

# ALASKA ECONOMIC **TRENDS**

JANUARY 2006

## Workplace Fatalities in Alaska

### WHAT'S INSIDE

**Tracking the Unemployed:**  
The 2000 Claimants in 2004

**Employment Scene**  
Employment up 1.6 percent over the year



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor  
Greg O'Claray, Commissioner

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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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## Grow the Workforce – Reduce Workplace Fatalities

by Governor Frank H. Murkowski

As Governor, one of my most important tasks has been to grow Alaska's workforce by creating more jobs, training more Alaskans for jobs in Alaska and creating partnerships with employers for apprenticeships, internships and job shadowing. As we grow our workforce, it's vital that we take the steps necessary to help protect our workers from on-the-job injuries and workplace fatalities. I am proud of the improvements being made to do just that.

As reported in this issue of Trends, the average number of workplace fatalities in Alaska has decreased in the last 10 years, despite increases in the number of workers. The teamwork of state and federal agencies, employers and employees will help continue this downward trend while we continue to increase our workforce. Alaskans will have more good-paying jobs and they'll be safer.

The Occupational Safety and Health Section in the Department of Labor & Workforce Development's Division of Labor Standards and Safety protects Alaska workers from industrial accidents and job-related illness by enforcing state and federal standards, and by training employers and employees to follow safe work practices. The section also administers certification programs for a variety of workplace activities in order to make sure workers understand how to perform their tasks safely.

The Department is building new partnerships with employers to raise awareness of free consultations provided by Occupational Safety and Health to help them address potential occupational safety and health hazards. Consultations include confidential workplace safety and health advice to help lower workers' compensation costs and improve productivity and morale. Companies receiving consultation services and implementing suggested workplace changes can be excluded from standard unannounced enforcement inspections for one year.

Some examples of consultation programs and training to public and private sector employers and employees

provided by Occupational Safety and Health are the Voluntary Protection Program, Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program and partnerships with high-hazard industries such as logging and construction.

One of these, the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP), recognizes small employers who maintain top-notch workplace safety and health programs and have workplace illness and injury rates that are below national averages in their industry classification. It's a national program under the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration administered by the state's Occupational Safety and Health Section.

Just recently, the Alaskan Brewing Company and the Juneau Parks and Recreation's Division of Parks and Landscape earned SHARP certification – Alaskan Brewing for the third time in a row. This brings us to 11 SHARP sites in Alaska, and about 1,200 nationwide. Occupational Safety and Health will continue working to familiarize companies with these types of programs, which often provide a number of benefits to participants. After the first year of qualification, SHARP designation exempts participants from generally scheduled Occupational Safety and Health enforcement inspections through subsequent two-year award periods. SHARP is an excellent example of successful partnerships between the Occupational Safety and Health Section and businesses – and we want more like these.

All of the services provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Section, whether consultation or enforcement, are focused on reducing occupational fatalities, injuries and illness and on reducing the cost of doing business in the state.

I am proud of the success of all those involved – workers, businesses and state and federal agencies – in reducing the number of injuries and accidents on the job in Alaska. I look forward to continued success in making Alaska a safer place to work.

# Workplace Fatalities in Alaska

by Catherine Bitonti,  
Research Analyst  
Dean Rasmussen, Economist

**A**laska had 40 workplace fatalities – injuries that resulted in deaths – in 2004. That is the second-lowest number of workplace fatalities in the state since the fatality census began in 1992. Between 1992 and 2004,<sup>1</sup> 721 workers died in Alaska’s workplaces, an average of about one every seven days. (See Exhibit 1.)

Alaska’s average annual number of workplace fatalities has decreased in the last 10 years, even though the number of workers has increased 10 percent, or 28,000. An average of 55 workers a year died while working between 1995 and

1999. In the following five years, 2000 to 2004, the average declined to 45, an 18-percent decrease.

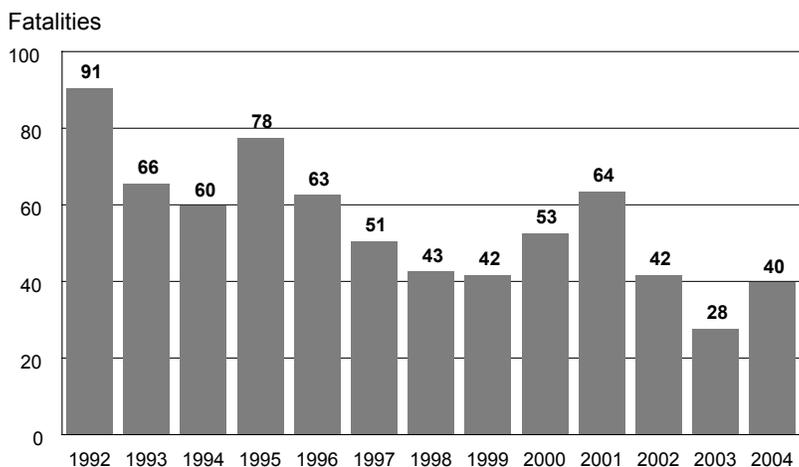
Nationally, job-related fatalities totaled 5,703 in 2004, a 2.3-percent increase from the 5,575 fatalities<sup>2</sup> reported for 2003. Despite the increase, the total number of fatal workplace injuries for 2004 in the U.S. was the third-lowest recorded by the fatality census. (See Exhibit 2.)

The data presented in this report are derived from the annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program,<sup>3</sup> which began in 1992. The national program provides a methodological framework for all states to collect reliable and consistent information on private- and public-sector wage and salary workers and the self-employed.

## Fatality rates are higher in Alaska than U.S. overall

The number of annual workplace fatalities in Alaska is small when compared to the national total, but Alaska’s fatality rate – the number of workplace deaths per 100,000 workers – is among the highest. For instance, in 2003<sup>4</sup> Alaska had the second-highest fatality rate among all the states and the District of Columbia, with 9.2 deaths per 100,000 workers. Nationally, the rate was 4.0 that year, not quite half of Alaska’s. (See Exhibit 3.)

## 1 Alaska Workplace Fatalities, 1992-2004 From the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<sup>1</sup> Workplace fatalities that occurred in 2005 are not contained in this report because the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) for 2005 will not be released until August 2006.

<sup>2</sup> A revised total

<sup>3</sup> The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the U.S. every calendar year. The census uses diverse state and federal data sources to identify, verify and profile fatal work injuries. It is a federal/state cooperative program meaning that work in gathering and analyzing data as well as program costs are shared equally between states and the federal government. The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development’s Research and Analysis Section works with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to conduct the Alaska fatality census.

<sup>4</sup> The 2004 fatality rates for each state are not currently available. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is scheduled to release them in late January 2006.

Although Alaska’s workplace fatality rate is high, it has been decreasing in the 13 years since the fatality census began. The U.S. fatality rate, on the other hand, has been stable since 1992, usually in the range of four or five deaths per 100,000 workers. (See Exhibit 4.)

### The importance of studying workplace fatalities and how the census works

There are myriad ways a fatal work injury can happen – drowning, electrocution, vehicle accident and airplane crash are just a few. Victims can be male or female, young or old, and of any race or ethnic background. Workplace fatalities can occur across all industry sectors and in all occupations. In theory all workplace fatalities are preventable; however, the reality is that workplace accidents do happen and, tragically, some are fatal.

Tracking workplace fatalities is important. Safety and health officials, employers and researchers make extensive use of fatality data to identify potential risks to workers and work toward preventing future fatalities.

Federal and state fatality reports, such as the fatality census, and programs such as the one from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development’s Occupational Safety and Health Section (see sidebar on Page 11) inform workers of potential life-threatening hazards associated with various jobs.

Fatality census findings can also be used to assess and improve workplace safety standards and identify new areas of safety research. Information gathered can be particularly useful to individual states in gauging progress over time toward the goal of reducing workplace fatalities within industry sectors. Insurance carriers and government agencies use data to evaluate the cost and impact of work-related fatalities in

specific industries and occupations to determine where stronger safety standards and practices should be applied.

The fatality census relies primarily on information from death certificates, newspaper articles, reports from federal and state agencies, as well as workers’ compensation records. The objective is to gather information about the specifics of job-related fatalities – such as falls from ladders, vehicle rollovers and exposure to poisonous gases – that result in workplace fatalities.

The census includes any job-related death that occurred in Alaska, even if the individual involved was not a state resident or working for an Alaska company. All identifiable information such as the name and social security number of the deceased, the employer’s name and other individual case identifiers are confidential and are not available for public access. Natural deaths that occur at work are not reported in the fatality census.

## Fatal Work Injury Counts Alaska and the U.S., 1992-2004 **2**

Year	Alaska	U.S.
2004	40	5,703
2003	28	5,575
2002	42	5,524
2001	64	5,915 <sup>1</sup>
2000	53	5,920
1999	42	6,054
1998	43	6,055
1997	51	6,238
1996	63	6,202
1995	78	6,275
1994	60	6,632
1993	66	6,331
1992	91	6,217

<sup>1</sup> This number does not include the fatalities resulting from the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

# 3 Work Injury Fatality Rates by State

## Number of deaths per 100,000 employed

State	2003 <sup>1</sup>	1998-2002
Delaware	1.5	2.9
Connecticut	2.1	2.7
Massachusetts	2.4	1.8
New Jersey	2.5	2.9
New York	2.5	2.7
Minnesota	2.6	2.9
California	2.7	3.3
New Hampshire	2.8	2.4
Washington	2.8	3.2
Arizona	3.0	3.6
Michigan	3.2	3.4
Maryland	3.3	3.0
Rhode Island	3.3	2.2
Illinois	3.4	3.5
Wisconsin	3.4	3.5
Hawaii	3.5	4.0
Maine	3.5	4.2
Pennsylvania	3.5	3.7
Ohio	3.7	3.7
<b>U.S. Average</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Vermont	4.2	3.8
Virginia	4.2	4.3
Colorado	4.3	5.0
Indiana	4.4	5.1
Oregon	4.4	3.5
Florida	4.5	4.8
North Carolina	4.5	5.4
Georgia	4.7	5.1
Nevada	4.7	4.9
Texas	4.7	5.0
Utah	4.7	5.5
Iowa	4.9	4.3
Tennessee	4.9	5.5
Louisiana	5.0	6.8
Nebraska	5.1	7.1
Missouri	5.4	5.5
New Mexico	5.4	6.0
Kansas	5.7	6.7
Alabama	6.0	5.9
South Carolina	6.0	6.0
Oklahoma	6.2	5.7
Idaho	6.4	6.6
South Dakota	6.6	8.8
District of Columbia	6.8	4.4
West Virginia	6.9	6.8
Arkansas	7.2	7.0
North Dakota	7.5	7.8
Kentucky	7.7	6.4
Mississippi	8.1	9.3
Montana	8.6	11.3
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>15.7</b>
Wyoming	13.9	13.3

<sup>1</sup> The 2004 fatality rates for each state are not currently available. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is scheduled to release them in late January 2006.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries*, in cooperation with state and federal agencies

The data in this article may not represent final counts of all 2004 occupational fatalities due to a lag between the fatal event and the receipt of required source documents of an event or death. A revision to this report may become necessary.

### Profile of fatal work injuries by worker characteristics

The fatality census shows that far more males die while working in Alaska than females (see Exhibit 5), even though they make up 51 percent of the state's population ages 16 and older, according to 2004 population estimates. This is largely because more males work in the state's more-dangerous industries, such as construction, fishing and aviation.

Males were the victims in 95.4 percent of Alaska's occupational fatalities from 1992 to 2004. In 2004 alone, males accounted for 90 percent of the fatalities. An analysis of Alaska's 2004 wage records shows that males account for 86 percent of the employment in the construction industry, 85 percent in the natural resources and mining sector, and nearly 60 percent in the trade, transportation and utilities sector, which includes aviation. All are areas where fatality rates tend to be higher.

The fatality census provides information by the status of the deceased worker, whether he or she was self-employed or a wage and salary worker. Self-employed workers work for themselves in their own businesses. Wage and salary workers are employed for pay or other compensation.

Self-employed workers experience higher fatality rates in proportion to the work force than their wage and salary counterparts. Much of that is because many people working in commercial fishing – a particularly hazardous industry – are self-employed.

The 2000 U.S. Census shows that self-employed workers and unpaid family workers make up 8.3 percent of Alaska's work force, yet they represented 19 percent of the state's fatalities

during the 1992-2004 period, as shown by the fatality census. Conversely, wage and salary workers, including government workers, make up 91.7 percent of the work force, yet they accounted for 81 percent of the fatalities during 1992-2004. (See Exhibit 6.)

Nearly three-fourths, 73 percent, of the people who died in Alaska's workplaces in 2004 were in their prime working years of 25 to 54. That's consistent with the 78 percent in that age group who died while working during the 1992-2004 period.

As far as race, two of the categories – white/non-Hispanic and Asian – made up 85 percent of the Alaska workplace deaths in 2004.

Whites died in 81 percent of the state's workplace fatalities during the 1992-2004 period, yet they make up 71 percent of the population overall or 74 percent of those 16 years or older, according to Alaska's 2004 population estimates.

