



# ANCHORAGE EMPLOYMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020  
ISSUE

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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](http://www.laborstats.alaska.gov)) and from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov](http://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

-8.1% YTD

## TOTAL JOBS

138,300  
-12,300



GOV. JOBS -600  
Federal +200  
State -200  
Local -600



GOODS PRODUCING  
-1,200



OIL & GAS  
-400



CONSTRUCTION  
-500



MANUFACTURING  
-200



SERVICES PROVIDING  
-11,100



HEALTH CARE  
-700



LEISURE & HOSPITALITY  
-4,300



PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES  
-1,000

## MONTHLY SUMMARY

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

October 2020 experienced a drop of 14,100 jobs compared to October 2019. All sectors lost substantial numbers of jobs with Leisure & Hospitality being the sector with the highest job losses at 4,800. There were no other industry sectors that did not lose a significant number of jobs in October 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 Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, even though there are job losses in the Healthcare sector. Unemployment is at 10.6% in October 2020, down from 11.7% in September 2020. This month's data reflects the continuing impacts of COVID-19 related shutdown of the Anchorage economy.

Revised jobs data for the second quarter of 2020 has just been released and shows that the period from April through June saw an average 19,600 jobs lost in the quarter. This reflects the direct impact of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic

## OCTOBER LOSSES: AT A GLANCE

Oil & Gas -400	Educational & Health Services -600
Construction -500	Transportation/Warehouse/Utilities -1,000
Manufacturing -200	Leisure & Hospitality -4,300
Wholesale Trade -200	Accommodation -1,100
Retail Trade -1,800	Food Services and Drinking Places -2,100
Information -300	Local Government -600
Financial Activities -400	Local Education -700
Health Care -700	State Government -200
Other Services -500	State Education -300
	Professional & Business Services -1,000

