

Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Leveraging Resources
Looking to the Future



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DR. TAMIKA L. LEDBETTER, COMMISSIONER



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1/20/2023

Dr. Tamika L. Ledbetter, Commissioner

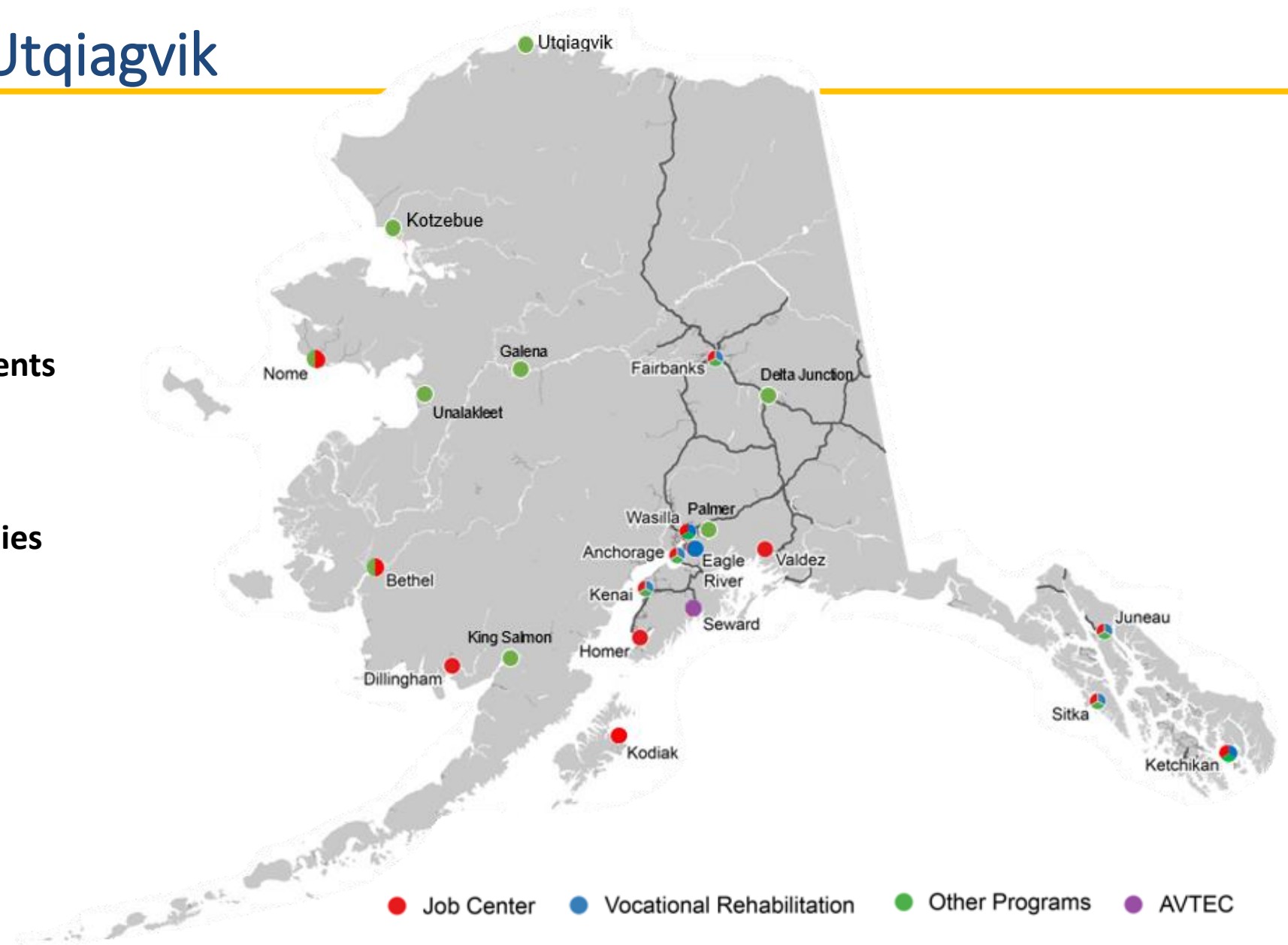


- Sixteen-year DOLWD team member.
- National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), Board Chair.
- US Department of Labor Workforce Information Advisory Council, State Agency Representative.

