

ALASKA ECONOMIC

TRENDS

THE YEAR IN REVIEW—
JOB GROWTH CONTINUED IN 1996 DESPITE SETBACKS

April
1997

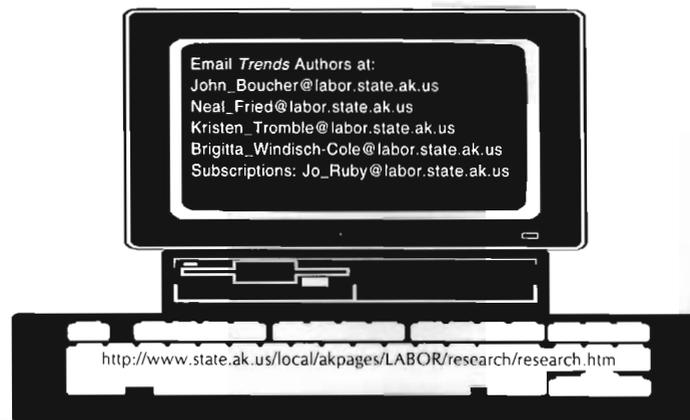


ON THE ANNUAL
BENCHMARK REVISION

LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT
TREND CONTINUES

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR • TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



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Job Growth Continued in 1996 Despite Setbacks

by John Boucher, Neal Fried, Kristen Tromble, Brigitta Windisch-Cole

Despite setbacks, Alaska's economy grew for the ninth straight year in 1996, propelled by an expanding services sector, another solid visitor season, selected retail trade growth and a budding hard rock mining industry. However, job growth was slower than at any other time during the 1990s. Fishing and timber industry woes combined with federal government downsizing, a slower construction season, and continued consolidation in Alaska's oil industry to further slow employment growth. Nevertheless, wage and salary jobs grew 0.6%, slightly more than half of the 1.0% pace set in 1995. No growth in Alaska's financial industry rounded out the factors leading to the slow employment growth.

1,200 more jobs in 1996

Although Alaska's economy added 1,200 jobs in 1996, this was the smallest job gain posted in the 1990s. (See Table 1.) From 1990-94, Alaska's economy added about 5,000 jobs a year. In 1995, the economy grew by 2,800 jobs.

Several factors caused the slower job growth. Alaska's manufacturing sector had a down year in 1996. Low salmon prices influenced the level of seafood processing employment, and fewer logging jobs meant a loss of employment in the lumber and wood products sector. Civilian and military agencies continued to shed employees, extending federal government employment decline into a third straight year. After a string of three strong growth years, employment in the construction industry slipped back. The oil industry suffered from the after effects of the ARCO layoff, continued downsizing at Alyeska Pipeline, and consolidation at oil field service companies.

Health care, business services, social service providers push services growth

The biggest contributor to Alaska's job growth last year was services. (See Figure 1.) Nearly every facet of services added jobs. Job additions were noted in hospitals and health care facilities and in firms providing business services. Business services firms that performed notably included those that provide facilities maintenance and management, equipment rental and supply, and computer programming and other computer-related services.

Social services agencies, particularly those providing residential and social care for individuals, experienced a healthy employment increase last year. Amusement and recreation services, a sector heavily influenced by Alaska's visitor industry, posted another solid year of employment growth. One notable exception to services growth was hotels and lodging places. Hotel employment fell as some of Alaska's larger hotels cut back on their level of service. Actions included reducing their level of restaurant service and cutting staffing levels during seasonal slowdowns in operations. The legal services portion of the

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Figure • 1

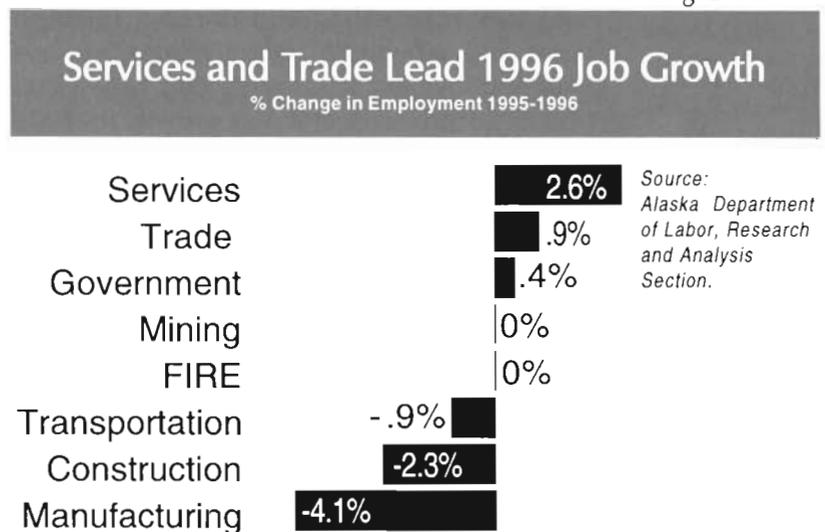


Table • 1

Change in Wage & Salary Employment 1995-1996

	Alaska				Municipality of Anchorage				
	1995	1996	Change	Percent Change	1995	1996	Change	Percent Change	
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	262,000	263,200	1,200	0.5	Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	120,500	120,600	100	0.1
Goods-producing	39,700	38,600	-1,100	-2.8	Goods-producing	11,200	10,700	-500	-4.5
Mining	10,000	10,000	0	0.0	Mining	2,700	2,500	-200	-7.4
Construction	12,800	12,500	-300	-2.3	Construction	6,400	6,300	-100	-1.6
Manufacturing	16,900	16,200	-700	-4.1	Manufacturing	2,100	2,000	-100	-4.8
Durable Goods	3,200	3,100	-100	-3.1	Service-producing	109,300	109,900	600	0.5
Lumber & Wood Products	2,200	1,900	-300	-13.6	Transportation	12,000	11,800	-200	-1.7
Nondurable Goods	13,600	13,100	-500	-3.7	Air Transportation	4,900	4,600	-300	-6.1
Seafood Processing	10,400	10,100	-300	-2.9	Communications	2,100	2,200	100	4.8
Pulp Mills	500	500	0	0.0	Trade	29,700	29,700	0	0.0
Service-producing	222,300	224,600	2,300	1.0	Wholesale Trade	6,400	6,500	100	1.6
Transportation	22,900	22,700	-200	-0.9	Retail Trade	23,300	23,200	-100	-0.4
Trucking & Warehousing	2,700	2,800	100	3.7	Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,800	4,500	-300	-6.3
Water Transportation	2,000	1,900	-100	-5.0	Food Stores	3,000	2,800	-200	-6.7
Air Transportation	7,800	7,500	-300	-3.8	Eating & Drinking Places	8,100	8,100	0	0.0
Communications	3,700	3,800	100	2.7	Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,200	7,100	-100	-1.4
Trade	54,100	54,600	500	0.9	Services & Misc.	32,400	33,500	1,100	3.4
Wholesale Trade	8,700	8,800	100	1.1	Hotels & Lodging Places	2,600	2,500	-100	-3.8
Retail Trade	45,500	45,800	300	0.7	Business Services	5,500	5,900	400	7.3
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,100	9,000	-100	-1.1	Health Services	6,700	7,100	400	6.0
Food Stores	7,100	7,000	-100	-1.4	Engineering & Mngmnt. Serv.	5,100	5,100	0	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	15,000	15,200	200	1.3	Government	28,100	27,800	-300	-1.1
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,700	11,700	0	0.0	Federal	10,500	10,000	-500	-4.8
Services & Misc.	60,800	62,400	1,600	2.6	State	8,100	8,100	0	0.0
Hotels & Lodging Places	6,400	6,300	-100	-1.6	Local	9,500	9,700	200	2.1
Business Services	7,500	8,000	500	6.7					
Health Services	13,200	13,700	500	3.8					
Engineering & Mngmnt. Serv.	7,300	7,400	100	1.4					
Government	72,800	73,100	300	0.4					
Federal	17,600	17,300	-300	-1.7					
State	21,500	21,600	100	0.5					
Local	33,700	34,200	500	1.5					

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska. Benchmark: March 1996

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

industry also lost employment, continuing a three-year slide in employment at attorneys' offices.

Retailers post job gain despite losses in some categories

Fueled by new eating and drinking establishments and growth in miscellaneous retailers, retail employment was the second largest contributor to private-sector job growth in 1996. Eating and drinking establishments posted a third consecutive year of job growth. Gas stations, boat dealers, building supply stores, furniture stores and gift shops also contributed to retail job growth. The other major segments of retail posted slight contractions. General merchandisers retrenched from the astounding growth that occurred early in the decade. Chain store job counts moved down as retailers adjusted to the new ultra-competitive environment that resulted after a series of store openings that concluded in 1994. Food stores job growth also sputtered in 1996, as

the expansion that paralleled growth at general merchandisers came to a close.

Oil layoffs over-shadow hard rock mining gains

The oil industry downsizing that occurred following the ARCO layoffs combined with the continued consolidation of oil field service contractors to make for one of the roughest shake out periods in Alaska's oil and gas industry in recent years. Oil industry job losses took their toll particularly on Anchorage and the North Slope, but the economic reverberations were felt throughout the state.

On the non-oil mining front, 1996 saw several hard rock mining projects come into production, so that by the end of the year, the hard rock mining industry had posted an impressive 30 percent employment gain. The biggest contributors to this gain were the reopening of the Greens

Change in Wage & Salary Employment 1995-1996

Southeast Region

	1995	1996	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	35,700	35,900	200	0.6
Goods-producing	5,800	5,700	-100	-1.7
Mining	200	250	50	25.0
Construction	1,600	1,750	150	9.4
Manufacturing	4,000	3,650	-350	-8.8
Durable Goods	1,700	1,400	-300	-17.6
Lumber & Wood Products	1,550	1,250	-300	-19.4
Nondurable Goods	2,350	2,250	-100	-4.3
Seafood Processing	1,600	1,450	-150	-9.4
Pulp Mills	500	500	0	0.0
Service-producing	29,900	30,200	300	1.0
Transportation	2,850	2,850	0	0.0
Trade	6,650	6,700	50	0.8
Wholesale Trade	500	500	0	0.0
Retail Trade	6,100	6,200	100	1.6
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,400	1,450	50	3.6
Services & Misc.	6,700	6,750	50	0.7
Government	12,300	12,400	100	0.8
Federal	1,950	1,950	0	0.0
State	5,400	5,350	-50	-0.9
Local	5,000	5,150	150	3.0

Gulf Coast Region

	1995	1996	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	27,000	26,800	-200	-0.7
Goods-producing	7,000	6,700	-300	-4.3
Mining	1,150	1,000	-150	-13.0
Construction	1,150	1,150	0	0.0
Manufacturing	4,700	4,550	-150	-3.2
Seafood-Processing	3,450	3,200	-250	-7.2
Service-producing	20,000	20,100	100	0.5
Transportation	2,250	2,250	0	0.0
Trade	5,000	5,050	50	1.0
Wholesale Trade	650	600	-50	-7.7
Retail Trade	4,400	4,450	50	1.1
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	700	700	0	0.0
Services & Misc.	5,300	5,350	50	0.9
Government	6,700	6,750	50	0.7
Federal	650	700	50	7.7
State	1,750	1,700	-50	-2.9
Local	4,300	4,350	50	1.2

Fairbanks North Star Borough

	1995	1996	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,200	31,850	650	2.1
Goods-producing	3,200	3,250	50	1.6
Mining	750	950	200	26.7
Construction	1,950	1,800	-150	-7.7
Manufacturing	550	500	-50	-9.1
Service-producing	28,000	28,600	600	2.1
Transportation	2,300	2,350	50	2.2
Trucking & Warehousing	500	550	50	10.0
Air Transportation	550	600	50	9.1
Communication	300	300	0	0.0
Trade	6,950	7,000	50	0.7
Wholesale Trade	800	750	-50	-6.3
Retail Trade	6,150	6,250	100	1.6
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,250	1,250	0	0.0
Food Stores	700	750	50	7.1
Eating & Drinking Places	2,300	2,350	50	2.2
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	950	1,000	50	5.3
Services & Misc.	7,550	7,800	250	3.3
Government	10,250	10,500	250	2.4
Federal	3,000	3,200	200	6.7
State	4,350	4,350	0	0.0
Local	2,850	2,950	100	3.5

Southwest Region

	1995	1996	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	17,250	17,400	150	0.9
Goods-producing	5,500	5,500	0	0.0
Seafood-Processing	5,200	5,250	50	1.0
Service-producing	11,750	11,900	150	1.3
Government	5,350	5,450	100	1.9
Federal	550	450	-100	-18.2
State	500	500	0	0.0
Local	4,300	4,450	150	3.5

Northern Region

	1995	1996	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,300	15,300	0	0.0
Goods-producing	5,550	5,450	-100	-1.8
Mining	4,950	5,000	50	1.0
Service-producing	9,800	9,800	0	0.0
Government	4,750	4,650	-100	-2.1
Federal	200	200	0	0.0
State	300	300	0	0.0
Local	4,200	4,150	-50	-1.2

*Source: Alaska
Department of
Labor, Research and
Analysis Section.*

Creek mine and the beginning of mining at the Fort Knox gold project. Also contributing to employment gains were the Nixon Fork mine and expansion at several other smaller mines around the state.

Manufacturing heads list of job losers

Alaska's manufacturing industry led 1996's list of declining industries. Despite a bountiful harvest, low salmon prices meant trouble for processors and fishers. The effect on employment was a drop of over 300 jobs in the seafood processing sector. In the wood products industry, shutdowns and shift cutbacks characterized the sawmill segment. Meanwhile the logging portion of the industry experienced sharp cutbacks as timber harvesting levels dropped off significantly from 1995's level. The pulp mill segment of the industry held steady in 1996, but late in the year Ketchikan Pulp Company announced that its pulp mill in Ketchikan would close in March 1997.

Construction posts first loss in three years

Following three years of solid growth, employment in Alaska's construction industry declined slightly in 1996. While residential building construction managed to outstrip 1995's level, a sharp drop in heavy construction led to the overall employment drop. Much of this drop was in contractors associated with Alaska's oil and gas industry. Oil industry downsizing was one reason that Alaska's heavy construction industry posted an employment drop in 1996.

