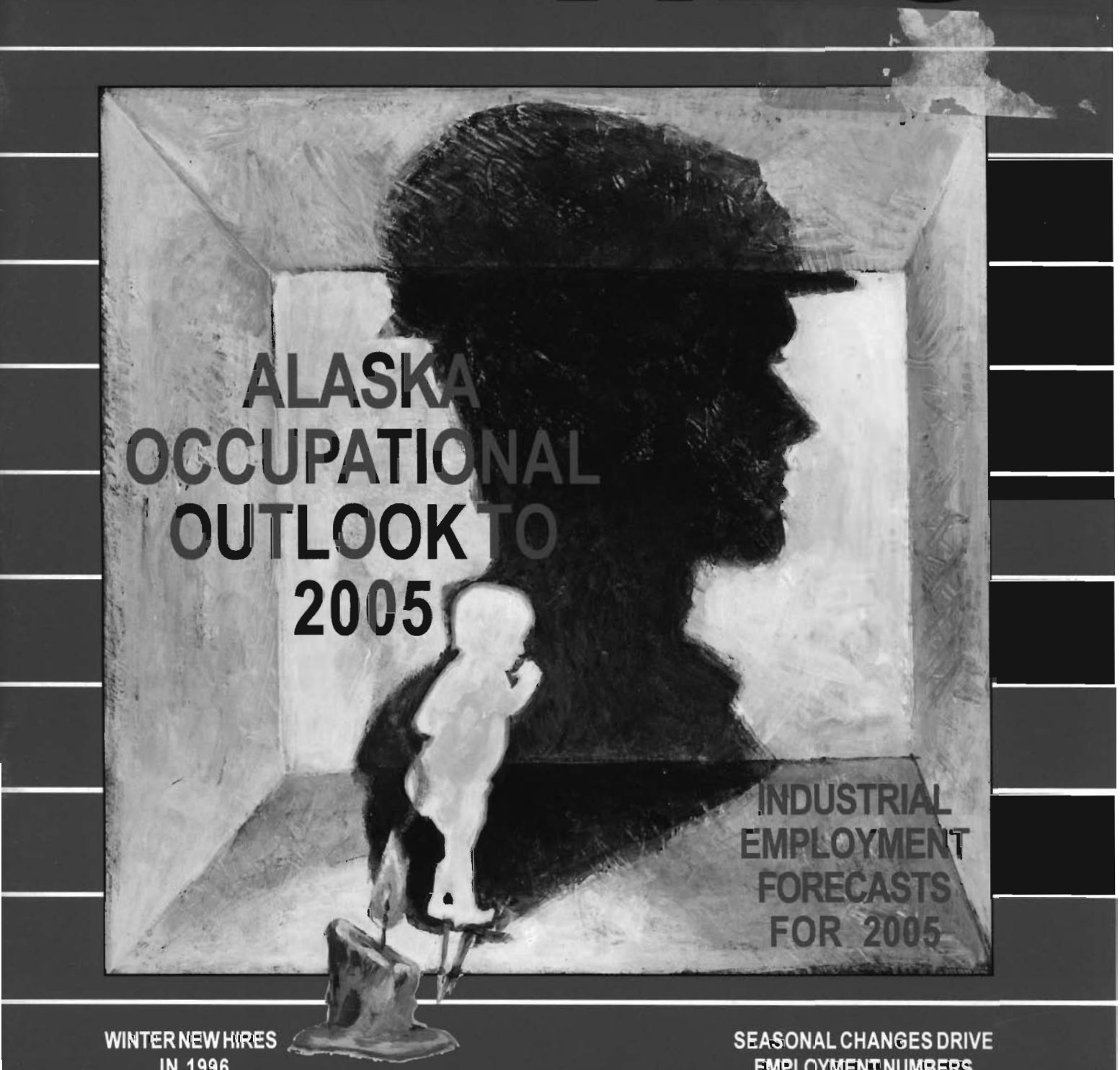
ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



ALASKA OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK TO 2005

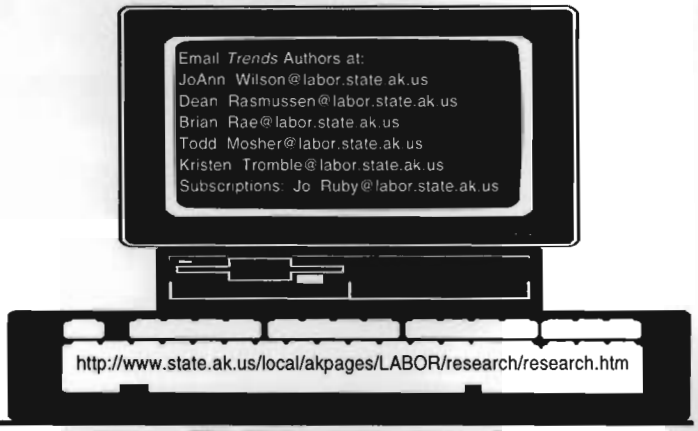
INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT FORECASTS FOR 2005

WINTER NEW HIRES IN 1996

SEASONAL CHANGES DRIVE EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR • TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

December 1996



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State of Alaska

***Tom Cashen*, Commissioner**
Department of Labor

***Diana Kelm*, Editor**

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Alaska Occupational Outlook to 2005

by JoAnn Wilson and Dean Rasmussen

Alaska's occupational employment, including both wage and salary employment and self-employment, is projected to increase 14.8%, from 276,075 to 316,983, between 1994 and 2005. The nature of the jobs that will be generated by this growth reflects a variety of factors that will affect the economy and the job market. Some factors, such as the expected declines in crude oil production, timber harvesting, and seafood processing, will reduce employment in some industries and occupations. Other factors, such as the projected growth in hard rock mining and boosts in the transportation and trade industries, will cause other occupations to increase.

Shifts in industry employment will not affect the rankings of the major occupational groups

In 1994, the top four occupational groups in terms of total employment were administrative support workers; service workers; professional specialty workers; and operators, fabricators, and laborers. While these rankings are not expected to change by 2005, the relative share of some of these occupational groups will decrease while others will increase. Administrative support workers will remain the largest category, but its share of total employment will drop from 18.6% to 16.9%. Service workers, the second largest category, will increase from 15.8% of total employment to 16.2% in 2005, and professional specialty workers will increase one-half of a percent from 14.5% to 15.0%. The fourth largest category, operators, fabricators, and laborers, will decline slightly from 12.5% to 12.3%. While the relative share of these four occupational categories is projected to shift somewhat, their total share of employment in 1994 and 2005 will remain at about 60 percent. (See Table 1.)

Job openings can arise in two ways—growth and replacement needs

On average, 10,233 job openings are projected each year during the 1994-2005 period. These annual job openings will be a combination of employment growth and replacement needs—openings occurring when individuals permanently leave an occupation. Workers who change employers but remain employed in the same occupation are not included in counts of replacement needs because job changes by these individuals have no impact on the number of openings for persons desiring to enter an occupation. This is commonly referred to as turnover.

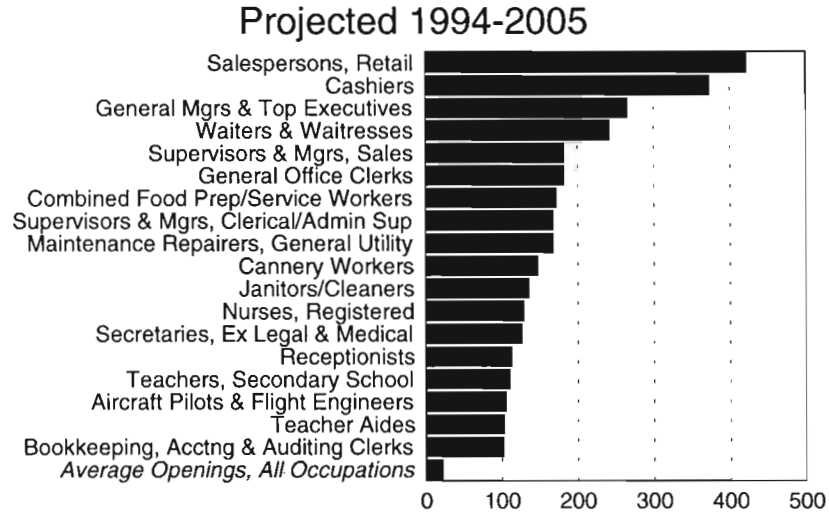
JoAnn Wilson and Dean Rasmussen are labor economists with the Research and Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. They are located in Juneau.