The American Indian and Alaska Native racial group accounted for 8.7 percent of the workplace fatalities over the 13-year period. This group makes up about 16 percent of the state's total population and about 15 percent of those 16 years and older.

Asian and Pacific Islanders made up 4.2 percent of fatalities during the same 13-year period, nearly the same proportion as in the total population and the population 16 years and older (4.6 and 4.7 percent respectively).

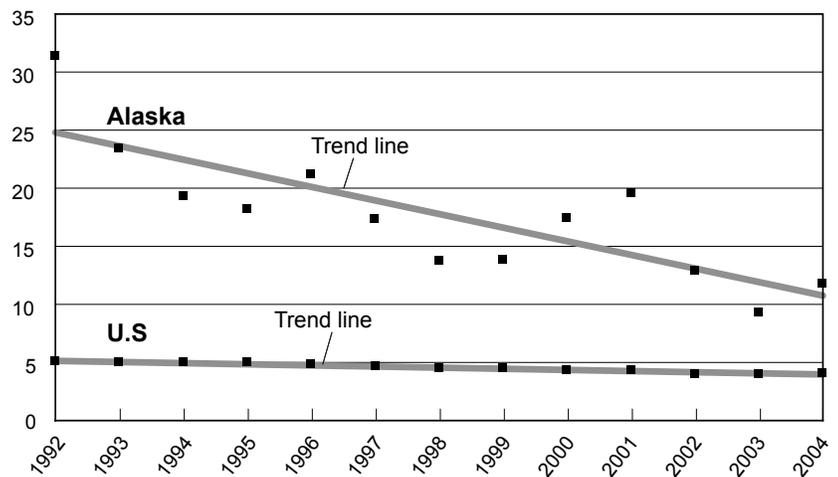
### Profile by type of incident or event and mode of travel

Transportation incidents were the leading type of "event" – the manner in which the fatal work injury occurred – in both Alaska and the U.S. in 2004 and for the history of the census.

The transportation event category includes accidents that involve any mode of transportation, ranging from cars and trucks

## The Trend in Workplace Fatality Rates<sup>1</sup> Fatalities per 100,000 workers **4**

Number of fatalities per 100,000 workers



<sup>1</sup> The 1992-2004 period was chosen because it is the length of time the Census of Occupational Injuries has been in existence.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

to fishing boats, barges and aircraft. It also includes all-terrain vehicles, or ATVs, as well as powered industrial vehicles and equipment such as forklifts, motorized hand trucks and other mobile equipment powered by electric motors or internal combustion engines. (See Exhibits 7 and 8.)

When looking at transportation it is important to note that the modes of transportation in which workplace fatalities occur in Alaska and the U.S. are very different. Alaska's workers travel by boat and airplane more frequently than the work force nationally. (See Exhibit 7.)

Overall, transportation events accounted for 73 percent of Alaska's workplace fatalities in 2004. (See Exhibit 8.) Between 1992 and 2004, they accounted for 72 percent, or 517 of the state's 721 fatalities, ranging from 46 percent in 2003 to a high of 86 percent in 1995.

Aircraft incidents accounted for a third of Alaska's fatalities in 2004, the most of any transportation category. Three out of every 10 Alaska fatalities from 1992 to 2004 involved aircraft.

## 5 Fatal Occupational Injuries Alaska, 1992-2004

Worker Characteristics	Total Fatalities 1992-2004		Total Fatalities 2004	
	Fatalities	Percent	Fatalities	Percent
Total	721	100.0%	40	100.0%
<b>Employee Status</b>				
Wage and Salary Workers <sup>1</sup>	584	81.0%	36	90.0%
Self-employed <sup>2</sup>	137	19.0%	4	10.0%
<b>Sex</b>				
Men	688	95.4%	36	90.0%
Women	33	4.6%	4	10.0%
<b>Age</b>				
Under 16 years	3	0.4%	--	--
16 to 17 years	4	0.6%	--	--
18 to 19 years	14	1.9%	--	--
20 to 24 years	69	9.6%	5	12.5%
25 to 34 years	205	28.4%	10	25.0%
35 to 44 years	210	29.1%	9	22.5%
45 to 54 years	151	20.9%	10	25.0%
55 to 64 years	49	6.8%	6	15.0%
65 years and over	14	1.9%	--	--
<b>Race or Ethnic Origin</b>				
White	411	57.0%	--	--
White, non-Hispanic <sup>3</sup>	170	23.6%	27	67.5%
Black	5	0.7%	--	--
Black, non-Hispanic <sup>3</sup>	--	--	--	--
Hispanic or Latino <sup>3</sup>	22	3.1%	--	--
American Indian or Alaska Native	63	8.7%	--	--
Asian or Pacific Islander	30	4.2%	--	--
Asian	8	1.1%	7	17.5%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	--	--	--	--

<sup>1</sup> May include volunteers and other workers receiving compensation.

<sup>2</sup> Includes self-employed workers, owners of unincorporated businesses and farms, paid and unpaid family workers, and may include some owners of incorporated businesses and members of partnerships.

<sup>3</sup> For the years before 2000, the race categories white and black include Hispanic workers. For 2000 and later, race categories white and black exclude Hispanic workers.

Notes: Totals for major categories may include subcategories not shown separately.

Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

Dashes indicate no data were reported or the data did not meet the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' publication criteria.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries*, in cooperation with state and federal agencies

Water vessels, such as skiffs, fishing boats, ships and barges, accounted for 18 percent of Alaska's fatal work injuries in 2004. The vessel-related events category includes fatal injuries that occur on boats, ranging from falling overboard, capsizing and sinking to deck injuries such as being crushed by a crab pot or getting entangled in a winch. In the 1992-2004 period, nearly one of three workplace fatalities in Alaska was associated with some type of maritime mishap.

For the U.S. as a whole, transportation incidents were the largest type of workplace fatality event in 2004 – 43 percent, or 2,460 of the 5,703 total fatalities. Nearly a quarter of the overall fatalities occurred on the nation's highways, a number that was up slightly after declining the two previous years. Although non-highway incidents, such as those that occurred on farms or at industrial sites, dropped slightly, other kinds of transportation incidents increased. The highest increase was with incidents where workers were struck by vehicles or mobile equipment. In 2004, 377 people died that way, a number that was up nearly 12 percent from the 337 in 2003.

In the fatal assaults category, which includes suicides, animal attacks and other violent acts that resulted in fatalities in the workplace, 795 people were killed or killed themselves on the job in the U.S. in 2004, a number that is down 12 percent from the 902 that were reported in 2003. Overall, the nation's 2004 fatal assaults by people in the workplace were down 49 percent from a high of 1,080 in 1994, excluding the 2,886 work-related homicides in the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Workplace fatal assaults in Alaska are less common. The exact number of Alaska's fatal assaults in 2004 is not available due to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' publication criteria. Seven people were fatally assaulted in Alaska's workplaces in 2003.

## Profile of fatal work injuries by industry

In 2004 and throughout the 1992-2004 period<sup>5</sup> covered by the fatality census, some of Alaska's highest fatality counts have been in air transportation and commercial fishing.<sup>6</sup> (See Exhibit 9.) Both, however, have made positive strides since the early 1990s in increasing safety.

The Alaska air transportation industry saw its highest level of fatalities in 1997 when work-related deaths spiked at 24 percent of total statewide occupational fatalities. There were 12 air transportation deaths that year. Since then, the number of fatalities in air transportation decreased steadily to four in 2003.<sup>7</sup> (See Exhibit 10.)

Much of the decrease in work fatalities can be attributed to the efforts of the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board and Alaska's aviation community. The FAA and NTSB, in cooperation with two other federal agencies, developed the Capstone Program, which was initially brought to areas such as the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta where flying conditions are particularly difficult. The program, which is now being implemented statewide, utilizes cutting-edge technology to improve instrumentation on aircraft and on the ground.

Other air safety programs include the FAA's Medallion Foundation Five Star Shield Program, which works with aviation companies to incorporate safety management principles and concepts, and the FAA's Circle of Safety Program, which educates rural citizens about flight safety so they can, as passengers, ensure stricter standards are met.

Alaska's commercial fishing industry has also seen a general decline in the number of fatalities since

<sup>5</sup> The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2003 changed its industry classification system from the standard Industry Classification system to the North American Industry Classification System.

<sup>6</sup> Air transportation falls into the transportation and warehousing sector and commercial fishing falls into the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector.

<sup>7</sup> The number of air transportation fatalities for 2004 is not available, due to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' publication criteria.

## The Makeup of Alaska's Work Force

### Types of employment, 2000

# 6

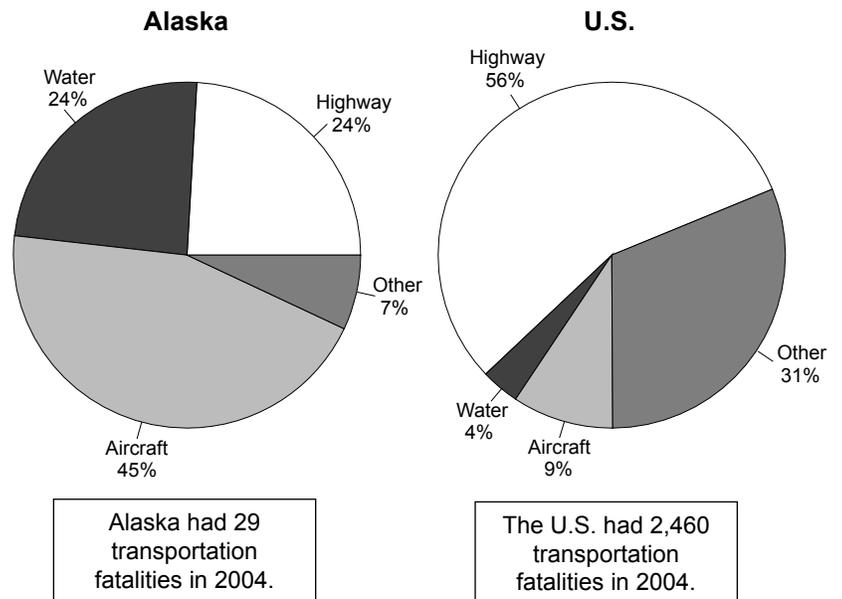


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

## Fatalities by Mode of Travel

### Transportation incidents by event,<sup>1</sup> 2004

# 7



<sup>1</sup> These transportation incidents occurred across all industries.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

1992. Thirty-eight percent of all workplace fatalities in 1992 had to do with commercial fishing; in 2004, it was 20 percent. (See Exhibit 11.)

Alaska commercial fishing fatalities make up nearly a quarter of the total number of U.S. commercial fishing fatalities. Even though this figure seems high, it is a significant reduction from 1992 when Alaska fatalities were 44 percent of all U.S. commercial fishing fatalities.

Both government and industry have worked together to lower the number of commercial fishing fatalities. For instance, Congress enacted the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Act of 1988. The Act required fishing vessels, beginning in the 1990-1995 period, to carry specific safety, survival and fire fighting equipment. It also required crew members to train in first aid and perform emergency drills.

Industry groups such as the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association provide programs that educate commercial fishermen about safety, including the causes of fishing-related injuries and deaths. The AMSEA program emphasizes hands-on survival skills and practices actual procedures with fishermen using equipment that would be used in a real emergency.

Many agree that one of the biggest impacts on commercial fishing safety has been the adoption of individual fishing quotas for the halibut, black cod and some pollock fisheries – and soon for crab. Before the halibut and black cod fisheries converted to the IFQ system in 1995 and most of the pollock fishery converted to an IFQ-type system<sup>8</sup> in 1998, fishing in those fisheries was literally a race to get as many fish as possible during short, several-day openings often in the middle of winter, no matter what

<sup>8</sup> Most of the pollock fishery, when considering volume, was the Bering Sea-Aleutian Island fishery. The fishery's at-sea processors formed a private voluntary cooperative called the Pollock Conservation Cooperative.

## 8 Fatalities by Type of Event<sup>1,2</sup> Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, Alaska and the U.S.

	Alaska													Alaska		U.S.	
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004	2004	2004	
<b>Total Workplace Fatalities</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5,703</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Transportation incidents</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>72.5%</b>	<b>2,460</b>	<b>43.1%</b>	
Highway incident	--	--	--	6	--	4	--	3	6	4	3	--	7	17.5% <sup>3</sup>	1,374	24.1%	
Water vehicle incidents	39	21	14	22	29	8	14	16	12	25	18	6	7	17.5%	90	1.6%	
Fall from ship, boat, other	9	7	6	4	7	3	3	3	5	5	6	--	3	7.5%	32	0.6%	
Sinking, capsized water vehicle	29	13	3	11	13	--	10	13	4	19	5	4	--	0.0%	21	0.4%	
Aircraft incidents	26	22	10	34	16	19	13	10	19	18	8	6	13	32.5%	230	4.0%	
During takeoff or landing	7	4	--	24	6	7	4	3	8	10	--	--	4	10.0%	63	1.1%	
Other aircraft incidents	--	9	3	9	7	7	8	5	10	8	--	--	7	17.5%	147	2.6%	
<b>Assaults and violent acts, including suicides and animal attacks</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	
<b>Contact with objects and equipment</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>17.6%</b>	
Struck by object	6	3	3	3	--	5	--	4	5	5	6	--	--	0.0%	596	10.5%	
<b>Exposure to harmful substances or environments</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Event grouping is coded using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' occupational injury classification structure.

