

# ALASKA'S ECONOMY

## It's everyone's business.

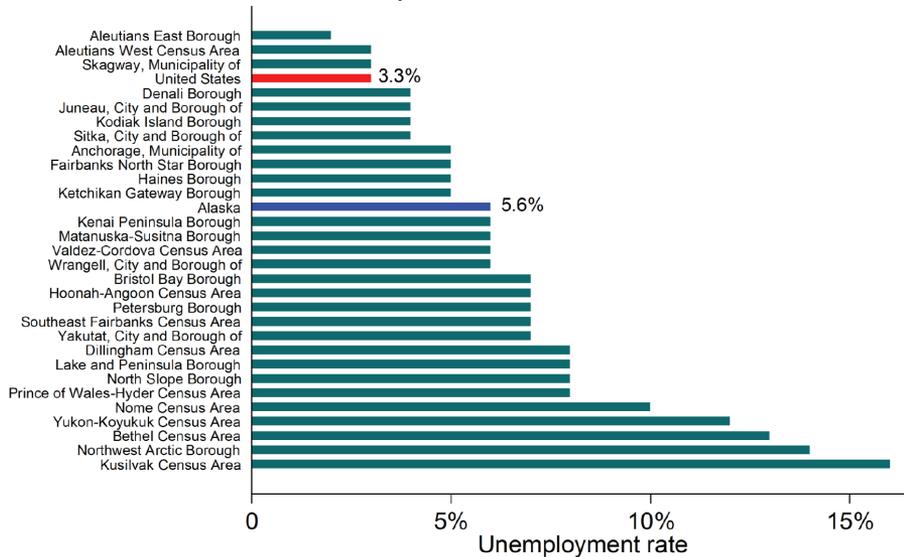
MOUHCINE GUETTABI, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE, SHARES HIS VIEWS ON THE ALASKA ECONOMY.



### Alaska's seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate was 5.6% in September 2019

Alaska's unemployment rate, while still higher than the rest of the U.S., has been declining. In September 2019 the seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate stood at 5.6%. This is 0.3% lower than in September 2018 and 0.7% lower than September 2017. The seasonally adjusted rate for September 2019 was 6.2%, the same rate as August 2019. ▼

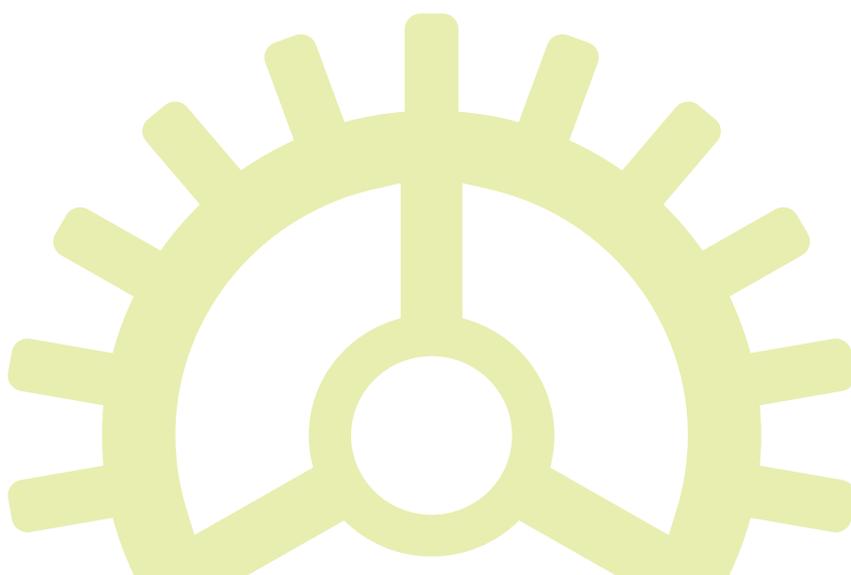
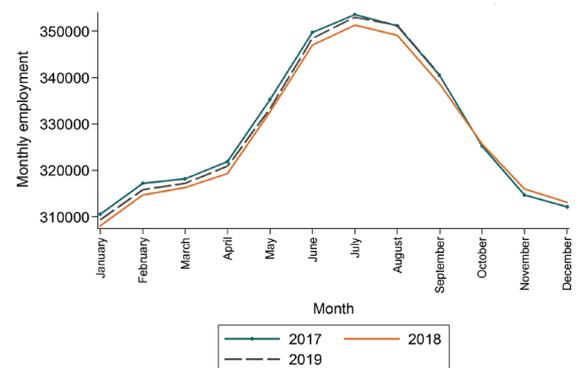
Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates  
September 2019



