

# KENAI PENINSULA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sara Bieber,  
Gulf Coast Regional Manager



# INTRODUCTION TO THE REGION

The Gulf Coast Region serves over 40 communities between Valdez and Kodiak. Within the region, 4 job centers promote our continued mission to advance opportunities for employment and economic stability.

The region's job centers are in Valdez, Homer, Kodiak, and Kenai.



# GREATER KENAI PENINSULA AREA INFORMATION

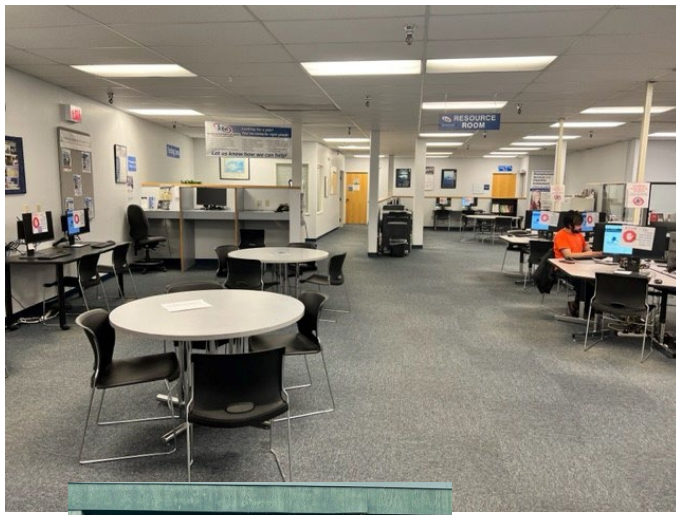


The Kenai Peninsula is known as “Alaska’s Playground.” The Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) area covers more than 25,000 square miles (more than the size of Massachusetts and New Jersey combined) of diverse geographical landscape. In 2021, the US Census identified the borough as having a population of almost 60,000 people. Much of the population reside in the cities of Kenai, Soldotna, Homer, and Seward.

Healthcare has a substantial representation with hospitals in Kenai, Homer, and Seward, amongst many medical offices/clinics and other stakeholders. The unemployment rate for the borough is about 5.3% as of December 2023.

# THE PENINSULA JOB CENTER

The Peninsula Job Center (PJC) serves as the hub of the Gulf Coast Region. Except for the Southern Peninsula and across Kachemak Bay, the Peninsula Job Center itself serves communities on the Kenai Peninsula from Whittier south to Ninilchik.



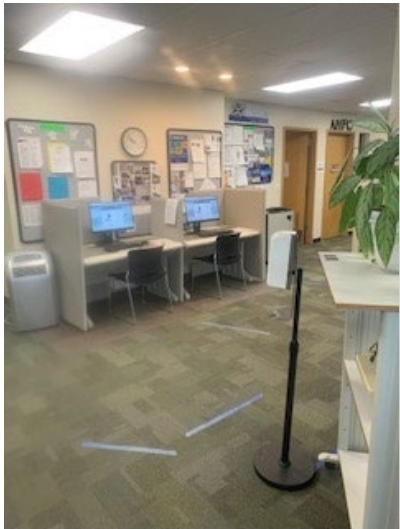
The PJC is co-located with the Division of Public Assistance and Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training. Career Support and Training Services (CSTS) has full-time staff including an Employment Services Tech (EST) III (Supervisor) and 5 Employment Service Tech I/II's. 5 full-time staff including an EST III (Supervisor), an EST I/II Business Connections, and 3 EST I's support resource room activities. All, under different titles, provide Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) services at the PJC.





# THE HOMER JOB CENTER

Serving the Anchor Point area south is the Homer Job Center (HJC). They serve 4 communities in the local area. They are co-located with the Division of Public Assistance and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.



The HJC is staffed by two full-time employees, an ESM I who manages the HJC and an EST I who provide WIOA and Labor Exchange services.



HJC staff is well-seasoned and integrated into the community. They work regularly in much the same capacity as other regional job centers.

# ALASKA JOBS

## ALASKAJOBS.ALASKA.GOV



**Important:** Some unemployment insurance (UI) must register in this system to continue to be eligible for UI benefits; entering the system as a guest user does not satisfy that requirement.

Find a Candidate

Find a Job

Research Grant Types

Enter a keyword and/or location to find jobs.