Different ways to view employment opportunity

The number of annual job openings an occupation provides, its numerical growth during the projection period, and the occupa-

Figure • 1

Alaska Occupations with 100 or More Annual Job Openings



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

Table • 1

Alaska Employment by Major Occupational Category Projected 1994-2005

Occupational Category	Employment 1994	Employment 2005 (Projected)	Change Number	Change %	Share of Total Employment (%) 1994	Share of Total Employment (%) 2005 (Projected)
Executives, Administrators, & Managers	28,642	33,670	5,028	17.6	10.4	10.6
Professional Specialty Workers	40,068	47,627	7,559	18.9	14.5	15.0
Technicians	11,495	13,980	2,485	21.6	4.2	4.4
Marketing and Sales Workers	29,778	35,615	5,837	19.6	10.8	11.2
Administrative Support Workers, Incl. Clerical	51,424	53,717	2,293	4.5	18.6	16.9
Service Workers	43,553	51,494	7,941	18.2	15.8	16.2
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing Workers	3,808	4,379	571	15.0	1.4	1.4
Precision Production, Craft, and Repair Workers	32,867	37,473	4,606	14.0	11.9	11.8
Operators, Fabricators, and Laborers	34,440	39,028	4,588	13.3	12.5	12.3
Total, All Occupations	276,075	316,983	40,908	14.8	100.0	100.0

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

tion's growth rate are three ways to "measure" employment opportunity. Large occupations, while often slow growing, may provide many more openings than rapidly growing occupations. (See Figure 1.) Many of these openings are for entry-level positions that do not require a college degree. Large occupations also tend to consist of a higher proportion of young and part-time workers than do smaller-sized occupations. Hence, replacement needs—rather than growth—are typically the major component of job openings in large occupations. Workers in many large occupations leave the occupation as they are promoted or change careers or return to school. In the list of Alaska occupations with at least 100 annual job openings, 62.5% of the job openings will occur due to replacement needs.

Of course, not all large occupations have low pay and low training requirements. The list of Alaska occupations with the most job openings between 1994 and 2005 includes general managers and top executives, registered nurses, and secondary school teachers. These three large occupations require the professional education and skills and provide the compensation characteristic of small-sized or fast-growing occupations.

Retail salespersons are projected to employ the single largest number of workers in Alaska in 2005, with employment of 10,274. General managers and top executives will move up from third place in 1994 to second in 2005, with employment of 8,213, followed by cashiers at 7,581 and combined food preparation/service workers at 7,233. In 2005, one of every 10 Alaska workers will be employed in one of these four occupations. General office clerks and bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks, the number two and four occupations in 1994, will slip to numbers five and six, respectively.

Service occupations are expected to add the most new jobs between 1994 and 2005. Of the nearly 8,000 new jobs to be added in this occupational category, over one-fourth will be either combined food preparation/service workers or waiters and waitresses. Workers in the professional specialty category make up the second largest group for prospective new jobs. Registered nurses leads this group with 779 of the 7,559 professional specialty

jobs to be added during the 11-year period, followed by systems analysts with an increase of 513 jobs. (See Table 2.)

Fast growing occupations are another source of employment opportunities for qualified applicants. Fast growing occupations are defined as those with 2005 employment of at least 50 and an average annual growth rate of at least 4.70%. (For additional information, see "Methodology.") Twenty-seven occupations met both these criteria. (See Figure 2.) Over three out of four job openings projected in this list will result from growth; the remainder will be from replacement needs. The list of fast growing occupations during this projection period reflects the strong outlook for the industries where they are principally located: mining (except oil and gas); transportation, communications, utilities; and health services.

Occupations which are fast growing do not necessarily provide the largest number of jobs. For example, the employment of physical therapists will in-

Table • 2

Top 10 Occupations with Largest Numerical Increase in Employment—Projected 1994-2005

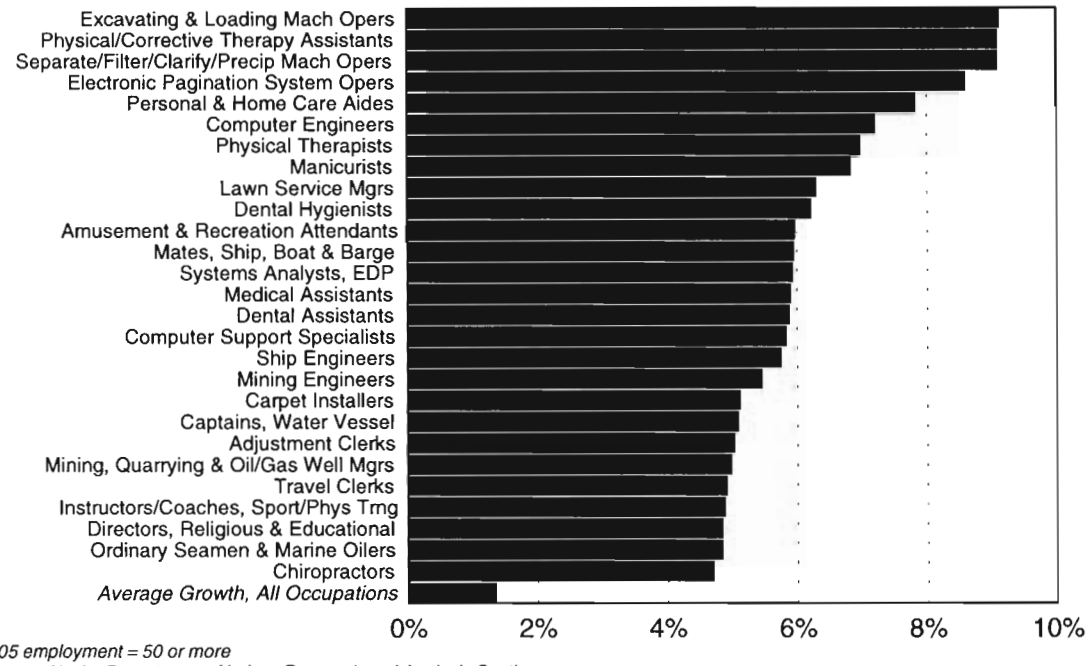
United States	Alaska
Cashiers	Salespersons, Retail
Janitors and Cleaners	General Managers & Top Executives
Salespersons, Retail	Cashiers
Waiters & Waitresses	Combined Food Preparation/Service Workers
Nurses, Registered	Supervisors & Managers, Sales
General Managers & Top Executives	Waiters & Waitresses
Systems Analysts	Supervisors & Managers, Clerical/Admin. Sup.
Home Health Aides	Maintenance Repairers, General Utility
Guards	Nurses, Registered
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	Receptionists

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

Figure • 2

Fast Growing Alaska Occupations

Projected 1994-2005 (Average Annual Growth)



2005 employment = 50 or more
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

crease nearly four times as fast as that of registered nurses; however, the number of job openings will be much greater for nurses because it is a much larger occupation.

The fastest growing major occupational category is expected to be technicians with an overall growth rate of 21.6% for the 11-year period and an annual average rate of nearly two percent. This is more than twice the growth rate for technicians projected in a previous occupational forecast to the year 1999. The fastest growing occupation within this category is dental hygienists, projected to grow by an annual average rate of 6.2%. Other occupational categories showing strong annual average growth between 1994 and 2005 are marketing and sales workers (1.8%) and professional specialty workers (1.7%). Fastest growing occupations in these groups are travel agents (4.6%) and computer engineers (7.2%).

Not all occupations will show positive employment growth

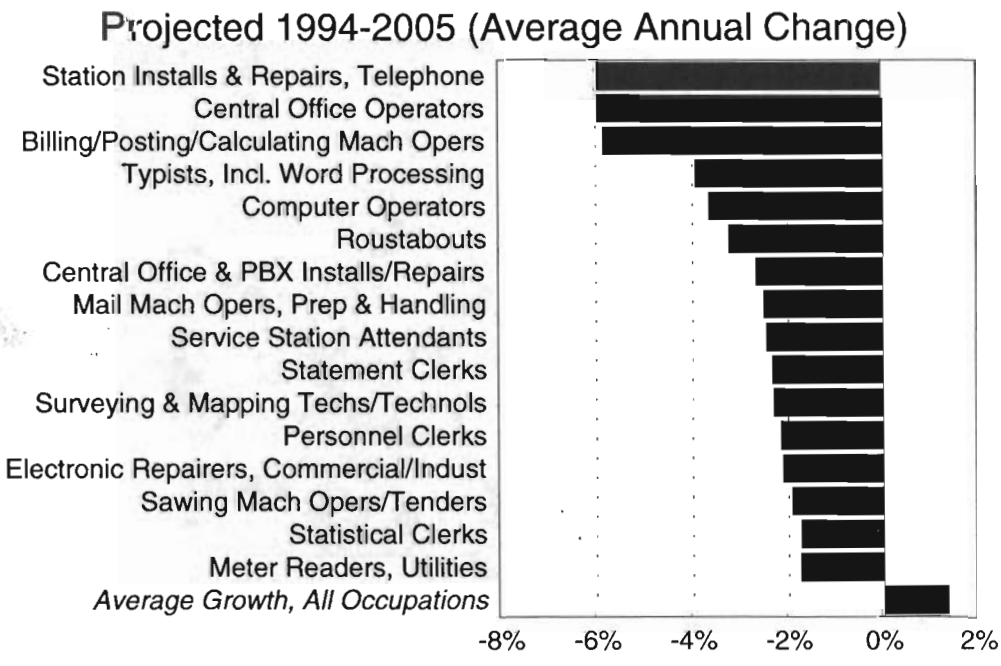
Declining occupations are defined as those with 1994 employment of 50 or more and an annual rate of decrease in employment of -1.7% or more. Sixteen occupations meet these criteria. (See Figure 3.) Combined, these occupations will account for 1.1% of total 2005 employment, down from 2.0% in 1994.[1]

Many declining occupations will be affected by changes resulting from technological advances, organizational shifts, and other factors that affect the employment of workers. For example, the occupation showing the fastest rate of decline, telephone station installers and repairers, has been negatively impacted by several factors including prewired buildings that enable customers to buy telephones and plug them into prewired jacks and a continued decline in telephone prices, making it more economical to replace

[1]When these projections were prepared, the status of the Ketchikan Pulp Mill was unclear. While the projected 2005 total employment for certain occupations would be affected by the mill's closure, the list of declining occupations would remain unchanged.

