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Press Release

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Alaska employment grew 0.8 percent in the first half of 2015

JUNEAU, Alaska—Employment in Alaska increased by 2,591 jobs, or 0.8 percent, in the first half of 2015 compared to the first half of 2014. Average monthly employment from January through June was 335,330.

Employers paid \$9.0 billion in wages during the first six months of 2015, a 2.1 percent increase from the same period in the previous year, when adjusted for inflation.

Job growth was driven by the private sector, which added 2,663 jobs while public sector employment fell by 72. Government losses slowed in the first half of 2015 compared to previous years, largely because the five-year trend of significant federal job losses subsided.

A mix of industries drove growth in the first half of 2015. Construction added 971 jobs, but much of that was due to a coding change that moved jobs from the oil and gas industry to construction. The two industries combined added more than 1,000 jobs in the first half of 2015.

Retail trade continued its growth spurt in the first half of 2015 with 680 additional jobs, driven by new store openings. Private health care providers added 540 jobs in the first half of 2015, although some of those gains were offset by losses in private social services. The leisure and hospitality industry added 703 jobs, largely because of hires in bars and restaurants.

The only private industry that lost a substantial number of jobs was seafood processing. These losses were due to fewer hires during winter groundfish fisheries and a late Bristol Bay sockeye return.

Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Alaska Employment by Industry

Industry	Average Monthly Employment		Employment Change	
	Jan to Jun '14	Jan to Jun '15	By Number	By Percent
Total, All Industries	332,739	335,330	2,591	0.8%
Total Private	250,765	253,428	2,663	1.1%
Natural Resources and Mining	18,240	18,382	142	0.8%
Oil and Gas	14,399	14,514	116	0.8%
Construction	15,948	16,919	971	6.1%
Manufacturing	13,823	13,153	-670	-4.8%
Seafood Processing	10,158	9,348	-810	-8.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	63,204	64,135	931	1.5%
Transp. and Warehousing	18,829	18,994	166	0.9%
Retail Trade	35,829	36,509	680	1.9%
Wholesale Trade	6,471	6,519	47	0.7%
Utilities	2,076	2,113	38	1.8%
Information	6,238	6,309	71	1.1%
Financial Activities	12,861	12,776	-85	-0.7%
Professional and Business Services	29,550	29,860	311	1.1%
Education and Health Services	45,896	46,184	288	0.6%
Health Care	33,736	34,275	540	1.6%
Social Assistance	9,924	9,586	-339	-3.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	32,744	33,447	703	2.1%
Other Services	11,787	11,789	2	0.0%
Total Government	81,975	81,902	-72	-0.1%
Federal Government	14,879	14,738	-141	-0.9%
State Government	26,622	26,216	-406	-1.5%
Local Government	40,474	40,948	475	1.2%

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages