

ANCHORAGE EMPLOYMENT REPORT

SEPTEMBER
2020

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

Report compiled by Anchorage Economic Development Corp.

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.

YEAR TO DATE: BY THE NUMBERS

↓		-7.1% YTD TOTAL JOBS 140,600 -10,700
↓		GOV. JOBS -800 Federal +200 State -300 Local -600
↓		GOODS PRODUCING -1,100
↓		OIL & GAS -400
↓		CONSTRUCTION -500
↓		MANUFACTURING -200
↓		SERVICES PROVIDING -9,500
↓		HEALTH CARE -1,000
↓		LEISURE & HOSPITALITY -4,000
↓		PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES -700

MONTHLY SUMMARY

The monthly summary, as well as industry gains and losses, are based on comparisons between the same month in 2019 and 2020. Month-on-month (e.g. July 2020 to August 2020) comparisons tend to show consistent seasonal trends, while comparing years show longer-term impacts of policy and macroeconomic change.

August 2020 experienced a drop of 14,200 jobs compared to August 2019. All sectors lost substantial numbers of jobs with Leisure & Hospitality being the sector with the highest job losses at 6,000. There were no other industry sectors that did not lose a significant number of jobs in August 2020. The number of single-family homes sold year-to-date has increased significantly. The average sale price has risen to new record highs. Single-family home listings decreased, suggesting that the housing market is a seller's market. The top employers are Providence Health and Services, and the University of Alaska, even though there are a high number of job losses in those industry sectors. This month's data reflect the continuing impacts of COVID-19 related shutdown of the Anchorage economy.

Revised jobs data for the first quarter of 2020 has just been released and show that the period of January through March saw an average 800 jobs lost in the quarter. This reflects a continuation of the 5-year recession into 2020 prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic impacts that now grips the city's economy.

AUGUST LOSSES: AT A GLANCE

Oil & Gas -700	Transportation/Warehouse/Utilities -2,500
Construction -600	Professional & Business Services -1,000
Wholesale Trade -100	Educational & Health Services -2,100
Retail Trade -1,200	Food Services and Drinking Places -2,700
Information -200	Other Services -500
Financial Activities -400	State Government -200
Health Care -1,400	State Education -200
Accommodation -1,500	Local Government -600
Other Services -500	Local Education -500

FLAT

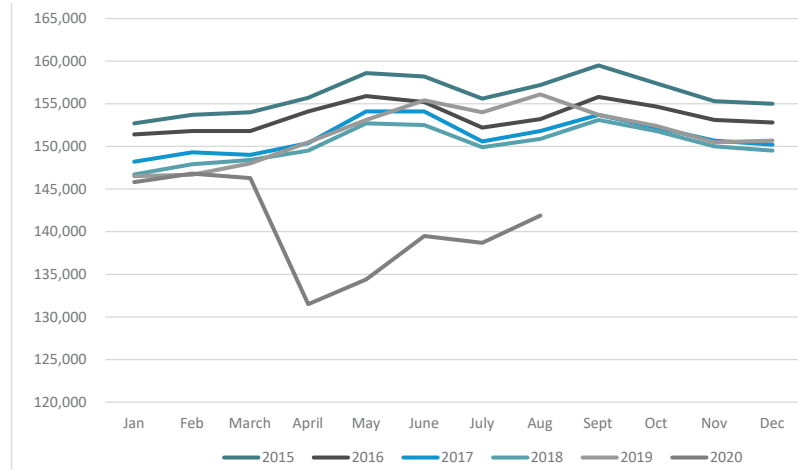
Manufacturing

THE BOTTOM LINE

Anchorage's job market continues to deal with unprecedented job losses as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Every industry sector took a significant hit with particularly large impacts to Leisure & Hospitality, Transportation, Health Care, Retail, and Oil & Gas.