Figure • 3

Declining Alaska Occupations

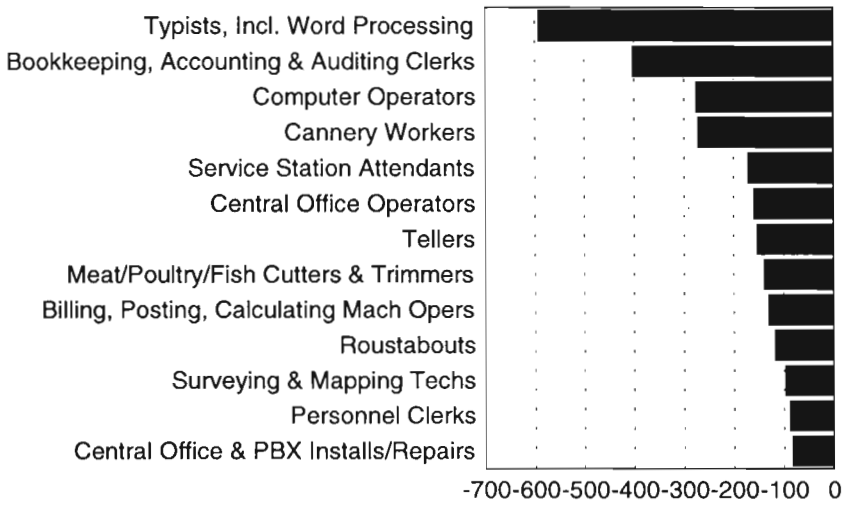


1994 employment = 50 or more
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 4

Alaska Occupations with the Largest Numerical Decrease in Total Employment

Projected 1994-2005

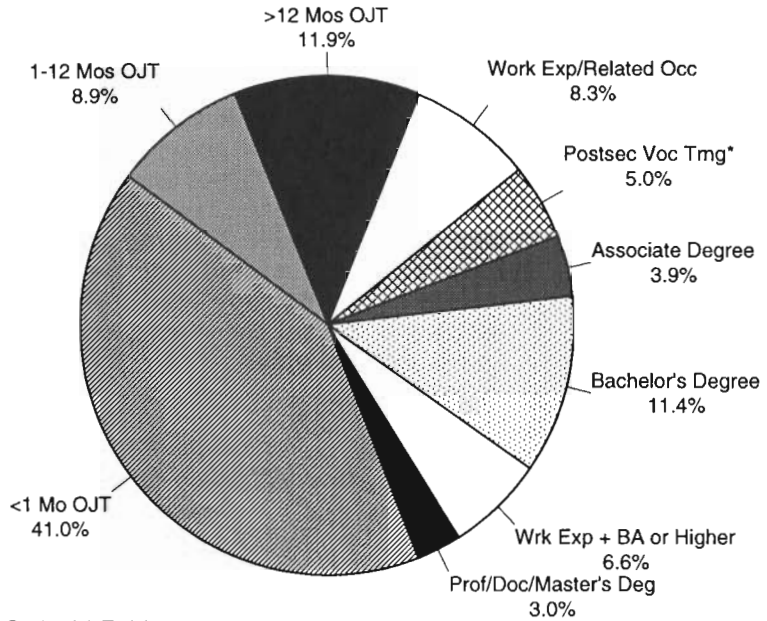


Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 5

Percent of Annual Job Openings by Occupational Training Level

Alaska Occupational Forecast 1994-2005



OJT=On-the-Job Training
**Job-related programs of less than four years that may or may not result in a degree.*
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Methodology

Occupational employment forecasts are the end product of a three-part system: employer surveys, construction of a matrix of industries and occupations, and industry employment forecasts.

Openings are the combined result of employment growth and net separations from the occupation. Net separations summarize movements of workers into and out of the occupation over a specific period.

Estimates of self-employed workers are made by applying ratios of self-employed workers in each occupation to estimates of wage and salary workers in the same occupation.

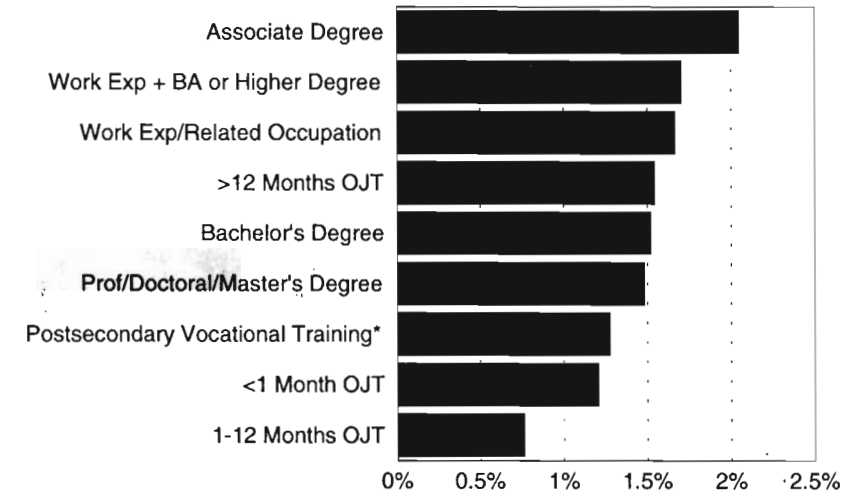
An occupation's average annual growth rate was computed by dividing its overall growth rate by 11, the total number of years covered by the forecast. The standardized scores (Zscores) for these average annual rates were used to determine fast growing and declining occupations. Zscores tell how many standard deviation units above or below the mean the percent of growth falls for each occupation. An average rate of growth was defined as Zscore= -.5 to +.5. Outlook above and below average was similarly based on a Zscore interval of ±1.0. Based upon the distribution of Zscores, fast growing occupations were defined as those with a Zscore of 1.5 and above, and declining occupations were defined as those with a Zscore of -1.5 or less. Using this approach, fast growing occupations were those whose annual average growth rate was 4.7% or greater, and declining occupations were those whose employment was decreasing at a rate of -1.7% or more.

telephone equipment than to repair it. The occupation projected to have the largest numerical decrease in total employment is typists, including word processors. (See Figure 4.) Demand for these workers is expected to decline substantially due to the increased use of word processing equipment by professional and managerial employees.

Alaska's changing industrial base is clearly reflected in the occupations which are declining as well as in those with the largest decreases in total employment over the 11-year period. Projected declines in the oil and gas industry reflect the expectation that Alaska production of crude petroleum will continue to decline. This activity directly affects the demand for roustabouts or petroleum helpers. Declines in the seafood processing industry are reflected in the decreased employment of cannery workers and meat/poultry/fish cutters and trimmers. The decline in sawing machine operators and tenders is attributable to setbacks in the timber industry.

F i g u r e • 6

Average Annual Growth by Occupational Training Level



OJT=On-the-Job Training
**Job-related programs of less than four years that may or may not result in a degree.*
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Education and training affect job opportunities

Workers in jobs with low education and training requirements tend to have greater occupational mobility. Consequently, these jobs will provide the most openings during the 11-year period, the majority stemming from replacement needs. (See Figure 5.) About four of every 10 job openings will be for occupations requiring less than one month of on-the-job training. Adding in those openings that will require one to 12 months of on-the-job training, about half of total job openings over the 1994-2005 period will be for occupations that require only short-term or moderate-length training and experience.

