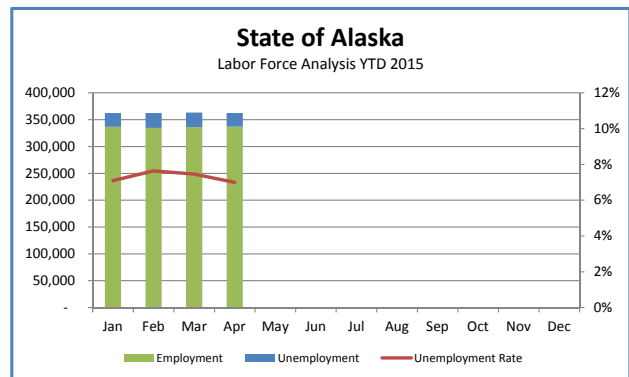
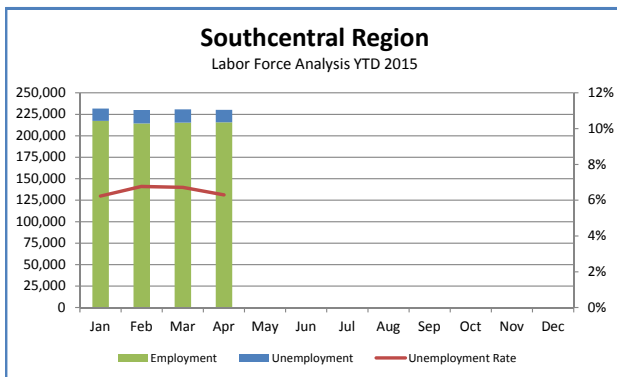
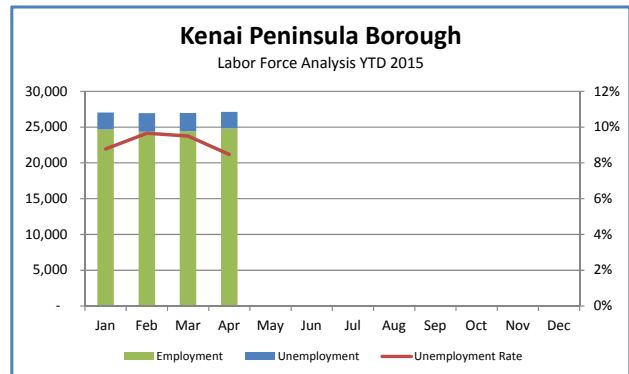
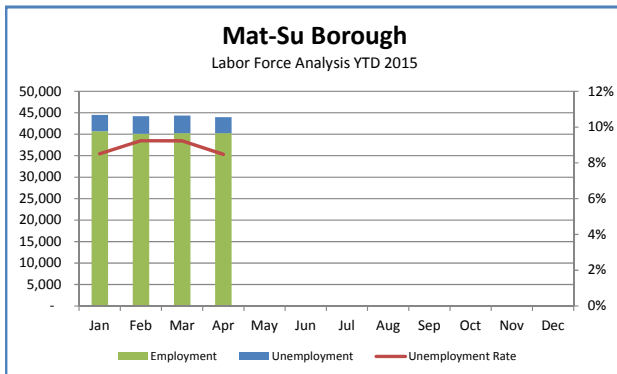
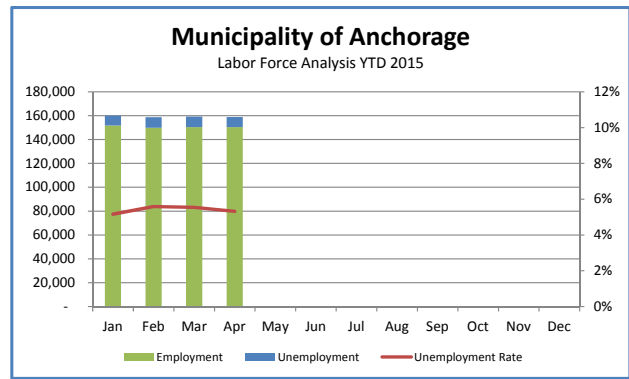
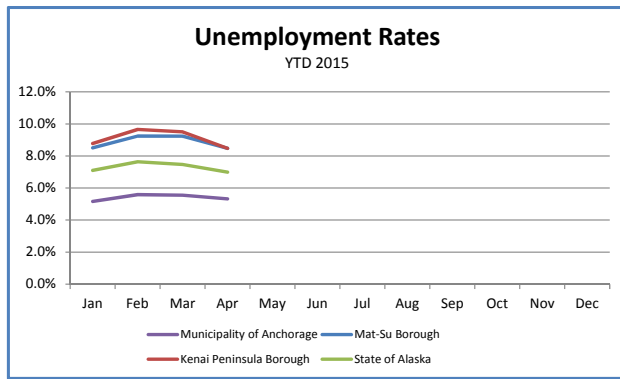
	Civilian Labor Force			Unemployed					
	4/15 ^P	3/15	4/14	Number			Rate		
	4/15 ^P	3/15	4/14	4/15 ^P	3/15	4/14	4/15 ^P	3/15	4/14
Alaska	362,228	363,153	362,852	25,319	27,112	25,664	7.0	7.5	7.1
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	202,986	203,713	202,172	12,196	12,935	12,068	6.0	6.3	6.0
Anchorage, Municipality	158,971	159,357	158,359	8,464	8,840	8,365	5.3	5.5	5.3
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	44,015	44,356	43,813	3,732	4,095	3,703	8.5	9.2	8.5
Gulf Coast Region	38,419	38,149	38,307	3,100	3,460	3,162	8.1	9.1	8.3
Kenai Peninsula Borough	27,135	26,984	26,996	2,299	2,564	2,299	8.5	9.5	8.5
Kodiak Island Borough	6,624	6,660	6,661	313	339	364	4.7	5.1	5.5
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	4,660	4,505	4,650	488	557	499	10.5	12.4	10.7
Interior Region	52,491	52,390	52,788	3,578	3,868	3,759	6.8	7.4	7.1
Denali Borough	629	602	650	107	117	124	17.0	19.4	19.1
Fairbanks North Star Borough	46,430	46,456	46,531	2,630	2,829	2,684	5.7	6.1	5.8
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	2,789	2,807	2,886	344	396	410	12.3	14.1	14.2
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	2,643	2,525	2,721	497	526	541	18.8	20.8	19.9
Northern Region	11,708	11,747	11,490	1,333	1,335	1,322	11.4	11.4	11.5
Nome Census Area	4,209	4,211	4,097	566	559	529	13.4	13.3	12.9
North Slope Borough	4,498	4,554	4,404	254	252	244	5.6	5.5	5.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	3,001	2,982	2,989	513	524	549	17.1	17.6	18.4
Southeast Region	36,154	35,714	36,799	2,602	2,962	2,747	7.2	8.3	7.5
Haines Borough	989	981	1,008	108	145	125	10.9	14.8	12.4