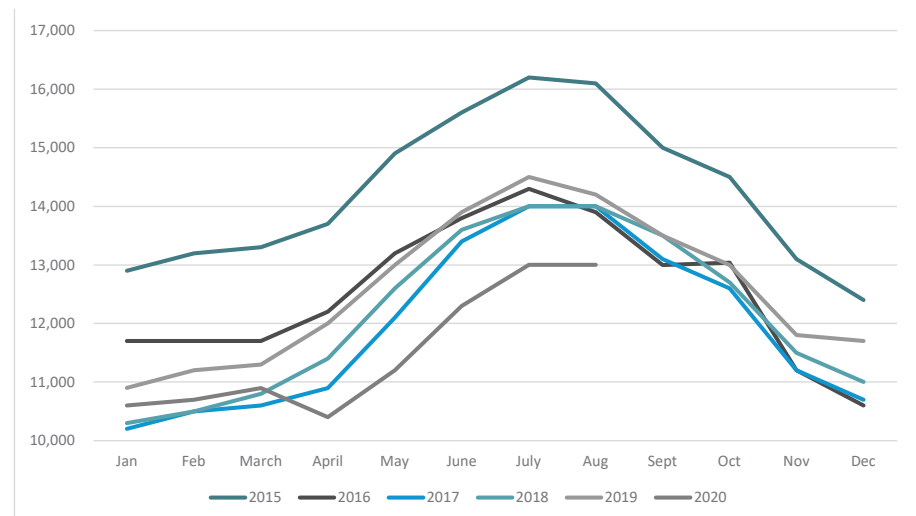
ANCHORAGE EMPLOYMENT

Total Anchorage employment was at 141,900 in August 2020, showing a decrease of about 14,200 jobs compared to August 2019.



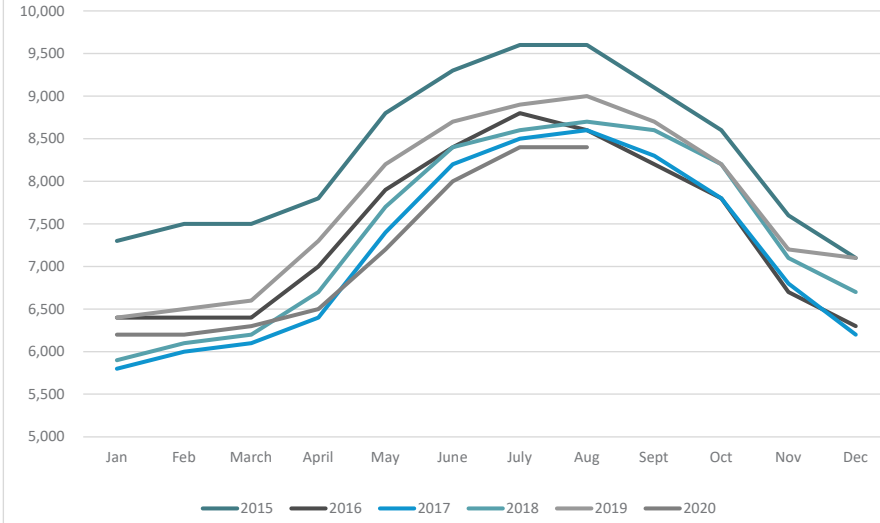
GOODS PRODUCING JOBS

Anchorage's goods producing sector lost 1,200 jobs or 8.5% in August 2020 compared with August 2019.



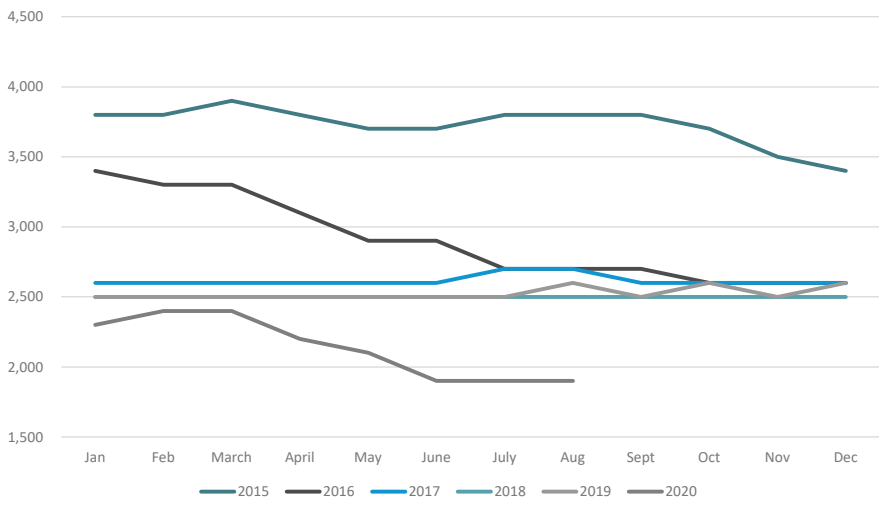
CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT

At 8,300 jobs, Anchorage construction employment shed 600 jobs between August 2019 and August 2020. This is down from modest increases in construction jobs in 2018 and 2019.