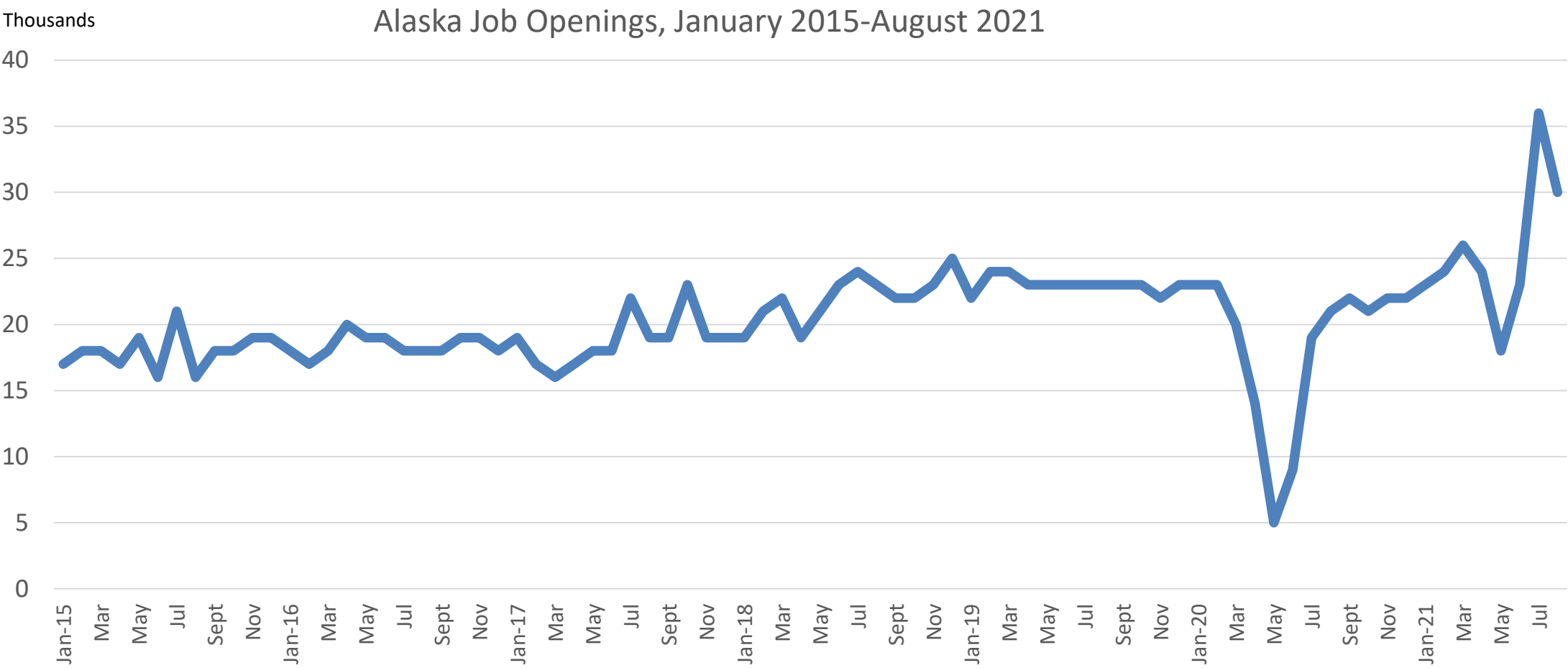
“My vision is to raise awareness of the prowess of the state workforce and the resources available to Alaskans”

From Ketchikan to Utqiagvik

- 14 Job Centers
- 8 Regional TVEP Recipients
- 27 STEP Grantees
- 8 Construction Academies
- AVTEC