Despite the employment drop, public construction such as the Healy Clean Coal facility, numerous schools, the Elmendorf hospital, and rural water and sewer projects kept builders active. A solid year for highway and street renovation also contributed to public sector construction spending. Big projects outside of the public sector were often related to investment in Alaska's tourism and mining sectors. Interior Alaska was a hot spot as construction work at the Fort Knox gold mine and the reconstruction of the Princess Hotel at Denali Park gave the industry a boost.

Federal losses slow to 300 jobs

After losing more than 1,000 jobs in 1995 due to the effects of federal government downsizing, federal government employment losses began to subside. The reinvention of government took its toll on Alaska's larger federal agencies like the Bureaus of Land Management, Indian Affairs, and Mines in the Interior Department, the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Aviation Administration in the Department of Transportation.

In state government, employment held steady. At the local level, employment crept up due to increased school enrollment and new school facilities.

Anchorage's economy grows for the eighth straight year

By adding 100 jobs to its work force in 1996, Anchorage posted its eighth straight year of employment growth; however, this was a fraction of a percent increase for the year (0.1%), making it the weakest showing in eight years and a close repeat of 1995's gain. (See Figures 2 and 3.) Unlike 1995, however, no major negative economic events grabbed the headlines. Instead, small gains and losses described 1996. The exceptions were the service industry, which put in another strong year, and the federal work force that experienced sizable losses.

Services, services and more services

Without the strong performance by the services industry, total employment in Anchorage would have fallen in 1996. Services grew by three percent or 1,100 jobs.

Health care, the largest employer in services, provided 400 additional jobs, nearly a third of the industry's growth. Population growth cannot explain these increases, since Anchorage's population remained largely unchanged in 1996. New medical procedures and an aging population might explain some of these gains. There is also evidence that health care professionals, to

escape managed care elsewhere in the country, are relocating to Anchorage.

Business services also showed employment gains. This sector has benefitted as firms contract out services and use contingent and temporary workers. In recent years, losses in the oil industry, banking, transportation and the public sector translated into increases for business services. Social services also experienced moderate increases. Growth in other parts of services provided an additional boost to the state's largest city.

Oil industry employment dips, but other news was good news

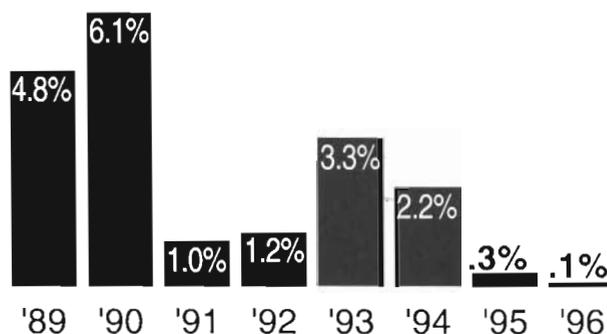
After big losses in 1995, oil industry employment dipped in 1996. More important developments unfolded in 1996 that helped mask these small losses. Oil prices were three to four dollars higher. ARCO Alaska and British Petroleum announced their most ambitious development programs in many years, which may include the development of at least four new fields, including West Sak, Alpine, Badami and Northstar. These developments could stave off further oil industry employment losses in the industry's headquarter city.

Construction employment holds steady

The size of Anchorage's construction workforce changed little in 1996. A mix of construction activity in public sector, commercial, and residential areas kept the industry's numbers strong. Big projects included continued work on the new Elmendorf Air Force hospital, construction of First National Bank's new headquarters and computer processing facility, the new Marriot-Courtyard hotel, completion of four new schools, and near completion of the new Alaska Native Hospital. Moreover, residential construction ended on a stronger note than expected. In fact, the city issued the largest number of residential building permits (1,153) in 11 years.

Anchorage Posts Eighth Year of Growth

% Change in Employment from Previous Year



Source:
Alaska Department
of Labor, Research
and Analysis
Section.

Financial sector gets leaner

The loss of 100 jobs in 1996 did not reflect a weaker financial sector. Most banks enjoyed a decent year in 1996. Instead, technology and contracting out services are the biggest reasons employment dropped in 1996.

Air transportation employment stabilizes

Although air transportation employment fell, losses were moderate compared to 1995. Nearly all of the job loss was related to Mark Air Express's demise in late 1995. Aside from this layoff, the rest of air transportation grew in 1996. Several carriers quickly moved in to fill the gap left by Mark Air's closure. At the interstate level one new carrier, America-West, entered the market and others added flights. Federal Express continued to expand their workforce in 1996, and United Parcel Express built a new facility. Another direct Europe to Alaska charter operation moved into the market, and the number of international passengers climbed by nearly 100,000.

Elsewhere in the transportation industry, the continued downsizing of Alyeska Pipeline Services contributed to job losses in Anchorage's transportation sector.

Retail loses jobs

Retail's workforce fell 100 jobs from its 1995 level of 23,300. After the heady years of 1994-95, this decline was not unexpected. Although no large retailers closed their doors in 1996, a group of small and medium-sized retailers disappeared and others shaved staff levels. Retail's employment losses came in spite of the additions of Barnes and Noble and CompUSA. Possibly the most dynamic sector of retail was the restaurant business. Four new brew-pubs opened in 1996 along with several other eating establishments. But surprisingly, even with this strong showing, employment in this sector of retail stayed even with that of 1995.

Federal government losses shrink public sector for third year

Federal government was the largest job loser in Anchorage, shedding 500 jobs. These losses put Anchorage's federal civilian work force at a ten-year low and caused overall public sector employment to decline again in 1996. For the fifth year in a row, state government employment remained unchanged. Local government employment crept up by 200 jobs. Most of these gains came as the result of four new schools opening and enrollments climbing.

Fairbanks the fastest growing area

By adding 650 new jobs in 1996, Fairbanks earned the title of fastest growing area in the state. (See Figures 3 and 4.) The 2.1% growth rate outpaced last year's 1.8% rate. Although most industries contributed, the mining sector put the shine on Fairbanks' economic performance. Only a few industries showed slight downward adjustments in employment levels. Construction, for example, could not hold on to last year's level. The few industries that experienced setbacks were offset by gains in other industries and the public sector, netting another year of economic expansion for Fairbanks.

While the Fort Knox mine, with a price tag of \$350 million, stimulated construction activities

in Fairbanks over the past two years, its preparation for the November production start-up reinstated Fairbanks as a gold mining town. On average, gold mining employment nearly doubled in one year. At year's end, about 250 employees worked at Fort Knox, making it one of Fairbanks' largest private sector employers. Other gold mining companies in the district also stepped up exploration efforts. The development of the Illinois Creek mine, located in the Yukon Koyukuk area, will soon give another boost to mining employment in the Interior.

Despite an employment drop caused by the completion of large construction projects, construction recorded its second best season since 1985. In 1995, construction employment reflected building activities on three large job sites: Fort Knox, the Healy Clean Coal project, and the Eielson Air Force base housing project. This past year, although construction employment peaked at Fort Knox, it also came to an end. The second phase of the Healy Clean Coal project helped keep employment up. Other projects, however, were not large enough to repeat 1995's exceptional performance.

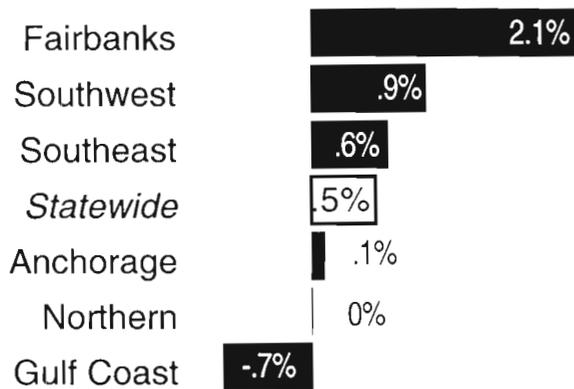
Another successful visitor season helped add jobs in support industries such as services, transportation, and trade. Although highway traffic dropped off by over 25 percent, the number of airline passengers arriving in Fairbanks rose by more than 25,000 during the second and third quarter of the year. An increased number of cruise ship passengers touring the Interior helped fill lodging places, which in turn boosted hotel receipts during the travel months by 3.4% from last year's level.

Services made a healthy contribution to employment growth with 250 new jobs. Several new hotels opened their doors, while health care, business and other service categories contributed to the 3.3% industry job growth. The diverse mix of the new service industry jobs reflects well on the upbeat confidence in Fairbanks' economy.

Figure • 3

Fairbanks Leads Regional Growth

% Change in Employment 1995-1996

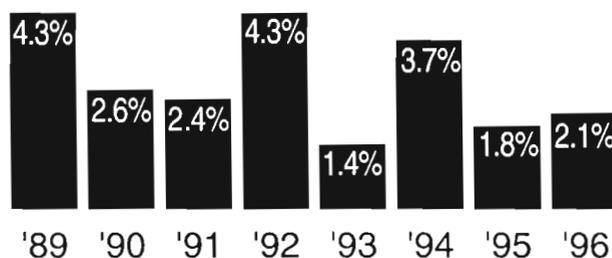


Source:
Alaska Department
of Labor, Research
and Analysis
Section.

Figure • 4

Fairbanks Still Perking

% Change in Employment from Previous Year



Source:
Alaska Department
of Labor, Research
and Analysis
Section.

Trade employment regained its 1994 level, making up for last year's losses. Restaurant and food stores contributed to the over-the-year employment gain, but employment growth has slowed in most trade industries. One reason is that the regular customer base has changed little in Fairbanks since 1990. Population has grown by slightly over six percent in the past six years. A troop draw down of military personnel between 1991 and 1995 subtracted 4,200 people from retail's customer base. The military's realignment is nearly complete and last year Fairbanks' military population trend showed a slight reversal.

Federal employment gained 200 jobs over last year; however, this reflects a change in reporting the location of military reserve jobs. Previously, the Air National Guard and Alaska's Army National Guard reported all of their employment in Anchorage. When the reporting change is factored out, federal government employment showed a continuing, although slower, downturn in Fairbanks. Employment levels in state government remained unchanged and local government showed an increase. Most job growth occurred in school-related employment. School districts' increased staff levels corresponded with a rise in school enrollment.

Economic performance weakens in the Gulf Region

Fish-processing and oil industry job losses subtracted from the 1995 employment levels in the Gulf region. Fish processing employment losses were not surprising because seafood processors throughout the region had expressed a reluctance to buy and process 1996's pink salmon harvest. Declining crude oil production in Cook Inlet affected oil-related employment. Other industries could not quite absorb these employment losses because their job growth was moderate. Overall the Gulf's economy registered a decrease of 200 wage and salary jobs—a loss of less than one percent.

Construction employment showed no change from last year's level, although a few towns in the region had large construction projects in progress.

In Valdez, for example, the pipeline's vapor recovery project created work for heavy construction workers. Workers in Kodiak completed the second phase of the Coast Guard's housing project. Construction crews in Homer finished a new elementary school. In Seward, the Alaska SeaLife Center project moved ahead of schedule. Workers on the state's largest road project, the Seward Highway, finished another phase.

Fish processing employment was down 250 jobs from the year before. High inventories, left over from the 1995 pink salmon harvest, kept fish buyers indifferent to the 1996 catch. Market prospects did not improve during the season, and harvesters, discouraged by price offerings as low as five cents per pound for pinks, made little effort

to scoop up the catch. An abundant sockeye harvest in Cook Inlet exceeded expectations, and Kodiak also enjoyed a good sockeye fishery. The groundfish, flatfish and herring fisheries, which have not been plagued by a glutted global market, all progressed well. The drop in fish processing employment, therefore, stems from the salmon fisheries.

Mixed results were reported for the 1996 visitor season. Among the tourist spots on the Kenai Peninsula, Seward may have attracted the most "outside" visitors. Cruise ship passenger counts were up from the year before. Other towns on the Kenai Peninsula, along the coast of Prince William Sound, and Kodiak did not do as well. Gross sales receipts on the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak and hotel receipts in Valdez all pointed to a lackluster visitor season in 1996. This helps explain why employment in the trade, transportation and service industries barely posted a gain over 1995.

Over all, the public sector in the Gulf region added 50 jobs this past year. Both federal and local governments added 50 jobs each, while state government employment declined. Local government job growth would have been more brisk were it not for the privatization of the Seward General Hospital. Its employees shifted from the public to the private sector. School-district-related employment did not rise to match the increased school enrollment because of budget constraints. Reinventing government at the state level and tight budgets brought about some job losses.

Fishing still king in Alaska's Southwest region

During 1996, Southwest Alaska added 150 jobs to its employment base, posting a growth rate of less than one percent. In spite of the problems in salmon markets, seafood processing employment grew. Service producing industries led job growth by creating 150 new jobs.

Throughout the year, employment trends in seafood processing mirrored the gyrations of seafood prices on global markets. First-quarter employment, for example, ran about level with 1995's performance during the crab and groundfish harvesting seasons. Average employment during the second quarter moved ahead of last year's performance because of Bristol Bay's bountiful and profitable herring catch. Employment dropped off from last year's level during the third quarter's fishery. The sockeye salmon harvest came in below 1995's voluminous catch, and attracted fewer buyers to process fish. During the fourth quarter, fish processing employment regained ground with bottom fish and crab harvests in progress.

Service industries and local government created new jobs in the region. Most of the new jobs were in health care and public education. Civilian federal employment continued to lose ground during 1996 because of the upcoming closure of Adak's naval base.

Northern region prepares for oil development

Total wage and salary employment numbers for the Northern region, which includes the Nome Census Area, the Northwest Arctic Borough and the North Slope Borough, came in at the same level as the year before. Only a few shifts occurred in industry employment.

Oil patch employment regained about 50 jobs. Winter drilling during the first three months of the year pushed up the average annual employment level. In the later part of the year oil-related exploration activities tapered off. However, in the fall, oil producers announced the go-ahead of several large development projects starting in 1997.

Government employment in the Northern region did not fare as well. Local government showed 50 fewer wage and salary jobs. A good portion of the losses came from school-district-related employment.

Southeast growth slows

In 1996, Southeast added 200 wage and salary jobs. This increase represented a significant slowdown in the rate of employment growth, which fell to 0.6% from the previous year's rate of over two percent. (See Figure 5.) Manufacturing losses in timber and seafood processing employment dragged Southeast's economic performance to this lower than expected level.

Both the timber and fishing industries struggled with problems of price and supply. Timber companies complained of a lack of Tongass trees available to cut, while prices for pulp and other wood products fell. In a market swamped with salmon, prices dove, with fishers selling some species for as little as five cents per pound.

