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## Press Release

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### **Apprentice programs keep workers in Alaska**

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development economists have conducted a first-of-its-kind apprenticeship evaluation program that indicates workers who complete an apprentice program earn nearly twice as much as those who canceled out of an apprenticeship – \$65,342 compared to \$33,435.

The study also found that since 1996, 90 percent of those who completed an apprenticeship are still working in Alaska.

Last April, researchers with the Alaska Department of Labor entered into a special research agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration to evaluate the performance of apprenticeship programs in Alaska.

The Employment and Training Administration provided information on Alaska apprenticeship program participants since 1996 and the Alaska Department of Labor used its unique administrative data to determine the current employment, earnings and residency of those participants. About 6,500 current and former apprentices were identified and tracked.

#### Highlights:

- In 2007, 82 percent of current and former apprentices were employed in Alaska. They earned \$225.7 million or an average of \$42,218.
- In 2007, those who had completed an apprenticeship earned three times as much as they earned in the year prior to registering for an apprenticeship.
- Eighty-one percent of the current and former apprentices employed in 2007 were working in an occupation related to their apprenticeship program.
- Fifty-three percent of the current and former apprentices since 1996 are either currently registered or have successfully completed an apprenticeship.
- The top three apprenticeship occupations in Alaska are electricians, carpenters and plumbers. About 30 percent of workers currently employed as electricians and 20 percent of workers currently employed as plumbers were part of Alaska's apprenticeship programs since 1996.

- About 10 percent of all workers employed in construction in 2007 were part of Alaska's apprenticeship programs since 1996. The majority of Alaska's current and former apprentices are employed in the construction or mining industries.
- Half of Alaska's apprentices since 1996 were under age 25 when they started their apprenticeship, 92 percent were male and 30 percent were Alaska Native and other minorities.

Primary research and evaluation has been completed and a final report will be available in the February 2009 issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*, the monthly magazine published by the Alaska Department of Labor's Research and Analysis Section.

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For related information:

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
[labor.alaska.gov](http://labor.alaska.gov)

Alaska Workforce Information  
[laborstats.alaska.gov](http://laborstats.alaska.gov)

Alaska Apprenticeship Programs  
[jobs.alaska.gov/apprentice](http://jobs.alaska.gov/apprentice)

*Alaska Economic Trends* magazine  
[labor.alaska.gov/trends](http://labor.alaska.gov/trends)