While occupations requiring some sort of postsecondary training will provide less than one-third of the job openings during the projection period, those which require the most education and training will generally enjoy the fastest rates of growth. Occupations requiring an associate degree show the fastest growth rate of all training categories, followed by occupations requiring work experience plus a bachelor's degree or higher. (See Figure 6.) Occupations providing half of the job openings—those which belong to one of the two categories requiring the least amount of education and training—will experience the lowest rate of growth overall. However, there are notable exceptions. (See Table 3.) Several mining-related occupations which require only moderate-length training are projected to grow much faster than average during the period. In fact, excavating and loading machine operators has the fastest projected growth rate for all occupations. Other occupations in the health-care industry requiring moderate-length or short-term training are also projected to grow at a rapid pace, notably physical/corrective therapy assistants, medical assistants, dental assistants, and personal and home care aides.

Table • 3

Top Alaska Occupations by Level of Education and Training
Projected 1994-2005

Occupations with Fastest Rate of Growth[1]	Annual Avg. Growth Rate (%)	Occupations with the Largest Numerical Increase in Employment	Numerical Increase 1994-2005
First Professional Degree			
Chiropractors	4.70	Physicians & Surgeons	336
Clergy	4.40	Dentists	104
Physicians & Surgeons	3.67	Chiropractors	59
Veterinarians & Veterinary Inspectors	3.62	Lawyers	50
Optometrists	2.85	Clergy	45
Master's Degree[2]			
Social Workers, Medical & Psychiatric	2.25	Social Workers, Medical & Psychiatric	170
Speech Pathologists & Audiologists	2.10	Management Analysts	89
Management Analysts	1.94	Speech Pathologists & Audiologists	49
		Psychologists	48
		Vocational & Educational Counselors	44
Work Experience + Bachelor's or Higher Degree			
Marketing, Advertising & PR Mgrs	3.51	General Mgrs & Top Executives	1,326
Personnel, Training, Labor Related Mgrs	2.86	Financial Mgrs	484
Financial Mgrs	2.81	Marketing, Advertising & PR Mgrs	245
Engineering/Math/Natural Science Mgrs	2.60	Administrative Services Mgrs	215
Administrative Services Mgrs	2.11	Engineering/Math/Natural Science Mgrs	178
Bachelor's Degree			
Computer Engineers	7.20	Systems Analysts, EDP	513
Physical Therapists	6.98	Teachers, Secondary School	420
Systems Analysts, EDP	5.93	Teachers, Special Education	372
Computer Support Specialists	5.83	Accountants & Auditors	296
Mining Engineers	5.45	Social Workers, Exc. Medical/Psychiatric	225
Associate Degree			
Dental Hygienists	6.22	Nurses, Registered	779
Veterinary Technicians	4.38	Dental Hygienists	268
Medical Record Technicians	4.35	Medical Record Technicians	109
Respiratory Therapists	4.11	Petroleum Technicians	79
Chemical Technicians	4.00	Paralegal Personnel	74
Postsecondary Vocational Training[3]			
Manicurists	6.82	Aircraft Mechanics	474
Travel Agents	4.63	Hairdressers	431
DP Equipment Repairers	4.12	Secretaries, Exc. Legal & Medical	373
Electric Motor/Related Repairers	3.92	Travel Agents	340
Secretaries, Medical	3.80	Welders & Cutters	202

(continued on page 8)

Table • 3 (cont.)

Top Alaska Occupations by Level of Education and Training
Projected 1994-2005

Occupations with Fastest Rate of Growth[1]	Annual Avg. Growth Rate (%)	Occupations with the Largest Numerical Increase in Employment	Numerical Increase 1994-2005
Work Experience/Related Occupation			
Lawn Service Mgrs	6.29	Supervisors & Mgrs, Sales	1,028
Mates, Ship, Boat & Barge	5.95	Supervisors & Mgrs, Clerical/Admin Support	829
Ship Engineers	5.75	Food Service & Lodging Mgrs	400
Captains, Water Vessel	5.09	Instructors, Nonvocational Education	153
Mining, Quarrying & Oil/Gas Well Mgrs	4.98	Teachers, Vocational Education	146
More Than 12 Months of On-the-Job Training			
Electronic Pagination System Opers	8.59	Maintenance Repairers, General Utility	799
Correction Officers & Jailers	3.77	Aircraft Pilots & Flight Engineers	617
Flight Attendants	3.75	Carpenters	357
Aircraft Pilots & Flight Engineers	3.50	Cooks, Restaurant	343
Producers/Directors/Actors/Oth Entertain	3.31	Automotive Mechanics	327
One to 12 Months of On-the-Job Training			
Excavating & Loading Mach Opers	9.12	Instructors/Coaches, Sport/Phys Trng	439
Physical/Corrective Therapy Assistants	9.09	Dental Assistants	394
Separate/Filter/Clarify/Precip Mach Opers	9.09	Excavating & Loading Mach Opers	280
Medical Assistants	5.89	Sales Reps, Exc. Scientific Prod & Retail	222
Dental Assistants	5.87	Painters/Paperhangers, Const/Maint	183
Less than One Month of On-the-Job Training			
Personal & Home Care Aides	7.82	Salespersons, Retail	1,860
Amusement & Recreation Attendants	5.96	Cashiers	1,295
Adjustment Clerks	5.02	Combined Food Preparation/Service Workers	1,126
Travel Clerks	4.91	Waiters & Waitresses	873
Ordinary Seamen & Marine Oilers	4.83	Receptionists	748

[1] Minimum 2005 employment=50
[2] Only three occupations requiring a master's degree are projected to grow at a rate exceeding the average annual rate for all occupations of 1.35% during the projection period. No occupations requiring a doctoral degree are expected to do so.
[3] Job-related programs of less than four years that may or may not result in a degree.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Industrial Employment Forecasts for 2005

by Brian N. Rae

Throughout Alaska's history, resource development and extraction have been catalysts of the state's economy. Whether the resource was seafood, minerals, oil, or timber, firms associated with collecting and processing these naturally occurring assets have employed a significant share of the state's workforce.

Compared with other states, the health of these resource-based industries has had a disproportional influence on the health of Alaska's economy as a whole. However, Alaska's economy has matured over the last several decades, proving itself better able to withstand the economic shocks to which commodity-based extractive industries are prone. Between now and 2005, Alaska will continue to diversify. While extractive industries will still play an important role, the increasing pressures these industries face—and the economic setbacks some will surely encounter in years to come—will no longer inflict the same degree of economic upheaval as in the past.

Using 1994 industry employment as a base, employment gains through 2005 will add only 35,700 jobs to the economy. (See Table 1.) This equates to an annual average growth rate of only 1.2%.[1] By comparison, the Alaska economy grew nearly 2.7% per year between 1977 and 1994. (See Figure 1.)

Alaska's Changing Industrial Base

Not all of the resource-based industries are destined to decline by the year 2005. Mining employment gains will actually out-pace those of the economy as a whole, creating about 2,800 new jobs. The oil and gas sector of this industry, the backbone of the state's economy for more than two decades, will not be seeing strong growth. Although no attempt was made to forecast employment over the intervening years before 2005, expectations are for several years of declining employment during the period. High costs, low prices and an oversupply of natural gas have all contributed to delaying construction of a gas pipeline in the state. The employment level presented in this forecast assumes the pipeline will not be constructed before 2005. In fact, recent technological advancements might allow for large scale, on-location conversion of natural gas into marketable products like fuel oil and diesel. Technological advancements have already reduced the numbers of persons required to maintain production levels at existing fields. Several recent finds should help reinvigorate employment in the industry, but this will probably take several years to come to fruition.

The new mining jobs will come mostly from a reviving hard rock mining industry, where employment is projected to grow from less than 900 to almost 2,500. These jobs, which are generally year round and well paid, will help create other support-sector jobs in their

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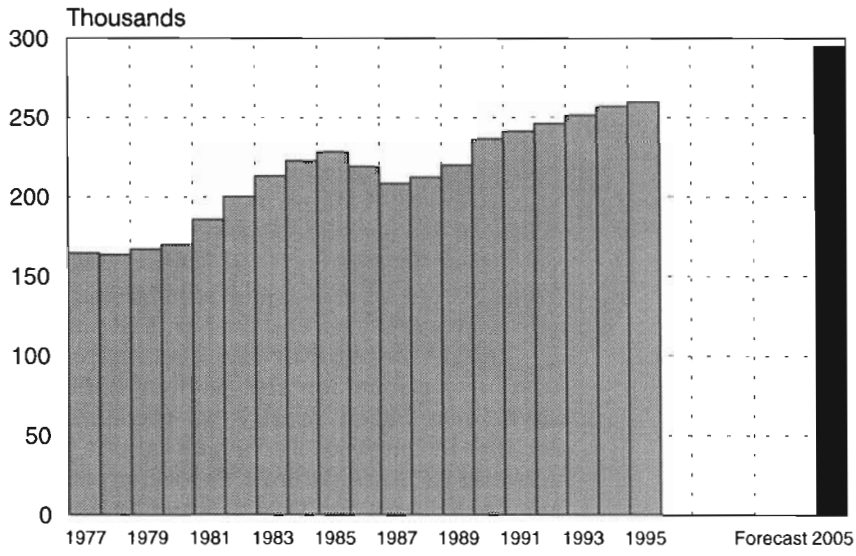
[1] The annual average growth rate is the percentage change a value in one period (the base period) would have to experience every year over a fixed number of years to reach a certain value at the end of the period. For example, an annual average growth rate of 10% applied to a base period employment level of 100 would yield 259 jobs after 10 years.