All of these factors impacted employment. Timber industry employment fell 14.6%, with 300 jobs lost, all in the sector that includes logging and sawmills. Timber's troubled year culminated with the announcement that Ketchikan's pulp mill would close in March 1997. With Ketchikan Pulp Company's two sawmills scheduled to remain open, some of the employment lost in 1996 will likely be recovered in 1997. However, the loss of 500 pulp mill jobs guarantees this industry's further overall decline.

On the processing side of the seafood industry, employment dropped 9.4%. The temporary closure of Pelican Seafoods accounted for a portion of this sector's job losses. The plant later reopened under new owners at reduced employment levels.

These actual and anticipated job losses likely slowed the rate of employment growth in other industries. Decreased manufacturing activity led to less work for support industries, while worried residents in the affected communities deferred purchases of goods and services.

However, aside from timber and seafood processing, only one other industry registered an employment decline. State government employment was down almost one percent. In addition,

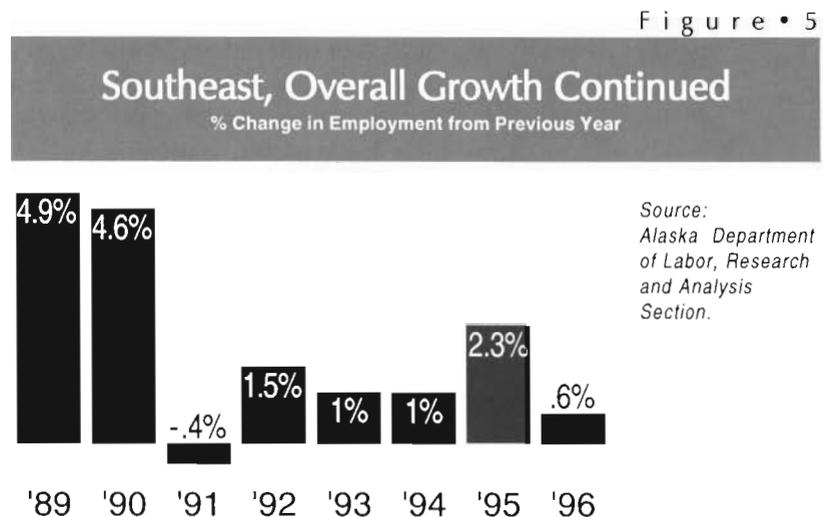
transportation, wholesale trade and federal government employment levels did not change.

Fortunately, growth in other industries boosted the region's employment to a net gain. Propelled by the reopening of Greens Creek, mining, the smallest industry, claimed the top growth rate of 25.0%. Construction and local government added the most jobs, contributing 150 each.

Construction was driven by projects across industries. In Ketchikan, a new indoor recreation center neared completion, and building continued at the Spruce Mill Development, a retail and office complex. Sitka reported a busy residential construction year and continued expansion work at Thomsen Harbor. In Juneau, the residential construction boom roared through another year with permits issued for 348 new housing units, and the University of Alaska campus added a new dorm. Commercial and industrial development boomed in the area around Costco, a private cruise ship dock opened, and the new tram carried its first passengers at the end of the tourist season.

Most of the growth in local government was in the non-education sector. The Metlakatla Indian Community provided about one-third of the new local government jobs.

Driven by expansion at Native corporations, Finance, Insurance and Real Estate was the third



fastest growing industry in the Southeast Region. Fifty jobs were added in this industry during the past year, for a growth rate of 3.6%.

Though not measured as a discrete industry, tourism's continued growth was another major factor in Southeast's employment gains. A record number of cruise ship passengers visited the area, while new charter fishing and tour offerings expanded options for more independent travelers. However, Holland America's decision to move overnight turnarounds from Juneau to Skagway scuttled, at least temporarily, plans for a downtown hotel in Juneau.

Two changes resulted in employment shifts between industries. Services growth was affected by a change in the hotel sector. In 1996, Glacier Bay Lodge closed and reopened under a new name and new owners in the retail trade. This change held services' growth rate down, while boosting retail's. However, thanks to a robust growth rate of 6.7% in health services, the services industry managed a net gain. Continued expansion at SEARHC provided a significant portion of this increase. In another change, as of January 1995, White Pass-Yukon Railroad was reclassified into services to reflect its focus on tourism. Without this shift, transportation would have shown slight job growth.

Area differences apparent

Summarizing employment growth at the regional level masks important differences among areas. Juneau benefitted from the reopening of Greens Creek mine and a strong construction season. Despite the halt in the Alaska-Juneau mine project, Juneau's immediate outlook remains promising.

Ketchikan and Prince of Wales sweated through a stressful year fraught with unsettled timber issues. As some of these issues approach resolution, these areas can expect further uncertainty and change. In Sitka, Wrangell, and Ketchikan, all communities directly hit by this decade's cuts in timber, population declined from 1995 to 1996. Some Prince of Wales communities dependent on logging also lost population. Population numbers estimated as of July 1 may understate the losses by year's end. Most other communities in the region registered population gains.

One effect of the disparate performance within the region is increased competition among the communities to attract new job-creating businesses. Leaders in the region will be challenged to promote cooperation among communities and provide an equitable distribution of resources.

Setbacks meant slower job gain in 1996

Despite numerous setbacks, Alaska's economy grew at a 0.6% pace in 1996. Broad-based job growth in the services sector, a solid tourism year, some selected retail expansion and a resurgent hard rock mining industry were significant contributors to employment growth. Meanwhile, timber, seafood, and oil industry downsizing coupled with federal government layoffs to curb Alaska's employment growth.

Regionally, growth was somewhat balanced. Fairbanks, Southwest and Southeast Alaska and Anchorage all managed to grow. On the flat or negative side of the ledger were the Gulf Coast and Northern regions. On balance, Alaska's economy managed to grow a bit in 1996.

On the Annual Benchmark Revision

by John Boucher

In January of every year, the Alaska Department of Labor (AKDOL) revises the nonagricultural wage and salary employment data series in a procedure referred to as benchmarking. The 1996 benchmark revised the employment estimates for 1995 and 1996. Those revised estimates are published in this issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*. (See Tables 1-22.)

Monthly job estimates based on a sample of employers

The monthly employment estimates published in *Alaska Economic Trends* are based on a sample of employers. Current employment and payroll information from more than 1,400 of Alaska's 15,000 wage and salary employers is used by AKDOL to produce the monthly employment estimates. Less than 10 percent of Alaska's employers take part in the survey, but participating employers represent nearly half of total nonagricultural employment. For example, the firms sampled in June 1996 accounted for 126,000 jobs out of the total nonagricultural employment of 277,000 (45.5%). These firms voluntarily participate in the U.S. Department of Labor's Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The firms' data allow AKDOL economists to produce reliable and timely estimates on both the direction and the magnitude of movement of nonagricultural wage and salary employment.

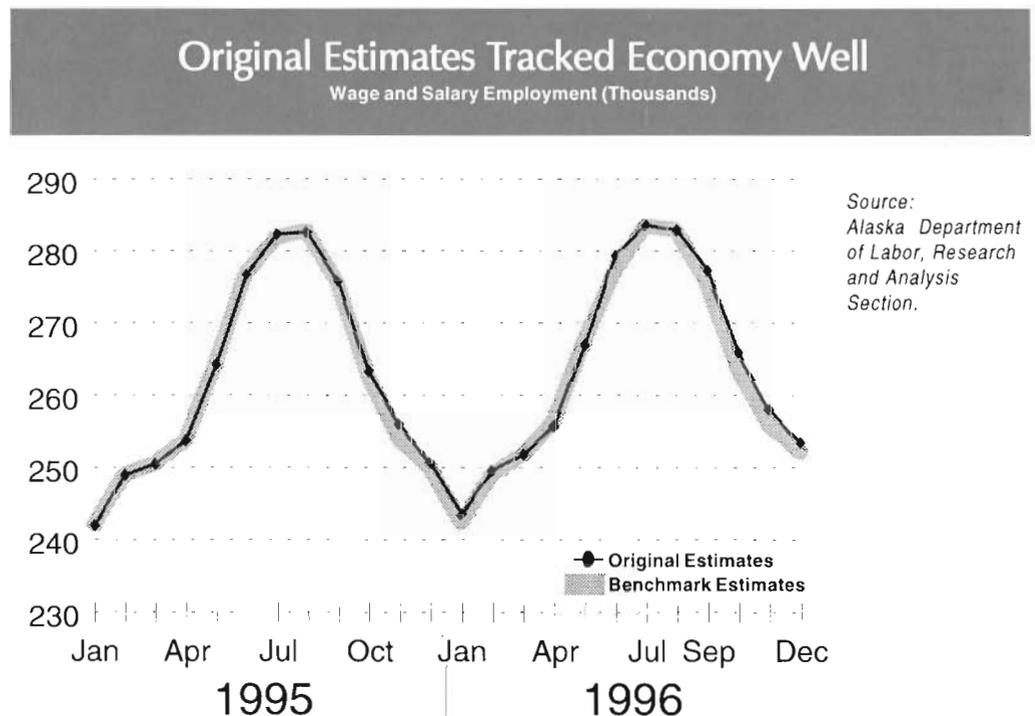
Revised employment estimates incorporate latest UI tax data

Quarterly Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax reports, referred to as the Quarterly Report of Employment and Wages or the ES-202 report, provide the most comprehensive count of nonagricultural wage and salary employment for Alaska. However, ES-202 data are not immediately incorporated into the current employment estimates because there is a six-to-nine-month lag in collection, processing and publication of this information. (The ES-202 data are published annually in AKDOL's *Employment and Earnings Summary Report*.) The recently completed benchmark process, though, incorporates the most recent ES-202 data available.

During the benchmark, revised estimates were calculated through December 1996. These estimates incorporate ES-202 data through June 1996. The remaining six months of 1996 were reestimated using an augmented CES sample. The new

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Figure • 1



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Corrected Table 1 — April Trends

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work 1995

Alaska 1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	242,000	249,000	250,600	253,900	264,300	276,700	281,800	282,700	275,700	262,900	254,000	250,100	262,000
Goods-producing	30,200	35,400	35,400	35,400	39,000	44,900	53,200	51,600	45,900	40,100	34,200	30,700	39,700
Mining	9,400	9,700	9,700	9,500	9,700	10,200	10,300	10,500	10,400	10,400	9,900	9,900	10,000
Construction	9,000	9,500	9,400	10,600	13,000	15,100	15,900	16,800	16,300	15,000	12,500	10,700	12,800
Manufacturing	11,800	16,200	16,300	15,300	16,300	19,600	27,000	24,300	19,200	14,700	11,800	10,100	16,900
Durable Goods	1,700	2,400	2,800	3,200	3,500	3,700	3,900	4,000	3,900	3,800	3,400	2,600	3,200
Lumber & Wood Products	1,000	1,600	1,900	2,200	2,400	2,600	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,600	2,400	1,700	2,200
Nondurable Goods	10,100	13,800	13,500	12,100	12,800	15,900	23,100	20,300	15,300	10,900	8,400	7,500	13,600
Seafood Processing	6,900	10,600	10,300	8,900	9,600	12,600	19,800	17,100	12,100	7,700	5,300	4,300	10,400
Pulp Mills	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Service-producing	211,800	213,600	215,200	218,500	225,300	231,800	228,600	231,100	229,800	222,800	219,800	219,400	222,300
Transportation	21,600	21,700	22,000	22,200	23,100	24,400	24,700	24,800	24,600	22,600	21,700	21,400	22,900
Trucking & Warehousing	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,900	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,700
Water Transportation	1,400	1,700	1,700	1,800	2,100	2,300	2,500	2,600	2,400	2,000	1,700	1,600	2,000
Air Transportation	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,600	8,000	8,200	8,300	8,100	7,600	7,400	7,300	7,800
Communications	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,800	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700
Trade	50,300	49,800	50,400	51,600	54,700	58,000	58,400	58,600	56,700	53,700	53,300	53,700	54,100
Wholesale Trade	8,100	8,200	8,200	8,400	8,700	8,900	9,200	9,300	9,000	8,700	8,500	8,600	8,700
Retail Trade	42,200	41,600	42,200	43,200	46,000	49,100	49,200	49,300	47,700	45,000	44,800	45,100	45,500
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	8,700	8,300	8,300	8,500	8,900	9,400	9,400	9,400	9,400	9,500	9,800	9,800	9,100
Food Stores	6,900	6,900	7,000	7,000	7,200	7,400	7,500	7,400	7,200	6,900	6,800	6,700	7,100
Eating & Drinking Places	13,300	13,300	13,600	14,200	15,500	17,100	17,200	17,300	16,400	14,400	14,000	14,100	15,000
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,500	11,700	12,000	12,000	12,100	12,100	11,900	11,600	11,700	11,700
Services & Misc.	56,100	57,100	57,700	59,000	61,500	64,800	64,900	65,200	63,600	60,400	59,600	59,700	60,800
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,900	4,900	5,100	5,500	6,900	8,400	8,800	8,800	7,500	5,500	5,000	5,100	6,400
Business Services	6,800	6,800	6,800	7,200	7,300	7,700	8,100	8,300	8,300	7,900	7,600	7,600	7,500
Health Services	12,800	13,000	13,100	13,000	13,200	13,300	13,300	13,100	13,100	13,200	13,300	13,400	13,200
Engineering & Mngmt. Serv.	6,700	6,900	6,900	7,100	7,200	7,600	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,600	7,500	7,400	7,300
Government	72,400	73,600	73,700	74,200	74,300	72,600	68,600	70,400	72,800	74,200	73,600	72,900	72,800
Federal	17,600	17,400	17,400	17,400	17,800	18,400	18,100	18,000	17,600	17,200	16,900	17,100	17,600
State	21,400	22,000	22,100	22,300	21,900	20,600	20,100	20,400	21,700	22,000	21,900	21,300	21,500
Local	33,400	34,200	34,200	34,500	34,600	33,600	30,400	32,000	33,500	35,000	34,800	34,500	33,700