Search Jobs ▾ Job Title, Company, Occupation or Military Code City, State, County, Region or Zip Search

# RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

## Alaska Economic Trends Magazine

[May 2024](#)

[Read Past Issues](#)

or

[Search Trends](#)

[Sign up for your copy](#)



Economy at a glance  
**March over-the-year job growth\***

**2.8%**  
**(U.S. 1.9%)**

**March unemployment rate\*\***

**4.6%**  
**(U.S. 3.8%)**

[Read this month's unemployment press release](#)

*\*Percent change to job numbers from the same month of the previous year*

*\*\*Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates; Alaska's unemployment rate has been an unreliable and often misleading economic indicator during the COVID-affected months because of data collection challenges*

[Population And Census](#)

[Labor Market Information](#)

[Trends Magazine](#)

[Unemployment System Data](#)

[Projections](#)

[Worker Residency Data](#)

[Other Economic Data](#)

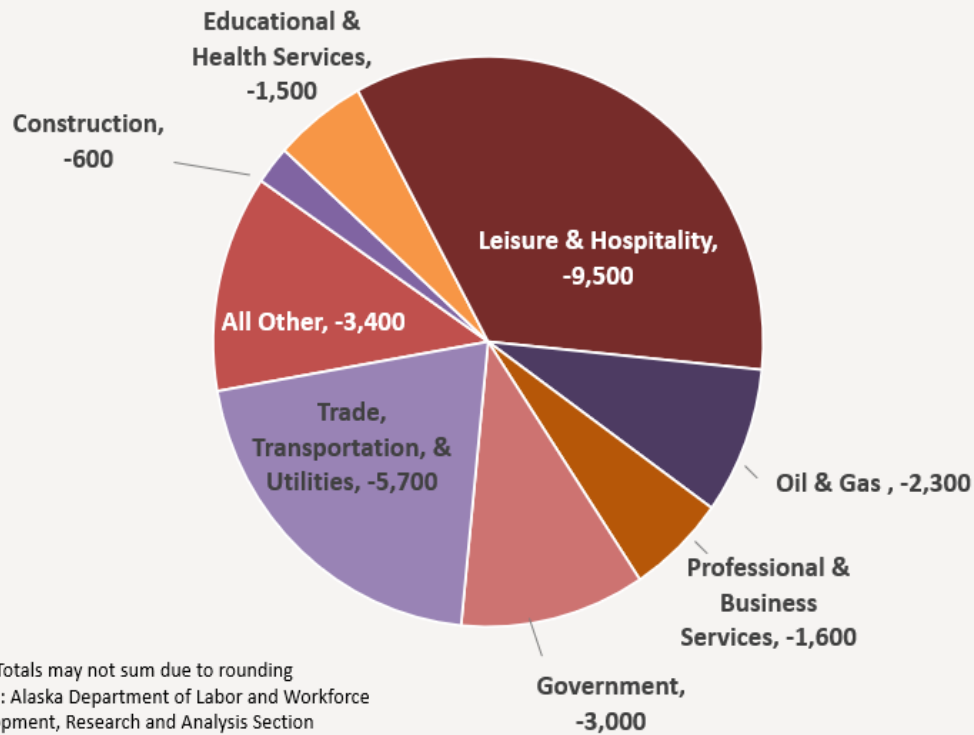
[Other Resources](#)

[Contact Research And Analysis](#)

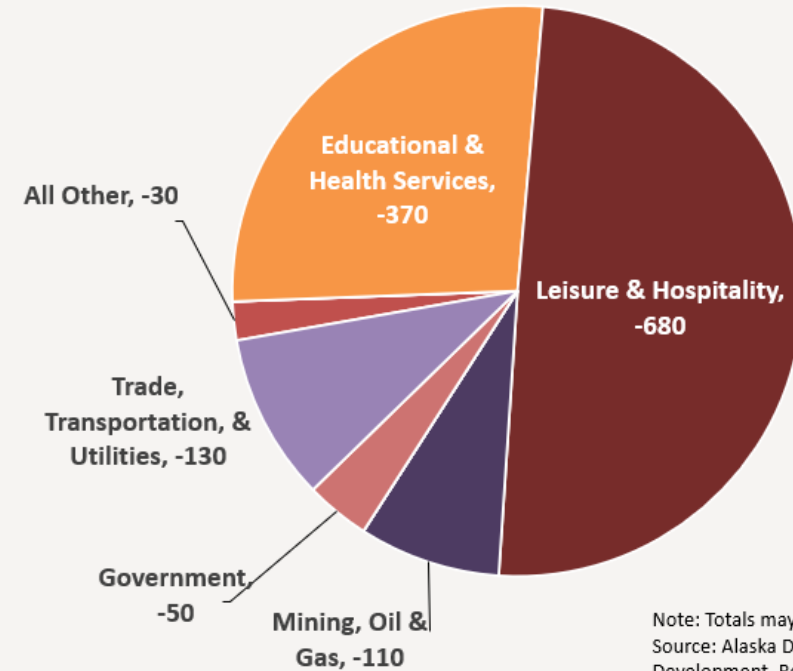
<https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov>