<sup>2</sup> This is a select list of events for analysis; the parts will not add to the total.

<sup>3</sup> The percentages for the subsets of each category are percentages of the total fatalities in Alaska or the U.S.

Note: A dash indicates no data were reported or the data do not meet the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' publication criteria.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Alaska Occupational Safety and Health's 2003-2004 Fatal Accident Investigations

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Occupational Safety and Health Section, which is within the department's Labor Standards and Safety Division, is charged with protecting Alaska workers from industrial accidents and job-related illnesses by enforcing state and federal standards, and by training employers and employees to follow safe and healthful work practices.

AKOSH officials investigate workplace injuries that result in overnight hospitalization or death in those cases where other government agencies, such as the federal National Transportation Safety Board, are not investigating them.<sup>1</sup>

The following are the five fatality investigations that AKOSH conducted in 2003 and 2004:

### **Construction worker fell 21 feet**

While installing corrugated steel decking at a construction site, a construction worker tried to drag a piece of decking across a joist and an 8-inch-thick wall. He lost his balance and fell 21 feet to the first floor. He died during surgery as a result of his injuries from the fall. He was not wearing fall-protection equipment.

### **Truck driver fell from the top of a tractor-trailer**

A truck driver fell from the top of a tractor-trailer and died during surgery as a result of complications from the fall. The exact cause or causes of the incident are still unknown because he was working unsupervised and there were no witnesses when he fell. He was not wearing fall-protection equipment.

### **Old fuel tank explodes**

A man was in the process of cutting the top off of an empty 500-gallon drum with an oxygen/acetylene torch when leftover

hydrocarbon fumes – it was an old fuel storage tank – exploded, peeling the top of the drum over and engulfing him in flames. The man died from the burns.

### **Apprentice killed while mounting dump truck wheel rims**

An apprentice mechanic was killed instantly when he was struck by several pieces of a multi-piece demountable rim wheel he was mounting onto a dump truck. The rim's three pieces were designed to interlink and stay together from the air pressure once the tire was inflated.

AKOSH investigators determined the cause was threefold: The mechanic, his supervisor and the employer failed to recognize the rim components were severely corroded and deformed; the mechanic failed to follow the published procedures for tightening lug nuts on that type of rim; and the employer lacked a viable training program on the maintenance and mounting of split-rim wheels.

### **Man dies when his ladder slips**

A construction worker, using a stepladder to span a three-foot gap between two buildings, was killed when the base of his stepladder slipped and he fell 20 feet.

The worker had placed the base of the ladder on the floor of one building and leaned the top of the ladder against the vertical wall of the second building. He had just moved the ladder over several feet and was climbing up the ladder when one foot of the ladder slipped. He fell to the ground below.

AKOSH officials determined the death was caused by the worker's improper use of a stepladder, his failure to secure the ladder to prevent slippage and his failure to wear fall-protection gear.

<sup>1</sup> AKOSH does not investigate workplace injuries or fatalities where other agencies have jurisdiction, such as those that occur on public roads, on open water or that have to do with the operation of aircraft. Employers are required to notify AKOSH of fatalities and injuries requiring overnight hospitalization within eight hours of when the incident occurred. They can call AKOSH at (800) 770-4940 or the federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration 24 hours a day at (800) 321-6742 to report such incidents.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Occupational Safety and Health Section

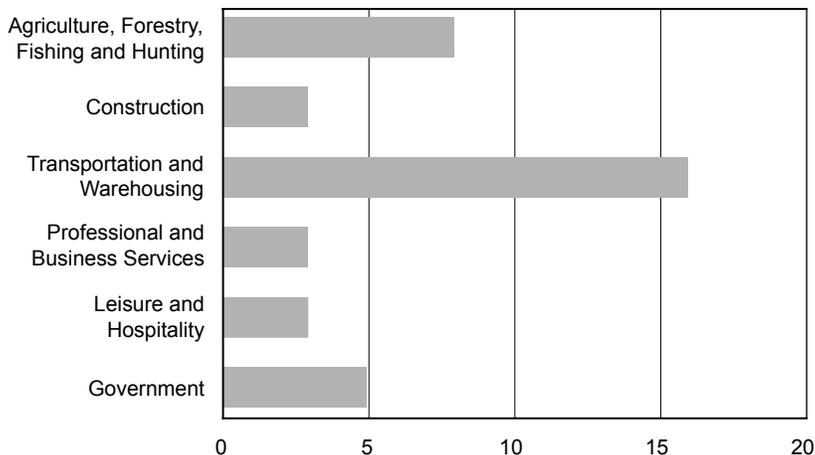
the weather was like. The short openings and heavy competition, coupled with short daylight hours and often vicious winter weather – heavy storms, little or no visibility, ice-covered decks and high seas – meant people died.

The IFQ system, in contrast, allows fishermen more flexibility in choosing when they want to fish. The fishermen can wait for windows of better weather and they have some eight months instead of several days to catch their individual quota of fish.

The salmon fisheries still use a non-IFQ system, but those fisheries generally have openings in the spring, summer and fall when the weather is better. Their openings can range from three hours to six months.

As noted earlier, self-employed workers – of whom commercial fishermen are a big group – are covered by the fatality census. However, they are not covered under state unemployment insurance so their employment is not represented in Research and Analysis' standard employment data series. CFOI analysts assign industry coding

## 9 Fatalities by Industry Sector Workplace fatalities in Alaska, 2004



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

to self-employed fatalities to reflect as close as possible the primary activity of the worker. For example, in the instance of a self-employed fisherman who was fatally injured while fishing or while doing an activity directly related to fishing, the fatality would be recorded in fishing, a subcategory of the broad industry group of agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting.

### Fatalities by occupation

Twenty percent of Alaska's workplace fatalities in 2004, eight out of 40, were fishermen.<sup>9</sup> The other occupations that had fatalities in 2004 include vehicle operators, sailors and marine oilers, and aircraft pilots. (See Exhibit 12.)

Fishermen have made up a significant share of the total number of fatalities each year since the census began – 211 of Alaska's work-related fatalities, or nearly 30 percent, in the years from 1992 to 2004 – but the number has decreased overall since then. They averaged 22 work-related deaths from 1992 to 1996. The average dropped to 14 from 1997 to 2001 and decreased again to 10 from 2002 to 2004.

The average number of yearly fatalities for aircraft pilots<sup>10</sup> has also decreased. They averaged nine fatalities per year from 1992 to 1996, then seven a year from 1997 to 2001. The average decreased to four a year from 2002 to 2004.

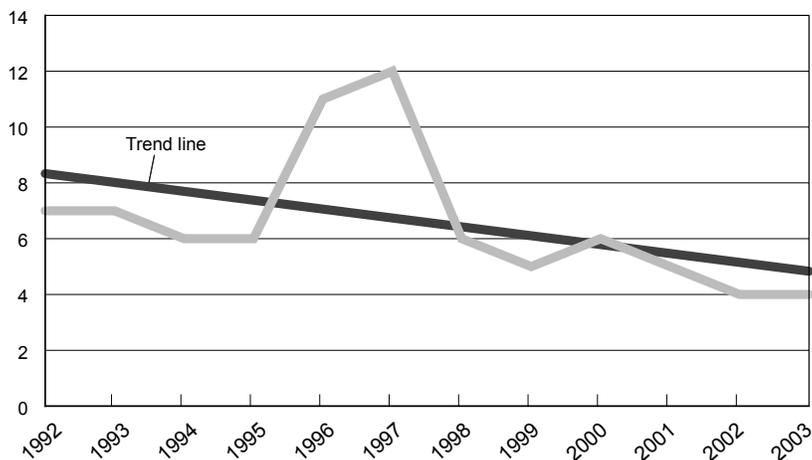
When comparing the overall occupational mix of the total fatalities in Alaska and the U.S. from 1992-2004, the share represented by fishermen and aircraft pilots varies a great deal. In Alaska, fishermen and aircraft pilots accounted for 41 percent of all occupational fatalities while nationally the share was 3 percent. (See Exhibit 13.)

<sup>9</sup> CFOI refers to this occupation as "fishers, including vessel captains and officers" for the 1992-2002 period and "fishers and related workers" for the 2003-2004 period.

<sup>10</sup> CFOI refers to this occupation as "airplane pilots and navigators" for the 1992-2002 period and "aircraft pilots and flight engineers" for the 2003-2004 period.

## 10 Air Transportation Fatalities Alaska's trend is declining<sup>1</sup>

Number of Fatalities



<sup>1</sup> The number of fatalities for 2004 is not available due to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' publication criteria.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

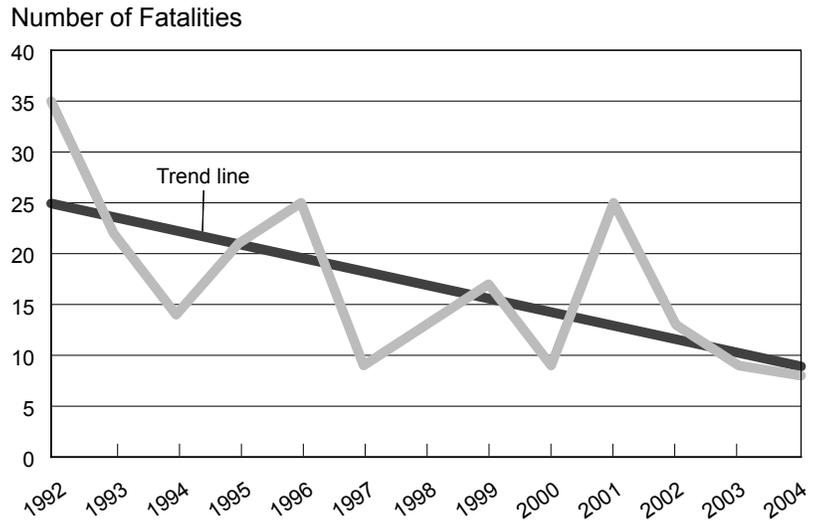
The census fatality program changed its occupational classification systems in 2003. It used the U.S. Bureau of the Census classification system until 2002, then adopted the Standard Occupational Classification system. The change in classification systems creates a number of difficulties when trying to compare data within different systems, because many occupations do not easily transfer from one system to the next. (See Exhibit 14.)

Even though it is difficult to perform a comparative analysis across multiple years for many occupations, there are certain occupations that relate directly between both systems. Two of those are the fishermen and aircraft pilot occupations, which are particularly relevant in Alaska and are detailed above.

■ ■ ■

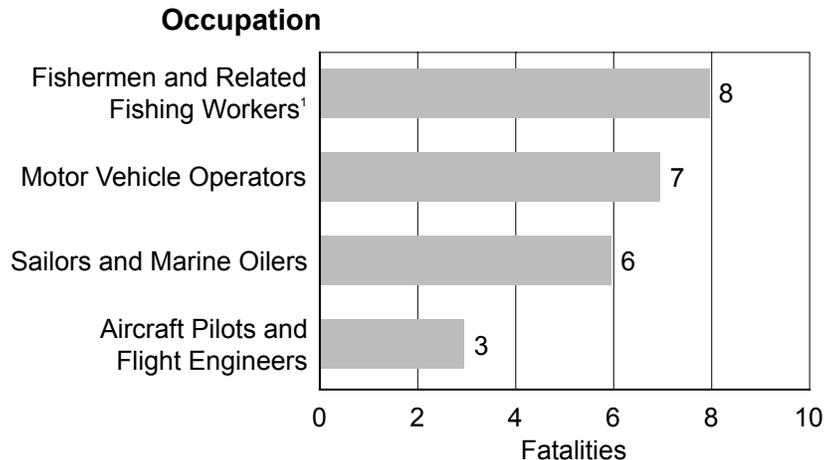
The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Research and Analysis Section publishes both fatal and non-fatal workplace injury and illness information and data tables for readers to download on its "Workforce Info" Web site at <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>. Click on "Occupational Information" on the blue menu bar on the left, then "Injury, Illness & Fatalities." National data as well as information for all 50 states and the District of Columbia are available from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/iif/home.htm>.

