

ALASKA'S ECONOMY

It's everyone's business.

BRETT WATSON, RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL AT THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE, SHARES HIS VIEWS ON THE ALASKA ECONOMY.



Dear reader,

While employment in Alaska continues to grow, total employment is still below pre-pandemic levels despite the U.S. as a whole experiencing robust job growth throughout 2022.

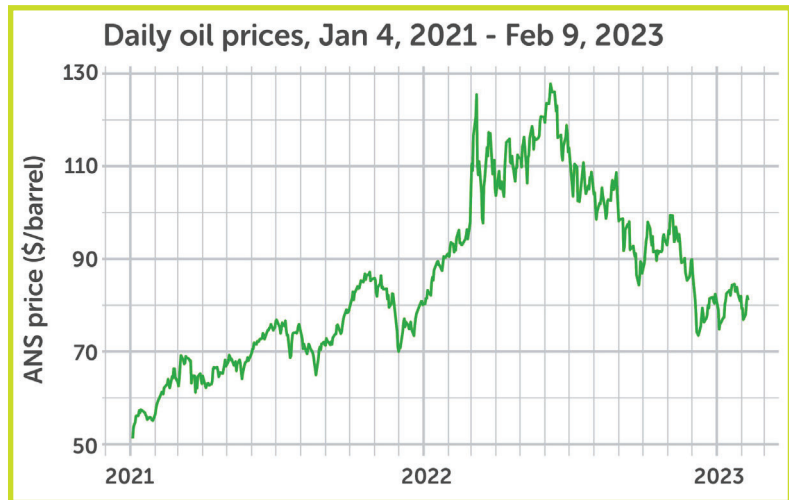
There has been significant job growth in industries most affected by the pandemic, primarily leisure and hospitality jobs and the transportation and logistics jobs that support them.

February saw an essential milestone for the ConocoPhillips Willow project, which could provide an important catalyst for economic growth in the state given the project's large scope.



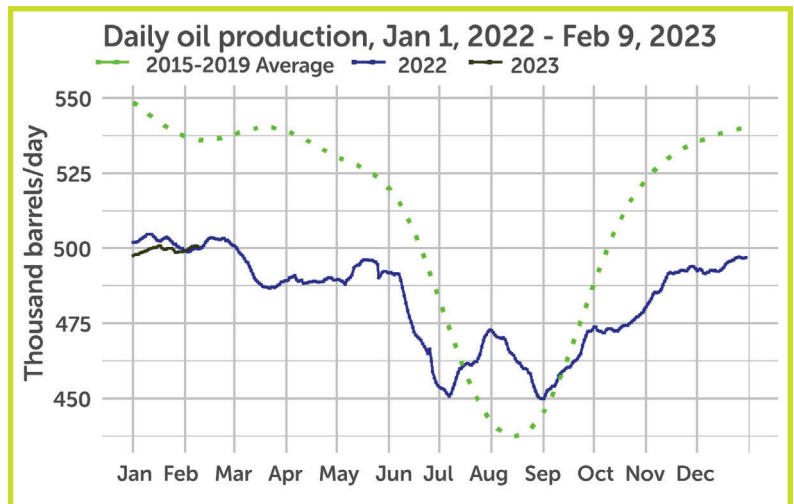
Oil prices remain in low \$80s

Alaska's benchmark oil price, ANS West Coast, was \$81.13 on Feb. 9. Averaged daily prices in January were \$80.87 per barrel. This compares to \$86.50 per barrel in February 2022 and \$55.53 per barrel in February 2021. From a state budget perspective, prices have averaged \$92.10 per barrel to date over the fiscal year, well below the forecast of \$111 per barrel. ▼



Oil production mirrors previous year

Daily oil production in Alaska was 496,000 barrels on Feb. 9. In January, daily production averaged 503,749 barrels. This compares to 501,000 barrels in February 2022 and 495,000 barrels in 2021. ConocoPhillips's Willow project in the National Petroleum Reserve cleared a significant hurdle in February when the Bureau of Land Management Alaska completed the project's Environmental Impact Statement. The project could add as many as 180,000 barrels per day to the pipeline at peak production. ►