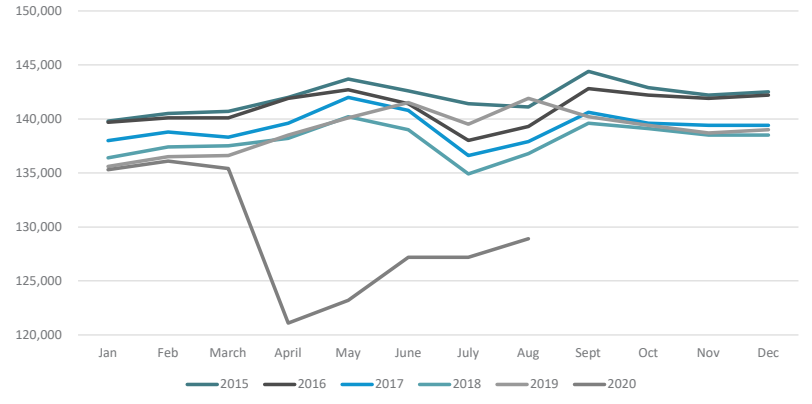
OIL & GAS EMPLOYMENT

Anchorage's oil and gas sector shed 700 jobs between August 2019 and August 2020. This is a 24% decline.



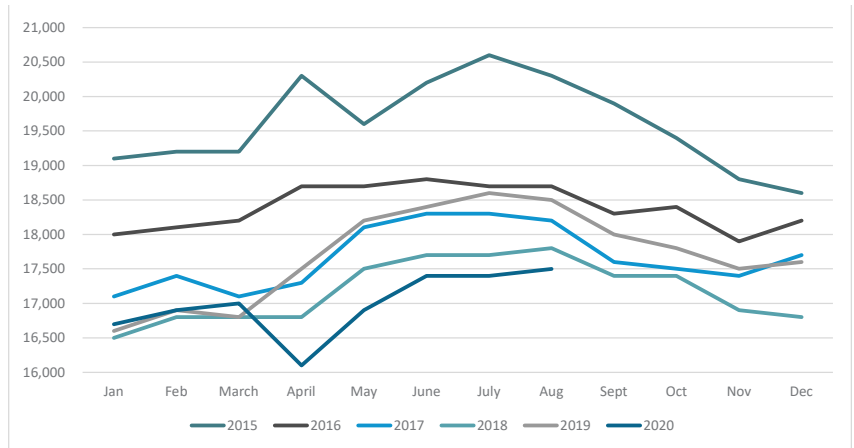
SERVICES PROVIDING JOBS

Services providing industries shed approximately 13,000 jobs between August 2019 and August 2020. These significant job losses are a result of complications and challenges due to COVID-19.



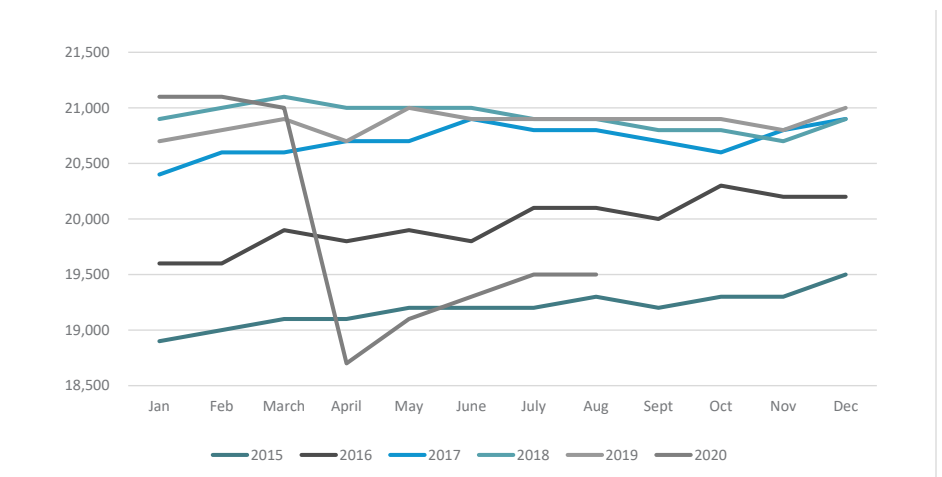
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES

Anchorage's professional & business services sector saw a decrease of 1,000 jobs between August 2019 and August 2020.



HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT

Health care employment is down for the first time in years with a loss of 1,400 jobs between August 2019 and August 2020.



NOW HIRING

FEATURED OPENINGS BY OCCUPATION

SOURCE: *JOBSEQ*®

Registered Nurses

TOTAL ADS: 406

Average
annual:
\$72,364

Retail Salespersons

TOTAL ADS: 503

Average
annual:
\$30,380

Stockers and Order Fillers

TOTAL ADS: 297

Average
annual:
\$31,200

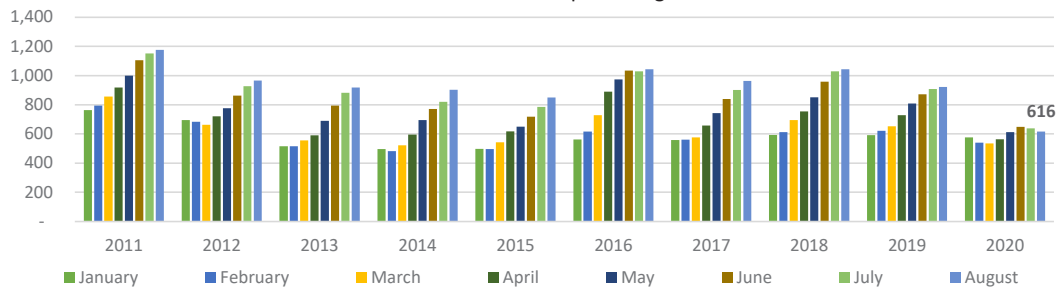
TOP EMPLOYERS

TOP EMPLOYERS BY TOTAL ADS AUGUST 2020

SOURCE: *JOBSEQ*®

Company	Total Ads
Providence Health & Services	320
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	174
Anchorage School District	124
The University of Alaska	113
Humana	105
Lowes	105
HCA	97
Alaska Teacher Placement	88
Carrs	85
State of Alaska	85

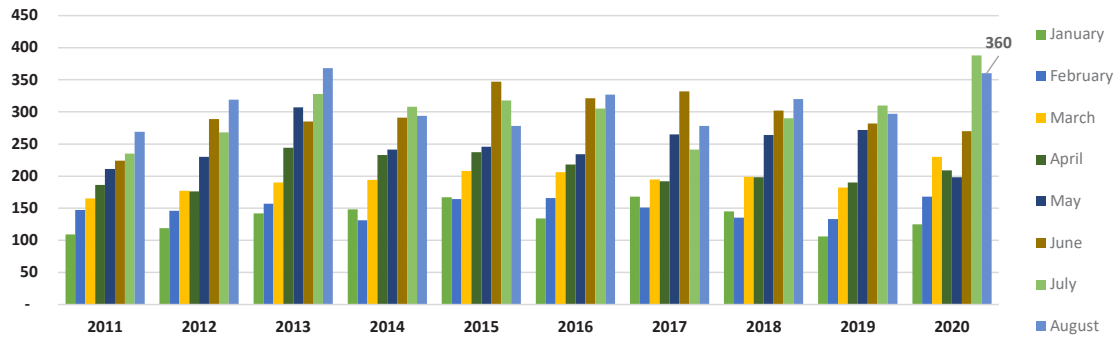




ANCHORAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME LISTINGS

YTD 10-YEAR COMPARISON

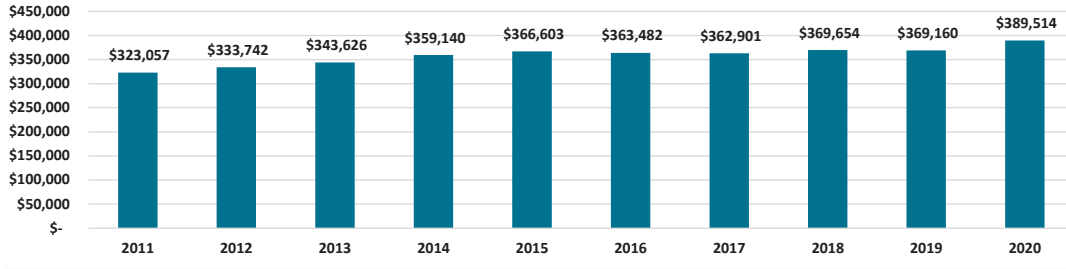
Anchorage’s single-family home listings stood at 616 as of August 2020, a decrease of 307 from 923 listings in August 2019.



ANCHORAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME MONTHLY UNIT SALES

YTD 10-YEAR COMPARISON

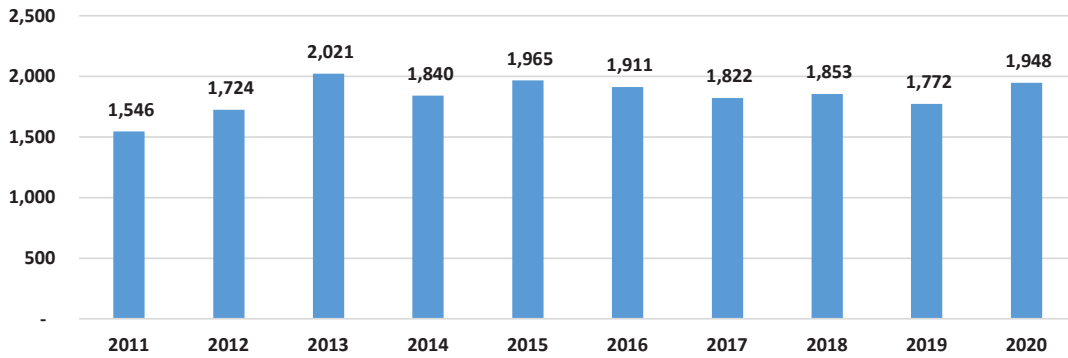
Anchorage’s single-family home monthly unit sales stood at 360 in August 2020, which is up 63 from August 2019 at 297 sales.



ANCHORAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME AVERAGE SALES PRICE

YTD 10-YEAR COMPARISON

The average price of a single-family home in Anchorage grew to \$404,919 in August 2020, up nearly \$3,800 from \$401,161 in August 2019.



ANCHORAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES TOTAL UNIT SALES

YTD 10-YEAR COMPARISON

The number of single-family home unit sales year-to-date increased in August 2020 to 1,948, up 176 units sold compared to the period in 2019, showing a significant increase in home sales.

TAKEAWAY

Recently released unemployment data from U.S. Labor Department has come into question regarding its accuracy. In consultation with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development Research Division, AEDC has determined that monthly unemployment estimates we normally present in this report have been negatively impacted by consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in ways that make this data no longer a reliable measure of unemployment. This is demonstrated in the August reported unemployment rate for Anchorage that fell from 10.8% in July to 6.6% one month later, a drop of 4.2%, which is factually impossible given current jobs data and unemployment assistance claims.

AEDC will no longer be reporting the unemployment data as we have in the past until the issues and methodology problems are solved for this data. Instead, AEDC this month and in the months ahead will report the latest monthly claims data that represents both first time unemployment claims and continued unemployment claims for residents of Anchorage. Please note, while this data is representative of citizens of Anchorage only, a very small minority of the jobs these individuals were previously employed in were located outside of the Municipality of Anchorage. The combined total will provide an accurate picture of the number of people applying for or receiving ongoing unemployment benefits in Anchorage. It should be noted this dataset does not include those who are unemployed whose benefits have either ended or been denied because of ineligibility.

In the month of August, 15,925 citizens of Anchorage either applied for the first time for unemployment benefits or continued to receive unemployment benefits. Additionally, approximately 4,600 self-employed citizens received Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits. As a result, approximately 20,500 Anchorage citizens received some form of unemployment assistance in August, equal to 14.2% of the estimated Anchorage labor force out of work for this reporting period.

