

AEDC EMPLOYMENT REPORT

July 2026



ANCHORAGE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Anchorage Economic Development Corporation

Anchorage Employment Report

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Development Corporation

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President & CEO's Review



July was a calm month for employment in Anchorage. Month to month employment in the private sector was largely flat as seasonal industry hiring stabilized with Tourism adding only 100 jobs over last month while construction showed a modest gain of 200 jobs during the same period. The Information sector continues to shed jobs losing another 100 compared to last month continuing a long-term decline in that sector's employment.

The biggest shift in the jobs numbers over last month comes from the apparent loss of 2,700 jobs in the local government sector, but this number is misleading. It reflects the way that school district contracts are tracked in the system as teachers transition from summer to the new school year and does not actually represent a massive job loss from schools. The monthly employment numbers for that sector should go back to an accurate representation in the August report.

However, year over year comparisons for July show a continuing decline in Anchorage's employment numbers across almost all sectors. Compared to July 2025, there were 1,600 fewer jobs this year than last year, mainly stemming from losses in the Service Producing and Government sectors. These losses continue a trend that has been present most of 2026 and represents a shift from the recovery in jobs numbers that Anchorage has enjoyed for the last five years post-COVID.

Mining and Logging, Oil & Gas, Manufacturing, Wholesale and Retail Trade all ended the month with no change in job numbers from the previous year possibly indicating a stabilization in the job losses that those sectors have seen throughout most of 2026. The Information, Professional & Business Services, Food Services & Drinking Places sectors on the other hand all lost ground, shedding several hundred jobs and continuing a long running decline that is the result of changing economic make up of the city as well as changing national trends.

The losses in the private sector were nothing compared to the losses in Government employment however which represented most job losses for the month year over year. All government sectors (Federal, State & Local) lost a total of 1,500 jobs compared to July 2025 and have represented most job losses this year. Federal employment is down 1,000 jobs over July 2025 while State employment dropped by 400. These losses represent a significant shift in Anchorage's workforce and the individuals moving out of the Government sector do not appear to be moving directly into the private sector.

All in all, the data continues to suggest that Anchorage's five-year recovery from the combined employment downturns from the pre-COVID recession followed by the job losses during COVID have begun to stall. Some industries are still managing to add jobs in Anchorage's strongest sectors: Healthcare, Construction, and Logistics, several other sectors continue to decline such as Financial Activities, Information and Oil & Gas while new losses in Government employment that don't appear to be absorbed by the private sector are cause for concern. As we move into the post summer employment period, we will continue to monitor trends in Retail, Restaurant & Drinking Establishments and Accommodation to determine if private sector employment will continue its slowdown or if the economy will begin to show signs of recovery.

- Jon Bittner
President & CEO
Anchorage Economic Development Corporation



Report Inclusion Details



Each month, AEDC publishes the *Anchorage Monthly Jobs Report*, offering a comprehensive snapshot of the city's labor market and overall economic health.

The report tracks key indicators including unemployment trends, labor force participation, industry performance, and broader workforce dynamics.

It also highlights notable shifts across sectors, emerging trends, and year-over-year comparisons to provide important context.

Together, these insights create a clear and timely picture of Anchorage's employment landscape—supporting informed decision-making for businesses, policymakers, educators, and job seekers alike. The report serves as a valuable tool for understanding workforce challenges, identifying opportunities for growth, and guiding strategic planning across the community.

Please note that data for the most recent months are preliminary estimates and may be subject to revision as additional information becomes available.



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Key Takeaways



- July job decline is almost entirely driven by local government (mostly school district staffing).



- Almost all private -sector industries held steady or grew in July.



- Federal government employment remained flat at lowest employment level of 2026.



- Healthcare remained flat despite hiring demand.

3.2%
Unemployment

2,900
Jobs Lost*

Typical
Seasonal
Employment
Trend



Photo Credit W ayde Carroll Anchorage Distillery, Courtesy: Visit Anchorage



July Employment Trends



Sector		June 2026	July 2026	Change - / +	Change %
Total Nonfarm (Net)		155,400	152,500	-2,900	-1.87%
Government (Combined)		26,500	23,500	-3,000	-11.32%
Federal Government		7,400	7,400	0	0.00%
State Government		9,900	9,600	-300	-3.03%
Local Government		9,200	6,500	-2,700	-29.35%
Local Education		6,500	3,800	-2,700	-41.54%
Construction		9,500	9,700	+200	2.11%
Professional & Business Services		18,900	19,100	+200	1.06%
Manufacturing		2,100	2,200	+100	4.76%
Leisure & Hospitality		17,300	17,400	+100	0.58%
Health care		23,100	23,100	0	0.00%
Trade / Transportation / Utilities		35,400	35,300	-100	-0.28%