# ALASKA AND BOROUGH JOB LOSS IN 2020

Alaska lost 27,600 jobs in 2020



KPB lost 1,360 jobs in 2020

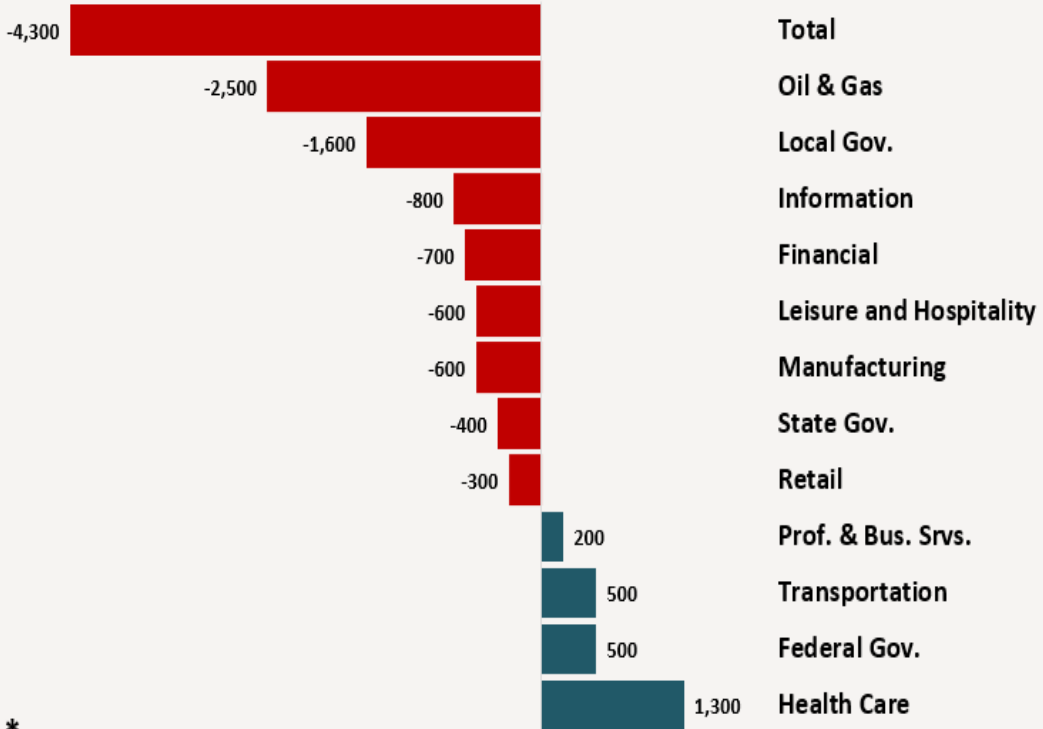


# STATEWIDE AND BOROUGH RECOVERY

Many statewide industries are still recovering, but healthcare is thriving

In Kenai, most industries have recovered

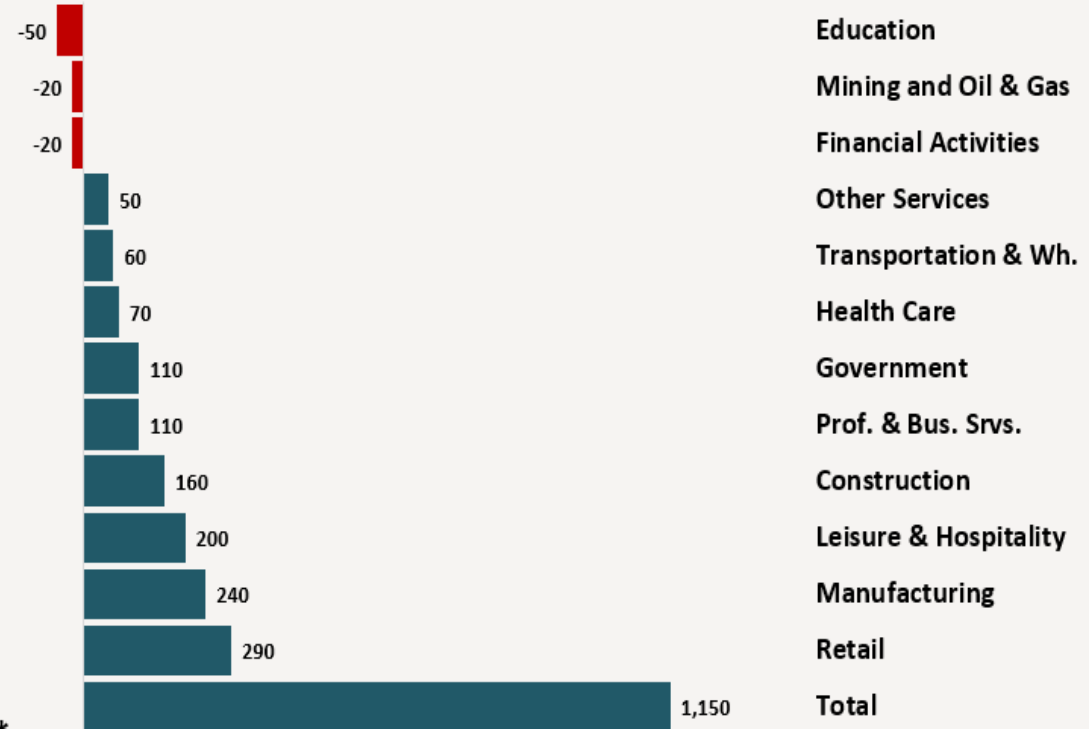
Change in jobs from 2019 to 2023\*



\* Preliminary

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Change in jobs from 2019 to 2023\*