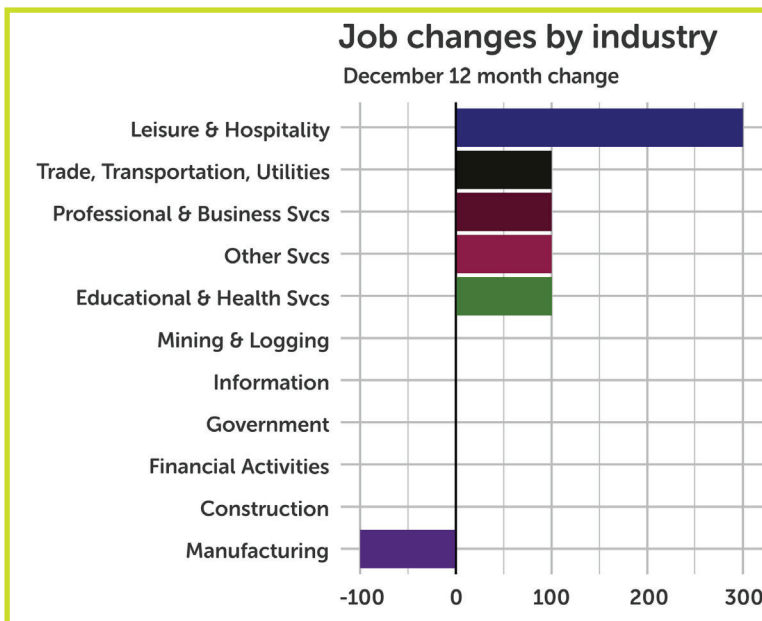


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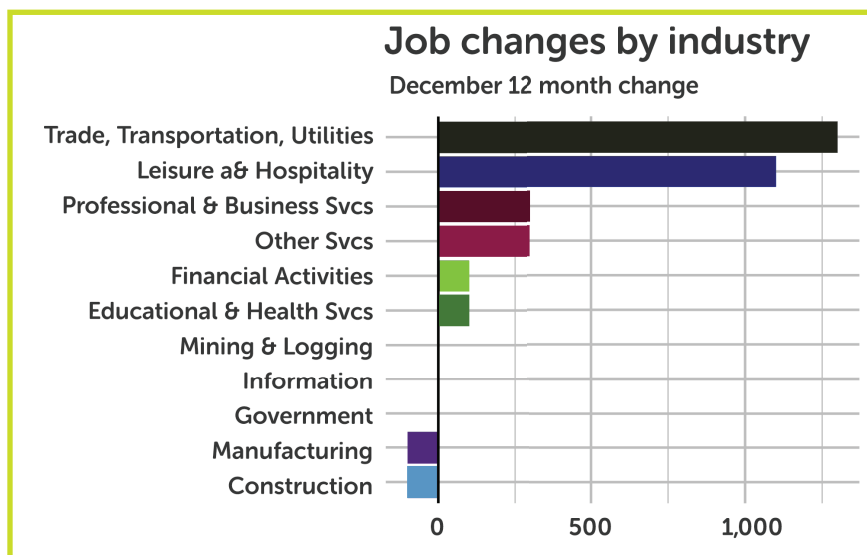
Gulf Coast employment changes in 2022

Between December 2021 and December 2022, the Gulf Coast region of Alaska saw a net increase of 600 jobs. There were 300 more jobs in leisure and hospitality and 100 more jobs in trade, transportation and utilities, education and health care, professional and business services and other services. In contrast, the Gulf Coast lost 100 seafood manufacturing jobs in the same time period. ▶