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	1,056	996	1,068	190	228	192	18.0	22.9	18.0
Juneau, City and Borough	17,016	16,897	17,326	859	923	898	5.0	5.5	5.2
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6,570	6,445	6,711	516	580	564	7.9	9.0	8.4
Petersburg Census Area	1,509	1,466	1,533	153	182	163	10.1	12.4	10.6
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	2,748	2,636	2,760	369	424	359	13.4	16.1	13.0
Sitka, City and Borough	4,341	4,455	4,431	211	233	232	4.9	5.2	5.2
Skagway, Municipality	610	576	626	88	123	101	14.4	21.4	16.1
Wrangell, City and Borough	1,050	1,032	1,064	84	99	85	8.0	9.6	8.0
Yakutat, City and Borough	265	230	272	24	25	28	9.1	10.9	10.3
Southwest Region	20,466	21,435	21,297	2,508	2,550	2,607	12.3	11.9	12.2
Aleutians East Borough	2,872	2,525	3,013	81	80	104	2.8	3.2	3.5
Aleutians West Census Area	4,942	5,917	5,150	191	152	204	3.9	2.6	4.0
Bethel Census Area	6,925	7,214	7,208	1,153	1,185	1,205	16.6	16.4	16.7
Bristol Bay Borough	365	250	373	45	52	43	12.3	20.8	11.5
Dillingham Census Area	1,999	2,101	2,084	208	212	223	10.4	10.1	10.7
Lake and Peninsula Borough	547	529	586	87	95	110	15.9	18.0	18.8
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,816	2,899	2,883	743	774	718	26.4	26.7	24.9

P = Preliminary. As more information becomes available, data are revised every month for the previous month and again at the end of every calendar year.

Note: The official definition of unemployment excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Many in rural Alaska do not meet the definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities.

¹Unemployment rates that are not seasonally adjusted should not be compared with those that are.

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





AEDC
Anchorage Economic
Development Corporation