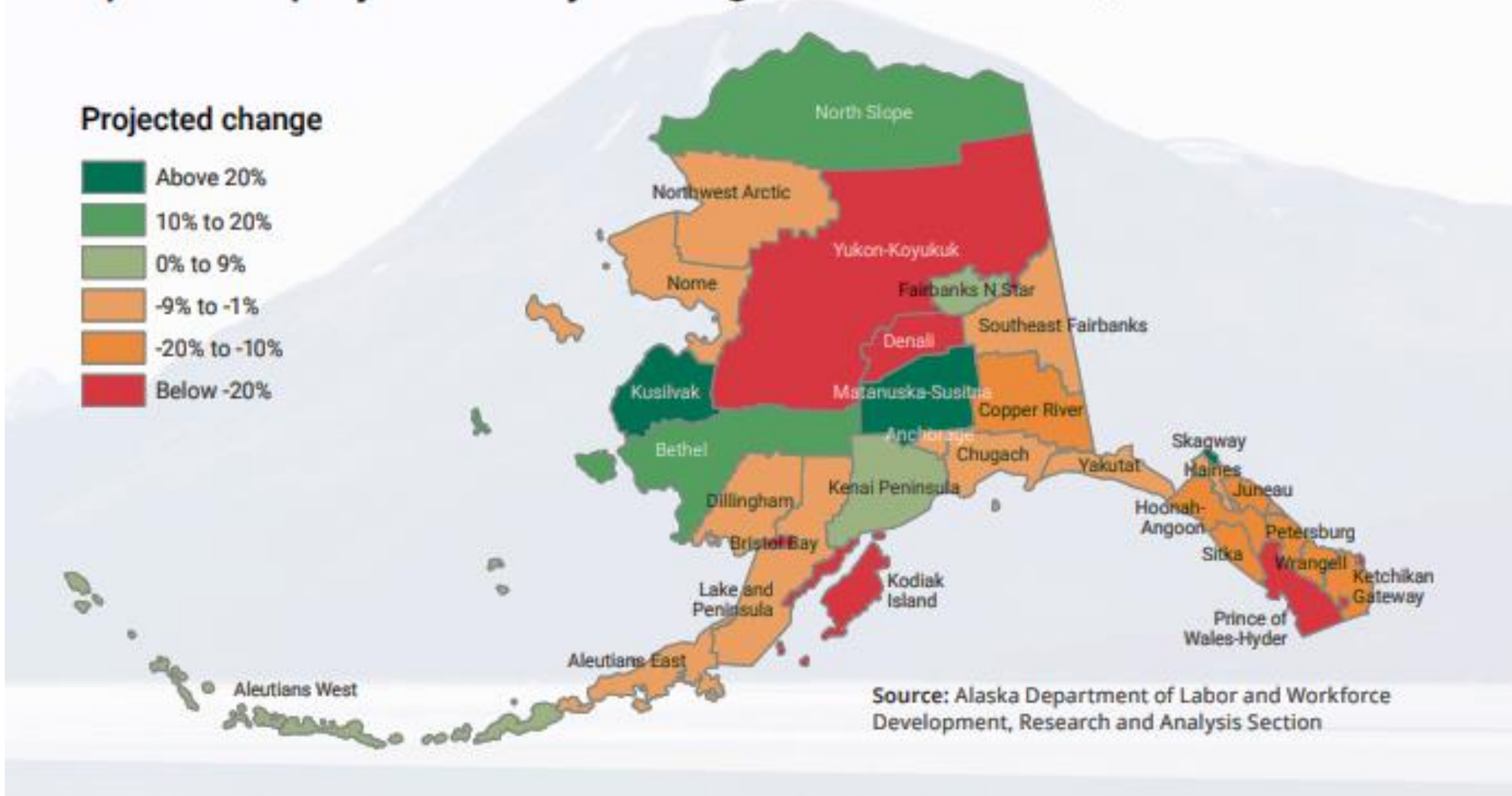


Labor Market Information (Research & Analysis)



Labor Market Information (Research & Analysis)