The July decline in nonfarm employment is almost entirely attributable to government employment, specifically local government and local education. This reflects the seasonal end of teacher contracts in July, with employment levels expected to increase again when Anchorage schools resume in August. **As a result, the July decline does not indicate a weakening economy; the seasonal employment pattern should be corrected in the August data release.**

Net
Nonfarm

-2,900

Loss



-3,000

Government
- Seasonal Education

Gains*



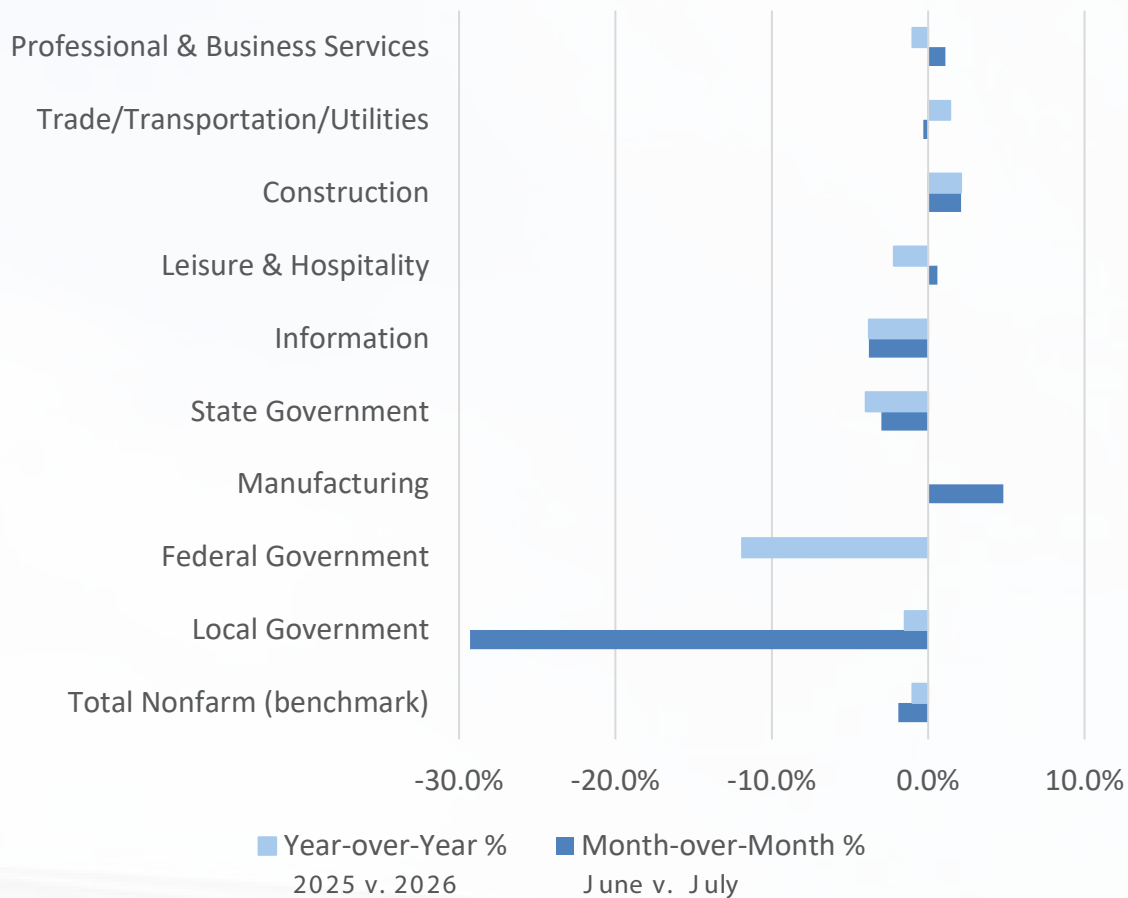
+600

Private Employment
- Construction,
- Professional
- Manufacturing, etc.

Source: *Highlighted Data, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, (CES Labor Force Data)

July Employment Overview

Year over Year and Month over Month Changes



This chart shows year-over-year and month-over-month job changes across most major industries in Anchorage. Anchorage employment fell 1.9% from June to July, driven almost entirely by seasonal declines in government and local education employment. Year-over-year employment is down 1.0%, but nearly all the decline is concentrated in government, while private-sector employment remains essentially flat and construction and transportation continue to post year-over-year gains.



Nearly all the decline is concentrated in government.



Construction and transportation continue to post year-over-year gains.

July Employment Trends

Unemployment Rate Trend (2021 - 2026)



Source : Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (CES Labor Force Data)

Anchorage's unemployment rate fell to **3.2% in July 2026**, down from **3.6% in June** and **3.5% in July 2025**. The 0.4 percentage-point month-over-month decline and 0.3-point year-over-year decline suggest that, despite the drop employment, there was not a broad deterioration in labor-market conditions. The July rate is also the lowest recorded in 2026, reinforcing a picture of a relatively tight labor market.



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Thank you

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