Figure • 1

Alaska Employment, 1977-95 and 2005



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

Table • 1

Alaska Wage and Salary Employment 1994 and 2005

	1994	2005 (Projected)	Annual Average Growth Rate (%)
GOODS PRODUCING	39,600	43,400	0.8
Mining	10,700	13,100	1.9
Construction	12,300	14,400	1.4
Manufacturing	16,600	15,900	-0.4
Seafood Processing	10,300	9,500	-0.7
Forest Products[1]	2,800	2,600	-0.7
SERVICE PRODUCING	219,800	251,700	1.2
TCU	23,300	29,900	2.3
Wholesale	8,300	9,100	0.8
Retail	44,400	52,200	1.5
FIRE	11,900	11,500	-0.3
Services & Misc.[2]	58,000	76,800	2.6
Government	73,900	72,200	-0.2
Federal Govt	18,700	17,500	-0.6
State Govt	21,600	21,000	-0.3
Local Govt	33,500	33,700	0.1
TOTAL	259,400	295,100	1.2

[1] Includes Pulp Mills as well as Lumber & Wood Products industries.

[2] Includes Agricultural, Forestry & Fishing industry employees covered by workers' compensation insurance, as well as workers in undetermined industries.

TCU = Transportation, Communications and Utilities

FIRE = Finance, Insurance and Real Estate

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

areas. Growth should occur throughout the forecast period as current mining ventures come on line and new discoveries are developed. The pace of development and the duration of operations are closely tied to world metal prices, and like any commodity product, producers have little control over price. For this reason, some ventures may experience sporadic operations, closing when the markets are down and reopening when prices rebound. Others, however, will enjoy cost structures and markets that will allow for continuous operations until all commercially viable deposits are extracted.

Alaska's other resource-based industries, centered on seafood and timber, will not fare as well as mining over the forecast period. Dim projections for the seafood industry have been based mostly on recent rapid declines in the price of Alaska's salmon products and its market share. Price competition has been fierce for this product, with new competitors constantly entering the market selling farm-reared products. While the increased competition has driven prices downward, these new entrants have also exacerbated the problem of an over-supplied market. Pink salmon in 1996 sold for one-sixteenth of their market price in 1988, and many processors already have more than one year's worth of inventory in storage. One must remember, however, that salmon is not the only product harvested in Alaska's waters, and the outlook for these products is much rosier than for salmon. Strong demand continues for many of Alaska's specialty products, and value-added processing opportunities are constantly being explored. Still, downward pressures on employment will continue to exist in the industry.

Similarly, many communities in Southeast Alaska have grown on the coattails of the timber industry, and those with the greatest dependence on this industry now face some difficult times. Most affected will be Ketchikan, where the state's only pulp mill seems poised to cease operations. When these industry employment forecasts were prepared, there was concern that the mill might not receive an extension of its timber supply contract and could close near the end of the forecast period. After finalizing these industry forecasts (which assumed that the mill would be operating in 2005 at a reduced level of employment), it became apparent that the mill would close.

The mill's closure will have a negative effect on manufacturing employment, but it will also affect other segments of the economy. The extent of the job losses associated with the mill closure is closely linked with any agreements the various parties involved in the timber supply negotiations might reach.

The future of the state's sawmills may be slightly brighter, particularly if an agreement is reached to divert some of the timber previously destined for the pulp mill to sawmills. Still, many of the most easily harvested, and most profitable, timber tracts have already been cut. In addition, there has been an increasing political drive to remove more public lands from the harvestable supplies and to reduce the subsidies paid to the

industry so that it can harvest economically marginal timber at a profit. These factors will continue to place additional pressures on industry employment. Geographically, the industry may spread for a few years as harvesters and mills search for new sources, providing some new employment opportunities for those who lost their jobs in the industry in Southeast.

Economic Maturation Apparent Throughout the Forecast Period

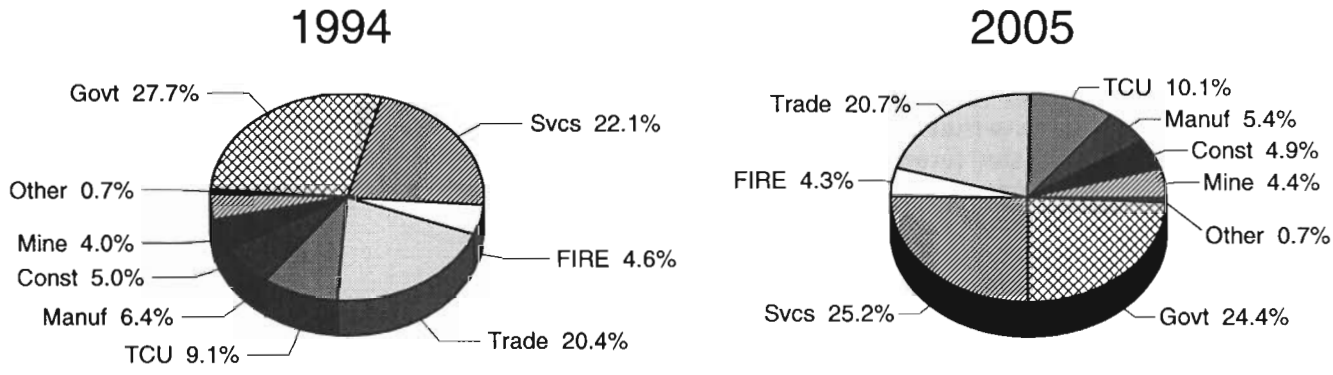
The growth rate for Alaska's non-governmental service-producing industries will be twice as large as that of the goods-producing industries over the forecast period. Service-sector employment should expand by roughly 20 percent by 2005, adding another 30,000 jobs to the Alaska economy. The most impressive gains will take place in two major industry groups, the transportation, communications and utilities (TCU) industry and the services industry. (See Table 1 and Figure 2.)

Before analyzing forecasts for individual industries, an important trend affecting all service-producing industries should be noted. Compared to the rest of the United States, much of Alaska is still very "young" in terms of its market and economic development. In the Lower 48, time has allowed local economies to achieve some degree of stability, reaching an equilibrium between the goods-producing, service-producing, and government sectors. Occasionally, changing economic factors might shift the relative employment levels among the industries. Examples of such changes include the demise of the steel mills in the northeastern United States and the decline in automobile manufacturing in the Great Lakes region. Overall, however, these economies have had enough time to become relatively stable.

Many areas of Alaska are still in the early stages of reaching an equilibrium among the goods-producing, service-producing, and government sectors. Most of Alaska's recent economic growth has been resource driven, with workers locating wherever the resource was found. The majority of these jobs were in the goods-producing industries of petroleum or hard rock mining, timber, and seafood processing. Infrastructure development for these same ventures boosted construc-

Figure • 2

Share of Alaska Wage and Salary Employment by Industry



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

tion employment, as did construction of housing for employees and their families. Conversely, residents often relied on imported goods and would travel to larger communities for personal services.

With time, the nature of these places changes. They go from being places of employment for the workers to being communities populated by families. With gains in both population and disposable income, many communities are seeing the emergence of new firms offering to provide locally what had previously been imported from other areas. This economic maturation will have a positive effect on all the service-producing industries.

Service-producing Industries Lead Employment Growth

Overall, the category of service-producing industries (which includes trade; finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE); TCU; and the services industries) will contribute over 30,000 additional jobs to the state's economy by 2005. Not surprisingly, the services industry will contribute the majority of these jobs. Continued increases in population and tourism activity will help create more than 17,000 additional jobs in the state. This is also the greatest percentage increase in employment for any industry over the 11-year period, up over 30 percent since 1994.

Leading the service industries in employment growth will be the health care industry. While population gains in general will increase the demand for health care services, it is the projected increase in the number of older Alaskans who choose to remain in the state that will affect employment levels. Over the forecast period, the number of Alaskans 65 years old and older is expected to increase by 50%.