Anchorage employment changes in 2022

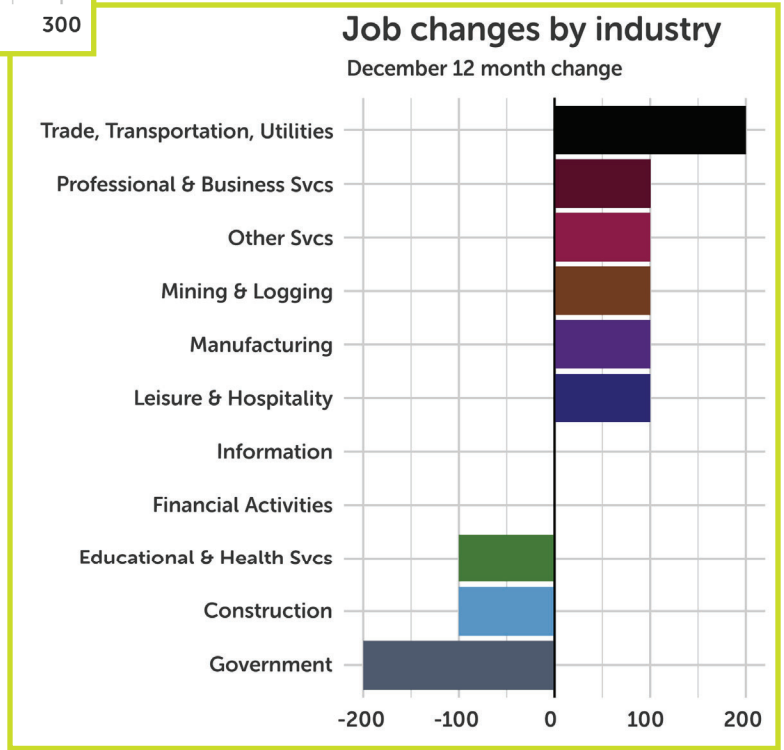
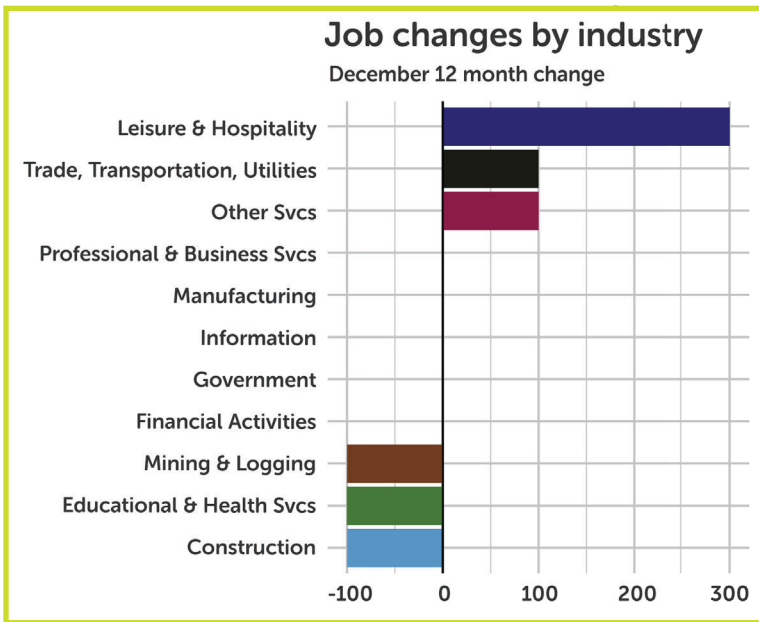
Between December 2021 and December 2022, Anchorage saw 3,000 jobs added to the economy. There were 1,300 jobs added in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector and 1,100 jobs in leisure and hospitality. These sectors were the hardest hit by the pandemic. Professional and business services, and education and health care added 800 jobs. The government sector was flat overall; the federal and state government shed roughly 200 jobs while the local government added 200. Finally, Anchorage saw modest losses of 100 jobs in manufacturing and construction industries. ▼





Interior employment changes in 2022

Between December 2021 and December 2022, the Interior region of Alaska netted a growth of 200 jobs. The region saw an increase of 300 jobs in leisure and hospitality and 100 jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities, and other services sectors. In contrast, the region lost 100 jobs in the following sectors: mining and logging, educational and health services, and construction. ▼



Southeast employment changes in 2022

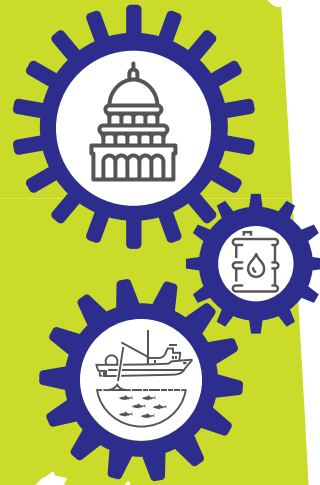
Between December 2021 and December 2022, the Southeast region of Alaska netted job growth of 300 total jobs. The trade, transportation, and utilities sector led the growth with an increase of 200 jobs. Five sectors added 100 jobs: professional and business services; other services; mining and logging; manufacturing; and leisure and hospitality. These gains were partially offset by job losses in education and health services, construction, and state government. ►

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Did you know...

the Gulf Coast region of Alaska gained 600 jobs in 2022?

Learn more in this issue of *Alaska's Economy*.



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