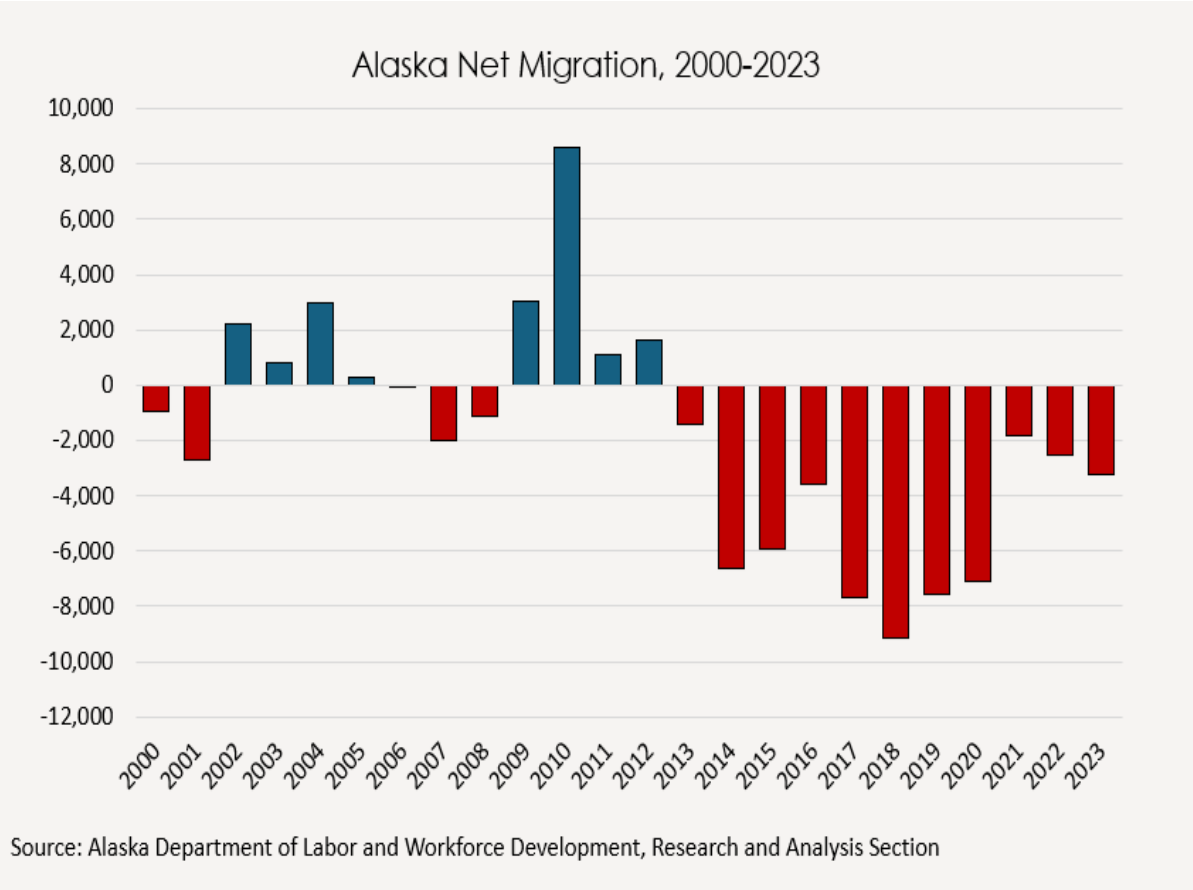


\* Preliminary

