



ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: ALASKA

***Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through July 2015**
Last updated on August 21st; Data update next on September 18th*

JOBS

- In July, private-sector employment in Alaska fell by 300 jobs. Over the past year, Alaska businesses have added 900 jobs. This compares with an increase of 1,900 jobs over the 12 months through July 2014.
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, Alaska businesses have added 20,500 jobs (an increase of 8.7 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 12.1 percent over this time.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: mining and logging at 19.1 percent (2,800 jobs), construction at 15.8 percent (2,500 jobs) and education and health services at 14.8 percent (6,100 jobs).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Alaska was 6.7 percent in July 2015, down 0.1 percentage point from June. The rate was 1.4 percentage points above the national rate of 5.3 percent.
- Unemployment is down 0.2 percentage point from one year earlier and is 1.3 percentage points below its recent peak of 8.0 percent in April 2010.
- There were 24,500 Alaska residents unemployed in July 2015.

EARNINGS

- In July 2015, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in Alaska were \$27.83. The average workweek was 35.8 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$996.31.
- Adjusting for inflation, state average hourly earnings have risen by 4.2 percent over the past year. Nationally, real average hourly earnings have increased by 1.9 percent (not seasonally adjusted).

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Alaska	United States
Private-Sector Jobs Added	Past 12 Months	900	2.9 million
	Since Feb. 2010	20,500	13.0 million
Unemployment Rate	July 2015	6.7%	5.3%
	July 2014	6.9%	6.2%
	Recession-Era Peak	8.0%	10.0%
Median Household Income (2013 \$)	2013	\$61,100	\$51,900
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	\$70,800	\$56,400
Poverty Rate	2013	10.9%	14.5%
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	7.6%	12.5%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	5.9%	5.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	7.5%	7.2%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2013	18.5%	14.5%

STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- ❑ Real gross domestic product (GDP) in Alaska fell by 1.3 percent in 2014, below the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.*
- ❑ Since 2009, annual Alaska GDP growth has averaged -0.4 percent, compared with a national average annual growth rate of 1.9 percent.

HOUSING

- ❑ Home prices in Alaska increased by 6.5 percent from the first quarter of 2014 to the first quarter of 2015. They are up 14.7 percent since their recent low in the third quarter of 2009.
- ❑ In June 2015, builders in Alaska broke ground on 1,350 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 1,169 units. That marks an increase of 11.0 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

EXPORTS

- ❑ In Alaska, goods exports totaled \$201 million in June and \$5.0 billion over the past year, up 16.4 percent from the 12 months ending in June 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- ❑ Exports over the past 12 months are up 44.7 percent from their level in 2009 (inflation-adjusted).

* Note: Because of methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state differs slightly from headline national GDP figures

** A list of sources used to compile the Alaska economic snapshot is available at: <http://bit.ly/JEC-state-by-state-sources>

*** For additional Alaska-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Alaska office: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us/>