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Press Release

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Alaska's third quarter 2016 employment down 2.5 percent from prior year

JUNEAU, Alaska—Detailed employment and wage data released today for the third quarter of 2016 show continued job loss in most sectors of the economy. Average monthly employment between July and September was 345,549, down 8,799 jobs, or 2.5 percent, compared to the same period in 2015.

Employers paid \$4.7 billion in wages in the third quarter of 2016, which was 2.4 percent less than the inflation-adjusted \$4.8 billion paid in the third quarter of 2015.

Private sector employment was down by 7,563, or 2.7 percent. The oil and gas sector sustained the largest losses, with 3,640 fewer jobs in the third quarter of 2016 than the prior year, a loss of 25.7 percent.

The construction industry was down by 1,655 jobs, or 8.1 percent. Construction losses were tied to declines in oil-related activity as well as reduced capital project spending. Less work in oil and construction also spurred losses in the professional and business services sector, which had 1,754 fewer jobs than the previous third quarter, a 5.6 percent decline.

The downturn dampened other sectors as well. Wholesale and retail trade employment fell by 2.0 percent, and financial services dropped by 1.0 percent.

Seafood processing employment was down 923 jobs (-5.6 percent) compared to the previous year due to poor salmon runs, which was the main driver of job losses in manufacturing.

The health care sector added 1,251 jobs over the prior year, making it the largest source of job gains. The leisure and hospitality sector also grew with a strong summer visitor season, adding jobs in the food services and arts, entertainment and recreation industries.

State government losses continued, with 1,207 fewer jobs (-4.8 percent) in the third quarter of 2016 than the year before. Local government employment fell by 171 (-0.5 percent). Federal agencies continued to add jobs in the third quarter, but at a slower rate than the first half of the year.

Research and Analysis Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

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Alaska Employment by Industry

Industry	July to Sept 2015 Average Monthly	July to Sept 2016 Average Monthly	Change	Percent Change
Total, All Industries	354,348	345,549	-8,799	-2.5%
Total Private	281,012	273,449	-7,563	-2.7%
Natural Resources and Mining	18,978	15,131	-3,847	-20.3%
Oil and Gas Industry	14,186	10,547	-3,640	-25.7%
Construction	20,431	18,776	-1,655	-8.1%
Manufacturing	20,653	19,506	-1,147	-5.6%
Seafood Product Manufacturing	16,507	15,583	-923	-5.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	70,202	69,180	-1,022	-1.5%
Wholesale Trade	6,660	6,520	-140	-2.1%
Retail Trade	39,057	38,214	-842	-2.2%
Trans, Warehousing, and Utilities	24,485	24,445	-40	-0.2%
Information	6,295	6,346	51	0.8%
Financial Activities	13,550	13,422	-128	-0.9%
Professional and Business Services	31,136	29,383	-1,754	-5.6%
Education and Health Services	46,271	47,751	1,480	3.2%
Health Care	34,482	35,733	1,251	3.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	41,334	41,761	427	1.0%
Accommodation	11,859	11,898	40	0.3%
Food Services/Drinking Places	23,511	23,763	252	1.1%
Other Services	11,773	11,239	-534	-4.5%
Total Government	73,336	72,099	-1,237	-1.7%
Federal Government	15,533	15,675	142	0.9%
State Government	25,156	23,949	-1,207	-4.8%
Local Government	32,647	32,476	-171	-0.5%

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