Alaska 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	242,600	248,900	251,700	256,600	267,400	277,000	283,700	283,000	275,500	263,900	256,000	252,300	263,200
Goods-producing	30,000	34,400	35,200	36,200	39,200	43,200	50,500	49,100	43,200	38,800	33,600	30,300	38,600
Mining	9,500	9,800	10,100	9,800	9,600	10,100	10,400	10,400	10,400	10,300	9,700	9,400	10,000
Construction	9,000	9,200	9,300	10,600	12,800	14,500	15,300	16,200	15,400	14,300	12,300	11,100	12,500
Manufacturing	11,500	15,400	15,800	15,800	16,800	18,600	24,800	22,500	17,400	14,200	11,600	9,800	16,200
Durable Goods	2,000	2,300	2,800	3,300	3,500	3,600	3,500	3,500	3,400	3,300	3,000	2,400	3,100
Lumber & Wood Products	1,000	1,400	1,800	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,100	1,900	1,400	1,900
Nondurable Goods	9,500	13,100	13,000	12,500	13,300	15,000	21,300	19,000	14,000	10,900	8,600	7,400	13,100
Seafood Processing	6,400	10,000	9,900	9,400	10,200	11,900	18,300	16,000	11,000	7,900	5,500	4,300	10,100
Pulp Mills	500	500	500	500	500	600	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Service-producing	212,600	214,500	216,500	220,400	228,200	233,800	233,900	233,900	232,300	225,100	222,400	222,000	224,600
Transportation	20,700	21,100	21,100	21,800	23,900	24,700	24,600	25,000	24,200	22,500	21,700	21,500	22,700
Trucking & Warehousing	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,700	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,800
Water Transportation	1,400	1,700	1,600	1,800	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,200	2,000	1,700	1,600	1,900
Air Transportation	7,000	6,900	6,900	7,200	7,600	8,300	8,200	8,300	8,000	7,400	7,400	7,300	7,500
Communications	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,800	3,800	3,900	3,900	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800
Trade	51,000	50,200	50,300	51,700	55,300	58,000	59,300	59,200	57,300	54,500	54,200	54,300	54,600
Wholesale Trade	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,500	8,800	9,100	9,500	9,400	9,000	8,700	8,600	8,600	8,800
Retail Trade	42,600	41,800	41,900	43,200	46,500	48,900	49,800	49,800	48,300	45,800	45,600	45,700	45,800
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	8,800	8,200	8,100	8,300	8,700	9,100	9,100	9,300	9,200	9,500	9,700	9,700	9,000
Food Stores	6,800	6,700	6,600	6,800	7,000	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,100	6,900	6,900	6,800	7,000
Eating & Drinking Places	13,400	13,500	13,700	14,200	15,900	16,900	17,600	17,500	16,800	14,700	14,300	14,400	15,200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,500	11,800	12,000	12,200	12,100	11,900	11,800	11,600	11,600	11,700
Services & Misc.	57,700	58,500	59,600	60,700	63,400	66,100	67,300	66,900	65,100	61,700	60,800	61,100	62,400
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,700	4,700	4,900	5,300	6,700	8,300	8,800	8,800	7,600	5,600	5,200	5,100	6,300
Business Services	7,300	7,400	7,600	7,700	8,000	8,400	8,700	8,600	8,400	8,100	8,000	8,000	8,000
Health Services	13,200	13,400	13,500	13,500	13,700	13,900	13,900	13,700	13,600	13,700	13,800	14,000	13,700
Engineering & Mngmt. Serv.	7,000	7,100	7,300	7,300	7,100	7,300	7,600	7,500	7,600	7,600	7,500	7,400	7,400
Government	71,800	73,300	74,100	74,700	73,800	73,000	69,800	70,700	73,800	74,600	74,100	73,500	73,100
Federal	16,800	16,700	16,700	17,100	17,600	18,000	18,000	17,900	17,700	17,100	16,800	17,000	17,300
State	21,200	22,000	22,100	22,300	20,600	21,600	20,900	20,700	22,200	22,100	22,000	21,400	21,600
Local	33,800	34,600	35,300	35,300	35,600	33,400	30,900	32,100	33,900	35,400	35,300	35,100	34,200

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.
Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage tables prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
All other tables prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division.

Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.
Benchmark: March 1996
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Revised Published Series for Statewide

Trucking and Warehousing—Statewide 1990-1994

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
1994	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,500	2,700	2,900	3,000	2,800	2,700	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,600
1993	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,700	2,800	2,700	2,600	2,600	2,500	2,400	2,500
1992	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,800	2,600	2,500	2,400	2,600
1991	2,300	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,500	2,700	2,900	2,800	2,700	2,800	2,600	2,600	2,600
1990	2,100	2,200	2,400	2,300	2,400	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,600	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,400

Air Transportation—Statewide 1990-1994

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
1994	7,200	7,300	7,300	7,600	7,900	8,300	8,500	8,500	8,400	8,100	7,900	7,900	7,900
1993	7,400	7,400	7,400	7,500	7,700	8,200	8,500	8,500	8,200	7,700	7,400	7,400	7,800
1992	7,200	7,200	7,400	7,500	7,900	8,100	8,300	8,400	8,000	7,600	7,400	7,600	7,700
1991	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,800	7,300	7,700	7,900	8,100	7,800	7,500	7,400	7,300	7,300
1990	6,200	6,200	6,300	6,500	6,800	7,300	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,000	6,900	6,900	6,900

New Published Series for Statewide

Business Services—Statewide 1990-1994

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
1994	6,900	6,900	6,900	7,000	7,200	7,400	7,600	7,700	7,600	7,300	7,300	7,100	7,200
1993	6,800	7,100	7,000	7,100	7,200	7,400	7,500	7,400	7,200	7,200	7,100	7,100	7,200
1992	6,700	6,700	6,800	6,800	6,900	7,200	7,300	7,300	7,100	7,000	6,900	7,000	7,000
1991	6,500	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,900	7,000	7,300	7,000	6,800	6,600	6,500	6,500	6,800
1990	6,000	6,300	6,400	6,500	6,800	7,200	6,900	7,100	7,100	7,000	7,000	7,000	6,800

Engineering & Management Services—Statewide 1990-1994

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
1994	6,000	6,200	6,400	6,500	6,400	6,700	6,700	7,000	7,000	6,900	6,800	6,800	6,600
1993	6,400	6,500	6,600	6,800	6,800	6,900	6,700	6,700	6,800	6,600	6,500	6,500	6,700
1992	6,200	6,200	6,300	6,400	6,100	6,500	6,700	6,700	6,500	6,600	6,300	6,400	6,400
1991	5,700	5,800	5,900	5,800	5,900	6,000	6,200	6,500	6,200	6,100	6,200	6,100	6,000
1990	5,300	5,500	5,700	5,600	5,800	6,100	6,200	6,300	6,200	6,100	6,000	6,000	5,900

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work 1995 and 1996

Municipality of Anchorage 1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	116,000	116,800	117,300	118,200	120,800	124,500	123,400	124,600	123,600	121,400	119,800	119,700	120,500
Goods-producing	9,000	9,400	9,600	10,000	11,200	12,600	13,100	13,600	13,000	12,200	10,700	10,100	11,200
Mining	2,600	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,700
Construction	4,500	4,700	4,800	5,200	6,400	7,500	7,900	8,400	8,100	7,300	6,000	5,500	6,400
Manufacturing	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,300	2,100	2,000	1,900	2,100
Service-producing	107,000	107,400	107,700	108,200	109,600	111,900	110,300	111,000	110,600	109,200	109,100	109,600	109,300
Transportation	12,100	12,000	12,100	11,800	11,600	12,200	12,400	12,400	12,300	11,700	11,500	11,300	12,000
Air Transportation	5,100	5,100	5,100	4,900	4,500	4,600	4,900	5,000	4,900	4,800	4,700	4,600	4,900
Communications	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
Trade	28,700	28,300	28,300	28,900	29,900	30,700	30,400	30,600	30,200	29,800	30,000	30,400	29,700
Wholesale Trade	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,400	6,500	6,600	6,600	6,600	6,500	6,400	6,400	6,500	6,400
Retail Trade	22,600	22,200	22,200	22,500	23,400	24,100	23,800	24,000	23,700	23,400	23,600	23,900	23,300
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,700	4,400	4,400	4,500	4,700	4,900	4,700	4,800	4,800	4,900	5,200	5,200	4,800
Food Stores	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,800	3,000
Eating & Drinking Places	7,700	7,600	7,700	7,900	8,300	8,600	8,500	8,600	8,500	7,900	7,800	8,000	8,100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,000	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,300	7,200	7,300	7,200	7,200	7,100	7,100	7,200
Services & Misc.	30,900	31,300	31,600	31,800	32,400	33,500	33,200	33,400	33,200	32,400	32,500	32,600	32,400
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,900	2,900	2,800	2,600	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,600
Business Services	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,300	5,300	5,600	5,800	5,900	5,900	5,800	5,800	5,700	5,500
Health Services	6,500	6,600	6,700	6,600	6,700	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,700	6,800	6,900	6,900	6,700
Engineering & Mngmt. Serv.	4,600	4,800	4,800	5,000	5,000	5,300	5,000	5,100	5,300	5,300	5,300	5,200	5,100
Government	28,300	28,700	28,600	28,600	28,600	28,200	27,100	27,300	27,700	28,100	28,000	28,200	28,100
Federal	10,700	10,700	10,700	10,500	10,600	10,700	10,500	10,400	10,300	10,200	10,100	10,400	10,500
State	8,100	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,200	7,600	7,400	7,700	8,200	8,300	8,300	8,100	8,100
Local	9,500	9,600	9,500	9,700	9,800	9,900	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,600	9,600	9,700	9,500

Municipality of Anchorage 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	115,800	116,000	116,700	117,600	120,600	123,600	124,000	125,500	124,500	122,100	120,600	120,500	120,600
Goods-producing	9,100	9,100	9,300	9,600	10,800	11,700	12,100	12,800	12,400	11,600	10,400	9,900	10,700
Mining	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Construction	4,700	4,700	4,700	5,100	6,300	7,200	7,600	8,200	7,800	7,100	6,000	5,600	6,300
Manufacturing	1,800	1,800	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,000	1,900	1,800	2,000
Service-producing	106,700	106,900	107,400	108,000	109,800	111,900	111,900	112,700	112,100	110,500	110,200	110,600	109,900
Transportation	11,400	11,500	11,500	11,600	12,100	12,400	12,100	12,500	12,200	11,500	11,400	11,400	11,800
Air Transportation	4,500	4,400	4,400	4,500	4,600	4,900	4,700	4,800	4,700	4,500	4,600	4,600	4,600
Communications	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,200
Trade	28,800	28,400	28,400	28,600	29,400	30,200	30,600	30,800	30,400	30,100	30,200	30,400	29,700
Wholesale Trade	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,500	6,600	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,500	6,500	6,400	6,400	6,500
Retail Trade	22,400	22,000	22,000	22,100	22,800	23,500	23,900	24,100	23,900	23,600	23,800	24,000	23,200
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,600	4,200	4,100	4,100	4,300	4,500	4,600	4,700	4,600	4,800	5,000	4,900	4,500
Food Stores	2,900	2,800	2,700	2,800	2,800	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800
Eating & Drinking Places	7,600	7,700	7,900	7,800	8,100	8,200	8,500	8,600	8,100	8,000	8,200	8,200	8,100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,000	7,100	7,100	7,000	7,100	7,200	7,300	7,300	7,200	7,200	7,100	7,100	7,100
Services & Misc.	31,700	32,100	32,500	32,800	33,600	34,300	35,000	34,900	34,500	33,400	33,300	33,400	33,500
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,700	2,800	2,900	2,900	2,700	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,500
Business Services	5,500	5,500	5,600	5,700	5,800	6,000	6,300	6,300	6,200	6,000	5,900	5,900	5,900
Health Services	6,800	6,900	6,900	7,000	7,100	7,200	7,200	7,000	7,000	7,100	7,200	7,300	7,100
Engineering & Mngmt. Serv.	4,900	5,000	5,100	5,000	4,900	5,000	5,100	5,000	5,200	5,200	5,100	5,100	5,100
Government	27,800	27,800	27,900	28,000	27,600	27,800	26,900	27,200	27,800	28,300	28,200	28,300	27,800
Federal	10,000	9,900	9,900	9,900	10,000	10,200	10,200	10,100	10,200	10,000	10,000	10,200	10,000
State	8,100	8,300	8,300	8,300	7,500	7,700	7,600	7,900	8,300	8,500	8,500	8,300	8,100
Local	9,700	9,600	9,800	9,800	10,100	9,900	9,100	9,200	9,300	9,800	9,700	9,800	9,700

Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage tables prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. All other tables prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division.

Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska. Benchmark: March 1996. Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Revised Published Series for Municipality of Anchorage

Air Transportation- Municipality of Anchorage 1990-1994

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
1994	4,700	4,800	4,700	4,900	4,600	4,800	5,000	5,000	5,000	4,900	4,800	4,900	4,800
1993	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,700	4,800	5,000	5,200	5,200	5,100	4,900	4,800	4,800	4,900
1992	4,500	4,500	4,600	4,500	4,600	4,800	5,100	5,200	5,000	4,900	4,800	5,000	4,800
1991	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,700	4,900	4,900	5,000	4,800	4,700	4,600	4,800	4,600
1990	4,000	4,000	4,100	4,100	4,200	4,500	4,600	4,600	4,500	4,400	4,400	4,400	4,300

New Published Series for Municipality of Anchorage

Business Services- Municipality of Anchorage 1990-1994

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
1994	5,200	5,200	5,200	5,200	5,400	5,600	5,700	5,800	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,400	5,400
1993	4,700	4,800	4,900	4,900	5,000	5,200	5,300	5,300	5,200	5,200	5,300	5,300	5,100
1992	4,700	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	5,000	5,100	5,100	4,900	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800
1991	4,500	4,600	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,900	5,000	4,800	4,700	4,700	4,500	4,600	4,700
1990	4,400	4,600	4,600	4,800	4,900	5,100	4,800	4,800	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,800

Engineering & Management Services- Municipality of Anchorage 1990-1994

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
1994	4,100	4,200	4,400	4,500	4,400	4,600	4,500	4,600	4,700	4,700	4,600	4,700	4,500
1993	4,500	4,600	4,600	4,800	4,700	4,800	4,500	4,500	4,700	4,600	4,500	4,600	4,600
1992	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,300	4,000	4,400	4,600	4,500	4,400	4,500	4,400	4,500	4,400
1991	3,900	4,000	4,100	3,900	3,900	4,000	4,100	4,400	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,100
1990	3,400	3,600	3,700	3,600	3,700	4,000	4,000	4,100	4,000	4,100	4,100	4,200	3,900

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work 1995 and 1996

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region 1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	125,450	126,050	126,700	128,000	131,250	135,250	134,000	135,700	134,350	131,900	130,050	129,750	130,700
Goods-producing	9,700	10,000	10,150	10,650	12,050	13,600	14,100	14,600	14,000	13,200	11,500	10,750	12,050
Mining	2,750	2,850	2,900	2,800	2,750	2,800	2,750	2,750	2,700	2,800	2,750	2,750	2,800
Construction	5,000	5,150	5,200	5,700	7,050	8,300	8,700	9,250	8,900	8,150	6,650	6,000	7,000
Manufacturing	1,950	2,000	2,050	2,150	2,250	2,500	2,650	2,600	2,400	2,250	2,100	2,000	2,250
Service-producing	115,750	116,050	116,550	117,350	119,200	121,650	119,900	121,100	120,350	118,700	118,550	119,000	118,700
Transportation	13,050	12,950	13,050	12,850	12,700	13,100	13,250	13,350	13,200	12,600	12,400	12,200	12,900
Trade	30,800	30,400	30,550	31,200	32,300	33,300	33,200	33,500	32,950	32,450	32,550	32,900	32,200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,450	7,500	7,500	7,550	7,550	7,700	7,650	7,750	7,700	7,650	7,600	7,550	7,600
Services & Misc.	33,200	33,550	33,850	34,100	34,950	36,250	35,900	36,150	35,900	34,950	34,950	35,100	34,900
Government	31,250	31,650	31,600	31,650	31,700	31,300	29,900	30,350	30,600	31,050	31,050	31,250	31,100
Federal	10,850	10,850	10,800	10,600	10,700	10,850	10,650	10,550	10,400	10,300	10,250	10,500	10,600
State	8,900	9,150	9,150	9,250	9,050	8,450	8,250	8,500	9,100	9,150	9,100	8,950	8,900
Local	11,500	11,650	11,650	11,800	11,950	12,000	11,000	11,300	11,100	11,600	11,700	11,800	11,600

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	125,150	125,500	126,500	127,750	131,150	134,950	135,050	136,450	135,100	132,650	130,900	130,900	131,000
Goods-producing	9,550	9,600	9,700	10,200	11,400	12,500	13,150	13,800	13,250	12,600	11,100	10,650	11,450
Mining	2,550	2,600	2,650	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,550	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,550
Construction	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,550	6,800	7,850	8,450	9,050	8,550	7,900	6,650	6,250	6,850
Manufacturing	1,900	1,900	1,950	2,050	2,100	2,150	2,200	2,250	2,150	2,100	1,950	1,900	2,050
Service-producing	115,600	115,900	116,800	117,550	119,750	122,450	121,900	122,650	121,850	120,050	119,800	120,250	119,550
Transportation	12,100	12,200	12,200	12,350	12,950	13,250	13,000	13,350	13,050	12,400	12,300	12,250	12,600
Trade	31,300	30,850	30,850	31,200	32,250	33,100	33,550	33,700	33,250	32,800	32,850	33,100	32,400
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,450	7,500	7,550	7,450	7,550	7,650	7,800	7,700	7,600	7,600	7,550	7,550	7,600
Services & Misc.	34,100	34,500	35,000	35,350	36,250	37,150	37,650	37,550	37,050	35,950	35,900	36,050	36,050
Government	30,650	30,850	31,200	31,200	30,750	31,300	29,900	30,350	30,900	31,300	31,200	31,300	30,900
Federal	10,100	10,000	9,950	10,100	10,150	10,300	10,300	10,250	10,300	10,150	10,150	10,350	10,200
State	8,850	9,150	9,150	9,150	8,400	9,000	8,650	8,800	9,350	9,400	9,350	9,150	9,050
Local	11,700	11,700	12,100	11,950	12,200	12,000	10,950	11,300	11,250	11,750	11,700	11,800	11,700

Fairbanks North Star Borough 1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	28,850	29,250	29,200	29,950	31,800	33,400	33,150	33,400	33,150	31,450	30,900	30,000	31,200
Goods-producing	2,400	2,550	2,400	2,500	3,150	3,800	4,100	4,200	4,050	3,600	3,150	2,650	3,200
Mining	700	700	700	650	700	850	900	850	800	700	700	650	750
Construction	1,200	1,350	1,200	1,350	1,900	2,350	2,550	2,750	2,650	2,350	1,950	1,500	1,950
Manufacturing	500	500	500	500	550	600	650	600	600	550	500	500	550
Service-producing	26,450	26,700	26,800	27,450	28,650	29,600	29,050	29,200	29,100	27,850	27,750	27,350	28,000
Transportation	2,000	1,950	2,000	2,100	2,400	2,650	2,550	2,600	2,600	2,250	2,150	2,150	2,300
Trucking & Warehousing	450	450	450	450	500	600	600	600	550	500	500	500	500
Air Transportation	500	500	500	550	550	600	600	600	600	550	550	600	550
Communications	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Trade	6,350	6,250	6,300	6,500	7,000	7,800	7,800	7,850	7,500	6,700	6,700	6,650	6,950
Wholesale Trade	800	800	800	750	800	850	800	850	800	800	750	750	800
Retail Trade	5,550	5,450	5,500	5,750	6,200	6,950	7,000	7,000	6,700	5,900	5,950	5,900	6,150
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,250	1,300	1,300	1,250	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,250
Food Stores	700	700	700	700	700	750	750	750	750	700	750	700	700
Eating & Drinking Places	1,850	1,850	1,850	2,050	2,350	2,900	3,000	3,000	2,700	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,300
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	950	900	950	950	950	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	950	950	950	950
Services & Misc.	6,900	7,050	7,050	7,200	7,700	8,200	8,200	8,200	7,800	7,500	7,350	7,400	7,550
Government	10,250	10,550	10,500	10,700	10,600	9,950	9,500	9,550	10,200	10,450	10,600	10,200	10,250
Federal	3,000	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,100	3,200	3,150	3,100	3,050	2,950	2,950	2,950	3,000
State	4,350	4,650	4,600	4,700	4,400	4,050	3,800	3,800	4,200	4,600	4,700	4,550	4,350
Local	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,100	2,700	2,550	2,650	2,950	2,900	2,950	2,700	2,850

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.
 Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage tables prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
 All other tables prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division.

Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.
 Benchmark: March 1996
 Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work 1995 and 1996

Fairbanks North Star Borough 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	28,950	29,400	29,650	30,700	32,750	34,000	34,200	33,950	33,850	32,400	31,450	30,900	31,850
Goods-producing	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,700	3,400	3,800	3,850	4,000	4,050	3,900	3,250	2,900	3,250
Mining	650	700	750	750	900	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,050	850	950
Construction	1,200	1,250	1,200	1,500	1,950	2,150	2,150	2,250	2,250	2,150	1,700	1,550	1,800
Manufacturing	450	450	450	450	550	550	600	600	600	550	500	500	500
Service-producing	26,650	27,000	27,250	28,000	29,350	30,200	30,350	29,950	29,800	28,500	28,200	28,000	28,600
Transportation	2,100	2,050	2,100	2,150	2,500	2,650	2,750	2,700	2,600	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,350
Trucking & Warehousing	500	500	550	550	600	650	650	600	550	550	500	500	550
Air Transportation	600	600	600	600	650	650	650	650	600	550	550	600	600
Communications	250	250	250	300	300	250	300	250	300	300	300	300	300
Trade	6,200	6,100	6,050	6,500	7,400	7,750	7,900	7,900	7,650	6,900	6,850	6,800	7,000
Wholesale Trade	700	700	700	750	750	800	850	850	850	800	750	750	750
Retail Trade	5,500	5,400	5,350	5,750	6,650	6,950	7,050	7,050	6,800	6,100	6,100	6,050	6,250
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,400	1,250
Food Stores	700	700	700	700	750	750	750	800	750	750	800	750	750
Eating & Drinking Places	1,800	1,800	1,850	2,100	2,800	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,750	2,050	2,000	1,950	2,350
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	950	950	950	950	1,000	1,050	1,000	1,000	1,000	950	950	950	1,000
Services & Misc.	7,050	7,200	7,400	7,450	7,900	8,450	8,700	8,600	8,050	7,600	7,450	7,450	7,800
Government	10,350	10,700	10,750	10,950	10,550	10,300	10,000	9,750	10,500	10,750	10,750	10,600	10,500
Federal	3,100	3,050	3,100	3,200	3,350	3,400	3,350	3,300	3,250	3,150	3,100	3,100	3,200
State	4,250	4,600	4,650	4,700	4,100	4,200	4,000	3,800	4,350	4,550	4,600	4,500	4,350
Local	3,000	3,050	3,000	3,050	3,100	2,700	2,650	2,650	2,900	3,050	3,050	3,000	2,950

Interior Region 1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	32,600	33,200	33,200	34,500	36,900	39,100	39,000	39,300	38,900	36,350	35,250	34,150	36,050
Goods-producing	2,700	2,900	2,750	3,050	3,750	4,450	4,850	4,950	4,800	4,300	3,700	3,050	3,750
Mining	850	850	850	800	850	1,000	1,100	1,050	1,000	850	850	800	900
Construction	1,350	1,550	1,400	1,700	2,300	2,800	3,000	3,250	3,150	2,850	2,300	1,700	2,300
Manufacturing	500	500	500	550	600	650	750	650	650	600	550	550	600
Service-producing	29,900	30,300	30,450	31,450	33,150	34,650	34,150	34,350	34,100	32,050	31,550	31,100	32,250
Transportation	2,350	2,350	2,450	2,550	2,950	3,400	3,350	3,350	3,350	2,750	2,550	2,500	2,850
Trade	6,750	6,650	6,700	6,950	7,600	8,600	8,700	8,700	8,250	7,200	7,150	7,150	7,550
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,050	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Services & Misc.	7,400	7,550	7,600	7,900	8,450	9,200	9,300	9,400	8,850	8,200	8,000	8,000	8,300
Government	12,350	12,750	12,700	13,050	13,150	12,400	11,750	11,850	12,600	12,900	12,850	12,450	12,550
Federal	3,500	3,450	3,400	3,550	3,650	3,850	3,850	3,800	3,650	3,500	3,450	3,450	3,600
State	4,550	4,850	4,850	4,950	4,850	4,350	4,150	4,100	4,500	4,900	4,900	4,750	4,650
Local	4,300	4,450	4,450	4,550	4,650	4,200	3,750	3,950	4,450	4,500	4,500	4,250	4,350

Interior Region 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	32,750	33,400	33,850	35,350	38,100	40,250	40,100	39,900	39,700	37,150	36,000	35,300	36,800
Goods-producing	2,600	2,700	2,750	3,200	3,950	4,650	4,800	4,750	4,750	4,550	3,800	3,400	3,850
Mining	800	850	900	900	1,100	1,300	1,350	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,200	1,000	1,150
Construction	1,350	1,400	1,400	1,800	2,300	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,550	2,050	1,850	2,150
Manufacturing	450	450	450	500	550	650	750	650	650	600	550	550	550
Service-producing	30,150	30,700	31,100	32,150	34,150	35,600	35,300	35,150	34,950	32,600	32,200	31,900	33,000
Transportation	2,350	2,400	2,500	2,650	3,250	3,350	3,400	3,400	3,300	2,800	2,600	2,550	2,900
Trade	6,650	6,550	6,550	7,000	8,050	8,600	8,750	8,750	8,400	7,400	7,350	7,300	7,600
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,050	1,000	1,050	1,050	1,050
Services & Misc.	7,650	7,750	8,000	8,200	8,750	9,600	9,750	9,800	9,150	8,350	8,150	8,150	8,600
Government	12,500	13,000	13,050	13,300	13,050	12,950	12,300	12,100	13,050	13,050	13,050	12,850	12,850
Federal	3,650	3,650	3,650	3,750	4,000	4,100	4,100	4,000	3,850	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,800
State	4,450	4,850	4,850	4,950	4,400	4,650	4,350	4,100	4,750	4,800	4,850	4,700	4,650
Local	4,400	4,500	4,550	4,600	4,650	4,200	3,850	4,000	4,450	4,650	4,600	4,550	4,400

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage tables prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

All other tables prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division.

Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1996

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work 1995 and 1996

Southeast Alaska 1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	30,900	31,750	32,400	34,750	37,100	38,250	40,300	41,000	39,550	35,700	34,000	32,950	35,700
Goods-producing	3,500	3,950	4,300	5,150	5,750	6,400	8,450	8,800	7,800	6,000	5,350	4,400	5,800
Mining	200	200	150	150	150	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Construction	1,100	1,150	1,250	1,600	1,800	1,950	1,900	1,950	1,850	1,800	1,650	1,400	1,600
Manufacturing	2,200	2,600	2,900	3,400	3,800	4,250	6,350	6,650	5,750	4,000	3,500	2,800	4,000
Durable Goods	800	1,200	1,450	1,700	1,900	2,000	2,150	2,100	2,050	1,950	1,750	1,200	1,700
Lumber & Wood Products	650	1,100	1,300	1,600	1,750	1,850	2,000	1,950	1,900	1,800	1,600	1,050	1,550
Nondurable Goods	1,400	1,400	1,450	1,700	1,900	2,250	4,200	4,550	3,700	2,050	1,750	1,600	2,350
Seafood Processing	650	700	750	950	1,150	1,500	3,450	3,750	2,900	1,300	1,000	850	1,600
Pulp Mills	500	500	500	500	500	550	500	550	550	500	500	500	500
Service-producing	27,400	27,800	28,100	29,600	31,350	31,850	31,850	32,200	31,750	29,700	28,650	28,550	29,900
Transportation	2,300	2,300	2,350	2,650	3,100	3,450	3,450	3,450	3,300	2,800	2,500	2,500	2,850
Trade	5,750	5,750	5,900	6,350	7,000	7,550	7,000	7,550	7,250	6,400	6,200	6,250	6,650
Wholesale Trade	500	500	500	500	500	500	550	550	550	500	500	500	500
Retail Trade	5,250	5,250	5,400	5,850	6,500	7,050	7,050	7,000	6,700	5,900	5,700	5,750	6,100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,400	1,450	1,450	1,500	1,500	1,450	1,400	1,350	1,450	1,400
Services & Misc.	5,950	6,100	6,150	6,600	7,100	7,500	7,550	7,550	7,250	6,450	6,250	6,150	6,700
Government	12,150	12,400	12,450	12,600	12,700	11,900	11,750	12,150	12,500	12,650	12,350	12,200	12,300
Federal	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,850	2,000	2,050	2,100	2,100	2,050	2,050	1,850	1,800	1,950
State	5,400	5,500	5,550	5,550	5,500	5,250	5,200	5,300	5,450	5,350	5,350	5,200	5,400
Local	4,950	5,100	5,100	5,200	5,200	4,600	4,450	4,750	5,000	5,250	5,150	5,200	5,000

