



Alaska Employer

Newsletter

Unemployment Insurance Tax



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Bill Walker, Governor

Heidi Drygas, Commissioner

Ed Flanagan, Director

September 2017

Questions about your rate, account or contributions?

CONTACTS

Juneau Central Office

P.O. Box 115509
Juneau, AK 99811-5509
Phone: (907) 465-2757
Toll free: (888) 448-3527
Fax: (907) 465-2374
Email: ESD.Tax@Alaska.Gov
Relay Alaska: (800) 770-8973

UI TAX OFFICES

Anchorage

P.O. Box 241767
Anchorage, AK 99524-1767
Phone: (907) 269-4850
Fax: (907) 269-4845

Fairbanks

675 7th Ave., Station L
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4595
Phone: (907) 451-2876
Fax: (907) 451-2883

Juneau

P.O. Box 115509
Juneau, AK 99811-5509
Phone: (907) 465-2787
Fax: (907) 465-2374

Kenai

145 Main Street Loop,
Suite 143, Kenai, AK 99611
Phone: (907) 283-0350
Fax: (907) 283-5152

Mat-Su

515 East Dahlia Ave.
Palmer, AK 99645
Phone: (907) 707-1790
Fax: (907) 707-1793

UI Tax Representative

Toll free: (888) 448-2937

Penalty rates are avoidable

To avoid a penalty rate for 2018, be sure all of your Quarterly Contribution reports and payments are submitted to the Unemployment Insurance Tax Program. Double check your account status through our taxweb system (for those who file or pay online), or give us a call. As an employer, **you can be assured** you will receive an Experience Rate instead of a Penalty rate, if all Alaska Quarterly Contribution reports and payments are filed timely.

File "no wage" reports early

If you are a seasonal employer who traditionally files "no wage" reports for quarters your business is closed for the season (quarters where no wages were paid), why not make those reports part of your closing ritual? Mail the reports to us when you close for the season and we will post them on the appropriate quarter due date. Currently, the Employment Security Tax Online System does not provide for future reporting; however, you may file your reports early on paper and send them to us through the mail.

The Alaska Quarterly Contribution Report can be located online at: labor.alaska.gov/estax/forms/toc_forms.htm.

Reduce your 2018 tax rate

The annual process of determining employer tax rates for calendar year 2018 will begin soon. Employer tax rates are calculated using quarterly payroll information ending with June 30 each year (using a maximum of 12 quarters). As an employer, there are things **YOU** can do to ensure you receive the **lowest tax rate possible**. Factors that may favorably affect your tax rate include:

- No balance due on your account
- No missing reports for any quarter
- No balance due or missing reports on your predecessor's account

Contact any of the offices listed in this newsletter. Our staff can:

- Establish deferred payment contracts
- Advise you of rate-lowering options
- Assist you in the completion of our forms
- Confirm contributions and reports are posted correctly to your account or to your predecessor's account

Multi-state wages

When an employee works for the same employer in multiple states within a calendar year, the employer may credit the taxable wages reported to another state toward the Alaska taxable wage base. The amount of taxable wages reported to that state may be combined with taxable wages reported to Alaska to determine when an employee has met the Alaska taxable wage base for the calendar year.

For example, an employer has an employee who worked in Idaho in the first part of the year earning reportable and taxable wages of \$5,000, permanently transfers to Alaska the latter portion of the calendar year and reports wages of \$60,000 to Alaska for the employee. Alaska's taxable wage base is \$39,800 for 2017. The employer would be required to pay Alaska UI taxes on only \$34,800 of the \$60,000 since the employer paid UI taxes on \$5,000 to the state of Idaho.

When filing your Quarterly Contribution Report, check the multi-state wage box. This informs Employment Security Tax that you are using multi-state wages toward the calculation of taxable Alaska wages.

Could apprenticeship work for your business?

Division of Employment and Training Services is working with employers in many industry sectors to establish apprenticeship programs to develop and retain a skilled and productive workforce. If you are interested in learning about potential benefits of apprenticeship for your business and assistance available from the division, please contact Jackie Garcia at (907) 269-3479 or the Apprenticeship Specialist at your local job center.

Excessive mailings

In our continual effort to streamline and reduce excessive mail beginning with the quarter ending March 31, 2018, the Alaska Quarterly Contribution Report will not be mailed to third party payroll providers or agents who are filing on behalf of an employer. Payroll providers and agents reporting on behalf of employers are required to submit reports through our Tax online system. See our website at labor.alaska.gov/estax.

**Quarterly reports and payments
are due by October 31.**