The TCU industry will benefit from several different factors affecting the state's economy. Alaska continues to see larger-than-average population growth rates. These new citizens create more demand for transportation services to move themselves and the goods they consume, and also require more communications and utilities links. Expansion of the mining industry will also provide new customers for transportation providers. The greatest gains in the industry, however, will be the result of increased tourism activity and the expansion of tourism ventures and opportunities throughout a broader geographic region. Improved accessibility to remote locations and more competition among tourist service providers should force the cost of remote Alaska vacations downward. This will spur demand for less traditional Alaska vacations, and bolster transportation services employment throughout the state.

The trade industry will see modest growth over the period, but the increased number of jobs is not indicative of the changes that could occur over the decade. As has already occurred in some of the larger communities in the state, competitive forces will be at work that will lead to consolidations and the demise of some smaller trade venues within the state. As some of Alaska's smaller communities reach a critical size and stability with regard to population and consumption potential, larger chain retailers will enter the market. Their entrance into a community will have a dramatic impact on the smaller shops currently serving that market, which often have difficulty competing with larger chains. Overall, there should be a net increase in employment, but jobs created by new, larger firms may be partially offset by employment declines at current smaller outlets.

The FIRE industry will experience slow growth over the period. This industry is already active throughout the state, so there are fewer growth opportunities available than for some other service-producing industries. The state's financial institutions should also parallel the national trend of consolidations, with the associated downsizing that soon follows.

Government Employment Growth Slow, Shifting Among Players

Total government employment is forecast to experience a small decline over the period. Employment patterns among the three levels of government—federal, state and local—will see changes, with the first two posting employment declines while local government will show employment gains. This pattern should not be too surprising, for several reasons. First, there is a general political tendency to reduce the size of government at all levels, but particularly at the state and federal levels. Second, the responsibility for administering government programs is being shifted to the lowest possible level of government. The federal government's move to award block grants to states instead of administering programs on a national level exemplifies this trend.

Alaska is also the only state that has a significant share of its territory lacking any form of local government. For that reason, any local services provided (such as police protection or road maintenance) count as state employment. As more areas organize into cities or boroughs, there will be an employment shift from state to local government employment. Finally, the majority of the population growth will be in incorporated areas, and the task of providing public services to these new residents will fall on the localities.

Conclusion

The Alaska economy has been in a transition over the last several years. The state's traditional extractive and resource-dependent companies, which focused on mining and timber and seafood processing, are being joined by more services and trade companies. The latter are expected to become ever more important components of the state's economy. One dimension of this expansion will be an increase in the number of services and shops filling a broader spectrum of needs over a broader geographic area. The other dimension of growth will occur as increasing social pressures and decreasing resource supplies push extractive and resource-dependent industries out of the economic limelight.

Winter New Hires Cool Off in 1996

by Todd Mosher

Todd Mosher is a labor economist with the Research and Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. He is located in Juneau.

The Alaska New Hires Quarterly Report measures the number of job opportunities created by business expansions or start-ups and by job turnover. The report assists employment security personnel and the jobseekers they serve as they develop strategies for job placement in the Alaska economy. A *new hire* is defined as an employee who was not working for the employer in any of the four previous quarters. Since new hires data include job turnover, readers are cautioned against drawing broad conclusions about job growth trends based solely on quarterly new hires data.

Methodology

The new hires series is produced by matching Occupational Data Base files, Alaska Department of Labor wage files, and Permanent Fund Dividend files keyed on employer numbers and employee social security numbers. This match is made for the report quarter and the four previous quarters. Each employer's full listing of employees is considered for the report quarter. If an employee worked for the employer in any of the previous four quarters, he or she is considered continuously employed or a seasonal rehire and is excluded from the new hires subset; otherwise, the employee is defined as a new hire for that employer.

A worker can be counted as a new hire for more than one employer during the report quarter, but not more than once for the same employer. This method purposely treats the turnover of an existing job as a new hire. The new hires series is designed to measure job opportunities provided by the combined effect of turnover and job growth.

An employee's region is set by his or her actual place of employment, unless that information is not provided by the employer. Historically, employers do not report place of employment information for about 10 percent of all employees. In that case, the employee's region is determined by the location of the employer.

Seafood processing tailspin hurts specific regions

In the winter of 1996, there were 39,760 new hires on Alaska payrolls, down by 2,528, or 6.0%, from the previous winter. (See Table 1.) Declines were sharpest in the Gulf Coast, Southwest, and Southeast regions of the state, where seafood processing plant closures and a poor crab season were the most telling factors. Anchorage new hires were also down, primarily the result of slower growth in the retail sector.

Retail sector was down statewide; other industries gained

Statewide, retail new hires in winter 1996 were off by 1,420 compared to 1995, reflecting the end of mass hirings by large-store start-ups and expansions that fueled new hires totals through the previous two years. Mining (including oil and gas), transportation, communications, and utilities (excluding transportation most closely related to tourism), and services showed modest gains in new hires compared to the winter of 1995, but these gains were dwarfed by declines in other industries.

Several factors are pushing down new hires

Although it is too early to fully assess what happened to the new hires picture during the spring and summer quarters of 1996, new hire opportunities started the year well behind 1995 levels. The following factors driving the winter year-to-year decline may also put a damper on subsequent quarters' new hires totals:

- Employment growth in 1996 has been slower than in 1995. First quarter employment growth was less than half the rate it was in 1995, and has shown little improvement since then.

- Lower employment growth often leads to lower turnover rates, since workers may have fewer alternatives and feel less secure about changing employers compared to times when job growth is accelerating.

- Closures of some seafood processing plants, the depression of salmon prices, and smaller harvests have resulted in significantly lower industry employment and a more than one-to-one decline in the industry's new hire opportunities, since seafood processing jobs tend to have a relatively high turnover rate. Some of the problems in Alaska's seafood industry may be temporary, but increased competition from farmed fish certainly poses a long-term threat.

- The unprecedented expansion of large retail stores in recent years provided a huge boost to new hires. New hire opportunities will continue to be higher than in the years prior to the expansion because of a larger retail base, but the short-term jolt from the first round of mass hirings is old news. Year-to-year retail new hires totals are likely to be somewhat lower throughout all seasons of 1996 compared to 1995, particularly if job growth in the overall economy remains sluggish. However, this says more about the flood of opportunities created during the recent retail expansion than it does about the current health of the industry. Job growth in this sector, though slower, has remained positive this year.

T a b l e • 1

Alaska New Hires 1st Quarter 1996

	1st Qtr 96	Change from 4th Qtr 95	Change from 1st Qtr 95 *
Total New Hires[1]:	**39,760**	**-7,063**	**-2,528**
By Region[2]			
Northern	2,546	-14	30
Interior	4,414	-1,651	38
Southwest	4,504	1,011	-593
Anchorage	17,888	-5,398	-415
Gulf Coast	4,029	-576	-941
Southeast	4,822	-1,305	-761
Offshore	982	819	1
Outside	475	138	124
Unknown	100	-87	-11
By Industry			
Ag./Forestry/Fishing	259	-8	28
Mining	1,204	-27	197
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,055	47	165
All Other	149	-74	32
Construction	2,735	-1,953	-237
Manufacturing	5,154	2,922	-1,322
Seafood Processing	4,275	3,279	-1,200
All Other	879	-357	-122
Trans./Comm./Util.	2,786	-221	139
Tourism Related	592	-18	-24
All Other	2,194	-203	163
Wholesale Trade	1,105	-265	-226
Retail Trade	8,611	-5,111	-1,420
Fin./Ins./Real Estate	1,400	-126	-27
Services	11,996	-1,306	350
Hotels & Lodging	890	-157	-128
All Other	11,106	-1,149	478
Public Admin.[3]	4,510	-968	-10

* *Reflects revised totals for 1st Quarter 1995*

[1] *A "new hire" is defined as an employee that was hired by the firm in the report quarter and has not been employed by the firm during any of the previous four quarters. New hires figures include turnover and should not be used to assess job growth trends.*

[2] *An employee's region is determined by his or her actual place of employment.*

[3] *Includes all employees of publicly-owned institutions.*

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

Conclusion

New hires totals were buoyed in the previous two years by a fast and furious expansion of the retail and services sectors. Services industry new hires continued to show modest year-to-year growth in the first quarter of 1996, but the end of the short-term boost from business start-ups during the retail expansion and troubles in the manufacturing sector led to a net loss of winter new hires compared to those of the previous year.

Seasonal Changes Drive Employment Numbers

by Kristen Tromble

Kristen Tromble is a labor economist with the Research and Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. She is located in Juneau.

Signalling the start of the seasonal slowdown in Alaska's economy, the statewide unemployment rate rose from 5.5% in August to 5.9% in September. (See Table 4.) The number of unemployed Alaskans grew by almost 1,000 to approximately 18,500.

For only the second time this year, the statewide monthly unemployment rate was below the year ago number, with September's rate squeaking under last year's rate of 6.0%. With the exception of 1989, this September's unemployment rate was the lowest since 1978. This low rate reflects a tightened labor market, particularly in urban Alaska. Unemployment rates in most of rural Alaska remain high.