Southeast Alaska 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,350	32,050	32,800	34,800	36,900	38,050	40,650	41,250	39,400	35,800	34,300	33,150	35,900
Goods-producing	3,500	4,000	4,500	5,500	5,800	6,250	8,100	8,450	7,050	5,600	5,150	4,300	5,700
Mining	200	250	250	200	250	250	300	300	300	300	300	300	250
Construction	1,250	1,350	1,400	1,750	1,950	2,050	2,150	2,150	2,000	1,850	1,750	1,450	1,750
Manufacturing	2,050	2,400	2,850	3,550	3,600	3,950	5,650	6,000	4,750	3,450	3,100	2,550	3,650
Durable Goods	750	950	1,300	1,750	1,800	1,800	1,650	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,350	1,000	1,400
Lumber & Wood Products	550	800	1,150	1,550	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,450	1,450	1,350	1,200	850	1,250
Nondurable Goods	1,300	1,450	1,550	1,800	1,800	2,150	4,000	4,400	3,150	1,950	1,750	1,550	2,250
Seafood Processing	500	650	750	1,000	1,000	1,300	3,300	3,650	2,400	1,150	1,000	800	1,450
Pulp Mills	550	550	550	500	550	550	450	500	500	500	500	450	500
Service-producing	27,850	28,050	28,300	29,300	31,100	31,800	32,550	32,800	32,350	30,200	29,150	28,850	30,200
Transportation	2,300	2,250	2,350	2,500	3,150	3,450	3,400	3,450	3,350	2,850	2,600	2,500	2,850
Trade	5,850	5,750	5,800	6,200	6,900	7,450	7,850	7,900	7,350	6,600	6,400	6,400	6,700
Wholesale Trade	450	450	450	500	500	550	600	600	550	500	500	500	500
Retail Trade	5,400	5,300	5,350	5,700	6,400	6,900	7,250	7,300	6,800	6,100	5,900	5,900	6,200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,650	1,650	1,550	1,450	1,400	1,450	1,450
Services & Misc.	6,050	6,150	6,200	6,450	7,000	7,450	7,700	7,600	7,400	6,550	6,350	6,300	6,750
Government	12,350	12,600	12,650	12,750	12,550	11,950	11,950	12,200	12,700	12,750	12,400	12,200	12,400
Federal	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900	2,050	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,050	2,000	1,850	1,800	1,950
State	5,400	5,500	5,500	5,550	5,250	5,300	5,250	5,250	5,450	5,350	5,300	5,100	5,350
Local	5,150	5,300	5,350	5,300	5,250	4,550	4,600	4,850	5,200	5,400	5,250	5,300	5,150

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage tables prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

All other tables prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division.

Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1996

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work 1995 and 1996

Gulf Coast 1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	23,400	24,650	24,950	25,300	27,350	30,100	32,400	31,950	29,050	26,750	24,550	23,300	27,000
Goods-producing	4,950	6,000	6,050	6,050	6,600	8,250	10,750	10,400	8,100	6,950	5,350	4,550	7,000
Mining	950	950	950	1,150	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,350	1,400	1,100	1,050	1,150
Construction	800	850	750	850	1,100	1,300	1,500	1,550	1,550	1,450	1,250	1,000	1,150
Manufacturing	3,200	4,200	4,350	4,050	4,400	5,800	8,050	7,600	5,200	4,100	3,000	2,500	4,700
Seafood Processing	2,300	3,100	3,100	2,800	3,200	4,550	6,750	6,200	3,800	2,700	1,600	1,250	3,450
Service-producing	18,450	18,650	18,900	19,250	20,750	21,850	21,650	21,550	20,950	19,800	19,200	18,750	20,000
Transportation	2,050	2,050	2,050	2,100	2,350	2,400	2,500	2,450	2,450	2,250	2,200	2,100	2,250
Trade	4,450	4,400	4,550	4,550	5,050	5,700	6,100	6,000	5,450	4,750	4,600	4,500	5,000
Wholesale Trade	550	550	550	500	600	600	850	900	800	550	500	500	650
Retail Trade	3,900	3,850	4,000	4,050	4,450	5,100	5,250	5,100	4,650	4,200	4,050	4,000	4,400
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	650	650	650	650	750	750	750	700	700	700	700	650	700
Services & Misc.	4,650	4,750	4,850	5,150	5,650	6,200	6,150	6,050	5,550	5,100	4,850	4,800	5,300
Government	6,650	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,950	6,800	6,150	6,350	6,800	7,000	6,850	6,700	6,700
Federal	600	600	600	600	700	750	750	750	700	700	650	600	650
State	1,700	1,700	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,700	1,650	1,750	1,850	1,850	1,750	1,650	1,750
Local	4,350	4,500	4,450	4,450	4,500	4,350	3,750	3,850	4,250	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,300

Gulf Coast 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	23,000	24,350	24,950	25,450	27,700	30,150	32,000	31,100	28,450	26,250	24,700	23,450	26,800
Goods-producing	4,750	5,650	6,050	5,850	6,650	8,150	10,100	9,600	7,450	6,400	5,350	4,500	6,700
Mining	900	900	950	950	900	1,050	1,100	1,200	1,150	1,100	1,050	1,000	1,000
Construction	800	850	900	950	1,150	1,300	1,350	1,550	1,450	1,300	1,200	1,000	1,150
Manufacturing	3,050	3,900	4,200	3,950	4,600	5,800	7,650	6,850	4,850	4,000	3,100	2,500	4,550
Seafood Processing	1,900	2,700	2,900	2,650	3,300	4,400	6,250	5,450	3,450	2,650	1,750	1,250	3,200
Service-producing	18,250	18,700	18,900	19,600	21,050	22,000	21,900	21,500	21,000	19,850	19,350	18,950	20,100
Transportation	1,950	2,050	2,050	2,150	2,350	2,400	2,500	2,450	2,400	2,250	2,200	2,100	2,250
Trade	4,400	4,350	4,400	4,650	5,250	5,800	6,100	5,950	5,450	4,800	4,700	4,550	5,050
Wholesale Trade	500	500	500	550	550	650	850	850	750	550	550	500	600
Retail Trade	3,900	3,850	3,900	4,100	4,700	5,150	5,250	5,100	4,700	4,250	4,150	4,050	4,450
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	650	650	650	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	650	700
Services & Misc.	4,650	4,800	4,900	5,150	5,800	6,150	6,250	6,100	5,650	5,150	4,900	4,850	5,350
Government	6,600	6,850	6,900	6,950	6,950	6,950	6,350	6,300	6,800	6,950	6,850	6,800	6,750
Federal	600	600	600	650	750	800	800	750	750	700	650	650	700
State	1,650	1,700	1,750	1,800	1,650	1,700	1,750	1,700	1,800	1,750	1,700	1,600	1,700
Local	4,350	4,550	4,550	4,500	4,550	4,450	3,800	3,850	4,250	4,500	4,500	4,550	4,350

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Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1996

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work 1995 and 1996

Southwest Alaska 1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,250	18,500	18,100	16,500	16,900	18,350	20,700	19,050	17,850	16,400	14,900	14,350	17,250
Goods-producing	4,150	6,950	6,600	5,200	5,350	6,650	9,400	7,000	5,500	3,950	2,900	2,400	5,500
Seafood Processing	3,900	6,750	6,350	5,000	5,100	6,350	9,000	6,600	5,150	3,600	2,600	2,150	5,200
Service-producing	11,100	11,550	11,500	11,300	11,550	11,700	11,300	12,050	12,350	12,450	12,000	11,950	11,750
Government	5,400	5,550	5,500	5,300	5,250	5,200	4,600	5,100	5,350	5,700	5,650	5,550	5,350
Federal	600	600	600	550	550	600	550	550	550	500	450	500	550
State	500	500	500	450	500	550	550	500	500	500	450	450	500
Local	4,300	4,450	4,400	4,300	4,200	4,050	3,500	4,050	4,300	4,700	4,750	4,600	4,300

Southwest Alaska 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,300	18,450	18,050	17,750	18,450	18,250	20,050	18,700	17,700	16,550	15,050	14,450	17,400
Goods-producing	4,150	6,800	6,400	5,850	6,050	6,200	8,550	6,800	5,300	4,250	3,000	2,450	5,500
Seafood Processing	3,950	6,600	6,200	5,650	5,800	5,900	8,250	6,450	5,000	3,950	2,750	2,200	5,250
Service-producing	11,150	11,650	11,650	11,900	12,400	12,050	11,500	11,900	12,400	12,300	12,050	12,000	11,900
Government	5,200	5,500	5,550	5,600	5,900	5,250	4,750	5,100	5,600	5,700	5,700	5,550	5,450
Federal	450	450	450	450	500	500	500	500	500	450	450	450	450
State	450	500	500	500	550	600	550	500	550	500	500	500	500
Local	4,300	4,550	4,600	4,650	4,850	4,150	3,700	4,100	4,550	4,750	4,750	4,600	4,450

Northern Alaska 1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,650	15,000	15,050	14,750	14,900	15,700	15,550	15,800	15,900	15,700	15,350	15,400	15,300
Goods-producing	5,350	5,550	5,450	5,250	5,350	5,650	5,600	5,800	5,700	5,650	5,500	5,500	5,550
Mining	4,750	4,850	4,800	4,600	4,750	5,050	5,000	5,200	5,150	5,100	5,000	5,050	4,950
Service-producing	9,300	9,450	9,600	9,500	9,550	10,050	9,950	10,000	10,200	10,050	9,850	9,900	9,800
Government	4,450	4,600	4,700	4,650	4,750	5,000	4,550	4,600	4,950	4,950	4,800	4,750	4,750
Federal	200	200	200	200	250	250	250	250	250	200	200	200	200
State	300	300	350	300	350	300	300	300	350	350	300	300	300
Local	3,950	4,100	4,150	4,150	4,150	4,450	4,000	4,050	4,350	4,400	4,300	4,250	4,200

Northern Alaska 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,650	15,150	15,550	15,350	14,950	15,300	15,600	15,650	15,600	15,350	15,200	14,950	15,300
Goods-producing	5,400	5,650	5,750	5,600	5,350	5,550	5,750	5,700	5,400	5,300	5,100	4,950	5,450
Mining	5,050	5,250	5,300	5,150	4,900	5,050	5,150	5,000	4,950	4,850	4,700	4,550	5,000
Service-producing	9,250	9,500	9,800	9,750	9,600	9,750	9,850	9,950	10,200	10,050	10,100	10,000	9,800
Government	4,350	4,500	4,750	4,700	4,550	4,550	4,450	4,550	4,800	4,800	4,850	4,800	4,650
Federal	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
State	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	350	350	300	300	300	300
Local	3,850	4,000	4,250	4,200	4,050	4,050	3,950	4,000	4,250	4,300	4,350	4,300	4,150

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Benchmark: March 1996
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries 1996 Annual Averages

Average Weekly Earnings 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	\$1,205.65	\$1,226.53	\$1,247.35	\$1,229.72	\$1,256.73	\$1,249.75	\$1,257.50	\$1,301.69	\$1,281.01	\$1,312.37	\$1,171.87	\$1,082.31	\$1,237.32
Construction	963.19	997.57	1028.23	1099.51	1136.07	1175.11	1173.72	1214.75	1190.40	1141.03	979.70	1049.04	1113.64
Manufacturing	366.45	441.37	512.55	475.58	521.40	478.78	569.92	555.36	610.43	583.39	497.42	481.99	518.01
Seafood Processing	213.75	365.96	436.89	360.24	389.15	345.20	536.66	486.96	490.20	452.23	316.13	316.22	418.91
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	661.77	665.38	659.61	666.22	646.90	693.45	705.98	672.71	685.67	700.11	657.38	662.54	674.22
Trade	402.21	413.34	414.16	413.49	414.62	440.20	421.95	424.21	431.49	423.95	405.93	409.25	418.33
Wholesale	624.19	662.35	619.92	621.00	635.84	683.57	649.00	650.52	658.97	636.41	620.46	614.40	639.99
Retail	359.51	363.05	371.97	372.94	373.76	395.48	378.66	381.82	389.94	384.93	366.44	370.82	377.01
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	491.17	487.80	491.11	495.22	481.09	485.01	475.90	473.44	504.50	494.55	496.66	518.94	490.46

Average Weekly Hours 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	50.7	51.6	51.1	48.3	51.4	51.6	52.2	52.7	51.8	52.6	46.8	43.0	50.4
Construction	40.2	41.6	41.9	43.0	45.1	45.6	45.3	46.4	46.5	45.1	39.6	42.3	44.0
Manufacturing	28.9	44.9	51.0	43.0	45.3	39.7	54.8	52.0	53.5	51.4	38.5	33.8	46.5
Seafood Processing	25.0	47.9	56.3	45.6	47.4	38.7	59.3	54.9	57.2	56.6	37.5	32.5	49.4
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	34.2	34.0	33.5	34.2	34.3	35.8	35.8	34.2	34.7	36.2	34.4	34.4	34.7
Trade	32.7	33.2	33.4	33.4	33.6	35.5	34.7	34.8	34.3	33.7	33.3	33.6	33.9
Wholesale	37.0	37.4	36.9	37.5	38.7	40.4	38.7	39.0	38.9	38.2	38.3	38.4	38.3
Retail	31.9	32.3	32.6	32.6	32.7	34.6	33.9	34.0	33.5	32.9	32.4	32.7	33.1
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	36.6	36.0	35.9	36.2	35.4	35.9	35.2	35.2	36.4	35.3	35.4	36.7	35.8

Average Hourly Earnings 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	\$23.78	\$23.77	\$24.41	\$25.46	\$24.45	\$24.22	\$24.09	\$24.70	\$24.73	\$24.95	\$25.04	\$25.17	\$24.55
Construction	23.96	23.98	24.54	25.57	25.19	25.77	25.91	26.18	25.60	25.30	24.74	24.80	25.31
Manufacturing	12.68	9.83	10.05	11.06	11.51	12.06	10.40	10.68	11.41	11.35	12.92	14.26	11.14
Seafood Processing	8.55	7.64	7.76	7.90	8.21	8.92	9.05	8.87	8.57	7.99	8.43	9.73	8.48
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	19.35	19.57	19.69	19.48	18.86	19.37	19.72	19.67	19.76	19.34	19.11	19.26	19.43
Trade	12.30	12.45	12.40	12.38	12.34	12.40	12.16	12.19	12.58	12.58	12.19	12.18	12.34
Wholesale	16.87	17.71	16.80	16.56	16.43	16.92	16.77	16.68	16.94	16.66	16.20	16.00	16.71
Retail	11.27	11.24	11.41	11.44	11.43	11.43	11.17	11.23	11.64	11.70	11.31	11.34	11.39
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	13.42	13.55	13.68	13.68	13.59	13.51	13.52	13.45	13.86	14.01	14.03	14.14	13.70

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor,
Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Average hours and earnings estimates are based on data for full-
and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and
nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing). Averages are for
gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Benchmark: March 1996

Source: Alaska Department of Labor,
Research and Analysis Section.