Population projections by borough or census area, 2021 to 2050



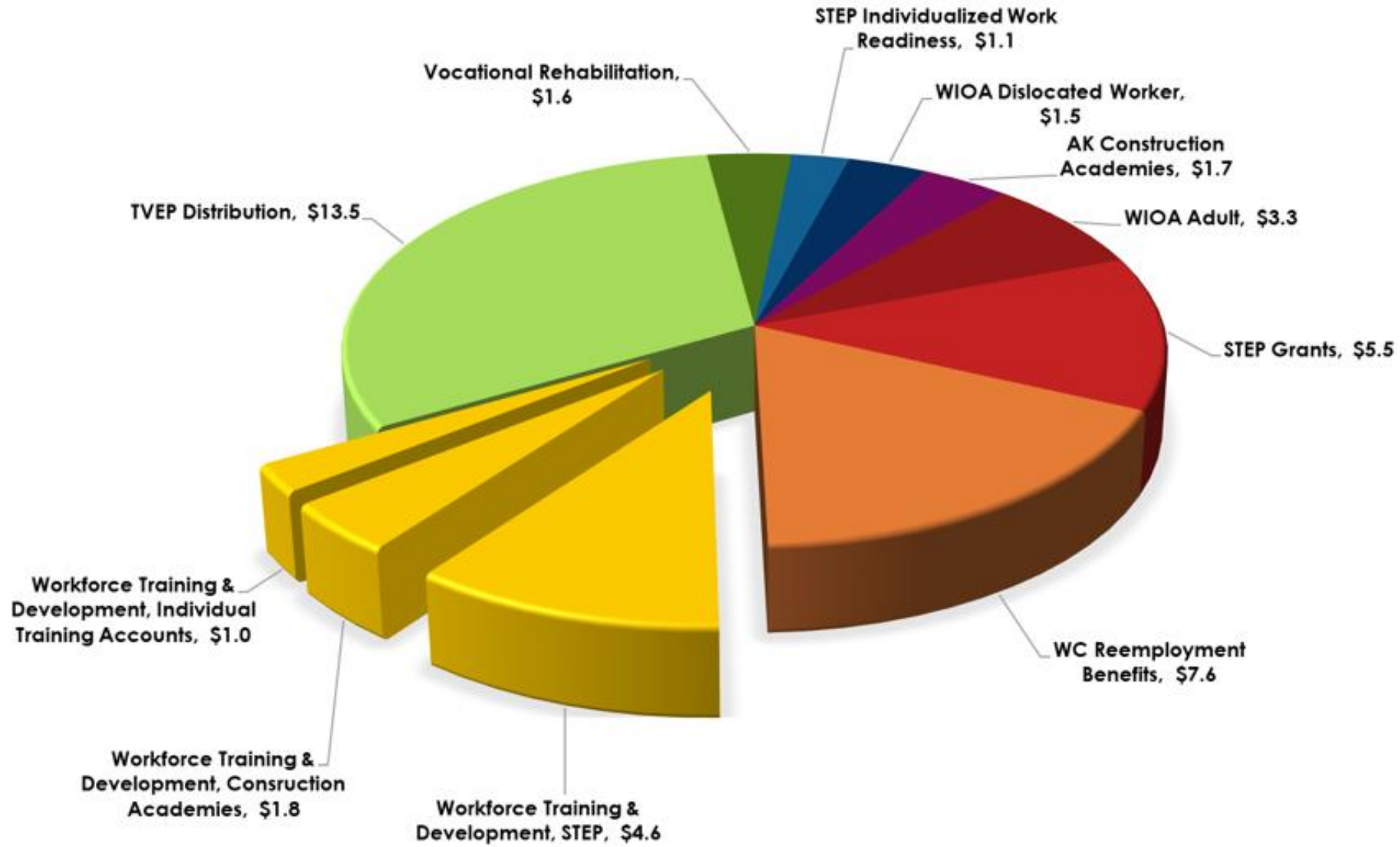
Labor Market Information (Research & Analysis)

The *Alaska Economic Trends* is a monthly magazine that covers a range of economic topics, and is searchable online as far back as 1978!

<https://labor.alaska.gov/trends/>



Alaska Workforce Investment Board (\$ in millions)



Employment and Training Services



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Log in

Find a Candidate

Find a Job

Search Jobs

Job Title, Company, Occupation or Military Code

City, State, County, Region or Zip

Search

Enter a keyword and/or location to find jobs.



Employment and Training Services

Mission:

Provide labor exchange, employment and training services, and unemployment insurance to Alaskans and Alaska businesses to advance opportunities for employment and provide economic stability for communities in Alaska.

Workforce Development

- Division staff in the 14 Alaska Job Centers strengthen Alaska's workforce by providing employment and training services to Alaska's job seekers and employers.
- Administer multiple workforce development programs that result in a skilled Alaskan workforce.
 - Veteran's Employment and Training Services
 - Adult Education
 - Fidelity Bonding
 - Worker Opportunity Tax Credit
 - Rapid Response
 - Fidelity Bonding
 - Reemployment Services



Employment and Training Services – Unemployment Insurance

- Provides temporary/partial wage replacement for insured workers who are unemployed due to no fault of their own and actively seeking reemployment.
- Provides an economic stabilizing factor in local economies during economic downturns.
- Protects integrity of the UI Trust Fund by preventing, detecting, and recovering benefit overpayments.
- Alaska's UI Trust Fund is healthy!
 - As of September 30, 2022, the balance is \$509,395,826 – This value reflects a current **reserve ratio of 3.64 percent, exceeding the target for full solvency.**
 - At this level, DOLWD anticipates a .34 percent solvency credit to help bring the fund back in line with funding goals and reduce the tax burden on employers.
 - The annual benefit cost rate also continues to fall. Given these trends, DOLWD anticipates an **average tax rate of 1.04 percent for employers in CY2023.** This would be a decrease from the CY2022 average rate of 1.53 percent.



Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC)

AVTEC is a nationally accredited provider of workforce training with a mission to deliver flexible, accessible and affordable training for Alaskans from across the state in areas of:

- Business & Office Technology
- Construction
- Culinary Arts
- Diesel/Heavy Equipment
- Industrial Electricity
- Industrial Welding
- Information Technology
- Plumbing and Heating
- Refrigeration
- Maritime



Vocational Rehabilitation

Mission: Assist individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment

Assistive Technology Program (AT)

- improves access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) for Alaskans with disabilities of all ages
- The majority is funded by a federal grant from the AT Act

Business Enterprise Program (BEP)

- provides employment opportunities to people who experience blindness and other severe disabilities by establishing businesses such as food service, gift shops, and vending machines
- Managed by these individuals

Disability Determination Services Program (DDS)

- is contracted to the Social Security Administration (SSA) to adjudicate medical eligibility for disability benefits

Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training Program (MASST)

- places unemployed, low-income Alaskans 55 years old or older in community service positions and provides job training to help them become self-sufficient

Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR)

- provides individualized services to help Alaskans with disabilities prepare for, get and keep good jobs

To qualify:

- Have trouble getting or keeping a job because of a mental, cognitive or physical problem
- Need services to prepare for, get, or keep a job
- Ages 14-up

Labor Standards & Safety

The mission of LSS is to ensure safe and legal working conditions for Alaskan workers.

- **Alaska Occupational Safety and Health (AKOSH):** Protects Alaska workers from industrial accidents and job-related injuries or illness through the enforcement of state and federal standards and provides consultation and training for employers and employees to follow healthful work practices.
- **Mechanical Inspection:** Provides protection through inspection and certification of boilers, pressure vessels, elevators, and inspection of electrical, and plumbing installations. This section also issues certificates of fitness for electric and plumbing work and enforces contractor registration.
- **Wage and Hour:** Oversees Alaska labor laws to ensure that workers are justly compensated for their labors and safeguarded from unfair practices. This includes enforcement of minimum wages and overtime regulations, child labor laws, "right to return" transportation, public contract laws.
- **The Alaska Safety Advisory Council:** Promotes health and safety issues with a focus on workplaces in Alaska and organizes the annual Governor's Safety and Health Conference.

Alaska Labor Relations Agency

Statewide jurisdiction over ~ 65,500 employees from:

- **Over 500 schools**
- **University of Alaska**
- **Alaska Railroad**
- **Political Subdivisions**
- **State of Alaska**



Under AS 23.40.070-260 and AS 42.40.705-890, facilitates cooperative relations between Alaska's public employers and labor organizations that represent public employees.

Workers' Compensation

Administration:

- Log almost 20,000 reports of injury annually
- Track \$250m in benefits and services
- Compile and store data from over 60 years of claims

Adjudication:

- Publish decisions of formal hearings
- Mediate agreements between parties
- Hold thousands of informal meetings for expediency of claims

Reemployment:

- Orders eligibility evaluations
- Approves reemployment plans
- Monitors rehabilitation specialists

Investigation:

- Investigate and educate employers
- Follow up on fraud claims
- Collaborate with other investigative units to keep Alaska workers safe

Workers' Compensation Benefits Guaranty

- Provide for medical and indemnity benefits for injured uninsured workers
- Process payments on judgements from uninsured employers
- Actively manage the Benefits Guaranty Fund

Fisherman's Fund

- Manage and reimburse commercial fisherman's injury claims
- Actively manage the "Fisherman's Fund"
- Manage the claims database

Self-Insurance Program

- Ensure the self-insured entity meets statutory financial criteria
- Perform annual audits on each organization
- Collects proper collateral as prescribed by statute

PREPARING ALASKANS FOR THE JOBS OF TODAY—AND TOMORROW

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