## Commercial Fishing Fatalities in Alaska **11** Alaska's trend is declining



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Workplace Fatalities by Occupation **12** Alaska, 2004

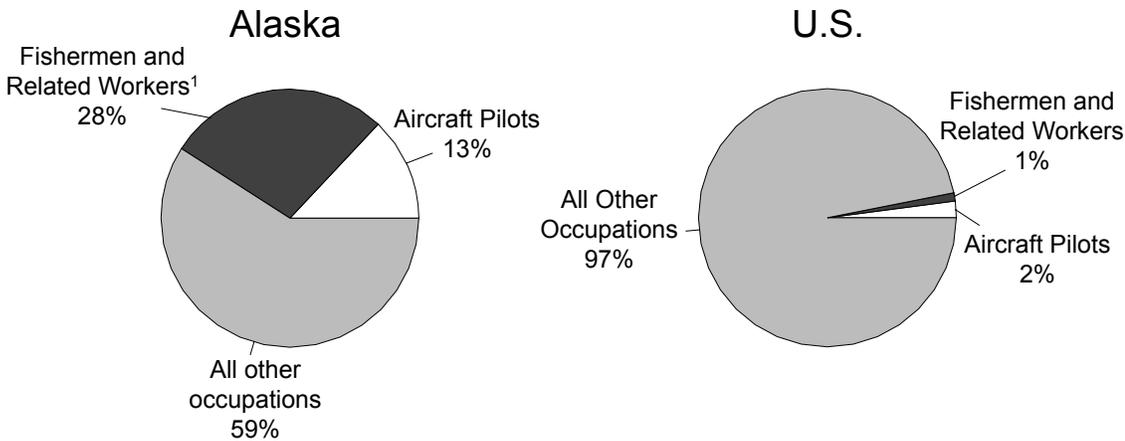


<sup>1</sup> The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries refers to this category as "fishers and related workers."

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

# 13 Fishermen and Aircraft Pilots

## Percent of all occupational fatalities, 1992-2004

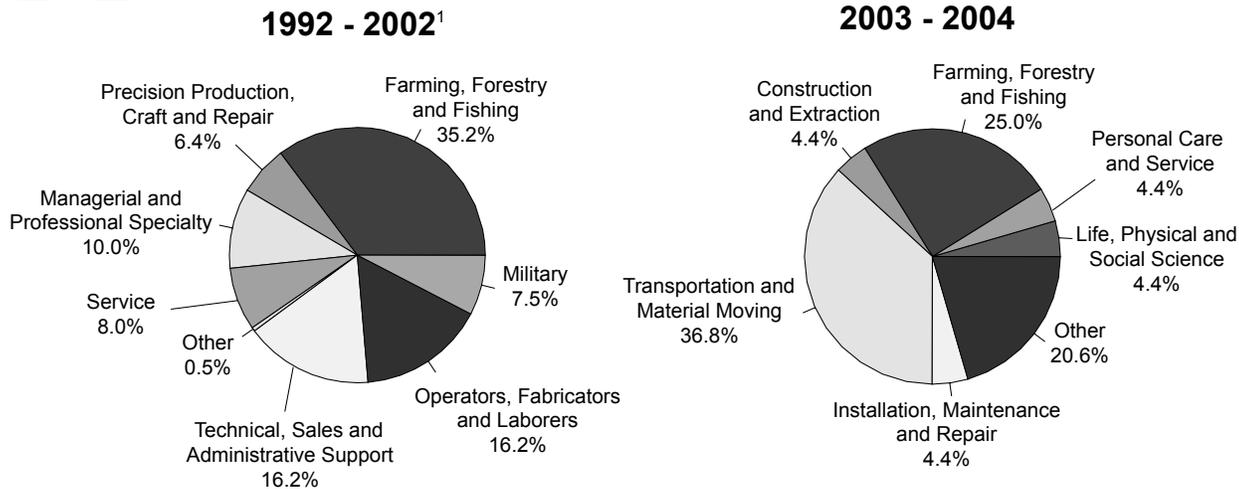


<sup>1</sup> The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries refers to this category as “fishers and related workers.”

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

# 14 Percentage of Fatalities by Occupational Categories

## Alaska



<sup>1</sup> The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries used the U.S. Bureau of Census classification system for the 1992-2002 period. It has used the Standard Occupational Classification System since 2003.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## The year 2000 unemployment insurance claimants: What happened to them in four years?

**S**ome 41,000 people filed for \$112.2 million in unemployment benefits in Alaska in 2000. Who were they, what happened to them and where are they now?

We tracked each of the 40,933 to find out more about them as a group, their reasons for collecting unemployment, how the economy affected them, and what they were doing four years later in 2004. We wanted to find out if they moved out-of-state or just somewhere else in Alaska, what kind of salaries they were making, what industries they worked in or if they changed occupations, how many never filed another claim and how many filed one every year.

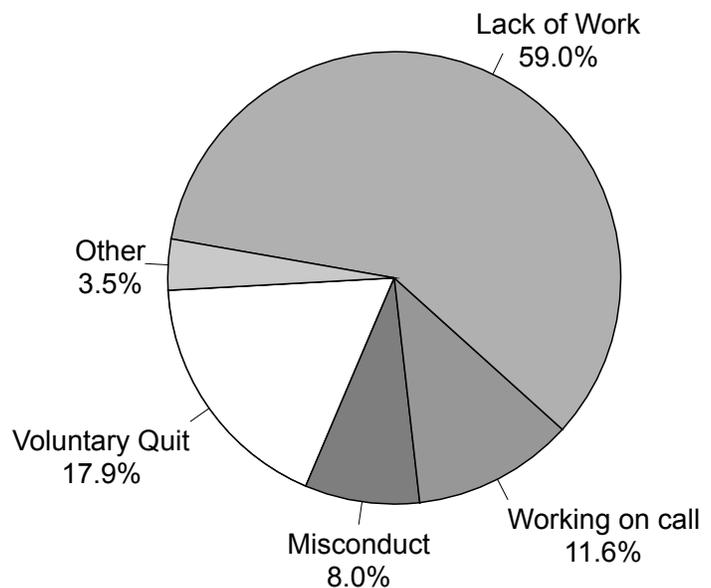
We used wage records and various Research and Analysis databases compiled from unemployment insurance tax data, the overall unemployment insurance program and the Alaska Permanent Fund. The year 2004 was chosen as a measuring stick because it's the most recent year with complete data across all fields.

The year 2000 was pretty much like the preceding years unemployment-wise. The numbers for the year before, 1999, were similar: 42,172 people filed for \$119.1 million in unemployment benefits.

Unemployment insurance is an economic stabilization program that's been a part of the national economy for 70 years. In 1935, at the low point of the Great Depression, the United States adopted a number of policies designed

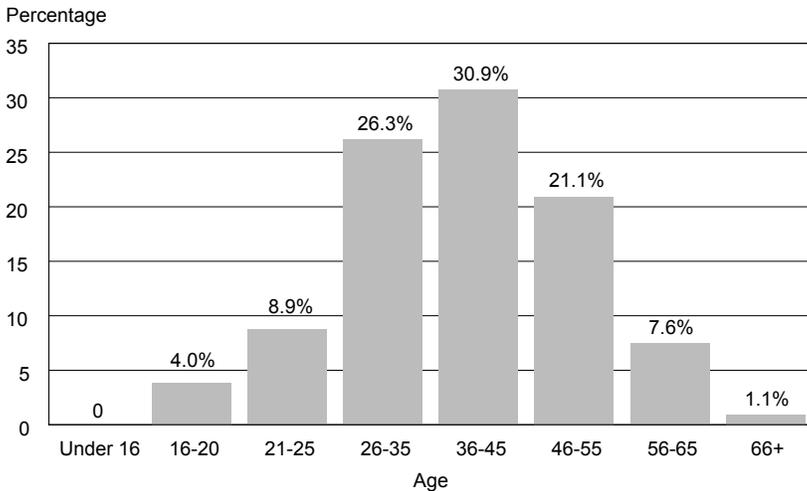
to alleviate the incredible economic stress the country was facing. One of the policies was unemployment insurance, where workers would be paid something when they were out of work and employers would have a more stable work force because experienced workers, collecting benefits, would stick around and be available to return to work. Local economies would also benefit from the money that the unemployed workers, receiving benefits, would spend.

### Why Did They File? Alaska unemployment claimants in 2000 **1**



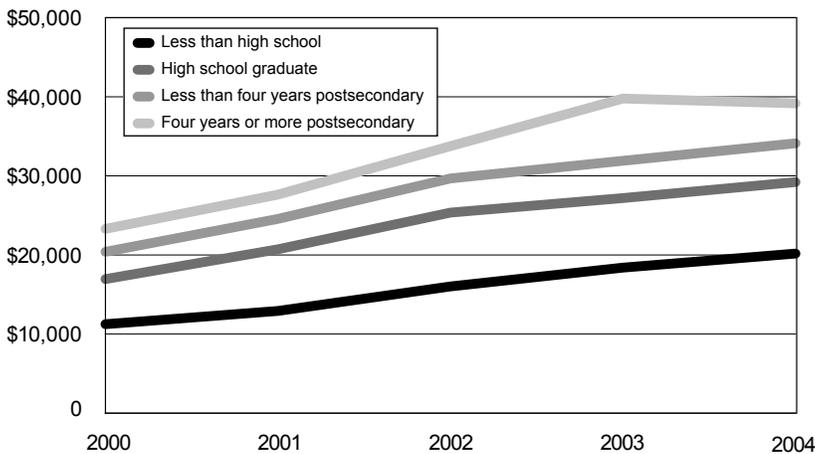
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

## 2 How Old Were They? Year 2000 claimants, by age



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

## 3 Education's Effect on Salaries Year 2000 claimants' average annual salaries



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Seventy years later, each state's unemployment insurance program is still intact. Most employers, on behalf of their employees – and in Alaska and two other states, employees – pay into their state's system with each paycheck, so when the employees are without a job they can get unemployment benefits. Alaska's regular benefits program pays between \$44 a week and \$248 a week<sup>1</sup> for up to 26 weeks, depending on individual eligibility. From time to time, depending on the state's economy, additional benefits are available as well.

The UI program doesn't cover full-commission salespeople, elected and appointed officials, fishermen, unpaid family and domestic workers, as well as the self-employed.

### Who were the 40,993 claimants in 2000?

The majority, 59 percent, collected unemployment benefits because they couldn't find employment, they were laid off or were fired. Another 17.9 percent had voluntarily quit their jobs, 8.0 percent were terminated for misconduct and 11.6 percent were working, but on call. (See Exhibit 1.)

About 62 percent of the claimants were male and 57 percent of the claimants were between 26 and 45 years old. (See Exhibits 2 and 15.)

### What happened in the next four years?

By 2004, a quarter of the claimants had left the state. Some who stayed continued to claim unemployment benefits. But enough claimants recovered and improved the overall salary levels for the entire group. Many claimants found employment in economic sectors such as health care and real estate.

<sup>1</sup> This doesn't include the allowance for up to three dependents, which is \$24 a week per dependent.

## Their salaries

The average annual salary for the year 2000 unemployment insurance claimants steadily increased from \$20,134 in 2001 to \$23,319 in 2004. While those with at least some college-level education ended up with the highest average salaries in 2004, those claimants with a high school diploma or less experienced the highest salary rate increases. (See Exhibit 3.) Plus, many of the claimants who filed for UI in 2000 moved from the lower to higher salary ranges. (See Exhibit 4.)

Other explanations for the increase in the average salary include the large number of low-skilled workers who left the state. (Seafood processing workers were the largest group.)

The female claimants experienced a 47.2-percent increase in average salary from 2000 to 2004 compared to the 37.5-percent increase among the male claimants. Still, in 2004, the average salary for the women was only 61.5

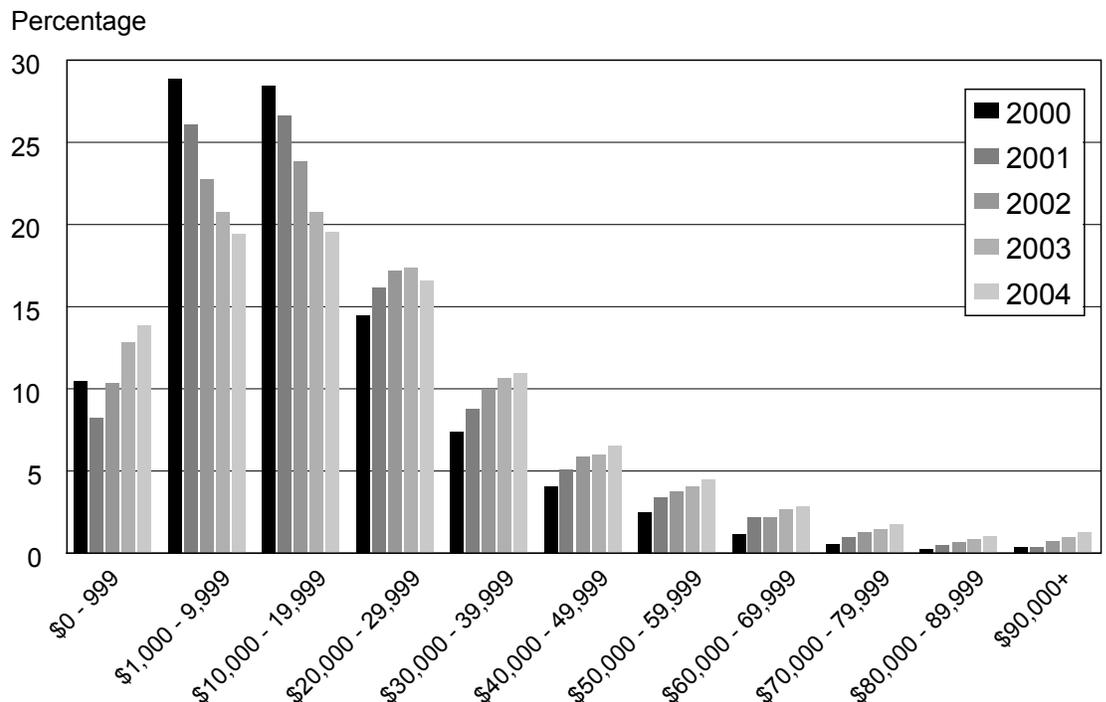
percent of that paid to the men. (See Exhibit 5.) Among all Alaska employees statewide, the annual average salary of women in 2004 was 68.3 percent of the average salary of men.