## OCTOBER GAINS

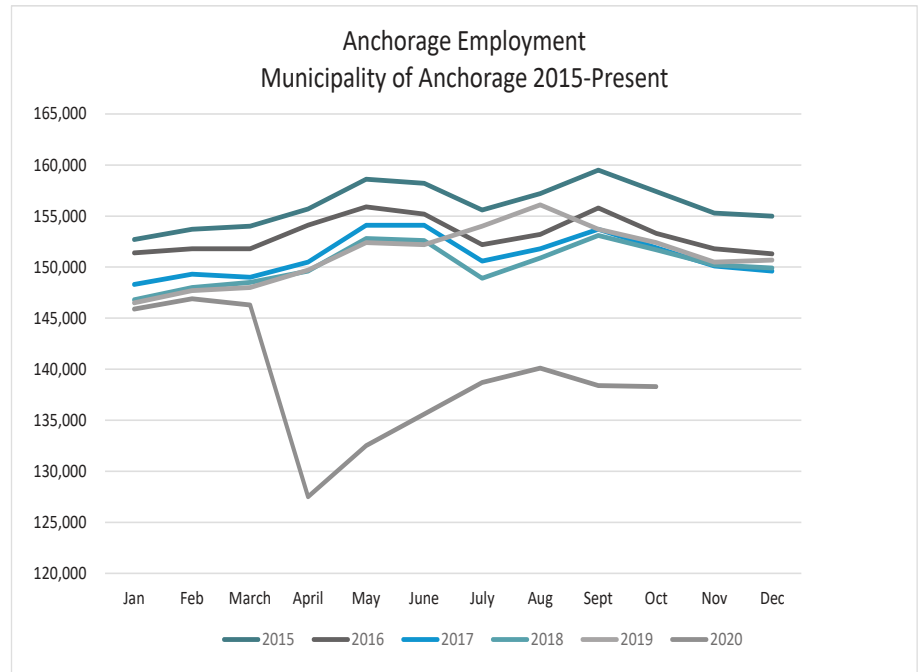
Federal Government +200

## 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.

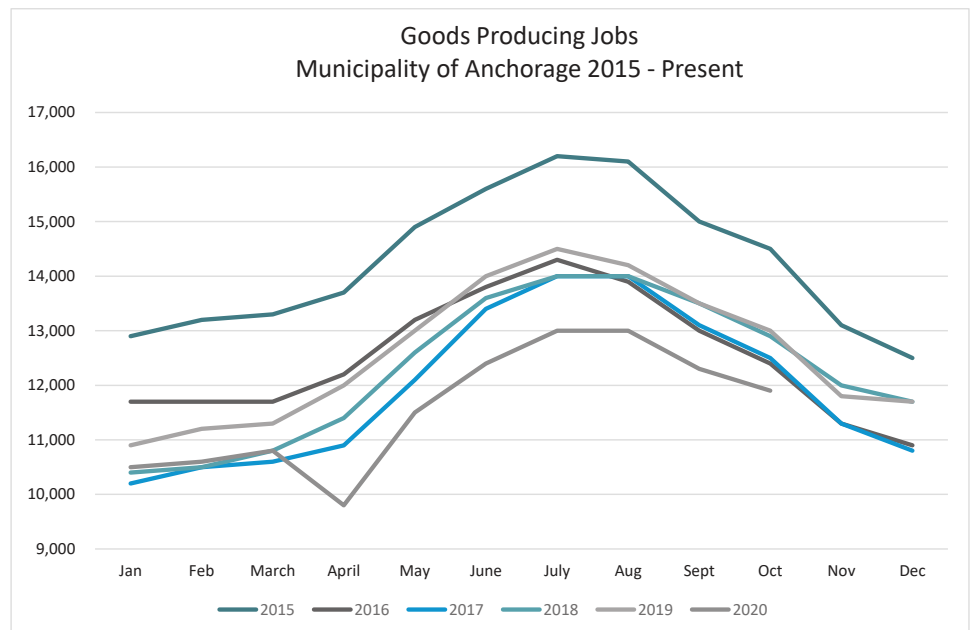
## ANCHORAGE EMPLOYMENT

Total Anchorage employment was at 138,300 in October 2020, showing a decrease of about 14,000 jobs compared to October 2019.



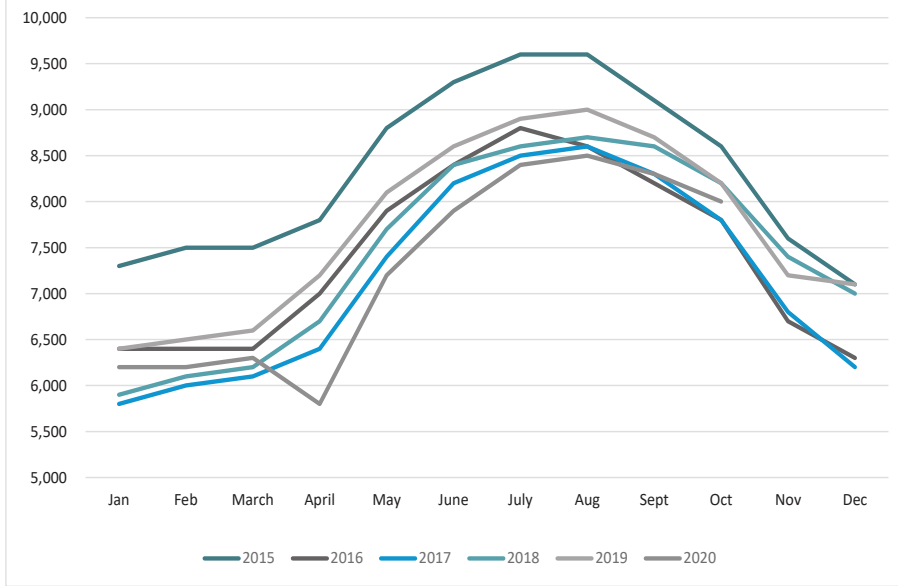
## GOODS PRODUCING JOBS

Anchorage's goods producing sector lost 1,100 jobs or 8.5% in October 2020 compared with October 2019.