The increase in Alaska's unemployment rate put it nearly a full percentage point above the comparable national rate, which moved in the opposite direction. Nationally, the unemployment rate nudged downward from 5.1% in August to 5.0% in September.

Regionally, the largest movement in the unemployment rate came in the Kodiak Island Borough. Countering the statewide trend, Kodiak's rate fell by over four percentage points. This drop resulted from the start of a short pollack season.

Not surprisingly, over-the-month employment changes were seasonally driven. Employment fell in every major industry except mining, which was unchanged, and government. (See Table 1.) Government gains resulted solely from education-related increases. Manufacturing took the largest loss as seafood processors ended the summer season. Trade and service employment declined in sync with the number of tourists.

Over the year, services and retail trade added the bulk of the jobs with gains in social, health, business and other services and in eating and drinking and miscellaneous retail. Construction was the only goods producing industry to show over-the-year job growth.

Workers and industry prepare for Ketchikan mill closure

In the first week of October, Ketchikan Pulp Company ended months of uncertainty when it announced that the pulp mill in Ketchikan would close on March 24, 1997. On average, the mill employs just over 500 workers. Laid-off workers will receive two weeks of severance pay for each year worked with the company. Reportedly, the company will spend about $188 million in shut-down costs. The fate of KPC's sawmills in Ketchikan and Metlakatla is still unsure, as the company and the Forest Service negotiate terms to keep them open. A decision on the sawmills is expected by the middle of November.

The spring closure offers laid-off workers some time to prepare for the change and seek other employment. Those who remain in Alaska will be hitting a job market entering its seasonal upswing. Though workers may find it difficult to move directly into long-term, year-round jobs with equivalent pay and benefits, there should be interim income opportunities available. However, many positions will require retraining and/or relocating. If these workers' experience mirrors that of those laid off following the shutdown of the Greens Creek mine (*Alaska Economic Trends*, January 1996), then in the year or two following layoff, they will be more likely to work a series of short-term jobs or work more than one job at a time.

Jobseekers wishing to remain in Alaska may find the best immediate opportunities in construction and hard-rock mining. Continued residential and mining-related construc-

tion is expected in Juneau. Development of recently announced oil discoveries on the North Slope will also require construction workers. The Fort Knox mine near Fairbanks should move into production soon, strengthening that area's economy. Also, Anchorage is expected to add new jobs in air cargo, and further tourism growth statewide is anticipated.

Over time, new timber jobs should be created in Southeast as the industry restructures around smaller facilities. Several communities, including Ketchikan, have expressed a strong interest in value-added wood processing facilities. Two promising possibilities include a dry kiln and planing mill facility near Thorne Bay and the resumption of timber processing at the old sawmill site in Wrangell.

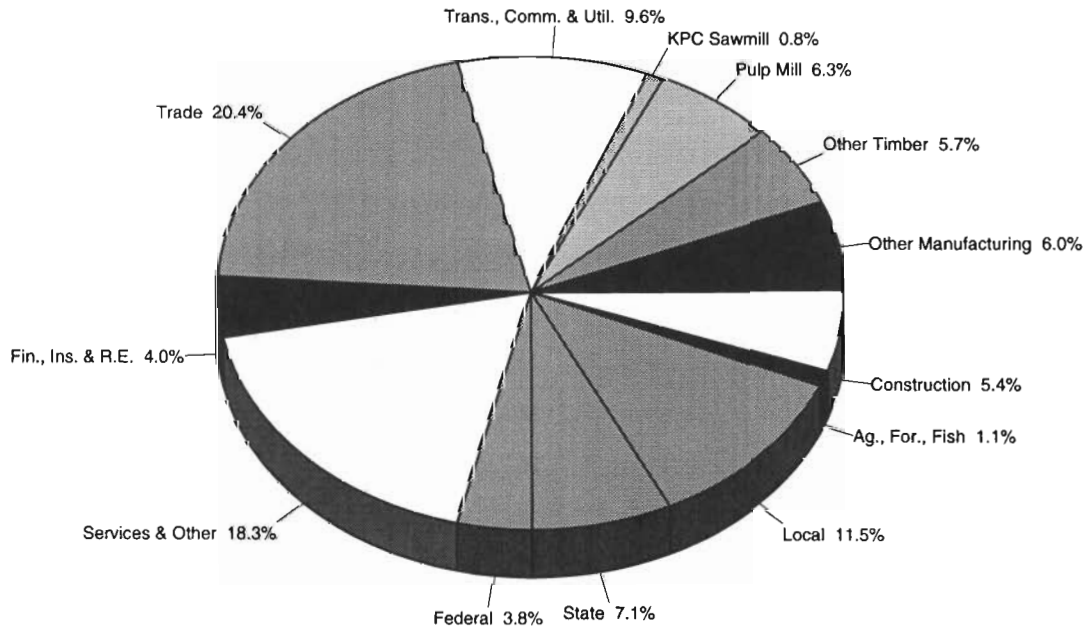
However, the start up of new facilities depends on a stable timber supply. As of this writing, this supply is unknown and will remain unknown at least until the revised Tongass Land Management Plan is released around the end of November. Litigation could further obscure the outlook. While many in the timber industry are guardedly optimistic, some fear that, eventually, all logging on National Forest lands may be halted.

The community of Ketchikan also faces significant change in the upcoming years. Its economy will likely regroup around a reduced manufacturing sector, while tourism and government assume increasing importance. Figure 1 shows the 1995 employment distribution for Ketchikan.

Figure • 1

Ketchikan Gateway Borough Employment by Industry 1995

Total = 7,980



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

Table • 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Alaska	p/ 9/96	r/ 8/96	Changes from 9/95	Changes from 8/96	Changes from 9/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	278,400	283,000	275,700	-4,600	2,700
Goods-producing	45,200	49,900	45,500	-4,700	-300
Service-producing	233,200	233,100	230,200	100	3,000
Mining	10,100	10,100	10,300	0	-200
Construction	16,500	17,100	16,200	-600	300
Manufacturing	18,600	22,700	19,000	-4,100	-400
Durable Goods	3,700	3,600	3,700	100	0
Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	2,300	2,600	100	-200
Nondurable Goods	14,900	19,100	15,300	-4,200	-400
Seafood Processing	11,700	15,900	12,100	-4,200	-400
Pulp Mills	500	500	500	0	0
Transportation	24,500	24,800	24,600	-300	-100
Trucking & Warehousing	3,300	3,400	3,300	-100	0
Water Transportation	2,400	2,600	2,500	-200	-100
Air Transportation	7,600	7,800	7,600	-200	0
Communications	3,900	3,900	3,800	0	100
Trade	57,500	59,200	56,500	-1,700	1,000
Wholesale Trade	9,100	9,300	9,000	-200	100
Retail Trade	48,400	49,900	47,500	-1,500	900
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,400	9,500	9,500	-100	-100
Food Stores	7,500	7,500	7,400	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	16,700	17,600	16,300	-900	400
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,800	11,900	12,000	-100	-200
Services & Misc.	65,900	67,100	63,800	-1,200	2,100
Hotels & Lodging Places	7,700	8,700	7,600	-1,000	100
Health Services	13,800	13,800	13,300	0	500
Government	73,500	70,100	73,300	3,400	200
Federal	17,500	17,600	18,100	-100	-600
State	22,100	20,200	21,800	1,900	300
Local	33,900	32,300	33,400	1,600	500

Municipality of Anchorage	p/ 9/96	r/ 8/96	Changes from 9/95	Changes from 8/96	Changes from 9/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	125,000	124,900	124,300	100	700
Goods-producing	12,600	12,800	12,900	-200	-300
Service-producing	112,400	112,100	111,400	300	1,000
Mining	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
Construction	7,800	8,000	8,000	-200	-200
Manufacturing	2,200	2,200	2,300	0	-100
Transportation	12,100	12,000	12,300	100	-200
Air Transportation	4,300	4,400	4,500	-100	-200
Communications	2,100	2,200	2,200	-100	-100
Trade	30,700	31,200	30,200	-500	500
Wholesale Trade	6,600	6,700	6,600	-100	0
Retail Trade	24,100	24,500	23,600	-400	500
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,800	4,900	4,800	-100	0
Food Stores	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	8,700	8,900	8,400	-200	300
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,000	7,100	7,200	-100	-200
Services & Misc.	34,700	34,700	33,700	0	1,000
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
Health Services	7,000	7,000	6,700	0	300
Government	27,900	27,100	28,000	800	-100
Federal	10,200	10,200	10,500	0	-300
State	8,400	7,500	8,300	900	100
Local	9,300	9,400	9,200	-100	100
	12,900	12,600	13,400	300	-500