## Where they moved or if they stayed put

A quarter of the year 2000 claimants – 26.7 percent, or 10,957 of the 40,933 – moved out-of-state. (See Exhibit 15.) By 2001, 7,338 of the claimants had left the state; another 3,619 left over the next three years. And, for the 29,996 claimants who stayed in Alaska, 16,934, or 56.5 percent of them, moved elsewhere within Alaska by 2001.

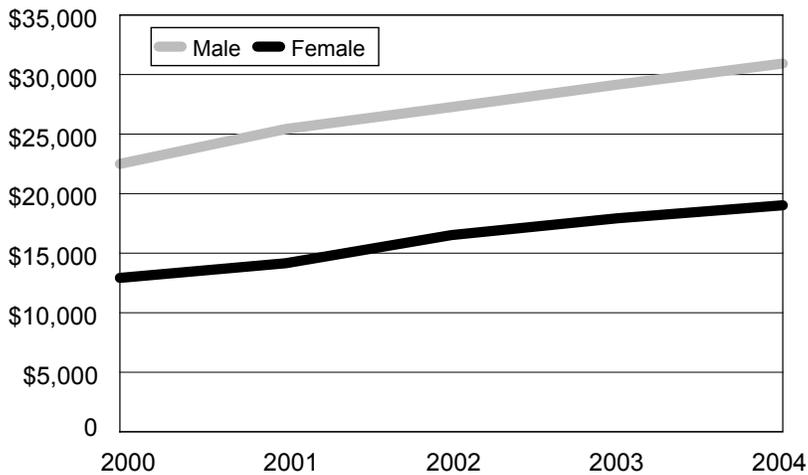
The major group of claimants who left the state by 2001 was seafood processing workers. With seafood processing employment dropping steadily from 1995 to 2002, most unemployment claimants who had worked in seafood processing decided to leave the state, hoping for better employment opportunities elsewhere. But the majority of seafood processing workers who

## What Happened to Their Salaries in Four Years? 4 Year 2000 claimants' annual average salary range by percentage



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

## 5 Annual Average Salaries Year 2000 claimants, by gender



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

## 6 Where Were They? Year 2000 claimants in 2000 vs. 2004

Location	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2004 <sup>2</sup>
Aleutians East Borough	2.10%	1.30%
Aleutians West	2.20%	1.70%
Anchorage, Municipality of	21.40%	19.40%
Bethel	2.30%	2.60%
Bristol Bay Borough	0.50%	0.50%
Denali Borough	0.50%	0.40%
Dillingham	0.60%	0.60%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	7.20%	7.10%
Haines Borough	0.40%	0.30%
Juneau Borough	2.90%	2.60%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	6.00%	5.00%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	2.20%	1.70%
Kodiak Island Borough	3.00%	2.50%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	0.50%	0.30%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	3.90%	4.20%
Nome	1.50%	1.60%
North Slope Borough	3.50%	2.50%
Northwest Arctic Borough	1.00%	1.10%
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	1.60%	1.40%
Sitka Borough	0.80%	0.70%
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	0.90%	0.70%
Southeast Fairbanks	0.70%	1.00%
Valdez-Cordova	2.00%	1.50%
Wade Hampton	1.10%	1.20%
Wrangell-Petersburg	1.40%	0.90%
Yakutat Borough	0.30%	0.20%
Yukon-Koyukuk	1.10%	1.10%
Off-Shore	1.00%	0.30%
Alaska Area Unknown	24.90%	8.80%
Outside Alaska	2.60%	26.80%

<sup>1</sup> Where the 40,933 year 2000 UI claimants were living in 2000.

<sup>2</sup> Where the 40,933 year 2000 UI claimants were living in 2004.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

decided to stay in Alaska were re-employed the following year without changing their occupation or moving. Most of them worked every quarter through 2004.

### How were they affected in different industries? And did they change occupations?

The most heavily affected industries were seafood processing and construction. By 2004, 2,518 of the initial 40,933 unemployment insurance claimants had left the seafood processing industry; another 2,073 of the initial claimants had left the construction industry.

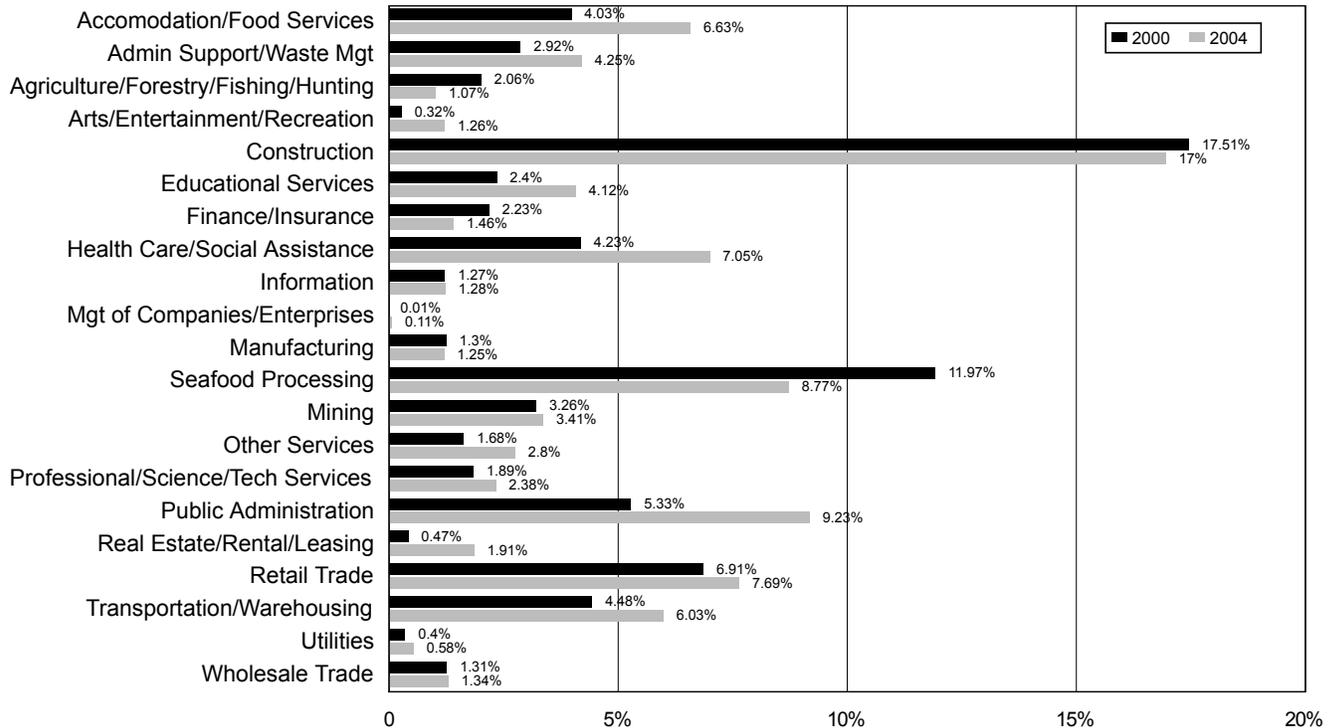
Construction is one of the most seasonal industries in Alaska, which is why it tends to have a high number of unemployment claimants every year. But construction has seen strong growth for the past few years and 3,261 of the year 2000 claimants returned to the industry by 2004. Another 1,837 claimants moved to construction from other industries by 2004. (See Exhibit 7.)

The downturn in the seafood processing sector in the years leading up to 2000 greatly affected employment; 4,901 seafood processing workers claimed unemployment in 2000. While many seafood processing workers left the state soon after becoming unemployed, 69 percent, or 1,704 of the 2,471 workers who decided to remain in Alaska, returned to their seafood processing jobs the following year. The seafood industry, though, began recovering in 2003 and hired back many of the workers. By 2004, 2,383 of the claimants who originally came from the seafood processing sector in 2000 returned, including nonresidents.

Many other unemployment claimants moved to the healthcare, public administration and real estate industries, a somewhat predictable move considering that healthcare and real estate are among the rising industries in Alaska.

While the number of year 2000 claimants in the construction and food processing fields

## Where Were They Four Years Later? Year 2000 claimants, by industry and percentage



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

dropped since 2000, they remained the top two occupations in 2004. (See Exhibit 8.)

### Those who bounced back

By 2004, nearly a quarter – 9,864 of the 40,933 claimants – bounced back, meaning that they remained in Alaska or returned by 2004, that they worked at some point in 2004 and, by the end of 2004, they had not filed another unemployment claim. As a group, they improved their salaries steadily after 2000.

Just over 17.6 percent of the fully recovered claimants had a high school diploma or equivalent and no college experience; another 46.4 percent had at least some college education. (See Exhibit 9.)

For the year 2000 claimants, the salaries of those with at least a high school diploma climbed above Alaska's average annual salary level by

2004. In fact, the average claimant in 2000 on every education level experienced increases in annual salaries after 2000; claimants with higher education levels succeeded at a slightly higher rate and ended up with higher overall salaries. (See Exhibit 3.)

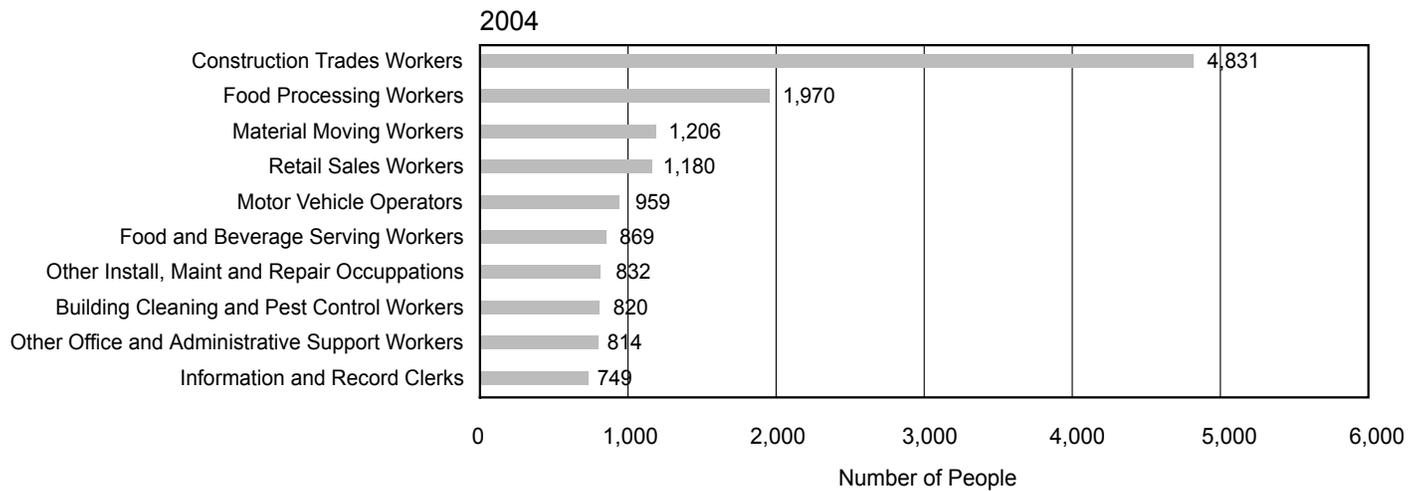
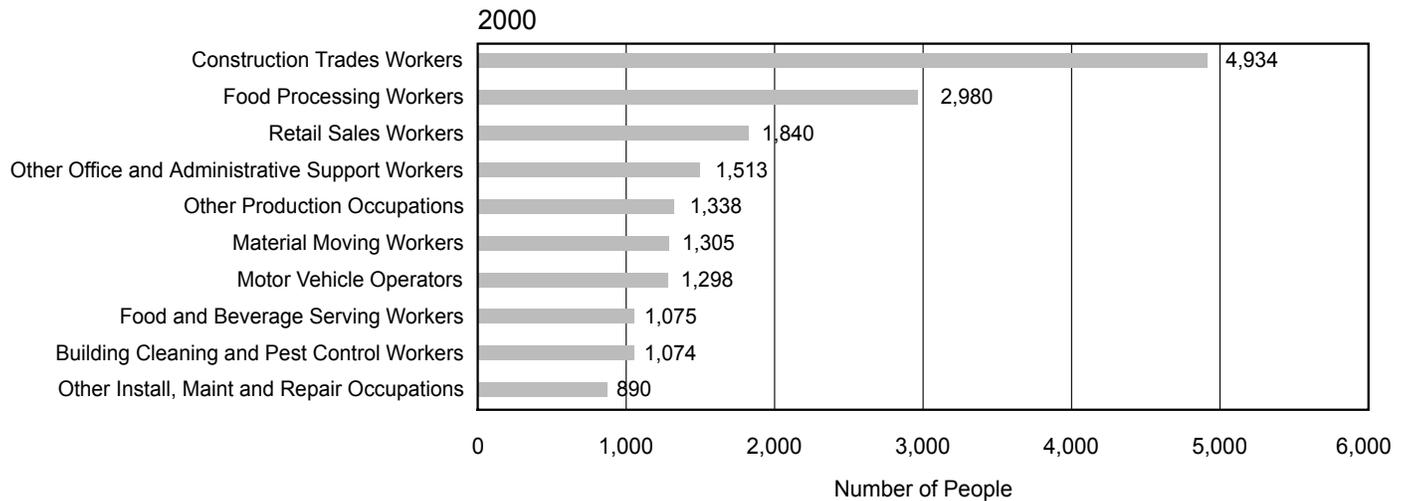
The claimants who never had an additional claim found the most stability in the public administration and healthcare industries. The employment rise in the healthcare industry shows that many claimants who filed for UI in 2000 found job opportunities there.