All data sourced from the Alaska Department of Labor and the U.S. Bureau of Labor

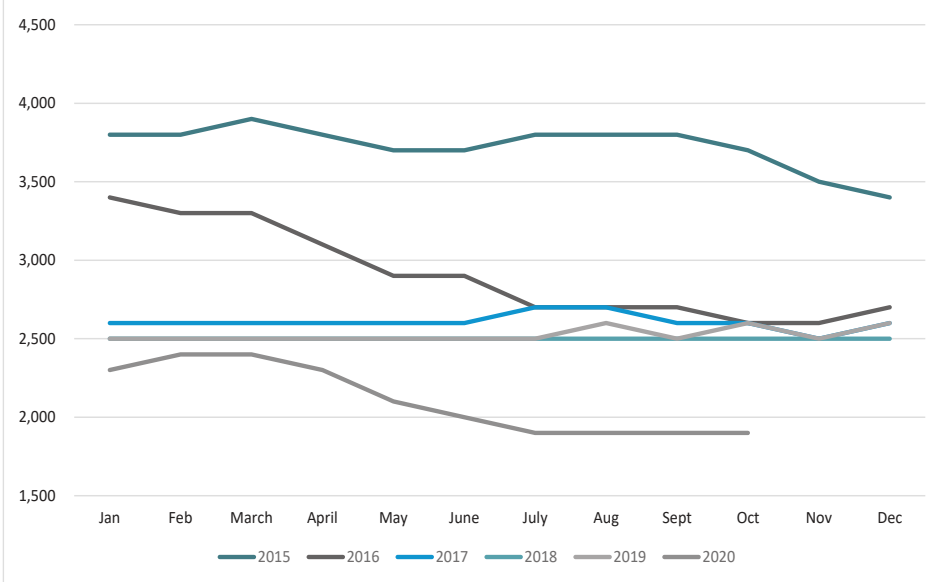
Construction Employment  
Municipality of Anchorage 2015-Present



### CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT

At 8,000 jobs, Anchorage construction employment shed 200 jobs between October 2019 and October 2020. This is down from modest increases construction jobs in 2018 and 2019.

Oil & Gas Employment  
Municipality of Anchorage 2015-Present



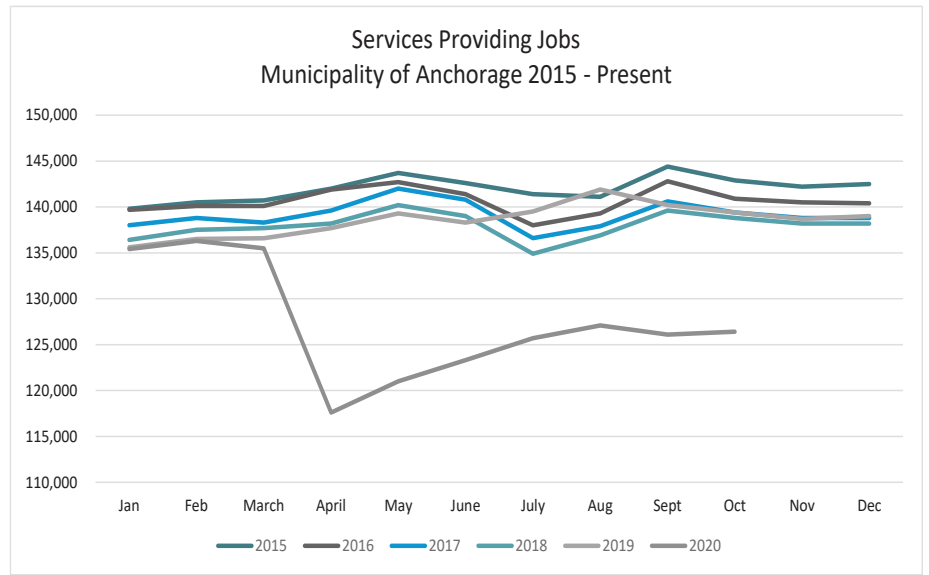
### OIL & GAS EMPLOYMENT

Anchorage's oil and gas sector shed 700 jobs between October 2019 and October 2020. This is a 26.9% decline.

All data sourced from the Alaska Department of Labor and the U.S. Bureau of Labor