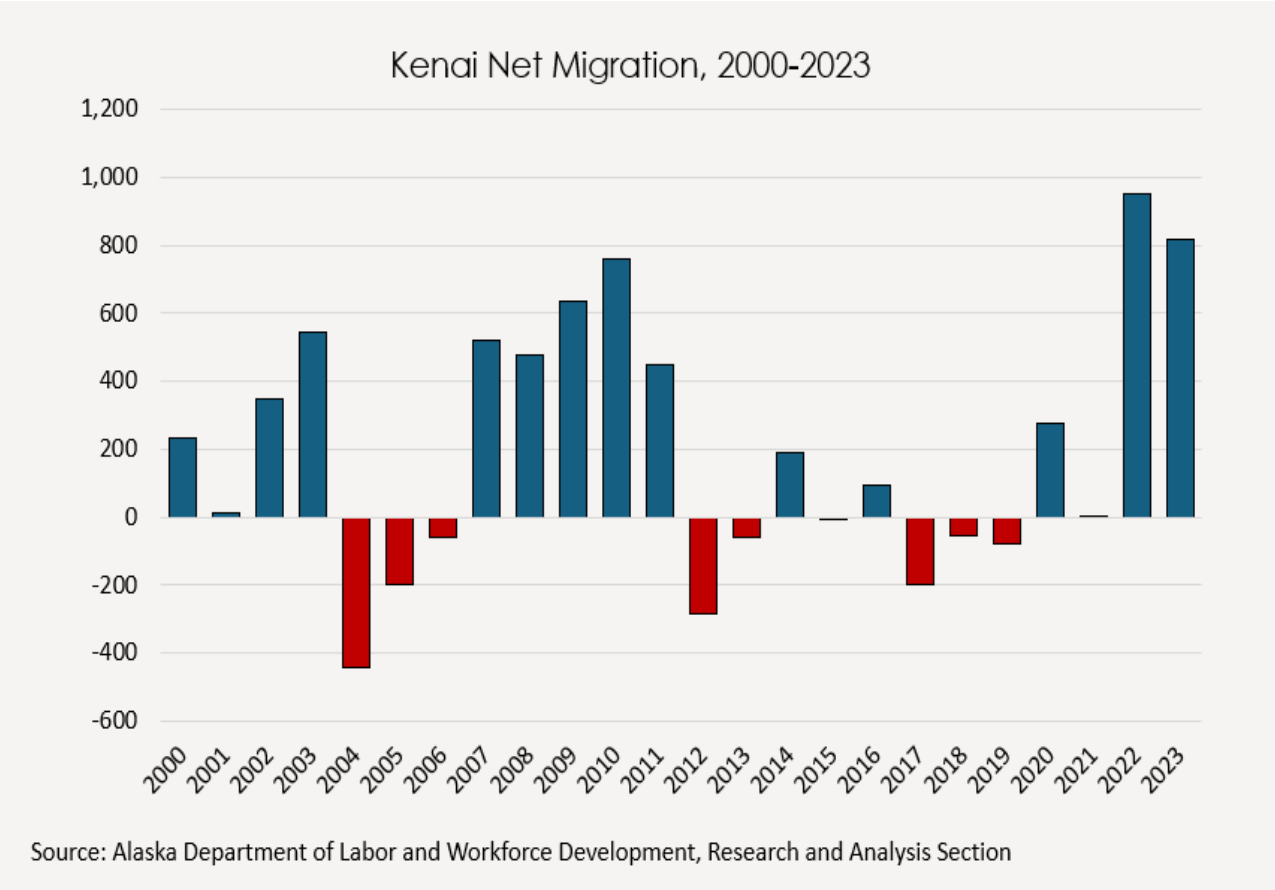
Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