The women had a higher recovery rate than the men, with 22.2 percent of the female claimants employed in Alaska at some point in 2004 compared to only 16.7 percent of the men.

As far as age, the younger groups had the most success with finding and retaining employment in 2004. (See Exhibit 10.)



## Top 10 Occupational Groups Year 2000 unemployment claimants in 2000 vs. 2004



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

### Those who filed for unemployment again in the four years

Roughly 61 percent of the year 2000 claimants – 24,957 of the initial 40,933 – filed for unemployment insurance at least once after 2000. (See Exhibit 11.) Of those, 3,183 filed at least once every year from 2001 to 2004. A large portion, about 83 percent, of the repeat claimants were white or Alaska Native, likely due to higher out-of-state migration rates for the Asian and Hispanic claimant populations. (See Exhibit 12.)

Men showed a greater tendency to make additional unemployment claims after 2000. Sixty-six percent of the year 2000 male claimants made more claims, while 52.7 percent of the women were repeat claimants.

Seafood processing and construction workers were repeat claimants more than people in any other occupation or industry. Combined, the seafood processing and construction industries contributed about 36 percent of the repeat claimants.

Age and the amount of education also appear to have something to do with it. The older claimants were more likely to make multiple claims after 2000 than those who were younger than 36. (See Exhibit 13.) Lower education levels also increased the chances of people making additional claims. (See Exhibit 14.)

### Summarizing it all

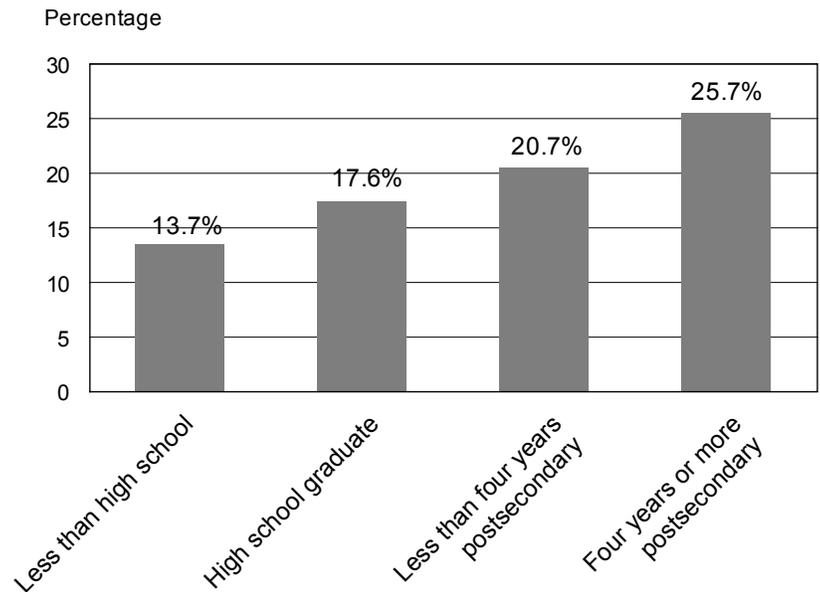
Nearly a quarter of the 40,933 people who filed for unemployment benefits in 2000 not only bounced back in four years – they were working in 2004 and hadn't filed for unemployment again – they improved the average salary for all the claimants.

Many, though, still had trouble finding permanent work, as shown by the some 60 percent who filed additional unemployment claims by 2004. The Alaska fishing industry, which was experiencing an economic downturn through 2002, didn't help much.

But, with the growth in other industries and the recovery in the fishing industry beginning in 2003, many of the year 2000 claimants have found employment. And that, essentially, is what the unemployment insurance program is designed to do: to give workers the time they need to weather temporary economic downturns or look for work in other industries.

## Recovery Rate by Education Level<sup>1</sup> **9**

Year 2000 unemployment claimants in 2004

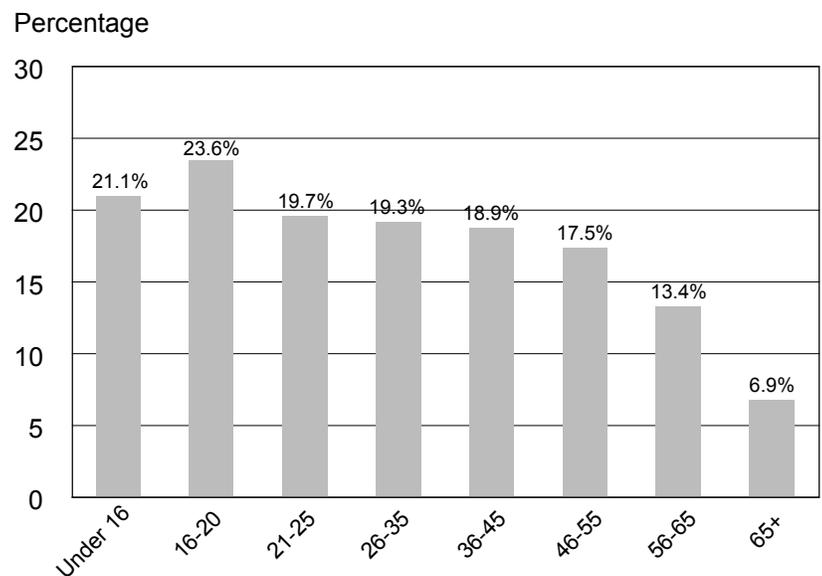


<sup>1</sup> Year 2000 UI claimants were considered "recovered" when they remained in Alaska or returned by 2004, worked at some point in 2004 and, as of the end of 2004, they had not filed an additional unemployment claim.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

## Recovery Rate by Age Group<sup>1</sup> **10**

Year 2000 claimants in 2004



<sup>1</sup> Year 2000 UI claimants were considered "recovered" when they remained in Alaska or returned by 2004, worked at some point in 2004 and, as of the end of 2004, they had not filed an additional unemployment claim.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

# 11 Repeat Claimants

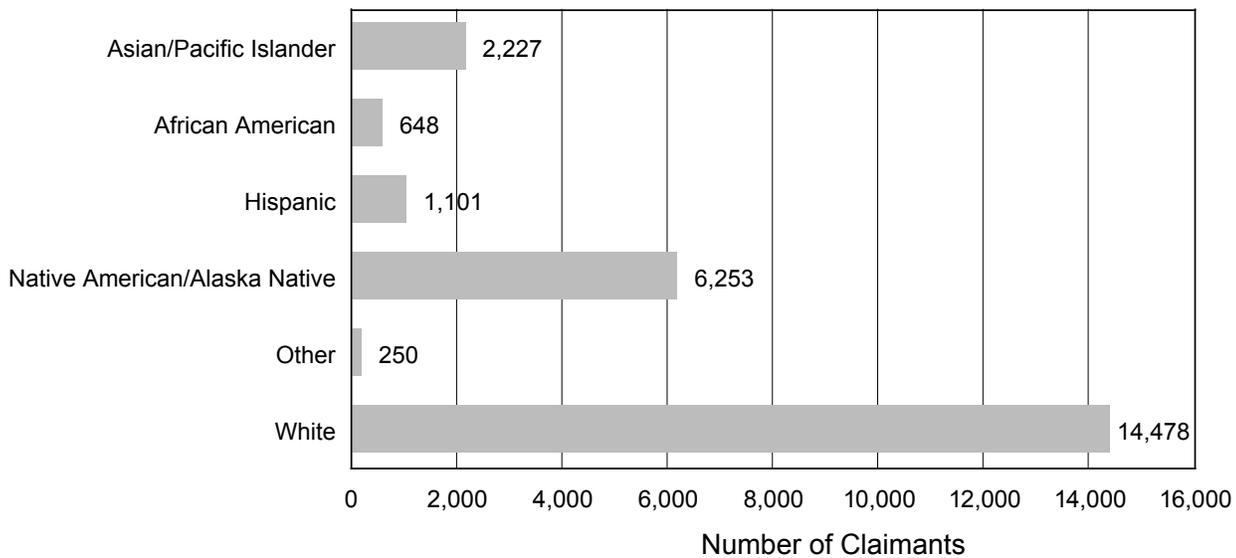
## By number of claims

Additional Claims	Number
1	9,674
2	6,795
3	4,948
4 or more	3,540
<b>Total Repeat Claimants</b>	<b>24,957</b>