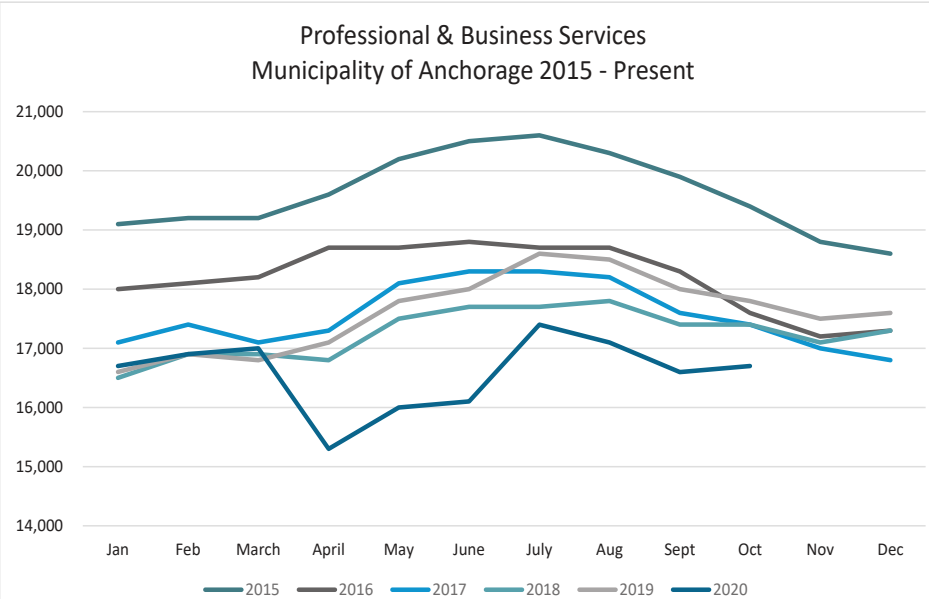
## SERVICES PROVIDING JOBS

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



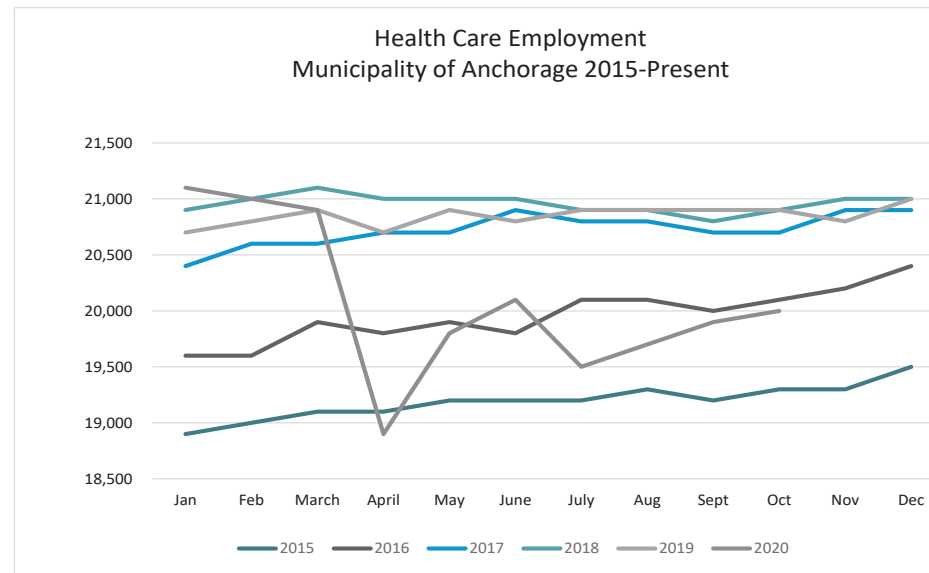
## PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES

Anchorage's professional & business services sector saw a decrease of 1,100 jobs between October 2019 and October 2020.



## HEALTH CARE EMPLOYMENT

Even health care employment is down with a loss of 900 jobs between October 2019 and October 2020.



All data sourced from the Alaska Department of Labor and the U.S. Bureau of Labor

