

President Biden's Economic Plan is Working for Alaska

Several economic indicators demonstrate robust economic progress in Alaska since President Biden took office. Below are key metrics—such as state employment, unemployment insurance claims, GDP, supplemental poverty, and vaccination rates—that help us interpret the current moment and highlight our progress on economic recovery and enhanced support for workers and families.

Employment:

- Since January 2021, the Alaska economy has added 7,000 **jobs** (2.3 percent of January 2021 employment in Alaska). The state economy has recovered 72 percent of the jobs lost between February 2020 and April 2020.
- The state's **unemployment rate** fell from 7.1 percent in January 2021 to 4.9 percent in April 2022. This is equal to the lowest unemployment rate for the state on record (series started in 1976).
- **Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance** in Alaska fell 83 percent since President Biden took office, from around 4,400 at the start of the Administration to about 730 for the week ending May 28, 2022.
- The **quits rate**, a measure of labor market strength (since people generally quit jobs to take better jobs), rose from 4.3 percent in January 2021 to 5.1 percent in March 2022.

GDP:

- Alaska's **real GDP** grew 3.0 percent at an annual rate in the 4th quarter of 2021.
 - This is a substantial acceleration compared with growth in 2020, when Alaska's real GDP *decreased* by 5.6 percent Q4/Q4, and compared with 2019, when Alaska's real GDP grew by 0.8 percent Q4/Q4.

Small Businesses:

- Residents of Alaska [applied](#) to start more **new businesses** during President Biden's first year in office than in nearly any other year since the series started in 2005.
- Congressional Republicans' tax plan would raise taxes on 38.6 percent of small business owners in Alaska, and 79.0 percent of small business owners earning less than \$50,000 per year. The typical affected small business owner would see their taxes increase by \$1,600.

Poverty:

- Alaska's **Supplemental Poverty Measure** was [projected](#) to be 7.1 percent in 2021, lower than 11.8 percent on a comparable measure in 2018.
- The Supplemental Poverty Measure for children under 18 in Alaska was projected to be 4.9 percent in 2021, lower than 12.0 percent on a comparable measure in 2018.

Vaccinations:

- The number of **fully vaccinated people** in Alaska has increased from approximately 0 in January 2021 to 458,000 as of May 2022.

