

# Getting to 65 by 2025: Alaska's Challenge

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Southeast Alaska Workforce Education  
and Training Conference  
August 1, 2017



Dan Robinson  
AK Dep't of Labor and Workforce Development  
Research and Analysis Section

# Our job: produce objective data and analysis

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## ALASKA GRADS ten years later

78 percent of 2005 high school graduates went to college

By YUANCIE LEE

In a research partnership with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development studies high school students — starting with the nearly 7,000 who graduated in 2005 — to see where they attend college, whether they remain Alaska residents, and where they show up in the working world.

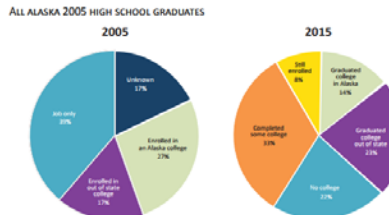
For this update, we were able to match data for about

6,000 of the original students, who by 2015 had been out of high school long enough to have graduated college and spent several years developing careers, which allowed a more comprehensive look at their education and career paths. Our prior update, which looked at their progress in 2010, is available in the June 2012 issue of Trends.

Majority attended college

About 44 percent of the 2005 high school graduates enrolled in college immediately, and the majority at-

### 1 Where 2005 Graduates Started Out and Where They Are Now



Note: "Graduated college" includes associate degrees.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

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ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

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## ALASKA ten year

78 percent of 2005 high school

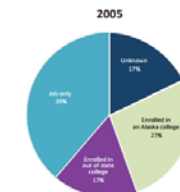
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All ALASKA 2005 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



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## How Educated Are Alaskans?

More high school graduates than U.S., fewer college graduates

By ERIC SANDBERG

Educational attainment levels in Alaska and nationwide have been on a 75-year climb, and while the broad patterns have been similar, gains have varied by time period and demographic group.

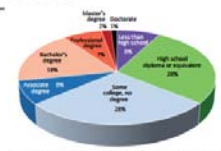
Overall, Alaskans age 25 and older are more likely than their national counterparts to have graduated from high school and attended college, but are slightly less likely to have a degree.

About 92 percent of Alaska's current population graduated from high school, 5 percentage points higher than the U.S. overall. (See Exhibit 1.) About 36 percent have at least an associate degree versus 38 percent nationwide, and for bachelor's degrees and above it's 28 percent and 30 percent, respectively. And while Alaskans are slightly less likely to have master's degrees, rates for doctorates and other professional degrees are in line with the rest of the country.

### Major education shifts in the early 20th century

For many years, younger and more educated generations replaced those who were older and less educated. Before the early 20th century, most Americans who completed primary school (grades 1 to 8) didn't continue their education, and typically only students from wealthier families attended secondary school (grades 9 to 12)

### 1 Most Alaskans Went to College ALASKA, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 to 2013 American Community Survey

Although Alaska lost its No. 1 ranking for high school graduates in the early 2000s, it remains in the top five states.

as preparation for college.

That changed with what historians call the "high school movement," a large-scale effort to build secondary schools for the broader population, and the United States became a world leader in mass secondary education. In 1910, about 9 percent of 17-year-olds in the U.S. graduated high school, and by 1940, that jumped to 49 percent.

Because few people continued beyond primary school,

Continued on page 16

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

MARCH 2017 13

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

Now that we know each other ...

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Can you trust me on a few things?

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- More education and training generally means higher earnings, better benefits, and lower unemployment rates?



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- More education and training generally means higher earnings, better benefits, and lower unemployment rates?
- A highly educated/trained population is an economic asset to a city, region, state, and nation?
- Many of the jobs most susceptible to being automated away are low-skilled?

You *can* trust me:

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There's lots of good data on those things,  
especially at the national and state levels.

Now to this 65 to 2025 business

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How can we get there? (the clock is ticking ...)

## Now to this 65 to 2025 business

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- The math doesn't work to get you all the way to 65 percent if all your focus is on youth.
- A lot of people in Alaska have attended some college but didn't obtain a degree (130,000 in fact, more than a quarter of our 25+ population); a lot of promise there.
- More men than women are in the group you're trying to move (those without a degree, certificate, credential).

Some things to ask ourselves:

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to having the 27<sup>th</sup> highest (28 percent) among states and below the national average (30 percent) in 2015?

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- Geographic access
- Lack of information
- Other?