# NOW HIRING

## FEATURED OPENINGS BY OCCUPATION

SOURCE: *JOBSEQ*®

### Registered Nurses

TOTAL ADS: 359

Average  
annual:  
\$72,800

### Retail Salespersons

TOTAL ADS: 364

Average  
annual:  
\$27,979

### SOCIAL AND HUMAN SERVICE ASSISTANTS

TOTAL ADS: 208

Average  
annual:  
\$40,789

## TOP EMPLOYERS

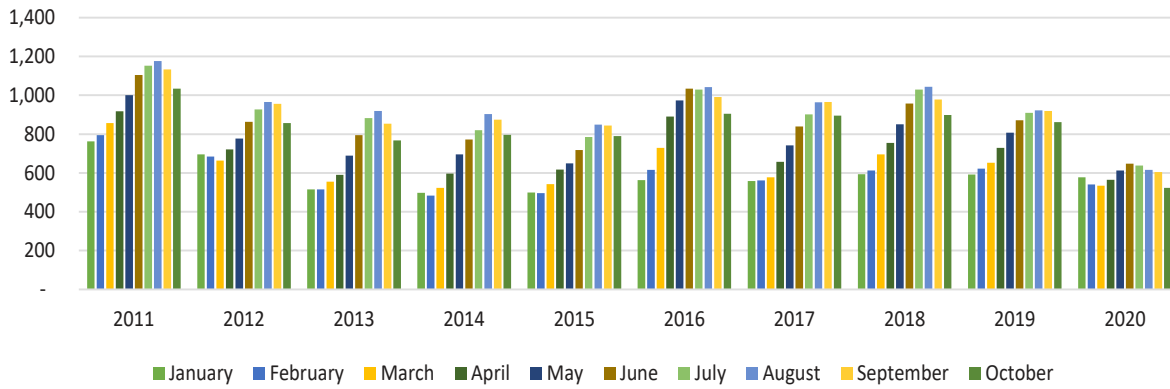
### TOP EMPLOYERS BY TOTAL ADS SEPTEMBER 2020

SOURCE: *JOBSEQ*®

Company	Total Ads
Providence Health & Services	294
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	159
Anchorage School District	133
Humana	125
HCA	94
State of Alaska	75
The University of Alaska	75
Instacart Shoppers	71
Municipality of Anchorage	70
Alaska Teacher Placement	66

## Anchorage Single Family Home Listings Monthly Totals 10-Year Comparison as of 10/31/2020

Data Source: Alaska Multiple Listings Service



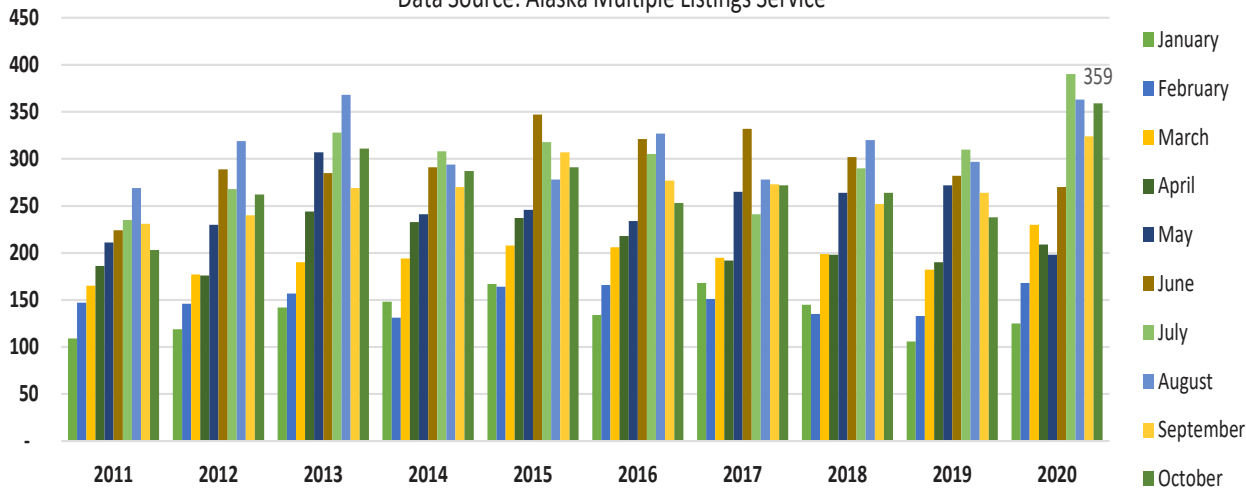
### ANCHORAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME LISTINGS

#### YTD 10-YEAR COMPARISON

Anchorage's single-family home listings stood at 524 as of October 2020, a decrease of 338 from 862 listings in October 2019.

### Monthly 10-Year Comparison as of 10/31/2020

Data Source: Alaska Multiple Listings Service



### ANCHORAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME MONTHLY UNIT SALES

#### YTD 10-YEAR COMPARISON

Anchorage's single-family home monthly unit sales stood at 359 in October 2020, which is up 121 sales from 238 in October 2019.