### Alaska reaches 12 straight months of employment growth

Total nonfarm employment in Alaska for September was 340,600. This is 1,900 jobs greater than the same period last year. This represents 12 consecutive months of employment growth. Through the month of September, employment in 2019 is averaging 1,433 jobs or 0.43% more than last year. This growth, while modest and initially concentrated in the construction, oil and gas sectors, has now spread to other sectors within the economy. ▼

Alaska Total Nonfarm Employment

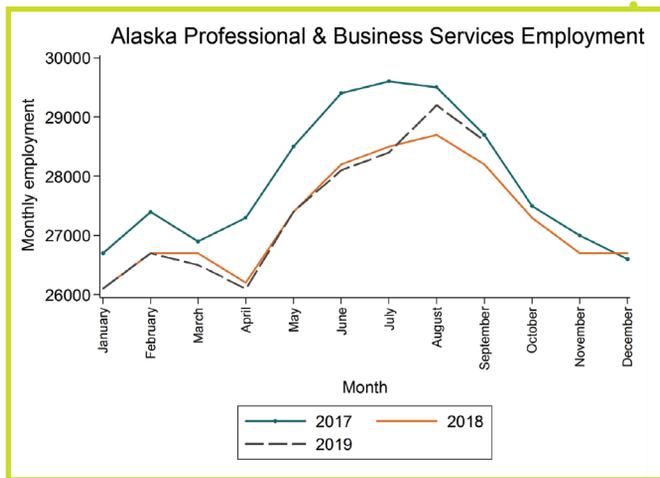


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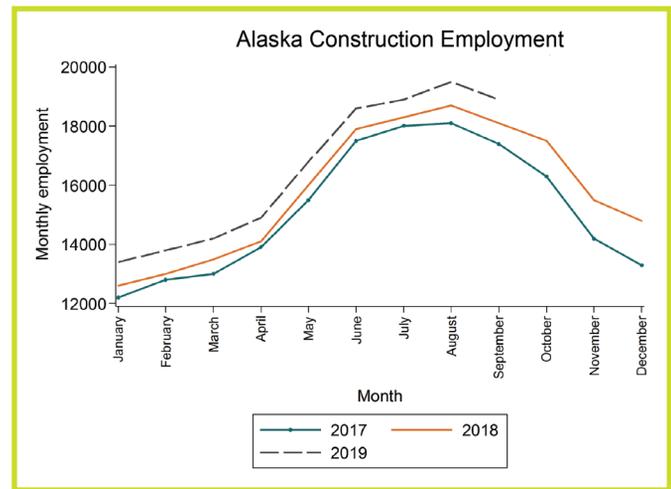
## Professional and business sector experiences two months of employment gains

The professional and business sector, comprised of professional and technical services, management of companies and administrative and waste management, lost a considerable number of jobs during the Alaska recession. Its most recent growth bodes well as it typically indicates that firms are outsourcing work and have a positive outlook on the economy. Employment in September 2019 was 500 jobs higher than the same period in 2018. ▼



## Construction sector is averaging 755 more jobs in 2019 than in 2018

The construction sector has been leading the charge with continued growth in 2019. This sector had growth in 2018 while other job sectors were still shedding jobs. The increase is due to a combination of defense spending and increased activity on the North Slope. ▼