# STATEWIDE AND BOROUGH POPULATION TRENDS

Alaska as a whole is steadily losing people



In Kenai, most industries have recovered



# STATEWIDE JOB OUTLOOK AND RECOVERY BY INDUSTRY

## Outlook by Industry

	Monthly avg, 2022 <sup>1</sup>	Monthly avg, 2023 <sup>1</sup>	Change, 2022-23	Percent change	JOBS FORECAST		
					Monthly avg, 2024	Change, 2023-24	Percent change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment<sup>2</sup></b>	318,800	326,200	7,400	2.3%	331,600	5,400	1.7%
<b>Total Private</b>	241,600	247,800	6,200	2.6%	252,700	4,900	2.0%
Mining and Logging	10,900	11,500	600	5.5%	12,500	1,000	8.7%
Oil and Gas	7,000	7,400	400	5.7%	8,000	600	8.1%
Construction	16,100	16,700	600	3.7%	17,800	1,100	6.6%
Manufacturing	12,100	12,600	500	4.1%	12,600	0	0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	63,800	65,200	1,400	2.2%	66,000	800	1.2%
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,400	200	3.2%	6,500	100	1.6%
Retail Trade	35,000	35,300	300	0.9%	35,500	200	0.6%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	22,600	23,500	900	4.0%	24,000	500	2.1%
Information	4,700	4,600	-100	-2.1%	4,600	0	0%
Financial Activities	11,000	10,900	-100	-0.9%	10,900	0	0%
Professional and Business Services	27,300	28,100	800	2.9%	28,600	500	1.8%
Educational (private) and Health Services	50,100	51,300	1,200	2.4%	52,000	700	1.4%
Health Care	38,900	40,000	1,100	2.8%	40,600	600	1.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	34,300	35,600	1,300	3.8%	36,100	500	1.4%
Other Services	11,100	11,400	300	2.7%	11,600	200	1.8%
<b>Total Government</b>	77,200	78,400	1,200	1.6%	78,900	500	0.6%
Federal, except military	15,000	15,400	400	2.7%	15,400	0	0%
State, incl. University of Alaska	22,400	22,800	400	1.8%	23,100	300	1.3%
Local and tribal, incl. public schools	39,800	40,200	400	1.0%	40,400	200	0.5%

## Pre-Covid to Now Forecast

	2019 jobs	2024 forecasted	Difference from 2019	
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	330,000	331,600	0.5%	1,600
<b>Total Private</b>	250,200	252,700	1.0%	2,500
Mining and Logging	13,400	12,500	-6.7%	-900
Oil and Gas	9,900	8,000	-19.2%	-1,900
Construction	16,400	17,800	8.5%	1,400
Manufacturing	13,100	12,600	-3.8%	-500
Transportation, Trade, and Utilities	64,600	66,000	2.2%	1,400
Wholesale Trade	6,600	6,500	-1.5%	-100
Retail Trade	35,600	35,500	-0.3%	-100
Transp, Warehousing, and Utilities	22,500	24,000	6.7%	1,500
Information	5,400	4,600	-14.8%	-800
Financial Activities	11,600	10,900	-6.0%	-700
Professional and Business Services	27,700	28,600	3.2%	900
Educational (private) and Health Svcs	50,800	52,000	2.4%	1,200
Health Care	38,700	40,500	4.7%	1,800
Leisure and Hospitality	36,200	36,100	-0.3%	-100
Other Services	11,000	11,600	5.5%	600
<b>Total Government</b>	79,900	78,900	-1.3%	-1,000
Federal, except military	14,900	15,400	3.4%	500
State, incl. University of Alaska	23,200	23,100	-0.4%	-100
Local and tribal, incl. public schools	41,800	40,400	-3.3%	-1,400