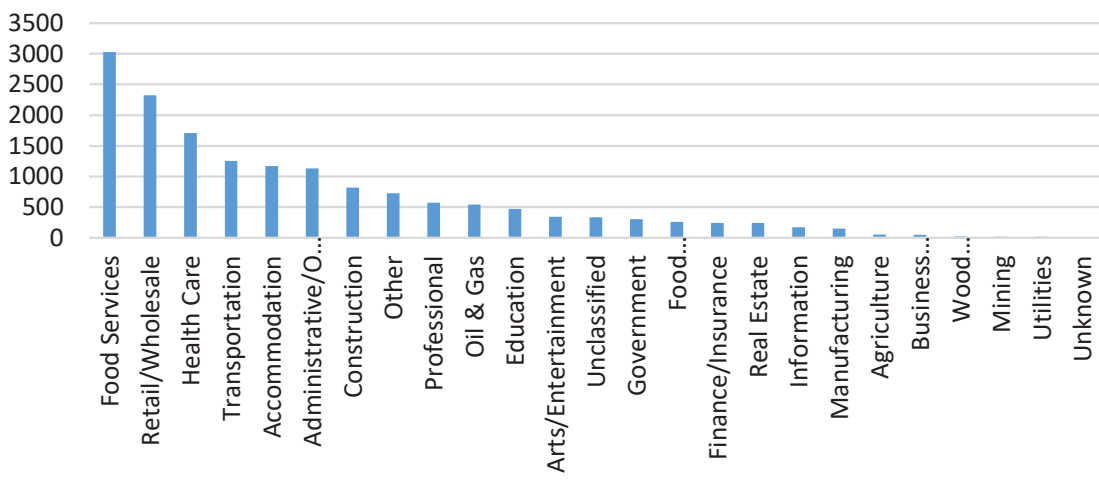
Excluding workers receiving PUA (for which detailed data is not available), the industry sector most impacted by job losses in August was the Food Services sector - that includes restaurants and bars - which saw 3,024 workers out of work. Retail was in second with 2,324 out of work, and Health Care was in third, showing 1,708 no longer employed. You'll find a full representation of the industry sector impacts and the average wages earned by the workers in those industries in the charts on the next page.

Looking at the year-over-year trends in this data, it is clear that the pandemic has had profound impacts on the Anchorage workforce. Year-to-date, average unemployment claimant counts are up nearly 514% in 2020, compared to the same 8-month period in 2019. In reviewing the average earnings year-to-date data, it appears that the lower-wage service sector has taken the brunt of the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy. In 2019, average wages for workers who lost their job and were claiming unemployment benefits tracked at just over \$40,000 a year during the first 8 months. For the same period in 2020, with claimant counts six times higher than in 2019, the average wages that workers had earned before becoming unemployed were down 6.4% at just over \$37,500. It is clear that that the pandemic is having a greater negative impact on lower wage service sector workers in restaurants, retail, and health care who are losing their jobs at a much higher rate than workers in higher-paying industries such as Oil & Gas, Construction, and Professional Services.

With the end of summer now past us, no upcoming PFD season for retail and restaurants in October through December, and the many unknowns of the coming winter and further impacts on the Anchorage and Alaska economy, there is much to be concerned about regarding the future in the coming 6-8 months.

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMANTS AND AVERAGE WAGES BY INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY NAME	CLAIMANT COUNT	AVG. EARNINGS
FOOD SERVICES	3,024	\$24,416.00
RETAIL/WHOLESALE	2,324	\$24,541.06
HEALTH CARE	1,708	\$31,144.66
TRANSPORTATION	1,256	\$35,872.35
ACCOMMODATION	1,169	\$27,770.46
ADMINISTRATIVE/OFFICE	1,129	\$26,970.46
CONSTRUCTION	817	\$45,241.26
OTHER	724	\$26,177.69
PROFESSIONAL	570	\$50,511.91
OIL & GAS	538	\$113,112.80
EDUCATION	470	\$25,637.44
ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT	343	\$18,714.60
UNCLASSIFIED	330	\$26,690.24
GOVERNMENT	300	\$38,905.26
FOOD MANUFACTURING	260	\$20,328.12
FINANCE/INSURANCE	242	\$43,476.10
REAL ESTATE	240	\$30,287.06
INFORMATION	173	\$34,574.09
MANUFACTURING	150	\$32,214.01
AGRICULTURE	51	\$21,737.33
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	45	\$47,408.71
WOOD MANUFACTURING	21	\$57,932.00
MINING	19	\$47,037.42
UTILITIES	16	\$40,725.94
UNKNOWN	6	\$40,232.22





AEDC
Anchorage Economic
Development Corporation