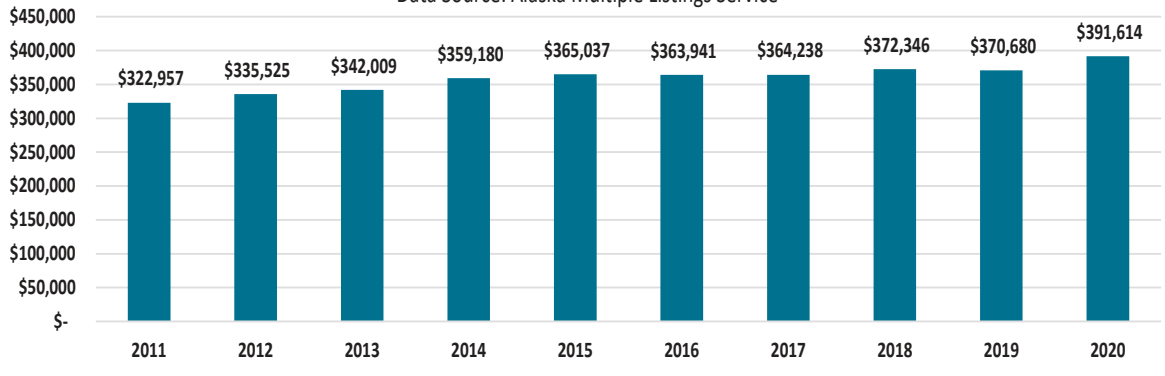
Data source: Alaska Multiple Listing Service



### Anchorage Single Family Home Average Sale Price

#### YTD 10-Year Comparison as of 10/31/2020

Data Source: Alaska Multiple Listings Service



### ANCHORAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOME AVERAGE SALES PRICE

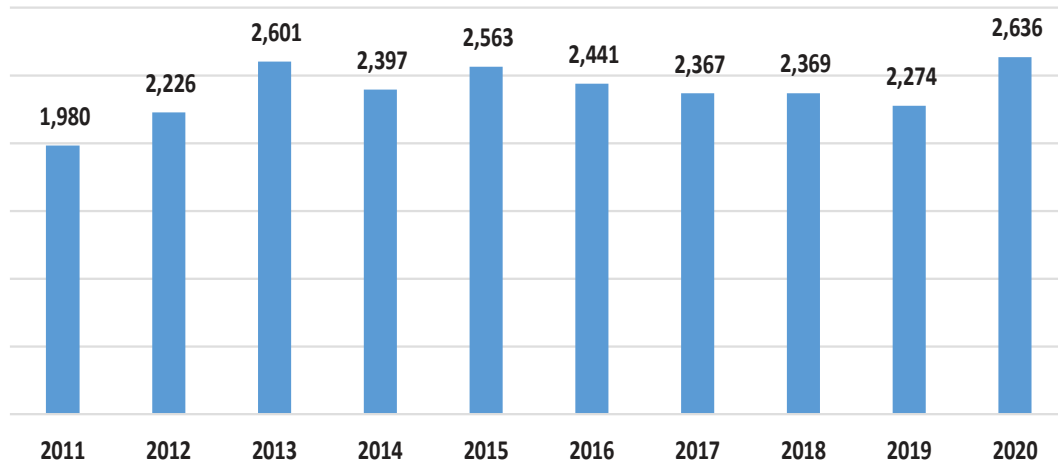
#### YTD 10-YEAR COMPARISON

The average price of a single-family home in Anchorage grew to \$406,974 in October 2020, up \$43,756 from \$363,218 in October 2019.

### Anchorage Single Family Homes Total Unit Sales

#### YTD 10-Year Comparison as of 10/31/2020

Data Source: Alaska Multiple Listings Service



### ANCHORAGE SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES TOTAL UNIT SALES

#### YTD 10-YEAR COMPARISON

The number of single-family home unit sales year-to-date increased in October 2020 to 2,636, up 362 units sold compared to the period in 2019, showing a significant increase in home sales.

Data source: Alaska Multiple Listing Service



# UNEMPLOYMENT DATA

Just released unemployment data from the U.S. Labor Department remains questionable regarding its accuracy. In a statement issued with the October Jobs Data press release, the Alaska Department of Labor noted “Jobs and unemployment insurance claims are better indicators of the state’s economic health than the unemployment rate, however, which has fallen in recent months because of difficulties conducting a key household survey during a pandemic and technical issues with the model the Bureau of Labor Statistics uses to calculate the rate. Job losses remain historically large and claims during the second week of October were about seven times higher than last year.”

As we noted earlier this year, AEDC will no longer be reporting the unemployment data as we have in the past until the methodology problems are solved for this data. Instead, AEDC 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 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 data set does not include those who are unemployed whose benefits have either ended or been denied because of ineligibility.

In the month of October, 11,671 citizens of Anchorage either applied for the first time for unemployment benefits or continued to receive unemployment benefits. Additionally, approximately 3,600 self-employed workers received special Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits. As a result, approximately 15,300 Anchorage citizens received some form of unemployment assistance in September, equal to 10.6% of the estimated Anchorage labor force out of work for this reporting period. As noted in previous reports, if we able were to include in this total those workers whose benefits have run out or are not qualified to receive benefits from available programs, it would likely add several thousand additional impacted workers to this figure.

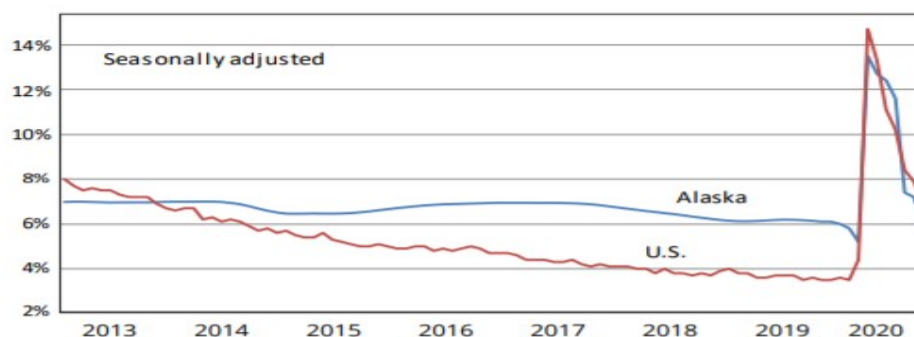
Excluding workers receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for which detailed data is not available, the industry sector most impacted by job losses in October was the food services sector (includes restaurants and bars) which saw 1,888 people out of work. Retail was second with 1,680 out of work, and health care was in third, showing 1,221 no longer employed. A full representation of the industry sector impacts, and the average wages earned by the workers in those industries is represented in the charts below. (See spreadsheet for charts).

Looking at the year over year trends in this data, impacts on the Anchorage workforce continue to remain at unprecedented high levels. Year to date, average unemployment claimant counts are up 509% in 2020 compared to the same 10-month period in 2019. Wage data for workers represented in this data continue to show the largest negative impacts on the lower-wage service sector which 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 10 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 6.3% at just over \$37,550. It is likely this trend of disproportionately larger negative impacts impacting lower wage service sector workers in restaurants, retail, and health care will continue into the months to come.

# UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMANTS AND AVERAGE WAGES BY INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY NAME	CLAIMANT COUNT	AVG. EARNINGS
FOOD SERVICES	1888	\$23,163.96
RETAIL/WHOLESALE	1680	\$25,553.68
HEALTH CARE	1221	\$31,490.59
ADMINISTRATIVE/OFFICE	890	\$29,057.44
ACCOMMODATION	871	\$28,057.49
CONSTRUCTION	789	\$50,632.61
TRANSPORTATION	785	\$36,362.57
OTHER	494	\$27,330.95
OIL & GAS	452	\$113,862.77
PROFESSIONAL	429	\$54,929.71
EDUCATION	382	\$21,158.82
FOOD MANUFACTURING	269	\$23,074.71
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	268	\$38,901.48
UNCLASSIFIED	250	\$27,613.76
REAL ESTATE	210	\$31,519.60
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	207	\$18,668.96
FINANCE / INSURANCE	204	\$40,282.49
INFORMATION	132	\$37,252.01
OTHER MANUFACTURING	112	\$34,921.86
AGRICULTURE	38	\$25,465.47
MANAGEMENT	34	\$37,353.00
HARD ROCK MINING	31	\$52,692.81
WOOD MANUFACTURING	18	\$62,890.89
UTILITIES	17	\$43,970.06

## Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S. January 2013 to October 2020



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



AEDC  
Anchorage Economic  
Development Corporation