## Retail employment is averaging 35,822 jobs in 2019

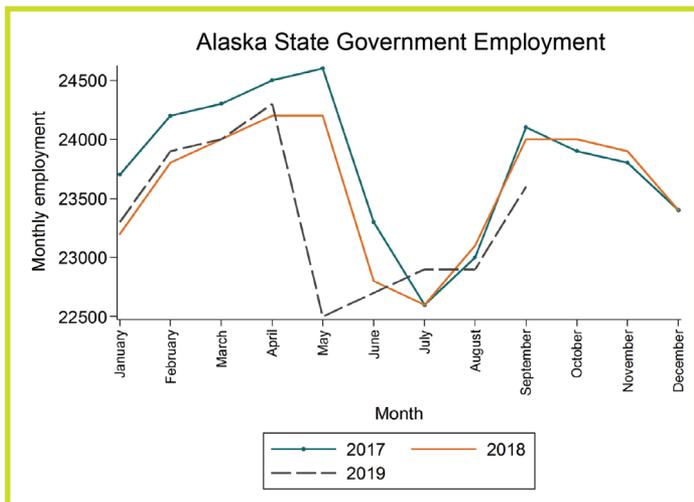
Alaska's retail employment has stopped shedding a significant number of jobs, but growth continues to be elusive. Employment in the retail sector for 2019 is averaging 35,822 jobs, nearly the same number of jobs recorded during the same period in 2018. ▼





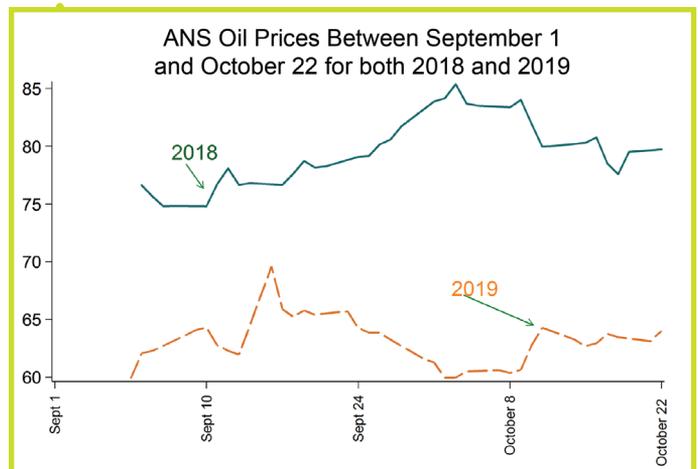
### State government employment in 2019 is averaging 200 fewer jobs than 2018

Between 2014 and 2018, state government employment declined from 26,500 to 23,600— a drop of 2,900 jobs or 10.9%. Between January and September 2019, state government employment is averaging 23,344 jobs which is 200 fewer jobs or 0.85% below the same time last year. For the month of September 2019, there were 400 fewer state government jobs than in 2018. It is important to note that the cuts enacted during the most recent legislative session have yet to make their way into the economy. ▼



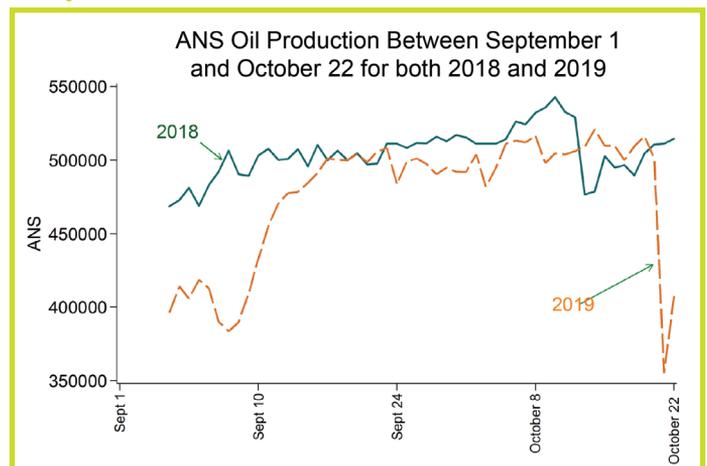
### Alaska North Slope (ANS) oil prices averaged \$63.06 per barrel between September 1 and October 22

ANS oil prices play a pivotal role not just for production decisions but for the state's revenues. While prices are considerably higher than the lows reached in 2015, they averaged \$16 less between September 1 and October 22 this year than they did during the same period in 2018. ▼



### ANS oil production averaged 28,609 fewer barrels per day than in 2018

ANS oil production levels between September 1 and October 22 were much more volatile than during the same period in 2018. The levels lagged by 28,609 barrels per day or 5.6% compared to the same period last year. ▼



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## Did you know...

Alaska's construction sector is leading the charge in job growth. Learn how it compares to other job sectors in this issue of *Alaska's Economy*.



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