**Note:** May not sum because of rounding. Excludes the self-employed, uniformed military, most commercial fishermen, domestic workers, and unpaid family workers.  
**Source:** Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

# CAREER SUPPORT AND TRAINING SERVICES

## ➤ Who are we?

- Workforce Development and Career Planners

## ➤ What do we do?

- Administer Federal and State grant funds
- Help individuals who may need training or support to obtain self-sustaining work
- Help individuals who may need to acquire new skills to obtain or retain employment
- Give employers the opportunity to tap into a pool of workers who are good candidates for a job but may need additional training through On-the-Job Training or Apprenticeship

# WHAT CAN GRANT FUNDING PROGRAMS ASSIST WITH?

## **Job Search Assistance**

Transportation to an interview, meals, lodging, clothing and safety gear are some examples of job search assistance.

## **Relocation Assistance**

If you obtain full-time, self-sustaining employment in another area, we may be able to help with moving expenses. This can include the moving of personal and family household goods, temporary housing and transportation to your new employment site.

## **Training Assistance**

Short term certifications, vocational schools, college programs, apprenticeship, on-the-job trainings are examples of training assistance. Our programs can assist with tuition, books, fees, support service costs, tools, etc. to assist a customer on their career path.

# INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING

## **Workforce Innovation And Opportunity Act Incumbent Worker Training Program** <https://labor.alaska.gov/dets/iwtp.htm>

The Incumbent Worker Training program is funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and administered by Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Employment and Training Services.

The program is designed to increase the competitiveness of the business and incumbent workers by ensuring they acquire the skills necessary to retain employment, advance within the business or to provide the worker skills necessary to avert a layoff. The training is conducted with a commitment by the employer to retain the incumbent workers who received the training.

The benefits of incumbent worker training include:

For Employers:

- Increased Competitiveness
- Skilled Workforce
- Increased Productivity
- Increased Profits
- Company Growth
- Reduced Turnover

For Employees:

- Advancement Opportunities
- Increased Job Competitiveness
- Industry Recognized Credentials
- Job Retention
- Transportable/Transferrable Skills

# TRAINING INFORMATION FOR THE GULF COAST

Since Fiscal Year 24 began, Career Support and Training Services has financially assisted about 153 individuals through the course of their varied trainings.

We currently support Related Technical Instruction costs associated with apprenticeship for Dental Assistants, Chiropractic Assistants, Dispensing Opticians, Surgical Technicians, Medical Assistants, Medical Office Assistants, Medical Coder and Billers, Pharmacy Technicians, Phlebotomists, and more.

Incumbent Worker Training remains confidential for the employer. To give you an example, we are working with a medical provider in the state that received advanced training for their staff to increase services to patients. The result was less patients having to travel for care.

Through a variety of training providers both in and out of state, we are supporting Registered Nursing, Certified Nurse Assistant, Radiological Technician, Medical Assistant, Dental Assistant, Dental Hygienist, among others. Through Career Support and Training Services, we provide support for tuition, books, fees, housing, lodging, meals, licensing, test preparation, etc. Each plan is tailored to customers based on their needs and life situation.

# WHAT ARE WE DOING IN THE COMMUNITY?

- On average in the region, work with 250 individuals and 10's of employers per week
- Kenai Construction Academy
- Coordination with Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District
- School Programs-Job Shadow and personalized program delivery in coordination with Counselors/Teachers, Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Re-entry services at Wildwood and Spring Creek Correctional Facilities, coordinating with local re-entry resources
- Promotion and facilitation of apprenticeship
- Employer visits and education
- Facilitating Alaska Adult Education in the job center
- Referral services
- Annual Training Academies
- Annual Kenai Peninsula Job and Career Fair
- Customized recruitment events
- Rapid Response Activities
- Incumbent Worker Training
- Disability awareness and service availability
- Project Homeless Connect
- Veteran services
- MOU's/Letters of Support for community partners
- Event promotion with local Chambers of Commerce
- Facilitating opportunities with other agencies such as THREAD to ease application processes or to provide education
- Providing space for entities like AARP or Social Security to deliver services
- Assistance for regional training providers-Eligible Training Provider List, grant opportunities, case management support
- Re-employment Services Orientations



THANK YOU