Table • 2

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings p/ 9/96	Average Weekly Earnings r/ 8/96	Average Weekly Earnings 9/95	Average Weekly Hours p/ 9/96	Average Weekly Hours r/ 8/96	Average Weekly Hours 9/95	Average Hourly Earnings p/ 9/96	Average Hourly Earnings r/ 8/96	Average Hourly Earnings 9/95
Mining	$1,276.02	$1,300.70	$1,275.05	51.0	52.3	50.9	$25.02	$24.87	$25.05
Construction	1,204.13	1,233.34	1,331.84	47.5	47.2	49.2	25.35	26.13	27.07
Manufacturing	615.43	558.96	571.24	53.1	51.9	52.6	11.59	10.77	10.86
Seafood Processing	492.78	487.51	486.21	57.3	54.9	56.8	8.60	8.88	8.56
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	736.74	703.26	677.34	36.8	35.5	35.5	20.02	19.81	19.08
Trade	419.77	416.75	414.17	34.1	34.7	33.7	12.31	12.01	12.29
Wholesale	652.58	650.62	658.82	39.1	39.1	38.8	16.69	16.64	16.98
Retail	376.82	373.58	369.66	33.2	33.9	32.8	11.35	11.02	11.27
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	522.41	474.64	475.97	38.3	35.5	35.6	13.64	13.37	13.37

Notes to Tables 1-3:

Tables 1 and 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 non-supervisory workers (nonmanufacturing). Averages are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Benchmark: March 1995

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Southeast Region

	p/ 9/96	r/ 8/96	Changes from 9/95	8/96	9/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	39,850	41,050	39,450	-1,200	400
Goods-producing	7,600	8,600	7,600	-1,000	0
Service-producing	32,250	32,450	31,850	-200	400
Mining	300	300	200	0	100
Construction	1,950	2,050	1,850	-100	100
Manufacturing	5,350	6,250	5,550	-900	-200
Durable Goods	1,750	1,800	1,900	-50	-150
Lumber & Wood Products	1,600	1,650	1,750	-50	-150
Nondurable Goods	3,600	4,450	3,650	-850	-50
Seafood Processing	2,850	3,700	2,850	-850	0
Pulp Mills	500	500	550	0	-50
Transportation	3,450	3,650	3,400	-200	50
Trade	7,350	7,700	7,250	-350	100
Wholesale Trade	550	550	550	0	0
Retail Trade	6,800	7,150	6,700	-350	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,450	1,450	1,450	0	0
Services & Misc.	7,450	7,600	7,250	-150	200
Government	12,550	12,050	12,500	500	50
Federal	2,000	2,050	2,050	-50	-50
State	5,400	5,200	5,400	200	0
Local	5,150	4,800	5,050	350	100

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	136,500	136,650	135,050	-150	1,450
Goods-producing	13,800	14,050	14,000	-250	-200
Service-producing	122,700	122,600	121,050	100	1,650
Mining	2,600	2,600	2,700	0	-100
Construction	8,850	9,050	8,850	-200	0
Manufacturing	2,350	2,400	2,450	-50	-100
Transportation	13,200	13,100	13,350	100	-150
Trade	33,500	34,150	32,850	-650	650
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,500	7,550	7,600	-50	-100
Services & Misc.	37,600	37,700	36,400	-100	1,200
Government	30,900	30,100	30,850	800	50
Federal	10,350	10,300	10,650	50	-300
State	9,350	8,350	9,100	1,000	250
Local	11,200	11,450	11,100	-250	100

Gulf Coast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	28,650	31,750	28,950	-3,100	-300
Goods-producing	7,500	10,000	7,950	-2,500	-450
Service-producing	21,150	21,750	21,000	-600	150
Mining	1,050	1,050	1,350	0	-300
Construction	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
Manufacturing	4,950	7,450	5,100	-2,500	-150
Seafood Processing	3,600	6,100	3,800	-2,500	-200
Transportation	2,400	2,450	2,400	-50	0
Trade	5,400	5,900	5,400	-500	0
Wholesale Trade	700	750	750	-50	-50
Retail Trade	4,700	5,150	4,650	-450	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	750	750	700	0	50
Services & Misc.	5,750	6,350	5,700	-600	50
Government	6,850	6,300	6,800	550	50
Federal	700	700	700	0	0
State	1,800	1,700	1,850	100	-50
Local	4,350	3,900	4,250	450	100

Interior Region

	p/ 9/96	r/ 8/96	Changes from: 9/95	8/96	9/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	39,550	40,100	38,600	-550	950
Goods-producing	4,900	5,150	4,650	-250	250
Service-producing	34,650	34,950	33,950	-300	700
Mining	1,100	1,100	900	0	200
Construction	3,150	3,400	3,100	-250	50
Manufacturing	650	650	650	0	0
Transportation	3,300	3,500	3,350	-200	-50
Trade	8,250	8,700	8,050	-450	200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,100	1,050	1,050	50	50
Services & Misc.	9,150	9,750	8,650	-600	500
Government	12,850	11,950	12,850	900	0
Federal	3,700	3,750	3,850	-50	-150
State	4,650	4,150	4,500	500	150
Local	4,500	4,050	4,500	450	0

Fairbanks North Star Borough

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	33,800	34,050	33,200	-250	600
Goods-producing	4,300	4,400	3,950	-100	350
Service-producing	29,500	29,650	29,250	-150	250
Mining	900	850	750	50	150
Construction	2,800	2,950	2,650	-150	150
Manufacturing	600	600	550	0	50
Transportation	2,600	2,750	2,600	-150	0
Trucking & Warehousing	600	650	600	-50	0
Air Transportation	550	600	550	-50	0
Communications	300	300	300	0	0
Trade	7,500	7,850	7,500	-350	0
Wholesale Trade	850	850	850	0	0
Retail Trade	6,650	7,000	6,650	-350	0
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
Food Stores	800	800	750	0	50
Eating & Drinking Places	2,650	2,950	2,650	-300	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0
Services & Misc.	8,200	8,550	7,850	-350	350
Government	10,200	9,500	10,300	700	-100
Federal	2,950	3,050	3,150	-100	-200
State	4,300	3,800	4,200	500	100
Local	2,950	2,650	2,950	300	0

Southwest Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	17,650	18,100	17,500	-450	150
Goods-producing	5,450	6,350	5,650	-900	-200
Service-producing	12,200	11,750	11,850	450	350
Seafood Processing	5,050	5,950	5,250	-900	-200
Government	5,400	4,950	5,300	450	100
Federal	550	550	600	0	-50
State	550	500	500	50	50
Local	4,300	3,900	4,200	400	100

Northern Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	16,050	15,850	15,750	200	300
Goods-producing	5,800	5,900	5,750	-100	50
Service-producing	10,250	9,950	10,000	300	250
Mining	5,050	5,100	5,150	-50	-100
Government	4,850	4,550	4,900	300	-50
Federal	200	200	250	0	-50
State	350	300	350	50	0
Local	4,300	4,050	4,300	250	0

T a b l e • 4

Unemployment Rates by Region & Census Area

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Percent Unemployed p/ 9/96	r/ 8/96	9/95
United States	5.0	5.1	5.4
Alaska Statewide	5.9	5.5	6.0
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	5.3	4.8	5.2
Municipality of Anchorage	4.7	4.2	4.6
Mat-Su Borough	8.3	7.9	8.0
Gulf Coast Region	8.7	7.7	9.9
Kenai Peninsula Borough	10.6	7.8	8.7
Kodiak Island Borough	4.7	9.0	15.5
Valdez-Cordova	6.7	5.3	6.0
Interior Region	6.1	5.7	6.1
Denali Borough	4.7	2.1	5.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	5.7	5.5	5.6
Southeast Fairbanks	8.3	7.0	9.4
Yukon-Koyukuk	11.4	11.7	12.5
Northern Region	9.3	8.7	9.1
Nome	9.7	10.2	10.9
North Slope Borough	4.2	3.3	3.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	15.8	14.1	14.0
Southeast Region	5.1	4.7	4.9
Haines Borough	6.4	5.6	5.9
Juneau Borough	4.6	4.5	4.8
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	5.2	4.4	5.1
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	9.2	8.4	6.8
Sitka Borough	4.4	4.3	4.0
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	3.4	2.9	3.6
Wrangell-Petersburg	5.2	4.6	5.0
Yakutat Borough	3.0	3.9	1.8
Southwest Region	5.9	6.0	5.9
Aleutians East Borough	3.1	3.5	1.7
Aleutians West	2.5	3.0	1.6
Bethel	7.9	7.5	8.0
Bristol Bay Borough	5.5	4.9	4.2
Dillingham	6.9	5.5	5.3
Lake & Peninsula Borough	4.9	6.2	6.1
Wade Hampton	7.9	9.8	11.6
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	5.2	5.1	5.6
Alaska Statewide	7.3	7.3	7.1

p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Benchmark: March 1995

- *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.

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

Alaska Economic Regions

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.