An important additional factor to consider:

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Migration:

About 50,000 people move in and about 50,000 people move out of Alaska each year (for lots of reasons)



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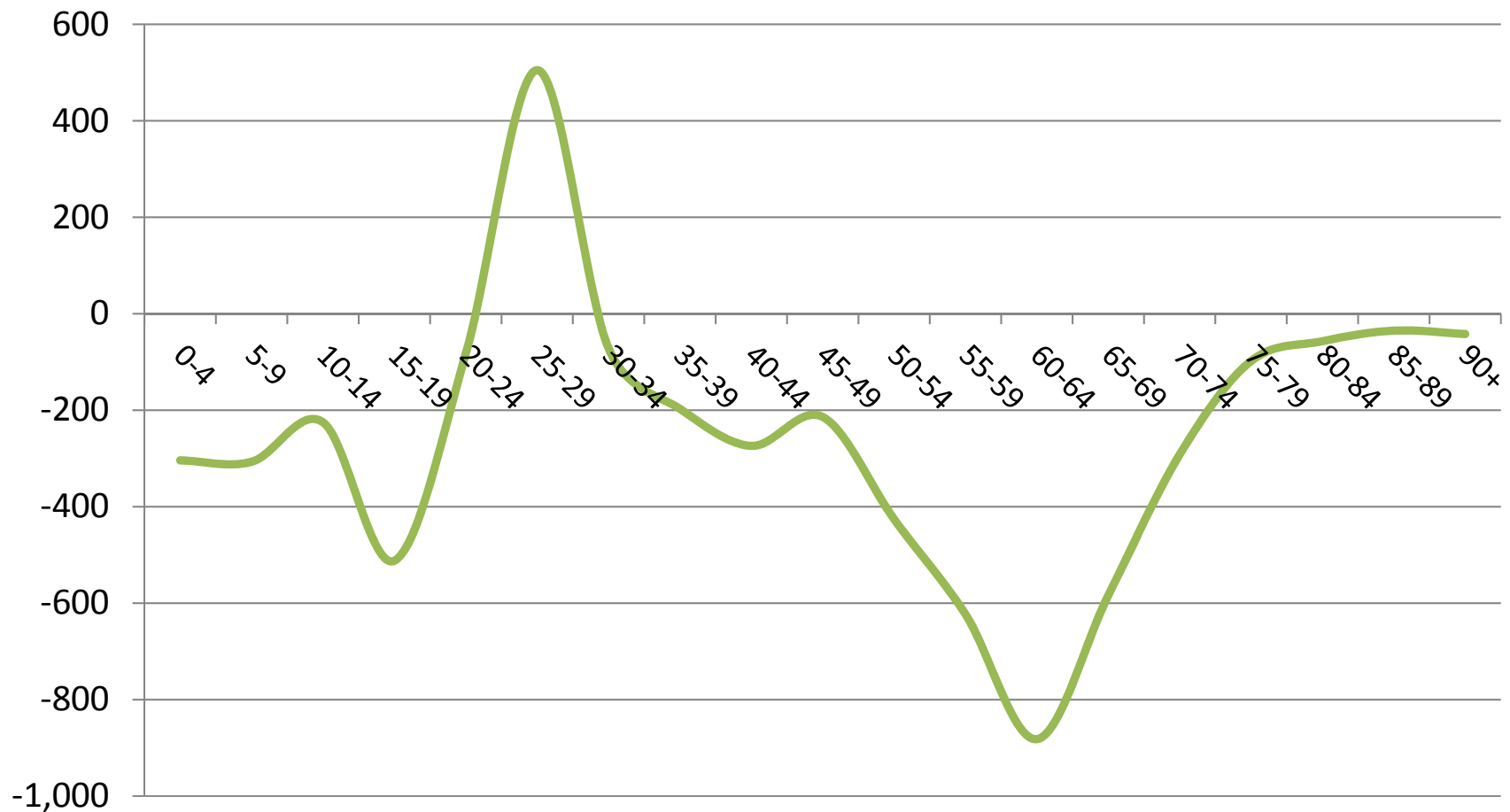
## Migration:

The reason we didn't talk much about it is because it's hard to do a lot about it *except* make Alaska the kind of place people want to live (good schools, stable government, and other quality of life things we can control but probably not agree on)

# An important additional factor to consider:

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Net migration, 2010-2015 (average)



# Questions, complaints:

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