Table • 24

Labor Force by Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996
Alaska Statewide	305,089	302,270	311,425	23,672	22,114	23,184	7.8	7.3	7.4	281,417	280,156	288,241
Anch.-MatSu Region	160,413	158,696	161,427	10,287	9,549	9,851	6.4	6.0	6.1	150,126	149,147	151,576
Municipality of Anchorage	135,221	132,838	134,060	7,608	6,972	7,071	5.6	5.2	5.3	127,613	125,866	126,989
MatSu Borough	25,192	25,858	27,368	2,679	2,577	2,780	10.6	10.0	10.2	22,513	23,281	24,588
Gulf Coast Region	34,509	34,315	36,909	4,181	3,904	4,249	12.1	11.4	11.5	30,328	30,411	32,660
Kenai Peninsula Borough	21,371	21,360	23,091	2,709	2,647	2,994	12.7	12.4	13.0	18,662	18,713	20,097
Kodiak Island Borough	7,764	7,576	8,045	938	732	695	12.1	9.7	8.6	6,826	6,844	7,350
Valdez-Cordova	5,374	5,379	5,773	533	525	560	9.9	9.8	9.7	4,841	4,854	5,213
Interior Region	46,853	46,637	47,760	4,157	3,862	3,917	8.9	8.3	8.2	42,696	42,775	43,843
Denali Borough	1,084	1,088	1,113	104	106	106	9.6	9.7	9.5	980	982	1,007
Fairbanks North Star Borough	41,308	41,064	42,052	3,402	3,088	3,128	8.2	7.5	7.4	37,906	37,976	38,924
Southeast Fairbanks	2,437	2,429	2,495	328	316	329	13.5	13.0	13.2	2,109	2,113	2,166
Yukon-Koyukuk	2,031	2,062	2,109	330	359	363	16.2	17.4	17.2	1,701	1,703	1,746
Northern Region	9,008	8,702	8,889	909	905	965	10.1	10.4	10.9	8,099	7,797	7,924
Nome	3,506	3,400	3,437	425	434	423	12.1	12.8	12.3	3,081	2,966	3,014
North Slope Borough	3,205	3,081	3,161	125	116	148	3.9	3.8	4.7	3,080	2,965	3,013
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,299	2,221	2,292	360	355	395	15.7	16.0	17.2	1,939	1,866	1,897
Southeast Region	39,862	39,663	41,750	3,234	2,920	3,113	8.1	7.4	7.5	36,628	36,743	38,637
Haines Borough	1,176	1,188	1,245	123	132	134	10.5	11.1	10.8	1,053	1,056	1,111
Juneau Borough	16,438	16,456	17,314	985	954	1,014	6.0	5.8	5.9	15,453	15,502	16,300
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,806	7,773	8,219	649	593	669	8.3	7.6	8.1	7,157	7,180	7,550
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketch	3,259	3,242	3,474	387	360	444	11.9	11.1	12.8	2,872	2,882	3,030
Sitka Borough	4,864	4,667	4,908	494	283	298	10.2	6.1	6.1	4,370	4,384	4,610
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	2,291	2,272	2,337	211	185	143	9.2	8.1	6.1	2,080	2,087	2,194
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,733	3,792	3,969	345	394	396	9.2	10.4	10.0	3,388	3,398	3,573
Yakutat Borough	295	276	287	41	21	19	13.9	7.6	6.6	254	255	268
Southwest Region	14,446	14,259	14,689	904	975	1,088	6.3	6.8	7.4	13,542	13,284	13,601
Aleutians East Borough	1,479	1,462	1,499	44	55	58	3.0	3.8	3.9	1,435	1,407	1,441
Aleutians West	3,113	3,048	3,137	72	65	82	2.3	2.1	2.6	3,041	2,983	3,055
Bethel	5,323	5,278	5,481	408	456	544	7.7	8.6	9.9	4,915	4,822	4,937
Bristol Bay Borough	589	585	602	31	37	41	5.3	6.3	6.8	558	548	561
Dillingham	1,595	1,552	1,612	119	104	129	7.5	6.7	8.0	1,476	1,448	1,483
Lake & Peninsula Borough	554	550	565	35	41	44	6.3	7.5	7.8	519	509	521
Wade Hampton	1,795	1,789	1,801	198	222	197	11.0	12.4	10.9	1,597	1,567	1,604

Source: Benchmark: March 1996

Alaska Department
of Labor, Research
and Analysis
Section.

Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.

The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

sample incorporates additional employer information not available at the time the original estimates were generated.

Original estimates tracked employment changes well

The statewide wage and salary employment estimate tracked the trend of the benchmarked employment numbers very accurately during 1995 and 1996. The sample-generated estimates slight-

ly overstated employment growth in Alaska's economy for 1996, particularly in the second half of the year. However, on an annual average basis the revision was slightly more than three-tenths (.3) of a percentage point. (See Figure 1.) On an annual average basis, the original estimates showed an employment increase of 0.6% from 1994 to 1995, while the benchmarked estimates showed employment growth of 0.46%.

Several series affected by classification and location changes

As part of ongoing collection of ES-202 employment data, one-third of Alaska's employers are surveyed annually to confirm the accuracy of their industry classification and business location. The survey results are incorporated into the

AKDOL employment series at benchmark. During the process of incorporating the survey results, a small percentage of employers change their industry and/or location. This in turn can affect the direction and level of published employment series. The 1996 benchmark altered several published employment series due to location and/or industry modifications. The following published series were influenced by industry or location changes:

Statewide:

Trucking & Warehousing,
Air Transportation,
Food Stores

Municipality of Anchorage:

Trucking & Warehousing,
Air Transportation,
Food Stores

Fairbanks:

Trucking & Warehousing,
Air Transportation

Southeast:

Transportation,
Services.

For a detailed description of the effects industry and location code changes had on these series, contact AKDOL's Research and Analysis Section.

Series breaks occur in Trucking & Warehousing and Air Transportation

Occasionally, the magnitude of the industry or area code changes is so large that it permanently alters the level and behavior of published time series. This occurred during the benchmark revision for the Trucking & Warehousing and Air Transportation series published in the Statewide, Municipality of Anchorage, and Fairbanks North Star Borough employment estimates. Because of the magnitude of the coding change, it was determined that data previous to the code change were incompatible with data after the code

change, resulting in a break in series for these published time series. To provide users with an historical time series for the revised data series, Research and Analysis is publishing revised time series for these cells back to 1989. (See Tables 3 and 7.) Published data for these series prior to 1989 will be considered a different time series from data published after 1989.

Business Services, Engineering and Management Services series introduced

The services industry employs more Alaskans than any other private sector industry. Services has been a key industry fueling job growth during the last nine years. Currently, employment trends in the services industry can easily mask changes at the more detailed level. Accordingly, the 1995 benchmark introduces two additional published series in the services industry. Beginning with this issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*, Business Services and Engineering and Management Services will be published in the Statewide and Municipality of Anchorage tables. Both of these series will be published as subcategories of Services. Following Health Care Services, these are the largest two categories of services employment in Alaska. To provide users with an historical perspective on these two industries, a time series of monthly data for Business Services and Engineering and Management Services is published in this issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*. (See Tables 4 and 8.)

The Alaska Department of Labor is committed to improving the level of employment detail in this critical sector of Alaska's economy. Publication of these two industries takes another step toward identifying employment changes in the services industry. As employer sampling systems are developed, refined and tested, more employment categories within Alaska's services industry will be published in *Alaska Economic Trends*.

Hours and earnings statistics also revised

Employers also provide the data used to estimate hours and earnings statistics. During the benchmark, these estimates are adjusted to reflect the revised level of employment. When the employment data are benchmarked, the hours and earnings data are reviewed to determine how employment changes affected the hours and earnings estimates. (See Table 23.) Usually, the hours and earnings data change either due to the benchmarking of employment or to new firms being added to augment the existing hours and earnings sample. (Hours and earnings data are not reported in the quarterly ES-202 report; therefore, estimates of average weekly hours and earnings data are entirely sample-based.)

Unemployment rate increases to 7.8% in '96

Alaska's statewide jobless rate increased five-tenths (.5) of a percentage point in 1996 to 7.8%. Despite the rate increase, Alaska's annual unemployment rate was below 8.0% for the fourth straight year. (See Table 24.) Slower job growth

was the primary reason why last year's rate increased compared to 1995's. Continued struggles in Alaska's oil, timber, and seafood industries as well as reductions of the military and civilian federal government workforce were major contributors to the slower job growth and higher unemployment rates.

While the economy has been creating jobs at a slow rate, Alaska's unemployment rate has managed to stay relatively low due to a combination of factors. First, Alaska's wage and salary job statistics have continued to grow, increasing the number of job opportunities available. While the number of jobs available increased, net migration to Alaska slowed significantly. (Net migration is estimated by taking the number of individuals entering the state and subtracting the number of individuals leaving the state.) This meant that the net number of adults moving to Alaska who could fill the additional wage and salary jobs was relatively small. The slow rate of net migration meant that employers increasingly relied upon the state's resident labor force to fill additional wage and salary jobs. This trend contributed to keeping the statewide unemployment rate relatively low.

Lower Unemployment Trend Continues

In January, Alaska's unemployment rate rose one percentage point to 9.4%. The comparable national unemployment rate was 5.9%. Although statewide the number of unemployed Alaskans rose by over 3,000 from December, 500 fewer persons were unemployed than a year ago. Therefore, January's unemployment rate compares favorably with last year's rate of 9.8%. Continuing a recent trend toward lower unemployment, January was the fifth month in a row when the statewide unemployment rate came in below the previous year's level. In 18 of Alaska's 27 boroughs or census areas, the jobless rate improved over last year's level. (See Table 4.)

The over-the-month rise in unemployment reflected a typical seasonal drop in wage and salary employment. Alaska's economy counted 6,700 fewer jobs in January than in December. (See Table 1.) Almost half of this job loss came as retail businesses adjusted staffing levels downward in the post-Christmas period.

Recent developments affect employment

While longer term projections include the development of new oil fields amounting to \$1.5 billion in investment over the next five years, the short term outlook for oil-related employment is mixed. This winter, North Slope activity has slowed, with employment down about 450 jobs from last year's January level. Some of the job losses reflect falling production at aging operating fields. British Petroleum (BP) announced that the Prudhoe Bay production decline will shave off about 300 jobs over the next three years.

The other setback regarding oil-related employment came during the start up of the Northstar project. Although development had begun, a lawsuit stopped the progress of the

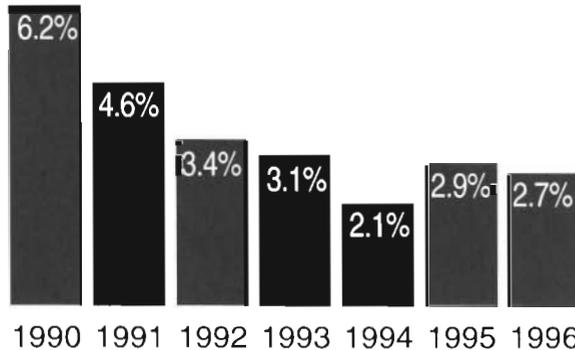
project. About 130 jobs were immediately affected when BP called a work stoppage. Some of the Northstar workers found work on other projects, but at least 50 workers were laid off. It is too early to tell how long the project will be delayed. However, employment in the oil industry will regain ground once the Northstar legal dispute is resolved. Other large development projects, such as Alpine and Badami, will give substantial help to push up employment in the near future.