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

# 12 Repeat Claimants

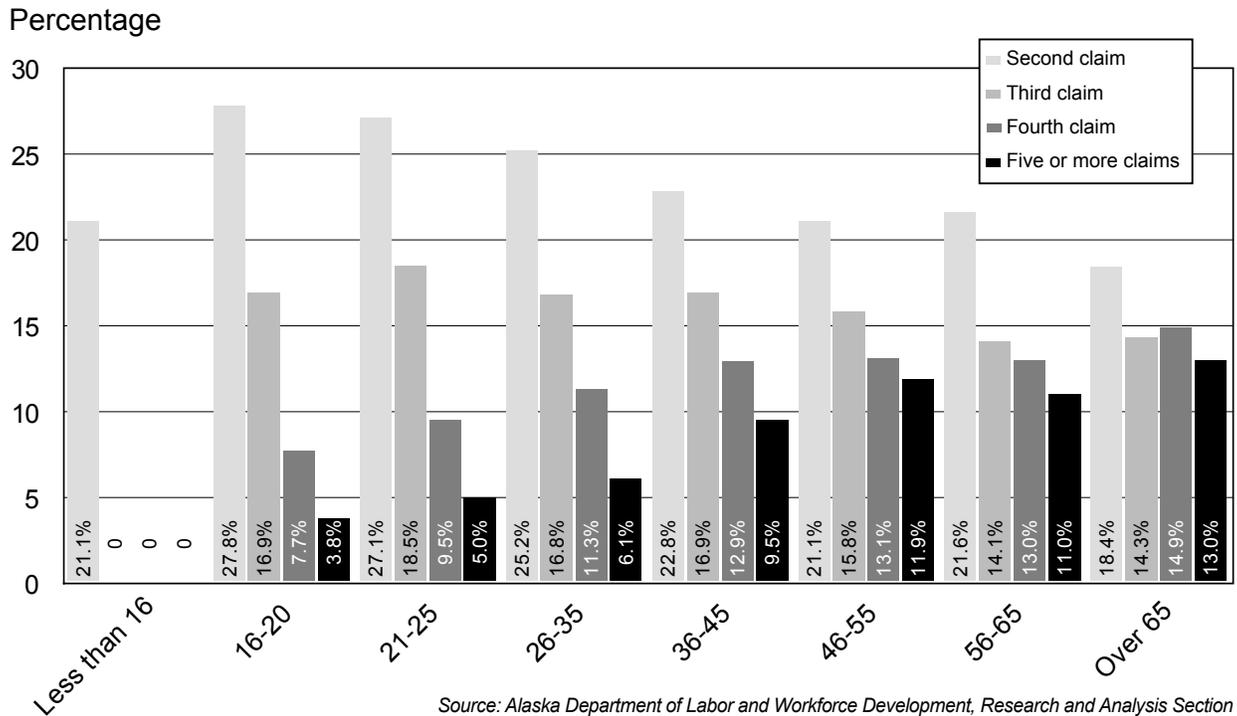
## By ethnic group



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

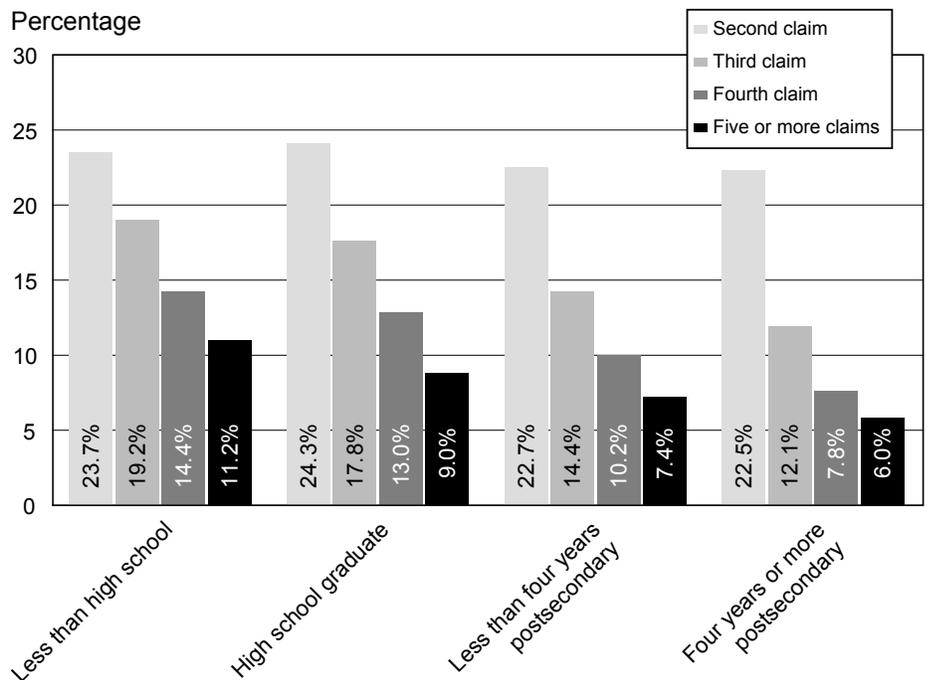
## Repeat Claimant Rate **13**

By age group and number of additional claims



## Repeat Claimant Rate **14**

By educational level and number of additional claims



# 15 Who Were They?

## The characteristics of the year 2000 claimants in 2000 and 2004

### Year 2000 Claimants in 2004

	2000 Count	2004 Residents	2004 Employed <sup>1</sup>	2004 Claims <sup>2</sup>
Gender				
Male	25,465	18,408	8,863	6,511
Female	15,453	11,565	6,160	3,009
Unknown	15	3	1	2
Total	40,933	29,976	15,024	9,522

### Average Annual Earnings

0 - \$1,000	4,326	7,004	796	778
\$1,000 - \$9,999	11,863	5,078	2,907	2,171
\$10,000 - \$19,999	11,706	5,178	2,643	2,535
\$20,000 - \$29,999	5,996	4,422	2,906	1,516
\$30,000 - \$39,999	3,061	3,048	2,175	873
\$40,000 - \$49,999	1,713	1,896	1,292	604
\$50,000 - \$59,999	1,075	1,271	829	442
\$60,000 - \$69,999	547	840	580	260
\$70,000 - \$79,999	276	515	354	161
\$80,000 - \$89,999	156	339	252	87
\$90,000+	214	385	290	95
Total	40,933	29,976	15,024	9,522

### Age

Under 16	19	5	3	0
16-20	1,642	1,241	713	346
21-25	3,654	2,659	1,484	804
26-35	10,755	7,800	4,231	2,336
36-45	12,655	9,459	4,803	3,123
46-55	8,622	6,305	2,888	2,153
56-65	3,124	2,184	829	653
66+	462	323	73	107
Total	40,933	29,976	15,024	9,522

### Education Group

Unknown	950	453	262	108
Less than high school	4,923	3,569	1,591	1,302
High school graduate	21,999	16,652	8,227	5,616
Less than four years postsecondary	11,375	8,116	4,243	2,225
Four years or more postsecondary	1,686	1,186	701	271
Total	40,933	29,976	15,024	9,522

### Number of Dependents<sup>3</sup>

0	23,029	16,075	7,869	5,077
1	7,059	5,330	2,803	1,594
2	5,984	4,618	2,412	1,437
3	4,861	3,953	1,940	1,414
Total	40,933	29,976	15,024	9,522

### Ethnicity

Asian/Pacific Islander	3,126	1,850	807	857
Black	1,362	838	437	182
Hispanic	1,799	851	417	297
American Indian/Alaskan Native	8,616	7,763	3,845	2,779
Other	490	260	111	82
White	25,540	18,414	9,407	5,325
Total	40,933	29,976	15,024	9,522

### Geographic Location

Aleutians East Borough	859	521	79	80
Aleutians West	905	698	168	188
Anchorage, Municipality of	8,773	7,955	5,224	2,179
Bethel	951	1,071	560	463
Bristol Bay Borough	189	193	55	49
Denali Borough	188	159	67	62
Dillingham	245	234	115	74

<sup>1</sup> Year 2000 UI claimants employed at any time in 2004 and who had not filed for any additional unemployment benefits by the end of 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Year 2000 claimants who filed for unemployment benefits in 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Alaska's unemployment insurance program allows a claimant to claim a maximum of three dependents.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

# Who Were They? **15**

(continued)

<b>Geographic Location (continued)</b>	<b>2000 Count</b>	<b>2004 Residents</b>	<b>2004 Employed<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2004 Claims<sup>2</sup></b>
Fairbanks North Star Borough	2,952	2,896	1,755	953
Fairbanks, Southeast	290	407	199	187
Haines Borough	173	134	65	48
Juneau Borough	1,186	1,075	673	309
Kenai Peninsula Borough	2,440	2,036	1,195	705
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	884	715	406	202
Kodiak Island Borough	1,217	1,037	359	580
Lake and Peninsula Borough	186	138	60	41
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,587	1,738	1,061	591
Nome	599	649	355	263
North Slope Borough	1,447	1,014	623	285
Northwest Arctic Borough	427	436	256	157
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	666	558	256	238
Sitka Borough	341	269	159	94
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	361	270	112	118
Valdez-Cordova	805	613	275	248
Wade Hampton	458	487	243	233
Wrangell-Petersburg	593	373	167	155
Yakutat Borough	124	84	30	48
Yukon-Koyukuk	455	466	242	204
Off-Shore	396	141	22	29
Alaska Area Unknown	10,181	3,609	243	739
Out-of-State	1,055	10,957	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,933</b>	<b>40,933</b>	<b>15,024</b>	<b>9,522</b>
<b>Industry</b>				
Accommodation and Food Services	1,650	1,990	1,185	554
Administrative Support/Waste Management and Remediation	1,195	1,275	761	400
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	843	322	100	159
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	131	378	213	130
Construction	7,166	5,098	2,274	2,444
Educational Services	982	1,236	941	256
Finance and Insurance	913	438	323	97
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,732	2,116	1,600	444
Information	521	385	283	79
Management of Companies and Enterprises	4	34	16	13
Manufacturing	5,435	3,007	645	1,186
Mining	1,335	1,023	609	271
None	1,064	548	0	548
Other Services	688	841	519	278
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	773	715	433	205
Public Administration	2,181	2,770	1,756	920
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing Services	192	572	348	194
Retail Trade	2,827	2,307	1,621	515
Transportation and Warehousing	1,832	1,810	980	649
Unknown	8,770	13,493	28	32
Utilities	163	173	108	56
Wholesale Trade	535	402	281	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,933</b>	<b>40,933</b>	<b>15,024</b>	<b>9,522</b>

<b>Top 10 Occupations in 2000</b>	<b>2000 UI Claimants</b>	<b>Top 10 Occupations in 2004</b>	<b>2000 UI Claimants</b>
Construction Trades Workers	4,934	Construction Trades Workers	4,831
Food Processing Workers	2,980	Food Processing Workers	1,970
Retail Sales Workers	1,840	Material Moving Workers	1,206
Other Office and Administrative Support Workers	1,513	Retail Sales Workers	1,180
Other Production Occupations	1,338	Motor Vehicle Operators	959
Material Moving Workers	1,305	Food and Beverage Serving Workers	869
Motor Vehicle Operators	1,298	Other Installation, Maintenance and Repair Occupations	832
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	1,075	Building Cleaning and Pest Control Workers	820
Building Cleaning and Pest Control Workers	1,074	Other Office and Administrative Support Workers	814
Other Installation, Maintenance and Repair Occupations	890	Information and Record Clerks	749
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,247</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,230</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year 2000 UI claimants employed at any time in 2004 and who had not filed for any additional unemployment benefits by the end of 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Year 2000 claimants who filed for unemployment benefits in 2004.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

# Jobs Decline as Expected in November

Employment up 1.6 percent over the year

## Alaska Employment Scene

by  
Dan Robinson  
Economist

**N**onfarm payroll employment fell by 9,400 in November, with most of the losses coming in seasonal industries such as construction, seafood processing, and hotels and restaurants. (See Exhibit 1.) The November decline was marginally larger than in 2004 or 2003 when the job count fell by 9,000, but was generally in line with the seasonal trend of recent years.

The educational sectors of both state and local government added jobs in November as the University of Alaska system completed its first full month of the academic calendar and the state's elementary and secondary schools reached full staffing levels for their school years. State education jobs were up by 200 in November and local education jobs by 500.

### **Alaska added jobs at a slightly faster rate than the U.S.**

The state's job count in November was about 4,700 higher than in November 2004, an

increase of 1.6 percent. That growth is just slightly stronger than the 1.5 percent for the U.S. economy over the same period. The natural resources and mining sector showed particularly strong growth, adding 700 jobs from November 2004 to November 2005. The sector's 7.1-percent growth rate over that period was nearly matched by the nationwide growth rate of 7.0 percent. High oil prices appear to be fueling the Alaska growth, while similarly high prices for natural gas have stimulated national employment in the oil and gas industry.

Alaska's health care industry continued to add a significant number of jobs, as it has consistently done for the last decade. November 2005's job count for health care was 900 higher than a year earlier. The growth rate appears to be slowing, however. The 900 new health care jobs equate to a growth rate of 3.6 percent, noticeably lower than the 5.5-percent growth the state experienced from 2003 to 2004. Nationally, health care jobs grew by 2.2 percent from November 2004 to November 2005.

## **Most of the new jobs are in the Anchorage/Mat-Su area and Fairbanks**

More than nine out of 10 jobs that the state added from November 2004 to November 2005 were in the combined Anchorage/Matanuska Susitna Borough region or in Fairbanks. (See Exhibit 3.) Elsewhere, the Southeast region showed modest growth of 200 jobs, the Gulf Coast region added 150, the Northern region added 50 and the Southwest region lost 200 jobs mostly due to declines in seafood processing and local government employment.

Job growth in the Anchorage/Mat-Su region was concentrated in oil and gas, construction, retail trade, professional and business services, health care, restaurants and local government. Fairbanks' growth came predominately from mining, retail trade, restaurants and local government.

## **Unemployment rate inches higher**

The November unemployment rate rose six-tenths of a percentage point to 6.8 percent. (See Exhibit 2.) The monthly increase was not

unusual for November as seasonal employment continues to wind down and unemployment continues to rise correspondingly, but the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has shown small but steady increases from June's low of 6.3 percent to November's 7.0 percent. (See Exhibit 2.)

The seasonally adjusted rate attempts to remove predictable seasonal patterns from the unemployment rate and can therefore be a more useful measure of changes in the labor market. Alaska's seasonal changes can vary from year to year, however, because of occasional variation in the state's large commercial fisheries or unseasonably warm weather that extends the construction season. As a result, seasonally adjusted rates should be viewed with some caution.

Anchorage had the state's lowest November unemployment rate at 5.2 percent and the Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area had the highest at 19.3 percent. Generally, the more-populated areas of the state continued to report lower unemployment rates than the more-rural regions.