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Figure • 1

The Rate of Inflation Slows in Anchorage During 1996

Changes in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

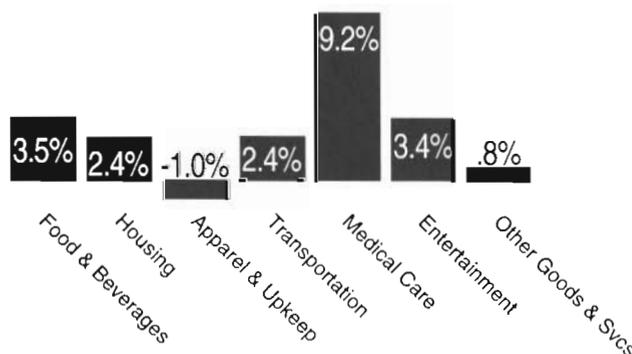


Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 2

Medical Costs Outpace Others

Inflation Rate by Category



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Table • 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Alaska	p/	r/	Changes from			Municipality of Anchorage	p/	r/	Changes from		
	1/97	12/96	1/96	12/96	1/96		1/97	12/96	1/96	12/96	1/96
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	245,600	252,300	242,600	-6,700	3,000	Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	116,800	120,500	115,800	-3,700	1,000
Goods-producing	30,000	30,300	30,000	-300	0	Goods-producing	9,200	9,900	9,100	-700	100
Mining	9,200	9,400	9,500	-200	-300	Mining	2,500	2,500	2,600	0	-100
Construction	9,400	11,100	9,000	-1,700	400	Construction	4,900	5,600	4,700	-700	200
Manufacturing	11,400	9,800	11,500	1,600	-100	Manufacturing	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
Durable Goods	1,900	2,400	2,000	-500	-100	Service-producing	107,600	110,600	106,700	-3,000	900
Lumber & Wood Products	900	1,400	1,000	-500	-100	Transportation	11,300	11,400	11,400	-100	-100
Nondurable Goods	9,500	7,400	9,500	2,100	0	Air Transportation	4,600	4,600	4,500	0	100
Seafood Processing	6,500	4,300	6,400	2,200	100	Communications	2,300	2,300	2,200	0	100
Pulp Mills	500	500	500	0	0	Trade	28,700	30,400	28,800	-1,700	-100
Service-producing	215,600	222,000	212,600	-6,400	3,000	Wholesale Trade	6,300	6,400	6,400	-100	-100
Transportation	21,000	21,500	20,700	-500	300	Retail Trade	22,400	24,000	22,400	-1,600	0
Trucking & Warehousing	2,500	2,600	2,500	-100	0	Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,300	4,900	4,600	-600	-300
Water Transportation	1,400	1,600	1,400	-200	0	Food Stores	2,700	2,800	2,900	-100	-200
Air Transportation	7,200	7,300	7,000	-100	200	Eating & Drinking Places	7,700	8,200	7,600	-500	100
Communications	3,800	3,800	3,700	0	100	Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,000	7,100	7,000	-100	0
Trade	51,200	54,300	51,000	-3,100	200	Services & Misc.	32,500	33,400	31,700	-900	800
Wholesale Trade	8,400	8,600	8,400	-200	0	Hotels & Lodging Places	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0
Retail Trade	42,800	45,700	42,600	-2,900	200	Business Services	5,700	5,900	5,500	-200	200
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	8,600	9,700	8,800	-1,100	-200	Health Services	7,300	7,300	6,800	0	500
Food Stores	6,700	6,800	6,800	-100	-100	Engineering & Mngmt. Serv.	4,800	5,100	4,900	-300	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	13,500	14,400	13,400	-900	100	Government	28,100	28,300	27,800	-200	300
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,400	11,600	11,400	-200	0	Federal	9,800	10,200	10,000	-400	-200
Services & Misc.	59,400	61,100	57,700	-1,700	1,700	State	8,400	8,300	8,100	100	300
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,800	5,100	4,700	-300	100	Local	9,900	9,800	9,700	100	200
Business Services	7,600	8,000	7,300	-400	300						
Health Services	14,000	14,000	13,200	0	800						
Engineering & Mngmt. Serv.	7,100	7,400	7,000	-300	100						
Government	72,600	73,500	71,800	-900	800						
Federal	16,600	17,000	16,800	-400	-200						
State	21,400	21,400	21,200	0	200						
Local	34,600	35,100	33,800	-500	800						

Table • 2

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/	r/		p/	r/		p/	r/	
	1/97	12/96	1/96	1/97	12/96	1/96	1/97	12/96	1/96
Mining	\$1,150.84	\$1,082.31	\$1,205.65	46.2	43.0	50.7	\$24.91	\$25.17	\$23.78
Construction	1003.13	1049.04	963.19	40.4	42.3	40.2	24.83	24.80	23.96
Manufacturing	379.89	481.99	366.45	29.2	33.8	28.9	13.01	14.26	12.68
Seafood Processing	222.36	316.22	213.75	25.5	32.5	25.0	8.72	9.73	8.55
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	646.34	662.54	661.77	34.0	34.4	34.2	19.01	19.26	19.35
Trade	398.52	409.25	402.21	32.8	33.6	32.7	12.15	12.18	12.30
Wholesale	643.72	614.40	624.19	38.5	38.4	37.0	16.72	16.00	16.87
Retail	351.24	370.82	359.51	31.7	32.7	31.9	11.08	11.34	11.27
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	499.13	518.94	491.17	35.5	36.7	36.6	14.06	14.14	13.42

Notes to Tables 1-3:

Tables 1&2- Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 3- Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division.

p/ denotes preliminary estimates.

r/ denotes revised estimates.

Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

Average hours and earnings estimates are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing). Averages are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Benchmark: March 1996

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

	p/		Changes from				r/		Changes from:		
	1/97	12/96	1/96	12/96	1/96		1/97	12/96	1/96	12/96	1/96
Southeast Region											
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,800	33,150	31,350	-1,350	450						
Goods-producing	3,500	4,300	3,500	-800	0						
Mining	350	300	200	50	150						
Construction	1,300	1,450	1,250	-150	50						
Manufacturing	1,850	2,550	2,050	-700	-200						
Durable Goods	600	1,000	750	-400	-150						
Lumber & Wood Products	450	850	550	-400	-100						
Nondurable Goods	1,250	1,550	1,300	-300	-50						
Seafood Processing	550	800	500	-250	50						
Pulp Mills	450	450	550	0	-100						
Service-producing	28,300	28,850	27,850	-550	450						
Transportation	2,350	2,500	2,300	-150	50						
Trade	5,950	6,400	5,850	-450	100						
Wholesale Trade	450	500	450	-50	0						
Retail Trade	5,500	5,900	5,400	-400	100						
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,350	1,450	1,300	-100	50						
Services & Misc.	6,250	6,300	6,050	-50	200						
Government	12,400	12,200	12,350	200	50						
Federal	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0						
State	5,350	5,100	5,400	250	-50						
Local	5,250	5,300	5,150	-50	100						
Interior Region											
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	33,550	35,300	32,750	-1,750	800						
Goods-producing	2,900	3,400	2,600	-500	300						
Mining	950	1,000	800	-50	150						
Construction	1,450	1,850	1,350	-400	100						
Manufacturing	500	550	450	-50	50						
Service-producing	30,650	31,900	30,150	-1,250	500						
Transportation	2,450	2,550	2,350	-100	100						
Trade	6,850	7,300	6,650	-450	200						
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,000	1,050	1,000	-50	0						
Services & Misc.	7,850	8,150	7,650	-300	200						
Government	12,500	12,850	12,500	-350	0						
Federal	3,550	3,600	3,650	-50	-100						
State	4,450	4,700	4,450	-250	0						
Local	4,500	4,550	4,400	-50	100						
Fairbanks North Star Borough											
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	29,500	30,900	28,950	-1,400	550						
Goods-producing	2,500	2,900	2,300	-400	200						
Mining	800	850	650	-50	150						
Construction	1,200	1,550	1,200	-350	0						
Manufacturing	500	500	450	0	50						
Service-producing	27,000	28,000	26,650	-1,000	350						
Transportation	2,150	2,200	2,100	-50	50						
Trucking & Warehousing	550	500	500	50	50						
Air Transportation	600	600	600	0	0						
Communications	300	300	250	0	50						
Trade	6,350	6,800	6,200	-450	150						
Wholesale Trade	700	750	700	-50	0						
Retail Trade	5,650	6,050	5,500	-400	150						
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,200	1,400	1,200	-200	0						
Food Stores	750	750	700	0	50						
Eating & Drinking Places	1,800	1,950	1,800	-150	0						
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	950	950	950	0	0						
Services & Misc.	7,250	7,450	7,050	-200	200						
Government	10,300	10,600	10,350	-300	-50						
Federal	3,050	3,100	3,100	-50	-50						
State	4,250	4,500	4,250	-250	0						
Local	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0						
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region											
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	126,500	130,900	125,150	-4,400	1,350						
Goods-producing	9,700	10,650	9,550	-950	150						
Mining	2,450	2,500	2,550	-50	-100						
Construction	5,350	6,250	5,100	-900	250						
Manufacturing	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0						
Service-producing	116,800	120,250	115,600	-3,450	1,200						
Transportation	12,150	12,250	12,100	-100	50						
Trade	31,150	33,100	31,300	-1,950	-150						
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,450	7,550	7,450	-100	0						
Services & Misc.	35,050	36,050	34,100	-1,000	950						
Government	31,000	31,300	30,650	-300	350						
Federal	9,950	10,350	10,100	-400	-150						
State	9,150	9,150	8,850	0	300						
Local	11,900	11,800	11,700	100	200						
Gulf Coast Region											
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	23,050	23,450	23,000	-400	50						
Goods-producing	4,650	4,500	4,750	150	-100						
Mining	850	1,000	900	-150	-50						
Construction	800	1,000	800	-200	0						
Manufacturing	3,000	2,500	3,050	500	-50						
Seafood Processing	1,950	1,250	1,900	700	50						
Service-producing	18,400	18,950	18,250	-550	150						
Transportation	1,950	2,100	1,950	-150	0						
Trade	4,400	4,550	4,400	-150	0						
Wholesale Trade	500	500	500	0	0						
Retail Trade	3,900	4,050	3,900	-150	0						
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	650	650	650	0	0						
Services & Misc.	4,750	4,850	4,650	-100	100						
Government	6,650	6,800	6,600	-150	50						
Federal	650	650	600	0	50						
State	1,600	1,600	1,650	0	-50						
Local	4,400	4,550	4,350	-150	50						
Southwest Region											
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,700	14,450	15,300	1,250	400						
Goods-producing	4,150	2,450	4,150	1,700	0						
Seafood Processing	3,950	2,200	3,950	1,750	0						
Service-producing	11,550	12,000	11,150	-450	400						
Government	5,350	5,550	5,200	-200	150						
Federal	450	450	450	0	0						
State	500	500	450	0	50						
Local	4,400	4,600	4,300	-200	100						
Northern Region											
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,750	14,950	14,650	-200	100						
Goods-producing	5,000	4,950	5,400	50	-400						
Mining	4,600	4,550	5,050	50	-450						
Service-producing	9,750	10,000	9,250	-250	500						
Government	4,700	4,800	4,350	-100	350						
Federal	200	200	200	0	0						
State	300	300	300	0	0						
Local	4,200	4,300	3,850	-100	350						

Table • 4

Unemployment Rates by Region & Census Area

	Percent Unemployed		
	p/ 1/97	r/ 12/96	r/ 1/96
Not Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	5.9	5.0	6.3
Alaska Statewide	9.4	8.4	9.8
Anch.-MatSu Region	7.2	6.2	7.6
Municipality of Anchorage	6.1	5.3	6.4
MatSu Borough	12.8	10.9	14.2
Gulf Coast Region	16.9	16.5	16.3
Kenai Peninsula Borough	19.0	16.5	18.6
Kodiak Island Borough	12.3	18.1	9.8
Valdez-Cordova	14.4	14.5	15.9
Interior Region	10.4	8.7	11.1
Denali Borough	16.2	12.4	17.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	9.4	7.9	9.9
Southeast Fairbanks	15.9	12.5	19.9
Yukon-Koyukuk	20.3	19.3	20.5
Northern Region	9.7	9.0	11.7
Nome	10.8	8.7	15.0
North Slope Borough	4.6	5.0	4.4
Northwest Arctic Borough	15.8	15.4	17.0
Southeast Region	11.3	9.2	11.7
Haines Borough	19.5	16.0	17.8
Juneau Borough	8.1	7.0	7.8
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	11.9	10.1	13.2
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	19.5	15.7	17.9
Sitka Borough	8.6	7.5	9.7
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	10.8	6.7	11.2
Wrangell-Petersburg	17.2	13.0	19.9
Yakutat Borough	9.0	4.4	13.2
Southwest Region	8.2	10.3	9.9
Aleutians East Borough	6.5	14.7	5.7
Aleutians West	5.9	10.1	3.1
Bethel	8.0	8.8	12.5
Bristol Bay Borough	12.5	12.4	12.2
Dillingham	8.1	7.4	10.3
Lake & Peninsula Borough	6.7	9.2	10.2
Wade Hampton	12.9	13.7	13.5
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	5.4	5.3	5.8
Alaska Statewide	7.5	7.9	7.7

p/ denotes preliminary estimates

r/ denotes revised estimates

Benchmark: March 1996

Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.

The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Transportation employment in Anchorage will soon be affected as reorganization plans of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company take place. The company's continued downsizing will shift some of its headquarters employees from Anchorage to Fairbanks and Valdez.

Winter fisheries boosted employment in the Gulf Coast and Southwest regions. In the Gulf Coast, the winter pollock and cod fisheries put more seafood processors to work than a year ago. In Southwest, fish processing companies recalled

processing crews to plants in the Aleutians and the Pribilofs for the winter fishery harvest. Regulators in 1997 more than doubled the allowable catch for opilio (snow) crab from the 1996 season. However, fishers striking for better product prices delayed the start of the harvest by a few weeks. The trawler fleet, targeting mainly pollock in the Bering Sea, started harvesting as scheduled. On-shore processing of groundfish species in various communities of the region has significantly contributed to job growth in recent years.

Southeast's timber industry welcomed news that Ketchikan Pulp Company's (KPC) two sawmills would receive Tongass timber for at least three more years. However, the sawmills are expected to close for up to three months until adequate timber can be cut and available for production. This activity means that some of the logging jobs lost last year may be recovered. Continued operation of the sawmills offers some relief to the area, which is already coping with the closure of KPC's pulp mill.

In Fairbanks, Fred Meyer has temporarily laid off some employees as it adds a grocery department to one of its stores. On Eielson Air Force Base, construction started on a \$20 million housing project.

Cost-of-living increase lower than last year's

The recently released consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) showed that in 1996 the cost of living in Anchorage rose 2.7% from 1995. (See Figure 1.) Housing costs, the largest consumer expenditure item, showed an average increase of 2.4% for the year. The cost of medical care rose by 9.2%, the sharpest price hike of all the expenditure groups. (See Figure 2.) The drop in apparel and upkeep may reflect competition in retail following this industry's rapid expansion in the first half of the 1990s. The overall rate of inflation, as measured by the CPI-U, has slowed from the previous year's pace of 2.9%. The comparable cost-of-living increase for the entire nation averaged 3.0% for the year.

Alaska Employment Service

Anchorage: Phone 269-4800

Bethel: Phone 543-2210

Dillingham: Phone 842-5579

Eagle River: Phone 694-6904/07

Mat-Su: Phone 376-2407/08

Fairbanks: Phone 451-2871

Glennallen: Phone 822-3350

Kotzebue: Phone 442-3280

Nome: Phone 443-2626/2460

Tok: Phone 883-5629

Valdez: Phone 835-4910

Kenai: Phone 283-4304/4377/4319

Homer: Phone 235-7791

Kodiak: Phone 486-3105

Seward: Phone 224-5276

Juneau: Phone 465-4562

Petersburg: Phone 772-3791

Sitka: Phone 747-3347/3423/6921

Ketchikan: Phone 225-3181/82/83



The Alaska Department of Labor shall foster and promote the welfare of the wage earners of the state and improve their working conditions and advance their opportunities for profitable employment.