# 1 Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

	preliminary 11/05	revised 10/05	revised 11/04	Changes from:	
Alaska				10/05	11/04
<b>Total Nonfarm Wage &amp; Salary<sup>1</sup></b>	300,600	310,000	295,900	-9,400	4,700
Goods Producing	36,000	41,800	34,700	-5,800	1,300
Service-Providing	264,600	268,200	261,200	-3,600	3,400
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	10,500	10,700	9,800	-200	700
Logging	400	500	400	-100	0
Mining	10,000	10,200	9,400	-200	600
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,400	8,600	7,900	-200	500
<b>Construction</b>	17,700	20,400	17,300	-2,700	400
<b>Manufacturing</b>	7,800	10,700	7,600	-2,900	200
Wood Product Mfg	300	400	300	-100	0
Seafood Processing	4,000	6,800	4,100	-2,800	-100
<b>Trade, Transportation, Utilities</b>	61,500	62,500	60,600	-1,000	900
Wholesale Trade	6,100	6,200	6,000	-100	100
Retail Trade	35,700	36,000	35,100	-300	600
Food & Beverage Stores	6,100	6,200	5,900	-100	200
General Merchandise Stores	9,700	9,400	9,700	300	0
Trans/Warehousing/Utilities	19,700	20,300	19,500	-600	200
Air Transportation	6,000	5,900	6,100	100	-100
Truck Transportation	3,000	3,100	3,000	-100	0
<b>Information</b>	6,900	6,900	6,800	0	100
Telecommunications	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	100
<b>Financial Activities</b>	14,800	15,000	14,600	-200	200
<b>Professional &amp; Business Svcs</b>	23,600	24,000	22,900	-400	700
<b>Educational &amp; Health Svcs</b>	35,800	35,800	34,800	0	1,000
Health Care	26,100	26,000	25,200	100	900
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	28,100	29,800	27,500	-1,700	600
Accommodation	6,500	7,200	6,400	-700	100
Food Svcs & Drinking Places	18,100	18,700	17,700	-600	400
<b>Other Services</b>	11,600	11,700	11,700	-100	-100
<b>Government<sup>2</sup></b>	82,300	82,500	82,300	-200	0
Federal Government <sup>3</sup>	16,300	16,400	16,600	-100	-300
State Government	24,700	24,700	24,500	0	200
State Gov't Education	8,000	7,800	7,900	200	100
Local Government	41,300	41,400	41,200	-100	100
Local Gov't Education	24,000	23,500	23,800	500	200
Tribal Government	4,100	4,300	4,100	-200	0

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Excludes self-employed workers, fishermen, domestics and unpaid family workers as well as agricultural workers

<sup>2</sup> Includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska

<sup>3</sup> Excludes uniformed military

<sup>4</sup> Metropolitan Statistical Area

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

Regional data prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

# 2 Unemployment Rates By borough and census area

	prelim. 11/05	revised 10/05	revised 11/04
<b>NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED</b>			
<b>United States</b>	4.8	4.6	5.2
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	6.8	6.2	7.3
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su (MSA)<sup>4</sup></b>	5.7	5.1	6.0
Municipality of Anchorage	5.2	4.8	5.6
Mat-Su Borough	7.7	6.4	7.9
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	9.0	8.1	9.8
Kenai Peninsula Borough	8.9	8.1	9.6
Kodiak Island Borough	8.3	7.0	9.2
Valdez-Cordova	10.6	9.6	11.8
<b>Interior Region</b>	6.5	5.7	7.0
Denali Borough	12.1	6.2	13.3
Fairbanks North Star Bor. (MSA) <sup>4</sup>	5.7	5.1	6.1
Southeast Fairbanks	10.9	9.1	12.1
Yukon-Koyukuk	12.5	10.8	12.4
<b>Northern Region</b>	10.3	10.5	10.7
Nome	11.0	10.5	10.3
North Slope Borough	9.4	10.0	10.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	10.2	11.0	12.2
<b>Southeast Region</b>	7.3	6.6	8.2
Haines Borough	11.1	8.9	12.6
Juneau Borough	5.3	5.0	6.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7.1	6.4	8.2
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	13.6	12.5	13.1
Sitka Borough	5.4	4.9	6.6
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	19.3	15.9	18.8
Wrangell-Petersburg	9.2	7.8	11.9
Yakutat Borough	10.3	5.2	15.0
<b>Southwest Region</b>	12.0	10.7	12.3
Aleutians East Borough	16.9	10.0	15.2
Aleutians West	6.9	3.9	8.9
Bethel	12.2	12.3	11.8
Bristol Bay Borough	9.3	7.4	9.0
Dillingham	10.3	9.6	10.6
Lake & Peninsula Borough	9.2	7.2	12.8
Wade Hampton	18.5	18.4	18.7
<b>SEASONALLY ADJUSTED</b>			
United States	5.0	5.0	5.4
Alaska Statewide	7.0	6.8	7.6

## 2004 Benchmark

The official definition of unemployment excludes anyone who has not actively sought work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Many individuals do not meet this definition because they have not conducted an active job search due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska.

# 3 Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment By Region

	preliminary 11/05	revised 10/05	revised 11/04	Changes from:		Percent Change:	
				10/05	11/04	10/05	11/04
Anch/Mat-Su (MSA) <sup>4</sup>	165,300	167,600	162,000	-2,300	3,300	-1.4%	2.0%
Anchorage	147,400	149,600	145,000	-2,200	2,400	-1.5%	1.7%
Gulf Coast	26,150	27,600	26,000	-1,450	150	-5.3%	0.6%
Interior	42,800	44,400	41,700	-1,600	1,100	-3.6%	2.6%
Fairbanks	37,400	38,100	36,400	-700	1,000	-1.8%	2.7%
Northern	16,000	16,250	15,950	-250	50	-1.5%	0.3%
Southeast	33,550	35,100	33,350	-1,550	200	-4.4%	0.6%
Southwest	16,700	18,950	16,900	-2,250	-200	-11.9%	-1.2%

For more current state and regional employment and unemployment data, visit our Web site.

[almis.labor.state.ak.us](http://almis.labor.state.ak.us)

# Employer Resources

## Posters Employers are Required to Post

Alaska and federal law require every employer in the state with employees to post employment-related posters. All the posters are free and, with one exception, are available either by downloading them in a .pdf format on the Web site below or by contacting the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Labor Standards and Safety Division in Anchorage at (907) 269-4955 or in Juneau at (907) 465-4855. The one exception, the Employer's Notice of Insurance poster, is available from your Workers' Compensation carrier.

The law requires all employers to post 11 state and federal posters. Employers who require employees to take polygraph tests must also post the Employee Polygraph Protection Act poster, and there's an optional child labor poster for employers with workers under 18.

To download the posters or for more information, go to the Labor Standards and Safety Division Web site [labor.state.ak.us/lss](http://labor.state.ak.us/lss) and click on "Posters" or go to [labor.state.ak.us/lss/posters.htm](http://labor.state.ak.us/lss/posters.htm).

Job Seekers Workers Employers Researchers Labor Shortcuts Search Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development find

## Division of Labor Standards and Safety

State of Alaska > DOLWD > Labor Standards & Safety

**Grey Mitchell, Director**

**The Wage and Hour Administration** enforces and administers Alaska labor laws to ensure that workers are justly compensated for their labors and safeguarded from unfair or unscrupulous practices. This includes enforcement of minimum wages and overtime regulations, child labor laws, "right to return" transportation, public contract laws, and responsibility for the administration and licensing of private employment agencies.

**The Mechanical Inspection Section** provides protection through inspection and certification of amusement rides, boiler and pressure vessels, and elevators. The section also inspects electrical and plumbing installations and issues certificates of fitness to persons performing electrical and plumbing work to ensure the competency of persons performing such work.

**The Occupational Safety and Health Section** aims to protect Alaska workers from industrial accidents and job-related illness through the enforcement of state and federal standards, and by training employers and employees to follow safe and healthful work practices. The section also administers certification programs for asbestos abatement, hazardous painting, and explosives handlers to assure this work is done safely.

**The Alaska Safety Advisory Council** promotes health and safety issues with a focus on workplaces in Alaska and organizes the annual Governor's Safety and Health Conference.

**To Contact the Director's Office:**

Phone:	(907) 465-4855	1111 W. 8th St. Rm 304
Fax:	(907) 465-6012	Juneau, Alaska 99801-1802

**Quick Links...**

- Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Review Board
- Proposed Regulations - Mechanical Inspection**
- Alaska Administrative Code (Regulations)
- Alaska Statutes
- State Specific Standards:
  - Logging
  - Petroleum Refining
  - Petroleum Drilling & Production
  - Child Labor
- Contacts
- Fatalgrams
- FAQs
- Forms and Publications
- Laborers' & Mechanics' Minimum Rates of Pay**
- NEW! Apprentice Hiring Requirements
- NEW! Updated Per Diem Rate
- Posters
- Work Permit
- Federal Needlestick Final Rule
- Safe Needles

Job Seekers Workers Employers Researchers Department Shortcuts Webmaster Page Updated December 2, 2005

<http://labor.state.ak.us/> Internet

# Employer Resources (continued)

Job Seekers Workers Employers Researchers Labor Shortcuts **Search Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development**  **find** 

## Division of Labor Standards and Safety

State of Alaska > DOLWD > Labor Standards & Safety > Occupational Safety and Health

### Employment-Related Posters Required on Your Bulletin Board

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**FEDERAL POSTERS** - Many federal DOL-OSHA posters and informational publications can be downloaded or ordered **here** at no charge (CLICK ON EACH TITLE FOR DOWNLOAD INFO)

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**1. EMPLOYEE POLYGRAPH PROTECTION ACT -**  
Certain employers who require polygraphs from employees should post this poster.

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**2. NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES - FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE -**  
**write to:** Wage & Hour District Office,  
1111 3rd Avenue, Suite 755,  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3212  
**or call toll free:** 1-866-4USA-DOL (1-866-487-2365).

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**3. YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993 -**  
**write to:** Wage & Hour District Office,  
1111 3rd Avenue, Suite 755,  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3212  
**or call toll free:** 1-866-4USA-DOL (1-866-487-2365).

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**4. EMPLOYER'S NOTICE OF INSURANCE** (NOT AVAILABLE FROM DOWNLOAD LOCATION)  
This poster may be obtained by contacting your Workers' Compensation Insurance Company.

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**5. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A SAFE AND HEALTHFUL WORKPLACE**  
You can download a color .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) file or a black and white text-only file.  
**or call toll-free:** 1-800-321-OSHA (6742)

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**6. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IS THE LAW -**  
**write to:** EEOC Office of Communication,  
1801 L Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20507  
**or call toll-free:** 1-800-669-3362 or 1-800-435-7232

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**7. THE ALASKA HUMAN RIGHTS LAW & FEDERAL LAW PROHIBIT SEXUAL HARASSMENT**  
call or write to: Alaska State Commission for Human Rights  
800 A Street, Suite 204,  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501,  
Toll-Free: 1-800-478-4692,  
or Anchorage (907) 274-4692  
Or you may call or write: Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)  
Bay Vista Building, 2815 2nd Avenue  
Suite 500  
Seattle, Washington 98121  
Toll-Free 1-800-669-4000

## Quick Links...

### New Regulations

- Recordkeeping and Reporting Regulations
- Federal Recordkeeping Regulations 29 CFR 1904

### Strategic & Performance Plans

- 5 Year Strategic
- FY 04 Annual Performance

### OSH Quick Links

- Alaska Occupational Safety & Health Training Schedule
- OSH Manager's Handbook
- OSH-Related Links
- Federal Needlestick Final Rule
- Safe Needles
- Safety Engineered Sharps
- Physical Agent Data Sheets (PADS)
- USDOL/OSHA
- Consultation and Training Services Request Form

### Contact:

Juneau (907) 465-4855  
Anchorage (907) 269-4955

# Employer Resources (continued)

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**8. USERRA - The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act**  
Per PL 108-545 (2/10/2005) employers are required to notify employees of their rights under this act. For further information [click here](#).

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## State of Alaska Posters

Some of these posters are in PDF format and may be downloaded and printed at your convenience. If you prefer a printed copy of the posters listed below, write or call the address listed below the poster's name. If you need copies of all or most of the **State of Alaska** posters listed below, write or email to the address shown in #11. We will collect and send them to you.

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## 9. SUMMARY OF ALASKA WAGE & HOUR ACT(11"x 17")

This document can print as 11"x17" or on two 8 1/2" x 11" (landscape).  
If you print on two sheets, the pages must be taped or pasted together to form an 11" x 17" poster.

## SUMMARY OF ALASKA WAGE & HOUR ACT (8 1/2" x 14")

This document prints on a single 8 1/2" x 14" legal sheet of paper.

### Juneau contact:

State of Alaska, DOL/LSS,  
Wage & Hour Administration  
1111 W. 8th ST, Ste. 302  
P. O. Box 21149  
Juneau, AK 99802-1149  
Call: (907) 465-4842  
Juneau e-mail

### Anchorage contact:

State of Alaska, DOL/LSS,  
Wage & Hour Administration  
3301 Eagle ST., Ste. 301  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Call: (907) 269-4900  
Anchorage e-mail

### Fairbanks contact:

State of Alaska, DOL/LSS,  
Wage & Hour Administration  
675 7th Avenue, Station J-1  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
Call: (907) 451-2886  
Fairbanks e-mail

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## 10. EMERGENCY INFORMATION

This poster provides employers with the OSHA-AKOSH requirements for reporting fatalities and serious injuries, and the telephone numbers to make the report.

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## 11. IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW - Safety and Health Protection on the Job

This download prints landscape on two 8 1/2 x 11 pages with .5" margins. The two pages may be taped together to form an 11x17 poster. The printed poster is also available through the Alaska Labor Standards & Safety Division.

Write, call or email:

Alaska DOL/LSSD/OSH  
P.O. Box 21149  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1149

call: (907) 465-4855 or 1-800-770-4940  
Juneau e-mail

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## 12. NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES - UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

This poster is available through the Employment Security Division.

### Write to or call:

Alaska DOLWD  
Employment Security Division  
P.O. Box 25509  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5509  
(907) 465-1849

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## 13. SUMMARY OF ALASKA CHILD LABOR LAW (Non-mandatory) *NEW!*

This poster provides employers with a summary of the most current work restrictions for hiring minors. It prints landscape on 8 1/2 x 14 paper. For further information use the contact numbers or e-mail link listed under Item 9.